

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 25 No. 4

September 1994

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Arts Council Sponsors Art Walk

On Saturday, September 17, Skinker DeBaliviere will be the gateway to the Great Forest Park Balloon Race. The West End Arts Council, chaired by Andy Cross and Roy Roncal, is sponsoring the Des Peres Art Fair and Sculpture Walk from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This fair is funded by the Regional Arts Commission.

Art works by children attending neighborhood schools and/or neighborhood residents will be on view. Neighborhood teenagers involved in the YAHOO program will present descriptive signs and sculpture about Skinker DeBaliviere streets in order to tell the history of our neighborhood. The Geezers (older residents) will show their sculpture projects as will the YAHOO participants. Bob Newsham has constructed a working oil pump and there will be a sculpture by Bro Mel. One of our artists in residence, Bill Christman, corn dog advocate and seeker of truth, has worked with both groups and will probably have additional surprises for his friends. By the way, Bill has an exhibit at the Elliot Smith Gallery, opening September 9, which features immortal portraits of some of our notables.

Two bands will perform during the Fair: Soul Patrol and James Critchfield and the Black and White Band. They will be at the stage at Four Corners. There will also be a dance troupe.

The Aikido Society will give a demonstration of self-defense techniques. Everyday Circus is providing a Moon Bounce for kids.

BiState is publicizing this fair--conveniently located between the Delmar station and Forest Park--with posters on the MetroLink cars. There will be an Art Bus from BiState at the Fair.

A concessions stand will sell a variety of refreshments and the *TIMES* will have a book sale. Fair t-shirts also will be available. Art work and graphics for the Fair have been furnished by Chris Schott.

Members of the West End Arts Council will be setting up and taking down exhibits. They would really appreciate any volunteers who would like to assist with traffic control during the event. If you can help, call the SDCC at 862-5122.

Most of all, come and enjoy the Des Peres Art Fair and Sculpture Walk--the place to be before the balloon race!



Kate and Kevin Christman paint one of the Art Fair kiosks outside their father's studio.

Grace Methodist Hosts Lectures: "The Church and The City"

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee at Grace United Methodist Church, Skinker and Waterman, is sponsoring a special lecture series on "The Church and The City" each Wednesday evening in September. Each Wednesday program will begin with a Potluck Dinner from 6:15pm to 7:10pm. Then the program will begin and will run until 8:45pm.

The featured speakers for the series are:

September 7 Gregory Freeman, columnist of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on "The Urban Scene from the Perspective of a Columnist."

continued on page 2



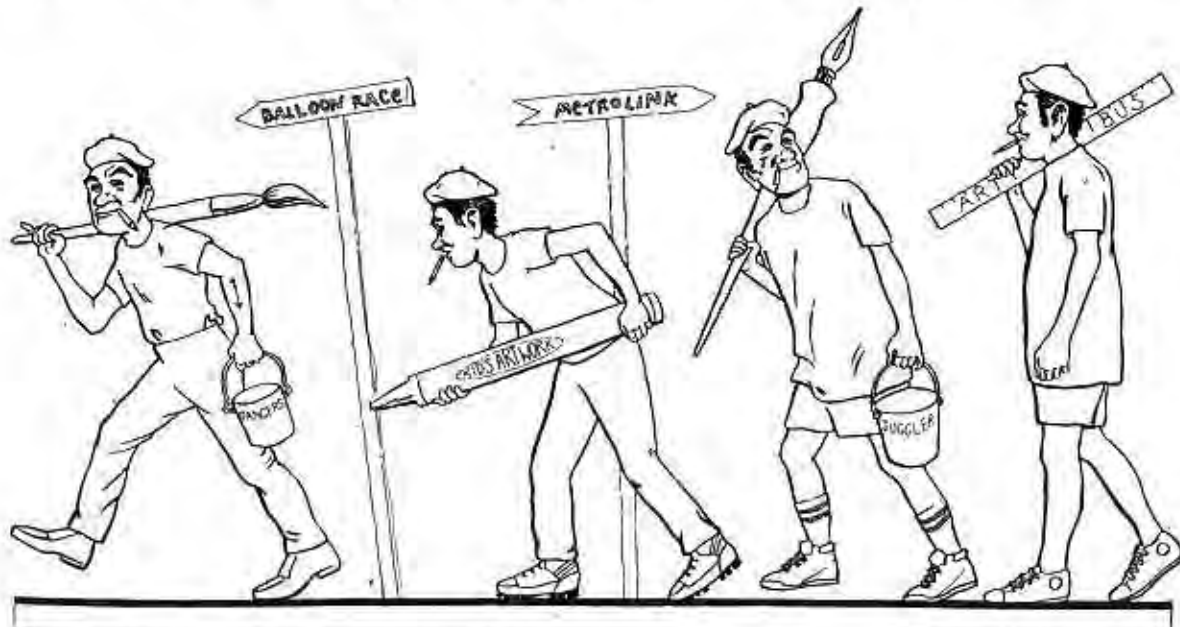
Bill Christman makes another change to the evolving Art Walk display.

Photos by King Schoenfeld

Note to Our Readers: In order to alleviate any confusion which might have arisen, the Board of the *Times* would like to point out that the Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere campaign is a fundraising mechanism for the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council--not the *Times*. The *Times* has raised money on its own for almost 25 years and tries to be an independent voice reflective of Skinker DeBaliviere and its diversity.

DES PERES AVENUE ART WALK

Children's Art Work Sought



There will be a Children's Art Fair as part of the September 17th Des Peres Art Fair and Sculpture Walk. The West End Arts Council is looking for artwork from neighborhood children in grades K-12 to exhibit. If you would like to enter work at the fair and you live in Skinker DeBaliviere, you can pick up an entry form at SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, or call 862-5122. Entry forms will also be available at schools located in Skinker DeBaliviere.

Please mount art work on colored paper, cardboard or matte board. Entries are due on Thursday, September 15, by 6:00pm at the SDCC office.

The theme for the fair is "Balloon Races," or you can draw, paint, color, etc., anything you like. The Des Peres Art Walk is on the same day as the Great Forest Park Balloon Race, and runs from 11am-4pm, before the race begins.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Sometimes I think that politics have become surreal in the United States. All kinds of people object to banning weapons that cannot be used for hunting because they so destroy the animal carcass. What do they do to people in central cities? It's interesting to note who supported the ban. It wasn't Democrats per se; it was urban Democrats. Harold Volkmer and Ike Skelton, etc., didn't. I suppose if you're not close to the problem, you can't understand the solution.

Then, what's the problem with midnight basketball? It keeps young people off the streets and also provides assistance with school and job-hunting. It's pork, it's fluff, it's social spending. Some elected representatives will devote any amount to a new maximum security prison but not to preventing someone from getting there.

But, there is some hope. There is a crime bill. The St. Louis Public Schools have begun revamping community education to permit greater neighborhood input into decision making. We're actually talking about national health care.

It's just worrisome to see dialogue degenerate and accusations take on a tone more from the 50s than we would really like to see today. Whose fault is it? Politicians? The media? Perhaps the need to win is so strong that it is no-holds barred all the time. Just check out the political ads and the nightly news. The content doesn't differ a great deal anymore. Alas.

♦♦♦♦

The best news is that the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere will be celebrating its 25th birthday in April of 1995. We will be featuring flashbacks to the past this year and will be finding the appropriate means to mark this milestone. If any readers have memories of particular Times issues or stories, please let us know.

Grace Lecture Series

continued from page 1

September 14 Laura Kanne, Director of Chaplaincy, Episcopal City Missions, on "Needs and Concerns of Youth Growing Up in the City Today."

September 21 Freeman R. Bosley, Jr., Mayor of St. Louis on "Agenda for the City."

September 28 Dee Joyce-Hayes, Circuit Attorney of St. Louis, on "Issues Surrounding the Criminal Justice System and the Tensions of a Christian in Politics."

The lecture series is open to the public. There is no charge. A free-will offering will be collected for the Shalom House, a mission of Metro Ministry. For more information, call Grace Church, 863-1992.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha
Production Manager: Venita Lake
Typesetting: Marj Weir

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Ray Breun	Katie Kurtz	Sue Rothschild	JoAnn Vatcha
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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 of submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format. We cannot process Macintosh diskettes. Diskette stories should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 6008 Kingsbury. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names.

Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs do not reproduce well.

The Editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6008 Kingsbury, 63112, or call 721-7532.

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings/Events

- 9/7 West End Arts Council, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 6pm.
- 9/8 Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere Committee, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 6pm.
- 9/12 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30pm.
- 9/15 West End Arts Council, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 6pm.
- 9/15 6000 Westminster Meeting and Social at 6037 Westminster, 6:30pm.
- 9/17 Des Peres Art Fair and Sculpture Walk on Des Peres Avenue, 11am-4pm.
- 9/19 Apartment Owners Association, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7pm.
- 9/22 Social Services Committee, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury.

Other Events of Interest:

- now-Dec. Nine Works by Picasso in Gallery 334, St. Louis Art Museum.
- now-1/22/95 Pottery from the American Southwest at Gallery 120, St. Louis Art Museum.
- 9/10-9/11 Forest Park Forever is sponsoring a "Pack Market," at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park. You may donate items to this market, whose proceeds benefit the Park, by calling 367-7275 for pick-up. Goods may also be delivered to One N. Euclid on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 9am to noon prior to the sale.
- 9/16-9/17 Kronos Quartet at Washington University's Edison Theatre, 8pm. Call 935-5251 or 935-6375 for information.
- 9/23-10/9 Orthwein Theatre presents "Of Mice and Men." Call 995-7300 for ticket information.
- 9/24 Zap Mama, a five-woman a cappella group from Belgium, performs at the Edison Theatre at Washington U., 8pm. Tickets are \$20.
- 9/25 The Pickle Family Circus stars perform "Eyes Wide Open" at the Edison Theatre at Washington U., 2pm. for the "ovations! for young people" series. \$10.
- 10/1 Opening Concert of the 10th Season of Synchronia, a contemporary chamber ensemble, at the Ethical Society, 8pm.
- 10/7-10/31 "Seventy Scenes of Halloween," presented by The New Theatre (TNT), at the ArtLoft Annex, 1527 Washington. Call 781-9314 for information.
- 10/8 St. Louis Classical Guitar Society presents the Strano Sisters at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd., 8pm.



Nothing but a mound of dirt remains of the derelict low-rise apartments which once were an eyesore and a nuisance at the corner of Washington and DesPeres.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

SDCC Gets \$42,175 Grant

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council was recently notified that it has been awarded a John Heinz Neighborhood Development Grant in the amount of \$42,175. This grant is awarded through an annual nationwide competition, through HUD, which awards up to \$50,000 to match neighborhood-generated funds.

The Heinz Grant will be used for these projects in Skinker-DeBaliviere:

- **Commercial District \$15,000** - Matching grants to business owners to encourage awnings, trees, and other facade improvements;
- **Home Repair Loan Fund \$10,000** - Adds to the SDCC Revolving Loan Fund for providing low-interest loans for needed home repairs;
- **Landscaping \$12,000** - Trees and other landscaping in various areas of the neighborhood.
- **Office Equipment \$ 4,175**--FAX machine and Computer.

According to Kim Koenig, Skinker-DeBaliviere Executive Director, neighborhood residents through special committees and the SDCC will have an active role in approving expenditures.

JoAnn Vatcha, chairman of the Commercial District Committee, said, "We are really pleased that more businesses on Delmar will be able to make improvements. Receiving this grant is a great shot in the arm to our community's businesses who are working very hard to bring back the Delmar Link area."

For more information or to request an application for any of the projects, call Kim Koenig at 862-5122.

SDCC Committee Seeks Grant for Playground

At its May meeting, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council authorized a special committee to explore the locating of a children's playground in the neighborhood. A grant proposal was submitted to the Gateway Foundation to pay for the playground; the Foundation has funded a number of them in the region. The special committee included Beth Bender, Dawn Blobaum, Catherine Forslund, Mike Hollahan, George Johannes, Shirley Polk, and Arline Webb. The committee originally favored Four Corners as a site because it already is city park land and is centrally located.

An open meeting to discuss the playground was held at Grace Methodist Church on July 12. About 15 people attended in addition to committee members. Residents living close to Four Corners objected strenuously to use of that area for the playground. They felt adults would loiter there after dark.

The committee subsequently met in August and decided to have a number of further meetings with residents to discuss the desirability and location of a playground. For further information, contact SDCC Director Kim Koenig at 862-5122.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Antonio and Adam Ford take a break from playing in their yard next door to 6025 Westminster which is being rehabbed.

Housing Corp. Rehabs Building

The Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation, chaired by Susie Feinberg, acquired a three-family building at 6027 Westminster. After a long search, a developer for the property, including an owner-occupant, was located. Quality Properties, a partnership of Gary Bierman, Steve Strick, and Kevin Strick, acquired this Westminster building. Bierman is in real estate while the Strick brothers are carpenters and remodelers. Together they have rehabbed 1,400 units. Kevin Strick will be the owner-occupant.

Bierman said that the neighbors on Westminster had been very help-

ful and he would be touring the block unit through the property in September. He also appreciates the support of the SDCC and of the Central West End bank.

Each of the three identical units at 6027 Westminster have two bedrooms and one bath. There is a fireplace and an enclosed sunporch in each as well as living room, dining room and eat-in kitchen. Each unit will have a washer and dryer. There also is a new garage in back.

Bierman expects the two units available for rental to be ready in the fall at a rent of about \$595/mo. If someone is interested, please call Gary Bierman at 863-7960.

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Neighbors Flock to Four Corners for National Night Out

For the second year in a row, Rosedale Neighbors sponsored a giant block party for the entire neighborhood. This year on Tuesday, August 2, many residents of Skinker DeBaliviere came to Four Corners to enjoy refreshments and to meet old and new friends. Youth Cycle participants also helped to staff the event.

Anheuser-Busch donated beverages and St. Roch's allowed us to use their grill. Many followed their hot dog with a chocolate or vanilla ice cream cone. The 5900 McPherson block unit went into the ice cream business much to everyone's joy. All the while, a band performed and many pulled up lawn chairs to listen.



Photos by Greg Weir



Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

JUNE 13, 1994
MINUTES

S. Feinberg, President of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, presented their annual report at great length, and gave a brief history of the organization. She then opened the floor for discussion and any questions. It was suggested that a joint meeting be held to review projects more thoroughly. K. Koenig will coordinate this.

Adoption of By-Laws Amendment - Because of questions raised as to the legality of CWE Bank joining as an institutional member, an amendment allowing for-profit businesses to join with Council approval was introduced by B. Bender. K. Koenig reported that her research confirmed that nothing precluded us from accepting CWE Bank as an institutional member, with the exception of the By-Laws. A. Webb moved "That for-profit organizations with the approval of the Board may be accepted as institutional members", seconded by C. Forslund and approved.

I. Review of Minutes

A. Johnson moved "That the minutes of the May Board meeting be accepted as read", seconded by S. Polk and approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

L. Stein suggested that a beginning and ending cash balance be reflected on monthly cash statements. G. Hayes moved "That the Treasurer's Report for May be accepted as read", seconded by A. Webb and approved.

III. Committee/Association Reports

Commercial Planning - L. Stein reported that on Wednesday, June 15, at 10 a.m., in Room 208, a hearing will be held on the Delmar Redevelopment Plan. She also provided information on Jasmine's, a youth club looking to locate at the former Bi-Rite site (6016 Delmar). There is strong opposition to this from residents on 6000 Washington. L. Stein moved "That the Council support the wishes of the residents of 6000 Washington in opposing this proposal", seconded by J. DeBettencourt and approved.

DeGiverville - No report.

Kingsbury Square - No report.

Nina Place - L. Stein reported that Nina Place will be featured as "House of the Month" in the *Post-Dispatch* on Sunday, June 12. There will be an open house from 12 to 4 p.m.

Parkview - J. DeBettencourt reported that their annual meeting was held in May. He and A. Smith Carr will be our representatives.

Rosedale - J. Miller reported that planning is underway for the National Night Out Street Party on August 2, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Housing Corporation - Board members wish to pursue discussion on cross-representation on SDCC and SDCHC Boards at the joint meeting.

Recreation - B. Bender reported that Youth Cycles will begin June 20 and run through the end of July. The 7th District Police have agreed to donate a supply of used bikes that are stolen/confiscated. Fliers with information on Youth Cycles will be distributed by CWE Bank in the June statements. A neighborhood-wide meeting to discuss the idea of a neighborhood playground will be held on Tuesday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m., at Grace Methodist Church.

Social Services - B. Bender reported that a quarterly food drive will be scheduled for some time in July or August.

Community Fund - J. Miller reported that attendance at bingo games has been low. The Salad Bowl has been given notice that we will not extend our lease past June 26, 1994. All equipment will be sold back to our supplier.

Beautification - K. Koenig reported that the Operation Brightside annual reception in honor of Blitz Day '94 will be held on Wednesday, June 22, at the Forest Park World's Pavilion at 5:30 p.m.

Fundraising - K. Koenig reported that the "Friends of" campaign was launched in the June *Times* issue. A personal mailing will follow in the next two weeks. It was suggested and agreed upon that a \$10 Associate Membership be added as an option. K. Koenig has also submitted an application for funding through Boatmen's Neighborhood Partnership Programs. Any funds received will be split with SDCHC.

IV. J & W Liquor

K. Koenig reported that a hearing on this matter will be held on June 14, 1994, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 416.

V. United Way Board Development Seminar

K. Koenig reported that this seminar will be held on Monday, July 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at New Cote Brilliance Church. A light dinner will be provided at 6 p.m.

VI. John Heinz Neighborhood Development Grant

K. Koenig reported that we have been awarded \$42,000 from HUD to continue the 50/50 grant program for businesses along Delmar, continue the Home Improvement Loan Fund, and to increase lighting along Delmar. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

AUGUST 8, 1994
EXCERPTED MINUTES

K. Koenig introduced Dr. Glenda Bryant, Ph.D., new principal of Hamilton Community School. Dr. Bryant explained that the school's new name is Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center. She eventually envisions the site being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additional lighting and security will be provided around the school. Hamilton will be holding a series of several open houses for neighborhood residents to attend.

I. Review of Minutes

A. Webb moved "That the minutes of the June meeting be accepted as read", seconded by G. Freeman and approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

In J. Miller's absence, K. Koenig reviewed the report with the Board. She reported that annual contributions from all institutions are expected in by year's end. The "Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere" campaign has raised \$4,000 to date. C. Forslund moved "That the Treasurer's Report for June and July be accepted as read", seconded by J. Wright and approved.

III. Committee/Association Reports

Commercial Planning - K. Koenig reported that we can request our first disbursement of funds in October '94 through the HUD/John Heinz grant. Funding will go towards the 50/50 Delmar grant program, the neighborhood revolving loan program, and a neighborhood landscaping plan.

DeGiverville - S. Polk reported that the east alley of 5700 has been patched. She reminded everyone of the Community Picnic at Forest Park on August 28 on ground 8, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. G. Freeman reported on the parking problems associated with the VP Fair.

Kingsbury Square - R. Johnson reported that a watermelon social was held for new residents. She also requested that SDCC write a letter to Bi-State requesting that the area surrounding their facility at Delmar and DeBaliviere be better patrolled for litter. K. Koenig will write the letter on behalf of SDCC.

Nina Place - R. Beckloff reported that construction is still proceeding on the 5800 block of Kingsbury. Two units have been sold.

Parkview - J. DeBettencourt reported that the NNO party at Washington Park on August 3 was very successful.

Rosedale - K. Koenig reported that the Neighborhood-Wide Street Party held in conjunction with NNO on August 3 was very successful. K. Koenig thanked T. Roland for her assistance in getting beer donated for the event. Rosedale is donating a clown for the Polk's annual picnic in Forest Park. Planning for a neighborhood walk-a-thon in the spring will begin shortly.

Vicissitudes

On August 28, A Central West End Community Picnic was held in Forest Park. Shirley Polk, 57xx DeGiverville, organizes this yearly event with many activities for the neighborhood children.

Janel Thomas graduated from Cleveland—the ROTC—high school. He lives on 59xx Pershing. Kenyon M. Ward graduated from North City Tech High School on June 7. He lives on 60xx Washington. His brother Kael is the class president at UMSL.

St. Roch's will hold its Christmas bazaar on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13. For those who wish to make items for the Women's Booth, there will be workshops on 9/13, 9/26, 10/8, and 10/24. If you'd like more information, call Ann Frawley at 889-2905 (work).

The Missouri Historical Society is looking for people who have family memories relating to the 1904 World's Fair. An exhibit on the Fair is scheduled to open in 1996. If you have family stories or artifacts to share, contact the History Museum's Interpretation Department at 454-3185.

Alderman McGuire Answers Questions On Skinker Properties

by Tim Schoemehl

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles in which questions of concern to readers will be put to our community's leaders. Readers are encouraged to submit questions for this feature.

Alderman McGuire, what is the status of the property at 454 N. Skinker, the old Bonafide station?

The station has been closed for several years now. The Board of Aldermen recently passed an ordinance blighting the property, and appropriated the money for the city to purchase the property. Mid-West Petroleum owns the station, and we are negotiating with them to purchase the property.

How long have the negotiations been going on?

We've been talking with the owners for about two months now. We still have to make sure there are no environmental problems with the property, but I think we are fairly close to finishing our negotiations.

What are the plans for the property after it has been purchased?

The goal is to raze the building and put in a small public parking lot. The lot could be used by a number of different groups; the nearby churches, the office buildings, and of course the residents of the area as well.

Are there any plans for the property at 400 N. Skinker, the Sinclair station?

That property has been vacant for about a year now. The Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance blighting the property earlier this year. Right now, however, no further steps have been taken, because Sinclair Oil Company has shown no real interest in selling the property. Ideally, though, I'd like to see us put in another public parking lot, similar to what we have planned for the old Bonafide station. But until Sinclair is ready to sell, there's really not much that can be done.

Thank You, Alderman McGuire.

Housing Corporation - K. Koenig will provide minutes of regular Housing Corp. meetings at every Board meeting. She reminded Board members to attend the SDCC/SDCHC joint meeting on Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., at CWE Bank. Detailed information on past and present projects will be provided.

Recreation - A. Busch reported that over 25 neighborhood children ages 7 through 12 participated in softball through Operation Teamwork this summer. SDCC will donate \$50 for gifts for the coaches. New Cote Brilliance agreed to also donate \$50 for their gifts. A. Busch also reported that a newsletter was distributed in early June letting children know of a variety of free activities around the city this summer. B. Bender reported that 15 children have gone through the Youth Cycles program. She invited anyone interested in seeing the bike shop to come by New Cote Brilliance Church.

Social Services - B. Bender announced that a neighborhood-wide food drive will be held on Saturday, August 13. Proceeds will be given to the four area churches.

Community Fund - B. Bender reported that J. Miller will present a full report on this fund at the September Board meeting. B. Bender reported that this committee met to review a proposal for funding for the repair of the 6100 Kingsbury pillars. The committee recommended a grant of \$500 for this project. B. Bender moved "That the Council approve a \$500 grant for the 6100 Kingsbury pillar project and that the present committee of eight members be elected for a one-year term", seconded by G. Hayes and approved with one abstention.

Fundraising - K. Koenig reported that the "Friends of" campaign is going well. B. Bender urged 100 percent Board participation in the campaign.

Update on J & W Liquor - K. Koenig reported that the Excise Commissioner ordered that:

- 1) no gin or vodka products be sold in half pint bottles for less than \$2.50;
- 2) business owner must conduct a daily litter patrol within a one block radius of premises including the alley immediately in back of his property; and
- 3) no chilled 32 or 40 ounce beer products in glass containers will be sold at premises.

Des Peres Art Walk - K. Koenig reported that planning is under way for this event to be held on Saturday, September 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live entertainment, refreshments, a sculpture walk, and a children's art exhibit will be featured throughout the day.

B. Bender announced that the October Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 1994, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Rain or Shine, There Was a New Neighbors Party!

After the June Times hit the streets, some of its Board members thought that it would be nice if there were a New Neighbors Party, a longtime Rosedale custom. The Board plotted and planned and tried to invite as many people as it could think of.

There had been some nice weather this summer but not on Aug. 13, the day of the party. As the crew assembled at the Vatches, the temperature was 90ish and so was the humidity. But, the people came, about 100 strong. Even two deluges later in the evening did not stop the festivities.

The Times would like to thank Wild (now Sun) Flour Pizza for generously donating some very delectable concoctions to the party. The following individuals contributed foodstuffs: Rose Storey, Dee and King Schoenfeld, Marj and Brad Weir, Katie and Paul Kurtz, Chanaya Vatcha Jacobs, Lana Stein. Many thanks to all who participated and especially to Neville and JoAnn Vatcha who allowed us to use their home and made it such a special event. (Thanks also to daughter Dina, a 20 year resident, and a tremendous help.) We tried to see how long everyone had lived in Skinker DeBaliviere. One person told me she took the prize at 45 but an elected official wisely cautioned to check more carefully before disclosing a winner. There were also new neighbors to meet and one couple had moved in only 4 days before!



Photos by King Schoenfeld



New neighbors, Katrina Stierholz and Mark Zanaszak, talk with Beth Bender, President of SDCC. Others pictured are Richard Beitler and Sue Rothschild.



Glenda Bryant, new principal at the Hamilton Community Education Center, and Mary Schmit were guests at *The Times* party.

In The Past...In *The Times*

On May 12, 1974, the 7th Annual Skinker DeBaliviere Art Fair and House Tour took place, preceded by a special pancake breakfast.

Sam Green and William Bolden examined new trash can holders in 1974 that were designed to protect cans from dogs and other assorted creatures. Did they?

In October of 1974, members of the Real Estate Board toured the neighborhood. According to Cal Stuart, then SDCC director, the pur-

pose "was to show off significant improvements in our neighborhood."

In October of 1975, Vince Schoemehl ran for public office for the first time. His opponents in the race for 28th ward alderman were Thomas Vaughan and John Flynn, Jr.

The resident thespians thrived in 1975. On November 15, Rosedale Neighbors presented "The Last of the Ghastleys." The play was produced by Marj Weir and directed by Rita Sweets.

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Reflections of a Boomer

by Elizabeth Freeman,
Guest Columnist

You could have called it the everyperson's Woodstock.

Even though I briefly entertained thoughts of heading east for the 25th anniversary observance of peace and love in New York with my son in tow, I couldn't rationalize the bucks and vacation time it would set me back.

When the news came that we wouldn't be attending the shindig at Saugerties, my enterprising teenaged son came up with a much more cost effective solution: Pointfest.

For those of you not fortunate enough to have a pre-generation Xer in your midst on a daily basis, Pointfest was an event sponsored by FM 105.7 "The Point," built around the work of alternative rock musicians locally and nationally known at Riverviewport in mid-August.

The radio dial in my car is riveted at 105.7, "The Point," which seems to be the gold standard of local rock radio, to hear my son and his friends tell it. When the car radio works at all these days we enjoy listening to groups like Crash Test Dummies, Smitherens, Nirvana, Offspring, The Stone Temple Pilots, Meat Puppets and countless others.

The tie-dyed, dreadlocked, nose-ringed, long-haired, buzz-cut, booted-up MTV generation blended nicely with the few thirty-fortysomething boomers for this middle class musicfest immersed in bass and beat. Aside from a very small minority who might have downed too many brewskys, the gathering seemed much more well-mannered than we were at a similar gathering long ago.

While we may not have had Joe Cocker, Crosby, Stills and Nash or Richie Havens, we had equally entertaining musicians--most notable, The Might Be Giants, Lisa Loeb and the Violent Femmes. I might have once told you that I wasn't a fan of alternative rock, but I think I'm beginning to like it. It stands to reason that you begin to like almost anything if you're exposed to it long enough.

But Woodstock had nothing on us--we had INDOOR plumbing, refreshments, phones, ATMs and yes, even mud. Throughout the day some, like my son, managed to slip in the mud. Still others frolicked in nature's elements and later trekked up to get refreshments in their Birkenstocks on Doc Martin's, literally covered in the stuff.

Like many such tribal gatherings, a certain amount of goofiness was present. Between groups an inflated, knotted garbage bag was batted about the audience as a sort of free-form recreation. Still others flattened their large waxed jumbo soda cups and flung them about as improvisational Frisbees. Green hair, moose antlers and T-shirts touting everything from Graceland to Abbey Road could be seen, too. There seemed to be an unusual number of Lollapalooza veterans, Judging from the T-shirts. Or maybe Lollapalooza's T-shirt concession did a booming business. But that's just part of the fun that turns a head-banging bash in a major-league people-watching opportunity. Baseball strike? What baseball strike?

The music of generation Xers (ages 18-29) is fused with a lot of energy, and sometimes even a message. While they have rightfully expressed some discontent with the world they are inheriting from the boomers, it seems that there really aren't that many differences between us.

Many of us chose to protest the Vietnam War, impeach Nixon, trip out and topple the military-industrial complex--the establishment. To some degree, mainstream culture embraced some of the ideology offered up in the 60's -70's era, but we didn't entirely change the world. We, who have turned the corner on 30 or better, never succeeded in accomplishing a number of our goals. We never succeeded in putting an end to poverty. And while we're a more politically correct bunch becoming more sensitive to a multicultural, global society, we haven't



Update

by Beth Bender

Fifteen neighborhood youth have now earned their own bicycle, lock, helmet, and tire iron set through the Skinker DeBaliviere Youth Cycles Program. The program, which is presently located in the basement of New Cote Brillante Church at Washington and Skinker, instructs children in bicycle repair, maintenance, and safety. The program has initially been made possible through the United Way.

All participants donated time to our community by assisting with cleaning up Four Corners, by helping to set up the YOUTH CYCLES SHOP and by delivering the hundreds of letters sent to residents regarding the Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere campaign.

Throughout the summer, the SKINKER DEBALIVIERE YOUTH CYCLES SHOP has undergone a major makeover thanks to donations by many neighbors and neighborhood businesses. Many neighbors responded with bicycle donations after reading past TIMES articles and many more were contacted through the flyer in the Central West End Bank statements.

With these bicycles in all shapes and sizes, there comes the need for repair/learning opportunities. But, to repair bicycles most effectively, proper tools are needed

and that's where Big Shark Bicycle Company on Delmar (across the street from Fitz's) gets involved. While they are an independent bike shop, they beat out the big shops when it came to working with Youth Cycles. Believing in the program and wanting to be a positive force within the neighborhood, Big Shark not only gave us a better discount than the big shops; they expressed an interest in sponsoring some bicycle repair sessions for the youth. With this equipment, tools, and newly built bike racks in both rooms, the shop looks great and functions well.

As they have done since coming to our neighborhood, Papa John's Pizza fed Youth Cycles participants each Friday while the kids worked and learned. The St. Louis Cardinal organization also came through by donating tickets for a Youth Cycles Night at the ball game. We took the MetroLink down to the game and experienced true Summer 94 Cardinal Baseball. We lost to the Mets. Ouch! Anyway, we all had a blast.

Another new supporter of Youth Cycles is the Footlocker store on Delmar. They eagerly donated a generous gift certificate to be used as a reward. The ruling is still out on which participant will receive that honor.

Fall programs will be run. The program will take approximately four weeks, operating one or two evenings a week and some Saturdays. For the most up-to-date information, call the SKINKER DEBALIVIERE YOUTH CYCLES SHOP at 727-3121.

Any youth interested in participating in the YOUTH CYCLES PROGRAM can pick up an application at the SDCC office at 6008 Kingsbury, 862-5122, or at Hamilton Elementary Community Education Center. Participants will be served on a first come, first served basis.

To donate used bicycles, to learn more about the program, or to volunteer your time (no bicycle knowledge necessary), please call the shop at 727-3121. Once again, THANK YOU to the businesses and people who have supported this creative endeavor.

cradicated racism. Even worse, sexually-transmitted diseases can now be life-threatening.

Each generation seeks to make its imprint on society... and may be critical of its elders--just as we were and are. The world is an even harder place to grow up in these days where the military draft is no longer a challenge, but finding a decent job is.

As we thirty-fortysomethings stubbornly gray in our "relaxed" stone-washed denims, we should contemplate the trials and tribulations of what it means to be young. At the very least, we should give a listen to the concerns of the Xers and perhaps those even a bit younger in our midst.

We could learn something, you know?

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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye R. Hoerr

Seven had been his previous high, and that had occurred one rainy afternoon over a year ago. Twice he had done six, and five's were almost routine these days. Sometimes he thought that maybe, just maybe, he ought to get a new hobby. But those thoughts would vanish in no time. After all, this was a hobby that he had invented, and he didn't know anyone else who did it. Most of all, he loved the feeling of control that it gave him.

He set the alarm for 6:30 a.m. It was tough getting up that early, he'd watched Letterman and, even, Conan. Letterman's TOP TEN list was always worthwhile. He went back and forth between laughing and being incredulous that anyone could get paid so much money for being so stupid. He had been sleepy last night all evening, so he drank a couple of cups of coffee while watching "Sound Of Music," his favorite video. It had done the trick, Julie was some honey, and he didn't doze off until sometime around 1 a.m.

The alarm shattered his sleep. He was dreaming about something, he knew that much, but he couldn't remember what. That was the trouble with dreams, you could never quite piece them all together. He only lay in bed for a minute, but then he had to get moving. He couldn't be late this morning; a big day was ahead, lots of plans! He took a quick shower, threw down a chilled coffee flavored Slim-Fast, put on his sweats, grabbed all of his documentation, and hopped in the car.

It wasn't even 7 a.m. yet, and the streetlights were still on. Over the horizon he could see the beginnings of a sunrise. The sky had an orange glaze, and he would have liked to have lingered and watched the day begin. Maybe tomorrow, he thought, right now he had an appointment. No time to waste!

He backed his Chrysler out of the garage, secured his seat belt and shoulder harness, and began to drive up the street. His car was an old brown Chrysler, full of dents and bruises, but that was just as well. Although he had done this dozens of times, he had to consciously work at not getting too excited and carried away with anticipation. What a great hobby! He could feel his heart pounding, but he took pride in knowing that an outsider wouldn't have been able to detect his nervousness. He moved his hand away from the steering wheel for a few seconds, held it level, and took pride at how steady it was.

He was so intent on watching his hand that he didn't note his car drifting into the next lane. In a flash he heard the horn and saw the other car at the same time. Instantly he responded by jerking the wheel to the left and veering away. He had barely missed having an accident. Wouldn't that be ironic, he thought, an accident *on the way*.

All of his attention was on the road now and he drove the next few miles quite carefully. At times like this he often wished he had a radio,

but it would have already been ruined several times, he knew, and would be ruined again for sure, so he didn't bother with it. Instead he hummed a bit. He made a turn and then he saw it, his destination, Skinker and the Forest Park Expressway. He was heading east on the Expressway and he lowered the visor to keep the morning sun from getting in his eyes.

He had lots of intersections where he "hobbled," as he called it, but this was one of his favorites. He drew closer and began looking and planning. Sure enough, even at this time of day, the rush hour had started. He began to select his target. He looked at a car, another, a truck, even a bus. Nothing seemed to strike his fancy. But just then he spotted a white station wagon that looked appealing. A man in his 50's was driving it. The car was headed south on Skinker, waiting to make a left turn onto the Forest Park Expressway. YES, he thought, this is it!

His heartbeat picked up even more and he began to perspire a bit. He loved this part! He turned his car on to Skinker, carefully adhering to the correct lane, and then with a quick jerk of his wrist steered his car into the side of the station wagon. There was a crash, the sound of steel twisting and breaking, glass shattering, two metal elephants banging against one another. The force of his old Chrysler caused the station wagon to lurch sideways in to the next lane. His car shuttered to a halt.

Although he had braced himself for the impact, the jolt had thrown him forward and he had lost sight of the other car for a moment. After the crash he immediately raised himself and looked out the window. Good, the other driver didn't appear hurt at all, just quite stunned. "Are you all right?" he asked. The other driver

didn't respond and he repeated the question. Slowly the man turned his head and nodded at him. By now he was out of the car and walking toward the station wagon.

It was perfect, he saw, as he got closer. The other driver wasn't hurt. And better, while he had damaged both doors and a side panel, it was clear that the station wagon could be driven again. His own car, he saw, was in good shape except for the fronts of the fenders and the headlights. He smiled to himself, thinking of all of the reinforced steel hidden just below the hood. He often delighted in thinking that he was really driving a battering ram.

By now the other driver had produced a driver's license and insurance certificate. He pulled out his documents and they exchanged numbers. This was just too good, he thought, this old guy never thought to look carefully at the driver's license. If he had he would have seen that the photo didn't really look like the guy who had just hit him. For that matter, he didn't see that the name on the insurance certificate had been carefully changed to match the stolen driver's license.

His satisfaction was broken by the angry horns and shouts of drivers. As he had hoped, the fender-bender had almost completely shut down the traffic at the intersection. Three southbound lanes were blocked by the two cars, but it was more than that. People in all directions had stopped to look. He could feel the power, now he was in control! He had anticipated this accident as a 6, but the traffic jam was worse than he had hoped and had made it at least an 8, he thought. What a mess! Maybe it was because everyone was in a hurry this early. Heck, if he'd known that he would be getting an 8, he would have brought some of his fake blood to get to a 10. Blood pouring into the street always added two or three numbers, even if it was just ketchup.

The other driver was getting

very nervous now, seeing what was happening at the intersection, and probably worrying that unless he moved, he might be part of a second accident. They shook hands and promised to call one another's insurance agents, and slowly drove away. He let the white station wagon pull into traffic first, always being the gentleman.

A couple of minutes later he was driving down a fairly quiet road in Forest Park, headed toward Kingshighway, being very pleased with himself. His first appointment had been an 8 and the day was still young. If he hurried, he could make another meeting before rush hour finished.

In no time he was approaching the intersection of Arsenal and Kingshighway. He quickly identified his target, a red late model Ford, and rammed it from behind. It was a perfect hit, he thought. He could see that the impact had broken the Ford's tail lights, crushed the trunk, and pulled the bumper away. He hadn't damaged his car, but already three lanes of traffic were stopped. He left his Chrysler and pulled out a new driver's license and insurance certificate. This time it was a lady. She was very nervous, almost crying, and he knew that she wouldn't even glance at the photo on the license. They began exchanging information and he could hear horns and tires squealing in the background as other drivers tried to avoid the wreckage.

This was going to be a 7, maybe an 8, he thought. But he couldn't focus on this rating just yet. He found himself anticipating the rest of the day. From here he'd go to Chippewa and Grand, then Olive and Grand. After that he'd switch cars and get the old Chevy and have lunch. During the afternoon drive time, he'd begin with Delmar and Union, then move to Page and Woodson. Maybe then he'd call it a day. Of course, he could end with Lindbergh and Gravois, but maybe that should be tomorrow's first appointment.

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