



Rivermen basketball open up conference action with loss to Bellarmine. See page 9.

Robin Williams and his *Flubber* could use some plot to go with their special effects. See page 8.



CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF CAMPUS COVERAGE

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

VOL. 31 ISSUE 906

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

DECEMBER 8, 1997

Midnight melee at Meadows frustrates residents, officials

Forum convened to discuss solutions; police will post officer on premises during weekend nights

by David Baugher
staff writer

Two unrelated disturbances at University Meadows over the Thanksgiving holiday prompted a special meeting Thursday night between residents of the complex, campus law enforcement and administration officials.

The meeting was called to discuss security issues following a large fight Nov. 28 that resulted in five minor injuries, several arrests and damage to one of the apartments, police said.

"As best as I understand it, there were some people having a party and some people not affiliated with the University crashed the party," UM-St. Louis police Sgt. Alfred Wirt said. "A fight ensued."

Wirt said police received nearly a dozen

calls just after 10 p.m. about the melee that spilled onto the Meadows parking lot. Wirt said one apartment had its windows broken.

Normandy police arrested six people in connection with the incident, charging them with third-degree assault. All were later released on bond or their own recognizance.

In a separate incident, a building was evacuated when the sprinkler system in one of the apartments was triggered during a party just after 1 a.m. Nov. 26.

According to Normandy police, uninvited guests were allegedly turned away from the party, but it was not clear who set off the sprinklers. No arrests have been made. The incident is still under investigation.

Amber Parish, managing director of



Gary Grace

see MEADOWS, page 2

Oh, (Electric) Tannenbaum



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

A grounds worker synchronizes tree lighting Monday in the Founder's and Alumni Circles.

Crime Time: Thefts account for most of campus crime in 1996

by David Baugher
staff writer

A few simple precautions could help to prevent the most common form of crime on campus, police say.

Theft accounted for about 80% of crimes reported to campus police in 1996, according to the recently released campus crime report.

Thefts went up by almost one-third between 1995 and 1996. Figures for this year were not available.

According to Sgt. Alfred Wirt of the UM-St. Louis police, most of these reports were misdemeanor thefts where the combined value of the items stolen fell under \$150.

The incident becomes a felony if the total value of the items exceeds that amount.

Wirt characterizes these incidents as "crimes of opportunity" because they often result from people leaving valuables like purses and wallets unattended in offices or hallways where thieves have easy access.

"There's nobody around and they just pick it up and walk out with it," Wirt said. "That's what we call a crime of opportunity."

According to COPS officer Kevin Hanebrink, calculators, book bags, and textbooks are other common targets but more expensive items are being stolen as well.

"Laptop computers are becoming more dominant in our environment here on campus," Hanebrink said. "Some of these are starting to disappear."

Wirt said these cases are often difficult to solve because cash and other items are difficult to track. There were 157 reported thefts last year but only 7 arrests.

"If they just take the money and discard the wallet or the purse, it's virtually impossible to trace money," Wirt said. "If they try to use your credit card or try to cash checks then those are much easier to solve."

There's nobody around and they just pick it up and walk out with it. That's what we call a crime of opportunity.

- Alfred Wirt
University police officer

THIEF FREE Some Safety Tips

Keep an eye on your belongings.

• Hanebrink said that most thefts occur when people leave their items unattended. "First and foremost is never leave your valuable items laying around," he said, "not even if you're walking to the bathroom or you're just stepping out of the classroom for a couple of minutes."

Be aware of your surroundings.

• Hanebrink said you should try to remember where and when items disappear and who else was nearby. "Be very conscious of what's around you and what you do with your items of value," Hanebrink said.

Secure your cars.

• Open windows and unlocked car doors are invitations to thieves. "Early in the semester when it was warm people would leave their windows down, their doors unlocked," Hanebrink said. "People would reach inside the car and grab whatever they could."

Lock office doors and drawers.

• Wirt said many of the thefts occur in offices when valuables are left in the open. "Outside the thefts this campus is quite lucky with its crime rate," Wirt said.

Student group opposes fee hike

Petition calls for advisory board to mediate dispute

by Bill Rolfe and Doug Harrison
staff writers

Students opposed to a possible fee hike to support the proposed University Center have begun circulating a petition they say they will submit to administrators.

Tonya Hutchinson, a social work major, is leading a group of five who are asking students to sign a petition that opposes the fee increase. The petition-titled, "No Legislation Without Representation" - requests the formation of a student advisory board to act as a "liaison between the students and the administration in dealing with student moneys," Hutchinson said.

The group intends to present the petition to Donald Driemeier, deputy to the chancellor. Driemeier was unavailable for comment.

The Student Government Association voted 23-11 to endorse the \$6.05-per-credit-hour fee hike in a

meeting Nov. 19. If approved, the fee will be assessed in the 1998-99 academic year, a year earlier than administrators originally planned.

Hutchinson said administrators should have approached the entire student body about the increase, not just the SGA. She reasoned that the SGA represents student organizations but not all 15,000 students on campus.

"They (administrators) should have asked the student population as a whole," Hutchinson said. "The majority is not involved in student groups."

The fee hike would have happened next year, even if the SGA did not endorse it, says

Jim Avery, SGA president. "It was already passed two years ago by a general election of the student body," Avery explained. "All we did was vote to increase it a year early."

In a 1995 campus-wide referendum, 677 of 939 students voted in



Tonya Hutchinson circulating a petition

see PETITION, page 2

Building projects will reduce parking in near future, increase space over time

by Josh Stegeman
staff writer

By 2005, the parking scenario at UM - St. Louis will have dramatically changed, ultimately adding over 500 parking spots to the North Campus.

The construction of the new Student Union, which is expected to begin in May 1998, will involve the demolition of several garages and lots and reductions of others.

According to projected figures, parking spaces will be hardest to find from 2003 through 2004. The situation will lessen after the new garages C, D and

H are built. The new garages will provide 2800 parking spaces, adding approximately 1250 more spaces than the existing garages.

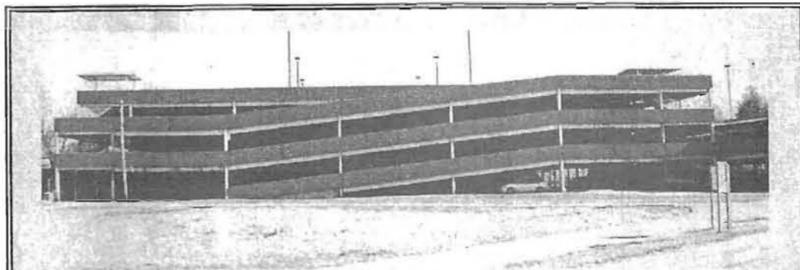
"We are going to try to maintain close to our current level of parking capacity," Reinhard Schuster, Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services said. "We have options; we can build a new one [parking garage] before we have to tear down an old one [parking garage]."

Schuster said that the University will try to alleviate some of the effects of the reduction in parking between 2003 and

We are going to try to maintain close to our current level of parking capacity.

-Reinhard Schuster
vice chancellor for Administrative Services

see PARKING, page 2



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

Garage D, above, is slated for demolition to make way for the new U

PRECIOUS PARKING

Slated for demolition in part to accommodate new U Center:

Garages C, D, H and lot J and parts of lots E and K

includes garages adjacent to existing U Center and TCC/Police Station

Parking by the numbers

Current spaces available:
4,563 North Campus, 733 South Campus
Between 2003 and 2004
2,000 lost parking spaces
After 2005
2,800 spaces added

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EDITORIALS:

Throw out incremental grading system

Give us another week during break

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. 8

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

• **Dedication of the St. Louis Regional Education Park** at 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by UM-St. Louis, UM-St. Louis School of Education, Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Professional Development Schools

Collaborative. Contact: UM-St. Louis, 5789.

• **Rieko Aizawa**, pianist performing at The Ethical Society at 7:30 p.m. Part of the Premiere Performances Chamber Classics. Contact: UM-St. Louis, 5818.

• **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass** at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel at 12:05 p.m. Contact: Newman House.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

• **Biological Society meeting** at 4:30

p.m. and 7 p.m. in 111 Benton Hall. Contact: Biological Society, 6438.

• **Phi Alpha Theta meeting** in the fourth floor Lucas Hall Lounge. Contact: Michelle, 5509.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

• **Biological Society meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in 111 Benton Hall. Contact: Biological Society, 6438.

• **SGA Meeting** at 2 p.m. in 222 J.C.Penney. Contact: SGA Office, 5105.

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 dlcd@ext.missouri.edu, or by calling 573-882-3303.

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.

PARKING, from page 1

2004 by keeping certain lots open while the new garages are constructed.

Other scheduled improvements to the campus include the renovation of West Campus Drive which involves eliminating the parking along West Campus Drive and reducing a majority of garage N parking. A new West Drive Garage would be built by 2000, containing 700 new spaces. The new West Campus Drive will intersect

Natural Bridge Road at Clearview.

There is also a great possibility of a direct link from Highway 70 onto the campus. The expectation is that this improvement will move traffic in and out of the campus more efficiently, and should also reduce the amount of traffic that has to drive through the surrounding municipalities.

"Currently it is one of the highway department's highest priorities. They

are planning the relocation right now and in spring the University and the highway department will sit down and agree to the alignment and exactly how the ramps will come in," Schuster said. "They want to start construction in 2000."

Currently the North Campus accounts for 4563 parking spaces of the total of 5296 spaces available between both North and South campuses.

MEADOWS, from page 1

University Meadows, declined to comment on both incidents.

Thursday's meeting, led by Vice-chancellor for Student Affairs Gary Grace, was a forum for residents to voice their opinions on how to prevent future problems at the Meadows.

"I think that's really why we're all here is to see if we can't talk about this as people from the community," Grace said at the meeting, "and get your advice on what the University can do and the best ideas you might have on what you can do to make this a constructive environment and a good place to live."

In addition to Grace, and Parish, UM-St. Louis Director of Institutional Safety Robert Roeseler, and Karl Beeler, associate vice-chancellor for Student Affairs attended the meeting, which hosted about two dozen people.

A few students complained about loud music being played at late hours and some asked about

the consequences of violating rules.

"We do have student conduct regulations that do apply to the buildings here," Grace said.

Beeler said he could not comment on whether disciplinary action would be taken in this case.

Roeseler asked for input from the residents saying he hoped to create "the safest environment that we can."

"We do what the community wants," Roeseler said. "We don't set the standards. We just enforce what you want."

Roeseler said he did not want to create an "armed camp" unless residents wanted tighter security.

"I don't want to come in here and be Big Brother," he said. "I don't want to come in every time you guys are having a little party and bust it up because I don't think we should do that."

Campus police said they will post an officer at the Meadows gate on Friday and Saturday nights between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. until further notice.

PETITION, from page 1

favor of a proposed U. Center. Administrators at that time called the vote "a clear message of what the students want."

Avery justified raising the student fees a year early.

"If we did not increase the fees now, what would happen is we would have to delay the process longer," he said. "That would mean higher interest rates and building costs will go up, which means more cutbacks in the building."

"We just need to get it built. I think students will be happy when they see the new building."

Hutchinson said students have continually remained silent about fee increases. She said a student advisory board would raise concerns about fee increases.

"Nobody is asking any questions," she said. "We just keep shelling out the money."

At the next SGA meeting, Avery said he will propose a resolution requesting that the administration

approach the assembly in the October 1998 meeting with fee increase information. He said it will give the students enough time to discuss the increases before they endorse or oppose them.

Hutchinson said she is hoping to get 10 percent of the student population to sign the petition.

"There are 15,000 students on campus," Hutchinson said. "We are attempting to get 1,500 signatures. I think that would be a good number."

The Current

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Thanksgiving thefts cost U thousands

Police are still investigating a series of pre-Thanksgiving thefts in several faculty offices.

Sgt. Al Wirt of campus police confirmed that a total of eight robberies occurred sometime between the evening of Nov. 21 and the morning of Nov. 22.

"There was one [theft] in Clark Hall, three in the Social Sciences Building, and four in the tower," Wirt said. All eight of the thefts were in faculty offices.

Police found no signs of

forced entry.

Wirt estimated that \$12,000 - \$13,000 worth of items were stolen, including two laptop computers. A variety of other articles such as computer accessories, a clock radio and stamps were also taken.

Wirt said police planned to increase security as a result of the break-ins.

"We're stepping up patrols in all campus buildings, not just the ones where incidents occurred," Wirt said.

-Mary Lindsley

Sticky Situation



Danel Hazelton/The Current

Police and recovery crew members try to dislodge two vehicles whose fenders became entangled when a motorist's car jumped the curb and hit another car. No injuries were reported.

U students named to national honor list

Thirty-nine UM-St. Louis students attended the annual Who's Who awards banquet in the Summit Lounge Nov. 15.

The students were among sixty-nine invitees who received the award. Honorees will gain spots in the 1998 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, a reference publication that includes nominees from more than 1,800 institutions of higher learning. Each year the publication allocates a number of spots to the UM-St. Louis campus and honorees are divided proportionately between academic units. Recipients are nominated by students, faculty or their school or department. Nominees must be undergraduate seniors with a cumulative 2.8 GPA or graduate students with a 3.4 GPA.

Interim Director of Student Activities Rick Blanton and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Gary Grace were among the dignitaries on hand to congratulate the award winners.

-David Baugher

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OPENS DECEMBER 25 EVERYWHERE

OPINION/EDITORIAL

The Current

The student voice of UM-St. Louis

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How to respond

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OUR OPINION

Throw out incremental grading system

THE ISSUE:

The incremental grading system does not seem to benefit all students or represent their true efforts.

Furthermore, not every instructor uses it.

WE SUGGEST:

Instructors should all use the same grading system, whether they use incremental grading or not. A percentile system would be the best remedy for this problem.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

The whole grading system at UM-St. Louis seems to be contradictory with the requirement to a 25. Supposedly the higher ACT requirement weeds out students because classes are over crowded, but the classes would not be so crowded if the requirement to pass were not dropped from a C to a C-.

Furthermore, the incremental grading system is inconsistent because not every instructor uses it. Some let the classes vote on whether to use it, and some simply do not want the hassle of dealing with pluses and minuses.

Whether an incremental grading system is beneficial to more students or not, all instructors should use the same system. A 90 percent may count as an A in one class, but an A- in another. A student could do the exact same quality of work in two classes, but be penalized in one by getting an A-.

Although pluses and minuses may seem nit picky, they can make a huge difference. If a student taking four classes gets three Bs and one B-, his or her G.P.A. for the semester would be a 2.925. Some insurance companies will give good student discounts for students who earn a 3.0 G.P.A., which could save them over \$100 a piece.

Sure, an incremental grade is more representative of a student's

work than a straight letter grade, but it is still not absolutely exact.

What happens when people realize that the current incremental grading system is not precise enough? Will it be narrowed further? Maybe the student of the future will be arguing with an instructor because he or she received a D++ instead of a C-.

Maybe letter grades - whether instructors use the incremental system or not - ought to be thrown out all together and be replaced with percentiles. In every class a student would earn a grade that ranges from 0 through 100, rather than A through F.

Many instructors already grade on a percentile system and then transfer the numbers to letter grades. Percentiles are more specific than letter grades because they represent the grades students truly earn.

This system would also be more consistent than what we are using now. Some instructors will boost up a borderline grade if the student has worked hard and has not been a trouble maker, while others will not. Instructors could get themselves into a lot of trouble for boosting some students' grades, and not others.

A few weeks from now, how many students will say, "I was one point away from a B and the instructor wouldn't give it to me." With a percentile system, students will get exactly what they deserve.

Give us another week during break

Given the heavy workload of most faculty and students, it seems that both groups would benefit from a longer Christmas break.

Each semester brings with it a new set of deadlines connected with many time-consuming undertakings, undertakings that have a tendency to usurp the lives of individuals facing them. In fact, academic work absorbs so much time for many that other obligations inevitably suffer some degree of neglect.

In the case of students, the cost of education that continues rising every year necessitates that they engage in some type of employment in addition to their studies. Break often constitutes one of the only opportunities for many to work full-time. For those students with families, it affords a few weeks that can be devoted to home and children without the pressures of an academic course load.

Further, an extended holiday would likely prove of equal benefit to professors faced with research obligations and other large projects.

During the 1995-1996 school year, Martin Luther King Day fell on a Monday, and as a result, Christmas break lasted for approximately four weeks. With this anomaly in mind, perhaps Christmas break should be permanently extended an additional week, an action which few would not welcome.

Spending our way to a dysfunctional society

It's an hilarious paradox played out countless times every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas on televisions and radios and in newspapers: one story or segment bemoans our nation's uncontrollable material decadence.

"Christmas is about family and friends and the birth of Christ not about Tickle-me-Elmo," some shining, happy, person will say.

A few minutes or pages or segments later, we will hear of the increasing alarm/joy among retailers who are preparing for record highs/lows in sales this holiday season.

"Americans seem more willing/relevant to turn loose of their hard-earned dollars this Christmas season," some gray-haired market analyst will intone optimistically/ominously.

What this means exactly in terms of social commentary and cultural anthropology is unclear. What is perfectly clear is that producers and editors across the country are terribly uncreative from one year to the next.

Not so among the retailers. Take for instance Toys R' Us. The master exploiter of all things useless and expensive to entertain children recently announced a new "breakthrough" in Christmas shopping: a children's gift register.

If this were not so blatantly self-serving and transparent, it would be the stuff of great jokes.

The kid, any child who can walk and maintain a firm grasp on solid objects, is given a hand-held scanner with which he or she runs around the around store zapping the toys he or she would like to find under the tree in a few weeks.

Assuming for a moment that one could somehow restrain one's child from zapping every last toy in the store, this ploy is a really bad social experiment just waiting to go terribly wrong.

What happens when the kid who scanned and zapped his way through a couple thousand dollars worth of Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers wakes up on Christmas morning with stuff worth a fraction of that?

How does a parent explain to a child that Santa came up on the short end of a cost reallocation this year?

Or worse, what if the kid wakes up and finds everything for which he asked nicely bundled under the tree?

What is to stop him from growing up with a reinforced notion that anything he wants is but a zap and scan away?

My hunch is that the parents who have no better sense than to take their children to this spend-off are probably some of the same parents whose children end up in the newspapers and on television and radio who "don't know why" they unloaded several rounds of live ammunition into a prayer group at their high school.

At this rate, producers and editors will not have to come up with anything more creative in years to come, our dysfunctional children will write the headlines for them.



Doug Harrison
editor in chief

Mercantile's operations not user-friendly

Ever since Mercantile merged with Roosevelt, Nov. 17, there seem to have been nothing but problems. I have yet to hear someone say something good about the merger or Mercantile itself.

Anyone who now banks with Mercantile has most likely heard about money getting put in wrong accounts, the long lines and the difficulty getting through to customer service representatives on the phone.

Many of these problems were temporary and most of them have been cleared up. When I called to speak with a service rep. Saturday morning, I was on hold for only seven minutes. This isn't too bad, considering I was expecting to wait about half an hour to hear a live voice on the other end.

Mercantile may have cleared up the many of the mistakes that were made during the merger, but the bank still has me upset by its services. The bank does not seem user-friendly.

At Roosevelt I could walk in and fill out a deposit slip on location, or I could just grab a handful to bring home. With Mercantile, however, I have to order deposit slips that have my account number on them - it takes about 10 days to get them in the mail.

My parents were nice enough to give me a loan when I bought my car last year. Once a month I would make my car payment by simply filling out a pink transfer slip with my account number and theirs. Mercantile doesn't use transfer slips. If I want to transfer funds I have to do it over the phone.

I didn't think this was going to be much of a problem until I found out that I can't transfer money from my account into my parent's. My name isn't on their account.

So now, when I make my monthly car payment I have to do it one of two ways: I have to withdraw cash from my account and have my mom or dad deposit it into their account, or I have to write them a check.

I don't like to keep much money in my checking account, because it doesn't gain any interest. I certainly don't keep enough in there to make a car payment. So, if I wanted to write a check to my parents I would have to transfer funds from my money market account to my checking account first.

Either way I make my car payment, it has become a hassle ever since the merger.

The Mercantile branch has more ATMs than Roosevelt did, and they are easier to access. I was pleased with this until I used them.

The first time I used one it was unable to give me a receipt. This concerned me, but it was Friday night, I was in a hurry and I needed cash. I withdrew money and then I checked my balance. Unfortunately by the time I got home that night, or rather the next morning, I had forgotten what the ATM said my balance was.

The ATMs give receipts now, but the receipts don't show the account's remaining balance. I know I can keep track of this in a journal, but I liked when the Roosevelt receipts listed the balance, just in case I didn't do my math correctly.

Mercantile just doesn't seem to care about its customers. Once finals are over, my mission is going to be finding a new bank.



Bill Rolles
managing editor

GUEST COMMENTARY

Writing relieves urge to express one's self

Everybody has a need to express themselves. Some of us do it in the way we dress while others do it by babbling endlessly about themselves in conversation. Some draw or paint, some make films, some write. Regardless of the medium, at one time or another we feel a voice tugging at our insides, insisting to be put on display for the rest of the world to see.

That's what brought me to The Current. I have had instructors over the years who have encouraged me to pursue writing, yet I kept making up excuses to avoid it. I'm too busy with school. My job takes up too much time. The X-Files is on.

Truth is, the idea of putting my thoughts on paper intimidated the hell out of me. "What if I don't have anything worth saying?" I wondered. "What if everyone hates it?"

In time, I got over it. I know there will always be mixed reactions to whatever I write, no matter how much I aim to please. I have to get things out of my system every once in a while, in spite of what others may think.

That's kind of the philosophy we have at The Current. We know we cannot be all things to all people, that there will always be critics. But we plug along anyway, not only so we can express our own voices, but yours as well. We don't say we are the student voice of UM-St. Louis just because it sounds lofty and principled.

Granted, as a news writer, I can't be as free with my thoughts as I would like to be. My job means presenting all sides of a story fairly and factually, stifling nasty opinions about certain people or issues I cannot avoid.

Still, I put a lot of myself into everything I write. My personality may not show through in the articles I do, yet each one is very much a piece of me.

I know there are others out there who feel the same urge we do to make ourselves heard, but who do not carry forward with it. I'm too busy with school, you say. My job takes up too much time. (Fill in the name of your favorite TV show here) is on.

What if I don't have anything worth saying? Of course you do. We are always looking for ways to make The Current the best it can be, and we see GUEST, page 5



MaryLindsley
guestcommentator



READER RESPONSE

Bookstore should honor student IDs in December

Textbooks for the winter semester will be available beginning Dec. 15, but you can't use your student ID as payment until Jan. 5. Does this strike anyone else as unfair? Those students with the least amount of money - those needing to use financial aid to pay for books - aren't allowed to purchase until the very end. By that time many of the used books are gone, I'm sure, so the net result is that those least able to afford it are forced into buying expensive "new" books. This situation should be changed, so those with financial aid and those with cash have an equal opportunity to minimize their book bill.

-Jennifer Poel

Parking becomes more of a hassle for evening students

The new policy of not mailing the parking permits is not at all user-friendly. It is especially not friendly to the evening student that works all day and is making every sacrifice possible to attend school.

I have made three attempts to get my parking permit before next semester without taking off work and have had every effort thwarted, the last by the world's most unhelpful public servant, a campus policeman.

This one could easily qualify to be a postal worker.

UM-St. Louis is a public institution, largely funded by our tax dollars.

These UM-St. Louis employees are public servants, not our leaders. They need to thank us, the students, for attending UM-St. Louis. We are the reason they have those cushy jobs.

A good lesson for the administration could be learned from the St. Louis area's shopping centers. The employees park in the farthest, most inconvenient parking lots, saving the closest, most desirable spots for the paying customer, us, the students.

If the school is losing a couple of bucks on their parking permits, maybe they could cut a couple of the "meter maids" and save a dime or two.

-Dave Clark

New U Center not worth what students will pay

I must agree with Doug Harrison's sentiment on the new University Center. Its value to students seems overrated. Apparently, there aren't going to be any new services or additional facilities. So, tell me why we're going to be paying thousands more, next year, in order to get the exact same services in the year 2000!?!?

see, LETTERS, page 5

LETTERS, from page 4

The only true benefactors seem to be the "merchants" mentioned in the plan. Why not find a way for them to cover some of the costs for building the new Center?
-Jenny Cloninger

SGA makes poor decision by endorsing fee hike

This letter is in response to the new U center and the hike in student fees to fund it. I am a member of the SGA representing the Biological Honor Society. I am not happy with the way several things were handled in this matter, and I believe that students should be informed.

First, the discussion of the fee hike came at the end of a very long SGA meeting (2 and a half hours). By the time the endorsement vote was called for, only 34 students remained, which is about half or less than what had started.

Second, the discussion of this was not announced ahead of time for the students who might want to hear why they would be paying the extra lump sum.

Last, the reason I voted against the endorsement and the most important reason, is that we could not take the million dollar question back to our respective organizations and ask their opinion. Call me crazy, but I think I would like to have a say in whether or not to pay an extra \$6.00 an hour if I was not on the SGA.

This is where those 23 people who voted yes forgot who they were; an SGA representative. They represent many students, about 12,000. In any other normal voting process, I would have voted in favor of increasing student fees. I like the idea of a new U center.

I believe it shows growth of the university and will benefit growth in the long run by encouraging big business to throw dollars at a thriving university. I am confident that it will be a dynamic building and provide much needed space. I have no right to decide for the 56 people that I represent to support a measure that will have them pay an extra \$72.00 a semester.

I think those organizations whose representatives voted yes should take a good look at them and ask, "Is that person really rep-

resenting me?"

Yeah, our opinion or 'support' of this proposal probably does not mean much when the chancellor and the board of curators decide. They can do it if we endorse it or not, and that's the sad truth. That makes me wonder why the administration officials wanted to have a special meeting on a separate day to address the 'proposal' instead of presenting it at the meeting. Probably because they didn't want to face a barrage of questions and scrutiny.

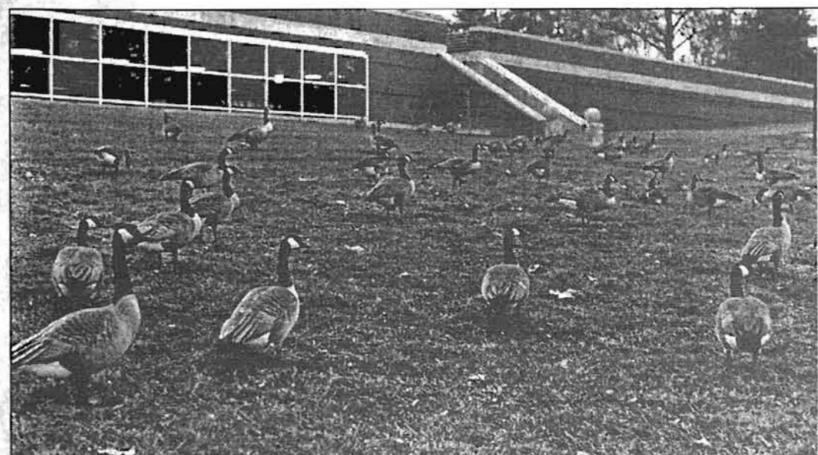
You see, they have to present it before the students and it does not matter how many. That special meeting would have drawn very few. I credit Jim Avery who prevented that cop-out from happening.

I hope the chancellor and administration open their eyes and see that 97.7% of the student population did not get their opinions heard on this matter, and I challenge them to get it!

I also encourage the students to write the chancellor; your voice deserves to be heard. After all, you paid for it.

-Jason Brazeal

Forget to Fly South?



Chad Hamby/The Current

A gaggle of geese forage for food outside the Thomas Jefferson Library.

GUEST, from page 4

can benefit from having a wide variety of voices to draw upon. Although you're not always allowed to be as opinionated as you want to be (unless you are asked to write a nifty little Guest Commentary), there's still some-

thing satisfying about putting a part of yourself on paper for others to see, hoping they can draw something from what you have to say.

If this sounds like a plan to you, bring a resume by our office.

Even if writing isn't your thing, we would still like to hear from you. Drop us a line if you know about a great story, if there are stories you would like to see more of, or maybe stories you never want to see again.

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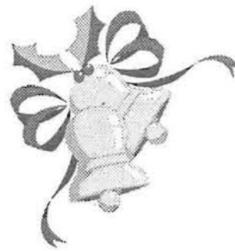
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University, municipality open dialogue, discuss strategies to smooth growth of campus

by David Baugher
staff writer

Respect and communication were the major issues at a meeting held Monday between Frank Days, UM-St. Louis community relations officer, and Normandy Mayor Betty Houlihan.

Days, hired earlier this semester to facilitate communication between the University and surrounding localities, described the three-hour meeting as "cordial" and "very positive."

"Once we sat down and started talking I certainly understood the issues," Days said. "They weren't complex. She just wanted to work with the University and be respected and wanted some responsiveness when she made a request to the University."

Days said Houlihan complained of an "inability to contact people" to discuss issues and a lack of respect from some University representatives. Days said he hoped create a good relationship with the mayor by keeping her informed of campus issues.

"She knows me and she is very comfortable calling me," Days said.

Houlihan also said she hoped to have an effective working relationship.

"I think the fact that Mr. Days is a resident of the area will make a difference because his concerns are the same as our concerns," Houlihan said. "As questions arise I can go to Mr. Days about them. If he does not know the answers he will find out."

Police jurisdiction was one of those issues. Houlihan said that the University needs to respect Normandy's right to protect the areas within its boundaries.

"What belongs to the city of Normandy is for our police to patrol and respond to calls," Houlihan said. "They have to respect that we have a viable police force to answer these calls."

Days said the issue stems from the fact that the campus 911 system routes calls to the University police rather than the municipality.

"The dorms are hardwired to the police force here and [the mayor] thinks that they should be something that possibly could be hardwired to Normandy police," Days said.

"She wants more of a cooperative effort between the police forces."

Days also said he discussed the issue of tax revenues with the



What belongs to the city of Normandy is for our police to patrol and respond to calls. (The University has) to respect that we have a viable police force to answer these calls.

-Betty Houlihan
mayor of Normandy

mayor. Normandy officials have recently raised concerns about the University's expansion and how it may be affecting the city's tax base.

Days said he presented Houlihan with figures showing the municipality had not lost as much revenue as some had thought.

"When we got into it, it probably wasn't maybe as large of an impact as might have been anticipated with the number of residences that the University has purchased," Days said.

Days said that the mayor did not make revenue a big issue, however.

"She said she realized that it was not a great amount but if you continue to do that it does erode the tax base," Days said.

Days said he wanted to convey the University's "rationale" and the reasoning for expansion to Houlihan.

"Many of the other communities around here, they have to be able to come in and understand what the University is trying to do and understand the vision that we have for the University," Days said.

Interviewed by phone, Houlihan refused to comment on land or tax issues.

"I think the meeting was about communication," Houlihan said. "Now we have someone we can communicate with about what the University is doing."



Deck the halls, walls and trees

Tree lighting, reception highlight campus food drive



Top left, the University holiday tree, lighted Monday in a campus-wide ceremony. Top right, the reception that followed the tree lighting ceremony in U Center capped off a food drive, sponsored by the office of Student Activities and in conjunction with Northside Ministries. Totals of the food drive were not available at press time. Left, food donated by campus organizations and departments will be distributed to local families in need.

Photos by Daniel Hazelton/The Current

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a generic offering

Jill Barrett
columnist

Is it socially acceptable to ask for body piercing as a present in this- the season of getting? Can you ask your grandma for more tattoos for Christmas? I need to finish decorating my navel and want someone else to finance it.

My first and only piercing was somewhat unexpected. Not totally unexpected; I didn't wake up on the kitchen floor with a week lost and odd body art all over the place. It was minimally planned. Here's what happened: I needed a story idea and I knew that somewhere out there was a fad with which I had not experimented. I set out to remedy both problems.

In an unusual turn of events, I planned this expedition a day ahead of time, because I needed to arrange for a photographer to accompany me. I spent a sleepless night during which I reviewed the protocol for what to expect from your pierce and how to respond. Do I tip? Am I required to make small talk? What type of jewelry looks best? Can I haggle the price? Can I smack him a good one if it hurts too much?

I was also interested in the type of person who would become a piercer - especially if we did wind up in a violent altercation. I envisioned a modern-day Vlad the Impaler, who pierced flesh for money during the day and feasted on the children of his enemies by night. I was a little relieved to find that my piercer was a normal-looking, overly-studied young fellow who followed approved sanitation codes. (I did not ask what he usually ate for breakfast, though. It seemed to fall outside the realm of small talk).

The procedure itself was unremarkable and my navel hurt only after my nephew (who was then two) kicked me in the stomach a day after my piercing. Although I didn't write a story about body piercing at the time, I finally worked through my own obsession with the fad. Ever since 1992, I had been infatuated with the idea of piercing my nose. Unfortunately, I have persistent allergies and I knew that if I pierced my nose, I would live in constant fear that I would sneeze and my stud would fly across the street and kill a man. The only other body parts I could even think of letting a needle close to were my tongue and my navel. The navel won out.

The other body art fad that I toyed with at the same time was tattooing, of course. I felt that I couldn't hold my head up in the slacker community without some skin art to show for all the hours I wasted. A tattoo would show the world that at least I wasted some of those hours in a tattoo parlor. Besides, I still had a deadline without a story idea.

After agonizing over my design, I chose a tattoo of a UPC symbol. I think the specific symbol is off of a Coke can or something cheap like that. I wanted a tattoo that said something. My tattoo says "Yes, I can be bought!" It's a rather cynical statement of my view of the workplace. I am a firm believer in the notion that most workers are little more than commodities and are treated as such.

A friend of mine thinks this philosophy is quite depressing, but I think it's just realistic. What's depressing is how low my price can go. Sometimes, when in the job market, I feel like part of K-Mart's blue-light specials. I wonder if my tattoo can scan at Schuncks. If so, what would my price be? It's been several years since my first tattoo, and I'm thinking of building on. Maybe add a "Void Where Prohibited."



Enjoying other people's holiday light displays is inexpensive and enjoyable and best of all, you don't have to pay the electric bill.

Daniel Hazelton/
The Current

Look no further: your guide to cheap Christmas fun is here

BY AMY LOMBARDO staff writer

The beginning of the holiday season holds a unique meaning for college students. It signals the end of the semester and the end of scholastic stress. The winter break provides some free time to relax and have some much needed fun.

With this opportunity, there come two basic problems: what to do, and how to do it inexpensively. The majority of students are not only looking for something new to do, but are usually short of the required cash.

Fortunately, there are ways to avoid these obstacles. This time of the year has many festive activities to experience.

Who doesn't like the beautiful holiday light displays?

Tillis Park is a popular place to see holiday lights in St. Louis, and it's only

\$6 per car. The more adventurous person may choose to take a tour of the park on a double-decker bus. The bus boards at Plaza Frontenac and drives people to and through the park, for only \$4 per person. Reservations are needed Friday through Sunday. The bus tour runs until Jan. 4.

Completely penniless? There is always the option of piling a bunch of friends in a car and looking at the neighborhood light displays.

What would the holidays be without music?

FM101.1, The River, begins its River of Toys weekend Dec. 18 with a concert at Mississippi Nights. A simple \$15 donation buys a ticket to see four great bands, and the proceeds benefit the Salvation Army Toys for Tots campaign. This is a great way to see Sister Hazel, Behan Johnson, The Ken Kase Group and headliner Shawn Colvin while displaying holiday generosity.

Ken Williams, on-air personality at The River, commented on last year's show.

"Not only was the music great, but the audience interacted and had a warm, fun time together," said Williams.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. for this year's show. Tickets are available by calling Metrotix or visiting the Mississippi Nights box office.

The River of Toys weekend continues on Dec. 19 with a 24-hour live

broadcast from the West County shopping center parking lot. Drop off a toy for the Toys for Tots, and receive a chance to win free movie passes and other prizes. Last year The River collected 15,000 toys for children and it is determined to do better this year.

Another concert in the spirit of the season is the sold out Dec. 12 Ho-Ho Show hosted by 105.7FM, The Point. The event features performances by K's Choice, Reel Big Fish, Days of the New and Everclear. The doors will open at 7 p.m. at Mississippi Nights. According to Jeff Burton from the morning show, the Ho-Ho sold out in less than eleven minutes. The Point will, however, have on-air giveaways for the show.

Burton has another suggestion for a day of fun. On Dec. 27 The Point will host a hockey game between on-air personalities and popular local band, The Urge. The hockey game will be at

the US Ice Sports Complex in Chesterfield and tickets cost just \$5 with proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the game is scheduled to begin at 11:45 a.m.. The game is a friendly competition for charity, but Burton admits that it can get a little ugly.

"Let's put it this way, as a hockey team, they are great musicians."

Tickets for the game are on sale now at both Vintage Vinyl locations, the US Ice Sports Complex and the Mississippi Nights box office.

There are plenty of ways to find other exciting things to do around town. The Riverfront Times and the St. Louis Post Dispatch, especially the Get Out section, always have information on current events. Another useful source is the Show Me St. Louis television show on Channel 5 weekdays at 3:00 p.m.

UNDER CURRENT

by Stephanie Platt
staff photographer

WHAT IS THE BEST BUMPER STICKER YOU HAVE EVER SEEN?



"Gay whales for Jesus."

- Stacey Meinen
junior/psychology and Spanish



"My son knocked up your honor role student."

-Chris Michael
sophomore/education



"Jesus is coming. Look busy."

- Chad Berstein
senior/mass communication



"Honk if you passed P Chem."

-Dr. Joseph B. Dence
chemistry and mathematics

Warning: Finals are here; stress out ahead

by Becky Rickard
staff writer

It's December and holiday cheer is everywhere. What does this mean for college students? Finals. What do finals mean to the average college student? Stress. To many students, finals week consists of the consumption of obscene amounts of coffee, endless hours of studying, all-nighters and fast food cravings in the wee hours of the morning.

Stress can be divided into two categories; short term and long term stress. Short term stress can be caused by the release of adrenaline into the blood stream, usually in response to a sudden event that spurs the human survival instinct. However, long term stress occurs when the body endures the presence of adrenaline over a long period of time. Improperly managed, long term stress can have serious effects on a person's physical and mental health.

College students commonly suffer from long term stress due to the mounting pressures of the academic semester. To many students, finals are the culmination of a semester of hard work. It is extremely important for students to recognize and admit to that they are experiencing stress. If a student experiences a change of appetite, frequent colds, asthma attacks, back pain, headaches, skin eruptions or digestive problems, they may be experiencing physical symptoms of long term

stress.

Long term stress can transform physical symptoms into mental symptoms, including anxiety, loss of concentration, depression, irritability and sleep disturbance or a feeling of hostility or helplessness. In many cases, those experiencing long term stress cannot recognize their own symptoms because the prolonged presence of adrenaline has become a part of daily life. If you notice that a student close to you is talking abnormally loud or fast, frequently yawning, excessively twitching or pacing, and succumbing to severe mood swings involving irritability and aggression, they may be suffering from long term stress.

According to Stephen Knapp, a Florissant family practice physician, the best way to combat long term stress is to follow a daily routine including exercise, proper amounts of sleep and a balanced diet. However, Knapp understands that the collegiate lifestyle does not promote healthy routines, especially during finals week.

"Staying up for 24 hours is the same as having five or six beers in a couple of hours," Knapp said.

Ellen Tetlow, adjunct psychology instructor at UM-St. Louis, also stresses the importance of sleep during finals week.

"Make sure you sleep before the exam. It's the best way to retain the information you have just studied," Tetlow added.

Staying up for 24 hours is the same as having five or six beers in a couple of hours.

-Stephen Knapp
family physician

Knapp suggested that students steer clear of certain "arousal" drugs, such as nicotine and caffeine, and to avoid eating heavy foods before taking an exam. The digestion of heavy foods causes alkalinetide, a chemical reaction resulting in drowsiness.

"You should eat lightly, three to four hours, before the exam," Knapp advised.

Tetlow warned students against "cramming." She recommended studying in 20 minute increments with five minute breaks between each session as a better method of information retention. Other recommendations include: having a good attitude before and during the exam, answering every question on the exam and dressing comfortably.

It is easy to lose sight of reality during finals week. Therefore, students need to utilize stress management techniques that will help them use their time wisely while putting the events of the week into perspective. Just remember that it is only an exam.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Flubber forgot the plot

Flubber
Disney
Rated PG

In its attempt to modernize an American classic movie, Disney has created a bomb. *Flubber*, Disney's most recent live action film, is based on the black-and-white movie *The Absent Minded Professor*. The original plot is simple. A science professor attempts to save his financially troubled college with his newest invention, flubber. Flubber is a substance that releases more energy than it absorbs. Flubber is flying rubber. This leads to some funny and outlandish scenes - in the original.

The remake however, becomes obscure and menial because of poorly written dialogue and pointless subplots. The only thing that keeps *Flubber* from drowning are the strong performance of Robin Williams and multimillion dollar special effects.

The pacing is illogical and takes away from the movie. In many ways the special effects take away from the plot. The climax of the movie is a big basket ball game between rival colleges. It is the game that has the potential to save the troubled college and help the professor get the girl. Then out of nowhere the remake puts a music video of dancing flubber.



Professor Phillip Brainard discovers flubber in his laboratory.

Disney also creates an unnecessary love triangle between Robin Williams, his girlfriend and a flying robot named Weebo. In the original, Weebo was a dog named Max. To make it worse Disney added a whole bit about souls, and the possibility of a machine having one.

I found the movie to be condescending, dis-

tracting, confusing and presumptuous.

If you like special effects and don't worry too much about logic or a plot, I recommend *Flubber*. After all, the living flubber is cute. For those of you looking for a little more substance, I suggest you rent the original.

-Stephanie Platt

Lastest *Alien* goes where predecessors did not

Alien Resurrection
Twentieth Century Fox
Rated R [violence, language, all that goo]
Running time 1:47

What do Superman, a shark, nerds and alien monsters all have in common? They've all been in movie series. The latest is the fourth installment of the extremely popular *Alien* saga: *Alien Resurrection*.

Sigourney Weaver is back as Ripley, and this time she is joined by a cast of mercenary thugs. What? You say Ripley died in the third movie? Well, that's why it's called science fiction. The intrepid group are aboard a medical vessel that is conducting experiments on the Queen Alien. Of course the aliens don't like this, break free from their cages and run amok on the ship.

Lots of people get eaten, beheaded, eviscerated, split in two and just plain messed-up. Then comes the happy ending with the escape. Don't think I'm letting anything slip here, if you're going to see this, you already know that somebody has

to get away. There are a few things I'm leaving out though.

There are a few things that should be noted. First, this movie is more cerebral than it's predecessors.

There is the semblance of a thoughtful plot, and there are actually a few surprises. The pacing is a little slow at times, and some of the imagery will make you wonder which drug you should have brought - Dramamine or codeine. I suggest Dramamine.

If you go to this looking for a blood filled, scare-fest, roller-coaster ride; forget it. This one is humorous, intelligent, thoughtful and (dare I say it) good. I recommend it to anyone who thought the other three were okay but lacking something. With *Resurrection*, they found it.

Starring: Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder, Ron Perlman, Michael Wincott, Kim Flowers, Dan Hedaya, Gary Dourdan, Dominique Pinon, J.E. Freeman, Brad Dourif and Steven Gilborn as "FATHER"

-Scott Lee

To see *Midnight*, pack a lunch

Eastwood's latest project long on drama

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil
Warner Brothers
Rated R
Running time: 2:42

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil is a fitting title for Clint Eastwood's latest release. It's a little enigmatic though suggestive and enticing.

But ultimately, it's long. Really, really long.

So long in fact that I'm not quite sure I was that terribly dissatisfied with the film itself. But too much of anything is well, just too much.

Based on the John Brent novel of the same title, *Midnight* follows the month-or-so in the life of John Kelso (John Cusack), a New York reporter for *Town & Country*. His assignment takes him to Savannah, Ga., where he is to cover the posh Christmas fete of Jim Williams (Kevin Spacey), the town's most glamorous member of the nouveau riche, though, as Williams points out early on, only the "riche"

matters.

Kelso prolongs his stay in Savannah in order to pursue his own investigation of the death of William's resident gopher and part-time lover, Billy Hansen.

Through Kelso's search, we meet or learn more about several interesting and well-cast characters. Lady Chablis, an irreverent drag queen who supplies uproarious dialogue; Sonny Sieler (Jack Thompson), a multilayered attorney with the manners of a southern gentleman and the scruples of a "big city" businessman.

It's this supporting cast that perhaps makes the otherwise insufferably elongated film tolerable.

By the end, I found myself exhausted, spent from having mistaken the closing moments of four or five scenes near the finale for the finale itself.

That was reserved for an intense, surreal and downright unsettling ending that almost redeems the movie.

Almost. But not quite.

-Doug Harrison

Made you Blink: Latest release from punk bad is 'decent'

Blink-182
Dude Ranch
MCA Records

The newest release from Blink-182, *Dude Ranch*, is a collection of fast-paced, punk influenced songs that have become a staple in the surfing, skating, and snowboarding scenes.

You say Blink-182 doesn't ring a bell? Well, give it some time, I'm sure you will hear of them soon enough, most likely to the point where you wish they would quit playing them over and over again.

The band has one single out from their major-label debut, "Dammit." It's a catchy tune with a hypnotizing hook and a some fast action lyrics.

It is easily the best song off of the album.

Although, the rest of the songs are decent, they just lack the hook that makes "Dammit" so much fun.

The punk and ska lovers of the snowboarding scene have taken quickly to Blink-182 and even promoted them so much that they have been included on the bill of the Warped Tour for the past two years.

You say Blink-182 doesn't ring a bell? Well, give it some time, I'm sure you will hear of them soon enough.

But with only one major-label album out, the boys of Blink-182 have a lot of growing to do musically.

Dude Ranch is a decent attempt at the softer side of the punk scene with one completely awesome song and a lot that are close.

-Matthew Regensburger



Blink-182

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SPORTS

off the WALL



Ken Dunkin
sports editor

I have often wondered if winning was attributed to the player or the system that the coach sets up. The closer I get to teams and the more I watch programs grow has shaped my choice.

I think it is by far the system that makes great players.

For a good system to work they need players that are fit for that style of play. This is most evident with the baseball team.

Every year the team has a great influx of new players and every year despite injuries the team wins. They have lost an entire pitching staff, had returning players have disappointing season, transfers fall flat on their face and this program still manages to have one great season after another.

That is the perfect example of how a system makes the players better.

Sure coaches Jim Brady and Joe Swiderski recruit good players but it is the system that is in place that makes each player better. Players know what to expect. They come here and they know they will work hard, they will have to bust their ass. They know UM-St. Louis baseball is a proven winner.

The example to system over players is at every level. How good were the New York Jets last season? They won a single game. This season with Bill Parcells at the helm they are in the running for the ACF East Championship.

Did the team have that much turnover?

Not really, the major change was the things expected out of them and how the team was coached.

Parcells had coached the Patriots to the Subpar Bowl last season. This year the Patriots can barely eke out simple games. Coincidence? I don't think so.

A poor system and coach will never have a winning team. It won't happen ever. Average coaches can win with great talent but a great coach with average talent will win every time. He makes those players so much better with his knowledge and skill. Coaches like Brady, soccer coach Tom Redmond, former women's coach Kenny Hudson, and women's basketball Shelly Ethridge are hard to find and keeping them around should be a priority.

Win after win good coaches make their players better. Throughout their work load they also make these players great people. Those are the benefits of great coaches. Most are also great people.

So while we are in an era when the focus is on winning now and getting things done quickly coaches are becoming more and more important. Now if only coaches can be taught and bred like players are what a wonderful world it would be.

Riverwomen undefeated after 3 games

After early wins, Ethridge hopes team will continue to gain confidence, improve on last year's record

by **Brian Folsom**
staff writer

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team showed signs that it is forgetting last season's record when it defeated Lincoln University and improved its record to 3-0.

The Riverwomen started the season with a victory at home over Missouri Baptist 77-73 on Nov. 25. The team then hosted Lindenwood the following day and breezed to a 74-68 win. Annette Brandy poured in 27 points and dished

out six assists to lead the Riverwomen. Brandy was also 7-9 from the free-throw line. Melanie Marcy added 14 points and led the team with eight rebounds and three blocked shots. The team shot .444 from the field.

The Riverwomen then traveled to

Jefferson City for their first road game against Lincoln on Dec. 1. Behind Brandy's team leading 24 points, the team cruised to a 79-62 victory.

In addition, Brandy led the Riverwomen with four assists, four steals, and was 9-20 for 45 percent from the

field. Marcy added 21 points, tied with Krystal Logan for the team lead in rebounds with eight, and she was 10-13 from the field for 78 percent.

-Shelly Ethridge
women's head coach

Head Coach Shelly Ethridge is quick to point out that although the team is undefeated, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

"There is so much talent on this team, but the girls are nowhere near their potential yet," she said. "Every game we have won is a game that we expected to win."

The reason for the Riverwomen only winning five games a year ago could have been credited to lack of confidence, but Ethridge said that is all changing now.

"The girls' confidence has been rising with each victory," she said. "A new atmosphere, new rules and regulations, and a new coach has helped a lot."

Ethridge added that when the team jells together, the confidence will rise automatically.

The Riverwomen were scheduled to begin play in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Dec. 4 at home against 13th ranked Bellarmine and Dec. 6 against Kentucky Wesleyan. Ethridge said that the Bellarmine game will show the team where it stands and where the confidence is. She said that it is too early, however, to tell how the team will fare this season in conference play.

"There are many good teams in this

UM-St. Louis 79, Lincoln 62						
UM-St. Louis	FG	3-PT	FT	FTA	S	REB
Krystal Logan	1	0	1	2	1	8
Konna Simon	0	0	0	0	2	3
Melanie Marcy	10	0	1	3	2	8
Charlee Dixon	4	1	2	5	1	1
Annette Brandy	9	0	6	9	4	7
Angela Stewart	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sarah Carrier	2	0	0	0	0	4
Jamie Dressler	0	0	0	0	0	3
Missy England	1	1	0	0	0	1
Lindsay Brefeld	3	1	2	2	0	3
Elizabeth Kraeger	2	0	0	3	0	2
Totals	32	3	12	24	10	41

Lincoln						
Lincoln	FG	3-PT	FT	FTA	S	REB
Jamillia Duncan	2	0	0	0	1	5
Andrea Sykes	7	0	3	8	2	4
Akia Haggard	6	0	0	0	1	12
Jessica Clavin	5	1	2	4	2	3
Nyree Young	5	1	3	6	0	7
Melinda Gosa	0	0	0	0	1	3
Lillian Brooks	1	0	0	4	2	1
Totals	26	2	8	22	9	35

There is so much talent on this team, but the girls are nowhere near their potential yet. Every game we have won is a game that we expected to win.

Anyone Open?



Ken Dunkin/The Current

UM-St. Louis guard Jeremiah Foots, left, tries to beat Truman State's Andy Guethle in the Rivermen's season opener in Kirksville, Mo.

Rivermen fall to 1-4 after disappointing loss to Bellarmine

by **Ken Dunkin**
staff writer

The Rivermen were run ragged in their first conference game against Bellarmine last Thursday.

Bellarmine got off to an 18-2 start and the Rivermen had an up-hill battle the rest of the night. UM-St. Louis got within eight points, but soon the gap widened and the game was finished.

"We spent the game playing catch up," Rich Meckfessel, head coach, said. "We got within eight with plenty of time left but we couldn't get over the hump."

The Rivermen were victims of poor shooting. UM-St. Louis shot 44 percent for the game while Bellarmine shot 51 percent. The Rivermen also turned the ball over 17 times.

"We were just awful," Meckfessel said. "I don't have any explanation. We just came out and played awful. No one played well. We were really disappointed because Bellarmine is not one of the elite teams in the GLVC. They are a good team, but this is a game we should have won."

The Rivermen had been playing better basketball before this game. Though they lost both games in their Florida trip they improved

Bellarmine 84, UM-St. Louis 67						
Bellarmine	FG	3-PT	FT	FTA	S	REB
Neil Thomas	2	1	0	0	0	4
Eric Wahl	2	0	1	4	0	4
Amit Shaham	7	2	0	3	0	7
Matt Gladioux	10	6	2	3	2	10
Brad Bixler	3	0	4	4	3	3
Ron Brooks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brian Culhave	1	0	2	4	0	2
Josh Harbert	3	2	8	10	0	5
Totals	28	11	17	28	5	35

UM-St. Louis						
UM-St. Louis	FG	3-PT	FT	FTA	S	REB
Jeremiah Foots	1	0	1	2	0	7
Mike Harris	5	0	2	6	0	4
Jason Logsdon	5	0	2	2	1	5
Greg Ross	2	0	0	0	1	0
Kyle Bixler	2	1	5	6	1	3
Stein Rotegaard	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jason Frillman	1	1	6	6	1	3
Terrell Alexander	4	0	1	4	0	4
Ryan Meyers	1	1	1	2	1	2
Eric Stiegman	1	0	2	2	0	3
Totals	22	3	20	30	5	31

their scoring. Jason Logsdon and Mike Harris also picked up their play.

"We couldn't play the whole season with Greg Ross and Kyle Bixler being our leading scorers and rebounders like they were in the first game," Meckfessel said. "Jason and Mike played very well in Florida. Mike even made the All-Tournament in Florida; deservedly so."

Harris and Logsdon led the team with 12 points each. Forward Jeremiah Foots led the team in rebounds with seven. With several players getting better there are still hopes the team will improve.

"We have a long way to go and we will get better, but Thursday night was a huge disappointment for us," Meckfessel said.

Hockey team looks forward to facing SLU next semester

by **Dave Kinworthy**
staff writer

After a disappointing 6-4 loss to Washington University, the Rivermen's hockey team is off for nearly a month until it plays Saint Louis University.

The team's future looks bright even though there are 15 or 16 freshmen on the squad.

"We have great designs for the future with so much youth on the team," freshman defenseman Tim Bauer said. "We play with so much intensity and effort that the future looks really bright."

This game means a lot to the team as well as myself. In high school, there was a rivalry between CBC and SLUH and I will just take it to the next level in college.

-Tim Bauer
freshman defenseman

As the team readies itself for the Saint Louis University match-up, the players will be preparing for a dog fight.

"This game means a lot to the team as well as myself," Bauer said. "In high school, there was a rivalry between CBC and SLUH and I will just take it to the next level in college."

"The team is looking good right now except for some injuries and minor discipline problems, but we will come out and be ready for the game."

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

	Tuesday	Saturday
Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.	9	13
Men		vs Maryville 7:30 p.m.
Women	vs UM-Rolla 7:00 p.m.	vs Washington University 5:30 p.m.

Ken Dunkin's column appears every other week. Contact him at 516-5174, by fax at 516-6811 by mail (see page 4) or by e-mail kdunkin@rocketmail.com

The Current NEWSWIRE

Jay Rounds, the Des Lee Foundation Endowed Professor in Museum Studies and Community History will discuss "What Do Museums Mean?" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Convocation Hall at Pierre Laclède Honors College. For more details, call 5446.

The Staff Association will sponsor an evening at Incahoots, 3590 Rider Trail South in Earth City, on Wednesday. Doors open at 6 p.m., and dance lessons will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 5050 for more information.

Steven O. Swyers, office managing partner with Price Waterhouse, will discuss "Opportunities of Mergers" at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis, Union Station. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 5833 for details.

Sigma Pi Fraternity will host its annual Toys for Tots Christmas Party on Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Sigma Pi Fraternity House, 8645 Natural Bridge Road. The party is open to those 18 and older; those attending are asked to bring a toy or a cash donation. Students unable to attend can drop a toy off at the fraternity house.

United Missouri Bank has been contracted to provide banking services in the University Center beginning Jan. 1. Normandy Bank will continue operating until Dec. 24. Details regarding ATM and other services will be provided after the holiday break. Call 5760 for details.

A new undergraduate certificate program in labor studies will be offered beginning in January. The courses are interactive and will be taught at the Instructional Technology Center. For information on fees and registration, call 6914; for information on course content, call 6378.

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

Men's basketball team plays prepares to take on area colleges

The Rivermen will match up against Maryville and Washington U. this month

by Ken Dunkin
staff writer

The Rivermen will battle two St. Louis basketball powers as they will play Maryville and Washington University.

The Rivermen will take their 1-4 record against local rival Maryville Saturday. Maryville made the Division III National Tournament last season. They then play Washington University on Dec. 20.

"Washington University didn't make the tournament

last season but they are in most years," Rich Meckfessel, head coach, said. "They won't be easy games."

We need to win those. Offensively we haven't been successful and we aren't playing with a lot of confidence. In turn we struggle defensively.

-Rich Meckfessel
head coach

With the Rivermen currently 0-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and 1-4 overall these nonconference games will be a tune-up.

They will serve as practice against tough teams.

"We need to win those," Meckfessel said. "Offensively we haven't been successful and we aren't playing with a lot of confidence. In turn we struggle defensively."

Spruce trees help rejuvenate on-campus recycling effort

by Becky Zagurski
staff writer

The UM-St. Louis Recycling Committee hopes that two new spruce trees recently planted on campus will once again promote interest in on-campus recycling of paper.

"One hundred five tons of paper were recycled in 1996," said Paul Travers, committee member. "This year we're down to just a few tons. The bottom has really fallen out."

Travers said the committee is "trying to push paper recycling again so that faculty and staff use less waste."

Everyone on campus can participate in recycling as well by using the blue waste receptacles located in various places all over campus for paper products only.

This is important because once the paper is tainted by food, the paper recycling company won't take it, Travers said.

Although the goal of recycling the paper is to use the money earned to landscape campus, that is not all the committee hopes to accomplish.

"The market for paper is very low," Travers said. "The reason we do it is because we think conservation of resources is impor-

One hundred five tons of paper were recycled in 1996. This year we're down to just a few tons. The bottom has really fallen out.

-Paul Travers
UM-St. Louis Recycling
Committee member

tant for the campus community."

The American Forest and Paper Association estimates that the average person uses two pounds of wood products a day. This translates to four trees—each 100 feet tall and 18 inches in diameter—used per person per year.

The spruce trees were dedicated and lighted on Dec. 1 during a ceremony held in conjunction with Holiday week. One tree is located on the South Campus, the other is located on the North Campus near the Alumni Circle.

Each tree has a granite marker with the inscription "Dreams are the seedlings of realities — James Allen. A gift from UMSL Recycling Community, Dec. 1, 1997."

The Current will publish its final issue of the semester next week, Dec. 15. We will resume publication Jan. 12, 1998. It's not too early to make your submissions now for the Bulletin Board. See page 2 for more information.

The Current is getting a face-lift.

Check out our new look next semester!

"It's not exactly plastic surgery — It's more like paper surgery."
-The Managing Editor

SGA Meeting

Wednesday
December 10, 1997
JC Penney Building
Room 222
2:00pm

All Representatives
Are Expected
to Attend
Any Questions,
Call 516-5105

Out of the Box

A Running Dialogue
Ron Medley, District Supervisor/FSC

With the holidays drawing near, we tend to turn introspective, spending a great deal of time in discussion about our performance over the first semester.

We believe, like most of you that we should finish with a GPA of 3.0. And like most hard working students, a 3.0 just won't cut it in our eyes.

You may rest assured that we will take a deep breath at the break and get down to the business at hand, same as you, seeking the 4.0 at all costs.

When you return January 12, 1997 the following changes will be here to greet you:

1. Cactus Jack's will be expanded, allowing us to offer a larger menu while increasing speed of service.
2. Against the Grain Bakery will be moved and expanded to feature whole pies, breads, cakes, specialty pastries and funnel cakes.
3. A new freestanding kiosk is being constructed and will house the Underground Express. This kiosk will be positioned near the cashier stands and will be home for "grab & go" items ranging from Burritos, Pizza, Burgers, Chick Fila, Deli, and more.
This should address all those in a "super" hurry.
4. The Cove is getting a new and expanded menu, which will feature a line of "signature" 1/2 pound burgers, as well as our incredible Slice of Life Pizza & Calzone. Don't miss our new Flaming Fajitas!!!!
5. Catering is in the process of expanding the main catering menu while developing a Student Organization Catering Guide with "shoestring" options for those on a tight budget.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage as well as your thoughts, ideas and patience.

Enjoy your holiday break, as we ready for second semester and await your safe return.

The Entire FSC Staff

Ron, Art, Chris, Pat, Scott, Kay, Lisa, Lonell, Steve, Antonio, Tommie, Ida, Bobbie, Peggy, A.C., Andre, Jeannette, Peggy, Brian, Curtis, Corey, Paul, Tim, Frankie, Trisha, Shawnyell, Dwayne, Jake, Tyrone, Glenda, John, Trell, Paul again, Agnes, Bill, Dereck, Alecia, Warren, Fred, Pete, Jason, Harvey, Cindy, Theresa.

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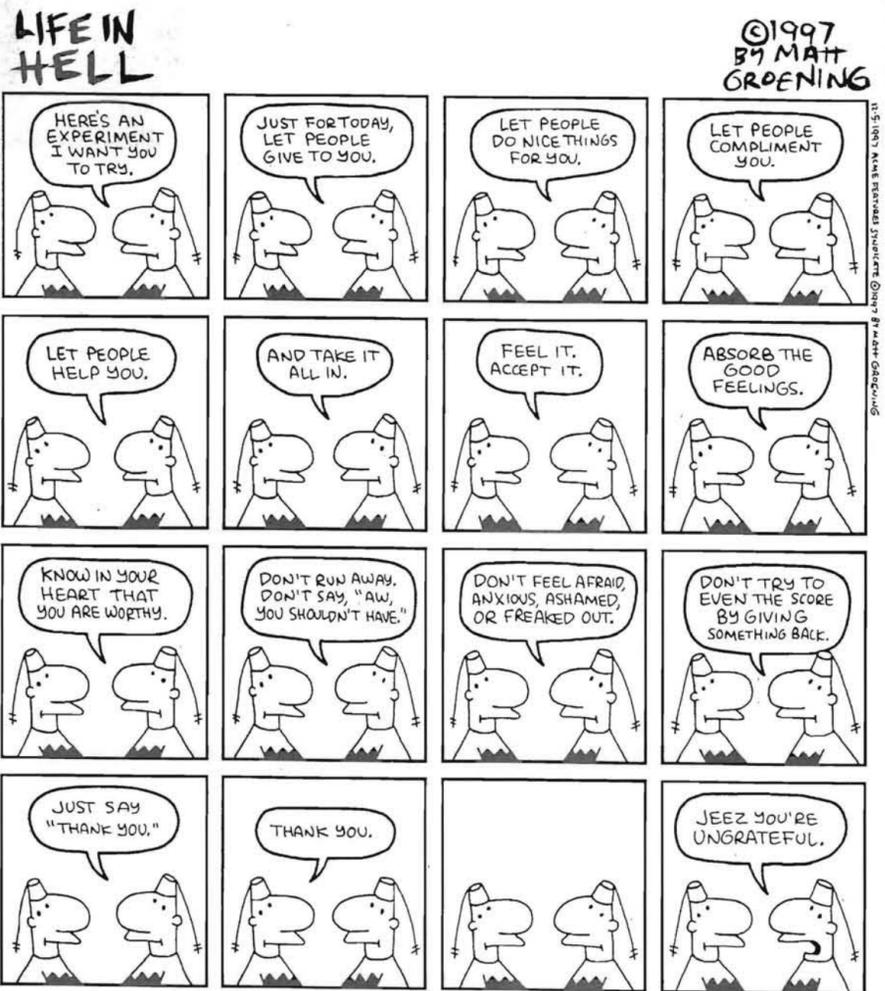


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