

The CURRENT

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 22, 1993

Legislators Propose Bill For Faculty Input

Would Mandate Faculty Representation on Governing Boards For Public Universities

by Clinton Charles
Current news reporter

Legislation has been introduced into the Missouri General Assembly that may allow for better representation of faculty and students in the governing boards of all four-year public colleges and universities in Missouri.

"I think it is going to allow faculty and students to have more input on the policy decisions that are made in the universities and colleges," said Rep. William Hosmer (D-Springfield), who proposed the bill.

Hosmer said the faculty role will be very similar to student representatives currently serving on governing boards. A member of the student body of a particular university or college is now allowed to be a non-voting member of the governing board for that university or college.

"Student representation on those [governing] boards has worked very well. I think it is only appropriate that there are faculty members on those

boards," said Rep. Neil Molloy (D-Springfield).

"The two most important steps in the educational process are the faculty and the students. If you keep them out of the decision making process I think you have done a disservice to higher education," he said.

Molloy also said there was a past incident where the bill may have provided an important role. The former president of Southwest Missouri State University exceeded the budget on construction projects. There were numerous questionable payments made during the construction projects.

"If there would have been student participation in the meetings held behind closed doors, or faculty participation, the state may have saved a lot of money. There would have been at least some people there with a different viewpoint," explained Molloy.

The bill also allows for changes in the role of the student representative that will make both the student and faculty roles similar.

"[The student and faculty representative] will be able to go into closed-door meetings. That is [something] that the student representative is not allowed to do right now. We [are making] the change for all student representatives and faculty representatives to go into closed meetings."

"The idea is a sound one," said Betty VanUum, assistant to the chancellor.

"As a general guiding principal, I believe that the most business that can be conducted in an open forum - the better," she said. "I absolutely believe that our elected faculty or student representative would be as responsible about the information as anyone else."

Rep. Laurie Donovan (R-St. Louis)

from St. Louis County, believes the bill is a good idea, but said she thinks the faculty member should be allowed to vote.

"My feeling is that the faculty is what makes the university, therefore they should be able to vote," she said.

She said she doesn't believe that the student representative should have the same privilege though.

"I feel [the faculty] are older, more mature and more experienced [than the students]," Donovan said.

Hosmer pointed out the same bill has been proposed several times in the past, but failed to make it through the legislative process.

See **FACULTY**, page 4

Did We Have To Play?



Photo: Alfie Ali

(L to R), Pitchers Kelly Childs and Jill Stockdale braved the 30 degree weather last week to play against Superior State.

Army Still Recruiting Despite Downsizing

by Russell Korando
managing editor

Although the United States military is drastically reducing its number of personnel and bases, they are still vigorously recruiting young people across the nation.

U.S. Army Captain Charles Davis, senior officer in charge of recruiting in St. Louis and St. Louis County, said the Army is targeting men and women between the ages of 18 and 25.

"Right now, our main focus is on those individuals between those ages," Davis said. "Our cut-off age is 35, so we are not able to capitalize on those people who have lost their jobs at McDonnell Douglas. A lot of those people that have been laid off are around the cut-off age."

Davis said he wanted to clear up a few of the misconceptions about the downsizing of the Army.

"A lot of the people, as a result of downsizing, are senior officers," he said. "We normally have a turnover rate of 40 to 50 percent on first-time enlistees, so we're always going to need fresh faces."

Davis added that high school seniors are aware of the array of benefits and the competitive pay, but some of their parents are leery of the military because of the legacy of the Vietnam War.

The major development the Army has undergone since the Vietnam era is who they will accept. With more than 250 different job specialties in the Army, and with many of those of a highly technical nature, a high school diploma is almost always needed for entrance into the Army.

"Right now, the skills we're most in need of are linguists," Davis said. "We also have a great need for people for warrant officer flight training."

"We prefer a high school diploma graduate. We're looking for quality individuals right now. And those are the ones that score 50 or above on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test. We do take people, though, that score less than 50."

Davis said the quality of recruits today is a lot better than that of 10 years ago. "The recruits we get today seem to retain more of the training they receive, so that means less cost to the taxpayer, in terms of money being spent on training."

Monthly earnings by a private first class (PFC) are \$948.90, before factoring in any variable pay bonuses. Specialist E-4, just one pay grade above a PFC, earns \$1,007.10 a month. Added pay includes money for housing, food and dependents.

"The kids who are getting ready to graduate from high school recognize these opportunities, but the hold-back



Photo: Dave Floyd

YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW: U.S. Army captain Charles Davis says the Army is in need of linguists and warrant officer flight trainees.

is their parents," Davis said. "A lot of kids' parents these days were the same age during the Vietnam era. And they saw the blood and guts of that war, and they are afraid for their sons and daughters to go off."

"The leaders of the military today recognize the mistakes from the past, and they are trying to provide the best leadership training possible for today's Army. We have to maintain that edge to be ready to go [to war]."

Perhaps the most attractive of all of the benefits Davis mentioned is the G.I. Bill. This is money paid to a soldier for college once he or she completes their

enlistment. A two-year enlistee pays \$100 monthly and, at the end of the year, the Army matches that fund with \$12,000. A three- or four-year enlistee can expect to earn a matching bonus of \$13,200 for college.

Bonuses are also a selling point to potential enlistees. Men or women who enlist can earn between \$1,000 and \$8,000, depending on which Military Occupation Skill (MOS) they choose.

One thing the Army offers, that the other branches of the military do not, is

See **ARMY**, page 4

Campus Potholes Worse After Winter Weather

by Terrance Hicks
for The Current

The UM-St. Louis community can expect to continue dodging potholes after bad weather for the next few years.

Mary Vosevich, manager of grounds and custodial services said campus roads will not be repaved for the next few years as the university deploys its master plan. She said that the university is aware of the potholes on campus, but can't repave the streets now.

"The campus thinks we're just ignoring the situation, but there is a plan involved," said Vosevich.

She said that roads and entrances may change, and that the university doesn't want to waste money on roads that might not be there in the next few years.

Vosevich said that the grounds crew fills the potholes about once a month, or as needed.

On March 9, a crew of four groundspeople was working on West Drive near Parking Garage "N." Dennis Usery, a UM-St. Louis groundskeeper, said they were filling some of the holes with asphalt.

"We're trying to get the bigger holes, trying to make it a little smoother for the people to ride," he said. He added that, in three days, the school had used eight tons of asphalt. Potholes have been patched throughout campus.

Vosevich said that when the weather is bad, sand and rocks are

used to fill the holes, but that sometimes that isn't enough. She explained that when water seeps down into the cracks in the winter and freezes, it forces the asphalt out of the potholes.

Vosevich said that the potholes on campus originated from heavy trucks that drove over the roads during the construction of the Research Center, the Computer Center Building and Metrolink.

Because the university is expecting to begin construction on the Center for Molecular Electronics this summer, Vosevich said the university wouldn't fix the potholes. She said the new building will be on

the north side of Benton Hall, close to the worst section of West Drive.

She also said all campus roads will be repaved within three to four years. Next year, however, they are planning to repave the section of West Drive

from the Computer Center Building to the Metrolink tunnel.

She said that it will cost an estimated \$3 to \$4 million to repave the campus roads, including access roads to buildings. The school has a plan for deferred maintenance covering projects like the roads, sidewalks, waterproofing the Tower and updating the HVAC units in some of the buildings.

Part of the money for the deferred maintenance comes from the early incentive retirement plan, which added three years of service to employees who decided to retire early, she said.

"The campus thinks we're just ignoring the situation, but there is a plan involved."

**- Mary Vosevich
Manager of Grounds and Custodial Services**

Debate Team Sends Four To Nationals

by Krista Goodlin
associate news editor

Their success this season is not debatable. With 72 awards so far, and 4 members competing in national tournaments, the UM-St. Louis Forensics and Debate Squad has demonstrated that it has what it takes.

"They've done a marvelous job," said Tom Preston, forensics director at UM-St. Louis.

Senior Gina Adamo and freshman Rebecca Witte will compete as a team at the Cross Examination Debate Association's national tournament March 26-29. They qualified for the national tournament by reaching elimination rounds and winning awards at three debate tournaments earlier this season.

The topic of a debate is called the resolution. This year, Adamo and Witte will debate the following: Is the United Nations implementation of its universal declaration of human rights more important than preserving state sovereignty?

Adamo and Witte are excited to be competing at nationals.

"There are stiff requirements as to who goes [to nationals]," Adamo explained. "We hope to do well. But if we don't, we're just happy we get to go."

Debate coach Scott Jensen agrees. "Nationals are the most competitive," he said. "Every round in [nationals] is like the final round in all others. It's an opportunity and a challenge for the students to perform at a higher level."

As a team, Adamo and Witte en-

countered two obstacles. This season, Adamo debated with five different partners. As a senior and an experienced debater, it was difficult to find a partner willing to compete at the varsity level.

In addition, this is the first semester Witte has debated - ever. She had some speech experience from high school, but none on the college-level and none in debate. Obviously, the team has overcome these obstacles. Starting with Witte's second competition, the team advanced and placed at the last four consecutive tournaments.

"I think we work extremely well together," Adamo said.

"We click," Witte explained. "We're partners and roommates. We got to know each other well enough."

Another freshman competing in a national tournament is Tim "Skippy" Ennenbach. By placing three times in After Dinner Speaking, he qualified to compete in the American Forensic Association's (AFA) National Speech Tournament, April 9-12. After Dinner Speaking is a memorized speech that makes a serious point through humor.

"Yes, I am excited [to be competing in nationals]," Ennenbach said. "It's my strongest event."

In addition to debate, Witte is also competing in the AFA nationals. Her individual event is Programmed Oral Interpretation.

He explained that Programmed Oral Interpretation is a limited preparation event. The student gets three current events questions and selects one. 30 minutes is then given to prepare a 7-

minute documented speech defending the chosen position.

"I think it's the most exciting and difficult," said Jensen.

The fourth squad member to compete in nationals is junior Jerrie Hayes. This is the second consecutive year Hayes has qualified in extemporaneous speaking.

"This is the strongest individual event entry we've ever had," Preston said.

Other members have also won awards this season. The team of Julie Miles and Brad Vaughn has collected several awards in duo interpretation of drama. Vaughn also placed third at the

"Our competitive success is even more exciting when you take into account the fact that most of our students were not seasoned competitors."

**- Scott Jensen
Debate Coach**

See **DEBATE**, page 4

UM-St. Louis Adds New Lighting Fixtures

by Clinton Charles
Current news reporter

Lack of lighting on the UM-St. Louis campus may no longer be a problem with the addition of new lights in certain areas of the campus.

Reinhard Schuster, director of the physical plant at UM-St. Louis, said that the campus will add 47 new light fixtures by mid-April. The new fixtures will be installed in the quadrangle behind the Thomas Jefferson Library, the commons area on south campus, the science complex, Woods Hall and the Incarnate Word area.

Ronald Schrum, director of maintenance operations at UM-St. Louis, said twelve new lights have

already been added behind the library. He also said two or three new lights have already been installed in the Incarnate Word area.

"We put [the lights] up on top of the buildings [so that] they shine down from the side of the buildings. They light up the whole quadrangle area," said Schrum.

The lights are scheduled to activate at dusk and turn off at midnight.

"[The lights] were strictly [installed] for safety and security measures," said Schrum.

Schuster said that Jim Krueger, vice-chancellor for managerial and technological services, heard about the problem from different places.

"He received his information through various

sources of concerns from faculty, staff and students about the dimness of the campus at night," said Schuster.

"They were apprehensive going out in the commons and quadrangle after dark," he said.

The cost of materials for the project will be \$40,350.

"The source of the funding is from general operating funds, which is provided by the state," said Schuster.

He said those funds are put into the facilities management department which provides funding for maintenance, utilities and security.

Reinhard said there will also be an operating cost totalling \$5600 annually.

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1993 Asian Pacific American Observance

Asian Pacific American Month will be observed by the University during the last two weeks of April. (However, throughout the nation, the observance will be during the month of May.)

The campus observance will include two exhibits, a listing of films, and a collection of recommended teaching materials about Asian Pacific Americans and their contributions to the United States and the world.

Asian-American groups in their root culture will be presented in the exhibits through documents and artifacts at the Thomas Jefferson Library (3rd floor lobby, near the elevator) and the Ward E. Barnes Education Library (entrance). The exhibit items and the collection are from the Missouri International Studies Resource Center of the University. Portions of the collection may be borrowed to supplement classroom presentations by the faculty and others. Other events will be announced during the month of April.

Assisting the OEO in the development of the 1993 observance are Cheng Shen, President, Chinese Student Association; Nik Hazama, student; Yvonne Chang, Continuing Education & Outreach; Julie Yuan, Art Department; David J. Griesedieck, Philosophy Department; Linda Claire Kulla, Thomas Jefferson Library; John Hara, former president of the Japanese American Association; Joel Glassman, Center for International Studies; and Marilyn Ditto, Student Affairs.

The nation's fastest growing minority group is Asian-American. According to the 1990 census, this minority group has doubled in population in the past decade to 7.3 million or almost 3 percent of the population. During the same period, the number of students in higher education has doubled to 4 percent of the total population.

Data (1991) from the Census Bureau indicated that 39 percent of Asian Americans (age 25 or older) have completed at least four years of college, compared with 22 percent of Caucasians and 12 percent of African Americans.

The diversity among the Asian-American population is significant. The demographics include refugees, recent immigrants, native-born Americans, and more the 24 ethnic subgroups from countries as distinct as China, India, Vietnam and Japan.

Most of the University's International students (representing 62 countries) are from Malaysia, 56; China, 38; India, 29; and Korea, 14.

Extend an extra hello and a warm smile to Asian Pacific American and other international students as you journey across the campus.

The next campus observance--the annual Pow Wow--will recognize American Indian Month on Saturday, June 12, from 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on the south campus.

For additional information, call 553-5695 or visit the Office of Equal Opportunity at 414 Woods Hall.

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Cars Too Extravagant

Thumbs down to the University of Missouri system for spending \$54,000 on luxury cars for two officials in the wake of rising tuition and budget cuts for students. The St. Louis campus will suffer a tuition increase of 11.9 percent for the next school year.

UM President George Russell and UM-Columbia Chancellor Charles Kiesler were showered with Buick Park Avenue Ultras SE at a cost of more than \$26,000 each. Both cars are equipped with cellular phones and Kiesler plans to hire a part-time driver to boot. Our Board of Curators apparently did not have a problem with the cost because there was no opposition at the meeting that was held in St. Louis this past winter.

Russell and Kiesler are entitled to the university providing them with cars as part of their contract, or they can use their own cars and be reimbursed by mileage and depreciation.

Our Chancellor Blanche Touhill, who is much more conscientious and is setting a better example for the students, drives a 1988 Ford Taurus which was left by former Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett. The other Chancellors to be recognized are Eleanor Schwartz at UM-Kansas City who drives her own 1986 Eldorado, and UM-Rolla Chancellor John Park who drives his own 1989 Bonneville. Park claims he was never offered a university vehicle.

There has been much criticism about the expenses especially at the Columbia campus. The fact that the university would allow such unnecessary extravagance while classes, programs, and staff are being axed show little regard for the thousands of students in the University of Missouri system who struggle to keep up with the rising costs of getting a quality education. What are we getting for our money while these two live like kings? There is no justification for the purchases and the decent thing for them to do would be to trade the cars in and get something less expensive. Maybe that's asking a little too much.



LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Marge Schott Treated Unfairly; Reader Says

Dear Editor,

Responding to the suspension of Marge Schott from Major League Baseball you call "Time out." I cry "Foul!" Whatever happened to free speech in this country? Must every thing one says now first be cleared through the politically correct thought police? You refer to Schott's alleged remarks as "legally liable behavior." Is making a remark that displeases a minority group now a criminal offense in this country? Have we reached the point of Canada, France and other western European nations where viewpoints offensive to various racial and religious minorities are crimes punishable by law? If so,

the First Amendment is meaningless and we now have a state sanctioned ideology that we would sacrifice liberty to attain equality.

You state that Schott's suspension comes "after two months of extensive investigation." Right. Interview a person's disgruntled employees and take every action at face value. Assume the one under investigation is guilty until proven innocent. Demand nothing less than groveling to "injured" minorities and require that the person undergo the equalitarian indoctrination euphemistically dubbed "sensitivity training." This is America under the New World Order.

The great hypocrisy of all this is that a double standard exists. White

people can be disparaged on this campus and in the nation at large and nobody cares. The racial minorities, however, think they should be exempt from criticism or unpleasant comments. One of the tenets of a free society is that no one has the right not to be offended. In a pluralistic society, we all will have our feelings hurt from time to time, be it because of our race, gender, height, weight, or any other factor. It may not be fair, but that is life. Ms. Schott admits to using the slang term to denote American Negroes. So what if she did? How many whites can honestly say they have never said it. And what about when rap groups like NWA use the word?

The actions of the Baseball Commission are an affront to all self respecting white Americans. They indicate just how hollow the concept of "freedom" is in liberal democratic system of government. We can believe and say anything we want as long as it conforms to the minority agenda. However, whites are not totally without recourse. They can reclaim their own rich European heritage and express that pride as strongly as any other ethnic group. They can also boycott Major League Baseball to protest this outrage and avenge the good name of Marge Schott. If the "people of color" want to call the shots, let them foot the bill. Three strikes and you're out? No. Three cheers for Marge Schott!

Steven Dotson

University Called Biased

Dear Editor:

It is with heavy conscience that I must write this letter. This is not an easy task or concept that I have wrestled with, but the truth must be known-UMSL is a biased university. If Mother Nature had not blanketed the area with a snowstorm classes would have been held on February 15. This date is, as we all know, Presidents' Day. I can only come to the conclusion that the university is prejudiced against powerful white males. It shocks me entirely to have come to this realization. I sincerely hope that the university was not attempting to pull the wool over our eyes with this oversight.

David M. Cunningham

Campus Paper Too Liberal

Dear Editor,

I have read *The Current* for a long time and I think it's about time for this publicly funded paper to have articles that aren't extremely liberal. It gets ridiculous after a while and people don't take you very seriously when you only show one side of things. Most of your articles on controversial subjects are appalling to those of us who care that this country is going to hell in a handbag. Are all your journalists extreme left-wing liberals? How about giving an extremely conservative point of view for a change to balance the scales a little.

Name Withheld

SGA Meetings Confusing; Response Clarifies Policies

Dear Editor:

I've just read the editorial page of the February 22 issue of *The Current*. I am an assembly member who often leaves the SGA meetings bewildered. I've only been involved with the organization a short time and after listening to discussions at the meeting I, too, was under the false impression that all SGA officers were paid. I am glad this is now cleared up.

At the February 3 meeting so much discussion went on between the "non-voting" member and Mike Tomlinson that no one else really said anything or asked questions. I think a lot of people left the meeting with their heads swimming with

confusion. I also know that few people spoke up, but that several were grumbling about one thing or another in regard to the proceedings.

I think Angry and Outraged was saying that not enough members attend these meetings and many students are forced to rely on *The Current* to provide them with the details about some of these issues and it is a disappointment when these expectations aren't met the way some think they should be.

I'm glad you printed both letters because I was asking myself some of the same questions that Angry and Outraged asked and now Mike Tomlinson has set the record straight.

Name Withheld

The Current

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These are some of the people who have made their voices heard this year. Write a letter to the editor and let the campus community know what you think.

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Editor-in-Chief for the 1993-94 year. Send three letters of recommendation, cover letter and resume by March 26 to: Michelle McMurray 1BMOB 8001 Natural Bridge Rd. 63121

DEBATE from page 1

state tournament in impromptu speaking.

Senior Julie Ludlum placed fourth in After Dinner Speaking, also in state competition.

Two newcomers, Frank Richter and Andrea Finner, won Excellent Awards in individual debate by posting 4-2 records this season.

The squad as a whole has also

had to overcome a number of obstacles this year.

"Youth has been a major adversity," said Jensen. The team is made up of mostly freshmen and first-year competitors.

"Basically, the team came on with little or no experience," he said.

"Our competitive success is

even more exciting when you take into account the fact that most of our students were not seasoned competitors."

The UM-St. Louis squad has also hosted a number of tournaments. Last week, the novice national speech tournament was held on campus.

Not only does the squad plan and host such events, they also compete in them.

"That is difficult," said Witte,



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"but it's fun at the same time."

Twenty-three schools from eight states were represented at the tournament.

"It was the largest of any novice national ever held," said Jensen. "It went extremely well."

The UM-St. Louis squad collected its share of awards even though many members were competing for the first time. Trezette Stafford won third in Programmed Oral Interpretation. Witte placed fifth and also took sixth in After Dinner Speaking.

"They've worked together very well," said Preston. "They've been supportive of each other - without me having to ask."

ARMY from page 1

a guarantee of job training.

"When you enlist, you are guaranteed in writing the occupation that you choose," Davis said. "You can also get your station of choice, but you can't get both. No other branch offers those options."

Concurrent Admissions is presently one of the most sought after program for men and women thinking about earning college credit and wanting to gain practical experience in the military.

Paulette Thomas, who is the certifying official for Concurrent Admissions at UM-St. Louis, said UM-St. Louis works with all branches of the service. Thomas said any hours taken by soldiers at UM-St. Louis must be approved by the academic advisor in each department.

"For those who cannot afford college, we offer a very attractive financial aid package."

**- Captain Charles Davis
United States Army**

Davis said five or six St. Louis area colleges participated in the Concurrent Admissions initiative. He said the other "big seller" is the Loan Repayment Program. If a soldier qualifies, they can get as much as \$55,000 of his college loans repaid by the government. But in order to qualify, they must not have defaulted on any previous student loans.

"For a long time, the Army was seen as a disruption in the educational process," Davis said. Now, with [Concurrent Admissions] and other programs, we like to see ourselves as education enhancers. For those who cannot afford college, we offer a very attractive financial aid package."

FACULTY from page 1

Hosmer said he has confidence that the bill will be well received this time.

"I don't know of much opposition to the bill this year. We have tried to work with everybody and make the construction of the bill as tight as possible," he said.

Hosmer said the higher education committee unanimously passed the bill.

"I'm hopeful that once we get to the floor that there won't be too many amendments put on the bill that make other people not like it for other reasons," Hosmer said.

"When you get [students and faculty] involved in the policy making process, I think you are going to have better policy by [those] colleges and universities."

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Weasel In Hen House

by Brad Touché
entertainment editor

For those of you who do not know this, I am engaged. Once you get engaged, one of the topics you and your fiancé will frequently discuss will be the reproduction process. You know—RUGRATS.

Unfortunately, my fiancé got it into her head that she wanted to play mommy and daddy immediately. A relatively easy way out of this predicament, without laughing in her face, is getting a pet. But our apartment doesn't allow dogs, and I hate cats. So what's a man to do?

She came up with the perfect solution. A ferret.

"A what?!!!" I responded calmly.

She proceeded to tell me all the wonderful things she'd heard on the radio that morning about these things. I immediately thought "RUGRAT". She told me they were smart, active and low-maintenance. She was right about one thing—they are active.

We (I should say "she" because the words "gung ho" do not even begin to describe the way she approached the idea) researched the things.

"Rats," I called them.
"No, honey," she responded while reading out of a Ferret-lovers, Inc. handbook. "They're related to the mongoose."

"Oh!" I thought. "Well that changes everything! Let's get four."

Of course I didn't say that, but I knew there was no arguing with her anymore. I had lost this war before I could even draft a defense. You know you're a losing battle when they start talking baby-talk to the pictures in the handbook. Things like "Awwwww, izn't e so cuuute! Looook, honey! Zee his liddle hed schtickin-out-ov-da-blanket!" and "Honeeeeee! I want one. Pleeze! Pleeze! Pleeze!"

Knowing full well that there was now a rat in my future, I figured the longer I could put it off, the better. But that was a futile effort, too. No more than two nights later, I found myself in an exotic pet store in South County surrounded by reptiles of all kinds. Baby alligators, lizards, snakes... and in the back, crouched up in the corner of his cage, looking nervous as all hell-like he might become dinner for one of the anacondas—was a medium-sized, pure white, onyx-eyed, male... RUGRAT.

I must admit I took pity on the little guy. I mean, I'd feel uneasy too if I was in a room surrounded by women's-s-libbers and Robert Bly fanatics. But that's another story in itself.

We took him home—cheap. Fifty dollars for an elongated rat (believe it or not) is cheap. Since the mongoose is his first-cousin, I named him Riki Tiki Tavi. And since he had not been neutered or de-scented, our first priority and second expense would be just that. These things stink unless they're de-scented. No, wait. They don't stink. They REEK!!!!

Originally, my fiancé had claimed they can be litter box trained. Well, yes and no. We found out he's trained when he wants to be. Well, I found out. I found his new favorite spot for intestinal relief is next to our shower. I found out as I got out of the shower. Go ahead and laugh. I'm still cleaning out my toenails.

He also never responded to any sounds. We found out later that he's deaf. So we can't yell at him when he gets into things. And he does get into things. The handbook said that ferrets like to be anywhere except where they are. At least they were honest about that.

So now I'm reflecting on what I've gotten myself into. I am supporting a deaf, albino, silk-loving, musk-reeking, random kaka placement machine. If that wasn't enough to have to deal with, I now have a dribbling, baby-talking, lovey-dovey fiancé who gives more attention to this rat than to me, and who constantly tells me to "Go get your son" when Riki is acting up.

"Who's son?" was my answer the first time she did it. (This is where she gets pathetic.)

She then proceeded to pick up Riki and cuddle him in her arms saying, "Dat's awright Wiki. Yoor my widdle baybee. Mummy wuvv yoo-eevan-iv-daddy-dusant. Yoojus lay ere wit mummy. I wuv yoo evan if yoo doo schtink."

I was sick. Riki was laughing—at me. At that point he knew he was the new king. I'm still adjusting. He could end up as a new scarf or mittens, if he's not careful.

I already have my excuse planned out: "But honey, I swear I didn't see him climb into the freezer. I'm so sorry. The pain will pass in time, alright? ... OK, who wants ferret fingers?"

Army Is More Than Being All That You Can Be... A Soldier's Story

by Russell Korando
managing editor

At the end of our first day of jungle training in Panama, saffron beams of sunlight pierced through seemingly impenetrable clouds that had hung low in the southern sky all day. My company gathered in a loose, ragged formation... Tired, wet and hungry.

We had just completed the first day of the Jungle Operation Training Course held at Fort Sherman. The city lights of Colón were beginning to twinkle across the bay, divided by the Panama Canal.

As I stood there, half-conscious of the people around me, the beauty of Panama began to overtake senses dulled by a day wrapped in the suffocating jungle. I was 19-years-old and growing up in a hurry. Of all the promises heaped upon me during recruitment, the one about becoming self-reliant and professional came quicker to my memory.

A decade after I enlisted, chances for travel, competitive pay with civilian employment and benefits once an enlistment is finished honorably are just a few of the United States Armed Forces messages to possible recruits.

When my unit was deployed to Panama in January of 1985, President Ronald Reagan was presiding over the largest budget for national defense in our country's history. More than a trillion dollars were spent during Reagan's eight years in office, and we were being flown down to a small country in Central America on taxpayer's money to put some heat on the purveyors of an invisible enemy at the time: Cocaine.



BREAK ON THROUGH: A soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division, shown here, with his M-16/M-203 grenade launcher, in front of 'Lucky Luke.' Luke was his company's good luck charm.

The jungle training was just a facade for the real mission. We were to be flown to the northern sector of Panama, just south of bordering Costa Rica. At dawn, I flung myself out of a C-130 Hercules. When my parachute landed me safely, I was sitting in the middle of a field of paratroopers—and cows. My company's first sergeant cracked his neck after hitting the barren, rock-hard surface.

While floating down in our chutes, several of us noticed an American-made Jeep hurrying two very Anglo-Saxon-looking men away from our forming company perimeter. Was the Special Forces near by? Three days later, while lying under a palm frond, virtually exposed to the angry red dot that was the sun, seemingly just a few hundred feet in the air, a squad of green berets checked in with my position over the radio. They were entering the village two kilometers down what was

supposed to be a road. Well, maybe a road for horses and wagons. But this wasn't St. Charles, now was it?

Some of the memories of this tropical paradise seen at such a young age are beginning to fade, but some will cling with me until the day I die; just as bright as the sun appeared. Some of the memories, though, are bits and pieces. Like a faded picture. Some of

ion was Manuel Noriega? He was sure dressed for the part... in his stark-white uniform, with red fringes on the shoulders, what had to be solid gold buttons and a chest full of medals.

There had been nothing much for Merle and me to do during the six days we spent at an observation post, looking and listening for drug activity. Merle Casto. What a piece of work he was. For all I know, he was the only other guy in our company (A company is approximately 150 men.) from Missouri. He was a Grenada war hero from a small town near Branson who had spent three days surfing and drinking beer after humping over the rugged terrain on the Island of Spice. We were roommates back at the barracks at Fort Bragg, N.C., and we had hoped to get a few days apart in the bush, but we got the exact opposite. A definite SNAFU. Anyway, we made an adventure of it.

The two things I remember most vividly were small events at the time, but they explain why this experience was so traumatic to the senses.

A man, and what Merle and I thought was either his wife or daughter, came riding up to our position on a horse. Our small group was only able to

communicate with sign language because of our linguistic barrier. I've taken a year of Spanish at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but at that time I'd wished I'd taken some classes in high school. Merle and I had a case of our meals-ready-to-eat

gulps and it was gone. And it was warm. Sitting here, in the comforts of my own home, I'm smiling. Merle. I haven't seen him for eight years, but I see him once in a while in my mind's eye. The march back to reality—back to a river that would lead us to the 747 a few days later, and back to the U. S. of A.

If memories like these are for you, then call your local recruiter. The Army is not about "Be all that you can be," but what each individual makes of it.

Jungle Expert



the detail is gone, but the resolution in my memory remains. Why can't I remember if the Panamanian general that reviewed our battal-

our meals-ready-to-eat

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Music Professor Diane Touliatos Goes To Venice

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Schroeder's Side



Walking A Fine Line Between Being A Fan And Journalist

by Cory C. Schroeder
associate sports editor

As a professional sports journalist for *The Current*, it is my obligation to keep personal opinion and bias out of my articles as much as possible. As a student at UM-St. Louis, it is my obligation to support student activities, such as sporting events, and to show as much opinion and bias as is humanly possible. Thus, I have two separate entities to maintain that come into conflict when I am covering a game or match.

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team was my beat. I covered their goings-on week in and week out. There wasn't a week that went by that I wasn't interviewing one of the players, joking with the assistant coach or flipping the pages of *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* to find their box score from the previous night. A good portion of my life was dedicated to the pursuit of Riverwomen statistics and quotations.

Now that the season is over, I find myself missing the thrill of attending Saturday night home games, with Riverwomen head coach Bobbi Morse patrolling the sidelines vying for a call and the fans erupting every time the orange ball swished through the net. As a reporter, I sat in the press box where the no-bias zone is strictly enforced. There were many occasions when sports information director Jeff Kuchno had to keep me from a standing ovation when junior forward Nancy Hesemann buried a three pointer, or when he had to practically stuff gauze down my throat to muffle "Oh yeah, sweet!" when senior forward Liz Squibb drove past two defenders to cash a high-arcing jump shot. I couldn't help myself. This was my team. I knew their ins and outs. When they lost, I bled. When they won, I was elated. After a heartbreaking loss, the team would exit the locker rooms with heads hung low. I would approach them for an interview, knowing I had to gather the facts, but wanting to console them. I cornered them like a wolf seeking the prey of a good quotation.

"You played a good game," I would often say. But somehow, this came out sounding empty.

Unfortunately, the Riverwomen lost many games and I had to relay that information in the form of criticism. Articles included such negative statements as losing streak, turnovers and injury. It would be impossible for me to say the Riverwomen played great and forget to mention the fact that they lost by 23 points. Thus, I was viewed as salt that would inflame the open wound from the loss. The definition of journalism according to Webster's New World Dictionary: to give an official account of something (a basketball game).

Sometimes players would view me as the opposition. They would despise me for printing negatives like the team losing or a certain player having a bad game. It was not with pleasure that I wrote such statements, but if the team got a shellacking then that's what the story would say. I understood the frustration of a tumultuous season, but I had a job to do. Whenever there was a chance to relay something positive, I jumped at the opportunity. Unfortunately, positives weren't as frequent as negatives.

The old saying goes: the press is relentless. But behind the driving force to gather and disseminate information is a feeling that is attached to the subject (the Riverwomen) at hand.

Snowblind: Storm Strands Softball Team For Two Days

by Pete Dicrispino
Current sports reporter

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen's softball team decided to leave Florida on Friday, March 12, instead of Saturday, to beat the heavy storms that rocked the East Coast, dropping 24 inches of snow in various states. However, instead of beating the storm, the team met the blizzard in Georgia and was stranded for two days.

The Riverwomen took two vans, with seven players in each. Due to the downpour of snow, the vans got separated in Georgia. The van, driven by head coach Harold Brumbaugh, ended up 20 miles ahead of the van driven by assistant coach Kristi Toppins.

"We pulled over, waiting for the second van, but we couldn't find them," said senior shortstop Jenny Sinclair.

The women in the first van decided to call the coach's wife to see if she had heard anything. Luckily, she did. Because of the bad weather, the other van stopped off at a hotel on the outskirts of Georgia.

The team couldn't believe the storm.

"It was lightening, thundering and the snow was coming down really heavy," Sinclair said.

So they ventured across the highway to a Holiday Inn. Everyone else had the same idea.

By the time they arrived, the motel was all booked. And by this time, the snow had fallen so much that there was nowhere else to go.

So what's the next best thing to do? Grab a spot in the hotel's banquet room or on the lobby floor.

"There were about 400 people in the hotel and only 200 rooms," Brumbaugh said.

The snow made it impossible to pick up radio and T.V. stations, so the team passed the time by sleeping, doing homework and talking to other stranded people.

"There were so many people in the banquet room



Photo: Alfie Ali

FIREBALLER: Junior pitcher Colleen Duffin, who has allowed one earned run in 29 innings, had to trade in her glove for a snow shovel due to the team's storm run-in.

you had to tip-toe through people to get somewhere," said junior pitcher Colleen Duffin.

Some guests spent the time playing poker until the wee hours of the morning, while others couldn't sleep with so many people around.

"It made me nervous, I had a hand on my purse at all times," Duffin said.

At least the Holiday Inn had plenty of chicken to feed everyone. The other van, 20 miles back, stayed at a hotel that couldn't supply food. They had to eat Army food.

After a night on the floor, the next day (Sunday) the southbound highway heading to Florida was opened. Half the guests left the hotel in pursuit of sunshine in Florida.

"After some guests left, we helped the maids make up some of the beds because they were so far behind," Sinclair said.

Finally, with a room

available, the team was off of the floor for a night.

The next day, the northbound highway was opened. The ladies staying at the Holiday Inn called the rest of the team in the second van. They met at the Holiday Inn and took off around 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoon.

All in all, the Riverwomen learned one important lesson — It's not always "fun in the sun" down south.

Best Quotes While Being Stranded Harold Brumbaugh, on Georgia's emergency road crews:

"Georgia must have had only two snow plows in the whole state."

Jenny Sinclair on exactly how much snow fell:

"The cars were covered so much that they looked like igloos."

Colleen Duffin on the company at the hotel:

"I didn't know these people. I didn't know what they were going to do. It made me nervous. I woke up in the morning with a flower by my head."

The Riverwomen are just glad to be back sleeping in their own beds.

"It was bad, but it could've been much worse," Sinclair said. "We made the best of it."

Prize Recruit: New Bird In Soccer Nest

Rivermen soccer head coach Tom Redmond recently announced his first signee for the upcoming 1993 season. Midfielder Skip Birdsong, of Lewis and Clark College, has signed on to attend UM-St. Louis.

Birdsong, a first-team junior college All-American and a former *Post-Dispatch* All-Metro selection from Granite City, scored 26 goals and 15 assists during his two seasons at Lewis and Clark. He is expected to push for a forward spot next season.

Duffin, Sinclair: Early Leaders For Riverwomen

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen's softball team came back last week from their spring trip with an 8-5 record. One of the big reasons for their early success has been the teams consistent hitting.

After the first 13 games, the team's batting average is at .307 compared to a .236 team average from last year.

"We hit well. The games we lost, we hit the ball hard, but we just couldn't get anything through," said senior outfielder Jenny Sinclair who leads the team at a .429 clip.

Colleen Duffin, a former Southwest Missouri State standout, currently leads the team's pitching core. Duffin finished the trip with a record of 3-0 and an earned run average of 0.00. She has only given up 13 hits in 20.3 innings, and has struck out nine, while walking only two.

Duffin spends most of her time as the Riverwomen's starting centerfielder, but would prefer to pitch more.

"It's hard to take her out of center field because she is such a great outfielder," Brumbaugh said.

Freshman Guard Regina Howard Picks Up Honors

by Cory C. Schroeder
associate sports editor

Fans of the UM-St. Louis women's basketball team weren't the only ones impressed with freshman guard Regina Howard's dazzling play.

Howard was named to the 1992-1993 Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association All-Freshman Team. She played in all 26 games, earning a starting role after the first five. Howard was thrust into starting at shooting guard due to the departure of junior guard Gloria Clark.

"Regina worked hard and earned a chance to start as a freshman,"

Riverwomen head coach Bobbi Morse said. "She made the most of that opportunity. I believe she has a bright future in this league."

Howard, a graduate from Jennings High School, was not highly recruited but made an immediate impact, finishing third on the team in scoring with 8.6 points per game. She was also a force on the boards yanking down 5.6 rebounds per game.

Despite being honored, Howard is not content with just one good season.

"I want to average more points," Howard said. "When we need somebody to step up, I want to be able to take control."



Photo: Alfie Ali

BRIGHT SPOT: Freshman guard Regina Howard will carry much of the scoring load next season.

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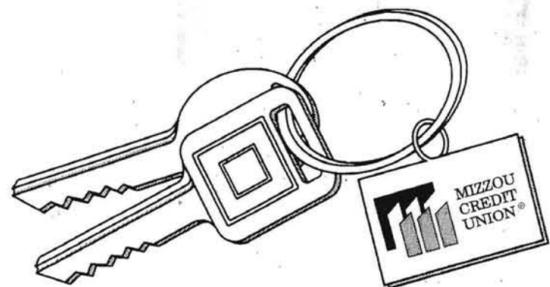
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SAME DAY DECISION OR \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM BREAKTIME CONVENIENCE STORES

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UNCLE CHUNKIE'S UNCLE CHUNKIE'S UNCLE CHUNKIE'S

BREAKFAST!?!

That's Right, Breakfast is now being served at **Uncle Chunkie's** (Beginning at 6 a.m. weekdays)

Be there, and join the Chunkster in some good eats.

And Don't Forget **Dinner**
As always unforgettable entrees at affordable prices.

Open Face Beef (1/2 Pound Chopped Steak),
The Delicious Uncle Chunkle Steak Sandwich
and the New Spaghetti Dinner.
(each entree \$3.50 without tax)

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