

# The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Delmar Enhancement Project Moves Forward

On February 13, members of the Commercial Development Committee and others interested in the redevelopment of Delmar met at Grace United Methodist Church. They heard from Steve Davies of the Project for Public Spaces. He showed an interesting series of slides that demonstrated how design could affect usage in places similar to the Delmar MetroLink station.

George Johannes, architectural consultant, said that they wished to come up with a plan that included architecture, landscape architecture, a public art component, and a reworking of the transportation and public space through urban design. Consultants for this project will be working with the Washington University Urban Design Center. They intend to survey the MetroLink ridership and area businesses. Among other possibilities, they plan a bike path from the University City area to the Wabash Station.

Austin Tao is the consultant who will address landscape design including lighting, sidewalks, and street furniture. He will attempt to draw the area into a consistent whole. When plans are further along there will be two interim public hearings and a final one in the middle of

the summer. The goal is to spawn both private and public investment in the area.

Following the various presentations, those attending broke into groups to come up with ideas for Delmar between Kingsland and



DeBaliviere. Each group then presented its plans to everyone. The ideas were very similar and very practical. Some included a signal light at Des Peres and Delmar, utilizing the Wabash Station as public space, and attracting new stores that everyone could use.

## Reconstruction of Porch Provides Aesthetic and Weather Relief

by Katie Kurtz

As long as I have been cognizant of the 6100 block of Kingsbury which has been a fairly long time as I grew up in Parkview and Paul and I bought our first house on the 6000 block of Washington, I thought the exterior of 6178 Kingsbury was one of the ugliest in the neighborhood. Some mis-

guided person had removed the roof and railings of the front porch over thirty years ago. To hide the scar left on the wall, wood siding had been applied; it was painted gray to try to blend in with the stone facade. This was not aesthetically pleasing. The greater crime to the house, however,

## There's a New Landlord in Skinker DeBaliviere

A month ago, Washington University announced that it would purchase 33 apartment buildings of 331 units from Parkview Properties. Parkview Properties is owned by longtime neighbors Alan and Kathleen Hamilton and Steve and Lecil Saller. They began buying property in the late 1970s and have gradually increased their holdings. They have marketed their buildings in recent years to Washington University undergraduate and graduate students. The Hamiltons and Sallers have long been credited with increasing stability and property values in the neighborhood. Although Washington University is acquiring the

buildings, Parkview Properties will be the managerial agent for ten years. Washington University ownership of these buildings means an increased commitment to the neighborhood as well as an addition to security, provided by university police working in conjunction with the city police.

There is an added bonus from Washington University. They are offering faculty and staff forgivable loans of \$4000 if recipients purchase homes in our neighborhood and remain as residents for at least 5 years. They are also offering this loan program in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood, close to their medical center.

## Priscilla Dowden Studies St. Louis's African-American History

by Lana Stein

Priscilla Dowden moved to 61xx Westminster with her husband and daughter about a year ago. She is a member of the faculty of the Department of History at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is a native of this city, growing up on Kennerly and Labadie in North St. Louis and graduating from Beaumont High School in 1980. She received her B.A. in history from UMSL and then an M.A. in African and African American Studies from Cornell University. She went on to Indiana University at Bloomington and recently received her doctorate from there. Her dissertation, hopefully to be a book in the near future, is a study of social movements advocating for the expansion of services and



institutions in public health care and public education for African Americans in St. Louis from 1910 to 1949.

Dowden's work is particularly important because relatively little has been written about the history of St. Louis or about its African-American population. She has also looked at a lot of larger issues during this period of entrenched institutional racial segregation in our city. She has been most intrigued with how African Americans manipulated the public culture to get what government owed them as citizens. One facet is that in many circles in the black community, people say that "We were better off before 1954." Dowden can kind of see this but thought it odd because people had fought so hard to tear segregation down and then they couldn't enjoy it. It is obvious to her that there was more cohesion among African Americans in the interwar period but it was artificial in part. People wanted to strive together but certainly part of it was the race restrictive covenants and institutional racism that African Americans couldn't get around.

Also intriguing is the fact that St. Louis crosses so many different regional patterns. African Americans in St. Louis tried to alleviate segregation and overturn laws. But the system was not as entrenched here as in the south.



was that the porch removal had dramatically compromised the proportions of the house, making it top heavy. The owners immediately before us had made a great improvement by putting up a railing around the perimeter, thereby providing a bit of balance to the roof and prohibiting small children from falling off into an unfortunate brick planter which was filled with bushes with prickles and which covered a handsome limestone foundation.

When it became obvious to us seven years ago that our dear, and beautifully rehabbed, house on Washington was becoming too small, we looked at this house on Kingsbury. The irony of life: buying the ugliest house in the neighborhood! Luckily, the interior had a lot going for it and I took the attitude that once inside I didn't have to worry about how it looked on the outside. We soon found out, however, that not having a porch roof was more than an aesthetic problem. Not only did one get wet going in and out, the tile floor was a slippery

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Beginning Our 28th Year of Publication

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# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

I hope many of you have taken the time to look at the Pelce Report on the state of the St. Louis region in the Post-Dispatch. They stress a factor I have found to be critical in assessing our area: Regional growth is quite small in economic terms and negative in terms of population. There are those who write off St. Louis city. They say don't worry about its problems. Things are fine out here in Chesterfield (or another such community). What people in our area forget is that we succeed together or we fail together. The rest of the world thinks of St. Louis—not 93 municipalities plus others outside the County.

Another telling comment in this Report is the frequency with which St. Louis natives say: "This is St. Louis" or "We've never done that here." I would say that the insularity is rather striking. I've heard those comments any number of times when I would mention a program another city was pursuing. Because it's local doesn't mean it's the last answer to any problem. We have to learn from other regions and copy programs that work. If we never try anything different, we will never get beyond our current morass. For one thing, we do need to address problems in regional terms. Political leaders, business leaders, community leaders all have to reach out. Somehow, we have to recapture the notion of the community good—not limited gain, not today's profit.

Skinker DeBaliviere, too, cannot just dwell on the improvements that have been made within its borders. Sure, crime is down, and housing has been rehabbed, and there are very good yearly events. But, this neighborhood, too, has to reach out to plan with adjacent areas. We have started this process. Our neighborhood includes Parkview, most of which is in University City. Parkview residents sit on the SDCC Board and on its executive committee. That builds bridges across Skinker. In addition, the Commercial Development Committee that has been finding ways to enhance Delmar as a commercial artery is working with the West End Community Conference to achieve this end. Aldermen Clay and McGuire worked together to enact the redevelopment ordinance for Delmar. These are important steps and they need to continue.

If we can be successful in our special neighborhood, perhaps that success can be contagious. It will be harder when it comes to the greater metropolitan region but it must be done. If businesses create jobs anywhere in our area, it is a net plus. If we cooperate to deal with other issues such as infrastructure, it is a net plus. Let's make the statement "This is St. Louis" stand for a willingness to come together and to innovate for the betterment of everyone in our region. Let's look beyond our borders for new ideas and strategies. There are many things right with our area—livability not the least among them—so let's fight to preserve and enhance and also to change for the better.

# Calendar

## Neighborhood Events and Meetings

- 4/5 St. Roch Auction - "Building the Future." Tickets are \$30. Buffet supper is from 6-7:30pm. For more information or to obtain tickets, call Joy Johnson at 367-8038 or Xenia Naert at 726-2529. If you would like to donate to the auction call Joy Johnson as well.
- 4/14 SDCC Board Meeting, SDCC offices, 7:00 p.m.
- 4/19 SLACO Neighborhood Conference, Forest Park Community College, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- May 3 BLITZ DAY, OPERATION BRIGHTSIDE, Neighborhood-Wide



## Other Events of Interest

- Now-3/23 The New Theatre presents the St. Louis premiere of "Molly Sweeney" in the Grand Hall of the Grandel Theatre, 3610 Grandel Square.
- Now-4/20 "An Italian Celebration" at the St. Louis Art Museum with an Italian piazza in Sculpture Hall and an exhibition: "In the Light of Italy: Corot and Early Open-Air Painting."
- 4/5-6 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladue Antique Show and Sale at Horton Watkins High School, 11am. \$3.50 admission.
- 4/19 SLACO presents 2<sup>nd</sup> annual neighborhood conference, Forest Park Community College, \$8 (including box lunch). Call 533-9104 for information.
- 5/24-6/28 Opera Theatre of St. Louis presents Madame Butterfly, Cosi Fan Tutti, Transformations, and the The Tale of Orpheus. Call 961-0171 for tickets.
- 6/14 Building An Inclusive Community Workshop, Washington University, 8:30am - 5:00pm, sponsored by the National Conference and Washington University Division of Student Affairs.

## Mark Your Calendars Now!

On Saturday, May 3, the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood will be transformed as you and your neighbors clean debris from alleys and lots, plant flowers and in general, "Spruce Up."

Our Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Beautification Committee will meet Saturday, March 22, to make plans for the event. All residents are welcome to come to this meeting and share your ideas and concerns.

This year the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office will be a drop-off point for grass seed from the Urban League as well as the Blitz Day flowers, tools and bags.

More information will be mailed soon from Operation Brightside to our block captains. This is the 15th Anniversary of Operation Brightside - let's make sure our neighborhood celebrates accordingly!

## Items in Brief

Good news for those interested in recreation. The gym at Hamilton School is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 - 5. All young people are welcome to enjoy the facility. Parents have to enroll their child at the time of his or her first visit.

The New Cote Brillante Church of God at Washington and Skinker has purchased a lot at Skinker and Enright to use for parking. Hopefully, as the days grow warmer, more congregants will utilize this facility.

The pilot recycling program the city began in the area east of the MetroLink tracks will continue. It had been announced that this trial program

would end but the city decided to continue it. It looks like participation has been quite high on Waterman and DeGiverville. Please keep putting out your blue bins!

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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.

# Senator Clay Views the Legislative Agenda

by Lana Stein

I recently visited with our Skinker DeBaliviere neighbor, State Senator William Lacy Clay. Joining us during our conversation was his lovely daughter Carol who is not quite two years old. A very bright and engaging child, she often turned the conversation away from legislation to a more immediate agenda.

Senator Clay said that he was very pleased that the new President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate, Bill McKenna of Barnhart, had selected him to be a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. That committee has jurisdiction over the entire state's budget. Clay also noted that Ed Quick of Kansas City is now the Majority Floor Leader. He feels this is a younger, more progressive leadership.

Clay has been interested in the teachers' retirement system for quite some time. Last year, he sponsored a bill to give the retirees a cost of living allowance which was enacted into law. This year he would like to make those with fifteen years or less of service eligible for some type of retirement benefit. He feels that this will pass.

Clay said that "Teachers make a great sacrifice in time put in for the schools and our children. We should strengthen the retirement system."

Clay also wants to address the question of redlining in the insurance industry this year. If a company is selling insurance in one part of St. Louis, it should give out policies in all parts of the city. He also wants insurance companies to give reasons in writing for the cancellation of home or auto policies. The Department of Insurance should monitor and enforce this. It is a consumer protection issue.

Clay said that if and when school desegregation winds down, he wants to ensure that St. Louis city doesn't lose anything. He wants a new bill restructuring state aid so that it is based on the poverty level—not race—so that the city will still get the same amount as it does now under the desegregation plan.

On the Appropriations Committee, Clay said that he wants the state's contribution to Forest Park made in accord with the new master plan. He also foresees improvements to the state hospital at Arsenal that will better protect the neighbors there.



Senator Clay with his wife Ivie and daughter Carol

Clay is opposed to the proposal to build two additional state prisons. "Send them to Yale, not to jail." Prisons now have too many nonviolent individuals incarcerated there, e.g., someone sentenced to 20 years for passing bad checks. Clay noted that we've built an economy around prisons. "We're not addressing systemic causes. We're not trying to deter them." Clay wanted to see other options besides prison again pointing out that "prison is an economic unit."

Clay is also sponsoring several other bills. One would allow people to vote by absentee ballot without stating a reason. Under another bill, St. Louis city teachers would be able to reinstate creditable service by paying back any contributions they may have withdrawn. Clay also wishes to create a task force on the needs of children of incarcerated parents.

Clay enjoys his busy agenda and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him and his precocious daughter.

# From Parkview . . .

by Helen A. Floros

Ann Horner, long-time resident of Parkview, was recently elected president of the Parkview Board of Agents. Ann and her husband, Bob, bought their first house in Parkview in 1971. They moved from Washington to Westminster in 1983.

The Horners have five children, all of whom attended St. Roch. Bob, the oldest, will be married in the spring of 1997. Kay is attending St. Louis University Medical School. Lisa will be coming back from her job in North Carolina to be married here in the summer of 1997. Laura is a junior at the University of Kansas and Richard is a sophomore at DeSmet.

Ann used to be known as "the ice skating lady" because of her significant service (10 years) as a founding member of the Friends of Steinberg Rink. She also has been a long-time member of St. Roch parish, volunteering in many capacities, including past president of the St. Roch School Board.

Ann's alma mates include St. Roch, Visitation, and the University of Dayton (Ohio) where she majored in political science.

Ann's goal as president of the Parkview Agents is to keep residents informed about what is going on and to welcome residents' input on all Parkview matters. As far as MetroLink is concerned, she would like to keep residents informed of all options relative to Parkview. The emphasis this year will probably be on street repair and lighting (on-going problems) as well as researching lighting Limits Walkway.

## Remembering Jim L'Ecuyer

Many neighbors who have resided in Skinker DeBaliviere for some time were shocked to learn of the passing of Jim L'Ecuyer on February 18. Mr. L'Ecuyer was a founder of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council in 1964 and served as its first executive director. He worked with Washington University, St. Roch, Grace Methodist Church, and Delmar Baptist Church to stabilize our community. Because the neighborhood had become integrated, it was subject to redlining by the real estate and the insurance industries. The work of Mr. L'Ecuyer and his colleagues made it possible for this neighborhood to prosper amidst its racial and socioeconomic diversity.

L'Ecuyer lived on 57xx DeGiverville with his wife Glorianna. There are three children: Rachele, Marc and Christopher.

Mr. L'Ecuyer was director of the Section 8 housing program for St. Louis and St. Louis County housing authorities in the 1970s and was later a broker at Feinberg Realty. In this decade, he owned and operated Medicus Properties which handled health care facilities.

L'Ecuyer's family noted that he was quite shy about his accomplishments in the neighborhood. He actually grew up in Skinker DeBaliviere, living on Delmar and on Waterman as a child. After college he married and bought a flat on McPherson. The family lived for thirty years on DeGiverville. After finishing his work with the SDCC, L'Ecuyer remained involved with his block unit and aided neighbors if he could.

The family wanted to thank the community which provided a great deal of support to them during this period. They asked that any donations be sent to Forest Park Forever at 5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis 63112.



Accepting the Mayor's Community Service Awards at the Cedars Hall on January 29, 1997, were, from left, Roy Roncal, Shirley Polk, Art Santen, and Linda Cross.

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## Scout Sunday



Steve, Art, and Scott Santen show that Scouting is, indeed, a family affair. On February 2, 1997, Scout Sunday, Scott, right, past Scoutmaster, hands the Scoutmaster patch to his brother Steve who now serves in that role. Their father, Art, is Troup 98's Committee Treasurer.



Troop 98 Boy Scouts Leadership Corps: Front row from left: Carey Robinson, James Wright, Derek Loudermilk, John Wright, William Busch. Back row: Suresh Rao, Chad Robinson.



Lest we forget the winter we had, here are Alex Fox of 61xx Waterman and friend Gary assembling a gigantic snowman at the entry to Forest Park on Des Peres.

## Hamilton Spotlight

by Betsy King

This month's spotlight is on Hamilton's Annual Science Fair, which began Friday, February 28. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade participated, and both individual and class projects were submitted. Almost 60 projects were turned in. They will be on display in the first floor hallway until Thursday, March 27. Mr. Vaughn Morrill, Science Supervisor for the Division of Curriculum and Staff Development was the official judge of the science fair. He picked 20 projects to be submitted at the Annual Science Fair at Queeny Park, which will be held from April 14-17. Good luck to the Hamilton Science Fair Winners!

Also on February 28 was the Black History Program, "Traditions of Africa." The program featured African dance, folk tales, jewelry, a commemoration of African American singers, and a skit depicting the important contributions of historical African Americans. Many parents and community

members attended the program, as well as a reporter from the St. Louis Post Dispatch. An article about the program and a picture of kindergartners participating in an African dance appeared in the March 1 issue of the newspaper. Thanks to all who worked to make the program a success.

Hamilton was a site for the first round of the Samuel Shepard Annual Oratorical Contest. Fourth and fifth grade students from eight different St. Louis Public Elementary Schools came to Hamilton to compete. Students from each grade performed an interpretive reading and an original essay. Hamilton participants were Elena Holzum, "The Person I Admire Most," Original Essay, fifth grade; Hanso Denis, Interpretive Reading, fifth grade; Christopher Castello, "If I Had Three Wishes," Original Essay, fourth grade; and Thuy Nguyen, Interpretive Reading, fourth grade. Congratulations to our Hamilton Oratorical Contest winners.

AmeriCorps Volunteers Christopher Pitts and Wanda Hunt have been working with fourth and fifth grade students in an "Adopt a Grandparent" program. The students have become pen pals with senior citizens at the Memorial Home Nursing Home and Parkview Apartments Senior Citizens Residence. In February they sent letters and valentines to their "grandparent" pen pals, and in March they will take a field trip to meet them in person.

Hamilton School Beat Officers John Cochrine and Robert Vickers have been doing their part to make Hamilton a positive, safe place for our children. They have been helping with lunch duty and playground duty, serving as mentors for Hamilton students and keeping a neighborhood watch to help safeguard our community. They provide the students with a positive image of law enforcement and authority figures. This spring they will patrol the neighborhood on bicycles in order to expand the scope of their neighborhood watch. Thanks to Officers Cochrine and Vickers for their support.

The "Friends of Georgia Frontiere," a group of Hamilton Alumni that were Ms. Frontiere's classmates, have donated an aquarium to Hamilton in Ms. Frontiere's honor. It has been set up in the Georgia S. Frontiere Library, which was dedicated last year in her name. In addition, Ms. Frontiere has donated 60 St. Louis Rams footballs that will be given as perfect attendance prizes at the March "Be There" assembly. We thank Ms. Frontiere and her friends for their support and dedication to Hamilton.

Finally, as an incentive for students to have perfect attendance for the month of February, the Maritz Corporation opened free admission to the Africa After School Program at the St. Louis Science Center. This exhibit includes a visit to a busy marketplace in Dakar, getting to know the animals of the savanna, watching a paper dashiki demonstration, listening to African music, and creating an African mask or a Mancala board game. The students at Hamilton who came to school every day in February are eager to learn about the many cultures, peoples and histories that are interwoven to form African culture.

# Letters to The Times

## Evaluating MetroLink Expansion

Following are three letters concerning MetroLink expansion that have been received by this newspaper. The EastWest Gateway Coordinating Council will soon make a decision regarding which expansion routes to fund in St. Louis city and county. There has been considerable concern about the extension a station in the Central West End or at DeBaliviere to Clayton. These letter writers state their preferences. If anyone wishes to share ideas about these possibilities, he or she should write to Les Serman, Director of EastWest Gateway.

The following is a copy of a letter sent by Georgi Ann Fox, 61xx McPherson, to EastWest Gateway on March 11, 1997.

The MetroLink proposal as presented by Doug Campion of Sverdrup Engineering on January 29 at Crossroads School is detrimental to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. The so-called northern route is said to be the least expensive of four alternatives. The rails are to go up to grade at DesPeres south of the Parkway.

By putting a ground level crossing there at DesPeres, pedestrian and bike access to Forest Park is eliminated.

The Skinker DeBaliviere area is a revitalized and now stable neighborhood in the western central corridor. It is served by two existing MetroLink stops at DeBaliviere and Delmar.

The route that best serves everyone is the Oakland-Forest Park tunnel—Millbrook to Clayton. This route links the BJC Medical Center to Washington University and Clayton while servicing other major stops between St. Louis U. High, the Science Center, Forest Park Community College, whatever develops at the arena site, Deaconess Hospital and then, through the park underground, the zoo and the Art Museum and then on to Washington University and Clayton.

Going the cheapest route is not necessarily the best. Ignoring all those major institutions doesn't serve the community well.

I've just finished reading the Peirce-Johnson Report in today's Post and everything they discuss says "Plan well for the future."

Please consider these options with an eye to the future, not just a cheaper way to get another MetroLink route up and moving sooner. It would be a shame if, a few years down the road, everyone said "we should have served all those institutions to the south." Then it would be too late.

Following are excerpts from a letter sent by Alderman Dan McGuire to East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, Cross-County Corridor MTIA Study Management Group and Consultant on February 24, 1997:

Oakland-Forest Park Tunnel-Millbrook to Clayton. This is unquestionably the best route to link up the various major destination points within this corridor, i.e. the BJC Medical Center Complex, St. Louis University High School, the Science Center, Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center, Forest Park Community College, the Arena Redevelopment Site, Deaconess Hospital, the St. Louis Zoo, the St. Louis Art Museum, the Washington University Hilltop and Clayton campuses, and Clayton. . . . (T)his route avoids conflicts with residential neighborhoods west of Hampton along I-64, and in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

North of Park-Millbrook to Clayton. Service to the institutions along the southern Forest Park corridor should be our top regional priority in this portion of the study area. So while this route may appear to be the least expensive in the short term, major negatives include: the loss of all stations serving the institutions along the southern Forest Park corridor (probably for decades, if not forever); unacceptable detrimental impact on the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood; and guaranteed lengthy and costly litigation with the Catlin Tract Trustees.

As originally contemplated, the segment between DeBaliviere and Big Bend was proposed to be: totally below grade; "mostly" covered; and located primarily under the existing east-bound lanes of the Forest Park Parkway/Millbrook. This plan would have produced minimal and acceptable noise, aesthetic and traffic problems and avoided the need to permanently "take" private property from the Catlin Tract Subdivision (the area bounded by Lindell, Skinker, Forest Park Parkway and Union). Unfortunately, further study revealed that the location of the River des Peres Sewer demanded that this segment would have to be at grade over the sewer and be located along a new 60 foot right-of-way on land primarily owned by the Catlin Tract Subdivision. This at-grade crossing of Des Peres would then require either an extremely noisy crossing or the closing of Des Peres. Both alternatives are unacceptable. Further, the Catlin Tract Trustees have given notice that they will vigorously oppose any taking of their property.

Dear Editor,

By both national and local measures MetroLink as it exists today is a great example of a successful light rail system. In contemplating expansion of our current system I think it is important that we review the reasons why MetroLink has become such a success and apply these same criteria to any proposed expansion.

The current MetroLink alignment carries in excess of 40,000 passengers per day - more than twice as many as was predicted in the original estimates of ridership. MetroLink provides a quick, direct, and frequent mode of transportation that is auto competitive to most of the point to point destinations it serves. The system is quick and efficient and therefore it is able to gain riders because of its outright speed and convenience for the everyday commuter. As a matter of fact MetroLink has actually enhanced bus ridership by creating a new backbone to a bus system that has been improved through truncation into and from the MetroLink core.

I support MetroLink's extension into Clayton along the Northern Route north of the park along Forest Park Expressway/Millbrook because it most closely reflects the already proven characteristics of successful Light Rail in our community. The local Metropolitan Planning Organization (East-West Gateway Coordinating Council) has commissioned a study that shows the northern route to carry in excess of One Million more passengers per year than either of the two southern route alternatives being considered. This is due in a large part that through the Northern Route's speed and convenience to the major job centers of our area it is able to attract more daily riders. The Northern route would also cost approximately \$170 Million dollars less to construct and \$1.1 Million dollars less per year to operate.

Currently Proposition M funds could support the money needed to construct the Northern Route and its operation. In the absence of any further Federal funding appropriations (highly likely given the current state of affairs in Washington), both Southern Route alternatives are simply unaffordable. Therefore, if we would like to see expansion of MetroLink within any reasonable time frame the Northern Route is the only choice.

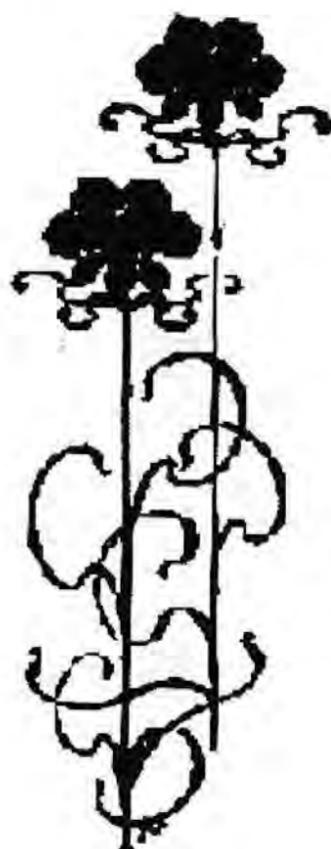
Funding the Northern Route exclusively through local funds would allow us to avoid most of federal red tape and this could accelerate the construction schedule tremendously. It is possible that we could have the Northern Route expansion in service by 2001-2002!

Since the Northern Route would travel below grade in an open cut and fully covered beneath Skinker and Big Bend the negative impacts to our neighborhood would be minimal. As a matter of fact there exists no evidence that a Light-Rail system has had negative effects on property values in comparable neighborhoods nationwide and several studies point to increases in property values.

The Northern route would bring our community a true alternative to auto dependency and could help return our neighborhood to a more pedestrian atmosphere which will enhance our image of a vibrant, forward thinking community.

Taulby Roach  
6205 McPherson

Taulby Roach lives in SD and is a Member of Citizens for MetroLink. This group meets the first Mon. of the month at 6:00 at Blueberry Hill.



  
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# St. Roch . . . à la Paris

by Marj Weir

Just a block from the Louvre at the intersections of the Rue Saint-Honoré and the Rue St. Roch we found Paris's version of our local parish church. On our trip there this past February, we made a special point of stopping by this church to take some pictures. Ours did not turn out as well as those of our daughter, Lynn, who is studying there for this school year. Hers are those shown on this page.

The church is hemmed in on all sides by buildings of equal or greater height, so it is virtually impossible to capture the entire facade in one picture because one cannot stand back far enough. Hence the split display.

According to Frommer's "Paris From \$65 A Day" ("from" is right), "A battle around this church is what secured Bonaparte's ascent to power on October 5, 1795. The church con-

tains several important sculptures, including a bust of the gardener Le Nôtre by Coysevox, the Monument to Mignard (a painter) by Girardon, and works by Coustou and Delorme. Among the famous buried here are Corneille and Diderot."

Despite the off-season weather, we had a wonderful time, with constant reminders of St. Louis. Our city's patron saint is memorialized there in many ways, as could be expected, but other names echoed as well. Sainte Genevieve is the patron (matron? patroness?) saint of Paris; Châtillon is the name of a metro line, etc.

Across the Seine and a block or two from King Louis IX's beautiful Sainte Chapelle (Holy Chapel), is the Hôtel de Ville, Paris's city hall, which inspired the design of our own City Hall.



The investment made (whether willingly or not) by the citizens of Paris over the centuries is nothing short of astonishing, and their pride in their city is well-founded and inspiring. (Further editorial comparisons with St. Louis are left to the reader.)

We eagerly await our next opportunity to return and would encourage those like us, who had thought this kind of trip too expensive, to watch for the special rates on flights to the major cities of Europe. The off-season is a bargain, both in flight costs and in hotel rates. If you don't require luxury in your accommodations and have a sense of humor, you don't have to spend more than you would at a Motel 6 in this country. There won't be washcloths, however! Take half the clothes you think you'll need. We didn't find we needed to take twice the money, as the wry advice goes, but we didn't shop much!

*Porch  
Continued from Page 1*

nightmare, the mail (despite all good attempts from the mail carrier) would be damp, and water seeped through the floor and into the basement, and the tuckpointing of the foundation was washing out and in a time in the not too distant future, a wet basement would be the least of our worries.

Enough was enough. Last fall, personal friend and architect, Elizabeth Panke drew up plans which would replicate what the porch probably looked like. Down the street, 6106 is the exact same house as ours — same fenestration (window) pattern, same roof line, and same stone facade. Karleen and Tom Hoerr graciously let us take pictures. The Heritage & Urban Design Commission approved the permit application in less than a week. Dick Law of Dakota Builders (Dick has built two screened porches as well as lots of other less glamorous projects for us) wanted to get the porch up before winter hit.

Despite several surprises typical of any major building project with old houses and at times uncooperative late fall weather, Christmas this year found us with a front porch to appropriately decorate with lights. The weather changed before we could do the final paint job and the tile floor, ruined by years of weather, waits for the spring to be replaced. But what a thrill it has been to be able to stand outside while opening an umbrella without getting soaked. Mail is no longer soggy. And the basement is dry and has become a floor hockey arena. Best of all, however, is coming home to a house which has regained its late Victorian dignity and architectural integrity.

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Priscilla Dowden  
Cont'd from page 1

In some northeastern cities, public schools had been integrated and then, in the interwar period, there was a push to segregate them. Here in St. Louis, schools were always segregated and in the interwar period the push was for more segregation. St. Louis's African-American community has a strong tradition of learning how to manipulate that system.

Dowden's work focuses two of the most prominent organizations of the time: The Urban League and the League of Women Voters. She became very impressed with the large role the Urban League played in assisting the African-American community. The League had a strong hands-on approach and did its work very well. John T. Clark was its executive director. His philosophy was that "We do what we do because there is no one else to do it. In the 1950s and 1960s the federal government took over some of the projects that had been handled by the Urban League. It

seems to her that the federal government has not done as good a job as the League. The League had worked on neighborhood beautification and had set up block units and neighborhood clubs.

There was a very high level of racial cooperation in St. Louis in the Urban League and the League of Women Voters during a period of entrenched segregation. African Americans then had a clearer idea of where they were going and how to get there. John T. Clark has written in his memoirs of what happened when he went to meet with a wealthy white man by appointment in the Central West End. A maid answered and she slammed the door in his face when he asked to enter. According to Dowden, he understood what had happened. He knew they would have to meet somewhere else. He endured it in order to carry on his work. In this aspect, things have changed.

Dowden noted that the League of Women Voters had a Colored Committee. The name was changed in the 1940s to the Interracial Committee. The League always had an African-American woman on its board. It placed African-American concerns on its agenda. There was social segregation too but health care and education were addressed by the League of Women Voters.

Dowden's work is fascinating and she is an addition to the complement of academics who reside in Skinker DeBaliviere. She and her family enjoy the neighborhood. She likes being close to the Loop, Forest Park, and Washington University and also enjoys the multidimensional diversity here. She wanted an older home and a neighborhood where the houses were closer together.

Her final comments concerned St. Louis's notable inferiority complex. She feels that people misunderstand why earlier generations chose to settle

here. The press often says that people were passing through, ran short on money, and stayed. In the period she looked at people like Roger Baldwin, Susan Paul Vashon, and John Clark decided to settle here. They could have gone anywhere. Clark had founded the Urban League in Pittsburgh and had worked for years in New York City. He was very attracted by St. Louis and saw opportunities to exploit the public culture. He found St. Louis to be a vibrant community. Of course, it was highly segregated but there was a strong sense of civic responsibility and a rich cultural life. Clark did note St. Louis's leisurely life style which he linked to the summer heat but he was that residents were laid-back and that they really liked this city.

## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

February 10, 1997 (Excerpts from the minutes)

### Special presentation concerning Parkview Properties and Washington University

As the first order of business after the meeting was called to order by President Gary Hayes, Sara Johnson introduced Stephen and Lecil Saller of Parkview Properties. Sara announced that Washington University has acquired thirty-two (32) apartment buildings in the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood. An agreement has been reached with Parkview Properties to manage the properties. The apartments are currently occupied primarily by Washington University graduate students. The buildings are located on Pershing, Waterman and McPherson. The development rights for the property at McPherson and Skinker, the former site of the Sinclair station, are included in the package with Washington University and Parkview Properties.

Sara Johnson also announced that Washington University is offering loans to full-time faculty and staff who wish to purchase single-family or duplex homes in the area. This is an effort to encourage home ownership in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood.

Special phones will be installed in these buildings for use in calling to report problems. There is a Security Officer at the building on Rosedale from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

### Police Report

Officer Terry Kowalczyk reported that on January 30, 1997 a fifteen year old female was accosted by a man in the 6100 block of Westminster at approximately 2:50 p.m. after leaving the school bus stop. She was able to get away from the man who is described as a thin black man 6'3" to 6'5" tall, approximately 30 years old. The police department is asking for help in solving the crime.

Lt. Beffa reported that burglaries are up from last year (burglaries committed without force). Year to date there have been seven. They are up in all districts, however this neighborhood has the lowest increase. Simple assaults are down. Stolen automobiles

have increased by three from last year. There were five thefts from automobiles in January.

### Recycling Program

NSO Vivi Wolf reported that the Recycling Program will continue until further notice. Funds were found to continue; however it is still a pilot program.

Executive Director Laure Porterfield announced that the Planning team for Delmar Redevelopment will hold a public meeting Thursday, February 13. George Johannes is coordinating.

### CDA Funding

CDA has approved our request for \$52,000.00.

### MetroLink

There was discussion about whether the council should take a position on proposed changes to the MetroLink system. Ann Smith Carr observed that the advisory committee was set up to be informational only. The committee has not met. It is recommended that the committee meet soon. A position regarding MetroLink will not be taken at this time.

Paul Hohmann gave a report on MetroLink. He said the proposed North Route would start "below grade" at DeBaliviere, come up and cross DesPeres at grade, then go down below grade and pass under Skinker. There would be three options for DesPeres South of Parkway: 1. close entirely; 2. keep open to pedestrians; 3. keep open to traffic with crossing Gate and flashing lights.

The study management group meets February 11, 1997 and then the East-West Gateway Board of Directors will meet the 3rd week in March.

Andy Sisk asked if anything would be done to improve the crumbling concrete walls on the Parkway.

### Financial Report

The financial report for January is incomplete as we do not have a budget. Have not received final 1996 checks from CDA. CDA extended 1996 adjustments until April. The month ending balance: \$17,821.46. Need direction on the Whitaker Fund (playground proposed for Four Corners).

A motion was passed to accept Budget #2 contingent upon receipt of \$52,000.00 grant from CDA, and if that grant is not received, to fall back on proposed Budget #1.

### Nominating Committee report

The Slate of Officers proposed by the Nominating Committee:  
President - Gary Hayes  
Vice President - Sara Johnson  
Secretary - Gwendolyn Lazard  
Treasurer - Ann Smith Carr

There were no other nominations. The slate was elected by acclamation.

### Security

Washington University Students are especially concerned about safety. There will be a Personal Safety Seminar in the Women's Building on the Washington University campus on March 19, 1997 at 6:30 p.m.

### Commercial Planning Committee

The committee met with Cash America and 5900 block of DeGiverville. Cash America will make improvements as requested by neighbors, the committee and Heritage. The canopy at the Country Store collapsed due to weight of ice and snow. There is a new owner. The store owners in the Delmar area between Hamilton and DeBaliviere are being more responsible for keeping areas near their building clean, however Bi-State still is not doing so. There is a special meeting Thursday, February 13th, concerning Delmar Redevelopment.

### Beautification

The council is still awaiting a reply about the grant. The City Street Dept. will help Andy Cross when weather improves with Westminster barricade. It was suggested that block units in problem areas around Westminster get together to discuss. No action step recommended.

### Recreation

Arthelda Busch reported increased funding for the Extended Outpost Site at Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center. This is a part of City Recreation. The gym is open on

Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The week day program is from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### West End Arts Council

The group has submitted its Regional Arts Council grant application for 1997. It includes a concert series, a film series, the James Kingsbury statue and public art workshop and Artists Exchange II.

Rosedale Neighborhood Assn.  
A mailing will be sent out announcing the next meeting. The associations' mission for 1997 will be discussed.

### Washington Heights

Essie McLean and Laura Herron were concerned about a replacement for Aaron Johnson, who has resigned for the SDCC Board of Directors, as a representative for 5800 - 5900 DeGiverville. Laure will work with them find a new Board member.

### Parkview

The streets need repair work. A Neighborhood Improvement Association will be set up. New lights will be put on Limits walk.

### Nina Place

Two condos have sold in the 5900 Nina Place Condo. Two developers are interested in doing part of remaining vacant building on Nina Place.

### Grace United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Wreath is new minister at Grace Methodist. President Gary Hayes asked Rev. Miki Merritt to call the new minister and offer to assist him.

### New Cote Brillante Church of God

The church has purchased lot at Enright and Skinker to solve the parking problem. Plans are in the works for something to show appreciation to neighbors. Rev. Merritt delivered first quarter check for \$375.00.

### Other Business

After investigation by Ann Smith Carr, the Deed of Trust for property in Kingsbury Square was executed and released.

# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

Well it's official, we're now a FIT & TRIM family. No, it's not like anyone in the household has lost weight. Heaven forbid! Rather, our number one poodle, Señor Moxie, has been told that he has to go on a diet.

It was a normal physical. There we were, me, Señor Mox, and our vet, Dr. Steve. After much poking and prodding and stethoscope peering Steve ascertained that Moxie is in good shape for the shape that he is in. "Huh?" I replied, never being keen on medical jargon, "what's that mean?"

"Simple," said Dr. Steve, "Moxie will be 12 in June, and that's 84 in dog years. For someone 84 he's in reasonably good shape. There are some concerns, however..."

My ears tinkled and I leaned forward. Concerns? The Mox is, after all, a valued member of the family despite his occasional midnight deposits on our rugs or his crabby attitude when his agenda is different than ours. Sure, he's bitten us a couple of times but not lately. And sure, he growls and snarls when he's unhappy, like when you try to move him off the couch or send him outside in the cold. But hey, the couch is comfortable and it's cold outside, so who can blame him? After all, he can't use words so his growls are actually pretty communicative. And ever time he bites he is remorseful afterwards.

"Moxie has gained nine pounds in the past year," said Dr. Steve. Gosh, I thought, that's about 20% of his body weight. He continued, "What do you feed him?" as he rummaged through the Mox's medical file, "...is he still on Purina Dog Chow?"

I cleared my throat. This was a little embarrassing. "Uh, yes. And no. He's on Purina Dog Chow and wesometimesgivehimotherstufftoo." Now it was Dr. Steve's turn: "What?"

"Oh," I continued, "Occasionally, not very often really, but every once in a while, sometimes if he's been good, infrequently, we give Moxie some other things to eat, y'know, stuff from the table."

Dr. Steve said nothing, waiting. Clearly he had walked this path before with other dog owners.

I swallowed and looked at the floor. "We know we shouldn't do it, but he's such a good boy. And I know that I sure wouldn't want to only eat Purina Dog Chow meal after meal after meal..."

A knowing smile came over Dr. Steve's face. "So what exactly do you feed him?"

"Oh, a little bit of this and some of that." I could see this wasn't adequate. Why did I feel like fingering a rosary? "I often give him a piece of bagel with peanut butter on it, and the first wife likes sharing her frozen yogurt. Whenever we have popcorn, which is pretty often because we know we need fiber in our diets, the Mox gets it. And when I'm hungry I'll often microwave two or three Lean Culsines but usually that's more than I want to eat so the Mox gets a half or so of them. When I was into drinking Slim Fast for meals I would often prepare an extra one for Moxie. And whenever I reward myself for running in the morning with a chocolate chip cookie or three, I break off a half for Mox. After all, he is on door patrol, waiting for me. And the Mox loves pieces of banana." Dr. Steve was taking notes and I paused to let him catch up.

"But pizza is probably the Mox's favorite," I said, getting into the spirit of things, "and he's really partial to sausage although he will eat pepperoni. He draws the line at green peppers, though."

Dr. Steve looked up, startled, "You mean there's something he won't eat?"

"Yep," I said with some pride, not wanting the Mox to look like the scavenger he is, "he spits out the green peppers."

"Amazing," Dr. Steve said, "truly amazing."

"You mean it's amazing that he has gained the weight?" I asked.

"No," he countered, "it's amazing that he's only gained nine pounds!"

So we agreed that the Mox will move to the FIT & TRIM category. Boomer, his sister, doesn't need to lose weight but I figure if it's true for us it works for them: you can never be too rich or too thin. I talked about this with the first wife and she agreed, we have to do what we have to do. We

even agreed to cut down the table scraps to only two meals a day. It's only fair to make lunch and dinner a little special; they're on their own with the FIT & TRIM at breakfast.

We now have four big bags of FIT & TRIM in the basement. We were afraid that Moxie or Boomer would reject it, raised as they've been on Purina more or less, but that's not been the case. They both did a bit of smelling at first, the equivalent of "What is this in my bowl?" but soon settled in to scarfing the food down without chewing. A good sign.

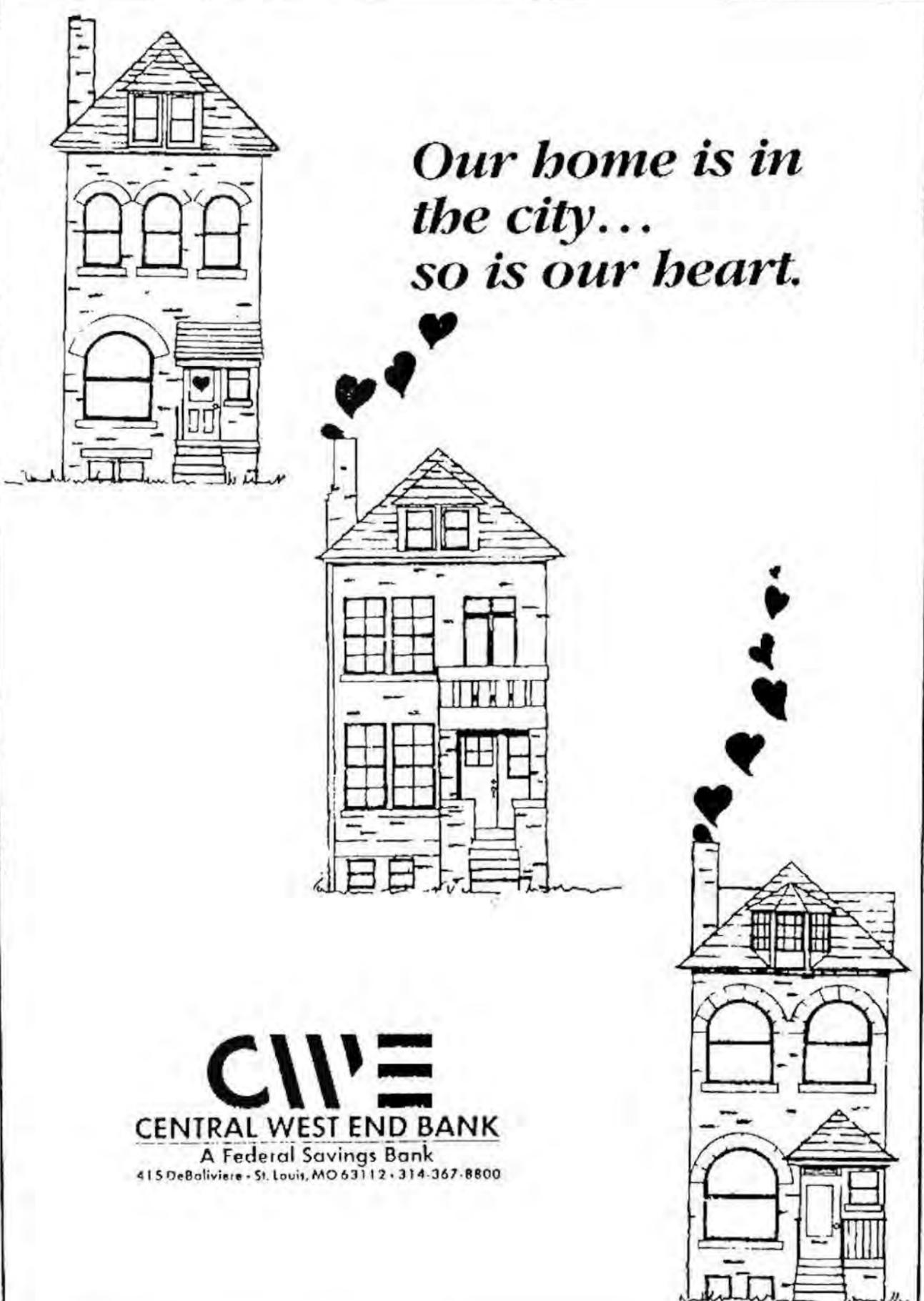
I'm a bit worried, though, that this new diet will cause the Mox to lose too much weight. After all, for Christmas we bought him this white sequined doggie jacket, size XL. It's really cool with an image of Elvis playing the guitar on the back and fake red fur around the edges. He is so proud when he wears it on those neighborhood walks with the first wife; he absolutely struts! But now, what if he loses this weight? Does anyone know a doggie seamstress?



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