

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

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June 1997

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## State Grant To Help Reshape Delmar



Alderman Dan McGuire (center) converses with Delmar business owner, John Thomas, and neighborhood resident and redeveloper, Mark Gorman. Dennis Lussky, also a Delmar businessman, is in the background.

Last year the cities of St. Louis and University City applied to the Missouri Highway Department for planning money to enhance the area around the Delmar MetroLink station. Working with Arts and Transit director Sara Smith of Bi-State Development Corporation, they used the \$50,000 they successfully sought to prepare a conceptual design for Delmar stretching from DeBalviere into the University City Loop. This year the team sought a much larger grant to carry out the plans to enhance the streetscape. They were successful: The Missouri Highway Department awarded \$750,000 for the Delmar project. For the first time, there will be funds to back up some of the ideas contained in the redevelopment plan adopted by the city several years ago. The Commercial Development Committee and the Skinker DeBalviere Community Council will now work closely with a team of consultants to help redevelop Delmar.

The Johannes Cohen Collaborative is the lead consultant. George Johannes spoke recently at a neigh-

borhood meeting about Delmar and said that the light rail station is to be an asset for the area as well as the strong existing businesses there. He also mentioned the strength of the surrounding neighborhood. However, Johannes noted that a lot of the property is in undesirable condition and there are less than optimal usages. He and the Delmar team want to create a sense of continuity over the whole area. Crossing Skinker is both a physical and perceptual problem. This program will reshape the sidewalks and enhance outdoor opportunities. Changing traffic patterns will make crossing Delmar or Skinker less formidable. Right now it is 100 feet across Delmar, a very wide barrier. A median strip will be introduced to make crossing easier and it will be a connecting visual symbol. The median will continue across Skinker to the city limits. The sidewalk will be expanded in certain areas from 12 to 20 feet.

Pat Schucart, an artist and endowed chair from Washington University, is also part of the Delmar team.



Some of the presenters at a neighborhood meeting are (standing, from left) Joe Ebert (an engineer with the City of St. Louis), Austin Tao (landscaping consultant), JoAnn Vatcha (Chair of Commercial Development Committee), Pat Schucart (Washington University artist), and George Johannes (with cup). Tom Cohen is seated in the front.

## Join in Celebrating Grand Opening of TileLink on June 14!

Everyone is invited to the grand opening celebration of TileLink on Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Delmar MetroLink station on Rosedale. Two thousand tiles created by neighborhood schoolchildren and many residents have been placed on the walkway from the new Delmar MetroLink parking lot to the station platform. The tiles make the area attractive and provide conversation pieces for many riders. This celebration will note the significant contribution of the West End Arts Council and its co-chairs, Roy Roncal and Andy Cross, who brought an idea into fruition.

The fired clay tiles will also be placed on benches at the Delmar station. This project benefited from the sponsorship of Arts in Transit at the Bi-State Development Authority and its director, Sarah Smith, as well as the Skinker DeBalviere



A selection of finished tiles illustrating the creativity of project participants. Colors are bright blue, yellow and red.



A tile-making session with the Arts in Transit Art Bus.

## National Night Out Set for August 5

National Night Out will once again be celebrated as a neighborhood-wide event in Skinker DeBalviere. As in years past, the party will be held at Four Corners Park.

The customary brats, beverages, and band are lined up, along with a few surprises (watch for posters and flyers). The 5900 block of McPherson will conduct their annual "ice cream social" ice cream sale.

All block units are welcome to participate. Block captains will be receiving mailings shortly. This is a good opportunity to raise funds for your block's pet projects and to participate in a truly fun evening.

Volunteers are needed for set up, concessions and tear-down. Call 862-5122 to volunteer or for more information.

Community Council and its director, Laure Porterfield. Students at Hamilton, Crossroads, New City, and St. Roch made many of the tiles. Their schools had visits from the Arts in Transit Art Bus which was used as a rolling artist studio. Tiles also were created at the Loop in Motion festival. Catharine Magel was the lead artist on the project and she recruited other artists to assist. TileLink has also been supported by the Regional Arts Commission and Bi-State along with donations from local businesses and neighbors.

## Summer Film Series Sponsored by W.E.A.C.

The West End Arts Council will present a series of four films at the Four Corners, Kingsbury and DesPeres avenues, at dusk on the following Fridays: June 20 and 27, July 11 and 18. See additional information on Page 2.

## In Our 28th Year of Publication

## Arts Council Plans Busy Summer

The West End Arts Council (WEAC) recently received a \$4,000 grant from the Regional Arts Commission to conduct community-based programming in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood for 1997. Roy Roncal and Andy Cross, co-chairmen of WEAC, were delighted to learn of the grant award. After the tremendous success of TileLink they are ready to take on even more challenges for 1997!

Activities to be sponsored by WEAC over the summer include:

- a summer concert series
- a summer film series
- a public sculpture project
- another "Sister Cities" artist exchange

A steering committee meeting has been set for Thursday, May 29, 6:00 p.m., at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Offices, 6008 Kingsbury. The film and concert series will be finalized in the next few weeks and flyers will be distributed throughout the neighborhood.

Anyone interested in working on the above projects is welcome to attend the meeting.

Call 862-5122 for further information.

## MOONLIGHT MATINEES

Join the West End Arts Council as we bring the first-ever Moonlight Matinee Film Series to Skinker DeBaliviere. For four Friday evenings in June and July, we will show classic 16mm films under the trees in front of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 6008 Kingsbury. Films will be shown at dusk (approximately 8:00-8:15 p.m.). There is no fee for the program. You are invited to bring your own chair and snacks and to enjoy such film classics as:

- June 20 - A "Little Rascals" Retrospective - everyone's favorite urchins will return to enchant our young ones again and again.
- June 27 - "The Red Balloon", a children's film about a little boy and his friend, a red balloon that follows him all over Paris (3 minutes) and "Balloonatic", a Buster Keaton Classic reissued with a musical sound track (20 minutes).
- July 11 - "Minnie the Moocher and Many, Many More", Cab Calloway's life story provides a tour through the great Harlem jazz clubs of the 30's and 40's (one hour).
- July 18 - An independent film or film maker, preferably from St. Louis. t.b.a.

Remember! Films begin at dusk. Come early to get a prime place for your lawn chair. Brought to you by the West End Arts Council and paid for by a grant from the Regional Arts Commission.

## 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 Events and Meetings

- 6/9 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 6/14 TileLink Grand Opening and Dedication. Delmar Station Park-n-Ride Lot, Clemens and Rosedale. 10:00 a.m.
- 6/16 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's MetroLink Advisory Committee. Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/28 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting (combined July/August meeting). Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 8/5 National Night Out Four Corners Park (Kingsbury and DesPeres).

## Other Events of Interest

- now-
- 6/26 Paintings of Ann Lehman, entitled Animals on the Wall, on display at the University City Public Library.
- 6/6-7 The St. Louis Consortium for African American Male Survival and the Prince Hall Family Support Center host a free health fair at the Center, 4411 N. Newstead. Free health screenings will be provided including checks for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol. For information, call 877-2010.
- 6/10 Asha Prem performs Dances of India from 7-8:30pm at the History Museum. Prem and students will demonstrate classical Indian dance techniques that tell traditional folk tales. Free.
- 6/13 Film "The Crucible," 1996, shown at The Saint Louis Art Museum, \$4, 1:30 and 7:30pm.
- 6/17 Hashermesh performs Israel folk music and the Israeli Folk Dancers will lead dance demonstrations at the History Museum from 7-8:30pm. The AALIM Belly Dancers will also appear. Free.
- 6/18 Drug-Free Summer Rally at Mathews-Dickey "Cool Papa" Bell Stadium, 4245 N. Kingshighway, noon to 2pm. Live music from MAJIC 108.
- 6/19-22 Characters & Company present "Oklahoma" at the J.C.C.A. Auditorium. Call 394-7142 for more information.
- 6/27 Film "Mother," 1996, shown at The Saint Louis Art Museum, \$4, 1:30 and 7:30pm.
- 7/24-27 Characters & Company present Grease at the J.C.C.A. Auditorium. Call 394-7142 for more information.

## Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note:

The following letter was sent to the Times on April 10. Since that time, a route for MetroLink expansion has not yet been selected. We are printing edited excerpts from this letter in order to continue the dialogue on this subject. I have never received the flyer referred to by the letters' authors but it is clear that it advocated against the "northern" route for expansion. If a route has not been selected by the end of August we will be happy to print further information on this topic.

Dear neighbors,

Recently, you may have received a flyer published by an anonymous source regarding the proposed MetroLink alignment that is being considered along Forest Park Parkway/Millbrook Boulevard between the existing DeBaliviere station and downtown Clayton.

Our group, "Neighbors for MetroLink," formed to help ensure that the people of our community have access to accurate facts and information about this issue and provide a voice for the great number of people who already support extending MetroLink along this route.

The original study conducted by Sverdrup Civil, Inc. called for the (northern route) to be "below grade" (approximately 20 feet below ground level) along that stretch, except for the area near Des Peres, at which point the alignment was to return to the surface because it was thought that the sewer was only six feet underground, while the minimum desirable vertical clearance for MetroLink is about 16 feet. We have now learned that the top of the sewer is 19 feet below ground, which would allow the line to remain "below grade" for that entire section of the route.

Re the issue of parking and concern over the fact that the proposed stops near Washington University would be "walk-on only" stations. The existing MetroLink alignment successfully mixes both "park and ride" and "walk-on" stations. In fact, several of the most heavily patronized stations have no parking and pose no problems for the surrounding areas. In addition, there are now in excess of 200 unused parking spaces available at the nearby Delmar station. In any instance in which neighborhood street parking becomes a problem, neigh-

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## Winning By A Long Shot St. Roch School's 8th-Grade Boys Win 1997 CYC Basketball Championship

by Kenneth Vanderbeek

In every type of competition, particularly in sports, there are two types of champions: the Goliath and the David. Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, Microsoft and now Tiger Woods are all Goliaths—larger-than-life characters who hold the masses spell-bound by their extraordinary skills—

was one of the area's shortest in this game in which height bears the same relative importance as strength in weigh/lifting. To add to this liability, the prognosticators also insisted that, because of its small 8-player roster (most other teams fielded 10 players or more), St. Roch would often suffer from fatigue or foul trouble. But per-

fect flight... rising, rising along a perfect trajectory.... Swish!

In one game, coincidentally against St. Michael's, the St. Roch boys had landed nearly a dozen 3-point shots in the first half alone—a feat that would envy most NBA players. In another game, Bowe and Imming sank five consecutive treys between them before missing; and in another, Vanderbeek went six for six.

Ever since 6th grade, when St. Roch and St. Michael's had first met at a Chaminade-sponsored tournament—these two teams of contrasting styles—the one fast and short, the other fast and tall—had maintained a respectful, yet intensely competitive, rivalry. Their games were always fast, always physical and usually decided by but a few points—the ball-work, set plays and defenses of each so sophisticated that either team could have matched up well against several high-school squads. Yet, in every one of the nearly dozen meetings between them over the last three years, including five this season before the Final Game—St. Michael's had always prevailed.

To marvel at the Championship Game is to marvel first at how proficiently St. Roch conducted its pre-game warmups. Like hounds in pursuit of the fox, the boys ran their short



Front l-r: Coach Jerry Imming, James Grigsby, Chris Vanderbeek, Mike Bowe. Back l-r: James Wright, David Godar, Andrew Whiteman, Chris Imming. Not pictured: John Rice.

"gifts" the Ancients believed were proffered by the gods.

But it is David, the underdog, who compels us more—Billy Mills, the 1969 New York Mets, Ben & Jerry's, the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team for it is the underdog whose glory is rarely foretold, whose talents are not universally revered and whose power seems to lie in wait: the praying mantis in the black widow's web, the supple filly in a field of colts, "Spud" Webb in the land of giants. The underdog commands our attention because, rather than oversweeping, its power is realized in but one sweeping moment. Not so much God-given, its shining victory is simply magical—the mysterious granted wish of a long, quiet dream.

So it is with the 1997 St. Roch School 8th-grade boys' basketball team.

On the evening of Sunday, April 13, at approximately 7:30 p.m., before a fanatic crowd at St. Louis University, St. Roch, South City District champs, beat the odds and beat top-seeded St. Michael's School of Shrewsbury, South Central County champs, 50-43, to win the 1997 St. Louis CYC Archdiocesan Intermediate Division Basketball Championship. Now, for the rest of their lives, the eight boys who played for Coach Jerry Imming (most of them since 3rd grade)—Mike Bowe, Chris Imming, David Godar, James Grigsby, Chris Vanderbeek, Andrew Whiteman, James Wright and John Rice (unavailable for the championship, but present in spirit), will be able to say that they were not only the best in their field this year in all of St. Louis, but were also the first St. Roch boys' team in any sport to win a CYC championship.

Five months and 44 games earlier, when the 1996-1997 basketball season began in mid-November, the prevailing belief among many opposing coaches and players had been that St. Roch would finish second or third among the five schools that comprise its regular-season league. After all, though team quickness was a proven asset, boy-for-boy the St. Roch squad



A jubilant Coach Jerry Imming (left) accepts the CYC Championship trophy.

haps most significant of all, St. Roch, a "perimeter" team known for its love of the long-range, 3-point shot—the "treys"—would not be able to match up score-for-score with the bigger, stronger teams, who would win inside with higher percentage "short-ups" and layups. In sum (so it was believed), St. Roch would be, at best, a long shot for league or post-season honors.

All season, the St. Roch basketball team lived by the treys—and won by the treys. Game after tense game, often falling behind early, sensing, and usually seeing, little opportunity beneath the basket—which is to say beyond the often gangling, flagging arms of its opponents—the St. Roch boys would, time and again, simply arrange themselves into a protective battery far from harm's reach—at the 3-point arc. And there, they would conduct a clinic.

Spread like medieval infantry, and as if in perpetual game warmup, working the ball one to the other with intermittent quickness and grace, as beautiful as their rainbow shots, they would pliantly taunt the scuttling opposition until, ultimately—the basket seen as like the sun through a dark woods—the ball would suddenly wing into its long, sonic arc: an eagle in

sprints and passing formations, like painters, their fingers seemed to stroke the mesh with their shots, seemingly cocked and released in a unison of waving palms. In looking back, this performance seems now to have been

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## Vicissitudes

### Wilson Gets Silver Medal

Maverine Wilson, competing for the first time in the St. Louis Senior Olympics at Strike-n-Spare Lanes, Lindbergh and Schuetz, received a Silver medal for her efforts.

Wilson, of the 60XX block of Washington, recently retired from her home-based day care service to devote more of her time and energy to bowling.

### Former Resident

#### Terri Robinson

### Performs Well in Georgia

Terri Robinson left Skinker DeBaliviere for DeKalb County, Georgia in 1993. She began running after she moved to Georgia and made the track team. The togetherness of the team made her adjustment to a new home an easier one.

Robinson placed in the state meet in her freshman season, and, as a sophomore, more, was fourth at state in the long jump. As a junior, she won a state championship in the 200 meters and in the long jump. She was second in the 100 meters. As a senior now, her sights are on becoming the top girl performer in the state. Her grandparents, William and Clara Robinson of 58xx DeGiverville are extremely proud of her and the 58xx DeGiverville block unit shares in that pride.



### Neighborhood Attorney Elected to National Board

Marvin Nodiff of 61xx Westminster has been elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Community Associations Institute and has received CAI's top honor for meritorious service in 1996. CAI is the country's only national nonprofit organization that provides education services for leaders of community associations such as condominiums, planned communities and cooperatives. Nodiff is a charter member of

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## Good-bye to All That

A tightening of the credit market, a failed developer, and the toll taken by years of emptiness and exposure to the elements led to the demise of two multifamily buildings on Nina Place. Although a number of people, including the alderman, hoped until the end that it would be possible to save at least one, that hope did not materialize. This demolition leaves four yet to be developed multifamilies that were originally part of the Nina development. Two on the south side of Kingsbury will be probably come down soon; they have deteriorated considerably. The corner buildings at the juncture of Nina, Kingsbury and Hamilton await development and one developer has shown interest. Another developer has proposed infill town houses for Kingsbury. There are also plans for a small park. The site of the two fallen buildings will become additional parking for condominium residents. These residents as well as numerous other neighbors hope that redevelopment can begin again soon so that there will be no boarded-up buildings in Skinker DeBaliviere and a final closure to the saga of Nina Place.

## Adieu to Redel's and a Legacy of Service

by Lana Stein

Most neighbors are no doubt aware that Redel's Restaurant, a feature of our area since 1985, has closed its doors. Many of us will miss the convenience of only traveling a couple of blocks to dine out in pleasant surroundings. In bidding good-bye to the restaurant, I asked co-owner Lee Redel if I could write about its history and his plans for the future.

Redel was the manager of Balaban's from 1979 to 1985. In 1984, he had decided that he didn't want to be in the restaurant business any longer. However, Herb Balaban, the owner, convinced him to stay another year. Redel thought of going back to teaching school or perhaps getting involved in some form of public relations. In early 1985, he gave two months' notice. At the time, John Rice worked at what was then the Pasta House on DeBaliviere. Rice knew that that restaurant was going to close and wanted to open up a different type of restaurant at the location. He approached Redel for whom he had once worked. Redel hesitated and took a little time to travel to 8 or 9 cities. He looked at restaurants in these cities and came away with a concept of a restaurant that could appeal to all people, small people and adults. He saw a restaurant in San Francisco with crayons on the table and drawings on the wall and watched business people coloring during their lunches. He liked the idea of tables covered in paper; it seemed clean, tidy, and European. He decided to transport this idea to the new restaurant, using fat crayons and a specific place to hang drawings.

Redel and Rice decided to offer both little meals and fine meals. A pizza oven was already present on the premises and they could prepare gourmet pizza. Rice had studied architecture and selected a look that utilized from the post-modern to art deco. They contacted local galleries and asked them to hang art on the restaurant walls on a rotating basis. This eventually grew to having the work of 8 artists displayed at any given time. Rice also began to collect antique radios which filled the nooks at Redel's.

Redel said that 12 years ago there weren't many places that offered what this restaurant did. It was busy from the moment it opened its doors. Helen Dancy was the kitchen manager from day one and helped to prepare many of the special dishes at the restaurant. (She is now at Almond's in Clayton.)

As the restaurant's popularity grew and more management could be brought on, that allowed Redel to give to the community, a concept central to his philosophy. He began by doing fundraisers and soon was working on some event every day. He achieved great satisfaction from being part of so many committees. His first solo effort was a benefit on behalf of the Variety Club, an Aerobathon. People sponsored others for every moment that did aerobics. He worked with Diet Pepsi on this event and was pleased that he was able to raise \$18,000 from this one activity. He found out how easy it was to talk to people if you are sincere and the cause is worthy.

Redel then began doing events for the AIDS Foundation that 500 to 1,000 people attended. He learned the organizing aspect and how to work with volunteers, as well as what worked and what did not. He learned whom he could call on for donations. That is more difficult to do today because there are so many more fund-raising events. The more Redel did, the more he was asked to do. He focused on charities of the heart that helped people in need or crisis. And, he enjoyed not focusing on just one organization. He continued to work with the Variety Club, various AIDS organizations, and children's agencies such as the Boys Club of Missouri and Girls Inc. as well as Jewish Hospital. He has helped the Crisis Nursery of Deaconess Hospital which assists kids from birth to age 9 and has raised funds for various food pantries.

These experiences have shown Redel how many people need help from the community. If people can't help by donating money, they can help by volunteering their time. They can make telephone call or work at events. "All you have to do is make a call to a that did aerobics. He worked with Diet

few organizations. You can find one you can relate to."

Right now Redel is working on an event for the Wellness Community which came to St. Louis 4 years ago. He was part of the original planning meeting. The Wellness Community offers services free of charge to cancer victims and their families and helps them to live with the disease. It costs \$300,000 a year to operate. There will be a fund-raiser on June 13 at Grant's Farm.

Redel feels that operating his restaurant "gobbled" him up. It was an every day job with a large staff. The fire at the restaurant four years ago was a turning point for him. They lost 75% of their employees while they rebuilt. They pushed themselves to open within 3 months but they really weren't capable of handling all the customers that arrived when they reopened. The crush continued for weeks. There were 35 new employees and it was very hard to handle the onslaught. It was a great acknowledgment for them but he felt they could not handle the clients the way they used to. He was back to working 80-90 hours a week and he decided that he would have to leave the restaurant business in the next few years. His heart wasn't in it anymore. He continued working with event planning and that was his release.

Redel wanted to walk away in such a manner that he could find jobs for everyone on his staff and owe no money. And, that happened this year. He gave everyone 10 weeks notice

and all of the employees have new positions to their liking to the best of his knowledge. When they decided to close, there were 43 staffers; on their last day there were 19 and people worked double and triple shifts. He couldn't pass up having an event as their finale. The last two days after the official closing they raised money for AIDS organizations and Food Outreach. Some of the famous crayon drawings were sold for \$1000. Redel told me that the phone he maintained for restaurant patrons had a box by it and asked users to donate 25 cents. Each year the proceeds would go to a particular charity and that raised \$1000 per year for various causes such as Stella Maris, St. Louis Food Bank, the AIDS Foundation, Food Outreach, etc.

Redel will continue to work on events and may become an events planner. He is excited about plans for an event in the Fall of 1998, "We All Live in a Yellow Submarine" for the AIDS Foundation of St. Louis. Drawings used to make this Beatles movie will be auctioned off; they were donated by Herb and Adelaide Balaban. Redel also plans to travel, visit with friends, learn to relax, and to read. For the first time in 18 years he was able to take his mother out on Mother's Day.

Redel's of course will be missed—for its convenience, for its range of fare, for many good times. And for good deeds too. Lee Redel will not be idle and his fondest wish is that more people would join him in volunteering in our community.

### Talayna's to Change Location

As many readers know, Parkview Properties purchased the Arthur Building on Skinker at the Forest Park Parkway which has housed Talayna's restaurant for many years. Mike Faille, who had owned the building as well as the restaurant, in turn purchased Redel's from Lee Redel and John Rice. Faille also bought the former service station just north of the Redel's site. He plans some expansion to the restaurant facility and to use the additional site for parking. He plans to open Talayna's at the Park in late summer. He has applied for a full liquor license at this site; he only had a license for beer and wine on Skinker. Some immediate neighbors have voiced opposition to his plans and he has met on two occasions with the SDCC. If you have questions about this, call the SDCC at 862-5122.

# McPherson Community Vegetable Garden Well Underway

by Andy Cross

Last fall I attended a meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden about a variety of grants available for neighborhood beautification projects. Ruth Beckloff and Gwen Lazard of the 59xx block of McPherson also attended this meeting and expressed interest in the idea of applying for a grant for a community vegetable garden.

At the next beautification committee meeting, we presented the grant possibilities and began gathering gardeners. Ruth and Gwen later introduced me to Chris Manzo, a soon-to-be architect, who also lives on 59xx McPherson, and Chris began recruiting gardeners.

I drew up pages and pages of drawings and designs for the garden, and brought them to Chris, who transferred the site layout to computer for cleaner and easier reproductions. Laure Porterfield of the SDCC helped us find a location for the garden, coincidentally on the 59xx block of McPherson, a vacant double lot 125 feet by 125 feet. She received permission from the owner for us to use the lot in exchange for keeping it clean and mowed. We can use this lot until it is developed.

We received a grant from Gateway Greening (formerly Gateway to Gardening). The grant included lumber for 48 raised beds, wood chips, soil, tools, hoses, design help, even plants! Kathy Bosin and Erin Brubaker of Gateway Greening have been helping us build our garden; Erin even has a plot with us.

The neighbors of Skinker DeBaliviere have done an incredible job building this garden. Every Saturday for the past two months a big group of hard-working men, women, and children have come to the McPherson Community Vegetable Garden. They have moved mountains of soil and wood chips, and, side by side, have helped build raised beds, often for neighbors they haven't met yet, saying "If we build it, they will come."

And they have come. We have over 52 raised beds, some with mul-



Andy Cross and Chris Manzo, organizers of the McPherson Community Garden Project.



Urban Gardeners pause to pose for a picture to record the progress of their labors.

tipled gardens, two for St. Roch School, and a growing waiting list for plots. Some gardeners come to the site to work and aren't even asking for a vegetable plot; they simply want to help out.

In the center of all of our vegetable activity, we have created a butterfly

garden, an octagon with a terraced eight point star, that was created with reclaimed lumber. The butterfly garden is surrounded by a sunflower garden, also made of reclaimed lumber.

Come take a look at what your hard-working, green-thumbed neighbors have created. They have done a wonderful job.

VICISSITUDES  
continued from p. 3

CAI's College of Community Association Lawyers and a founding member of the St. Louis Chapter. He will serve this year as chair of CAI's public policy committee. He also has been selected as editor of a new legal publication, the Journal of Community Association Law.

## Forslund Becomes Professor

Catherine Forslund, past president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and longtime beautification committee member, received a Ph.D. in history at the May commencement of Washington University. She wrote her dissertation on Anna Chennault, a practitioner of informal diplomacy and a key participant in the October 1968 attempts to have the South Vietnamese join the Paris peace talks. Forslund spent time conducting research in Washington, D.C. and Taiwan and also visited the Ford and Johnson presidential libraries. During the course of her research, she became acquainted with William Bundy and Jules Witcover, other authors writing about the same period.

Forslund has been heavily involved in neighborhood activities for over a decade as has her husband, Roy Roncal. However, her presence will soon be missed because she has accepted a teaching position at Misericordia College in Dallas, Pennsylvania. However, she leaves us with many memories of shared activities and a record of improvements to Skinker DeBaliviere.

## Longtime Resident Raymond Shields, Jr. Passes Away

On April 30, 1997, Ray Shields, Jr., a resident of the 6100 block of Westminster for approximately three decades, died. Ray was well known as an auto mechanic who loved racing cars and restoring vintage cars. He and his wife, Gwendolyn Berry, raised their family here and have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. We extend our sympathy to the Shields family.

## Letter to the Editor

Continued from page 2

neighborhoods across the country, including some near Washington University, have instituted permit systems to control unwanted vehicles.

Efficient connectivity between employment and activity centers is the secret to high ridership. The northern route directly connects 95,000 jobs in downtown St. Louis with 8,000 jobs in Midtown; 21,000 jobs at the BJC Hospitals/Washington University Medical Center, 8,000 jobs at Washington University's hilltop campus and 30,000 jobs in Clayton. This route will provide residents of Skinker DeBaliviere with direct high speed access to all of these destinations. Fifty-three percent of current MetroLink riders use the system to go to work each day.

According to Sverdrup, the line will be constructed in a manner that preserves both the alley behind Lindell and the alley behind Pershing without taking any back yards. The northern route would serve a greater ridership at a lower cost, take no homes to be built, and can be constructed now with the local funds available.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Patterson  
Joe Edwards  
Co-chairs, Neighbors for MetroLink

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Delmar meeting by King Schoenfeld
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Terri Robinson from DeKalb Extra
- Page 4: Demolition by Lana Stein
- Page 5: Community Garden by Lana Stein and Andy Cross
- Page 6: St. Roch's Championship by Kenneth Vanderbeek

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**CHAMPIONSHIP**

Continued from p. 3

a significant foreshadowing. For even at their best before, the boys had never appeared so ready for a game. "Psyched!" one of my generation might have described them 20 years ago. "In a zone!" these boys might have proclaimed that day.

Within three minutes of the game's tip-off, this good omen turned to proof.

Having built an 11-7 lead-ironically, largely on short-range shots and layups-and thanks to solid team passing and the strong forward defense of Imming, Whiteman and Wright-St. Roch suddenly converged into a full-court "trap" defense.

Says Coach Imming, "We knew if we set a fast pace, they might try to set a faster one. So, rather than assign one player to the opponent with the ball, we assigned two, the strategy being to box them out-take them out of their inside game."

The strategy paid dividends almost immediately, turning St. Michael's up-tempo into turnovers. Within minutes of St. Roch's initiating the full-court press, Bowe, Grigsby, Imming, Vanderbeek and Wright all stole St. Michael's passes. Between them, Imming and Whiteman blocked four St. Michael's shots. "We simply rattled them-forced them to make mistakes," says Coach Imming. "Any momentum they may have started the game with, they lost before the middle of the first quarter, and never fully regained."

Before first quarter's end, St. Michael's had turned the ball over some half dozen times, and St. Roch was winning the pace game. More significant, the team was matching St.



At the buzzer, the celebration begins.

Michael's point-for-point at its own game-scoring more short-range baskets than long-. Bowe, Imming and Vanderbeek, the team's most consistent 3-point shooters during the regular season, dribbled and passed with relative ease through St. Michael's usually stalwart baseline defense. Godar and Whiteman, alone, combined for 10 points inside, or just beyond, the key. Remarkably-perhaps less so to the St. Roch players than to their coach and the dozens of gaping supporters in the stands-the team led by half a dozen points at intermission, despite having attempted half as many treys as usual.

"The wonderful thing," says Coach Imming, "is that the boys consciously cut down their 3-point attempts in favor of a more disciplined attack. Even for the greatest 3-point-shooting teams, this shot will always be risky. The boys worked on reducing risk-

getting the ball inside, taking the higher percentage shot. They knew they had to do this to win."

Though its inside scoring increased in the second half, St. Michael's could not solve the riddle of St. Roch's own continuous successes "down deep." The closest the County Goliath got to the City David was five points; otherwise, with ease St. Roch matched St. Michael's bucket-for-bucket. At one point, St. Roch amassed a 12-point lead. In the end, it won by seven.

"Unbelievable!" whooped a beaming James Wright after the victory.

"Like a wonderful dream!" noted one of the parents.

"One out of six-that's how many games we beat St. Michael's this year," said David Godar. "But it's this one that counts!"

"Quite a story, isn't it," mused Coach Imming afterwards, too drained by joy to yet fully comprehend what his team had accomplished.

In years to come, in all the reflections and recountings of "The One," it may perhaps be remembered most that what felled Goliath in April, 1997, was not the long-arcing projectiles of a sling-shot, but a beautifully crafted flurry of perfectly placed punches...in close.

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**SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Neighborhood participation in many beautification projects contributes to this committee's ongoing success. Some recent efforts include: A wildflower garden planted on the slopes by the Metrolink tracks near Washington and DesPeres. Weeds were removed, trash picked up, soil prepared, and seeds planted by Jane Bunten, Jesse and Marian Simms, Gene and Andy Cross. The grant for this project came from Operation BrightSide, with seeds provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The grant was applied for by Julie Schoemehl. Thank you to Mary Lou Green for her help with this project.

Kiki and Juan Chavez and their family planted flowers at St. Roch School's "forest" at Washington and DesPeres. Some of the plants were provided by the Great Perennial Divided. The Chavez family also provided plants.

Michelle Pike and friends planted around the parking lot at Skinker and Westminster. Plants were provided by the Great Perennial Divide.

Mary Ann Rudloff and Catherine Forslund planted flowers at the Pershing pocket park. More Great Perennial Divide plants were supplemented by Mary Ann, the project coordinator.

Thanks to all who helped weed and plant at the Four Corners on Blitz Day, and to all who helped on Blitz Day projects. SDCC staffer Juanita Wood and her family coordinated the hot dogs and sodas at Four Corners Park (thanks to Parkview Properties for providing the dogs!) Special thanks to Michael Butler, 58XX DeGiverville, for personally delivering several truck loads of mulch to Four Corners for neighbors to use on Blitz Day.

We really need help watering the plants at Four Corners during the long hot days of summer. There is a sign-up list at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office... maybe you would like to volunteer to keep these flowers alive. If you sign up for a week, and water 3 times, it will only take one hour and fifteen minutes of your time - about 25 minutes per watering. The hose cart and key to our water source are available at the Council office.

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## HAMILTON SPOTLIGHT

by Betsy King

This month's spotlight is a year-end wrap up. We have had another exciting, successful school year at Hamilton and we are looking forward to an equally great summer at the Hamilton Summer Academy.

This year we had the second annual Drug Free Parade as the culminating activity for the Drug Free Schools Unit. The entire student body, staff, and many Hamilton parents paraded down Delmar to DeBaliviere, over to DeGiverville and back to school. Each class carried anti-drug banners and the students chanted slogans as they walked. The parade was led by the Hamilton and Stowe Middle School Cheerleaders and the Soldan International Studies Band.

Third grade room 212 finished the Federal Banking Program through UMSL's Economic Education Department. The students learned the history of banks and currency in the United States. They discovered that dollar bills are made from cloth instead of being made from wood pulp like the paper they use in school, and they simulated the money making process. The program was a great success.

Rooms 019, 206A and 206B concluded their Classroom Scouting year with a trip to Adventure Days at Camp Beaumont. The focus of the day was

Our American Heritage. The students have enjoyed the experience of participating in scouts this year through the Girl Scout and Boy Scout Council of America.

Since Memorial Day the students and teachers at Hamilton have been showing school spirit on Crazy Clothes Days Polka Dot Day, Hat Day, Blue Jean Day (even for the teachers!) and other days featuring unusual attire. June 13th was Smile Day in honor of summer vacation!

May 30 was the Hamilton Carnival, which was held inside this year due to (what else?) tile rain. Hamilton students and their families enjoyed game books, pica, popcorn, cotton candy and, the annual favorite, the Moon Bouncer.

June 4 was the Talent Show, which was organized by Hamilton Parent Liaison and Skinker DeBaliviere Community member Ms. Kathryn Williams. Talent acts included tumbling, jumping rope, dancing playing the piano, and lots of singing. Congratulations to our budding stars. Other end-of-year events at Hamilton were the Sock Hop and the annual Awards Day Ceremony.

The Hamilton Summer Academy will begin on June 23. This program is for students entering grades 1-5. It offers summer enrichment through accelerated, literacy-based learning. The literacy-based activities will incorporate traditional Language Arts and math skills in a non-traditional format. In addition to the Summer Academy, Hamilton E.C.E.C. offers Summer Camp through the Community Education Office. This is the second year for the Summer Academy, and we are looking forward to another fantastic Summer.

*This space would be perfect for your ad.*

*See page 2, lower left for more information.*

## WORK ON THE TUNNEL HAS BEGUN

Construction recently began on the Upper River Des Peres-Skinker-McCausland tunnel. This new tunnel will intercept sanitary sewage from the University City area near Vernon and Pennsylvania and carry these flows southward four miles under Skinker, Forest Park, and McCausland. There they will enter the foulwater interceptor sewer just south of Arsenal. The tunnel will vary in depth between 40 and 170 feet below the surface. There will be no work on the tunnel on Skinker in our neighborhood. However, there will be work just north of Delmar and at two sites in Forest Park adjacent to Skinker.

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## Minutes of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting of April 14, 1997

### Executive Directors Report

There are two big events coming up. Operation BrightSide will be May 3, 1997. The Delmar Development Grant committee meeting will be May 5, 1997 at Grace Methodist Church. An item of concern is the change of ownership of Redel's Restaurant. Mike Faille currently holds a wine and beer license with a 1:30 a.m. closing time. At the new location he has applied for a full serve liquor license and a 1:30 p.m. close. DeBaliviere Place residents are very concerned about this. Forms have been obtained from the Excise Commissioner's Office, to initiate a letter protest, however no action has been taken at this time. Does the Council want to initiate a letter of protest? The letter of protest should be submitted before our next board meeting. In order to start that process, ten signatures of residents within a 350 ft radius would be needed. The ten signatures would get us to a hearing. It was decided by the board to invite Mike Faille to a special board meeting on Monday April 21, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. All affected neighbors will be invited. A letter of protest will be sent to the Excise Commissioner. Some commercial property owners are ready to protest.

### Finance Report

Are we behind on contributions? No we are not. Parkview was left off list of contributions in error. The amount is \$500.00. A correction was made to justify the end of month balance for February and beginning balance for March so that they agree.

Sara Johnson requested an update on the search for a new employee, and CDA Funds Ann Smith Carr reported that four candidates have been interviewed. One candidate stood head and shoulders above the others; a salary and benefits package has to be negotiated. It was moved by Greg Freeman and seconded by Ruth Johnson to accept the treasurer's report.

### Metro Link Advisory Committee

Paul Hohman reported that there is an on-going problem with word of mouth information and updates. It has been determined that mass mailings

of information are not feasible. Our committee wants to make objective information available. This information will be collected and left at the council office for the neighborhood. Another objective is how the committee can become involved with the design process for the chosen route, and anything that affects our neighborhood. Short term goal: to prepare informational spread for June issue of The Times. Susan Littlefield volunteered to request information from the East-West Gateway committee on how to get involved with decision making process and get more objective information. There was a discussion about MSD's findings regarding the sewer measurement, reported in the April 7, 1997 St. Louis Post Dispatch. Dan Schesch gave a presentation on the Green Route/Tunnel Route. The Historic Neighborhoods group canceled their presentation for this meeting but will reschedule at another time. He suggested that the Board contact the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and request written information on the Northern Route with reference to the DesPeres area (underneath). One unresolved issue is parking if there is a MetroLink Station at Milbrook and Skinker. No formal motion was made. Another unresolved issue is the ridership controversy comparing the northern route vs the hybrid route. There was a brief discussion after the presentation. President Gary Hayes reiterated that the council is not, at this point, taking a position on the Metro Link issue.

### Neighborhood Committee Reports

A. Residential Development  
1. Apartment Owners-Meeting coming up  
2. Community Fund - There is an application on hand from St. Roch. Commercial Development Committee - Lana Stein brought greetings from former NSO Jackie Wellington. Delmar Business Owners - no report

### Neighborhood Services

Arthelda Busch reported that the residents on her block have asked why houses are not put up for sale before the Housing Corporation acquires

them and how does it benefit the neighborhood for the Housing Corporation to purchase houses? The Housing Corporation was said to be a developer of last resort, when sales have not taken place. They purchase buildings to keep speculators from purchasing them.

### Beautification

Barricade at Westminster: two more posts have been put up at the block captain's request. Andy Cross is still trying to get plant box on Westminster. New reflectors for chain barricades will be requested. A committee is working on improving the lot on Washington and DesPeres though they did not get Grant for pocket park at Pershing and DesPeres or Washington and DesPeres. Did get grant from Gateway Greening Inc. for \$4,500 in materials and equipment for vegetable garden on vacant lots in the 5900 block of McPherson. Two thirds of the raised beds are in place. The volunteers are great. Flowers will be planted in front of the garden. Also succeeded in planting some of the Nature Natuescaping wildflowers received in an earlier grant.

### Recreation

Summer Fun News letter will be coming soon. The Kite Festival was postponed until April 19th, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Block Captains

Mrs. Anna Busch reported concerns in the 57XX block of Pershing. Mrs. Donetta Kee had concerns regarding some activity occurring recently near her home.

### West End Arts Council

The opening for the Delmar Station MetroLink walk is forthcoming. The tentative date is May 24, 1997. Flora the Elephant has been invited to attend.

### Parkview

Election of officers will be May 19, 1997. A questionnaire will go out to the Parkview neighborhood regarding MetroLink.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

*In Attendance: President Gary Hayes, Directors Arthelda Busch, Greg Freeman, Helen Floros, Ronie Haliburton, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Ruth Johnson, Sara Johnson, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Rev. Miki Merritt, Shirley Polk, Lana Stein; Guests: Anna Busch, Donetta Key, Sgt. Terry McDermott, Dan Schesch, Thurtene Carnival Representatives, Executive Director Laure Porterfield. Absent: Jane Geiler, Jack Wright, Lara Doyle, Julie Schoemehl. Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Gary Hayes.*

### Welcome and Introductions

President Gary Hayes introduced two representative of Carnival Thurtene at Washington University. The carnival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, 1997, on the Washington University campus. The proceeds this year will go to the Cornerstone Center for Early Learning, which is a charity organization. Entry is free, and tickets can be purchased for activities. Security will be well maintained at the event.

### Security

Sgt. Terry McDermott of District 7 reported on street robberies: the person responsible for about thirteen robberies (mostly on DeBaliviere) has been caught. These were street robberies and a couple were armed. Larceny from vehicles: there were ten incidents in the West End area. The statistics from last year are similar to this year. Residents were advised not to leave items visible in their automobiles, and to report any suspicious activity. Question: Have there been reports of stolen bicycles? There were no reports of this problem. A Pershing Ave. resident inquired about a problem at 5750 Pershing Ave.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting could not be approved at the March meeting due to lack of a quorum. The minutes from February and April will be voted on at the May meeting. It was moved by Arthelda Busch and seconded by Greg Freeman to accept the March notes as corrected.

# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

For a few months we have a break from being exposed to grown men losing their tempers, fistfights breaking out, wrestling become a way to settle disputes, needless blood and broken bones, and displays of poor sportsmanship. Yep, that means hockey season is over. Thank goodness.

I don't get it. True, to be fair, there are many other things which I don't get. I don't get, for example, why the folks who built the MetroLink ticket machines can't design one that is readable. I don't want to think about how many times have I missed the train because someone ahead of me couldn't figure out how to purchase a ticket. Indeed, how many times have I missed the train because I couldn't figure out how to purchase a ticket? And I don't get why all the cable t.v. channels don't result in better t.v. I have 50+ channels from which to choose but there's never anything good to watch. But most, I don't get hockey.

I mean, what's the fascination with a game which is really less a test of skill and style and more a test of which team has the most bullies? The eminent philosopher, Rodney Dangerfield, said it best, "I went to a prize fight and a hockey game broke out!"

The NHL (National Hurt League) could put a stop to this if it wished, of course. But then their attendance would plummet. There's never been a league that did a better job of stooping to the level of its audience, unless it was the folks who ran the Rome colosseum in Nero's times. Come to think of it, I'm surprised that the NHL hasn't tried Christians vs. Lions. They probably considered this but couldn't get the lions to skate.

Fighting is clearly what brings in the fans. Whereas both pro and college basketball are the rage, college hockey, same sport only no fighting, isn't very popular. Now if the college kids were allowed to bludgeon one another in the midst of a hockey game, I'm sure that college hockey would be on ESPN I too.

But who am I to argue with success? Given that fighting is the draw, why don't we carry that model over to other endeavors? Giving the public what they want is, after all, the key to success. Here are my recommendations to some local businesses, using the formulae that makes the NHL great.

*Fight Night at McDonald's!* The McDonald's crews are selected not only for their ability to fry a burger or pour a Coke, but also for their fighting abilities. Pulling hair and nose-punching becomes a desired employee skill. The staff is trained so that any time a fish sandwich and quarter-pounder are ordered simultaneously, a fight breaks out at the salad bar. The person who took the fish order is instructed to blindside a soda server. After 90 seconds of hitting and kicking, the crew chief intervenes and sends both parties to the drive-up window for a 3-minute penalty.

*Wrestlemania at Library Ltd!* The cashiers are trained to punch any book-stacker in the nose if a book is stacked in anything less than perfect alphabetical order. Since most of the staff knows their alphabet quite well, fights are also encouraged between those who specialize in fiction and those who favor non-fiction. On Sundays, the staff who reads Michael

Crichton books squares off against those who read Susan Isaacs. They tried having fights between those who read Tom Clancy and those who read Harold Robbins but no one would admit to reading Harold Robbins.

*Dukin' It at The Drewes!* The crew serving concretes at Ted Drewes simply hates those who specialize in sundaes. Hair pulling — while still wearing caps to adhere to hygiene laws — is encouraged. A fight among the servers is likely to break out any time someone orders a TerraMizzou concrete while someone else is ordering a pineapple sundae. If anyone orders double-chocolate sundaes, a fight and their complexion will break out.

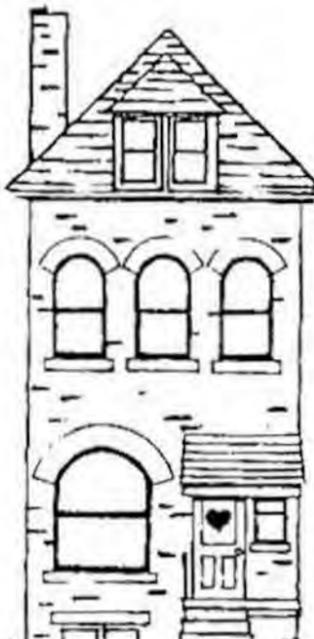
*Fisticuffs at the St. Louis Aldermanic Session!* Everyone, from the mayor to the aldermen, has agreed that if anything that sounds reasonably intelligent is said by any of the aldermen or alderwomen, a fight will immediately break out in the aldermanic chambers. To date, no fights have been recorded.

Hey, whaddya mean, you don't think this column was interesting? Oh

yeah?!? Now that we know what works, let's step outside and do it! As they used to say in the Batman comics, "BAM, POW, SLUG!"

  
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