

# The CURRENT



Belly dancers at UM-St. Louis? You have to see it to believe it.  
See Page 3

**EDITORIAL**  
Campus events exist but nobody cares. Find out why.  
Page 2

**FEATURES**  
UM-St. Louis will play host to The Second City performance troupe.  
Page 3

**SPORTS**  
Men's baseball has fun in the sun. Post 8-1 record in Florida.  
Page 5



Photo: Monica Senecal

Sophomore music major Chris Burton demonstrates his musical skills on the violin.

## UM-St. Louis Music Department sponsors student talent show

### Madsen heads search for University's finest

by Susan Benton  
of The Current staff

Musicians, actors and singers alike gathered in Room 205 of the Music Building March 22 hoping to secure positions in an upcoming showcase that will highlight UM-St. Louis talent.

The showcase, which is sponsored by the Music Department at UM-St. Louis, will highlight performances of all forms.

"We have a wide variety of acts," said Mark Madsen, producer of the showcase. "There's an excellent violinist auditioning. There are also a couple of [students with] mono-

logues and some singers trying out as well."

"We have everything from opera to Sting," said Stephanie Scherrer, a junior music major. "I think the showcase should be pretty good. The students who are trying out are taking it really seriously."

"This is a great opportunity to have other people who don't know me hear me play a little bit," said junior performance major Dale Hampton.

Hampton will be accompanying junior music major Christine Johnson who will be singing Sting's song, "The Shape of My Heart." He will also perform a guitar solo at the

showcase.

"The best part about this is that it's organizational," said junior Darin Johnson, who is a dual business administration and music performance major. "[The showcase] has a deadline, it's produced and it's all put together."

Madsen said he is pleased with the response to the auditions and is eager to see the final product.

"We are very interested in making this [showcase] an annual event," Madsen said. "We have a

**SEE TALENT**

**PAGE 8**

## Hunger Awareness Week gives students a glimpse of reality

by Scott Lamar  
and Monica Senecal  
of The Current staff

Although it's almost impossible to know what it's like to be a starving third world peasant or even a homeless St. Louisan. But many students were given some idea last week during Hunger Awareness Week.

A \$4 donation permitted students into a hunger banquet on Thursday in the Summit Lounge.

Participants were broken down into three world classes. Approximately 50 students were randomly selected to be a citizen of a first, second or third-world country.

A handful of students in the First-World group were served a full course meal. The middle group, about 10 people, received rice, bread, beans and water. The Third-World group, about 30 merely received rice and water and ate off pretend banana leaves (actually green construction paper).

SGA President Beth Tidlow declared the event a success.

"I was really pleased," Tidlow said.

"Most people were really receptive. It was a meaningful experience."

Titlow described the event as experiential. It's aim was to show people the inequality of the distribution of wealth in the world.

In addition to the banquet, students put money and food into baskets all over campus. The amount of money collected is not known at this time.

Donations will be distributed to Oxfam America and the St. Jane Center in Normandy. Oxfam is a non-profit organization agency that

gives disaster relief to African countries. The St. Jane Center provides area families with food and clothing.

Dennis and Betty Chitwood of the Newman House helped to organize the event. Betty Chitwood said it is better to get people involved rather than just hand them a flyer or mention it in passing.

"If you tell someone something, they will forget it," she said. "If you show someone something, they may remember it, but if you involve them in an experience, they will understand it."

Dennis Chitwood was equally

as pleased.

"Our intention was to heighten people's awareness of hunger," he said, "and I think we did that."

Several organizations participated in the festivities in addition to SGA and the Newman House. Also involved was Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Fraternity member Dan Nolte said he was thrilled to participate.

"I'm glad the Pikes could take part in this project," We don't realize how lucky we all are until we have an experience like the one the hunger awareness project gave us."



Photo: Monica Senecal

Junior Tawny Kasten gets a taste of what it's like to be a Third-World citizen during the hunger banquet last week.

## 1996-97 student senators briefed on their duties

by Scott Lamar  
of The Current staff

At a University Senate orientation meeting Wednesday, Senate Chair Lois Pierce encouraged newly elected student senators to come to the meetings prepared, but more important, just be there.

In the past, student senators have been infamous for skipping senate meetings. If the meeting Wednesday is any indicator, their poor attendance record won't improve. Only 10 of the 19 student senators attended.

Pierce said if the students aren't there, they cannot vote

on issues concerning students. Members cannot vote by proxy or absentee ballot.

"It's important for you to attend the meetings," Pierce said. "The last couple of meetings, not many students have been there. Sometimes issues come up affecting students, and no one is there to vote on them."

Pierce also instructed the students to prepare for the meetings by looking at the current agenda and the minutes

**SEE SENATORS**

**PAGE 8**



Photo: Michael O'Brian

An accident involving a school bus temporarily disturbed traffic on Natural Bridge Thursday. As a precaution, 12 students were taken out on stretchers, but none were seriously hurt.

## Late Show director visits UM-St. Louis

by Susan Benton  
of The Current staff

For over 30 years, Hal Gurnee took television programming to new heights.

Gurnee, who has been described as the most skilled live-comedy director in television, spoke at the J.C. Penney auditorium on Tuesday, March 19 at 11 a.m. Students and staff attended the lecture that featured clips from Gurnee's 35 years in television.

The clips began with excerpts of his early years on the Jack Parr show and continued through his eleven-and-a-half-year run on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show and the current *Late Show* with David Letterman. Gurnee retired from the *Late Show* in May of 1995.

Between clips, Gurnee fielded questions from the audi-

**SEE GURNEE**

**PAGE 8**

## University Players struggles to stand on their own One student paves the way for the theater club

by Mark Gahman  
of The Current staff

Junior Psychology major Gina Puglisi is attempting to revive the University Players theater club.

"People called me about the flyer I posted all over campus," Puglisi said. "They said they were interested, but then no one showed up for meetings." As president of the University Players, Puglisi is following her dream to put the club back together.

"All I need is a few people who are willing to make practices and

follow through with the production," she said.

Puglisi hopes to do a short one-act play after spring break and a full play next fall. So far, however, the plans are still on the drawing board.

"It is really all about campus culture," said Barbara Kachur, an associate professor of theater classes at UM-St. Louis. "There are a lot of programs that students can get involved with at UM-St. Louis, not as much as some campuses, but more than others. It is all up to the students to and how they want to get involved."

The club was formed almost two decades ago by Dennis Bettisworth. He took the University Players under his wing in 1973 in an effort to create a drama program. When he began teaching, speech/theater courses were in their initial stages of development, but after two years he obtained 105 Benton as the official theater and produced Moliere's *The Miser* and Jean-Claude van Itallie's *American Hurrah*. The University Players' president, Warren Solomon, directed the other production, Chekov's *Three Sisters*. Puglisi hopes to do the same thing

with the University Players in 1996.

"This is a great opportunity for English, Communication and Theater majors to earn a practicum as well as to have a lot of fun," Puglisi said.

"I can give a person credit for a practicum if they want to coordinate with me," Kachur said. "I had one student who directed an off-campus play, and she kept a journal with meticulous notes and received

**SEE PLAYERS**

**PAGE 8**

## Talking to the dead

by Michael O'Brian  
of The Current staff

When you ask people about politics, some say they like them; some say they don't. At UM-St. Louis, people say "Who cares?"

One of the things I was looking forward to, while serving as editor of The Current, was covering the Student Government Association Election. Election coverage is easy. There's conflict built into the competition, and photo opportunities abound during campaigns. In production you can blow up two or three photos of the candidates and place them in opposing positions across the page with nifty headlines and tags that articulate the battle to lead our campus.

However, there will be no such coverage this year. In this campus' most depressing expression of apathy, the student body surfaced one ticket for the SGA executive offices. Bob Fritchey will be next year's SGA president with Angela Hornaday serving as vice president and Ron Chamberlain as comptroller. The election, April 15-18, is little more than a coronation ceremony, as the three can only be defeated by write-in candidates (an outcome that is very unlikely).

Luckily for this campus, these three candidates are some of the hardest workers in the SGA. However with no opposition in the race, the student body is powerless to force this ticket to take any stand on issues. They have nothing to prove because a campus of 15,000 students couldn't produce even one candidate to challenge the ticket for the gauntlet.

Furthermore on Wednesday there was a meeting to introduce the newly elected student senators. For the second time in three years, there were not enough applicants to fill the 25 student seats in the University Senate. Next year there will only be 19 student senators, and inevitably many will not participate.

What is it people? Has the constant commuter-campus rhetoric eaten your brains? Is it just a given that UM-St. Louis students don't care about how they're treated or what goes on within their campus confines?

I can find no fault in SGA President Beth Titlow's attempts to get students involved. Titlow has taken a

number of innovative approaches to encourage students to act. She catered one SGA meeting, put together a heroic effort for homecoming, and she has taken several large advertisements in The Current to publicize upcoming events.

The administration, bless its faults, has certainly made grand efforts to foster a sense of community: the addition of University Meadows was a positive step, Chancellor Blanche Touhill has lobbied aggressively for the new student center, and student activities is currently passing out \$300,000 to 100 student organizations to give them the resources they need to succeed.

The Current has tried to fulfill its obligation to keep the student body informed: we have co-sponsored a number of events and activities, given prime coverage to on-campus functions, run countless announcements in "The Newswire," and we have participated in a multitude of events.

The problem, quite frankly, is the student body at large. You may not like this, but I have an obligation to give credit where credit is due. The reason that this campus feels so apathetic is because the student body (by and large) is apathetic.

Go ahead. Give me a list of 50 excuses why you don't participate. I've heard them all before: I have a job, two jobs, family, two families, kids, dogs, horses, monkeys, whatever?—I just don't have the time.

It's as simple as this; you only get to do it once. The college experience is only what you make it. Nobody's asking you to get involved because it sucks. We ask that you get involved because of the great things a campus community has to offer. There is literally something for everybody. People of all ages get involved.

Hisla has events that are for all ages. Your and your kids could try some hispanic foods, maybe watch some Bolivian dancers, and you could meet Alicia and David Friedrichs (married, working and have two children). Athletic events are fun and cost little if anything. University Program Board has sponsored a number of free events that have been thought provoking and interesting. These are only a sample of what's available.

If you don't get involved, what will you tell your grandchildren when they ask you about college?



## The right to life, liberty, and your AK-47?

by Scott Lamar  
of The Current staff

What are law-abiding citizens to do when they are about to be accosted by a carjacker or robber? Easy. They reach into their glove box, pull out an assault rifle, and blow the would-be robber to ribbons.

Of course everyone knows that this scenario is unrealistic. However, our representatives in Congress aren't thinking so rationally. Disturbingly, it voted 239-173 to repeal an assault-rifle ban enacted in 1994. The repeal would lift a ban on 19 assault weapons.

It is asinine actions like this that lead me to believe that our representatives have rarely, if ever, ventured out of their Capitol Hill offices. Even the likely Republican nominee to run against Bill Clinton, the uncharismatic Bob Dole, supported the repeal. Luckily, our president said

he would veto the bill if it gets as far as his desk.

The currently banned guns include the AK-47, TEC-9 and Beretta AR-70. A few of the banned models are used by the armed forces in numerous countries.

But we aren't talking about the military. We are talking about semi-automatic weapons in people's homes. For the most part, people who would buy these weapons are good people with good intentions and who can

handle their firearms properly. However, we can't trust that everyone will handle their Uzi with caution.

I think some of our representatives forgot why the guns were banned in the first place. Shootings on schoolyards, in fast food restaurants, business offices and in post offices are the reasons.

The 1989 shooting in California in which five children were killed by a man with an AK-47 should ring a

bell. As should the killing spree on the Long Island Rail Road in 1993. Events like these make headlines all over the world. People shed tears and listen in disbelief. Unfortunately for many, the pain wears off and we forget.

We can't be so naive to think that our representatives don't read the newspapers or watch CNN. They are indebted to the National Rifle Association (NRA). The NRA is a powerful lobby, powerful enough that Republicans felt a need to repay the organization for its generous campaign contributions.

Perhaps it's time Congress takes measures to reduce crime rather than help supply teenage urban armies. It's true that criminals will still have access to assault weapons on the black market, but that is not sufficient cause to make them available in any sporting goods store. Even with a rigorous background check, a few psychopaths will still slip by. Consequently, we won't realize it until they've already made the 6 o'clock news.

In fact, there is seldom a legal

opportunity to use an assault weapon. Most gun enthusiasts won't use an automatic weapon to defend their family or to go squirrel hunting. More likely, they'll use their assault weapon to kill themselves, their families or their co-workers after they've lost their minds shortly after they've lost their jobs.

Another possibility is that a gunowner's Colt AR-15 will get stolen and turn up in the hands of some miscreant gang member. Once on the street, these guns can be used to murder police officers and innocent bystanders.

It's sad that the NRA has so much influence over our lawmakers. For a few million dollars it can cloud legislators' minds with Second Amendment rhetoric long enough to pass ridiculous legislation such as one to lift an assault weapons ban.

It's a good thing the NRA doesn't support public ownership of hand grenades, nitroglycerin or missile launchers. If it did, those same 239 representatives might rationalize the need for those too.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

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To contact The Current  
call (314) 516-5174 fax us at (314) 516-6811  
mail 8001 Natural Bridge, St. Louis, MO 63121

## Letters to the Editor

### Student says people need a lesson on racism

I am an African American.

I am an African American with white friends who have questions about racism. They ask if their prejudice is racism.

Prejudice may be based on racism, misconception, envy, or the truth.

Misconceptions are lies that you hear from people. They are the bombarding of negative stereotypes about blacks that you read in the newspaper or see on television or hear on the radio. Misconceptions are easily dismissed when you discover the truth about certain false beliefs. I had a friend who had a hard time getting hired. After returning again and again he was finally hired. About 9 months went by when his white boss apologized for giving him such a hard time in the beginning. His boss said that he

was under the impression that black were lazy workers and that it would have been a big mistake not to hire him. The boss's perception had changed.

Prejudice could also be based on truth. If a person walks down Main Street and gets mugged by Asians, then they will be wary of Asians on Main Street. This is because they are truthfully being attacked by Asians on Main Street. Consequently, a little paranoia develops which is normal under the circumstances. In other words, such caution is common sense.

Prejudice could also be based on envy. I have been told by people wiser than I that jealous people behave just like racists.

What is racism? People have lumped so many petty things into it in

order to satisfy their selfishness that no one really knows exactly what it is anymore.

Racism is the belief that a species is inherently inferior. More simply, racism is the belief that a people are genetically subhuman like the animals. Chattel slavery was so cruel because of the racists belief that blacks were animals. This is why the KKK feels that blacks should be exterminated because they equate us with the cow or the turtle or the chimpanzee. Thus, the Klan feels that us monkeys are taking jobs away from the decent, hardworking, superhuman white folk of America and that we should be eliminated in order to improve the human race. These people place zero value on our lives. I feel that it is important that we realize this.

We have all used terms like nigger or cracker during periods of frustration and ignorance. Silly comments and name calling are just common human frailties. As Jesse Jackson said, "Blame them on our heads, not our hearts."

Finally, if our prejudice are based on lies or envy, perhaps we just need a little more understanding or more information or more Jesus. If our prejudices are based on racism, perhaps we need some psychological help and some Jesus.

Racism 101: lesson's over.

Kevin B. Howard  
Graduate Student  
Accounting

We're on the Net baby!

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



## Letters Policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief. They may be edited for length. They must be attributed and accompanied with a contact number. All letters will be verified before they are published.

THE RED MENACE



by Don Barnes  
of The Current staff

Please allow me a brief declaration before I dive in here. I do not claim to be a political, economic, social, or labor analyst. I'm just a guy—who thinks about things he has no right thinking about.

As you may or may not know, I try to avoid media news coverage at all costs. (Move a-way from the light.) But, as luck would have it, my one a.m. snacktime coincides with CNN's "Around the World in 30 Minutes," and through a recent encounter with this half-hour video blitzkrieg of just-how-bad-it-can-get I became aware of the now settled labor dispute between the United Auto Workers and General Motors.

From what I was able to gather from subsequent media scraps throughout the duration of the strike, the workers of a brake manufacturing plant walked out because General Motors was going to *outsourcing* (buying parts from non-union or foreign companies). The halt in manufacturing rippled across the nation, passing over St. Louis as it moved, until some sort of agreement was reached and the striking workers returned to their jobs. Close enough for my point.

Which is, you can't trust business. There, I said it, sue me. I don't know what it is, what gets into people. They call it greed, but there's got to be a chemical that kicks up somewhere when the teeth take hold. Why would General Motors want to make brakes in or buy brakes from other sources? Let me see? Could it be, hmmm, what could it be? What's that? Money? Of course! Silly me.

You see, those corporate head f\*\*ks who get the real dough don't give a damn about who's doin' what at the grunt level or how much they're gettin' paid for it. There's always somebody waiting to take your place at the rate you started at. And better yet, if they can do it in another country for what amounts to slave wages, alrighty for them! They can finally buy that island they've always wanted. Meanwhile hundreds of thousands of Americans are reduced to servant (not *service*) positions, creating a wider gap between rich and poor until one day the next form of slavery arises.

No, I don't have a name for it. I told you in the first paragraph that wasn't my gig. Nonetheless, odd that it should happen in America, isn't it?

There is hope though. The striking auto workers demonstrated that. General Motors, or any other American corporation, cannot move with the same mass as the consuming public and labor force upon which it relies. Your workers are buying your goods, and if your workers don't have jobs, who's going to buy your product? The Chinese? The Russians? The Brazilians? The Zulus? The Japanese?

Dre e e e eam, dream dream dre-earm dre e e e eam. . .

SHAKE it UP baby!

by Jill Barrett  
of The Current staff

A Saharan Sand storm blew into St. Louis this winter. Sahara Sand Productions is a belly dancing company created by UM-St. Louis student Michelle Sarver and recent graduate Jennifer Green. The goal of Sahara Sand Productions, according to Sarver and Green, is to present belly dancing as it should be seen — as an ancient art form.

"Jennifer always wanted to start her own company and both of us have danced for dance companies in the past that we feel were not very professional and we wanted

to change that," Sarver, a senior Philosophy major, says. "We developed our own format that stressed being professional, and being entertainers as well as dancers."

Sarver began belly dancing three and a half years ago after she and Green saw a performance at The Red Sea restaurant in the Delmar Loop. "We saw a red, veiled woman dancing on the patio. We all just pointed and said 'we want to do that,'" Sarver remembers. Green and Sarver started taking lessons at Just Dancing in Creve Coeur, and expanded their training by attending national seminars,

which they continue to attend. Seminars offer them the opportunity to learn from nationally and internationally renowned belly dancers.

Sarver and Green hope to become part of an international dance group that tours the state, educating children in elementary schools about dancing. "[The group performs] flamenco dancing and Tahitian dancing. It's



MICHELLE SARVER

JENNIFER GREEN

really a nifty thing. We're hoping that comes together," Sarver says.

Sarver also has taught belly dancing extensively. She teaches at the Jewish Community Center, and has taught for Emerson Electric Corporate Fitness Center. Sarver also attended Hebrew University of Jerusalem last year, and taught dancing there during her stay. While attending Hebrew University, Sarver visited Egypt, where she saw Lucy per-

best belly dancer in the world. I met her; had my picture taken and everything. She was fabulous!" Sarver says.

The Sahara Sand Dancers perform at birthday parties, children's parties, weddings, festivals, and national seminars. The response to the company, according to the owners, has been good since they formed in January. "Nursing homes really want us," Sarver says.

Students interested in seeing the dancers can catch them at the Mekong Cafe in the Upstairs Lounge, at 3131 S. Grand. The Mekong provides a relaxed living-room like atmosphere and the show offers a change of pace from typical live entertainment. Sarver and Green dance at the Mekong every second Thursday of the month, with the next show April 11 at 10 p.m. The cover charge is \$2. For further information, call Sahara Sand Productions at (314)205-2868.

Seeing the stars of tomorrow today

"The Second City" is coming to UM-St. Louis

by Michael O'Brian  
of The Current staff

Where do you go to see who will be the next Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner or Martin Short? You go to UM-St. Louis to see "The Second City" Friday, March 29 in the J.C. Penney Auditorium at 8 p.m.

This comedy event, sponsored by the University Program Board, will be an improvisational journey with some of today's rising comedians.

"The Second City" has been the starting block for a multitude of mainstream comedians including: Shelley Long, George Wendt and the Belushi brothers, John and James.

"If you dislike laughing until you cry," said Faith Benson of Madison's Night Sites & Sounds, "don't go to see the Second City National Touring Company."

"The Second City" opened in a shuttered Chinese laundry in 1959. From there the

road has been nothing but success. The touring company spends much of the year doing shows for colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

"I saw them on the mainstage in January," said Vice President of UPB Tom O'Keefe. "It was better than 'Saturday Night Live's' been in eight years. It was sketch comedy with an edge."

O'Keefe said that he had been a fan of "The Second City" for years and that the performance was everything he had hoped it would be.

On Thursday, March 28, "The Second City" will do an improv seminar on-campus for a limited number of students. Space is still available for that seminar, but interested students should call 926-4582 to reserve a space.

The evening show on Friday costs two dollars per person. O'Keefe ensured that the price is far lower than it costs to bring the comedy troupe to UM-St. Louis.



Members of The Second City National Touring Company are (clockwise): Ian Roberts, Mark Dalbis, Matt Walsh, Horacio Sanz, Maria Corell and Claudia Wallace.

the UnderCURRENT

If you could be a member of the opposite sex for a day, what's the first thing you'd do?



"Using my womanly wiles, I'd wage psychological warfare on some of the egotistical male chauvanist pigs just for giggles"

— Mark Gahman  
Grad Stu • Eng Mgt



"I'd go back to being a woman!"

— Jen Bullock  
Sophomore • Math and Secondary Ed



"I'd stare in the mirror and revel at being tall."

— Christy McQuality  
Freshman • Poli Sci



"I'd go back to bed."

— Kyle Pinkley  
Junior • Psychology

# The Current Reviews

Alternative

## Tracy Chapman "New Beginning"

New Beginning" is a fitting title for the latest release by singer/songwriter Tracy Chapman. On this recording Chapman takes an altogether different approach to recording than she took on her three earlier projects. She assembled a band of extremely talented San Francisco-area musicians to make the record and to join her on the supporting tour.

True to what fans have come to expect from her, "New Beginnings" finds Chapman pouring out her soul in songs of love, the natural environment, political climate and social injustice. Her compelling vibrato is nicely complimented by the new band's intricate rhythms as well as and by their backing vocals.

Noteworthy tracks include the hopeful Heaven's Here On Earth, the

passionate Smoke And Ashes and the affirming The Promise. The bluesy Give Me One Reason has made quite a stir on Top 40 Radio since being launched in that market February 26.

Though she'd been away from touring and recording for

some time prior to this release, Chapman doesn't seem to have lost any ground with her fans. "New Beginnings" is doing well on the charts, and her concert at the American Theatre March 16 sold out well in advance.

—Michael J. Urness



Tracy Chapman

# FILM SPIN



by Myles Shaw  
of The Current staff

"The Truth About Cats and Dogs" isn't a masterpiece. But as a romantic comedy about the beauty inside people, it's a perfect date movie and well worth the price of admission.

The Michael Lehmann-directed film brings the well-tread "Cyrano de Bergerac" theme into the '90's. The cast is hip and sexy; the comedy is politically correct. Ultimately, the movie can best be described as being cute. There is even a lovable pooch on roller skates. All right!

Abby Barnes (Janeane Garofalo) hosts a radio show that advises callers on how to better care for their pets. Witty and intelligent, she comes across as a confident and competent person. After a caller complains that her dog marked its territory in her bed, Abby retorts, "Have you checked your favorite shoes?"

Whatever her image, we soon learn that Abby suffers from low self-esteem. She charms Brian (Ben Chaplin), a photographer who's having problems with the aforementioned roller-doggy, over the airwaves. He calls her back to set up a date but errs in asking her what she looks like. Abby is short and thinks of her-

self as unattractive; she stands up Brian in fear of rejection. She also describes herself as being 5'10" and blonde.

The same night, Abby befriends her neighbor Noelle (Uma Thurman) who is a tall, blonde model. The next day, Noelle visits Abby at work when Brian shows up. In a serious error, Abby thinks it best to have Noelle pose as her.

This very silliness is the vehicle for the movie's action and gags. Abby and Noelle repeatedly try and fail to reveal their identities to Brian, who turns out to be charming, disarming, and generally desirable to both women. It's mostly a fun and funny ride as

these three weigh the virtues of friendship, romance and true beauty.

Audiences should leave their disbelief at home, however. That Brian can't figure out this game is unlikely, and Garofalo's on-screen persona simply sizzles. She's supposed to be ugly, but she's hotter than Thurman's Noelle. The situation grows old as well. This movie could have been an hour long. Fortunately, it doesn't exceed a curt 90 minutes.

"The Truth About Cats and Dogs" won't change the world, but it definitely stands as a nice way for couples to spend an evening.



Brian Chaplin, Uma Thurman and Janeane Garofalo star in the new Twentieth Century Fox release "The Truth About Cats and Dogs."

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# Baseball barrels out of the bullpen

by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

The baseball team has gotten off to a hot start after going 9-1 in their first 10 games, in part due to a great showing in their games in Florida.

The Rivermen played nine games in Florida and amassed a 8-1 record. The team started off the season by blowing out Teikyo-Marycrest 13-0.

"It was a very satisfying trip," Rivermen head coach Jim Brady said. "I think what was the most encouraging was the more we played the better we got. Many times you come out of the gate and play well the first day and then the jet lag gets to you. It seemed after every game, we got better."

The team rattled off win after win early in the trip. They defeated Bloomsburg 10-9 and then went on to defeat Pittsburg-Johnstown 12-4.

Andy Seal, one of the teams new starting pitchers, threw two shutouts during the trip. He shutout Teikyo-Marycrest in the opener and then blanked Bryant 21-0.

"He has to build on those two victories," Brady said. "He just has

to continually get better."

The team also found that their bullpen is perhaps one of their strongest points on the team.

"I am pleased with our relief core," Brady said. "Especially Darin Scott and Chad Thomas. They did an excellent job in Florida. When you have those forces down in the bullpen it makes your job a whole lot easier."

With the pitching doing their part the offense had to do their part. They did that and more. Including the teams 9-8 victory over Fontbonne last Thursday, the Rivermen had a team batting average of .356. And, the team has had quality performances from several players on the bench.

Joe Cooper has performed extremely well. He has been perfect so far this season. He holds a 1.000 batting average, two at bats, two home runs. He has driven in six runs, been hit by a pitch and walked once.

"I really wish I could get (Cooper) in the lineup more consistently," Brady said. "He is a good hitter. I was so happy for him. It

**SEE BASEBALL**

**PAGE 7**



Photo: Ken Dunkin

Ryan Reeves slides into third base. Reeves will be pitching in addition to playing right field.

## Riverman baseball season preview

by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

With only seven players returning off of last years record setting team, the UM-St. Louis baseball team will have to rely on some new faces.

The team is looking to improve on their great performance last season. It was a year in which they set a school record for wins and had three hitters driving in 40 runs or more.

"I think one of our goals is to have everyone of our hitters batting over .300," Rivermen head coach Jim Brady said. "I think this group

is capable of doing it."

The Rivermen are doing a good job of attaining their goal. Eight of the team's nine hitters are hitting above the .300 mark. The exception is Mike Masciangelo. Masciangelo has made it up though by walking 11 times. He also has the second highest on base percentage on the team.

The top of the order is very potent for the Rivermen. The Rivermen return their leader in batting average and RBIs with Josh Banks. They also return a solid bat in Dan Chinnici, who finished second on the team in hitting last season.

"With Chinnici and Banks there is a lot of explosion," Brady said. "Teams are real weary of those guys. Then you have Todd Schmidt in the four hole and Ryan Reeves and Tim May following. We have a potent attack. Overall we're not to be taken lightly."

The Rivermen have developed their batting techniques and should be a high scoring team.

"What I like about our guys is that for the most part they are pretty disciplined in the hitting zone," Brady said. "We're not swinging at bad pitches. When we swing we are swinging at a pitch that we want to swing at. We're making the pitchers come to us."

In Schmidt the team has a solid

defensive catcher and a player that developed into a good hitting player late last season. He finished with a .306 batting average last season.

"Todd has developed into the type of player that we had hoped he would," Brady said. "Todd knows that he is one of the premier catchers in the region, if not the country."

"He is going to catch a lot of games this year and he likes it. I told him it doesn't matter what you do, you could break both legs and both arms and your still going to catch the next game."

The pitching staff will have a new look as only Darin Scott is returning from last years squad. Reeves will join the rotation along with transfers Chad

Thomas and Mike Scott.

"I am expecting these guys to complement our hitting," Brady said. "We have some quality guys. I think they are just as capable as the guys that we had last season."

"I think one of our keys will be our ability to throw the breaking ball for a strike. At this point I am please but we still need to improve."

Though many pitchers will be used in the rotation, one player has a determined role, Chad Thomas will be the teams closer.

"Chad Thomas has earned the job of the closer," Brady said. "Chad has the make-up of a closer. He just has that closer's mentality."

## Tennis Everyone?

UM-St. Louis tennis team charging the net in '96

by Brian Folsom  
of The Current staff

With a new coach and a new attitude, the U.M.-St. Louis tennis team is poised to bounce back from a disappointing season and prove they can be competitive.

As the Rivermen get ready to begin their season, coach Rick Gyllenberg says the outlook is generally good. "We have a lot to prove to everyone," he said. "We really have our work cut out for us."

Due to many injuries, the team went 2-14 last year. This year they

will be a young, rebuilding team who will be looking to turn things around.

The tennis team returns two of its top players in senior co-captains Raffi Karibian and Matt Fagala. "I am really looking for these two to step up and be the leaders on this team," said Gyllenberg.

Karibian and Fagala are the only seniors for the Rivermen. The team also consists of one junior and six freshmen. "We are young," said Gyllenberg. "But that just prepares us for the future." Gyllenberg mentioned two freshmen Brandon Coleman and Craig Rogers who he is excited about watching develop and who will even help out a lot this season.

Gyllenberg has been coaching high school tennis for 25 years and welcomes the challenge of coaching on the college level. "It's exciting, but one of my main goals this year is for everyone to gain the recognition and respect for tennis at UM-St. Louis," he said. "I want to help to rebuild the program, change the image, and improve the quality of the team because they haven't won in a long while."

Gyllenberg said that the fans can expect to see a better, more polished team this season. "These players really fight hard and support each other," he said. "They give it everything they've got. And when they lose, it's not because of lack of effort."

The Rivermen are in a very tough, competitive conference and Gyllenberg says that his team is only two or three players away being able to compete.

"The better players we have, the better our team is, which improves the reputation of UM-St. Louis tennis, and we gain much recognition," he said. "That will even help the recruiting process, and we could produce a competitive team for



Photo: Ken Dunkin

The tennis team has a new coach and many new players. These additions should help them improve on last year's dismal record.

## Team morale high, RBIs low

by Eric Thomas  
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen softball team's 1996 season is in full swing, and despite recent losses, team morale is high.

On March 11 the team battled in a double-header against Lindenwood College and won the first game 4-0. But the tide turned during the next, and the Riverwomen were blanked 8-0.

"I do wish we hit better," Westling said. "But I'm proud of the women. They play hard the whole game, never give up and their effort always there."

"Altogether, we play strong and commit few or no errors, but in game two, we just fell apart, no concentration," freshman second baseman Shannon Humphrey said.

The team participated in the SIU-Ewardsville Cougar Classic Tournament on March 15.

The first team wanting a piece of the Riverwomen was Northwest Missouri State's Bearkittens. The Bearkittens lost 2-0 thanks to Nicki Kocis' pitching and RBIs by Michelle Hogan and Maas.

"Nicki's change up was working excellent that game," Riverwoman Jerri Maas said.

Kocis is also notorious for speed.

"After catching her pitches in practice, my hand hurts," Humphrey said. "She throws in the upper 50s."

Next up to bat was Hillsdale College, and despite the club's No. 1 hurler on the mound, they lost 4-2. Kocis had the victory going into the seventh inning, but three runs crossed the plate after two costly errors.

"Hillsdale was a good team, but we were better and should

have won," Humphrey said.

After a mis-throw at second resulting in a collision between Humphrey and the base-runner, causing both to eat dirt, and an overthrow at first, runners advanced into scoring position and subsequently scored.

"It was a real hard loss due to dumb mistakes," Humphrey said.

"You can't look at the record and make a decision on the team," Westling said. "We're starting six freshmen and two sophomores and they're not that experienced, but they are talented."

The following game was a carbon copy of the previous: the score was tied going into the seventh but it ended in a loss, this time at the clutches of the Central College of Iowa. The Riverwomen gave up three runs in the seventh inning and dropped the game 6-3.

Vicki Tepen pitched a solid game and sophomore starting catcher Audrey Kramme made good use of the lumber by smacking a home-run, the team's first of the year.

"Audrey hit that home run over fence and out of the park," Maas said.

The Riverwomen's next opponent in the tournament were the Indianapolis Lady Greyhounds. The Riverwomen lost the game, once again in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Kocis pitched tough game, but the offense didn't support her efforts.

"We couldn't get the bats going, and after couple of hits, they scored a run and that's all it took," Humphrey said.

The final game of the Classic pitted UM-St. Louis against the Quincy Lady Hawks. They defeated the Riverwomen 7-3.

OFF  
THE  
WALL



by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

Ever notice how you idolize the weirdest people when you're a kid? The trash truck driver, the school janitor, the local pimp? Well for me it was, surprise, surprise, former Cardinals second basemen Tommy Herr.

Now Tommy Herr wasn't the greatest player in the world. Actually he was just your average major league second basemen. Nothing fancy, nothing awesome, he just went out and got the job done (which, incidentally, has become my motto in life, "whatever gets the job done").

Well the reason he was my favorite player was his unorthodox batting stance. He had constant movement and he never seemed to be comfortable in the batter's box. If that wasn't enough he always had a big wad of gum in his mouth. Now if that isn't enough to impress your everyday eight year old, I don't know what is.

The best thing about Herr was that he was with the Cardinals for so long. He was a familiar face in the lineup. Even when players like Bruce Sutter, Darryl Porter, Jack Clark and David Green came and went into former Cardinal history, Herr was always there. For eight years he patrolled the second base position for the Cards.

Then came the worst day of my life (at least I thought so. Come on I was only 12), Herr was traded to the Minnesota Twins. The day I heard that I packed all of my Cardinal stuff up in one big box and swore my allegiance to the Twins. That lasted for about a week and then I started watching the Cards again. After all, no cable stations would ever show Twins games so it was pretty hard to be a fan.

Herr played for three more teams and then retired in 1992. And at the risk of sounding like a whiner, baseball hasn't been the same since. With no one to root for, I jumped from favorite player to favorite player. One week it was Mark McGwire, the next Jay Buhner, other weeks it was Will Clark. The most recent favorite player of mine was Cards pitcher Andy Benes.

But it just isn't the same. With Herr gone from the Cards and now out of baseball entirely my interest soon waned.

I guess my whole point to that crazy little story is the Cards need to handle the whole Ozzie Smith situation with care. Ozzie is more than just a player for the team. He is an idol to many fans, both past and present. He is the only player to have played for the team since their victory in the 1982 World Series, and he has a ton of fans.

Mistreating him and finally trading him would be the worst thing that this organization could possibly do. There would be just too many people that would pack up their Cards stuff and never get the box out again because they have other options in the Blues and the Rams. The Cards had better be smart.

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# Baseball Player by Player

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE 5

### by Ken Dunkin of The Current staff

Seven players from last year's squad have returned to the Rivermen Baseball team. The 24 players on the team will attempt to improve on last season's record.

Here is a look at each player.

#### Pitchers

**Mike Simmons**—A powerful pitcher who should be a top pitcher for the program. Finished with a 6-4 record last season at Johnson County Community College. Started 11 games and had a 2.69 ERA. Pitched a no-hitter in his first college start.

**Andy Seal**—A solid arm who should make a big impact in his first season on the team. Pitched last season at Labette Community College where he posted a 6-1 record on a 40-6 team.

**Trevor Whiteman**—A strong lefthander who should log many innings for the pitching staff. A highly coveted player out of the community

college at Chaffey. Posted a 4-1 season last season.

**Cory Sivumaki**—A hard worker who should provide instant help for a new look pitching staff. He was an outstanding performer at Spokane Falls Community College.

**Darin Scott**—The only returning pitcher from last year's squad. Scott will be used in a variety of roles this season, he will be mostly used as a set-up man in the bullpen. Pitched in eight games last season running up a 6.52 earned run average.

**Mike Scott**—A freshman from Kirksville. A big strong player who the program has high hopes for. Will be looked on to play a key role on the staff.

**Chad Thomas**—A pitcher who has a history of winning. Finished 7-0 with 9 saves while at Colby Community College last season. Opponents finished with .069 batting average against him. He finished with a 2.12 ERA.

**Jason Miller**—A player that has

had some shoulder problems that has held him from getting time on the mound.

#### Infielders

**\*Dan Chinnici**—A hard hitting player who has been an impact player for the past two seasons. Hit .424 his freshman season and .383 last season. Drove in 41 runs while getting 62 hits.

**Mike Masciangelo**—A newcomer who should make an immediate impact in the infield. Played last season at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz. Hit .370 and scored 56 runs, he also drew 48 walks.

**Brad Gilda**—A valuable addition to the squad who will add depth and flexibility to the infield.

**Mark Peterson**—A talented infielder who was hampered last season by injuries. Should challenge once again for the starting job at shortstop.

**Joe Cooper**—A big hitter who poses great hitting skill. Primarily a first basemen, he is caught in a log jam at

first as Chinnici is the starting first basemen.

**Curt Salata**—A solid newcomer who will see a lot of time in the infield. Hit .330 last season at College of Lake Community College.

**Mike Stennett**—Another solid newcomer who should get a lot of at-bats this season. Hit .336 with five home runs last season at Three Rivers Community College.

#### Outfielders

**\*Josh Banks**—An impressive player who returns after earning All-America honors last season. Hit .389 with 53 RBIs and 49 runs. Smashed six home runs last season.

**Joe Christian**—A hard-working athlete who can pitch and play in the outfield. Will provide depth at both positions for the Rivermen.

**\*Ryan Reeves**—A hard hitting player who finished with a .322 average. A hard-worker who will either start in the outfield or serve as the designated hitter.

**Greg Gilbert**—A returning outfielder who will see some action. Hit .211 last season as a sophomore.

**Brian Payne**—A strong hitter who could see playing time at third base in addition to the outfield.

**Chad Belding**—A speedy player who should make an immediate impact with the Rivermen. Played at Colby Community College last season.

#### Catchers

**\*Todd Schmidt**—A big factor in the Rivermen picture Schmidt will be the starting catcher. He hit .306 last season for the Rivermen hitting one home run and driving in 17 runs.

**Tim May**—A solid hitting player who will see action in a variety of positions. Helped St. Louis Community College at Meramec to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series. Hit .317 in the Series.

**Kyle Kohlberg**—A freshman who joins the team after batting .461 his senior season. Should be the reserve catcher.

couldn't have happened to a better kid. I'm still trying to figure a way to get him in there."

Greg Gilbert, a player who didn't see much time last season, also got into the action. He hit a three run homer in Florida.

"I think hitting that home run took the weight of the world off of his shoulders," Brady said. "But he ran around the bases so quick I don't think he had time to enjoy it. Going back on the plane Gil even got his name announced over the intercom for going yard."

"He's one of those guys that is here day in and day out. He gives you everything he has."

The only negative on the trip was the teams 12-2 loss against North Dakota. The team managed only two hits while giving up 11 hits.

"It is a game that woke us up," Brady said. "We didn't do the things we needed to do and I think we learned from that. Hopefully we will learn from this loss."

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## Student Government Association

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COMING SOON

**TALENT**

FROM PAGE 1

lot of talent at this University. I thought it would be nice to allow students to have an opportunity to perform."

The showcase is expected to last approximately an hour and a half. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium on April 27.

**PLAYERS**

FROM PAGE 1

credit for her efforts."

"The club is open to all majors, and no one is discriminated against," said Puglisi.

Asked about her direct involvement with the club Kachur said, "This is a student club. I will assist and advise but this is not a faculty run club."

The club meets every Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Benton Hall, Room 119 and any questions can be directed to Puglisi at 516-7310. Puglisi said she only needs about 10 people to pull off the production after spring break. She is willing to work around peoples' busy schedules as long as they do not quit or take the work lightly.

**GURNEE**

FROM PAGE 1

questions centered on Gurnee's tenure with *Late Night* and *Late Show* and with the shows' host David Letterman.

When students asked which guests were his favorite to have on the shows throughout the years, Gurnee was quick to reply.

"Jay Leno was fantastic," Gurnee said. "He would come on, he was prepared, he had a lot of funny jokes and he had an edge to his humor."

After an audience member asked Gurnee what his biggest screw-up ever was and who the most difficult guest ever was, Gurnee replied, "Drew Barrymore wasn't difficult. She was a sweetheart."

"By the way, that whole thing wasn't planned," he said, referring to a *Late Show* episode when Barrymore exposed her breasts to Letterman while doing a desk-top birthday dance for him.

Gurnee began his career as the assistant director and then the director of *The Jack Parr Show*. He has also directed numerous prime-time specials as well as *The Joey Bishop Show*, *The Jimmy Dean Show*, *The Garry Moore Show* and *The David Frost Show*.

In addition, Gurnee received an Emmy Award in 1991 for Outstanding Directing in a Variety or Music Program. He was nominated for an Emmy in 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1992.

**SENATORS**

FROM PAGE 1

from the previous meeting.

In addition, senators should listen to what their friends and classmates have to say. Senators do not represent a specific constituency, rather the student body at large, Pierce said.

"It's important to talk to other students because you are representing everybody," Pierce said. "The more helpful you are to the Senate, the more effective you will be as a senator."

Along with voting on issues raised in the senate, student senators are responsible for selecting and serving on various committees.

Senior Amy Taylor said it is extremely important for students to get

involved. Taylor, who is also an SGA representative for the biology department, said getting involved has made her college experience worthwhile.

**1996-97 Student Senators**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bryan Billy       | Daniel Dagenais    |
| Jason Liszewski   | Alice Stayton      |
| George Brier      | Danielle Duggan    |
| Daniel Nolte      | Jeffrey Stephenson |
| Tracy Carpenter   | Tina Fanetti       |
| Jessica Olmstead  | Timothy Sullivan   |
| Daniel Cella      | Joseph Knecht      |
| Brian Reed        | Amy Taylor         |
| Ronald Chamberlin | Steven Wolfe       |
| Rachel Reidel     |                    |

"It's good to stop and do something constructive," Taylor said. "I feel I know my professors better and that I'm a part of the campus community."

Freshman Daniel Cella is one of six members of the recently reprimanded Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity who serves on the senate.

"This is a good time to wake up and get involved," Cella said.

Ron Chamberlin agreed. "We are kind of down right now," Chamberlin said. "We are just trying to do our part."

In addition to being a student senator, Chamberlin is running for SGA comptroller.

Because 25 student senate seats are open each year, all 19 students who applied and met the minimum requirements were accepted.

The University Senate meets Tuesday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building.

**Got an opinion about something happening on campus? If so, voice it in a letter to editor.**

**The Current Newswire**

**A poetic glimpse into Hungarian Culture.** "The Necessity of Metamorphosis and Its Inevitable Consequences," a public lecture by Eniko Harmati will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 27 in the Convocation Hall at the Pierre Laclede Honors College on the UM-St. Louis South campus.

**LitMag donates surplus magazines to Literary Council.** LitMag, the campus literary organization, has donated more than 150 surplus magazines from the 1990-91 and 1992-93 academic years to the Literary Council of Greater St. Louis. The magazines will be sold in the council's annual bookfair which raises money to purchase additional tutorials that the Council uses in teaching reading and writing skills.

**Evening college receives two additional scholarships.** The Wednesday Club of St. Louis had donated an two additional \$2,000 scholarships to the Evening College for the 1996-97 academic year for a total of four scholarships worth \$8,000 (4 scholarships at \$2,000 each). The scholarship will go to undergraduate women of at least junior standing who have declared their majors, have completed at least six hours in the Evening college and who have maintained a GPA of 3.0. Applications are available in the Evening College Office, 324 Lucas Hall. The first two \$2,000 scholarships were donated for the 1995-96 academic year.

**Staff Association meeting.** A general meeting of the Staff Association will be held at noon Thursday, March 28 in Room 78 of the J.C. Penney Building. Guest speakers for this meeting will be Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill and Barbara Carroll, director of Human Resource Services. Call 516-5252 for details.

**Comedy troupe to visit UM-St. Louis.** The "Second City," a Chicago-based touring comedy troupe is scheduled to appear at UM-St. Louis on Friday, March 29 at 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Tickets are available in the Student Activities office for \$2. Call 516-5531 for details.

**Auction at UM-St. Louis.** Office equipment, computer equipment, furniture and a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice and other items will be auctioned off on Thursday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at 7800 Natural Bridge Road, South Campus. Items may be viewed from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27 and from 8 a.m. until sale time on Thursday, March 28.

**Annual awards Ceremony.** The annual African American Scholars Program awards ceremony and reception will be held at noon Thursday, March 28 in the Hawthorn Room of the University Center. Call 516-5194 for details.

**Workshop on intimacy and sexuality.** Pamela Moehl, student affairs coordinator, will discuss "The Impact of Type on Intimacy and Sexuality," from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, in the Women's Center, Room 211 of Clark Hall.

**Weightlifting contest scheduled.** Recreational sports will sponsor a weightlifting contest for students, faculty and staff at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in the weight room of the Mark Twain Building. Men's and women's competitions in a variety of weight classes will be offered. Pre-registration is not required, but participants must weigh in at noon on March 28. Call 516-5326 for details.

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in celebration of

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**Wednesday, March 27, 1996**

**12:00 P M**

**Hawthorn Room,  
University Center**

Invited speakers are:

- Chancellor Blanche Touhill**
- Dr. Vetta Thompson, Psychology**
- Dr. Francis Hoffman, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies**
- Dr. Edith Young, School of Education**

Contact UPB at 516-5531 for more information

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