

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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April/May 2004

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Washington University Students Lend a Hand

By Andy Cross



Washington University students lend a hand to clean alleys.

On a crisp morning in January, a volunteer clean-up effort took place in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Wash U students were recruited by fellow student Jerry Sigmon of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, joining forces with VERDE of the Washington University campus YMCA and Metropolis St. Louis. Mr. Sigmon then met and toured the neighborhood with the SDCC Beautification Committee and mapped out a plan.

About 30 students gathered at Kayak's coffeehouse on Saturday morning, January 24, to be given mops, trashbags, shovels, and

hot chocolate. They were also given directions, a plan of attack, and instructions about yard waste dumpsters, regular trash and bulk item placement. In groups of 4-10 people, they set out to various alleys in the neighborhood. They could not clean every alley, but they did make a big haul out of the alleys they did address.

One group of four, in a particularly leafy alley, filled and then re-used plastic bags provided by Operation Brightside. They estimated that they dumped the equivalent of 50 bags of leaves into the yard waste only dumpsters from 2 alleys.

Another group of students reported that their alley displayed "an entire wardrobe". Spread out amongst the other trash, they picked up "3 shirts, a coat, 2 pair of pants, 2 pair of plastic pants, 3 pair of underwear, and 5 socks." This group was particularly grateful for the rubber gloves they had been provided.

When finished, all the groups met at the rendezvous point and downed more hot chocolate.

Metropolis St. Louis sponsors other clean-up projects. If you would like to target an area in St. Louis to volunteer, you can contact Metropolis at: <http://www.mstl.org>. Likewise, if you want to help clean up our neighborhood, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Beautification Committee, the SDCC office, and also Operation Brightside can all be of assistance. Contact SDCC at 862-5122 and Brightside at 772-4646. We have plans to clean up the other alleys not reached by this recent project in the near future, with another group of volunteers.

Please join us for Operation Brightside's 23rd Annual Project Blitz for our big neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 2. You will receive more information about Blitz Day as it approaches.

Thank you to Jerry Sigmon and his band of volunteers, for their hard work and positive attitudes.

Alley to be Replaced

The City of St. Louis' Board of Public Service has begun replacement of the sewer and alley behind the north side of the 6100 block of Washington and the corresponding rear of the businesses along the south side of the 6100 block of Delmar. Coming as it does on the heels of the Delmar Streetscape construction, Alderman Lyda Krewson held a recent meeting for residents and business owners to voice concerns and ask questions about the upcoming 8-10 weeks of construction.

The major issues were trash removal for both businesses and residents, as well as service access for the businesses. Commercial trash will be collected from dumpsters to be placed in the now-vacant lot facing Delmar just east of the former Olivet Church, where a building collapsed last year as it was being renovated. Joe Edwards has made this lot available for dumpsters to enable other businesses to bring trash to a central location for removal.

Residential trash must now be bagged and will be collected by the City from the front curb on Washington. Only half the block will be affected at any time. To avoid the much more difficult problems that would be caused by the use of mechanically-emptied dumpsters on Washington, the City will use manned trash collection for this time period. For more information or if you have questions, call Alderman Krewson, 622-3287.

East Meets West

A Brand-New Festival Starts Mother's Day Weekend

Who: Businesses on both sides of Skinker

What: Street Festival and Open House

When: Friday, May 7, through Sunday, May 16

Why: To celebrate and showcase "The Loop" to show off the area where construction is finished (except for the lights!)

Loop businesses will showcase their merchandise or food items in a variety of ways, creating a festival atmosphere. A "Passport to The Loop" will be organized to encourage visitors to cross Skinker. To be entered into the raffle, visitors will have three or four businesses on each side of Skinker stamp their passport. The prize(s) will be provided by Loop businesses.

Scheduled Activities already include the Craft Alliance Spring Sale (May 8-9) and Open House (May 9), a Gallery Talk at MacroSun International, Regional Arts Commission (through May 16), and the St. Louis Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony (May 16).

For more information, call Gil Williams at MacroSun, 726-0222, or Debbie Murphy at 368-7198.

Operation Brightside Blitz 2004

We are once again preparing to participate in Operation Brightside Blitz. A city-wide effort to clean up and spruce up our alleys, vacant lots, and public spaces, Blitz Day can be far more to all of us than simply an extra bulk trash pick-up day. Youth groups, student groups, special interest clubs like the Environmental Engineers, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, and many others have helped to fill our ranks, and of course are welcome once again this year to join in the efforts which begin around 8:00 a.m. and culminate with hot dogs, cold drinks and comraderie at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners between noon and 1:00 p.m. on Blitz Day, which for our neighborhood is **Saturday, May 1st**.

If you have a special project that you will need help in tackling, the organizing meeting is the place to come and make your idea known. You can also talk with your block captain, share your ideas and learn some tips from your neighbors who have participated in years past at an organizing meeting on Tuesday, March 30th, 7:00 p.m., at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Please call Laure Porterfield, at 862-5122, or Andy Cross, Beautification Committee chairman, at 721-6060.

Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

Although I have frequently waxed eloquently about the joys of living in Skinker DeBaliviere, I have discovered a topic on which I cannot be joyful – parking. As we all know, very few of the homes here have driveways. Some have garages off the alley or parking pads but many do not, or use these areas for other things.

The upshot is most of us park on the street and some families have more than one vehicle to park. Because of physical problems I have and because I sometimes teach in the evening, I know how frustrated I can be if the space outside my home is occupied when I return. It's especially annoying if I have lots of bags of groceries, etc. Most of the time it's not really a problem. There is nearby space and I use it. Several times, neighbors have helped me with cumbersome items I have purchased, for which I am grateful.

But, recently I was asked to vacate a space I had just parked in – on our public street – because someone's daughter would be coming home soon. Needless to say, I would never have taken the space if another close to home had been available.

The lesson here is that we all need to get a grip, me included. Anyone can park anywhere on a public street. There are no reserved spaces unless someone has a special city permit for the permanently handicapped. We all want to park in front of our homes but visitors to the neighborhood come and go and occupy spots. The only solution is the kind of sticker residents of 57xx Waterman and Pershing got to deter MetroLink riders from parking on their streets for hours.

Parking clearly distinguishes us from the suburbs. There the car often takes precedence over a home or business. Just look at the strip malls. Here, our parking is basically communal and it's sometimes inconvenient. But, the other payoffs from our type of city living exceed the parking pitfalls (hopefully).

Calendar

Upcoming Events Calendar

March 26th - Executive Directors Group Meeting, 6010 Kingsbury, 11:00 a.m.

March 29th - East Meets West Planning Committee Meeting, the Chinese Noodle shop, 61xx Delmar, 1:00 p.m.

March 30th - Brightside Blitz Organizing Meeting - Block Captains, other volunteers welcome. Please join us at 7:00 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury.

April 1st - Residential Committee, 7:00 p.m., SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury

April 12th, 7:00 p.m. - Regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting for Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. All residents are welcome to attend. 6008 Kingsbury.

April 15th, noon - Commercial District Committee, SDCC Office, 6008 Kingsbury.

April 17th, 9:00 to noon - McPherson Community Garden, work-day

April 21st, 6:00 p.m. - Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Board Meeting, SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury

May 1st - Operation Brightside Blitz Day - All through the neighborhood. Teams form and work in the alleys and other public areas throughout our neighborhood. Trash pickup begins at 8:00 a.m. Neighborhood workers and friends are invited for hotdogs and soda at Greg Freeman Park at Four Corners immediately following our 'Blitz day' efforts.

May 5th, 6:00 p.m. - Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation. 6008 Kingsbury.

May 10th, 7:00 p.m. - Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury. All residents are welcome.

June 5th - BREAKFAST GARDEN TOUR. Begins with breakfast in the McPherson Community Garden. Tickets \$10.00 in advance. More information to follow. Questions? Call 862-5122

June 14th, SDCC Board Meeting. All residents are welcome to attend. 6008 Kingsbury.

Other Events of Interest:

April 17-18 - Washington University Thurtene Carnical

April 22-25 - Dart Tournament, Blueberry Hill

May 7-16 - "East Meets West" spring festival on Delmar

May 16 - St. Louis Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony

May 21 - Washington University Commencement

May 29-August 26 - Ferris Wheel returns to Forest Park

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

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The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Deadline for Summer issue: May 15, 2004. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@peoplepc.com or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to jvatcha@peoplepc.com or lstein@umsl.edu.

The Dirt Comes . . . And the Dirt Goes With Increasing Regularity

by Lana Stein

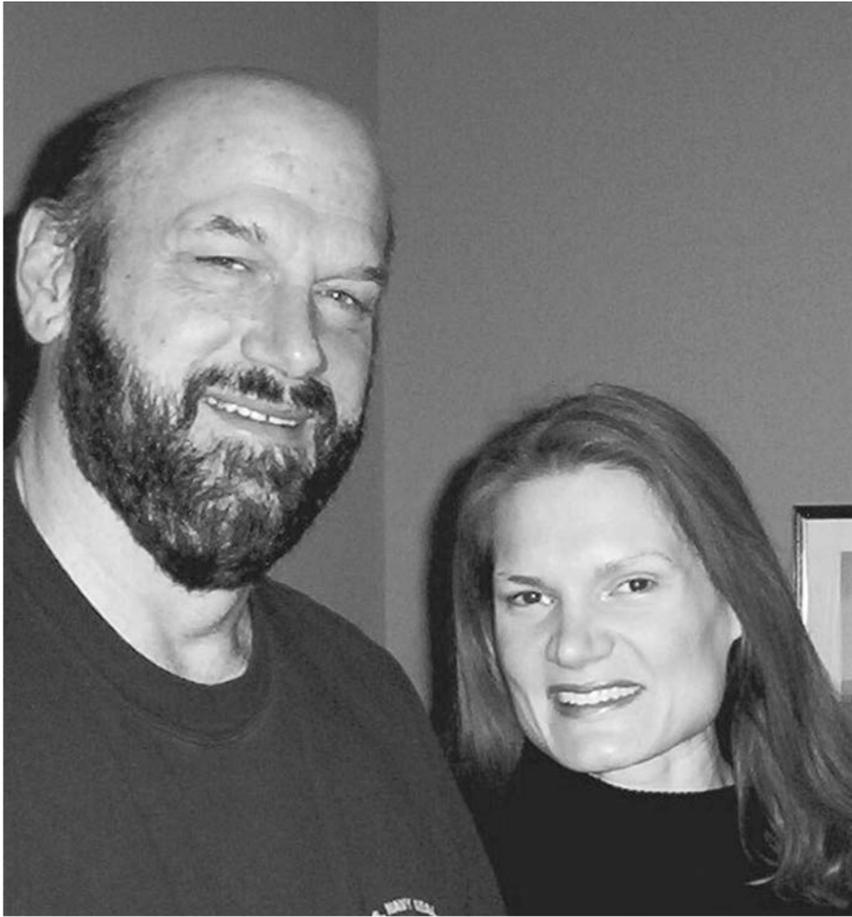
The coming of a new MetroLink line did not hold any particular terror for me. But, I did worry about the construction. I lived through the original line preparations from my former perch on Nina Place. I remember vividly the noise, the dirt, the peculiar smells. My allergies were never so bad.

Needless to say, the new construction has been if anything worse. The poor residents by the Waterman bridge have suffered from day and night work with all the incumbent problems.

Now, another unpleasant externality has arisen. Metro's contractors are excavating what will be the tunnel under Skinker. They are disgorging tons of dirt. Where is it going? For some reason, truck after truck is removing the dirt via DesPeres. The trucks have been going north on DesPeres to Waterman up to Skinker. However, Metro now informs us that it is not permissible to use Waterman for trucks, so they intend to haul the dirt from the tunnel dig up DesPeres to Delmar. This will be occurring from April to October of this year.

Since I am now blessed to live very close to the Parkway--Des Peres intersection, I have been awakened four days in a row (including Saturday) by the rumbling of these trucks. Many have uncovered beds. This creates additional problems for nearby residents.

SDCC President Joe Keaveny told me that Metro is violating its agreement with the neighborhood by shipping all this dirt through our streets by our houses, churches, and St. Roch School. But, the trucks continue, seemingly more each day. Contact has been made with Metro and information about upcoming traffic concerns will be available very soon. If you are disturbed by this endless procession, give Metro a call.



Historic Preservation Award

Joe Edwards recently received the "McReynolds Award" from the Missouri Preservation Board, recognizing an individual or group making significant achievements in the field of preservation. In the presentation, Joe was honored for his more than 30 years work in helping revitalize the Loop in University City, including Blueberry Hill, the Walk of Fame, and the Tivoli, as well as helping form the Special Business District in 1980. The presentation then included the following remarks of special interest:



...a stark visual line still existed between the revitalized University City Loop and the urban blight, decay and crime to its east along Delmar. In 2000, changes began

with the construction of the Pageant...the vitality of the Loop began to extend into the City of St. Louis. The seven blocks of The Loop have extended past the arbitrary city/county boundary and across Skinker Blvd., due primarily to the efforts of Joe Edwards. It has become the most exciting, vibrant, and interesting restaurant, shopping, arts and entertainment district in metropolitan St. Louis and perhaps the entire Midwest. Missouri

Preservation recognizes Joe Edwards for his creativity, leadership and ability to draw in other developers to historic preservation...and awards him a 2004 McReynolds Award.

Racelle L'Ecuyer at Harvard

Racelle L'Ecuyer received a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship, one of ten people nationwide, to attend the Senior Executives in Local and State Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. While there, she met the celebrity governmental official and former Minnesota Governor.

Racelle reports, "Jesse Ventura is a fellow at the Kennedy School this semester. I went to Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, as did one of my fellow students; we spent time talking to Mr. Ventura

and had lunch with him one day.

"He was visibly uncomfortable at Harvard, intimidated by the 'academics'.

"My classmates and I felt quite the opposite about the faculty; they were warm, welcoming, and genuinely interested in what was going on in the world beyond the ivy tower."

Congratulations to our Kingsbury neighbor Racelle, who also works at the Regional Housing and Community Development Association.

Able Key

by Norbert Hart

A mainstay in our neighborhood for 57 years is Able Key & Service Company, located on DeBaliviere. They are the biggest lock service in the Midwest, serving residential and commercial customers, buildings and auto. 24 hour & immediate lockout service is available.

Of special interest to most Skinker DeBaliviere residents, Able offers hardware for our old doors which will protect the integrity of the wood and allow a modern lock system. They have a wide assortment of parts & materials which allows them to have somewhat of a specialty in the workings of our original doors and locks. Able can also assist with your interior door locks and

hardware.

Speaking of hardware, a few years ago the company expanded its operation to include a hardware department. This is being phased out and Able is going to use the space to expand its safe business (For those of you lamenting the loss of another hardware store, you may want to make the trek to Sarah Ave. where you can find not one but two old fashioned independent hardware stores: New Market @ Laclede & St. Louis Shade & Hardware @ McPherson/ Westminster).

Able does not deal with security systems but does feature the latest in lock systems, such as keyless entry.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

The new Transit Access Center on DeBaliviere is a joint effort of Metro and Washington University's Occupational Therapy Program to conduct interviews and functional assessments for the Transit Access Program and to determine ADA paratransit eligibility for Metro Call-A-Ride Services. The Transit Access Center is designed to provide a simulated transit environment, where the occupational therapists will assess each individual's ability to use available modes of public transportation.

Some controversy has arisen. Some current Call-A-Ride users felt the evaluation should have been done on potential new riders only. However, Metro and others have noted the inherent unfairness of that approach, wishing instead to evaluate all potential riders and mainstream as many as possible.

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From the Historic District Committee

by Katie Kurtz

For this issue's Historic District article, we thought it might be fun to look back. When people come to the neighborhood, they often wonder why the buildings along Des Peres Avenue are so different from the rest of the area. Small, one-story buildings (with the exceptions at the northwest corner of Waterman and the school on the east side) line the street. Most of these buildings date from the 1950s, almost fifty years after the vast majority of the rest of the district was constructed.

So why are these little "ranchettes" here? Until the early 1920's, Des Peres Avenue was not a street but the River Des Peres. This photo dating from August of 1916 shows the river. The houses on the left are the rear of 59xx block of DeGiverville.

The river ran through Forest Park near the Jefferson Memorial Building before it turned and ran through our neighborhood. In an effort to eliminate flooding, the river was placed into a conduit and now runs underground.

Over where the river ran, became Des Peres Avenue and the land adjacent became available for development. In addition to the existing buildings, there were a gas station (at Westminster), a small market (at Kingsbury), laundrymat (at Washington), and several other residential buildings.

But lest we think that the river is gone, the recent sink hole on the east side of Des Peres Avenue shows that while we think we can control Nature it can still have its way.



Sink hole!

Girl Scouts Contribute to Neighborhood Beautification

By Andy Cross,
Girl Scout Parent and Chairman of the SDCC Beautification Committee

Girl Scouts of Troop 3528 put an artistic touch on the traffic bollards at Kingsbury and DesPeres alley, guided by Troop Leader Kathy Hungerford, as well as Andy Cross and Anna Freisen. The activity was arranged with the Beautification Committee of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

Troop members include Hilary Hungerford, Audrey McCandless, Emily Horner, Darcy Sanders, Natalie Freisen, Emily Cross, Dystini Martin, AJ Miller, and Jessica Sawhill.



Selecting paint, from left, Emily Cross, Dystini Martin, Audrey McCandless, Emily Horner, Hilary Hungerford, Sarah Cross, Jessica Sawhill.



In the foreground, Jessica Sawhill, Darcy Sanders, and Hilary Hungerford.



At the bollard: Dystini Martin and Emily Cross.



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Katie Kurtz

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Special Business District Evolves

By Jo Ann Vatcha

Just a year ago, an important step forward in financing future improvements on Delmar was taken when eligible voters in the existing district approved the expansion of the "East Loop Parkview Gardens Special Business District". The previous boundaries were from Skinker to the City Limits, Delmar to Olive. The SBD now covers Delmar all the way to DeBaliviere, and includes the area from Rosedale to Olive and to the City Limits, including most of the Delmar Link Redevelopment Area.

In addition to the expansion of the boundaries, the district now levies a special tax of \$.85 per \$ 100 valuation on all real property in the district, in addition to a level already in place of an additional fee set at 50% of the Business License fee levied by the City of St. Louis. Together, the fee and the special tax will provide funding in future years to provide and maintain extra ser-

vices such as promotional events, lighting and more.

There are seven commissioners, appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Board of Aldermen. In addition, new officers have been elected by the group: President Dave Mastin of St. Louis Design Alliance (6104 Delmar), Vice President Joe Edwards, Secretary Leslie Christian-Wilson of Diversity Gallery (6161 Delmar), Treasurer Mike Giger of Parkview Gardens Association. The other commissioners are: Loretta Lloyd of Sunshine Academy (5955 Delmar), Mike Weiss, Big Shark Bicycle (6159 Delmar), and Neal Shapiro, Original Cast Lighting (6120 Delmar). Of the 7, 5 must be owners of real property and 2 must be renters within the district.

At start-up and for the period of construction, there have been separate meetings, but the group now meets cooperatively

with the U City Loop Special Business District and will hold separate meetings a few times a year. A budget must be published annually and submitted to the Board of Aldermen by the first of November for the following year's budget. Among their powers are to cooperate with other public agencies and industries and business; entering into agreements, including contracts for insurance; accepting gifts, grants, loan and contributions from government agencies, individuals, partnerships, corporations; and employing staff and/or independent contractors for assistance. The members of the Board of Commissioners serve without compensation of any kind and must file an Annual Report.

Although the body may use funds collected for additional services, the City cannot decrease the level of municipally funded services unless services are being decreased throughout the City and cannot discriminate in the provision of new municipally funded services.

The two Special Business District groups meet together at Blueberry Hill on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. For more information on the upcoming activities, contact Debbie Murphy at 727-8000 or by e-mail at loopadm@ucity-loop.com. She will be coordinating the activities in the Loop for some time and will be an asset to the newly expanded "East Loop Parkview Gardens Special Business District." The commissioners and new President Dave Mastin, who previously served as president of the Delmar Business Association, also work closely with the Delmar Commercial Committee to maintain communication and seek the input of neighborhood residents and businesses alike in planning the future activity of the SBD. To reach Dave Mastin, call St. Louis Design Alliance at 863-1313.

Des Peres Middle School to be Sold

By Lana Stein

The St. Louis Public Schools have been attempting to tackle a large deficit. In order to balance their budget, the schools plan to dispense with a number of properties, not currently in use. One such property is the Des Peres middle school. It was most recently used as a facility for children with special needs. It is located on the east side of Des Peres just north of Kingsbury and has been known as the Hamilton annex for much of its history.

The SDCC reports that several groups have advanced plans to buy the property for various uses. At this writing, there are four. An organization called Strong Tower wants the facility to provide an educational component in its program to help homeless mothers-to-be. Currently, this program is run from the director's home.

Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club would like to acquire the school building to use as a satellite facility for children aged

5 to 18.

Taulby Roach, a resident of Parkview, would like to acquire the site to use to construct 27 townhomes, each about 3000 square feet, and market rate. There would be off-street parking and residents would have basements. The Residential Committee of the SDCC will examine plans for this development on April 1 at 7pm at the SDCC office, 6006 Kingsbury.

Another possible use of the building is for a new charter school.

The various plans each have advocates and the 26th ward alderman has expressed support for several. If you would like more information about these plans, please contact the SDCC office at 862-5122. The Council can express its opinion about the desirability of any of these but the Board of Education will make the final determination.

One Speedy Construction Job

Of all the tasks recently completed on Delmar, the installation of parking meters had to be the quickest and most efficient. The Office of City Treasurer Larry Williams met with us one week, walked the area with Metro, started – and finished – installing the meters a week later.

Comparatively, it was amazing! And we celebrate the access to our new retail shops which the meters bring.

A footnote: as they become available, new double-headed meters will replace the older ones installed in some locations.

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School Board seeks input on budget

The four budget options to make up a \$ 23 million dollar budget shortfall will be considered at the school board's April meeting. The board seeks community input in any of the following ways:

1. E-mail to william.roberty@slps.org or darnetta.clinksdale@slps.org. 2. Letters to SLPS, 801 N. 11th St. 63101. 3. Respond on district website: SLPS Operating Budget Reduction Alternatives 2004/2005 page.

Option I: Attrition

Academic Impact: Least impact. Replacement of lost employees through attrition to ensure MSIP guidelines are adhered to.

Category	Description	Cost Savings
Attrition	Attrition of 700 employees, 400 of which are teachers, 166 of which are replaced; net attrition of 425 positions at weighted avg. salary of \$36.9K	\$16,730,500
RIF or Salary Reduction	Minimal Administrative Reduction (60 positions)	\$2,000,000
Benefit Premium Sharing	Employee Benefit Premium Contribution to State Average	\$1,500,000
Benefit Design	Employee Benefit Plan Design	\$1,000,000
Grant Funding	Early Childhood Grant	\$1,000,000
Community Ed vs. Community Engagement	All 16 Community Ed Centers remain open and fund a formal annual community engagement process upon the arrival of a new superintendent	\$0
Transportation	Better mgt of taxi program, vendor rebid, route efficiencies	\$1,000,000
Non-core K-12 Academic	No change	\$0
	Move 9th grade from Southwest H.S. to Roosevelt H.S.	<u>\$100,000</u>
Estimated Total Savings -		\$23,330,500

Option II: Reduction in Force

Academic Impact: Same as Option I academic impact, however larger number of employees must be terminated since bumping rights dictate that lowest seniority employees are eliminated and thereby requiring a larger number of lost jobs.

Category	Description	Cost Savings
Attrition	No change -	\$0
RIF or Salary Reduction	Maximum reduction of 650 employees at weighted avg. minimum salary of \$28,681	\$18,642,650
Benefit Premium Sharing	Employee Benefit Premium Contribution to State Average (Same as Option 1)	\$1,500,000
Benefit Design	Employee Benefit Plan Design (Same as Option 1)	\$1,000,000
Grant Funding	Early Childhood Grant (Same as Option 1)	\$1,000,000
Community Ed vs. Community Engagement	All 16 Community Ed Centers remain open and fund a formal annual community engagement process upon the arrival of a new superintendent (Same as Option 1)	\$0
Transportation	Better mgt of taxi program, vendor rebid, route efficiencies (Same as Option 1)	\$1,000,000
Non-core K-12 Academic	No change (Same as Option 1)	\$0
	Move 9th grade from Southwest H.S. to Roosevelt H.S. (Same as Option 1)	<u>\$100,000</u>
Estimated Total Savings -		\$23,242,650

Option III: 8% Salary Reduction

Academic Impact: Same as Option I academic impact except salary reduction across the board unfairly penalizes strong performers and otherwise decimates morale which would have an impact on the classroom since teachers represent >50% of SLPS payroll.

Category	Description	Cost Savings
Attrition	For example, 2% attrition due to 8% salary reduction	\$3,784,089
RIF or Salary Reduction	8% Salary Reduction across the District, all positions	\$14,833,628
Benefit Premium Sharing	Greater Premium Sharing	\$2,000,000
Benefit Design	Greater Benefit Design Change	\$1,500,000
Grant Funding	Early Childhood Grant (Same as Option 1)	\$1,000,000
Community Ed vs. Community Engagement	No Change	\$0
Transportation	No Change	\$0
Non-core K-12 Academic	No Change	\$0
	Move 9th grade from Southwest H.S. to Roosevelt H.S. (Same as Option 1)	<u>\$100,000</u>
Estimated Total Savings -		\$23,217,716

Option IV: No Attrition, No RIF, No Salary Cuts, Academic Program Downsizing

Academic Impact: Greatest detrimental impact to the classroom. Non-core K-12 Academic program elimination will have an impact on core K-12 education.

Category	Description	Cost Savings
Attrition	No change -	\$0
Benefit Premium Sharing	No Premium Sharing	\$0
Benefit Design	No Benefit Design	\$0
Grant Funding	Early Childhood Grant (Same as Option 1)	\$1,000,000
Community Ed vs. Community Engagement	Eliminate Community Education altogether with no replacement and no community engagement funding	\$1,500,000
Transportation	Better mgt of taxi program, vendor rebid, route efficiencies plus Transportation pickup 3.5 miles distance or greater from school only	\$2,700,000
Non-core K-12 Academic	Athletics - self funded through school concession sales	\$1,095,000
	<u>Eliminate and/or Reduce the following:</u>	
	Parent Infant Program	\$500,000
	Parents as Teachers	\$700,000
	Springboard to Learning	\$170,000
-	Limit textbook purchases	\$3,700,000
	Gifted Programs	\$760,000
	Social Work	\$3,000,000
-	Eliminate Field Trips	\$320,000
	Eliminate extra-course offerings (journalism, health careers, elementary & middle foreign languages)	\$1,200,000
	School Closings (For Example: 8 — no analysis has been done)	\$6,000,000
	Library Books	<u>\$600,000</u>
Estimated Total Savings -		\$23,245,000

Charter Reformers to Reach Decisions in May

by Lana Stein

Since August 2003, about 150 stakeholders selected by Advance St. Louis have been meeting to discuss features that might be desirable in an enhanced city government. Recently, St. Louis city officeholders have been making presentations to the group. There are four principal areas of concern:

1. Whether there should be a Board of Estimate and Apportionment (made up of mayor, comptroller, and president of the board of aldermen) in charge of the budget and contracting; whether there should be a strong mayor form of government or city manager form, or a mayor with a professional administrator.

2. The size of the Board of Aldermen (currently 28).

3. Whether the city's "county" offices handling revenue (Treasurer, License Collector, Collector of Revenue) should become appointive offices and whether other county offices should remain elective.

4. The nature of the city's civil service.

By May, the stakeholders and Advance Board Members will decide on the appropriate governmental form for the city that they will recommend to the voters. They hope to have the revised charter on the November 2004 ballot.

The stakeholders are being assisted by the National Civic League, an organization closely identified with the city manager movement.

Dan Schesch, of 60xx McPherson, is a member of the stakeholders. He has prepared a web site with materials relevant to charter rewriting. This site can be accessed at <http://stlcr.home.att.net>. He has provided a way for neighbors to provide feedback. Advance St. Louis also has a web site: www.advance-saintlouis.org. Future meetings will be announced on this latter web site. The public is welcome. Sometimes you can catch previous stakeholder sessions on Channel 10, the city's cable station.

SAFETY TIPS FROM SDCC AND POLICE

Over the winter, car theft throughout the city of St. Louis increased at an alarming rate. The St. Louis Metropolitan Police have formed special teams to address this crime. At the same time they offer the following advice:

- Never leave your car running or your keys in the ignition when you are away from the vehicle, even for just a minute;
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car even if it is in front of your house.
- Keep packages out of sight. Secure large items in your trunk.
- Do not leave stereos, cell phones, money or easily removable valuables in plain sight. If you can't take them with you place them in your trunk.
- Park in busy, well-lighted areas with good visibility, close to walkways, stores and people.

Police also remind you to be aware of the "Bump and Rob"

It works like this. A car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger, rear-ends or bumps you in traffic. You get out to check the damage. The driver or one of the passengers jumps into your car and drives off.

If you get bumped by another car, look around before you get out. Make sure there are other cars around, check out the car that rear-ended you and who is in it. If the situation makes you uncomfortable, stay in your car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lighted area to exchange information.

Finally, car jacking, stealing a car by force, has captured headlines in the last few years. Statistically, your chances of being a car-jacking victim are very slim, and preventive action can reduce the risk even more. Police recommend:

- Always approach your car with the keys already in your hand. Look around and inside before getting in.
- When driving your car, keep your doors locked and windows rolled up.
- Keep purses, brief cases, laptops and the like stowed on the floor or in the trunk.
- Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, ATMs, shopping malls, convenience and grocery stores.

Let's keep the number of car thefts under control - do your part to keep yourself, your family and your possessions safe.

Third Degree Glass Classes

The next round of classes is about to begin. To download a hard copy go to <http://www.stlglass.com/Spring%202004%20Brochure.pdf> or view the class schedule on our website www.stlglass.com

Upcoming Classes at Third Degree Glass Factory

Paperweight Class - A quick show of the tools and techniques via instructor demonstration and you will be on your way to beautiful and colorful paperweights. Students usually create 3-4 weights per class. No experience necessary. All materials and color included. Class may be repeated.

Saturday, April 3 (FP765-499) 9-noon. Tuition: \$85.

Sunday, April 18 (TD 0418-13) 1-4pm - Tuition: \$85.

Saturday, May 1 (TD 0501-9) 9-noon. Tuition: \$85.

Sunday, May 23 (TD 0523-13) 1-4pm. Tuition: \$85.

Parent & Child

Paperweights - A paperweight class designed to allow parent and child (min age 10, max.

age 110) create paperweights together.

March 27, Saturday 9am-1pm (td-327-9). \$170 for parent and child.

Saturday, May 8 (TD-0508-9) 9am-1pm. Tuition: \$170. for parent and child.

Intensive Hot Glass Parts 1 & 2 - From paperweights to tumblers, students have an extensive session in front of the furnace and learn the basics of blowing glass in one day. Perfect for those who don't have time or don't know if they want to commit to a full 6 or 12 week class. No prior experience necessary for Part 1. Materials provided.

Part 1

Saturday, March 13 (TD-313-10). 10-5pm. Tuition: \$125.

Sunday, May 16 (TD-0516-10). 10-4pm - Tuition: \$125.

Part 2

Saturday, May 22 (TD-0522-10). 10-4pm. Tuition: \$125.



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IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

There aren't many things about which I know a great deal, but t-shirts are one of them. Or maybe I should say "t-shirts are lots of them." You see, since early youth – which gets further away each year – I have been a t-shirt aficionado. Before t-shirts were IN, I was into them. I wore t-shirts, that is, exterior t-shirts, those that are colored with messages, not the white underwear type, before they were fashionable.

Now bear in mind, dear reader, I've never been considered a fashion horse. I mean, I never owned a Nehru jacket, I never wore bell-bottom pants, and the only necklace I wore held dog-tags when I was on active duty in the U.S. of A. Army. I never knew that green and pink clashed. I always think that patterns are good, the more the merrier. If I relied on my sartorial splendor to succeed, I would be in deep trouble. (Fortunately, I've always found success due to my hirsute appearance.)

In fact, the only thing about me which is fashionable (and, I must say, it is quite fashionable) is my array of ties. I have ties for more than every occasion, ties which will clash with just about anything, ties which will light up a dark room and ties which will turn a sunny day into deep gloom. I have wide ties, thin ties, thinner ties, and ties which make noises. My ties will remain fodder for a future column, though, because, proceeding alphabetically, I want to write about t-shirts.

The t-shirt fashion phenomena is fairly new. As recently as 10-12 years ago, t-shirts were only worn by jocks. That meant that they all had athletic signage on them. In my closet (I don't throw away anything; my fraternity pin is next to my 8th grade graduation ribbons), I still have t-shirts that say:

- Ron's Bar & Grill
- Sig Tau Choppers
- Thurmer's Hot Franks and Cold Brew

Then, a decade or so ago, for whatever reason, t-shirts became the IN thing.

Maybe it was due to Bo Jackson wearing that tight black T in the commercials. Maybe it was due to Farah Fawcett wearing, oh, never mind. Or maybe it was due to Dick Cheney wearing the "I'm with stupid" t-shirt when he first appeared next to George Bush. In any case, weather permitting, t-shirts are now fashion statements. You can adorn your body with sayings, proverbs, advertisements, encomiums, photos, and, of course, political statements. They're like tattoos only slightly less painful and much less permanent.

I was in DisneyWorld not too long ago, purely for research purposes, and I kept a tally of the kinds of t-shirts people wear. I mean, if DisneyWorld isn't representative of the population at large, what would be, the Republican Convention? Anyway, for most of three days I situated myself at a key place in the Magic Kingdom, just to the left of Dumbo, laptop in hand, and I took

notes. I recorded the t-shirt categories that entered the park. I used a chi-square analysis to determine which patterns were truly significant. My WashU research training is still with me; finally, that tuition was well worth it!

So what did I learn? First, I learned that after three days, even Dumbo gets old. Second, I learned that no matter how good popcorn is, after nine consecutive meals of buttered corn and ice cream, it loses its taste. By the end of day two, I was hurting gastronomically, looking for anything redeeming. Even so, however, I turned down a Pooh Corn Dog (a name that was quite apt) and a Goofy Hot Dog. I was tempted by the Minnie Nachos but was close enough to the kitchen that I could see how they were prepared. After watching the work in the kitchen, the popcorn didn't seem so bad.

My research took place in the middle of a Florida summer and I, never fully preparing for the elements, was wearing my long-sleeve plaid wool work shirt, dark jeans, a Cardinals cap, and a rain jacket just in case. So there I was, layered, kerneled up, slightly sunburned, resembling, no doubt, Tom Selleck in a microwave. I must have lost

10 pounds over the three days just due to sweating – did I also mention that I was wearing safety gloves? – but that's OK, I'm still far from emaciated. My next goal is to write a book, *The Kernel Diet*. I figure that if nothing else, people in the military will buy it.

Anyway, almost everyone entering the Magic Kingdom was wearing a t-shirt. That doesn't include the staff, of course, or the Florida ballot-counters.

The former group wore short-sleeve brown shirts, not unlike those used in the Park Service. They had crew-cuts too and marched in unison. At least I think they work for the Park Service! The latter group, fat cat Repubs all, wore gaudy jewelry, conscripted nation pearls, and diamonds the size of knuckles. The ballot-counters' shirts all had little elephants on them. They had so much money to spend that they were almost giddy. One trim lady with blood-red toe-nails and a name-tag that said *Katherine Harris* wore a personalized tank-top. It said, "I'm not worried about the \$500,000,000,000 deficit. Your kids will pay for it, you working-stiff, you." The guy who accompanied her, smoking a Cuban cigar and wearing a Bush-Thomas – '04 button, had a polo shirt with "I'm rich and I gain from the elimination of the Death Tax. You don't, but you don't know it, dope!"

But everyone else who entered the Kingdom was in a t-shirt. T-shirts were worn by young people, old people, fat and thin people, and Democrats. The Republicans were in furs and pin-striped suits, even in the Magic Kingdom, but why not? They all sold short their Martha Stewart, Inc. stock.

So what do these shirts say? Basically, after much research and even more popcorn, I've learned that t-shirts come in five main categories. These categories allow us to shout our beliefs, brag about our conquests, and cue up for the salvation line. Remember, a t-shirt is not something you wear; a t-shirt is a statement. It is a chance to proselytize, persuade, brag, and defy. Based on a whole lot of research – survey results, interviews, observation, and flipping coins, here then are the categories:

1. Religious t-shirts. I realize that t-shirts aren't mentioned in the Bible. (I guess that means that Bush can't support them, right?) Anyway, Bible or not, it's clear

that a lot of Religious zealots (was that redundant?) feel that they can get an edge to the Pearly Gates by wearing a t-shirt that speaks to their faith. It's as if St. Peter will actually read the shirt before he passes judgment on them! You know, you can cheat and steal and plunder – be a Republican – but as long as your shirt is a testimony to your faith, you're into the eternal Ted Drewes. My favorite religious shirts were:

- My God is the right one, sorry about yours
 - Christ died for my sins. Let's party!
 - God, she's the real deal
2. Tourist t-shirts. These are shirts which proclaim where someone has been.

Or at least where someone they know has been. Or maybe where they'd like to have gone. My favorites here were:

- Cruise Carnival and buy souvenirs from poor people
- Visit Kansas and the rest of the world is exciting
- Poverty, been there and too bad. Vote Republican!

3. In-your-face statements.

- Martha and O. J. are innocent and the Supreme Court is apolitical
- My Hummer is bigger than yours
- Hooray for the new downtown stadium. Boo to health care and schools

4. Brags.

- My kid is on the honor roll despite heredity
- My modesty is warranted
- I'm with stupid (also worn by Colin Powell when he accompanied Bush)

5. Jockola.

- St. Louis Rams – the best team money can buy
- I'm with stupid (also worn by a fireplug next to Bush)
- NHL hockey: It's fighting on skates, no more and no less

So there you have it, you would-be fashion-plate you. Now you know as much about t-shirt fashion as Tommy Hilfinger, Sylvester Stallone, Nicole Kidman, or Ebenezer Scrooge. Oh yeah, if you want to be a t-shirt trend-setter you can always be the first on your block to get a dark green Hillary '08 shirt. They are selling like hot cakes. You heard it here first.

Next month's topic: Hybrid cars, lunar landings, and lasagne.

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