

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 105



November 18, 2013

By John Hoffmann

**IT'S BACK! BJC SUBMITS NEW PLANS WITH CITY FOR MASON AND HWY 40 THAT LOOK AWFULLY FAMILIAR!** The Planning and Zoning hearing lasted 3 ½-hours and BJC's proposal for two four-story medical buildings covering 320,000 square feet on the grounds of the old Missouri Highway Patrol Troop C headquarters was soundly defeated. BJC did not bother taking the project to the Board of Aldermen hoping for a super majority margin to overturn the P&Z defeat.

Parts of the new plan look suspiciously familiar to the old plans.



This is the original plan that got voted down in July of 2013. We took the photo in July.



Here is a photo of the rendering from the “new plans” we took on November 14. There are exactly the same, right down to the kids and the pink elephant sculptures!

The public speaking out against the project included doctors, who stated a children surgical center was not needed since BJC had one Olive Blvd at Mason about three miles away.

A former economist with the Federal Reserve spoke why it was bad economics to build the facility. In fact for almost three hours people spoke against the project.

In our August 4 Newsletter 94 we reported how the officials from BJC and their consulting engineer George Stock came off as complete asses.

Perhaps the worst was Joan Magruder, the president of Children’s Hospital.

Here is one of her comments:

“It is a tremendous burden for people in West County to have to drive their children all the way downtown,” she added.

Here is what I wrote in response to Magruder’s comment:

*The second point concerning Magruder's remarks was that she apparently implied it was a bigger burden on rich people in Town and Country, Frontenac, Chesterfield and Creve Coeur to drive 22 miles to Children's main facility at I-64 and Kingshighway than it would be for a poorer person to drive those same 22 miles from the City of St. Louis to Town and Country. Apparently it is a problem and burden for someone to drive a new Mercedes Benz for children's health care to St. Louis than it is for someone in a 12-year-old Ford to drive to Town and Country.*



Joan Magruder want to be sure rich people can get to the hospital quickly.

Here is the link to our first article in Newsletter 94.

[http://www.johnhoffmann.net/ex\\_newsletter\\_94.pdf](http://www.johnhoffmann.net/ex_newsletter_94.pdf)

I am told there is still a plan for 708 parking spaces, which would back up fairly close to residential property.

All the new plan appears to be is the original plan without the plans for additional buildings in the future. I suppose they can just ask for that expansion at a later date.

BJC bought that property knowing full well it was zoned residential once the Highway Patrol vacated the property.

**I HOPE THEY DIDN'T THROW AWAY THE SIGNS:** Former alderman Al Gerber and some folks in the Wheatfield Farms subdivision had yard signs printed up for the opposition to the Mason and Clayton Road rezoning for a senior living facility for 150 and for the BJC rezoning. I think they are going to need to get them out again.



**ART COMMISSION VOTES TO GO AGAINST MAYOR AND ALDERMEN:** When I arrived at the November Arts Commission meeting (A commission which I was the first chairman of) the current chair, Alderwoman Lynn Wright sarcastically commented what a great honor it was to have me attending their meetings regularly.

I informed her that I had no choice, since the Monarch Fire Protection District had cancelled their meeting and the Chesterfield Planning and Zoning had just one item on their agenda.

As it turned out, the Town and Country Arts Commission was the meeting to be at.

The Arts Commission had awarded a currently unfunded sculpture project to Harry Weber for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Town and Country in 2015. They had voted to approve a piece submitted by Weber that had a horse bending over to nuzzle a dog.



Lindsey Hodge, Parks Department admin staffer taking notes behind the mock up of the horse and dog sculpture.

Weber also did a piece of a horse running with a dog. It almost appeared as if the dog was chasing the horse. Of course this would be a terrible sculpture to put next to a busy intersection like Clayton Road and Mason Road. Someone busy driving and yacking on the cell phone or texting would catch the horse out of the corner of their eye and swerve afraid the “running horse” was headed their way.

The mayor and several aldermen did not care for the horse and dog. They wanted a voter or at least a taxpayer to be included in the sculpture and sent the project back to the Arts Commission.

Weber then produced a piece of a woman riding a horse with a dog to the side. This included the human form of a voter.



The Arts Commission then voted in a secret ballot by email (so much for an open government) to pick a favorite. The vote was 5-4. The horse bending over the dog won again. The four votes went to what had been the woman on the horse and a dog...however voters just wanted the horse and dog and nixed the human.

However it was agreed by most that they did not like the dog. I thought the dog looked like a German Shepherd, but the vice-chairman of the commission Bill Schawacker thought it looked more like a fox terrier.

One member said they need a breed of dog more representative of Town and Country.

“It needs to be a Labra-something,” she proclaimed.

Many members immediately agreed. So much for dogs that became American icons, such as Rin Tin Tin, Lassie, Yukon King (ok, he is Canadian), Huckleberry Hound or even Underdog. No make room for the Labradoodle!



Rin Tin Tin and Rusty



Lassie and Timmy



Yukon King and the Sgt.



Huckleberry Hound



Never fear Underdog is here



Labradoodle posing on an expensive stone walkway.

**IMPRESSIONS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY:** The annual Plein Air painting competition was held while my wife and I were in Canada this year. However, I was able to see the 1<sup>st</sup> place painting and the painting that won the “people’s choice award” at the Arts commission meeting.



The first place paint by Bill Neukomm was of the new sidewalk on Clayton Road in front of the Principia.



The painting voted as best by people at the reception was a tree in Longview Park.

The Arts Commission had some money left over in their budget and wanted to buy one of the paintings. The artist of the 1<sup>st</sup> Place painting wanted \$300. While the painting that won the People's Choice award by Shawn Cornell, reportedly had a \$700 price tag. The commission went with the tree in the park and requested an attempt be made to negotiate the price down.

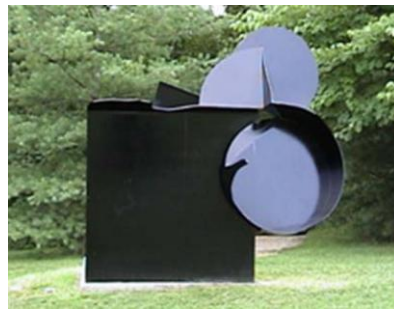
My wife who plein air paints with Cornell on Sundays mentioned to me that the \$700 price tag was for two paintings. The Commission members seemed to have trouble grasping the fact that many experienced plein air painters will do a morning and an afternoon painting at events like the one held by Town and Country.

**THE IMPACT OF THIS NEWSLETTER:** Apparently some persons in a position of power in Town and Country, while not admitting it...are actually reading these newsletters.

Why do I say this?

The original application to St. Louis County Parks to obtain a large outdoor modernistic sculpture by the late Ladue artist Ernst Trova claimed the city wanted to place it in Drace Park near the playground and the two current log cabins. The log cabin area is where Alderman Skip Mange is obsessed with building a community of log cabins to show youngsters who can't lift their heads from tweeting for more than 20 seconds, what it was like to live in the early 1800s.

I have had had great fun using the below photos showing Daniel Boone and Mingo stalking a Trova.



But now Lynn Wright told the Arts Commission that some aldermen have expressed concern about placing a Trova in Drace Park. What! They are trying to take away some of my best material.

She asked the members to think about somewhere else to put it. Someone actually suggested in the grassy area at the rear of city hall. The only people who would see it there would be cops leaving the station, who are subjected to seeing enough weird stuff around town and Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton when he attends meetings and parks his sports car in the police garage to avoid being out with the citizens on the parking lot after meetings.



**A NICE CHANGE:** I have skipped going to Architectural Review Board meetings because it seems that all the new houses are the same French Provincial/English Castle McMansions. However a recent visit to city hall I asked to look at plans that have before the ARB recently and one new house design on Topping Acres caught my eye.



This is clearly a contemporary style house. To the right of the house is a drive through entrance to a courtyard which leads to garage space for at least nine automobiles. The owner is a car collector and wants his collection nearby. So far only excavation work has been done on the site.



**AS PREDICTED DEER-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS SOARED IN OCTOBER:** Despite having only three deer-car incidents in September. History showed they would be many more in the final three months of the year. The October figures showed that to be true.

In October there were 15 deer-vehicle encounters in town. All of the accidents, but one, were on the divided highways of I-270, I-64 and Highway 141. The one exception was on Clayton Road at Jo Carr Lane at the Marie de Villa complex.

This puts us at 65 deer-vehicle incidents in 2013, which is the same number as in 2012. Of course this is after 115 deer were killed by city contract sharpshooters over a 16-day period in late December. This shows the spring birth rate more than made up for the 115 deer killed.

In 2012 the year ended 97 deer-vehicle accidents. This year there will be no deer shooting in December to reduce the accident totals. In January 2014, the city will be spending one-third as much money on deer sharpshooting (only \$40,000 versus \$114,000 in 2012).

## **ST. LOUIS RIVERFRONT CRIME WORRIES GO FROM CRUISE LINE**

**TO KSDK TO USA TODAY:** If I am on vacation and whether in Canada, in Europe or on a cruise ship, when I run into people who mention they have visited St. Louis, I always ask what they saw. Many immediately mention they were at the Arch. My next question is always, "Was your car broken into?"

There have been so many car and bus break-ins on the riverfront with people just passing through and deciding to stop at the Arch, only to return to their vehicles to find their possession gone and \$500 or more in damage. This includes church buses, service families travelling across country after a serviceperson is changing bases or just regular everyday tourists.

I'm apparently not the only one to notice the high number of car break-in both on the riverfront and at Forest Park.

USA Today quotes from a KSDK report where American Cruise Lines said it was concerned about cruises stopping in St. Louis due to the crime. All Police Chief Sam Dotson will recommend is that the cruise line hires its own "security."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/news/2013/11/15/cruise-line-st-louis-crime/3583317/>



Afraid to stop in St. Louis due to the crime.

**THE REAL AMERICA:** I have posted below an article from the Washington Post that I found fascinating. (Since this is a non-profit newsletter costing me about \$2,500 a year to produce, I have merely have clipped this article to share with my friends.) According to author Colin Woodard who researched American voting patterns and opinion polls going back to the beginning...there are actually 11 distinct regions of the United States. If you live in the St. Louis area you either live in the Midlands or Greater Appalachia.

Former sports writer and radio host Kevin Horrigan, who now writes editorials for the Post-Dispatch, made fun of the study and the article by Woodward in his Sunday column. However, I pasted it on this newsletter several days earlier while I was putting this newsletter. It had been sent to me by a well known St. Louisian, who thought it was interesting...as I did.

## Which of the 11 American nations do you live in?

- By Reid Wilson

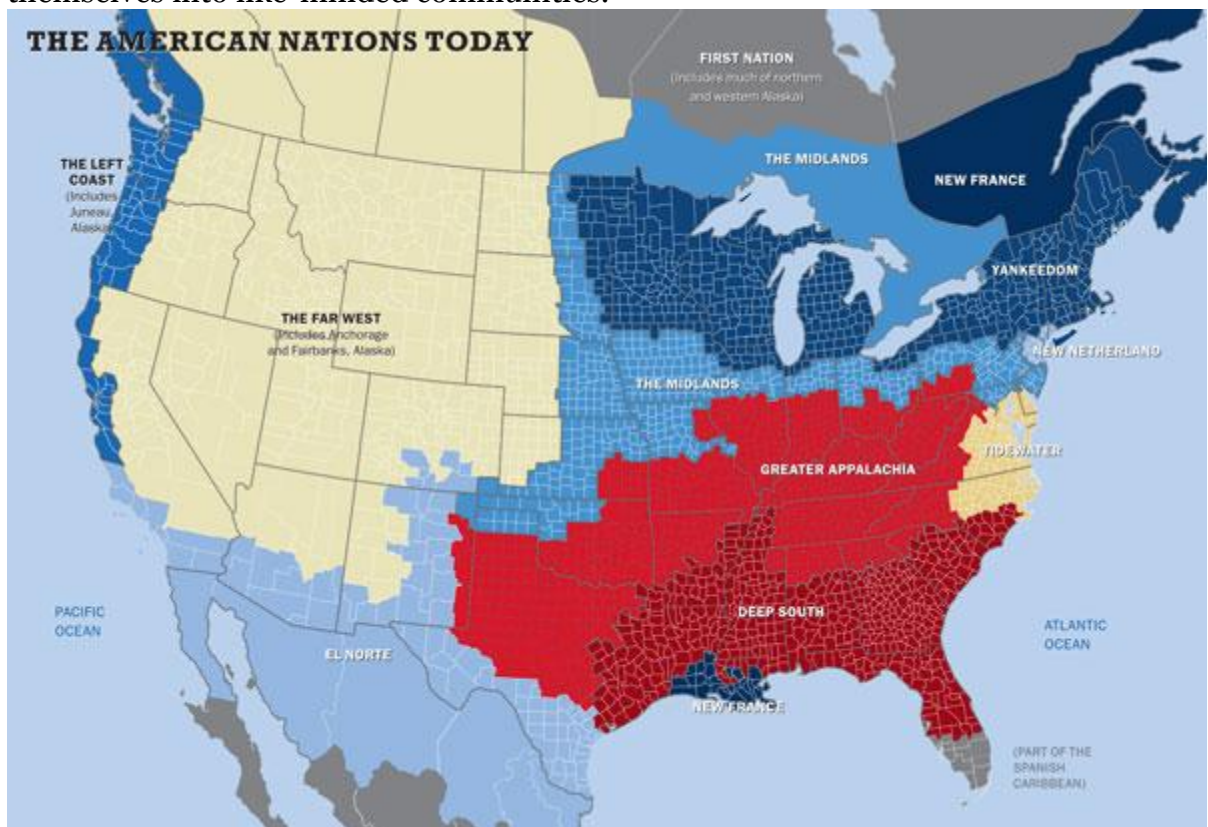
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o November 8 at 1:36 pm

- Red states and blue states? Flyover country and the coasts? How simplistic. Colin Woodard, a reporter at the Portland Press Herald and author of several books, says North America can be broken neatly into 11 separate nation-states, where

dominant cultures explain our voting behaviors and attitudes toward everything from social issues to the role of government.

- “The borders of my eleven American nations are reflected in many different types of maps — including maps showing the distribution of linguistic dialects, the spread of cultural artifacts, the prevalence of different religious denominations, and the county-by-county breakdown of voting in virtually every hotly contested presidential race in our history,” Woodard writes in the [Fall 2013 issue](#) of Tufts University’s alumni magazine. “Our continent’s famed mobility has been reinforcing, not dissolving, regional differences, as people increasingly sort themselves into like-minded communities.”



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- Courtesy Tufts Magazine

Woodard lays out his map in the new book “American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America.” Here’s how he breaks down the continent:

**Yankeedom:** Founded by Puritans, residents in Northeastern states and the industrial Midwest tend to be more comfortable with government regulation. They value education and the common good more than other regions.

**New Netherland:** The Netherlands was the most sophisticated society in the Western world when New York was founded, Woodard writes, so it's no wonder that the region has been a hub of global commerce. It's also the region most accepting of historically persecuted populations.

**The Midlands:** Stretching from Quaker territory west through Iowa and into more populated areas of the Midwest, the Midlands are "pluralistic and organized around the middle class." Government intrusion is unwelcome, and ethnic and ideological purity isn't a priority.

**Tidewater:** The coastal regions in the English colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware tend to respect authority and value tradition. Once the most powerful American nation, it began to decline during Westward expansion.

**Greater Appalachia:** Extending from West Virginia through the Great Smoky Mountains and into Northwest Texas, the descendants of Irish, English and Scottish settlers value individual liberty. Residents are "intensely suspicious of lowland aristocrats and Yankee social engineers."

**Deep South:** Dixie still traces its roots to the caste system established by masters who tried to duplicate West Indies-style slave society, Woodard writes. The Old South values states' rights and local control and fights the expansion of federal powers.

**El Norte:** Southwest Texas and the border region is the oldest, and most linguistically different, nation in the Americas. Hard work and self-sufficiency are prized values.

**The Left Coast:** A hybrid, Woodard says, of Appalachian independence and Yankee utopianism loosely defined by the Pacific Ocean on one side and coastal mountain ranges like the Cascades and the Sierra Nevadas on the other. The independence and

innovation required of early explorers continues to manifest in places like Silicon Valley and the tech companies around Seattle.

**The Far West:** The Great Plains and the Mountain West were built by industry, made necessary by harsh, sometimes inhospitable climates. Far Westerners are intensely libertarian and deeply distrustful of big institutions, whether they are railroads and monopolies or the federal government.

**New France:** Former French colonies in and around New Orleans and Quebec tend toward consensus and egalitarian, “among the most liberal on the continent, with unusually tolerant attitudes toward gays and people of all races and a ready acceptance of government involvement in the economy,” Woodard writes.

**First Nation:** The few First Nation peoples left — Native Americans who never gave up their land to white settlers — are mainly in the harshly Arctic north of Canada and Alaska. They have sovereignty over their lands, but their population is only around 300,000.

The clashes between the 11 nations play out in every way, from politics to social values. Woodard notes that states with the highest rates of violent deaths are in the Deep South, Tidewater and Greater Appalachia, regions that value independence and self-sufficiency. States with lower rates of violent deaths are in Yankeedom, New Netherland and the Midlands, where government intervention is viewed with less skepticism.

States in the Deep South are much more likely to have stand-your-ground laws than states in the northern “nations.” And more than 95 percent of executions in the United States since 1976 happened in the Deep South, Greater Appalachia, Tidewater and the Far West. States in Yankeedom and New Netherland have executed a collective total of just one person.

That doesn't bode well for gun control advocates, Woodard concludes: “With such sharp regional differences, the idea that the United States would ever reach consensus on any issue having to do with violence seems far-fetched. The cultural gulf between Appalachia

and Yankeedom, Deep South and New Netherland is simply too large. But it's conceivable that some new alliance could form to tip the balance."

## **NEWS MEDIA WATCH:**

**WHO'S WHO:** Everyday in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch when I see the "Today's Birthdays" usually after the editorials in the Entertainment or "People" sections I usually wonder who the editor is who chose those specific people. There are many other people, who me, a 60-year-old, considers better known. I chose three days of examples and compared the PD's notable people with birthdays to my list.

### **November 14:**

#### **The Post Dispatch's List**

Jazz pianist **Ellis Marsalis** 79

Writer **P.J. O'Rourke** 66

Pianist **Yanni**, 59

Actor **Brian Dietzen**, 36

#### **My List**

Former UN leader **Boutros Boutros-Ghali** 91

Former baseball player and broadcaster

**Jimmy Piersall**, who was the feature of the

Book and movie "Fear Strikes Out" and was

Harry Carey's broadcast partner for White

Sox baseball on TV and radio in the 1970s, 84.

**Prince Charles**, 65

Former Secretary of State **Condoleeza Rice**, 59

### **November 15:**

Actor **Ed Asner**, 84

Actor **Sam Waterson**, 73

Actor **Sean Murray**, 36

**Judge Joseph Wapner**, 94

Republican Leader **Sen. Howard Baker**, 88

Actor **Ed Asner**, 84

Singer **Petula Clark**, 81

Actor **Yaphet Kotto**, 76

Actor **Sam Waterson**, 73

Actress **Beverly D'Angelo**, 62

**November 16:**

Jazz Singer **Diana Krall**, 49

Cosby Kid Actress **Lisa Bonet**, 46

Actress **Martha Plimpton**, 43

Actress **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, 36

Actor **Steve Railsback**, who played Charles Mason in TV Movie Helter Skelter, 65

Actress **Marg Helgenberger**, 55 starred along with her boobs on CSI

Cy Young winning baseball pitcher and drug addict **Dwight Gooden**, 49

Jazz singer **Diana Krall**, 49

Cosby Kid Actress **Lisa Bonet**, 46

**Sunday November 17** I was in the most agreement with the Post-Dispatch on this day, but there were still some birthdays I think they missed.

Folksinger **Gordon Lightfoot** 75

Director **Martin Scorsese**, 71

Actress **Lauren Hutton**, 70

SNL Producer **Lorne Michaels**, 69

Actor **Danny DeVito**, 69

Actress **Elizabeth Mastrantonio**, 55

Actress-model **Daisy Fuentes**, 47

Actress **Rachel McAdams**, 35

Folksinger **Gordon Lightfoot**, 75s

Director **Martin Scorsese**, 71

Basketball coach **Jim Boeheim**, 69

SNL Producer **Lorne Michaels**, 69

Baseball HOF pitcher **Tom Seaver**, 69

Actor **Danny Devito**, 69

Former White House chief of Staff

**Howard Dean**, 65

House Speaker **John Boehner**, 64

**WHY AN OBSERVANT EDITOR MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA:** I have had a love-hate relationship with editors I have written for over the last 30 years at magazines, newspapers and website. Some editors drove me crazy with unnecessary changes in an article. There were a couple times I would intentionally insert a spelling or usage mistake to give them something to do so they would not screw up the basic article. On the other hand some editors made some of my work seem much better than it really was.

I have to wonder about the editor at Ladue News that let this item about my friend Jim Manley get by them...see if you can notice it.



11/15-16



**JIM MANLEY: MAD BRASS & RHYTHM** Jazz St. Louis presents a performance from Jim Manley, a modern jazz saxophone player, at Jazz at the Bistro. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. 289-4030 or jazzstl.org.

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The cutline under the photo mentions that Jim Manley is “a modern jazz saxophone player.”

First if you know anything about music in the St. Louis area, you know that Manley is one of the top trumpet players in the region.

But even if you didn’t, the guy has a “soul patch” under his lip, another sure sign of him being a trumpet player.

Finally the fact that he is holding a trumpet might be the biggest clue of them all that he is not a saxophone player.

**MUSIC:**

**Wednesday: Sasha’s**



A guest vocalist for two songs!



The usual crew.

## FRIDAY:

### Robbie's House of Jazz:



I had to work as the table referee at two college basketball games on Friday night, so I only made it to Robbie's, where Anita Rosamond was performing with her band, for the third and final set. The audience had the musicians only out numbered 2-to-1, which is

unusual for Anita, but common from Robbie's. I understand it was 5-to-1 earlier. Still with an almost empty room Anita put on a show as if the place was SRO.

### **JAZZ AT THE BISTRO**



This was the view from the stage of the SRO crowd for Friday night's Jazz at the Bistro performance by Jim Manley's Mad Brass and Rhythm

### **SATURDAY:**



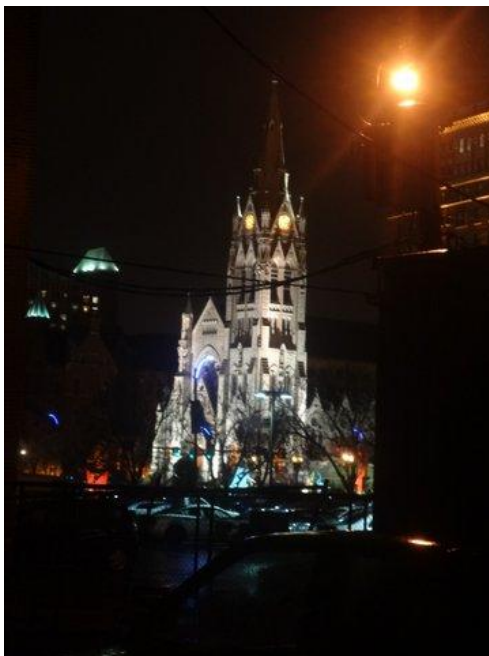
Here is the view from the sold out seats of Saturday's performance at Jazz at the Bistro.

I can't figure out how 300 people will pay \$20, but you can see Manley with others for free at Sasha's on Wednesday and sometimes there are only four or five people there for the music.

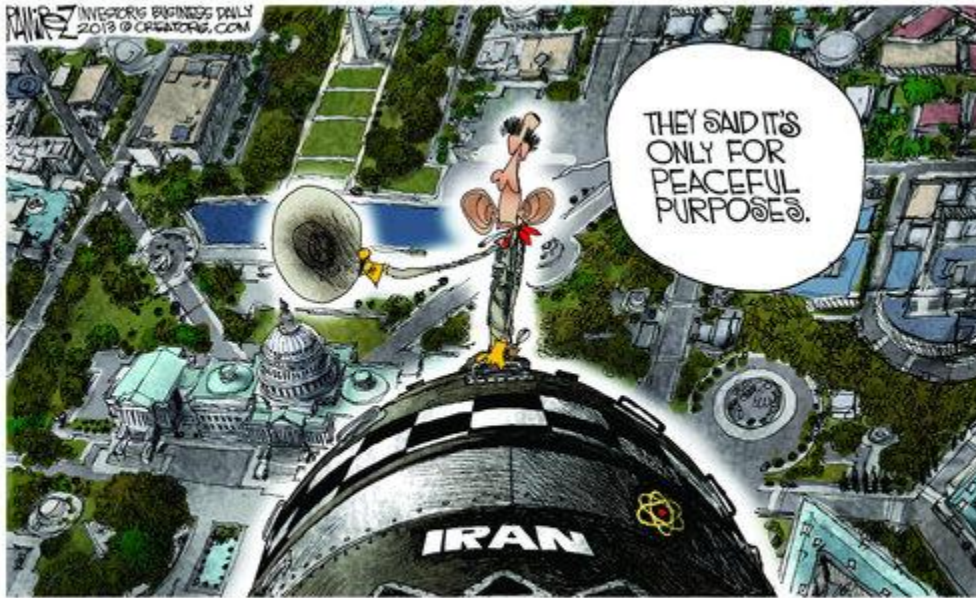


Despite what Ladue News says, here is one of the area's top jazz saxophone guys, Larry Johnson wailing at the Bistro on the very up-tempo Theme to the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show.

**A GREAT VIEW FROM A CITY PARKING LOT:** This is the view from the parking lot next to Bistro on Washington, looking back toward Grand and Lindell.



**CARTOONS:** There just weren't many cartoons that made me laugh this week.



**Dr. Strangepolicy**  
Or: How I Learned To **STOP** *Worrying* And **LOVE** The Inanian Bomb.

