

Editorials This Week

Taxpayer speaks out on how educators abuse public money.

See Editorials page 3

Features This Week

Want to know the history of Valentines Day?

See Features page 5

Sports This Week

3 for 4; UM-St. Louis athletes top the GPA ratings.

See Sports page 7

The CURRENT

Issue 720

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI- ST. LOUIS

February 10, 1992

SLAM DUNK!

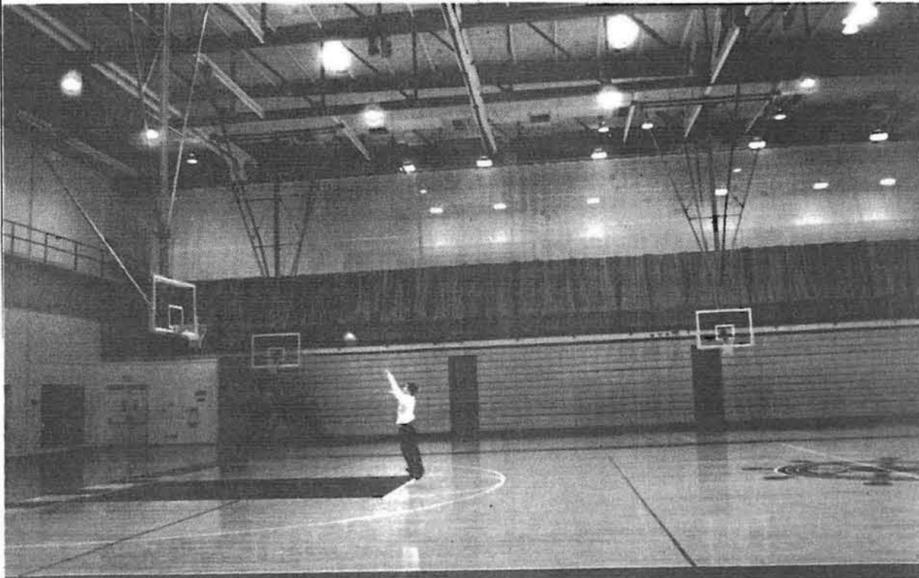


Photo: Dirk Fletcher

Grant McCall dreams of the NBA on an empty court at the Mark Twain Gym. McCall is the son of Nancy Shields, assistant dean of the Evening College.

UMSL Police Look for Suspect

UM-St. Louis police are looking for a man who grabbed a woman on the breast and fled Jan. 29.

Police Chief John Pickens said the 18-year-old woman was waiting to get on the elevator at the Research Wing when the man came up from behind and grabbed her. There were no witnesses to the incident but the woman was able to give police a description of the suspect.

A 19-year-old man was arrested by UM-St. Louis police in connection with receiving stolen property.

Pickens said the suspect was observed by a police officer Jan. 30, walking with a car radio on University Drive. The officer asked for a student ID and ran a check on the radio. The ID had been stolen.

Warrants were issued for felony stealing. Police said the radio, valued

at over \$150, was stolen from a car in St. Louis City.

A woman was punched in the face by an acquaintance when she arrived for class Feb. 4, police said. A former UM-St. Louis student was waiting for her in Clark Hall and hit her in the mouth after a brief exchange of words. Pickens said when the suspect is apprehended, warrants will be applied for and he will be charged with third degree assault.

Pickens said anyone on campus who notices anything suspicious or knows of any information that could lead to solving any crimes should contact the police station.

Gay Politician Says Health Care Is Main Concern

by Bhavana Hingorani of *The Current* staff

"I am an open gay man," said Tim Cusick, politician and former UM-St. Louis student, said.

Cusick is contesting for a niche in the Missouri House of Representatives in the forthcoming elections. Although people look at him "differently," because of his sexual preferences, he has no problem with his "difference." He is forthright and admits his gay affiliation with some degree of pride. But he is not altogether happy about how people think of him.

"They perceive of me as a gay candidate; not a candidate who happens to be gay," Cusick said.

Cusick is concerned with many issues that are plaguing the 64th District, which includes the Central West End. He said health care is the biggest issue for the people who live in his district, most of whom are senior citizens. Cusick is concerned about how they will pay for their hospitalization and nursing homes. Cusick blames the the drugs and crime problems on the slow progress in the development of some parts of the city. He plans to rectify that. He is also interested in funnelling his energy into the environmental issues such as, "whether or not the milk we are drinking has got experimental drugs that are being used on cows, our inhaling of secondary smoke and the radon in our homes."

He said he likes the idea of "mandatory recycling" so Americans can decrease the amount of trash going in the already overfilled dumping grounds.



Former UM-St. Louis Student, Tim Cusick speaks to a group at the Women's Center

Cusick has set up a team of delegates to voice his proposal in the Legislature. He has proposed on a number of issues such as a woman's right to abortion, health care and insurance. He said, "One of the things Missouri can do is to help pay for the individual's private insurance," in cases of AIDS. He wants health care workers to volunteer themselves to be tested for the AIDS virus.

Cusick argues that the federal government has the money to support unemployed workers, especially during the time of recession. He said the federal government puts some money aside, "so that when jobs are gone, they can reorient these people to different types of jobs". The program is called "Reentry Programs for Adults."

He also said he likes the idea of the Metro Link Transit System. According to him, the city needs the mass transit system to survive.

Cusick is the founder of the UM-St. Louis Lesbian and Gay Campus Organization (LGCO). He wants people to understand that he is "a candidate who has the vested interests of all the residents of the 64th District."

Events Begin for Black History Month

by Diana Davis
Current news reporter

Judge Clyde S. Cahill's keynote speech was interrupted by an outburst of applause last Monday night when he said, "We African-Americans need to be proud of our heritage because we are, if anyone is, great!"

Speaking before a near-capacity crowd in the UM-St. Louis JC Penney auditorium to kick off African-American History month, Cahill said the African-American people were living in a time such as Dickens described in *The Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Cahill said the "worst of times" applies to the problems occurring in the inner cities. "Because of a dwindling tax base, our schools do not have enough money; because of the withdrawal of federal funds, adequate housing is scarce; because of the lack of employment, crime — especially regarding drugs — is running rampant."

A family cannot exist on the support provided by part-time jobs with no health insurance benefits and minimum-wage salaries, the judge said. He also cited the disintegration of the family and child mothers as adding to societal problems; yet the African-American people have struggled against all of these evils of society.

Cahill said that it was good for blacks to know the story of their ancestors so they could appreciate the special courage, strength and determination that is their heritage. He said when he was in school, history books did not tell about the contributions his people had made, and there is a need to put those facts into American his-



GREATNESS: Judge Clyde Cahill presents words of encouragement to standing room only at UM-St. Louis.

tory books.

"Anyone whose ancestors had built the pyramids, led the armies up and over the Alps, planned great cities, discovered the secret of life-saving blood transfusions, or stayed alive through the underground railroads had nothing to be ashamed of, and furthermore, had reason to be proud," Cahill said, as his speech was interrupted again by applause.

The torch shone brightly for the immigrants from Europe, yet blacks came to America in chains and were forced to do labor so that others could thrive and prosper. In spite of it all, African-Americans have endured and have been conscientious and loyal citizens serving in American homes, fields, factories and in the battlefields of wars, he said. The African-American people are beginning to appreci-

ate their heritage and are beginning to acknowledge with pride their fine achievements. They have established themselves as scientists, educators, lawyers, architects, doctors and chemists.

"We, too, have lived and fought and died for America. We are Americans!" Cahill said. It is still a challenge for African-Americans to demand to be treated as human beings and to realize that their contributions to this country are as great as those of any nation in the world, brought a standing ovation for Cahill.

The Adventist Chorale added to the celebration by singing "It is Finished," "I've Been Buked," and "We Shall Behold Him." Lauren Thomas Griggs was the featured soloist.

See *JUDGE*, page 4

Essence Editor Visits UMSL



Photo: Michelle Lawson

INSPIRATION: Susan Taylor, editor-in-chief of *Essence* magazine, challenges older African-Americans to be role models for youths.

by Mimi Buckner
of *The Current* staff

"America has never devised a positive plan for upliftment of our people. What has moved us forward is our own passion and commitment."

Susan L. Taylor, the editor-in-chief of *Essence*, a widely-known magazine for African-American women, said people should take the time to think critically and more analytically for the enhancement of their people.

Taylor's speech on Wednesday was sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians (A.B.C.), and was part of Black History Month.

Taylor writes a column in *Essence* called, "In The Spirit" in which she expresses her different views and opinions that reach approximately 900,000 readers monthly.

"I come to talk, but most important of all, to listen," Taylor said to a

standing room only audience. "I get my ideas and inspiration from listening to the people who subscribe to the magazine."

During her speech, Taylor discussed her recent trip to Ghana, a country in West Africa, where she saw castle dungeons where slaves were kept before they were shipped to America.

"Analyzing our past helps us to understand our present, and give us determination and courage to keep moving forward. We are the most affluent and educated people of African descent in the world," Taylor said.

Taylor said her challenge is for every member of society to reach out to one black youth everyday. She said we have a responsibility to intern our youth into adulthood, without exploiting them.

See *TAYLOR*, page 4

Lack Of Business Closes Marillac Cafe

by Matt Forsythe
Current news reporter

The closing of the South Campus Cafeteria and the opening of the Flamingo Room has drawn both praise and criticism from students and faculty on campus.

Bob Schmalfeld, director of the university center, said the reason the cafeteria closed down on Jan. 24 was lack of revenue generated.

"There was not enough business to justify keeping it open," Schmalfeld said.

Dan Bowersox, president of the American Optometry Student Association, said the closing of the cafeteria is another case of administrators ignoring the South Campus.

"It is a classic example of South Campus being the ugly stepchild campus," he said.

"The Flamingo Room is really nice, but I would like to have some hot food. I like having hot soup or sandwich available," Kris Lytton, a senior in the School of Elementary Education, said. "It is a big inconvenience for me to have to go to North Campus to get something hot to eat."

But another student, Tom

Zirbas, said cafeteria food is "expensive."

"Most people on campus eat from vending machines anyway. You can still get salad and sandwiches, and you can get most of those at the cafeteria," Zirbas, a secondary education major said.

Profits from campus vending machines went to the Flamingo Room.

"I can't say it's a substitute for the cafeteria, but it is well-used by faculty and staff," Gloria Schultz, director of business and management services, said.

The room that the South Campus Cafeteria was in will be turned into classroom studios for the Art Department.

The department is moving because most of its space in the Blue Metal Building is being taken over by the new engineering program. Angelo Puricelli, associate dean for the School of Continuing Education, said, "We're out of space. The Cafeteria is missed, but we needed the space for academic purposes."

Employees who worked in the cafeteria are now working at the North Campus Cafeteria.

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Amy, You broke my heart like a taco shell., now my life is a living hell. How I admire you in my Psych. class. Your luscious lips, your cute little ass. Jeff

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Crime On Its Way

For years, the UM-St. Louis Police Department has received a bad rap from the students. Commonly heard terms include "Rent-A-Cop," "UM-St. Louis' Finest" and "The Unconscious Ones." But what most people don't realize is that the officers who patrol the campus are certified police officers who could work in any department. This sort of euphemistic attitude is the sort of thing that is likely to get this campus in a lot of trouble.

Crime is not an immediate concern for many UM-St. Louis students; but it should be. While crime is not rampant on campus, it does exist. And it must be handled properly.

North County is the most violent part of the county. St. Louis County's first precinct is the busiest of the four, and UM-St. Louis is right in the middle of it. And what's to keep that crime from spreading here? The answer is two-fold: more police and more student awareness.

With the addition of the Metro-Link, stretching through the north end of the campus, more people will be on campus. And that increases the probability of criminal activity.

With the recent budget cuts that seem to lead every discussion about the university, the police might be on the list. That would be a huge mistake.

Normandy, Bel-Ridge, Pine Lawn and Beverly Hills are within a five-mile radius of campus, and they all contain gangs, violence and graffiti, which could very easily work its way onto the UM-St. Louis campus.

The crimes reported to the campus police since the beginning of the semester are just the beginning. And unless the police force is upgraded, these crimes will pale in comparison to what's to come.

Right now, the police don't even have a holding cell for prisoners; they are handcuffed to a table.

Budget cuts are the last thing next to bullets that need to be shot at the police. They have enough to do without having to fight the administration, too.

Trading Brains For Birds?

Flamingos for education?

Is this the way to treat students? Is it the way to attract new ones?

That's one way the UM-St. Louis administration has decided to deal with current budget problems strapping the university. The South Campus cafeteria, the sole on-campus provider of hot food for many education, optometry and nursing students, has been closed. Instead, those students are forced to either eat off campus or eat at the Flamingo Room, a "cafeteria" of vending machines that offer nothing but potato and corn chips, candy bars, and sodas.

The room was completed using funds collected from the vending machines across the campus.

Part of the function of the now-Flamingo Room was to house the Bridge Program, an important organization for attracting future students. But this program was shoved upstairs where it is very difficult to find now.

And why should the students on the South Campus suffer? Why make them the outcasts? It is true that most students here do not even know what is on the South Campus. Some don't even know there is one. But those who study there know it.

Trading flamingos for education is for the birds.



LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Educators Abuse, Waste Taxpayers Money

Dear editor:

Tuition for the University of Missouri System rose approximately 12 percent for the 1991-1992 school year. A proposed 14.6 percent rise in the system's tuition fees is planned for the 1992-1993 school year.

Not too subtle of a plan to punish those who voted no to Proposition B in November, 1991. "The Missouri public school system will get taxpayers' money one way or the other" seems to be the prevailing attitude. That attitude is displayed by the same people—state school system officials, school district superintendents, school board officials and some Missouri legislators. They couldn't understand how taxpayers turned down Proposition B at the polls.

On the face of it, it was explained to these disconcerted few that they had not explained in detail where the money was to go and had not explained, even in layman's terms, how (by what formula) money was to be

apportioned among school districts. However, an ulterior reason for rejecting Proposition B may have been more prevalent than realized. Taxpayers who, on the average, already pay hundreds of dollars per year in real estate taxes for education (based on what school district they live in) are not willing to see any more of their taxes through general revenue be allocated for what appears to be waste, abuse, and inefficiency.

Case-in-point: two University of Missouri-Rolla officials bill the university for charges of \$3,000 for their spouses' attendance at a Hawaiian conference that put the university in the red for \$30,000.

Case-in-point: fights and constant disruptions are allowed to take place in a Parkway School District classroom apparently because, after being approached by a number of the non-disruptive students, the teacher explains, "After all, this is a communication class."

Case-in-point: one school in the

Parkway School District pleaded with school district parents (voters) to pass a bond issue to help provide funds for the continuing repairs of its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. In general, HVAC systems are lacking in efficiency when applied or "added-on" to existing structures. The school district failed to provide for the design of a suitable HVAC system when the school was still on the drawing boards. Yet, taxpayers are expected to pay for the continuing repair bills.

Case-in-point: at one of the University of Missouri-Columbia's student/parent sessions of the 1989 summer orientation the topic of campus security arose. Non-freshmen student conducting this session basically started and ended the session with one interrogatory statement, "are there any questions?"

Case in point: a UM-Columbia instructor invites a visiting colleague from an out-of-state university at taxpayers cost to give a lecture and then

asks his students for donations to help defray costs for the guest lecture including lecture materials.

The prevailing attitude put forth from the ivory tower is that you can pay us now or you can pay us later; if you want your child/children to receive a quality education in a clean, comfortable, liveable, safe environment, then give us your money.

Last November, the voters' message was: if system administrators cannot efficiently spend the money that has been allotted to you for our children's education, then you get no more.

Certainly, educators also pay taxes and send their children to Missouri's public schools; however, it must be awfully uncomfortable for even these people to endure the waste abuse and inefficiencies, and subject themselves to their superiors questionable policies.

James H. Keebler

Students Shouldn't Have To Pay For Athletics

Dear editor:

Why do we have an athletic department? Now that all state funding will be cut for it, who do you think will have to pay?

The students will through the activity fees. While I am generally in favor of athletic programs to ensure that the university is building both mind and body, it seems to me that few people are benefitting at the cost

of the money. Our activity fees are already too high for a commuter campus. Granted, some of that money goes to the bonds on the University Center and the Mark Twain Renovation, a sizeable amount goes to support things that very few benefit from or care about.

The Current and the athletic department are always whining about the low fan turnout at athletic events and how terrible it is for them. Did

you ever think that students don't have the time to go or that students don't go because it doesn't interest them? If the athletics want to compete, why don't they pay for they

expenses? Because they could never afford it. Well... neither can the rest of us.

Matt Bishop

Rush Isn't Beer, Women

Dear editor:

This letter is in response to a letter to the editor from Mr. Mark A. Magas in the Feb. 3, 1992, issue of *The Current* (Sig Tau's Rush: Get Screwed, Animal House). We would like to thank Mr. Magas for his concern, but we think he has missed the point. The main purpose of Rush is to attract attention to your organization and gain new members. In our opinion, Sigma Tau Gamma uses a creative mix of symbols and party themes to attract attention to themselves.

The use of the popular beer labels simply draws attention to the displays, but does not "promote massive alcohol consumption." Much like beer labels, the party theme "Get Screwed" also draws attention and curiosity that will get people interested in their fraternity.

Like advertising, in general, these devices are merely ploys to attract interest and get people (mainly potential rushees) to attend rush parties.

Mr. Magas' implication that the members of Sigma Tau Gamma think women are "objects that fall at the feet of any frat brother" is ridiculous. As women who are often around gentlemen, we have never seen, nor heard, any evidence to support this accusation. Those members have always acted with the kind and courteous manners that is typical of any fraternity.

Again, we appreciate Mr. Magas' concerns, but there is nothing about Sigma Tau Gamma that suggests they behave in the primitive manner that he implies.

The Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta

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Twentieth Century Person Says World Is Now Insane

Dear Editor:

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Down with filth and depravity!
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This is the twentieth century, too much aggravation!

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But I don't want to be here!

Mrs. Opinion

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LETTERS POLICY

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to its readers. Short letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor.

Editing may be necessary for space and clarity to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy, but ideas will not be altered.

Upon request, editors will use initials only, but only rarely and for compelling reasons. A signed letter carries more weight with readers.

Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.

All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address, student identification number and phone number for verification purposes (address, student identification number and phone number will not be printed).

MO -- THE SPACE GUY



by Tom Knox

Campus Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were reported to Campus Police during the period of Jan. 14-Feb. 5, 1992. If readers have information that could assist police investigations, they are urged to call 553-5155. This information is provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department as a public service to promote awareness. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort!

- 1-16-92**
A staff member left her purse in her desk drawer in 110 Woods Hall. She left the office at 1:45 p.m.; when she returned at 5:00 p.m., \$4.00 was missing from the purse.
- 1-21-92**
A staff member reported that a vending machine in the Music Building was vandalized between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. An inventory of the missing items has not yet been compiled.
- 1-22-92**
A Normandy Bank employee reported that a stolen check had been presented for cashing at 11:50 a.m. The check was for the amount of \$592.. Police are continuing the investigation and do not know the identity of the person.
- 1-27-92**
A staff member reported that a Motorola two-way radio was stolen from his office, 135 GSB. The theft occurred Dec. 17 or 18, 1991.
- Two cases of toilet paper were stolen from a janitor's closet in 114 Clark. The toilet paper was stolen between 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.
- 1-29-92**
At 12:35 p.m., a student reported that while waiting for an elevator on the second floor of Research Wing, someone reached over her shoulder and grabbed her breast. Investigation is continuing.
- 1-30-92**
A staff member reported that \$124.00 had been stolen from the Center for Eye Care front desk area. The theft apparently occurred sometime from Jan. 2 to Jan. 21, between the hours of 8:15 and 10 a.m.
- A man was arrested on University Drive after police discovered that the car radio he was carrying had been stolen from a car in St. Louis City. A
- 1-31-92**
A leather jacket was stolen from a chair in the front entrance to Mark Twain Gym. The student had left his jacket unattended from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Taylor from page 1

Taylor also advised students to take advantage of their education and time spent in school and get involved in black school organizations.

"This university, as well as others, are just a microcosm of the larger world out there," she said. "The discipline you learn here is what you will need outside school.

"The reason why those of you are students of the university is because, not a long time ago, someone petitioned the university to let you in. Don't ever forget that," Taylor said.

Some information for this article was contributed by Stephanie Hudson, for *The Current*.

Judge from page 1

Among the organizations sending representatives to this event were: The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, the Defense Mapping Agency, The Eastern Star, Harmony Grand Chapter, The Masonic Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 100 Black Men of St. Louis, the St. Louis Postal Services, the UM-St. Louis Gospel Choir, the UM-St. Louis Admissions Office, and the Maplewood/Richmond Heights School District.

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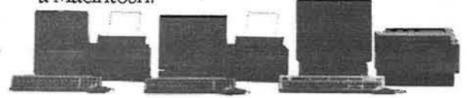
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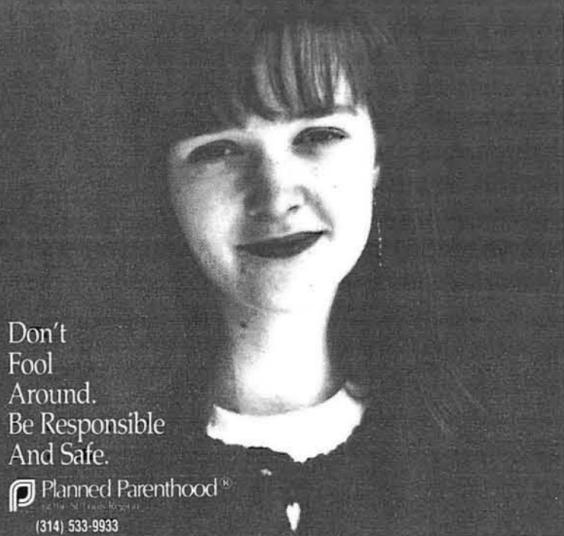
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* The interest rate is the average of the higher of the 30-day or 90-day commercial paper rates as reported in the Wall Street Journal, plus a spread of 4.35%. After June 30, 1992, the spread may increase if program costs increase, but will not exceed 5.6%. Existing borrowers would be notified at least 30 days in advance. The loan may be prepaid at any time without penalty. For the month of October, 1991, the rate was 10.068%, with an annual percentage rate of 11.4035%. This rate would result in monthly payments of \$18.81 for every \$1,000 borrowed. The total finance charge for each \$1,000 borrowed would be \$442.87. If you elect to defer principal payments for four years, the APR on your loan will be 11.0327%. Your monthly payments during the deferment period will be \$8.28, and your first monthly payment of principal and interest will be \$29.67 per every \$1,000 borrowed. The total finance charge on every \$1,000 you borrow will be \$547.24. The interest rate is subject to increase after you have received the loan. Each applicant pays a \$20.00 non-refundable application fee. Approved borrowers will be charged a 4% loan origination fee. Loan applications after June 30, 1992, may be subject to a higher loan origination fee. The loan origination fee will be added to the requested loan amount and repaid over the life of the loan.
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Valentine's Day

by Linda F. Jarrett and Maureen Svetanics Jacquot
Current features reporters

On January 2, you swear those seven pounds you gained over Christmas are GOING!! Five go, then comes Super Bowl Sunday and here they come again. No sooner than you get the five gone and are working on six, up pops TA DA — Valentine's Day!

Of course, neither a dozen red roses nor a nice bottle of wine is fattening. And NOTHING from Dr. John's is calorie-laden, should that be your leaning. However,

for sheer decadence, you can't beat a five-pound chocolate heart or a box of Fannie May's. And if that's accompanied by a cream-sauced dinner at The Pasta House, so much the better.

Had the originator of St. Valentine's Day been more discreet, he would have lived longer, and probably the day would have passed unnoticed. However, a young bishop in Rome, A.D. 270, enraged the mad emperor Claudius II, who had issued an edict forbidding marriage. Claudius felt that married men made poor soldiers, so he just abolished the institution. However, Bishop Valentine secretly

wed couples until he was discovered and imprisoned. He then fell in love with the blind daughter of a jailor, and, on the eve of his destruction, he plucked a heart-shaped leaf from the window of his cell, attached a note to it reading "From Your Valentine," and so began the holiday.

In the fourth century, B.C., the Romans engaged in an young man's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The names of teenage girls were placed in a box and drawn by the adolescent male, who was assigned to that girl for a year for various and sundry reasons, after which another lottery was staged. Understandably, the church fathers sought to find a more monogamous god, and St. Valentine fit the bill.

So, this is why chocolates and sparse, lacy (generally itchy) red teddies are purchased. Everyone has a favorite way to spend Valentine's Day (or night).

"A trip to Ixtapa," would make an excellent Valentine's Day gift, says Cyndi Mahne, a grad student, "so I have been hinting."

A weekend in a cabin in the Ozarks," fits lecturer in English Judi Linville's bill, "with a fresh trout dinner that I didn't have to catch, clean or cook."

And one grad student, wishing to remain anonymous, spoke of "flying to Las Vegas and getting married."

While for

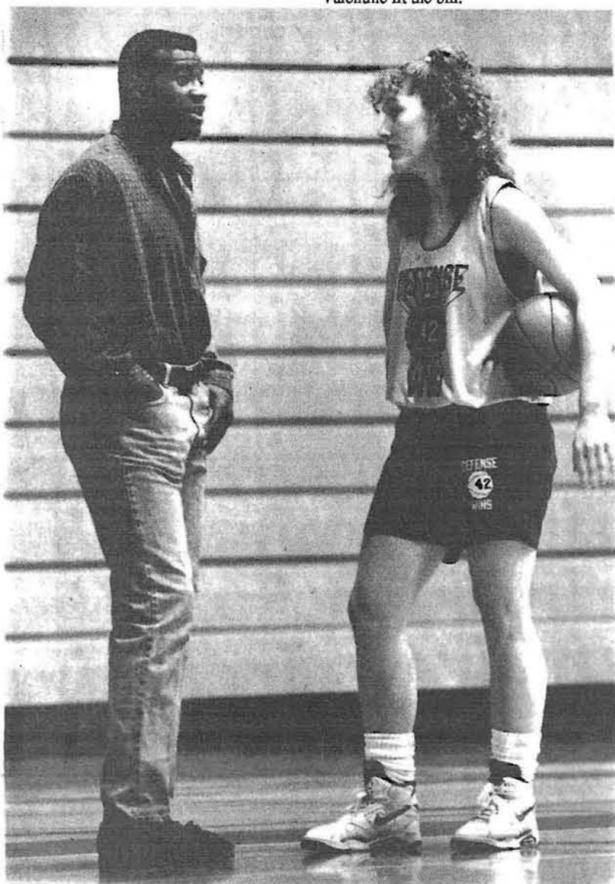


Photo: Dirk Fletcher

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE? Friends also show their love for one another on this heartfelt day.



Photo: Dirk Fletcher

I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND! Body language sometimes can say more than words.

some, ideal Valentine plans occur within the boundaries of I-270.

Cheri Kaufman, a junior majoring in mass communications, is one such person. "Flowers and a nice candlelight dinner at home" is her idea of a perfect Valentine's celebration.

Senior Laura Eichhorst agrees, "Dinner at home, alone for two," she says, is her Valentine's Day wish.

And what about those whose desires include chocolate hearts? Ellie Chapman, writing cate coordinator, is one whose Valentine's Day most definitely

certifi- ideal includes, "A box

And yes, even UM-St. Louis has several ultra-romantics going unnoticed. And what do these elite few do for the special day? (The fact that they don't send Garfield valentines being obvious!)

Senior Matt Oesterle says his ideal Valentine's Day would include "black-tie dinner and dancing, nice accommodations and a champagne brunch the next morning." One note, Oesterle requested a hot tub in every room of his nice accommodations.

"A quiet candlelight dinner with white zinfandel, soft jazz and a bubble bath awaiting (wife included)," says grad student Sherman Davis, is the best way to spend the evening.

Some questioned wished for a day or evening away from children. "Our kids have been given to a local baby sitter," begins senior Stephen Clark. "My wife and I have reservations at a bed-and-breakfast, we enjoy a quiet dinner and relax in an immense jacuzzi." Dining is key, says Clark because, "we normally can't eat without a screaming child attached to our legs."

And some at UM-St. Louis have selected their valentines from afar.

Grad student Lenny Kostecki says the ideal Valentine

evening "would include Cindy Crawford." With that possibility gone, Kostecki says, "I would try a hot air balloon at sunset, a few strawberries and champagne, and a bonfire back on earth - with someone special I suppose."

While a married senior, wishing to remain anonymous, says her dream Valentine's Day would definitely include "The guy in our lobby applying for a job. He was incredible!"

Several on campus had not yet selected their special Valentine.

One such student is Karen, a senior, who says, "flowers and soft-music," fit her romantic mood, while her Valentine "could even be short."

Valentine's Day Boosts Card Sales

by Linda F. Jarrett and Maureen Svetanics Jacquot
Current features reporters

It certainly can come as no surprise that women are more romantic than men, at least according to R.H. Bruskin Associates. The market researcher states that of the 78 percent of the our country's romantics who send cards on St. Valentine's Day, the average woman sends six cards, and the average man sends three.

Ruth Goldberg of Town and Country Spicer's says that most people wait until two or three days before Valentine's Day to make their purchase. "People are paying taxes, and they'll wait until the last minute," she says. So, as of now, it's too early to say what will be a popular item this year.

Eileen Kaye of Emily's, located at Baxter at Clayton Roads, says that while Christmas is the largest card-giving holiday with \$2.3 billion spent, Valentine's Day is second with \$1 billion, outdistancing Easter at third with \$1.5 million. The traditional romantic card is enjoying popularity after the humorous ones of past years. Another interesting fact is that as many Valentine cards are bought for family members as are for husbands and sweethearts.

Jumping Into Darkness

Russell L. Korando
of The Current staff

My company, Alpha Co. 2nd 504th Airborne Battalion, had just arrived at Pope Air Force Base when it was reported that winds on the drop-zone had reached 18 knots. Winds over 12 knots are considered too hazardous to jump, but this was a high priority mission so we were going, regardless of wind speed.

Our operations order read like a nightmare. Five days in the vast wasteland known as Area J, and four combat assaults using live ammunition. This meant by the time my parachute was fitted on me, I would have in excess of 200 pounds latched to my 160-pound frame.

After the jumpmasters completed a thorough check of our gear, we waddled to the waiting area about 50 yards behind the C-141 jets.

As we sat smoking cigarettes to pass the time, there was an incessant flow of chatter. I continuously checked and re-checked my equipment, making sure nothing was hanging loose that could cause me to get hung up in the airplane.

Snags in the airplane result in what is called a "towed jumper," which is perhaps every paratrooper's greatest fear. When 64 men are squeezed and thrown together at 800 feet, carrying weapons, ruck-sacks, static lines... well, the chance was always there.

After feeling satisfied that everything was in order, I leaned back and tried to relax. One of my most vivid memories of jumping is the smell of jet fuel. Every once in a while, if I'm at the airport or even in traffic, that aroma instantly triggers the thought of this runway.

It was time to load up. One by one, our sticks arose and shuffled toward the great green beasts. The lighting inside was crimson, and as we approached the plane's belly, it gave the illusion that we were entering Dante's Hell.

The deafening roar of the turbines, along with the smell of fuel and the extra weight, sometimes overcame my

sense of balance. I could only hope the harness straps hadn't become twisted. There were five Air Force crew members to help us get seated and store our extra gear.

We always poked fun at their little jumpsuits and long hair. All they had to do was pick us up, fly us to the target, and open the doors. They would fly right back to the base, probably just in time for Monday Night Football, and we would be in the great outdoors for a week. But that's another story.

By the time the plane started taxiing down the runway, most of the horse-play halted. This was the time I could tell how the people around me were really feeling, just by the expressions on their faces.

There was also a great deal of bonding between very young men, who had volunteered for this task. It was like before the start of a big football game when you taste the intensity with a dash of fear thrown in for restraint.

The screeching whine of the C-141's four massive engines drowned out the words of the man next to me as the plane hurtled off the ground toward the drop zone. A feeling of "no going back" shrouded the faces of many once the plane reached cruising altitude.

Most of the time my fear of jumping was quelled by the thought of the grueling job ahead. I also hoped to land near a parachute drop-off point, so I wouldn't have to lug it a mile along with everything else.

"Six minutes," the jumpmaster shouted, giving us our cue to stand. This took some real doing, depending on how much turbulence was involved.

I pushed myself up off the cargo net seating, teetered a couple of times, and finally grabbed hold of the anchor line cable, gaining my balance.

I probably would have never reached this point if not for the expertly drilled instructions from the U.S. Army's Airborne School. There, I was given the confidence, through discipline, to keep from locking up in complete fear.

This is also what I believe to be the biggest advantage for those jumpers from the military as opposed to the

civilian jump clubs. In a club, you have to pay a great deal of money, and then the only training you get is a couple of hours to become familiar with a life and death "hobby."

In the Army we received three weeks of the toughest physical and mental training the military had to offer.

There are two key elements a jumper needs in order to safely pursue this sport: muscular, flexible legs for impact, and mental sharpness.

Malfunctions with the equipment are a reality when you're jumping several times, and you can imagine how fast one's reactions must be to correct an error while falling to the ground at speeds up to 280 miles-per-hour.

"Hook up," was the next command. I took the fastener and clicked it onto the anchor line, tugging violently several times to make sure it wasn't going anywhere.

The two side doors started to open, sending gusts of cold air through the cabin. It was almost too noisy to understand what the jumpmaster was saying, but most of us knew the commands by heart.

Everyone checked the equipment on the man in front of him, making sure one last time there were no loose ends.

Standing in the tunnel before the big game. The cheers of the crowd cease thought. 150 mile-per-hour winds tear through the tunnel of the plane, ripping at the character of each man's resolve.

The red and green lights that signal to start jumping are similar to the ones at a traffic intersection. Red means stop and green is for go.

"Thirty seconds." Each man was pressed up against the next, I guess to create a certain forward momentum. It wasn't comfortable standing for too long under so much duress.

"Go!" Slowly I two-stepped for the door. I watched as my friends got sucked, one-by-one, into the clouds of darkness. Finally I reached what looked to be a black pit and hurled myself into it.

see JUMPMASERS, page 6

Columnist Proclaims TJL Pyramid Is Eighth Wonder Of The World



by Greg Albers
columnist

By now most of you have heard all about the budget problems that plague this campus. Due to budget cuts, many "extras" that traditionally come with a college education may have to be eliminated, and tuition is scheduled to increase 83 percent over the next five years. "We've got good news and bad news for ya, kid. The bad news is we get your first-born child. But the good news is we're making this country club even duller than before!" No thanks, I think I'd rather go to a real school. Forget this ritual parking space hunt bullshit.

It appears this school has two major problems. It has no money, so the academic standards may begin to decline; and the lousy excuse we are offered for social life

sucks, and promises to get worse. Fear not, fellow pursuers of knowledge and good times, I have a plan.

When the suggestions I give today are implemented, this campus will be magically transformed into a vibrant, fun university with money to burn. And yes, some of the suggestions are even legal.

1) Hire out Blanche Touhill to entertain at wedding receptions and barmitzva's impersonating Margaret Thatcher. She could blow up animal balloons for the kids, sing folk songs while passing the hat around.

2) Get Sandy MacLean a part-time job as a shoe shine boy when the light rail station opens. Of course, we'll all be in nursing homes by the time construction is complete, but it doesn't hurt to plan for the future.

3) Bill the TJL pyramid as "The Eighth Wonder of the World" and charge tourists \$60 apiece for t-shirts in the bookstore. Of course, the bookstore will buy them back for \$1.25 if someone is unhappy with them for any reason.

4) Reopen the campus for golfers. Financial Aid can help struggling students by paying \$5 an hour plus tips to caddies. Enterprising students can don wet suits

and retrieve errant shots into Bugg Lake for pocket change between classes.

5) The Student Government Association can put on puppet shows and sell popcorn to the kids. It's practical work experience for future politicians, and it will give them the sense of actually having done something constructive.

6) Charge late-arriving students \$20 for helicopter rides from Garage H to their classes in Benton Hall.

7) Attract national attention and draw visitors from around the world by debating with Ted Koppel on "Nightline" as to why a financially struggling university can build a new building when there is no money to create classes to put in it.

8) Demolish Garage C and sell the pieces as chunks of the Berlin Wall. Just hope nobody carbon dates the wreckage and proves that it is too old to have been authentic.

9) End the campus ban on alcohol and convert the temporary parking lot near the library into an outdoor amphitheater for loud drunken concerts, riots and Arway conventions.

10) Make somebody a millionaire by creating a lottery and awarding the winner \$1 a year for a million years.

Oh, I Wish I Was An . . .

Every day at UM-St. Louis, thousands of cars, trucks, vans and other vehicles of every possible type drive through campus. Last week, a different kind of vehicle could be seen cruising the streets of North Campus.

A Wienermobile. A Lamborweenie. A Wienebago. It's a hotdog, car-buns and all.

The vehicle, built on a 1988 Chevrolet van chassis with a V-6 engine, is one of six Wienermobiles currently touring

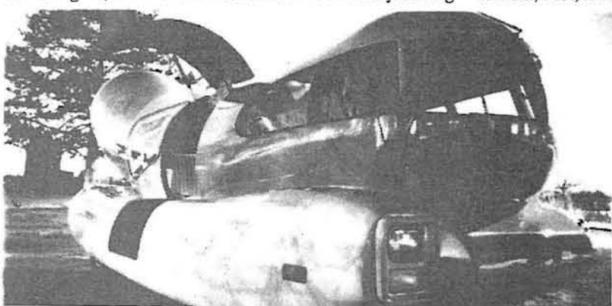


Photo: Dirk Fletcher

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the country.

Drivers, or "hotdoggers," Armando Escobedo, 27, and Jennifer Rahn, 23, tour the West and Midwest in the "car," doing promotions for Oscar Mayer, owner of the vehicles, visiting hospitals, riding in parades and "just having fun."

Escobedo and Rahn were in St. Louis last weekend doing a promotion with KSHE-95 before returning to Columbia, Mo., to recruit Wienermobile drivers for next year.

The Wienermobile, made of fiberglass, stands 10 feet tall, 23 feet long and eight feet wide (including the buns). It features a gull wing door, microwave oven, refrigerator, sun roof, steamer, loudspeaker system, CB radio and a cellular phone. The operation is based in Madison, Wisc.

JUMPMASTERS, from page 5

First, the power of the jet blast from the turbine washed me warmly away from the plane, and assisted in the opening of my canopy. There was a violent tug at my crotch as the harness dug in, stopping my body as the canopy reached full bloom.

Floating downward into the pitch can be a scary sensation. There are troopers floating all around you, creating the danger of becoming entangled in someone else's line.

After thanking a higher being for catching me from certain death, I checked the smoke on the zone to determine the wind direction, and I looked

for the blue light, indicating the checkpoint.

Thanks to the half-moon, I got some kind of reading as to my height and prepared to land. At about 200 feet, I lowered my ruck sack by pulling a pair of quick releases. The ruck sack fell smoothly and gave a tug as it came to the end of its 15-foot cord.

I looked straight ahead on the horizon, closed my feet and knees together, gave them a little bend, and thought as lightly as possible.

I hit the hard, sandy surface with a resounding thud, but managed to miss my rucksack laying in the dark. I immediately popped the parachute off and stood up to make a "bone check."

Nothing broken again. That's all I, or anyone else, could ask for.

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What A Difference A Year Makes

'91's 22-6 Team Just A Fond Memory For Rivermen

by Russell L. Korando
sports editor

Rewind back to this time last year. The UM-St. Louis Rivermen were 16-4, and they had won 12 of their last 14 games. Team leadership was abundant, and in Chris Pilz, the Rivermen had arguably one of the finest point guards the MIAA Conference had ever seen.

Now, fast forward all the way to Jan. 29 of this year. The Rivermen are down to one last shot against Lincoln U., who are the perennial doormats of the MIAA, and Leon Kynard's shot bounces off the rim. Lincoln beats the Rivermen 71-70 for the first time since 1984, and the team falls under .500 to 8-9.

Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said he was disappointed only because his expectations were too lofty coming into the year. He said the intangibles that Pilz, Kevin Hill and Clarence Ward

brought to the team had not been replaced.

"Our problems are 80 percent from the neck up, and 20 percent from the neck down," Meckfessel said. "When we get down in a game, I have not seen any resiliency to bounce back," he said.

Freshman center Jermaine Morris agreed that the Lincoln travesty was when the Rivermen hit rock bottom.

"The loss against Lincoln was the worst of all because we should have never been in position to lose the game," Morris said.

Morris thought there was plenty of positive influence in the team's locker room, as well as the floor.

"Leon and Kevin Sneed are the leaders of the team," he said. "Kevin pumps us up in the locker room before the game, and Leon leads by example with his play on the floor."

Meckfessel seems to think the trouble began at the end of last season. He said the coaches and players had begun to get complacent with the

memory of the excellent year. But the thing that hurt them worst was poor recruitment.

"However you want to look at it, I have to shoulder a lot of the blame for this complacency," Meckfessel said. "The competition we should have had at the beginning of October for the starting lineup never transpired," he said.

Starting tonight against SIU-Edwardsville, the Rivermen will be enjoying "Home Sweet Home" for the next four games. The Rivermen traveled to SIU-E earlier this year, and lost 97-87. The game will be televised on a tape-delayed basis by Cencom Cable tomorrow at 5:30, and Wednesday at 7:00.

Even though they lost the game, 6'2", 200 pound Cory Oliver started to emerge as the bright spot. Oliver has led the Rivermen in scoring in seven games, and has been the number one scorer since the holiday break. Oliver doesn't mind throwing his 200 pounds

around either, and takes care of his board, leading the team with 64 defensive rebounds.

"Cory has been a pleasant surprise," Meckfessel said. "He has hustled game in and game out, and he can only get better."

The Rivermen know they can't get comfortable because of an extended home stand because all four teams have beaten them already this year. However, winning three out of the four games realistically keeps them in the running for a slot in the MIAA Tournament.

"In spite of our bad start, I think if we get our heads together, we can get in," Meckfessel said.

Hopefully, the excuses will run out before the games do. Injuries have been of no consequence, and there is too much talent to blow games against Lincoln. Meckfessel said competition brings out the hunger in coaches and players alike. Their about to get all they can handle.

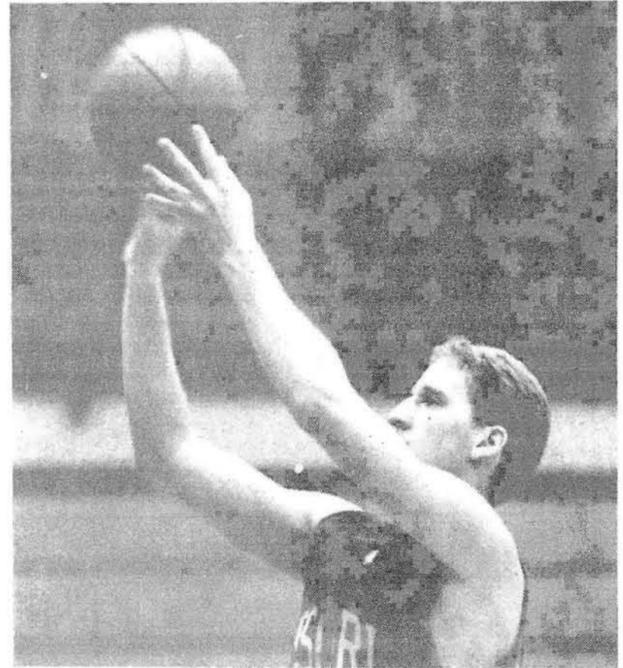


Photo: Dirk Fletcher
UP AND IN: Senior Barry Graskewicz shows good shooting form at practice.

Men's Baseball To Start Season "Down In Dixie"

by Russell L. Korando
sports editor

Year in and year out, UM-St. Louis baseball coach Jim Brady has one of the most respected, hardworking teams in the MIAA Conference. Brady has been the skipper for the Rivermen for the past six years, and his teams have captured the MIAA South Division flag twice.

Yet, Brady is only given one full scholarship a year to compete with the rest of the conference. Brady's total of 2.5 full and partial scholarships ranks the Rivermen ninth out of the 11-team conference in that category.

"I can recruit with anyone," Brady

said. "The athletic department has done everything in its power to get us what we need, but if we had the same number of scholarships as everyone else, we would dominate the conference," he said.

Brady said the lineup is going to be smaller this year because of time restrictions on the use of the batting cage.

"Last year we kept a few guys on because they were hardworking kids, but they take away valuable time from the starters," Brady said. "The downside to keeping a smaller team is the reality of sore arms or any injury," he said.

The Rivermen have players that can thump the baseball, and also have a solid contingent of pitchers. Brian

Rupp, who plays shortstop, batted .370 last year, and drove in 41 runs as a sophomore. Center fielder Donnie Jolliff not only batted .360, but swiped a team-leading 11 bases as well.

"Donnie and Brian have to come through at the plate for us," Brady said. "If either one goes into a slump we could be in trouble offensively," he said.

When the game is on the line, the Rivermen have perhaps the finest reliever in the MIAA. Senior righthander Jim Foley was selected to the pre-season Division II All-American team by *Collegiate Baseball* magazine.

The Rivermen head down south to Dixie to open the season. Starting Feb. 29 they play five games in Georgia, and then will wrap up the road trip with two games in Florida.

Riverwomen Search For Mental Toughness



Photo: Dirk Fletcher
HANDS OFF: Kim Cooper (right) fends off Danielle LaMette in practice last week. Cooper has averaged 14.3 points this year.

by Pete Dicrispino
Current sports reporter

Mental toughness helps win basketball games. Lately, mental toughness is what UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Head Coach Bobbie Morse has been preaching to her team, to help them prepare better during their three-game stretch on the road.

Coming off two impressive home victories against Quincy and Lincoln, The Riverwomen took their show on the road Feb. 1 against the Pittsburg State Gorillas, and lost 77 to 66. The Riverwomen lost 82-62 to the UM-Rolla Lady Miners on Feb. 5, and will play the Central Missouri State Jennies Feb. 8.

"If we are capable of winning on the road and we want it bad enough, then we're going to be ready to play," Morse said. That attitude will definitely be important to the Riverwomen, especially when they play Central Missouri Feb. 8. The Jennies have beaten the Riverwomen 22 straight times dating back to the 1974-75 season. The Jennies, who have dominated the MIAA Conference in the past, might not be the dynasty they once were.

"I don't know if they have fallen as much as everyone else has gotten better," Morse said.

UM-St. Louis guard Monica Steinhoff believes the Riverwomen

have a good shot to end the 22-game streak this year.

"We should give them a good game if we play the way we have been playing; it would be great for our seniors," Steinhoff said.

Steinhoff, the Riverwomen's all-time leading scorer, set another record Jan. 29, against Lincoln by scoring 44 points. She was also dynamite from three-point range hitting seven out of 10. Senior forward Tammy Putnam also reached a milestone against Lincoln, becoming the eighth player in school history to amass 1,000 points. Putnam agreed with Steinhoff in reference to the "Jennie Jinx."

"It's definitely about time we return some of the favor," Putnam said.

Coach Morse, however, knows it will not be easy beating the Jennies, and she is concerned with the Jennies' 1-2 punch.

"We have to be very aware of Gina Blanks on the outside and Tracie Morris on the inside," Morse said.

Blanks, a junior guard, is averaging 16 points a game and was named player of the week in the MIAA two weeks ago. Morris, a senior forward, is averaging 20 points a game and 10 rebounds, and is a strong force in the inside.

The Riverwomen's defense, which has been inconsistent in the past, will have to be on the top of its game in order to hold Blanks and Morris at bay. Jennies coach Jon Pye, in his seventh year

as head coach, and a career record of 167-34, knows the UM-St. Louis game will not be a piece of cake.

"Coach Morse and her assistant, Tammy Wilson, have done a terrific job with that program ... I expect a tough game," Pye said.

Putnam thinks the key to beating the Jennies will be if everyone pitches in with points, instead of relying on Monica to have a big game.

"We need to have balanced scoring against CMS, like five or six players in double figures," Putnam said.

Steinhoff, Putnam and Coach Morse all agree the Riverwomen have to be patient and take good shots in order to win.

"We have to take care of the ball and stay in control, especially if the game is close," Steinhoff said.

Coach Morse knows that come Feb. 8, her girls will be ready.

"This team realizes it's about time to take over, they're on the verge of becoming really good and playing real well together as a team, and I think they realize that," Morse said. Come Feb. 8, the Riverwomen hope to end the Jennies' winning streak at 22 games and start their own. It's about that time.

Three UM-St. Louis Athletes Go 4.0

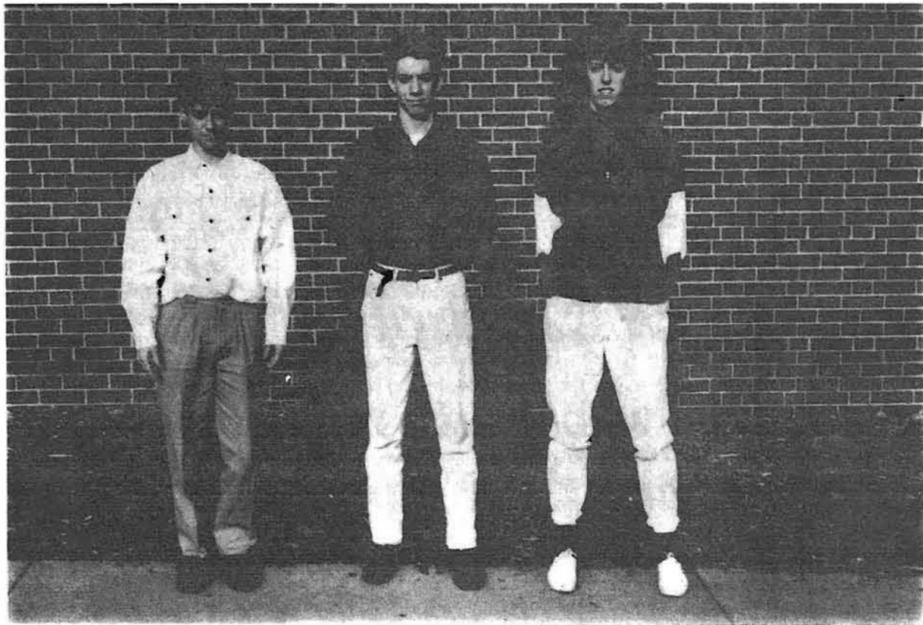


Photo: Tina Leu

DRIVE ON: (From left): Dave O'Gorman, Daniel Dorsey and Sharon Kampwerth are All-Class.

by Alfie M. All
Current sports reporter

Whenever a college athlete comes to mind, one train of thought dominates perception. They can't compete in the classroom like on the playing field.

But, UM-St. Louis has its share of outstanding student-athletes, like Sharon Kampwerth, Dave O'Gorman and Daniel Dorsey.

These three students-athletes are not only members of the UM-St. Louis sports program, but also manage to maintain perfect G.P.As. All three intend to graduate with difficult degrees.

O'Gorman, senior, is seeking a degree in Physics, after which he will probably work on a degree in Mathematics. He is also a member of the UM-St. Louis men's tennis program. He attributes his academic suc-

cess on the time he is able to spend studying.

"I don't have to work, I'm on a scholarship and I'm lucky for that," O'Gorman said. "I feel very fortunate I have the scholarship and that's the main factor, I think. Just for me, not having to work is a big thing."

Kampwerth is part of the UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team. She is an accounting major in her junior year. She feels that her hard work and dedication in both academics and sports are the main causes of her success.

"I study a lot," Kampwerth said. "I try not to watch too much television and any free time I have, I try to study."

Dorsey is a freshman who is leaning heavily toward a degree in Chemistry, as a basis for work in the field of

physical therapy. Establishing priorities is his formula for success at UM-St. Louis.

"First of all, I'm here to go to school," Dorsey said. "I'm a student first and an athlete second. That's what it comes down to, priorities."

Dorsey is of the opinion that playing soccer has helped him succeed. He feels that not only is it a nice diversion but that it forces him to set time aside for studying.

Whatever the factors of success these student-athletes feel work for them, all three have their priorities straight, as well as their hearts set on achieving honors in both academia and sports.

Next Week In Sports

Southwest Baptist player loses eligibility as result of a booster club members co-signing on a car loan.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS RECREATIONAL SPORTS WINTER • 1992 • SPRING

ACTIVITIES	DEADLINE	BEGINS	DAYS	TIMES
CERTS-TRIDENT 4 on 4 COED VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY	Jan 21	Jan 22	Wed	7-10pm
BASKETBALL DAY LEAGUE; mens, womens	Jan 22	Jan 28	Tu,Thu	1:00pm
BOWLING DOUBLES; Ferguson lanes, 6-8wk league	Jan 22	Jan 29	Wed	2:30pm
BASKETBALL NIGHT LEAGUE; mens, womens	Jan 22	Jan 30	Thurs	6:30pm
COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES; students, fac/staff	Jan 29	Feb 3	Mo,Wed	7-10pm
SCHICK 3 on 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY; mens, womens	Feb 4	Feb 6	Thurs	12:30-2pm
RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT; 1-week, beg, int, adv	Feb 5	2/10-15	Mo-Sat	TBA
COED WALLBALL TOURNAMENT; 1-night, 4 per team	Feb 11	Feb 13	Thurs	6:30-11pm
PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT; A & B divisions	Feb 13	2/19-21	Wed-Fri	12-2pm
WEIGHTLIFTING CONTEST; mens, womens	None	Mar 26	Thurs	1:00pm
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT; 1-night, mens, womens	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mon	7-10pm
BADMINTON TOURNAMENT; mens, womens A & B div.	Mar 25	3/31-4/3	Tu-Fri	12-2pm
HOC SOC (INDOOR SOCCER); mens, womens, coed	Mar 25	Apr 1	Mo,Wed	6:30pm
TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT; 1-week, beg, int, adv	Apr 1	4/6-10	Mo-Fri	TBA
FUN RUN; 1.5 & 3 mile courses, mens, womens	None	Apr 7	Tuesday	12:30pm
COED SOFTBALL TOURNEY & BBQ; fun & food for all	Apr 10	Apr 12	Sunday	12noon
GOELF TOURNAMENT; 18 & 9 hole, st. chas, golf course	None	Apr 24	Friday	8am-3pm
TENNIS TOURNAMENT; mens, womens A & B divisions	Apr 29	5/2-3	Sat,Sun	TBA

UM-St. Louis Sports Facts

Men's baseball coach Jim Brady was selected to coach the U.S.A. Olympic Trials last November. Brady, who was only one of two Division II coaches selected to coach the team, has been coach for the Rivermen for the past six years.

"The USBF nomination is very flattering to me," Brady said. It comes from the respect of your peers, and their admiration for your program."

Brady's teams at UM-St. Louis have never experienced a losing season, and has the utmost respect from his players.

"This is a blue collar team," he said.

"I have the greatest kids, and I'm always on their back, but I'm always proud of them."

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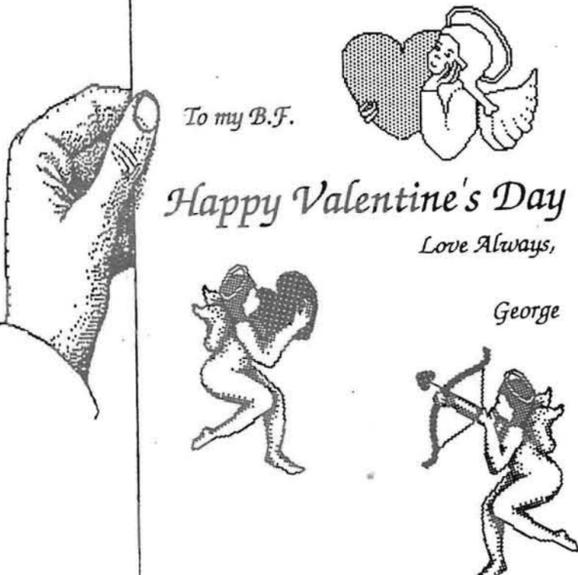
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