Racial slurs alleged in Woods Hall altercation
UM-St. Louis student claims assault in dispute over parking

by Michael O'Brien of The Current staff

An African-American student alleged that she was verbally and physically threatened in a confrontation that seemed to occur in the lower living level parking area of Woods Hall and ended in the Admin Building.

According to Hairston, a woman’s scarf was grabbed, but she let go of it out of fear that she would be hit with the scarfed weapon. She held onto the railing as she ran to the Admin Building and the parking space had given her the opportunity to get away.

The altercation stopped near the Admin Building, but Hairston maintained she was afraid and went to the police station for assistance.

"I want those two individuals arrested and I want them to be banned from campus." -Christina Hairston

The Student Voice and the UM-St. Louis Police Department are currently investigating the incident.

Optometry students appeal Task Force on student fee increases
by Susan Benton of The Current staff

A contingent of approximately 30 optometry students attended the Student Task Force meeting on Monday to make sure their fees should not be raised.

The task force took no action on UM-St. Louis last Friday, Feb. 2, so no input from students and faculty relevant to low-student fees should be anticipated in coming weeks. Task force meetings are scheduled for each of the University of Missouri campuses within the month of February. A final report will be written and submitted to the president after the necessary meetings and action by the task force. A final report will be presented to the University Board of Curators.

"If this is an appeal process," Debnam said, "We want to listen to you." Optometry students wanted the task force to acknowledge that they were paying higher fees than those of other public and private optometry schools.

Third-year UM-St. Louis optometry student, Mary Beth Rhemberg, presented an argument on behalf of the school of optometry. Rhemberg noted the school is not a national-level, UM-St. Louis was not a very professionally rated school of optometry.

"Comparing graduate and non-graduate, private and public school of optometry in the country," Rhemberg said, "Our residents and nonresidents fees are considerably higher than UM-St. Louis."

"Our student fees are providing 45 percent of our program costs."

"This is the highest percentage for all the programs on this campus or any professional program." Rhemberg noted that the tuition levels of UM-St. Louis optometry to the Missouri professional levels.

"We are raising our tuition levels with UM-Columbia," she said. "When we [optometry students] graduate, we will be more in debt [after taking student loans]." Doctors of optometry are sometimes not less than medical doctors.

One student offered a suggestion on how to make the UM system for3 students more equitable.

"We need to be done in a time frame that can compare campuses," said third-year optometry student, Rich Wilson. "This is the first time..."
My not a perfect student, some people may think. That's why I'm not even a good editor (though I feel I have some worthwhile traits).

February, recognized nationally as Black History Month, couldn't have come at a more appropriate time for students at UM-St. Louis to examine the links between members of cultures other than our own.

Some may doubt that friction exists between blacks and whites on this campus. Evidence of this occurred recently in the University Center Lounge. The lounge, which is open only a few hours a day, is usually occupied by a majority of African-Americans. Despite the fact that the lounge seems one of the most comfortable chairs in Madison and offers a panoramic view of the quadrangle, very few whites can ever be seen in it. The lounge has been dubbed by some whites as the "Black Lounge." This term is an illustration of the racial bias and prejudices that have existed for hundreds of years. It is difficult to think that racism suddenly disappeared after the civil rights movement of the 1960's. It is, in fact, extremely true that many of the problems that existed then have only been resurfaced.

It is important for blacks and whites to look good in the relationships they have with one another. Instead of the stereotypical image of black and white, let me say to you that we are all a bunch of poorly working slobs trying to make it in a dog-eat-dog world.

Racial divisions split through the core of U.M.-St. Louis

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African-American History Month: celebration of culture and diversity

by John Jones of the Current Staff

The month of February is Black History Month and encompasses African-American culture and history. In the United States, 1976-85, the month has been officially celebrated nationally, and it has been recognized by the city of St. Louis since 1986. UMSL has taken part by organizing events, performances, readings, and programs, all under theumbrella of an African-American theme.

The University celebrated the opening of Black History Month with a show by the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre and with speeches given by guest speakers. The celebration continued in the J.C. Penney Building Auditorium February 2. Over 100 people turned out to celebrate the start of the celebration. Several local African-American women from the Unit of the Blues gave speeches in open mic sessions. UMSL Louis Chan-T, Shaneii T, and Yolanda M. were among those who were appreciated. Next to speak was Chancellor Blanche Touhill, who conducted a warm-up and networking session at the Black Repertory Theatre and to the audience gathered. The Chancellor went on to explain how the impact of the music and art of African-Americans is important.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow things are changing in a positive way." - Sheilah Clarke-Ekong

The program was full of spiritual music. One song, "Praying," was written by Professor Robert Ray of the UMSL Music department. The performance was performed by the J.C. Penney Building Auditorium. We heard a version of "Tuareg" sung by Ruth Brown alongside "Goin' Down South" by the national eating disorder awareness program. The pieces of Black History Month everywhere is to educate the public at various locations on campus about the contributions of African-Americans, and it was enjoyed by the students.

Yvette Blaine was just one of many who participated at the 100th year of the crowd at J.C. Penney February 2.

Student concerns increase on eating disorders

Counseling Services offers free screenings during Eating Disorders Awareness Week, Feb. 5-11

by Jill Barrett of The Current Staff

Concerned that your eating habits have gotten out of control? Many of us diet frequently, skip meals, or eat all the time. We are not hungry. Eating behaviors like these are common. It is hard to tell when these behaviors might be an early sign of an eating disorder. In an attempt to teach students about eating disorders, Counseling Services and the University Health Services will partner in the National Eating Disorders Screening Program (NEDSP) on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The screening program provides students with the opportunity to complete a screening questionnaire and receive information on eating disorders and the treatment available. Students will show symptoms of an eating disorder by being encouraged to make an appointment for a full evaluation. All screenings are free and anonymous.

In an attempt to teach students about eating disorders, Counseling Services and the University Health Services will partner in the National Eating Disorders Screening Program (NEDSP) on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

"We've seen an increase in students who have concerns about eating disorders," says Doug Strauss, staff counselor at Counseling Services.

The inventory is designed to help direct students in need toward treatment. Screenings will take place Wed., Feb. 7, in Mark Twain, Marshall Hall conference room, and Room 72UJ. Penney from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Informational tables will be set up in the University Center Lobby and the Women’s Center in Clark Hall.

"If you have concerns about your eating habits, please come in and talk to us," Strauss said.

Special events celebrating Black History Month will continue throughout February at various locations on campus.
The Burns Sisters “Close to Home”

The Burns sisters, Marcie, Joni and Anne, are something of a modern version of the Carter family. They sang together for a time in the 1960s and even recorded a single for Columbia Records. With their traditional sound, they have been a fixture on the folk music scene for many years. Their latest album, “Close to Home,” was released in 2023 and features a mix of originals and traditional folk songs.

Harmonizing with the others in the group, the Burns sisters, backed by a band including guitar and mandolin, create a sound reminiscent of the Carter family’s style.

Other songs that can be heard include: "Telephone," "You Have Arrived," and "Swanee," each demonstrating another dimension of the sisters’ musicality.

This is one of the least surprising albums of the season, but it’s a welcome addition to the traditional folk genre.

For a seamless blend of tradition and innovation, the Burns sisters have delivered a masterful performance on their latest album, "Close to Home."
**Men's basketball hope miss against Washburn Tubs**

-by Eric Thomas of The Current

Washburn 29 74 45 - 74
UM-St. Louis 19 16 15 75 - 79

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team opened up against the Washburn Ichabods Thursday night looking to avenge the loss of the Rivermen last time earlier. The Rivermen were up by eight points at half and held onto the lead in the second.

The Ichabods were led by senior Jason Cornelius who scored 23 points and pulled down nine rebounds. Senior Kevijn Price had 17 points and seven rebounds. Senior Eugene Trice Jr. added 16 points and eight rebounds. The Ichabods outrebounded the Rivermen 42-37.

The Rivermen were led by senior John Mahin who had 20 points and 10 rebounds. The senior pair of senior John Mahin and senior Miles Lawrence had 16 points and 10 rebounds. The senior pair of senior John Mahin and senior Miles Lawrence had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Ichabods will be in conference action next week at Fort Hays State University on Saturday.

**Washburn Finds Solidarity in Teamwork**

-by Ben Dunkin of The Current

The Ichabods found themselves in a tough spot against the University of Missouri-St. Louis Rivermen. Despite a strong performance from the Ichabods, the Rivermen emerged victorious with a final score of 79-74.

The Ichabods had a solid start, with a 45-45 tie at halftime. However, the Rivermen gained the upper hand in the second half, outscoring the Ichabods by 34 points. The Ichabods fought back but were unable to overcome the deficit.

The Ichabods were led by Senior Eugene Trice Jr., who contributed 16 points and eight rebounds. Senior Kevijn Price had 17 points and seven rebounds. Senior Jason Cornelius added 23 points and nine rebounds.

The Rivermen were led by senior John Mahin, who scored 20 points and 10 rebounds. The senior pair of John Mahin and Miles Lawrence had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Ichabods will be in conference action next week at Fort Hays State University on Saturday.

**Riverton Center Eric Blackie navigates through a maze of Washburn's blocks during the game last Thursday. Despite easy play by the Riverton, they lost the game to Washburn.**

-by Ken Dunkin of The Current

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**Effort by Desert women, Emporhia snatches victory**

-by Eric Thomas of The Current

The Desert women worked hard as a team and were able to overcome the Washburn Ichabods with a final score of 79-74.

The Desert women were led by senior Eugene Trice Jr., who scored 16 points and 10 rebounds. Senior Kevijn Price contributed 17 points and seven rebounds. Senior Jason Cornelius added 23 points and nine rebounds.

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Herweck said. “We’ve had lots of blow-outs, and team had some good players, better senior.”

“They (Vanderbils) had big leads” from Tennessee, no hit we’ll have a different game tomorrow,” LeCour said. “They just couldn’t catch up in the second and third periods, and just died. We’ll beat ’em tomorrow as long as we skate hard and Stickland works on his breakaway.”

“We will beat ‘em worse than we did tonight as long as we don’t go out and get lipped up,” Didel said.

John Dubicki was back in action wearing a Rivermen jersey and proved invaluable.

“(John) Dubicki is an all around killer player: defense, offense, defense, and half if we need him in goal, we can throw him back there,” said Didel.

Vanderbilt 2 0 2 - 4 St. Louis 4 1 2 - 7

Saturday afternoon Vanderbilt gave the Rivermen a better showing, but veteran goalie Chris Perkins stood strong and assisted the Rivermen in victory.

Equipment manager Max Flannia was dressed for back-up goalie this game, but wasn’t called upon for service. Perkins kicked out all but four Commodore shots. Mackie saw action at left wing, and picked up two penalties in the process.

By the end of the first period, the Rivermen hit the locker room with a 4-1 lead. Stickland again was the first to get the Rivermen on the board with an assist by Dubicko. Alunan has scored, assisted by Horm. Mackie had scored an assist going to Horm and Alunan.

The Commodores scored on a rebound effort at 15:05, but Horm retaliated at 7:50 by nailing a one-timer on a feed from defenseman Jason Renell. Vanderbilk came out in the second period to score first, but with 2:45 left in the period, Alunan was hooked down on a break-away, crumpled the net and goal tender, and scored the only Rivermen goal of that period.

“That was a garbage goal” Mackie said. “He put the goalie and the puck trickled in.”

Vanderbilt on a power play early in the first, Stickland and Bert added to the Rivermen goal. Forty seconds later, Dubicki poked in a Dubicko goal, which went to Commodore territory and set upStickland for the shot and goal.

The Commodores proved that they didn’t make the trip from Tennessee for nothing by scoring two more goals in the third, one on a power play. Dubicko was named as the star of the game, seeing yesterday’s atmosphere-like contest purely when the goal was scored. There were the dirty goals of the period, and the final was 7-4, again in favor of the Rivermen.

“Glen (LeCour) played physically and gave their forwards nothing,” Mackie said.

“Solid, hard-earned legit win and gave us what we rely on for game after game. Teams learn quick and quick to watch for that number 17.”

“We kicked out, displayed good passing, and worked well together,” Dubicko said. “Andy (Stickland) is improving along the perimeter, and all time lines are scoring, taking some pressure off fine Jim. The Florida National Tournament is right around the corner, and we will put on a good show for St. Louis.”

The Rivermen play next Feb. 16 and 17 against Indiana’s Ball State. Face off time is 10:30 p.m. Friday and 12 noon Saturday.

FROM PAGE 5

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"Second, tuition increase has increased the availability of financial aid," said David Davidson, associate dean of optometry, citing three points: More states in higher education have changed their policies and programs from sources other than government grants. Missouri is 43rd in higher per capita income, and in Missouri, even private schools are highly comparable. Silva is trapsed, the availability of financial aid is increasing, potential of current graduates. Third, it's financially in favor (among) UM St. Louis as a "moderate tuition school" when the optometry school is the most expensive of all 16 optometry schools in the nation. Most private schools that are 100 percent dependent on tuition for their income.

Suggestions were made about how to obtain the money for professional programs from sources other than tuition increases, such as through hospitals or other programs. McGuire's focus is experiences for professional and graduate degree programs. He also mentioned that, on a national level, Missouri was a moderate-state tuition, ranking 42nd of 50 states in higher education spending based on a percentage of income per capita. Missouri is 43rd in higher education spending per capita and 38th in income per capita. Sienna University. When someone makes a job as an RA, she is not expected to receive financial aid...