

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

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Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Andy Cross Wins National Gardening Award

Out of more than 400 entries nationwide, our neighborhood's own Andy Cross was a winner in the national 2008 Garden Crusader contest.

The contest is the creation of Gardener's Supply Company, an employee-owned, 25-year-old, mail-order gardening firm in Burlington, Vt., "to honor individuals who are improving the world through gardening," according to its mission statement. "These enthusiastic men and women are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching their friends and neighbors about the rewards of gardening." Contest prizes each year total \$15,000.

Skinker DeBaliviere resident Becky Homan knew about this award program from her garden-writing days at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She nominated Andy last summer,

with help from Darcell Braylock, executive director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Also, folks agreeing to give Andy references for this contest included Gwenne Hayes-Stewart, director of Gateway Greening, and Dr. Steven Cline, director of the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

What Andy won for placing third nationally in "Urban Renewal" -- one of the contest's four categories -- is \$500 in gift certificates from Gardener's Supply extensive and well-priced catalog. He also received a special edition baseball cap touting his award plus an official, frameable letter of congratulations. Go online to www.gardeners.com, click on "community" and Garden Crusaders to see Andy's name in a list of a dozen top community-gardener winners from around the country.

Loop Renovation to Feature History and Innovation

by Jo Ann Vatcha



A long-neglected commercial building on the northeast corner of Delmar and Skinker will get new life with a grand renovation planned by new owner Washington University. Recently, architect Andy Trivers and Washington University representatives Cheryl Adelstein, Rose Windmiller and Art Ackermann, made a presentation to the Delmar Commercial Committee regarding their plans to renovate the building, which is located at 6193 Delmar building. The design for the exterior of the building, while fulfilling historic restoration requirements, also adds an exciting element -- wind turbines, which will supply approximately half of the building's electrical needs for the sixteen apartments intended for students and faculty.

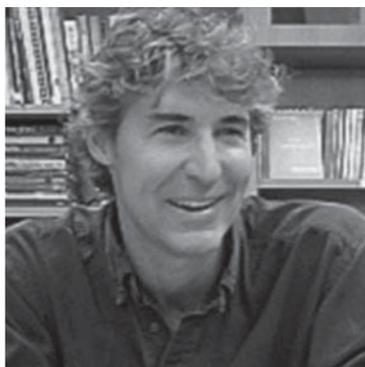
Interesting comments from The City's Cultural Resources staff made included the following interesting comments:

The building will be rehabilitated using the Secretary of the Interior Standards, as a Historic Tax Credit project. The installation of aluminum wind turbines on the roof will be the only deviation. While metal is not specifically addressed in the standards for the local district, historically, building cornices and roof-top appendages such as water towers, penthouses and antennae were comprised of a variety of metals. The installation will be completely reversible without permanent damage to the historic building, and therefore could be considered an accessory. At the staff's suggestion, the turbines have been extended at each corner to reflect the architectural bays of the building and to emphasize the suggestion of an overscaled

decorative cornice.

Andy Trivers, the architect for the project, noted that the movement of the wind turbines will echo the vibrancy of the Loop. Jo Ann Vatcha, Chairman of the Delmar Commercial Committee, observed that the committee was excited about the project's environmental innovations and the potential for the project to expand the community's vision of what a historic neighborhood can do with its existing commercial buildings. Katie Kurtz, Chairman of the SDCC Historic District Review Committee, pointed out the LED lighting proposed to highlight the building's facade in the evening will be an "entertaining addition to the night scene." A plan to demolish the small rear building to allow for additional parking was denied by the city's Preservation Commission, following a suggestion made by the SDCC Historic District Review Committee.

The seven first floor commercial spaces will be renovated and leased to new commercial tenants by Joe Edwards, working with Washington University. With its proximity to the beautiful new Moonrise Hotel, which will open later this spring, the renovated "Corner Building" will be an exciting addition to this transformed part of our own the own East Loop area.



Andy Cross was interviewed for the upcoming history of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Coming soon from the Missouri Historical Society and the *TIMES* of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE:

A brand new 100+ page book and DVD will include the "Neighborhood Chronicles" written by Jo Ann Vatcha, excerpts from *The Neighborhood--a History of Skinker-DeBaliviere* by Gee Stuart, Sue Tepas, and Kathy Harleman (yellow book); other selected articles from the archives of the *TIMES* of SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE, quotes and photos from Oral

History interviews conducted by Jody Sowell, and dozens of photographs courtesy of Missouri History Museum, *THE TIMES*, and private donations from neighborhood residents. If you would like to pre-order this new book and DVD, contact Jo Ann Vatcha at jvatcha@gmail.com. A book sale and event to benefit the *TIMES* will be scheduled soon!



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Our neighborhood's annual Martin Luther King Celebration will be held on February 8, 2009, 3:00-5:30 p.m., at the New Cote Brillante Church, Skinker at Washington. All are welcome to this historic celebration. The speaker for this year will be Roderick L. Jones, President and CEO of Grace Hill Settlement House.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Woe Is Us – Again

How many months did we endure without our parkway? How many extra minutes were spent getting to the mall, downtown, the airport or the Bagel Factory? What a tremendous sigh of relief when it reopened. Again, Skinker DeBaliviere lived up to its motto of being close.

But, we've been screwed again. The Highway 40 closing has sent many more cars to our beloved parkway, necessitating extra times for trips at all hours of the day and some of the night. At 5:45 pm, it takes 3 lights to get from Des Peres past Skinker. Turning on to Skinker from Waterman is no fun either. Because Skinker is so backed up, only 1 or 2 cars can make a left when the light is green. Lines of cars now exist on DesPeres and Waterman as cars wait to enter the bumper-to-bumper terrain. Making a left from the parkway to Skinker is not bad once you're able to be in the turn lane. But, going from the eastbound parkway to Skinker takes a good while. Generally, only 2 or possibly 3 cars can get through. The re-opening of Highway 40 cannot come a minute too soon. We residents now have had to take it on the chin not once but twice. Enough is enough.

Second on my list is garbage. Not one of us has been unaffected by random dumping of building materials or other bulk items by those who don't live there. There can be problems as well with newer residents who don't know all the rules (or perhaps flaunt them). Bulk pick up occurs the week containing the first Monday of the month. That is when old couches or beds or other such items are to be put out – not anytime during the month. Bags of garbage must be placed in the dumpsters. The sanitation people won't pick it up otherwise. To prevent dumpster overload, break down large boxes. The city stops collecting yard waste after Thanksgiving. Don't keep putting it out and especially don't put it out (e.g., tree branches) by a neighbor's fence. My block has seen its share of garbage faux faux.

Gates have been blocked with debris. Check with the SDCC office if you have questions about pick-up and proper disposition of waste.

Speaking of waste, you can curtail the amount of refuse going to dumpsters by recycling. Earth Circle Recycling has a contract with the city and already picks up from some of your neighbors. They take almost all plastic, glass containers, aluminum and steel cans, newspapers, magazines, and other paper plus cardboard. It's not free but it reduces the burden on the city and makes us a little greener. It's \$45 per year. Call 353-7176.

You can also check out their website at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org.

Calendar

February 8, 2009, 3:00-5:30 p.m., MLK Celebration, New Cote Brilliante Church. All are welcome to this historic celebration.

February 13, 2009, 8:00 p.m. The Department of Music at Washington University is hosting one of the biggest jazz events of the year for the St. Louis Region. We will be featuring world famous jazz artists Gary Peacock, bass, Marc Copland, piano, and Bill Stewart, drums. The event will be held at the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall at the 560 Music Center at 560 Trinity Ave. Ticket prices are \$20 general admission, \$15 faculty, staff, and seniors, and \$5 students. Call 314-935-6543 or metrotix for tickets.

February 13 and 14, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22: Hamlet by William Shakespeare; directed by Henry Schvey, A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre, Mallinckrodt Student Center, 6445 Forsyth Blvd. COST:\$15; \$10 for seniors, students and Washington University faculty and staff. Available at the Edison Theatre Box Office, (314) 935-6543, and all MetroTix outlets.

February 18, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Pageant, 4th Annual 7th District Officer Appreciation Awards Luncheon, with guest speaker Charlie Spoonhour. \$ 20. Contact PO Tim Kehm 444-0047, or PO Phil Green pegreen@simpd.org.

Fridays, February 27 to April 24, 2009, Spring Concert Series, FREE live concerts from a diverse variety St. Louis musicians, plus complimentary refreshments. Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. For information, call 935-4523 or see kemperartmuseum@wustl.edu.

March 8 and March 22, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon, Work days at the McPherson Community Garden. For information, call 862-5122.

Neighborhood Talent Show planned for April

A Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood Talent Show will be held in late April at Joe's Cafe, artist-neighbor Bill Christman's great venue located at 6020 Kingsbury, in late April, 2009. The call has gone out for all those aged 15 years and older who wish to participate. Organizers Bill Christman, Mark Gorman, and Karin Hagaman plan a variety of acts and hope to interest talented neighbors in doing 2 to- 3 minute performances of music, dancing, comedy, acting, poetry, etc., to make this a great neighborhood event.

For more information, contact one of the organizers soon! Bill Christman can be reached at his studio at 862-2541; or call Mark Gorman at 363-5236 or Karin Hagaman at 725-6878.

Gitana Productions, Inc. receives five Kevin Kline Awards nominations for its first theater production

Gitana Productions, Inc. has been nominated for five Kevin Kline Awards for its original production "Complacency of Silence: Darfur," a play about genocide in Africa. Written by former Kevin Kline Awards winner Lee Patton Chiles, the play was the first dramatic theater production by Gitana Productions, a not-for-profit arts and education organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural awareness and collaboration by bringing international music, dance and drama to the St. Louis community. Congratulations to Gitana leader and our neighbor, Cecilia Nadal, for this great honor.

The Kevin Kline Awards will be presented on March 30, 2009 at the Loretto-Hilton Center in Webster Groves. Tickets are available by calling 314-531-7529.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Centennial House Plaques



Designed by artist Andy Cross and executed by tile painter Madeleine Laura, these handsome, weatherproof tiles will be customized with the year a house was built.

Name: _____

House Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Year Requested on Plaque: _____

We have a map of the Historic District with building dates. Price: \$55 Checks made payable to West End Publishing Company. Please mail to: Katie Kurtz, 6178 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Call 727-6377 or 496-5083.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy
The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

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 April-May issue: March 15, 2009. Please send copy by e-mail to jvatcha@gmail.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@gmail.com or maxlana@sbcglobal.net.

News of Neighbors

By Rachel Boxdorfer

Without a doubt, 2008 was an exciting year in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. We had so many wonderful events and celebrations throughout the year commemorating the centennial. As we move forward in a new year, with a new president, let's catch up with some of the news of our neighbors.



The month of November brought a new resident to the 6000 block of McPherson. **Dan & Krystal Elze** welcomed their second child, a son, **Sean Michael**, on November 21st. Big sister **Andrea** is certainly proud of her baby brother and will certainly be

a big help to her new brother! If a toddler and a newborn aren't enough to keep the family busy, Dan moonlights with "That 80's Band". The band just celebrated their five year anniversary at Blueberry Hill on January 16th.

Also entertaining St. Louisans (again) is **Berklea Going**, a student at St. Roch School. Berklea was one of the young actresses who played 'Scout' in *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the Edison Theater in January. Kudos to Berklea on an incredible performance in this absolutely wonderful production and we look forward to seeing her in more St. Louis theaters.

And the talent does not stop there! The December Shooting Star production of *Alice in Wonderland* featured three more St. Roch students and Skinker DeBaliviere residents. Parkview resident **Michael Schimmele** played the King of Hearts and **Zach Voss** of the 6000 block of McPherson was the Mad Hatter. Both gave outstanding performances. And although a smaller part, **Lilia Voss** shined at

the Flower Girl White in *Alice in Wonderland*. Congrats to all of our talented residents!

Students at St. Roch School are to be commended for winning the 2008 CYC South Central District Sportsmanship award for soccer. The award is based on a district-wide vote and this is the first year that St. Roch has been in this district. Way to go St. Roch!

One of our fearless editors for the *Times*, **Lana Stein**, has been lured out of retirement by Washington University to teach a class this semester on "Machine Politics in the United States."

Shirley Polk of the 5700 block of DeGiverville reminded me that we need to welcome some new residents to the neighborhood from her block. Welcome to **Dr. Fred Hick** and also to **Ray, Sharon, and Adam Bartle**. I believe all of them have been spotted enjoying some of the fun events in our neighborhood.

Becky Homan continued promoting her first book *The Missouri Gardener's Companion*

during the holidays. The book came out last May, but the holidays was a good time for more promotion. Becky, who lives on the 6000 block of Westminster, has now taken a part time job at Bowood Farms consulting on events and publicity. Becky is really enjoying this new adventure after 26 years with the Post-Dispatch and writing her book. For more information on the book or to see photographs of many gardens Becky toured when writing the book, check out www.beckyhoman.com.

Congratulations to neighborhood residents **Eric Mumford and Patty Heyda**, who were among the presenters at a January 31 symposium discussing Eero Saarinen and his design of the Gateway Arch. Eric, who lives on the 61xx block of Westminster, is a professor of architecture at Washington University, and Patty, who lives on the 61xx block of Washington, is a lecturer in urban design. The exhibit, entitled "On the Riverfront," focuses on the people, events and conditions that culminated in the 1947-48 competition from which Eero Saarinen's design was chosen, as well as the monument's subsequent construction and its place in American architecture. Steinberg Gallery is the site for the exhibition which lasts from January 30-March 15, 2009. Call 935-7215 for more information.

Attention all neighbors, be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 18th for the 7th District Police Officer of the Year Awards at The Pageant. This is the fourth annual awards luncheon. Former Saint Louis University Basketball Coach **Charlie Spoonhour** will be the guest speaker and KEZK's Ed Goodman will be the Master of Ceremonies. This event is a great way to show support to the 7th District Police for all they do for us throughout the year. For ticket information, call Officer Tim Kehm at 314-444-0047.

And one final note, **Andy and Linda Cross** are again chairing the Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere campaign. If you have not already joined for 2009, call the SDCC office to show your support. The Friends Campaign helps raise funds to support the SDCC office and the many special events that keep us all entertained throughout the year. We are truly lucky to live in a neighborhood that offers a garden tour, a jazz concert series, movies, and more. So please, show your support and join the Friends of SDCC! For more information call 314-862-5122.

Do you have some news to share? Please send your items to Rachel Boxdorfer at rboxdorfer@charter.net with the subject line "News of Neighbors". Thank you!

Neighborhood Scouts Help Collect 2.2 Million Cans for Scouting for Food Drive

By Ligaya Figueras

Cub Scouts from Pack 98 were among the more than 30,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers who helped feed the hungry this past November as they collected 2.2 million cans of food during the 2008 Scouting for Food drive.

Led by Pack 98 den leaders Kerry McEvoy, Rachel Boxdorfer and Karen Shaughnessy, the scouts covered the area bounded by DeBaliviere on the east to Parkview on the west, and from Forest Park Parkway north to Delmar.



Pack 98 scouts, from left to right: (back row) Owen Shaughnessy, Ian Shaughnessy, William Kramer, Matt Grady; (middle row) Luke Hart, Joe Schwartz, Mitchell Stephens, Gavin McEvoy, Donovan Hill, Ian Intagliata; (front row) Truman Stephens, Spencer Harvey, Zachary Harris, scout sibling Auggie Lodholz. Not pictured: Elia Barker, Jalen Blackmon, Christian Boxdorfer, Max Friesen, Christopher Gates, Anton Gudiswitz, William Kramer, Karl Lodholz, Nolan Lodholz, Charlie McGroarty, Eric Webster and Alan Wilson.

drive. The collection was only 20,000 cans less than the all-time high set in 2004. The Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, has collected more than 37 million cans of food during the 24-year history of the drive.

The boys distributed bags on Saturday, November 15 and returned the following Saturday to collect canned goods and other non-perishables. "We got some maple syrup in our bag. Someone's going to have pancakes for breakfast!" said Gavin McEvoy, son of den leader Kerry McEvoy and a student at St. Roch School on Waterman.

The collection went smoothly despite a near glitch when fellow cub scout Donovan Hill almost picked up someone's groceries that contained their entire Thanksgiving dinner. "Oops, sorry," said 9-year-old Hill, who is also a student at St. Roch. As a reward for their hard work, Pack 98 scouts were treated to ice skating at Steinbergs Ice Rink in Forest Park.

The area food drive required the assistance of many individuals and organizations. "Several troops and packs dropped off at the firehouse on Vandeventer and Forest Park," stated den leader Kerry McEvoy. "A service organization from St. Louis University worked at the firehouse packing up all of the canned goods as the boys brought them in from the trucks."

Sunset Transportation, Inc. of Sunset Hills provided vehicles, equipment, volunteer drivers and solicited the assistance of additional volunteers from trucking companies. Sunset Transportation coordinated all logistics for the food collection, which involved transporting boxed food from more than 40 area fire stations to the St. Louis Area Food Bank for distribution at more than area food pantries throughout eastern Missouri and southwest Illinois.

"Our Scouts and leaders today were overwhelmed by the community's generous response," said John M. Primrose, Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater St. Louis Area Council. "Pantries experienced an increased demand for food assistance during the last few months. Families needing nutritional assistance during the coming winter months will have adequate food because of the generosity of our communities and the hard work of our Scouts and leaders."

The overall collection was 6 percent larger than last year's

Velocity Offers a Mocha and a Bike Ride

By Sarah Griesbach

Have you found Velocity? The cafe/bikerentalshop on DeBaliviere, adjacent to the MetroLink station by the History Museum is worth looking for checking out! We, teachers at neighboring Crossroads College Prep. School, have identified our new faculty lounge-cafeteria, and flocking to the warm, quiet respite for hot, healthy sandwiches and decadent lattes. Many of our students were among the crowds taking advantage of bottomless cups of coffee and free wi-fi the weeks before and during winter exams. My own children beg for Velocity; Immanuel (4) calls for "more melty cookies," Peter (9) says "their eggs are the best," Cosima (10) dreams of peach smoothies, Oscar (12) likes his "goat without tomatoes," and Tristan (15) goes for grilled cheese with pesto dipped in tomato basil soup. Nora, our temporary child who is living with us here as an exchange student from Germany, knows each of the fun, friendly baristas by name and is the only one of us, so far, to put the bike repair aspect to work.

The bike repair and rental aspect was the beginning of the dream for Susan Gyorog, Velocity's founding mother. Susan returned energized from her Peace Corps adventure, where she teaching English in the Ukraine, energized. She looked

around the CWE and wondered what she could do to contribute positively to her community at home. A long believer in green living and a bike enthusiast, Susan focused on what she knew.

After over a year of blood, sweat and tears shed working over a space you would not recognize had you seen it in its former state (seriously, wow!) the storefront at the corner of DeBaliviere and Pershing is an urban oasis of cool. Susan, her children, grandchildren, and extended friend family visited resale shops and attics to assemble a crisp cafe decor from found objects, used furniture, and innovative creations like the stools that a local artist made from used bicycles by a local artist, and the signature Parisian-cyclery poster art decoupage on the tables.

Everything about Velocity is a mix of traditional cafe intellectual and completely unique St. Louis funky. The bathrooms beat any I've seen; they boast with a candy bowl sink of blown glass created by a 3rd Degree Glass Factory artist, as well and as bike tire mirrors.

Velocity is just beginning to make a presence – and a difference – in in St. Louis. Susan has joined the Women's Bicycle Club in St. Louis, making Velocity a proud sponsor of Team Revolution in this year's Frostbite Rides. Bikes

VELOCITY CAFE AND CYCLERY
286 DEBALIVIERE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63112
HOURS: MONDAY-SUNDAY 7AM - 9PM

CHECK OUT THE VELOCITY BIKE BLOG
[HTTP://VELOCITYCYCLERYBLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://velocitycycleryblog.blogspot.com/)



Photo by Sarah Griesbach

on display around the store also tell a story of local concerns and connections. Many come from Bicycle Works, a program that enables neighborhood children to refurbish/build their own bikes.

There is something for everyone at Velocity. With winter specials on the bicycle labor menu, the already far below -competition prices on basic tune-up, safety checks, and general repairs are a steal. On the occasionally balmy winter day, when Forest Park is the perfect venue for much needed winter exercise and

vitamin D, renting bikes for the family at Velocity costs less than a tank of gas. Renting a tandem, a tag-a-long for tikes or one of the amazingly comfortable Cruiser bikes ten times a year makes more sense than buying them. And on Sundays, Velocity now offers a delicious seasonal brunch. For the Skinker-DeBaliviere set, a mocha and a bike ride is just a stroll away. For everyone else, Velocity was kind enough to connect to MetroLink!!

New Production of Hamlet at WU

By Liam Otten

For many actors Hamlet is the Mt. Everest of roles: a four-hour, 3,000-line trek to be approached only at the height of one's professional powers. As a result many productions feature leads – from Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir John Gielgud to Mel Gibson and Kenneth Branagh – who are well

Set in the present day and using modern dress, the production is designed to showcase the prince of Denmark as "a very young man, trapped in a politically dangerous world that, despite his remarkable and profound intelligence, he is ill-equipped to handle the essence of the story is youth," Schvey continues. "Much has been made about the mystery of the character – his impulsivity, his erratic behavior and swings of emotion. And yet if we see Hamlet as a teenager rather than as a middle-aged man, things that seemed incoherent suddenly ring true."

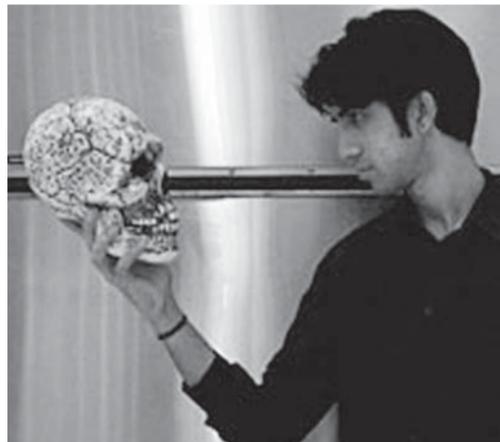


Photo Credit: David Kilper/WUSTL Photo Services

The cast of 27 is led by senior Sathya Sridharan as Hamlet, senior Justin Joseph as Claudius and junior Virginia Page as Gertrude.

into middle age.

That's a fundamental misreading of the text, argues Henry I. Schvey, Ph.D., professor of drama in the Washington University Performing Arts Department (PAD). "Hamlet is as much a story of adolescence as Romeo and Juliet," Schvey explains. "Remember, Hamlet is at university when he is suddenly called back to attend his father's funeral, and there are numerous textual references to his youth. Indeed, many of the characters – Horatio, Laertes, Rozencrantz and Guildenstern – are university students; Ophelia is younger still."

Also starring are sophomore Julia Mellon as Ophelia, junior Iain Prendergast as Polonius, sophomore Dan Tobin as Laertes and senior David Weiss as Horatio. Sophomores Jonathan Levinson and Eli Keehn play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

This February Schvey – who founded the PAD's Shakespeare Summer Globe Program in 1989 and who has served on The Shakespeare's Globe Centre USA Advisory Committee – will direct a new production of Hamlet in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre.

Performances of Hamlet take place in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13 and 14; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Performances continue the following weekend, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22. Tickets are \$15 – \$10 for students, senior citizens and Washington University faculty and staff – and are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office, (314) 935-6543, and all MetroTix outlets. For more information, call (314) 935-6543.

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Skinker-D Gastronomy

Locally grown food inspires home cook to spice it up in the kitchen

by Ligaya Figueras

Cooking has always been a party of Mary Edgerton's life. Growing up in New York, she spent a lot of time in the kitchen helping her mother and grandmother. "They were great cooks and they had me working in the kitchen with them as long as I can remember."



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Mary Edgerton helps with the weekly food distribution at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ames Place, the winter pick-up site for Fair Shares CSA members who live in Skinker-DeBaliviere and U.City.

and buy the same old things out of habit. Now we try to plan our menus around what's in the bag every week and have made many delicious new discoveries. Who knew all the things you could do with zucchini?"

Edgerton shared a black bean and sweet potato enchilada recipe that uses many items included in a weekly Fair Shares bag: peppers, sweet potatoes, black beans, salsa and tortillas. The

recipe was given to Mary by her 20-year-old daughter, Leah, who is vegan. "When she's not around, I've been known to add some cheese on top!"

The Edgertons enjoy the enchilada dish with guacamole tortilla chips, a green salad, and "a great beer, because Mike is a home brewer."

To be considered for future issues, contact Ligaya Figueras at figueras@sbcglobal.net.

Black Bean and Sweet Potato Enchiladas

Courtesy of Mary Edgerton • Serves 8

- 2 lge. sweet potatoes, peeled, diced
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 small, fresh hot chile pepper, seeded and rinsed (or substitute 2 fresh jalapeno peppers)
- 1 1/2 cup black beans, cooked
- 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes or 2 1/2 cups fresh tomatoes, diced
- 1 Tbsp. chile powder
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 cups salsa
- 8 flour tortillas
- 1/4 c. red onion, finely chopped

Preheat the oven to 400°. Arrange the sweet potatoes in a single layer on a slightly oiled baking sheet and roast until tender, turning once, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. Reduce the oven temperature to 350. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and chile pepper, stirring until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the beans, tomatoes, chile powder, salt and pepper. Stir in the sweet potatoes and simmer for 5 minutes. Set aside. Spread a thin layer of salsa over the bottom of a lightly oiled 9 x 13-inch baking dish and set aside.

Place a tortilla on a flat work surface. Spoon a portion of the bean-sweet potato mixture down the center of the tortilla and roll it up. Place the filled tortilla in the baking dish, seam side down, and repeat with the remaining tortillas and filling mixture. Spoon any remaining filling mixture on top of the enchiladas, top with the remaining salsa, and sprinkle with

red onion. Cover and bake until hot and bubbly, about 20 minutes.

Parker's Pick

We asked Jon Parker, resident of 60XX Kingsbury and proprietor of Parker's Table Wine and Food Shop in Clayton, to suggest a wine pairing for Edgerton's enchilada dish. "Try something with juice and fresh fruit and low alcohol," said Parker. "The spice and heat of the peppers can work against wines with high alcohol and strong tannins. The combination of these elements might turn your mouth into a chimenea." Parker offered red and white picks that retail for \$15 a bottle. "For the red, a good Beaujolais fills the glass in a soft, jammy-juicy pale way. Blue Franc from Washington State also works with a darker but similar taste." For the white, Parker suggested Nora Albarino from northwestern Spain. It was long thought that the Albarino grape was a relative of Riesling made in a dry style. The smell is fresh and spicy like Riesling. However, through modern wonders of DNA tracing, the connection was proven unfounded.

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Nubia Cafe Offers Taste of West African and Caribbean Cuisine

By Ligaya Figueras

A belated but hearty welcome to **Nubia Cafe**. The ethnic restaurant located at 5860 Delmar in the Delmar Design District opened last April and serves authentic West African and Caribbean Cuisine.

Nubia Cafe is owned by Hon. Henry E.

Iwenofu, who is also a councilman in Normandy in North County. Iwenofu's family has ties to Nigeria and to Jamaica so the restaurant offers dishes from both West African and Caribbean cuisine. "I wanted to give people a taste of two areas," said Iwenofu. Food is prepared under the direction of Iwenofu's mother Christiana, "the cook in the family."

Iwenofu noted that the fare at his restaurant demonstrates the ethnic African ties between the two distinct geographic regions. In both cuisines, most of the food is boiled according to Iwenofu.

"There are less fried products." What is the different between these two culinary traditions? "Mainly it's the seasoning," stated Iwenofu.

Among the restaurant's best-sellers are Jamaican-style jerk chicken and egusi stew, a Nigerian specialty made with chicken, beef or goat meat, nniji (pounded yam) and melon seeds in a tomato sauce served with steamed rice. Adventurous eaters can try a variety of authentic dishes by ordering the Nubia Sampler, which includes chicken wings, plantain fries, suya (a West African-style kebob), akara (deep-fried bean fritters) and Jamaican patties, and is filling enough to serve two people as a main dish.

Iwenofu was already acquainted with Skinker-DeBaliviere when he selected the Delmar Design District as the location for his restaurant. "When I first moved to St. Louis, I lived in DeBaliviere Place. This location is easily accessed from The Loop and the Central West



Photo by King Schoenfeld



Nubia Cafe owner Hon. Henry E. Iwenofu opened the neighborhood restaurant in April, 2008. Iwenofu is a former resident of DeBaliviere Place.

End. I knew it to be a diverse area, a good place to attract students."

For those unfamiliar with African or Caribbean food,

Iwenofu recommended the chicken curry. "It is easy for beginners. The chicken curry is available also as a wrap—that's a fusion: to make it to what people are used to." The curry

is also a good pick for kids, according to Iwenofu, who also suggested that youngsters would enjoy moi-moi (black-eyed pea cake), a salmon burger or bison burger, the Jamaican Chicken Patty and plantain fries. The restaurant has a healthy selection of vegetarian dishes, including a veggie burger, yam potage with spinach or collard greens, and red beans and rice.

A variety of domestic beer and imported wine and beer from South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya are on the drink list. Exotic beverages like a nonalcoholic Jamaican ginger beer and bottled palm juice are also available.

Nubia Cafe adds to the Friday nightclub scene with a DJ who plays African and Latin music. Open poetry readings are held on Saturday evenings.

Nubia Cafe
5860 Delmar
314.367.8200
www.nubia.biz
Hours: Lunch: Tue. to Sat. – 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Dinner: Tue. to Sat. – 5 to 10 p.m.

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Dear Neighbor:

What an exciting centennial year 2008 was! So many neighbors gave a lot of time, talent, and volunteer hours to make all of our celebrations special. Our Mother's Day house tour was reminiscent of an annual event from decades ago which was created in part to market the neighborhood and attract new families. This time the event celebrated the many housing styles and architectures to which Skinker DeBaliviere is blessed. The 10th annual Breakfast Garden Tour also had a centennial theme this year. The Garden Tour has similar goals as the old house tour, to bring neighbors together to celebrate what we value in Skinker DeBaliviere. Movie nights and our concert series offered entertainment for families and friends throughout the year. Our big centennial party in October was the largest party we have had in Skinker DeBaliviere in years. The block parties this year were so successful that those blocks are planning to make them annual events.*

To many long-time neighbors of Skinker DeBaliviere, the centennial year was not only a celebration of our neighborhoods past 100 years, but also of our success in recent decades. We have seen our neighborhood rise from boarded up buildings and rough times to the thriving and close-knit community that we are today. Symbolically, Delmar Boulevard was named one of the 'Top Ten Streets in America' last year.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council still plays a crucial role in the success of neighborhood events and services. With your support to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council the neighborhood can continue with its mission of progress, diversity, and preservation into the next century. Please consider joining the Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere for 2009.

Thank you so much for your support,
 - Andy and Linda Cross
 - Residents of Skinker DeBaliviere
 - Friends Campaign Chairs

If you are new to Skinker DeBaliviere we invite you to join us at our neighborhood events and explore our website at www.stlouis,missouri.org/skinkerdebaliviere. Old and new neighbors alike, if you would like to receive emails about upcoming events, please send us your email address to beverett@skinker-debalivier.com or call the council office at 862-5122.

*** If you would like to organize a block party for your block, feel free to contact us and we will be happy to share ideas and experiences.**

Volunteers Dan, Karin, and Mark.

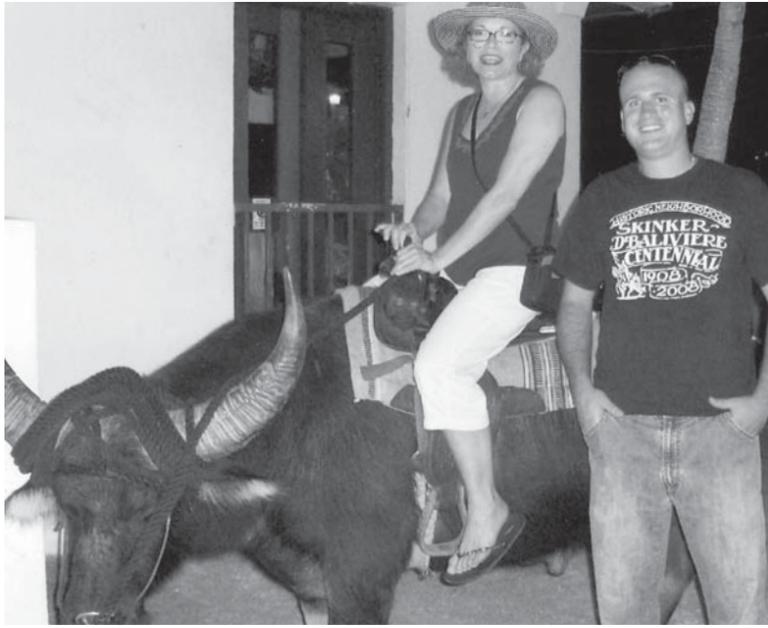
Reflections on Centennial Celebration of Oct. 11th 2008

By Andy Cross

100 years in the making. A huge and friendly crowd of neighbors gathered at Greg Freeman Park/ Four Corners on October 11th for "the "Big Party" of our Centennial Year. Over a year of planning by the Centennial Committee and volunteer work and donations by so many neighbors made the event very special. Tables and chairs were set out in the street alongside a booth with souvenirs, address plaques, and neighborhood history projects. Smoker grills were started in the morning, and garden torches were lit in the evening as neighbors gathered.

The event was emceed by neighbor Nancy Farmer, former Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council executive director, who later worked as our State Rep. and then as the Treasurer of the State of Missouri. Dignitaries included: Congressman William Lacy Clay Jr., Mayor Slay, Comptroller Darlene Green, President of the Board of Aldermen Lewis Reed,

a representative from Claire McCaskill's office, Alderman Frank Williamson, Alderman Lyda Krewson, and former Mayor Vince Schoemehl of Skinker- DeBaliviere. Each gave wonderful speeches and



Our Centennial celebrated around the world: Daniel Flynn, U.S. Navy, wearing his Skinker-DeBaliviere Centennial T-Shirt. That's Mom Rose Flynn, seated on Pachu the Caribou, on a visit in January to the island of Guam, where Daniel is stationed. Daniel grew up on the 5900 block of Pershing and attended St. Roch School.

six proclamations were presented. A top-notch band, Cauze 4 Concern, serenaded, rocked, and grooved with the crowd. Barbecue featured the new Skinker-DeBaliviere favorites by Dan and Phil Lodholz, namely, smoked ribs and steamed/smoked chicken, both with a homemade sauce that can't be beat. The food booth was so successful that they had to send runners to pick up more

food supplies five times. None of the volunteers can recall an event where so much food was sold, and was so tasty. Souvenir glass steins with the Centennial logo were sold next to the beer, and the wine brought many toasts to neighbors old and new. S-D resident Mark Banaszak, standing in the middle of hundreds of children in the playground, Mark Banaszak tied so many balloon animals that his fingers nearly fell off. An art show in Bill Kohn's Studio featured drawings of familiar things in Skinker-DeBaliviere, created by neighborhood children. Classic firetrucks added a splash of color. In attendance were a 1940s pumper which, in its day, served in this area. A larger firetruck from the '50s had all the class and style of autos of that era. The third truck was a massive snorkel from the '60s, a display in power and safety in one enormous vehicle.

After dark, Katie Kurtz presented the neighborhood with a centennial "100" birthday cake, while the band sang *Meet me in St. Louis*. A symbolic Olympic torchbearer from 1904 carried a torch to the kiosk, which magically transformed into an Olympic torch signifying our neighborhood's World's Fair beginnings. The same spirit burns in us today as we look towards Skinker- DeBaliviere's next hundred years.

Wintermarkt 2008

By Andy Cross

Our 2008 Wintermarkt was well attended with nearly 30 vendors participating in a successful event. This year featured a free raffle. offered prizes to attendees. Attendance prizes included free dinners at the Chinese Noodle Cafeon Delmar, and handmade jewelry by Gretchen Boxdorfer. Willie Herndon emceed the event. Our seven live musical performances opened with Skinker-DeBaliviere resident Mary Walsh and her brother Ian playing reels and songs on fiddle, flute, and other instruments. The St. Roch Choir sang Christmas carols and other songs under the direction of Keith Ballentine. Three acapella groups from Washington University - the Mosaic Whispers, The Pikers, and The Amateurs - gave beautiful

and entertaining performances. German accordionist Charles E. Block performed authentic German music and lively holiday tunes. The St. Roch Chimers always draw a crowd. Under the direction of Regina Morris, these 7th and 8th grade St. Roch students played always draw a crowd with a fine selection of hand-chime music played by 7th and 8th grade St. Roch students. Thank you to Washington University for sponsoring the musical performances each year; they are a highlight of our Wintermarkt event.



Patrick McGoarty - so cute!

gluhwein, and hot roasted chestnuts sold like hot cider on a c-o-l-d day. And family recipe German soups from the St. Louis Gast Haus sold in record time this year.

Adults and children visited the blacksmith and rode on the horse-drawn carriage. Youngsters also visited the new children's activity area to decorate holiday ornaments and listened to storytelling in the Sci-Fi Lounge.

For the past three years, the West End Arts Council Wintermarkt Committee has offered a "Spirit of Wintermarkt Award" to the vendor whose booth best represents the character of these festivities. This year the award was presented to Tru-Visions, a Junior Achievement endeavor. They are an outgoing, and energetic group of college-bound young men and women with dedicated goals and positive attitudes. Tru-Vision, their popular booth, sold nearly all of the beautiful handmade jewelry that they had created for the event.

The West End Arts Council wishes to thank all who donated baked goods to the food booth, and all of the volunteers who worked to on the make Wintermarkt a success.



Photos by Rachel Boxdorfer

Barak Obama Raves about Pi's "Broccoli O'Bama" Pizza

By Ligaya Figueras

Pi, the pizzeria on Delmar in The Loop, created quite a buzz when Barack Obama feasted on the restaurant's pizza during his presidential campaign stop in St. Louis this past October. The restaurant created a specialty thin crust pie, dubbed "Broccoli O'Bama," topped with many of Obama's favorite ingredients.

Owners Chris Sommers, Frank Uible, and Ryan Mangialardo wanted to capture the energy of the then-presidential candidate and

appropriate pizza for Obama. Obama sampled five different Pi standards under the Arch. The "Broccoli O'Bama" features broccoli, seasoned potatoes, applewood smoked bacon, gruyere, cheddar, and mozzarella cheese, garlic, and chives on a vegan thin crust, served with a side of sour cream.

"Considering the close ties Pi had with the Obama campaign and its wonderful staff and volunteers here in St. Louis, as well as the Senator's own comments about our pizza, we believe the best way to pay homage to this transformative time is with what we do best -- our pi," said owner Chris Sommers in his November announcement of the specialty pizza to commemorate the historic election of Obama as President. Sommers wrote in a recent e-mail that "Broccoli O'Bama" remains on the menu and is selling briskly.

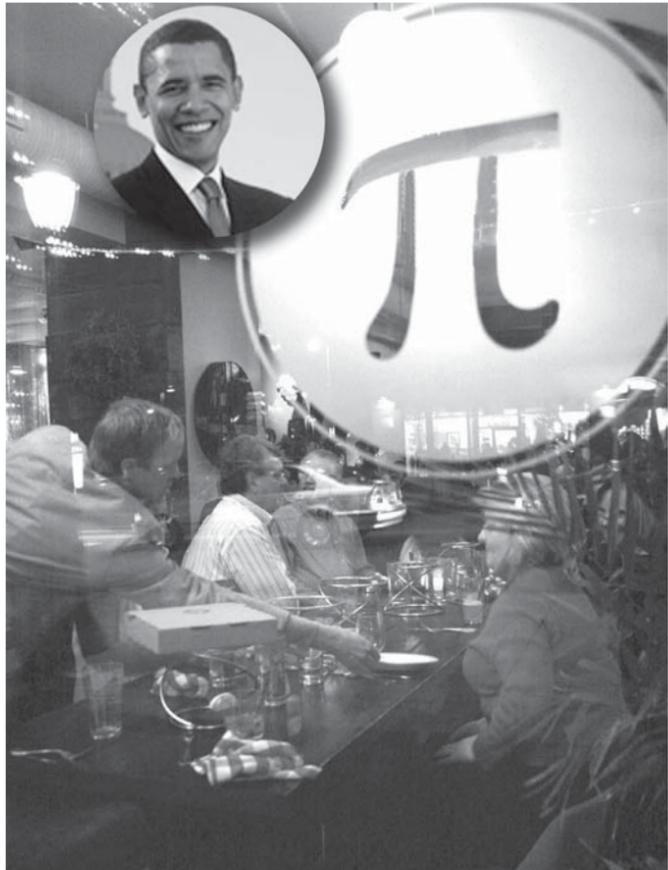


Photo by King Schoenfeld

pay homage to the support that his hundreds of staffers and volunteers gave their restaurant over the past year. Obama dined on Pi pizza after the largest political rally ever under the Gateway Arch. While walking back from the event, Sommers received a phone call from Obama himself, proclaiming "that is the best pizza I have ever eaten." Subsequent calls and e-mails to Sommers from Obama's senior staffers supported the politician's sentiments, indicating that Obama "would not stop talking about your pizza."

The pizza even made national news. An October 20 article written by Kathy Kieley and published in the USA Today mentioned Obama's Pi-pleasing experience in the newspaper's coverage of the rally in St. Louis: As the crowd leaves, Obama lingers in a tent to do local TV interviews and refuel. Four slices of pizza disappear into his slender frame in quick succession, to the amazement of his staff. "I've never seen him out-eat me," says Robert Gibbs, a senior adviser who has traveled with Obama since April 2007. "But he did."

Pi kitchen manager David Harper, who created "Broccoli O'Bama" and cooked Obama's pizza, conducted extensive research on an

Located at 6144 Delmar Boulevard, across from the Pageant in The Loop, Pi is becoming the favorite pizzeria among locals and visitors. The signature deep-dish pie is a cornmeal crust cooked to a golden brown and crispy throughout. Pi's thin crust is a flour dough that is rolled in cornmeal to provide unique texture and crispiness. Regulars at the eatery include hipsters, scenesters, concert-goers, families with strollers, and retirees, filling the bar, both dining rooms and, in warmer weather, the outdoor patio. Pi Restaurant is open daily from 4pm to midnight. For more information, call 727-6633 or visit www.restaurantpi.com.

New Books by WU Professor Gerald Early

Those looking to learn more about president-elect Barack Obama and gain an introduction to African-American writing in the process, are advised to check out two new books – *Best African American Fiction: 2009* and *Best African American Essays: 2009*. Edited by Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and director of the Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences, the two volumes are the first in the "Best of –" series to exclusively showcase African American writing. They include writing by and about Obama.

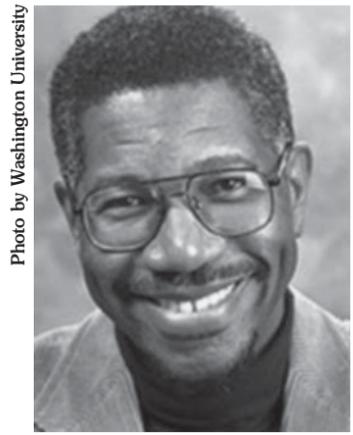


Photo by Washington University

Baton Music

By Norbert Hart

A few years ago a cousin from Ireland was visiting. Right before she left we asked her if she had any last minute requests. Being musically inclined, she said she would really like to have some music sheets for some of our national songs like *America the Beautiful*. She was sure that on short notice (she was leaving for airport in about 15 minutes) there was no way we could fulfill this request. I told her to wait a minute, ran over to Baton Music on Delmar, and was back with her music sheets before she left for the airport.

So goes my story relating to one of the institutions in the loop, Baton Music.

Baton has been in existence since 1948, although we do not know how long it has been at the Delmar location. Suffice it to say it has been there long enough to need some sprucing up, and that is exactly what the new owner (Joel Schad) has done.

Baton's traditional business had been selling music sheets and instruments, along with instrument rentals. Since purchasing the business last June, Joel has added to the instrument selection. Future plans call for additional instruments in the ethnic and vintage realms. Plans also include call for lesson rooms for instructors and instrument rentals.

We welcome Mr. Schad to our neighborhood and wish him the best of luck as proprietor of keeping up one of our the long-standing and independent businesses, that has helped to make the Loop a special place for many years. in the past and hopefully many more in the future.

IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Z. Hoerr

OK, it's that time of year. Enough of the partying, enough of shoveling snow, it's time for my New Year's Predictions. Yep, you heard it, oops, you read it, here first. Hawkeye is going to peer into his crystal ball - I always feel so much more erudite, if not smarter, when I refer to myself in the third person, he said - and tell you what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, and next month. Brace yourself, baby, the roller-coaster ride isn't over yet.

Bull in mind that predicting the future is no easy task. (I was going to say "Bear in mind," but the stock market is already bearish enough.) After all, if it was easy to predict the future, everyone would do it. And when everyone did it, think how boring life would become.

If everyone could predict the future, we'd all be gazillionaires. We'd each have bought the stocks that were going to soar by 1,000% and we'd each have sold the slow turkeys that did a dying pirouette into the sewer. Your retirement account wouldn't look as if it's been living on Slim-Fast and going to the gym each day. Of course, if we each had bursting bank accounts, it would all equal itself out. A new car would cost \$100,000 and that Starbuck's banana-latte would cost \$34.31. Middle class would still be middle class, only with a lot more digits. It's like if everyone was seven foot tall, none of us would be tall. So you see, looking into the future loses its cachet if we can all do it.

Fortunately, that ain't the case. You don't, alas, have the capacity to know what will happen tomorrow or next week, much less next month. Let's get real: You have trouble anticipating what's going to happen tomorrow morning! I, on the other hand, by virtue of many years of training and long and hard and arduous effort, have the knack.

That's why my portfolio has lots of General Motors stock in it. Oh, I know, worry-warts will say that GM almost meaningless and it has lost 90% of its value. So what! I know the American public and I understand our insatiable desire for bigger, louder, and faster. In no time at all, we'll be buying those SUVs again and pumping the pump. Varoom indeed! I also, and this is going to make you very envious, have a good deal of Merrill Lynch stock. Yes, I know: Once again you're going to say that this is a bad investment, that the stock is virtually worthless, and it is now owned by Bank of America.

Ha, you naive person. That may be true today, but wait! You see, the big boys (and, sorry, they are all boys) at M-L know what they're doing. They purposely let their stock deteriorate to next to nothing so it could be purchased even more cheaply. I'm sure they bought stack and stacks of stocks - I did - in anticipation of the turn-around. I figure that M-L will own Bank of America in no time. And finally, the rest of my investments are in Charter Communications. Sure, it's easy to pile on the bandwagon and say, "But Hawkeye, this stock is hardly worth the paper on which it is printed!" Yes, that's true today. But look at the Charter line-up, will you? There's one bad television show followed by a mediocre show, and those are sandwiched between two poor shows, one boring and one frenetic. Given the American taste for bad TV, Charter is a gold mine. I mean, anyone can buy a stock that has good potential and is on the upswing; it takes a real maven to pick bad stocks

that will do well!

Now that you recognize his predictive skill, you are no doubt wondering where Hawkeye obtained this spyglass to the future. (Ain't that third-person great? He sounds so eloquent!) It's not as if you can take a course in the future, after all. Nope, school isn't helpful. After all, most history courses are looking backwards. Isn't that odd? Why bother going to school to learn what's already happened? That never made no sense to me, not neither. How helpful is it to know what happened anyway? It's not like you can do anything about it.

So if Hawkeye didn't learn about anticipating, projecting, and predicting the future in school, just how did he gain his remarkable insights? Ah, dear reader, the answer is so simple that it will blow your mind. Lean a bit more closely now, please, because I am lowering my voice. This is, like, a secret, like, between you and Hawkeye.

The Obama presidency begins a new chapter in U.S. history. To begin with, it's about time that we elected a non-white guy to be the head honcho. White guys have some skills, to be sure, but this is the twenty-second century after all. (Or is it the twenty-first? I can never keep this straight.) Better late than not at all, we finally opened the Men's Club to an outsider.

Beyond his race and background, though, Obama brings other much needed qualities to the table. He is eloquent to beat the band. I know, after the past eight years, you may be wondering not only why a president needs to be eloquent, but if it's even possible for this to take place. Prez Bush garbled the language so badly, it wasn't just his foot that was in his mouth, it was his yard and mile. (Get it?) The only defense that can be offered for Bush's inarticulate and garbled speech is that it perfectly matched his thinking. How's that for a defense?

So Obama offers us a new chance. He has already redefined our country in some important ways for everyone globally, and for us as well. He holds the potential to help us think differently about the role of government and the responsibilities that each of us carries. And he can once again help us feel good about the direction of our country.

Mind you, this won't be easy. Thanks to W and his pack of cronies, Obama inherits the biggest mess we've had in decades. Think St. Louis Rams as the U.S. government, and the picture becomes alarmingly clear. But be optimistic, dear reader. It's possible that the Rams could be in next year's Super Bowl and it's possible that Obama can turn everything around. The good news is that his odds are better than the Rams.

So that's how I did it. It wasn't easy, as you can see. Like most important tasks, seeing into the future requires not just tenacity and focus, but an out-of-the box mindset as well. Candidly, if I'd know what all was going to be involved in obtaining this gift, I - I mean, he - might not have pursued it. That's moot now, though, and the gift is mine; oops, make this his. So buy those stocks and sit back and count on your investments. You heard it here first!

And, alas, I see that I've run out of column-inches, so I don't have the space to actually share those predictions with you! I'm sorry but they can wait until next month. Until then, look both ways before crossing the

street, buy low and sell high, and pray for the president. Both of them.

Following up from a previous column. Alert readers will recall that I asked who you'd APPOINT to be the president. This person didn't need to be elected, didn't even need to be a politician. The choice was yours. How's that for some responsibility! Well, In Your Ear readers are a savvy bunch - go figure - and submitted a list of interesting names to be nominated for Prez. With appreciation for the contributions, I offer them below.

- * Barack Obama was the most-named person.
- * There was a four-way tie for second place: Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, Colin Powell, and Warren Buffett. Then the rest of these folks were appointed by one person.
- * Former U.S. Senator Jack Danforth
- * NYC Mayor Bloomberg
- * Sister Mary Pat Rives, "whose service to humanity in the form of education, outreach, medicine, and inter-faith would set the example for all the rest of the nation and world"
- * Theodore Roosevelt
- * Paul Newman
- * John F. Kennedy
- * Oprah Winfrey
- * Amy Goodman of Democracy Now!
- * Scott Cowen, the President of Tulane University, "for his work before and after Hurricane Katrina"
- * The Loop's Joe Edwards. "He has big ideas, is very genial, has an ego is smaller than the Pageant, has managed a successful business, remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis, is optimistic, and is probably a Democrat (in the best sense of the term). I underline JOE Edwards, not John Edwards. I can tell that Joe hasn't had a \$400 haircut in his life."

And as an illustration of just how diverse our country and our readership is, someone named Dick Cheney. Honest.



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