

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 26 No. 9

March 1996

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Rose Flynn Is New Director of St. Roch Pre-School

Rose Flynn, an 18 year resident of Skinker DeBaliviere, has assumed the responsibilities of Director of the St. Roch pre-school.

She brings strong qualifications to the position, having worked at the Grace Methodist Pre-School and One United Methodist Pre-School as well as at St. Roch. Besides her extensive work experience in early childhood learning, she also has formal training in graphic design. She felt prepared for the



new challenge at St. Roch because of her work with Delores Hoefel and Jan Parker, two strong center directors. She also worked closely with the late Wilma Cantwell, St. Roch's first pre-school director when she taught at St. Roch in the early 1990s. Cantwell's untimely death left a tremendous void at the church and the pre-school. But, the pre-school was on very sound footing and can look forward to growth and more achievements.

Flynn also has put on Storytime at Grace Methodist and later at the Kingsbury Kiosk. She herself is the parent of two teenagers and the Flynn's live on 59xx Pershing. Her husband actually grew up in our neighborhood and attended St. Roch School. His parents live on McPherson.

Currently, the St. Roch pre-school enrolls 21 children. St. Roch has a very low teacher-student ratio: 1 to 5. The legal requirement is 1 to 10. The teachers at the school are Kathy Buckley and Roberta Asher. Mary Miklasz and Joan Cobb are aides. The school offers a full-day program for four and five year olds and a morning program for three year olds.

Registration is now taking place for next year. Interested parents can visit the school at 6040 Waterman and can call 721-5320 or 727-3405 to receive information or to talk with Mrs. Flynn about the program.

Special features of the pre-school include Spanish lessons by Georgi Fox and learning and activities based on special themes. Recently, the theme was space. Their "pretend corner" was turned into a space station and the children made consoles, planets, and stars. The "pretend corner" changes every 2 weeks. It has been a library, grocery store, and pet store. Bill Christman also made a fairy tale castle for the school and the children enjoy decorating its facade. Two pets reside there: Squeek, a guinea pig, and Jingo, a parakeet. They also have some friendly hermit crabs.

Flynn discussed the school's philosophy. "We're very interested in making sure young children have basic concepts under their belt before they go to kindergarten. If they can get them here in our environment, they'll have them forever." She said that the school is concerned with social skills and language development. "These are universal needs for all young children. We make sure the children get that during the crucial early years."

Flynn's warm and positive presence certainly is a fine complement to the activities at St. Roch.

Rosedale Resident William Handmaker To Lead Crossroads School

The board of Crossroads School, a private nonsectarian middle and high school, located at 500 DeBaliviere, has selected a new director who happens to live in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Present director Anne Spencer has resigned effective at the end of this school year to join her husband in Europe. The Crossroads board conducted an extensive search for her replacement and ended up finding someone less than a mile from the school.

Crossroads' new director is William Beton Handmaker, a resident of 61xx Washington. Handmaker holds a B.A. in history and political science from George Washington University and a M.A. in teaching/history from Washington University. Since 1989, he has been employed at the Whitfield School in St. Louis, first as a history teacher, then dean of faculty, and finally assistant head. Handmaker has also taught as an adjunct education professor at Maryville University. He has designed curriculum for the teaching of world history and has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. After Handmaker assumes his post, the *Times* plans to interview him in depth about his plans for Crossroads and his educational philosophy.

OPERATION BRIGHTSIDE: BLITZ DAY 1996 ON MAY 4

Spring will arrive soon! And with its arrival, it will be time again for Project Blitz, Operation BrightSide's annual campaign to clean and beautify our neighborhood.

Working with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, Operation Brightside will provide each block with trash bags, tools, mulch, wood chips, and flowers (marigolds and periwinkles). Material pick-up will be coordinated by block captains and will be located at Four Corners Park (Kingsbury and Des Peres). From 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will serve coffee and donuts to all Blitz Day participants who stop by.

Blitz Day goals include:

- Clean up the alleys
- Clean up other public areas
- Plant flowers in public areas
- Spruce up street barriers

Because of your past involvement in Brightside, some of you have been contacted directly by the Brightside office (they maintain their own mailing list). Even if you have sent in a response to Brightside, please confirm your willingness to work on Brightside Blitz Day with the SDCC office at 862-5122. Your name, address, and phone number(s) are the information we need. Our answering machine is "on" when we are out in the community.

There will be an informational meeting for all those interested in working on Brightside at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 20, at the SDCC offices. If you know you are a block captain, want to know who your block captain is, want to help with a special project, or have a project you need help with, please plan to join us. The coffee pot will be brewing!



This 38,000 square foot building is the new home of People's Health Clinic, a full service facility. The Clinic occupied its new space on Delmar near DeBaliviere on November 17 and began seeing patients there December 1. People's Health Clinic's original home was at 6010 Kingsbury in the center of Skinker DeBaliviere.

Celebrating 25 Years of Service to Skinker DeBaliviere

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Three items concern me today. The first has to do with this newspaper. We often mention the need for additional hands to put out our paper and help distribute it. We can always use writers, layout people, event planners, and most important, people who will help to get our newspaper to businesses and residents. If you can help—even for just a few hours a month—please let one of us on the Board know. We're a great group to work with and we would be ever so grateful.

Second, if I had to pick an outstanding need in the neighborhood it would be recreation, particularly for those aged 8-16. I hope this will become a priority of the Hamilton Elementary Education Center. To be a true center, youngsters in the neighborhood should be able to drop in any evening to work on homework and get some assistance, if needed, and to play basketball, soccer, softball, or other sports. Outside hoops at Hamilton would attract a large number of kids; so would available time in the gym at no cost. I am sure there are some ifs and buts along the way to achieving greater levels of activity but it could be the most important thing we do.

Finally, I've been thinking about recycling. I first started recycling in 1983 in Michigan. Then it was newspapers, bottles, and aluminum cans. Now, I am able to recycle more each week than I take down to the dumpster including all of the above plus magazines, catalogs, tin cans, plastic everything just about, and junk mail and old lecture notes. EarthCircle Recycling picks it all up once a week for \$6/month. The city will soon begin its own recycling effort in that part of our neighborhood east of the metrolink tracks. East or west, I urge you to participate in the process. It saves trees and energy and it takes so little effort.

ERRATA: The Times regrets that a photograph taken at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration and appearing in our February issue was incorrectly captioned. What was labeled as Crossroads students was in reality members of the New City School Young African Americans for Positive Awareness Group. Teachers Liz Johnson, Linda Churchill, and Vincent Llewellyn advise the students. Again, the Times apologizes for this error.

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. The 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, 63112.

The deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.

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

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

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Calendar



Neighborhood Meetings and Events

- Mar. 13 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon
- Mar. 18 Apartment Owners Association, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 27 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon
- Apr. 8 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 10 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon
- Apr. 15 Landlord Seminar, St. Roch's, 6052 Waterman, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- May 4 Operation Brightside Blitz Day, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Other Events of Interest

now -

- Mar. 27 The Saint Louis Art Museum presents "Splendor of the Pharaohs: American Discoveries in Ancient Egypt" in the Special Exhibition Galleries. The exhibit contains more than 240 objects, spanning nearly 5,000 years of Egyptian history. \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors, \$3 children 6-12, free to those under 6 and on Tuesdays.

now -

- Mar. 24 TNT, The New Theatre, presents "Later Life" by A. R. Gurney. Call 531-8330 for times and dates and prices.
- Mar. 17 John McClellan, guitar, and the Webster Guitar Quartet perform at West End Wines, 309 Belt. Cover. 3pm.
- Mar. 17 -
- Apr. 10 St. Louis Artists Guild Hosts Annual Photography Exhibition at Two Oak Knoll Park in Clayton. For more information, call 727-9599.
- Mar. 21 St. Louis Urban Forum presents "St. Louis's New Suburbs: The Environmental Challenge of Sustaining Growth." The discussion is chaired by Mary Domahidy and features Roger Pryor, John Lark, and Tom Shaw. At Missouri Historical Society Library & Research Center, 225 S. Skinker, free, 7pm.
- Mar. 29 -
- Apr. 14 The Orthwein Theatre presents "Joined at the Head." At Vincent Price Theatre at Mary Institute Country Day School. Call 995-7300 for information about dates, times, and prices.
- Jun. 3 -
- Aug. 30 Children's classes at Taproots School of the Arts. Fee. Call 752-9752 for information.

Letter to the Editor

The February issue of *The Times* provided me with an exceptional amount of thoughtful reading. The juxtaposition of your cover story concerning arts funding with the editorial paean to the quality of life in this community and Hawkeye's declaration of eagerness for news of local issues was especially poignant. Most people in the U.S.A. no longer belong to a community of place but to a "community" of special interests or ethnicity, if they belong to anything at all. The fortunate and hard-working residents of Skinker DeBaliviere have succeeded, I think, in maintaining a community of place. Perhaps many join me in participating in concurrent "communities."

St. Louis in general and the West End in particular offer those of us in "the arts community" many opportunities to pursue our interests - and to offer our support. Human creativity will seek expression even when grants and institutional support are lacking. Several local churches, bars, coffee houses, and galleries present innovative programs and exhibits to discerning consumers. As more government cutbacks occur, these venues become even more important for nurturing creativity. I remind readers of *The Times* that arts support, like charity, can begin at home.

Melanie Harvey

(The author is co-founder of West End Wines which offers gallery and performance space to under-acknowledged artists and musicians.)

Block Captain Search Underway

Are you block captain material? If you . . .

- take pride in where you live
- want to know your neighbors better
- can contribute your time to enhance the security of your block
- like helping people

this is a volunteer career opportunity you can't afford to miss.

Skinker DeBaliviere has long enjoyed a cooperative, supportive grassroots organization known as "block captains." A core group of dedicated volunteers has provided countless hours - and sometimes plain old muscle-power - to make our neighborhood more beautiful, safe, and secure. Through the years, however, this volunteer structure has sprouted branches and variations that sometimes have caused confusion and less than perfect communication.

What is a block captain?

Who is your block captain?

How can you get involved?

First, there are several different kinds of block captains. At various times, programs like Operation Brightside, public school safety projects, the Urban League, *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* and even some churches have created "block captain" structures. Frequently, one person who was/is the "block captain" has worked as the block captain on more than one of these programs.

The block captains the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is currently recruiting are asked to do the following:

- Act as a communication link between the Council and residents on the block (includes delivering flyers).
- Coordinate Operation Brightside Blitz Day for the block.
- Assist with security activities on the block.
- Organize National Night Out.

If possible, we additionally ask our block captains to hold a minimum of two block unit meetings a year (this can be a formal meeting in a home or at the SDCC office, a back yard barbecue, pot-luck supper, whatever you choose). We also ask that our block captains attend one or two block captain meetings at the SDCC office and serve as a contact and conduit between your block's residents and the Council.

As are all residents, block captains are welcome and urged to attend Council meetings and any special neighborhood meetings focusing on a particular issue and to share that information with their neighbors.

Currently, Amy Gronquist, our AmeriCorps volunteer, and Maggie Hart-Mahon, Treasurer of SDCC, are working to expand our block captain network. Please contact them through the SDCC office, 862-5122, with questions and comments or to volunteer.

Updates on our success at recruiting, information on training, and special recognition for blocks/block captains achievements will be discussed in future issues of *The Times*.

28th Ward Has New Democratic Committeeman, Chester Hines

On the recommendation of Committeewoman Rose Storey, the Democratic Central Committee has appointed Chester Hines to fill the unexpired term of Committeeman Bruce Yampolsky of the 28th Ward. Yampolsky resigned to take a civil service job at the city's Department of Health and Hospitals.

Hines is a longtime resident of the 28th ward and has a lengthy career in public service. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and their sons Christian and Christopher live on the 52xx block of Washington Place. He is currently serving as a commissioner of the Washington Place Improvement Association Taxing District, designed to improve the safety and security of the



neighborhood. He also is a parent volunteer to maintain the public schools' desegregation program.

Hines currently is employed as the director of the Ritenour Family Resource Center. In this capacity, he is responsible for all the health, human and social services programs for the pre-schoolers and school age children in the school district. He previously served as the acting Director of Health and Hospitals and the Director of Human Services for the city of St. Louis. Hines has a Master of Health Administration degree from the Washington University School of Medicine, an M.A. in Education/Counseling also from Washington University and a B.A. in Education from Harris Teachers College (now Harris-Stowe).

He has served on a number of committees and boards in the St. Louis area including: MR/DD Resources, Grace Hill, American Cancer Society, Visiting Nurse Association, and the Episcopal-Presbyterian Foundation.

Hines has been politically active as well and worked to elect Richard Gephardt president and Vince Schoemehl governor. He also ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1986.

Hines' principal goal as committeeman for the 28th Ward is to maintain a safe and secure environment for all to enjoy and to improve neighborhood conditions.

Hines and Storey will face the voters in the August Democratic primary election.

Jeremy Schoenfeld Named National Merit Scholar

Jeremy Schoenfeld, son of King and Dee Schoenfeld (61XX Westminster) was named a National Merit Scholar last month and has been selected as one of only 2600 U.S. high school seniors who are candidates in the 1996 Presidential Scholars Program. Semifinalists will be announced in late March and the final selection will be announced in mid-April.

Jeremy is a senior at St. Louis University High School, where he where he is very involved as year-book editor. He has also taken roles in SLUH and our neighborhood theater productions. This spring he will play Claudius in SLUH's "Rosenkranz and Guildenstern Are Dead." Jeremy attended neighborhood schools, first New City School, then graduating from St. Roch. He is interested in architecture and graphic design and has



been accepted by several universities but has not yet decided where he will attend.

Forest Park Update

When the new master plan for Forest Park was adopted by the Community Development Commission in December of last year, one issue was as yet undecided. That concerned the reconfiguration of the golf course operated by American Golf. Under the plan favored by the Mayor's Committee, 18 holes would replace the current 27 in a "state of the art" layout. Many golfers objected to the loss of 9 holes, holes preferred by many of the retirees playing in the park. Committee members also favored constructing a path that would allow Skinker DeBaliviere residents access by foot to the new passive space. When a new golf course configuration finally is decided upon, it will affect American's lease and, hence, the Board of Aldermen will have to take it up.



Blitz Information and Trash Instructions

1. "Yard Waste Only" and trash receptacles will be emptied on Blitz Day, Saturday, May 4.

Large appliances, tires, car batteries, and motor oil will be collected separately from other bulk items and will be recycled.

All debris must be bagged and put into trash receptacles. Loose debris will NOT be picked up.

2. Trash collection will begin at 10 a.m. Please have all large items out by 1 p.m.

3. Branches, more than 2 inches in diameter and no longer than 3 feet, must be bundled and placed with bulk items for collection.

4. Flowers provided by Brightside must be planted on public property.

For trash placement in alley:

1. Place all items in trash dumpster. Be careful NOT to overload. More than one trash run will be made.

2. **Your regular bulk pick-up site is directly behind your home at the edge of the alley.** Place large items, such as furniture and appliances, at this location. Make sure bulk items are at least 4 feet from any dumpster and do not block any streets, alleys or sidewalks. Items placed on private property cannot be picked up.

Yard waste:

Place grass, leaves, and twigs in "Yard Waste Only" dumpsters.

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A Time for Trivia . . . What a Time It Was!

On March 2, neighborhood stalwarts and devoted trivia buffs assembled at Crossroads School to attend the 4th Annual Times Trivia Night and Pizza Jamboree. It was a very successful evening for the Times. Eighteen tables participated and laughed and grimaced as Dan Shea asked the questions. Competition was keen. The winners were jubilant and they prepared to divvy up the wonderful prizes Kathleen Williams and Lois Schoemehl found. Thanks go to the Tivoli, the Fox, The New Theatre, West End Wines, AM Tea & Coffee, and Classical Coffee for the prize items they contributed.

Major thanks also go to the volunteers who helped to make the evening such a success: Sue and Sandy Rothschild, Marj and Brad Weir, Rick and Venita Lake, Lois Schoemehl, King and Dee Schoenfeld, Lana Stein, Sam Green, Catherine Forslund and Roy Roncal, Tom Hoerr, Kathleen Williams, JoAnn and Neville Vatcha, Chanaya Vatcha Jacobs, and the incomparable Dan Shea.

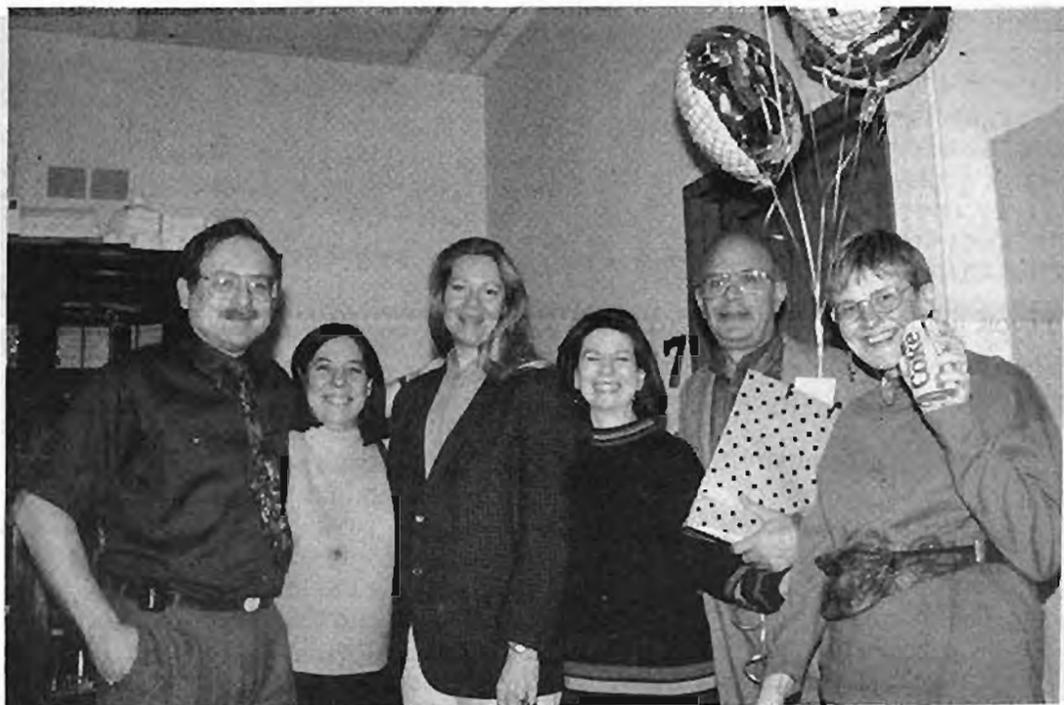
Thanks also to Crossroads School and their staff for providing such an accomodating environment for the trivia fest! A final kudo should be offered to the person who brought the most participants to Trivia, namely Catherine Forslund—15!



Dan Shea, M. C. and Quizmaster, kept the crowd of over 100 players entertained, organized and focussed.



The judges were taking their work very seriously for a moment. From left, Marj Weir, Sue Rothschild, and Brad Weir.



The First Place Team: from left, Harvey and Ava Small, Maribeth McMahon, Benita and Burton Boxerman, and Lana Stein.

The Second Place Team was made up of Vince and Lois Schomehl, Rich and Nancy Rice, and Tom and Beth Tipton, all of 61XX Westminster.

Third Place honors were taken by Catherine Forslund, Elizabeth Kellerman, Caitlin MacAgy, Derek Blakeley, Lisa Gubser, and Marne Roemer.

Analysis of the Answer Sheets from this year's Times Trivia Party produced some interesting results:

Who Said,

"Quitting smoking is easy. I've done it hundreds of times."
"What does Woman want?"

Best Incorrect Answer: Dan McGuire
Best Incorrect Answer: Every man ever alive.

(Correct Answer: Mark Twain)
(Correct Answer: Sigmund Freud)

Who was the stalking horse in the 1993 Comptroller's race?

Best Incorrect Answer: Elaine Viets

(Correct Answer: Penny Alcott)

Hardest Category: Who Said It.

Easiest Category: Pot Pourri and Current Events

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HAMILTON SPOTLIGHT

by Betsy King

This month's spotlight is on the St. Louis Partners AmeriCorps Program. As you may know, Hamilton E.C.E.C. has been a site for AmeriCorps, a volunteer service program that was started by President Clinton, since the 1994-95 school year. AmeriCorps' function at Hamilton is to encourage School Success through service learning and to promote Public Safety both in the school and in the surrounding community. In each of these areas, AmeriCorps' job is to identify community needs, to problem-solve creatively, to identify and develop resources, and to develop sustainable solutions.

The AmeriCorps Public Safety Volunteers are Ms. Amy Gronquist and Ms. Dedra Echols. Ms. Gronquist and Ms. Echols work to increase public safety by expanding the communication and cooperation between the schools the School Beat Officer, the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, the residents of the community, and area businesses. Currently, they are involved in several projects with various community members.

In conjunction with the fourth and fifth grade teachers at Hamilton, they are planning the formation of a Safety Corps which will focus primarily on community service. Safety Corps members will participate in a training program that emphasizes team building, peer mediation, and conflict resolution. The AmeriCorps Volunteers will work with the teachers to select students who have good attendance and are amicable, dependable, and well-rounded. Ms. Gronquist and Ms. Echols will collaborate with School Beat Officer John Cothrine and Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Jacqueline Wellington to develop a Community Needs Assessment. This will determine the projects that the Safety Corps will undertake.

Thus far Ms. Gronquist's and Ms. Echols' most conspicuous contribution within the school has been the continuation of Operation BrightSide, which was started by AmeriCorps Volunteers last school year. Operation BrightSide works to beautify the school by picking up litter from the school grounds and by removing the marks on the floor that are made by black-soled shoes. This duty is known as "scuff patrol." Operation BrightSide workers are students that have been sentenced to lunch detention as a result of inappropriate behavior. By participating in Operation BrightSide, these students have the opportunity to develop a sense of community responsibility by putting something back into their school. Operation BrightSide is good because I'm picking up trash," said Jerome Rankins, a second grade student who has spent many weeks as a participant "You can recycle cans and glass. If you step on glass you might get cut, so we pick it up so that our school will be more clean and safe. Ms. G. talked about what to do to be off of Operation BrightSide. I have to be good and sit in my seat."

"We picked up trash on the east lot where the little kids play," added third grader Cedric Owens, "to make the schoolyard look more prettier. We do it so people won't think it's a messy school. It made me feel good because I made the schoolyard look prettier. We talked about what to do to not get in trouble, like not to be around the people who gets you in trouble. I

learned not to be around people who talk about people. I was glad I got to be on Operation BrightSide."

Operation BrightSide provides a positive alternative to lunch detention as a consequence for inappropriate behavior. While the students are picking up litter, they discuss behaviors that will be more helpful to the community and ways of preventing future detentions. About 30 students have had the opportunity to spend time working with Operation BrightSide.

AmeriCorps Volunteer Mr. Erick E. Moorehead's focus is School Success through service learning. Mr. Moorehead works with the fourth grade teachers and students at Hamilton to infuse service learning and to integrate community service into the classroom curriculum. The students identify the needs of the community by considering the following questions: Who can be helped? What can we do? Why is it important to serve the community? In December, after the school wide canned good drive, the fourth graders wrote essays about the importance and the implications of helping the needy in the community. More recently, they made and distributed valentines to the residents at Kingsbury terrace Apartments, a senior housing facility.

Mr. Moorehead also works with the fourth and fifth grade classes as the Junior Achievement facilitator. Fourth grade Junior Achievement focuses on Missouri's natural resources, mapping, population, and general economy information. The fifth graders are learning about how the nation's businesses are operated. They are simulating the establishment of a business by writing business plans, completing job applications, conducting mock interviews, and hiring employees.

A noteworthy event at Hamilton this month was the "Reach Out and Touch" program, a commemoration of Black History Month, on February 28. The program was organized by Mr. Robert Henderson and Ms. Bonnie Robertson, and emceed by Mrs. Charlotte Mitchell. The preschool students counted to ten in English and Swahili, accompanied by the music of Taifa, a local husband-wife duo whose music has African origins. From the kindergarten, we heard a poem about Bill Pickett, the first black cowboy to be admitted to the Cowboy Hall of Fame, and a poem about respecting oneself and others and living each day as the best person one can be. We also watched a demonstration of "Peas Porridge Hot," an African-American hand-clap game. Two first grade classes performed "He Had a Dream," a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. From a third grade class we heard the "African-American History Rap" by Sharon Jordan Holley. A fourth grade class sang and signed a spiritual

Gardeners Alert

by Lu Green

Are you an avid gardener, someone who does a little gardening, or a "Gee, I'd like to learn" gardener? Then you should mark Saturday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m. on your calendar.

This is when we will hold the first meeting of the newly formed (or maybe unformed, if no one shows up) Skinker DeBaliviere Garden Club.

We will meet at Julie and Jim Schoemehl's house at 6161 McPherson. The idea is to get together, learn from those who know about gardening, and trade extra plants with those who have them.

So, as you start your sprint digging, remember to bag those extra perennials and bring them to the Garden Club.

Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
6161 McPherson

called "I'm Gonna Sing" and another group of intermediate students recited "April Rain Song" and "Refugee in America" by Langston Hughes. Fifth grade students portrayed Marian Anderson, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Charles Drew, Althea Gibson, Joe Louis and Harriet Tubman. The Hamilton Honors Choir sang "Reach Out and Touch" by Ashford and Simpson, and the program ended with the entire student body singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "We Shall Overcome." It was a delightful, informative program, and we are very proud of the students and teachers that participated.

Friday, March 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., the first Hamilton E.C.E.C. Dance was held in the gym. The dance was for twelve to sixteen year olds and the theme was nonviolence. Officer John Cothrine and six other St. Louis City Police Officers provided security for the event. Between 100 and 200 people attended the dance. The dance was D.J.'d by "Tossin" Ted Thornton from radio station Majic 108.

There was a dance contest and cassette tapes were given as prizes. Soft drinks were provided by the AmeriCorps Volunteers. The parents and kids that attended agreed with Amy Gronquist's assertion that "it was good, clean fun." Keep your eyes and ears open for information about the next Hamilton E.C.E.C. Dance, which will be held at the beginning of June.

Mrs. Catherine Parker, the Counselor at Hamilton E.C.E.C., and the Hamilton Drug Free Committee are spearheading a school wide Drug Free Unit. The program began in January with Drug Awareness Week. Children in all grade levels wrote poems, stories and paragraphs about the importance of staying drug free, and selected

Recreation Report

This winter, Wesley Falker, of 57XX Waterman, coached a boys' basketball team for youngsters aged 10-14. Falker is no stranger to coaching; he assisted the neighborhood's champion softball team last summer.

The basketball players from Kingsbury, Pershing, Waterman, and DeGiverville in Skinker DeBaliviere called themselves the Hamilton Hoopers. They practiced at the school and continue to do so now, after the official season's conclusion. The team competed under the auspices of Operation Teamwork and had a 3-3 record.

The Hoopers include scot Topps, Filmon Tekle, Sanders Phillips, Ricky Outlaw, Duan Moore, Tremone Moore, Truman Lockhart, Pierre Lewis, Shawn Hall, Justin Falker, and Randal Falker.

Organization Assists Those with Medicaid/Medicare Problems

CLAIM—Community Leaders Assisting the Insured of Missouri—provides a variety of services to those receiving Medicare or Medicaid. At a toll free number, 1-800-390-3330, people are on hand to answer questions and to help resolve difficulties. In 1995, CLAIM helped save its clients over a half million dollars. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration and is a program of the Missouri Dept. of Insurance.

students read their compositions on HAM Radio. The following week the students wore ribbons and made posters with the theme, "Drug Free Starts With Me!" Posters from each classroom were displayed at about 24 local businesses.

Mrs. Parker and her committee are currently organizing a Speaker's Day on Thursday, April 18, as a continuation of the Drug Free Schools Unit. A judge and a prosecuting attorney will discuss the legal aspects of the issue, and the medical repercussions will be presented by a doctor and our school nurse, Raymonde Baker. The field of law enforcement and the Juvenile Detention Center will also be represented. The culmination of the Drug Free Schools Unit will be a Drug Free Parade on Friday, May 3, 1996.

Continued on page 6

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DeBaliviere Association Has Regrouped Under Resident Control

During the redevelopment of DeBaliviere Place, the Pantheon Corporation created the DeBaliviere Association in conjunction with the Pershing Redevelopment Corporation. The Pershing Redevelopment Corporation was established under Section 353. Because of its terms, Pershing Redevelopment Corporation had to form a neighborhood association which would assume responsibility for the upkeep of improvements made to the general area by the city. The Mills Group acquired Pantheon and Pantheon continued to control the DeBaliviere Association. Residents had no say in how the Association's funds were collected, maintained, and disposed.

The Mills Group encouraged the location of a Walgreen's on DeBaliviere at Pershing. A number of residents became concerned and then organized. Not long thereafter, Neighborhood Housing Partnerships (NHP) took over from Mills. For two years now, residents have greater control of Association finances. The Association, which assesses condominiums and businesses, had failed to take action when assessments were not paid. Funds from the DeBaliviere Association had been comingled with Pantheon funds. Pantheon used its own crews to clear snow for complexes which are part of the Association. Pantheon also picked up trash and charged it to its own properties. In turn, they did not collect Association dues from its own rental properties in DeBaliviere Place.

Financial affairs were difficult to decipher. Residents decided to begin anew. They developed a strong when assessments were not paid.

working relationship with NHP. NHP has a real commitment to the DeBaliviere area.

Besides the DeBaliviere Place apartments and condominiums, Kingsbury Square and the Nina Place condos are part of the DeBaliviere Association. A business association that represents the commercial properties along DeBaliviere, Delmar, and Pershing also is part of the master association.

The DeBaliviere Association meets every other month. There are three directors: Barbara Jarrett, Lisa Boffa of NHP, and Angela Walsh from Kingsbury Square. Interested members may also attend these meetings. The Association currently manages a \$115,000 budget. The majority of their funds are spent on grounds maintenance and beautification and on security. Hi Tech Security patrols all Association properties 7 days a week and 4 hours per day on a staggered schedule. Hi Tech is staffed by off-duty St. Louis police officers. HiTech personnel have apprehended a number of individuals with outstanding warrants and recently caught a couple of perpetrators in the act in the western portion.

Landscaping this year will include a combination of perennials and flower plantings. The Association also wants to add a marketing program. Board members plan to work with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council on this and draw from their experience. It would be a general marketing of the DeBaliviere area.

warrants and recently caught a couple

Landlord Seminar Set for April 15

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's Apartment Owners Association will host a Landlord Seminar on Monday, April 15, at 6 p.m. in the Church Hall at St. Roch Catholic Church, 6052 Waterman. Cosponsored with the Neighborhood Stabilization office, the training is free and open to the public.

Whether you own and occupy a two-family unit or have numerous properties with many tenants, this seminar is for you.

The agenda will include information on landlord rights and responsibilities, tenant screening, security, and many other issues you will find of interest and assistance as you try to manage your property to maximum advantage.

An information packet will be provided to all in attendance.

While there is no fee for the training, we ask that you register in advance to assure your attendance. Please call Laure Porterfield at 862-5122.

HAMILTON SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 5

Mrs. Lillian Gray, our librarian, is planning a reading raffle and rally for the end of May in order to promote summer reading and to make students aware of their neighborhood public library branches. She hopes to have a representative from the St. Louis Public Library and from a local bookstore to speak to the students. Stay tuned for more details about the Summer Reading Rally!

Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Trisha Martin and her kindergarten class for reaching their goal of reading 40 books in 5-weeks through the Book-It Program. Mrs. Martin and her class will celebrate by having a pizza party.

Seeking Help ...

by Laure Porterfield

Recently, one of our neighbors in the 60XX block of Kingsbury was evicted. While this sort of situation in itself is always difficult, this single mother lost far more than her home.

Because she was unable to return to collect her belongings or to stand guard over her household goods until late in the day, very little remained when she arrived. Within six hours, someone helped themselves to her living room, two bedrooms, and kitchen furniture; her TV, stereo, other electronics; most of her daughter's toys; prescription medications (both suffer from asthma); family records and documents; and most of their clothes. One drawer from a dresser, a broken chair, a lamp, and a small chest remained.

While our former neighbor would like to recover all of her possessions, some things are most important - and irreplaceable: baby portraits of her daughter; photos of her father; college records; financial records; and blueprints for landscaping plans at Hamilton Community Education Center.

If you have come into possession of any of these things - or even some of the furniture - and would like to return it, please contact the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 862-5122. We do not want to know who or where or how you got this material. Our goal is to return it to the rightful owners. Please consider helping.

Oh, one last item: the eight-year-old daughter's pet rabbit has also disappeared. With all the disruption in her life that she is currently experiencing, its return would give her a lot of comfort.

Pet Talk

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

I am delighted to take up a subject at a reader's request: the possible transmission of parasites from pets to people. I know it doesn't seem like a topic to discuss amongst a genteel readership as has *The Times*, however I shall keep my wits about me, carefully avoiding descriptive language of the harsh or graphic nature.

Although people own pets of various species, and parasites are often specific to a particular species, I will confine my discourse to the potential hazards posed by canine and feline pets; partly because of space; partly because the dogs and cats are the most common pets; and partly because I don't know much about lizard parasites, or bird parasites.

Puppies and kittens are often "infested" - rather a harsh term, let's substitute: carry. Puppies and kittens often carry roundworms. These parasites live in the small bowel of the pet; the "pot-belly" appearance of young kittens and puppies can be caused these roundworms. A mother unfortunately passes these worms to her young in her milk, and in the dog, while the pups are still in the uterus. The adult worms develop within the first

three weeks of the newborns' life and the parasite's eggs are released into the stool. Adult dogs become hosts to these worms by ingesting the eggs. Literally thousands of eggs can be released into the environment every time a puppy or kitten passes a stool. The eggs are very resistant to the environment and remain infective in the soil for years.

People who inadvertently ingest an infectious roundworm egg will not get roundworms as such; but can have problems from the young roundworm, generally known as a larvae. These larvae, finding themselves in a body they were not designed to inhabit, sort of wander around looking for a home. In the process they "migrate" through human's insides, otherwise known as viscera. Hence the term: visceral larva migrans. Anyway, the most damage done by one of these homeless larvae is to a child's retina, and can cause blindness; the infestation due to the child's eating dirt previously contaminated by stool containing roundworm eggs. As odd as it might seem, I have also heard of people using a dog's drop-

pings to fertilize their gardens: not a good idea, and not good fertilizer either.

Hookworms are another intestinal parasite of dogs that are passed to the pups through the mother's milk. Dogs can also be infested by ingesting the eggs, or by the larvae entering their body through the foot pads. In people, the larvae migrate through the skin causing irritation, leaving a tortuous track: a cutaneous larva migrans. Recent evidence indicates that people can also develop adult hookworms that live in the intestinal tract causing chronic intestinal problems. Again, children are most often infected by walking barefoot in soil contaminated with hookworm eggs.

Control of these parasites, and prevention of human exposure involves keeping the pet free of parasites and limiting the contamination of the soil by picking up any stool from pets. A pet's stool should be checked regularly for

parasites, at least on an annual basis. Because the parasite eggs are very resistant to the environment, all stool should be picked up and disposed of, both in a yard and out on a walk.



**Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council
Board of Directors
February 26, 1996**

In attendance: Directors Ruth Johnson, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Sara Johnson, Arthelda Busch, Shirley Polk, Arline Webb, Ann Smith Carr, Lana Stein, Juliet Schoemehl, Gregory Freeman, Gary Hayes, Glenda Underwood, Gwendolyn Lazard; NSO Jacqueline Wellington; Washington University Student Representative Geoffrey Peck; Washington University Social Work Student Diane Stricklin; AmeriCorps Volunteer Amy Gronquist; 7th District Captain Harry Hegger; Lieutenant Joe Boffa; and Executive Director Laure Porterfield.

Excused absences: Joe deBettencourt, Aaron Johnson, Jane Geiler, Miki Merritt, and Jack Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Gary Hayes.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Captain Harry Hegger, the new commander for the 7th District Police and Lieutenant Joe Boffa, also a new watch commander, were introduced. Captain Hegger hopes to maintain some programs already established in the 7th District; i.e., a "chain gang" used to clean up problem areas, used as a community service for non-violent offenders. Still trying to prevent solicitors at various intersections. Lana Stein made a personal compliment for a job well done by Sam Zouglas and Dave Habermaas. Captain Hegger discussed some questions:

Elaborate on alternative sentencing.

Those with minor infractions are given community service projects; do something constructive instead of paying a fine. The work is done on the weekends and the police and parole supervise this program.

During the summertime, what ideas do you have for students out of school?

The City of St. Louis has recreational programs; however, they have the priority of trying to find incorrigibles.

Are there any police walking the area?

Yes, Sam Zouglas and Russ Conroy.

What about children who are not in attendance at school?

There is a truancy program; the 7th District has an excellent record of returning kids to truancy centers.

Would someone from the 7th District be able to attend a block captain meeting to help in organization?

Public Relations Officer Ronnie Robinson.

People come from the county and other districts to dump their trash in our alleys.

We are starting a "trash task force" to clean Goodfellow-Wells avenue. Retired police offers will assist in trash enforcement. There is a \$3,000,000 grant specifically to clean up and prevent others from bringing in trash from other areas.

It was requested that the south alley of Delmar is targeted for this trash clean-up.

What kind of crime are we seeing in our area?

Crime is down in the 7th District; not in Skinker DeBaliviere area.

Periodically we would like statistics from officer. Is this possible?

Yes.

On the 6100 block of Pershing, there is a big U-shaped apartment building where cars park in the alley. Residents are not able to go down the alley; must back up. What can be done?

The police will be assigned to ticket and warn people of infractions.

What is the Captain's feeling about block watch program? Is it valuable?

It depends on the commitment and dedication of the residents. Great for the police department to see neighborhood organization.

Gary Hayes encouraged the Board members to call Laure when they see a problem and she in turn will report to the Captain, thus reducing the calls to the Captain's office.

Does the fire department have permission to solicit?

There are permits to collect money but not to do a roadblock at the intersection. They do this to fund the smoke alarm program and multiple sclerosis on a national level.

After answering questions, the officers left the meeting to warm applause.

New Board members were introduced.

Amy Gronquist announced a dance for children ages 12 through 16 at Hamilton Community Education Center on Friday, March 1.

II. Approval of Minutes from January Meeting

Arline Webb moved to accept the January minutes as read; seconded by Lana Stein and approved. One correction: the commercial development parking lot at DeBaliviere is temporary.

III. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for January was presented. The proposed budget will be ready for presentation at the next meeting. Ruth Johnson moved to accept the January Treasurer's report; seconded by Gregory Freeman and approved. Laure also explained what insurance coverage the Council has.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Laure presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting the upcoming Brightside Blitz Day and the seminar for landlords being presented on April 15 by the Apartment Owners Association. Laure explained that she is Dan's appointee to the Citizen's Advisory Council which advises the City of St. Louis on financial issues.

V. Member Institution Reports

Kingsbury Square - The residents are asking Bi-State to replace the deteriorating fence along the back of their property.

Nina Place - New developer will finish 5885 Nina Place. Other properties also moving forward. There is some land that might be used as a little park. NSO Jackie Wellington is working with CDA and Alderman McGuire and will give a report at the next Board meeting. The money is in place, the main thing is the design.

Housing Corporation - Moving on several buildings. Should complete rehab in Rosedale Square soon. Four units still need to be completed.

Gary Hayes further explained what the Housing Corporation is about. It was formed in 1986 as a non-for-profit 501(C)3. It owns 76 units in the Skinker DeBaliviere area. It is a volunteer board, with two openings presently available. The Alderman suggests, the Mayor appoints, and the Board of Alderman approve new members. Gary is planning on attending the next meeting with questions about boarded up buildings in the neighborhood. Housing Corporation minutes are always available at the SDCC office; copies will be provided at Board meetings. The Board agreed that they would like input or reporting from the Housing Corporation. Gary Hayes will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Commercial Planning - Lana Stein reported that the strip mall on DeBaliviere has a new laundromat moving in. We have requested that an attendant be on duty at all times, that the Laundromat be closed by 10 p.m., and that security be in place. Brandie's Bookstore and the hair and nail shop are gone.

Laclede Gas is responsible for the large plate in alley. Noise to be abated soon. May schedule a meeting with owner/concerned parties.

Parkview - No report. Their focus currently seems to be snow removal (to plow or not to plow; to salt or not to salt, etc.).

Playground - The \$3000 grant from the Whitaker Foundation can be kept another six months. As a Board we will need a decision soon on this project.

Recreation - Arthelda Busch reported that a newsletter will be prepared in May about recreational activities. Continue to work with Hamilton Community Education Center. Presently have a basketball team serving about 14 youth. Need a couple of basketballs at about \$25 each. There are tickets available for the Missouri Valley Basketball Conference March 2 through March 4. Some tickets were given to Pastor Miki Merritt of New Cote Brilliance. Contact Arthelda to purchase tickets. Vol-

unteers are needed at the dance at Hamilton on March 2. Hamilton can open seven days a week if requested to do so to help with children congregating in the streets.

VI. Block Captains Review

AmeriCorps volunteer Amy Gronquist surveyed the block captains on the SDCC list. There are many kinds of block captains. For instance, the Urban League has block units, there are school block captains, block captains for Brightside Blitz Day, and SDCC's block captains. All of these block captains need to be pulled together and coordinated. Meeting space was offered by the Council for these block units.

A block captain committee was organized with the following volunteers: Maggie Hart-Mahon, Greg Freeman, Gary Hayes, Ruth Johnson, and Amy Gronquist. Maggie and Amy will make a report at the next meeting. It was suggested that a list be included in the newsletter of block captains and those blocks needing a captain.

Community Fund - Discussion focused on use of remaining bingo money. Presently, the only members on the Board who were bingo volunteers are Sara Johnson, Gary Hayes, Arline Webb, and Ruth Johnson.

There was discussion on possible meeting sites besides the present SDCC office. A survey on sites and times to be made. Lana Stein moved that the President appoint a facilities task force to investigate enhanced office space, alternative meeting sites, etc. Seconded by Ann Smith Carr and passed. Greg Freeman, Ann Smith Carr, Lana Stein, and Ruth Johnson will report back at the next Board meeting.

Due to the lateness of hour, Sara Johnson moved to table further agenda items until the next meeting; seconded by Gregory Freeman and passed.

Laure Porterfield is the Area Commander for Operation Brightside's Blitz Day. She will attend a meeting this week and give a report at the next Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

In Your Ear
Continued from page 8

in Heights and Drownings Division?" "I agree," replied the tall angel as he put his sunglasses on, "I'm going to spend some extra time this weekend, making amends for some mistakes I've made in one of my earlier lives. At this point, even working in the Nuclear Accidents would be preferable."

ended by Ann Smith Carr and

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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

The chief angel pulled a coin from beneath his wings and tossed it in the air. It fell slowly, almost as if in slow-motion, but that slowing down of physical effects happened to many such things here. It rotated over and over, finally resting on a cloud. The chief angel peered closely at it, pushing his reading glasses up to the bridge of his nose. "Tails" he shouted triumphantly, "he lives!"

At this there were groans from the other angels. A tall one was standing leaning on a cloud, wearing sun glasses. Two others, a male and female, were hovering in horizontal positions, eagerly waiting to hear the results of the coin toss. The male angel was wearing earphones that were connected to a portable CD-player. The female angel had shockingly bright yellow hair, made all the more obvious by the jet-black roots.

"All right, we know that he lives," the chief angel continued, "but what about the two passengers in the car?"

"Who are they and what have they done? How worthy are they?" the female angel asked. The words were hardly out of her mouth and the chief angel had not had time to respond, when the angel in sunglasses said sarcastically, "How *worthy* are they? Since when does that matter? We're talking about traffic fatalities here, not life and death issues!"

The chief angel cleared his throat and smoothed a ruffled feather. The others grew quiet and waited for him to speak. "All right," he began, speaking in a quiet voice, "I know this isn't the easiest of assignments. But that's beyond our control. We're here and we have a job to do. Before I came here I was in the Famine and Pestilence Division; it was much more fun. And you," he went on, nodding at the angel wearing the headphones, "were in Murders and Mayhem. Those are certainly cleaner assignments than working in Auto Accidents, but this is our lot."

At this the angel with the yellow hair spoke. "I know, I know, it's our lot. That's what I was told when I was sent here. I came from Diseases, you know, so I have lots of experience. I don't know what I did wrong to earn this assignment, but I don't want to be here any longer than necessary."

"She's right," said the angel in sunglasses. "This is our lot and if we want to be reassigned, we have to do as good a job as possible. Let's get on with it."

There was silence for a few minutes and then the chief angel spoke again. "All right, it was tails so we know that the driver lives. Our assignment now is to research the passengers. We don't have the luxury of flipping the coin twice more."

The blonde angel cleared her throat and spoke in a meek voice. "That's fine. I don't know about the rest of you, but I prefer to decide, and it always helps me if I have some information about the intendeds. Coin flips are so, so, random, even if they are a big part of the formula!"

"Let's continue," the chief angel said. He held his hands above his head, palms parallel, and his wings began to move in large circular motions. The wings moved faster. Wind began whipping around them, smoke appearing to form a sphere of gray and haze. Then suddenly the wind stopped and the mist formed into a giant rectangle. A lady's face

appeared in the middle of the smoke and the chief angel began to speak, "Her name is Marcia Diamond. She's 33 and unmarried. Contributions, none really. She cares for stray cats but that's about it. Transgressions, quite a few. She cheated on her college entrance exams, lied to every boyfriend she's ever had, and doesn't believe in recycling."

The smoke whirled, the image vanished, and a new, younger face appeared. "Linda Cooper is the other passenger," the angel said, "25 with a new husband and, all things considered, someone with potential to be a major contributor. She is a good listener, the kind others turn to for help. There's no record of significant dishonesty, she donates to charities, and she works on weekends at a day care center. Or," he paused and grimaced, "maybe it's at a dry cleaning center. The handwriting is terrible."

He turned to face the other angels, taking off his reading glasses, while the mist vanished. "In any case, given our charge, that's easy," the angel in sunglasses said, "one lives and one dies."

"I agree, one and one," said the blonde angel.

"And you," the chief angel said, turning to the angel wearing headphones and speaking a bit more loudly, "what's your call?"

The angel removed the headphones and gently stroked his left wing, clearly in thought. After a few seconds he said, "Yes, much as I'd like it just to be a major wreck with everyone surviving, that solution doesn't fit our task. One and one, plus, of course, the driver survives."

All of the angels nodded and stood, their wings erect as they looked downward. Below them the clouds parted and they saw an isolated blue car speeding on a road. Nothing was visible besides the car on the road below.

The angels waited and waited and then, ahead and far to the left of the car, some movement was visible. A truck was moving down a road perpendicular to the auto. Already it was obvious that there was going to be a collision between them. The car seemed to pick up speed and so did the truck.

The angel with the yellow hair wrapped her arms around herself and closed her eyes. The angel with the sunglasses had removed them and was looking straight ahead, refusing to face what was going to happen below. And the angel that had worn the earphones was now hovering horizontally, his wings moving ever so slowly, in order to get a better look.

"Any recall, station one?" the chief angel asked, removing his glasses and

pointing his eyes above, looking to the sky. At this all of the other angels also turned their heads to look up. After a few moments he continued, "Any recall, station two?" Again there was nothing but silence. Meanwhile the two vehicles below continued on their paths. "Any recall, station three?" the chief angel asked. After what seemed like a long silence all of the angels tilted their heads downward, and the chief angel spoke again, "No recall, commence fate."

The words had hardly left his mouth when the two vehicles collided. There was no sound to be heard from the crash, but a rippling of air caused each of the angels to move slightly, reeling upwards. As they looked down, they could see that the truck had struck the rear of the car. The truck had gone off the road, but its driver had already jumped out to see if he could help. The car had taken the brunt of the collision and rolled over several times. Slowly two people crawled from the auto, the driver and one other.

"I don't know about you," said the blonde angel, "but I find this assignment a real downer. It wouldn't have been so bad if the younger one, the one with the potential, had been able to live. Why should we always have to make up for the errors made

Continued on page 6

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