

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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1998 The Year in Review

Arts Center is story of the year

The Performing Arts Center has long been an issue among administrators and faculty but in 1998 students became involved as well. The proposed Center began the year on a rocky note when Students for Quality Education (SQE), a group formed late the previous year, released the results of a survey distributed to students of all majors which they said proved that many students still had serious questions about the Center. Another campus group, the Student Advisory Board, disputed the survey's findings at an SGA meeting saying many of the questions were biased and inaccurate. Later SQE's head Gail Babcock and another student Tonya Hutchinson attempted to hold an open forum on the issue. The gathering was lightly attended.

In another January confrontation, St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon made a surprise proposal that the Center be scaled back with the savings going toward a renovation of the Kiel Opera House. Harmon withdrew his opposition to the Center about two weeks later after a meeting with Chancellor Touhill.

The month ended with a boost from

Governor Mel Carnahan who recommended that the legislature complete the state's

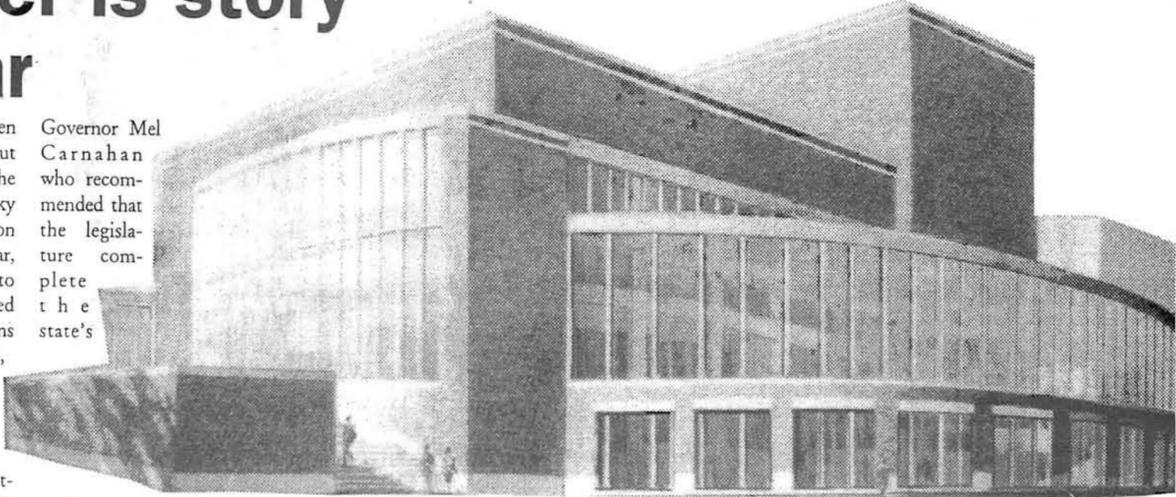
contribution to the Center with a \$23 million allocation. By May the legislature had passed the funding request.

In early July however, the Center came under fire again, this time by the campus senate's Budget and Planning committee, which cited a just-released consultant's report and raised concerns over

the Center's start up funds and ability to support itself.

By September, the Faculty Council would pass a resolution asking the Chancellor to hold discussions on possibly redesigning the Center, something she had previously ruled out. The Budget and Planning Committee followed suit in the next month asking that the Chancellor reconsider the facility's design. In

response to the growing pressure, in November, Touhill began scheduling open meetings to discuss faculty concerns about the Center. Just this month the Faculty Council passed a resolution asking the chancellor to give a written guarantee to "backstop" the Center's budget (see story page 2.)



Decision Day: A federal judge has ruled that the Ku Klux Klan is not entitled to air promotional announcements on KWMU. See page 2.

Score: B-ball Rivermen break a three-game losing skid with a victory over Wisconsin-Parkside. For stats and details, see page 5.

A Look Back: More of 1998: The Year in Review. See page 8.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

UI students conduct drinking survey

(U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa — Greeks drink to get drunk less than do non-Greeks, and 52 percent of students — considerably fewer than reported in a 1997 Harvard study — "binge drink," according to a University of Iowa drinking survey released Thursday.

The results of the poll, the first conducted by UI students, also showed that most drinkers do so to be social, and respondents believe that the definition of "binge drinking" — four drinks per sitting for women and five drinks for men — is too low.

The survey was designed and conducted by the UI Public Opinion class, taught by political science Professor Arthur Miller.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with 308 UI students randomly selected by the Registrar's office, Miller said.

In contrast to the Harvard study, which found that more than 63 percent of UI students binge drink, the student poll found only slightly over half were binge drinkers.

"The UI inherits binge drinking from high schools, because 76.4 percent of UI students started drinking before age 18," UI senior Slater Bayliss, one of the poll's conductors said.

The survey also asked several questions about Greeks and drinking. Only 30 percent of students polled viewed the Greek system positively, the report said.

Binge drinking is something that everyone, not just Greeks, struggle with, said UI junior Beth Elliott, an Alpha Phi member who helped conduct the poll. Elliott's statement is backed up by the survey results, which show that just 50 percent of Greeks drink to get drunk, compared with 60 percent of non-Greeks.

The poll also shows that six out of 10 UI students would classify themselves as "binge drinkers," consuming more than four drinks in one sitting.

The interviews conducted last month had a 79 percent response rate and a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percent, according to the survey report.

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Newsroom • 516-5174
Advertising • 516-5316
Fax • 516-6811



The latest news from KWMU

Campus radio station KWMU made news in more ways than one this year.

In December, the Ku Klux Klan lost its lawsuit against the station, allowing KWMU to decline underwriting from the group (see story page 2.)

KWMU had already won an earlier showdown with the KKK at an injunctive hearing in October. KWMU announcer Bob McCabe (pictured) broadcast word of the station's victory the next day.

In June, KWMU rocked the local media scene by firing long-time news director Lester Graham for insubordination. Graham's termination was followed by resignations from two news producers and an advertising representative. All three cited Graham's dismissal as a factor in their decisions to leave. Graham and the three resignees also termed the station an uncomfortable work environment and some complained of conflicts with General Manager Patricia Bennett and others in



Bob McCabe announces KWMU's injunctive hearing victory over the KKK in October.

Graham, who said he felt he was fired for threatening to file a grievance in a dispute over travel vouchers, filed grievances over the vouchers and his termination. The University decided against him on all counts in July.

Mailroom resignation gives rise to delays, controversy

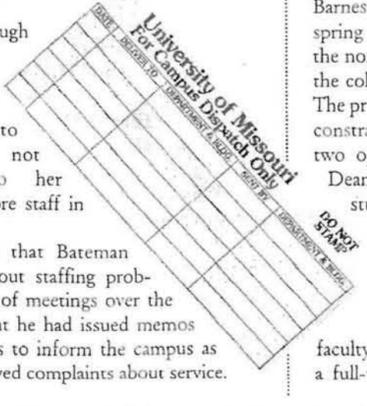
September saw the resignation of the long-time supervisor of the campus mailroom resulting in delays in mail service as well as a controversial e-mail criticizing the administration's actions in the matter.

The supervisor, Beverly Bateman, quit her job of almost 18 years in a dispute over staffing issues. The resignation caused a delay of several days for incoming and outgoing mail. Dennis Judd, a political science professor and head of the Faculty Council circulated an e-mail to faculty alleging that Vice-chancellor of Administrative Services Reinhard Schuster had failed to warn mail users of the potential delays before some had sent out time-sensitive

documents through campus mail.

Bateman said her departure was due to Schuster's not responding to her requests for more staff in the mailroom.

Schuster said that Bateman never spoke about staffing problems at a series of meetings over the summer and that he had issued memos about the delays to inform the campus as soon as he received complaints about service.



Avery, Progressive slate get nod from voters

With one of the highest voter turnouts in recent years, voters reelected SGA President Jim Avery to a second term in April, giving him nearly 60 percent of the vote.

The election, originally a three-way contest between Avery, Honors College President Todd Appel and University Program Board Director Sharone Hopkins, had become increasingly negative between Avery and Appel, with each accusing the other of launching attacks.

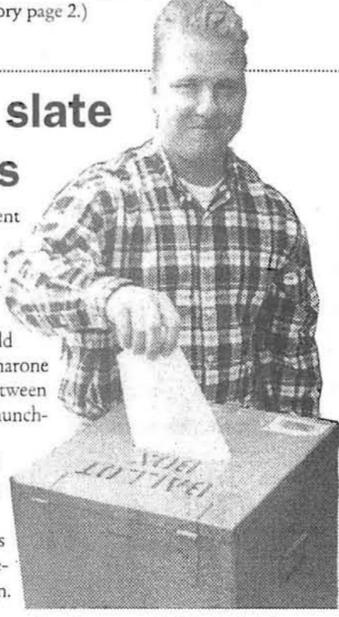
Citing "no particular reason" Hopkins dropped out of the race and endorsed Avery only days before the election.

Both Appel and Avery threatened grievances over various issues and both said their advertisements had been vandalized during the campaign. Neither side pursued the grievances.

Avery ran on his record citing a successful Homecoming dance and his role in encouraging students to run for the University Senate. He also promised to fight for the old University Center to remain a student-use building after the new facility is built, unless students are "compensated" for its use.

Other members of Avery's Progressive slate won as well. Incumbent SGA Vice-President Michael Rankins was reelected, while Ben Ash won his bid for comptroller.

Rankins narrow victory was sustained in a recount over the summer.



Jim Avery casts his ballot in April's SGA elections.

Trouble in the Nursing school

Dissent and controversy plagued the Barnes School of Nursing through the spring of 1998. The announcement of the non-retention of nine instructors at the college made big news in February.

The proposed cuts, a result of budgetary constraints, came only two weeks before two open meetings between Nursing Dean Jerry Durham and the school's students who complained of frequent curriculum changes, conflicting information from advisors and a "production-line mentality" at the college.

Despite the cuts in non-regular faculty, the college began advertising for a full-time, tenure track professor the

next month.

By late March, the school again became embroiled in controversy with the removal of Professor Linda Steele, from her position as coordinator of the Adult Nurse practitioner program. Steele alleged that her removal stemmed from disagreements she had had with Nursing's associate dean Connie Koch. Steele had a grievance pending against Koch at the time. Two others who had filed grievances against Koch, were Steele's husband James and June Hertell, both clinical assistant professors.

In August of last year, over 70 percent of returning faculty had issued a vote of no confidence in Koch.

NEWS THIS WEEK

Judge rules for KWMU in Klan case

Station's refusal of KKK promotional spot upheld; expected appeal already prepared

BY ASHLEY COOK
senior editor

UM-St. Louis' campus radio station has won the first battle in what is expected to be a long and drawn-out war with the Ku Klux Klan.

The decision came early Thursday with Thomas C. Mummert III, U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, deciding that KWMU is not a public forum, and therefore the Klan's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights were not violated when the chancellor refused to allow the Klan to underwrite National Public Radio programming.

In his judgment, Mummert said that the Klan was not "guaranteed access to all medium simply because their viewpoints are unpopular."

The Klan filed the suit in October of 1996 after their underwriting, or 15-second sponsorship statement, was refused for three episodes of NPR's "All Things Considered."

At a press conference Thursday, Patricia Bennett, general manager of KWMU, said that she was pleased with the judge's decision.

"It is a positive decision for all public broadcasting; nationally as well," Bennett said.

Bennett said that the case was not about free speech, but about accepting "gifts" from sponsors.

"We will continue to provide coverage of the Ku Klux Klan, both locally and in National Public Radio... but that is not the issue," Bennett said. "The issue is accepting a gift, and we've decided not to accept the gift."

Bennett said that the decision to deny the Klan's underwriting was made because it would negatively affect gift-giving and membership. Bennett said that 22

percent, or \$600,000, of KWMU's budget comes from underwriting, while 51 percent is membership support, about 20 percent from corporate sponsorship, and 8-10 percent from state funding.

Bennett said that the Klan's underwriting gift would have come to something slightly under \$200.

Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said that he would not comment on whether or not the University considered KWMU a public forum, deferring to the judge's decision and saying that the issue was gift acceptance.

"We were offered a gift by an organization," Samples said. "The chancellor declined the gift, and that is really the issue as we have seen it from the very beginning."

Samples would not comment on what types of groups were acceptable as underwriters, saying that gifts were handled on a case-by-case basis.

"Each gift that comes to the University is considered individually," Samples said. "We would have to be approached with that gift before that type of decision would be made."

Samples said that the University would fight any appeals made about the case.

"It is our position that we are right in this case, and we will continue to defend ourselves," Samples said.

Bob Herman, legal representative for the Klan, indicated later that he is already moving to appeal Thursday's judgment.

"It's round one in a long fight," Herman said. "[The appeal] is already prepared. It will go to the federal court of appeals for the 8th circuit [court]."

Herman also said that he was upset by the University's choice to contest the original suit.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

KWMU General Manager Patricia Bennett looks on while Director of University Communications Bob Samples answers questions about the University's victory over the Ku Klux Klan. Both spoke at the press conference Thursday afternoon.

"It's disturbing that an institution dedicated to promotion of principles and constitutional values should be fighting so hard to deny those rights to citizens of the United States," Herman said.

Samples said that he couldn't gauge student reaction to the decision, but that the chancellor had denied the

underwriting with students in mind.

"I do know that when Chancellor Touhill made her decision, she was thinking of the student body and what type of negative impact it might have on enrollment..."

Samples said.

Faculty Council passes Arts Center resolution

BY ASHLEY COOK
senior editor

The Faculty Council is asking the chancellor to put her pen where her mouth is.

The Council is seeking a written statement from Chancellor Blanche Touhill, which would state that she will keep the current University operating budget from losing funds to the proposed Performing Arts Center.

The chancellor said at the November Faculty Senate meeting that she felt that operating deficits would not be a problem with the Performing Arts Center, and that she would protect the budget.

Dennis Judd, presiding officer of the Faculty Council, reported at Tuesday's senate meeting that the council had earlier voted to ask for the written guarantee.

"The Faculty Council passed a resolution instructing me to ask the chancellor for a written commitment to backstop the Performing Arts Center, so that no funds from our current operating budget will be diverted to cover any operating losses that might be incurred," Judd said.

Judd also reported that the Council was looking for a way to collect information from various University departments on how the Performing Arts Center will be utilized.

"The Council will consider how to gather this information at the February meeting," Judd said.

The chancellor later said that she was in the process of creating a plan to backstop the budget.

"I plan to work with [the] Budget and Planning [committee] for the winter to develop some strategies to backstop the budget," Touhill said.

Touhill had no comment on specific ideas she had about backstopping or on whether or not she would give a written guarantee as the Faculty Council had requested.

Tenure revisions provoke questions

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff assistant

Concerned members of the University senate asked numerous questions about the recent tenure policy revision during Tuesday's meeting.

Rocco Cottone, chair of the senate Appointments, Tenure, and Promotion Committee presented a report detailing why the changes were necessary, the possible consequences of the changes, and what might happen in the future.

In the report, Cottone explained that the ATP Committee had been examining various "guiding documents" earlier in the year. During that process, it was discovered that the Faculty Handbook was out-of-date and was inconsistent with the most recent system-wide policy on tenure. An executive order issued in 1992 changed part of the policy. Jack Nelson, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, revised the current campus procedures to line up with the system policy, incorporated some changes suggested by the ATP Committee, and then presented the revised guidelines to the senate at its Nov. 3 meeting.

When the floor was opened for questions, many members wanted to know how the campus could have gone six years without knowing the tenure policy had been changed and

Faculty members ask about guidelines in senate meeting

how a similar problem could be avoided in the future.

"There was a failure here," Cottone answered. "Where did it happen? Was it the system? We might ask Dr. Nelson to try and do a search backwards to find out where there was a breakdown in communication so that we can be sure it doesn't happen again."

The fact of the matter is we found it, it's university policy, and now the question is how do we deal with it?"

William Connert, professor of mathematics, disagreed that the focus should be solely on the future. He said it was important to look back and see if the decision was made with or without faculty input.

"If tenure was changed without faculty involvement," he said after the meeting, "then I would like to know so I can organize some sort of protest. But if this was some sort of misunderstanding, then there is no need to protest. That's why I want to know how this decision came about."

Some members wanted the Interfaculty Council to approach UM System President Manuel Pacheco and try to have the executive order changed or open a discussion about involving faculty in future tenure decisions.

"I think the Interfaculty Council

“**There was a failure here... The fact of the matter is that we found it, it's University policy, and the now the question is how do we deal with it?**”

-R. Rocco Cottone
chair of the Senate Appointments,
Tenure, and Promotion Committee

could bring this up," Connert said after the meeting. "How is it that a basic change was made in tenure rules and we never knew about it, without ever discussing it? Let's bring this to Pacheco and discuss this. I would hope they could get a consensus on the four campuses that changes in tenure should at least be discussed with faculty, and the faculty should be informed when changes are made. Who would argue with that?"

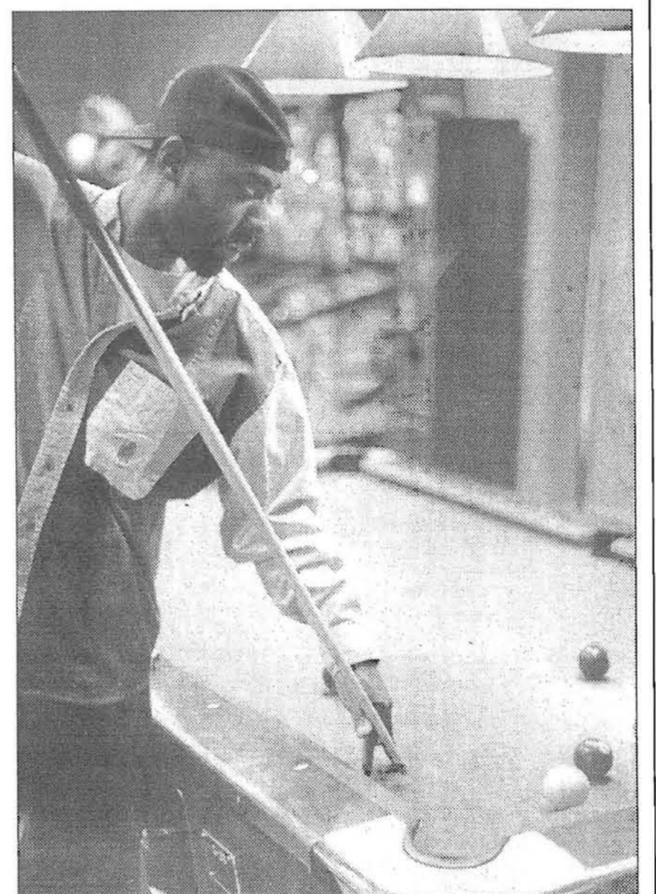
"[The IFC representatives] discussed whether or not this was the appropriate time to bring anything forward to the Interfaculty Council, and we realized we have nothing to bring forward," said Jeanne Zarucchi,

one of three IFC representatives. "It would not be productive discussion, in our view, to say we don't like this and we think it should be changed [without] a proposal to substitute for it."

Zarucchi and Cottone both encouraged faculty members to communicate with the ATP Committee any changes, revisions or concerns they might have, so that a substitute plan might be assembled.

"We invite people to discuss this," Zarucchi said. "Given that the ATP Committee has expressed its willingness to accept this responsibility, that's the direction to go to see if our campus can come up with a revision."

Everyone in the pool



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Darrick Clingmon shoots pool in The Underground during a tournament last week. First prize was a \$50 food credit in The Underground.

Profs grant will study HIV sufferers

BY JOE HARRIS
of the Current staff

Robert Calsyn, director of Gerontology Studies and professor of psychology, has been awarded a five-year grant of \$3,687,610 to study the effectiveness of different treatment approaches toward individuals with HIV who also suffer from mental illness and substance abuse problems.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Calsyn will be assisted by UM-St. Louis alumni Gary A. Morse, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, and W. Dean Klinenberg, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology.

"This study is going to evaluate whether a

new treatment approach which integrates services for people is more effective in helping them," Calsyn said.

The new treatment combines services for those suffering from the combination of HIV, mental illness, and substance abuse. Previously, patients had to go to different agencies for treatment. They would go one place for HIV, another to get help for their mental illness, and another for their substance abuse.

The integrated treatment's effectiveness will be evaluated on the participant's: increased adherence to HIV medication, reduced substance abuse, increased mental health, and increased overall health.

"The normal treatment system is what we call a brokered case management system," Calsyn said. "People come to a case manager, that case manager makes an assessment of the need and then sends them out to different agencies."

Calsyn hopes the integrated treatment will be more beneficial because it provides all of these services under one roof, instead of referring patients to different agencies and leaving them out on their own.

Morse is the Executive Director for Community Alternatives, the organization that is providing the integrated services.

FEATURES

Amy Lombardo, Features Editor
Phone 516-5174, Fax 516-6811

Get This

Faux pas can be an embarrassing experience

There's nothing more embarrassing than sticking your foot in your mouth. I'm not talking literally, of course, because that could actually be a pretty impressive feat (no pun intended).

This term 'faux pas' is French for 'false step'. The problem is, once you take that step there's really no turning back.

I seem to possess a natural knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. What can I say? It's a gift.

Once upon a time many years ago, I was hired as an usher at a local movie theater. I was being trained by an somewhat older, rather attractive young man. He was very sweet and I was smitten by his charm. I immediately began trying to get his attention by joking around with him in a sarcastic manner.

He was receptive at first, probably flattered by this kiddie crush I had so obviously developed. But I was beginning to worry that he really didn't pay attention to anything I was saying. He seemed to ignore my comments and constantly asked me to repeat what I had just said.

I don't know if it was frustration or just my teenage mentality and insensitivity, but I finally blurted out, "What are you, deaf?!"

To my complete horror and humiliation, he looked at me and answered sincerely, "Well, yes, in my left ear. You need to try to speak into the right one."

What does one say to that? I think I mumbled something like, "Oh, I'm sorry. Okay." or an equally inadequate remark.

Of course, the most horrible part is not the uncomfortable position of the person doing the actual foot-sticking, but the feelings of the person it involves.

I will never forget one incident in particular. I still get a knot in my stomach when I think about it.

One of my guy friends asked me to go with him to a wedding in Columbia. I was really excited, not only because he was a great guy, but because it meant a weekend away from home in a college town.

I asked my mom and she said yes, so I told him all systems were go. A few days later, my dad had a little talk with me and reminded me that it was my mother's birthday that weekend. He gave me incredible guilt about missing it. I decided to break the date.

As I was explaining this to my friend I kept stressing how important it was to my mom and saying things like, "You know how it is, I mean, it's my Mom! Moms are a special breed, very sensitive."

My intent was to let him know how much I really wanted to go and how disappointed I was that I couldn't make it.

For some reason, he seemed to be taking it pretty hard. In fact, I thought he started tearing up at one point. It was then that I remembered.

His mother had died just a few years before. I hadn't known him at the time, but someone had mentioned it to me before.

Needless to say, I was mortified. I have no idea what I said after that.

However, I've been on the other end of the spectrum as well.

A few years ago, my grandpa died. About a week after the funeral, I was at a friend's house wearing Grandpa's coat. I'll admit, it's not the most attractive piece of clothing - big, brown and bulky - but I love it. Apparently, my taste is not universal.

When I walked in, some guy said, "What are you wearing? It looks like someone's dead grandpa's coat!"

After I stopped crying and had a chance to reflect, I was actually impressed by his accuracy.



AMY LOMBARDO
Features Editor

THEN & NOW

Vietnam is revisited in a photo display at UM-St. Louis

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Richard Loftis of Lee's Summit, Mo. has been a professional photographer for 30 years. Loftis, who was interested in the contrast between war and peace times, was the official photographer for a medical mission in Vietnam in November 1997. This provided Loftis with an opportunity to see the life of the Vietnamese people through visiting museums, talking to people from vendors to children, and exploring the city and the countryside.

"Some of these photos are really emotional stuff," Loftis said. "The show came out of the premise that I wanted to see [the people's] perspective on how that war had changed them."

The exhibit called "Vietnam: Then and Now" is currently on display at UM-St. Louis in the Social Science Building (SSB) in room 362, the Public Policy Research Center. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The display is shown on two walls that are completely covered with photos of Vietnam. The exhibit will run through Jan.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Research assistant Brenda Collins looks at one of her favorite photos from "Vietnam: Then and Now."

23. Loftis personally introduced the exhibit at a lecture followed by a reception. The Center for International Studies co-sponsored "Vietnam" in addition to a grant from the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission. Loftis photographed every single aspect of Vietnamese life from traffic and vendors to the children. The pho-

tographs "Dien Huu Pagoda" and "Inside the Citadel" reflect the Vietnamese past by showing all the changes and countries which have controlled Vietnam in its extensive history. The "Dien Huu Pagoda" shows a roof covered with sea shells built around the year 1400. "Inside the Citadel" shows the city, Hue, which was the

Vietnamese capitol from 1802 to 1945. It began with the Chinese, then the French, and then the battles between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. These photos show the influence that all these countries have had on modern day Vietnam.

Loftis believes that the Vietnamese people are ready to leave communism and begin an era of democracy. In "Marbles," boys are shown playing with marbles, but what is most interesting to note is the Mickey Mouse, Lion King, and Snoopy insignias on their shirts. This shows how influential the United States is in Vietnam.

The "Rice Field North of Da Nang" shows how Vietnam is becoming a major producer of rice in the world. Loftis also thought it brought back Vietnam War involvement memories, although it is often portrayed in movies that way. One photograph, "Lady Street Vendor," just shows one street vendor, but as Loftis notes street vendors are numerous and they sell many things.

"Traffic Converging Into an Intersection" shows no stoplights or signs; traffic just moves without the help of control. Loftis notes the dream of many Vietnamese is to own a Honda which in Vietnam costs about \$2,800.

For more information on "Vietnam: Then and Now" call the Public Policy Research Centers at (314) 516-5273.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

What are you going to do over winter break?

"Read some Nietzsche."

-Ben Poremba
Junior/Philosophy



"Working doubles."

-Giao Trinu
Sophomore/Engineering

"Make as much money as possible."

-Segun Febiyi
Senior/Business Administration



"Well, I am an exchange student and I am going back home for Christmas break. I will probably do a lot of shopping, hang out with friends, rejoice with my family."

-Patricia Beaudin
Senior/Accounting

UM-St. Louis is national residence hall award winner

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Susan Ellis, a sophomore at UM-St. Louis, has a history of being very involved in student activities. When Ellis attended South Pemsco High School in Steele, Mo., Ellis said she was involved in everything except for the shop and art clubs.

"I'm a social person, at least I like to think that, [and it's] really good to see everyone having a good time," Ellis said.

For her efforts and achievements, Ellis earned the National Student of the Month award from the National Association of College and University Residence Hall (NACURH). NACURH, the largest national residence hall association, has 437 member schools that represent thousands of students. Ellis was nominated by the Residential Hall Association (RHA). The recommendation was written by Josh Miller, the national communications coordinator for the RHA. The nomination was first written to the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Hall (MACURH) and won the regional award. The regional winners were submitted to NACURH, where Ellis won on the national level.

Ellis was presented her award, a golden engraved frame which held the winning letter, at an RHA meeting on Nov. 23. Lisa Grubbs, UM-St. Louis Campus Housing Administrator, said, "we were excited when Susan won on the regional level, but we were positively ecstatic when we learned she had been chosen as the national recipient. She is very deserving of this

honor."

In addition to 17 hours of classes, Ellis participates on the Student Government Association board representing the Honors College, of which she is a member. Ellis served as a coordinator with the Haunted Hall, an annual Halloween event of the RHA, and Ellis also served as residential life orientation leader.



Susan Ellis

With the RHA, Ellis helps with the Homecoming Committee. Ellis said of all these committees, "it's not a lot of time to print flyers and hire a DJ."

She described the theme of the upcoming homecoming as looking at how UM-St. Louis has changed over the years, especially concerned with the new millennium coming and the new technology. This Homecoming will be during basketball season in February around St. Valentine's Day, which Ellis said is nothing new because that was, "what it was like at my high school because we had no football team." For the Christmas season Ellis coordinated an effort to help the Salvation Army with the Sweep the Trees campaign. Ellis said the major challenges of the Homecoming now is advertising, publicity, and "cleaning details."

Ellis, biology major, has hopes to go to graduate school in order to pursue the study of forensics. Ellis chose this field because of television's X-Files and the character Dana Scully.

Ellis earned the Lillian Payne scholarship for her academic accomplishments at South Pemsco. Ellis said of UM-St. Louis, "overall it's a pretty good school and Honors College is really good." Ellis believes that there are problems with any college one can attend. She said her current challenge is, "calculus, but that should be no problem."

Comments

The Current
THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

Editorial Board

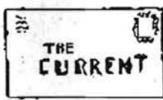
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Letters to the editor
7940 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121



Fax

(314) 516-6811



E-mail

current@jinx.umsl.edu



Telephone

(314) 516-5174

OUR OPINION

Court ruling against the KKK is a welcome decision for KWMU

The Issue:

This past Thursday, the court ruled against the KKK. Judge Mummert ruled in favor of KWMU, saying that the radio station is not a forum and it does not guarantee access.

We Suggest:

The decision should be upheld. The rights of both parties were respected and in this case freedom of speech was not denied or compromised.

So what do you think?

Let us hear from you on this or any issue in a letter to the editor.

Thursday's long-awaited ruling by Judge Thomas Mummert against the Ku Klux Klan in its battle with campus radio station KWMU was a welcome decision.

The Klan had said it was entitled to air advertising on the station like any other organization or business but KWMU refused saying that a Klan promotional announcement was not in the best interest of the listening community and that they could turn down any underwriting they wished to. Chancellor Blanche Touhill said that the University's private financial support base might be adversely affected by the station's agreeing to run the ad.

The case, filed late last year,

was finally decided last week when Mummert ruled that the KKK "is not guaranteed access to all medium simply because their viewpoints are unpopular. They are not guaranteed access to a public radio station, given the unique nature of the medium."

Mummert dismissed the free speech argument put forth by the Klan as "important" but noted that it didn't entitle them to airtime saying that the rejection was not a violation of their First Amendment rights and the public station "is not a forum" which has to allow all viewpoints.

While it is almost certain to be appealed, it is our belief that the decision is a correct one and should be upheld. No

group, unpopular or not should be allowed to dictate how a radio station or other media outlet may operate, or override such an outlet's decisions regarding its content or policies.

It is true that groups like the KKK have the same rights as everyone else to make their voice heard. Freedom of speech applies to everyone regardless of how distasteful their beliefs may be but while no one can deny the value of the First Amendment, no one should think that its protections can force others to provide a forum for viewpoints they don't want to air. The Klan should not be denied its freedom nor should KWMU be deprived of its rights.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Why SGA didn't vote on fee increases

Once again, the Board of Curators has asked students at this campus to bear the load of crushing fee increases which far outpace the rate of inflation, despite the already enormous increases of recent years, and despite cut after cut made in the academic and educational core of this University. Once again, the approval of these increases by SGA is demanded by the Board and its henchmen, despite their repeated refusal to allow sufficient time for SGA Representatives to consider these requests.

In response to the Current's courteous editorial, I would point out that although I will always be opposed to large fee increases, the SGA Reps technically are free to vote to raise fees into the stratosphere: it is neither my prerogative nor my wish to interfere with their ultimate right to choose. However, when Reps are bludgeoned by administrators with fee increases couched in an obscure phone-book of a document at the last possible second, any vote taken under such circumstances does not reflect choice. Rather, it only produces yet another meaningless, rubber-stamp



MICHAEL RANKINS
Guest Commentary

vote.

The SGA Representatives are supposed to reflect the opinions of the groups whom they represent, and the student body at large. In important matters such as fee increases, they need time to consult, time to refer, and above all, time to think. Yet again this year, they had none. The 1997

Resolution ensuring the provision of such time should stand; the Board can and will get us the fee information on time next year, but only if we insist. If they don't, let them whistle for their money. Otherwise, this carefully contrived game will continue at our expense.

Students must demand their right to informed representation. Standing firm on our convictions will earn us no more disrespect from the Board than is already our portion. Cowarding and capitulation will only further their often substantiated notion that students are lambs to be led to the slaughter.

People, this is your money. The speak-easy and the slick are accomplished enough at swindling and manipulating it away from you without your handing over your last dime to them with a smile.

Finding a place for the fine arts on the UM-SL campus

Why are we here? I don't mean that timeless philosophical question with no answer, I mean rather why does every person at this college go here instead of someplace else? The answer is simple; this university attracts people by both its staff and facilities. UM-SL has excellent educational facilities, and a staff that is tremendously helpful, qualified, and dedicated. Why then would anyone choose another college to this one?

I'll tell you why I almost did. This wonderful university, this haven for learning, this fountain of knowledge has no performing arts building. Yes, that's right my friends, a state university with thousands of enrolled students has no performing arts building. This means that the music department has to perform in cramped and inadequate facilities with inferior acoustics. The first major theatrical production in years will be performed with no orchestra pit and only one dressing room. Important speakers slip through the facilities to accommodate the type of crowds they expect to generate. Every year countless theatre, music, and dance students may be choosing other schools simply to find a place to display their talents.

This is not a school that is

attractive to people who are only interested in the arts, but it could be. Perhaps a performing arts center would not be as beneficial for History, Education, or English majors as to others, but it certainly wouldn't hurt these people to go see a concert or a play every once in a while. Maybe they might learn something, something that can't be

taught in a classroom or seen on a computer screen. Maybe they would learn something about themselves while waiting for Godot, or perhaps they would understand better the touch of sincere madness that strikes us all sometimes like Don Quixote. Perhaps they won't, but it is our job to see that everyone has a chance to fuel the fire within their souls with a touch of the fine arts. If you love English, that's wonderful, and I wouldn't imagine protesting the placement of a historical library (that I'll probably never use) on campus at any cost. How then can there be such protest over something that is so blatantly needed by a university this size? Though it once may have seemed an unreachable star, Chancellor Touhill is making this school more attractive to a wider variety of people. That dedication to improving the whole school is why I'm going here, and why I believe more students will choose UM-SL in years to come.



CHARLIE BRIGHT
Guest Commentary

Lost in the Atari 2600 time-warp

I have finally managed to dust off my old Atari 2600. Yes, I said Atari 2600 and I'm not the least bit embarrassed about it. So there.

Shockingly, many of you younger students in the reading audience will not know an Atari 2600 from a new type of subcompact car. Ahh, well, kids today. The 2600 was in fact the ultimate in video gaming back during the early eighties. Before Mortal Kombat, before Mario, there was Pac-Man, Pitfall Harry, Indiana Jones and the rest of the Atari crowd.

Granted, the graphics were not what they are today. Pac-Man was a yellow, pixelated blob, Harry appeared to have no arms unless he was swinging over a lake, and Indy's shoulders, neck and head seemed to have consisted entirely of a giant hat. But the plots of the game were great, mainly because they didn't have any.

Sure there was always a booklet with directions and a brief overview of the game. You were trapped on an alien world or in an evil magician's castle or something. It didn't matter. The constants were still there. You were the good guy. You were being attacked by something that was not good. You were expected to shoot it. No subplots. No themes. No character development.

This is in sharp contrast to today's games where you're expected to choose characters, none of them completely good or bad, get to know them, and their special talents and abilities as they operate in a complex, gritty world of moral gray areas, etc. Some of the plots are so complicated you need a scorecard just to keep track of everyone.

Joysticks are more complex now too. The simple point-and-shoot controllers of the old days are gone for good, making way for scary-looking eight-button monstrosities with wheels and pullies and things, that look like they were stolen from the cockpit of an F-16. One button, one handle. Aim and fire. How I miss the thrill.

So maybe I'll break out my old Reagan-era Atari again. I bought it used a couple of years ago with a second 2600 at a junk store. Eight dollars for the pair - with joysticks if you can believe it. Age is starting to show on them however. The contacts inside the machine are already wearing thin. The picture is grainier and the games quit sometimes. Some cartridges don't work at all anymore.

Soon I guess all the old Ataris will break down and be forgotten in some closet somewhere, more victims of planned obsolescence. But I won't forget. The childhood joy of Joust, Demon Attack and River Raid will forever be etched in my memory.

GAME OVER.



DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief

Toys from the past with a new twist

They certainly don't make toys like they used to, and boy do I mean it.

I was shopping through a local discount store when I stopped to check out the new Star Wars toys. It's so cool to me that kids are now playing with toys based on the same movies that I had toys for as a kid. That said, I was totally unprepared for what I encountered at this particular store.

I was slowly moving down the aisle, noting little things like, "Luke and Han must have started a steroid regimen since the last ones rolled off the line (my brother and I each had a large character doll - I had Princess Leia and he had Luke Skywalker)."

I was looking for Princess Leia and boy, did I find her. Remember the tiny little leather-type, gold-metal embossed bikini she wore briefly in "Return of the Jedi"? Well, this new toy Leia was wearing a plastic-molded, painted version of that bikini (although it was much smaller in proportion than I remember the movie version being) and that wasn't all she had—not by a long shot.

Lucky owners of this modern, updated Leia will also receive an accessory apparently deemed suitable for children's play by the folks at a toy manufacturer. The leather-bikini-clad Princess is also sporting a manacle and chain, vis-a-vis her role of "slave" to her keeper, Jabba the Hut.

I've been trying to envision the role-playing children might conduct through the use of this doll. Scenes from the movie that the bikini-clad Leia portray that could be seen as positive include strangling Jabba to death with her chain, and shooting at Imperials from launches off of Jabba's sail barge.

Some not-too-positive scenes, unfortunately (for the children to reenact), include Leia chained at Jabba's side after failing to save Han Solo, or Jabba yanking her to him by her chain and attempting to lick her.

The manufacturers in the mid-1970's chose to portray Leia in her regal white gown, with gravity-defying hair donuts and silver utility belt. Much more becoming to so strong a character, and much more appropriate for children's play.

With so many strong scenes and elegant or forceful costuming to choose from, it is a disappointment that a toy manufacturer would choose to portray a woman in such a submissive manner. Princess Leia could quite often be a very powerful character. Why not give kids the chance to discover that?



ASHLEY COOK
Managing Editor

SPORTS

Ken Dunkin, sports editor
 phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811
 e-mail: kdunkin@rocketmail.com

Off the Wall

Men's hoops perform like a team vs. Quincy

For years I have seen team after team lose in the Mark Twain Building. The men's program hasn't exactly been a top-notch program recently. After their 75-58 victory over Quincy last Saturday they may have made strides towards becoming a solid program again.

It was the first time I can remember a men's team playing a solid game from beginning to end against a decent opponent. The victory against Quincy showed something, this team is ready to play together.

Don't get me wrong; Quincy isn't by any stretch of the imagination a top-notch team. They are respectable as their 3-3 overall record shows. They also are ahead of the Rivermen in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with a 3-2 record. Their record was thrown out. Quite often the UM-St. Louis defense baffled the sloppy offense. Most of the game Quincy was out-hustled by an eager Rivermen player. And with few exceptions the game was controlled by the home team.



KEN DUNKIN
 sports editor

This was a major change for Head Coach Rich Meckfessel's squad. They had dropped their first two games. And even after the possible breakthrough game they only stand at 3-5 overall. They are also looking to gain in the GLVC as they sit at 2-3 - not really a record that makes the opposition worry about coming into their house.

Things seemed different on that night though. They were for the first time in years a team. Players made unselfish passes, often making too many passes. It wasn't a question of if the Rivermen were going to pull down a rebound - it was who. Terrell Alexander pulled down 15 boards, Kechan Johnson and Michael Coleman had eight. In all, the team out-rebounded Quincy 52-34. This was one of the places the game was won. Players were willing to sacrifice their bodies to pull down the ball. The team seems to have a new-found attitude.

The team also came though on their free-throw shooting. They shot 12-for-14 from the charity stripe. Only Alexander missed a shot from the line.

Everything added up in this game though it wasn't without its last-minute scares which have plagued this program for several seasons. Quincy had gotten as close as 11 points before the Rivermen found the way to close the books. They may have finally put to rest the curse of the last minute choking.

A well-balanced attack also led to the victory. Five players were involved in the scoring, seven players scored in all for the Rivermen. Coleman led the team with 15 points, Durrell Robinson and Jeremiah Foots put in 13 each. This will help the team in the long run as they proved that several players can put the shot in. The unselfish play on the offensive end of the court was impressive.

And last but not least for the team was very solid play from sophomore Greg Ross. Ross, the point guard for the Rivermen, played a solid 36 minutes. He put in 10 points and had 5 rebounds. Though not spectacular numbers he gave a slight glimpse into what may be in store for the program, solid leadership and an excellent point guard.

This may not have been the biggest win in school history but it could be a building block to build on. Having seen the program the past few seasons they sure could use it.

B-ball ends losing streak with weekend win

Rivermen defeat Wisconsin Parkside 70-49, earning a 2-5 overall record and standing 1-3 in GLVC



Stephanie Platt/The Current

A Rivermen basketball player eases the ball home during a practice session in Mark Twain earlier this year.

BY JOE HARRIS
 of the Current staff

The Rivermen broke out of a three-game losing streak by handing Wisconsin-Parkside a 70-49 drubbing last Saturday at Mark Twain.

Durrell Robinson and Greg Ross led the men's basketball team in points with 19 and 17 respectively while Kechan Johnson ripped down 10 rebounds.

"Greg [Ross] has been playing with a lot of confidence in the last couple of games," Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said. "He's been shooting the ball well. He's not making all of his shots but he has enough confidence...if he misses one to come back and take another."

"Durrell [Robinson] has been steady as a rock all year. I've never had a player who was better in terms of his approach to practice and playing. His work ethic is tremendous and it pays off by the results that he gets in the games," Meckfessel said.

The Rivermen took control of the game early by starting off with a 12-2 run. The run was sparked by the hot shooting of Ross and Robinson who combined for ten of the twelve Rivermen points in the game's first five minutes.

Alfonzo Lewis cut the Rivermen lead to four at 14-10 with 11:36 remaining in the first half. But the Rivermen would come back with a Ross three-pointer, and a two-point

bucket by Johnson to pad the lead to 19-10.

Wisconsin-Parkside would get no closer than five points the rest of the way.

Gene Stewart's 29 minutes off the bench gave the Rivermen valuable time and experience en route to the win.

"He had a poor shooting game

Everybody likes to start. The most important thing is not who starts but who plays the most minutes and if the team's winning.

-Rich Meckfessel
 Men's basketball coach

Saturday," Meckfessel said. "He'll usually knock down his shots and I think we'll probably continue to use him as somebody to come in and give us instant offense."

Coming off the bench is a different role for Stewart, who spent most of last year as a starter. Meckfessel believes Stewart can be more effective in this role.

"Everybody likes to start," Meckfessel said. "The most impor-

tant thing is not who starts but who plays the most minutes and if the team's winning. [Stewart] will get his minutes in. He'll just get them in a different form. He'll get them in the middle or the end of the game instead of the beginning."

Free throws, or the lack thereof, again was an issue for the Rivermen in the 1st half. In fact neither team got to the charity stripe in the first half, but the Rivermen found the line 15 times in the second half converting on 14 of those attempts.

The free-throw discrepancy between the halves had Meckfessel scratching his head.

"It doesn't speak well for the officiating," he said. "I don't think the game changed that much from the first and second half. Going from no free throws in the first half to 21 [total] attempts in the second half - I have no explanation for that other than the officials at the half decided they ought to start calling some fouls."

The Rivermen put Wisconsin-Parkside away for good with a 12-0 run in the second half that increased the Rivermen lead to 49-30.

Ross started the run with a bucket and Jason Frillman capped it with a steal and bucket of his own.

The win pulls the Rivermen record to 2-5 overall, and 1-3 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

Player Profile

B-ball guard on top despite past injuries

Injuries are a fact of life to the athlete. Some are serious, others aren't. But when a series of injuries takes an athlete away from the game they love for the better part of two years, it's just plain frustrating.

Rivermen basketball guard Jason Frillman knows this feeling. Frillman has spent more time in the training room than on the hardwood during his first two years at UM-St. Louis.

His freshman year he tore a knee ligament and nearly broke his ankle, and last year Frillman broke his hand several games into the season.

"The hardest thing about being hurt is watching the games and not being able to help the team," Frillman said.

Frillman hopes to change that this year. Last Saturday, in the Rivermen 70-49 win over Wisconsin-Parkside, he dealt the Rangers a crushing blow by stealing the ball and converting his only bucket of the game. The four-point swing helped the Rivermen to the 12-0 run that put the Rangers away for good.

"[Frillman] understands how to play the game from an offensive standpoint in terms of moving without the ball and passing the ball," Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said. "We'd certainly like to have

him healthy the whole year."

The main obstacle Frillman is facing in his comeback is getting back into the flow of the game. However, Frillman is slowly getting back into the groove and is providing valuable minutes off the bench.

"He's one of our best defensive players," Meckfessel said.

Frillman takes pride in his defensive play and looks to pick it up offensively.

"I'm not the fastest guy but I try to keep the offense flowing and the defense together when I'm in there," Frillman said.

With four new players on the team this year keeping the defense and offense together has been a challenge, but Frillman sees the team slowly coming together with each game.

Despite the slow start, Frillman and his teammates have big plans.

"I would like to see us get into the conference tournament and win a couple of games," he said. "This is the most athletic team we've had since I've been here. We can do it."

-Joe Harris

Sigma Tau Gamma wins intramural hockey finals

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
 staff associate

The finals of intramural hockey were held Dec. 7 and capped off another great year of intense athletic participation.

Sigma Tau Gamma won the championship by defeating Da Blues, the independent team, 5-2.

"With an overwhelming victory in the season-opener against them, we faced a completely overhauled team in the finals, whose new players and offense had us not knowing what to expect," goaltender Tim Little said. Sigma Tau finished up the regular

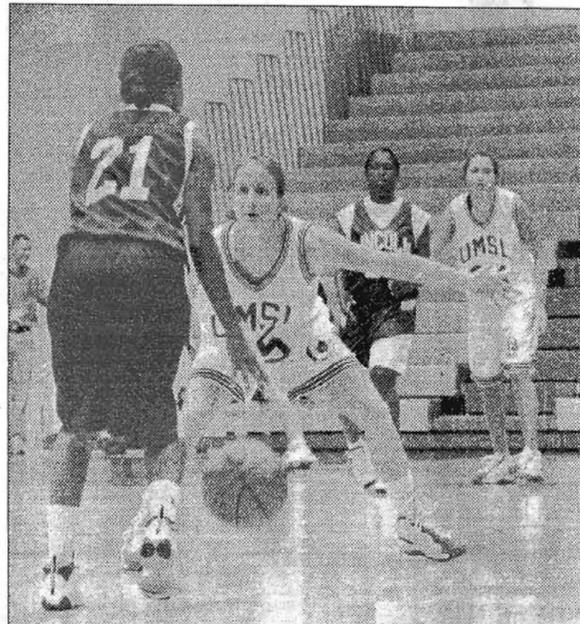
season with an impressive record of 7-0. The team scored a combined 50 goals while holding opponents to only 5 goals all season.

"With a goals-against average of 0.7 and scoring an average of seven goals a game with an explosive offense, devastating defense and dominating goaltending, success was inevitable," team captain Mike Bitter said.

Da Blues ended their season placing second with a record of 4-3.

Team Damnit finished their season in third place.

Riverwomen tied in wins and losses



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Junior Sarah Mauvk (2nd from left) guards an opposing player during the game against Lincoln. UM-St. Louis won 81-51.

BY KEN DUNKIN
 staff editor

The Riverwomen basketball team has been going on a season-long roller coaster. They have followed each victory with a loss.

Standing 3-3 on the season and 2-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference the Riverwomen are improving on their breakthrough

season of last year.

Melanie Marcy has led the Riverwomen in almost every game. She has been the leading scorer in four games and the leading rebounder in five games. She is averaging 14 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. Amanda Wentzel leads the team with 14.3 points per game.

Hockey ranked 7th with 7-5-1 record

BY JOE HARRIS
 of the Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen Ice Hockey team has won three of its last four to speed out to a 7-5-1 record.

The streak was started by a sweep of Meramec on November 13 and 14. The Rivermen won by the scores of 5-2 and 7-2 respectively.

The Rivermen continued their winning ways with a 13-6 blowout over Illinois State University on November 20, but fell the next day 4-2 against Bradley.

The Rivermen also have two victories over Denver University, one over Butler University, and another over Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

"Our main goal is to qualify for the National Tournament," Tim Bauer, hockey club president, said. "To do that we need to be ranked in the top ten in our region. We are currently ranked 7th."

The team returns seven starters and is gearing up for its next home game, a turf battle against St. Louis University.

The game is scheduled for Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chesterfield Ice Hockey Complex.

"It's a little more special, playing against SLU," Bauer said. "They have some guys I've played with in high school so I'm going to be ready."

Another turf rivalry will come January 29 and 30 at Chesterfield against Missouri, then they do it again with the Tigers the next weekend in Jefferson City.

Scouting their upcoming opponents mostly con-

sists of comparing game results against common opponents and by knowing various players on opposing teams, but mostly the teams just play.

"It's different playing college hockey than high school hockey," Team Captain Jason Hessel said. "In high school you're playing against guys who are 15 to 18-years-old. Now we're competing against guys who are as old as 25 or 26. We're playing against grown men instead of boys."

Hessel says fans can expect fast-paced action from one of the most talented teams he's played on in his four years with the Rivermen. He is especially impressed with the freshmen duo of Brian Craig and Ben Gilbertson from Francis Howell.

"They are good friends off the ice," Hessel said. "We call them the twins."

Bauer also believes fans will appreciate the Rivermen "run and gun" style of play. The Rivermen have scored in double digits in four of their games, including a 25-goal outburst against SIUE.

"Our games are generally high-scoring because we play 20-minute periods and the goal tending isn't the highest quality," Bauer said.

The team is currently a club, meaning it is not sanctioned by the UM-St. Louis athletic department. The team hopes to join a permanent league next year.

In the meantime they take any games they can get. Home games are held at the Chesterfield Ice Hockey Complex. Tickets are \$3 with a Student ID and \$4 for non-UM-St. Louis students.

STUDY, FROM PAGE 2

"There's a lot going on with these people," he said. "It is very difficult for one person to deal with HIV, but it is even more of a challenge when mental health and substance abuse problems are present."

This program is designed to bring stability into these people's lives, and Morse sees the integrated treatment as serving two purposes.

"Right now there are no specialized services for those with HIV who have mental illness and substance abuse issues," Morse said. "The current system that exists is fragmented. This system lets us get to know the clients and to understand their needs. Also, this treatment allows us to teach them HIV wellness, how to manage the disease and stress, and it gives them a little meaning and purpose in life."

These lessons can be invaluable, as this is a high risk group. High risk meaning that they are more likely to spread the disease not only amongst themselves, but to other groups as well.

This group is more likely to prostitute themselves because of their substance abuse issues as well as partaking in other risky behaviors.

"They are also at risk themselves because the medications we have for HIV, though very effective if taken properly, if not taken properly can make the disease worse because they create within you a more resistant strain of the disease," Calsyn said.

The study has already brought notoriety to the UM-St. Louis researchers. Tipper Gore paid them a visit recently and Calsyn plans to publish several articles on the study's

Named UM-St. Louis' 1998 Best Campus Community Building Program

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board: The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Todd Appel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, Dec. 14
Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium Series— "Frames in Hilbert Spaces" will be at 10:00 a.m. in 302 CCB with Colloquium Tea at 9:30 a.m. in 204 CCB. This Colloquium will be given by Ole

Christensen of the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, Denmark.

Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

students to be her guests in the Underground from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are required for this event and they may be picked up at various locations around campus by Dec. 11. One ticket per person. Call 5493 for details.

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Taize Prayer—A quiet, meditative time for scripture, song and prayer in 266 U-

Thursday, Dec. 17
Chancellor's Holiday Dinner. The Chancellor invites all faculty, staff, and

results.

Calsyn and Morse have been doing research on the homeless for over fifteen years. Calsyn finds this study to be a natural progression of their work.

"If this integrated service works like we think it will, where people who have their services coordinated get involved in the treatment so they start to reduce their drug abuse that's the key," Calsyn said. "If they reduce their drug abuse they will be less likely to take risks."

Less risk taking behaviors in the long run means less chance for HIV to spread.

"The misconception people have is that there is no hope," Calsyn said. "We have a lot of HIV medications now that are turning HIV into a chronic illness instead of a killer and if we can get these clients to stay with their HIV medication regimens, reduce their drug use and their risky behavior then they will have meaningful lives. And if they have meaningful lives, that will reduce the risk of infection for all of us."

Movie Review

Good cast and impressive talent make 'Voice' a winner

Little Voice
Opening Dec. 25 at the Tivoli;
Running time 100 minutes.
Rated R

"Little Voice" is a British musical comedy about a shy soft-spoken girl (Jane Horrocks) in a north England town, living with her loud brassy mother (Brenda Blethyn), a woman who never stops talking. The girl is nicknamed L.V. (for "Little Voice"), a reference by her critical mother to her daughter's soft childish voice.

Near the beginning of the film, L. V. meets an equally shy young man, Bill (Ewan McGregor), when he comes to their shabby home to install a phone. Bill makes several lame excuses to visit L.V. again.

One night, the mother brings home a man (Michael Caine) she picked up in a bar. The man, a small-time theatrical agent, discovers that L.V. has a talent:

she can mimic the speaking and singing voices of great stars of the past like Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe. The theatrical agent convinces the mother that the girl's unusual gift can be worth money, and they set out to exploit it. Fortunately, Bill reappears to help L.V. stand up for herself.

Jane Horrocks, playing L.V., does all the voices herself, and although I'm not a great fan of show tunes, I have to admit that she displays an astounding talent. The singing sequences are so well done that I'd recommend the film even just for those scenes alone. Based on a stage musical, the story is both touching and funny although, like in all musicals, the story is rather compressed and simplified.

This is a good film with a wonderful cast and an impressive display of talent, and I'd recommend it.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer



Jane Horrocks in "Little Voice"

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Staff: Joe Harris, Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

7940 Natural Bridge Road
 St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
 Advertising • (314) 516-5316
 Business • (314) 516-5175
 Fax • (314) 516-6811

email:
 current@jinx.unsl.edu
 website:
 http://www.unsl.edu/
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It's been a great 1998, UM-St. Louis. Thanks for reading.
 We will return January 11. See you then.

-The Current staff

Get the scoop from the Dean of Critics himself.



Joe Pollack, Arts Critic

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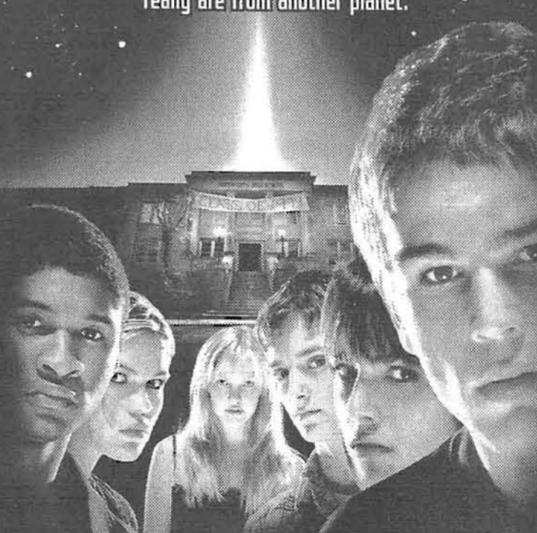


DIMENSION FILMS

Free Screening Passes

Find Stephanie in the University Center on Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. for free passes to The Faculty. No strings attached!

These six students are about to discover their teachers really are from another planet.



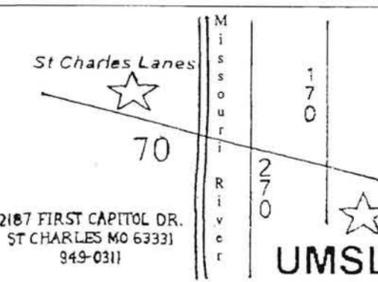
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CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS needed for UM-St. Louis Indoor Swimming Pool this Winter semester. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours available. Pay is \$6.00/hr. Interested individuals can apply in the Rec. Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 516-5326 for more information.

The ACLU of Eastern Missouri seeks Complaint Counselors spring and summer semesters, 12 hrs./wk. Screen and analyze civil liberties complaints, work with clients, conduct investigations, research laws, draft responses. Develop investigative skills and knowledge of constitutional law. Submit letter, resume, writing sample to: Denise Lieberman, Legal Director, ACLU/EM, 4557 Laclede Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108; 361-2111.

Graders/Tutors Wanted A West County mathematics and reading learning center is hiring part-time graders/tutors helping children ages 8 to 15. We offer competitive salary, flexible schedule and rewarding working environment. Interested candidates please call 537-5522. E-mail: jchan@fnmail.com

Spirited individuals needed to present fun science activities for kids in school and at parties. Need car, extensive experience with kids and high school science. Training provided. Pay \$20/1-hr. class. 725-9200.

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Female, 46, white, looking for correspondence. Box 741 St. Ann, MO, 63074.

GENITAL HERPES? . . .

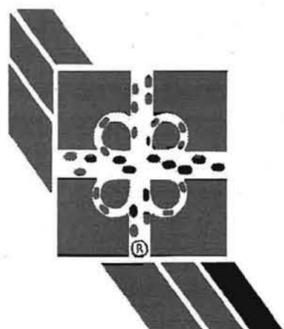
Do you have recurrent genital herpes? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a confidential clinical trial of **lobucavir**, an investigational medication for the treatment of herpes infections.

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Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1998. By Dec. 15, 1998, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam, Fellowships Director, The Indianapolis News, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

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The Year In Review

Funding debacle provokes SGA constitution crisis

This was the year in which a funding controversy put two major campus organizations on the hotseat.

In February, the Student Activities Budget Committee redirected the funding of several organizations, including the campus' highest funded organization, the University Program Board, because the groups failed to send representatives to a budget workshop.

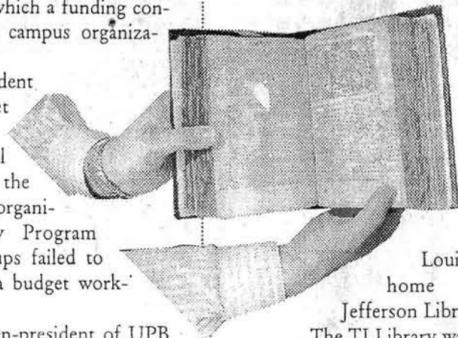
Sharon Hopkins, then-president of UPB and another affected organization, the Associated Black Collegians, filed an appeal to SABC. It was denied. UPB lost direct control of its funding to Student Activities. ABC's allocation was routed to the African-American Leadership Council.

Hopkins then introduced a resolution at the next SGA meeting asking that the SABC itself be nullified along with all its decisions because SGA had not followed its own rules in approving the SABC. SGA president Jim Avery then announced that he had discovered that SGA had never gained official approval for the portion of the constitution regarding the approval of SABC, so SABC had, in fact been approved properly, under the previous version of SGA's governing documents. Hopkins' resolution was defeated.

The confusion over the issue of the SGA's constitutional problems remained however. In late March, Avery would announce the creation of a task force who would be charged with rewriting the SGA constitution.

By September, SGA comptroller Ben Ash announced a rough draft of the document had been written but future meetings, tentatively set for November, would make revisions to it. The meetings have yet to be scheduled.

The new constitution will eventually have to be approved by a vote of the student body in order to become officially accepted as the SGA's governing document.



Mercantile Library comes to UM-St. Louis campus

In October, preparations for the long-awaited arrival of the Mercantile Library finally came to fruition. The Library, formerly housed in downtown St.

Louis, will now make its home at the Thomas Jefferson Library.

The TJ Library was renovated over the spring and many books were relocated or in a few cases thrown away to make room for

the new collections.

The new collections include the John W. Barriger III Collection on American railroad history, and the Pott Waterways Collection as well as a collection of original photographs from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Library, the oldest west of the Mississippi was founded in 1846. It contains more than 250,000 books, 10,000 linear feet of manuscripts, 300,000 photographs, and hundreds of artifacts.

Library Director John N. Hoover said that eventually the institution may open a new wing on campus recreating a reading room from the original building downtown.

Students fill U senate slots

For the first time in recent years, all 25 of the student seats in the University senate were filled. Forty-two candidates ran in the March election.

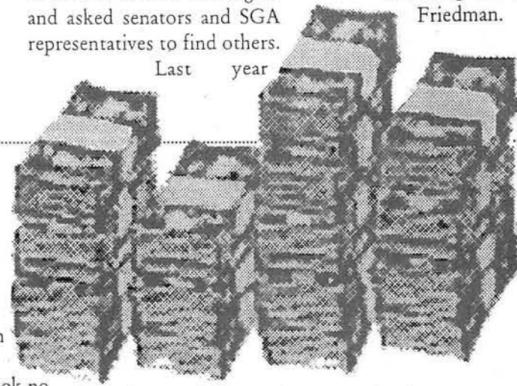
In previous years, many student seats had remained empty due to a lack of candidates. SGA President Jim Avery vowed in January to personally find 25 candidates to fill the student contingent and asked senators and SGA representatives to find others.

Last year

only 13 students ran for the seats.

Despite the abundance of candidates, voter turnout was low with only 224 students voting in the election. Bruce Wilking, chairman of the Senate Student Affairs Committee attributed the low turnout to spring break.

Jeanne Zarucchi, was elected chair of the new senate, unseating Lawrence Friedman.



The high cost of higher education goes up - again

In January, the Curators approved a recommendation by system President Manuel Pacheco to hike educational fees by three percent.

The \$3.70 per credit hour increase brought the fees from \$124.80 to \$128.50. Undergraduate fees jumped from \$157.90 to \$162.60 per credit hour. Student fees on the UM-St. Louis campus also jumped 48 percent with the adoption of \$6.05 per credit hour fee to pay off debt from the new University Center. The SGA had passed a resolu-

tion supporting the \$6.05 hike in December of last year.

In December of this year, the SGA took no action on a series of proposed fee hikes that will be considered by the Board of Curators in January.

Among the proposed changes is an 8.5 percent increase in the recreation/facility fee and a 6.2 percent raise in the athletics fee. The student health fee would change from a flat nine dollars per semester to a \$1.20 per credit hour fee.

The SGA took no action on the fees because administrators did not give the assembly the proposed

changes fast enough to meet deadlines SGA set in January. The January rule, prompted by controversy over the \$6.05 increase last semester, says that SGA shall not be "bound or compelled" to make a recommendation to the Curators if the assembly's deadlines are not met.

The SGA also adjourned without taking action on Student Activity and Student Service fee recommendations. Both are expected to be handled at the January SGA meeting.



Bob Herman

Tuition lawsuit prompts debate over legality of educational fees

In addition to the debate over how much the University charges in tuition, there was the debate over whether the University should charge tuition at all.

In January, Robert Herman of Schwartz, Herman & Davidson, filed a class-action lawsuit against the UM Board of Curators alleging that the

UM-system is violating a little-known Missouri law that he says forbids charging Missouri residents tuition. The University does not officially charge tuition but rather charges "educational fees."

Herman, who also represents the Ku Klux Klan in their suit against KWMU, spoke to students at an SGA meeting in February in an attempt to drum up sup-

port for his lawsuit. He encouraged students to take the issue to their state legislators so they would not change the law and asked that students make it clear that they are paying tuition under protest.

Herman said he hoped to forbid the University from charging educational fees and have those fees refunded to students.

He represents two UM students, one of them a UM-St. Louisan.

Arrests made at 'Sexy Legs' contest

Sigma Pi's annual "Sexy Legs" contest made news once again in 1998. The contest which in previous years has provoked controversy over the content of signs advertising the contest, ran into problems of a different nature this year.

Three were arrested during a disturbance outside the Sigma Pi house the night of the event. At least two of those charged were UM-St. Louis students. All three were charged with peace disturbance and one was charged with failure to comply and assaulting a police officer.

There is some disagreement as to where the incident took place. Bel-Ridge police said the alleged assault took place on the house's porch however Sig Pi Vice-President Thomas Holt said that he knew of no problems that took place on the porch. Sig Pi President Justin

Polette said the alleged incident did not take place on the fraternity's property but rather on a parking lot in the laundromat next door.

This "Sexy Legs" contest was the fraternity's 15th. Last year's contest created a stir over its promotional sign which was defaced with green paint by an unknown vandal. The incident led to a campus forum and debate on the issue.

In 1996, University officials removed a "Sexy Legs" sign because of its suggestive content. In 1994, a student filed a

grievance over the sign.

This year's sign had only text with no graphics on it. It provoked no problems.



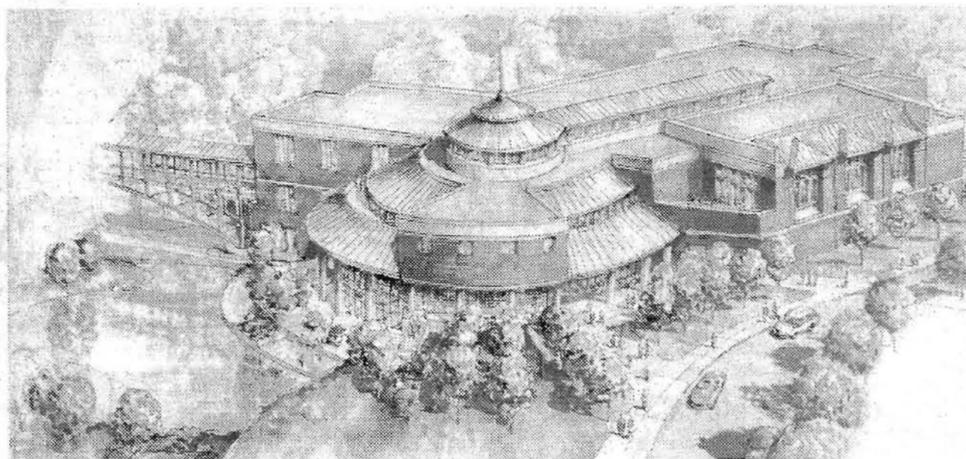
A&S dean search continues in 1998

The search for a dean for the College of Arts and Sciences continued unabated through 1998.

Interviews with a series of candidates over the spring yielded one finalist but William Frawley, the selected candidate, turned down the job. The search committee was reopened in the fall and interviews and open forums with two more candidates for the position were held in November. A third candidate scheduled to come to campus this month dropped out of the race.

The former dean of the school was Terry Jones, a political science professor who was removed from the dean's post in 1997. Since that time, Martin Sage has been functioning as interim dean.

U Center construction begins amid controversy



The first construction work began on the new University Center in 1998 but controversy followed the center all year long. The Center began the year dodging the fallout from a hotly debated \$6.05 per credit hour increase in student fees to fund the project. A resolution supporting the new fee was passed by SGA in December of last year. It was approved by the Curators in January.

By February, the Center had run into a different problem. SGA President Jim Avery said that students owned the present University Center since it was paid for in part by student fees. Avery made retaining the present Center as a student-use building the centerpiece of his spring reelection campaign, claiming that it should continue as a student facility until administrators com-

pensated the students for its alternate use. Administrators dismissed Avery's assertions saying that the building, like all others on campus, was a University building owned by the University, not the students.

In late May, a \$20 million contract was awarded to KCI Construction to begin work on the facility, but in mid-June the Center ran into legal trouble. A local lawyer filed a \$25 million lawsuit on behalf of the St. Louis Minority Contractors Association against the University claiming it failed to gain enough minority participation for the project.

KCI's minority participation on the project was 15.5%.

The University had set a goal of 25% minority participation.