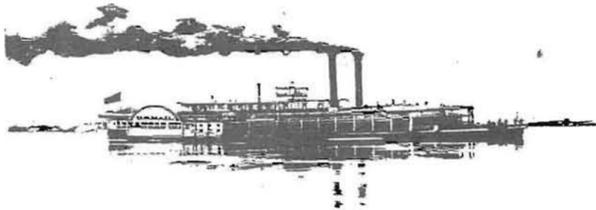




Speakeasies, craps tables and tommy guns roar into the Honors College.
See page 4.



Take a trip In(to) the Zone with Peter Woife and his new book. See page 3.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

Issue 887

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

April 14, 1997

Students learn first hand about disAbilities

by Bill Rolfe
news associate

Students found out what being disabled is like by experimenting with different simulations last Wednesday as part of Awareness Week, April 7 through 11.

During the week, four movies played in the Summit Lounge and in the University Center lobby. Marilyn Ditto, administrator for special student programs, said the movies—*An Angel at My Table*, *Hear No Evil*, *Blink* and *The Long Kiss Goodnight*—represented all the major disability categories, ex-

cept mobility and orthopedic.

The activities Wednesday included blindness, dyslexia and paralysis simulations.

The "Wheelchair Marathon" in the early afternoon was a scavenger hunt. Participants had to conquer activities that are normal for a disabled student such as picking up registration forms, add/drop forms and other essentials.

"The trick is knowing where the accessible entrances are and negotiating the campus," Ditto said.

Alice Stayton, a senior, was helping to run the activities in the University Center. Stayton said the wheel-

chair race was supposed to simulate "what you'd have to do if you were a disabled student."

Five people entered the race; the first three won trophies. Stayton's son, Jonathan Stayton, with sweat streaming down his face, rolled across the finish line first. Joe Dean came in second and Jeff Cawthor took third place.

Stayton, a freshman, said maneuvering the wheelchair was "more challenging than one would think." He added: "When the automatic doors don't work it's an extra challenge. It's something you normally don't notice standing up. If you hit the button and the door

doesn't open, then you can just open it yourself."

Stayton said elevators proved to be a challenging obstacle. He and another participant tried to get in an elevator at the same time, but the two wheelchairs would not fit.

Another simulation on Wednesday was the "trust walk." One person was blindfolded while another person guided. Alice Stayton said some students tripped over cracks in the sidewalk. "When you're not challenged, you don't realize the small obstacles,"

see Students, page 9



Photo by Ashley Cook
Jonathan Stayton (left) and Joe Dean find items in a scavenger hunt in Woods Hall.

Computer issue propels Avery in SGA election

by Jerry Weller
of The Current staff

Jim Avery took over 62 percent of votes cast in the April 7 and 8 elections, as he won the Student Government Association presidency by a comfortable margin of 291 to 173 votes.

Avery said he was pleasantly surprised by the final vote count.

"I feel like I put a lot of hard work into this campaign," Avery said. "I did expect victory, but not necessarily by as much as I won."

Avery said his victory is a mandate from the student body to do something about the way their computer fees are being spent.

"The students have spoken," Avery said. "The vote shows that they are concerned about computers."

During the campaign, Avery promised students he would find out how student computer fees are being spent and demand accountability from administrators. Avery also promised to develop an SGA home page on the Internet where students could contact him directly with their concerns and to work toward making faculty evaluations available to students.

Avery's opponent, Barb Collaso, was gracious in

see Avery, page 9

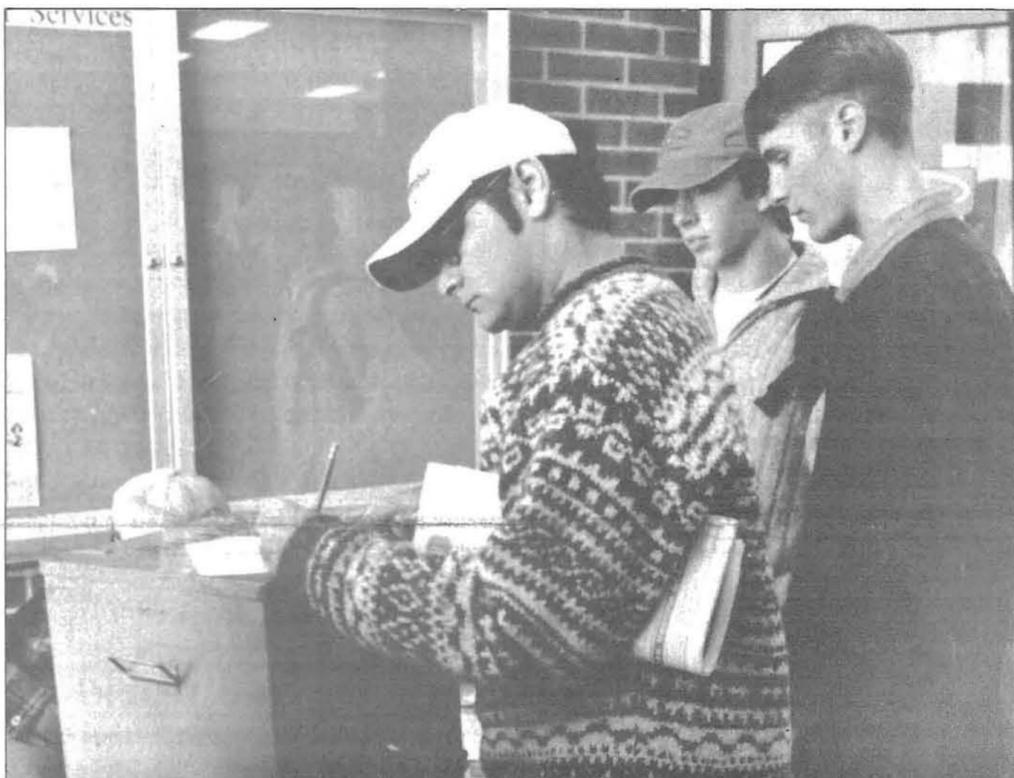


Photo by Jerry Weller
(L-R) Joe Osborne, Townsend Morris and Kyle Naes cast their votes in the University Center on Monday.

Stuck in park?

Request for parking meter bids falls flat

by Bill Rolfe
news associate

A University request last month for "sealed bids for the furnishing and delivery" of 75 parking meters went unheeded by local companies; no bids were received.

The sealed bids were to be received at the Business Services Office by 2 p.m. March 27, "and then publicly opened and read aloud."

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, said he thought no companies submitted bids because the specifications required installation of the parking meters as well as delivery. He said the next request will include only the manufacturing of the meters, and the University will install them.

According to Schuster, the need for parking meters comes from the rarely available parking in lots A (faculty parking in front of Woods Hall) and B (visitor parking in front of J. C. Penney). He said the meters will hopefully make parking more convenient when Woods and J. C. Penney are busy.

"During registration and even during normal times, there is a lot of student activity [in

see Meters, page 9

Inside

One man's junk could be another man's art.
See page 2.

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Five-year plan hailed as success by administrators

by David Baugher
of The Current staff

UM-St. Louis is declaring success in its effort to achieve the objectives of the University's five-year plan, a system-wide program of budget cuts and tuition hikes designed to improve facilities and services at all four of the state's campuses.

The revenue enhancement plan was approved by the Board of Curators under then-President George Russell for the 1992-93 fiscal year. According to Bob Samples, director of UM-St. Louis communication, its

main objectives were to raise salaries, increase financial aid and make physical upgrades to each campus.

"President Russell believed that the University needed to make certain improvements with or without increased revenue from the state," Samples said.

Another motivating factor in the plan's development was the failure of statewide Proposition B in 1991. If passed, the measure would have poured millions of dollars into Missouri's publicly-funded educational institutions.

"It really was a wake-up call,"

said Donald Driemeier, Deputy to the Chancellor, of the proposition's defeat. "If [improvements] were going to be made, they were going to have to be done by ourselves on our own initiative."

Among other things, the University's need for revenue resulted in a massive tuition hike. From 1992-96, educational fees at UM-St. Louis went up more than 80 percent. There was also a round of layoffs and some employees were given incentives for early retirement.

"Those were very, very trying times," Driemeier said. "[People]

would say, 'You mean I'm losing my job so you can tuckpoint a building?' and after you cut through it, the answer was 'yes.' That's not a very pretty thing to say."

Tuckpointing was only the highlight of a \$6 million campus revamp that also included waterproofing, sidewalk repair and street paving.

"Frankly, we had quite a bit of deferred maintenance that needed tending to," Driemeier said. "The tower had leaked since it opened. Every window in the tower had to be replaced."

The library was another area that

saw improvements. Library funding increased by more than 27 percent during the five year period.

"We were aware that the library needed electronic access to be able to communicate with other databases," Driemeier said. "So there was a great investment in information retrieval."

The plan also dealt with the issue of wages. The goal was to raise faculty salaries to the average level of the American Association of Universities, an organization of 62 educational institutions including the Uni-

see Plan, page 9



Photo by Ashley Cook
Michael Harmon stands outside of the charred back entrance of The Current.

"I was just doing my job":

Worker's discovery prevents impending disaster

by Kim Hudson
and Tonya Hearon
of The Current staff

Michael Harmon, a maintenance service attendant for Physical Plant Operations at UM-St. Louis, refused the title of "hero" for his role in saving the offices of *The Current*, which were the target of an arsonist nearly three weeks ago.

Harmon was making his rounds in the Music Building on the morning of March 25. At that time, Harmon said he smelled smoke but thought it was that of burning leaves. He then continued his rounds and left the Music Building.

He later discovered that he forgot something and returned to the Music Building. It was then that he looked across the street and discovered that the offices of *The Current* were burning. Harmon immediately called the police and fire departments.

"When you smell smoke, you definitely want to take care of it," Harmon said. "You never know who is in danger."

The 44-year-old Harmon said that he was happy that no one was in the house. He

also expressed thanks that no computers were damaged.

"I am just happy that I was able to stop it," Harmon said.

In a meeting with *The Current* staff members, editor-in-chief Scott Lamar expressed his feelings over the damage sustained to the house where the offices were located.

"I think everyone here feels strongly about our house," Lamar said.

Harmon said that he could sympathize with the damage to *The Current* offices and has previously experienced the loss of important property.

"I know what it is like to have something destroyed and you cannot replace it," Harmon said. Later, in the March 31, 1997 issue of *The Current* Lamar said that he considers Harmon a hero for his actions.

"If it weren't for him, the building would have been reduced to rubble and burnt cinders," Lamar said. "We can consider him a real hero for what he did."

However, Harmon disagreed.

"Heroes are people who put their lives on the line," Harmon said. "I was just doing my job."

Investigation continues in Mark Twain theft

by David Baugher
of The Current staff

Police are looking into 2 separate incidents resulting in the disappearance of more than \$1,700 from an office in the Mark Twain Building.

More than \$1,000 was apparently stolen from an office safe sometime between the afternoon of Mar. 1 and the morning of Mar. 3, according to campus police. A similar disappearance had taken place about 2 weeks earlier when \$600 turned up missing from a Mark Twain safe. All together \$1,712.01 remains unaccounted for.

Calling the apparent thefts "unfortunate", Patricia Dolan, director of Athletics and Campus Recreation, said she had yet to receive any details of the incident.

"I haven't seen the final report, so I don't know what the assessment is," Dolan said.

Campus police have launched a

see Theft, page 9

A lost art?

Throughout my life, I've always had a strong opinion of what is art and what isn't. To better make the distinction between beauty and the stuff dogs stick their noses in, I formed a simple definition of art. Art is a creation that some ordinary schlepp couldn't sloop together with a paintbrush and a canister of Krylon in 15 minutes. Art requires diligence, considerable time and energy, and more important, an element that elicits a certain emotion from its observer.

An appreciation for the arts is an important virtue citizens of any cosmopolitan society should possess. However, my opinion of art has been soured by an artistic world run amok with shameless assaults on good taste.



Scott Lamar
editor-in-chief

My contempt for modern art can be traced back to an episode many years ago at the St. Louis Art Museum in Forest Park. I was accompanied by my parents, who I suppose were trying to expose me to the finer things in life.

Not even five minutes into the tour, I ran into a peculiar exhibit. I believe the title was, "The Bathroom." And the label was quite fitting. It was your ordinary household bathroom. There, behind the ropes, sat a commode with a dingy wooden seat. A spool of toilet paper dispenser hung from the wall about an arm's reach away. And of course, the display wouldn't be complete without a mirror, a sink and a place to rest the toothbrush.

This was art, huh? Stop the ride, I want to get off.

That ridiculous excuse for art was followed by other assaults on the eyes. Gross assemblages of debris confiscated from a junkyard under a tag of fine sculpture could be seen here and there. I'll point to the rusty metal thing located in front of the fine arts building as an example.

At some point after viewing the monstrosity at the art museum, I developed my own definition of art. Over the years, only a few things fit my criteria and thereby gained my appreciation. Among those are Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, several works by Salvador Dali and the 1996 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue.

I'll concede that beauty to one may not be beauty to another. The saying is true; beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Currently, sham artists are profiting off the fact that art has no definition. Anything and everything is art, and anyone can produce it.

A plate of goose dung, a slice of pepperoni pizza resting next to an ice cold frosty beverage, a greasy dishrag, an empty shampoo bottle or a large ball of yarn can all be construed as art by today's standards.

And once these items are produced and packaged, there's a sucker out there who will buy it for a king's ransom.

This isn't to say that outstanding works of art aren't being produced. Masterpieces can be found everywhere from our own campus literary magazine to some of the abandoned buildings graffiti artists have used as their canvas.

Unfortunately, people who throw together third grade scribble or artistic simpletons who snap off a picture, give it a stupid name and call it art work can also be found in the campus literary magazine and on abandoned buildings.

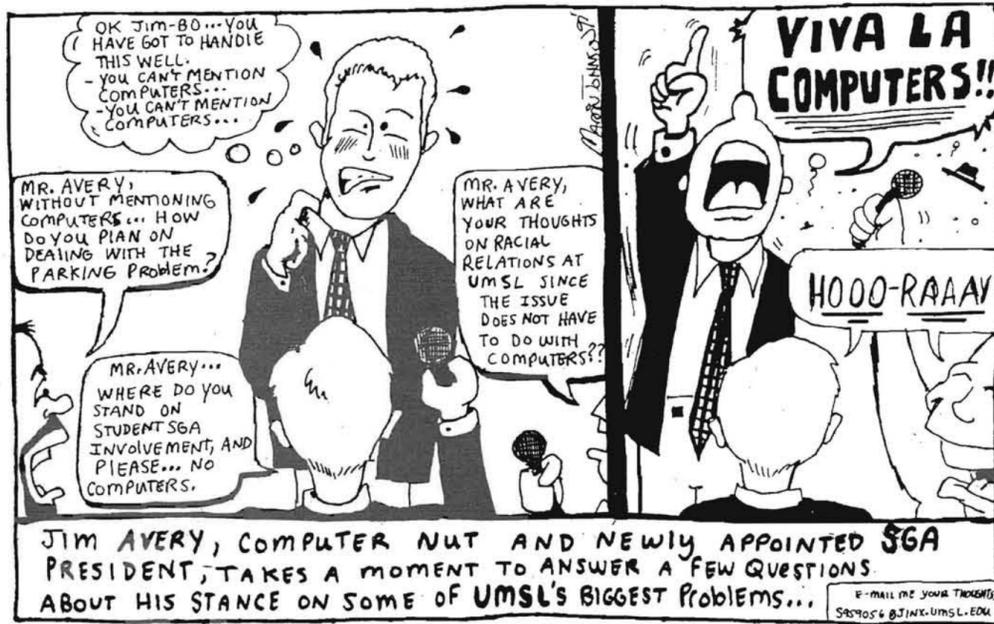
Sadly, these people contaminate an art world that can't define art.

Art will always be subjective. People will find some work more appealing than others.

But that doesn't mean a guy hanging by 37 fishhooks piercing through his flesh (on the front page of the Miami-Dade Community College newspaper) fits under the umbrella of art.

Art has always played an important part in our society. We look back at ancient civilizations and draw a lot of knowledge from the work of the day.

What will people 100 years from say about the artisans of this time period? Probably, "Man, those morons would buy anything."



THE CURRENT EDITORIAL

In support of full financial disclosure

The University of Missouri System's decision last week to turn over detailed information to state lawmakers about how each of its four campuses spends public money is long overdue.

House Majority Leader Gracia Backer, D-New Bloomfield, has repeatedly called for voter approval of a constitutional amendment that would require the system to give a detailed account of its financial behavior to the governor. System administrators balked at initial requests for it to disclose the information voluntarily, but officials relented after Backer refused

to back down on her call for a constitutional amendment.

While the relatively unremarkable news is no cause for unrestrained celebration, students (and taxpayers) should find at least a small degree of comfort in this tiny step toward system-wide fiscal responsibility.

As a public institution funded by taxpayers (and tax-paying students), the UM System is no less accountable for its stewardship of Missourian's money because it is governed by a pseudo-autonomous board appointed by the governor.

Hopefully, Backer and her colleagues in the Missouri state house will settle for no less than

fully detailed, annual disclosures to the governor by system administrators.

Furthermore, state legislators must not merely revel in this singular victory over the university.

As elected representatives of their constituency, they are beholden to the citizens of Missouri to scrutinize the records, identify potentially abusive or wasteful activity and hold officials responsible for those abuses. Lawmakers have the records; they must now use them for something more than self-aggrandizing props at a show-and-tell news conference.

Moral relativism in the real world

The bizarre nature of moral relativism is demonstrated by its acceptance as an absolute virtue while being wholly unlivable, much less sensibly utterable. It is having your cake and eating it, too.

Incessantly preached with resolved absoluteness, moral relativity leads to existential absurdity. On the one hand, it is said that all ideas and moralities are equivocal in value; no one morality is really more right than another, nor is any morality any worse than another. On the other hand, relativists live their moment-by-moment lives dis-integrated (not integrated) from their personal value systems and beliefs, not for a moment pondering the presence of hypocrisy. That is, relativists profess one way of life but live contrary to this profession. While professing the virtues of moral relativity (all morality is equally valid), they are offended and outraged by what they consider injustice or personal insult; they even champion causes they deem worthwhile. If relativists were to live consistently by what they believe, they would have to resort to nihilism of the worst kind, for indeed no standard exists by which we can discern right from wrong, evil from good, justice from injustice.

Relativists are the same people who become angry when a driver cuts them off on the highway or won't allow them to merge into the flow of traffic. Any of us

Any of us who have driven highway 40 or the inner belt during rush hour know too well the common indignation when our sense of driving justice is violated.

who have driven highway 40 or the inner belt during rush hour know too well the common indignation when our sense of driving justice is violated. For the relativist to say that no single morality is more valid than another is a surrender of any meaningless basis for anger since each driver is only driving in a manner which represents his own moral code. To be "rudely cut off" loses its meaning for the person who cut us off is only expressing what they believe is good driving. There is a common standard by which we expect our fellow drivers to abide. We feel indignation because we know a fundamental truth about civility has been perverted, that our fellow driver has broken the codes of conduct.

Also when we cut off another driver, we feel a nagging sense of shame, no matter how trifling. Such shame comes from a fundamental assent to a common standard we fear we may have violated. We all have moral expectations based on assumed moral standards which are universally pervasive. Right and wrong are so entrenched in our guts, one dare say, we are born with moral categories preprogrammed in

each of us. Because it has no categories of good and evil, relativism leads toward the denigration of humanity. The Hitlers and Stalins of our world are neither good nor bad. Relativists have no basis on which to oppose evil as we know it. Under its own profession, relativism makes fascism just as valid and acceptable as democracy.

Yet what relativist in the US wants to surrender his or her inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? To live under the profession of faith in relativism is to live in a readiness to surrender basic rights as there is no ground upon which to build the concepts of rights, human freedom or dignity. Thus we are back to the bizarre nature of relativism. We find the contradiction of professing the absoluteness of relativism. We see that while relativists are fond of espousing the idea that no one morality is superior to another, they live in the existential tug and shove of life that always reveals that human nature suspects a universal ethic by which all humanity is to abide.

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CORRECTION
• In issue 886, Jim Avery owns, the quote attributed to Steve Avery on the front page. Chantaya West should have been attributed to Taryn Richardson.
• In a story about U-Mead-

Finding my raison d'être

Whenever you begin to bash the press, drive out to Berkeley some Monday night and sit in on a city council meeting there.

Before your seat is warm, this body of elected officials will prove to you why journalistic scrutiny is an absolutely necessary component of civilized culture. For the past six or eight or months, I have had the unique opportunity to cover Berkeley city government for the North County Journal.

Berkeley is a suburban municipality of about 12,000 people. Once the residential aorta of McDonnell-Douglas employees, it is now trundling uncontrollably down a terribly

familiar path of civic lethargy. Unfortunately, those perpetuating the lethargic impulses have found their way into public office. They have convinced themselves that crafty political posturing and an unrivaled brand of divisive racial politics is an acceptable substitution for ethical representation of a community that, by all indications, is far more intelligent and concerned about Berkeley than the people they elected to represent them.

Last week, years of cumulative, unbelievable temerity on the part of Mayor Theodore Hoskins and the city council (three of whom oppose the very notion of sharing air space with Hoskins) erupted in one of the most surreal scenes of shame and infamy I have witnessed in my short years. In his latest device to banish his political rivals from city hall, the mayor proposed and the council approved a measure that forbids two of the seven council members from speaking to anyone in city government except the mayor. It backfired when the audience of about 40 citizens promptly morphed into a clamoring rabble like something out of a Dickens novel.

The mayor's actions Monday follow a measure he forced through council earlier in the winter that empowers the mayor (or any one of his supporters, who comprise a majority of the council) to find fellow council members and citizens in the audience in contempt of council. Cuplrits face censor, fine and imprisonment, determined at the mayor's discretion.

Of course, The Honorable Ted Hoskins is not totally without compassion or a sense of propriety. The condemned can in fact appeal any "conviction" all the way to the Berkeley municipal court. But since the mayor never knowingly allows opponents a course of redress in which his success is not guaranteed and given that the city attorney, who would likely represent the city in the case, moonlights as the mayor's personal legal counsel, the likelihood of anyone getting a fair adjudication from the Berkeley legal system is unlikely.

So at last week's meeting, after the chief of police had literally and physically dragged three people from the council chambers, one of whom was a council member; after the mayor, in cahoots with the attorney, created an ordinance and simultaneously found one of his opponents in violation of that newly-created ordinance; I went home feeling good about myself and what I do.

Because despite city officials' historic affliction of self-importance and downright ignorance, I can't help but believe that Ted Hoskins and his prized contingent of sycophantic council members as well as his antagonists (who practice their own form of self-absorption even though the townspeople think they're heroes because of the mayor's rather successful attempts to martyr them), I can't help but think they all get a little bit more nervous when they see me drop into a chair on the first row every night. After all, that's what journalism is supposed to do: keep officials accountable, be the modern town crier when the ruling despot is perpetrating horrendous violations against the serfs.

And when it's over, I am sure my work there will be the stuff of which I'll make a thousand tales. For now, I can only slip a new tape in my recorder, poise my pen and shake my head in disbelief.



Doug Harrison
managing editor

The student voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

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column
a generic offering



Jill Barrett
features editor

It wasn't until I had nieces and a nephew that I realized how much like my father I am. My friends who are mothers have told me that suddenly they find themselves turning into their own mothers. One such friend told me about a time she was studying in the kitchen, minding her own business, when all of a sudden — out of nowhere — she found herself screaming down the hall to her kids "You kids will break your necks roughhousing like that! Do you hear me? I don't want to have to come back there!"

She told me later that it was like she was possessed by her mother's spirit, even though her mother is still alive. She lived the next month in fear that she would lose control and actually pull her car over to the side of the road and wait there until those kids behaved.

"Where will all this madness end?" she screamed at me over the phone. "I'm saving aluminum foil to re-use! I'm yelling at my family to squeeze the toothpaste tube from the bottom and not the middle! Stop me before I say 'Don't play with that — you could put someone's eye out!'"

I could understand her distress. God help me — and those around me — if I ever turn into my mother. She's like Martha Stewart on acid. Once, when I got something out of her car, I noticed that three preschoolers had taken their toll on her compulsive neatness. I actually saw crumbs on the floor of her car. If I didn't know better, I would have thought she was human. When I mentioned it to her, though, I watched her turn wild-eyed while she complained about the kitchen floor's waxy build-up and the dust — my God she hadn't dusted for over a week. I quietly told my friends that if I did turn into my mother, and if they ever caught me building cute centerpieces out of cut-up charge cards, they had standing orders to kill me. The world has enough problems.

Although I do not see that happening. My nieces and nephew taught me that if I ever have kids of my own, I will act more like my father than my mother. When my oldest niece was about a year old, I had her for the day and realized — to my horror — that I would have to feed her. Not knowing what little kids ate, and concerned that she ate balanced meals, I fixed Froot Loops and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups for her breakfast. I reasoned that the cereal took care of fruit and milk groups, and she got enough protein and sugar with the candy.

This was a legacy from my father, who used to feed me chili and cottage cheese for breakfast. Once, when I was about eight years old and sick, my father inadvertently doped me up because he thought my pills were too small to break in half. In addition to basic parental mishaps, I learned many other things from my father, which I would like to pass on to others. Here are a few of my father's basic lessons:

- 1) Save losing lottery tickets. Gambling losses count as a tax deduction.
- 2) Don't piss off a cop when you have to be somewhere later.
- 3) If a pair of men in dark suits, mirrored sunglasses and badges shows up in your office, you're gone for the day.
- 4) Duct tape, Crazy Glue,

see Column, page 6

A History of Helping



Linder Williams, Student Affairs secretary (left), assists Lolita Walker, an education major, in a simulation of a blind person's disability.

Students with disabilities Association marks 22nd year of increased awareness

by Becky Rickard
of The Current Staff

UM-St. Louis students were reminded of disabilities as the Students with disAbilities Association promoted their annual Awareness Week. The fact of the matter is the Students with disAbilities Association is active year-round, not just for one week.

The goal of this association is to ensure the accessibility of the UM-St. Louis campus to students with disabilities.

Accessibility for students includes ramp exits from buildings, elevators, adaptive equipment for computers and automatic doors.

"The focus of the Students with disAbilities Association is to play down the limitations and level the playing field for students with disabilities," Marilyn Ditto, advisor and events coordinator of the association, said.

The association began in 1975, originally named the Disabled Students' Union.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990, the group politically corrected its name.

THE PATH TO SUCCESS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION

- 1975 — Association officially forms as Disabled Students' Union.
- 1990 — Americans with Disabilities Act passes. Group reorganizes as Students with disAbilities.
- 1997 — Group celebrates another year of increased accessibility and continued success.

Any student with a disability is a member of the association. However, there are only about 20 active members.

Thomas Jefferson Library currently houses the Disabled Students Resource Center containing computer equipment geared specifically for students with disabilities.

Among the many types of equipment in the center are voice activated computers, software that enlarges the print on computer monitors and reading machines used to verbalize texts.

Once a year, the Students with disAbilities Association hosts a Meritorious Award Ceremony on the last day of its Awareness Week

see History, page 6

You are now In the Zone with Peter Wolfe

by John Jones
features associate

Peter Wolfe, professor of English, has delved into a world where few have gone; a world of surprises and ironies, a world both wondrous and horrific. Wolfe has passed the sign post up ahead and has brought his readers into *The Twilight Zone*.

Wolfe's new book, *In the Zone: The Twilight World of Rod Serling*, is a comprehensive analysis of the history and art of *The Twilight Zone* and the man behind it: Rod Serling. It is Serling's eerie matter-of-fact voice that opened each episode of the weekly series; however, Wolfe's book explains Serling was more than the voice announcing the audience's impending arrival in a different dimension.

Serling was, for the most part, the founder and artistic director of the show.

The Twilight Zone was a science fiction series that aired on CBS-TV from 1959 until 1964. It was one of the most pioneering programs of its time.

The show was filled with subtle nuances that commented on the nature of conformity and everyday reality. In each episode, the story took place in different settings from the everyday to the extraordinary.

"This is the first book of its kind that I have done. Almost all my other books were straight studies of novelists," Wolfe said. "The reason I did this is because I enjoyed the show so much, and by writing about something, or writing about anything, you need to know it very well."

Wolfe's interest in writing a thematic book was piqued when KPLR 11 showed several reruns of *The Twilight Zone*.

He noticed the show's camera work and cinematography along with the unpredictable twist endings mastered by screenwriter Rod Serling. Serling, Wolfe describes, was a master of the unpredictable and ironic.

In only 24 minutes, Serling could put together and execute any type of story from a remote asteroid to an ordinary home with an average family.

"In the five year run of the program there were something like 150 scripts, and he did 90," Wolfe explained about Rod Serling. "So it [*In the Zone*] centers on him. He was the guiding spirit."

Wolfe will be signing copies of *In the Zone* at Left Bank Books on May 7. The professor has requested that the UM-St. Louis library order the book, which will sell for \$19.95.



Peter Wolfe

Wolfe's examination of *The Twilight zone* is one of many different works the professor has examined and reviewed. Currently, he is finishing a work on the English playwright Alan Bennett.

THE BOOK:

In the Zone: The Twilight World of Rod Serling

THE AUTHOR:

Peter Wolfe, professor of English, UM-St. Louis

THE PRICE:

\$19.95

THE SIGNING:

Left Bank Books, Wednesday, May 7

Awareness, acceptance foster equality for campus organization

by John Jones
features associate

Every Thursday at 4 p.m., a small group of UM-St. Louis students gathers at 441 Stadler Hall to socialize and organize the activities of their group. Like all student organizations on campus, they have an agenda. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students for Change wish to foster a better understanding of their lifestyle within the campus community and offer a place of support and resources for Lesbian and Gay students.

To be gay or lesbian means to be sexually attracted to or to fall in love with a member of the same sex. *Gay* is generally used to refer to men that are attracted to other men, and *lesbian* is commonly used to refer to women who are attracted to other women. *Bisexual* is a term for someone who can be sexually attracted to members of either sex.

The fact that more gay and lesbian people are "coming out" — declaring their sexuality publicly and openly — has caused a great deal of controversy among the majority of religious and conservative

groups in this country, who believe that to love a member of the same sex is a sin or unnatural. In the eyes of many people, this lifestyle does not coincide with ideas of "traditional family values." Gays and lesbians, like many minorities, are often the targets of hate crimes.

These issues caused the clause that protected Gay and Lesbian students from slander and discrimination on UM campuses to be removed from the anti-discrimination policies of the University of Missouri system almost two years ago. At the time, the board of curators felt the clause was unnecessary. This, however, has made gay and lesbian students worried about their rights as students in the UM system.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students for Change, however, hasn't experienced problems specifically aimed at the organization on this campus, but discrimination has not been unknown.

"The organization itself hasn't had problems," Brian Edminston, GLBSFC president

see Group, page 6

Under Current

If you had to fake your own death, how would you do it?



"I would be marooned on a desert island with plenty of food and water."

— May Grimm
Junior • Photography

"While on a tropical island, some natives would kidnap me to sacrifice to a volcano, but I'd escape and live on the island forever."

— Jessica Ambrose
Freshman • Studio Arts



"I'd have a friend rig my car with dynamite and run into Woods Hall."

— Susan Kiwala
Junior • Psychology



"Like in Back to the Future, I'd get shot, but I'd have on a bullet proof vest."

— Ryan Kiwala
Freshman • General Studies



CASINO

Don't tell the Fuzz: Honors College hosts bawdy speakeasy

NIGHT

Photos by Ashley Cook

Top left, Bruce Arroyko, right, helps casino goer Rick Sampson navigate through a game of over and under. Bottom left, Jennifer Bullock, left, Brian Reed, center, and Amanda Joggerst, use their best poker faces. Casino Night, an annual Honors College event, raised about \$250 for the Bob Costas Wing of the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

by John Jones
features associate

"The password is *the brain stews at eleven*," honors student Tina Fanetti said to each of the colorfully dressed students at the door to the Honors College.

That was the password each participant had to use to get into the speakeasy students were running for Casino Night last Friday. That and a \$5 admission charge which benefitted the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital allowed patrons into the Pierre LaClede Honors College Convocation Hall.

The casino was modeled after the infamous bar-casinos of the prohibition era in the 1920s, when the patrons had to use passwords to get into the illegal establishments so the owners would know that the people at the door weren't police officers coming to bust up the party.

Gangsters and flappers entered the joint dressed in the period garb of feather head-dresses and zoot suits.

Each of the patrons were given several hundred in "clams" (not dollars) with which to gamble the night away. Organizers had set up four blackjack tables, a poker table, an over-under table and a roulette wheel.

"I'm 200 ahead after seven games!" exclaimed one of the most outrageously dressed, Brian Reed. Reed had received his costume from Chad's Theatrical.

The people gathered around the tables and mingling numbered just over 70. Every once in awhile shouts of joy erupted from winning gamblers. A large assortment of non-alcoholic drinks was being served at the corner Convocation bar, including a seven up and grape juice concoction simply named "bubbly."

All the clams won at the tables went toward an auction held later in the evening. Students and local businesses had donated gifts to the event that the gamblers could use their winnings to buy. Prizes included, among other things, a Cardinal Glennon jacket, a bedspread, a CD collection, T-Shirts and cards donated by Players Island and Harrah's casinos.

One hard boiled dame sat at a nearby table dealing blackjack.

"I've been dealing for three years," said the colorful flapper Jennifer Bullock as she gleefully collected money from busted gamblers. When asked where she had found the costumes, Bullock, like many other patrons, replied that she had found hers at the Vintage Haberdashery of South Grand, in St. Louis. One man was even seen with a lifelike gangster tommygun.

The casino was modeled after the infamous bar-casinos of the prohibition era in the 1920s, when the patrons had to use passwords to get into the illegal establishments so the owners would know that the people at the door weren't police officers coming to bust up the party.



Honors College Student Association President Wendy Verhoff, a.k.a. Tootsie Trigger Finger, greets guests at Casino Night.

"We didn't have to decorate at all," said organizer Wendy Verhoff on the early twentieth century style Honors College. The Convocation Hall itself used to be a chapel.

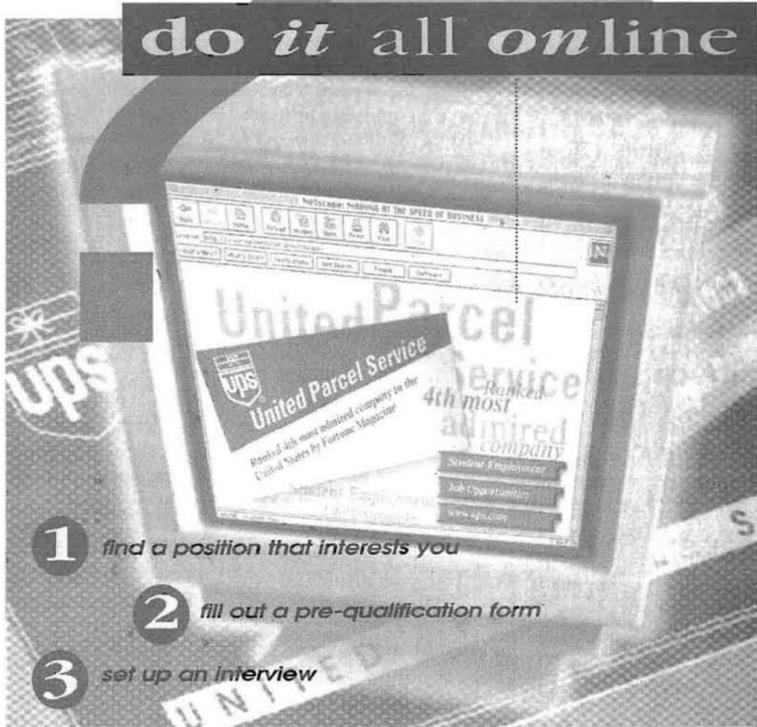
What made Verhoff even more excited, however was the fact that Casino Night had a good enough attendance to make a profit.

Organizers preparing for the event were concerned over the poor weather, and how it would affect attendance.

This didn't seem to deter the nostalgia hungry patrons, however.

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The Current
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Grosse Pointe Blanke well-rounded, must see

by Daniel Martinez
of *The Current* staff

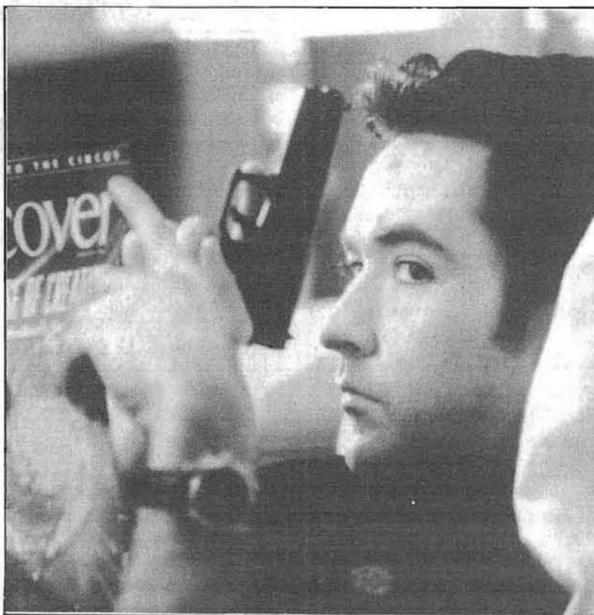
In the mood to see a movie with an original plot and good actors? How about a movie that will also keep you laughing the whole time and contains a great 80's soundtrack? Then may I suggest to you *Grosse Pointe Blank*.

Grosse Pointe Blank is the latest movie by John Cusack who not only starred in but also helped write and produce it. John Cusack plays a professional hitmen (Martin Q. Blank) who is becoming unhappy with his career because it's losing its appeal. So by the nagging of his secretary (his sister Joan Cusack) and his psychiatrist (Alin Arkin), Martin Blank decides to go to his 10 year high school reunion and rediscover

where he grew up. Once in town, Martin sees Debi Newberry (Minnie Driver), the girl he stood up 10 years ago on prom night, and wants to resume their relationship. Unfortunately his job is catching up with him and people are trying to kill him while he is trying to win back Debi Newberry's heart.

This movie is filled with hilarious sub-plots such as Martin Blank meets up with Grocer (Dan Ackroyd) who is a rival hitman. Grocer keeps imploring Martin to join the hitmen union so they corner the market and stop the large influx of Middle Eastern hitmen crowding the market.

Grosse Pointe Blank was one of the best movies I have seen all year. It is unpredictable and a truly original movie and I highly recommend it to everyone.



John Cusack stars as Martin, a hired gun who returns to his hometown of Grosse Pointe for his 10-year high school reunion and some unfinished business.

Music Reviews Alternative

Horny Toad! Goes Ska Thirteen



Horny Toad!

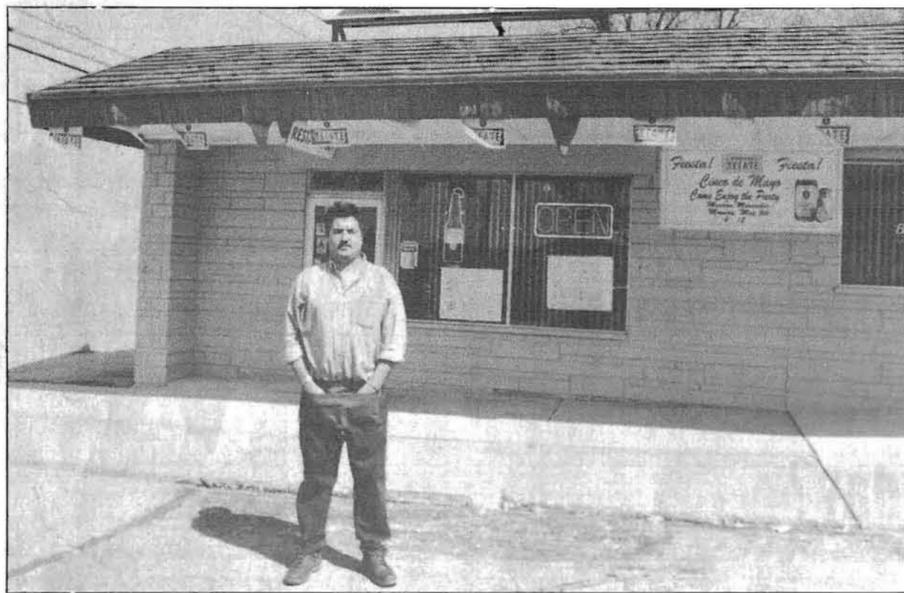
After eight years of playing together as a band, Horny Toad! has finally released its debut album, *Thirteen*.

This group is picking up airtime on M2 (the sister station of MTV) and several radio stations across the nation. Its blend of music is quite interesting. The blend includes ska, punk, a little funk and some good, old-fashioned rock-n-roll. Horny Toad! sounds quite a bit like Sublime or perhaps even 311. Though it has less of a rap influence than 311, Horny Toad! is definitely a group that snow boarders will enjoy. The first single off of the album is titled "Shiver." It is a ska anthem for snow boarders everywhere. "Fragile Planet" and "Vampire Ska" are the two best songs

on the CD. Both have a good beat that makes you want to mosh. Horny Toad! also does a cover of Rick James' "Brickhouse." *Thirteen* is a decent album with many different sounds to it. If you like the ska/ funk scene, Horny Toad! needs to be on your get list.

Matthew Regensburger

Former Casa chef opens new mexican restaurant moments from campus



Abel Suarez, owner of Las Palmas, stands in front of his restaurant at 4030 Woodson Road.

by Michael J. Urness
entertainment writer

Are you tired of the limited choice of on-campus eateries? Do you cringe at the thought of one more meal in the Underground? If so, there's a festive new restaurant you need to try.

It's called Las Palmas, and the restaurant serves up a delicious array of traditional Mexican food with an American flair.

Las Palmas, located one half mile south of Natural Bridge at 4030 Woodson Road in Woodson Terrace, was opened 6 months ago by Abel and Verónica Suárez. Abel, a native of the Michoacan province of Mexico, is no newcomer when it comes to running a restaurant.

He has worked as a chef in some of the area's best restaurants including Casa Gallardo, Gallardo's Casa Grill and Crazy Fish.

Abel credits the open menus of Casa Grill and Crazy Fish with giving him the freedom to experiment and hone his skills as a chef.

"I worked as a chef for Casa Gallardo for eight years," Abel said, "but I got the most experience when we opened Casa Gallardo Grill in the Galleria. It gave me a chance to experiment with an open menu and play with various ideas.

From there I went to Crazy Fish in Clayton, and we had an open menu there, too. We had to come up with two menu specials every day."

Abel opens Las Palmas every day and immediately goes to work preparing the salsas. An hour after he arrives, his brother Heric (pronounced *Eric*) comes in and takes over most of the kitchen duties.

During the day, Abel and Veronica's sister Naivit alternate between greeting, seating and serving the customers.

Abel also tends bar and helps Heric in the kitchen when it gets busy.

What sets Las Palmas apart from any of the other family owned Mexican restaurants in the St. Louis area is the presentation of the food. From the basket of nacho chips and salsa to the main entree, every item is

prepared to be as visually appealing as it is appetizing.

Each basket of nachos includes a few scattered red, green and blue chips among the regular ones, and the rich salsa has fresh pepper seeds and fresh cilantro on top.

The most popular dinner entrees, according to Able are the Las Palmas Chicken, a breast of chicken served atop a bed of rice and covered with a jalapeno-honey cream sauce; the Steak Milanese, a filet of steak sautéed and served atop a bed of rice with slices of fresh tomato and onion; Polo Ranchero, a chicken breast cut into strips and smothered in roasted mixed vegetables; and Carne Asada, marinated steak slow cooked with onions, peppers and tomatoes and served with corn tortillas.

The dishes on the lunch menu range in price from \$3.75 for the quesadillas to \$5.95 for the fajitas. Combination plates are \$4.75.

Most are served with cilantro rice, spicy black-bean relish and refried beans on the side.

On two consecutive days, I sampled the fajitas. The meat, onions and peppers are served sizzling hot on a steel platter while the sour cream, lettuce, guacamole and side items are

served on another plate. The portions are generous.

The colorful sarapes and other traditional decorations that adorn the walls and bar combined with the lively Latin music (from Abel's personal CD collection) give the place a festive atmosphere seldom found in similarly sized establishments.

The restaurant has seating for 70 diners.

Verónica works outside the restaurant during the day. After she gets off work, she comes into Las Palmas and works as a hostess and server until closing time.

The Suárezes are currently looking for a bilingual server to work part time including weekends.

Abel said there are several South American families who frequent the restaurant on the weekends and don't speak any English.

Las Palmas is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"If they are in a hurry, they can call ahead, and we will have the food ready when they get here," Abel said, when asked about students who may be pressed for time.

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- ◆ have fun, make friends, feel part of the campus community

HORIZONS PEER EDUCATORS

"Students Helping Students"

A program of Counseling Services, Division of Student Affairs

Group, from page 3

dent, said. "But, hate mail against the gay and lesbian community itself has happened." Edminston told of an incident in the Thomas Jefferson Library in which hate letters harshly condemning gay and lesbian people were left publicly for students to see.

It is unknown who placed them there.

Edminston feels that UM-St. Louis does not have a large prob-

lem with discrimination. "I am cautious and aware, but not fearful," he explained. The group's efforts to foster awareness have varied.

Flyers are distributed once a semester that provide information on meeting dates and the mission of the GLBSFC.

Also, Edminston uses the bulletin board at the University Center periodically. Other GLBSFC members fight ignorance with honesty

in regular day to day interactions with students and peers. Steve Wilmas explained.

"When someone asks about [my sexuality], I am truthful," Wilmas said. "We want people who aren't aware to get the real truth."

All people are welcome to attend Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students for Change meetings and events. For those who would be interested, the number is 516-5013.

Column, from page 3

bubblegum and another person can fix just about everything.

5) If you're going to drink, drink the expensive stuff first.

By the time you get to the cheap crap, you won't care what it tastes like.

6) It's okay to wear T-Shirts that are older than your grown children.

7) All-You-Can-Eat buffets mean exactly that. Just don't forget to take Tupperware.

History, from 3

Students, faculty and staff are honored with certificates and plaques recognizing outstanding achievement in aiding students with disabilities.

"We honor those individuals who do not need an awareness week," Ditto observed.

Nora Davis, a junior and SGA representative of the Students with disAbilities Association, has been an active member for two semes-

ters. "The most rewarding aspect of the association is knowing that it works with disabled students, no matter what the handicap," Davis said. "The importance of the association is to be able to accommodate each student with needs and to help that person enjoy a full college life."

It is important for every student at UM-St. Louis to be aware of students with disabilities for longer than just one Awareness Week.

Thanks to the Students with disAbilities Association, more students with disabilities are attending UM-St. Louis and are living out their dreams of obtaining a normal college education.

Final Exam Question The Collect Call

What's the only number to use for all your collect calls that could instantly win you cool stuff (like classy Ray-Ban® sunglasses and Oxygen® in-line skates) every hour, every day?



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OFF THE WALL



Ken Dunkin
sports editor

As the fourth coach in three years, rookie head coach Charlie Kennedy had a tough task: make the Rivermen into winners and do it with a team he didn't recruit.

Kennedy has responded. The team underachieved under Bob Westling last season, following the season of chaos of the previous year under Kristi Toppins, which includes the shattering of school records for victories and the dismissal of Carl Brumbagh before the season started.

All of those problems are long gone and the team is better for it. With several holdovers from the Toppins days, Kennedy has built a winning program in less time than it takes most teams to even mature. He and assistant coach Clayton have worked with the team and found a simple winning formula, complimenting.

While many coaches tear players apart and neglect to make them feel wanted, Kennedy prides himself on making sure everyone knows their roles are important.

Players want to do well for Kennedy. The team has responded.

The little things are noticed in the clubhouse, and every effort is made to make each player feel the importance of her role.

Their 21-15 record is a great achievement considering that few, if any, of these players were brought here by Kennedy and Clayton. Now, given the opportunity to recruit, they have signed four women in the early signing period. Several more players are expected to sign soon.

The days of quality recruits like Sarah Walters signing and then not playing are gone. Players want to come here to play softball. And why shouldn't they? There is finally stability in the position. The coach likes and cares about the players. They feel wanted and they win.

Plus, the team has so much untapped talent and potential. Nikki Kocis keeps getting better. In her third year with the program she is once again helping the team to win. She has admirably slid into the role of staff ace. Diana Mooney has come a long way from her freshman season.

She struggled then, but this season she has dropped her earned run average to 1.67.

Catcher Audrey Kramme has also improved her game. She is batting .289 this season. Her batting average has jumped drastically over the season after a slow start.

She also has handled the pitching staff well and has only allowed two passed balls.

The Riverwomen may have exceeded everyone's expectations this season. This was after all a rebuilding season. But the team and coaching staff didn't see it that way.

Forget the one season at a time; this team is hungry, and it went out and took the wins. With the new conference, the players had tougher challenges and still took SIU-Edwardsville to a 1-0 loss. Edwardsville is 26-0 in the conference. So just judging by this victory, the 1997-98 team is a good team.

So, give Kennedy a year. Next season he could have his whole team back with several fresh new faces.

It will be nice to see what he can do for an encore. He is after all doing an excellent job in his debut.

Injuries plague Rivermen pitchers

by Ken Dunkin and Brian Folsom
of The Current staff

Injuries have decimated the Rivermen baseball pitching staff, they are now taking their toll on the rest of the team.

Coach Jim Brady expected a large pitching staff. He recruited many pitchers in the off-season. After injuries and personal reasons, the team is now down to seven.

"I have never seen a team that has had so many problems with having pitchers healthy," Brady said.

In addition to the injured players, the team also lost the services of pitchers Cory Sivumaki and Curt Salata due to personal reasons.

Pitcher Chad Thomas was expected to make an impact after missing the end of last season. He has missed some time due to a strained elbow. He made his debut against SIU-Edwardsville. He got hit hard but pitched without pain.

"We've really missed Chad," Brady said. "We are extremely glad he is coming back."

The injuries got worse as centerfielder Steve Johnson broke his arm. He may be out the

see Injuries, page 8

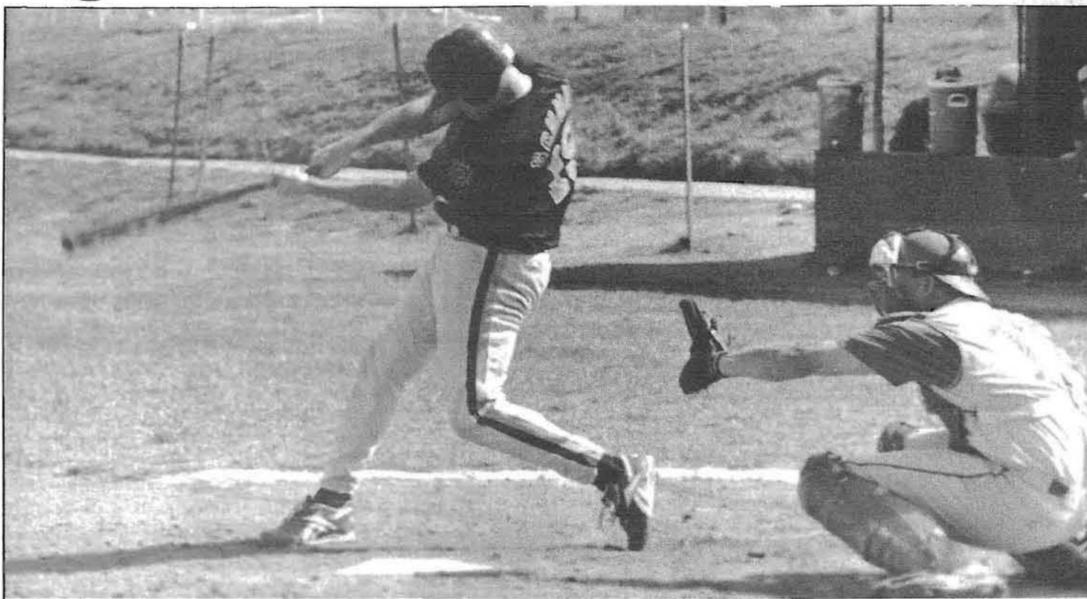


Photo by Ashley Cook

Riverman catcher Todd Schmidt steps into a pitch in a game against SIU - Edwardsville.

Tennis wins two in cluster

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Rivermen tennis team won two of its three games in the Great Lakes Valley Conference cluster held at Southern Indiana on April 4-5.

Southern Indiana took the Rivermen 5-4 in the first game. The team played, well but two consecutive set losses spelled doom. Rich Durbin the number 1 player for the Rivermen won a close match. In a three set tie-break. UM-St. Louis also took a beating in doubles losing both matches although the team of Durbin and Stein Rotegaard won their doubles match.

The Rivermen beat Bellarmine 5-4. Durbin won a two set match with a tie-break victory. Second ranked Scott Goodyear came through with a 7-5, 6-0 victory, Rotegaard also won his match.

In their third game the Rivermen rolled over Kentucky Wesleyan 5-0. The Rivermen didn't compete in 1-4 singles. Fifth and sixth singles players Andy Forinash and Brandon Coleman came through with convincing victories. Forinash won 6-1, 6-0. Coleman won 6-0, 6-1. The Rivermen are 6-9 overall and 4-3 in the GLVC.

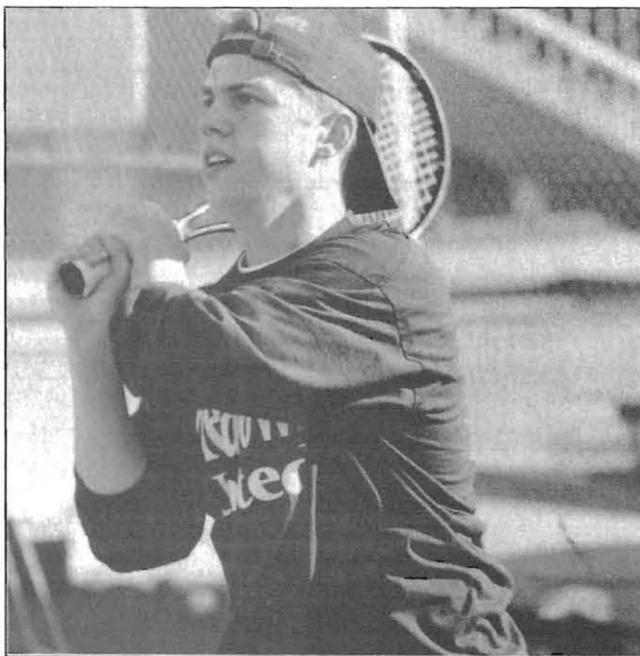


Photo by Ashley Cook

Scott Goodyear practices earlier this season.

Golf team tees off for spring season

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Rivermen golf team began its spring season with a ninth place finish in the Rivermen Invitational March 23-24. They followed with a fifth place finish in the Billiken Invitational April 6-7.

The fifth place finish was a surprise for the Rivermen. They were the only Division II school in the Billiken Invitational. The other schools, UM-Kansas City, Marquette, and Southeast Missouri were among the 16 Division I schools.

Mike Block got a quick start in his first round of play, leading all competitors with his 73 score. He would eventually slip to 26th.

see Golf, page 8

Basketball coach to be named in late April

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The search for a women's basketball coach should conclude in late-April. The position was opened when Jim Coen was fired in early March.

The position has drawn a wide variety of applicants. Forty-eight applicants have applied with many more expected before the filing period ends in two weeks.

"We've had a good group of people apply," Athletic Director Pat Dolan said. "There are people from the West Coast, Georgia, Alabama and assistants from East-

see Coach, page 8

Magic number three for the Riverwomen

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Riverwomen won three games in one day by scoring three runs per game.

The Riverwomen took three big Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) games in the one day extravaganza. On April 6, the team began the day with a 3-0 shutout over Kentucky Wesleyan. Pitcher Nikki Kocis went seven innings for the victory. She only allowed three hits.

Southern Indiana was the next to fall to the Riverwomen, losing 3-1. Diana Mooney went four innings and earned the victory.

"Southern Indiana gave us all we could handle," Riverwomen head coach Charlie Kennedy said.

The third victory came against GLVC basement dweller Bellarmine College.

"Bellarmine came out hard against us. They hadn't won a game all day and they gave it their all against us."

**- Charlie Kennedy
Softball Coach**

"Bellarmine came out hard against us," Kennedy said. "They hadn't won a game all day, and they gave it their all against us."

Kocis threw three and a third innings for the victory. The Riverwomen had 11 hits but could only manage three runs.

The victories pushed the season record to 24-13 overall and 13-8 in the GLVC.



Photo courtesy of Charlie Kennedy

Jeanne Buda pitches at a game in Florida over spring break.

Bad weather hurts Rivermen

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball team has struggled lately, yet it remains one of the toughest teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Rivermen, (17-6 overall, 6-4 GLVC) split a double-header with conference rival Northern Kentucky on April 9. This was a rescheduled double-header because it was rained out the previous weekend.

In the first game of the double-header, the Rivermen fell 10-3. Jeremy Birdeau took the loss as his record dropped to 3-2.

According to head coach Jim Brady, the team gave away too many outs.

"Our pitchers walked 12 hitters, and we can't do that and expect to win," Brady said. "We have to throw strikes and give our offense a chance."

Tim May hit his fourth home run in a

In the second game, the Rivermen battled back to win 10-5, and Brady said that the performance was much better.

"We walked less hitters, which allowed our offense to take off," Brady said.

Joe Christian pushed his record to 3-0 with the victory, and Joe Radeke closed it out.

"Both of those guys pitched real well and got the job done," Brady said.

Mike Stennett hit his second home run of the season in the victory, and Brady said that Stennett wasn't the only one that had a good game.

"Todd Schmidt and Dan Chinnici played extremely well, just as they always do," he said. "Scott Luczak was also a big plus for us."

The team also dropped a game, 15-7, to SIU-Edwardsville on April 2. The Cougars banded out 21 hits, and the Rivermen were not able to overcome SIUE's offensive thrust.



Photo by Ashley Cook

Injuries, from page 7

remainder of the season. The next game, his replacement, Brandon Whitt, separated his shoulder. He is expected to be out several weeks to a month, but the latest reports have him possibly missing

Golf, from page 7

Dustin Ashby led the Rivermen with a 234 total score, finishing 10th in the standings. He shot a 72 in the second round of play and tied for first.

In the Rivermen Invitational the team played well the first day but fell in the standings.

The team had been in fifth place but the wind hurt the team and pushed them down to ninth.

"The first day we were right where we wanted to be," head golf coach

Coach, from page 7

ern Illinois and St. Louis University."

The position has been advertised in the *Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis American*. The ad will also run in the NCAA Division II newspaper.

The first cut will take place soon after the cut-off deadline. Dolan expects the first to be the easiest.

"We will separate the applications and get them down to 20-25,"

Baseball, from page 7

Although the team has been struggling lately, Brady said that he feels the Rivermen are still one of the toughest teams in the conference.

"We have just been so banged up all season, it is really frustrating," Brady said.

It is especially a burden on the pitchers because there is not as much depth on the bench.

He added that he can't ever re-

member coaching a team with as many injuries as this one.

"It has been tough, but we still have to go out and play hard and work to get better," Brady said.

He said the team has had mental breakdowns in various game situations, and he feels this is very unusual.

"We need to play consistent baseball," he said. "We might play good

together and play that much harder. "Through all the adversity and injuries, we have played well despite them," Brady said. "Hopefully we can continue to do that."

The Rivermen had their hands full with SIU-Edwardsville last Wednesday, and were defeated both games. SIU-Edwardsville remains undefeated in The Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC).

Pitcher Nikki Kocis led the Riverwomen attack. Despite the loss, she threw six strong innings. She allowed one unearned run and gave up two hits. With her strong effort, the Riverwomen were able to stay close in the game.

"She should get the opportunity to get the victory," Riverwomen head coach Charlie Kennedy said. "The offense didn't come through."

The run was scored after Kocis walked the lead-off hitter. She had walked the lead-off hitter for the previous two innings. An Edwardsville player then sacrificed the runner over. Kocis then threw a wild pitch and catcher Audrey Kramme allowed a passed ball to

bring in the sole run. "It doesn't taste good," Kennedy said. "But we did give a great team a good challenge."

Several of the many Riverwomen to improve their accomplishments are Kocis, Audrey Kramme, Amy Costanza and Shannon Humphrey. Kocis leads the team with her .343 batting average and 1.37 earned run average. Kramme is second on the team with a .289 batting average. Costanza is batting .284 with 24 RBI. Humphrey is a perfect 12-for-12 in the stolen base category.

As a team the Riverwomen dropped to 21-15 overall and 13-10 in the GLVC.

They are in sixth place in the GLVC. Last weekend they played in a tough round robin conference cluster. Five of the top-six teams in the conference were in attendance.

"We are guaranteed no less than seventh in the conference tournament," Kennedy said of the event this coming weekend. "Our goal is to do well and slide back up in the standings. It won't be easy."

for a couple games, then we don't play very good the next couple of games."

Schmidt continues to lead the Rivermen in hitting with a .506 average. He also leads the team in hits with 41 and runs batted in with 35.

Chinnici is close behind with a .500 average, 25 RBI's, a team-leading 12 doubles and 34 runs scored.

The pitching staff is led by Andy

Seal with a 4-2 record.

The Rivermen were scheduled to battle St. Joseph's on April 12 and Wisconsin-Parkside on April 13. However, with recent weather problems, Brady is not sure if the games will be played.

"The weather is making things very difficult because we are not as consistent if we don't play often," Brady said. "The more we play, the better we get."

Edwardsville remains undefeated with victories over Riverwomen

by Ken Dunkin sports editor

The Riverwomen had their hands full with SIU-Edwardsville last Wednesday, and were defeated both games. SIU-Edwardsville remains undefeated in The Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC).

Pitcher Nikki Kocis led the Riverwomen attack. Despite the loss, she threw six strong innings. She allowed one unearned run and gave up two hits. With her strong effort, the Riverwomen were able to stay close in the game.

"She should get the opportunity to get the victory," Riverwomen head coach Charlie Kennedy said. "The offense didn't come through."

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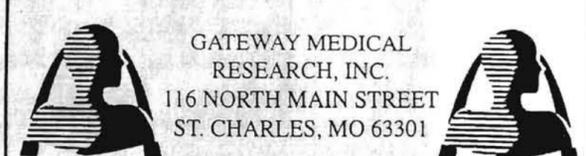
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Plan, from page 1

versity of Missouri. According to numbers provided by Samples, average nine-month salaries for professors went up by more than 25 percent, between 1992 and 1996. Comparable figures for associate professors grew by more than 22 percent, while assistant professors saw the smallest increase at almost 21 percent.

When regional cost-of-living differences are taken into account, these figures do meet the Association of Accredited Universities average, said James Krueger, vice chancellor for Managerial and Technological Services. Samples' numbers also show that students benefitted as well. Campus-based financial aid nearly quadrupled over the five year period.

Avery, from page 1

defeat, wishing Avery success, thanking her supporters and the UM-St. Louis students who cared enough to vote.

"Congratulations to Jim. I wish him the best. If I can help in any way, I'd be glad to," Collaso said. "I'd like to thank all the students who participated and voted for me."

In the race for SGA vice-president, Michael Rankins defeated Robert Rath 222 to 191 votes. The new SGA comptroller, Neil J. Lewis, ran unopposed.

Sitting SGA president Bob Fritchey said he was pleased with the elections.

"I think it's the best voter turnout we have had in awhile," Fritchey said. "Approximately 200 more students voted this year than last."

Past SGA elections have been plagued with myriad problems. Polls were located in inconvenient locations, failed to open or opened late. Ballot boxes were opened before polls closed and vote counts leaked to candidates while elections were still going on; violence broke out at the U-Center poll, ending in a student violently brandishing a chair and another leaving the building—with the ballot box.

This year a team comprised of SGA

The plan also allowed for program-related development. The campus could, in addition to these mandated university-wide goals, establish some additional goals on its own," Driemeier said, "and we did some program development during this period of time."

Driemeier said that increased state appropriations helped foot some of the bill for the plan's reallocations; although he said that the "bulk of the real growth in university income" came from the growth in tuition.

According to 1991-92 figures, student fees comprised about a third of all general operating revenue before the plan's implementation. Today, those fees account for nearly

half of the University's \$85 million budget, making UM-St. Louis more dependent on student fees than any of the system's other three campuses.

One explanation for the heavy reliance on tuition-based revenue may be the fact that UM-St. Louis also receives less per capita funding from the state than the other UM schools. Columbia, Rolla, and Kansas City will take in a combined \$267 million in general operating state appropriations this year, an average of about \$7,000 per student. The state allocates about half that amount for the average UM-St. Louis student. The plan's official end will come June 30 with the close of the 1996-97 fiscal year.

election committee students and director of outreach development Paul DeGregorio helped establish new guidelines in hopes of making SGA elections more fair.

SGA treasurer David Friedrichs noted that elections appeared to run much smoother this time around.

"It's a much improved process," Friedrichs said. "Before, it was completely hectic. There was little assurance students couldn't vote twice."

While the elections process was smoother this time around, Fritchey admitted that two polls failed to open on time due to the late arrival of ballots and poll workers.

"The problem resulted from needing to replace poll workers at the last minute and not wanting to leave the ballots at unmanned polls," Fritchey said.

Fritchey was quick to point out that polls were open for 83.5 out of the 84 hours that they were scheduled to operate.

Nevertheless, Rath was displeased with the delays.

"I don't want to raise a stink, but I'm really not impressed," said Rath.

"If you push away 15 or 20 people at one spot, that's a lot of people who might not get involved. They could have decided if this is the way the operation's run, why bother?"

Fritchey noted there were also some minor problems with electioneering within 25 feet of the polls. The candidates themselves were not involved, but some of their partisan backers evidently weren't aware that the restrictions on electioneering applied to everybody, Fritchey said. DeGregorio reassured students that the outcome of the election would not be significantly effected.

Fritchey echoed DeGregorio's sentiments.

"I spoke with Dr. DeGregorio, and he assured me that small problems like these happen even in the real world," Fritchey said.

Fritchey and Kenneth Strawbridge were selected as Evening College representatives while John D. Graham, George P. Meier and Joshua Stegeman were selected as Arts and Science representatives and Steve Wolfe was selected as a graduate student representative.

Meters, from page 1



Proposed areas for parking meters: Lot A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ.

lots A and B],” Schuster said. “The idea is to have open spaces for people who have business to take care of in Woods.”

According to Schuster, Chancellor Blanche Touhill asked the police department to do a study of lots A and B and the top of garage C to see when they were full or empty.

Officials in the police department failed to respond to numerous telephone calls. Schuster said one idea that came from the study was to convert lot B into “total meters” and restrict staff to garage C. Schuster said the proposal to put parking meters on campus is not definite yet. The University has not made a second attempt to request bids, and officials are not sure when they will try again.

Theft, from page 1

full investigation but would not comment due to the ongoing inquiry.

Anyone with information about the case is urged to call the University Police at 516-5155.

The Current Newswire

Applications available for UM-St. Louis student ambassador's program. UM-St. Louis students interested in becoming a student ambassador should apply by April 18.

Student ambassadors are volunteers whose primary purpose is to represent and promote a positive image for the University by assisting UM-St. Louis personnel at various campus and community events.

Ambassadors must be willing to commit to assisting with at least two events each semester and maintaining a 2.5 grade-point average. Call 516-5446 for more information.

Financial aid open house. The Student Financial Aid Office will host an Open House from 3 to 5 p.m. April 18 in Rm. 209 of Woods Hall. The event will showcase the many improvements that have been made to enhance customer service for students. Call 516-5526 for details.

Women's Center program. Ginny Schaller, area coordinator for Turning Resources and Energy to New Directions, will discuss her organization's national movement toward the non-violent, alcohol-free and drug-free lifestyle at 12:30 p.m. April 17 in Rm. 211 Clark Hall. Call 516-5380 for details.

Students, from page 1

she said. “But when you are challenged, you find a way around those obstacles.”

On Friday, the Students With Disabilities Association held its Meritorious Awards Ceremony to honor the people on campus who have already demonstrated awareness and sensitivity toward disabled students.

They awarded plaques to Andrew Hurley, most accommodating

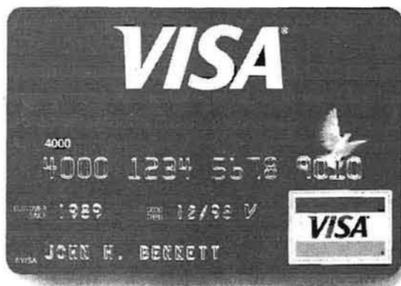
faculty member; Monica Farrel, most accommodating staff member; and the History Department was named the outstanding accommodating department on campus.

Students With Disabilities also granted 130 certificates to faculty members, staff members and students. Ditto said last year about 100 nominees received certificates.

“We strive to create awareness all week,” Ditto said.

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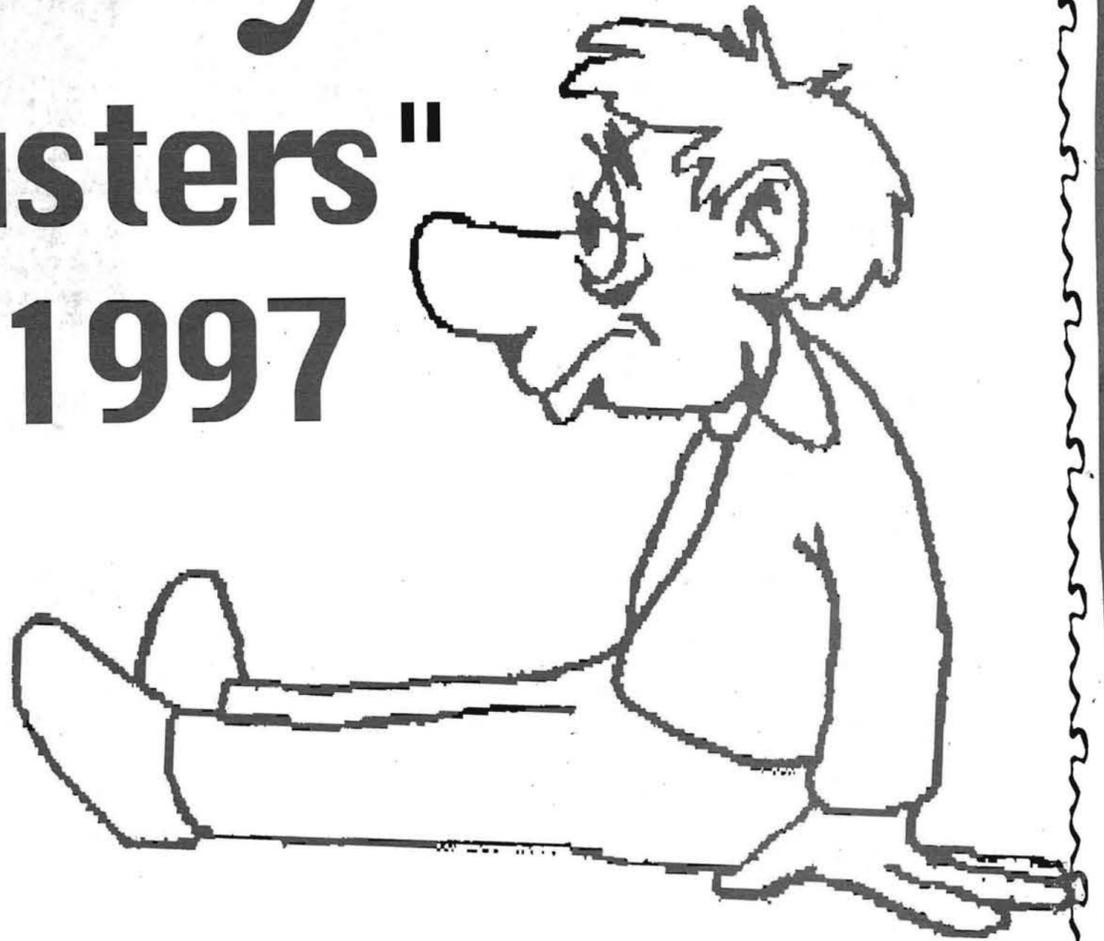
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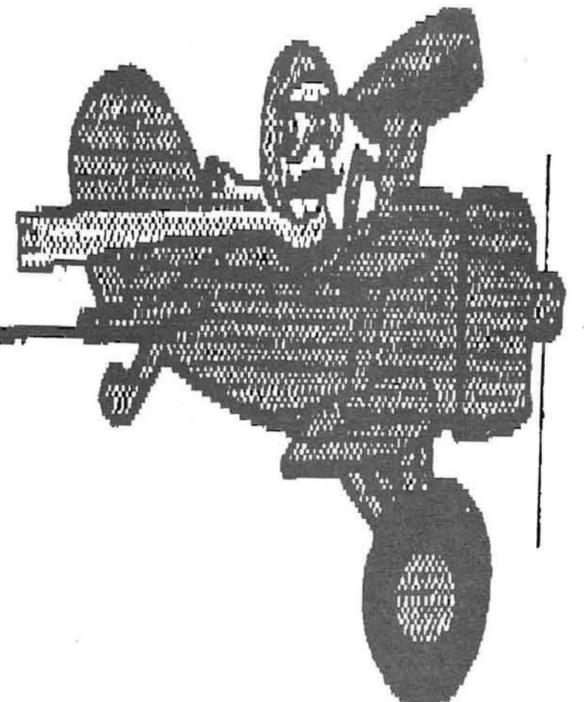


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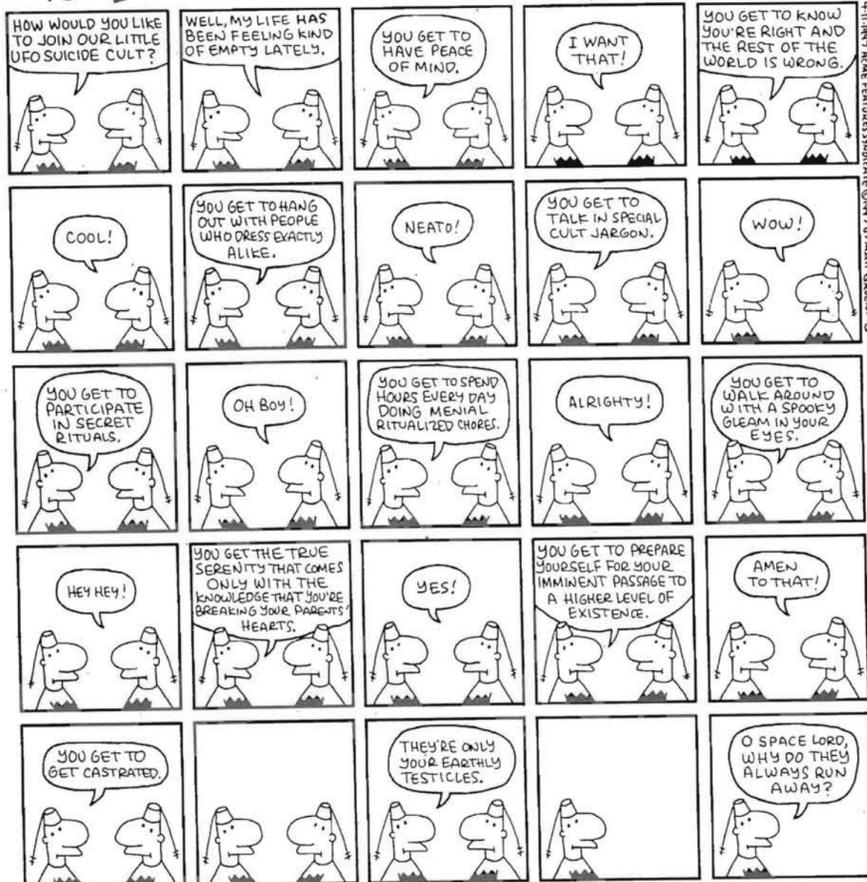
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Students prepare tax returns through IRS-UM-St. Louis partnership program

by Pam White
of The Current staff

Approximately 30 UM-St. Louis students prepared tax returns for over 700 individuals this tax season. The students were participants in the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which is coordinated on campus by the UM-St. Louis School of Business Administration and Beta Alpha Psi accounting fraternity.

The program provides tax services to senior citizens and those with low to moderate incomes. It is in its 25th year at UM-St. Louis and is the largest university-based tax service program in the Midwest. The VITA program at UM-St. Louis received the 1996 campus student leadership award for best sustained student program and was featured in the summer 1996 issue of the *UM-St. Louis Magazine*.

Students receive one hour of col-

lege credit for their work in this program, practical tax experience and personal satisfaction from community service. They also receive a certificate of appreciation from the IRS and reimbursement for travel expenses.

Participating students must attend a training workshop conducted on campus and must have completed nine or more semester credit hours of accounting courses. However, no experience is required. Students receive free tax guides, forms and workbooks and can ask to be paired with a more experienced tax return preparer if they feel uncomfortable about preparing returns for the public for the first time. Participants also receive a VITA hotline telephone number along with telephone numbers of VITA coordinators professors and a state form help line.

The IRS does not ask VITA tax return preparers to accept any legal liability or even to sign the return;

preparers simply write "VITA" and the site code on the "prepared by" line on the forms.

Wayne Winter, an instructor and coordinator in the School of Business Administration, said that he's a fan of the program. "It gives our students practice in dealing with reality," said Winter. He says that the work is much different from textbook problems where students are given specific facts. "You're dealing with real, live people who come in and say that they don't know what to do, and then they hand you a stack of papers," said Winter. The newly-initiated tax return preparer must then sort through this stack and glean necessary information to report. "I think it's marvelous for students," said Winter.

Lindell Chew, UM-St. Louis VITA faculty advisor and co-founder of the campus program, agrees with Winter. "Each taxpayer's case is customized," said Chew. But Chew also said that the program currently has



photo courtesy of U. Communications

Rosanne Boedeker, coordinator of VITA, assists Paul Arman with his taxes.

countants working at two of the most heavily used facilities, and students can work with the CPA's or can route difficult returns to those locations if they feel uncomfortable about the

level of expertise needed. Chew admits that students are often a little scared at first. "One of our participants volunteered to work as one of the coordinators this year, and she

was one of the most scared when she first saw the long lines and "no appointment" rule last year," said Chew. "It was great to see her growth," he said.

How about that weather?

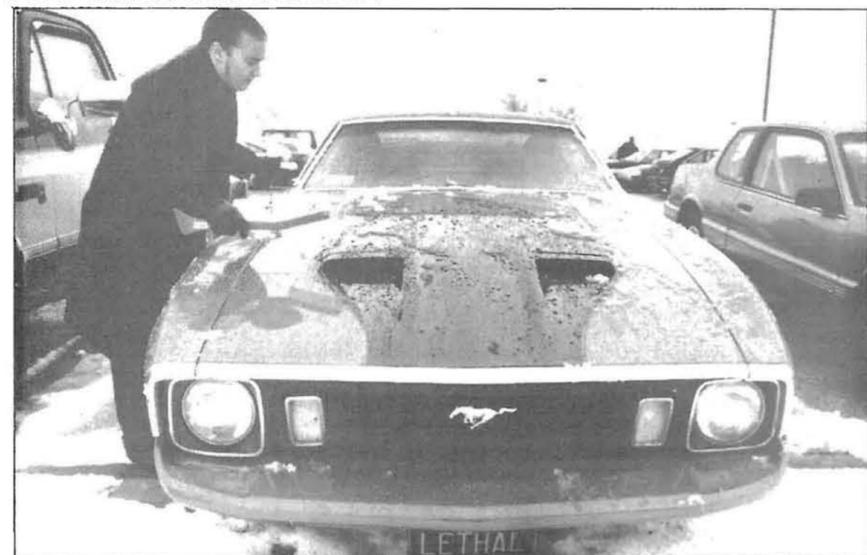


Photo by Ashley Cook

A "lethal" UM-St. Louis student removes the snow from his car Thursday morning after a freakish blast of winter weather—in spring—dumped three and four inches of snow on the St. Louis area.

Coming out:

New eatery moves to U-Center patio, adds BBQ, dogs

by David Baugher
of The Current staff

Baked beans, hot dogs and potato chips are only a few of the featured specials available at the open-air barbecue now providing lunch service on the patio between the University Center and the J. C. Penney Building.

The barbecue, which opened last week, replaces the Cove eatery, which is closing for the summer. The new attraction was previously held on a weekly basis. Now, however, it will expand to daily use. The Cove will reopen in the fall.

"I'm encouraged because they are using the patio," Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary Services, said. "Students seem to enjoy [the outside tables]."

The barbecue, open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. weekdays, was originally scheduled to begin regular operations April 1, but the opening was de-

layed until the arrival of a large tent. Schultz estimated that the 20 foot by 40 foot vinylized canvas structure could accommodate about 50 students.

The new barbecue is only one example of many proposed changes in the way the University provides food to the campus community.

"This is an attempt to bring food service to where the students are," Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, said.

Schuster said other "substantive improvements" would focus on greater selection, cleanliness and catering to those with restricted diets.

"We're trying to adapt to what people want, to what their needs are," he said.

The new initiatives have been prompted in part by the impending expiration of UM-St. Louis' contract with the Aramark Corp., which runs both the Cove and the Underground.

The five-year deal will end this summer, and the University has already sent out requests for proposals (RFPs) to more than a dozen food service providers, including Aramark.

Focus groups of students, faculty and staff were set up earlier this year to help determine what should be included in the University's RFP. The finished product includes proposals for improving food service to Woods Hall, expanding catering service, and implementing weekend hours for campus eateries Schultz said the ability to meet these and other suggested improvements will help form the criteria for choosing the next contractor.

Schultz also stressed that it is not too late for students to play a part in the process.

"The more people you talk to the more suggestions you get," she said.

A final decision on the new contract is expected by May.

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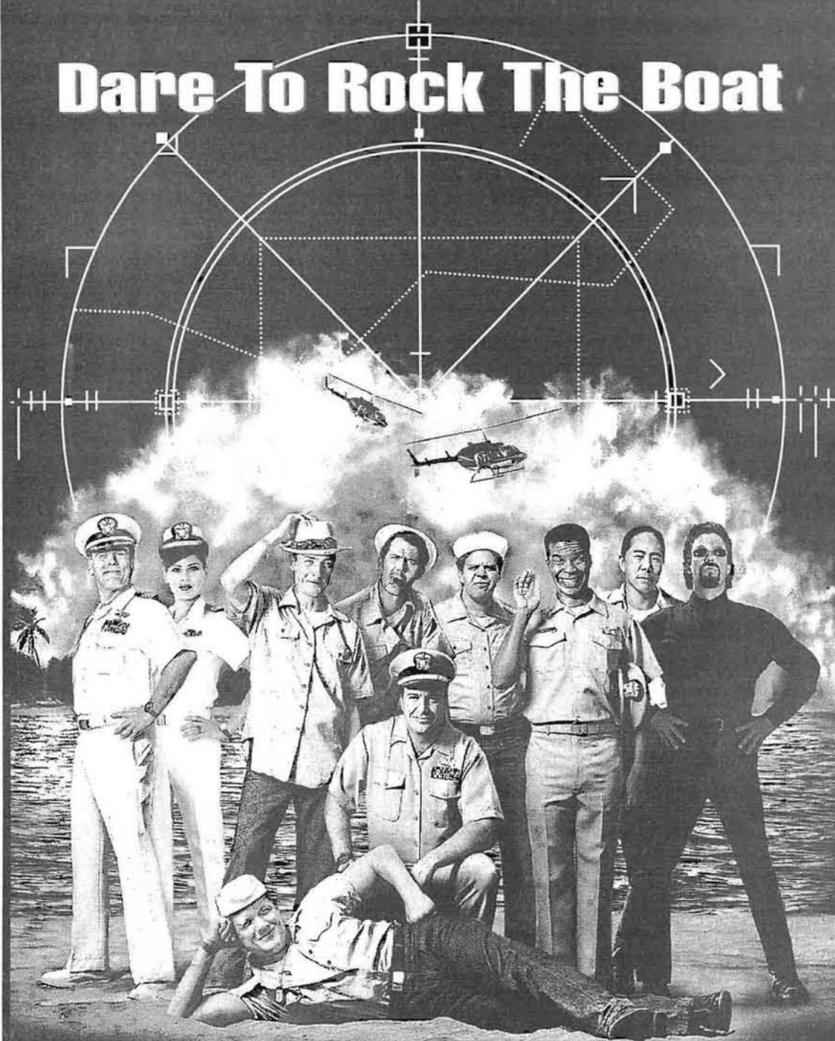
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FROM 3-31-4-25

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WEDNESDAY:	9:30AM - 12:30PM
	3:30PM - 5:30PM
THURSDAY:	9:30AM - 12:30PM
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