

# UMSL CURRENT

July 22, 1974

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Summer Final

## UMSL grad program met with resistance

Ellen Cohen

The Post Dispatch recently disclosed that a struggle over graduate school resources had been ensuing between the presidents of St. Louis University and Washington University, and the chancellor of the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

Emery Turner, interim chancellor at UMSL, told the Current that, for the past 30 months, the presidents of the two private universities had been watching the development of the University of Missouri's academic plan with concern, and had been in correspondence with C. Brice Ratchford, president of the University of Missouri.

Their issue was that the proposed graduate programs slated for UMSL, including those already in progress, were a duplication of the graduate programs already available to St. Louisans.

Turner was dismayed, however, that the Presidents — Rev. Paul Reinert of St. Louis University and William Danforth of Washington University — never addressed the UMSL administration with their concerns and proposals. All correspondence had been addressed to Ratchford, and, as far as Turner knew, none of the past chancellors and interim chancellors had responded to copies of the letters they received from the university's Office of Public Information.

Feeling that the campus should not be bi-passed on matters that directly concerned it, he wrote to Ratchford and sent copies to the presidents of the private universities. He also said that a copy of his letter was sent to the Post-Dispatch by them.

The Post outlined two proposals that the private universities were setting forth as a way to prevent duplication of programs and to utilize their programs to the fullest capacity. One was a fellowship program where the student would receive full scholarship and a stipend of \$1000, and he would be able to attend the Missouri school — state or private — that offered his program. The fellowships would be monitored by the new Missouri Co-ordinating Board for Higher Education.

The other was a contract system where the Board would pay the private institution a sum based on the per-credit-hour amount as calculated to apply at the University of Missouri, and the student would pay his tuition to the board and attend the private university with his program.

According to Everett Walters, interim dean of the graduate school at UMSL, the cost of developing the graduate program there would not be as considerable as was thought. "We wouldn't need new facilities," he said, "just perhaps faculty." And Turner stressed that at the same time the graduate program would be using the "same highly regarded (and fully accredited) faculty" that are currently in the undergraduate program.

The presidents of the private universities pointed to the philosophy of the University of Missouri's academic plan which states that the University "take into consideration the offerings of other institutions of higher education in the state ..., private

and public, as it develops its total program." They stressed that their contractual and fellowship programs would encourage a more efficient use of funds, staff, and facilities, especially in light of the philosophy guiding the academic plan.

In response to this, Turner said, "we were mildly dismayed that UMSL was given such a modest role in graduate program development, and we were amazed that the private institutions would object to it."

UMSL is currently offering graduate programs in Biology, Business Administration, Chemistry, Economics, Education, English, History, Mathematics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Some of the programs cited for development by the University of Missouri Academic plan include nursing, social work, computer science, speech communication, and advanced degrees in sociology.

Turner continued, "we are in a time of mass education at the post secondary level. And UMSL offers the best cost-benefit package around."

With empty places in the al-

ready existing graduate programs, it appeared to some that the private universities were acting in their own self-interest. The presidents stressed that their proposals were in the interest of saving time and money in the development process, and also revealed that the schools could receive 300 additional doctoral students in fields which UMSL is planning to move into in the next 10 years.

Merrimon Cuninggim, a member of the co-ordinating board, thought that the proposals from the private universities could be tested in a pilot program. Despite the strong arguments of the presidents' correspondence, there was little in the way of figures to back them up. There was a study conducted three years ago, however, that pointed in their favor.

Both Turner and Walters felt that co-operation among the universities would be beneficial in using the graduate resources to the best advantage. "However," said Turner, "any prospective partnership must be equal and must be defined clearly as we go along."

## Study to explore voluntary activity fees

Walt Jaschek

Students had no say in the Board of Curators' recent decision to hike the incidental fee for the university \$20, but they will be involved in a decision regarding their student union and activity fees. The major question to decide: Should the payment of the fees be made voluntary?

A study is about to get under way on all four campuses of the University of Missouri to probe the possibility of having the presently mandatory activity fees paid on a voluntary basis. This is the result of a letter from C. Brice Ratchford, University President, to the four chancellors.

The July 5 letter is itself a result of a request made at the June Board of Curators meetings that "the administrations and the respective student bodies conduct a study of the desirability and impact" of voluntary activities fees. "This question," Ratchford wrote, "has been raised from time to time not only by members of the Board, but also by students and parents."

"This study must be conducted in such a manner that it will have credibility," Ratchford asserted. "I'm sure that Deans of Students and others will be glad to work with the student organization in developing means of securing some study which not only reflects opinion of the majority of the students, but also indicates reasons for the recommendations."

UMSL Student Body President Bob Engelken, who was present at the Curators meeting at which the request was made, acknowledged that the Central Council was preparing to undertake the study.

Engelken told the Current that the study would include a telephone survey and an actual balloting in the fall.

"We'll pass out information during the fall elections, and let

the students vote on the matter then," he said.

According to Engelken, the issue will be proposed to the student body with two separate questions. The first would be: "Do you think student fees should be placed on a voluntary basis?" The second would be: "If it were placed on a voluntary basis, would you pay it?"

The Board of Curators is asking for a report "no later than December." According to Ratchford, the "administrative group" will be undertaking a study of its own on the issue.

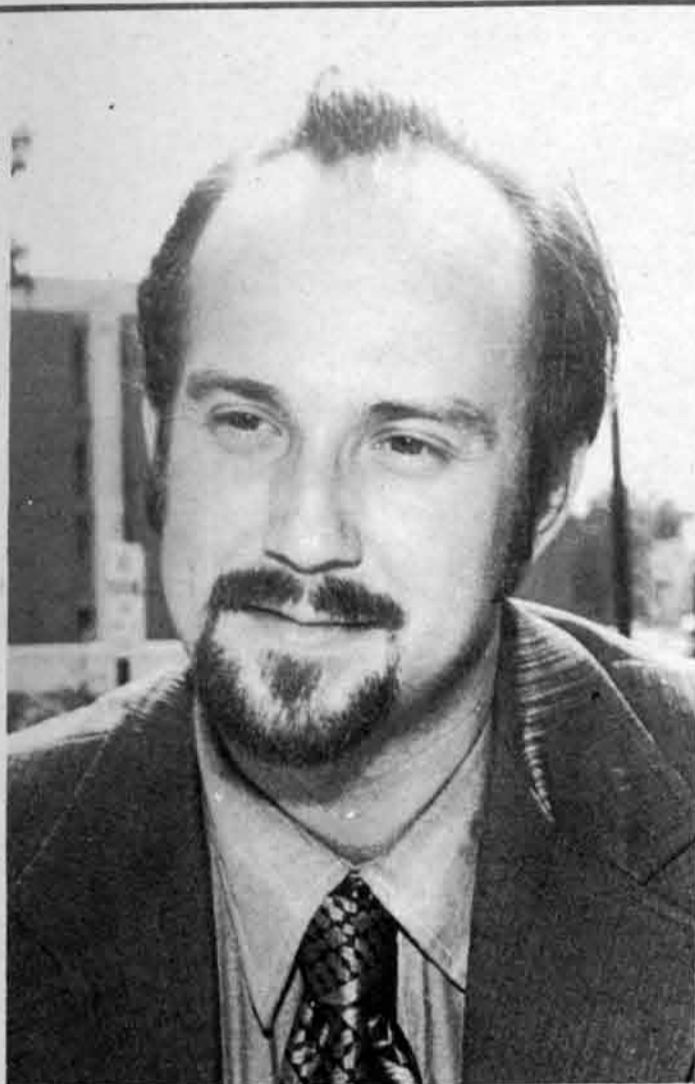
"However," Ratchford wrote, "I would hope the Administrative group would not develop a final recommendation until they see recommendations from the students. This means that the student body should report to my office through the proper channels — the Dean of Students and the Chancellor — no later than November."

At UMSL, each student pays a student activity fee of \$12.25 for five credit hours or more. Students registered for less than five hours pay \$2.45 per credit hour or fraction thereof.

Out of the \$12.25 collected, \$5.00 goes to retiring the bonds on the University Center, \$3.50 goes to intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs, \$2.50 goes to student activities, and \$1.25 goes to the bond retirement for the Multi-Purpose Building.

Ratchford said that part of the student fee which is pledged against the payment of bonds "should be ignored." He asserted that those payments must be made.

"We are talking about the part of the fee which could theoretically be dropped," he said. "I am not naming an amount since the total student activity fee, the amount pledged for bond, and the amount available for other programming vary from campus to campus."



Dennis E. Donham

### New assistant dean takes office

Dennis E. Donham, a counselor for federal assistance programs at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, has been appointed assistant dean of student affairs at UMSL. The appointment, effective immediately, was announced today by Dr. Conney M. Kimbo, dean of student affairs.

Donham, 29, received his master's degree in education with a major in college student personnel work in

1968 from SIU-Carbondale. He has completed the course work for his doctorate at SIU and is currently preparing his dissertation on the economic problems of college students.

Donham's duties will include serving as an adviser to student organizations, developing new student services programs, and serving as new student orientation coordinator.

Donham replaces J. Todd Dudley who resigned.

## Push for car pools will continue in Fall

Walt Jaschek

The cries of "crisis" regarding the fuel shortage have lost a little of their intensity, but car drivers are still conscious of higher costs and possible lack of fuel availability. Rick Blanton, Director of Student Activities, is counting on this consciousness to strengthen UMSL's car pool program, which is run from his office.

A new format for the car pool program was initiated during the Winter semester of '73 and the number of car pools "definitely increased," Blanton said. The format is being revised slightly, and, although he doesn't expect the 30% increase he got that semester, Blanton is pushing for a successful program.

Under the new format, a special "car pool card" has been placed in the student's registration packets. The student makes a check mark, deciding whether or not he wants car pool information sent to his home. Blanton said only 10% of the students give a negative response. \* Those that would like more knowledge get very distinct information: a computer print-out with the names of twelve UMSL students living within a one-mile radius of their home.

Although the computer time and mailing expenses are costly, Blanton feels the program is worth it. "This is easier for the student—he doesn't have to search through ads or bulletin boards."

Blanton wanted to stress a point regarding the availability of the names from the computer print-out. "If a student said he didn't want car pool information when he registered, then later changes his mind (perhaps he finds he can't have the car every day or something), the information can still be obtained." A student desiring such information should fill out an appropriate card at the Students Activities Office, 262 University Center.

Friday, August 30, is the last day a student can indicate his desire to obtain the print-out of names. After this date, the actual computing and mailing will begin.

Students in a carpool of three or more will still be entitled to reserve parking on the second level of Garage III, he noted.



# Dissertation wins historian award for UMSL professor

Bill Townsend

Jim Roark is one of those dedicated individuals we read about and say to ourselves, "Gosh I'd like to be like him!" but we never are.

Roark, an assistant professor of History at UMSL, has packed in a lot of living in his 32 years. After finishing undergraduate school, Jim and his bride Martha joined the Peace Corps. They were stationed there for three years teaching and experiencing the people. When he and Martha returned to the States, he began work on his doctorate at Stanford. While writing and studying for the Ph.D., Jim also taught at Stanford, not an easy task. It was there that the likable historian wrote his doctoral dissertation entitled, "Masters Without Slaves: Southern Planters in the Civil War and Reconstruction." It was this dissertation that won him the Allan Nevins Prize of the Society of American Historians (and a thousand bucks to boot). In 1971 he came to UMSL where he has been ever since.

Roark spoke about the award and the man for whom it was

named in an early morning interview.

"The award was established fifteen years ago. It is given to the individual who combines both good scholastic work and good writing. Dr. Nevins was one of the grand old men in history. He was the first to set up an Oral History program at Columbia University in New York. He did many things, but his major goal in writing history was to aim at the general literate public. He said if history was written just for historians it was doomed," said Roark. Dr. Nevins, who died four years ago probably would have liked Roark's work.

The 370-page piece took Roark three years to complete. He started in the Spring of 1970 and finished up in the summer of 1973.

In the article on Roark, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* called the work "an interesting look at a class of people (the planters) whose entire ideology, philosophy, and society was suddenly wiped out, leaving it without a base."

In the *Post* article Roark termed his work "hardly what you'd call a major historical discovery. But it cast some light on an interesting subject. Regardless of whether the planters were right or wrong in their pre-war thinking, they certainly received a major trauma, just as major as that which the slaves felt when they suddenly became free."

The lanky professor plans to revise the award-winning dissertation into a book. Hopefully, he said, the book will be out about January, 1975.

Long before James Larry Roark began thinking about writing a doctoral dissertation, he and his wife of (then) one year decided to join the Peace Corps. That was 1963. He explained why he signed up.

"First it was an idealistic time," recalls Jim. "I thought (President John F.) Kennedy was the greatest thing going. Secondly, and I think this probably had more to do with the decision than the first, I was tired of going to school (he had just completed his undergraduate work), plus I wanted to have some excitement. So my wife and I signed up for a two-year hitch and ended up staying a year longer."

"Being in the Peace Corps was, at times, frustrating. Before we went to Nigeria," said Roark, "we spent four months learning a language. Then, when we learned that we were going to Nigeria, we discovered that the language we learned was not even spoken there. But all in all," he summarized, "the Peace Corps was a fine intellectual experience."

Roark teaches the survey course in History which deals with large blocks of time in American History. The classes unfortunately are, says Roark, large and inhibiting. Besides these large classes, Roark has taught the chronological history courses 1860-1900 and 1900-1940 as well as the History of the South (to be taught by him this Fall), plus a couple of senior seminars and Freshman seminars.

In discussing teaching, the thoughtful professor said, "Teaching is a difficult proposition. Each individual has to find a style that suits him. I'm not a great orator, though certainly I lecture. But," he noted, "I encourage interruptions from students. I don't feel a class is going well unless there are interruptions. Of course it can get out of hand. Some people are persistent in wanting to know the dietary habits of John C. Calhoun, or 'did Washington really have wooden teeth?' or, 'how much did William Howard Taft weigh?' But these are risks I'm willing to take."



SEA SHORE STUDIES: 18 UMSL geology students investigated wave mechanics and beach movements on their recent trip to Santa

Rosa Island. Here students use the alidade and the transit, the two major tools of their study.

## Florida beaches provide students with 'do course'

Carol Parks

Two and a half weeks spent on an island amid sugar white sand and waving palms, while warm sea breezes roll in with the surf may be everyone's conception of a vacationer's paradise, but to the troop of 18 geology students led by assistant professor of geology Larry Lee and associate professor Bob Henson, it meant some serious ocean study.

The group set en route for their recent trip to Pensacola, Florida on May 21 with the use of a university van and three cars for Santa Rosa Island, a narrow strip of land running along the state's northwestern side. They chose to work there because it was possible to compare the primitive beaches with the already developed areas.

The initial purpose of their visit was to allow the students fieldwork experience and the opportunity to participate in, what Lee calls, a "do course".

"In an urban university, students don't have much of a chance to acquire first hand knowledge," said Lee. "This offers a totally different type of educational experience other than that of a classroom."

Each student paid \$175 for food, transportation and housing, plus \$125 for the Student Union, activities, and athletic fees, which enabled them to receive four hours credit.

From talks with students who went on the trip, most felt they definitely learned more doing actual fieldwork, where they could experience and see what they otherwise might spend three days on in lecture. As arts junior, Bruce Mitchell said, "What you can apply yourself, stays with you."

The project involved everyone working as a team. "Everyone had to learn in order to get things done," related Pat Redenbaugh, a freshman in arts, who also went on the trip.

Once on the Island, the group stayed in two large cabins, 50 feet from the ocean. The first five days were spent hiking around the island and conditioning themselves to the sun, which proved to be less successful in some cases than in others. Also during this period, instructors took the opportunity to explain the operation of the instruments they would be using in their work and gave a mini-course on astronomy. After these brief

restful days, however, the crew worked at an average of eight to, as much as, 14 hours a day.

Largely, two instruments were used in their work. The alidade, which took measurements on land, and the transit, for beach and ocean calculations, used in making topographical maps. Both instruments required them to work, at times, in water about 170 feet out on the gulf side and 400 feet on the sound side.

Students divided into three groups of six persons each, alternating between the transit and alidade. On a typical day, everyone got up at 5:30 am and worked outside, while it was still cool, until breaking for lunch at 12:00 pm, and then resumed working from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Projects involved the study of wave mechanics, beach movements and structure, and population and ecology surveys. Their studies involved more intensive work than anyone had anticipated, although their only real complaint was having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch everyday. Most evenings were spent working on their maps.

Though the trip did involve rigorous study, students managed to break away from it, on

the weekends, to enjoy outdoor activities, such as visiting Pensacola Naval Base, swimming and sailboating on the gulf and sound side, bike riding at Fort Pickens and net fishing with a red snapper fisherman off the island's pier.

The trip went pretty much as planned, except on the last day when one of the groups pulled a man out of the water, who had been exhausted from fighting against the waves. The students themselves, due to prior study on the power of the ocean, knew enough to stay out of it that day.

"It's a unique experience living with people who are very different from one another," said Bruce Mitchell, "and it was also one of the few opportunities given by UMSL to meet others." Most felt they had gotten to know more new people this way than they had previously. From going, says Pat Redenbaugh, she's made 20 new friends. The most impressive part of the trip, for her, was learning about the power of the ocean. Kim Johnston, freshman arts student, was most impressed with the beauty of the area and the quarter mile wide sand dunes, but for Peggy Bedrosian, sophomore arts, it was the people she met on the trip.

## Summer classroom for Spanish: Mexico

The Current received this letter postmarked Saltillo, Mexico.

A group of seventy students from UMSL and other area schools is spending five weeks studying Spanish in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. Under the direction of Mr. Luis Clay of the modern language department, we have been taking classes and individual tutoring sessions to increase our fluency in Spanish.

We left St. Louis on Saturday, June 15 and flew to Dallas. We then went by bus to Saltillo, a city of 150,000 people, situated in a mountain valley. The city, which was founded in 1591, is the capital of the state of Coahuila. In the central plaza of Saltillo, across from the governor's palace, there is a beautiful cathedral built by the Spanish which lends to the colonial character of the city.

After arriving on Sunday, each student was assigned quarters in the home of his "adopted" Mexican family. The next two or three days were spent adjusting

to new surroundings, different customs, and unfamiliar food. Most of the students have praised the cooking skills of the senora of their respective casas. The changed diet, however, gave many students Montezuma's Revenge which, in most cases, was short-lived.

Many extra-curricular activities have been planned for the trip. We have been sightseeing in the surrounding area and have visited the place where Pancho Villa was captured during the Mexican Revolution. Villa and his band of desperados based their operation in Saltillo. The site of his capture is marked by a grotto. Other events included a festival with Mexican music and dancing, attending a Mexican wedding reception, and picnicing in the mountains.

The high point of the trip was the week of travel throughout Mexico. We visited Guanajuato, which is reputed to be the most beautiful example of a colonial city, as well as Monterrey and Mexico City.

Patricia Malinee



Jim Roark, recipient of Allan Nevins Prize of the Society of American Historians

### UMSL CURRENT

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Someone with knowledge of campus preferred.

See Charlotte, 267 U. Center (453-5291)

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## Emergency treatment, short-term care available at Health Clinic

Dee Gerding

UMSL's Health Clinic is about three steps from the Admissions office in the Administration building.

Staffed with a part-time physician, a full-time registered nurse, a full-time licensed practical nurse, a part-time registered nurse, and a secretary, the clinic has many services for the UMSL community.

For example, syphilis, gonorrhea, white blood cell count, Pap smear, pregnancy, throat culture, urinalysis, and gram stain testing are done at the clinic with little or no cost to the student.

The clinic's main function is to have emergency treatment available to faculty, staff, and students according to Ms. Susan Blanton, a registered nurse there.

Emergency treatment means tending to rat bites, cuts, burns, and major injuries.

"Usually it's nothing major," she said, "but people feel more comfortable having someone there to tell them it's all right."

The clinic also has a kind of outpatient service for students with short term illnesses. Students can see a physician four days a week during the morning hours if they are in need.

Dr. Philip J. Shanahan has been at UMSL since 1970. He is a 1960 graduate of St. Louis

University's undergraduate school and a 1964 graduate of St. Louis University's school of medicine. He did his residency in general practice.

Shanahan likes working here with young people because "the cure rate is so much better." He also thinks they are a lot more fun.

He feels the services are "adequate" to fulfil the clinic's purpose. But he also expressed a desire to see more equipment available at the health center. He declined to list any specifics.

The singular complaint Shanahan has about working here is that he does not get enough time to spend with patients.

"Sometimes it's too busy," he said.

Given his irregular schedule, Shanahan is successful in conveying a personalized approach to patients. With a few exceptions, students like him.

Liz O'Brien, student, who has been going to the health center for over a year for minor illnesses said Shanahan was "the best doctor. I like him because he listens to you and makes sure about what is wrong. He makes you feel sure."

Still another student said without a doubt he was "a thoroughly nice and competent fellow."

All students with whom I spoke, including myself, were either completely or "basically"

satisfied with the treatment received. They described the nursing staff as "friendly," "helpful," and "competent." They all also said they would recommend the clinic to anyone who was in possible need.

Approximately 20 students come into the clinic daily with an annual average of 2000 or about one-fifth of the student body. The complaints are usually of minor consequence although serious problems are occasionally spotted.

Shanahan cited on instance where a benign tumor was detected and the patient had it removed in time.

If you are an evening student and need medical help, you could be in some trouble, because the staff is limited. One part-time R.N. runs the clinic at night, while there are three persons who do so during the day.

A visit to the clinic would impress you about as much as one to a regular physician's office would. The nurse takes you in, weighs you, takes your pulse, blood pressure, temperature, and asks what the problem is. The rooms in which patients are seen are the same as those of any physician's office.

The UMSL Health Center is open five days a week year round between 7:30 am - 9:00 pm. Call 453-5671 if an appointment is needed.



Ms. Susan Blanton takes the blood pressure of student Steve Swalles as part of the clinic's health care.

Photo by Larry LaBrier

### Urban Journalism Center

## 'Last step' for journalism students

Sherrie Rosen

Journalists are not just snoopy people, contrary to popular belief and the Nixon administration. They are snoopy people who are the product of a long educational process in their field. The Urban Journalism Center at UMSL is the last step for a prospective journalist before he or she becomes a full-fledged reporter.

Formed three years ago this September and headed by former KMOX-TV broadcaster Spence

er Allen, the Center seeks to give practical experience to graduate journalism students. These graduate students from the campus in Columbia have a choice of a reporting specialty in their final semester. They have the opportunity to go to London as foreign correspondants; to Washington to study government reporting; or to St. Louis and study urban journalism. Eight to ten students participate in this program at UMSL each semester.

"These are the most I can

work with," said Allen. "I act like a managing editor. I assign a story per week, so it is very intensive. I edit and review their work, and if they don't have it all, I send them out again."

"These students do in-depth reporting on all urban area problems. I've had them report on the conflict between the city and county, race relations, housing, the tax plight of the city, the ghetto, and many other areas."

In this manner, the students get much needed practical experience. Sometimes their stories get into the major St. Louis dailies. This does not happen often, Allen said, due to the fact the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and St. Louis Globe Democrat have their own news staffs reporting on these problems. The articles usually appear in the county journals and in surrounding community papers like St. Charles, Crystal City, and Alton, Illinois.

Allen came to the Urban Center at the request of Dean Roy Fisher of the School of Journalism in Columbia. At the time he was editorial director of KMOX-TV. His duties at the Center, in addition to supervision of the graduate students, include seminars on urban reporting and the counseling of undergraduate journalism majors. He also teaches one undergraduate journalism course, "Mass Media and Society."

"This course gives an introduction to the relationship of media to society and media as a check on government. It is the same three hour course taught at Columbia and it will transfer," Allen said.

He said there are usually 60 students per semester who are either journalism or speech majors.

Allen noted the number of persons in the course was evidence of the great influx of students into journalism. He alone counsels over 100 journalism majors at UMSL, while there are more than 1100 enrolled at Columbia.

He projected that admission to undergraduate programs is going to be as hard as admission to graduate programs soon.

## Radio dramas soon to be aired

The voices of several students may soon be sneaking into your living room over the radio tubes — in the form of radio drama.

Director Fred Kolchinsky has taken the well-worn form of radio mystery and, like other stations in the area, is trying to perk it up and bring it back for KWMU. The script, said Kolchinsky, calls for 15 roles and one technician (for the sound effects). "And, in the old tradition of radio drama, we will be doubling up on roles."

Associate producer, Roger Schwartz, is enthus-

iasic about not only bringing back the time-proven scripts, but working with original ones. If this test case is successful, he will be seeking original scripts written by students.

Also, students interested in interviewing personalities for the student production "Friday Magazine" are invited to leave their ideas in Schwartz's box at KWMU, Rm 105 Lucas Hall.

It is still a mystery when the first radio drama will be aired. The premier will be announced in the fall. Meanwhile, keep your eye on the dials ...

## Fund for journalism students in memory of OPI director

Bill Morrison

About two months ago, the Robert E. Smith Memorial Scholarship fund was established on the UMSL campus after several people at UMSL wanted to honor Bob Smith. Smith was the founder of UMSL's Office of Public Information in 1967, and was its Director until his death this past spring.

The qualifications for the scholarship fund are still indefinite because contributions are still being received by the office of development. The director of the Office of Development, Richard Dunlap, said that "they thought it should perhaps provide scholarship assistance to someone who is in the general area of communications, journalism or pre-journalism, or something like that."

The Scholarship is only open to students attending UMSL. The Scholarship has been established for this general purpose, but there hasn't been any criteria set up for choosing students or how they will be chosen because they don't know how large the fund will be.

Dunlap said that there is a substantial amount of money

that has been collected so far. Most of the contributions are from people who are connected with the University.

Dunlap also said that if they don't get enough to establish an endowment Scholarship fund, "they may put it into a loan fund, to use and repay as it builds up." All scholarships are handled through the agent awards office in Admissions. Depending on what criteria is used for the Scholarship, a recommendation would be asked for. A committee will probably be established for recommending students. Dunlap also pointed out, "if it's available this fall, an announcement will be made."

### Newspaper course for fall

"Special Projects in Communication" will be offered next fall for students interested in newspaper media. Listed as Speech 199, the course will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:20 until 8:00 for three credit hours.

The emphasis of the course will be on news writing, editing, production, and newspaper management. Those interested should contact the Current office Rm. 256 University Center or call 453-5671.

## CURRENT'S

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# St. Charles Theatre will lose its home to parking lot

Elizabeth O'Brien

The St. Charles Theatre and Opera House on N. 2nd Street in St. Charles, Missouri, has for the past two years been very industrious. Yet, even after rehearsals, play performances, scenery making, and volunteer work throughout it all, the Opera House will no longer pose as the home of the St. Charles Theatre Company, directed and managed by Frank and Sandra Wersching. The site of the old Opera House, which has been a cinema theatre since the 40's before it became the St. Charles Company's home, will be torn down and a parking lot put in its place at the end of August, 1974.

In inquiring what will become of the theatre company, the answer was indefinite. The St. Charles Company hopes it will be able to take up residence at the Old Opera House on 311 North Main Street, which was built during the Civil War. But this locale is only a hopeful one, and if it cannot be acquired by the St. Charles Company, they will go on tour.

What makes up this St. Charles repertory acting company who for the last two years has put on a summer season of well-known plays, plus a less rigorous fall and winter season, is a cast of strictly volunteer workers. When I asked a member of the theatre what makes all these actors and actresses volunteer he said, "sheer love. These actors and actresses put in so much time, that they practically live here." Mike, the usher, said he himself worked voluntarily and that everyone affiliated with the St. Charles Opera House did.

One unfortunate thing about the company is that the cast works so hard in rehearsal and performance time, but finds there is very little turn out. "The company has been known to put on a performance for only two people in the audience," says Mike with a disgusted look on his face. Most of the actors and actresses act in two or more of the plays being put on for the season.

The plays being performed for the 1974 summer season are, "A Streetcar Named Desire," "You

Can't Take it With You," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," and "The Lion in Winter." According to their guest list, the theatre has found that most of its audience comes from St. Louis and very little from St. Charles.

The stage is small in floor space, but its height is the important feature. Props can be stored and moved adequately because of the tall ceiling. At one time the stage had an orchestra pit in front of it, but when the St. Charles Company obtained the building they built over the pit to extend the stage, then used the space underneath for storage.



The cast is a repertory cast, which consists of professional and student actors and actresses. Some of the drama students from Lindenwood College's Drama Department act in the company. Also many of the professionals teach classes at Lindenwood, or at the theatre in extension with Lindenwood. During the summer, college credit drama classes such as, acting, directing, playwrighting, mime, stagecraft, and techniques of creative dramatics are being taught at the Opera House. Frank Wersching, manager and director says, "All these activities are the benefits of having a Repertory Theatre in St. Charles."

"Frank Wersching works as a professional," states Mike, "and that's what gives it a professional air." Most of the scenery is done by Wersching. Being that funds are low, the company must be thrifty with the materials it uses for scenery.

After this summer season the cast will do some children's plays which will be taped at the St. Charles Opera House before it is torn down. Also, they will do some Edgar Allen Poe plays which will be taped at Lindenwood College, "after twelve,"

since that particular stage has the appropriate atmosphere. Lindenwood College Drama Department helps the theatre out with the loan of spot lights, and the company gets a lot of cooperation otherwise from Lindenwood.

Such guest performers as J. Robert Dietz and Anne Lambert are with the St. Charles Company this summer.

Besides putting on plays, the company offers a coffee house after the last performance of each evening. Coffee, tea, milk, and desserts are sold on top of "The Balcony" of the Opera House where the audience has a chance to meet and chat with the actors and actresses, and where one also can sit and watch the next day's scenery being changed on stage.

"Everyone likes it, that's why they volunteer," says Mike, "Once you start working here, you're stuck here. But one thing is sure," says Mike as a lover of theatre and a resident of St. Charles, "If the company can't get the Main Street Theatre building in the fall, it will be a long time until St. Charles will see a live theatre playhouse again."

## \*\*\*\* etcetera \*\*\*\*

### Weekend flicks

Friday nights in J.C. Penney Auditorium at 8 pm

Friday, August 2nd: START THE REVOLUTION WITHOUT ME [1970]

Gene Wilder and Donald Sutherland portray two sets of twins separated at birth. Years later, their simultaneous presence at the court of Louis XVI causes such confusion in

mistaken identities that the Revolution of 1789 is nearly averted.

Friday, July 26th: OUR MAN IN HAVANNA [1960]

Alec Guinness, stars as a vacuum cleaner salesman who takes a job with British Intelligence to keep his daughter in spending money. Uncertain as to how to go about spying, he creates a spy ring consisting of imaginary agents and sends back elaborate plans of Cuban military installations.

### Bluegrass concert

Don Brown & the Ozark Mountain Trio, as well as Rich Orchard, Frank Ray & the Cedar Hill Grass will get together for an evening of bluegrass music on Saturday, July 20 8 pm in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Admission is free. The program is sponsored by the University Programming Board and financed by student activities funds.

### Auditions for chorus

Auditions for the University Chorus and the Missouri Singers will be held Sept. 3 - 5, from 12 until 2 pm in the Multi-Purpose Bldg. Rm. B-5.

The two choruses have performed with the St. Louis Symphony and will be joining them again this year. For more information contact the Fine Arts Dept. 453-5901.

## Muny won't 'let us' forget past

Beverly Bishop

Nostalgia! Will we ever see the end of it?! If Peter Bogdonovitch and Norman Mailer have their way, it looks like we're in for a long run of it. For they have discovered (and this takes no mastermind) that when times are bad, people find it pleasant to look back to when times were worse, but, ah!, infinitely more innocent. In words of one syllable, nostalgia is good box office.

Our own Municipal Opera, not to be outdone, intends to exploit this tendency to the hilt. This year, it will present musicals based on nearly every decade of this century. Some of them even contain elements of more than one time period, and if this seems anachronistic, let me hasten to explain.

The season opened with a 50's style musical, "Take Me A-

long", which was actually set at the turn of the century, 1906 to be exact. It starred no less than the King of 40's and 50's nostalgia himself, Gene Kelly. The musical itself is not new either, having been around in one form or another since the 30's when Eugene O'Neill originally wrote it for the theater as "Ah, Wilderness". Adding up, I count no less than four separate time periods for the nostalgia freak to trip out on.

Last week, the featured attraction, "Over Here", starred those living exponents of three-part harmony and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boys", the Andrews Sisters. (Ask your mother if you don't happen to be a

Bette Midler fan.)

Future offerings, such as "Good News", will recreate the fast and furious Broadway of the Roaring Twenties, while "Mack & Mabel" concerns early film maker, Mack Sennett and the star of most of his silent movies, Mabel Normand. (Ask your grandmother.)

To round out the season, the Muny has booked such proven crowd pleasers as "Man of La Mancha", "Gypsy", "I Do, I Do", and the Moiseyev Dancers. There is even something nostalgic in this, for the same people often come to see these shows again and again. Will we ever learn? Probably not. God knows the promoters won't let us.

## 'Chinatown,' almost Watergate

Gary Hoffman

Many people have been saving their inflated money lately, and not going to the movies. It's time to break open your piggy banks. A really good movie has finally arrived.

"Chinatown" is the movie, and Jack Nicholson is the star. He portrays a private investigator whose primary function is to gather evidence on cheating wives and husbands. A former police detective assigned to Chinatown, people's infidelity has made him very successful.

One day Gettes (Nicholson) gets involved in a case that quickly gets out of control. A water department official's wife hires Gettes to check up on her husband...only the woman he is seeing turns out not to be his girlfriend, his wife turns out not to be his wife, and the water department official turns up dead. If that's not bad enough, Gettes almost gets his nose cut off and winds up being sued by the official's real wife.

This is only the beginning.

Gettes unwisely pursues the case, and finds out that the entire city of Los Angeles is being taken for a ride by very rich, very dishonest people. Not to mention very dangerous. People get killed when they start asking too many questions.

We now come to the big message of the movie. Everything is controlled by very powerful people and there's not a damn thing you can do about it. You'll just get hurt if you try. The characters in the movie know this is true in L.A.'s Chinatown, but are blind to the fact that it is universally true. "That's Chinatown," one character says of the entire affair. It's not true, though, since all of the action except the climax occurred elsewhere.

Chinatown, then, is not the name of a place. Rather it is the name of the entire syndrome... the corrupt rich and the people's attitude toward them. The movie was set in the past but the syndrome has not gone away. Today we just say, "That's Watergate."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

PICK UP AN OFFICIAL CURRENT CLASSIFIED AD ENVELOPE FROM ROOM 255 U. CENTER OR FROM THE CURRENT MAILBOX IN THE U. CENTER LOBBY. 10c A WORD. ADS MUST BE IN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO PUBLICATION DATE.

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Blue change purse  
Two fishing licenses

All items may be picked up at the Information Desk in the University Center. Items such as books and keys are not described in this column as the owner must identify them.

This listing is for one week only. The Information Desk has numerous books, notebooks, and countless other items dating back six months. They strongly advise that students put their names in all books and notebooks.

### NOTICE

The Current is resuming its classified ad section beginning with the first fall issue. Advertise your lost and found items, personal messages, club notices, items for sale, and anything else in the classified ads for only 10c a word. Ad forms can be picked up at 255 University Center or from the Current mailbox in the lobby.

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