

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 29 No. 1

April 1998

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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## Bi-State Seeks Public Views on Enhancing Forest Park MetroLink Station

*Arts in Transit project to develop design of parking facility and study feasibility of transit-oriented development*

by M.A. Rudloff

Neighborhood residents, business people, and transit riders met at Crossroads School on March 19, 1998, to exchange views and discuss options for enhancing the Forest Park MetroLink station. This was the first of a series of community planning sessions sponsored by Bi-State Development Agency (BSDA) and Arts in Transit (AIT), its community partnership program.

BSDA has announced its intention to develop a permanent parking facility on the site of the existing 200-vehicle park-and-ride lot located west of the station. Working with a team of consultants, BSDA and AIT have undertaken a study to develop design concepts and to determine the feasibility of a market based transit-oriented development in the area around the station. The intent is to create a collaborative approach that encourages citizen involvement.



Photo by King Schloppert

...ative approach that encourages citizen involvement.

Sarah B. Smith, Director of AIT, opened the March 19 meeting, citing the desire to assure that the parking facility and any related enhancements are of the highest quality design, contribute positively to the neighborhood,

improve pedestrian links between the station and the surrounding community, and complement the planned improvements in Forest Park and at the Missouri Historical Society. Smith informed the group in attendance that AIT/BSDA has a budget of approximately \$3 million for this project.

The lead consultant in the planning process is MackeyMitchell Associates, a St. Louis based architectural firm with experience working in this neighborhood. CLG Enterprises, represented at the meeting by Carol Gossett, will provide expertise in market development and financial planning. Catalyst Public Relations, represented by Myrtle Bailey, will be responsible for community input. AIT has also selected artist Tad Savinar to be a member of this collaboration.

Representing MackeyMitchell at the March 19 meeting was architect Carlene Nolan-Pederson. Nolan-Pederson provided an overview of transit-oriented development (TOD), which she defined as a mixed use community comprising residential, retail, office and public open space within an average 10 to 15 minute walk of a transit stop. She presented a short video "Transit Stop Opportunities" to illustrate some of the features of a successful TOD. In such a development, a transit station and the associated commercial area serves as a neighborhood focal point,

*Continued on page 4.*

## Neighborhood Playground Project Takes Shape

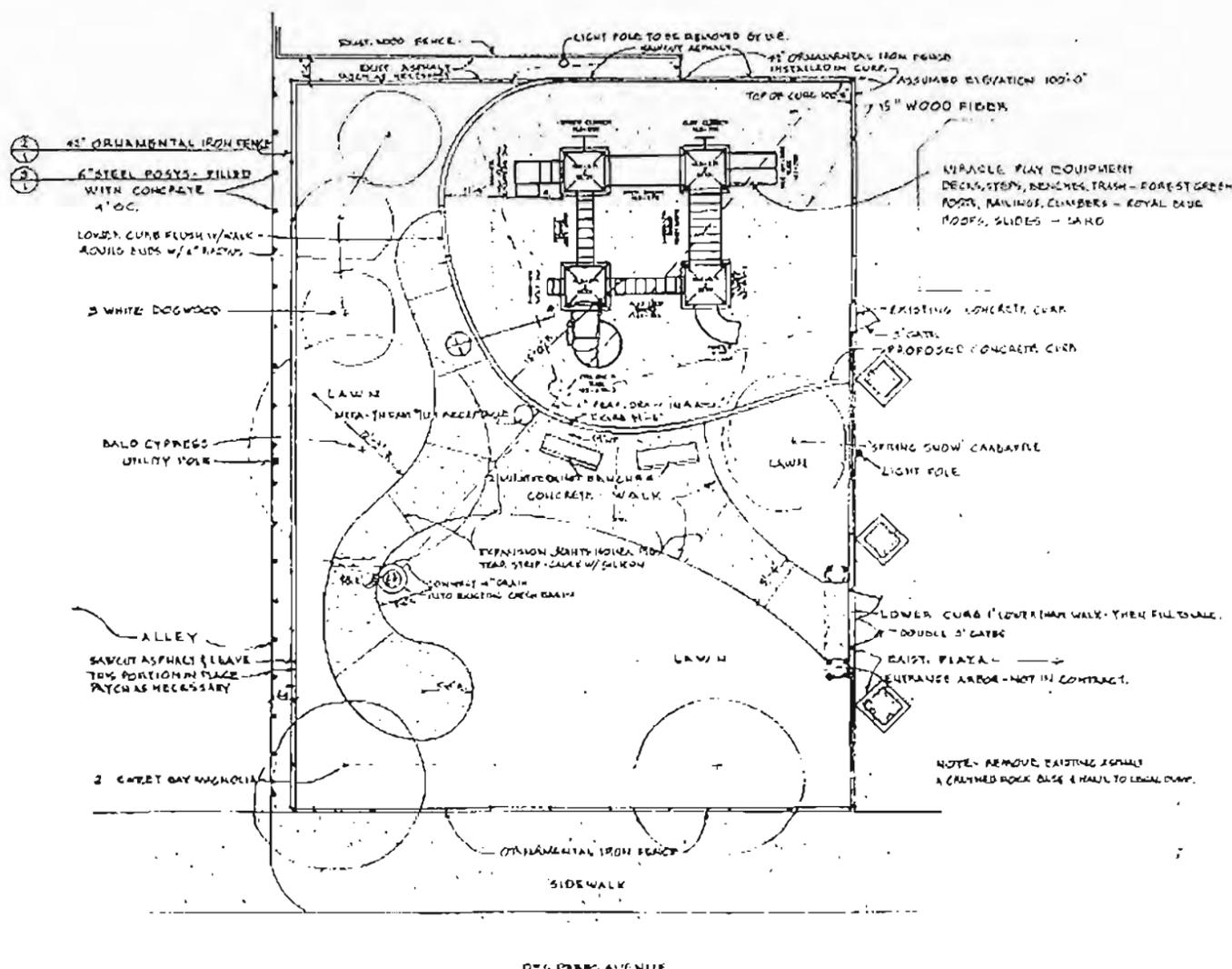
by Katrina Stierholz

The playground project continues to move forward. If you missed the notice in the last paper, the playground committee has been reactivated and is working to complete the playground planned but not funded in 1995 and to be installed next to Four Corners Park, at the site of the current parking lot. The street remains available for parking along DesPeres (in case you were wondering).

We had construction drawings made, and have received bids for the project. Our budget is \$66,333 plus a one-time assessment for a maintenance fund by the Parks Department. The project includes removing the asphalt, installing a concrete path, playground equipment, an iron fence around the site, and landscaping the lot. A copy of the drawing (in detail) and the specs are available at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, if you are interested in seeing the plans.

Our next major task is to find funding for the work. Grants are being written and submitted. Many funders require matching funds or a "challenge" grant and so we will be coming to the community for support. The playground committee will next meet on

April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office. We will discuss the community fundraising component of the project. If you would be interested in helping raise funds for the playground, please feel free to come to the meeting. If you have any suggestions for grant-giving sources of funding please call Laure Porterfield at 862-5122 or Katrina Stierholz 863-0965 with your idea.



# Editor's Notebook

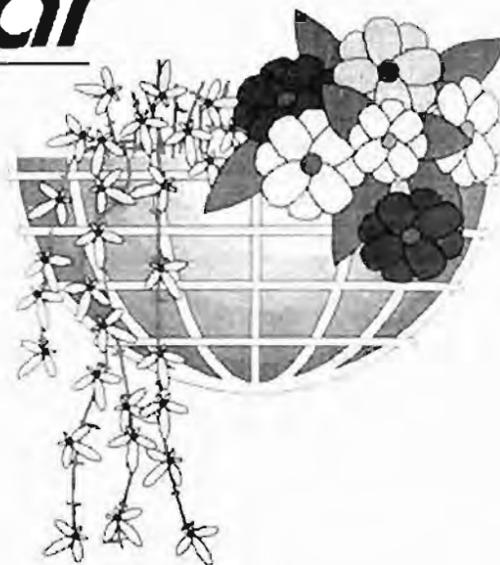
by Lana Stein

A neighbor reminded me recently of some of the minor indignities that still accompany city living. For a long time, I have been aware that some of our county brethren consider us either brave or foolhardy to live where we do. Aren't you afraid, they might ask or they inquire if it is safe to park their relatively new vehicles outside our homes. Of course, the 10:00 p.m. news does not help in painting a positive picture. I used to refer to such broadcasts as "murder of the night" reports. In the case of Skinker DeBaliviere, this neighborhood was once a good deal less stable than it is today. Thanks to the dedication of a number of residents, today we have made tremendous strides and are the envy of many other city neighborhoods. Crime is relatively low and our homes appreciate in value.

Yet, many—even in close vicinity—seem unaware of what our neighborhood is actually like. I was miffed to learn of a nearby restaurant that will not deliver pizza to Skinker DeBaliviere. Safety was apparently a factor. Another restaurant within the city limits would not do so either; it is shuttered. Several chains do deliver without problems. Perhaps decision makers at the restaurant which recently refused delivery are unaware of the genuine attributes of Skinker DeBaliviere and also of a growing population of students, usually frequent pizza eaters. A restaurant staffer said that his employer won't deliver in zip code 63112. That zip code takes in a very large area. Just as I would say to any insurer, the neighborhoods within vary significantly. Come take a look at us. Look at the stats for Skinker DeBaliviere. Don't redline. Irate residents in the Hunters Point area of San Francisco forced certain delivery services to re-examine their indiscriminate redlining and to judge on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. I echo their sentiments. It is especially irritating to see discriminatory behavior on the part of entrepreneurs located less than a mile away. As the song goes, "When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?"

# Calendar

## Neighborhood Events and Meetings



- 4/4 Beautification Committee, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/6 MetroLink Advisory Committee, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 4/7 7<sup>th</sup> District Public Affairs Meeting, North Area Command 4014 North Union Blvd., 7:00 p.m.
- 4/8 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 4/13 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 4/16 Delmar Wabash Link Business Association, BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE, Central West End Bank, 415 DeBaliviere, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 4/22 Playground Committee, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/2 Operation Brightside Blitz Day ALL DAY!!! Neighborhood - Wide Cleanup
- 5/11 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/12 Forest Park MetroLink Community Meeting, Peoples Health Center, 5701 Delmar, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/20 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 5/21 Delmar Business Association, location t.b.a., 12:00 noon

## Other Events of Interest

- 4/12 The Laclede Quartet performs works of Haydn, Vivaldi, and Strauss and the Saint Louis Art Museum at 2:30pm. Free.
- 4/18-19 1904 World's Fair Family Weekend at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. Free. 10am-4pm. Crafts for children, storytelling, slide shows and artifact show-and-tell sessions, dance performances. Sunday only from noon to 4pm there will be trolley car tours that explore areas in Forest Park where World's Fair landmarks were located and show what is there now.
- 4/30 Urban Forum presents "Play Ball! Amateur Sports in the Metro Area." At Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center Auditorium at 7pm. Free.
- 6/13 Faces of Love Show at Powell Hall with Tony Award winner Melba Moore. This show highlights the conflicts, pain and challenges of love in its many forms with a special segment about the unique historical relationship between native Americans and African Americans. For information, contact Lisa Ward at 721-6556.

## State Senator Clay Tackles the Schools

State Senator William L. (Lacy) Clay, Jr. recently chaired the legislature's Ad Hoc Committee on School Improvement. This committee issued its report on February 16. The senator also initiated a community engagement process that included several town hall meetings throughout the community where parents, teachers, school administrators and other stakeholders could express their views.

The committee focused on four areas: governance and accountability, student performance, alternative school models, and professional development. The recommendations include:

- abolishing the St. Louis Board of Education for four years
- placing governance in the hands of the State Board of Education
- in 2002, a 7-member board will be elected from subdistricts and regain jurisdiction
  - the State Board of Education will select a Chief Executive Officer for a 5-year term to replace the current superintendent
  - the position of Accountability Officer will be created, reporting to the CEO, and having broad responsibility for connecting internal and external resources that are related to student achievement and school success
  - a professional development plan will be established for principals, teachers, and support staff, and will be updated annually

The floor substitute containing the major planks of the committee report is now being debated. Senator Clay is confident that these changes will be adopted by the legislature during this session. Senator is a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere. For additional information, he may be reached at 573-751-2229 at the state capitol or at 721-8582, his district office.

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## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: Lois Schoemehl  
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The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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### 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.

# Improvements to Delmar Presented to the Community

by Lana Stein

On February 5, a multi-faceted consultant team presented area residents a preview of planned modifications to Delmar from DeBaliviere to the University City Loop. The purpose is to make the area more friendly to businesses seeking new locations and to pedestrians.

Various methods will be employed to narrow the unusually wide thoroughfare. Architect George Johannes asked that people think of the Wabash Station as the catalyst in this plan. It will be the central anchor that will draw energy from the recent developments to the east and also from the Loop to the west. Running east from the station will be a landscaped median. This median provides linkage to the area east of De Baliviere and should make the street more user friendly to potential shoppers, including pedestrians from our neighborhood. Johannes noted that there are solid anchors at Delmar and DeBaliviere. A recently expanded People's Clinic and a Social Security office have joined the Bi-State facility. In addition, Gary Robertson constructed a new building several years ago on the south side of the street and recently acquired new property that is now home to the St. Louis Rib Company. Johannes envisions a blend of existing buildings and uses and possibly the addition of larger retail facilities such as a drug store in this eastern section.



To the west of the station, the consultants hope that the energy of the Loop will merge toward that of the station. On this part of Delmar, sidewalks will be expanded to allow room for outdoor dining and more extensive landscaping. A new parking lot will be built by the city treasurer's office on the northern side of the 61xx block.

All of Delmar will be more intensively landscaped and appropriate street furniture will be placed at various intervals.

The consulting team and decision makers from the city, University City, Bi-State, and nearby neighborhoods are now putting their touches on plans to implement Delmar's new look. The planning effort and initial implementation are being paid for by a grant received jointly by the city and University City from the state of Missouri. Monies stem from federal funds the state received to enhance intermodal transportation. Further funds are now being sought to complete the construction contemplated.

Featured on this page are drawings showing Delmar looking east from the station and also looking west.



## Open Houses Planned at Bi-State Facilities

On April 1, Bi-State Development Agency celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> year of operation. To commemorate the event, Bi State is scheduling open houses at its various facilities on upcoming Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. On April 18, for example, people may visit the Metrolink Yard and Shops at 700 South Ewing. On May 16, the DeBaliviere Service Area Facility at DeBaliviere and Delmar will be open to the public. The open houses are designed to show visitors the many tasks associated with running a transit system.

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# United Grace Methodist Women Plan Busy Spring Agenda

The United Grace Methodist Women sponsor Tuesday luncheon programs. Each Tuesday program begins with devotions in the chapel at 11:30am at the church which is at the corner of Waterman and Skinker. Lunch follows at 12:00 noon and costs \$3.00. The program begins at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome; please call 863-1992 for a reservation. On April 7, Jackie Asher will provide a portrait of Susannah Wesley. April 14 is the Prime Timers Update. On April 21, Virginia Howard speaks about the history of the development of British gardens. Circle meetings occur on April 28. On May 5, the Spring Luncheon will be held at University UMC, 6901 Washington in U City. Mary Stiritz will speak about St. Louis' historic churches and synagogues. Call 863-8055 for reservations for the Spring Luncheon. On May 19, there will be a picnic at Lee Elsesser's, 6105 Lindell at 6:00pm. Bring a dish to share. Harley Day, magician, provides the program.

Continued from page 1

with safe, direct and pleasant pedestrian connections; a plaza or village green for community activities; building entries and windows facing onto street and walks; and reduced functional and aesthetic dominance of parking.

Through facilitated small group discussion, the participants in this first community planning session offered the following suggestions:

Restore and revitalize the DeBaliviere streetscape through storefront, street-level commercial development, to include such businesses and services as a post office substation, bicycle rental and repair, florist, coffee shop, newsstand, MetroRide Center, gym or fitness center, and Forest Park visitor's information center.

Increase pedestrian and vehicular safety by 1) extending the MetroLink platform west of DeBaliviere below street level, and adding stairs and an elevator from the commuter parking lot; 2) enlarging shelters and creating bus pull-in areas; and 3) adding clearly marked crosswalks on DeBaliviere.

Improve parking for commuters. Options include: 1) resurface and mark the existing lot; 2) build 1- to 3 deck parking structure with adequate lighting and security; 3) investigate alternatives to shift some commuter

parking to the Delmar station park-and-ride lot.

To express your views on enhancing the Forest Park MetroLink station, plan to attend the two additional community planning meetings. They will be held at Peoples Health Center, 5701 Delmar, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12 and Tuesday, June 30. The project team will have preliminary plans to review at the May 12 meeting.

You may pick up and return community survey forms through May 1 at the following locations:

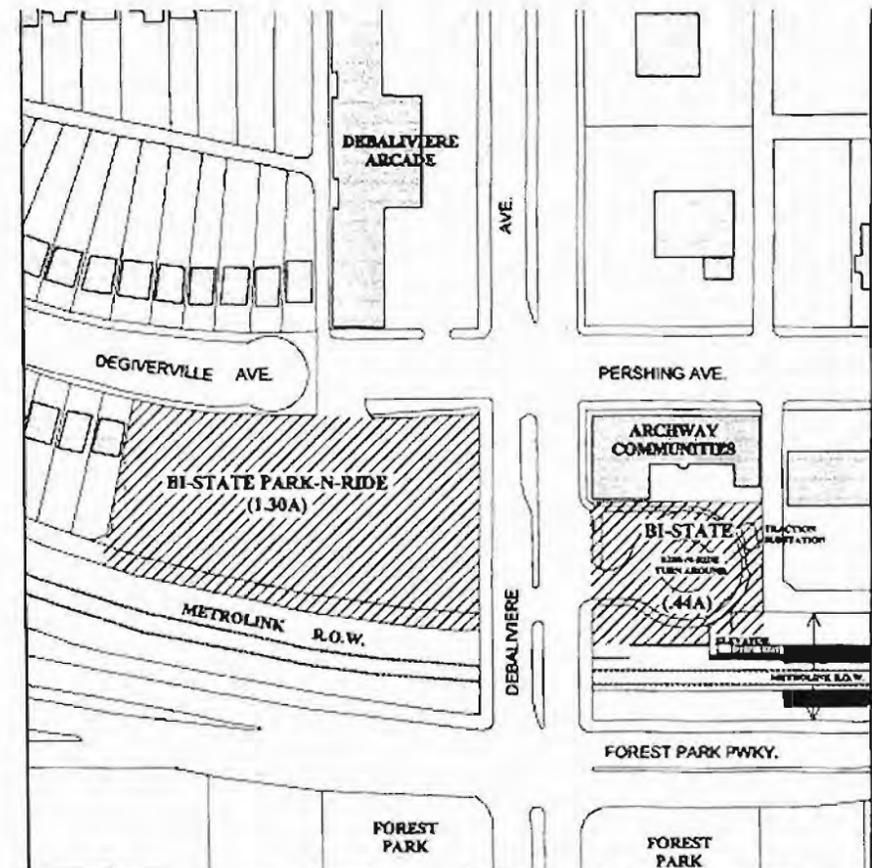
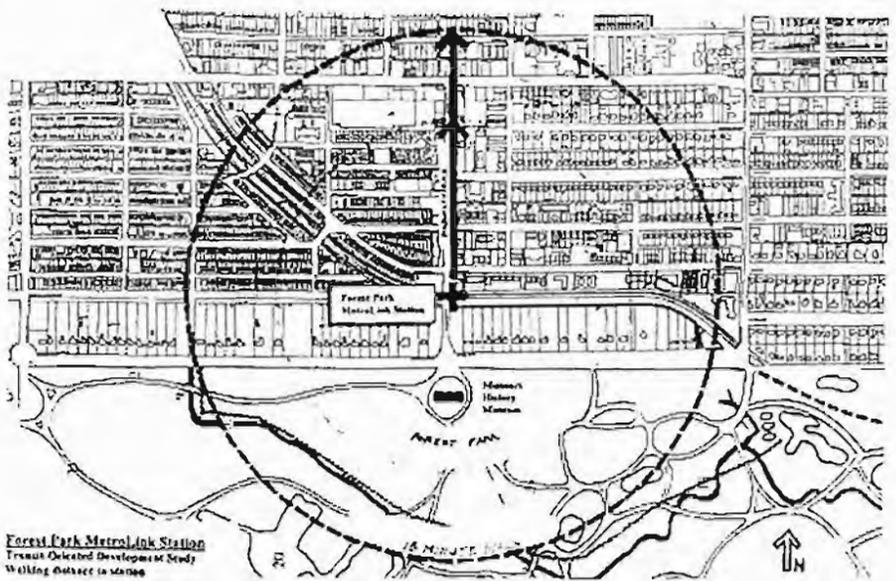
**Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council**  
6008 Kingsbury  
Monday through Friday,  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Central West End Bank**  
415 DeBaliviere  
Monday through Thursday,  
8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,  
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information about upcoming meetings, please contact Myrtle Bailey at 436-8877, or e-mail Bi-State at ait@bsda.org.



**Roell Ann Schmidt and Matthew Hickey** at their wedding at All Saints Catholic Church on February 28, 1998. Roell, the daughter of **David and Barbara Schmidt** of the 61XX block of McPherson, is a lifelong resident of Skinker DeBaliviere. She attended Grace Pre-School, Neighborhood UnSchool and St. Roch's. She was a Girl Scout at Grace Methodist and St. Roch's and received the Marian Award. She received the A+ Teaching Scholarship from New City School, which she used to attend Washington University. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in English and French Literature, she traveled to Chicago to intern on the film production of "The Prodigy," on which movie set, in June 1994, Roell met Matthew, who regularly works on films when not freelancing as a video journalist for C-SPAN and coordinating concessions and performances at the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago. Roell and Matthew will live in Chicago where Roell currently works at Ogilvy Public Relations.



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New construction in Kingsbury Square.

The next issue of the Times will be in June. Please submit material by mid-May.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

# Grace Pre-School to Close After 36 Years

After careful consideration and much sadness, the Administrative Council of Grace United Methodist Church has found it necessary to close the Pre-School at the end of the 1997-1998 school year.

Grace Pre-School opened in September of 1962 as one of the first early childhood facilities in this area. Over the years literally hundreds of young children have benefited from the exceptional quality education and care offered at Grace.

With an increase in both public and private elementary schools now offering early childhood programs and more Federal funding being appropriated to corporations offering on site day care, our enrollment has slowly been declining.

Grace Pre-School would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the past and present families, directors (Mrs. Barbara McCoy, Mrs. Betty Klinefelter, Mrs. Dolores Hoefel, and Mrs. Katherine Fimmano), teachers,



board members, volunteers, and friends who helped make our Pre-School such a wonderful success over the past 36 years. Our biggest thanks, of course, go to the children!

A farewell reception will be held in Fellowship Hall at Grace United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 3, at 12:15 p.m. All are welcome.

# Do's and Don'ts for Exterior Home Repair

## A Summary of Certain Historic District Standards

It has been almost a decade since The Times published details about the Historic District Standards that govern exterior work to all homes in our neighborhood (including the city portion of Parkview). Listed below are some of the principal points from the Standards. Recently, a very kind official at the Heritage and Urban Design Commission assisted a resident who had to remove changes to her home's facade that were not in compliance with the Standards; he helped to ensure that the cost of compliance affected her as little as possible. The lesson here is that exterior work most often requires a permit and must conform to the Standards according to city law. For a complete copy of the ordinance, contact the SDCC at 862-5122.

1. New buildings or alterations to existing buildings must be constructed to within 15% of the average height of existing residential buildings on that block.
2. Existing building lines must be maintained.
3. Materials used on a home exterior that will be visible from the street must be of the type used when Skinker DeBalviere was developed: brick, stone, stucco, wood, and wrought and cast iron. ALUMINUM SIDING IS NOT PERMITTED. Other non-impact-resistant exterior materials are also not permitted and permastone or other artificial masonry most often are not allowed. Exposed concrete is not acceptable.
4. Architectural details on homes are to be maintained in a similar size, shape, detail, and material. Renovations should not alter existing door or window openings.
5. All new or replacement storm windows and screen frames, and storm and screen door frames shall be of wood or factory-finished color metal when on the building front.
6. Awnings on the front of the house should be of canvas. Metal awnings are NOT acceptable.
7. Acceptable roof materials include slate, tile, copper or asphalt shingles, when visible from the street.
8. Light fixtures placed in front of the home shall be from the period of original construction of the neighborhood, or of authentic period styling, or of high quality contemporary design.

**BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALMOST ALL EXTERIOR CHANGES TO YOUR HOME.** This includes window and door replacements, even if identical to the original. A permit is required for any new roofing material not identical to the old roof covering. You also need a permit for: any demolition work (including garages), removal of any architectural details such as cornices or porch railings, painting of any previously unpainted brick or stone surface, construction of fences, decks, garages, or storage sheds larger than 35 square feet, retaining walls, and porches.

In our next issue, we will detail the permit process involved to perform exterior work in our historic district. If you need information right away, call the SDCC at 862-5122 or the Heritage and Urban Design Commission at 622-3400.

# Notes from the Beautification Committee

by Andy Cross

The McPherson Community Gardeners are getting ready to dig in for another gardening season. If you do not have a raised bed but would like to get outside for a stretch, feel free to join us on these working dates:

- Saturdays: April 4<sup>th</sup> 11am - 2pm
- April 18<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon
- May 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon
- May 16<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon

The McPherson Garden is located on the north side of the 59xx block of McPherson, just east of DesPeres.

We are also in the process of building a new community garden across the street from the Hamilton Community Center. The new Block Unit 1035 Community Garden will be located at 5838 Westminster, across from Hamilton School. Their scheduled working dates are:

- Saturdays: March 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm-5pm
- April 18<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon
- April 25<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon
- May 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon
- May 16<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon

The Beautification Committee will meet Sat. April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, to prepare for Operation Brightside's Project Blitz. Our 1998 Blitz Day clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting agenda will include: plantings on the DesPeres pocket parks, alley clean-up, Four Corners Park beautification, 1<sup>st</sup> chance to sign up for watering flowers at Four Corners, and other special projects. We will be joined by Mary Lou Green, Executive Director of Operation Brightside.

We are also interested in establishing a neighborhood plant exchange to take place this spring. This will be an opportunity to thin out the plants that are crowding some parts of your garden and give them to a neighbor who can use them or trade for something you would like in your garden—sort of like a plant swap-meet.

We hope you can join us for some of these projects, and we'll see you in the alley on Blitz Day!



# Cat's Clause

by Pinky Geiler

With an Introduction by Joe Cat Geiler

As previously established, I am a geriatric cat named "Joe". My first ever written message was recently published in the "The Times", for which I wish to thank Lana Stein's cats. There are so many topics for a philosophical feline, but I am tired this date. My contract with brother Pinky as my designated mouser (editor), includes a "cat's clause" that allows him to write his own stuff when I'm tired. He needs no help with the writing as he can switch on the (P)C(C)—personal cat's computer—from "suspend" mode with the lightest leapy vibration and walk the keys without assist. Nothing to it. So, dear readers, today's Cat's Message is from Pinky. I must get catatonic.

.....

Joe Cat is a different generation than I, a really old cat. He's all skinny and motley and disheveled. While I do respect him generally as the former "Cat of the House," I am clearly now the alpha feline at 61xx Washington. No matter that I am a male called "Pinky". No matter that I need a bath after every visit to the vet and accept it with uncatlike gratitude. No matter that I have shared a chair in the yard with squirrels. . . . and have a delicat stomach, in spite of weighing fifteen pounds.



Society. Yawn. He was much older than I when rescued. I was just a baby, hand-size in fact, playing with a toy when "They" arrived to interrupt me. I was newly weaned. All my siblings were there with me. I fell asleep on Jane's arm in the "visiting room". Worry? Darling little me? I was a shoe-in for a good home. Grateful? Nah. For me, the world was never meant to be a troubled place.

Now, my Brother "Itty" agrees with Joe Cat on that distasteful subject of homelessness in cats. Itty says a house with a bottomless bowl, yard with fence, toys, laps, sanitation management and no stress is a "REAL DEAL." Itty reminds that when he came here, Frank McCourt had nothing on him. I admit, Itty was so malnourished that the tip of his tail was crooked (disgraceful), so thin and non-descript that "They" gave no thought to T.S. Eliot and just called him "Itty". Although now Itty and I wrestle and play like crazy, he reminds me that for the first three months he was here, he only came out of the basically unused bedroom long enough to befriend me and eat. Otherwise, he slept until his tail straightened out and his fur began to shine, transformed by IAMS into "Itty the Sleek". He kept eating until he began to resemble a small pumpkin. He became "Itty the Greatfull" and took to giving baths to everyone—the humans, all his fellow cats, not just mois! When the winter of '97 arrived and Itty realized that going outside in weather is a cat's option in this house (a cat's clause he never exercises) he became "Itty the Brave". Now when the Kirby is fired up, and Joe Cat and I flee like our tails are on fire, "Itty" just sits there like vacuum cleaners are his best friend. He says he never wants to be "barn again" and, if that means staring down a cat-eating vacuum cleaner, he's up to the task. He says hardship is that powerful a motivator. Hope I never find out.

No matter that my idea of prey is a leather stick which I retrieve like a dog. . . .when I feel like it. No matter that I squeak when picked up and am often involuntarily kissed. I am still and clearly the alpha cat. I am at all times dressed formally with white shirt and gloves. I am the softest cat. I am the beautifullest cat. I can be found wide-eyed in the midst of all human functions in the household, a real party animal. I may pretend to be Alger (Hiss) occasionally just to let an errant kid know that, while I have no claws, I can still be scary and they better back off, I am otherwise a totally mild-mannered cat (some would say a puss).

I am safe. I believe that I have never had a problem, although Joe Cat has urged me to consider with seriousness that we both came from the Humane

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## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

### Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting on January 12, 1998

**In Attendance:** President Gary Hayes, Directors: Ann Smith Carr, Peggy Droege, Greg Freeman, Jane Geiler, Steve Givens, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Rev. Mike Merritt, Shirley Polk, Lana Stein. Guests: Ethel Adolphe, Jill Claybour CDA, Tom Cohen, Armit and Amy Gill, Paul Hohmann MetroLink Advisory Committee Chairman, George Johannes, Ann Kessen-Lowell, Terry Kowalczyk, 7<sup>th</sup> District Police, Dan McGuire, Katrina Stierholz, Susan Talley, Vivi Wolf, NSO, Gary Boehnke, Housing Corporation Project Administrator, Laure Porterfield, SDCC Executive Director.

**Absent:** Arthelda Busch, Lara Doyle, Dan Freedberg, Ronie Haliburton, Ruth Johnson, Julie Schoemhel, Paula Sigman, Jack Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Gary Hayes.

**Nina Place Development** - Presentations were made by the three groups submitting proposals in response to CDA's RFP:

- 1.) Ann Kessen-Lowell, president of Renaissance Consulting Group.
- 2.) Armit and Amy Gill of the GH Group; and
3. Gary Bierman of Town and Country Homes.

Information, including some preliminary sketches, was left with the Council by all three developers.

It was suggested by a neighbor that the type of heating and cooling system used should be one of the considerations used in judging the various proposals. The system should be one that is environmentally favorable such as ground level heat exchangers.

President Gary Hayes recognized Jill Claybour from CDA. Jill introduced herself and Joe Fank, Housing Analyst, who works with the 28<sup>th</sup> ward. Jill stated that she plans to make a recommendation on the developer for this project following tonight's the developers presentations. She wants to know what the council is thinking about for the neighborhood in an advisory capacity. There was a discussion from the floor about the presentations. It was suggested by a neighbor that while deliberating it should be kept in mind that the people who stabilized this area have been individuals and little companies. A comment was made from a council member about the outstanding work done by Gary Bierman of Town and Country Homes at 6025 Westminster, and the work done by Tom Cohen in the Phase 2 development of the Nina Place condos. It was stated by one of the developers that any developer who received assistance from the city would have to have the project completed within twelve (12) month from close. Jill Claybour of CDA was asked about the time table. She stated that the burden would be on CDA to get the developer in place and begin the process.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding time tables. President Gary Hayes introduced the Honorable Lyda Krewson, new Alderman 28<sup>th</sup> Ward, who was welcomed with an applause. After much discussion regarding the proposals the following motion was made by Peggy Droege and seconded Greg Freeman:

The Board of Directors of SDCC proposes that our president Gary Hayes, follow-up to CDA regarding the redevelopment of 5899 Nina Place & 5921 Kingsbury in writing, indicating the recommendation of the board as follows:

The board recommends that CDA give strong consideration to:

1. The availability of solid financing to the redeveloper chosen.
2. Preservation of existing architectural elements, i.e. doors, molding, floors, etc.
3. The developers track record for completion of previous projects in a timely manner.
4. Landscaping appropriate to surrounding developments.
5. Provisions for off-street parking.
6. Subsidies must be provided, as necessary to make sure that the projects are done regardless of market price.

Individual board members and residents are encouraged to call CDA with their com-

ments. The question was call for. It passed unanimously.

#### Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Shirley Polk and seconded by Greg Freeman that the December minutes be approved. The motion passed.

#### Financial Report

##### A. Draft Budget

The outstanding check from CDA is here. The cash balance at the bottom of the statements was explained. It was moved by Lana Stein and seconded by Susan Littlefield that the December financial report be approved.

The draft budget with the actual for 1997 and proposed for 1998 was explained. It was moved by Lana Stein and seconded by Greg Freeman to adopt the proposed budget as the budget for 1998. The motion passed. In the proposed budget under non-recurring revenues, the FOSD column was discussed. We did not organize a Friends Drive in 1997, therefore we did not budget for FOSD for 1998.

#### Security Update

Officer Terry Kowalczyk distributed the Public Affairs complaint sheet. Forms can be sent to the police station or turned in to the council office. Sgt. Frenzel reported that overall the crime rate is down, but some specific crimes are high.

Robberies and burglaries are up. The burglaries are mainly from garages. We did have two house burglaries on Westminster and on Kingsbury. They have been cleaned up. There were two purse snatchings on DeBaliviere. Cars break-ins are reported on the MetroLink lot at DeBaliviere.

MetroLink riders were encouraged to park on the Delmar lot because there are plenty of empty parking spaces, and there is security. The SDCC was thanked for the Christmas Party by Officer Kowalczyk at Captain Hegger's request.

#### Executive Director's Report

We are working on a number of projects. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration is Sunday, January 18, 1998, 3:00 p.m., at Grace and Peace Church.

NSO Vivi Wolf has arranged for parking on Connect Care's parking lot. The New Cote Brillante church choir will again provide music. Mrs. Gwen Packnett will be the speaker. A new feature is an interpretive art show where students were asked to create art depicting what Dr. King means to them. There will be reception following the program. Members of the council are encouraged to attend.

Gary Boehnke, Housing Corporation Project Administrator, elaborated on the following items for the SDCHC project report. The purchase of the new computer system and upgrade of the front office computer are completed. The rehab of 536 Rosedale is moving along. Bids are being acquired on the project. Some exterior work will begin shortly. Council members were reminded of the Delmar Enhancement Project meeting Thursday, February 5, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at Crossroads School.

#### Election of Officers

Greg Freeman, Nominating Committee Chairperson, announced a change in the slate of officers recommended by the committee at the last board meeting. The nomination for secretary is now Lara Doyle.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the year 1998:

- President - Gary Hayes
- Vice President - Ann Smith Carr
- Secretary - Lara Doyle
- Treasurer - Lana Stein

It was moved by Susan Littlefield and seconded by Shirley Polk that the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee be approved. The motion passed.

President thanked the outgoing secretary for serving in 1997.

#### Committee and Neighborhood Update/Reports

##### A. Playground Steering Committee

The committee met in November and split up chores. They looked at the budget that was there and need to make sure that it is solid. Met with Dan Skillman, Deputy Park Commissioner, showed him the plan and asked for suggestions. The original architectural design was used as a base line.

Skillman suggested having construction drawing made in order to have a solid budget. Was informed by a source of the possibility of Washington University funding this project, however a proposal would be needed. Still have \$3,000.00 from the Whittaker Fund. Would like to use some of this money to get construction drawings made. It is estimated we need \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 to get the drawings made.

Will solicit bids after getting construction drawing are complete and submit proposals. It was announced by a resident that Southwestern Bell is looking for inner city projects

The following motion was made by Ann Smith Carr and seconded by Greg Freeman.

Move that the council authorize the Playground sub committee to spend up to \$1,000.00 to fund and proceed with the preparation of construction drawings to be reviewed by the council.

The motion passed.

##### B. MetroLink Advisory Committee

The next meeting will be January 21, 1998, 7:30 p.m. at the council office. Executive Director Laure Porterfield expanded on the report.

#### Neighborhood Services

##### I. Beautification

The second neighborhood garden is taking shape near Hamilton School. There are plants around the "Flight" statue at Waterman and Laurel. There will be a meeting of the McPherson Garden Sub Committee Saturday, February 7, 1998, 10:00 a.m. at the council office. They will assign plots at this meeting and establish a work schedule.

2. Social Services - No report
3. Dr. Martin Luther King Commemoration

Commemoration will take place Sunday January 18, 1998, 3:00 p.m. at Grace and Peace Church. All are urged to attend.

#### Commercial District

The final report to the Community regarding the Delmar Enhancement Project will be February 5, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at Crossroads School. A special supplement on the project will be included in the issue of the Times.

#### Rosedale Neighborhood Assn.

With regard to the two lawsuits, the appeal was won on one of the cases. The

other is pending. Have drafted By-Laws. Will have election of officers. Will decide how to handle Rosedale money at the next meeting which will be scheduled at a later date.

#### Parkview

The wall at the corner of Skinker and Forest Park was hit by a motorist. There are some lighting problems. Low lights will be put on Limits Walk. Things have been quite.

#### Nina Place

There is a water problem from a property on Nina Place to the main water line.

#### St. Roch

The Progressive Dinner will be January 31, 1998 beginning at or 6:30 p.m.

#### Grace Methodist

After thirty six (36) years the pre-school will close in May due to a low enrollment of students.

#### Other Business

There was a discussion of property purchased by Washington University in the neighborhood. The following motion was made by Ann Smith Carr and second by Greg Freeman:

1. Move that we table until the next meeting the motion that was presented with regard to requesting Washington University to avoid ownership of buildings with less than 4 units.
2. We activate the Residential Development Committee. The motion passed.

There was discussion about the Arthur Building and what Washington University has in mind to do with it.

Lana Stein chairs the Buffer Zone Committee. There will be a buffer zone, however it will be smaller than originally requested.

A question was asked of Alderman Krewson about traffic signals and panhandlers on Forest Park Expressway. Alderman Krewson stated that Captain Hegger requests that we call 911 to report panhandling. In addition to calling 911, and you can also call the Watch Commander at 444-0032 and Captain Hegger at 444-0027.

Dan McGuire, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, stated that contracts have been signed to redo all traffic control lights along Skinker. Everything will be reworked from Delmar and Millbrook, including the walk lights, up to McCausland.

There being no further business, Greg Freeman called for adjournment and Ann Smith Carr seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

#### Motion Regarding Nina Place Redevelopment

The Board of Directors of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council propose that the President of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Gary Hayes, follow-up on to CDA regarding the redevelopment of 5899 Nina Place and 5921 Kingsbury in writing, indicating the recommendations of the board as follows:

The board recommends that CDA give strong consideration to:

1. The availability of solid financing to the redeveloper chosen.
2. Preservation of existing architectural elements, i.e., doors, moldings, floors, etc.
3. The track record for completion of previous projects in a timely manner.
4. Landscaping appropriate to surrounding developments.
5. Provisions for off street parking.
6. Subsidies must be provided, as necessary, to make sure that the projects are done right, regardless of market price.

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# In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

How do you spend your idle time? Oh, I know what you're thinking to yourself, "Idle time, I don't have any!" And in a way, that's true. The pace of life has picked up considerably. Everything happens faster, if not better. In fact, not better for sure. And not only is the pace more frenetic, both the opportunities and responsibilities that consume our time have increased as well.

There used to be three St. Louis television stations, then four, and it wasn't too long ago when we just had five (2, 4, 5, 9, and 11). Now there are more channels than you can shake a remote at. A different issue, of course, is whether the plethora of channels has increased the quality of offerings. In a word, NYET! Now we can watch "My Mother, the Car" with Tommy Smothers on four channels. And there is rerun after rerun, from Laugh-In to Lost In Space to Baywatch. (Hmmm, maybe all these channels aren't so bad, after all!)

And because the pace has picked up, we're expected to not only do more but to do it faster. When was the last time you were in a restaurant -- a real one, not one where you ordered and carried a plastic tray to your table -- when during the meal you didn't hear someone at a table nearby talking on a cellular phone? Give me a break! Driving down the highway on a lonely country road no longer offers solace; you do have a car phone, don't you? Now we can't even escape to be with ourselves by going out to dinner.

Still, despite these ever-quickenings intrusions, we do have idle time. It has just changed form. What used to be a relaxing weekend or a quiet evening at the fort has now become a few minutes spent walking the dog, time on the Nordic Track to sweat and reflect, or, even, time in the shower while humming show tunes and twirling the soap-on-a-rope. The minutes are few and far between, but they're there. In fact, precisely because idle time, the leisure moment or two, comes along so rarely, we need to be prepared to maximize its use. We need to plan for the unplanned, structure the spontaneous, work at relaxing. Charge!

I suggest, dear reader, that we prepare ahead of time by having a list of topics that we would like to consider when we have that spare moment or two. Rather than wasting an opportunity by watching a bird or observing a sunset, we should capitalize on the moment and ruminate on an issue that we'd otherwise never have the time to consider.

I have such a list in my trusty auto, between the cracked Fleetwood Mac CD case and pile of ceegar wrappers. It simply contains things that I might like to think about when the opportunity arises, such as while pausing at a stoplight, waiting for the debris from an accident to be picked up at Skinker and Delmar, or sitting in the car while the first wife makes a quick trip to the shoe repair shop on Pershing Avenue. In my humble fashion, I've titled the list **Questions For Our Time**. I offer it now, to you, as a public service, in the hope that you, too, can maximize your efficiency, as well as learning to use, as I have, as you can see, as many commas as possible in a sentence, without totally precluding its meaning, at least I hope. Feel free to cut out this list and put it in your car -- or on your Nordic Track -- as well. (Hint: If it is going to go on the Nordic

Track, and if you're as out of shape as I am, you may want to laminate it.)

## QUESTIONS FOR OUR TIME

1. I often wonder about what people from the past would think about today's society. If Abraham Lincoln were to step out of a time capsule today, coming back from the past, what would he think? What would Washington think? Ben Franklin? Or how about Columbus? Rush Limbaugh?

2. How many articles of clothing are there in the world? I mean, if all of the zillions upon zillions of shirts and pants that are hanging in stores waiting to be purchased were distributed at once, would, like, everyone's closet be full?

3. How many angels can dance on the head of a pin at once? Why would an angel even want to dance on the head of a pin?

4. If all of these major league sports teams are losing money, why does their value increase and why do people continue to buy them? And why do the people who buy them get richer?

5. If we can put a man on the moon and continue to make marijuana ille-

gal, why can't we figure out a way to make fine tasting chocolate that doesn't contain calories?

6. If Babe Ruth were alive today, would he be a baseball player? If Abe Lincoln were alive, would he be a politician? If Dick Gebhardt were alive, would he regret his vote on the 1986 Tax Reform Act which devastated rehabilitation in urban areas, including St. Louis?

7. Why can't we figure out a way to use River Des Peres for recreational purposes?

8. With all these stars in the universe, as many as there are grains of sand in the world, each being part of a solar system, how could there not be life somewhere else? When we ultimately find life, what effect will that have on us? And will the new life forms know about bagels?

9. Did FDR know about the plans to attack Pearl Harbor beforehand but let it happen to enable the U.S. to enter WWII?

10. Why are some men so bothered about losing their hair?

11. Would professional hockey have any fans if they outlawed fighting?

12. How did people think before there were words?

13. Why don't some people think now, even though they have words?

14. If we could require people to be licenced before allowing them having children, what would we want them to do to "earn" the licence?

15. How many years will Larry Hughes play for the Bills before turning pro?

16. How would our country be different, from language to architecture to the constitution, if it had been settled from the west, by Asians coming across the Pacific Ocean in 1620, rather than in the east by Europeans coming from the Atlantic?

17. Do the people who are always taking videotapes of everything they do while on vacations, like standing in line and going on rides at DisneyWorld, for example, really sit and watch all of these tapes?

18. How come all foreigners have funny accents when they try to speak English?

19. How come as I get older, everything hurts in the morning?

20. Why does the water go down the drain in a different direction depending upon whether it is above or below the equator?

There 'tis. Enjoy waiting at those long red lights! And let me know if you have any questions to add to my list.

*Our home is in  
the city...  
so is our heart.*

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