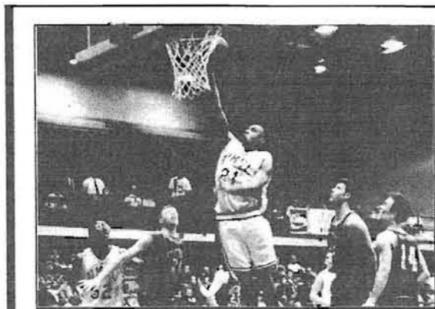


The CURRENT



The Rivermen collect their due on the court from Northeast Missouri State. See Page 5

EDITORIAL
Michael O'Brian wonders who will catch election fever on campus. Page 2

FEATURES
It's a different day for the Society for Creative Anachronisms. Page 3

SPORTS
Men's B-ball locks into third place in the conference. Page 5

Public Health Department closes Mark Twain locker room

by Susan Benton of The Current staff

Unsanitary conditions in UM-St. Louis locker rooms forced officials from the St. Louis County Public Health Department to close certain areas of the gym in Mark Twain Thursday, Feb. 15. It was reopened the next day following an extensive cleaning.

Mold and fungus adorned the men's and women's locker rooms. Tiles were also missing from shower areas.

"The women's shower was much cleaner than the men's," said Haywood Smith, Public Health department sanitarian. "Still, neither was suitable for use."

Smith was called to the scene after a person associated with UM-St. Louis reported the area unclean for the first time on February 7, 1996.

"The person who called said that UM-St. Louis had been spending money on other property acquisitions," Smith said. "Apparently there's not enough workers to cover [Mark Twain]."

Smith said that after responding to the February 7 call, he went to Mark Twain on the following day. He completed a report, cited the problems and said he would be back on Feb. 14 for a follow-up inspection. He returned to find the same conditions. When he went back, he found only two of the four shower rooms had been cleaned.

After leaving a copy of the February 14 report with the athletic department secretary, he said he would return the following day.

"I told them I'd be back on the 15th and if it wasn't completely cleaned, I'd shut it down," Smith said. "They had until 1 p.m. on the 15th. I came back at 1:15 p.m., and only the pool area shower rooms were cleaned. The men's and women's locker rooms were still a mess."

Dr. Larry York, Public Health Department sanitarian, said that no special

SEE DIRTY LOCKERS PAGE 8

Mardi Gras in St. Louis...



Photo: Monica Senecal

Mardi Gras revelers packed the streets of Soulard for Saturday's parade.

SEE FEATURES PAGE 3 FOR MARDI GRAS AT SOULARD

Debate and Forensics strive for another 100-trophy year

by Heather Phillips of The Current staff

Nebel and Graham Berryman, and seniors Dean Nichols and Nicholas Kempin.

The Debate and Forensics team, with the help of senior Tim Ennenbach, is well on its way to winning over 100 trophies for the third consecutive year.

"We have a lot of good students," said Tom Preston, associate professor of communication and staff advisor for the Debate and Forensics team. "I am very pleased with the team overall."

According to Preston, everyone who has competed in a tournament has won at least one time. The 100 mark is unbelievable for the University. As of two years ago, the highest record was 84 trophies.

There are two people so far who will be attending the national competition in Gainesville, Fla. They are Ennenbach and senior Jennifer Czarnik. Four people have qualified for the Novus National Tournament. They are freshmen Melanie

The trophy was for sixth place in Duo Interpretation with Czarnik.

"I am surprised," Ennenbach said. "The people who I have looked up to did not receive the number of trophies that I have."

As of now, Ennenbach is qualified to compete nationally in four events with a possible fifth coming up this weekend at Webster University.

"It is such an accomplishment just to qualify for the National Tournament," Ennenbach said. "I am very proud."

In Ennenbach's first tournament this year, at Southwest Baptist, he won nine trophies.

"It was pretty cool," he said.

This Friday and Saturday is the state tournament which will be held in Webster Hall, 470 E. Lockwood. The final rounds will be held at 2:45 p.m. The awards ceremony will be at 6:45 p.m. in Webster Hall in the Winifred Moore Auditorium. The finals of the tournament will be Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

"There is good team unity," Preston said. "The new people who have joined are coming along very well. I am proud that our team is able to combine academic elements with debate."

The big news is Ennenbach winning his 100th trophy over the four years that he has been on the team. Only a few have accomplished this feat, Preston said.

Student parking ticket appeals lying untouched at Police HQ

by Scott Lamar of The Current staff

Approximately 200 parking ticket appeals are sitting idly inside of the Blue Metal Building instead of being ruled on by the UM-St. Louis Student Court.

Handling ticket appeals is the primary responsibility of the court. However, only four members currently sit on the court. The court is supposed to hold five members along with two alternates. Student Court members Jacqueline Miller and Ryan Buchmueller graduated in January. Frank Richter, who was Chief Justice, resigned two weeks ago.

Richter said the backlog stems from the slowness of the campus police in processing the tickets. He also said that last semester the Court was unable to find an agreeable meeting time or place. The Court did not have its own phone line on campus either.

SGA President Beth Titlow disagreed. She said that the court had a conference room to convene in as well as a voice mail number.

The Student Court is supposed to pick up the appeals once every three or four weeks. It then decides to either accept or deny the appeal. According to Richter,

about 20 appeals come in per month.

Sandy MacLean, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said because of problems with the Student Court in the past, he has recommended that someone else take care of student parking appeals.

"It's a serious problem," MacLean said. "In the past, I proposed to the Student Senate Affairs Committee that they transfer the responsibility to Administrative Services. They would then pay someone to expedite the process, but they didn't act on that."

If the tickets are not decided on before the semester ends, students will be unable to have their transcripts released. Furthermore, it could prevent seniors from receiving their diplomas. If worse comes to worse, MacLean said, he said he would hire someone to get the job done.

Titlow said she appointed Tyrone Rodgers to serve as interim Chief Justice. However, Rodgers said he hasn't received any word other than being told that he was an alternate.

Titlow isn't sure what she can do legally to resolve the situation, but said that she will consult the SGA bylaws to see what she can do to fill the vacancies.

University Players seeking administrative involvement

by Susan Benton of The Current staff

There is one word to describe the theater program at UM-St. Louis: nonexistent.

For the past two and a half years, the theater club known as the University Players, despite extended efforts of students and faculty members alike, has lain dormant.

"It's not worth the hassle," said Associate Communications Professor Jim Fay. "There are so many people you have to go through before anything can be accomplished. It's exhausting."

Fay, who produced plays as long as he has been a professor at UM-St. Louis - since 1974, said that theater was an important part of his life for a long time. But at UM-St. Louis, he said, it is impossible to be successful in fine arts.

"There is no support for theater," he said. "We had about 30 kids interested [in performing] but the funds just weren't there."

The plays, which were produced as many as four times a year in the late seventies, were entertaining and successful.

"One year, the [theater] club actually went to a Midwestern competition and placed," Fay said.

Soon thereafter, the funds started to dwindle and support lacked even more.

"They gutted the whole theater in Benton," said former University Player Tom O'Keefe. "Little by little the place started to fall apart."

Loosened ceiling tiles, missing floorboards and holes in the sides of the walls now contribute to what once was a "nice little theater," according to Fay.

"The sound was good, the size was fair it was perfect for the plays we did," he said.

When Fay stopped directing productions in 1984, Dr. Barbara Kachur took over. Kachur, who began advising the University Players in 1986, was involved with the theater club until 1990.

"We functioned as a normal theater program that you would find on any other campus," Kachur said. "We were certainly not as advanced; we didn't have a graduate program, we didn't have a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Students could get an undergraduate emphasis in theater, but the degree would be in Communications."

UM-St. Louis offered a variety of theater-related classes in the 70s and 80s including costume design and set building.

Around 1990, administrators reviewed the cost of the University Players and decided that funds should be cut off from the small program. Administrative officials said that the money needed to be put in other viable pro-

A theatre re-opening?

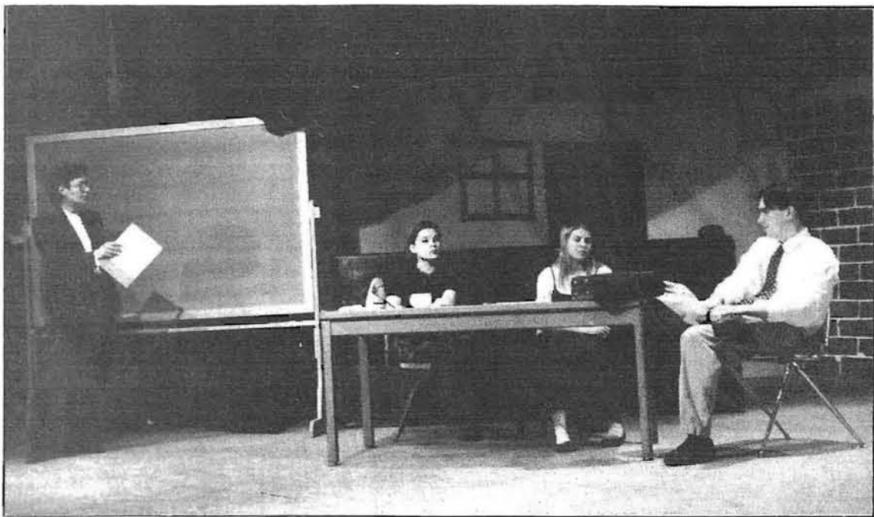


Photo: Monica Senecal

Danielle Duggan, Mark Kenny and Jessie Olmstead receive feedback from Dr. Barbara Kachur. Kachur was the faculty advisor of the University Players from 1986 to 1990.

SEE PLAYERS PAGE 8

No guts, no glory

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

They're off! Election frenzy is in the air.

Election years are my favorite years. Maybe I sound like a pathetic idiot, but there's nothing like a good nine months worth of mudslinging and back-biting by some of our nation's most prominent figures.

With the Iowa Caucuses behind us, the Republican primary race has begun. Fast out of the gate is Kansas Senator Bob Dole, but as Ray Hartmann wrote in this week's Riverfront Times, Dole received 11 percentage points less of the vote than he did when he ran previously against Bush in 1988. So extremist Pat Buchanan is showing signs of strength with a second-place start in Iowa, followed by the obvious national media favorite Lamar Alexander. The brutal crucifixion by the national news forces put the flashy multi-millionaire Steve Forbes in the fourth slot.

I'm enjoying this race even though I'm a most-of-the-time Democrat. This stuff is almost as good as football.

However, the race for the president of the United States is not the only election on my mind. The application window has opened for the Student Government executive offices and the University Senate as well.

Just like it is exciting to watch people aggressively seek the honor to serve on our national government, it is also pleasing to watch it at the campus level.

Last year I correctly predicted that candidates for the SGA presidency would surface out of the Sexy Legs II hysteria. They did (Tonya Hutchinson and Tom O'Keefe). This year I'm squinting to see who might jump for the bacon.

I wouldn't be surprised if Jason Peery took a third shot at one of the top offices, though he hasn't said anything to suggest he might. Hutchinson told me she might run for name's sake, but I think she realizes she may need more time to gather the necessary 300 votes it takes to win the presidency. To the best of my knowledge, there will be no members of The Current defecting to the SGA ranks. In the last two SGA elections, Current staffers Clint Zweifel and Christine McGraw both took their

shots at the vice presidency (Zweifel succeeding, McGraw defeated).

Some other high profile names that come to mind for this year's race are Nicholas Wren (coordinator of the Coalition of Black Student Organizations), Alicia Friedrichs (president of the Hispanic-Latino Student Organization) or maybe ex-chief justice of the Student Court Steve Bartok (president of Students with Disabilities).

Any of these people probably have as much of a chance of winning a bid as a multitude of others. I have no idea who might run. No one has said that they were thinking about any of the positions. So the question is "who will take the shot?"

There are two standard philosophies concerning how to win the SGA presidency. One is to bank heavily on the Greek vote. Even though the fraternities and sororities are relatively weak on campus, they have in the past galvanized a cohesive vote to elect a president and vice president (Masters and Roither).

The other philosophy is to appease the African-American vote which is considered to be the most powerful voting block on campus. The success of Jones/Ward took advantage of this strategy.

Still last year, the Titlow/Zweifel ticket proved that you just can't beat strong campaigning. Titlow and O'Keefe probably split the Greek vote, but Zweifel's attempts at securing the nursing student vote (along with the wise political move of taking Rauscher on the ticket) pushed the team over the edge.

What strategy will this year's candidates pursue? Who will surface out of the campus community daring enough to take the challenge of governing this student body? What issues will this year's candidates address, and how will they convince students to believe in their causes? Who will be the next SGA president?

The deadline for applications for the SGA executive committee is Friday, March 8 (call 516-5105), and the deadline for University Senate applications is Thursday, Feb. 29 (call 516-6769).

As students let's follow the elections closely so our interest will be well represented, and as leaders let's see some strong students accepting the challenges of taking on the SGA government.



Who you know is more important than what you know

by Scott LaMar
of The Current staff

Despite laboring for years to maintain a modest grade point average and paying fees which seemingly increase exponentially every year, students are guaranteed nothing in terms of finding a job. Furthermore, they have few options if they don't have a job already lined up. If their grades weren't so good, they can search for a good entry-level job in the real world. If that fails, they can go back to the part-time job that carried them through college, but that causes them to fall off of the career fast track. Students, if their grades are decent, also may opt to go to graduate school. Unfortunately, this isn't always a feasible alternative.



Professionals in every field and in the classroom preach that internships are the secret path to landing a good job. Although the experience is important, the contacts that are established are invaluable.

Finding a good internship is diffi-

cult for many students because it takes them most of their college career to decide on a major.

During the three and a half years I've spent at UM-St. Louis, I've majored in chemistry, decided to be undecided, and, finally, settled on communication. It can safely be said that most students have had similar changes of heart. Very few people hold to the first profession they chose when asked by their teacher in third grade.

Now that I've decided what I want to do to when I grow up, I have no idea where I am going to get a job.

As unfair as it is, the only chance at salvation may lie with an individual's aunt, cousin, step-sister or neighbor. Let's face it, if you know the company president, you can rest easy. If not, you may have to resort to hauling dirt for uncle Leo.

Students shouldn't have to rely on nepotism or string-pulling of any sort to get by. The University should establish a more cohesive arrangement with the business community to

ensure that graduates can begin their careers right away.

Career Placement Services is the best thing UM-St. Louis has as far as helping students to land jobs. It sponsors job fairs and offers Resume Expert, a program that places students' resumes on-line.

If memory serves me correctly, though, the last job fair was September 26 of last year, from 2 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. in a second floor bathroom in Woods Hall.

Furthermore, the resume program

...if you know the company president, you can rest easy. If not, you may have to resort to hauling dirt for uncle Leo.

isn't free. For \$25, students can put their resumes on on-line. In theory, businesses can call up your resume and contact you if they are interested. This is fabulous. It gives students a

jump on the competition, but they are still guaranteed nada.

Moreover, some of the job listings posted on the bulletin boards outside the Career Placement office ask for applicants who possess good communication skills, creativity and a sound foundation in abnormal psychology. This is the criteria one must meet to be a clown at a children's birthday party.

Maybe I'm just nervous, but I want to know where I'm headed before I'm handed a diploma. I want my corner office, or my own cubicle, ready for me.

I want this University to give the same guarantee that Broadcast Center promises on its radio advertisements—"our graduates get jobs!"

That's what I like to hear. It's possible that I'm just wishing for a perfect world and looking for the easy way out, but students deserve more than just a piece of paper and a handshake.

For the tuition students pay and the enormous commitment given to this institution, they deserve something more than the opportunity of meeting someone who may someday help them.

The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

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Letters to the Editor

Student says faith is remedy for racism

Much is being written about racism in recent Current issues, but let me add some things about racism from the perspective of a follower of Jesus with the Bible as my frame of reference.

I read the impassioned letters and articles on racism, and I can understand the frustration, anger and hurt African-Americans feel as a result of being treated as inferior, second-class citizens. How they've suffered un-

fairly due to past slavery, prejudice and discrimination!

I recognize people's efforts to end on-campus racism, and this is commendable, but I firmly believe that the problem of racism runs deeper than behavior.

The Bible says that sin, which is rebellion against God, is the underlying cause of evils like racism (Mark 7:20-23). Attitudes like prejudice, which comes from the heart, can't be

changed by social action which is only putting a band-aid on a wound.

The remedy for sin is to put one's trust in Jesus Christ, God the Son, who once came into this world to give his life for our sin and to rise again. He made us to be at peace with social problems like racism. When we witness racism, we should speak up.

In our own lives, we should be examples of unconditional love and

understanding. Let us keep in mind that only Jesus can solve these attitude problems which spring from the human heart when one admits the need for God.

God's love is the greatest force that can conquer racism.

Lisa DeSherlia
Senior
General Studies Evening College

Election for editor

The Current is presently accepting applications for editor in chief. If you are interested, call Michael O'Brian at 516-5183 to find out how to apply. Applications are due by March 1.

Correction

In last week's issue, the letter to the editor titled, "Student says break-in was media ploy" was not written by April Marshall, although her name was signed on it. The identity of the true author is unknown. The Current regrets any inconvenience or confusion that this might have caused.

Letters Policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. They must be signed and accompanied with a contact number. All letters will be verified before they are published.

We're on the Net baby!

See The Current's home page at
<http://www.umsu.edu/studentlife/current/current.html>

THE RED MENACE

by Don Barnes of The Current staff

Allow me to share a recent dining experience with you. It was an average day. I had too much to do and too little time to do it in, so I decided on fast food for dinner. Because I was at The Current house, I figured the Wendy's behind campus would serve my needs. I'd been there many times before, and for the most part have been pleased with the service and product received there. Oh, how quickly things can change.

"I'll be back," I told the sports guys. La de da, ho hum, drive to Wendy's, order my food: a Monterey jack chicken sandwich and a medium frosty. Drive around please, yeah yeah yeah, here's my money. I had to wait a little bit, but that was cool because the music was good, aaaaand I figured my sandwich would be extra fresh.

La de da, ho hum, driving back to The Current. Slow-and-go through the stop signs. I get back, sit down at the news editor's desk (because, since I'm a peon in this place, I don't have a desk, and I can't fit in my mailbox), dump my bag and prepare to munch. A sports guy starts talking to me, and I look at him as I unwrap my sandwich. And then it happens. I face my food, ready to scoop-and-sloop, when to my surprise what I held was not a Monterey jack chicken sandwich but a pepper jack bacon cheeseburger.

"No no no no no!" "What's a matter?" asks the sports guy. "Wrong sandwich?" "Yeaaaaaaaah. Maaaaaan, can't believe this."

"Whatcha gonna do?" "I'm gonna take it back."

So I bagged it and again trekked to Wendy's—the one behind campus. I went to the inside counter this time simply because you don't handle complaints or returns at the drive thru window. It just ain't the right thinking thing to do. Well, they were pretty quick to figure out something wasn't right when I came through the door holding my bag filled with someone else's food.

"Can I help you, sir?" "Yeah. I was just here, at the drive thru, and I got the wrong sandwich."

There was a stir, a commotion behind the counter. They must have known they had given me the wrong sandwich. I heard a voice, distant behind the partitions that hide the truth of fast food service, say, "I told you, girrrl." The manager was visibly upset. Visibly upset. Nonetheless, she didn't offer me a free sandwich, or a free drink, or even much of an apology, and she had to think about whether or not to charge me the difference between the two sandwiches.

"Sorry about that," the girl who made the original mistake said as she handed me my order. "I'm kinda new."

Fair enough. These things happen. I drive back to The Current house, la de da, barely slowing for the signs. I think about how I didn't check to make sure they gave me the right sandwich. I was going to. But I figured no, they couldn't have screwed it up again.

Did I say that? What a meathead! I got back to The Current and what did I see, another bacon cheeseburger staring back at me. Jesus! Well, I was quickly becoming visibly upset. Visibly upset. Back in my car, back across campus, back to Wendy's—you know, the one behind campus. What stop signs? You should've seen their faces when I came back through that door, especially the one belonging to the two-time loser who was called the sandwich maker.

"What's wrong, sir?" "Wrong sandwich," I said, setting the bag on the counter, and walked to the back of the dining area and began pacing. She couldn't believe it. The cashier couldn't believe it (she was also kinda new). The manager really couldn't believe it. For some reason though, I wasn't having any trouble at all—believing it, that is.

PARTY IN THE STREETS

SOULARD HOSTS ANNUAL MARDI GRAS FESTIVITIES—ST. LOUIS STYLE

Story by Susan Benton
Photos by Susan Benton and Monica Senecal



PHOTO BY SUSAN BENTON



PHOTO BY MONICA SENECA



PHOTO BY MONICA SENECA



Photo: Jill Barrett

Juan Marclas (a.k.a. Brock Hanke) a member of the St. Louis area Society for Creative Anachronisms.

Where else can you go where public drunkenness is encouraged, self-exposure is endorsed and numerous other vulgarities are condoned? During the week of Feb. 10-17, there's no better place than the Mardi Gras celebration in the streets of Historic Soulard located in downtown St. Louis.

"This is the second year we've come to the Mardi Gras celebration," said St. Louis mother of two, Catherine Stevens. "The kids love the parade, the costumes, and of course, the beads."

The parade, which ended a week-long celebration of the New Orleans-inspired Mardi Gras, wound through the streets of Soulard and ended on 7th Street. It began at noon on Saturday, Feb. 17 and ran until 1:30 p.m.

Party-goers emphasized the Mardi Gras theme with brightly-colored outfits. Parade participants sported feathered masks and outlandish costumes, including wolves and clowns. The parade also consisted of St. Louis celebrities, including Q104.1 FM morning DJs, Steve and D.C. (the Mad Hoosier in tow), a live blues band and several area restaurants representing their businesses via floats. Live animals, decorated cars and the Anhuesser-Busch Clydesdales also contributed to the festivities.

The Soulard Mardi Gras, which has fast become a St. Louis tradition, drew a crowd of over 180,000 people last year alone. The celebration has become popular with patrons both young and old; however, the majority of the crowd was made up of the average college-age student.

From hot dogs to crayfish to red beans and rice (to \$3.00 beer), the New Orleans ambiance was full effect at the 1996 St. Louis Mardi Gras.



PHOTO BY MONICA SENECA



PHOTO BY MONICA SENECA



PHOTO BY SUSAN BENTON

Out of Time

The Society for Creative Anachronisms keeps the Middle Ages alive in the midst of modern life

by John Jones of The Current staff

Many people, once in awhile, wish to escape the tedium of modern living and jump into the adventurous past. Several hundred students and workers from all over the St. Louis area have done just that. They are called the Society for Creative Anachronisms (SCA); an anachronism being someone or something that is out of place in time. The Society attempts to recreate the Middle Ages through special events and weekly meetings. These weekly meetings are held on the Washington University campus.

At the SCA meeting, all manner of people from the medieval time period were represented. Peasants, Lords, Ladies, and Knights walked the hall, while conducting the business of a feudal court, like raising taxes (collecting membership dues).

Each new member of the SCA is required to research a medieval name for themselves, which is how they would be addressed by all Society members. They construct a realistic costume of the time period and are given rigorous training on customs and manners of the same time period, such as late fourteenth century Europeans. Once in the SCA, everything outside of the organization is considered "mundane."

"My name is Juan Marclas," said one Society member as he proudly displayed his homemade armor. "My mundane name is Brock Hanke."

One of the most exciting events that take place at a meeting is the medieval combat practice. The combatant "Knights" battle it out using padded "sword" and other "weapons". Knights call out "hits" every time someone is struck and a victor is later declared.

The "armor" is particularly interesting. Constructed out of bullet-proof plastic, Society members try to make it as real looking as possible. It also protects the combatants when fighting.

"At first, we tried out modern athletic padding," said Baroness Lyriel de la Foret, "but we found that our own medieval style armor actually works better with the kind of blows the fighters receive."

Along with the fighting competition is an arts and crafts contest. Men and women of the Society display their homemade tapestries and other handiwork that is based on crafts of the Middle Ages.

The Society for Creative Anachronisms has been around for twenty-five years and grows about a thousand strong each year. Almost every major American and Canadian city has a chapter. The Society is organized like a feudal government. Some cities, usually the larger ones, are "Kingdoms", and rule over many smaller "Baronies". The St. Louis chapter is called the "Three Rivers Barony" and owes allegiance to the kingdom of "Kalontir", based in Chicago.

The Society for Creative Anachronisms meet each Thursday evening on the Washington University Campus. They discuss upcoming events, news, and practice fighting.

le FILM SPIN
RUMBLE IN THE BRONX

by Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

Fans of early Bruce Lee movies should love Jackie Chan's new movie, "Rumble in the Bronx." Chan is a cult icon in his homeland of Hong Kong, where he is one of Asia's leading filmmakers. "Rumble in the Bronx" is Chan's fifth American film—his most visible American roles were in Cannonball I and Cannonball II—but Chan is partly responsible for the current interest in Hong Kong filmmaking.

Chan plays a tourist from Hong Kong who comes to New York to attend his Uncle Bill's wedding. Uncle Bill (Bill Tung) sells the family market, located in the South Bronx, to an unsuspecting buyer, Elaine (Anita Mui). Only later does Elaine discover that a gang of bikers have long terrorized the store owners. Jackie's attempts to help Elaine cause the bikers to become more destructive. One of the bikers steals diamonds from the mob, and

Jackie and the other bikers get caught in the middle.

In fine B-movie tradition, the plot is as amateurish and implausible as they come. For one thing, two neighborhood gang members buying diamonds from the mob seems comically unbelievable. Gang members in the South Bronx might be more interested in contraband they could sell closer to home, like drugs. Also, both Jackie's willingness to help the gang, as well as the gang leader's approval to involve the cops, are unlikely enough to cause the audience to laugh. Although an action film can compensate rather well for a weak plot, the plot in this movie is ridiculous enough to be distracting.

It is the action scenes that make an action film, of course. The action scenes in "Rumble in the Bronx" contain everything a person could want. They are fast-paced, innovative, and exhilarating. Chan combines the artistry of martial arts, creative stunts, and lavish camera work for arresting fight scenes. Chan does his own stunts, and the best part of the movie is the montage of outtakes shown at the end. Not only does the audience get to see how the stunts were performed (or interrupted by injury), but they also see that some of the most unrealistic stunts—such as Chan's 26-foot leap from a rooftop to a balcony across an alley—were not the result of camera tricks.

The movie succeeded where it needed to most, with the action. For this reason alone, you should see "Rumble in the Bronx" on the big screen. The scenes will lose much of their visual power on the small screen. Otherwise, the plot, the acting and the voice dubbing would make this a straight-to-video movie.



Jackie Chan stars in the action movie RUMBLE IN THE BRONX

• The Current Reviews •

Vell Bakardy
"Genuine Liqa Hits"

Going out and drinking are two of the main things that Vell Bakardy raps about on his debut release "Genuine Liqa Hits."

Vell hails from Kansas City Missouri and has toured the state extensively for several years. His hard work payed off when he signed a record deal with Wild West Records. It was a fine move for both parties.

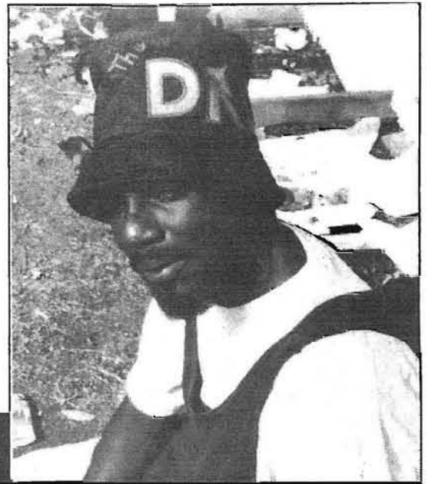
Most of Vell's lyrics are based on the fact that he loves to drink. Songs like "Drunk Bitches" and "Liqa Industry" only prove the point of his love

for the bottle. On "Drink Wit' Me" he tells a little bit of why he drinks so much.

*Why does the bottle scream out to me?
It calls my name when I'm not thirsty,
every single morning it shouts my name,
tellin' me to take my last and take a forty to the brain*

too much. That is it's only downfall. Look for Vell to keep tellin' his tales of gettin drunk for as long as he can keep the good lyrics and beats comming.

—Ken Dunkin



Vell Bakardy

Rap

Insane Clown Posse
"Riddle Box"

Clowns have long been the favorite part of the circus for many people.

But others like myself have found clowns to be kind of evil and wicked. In comes Insane Clown Posse — a pair of guys who play that "wicked clown" role to the utmost.

The Posse consists of Shaggy 2 Dope and Violent J. Both sport clown make up gone wild. Along with the crazy face paint, each dyed their goatees white. They are a sight to see.

Playing organ along with the normal music that goes



with circuses, the pair put together some crazy sounds. The best song on the disc is "Dead Body Man," a story about a guy who goes

around stealing bodies from graves. It is a morbid topic, but who said rap music isn't different?

*Dead bodies in the back of my van.
All the little kiddies love the dead body man.
I drive through my neighborhood ringin my bell.
Some people run cause they can't stand the smell.*

Another great song is "Toy Box," which tells of a lonely little boy doesn't have any friends, so he turns to making toys — toys

that murder people. He makes slinkies that strangle people and toy soldiers that shoot people or kill them with axes. The weirdest toy that the kid built was a rubber duckie that doubled as a grenade.

The disc is weird and sometimes kind of sick, but it does make for very interesting listening.

One thing is for sure, whoever wrote the songs for this disc is either the sickest person in the world or just has an over-active imagination.

—Ken Dunkin

Rap

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Rivermen take third

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

The Rivermen basketball team thrashed Northeast University Saturday 80-63.

The game was an important one for the Rivermen from a conference standings aspect and from the revenge aspect. The last time the two teams met, Northeast mauled the Rivermen 93-74.

"We had a personal vendetta against this team," Brandon Klaus said. "They took us last time at their place. I don't think we were really ready to play them then."

"Tonight, we knew what we had to do, win. This was a must win game for us."

"They had put a beatin' on us before," Kevin Tuckson said. "We weren't going to let that happen twice."

With the victory the Rivermen went into third place in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). They had been in a three-way tie with Central Missouri State and Emporia State prior to Saturday night's game.

Central Missouri lost to Missouri Southern and Emporia lost to Missouri Western.

"At this stage in the game all wins are big wins," Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said.

Throughout much of the game, the Rivermen clung to a 12-point lead. Northeast rarely got closer than that, but it was enough of a total to keep the Rivermen playing hard.

"They play very deliberately methodically on offense," Meckfessel said. "They don't give up many baskets in transition. They just hang around, and if a team is not playing well, they will, get you. They got Northwest Wednesday."

The Rivermen jumped all over Northeast in the first half. Led by Klaus they held a 39-31 lead at the half. Klaus was the team's high scorer with 12 points at the half. He connected on 4 of 5 3-pointers.

"You can't minimize what Bran-

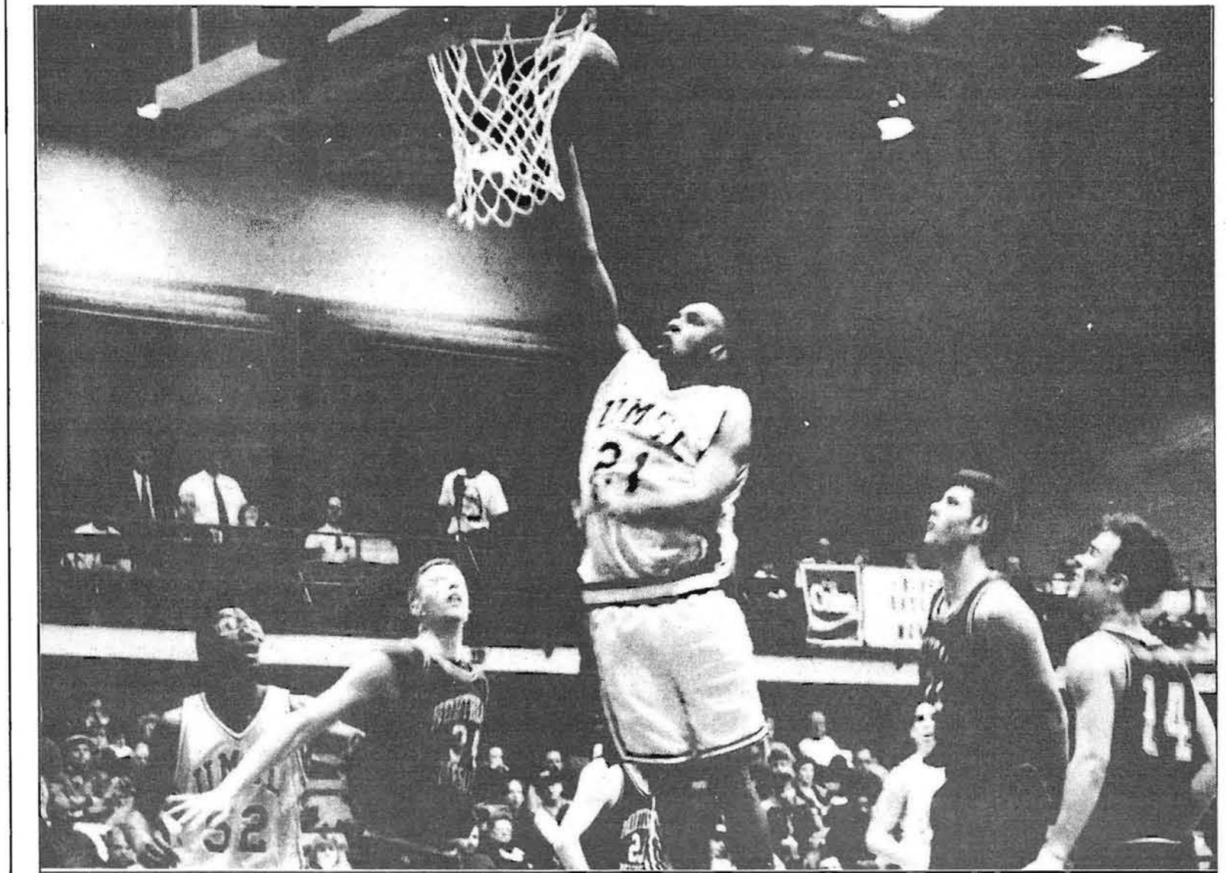


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Rivermen forward Rodney Hawthorne lays in two of his eleven points against Northeast Missouri State. Hawthorne also pulled down five rebounds in the game last Saturday.

don did," Meckfessel said. "If he only hits two of his 3-pointers we are up by only a couple and Northeast still thinks that they are in the game."

The second half found Tuckson being the cornerstone of the offense. He scored 14 of his 24 points in the second half.

"Tuckson played a great game," Klaus said.

"I just came out there and tried to do the best I could," Tuckson said. "I did what it took to get a victory, that's

all that matters."

Key for the Rivermen was shutting down Brian Basich. Basich scored 14 points in the first half. When Todd Miller began covering him in the second half, he fell to 10 points for the half.

"Todd had a great game," Klaus said. "He worked his butt off covering Basich. He helped us by shutting him down in the second half. Lawndale (Thomas) was having a little foul trouble so Todd had to step in."

The Rivermen pushed their record to 14-10 overall and 9-5 in the MIAA.

"We needed this one bad," Klaus said. "We just came out and put it to them."

Northeast came into the game with the worst conference record in the MIAA. They had a 2-11 conference record and a 5-18 over-all record.

The Rivermen will finish their regular season this week with two conference games. They will play Pittsburg State on the road and will

wrap up the season against Northwest Missouri State at home this Saturday.

"We just have to finish these last two games and see how it goes," Tuckson said. "We need to win the rest of the games and put the pressure on the other teams in the conference."

"When we come down and play Northwest we need to play well. Hopefully it will be a battle for first place. We'll just let the tie breakers decide everything then."

OFF THE WALL



Morrison KO'd

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

Tommy Morrison, that name means more and more to people every day since it was first announced that he had contracted the HIV virus.

I think it is really shitty the way the public found out about the "rumor" that he had contracted the virus. An anonymous source familiar with the testing in Nevada told the Associated Press that the reason he failed was because of him having the virus.

Well why wouldn't the guy give his name? This isn't a matter of someone scamming money that they shouldn't have or a potential trade this is someones personal life that we're dealing with.

I believe that the media mishandled the Morrison story. They needed to wait until it was confirmed that he had the disease, which it was a day later. It's called compassion, folks. Learn it.

This isn't to say that I feel sorry for the 'Duke.' I don't feel sorry for the guy. It is by my choice that I don't live the sort of life he led with the women, because among other things, the HIV virus scares the hell out of me.

His former manager had proclaimed Morrison a "bimbo magnet." Isn't it likely that type of life lead to his current condition?

How can he say that he thought it couldn't get to him? He stated in his press conference that he finally realized that this disease can get anyone. No shit, Sherlock. It got Magic Johnson, it got Eric "Easy-E" Wright, and now it has gotten Morrison.

It's a sad day in the sporting community, but no one should shed a single tear. People should instead, feel bad that such a disease exists. It's a mean disease that doesn't care who you are. It just wants to use up your body until it's dead.

What people need to realize is that Morrison knew of the risks. Such a little thing as protection could have saved his life.

It probably sounds like I dislike Morrison, but I don't. I like Morrison as a fighter. He is a hard punching bad ass who had a knack for beating the crap out of losers like Joe Hipp, and pounding on has-beens like George Foreman and Razor Ruddock. He is my type of fighter; slow, mean, and hard-punching.

He had class, that hard-working, strait-off-the-farm impression. People wanted to tag him as the 'Great White Hope' and say he wasn't a good fighter. His record finished at 45-3-1. I think that is pretty good, no matter what color you are.

The only good thing that can come out of it, though, is maybe someone will learn that HIV is not something you can toy around with.

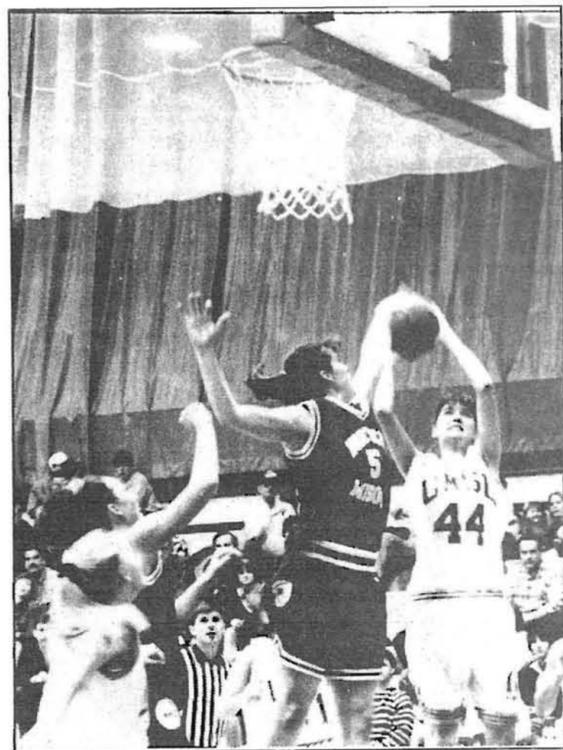


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Becky Pawlack shoots against Northeast last week. Pawlack had six points for the game.

Riverwomen drop the ball again in contest with Rolla

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team took the court with hopes of defeating in-state rival Rolla on Valentine's Day. Fate, however, told a different story.

UM-Rolla	38	22	—	57
UM-St. Louis	39	20	—	83

Rolla swamped the Riverwomen with shots that hit the mark while the Riverwomen struggled on each drive.

With 14:17 left in the second half, the Riverwomen were being overpowered 51-32. The repeated

turnovers and poor passing plagued the Riverwomen.

Applebury shot but hit the rim at 11:52, but was fouled and sent to the line with the scoreboard reading 56-36. Unfortunately she missed the 1-and-1 opportunity.

With 9:49 remaining in the contest, Applebury was fouled and sent back to the line. The Riverwomen were down 23, and Applebury made two of three free-throws.

Repeatedly throughout the night Jim Coen's team were called for traveling, thus placing the ball in the Miner's possession. With 8:32

SEE WOMEN'S B-BALL
PAGE 7

HIGH ON HOCKEY

Rivermen maul Ball State

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen Ice Hockey Club hosted Indiana's Ball State for a two game series at the U.S. Ice Sports Complex last weekend.

Ball State	1	2	1	—	4
UM-St. Louis	4	6	3	—	13

Starting in goal for the Rivermen was Team President Ian Mackie, who was nursing a groin-pull. This injury proved a non-factor until the second period, when Mackie re-injured himself, Chris Perkins came off the bench and into the net.

Team Captain Neal Diepenbrock's line, consisting of himself centering Andrew Strickland and power-forward Craig Herweck, started out the game and performed exceptionally in front of a crowd of nearly 350.

The scoring blitz began in the first period with winger Barclay Poole beating the Ball State goalie at 13:31. He was assisted on the play by linemates Brian Horn and Scott Altman. Strickland was next to score at 8:11; Herweck then got into the act with a goal at 6:15.

Ball State put themselves on the board at 3:44, but Strickland pin-pointed another weak spot of the opponent's goalie at 1:39, putting the Rivermen on top by three.

Diepenbrock broke in and scored at 15:09 on a feed from Mackie, and following the face-off at center-ice, skated in and scored again less than 30 seconds later.

Strickland eventually had a hat trick. He had one more goal in him before the match was over.

Things went smooth in the third for the Rivermen, and at 14:01, Strickland scored yet one more goal, a power-play effort with an assist going out to captain

Diepenbrock. Mike Olzowaka worked in Ball State's zone and scored an even strength goal at 13:10.

Head Coach Wayne Gholson was pleased with his team's performance for the night.

"We've beat them before and went into the game with high hopes. Good thing that we kept our heads in the game, despite all the penalties," Gholson said.

Ball State	2	1	0	—	3
UM-St. Louis	2	3	3	—	8

The first period action was slow but filled with numerous opportunities and open-ice checks.

With 4:24 remaining in the first, Diepenbrock again got the Rivermen

on the scoreboard on a shot from a pass by Herweck. Less than 30 seconds later, the puck was in Ball State's net again, courtesy of Diepenbrock on a wrap-around attempt.

Ball State struck back at 3:39 due to a defensive mishap in the Rivermen's zone, and scored again at the 1:14 interval on a power-play. Diepenbrock was issued a 5-minute spearing penalty and a game misconduct, Herweck a minor for roughing, minor for slashing, two consecutive bench minors, and a 10 minute game misconduct. Both were sent to the showers before the end of the first period.

"Those penalties were crap,"

SEE HOCKEY

PAGE 7

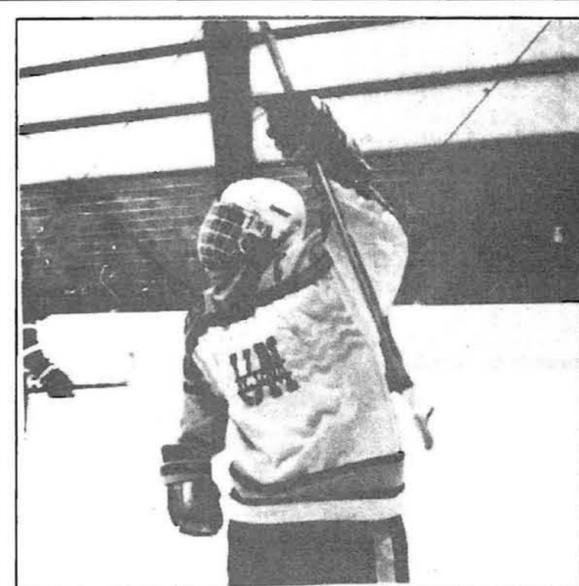


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Team captain Neal Diepenbrock celebrates a goal in the battle against Ball State Friday night.

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HOCKEY

Diepenbrock said. "I barley tapped the s.o.b. That's not the way I wanted to end the season."

With rookie center B.J. Grafeman planted in front of Ball State's keeper, Bartoszkiewicz shot a bullet from the blue line which found it's way into the net. The Rivermen then took the lead 3-2. Vicious slashes and trips followed, along with fights and ejections.

"He called a penalty on me when I was the one tripped," Strickland said. "I told him he'd better have an escort out to his car after the game 'cause I was after him. For that, he threw me out."

LeCour received his game-misconduct for dropping his gloves and attempting to incite a riot after Strickland's ejection.

"One of their guys was hacking at him (Strickland), so I asked him if he wanted to go," LeCour said. "He didn't."

At 4:08 rookie freshman Tim James blasted in his first goal of the season to stretch the lead to 5-2. Horn and Altman assisted on the score.

"After 20 or so games, it's cool to finally produce a goal," James said.

Dubicki netted his fourth goal of the season since returning to the line-up

in January at 8:45. With Horn in the penalty box for cross-checking, Hessel scored another short-handed goal at 6:03. Bartoszkiewicz assisted yet again.

"It was nice that the guys who don't get a great deal of ice-time step up, play well and score," Gholson said.

"We had a great season, and with a few additions, this team will be very strong next season. We lost a few players at the Christmas break, but we gained a few too. That's just part of the process when you deal with injuries. We've got a solid nucleus coming back, and we'll be ready."

WOMEN'S B-BALL

left in regulation, Rolla lead 68-44.

At 8:32 Logan was taken down brutally under the net and awarded two shots, she made them both. The score was now 70-48, Miners.

Logan awed the predominantly pro-Rolla crowd with some good moves driving to the net for the basket, bringing the Riverwomen two points closer. After Marzette's three pointer seconds later, the Riverwomen were down 78-53. But lost rebounds and lack of scoring during Riverwomen possessions continued to haunt the squad. The

final was 83-57.

"We should have come out first half as strong as we did for the second," Marzette said. "It might have been a closer game and we may have had the chance to win. The ref called a pretty good game, but this was an upset, and hopefully we'll be stronger in our next game."

Northeast	27	38	— 65
UM-St. Louis	20	24	— 44

Last Saturday the Riverwomen tipped-off against Northeast and lost

FROM PAGE 5

a game after tiring in the second half.

Logan led the team in scoring with 11 points and in rebounding with 11. Applebury had nine points, Becky Pawlack added six points and three rebounds, she also blocked one shot.

The seven point deficit at the half proved a problem for the Riverwomen. They were out scored by 14 points in the second half.

The Riverwomen were down by as many as 28, but were able to fight for a loss of 21 points.

"The kids are just making too many mistakes," Coen said. "You can't turn the ball over that many times without scoring and expect to win the game."

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Convisor Duffy visits UM-St. Louis

by Peter Adams
of The Current staff

Delta Sigma Pi, Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Club sponsored a representative from Convisor Duffy, a major national supplementary review program, to speak at the University of Missouri-St. Louis about various accounting licenses Thursday, Feb. 15.

Tim Hutt, the Convisor Duffy representative, spoke about how important and useful the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) review program can be for students who were overwhelmed by the certification process. According to Hutt, the preparation for the three major accounting exams, the CPA, CMA (Certified Management

Accountant), and the CIA (Certified Internal Auditor), can be a "pressure cooker," but the rewards are worth the sweat.

"With a CPA certification, you'll add 10 to 15 percent onto your annual income," Hutt said, "but most people don't even study for the exam. In the November 1994 test, 54 percent did not pass the exam, and 48 percent of the first-time CPA candidates didn't take a review course of any kind."

According to Hutt, the test itself consists of both multiple choice and essay questions, part of which are only applicable on tests, not real situations, Hutt said. However, it is necessary to them all to pass what seems to students an impassible test. Most students take

the certification exam two or three times before passing, and in a field so filled with detailed calculations and endless definitions, "it is easy to get behind."

The course, which is taught at over 170 locations nationally, is designed to assist students in various topics including taxes, business law, auditing and actual test-taking skills. At a cost of \$1,120, the 14-week program involves flash cards, pneumonics, and an interesting software program called the Passmaster Skill Building Index, which allows students to select the areas which give them the most trouble and get quick review sessions on those subjects.

In addition to information about Convisor Duffy, Hutt presented two

half scholarships to seniors Kirk Baer and Brad Edwards. These credits can be used at any time, wherever the program is administered.

Amy Tjaden, vice president of Beta Alpha Psi and campus representative for Convisor Duffy, said that the event was important because it brought several groups together to co-sponsor an event that was open to the entire student body.

"It's one of the first-of-it's-kind at UM-St. Louis," Tjaden said. "It's very important to the accounting students at this University, because by hearing about the review courses and getting more involved, it reflects better on UM-St. Louis. We'll be the ones to get certified on the first try."

DIRTY LOCKERS

treatment needed to be done, just basic sanitation techniques.

"It really indicates a lack of general sanitation," he said. "It could trigger allergies or cause a person with a scrape or cut to be exposed to infection."

According to Public Health Department standards, wet areas should be cleaned a minimum of once a day.

"The men's locker room looked as though it had not been cleaned for a long time," Smith said. "The sauna area hadn't been cleaned in over six months."

Athletics Director Pat Dolan said the athletic department was not at fault.

"It's a sanitation problem, not a programming issue," she said. "[Facilities Management] is responsible for clean-

FROM PAGE 1

ing."

All athletic teams and classes were cancelled for February 15-16.

David Martin, supervisor of Facilities Management, declined comment.

"I'm not technically prepared to answer any questions regarding this issue," he said.

Mark Tilley, junior secondary English major at UM-St. Louis, was disgusted by the conditions of the locker rooms.

"It's not very clean," he said. "I would never want to touch the walls. It makes me unhappy to know I can't use the facilities paid for by my student fees."

PLAYERS

grams with larger student demand.

"As I understood, the money wasn't there," Kachur said. "Our budget was \$25,000 a year, which is by any other standards quite modest."

After Kachur stepped down from advising the University Players in 1990, faculty involvement all but ended.

"When Barbara stopped advising, the plays ended up being completely student-run," O'Keefe said. "We, around 15 of us, directed, acted, built the sets, the costumes and we did all of the advertising."

Not long before O'Keefe ran for president of SGA in 1995, the club folded once and for all.

"We picked out plays to do for the following year but nobody really fol-

FROM PAGE 1

lowed up on them."

As rumblings of a new fine arts center filter through administrative halls, Kachur writes the facility off as a form of wishful thinking, a "Field of Dreams mentality."

"It's a judgement call whether we build [the fine arts center] and they'll come," she said. "I don't think that's the case."

"It takes awhile to get the word out," she said. "It's not the same as majors in other disciplines such as history or English. Certainly it takes time to build any undergraduate program and build majors, but when you talk about performance, it depends so much on the facility."

The Current Newswire

History help is here! Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society is sponsoring a workshop on writing historical papers and taking essay tests from the "history" perspective. Bring old tests, quizzes, and questions to Room 414 Lucas Hall, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. All students are welcome. Call Michelle at 516-5701 for more information.

Workshops for Communication and Writing Certificate interns and prospective interns to be held. Learn what supervisors really expect of their interns and how you can get the most from your internship on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Tuesday, March 5 in 201 Lucas Hall. For more information call 516-5816.

Everything's coming up roses... During "For the Love of KWMU," a Valentine's Day fund drive, \$103,737 was raised by KWMU 90.7 FM, as the station sent a total of 442 boxes of chocolates, 4,638 roses and 105 certificates for a night at a bed and breakfast on behalf of listeners who invested in the station. The amount of money raised is a 37% increase over last year's Valentine's Day fundraiser.

Lane to speak at St. Louis Art Museum. Dr. William Lane will be speaking at the St. Louis Art Museum on February 22 from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Dr. Lane is the author of "Sharks Don't Get Cancer. How Shark Cartilage Could Save Your Life." In his studies shark cartilage has been found to reduce the size of cancerous tumors.

Ashcroft seeks summer interns. U.S. Senator John Ashcroft's office will visit Career Placement Services on Thursday, Feb. 22 in an effort to recruit summer interns. Interested students should call 516-5100 for details.

Job Fair deadline approaching. The Gateway to Careers Job Fair will be held Thursday, March 14, in the Mark Twain Building. The deadline for students to pre-register Feb. 29. For details, visit Career Placement Services in Room 308 of Woods Hall or call 516-5111.

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SGA

ELECTIONS

Applications are now available in the Student Government Association office for the elections of the executive positions. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 8, 5:00 pm. Pick up your application at the SGA office. All candidates must attend a meeting March 8 at 5:00 pm. (Location to be determined.)

Student Government Association
262 University Center

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