



# Bulletin Board

## Monday, Feb. 21

- **Noon Cultural Series** presents "Aging, Autonomy, and Choices." Joan Hashimi, associate professor of social work will explore how aging and the wish to preserve autonomy and individual choice are sometimes juxtaposed with negative perceptions of the older person's competence and sometimes with real physical and cognitive losses. Open to all those interested, the event will be in 222 J. C. Penney and will last until 1 p.m.
- **Resume Writing Skills Workshop**, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 1:30 to 2 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Create a resume that makes a positive first impression. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

## Tuesday, Feb. 22

- **Prayer Group** at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, Feb. 23

- **Soup and Soul Food** will from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.
- **Rec Sports Registration Deadline** is today for the Racquetball Tournament. This one-week single-elimination tourney will run Thurs., Feb. 28 to Mar. 3 at the Mark Twain Gym. Men's and women's divisions are offered and matches will be scheduled according to player's skill level and availability. Open to students, faculty and staff. Sign up in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain.

## Thursday, Feb. 24

- **Graduate/Professional School**, sponsored by Multicultural Relations /Academic Affairs, will provide some information about Graduate /Professional school, the application process, financing your studies and other related topics. Located in Room 222 J. C. Penney, the session will run

### 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: Erin Stremmel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 6807.

## Friday, Feb. 25

- **Interviewing Techniques Workshop**, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 1:30 to 2 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Polish your interviewing skills. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.
- **Singer and Riverboat Captain John Hartford in Concert**, presented as part of the "River of the Humanities: The Cultural Heritage of the Mississippi River Valley" symposium at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Known for their distinctive mix of bluegrass, folk and country, John Hartford and Friends will entertain at 7 p.m. in the J. C. Penney

Auditorium. Concert tickets cost \$18.

## Sunday, Feb. 27

- **RCIA**, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.).

## Monday, Feb. 21

- **Noon Cultural Series** presents "Why Science Exhibits Don't Always Need to be Accurate." Jay Rounds, Des Lee Professor of Museum Studies and director of the graduate program in museum studies, will explore what science museum exhibits are really about and asks why some are interesting and others are boring. Open to all those interested, the event will be in 229 J. C. Penney and will last until 1 p.m.

## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### February 10, 2000

A student reported that on Jan. 26, between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., her parking permit was stolen from a vehicle she had parked on the fourth floor of Parking Garage "D."

A counterfeit student parking permit was confiscated from a vehicle which was parked at the new West Drive Garage. The permit expiration date had been changed. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs Office.

### February 12, 2000

University Police investigated a loud party at University Meadows Apartments at 12:04 a.m. Alcohol was present with only one person being of legal drinking age. The music volume was turned down and the alcohol was disposed of.

### February 15, 2000

A student reported that on Feb. 11, between 1 and 2:30 p.m., his Nokia cell phone was stolen from the Mark Twain Building weight room floor.

A student reported that on Feb. 11, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., her parking permit was stolen from her vehicle which had been parked in the new West Drive Garage.

### February 16, 2000

A student reported that sometime between 4:30 and 9 p.m., unknown persons tried to steal his vehicle while it was parked on Lot "U" on the South Campus. The steering column was damaged and a 6" knife was stolen from the vehicle.

### February 17, 2000

A counterfeit student parking permit was confiscated from a vehicle parked on the third level ramp at the new West Drive Garage. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs Office.

A student reported that on Feb. 16, between 1:45 and 2:30 p.m., her gray and silver purse was stolen from Room 218 at the Mark Twain Building. The purse contained cash, credit cards and identification. The purse had been forgotten.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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**MCMA**



# DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHTS ARE?

An amendment to the Family Education Right to Privacy (FERPA) Act now allows universities to report the drug and alcohol violations of minors to parents. How does this affect you?

**FIND OUT:**

## ALCOHOL POLICY OPEN FORUM

Thursday, Feb. 24  
 from 1:30 to 3:30

in the Hawthorn Room of the University Center  
 All students welcome to attend.

For more info, call 516-5105.

Sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Panhellenic Association.

## VITA Locations

Salem Methodist Church  
14825 Manchester Rd.  
Ballwin, MO 63011

IRS Office  
1122 Town & Country Commons Rd.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

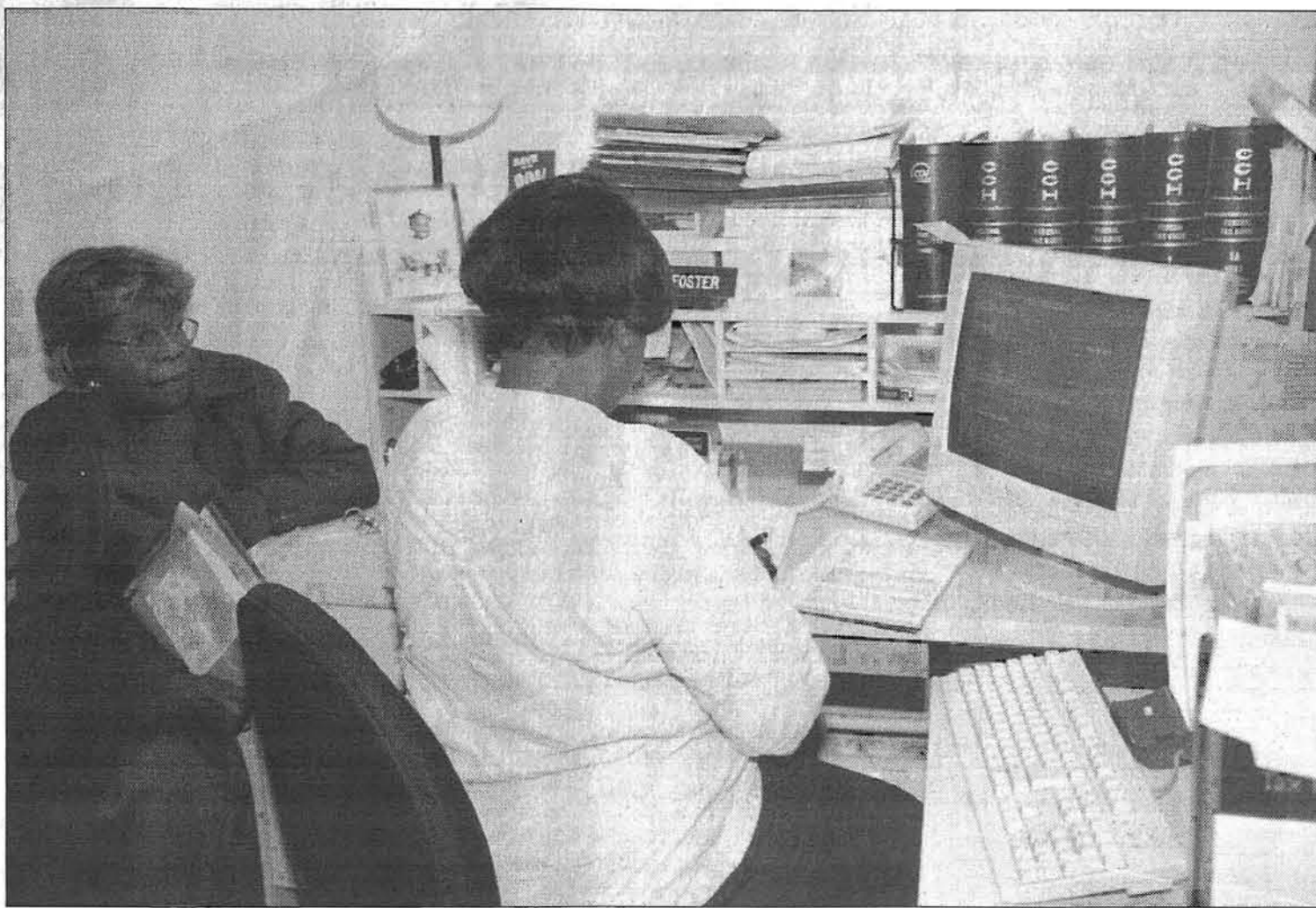
Ferguson First Baptist Church  
333 N. Florissant Rd.  
Ferguson, MO 63135

Union Planters Bank  
11920 New Halls Ferry Rd.  
Florissant, MO 63033

Oak Bend Library  
842 S. Holmes  
St. Louis, MO 63122

To find the site nearest you, call 1-800-829-1040 or log on to the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov>.

Helen Foster of Tayglow Tax Services helps St. Louis city resident Ruth Ellison with her taxes.



Rafael Macias/The Current

The dreaded tax day is approaching faster than you think but some can count on a little help from the IRS

# TIME

# A

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff assistant

They've been taxing people's money for years, taking almost one-third of all their net income. Uh oh, spring is near and they are back again, but wait a minute, why do they have their hands up instead of out this time? Well, believe it or not, the Internal Revenue Service is offering a helping hand to those who need it the most, and if taxpayers hadn't noticed, they've been doing it for years.

The IRS of the Kansas-Missouri District is welcoming the poor and elderly to take advantage of the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA provides free tax assistance

for taxpayers who cannot afford professionals; the disabled; individuals using English as a second language; retirees; and anyone else with special needs. Volunteers have been trained by the IRS to electronically file the participants' basic federal and state income tax returns.

"It helps us get tax assistance to folks in the community that need it the

most," said Senior Communications Specialist Rollie Woods.

Woods said that the program has been in affect for the past 25 years, although it's been only 10 years since filing electronically has come in to play.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly and the American Association of Retired Persons also offer help. TCE and

AARP focuses their free tax assistance services for taxpayers 60 years old and above.

There are dozens of VITA sites all around St. Louis county and city.

Each site differs when it comes to what type of taxpayer it assists. Most sites require an interview by appointment to receive the service.

In addition, the taxpayers must

bring a valid social security cards for themselves, and all dependents to be entered on the tax return. A picture I.D., W-2 forms from all employers, 1099-Misc, 1099-Div, 1099-Int forms are all required (if applicable).

Anyone seeking help must bring any other documents of income, last years tax records (if available), statements for itemized deductions (such as medical/dental expenses, charitable contributions, real estate taxes), and a voided check for direct deposit information. Even though the income tax return deadline is two days later than usual—since April 15 falls on a Saturday, taxes are due that following Monday—taxpayers are encouraged to make appointments as soon as possible.

# Taxing

## Future watch

# UM-St. Louis professor makes computing part of curriculum

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff assistant

On a massive projector screen, located a few feet above the broad wooden lecture stage in Lucas 100, is one of Robert Keel's most valuable teaching tools: the Internet.

Keel, a lecturer in sociology at UM-St. Louis, uses the Internet as a method to teach his students. Because of modern technology, which Keel recalls not having 10 years ago, the 75 or so students attending Alcohol, Drugs and Society 180 can not only hear what the full-time sociology lecturer has to say, they can also see it for themselves.

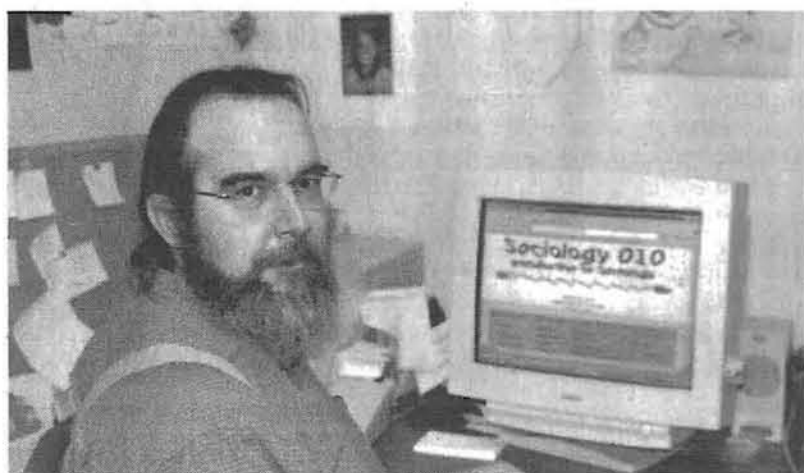
On a chilly mid-February afternoon, Keel spoke a few minutes after class about computing skills and why they are so essential in everyday life.

"They're fundamental elements of our educational systems today," said Keel while sitting in a desk that, just five minutes earlier, was occupied by one of his students.

"Not understanding [computing skills], at least at a basic level, makes a person a part of an underprivileged class," he said.

Keel uses computing skills throughout his courses. Not only does he provide electronic lecture notes via the Internet during the class period, but he also makes sure that his students utilize their skills as well.

"I have a kind of rudimentary level of activity that will allow students to



Robert O. Keel

explore interactively on their own," Keel said.

Students must know how to access the Internet, log on to the World Wide Web, run a web browser and process e-mail. By utilizing these computer skills, the students will become "conceptually oriented," Keel said.

Five years ago, when Keel first made computing activities a part of his courses, he received a few moans and groans from students.

"I received some negative feedback from students who didn't think that sociology courses were computing courses," Keel recalled with laughter. "But over the past five years I've seen the negative comments steadily decline."

Keel also pointed out that last fall was the first semester without a single complaint.

In order to stay on top of the ever-changing computer world, and to keep that no-complaints streak going, Keel continually tries to improve and adapt his materials.

"I've been trying to change the look of my [web] pages, just to make them a little bit more 21st century, maybe a little better organized," Keel said.

Another change that Keel would like, but has no control over, is the computer knowledge of his students.

"Over the past five years I've had to spend a great deal of my instructional time trying to bring students up to speed, and that clearly today should be something that's done outside of a sociology class," he said. "Students should be getting that maybe before they even come [to UM-St. Louis], but certainly once they are here."

## African-American History Month

African-American History Month was originally introduced in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as a week-long celebration of African-American achievement. The observance was expanded to a month in 1976. UM-St. Louis and the rest of the community will observe African-American history month with a variety of events throughout February. A sample of this week's upcoming activities include:

### UM-St. Louis events:

• **Transitions**  
Time/Day: 8 p.m./Thursday  
Location: J.C. Penney Auditorium  
Admission: Free

• **National Park Service, the Old Courthouse, and Gateway Arch Visitor Center presents:**

• **"The Underground Railroad"**  
Time/Day: 11 a.m./Saturday and Sunday  
• **"The Dred Scott Mock Trial"**  
Time/Day: 3 p.m./Saturday and Sunday  
Contact: Anthony Gilpin (314) 655-1626

• **St. Louis Public Library's Machacek**

### Branch presents:

• **"Harambee" with guest Kenya Ajanaku**  
Time/Day: 1 p.m./Tuesday  
Contact: Gerald Brooks 539-0305

### Missouri Historical Society presents:

• **"Black History Month Special Lecture" with Derrick Bell, legal scholar and law professor**  
Admission: Free  
Contact: Ken Anderson 454-3106

### St. Louis Public Library's Central Branch presents:

• **Tavis Smiley**  
Time/Day: 2 p.m./Sunday  
Admission: Free

# No one is the winner when contests cheapen marriage



AND THE POINT IS...  
ANNE PORTER

I've decided that I'm going to get married. Since I lack traditional values, I do not believe that I have to wait for some gentleman to get down on one knee and propose.

I will create a new method. For the first time in history, I am going to advertise my millions of dollars that I control in my Swiss bank account and hold a contest similar to the Ms. America—only the male version—and select the winner from that show, curtsy and ask him to marry me.

To ensure that the selected husband is Mr. Right, I will have all 50 contestants don speedos so I can really make certain that they are physically appealing. In addition, to make

sure they know how to dress well, I'll have them all model tuxedos, and for added confidence, a session that includes casual and pajamas.

When I know that they are physically appetizing, I will then search their minds by asking two questions that will reveal every characteristic about their personality. One question will be, "What are two things that this woman needs to know about you that will make her life easier on a daily basis?" The other, of course, "Do you know how to put the toilet seat down after using the facilities?"

Oh, what's that you are saying? This has already been done. It happened Tuesday night, and it was

called "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?"

Really? And I thought I was so inventive.

What a pity. Another great idea of mine that someone stole.

In all seriousness, what a debauchery of marriage. Not that I am trying to imply that it would be as easy as dunking an Oreo in milk to marry me, but would it not be easier to cohabit with someone if you knew them before sharing a place together?

I, thank goodness for miracles, happened to be working the night this tragic affair was broadcast. In researching what happened in this show, I asked a few people I know

what the show was like.

My friend David said, "Anne, what do you know of me?" He was insulted that I would even think that, although he was home and his television was turned on, he would watch that.

My friend Janette, who is in my poetry class said, "I would not watch such a debauchery."

Finally, my friend Brian saw the end of the show. He witnessed the question-asking and modeling of wedding dresses. Then the millionaire revealed himself, walked through the final contestants to the one on the end, said something to the effect "You're the one." He then proceeded

to drop on his knee and ask her to marry him. A minister magically appeared and they were joined in marriage right there on the stage.

The woman the millionaire chose once lived in the St. Louis area and worked at Stages nightclub, which has since gone out of business. Brian told me she was not that beautiful and she looked older than he would prefer.

I would like to think that she learned something when she lived here in St. Louis, like the ability to exercise common sense and have some sense of pride in herself. Apparently not.

# FEATURES

ANNE PORTER  
features editor

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## Thoughts for Today

"False modesty is better than none."

-Vilhjalmur Stefansson  
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how."

-Friedrich Nietzsche  
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life."

-Irish proverb  
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"I like a woman with a head on her shoulders. I hate necks."

-Steve Martin  
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure."

-Earl Wilson  
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

OUR OPINION

Politicians are disinterested in winning younger voters

The issue:

The 2000 Presidential Elections are nearly upon us and the politicians don't seem particularly interested in winning any votes from our generation (18-29), or at least they have not yet tried.

We suggest:

The politicians know this and therefore they are spending their money trying to sway the older generations. Prove them wrong. Find out what you can about the candidates and vote.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind.

It's 2000, the new millennium is upon us as is another election for this country's president.

However, something's missing. Is it media hype? No. Is it a scandal? Yes, but those don't usually show up until each party has made its final cut.

What is missing is the outreach from candidates to the younger voters.

In each of the past two elections, Bill Clinton made the youth one of his primary targets. Clinton started AmeriCorps, a program designed to get more young people involved in their communities.

Why? Because this generation doesn't vote.

This generation (ages 18-29) has the lowest percentage of voters of any voting age group. According to the National Center for Policy Analysis website (ncpa.org) seniors are most likely to vote and those ages 18 to 29 are most likely to pass it up.

Politicians pay special attention

to the voting demographic and they know this to be true historically. Therefore, politicians do not have to care about the younger voters.

As a result, this generation's getting the short end of the stick from the government. For example, the youngest age at which a person of this age group can collect full social security benefits is 67.

Politicians know they can do this with no fear of repercussion. Instead their money is being spent to appease the older generations, those with their best interests in mind, not the interests of this generation.

And still this generation does nothing. There's no activism, no common bond.

Meanwhile the politicians are focusing on the people who matter—the voters.

It is time for this generation to take a stand. Get involved, know the issues and know who you are voting for.

This generation needs to make its collective voice heard and the loudest soap box is the ballot booth.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Good things if Butler remained

Give me Darwin Butler or give me death! Yes, friends, I voted for Darwin Butler last spring with a clean, clear conscience.

I miss the man. Sometimes, when a professor is getting particularly monotonous and my mind wanders, I wonder what this year might have been like had Darwin been able to serve his term.

Now, I admit that the following hypothetical situation is far-fetched and perhaps impossible for some to imagine. All I ask is that you sit back, clear your mind of anything important, and try.

Think back to the beginning of the year. Instead of spending the month of October fighting to stay in his office and out of jail, Darwin would have spent it fighting the powers that be over his pet issue - educational fees.

A lot has happened outside the small circle of the SGA that has or will affect students, whether they realize it or not. Darwin had very bold stances on all of these issues.

voiced their opposition to Chancellor Touhill's fiscal and personnel policies.

Remember the Week of Dialogue that the SGA was planning to participate in? It was intended to be a chance for students to address racial conflicts and misunderstandings, face to face.

Love him or hate him, you have to concede that Darwin was a man who made things happen. He was a mover and a shaker, and on a campus with a stagnant, uninvolved student body, those are valuable qualities to have in student leadership.

I have no doubt that if Darwin had completed his term as president it would have been a very controversial year, but he would have accomplished things.

So, after a little Darwin daydreaming, I'm eagerly awaiting the April elections, though not so much for the chance to choose between candidates.



JOSH RENAUD guest commentator

LETTERS

Pledge represents national unity

Please remember that every time you sit through the Pledge of Allegiance, you dishonor the memory of the thousands of African-Americans who died on the battlefields of Gettysburg, Europe, and the South Pacific.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." I believe that and those African-American men who shed blood and died for this country believed that.

Ms. Malone, I know that race relations are not perfect in this country. However, I do not see how sitting through the "Pledge" will further your cause to be treated as a first-class citizen.

your Congressperson or assemblé peacefully. Organize a march through downtown St. Louis or boycott something. But please stand for the "Pledge."

You are a part of this country, like it or not. Do what you can to make it better. Don't sit in your corner and pout.

-Nathan Forck

What's your opinion?

- 1. How do you feel about the topics we've written about in the Opinions section this week?
2. You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!
- Political campaigns ignore people 18-29
- Darwin Butler's legacy
- What the Pledge of Allegiance means to you
- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Participate in the Student Forum on The Current Online

Friend overseas changes with time

Time and distance can really change a person. This certainly seems to be the case with my friend Ken.

Ken moved to the Czech Republic about two years ago when he accepted a teaching assignment at a university there.

I met Ken here at UM-St. Louis when we had a class together. At the time, I guess we were both a little immature (a little being an overstatement).

We became friends because we both liked sports and the same type of bands.

After Ken graduated, he went to Malaysia for the summer. He came back a totally different person.

He was no longer the shy, sheltered guy I knew before. Instead, he was more confident and more in tune with himself.

For the first time in his life, he actually lived instead of going through the motions.

All of these were fine attributes and I was happy for him, except he brought back something else—a disdain for American culture and society.

He didn't like the food, had nothing nice to say about American women or any of this country's practices in general. Everything was better in Malaysia according to him.

As a result he drove away a very close mutual friend of ours named Lorrie. I was still friends with both of them, and it was very difficult for me.

Finally, by coincidence, my 21st birthday brought them back together.

It was a surprise party, and my mom had made all of the arrangements. However, she didn't know about the problems between Ken and Lorrie, and she invited them both.

During the party, they patched things up and resumed their friendship.

Then Ken left for the Czech Republic. He met a girl over there, and he's so happy with his position with the university that he has extended his contract to stay longer.

Over Christmas break, Ken came home to visit, and Lorrie and I prepared ourselves with the expected anti-American onslaught.

However, it was different. There were no anti-American remarks and his fondness for American women had returned (although he never cheated on his girlfriend in the Czech republic).

I even went as far as trying to trick him into saying something negative about this country, but he wouldn't. Ken had grown to appreciate the differences between American culture and those of the rest of the world.

Lorrie noticed the changes too and we were both happy for him.

And both Lorrie and I have changed too. Kenny told me as much during a conversation we had right before he left to go back.

He said that I am more of a complete person now, and that finally I had gotten my life back on track.

Thinking about that conversation, I guess I've changed just as much as he did in our time apart.

The farthest from St. Louis I've ever been was Florida. I think after I graduate, I might visit someplace a little farther away.



JOE HARRIS editor-in-chief

No substitute for doing what you like

"Choose life. Choose a job. Choose a starter home. Choose dental insurance, leisure wear and matching luggage. Choose your future."

—"Trainspotting"

As an undergraduate, I groomed myself for a pretty typical after-college existence: a nice job with a nice company offering a nice health plan and a nice salary that would allow me to have a nice house, a nice car and send my future children to a nice college.

For a long time, I thought the object of the game was to move from minimum wage to stock options. As I started scanning the classified ads for a job, the prospect of having a "typical" life became more and more troublesome to me.

A few years ago, I dropped out of college to work full time. I spent a fair amount of that time working a standard job for a standard company.

I was bored senseless. When I went back to school, I still thought I would eventually wind up

with the standard company/standard job, but I naively believed that having a college degree would somehow make a difference.

Most of the jobs I looked at initially didn't prove my theory right. Many of them involved long commutes,

wearing a suit, shuffling papers, etc. I feared that if I continued to pursue this particular career path, I would eventually wind up like Dilbert.

I began to look back with a new appreciation at the two years I had spent working for The Current. I could pretty much do whatever I wanted as long as I turned in quality work at the end of the week.

I always felt challenged, and I always enjoyed my work.

It was around this time that I decided to re-direct my career toward becoming a writer. I realize that by pursuing this line of work I may be sentencing myself to lifetime of intermittent freelance work and sub-par salaries, and that I may have to forsake ever having the nice house and the pension plan, but that's fine, as long as I can do what I enjoy.

Irresponsible? Immature? Perhaps, but it's my choice.

"Choose life. Choose a job. Choose a starter home. Choose dental insurance, leisure wear and matching luggage. Choose your future. But why would anyone want to do a thing like that?"



MARY LINDSLEY managing editor

OPINIONS

Editorial Board

- JOE HARRIS
MARY LINDSLEY
BENJAMIN ISRAEL
CHARMANE MALONE
BRIAN DOUGLAS

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

How to Respond

Mail Letters to the Editor 7940 Natural Bridge St. Louis, MO 63121

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Fax (314) 516-6811

Email current@jinx.umsl.edu

Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

Under Current by Rafael Macias photography director

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what one CD would you want to have?



Yi-Shi Hsiao Graduate/Education

Kind of Religious music.



Jessica Hylan Sophomore/English

Carmen Opera



James Jenkins Senior/Finance and Spanish

Motley Crue "Dr. Feelgood"



Amber Lanane Freshman/Elementary Ed.

A Steve Miller Band CD

# SPORTS

**DAVE KINWORTHY**  
sports editor

phone: 516-5174  
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## Upcoming Games

### Men's Basketball

at IUPU-Ft. Wayne  
7:30 p.m., Thur. Feb. 24

at St. Joseph's  
3 p.m., Sat. Feb. 26

at GLVC Tournament  
tba, March 1-4

### Women's Basketball

at IUPU-Ft. Wayne  
5:30 p.m., Thur. Feb. 24

at St. Joseph's  
1 p.m., Sat. Feb. 26

at GLVC Tournament  
tba, March 1-4

## Next Issue In Sports

Sports Extra:  
•regular season basket ball wrap-ups  
•spring sports previews

# Riverwomen take 3, lose 1

*Victories include 74-51 win vs. Wisc.-Parkside on Senior Night*

BY **DAVE KINWORTHY**  
staff editor

UM-St. Louis jumped out to a 23-point halftime lead and coasted to a 74-51 win over Wisconsin Parkside.

"Our goal was to play a total 40 minutes hard with effort the... entire game," point guard Sara Mauck said. "We have yet to prove to the home crowd that we can play for 40 minutes. We came out fast enough and that worked well at Wisconsin. We all worked hard today and I am glad that we did on senior night."

Head Coach Shelly Ethridge was pleased with the way the team pressed in the first half and with the focal point of running the basketball.

"After we played them the first time, I didn't feel that they could handle our press really well," Ethridge said. "As long as we put the pressure on them, I felt that we could get the turnovers and be able to fast break."

UM-St. Louis forced 23 turnovers in the game and held the Rangers to 29 percent shooting from the field.

The first half was led by Trish Ackerman who was three for four from 3-point range and Mauck who added nine points. Four Riverwomen scored in double digits.

"It is fun to watch and I am known as a coach whose team gels and peaks at the right time," Ethridge said.

As it was senior night, the Riverwomen's seniors played their last home game at UM-St. Louis. Ethridge praised her group.

"I don't know in my eight years of coaching if I have had a group like this year," Ethridge said. "They will be greatly missed by the whole

University as well as myself. They were great role models, great leaders in the classrooms and on the court. The effort that they put in day in and day out was just fantastic."

Previously, the team hosted Indianapolis on Feb. 12 and won 77-72. UM-St. Louis flourished in the second half and broke out of a shooting slump in which the Riverwomen shot 6 for 27 from the field and overcame a six-point deficit at halftime.

Tawanda Daniel led UM-St. Louis with 18 points. Tanisha Albert and Ackerman added 16 and 15 respectively.

UM-St. Louis then traveled to Quincy University on Feb. 15 and received another conference victory as the women defeated the Hawks 72-67.

Albert led the team with 19 points while Jennifer Littleton had 11 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

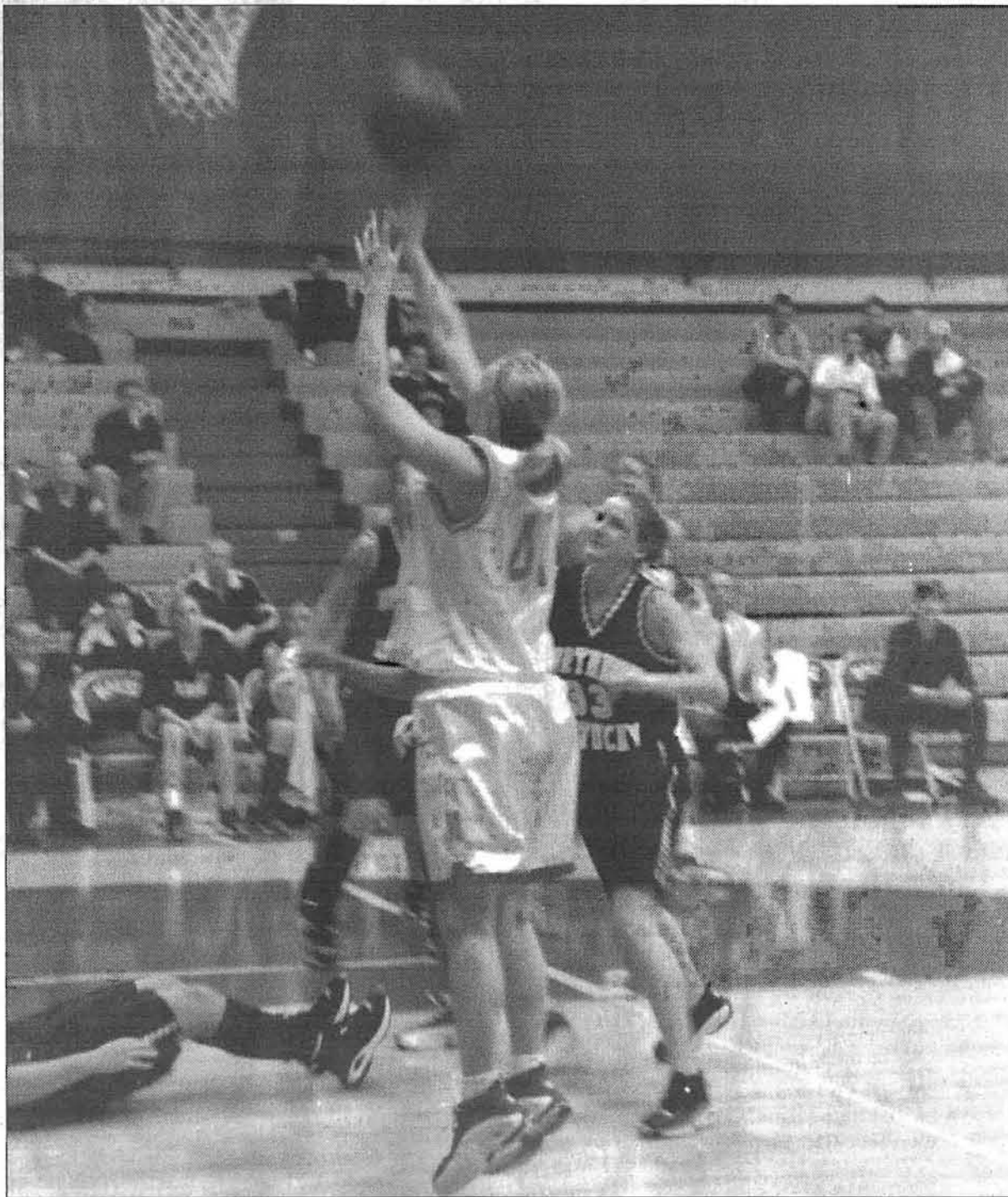
The Riverwomen were out-rebounded in this contest 40-32, but solid first- and second-half efforts gave the Riverwomen the victory.

UM-St. Louis then returned home to host Lewis University in another Great Lakes Valley Conference matchup. With over 500 people in attendance the game was a thriller, but Lewis University won 80-74.

UM-St. Louis was led by Mauck who finished with 17 points, while Ackerman and Daniel finished with 12 and 10 respectively.

The Riverwomen defense allowed five Lewis players to score double-digits but forced 20 Lewis turnovers.

UM-St. Louis now moves on to its final two regular season games on the road with IUPU-Ft. Wayne on Feb. 24 and St. Joseph's Feb. 26.



Rafael Macias/The Current

Riverwoman Katy Gwaltney (41) takes an open shot in a game against Northern Kentucky last week.

## Men's B-ball loses again

*Homecoming crowd witnesses Rivermen's losing effort against Wisc.-Parkside*

BY **RACHAEL QUIGLEY**  
staff associate

The Rivermen's basketball team lost its fourth straight in a defeat at home against Wisconsin Parkside 75-56.

UM-St. Louis came out strong in the first half and led going into halftime 30-26. But turnovers and a shooting percentage of 33.3 percent in the second half against a hot-shooting Wisconsin Parkside, who shot 60 percent from the floor, led to the demise. Senior guard Greg Ross led the Rivermen with 14 points while Luke Harms added 11.

The loss drops UM-St. Louis' record to 12-12 overall and 7-11 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Previously, the Rivermen were at home Feb. 12 to face the GLVC's fifth-place team, Indianapolis, with UM-St. Louis losing, 65-70.

UM-St. Louis managed to keep it close in the first half, shooting 33 percent from the floor to Indianapolis' 60 percent and headed into the locker room with a score of 27-28.

UM-St. Louis had a better shooting half in the second, with 44 percent from the floor, but it also sent Indianapolis to the free throw line 22 times.

Jim Schelich led the team with 16 points in the losing effort.

UM-St. Louis then traveled to Illinois to face Quincy Feb. 15 and lost 49-58.

Jim Schelich led both teams with 20 points, while rebounding machine Terence Herbert went down with an injury and only played 9 minutes.

The Rivermen shot 45 percent in the first half and came out with the lead, 27-26.

Quincy took control in the last few minutes of the game, shooting 38 percent from the floor, and out rebounded UM-St. Louis, 31-38.

UM-St. Louis returned to Mark

Twain for Homecoming to play the fourth-place team in the conference, Lewis, with the Rivermen giving up a lead in the second half to lose 72-78.

It was a back and forth game from the beginning with UM-St. Louis ending the first half with a field goal from Kechan Johnson to take the lead, 30-29.

The second half was again a see-saw battle with UM-St. Louis taking the lead, 51-50 with 8:00 left when Brian Markus drove to the basket, was fouled and sank a free throw.

UM-St. Louis was in the lead with 7:00 left when play was marred by a

serious injury to center Terence Herbert, who suffered tissue damage to the left side of his face. At press time, Rivermen Head Coach Mark Bensen was unsure as to whether Herbert would be able to play Saturday's game against Wisconsin Parkside.

After play resumed, UM-St. Louis expanded its lead, at one point leading 60-54. Lewis fought back and tied the score with 1:30 left.

Lewis completed its comeback with 0:30 left when Jeremy Wilson hit a three-pointer to give the Flyers a 68-71 lead and the eventual victory.

## Icemen tie; playoffs remain uncertain

BY **NICK BOWMAN**  
staff associate

Amid injuries, a scuffle and a controversial overtime decision, the Rivermen hockey team tied the Bradley University Braves 2-2.

"I fully expect this one to be a grinder... it will be true hockey," Head Coach Derek Schaub said.

The Rivermen were outshot 9-3 in the first 10 minutes, but solid goaltending by Dan Schuerman, who stopped 35 of 37 shots, kept the team in the game.

In the second period the Braves chalked up the first goal at the 15:53 mark.

At the 8:43 mark Ben Gilbertson made a pass to teammate Lynn Clemmons, who made a slapshot to even the scales at 1-1. Craig Duffy was credited with an assist.

The period went smoothly until Josh Ulrich took a hard crash against

the boards and left the game with a shoulder injury.

The Rivermen were confident in the third period with Ryan Craig feeding Gilbertson his 35th goal of the season at the 18:18 mark.

Later, center Matt Brinker collided with a Bradley player, re-aggravating an ankle injury. Brinker was carried off the ice.

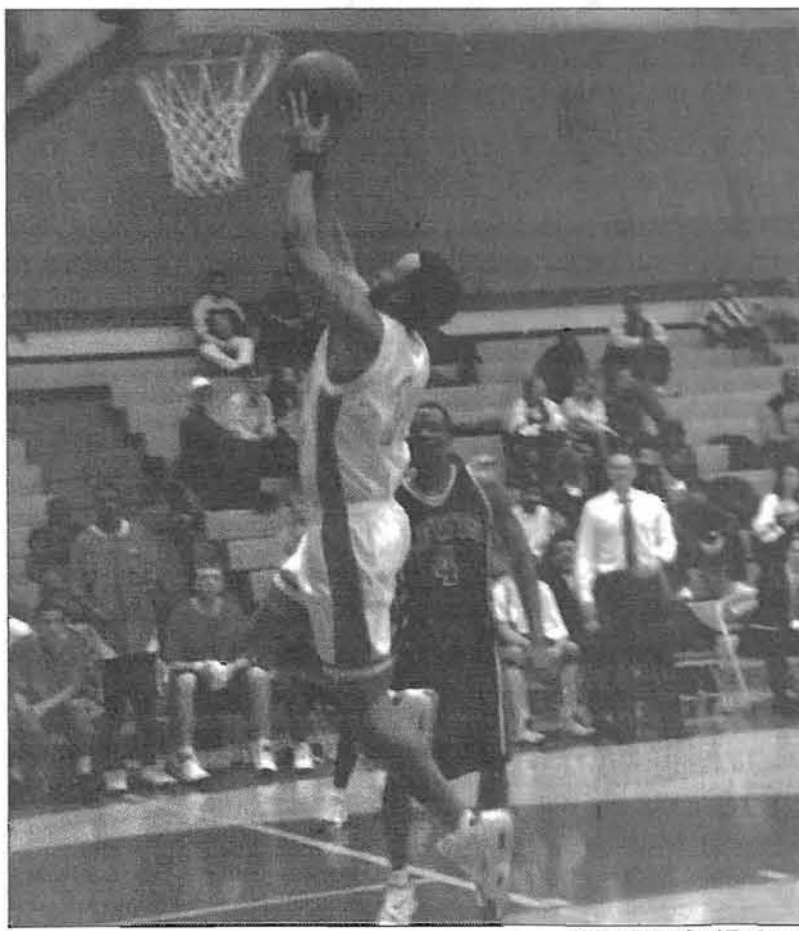
At the 19:37 mark, Bradley tied the game at 2-2. Following this goal, tempers flared and a scuffle broke out, resulting in a game misconduct and a 5:00 power play being rewarded to UM-St. Louis.

However, amid much confusion, the team never got the power play in overtime, and the game stood at 2-2.

Bradley Head Coach Jeffery Schaffer said that overtime was illegal and discontinued play, leaving the game tied. The playoff fate of the Rivermen now rests solely on Bradley's contest against Illinois.

### GLVC B-BALL STANDINGS

Men		Women	
Team	GLVC Record	Team	GLVC Record
1) Kentucky Wesleyan	16-2	1) Northern Kentucky	17-1
2) Northern Kentucky	15-3	2) UM-St. Louis	12-6
2) Southern Indiana	15-3	2) SIU-Edwardsville	12-6
4) Lewis	12-6	2) Bellarmine	12-6
4) Indianapolis	12-6	2) Lewis	12-6
6) UM-St. Louis	7-11	6) Southern Indiana	10-8
6) Bellarmine	7-11	8) Indianapolis	8-10
6) IUPU-Ft. Wayne	7-11	8) IUPU-Ft. Wayne	8-10
9) Quincy	6-12	8) Kentucky Wesleyan	8-10
8) SIU-Edwardsville	5-13	10) Wisconsin-Parkside	4-14
11) Wisconsin-Parkside	4-14	10) St. Joseph's	4-14
12) St. Joseph's	2-16	12) Quincy	1-17



Rafael Macias/The Current

Riverman Greg Ross (14) goes in for an easy lay-up against Lewis.

# Basketball teams' winning efforts deserve our respect



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

As the Homecoming Court was announced at the men's basketball game last Thursday, the reality of what has happened this season in basketball was made clear.

The season has been a huge success for the Rivermen and Riverwomen. The men, who previously were a sub-par team (to put it nicely), have turned things around and are now in contention for one of the last three seeds in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

This may not seem as great and honorific as it sounds, but the winning and the atmosphere, especially at the Lewis University game last week, has

proven to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that UM-St. Louis basketball is in good hands for the future.

Although the top five seeds are already set in the GLVC tournament for the men, the last three seeds is where the team plays a key role.

Going into the Rivermen's last home game this past weekend, the team stood at 7-10 overall and were tied for the last three spots in the tournament with Bellarmine and IUPU-Ft. Wayne.

The men play IUPU-Ft. Wayne next Thursday and have one other conference matchup with St. Joseph's

before the tournament begins.

The women, on the other hand, are not in the same position as the men. They are tied for the second seed going into Saturday's game against Wisconsin-Parkside.

The other two teams that UM-St. Louis are now tied with are SIU-Edwardsville and Bellarmine.

The Riverwomen previously beat Bellarmine at home 66-57, but lost on the road in a heated feud 80-95. The Riverwomen also defeated SIU-Edwardsville on the road 88-76.

The great expectations of the UM-St. Louis fans are growing and the

Rivermen and Riverwomen have stepped their programs up a notch.

Is this enough to get both teams to the GLVC tournament?

Apparently it is, going into the last week of conference play. Head Coaches Mark Bensen and Shelly Ethridge should be commended on the level of play they have brought to these Division II teams.

The previous years have been dismal for the Rivermen as they watched the Riverwomen grow each year under the guidance of Ethridge. The losing got to them, or at least it got to the fans, as it showed in the attendance.

What this season has done for UM-St. Louis basketball is given hope to the people who came to the games before. The public does not want to see a loser, but when a team blossoms into quality, the public hops on the bandwagon. They will support winning, but losing gets old after a while.

The Rivermen and Riverwomen have put on a spectacle for UM-St. Louis this season and the hope for the future of both programs will increase. Thanks for the things that you've done to bring the UM-St. Louis community together. Your teams deserve nothing but respect from us.

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**Upcoming Concerts**

**February**

23

Hairy Apes BMX w/  
Revolver  
The Side Door

The Hippos, Stryder, The  
Shorties & Now She's  
Gone  
Creepy Crawl

25

Outsiders  
Mississippi Nights

Out of Eden, Grits, &  
Knowdverbs  
Grace Church - St. Louis

26

Ulcer  
The Side Door

**March**

2

Sevendust w/ P.O.D.  
Pop's

3

Superfuzz  
The Firehouse

10

E.M. Gruève  
The Firehouse

14

V For Vendetta  
Hi Pointe

**FILM REVIEW & INTERVIEW**

**These REINDEER GAMES are fun to watch**



**ABOVE:** Rudy (Ben Affleck) and Ashley (Charlize Theron), who have fallen through the ice of a frozen lake while fleeing from Gabriel (Gary Sinise), search for the hole in the ice, in a scene from "Reindeer Games."



**RIGHT:** Ben Affleck (Rudy) disguised as Santa during a casino robbery, in a scene from "Reindeer Games."

**BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
staff editor

**'Reindeer Games'**  
Length: 99 min.  
Rated: R  
Our opinion: ★★

This Rudolph doesn't want to play these reindeer games.

"Reindeer Games" is the new action/thriller film by director John Frankenheimer. Frankenheimer's previous work includes "The Manchurian Candidate," a classic film listed in the Library of Congress Film Registry, the definitive list of great American films. He also directed last year's successful film, "Ronin." In recent years, he has specialized in character-driven thrillers and "Reindeer Games" fits this mold, but with a little humor, too.

In this film, Rudy (Ben Affleck) is a recently released convict whose only thought is to go home to spend an uneventful Christmas with his family and then just have some peace and quiet. But outside the prison gate when he's released waits Ashley (Charlize Theron), a woman he got to know through letters in prison, and Rudy decides impulsively to delay his homecoming to spend some time with the beautiful Ashley. This turns out to be a bad decision. He soon finds out that her brother, Gabriel (Gary Sinise), has his own holiday plans for Rudy. Gabriel, (whose nickname "Monster" says it all), and his gang have a plan to rob a casino on a Native American reservation, and they want Rudy to help. They make it clear that "no" isn't an option.

The film combines elements of an old-fashioned caper film, a Hitchcock thriller and some touches of dark humor. Rudy is like the classic Hitchcock hero, an ordinary man unwillingly and unwittingly caught up in a crime and forced to do extraordinary things to survive. Unlike a Hitchcock character, Rudy is not an ordinary citizen, but an ex-con with

knowledge and experience in the criminal world. Still, all Rudy wants to do is escape. This cast of characters and their would-be target are all in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by a sea of snow. Snow is an ever-present, brooding entity in this film, almost another character. The whiteness of the perpetually falling snow dominates many scenes, producing a washed-out, isolating effect. The film is full of twists, surprises and double-crosses—not everyone or everything is quite who or what they seem—and has plenty of action sequences. The characters and their many conflicts are leavened with a bit of underplayed black humor, which sharpens their interactions.

Director Frankenheimer seamlessly handles the action, showing a sure hand with the pace and images to tell the story visually without drawing the audience's attention to his work. The acting is handled well, with Gary Sinise, looking sinister and buff, as the malevolent if not too bright Gabriel, Ben Affleck's every-man Rudy as a put-upon character looking for the smallest chance to escape, and Charlize Theron's trailer-park beauty Ashley with her own share of surprises.

The resulting film is part caper, part thriller, part action movie with a bit of dark humor. It's fun and entertaining, with enough plot twists and explosions to please the action fan, and enough story and character to broaden the appeal of the film.

(Opening Feb. 25 at several area theaters)

*A chat with renowned director John Frankenheimer*

Recently, Catherine Marquis-Homeyer interviewed John Frankenheimer, director of the new film, "Reindeer Games," last year's "Ronin" and the classic "The Manchurian Candidate." Mr. Frankenheimer is tall and white-haired, with a pleasant but quiet, intelligent manner and was very cooperative about answering questions.

**Current:** Tell me about your new film, "Reindeer Games."

**Frankenheimer:** It is a character-driven thriller, which is the kind of film I make now, but with a little bit of humor thrown in. I knew as soon as I read the script that I wanted to make this film. I'm touring to promote the film because I feel so strongly about it. We're hoping that this film will appeal to the same people who liked "The Usual Suspects."

Beside being a character-driven thriller, it also has terrific action sequences and it also has a very good caper film flavor. "Reindeer Games" is kind of the flip side of "Ronin," because those guys are all such experts and these guys are not. It was kind of interesting to switch gears that way. DeNiro and his crowd [from "Ronin"] would have taken out this place [the casino in "Reindeer Games"] in about five minutes, and the movie would have been over, if they had ever wanted to do it in the first place. The end-point is that the prisons are full of guys like these [from "Reindeer Games"]; these are the guys who fail, the guys who think they're smart but they're not. The DeNiro-type guys never go to prison, because they never catch them.

**Current:** This doesn't seem like the kind of film that you expect to find Ben

Affleck in. Who suggested him for the role?

**Frankenheimer:** Ben was my choice. He has a kind of everyman quality, like James Stewart, which is exactly what I wanted for the role of Rudy. The role needed someone who is intelligent, could do the comedy, who would appeal to both men and women, someone the audience would root for. The character is in prison for car theft, but he's not a hardened criminal. The actor had to be someone the audience would see as an ordinary man, not an action film type.

**Current:** The film also stars Gary Sinise, one of the best actors in film now. What was it like to work with him?

**Frankenheimer:** I worked with him on the TV movie "George Wallace." His performance in that film was really brilliant, and he has great talent. So, obviously, when I got this script, the first person I want to put in it was Gary Sinise. To answer your question, it was wonderful working with him. He's intelligent, he's always totally prepared, he raises the bar for the other actors. You get a better film because he's in it.

I might add to that it was wonderful working with all the actors in this film. I think Ben is terrific and I love Charlize.

**Current:** Did you encounter any special problems in the filming?

**Frankenheimer:** There are always problems that come up with any movie. If it were easy, everyone would be doing it. It's fun, but it's hard to keep up with all the details, especially in the action sequences. There are so many things going on, most of which you

don't want the audience to ever know. There is so much subtext in every scene. This film has to be right - if it isn't right, it's not going to be believable. If it's not believable, you're going to lose the audience. So to keep it really on track is hard. I realized that the film had to be from Rudy's point of view, Ben Affleck's character, to really work.

Yeah, it was very hard, but I thought the script was really good and I loved the humor of it. To get the humor right was hard, to know where to put it. And to get the rhythm of the film, to always push it forward. We were working in very uncomfortable weather conditions, and doing a lot of night work, which means working all night, with the snow and cold, since many of the scenes are in snow.

**Current:** Tell me about your technical approach to filming this movie.

**Frankenheimer:** I always like to tell as much of the story visually as possible. I like to use extreme depth of focus, so that both figures in the foreground and figures in the background are in focus. I actually prefer to work in black and white, I feel like my best work is in black and white, so I always desaturate the color, which works espe-

cially well for the tone of "Reindeer Games."

**Current:** In your film from last year, "Ronin," the characters in the film are in the Army Special Forces. An acquaintance of mine who was in the Special Forces told me he thought that the characters were really on the mark, more so than any other film like that. How did you achieve that?

**Frankenheimer:** We had a guy from Special Forces to help with that. So, tell him that he hit it right on the head, no one has mentioned that before.

**Current:** Have you thought about doing a sequel to "Ronin"?

**Frankenheimer:** People have talked to me about that. We're trying to figure out if we really want to do that. I don't want to do another car chase, I mean, I did that. I really haven't found a story I'd like to do, but I'd like to get that bunch of actors together again.

**Current:** You made some of the greatest films of the 60s and started in early television. Did you find it difficult to make the transition to feature films?

**Frankenheimer:** In film, some things were easier, if something went wrong, you can do it over. In TV then, it was all live. The cameras were very sophisticated, and sometimes it was

difficult to get the right shot in a tight place, or make camera moves. I worked in TV dramas and a script is a script whether is a 90 minute TV drama or a feature film. One of the difficult things, which took me a while to realize, was that I didn't have to work in real time anymore. In live TV, like in theater, if it takes two minutes to cross a room, that's what it takes, time is fixed. In film, time isn't fixed, you can show someone entering a room and, in the next second, on the other side of the room. So you can compress, or in some cases, expand time. It took me a while to master that; that was the hardest thing to learn. Another thing that was difficult to master was to use the down time, the time between shots, effectively to work with the actors or to work on the script, as the crew set up for the next shot.

**Current:** Who were your earliest influences as a filmmaker, the directors whose work you admired?

**Frankenheimer:** We didn't have access to film or video then, like people do to day, so we had to develop our style on our own. I saw the films of Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, Carol Reed, among others. From some of them, I got a sense of realism in film, from Hitchcock, I got a sense of art. Just seeing their work encourages you to strive for more, reach higher.

**Current:** Among filmmakers working today, who do you admire?

**Frankenheimer:** I always hate to answer that question, because it's so easy to forget someone whose work I enjoy. But among those I like are Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone, and Anthony Minghella.

**T-shirt brings back memories of lessons learned at NIN concert**

I was shocked this week when a couple of my friends mentioned something from the column I had written last week. This meant that at least two people actually read my column!

Since I know at least two people read my column, I'll write about them this week. Even though I could incriminate both of them for various crimes against humanity with other stories, I won't, because they have been known to buy me a beer or two when I am broke.

This little tale takes place in September of 1994, when the three of us were all innocent and uncorrupted by society. We were attending the Nine Inch Nails concert that evening at The Fox, with unknown band Marilyn Manson opening up the show (so

maybe we weren't innocent).

I met up with Chris (sue me, I'm not good at making up names), and he was bedecked in acceptable NIN concert clothing: black band T-shirt, black boots, and worn jeans. I was dressed in the same manner, and we left to go pick up Brian (again, not good at pseudonyms).

Brian is a smart guy, don't get me wrong, but sometimes he lacks a little common sense. Brian walked out of his house in white K-Swiss tennis shoes, a white Big Johnson T-shirt (so his style was lacking in high school, but whose wasn't?) and bleached jean shorts. I am not sure when exactly bleached jean shorts would be acceptable to wear, but they definitely weren't that night.

Chris and I, being mean spirited as

we were (and are), didn't give him the opportunity to change and left for The Fox immediately. Our suspicions were confirmed when we arrived—there wasn't a speck of white clothing in the crowd. A wave of kindness overcame me in the lobby of The Fox of all places, and I bought a Nine Inch Nails tour shirt for somewhere in the range of 500 dollars, like most tour shirts, and told Brian to wear it before he was sacrificed on-stage. Realizing the trouble that could brew for wearing all white, Brian quickly put on the replacement as we took our seats.

The first act was the Jim Rose Sideshow Circus, a stomach-turning event by any standards. Watching someone eat razor blades had not previously been on my list of things that I enjoyed, but this was fun! (OK, so

maybe this was the exact moment in time when I lost all innocence, but I don't think so).

After that came Marilyn Manson. What we roll our eyes at now was scary six years ago, even for a crowd of die-hard NIN fans. Misused American flags, microphones and a sexual device were integral elements in the show, and we were speechless.

While the stage crew was setting up for NIN, we spotted Marilyn Manson hanging out near our seat. Everyone else in the crowd was afraid to go talk to him, so I decided to go up and say hi. Possibly to save me from imminent death, Brian and Chris followed me up to the freakish lead singer. Through a twisted chain of events that I cannot fully remember, Brian ended up getting my T-shirt he

was wearing signed by the, er, man himself. I tried to return the favor by getting his ticket stub signed, but some lady came up and offered to be Manson's slave, and we were shoved out of the way.

Manson didn't hang out much longer; bassist Twiggy Ramirez snuck up behind him and informed him that it was time to go. Manson left the slowly growing crowd around him (without the slave), and we went back to our seats.

It was an event to remember: Brian never wore bleached jeans to a concert again, we never talked to Manson again, and I still have that T-shirt. It is nearly 6 years old now, and the autograph is fading, but I'll always have it to remind Brian's parents that he wasn't an angel in high school.



RANT & ROLL

**CORY BLACKWOOD**

**THEATER REVIEW**

# Despite datedness, 'Virginia Woolf' still provides sparkling verbal humor, surprising storyline

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

That scary literary figure is back! "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is currently running at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis in Webster Groves. Edward Albee's Pulitzer-Prize-winning play is significantly different from the classic movie starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, so if you've only seen that film, you don't know this play. For one thing, the play is a lot funnier and verbally creative, but it still has the emotional fireworks of the film version.

Despite its title, author Virginia Woolf isn't really a character in this

play, which takes place between two couples who get together for a party after the party and engage in what the hostess Martha describes as a night of "fun and games." The whole story takes place in the living room of George and Martha during a single night in 1960. Following a party to welcome new faculty members to a small Eastern college, the flamboyant Martha invites new faculty member Nick and his mousy wife Honey over for a few drinks. Martha, daughter of the college's founder and head, is married to the deceptively quiet George, a long-time faculty member whose career is stalled. While Martha claims the invitation is an effort to welcome a new couple, it soon becomes clear that "fun and

games" is what she really has in mind, for the outrageous Martha and the bitingly sarcastic George are masters of psychological gamesmanship and take their guests on a wild ride of deceit and surprise in which all secrets are fair game and no feelings, even theirs, are spared. The result is a play of verbal sparkle and wit, with the bumps and twists of a roller coaster.

The acting is the great standout of this play, especially Carolyn Swift who carries much of the play's energy as the acerbic Martha. Despite her powerful, domineering manner, the relationship between Martha and George is more complicated than it appears at first, and both Swift and Anderson Matthews, as the more verbally sophisticated and

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'**

Venue: Repertory Theater  
Dates: Now - Mar. 10  
Our opinion: ★★★★★



George (Anderson Matthews, standing) and Martha (Carolyn Swift, far right) having invited Nick (Chris Hietikko) and his wife Honey (Ashley West) prepare for a night of fun and games.

indirect George, produce sparkling performances. Likewise, Chris Hietikko, as the alternately aloof and arrogant Nick, is excellent, as is Ashley West as the densely clueless Honey, a difficult role in which she is required to respond correctly to the antics around her, rather than taking the lead in scenes. The set and costumes are perfect for the play, conveying the time period and place as well as the different natures of the characters in an exceedingly effective manner.

The problem with the play comes from the nature of the piece itself. Much has changed in the world since the late 1950s, when the play was written, and the play reflects the ideas of what was scandalous and hushed at that time. Changes in women's role in society since then particularly make much of the story seem dated. The late 50s was a time in which women retreated to more traditional gender roles, following the efforts of the women's movement in the 1910s and 1920s, and to a sexual repression more like the

Victorian era than the Roaring 20s. A strong desire for social conformity was a dominant theme for both men and women in American culture at that time. Hence, in 1960, the thought that a couple had sex before marriage was scandalous, and the play was considered lewd, while many of its scandalous revelations would hardly get the slightest reaction in 2000. While many of the other personal issues raised in the play have a timeless quality, the gender

issues give the play a strongly dated quality and will probably leave audience members who are unfamiliar with the social mores of the late 50s confused about what all the fuss is about.

With that single reservation about the play itself, this is a wonderful opportunity for theater fans to see a marvelous performance of a little performed award-winning play that many critics considered to be Edward Albee's best work.

**ALBUM REVIEW**

## Femi Kuti succeeds on new album by combining Afrobeat, other styles

BY CORY BLACKWOOD  
staff editor

By mixing jazz and traditional Nigerian music in the 70s, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti created a new musical genre known as Afrobeat. Before dying of an AIDS-related heart failure in 1997, Anikulapo-Kuti left many marks on society beyond his music.

Political activism became a major aspect of his life, so much so that his Nigerian home was burned to the ground by the Nigerian Government, killing his 77-year-old mother inside. When that did not silence him, he was imprisoned for two years and still sang on. From one of Fela's many wives came son Femi Kuti, who has revitalized his father's music. On "Shoki Shoki," Femi Kuti takes the Afrobeat music spawned by his father to a new level. Femi Kuti took the still potent combination of free-form jazz and Nigerian music and added various other styles to the mix, including a bit of house music, hip-hop and Latin and Caribbean, and none of the music suffers for the addition.

The result is a strong and moving body of work that also entices listeners to dance. "Beng Beng Beng" is a perfect example of how the traditional feel of Afrobeat is only strengthened by the addition of house beats. It is obvious that Femi Kuti has amazing depth in music, from mixing to laying out sounds and textures. What is even more impressive is his ability on the saxophone. Kuti has such amazing ability on the saxophone that images of jazz great Charlie Parker are conjured when Kuti plays. Coupled with the other beats on the songs, the saxophone is nearly trance-inducing.

**'Shoki Shoki'**

Artist: Femi Kuti  
Label: MCA Records  
Our opinion: ★★★★★



Kuti is equally talented in the field of lyrics, with such moving songs as "Blackman Know Yourself" and "Victim of Life." With both talent and political potency, Kuti's lyrics put him in the range of Bob Marley, a sight unseen by most musicians.

With all of the skills Kuti possesses, the highlight of the album comes partly from an outside source. The last track is a remix of "Blackman Know Yourself" by The Roots, featuring a

straight hip-hop beat as well as a scathing rap.

"Shoki Shoki" is an essential album for anyone wishing to expand their collection, whether it be rap, house, jazz or Afrobeat. Simply put, this is a great change of pace for anyone stuck in a rut.

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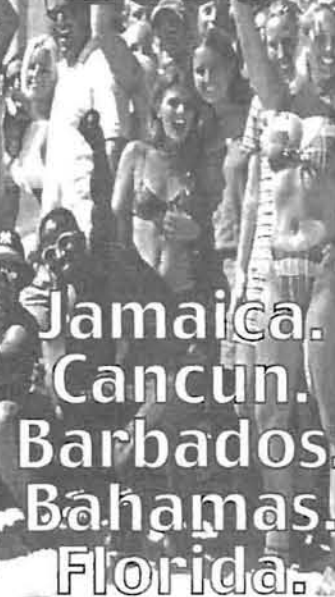
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## West Drive signal to be activated after fiber optic cable installed

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL  
staff editor

When will the light at the intersection of West Campus Drive, Natural Bridge Road and Clearview Drive stop blinking and start changing from red to green?

As soon as workers can hook it up to a fiber optic cable to coordinate it with traffic lights at Hanley Road, and Arlmont and University drives, said Bill Schnell, area engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation. He said he did not know how long that would take.

Before engineers under contract to UM-St. Louis designed the West Drive traffic light, a contractor working for the Missouri Department of Transportation installed a fiber-optic cable on the south side of Natural Bridge to connect the traffic lights, Schnell said. However, the design of the signal called for putting the control box on north side of Natural Bridge.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is in charge of design and construction of the intersection under a permit issued by MoDOT. That means the University is in charge of making sure the materials are there, while the transportation department must approve of it before the light goes into operation.

Schnell said that the last he heard, the cable wouldn't reach, and the University had ordered a longer cable to replace it.

Installing a new cable is a simple process that doesn't involve digging up the street, Schnell said, because the conduit is in place to bring the cable across Natural Bridge to connect it with the control box.

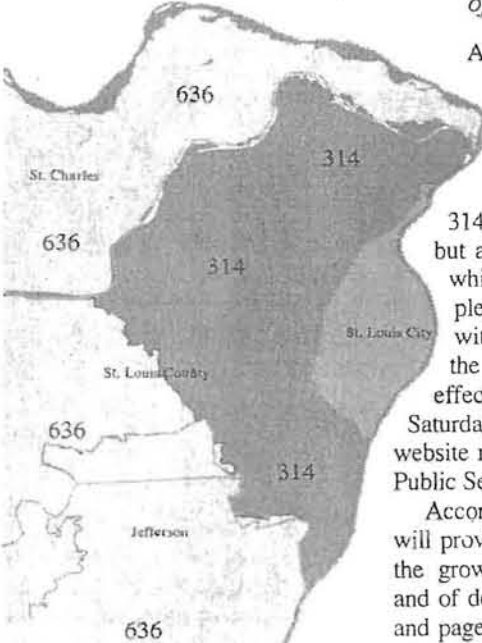
The light is flashing now to get drivers used to the fact that a signal exists here. "That way they don't hit a red light the first time they see it," Schnell said.

The new signal is a small part of a \$9 million project that includes rerouting West Drive and building the West Parking Structure.

# 314 area code split takes effect this week

314-636 Area Code Map

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
of The Current staff



Map courtesy of Missouri Public Service Commission

As of February 26, telephone calls to some portions of the former 314 area code will require customers to dial 636 instead.

The dialing area for the 314 code was split last May, but a permissive period, during which customers could complete calls to the 636 region with either the old 314 code or the new 636 one, has been in effect. That period will end Saturday Feb. 26, according to a website maintained by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

According to the site, the split will provide more numbers to meet the growing demands of business and of devices like wireless phones and pagers which require their own telephone numbers.

The commission's site says that

long-distance rates will not be affected by the change. It says calls that are local now will still be local after the split. It says dialing for emergency calls to 911 will not be changed.

UM-St. Louis Telephone Services is advising people to be aware of the change, and to update any devices with automatic dialers, such as phones and fax machines.

Most of St. Louis County and all of St. Louis city will remain in the 314 area code. All the parts of St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson Counties that are now in 314 will be in 636. The boundary between the two area codes cuts through Chesterfield, and parts of southwest and far South County will be in the 636 area code.

A list of affected telephone exchanges and further information is available at the Missouri Public Service Commission's website at <http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/314/314-split.html>

## Student Court sets conditions for holding Butler appeal

BY JOE HARRIS  
senior editor

The Student Court decided Feb. 16 that it could hear Student Government Association President Darwin Butler's appeal of the SGA's decision to dismiss him from office. But it set some conditions.

The court told Butler he must choose whether to make his appeal in person, by teleconference or by sending a representative instead of himself.

The court ruled that it would not hold a hearing at the St. Louis County Justice Center where Butler is currently serving time. Rick

Eccher, chief justice of the Student Court, said members of the court had reservations about moving the appeal.

"Two of the justices had strong opinions about going to the jail, and they were opposed to going to the jail," Eccher said.

Butler has been in jail since his work release was revoked in October. Since Butler is still a student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and takes correspondence courses, he has the right to appeal.

Eccher said the Student Court is still waiting on a ruling from the University's General Counsel on how to proceed even though they

narrowed down the choices. The General Counsel is the legal counsel for the University of Missouri system.

"We're still waiting on the General Counsel through Joanne Bocci [interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs] because you know that it might be that the teleconference would be illegal," Eccher said. "It might be that he has personal appeal rights and only the first choice would be appropriate and in that case what do we do?"

Eccher said he spoke to Bocci on Thursday and was told that she was doing her best to get an answer from the General Counsel.

Bocci did not respond to *The Current's* requests for comment.

### CONSTITUTION, from page 1

having a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and being enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours. The second section includes that every candidate "shall consent to a background review by the vice chancellor for Student Affairs or his/her designee and to be found to have no current or prior convictions for violation of local, state, or federal statutes exceeding the misdemeanor category."

Rankins said the inclusion of background checks is not a reaction to the events surrounding the SGA presidential office this year. Instead, he said it has been a long time in coming.

"The Intercampus Student Council, or the ISC, passed this the previous year regarding guidelines for background checks for all officers and that was in October," Rankins said.

The fact that the proposed constitution contains no SGA comptroller concerned some in attendance, including Rankins.

"If there are any weaknesses [with the proposed constitution], I would say that the one I'm most disappointed to see is that the comptroller position has been removed," Rankins said. "I didn't want that."

Rankins said the comptroller is the only student elected by the students who serves on the Student Budget Allocation Committee, or SABC. The SABC decides the budgets for all campus student organizations. Rankins said with the proposed constitution, every member will be decided by a review by the Student Activities office.

D. Mike Bauer, SGA chair, said the lack of a comptroller in the proposed constitution does not concern him.

"As far as I understand, the SABC

has always been under the control of Student Activities and not SGA," Bauer said. "A couple of years ago, the SGA created this position of comptroller, but I've never seen any of the written documentation about it. It's not in the [current] constitution that we have and as far as the new constitution is concerned, we'd just as soon say 'let Student Activities handle it.'"

"Rick Blanton [director of Student Activities] told us that in years that there hasn't been a comptroller as opposed to years where there has been a comptroller, that his work load concerning SABC has not changed significantly."

The proposed constitution also voids the bylaws of 1989.

Rankins said one of the many problems of the current constitution is that in many instances, the bylaws and constitution contradict each other. He said this new constitution will be more efficient without the bylaws.

"There will be no bylaws," Rankins said, "and what I said at the meeting was if people want to add things, make amendments, not bylaws. The bylaws strangle SGA in red tape."

No vote was taken on the proposed constitution at the meeting. Rankins said that all representatives will now review the proposed constitution and submit any changes or recommendations they would like to see in writing to the SGA office before the March 16 meeting.

If there are no major rewrites to the proposed constitution, Rankins said, the assembly would vote on it at the March meeting. If approved, then it would go on the ballot for the association's approval in the April elections.

### KWMU, from page 1

announcer reads the underwriting announcement, "UMSL 'speaks' by airing its acknowledgments of funds received from certain parties to pay for specific broadcasts."

KWMU is licensed to the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri and its studios are in Lucas Hall on the UM-St. Louis campus.

Herman could not be reached for comment, but an Associated Press dispatch quoted him as saying, "If the

radio station decides its listeners don't care for Jews, can they keep Jews off the air too?"

The court noted that KWMU has turned down underwriting support from the American Friends Service Committee, the Ultimate Fighting Championships and an establishment characterized by KWMU general manager Patricia Bennett as "a house of ill repute."

### TUITION, from page 1

discovery phase. He also said he has no objection to the Senate bill 953.

"I have no quarrel with the University except that they comply with the law like the rest of us do," Herman said.

Maurice Manning, manager of media relations for the University of

Missouri system, said the proposed law is intended for clarifying purposes. He also said the system has had no involvement with legislation on the issue.

"We are not trying to push any legislation in that area," Manning said.

Michael Douglas

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### THE NERD TABLE BY: MARY JOHNSON



#### Correction

In a Homecoming advertising insert and graphic in Issue 980, Homecoming Court candidate Tom Albrecht should have been listed as a previous participant in the Student Senate and the Student Activities Budget Committee.

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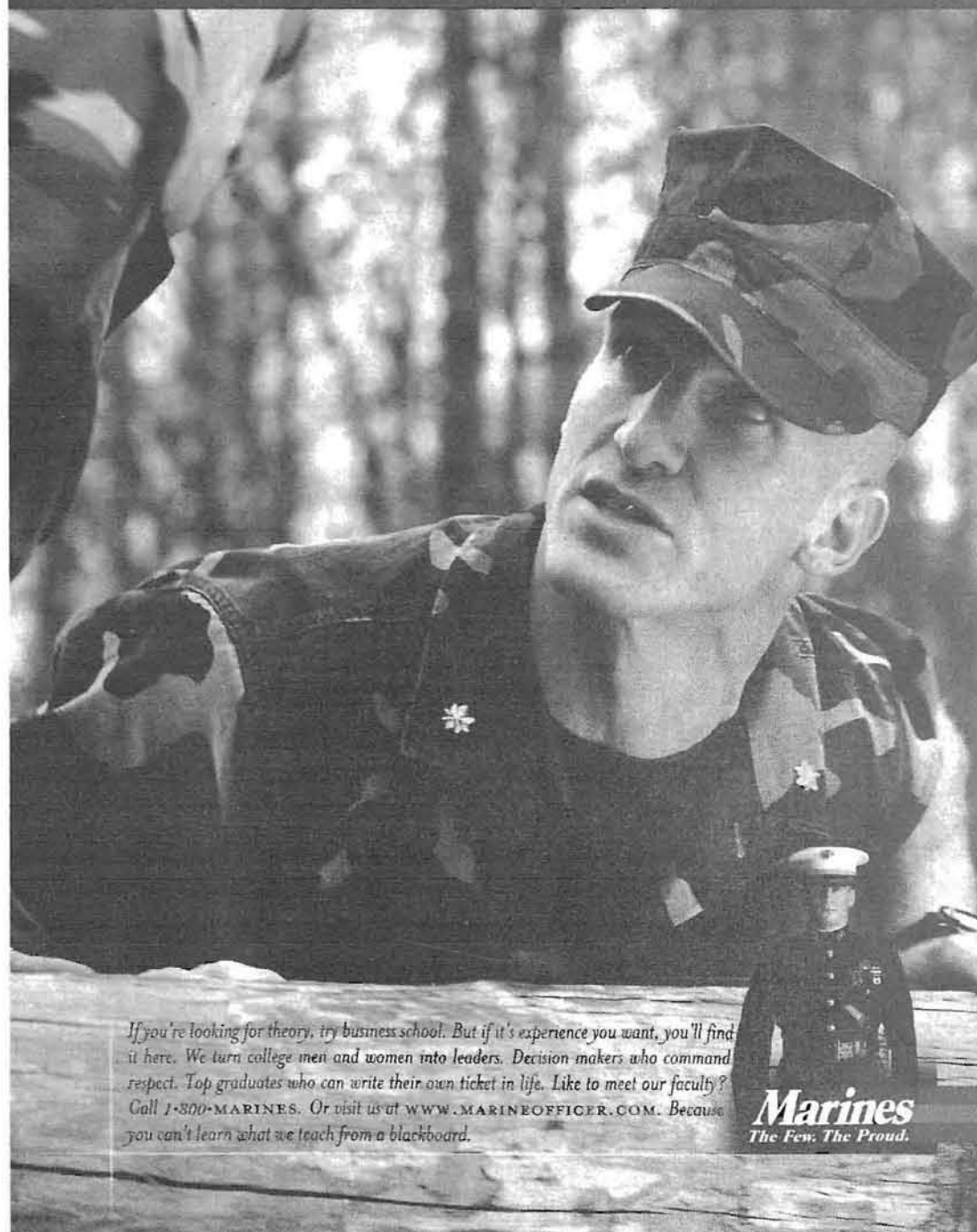
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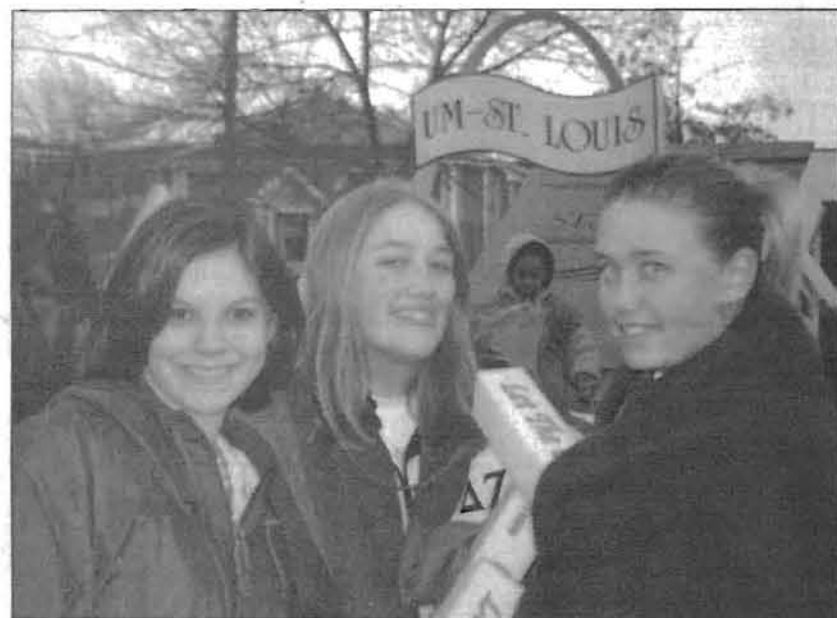


A group of athletes and their fans gather around the bonfire to celebrate Homecoming following a pep rally last Wednesday.

Darren Brune/ The Current

# HOME COMING 2000

**RIGHT:** Sara Mueller, Sam Bozue, and Christy Tayloe pause for a photo during the Homecoming parade last Wednesday.



Michelle Van Iseghem/ The Current

**BELOW:** Riverman Brian Markus tries to score during the men's basketball Homecoming game. The Rivermen lost to Wisc.-Parkside 75-56.



Rafael Macias/ The Current



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

**ABOVE:** Students enjoy dinner at tje America's Center downtown last Friday night. Dinner, the coronation of the Homecoming king and queen, and the dance were the highlights of the evening.

**LEFT:** Seniors Maggie McGuire and Tom Albrecht were crowned Homecoming queen and king Friday night.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

**BELOW:** The rythm section of the UMSL pep band take a break from the action and strike a silly pose. From left to right they are Benjamin Ash, Steven Meyers, Ryan Gerstner, and M. Josh Ryan.



Rafael Macias/ The Current