



DELAYED BERTH

The Miners delayed the Riverwomen's playoff hopes Saturday.

EDITORIAL

A quote from Martin Luther King the night before his death.

FEATURES

UM-St. Louis students try to bring together campus and St. Louis community with poetry

SPORTS

So, you want to be a coach someday? UM-St. Louis Riverwomen's basketball coach talks about the ins and outs of college coaching.

Hazing Death Sweeps Over SEMO

SEMO Bans Fraternity Accused Of Hazing; Thirteen Now Arrested In Connection With Student's Death

by Russell Korando
editor-in-chief

CAPE GIRARDEAU —The "City of Roses."

Where apple-cheeked children play basketball for hours in their neighborhood driveways; driveways on Cape Rock Road, as steep as Cape's infamous "Snake Hill."

Cape, the small river-city that big-city crime, poverty and homelessness has seemed to skip, for the most part. Where church, family and education are seen as common denominators to success in life by its residents, for the most part.

Southeast Missouri State (SEMO) sits in the middle of this middle-class city, geographically, but is also at the center of Cape's economy too.

SEMO and Cape. Cape and SEMO. Undeniably, both entities' future are, and always will be, tied to one another.

Following the hazing death of SEMO student Michael Davis, 25, of the 400 block of N. Sprigg St., in Cape Girardeau last Tuesday, the only certainty in the events surrounding Davis' death is the future of Kappa Alpha Psi.

The fraternity was banned from SEMO's campus Friday by SEMO President Kala Stroup, after some of its

members were arrested and charged with Davis' death.

As of Saturday, 13 Kappa Alpha Psi members or former members were arrested by Cape Girardeau Police and charged with Davis' death. Davis was pronounced dead shortly after 2:00 p.m., Feb. 15, at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape.

Cape Girardeau Police say Davis' death was related to ritual hazing, and died from head injuries sustained. Hazing was banned on all college

wounds to the fingers or a broken neck, and said he didn't know where those rumors were coming from.

"His condition was caused by several blows to the body," Carpenter said. "His wounds were caused by a blunt object: fists, stomping and a maybe a book."

The Cape Girardeau/Bollinger County Major Case Squad assigned 20 investigators to the case, and Sgt. Carl Kinnison, of the Cape Girardeau Police, said the following members, former members and alumni were in custody, pending bail set at \$250,000 for those charged with involuntary manslaughter and hazing and \$5,000 for those charged with hazing:

Carlos L. Turner, 19, Florissant; Cedric D. Murphy, 22, Memphis, Tenn.; Isaac Sims III, 22, St. Louis; Mikel J. Giles, 22, Dallas, Texas; Vincent L. King, 20, Tallahassee, Fla.; Laimmoire D. Taylor, 24, St. Louis; Michael Q. Williams, 19, Florissant; Terrence E. Rogers, 21, St. Louis; Ronald Johnson, 22, St. Louis; Tyrone D. Davis, 22, St. Louis; Larry Blue Jr., 22, Florissant.

Turner, Murphy, Sims, Giles, King, See Arrested, page 3

"This is one of the most intense homicide investigations because of the number of people we're dealing with."

Sgt. Carl Kinnison of the Cape Girardeau police department

campuses in Missouri in 1987 under House Bill 126, and Kappa Alpha Psi was suspended from SEMO in 1988 for it.

Cape Girardeau County Coroner John Carpenter said that Davis' death was caused by a blow to the head and he died of hemorrhaging as a result. He said in his inspection of Davis' body he did not find a ruptured testicle sac, bite



Cape Girardeau Police photo

Michael Davis' friend said Davis (above) had rings around his eyes Feb. 11, allegedly the second day of the hazing. The source said Davis told him that he had not slept for two days.

Davis' Friend Found Body, Two Fraternity Members In Apartment

by Russell Korando
and Clint Zweifel
of The Current staff
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CAPE GIRARDEAU - A friend, who said Michael Davis sought refuge with, over the course of the last weeks of his life, came forward Saturday night with new information about events surrounding Davis' death.

The source, a friend of Davis for three months, said he gave a detailed account of his knowledge about the death Thursday to Cape Girardeau Police, who told him not to speak with anyone about the incident.

"He was lying on the floor next to the bed," the source said. "It's a sad story. I just talked to his brother (Saturday) and they said they just came to get the rest of his stuff."

Davis, 25, a senior at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), was found barely alive in his apartment at the 400 block of N. Sprigg and was pronounced dead

See Friend, page 3

Student's Death Shows Dark Side Of Fraternity Life

by Clint Zweifel
news editor

CAPE GIRARDEAU - Images of togetherness and brotherhood have long been the projection fraternities have carried with them.

That image may have been shattered for Kappa Alpha Psi, an exclusively black fraternity at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), when 13 of its members or former members allegedly beat pledge and senior Micheal Davis, 25, to death.

Lane Lummus, sophomore at SEMO, said the news of Davis' death could bring on image problems at the University that may hinder progress in student recruitment.

"It makes the University look bad. We never get any good press from the national media... now this," Lummus said. "We talked about it in general in class, and on campus people were running around because all kinds of news media were here. The University has been talking about enrollment being up, but it's not going to skyrocket now."

Lynn Lester, sophomore at SEMO, said Kappa Alpha Psi had never been a large presence on campus, because of its relatively small membership. Official membership of the fraternity could not be confirmed, but it is estimated at 13 to 15 members.

"Before this happened, Kappa Al-



Laimmoire D. Taylor, president of Kappa Alpha Psi

pha Psi wasn't a very big deal," Lester said. "They weren't a social frat on campus. No one really knew what they were all about because they were small. I had never heard anything bad or good.

As far as doing anything for the community, they've done nothing. I don't know if they stand for anything."

In the SEMO code of student conduct, hazing is defined "as an act, whether on or off campus, which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of any person, or which violates public law or university policy." Any student or student organization found guilty of hazing by the University "may subject the student or student organization to disciplinary action, including dismissal from the University."

UM-St. Louis' policy on hazing states more detailed and specific repercussions if found guilty of the act.

Parts A and B of its policy state: "Automatic and indefinite suspension of campus recognition, with an accompanying loss of all campus privileges." Organizations found guilty of hazing cannot receive funding from the Student Activity Budget Committee nor use facilities at UM-St. Louis.

See Life, page 3

Women Lead Students In Planning For Graduate School

by Clint Zweifel
news editor

Women want more - at least in higher education.

A study from the American Council on Education (ACE) reports that, for the first time in 28 years, more women than men are planning on going to graduate school. ACE surveyed first-time full-time students at 427 of United States' two and four year colleges and universities. 27 percent of men and 26 percent of women plan on seeking advanced degrees.

David Merkwowitz, spokesman for the ACE, said the study's results are "an indicator of a broad social trend of educational opportunities for women in higher advanced education."

"There is a generation of women coming into college whose expectations have been raised by a higher set of expectations and career goals from society," Merkwowitz said.

He said opportunities for men in graduate education have remained consistent over a long period of time. Any fluctuations in males pursuing graduate degrees is probably a result of changes in the job market.

"(Opportunities) have remained consistent for men, but for women they haven't," Merkwowitz said. "It has always been the same for men so their aspirations for graduate education don't change for those rea-

See Women, page 3

SGA Set Forum To Hear Student Feedback On Court Proceedings

by Jeremy Rutherford
associate news editor

An open forum to discuss the issue of "open or closed" Student Court hearings is scheduled for Feb. 23, at 12 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building Room 75.

On Jan. 20, Clint Zweifel, *The Current* news editor, was escorted out of a Student Court meeting. The topic of the meeting centered on the appeals of seven organizations expelled from the Student Government Association because they failed to comply with attendance policies. Kel Ward, chief justice, requested that Zweifel leave the premises on the basis it was a "closed meeting." Zweifel refused and was later handcuffed and taken to the Campus Police station, but no charges were filed.

Since Jan. 20, Chancellor Blanche Touhill wrote a letter to the campus community detailing that everyone acted responsible in this situation, and she apologized to Zweifel for the use of handcuffs.

Touhill appointed Lowe "Sandy" MacLean, vice chancellor of Student

Affairs, to examine the issue.

On Feb. 9, executive members of the SGA met with University administrators.

Rick Blanton, associate director of University Center, said the purpose of the Feb. 9 meeting was not to decide which meetings should be open or closed.

"I observed the meeting including the dialogue between the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the SGA members," Blanton said, "(they) discussed the different avenues that can be taken on this issue, and that everyone can contribute, pro or con, to the meeting."

Andy Masters, SGA president, said it was determined at the meeting that

an open forum would be the most effective way to receive feedback from the students.

"I want to make clear the views of the SGA executive members and the Student Court to the students, and views of the students to SGA and Student Court," Masters said. "So that we are all on the same sheet of music."



Andy Masters, SGA president

UM President Reports On Priorities, Progress Of University's Five-Year Plan

by Clint Zweifel
news editor

UM President George Russell said the University's cutbacks in their five-year plan are paying off, in a visit to UM-St. Louis Tuesday.

Russell said development of the five-year plan, which involves cutbacks and tuition increases, began in March of 1989. He said the University was going through financial difficulties that would only worsen if changes were not made in the University's spending.

"We were really a year or two out in front of other universities in thinking what was to do or what needed to be done," Russell said. "We could have kept drifting along the way we were, which was not very good. If you looked at the faculty salaries over a twenty year period, our budget had gone up 6 percent and our faculty salaries had gone down 6 percent."

"We needed to try and get more money. It was obvious we were not going to get anymore money from the



Photo: Dave Floyd

UM President George Russell (above) said the University conducted a survey that reports that 96 percent of the faculty and staff are happy with UM's managed health care program.

state." Russell said a committee was then formed to see if the monies needed could be obtained from students through fee increases. He said increases in student fees the University imple-

mented saved the University from enrollment problems and even larger tuition increases.

See Report, page 5

CLASSIFIEDS

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The Current is looking for reporters. 553-5175 ask for Russell.

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Ford Mustang Coupe for sale. 38,000 miles, rebuilt factory 4 barrel 3.02 with dual exhaust and headers. Needs some body work and some repairs. \$1300 or best offer ask for Craig or leave a message 867-9107.

PERSONALS

J news-
Let's go eat some onions. They are oh so good.

Amy, I see you in the underground every day. My heart melts every time you look my way. . . .

Pete, you S.O.B. wash that shit off your lip.

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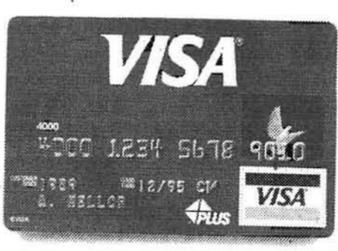
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"I've been to the mountaintop... I may not get there with you, but I want you to know that we as a people will get to the promised land."

As the fallen Civil Rights leader was buried in Atlanta, Americans recalled the prophetic imagery of his words in Memphis the night before his death.

Voice Of The People Policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief. The use of any material is at the editor's discretion.

Editing may be necessary for space and clarity. Ideas will not be altered, but editing will avoid obscenity, libel and invasions of privacy.

Letters in print do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current.

For purposes of verification, all letters must bear the writer's handwritten signature, address, student identification number and home or work telephone number. If requested, all efforts will be made to maintain the writer's anonymity.



UM-St. Louis

The Olympics Festival is seeking volunteers for festivities this summer. Basketball competition will be held July 2-4 on campus; Taekwondo will be held here July 8 and 9. For more info: call Cindy Todorovich at 827-4452, ext. 209 or 287.

The African Sisterhood Exchange (ASE) of Forest Park Community College (FPCC) is holding their Second Annual African Women's Conference March 18 and 19 on the campus of FPCC. The program will take place in the Student Center, and Kwame Ture (Formerly Stokely Carmichael) will be the featured speaker March 18.

For more information call 725-0040 or 534-4630.

The Current Newswire

The CURRENT



Address all correspondence to: *The Current*
8001 Natural Bridge Road • St. Louis, Mo. 63121
Business and Advertising (314) 553-5175 or Newsroom and Editorial (314) 553-5174

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Special Supplemental news jump

Friend from page 1

at St. Francis Medical Center shortly after 2:00 p.m. Cape Girardeau Police filed hazing charges against 13 members or former members of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, and seven of those were charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"I went to his house Tuesday morning to see if he wanted to barbecue," the source said. "When I walked through the door, I saw that it was already cracked open a little." Saturday, an empty, rusty barbecue pit sat outside Davis' door.

The source said he saw Davis' body at 12:45 p.m. At 1:27 p.m. on the same day the Cape Girardeau Fire Department and the Cape Girardeau Private Ambulance Service responded to a 911 call at Davis' address.

By the time authorities arrived, the source says KAS members had already gone through Davis' apartment, but he couldn't see clearly what they were taking. Cape Police say items—including fraternity paraphernalia—were removed from Davis' apartment. Carlos L. Turner, 19, of Florissant, was the only member charged with tampering with physical evidence. The source said fraternity members had a key to the apartment, and Davis hid at his residence to evade them.

"They (fraternity members) asked me for a trashbag," the source said. "They said they were going to clean up... everything was starting to seem fishy."

"There were two (KAS) frat members there when I walked in. They told me, 'do not implicate the fraternity at all.'" The source said one of the frat members said Davis was sick because he, "took a blow at a football game the night before."

The source said he called Davis' parents about 2:15 to 2:30. He said he advised Davis' parents that his apartment was having some of its contents removed.

"I took the key from (KAS fraternity member) when the police were driving up. They (fraternity member) told me they called the police."

The source said he had attended classes at SEMO off and on since 1989, and met Davis in January. He characterized his relationship with Davis as that of a "friend" and said they often barbecued and went to clubs together.

One of the rumors swirling around Davis' death had him the target because fraternity members suspected him of investigating a hazing story for *The Capaha Arrow*, SEMO's campus newspaper. Robb Blackwell, the paper's editor, and Dr. Roy Keller, advisor, agreed that these rumors were unsubstantiated and false.

The source said Davis wasn't working on a story for *The Capaha Arrow*, but he was keeping a journal for his own purposes. The source said certain fraternity members knew of the journal, and that Cape Girardeau police had searched Davis' apartment four different times Saturday.

"He pledged before, and was dropped," said the source. "And he reapplied to the same frat. So he was a target."

Davis' friend said he didn't understand why someone with Davis' intelligence and ability would want to be part of a group that extorted money and other personal items from him. He said the last time he talked to Davis he had circles around his eyes and said he hadn't slept for two days.

Arrested from page 1

Taylor and Williams have all been charged with involuntary manslaughter and several counts of hazing, according to Cape Police. Turner has also been charged with tampering with physical evidence.

Massey, Blue Jr., Rogers, Johnson and Davis are charged with multiple counts of hazing.

Kinnison said he never remembered filing charges for hazing on the fraternity in the recent past. And said even though he was not aware of any

major problems from a criminal perspective concerning the backgrounds of those in custody for Davis' death, the case was having a major impact on the Cape police department as well as its citizens.

"This is one of the most intense homicide investigations because of the number of people we're dealing with," Kinnison said. "There were two triple homicides (in 1992) that were intense but they didn't deal with as many defendants."

St. Louis Residents In Custody Of The Cape Girardeau County Police



Carlos L. Turner



Isaac Sims III



Ronald Johnson



Tyrone D. Davis



Terrence E. Rogers



Michael Q. Williams



Larry H. Blue

Life from page 1

"Disciplinary action against those members involved in the incident(s), including suspension or expulsion from the university," UM-St. Louis also requires the president or equivalent officer of each organization to sign a document at the first regular meeting of the fall semester,

stating that the officer read the University's hazing policy. If the officer who signed the document leaves the organization, the incoming president must sign the document. If the organization's leader does not sign the document then the group will lose university privileges such as funding.

Women from page 1

sons." Along with fluctuations in the job market, Merkwitz said the removal of the draft has caused changes in the number of men attending graduate school.

"It was a strong incentive for males to go to graduate school to avoid military service," he said. "With the removal of the draft, the incentive is not there (to pursue an advanced degree)."

Douglas Wartzok, dean of the UM-St. Louis Graduate School, said many women have not realized the opportunities for them in advanced education.

"People have been trying for a long time to make sure women understand the various options they have open to them," he said. "That has taken a long time to work. Mainly it is just that

women are not recognizing the options that are out there and not applying in the same numbers."

Debbie Kettler, director of Career Placement at UM-St. Louis said the increased amount of women planning on pursuing advanced degrees does not surprise her.

"The trend of more women going to college has been around for a while," Kettler said.

Kettler cited the ratio of women to men at UM-St. Louis as 57% to 43% respectively.

Merkowitz said women may need advanced degrees to compete with men in the work force.

"It has been a continuing problem for women in the job market," he said. "They need an edge."

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Hari "Sky" Campbell: A Student With Something To Say, And He's Saying It

by Michael O'Brian
associate features editor

If you've seen him, you know him, but why?

UM-St. Louis student Hari "Sky" Campbell is a writer. He calls himself a motivational speaker and a poet. What people around St. Louis call him is an asset to the city.

"My poetry is a blessing, a gift," Campbell said. It's a gift that he gives back in a number of ways.

Campbell is one of a few St. Louis performance artists who volunteer their time once a month at the Roosevelt Apartments (housing for African-American senior citizens) as part of a group called "Just Us Poets."

"They really appreciate us spending the time with them," Campbell said. "These folks don't get to go out much, and they look forward to their poetry night."

Campbell also does volunteer readings at the city juvenile detention center on Vandeventer. There he reads poetry and works with problem youths to show a new positive direction. He leads by example.

"My message is a unity of people," said Campbell. He has been active in the denouncement of street violence

ever since he graduated from high school in the 60s.

His first published work was "Bring Me Harlem In A Brown Paper Bag." The piece ran in a textbook used at Forest Park Community College some years ago.

"I had some friends at Forest Park who were assigned my piece as homework," Campbell said. "The teacher

Excerpt from Hari "Sky" Campbell's "Black Gangs Can't Shoot Straight"

The gates of hell open in our yards held open by bodies of young black men killing each other, killing you, killing me, death stands guard.

Hell on earth the gates of Hell PILED open by the bodies of young black men who can't shoot straight/

would ask them what the author meant by the work so they would call and ask what did you mean by that work."

Hari says his writing is street level observations of society. It's a place he's been and is used to. When he graduated high school he began writing for "Argus" (one of the oldest black weekly newspapers in the country).

Writing for Argus, Campbell went on assignment to cover a new affirmative action program at McDonnell Douglas. McDonnell Douglas was so pleased with the article they offered Campbell a job doing cinema photography and displays. Hari said it was at this job doing technical films where he learned to "cross my t's and dot my i's."

"I believe most poets begin after writing that first love letter to her," Hari said. "At least that's how it started for me."

He began writing poetry and was showing it to some friends who told him he had to start performing his work. Campbell said at first it was tough because there were no open mike readings in St. Louis. The only place to read was at Duff's.

Just as Campbell began to gain some local notoriety, tragedy struck. A busted blood vessel became a near death experience that required two years of rehabilitation before Campbell could walk and talk again. His recovery sent him back to the halls of school and gave him a strong desire for his writing.

"After sitting on that rock with God's angels I began to write more," Campbell said. It was during this time that he produced a poem that has gained recognition



Photo: Christopher Sutherland

The Current is proud to celebrate Black History Month in honor of the many great African-American leaders past and future.

among St. Louisans titled "Black Gangs Can't Shoot Straight."

The poem brings realization to the horrid occurrences in our city caused by gang violence. The work is in constant state of growth because with each major happening Campbell writes in more text.

Now Campbell takes active part in 'Ngoma at La Patisserie on the Delmar

Loop. 'Ngoma is a weekly performance art gathering that features African American poetry put to African-style percussion.

"'Ngoma is a cultural happening," said Campbell. "It is African music of our people, still everyone is truly welcome."

Hari "Sky" Campbell has been a

featured performance artist at the UM-St. Louis Litmag readings and has been featured on the Michael Castro spoken word segment on KDHX. He has a book titled "Watching the Apple Turn Brown" coming out by May.

Students interested in seeing Campbell perform might catch him at future Litmag readings.

Chatter Box

by Cinde Poli
of The Current staff

Do you feel the University should honor President's Day as it does Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday?



"They (the Presidents) had as much if not more impact than Martin Luther King in shaping our country as it is."

Loc Hall
Graduate Student
Masters in English

"I think King has sacrificed more on a personal level than most presidents have."

"It might be more beneficial to have a stand-up comic's day. Seinfeld might be good, or Woody Allen."

Linda Wendling
English Professor



"We should have a Ronald Reagan day instead of President's Day"

Eric Barnhart
Senior
Political Science

"Yes, I'm off of work, so I would like the day off (from school) so I can sleep in."

Julie Stephens
Senior
Art History



"Yes, the President's Day represents the whole country. M.L.K. Day represents only one group of people."

Jen Baumann
Sophomore
Business

Yes, if you honor one great person on one day, then you should honor many great people on the day that's been set aside (for them)."

Tiki Holmes
Sophomore
Biology



Singin' The Blues In St. Louis

by Michael O'Brian
associate features editor

There's a place called the Broadway Oyster Bar where music and magic come together on Saturday nights. The sounds are familiar, but the electricity is new and exciting. They call it the blues.

Specifically they call it "Erma Whiteside and the Blues Deluxe Band. This band has a sound that takes the older folks back and gives the younger folks a chance to dance and experience one of the great American musical foundations.

"We just have a lot of fun," said Erma Whiteside, one of if not the best blues vocalist in St. Louis. "The audi-

ence likes our style."

The audience does more than like the band's style. At Blueberry Hill, in Soulard, or wherever the Blues Deluxe might be playing, addicted followers show up to scream and swing in the dark smokey caverns amidst the heart thumping 12 bar riffs kicked out by lead guitarist Rich McDonough.

The band formulated in '87, and after a series of changes has come to its current form driven by the incredible vocal talents of Whiteside.

"Erma is the strongest singer I've ever worked with," said Michael Finney, hard hitting percussionist for the band. "It's the best band I've been part of in twenty years playing."

Whiteside, who has now sung with the Blues Deluxe for just over a year, first began to sing professionally in '74 with the Ujuma band. She started off as a gospel singer which led her to R&B. Now she calls out many of the old greats such as "Stormy Monday" and "Chain of Fools" for desperate diehard mobs in dancing frenzies.

"My first love is gospel," said Whiteside. She has been the minister of music for Revelations Pentecostal Tabernacle in East St. Louis for the past six years.

Erma said her early influences include Mavis Staples, Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle and Aretha Franklin. In fact, the band does an exhilarating ver-

sion of "Respect."

Jack Inglis is the wild man at keyboards. "I'm just trying to push all the right buttons," he says.

Jeff Suites belts base and "Chicago Slim," Dennis Lansing, is the ax on the sax.

The music pumped and the sound is extraordinary. Rich slides long leads in an almost sexual relation with his guitar while Erma sways and moves to her own motown sound. Hard to believe but this beautiful woman is a grandmother of 13!

The band plays locally every week with usually two to three listings in the

See Blues, Page 5

By Our Own Hands: The Growing Epidemic Of Violence

by Jacquita Byrd
for The Current

I grew up in a predominantly black neighborhood. Crime was an issue even then, but residents maintained a sense of pride in our neighborhood, our neighbors and ourselves. I can remember block cleanups, block parties and neighbors watching out for our safety. Today "block cleanups" mean the police raid on the dope house. A "block party" is when the dope man (woman) gives dope away to get us hooked. Today the neighbors watch each other in fear.

The death and terror in our community now continues to grow, evolving into a reckless disregard for life among some blacks. This has turned parts of our community into war zones with a large number of our youth on a mission to kill each other. Unemployment, homelessness and other feelings of hopelessness all contribute to blacks turning to drug abuse, violence and other corrupt activities as an escape. I understand these feelings and those of us who are black know the frustration brought on by glass ceilings and false promises.

We can no longer tolerate these feelings and circumstances leading to our racial decline. The Reverend Jesse Jackson tells us, "None of the evils that blacks have faced in the past—not slavery, not lynching, not legal segregation—have been as threatening to the black race as today's catastrophic combination of violence, drug abuse and AIDS." It's unfortunate this statement sums up our current situation.

Politicians and public officials address the issue of how they would put a stop to crime in the inner cities, but we are still waiting. In the United States, 95 percent of blacks are killed by other blacks. Because of this, it's only discussed to any significant degree during

the election years. It's politically correct to protest such violent behavior while trying to be elected. Because it doesn't dramatically affect their political or financial status, real change rarely occurs.

Clarence Page reminds us of the inevitable result of black on black crime. "Race becomes what it was in the bad old days; a signal to whites to stay away from blacks and a signal to blacks that whites don't care about crime as long as most victims are black," Page said.

Everyone wants the dope dealer off the corner and the dope house closed down, but no one stops to think why the drug dealers turn to that lifestyle or how the dope gets there. I know many people who engage in illegal activities and are being consumed by them, but I don't know of one black that flies his own supply of drugs into our country. Narcotics should be stopped at all entry points into our country, and the people with criminal or corrupt political influence (those who are really getting rich) should be imprisoned. The problem is huge and exceeds simply putting some dope dealer behind bars or shutting down one dope house.

As in most social reform, the answer to this problem lies heavily on the almighty dollar. Our children need financial alternatives besides the fast life and money that drug distribution and crime can provide. Our government needs to invest money in their future instead of taxpayers providing housing and meals for them in prison, when all hope for their future is gone. They need accessible, financially supported career options made available to them.

In addition, blacks must change. We must alter our basic attitudes and behavior in order to find solutions. Our old values of looking out for our families and neighbors as well as ourselves (instead of stray bullets) must be rekindled. Stop buying into the fast, easy

life and realize that our actions are causing our downfall. Selling drugs, stolen goods and other poisons must become the exception and not allowed to become the norm. It must be us, those most likely to be killed, who must lead the revolt against criminal activity in our community.

Hear the pleas of our black leaders as well as from within ourselves. We, the victims, must conduct a social revolution that brings about moral excellence in our community. We can't wait for another Dr. Martin Luther King; there is the essence of a Dr. King within each of us that urges us to reestablish our moral standards then fight for them. We must strengthen our traditional institutions, our best defense against social turmoil, especially church and family. It is time to strike a responsive chord among

ourselves, especially the youth, which will lead to a domino effect and generate support across the country.

Our destiny as a race is up to us. Blacks that deal in corruption or sit ideally by and watch crime being committed share the guilt equally. Saying "no" to corruptive behavior, both as a participant and an observer is imperative. To find our way again, we must first seek it. If we continue to be wasteful of time, money and morals, we will deprive our race of spiritual and economic nurturing now and for generations to come. The healing process simply starts one day at a time. Rediscovering our religious foundation and allowing God to become the head of our lives is the key to elevation our race. If we don't respond, we will be a race doomed and destroyed by our own hands.

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Coaching from page 6

spend. "You have to be organized and spend wisely," Mechfessel said. "It's easier for me because I've done it for so long."

With little money to travel, the teams often find themselves taking buses and coming back at four in the morning, instead of spending a night at a hotel.

Coen, thanks to having only nine players, doesn't have it real rough.

"You just have to be careful in the beginning of the year," Coen said.

The teams have to save money, because the bulk of the spending comes at recruiting time.

There's travel cost to see players play and during the recruiting period, money is spent taking the recruit and his or her family out on the town.

So, for all of those students think-

ing about getting into coaching, you better take some math and communication classes.

You never know when your going to need them.

Look for more exciting sports action in next week's issue of The Current

Blues, From page 4

RFT. They are working on an album with all new original blues tunes due to come out by the end of the year. The band also hopes to participate in this year's Utrecht Festival in Amsterdam. If they attend, it will be the second time

for the band, but the first time for Whiteside.

"Thank you everybody for supporting us," Erma said, "If it wasn't for your support we couldn't have gotten where we are."

Thank you Erma Whiteside and the Blues Deluxe Band for giving St. Louis the blues and your heart.

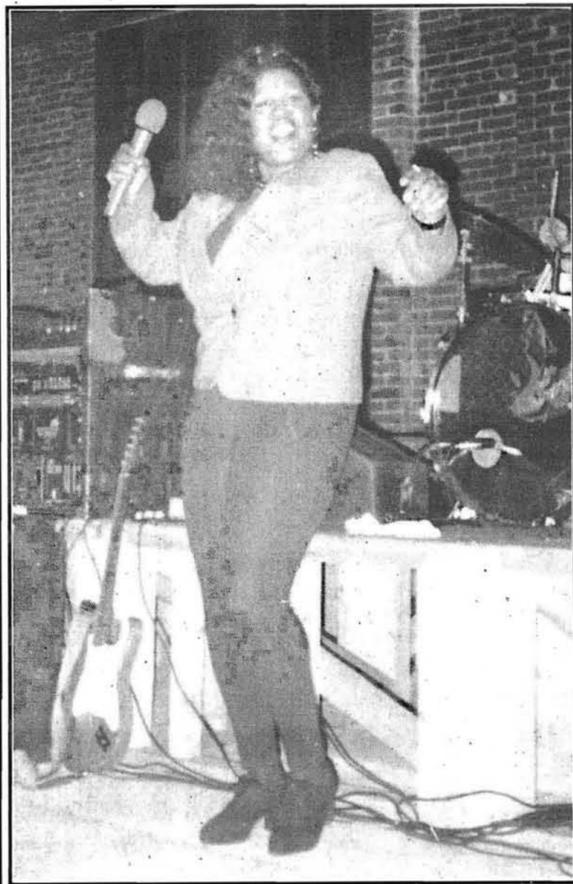


Photo: Michael O'Brian
Erma Whiteside and the Blues Deluxe Band do the blues in style for St. Louis.

Report from page 1

"No other university in the nation was making the voluntary changes that we were making in this University," Russell said. "If you look at California and you look at their fees when we did a study, (student fees) were very low due to state support. (Because higher education in California did not make the necessary changes), they're now \$1000 higher than our fees. There was a great loss in enrollment. They're in real trouble. I really don't see how their system of higher education is going to survive in the state that it is now."

Some goals and progress of the five-year plan are as follows:

- Make faculty salaries competitive with the American Association of Universities (AAU). In academic year 1991-92 UM was \$16.4 million below the average faculty salary in the AAU. \$5.2 million of the shortfall was made up last academic year. Another \$3.6 million is planned to be made up this year.

- When the plan was initiated there were 880 maintenance and repair projects on the University's priority list with costs totaling about \$28.4 million. Forty percent of the projects have been completed totaling about one-half of the total.

- The University is about one-half of the way through equipment replacement. \$11.6 million was set aside for equipment replacement at the start of the five-year plan.

- 20 percent of student fee increases is being directed towards student financial aid.

Russell said the along with a 10 percent decrease in UM personnel, a 16 percent tuition increase every semester for the next three years and a refinanced debt, UM's managed health will help the University save money to direct toward priorities included in the

five-year plan. He said the University spent \$46 million dollar for faculty and staff health care last year. By 1998, Russell said he was informed that health care costs would total \$90 million dollars.

"I was warned by the state that there was no way we were going to get additional money from the state," Russell said. There were two options. One was the University will only spend as much money as it is spending plus the consumer price index. If you're going to have insurance as it is then you'll have to make up the difference.

"The other option was to put together a faculty, staff committee to look at it and see if we could come up with something that would allow us to control our costs. After the first year (of the second options implementation) we avoided costs of several million dollars because we will have to spend several million dollars less this year than we spent last year and we have control over how much it can escalate over the next two years."

A UM-St. Louis faculty member complained the health care plan does not provide coverage for optometric care. Russell said the University will continue to look at the plan on a monthly basis to make any improvement deemed necessary.

Russell said the accomplishments resulting from the five-year plan will give the state more confidence in UM and higher education as a whole.

"The idea is to take our destiny into our own hands and do the things we can do and if necessary cut some of the things we shouldn't be doing," Russell said. "I think it has caused the governor and the general assembly to have a bit more confidence in what we are doing. In the long run, that's all we really wanted to do- restore the confidence we once had in higher education because if we do, I think the (state) will support us in a way that we would like to be supported- May be not as much as we would like, but reasonably more than they do now."

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For Pete's Sake



So, You Want To Be A Basketball Coach Someday?

by Pete Dicrispino
associate sports editor

So, you want to be a basketball coach?

Just remember one thing: There's more to being a basketball coach than just knowing the Xs and the Os of the game.

You have to be a good communicator, a good recruiter, you have to be able to manage a budget, and you have to make sure your players go to class and graduate.

UM-St. Louis men's basketball coach Rich Meckfessel and women's coach Jim Coen are good communicators. They both know how to get the most out of their players both on and off the court.

"The most satisfying part of coaching is being around the kids," Coen said.

Being a good communicator means keeping the players focused on playing basketball and keeping their grades up.

Because of a couple of bad experiences last year with a couple players, Meckfessel has committed himself more to making sure his players do well in school.

"I have been personally supervising study hall for a couple of hours each afternoon," Meckfessel said. "We started it in November and we will continue it the rest of the semester."

"You have to let them know that you are interested in their academics and stress how important their education is."

Coen has maybe an easier time with the women, because they know they'll never have a shot in the National Basketball Association.

"The girls realize that their future is in academics," Coen said.

"We also have study halls set during the week."

Most of the time in a college basketball coaches life is taken up by recruiting.

Scouting a high school player one night and then scouting a junior college player the next night can be tough.

"My assistants and I are at a game every night of the week, unless we have one ourselves," Coen said.

The coaches also send letters and make phone calls to the players every week, just to let the player know their interest in them coming to UM-St. Louis.

I probably send 10 to 15 note cards, type-written, to new recruits each day," men's assistant coach Bill Walker said.

"I'm home about one night a week, the other nights I'm scouting games."

In order to be a good recruiter, you also have to be a salesman.

This is also where the communication factor comes in to play.

In order to get a basketball player to come to your school, you have to sell yourself and the school to the athlete.

Coen said he believes there are three things you have to do when recruiting:

1. Sell the education first.
2. Sell the program and yourself to the athlete.
3. Sell the city.

If the athlete likes the coach, the education program, and the city of St. Louis, UM-St. Louis has a new basketball player.

Unfortunately, nobody told basketball coaches they needed math to be a good coach.

The coaches, especially at the Division II level, have little money to

See Coaching, page 5

Lady Miners Strike Gold, Delay Riverwomen Playoff Berth

by Pete Dicrispino
associate sports editor

A last minute surge by the UM-St. Louis women's basketball team last Saturday wasn't enough, as the Lady Miners of Missouri-Rolla held on for a 76-73 victory.

The Miners were led by center Heather Hartman and forward Joe Kvetensky, each were forces inside.

Hartman had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Kvetensky chipped in 20 points and 10 boards.

"When Rolla gets the ball over half court, they're going to score," UM-St. Louis head coach Jim Coen said.

"We just have a difficult time stopping anyone in the paint."

Guard Christiana Hampton led the way for the Riverwomen with 23 points, 15 of her points were scored in the second half.

In the first half, the game was high-spirited and the pace was furious.

The Riverwomen's biggest lead of the first half, 15-12, came when forward DJ. Martin hit a three-point shot eight minutes into the game.

The Riverwomen lead would not last long and they would never regain it the rest of the game.

Probably the biggest turning point of the game came in the last 45 seconds of the first half.

Riverwomen forward Nancy Hessemann sank a three pointer to cut the lead to 38-34, but then the roof fell in on the Riverwomen.

Kvetensky came right back and hit a jumper with 28 seconds left, to build the

Lady Miners lead back up to six.

However, the Riverwomen had the ball and had a chance to take the last shot of the half to cut into the Lady Miner lead.

Things didn't work out as planned though, as guard Nicole Christ made a bad pass and Lady Miner Chris Bohannon made her pay.

Bohannon intercepted Christ's pass and converted a three-point play, as she was fouled on the layup.

"I think the game was determined in that last 40 seconds of the first half," Coen said.

Thanks to the turnover, the Riverwomen went into the locker room down 43-34.

In the second half, Kvetensky and Hartman were able to maintain the lead with their strong inside play.

The Riverwomen were missing their leading rebounder, Arletha Lewis, who was benched for the second consecutive game due to disciplinary reasons.

The lack of rebounding only helped Hartman and Kvetensky control the middle.

"It says a lot about our girls, only losing by three without our best rebounder," Coen said.

The Lady Miners built their lead to 10 with six minutes left to go and it appeared the Riverwomen were finished.

However, the Riverwomen came to life in the final four minutes of the game thanks in most part to Hampton.

Hampton had eight points down the stretch and her tenacious play

sparked the rest of the team.

Christ hit a three pointer with one minute left in the game cutting the lead to 71-70.

"The effort is always there with our team," Coen said.

The effort continued until the final buzzer of the game, but the Lady Miners made their free throws at the end and held off the Riverwomen.

"We just couldn't stop their big players," Coen said.

The Riverwomen loss dropped their record to 14-13 overall and 6-8 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA).

If they can win one out of their two remaining games, they will clinch their first winning season in five years.

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

1. MO Western*	14-0
2. Washburn	12-2
3. MO Southern	11-3
4. Central MO	10-4
5. Pittsburg St.	8-6
6. MO-Rolla	7-7
7. MO-St. Louis	6-8
SW Baptist	6-8
9. Emporia St.	4-10
10. NE Missouri	3-11
11. NW Missouri	2-12
12. Lincoln	1-13

* ranked third in the Division II poll

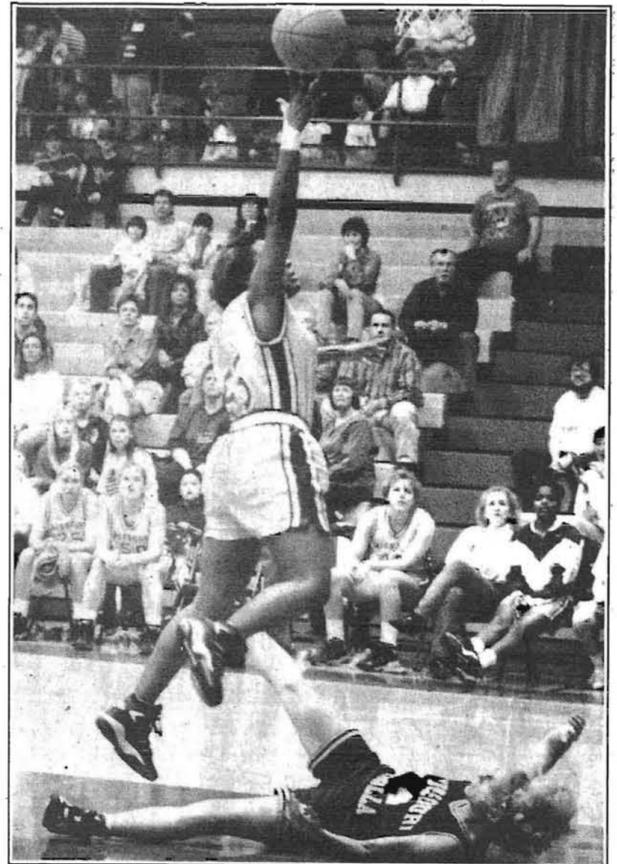


photo: Cinde Poli

Magnificent Seven Win Shootout With Miners

by Cory Schroeder
sports editor

Despite having only seven healthy players, the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team cruised to an easy 94-81 victory over UM-Rolla Saturday night.

The Rivermen training room is starting to look like a M.A.S.H. unit with senior forward Malcolm Hill and junior guard Michael Graves both out for the season. Their injuries left the Rivermen with only seven mobile bodies but that was enough against a Miners team that played its entire 12-man roster.

"They only had six guys out their most of the game, but we could never wear them down," UM-Rolla head coach Dale Martin said.

With a 2-11 record in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) entering Saturday's game, the Rivermen were not supposed to offer the Miners any sort of a challenge. Perhaps, spurred on by that notion, the Rivermen never trailed after point guard Lawndale Thomas buried a three pointer with 8:24 still left to play in the half.

Thomas played the entire game and finished with five assists and two steals.

"He's their leader," Martin said. "We managed to hold him to three points, but he still created havoc on defense."

Any runs were stifed by a swarming Rivermen defense, but perhaps the most impressive statistic was the Rivermen's accuracy from the free throw line. Coming into Saturday's game the Rivermen were shooting 63 percent as a team from behind the charity stripe. But with the season almost behind them, the Rivermen found their point of focus and converted 37 of 44 free throws attempted, a season high.

UM-St. Louis just may have ruined Rolla's chances of making the MIAA championships. Rolla was in contention for the eighth and final spot, but Saturday's loss drops their conference record to 3-11.

More than 1,000 fans turned out for the annual Alumni Night, which featured the 25th anniversary of the 1968-69 Rivermen team that compiled 19 wins enroute to capturing the NAIA District 16 title. The squad featured All-American Jack Stenner who led the team with

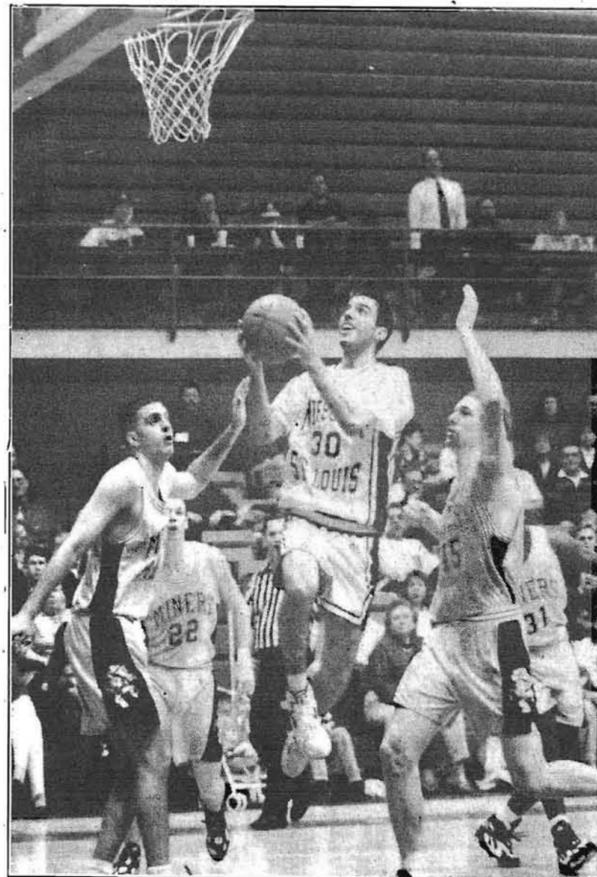


Photo: Cinde Poli

FANCY FEET: Rivermen guard Shawn Caldwell (#30) grabs a rebound against UM-Rolla.

a 19.9 points per game scoring average. Stenner would later play for the Carolina Cougars of the now defunct American Basketball Association.

The Rivermen will play their final home game of the season, Wednesday February 23 against Northwest Missouri State.

Voices From The Stands

When I read the February 14th issue of *The Current*, Cory Schroeder's article about "Whoever Thought? The Olympics at UM-St. Louis", struck a nerve. The first thing that entered my mind was, we're inviting company to this dirty house.

Hopefully, the Physical Plant custodial staff will get the Mark Twain Building cleaned up. If the Olympic Festival can bring this about, it will have done more than users of the facility have been able to do.

We have have a building and services to be proud of, let's show it off at its best.

Sincerely,
Pat Stewart
Administrative Associate I
Office of Computing and Networking Services

Athlete of the Week

Marcus Albert

- * Had 16 Points And Seven Assists Against MO-Rolla
- * Leads The Rivermen With 60 Three-point Baskets

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