

The CURRENT



The Commencement ceremony for January graduates was held Sunday at Mark Twain. Page 3

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Rivermen basketball makes strong showing in MIAA tourney.

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Photo: Monica Senecal

Cleveland Walton and his mother Regina Walton join hands for peace at the Martin Luther King Day Celebration yesterday at UM-St. Louis.

'Passing the Torch'

UM-St. Louis celebrates Martin Luther King Day with a message of hope for the next generation

by Susan Benton
of The Current staff

As the voice of baritone Leslie Johnson reverberated throughout the J.C. Penney auditorium, over 100 children of UM-St. Louis faculty, staff, students and community members joined in singing, "We Shall Overcome," in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15.

"The program takes place annually, so we have an observance for our faculty, staff, students and community to come and celebrate the holiday with us," Coordinator Deborah Burris said. Burris is also the Assistant Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity.

The theme for this year's event was "Passing the Torch, Igniting the Vision of a New Generation."

This year's program included motivational speaker, George Cotton, and a documentary on civil rights entitled, "You Can't Arrest Freedom," which gave a comprehensive look at the struggles for equality in East St. Louis, IL and St. Louis. Music by soprano Schanda Tierney was featured at the event as well.

For the first time, children had a chance to participate in the event.

"One thing that has really helped the program a lot this year is the element of youth," Burris said. "All of the schools are closed today to

observe the national holiday, so a lot of the parents bring their kids to the program.

We found that the program is so adult-g geared that we developed a second portion where the children are doing activities that are geared for their age level."

Over 100 children ranging in age from 3 to 14 were in attendance. The children were gathered into two rooms in J.C. Penney. They made birthday hats for King's birthday, learned about his "I have a Dream" speech, drew

a good time."

Co-sponsors of the event included the Black Studies Program, the Hispanic/Latino Student Association, the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, the Women's Center, and the Department of Anthropology. The School of Education was also involved and was responsible for coordinating the children's participation in the program.

"We had eight student volunteers, four professors as well as the Child Development Center, which helped supply things and gave us a lot of our ideas," said Helene Sherman, coordinator of children's activities for the event. Sherman is also the chair for early childhood development in the School of Education.

Burris was pleased with the turnout this year.

"When this event

is given the attention it deserves," she said, "faculty, staff and students will see that this is an important holiday for our campus."

Sherman was also pleased with the turnout of the audience and of the children, but encourages others to get involved. "I think it's a wonderful event," said Sherman. "I wish we could get more volunteers next year [for the children]. I think anyone who does it would feel really gratified and would really enjoy the kids. It's a great community experience for our university."

"One thing that really helped the program a lot this year was the element of youth. All of the schools are closed today to observe the national holiday, so a lot of the parents bring their kids to the program."

--Deborah Burris, Assistant Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity

pictures of what their dreams were and participated in physical education activities. King was very athletic as a child. The children also learned the song, "We Shall Overcome," which they incorporated into the end of the adult portion of the show.

"We're doing activities that help them recognize and realize who Dr. Martin Luther King was and the goals that he stood for," Cyrus Rodgers, assistant professor of education, said. "The turnout's been great and the kids are really having

Congressman Dick Gephardt defends student loan program at Honors College

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

Congressman Dick Gephardt, Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, defended President Clinton's budget and the Direct Loan Program to a packed house at the Pierre Laclède Honors College Convocation Hall Dec. 16.

"Everybody is for balancing the budget," Gephardt said. "The question is not where to balance the budget, but how do you balance the budget?"

The Direct Loan Program is one item that Gephardt and other democrats do not want cut from the budget.

"At first the Republicans wanted to eliminate the whole program," Gephardt said. "Now they would only allow those schools that participated in the first year of the program to continue to participate. UM-St. Louis would be kicked out of the Direct Loan Program forcing 3100 students to find other ways to graduation."

Gephardt said the advantages of the Direct Loan Program are: the

income contingent payment plan that bases loan payments on a graduate's income, faster payments to students waiting for loans, students can have a single lender that will take care of all of their loans and it is simpler to administer payments.

Other higher education cuts Gephardt expressed concern with were the elimination of Perkins Loans and Pell Grants for students who qualify for less than \$600.

"This is the last place we should be cutting funds from," Gephardt said. "In fact I think we should be increasing funds. Rarely can a college student afford to go to school on his/her own. What's particularly erroneous is that here they are trying to cut the neediest students of all: the ones who have the least amount of money."

Gephardt said that if the budget battle continues into mid-January

See Gephardt

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Photo: Monica Senecal

Greg Anello, Frank Richter, Blanche Touhill, Dick Gephardt, Lynda Koenemann, Sheryl Baehr, Brian Simmons, Wendy Verhoff and Todd Appel pose after the speech in the Honors Convocation Hall.

UM-System President fined for filing report late

by Susan Benton
of The Current staff

University of Missouri President, George A. Russell, has been fined for filing his personal financial disclosure statement 205 days after the deadline.

A fine of \$2,050 was assessed by the Missouri Ethics Commission after the report, due May 5, 1995, was turned in Nov. 22, 1995.

Under state law, the commission may fine violators \$10 per day for each day a report is late. Russell, who was unavailable for comment, had allegedly prepared and filed his report on time.

"[Russell's] report was filed way before the deadline," said David Lendt, University Relations director at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"Jim Snider, assistant to the president for government relations, took both his and the president's reports to Jefferson City."

Lendt said that the report was filed and delivered around February 12, 1995.

"It was hand-delivered so there would be no chance of confusion," Lendt said.

Instead, Lendt said, officials in Jefferson City lost the documents.

"There's no proof that the reports were delivered," said Lendt. "We had no third-party evidence showing that the reports even got

there. We're really kicking ourselves for that."

According to Lendt, the reports were again taken to Jefferson City and refiled. Russell was still required to pay the fine.

Lendt was quick to acknowledge that the mistake was no one person's fault.

"It's our word against theirs," he said.

The report requires public officials, officeholders and members of state boards and commissions to disclose their sources of income, and names of relatives who hold public positions and memberships on the boards of private corporations.

The sounds of music

The Whitaker Foundation awards largest grant in its history to UM-St. Louis and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

The Whitaker Foundation is bringing music to the ears of St. Louis area students by awarding \$400,000 to the Saint Louis Symphony Community Music School and UM-St. Louis.

This is the largest grant to be awarded in the Whitaker Foundation's history. Through this funding, students from the Lindbergh, Ferguson-Florissant and St. Louis City public schools will benefit from symphony musicians and UM-St. Louis educators who will be taking their skills into the school classrooms.

"This generous gift from the Whitaker Foundation allows us to expand our very successful partnership with the Saint Louis Symphony into a national model for cooperation between music educators and music institutions within their community," said UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill. "To bring this level of knowledge and expertise to these school children and their music teachers is truly an exciting venture."

This project is the first such effort in the nation. Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra Executive Director Bruce Coppock feels positive about the program's potential.

"This Collaborative positions the

symphony and UM-St. Louis at the forefront of music education," Coppock said. "It has the potential to serve as a springboard to full integration of the arts into our schools' curricula."

The pilot phase of the program, began on Jan. 1 and will last three and a half years. The Whitaker Collaborative will be offered at four different grade levels. The program will be evaluated on various aspects of student achievement over the three-year period of participation.

In conjunction with the Whitaker

See Grant

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A message of peace

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

Together we pay respect to the great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, whose life was cut tragically short 28 years ago. Together we attribute the accomplishments, and together we mourn the loss. Unfortunately, we mourn Dr. King's dream that has yet to actualize.

"It would be fatal to overlook the urgency of the moment," Dr. King said in his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech in 1963. "Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges."

The bright day of justice has yet to emerge. As a culture of significant numbers, the African-American community has yet to achieve comparable wealth, power or influence within our white-dominated society.

Our inner-cities are plagued with violence as many disgusted African-American youths turn to theft and murder in the face of a seemingly hopeless future. However, these are not the whirlwinds of revolt, but rather the logical processes of a system that continues to perpetuate racism and animosity because of the inequality within its own economic matrix.

"In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds," Dr. King said. "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."

Three decades later, many still must heed this message. There is serious tension between whites and

blacks. Look around at MetroLink stops and observe the segregation among people. Feel the awkwardness in communication as you speak with someone of another race. Experience the fear in urban communities while you wait for the bitterness of one to infringe upon your own rights regardless of your ancestry. Realize that you see a person's color before you have seen his or her eyes.

The failure of our ability to unite lies in the distrust of one another. Whites do not understand that blacks are trying to have the same opportunities as all Americans, and blacks do not understand that whites too want the annihilation of the ghettos. We must come together as one people under the common bond of our nation. The land under the suburbs is the same as the land under the slums.

This land is our land, and prosperity rests wherever a seed is sown to grow it.

Cooperative investment practices can bring much needed businesses into the African-American communities. Businesses bring community strength which makes the streets safer and necessary support for struggling families becomes possible. Businesses flourish; charities develop, and opportunities for jobs and transportation are produced.

"We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence," Dr. King said. "We must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."

The youth of the streets are neither aware of these words nor live by their teachings. Anti-white rhetoric is prevalent in the circles of N'goma where the elders of the highest class teach the middle class not to embrace the white community but to compete against it. Such is also the case with the teachings of Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam.

Certainly whites are no better.



The land under the suburbs is the same as the land under the slums. This land is our land, and prosperity rests wherever a seed is sown to grow it.



Who can blame dissent from the African-American community considering the way they have been treated over the last four hundred years. Even today, whether you're sitting in a south-city bar or in the dining room of many white families, you can hear insulting conversation and racial slurs that simply indicate how deep this mutual distrust runs in our society. The Ku Klux Klan is a constant slap in the face to African-Americans, and skinheads are equally objectionable.

"Many of our white brothers have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom," Dr. King said. "We cannot walk alone." These words speak the truth that we must come to realize. Today is the day to remember not only the leader Dr. Martin Luther King but his teachings as well. Together we can see a path for the future. Divided we see revolution and the fall of our great land. Just like Dr. King, I have a dream as well, and it is a dream that we may all find success together.

UPB should get their acts together

by Scott Lamar
of The Current staff

University Program Board (UPB) is the richest student organization on campus. They receive over \$69,000 in student activity fees each year. It is UPB's job to keep students entertained by scheduling events such as concerts, guest speakers and carnival-type functions. Unfortunately, UPB didn't produce

anything of note last semester. The biggest events were the bonfire on South Campus and Explosion in October. Both events generated sizable crowds, but they weren't very original. Expo occurs every year. The bonfire was a great idea and very successful, but a lot of universities do it.

One poorly planned event was the college bowl, a 4-member team trivia contest. This would have been good had it been stretched over two days rather than one. Furthermore, UPB president Jason Peery changed the rules of the game on the fly which angered some of the contestants.

For all of the money that it is allocated, more entertainment should be booked and better publicized. It isn't even a matter of getting a big time celebrity to come to campus. Plenty of local bands are lured to college campuses with little more than stale popcorn and creme soda. Having a band play every week on the quad would be nice. I don't think many people, outside of the administrators in the University Center, would mind listening to some sounds reverberating off of the buildings. Anything beats the monotonous clip-clop of one's own feet on the pavement.

For several weeks last year, many unheralded comedians performed in the Summit Lounge. The crowds were usually sparse, as former Current reporter Dan Holtzer noted, comic Nancy Norton "performed for a cheese sandwich, several book bags...and 20 or so students."

Persuading comedians to come here is only half of the job. Publicizing the performance is equally important. It is a slap in the face for an entertainer to perform for such a small audience.

Mirthday was perhaps the best event that UPB staged last year. It featured carnival rides, a musical performance, a dunking booth and a "bouncy" boxing ring. It was hard to miss, as it was located in between University Center and the main parking garages. It is doubtful UPB will sponsor the event this semester.

UPB is working on bringing Billy Joel to Powell Symphony Hall. Although nothing is official, bringing a performer of Joel's caliber to St. Louis could do nothing but boost the image of the University.

Despite the fact that Joel is a big draw, UPB shouldn't blow their wad on one performance, especially in a small venue half way across town. Furthermore, students would be charged \$12 for tickets. If it sold out, which it undoubtedly would, UPB would get back most of what it cost to bring him here, approximately \$40,000.

For around \$10,000, a quality comedian can be brought in to perform in the J.C Penney Auditorium. Albeit a huge chunk of the pie, a good comedian is almost always a crowd pleaser.

Poet Maya Angelou, who was sponsored by UPB, was a smashing success last February. She filled the Mark Twain building to the rafters. Similar events can and should be added.

Despite having control over so much money, apathy apparently hit the members of the board over the course of the semester.

There is no question that more work has to go into programming at UM-St. Louis. A \$69,000 allocation should be spent thoughtfully. If merely haphazard efforts are given, then perhaps UPB should be eliminated.

A better solution would be to pay some of the members of the board a salary, like the chief officers in SGA and the editors of The Current. This would serve as an added incentive to schedule and advertise a healthy variety of on-campus events.

It is a shame that a group with such a large sum of money to be responsible for be so insipid.

The campus should expect UPB to be more enthusiastic. Anything less should not be tolerated.



Letters to the editor

Honors College student says College Bowl was unfair

I captained a team in this year's competition. I have been involved in the College Bowl for three years and had the honor of representing UM-St. Louis at the regional tournament in Kansas in 1994. I was looking forward to a good tournament and was not disappointed. More teams were competing this year than ever before. It seemed that this would be the best tournament that UM-St. Louis had sponsored, but I lost this ideal as the day continued.

The first problem that I noticed was in the morning, before the tournament started. John Braccato, a long-time veteran of the College Bowl had shown up early and was waiting patiently for the contest to begin. But when time came for the teams to assemble, Braccato didn't have a team.

It was at this time that one of the major guidelines for the College Bowl was broken. Sigma Pi added Braccato to their team, even though the deadline for complete team rosters had passed almost five days earlier. Tom O'Keefe, captain of the Sigma Pi team and vice president of UPB (Uni-

versity Program Board), should have known this was against the guidelines, UPB sponsored the College Bowl this year, as it has in previous years.

The next problem was with the judges. Rather than having faculty members as officials, students were the officials. The only exception was Dennis Bohnenkamp, a member of the Honor's faculty, who served as the question reader.

I did not see a problem with this, at first, but when Jason Peery announced that he would be the judge, I knew there would be problems. Peery, the president of UPB, was a close friend of O'Keefe, and had been his running mate in campus elections for some time. I felt that this was a conflict of issues as well as a violation of College Bowl traditions and rules, which require experienced and unbiased judges, college faculty being the most preferred. To my knowledge, Peery had no experience in officiating an event such as the College Bowl.

The third and probably the most serious problem that arose during the

tournament was the change of format after the tournament had begun. When Aily Crow, the organizer of the College Bowl, assembled the teams, she stated that it would be a double-elimination tournament. As the tournament continued, however, Peery announced that the tournament was being changed to single-elimination. This after each team had played one match, guaranteeing each to at least two games. Not only did this punish the teams that had been victorious in their first match, but it again violated the guidelines of the College Bowl, which state that tournament formats cannot be changed in the middle of competition. As a result, Sigma Pi won the tournament having played only two actual matches, while every other team had played at least three or four games. Thus, Sigma Pi became the champions of the College Bowl tournament.

As the tournament ended, many of the teams seemed very angry over the change in rules as well as the weak record of the champions. I lodged an official protest of the tournament, on the grounds that the rules and format

of the tournament had been changed after the contest had already begun. I was explaining my complaint to Aily Crow when Peery overheard our conversation. He then proceeded to explain the situation to me. He asked me what my problem was. When I informed him, he grew angry and began to tell me the reality of the situation. He began by attacking my character, using some names better left unsaid as well as attacking the Honors College, an organization to which I belong. He stated that I had no reason to lodge a protest because even though the rules had been changed, the bracket had not. When I told him that the bracket that he had set up was incorrect and not a double-elimination bracket, he grew very angry. He said it was his tournament, he was the judge and my protests were invalid.

I hope that the tournament next year will adhere to the official rules and guidelines better than this year's, free of the detrimental effects of Jason Peery.

Michael L. Bardot

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JILL OF BEANS

by Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

Well, classes have started once again. I know that was a pretty profound observation on my part, but I am routinely surprised by the start of each new semester. I know it's going to happen eventually. I even know the date. I just have problems accepting the reality of it all until after the first week or so of classes. I think that is when I realize that the professors aren't joking, the syllabus is not a piece of fiction, and I'm going to be responsible for all this on the final.

Every semester is the same. I register for classes based on whim, tarot readings and random selection, always thinking that I can change my schedule after I've had time to really decide what I want to spend the next three months studying. Of course, after I register, I repress the fact that another semester is coming. I can never think past winter vacation, as if semester breaks are some sort of academic nirvana that virtuous, pious students achieve after seeking oneness with their final projects.

Even if this were true, I never receive the enlightenment associated with nirvana, because finals surprise me as much as the start of the semester. No matter how many years I've been in school, I never really believe that the finals will happen. At the beginning of the semester, they seem so distant; like a shimmering mirage at the end of a desert road that you fully expect to evaporate before you get there, but you actually end up running into it.

Finals are things that happen to other people; they could never happen to me. Usually, a couple of weeks beforehand, I start to accept that it's not just some idle threat. At times like this, I wonder why I stay in school, and I contemplate working for a living like everyone else. So I never am sure, deep down inside, that I will be back.

Thankfully, vacations cure any such doubts I might have. Time off from school is never the sand-filled, tequila-drenched, rockin' Fun-O-Rama MTV promises, although I always half-believe it will be like that. "Hey," I think to myself, "I just have to work. No reading, no classes, no papers. I'll just work, earn a lot of money, and have fun during all that spare time I'll have."

It isn't too long before reality smacks me in the face. I never earn that much more money than I do when classes are in session: work itself is mind-numbingly boring and sucks the soul right out of a person; and worst of all, work interferes with my social life. If I work during the day, I have to wake up at some ungodly hour and can't stay out late; if I work at night, I have to be there before any of the bands start playing. The indignity of it all!

What's a person to do?
Oh, yeah. School starts soon.
Cool.
What am I taking again?

Note: We regretfully admit that we were unable to obtain a byline photo of Jill before we went to press. Our apologies to her.



I found my thrill at Blueberry Hill

The spirit of the King haunts the University City Loop on what would've been his 61st birthday

by Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

Blueberry Hill brought a little touch of Vegas to the University City Loop Monday, Jan. 8. The occasion was Elvis Presley's birthday, and Blueberry Hill presented the twelfth annual Elvis Birthday Celebration. Legend has it that Joe Edwards' birthday party was the biggest outside of Memphis, and the party had been sold out for two weeks before the big event. The evening included a 2-hour live revue performed by Steve Davis and the Memphis Mafia, a trivia contest, an impersonator contest, and a 4-foot-long guitar cake.

Mike McDonnell, president of the St. Louis Elvis Fan Club, competed again this year in both the trivia contest and the impersonator contest. Winner of the trivia con-

test for three years running, he claimed he was not as prepared for the contest as in years passed. "Well, I didn't really review anything. I was too busy this year. I'm just going to wing it this year." He did know his trivia well enough to educate a fellow trivia contestant - a woman studying a cocktail napkin printed with facts about Elvis's movie career.

"Elvis returned to doing Vegas in 1968. That's when he decided to move away from movies and return to performing. That's the time period I'm doing my impersonation from," McDonnell said. McDonnell's costume was a simple black leather jacket with black pants and the trademark Elvis hair.

"This was the way he looked for his comeback," McDonnell said. "It wasn't until later he started with the rhinestones."

John Chrisos, another impersonator, took his Elvis persona from the later, flashier years.

Chrisos dressed in a red jumpsuit studded with rhinestones, white boots, and gold rings; "the way Elvis looked in about 1972-73." Chrisos competed in the contest two years earlier and bought his costume from Kay Murphey, a Collinsville woman who makes Elvis costumes for all your Elvis needs.

"This jumpsuit alone would have cost me around twelve hundred dollars in Memphis, and that's just the jumpsuit; that doesn't include the belt," Chrisos said. "I was able to get this suit, belt included, for around four hundred dollars. The boots were extra, of course."

Neither McDonnell or Chrisos harbored any ambitions to expand their Elvis role, such as becoming members of the Flying Elvis, who are a troupe of skydiving Elvis impersonators. "Nothing will get me to jump out of a plane," said Chrisos.

"I did meet [the Flyin' Elvis] the last time they came to town," McDonnell said.

'Three Tall Women' falls short on quality

Pulitzer Prize-winning play loses force on Rep stage

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women," that opened at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (The Rep) Jan. 3, gets high marks on concept but falls short in execution and entertainment.

The play, directed by Susan Gregg, uses an interesting tactic to illustrate the changes we go through as we grow older. The play depicts a struggle between a young adult woman, a middle aged woman and an elderly woman. The characters' bizarre interrelation is really all of the punch that this production has.

Though the play originally was a Pulitzer Prize winner, no one could have guessed it from this performance. The characters named A, B, C and boy come off as plastic as their names imply. Susan Erickson (C) is by far the worst of the bunch. Her expressions lacked any semblance of believability, and her robot-like presence on stage was so awkward you had to question whether she had ever attended a rehearsal.

Darrie Lawrence (B) and Judith Roberts (A) fair a little better on

stage than Erickson. Still there is little substance to their characters' personalities either because the dialogue just isn't there or because Lawrence and Roberts don't quite give the characters the life they need to affect the audiences' emotions.

The staging for the play is terrible. The three main characters form a triangle with a lot of space

substantially helped this production.

The set for the play is pompous and excessive. All of the action takes place in a bedroom. The room is furnished with what seems to be very expensive antique wares.

Maybe the stage design is supposed to give audience members something interesting to look at, but what it really articulates is how much money is vicariously wasted on a mostly boring production.

"Three Tall Women" will continue with Tuesday through Sunday performances ending February 2. The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis is located on the Webster University campus at 130 Edgar Road.

The play depicts a struggle between a young adult woman, a middle aged woman and an elderly woman. The characters' bizarre interrelation is really all of the punch that this production has.



photo: Judy Andrews

(from left) Susan Erickson, Darrie Lawrence and Judith Roberts star in Edward Albee's play *Three Tall Women* on the Mainstage of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

the UnderCURRENT

What does Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday mean to you?



"Commitment, courage and being successful in obtaining your goals."

- Carletta Washington
Grad. Student • Educational Adm.



"As an African-American male it gives me a sense of respect and pride in my heritage. I'm one of the living proofs of his dream and his struggles."

- Chris Burton
Sophomore • Music Performance



"It's a day that a great leader was born and now we recognize him, his accomplishments and things he has done for African-Americans."

- Devetta Oliver
Junior • MIS

"At the risk of being politically incorrect, it's a big pain because everything is closed."

- Lisa Glenn
Senior • History



FILMspin

Don't be a Menace

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

Gang movies have become a dime a dozen. From "Boyz In The Hood" and "Menace II Society" to "Juice" it seems that the idea of an original plot has become lost.

The Wayans brothers, Marlon and Shawn knew it was time to do a parody of these flicks. From that idea comes the new movie "Don't Be a Menace to South Central while Drinking Your Juice in the Hood."

"We started seeing the similarities in these films, the cliches in the themes," Shawn said. "Whenever a genre, like 'hood movies, plays itself out, that's when it's time for a parody."

The movie revolves around Ashtray (Shawn Wayans) and Loc Dog (Marlon Wayans), and their exploits throughout their 'hood.

The movie often features scenes that are similar to those in other gangster movies. In the beginning of the movie, Ashtray's mother returns him to his father, a scene similar to one from "Boyz In The Hood."

There is one huge catch though - his father is younger than he is. It is this type of dry comedy that fills this movie.

As the movie goes on, Ashtray and Loc Dog catch up with their two buddies Preach (Chris Spencer) and Crazy Legs (Suli McCullough). The scenes with Crazy Legs are the best of the movie. He is a paraplegic and has a custom-made wheel chair outfitted with gold-plated hub caps.

The friends eventually end up at a party being thrown for Toothpick (Darrell Heath), a trigger happy ex-con. While at the party, Ashtray meets Dashiki (Tracey Chelle Jones). Dashiki is the neighborhood slut; she has seven different kids, each by a different father. When Ashtray sees her, he falls in love and in time he makes it number eight for Dashiki.

The movie isn't that great. It lacks the comedy to make it a long-lasting box office success. There are some decent scenes but it isn't worth the \$6 for admission. The best bet is to wait 'till it comes out on videocassette.

The Current Reviews

Rap

Cypress Hill "III (Temples of Boom)"

Success hasn't come easy for Cypress Hill. The group has come a long way from their days of getting no airplay to their recent tour on Lollapalooza. The band has found a huge following.

They released "III" after a two-year break from recording new music. Their last disc "Black Sunday" had the huge hit "Insane in The Brain," their self-titled first release was an underground hit that contained "How I Could Just Kill A Man." But with this release, the band establishes itself as a force to be reckoned with.

"We wanted to change up our style a little bit," Cypress Hill member Sen Dog said. "If you keep doing the same stuff it gets old. And we knew that the Cypress Hill fans would like it."

The band has begun to use citars and other instruments that they hadn't experimented with before, and it really shows in

how different the music sounds. Along with their standard dialog, Cypress even sampled a section from the movie "Pulp Fiction."



we had used some samples from songs that had been released back in the 60s' and 70s'," Sen Dog said. The stuff was released and then pulled off the shelves way back when. The people that had the problems were just looking for money."

With all the sampling problems taken care of, the group decided to cut down on the number of samples that they would use on "III." DJ Muggs, the master of mixes and creator of the music for the group, sat in the studio for several months creating the music behind the lyrics. The result is a great variety of music

that shows the hard work that went into the beats.

"Muggs is a world-class producer," Sen Dog said. "He is one of the best DJs in the rap industry."

The front man of the group, B-Real, once again has those high nasal lyrics that have become a

mainstay of the group. He works best on the songs like "Throw Ya Set In The Air." The song, a pro-gang anthem, is one of the best on the disc.

The disc also has an appearance by Wu-Tang Clan member RZA on the song "Killa Hill." While the song isn't traditional Cypress, it is a welcome change.

The group has also leaned away from their traditional marijuana smoking topics on the new disc. They only discuss "weed" on two tracks, the better being "Everybody Must Get Stoned" a mellow song that would be a huge hit if it wasn't for the taboo subject matter celebrated by the song.

Over all Cypress Hill has grown up in several ways with this new disc. The band has grown from the days when they were wild and crazy rookies looking to find their niche in the music industry. They have set a standard which many new bands will have to reach to be considered successful. "III (Temple of Boom)" is highly recommended.
—Ken Dunkin

Rap

ONYX "All We Got Iz Us"

Onyx is one of a few hard-core rap groups whose members mean what they say and say what they mean. The group proves this on their second disc "All We Got Iz Us."

The group found themselves in the spotlight two years ago when their rookie release "Bacdafucup" went to the top of the charts. It was propelled by the song "Slam."

While the new disc lacks the mainstream power songs that the first disc had, the group still has street-thug mentality gone wild. From the opening skit "Life Or

Death" to the final song "Walk In New York," the disc features grim tales of ghetto lifestyle as well as hard-core beats.

The best song on the disc "Last Dayz" is classic Onyx. With their patented yells and menacing growls, the group finds that they didn't slip during their break - they got madder.

Think of takin' my life, I might as well
'Cept they might not sell weed in hell
And that's where I'm goin cause the devil's a psycho

The rest of the disc is just as angry. In the song "2 Wrongs" the group proclaims "t w o w r o n g s d o n ' t m a k e i t r i g h t, b u t i t d a m n s u r e m a k e s u s e v e n."

Even the great one-liners and the power behind the lyrics can't



carry the overall quality of the disc. Recommended only for those who liked their first disc.
—Ken Dunkin



photo: Adger W. Cowans

Marlon and Shawn Wayans menacing the big screen.

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OFF THE WALL



by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

It's funny how times change. Back when I went to Riverview Gardens High School I was one of the basketball team's biggest fans. Back then I was a sports writer for the school paper.

When I was a freshman, the Rams had a very good, young team. They had a 16-12 record. But the team always had problems with this big center from Ritenour High School, Eric Bickel. Bickel had the tools to lead a team even then and it didn't surprise me when he committed himself to St. Louis University.

Bickel was/is a big man with skill. In high school he was a highly touted player and was an honorable mention McDonald's All-America pick. When I decided to come to UM-St. Louis after graduating in 1994, I was pleased to find out that the big center who had given my school so much trouble was going to be a Rivermen. I was pleased and Bickel has worked well in the scheme of things. This year he has been one of the team's best players.

During my sophomore year, Riverview won the state championship behind the play of Herman Clay among others. I was/am a huge fan of Clay and his 3-point antics, but I'll be rooting against him Jan. 24 when UM-St. Louis plays Missouri Southern. Clay is the sixth man for the team. It's funny how time changes your loyalty.

After the state championship, the Rams returned three starters and most of the guys off of the bench. That being said, they were the picks to win state again. After rolling through the season and winning the conference again, the team ran into a stumbling block, Brandon Klaus. Klaus single handedly defeated the Rams by hitting 3-pointer after 3-pointer. The guy was on fire. We moved our 6'10" center Leon Clay over to cover him. Klaus didn't even adjust his shot he just continued to nail them. Desoto won the game 74-72. Klaus scored over 30 points.

I remember how much I despised Klaus after the game, he had, after all, won the game with his big-time shooting in the clutch. He had defeated MY team and destroyed the hopes of returning to the Hearn Center in Columbia for the high school final-four tournament.

But despite my anger, I still respected what the guy had done. He had defeated a defending state champion team. I knew his would be a name to remember.

Klaus would go on to score 44 points and set a state record for 3-pointers in the semifinal game in 1993. Despite his efforts and phenomenal 3-point shooting, Desoto fell to Jefferson City. They eventually finished in third place in the state of Missouri.

So as time went on I began to wonder where Klaus was at. That was about the time the new recruit list came out for the men's basketball team and to my relief Klaus' name was on the list.

Though he hasn't put up the numbers that he is capable of, his 5 points per game and 3.2 rebounds are decent. Given time and a chance to regain his touch, Klaus could regain his prior level of play. He is currently shooting 31 percent from 3-point range.

One thing is for sure, I would rather be rooting for these two than against them.

Rivermen basketballers taking names in '96 MIAA tournament

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team has found a winning touch in its first three games in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Conference, (MIAA). The Rivermen are 8-5 overall and 3-0 in the MIAA.

The Rivermen upped their record with a 83-82 victory over UM-Rolla last Wednesday. The loss dropped the Minor's record to 10-3. The Rivermen had led for most of the game by as many as 18 points. The Rivermen went down the streak of the game clinging to a three-point lead when Eric Bickel was hacked across the shoulder while trying to complete a lay up. He was awarded two free throws. The foul had injured Bickel and he wasn't able to stay in the game.

With Bickel leaving the game, the Rivermen brought in Todd Miller to shoot the shots. All it took was one free throw and the game was over. The Rivermen were up by 4 with 3.2 seconds left in the game. A Rolla player hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but the Rivermen won the game by one point.

"We played our best game of the season against Rolla, at least for 39 minutes," said Rivermen head coach Rich Meckfessel. "We had an 18 point lead midway through the second half. We got a careless and missed some free throws. There were a few turnovers as a result of carelessness."

It came down to us having to hit some free throws at the end. Luckily we hit them to ice the game."

Returning after a two-year layoff, Scott

Crawford led the Rivermen with 21 points. He also had five rebounds. Rodney Hawthorne led the Rivermen with eight rebounds.

The Rivermen are currently riding a four game winning streak. Their last loss was against Iowa State on Dec. 18. Iowa is a Division I school that was 6-1 when the Rivermen played them. The score was 76-63.

"We played very well against Iowa State," Meckfessel said. "We led by 5 at the half, and led by 7 with about 15 minutes left. They then just wore us down with their defense."

Iowa State managed to hold Bickel to a then season low two points and one rebound. Hawthorne came up big against Iowa. He had 15 points and 12 rebounds. Lawndale Thomas and Kevin Tuckson each had 15 points.

"It was the kind of performance that we're capable of," Meckfessel said. "They were getting votes for the Top-25 and they are 9-1 now. Even though it was a loss, it may have paved the way for the good things that have happened since then."

The Rivermen are 3-0 in conference play as a result of the victory over Rolla and victories over Missouri Western 73-71 and Southwest Baptist 84-75.

"We didn't play well against Missouri Western," Meckfessel said. "We were lucky that they had a few players suspended for the game."

"Against Southwest Baptist we played a little better. We made the shots down the stretch and won the game."

The Rivermen will return home to play Pittsburg State this Wednesday at the Mark Twain Gym. Game time is 7:30.

Rivermen drop last tournament game

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

The Rivermen lost their first game in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (MIAA) against Northeast University.

The Rivermen dropped the game 93-74 against the now 4-9 Bulldogs. The Rivermen

never seemed to be in control of the game. They were down 49-35 at the half. The second half wasn't any better for the team, as they were out scored 44-39.

A key in the Rivermen's loss was the

See Basketball

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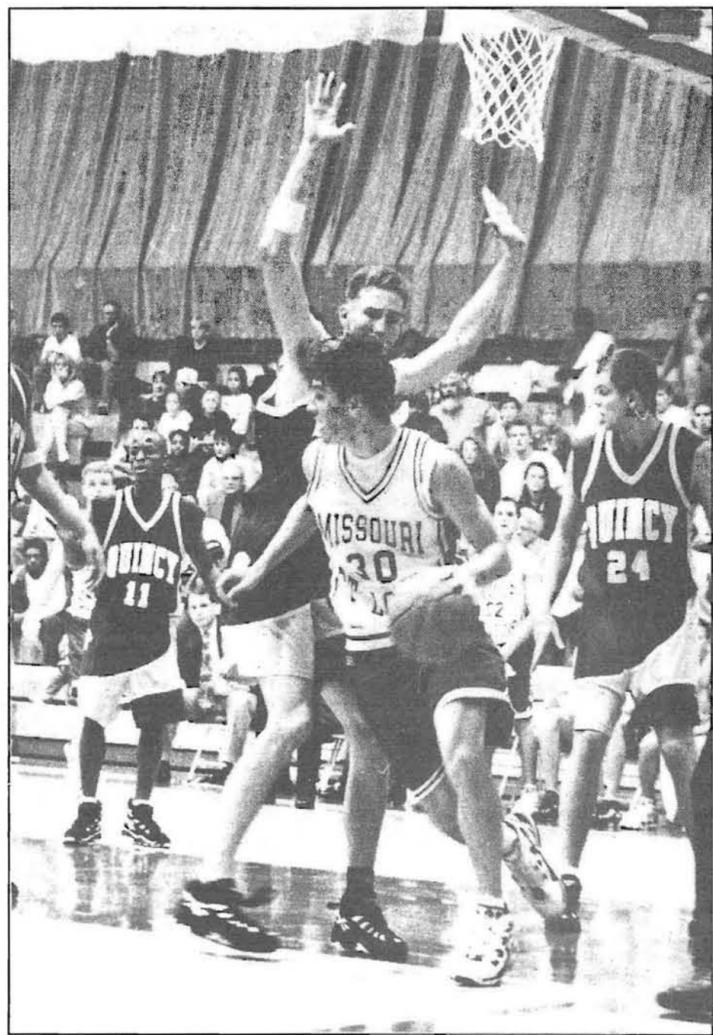


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Brandon Klaus (#30) looks to make a pass after pulling down an offensive rebound in a game earlier this season.



Photo: Ken Dunkin

Rivermen center Eric Bickel lays the ball in. Bickel is averaging over 17 points per game this season.

Rivermen Bickel-ball

A profile of Rivermen Basketball's starting center Eric Bickel

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

It's been a long road to success for Rivermen center Eric Bickel. He is finding success in his senior year just as he did in high school.

Bickel the 6'10" starting center has been one of the top players in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Conference. He is currently averaging 17.2 points per game and 8.2 rebounds.

"Eric is an important part of the team," Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said. "If you have a good guy in the middle, other team's defenses have to adjust, and that makes it easier for the perimeter players to get their shots."

Bickel is following the pattern he followed in high school by finishing up with a superb season. While attending Ritenour High School, Bickel was a key player in the success of that school's program. In his final season with the team he finished with an average of 13.5 points and 10 rebounds per game earning a first team all-conference selection. During that season the Huskies won the Suburban North Conference Championship for great play during the regular season. That conference is one of the all-around toughest

in the state of Missouri.

Bickel was a highly touted player coming out of high school and committed to Division I St. Louis University. The Bilikins had been lacking at the center and needed a player to build around. Bickel seemed to be the man for the position.

While at SLU Bickel played in 46 games. He averaged 1.2 points and 1.6 rebounds per game as a freshman and 2.1 points and 1.5 rebounds per game as a sophomore. The toughest thing for Bickel was he averaged eight minutes per game in his time at SLU. He sat out the 1993-94 season as a redshirt due to an ankle injury. During this time he decided that his future wasn't with SLU, it was at UM-St. Louis.

"I didn't feel like I was fitting in," Bickel said. "So when I really thought about it, I figured my education should come first."

While at SLU Bickel took several business courses. But SLU lacked a business program, UM-St. Louis has a quality program.

"I wanted to go into business education, and UM-St. Louis was what I was looking for," Bickel said.

Last season he averaged 11.7 points per game and led the Rivermen with

8.4 rebounds per game. He also had a team-high shooting percentage of 56 percent.

"I felt that Eric would be a 10-12 point, 8 rebound per game guy when he came here last season," Meckfessel said. "This year I knew he could get that up to 18-20 points and 10 rebounds. Were it not for injuries, his point total would be that high."

Bickel had suffered an ankle sprain in the first two minutes against Missouri Western. It was doubtful whether he would play against Southwest Baptist, because he had not practiced on either Thursday or Friday before the game. Despite the injury he went out and scored 20 points and had 8 rebounds against Southwest Baptist.

"Eric showed me some toughness by playing in that game," Meckfessel said. "He went out and played hard and tough basketball against Southwest Baptist."

With Bickel ranking highly in almost every offensive and defensive category, the Rivermen have found themselves at 8-5 on the season and 3-0 in the MIAA.

"Eric has seemed to want the ball more this season," Meckfessel said. "If he keeps it up he could have a very great scoring season."

Rivermen's Resolution for 1996: Score often to beat Mizzou

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

With the new year and new semester come many changes with regards to the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Hockey Club. To begin with, rookie goalie Ian Mackie assumes the position of team president after Neal Diepenbrock stepped down in December.

The Rivermen resumed their season last weekend at the U.S. Ice Sports Complex, facing off against UM-Colombia.

Back in the crease was Chris Perkins, and returning to defend him were Jason Hessel and Brian Diel. In addition, senior Glenn LeCour made his flight back from Canada in time for Friday night's game.

Appearing on the forward lines were wingers Barclay Poole, Andrew Strickland, Chad Bartoziewicz,

Mike Olszowaka and Chris Helbig. Centers Bryan Horn, Mark Hogland, and team captain Neal Diepenbrock also returned to lace 'em up for the contest.

Re-entering the line-up were Dan Dagenais and P.J. Rogers, both of whom took a sabbatical from the previous four games due to extenuating circumstances.

Lost from the roster were defenseman Lou Grabow and winger Chad Stallings. Grabow graduated last semester with a degree in accounting; Stallings transferred to the University of Dayton, Ohio.

Appearing for the first time in Rivermen uniforms were forward Scott Altman and defenseman Rob Tesson. Reappearing was d-man John Dubicki, who sat out a good portion of last season due to a broken hand sustained during a fight in a game in January of '95.

UM-Colombia 5
UM-St. Louis 9

Perkins got the call to mind the net for the Rivermen. Head Coach Wayne Ghoullson was down with the flu, so trainer Max Hinze coached in his absence.

"We came out and played tough, and scored when we needed to," Hinze said.

"We had switch some lines around to match the speed of some players, so Helbig ended up on the first line. This was the best I've ever seen him play," Hinze said.

Scoring for the Rivermen Friday night were Horn, Dagenais, and Dubicki, who scored with 44 seconds left in the game. Diepenbrock and

See Hockey

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Photo: Ken Dunkin

Andy Strickland takes a shot on goal against UM-Colombia.

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Busy break for women's basketball

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team had a busy Christmas and New Year's break. Head Coach Jim Coen's squad has played six games since the end of last semester.

UM-St. Louis 44 32-76
Missouri Western 46 53-99

The Riverwomen opened the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) play in Joplin, Mo., against Missouri Western Jan. 3. Despite senior guard Nikki Christ's season-high 22 point effort and a scant two-point deficit by half-time, the Riverwomen dropped the game by a final score of 99-76. Five-foot-seven guard

Deena Applebury added a career-high 20 points to the score, sinking five three-pointers.

Six-foot-one center Becky Pawlak hit 4-of-9 field goals, 2-of-3 free-throws, and totaled five rebounds in 21 minutes of action. Guard D.J. Martin added 6 points and four rebounds.

Southwest Baptist 35 44-79
UM-St. Louis 28 29-57

In the MIAA home opener against Southwest Baptist Jan. 6, the first five points of the game were scored by Riverwomen. Unfortunately, by half-time the Lady Bearcats had established a 35-28 lead. Freshman guard Charlee Dixon scored 17 points to lead the Riverwomen, and fellow freshman Denise Simon yanked down 17 rebounds, a Riverwomen 1995-96 season record.

The Missouri Western game marked the return of Simon to the Riverwomen roster. Simon had missed five games due to an automobile accident back in November. Within just 16 minutes of action, Simon had her hands on 12 rebounds.

UM-St. Louis 31 32-63
UM-Rolla 29 47-76

On Jan. 10 the Riverwomen took the court to battle UM-Rolla. Despite leading the Miners by 2 points at the half, the Riverwomen couldn't break the 63-point barrier by the end of the match, which is what was necessary to win. Christ tallied 18 points on the night; Applebury 16; Dixon 10; Martin 8; and Pawlak 5. The Riverwomen combined for 18 field goals and 23 free-throws

UM-St. Louis 24 30-54
Northeast Missouri 32 34-66

Last Saturday afternoon the Riverwomen were hosted by Northeast Missouri State. Applebury, in just 25 minutes of play, nailed five field-goals, 7-of-10 free-throws, and three from 3-point range. Simon contributed 12 points to the Riverwomen's score, with Christ following right behind with eight. Krystal Logan had her say with five points and eight rebounds. Martin fought for five rebounds, as did Pawlak. Freshman guard Michelle Hogan totaled two points and rebounds in eight minutes of court time.

The Riverwomen will be in action again this Wednesday in the Mark Twain Building to play Pittsburg State. Tip-off time is 5:30 p.m.

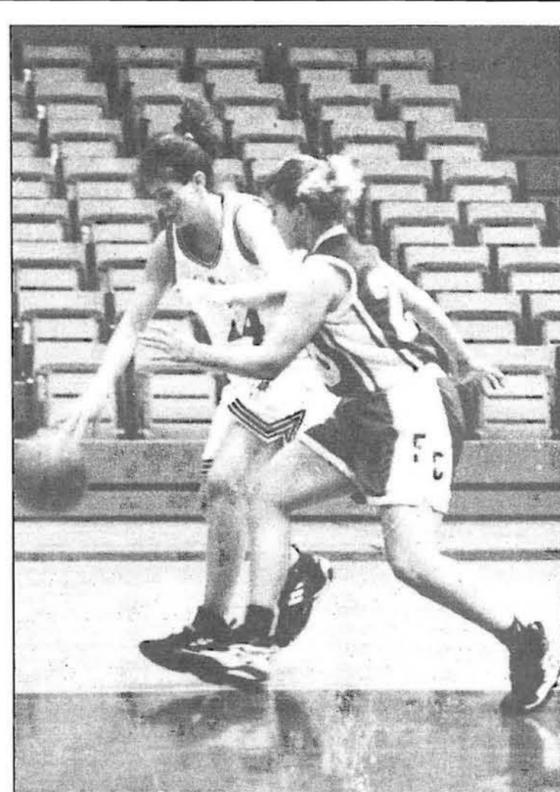


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Krystal Logan drives past an opponent attempting to score. The Riverwomen are currently 3-9.



Photo: Ken Dunkin

Charlee Dixon tries to fake a shot and drive to the hoop.

Hockey

Strickland both had hat-tricks on the night. "Perkins wasn't feeling all that well and had no help back in our zone," Hinze said.

UM-Colombia 6
UM-St. Louis 9

Saturday afternoon the two teams faced off again, and the result was the same: a Rivermen victory.

Despite Mackie earning the first penalty of the game, Strickland scored the first goal and was followed shortly after by Rogers. Newcomer Tesson jolted

Mizzou's goalie by netting his first goal in a Rivermen uniform. After giving up a goal, the Rivermen then struck back by means of Diepenbrock's nifty slapshot, which flew right into the net unmolested.

With LeCour, Hessel, and Diel all in the penalty box, Mizzou managed to beat Rivermen goalie Mackie three times. Thus, the score after two periods was tied at four a side.

After a brief second intermission, defenseman LeCour showed that not only can he impede opponents from scoring, but can score as well. With a feed from Rogers,

LeCour shot the puck in the net to give the Rivermen a 5-4 lead. Next up for scoring was Diepenbrock, then Dagenais for his second of the weekend.

Mizzou retaliated by beating Mackie once more, but LeCour reacted by scoring his second goal of the day, negating Mizzou's effort. LeCour's goal gave the Rivermen an 8-5 lead.

Dagenais felt he needed one more goal for the day, so with under four minutes left, he took a pass from Rogers and scored again. The Rivermen then suffered a defensive breakdown which resulted in

from Page 5

one more Mizzou goal, but it mattered not.

"The team responded well in the third period, even though we let Mizzou back in the game. Dan (Dagenais) had a great game, and Mackie made stellar saves over and over while we were short-handed," Hinze said.

The Rivermen travel to Indianapolis to battle Ball State University this weekend, so check the Current for scores and stats next week.

Basketball

from Page 5

Bulldogs field goal percentage. They shot 48 percent from the floor in the first half and 52 percent in the second half. The Rivermen shot 40 percent in the first period and a dismal 35 percent in the second half. They also shot a wretched 22 percent from 3-point range in the second half.

The team was led in scoring by Eric Bickel and Todd Miller with

15 points each Mark Lash followed with 10 points. They were led in rebounding by Bickel and Scott Crawford with six each.

The loss dropped the Rivermen to 8-6 on the year and 3-1 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). The win was the first in the conference for Northeast. They are now 1-3 in the MIAA and 4-9 overall.

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FIT-4-ALL M/W 5:30-6:30 pm Interval (lo/hi) aerobics with easy-to-follow movements.	W.E.T. M/W 5:30-6:30 pm (Water Exercise Training) This class combines water resistance exercises, aerobic activity, and strength-building for a total body workout.	BOX ROBICS M 4:30-5:30 pm Non-contact workout that utilizes boxing skills and challenges all components of fitness. Learn basic self-defense techniques and the power of internal resistance while burning fat, conditioning muscles, and increasing body and mind awareness.
AEROBICS/STEP CARDIOFUSION T/R 12:00-1:00 pm Lo/hi aerobics, stepping, and body sculpting.	T.G.I.F. FREE FRIDAY AEROBICS 12:00-1:00 pm (Thank Goodness It's Free!) Friday Aerobic classes will be free to all students, staff, and alumni!	FITNESS SERVICES •Body Fat Analysis •Nutritional Analysis •Individual Fitness Instruction •Complete Fitness Consultation
CARDIO COMBO T/R 5:30-6:30 pm A combination of lo/hi aerobics and step.	NEW NEW NEW SCULPT, STRETCH, & RELAXATION BODY, MIND, & SOUL T/R 2:30-3:30 pm Over stimulated? Exhausted? Over stressed? Beautiful soothing music will wash over you while you gently stretch overworked muscles. Complete with mind-body concepts such as progressive relaxation, guided imagery, and creative visualization.	FEES Students Fac/Staff /Alum Other 1 Hr \$25 \$40 \$70 Box Robics \$12.50 \$20 \$35 Chance Card* \$30 \$30 N/A * Chance Cards are worth 15 visits.
DANCE POWERDANCE T/R 1:30-2:30 pm The latest in dance moves, music, power, and motivation to give you an innovative and enjoyable workout.	BODY SCULPTING T-N-T T/R 6:35-7:35 pm (Tone and Tighten) Strengthen and condition the major muscle groups throughout the body with this non aerobic class.	

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A UM-St. Louis holiday wrap-up

by Scott Lamar
of The Current staff

There weren't many students on campus from mid-December to early January, but that didn't mean that the campus was a ghost town. Several events took place that are worth noting.

A reception was held to honor Bob Schmalfeld on Dec. 13. Schmalfeld was the director of student activities at UM-St. Louis for 14 years. Popular events such as Holiday Fest, Mirthday and Expo were the brainchildren of Schmalfeld.

Dr. Frederick J. Fausz, dean of Pierre Laclède Honors College, resigned from his position effective June 30. Fausz is credited with increasing the enrollment and course variety

of the Honors College. Fausz will remain at UM-St. Louis as a member of the history department. Dr. Roosevelt Wright, vice chancellor for academic affairs will appoint a committee to search for a new dean.

Pierre Laclède Honors College hosted an open house for students and potential students Dec. 15. The members of the Honors College went to Northwest Plaza and purchased gifts for needy children Dec. 1-2. They also went caroling in Bel-Nor to benefit the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association.

Four UM-St. Louis students and 15 other students from the three other UM campuses met with Gov. Mel Carnahan for the Governor's Leadership Forum Jan 2-4.

The University Staff Association kicked off the holiday season at M.P. O'Reilly's Dec. 14. Staff Association, family and friends helped themselves to free hors d'ourves at the "Holiday Get Together."

The Chancellor's holiday luncheon for the University, originally scheduled for Dec. 19, was held Dec. 20 because of the snow. Approximately 800 people were served turkey and all the trimmings while the Madrigal Singers entertained them.

Snow forced the campus to shut down again Jan. 2. See the newswire for upcoming events.

Grant from Page 1

Collaborative, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra will form a new branch of the Saint Louis Symphony Community Music School at UM-St. Louis.

The Whitaker Foundation supports initiatives and institutions that thoughtfully address needs in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Their current focus areas are strengthening the arts, improving parks and advancing medical care. The Foundation is particularly interested in projects in the focus areas that are neighborhood-centered or that significantly affect youth.

"We are delighted to be providing the seed money for the Whitaker Music Education Collaborative," said Executive Director of the Whitaker Foundation Betul Ozmat. "We believe it will improve the total educational experience for children in the St. Louis area."

UM-St. Louis and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra began a partnership in the fall of 1994. Together they provide four scholarships for African-American music students at the University. In addition, Claude Baker serves as an artist-in-residence at UM-St. Louis conducting advanced seminars for superior music students.

Gephardt from Page 1

then the Congress would have to pass another continuing resolution and the budget would become an issue in the 1996 election.

"This may be the most important issue election of our life," Gephardt said. "I hope that is not the case."

Gephardt followed by saying that we have the responsibility to make our opinions count and to vote.

"This is your government, your country and your student loan program paid for by your funds and the funds paid by your parents," Gephardt said. "Here at UM-St. Louis, over half of the student body receives some form of federal student aid. This year \$34 million in federal aid will go to this institution."

The College Democrats and the Pre-Law Club worked together to bring Gephardt to campus. The groups found out that the Congressman was interested in coming to campus from Student Court Chief Justice Frank Richter. Unfortunately, the information came too late to get Gephardt here until just after finals week.

Still the groups were able to get together a petition signed by more than 300 students concerned with cuts in financial aid. The petition and signatures were given to Gephardt by Pre-Law Club President Lynda Koenemann.

"Financial aid is an important issue to all types of students from all sorts of backgrounds," Koenemann said. "We agree with Congressman Gephardt that our young peoples future depends on their ability to function in an increasingly complex world, and the key is education."

Koenemann said that Richter was the link to getting Gephardt on campus. She said that he also worked to get most of the signatures on the petition.

Gephardt spoke for approximately 20 minutes then took questions from the audience. Afterwards, Richter presented the congressman with a UM-St. Louis sweatshirt on behalf of the groups involved in the event.

Gephardt was first elected to congress in 1977. Prior to that he served on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. During his speech he said that he still belonged to the Third Baptist Church located on Grand near the Fox Theatre.

The Current Newswire

LitMag deadline near. Saturday, Jan 20 is the deadline for submissions to LitMag, the campus literary magazine. Submissions of poetry, prose, photography and art are welcome from all students, faculty and staff. Call Bob Fritchey at 524-0858.

New officers for Staff Association. Jackie Lukitsch of the office of Public Affairs has been appointed to serve as president of the Staff Association for the rest of the 1995-96 school year following the departure of former president Bridget Brandon, from the University. Luanna Ewbank of the Graduate School office will serve as vice president, and Karen Crawford of the Chancellor's office will serve as secretary/treasurer.



Jackie Lukitsch

KWMU broadcasting short story series. "Jewish Short Stories From Eastern Europe and Beyond" is a new weekly series of short stories being broadcast on KWMU 90.7 FM. The series began Jan. 3 and is broadcast Wednesday at 8 p.m. with rebroadcasts Sunday at 5 p.m.

Colloquium to be held. The Department of Physics and Astronomy at UM-St. Louis will sponsor "The Nature of Faint Galaxies." Prof. Leopoldo Infante of the Universidad Católica de Chile will speak Fri., Jan. 19, 1996. Coffee will be served at 2:30 p.m. in Room 516 Benton. The colloquium will begin at 3 p.m. in Room 328 Benton.

International Seminar sponsored by the Center for International Studies. "Questionable Haven": South Africa as an Emigration Site for Freed Slaves and Their Descendants from America will be presented by Keletso E. Atkins, Ph.D., on Mon., Jan. 22 in 331 Social Science & Business Building from 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jane Gordon Schueler at Gallery 210. Gallery 210 in Lucas Hall will feature artist Jane Gordon Schueler from Jan. 16 to Feb. 17. Call 516-5976 for more information.

Rec Sports gears up for 1996. Men's, women's and coed teams are available for "Arena Football." The deadline is Mon., Jan. 22. The deadline for coed volleyball is Wed., Jan. 24. Teams consist of six players (three men, three women). Men's and women's basketball leagues will begin Jan. 30. Deadline for entry is Wed., Jan. 24. All registrations should be turned in at 203 Mark Twain.

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LitMag WANTS YOUR

- poetry
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For Our 1996 Issue



GUIDELINES

POETRY

Limit to 10 poems, no more than 1 poem per page, no line limit

FICTION

Limit to 5 works, no more than 20 typed, double-spaced pages each

FINE ART/PHOTOS

Limit to 10 pieces. Must be reproducible

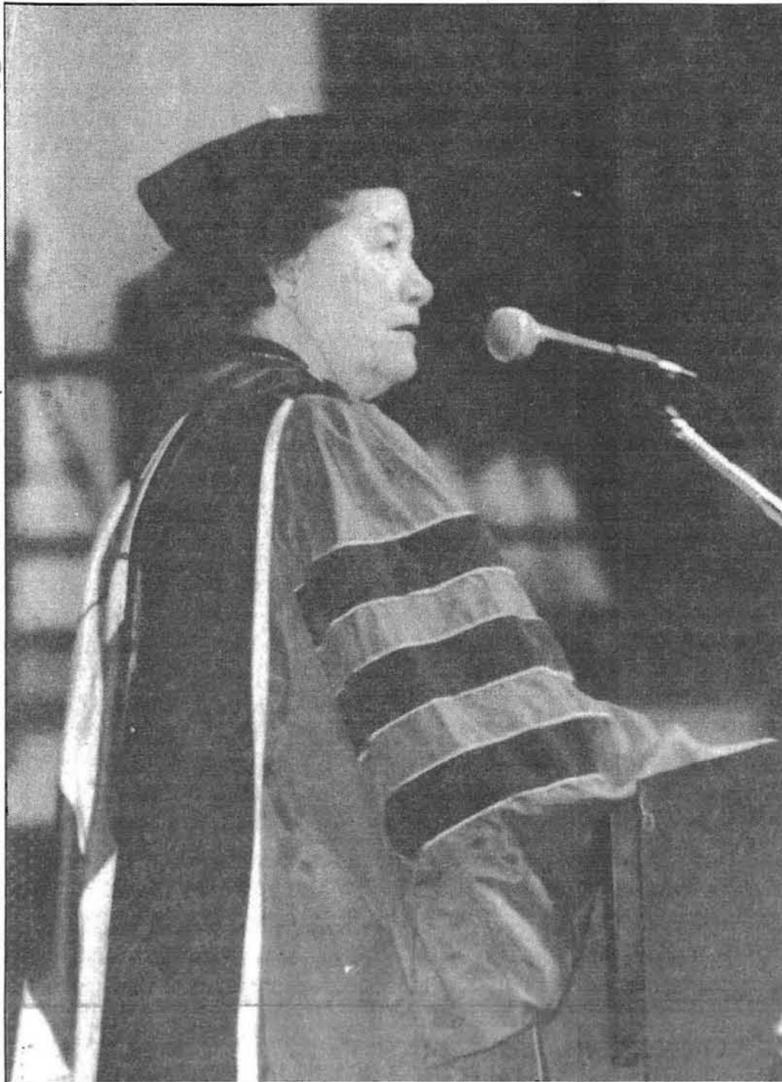
ALL WRITTEN WORKS must be typed and include a cover sheet with the author's name, address, phone number, student ID number (or other UMSTL position held), and major/department. This information should appear only on the cover sheet. Submit the manuscript with the cover sheet stapled on top to the submissions box in the English department lobby, 494 Lucas Hall. Submissions without proper identification will not be considered. No manuscripts will be returned. For more information call Mark Stratton for poetry at 516-7534 and Brian Jenkins for fiction at 988-3678.

ALL ART ENTRIES should be handled directly through the Art Acquisitions/Selections Editor, Cynthia Webber, at 878-7590. Final publication of all pieces will be in black and white halftones and scaled to meet page size requirements. Works selected may be displayed at the LitMag reception in the Spring. All artwork will be returned.

DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 20

WINTER 1996 COMMENCEMENT

Togetherness key to success



by Heather Phillips
of The Current staff

January 14 marked the date for Winter Commencement 1996 and a time for togetherness.

The afternoon began with Lois Pierce, master of ceremonies, introducing the graduates, faculty and staff.

Donald Driemcier, deputy to the chancellor, welcomed everyone. He said he was proud to be part of the University that will "provide trained men and women for the city of St. Louis, region, state and nation."

After more welcome speeches, Chancellor Blanche Touhill presented the key note speaker for the afternoon, Horace Wilkins, Jr. Wilkins is president of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company of Missouri. He has promoted the plan to create TeleCommunity Centers throughout Missouri and will be opening the first center here at UM-St. Louis

in the fall 1996. Wilkins is also active in the community. He is chairman of the Boy Scout Research, 1996 Fair St. Louis, and is vice chairman of the 1996 United Negro College Fund campaign.

Wilkins discussed the idea of togetherness. He told the graduates that they stood for the very best. They stand for the very best because they "have people to stand behind you and people who stand with you."

Wilkins had three suggestions for the new graduates. "Don't spend a lot of time trying to come up with the answers," he said. "Spend time trying to understand the questions and the problems. Make a difference by doing something. You will only be as strong as the partnership you form, so work together as a team."

The afternoon continued with the presentation of the graduates. Approximately 550 students received degrees.

The new alma mater of UM-St. Louis, "Heart of Missouri," was conducted by John Dill.

The afternoon ended with the recessional and everyone going to congratulate their friends and family.

Photos by Shelley Satke

LEFT: UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill addresses graduates at Sunday's Winter Commencement.
RIGHT: Hong Gu accends the stage to receive his Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry.



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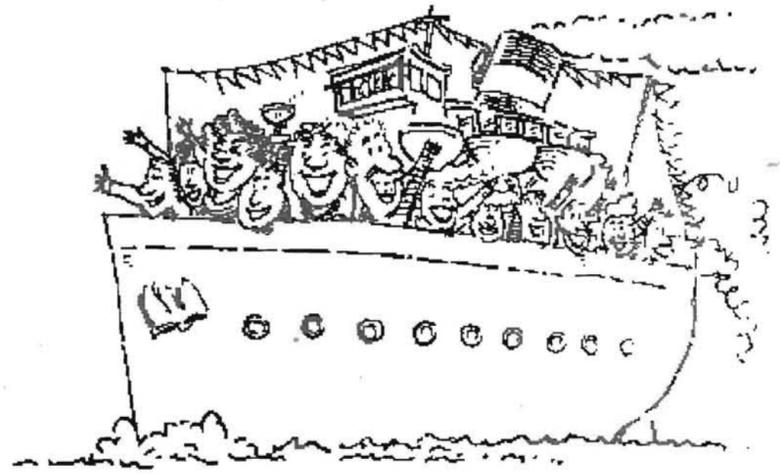
Honors College

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