

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 25 No. 3

June 1994

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## Youth Cycles Rolls

by Beth Bender

Saturday, May 7, was a special day for the Youth Cycles program. It marked the completion of the training for the Youth Cycles volunteer Youth Leaders and the graduation of the first class.

The four Youth Leaders each earned used mountain bikes, locks, and helmets for their assistance in the program thus far. The Youth Leaders are Sandra Busch of 6000 Washington, Brandi and Rivera Fox of 6000 Kingsbury, and Antione Parker of 5900 McPherson. Each of these young people will continue to train other neighborhood children in bicycle repair, maintenance, and safety. While they will not be paid, we are looking for special incentives and rewards to demonstrate the neighborhood's appreciation.

The first class to graduate included Heather Carr, Randall and Justin Falker, and Kenisha Fox. Each of these young people received a used bicycle, helmet, and lock. To graduate, they each had to demonstrate key bicycle skills from tire repair to correct hand signaling while riding.

All of the leaders and graduates also donated time to our community by assisting with the food drive, cleaning up Four Corners, and by helping to set up the Youth Cycles office, located in the basement of New Cote Brillante Church. Future service includes painting at Four Corners, alley clean-ups, and beau-

tification projects. If any block or neighborhood group needs extra help on their projects, feel free to contact the SDCC office to arrange for youth who need to complete their hours of community service.

Skinker DeBaliviere Youth Cycles is really rolling due to the work of Executive Director Kim Koenig and our 1993-94 Washington University Intern Kathy McAlcenan who completed and followed through with a United Way Venture Grant. This grant allows the program to purchase the locks, helmets, repair equipment, and other supplies needed to begin this program. Of course, we are still counting on neighbors to donate old bicycles and other needed items. Donated items can be picked up; simply call me at 863-3854 or the SDCC office at 862-5122.

A special thanks also goes out to our new neighbor on DeBaliviere, Papa John's Pizza, for feeding the Youth Cycles participants this spring while they worked and learned.

Any youth interested in participating in the Youth Cycles program can pick up an application at the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury, 862-5122. Participants will be served on a first come, first served basis. The program will be running full force from Monday, June 20 to mid-August. If you have any questions, please call Beth Bender or the SDCC office at the numbers listed above.



Youth Cycles participant, Antione Parker, polishes his new wheels.

## Nina Place Construction is Proceeding



In late March, the distinctive sounds of construction were again heard on Nina Place. After securing needed financing from Boatmen's Bank, Westminster Developers have continued to produce new condominium units in buildings dating back to around 1908. The building at 5885 Nina Place is the one currently under construction. Its six units will contain a kitchen and separate dining room, a living room with wood burning fireplace, a master bedroom suite, an additional full bath, and a sunroom/bedroom or study. The units have been framed and windowpanes are already in place. They should be ready for occupancy by Labor Day and have a base price of

\$79,000. Several units are also available at 5900 Nina; these have a base price of \$72,000.

This Phase II development of DeBaliviere Place West is being featured as "House of the Month" in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday, June 12. A large crowd of prospective buyers is expected to visit our neighborhood during an expanded open house from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Daniel Feinberg Realty is handling sales of the new units.

Those interested in learning more about these condominiums and others planned in the future on Nina Place should call the Feinberg office at 721-5600.

## "FRIENDS OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Over the past year, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board members have been concerned that the Council may no longer be able to meet its financial obligations because of cutbacks in block grant support and ever rising costs. At the same time, grants SDCC attains do not allow funding for administrative costs. Similarly, proceeds raised from bingo cannot be used to fund salaries. As a result of these setbacks, SDCC projects an annual shortfall of \$5,000. This need for an additional revenue source, combined with the Board's desire to increase the involvement of more Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors in the Council and its activities, brings us to our launching a "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" campaign. The "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" organization, chaired by Gregory Freeman, will be implemented this summer with an invitational mailing to all neighborhood residents.

Realizing that residents were limited in the ways in which to become active and involved in the neighborhood, the Council reviewed a number of ideas and suggestions before adopting the "Friends of" concept.

"While the Council tries to maintain an all-inclusive platform,

there are only so many seats on the Board and only so many committees to be formed," said Council President Beth Bender. "We feel this type of organization will encourage more individual contributions to the stability of our neighborhood."

Fashioned after similar organizations developed to support institutions like Forest Park and the St. Louis Public Library, the "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" will provide a forum through which residents can become more involved in the maintenance and betterment of their neighborhood. Members will also be entitled to a number of benefits, including increased communications regarding neighborhood goings-on, discounts through area merchants, a neighborhood directory, and invitations to "Friends" events.

All neighborhood residents, organizations, and businesses are eligible to join. Families may join as a single entity or may request individual memberships. Members will be asked to renew on a yearly basis. An application for membership is included in this issue of *The Times* and will also accompany the invitational mailing. For more information, contact the Council at 862-5122.

## Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Dickens began a novel by saying that "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." All too often lately I have been feeling that same way. I join just about everyone in worrying about crime and loss of life, often affecting those still below the age of majority. Of course, I proposed a solution—gun control. Small steps have been taken at the national level, but alas not at the statehouse.

An even more difficult problem to address is jobs, or rather the dearth of jobs that pay enough to support a family. In the old days, such jobs existed, often jobs requiring only a strong back and a good constitution. It is an all too familiar story that manufacturing jobs have vacated first the central cities, then the suburbs, then the south, and now the U.S. And, they do not return, not in any significant form. I wish I knew what to do about this or what to do given the fact that the jobs are gone. A college degree used to be considered a guarantee of middle class status. Today, many graduates look in vain for those good white collar jobs much more common ten or fifteen years ago.

That is the worst of times—crime and few jobs.

The best often strikes me as the quality of community we have in Skinker DeBaliviere and some other city neighborhoods. There are bonds forged by working together for the general good which in turn foster special friendships. It doesn't happen in all cities or in all neighborhoods but is very special here.

On that note, as *The Times* takes off for a couple of months of summer respite, I would like to express my appreciation to several people who have made this job far easier. Venita Lake does a great job time and again on layout. Marj Weir and JoAnn Vatcha contribute immeasurably on a continual basis and, in addition to duties regarding finance and typesetting, help me to steer a steady course. Of course, I'll accept responsibility for the shortcomings. King Schoenfeld provides great photographs and also has wise counsel. Lois Schoemehl and Kathleen Williams helped us immensely on fundraisers. I'll also thank our favorite emcee, Dan McGuire, who along with the SDCC, points out a lot of good stories. Thanks also to our columnists: Tom Hoerr, Steve Brammeier, Amrit Gill. They provide humor and knowledge with every issue.

This major thank you is inserted here so that I can also say that additional volunteers are welcomed. Send me your stories or photos. Sign up to help with layout. We do need a writer for Vicissitudes (Marj is swamped). Also, call me whenever you have an idea for a story. My major goal when I became editor was to have a newspaper that reflected the neighborhood. Help me to keep reaching for that goal. Thanks to all and happy summer.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha  
Production Manager: Venita Lake  
Typesetting: Marj Weir

*The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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The Times, 6008 Kingsbury, 63112, or call 726-6974.

### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of *The Times* has always depended in large part of submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format. We cannot process Macintosh diskettes. Diskette stories should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 6008 Kingsbury. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names.

Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs do not reproduce well.

The Editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.  
Send all correspondence to 6008 Kingsbury, 63112, or call 721-7532.

# CALENDAR



## Neighborhood Meetings/Events

### June

- 10 Bingo Appreciation Party, 6:30pm, 6037 Westminster
- 15 Hearing on Delmar Redevelopment Plan before the Aldermanic Housing Committee, 10:00 am, City Hall. (See page 3.)
- 21 6000/6100 Pershing/Waterman, 7pm, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury

### July

- 12 Public Meeting concerning a neighborhood playground, 6:30pm, Grace United Methodist Church. (See page 3.)
- 19 6000/6100 Pershing/Waterman, 7pm SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury

## Other Events of Interest:

### June

- 26 Opera Theatre of St. Louis presents Bernstein's *Candide*, Verdi's *Falstaff*, Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris*, and Susa's *Black River*. For ticket information, call 961-0644.
- 10-26 Orthwein Theatre presents Kurt Vonnegut's "Breakfast of Champions" at Mary Institute/St. Louis Country Day School. Call 995-7300 for information.
- 16 (through 8/14) ShatterMask Theatre presents "Fat Men in Skirts," "Old Times," and "Cape Cod." Call 726-1005 for tickets or further information.
- 16 Left Bank Books holds its 24 hour "Bloomsday" reading of *Ulysses*. Members of The New Theatre will be featured. For information call 367-6731.

## MOTOWN UNDER THE STARS...

The West End Arts Council is hosting a free concert at Four Corners Park (Des Peres and Kingsbury) on Thursday, June 23. Soul Patrol (featuring Eric Davis), a band specializing in 1950's and Motown music, will be performing from 6 to 9 p.m. So... bring your lawnchair and join your neighbors for an enjoyable night of entertainment.

Thank you to all  
our recent contributors!

Ernest W. Stix, Jr.  
Rick and Joan Bender  
Tom and Karleen Hoerr  
Sandy and Sue Rothschild  
Frank and Mary Hellwig  
Polly O'Brien and  
Barrett Toan

Robin and Darrell Stoecklin  
Michael and Ellen Lowenstein  
Vince and Lois Schoemehl  
Wilma Cantwell  
Betty and Joe Botz  
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Ray and Joan Breun  
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Dan Shea and  
Kathleen Williams  
Ken Cohen  
Peter Lukasiewicz and  
Shirley Bissen

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Venita and Rich Lake  
Lana Stein  
Marj and Brad Weir  
Jim and Rose Flynn,  
Meg and Daniel  
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Amy and Amrit Gill  
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Al and Shirley Polk  
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(314) 361-6261



"An odd nostalgia  
seems to hang over it  
all, a sawdust chic."

- novelist Stanley Elkin

6504 Delmar

"Blueberry Hill  
is a treat -  
visual, aural  
and gustatory."

- Joe Pollack,  
St. Louis  
Post-Dispatch



New Cote Brillante's minister, Mikki Merritt, 28th Ward Alderman Dan McGuire, and 26th Ward Alderman Irving Clay.

## DELMAR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCEEDS

On May 18, Aldermen Irving Clay, D-26, and Daniel McGuire, D-28, held a public hearing at the New Cote Brillante Church of God to discuss a redevelopment plan for Delmar between city limits and De-Baliviere and including the Wabash Triangle. This plan was developed by the Commercial Committee chaired by JoAnn Vatcha. Its members included Steve Brammeier, Loretta Lloyd, Dennis Townsend, Nat Rivers, Sam Green, and Lana Stein.

Alderman Clay addressed the merits of the plan. He said it would benefit the commercial district and the community. It is not a punitive plan, according to Clay, but will make Delmar more productive and more inviting. He noted the positive impact of the banners, the awnings, and the tree plantings. Clay said that this plan is "not about putting anybody out of business." But, he remarked that "If the front looks good and attractive, people will be interested in going in."

The hearing was attended by about 70 people. After Alderman Clay spoke, Alderman McGuire reviewed the plan with the audience point by point. Both McGuire and Clay thanked *The Times* which provided a complete copy of the plan in its May issue. Participants used their copies of *The Times* to follow McGuire's discussion.

The plan for Delmar contains a number of prohibited uses. Alderman McGuire emphasized that this was for new use only. If someone had a business whose use would now be prohibited, he could continue in operation and also sell his business

to someone who could continue that use. This is the grandfathering provision. However, if someone buys a piece of property and wants to begin a use that is prohibited in the plan and that was not in effect at that site at time of purchase, that will not be allowed.

Questions were raised about the eminent domain section of the plan. Some business owners were worried about someone acquiring the redevelopment rights to their property and forcing them to leave. Alderman McGuire explained that an owner who is making a good faith effort to keep up his or her property can be exempted by complying with the urban design, signage, and parking provisions of the redevelopment plan. Aldermen Clay and McGuire assured their audience that this tool in no way implied wholesale displacement; this is not urban renewal. Owners can assure themselves of redevelopment rights by conforming to the plan in terms of the three components cited above.

Alderman Clay had said that the time was right to approach the enhancement of Delmar. Alderman McGuire concurred. Commercial Committee Chair Vatcha noted that improvements to Delmar would benefit all surrounding residents.

The next step for this plan is a hearing to be held by the aldermanic Housing Committee on June 15, 1994. The hearing is scheduled to take place at 10:00am. in the Samuel Kennedy Room (room 208) at City Hall. For more information, call Alderman Clay or Alderman McGuire at the Board of Aldermen at 622-3287 or SDCC at 862-5122. The public is welcome to attend.

## ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM BEGINS

All those in the primary and secondary grades (up to 12) may register at the Charing Cross Branch of the public library on Skinker at McPherson for the Summer Reading Program. There will be a traditional Summer Reading Club for youngsters up to grade 5 and also Club Read which is designed especially

for readers in grades 6-12. Members of both clubs will earn prizes based on the number of books they read, and have the opportunity to participate in a host of exciting adventures and programs. Charing Cross is open Tuesday - Friday afternoons and on Saturday. See you there!

## RESIDENTS INVITED TO DISCUSS PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND

A public meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall) to discuss the possibility of putting in a neighborhood playground. This site would be funded through a local granting organization that specializes in gifts for youth recreation. A committee of eight neighborhood residents have targeted the site at the southeast corner of Kingsbury and Des Peres for the playground. This site was chosen

over others for its high visibility and central location in the neighborhood.

We welcome all residents' comments on July 12th. A site plan will be available at this time. Neighborhood input is being solicited in site selection and playground design to assist the committee in assuring that issues of safety are balanced with provisions of recreation opportunities for the neighborhood's young children.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOME AND GARAGE REPAIRS

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The "Neighborhood Revolving Loan Program" is available to neighborhood property owners to make repairs to their homes and garages. Up to \$ 1,000 at a very low interest rate may be borrowed through a streamlined loan application process, with all repayments going back to the revolving fund, to be used to benefit others in the neighborhood in the future. Terms are flexible, and the Loan Committee will regard each application in confidence and award loans on a first-come, first-served basis. For an application or more information, call Kim Koenig, 862-5122.

### WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Code violations
- Collapsed sewer lines (where city doesn't pay)
- Concrete
- Doors and windows
- Fences
- Garage demolition or repair
- Guttering.
- Handicapped-accessibility
- Painting
- Porch repairs
- Restoration of architectural features
- Tuckpointing

### THE TERMS OF THE LOAN ARE:

- 3% interest rate--if loan is repaid in 12 months
- 6% interest rate--if you wish to take 24 months to repay loan
- Maximum loan \$ 1,000; minimum loan \$ 200
- Loan applications will be reviewed and approved by a Loan Committee of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. All decisions will be final and at the sole discretion of the Council. Confidentiality of the applicant will be maintained at all times.
- First priority will be given applicants demonstrating financial need.
- Loans will be secured by a promissory note.
- Payments will be arranged through a special account to be set up at Central West End Savings Bank.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR A LOAN?

- Fill out an application form--available at SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury or call 862-5122.
- Get at least two bids from licensed contractors or prepare a list of materials.
- A picture of your house will be helpful in evaluating the work needed.
- Bring proof of ownership and paid real estate tax receipt.
- Most recent pay stubs or letter from employer, or social security award letter, or proof of pension or other income--to show ability to repay the loan.



Home Improvement Competition Announced See Page 6

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# Home Improvement

## Refinishing Hardwood Floors

by Amrit Gill

Most of the houses in our neighborhood have beautiful oak flooring which has stood the test of time and continues to look spectacular despite the wear and tear and abuse that has been heaped upon them. In many instances, however, the original floors have been covered with carpet or other floor material that was in vogue at the time there was a make-over done to the house. (Remember orange shag wall to wall carpeting? or how about indoor-outdoor carpeting?) In this article I will attempt to establish some guidelines that will allow you to make an educated decision on how to refinish your hardwood floors.

If you currently have carpet and want to explore the option of refinishing the hardwood floor underneath, you first have to expose sections of the hardwood floor so that you can evaluate its condition. The best evaluation can be done if all the carpet is taken up. If there are sections that are badly warped, or stained, or replaced with plywood, do not be disheartened if you are doing several rooms. All that means is that you will not be able to have all hardwood floors. You can, however, take up good wood from the worst room and use it to patch the other rooms so that only one room will have to be carpeted.

Patching floors is not as expensive as most people think it is, and I do this even with apartment buildings because in the long term it is cheaper to have hardwood floors than to replace the carpet every five years. If the floors under your carpet are badly stained by water or pet urine, then you may have to stain your floors a little darker than natural so that those stains are not as prominent. The light oak

look is in now but in a few years tastes change so don't worry.

In this neighborhood the kitchen floors were originally hardwood or pine. The development of quality water-based polyurethanes makes it very attractive as well as practical to have wood floors in kitchens. The advantage of water-based polyurethanes is that they allow the owner to do a quick hand-buffing and then put down another coat in a few years when the old finish looks worn. The problem I face is that there is almost always vinyl in the kitchen which has been installed over luan plywood, and all the nails need to be removed and the nail holes patched to get a nice finish. But if you are willing to get down on your hands and knees (or pay someone large dollars to do it for you!) you can end up with beautiful hardwood floors in the kitchen or anywhere else where vinyl has been installed.

One thing in favor of hardwoods is that they are very easy to clean and maintain. There is no stain resistant package or warranty to worry about just mop & go. By the way mop with plain water or just a little vinegar to prevent streaking. Those specialty products according to our hardwood guy are a bunch of hoocy.

Finally a word on pricing. Three coats - a base acrylic coat, and two coats of polyurethane - cost between \$1.20 per sq ft to \$2.00 per sq ft. This does not include any patching or staining which is priced on a case by case basis. That works out to \$10 - 18 per sq yard. So an average 10 X 12 room cost would be \$144.00 to \$240.00 which is very competitive with carpet or vinyl.

### "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" Membership Form

Please complete the form below, check your desired Friends level, and mail to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enroll me at the level indicated below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | All benefits below plus invitations to special events.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family      | Invitations to events, a subscription to the Friends' Newsletter and Update, and merchandise discounts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Individual  | Invitations to events, a subscription to the Friends' Newsletter and Update, and merchandise discounts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Senior      | Invitations to events, a subscription to the Friend's Newsletter and Update, and merchandise discounts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student     | Invitations to events, a subscription to the Friends' Newsletter and Update, and merchandise discounts. |

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.



Artist Bill Christman and Bob Newsham, former "Geezer" participant and now assistant ("spiritual director") for upcoming YAHOO and Geezer programs, pose with clown facade set to appear at fall Art Fair.

### ART FAIR IN SEPTEMBER

The West End Arts Council, co-chaired by Andy Cross and Roy Roncal, are planning on holding an Art Fair in Skinker DeBaliviere on Saturday, September 17. A number of artists will be exhibiting their work and the old days of edible art competitions may return. Those youngsters participating in the YAHOO program, directed by Bill Christman, are already preparing their three dimensional object d'art. For more information on the fair, call SDCC at 862-5122. As a post-script, *The Times* will hold its annual book sale as part of this event.

### Area Apartment Owners Meet

The Skinker-Debaliviere neighborhood now has a thriving apartment owners association that is working hard to emulate the successes of landlord associations in nearby neighborhoods. Meeting are held monthly on the Third Monday of the month at 7 pm at the SDCC offices at 6008 Kingsbury. There is usually a speaker at every meeting who addresses issues pertinent to landlords such as code compliance, occupancy inspections etc. The focus at the next meeting is scheduled to be beautification of the neighborhood, and maintenance of buildings. A panel of property managers will be attending the next meeting. Besides providing a forum for the exchange of information, the apartment owners association is also involved with the SDCC Bingo fundraising, and other neighborhood activities. The SDAOA is looking for greater participation from landlords in the Skinker-Debaliviere area. If you have any questions please call Kim Koenig at 862-5122, or Amrit Gill at 727-5200.

### DELMAR CLEANERS

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OFF. 721-5600  
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## MAJOR CHANGES PLANNED AT HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### Resident Input Solicited

by Avis May and Mary Schmit

Because of significant changes to the by-laws governing St. Louis's 15 community schools, Hamilton will be growing and needs the help and input of Skinker DeBaliviere residents. So . . . if you are a parent, community resident, or business owner in this area, please read on!

If your children attend Hamilton Elementary School, participate in Hamilton Community School's After-School Program, or if you have taken an adult class there recently, you probably have heard about the major changes to take place in the St. Louis Public Schools.

Starting this summer and effective for the 1994-1995 school year, each community school will become a Community Education Center. This is a big change requiring a total reorganization and a recommitment by each community. The governing structure of the Center will change in such a way that encourages maximum community input. This makes possible renewed and enhanced participation by the residents of Skinker DeBaliviere in the administration of the new Hamilton Community Center.

A newly developed Community Council will replace the advisory board which assisted Hamilton Community School in the past. In order for this new concept of Community Education Center to succeed and to provide multiple services to our community, the Council—made up of residents and local business owners—must play a very strong role in the Center's governance.

As parents and residents of Skinker DeBaliviere, you can play an active part in how Hamilton is run. By joining Hamilton's Council, you can have a say in who the staff persons are who deliver services at Hamilton. The principal, administrative assistant (vice principal), instructional coordinator, and community education coordinator will be interviewed, selected, and evaluated by a panel that will include 3 members of Hamilton's Community Council. The Council also will have a continuing, hands-on role in the administration of Hamilton.

We are inviting all residents of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood to come and be active. Come and let your voices be heard. Be involved in the education of your children and yourselves. Come join us in taking the steps to bring public education back to what it was intended to be: a system of life-long learning, providing services and opportunities to the neighborhood. These changes are modeled after the nationally recognized program at Walbridge School in Walnut Park which has evolved into the Walbridge Caring Communities.

It is planned that the Council be organized and active by June 30. If you are interested in participating on the Council or in receiving further information about these changes, please call 367-6996 or 367-6969 and the staff at Hamilton will assist you.

### Softball Teams Forming

Softball teams are now forming for youth ages 3-14. The teams practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm until 7pm at Lucier Park (next to Hamilton School). Games are scheduled on Saturdays in Forest Park.

Children who are interested in playing should attend a practice session with an adult to complete a

registration form. The teams will play in a league organized by Operation Teamwork. Uniforms and transportation to and from games will be provided.

I.D. cards will be made for all team players. For information, contact Coach Haymore (727-5429) or Coach McNeal (367-1227).



Photo by King Schoenfeld

## MARIA ALLEN: ANOTHER ARTIST IN OUR MIDST

by Lana Stein

Maria Allen is one of my neighbors on Nina Place and, although I had spoken with her before she decided to move to our neighborhood, I have not gotten to know her very well. A mutual friend on Nina told me something about her art one day and it stimulated my interest.

Maria Allen is a quiet, dignified woman who has been an art teacher for a number of years. She grew up in Little Rock and first came to St. Louis to go to school in 1959. She taught in St. Louis, New Orleans, Little Rock and then returned here. She noted that she has family in all three cities. For the past 15 years, she has been teaching art at Incarnate Word Academy in Bel Nor. And, she has been pursuing her own painting and drawing.

Allen grew up with art. Her mother is an artist and portrait painter. Her grandfather was also an artist. He studied at Washington University in 1886 and 1887 and then trained further in Bremen, Germany.

Whether it was heredity or always growing up in a certain environment, Allen learned to appreciate art and majored in art education. She was always drawing and painting while she was growing up. Her mother permitted her to use her oils and would point out colors and space to her which allowed her to appreciate what they felt like.

In recent years, her art has been a means to explore her Native American heritage. Her father is half Cherokee. She initially portrayed women in Native American mythology. She then turned to the more personal and studied about the Cherokee nation. She visited the Cherokee National Center in Oklahoma as part of her research. She

collected a large number of books. Allen is attempting to base her art on her father's memories of growing up in central Arkansas. Her grandfather was a cotton farmer and blacksmith. She realizes there is a real connection for her with this background.

Maria showed me some of the monotone prints she has done around Cherokee themes. They encompass family history and she places careful written inscriptions below each of the prints. They are very delicate and graceful.

She has had three one-person shows in the last four years as well as taking part in group shows at Art St. Louis and Componere. Her full-time teaching limits her ability to exhibit more frequently.

Allen said that she became aware of our neighborhood when biking through on her way to and from University City. She had been looking for a house and a real estate agent hooked her up with the condominiums on Nina Place. She really likes the neighborhood a lot, especially the diversity and the multicultural aspects. There is also a diversity of age groups, single people, and professional people. She also commented on the historic aspect of Skinker DeBaliviere and its proximity to Forest Park and MetroLink. However, she would like to see a grocery store closer by.

It seemed like Allen had found "a clean well-lighted place" to pursue her vocation and avocation. The paintings that line her home reflect her heritage, humor, and commitment. Skinker DeBaliviere has been noted for a number of distinguished artists in its midst. Maria Allen is a beautiful addition to that company.

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## SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 9, 1994 minutes

Members present: Directors B. Bender, C. Forslund, G. Freeman, L. Stein, M. Hart-Mahon, G. Hayes, J. Wright, R. Johnson, S. Johnson, A. Webb, S. Polk, J. DeBettencourt, and K. Keaveny; ConServ Officer J. Waits; Alderman D. McGuire; and SDCC Executive Director K. Koenig

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by B. Bender.

Gerald Brooks, Manager of Community Affairs, St. Louis Public Library, presented the Board with information on Proposition L. Funds generated from proposition L will make building and service improvements possible in 14 neighborhood libraries and the central library.

#### I. Review of Minutes

C. Forslund questioned whether any research was performed as to the legality of CWE Bank joining as an institutional member. K. Koenig will follow-up. C. Forslund moved, "That the minutes of the April Board meeting be accepted as read"; seconded by J. Wright and approved.

#### II. Treasurer's Report

K. Koenig distributed cash statements for January through April. C. Forslund moved, "That the Treasurer's Reports for January through April be accepted as read"; seconded by G. Freeman and approved.

#### III. Committee/Association Reports

**Commercial Planning** - L. Stein reported that a public hearing to discuss the redevelopment plan will be held on Wednesday, May 18, at 7 p.m., at New Cote Brillante Church. Aldermen McGuire and Clay will host this meeting. K. Koenig reported that a youth club would like to locate in the former Bi-Rite site. Due to strong opposition from residents on 6000 Washington and lack of information we had on the proposal, we opposed their conditional use permit being issued. Marion's Cafe has applied for a conditional use permit to operate a restaurant/gift shop at 305 De-Baliviere. We will support this proposal.

**DeGiverville** - No report.

**Kingsbury Square** - R. Johnson reported that planters have been placed diagonally to prohibit alley access to Laurel by car. Crossroads students will paint the dumpsters in Kingsbury Square.

**Nina Place** - No report.

**Parkview** - Joe DeBettencourt was introduced as the new representative to replace Karen Keaveny. He reported that lights were recently out

due to MSD accidentally cutting a cable.

**Rosedale** - B. Bender reported on the annual potluck dinner and election of officers. Officers and representatives remain the same as last year.

**Housing Corporation** - K. Koenig reported that 6025 Westminster has received its building permits and work will begin soon. 6039-41 McPherson has been purchased by neighborhood resident Mark Gorman. After a recent inspection of 519-521 Des Peres, we learned that there is a possibility of asbestos. The Housing Corp. is in the process of discussing how to remedy the situation.

**Recreation** - B. Bender reported that our neighborhood bicycle program will operate under the name "Youth Cycles." Eight children recently graduated and earned bikes from the program. Summer classes will begin in mid-June.

**Social Services** - No report.

**Community Fund** - K. Koenig distributed a financial report on bingo operation from October through April. She reported on the committee's concern of falling attendance and revenue, as well as the increased taxes imposed by the state and the threat of legalized riverboat gambling impacting on profits. The committee recommends that the lease with Salad Bowl not be renewed after June 26. However, the committee would entertain bingo as a fundraiser in the future if we could find a new facility that included set-up and clean-up and equipment rental. C. Forslund moved, "That 20 percent of community fund revenue be set aside for the Council if they should need it to cover operating budget expenses"; seconded by A. Webb and approved with one abstention.

**Beautification** - C. Forslund reported that the Four Corners plantings were done successfully. A. Cross stenciled 17 yard waste dumpsters as a continuation of last year's project.

**Fundraising** - K. Koenig reported that an article in *The Times* and a neighborhood mailing is set to occur in June, as part of the "Friends of SDCC" campaign. K. Koenig and T. Roland are working on the article and letter to be sent out.

#### IV. J & W Liquor

K. Koenig reported that a majority of property owners' signatures

## Home Improvement Competition Announced

The Neighborhood Revolving Loan Committee has announced a "Summer of 94 Home Improvement Contest". The Committee will award a prize this fall for "Best Home Improvement" undertaken during 1994. You need not borrow from the Revolving Loan Fund to qualify. The Committee will announce the winner in *The Times* this fall. A "Before" picture would also be welcomed.

Of special interest are garages in the neighborhood, many of which are showing signs of age and decay. Property adjacent to the Forest Park Parkway and to the MetroLink are especially targeted. To assist those who need some assistance to update and upgrade their property, the Neighborhood Revolving Loan Program is available. Help is available in finding suitable contractors and evaluating their bids, and creative applications are welcome!

**Your summer project could be a winner!**

have been obtained to restrict J & W's liquor license. A hearing date will be set for some time in mid-June. K. Koenig is coordinating testimony for the hearing.

#### V. Neighborhood Playground Feasibility

K. Koenig reported that there has been interest from several residents in putting playground equipment in the neighborhood. She asked for more volunteers to join a committee to look at this issue more closely and meet with neighborhood groups. S. Polk, J. Wright, C. Forslund, and A. Webb will join D. Blobaum, M. Holihan, G. Johannes, and A. Busch on a committee. K. Koenig asked that the Board authorize her to apply for funding for playground equipment from the Gateway Foundation. The proposal is due May 11. G. Freeman moved, "That K. Koenig proceed with the proposal with a generic site plan and location to be included"; seconded by C. Forslund and approved.

#### VI. United Way Board Development

K. Koenig reported that she has received information on roles and responsibility training for Board members. This training is of no cost to participants. This would be valuable information for the Board and could probably be accomplished in one 3-hour session. After some discussion, it was agreed that a week night session in June or July will be targeted for this workshop.

B. Bender announced that Board members and their families are invited to a barbecue on Friday, June 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at her house, 6037 Westminster. Meat will be provided, but Board members are asked to bring a side dish. Board members are invited to stay after 7:30 p.m. for an Appreciation Party held in honor of all bingo volunteers.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## Animal Rights Team Asks for Supplies

The St. Louis Animal Rights Team is helping to collect items for several animal sanctuaries in the area. They would be grateful for household discards such as:

- old blankets
- towels
- wash cloths
- washable throw rugs
- dog and cat dishes
- plastic buckets (feed & water)
- collars
- dog houses
- coupons for dog & cat food
- aluminum pie pans
- scrap paper for notes
- used electric can openers

Dr. Steve Brammeier has generously offered to let the Animal Rights Team put a large brown trash can on his premises at 420 N. Skinker on Saturday, June 11 'til 5pm to collect any items neighbors would like to donate.

For further information on donations, please call Sylvia Stahl at 862-2197 or Hilda Olsen at 391-1338.

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# Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

June is the month of passages and we have a slew of them to report this month. Baby **Thomas Charles Hamilton**, hereafter to be called "Charlie," joined the world on May 6, too late for our last deadline. His new parents, **Tricia and Lou Hamilton** of the 6100 block of Kingsbury announced his arrival with a replica of the birth announcement used by his grandfather (Thomas Charles) in announcing the birth of his first son.

Our neighborhood high school and college graduates are numerous this month. I apologize to anyone who has been left out, but you've got to let me know these things! I also regret not having room to print the names of all the parents of our graduates, who deserve congratulations and recognition for their part in these achievements.

Graduating from St. Louis U. High this year are **David Gioia**, 61XX Kingsbury, who is bound for Webster University, and **David Gerard**, Westgate, headed for Loyola Marymount in California.

Bishop DuBourg graduated **John Breun**, 61XX McPherson, **Carrie Hinkebein**, 62XX Washington. John is bound for Purdue University. Carrie is going on to St. Louis Community College.

**Tony Stewart** of 61XX Westminster received his diploma from Clayton High and will be continuing his education at Florissant Valley Community College.

**Tanya Webber**, 57XX Pershing, and **Lynn Weir**, 61XX Westminster were graduated from Metro High School. Lynn will attend Washington University and Tanya will attend the University of Missouri at Columbia.

**Christine Burke**, 61XX McPherson, and **Renee Ducker**, 61XX Kingsbury, graduated from Rosati-Kain. Christine is heading for UMSL and Renee for Northeast Missouri State. **May May Dorris**, 62XX Westminster is bound for an AFS adventure in the Netherlands after her graduation from Visitation Academy.

**Laura Horner**, 62XX Westminster, and **Molly Fleener**, 63XX Waterman, will take diplomas from St. Joseph's Academy. Laura will be a voice major at Southern Methodist University and Molly will be in the Pre-Law Scholars program at St. Louis University.

The University of San Diego is the destination of **Amy Knoten**,

63XX Pershing, after her graduation from Villa Duchesne. **Mary Wiltenberg**, 61XX Kingsbury, will attend Swarthmore College after her graduation from John Burroughs.

Crossroads graduated **Borja "Bo" Mestre de la Rosa**, an exchange student from Seville, whose local family are Karen and Gerry McClure of 61XX McPherson.

Among those who completed post-secondary work this season are **Crystal Wilson**, 61XX McPherson, who graduated from Northwest Missouri State in 3 years. Two other 61XX McPherson residents completed college work, **Roell Schmidt**, who received her AB at Washington University and **Joe Stout** who earned an Associate of Arts degree from Forest Park Community College.

**Ginny Hinkebein**, 62XX Washington, completed work at the Missouri School for Doctors' Assistants and will begin a 4-month internship.

**Christina Fleener**, 63XX Waterman, currently a Junior in Nursing at Georgetown University, will spend the summer in the Dominican Republic with the Institute for Latin American Concerns' Rural Healthcare team. We will expect a first-person account for *The Times* when she returns!

After many years and innumerable trips to Forest Park and Flo Valley Community College, **Sylvia Stahl** is finally getting her Associate's Degree in Child Care her husband Mike reports.

At the recent Crossroads School Awards Night, New City School alum **Sarah Reading** (daughter of New City School teacher, Sally Boggeman; they both live on 61XX Washington), an 11th grader, received a College Book Award from Wellesley College. Sarah also received an Upper School Math Award and Senator Danforth's "I Dare You" Leadership Award.

**Sally Boggeman** and **Carla Mash** (60XX McPherson, another NCS teacher) presented, along with **Dr. Thomas R. Hoerr**, the New City implementation of the theory of Multiple Intelligences at Harvard Project Zero in February. Project Zero is the "think-tank" in which Howard Gardner our own Tom Hoerr and others work.

Also in May, Crossroads had a benefit at the Black Repertory Theatre which netted them almost \$15,000!

# Pet Talk

by Stephen A. Brammeier, D.V.M.

## I DIDN'T KNOW THEY COULD GET THAT !?!

Pet owners are sometimes surprised when their pet is diagnosed with a disease or condition common to humans. Most pets, especially mammals, can have the same symptoms, treatments and complications of specific medical conditions as their human counterparts. Certainly there are variations between species and individual differences within a species; the metabolism of a chihuahua is different than a great dane, but the general approach to treatment for pets is similar to that of humans.

Diabetes Mellitus (high blood glucose) is common to both dogs and cats. It generally affects middle-aged, overweight pets. Owners are often alerted to a problem because their pet's water consumption and urine output have increased. Well trained dogs may have accidents in the house and a cat's litter box becomes noticeably more wet. Additionally, a formally overweight pet may lose appreciable amounts of weight over a few month span, despite a normal or increased appetite. One of my clients noted that her dog's urine was "sticky" when it had a chance to dry on the floor, due to the high level of sugar in the urine.

Diabetes is usually treatable in dogs and cats. Diet regulation is occasionally sufficient alone, especially in cats, but insulin injections are most often required to control the condition. In rare instances the oral medication to increase insulin production will work for a diabetic cat. Close control of blood sugar levels in a diabetic pet can be difficult, but many owners become proficient at giving insulin injections. Many diabetic dogs and cats live full life spans.

Hypothyroidism (low thyroid hormone) is more common to dogs than cats. This condition can occur at any age but is most common in middle-aged or older dogs. Low thyroid levels generally result in overweight, lethargic pets with poor hair coats and "sad" facial expressions. Large breed dogs with severe hypothyroidism can die from low blood pressure and circulatory collapse.

Blood tests are generally diagnostic for hypothyroidism. Treatment with daily thyroid hormone supplementation is corrective. Cocker, Dobermans and golden retrievers are breeds commonly affected.

Addison's disease (inadequate adrenal gland function) is not as



Photo by Kina Schramfeld

Maria Allen's cat, Peggy Sue.

common as hypothyroidism but we have diagnosed a few cases at Kingsbury Animal Hospital. Standard poodles are more prone to this disorder than other breeds. The adrenal glands produce steroid compounds; without the normal levels of steroids the dog is unable to cope with physically stressful situations and the bodies fluid and electrolyte balance is disturbed. An Addison's dog may be weak, lack a normal appetite, drink inadequate amounts of water and have episodes of unexplained vomiting and diarrhea.

Diagnosis with blood tests is needed and is generally accurate. Treatment requires daily oral medication or long lasting injections. The outlook for a dog with Addison's is good.

Treatment of a pet with these disorders can be very rewarding to the owners and the veterinarian. However, more so than with human medicine, there are many variables which can affect the treatment. Most pets with these disorders don't read the text books; signs and symptoms may be variable. Response to treatment varies from pet to pet, breed to breed and species to species. Patience and persistence from the owners with help from the veterinarian can bring good control and return a pet to health. ||

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# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye R. Hoerr

"KILLERS IN YOUR FOOD!!!" screamed the headline on the CBS News. "Do you know what you eat?" asked the Stepford reporter. I was only half paying attention, being deeply preoccupied by a late afternoon snack of Hostess Cupcakes, some Ben & Jerry's Frozen Yogurt (Cookie Dough flavor), and a Bud Light. Nevertheless, something about the anchorman's voice caused my head to turn to the screen. I put down my cigar and began to listen.

"Most Americans buy thinking they know what goes in their foods. Most Americans think that they are providing their families a tasty and healthy diet," he began, "but they're wrong," he sneered. The picture on the screen changed suddenly and where there had been just a talking head there now was a gray-haired guy in a lab coat. He, too, was looking directly into the tube. It was just like he was in my living room. I took a quick drag of the cigar, a small bite of the cupcake, carved out a hunk of B&J Cookie Dough, and scooted closer to the screen. I knew that this was going to be worthwhile. After all, when guys in white coats appear on the screen, it's big stuff. "I'm not a doctor," he said, "although sometimes I play one on television."

This is getting interesting and interesting, I thought. Then the more or less doctor continued. "I'm here at this baloney factory. You probably think that baloney is a healthy food." At this he began walking to his left. "But baloney is not a healthy food," he said. He made a grand sweep of his hand and pointed toward the horizon. As far as one could see there were baloney trees. Big baloney trees, little baloney trees, even medium-sized baloney trees. It was almost like being at a political convention!

"Yes," he said, "these are baloney trees. Each tree produces three to four yields of baloney crop each year. You probably knew that. And after the baloney plants are harvested, they're put into this giant vat and cleaned, then they go into the baloney grinder, and finally, the baloney mold. You learned all of this in school, I'm sure," he announced. During his talk the camera had shown snippets of the baloney trees being harvested by workers operating from giant crane-like machines, the baloney manufacturing process, and a picture of the giant baloney mixer with its huge automatic arms, mixing the processed baloney.

So far I'd learned nothing new. It was interesting, sure, but if you've seen one baloney plant, you've seen 'em all. I had finished the Hostess Cupcake but was still hungry, so I opened a bag of potato chips. Lettering on the bag shouted "NO MORE WIMPY CHIPS!" and I munched away, my manly image reinforced.

The anchorman's voice caught my attention again. "We've just learned," he began, leaning into the camera as if to share a secret. I couldn't help myself. I leaned for-

ward too, turning down the volume lest someone else hear our secret. "We've just learned that non-FDA approved vitamins have been added to the baloney!" That was it! Non-FDA approved vitamins have been added to the baloney! Holy Cow! What is this world coming to? In a state of semi-shock, I leaned back, popped some chips into my mouth, and took a swig of Bud Light. The anchorman must have felt the tension casing too; he backed away from the camera, his mission accomplished. The TV cut to a commercial for some sort of exercise machine; it looked like something that could also be used to pry the truth from some spy captured during W.W.II, the Big one. Violence has always appalled me, so I used my remote to change to something more appealing, the home shopping network.

Is nothing sacred? If they're allowed to tamper with baloney, what's next? Where does it stop? Why isn't the government taking better care of us? Doesn't Uncle Sam look out for its citizens? The next thing you know they'll be saying that the government used unsuspecting citizens in radiation tests.

My mind had wandered, and by now there were no more chips in the bag, manly or otherwise. The Bud Light was drained too. I got another beer, opened a can of beer nuts, and popped a Pig-In-A-Blanket into the microwave.

My curiosity had been piqued, however. I began reading the labels on the food in my cupboard. Yikes! It was enough to make a man yearn for home-made chicken pot pie. Those frank portions of those tasty and healthy Pigs-In-A-Blanket (great for the hurried homemaker, pop the suckers in the microwave for 30 seconds and you're in business!) have

the following ingredients: beef and pork, asbestos lining, turkey, water extract, dextrose, slat, corn syrup, rodent hairs, various workers' eyebrows and eyelashes, hydrolyzed beef stock, sodium phosphates, diluted dioxin, aerated chicken spleen, sodium erythorbate, sodium nitrite, extractive paprika. Yucka-pucka-poo! My poor dogs, Moxie and Boomer, have been getting these for snacks; the poor babies.

Fighting a state of shock, I pulled out my Ben & Jerry's Frozen Yogurt and began to read the ingredients: Most of 'em I couldn't pronounce, but the list ended with mononitrate, riboflavin, mace. MACE!!! MACE IN MY FROZEN YOGURT! I gagged, took a deep drag on the cigar, and looked a bit further. I grabbed a staple of my diet, prepackaged Peanut Butter & Cheese Crackers. These handy snacks accompany me wherever I go. People often think that my blue satchel contains important papers and books; in fact, after I put in the day's supply of Peanut Butter & Cheese Crackers, a couple of packages of M&Ms, a bag or two of non-wimpy chips, and a cigar, there's hardly any room left for the work stuff. (That's just as well, taking work home could lead to bad habits, like not watching the home shopping network!)

Anyway, I started reading the label on the PB&C package. The good news is that the package said "No tropical oils, low saturated fats." I smiled. I knew that these folks wouldn't let me down. We had, after all, been friends for year. But then I began to go through the list of ingredients... neutered flour, niacin, reduced iron, distilled carwax, thiamine monoitrate, toejam, riboflavin, salt, sodium acid phosphate, monkey sinus, leavening, citric acid, disodyum phosphate, cpluribusunum. And then in much smaller letters it said, somewhat apologetically, "peanut residue and cheese."

My heart was racing. If my favorite foods — foods I had chosen and cultivate, in part, because the packaging looked healthy — had these noxious ingredients in them, what hope was there for my other staples, caramel-coated popcorn, cheese whiz, Baco-bits, and Nestle's Crunch? This had hit me hard. I felt a bit like I did when I learned that all gasolines were the same. Is nothing sacrosanct? The next thing you know, they'll be saying that some politicians are going to make money from riverboat gambling.

If there's one thing I've learned in my semi-middle age, it's to take care of my body. I try never to sweat, for example; all that exertion can't possibly be good for your heart! And now I know that pre-packaged food is bad for you. If they'll put non-approved vitamins in the baloney, nothing that comes from a factory is safe. So for me, from now on, I'm only eating those things that I can be sure are of high quality and are produced before my own eyes. It could be worse, after all, I think I'm going to enjoy my daily regime of fried eggs from Parkmoor and a cigar for breakfast, a SlimFast for lunch, and Ted Drewes for dinner.

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