

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

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SOUTHWESTERN OPENS McCOY THEATRE

Southwestern at Memphis christened the McCoy Theatre, its first comprehensive performing arts facility which opened in January, with an impressive series of stage productions.

The season opened January 25 with the exciting Broadway musical "Candide", with lyrics by Richard Wilbur and Stephen Sondheim and music by Leonard Bernstein, and has as guest director, Barry Fuller, a veteran of the Memphis Stage and popular director. "Candide" will run through March 7.

Second in the series is "Brecht on Brecht", an off-Broadway success which showcases Bertolt Brecht's philosophy and works. The Brecht show, directed by Julia Ewing, is scheduled for March 18-21, 25-28. The final offering of the '82 season will be "The World We Live In", otherwise known as "The Insect Comedy", a fantasy by Josef and Karel Capek. It will be staged May 13-16, 20-23 and directed by Ray Hill, a communication arts professor.

The opening of the McCoy Theatre marks a new era for the dramatic arts at Southwestern, according to newly-named chairman of communication arts, Tony Lee Garner, who also will serve as artistic director of the theatre. In addition to initiating a paid subscription series, the theatre will on occasion enlist the talents of directors from off-campus, tapping the wealth of theatre expertise in Memphis and exposing students to a wide range of directing styles and techniques.

"We will select plays which will take best advantage of student-aged acting pool. After all, the theatre is first and foremost for the benefit of the students," said Garner. But since certain roles are less appropriate for students, all auditions will be open to the public.

Because of the mid-season completion of the McCoy Theatre, the 1982 play series will only include three productions — a musical and two plays. Each will have ten performances: eight evening and two Sunday matinee. Forthcoming subscription seasons will include five productions. In addition the department of communication arts will produce at least two non-revenue producing shows each year.

NEXT VECA MEETING

March 22, 1982, 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. The election of officers will be the primary business.

E-NEWS WELCOMES NEW EDITOR

As of this issue of *The Evergreen News*, Marilyn Halla assumes the reins of editor from Dorinda Smith who served as editor beginning in June, 1980. Marilyn, employed with Quaker Oats Chemicals, was transferred to Memphis from her hometown of Chicago in July of last year. With a BS degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a Masters from the Colorado School of Mines, she enjoys photography, snow skiing and cooking.

VECA TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

Among the items discussed at the January 19, 1982, VECA Executive Committee meeting were plans for the election of officers at the March 22, 1982, General Membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. President Dennis Heitzmann has agreed to stand election for another term, and Dick Borys has agreed to run for the vice president's slot. Any additional nominations will be considered at the March meeting. Further business discussed at the meeting were the following items:

Vollentine Courts Fund. Joe Hough read a letter being sent to people who had donated to the Vollentine Courts Fund which is now being dissolved. Donors are being given the options of having their money returned, given to the VECA general fund or going to *The Evergreen News*.

Street lights on North Barksdale. (See editorial for additional information.) Councilman Barbara Sonnenburg traced the responsibility for the wrong street lights being installed on North Barksdale to a lower level Community Development employee. Residents are being assured the situation will be corrected.


Food Co-op. A food co-op has moved temporarily into an apartment rented by John Storms at 602 Stonewall. This is a membership only shared foods buying club. Anyone wishing further information or with a problem with this concern being in the neighborhood should call Mr. Storms at 272-3582 or Sue Tally at 278-3679.


Financial Report. Treasurer Martha Heineman reported a treasury of \$1,446.93.

Nominating Committee. Martha Heineman, Tim Mashburn, Tom Kepple and Dennis Heitzmann were asked to serve on the nominating committee to select VECA members to run for office.

by Dorinda Smith

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**SAGA OF THE STREET LIGHTS
 AN EDITORIAL**

The saga of the street lights began long before the VECA Executive Committee discovered in early November that street lights on North Barksdale had been replaced with cobra heads. The events leading up to the incident in November and since that time are complex and confusing but none the less important.

The push to change all street lighting from conventional incandescent and mercury lights to sodium vapor began over two years ago when TVA informed MLG&W that it planned to significantly increase the cost of electricity for street lighting within the next few years in an effort to make cities change to energy-efficient sodium vapor lights. The Cooper-Young area was designated by Community Development as a demonstration area to determine the best replacements for the old acorn-shaped lights which would still retain the older charm of the Midtown neighborhoods while providing better lighting.

Eight different designs of lights were erected in the Cooper-Young area in early 1980, and all Midtown neighborhood associations were asked to help choose the best design for all of Midtown. The idea was that if all Midtown agreed on the same pole and luminaire, the City and MLG&W would be hard pressed not to go along, and attractive poles and luminaries could then be afforded through bulk purchases. In October of 1980, a design was selected that pleased most of the Midtown neighborhoods, and residents sat back to await the installation of new street lights.

Then in November of 1981, MLG&W erected cobra head lighting on North Barksdale. Cobra heads are the ugly lights and poles found on expressways and couldn't be less in keeping with the look of the VECA neighborhood. It also couldn't look

less like the light approved by the Midtown neighborhood associations. After years of meetings, discussions and compromises, MLG&W with the help of Community Development erected whatever lights were available without informing anyone of their plans.

With the help of Barbara Sonnenburg, VECA found out that Community Development authorized MLG&W to change the lights with the rationale that since they already had to replace the cable on that block, why not replace the lights?

Why not indeed? The whole point of this involved saga, the whole point of VECA, in fact the whole point of the Midtown council of Neighborhood Associations is that when area residents, who are also voters, get together they can help the city make decisions that will be in the best interest of everyone. MLG&W has forgotten that; Community Development has forgotten that. It's up to each and everyone of us, with the help of people like Barbara Sonnenburg, to see that they, nor anyone else, forget it again. If we don't, who knows, we may get home from work one day to find I-40 through Overton Park.

by Dorinda Smith

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

VECA in conjunction with the Psychology department at Memphis State University is sponsoring a community hypertension screening project. Under the direction of Dr. Andrew Meyers, the project will be conducted by community volunteers in March. The program is expected to run through mid-April. According to Dr. Meyers, hypertension is a widespread health problem, and although it is easily and inexpensively treated, it often remains undetected due to its asymptomatic nature. Community members who wish to inquire about or volunteer for the project should contact Dr. Meyers between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 454-2147 or John Vaughn at 454-0865 between 6 and 9.

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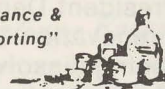
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**SCHOOL OFFICIALS, ELECTIONS
HIGHLIGHT MMIA ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Mid-Memphis Improvement Association was held at the Trinity United Methodist Church on December 7 with about 50 people in attendance. Officials from five public schools serving children in the MMIA area outlined the programs and activities available at each of their schools and answered numerous questions. Elections were held and Gail O. Mathes, an attorney, was reelected President. Kay Portman received an ovation for her leadership and work for MMIA in the past few years.

All nominees proposed by the nominating committee were elected. Daniel Beasley-Vice President; Kay Portman-Treasurer; and Rose Wallace-Secretary. Members of the Board of Directors elected were Cindy Howington, Jewell Ward and Jim Brooks (jointly), William and Carol Struve (jointly), Jim Easter, Greg Lloyd, Janis Foster, Bill and Jane Hackett (jointly), and Georgana and Alan Ensminger (jointly.)

Roy Logan, Principal of Vollentine Elementary School (grades K-3), described the traditional program, which emphasizes language, arts and math, used at that school and the numerous support programs available. Dr. Claire Henry, Principal of Idlewild, (grades 1-6) described the "individually guided education" approach used at that combination regular and optional school, which she described as a cross between an "open" program and a "traditional" program. Each student's "functional level" is used, rather than grade level. Jan Doerflein, Parent Coordinator at Springdale-Magnet School (grades K, 3, and 4, and grades 1-6 "optional" school) described the "open" school concept utilized there "with modifications," where an individualized program teaches basics by students moving from one "learning center" to another and learning to

budget their own time. Ronnie Bynum, Principal of Snowden (grades K and 4-9) stated that Snowden is paired with Vollentine in an elementary attendance zone. He described the optional program offered for grades 7 through 9 for 250 students from all over the City as being a heavily structured college preparatory program. He discussed the many extracurricular activities offered, including the adult Snowden Community School. Barry Owens, Principal at Central (grades 10-12) described Central's program as "comprehensive." 1,091 students are involved in a very traditional, rigid program which offers four languages and advance placement testing for college credits in an atmosphere of strong school spirit. Students interested in vocational education may ride a bus to East Vo-Tech each day.

Suggested goals for MMIA in 1982 discussed were increasing community feeling, promoting and improving business, beautifying the I-40 Corridor, lobbying regarding the use of the Corridor, increasing awareness of the need for preservation, and meeting with legislative representatives.

President Mathes acknowledged that some of the time spent by MMIA workers will be dictated by events, but indicated a desire to work for "cooperation from state legislators concerning the Corridor land. While it remains tied up, it is still a threat to the neighborhood. The state is still interested in a roadway through the Corridor, and the only reason they haven't done anything is a lack of funds." Ms. Mathes agreed that the passage of a state law giving former owners of Corridor land first option to repurchase their property contributed to the present inactive status of the Corridor Option Research Committee (CORC).

by Franklin Moore

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VECA JANUARY MEETING

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the general membership was held at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church on January 25. President Dennis Heitzmann reported that due to the renovation of Volland Courts, the lawsuit fund is being dissolved and contributors are being contacted regarding disposition of their donations. It was announced that the Executive Committee has also approved a hypertension screening program to take place in portions of the VECA area in March. Testing will be directed by Memphis State and neighborhood volunteers are being sought to participate in the testing (see related story in this issue).

The guest speaker was the supervisor of the MLG&W Credit Department, Mr. Glyn Frost. Frost answered many questions from the enthusiastic audience. He described the delayed billing plan for customers on fixed incomes, the "weather beater" billing plan to help equalize monthly payments, and the third party notification program to give notice of impending cutoffs to a third party. He stressed that his office will work with customers who have payment problems and will be as fair as possible, but cautioned that customers should contact his office as soon as they receive their bill, rather than waiting until the cutoff date. Frost advised the group that the TVA insulation program is still in existence, and that there is only a short wait now to get a free inspection. An interest-free loan can be arranged for the purchase of insulation, storm windows, or other energy saving materials, and the repayment period may be up to 7 years. (Call 377-4970 to get on the

waiting list.)

Frost urged everyone to always check their water bill for large changes which would indicate a leak and to always read your own electric meter. Upon request, your meter will be re-read for free, or a machine can be used to check the accuracy of your electric meter, but there will be a \$15.00 charge if nothing is wrong with it.

As head of the Credit Department of the largest "three utility" service in the country, Frost supervises a staff that sees over 18,000 customers per month in his department. While the amount of unpaid bills and stolen utilities charged off is about \$2,000,000 per year, this is still less than one-half of one percent of utilities furnished and is far below the national average. Frost reported that 66% of revenue is used for the purchase and production of utilities, 12% for operating and maintenance expenses, 9% for collection of fees for other government agencies, and 13% for other miscellaneous expenses, including free utilities to the City of Memphis.

Frost advised that new customers and customers with bad pay records are required to pay a deposit to obtain utility service, but that interest will be paid on that deposit by crediting the March utility bill, and the deposit will be refunded after 3 years with a good pay record.

The meeting then adjourned and those present socialized while enjoying cookies made by Julie Borys, coffee, and soft drinks.

by Franklin Moore

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