

The Corner Forum

for the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E, the 400 and 500 blocks of 13th,
Duncan Place and Emerald Street NE

Issue #66
Sunday, May 2, 2004
37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Skating Tutor Found!

We asked Ms. Baxley whether she received any responses to her request for a skating teacher, which appeared in the last issue of the Corner Forum.

BY GLADYS BAXLEY, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

Yes, I did get one response from a neighbor on Emerald Street — Mr. Clark. He's been in-line skating for many years, and I didn't even know him.

He's had me skating up and down the alley behind my house. We started on the 19th, right after the article appeared in the Corner Forum.

He's an excellent teacher, and I expect to be able to skate around Lincoln Park within the next week or so (anyway, that's what my tutor says).

Putting my request in the Corner Forum was a great idea. Thanks for this outlet! §

Atlas Arts Center to Open This Year

BY LEA MESNER, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

I have always loved theater, dance and music. The Atlas Performing Arts Center, which is coming to 1333 H St. NE, will provide all of that and more. I am very excited to have this venue within walking distance of my home.

When it is finished, the Atlas will give us a 276-fixed-seat theater with state-of-the-art stage equipment, lighting and sound. The Atlas will also include a 225-flexi-seat theater, three dance studios, two theater labs (for readings, community meetings, classes and other smaller performances), a production shop and costume shop. The Arts Center will house office space for the Atlas management and Joy of Motion (<http://www.joyofmotion.org>) — which will manage the dance program at the Atlas. The performing arts center will open in stages, beginning late this year.

Continued on page 2

He Punched Me and Kicked Me. He Told Me He Hates White People.

BY ROBERT BETTMANN, 1200 BLOCK OF E STREET NE

On Monday, Robert Bettman, 30, was assaulted on the south side of his block, as he was walking home. On Friday, he told Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, what happened.

Can you take us through — where were you coming from, and where were you walking? And then just as many details as possible. Take us through what happened.

Well, I moved here very recently. I moved here about a month and a half ago, and I haven't changed my tags yet, so I park between 11th and 12th [on E], where there's un-zoned parking. I stopped at the 7-11 and bought some ice cream, and when I was in the 7-11, I guess someone called me. I had left my phone on the seat, and when I got back to my car there was a message.

I didn't want to listen to it while I was driving, so I parked between 11th and 12th, got out of my car, was walking here [toward the 1200 block of E], listened to the message on my phone, and was about to call back — I'm running this dance festival right now, which goes up May 15th to the 22nd, and it was the woman who's the liaison to the theater — so I dialed in the number and I was about to press "send," and someone — I played football in college — and at the last second, I could

Continued on page 6

Why the Hate?

BY KANISHKA GANGOPADHYAY, 1200 BLOCK OF E STREET NE

On Monday, around 5 p.m., my roommate of two months was assaulted in front of my home on E Street. I am hesitant to give specific details relating to our identities, other than to state that three of us rent a townhouse, and are younger residents of the neighborhood.

I have lived in this neighborhood, in this house, since August 2003, and this is the first incident of violence that I have directly been a part of. I am shocked, scared and, most of all, confused — not because of the crime itself, but because of the tone of the incident. Please bear with me as I try to express my feelings.

A single African American male assaulted my roommate, 20 feet from our home (see story at left for details).

The disturbing part of the incident was that during the beating, the assailant repeatedly stated, "I hate white people" and "stay out of our neighborhood." These comments have elevated the incident, in the eyes of the police, to a hate crime.

I am not white, nor am I black. From such a position, I am often either oblivious to racial tensions, or at the most confused by them.

What causes this sort of incident? My roommates and I are

Continued on page 7, column 2

H Street

A Night on the Town

BY ELIZABETH HAGUE
500 block of 14th Street NE

Last Saturday night, my husband Libo Liu and I decided to have a night out on the town on H Street. We began the evening by checking out Phish Tea Café and then sauntered over half a block to the H Street Playhouse to watch “Boy Gets Girl,” a play that opened last weekend.

As it turns out, Phish Tea Café was having its grand opening that night, so we were unable to order a full meal, because the staff and kitchen were concentrating on providing enough food and drink for a larger-than-usual crowd. So we settled for Phish Tea soup — complimentary that night — and appetizers.

Everything was delicious, and as it turned out we were very full. We plan to go back for a full meal some time. The decor of the café was also well done, with a lounge and function room downstairs and the restaurant upstairs.

The play, “Boy Gets Girl,” was great — terrific acting and thought-provoking. Libo described it as a “thriller,” and in a sense it was. I was shaking in my seat, but then I am easily scared during movies and plays. It was about a guy and a woman who meet on a blind date.

I don’t want to give the play away, but basically the guy becomes infatuated with the girl and starts stalking her, to the extent that she is in danger. I would definitely recommend this play to anyone except children. (See the “Ongoing” section of the Calendar for details.)

Finally, I would highly recommend the H Street Playhouse to Corner Forum readers. The tickets are free for anyone living in the Corner Forum area, courtesy of Fannie Mae. All you have to do is show up one half-hour before show time and bring your driver’s license or other proof of residence. This was the third play that we have seen at the H Street Playhouse. All have been excellent.

The guy who gave me the tickets said that not a lot of people are taking advantage of this opportunity. Libo and I did not recognize anyone else in the audience. There was a full house last Saturday night, and I think most paid the full price. Take advantage of this good deal in your neighborhood! §

Atlas to Offer Theater, Dance and Music

(continued from page 1)

On April 20, Sharon Cochran (1300 block of Emerald Street NE) and I attended an Atlas community meeting held at Sherwood Recreation Center. Laverne Law, chair of the Atlas Community Advisory Council, led the meeting.

Jane Lang, president of the Atlas Board, told us that by Thanksgiving, the three dance studios, the two theater labs, the restored marquee and new lighting across the entire front of the building will be completed. Lighting and dancing classes, held in the storefront windows, will dramatically enliven the 1300 block of H Street. I’ve mentioned this to several of our neighbors, and we’re eager to begin dance or yoga classes this winter.

Deanne Maria Costa, director of education for Joy of Motion, told us her group will be sponsoring classes from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for all ages (from kids to seniors). Currently, Joy of Motion sponsors tap dancing for grades 2 to 4, creative movement for kindergarten and faculty yoga classes at Miner Elementary School. Joy of Motion was able to gather enough donations to outfit each of the students in the tap classes with a pair of tap shoes. The Atlas has an Arts Access Fund to support students in the performing arts and welcomes donations from the community.

In addition, the Atlas has a building fund to support renovation of the Arts Center itself. It is a pay-as-you-go plan, so the speed with which the construction continues (beyond the November 2004 schedule) will depend on the level of funding the nonprofit can obtain through donations. \$6.4 million of the estimated \$14 million needed for renovation has been collected.

John Sherwood, of Tishman Construction Company, the company managing the construction effort, spoke with us at the meeting, presenting the following sequence of renovation planned after the November 2004 completions:

- Flexi-seat theater and major roof repair;
- Lobby, promenade, Great Hall, and basement offices;
- Fixed-seat theater with state-of-the-art lighting, sound and stage equipment — things will pop up and come down from the ceiling and come in from the sides and the back of the theater (quite exciting).

Mr. Sherwood emphasized that if individuals are interested in working on construction of the theater they should contact Mike Davis, who is on site and has application forms. Although Tishman is not itself hiring, the company will give these applications to appropriate contractors for their consideration. There is a genuine interest in hiring D.C. residents for the work.

The African Continuum Theater (ACTCo) is also a partner of the Atlas. The renowned choreographer, dancer, actor and teacher Debbie Allen is another Atlas partner; she and Jane Lang are discussing a future production at the Atlas. Additional partners include Dance Place, Symphony Space, The Washington Performing Arts Society and Tribute Productions.

If you want to get involved in the Atlas project or to contribute to either the building or arts access funds, contact Scott Kenison, Administrator, Atlas Performing Arts Center, at 1614 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. You can also contact him at 772-1153 or skenison@atlasarts.org. The Atlas Performing Arts Center’s Web site is <http://www.atlasarts.org>.

I hope you are as excited as I am to live only a few blocks away from such an impressive performing arts program. Starting in late fall or early winter, you’ll see me on H Street a lot! §

H Street

Numerous Improvements Proposed

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

The D.C. Department of Transportation has finished and presented the H Street NE Corridor Transportation and Streetscape Study, in which it presents its recommendations for what the city should do as it redevelops H Street.

In the short term, if the proposal is adopted and funded, we would see new trash cans, re-stripped crosswalks and lanes and repaired tree boxes. Within five years we would see wider sidewalks, fancy crosswalks, new street lights, bus shelters, lots of new trees, art, bike racks and maybe even a trolley on H Street.

One of the biggest proposed changes to the H Street Corridor streetscape may be the proposal to create a plaza at the starburst intersection of 15th Street, H Street, Bladensburg Road, Maryland Avenue and Benning Road, near Hechinger Mall. No doubt few people are surprised to hear that the starburst intersection has the highest volume of vehicles in the H Street Corridor and the longest pedestrian crosswalks.

The proposed reconfiguration and addition of the plaza will make it safer to cross the street at that intersection and walk to Hechinger Mall and the CVS.

The draft plans for the plaza are to create a park-like setting with green space and flowering trees, and with space for concerts, farmers markets and festivals. §



The proposed street pattern and plaza.

Goods and Services

Recommendations for a Roofer?

BY CRISSI AND RYAN MCGLYNN, 1219 E ST. NE

Does anyone have a recommendation for a roofing contractor?

We have a metal roof like many of the homes in our area. Our roof needs to be re-coated.

We would prefer using a contractor who someone has recommended than just picking one out of the Yellow Pages. So if you have had work done on your metal roof, and had a good experience with your contractor, please let us know.

You can either call us at 543-3649 or send an e-mail to crissicc@aol.com. Thank you. §

Police

Commander Says More Officers Will Be Patrolling Neighborhoods

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

Thomas E. McGuire, the commander of D.C.'s First Police District, has pledged a new kind of community policing, expressing hope for a better future for the residents in Ward 6.

At a meeting last Thursday at the District Police Headquarters, Commander McGuire assured Council Member Sharon Ambrose (Ward 6) and the residents she represents that, under his command and with the new Police Service Area (PSA) boundaries, officers will be more responsive, more responsible and more visible.

The new boundaries are scheduled to take effect on Monday. The Corner Forum area, formerly in PSA 511, in the Fifth District, will be in the new PSA 103, in the First District.

Commander McGuire, who has led the First District for the last two years, said he will assign more officers to patrol neighborhoods on foot, on bike and on motor scooters. "It's part of effort to get into the community," McGuire told dozens of community leaders and neighborhood coordinators who packed the community meeting room at the District Headquarters. He said he would also strengthen Focused Mission Teams, to fight drug activities and car thefts.

Council Member Ambrose, who requested the meeting, praised Ward 6 residents for their strong community involvement in challenging and modifying the new PSA boundaries. She also expressed some concerns to the commander that the new PSAs would divide natural and traditional neighborhoods, and that officers might be reluctant to attend different neighborhood meetings within the same PSA. Commander McGuire pledged, "We are going to attend the community meetings as requested."

Commander McGuire informed the residents that the 71 police officers who are currently patrolling the immediate neighborhoods of the Corner Forum readership area under the jurisdiction of Fifth District will all be transferred to First District, but many of them will still patrol the same community they are already familiar with. For example, Lt. Renato Caldwell, who heads the police force for the old PSA 511, will be in charge of the new PSA 103. He will have 40 officers and roughly seven sergeants under his leadership.

Commander Thomas McGuire himself will have 393 lieutenants, sergeants and officers under his command. However, a whopping 18 percent — including those with limited duty status, on extended sick leave, suspended with pay and without pay, family medical leave and military leave — are not serving full duty.

When I pressed whether there would be an increase or decrease of police force per capita or per square miles under the new PSA scheme, Commander McGuire responded, "We will have the right number of people to patrol our streets according to the model the creation of the new PSAs was based on." §

Television

At Last, Idoling America Votes Wisely

BY CHAD PRIEST, 1213 DUNCAN PL. NE

Along with millions of Americans, I was finally put out of my misery Thursday night. John Stevens, the courageous and minimally talented young man who pushed his way into the American Idol competition by singing Sinatra ballads, was finally voted off.

Maddeningly, John still managed to rack up four *million* votes. Four million votes. For those of you counting at home, that comes to about 4 percent of the total number of Americans who voted in the 2000 election, or just slightly more votes than Ralph Nader garnered nationwide in that year.

You might be wondering why I would write to all of you about television... let alone about *reality* TV. I have no excuse. I am hooked on American Idol. I'm hooked like people were hooked in the 70s and 80s on shows like "The Gong Show," "Hee-Haw," and of course "Star Search." The difference is, I'm not embarrassed to talk about it in public.

Sure, American Idol draws second-class talent sometimes. So what? Of course Randy and Simon are absolute nobodies who probably wouldn't know good music if it hit them. Fine by me. Yes, Paula Abdul has seen her time come and go (twice). I'm not bothered by it. I'll even concede that last year's runner up, Clay Aiken, will have a career lasting about as long as that tractor driver on the mall last year. Just long enough to be *really* annoying but probably not causing any permanent damage.

I concede all of this and don't care one bit. I am hooked. Just like the entire nation (or at least that portion of the nation that buys Coke, eats at Subway and drives hip new mini-Fords).

The thing is, American Idol is the perfect show for America. We all love competition, we love singers and we really love glam. Even if you don't watch American Idol regularly, or set your TiVo or VCR to record it twice a week, you can't help but have noticed that American Idol is *the* big thing. Even at my workplace, American Idol is all the rage at the water cooler, which we all seem to be spending more time at since WASA and the city conspired to poison our tap water.

It may be the latest sign the apocalypse is upon us, but I believe that American Idol is proof positive that Americans just love to vote. Don't believe me? Just spend 15 minutes on the Internet and see how many things you get to vote on: best news story, best fashions, best hair-dos, best gossip, etc. Even my beloved D.C. United has a "voting" section, where every week you can vote for the man of the match.

American Idol is just another in a long line of talent competitions, and not a great one at that, but it lets us vote, and damn it — we love to vote. *Four million votes ... for the loser.* That must cause you to have the same chills I have. Four MILLION votes cast ... for the loser. What politico in this town wouldn't die for that kind of interest in voting? On second thought, maybe they wouldn't be too interested in that kind of turnout.

But I don't vote. I don't do it. You know why? Because my vote doesn't count.

It doesn't count because I can't text message as fast as the 'tweener girls who claw for their cell phones the second Ryan Seacrest's shrill voice ends the show with his now infamous "Seacrest ... OUT!"

I don't have it in me to call the 1-800 number either. I've got other things to do after Idol, like eat or go to bed. So I, like millions of Americans, have chosen to sit by in agony and watch as a once-talented group of finalists has been reduced to a rag-tag group of largely untalented, quasi-teen-idols, many of whom lack not only singing skills, but dancing skills as well.

There is hope for us non-voters though. This week the country (the "voting" element) corrected itself by finally sending home the last of the worst: John Stevens. After kicking off Jennifer Hudson last week in circumstances that conjured up images of a major conspiracy (the power was rumored to have gone out in her hometown during voting, among other things), the country has finally gotten it right.

We can all sleep a little easier this week, knowing that despite having leaded water in our homes, a rocky economy and troops dispatched all over the world, we have one less problem to deal with: John Stevens won't be our American Idol. §

Entertainment

Anyone Interested in a Block Party?

BY ANDREA FULLER, 1227 E ST. NE

I'd like to organize a block party in the 1200 block of E Street NE this summer. Of course, everyone in the Corner Forum area would be invited!

Anyone interested in helping?

If so, drop me a note at andreafuller@yahoo.com or in my box at 1227 E, or give me a ring at 548-9665. More details forthcoming. §

SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS, NEWS AND PHOTOS! — by phone (544-2447); by voicemail (517-9128); by e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or by mail (536 13th St. NE). Join us Saturdays at 10 a.m. (see calendar) TO SUBSCRIBE (\$10.17 including tax for 26 issues), call 544-2447 or drop off cash or a check to the address above.

Youth

The Family Initiative Seeks To Improve Child Care Choices

BY ANDREA FULLER, 1227 E ST. NE

I recently had the good fortune of meeting Leslie Calman of Legal Momentum (formerly the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) and leader of the group's latest project, The Family Initiative. Since there seem to be quite a few young families in our neighborhood, I thought I would share some information on the work they are doing on a national level to ensure that all children have the care they deserve.

The goal of The Family Initiative is to mobilize families from all walks of life to support major public investment in high quality child care, pre-school and after school programs. The initiative is building towards federal and state legislation that will increase resources to improve the quality and accessibility of child care programs.

Many of us who have sought day care on the Hill for our children have been rudely awakened by the shortage of affordable options that we can feel good about. This is especially true for parents who would like to work part-time and need to find part-time childcare. The Family Initiative seeks to create options by promoting investment, partnerships, and the elevation of the challenging and skilled profession of childcare. In addition, the Initiative focuses on children ages 6-17 who need supervision before and after school, over the summer, and during schools breaks.

If you are interested in this topic, please visit the Family Initiative's Web site at <http://www.familyinitiative.org>. There you can sign on to the Initiative's principles, sign up for the newsletter and learn more about how you can take action.

I will be hosting an information session on Friday, May 14 (time / place to be determined), where Leslie and other members of the Initiative will provide more information on their progress to date and learn more about the needs of our particular community. Call or e-mail me at 548-9665 or andreafuller@yahoo.com for details (they're not yet finalized). I'll also be putting up a notice outside my front door as soon as I have more information. §

Updates

CORNER FORUM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The last issue was edited by Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE, and Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE. Tammi Cioffi, 536 13th St. NE, folded and stapled the issue.

There are 79 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (27 on E Street, 27 on Emerald Street, 16 on 13th Street, and 9 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

Lead in the Water

I've Done This Before

BY JOHN OLINGER, 1200 BLOCK OF DUNCAN PLACE NE

A few weeks ago, I received, courtesy of WASA, a 1-liter capacity water filter. I earned this prize for scoring 170 ppb and 130 ppb on last August's lead sweepstakes.

A few nights later, as I patiently filled my refrigerator water bottles, a liter at a time, I had a flashback, one of those *deja vu* moments songwriters dream of. I've done this before, I thought. I know I have.

I searched my fading memory bank and suddenly it all came rushing back. Yes, indeed I had done this all before: when I lived in Nigeria in the 1970s. There I filtered my water, for drinking and cooking. I patiently filled bottles to store in the refrigerator.

And now, 30 years later, in the most important city in the most important country in the world (with apologies to Riggs Bank, which has a few apologies of its own to make these days), I find I am again filtering water and storing it in bottles and putting it into the refrigerator. My, my, how far we've come.

Oh and by the way, last Saturday I got a letter from WASA telling me that I might have lead in my water. They offered to test my water.

So I figured why not try again, I might score again and get another Pur filter. Then I can filter and pour with both hands, much more efficient and first world, don't you think? §

Calendar of Events

If you attend any of these events, please send in anything from a few lines to a long article about what happened. And if you know of any upcoming events that other readers might be interested in, send them in! Events are free, unless otherwise noted, and open to all.

— COMPILED BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE, SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE, AND ALBERT STEVENS, STUDENT AT EASTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, May 2

11 a.m. 41st Annual Market Day. A day-long block party with food, crafts and entertainment for the whole family to benefit Friendship House. Eastern Market, 7th Street & North Carolina Avenue SE. Info, 543-7293. Rain date is May 16.

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kingsman Basketball League Tryouts. For ages 14 and younger. At the basketball courts beside Kingsman Field, 13th & D Streets NE. Info, Andre at 388-3466 or J.T. at 321-3358.

Continued on page 8

(continued from page 1)

feel someone on top of me, and someone hit me in the back of the head and pushed me, hard — so that I was in the middle of the sidewalk and ended up in the street, on the ground — and he started kicking and punching me.

My glasses flew off, and the phone went flying. I was carrying a bag, and I also had the 7-11 bag, and I dropped both of them. So he was kicking and punching me and I was covering up, and I kind of pushed him off me, and I got to my feet, and as I looked up, he was there and these three other guys came up.

He had been running up, but these three other guys came up, and when I saw them, I thought, “Aw, s***. This is gonna really suck.” Because there were four of them. And I was like, “This is gonna be a really long day.”

But it didn’t happen. They circled up around me, and he backed off.

I said, “Why? Why?”

First he was like, “You don’t want to start something.”

I kind of quieted down, but I kept saying, “Why?”

He said, “Cause I f***ing hate white people. ‘Cause I f***ing hate white people. This is OUR neighborhood.” — I actually can’t remember if he said, “This is OUR” or, “This is MY neighborhood.” He just kept saying, “Because I f***ing hate white people. You shouldn’t be here.” And on like that.

So then the three guys — one of them went up to him. Two of them stayed back, and they were talking. I’m guessing they were saying, “We better get out of here.” Because it was 5 o’clock in the afternoon! There had to have been people walking down the street — I didn’t see anyone else at that time, but people are gonna be coming home! You know?

So he said, “Do you got any money?”

And I said no. I had 20 bucks in my wallet, but I’m really poor right now, so I said no, which I have no idea if he believed or if he just didn’t feel like assaulting me to try and grab my wallet.

He wasn’t much bigger than I was. He was between like 17 and 21 years old. He was a teen! All of them were. I’m 6 feet, 155. He was probably about 5-10, 155. He was not a very big guy. If it had been just him and me and he didn’t have a weapon, it wouldn’t have been anything!

But there was one of the other guys who was BIG — he was fat, darker skinned, and he was in this big, puffy jacket. Two of them were wearing these big, puffy black jackets, and one was wearing a thin brown or black jacket and was smaller. Two of them were kind of medium size, one big, one a little smaller.

I went and picked up my glasses from off the ground — which were surprisingly not broken.

And then he said, “Throw me your phone.” I didn’t really say anything. Then he came running up and grabbed the phone, and they went running down the alley.

I came in here, and I looked around to see if any of my roommates were home. We don’t have a land line, so I couldn’t call the police from here. I was totally in shock. I went upstairs, and I dropped my bag, and I was thinking, “I should do something about this.”

And so then I went out — forgot to lock the door — I went out and wandered around for a minute, and then I saw the postman coming down the street [1200 block of E Street], and I went up to the postman, and I said, “I was just attacked. Do you have a phone?”

And he said, “No, but I saw someone sitting on a porch, down the street.”

So I started heading down the block [toward 13th Street], and I ran into someone who was carrying an umbrella, and I said, “Can I use your phone? I was just attacked, and I need to call the police.”

And he said, “No, you can’t. But down the street, there’s a pay phone at the store.” He was going to his home, but he wouldn’t let me go to his home and use the phone. So I was a little bummed out about that one. That was some random African American man.

So then I went to the pay phone and used the pay phone, called 911, and then the police came.

It could’ve been much worse. If the other people had been interested, it could’ve been much worse. The one guy, I think might’ve been on drugs — or maybe he really was just that angry. He was REALLY angry. He was really, really angry. I mean, to come running up behind someone like that and punch them in the head and throw them to the ground and start kicking and punching them — he was really angry.

I don’t know what that comes from, but either he was on drugs or he was just REALLY pissed off that I’m white and I’m in his neighborhood. I almost prefer to think that he was on drugs.

But the other ones didn’t seem like they were — they seemed like they were just normal human beings. They just seemed kind of disinterested. The only time that they stepped up was when I stood up and I started confronting him just a little bit — then they stepped closer; then they made their presence known.

It was raining that Monday?

Yeah, but it wasn’t right at the time. It was wet — I got soaking because he pushed me down into the gutter, and I totally ripped up my pants and ripped up my knee.

He kicked you in the head?

More in the neck, and in the side. I covered up pretty well. He was standing up, so his punches weren’t that effective, and his kicks weren’t really that effective either.

He only sort of got one into my neck, and the only thing that really hurt me was landing hard. He got one good punch into my head, when he first hit me, and I think that’s probably what’s got my neck out of joint, and then I landed really hard.

Continued on page 7

(continued from page 6)

He pushed me really hard, and I landed hard on my knee, and so my knee's all cut up, and it's a little bit f***ed up. I went to the doctors, and they said, "It's just a soft tissue injury — it'll be better in a week." So it could've been so much worse.

In your e-mail to me, you said you're not feeling too good about the neighborhood right now.

Since I've been here, someone came by my car and totally bent down my antenna, so it's hanging on by a little thing. Also since I moved here, someone took out — actually took out — one of my lights. Didn't bust it out, but actually took the thing out. So I was gonna have that fixed.

And then the next time that I went to him, he said, "You know, man, someone took the other one!" And I was like, "You're kidding." And I went and I looked, and he's right! Someone has now taken the other one.

So I'm not feeling that great about the neighborhood. I moved down here a little over three years ago. I lived in Glover Park, which was very quiet, very safe. Then I lived in Friendship Heights — it was very quiet, very safe. And then I move here, and people steal stuff off my car and I get assaulted in a month and a half.

So it's hard to feel really wonderful about living here. I know that there's good people who live here, and I know it's like a mixed neighborhood, and I had no reservations about moving here, but you can bet I've got some now.

Have you already decided you're gonna move?

No, but I'm thinking about it. I mean, I hate for them to drive me off, but I don't really want to see them again. If I saw the one guy again by himself, it would be one thing, but if I see him again with his friends, I don't think it's gonna go so well.

So that's what I'm thinking. §

(continued from page 1)

young people, living paycheck to paycheck, working hard to make it. We do not own our home; we rent it from a well-respected African American who is active in the community.

Though some may feel that we come to the neighborhood with some sense of racial privilege, in reality we simply strive to be a part of our community with no sense of a color barrier. Everyone in our neighborhood — white or black, male or female, young or old — has up to this point been kind to us. So now, why the hate?

Is there something about our neighborhood that creates a racial divide, something that engenders the type of frightening behavior my roommate suffered from? Though I am familiar with this neighborhood's history, it seems that it has been becoming more and more integrated as time goes on. So why does the racial friction persist?

From the perspective of an "outsider," the only effect I can see from such incidents is that they bring down the optimism and camaraderie required to make a neighborhood cohesive. Is there something I'm missing? I understand that logically addressing an ugly incident like an assault is difficult, if not impossible — but is there a context to this sort of event that can, if not excuse, at least explain?

Despite Monday's events, I enjoy living on E Street. On Saturday afternoons, I enjoy seeing the families out, working on their lawns and sharing stories. Frankly, I like to come home to a neighborhood where I can park and walk with little to no fear for my safety.

Perhaps my naïveté in regards to the realities of our neighborhood has been bruised, but being the eternal optimist I will still believe that this incident was an exceptional case, the actions of someone who was simply misguided. But then again, I haven't even been on E Street for a year. So tell me, neighbors: am I wrong? §

Vacant Buildings

Committee Backs Plan to Designate Old Firehouse as a Historic Landmark

Here are excerpts of a report by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A Economic Development and Zoning Committee, from its meeting on Tuesday. The excerpts pertain to an application by a private group, the Capitol Fire Museum, to designate the Old Engine House 10, at 1341 Maryland Ave. NE a historic landmark. The committee's recommendation to support the application will likely be discussed at the full ANC meeting on May 13 (see Calendar)..

BY ANC COMMISSIONER CODY RICE (6A03), 310 9TH ST. NE

The committee discussed an application for historic landmark designation for Old Engine House 10 by the Capitol Fire Museum. This application is one of a series of historic landmark applications by the Capitol Fire Museum for DC firehouses. According to the application, this firehouse has a "Queen Anne Revival façade. . . characterized by ornate brickwork and terra cotta." A decorative tablet on the faced indi-

cates that the firehouse was "Erected 1894." In 1940, Engine Company 10 was combined with Truck Company 13 at 1342 Florida Avenue, NE and this property was vacated.

Historic landmark status would protect the external appearance of the building from significant modification without the approval of the Historic Preservation Review Board, would make the property eligible for certain tax incentives, and would still allow the adaptive reuse of the interior. Since this building is not in a historic district, without landmark status it could be demolished or razed without community input. The property is currently owned by the DC government and under the control of DHCD.

Committee Recommendation: That the ANC send a letter of support for the historic landmark designation application to the Historic Preservation Office. §

Calendar of Upcoming Events

(continued from page 5)

Tuesday, May 4

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2004 Library of Congress Professional Association Used Book Sale. "Books, magazines, videos, etc." At Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, Room 130. Through May 6.

7 p.m. ANC 6A Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee meeting on community standards for liquor stores. "The committee will seek community input on the components of the community standard. Similar to the February 17th meeting, this will be an open forum for the residents to express their input." At Sherwood Recreation Center, 10th and G Streets NE. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

7:30 p.m. North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (NLPNA) meeting. Agenda includes information on Community Emergency Response Team training. At Lane Memorial Church, 14th & C Streets NE. Info, 543-3512.

Wednesday, May 5

9:30 a.m. Excello. Status hearing on protest of license renewal. At the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, 941 North Capitol St. NE, 7th floor. Info, Laura Byrd, 442-4359, or Zandra Goode, 442-4418.

Thursday, May 6

All day. Parent-teacher conferences. Students not in school.

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.). 40th Annual Senior Citizens Day and Health Expo. Free health screenings, health and wellness exhibits, fitness demonstrations, line dancing, music and lunch. By DC Senior Citizens Clearinghouse and the Office on Aging Senior Service Network. At the D.C. Armory, 2001 East Capitol St. SE. Free tickets, 727-6604.

Saturday, May 8

10 a.m. Corner Forum meeting. Help plan the next issue. At 536 13th St. NE, 544-2447.

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. A Virtuous Woman of God Prayer Breakfast. Theme: "A Woman That Feareth the Lord, She Shall be Praised." (Proverbs 31:30). With guest minister Rev. Rheda Brown. At Freedom Baptist Church, 1519 U St. NW. Info, Rev. Gregory Baldwin, 483-8104. Suggested donation \$7. Includes full course brunch buffet, door prizes and spectacular gifts, warm fellowship, inspired preaching and good singing. Submitted by Florence Smith, 406 13th St. NE.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friends of Southeast Library Book sale to benefit the Southeast Library. "Books in every category, some specialty items, tapes, records, and CDs are available for sale, most for \$.25 to \$1." Southeast Library, 403 7th St. SE (across from Eastern Market metro). Info, contact Janet McGregor at 547-8897. <http://dclibrary.org/branches/soe>.

Wednesday, May 12

1 - 2:30 p.m. Workshop on Parent/Child Communication. By the Office of Early Childhood Development and Department of Human Services. At New Horizon, 800 11th St. NE. Pre-registration required. <http://dhs.dc.gov>.

7 p.m. PSA 103 meeting. At Miner Elementary School, 601 15th St. NE.

Thursday, May 13

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Senior Golden Olympics, Swimming Events. At Rumsey Natatorium, 7th & North Carolina Avenue SE. By the DC Parks and Recreation. Registration required to compete, 282-0753.

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Monthly Meeting. At Miner Elementary School, Student Dining Room, 601 15th St. NE. Agenda likely to include vote on whether to support efforts to designate the firehouse at 1341 Maryland Ave. NE a historic landmark. Info, ANC 6A Chairman Joseph Fengler (6A02), 423-8868. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

7:30 p.m. Linden Old City Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association Monthly Community Meeting. At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. Info, linexchang@aol.com. <http://www.oldcitycapitolhill.org>.

Saturday, May 15

10 a.m. Corner Forum meeting. Help plan the next issue. At 536 13th St. NE, 544-2447.

10 a.m. North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association Yard Sale. "This is a huge, annual event featuring furniture, clothes, books, sports and hobby equipment, and nifty household items — bargains galore." Drop off donated items between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. In the triangle park between the 1300 blocks of North Carolina Avenue and A Street NE (between 13th and 14th Streets). For info or to volunteer, call 543-3512.

Ongoing

Boy Gets Girl. Through May 23. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. All but the first Saturday, also at 2 p.m. "Boy Gets Girl presents a frightening glimpse into what can lie in wait for those searching for love in the city. Gilman's brilliantly written play is an acute observation on a very modern nightmare. On a blind date, girl meets boy, boy becomes fixated, girl is forced to change her life, and even herself, in order to escape the relentless pursuit of the boy. This play explores the sexual and political fine line between what is romance and what is considered to be obsession." By the Theater Alliance. Tickets normally \$20; free if you live between 8th Street and 19th Street NE, between C and M streets NE. (Pick up free tickets at least 30 minutes before the show). At H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE. 800-494-8497 or 396-2125 or <http://www.theateralliance.com/Season.htm>. §

Celebrations

Happy birthday to Emma Catherine Olson, 1214 E St. NE, who will turn 2 on Wednesday! §