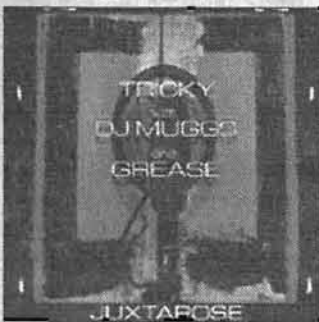




On thin ice: With a last minute win over DuPage, the Rivermen have improved their chances to qualify for the ACHA national tournament.

◀ See page 5

What's Inside



One last look: Our A&E editors put together some final "top 10" lists looking at music and movies of the last decade and century.

▲ See page 6

U-Wire News

Regent challenges anti-abortion leaders to debate

BY KIMBERLY SWEET
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — A University of Nebraska regent is prepared to take on anti-abortion leaders in a debate over the use of aborted fetal tissue for research at the university's medical center.

Anti-abortion leaders received a letter from regent Drew Miller last month. In it, Miller challenged Nebraska Right to Life leader Julie Schmit-Albin, Metro Right to Life leader Bob Blank and Rescue the Heartland leader Larry Donlan to prove in front of "a panel of leading Nebraska citizens" that ending research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is not in the best interest of Nebraskans.

Miller said if the citizens who watch the debate vote to stop it, Miller would withdraw from running for re-election to the board. All three wrote to Miller just before the new year to accept his challenge.

While she accepted the offer to debate the issues, Schmit-Albin said she and the others were against having a panel of "leading citizens" vote whether the research should continue. The Right to Life executive director said the panel would promote an attitude that "regular" Nebraskans are too ignorant to have a say in the matter.

"Having a panel of leading Nebraska citizens is bogus," Schmit-Albin said.

Miller said he would use the debate to bring out a number of points. One of those points is that the regents' resolution adopted in December is the only one in the nation that looks to an alternative source of supply for tissue.

Miller said ending the research and forcing research outside of Nebraska would end using tissue from alternative sources.

Asked if the debate would end the controversy, Schmit-Albin said she wasn't sure what the debate would accomplish.

"I don't have any idea what this will foster," she said. "If it will result in the 17 questions being answered, that would be wonderful."

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Schwartz asks U to get guarantee on Performing Arts Center sound levels

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

A physics professor wants the University to seek guarantees that the noise from airplanes doesn't interfere with performances at the new Performing Arts Center and that the University is adequately insured in case of an aircraft-related tragedy.

Richard Schwartz proposed getting a written guarantee from Kirkegaard and Associates, a company consulting the University on construction of the

center that the noise levels will be at the expected levels and that the University look into insurance protection in the event of an aircraft-related tragedy. The center is located directly under a flight pattern of Lambert International Airport.

Schwartz, chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UM-St. Louis, has worked closely with engineers and construction superintendents on the building's noise attenuation since 1998. He said that even though adequate noise attenuation lev-

els have been agreed upon, it is still important to get a written guarantee from Kirkegaard that the building will live up to expected levels.

"If it's an important issue in the construction of a building to achieve a certain end, one would hope that the contractors would come within some reasonable range of achieving that end," Schwartz said. "If it falls short of what was promised, then I think there should either be penalties or the contractors should fix it free of charge."

Schwartz said the insurance issue is

another concern of his. A memo written by Schwartz to Donald Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor, dated Dec. 7, 1999, outlines Schwartz's concern.

"An aircraft crashing into the building would be a terrible tragedy, potentially causing the death of a 1,000 or more people (I remind you that an Ozark airliner crashed about 200 yards from the proposed site in 1973 with the loss of 38 lives)," the memo said. "The building should be indemnified for just this circumstance, either by the University (State) or by a private

insurance company. A liability figure of \$100 million, large as it may sound, might cover only about 100 deaths in such an event."

Driemeier said he received the letter, but his response to it has been delayed because of the Christmas holidays. He said he is in the process of gathering feedback about the suggestions.

Driemeier said he has received some feedback and that Schwartz's

see SOUND, page 10



Rafael Macias/The Current

After removing the barriers at the entrance to West Drive (pictured here), the Missouri Department of Transportation plans to activate the traffic signal today. According to engineers, the lights will flash for two days and become fully operational Thursday.

West Drive intersection will be opened for traffic this week

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Getting to the new West Drive parking structure should be easier today and even easier Thursday. Plans call for taking down the traffic barrier at the West Drive entrance to Natural Bridge Road today after the Missouri Department of Transportation activates the traffic signals there, said Chris Samples, construction manager at UM-St. Louis.

By Thursday at 9 a.m., the traffic signal should be fully functional, said Dan Bruno, a traffic engineer with the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Bruno said department policy calls for putting a light on flash for two days before making it fully operational to give motorists time to become aware that it is there.

The new signal is a small part of a \$9 million project that includes rerouting West Drive and building the West Parking Structure, Samples said. In turn, constructing the signal, the new West Drive, and the garage are part of implementing UM-St. Louis' 1993 Master Plan, said Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction. The Master Plan calls for rerouting East Drive to connect directly with Natural Bridge east of Woods Hall and closing the existing entrance at University Drive to motor vehicles, Darandari said. The University does not have the money or the land to reroute East Drive yet, so the change is not a done deal, Darandari said.

The traffic barrier keeping cars from making anything but a right turn into or out of Natural Bridge has been in place since August, Samples said.

Since then, motorists like Linda Landesman, a senior in education, have had to take circuitous routes to get to the new garage after driving down Natural Bridge from Interstate 170.

"I had to go completely around campus," Landesman said. "I see a lot of people turning left by Woods Hall and making a U-turn and coming back or going into the residential neighborhood and coming back."

Sarah Kalish, a sophomore biology student, said she found it so difficult to find her way to the new garage "that I just park way over there and have to walk."

The project took so long to complete because it had to be coordinated with the Department of Transportation and the village of Bel-

see TRAFFIC, page 10

Lack of programs may impact SGA budget request

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

With the school year half gone, the Student Government Association has few definite plans for nearly half of its \$38,000 budget.

Questions arose after SGA chair D. Mike Bauer, in an article in *The Current* last week, said, "We've [SGA] got a \$40,000 budget that's just been sitting there. We haven't done anything with it all year."

Steve Wolfe, acting SGA president, said SGA's turmoil prevented any programming to take place last semester, but that shouldn't be the case this semester. Wolfe said SGA will put together the Big Event and co-sponsor one or more campus events this semester to satisfy their programming allotment. The Big Event is a nationwide public service event. Last year was the first year UM-St. Louis participated in it.

"The one I can definitely say is the Big Event," Wolfe said. "I have already talked to [Joe] Flees and he's the chairman of it again. He doesn't have a date for it yet. He told me the national date coincides with our spring break and that was one of the problems I think with the event last year."

Wolfe said that a date will be set for the Big Event shortly and that another co-sponsorship is in a planning stage with several other student organizations. Wolfe said he has approached several student organizations about the co-sponsorship but hasn't received any commitments yet.

Michael Rankins, former SGA vice-president and current SGA representative, is helping with this year's SGA budget request. He said everything from last year's allocation has been used effectively up to this point.

"With the exception of Darwin Butler's salary, which has been stopped since he's been gone, expens-

es have been the same for SGA," Rankins said. "We still have office operations, we have additional salaries, we have three secretaries part-time, and we have also hosted a number of events."

According to Student Activities, SGA spent money on a copier-maintenance agreement, telephone bills, mailings, advertising in *The Current*, office supplies, a booth at EXPO, a subscription to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, pagers, and catering.

Records indicate SGA hosted one activity last semester: the visit of a delegation of visiting South African students from the University of Western Cape.

Rankins said SGA has spent about \$21,000 of its \$38,000 allotment for this year. He said SGA will ask for approximately \$55,000 for next year.

One of the criteria for budget allocations for next year is effective use of previous budgets. With the Student Activities budget committee's deadline for proposed budgets passing on Jan. 14, SGA's use of this year's budget

may have an impact on next year's allocation.

Aaron Farmer, SGA representative for Sigma Pi fraternity, said that any organization that misuses its allocation should be punished with future budget cuts.

"Our student fees are already outrageously high so if there is any misappropriation, then that's something that should be taken up with Student Activities and the administration," Farmer said.

Bryan Shaw, SGA comptroller and co-chair of the Student Activities Budget Committee, said the SABC has met several times and that all of the criteria for deciding budgets will

see SGA, page 10

A Look at SGA's TOP 1999 EXPENSES

New copier	\$5,904.82
ASUM funding	2,500.00
Copier maintenance	1,500.00
Laserjet supplies	382.80
Microsoft Office	
2000 Professional	199.95
Car rentals	193.12
Software installation	75.00
EXPO booth	50.00
Visiting W. African students	43.76

Information compiled from SGA budget report. List does not include money for salaries, payroll, SGA meeting expenses, loan payments, or advertisements.

Butler asks to take class by correspondence, files for extradition to Nevada

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Darwin Butler, the president of the Student Government Association, probably won't be on campus this semester. Butler, who is currently serving time in the St. Louis County Justice Center has registered for classes, but at least one instructor reports that Butler has asked to take the class by correspondence.

In addition, Butler has filed legal papers with both St. Louis County Circuit Court and U. S. District Court asking to be extradited to Nevada to face charges there.

Butler is serving a one-year sentence in St. Louis County after pleading guilty to buying a computer with a stolen credit card. In addition, he is on probation in Nevada after pleading guilty to stealing his former girlfriend's car keys and necklace in Carson City. He faces a two-year suspended sentence there.

On Nov. 17, Butler filed a paper in Judge David Lee Vincent's court in St. Louis County "requesting that the sending state (Missouri) deliver my person to the receiving state (Nevada) in order that speedy and efficient prosecution may be had."

On Dec. 22, Butler filed suit in federal court against Calzona Hall,

director of justice services in St. Louis County, asking a federal judge to order that Butler be "extradited to Nevada as soon as possible," according to court papers.

Hall said in a telephone interview that he can only follow a court order, and the court has ordered Butler held until his sentence runs out. According to court papers, Butler began serving his one-year sentence on April 23, 1999. Judge Vincent approved a work-release arrangement on May



Butler

14 allowing Butler to attend school at UM-St. Louis. Butler had just been elected SGA president.

On Oct. 21, 1999, Judge Vincent revoked Butler's work release for driving with a suspended driver's license, driving without insurance, and testing positive for alcohol in a breathalyzer test.

Butler cannot leave the jail until his one-year sentence is up unless the jail releases him early for good behavior, said Colleen Blake, clerk in Judge Vincent's court. After the

sentence is completed, he will be extradited, Blake said, so Butler cannot expect to be a free man until Nevada releases him.

However, Butler has registered for school this semester, including for two classes with Sid Savan of the communications department. Savan said Butler wrote to him requesting that he be allowed to take the classes by correspondence. Savan said he would consult with his department head to see if an arrangement could be worked out.

Butler could not be reached for comment. Hall said he would relay a message to Butler, but Butler did not respond.

Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Jan. 18

• **Rec Sports Winter Aerobics** begin, running through May 12. There is a one-time fee of \$35 for students and \$50 for faculty, staff and alumni. Participants can choose from a variety of classes including Tae Box, Step w/Muscle and Body Toning. Classes will be held in the Mark Twain Aerobics Room and are taught by certified fitness trainers. For class schedules or to register, contact the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain at 5326. Information is also available at www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/index.html.

• **Motivation and Time Management**, is the first of a series of seminars in the Academic Success Advantage Program. Presented by Counselling Services, the seminar will take place today from 11

a.m. to 12 p.m. or Wednesday from 12 to 1 p.m. in room 427 SSB. For more information contact Counselling Services at 5711.

• **Spinning** (stationary cycling) is now available. To inquire about class time and to reserve a spot, call the Rec Office at 5326. Each class costs \$3 for students and \$4 for all others with cards available (equal to 10 spins per card) at \$20 for students and \$30 for faculty, staff and alumni.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

• **Student Network:** How to work the system and make it work for you. Presented by Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs, this event allows you to learn all that UM-St.

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.

Louis has to offer during the academic year. It will be located at 78 J. C. Penney Building from 12 to 1:30 p.m., with refreshments and attendance prizes available. For more information contact Linda Sharp at 6807.

• **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Students for Change**, aka. Queer Alliance, will have their first meeting in the Oak Room (above The Underground) at 4 p.m. For more information contact Dana at 664-2032.

• **Rec Sports Registration Deadline** is today for the following activities: Coed

Volleyball League, Men's and Women's Basketball Leagues, Men's and Coed Indoor Soccer Leagues and Bowling Doubles Leagues. All activities are open to students, faculty and staff. For schedules and sign up information contact the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain, at 5326.

Friday, Jan. 21

• **Graffiti Party!!!** Presented by Sigma Tau Gamma, come and decorate the walls and each other. Festivities will begin around 9 p.m. at the Sig Tau House (located next to Popeye's on Natural Bridge Rd.). All UM-St. Louis students are welcome. You must be 18 to get in.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

December 13, 1999

A student reported that a cellular telephone was stolen from 100 Lucas Hall on Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. The phone was valued at \$130.

A person was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property, a student parking permit. The permit had been reported stolen on Nov. 3. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs office. Also, an arrest warrant will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's office.

The student who was displaying a counterfeit parking permit has been charged with possessing stolen property. The parking permit had been reported stolen on Sept. 10. An arrest warrant will be sought at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's office.

December 17, 1999

A vehicle parked on the lot at UM-St. Louis South Metrolink was found to have the driver's door glass broken out at 12:20 p.m.

December 20, 1999

A staff person reported that he discovered that both Missouri license plate tabs were missing from his vehicle license plates. It's unknown as to where the theft actually occurred.

A student/athlete reported that a Nokia cellular telephone was stolen from a locker at 44 Mark Twain Building between Dec. 18 at 3:15 p.m. and Dec. 20 at 3:30 p.m.

A student reported that between 9:45 and 10:15 p.m. her vehicle was broken into while parked on Lot "V". A book-bag and purse were taken. The book-bag contained textbooks. The purse

contained personal identification, credit cards, money orders and \$100 in cash. Entry into the vehicle was gained by breaking the driver's door glass.

All of the items taken in the above theft were recovered outside the Education Library with the exception of the cash.

December 30, 1999

A student residing at the South Campus Residence Hall reported being assaulted by her boyfriend while at the residence hall at 8:20 p.m. Both persons were struck by punches and a glass pot was thrown. All attempts to locate the boyfriend were unsuccessful.

January 9, 2000

A person attending the UM-St. Louis Commencement at the Mark Twain Building reported being assaulted by a contract usher. The person alleges that

on trying to exit the south balcony via the southwest stairwell the usher pushed him backwards. The usher denied pushing the person and reported being bumped several times by the person.

January 10, 2000

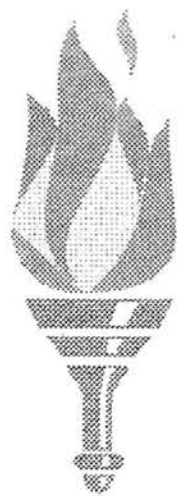
A student reported that an unknown white male exposed himself to her while she sat in the second floor hallway at Lucas Hall at 7:50 p.m. After University Police were contacted, a search to locate the suspect was conducted with negative results.

January 12, 2000

A student reported that between 4 and 7:30 p.m. her student parking permit was stolen from her auto while it was parked on South Campus on Student Lot "V". There was no damage to the student's auto.

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

Announcement of nomination to



Who's Who

among students in

American Universities & Colleges

an annual honors program recognizing our nation's leading college students

Nominations are currently being accepted for students who will be included in the 1999 Who's Who among students in American Universities & Colleges directory. If you are a student with a record of outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement, you may qualify to be honored by this prestigious national collegiate tradition.

To be considered, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be a senior or a graduate student
- Have an above average academic standing
- Have made contributions in academic and extracurricular activities
- Have demonstrated leadership, citizenship and service to the school and the community
- Show potential for future achievement

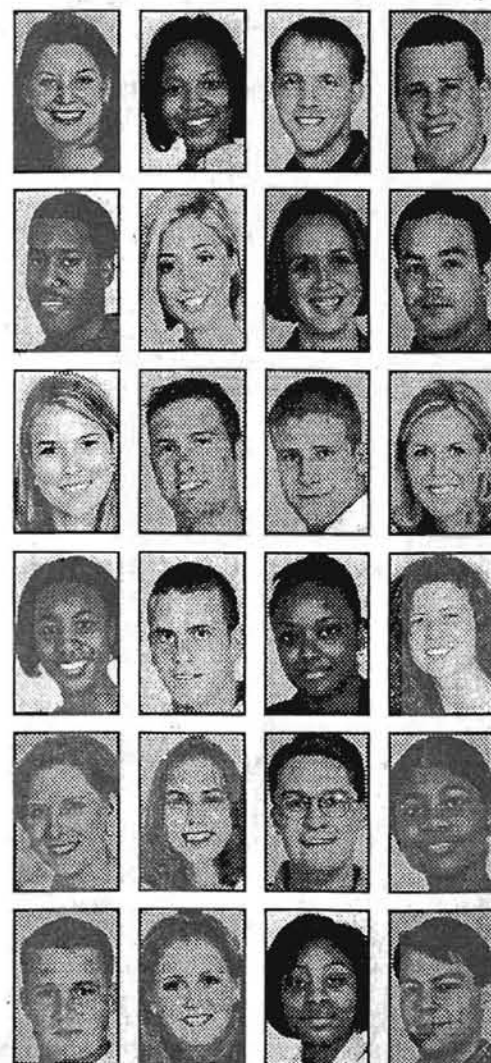
Students may nominate themselves or each other by:

1. Picking up a nomination form at a dean's office or 267 University Center
2. Completing the form
3. Returning the form by Friday, January 28, 2000 to the dean's office of the school or college in which you are enrolled.

Nominations submitted after this date will not be accepted!

If you have any questions please contact the Office of Student Activities at 516-5291.

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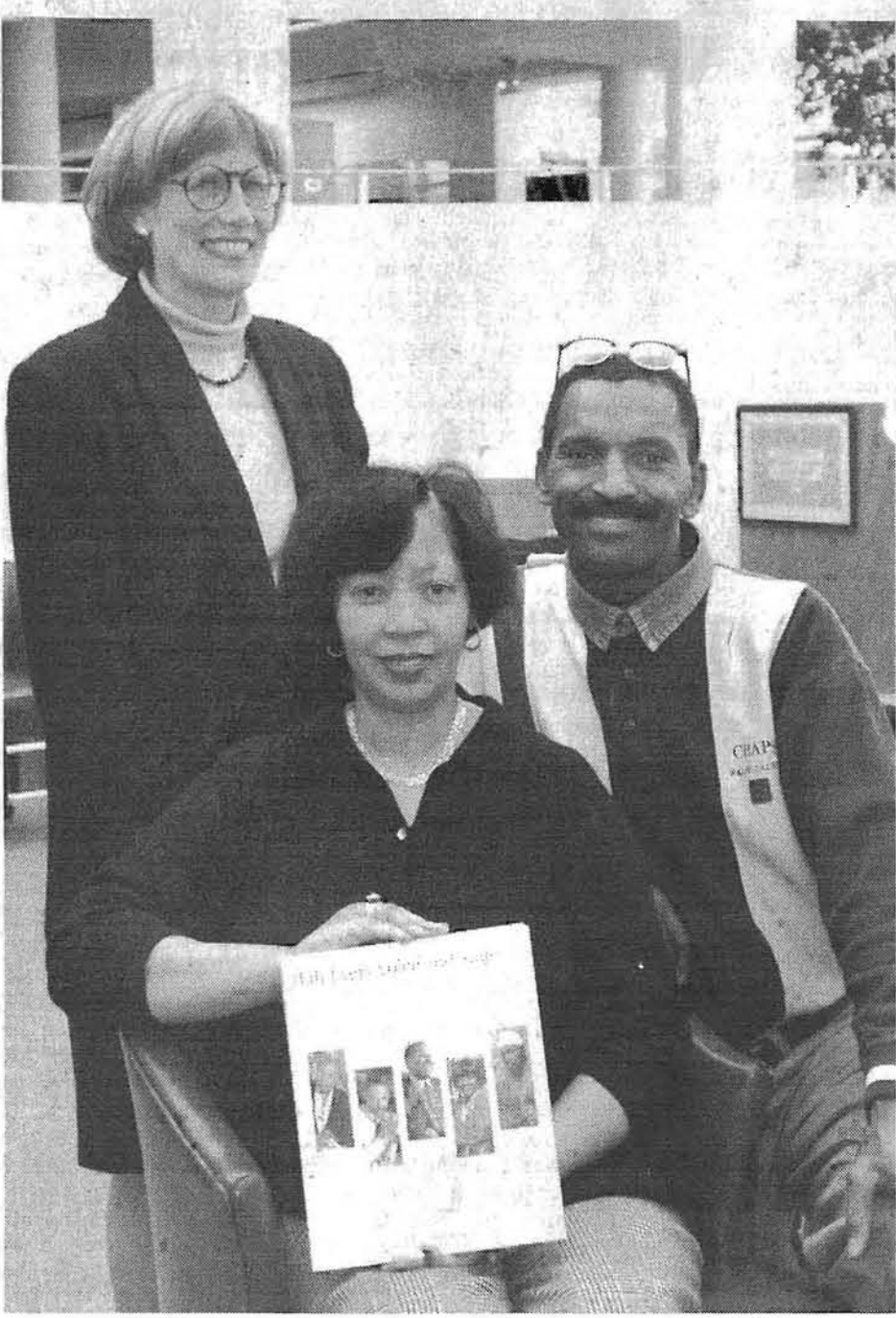
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<http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/current/>

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MCMA





Rafael Macias/The Current
Anne Morris, Doris Wesley and Wiley Price in the Mercantile Library with "Lift Every Voice."

LIFTING A Voice

Authors gather narratives detailing St. Louis area's African-American heritage

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff writer

It was Monday Aug. 26, 1963, and Norman Seay still had not decided if he was going to stay in St. Louis and participate in C.O.R.E.'s demonstration for equal employment in front of the Jefferson Bank, or if he was going to board the bus the next morning and march with Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington D.C. Seay said that everywhere he went, people were talking about the march on Washington, and he had a feeling that this was going to be a major demonstration. Just the opportunity to march with Martin Luther King Jr. would be an honor in itself. At the same time, Seay said he had put in so much work with C.O.R.E. and he knew that day's Jefferson Bank demonstration would be very important to the civil rights movement in St. Louis. Tuesday morning, Seay woke up and knew his obligation was to his community. There would be thousands marching in Washington—he was needed in St. Louis, where he knew one more person can make all the difference. So on Tuesday afternoon, he, along with 300 other black and white demonstrators, picketed outside Jefferson Bank demanding equal hiring practices.

St. Louis, home of the Blues, the Gateway Arch, and the now-successful Rams is also home of some of the most influential African-Americans. A new book, "Lift Every Voice and Sing, St. Louis African Americans in the Twentieth Century," celebrates this

area's rich and diverse African-American residents. Doris A. Wesley, a reference specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at UM-St. Louis, was responsible for recording and collecting the narratives for the book.

"I received a lot of yes's, a lot of no's, a lot of frustration, but all in all it was a very worthwhile project," Wesley said.

She worked closely with award-winning St. Louis American photographer, Wiley Price, to photographically immortalize prestigious city citizens, such as Mayor Clarence Harmon; musician Prince Wells; and UM-St. Louis' own Norman R. Seay, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Wesley, Price and Ann Morris, the associate director at the W.H.M and author of the introduction to "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was on hand for a book signing at the University Center.

Norman Seay, a respected St. Louis civil rights activist who knows how far African-Americans have come, points out that there is still a lot of work to be done to secure first-class citizenship in the greater St. Louis area.

"I am a mark of oppression; I have been discriminated against by the system, by tradition, by law, but I'm not weak," Seay said.

Wesley, Price, and Morris plan to hold another book signing on February 17 at the Urban League, 3701 Grandel Square. Contact the Western Historical Manuscript Collection office at 516-5413 for more details.

UM-St. Louisian goes to White House to speak on Afghanistan situation

RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

Last December, Belquis Ahmadi, a UM-St. Louis senior majoring in political science, traveled to the White House to speak at the 51st Anniversary celebration of International Human Rights Day.

As an advisor to the International Human Rights Law Group, located in Washington D.C., Ahmadi spoke of the violations of basic human rights in Afghanistan.

Being an Afghan woman herself, Ahmadi recalled personal experiences that forced her to leave her native country in search of basic humanity.

"In 1992, I was a third year law student in Kabul University when I was given an ultimatum by the university to either join the Communist party or leave the school," said Ahmadi to television reporters and audience members. "Unwilling to be forced into such a choice, I left my university."

Ahmadi went on to discuss another turning point that contributed to her departure from her homeland.

"In September 1996, my life took another turn, not of my choice. This time the Taliban took over Kabul. I was working as an office manager in Kabul," she said. "I turned on the radio and heard the announcement that starting today, Afghan women citizens were not allowed to work outside the home any longer."

Girls could not go to school anymore, said Ahmadi, so she had to take her two younger sisters to Pakistan to continue their education.

Ahmadi recalled one woman dying at the gates of the hospital while her husband and the medical staff begged the Taliban guards to let her be treated.

"I felt that I had no hope at all. I hated to be a woman. I tried to understand what was happening," Ahmadi said. "I asked myself if the world cared about women in Afghanistan."

Will the world community take action if all the men in Afghanistan could not go to hospitals?"

President Clinton then addressed the current situation in Afghanistan.

"In Afghanistan, we have strongly condemned the Taliban's despicable treatment of women and girls," he said. "We have worked with the United Nations to impose sanctions against [the] Taliban, while ensuring that the Afghan people continue to receive humanitarian assistance. We are Afghanistan's strongest critic, but also its largest humanitarian donor."

Ahmadi was impressed by President Clinton's speaking abilities and became convinced that he was "... committed to the human rights cause."

The fall semester of 1999 was Ahmadi's first semester here at UM-St. Louis, and for the most part she's enjoyed her stay.

"I like it here. I have the freedom that I couldn't have in my country, especially during the last couple of years. But home is sweet, isn't it?" Ahmadi said in a somber tone.

Ahmadi says that her teachers here at UM-St. Louis have been very helpful. She expresses much gratitude toward her political science teacher Oliver Smith, philosophy instructor Stephanie Ross, politics teacher Terry Jones, and English teacher assistant Nancy Mayor (who accompanied her on the trip to the White House).

"Back at home, the relationships between student and teacher are really different. It was kind of a formal relationship between me and my teacher," Ahmadi said. "I would never sit with him or her at the same table and talk, or discuss things outside of school."

Although her stay at UM-St. Louis has been a pleasant one, Ahmadi's homeland situation concerns her a great deal.

"The war continues; hundreds of people get killed everyday," she said.

Rams Fever

St. Louis goes nuts over big playoff game

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

Who is that bare-chested man with the beer belly and the painted blue and gold face, screaming in the background on live television? He's a Rams fanatic, and so are thousands of others these days.

"It's the turnaround story of the year. Last year you couldn't give (Rams tickets) away; this year you can't get one," said Frederick Eccher, a political science major and interim judge of the Student Court.

FOX 2 news reports said Rams play-off tickets were selling anywhere from \$200 to \$500 each.

In addition to local fans buying tickets, FOX 2 news said that old Rams fans from Los Angeles were calling local boosters trying to purchase tickets.

Psychology and philosophy major Jeff Tripper said he will be working outside in front of the TWA Dome during the Rams play-off game. Tripper recruits people to sign up for MBNA credit cards.

"I don't really get to watch," Tripper said. "For the past four weeks I've been stuck outside in the cold."

As for the Rams chances to make it to the Super Bowl, Eccher likes them.

"The teams in front of them have either problems on offense or problems on defense," he said.

Eccher's eyes lit up when asked about the success of Rams quarterback Kurt Warner.

"Just goes to show you what happens when you stick to your dream," Eccher said.

Warner, a first-year starter in the National Football League, was named "Most Valuable Player" of the league.

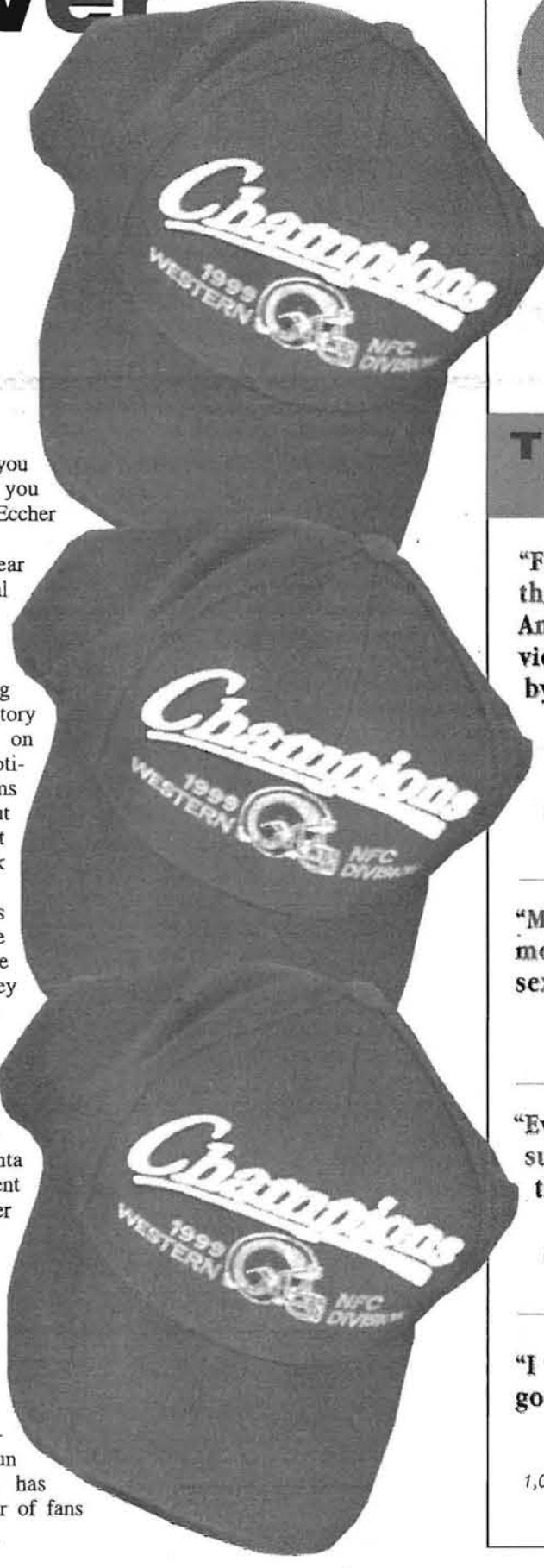
Tripper, speaking before the Rams' victory over the Vikings on Sunday, was also optimistic about the Rams post-season success, but he was staying patient and trying not to speak too soon.

"I just hope St. Louis isn't too much like Minnesota. They were 15-1 last year and they choked," Tripper said.

Last year, the Vikings lost a down-to-the-wire National Football Conference championship game against the Atlanta Falcons (who then went on to play for the Super Bowl title).

Both Eccher and Tripper were astonished and extremely pleased with the Rams 13-3 record this past season.

To go from last year's losing performances, to this year's run for the Super Bowl has indeed made a number of fans shocked and excited.



FEATURES

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features editor

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Thoughts for Today

"Football combines the worst features of American life. It is violence punctuated by committee meetings."

-George Will
Credit: Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball as quoted in Political Babble: The 1,000 Dumbest Things Ever Said by Politicians

"Marriage has driven more than one man to sex."

-Peter De Vries
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little."

-Gore Vidal
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"I would have made a good Pope."

-Richard Nixon
Credit: Political Babble: The 1,000 Dumbest Things Ever Said by Politicians

World peace, car insurance...a mother's work is never done



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

Never underestimate the powers of a mom.

Even at the ripe age of 23, I have recently relearned this lesson, not that I ever doubted her abilities before. My mom is working on her second master's degree at Mizzou and works full-time as a dietitian listening to patient complaints about lousy hospital food over which she has little control. In addition, she babysits my father and still manages to maintain the house, as well as be the family's finances.

Because of a circumstance concerning my auto insurance last week, I asked my mom to call the insurance

company. (Oddly enough, the day I asked her to do this, she had already phoned the company before I even requested the favor.)

The problem was that my insurance had changed my coverage plan without notifying me. So in that two months, they had failed to send a proof of insurance card, and since I have a Mario Andretti ambition, I was pulled over by the police.

I not only received ticket for speeding, but also for no proof of insurance. With no proof of insurance, St. Louis County gave me a Christmas present of a court summons.

All I wanted was a letter from my company saying I was covered at the time I was ticketed. I attempted, attempted, and attempted to obtain this golden correspondence.

This is where mom saves me. She talked to the corporate office (the same people I had been dealing with for two months), and the next day they returned her call.

They magically apologized for their inaccuracy and within two hours faxed a letter to my attorney validating my coverage with their company.

After this miraculous event, I questioned what exactly she had said to them. My mom simply stated that

she had given them an estimate of how much of my hard-earned money their little mistake was costing me through attorney fees. Whatever she told them was pure wizardry, and I will forever be grateful to her (even though I always have been.)

As if this mastery was not enough, a place I had applied to for a job called yesterday. I sent in my resume and clips three months ago and had received no response. I thought my application had just gone the way of the circular file.

Strangely enough, the editor there explained to mom that he was very, very sorry that he had not called me

sooner, that they are very interested in my writing, and that I should return the call for an interview.

All I can surmise is that something must happen to women when they become mothers because it seems that when the word is mentioned, important people automatically pay respect.

I wonder if all the world peace councils were composed of mothers, if the world would not be a more peaceful place. Maybe Nagasaki and Hiroshima would not have been pummeled with atom bombs, Pearl Harbor not bombarded with shells, and all the world's children would have something to eat.

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Inactive SGA does not deserve \$55,000 budget

The issue:

Since the beginning of the fall semester of 1999 the Student Government Association has gotten very little done. The semester started with high hopes rooted in the promises of SGA President Darwin Butler. Those hopes were quickly destroyed when Butler was arrested last semester. Then when Steve Wolfe became interim president of SGA the ball was dropped again, as one meeting was cancelled and two have not had quorums. SGA has spent over half of it's budget on salaries and office supplies.

We suggest:

Since no programs and very few meetings have occurred this year, we think SGA should not be given the \$55,000 budget allocation it's requesting from the SABC.

So what do you think?

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

It is a prime example of What Might Have Been.

The beginning of the school year brought with it the promise that our Student Government Association might have an outstanding year. The organization's new president, Darwin Butler, seemed genuinely enthusiastic and prepared to fulfill the SGA's purpose of providing a voice for students in campus issues. The group also had a \$38,000 budget allocation with which to carry out its mission.

As many of us are aware, the high hopes held for SGA began to disintegrate last fall when Butler's legal problems prevented him from serving in his capacity as SGA president. The situation failed to improve with the appointment of Steven Wolfe as acting president, as Wolfe has done little more than keep a dying organization on life support. Further complicating matters has been the embarrassingly low attendance by SGA representatives. The lack of a quorum at two SGA meetings, along with the cancellation of a third meeting due to low attendance expectations, has prevented the assembly from accomplishing any business.

What's even more troublesome is that we, the students, paid \$38,000 in student activities fees to an organization that, to date, has not effectively used the money to fulfill its obligations to us. The SGA has spent \$21,000 of its allocation so far, with the bulk of it being spent on salaries, mailings, and office supplies.

What has the SGA accomplished with the money it has spent? Nothing. It has been nearly two years since the organization discovered it was operating without a valid constitution, a

problem that has yet to be remedied. The Student Court has been unable to operate because its slate of judges still needs to be approved by the SGA. And then there is what may be the worst infraction of all: when the University Senate reorganized in such a way as to strip student senators of their power, our SGA failed to step in and fight to save our voice in campus affairs.

Now it's time for the Student Activities Budget Committee to determine how much of the \$400,000 of available student activities fees the SGA will receive next year. The SGA says that they plan to ask for approximately \$55,000, or one-eighth of the funds available.

According to the SABC, two of the top criteria used to determine an organization's allocation is the group's enhancement of the University's image and whether or not the group has served the entire student body. The SGA has failed to accomplish either of these objectives. The image of the University has been tarnished not so much by Butler's problems, but by the inability of the SGA to rise above those problems and have a productive year. The fact that the organization can't even get a simple majority of its representatives to attend meetings is an embarrassment to the student body. Meanwhile, the SGA has done nothing to improve the well-being of the students it is supposed to represent.

It is our hope that the SABC, when determining how much money the SGA should receive, follows its own criteria to the letter; the SGA should not be rewarded for its failure to carry out its mission.

When admiration becomes harassment

When I was a kid, there was nothing better than getting an autograph from a professional athlete. Unfortunately, some fans never grow out of this childhood fascination and as adults continue to fall to new lows when they try to get an idol's signature.

I used to criticize athletes who snapped at fans and refused to sign autographs. I viewed it as part of their job. These athletes get paid millions of dollars to play a game, and the least they can do is give a little back to the fans.

However, what I saw last Saturday night changed my mind.

My friends and I were eating at an upscale restaurant in downtown St. Louis. We were just hanging out, eating dinner and having a good time. This restaurant is located a few blocks from the Kiel Center, and since we got there late, we arrived along with the post-Blues game crowd.

The Blues played Mark Messier and the Vancouver Canucks that night. Messier, for those that don't know, is a living hockey legend. He and some of his Vancouver teammates were seated at a table next to us.

At first it was neat, seeing him in person. I was never a big Messier fan, but I respected what he has done on the ice. There was nothing special about him. If he didn't play hockey, he would just be an ordinary guy.

Unfortunately for him, he's not. Unscrupulous fans continued to interrupt him and his teammates' meals asking for autographs.

One lady went down the length of the table asking each one to sign her hockey jersey. Two other girls stood five feet from the table, stared at

Messier for about five minutes and then ran off into the other room giggling.

Another lady came up to him right when he got his food and asked him to sign her jersey. Messier politely told her he would after his meal, and she said OK. Then she comes up to him 10 minutes later with her husband, who has a professional-looking Canon camera, telling him that they were leaving and she wanted to get a picture of him with her. Without waiting for an answer, she bent down beside him and her husband took the picture.

The whole experience was hard to stomach. I was watching grown adults acting like toddlers fighting over a toy. I saw a man in a no-win situation trying to handle it with grace and class.

Come on people, athletes are normal human beings. Their signatures will not give you special powers and will not make you wealthier.

I respect Messier and other athletes a lot more now because I realize just what kind of price they pay for being who they are. No more will I criticize an athlete for not signing an autograph because most of the time people are just plain rude.

There's a time and a place for autographs—childhood. And there's a time and place to request autographs (i.e. not when they are eating or spending time with a significant other).

Think about how you would like it if you were continuously hounded for your signature? If you couldn't eat one meal in peace? If you couldn't go on a date?

It's time to show these athletes and celebrities some respect.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

Editorial Board

- JOE HARRIS
- MARY LINDSLEY
- BENJAMIN ISRAEL
- CHARMARE MALONE
- BRIAN DOUGLAS

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

How to Respond

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(314) 516-5174

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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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Government-monitored television

The big story in the news this week was about the impending merger of two giant companies, America On Line and Time-Warner. While this merger raises questions about the wisdom of ever-larger business interests controlling news reporting organizations, some of which are part of Time-Warner, another story about free expression and free speech also popped up.

The report I heard was that some TV networks were submitting scripts to a government drug education office for approval. The thought was that if the TV shows incorporated an anti-drug message in their plots, they would be excused from running some anti-drug public service announcements, freeing up that high priced time to be sold to advertisers. The program was voluntary, and the purpose certainly was worthy, but the report made me uneasy. During the Nazi era in Germany and under the Soviet regime in the former USSR, the government reviewed and approved movie scripts, radio broadcasts, and later TV shows, with an eye towards getting out what they viewed as a good message. These messages were regularly incorporated into work that appeared to be only entertainment or artistic.

The issue with this report about government approval of TV scripts isn't the intention of the script approval. Certainly, fighting drug abuse is an unquestioned good. The problem lies in the precedent of government approval of creative or entertainment work from the private sector, and the presentation of that approved work without knowledge of the audience. My discomfort might seem like an overreaction to this development, but what if the approach works especially well? Perhaps another message will be incorporated. Maybe this will also be a topic that everyone agrees to be a good thing, or maybe it will be something that fewer people agree on. It's only a small step to apply the same good effect to movies as well. The problem with this action is not the one-time effect, but the temptation to take another step.

There is another issue as well. In the past of this country, voluntary efforts to regulate the content of artistic work has resulted in a chilling effect, as any fan of 1950s comic books knows. For those unfamiliar with this piece of history, during the 1940s and 1950s there were a lot of comic books, such as "True Crime," precursors to graphic novels and in the manner of pulp fiction, aimed at

an adult market. These magazines provided an open outlet for new novelists and illustrators. Some of the work was startlingly original, and a number of these writers went on to do serious work. What's more, these works provided inspiration and fired the imaginations of many who grew up to be writers and filmmakers (including director Steven Spielberg). When these works came under voluntary regulation, this art form vanished. The program was voluntary and had the best intentions (reducing youth exposure to violence), but it had unintended consequences on artistic expression.

So, are TV shows art? Probably not, but the precedent that is set is two-fold: the incorporation of a government-approved message in an entertainment form, and the idea that government should review entertainment for the public good. If TV shows want to, on their own, express an anti-drug message, that is an admirable thing. But government approval of such a message is a different thing, and sets us on the edge of that slippery slope.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

Cost of health care strains uninsured

A few months ago, my boyfriend had surgery at a local hospital to remove some varicose veins that had developed in his leg. It may sound like a grisly and complicated operation, but it isn't. It's a simple, two-hour outpatient procedure. Bill walked out of the hospital on his own, just a few hours after he checked in, with just a few small scars on his leg.

The cost for this simple procedure? \$5,000.

That figure may sound like small potatoes to some people, but to those of us who are struggling just to get by, that's a huge chunk of change. What's even more infuriating is the fact that the cost of the operation could have been cheaper. Among the items listed on the bill my boyfriend received were a charge for the marker the doctor used to draw incision points on Bill's leg prior to surgery. The marker, which looked just like the ones I used to color with when I was a kid, cost \$10. If a marker can cost that much, then you have to wonder how overpriced the rest of the charges on the bill are.

Horror stories about outrageous hospital expenses are nothing new. I've heard of people being charged several dollars for a single dose of aspirin. What's disturbing to me is the fact that nothing ever changes. I learned from a professor that financial hardship due to health care expenses is the No. 1 reason people file for bankruptcy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 44 million Americans who must go without necessary medical care because they can't afford health insurance, let alone

a \$5,000 hospital bill. You would think that problems as severe as these would be a glaring signal that the system needs to be changed, but that hasn't happened.

I think a good start to solving the problem would be to make hospitals and the doctors who work for them justify their prices. Yes, I understand that hospitals need to at least break even in order to survive, and yes, I understand that doctors have specialized skills that they deserve compensation for. However, it's hard for me to believe that the prices they charge are fair. When I was driving Bill home after his surgery, we happened to pass by the doctor's parking lot at the hospital. Not surprisingly, it was filled with brand-new BMWs and Porsches. Is it reasonable to ask consumers to suffer a financial burden just so their physician can drive a snazzy new car?

I must admit this is an issue that I'm not objective about. I'm one of those 44 million uninsured Americans. I've been priced out of the market, and my health has suffered as a result. It bothers me even further to know that more and more people are joining the ranks of the uninsured and must face the same dilemmas that I do whenever I have to make decisions about my medical care.

I fear that the problem will get worse before it gets better, that a lot more people will have to forego medical attention in order for anything to get done. Maybe the only way the medical establishment will drop their prices is if they're too expensive for most of us to afford.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've written about in the Opinions section this week?
 - Ineptitude of the SGA
 - Hospital bills
 - Harassing famous athletes
 - Government monitored TV
- You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!
 - Submit a Letter to the Editor
 - Write a Guest Commentary
 - Join in the Student Forum on The Current Online
 - Call our offices

Under Current

by Rafael Macias
photography director



Ayinde Wayne
Sophomore/MIS



Anne Pereira
Sophomore/Biology



Matthew Kight
Senior/Finance



Angela Bates
Freshman/Politi. Sci.

How did you ring in the new year?

I had a Last Dime Production party at Westport.

We rented a suite at the Adams Mark for the two nights.

I had a few drinks at the Rec Room on Telegraph.

I stayed home and watched it on T.V.

Ice men keep Tourney hopes alive

Last minute win over DuPage improves team's qualifying chances

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

The American Collegiate Hockey Association National Tournament is the ultimate goal of any ACHA-affiliated team. Invitations to the annual tourney are sent only to the top teams in each conference, and this year's UM-St. Louis Rivermen squad is putting together a fine resume.

With a current record of 16-4-3, a victim list that includes such upper-echelon teams as College of DuPage and Palmer University, and an impressive conference record, it will be hard for the selection board to deny this year's team a spot.

The latest contest pitted the Rivermen against conference powerhouse College of DuPage. After falling to this team last month, another UM-St. Louis loss would have meant the Rivermen's elimination from the title hunt.

However, the team exacted revenge on the junior college in a 5-4 thriller, keeping their hopes alive.

"With tonight's win, we pretty much control our own destiny," said Derek Schaub, the Rivermen head coach. "All we have to do is to commit ourselves, and the rest will come."

In the first period, UM-St. Louis looked far from committed, leaving many College of DuPage forwards open in front of the net, resulting in an early goal for College of DuPage.

But the Rivermen would counter late in the period with a goal from a freshman line, anchored by Mike Carapella. Carapella would eventually score on an assist from Mike Figgemeier to make it 1-1.

College of DuPage would come out firing in the second period, with Bill Kostelny scoring five minutes in, but UM-St. Louis would counter with a goal from Matt Kinnealy.

Scoring went back and forth through the rest of the contest, with College of DuPage scoring with 8:12 left in the second to edge ahead of the Rivermen 3-2 heading into the final 20 minutes.

Schaub was disappointed in the lack of leadership that he was getting from his team's starters, and, in a bold move, started his freshman line in one of the most important periods of UM-St. Louis hockey to date.

"I was very upset in how our starters were playing," Schaub said. "They were showing a very poor work ethic on the ice, so I benched them."

This proved to be a very wise coaching decision, as Tom Kraichley, Carapella, Joe Figgemeier, and company would hold the strong offense of College of DuPage to a dull roar, and give the starting line a good look at how the game is played.

"When Carapella's line does as well as it did tonight, some of the older guys really turn up their intensity," Schaub said.

Apparently, time on the pine is time well spent, as Ryan Craig and Matt Hessel scored in one-minute increments, at 14:02 and 13:46, to put the Rivermen on top 4-3.

There would be no scoring for the next twelve minutes, largely in part to the solid net-minding of freshman goalie Dan Scheurmann, from Christian Brothers College High School, who turned away 36 shots in the contest.

With less than two minutes to play, College of DuPage would score making it 4-4, and apparently setting up an inevitable tie.

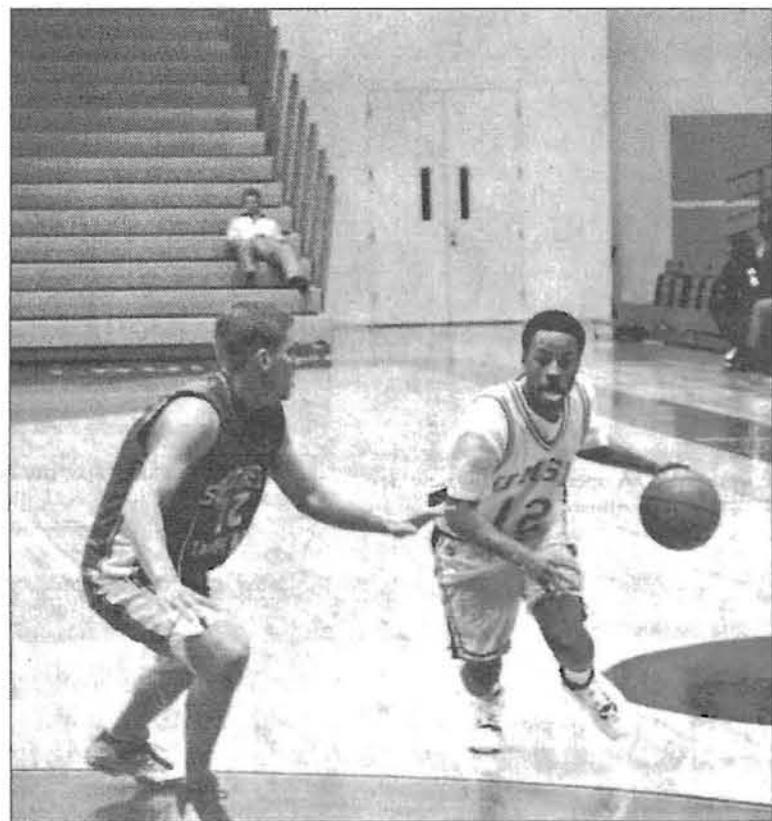
But the Rivermen needed a win to increase their standing and would not settle. With 1:21 remaining, Craig and Ben Gilbertson would connect to put UM-St. Louis on top for good, and keep the tourney hopes alive.



Rafael Macias/The Current

Riverman Matt Kinnealy (23) steals the puck from a DuPage defender in last Friday's 5-4 win. The win helps the Rivermen's case for making the National Tournament in March.

Poor shooting, adverse crowd lead to 75-66 Rivermen loss at Indianapolis



File Photo/The Current

Riverman Greg Ross (12) drives to the hoop in an earlier contest. The Rivermen are 7-4 overall and 3-3 in conference.

Loss drops UM-St. Louis to 7-4 overall, 3-3 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

Winning on the road is essential to a team's success and ranking. The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team traveled to Indianapolis to try to make a dent in the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings but lost 75-66 to the Greyhounds.

Before the game, Mark Bernsen, the Rivermen head coach, spoke about the difficulties of winning on the road.

"One of the hardest things in sports," Bernsen said, "is to leave the confines of a comfort zone and

not let those distractions get the best of you."

Along with playing on the road, Indianapolis' offensive presence was also a concern for Bernsen, and he talked about what UM-St. Louis would have to do in order to stop them from scoring.

"They're a good offensive club," Bernsen said. "Our defense is our mainstay right now, but we still need to continue to improve that. Offensively, we just need to start shooting the ball better."

Defensively, UM-St. Louis was out-rebounded by Indianapolis, 35-30.

Indianapolis also recorded five

see RIVERMEN, page 8

For more UM-St. Louis b-ball coverage turn to page 8.

Run-and-Gun Riverwomen move to second place in GLVC with 89-71 win over Indy

Tawanda Daniel's 25 led way as UM-St. Louis improves to 5-1 in conference

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The women's basketball team played consistently throughout their sixth Great Lakes Valley Conference game and defeated Indianapolis 89-77.

The Riverwomen jumped out to an early lead and went into halftime leading Indianapolis 45-31.

One of the main reasons the Riverwomen have been so productive has been because of the adjustments in their offensive formation. The Riverwomen have switched to a more up-tempo offense and have started a four-guard rotation.

"We are playing a totally different style in the run-and-gun offense," said Shelly Ethridge, the Riverwomen head coach. "With the style, it enables us to run faster. We are going in with our style, and we won't change our style for our opponents."

The offense definitely worked against Indianapolis as the Riverwomen had four players reach double digits in scoring.

Tawanda Daniel led the way for UM-St. Louis scoring 25 points on 11 of 19 shooting from the floor. The leading point scorer for UM-St. Louis, Daniel has been the talk of the GLVC this year as she has dominated with her quickness and her tough jumper.

"She was tremendous in the GLVC last year, and she didn't get the recognition that she deserved," Ethridge said. "It's nothing surprising to average 23 to 24 points a game; it's expected of her."

Lindsay Brefeld added 20 to the Riverwoman attack while Sara Mauck and Tanisha Albert added 18 and 13, respectively.

As the Riverwomen have improved their record in the GLVC to 5-1, the team has hit the road for tough conference games. Although the overall record of the team is 7-4, improvement from the beginning of the season has been evident. Now going on the road will test the Riverwomen and their limits in the

conference.

"We have tough games coming up on the road," Ethridge said, "but it gives our team a chance to become a family."

Up next . . .

Who: Wisconsin-Parkside

Where: Kenosha, WI

When: Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Keys to success: Riverwoman Tawanda Daniel is tied for second in scoring in the GLVC averaging 24.2 points per game

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

vs. Lincoln
7:30 p.m., Mon. Jan. 17

at Wisc.-Parkside
7:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 20

at Lewis
3 p.m., Sat. Jan. 22

Women's Basketball

at Wisc.-Parkside
5:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 20

at Lewis
1 p.m., Sat. Jan. 22

Hockey

at Bradley
t.b.a., Fri. Jan. 21

at Illinois
t.b.a., Sat. Jan. 22

Next Issue In Sports

Hockey
Men's/Women's
Basketball
Kinworthy's column

Rams and Blues make St. Louis the place to be



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

In the world of sports, St. Louis is the city to be in right now. We currently have in the Show Me State a potential Super Bowl-bound professional football team in the Rams, and we even have the Blues with one of the best records in the National Hockey League.

Take a look at what these two teams have done for the area itself. People are actually excited about watching football, and it's not the University of Missouri Tigers and Larry Smith this time.

Ever since my early childhood, football has been terrible in St. Louis. But now in the post-Neil Lomax era, the town is actually

excited and coming to games. Last year, you could go up to the Trans World Dome and get a ticket at game time, but now, scalpers are making fortunes off these tickets.

Whether the Rams, under the guidance of Kurt Warner and Isaac Bruce, can lead the team to the Super Bowl is still a mystery, but regardless of how far the Rams actually go in the play-offs this season, they have given the fans something far more important than that—hope for the future.

This team is so young and has so much speed and enthusiasm on it that the future of the Rams seems already to me to be successful. If it

is Trent Green or Warner leading the charge, the Rams will be one of the stronger teams in the NFC for years to come.

The St. Louis Blues, on the other hand, have come from having a very young team with a focus on the future, to a good, young team with a focus on the present.

With an outstanding goaltender in Roman Turek, the NHL's goals against leader at 2.10, the Blues look great on the defensive end with Chris Pronger and Al MacInnis leading the flock once again.

The offensive punch is what the Blues were worried about, but

Pierre Turgeon has picked up his game and Pavol Demitra has done wonders for the youthful offense.

Joel Quenneville has resurrected the fans at the Kiel Center and even the towel thrower himself probably is calling for a one-day delivery for some extra towels to throw.

Although the offense comes in cycles, they have remained fairly consistent throughout the season. The only time that the Blues really got blown out of a game was when they played the Colorado Avalanche in Colorado.

The Blues to this day still have not won at Colorado during the Quenneville era. But after this pun-

ishing four-goal victory by the Avalanche, the Blues rebounded well and went on a eight-game unbeaten streak.

Since then, the Blues have acquired Stephane Richer to add his demeanor to the highly-potent offense. His experience and his skill level from three years ago will always be welcome for the former 50-goal scorer.

St. Louis has always had a great sports history, but this year, we get double the pleasure with the Rams and Blues doing so well. Now if only the Cardinals could do the same thing.

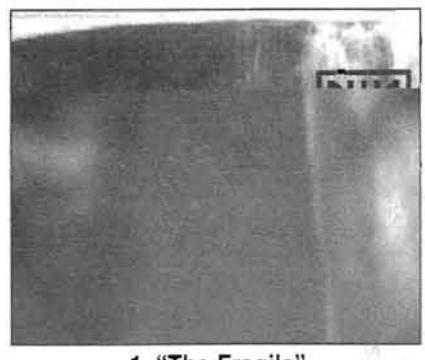
A&E

ONE LAST LOOK

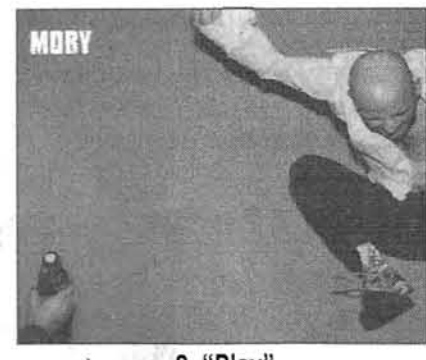
The top 10 albums of the year

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

Every music critic and his brother feels the unstoppable urge to tell everyone what the top 10 albums of the previous year were. Just when you thought the never-ending parade of lists were over, I've decided to tack another one on the tail end. So here it is, "Cory Blackwood's Very Subjective Top Ten List That is Guaranteed to Annoy and Cause Dispute."



1. "The Fragile"
Nine Inch Nails



2. "Play"
Moby



3. "Juxtapost"
Tricky



4. "You've Come A Long Way, Baby"
Fatboy Slim



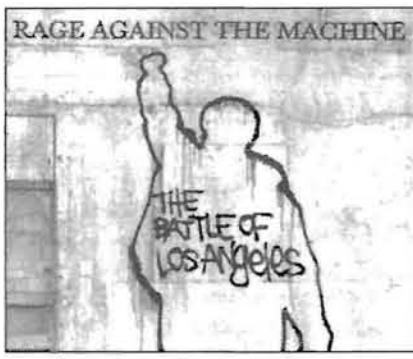
5. "Midnite Vultures"
Beck



6. "The Dirtchamber Sessions, Vol 1"
Prodigy



7. "Surrender"
Chemical Brothers



8. "The Battle of Los Angeles"
Rage Against the Machine



9. "Extinction Level Event"
Busta Rhymes



10. "Tonight the Stars Revolt!"
Powerman 5000

The top 10 films of the century

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Last week, I gave my top ten list for best films of the year and, continuing in that vein, I'd like to give you my picks for the ten best films of the century. Of course, these are also my choices for the ten best films of the millennium, since films are only about a hundred years old (being born in 1895).

I thought now would be a good time to give my views on which films could be considered the best of the century, based on my extensive study of film history, my reading of such lists from the past, the films that were repeatedly mentioned in texts as significant, and my own viewing of many films.

A couple of years ago, the American Film Institute put out a list of a hundred greatest American films. Despite its academic sounding name, the AFI is not a scholarly association (although it once was) and primarily works to promote the movies of the big studios. A better list of great American films is provided by the National Film Registry in the Library of Congress. This list includes significant documentaries, as well as narrative films.

I chose the films for my list based on the film's entertainment value as well as artistic quality, technical or artistic innovation or excellence, recognition by film experts for quality, enduring appeal to audiences, and to some extent, my personal tastes. I also didn't limit my list to American movies. I especially looked at the works of directors who are considered the best of the century. I included the year the film was released and the director's name in the list. If you haven't seen some of these films and would like to, you can to rent them on video from a store or public library.

1. Citizen Kane, 1941 (Orson Welles)
2. Seven Samurai, 1954 (Akira Kurosawa)
3. The General, 1927 (Joseph "Buster" Keaton)
4. City Lights, 1931 (Charles Chaplin)
5. Psycho, 1960 (Alfred Hitchcock)
6. Casablanca, 1942 (Michael Curtiz)
7. Schindler's List, 1993 (Steven Spielberg)
8. Maltese Falcon, 1941 (John Huston)
9. Dr. Strangelove, 1964 (Stanley Kubrick)
10. Stagecoach, 1939 (John Ford)

Upcoming Concerts

January

- 26**
Boy Sets Fire w/Reach
The Sky
Creepy Crawl
- 28**
Drift, Rocket Park, E.M.
Greuve
The Firehouse
- 29**
Disturbing the Peace &
Clever
Mississippi Nights

February

- 1**
Sno-Core featuring
System of a Down,
Incubus, Mr. Bungle &
Puya
Mississippi Nights
- 2**
Insane Clown Posse
Galaxy
- 5**
Saigon Kick
Pop's
- The Jazz Mandolin
Project
Mississippi Nights
- 7**
Lords of Acid
Mississippi Nights
- 8**
Big Wu, Fox Trot Zulu
Cicero's
- 12**
The Specials
Galaxy

FILM REVIEW

Ryder, Jolie dazzle in 'Girl, Interrupted'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

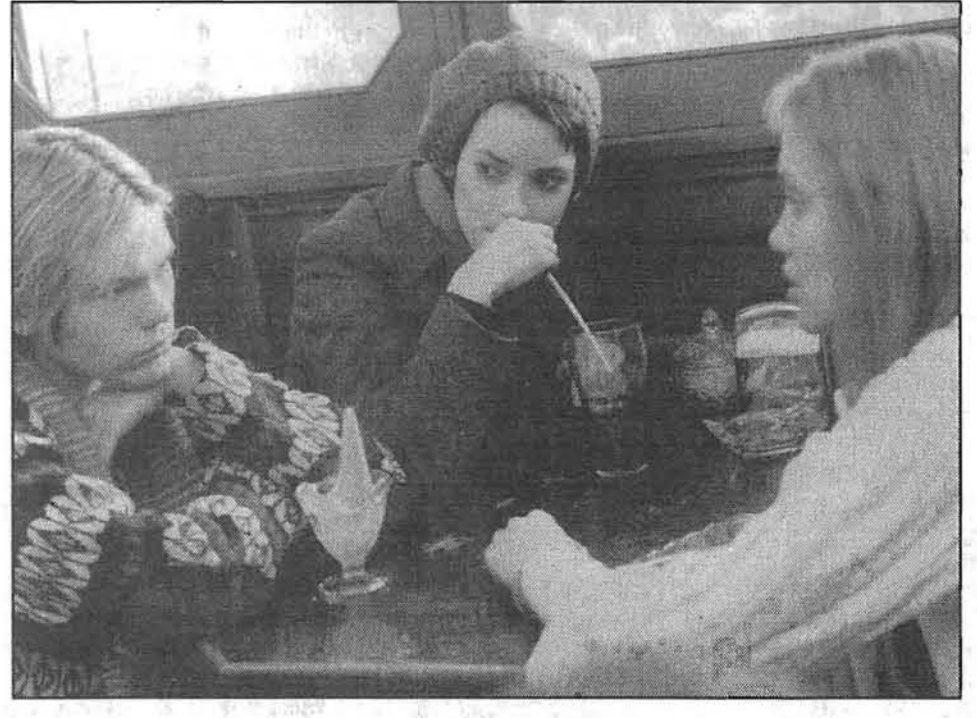
"Girl, Interrupted" is a film about a 17-year-old girl's experience with mental illness in the turbulent late 1960s. Based on the best-selling book of the same title, the film is a realistic portrait of the inside of a mental hospital and a young person's experiences there during this time period. The film also features stunning acting by Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, and a talented ensemble cast.

In the film, Susanna (Winona Ryder) is a bright girl who is barely graduating from high school and has no apparent plan for her life beyond a vague idea that she wants to write. The time is 1967—a period of youthful turmoil and uncertainty set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, and her confusion about her identity is a common theme of youth. Susanna, however, is also haunted by voices and images, and following an apparent suicide attempt, she reluctantly agrees to sign herself in to a private mental hospital for "a short rest." Plunged into the unique world of the mental ward, she encounters a number of troubled girls, including the compelling sociopath Lisa (Angelina Jolie), all of whom become her com-

'Girl, Interrupted'
Length: 125 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★

panions and friends for her two-year stay. Ryder does a marvelous job portraying Susanna's turmoil through subtle expression, gesture, and posture, in as fine a performance as I've ever seen from her. Her character is especially drawn to the powerful Lisa, and here Jolie gives a tour-de-force performance, producing a character who is both fascinating and heartless as she dominates the ward.

The environment of the mental ward could have been handled like a remake of the classic film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," but the director wisely avoids this pitfall. The patients on the ward and the staff are real, fully developed people, beyond their problems or position in the ward's hierarchy. The director handles the story with careful attention to the real feelings of the characters and the tension of the situations, making the story dramatic without veering into melodrama or horror-movie shock. The original novel is episodic in nature, but the director rewrote it into a narrative structure, so that it tells a



Georgina (Clea Duvall), Susanna (Winona Ryder), and Lisa (Angelina Jolie) grow closer during an outing from the hospital to visit an ice cream parlor. Ryder has been commended for her performance in this film.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

story as Susanna moves from her state of confusion and apathy to recovery and purpose. As the story unfolds, the audience slowly gains insight on how the people on the ward depend on each other in different ways as they play out their internal struggles, and why some people don't really want to leave the hospital. Despite the sensitive handling of the story and the fine acting, the film fails to reach the depth

that made this book a bestseller. While the film deals somewhat with the topic of adolescent search for identity and the question of when that confusion about identity becomes madness, it moves over this area too lightly.

This well-made film will certainly be joining classic films on mental illness, such as "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," as a different view of a patient's experience in a mental hos-

pital. The film is well worth seeing for the fine performances and realistic view inside a mental hospital. The only drawback is that the lack of depth in dealing with what should be central issues of self-discovery and mental illness prevent the film from moving from a good film to a great one.

(Now playing at Galleria, Clarkson, and other theaters)

Who needs awards? Fans of actor Bruce Campbell say he's still great

"Gimme some sugar, baby." No one has uttered these words with as much conviction as the one and only Bruce Campbell. All of you obviously know that I am talking about the star of the cult classics "Evil Dead," "Evil Dead 2 (Dead by Dawn)" and "Army of Darkness." Anyone who isn't instantly aware of these masterpieces is most definitely a fool and a communist, maybe even a fascist.

The "Evil Dead/Army of Darkness" story centers around Ash, a character so cool as to only be classified as a sort of white Shaft or Superfly without the cool theme music. "Evil Dead" is the most-original tale of a group of college students

vacationing in a shack in the woods who accidentally reads a passage from "The Necronomicon" (The Book of the Dead) and awakens a great evil. Bad things happen after that. "Evil Dead 2" is totally different, being about a couple vacationing in a shack in the woods who accidentally plays a recording of someone reading "The Necronomicon" and awakens a great evil. "Army of Darkness" is the tale of Ash getting sucked through a time portal into the middle ages where he fights The Deadites, and army of the dead and tries to get back home, where he is a store clerk at S-Mart. ("Shop smart, shop S-Mart") Mr. Campbell was the cocky and

cunning star of "Brisco County Jr.," a wildly successful television series that was mysteriously pulled after only a couple of seasons. He also plays the cocky and cunning Hermes on "Hercules" and "Xena: Warrior Princess." Even though Campbell is without Oscar, Emmy, or pretty much any other award, the true fact of his fame and skill is proven on the internet. Fan sites abound, featuring pictures of Bruce Campbell (mostly as Ash) video clips and most frequently found, sound clips of his many witticisms (usually as Ash, again.)

Don't think that Bruce Campbell's fame is due to Ash and Ash alone, because, well, never mind. He is not a

not trick pony however, as his new show, "Jack of All Trades," debuts on KPLR Friday, January 17. Bruce Campbell plays Jack Stiles, a rogue who is cocky, cunning, and quick-witted, which is different from his other roles... in some way that I just can't think of right now.

Bruce Campbell hasn't yet achieved huge success, but he has an amazingly loyal and sometimes freakish following (I'm writing a column on the guy!) that watches everything he's in, even "McHale's Navy." Set a few friends that have seen "Army of Darkness" around a couple of pitchers of beer, and invariably Ash quotes will follow. Who can blame these

poor souls with lines like, "Good, bad, I'm the guy with the gun," or "Well that's just what we call pillow talk, baby."

At any rate, Campbell is cool, and Ash is cooler. There is even an Ash toy in the works. Bruce Campbell is working on a book tentatively entitled "Confessions of a B-Movie Actor." A toy and a book? What more could we ask for? How about a Playstation version of "Evil Dead 2?" The man is simply a hero of bad movies and television. Check out his new show, "Jack of All Trades," and if you haven't yet watched "Army of Darkness," run to the video rental store and beg forgiveness.



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

FILM REVIEW

Suspense thriller 'Mr. Ripley' builds tension intelligently

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"The Talented Mr. Ripley" is an excellent psychological thriller set in Italy in the late 1950s and directed by Anthony Minghella. The film is based on a novel by mystery writer Patricia Highsmith, and is an outstanding adaptation, retaining the suspense and the flavor of the genre and time period. Additionally, the film is very much in the style of 1950s suspense films, with echoes of an Alfred Hitchcock style. The film builds tension in the audience by revealing to the audience some threat unknown to the characters in a scene, rather than building tension by making the audience anticipate a surprise twist, a more common technique in movies now.

Matt Damon plays Tom Ripley, who is recruited by the wealthy father of Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), a young playboy living in Italy, to persuade his son to return home. Ripley prepares for his task by studying Dickie's interests and background, and adopting those tastes as his own, with the intention of convincing him he is a fellow Princeton classmate. Ripley relishes his immersion in the world of wealth during his ocean crossing, and convincing himself that it is better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody, even passes himself off as Dickie Greenleaf to a wealthy young woman, Meredith (Cate Blanchett), he meets going through customs. Ripley quickly arranges a "chance encounter" with Dickie and his girlfriend Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow). When Dickie asserts that everyone has one special talent and demands that Tom demonstrate his, Tom mimics Dickie's father's voice, expression, and mannerisms perfectly. Dickie is astonished by the imitation and Tom immediately becomes a part of their social life, giving Tom the entree into the life he desires. In fact, Tom's talents go beyond his gift for mimicry, as we find



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Jazz fans Tom Ripley (Matt Damon) and Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law) join in with singer Fausto (Rosario Fiorello) in a Naples jazz club.

The Talented Mr. Ripley

Length: 135 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

out when it appears that Tom's life of privilege may come to an end.

This is a film that works on so many levels. It is marvelous adaptation of the flavor and style of the classic murder and suspense novel. We recognize the human feelings of Ripley but are horrified by his actions. The film is told from the point of view of Tom Ripley and we follow him as he rationalizes his increasingly extreme steps to obtain what he wants. Casting is outstanding, with Matt Damon unexpectedly playing a gawky outsider whose looks and manner don't compare to the polished Dickie, whose charm and grace draw people to him. Marvelous acting by Damon and Jude Law, as well as the whole cast, lends great strength to this film where the characters are so crucial.

The film is shot in bright romantic light, emphasizing the beauty of the

locations and the idyllic life of Dickie and his peers, creating a wonderful contrast with the actions taking place. The film takes great pains to accurately portray the time period and place, and was shot on location with great care in the costumes, because the assumptions of the time are essential to the psychological underpinnings of the story. Music is also used as a leitmotif, with Dickie's fascination with jazz contrasted with Tom's love of classical music.

This film is a fascinating suspense story with compelling psychological portraits that works through visual style, marvelous acting, and unifying musical themes, with additional commentary on both human nature and society. Some viewers may be less taken with the film because there is no single character with which the audience can identify, although you may identify with the feelings of the various characters. Other viewers will be thrilled with the powerful plotting and acting, and the cinematic tour-de-force in this intelligent, psychological, complex suspense tale, and may conclude that it was one of the best films of the year.

MUSIC REVIEW

'Sessions' offers Cocteau fans something new

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

'BBC Sessions'

Artist: Cocteau Twins
Label: RYKO
Our opinion: ★★★

What is the proper way for a band that helped revolutionize music in the '80s to give their fans a bit of a tribute? Another tired greatest hits album? A recording of a concert? These only set fans up for disappointment, as they really offer nothing new. On the other hand, BBC recordings and songs from live shows can be the perfect addition to a fan's collection of music.

The Cocteau Twins offer just that, in their new two-disc compilation of BBC session recordings. In all, 28 songs demonstrating the beauty of the Cocteau Twins music

appear on the album simply named "BBC Sessions." Songs from their entire nine-album career are offered from their 1982 debut "Garlands" to their final effort, 1996's "Milk & Kisses."

"BBC Sessions" proudly displays the ethereal feel of the Cocteau Twins, with singer Elizabeth Fraser's beautiful voice soaring above the music. The music is another tale

altogether, mixing guitars with keyboards to create a sound entirely different from the usual dissonance of the industrial genre or the fluff of synth-pop. The Cocteau Twins created a sound so original and gorgeous to hear that one rock critic said, "Surely this is the voice of God." With such flowing music gently easing the listener into a trance, it is not hard to see why people could find their music so spiritual.

While fans of the Cocteau Twins will have already bought "BBC Sessions," music lovers of other genres would be more than pleased with this double album. Relaxing and challenging, The Cocteau Twins have astounded listeners again.

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If you're interested, call The Current at 516-6810 or stop by our office at 7940 Natural Bridge. The Current holds meetings every Friday at 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested should feel free to stop by even if just to ask questions.

Road Warriors

UM-St. Louis sweeps SIU-E

Nine years of futility end with 20 plus from Daniel and Wentzel

by Nick Bowman
staff associate

Saturday night, UM-St. Louis Riverwomen head basketball coach Shelly Etheridge accomplished something that her predecessor, Jim Coen, could not. The Riverwomen, sparked by twenty-plus point totals from Amanda Wentzel and Tawanda Daniel, and added incentive to defeat their cross-river rivals, defeated Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in the Vadalabene Center 88-76, giving Etheridge her second consecutive victory over the Cougars, and UM-St. Louis their first victory at Edwardsville in nine years. You have to look back to the Bobbi Morse regime in '90-'91 to find the Riverwomen's last victory at SIU-E.

This game featured one of the Great Lakes Valley Conference premiere guards, SIU-Edwardsville junior Misi Clark, who in this campaign has averaged 21.0 points per game. To compare, UM-St. Louis senior Amanda Wentzel leads Riverwomen with a 10.1 mark.

"Before the game, we had set out

to do one thing, stop Clark," said Wentzel.

The Riverwomen did just that, holding her to 3-18 from the field.

"Any time you hold Clark under twenty points, you have done an excellent job," said Etheridge. "Our girls did an excellent job of placing a body on her, and pressuring her."

The first half featured the Riverwomen jumping to a 14-8 lead, with the solid play from the starting five: Daniel, Wentzel, Keely Klaas, Lynette Wellen, and captain Sara Mauck. The Riverwomen held a substantial lead through much of the half, but intensity lacked in the closing minutes, and the Cougars pulled to within one point.

"We broke down towards the end of the first half," said Wentzel. "A lot of the girls were looking down, and the intensity level greatly dropped."

Etheridge said confidence was a factor in the drop-off.

"The locker room was very subdued between halves," said Etheridge. "I just talked to them, and tried to raise their confidence levels."

Whatever Etheridge said, it

sparked an 8-0 run to open the second half, and the Riverwomen never looked back. Clark continued to miss shots, as SIU-Edwardsville continued to feed her the ball. The UM-St. Louis defense pressured the Cougar offense to 34 percent from

the field, compared to their own 48 percent.

With this victory, the Riverwomen improve their GLVC record to 4-1, placing them in a tie for second place with Lewis University.

GLVC B-BALL STANDINGS			
Men		Women	
Team	GLVC Record	Team	GLVC Record
1) Southern Indiana	6-0	1) Kentucky Wesleyan	5-0
2) Kentucky Wesleyan	5-0	2) Lewis	5-1
3) Northern Kentucky	4-1	2) UM-St. Louis	5-1
4) Lewis	4-2	4) Northern Kentucky	4-1
4) IUPU-Ft. Wayne	4-2	5) Southern Indiana	3-3
6) UM-St. Louis	3-3	5) Bellarmine	3-3
6) Indianapolis	3-3	5) SIU-Edwardsville	3-3
6) SIU-Edwardsville	3-3	8) Indianapolis	2-4
9) Wisconsin-Parkside	1-5	8) IUPU-Ft. Wayne	2-4
9) St. Joseph's	1-5	8) St. Joseph's	2-4
9) Quincy	1-5	11) Wisconsin-Parkside	1-5
12) Bellarmine	0-6	12) Quincy	0-6

Quick start, Hamilton's free throws help end six year drought

by Nick Bowman
staff associate

It took nine years, two head coaches, a new arena, and a new-look for the Rivermen basketball squad to defeat Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in Edwardsville, but Mark Bernsen, the team's head coach, finally accomplished the unimaginable, downing the Cougars 79-65.

This also ended a six-game losing streak to SIU-Edwardsville that goes back to the 1994-95 season.

Right out of the chutes, the Rivermen went on an 8-0 run, and never looked back. While the Cougar defense shut down leading scorer Jim Schelich, who went 0-5 from the field, five UM-St. Louis players picked up the slack. Brian Markus, Terence Herbert, Michael Hamilton, Greg

Ross, and Michael Coleman all put up double digits, combining for 66 points.

"Jim (Schelich) has a reputation around the league now of being an offensive threat," Bernsen said. "It's a good rep to have, but it also means that he is going to be a marked man. He's still adjusting to the new defensive sets other teams are throwing at him."

Herbert also came through in the paint, snatching 11 rebounds to earn a double-double.

The Rivermen dominated both sides of the ball in the first half, shooting 49 percent from the field and hitting four of four from the free throw line, while holding SIU-Edwardsville to 22 points out of 21 shots.

This momentum continued through much of the second half until Kechan Johnson was called for a controversial technical foul while saving the ball on

the sidelines.

"I don't know if I believe in anything anymore," Bernsen said about the call. "I don't know why I'm only 49 and have all of this gray hair."

This technical, along with numerous UM-St. Louis personal fouls and a weak defense, sparked the Cougars to open up on UM-St. Louis, clawing their way to within five points of the Rivermen.

With 7:49 left on the clock, Bernsen called a time-out to solve some of the defensive problems and to keep his team together.

Immediately after the timeout, SIU-Edwardsville forward Nick Hartwig completed a three-point play to set the score at 61-57 Rivermen with just under five minutes to play.

The eventual key to the Rivermen's victory would be found in Hamilton,

whose solid defense sparked the rest of his teammates to press the Cougar shooters and to frustrate them into committing eight personal fouls down the stretch. Hamilton was sent to the charity line five times, hitting nine of 10 down the stretch to cap a Rivermen victory. Coleman and Herbert were also given free tosses. Coleman hitting four of six and Herbert hitting two of three.

"Free throw shooting is something that we had worked on in practices leading up to this game," Bernsen said. "Tonight the team really showed their skill from the line."

This victory put the Rivermen at 7-3, which is one more victory than last year's squad had all season. It also moves them into the top five in the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings.

SPORTS OPINION

Rams have the ticket to Super Bowl in Atlanta

by Nick Bowman
staff associate

Do you believe me yet? The St. Louis Rams were seven-point favorites over the Minnesota Vikings, a team which went 15-1 a year ago and features a high-powered offense that includes such names as Randy Moss, Chris Carter, Jeff George, Robert Smith, and countless others.

All fine things to have, but consider the following: the Rams have both the league MVP in Kurt Warner and the Offensive Player of the Year in Marshall Faulk. Along with Faulk and Warner, they have defense, something the Vikings lack. With DeMarco Farr, Mike Jones, Todd Lyght, Dre Bly, London Fletcher, and Kevin Carter on the gridiron, it will be hard for any offense to find the endzone.

But we still have nay-sayers, people who just cannot accept the fact that the National Football League is designed to give every team an opportunity to take home the Vince Lombardi trophy each season. A team can actually improve over time.

Look at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, or the New York Jets, or the Dallas Cowboys. All three of

these teams had 1-15 seasons before they reached their pinnacle. The Rams, when they were in Cleveland, won the 1947 NFL Championship with quarterback Norm Van Brocklin calling signals.

Remember the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Carolina Panthers? Both teams went to their respective league finals in only their second season, and nearly set up the first "Expansion Bowl."

True, a lot of these teams have since fallen apart, but that is the essence of sports. Isn't it more fun to have faith in the underdog than root for the damn Yankees?

This year, Cinderella not only looks good, but has every component that makes a winner. Look at past champions, and tell me that this team doesn't compare.

The only team in this year's playoffs that can defeat the Rams is the St. Louis Rams. As long as they play their brand of football, you will be seeing 60 guys walking around St. Louis with shiny new rings.

Quick fact: Every city that the Pope has visited in the United States that has a professional football team has had that team advance to the Super Bowl that same year.

RIVERMEN, from page 5

blocked shots while the Rivermen had none.

The Rivermen were unable to establish their offense from the start and shot poorly in both halves, 33 and 46 percent.

Indianapolis capitalized and hammered UM-St. Louis with 50 and 51 percent shooting, respectively.

Highlights for the Rivermen included Terence Herbert, who recorded another double-double, scoring a game-high 23 points and a game-high 16 rebounds.

Other Rivermen players posting double-digit point tallies included Brian Markus with 13 and Jim Schelich with 12.

With the loss to Indianapolis, UM-St. Louis is now 7-4 overall and 3-3 in the GLVC.

UP NEXT...

The Rivermen will travel next to Highland Heights, Ky., to battle the No. 12 team in NCAA Division II, and the No. 3 team in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, Northern Kentucky.

Northern Kentucky is 12-2 overall and 4-1 in the GLVC, while the Rivermen are 7-4 overall and 3-3 in the conference.

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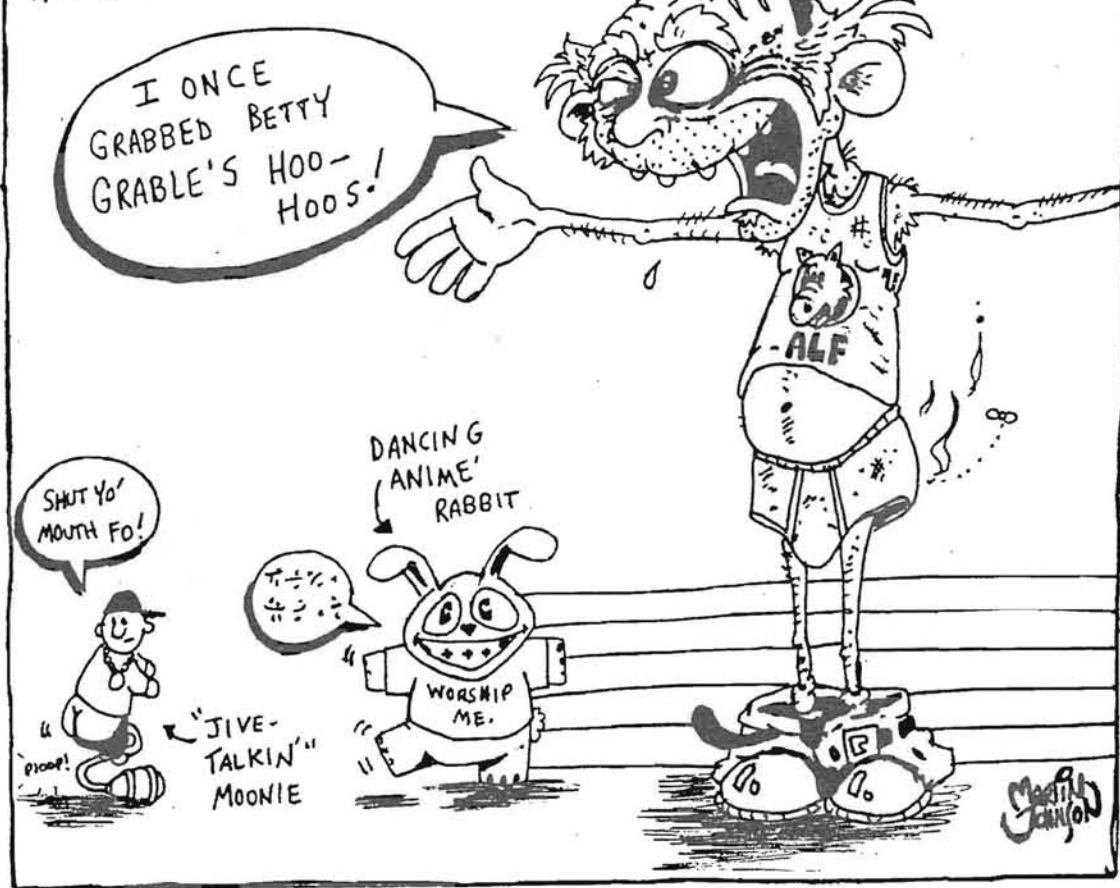
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Police investigate male flashing incident

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

A woman student reported that a man exposed himself to her in the hall on the second floor of Lucas Hall last week, according to campus police reports.

At 7:50 p.m. on Jan. 10, the student was sitting on the floor of Lucas Hall reading. "She looked up and there was a guy standing there," said Capt. James

Smalley of the UM-St. Louis Police Department after reviewing police reports from the incident. "He had his jeans undone, he had his underwear pulled down so his penis and pubic hair were showing and he was stroking his penis in a downward motion."

Smalley said the woman went to classrooms looking for phones and asked passing students if they had cell phones, before using the red phone on the third floor to call campus police.

Police searched the area, but couldn't find the man.

The student described the flasher as a white man in his late 30s or early 40s, about 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, with short brown hair, clean-shaven except for a possible mustache, Smalley said. She thought he was wearing a short brown or black waist-length leather jacket with blue jeans and possibly a hat. "She says if she saw the guy again, she would recognize him," Smalley

said.

Smalley said that in 1996 and 1997, women reported 10 incidents of flashers on campus. Two men were arrested and convicted, one for seven of the incidents, the other for the other three, Smalley said. Neither man meets the description the woman gave in this incident, he said.

Smalley advises women who witness similar incidents to report them to campus police as quickly as possible.

SGA, from page 1

be weighted evenly. The SABC decides how much money each student organization will get from the student activities fees.

"We basically outlined everything in the budget packet, and all the members had to go to the workshop," Shaw said, "but at those meetings we didn't say, 'Hey we're going to emphasize these priorities and these are less important than others.'"

The SABC will have to consider all of its criteria when deciding on SGA and every other student organization's budget. Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, said only about \$400,000 is available and the SABC expects approximately \$800,000 in requests.

Blanton said priority is given to student organizations which benefit all students. Priorities are also given, he said, to student organizations that promote co-curricular interaction between students and faculty and staff.

"Most of the allocation process is geared on how much we've got as it relates to how much we had the year before," Blanton said, "and how many organizations asked for allocations last year and how many organizations ask for allocations this year."

SGA has received a lot of negative publicity about embattled SGA

President Butler's personal situation, and as a result Wolfe said SGA has been limited on what it could do last semester.

Shaw, though, said the publicity wouldn't necessarily hurt SGA during the budget process.

"I guess some of that goes with having to determine just how negative that publicity is," Shaw said. "Some people say negative publicity is publicity and any publicity is good publicity. So I think it's difficult to evaluate just what exactly the impact the Darwin Butler situation has had with UM-St. Louis' image within the community."

SABC member Joshua Stegeman said there's a bigger issue at hand in deciding SGA's budget. Stegeman said he thinks SGA hasn't served the entire student population effectively.

"If we are going to judge every other organization on the same basis, then I do not think SGA should be able to escape because of its power, size and influence on campus," Stegeman said. "One of the criteria is serving the entire campus. So far SGA hasn't done that."

Blanton said 13 copies of the budgets are made once they are received. One copy is given to each of the SABC members, one is given to

Blanton and one is given to Roberta Holst, administrative associate of Student Activities.

Blanton said the members first review the budgets to decide which ones need a hearing. Then they send letters to the organizations either asking them to set up appointments for their hearings or informing them that a hearing isn't necessary but they are entitled to one if they wish.

Blanton said that after the hearing, the SABC will deliberate on a tentative allocation based on the particular organization's request and the amount of money available. Then a letter with the amount of the tentative request is sent to the organizations, giving them

a chance to appeal.

Blanton said that after hearing the appeal, the SABC may adjust the allocation.

Blanton said this year's process will not be easy given the scarcity of funds.

"We've had two straight years where we've had a student body president who has mandated no increase in the student activities fee," Blanton said. "But the number of request orders keeps going up and inflation keeps having an impact on what it costs for goods and services, so in essence the budget committee is losing ground even though the reservoir is staying about the same."

TRAFFIC, from page 1

Nor, Samples said.

Although Natural Bridge is a state-maintained highway, the University of Missouri-St. Louis took the initiative to put the traffic light in place and pay for it, Bruno said. The state will pay for maintaining the signal and has programmed it and, using fiber optic cable, will coordinate the light with

Natural Bridge's intersections with Arlmont and University drives and Hanley Road.

The signal had to meet MoDOT standards, while Bel-Nor officials wanted the signal poles to be black rather than the standard galvanized steel. It took longer for the manufacturer to custom build the black poles, Samples said.

SOUND, from page 1

first suggestion about getting a written guarantee from Kirkegaard about the noise levels is not commonplace in the construction industry and that such a request should have been made at the time the University originally hired the consultants.

"This doesn't mean that we don't have confidence in the construction because after all they have their professional reputation riding on this building just like we do," Driemeier said. "If we were to find out at a later date that they made a gross error in how they helped us design this building, I'm afraid that would have to be subject of a lawsuit rather than a guarantee."

Driemeier said that since the levels of noise attenuation in the Performing Arts Center are so important, UM-St. Louis officials have been following the center's construction closely. He said the University's construction superintendents and architects are monitoring the center's progress, making sure no short cuts are taken during the construction.

As for Schwartz's second suggestion about liability insurance, Driemeier said the University is self-insured.

"I do think it is an item that we have to be mindful of, just like we have to be mindful of how we treat hazardous chemicals in our laboratories or any time that we are exposing our students or the general public to a higher degree of risk," Driemeier said. "So the University has to keep this in mind when they look at the total risk management package, but the bulk of all risk management on all of the campuses is self-insurance."

Driemeier said that if a tragedy involving an airplane crash and the Performing Arts Center were to happen, relatives of the victims might seek financial relief from the airplane companies and manufacturers as well as the University. Driemeier said the University's resources might seem less significant compared to the resources of airplane companies and manufacturers when surviving victims are looking for compensation.

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