



Arch City CHRONICLE

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McREE TOWN REBORN

Critics Call it Botanical Heist.

BY MATTHEW MURPHY

The McRee Town neighborhood was once an infamous part of the near south side. A rough neighborhood cut off from the success of the surrounding areas and controlled by gangs. Today, blocks of new homes are patrolled by the police, and many of the remaining buildings await the rehabber's hammer instead of the wrecking ball.

The controversial development has also received a new name to match the developers' aspirations and to escape the memory of its past. McRee Town is now Botanical

Heights, a nod to the development's benefactor, the Missouri Botanical Garden which sits just across Interstate-44.

The Garden's efforts to acquire some property through eminent domain angered resident groups and property owners. A group called Citizens for a Fair Plan in McRee Town opposed the Garden's ultimately victorious plan to raze part of the neighborhood. They insisted that the Garden District Commission, which oversees the project, retain as many residents and rehab as many units as possible.

The Botanical Garden is the prime mover behind the \$15-17 million

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Suburbia-type housing crops up in the former McRee Town. photo by Dave Drebes.

RECALLMANIA

Is Racism to Blame for the Turmoil?
Two Observers Give Insights.

BY SARAH TRUCKEY

The recent rash of recalls against aldermen in St. Louis is changing its political landscape. An elected official can be recalled at any time for any reason. Whether it's due to eminent domain, angry losers or shopping centers, more and more voters are unwilling to wait until the next election. Obtaining the required number of signatures seems to be a small chore for these dissatisfied residents.

Since 2003, six of the St. Louis' 28 aldermen have been the targets of a recall effort. Excepting the ever-controversial Tom Bauer in the 24th Ward, the others have all been on the north side - wards 3, 4, 5, 21 and 22.

This trend is generating discussion in political circles about the source of the seemingly greater disgruntlement on the north side of the city. There is no shortage of theories; and there are no definite answers.

Joe Palm, Committeeman of the 26th Ward, sees the recalls in the north side as a direct result of economics and unsatisfied members of the wards. In his view, the money circulating throughout St. Louis is not proportionately distributed within each area, and North City is denied its share. This creates unstable conditions and prevents essential rehabilitation from taking root. Rather an environment of frustration is cultivated where the people want to see rapid changes and will employ whatever means necessary, in this case recalls.

John Ammann, professor at St. Louis University's School of Law, agrees that the recalls are the product of the government's disregard of North St. Louis. He says that because

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SIEGE OF ALEXIAN COURT

Elderly Live In Fear

BY UMAR BEN-IVAN LEE

"I leave my home once a week to go to the boat (President Casino) and the rest of the week I am locked in my apartment afraid to even walk around the block....I grew up in the county where we had some problems and thought that the south side would be safe, but I was wrong. Sometimes we get robbed even in our building by these kids and any time you leave the building you are doing so at your own risk."

Those were the words of a frightened disabled man living under siege at the Alexian Court Building on the 2600 block of Chippewa.

The Alexian Court Building is reserved for the elderly or people with disabilities. There are many people who cannot walk without the use of canes or walkers. Outside of the building is a neighborhood ravaged by youth crime, gang violence and drug-addiction, and the two often collide with disastrous consequences for the residents.

"I was punched in my jaw by some young kid...he was walking down the street with a group of other kids and all the sudden he just ran at me and punched my in my jaw while the others laughed" said a seventy year old retired factory worker and army veteran who asked to remain anonymous.

Crime is no stranger to that part of Chippewa and some of the streets surrounding it such as Winnebago, Texas, and other state streets. While

"We are just old people and we have never hurt anyone and we cannot defend ourselves. Sometimes it's hard for me to even sleep at night because of all the noise I hear outside and I am scared that they are going to come in and rob me."

gang activity has been a problem in the area for a long-time, the violence against the elderly seems to be a pattern of what some residents describe as "some sort of gang initiation that is targeting the elderly."

"They used to have a lot of problems before 24 hour security was put in place; but now we are here around the clock that makes the resident feel a lot safer" said an unarmed security-guard at the building.

However, some resident are not satisfied with the current security. "One guard for a building of this size is just not enough. We have a back entrance and a front entrance and one man cannot guard them both. While the guard is sitting at the desk downstairs who is a patrolling the hallways?" A resident complained.

"We are just old people and we have never hurt anyone and we cannot defend ourselves. Sometimes it's hard for me to even sleep at night because of all the noise I hear outside and I am scared that they are going to come in and rob me," said an elderly woman who needed a walker.

Several neighborhood youths declined to comment about the situation and others said that they felt bad that the elderly in their community had become victims of crimes and assaults. One young man however, who claimed to be affiliated with a neighborhood Crips faction said "man, they aint no kin to me, they aint none of my people, whatever happens happens cuz".

Management at the building declined to comment for this article and referred me to the

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THE INSIDE DIRT

24th WARD WEIRDNESS: At the hearing to determine how far **Tom Bauer** could go into trying to pretend to be the Democratic candidate, he was represented by **Charlie Oldham**. That struck some as ironic. Oldham was an ally long ago of **Congressman Clay** and heavily involved in the civil rights movement in St. Louis. Bauer has made racial policking his speciality. One more strange St. Louis sight.

24th WARD PREDICTION: The Waterhouse campaign is said to be working from a list of 2,200 people who signed **Bauer's** recall petitions. If so, the math looks promising for them. Bauer is expected to receive the same 600 votes he won last time. So the only question is how many votes **Sharon Barnes**, the Republican, will siphon off. Though she is reportedly running a good campaign, we don't see her winning enough voter to lead to a Bauer victory.

UP IN THE 60TH HOUSE DISTRICT: It's the race to succeed **Amber Boykins** who's running for the 4th Senate District. **Yamilah Nasheed** was the only candidate with a committee established with the Missouri Ethic Commission the time we went to print. But the field of rumored candidates is growing by the hour. First, there is Boykin's husband, **Shaun Simms** a popular fire-fighter. Now we're hearing that **4th Ward Alderman O.L. Shelton** is seeking to place an ally in the race as he tries to maneuver his comeback to full prominence. And lo and behold if we don't hear the name of **Sharon Tyus** being mentioned as yet another person interested in running. Tyus was 20th ward alderman before **Slay's** redistricting plan disowned her of her ward. Tyus is said to be upset with Nasheed over her support of **Troupe** in the 1st ward.

GAMBARO'S GAMBIT: In the Senate 4th district race **Derio Gambaro** is set to kick-off his campaign on December 14 at Cafe Balaban. He was kind enough to sit down with the *ACC* a week or two ago, buying us a bagel and coffee. His policy positions need to be worked out still, he didn't seem to have any details on the current hot-button issues—eminent domain and stem cell—but he seems excited about the prospect of returning to public service. Still one high-powered politico snickered to the *ACC* that the invites had Republican operatives listed as the contacts to whom to RSVP, presumably referring to **Rachel Keller** and **Karen Cummings**.

MEANWHILE: We think you'll be seeing **Teresa Kendrick** drop out of the House 83rd race with **Jake Zimmerman**. Zimmerman, in addition to a ginormous war-chest, has the backing of most of the political establishment after his bowing out of the 5th County Council Seat to let **Barbara Fraser** take on **Kurt Odenwald**. The *ACC* heard from one state senator who was miffed at the deal, feeling like it cut the legs out from under Kendrick, who was recruited for that race. But another deep Democrat insisted the deal was a good day for women, that the establishment actually cared enough about Fraser to help muscle young Zimmerman out of her way.

105TH: Trying to build on magic of the **Jane Bogetto** race, Democratic strategists have shifted her campaign manager, **Greg Shufeldt** over to the 105th to manage the race of **Mike Frame**. Frame gets high marks across the board from Democratic activists. A union stalwart he's plugged into his community and the district leans Democratic (52% DPI). One observer thought his personal baggage (a divorce) was an area of concern, but otherwise he is running strong.

AND OVER IN THE 93RD: **Gen Frank** is getting mixed reviews. The Democratic party has brought in an out of town campaign manager, **Paul Scoville**, but some familiar with that district are less optimistic that Democrats can repeat their success from the 94th. The more pessimistic cite a lack of connections that Frank has made.



CONTINUING THE STATE AUDITOR ELECTION HISTORY LESSON: Both **Coleman** and **Loudon** should listen up. Since 1944, nine St. Louisans, city and county, have run in State Auditor primaries, two made it to the general election, and only new St. Louisan incumbent **Claire McCaskill** won.

Jay Kanzler (2002-R-attorney), **Zev Fredman** (1998-R-CPA), **Steve Conway** (1998-D-CPA, Alderman, son of former mayor), **Timothy Marshall** (2002-D-attorney), **Vincent Volpe** (1986-D-CPA, aide to **Mayor Schoemehl**) **James Butler** (1982-D-former Director, Mo Dept Consumer Affairs, now Dept EcoDevo), **James Sullivan** (1978-D-attorney, former Director, Mo Dept Consumer Affairs) all ran but didn't make it out of primaries. **Al Metzger** (1944-R-businessman) ran and lost to incumbent **Forrest Smith** (D-Ray County-Missouri Tax Commission, County Clerk, later Governor).

Since 1900, only four sitting state legislators have run for State Auditor and made it to the general election. Not many more even showed up for primaries. **State Sen. Steve Danner** (1994-D-Livingston County-attorney, son of congresswoman), **State Rep. Travis Morrison** (1986-D-Howell County-CPA), **State Rep. William Zimmerman** (1966-R-Warren County-radio stations/theaters owner), all lost in general elections. Only **State Rep. Will Holmes** (1948, 1950-D-Maries County), the legislative father of Missouri's Dept of Revenue, managed to run for State Auditor from a legislative seat and win.

Also, **Ray Hartmann** had a senior moment during last Thursday's Donnybrook. Panelists presented **Kit Bond** and **John Ashcroft** as examples of State Auditors elected without financial experience.

Kit Bond (R-Audrain County) was the Consumer Protection Division Chief Counsel under the very popular **AG Jack Danforth** (R-St. Louis County). In 1970, the 31-year-old, dashing, white-collar crime buster Bond ran against 61-year-old incumbent **Auditor Haskell Holman** (D-Randolph County), who had been in office since 1953 and got their initially by appointment because Will Holmes died in office. It's a stretch to compare Bond's experience with that of sitting legislators **Maida Coleman** or **John Loudon**.

In 1972, Bond was elected Governor. Early 1973, he appointed 29-year-old **John Ashcroft** (R-Greene County) to fill his term as Auditor. Ashcroft had been practicing law in Springfield. In 1974, he stood for election and was beat by **Jackson County Executive George Lehr** (D) by over 100,000 votes. Lehr had been the father of Jackson County's new home rule charter, previously been elected County Revenue Collector, appointed County Auditor, was a CPA with Arthur Young. So, no, Ashcroft was not elected without financial experience. Quite the opposite, voters chose someone with tons of experience over him.

Hartmann should have known better. He worked for Bond during his first term as Guv. >

ONE MORE SHOVEL

> *Return of the Holdenites:* **Brandon Davis** is the new political director for the Missouri Democratic Party; and **Chuck Miller** helped run the **Bill Waterhouse** campaign for the 24th ward alderman. And then there is the **Holdster** himself, spotted strolling down South Grand with Iowa gubernatorial candidate **Mike Blouin**. Blouin is the pop of Missouri Budget Project topper **Amy Blouin**.

> *Oh the Irony:* At press time The Missouri Ethic Commission's delinquent election filing page seems to be delinquent itself. Come on guys, let's get on the ball!

> *Correction:* Thanks to **Hank Thompson** who gave the *ACC* a call to correct our previous dig at him. He was not, not, involved in the doomed Home Rule campaign other than some work during the signature collection stage. He doesn't not wish to be associated with that effort.

> *Tell Us Lewis:* Spotted at Squires, **Lewis Reed** having coffee with Republican **Sherman Parker**. Is he in? Tell us Lewis.

> *Heading North:* **Josh Kenny** who staffed alderman **Joe Roddy's** successful re-election last spring is heading to law school at the University of Minnesota.

> *Deputy for Hire:* **Ross Macholan** who worked on the City Democrat staff in 2004 and then on the **Mayor Slay's** campaign in 2005 will be signing up as deputy campaign manager for **Jeff Smith**. Macholan is currently employed by **Greg Daly's** office, License Collector.

> *Charter Cha-Cha:* A charter amendment recently passed the Board of Alderman that would put a limit on the amount of time that citizens have to collect signatures for recall. Will it pass when it is put before the voters? No, says **Tipman**. Snarky comments from the liberal media will point out that **Alderwoman Jennifer Florida** produced zero (0) charter amendments after promising them during her Home Rule opposition. Now here comes a charter change—to protect aldermen from recalls! >

Perverts' **FOUR** Letter Alphabet BY ANNA FIMMEL

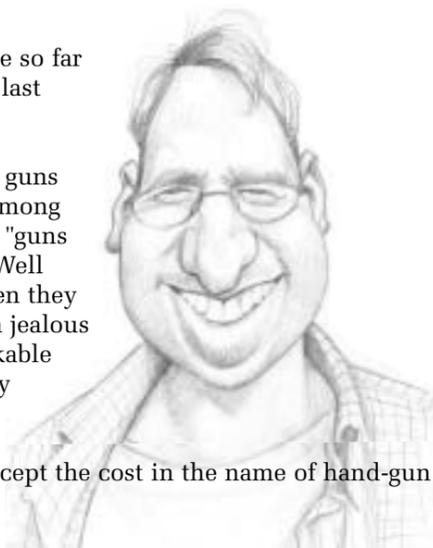


My Thoughts Exactly

Cars Kill.

In Missouri, they've killed 1,048 people so far this year. That's up 8% over this time last year.

Cars kill people much more often than guns kill people. Of course the NRA-types among us prefer the not untrue statement that "guns don't kill people; people kill people." Well people do kill people – with guns, when they drink too much or lose themselves in a jealous rage or propel themselves into unspeakable tragic situations because they have easy access to guns. People kill people with guns because from a public policy perspective we've decided to accept the cost in the name of hand-gun and automatic rifle rights.



Cars kill people also because we accept it without intervening. In Missouri, cars killed two people yesterday. Four people, the day before yesterday. The day before that was a good day, only one death from a car accident.

There's a website, <http://www.missourinet.com/mhp/list.cfm?areas=200>, you can visit and see the daily carnage in the form of highway patrol reports. They note the location and explain the circumstances of the accident. And they tell the age of the victims.

One of the terrible aspects of car deaths is that it takes so many of the young, so many of those with so little life behind them and so much life ahead.

The leading cause of death for ages 0-10, 10-14, and 14-19: cars.

Parents, worry less about all the urban nightmares – drive-by shootings, random violence, which are statistically minuscule. Fear the commonplace, banal, and largely rural danger of car accidents.

There are several sources of the deadly nature of cars. Two lane highways without lighting winding their way through the middle nowhere of Missouri is a death-ride. Drunkards driving without consciences, sweep up other motorists in their game of roulette. Adolescents, intoxicated on the spirit of invincibility, reckless and idiotic in their drag races and auto-macho aerobics make cars "suicide machines."

As much as I deplore the sprawl inducing and environment damaging consequences, the obvious public policy solution is to expand those treacherous two-lane highways into safer four lanes designs. It's time to stop losing 1,100 lives a year in Missouri and even a die-hard urbanite like myself has to admit the bad side-effects should be swallowed.

Matt Blunt meanwhile has offered a plan to spend \$80 million to put seat belts on school buses—the absolute safest mode of transportation. That's very sweet and incredibly stupid, a deadly combination when it comes to public policy. Spend \$80 million to save 0-1 life over the next couple of years while 1,000 plus die on the roads each year? Hmmm.

How about a law that drivers under age twenty can only drive during daylight? How about making parents legally culpable when their children drink and drive? How about two speeding tickets and you lose your license for a six months?

Cars account for 51% of the deaths of children ages 14-19. If we're not willing to do something bold now, when we ever be? >

Dave Drebes

Have any thoughts about what Dave had to say? Please send your comments or questions to dave@archcitychronicle.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RETHINK THE FAST FOOD TIP

In the November 16 *Arch City Chronicle*, columnist Lucas Hudson decries the growing phenomenon of tip lines on fast food receipts and tip jars in take-out joints.

Unlike the service provided by restaurant servers, delivery people and others who fit Hudson's criteria as tip-worthy, workers at a place like Kentucky Fried Chicken, he asserts, provide no real service. Yet later in the same paragraph, he acknowledges that minimum-wage workers "need to be paid a real living wage for doing tough jobs."

Multinational fast-food purveyors have needs, too. One is to meet their profit projections, which are predicated on paring labor and associated costs to the bone. So it's unlikely minimum-wage workers can expect to be paid a living wage by their employers, who see low-wage employees as unorganized, interchangeable and dispensable.

Fast-food workers who ask for tips don't want our pity. They want to make ends meet. And they are asking for help in doing that from the customers they--yes--serve. We can refuse to offer that help, arguing that people who deliver our food at a table are more tip-worthy than people who deliver it to a counter, as Lucas Hudson does. Or we can acknowledge the dollars-and-cents reality of the situation and, with our tip, pay the real price of a burger and fries; one that factors in a living wage for the people who serve us--the same living wage we want for ourselves.

Cordially,
Dan Icolari

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

"Jet" Banks was incorrectly identified as once holding the Senate 4th District. He was State Senator from the 5th district.



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INVESTING IN CONSENSUS

An Alternative to the Bruising Stem Cell Battle Ahead.

BY ED MARTIN

- "Saint Jack" versus Archbishop Burke.
- Governor Blunt versus Missouri Right to Life.
- The Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures versus Missourians against Human Cloning.

The fight over stem cell research is shaping up as the heavyweight battle over the future of the state of Missouri. The embryonic stem cell initiative proposed by the Coalition is complicated, but its basic point is to amend the Missouri Constitution so that opponents of embryonic stem cell research cannot ban that research in Missouri, as they have threatened to do in the past few legislative sessions. The Coalition argues that this protection is necessary so that research and development can move forward in Missouri without fear of opposition that has included threats of criminal prosecution. The Coalition is backed by a broad range of civic and business leaders and includes many academics from Washington University and the Stowers Institute in Kansas City. The Governor has voiced support, as have other elected officials.



The opponents of the initiative, Missourians Against Human Cloning, believe that the processes for undertaking embryonic stem cell research include the destruction of human life that is unacceptable. Missourians Against is a smaller band of brothers (and sisters) that comes mostly from the pro-life religious groups. State Senator Matt Bartel (R-Kansas City) and State Representative Jim Lembke (R-St. Louis County) lead the fight.

The lines are drawn and the battle is joined. The Coalition recently started airing commercials with Senator Jack Danforth extolling his own pro-life credentials and asking for signatures for the petition drive. Missourians Against struck back in Catholic parishes across the state over the Thanksgiving weekend with priests and deacons advising Catholics to not sign the initiative petition. We can expect the fight to intensify over the next eleven months – and to probably get more and more heated. It cannot lead

to a good ending especially for Republicans. Missouri may well turn into Kansas where the Republican party is split into a moderate wing and a conservative wing that seem to agree less and less (which led, recently, to the election of a Democratic governor). All Missourians

My plan calls for our great state to sell bonds to invest in the next generation of biotech which will literally feed the world.

will lose if we forfeit our swing state status due to a divided Republican Party. (Ask Kansans if they ever see Presidential candidates like we do?)

So, here I am to offer the way out, the solution, a Third Way.

But first, a little background. Last year, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 71. The Proposition authorized a three billion dollar bond issuance to fund embryonic stem cell research in the land of fruit and nuts. A new California gold rush was on with thousands of building permits issued, scientists lured, etc. In Massachusetts, lawmakers created incentives (tax breaks mostly) and big time universities like Harvard and MIT, along with a bunch of biotech companies, are rushing to create a friendly climate for the growth research companies through tax incentives, infrastructure support, etc.

So, we have to face facts: as to embryonic stem cell research, Missouri will be competing with California and Massachusetts. Now, I love Missouri, but let's be honest. We are not going to fare well if we compete straight up with California (weather, \$\$, beaches, wine) and Harvard/MIT (brains, \$\$, clam chowder), but we can compete in what we do well and in who we are.

My plan: the Missouri Breadbasket of the World Initiative, calls for our great state to sell bonds (like California) though in the amount of \$500 million. The money would be used not to fund embryonic stem cell research, but rather to fund the next generation of biotech that will literally feed the world. For just as Missouri was a breadbasket of America through farming over the last centuries, we can become the breadbasket for the world through breakthrough rices, grains, and plant and animal sciences that will serve the globe. The MO Breadbasket Initiative harkens back to Missouri business roots: our family farm roots, our Ralston-Purina roots, and our Monsanto roots. We can build on already cutting-edge places like the Danforth Plant Science Center and the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

It is a win-win for everybody. The Governor can keep his promise to stop any ban on embryonic stem cell through the power of the veto. A well-liked guy like Charlie Kruse of the Farm Bureau could ride the circuit and get rural Missouri behind it. Our unions will like the brick and mortar jobs that will be created by the need for building space. Our city would benefit as we became the center of the plant and animal biotech for the world. Mizzou, Wash U, and Stowers would get \$10 million each year to further their research. The other \$90 million a year gets handed out to biotech start-ups (they are popping up all over our state already – especially along the Forest Park Parkway near Wash U). The only rule: no embryonic stem cell research with the money.

If we can only side-step this divisive (and, truth-be-told, party-splitting debate), we can keep Missouri at the center of the American political scene – right where we want to be. >

Ed Martin, the Republican Chairman of the St. Louis City Board of Elections, is a lawyer in general practice in south City who has never farmed a day in his life but does wear cowboy boots... He can be reached at ed@aul.org.

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WHEN COLD WEATHER RULES

Monopoly Utility Allowed to Cut Off Poor, So Long as They Follow the Rules

BY TOBY WEISS

On nights colder than the Russian steppes, there is no greater comfort than a paid gas bill and a warm house. But without heat on such a night, there is no greater fear than lacking what is necessary for survival and few greater fire hazards than space heaters. According to Fire Chief Larry Zeitzmann, president of the Metropolitan St. Louis Fire Chiefs Association, winter has the highest incidence of deadly house fires. Zeitzmann says this is primarily due to the use of space heaters, and he insists that space heaters should never be used for primary heating during the winter months. However, with natural gas prices going up by 25-40% this year, many who previously never had payment problems can now expect a sharp budget cramp. The poor have reason to be afraid.

Between November 1st and March 31st, Missouri is covered by the Cold Weather Rule (CWR), a minimum payment plan that protects low-income customers. Qualified candidates (those with an income below 150% of the federal poverty line, or as Laclede's Dollar Help brochure says, "the poorest of the poor") can combine a past-due balance with their projected annual usage for the next 12 months, and pay only 12% of that amount over the next 12 months. This plan requires no deposit and allows for reconnection for less than the full amount owed. It also requires notification both by mail and in person before service is shut-off for non-payment. Most importantly, eligible customers are protected from disconnection when the temperature is forecasted to drop below 32 degrees.

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC, which regulates rates and services of all investor-owned utilities) adopted the plan 1977 with the help of funding from the federal government. Because of the 1973 oil embargo, prices for fuel oil, natural gas and electricity more than doubled. The Special Crisis Intervention Program appropriated \$200 million to offset energy costs of low-income households. Missouri's portion of the funds distilled into the MPSC's Cold Weather Rule.

As straightforward as the Rule is, it has not been without controversy. In 2004, the Office of Public Counsel (OPC), which represents the interests of utility customers in proceedings with the MPSC, helped to amend the Rule. Recent changes include prohibiting the disconnection of registered, low-income, elderly or disabled customers who make a minimum payment and raising the 30-degree boundary to the current 32 degrees.

As of October 2005, the OPC is asking for "emergency rules to soften the rate shock and economic hardship" of this winter's heating bills. An OPC press release says the proposed rule is "designed to avoid disconnections when customers that have never experienced payment problems face extraordinary heating bills." It states that the plan "must be available to all residential gas customers whether or not their account is in arrears." While this issue remains undecided, Governor Matt Blunt wrote in a November 1, 2005 letter to the American Petroleum Institute that, after working with Missouri natural gas companies, he had "secured their commitment to waive reconnection fees and suspend deposit requirements for low-income Missourians this winter."

However, the Missouri Cold Weather Rule protects only those who sign up for it (application can be done by phone), and most people don't know about the various heat-assistance programs available to them until they are in the middle of a crisis. South St. Louis residents Steven and Stephanie Holman are, admittedly, too familiar with Laclede Gas disconnection notices. Stephanie says that "they send a pink slip, then a yellow one, and



A disconnect notice leads to a less efficient heating option. photo by Lucas Hudson

then they shut you off." She tells the story of their gas being shut off right before Christmas of 1992, and during a frantic phone call to Laclede's after-hours emergency number, she was given the name and phone number of a man who would reconnect them. "This man? He simply did not exist. They gave me fake information just to get off the phone with a screaming madwoman." She also claims that they "didn't offer us Dollar Help," or pass on information about other forms of payment assistance.

When told of a customer's incredulity at not being offered Dollar Help, George Csolak, Director of Corporate Communications for Laclede Gas, clarified that Dollar Help is Laclede's administrative fund-raiser. The program channels customers' contributions to various charitable agencies, who in turn dispense the money as grants and pledges. To find those agencies, Csolak suggests contacting St. Louis City's Human Development Corporation (314-613-2200). Under the Cold Weather Rule, utility companies are required to notify customers of other avenues of financial assistance. Kevin Kelly, Public Information Administrator for the MPSC, said, "A utility must adhere to

the rules if they're under our jurisdiction. If someone is dissatisfied, they should immediately call the Consumer Services Hotline (800-392-4211) for help."

When discussing payment problems with a utility, the inevitable conclusion is: seek help through a charity. Whereas the charities could previously count on a certain percentage of donations, 2005's unusually large number of natural catastrophes, combined with a stingy economy, finds contributors financially exhausted. Understandably, no one would go on record, but there is a tangible sense of deep concern among the charitable agencies that as the buck passes from federal to state to local, that buck won't buy a cup of coffee, much less help with this winter's looming heating crisis. >

She tells the story of their gas being shut off right before Christmas of 1992, and during a frantic phone call to Laclede's after-hours emergency number, she was given the name and phone number of a man who would reconnect them. "This man? He simply did not exist. They gave me fake information just to get off the phone with a screaming madwoman."

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LACLEDE GASSED? KICK OUT OLD

BY LARRY KOENIG

Everyday, energy is lost due to homes not maximizing their energy saving potential. Aspects of saving energy can get overlooked because people just don't care. However, most of the time it's a lack of knowledge of the many cheap and simple ways to conserve heat. The almost limitless options make the decisions about how to save energy a very daunting task. Eager to provide our readers with demonstrative tips on heating efficiency, applicable to renters and homeowners alike, the *Arch City Chronicle* sought the advice of Glenda Abney, Program Manager of the EarthWays Center, a three-story Victorian home built in 1885 at 3617 Grandel Square. It was renovated in 1994 and incorporated into the Missouri Botanical Garden's family of educational entities to show practical demonstrations of energy efficient systems, recycled products and waste reduction practices.



EarthWays Center. photo by Lucas Hudson

perature can get as high as 150 degrees and as cold as the outside air during the winter months. This air just sits in the attic right on top of your living space, either pulling the heat from your house or adding heat to your house. The attic's insulation is supposed to keep this air from affecting your home, so make sure you have a nice thick layer of insulation in your attic. The average depth has changed over the years, varying from as little as 3 inches to as much as 18 inches, depending on when your house was built and what type of insulation. Contacting an insulation contractor is a safe bet to determine if adding insulation will help and can detect hidden leaky ducts with ease. The EarthWays Center has their own contractors they trust, and contact information is provided at the end of the article.

B. Windows and Doors—Check doors and windows using the back of your hand, which is sensitive to temperature changes and drafts. If there is a bad seal you will feel a slight draft on the back of your hand. There are many types of window installation kits, both outdoor and indoor, but the most popular ones are indoor kits and only require a blowdryer. Normally, these cost \$15 or less. Installed with patience, plastic sheeting will be virtually invisible and can make an enormous difference in the efficiency of the



Heat-saving Drapes. photo by Lucas Hudson

Programmable Thermostats

Abney stresses that making your home efficient should not be about being uncomfortable, but being comfortable in an efficient manner. "Bless his heart, but when Jimmy Carter in the 70's (during the oil crisis) told us to 'just put on a sweater', well...you don't need to just be cold. You can be comfortable and energy efficient." Programmable thermostats are a great way to start and are preferable to the old tactic of lowering the heat way down in the morning heading for work, and turning it back up upon arrival. Fully integrated computer-controlled home automation systems that control lighting, heating and cooling, security, (and pretty much anything you want from a central location) are the Holy Grail of efficiency, but home automation systems are still beyond the pale of most homeowners. Programmable thermostats are a cheap medium and can be programmed to allow the house temperature to increase slightly about an hour before anyone is due home, and bring the home temperature into an acceptable range. Throughout the year these home controllers can be used to keep the wasted energy to a minimum and save countless dollars in energy costs. Programmables range from \$35 on up to thousand dollar systems with online controls.

"Changing out windows, if the only reason for changing them are for energy reasons, should never be at the top of the list of what to do—even if there is significant air leakage."

house. Other options for windows include drapes with thick padded insulation to provide higher levels of efficiency. Abney was insistent that "Changing out windows, if the only reason for changing them are for energy reasons, should never be at the top of the list of what to do—even if there is significant air leakage. Cheap ways to insulate current windows are the way to go. The cost of window replacement is too high to justify the switch."

If there are leaky seals or drafts in and around your door, most hardware stores carry caulk, replacement kits or weatherstripping. They will all drastically cut down on cold air for only a few dollars. Different methods (putty, tacks, foam, latex) are available to suit your experience and/or taste.

C. Outlets—Abney points out the forgotten--for mere pennies, outlet insulation (especially outlets on outer walls) can also be a difference maker.



Insulating Outlets. photo by Lucas Hudson

D. Other—Other places that might require insulation include: plumbing that penetrates insulated floors and ceilings, chimneys that jut through insulated ceilings and exterior walls, fireplace dampers, attic access hatches, recessed lights

and fans in insulated ceilings, and dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets.

Appliances and HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning)

High efficiency furnaces and water heaters will pay off in the long run, but cost more initially. Look for the Energy Star to avoid any efficiency doubts.

A. Water Heaters—Tankless water heaters are the wave of the future. Standard water heaters constantly heat water whether it is



Tankless Water Heater. photo by Lucas Hudson

Insulation

Most homes lose tremendous amounts of energy through windows, attics, crawl spaces, basements, cracks, and door jams. Squirrels wrap themselves in their tails, birds fluff up their feathers, and we wear coats. Scantily-clad homes are very, very wasteful and expensive to operate. The EarthWays home uses blown-in cellulose installation, which is essentially recycled newsprint. It is fire resistant and keeps insects out like any other installation.



Cellulose Insulation. photo by Lucas Hudson

A. Attics and Ducts—Adding insulation to an attic can be effective, but only if the attic needs it.

Typically speaking, the less empty space in the attic the better, but it isn't wise to store everything possible in the attic. It is also necessary to keep the air in the attic from being static. In the summer, an attic's tem-

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needed or not- wasting precious energy. Tankless models heat instantaneously on demand. In addition, there is no need to insulate the water heater itself.

No matter how efficient a water heater may be, insulating cold and hot water pipes is an inexpensive money saver and foam insulation is easy for any novice to install.

Water heaters can be an absurd energy waster. Using a water heater blanket will help keep costs down. In addition to inexpensive water heater blankets, there are other things that you can do to reduce the costs of that hot shower. Lowering the tank temperature is another option. Installing timers and low-flow shower heads are also helpful.



Insulated Waterheater
photo by Lucas Hudson

B. Furnaces—Although an expensive proposition to buy and install, furnaces are a critical element in keeping heat costs down. Like other appliances, the Energy Star is a reliable way to gauge efficiency and pulse-jet furnaces are the most efficient of them all. Pulse-jet furnaces produce a quick series of small explosions, rather than an uninterrupted flame, and cut natural gas consumption by up to 50% compared to a conventional gas furnace. Besides, who wouldn't want some military technology in the basement?



Jet Pulse. photo by Lucas Hudson

Contractors

The EarthWays Center has a program called Home Performance with Energy Star. They have trained, certified and accredited contractors who are essentially home efficiency auditors. They can check for energy leaks in the home using a device called a blower door. It's a large fan in a frame that seals into your front door and pressurizes the house to detect leaks. Call the EarthWays Center and ask for Glenda Abney (314-577-0288) for more information and contact numbers.

"Bless his heart, but when Jimmy Carter in the 70's (during the oil crisis) told us to 'just put on a sweater', well...you don't need to just be cold. You can be comfortable and energy efficient."

The EarthWays Center is open to the public every 3rd Weekend of each month on Saturday and Sunday. The tours start on the hour at 11, 12, 1 and 2 p.m. and reservations are not needed. The tours are \$2 per person and are free to Missouri Botanical Garden Members. >

For information on special events and other activities, check the EarthWays website at www.earthwayscenter.org

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THE CURE FOR THE COMMON COUCH

FELIX'S

BY LUCAS HUDSON

If Felix's could be embodied in a 70's movie, it would be a swanky solid-gold Gemini symbol proudly nestled between leisure suit lapels and a shock of Burt Reynolds-esque chest hair. Why? Like a Gemini, Felix's has



a dual personality that revolves around its goal to be both a boutique martini bar/restaurant and the local Dogtown haunt where "everybody knows your name". It's a solid-gold effort, but where it gets hairy is in the execution. Felix's bar area is anemic and the drinks aren't priced like a neighborhood bar. It has Central West End/Clayton prices. Dogtown itself has a conflicted image—knighted as "the new Clayton" on one hand, while maintaining a long-standing "hoosier" reputation on the other. Felix's is clearly betting on the former and the resulting mix of clientele is interesting.

The menu has an "American Grazing" theme, and the grass is Kentucky blue delicious. Wonderful specialty pizzas (lobster, pesto and cream cheese!) and Cobb salads with generous helpings of peppery bacon and fresh veggies will not fail to please. Varying entrees ensure a menu with new wrinkles on a regular basis. The drinks are pleasingly stiff, but not chest-thumpingly so, and martinis, Felix's pride and joy, can come with none or all the quirky accoutrements (blue-cheese stuffed olives?) you martini freaks crave. A lack of beer on tap may be a turn-off for some, but the martinis are where it's at.

This odd sense of intrigue and genuine kitsch make return visits pleasant.

Not everything is what it seems at Felix's, and this odd sense of intrigue and genuine kitsch make return visits pleasant. Because there's usually a healthy number of regulars with open eyes and long memories, opposite sex encounters are fraught with behind the scenes drama not seen by the naked eye.

The bartenders at Felix's know how to treat their customers, and believe me, they will remember your name. The bar features free chili for the Monday Night football crowd and Sunday NFL ticket. Happy hour(4-7p.m.) includes half-price deals on appetizers (including pizza), domestics and reduced martini prices. I leave you with a review haiku:

*If Felix could talk
Gossip would be like "The View"
Bedroom eyes cut deep.*



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BOTANICAL HEIST continued from p 1

effort, and it helped create the Commission. The Commission organized the planning, property purchases and resident resettlement. With the project's first phase (the sale and construction of the initial units by McBride & Sons, which invested additional funds for the actual building development) underway Robert Herleth, deputy director of the Garden, believes the multi-million dollar gamble was worth it.

"I think we are very pleased with the progress," said Herleth. "There seems to be a pent up interest for city living with new housing."

Yet beside the new units yawns a great gap dotted with streetlights and the occasional set of concrete steps leading nowhere. It's a visible reminder that the new homes were not built on open fields, but on the foundations of an older neighborhood.

Though its crime made it infamous in the city, McRee was home to a community that has since split-up and spread-out as a result of the project. The Commission initially stated it would try to resettle residents within the neighborhood, but little provision has been made for low-income individuals to remain in Botanical Heights. Many gladly accepted the Commission's offer to pay for resettlement elsewhere.

Herleth said rentals are still available in the area and some of the residents opted to relocate there. He also expects a more mixed environment in future phases of development.

John Pachak and his organization, Midtown Catholic Community Services, assisted residents in the area. He sees the project's success as coming on the backs of the poor residents who were pushed off to other areas of the city, and he is con-

cerned that some may slip backwards.

In poorer communities where the community network helps many get by, the relocation severs those ties.

"It broke down a lot of relationships," said Pachak.

Finances are also critical. McRee contained a lot of low-rent and subsidized housing. The Commission paid the rent for many of the residents in their new locations for varying periods. Some are finding they can not afford to continue living in their new locations.

"The difference in rent is hurting their ability to manage," said Pachak, who is trying to stay in contact with some of the residents.

Residents contacted by the ACC were pleased with the relocation process and were happy to get away from the crime and the trash that littered the streets. However, now that the neighborhood is cleaned up they would like to move back, if they could afford to.

"It was not a good place to stay", said Veronica Sanders who now lives in Tower Grove East next to her mother. "You would hear shootin' every night and fights every day. Now I would move back there if I could afford it."

Sanders and her children almost became victims of the arson that plagued the area during the 2003 buyout. The vacant house next door was set on fire, and the flames jumped to Sanders' home. Her son awoke to see the neighbor's house

engulfed and got the family out.

Doris Finley and her parents took the Commission up on their offer.

Her parents sold their home of 28 years on Folsom and bought a new 2-bedroom bungalow on Compton.

"They've been alright," said Finley. "They haven't been talking about moving nowhere else."

Finley, who grew up in McRee, is currently renting her own home for \$625 a month. Now that the

Commission is no longer helping with rent, she will likely move to a less expensive location once her lease is up. She is considering Botanical Heights or

somewhere nearby, if she can find an affordable place.

"The Tiffany area is still there," said Finley.

Thelma Jones moved from Lafayette across Grand to Vista. Jones said the Commission paid for her security deposit and offered to pay for the move, which she did herself. She was pleased with the process overall.

The new neighborhood is starting to establish itself as well. Dean Wright, the Botanical Heights project manager for McBride & Sons, liked it enough to move in himself.

"I always describe it as the ideal city neighborhood," said Wright. "We have all ages, all religions, all backgrounds. It's a true melding of the entire metro area."

Despite its reputation, McRee was not merely renters. According to the 2000 census, 21% of the

He sees the project's success as coming on the backs of the poor residents who were pushed off to other areas of the city, and he is concerned that some may slip backwards.

buildings were owner-occupied. Some of them opted to stay. Wright said one family purchased several homes to house two generations of family. The family had grown up in McRee Town.

John Roos of Neighborhood Enterprises is neither happy with the project nor the process. Roos runs a two-fold organization; a property management business that supports itself and a non-profit ministry called Sanctuary in the Ordinary that provides low-cost housing. Both divisions lost property due to eminent domain, 24 out of 75 buildings. Roos also managed other properties in McRee, many of which are now rubble.

"I worked 30 years and it was going well until they wiped us out," said Roos.

Roos said he received an average of \$50,000 per building, many of them multi-unit buildings, about half of what it would cost to replace them.

Both eminent domain and the disruption of an existing community are points of contention in the McRee Town/Botanical Heights project.

When the Commission was given the power of eminent domain in 2002, the groundswell of opposition did not yet exist. It was merely a few determined voices working to oppose the efforts of enormously well-funded interests. Given the post-Kelo world today, such authorizations will likely face much higher hurdles.

The Commission felt its actions were necessary to complete the project they imagined. However, the apparent success of the project does not change the feelings of those whose properties and protests were swept aside in the process. >

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RECALLMANIA continued from p 1

that area has been ignored for so long, it's difficult for a community to rebuild its structure.

"It's institutional neglect of the black community and a matter of limited resources," said Ammann. "They're building stadiums instead of schools and widening highways instead of supplying books for our kids. It's not racist, it's just the way of the world."

Palm, on the other hand, sees this "institutional neglect" as something rooted deep within the city's history as one of the most racist areas in the country. "It's the past of St. Louis that holds us back. We wear our skin color on our shoulders here, and until we overcome that, we won't be a first-rate city," he said.

St. Louis is certainly a hotbed of criticism when it comes to matter of

race. Two years ago, it was named the fourth segregated city in America. When the city was initially founded, Blacks were not allowed to live in specific areas. And still today, low-income housing has restricted the movements of those wanting to escape the status quo.

Palm believes that race is still an important issue. He says that St. Louis city is "recycling blacks," or appointing the same people as heads and presidents of different boards, thus failing to open any doors for younger blacks to get experience. Because no new faces are appearing and new ideas are not being heard, the more progressive blacks are not seeing the changes they need in their areas.

Therefore he finds some comfort in the recall trend. "Younger people are getting involved in politics.

They're studying the rules and know what can and can't be done," said Palm. "They're not happy with the mainstream politics. They want the community to move forward."

"I see this as a positive thing for the black community—they're flexing their muscles, showing that they do have power and authority," said Ammann. "It's great that they're keeping an eye on their elected officials."

But Ammann believes that recalls will someday be a thing of the past. "I think it's an apparition sort of thing," said Ammann. "In a year we'll look back and say, 'What's a recall?'"

Not Palm. "They're going to keep recalling until the right person is in there," he disagreed. "What you see with recalls is not going to stop in North St. Louis—it's going to show up statewide." >

ALEXIAN COURT continued from p 1



Alexian Court Building

Cardinal Ritter Institute, which is in charge of oversight for the building. Given the fact that those at the Shrewsbury-based institute are not the ones dealing with the problems of the residents on a daily basis, it is unlikely they can speak with any authority on the concerns of the residents. >

Umar ben-Ivan Lee operates the Jihad of Umar Blog at umarlee.blogspot.com

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GUZY SAYS...

ALITO: THE DEMS BEST HOPE

BY M.W. GUZY

"I am not a member of any organized political party. I am a Democrat."—*Will Rogers*

George W. Bush is trying to do the Democratic Party an enormous favor. Democratic leaders, displaying their uncanny ability to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, are scrambling to prevent him from doing so.

The president's latest choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is Samuel Alito. You'll recall that W. had earlier gambled that the dictates of political correctness would preclude any serious opposition to a female nominee, provided that she wasn't named Hillary Rodham Clinton. He thus initially submitted the name of Harriet Miers, a political crony and staff attorney assigned to some obscure post in the bowels of the White House where people get paid to do things like develop protocols governing foot massages for postal employees.

Ms. Miers made the rounds in D.C. to solicit support for her nomination. This strategy ultimately backfired because she left people with the general impression that while she'd heard about the Constitution—and sincerely hoped to have time to read it before her confirmation hearings—she really didn't hold a definitive legal opinion on any issue more controversial than the date of the next government payday.

Like her boss, Harriet proved to be "a uniter, not a divider". Everybody she talked to came away convinced that she was uniquely unqualified for the court. Confronted by an oppositionist bloc that included the Christian Right, the Communist Left, organized labor, the gay rights community and practicing Satanists, Miers subsequently withdrew her nomination and disappeared back into her old job.

Bush then trotted out Alito who, as an appellate court judge with fifteen years experience, had actually been inside a real courtroom on several occasions. In fact, Alito's credentials looked pretty solid and for a time, it appeared that Senate Democrats would have to choke down their bile and accept a principled conservative to replace O'Connor. Then disaster struck.

A memo has surfaced that Alito wrote as a young Justice Department attorney in 1985. In it, he argued that the Roe v. Wade decision creating a constitutional right to abortion was a fanciful stretch of the founders' intent and should be overturned. Regardless of your position on legalized abortion, you've got to admit that he has point. I'd imagine that Jefferson and the boys would have been surprised to learn that the document they authored to establish rules for interstate commerce and provide for the common defense would eventually be used to regulate the practice of gynecology.

Historical intent notwithstanding, Democrats are fearful that an Alito appointment would reverse the 5-4 majority upholding Roe on the current court. Ted Kennedy is duly alarmed. There are two rather compelling reasons why he shouldn't be.

Despite popular misconception, overturning Roe would not make abortion illegal. Rather, it would simply return the matter to the states. Physicians have always been licensed and regulated by state boards of healing arts and abortions, like appendectomies, would be viewed as medical procedures rather than sacrosanct rights of citizenship.

Different states would likely reach different conclusions on the issue, which is precisely what the founders had in mind when they created the principle of federalism. And as women are the only minority group that comprises over 50% of the population, their voices would surely be heard in the ensuing political discourse.

The other reason why Ted shouldn't worry is that removing abortion from the national agenda is the best thing that could happen to the Democratic Party. For decades, Republicans have gained critical margins in key states thanks to pro-life voters. Defuse the moral issue of abortion and these people go back to voting their pocketbooks—good news for Democrats because they are more working stiffs in this country than there are trust fund babies. Take away the 2004 pro-life vote in Ohio and John Kerry's sitting in the Oval Office.

Record deficits, soaring fuel prices, the accidental invasion of Iraq—George Bush has certainly done his part to elect Democrats. Now he's trying to remove the last obstacle to their success and they're too stubborn to let him. Small wonder the party's symbol is a donkey... >

George W. Bush is trying to do the Democratic Party an enormous favor.



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THE FINAL WORD

BACK TO THE FUSION

BY LUCAS HUDSON

Whispers that St. Louis' restaurant scene is on the verge of national respectability have been haunting the palates of Show-Me-Socialites longer than the average Lemp. Depending on who you talk to, this long-suffering ghost of culinary future is either a wishful delusion fed by chip-on-the-shoulder Midwestern simpletons fooled by trendy names and "urban" décor; or a credible sign that St. Louis really has re-emerged from its sixty-year cocoon infested with blight, decay and population loss. Either way, one thing is certain: food descriptions have gotten completely out of control. Pan-Asian? American Grazing? Seasonal Fusion? Fine American Casual Cuisine? Casual Fine Dining? "Twisted Comfort Food"? These phrases take "Bushisms" to a state of oxymoronic zen and transcendental disinformation. Really, since Asia extends from Tokyo to the middle of Russia, can I get a side order of borscht with my sake roll?

Honestly, does uniquely American "cuisine" exist in the wild? We're working with fried

chicken, tv dinners, bar-b-que, ice cream and hamburgers; with sloppy bastardizations of Mexican, Italian and near-Asian food thrown in for good measure. By definition, any "authentic" ethnic fare is not American, and even apple pie is, sadly, not American. The South is the only region in the United States providing anything resembling a "native" American cuisine. Soul food and Cajun (despite some French influence) concoctions are really all we have to rally 'round the flag; and as delicious as greens and gumbo may be (and truly are), I sure as hell don't see a spate of Afro-Cajun fusion restaurants opening downtown anytime soon. Apparently, those foods aren't sexy or sophisticated enough to warrant status as real American cuisine.

What exactly, is "Casual Fine Dining"? Does that mean if I get the urge to have a little foie gras after beer-league softball, my sweat

stains and uniform are just as welcome as I am? Isn't the point of fine dining to look nice and enjoy ambience cultivated by attractive people and attractive food? Or conversely, maybe "Casual Fine Dining" refers to meatloaf and mashed potatoes so utterly divine they must have been "bammed" by Emeril Lagasse himself. "Comfort Food" is another popular phrase in restaurantese. Defined by food familiar to American appetites like macaroni and cheese and pot pies, I fail to see how the staples of such "Comfort Food" materially differ from anything Flo would have dished out in Mel's Diner some 30 years ago. Except its much more expensive. And I have never seen the famous soggy bread burger on any menu. And then there's the whole "fusion" craze.

Interestingly enough, the obsession with "fusion" restaurants is an unwittingly honest way to usher in a true American culinary renaissance.

Since Asia extends from Tokyo to the middle of Russia, can I get a side order of borscht with my sake roll?



Mosaic, a restaurant downtown on Lucas Street, provides a brief definition of exactly what "fusion" cooking entails. Their website says "Fusion at its best allows ingredients from all over the globe to be marinated, cooked and served together in harmony on the same plate." Is there anything more American than this? Isn't the majority of ethnic food Americans eat thoroughly "fused" to please our tastes? That definition is reminiscent of good old Cajun gumbo but on a global scale, and gumbo is as American as it gets, despite a little help from the French. American food always has and always will consist of fusing flavors from other cultures to suit our tastes, and despite the need for buzzwords like "fusion", there should be no confusion: Fusion is more American than apple pie. >

If you want to have the final word, contact Lucas at lucas@archcitychronicle.com

C L A S S I F I E D S

FOR RENT

Beautiful 2BR apt. in Historic Shaw. Available Nov. 1. Glossy hardwood floors, beautiful new kitchen & bath, C/A, in-unit washer/dryer, fenced yard, ample parking. Sorry no pets. \$775. Call Ross, 314-249-7679

1501 Locust #1006. 2BR 2BA loft condo with incredible view of downtown. \$269,900. Call Fred @ 721-5555 ext. 305. Edward L. Bakewell, Inc.

OFFICE SUITES AVAILABLE, 5106 Hampton. Second floor five office suite, approx 800 sq ft, \$1,100 month, utilities included. Lower level three office suite, approx 860 sq ft, \$650 per month, utilities included. Call 314 660-2732.

APOLOGY

A big sorry to the Opposum Family for the relocation of their son to Francis Park.

FOR SALE

Guild S4CE acoustic/electric guitar. Plays/sounds like a dream. Hardshell case included. \$800 obo. 314-238-6586

50's Era Vintage Lighting Fixtures. Photos available via email. Email magpie63109@yahoo.com to request photos.

The classic book, The Little Prince, with an inscription by Joanie Lowenstein dated 4/18/02. Fine shape, no pages missing. \$35 or best offer. daved@antkiller.com

CONGRATS

Congrats to Mark and Becca on your marriage coming soon. The gang.

Yea! Sean, Karin and Meredith on the birth of their son Edward Emil McWilliams.

Congratulations to Pam Crisel of Dewey International Studies School on her recent accomplishment of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher! The world could use more teachers like you.

Congrats to Katie who can now read... she's only 3.

Happy 37th Birthday Kraig. I think this really is the year for you, Tiger!!

COMING SOON

Will the DDP return this year? Yes, maybe if guitarist Kurt Groetsch returns in time, if bassist Jenna Bauer can squeeze and hour out of her calendar, if mystery drummer can find his beat. Hmmm... Probably not after all.

1ST TIME HOME OWNER

4658 Tennessee. Completely renovated 2 BR southside bungalow on quiet street. Perfect for first time homebuyer or investor. \$84,900. Call Fred @ 721-5555 ext.305. Edward L. Bakewell, Inc.

NEW OPENING

Terrene appeals to foodies who relish the true joy of simple, alluring foods, and who embrace the dining experience. Located at 33 Sarah St., Terrene is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday. 314-535-5100.

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ACC Party Pics Rachel Storch's Kick-Off and Mike Blouin's Fundraiser.



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