

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 26 No. 8

February 1996

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Jill McGuire: Supporting the Arts in the St. Louis Community

by Lana Stein

The arts can enrich everyone's life and help to bring people together. This philosophy is integral to the thinking of our neighbor Jill McGuire (61xx Westminster) who is the executive director of the Regional Arts Commission. As funding for the arts is being cut by 40 percent at the federal level, St. Louis is very fortunate to have the Regional Arts Commission, which supports locally-based groups by means of a dedicated hotel-motel tax.

McGuire came to this position with considerable training and experience in art, art history, and graphic design. Prior to becoming the Commission's first director, McGuire was a special assistant to Mayor Schoemehl and had managed his 1981 campaign. Politics also was a long-term interest for her; she knocked on doors for candidates when she was a teenager. Her family was very interested in politics and her father once ran for mayor of his community. In fact, her summer jobs while she was in college involved working in the Recorder of Deeds' office and for the Circuit Clerk in St. Louis County. While attending the University of Missouri in Columbia she started a new party with two friends called Entente and they won a campus office.



In the mayor's office, McGuire worked in the area of conventions and tourism and on the question of the public hospitals. While there, the city and county tried together to pass a sales tax for cultural institutions, economic development, and conventions and tourism. Although this measure passed in the city, it failed in the county. Based on a model from San Francisco, the city and county decided to propose a dedicated tax to fund arts-related activities. This passed in November 1984 and the Regional Arts Commission was thus created on January 1, 1985.

Since that time, the Commission has given out over \$20 million to fund more than 2,000 grants. St. Louis is unique in having this publicly funded arts commission and the privately funded Arts and Education Council. The mission of the Commission is to encourage and foster the arts. It can support any non-profit organization except the Zoo-Museum district that produces or presents art. The Commission supports the major institutions in town but also the very small neighborhood-based groups such as the West End Arts Council or the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. The grants range from \$750 to over \$500,000. This year, the Commission has received 212 grant applications which ask for more than \$5.4 million. These applications are read by the staff, a citizen review panel, and commissioners. Each reviewer gets to pick a dollar amount that he or she would attach to each grant.

McGuire mentioned that every summer the Commission funds an arts program at the Darst-Webbe Homes. Teenagers do self-portraits and their product is now on display at COCA through February.

McGuire feels very strongly that we need to support the arts at the federal, state, and local levels. She is one of the three original incorporators of Arts for America, a

political action committee to raise money for candidates in federal elections who support the arts. She feels that the fact that there was only a 40 percent cut to the National Endowment for the Arts is a major victory - considering that many sought its abolition. However, the amount of support to major organizations as well as the grassroots has been clearly limited. The federal cutbacks make local arts agencies even more significant in arts survival, according to McGuire. There is also more pressure and it becomes harder to decide: Do you fund major organizations at higher levels and forsake entities that are just beginning? McGuire asked whether a local funding agency can afford to fund the new and innovative in face of all the other needs. These questions in arts policy are not dissimilar in nature to those facing the human services. The buzz word has become "stabilization."

McGuire spent a few days in January at national meetings of arts administrators. She spent 6 years as a board member of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies and now serves as an adviser to them. She told me that she loves her work as much as when it began almost 11 years ago. There are many challenges and now the challenges are even harder.

Black History Month Spotlight

Editor's note: Shirley Polk, a board member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, asked the Times to profile a longtime neighbor in honor of Black History Month--Anna Busch.

Anna Busch and her family moved to Skinker DeBaliviere in 1967. She and her husband of almost 50 years, Horace, have 6 children, five daughters and a son. There are also five grandchildren and one on the way. Her children went to St. Roch.

Soon after moving to this neighborhood, Busch became involved with a number of community activities. She was a charter member of Women for City Living. This organization turned into the Women's Crusade Against Crime at the request of Father Cervantes. Busch also worked on Aid to Victims of Crime. In 1974, she and Suzanne Hart co-chaired the Medal of Valor awards that were sponsored by the Women's Crusade Against Crime. As a result of these efforts, she has received numerous awards,



including several from police organizations. She is proud of having helped relocate the 7th District police station from Union and Page to Union and Delmar.

Busch also was a member and officer of the Washington Heights Neighbors and helped to organize a Little League team in Washington Heights. She also was a board member of People's Clinic which

continued on page 4

It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Trivia...

Back by popular demand: The Fourth Annual Times Trivia Party and Pizza Jamboree

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 6:30pm doors open; 7:15 game begins

Place: Crossroads School

Format: Tables of six; ten rounds of ten questions apiece; prizes to 1st and 2nd place teams. Categories include our famous MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC.

Master of Ceremonies: Renowned actor, Dan Shea

Refreshments: Available for purchase: Pizza by the slice; beer and wine; soft drinks. Food will be available before the game and during intermission.

Cost of Admission: \$5 per person; \$30 per table IF PAID IN ADVANCE
\$6 per person, \$36 per table AT THE DOOR

RSVP by February 28 to: Lana 721-7532
Kathleen 863-5015

Celebrating 25 Years of Service to Skinker DeBaliviere

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

by Lana Stein

Everything is relative. I have grown increasingly tired of the prophets of doom who say that our city is outdated, or on an irreversible course of increasing poverty and a declining quality of life. The basis for their statement: presumed population loss. Isn't it rather foolish to make judgments based solely on a number, and an unofficial number at that? Historically, cities have been the center of religion, learning, government and the arts. Isn't that still true today? American cities are almost unique on this planet in that the wealthy and then the middle class have been moving outward since about 1810. That is not the case in Paris or other major European cities. The rich may have a country home but their principal residence is in the heart of the city. The U.S. had the inexpensive available land and a cheap method of construction that along with transportation innovation made the outward movement possible.

We cannot reverse the suburbanization of the United States. But, neither the suburbs nor the new edge cities will become the educational, cultural, political and religious centers that central cities like St. Louis are. Cities need to look to their strengths. We will never be like we were in 1950 but we can still provide opportunities for many in various areas. Newsweek published a lengthy article last May discussing angst in suburbia—the lack of community, the long automobile trips to get anywhere, strip malls. There's an up side and a down side to everything. Maybe if the doomsayers understand the quality of life here in Skinker DeBaliviere, they would stop wringing their hands. Our diversity and stability should serve as a national model. And, it's something you can't find west of 270.

In Memory of Carnell Batchelor

Carnell Batchelor, a long time neighborhood resident, died on December 9, 1995. Mr. Batchelor had 24 dedicated years with Parkview Properties. He was well known by neighbors for his friendliness and concern for his neighborhood. Although he was ill for the last year and a half, he continued to do his job with his special cheerful attitude. He was a great friend and is greatly missed by all of us at Parkview Properties.

TO THE EDITOR:

Compliments to Jack Wright, Grace & Peace Fellowship, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, New Cote Brillante Church and Pat McKisack for a memorable program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on Sunday, January 14, 1996. The commemorative celebration by black and white, young and old, neighbors and friends was truly a reflection of Dr. King's teachings.

The Skinker DeBaliviere and surrounding areas are examples of how people should live, work, pray and have fun together.

Area Resident and Neighbor,
Rosemarie Storey

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings and Events

- 2/14 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon
- 2/26 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 3/2 Times Trivia Party, Crossroads School, DeBaliviere at Kingsbury, 6:30 p.m. pizza, 7:15 p.m. competition.

Other Events of Interest:

- now-2/18 "A Fire in the Soul: The Life of Vincent Van Gogh," presented by Historyonics Theatre Company at the Missouri History Museum. Call 361-7477 for information regarding times.
- now-2/18 "Durang, Durang" at TNT, The New Theatre, a collection of 6 short comedies. Call 531-8330 for dates and times.
- 2/10-11 A & E Weekend: An Arts Event for Everyone"—100 free activities at 23 locations. For information call 535-3600, ext. 109.
- 3/15-3/31 "The Black Pearl: Josephine Baker" presented by Historyonics Theatre Company at the Missouri History Museum. Call 361-7477 for information regarding times.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 on 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 or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette 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 5855 Nina Place. Deadline for all copy is the 18th 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

CONTRIBUTORS

Many, many thanks to all those neighbors who have sent financial contributions to THE TIMES. Your contributions in 1995 have enabled us to end the year with a "cushion" to begin our 27th year of publishing THE TIMES.

So many neighbors contribute to our collective success. This month, we send a special note of gratitude to those who have sent contributions, listed below:

Virginia Leguey-Feilleux	Gary and Glenda Underwood
Joe and Nancy deBettencourt	Judy and Fred Giraud
Lisa Iglauer	Hi and Mary Watkins
Willie and Rogerene Kinds	Edna and George Paul
Renni Shuter	Ernest Stix, Jr.
Dan Shea and Kathleen Williams	Vince and Lois Schoemehl
Dr. and Mrs. G.O. Broun	Sandy and Sue Rothschild
G.F. and Betty Streckfus Carroll	Sam and Lucille Green
Robert Renard	Steve Brammeier
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Hart	King and Dee Schoenfeld
Joe and Linda Edwards	Juan and Kiki Chavez
Neville and Jo Ann Vatcha	William J. Taylor
Dee and Gary Hayes	Madge Upchurch
Gwendolyn Lazard	Mary Ann Rudloff
Shirley Bissen and Peter Lukasiwicz	Tom and Karleen Hoerr
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HAMILTON SPOTLIGHT

by Betsy King

The spotlight this month is on partnerships. One of our goals as a Community Education Center is to give our students more exposure both to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community and to the extended St. Louis Community. Several of our classes have participated in partnership experiences with classes from other schools both within the district and from different districts.

Mr. Ray Roques' fifth grade class teamed up with fifth graders from Parkwood School in the Pattonville School District. First, the Parkwood students came to Hamilton for an orientation and presentation by LaSeandra Owens, a representative from Cahokia Mounds. Next, the classes took a field trip together to Cahokia Mounds in Cahokia, Illinois. Finally, the Hamilton students went to Parkwood and participated in a simulation of an archaeological dig. The students worked in pairs, with one partner from each school, to identify, describe, measure, and record their findings. Mr. Roques said this was a wonderful cross-curricular experience. Mrs. Cathy Ehlers' fourth grade class participated in the same program with a class from North Glendale School in the Kirkwood School District.

Mrs. Paula Knight's third grade class and Mrs. Verline Jackson's fifth grade class participated in a different type of partnership field trip to Cahokia Mounds with Banner School, another St. Louis Public School. These students had the opportunity to watch a film about how Cahokia Mounds became a historical site. Then, with students from Banner, the children actually helped to rebuild one of the largest burial sites

at Cahokia Mounds. They followed up by participating in a mapping activity in which they measured and graphed the location of artifacts at a simulated burial site.

Finally, Mrs. Sharon Ware's fifth grade class and a fifth grade from Delmar-Harvard School in the University City School District took a field trip together to the Old Courthouse. They participated in a bartering exercise and learned about the trade between explorers Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau, the cofounders of St. Louis, and the Osage Indians. These classes have followed up the experience by becoming pen pals.

Congratulations to fourth grade teacher Cathy Ehlers and her student Sean Smith, a neighborhood resident! Mrs. Ehlers, Sean, and their families have won a five-day, all expenses paid trip to the NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 4, 1996, as well as a \$2500 cash prize for Hamilton School.

Since October 1995, Hamilton fourth graders have been participating in the NFL FACT Program: Football and Academics: A Championship Team. All of the participants received an NFL binder, and each student receives a set of NFL Football Fact Cards monthly. Also, every month, there is a poster contest with a different theme. Twelve schools in the district participate in this program, and one poster is selected per school to be entered into the monthly contest. For each theme, the citywide winner receives a prize from the St. Louis Rams.

In October, the kickoff month of the program, the winning poster was forwarded to the NFL, and one winner was selected from each NFL division. The theme for October was "Stay in School," and the posters

continued on page 7

Black History Month

Residents of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood do not have to go very far to find informative, high quality programs during Black History Month.

Whether you have a special interest in music, literature, or the arts, you will be able to find a program to meet your needs.

→Missouri History Museum

The Missouri Historical Society and HISTORYonics will present "On the Outside Corner," Sunday, February 11, at 2 p.m. The play revisits the days of the Negro Baseball League and is free to the public.

→St. Louis Public Library

The Charing Cross Branch will not be hosting specific program during Black History Month. Detailed information will be available on the following events at the main library:

Special Guest Speaker Susan Taylor, Editor in Chief of Essence Magazine will speak at 2 p.m., Sunday, February 25. This nationally known speaker is one of the most influential persons in media today.

There will be a special reception open to the public Monday, February 5, marking the opening of a new exhibit in the Culver Gallery entitled "African Americans in Missouri, 1719-Present." The show continues in the gallery through February 29.

Throughout the month of February there will a special exhibit in the Youth Services Department called "African American Women; Strong Today/Strong Tomorrow."

→St. Louis Art Museum

Gallery Talks (all free and open to the public):

Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 8, 11 a.m.

Power Objects, Ancestors and Festivals of Africa and the Diaspora

John Nunley, Morton D. May Curator of the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas
Gallery 104

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 15, 11 a.m.

Kerry Marshall's Watts 1963

Jeremy Strick, Curator of Modern Art
Gallery 322

Visual Arts and Related Programs:

February 4 Performance, 2:30 p.m.

Oral Epics of West Africa

Alhaji Papa Susso, master player of the kora, a 21-string harp-lute, will explore the role of the griot as praise-singer and oral historian in African Society. Papa Susso comes from a long line of griots and is a descendent of the family credited with the invention of the kora, an instrument unique to the western-most part of Africa and played at important tribal events.

February 11 Film, 2:30 p.m.

Wild Women Don't Have the Blues, 1989

This film recaptures the lives and times of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Alberta Hunter, Ethel Waters and other legendary women who made the blues a vital part of American culture. Survivors of the era recall how the blueswomen had to struggle against racial and gender prejudice and economic exploitation in the music industry. Directed by Christine Dall. Length: 58 minutes.

February 18 Performance, 2:30 p.m.

Washington University Wind Ensemble

Under the direction of conductor Dan Presgrave, the Ensemble will perform a program highlighting the influence of dance on music. Selections will include a tribute to Duke Ellington and works by other composers.

→Brandie's Books

Brandie's Books is participating in a city-wide book fair Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18 at the Ramada Inn, 333 Washington Avenue. Author appearances will include:

- Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson
- Jamilah El-Amin
- Alissa Whithorne
- Dr. John L. Johnson
- Joe Peoples
- Wale' Amusa
- Jessica Slaughter

Of course, you can purchase Afro-centric books by these and many others at Brandie's, 329 DeBaliviere. For more information, call 286-7218.

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Pat McKissack Highlights Memorable King Commemoration

On Jan. 14, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration took place at Grace and Peace Church. Chaired by Jack Wright, the program featured remarks from Rev. Kurt Lutjens of Grace and Peace and Rev. Miki Merritt of New Cote Brillante Church of God as well as memorable music from the New Cote Brillante Choir. Students from a number of area schools--Bethel, New City, Hamilton, St. Roch--presented skits and songs to illustrate the impact of King's life.



MLK Commemoration Planning Committee

photos by King Schoenfeld



The highlight of the afternoon was the keynote remarks of Patricia McKissack. McKissack, a noted author of numerous children's books, had lived for over 25 years on 58xx Pershing. Following are excerpts from her moving remarks:

"At Thanksgiving my husband and I took my father to Nashville and we went on a tour of the city, looking at a place where he had grown up. It brought back memories to me as well. Today, because of King and others too many to name but who include my husband who was part of the sit-in demonstrations, I am welcomed at the Grand Ol' Opera, Morrison's Cafeteria, the Andrew Jackson Hotel." McKissack also remembered getting a library card there, which meant everything to her.

"What would Dr. King think today, if we could take him on a tour. What would he see and what would he say? The clues to his responses are taken from his speeches, his writings, the quotes he used from other sources, and his own actions.

"If Dr. King came back today he would be pleased in many ways but shocked and dismayed in other ways. For example, he would be overjoyed to see the large number of African Americans who hold elected political positions all over the country--especially in the South. But when looking at Congress, he might wonder if he was in 1996 or 1896.

"I think if Dr. King were at this podium today, he would simply say, 'Are you registered to vote? If so, did you vote the last time there was an election for local, state, or a federal position?' If your answer is no, then let me encourage you to register



Patricia McKissack, featured speaker

and vote and send a message to those who would turn the clock back to 1896.

"If Dr. King could come back and look at our youth and ask us why we allowed them to fall into such despair. He'd look at the baggy clothing. He'd look at the movements, their music, and their videos. He would be disturbed, I dare say furious by what he sees, but not at the children. Dr. King would probably use one of his famous homespun quotes--'An apple don't fall far from the tree.' Our young people are the product of our labors--the good as well as the bad. They are a mirror of who we are and what we have become. When we call them names, the names also apply to us. Before we can begin to fix what is wrong with our youth, we must first admit that we have failed our

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 1

was originally located at 6010 Kingsbury. She served as a member of the executive board at St. Roch and worked with the PTA at its school.

In 1969, she began to work as a volunteer with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. In 1971, then executive director Cal Stuart asked her to be the council secretary. She worked in that capacity until 1981 when she took a job with the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court.

The Buschs have long participated in the 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club. Mr. Busch served

Some of her favorite memories including working to get a railing along the edge of her street, 57xx Pershing, because a car had driven off Pershing and landed almost on the Forest Park Parkway. She also remembers with fondness holding the first appreciation part for the 7th district at her home. There was a big barbecue. She reminisced that she helped devise a way to assign spaces for art work at Skinker DeBaliviere's first art fair.

as secretary and as treasurer. At the first VP Fair, the Buschs had a booth, "Peri-Busch Bar-B-Que.

Busch has no regrets about settling in Skinker DeBaliviere. She said, "It's been really nice, nice for the kids to go to school at St. Roch. Even though it was a changing neighborhood, a lot of people really accepted us." She also loved Father Peet, a people person. Busch also enjoyed having a good relationship with the Police Department "who were always so friendly to kids." She has been a longtime block cap-

tain. She also noted that Skinker DeBaliviere is close to parks, the bus, and schools. She misses the friends who have moved away over the years.

Busch noted that she wouldn't have been able to participate in so many activities were it not for her husband. "He's been a good provider and very supportive."

The Buschs are still quite active. Today she and her husband work with the Knights of Columbus and also work at Mother Teresa's Gift of Mary Center.



New City School students



Crossroads School Student Organization



Students from Hamilton School



Participants from St. Roch School

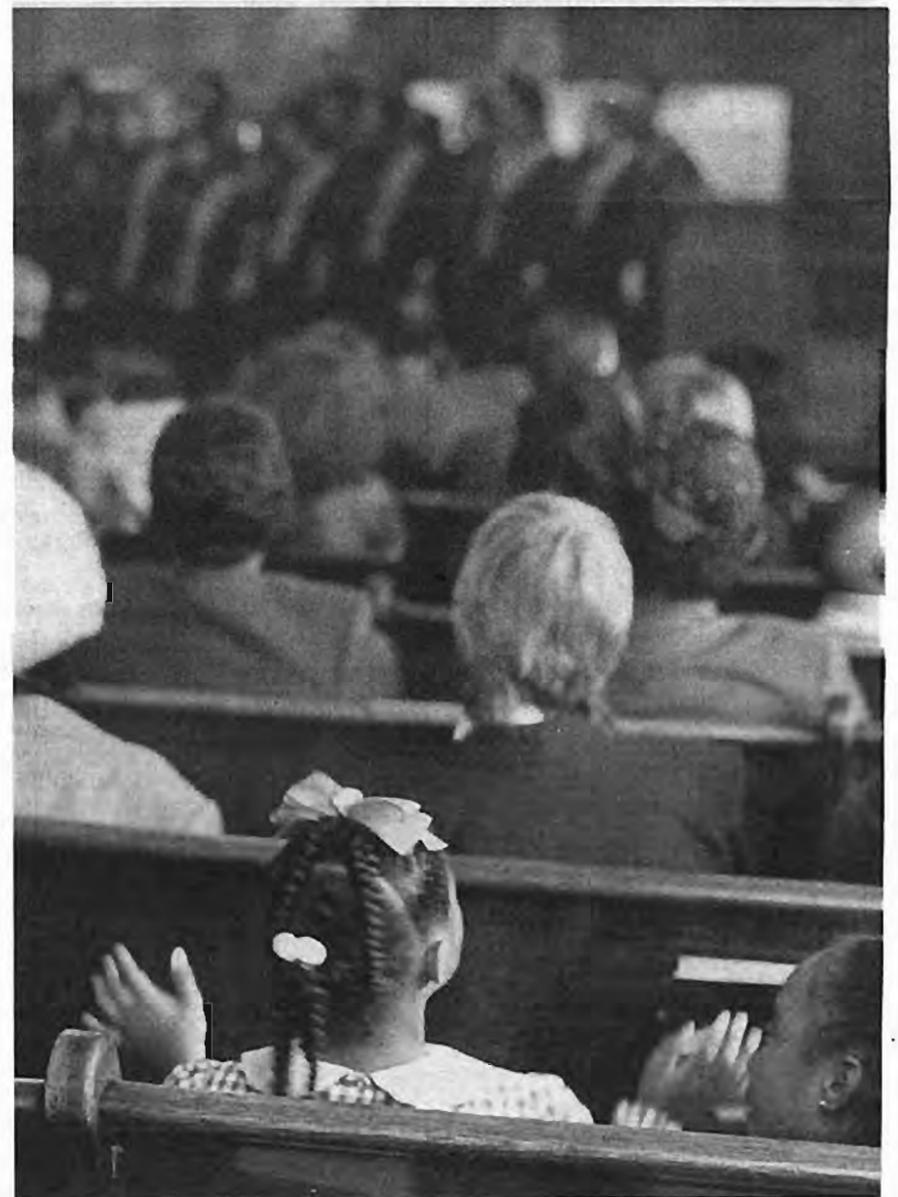
children as parents, as neighbors, as clergy, as educators, journalists, physicians, athletes. I imagine if King came back today, he'd be among the youth, in the streets for that's where he was in the 1960s, being a drum major for our youth. Why aren't you listening to the words the rappers are saying? Get beyond the shock of the language and you'll hear that some of them are saying the same thing Dr. King was saying back in 1968. They're talking about the ills of society--drugs, gangs, devastating poverty.

"Dr. King would look at crime and firmly take a stand against unnecessary acts of violence.

"Dr. King would call on us to show compassion. If Dr. King could come back today, he would speak

often about understanding. Understanding comes when individuals are willing to invest in learning, patient enough to see it through, and then possess a willingness to change.

"We can't go back. 'We've come a long way, but we've still got a long, long way to go. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving.' Reach out and touch someone. It is difficult for in reaching out, you run the risk of rejection. And rejection is painful, but as Fanny Lou Hamer said, 'I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired.' Go with love in your heart, compassion in your deed, and understanding in your thoughts--and we can conquer the hatred that is within and without. 'This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.'"



Young lady appreciates New Cote Brillante Church of God choir.



Bethel Lutheran School participants

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BrightSide Blitz Announced

Before you know it, Operation BrightSide will be here in our neighborhood.

Our "BrightSide Blitz" has been scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 1996. Mark your calendars now! Remember, this is your day to shine. More details to follow.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Minutes - January 8, 1996

In attendance: Directors Ruth Johnson, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Joe deBettencourt, Beth Bender, Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk, Gary Hayes, Sara Johnson, Lana Stein, Jack Wright, Juliet Schoemehl, Ann Smith Carr, and Gwendolyn Lazard; NSO Jacqueline Wellington; Alderman Daniel J. McGuire; and Executive Director Laure Porterfield.

Absences: Gregory Freeman, Aaron Johnson, Arline Webb.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Beth Bender opened the meeting and welcomed newly elected member Gwen Lazard.

II. Approval of Minutes

Lana Stein moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Joe deBettencourt and passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The cash balance reflects some funds that are committed for 1995 expenses. Gary Hayes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Joe deBettencourt and passed.

IV. Nominating Committee

It was moved and seconded that the entire slate proposed in the December meeting be elected by voice vote. Motion passed unanimously. The Executive Committee for 1996 is as follows:

Gary Hayes	President
Sara Johnson	Vice President
Maggie Hart-Mahon	Treasurer
Ruth Johnson	Secretary

Gwendolyn Lazard of 59XX McPherson, Glenda Underwood of 61XX McPherson, and Jane Gieler of 61XX Washington were suggested by the nominating committee as at-large representatives. Gary Hayes moved and Lana Stein seconded that we table the election of at-large members who reside in Rosedale so they can run as representatives of Rosedale neighborhood. If they are not elected at the January 23 Rosedale meeting, they will be renominated at the February 26 Council meeting. Gwen Lazard's nomination as an at-large representative was approved unanimously.

V. MLK Commemoration Planning Committee

Jack Wright, Chairman, reported that everything is in place. An interesting program is planned featuring Pat McKissack.

VI. Committee Reports

Housing Corporation - No report.

Commercial Planning - On the triangle (north of Delmar) a new Jiffy Lube is proposed. The individual interested in this business is to get back to Alderman McGuire by March.

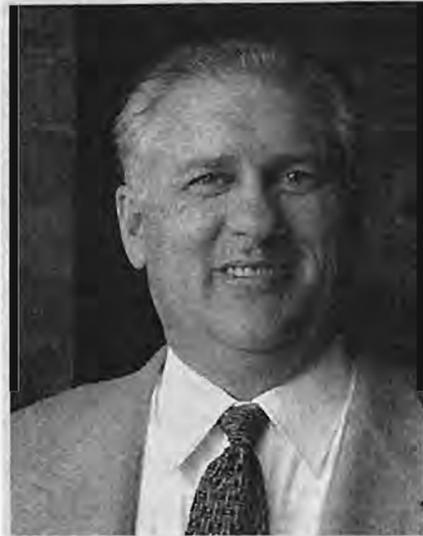
The new deli at DeBaliviere and Pershing is beautiful!

Alderman McGuire continues to meet with Bi-State regarding the parking lot at the DeBaliviere MetroLink station. No decision.

The Urban Land Institute report on the Delmar MetroLink station is incomplete. It is now due in February.

Arson is apparent at Jasmine's. No further report.

There was discussion of various intersections that are unsafe for pedestrians, such as Skinker and Delmar, Des Peres and Delmar, and DeBaliviere and Pershing. There have been reports of accidents. Need a sign or light to keep pedestrians out of danger.



Gary Hayes

Nina Place - Work is being done to finish the building at 5885.

Parkview - Joe deBettencourt reported that Parkview elected new officers:

David Wiess	President
Mark Gorman	Vice President
Bryan Gerard	Treasurer
Andrea Schnapp	Secretary

Rosedale - Reminder: the annual potluck and election will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads School on January 23.

DeGiverville - Residents expressed appreciation for the streets being salted. Special thanks to Jackie Wellington and Laure Porterfield.

The City had promised to plow the streets using a "shaving technique to avoid trapping parked cars.

Personnel - The Executive Director's review was conducted and adjustments were made to the staff's salary.

Youth Cycles - To resume next month.

Community Fund - No requests.

VII. Executive Director's Report

- Making calendars; asked for Board members suggestions, ideas, etc.
- The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere may do a trivia party in February or March.
- Three activities coming up:
 1. Security Meeting - officers from 7th District
 2. Housing Strategy session
 3. Landlords' Seminar - working with neighborhood stabilization officer
- Applying for RAC grant for summer concert series at Four Corners.
- Need to organize an activity for the 1996 holiday season.
- About 25 to 30 officers visited the office during the Christmas Open House.

Pet Talk

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

Kidney failure, one of the common afflictions of older cats, recently claimed the life of one of our resident cats at Kingsbury Animal Hospital. Mr. What came to us more than ten years ago. At that time he had a lower urinary tract inflammation. His urethra was obstructed and he could not urinate. Without immediate care he was going to die. Unfortunately, his owner was unable to provide the treatment necessary because of financial limitations. Rather than let the cat die, or be euthanized for a problem I could essentially fix, the owner allowed me to take responsibility and care for the cat. After extensive treatment he made a full recovery. However, this mild mannered, black cat, declawed previously on all four feet did not deserve his given name: Satan. With respect for Abbott and Costello, I fondly named the cat "Mr. What".

We already had a resident cat, Mildred, who was also black. Mildred was small, about seven pounds, and quite full of herself. In his prime Mr. What tipped the scales at seventeen pounds; he was big boned. But, for all of his size, he was quite the mild mannered gentleman. Mildred tormented him daily, chasing him up on the counters, or never giving him a moments peace in the litter box.

Of course, my favorite was when someone asked about the large black cat at the front desk: "What is his name?". The reply: "What cat". The response: "That big black cat over there..." "Who's on first." Mr. What's claim to fame, other than being a charming host at the front desk, was donating blood. Occasionally, we would draw enough blood from Mr. What to give a struggling cat, or kitten, a chance at life, and often it worked.

About two years ago Mr. What began to lose weight, something truly unusual for him. We also noticed that the litter box seemed to get saturated with urine more quickly. A few blood tests, and a urinalysis provided the answer; Mr. What's kidneys were unable to concentrate his urine sufficiently. To compensate, his system required a higher volume of water to eliminate the normal amounts of toxic products built up in the blood stream. The normally insignificant amount of protein lost in his urine became a drain on his system as larger quantities of protein were lost with the increased volume of water intake and urine output.

We changed his diet to a prescription food, KD, made specifi-

cally for this problem. It is a food whose calories come mostly from fat and whose protein is of a simple nature producing less of the waste products for the kidney to eliminate. Within a few weeks, Mr. What had regained his weight. He did well for several months. When he started to lose weight again, we gave him additional fluids by injecting them under his skin, about four ounces every other day: just enough to help his kidneys flush his system a little more. (I have several clients whom we have taught to do this with their cats who have the same kidney failure problem as Mr. What.) Eventually, we were giving Mr. What extra fluids and a potassium supplement on a daily basis.

Just before Christmas Mr. What began his decline. Radiographs showed mineral deposits in both kidneys. He lost weight rapidly and lost his appetite. He was getting too weak to jump on the counters, or greet people at the front desk. Sallie, one of our technicians, took Mr. What home to care for him through the holidays when we would be away from Kingsbury for long periods of time. Besides, he would have a more "cushy" environment at her house. He came back to Kingsbury just after the New Year, but it was clear he was miserable and would not live long. So, after we made him drunk on tranquilizers, I held him in my lap and Sallie stroked his head as Dr. Connie eased him into sleep.

We miss Mr. What. And, I'm sure many of my clients will miss him. But, I am also sure, that before too long, another "cat in need" will join our only resident cat, "Which cat." Whoever it is, I hope they like the name, "That cat."



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HAMILTON

continued from page 6

were judged for originality and creativity. Sean's poster said "It's a Fact, You Will Gain Knowledge if You Stay in School," and it depicted the Rams playing the 49ers, Sean's favorite NFL team. His poster was selected as the winner for the NFL West Division, and was one of four winners from all of the participants nationwide.

Mrs. Ehlers, Sean, and their families will stay at the Hawaiian Hilton in Honolulu from February 1-5. They will have the opportunity to attend a practice and to meet some of the Pro Bowl participants. We hope they have a great time! There will be an assembly on Wednesday, January 31, honoring Sean and Mrs. Ehlers. A Rams player will speak about the importance of staying in school, and members of the Rams' cheerleading squad will attend as well. Sean will be presented with a Rams jacket and jersey and a framed copy of his winning poster. There will also be a copy of the poster hanging in the office at school, so feel free to stop by and take a look. The originals of all of the winning posters will hang in one of the NFL's corporate offices.

In addition to Sean's achievement, we congratulate Nick Onkle from Ms. Barbara Brueggeman's class, who won the citywide contest for November with the theme, "Staying Fit." He will receive a special gift from the St. Louis Rams.

In December, Hamilton participated in Kids Caring 4 Kids, a joint project of KMOV-TV Channel 4, WIL-FM 92, the Cooperating School Districts, and the Homeless Resource Bank. Kids Caring 4 Kids was created as a part of Channel 4's Vision of St.

Louis to give children the opportunity to capture the spirit of giving in the holiday season. Second grade teacher Peggy Meyer spearheaded the effort by organizing a canned food drive and a competition between classrooms to collect the most cans. After a week of donations, we were able to contribute close to 800 cans.

Also in December, Hamilton established an exciting new program called the Celebrity Readers Club in which St. Louis Celebrities come to Hamilton and read to the students. So far we have had the Reverend Earl Nance, Jr. read How the Grinch Stole Christmas to the first grade, and Jamie Rivers, ex-football Cardinal, read Peanut Butter and Jam to the fifth grade. (In February Hamilton is hosting Channel 5's Mike Owens). If you have any celebrity connections and you could arrange

for them to visit Hamilton, we would appreciate it. Please contact third grade teacher Paula Knight at 3674552.

Hamilton was represented at a program commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar, on Sunday, January 14, 1996. The focus of the commemoration was "A Need for Love, Compassion, and Understanding in a World Full of Hate." The Hamilton Choir, directed by Mr. Robert Henderson, sang "Martin Luther King," and "Reach Out and Touch." Between the songs, twelve fourth- and fifth-grade students performed a choral reading of "Dear Dr. King," a letter composed by Hamilton fourth and fifth graders overseen by Mrs. Sharon Ware.

We continue to have a number of volunteers performing community service at Hamilton this year. The Westminster Christian Academy students are still with us and doing a great job, and the DeSmet students will be leading the Jr. Achievement program in the first through fourth grades this spring. In addition, we have two students from St. Louis University High School working in the fifth grade in order to fulfill their community service requirements.

At the January 22 In-Service meeting, the Hamilton Community Education Center Council sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Our most hearty thanks to Mrs. Ruth Johnson and her committee for the thoughtful effort.

Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

We have a short, but gratifying recitation this month. Alicia Webb of the 6100 block of Pershing has won the St. Roch's spelling bee and will be going to the District competition at the St. Louis Art Museum on March 2. We wish her the best of luck.

DeWitt Campbell of the same block has graduated from the University of Missouri at St. Louis with a degree in sociology. He has taken a position with the Monsanto YMCA. He has worked there in recent years and so impressed them that they created a position especially for him! Faithful readers will remember a story on DeWitt several years ago when he was a batboy for the Cardinals.

A NEW DIRECTION AT ROSEDALE

The Rosedale Neighbors held their annual meeting and potluck on Jan. 23 at Crossroads. First item of business was election of new officers. The results are as follows:

President **Jane Geiler**,
61xx Washington
Vice President **Gary Hayes**,
61xx McPherson
Secretary **Dave Schmidt**,
61xx McPherson
Treasurer **Mary Ann Rudloff**,
61xx Westminster

Area Representatives:

6000 & 6100
Washington and Westminster
Arthelda Busch,
60xx Washington
6000 & 6100
Kingsbury and McPherson
Glenda Underwood,
61xx McPherson
6000 & 6100
Waterman and Pershing
Arline Webb,
61xx Pershing

At Large Delegate **Julie Schoemehl**,
61xx McPherson

The Rosedale president, the 3 area representatives, and the at large delegate will all serve on the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

Those present also discussed Rags to Riches. This event will be held this fall and every other fall thereafter. Julie Schoemehl is spearheading this project.

The other major subject of discussion was the beautification of the barricades at Rosedale and McPherson, Westminster and Kingsbury. Andy Cross has designed possible wooden planters that could contain ornamental grasses, similar to what is at Four Corners. Andy hopes to be able to do a barricade a year. A number of people signed up to be on a committee dealing with this proposed project. SDCC Director Laure Porterfield is preparing to grant applications to help fund this beautification effort.

IN YOUR EAR

continued from page 8

everyone is interested in these questions; they're not. But just as we in Skinker-DeBaliviere want to know about these issues, there are other issues that are critically important in other neighborhoods. The list of local issues that beg for coverage is endless.

As long as the leadership of the Post, however, and that at similar papers in other cities, fails to recognize the uniqueness of the neighborhoods within their communities, the downward spiral in newspaper circulation will continue. Elaine Viets did not write to my tastes, but her columns reflected a local spirit that wasn't available anywhere else. Just as Bernie Miklasz's writings about sports are unique, his perspective being different than that found in my

New York Times or Sports Illustrated, Elaine Viets gave us something that couldn't be found on the tube or "America On-Line."

The only thing worse than a one-newspaper town would be a no-newspaper town, and there is cause for alarm. Today's teenagers read less than their parents did. Television permeates our culture. Speed is measured in nano-seconds, yet the large metropolitan newspaper is becoming a dinosaur, slugging it out with the electronic media, seemingly puzzled by its ever-changing environment. An example is that the Post's weekly supplement, "Get Out," is its attempt to be topical and grab young readers.

Elaine Viets, where are you?

SDCC MINUTES

continued from page 6

VIII. Other Business

- Concern was expressed about people selling on the corner of Forest Park Parkway and Skinker. Call Captain Hegger at 444-0027.
- Taxes for 1994 filed and statements completed.
- Closing books on 1995 now. Will request an A-133 program audit for John Heinz money; lower level audit for agency as a whole.
- Black History Month - Shirley Polk suggested that The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere do a feature on a person or activity observing the month. Laure will help.
- January 27 - Progressive Dinner at St. Roch's; about 200 people to participate.
- Jack Wright made a resolution on behalf of all Council members giving a special thanks to Beth Bender for her dedicated service as President of SDCC.
- Alderman McGuire gave additional information about an MSD construction project on Skinker. Would like to get it out of the area between Millbrook and Delmar. Alderman McGuire will bring additional information to the next meeting. Starting time for the project is May of next year.

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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye X. Hoerr

If the Post-Dispatch editors had canned Elaine Viets for her mediocre writing, I'd have no complaint. For that matter, if they said that they found her characterizations of St. Louis natives more than a tad offensive and asked her to clean up her act, I'd have agreed and wondered why it took them so long to figure this out. Or if they felt that her living out of town meant that she had lost her grasp on the local climate, it might have made sense. But to have fired her simply because she refuses to live in St. Louis is pretty amazing. Sadly, it's not very surprising.

It's easy to bash the local paper. This isn't just a Post problem; newspaper circulation around the country is decreasing. With CNN and a myriad of channels at our remotest tips, why wait until the morning to find out who was murdered or what happened in Bosnia? All you need to do is turn on the tube and wade through the talking heads' mono-dia-monologue. Sooner or later their chatter will make room for the things that are actually happening in the world. What you hear won't be terribly profound, in-depth, or comprehensive, but it will be quick. That's what we get: national and international fast-food news.

Of course the situation is worse here because we're only a one-newspaper town. (This excludes the various journals, The Riverfront Times, and vibrant neighborhood tabloids, like our very own Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere!) The collusion that took place years ago between the Post and Globe-Democrat -- the owners of the Globe selling out because they were unable to resist the temptation of big payments coupled with no work -- continues to haunt our town. Generally, there's now just one movie, restaurant, or book review. Worse, there's one interpretation of the news, one political bent. I didn't agree with the Globe view of the world very often, but it was always interesting to read what its writers were saying. More important, the presence of the Globe forced the Post to try to be competitive and innovative. Now, like all other monopolies, the Post has grown fat, sloppy, and not terribly responsive.

For some reason print reporters and editors fail to grasp their changing role. It may be fun and exciting to cover health care, eastern blizzards, or the Japanese trade imbalance. And writing about White-water or drug smuggling is how reputations are made and Pulitzer Prizes are won. But those things are all better covered, at least as far as news reporting goes, by television or radio. In a decade or so it may be that they're best done on "the net" or through your wristwatch. Technology is evolving at such a pace that it is hard to predict through what electronic line, satellite dish, or cellular device we'll be receiving information in the future. But we do know that technology doesn't move backwards. (Have you tried to buy a manual typewriter lately?) What this means

is that the print media's place in reporting the national and international news will continue to diminish.

All need not be lost for the newspapers, however, if they would wake up and smell the air just outside their window. For regardless of what happens with technology, at least in the near future, an area where they will continue to have a unique position is in reporting local news. In many ways the actions of our local officials -- our community leaders and statehouse representatives -- have a greater immediate impact on our lives than what happens in D.C. or at the U.N. What highways are built, which hospitals offer what services, if snow is plowed from streets, how nearby schools define curriculum, and whether the police force is honest truly affects our quality of life.

Yet the Post has no Jefferson City office. That's right, our only (and the State's largest) daily newspaper has no permanent office and reporter in the State Capital. And when was the last time that the Post

did more than report on an aldermanic action? Sure, whenever there's a budgetary battle or whenever the Mayor forgets to sign bills into law (something that seems to happen on a not-irregular basis) it makes the pages. But when has the paper done an in-depth interview with Dan McGuire, our alderman? When has it assembled a panel of representatives from this area -- say, Dan along with State Representative Nancy Farmer and State Senator Lacy Clay -- to talk about legislation they might have for us? When has the Post acknowledged the existence of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, much less talked about its role in our community or its actions?

The litany of the news that the Post doesn't cover, the "small" happenings and events that dramatically touch us, goes on and on. Important things that happen every day in schools and neighborhoods, things that won't be reported on by CNN, are missed. There's a void here, an information need that is waiting to be

filled. What, exactly, is going to happen on Delmar, east of Skinker? What about the proposed economic activity package that will center around the Delmar MetroLink station? Or what's happening with our local schools? What are the new thrusts at Hamilton or St. Roch's or New City? How is that ex-school on Des Peres being used? What's going on with that vacant gas station at McPherson and Skinker? Is Prosecuting Attorney, and neighbor, Dee Joyce-Hayes happy with the new police chief? What does ex-Mayor Vince Schoemehl, and neighbor, think of the City re-entering the County's governance structure? What do our two neighborhood school board members think about the State's proposal to end the desegregation plan, and how might this affect us? What's the status of the search for the new head of the Crossroads' School? Who are our local police officers and what's happening with the crime rate in our neighborhood? The point is not that

continued on page 7

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