

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Volume 8, Number 3

November 16, 1996

HOLIDAY IN THE HEIGHTS



by Matt Fernandes

Christmas time has come upon us again. Capitalistically speaking, I suppose the season started in late October in a lonely department store at the mall. But here, in the City, we are about to set up shop on a more reasonable date - November 30.

This date as well as December 15 will make up TGHNA's annual "Holiday in the Heights." This year's event promises to dazzle residents with new activities and visual delights. A preview follows, but bear in mind that details are still being hashed out. Some events may not make the final cut and the inception of still more events may have occurred after press time.

Event organizers decided to include Tower Grove Heights in the Christmas walk that is planned for November 30. For the walk, in which many businesses on Grand will open their doors to chilly customers and offer sales and hors d'oeuvres while they shop, TGHNA volunteers hope to decorate the entrance to Tower Grove Park on Grand and Arsenal. Lamp-

posts along Grand will also bear festive ornamentation.

Tower Grove Park, tranquil and dormant during the deep freeze, will spring to life during the walk. Parents can bundle up the kids and take a carriage ride through the park. Perhaps Santa will be making an early appearance at the Stupp Center, mak-



...City sidewalks,
busy sidewalks
dressed in holiday style.
In the air there's a feeling of
Christmas...

ing the visit a must for the kids.

In the spirit of the annual house tour, certain families in the Heights will be asked to open their doors to passer-by to display their interior decorations. Shoppers and visitors may get the chance to enter a contest to win a \$1000 giveaway after visiting a certain number of shops and houses. That would be one large Christmas gift for someone indeed!

For the December 15th date, a second round of events are being planned.

Luminaries (candle-lit bags) are to be set out along Spring Street to draw everyone into the spirit. Each block is encouraged to gather and sing carols during the early evening. Santa again will grace the area, only this time he will be on the move in an effort to see each block. More open houses may be offered as a refuge during the undoubtedly frigid night.

Tinsel fanatics take heed: there will be a contest for exterior home decorations. Houses will be judged and winners will be named in various categories. Let's all transform the Heights into a winter wonderland!

The main event of the day will be a musical performance at the First Church of Divine Science (Wyoming at Grand). This concert provides the best opportunity for residents from the area to meet under one roof and catch up on a purely social level.

So put away the calendars and relish the holiday - Holiday in the Heights!

COOKIES FOR COPS

If you have signed up to take part in Cookies for Cops, Jenny Young will be giving you a reminder call just before collection days. If you need more information, call Jenny at 776-2135. **Upcoming Collection Days:**

Thanksgiving - Nov. 28th
Christmas Day - Dec. 25th
New Years Day - Jan. 1st
Valentines Day - Feb. 14th

GRAND BOOKS CLUB

The Grand Books Book Club which holds regularly scheduled group discussions of books will not meet again until after the holidays.

The next discussion group will be held on January 16th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Grand Books located at the southeast corner of Grand and Wyoming.

All books for the discussion group receive a 15% discount. The book they will be discussing is Horse Whisper by Nicholas Evans.

For more information call Sean at Grand Books at 664.5511.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Founding Editor: Janice Nesser
Publications Chairperson - Editor: Don Hardin

Graphic Artists: Michele Kerr, Janice Nesser

Database Manager: Tom Booth

Business Manager: Marilyn Abbott

Circulation Coordinator:

Layout design: Donna Mayes

Typesetting: Don Hardin, Michele Kerr

Staff: Marilyn Abbott, Donna Blanca, Tom Booth, Elizabeth Braznell, Benjamin Chu, Richard Clinebell, Matthew Fernandes, Stephanie Gavin, Don Hardin, Jodie Heliker, Tricia Heliker, Rich Iezzi, Donna Mayes, Terry Mayes, Janice Nesser, Erin O'Reilly, Fredrick Rissover, Jay Rosloff, Jenny Young

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Fun and Fund Raising

Fund raising and fun will be inseparable during the next year as events unroll to help fill the TGHNA's coffers. During the dead of winter, a pancake breakfast is planned and will probably be held in the Divine Science church on Wyoming. While you're chasing away those winter blues, you can see how everyone else is surviving those cold days and nights.

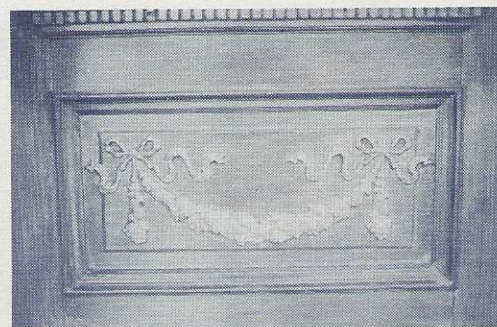
Just in time for the winter thaw, a dinner is being organized in March that will feature a \$500 raffle and other goodies and the usual good company of all your neighbors. Look for more details about this in future Gazettes and meetings.

Remember the wonderful art show held in that beautiful house on Utah a few years ago? It featured neighborhood artists and an impressive display of talent. The fund raising committee is looking into a similar event to raise money while showcasing our local artists.

Then there's the garage sale. Nevermind that most of the stuff was bought by the people who donated items for the sale (doesn't it always work like that?). We had a great time and managed to make mucho bucks. Hopefully the garage sale will become an annual fund raising event. If you have a fund raising idea or would just like to help, call Jeff Blunt at 865.0875.

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

There are so many beautiful doors on the homes in Tower Grove Heights; this one is in the 3800 block of Hartford.



Upcoming Events

December

Celebrate the Holidays at the Garden!

Holiday Exhibit

December 7 through January 1

A spectacular holiday wreath display created by some of the finest floral designers in the St. Louis area. Free with regular Garden admission.

Carols in the Garden - A Winter Night's Festival

Tuesday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 4 Enjoy a delightful winter's evening at the Garden with carolers, musicians, Santa and children's activities.

Tower Grove House Candlelight

Tour Tuesday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 4 Visit Henry Shaw's historic country home, richly decorated in all its finery, glowing in soft candlelight, and warmed by holiday cheer for a Victorian Christmas tour.



Holiday Flower Show

December 7 through New Year's Day

A fabulous Victorian Holiday Garden!

Booksigning by Vashanti Rahaman, author of "O

Christmas Tree" December 7

Chanukah, Festival of Lights Sunday, December 8

The day will include craft workshops, sing-a-longs, puppet show, storytelling, cooking demonstrations, musical performances and a menorah lighting ceremony and exhibit presented by The Source Unlimited.

Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits

Saturday, December 28

The richness of African American culture is celebrated with stories, foods and children's activities featuring storyteller Bobby Norfolk.

Call the Public Events Office at 577-5125 during business hours for more information or call 577-9400 for a recorded message.



Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Blvd.

By Don Hardin



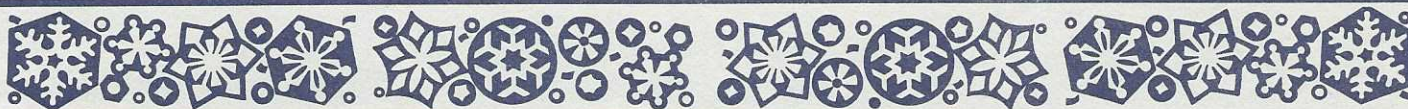
A GRAND CHRISTMAS



Well, it's time to do my Christmas shopping (all of it). With my trusty list in hand, I set out for Grand South Grand.

SALON ST. LOUIS - A gift certificate for aunt Susie for a new hairdo, she could certainly use one. **BOTANICALS ON THE PARK** - Something with flair and taste for mom, who already has everything. **ARTIFICE** - Something with "pizazz" for my artist friend. **ONCE UPON A VINE** - A glass of wine and a sandwich to fortify me on my quest. **MOKABEES** - A gift certificate for my son (I can't believe he is old enough to drink coffee. (It seems like he should still be drinking baby formula). **PARAMOUNT DRUGS** - I must remember to pick up a paper to take home. (If I survive this shopping trip.) **DOMINOS PIZZA** - Hmmm, maybe I'll order a pizza later this evening. **FARU** - My friends from Argentina are going to love this throw rug from Chile. **STREETSIDE RECORDS** - Some Christmas music for the family Christmas party. (ugh) **FUTON EXPRES'** - An interesting lamp for Kirk and Beth's new loft. **SEARS PORTRAIT STUDIO** - This year I'm going to get all of my brothers and sisters together for a photo for mom. **STAR VIDEO** - A gift certificate for that great neighbor of mine. **SOHO** - A gift certificate for access time for my computer nerd (that's my boy) son - and a nifty T-shirt for me that says "WWW.SOHO-STL.COM". **DICKMANN'S BAKERY** - Order some goodies to take to the office party. **VINTAGE HABERDASHERY** - A funky scarf for my slightly left of center niece. **LUCAS OPTOMETRY** - Take a few minutes off to get my glasses adjusted. **JAY ASIA** - Some interesting can goods (pickled seaweed?) for Brad and Alice, the terminal vegetarians. **GOTHIC COFFEE HOUSE** - Take a break with a bottle of Ozarka. **JUST PICTURES** - A life size poster of the Three Stooges for my brother (or maybe for me). **BOOKS AND COLLECTIBLES** - Try to order a copy of Darwin's The Origin of Species for Rick. **ON THE GRID** - A copy of the Smashing Pumpkins latest CD for my nephew who just got his nose pierced. **URBAN JUNGLE** - An unusual plant for an unusual botanist. **CHEAP TRX** - A replica of the head of King Tut. I don't know who to give this to, but I have to buy it. **GRAND BOOKS** - A gift certificate for my niece, maybe she will stop reading Barbara Cartland. **WIZ BAM** - Copies of "The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" and "Eraserhead" for my son. **SHELTON DAVIS SALON** - Make an appointment to get a haircut before the hair police come and get me. **NU PERU** - A hand crafted broach for mom and an ear ring (nose ring) for my nephew?

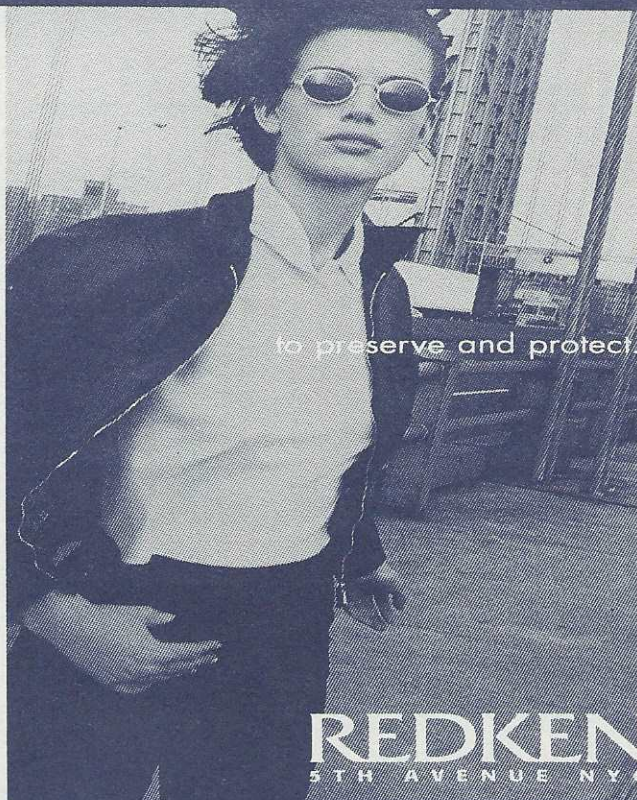
I'm finished (maybe). Time to head back home with my treasures. But first, switch gears with a bottle of Goat's Breath beer at CBGB.



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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(COMPUTER NERD VERSION)

'Tis the night before Christmas," I thought with a frown.

I was stuck at the office. The network was down.

The routers were hung in the closet. All crashed.

Their tables had holes in their data. All trashed.

Remote distribution, it seems, just for fun,

Had erased DLLs Windows needs to run

On 84 desktops way down in accounting.

I sat stunned at my desk, my blood pressure mounting.

When all of a sudden there arose such a clatter,

I saw that a server had something the matter.

There was smoke coming out of the main hard disk drive.

"No problem," I thought. "I'm set up with RAID 5."

But I found out the system I thought was unstoppable

Had disk drives that turned out completely unswappable!

"No problem," I thought. "I've tape backup to thank."

And then I discovered my backups were blank.

The UPS burped and its lights all went out.

I started to scream! I started to shout!

But nobody heard as I vented my rage.

My gurus were all on vacation those days.

And nobody's tech support answered the phone.

I was nose deep in trouble, completely alone.

When out at reception, I heard a soft knock.

As the hands just touched midnight on my desktop clock...

"What's your problem?" he asked.

"Never mind, friend I know.

I checked out your network five hours ago.

I did some proactive analysis, so I knew that this time bomb was going to blow."

Who was this guy? Who did he think that he was?

He was dressed in red coveralls, white beard, black gloves.

His eyes had the twinkle of technical genius.

His smile cut down personal distance between us.

He spread out his tools, and went straight to his work.

"Whoever configured this network's a jerk,"

He said with a :-> as he quickly rebooted,

Uploaded some software, and smoothly rerouted

The LAN to a WAN that he quickly supplied

With bandwidth at left 20 gigabits wide

That went via wireless, I think, LEO,

To tech support elves waiting at the North Pole.

"Now bridging, now routing, now Ethernet hubs!"

He chanted as each piece of hardware he rubbed.

"Cheer up, my good friend! Lose that mindset so tragic!

Technology often looks just like some magic

To people who don't understand what we do.

Now a switch, emulation, now middleware glue!

Look at the protocols, check one or two,

Debug a bit, test a bit, presto! We're through!"

My data was back! Every system checked out!

Tears of joy wet my face as I wondered about.

"How can I thank you? You must be Saint Nick!"

He said, "Really, my friend, it's not such a great trick,

If you don't give up hope, focus on what you are doing,

and read all your issues of NETWORK COMPUTING."

And I heard him exclaim, as his reindeer were coursing,

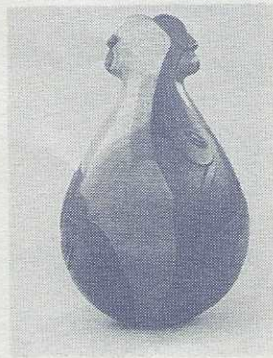
"Merry Christmas to all! And consider outsourcing!"

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BARBARA POTTS ON NEIGHBORHOOD PARADIGM SHIFT

By Donna Blanca

Barbara Potts and I decided to explore the topic of Paradigm Shift in our last interview. It seems even more appropriate to explore this dynamic in the wake of the murder of Matthew Potts.

Barb wants to thank everyone for their support and love during this most difficult time. Barb identified the foremost victim of this crime is Matthew. However, there are other victims. These victims are the family, friends, the neighborhood, business owners and neighbors. Despite the senselessness of this murder, Barb has made a decision to return to the neighborhood.

She shared this tale which illustrates the importance of Paradigm Shift for all of us:

Once there was a Captain of a battleship who set out to sea. Shortly out to sea, he noted two warning signals - the foghorn and a light. The Captain knew he was getting close to something. He coded the signal from his light to the vessel and asked the

vessel to turn 15 degrees port. "You are too close" the Captain coded. The response was "I am not going to turn; you turn 15 degrees port. The Captain responded "I am a Captain, turn 15 degrees port. The response was: "I am a second ensign, turn 15 degrees port." The Captain responded "I have a big battleship & weapons. I can blow you out of the water. Turn 15 degrees port."

The response was "I am a lighthouse, turn 15 degrees port." The Captain did so.

Barb emphasized the moral of the story in the following way:

We all have ideas of neighborhood, diversity, crime, housing, and family. Sometimes we need to challenge those directions; maybe we're about to collide with a lighthouse. It's good to change course and rethink our direction. The symbolism of the LIGHTHOUSE = HEALTH. Rather than collide, we all need to turn 15 degrees port sometimes.

Acceptance is the key. We are all guilty of being too much of a Captain by stern and staunch thinking, by unwillingness to change course until forced, by unwillingness to accept a

change in course, and by unwillingness to RECOGNIZE THE LIGHTHOUSE.

Good bye Matt. We love you. Thanks for helping us be aware of the lighthouse.

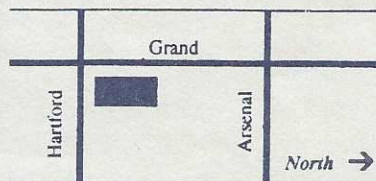


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AT THE MOVIES with DONNA BLANCA

FIRST WOMEN, FIRST WIVES

By now the movie "First Wives Club" has certainly become a title you at least recognize. Deemed the #1 Movie in America by the New York Times, the movie stars the brilliance of Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, and Bette Midler in a film portraying the lives of three first wives.

Cynthia Heimel, columnist for the NY Times states strongly the movie veers off course because "the women's raw rage at men was deemed just too unpalatable. It might threaten. It might offend those tender-egoed guys." Ms. Heimel wants us to accept our anger at men. "Yes, women are angry at men." She questions the thought of women giving up pleasure or romantic fulfillment to devote themselves to "good work". She draws from the example of Jack Nicholson in "Five Easy Pieces", precisely, the diner scene in which Nicholson tells the officious waitress precisely what to do with the toast. That film did not end with Nicholson becoming a social worker. Her point: An antihero is allowed to remain unredeemed. We love him for it because bad boys are very attractive. So what's so wrong with bad girls? Heimel would argue the "first wives" are mad at men, but the real rage is against age and other women. She expounds "of course men and women are angry with each other!" Her belief: "We need each other too much, and understand each other not at all." Her solution is a "nice friendly comedy about the war between the sexes - a cathartic experience." She redeems herself, however, by stating that "God

forbid, there's nothing wrong with opening a crisis center."

A subsequent NY Times article further explores the author's experience in the selling of her manuscript's film rights to Sherry Lansing of Paramount. She states "When it came to casting, who could be better than Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton as the wives who eat too much, drink too much and love too much?" She acknowledges the question "Did they change the book much?" with "Yes. They turned it into a film."

As Stephanie Gavin's sabbatical stand in, I offered to review this "women's movie." The casting is excellent. Heather Locklear is cast as a second wife and Stockard Channing as the fourth first wife with a different destiny. The husbands are recognizable actors with strong character roles well portrayed. Instantly, the theme of loyalty is defined in the shared sets of strings of pearls each dons for their college graduation. "Lunch" a favorite female bonding event is the beginning of the unfolding of the movie's plot. "United we stand" holds up even when the trio fearlessly "scaffolds down" on an adventure. We are left with the tune "You don't own me."

As a good female friend of mine would say, "what does all this mean?" The movie answers these questions quite well. The lives of the three women begin with the "bonding" of the pearls. This event may be known to some of you as it is to my friends and I as the "Good Girlfriend Rule." Basically, the female bonding ritual requires acceptance of the statement

made by Goldie Hawn in the movie "Friendship is everything." For the first wives, this meant confrontation of those eating, drinking, and doormat behaviors. It also means acknowledgment of "I have feelings." In the movie, it meant acknowledgment of the fact that they were housewives. This is consistent with my female friendships.

Once rejection of weight, anger, motherhood, "I let myself go", "I'm sorry", "Try these on in YOUR size", and happiness = Lithium were agreed upon, the women could REALLY bond not just about hormones but about LOYALTY. They could move forward to "bigger than revenge." They began to THINK AND PLAN GLOBALLY.

This movie has something for everyone. It speaks to all women in all facets of life and it speaks to those men who love and accept them for who they are. The first wives confronted their ex-husbands symbolically with "you have to pay" to help support the Crisis Center. Secondly, the firsts helped confront "the business is dysfunctional like our marriage", therefore financial support for the Crisis Center is expected. Lastly, the 90's "downsize" slogan allows a chunk of change to support the Crisis Center. My favorite line in this movie, and I'll refrain from stating who states it is "Don't get mad, ladies get everything."




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THE GIANT SILK MOTHS

By Richard Clinebell III

The largest moths in Missouri are the Cecropia and the **Polyphemus** in the Giant Silk Moth Family. The hosts of these, like the Tiger Swallowtail, are common trees. For instance, the Polyphemus mother will lay eggs on oaks, hard maple, certain dogwoods, apples or cherries, all of which are common in the neighborhood. However, these spectacular moths have apparently declined in urban Saint Louis, but were formerly common (Dr. Dorothy Feir, Saint Louis University, personal communication).

I was thus pleased when a fellow

graduate student, Hermann Nonnenmacher, brought me a bunch of Polyphemus eggs, which he had coaxed out of a captive female in a paper bag. In the interest of freedom, Hermann released the female mid-egg laying to continue her agenda in nature, and not knowing what I was getting into, I took a bunch of the young off his hands. I Started this project in mid August and at that point there were 73 of them in 11 quart mason jars lined up on the kitchen counter. They had to be provided every morning with fresh Hard Maple leaves and a little misting, not to mention changing the absorbent paper on the bottom of the jar, which is covered with frass (caterpillar droppings). The frass generates mold in

about two days, similar to what grows on bread. This must be removed or the mold will attack the caterpillars.

These guys are just gorgeous - a vivid emerald green with yellow spots and a cinnamon brown head. The cocoons began forming in late September and early October, and are made inside a curled-up leaf in the tree canopy. With the falling of the leaves, the cocoons also fall to the ground and overwinter in the forest floor litter.

This may be what has happened to these moths in city yards and parks. Behavior which in nature is highly adaptive may have become suicidal in man's manicured world. However, sprays and the large urban populations of "weedy" birds such as sparrows and starlings, may have played a role. With some luck, the Polyphemus caterpillars (now safe in their cocoons) will emerge as magnificent Polyphemus adults in the spring, and with extreme luck, might even succeed in reproducing in this neighborhood (Tower Grove Park), which is most certainly a very challenging environment for them.

Onward, Polyphemus!



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THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD

By Donna Blanca

The holiday season is often seen as a family time. Special events offer extra opportunities for families to spend time together. This is the season of giving, of the "100 Neediest Cases", and often a high incidence of child abuse.

According to Cynthia Crosson Tower's "Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect", maltreatment of children is deeply entwined with historical values and perspectives. The concept of child maltreatment has been defined and redefined throughout history. Society is slowly evolving from viewing children as property, subject to the whims of the family and society, to at least recognizing that children may have rights of their own. Each period in history - as well as each culture - has a concept of how children should be treated.

Historically, children were seen as the property of their families - usually headed and ruled by fathers. Children looked to their fathers for their very

existence. They had the right to determine the manner in which their children were to live or die. Infanticide was practiced for many reasons. Some cultures use the practice of infanticide as a means of regulating the population so that society's resources could be expended on the strongest and most valued.

The early United States still portrayed the role of children as property. Certainly, the family life of a farming culture required that each member take part. Some children were assigned jobs far beyond their abilities or were beaten or neglected. Children of Southern plantation slaves owed their allegiance to their parents as well as the masters who owned them. They were thought of as property and had little control over whether they worked, were sold or were used sexually by those more powerful.

The 1800's marked the Child Labor Movement and consequently increased assaults on children, albeit more hidden. In the late 1880's, Jane

Addams established Hull House in the Chicago slums as impetus for reforms for the benefit of children.

Sexual exploitation of children also evolved historically. In ancient times, female children were sexually exploited as property. A female child could be bartered for land and money with the betrothal sealed by the time the girl was twelve. Girls were often threatened if they told of any exploitation. Boys were not immune to sexual misuse either. Boys were taken by noble and wealthy families for their attractive appearance and their youth. In turn, the boys were protected and plied with gifts. It was the early Romans who first saw the rape of a child as humiliating both to family and child. The nineteenth century Victorian era launched the career of Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychoanalysis. In his treatment of patients, Freud noted a large number of patients reported sexual abuse at a young age. Freud later stated these accounts were untrue and derived from fantasies. Certainly, his attitudes had an influence on society's reluctance to recognize the
(continued on next page)



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(continued from page 8)

symptoms of sexual abuse in children. In 1875, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children began an impressive movement toward protecting children. Rooted in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the SPCC intervened in cases of child abuse and neglect, advocated for child protection and sponsored shelters for women and children.

The Child Welfare League of America, a product of Carl Christian's 1915 paper proposing standards for services and aid provided to children, continues to exist today as one of the foremost advocates for children. History doesn't stop here. Today we know that child abuse is seen as a direct violation of the rights of a child. The view of three ideologies - penal, medical, and social welfare have led to better communication, continued attention from the media, increased support for research, and more community awareness. Child abuse is a vital concern. The field of child protection is young, yet it continues to mature as we learn to understand victim and abuser.

The Missouri Laws relating to Child Abuse and Neglect, Chapter 210, RSMo Child Protection and Reformation Child Abuse define abuse as "any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for his care, custody, and control". The law continues to define neglect as "failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for his well-being." The statute continues to define and delineate the law as it exists in the state of Missouri. The statute also specifically defines mandated reporters as professionals as well as others who have "reasonable cause" to suspect a child has been or may be subject to abuse or neglect. The Missouri Division of Family Services toll free hotline number is 1.800.392.3738. Staffed by professionals 24 hours a day 7 days a week the hotline

staff are extremely helpful and confidential in their information gathering.

Locally, the most recent St. Louis County Case of the 3 year old child who died of abdominal injuries reminds us how close to home abuse occurs. The St. Louis Post Dispatch indicated the child died from being punched in the stomach by the mother's boyfriend. The blow punctured his bowel, and led to his death 15 hours later. The county medical examiner ruled the death a homicide. The defendant admitted to punching the child because he would not eat his dinner.

As a social worker trained in the field of Child Welfare, I want to applaud the New York Times for its recent coverage of child abuse issues. The NY Times recently printed a letter to the editor on the success of focused attention and resources provided by the Montefiore's Child Protection Center. The Center, located in the Bronx, NY treats children suffering from brain hemorrhages, burns and fractures resulting from abuse. The Center notes the injuries treated are growing more severe, and the victims too young to verbalize what's caused them. The United States Department of Health and Human Services statistics indicate that serious physical abuse increased 400 percent from 1986 to 1993.

The Wall Street Journal also addressed the issue of child abuse/neglect in its recent article about the San Mateo, California fingerprinting program spurred by the following statistics:

An American Bar Association survey last year of 3,800 child-welfare organizations found that about 35% subject volunteers to criminal record checks.

About 60% check the records of potential employees. Long popular with juvenile detention and foster care agencies, the practice is also rapidly catching on with sports and other youth-service groups, the ABA found.

The article also states the ABA found this process to be very costly, approximately \$100 per person, therefore robbing groups of scarce

resources. The current petition drive in San Mateo for a finger-printing program was spurred by the Polly Klaas case. The current task force/petition drive is known as the "CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDINANCE." The measure calls for volunteers and employees of non-profit organizations who have supervisory or disciplinary authority over children to submit to fingerprinting and a background check. Supporters state privacy concerns are far outweighed by a need to ensure the safety of children. The San Mateo police are also offering to fingerprint in support of the proposal.

Again, help for the growing problem of child abuse and neglect exists close to home. The Salvation Army Hope Center for Children, both near and dear to my heart wins my heartfelt admiration for its sustaining work with children traumatized by the horrors of abuse and neglect. Located in the Dutchtown South neighborhood, the Hope Center boasts success in treating this special population of children since 1977. Positive outcomes at the Hope Center are soon to be statistically based. In 1997, the Hope Center plans a research project to include a psychometric testing battery to suitably measure the functioning of the children.



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

By Donna Blanca

This month's "Up Close and Personal" focuses on our unassuming editor Don Hardin. I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Hardin in the comfort of his element - SOHO INTERNET CAFE. Surrounded by computers, data bases, internets and the Sunday afternoon sun, the following unfolded.

Don Hardin is a native St. Louisan. Born in south St. Louis, near St. Mary's High School, Don attended grade school at Scruggs School. His father is a Baptist minister. At 86, he still preaches. Don's mother was a housewife and nurse's aid. Don's mother lives in North County and remains active. According to Don, "she still goes to the VP Fair." Don's father lives in Georgia. Don reports he moved to the county at age 10 "only because my parents did." He attended Riverview Gardens High School and Ranken Technical School.

Don recalls his early upbringing included at interest in electronics. He remembers taking apart clocks and putting them together "and they worked!" He remembers building a crystal radio set as an outlet for his electronic orientation.

A writing interest began to partner this interest for electronics. He wedded these two interests with an interest in computers. From this developed a strong sense of organization. Writing had its early roots for Don in grade school. He credits his fifth grade teacher with encouraging him to write. She required all class members to write "What I did on my summer vacation" and copied these essays to the class. Those fifth grade newsletters translated to the "Bussmann Fuse Newsletter" for Don. As a testing tech who "blew fuses" for a living, Don developed the newsletter to write profiles of employees and publish Bussmann event information. He is currently the Newsletter Editor of "Ribbons", the newsletter of the Helena Hatch Care Center for HIV+ women at Washington University Medical Center.

A growing interest in writing encouraged his interest in reading obscure authors. To quote Don "I learned how to turn a phrase."

Don's love for his son, John, grew with his love for computers. Don recalls "When John was a child I always exposed him to computers. He was remarkable with computer gra-



phics and artistic in his talent. My first computer was a Sinclair self-assembled with one kilobyte of memory." His second computer was a Radio Shack color computer, the "ultimate organizer."

The integration of writing and computer technology took its form in Don's position at McDonnell Douglas

as a technical writer. Don wrote computer manuals. After 10 years, he was laid off and he marks this as the beginning of a most positive growth opportunity professionally. As the Data Base Coordinator at Washington University's Medical Center, Don feels the position is "technically interesting."

As an partner/entrepreneur (field hand), Don helps collect rare prairie seeds and sells them to businesses and several nurseries country wide. With his partner, the two have sold seeds to as far away as New Zealand.

To complete our interview, I asked Don to expound on his goals for himself, and for the Gazette. For himself, he stated, "I want continued happiness to maintain my current life. If I won the lottery, I would still live in Tower Grove Heights at 3820 Hartford, but I might also buy a small apartment in New York, and a house in Malibu. I would buy a 1956 Chevy and restore it." Don also would like to begin some free lance computer support consulting. He is currently enrolled in an Epidemiological Statistics Class at Washington University. For the Gazette, our third editor of six years plans to coordinate a Web Page.

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FROM THE CAPITOL

By State Rep. Pat Dougherty

"Drive-through" deliveries will become a thing of the past as a result of new legislation passed this session by the Missouri General Assembly. Missouri is one of a growing number of states to craft legislation that ensures that new mothers and their babies can take a deep breath after the arduous process of birth.

The new law requires health insurers to cover inpatient hospital care for 48 hours following a regular delivery and 96 hours following a cesarean section. This coverage is only required if the insurance policy covers maternity benefits.

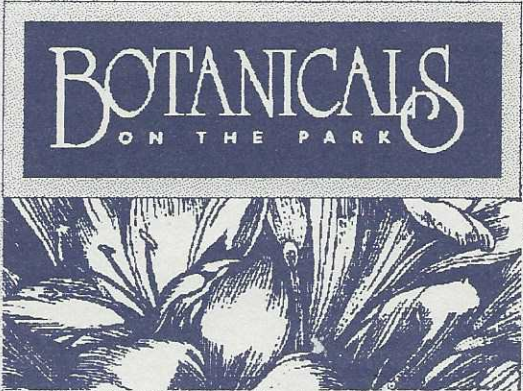
A maternity stay can be shorter if the attending physician, after consulting the mother, gives approval. This physician must use specific criteria outlined in the most current version of the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care" prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Similar guidelines prepared by another nationally recognized medical organization can also be used. This criteria includes: an uncomplicated term delivery, a normal physical examination, the mother demonstrates she has learned the basic maternal skills and there is a follow-up visit within 48 to 72 hours after the mother and baby are discharged from the hospital.

If the maternity stay is shortened, home visits by a registered professional nurse who is experienced in maternal and child health nursing must be covered by the insurer. These visits will include a physical assessment of the newborn and the mother, parent education, assistance and training in breast and bottle feeding, education and services for complete childhood immunizations, the performance of any necessary clinical tests along with the submission of the collected specimens to the appropriate state laboratory. With this comprehensive care the mother and child will receive the same sort of care they would have received in the hospital

setting. This new legislation will help to assure the health and safety of new mothers and their children during the postpartum period in addition to allowing adequate time for the education of these mothers and the assessment of their parenting skills. It also allows physicians the flexibility to make decisions concerning the management of

their patients' care.

This new law applies to insurance policies that are delivered or renewed after January 1, 1997. This means that any new insurance policy or renewed policy after this date that includes this type of coverage will be affected.



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FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Starting on October 18 and continuing every Friday night at Southwest High School, the gym there will be open for neighborhood grade school children from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Fridays activities will alternate between the Friday Night Kids Club for children in grades K through 5, and a new activities program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

The purpose of the program is to provide supervised, quality, recreational programs for neighborhood school-aged children, and to give parents the option of wholesome recreational activities on Friday evenings. These youth programs will be through Shaw VPA Community Education Center under the direction of Joe Torrisi, coordinator. Staff will include members of the Berra Park Summer Camp Program and Americorps (for the 6th through 8th grade program).

For more information or to inquire about availability, please contact Joe Torrisi, at Shaw VPA/CEC at 776.4327

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RESIDENT PROFILE

By Erin O'Reilly

Stacy Leimbach and her husband, Cary, are newcomers to the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood having bought a house on Hartford street last December. They are also newlyweds! Both are from small towns in Missouri and are looking forward to getting into the community spirit here in Tower Grove Heights.

Stacy says her priorities were to live in an older house, not far from her job at Washington U., and near a park and Tower Grove Heights met those conditions. They have 1 dog, a beagle/lab mix, who enjoys the park and 2 cats they have rescued from the streets.

Stacy is going to put her computer expertise to work for our neighborhood and is planning to set up a web page to promote the Tower Grove Heights area. It will include sections on the history of Tower Grove Heights, neighborhood attractions, a message from our alderperson, and will feature some of the Tower Grove Heights residents. Eventually she hopes to include such subjects as housing availability, neighborhood activities, a neighborhood police blotter (documenting crime activities), current and back issues of the Gazette and the "Buzz Book". It will also be interconnected with other Tower Grove Heights residents' and businesses' web pages.

Stacy will be working with some other area computer/Tower Grove Heights specialists: Ian Wilkenson, Rocky Keel, and Mark Abbott, to bring this project to fruition. She must have a lot of good energy to be new to the area and a newlywed and to tackle an ambitious project such as this! We welcome her and Cary to Tower Grove Heights and look forward to the Web Page.



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