

Happy Holidays

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE
OF UM-ST. LOUIS

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS
OF CAMPUS COVERAGE

VOL. 31 ISSUE 907

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

DECEMBER 15, 1997

the year

1997

in review

JANUARY

Curator's hike tuition

The winter of 1997 marked the last semester of a major increase in educational fees for the University of Missouri as part of the so-called five-year plan.

In 1992 the Board of Curators approved a plan that nearly doubled the cost of tuition. Educational fees for the 1992-93 academic year were \$67.20 per credit hour compared to \$121 in 1997.

Faculty salaries received most of the money generated by the hike, raising the average faculty member's pay from the bottom third among universities nationally to about average, officials said.

FEBRUARY

Grievance shakes up ABC

A grievance alleging financial malfeasance among Associated Black Collegians officers led to the president of that organization, Kevin Taylor, resigning.

Sharon Hopkins, a business administration major, replaced Taylor and promised to return integrity to the organization.

MARCH

Cost cuts hit U hard

Chancellor Blanche Touhill handed a \$3.2 million cost reallocation to the campus to cover budget shortfalls.

The College of Arts & Sciences took the brunt of the budget cuts, losing over half a million dollars.

APRIL

Avery wins SGA election

Jim Avery defeated Barb Collaso in the race for Student Government President.

Avery promised increased computer services on campus.

Judge refuses coach's request

A federal court judge denied former women's basketball coach Jim Cohen's request for an injunction against the University which would have reinstated him.

Cohen was fired for poor performance; he sued alleging that Title IX violations within the University kept him from producing wins.

The University settled with Cohen for an undisclosed amount in the summer.

SEPTEMBER

U gets new sports team

Athletic Director Pat Dolan announced the addition of a women's golf program to begin in 1998.

She later also announced the construction of a women's softball field to bring greater equality between men's and women's sports.

OCTOBER

Candidates file for curator

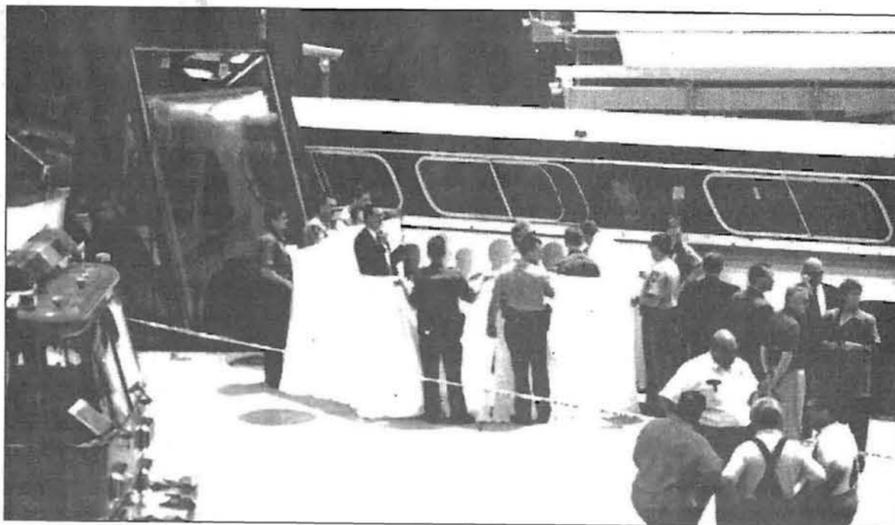
Fourteen students filed for the chance to become the next student curator to the UM Board of Curators.



The list was narrowed to Jim Avery, M. Ethel Myers and Sarah Welch.

Governor Mel Carnahan will appoint one of the three in January.

Bus crash on South Campus kills 4



Police, rescue crews and investigators extract a victim from the wreckage of a Bi-State bus that crashed into a crowded shelter June 11 at the South Campus Metro station.

UM-St. Louis student died in crash; driver was in training

A training exercise for a Bi-State bus driver ended tragically June 11 when the bus she was driving careened into a passenger shelter, killing four people.

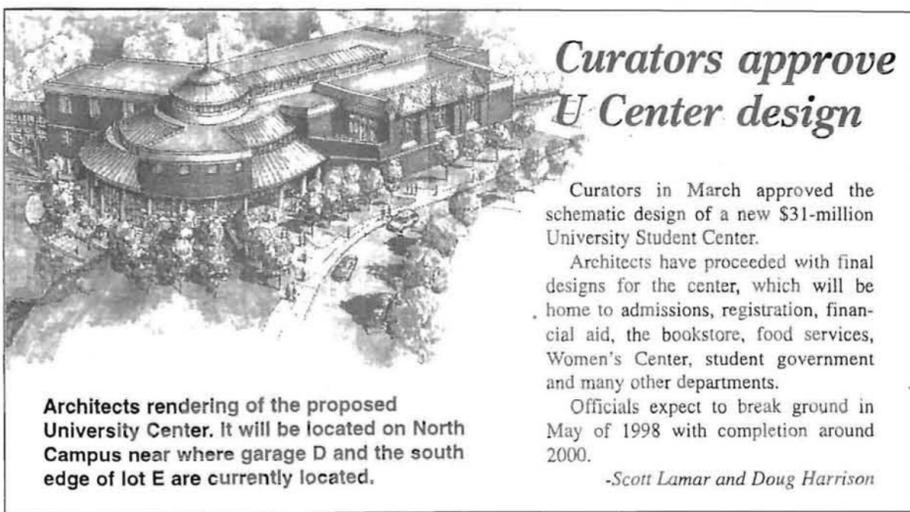
Nicola Ball, a bus driver in training with the Bi-State Development Agency, was approaching the bus stop at the South Campus Metro station around 9:15 a.m. Witnesses said Ball had just dropped off all her passengers and, with her instructor, Leatha Mayes, behind her, was trying to maneuver the 13.5-ton bus into a loading zone when her bus jumped the curb. It

slammed into a passenger shelter, striking four people.

The front of the bus came to rest some 40 feet from the curb. Mayes told officials he stopped the bus with the emergency brake.

Among the dead was Christina Green, a UM-St. Louis student. Investigators later ruled out mechanical failure. No charges were against Ball who was reassigned within the agency.

-Doug Harrison



Curators approve U Center design

Curators in March approved the schematic design of a new \$31-million University Student Center.

Architects have proceeded with final designs for the center, which will be home to admissions, registration, financial aid, the bookstore, food services, Women's Center, student government and many other departments.

Officials expect to break ground in May of 1998 with completion around 2000.

-Scott Lamar and Doug Harrison

Architects rendering of the proposed University Center. It will be located on North Campus near where garage D and the south edge of lot E are currently located.

KKK sues Board of Curators; want air time on KWMU

The Ku Klux Klan is suing the UM Board of Curators after KWMU radio management refused to accept advertisements from the group.

The KKK approached the UM-St. Louis radio station in late September requesting to underwrite four episodes of the public affairs program "All Things Considered" but were denied.

Klan attorney Robert Herman said his clients are

not seeking monetary damages, just the ability to sponsor the program.

The Klan's advertisement would read, "The Ku Klux Klan. A white Christian organization, standing up for the rights and values of white Christian America since 1865."

Motions are still pending in federal court.

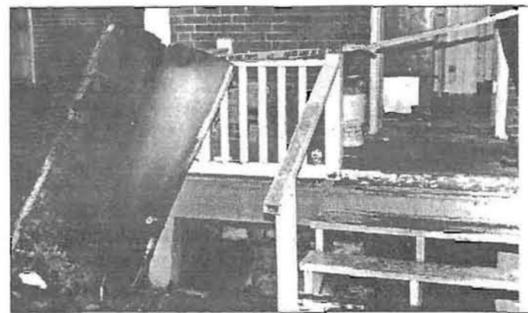
-Bill Rolfes

Arsonist torches The Current

An arsonist set fire to the offices of *The Current* at 7940 Natural Bridge Road in the wee hours of the morning of March 25. The fire originated below the back porch stoop, officials said, and was ignited by a bundle of papers having been set on fire.

The building sustained significant smoke damage throughout and structural damage to the south end. The building was repaired in June and the staff of the paper returned in July. No charges have been filed in the case.

-Bill Rolfes



The burned out back of The Current offices.

file photo

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Current Events Bulletin Board

Listings are subject to change; contact the organization for more information. All numbers use 516 prefixes unless specified otherwise.

Monday, Dec. 15

• **Taize Prayer** in 78 J.C. Penney from 12:05-12:25 p.m. sponsored by Campus Ministries. Contact: 385-3455.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

• **1997 Tele-Learning Technology**

Fair and User Conference from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Columns Ballroom at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the UM-Columbia Campus. RSVP to the Distance Learning Design Center by e-mail to dldc@ext.missouri.edu, or by

calling 573-882-3303.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

• **"The Origins of Stellar Masses: Probing the Initial Mass Function in Star-Forming Regions,"** a colloquium given by Dr. Michael R. Meyer from

Steward Observatory University of Arizona. This event will be held in 328 Benton Hall at 3:00 p.m. with coffee in 516 Benton Hall at 2:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Put it on the Board . . .

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration

is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. For best results, make all submissions in writing at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Managing Editor, The Current, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121.

Campus Crime Line

A service provided by the Campus Police.

October 25

University Maintenance reported a glass door at the General Services Building Dock area was damaged. The door had numerous cracks in the glass.

October 30

Staff at the Southwestern Bell Tele Community Center reported that between Oct. 26 and Oct. 30 a key ring with University keys was stolen from the center.

November 5

A student reported that at 3:15 p.m. on Nov. 4 her vehicle was damaged while parked on the second

level of parking garage N. The damage was limited to a scratch on the right front door.

November 12

A person was arrested at 9 p.m. for trespassing and destruction of property at a University owned building at 7800 South Florissant Road. The suspect had previously been warned against trespassing. Warrants will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

November 15

A juvenile was arrested at 12:10 p.m. for possession of a controlled substance. He was accompanied by a second person who was arrested as a fugitive from four jurisdictions. Arrest warrants will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

November 16

A staff person reported that between 10 p.m. on Nov. 13 and 7 a.m. on Nov. 14 unknown persons dented both left side doors on her vehicle while parked near Clark Hall.

November 18

A person was arrested on Nov. 12 for trespassing was again arrested on burglary and trespassing charges at a University owned building at 7800 South Florissant Road. Arrest warrants will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

November 19

A staff person reported that on Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m. she left her purse in the Underground. When the purse was returned two credit cards, a checkbook and a Missouri driver's license were missing.

November 20

A visitor to the campus reported that on Nov. 18 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. numerous photography items, a C.D. player, \$27.00 in cash, two sweat shirts and a Brunswick Bowling Jacket were stolen from the vehicle while it was parked on Lot XX.

A staff person was arrested on five active warrants from four jurisdictions.

It Can Be Kinda Lonely Out Here

A student gets a head start on finals in the quadrangle

Chad Hamby/The Current



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studentlife/
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↓
that's us

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MCMA

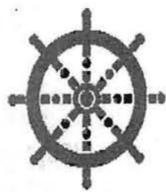


ATTENTION PATRONS OF THE MARK TWAIN BUILDING

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You must present a
photo ID to gain
entrance into the
Mark Twain Building

No Exceptions!!!



Thanks for
making the
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semester of
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Events
Bulletin
Board
a rousing
success.

Don't forget to make your submissions for the first issue of the new year before Thursday, Jan. 8.

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Spring Break 1998



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or Christmas can
keep the library
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A message from your friends
at
The Current

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Tax credit brings Hope, delayed bills to U students

'Scholarship' promotes higher education, employment

by Joshua Stegeman
staff writer

UM-St. Louis students can breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy the holidays because billing statements have been delayed to accommodate the Hope Scholarship.

The Hope Scholarship is neither a scholarship nor financial aid, but it is a tax credit written into the August federal tax bill. Essentially the "scholarship" allows students or their families to deduct up to \$1,500 a year on taxes owed.

The tax credit will not be enacted until after Jan. 1, 1998. Billing has been delayed because payments before the Jan. 1 date will not qualify as expenses for the students or families; consequently, they would be unable to receive the credit if payment was made before the enactment in 1998.

Tony Georges, director of financial aid, said that because the program is new, there hasn't been enough time to measure what kind of impact it will have on students.

"It [the tax credit] is another source of economic relief even though it does not provide immediate relief in terms of cash flow and working with an immediate bill," Georges said. "It might make a difference in a family deciding whether to send their son or daughter to school."

Unlike a scholarship or financial aid, which a student can subtract directly from a tuition bill, the tax credit is deducted from the taxes owed by the taxpayers so there is no money given directly to the taxpayer.

Besides income, other factors that determine the worth of the credit are the amount of qualified tuition and

fees paid, the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from the tuition, and the number of eligible dependents.

"It [the Hope Scholarship] might be the trigger for people to find a part-time job because you have to have tax exposure to be able to take advantage of it [the tax credit]," Georges said.

One of the other student requirements is to be enrolled "half-time" in a program leading to a degree or certificate. The student also must not have completed the first two years of the undergraduate study in the specific program.

Georges believes that the tax credit will have a direct affect on how people approach financial aid.

"We've reached a point in student financial aid that you'll find families and students doing better record keeping," Georges said. "Financial aid will become one of those deductions that people will say, 'this is what I paid; this is the financial aid I received; am I eligible for any kind of deduction?'"

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Students and families are eligible for the \$1,500 tax credit if they've filed a tax return and owe taxes

& Single taxpayers whose income is below \$40,000 (\$80,000 for couples)

University contracts with new banker; additional services could be in the offing

UMB chosen for its existing affiliation with U

by David Baugher
staff writer

United Missouri Bank will begin operating the on-campus banking facility starting Jan. 1.

The facility, located in the University Center, is currently run by Normandy Bank, which is scheduled to cease campus operations Dec. 24. According to Jim Krueger, vice-chancellor for Managerial and Technological Services, Normandy Bank has run the on-campus bank since it opened, but the UM system chose United Missouri Bank when the University's banking contracts were up. United Missouri Bank is already the campus depository bank.

Krueger said he did not know how many banks had bid for the new contract.

"This is almost all handled by the system," Krueger said. "We gave some input but basically they had developed what they wanted."

Dave Lendt, director of University Relations for the University of Missouri system, said the Board of Curators made the decision to improve efficiency.

"When bids were put out this time it was decided that it would be more economical to combine the depository and the banking station," Lendt said.

I've asked them (United Missouri Bank) to look into putting an ATM on the South campus and they've promised that they will look into that.

-Gloria Schultz
director of Auxiliary and Management Svcs.

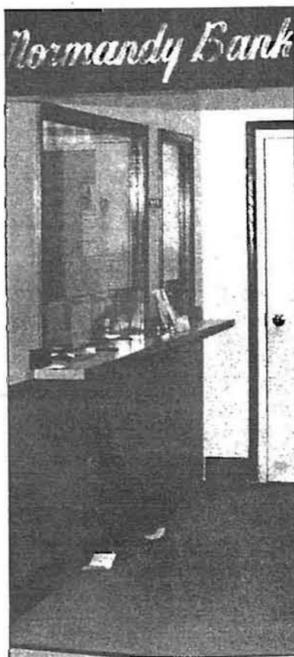
"There were lots of changes [made by the board]. This was one."

Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary and Management Services, said that banking hours would continue to be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., but they may be expanded in the future. Other changes could also be in store.

"I've asked them to look into putting an ATM on the South campus and they've promised that they will look into that," Schultz said.

Schultz said that United Missouri Bank is scheduling an open house sometime early next semester to acquaint students

with their bank. Schultz said there had been no problems with Normandy Bank.



'A place to collaborate'



Daniel Hazelton/The Current
Chancellor Blanche Touhill and Charles Schmitz, center, dean of the school of education cut the ribbon in the Dec. 8 dedication ceremony for the new St. Louis Regional Education Park. Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Reinhard Schuster looks on.

Area educators dedicate new Regional Education Park

by Becky Zagurski
staff writer

UM-St. Louis has joined forces with area educators as a partner in the St. Louis Educational Park.

The objective of the park is to "create a place where people interested in improving education for children and adults could collaborate," Thomas Schnell, associate dean for administrative affairs in the School of Education, said.

Schnell said area educators see it as a great opportunity to pool their resources and work together rather than having everyone off in their own world doing different things.

One objective of the park is to research methods that will improve the education of teachers. For example, Schnell said that they hope to create more hands on programs for masters in education rather than using the traditional classroom as the primary learning environment.

Another goal is to "improve the quality of the St. Louis public schools," Charles D. Schmitz, dean of the School of Education, said.

The idea for the park stems out of the 2004 campaign. The goal of 2004 is to bring the St. Louis metro area back to the prosperity of the 1904 World's Fair era. Improving education is a substantial part of 2004.

Funding came from a state tax bond passed for the specific purpose of establishing the park. In addition to being a partner in the program, UM-St. Louis owns and maintains the building.

In general, most education students will not need to go to the park. Instead, it is "more likely that people that work in the park will go to the students," Schnell said. Interactive video is one way the partnership will communicate with education majors.

The partnership consists of the following organizations:

The Cooperating School Districts Staff Development division, State Initiatives of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, The St. Louis Professional Development Schools Collaborative, The St. Louis Regional Institute for Science Education at UM-St. Louis and the St. Louis Regional Professional Development Center.

Despite inclement weather, Schnell said that about 200 people attended the Park dedication ceremony on Dec. 8 and it "really went very well."

Some remodeling still needs to be done to the building. Schnell said he expects the building to be ready for occupancy around March 1. The park is located across the street from the North Campus entrance on Florissant Road in what used to be the Med-North building.

Stress Squashing (or so they say)



Jamie Gendron, left, and Tammy Denton sought refuge from finals stress in PlayDough last week. The group squashed, mashed, manipulated and generally beat the malleable material on the second floor Clark hall Thursday.

Daniel Hazelton/The Current

Petition drive gains momentum; organizers claim hundreds of signatures

by David Baugher
staff writer

Supporters of an ongoing petition drive opposing next year's student fee increases say they have collected about 350 signatures.

The petition, called "No Legislation Without Representation," criticizes a "48% rise over last year's fees." It also calls for the institution of a "student advisory board" to serve as "a liaison between the students and administration in regard to all issues, present and future, concerning student moneys, including student fees."

Tonya Hutchinson, a social work major and organizer of the petition drive, said the effort was prompted in part by the recent proposal to institute a \$6.05 per-credit-hour fee hike one year earlier than was originally planned to help pay for the new University Center.

"It doesn't matter whether its going to go up now or a year from now," Hutchinson said.

It doesn't matter whether its going to go up now or a year from now. The argument here is not when they're going to do it, it's that they're going to do it.

-Tonya Hutchinson
leading student group

"The argument here is not when they're going to do it, it's that they're going to do it."

Don Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor, said the increase was not out of line with the will of the students. He cited the Student Government Association's non-binding approval of the fee increase last month as evidence of student support for the hike.

Hutchinson said that the SGA is not representative of the student body as a whole since it only includes members of student organizations.

"SGA represents a small portion of the student voice," Hutchinson said. "Anybody who is involved with anything at the University knows that the majority of students aren't involved in student groups."

"The Student Government Association is the formally elected body given status by the Board of Curators to represent the students on campus," Driemeier said. "Why in the world would we ever constitute an SGA if it wasn't appropriate to take student issues to the SGA?"

He pointed out that students had approved the idea of a new University Center in a referendum two years ago.

"Does the fact that we took a vote of the

see PETITION, page 10

OPINION/EDITORIAL

The Current

The student voice of UM-St. Louis

Editorial Board Members

Doug Harrison
editor in chief
Bill Rolfes
managing editor
Wendy Verhoff
community relations director

Unsigned editorials are written by and reflect the majority opinion of the editorial board.

How to respond

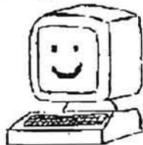
Your response is an important part of the weekly debate on this page. Letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be accompanied by your name and daytime telephone number.



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OUR OPINION

"Enrichment hour" — not on this campus

THE ISSUE:

The Senate Student Affairs Committee wants to install one or more one-hour periods during the week when class cannot be held.

WE SUGGEST:

The University should not stop classes, because most UM-St. Louis students are too busy to wait an idle hour for classes to start again. Furthermore, this hour will not make students "get involved" more.

So WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us hear from you. Submit a letter to the editor on this or any issue.

Here we go again. When we last heard of it, it was called "stop hour," a one- or two-hour period a couple of times each week when classes are stopped, ostensibly to allow students to "become involved."

Then, it was promoted by the Office of Student Activities and it lived a very short life: students' response was so mediocre, the idea was appropriately abandoned.

Now, it has been warmed over and picked up by the Senate Student Affairs Committee, which has dressed it up and called it "enrichment hour." The committee is "preparing a proposal for the Senate" in the near future.

Unfortunately, the glamorous and slightly misleading nomenclature will not save the proposal from ultimate failure.

In 1994, Eric Barnhart, then-president of the College Republicans, put it this way: "I think it's a good idea, but I don't think it will work. It's hard to get anyone to attend anything."

Mr. Barnhart was right then and he is still right.

Students on this campus do not, for whatever reason, make time for on-campus activities. They are mostly commuters, with jobs, and friends and homes several miles from campus. For many of them, the University provides the quality

education found only at a traditional research university at the cost of a commuter college.

These are the benefits of attending a new breed of university — the land-grant, research commuter university.

The trade-off is, of course, that many students will not choose or have time to participate in on-campus activities. Should they be penalized for this fact of life? Should they be forced to stay on campus an extra hour or two, frittering away that time in a computer lab or in the Underground?

Certainly not.

It's more than a little presumptuous to think that Student Government Association meetings and student organizational functions and student seats on the Senate and lecture or concert series will automatically fill up if we just institute a stop-hour.

Stop hour or not, there is a contingent of students on this campus who will always participate in the life of the University because they choose to make time, their own personal enrichment hour(s), every day for the activities they prioritize.

But UM-St. Louis students at large should not be force-fed the ideology and zealotry of a few students and administrators. Stop-hour, enrichment hour, playtime, recess, whatever — let students make their own decision.

Silence may tarnish SGA president

Silence may be golden at a theater, but it's another story completely when it comes to the University Senate, especially if you're Jim Avery, Student Government Association president and candidate for student curator for the UM system.

Though it might seem like just another gathering of tenured professors and administrators with confusing titles, the senate represents every aspect of campus life and is one of the true bodies of power within the University. That's why it seems as though students, or at least their elected representative, should be heard from on regular basis in the senate.

Mr. Avery indicated to us last month that a communication snafu bumped him off the schedule at the first Senate meeting of the year. After that, he said, he has not been on the agenda for one reason or another.

Finally, at last week's meeting, Mr. Avery was on the agenda. But he was a no-show without explanation. Though this absence may have been unavoidable, the damage has been done: the senate has adjourned for the semester without once hearing formally from the student body president who aspires to speak for all UM students at the system level.

No matter how diligent Mr. Avery is in the coming semester, he may never be able to regain the confidence of the senators who have duly noted his conspicuous absence on the agenda.

For Mr. Avery's sake, we hope the governor (who appoints the student curator) and the students who elected Mr. Avery are more forgiving than the senate may be.

GUEST COMMENTARY

UM-St. Louis students friendliest I've seen

When I began my college career in the fall of 1994, I thought I had at least the remainder of my education, planned. I started at then Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman), and continued there for two years. After one too many sorority scandals and lonely aggravation due to the insincerity of my fellow students, however, I knew I did not want to return.

So I transferred a bit closer to home, to Mizzou, where the anticipation of living in a true college town, having my own apartment, and showing myself a genuine Tiger fan at all those Big 12 football games convinced me I would be content with my second college choice.

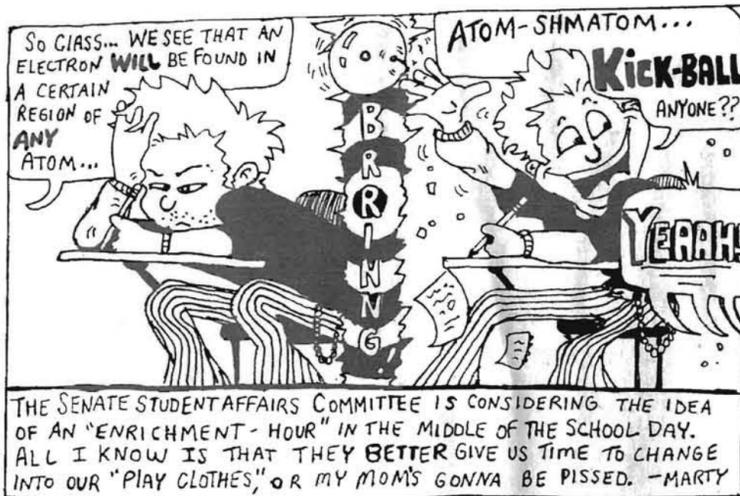
Turns out I was so happy with life in Columbia, I forgot what was supposed to be my main purpose for being there: not merely to attend my classes, but to do well in them and eventually graduate. I managed to spend more money than I had as well and found myself in a debt I am still paying off.

So I transferred as close to home as I could get, back to my old room, back to sharing a washer and dryer with three other people, back to explaining what I was doing until four in the morning.

And to UM-St. Louis. The main thing I had heard about this school was that it lacked the "college campus feel" that other universities have. Because the fact that earning better grades and finishing school in order to get on with my life were my top priorities, I refused to let myself think of the risk of disappointment I was taking. I had had my fun. I had lived on my own. It was time for me to grow up and stop being so social.

With my first semester here coming to a close, I am delighted to have discovered that while this school is indeed scant in terms of a college atmosphere, UM-St. Louis has the friendliest, most approachable, and pleasantly interesting students of the three colleges I have sampled. At Northeast, for example, I completed semesters without knowing the name of the girl who sat next to me, or the men living in the dorm across the hall. While at Mizzou, I often found myself wondering why no one was willing to return a stranger's smile. It got so annoying that I began going to class with the same grumpy face as everyone else. I remained in an outgoing, reliable circle of friends at both schools, but felt that the attitudes of the entire campuses hindered any chance of meeting new people.

see GUEST, page 8



READER RESPONSE

Professor seeks clarification of quotation in article

I would like to clarify some statements attributed to me in the Nov. 17 article "Students, faculty search for answers to indifference, racism." First, the article identifies me as an "assistant professor of history" when I am in fact "associate professor with continuous appointment." But that is a minor point.

Secondly, I stand by my printed statement borrowed from H. Rap Brown (who now has a Muslim name) in the 60s that, "Racism is as American as apple pie, and it's not going away." In the article, this quotation is directly followed by another: "I have nice colleagues, but they don't eat with me." Such placement would suggest that I eat alone because of racism at the University. However, having grown up in the era of Plessy vs. Ferguson - the "separate but equal doctrine" - and Brown vs. Board of Education and trained to look for racism, I have not observed racism at the University of Missouri St. Louis. That is why I vehemently object to the author's placement of my quotes outside their contextual basis.

My point in making the latter statement was this: first, most of my colleagues eat in their offices alone or go home for lunch as I do most of the time. The point of emphasis here is that being a commuter campus (most of the students have jobs) makes for "indifference" and the "publish or perish" syndrome of the faculty

completes the circle.

Having said that, I do feel that blacks have received a bad shake in this country, even though there is progress on the horizon. The legacy of slavery and Mark Twain's "Gilded Age" (the book that defined an era) is still with us and will not go away in the near future. How are we as a nation going to be a color blind society when we have never been one?

Finally, I myself will not be attending any further series on campus that deal with "indifference (or) racism." In my opinion, they are unproductive, no matter how good the intent of the organizers. There is an African proverb that says, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." And it takes the participation of the whole University to change its culture.

-Adell Patton Jr.
associate professor
history

Down with the University's incremental grading system

In your December 8, 1997 issue, the "Our Opinion" section talks about throwing out the incremental grading system. If there is no chance of an A+, then I am totally against the incremental system.

Under the incremental system, a plus is worth 0.3 more than the standard GPA for that letter, and a minus is worth 0.3 less. For example:

see, LETTERS, page 8

Casting the first stone: theater is bad news

Normally, I would support any proposal that meant the music department would get a new home. You see, my office is a few steps (a stone's throw away, my grandfather would have said) from the music building. All day long, pianists and vocalists and horn players aspire to become great musicians.

For those of you who haven't heard musicians aspire, it's not nearly as glamorous as "Shine" or "Ameadeus" would have us think.

To be honest, it can be pure hell. Especially if the aspirant is, say a trumpet player running scales she or he has not yet mastered.

I have considered seeing how far a stone's throw is on several occasions.

But the new home currently in the works for the music department is tied directly to a \$60 million PR behemoth that looks more and more everyday like a shrine to the donors that will ultimately have to fund it.

The building, you will recall, is a 1,500-seat theater to be built in place of the nearly condemned Garage H on North Campus near the police station.

The music department will move to the nearby General Services Building, currently being used for, well, general services. Departments in that building will move to who knows where and the music department will move right in.

Of course they'll share the space with the drama program that doesn't currently exist.

And that's one of the problems with this whole ploy.

Seems to me there ought to be some kind of established academic program on which to base the need for a center that's being called "a cultural hub" of the metropolitan area. The college of Arts & Sciences cut the drama program a few years back to save money.

Nowadays, the University is more financially strapped than it was then yet top-level administrators continue to pursue commendable but ultimately peripheral projects like this one while our fundamental academic integrity slides toward financial squalor.

The question isn't whether a theater would be good for students and the University or not; of course it would. Any half wit can tell you that. And anyone who bases the "need" for this theater solely on its intrinsic goodness is avoiding the more basic question of contextuality: is the University in a position to build this theater now? Should the University choose at this time to promote a project that will require a large-scale development effort (i.e. begging for private money) in the face of such internal upheaval among faculty whose budgets are continually cut to keep the University solvent?

More important, once the theater is constructed, there will be no escaping a drama program and the associated costs. Other related departments like music and communication will start clamoring for more money to showcase their best and brightest to the community in this new cultural hub.

This sets an alarming precedent. Should our academic programs be tied to the cost and visibility of the facility that houses them? And should students be forced to payroll the affair with increased tuition and fees?

For my money, the music department and their aspiring trumpet players can stay right where they are and I'll hold on to my stones for now.

Christmas Spirit makes people do weird stuff

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. Not because I get presents and stuff (well, that's part of it), but because of the attitude people seem to have during the holidays.

You can smile at someone walking down the street and he'll smile back at you. If you smile at a stranger any other time of the year you will probably get a different reaction.

If I were to smile at a guy, he would force a smile while questioning my sexuality. If I were to cross a woman and say hi, most likely she would continue walking past me - faster - all the time hoping that I won't attack her.

Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating a little, but Christmas does bring out the friendly spirit in people. It causes them to do things they would not do normally.

People decorate their homes, they put up trees that look out of place in their living rooms, and they wear bright red and green clothes they wouldn't be caught dead in at any other time of the year — and no one makes fun of them, except maybe non-Christians.

Some people say the Christmas spirit should last all year long. Well, that's asking the impossible. I'm a pretty cheerful, light-hearted guy, but I think I would get sick of the cheesy good-will-toward-men (sorry, good-will-toward-all-people) bit, but it's nice for about a month or so. Besides, it wouldn't exactly be "Christmas spirit" if it lasted all year long.

The Christmas spirit seems to be something you can rent for a period of time. A few weeks out of the year, people who normally snub charity workers drop change in a can for the Salvation Army or buy food baskets for the less fortunate.

The truly generous are not necessarily those folks who donate money or various items to the poor. Signing a check or donating a little pocket change is generous to an extent, but it doesn't take much energy. An individual does have to work for the money he or she donates, but the actual act of handing over a donation does not exactly burn a ton of calories.

The truly generous people are those who serve the community. The men, women and children who collect donations, hand out clothes, and cook in cafeterias for the needy are giving something better than money, their time and effort.

Time is invaluable. These volunteers could have been content at giving a couple bucks to the guy in the Santa suit outside the grocery store, but they feel they need to do more. Most of these are the kind of people who make it a point to serve the community all year long.

Sorry to feed you a sermon. I know I don't volunteer as much as I should. Sometimes I get caught up in the materialism that goes along with the holidays.

During Christmas I'm more generous than usual. It's kind of like being drunk — I'll buy anything for just about anyone and not worry about how much I spend.



Doug Harrison
editor in chief



Bill Rolfes
managing editor

ODDS & ENDS

Holiday shopping . . .

Stick it in the Fridge



Becky Rickard
features editor

A couple of years ago, my best friend gave me an essay she had printed from the Internet, "Don't Call me Generation X. I'm a Child of the '80s." This essay was one of the most important works of literature I have read in my college career.

This essay has a feel-good quality to it like a cheesy romantic comedy. It discusses issues from my childhood and adolescence that had almost been erased. How could I forget Dangermouse, jelly shoes, twist beads, friendship bracelets and milk money? How could I forget Capri-Sun, 9 p.m. bedtimes, Easy-Bake ovens, Fruit Roll-Ups, Cabbage Patch Kids, Ms. Pac-Man and *Tron*, the movie?

This essay made me think, "Am I a member of Generation X or am I a child of the '80s?" But now I ask, "Are these categories one in the same?" It is true that X'ers were children in the '80s, therefore, they are automatically children of the '80s. Therein lies the problem. Children of the '80s cannot automatically be Generation X'ers. It takes a certain breed to be a member of this notorious generation.

Now I am confronted with defining Generation X.

The naming of this generation derives from Billy Idol's old band, Generation X. I never listened to Billy Idol with that group so I could not tell you how effective the group's influence was. However, I do know that many X'ers have adopted the Billy Idol/311 bleach blonde look and the infamous lip snarl. I find it funny that X'ers are secretly screaming with a "Rebel Yell" with "Flesh for Fantasy" using "Eyes Without a Face" feeling "Hot in the City" forgetting a "White Wedding."

When I asked people to describe Generation X to me, the word slacker was repeated over and over again. As an X'er, my first memory of the word slacker appeared in *Back to the Future*. That's right X'ers, we are all Biffs. We are screamed at by bald army sergeants disguised as high school teachers. We have bad haircuts. We are bullies. What's worse? We don't get the girl.

I tried to remember the first time I heard my respected elders place me in Generation X. I think I was watching Pearl Jam's new buzz clip, "Alive," after I had purchased the Nirvana *Nevermind* CD, while picking out my favorite flannel shirt to tie around the waist of my baggy jeans, consciously not combing my hair before I went to a kegger after I smoked a bowl under the bleachers of a high school football game.

I had the appearance of an X'er but I never had the mentality. Sure, my parents bought me a car when I turned 16 but I also had a job. That's right; I had a job and so did all of my friends. I also did well in school. I actually came home from school, watched TV for a while, talked on the phone for hours and then set out to finish my homework. Believe it or not, I played two high school sports. I wore softball and soccer uniforms by day and flannel by night. I even gave away my Nintendo.

The more I think about it, the more angry I become when I hear the negative undertones associated with the term Generation X. I am an X'er. I have the built up anger. I have a wardrobe of baggy pants and no belts. I liked grunge and punk, but . . . I'm not a slacker. Actually, most X'ers I know aren't slackers. The old farts that look down on us and revert to mudslinging are just upset that we turned out just like them. James Dean didn't die; he is alive and well in the silent brooding of every X'er. Elvis' pelvis paved the way for the antics of Marilyn Manson. The women of X are paying good money for silicone Monroe breasts. If this ridiculing of Generation X continues from the older generation, I might have to resort to violence: I will send Scary Spice after you.



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

Top, the ever-popular gold holiday tree at the Galleria, one of the busiest malls in the St. Louis area. At right, even the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile has to fight for a parking spot during the holidays. Weekends are the worse but no time is totally hassle free.

by Amy Lombardo
staff writer

Despite all the festive cheer and goodwill that comes with the holidays, there is a part of the season that most people dread: Shopping. The idea of shopping is usually not an unpleasant one for most people under normal circumstances. At this time of the year, however, a strategy is useful to help steer clear of holiday hassles.

One of the leading problems for shoppers is determining the best way to deal with the teeming mass of people occupying the malls. A key thing to consider, when attempting to side-step the majority of the masses, is timing.

Sean Phillips, director of marketing at Crestwood Plaza, advises people not to shop on the weekend if at all possible.

"Typically, the weekday evenings are best to avoid the holiday rush," Phillips said.

At Crestwood they work hard to promote shopping on weekdays, especially after 5 p.m.. Local music groups perform to create a more festive mood and make the experience more enjoyable overall. On-air personalities from local radio stations, like FM 101.1 The River and KIX 106.5 FM, also make appearances to have drawings and do promotional giveaways.

If shopping during the week is not an option, the crowds at the malls on weekends are pretty much unavoidable.

There are still ways to have a good time while gift-hunting Friday through Sunday.

A fun way to shop is to go with a friend. It's always nice to have someone to help in difficult decision making. Too many people can sometimes cause more confusion and frustration than going solo. Try to keep the number down to two or three people. Another good reason for keeping groups small is to keep the overall body count of the mall at a minimum. Bringing a large amount of people will only add to

If shopping during the week is not an option, the crowds at the malls on weekends are pretty much unavoidable. There are still ways to have a good time while gift-hunting Friday through Sunday.

the already crowded atmosphere.

Large, crowded stores are rarely a good place to bring small children. Watching toddlers or infants will take away from the task at hand, increasing the time

spent shopping and adding to stress.

If a whole day of shopping is planned, don't forget to stop and rest occasionally. Grabbing a bite to eat or just a cafe mocha is an excellent way to escape for a few minutes.

Try to allow plenty of time to shop. This isn't always possible, but it makes the day less stressful if there aren't any deadlines.

There are a few ways to avoid the malls altogether. There is just enough time left to get in some catalog shopping, and still have gifts delivered on time. At this late date, the odds that most people will have to battle in the mall-wars are highly probable.

. . . Without the hassles



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

UNDER CURRENT

by Stephanie Platt
staff photographer

WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR \$1,000?



"I might consider taking Calc II over again."

— Joyce Myers
freshman/mech. engineering



"I would tell the world 'I love college.'"

— Keith Robinson
senior/MIS



"I might THINK about bungee jumping."

— Thad Turner
junior/business



"I'd spend New Year's Eve studying in the library."

— Kathy Wright
senior/education

Where shoppers pay, the thieves will prey

Preparation and awareness plus common sense are best weapons against crime

by Becky Rickard
staff writer

According to the International Council of Shopping Centers, one fourth of all retail sales occurs in the months of November and December. This means that one fourth of your hard earned money is spent in one of the many retail or outlet malls included in this statistic. This also means that one purse snatching or picked pocket or theft from a vehicle will be more devastating to the victim because of the large amounts of money lost or used to replace the perfect gift.

Obviously it is important to remember safety around the holidays. The St. Louis Galleria promotes safety within the mall's walls by not only providing public safety officers but also offering a "Shopping Smart" pamphlet for shoppers. The pamphlet contains many helpful hints to remember around the holidays.

"Be aware of your surroundings," Chief of Brentwood Police William Karabas said. "If you have any doubt about going to your car, don't go to your car. Call security."

Authorities also recommend that shoppers look in the back seat before entering the vehicle. Having car keys available also provide protection from theft and

assault. It is wise to lock the vehicle's doors every time a door is open and closed, either locking the shopper in or locking an intruder out. Remember where you have parked by noting a distinctive landscape item or writing the location on your shopping list. Furthermore, do not tempt a thief by leaving packages visible in the vehicle.

Once the shopper leaves the parking lot or garage, safety must still be a priority. ICSC recommends that shoppers not carry large amounts of cash. However, if that is a preferred choice of payment, do not overtly flash the cash. If shoppers choose to pay by credit or debit card, authorities suggest putting the card and driver's license in the same part of the wallet and double check them after every use.

Purse snatching and picked pockets are another large concern for the holiday shopper. It is imperative to hold purses close and to use a chain attaching wallets to clothing.

"Fanny packs are extremely helpful in combating stolen purses and wallets," Karabas said.

The most important advice given by authorities is to use common sense and to be aware of the shopping environment. Listen to the age old advice of your mother. There is safety in numbers.

Litmag gears up for '98 edition

by Craig Holway
special to The Current

Have you ever written a story or a poem? Have you ever made a sculpture, painted or photographed as an art form? If you have, and you don't know what to do with the finished product, LitMag does.

LitMag, which is short for Literary Magazine, is a student run publication that showcases the works of the students and faculty of UM-St. Louis. The magazine is published annually in April and prints the talents of UM-St. Louis' faculty and student body.

Joshua Kryah, poetry editor of LitMag, said that the LitMag is a somewhat unknown entity on the

campus.

"Not too many people know about us, but we've been around for many years," Kryah said.

LitMag features sections on prose, poetry, art and, this year, an expanded section on sculpture and photography.

"We want to make it as diverse as possible," Kryah said.

One challenge that Lit Mag is trying to overcome is its lack of academic diversity. In years past, submissions have come mostly from English majors and English department faculty. Kryah would like to see submissions from every part of the campus

see LITMAG, page 8

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Art imitating life, imitating art'



Sarah Michelle Gellar realizes the caller on the other end of the line is not going to let her get away so easily.

More excuses to *Scream 2*

Scream 2
Dimension Films
Rated R

Wes Craven is nothing if not ambitious. You may mistake the latest manifestation of that ambition, *Scream 2*, for one of its recent relatives, *Scream* of last year, and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* of just a few short weeks ago.

But look closely. *Scream 2* is going someplace, taking Craven's trendy new thriller formula in a direction that its predecessors didn't go or take.

Consider the story line itself: the movie opens in a theater - opening night of *Stab*, the latest thriller to hit the screen and based on the true story of, what else, the Woodsboro murders made famous by the first *Scream*. A psychotic connoisseur of the cinematic sequel hacks up two movie goers on the spot, thus inaugurat-

ing another reign of bloody masked murders.

At the center is, of course, Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) and the slightly maimed (both physically and mentally) survivors from a year ago when Sidney's boyfriend Billy Lumis and his twisted pal got their kicks with a knife and mask.

Drawing from the groundwork he laid the first time around, Craven frames frames within frames, constantly toying with and standing on its head the notion of, as Randy, the resident horror flick expert put its early on, "art imitating life imitating art."

The movie works with that idea for a while, but ultimately gets bogged down in the pursuit thereof: Craven is constantly stringing a hundred a little threads of social and cultural commentary through-

out the movie, taking jabs at everything from racial, sexual and gender stereotypes in cinema to the symbiotic relationship between the ubiquitous media culture and gruesome murders.

But the several hundred trendy youngsters who turned out last week for the screaming, I mean screening, didn't seem to care too much about that. In the end, they got just what they wanted: an over-the-top, overkill (pun intended) ending that gave them plenty of chances to howl, heckle and, yes, scream.

-Doug Harrison

The Current

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The Rainmaker scores big on drama and suspense

The Rainmaker
Rated R

With all of the big bust movies being shown on silver screens everywhere, *The Rainmaker* comes through with a solid, well-acted and directed performance.

The story begins with Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon) graduating law school and failing to find a job with a respectable law firm. He then finds himself in conjunction with Bruiser Stone (Mickey Rourke), a thug who has as much invested in topless bars as he does in his law firm. Baylor then proceeds to chase ambulances and snatch cases wherever and whenever he can. It becomes apparent he has a huge case against an insurance company when Stone and his buddies come under fire from the FBI.

Baylor and Deck Shifflet (Danny DeVito), a paralegal who shows Rudy the ropes, break loose of Stone's grip and form their own law firm with two cases. Case one is a will and case two is the law

suit against the insurance company.

As is expected from a lawyer who just passed the bar in his first case, Baylor makes plenty of mistakes potentially hurting his case.

However, Baylor makes up for his rookie mistakes with guts and hard work. He even has enough courage to stand up to the thousand-dollar-an-hour-lawyers; asking them if they remember when they sold out.

With all of the trial blunders Baylor experiences, he still has time to protect a victim of spouse abuse and fall in love. After the trial Baylor retires because he hates how low lawyers will go to protect their clients. He likes his idealistic world of law.

The Rainmaker provides laughs, heart-warming scenes, suspense and even some hatred (of big business). I would recommend this excellent flick to anyone who wants to be drawn in and told a story.

-Matthew Regensburger

MUSIC REVIEW

Mixed up and confused works for Crashers

Dance Hall Crashers
Honey, I'm Homely
MCA Records

For those who love mixed up, confused music that does not lend itself to be classified in a genre of music, the Dance Hall Crashers latest release, *Honey, I'm Homely*, is made for your specifications. This album incorporates the basics of ska, punk, a little funk and a whole lot of rock-n-roll.

The two-part vocals of Elyse Rogers and Karina Denike complement each other perfectly. They set the tone for the whole listening experience. On songs such as "Lost Again" and "Salted" the vocals are amazing, going back and forth between the two vocalists and then coming together perfectly. The

upbeat harmonies that provide the background for the singers are accomplished by guitarist Jason Hammon, bass player Mikey Weiss and drummer Gavin Hammon. It sounds like they have been playing together for their entire lives. Of course, they have been playing together as the Dance Hall Crashers off and on since 1989. The band started as a side project for Matt Freeman and Tim Armstrong, both of Rancid. After a few personnel changes and the departure of the Rancid punkers, Dance Hall Crashers was formed.

Honey, I'm Homely continues down the unbeaten path where musical flavors mix and turn into one great sound. This is a great album, and it deserves a listen.

-Matthew Regensburger

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OPENS DECEMBER 25 EVERYWHERE

SPORTS

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Brian Folsom
sports associate

Men's basketball team searching for more wins in winter semester

Turnovers, lack of experience should subside by mid-January, Rivermen head coach says

by Ken Dunkin
staff writer

Tough games and new players getting adjusted to a new programs are two reasons the UM-St. Louis basketball team has struggled early in the season.

The team has struggled in its first six games. They are 1-5 overall and 0-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Rivermen had hopes of rebounding off of their disappointing season last year.

"So far it has been disappointing," said Rich Meckfessel, head coach. "The worst I thought we would be was 3-3. The teams we lost to are a combined 26-5. We were in every game with the exception of Bellarmine when we were just awful."

The sixth ranked team in Division II is Kentucky Wesleyan. The Rivermen lost the game 80-68.

"We have played against very good opposition," Meckfessel said. "We just have to play better."

Kentucky Wesleyan was a challenge for the Rivermen. They did keep the game close when they tied it with nine minutes left in the game. Wesleyan the ran off several points to close the game.

"One thing that helps teams improve and get better is wins," Meckfessel said. "We need to get some wins, it is as simple as that. By mid-January we should be better. We have a nice homestand. Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky are tough teams but by

then we should be playing better."

The freshman starting guards are also gaining experience as the season progresses. Kyle Bixler is averaging 9.7 points per game while also hitting 37 percent of his 3-pointers. The teams point guard Greg Ross has also played well as he has averaged 7.2 points per game.

"Bixler has been consistently solid," Meckfessel said. "Greg has been up and down, he's playing a tougher position though."

Mike Harris, the teams only senior that has played a good amount of time, has played well in recent games. He leads the team with 7.2 rebounds per game and is second on the team with 12.3

We need to get some wins, it is as simple as that. By mid-January we should be better. We have a nice home-stand.

-Rich Meckfessel
head coach

points per game.

"Mike has been solid," Meckfessel said. "He was a little shaky the first half against Kentucky Wesleyan but he has been a solid player."

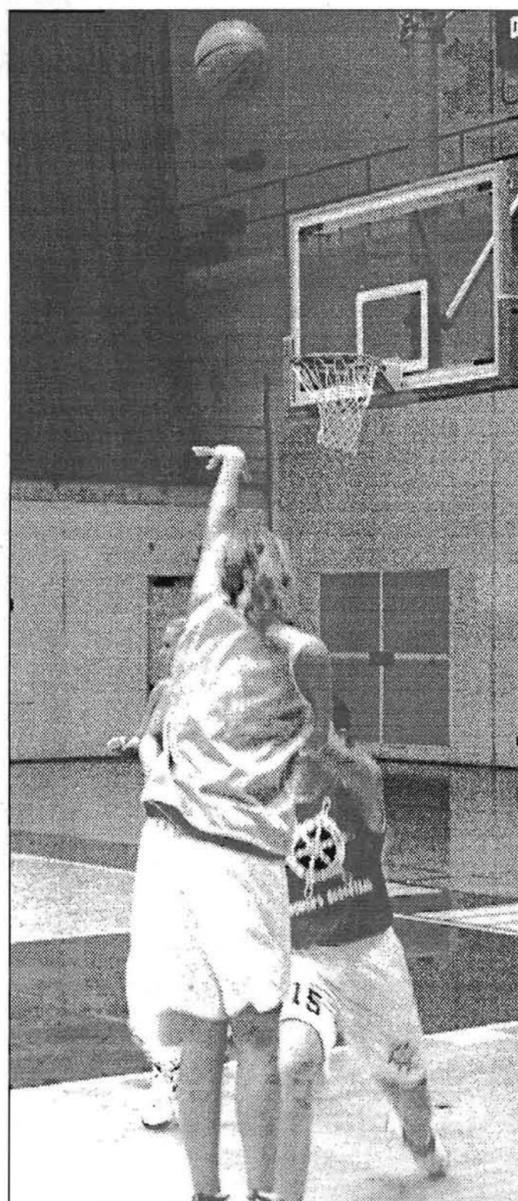
While most of the team has struggled with scoring, center Jason Logsdon has scored 13.7 points per game. He has led the team in scoring in four of their six games.

"Jason has played well," Meckfessel said. "He can't play long well because he wears out. He has scored well and has done a good job rebounding."

The team still is working on several keys, getting to the free-throw line and turnovers. Turnovers have been a huge difference this season. The Rivermen have

see WINTER, page 8

Hoop Time



A member of the red-hot women's basketball team takes a jump shot during a scrimmage last week. The Riverwomen are averaging nearly 45 percent from the field and 58 percent from the 3-point area.

Daniel Hazelton/
The Current

Women's hoop squad on fire

Victories continue at home for 5-1 Riverwomen

by Brian Folsom
staff writer

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team improved its record to 5-1 after recent home victories over Kentucky Wesleyan and Missouri-Rolla.

The Riverwomen hosted Kentucky Wesleyan Dec. 6, and thanks to a strong first half they were able to hang on and win 81-72. The team led 42-32 at the end of the first half. Kentucky Wesleyan battled back and outscored the Riverwomen 40-39 in the second half, but it was not enough.

Junior transfer Annette Brandy led the team with 19 points, Beth Ragsdale scored 17 points on six of eight (75 percent) shooting

from the field. Ragsdale also shot 3-3 from the 3-point line. Junior Melanie Marcy led the Riverwomen with 11 rebounds and four assists.

Missouri-Rolla came to the Mark Twain Building Dec. 9 and couldn't overcome the Riverwomen's strong opening season momentum either as the home team won 72-64.

According to head coach Shelly Ethridge, the Riverwomen were able to push the ball well on offense, and that made the difference in the game.

"Everyone on the team has been stepping up and getting the job done," she said. "I am pleased with the progress they have shown."

Brandy again led the team with 21 points and had four assists while Marcy added 20 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, and had a team high five assists.

Ethridge said that the addition of Brandy and Marcy has been crucial to the Riverwomen's fast start.

"Those two have meant the world to us," she said. "Without them we would not be where we are today. They are in a class of their own."

Although the Riverwomen are off to an impressive start, Ethridge said that the team is a long way from where it should be.

"We need to work on playing the entire 40 minutes," she said.

"We play well in the first half, but we seem to let up in the second half, and that lets the opposition right back in the game."

Ethridge added that the key is to just settle down and relax.

"We could probably be in better shape, but I think these girls can play hard the whole game."

The team was scheduled to host Washington University Dec. 13. The Riverwomen are then off until Dec. 30 when they travel to Lindenwood.

Ethridge said she hopes the team's winning ways continue.

"We feel that we have a chance to win any game," she said. "It's pretty simple, if we play well, we will win, if we don't play well, we won't win."

"Right now the team is starting to come together, and that is real nice to see," she said.

Everyone on the team has been stepping up and getting the job done. I am pleased with the progress they have shown.

-Shelly Ethridge
head coach

Hockey team ready for rival

UM-St. Louis coach optimistic about 'intense' match-up

by Dave Kinworthy
staff writer

Over the holidays, the UM-St. Louis men's hockey team will be preparing for a battle with its state rival Saint Louis University.

Coach Greg Gevers believes this match up will be very intense.

"There is no love lost. It is a factor of pride. We try not to lose to any St. Louis team," Gevers said.

One of the main reasons Gevers claims the game will be so intense is because of the familiarity of SLU's coach.

"A lot of players from our team have played for [SLU's] coach at Parkway North last season," Gevers said.

The teams started this rivalry last season when SLU became a club team. UM-St. Louis currently stands undefeated versus the Billikens. Last season the two teams squared off twice with the Rivermen winning both games decisively: 3-1 and 6-3.

With 14 freshmen and no seniors on the team, Gevers remains positive looking towards this game.

"We are more talented," Gevers said. "If we play our system, we can use our tenacity to jump all over their defenders. Our fore-checking will play a huge part in the game."

One particular line Gevers seemed to

I challenge them to step up and to play their best and beat SLU. They need to take this one personally.

-Greg Gevers
head coach

be impressed with consists of all underclassmen.

"The line of sophomores Bill Bruegard and Dave Hessel along with freshman Craig Kneale is by far our top line," Gevers said. "They have been a pleasant scoring surprise coming out of Hazelwood Central."

"They have been a dominating offensive factor for the UM-St. Louis team. All three have around 18-20 points."

Gevers challenged all of the players on his team to play their hearts out during the game.

"I challenge them to step up and to play their best and beat SLU," Gevers said. "They need to take this one personally."

The match-up between SLU and UM-St. Louis will occur on Jan. 8 at the North County Complex and Jan. 10 at the Chesterfield Complex.

THIS WINTER BREAK IN SPORTS

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.

	December	December	December	December	January	January	January	January	January	January
	20	27	28	30	2	4	7	10	13	15
Men	vs Washington U. 7:30 p.m.	IUPUI-Indianapolis Tournament TBA	IUPUI-Indianapolis Tournament TBA		at Lewis 7:30 p.m.	at Wisconsin-Parkside 3:00 p.m.	vs Quincy 7:30 p.m.	at SIU-Edwardsville 7:30 p.m.		vs Indianapolis 7:30 p.m.
Women				at Lindenwood TBA	at Lewis 5:15 p.m.	at Wisconsin-Parkside 1:00 p.m.	vs Quincy 5:30 p.m.	at SIU-Edwardsville 5:30 p.m.	vs Rockhurst 7:00 p.m.	vs Indianapolis 5:30 p.m.

Congratulations and goodbye to Brian Folsom and Becky Zagurski — The Current's two staff writers who are graduating this semester. We will miss them.

Rivermen face tough schedule

Team should compete in conference games, Meckfessel says

by Ken Dunkin
staff writer

The Rivermen basketball team is mired in a 2-5 season with many tough games coming in the next weeks.

The team will have its hands full this week with Washington University on Saturday. The games against Washington University in previous years have been close battles.

"Our games against Washington University are always tough," Rivermen head coach Rich Meckfessel said. "They have been really tough in the past few years. They are struggling, but it won't be an easy game. We should win if

we play well."

Over the break the competition will get tougher. On Dec. 27 the

Indianapolis Tournament will begin.

The Rivermen are scheduled to play IUPU-Ft. Wayne in the first round. If they win the IUPU-Ft. Wayne game, the team will battle the

host team as Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan but we match up against everyone else very well," Meckfessel said. "The question is will we win and play as well as we are capable."

Carlos Knox. He was the leading scorer in Division II two years ago. I would like to play them."

The conference season will begin Jan. 2 when the Rivermen visit Lewis. The rest of the schedule contains conference games.

"We are not as good as Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan but we match up against everyone else very well," Meckfessel said. "The question is will we win and play as well as we are capable."

Our games against Washington University are always tough. They have been really tough in the past few years.

-Rich Meckfessel
head coach

Two wins for the weekend

December 13

Riverwomen		40	34-74					
Washington U.		28	33-61					
UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3-FG	FT	S	RB		
Sarah Carrier	6	3-5	0-0	0-0	1	3		
Donna Simon	7	3-6	0-1	1-2	1	7		
Melanie Marcy	10	4-11	1-1	1-3	2	13		
Annette Brandy	19	8-17	2-4	1-2	1	4		
Angela Stewart	13	4-9	1-4	4-6	0	5		
Beth Ragsdale	8	2-3	2-2	2-4	1	1		
Jamie Dressler	2	0-2	0-0	2-2	0	1		
Krystal Logan	4	1-4	0-0	2-3	1	5		
Lindsay Brefeld	7	1-2	1-1	4-4	0	0		
Totals	76	26-59	7-13	17-26	7	39		

Washington U.		PT	FG	3-FG	FT	S	RB		
Amy Schweizer	16	6-14	2-6	2-3	0	3			
Angie Kohnen	3	1-7	0-0	1-2	4	6			
Alia Fischer	24	7-22	0-0	10-10	3	13			
Erica Stagen	3	1-4	0-2	1-2	2	3			
Sue Tucker	3	1-2	0-1	1-1	0	3			
Beth Ruether	0	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0			
Emily Harold	2	1-4	0-0	0-0	1	3			
Emily Nolan	11	4-9	0-0	3-4	1	5			
Rachel Brown	4	1-2	0-0	2-2	0	2			
Jana Herrmann	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1			
Tasha Rodgers	0	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0			
Lindsey Merrill	7	2-3	0-0	3-4	0	1			
Totals	73	24-70	2-11	23-28	12	40			

Rivermen		40	34-74					
Maryville		28	33-61					
UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3-FG	FT	S	RB		
Jeremiah Fouts	11	4-8	1-2	2-2	0	5		
Mike Harris	21	8-11	1-2	4-7	1	8		
Jason Logsdon	8	2-7	0-1	4-7	1	7		
Greg Ross	8	2-11	2-4	2-3	1	5		
Kyle Bixler	14	5-11	4-9	0-0	0	7		
Jason Frillman	7	2-3	1-2	2-2	0	6		
Ryan Meyers	4	2-2	0-0	0-0	0	2		
Eric Stiegman	1	0-1	0-0	1-2	2	8		
Josh Wolf	0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1		
Totals	74	25-55	9-21	15-23	5	49		

Maryville		PT	FG	3-FG	FT	S	RB		
John Jones	27	11-22	0-3	5-7	0	9			
Matt Rubel	2	1-5	0-3	0-1	1	2			
Dan Rakers	11	5-8	0-0	1-2	2	8			
Kevin Spradling	2	1-6	0-4	0-0	4	0			
Henry Shannon	17	7-21	1-6	2-6	4	6			
Derek Lagemann	1	0-2	0-1	1-2	0	2			
Brad Nickols	0	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	2			
Andy Brockmeyer	1	0-3	0-0	1-2	0	3			
Totals	61	25-69	1-17	10-20	12	32			

LITMAG, from page 5

community. "Submissions are not as diverse as they should be for our campus. We would like to get international submissions, something different to give the LitMag a little style and diversity," Kryah said.

Kryah believes that there are many people out there that have done something creative, but they are either embarrassed or unaware that there is a place they can bring

their work. LitMag is also getting out around town. It sponsors readings by faculty members and students at bookstores and cafes. The poetry read at these events is the just the kind of thing they are looking for to put in Lit Mag.

The LitMag, due in April 1998, can be purchased at the UM-St. Louis bookstore as well as Borders and Left Bank Books.

Kryah believes that submissions will start pouring in after the holidays and he had this piece of advice.

"The LitMag is for any student or faculty member who has something to say and would like to be heard."

Submissions can be dropped off in the English department office, 484 Lucas.

Deadline for submissions is Jan. 22.

LETTERS, from page 4

B=3.0, B-=2.7, B+=3.3 What happens if someone earns an A-? They get a 3.7.

What happens if someone earns an A+? Do they get a 4.3? Nope! They just receive an A (4.0). I know this because in two summer courses I have received A+'s from the instructor, but when DUMSL recorded the grade, it turned into an A. (Where's the extra 0.3 I earned? TWICE!)

My hard work isn't rewarded but my inability to be perfect is penalized! I have discussed this with the

Joint Engineering Office (I'm in the engineering program), but they were unable to do anything about this issue.

If there were no pluses or minuses with the letters to begin with, my cheated feeling would not be as great. You might stop and say, but having more than a 4.0 possible in a 4.0 system is dumb, wrong, etc. I went to a high school that had advanced courses with an extra grade point for a C or better. (Yes, an A was worth 5.0!) So I know that type of system exists. I'm just ask-

ing for an extra 0.3 not a full point!

Some out there might be thinking "poor baby, I can barely get a C." To them I say, "I worked my ass off for those scores and want to be justly compensated. I could have been goofing off the whole summer, but instead I tried to advance myself."

In short, if I can't receive full credit for what I've done, I want the plus and minus system gone! If there are no A+'s, then there should be no A-'s.

-Kyle Von Talge

GUEST, from page 4

Although I haven't met my new best friend at UM-St. Louis, I do have some new acquaintances; people I could talk to if I saw them somewhere other than on campus, and people about whom I know those minute facts that often spark at least a bit of friendship. Through talking with my classmates during

breaks, or before class, or in the library, I have learned that the guy in my Child Psychology class named his cat after Willie McGee, and that my neighbor in ED 101 would love to be a pilot. I know that the girl who sits next to me in Economics started out wanting to be a pediatrician, and now has an unde-

clared major.

It is true that these are small insights about individuals that, while interesting, will not change my life. But they make me feel comfortable and pleased that I spend my days at UM-St. Louis, and that's worth more than rotting in a college town.

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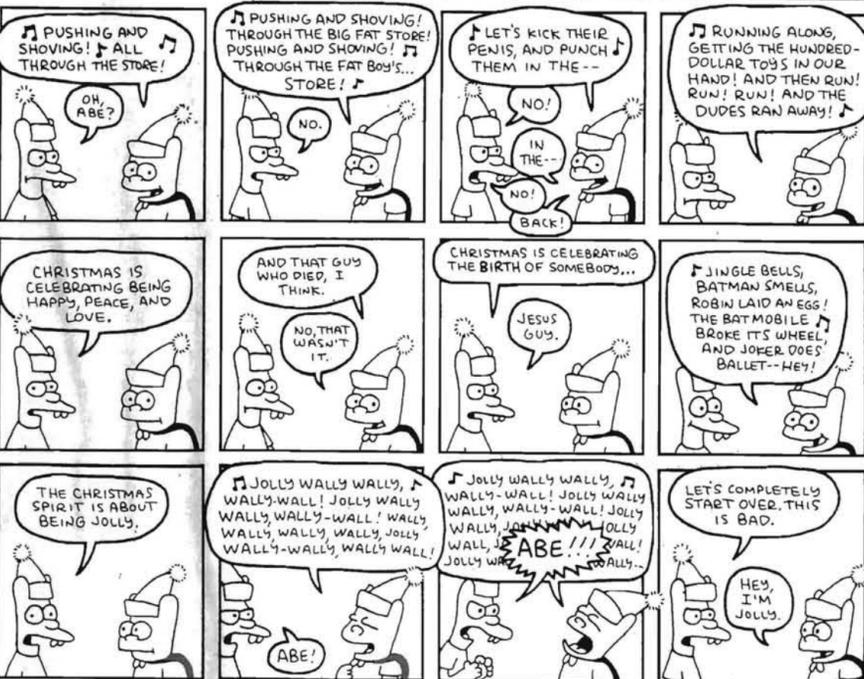
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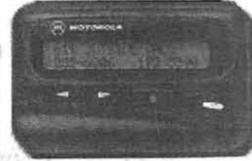
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For complete information, write: Russell B. Pulliam
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The Current NEWSWIRE

Chancellor Blanche Touhill invites faculty, staff and students to attend the annual Holiday dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 17 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Underground and Summit Lounge. Dinner is free, but tickets are required. Call 5446 for information.

Economics professor Susan Feigenbaum received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at ceremonies here last Thursday. UM-St. Louis hosted the annual Governor's Conference on Higher Education.

The UM-St. Louis Forensics and Debate Squad won 11 awards at the 1997 "Study Break Debate Tournament" at UM-St. Louis on Dec. 6. These awards bring the team's semester total to 52.

Individuals interested in the position of Associate Dean of Continuing Education and Outreach, College of Arts and Sciences, should submit a written letter to the search committee by Dec. 24. Letters should be addressed to Room 540, Woods Hall. Call 5915 for a copy of the job description.

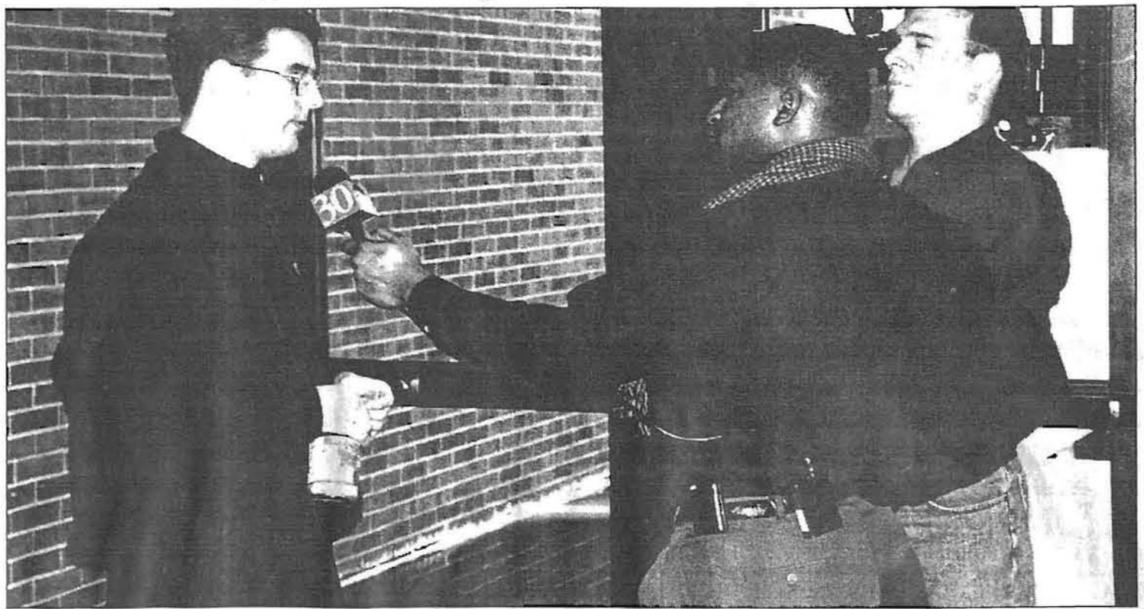
Chancellor Blanche Touhill will discuss the campus' history at the UM-St. Louis Staff Association's general membership meeting at noon on Dec. 15 in the Summit Lounge.

The official name of the Office of Computing and Networking Services has been changed to Campus Computing. Please note the change.

Deadline for submissions to The Current logo contest is Dec. 31. Drop off entries at The Current, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Mo 63121 or mail to same address. Mark: Logo Contest.

Contact Mary Lindsley at 516-5174 to submit items to Newswire.

So, Whaddya Think?



Daniel Hazelton/The Current
KDNL Channel 30 reporter Leo Stalworth, center, asks UM-St. Louis student John Graham what he thinks about the Ku Klux Klan's suit against the University to underwrite radio programming on KWMU. The Klan's suit was officially filed Friday.

Fraternity sponsors toy drive for local charity

by Joshua Stegeman
staff writer

The Sigma Pi Fraternity joined the Christmas spirit by giving back to the community through its annual Toys for Tots party.

Director Kyle T. Shashack said that the main reason for holding the party is philanthropy and the feeling of supporting a good cause. For this reason all of the fraternity members also donated a toy for admission to the party. Those who could not find the time to buy a toy for admission could make a donation of five dollars. The fraternity members will use the money to buy more toys.

Tom Albrecht, a fraternity member, said that the best part about the party is

"making the little kids smile" when they see the toys.

The toys could be any size, shape or price, but the toy had to be new. The toys didn't have to be wrapped because they were being handed over to the U.S. Marines to distribute.

"The reason new toys are recommended is so that the children feel like they are receiving something that hasn't been opened and to make sure nothing is wrong with it," Shashack said.

The Toys for Tots party has been celebrated by the fraternity since 1990, when a fellow fraternity member who was a marine reservist began the program. Last year the fraternity was able to donate approximately 200 toys to the campaign.

PETITION, from page 3

entire student body before we went ahead with the project, smack of no representation?" Driemeier asked, "I think that's the purest form of democracy."

Hutchinson said the vote meant little since the ballot question was "vague" and less than a thousand students bothered to take part. She also said many students thought it was unfair to pay for what the student body wanted two years ago.

Driemeier said that while he was "disappointed" with turnout at the referendum, he still felt the administration had done a good job gauging student opinion.

"It was the students who were continually asking for some expansion of the University Center," Driemeier said. "This was a project that from the beginning has been student driven."

Hutchinson said students are "fed up" with fee increases that she says do not bring improvements to the campus.

"It would be different if we could actually see where our money is going and we're not," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson said the proposed board would be a way to keep students informed about fee issues.

"Basically, what we're looking for is a board that would be set up like a citizens' review board," Hutchinson said. "This board would be a way to let the students know exactly what the University is planning on doing with our money."

Driemeier said he would continue to deal with the SGA and had no plans to institute such a board at this time.

Michael Perkins, another organizer of the drive, said the petition effort had already enlisted about 10-15 volunteers and would continue to collect signatures into next semester, possibly with events such as "speak outs" and rallies.

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Next semester will bring a few changes with it, so speak up now and help us put out a better product. After all, it is your paper.

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The Current will resume publication Jan. 12, 1998. Advertising personnel and editorial staff will be available throughout the break. Have a great holiday season and look for us first thing next semester.