

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place



April 29, 1995

Volume 7, Number 4⁵



Tower Grove Park

Offers Spring and Summer Fun



By Denise Roesler-Cunningham

Despite a little cold fit, Mother Nature has been good to us this spring. Although your attention may be focused on your own home or apartment or yard, you need to get out and see what's going on in the neighborhood. One of the best places to enjoy Mother Nature's show is Tower Grove Park.

Take a park walk while you pondering how you're going to look in the spring fashions. The spring-flowering bulbs almost are passing their peak, because of spring's early arrival. Don't miss the showy clusters of tulips, daffodils and jonquils that park personnel planted last fall. Children and dogs seem to love to stick their little noses in the flower cups. Are they enjoying the scent or simply curious? Don't forget the camera to immortalize these special memories.

Your eyes will appreciate the flowering trees--magnolias, dogwoods, tulips, red buds, crab apples, Bradford pears--that dot the park and our own yards and streets. It's uplifting to see the color array these trees provide. And it leaves a pleasant memory when the trees are just green, as they will be soon.

The area around the Palm House is coming to life again, as well. The ponds are waiting for their precious waterlilies to return, and the fountain once again is providing a backdrop for myriad bridal pictures.

The park's playgrounds are ready for adventuresome little souls, too, so don't forget this option on weekends

or if your children have some extra days off school.

In addition to the its natural offerings, the park is gearing up for some manmade events. If you want to stretch your legs a bit more, try to Safe Kids 12K Run on Saturday, May 13 at the west end picnic site. For more information, contact Tom Eckle-mann at 721-5312.

The Compton Heights Concert Band (CHCB) Memorial Day Concert is scheduled for the Music Stand on

Monday evening band concert series will begin on June 19th...

Monday, May 29 at 3 p.m. The Monday evening band concert series will begin on June 19 and extend through August 7. These concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. You may contact the CHCB office at 776-2227 for additional information or look for the signs they place around the park to announce concerts.

The Children's Wading Pool is scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, June 10. Pool hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The Park Office has more information and may be reached by calling 771-2679.

The Boy Scout Day Camp is slated

for Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23 at the Stone Shelter and West End picnic site, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To secure your child's place, contact Randy Kidder at 361-0600.

The City of St. Louis Day Camp Program is scheduled for Monday, June 19 through Friday, August 11 (except Tuesday, July 4) at the Concession Stand area. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and to sign-up your child, call 353-1250.

The South City YMCA Day Camp Program will be at the Turkish Shelter beginning Monday, June 19 through Friday, August 18 (except for July 4). Contact Leah Compton at 865-3500 for information or to sign-up.

The Girl Scout Day Camp is slated for the Humboldt South and Old Carriage shelters on July 10, 12 and 14. For additional details, call Janna Ferris at 241-1270, extension 388.

The Friends of Tower Grove Park Children's Concert Series will be on Thursdays, from July 13 through August 17 at the Stupp Center Garden. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. To learn more about this program, call 771-4484.

The KDHX parade is scheduled for Saturday, August 13 at the Music Stand area from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. To find out how you can be involved, call Char Mason at 664-3955.

For the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood, Tower Grove park is a cultural anchor and community center. Enjoy its natural sights this spring and its human element this summer.

**The Tower Grove Heights Gazette
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The Gazette/TGHNA 3203 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 103 St. Louis MO 63118

Packaging Your Neighborhood

By Rich Iezzi

I was driving to work recently when my car completely died. I parked its carcass at Grand and Halliday, caught a bus to work and had the car towed to my little south side repair shop. When I told the guys at work that I was back on the road the same day, they couldn't believe it. No way could they have gone through all that so painlessly living out where they do. It's amazing how we take the convenience and other amenities of our area for granted.

It is hard to appreciate your neighborhood without leaving its "bubble" to compare. We offer convenience, fabulous architecture, priceless amenities such as Tower Grove Park, great people and an incredible standard of living. If you think there's more to life than living in your car or making a house payment, move into our neighborhood.

I hear stories from people who look

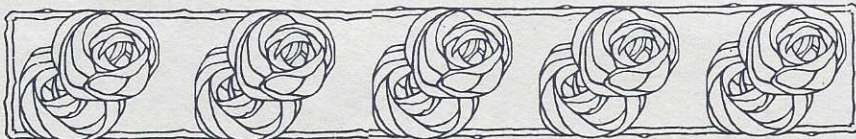
at us funny for being city residents but some of these people are mortgaged over their heads and also pay \$2,500/yr in taxes plus special assessments, subdivision fees, trash pickup and water meter bills. Some drive 8 miles to pickup a loaf of bread. The city school issue gets raised frequently but ironically, the majority of non-city residents I know send their kids to private or parochial schools anyway.

We need to realize that if we don't appreciate and market our neighborhood, no one will do it for us. Where else can you live in homes or apartments like ours and still enjoy great neighbors without having to live or die over the price of gas? We can even live for "free". Many two family flat owners in Tower Grove Heights are doing that right now and paying off the building at the same time. If you want the place to yourself, convert your flat to a single and get an incredible amount of building for an incredible price.

One of the best things in our neighborhood is the people committed to making it better. From Gerri Osborn, to block captains, real people are dedicated to solving problems to make things better for all of us.

You can help too. Continue to maintain your property and show prospective residents that we care about our homes. Use the 50/50 sidewalk program and keep your street and alley area clean so we can all benefit. We still have what people are looking for: great woodwork, mantles, cozy built-ins, golden staircases, stained glass, hardwood floors, pocket doors. Prospective residents specifically request these turn of the century details that make our homes lovely and unique.

Spread the good news yourself. Talk about the latest Tower Grove South Housing Board project at 3735 Juniata, mention the expansion of Botanicals and other South Grand success stories. Then tell people how you feel when you step onto your front porch... at home in Tower Grove Heights.



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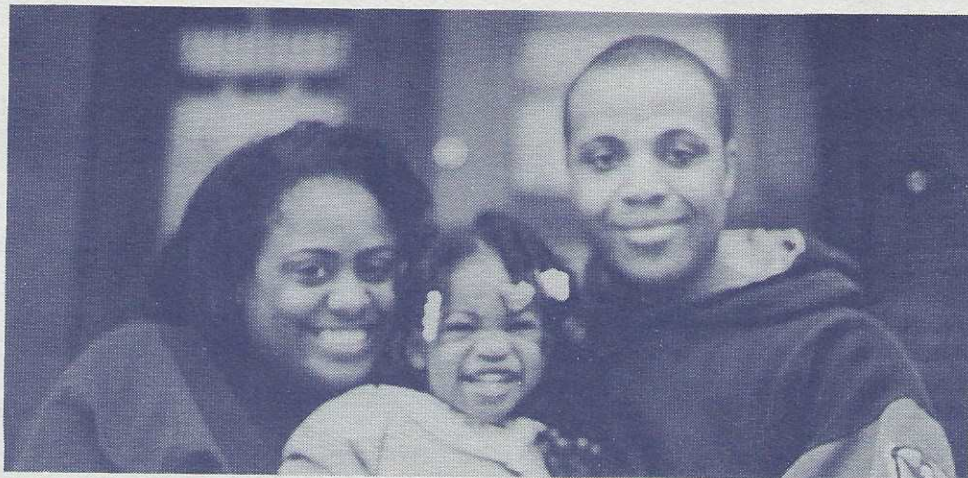


By Erin O'Reilly

Ronald and Vanessa Glabmey have lived at 3833 Hartford for a year now. They both are from the St. Louis area, but this area of town is new to them. They moved here because they like the big houses, it is affordable and because of the friendly neighborhood. Their daughter Bianca, is 2 years old and has made lots of friends in the neighborhood.

Ronald is a firefighter in St. Louis city and finds this work very challenging. Vanessa is a surgical technician and works for the BJC Healthcare System. Their hobbies are movies, shopping and outdoor activities with Bianca. They also keep busy with renovations in their home and have redone the third floor and are now working on the basement, bathroom and wood floors. Their house looked very neat and tidy in spite of these industrious renovations.

Ronald cites concerns about community safety, property values and the city school system. He likes living in the city though and enjoys this community. Although he had to work and missed the Hartford block party and progressive cocktail party, he looks forward to participating with his family in the future Hartford and Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association gatherings.



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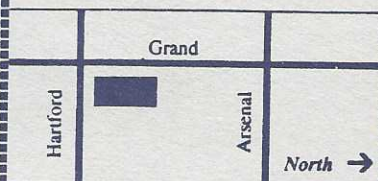


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Review from the Heights

N.P. A novel by Banana Yoshimoto. Translated by Ann Sherif. New York: Washington Square Press, 1994. \$10.00.

Reviewed by Tim Fox

Like most people who theorize about twenty-somethings, I have not read the Douglas Coupland novel *Generation X*, but I did glance through it in Grand Books while looking for a book to review for this column. The first thing I came across in its opening pages was a Roy Lichtenstein-like cartoon that portrays an exasperated young woman saying, "Don't worry, Mother. If it doesn't work out we can always get a divorce!"

As the saying goes, it's funny because it's true. But it's disturbing and sad because it's true, too. While plenty of people have opinions about just what in the world is "wrong" with so-called Generation X: they're spoiled, they watch too much MTV, they can't see beyond themselves; not many have wanted to point out the possibility that many of them seem so lost because they are part of the first generation to be raised beneath the constant specter of divorce.

With the cartoon in place, the shadow of divorce as an always-present option rather than a last resort when all else has failed is thus set up as a theme for Coupland's novel, and it hangs over Banana Yoshimoto's second novel, *N.P.*, as well - a novel I found directly beneath the shelf from *Generation X* and sporting a blurb that terms it an "ethereally mesmerizing . . . novel of Japan's Generation X."

At the center of Yoshimoto's "Gen-X" book is the dead writer Sarao Takese, the author of a collection of short stories also called *N.P.* Takese has fathered two children by his first wife before his own death by suicide: Otioko and his sister, Saki, both of whom we meet briefly early in the novel through the narrator and protagonist, Kazami. Kazami is drawn to the brother and sister instantly when she first sees them at a party. "I was overwhelmed by the sensation that I had actually met them before in my dreams, but then, in the next moment, I came back to my senses, aware that

anyone who saw these two would feel the same way," she says. "I couldn't take my eyes off of them."

After running into Okihoto by chance some five years later, Kazami is quickly drawn into the tragic life of him and his sister, and she begins to reveal more of her own tragic story. Divorce and suicide are common elements to both Kazami and the Takeeses. Kazami was raised by her mother after her father abandoned the family, and her lover Shoji has killed himself. Similarly, Okihoto and Saki were raised by their mother after her divorce, and the Takeese family has had to come to terms with Sarao's suicide.

Things get even more complicated when the enigmatic character Sui enters. Sui, it turns out, is both Okihoto's lover and half sister. Not only that, she has also been the lover - inadvertently - of their common father, Sarao Takeese, and of Kazami's now-dead lover. As my wife, Ellen, said when I was describing the book to her, "Is there anyone she doesn't sleep with?"

Well, there is one person Sui doesn't sleep with: Kazami. However, the possibility is certainly there. Early in their relationship Kazami says of Sui, "Her long hair smelled sweet, like a little child's, and those big sparkling eyes looked so forlorn under the shag of bangs. It scared me because I felt as though I could fall for her." But *N.P.*, unlike many American novels, is a story about love and the mysteries of attraction, not sex. The characters are drawn to each other not by hormones but by the qualities in each other that they lack in themselves. Quiet, meditative Kazami is attracted to Sui's exuberance like a moth to light.

The idea that Sui brings to the novel is that in the world these characters inhabit, a world marked and marred by divorce, suicide, and confusion over national and familial identity, anything can happen, and almost anything does. The traditional relationships of father-daughter, brother-sister, are weakened and confused; the characters are through the looking glass, living in a world of

unlikely coincidences, eerie psychic bonds, and frequent sensations of *deja-vu*.

However, the novel's resolution is remarkably conservative. Sui, revealed to be a dangerous and destructive force, exiles herself from the story, and Kazami and Otioko, the only characters who aren't related by blood, end up sitting together on the beach, quietly falling in love.

As a novelist, Yoshimoto has problems that are common to young writers; neither characterization nor dialogue are her strong suits. But it doesn't matter. She is concerned with larger issues, questions of identity, language, and writing. In giving her novel the same title as Sarao Takeese's collection of stories, making Takeese's last "story" the true story of him and his love affair with Sui, and giving character's lines such as, "I was a character in a book, and now I've come out of the book and am talking and walking," Yoshimoto shows that she is well-versed in the postmodern techniques and quirks of metafiction: fiction that is painfully aware of its own lowly status as a fiction.

What is truly compelling about Yoshimoto's writing, however, is not her take on divorce or her clever technique, but her way with an image. On almost every page is some simile, metaphor, or turn of phrase that begs you to stop and think for a moment before moving on. She describes Summer, for example, as "the time of year when the air is intense and hot, and the blue summer sky promises to suck you up." If that's not a description of an August day in an un-air-conditioned South St. Louis flat, I don't know what is.

I suspect that Yoshimoto's true gift as a writer is poetry, and I'd be interested in seeing what she could do in that medium. Her most recent book, however, is not poetry but a collection of short stories entitled *Lizard*; it recently received a very favorable review in the *New Yorker*. For now, though, I'll content myself with recommending *N.P.* for an intriguing afternoon's escape during the long, hot summer days that are about to come.

At the Movies - with Stephanie Gavin

By the time the Gazette comes out with this article, Tall Tale may very well be out of local theaters, although it just recently opened. I've heard that the best advertising for a movie--despite millions of dollars spent by production companies--is word of mouth. Well, if that's true, Tall Tale is a goner. Set in the American West of 1905, Tall Tale is about a surly 12-year old boy, Jonas, who is tired of hearing his dad's outrageous tales of the great Texan cowboy, Pecos Bill (played by Patrick Swayze). But then Dad gets shot by the movie villain, J.P. Stiles (played by Scott Glenn), for not selling the deed to his farm so a railroad can be built through the land. Before getting shot, his dad manages to give Jonas the

deed to the farm. So the villains are after him. Things look bleak until Pecos Bill rides in on a tornado to help Jonas. But he can't stop the villains alone, so he recruits his pals, Paul Bunyan and John Henry to help.

In brief summary, if you're an American Folklore fan, the movie may sound appealing. But it's slow--real slow. What it truly lacks is good character development, the death of any movie, I think. For example, Paul Bunyan is a disappointingly grouchy, sarcastic, cynical man and I never really understood why. Pecos Bill is a shallow, superficial hero whose best talent is shooting off the trigger finger of those pointing guns at him. John Henry has a moment of endearment

when he tells Jonas of his father, but it's never a complete story. And I never liked the boy... he was too selfish and sullen until the very, very end. It also seemed a bit sexist to me; although Calamity Jane makes a brief appearance as the jilted lover of Pecos, it's a male movie, like so many of Disney's recent films.

I would definitely wait until video for this one, or until it's shown on regular network television for free. Or I would possibly skip it all together, especially if you imagine Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, and John Henry as larger-than-life superheroes. In Tall Tale, they're incredibly ordinary men, which is the biggest disappointment of it all!



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(This article reprinted from the March/April 1995 Grand-Oak Hill Newsletter.)



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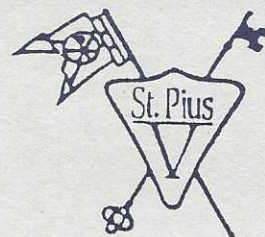
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Saving for Retirement Especially Vital for Women

Despite much progress in the last decade, American women executives still earn only two-thirds as much as men, according to a new study by the Korn/Ferry International executive search firm and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Although many forecasts suggest that pay parity is coming, the pay gap means that several generations of women, from those starting work today to those who have been working for 20 to 30 years, could find themselves shortchanged in retirement income as well. Consider these facts:

Men's annual retirement income, including all sources, averages \$10,450 compared with just \$6,020 for women. Because women live an average of seven years longer than men, they're more likely to face the problem of outliving their assets - in fact, women are twice as likely as men to die poor.

It can be more difficult for women to save for retirement because they earn less throughout their careers. Women have to save a higher percentage of their income to ensure a comfortable retirement.

Only 50 percent of working women have pensions. This is partly because women are more likely to work in smaller businesses that do not offer pension plans. Also, women often leave the work force when they have children and rejoin later, or move with a spouse, so they may not stay with one employer long enough to be visited in a retirement plan or to accumulate much in a company.

At one time or another, 90 percent of women become wholly responsible for their own financial welfare.

Nearly 75 percent of the elderly poor are women.

Eighty percent of retired women are not eligible for pension benefits.

Many older women are placed in financial jeopardy through widowhood or divorce.

The average age of widowhood in the United States is 56.

Despite these statistics, women can take control of their financial futures by implementing a few basic strategies. These include developing a plan and sticking to it, paying themselves first, systematically investing for the long term, taking the time to learn about basic investments, sheltering their retirement dollars from taxes, diversifying their investment dollars and using professional advice.

The time to plan and invest for your retirement is now. Start today!

Article provided by Tom Borich, investment representative, for Edward D. Jones & Co.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern:

"I'm wondering if anyone has any information about that curious house at 4148 Connecticut - is it occupied? How old is it - history etc. ...if anyone knows anything about this house I would love to hear it!!!"

If you have any information about this house, please forward your reply to: Tower Grove Heights Gazette, 3203 South Grand Blvd., Suite 103, St. Louis, MO 63118, Attn: Donald Hardin, Editor.



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By Terry L. Mayes

Hello readers I trust all went well over the winter for everyone and their auto. I hope no poor soul had to sit and wait for a tow truck in the bad weather. I haven't really had a good chance to write a decent article lately. I have been playing fairly hard at scuba diving. Which I happen to enjoy very much. Lets just call this article mechanic on vacation I have actually been studying very hard at this sport and I am having a great time doing it. I have just recently become classified as a professional scuba diver which is called a Divemaster. I needed something to break the ice after looking at all of those nuts all day! Take that however you like. Actually I have been working at this for about four years now. I did it once and I was hooked.

Its a fantastic feeling and there are no phones down there. I just had a great idea! Ill rename my column "Scuba Adventures". It really is a good way to talk about traveling around the country and abroad. As a matter of fact I'll tell you about one trip I went on to Key Largo, Fla... I started out doing a very stupid thing, trying to

Mechanic on Vacation *"Scuba Crazy"*

go as cheaply as possible and believe me now and here me later, that's not always the way to go!

I got a ride with a very obnoxious young woman that owned a newer Ford Bronco. Three people riding to the keys with a lot of scuba gear didn't

...NEXT STOP

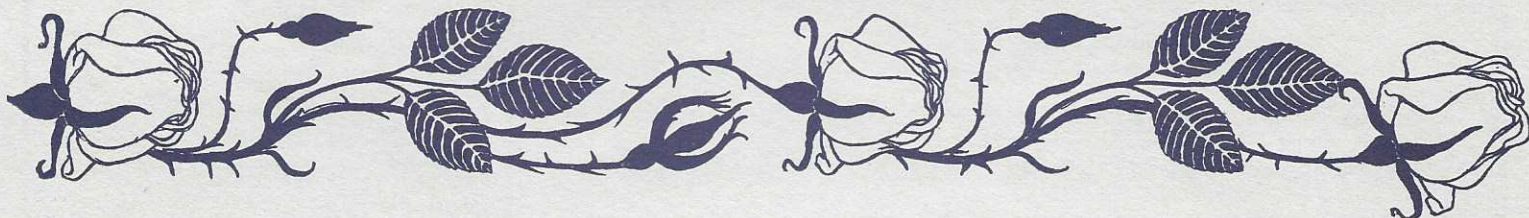
KEY LARGO...

make for the most comfortable driving. The poor sap that got to sleep in the back seat had to ride with his knees crammed into his or her mouth. But what the heck. I figured we only have to go 1500 miles, and besides we could stop whenever we wanted or needed to, right. Not!!!

The first time we got to stop I think we were in Kentucky already. My

bladder was about to burst from all the coffee I drank that morning. This was the kind of person if they had to go would continue to keep putting it off until they exploded. I was in such pain I had to walk around for a few minutes just to get the cramps to go away. Well that really wasn't so bad. The next stop Key Largo, oh no! Thank the good Lord these things run on gas. I had more than enough to get us there. All in all it turned out to really be a lot of fun once we arrived in the Keys. We did two dives a day for five days and two night dives. It's so beautiful under the ocean at night. We did a fascinating wreck dive on and old coast guard cutter called the Dewayne. We saw and interacted with Moray eels. Yes I actually pet them like a dog. They're very silk like to touch.

The list is really too long to go on because there are so many different creatures to observe. Its a great learning experience for any person. Well I'll talk more another time. And yes, the trip back was just as horrible, thank you very much. Have a great Spring and for God sakes let's be careful out there!



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Don't Worry - Be Healthy

By Tom Booth

Since my personal bias is a meatless diet, I'd like to bring some interesting statistics to your attention.

- The amount of beef for consumption that can be raised on 1 acre of land: 250 pounds. The amount of potatoes that can be raised on 1 acre of land: 40,000 pounds.

- The average American male's risk of dying from a heart attack: 50%. The risk for a vegetarian: 4%.

- Amount of soybeans and grains a chicken must eat to yield just one pound of edible meat: 3 pounds.

- Percent of total antibiotics used in the U.S. that are fed to livestock: 55%.

- Water needed to produce 1 pound of meat: 2,500 gallons. Water needed to produce 1 pound of wheat:

25 gallons.

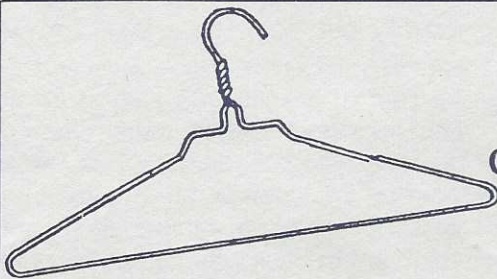
- Number of people who could be adequately fed by the grain saved if Americans reduced their intake of meat by 10 percent: 60 million people.

- Amount of trees spared per year by each individual who switches to a vegetarian diet: 1 acre. (Presumably this means acreage is cleared for grazing purposes)

- Average amount of meat eaten by each American annually: 190 pounds.

- Energy equivalent that a family of four would conserve in one year by cutting back meat consumption by 2 pounds each week: 104 gallons of gasoline.

- Percentage of Americans who are vegetarian: 12%.



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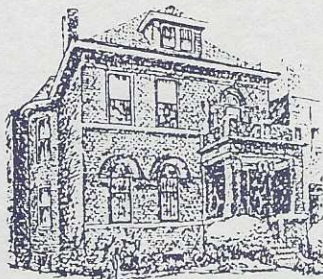
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The Rehabber

By Jay Rosloff

I feel there are very few projects that are beyond the ability of the determined do-it-yourselfer. City Code requires a professional to perform any work on the electrical service from utility pole to circuit breaker box. A new sewer, gas or water line is similarly constrained. Yet, despite the fact that except for Historical and Heritage considerations the roof of your home is largely immune from City Hall's purview, I admit to an unwillingness to recommend even routine work to the untrained homeowner. Maybe it's the height, but whatever the reason, the consequences of error lead me to believe that in this case it's better to have the option of blaming the professional contractor for anything that goes wrong.

Looking down our streets we see homes with peaked roofs, flat roofs, and various combinations of both. This, being Spring, is also the time of year we see the most roofs undergoing repair or replacement. Let's get you armed with the information you need to make the expensive decisions.

The buildings in our neighborhood run about 900 square feet. This translates into nine to ten squares of 100 square feet for a flat roof and about 20-22 squares of roofing shingle in a peaked roof with gables and dormers. The figures for costs given below are based upon this. Your home and roof will vary from the average, so use the following estimates as ballpark figures only, please.

Slate roofs can last up to 90-100 years. Unfortunately, that's about as old as most of those we see gracing our streets. At that age, the heads of the nails holding the slates have rusted off. Wind or ice build up may lift the slate off the remaining nail shaft. A seasonal survey with binoculars will indicate if any slates have shifted. If so, don't consider a total tear-off until a contractor has provided you with an estimate for just repair. Any such estimate should include the cost of new flashing. Oh, copper and aluminum are mechanically similar in performance, the copper just costs a bundle more.

The cost of a 25-year rated shingle and simple tear-off, is about \$250 per square including installation. Slate will be about 2.5 times that. As it lasts almost 4 times as long, the price is at least open to justification for the sake of keeping a building's character. Some of the newer fiberglass shingles have a shadow line painted on to simulate the look of thicker slates, but at a considerable savings of cash. As a 20-year shingle costs about \$3 less per square, don't be pound foolish for sixty bucks on a \$5000 project.

Flat roofs are rarely guaranteed as long. The old felt roof should be checked for thin spots in the tar coating and will probably require a "hot mop" every three to five years. Too frequent moppings are actually detrimental as the sealant gets brittle

SLATE ROOFS CAN LAST UP TO 90-100 YEARS.

and "alligators" if it's too thick. The newer "modified" roof coverings are usually a thicker material combination of fiberglass or polyester and rubberized asphalt. They are rolled on, screwed down, and sealed at the seams. They have a typical life span and guarantee of 10 to 12 years. The cost of preparation and placement of a new flat roof covering is similar per square to that of shingle roofs, but require half the material and labor. Expect to pay \$2000 or \$3000. A hot mopping should run half that. Single membrane roofs are trickier to install, may require ballasting to prevent lifting and are much more expensive, but should last 15-20 years. But to make sure you even need a new roof, have the contractor check the flashing. Too often it's not properly set, just "gooped over" with sealant.

One factor that's hard to determine before the event is the cost of hidden damages. Although those of us with pitched roofs are fortunate

that these old roofs are steep enough to encourage water run-off and minimize ice dams, we will almost always have some bad flashings and carpentry problems. The latter come mostly in the form of rotted underlayments (the boards over the rafters to which the shingles are nailed), soffits, fascia boards, etc. If you can't trust your contractor to price these repairs fairly, you need another contractor. Ask for an estimate, but don't expect a firm figure unless you want to guarantee paying for a "worst-case" scenario. Remember, you want to the contractor to make enough to stay in business long enough to honor any warranties.

Speaking of the care and feeding of your contractor, remember to treat him (or her) as you would expect to be treated. On a mild day a roof can be more than 40 degrees hotter than on the ground. Expect the crew to start at dawn, and maybe break during the afternoon before returning in the early evening. Expect a two man crew to work for about a week, a larger crew may take less time. Let them have access to at least the basement for cooling off. If you can't be at home, make sure they have water and electrical services available. Discuss beforehand any plans for roof vents or changes in stacks or other items. Expect a mess, but discuss with the foreman methods to protect plantings and other landscaping features. Be clear about cleanup and payment terms. Most reputable contractors won't need a prepayment for materials, but be prepared to sign a check as soon as the final inspection is complete.

Other financial points to consider include lien waivers and insurance. A lien waiver is necessary to keep the title to your home clear. Anyone letting an uninsured contractor up on their roof deserves to lose their home if anyone gets hurt. I hope none of the readers of this Gazette are that foolish!

While much of the information contained in this article is gleaned from personal experience and interviews with friends and family, I wish to thank professional roofing specialist Gary Beachler for his assistance in preparing this article.

GENERAL MEETING DATES/TIMES

The next two general meetings of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association are Tuesday, May 30th and Tuesday, June 27th both will be at First Divine Science Church, 3617 Wyoming. Meetings begin **promptly** at 7:15



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CONCERNING THE METRO POST

By Rich Iezzi

Recently, a vote was taken at the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association meeting on whether the circulation of the Metro Post should be stopped in our neighborhood.

The Metro Post is delivered weekly but is also contained in the daily Post Dispatch for those who subscribe. Residents had complained to their block captains about the Metro Post being another source of litter and

asked if it could be stopped. The vote was unanimous to stop circulation. Jean Iezzi, President of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, wrote a letter to the Metro Post carrier requesting them to stop circulation of the Metro Post within the Tower Grove Heights boundaries. Don Petri, of Gateway Consumer Services, promised to stop circulation by May 15th. Please call Gateway Consumer Services **ONLY** if you want to continue to have the Metro Post delivered to your home. The number is 772-6000.



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MEET YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN

By Denise Roesler-Cunningham

Like a butterfly unfurling after its winter transformation, Sara Langan is showing a new side by becoming the head of block captains for Tower Grove Heights.

A 20-year TGH resident, Sara recently decided to become more involved in the neighborhood when her youngest child entered school full-time. Sara lives with her husband, Dave, at 3639 Juniata. They have three sons and Sara has considered it a privilege to stay home and raise her children.

But like that butterfly, she has undergone a transformation and is breaking out of her cocoon to try new things. With the help of Marilyn Abbott, Sara is learning about the head block captain's role. She is eager to be more involved in the neighborhood and meet other Tower Grove Heights residents. (Not that she doesn't already know many--she named more people on my block than I know!)

Sara talks about a three-day "displaced homemakers" workshop at Meramec Community College to pin-

point when she began considering her options for ways to meet other people and do more things for herself. This introspective course helped her determine the occupations that would interest her and was a confidence builder. Interestingly, all tests pointed to her degree area; she has a master's



degree in student personnel.

An ironic, chance meeting with a nun on Metrolink sealed her fate, and now Sara is using her educational background by volunteering in the career development area at Font-

bonne College. She helps teach a career development course on Tuesdays and works in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Sara hopes this will turn into a paying position in the near future.

Sara and her husband have lived in the same three-story house since they moved to Tower Grove Heights 20 years ago. She was working at Tower Grove Bank on Grand and they were looking at houses in the Kirkwood area. By chance, Sara asked about housing in the bank's area and a homeowner willing to sell called her directly.

In addition to lovingly maintaining her home and caring for her family, Sara is involved in a Bible study group. She also enjoys quilting and walking with friends in Tower Grove Park.

Next time you see her flitting about the neighborhood, introduce yourself to Sara. Let her know your ideas for the neighborhood and she will pass them on to the appropriate person or follow up herself. She's committed to Tower Grove Heights and she's a pleasure to know.

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BLOCK CAPTAINS' MEETING NOTES

By Tom Booth

The April block captains' meeting was held at the Langans' house on

Juniata on April 4th with a group of 13 present. All but three blocks in Tower Grove Heights were represented. The meeting progressed as a casual round

of discussion on a number of issues, including:

Mobile Reserve - police officers who are assigned to address the problems of particular communities to which they are assigned. All the block captains were encouraged to report problems on their blocks, whether it be persons selling drugs, vandalism, or public disturbances; since the mobile reserve officers will give attention to the community that is asking for it.

Block Watch - A number of the block captains will be contacting residents on their blocks to get involved in this program which is intended to let block members know what's happening on their block.

Membership - The current Gazette contains membership forms and will be the last issue of the Gazette which will be delivered to every resident. Starting with the June issue, Gazettes will only be delivered to Tower Grove Heights members, so anyone wanting to receive a Gazette will need to join. The next General Meeting will be a potluck dessert event designed to encourage residents' participation.

The next Gazette folding will be on Thursday, April 27th with delivery the following weekend. It was mentioned that anyone helping with the folding is entitled to free chips and drink.

House Tour - Plans are being made for the house tour on May 20 and 21, which will include showplace homes in our area.

Operation Brightside will take place on May 13. Chris Jamison of the 36xx block of Connecticut said that her block intends to repeat their dumpster painting activity from last year. A number of Connecticut kids helped paint pictures on 2 of the dumpsters in her alley.

Margie Meyer said she could help any block captain customize flyers for their block announcing their block's plans for Operation Brightside.

Recycle Bins have been moved to Fanning School at the corner of Giles and Fairview.

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COMING SOON TO AN ALLEY NEAR YOU: PROJECT BLITZ '95'

By Tim Fox

On Saturday, May 13, Tower Grove Heights residents will have the chance to clean up their own back yards, thanks to Operation Brightside's eleventh annual Project Blitz campaign.

Project Blitz is a citywide operation involving some seventy-five thousand volunteer workers, three thousand volunteer "block captains," and a hundred neighborhood cleanup and greening projects. But as huge as Project Blitz is, it's only one part of Operation Brightside. Started in 1982 under Mayor Vincent Schoemel, Operation Brightside exists to help St. Louisans beautify their own neighborhoods. According to Mary Lou Green, Executive Director of Operation

Brightside, the organization formed when concerned citizens took a look around and realized that there was at least one problem with the city that ordinary citizens could overcome: it was dirty.

"Since then," Green said, "Operation Brightside has grown into a real public-private partnership." Corporations in St. Louis, such as Anheuser-Busch, contribute time, money, and resources for Project Blitz and other programs, while volunteers from St. Louis neighborhoods pick up trash, plant donated plants and flowers, and help clean graffiti from walls.

What's more, Operation Brightside provides job training for disadvantaged city youths through its Project Mainstreet program. Project Main-

street offers nearly seven thousand youngsters valuable work experience and a sense of responsibility for their communities as they roll up their sleeves to clean over 140 miles of city streets and highways.

Other activities that Operation Brightside oversees include everything from recycling programs and aid for those in need to poetry and art projects. In 1994, for example, Brightside published Our "Litter" Book of "Garbage" Verses, a collection of art and poetry written by over seven hundred St. Louis school children.

But in the spring, Operation Brightside's energies turn toward Project Blitz, and with good reason. There is nothing else like it in St. Louis.

One unique aspect of Project Blitz is the Anheuser-Busch Special Projects Contest. Last year, the brewery awarded over seven thousand dollars to neighborhood groups in appreciation for their outstanding improvement efforts. This money was then funneled back into the neighborhoods in the form of further improvements. Participants in Project Blitz this year can again enter their neighborhood's special project in this program (see sidebar).

Another thing that sets Project Blitz apart is its ease of participation. Trash bags, tools, mulch, wood chips, and flowers are all provided free of charge to Blitz volunteers. All you need to do is show up in the alley behind your house at the appointed time and be ready to dig in!

So mark your calendar now: Saturday, May 13, Project Blitz, 1995. See you there!

For more information about Project Blitz, or for any of Operation Brightside's programs, call 781-4556.

Trash Instructions

1. "Yard Waste Only" and trash receptacles will be emptied started at 10:00 a.m. on Blitz Saturday, May 13. All debris must be bagged and in trash receptacles. Do not overfill receptacles.

2. Large items will be picked up starting at 1:00 p.m. Place large items in the alley, at least four feet from dumpsters and not blocking any streets, alleys, or sidewalks. Items placed on private property will not be picked up.

3. Tree branches over two inches in diameter and no longer than three feet long must be bundled and placed with bulk items for collection.

4. Flowers provided by Operation Brightside must be placed on public property.

(continued on page 14)



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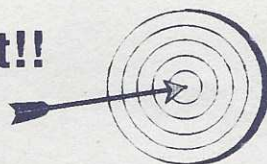
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The 1995 Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Membership Drive

The membership dues raise more funds for the neighborhood association than any other activity. Please show your support for your association and your neighborhood by joining today.

ARE YOU ONE?

So, you are sitting there drinking your cup of whatever and are reading this latest issue of the Gazette. It's

spring, the birds are chirping and the flowers are blooming. You think to yourself, "I bet it's about time to join the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association."

Okay, so maybe this isn't exactly what you're thinking, but now that I have your attention and you're thinking about TGH memberships... Just why should you join the neighborhood organization? Well, for one very important reason, after this issue of the Gazette, *you will no longer receive a copy of our bimonthly newsletter unless you're a member.* Printing costs continue to rise along with other expenses, and we just cannot continue to deliver copies to everyone in the neighborhood. And, without your Gazette, how will you know what's happening in the neighborhood?

There are, of course, other reasons to support your neighborhood organization. Without membership funds, we could not continue to sponsor such programs as Holiday in the Heights, Kid's Day, general meetings, potluck dinners, Good Neighbor Awards, safety fairs, Pride in Place Awards, house tours, realtors tours, "Welcome to the Neighborhood" events, tenant-buyer referrals, tree plantings, Art of City Living, neighborhood clean-ups, garage sales, reinvestment seminars, dumpster paintings, member "buzz books", Light up the Heights, Safestreet events, mobile patrol and many, many more activities. And, without your support, the neighborhood as a whole would most likely have a much more difficult time organizing itself to fight problem properties and crime. A central body is also essential for working with city offices and helping to maintain and improve the quality of our neighborhood and life in Tower Grove Heights in general.

Now, isn't it time you joined the neighborhood? Memberships are open to all residents, businesses, and supporters of Tower Grove Heights. Tenants are especially encouraged to join. Without your input, we cannot make the organization work for you. So, please join today while it is on your mind.

To join, simply send in the form to the right, hand it to your block captain, or attend any general meeting. Hope to see your name among the ranks soon!

Memberships are as follows, please check one:

☐ Individual (1 vote) - \$7/yr

☐ Family (2 votes) per household - \$12/yr

☐ Renaissance (1 vote) - \$20/yr

(includes one gift package of TGHNA notecards)

☐ Business (1 vote) - \$25/yr

(includes one business card sized ad in the GAZETTE)

Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____

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☐ YES, please include my name, address and phone number in the 1995 Neighborhood Buzz Book

☐ NO, please do not include my name, address and phone number in the 1995 Neighborhood Buzz Book

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(continued from page 18)

Entering the Anheuser-Busch Special Projects Contest

Special projects can include, but are not limited to, vacant lot, alley, or street clean-ups; beautification or clean-up projects in other areas; and painting "yard waste only" dumpsters. Prizes will be awarded for Best Beautification and Best Clean-up projects. Regional prizes range from \$25.00 to \$100.00, and regional winners are eligible for grand prizes ranging from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00 in a citywide competition. Prizes are awarded to groups, not individuals. To enter, contact your block captain or call 781-4556.

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