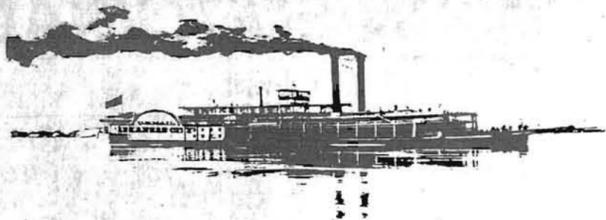




Torrance Smith ignites for the Rivermen basketball team. See page 5.



"Words of Women" ring out for local audiences. See page 3.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

Issue 880

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

February 17, 1997

What's in 'A' grade?

by Kim Hudson
news editor

UM-St. Louis has seen more significant drops in the number of As and Bs awarded to students between the fall semesters of 1995 and 1996 than any other University of Missouri campus.

According to Linda Silman, associate registrar at UM-St. Louis, fewer undergraduates received As and Bs for the fall of 1996 than in the fall of 1995.

The number of students receiving A-type grades, including A-minuses, dropped 3 percent from 31 percent in fall 1995 to 28 percent in fall 1996.

The same trend can be seen in the percentage of B-type grades (including pluses and minuses) which fell from 32 percent in fall of 1995 to 29 percent in the fall of 1996.

Administrators gave different reasons for these trends. Roosevelt Wright, vice chancellor for Student Affairs at UM-St. Louis, said the drops here could be attributed to various factors.

"One of the reasons probably is that instructors are becoming more discriminating in giving A's and B's," he said.

Wright added that this may be an effort by the faculty to improve the image of the University from that of a commuter campus where anyone can enroll to that where success takes work

"I think the faculty is trying to show that we do not give you a degree here just because you came."

**—Roosevelt Wright
vice chancellor for Student Affairs**

and talent.

"I think that the faculty is trying to show that we do not give you a degree here just because you came," Wright said. "We want this university to very much excel in its image and its offerings."

Administrators also commented that the quality of students at each of the campuses played a large part in the grade changes.

"Students [at UM-St. Louis] may not be performing as well in the year you see the decline," Wright said. "But, I do not have any data to support this."

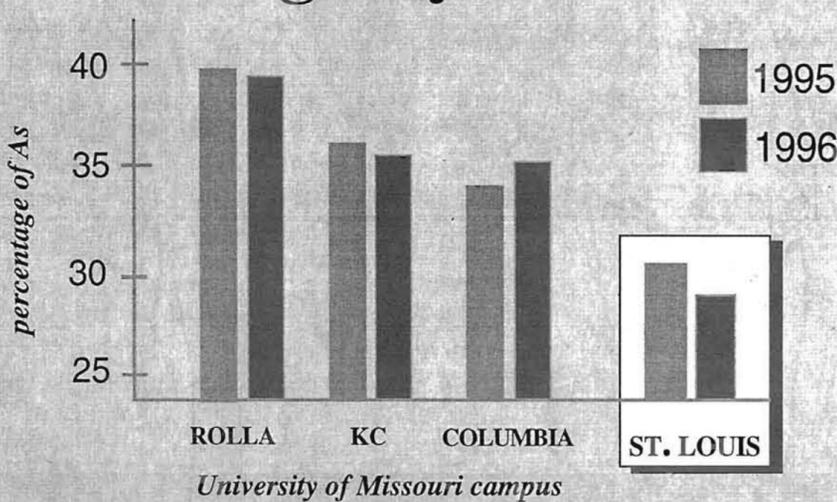
Gary Smith, director of Admissions and Registrar at Mizzou, had no data to explain the grade changes on his campus either, but he said the increases were expected.

"When I look at the quality of our student body, it does not surprise me that we have a high number of good grades," he said. "The quality of high school seniors coming to our school has been improving over the last five or six years."

Despite divergent trends in the grades received on their

see Grades, page 8

Grading on your nerves



Grading system stands despite disapproval

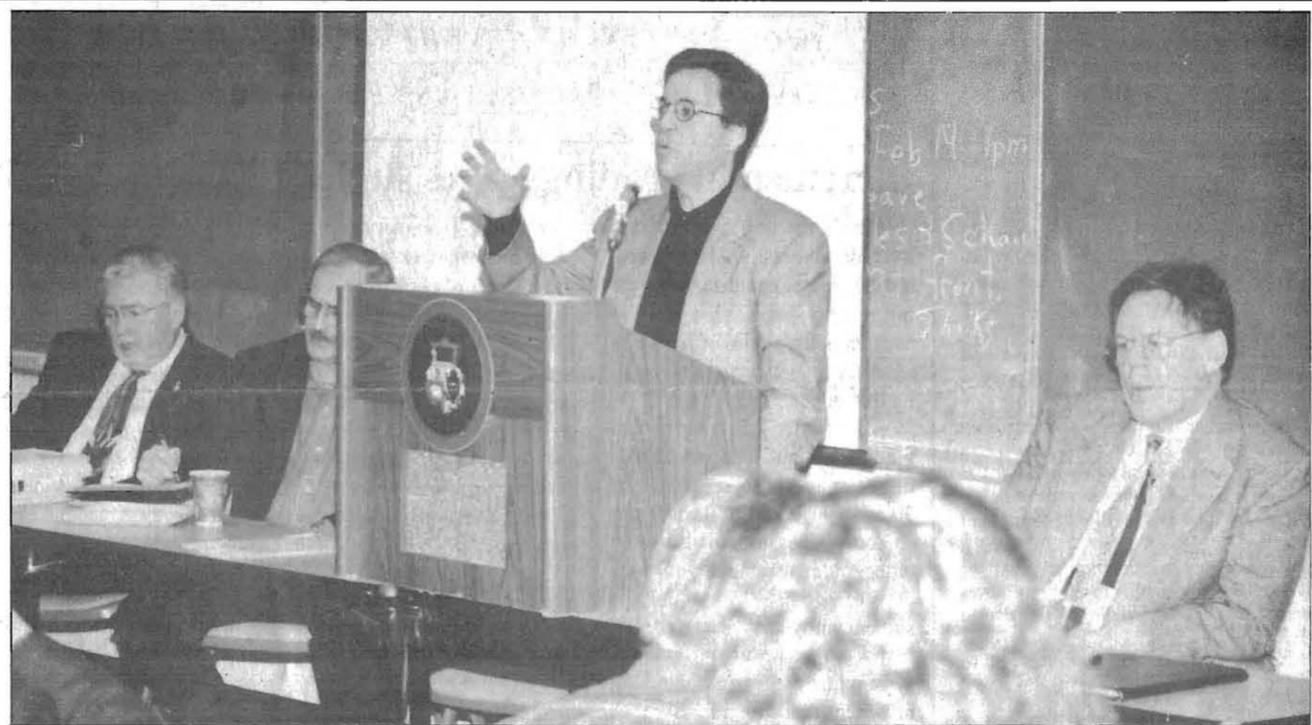
by Kim Hudson
news editor

In its sixth semester, the incremental grading system has met resistance by students and some faculty.

In the fall of 1992, the University Senate at UM-St. Louis voted to recommend a new grading system to Chancellor Blanche Touhill. The new system gave instructors the option of adding pluses and minuses to course grades. Since then, reaction among students and faculty have been mixed.

Donald Lisenby, a psychology professor, was willing to use the new grading system but met strong resistance from his students.

see Incremental, page 8



NBC sports anchor Bob Costas (center) discusses media coverage of the Olympics Friday. Other panelists are (from left to right): Thomas McPhail, professor of communications and associate vice chancellor of academic affairs; John MacAloon, professor of anthropology at the University of Chicago; Charles Korr, professor of history and director of the Center for Humanities and Susan Brownell (not pictured).

Search for Honors dean narrows

by Bill Rolfe
and Doug Harrison
of The Current staff

Many aspects of the Pierre Laclade Honors College future remain uncertain. One thing is clear: it will continue to grow, and two of the people who are vying to oversee that growth as the next dean of the college spent two days of intensive meetings and interviews on campus in search of that appointment.

The first two of four final candidates said they plan to form advisory committees to manage the projected enrollment increase at the Honors college.

Thomas Brickhouse held an open

see Dean, page 8



Fran Hoffmann

Stymied search for UM President nears final stages

by Doug Harrison
managing editor

The search for the next UM president continues despite candidates removing themselves from the race and the media scrutiny surrounding the search committee's secretive deliberations.

Bob Fritchey, Student Government Association president, and student leaders from the four UM campuses recently met with Troy Nash, student representative on the board of curators.

According to Fritchey, Nash discussed the issues that are most important to students.

"Troy understands that students want a leader who will effectively work for their benefit," Fritchey said. "I have the utmost confidence in his abilities to represent students' interests."

In an uncommon move, the board unanimously voted to give Nash a vote on the committee to select the president.

The Board of Curators, the governing body of the UM system, recently interviewed finalists in St. Louis.

One candidate was eliminated following the interview and two others removed their names from the list unexpectedly.

Curator Adam Fischer attributed

the two dropouts to media scrutiny.

"Despite our best efforts, we have lost most of our final candidates because of total breach of confidentiality in one case and our inability to reasonably assure the second candidate that he could get from the airport to the interview room and back to the airport without exposure to reporters," Fischer said.

One of the candidates who requested to be removed from the list was Lois DeFleur, president of the State University of New York.

The board will reveal the names of all candidates when it agrees on a final list.

At that time, a consultative committee comprising of members from all four campuses will review the applicants.

The board of curators has taken fire from UM campuses for its secretive search process.

Editorials in the UM-Columbia *Maneater* mocked the curators search. "Don't ask Curator Adam Fischer to reveal the identity of the three final candidates. Even if he told you, he'd have to kill you," the editorial read.

It continued, "Curators were issued cyanide capsules with instructions to swallow them should they be captured by enemy reporters."

Food for thought

ARAMARK convenes groups to improve food services

by David Baugher
of the Current staff

Volunteers are needed for special focus groups which will meet this week to generate ideas on improving campus food services.

"We're trying to set up these groups and interview people so that we can see what their needs are," said Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary Services. "We just want candid opinions on food service and how we can make it more satisfactory for all the customers."

Since 1992, most food services have been provided by ARAMARK Corp., which runs both on-campus eateries, "The Cove" and "The Underground." The two new coffee

bars, operated by the Praxton Enterprises, are also contracted through ARAMARK. ARAMARK's contract with the University expires this summer. The focus groups are an attempt to gather student input on what the new contract should include. Schultz said that the participation of faculty, staff and students is vital.

"We want to be innovative," Schultz said. "The more people that come in to talk, the more we learn."

The groups will be moderated by a representative from Thomas Ricca and Associates, the design team for food service in the new University Center, which will also be a topic of discussion. The center is expected to be completed around the year 2000. Schultz hopes to form three

groups composed of about 12 people each to represent the campus. Schultz said groups are expected to meet this Thursday and Friday but times are flexible to meet student needs. Resident hall students meet in two separate groups, but Schultz said she would gladly form more groups if there were enough participants to fill them.

"We're hoping to have a really good sample of all the customers on campus," she said. "The overriding intent is to talk to the campus community in general and see what they would like."

To become a group member or for more information contact Gloria Schultz at 516-5760 or Joe Kortum at 516-6430.



photo by Shelley Satke

Students wait in the Pizza Hut line at the Underground. ARAMARK, which operates the Underground, is forming focus groups to improve food service on campus.

Inside

For a list of Black History month activities on campus, see page 8.

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Rat's Ramblins



by Michael J. Urness
of The Current staff

Last time, I mentioned the book *In Defense of Elitism*. A discussion group to which I belong has had this book as its main topic for two meetings in a row. It was suggested by the groups founder who discovered it on the shelves of a local bookstore.

In Defense of Elitism was written by William A. Henry III (1950-1994), a culture critic for *Time* magazine and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. At the top of the book's cover is a line from a *New York Times* book review that pretty well sums up the book: "Bracing... eloquent testimony that what killed liberalism in this country is a deeply misguided egalitarianism."

It seems most of the group's predominantly left leaning members agreed with this statement and with many of the author's points, but the book has some disturbing passages too. One is Henry's assertion that few if any women have made significant contributions to the advancement of Western culture.

"The unvarnished truth is this: you could eliminate every woman writer, painter and composer from the caveman era to the present moment and not significantly deform the course of Western culture," Henry writes. "Of course you would lose individual artists of merit: I'd sorely miss Jane Austen and George Eliot, Sigrid Undset and Willa Cather. But you would eradicate few if any true giants, and hardly anyone who radically changed a form instead of simply executing it well."

In the first chapter, Henry attacks government, academia and extremist egalitarians for being more interested in comforting losers than in celebrating winners. He minces no words when it comes to expressing his disapproval of state lotteries which he says have made willing accomplices of those in education who are lured in by promises of an economic windfall. The problem with lotteries, according to Henry, is that they make people hopeful rather than determined.

Henry favors eliminating quotas and affirmative action. "Many groups have been held down by past circumstances but should now be able to contribute equally," he writes. "A healthy society must be prepared to embrace all people of talent. Yet in order to motivate and reassure them for the future, we cannot reinvent the past to pretend that the dispossessed made glorious contributions..."

Much of the past, according to Henry, has been reinvented in modern textbooks to artificially inflate the self esteem of minority groups like American Indians, African Americans and women. By making people's feelings their first priority, schools have begun to look and function more like counseling agencies than educational institutions, Henry says.

A knee-jerk reaction to this book would be to immediately dismiss it and its author as racist and elitist, but closer examination shows Henry was far from being a racist, or at least he went to great lengths to amass credentials that would suggest otherwise.

"I am also painfully conscious that taking the postures I do may condemn me to accommodating some pretty strange bedfellows—racists, male supremacists, patriotic zealots, reactionaries, religious exotics and assorted other creeps..." Henry writes. "Yet I'm not a right-winger, and I hope I am not a nut. I am still a registered Democrat, a recipient of awards for civil rights writing from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Unity in Media contest based at historically black Lincoln University. I am a card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a donor to abundant left-of-center social causes."

In Defense of Elitism is interesting reading, but it's definitely not for those looking for a feel-good book.



photo by: Ashley Cook

Poet Hilde Hochwald reads one of her poems for the audience.

"The Words of Women" spoken at Left Bank Books

by Shakira Truss
of The Current staff

"The movie will start in a minute," someone yelled from the back of the coffee shop after the lights dimmed on the chattering audience and the empty stage awaited its first speaker.

It wasn't a movie about to start last Thursday night at Left Bank Books in the Central West End, but a presentation of poetry from four women whose poems were as diverse as their authors. The title of the performance was "The Words of Women" and the four women featured were Hilde Hochwald, Denise Bass, Professor Jennifer MacKenzie and Professor Nanora Sweet.

After a brief overview of the night's performers and a few words about LitMag Angela Hamilton, the coordinator of the event, introduced the first speaker.

Hilde Hochwald, a senior majoring in English at UM-St. Louis, came to the stage that had as its backdrop a display window where passers-by took an occasional glimpse in to see what was happening. After giggling about never having read before [an audience], Hochwald started with her poem titled *Bean Eaters*. This was not from the collection poems of a similar name by Gwendolyn Brooks, the acclaimed poet, but about Hochwald's visit to a friend living in San Francisco. She continued her readings, "acting out" each poem with rolling eyes and strategically placed hesitations for added effect.

"I operate out of feeling," Hochwald said. She also said that she imagines what she is going to do and can organize the poem with the rhythm.

"It's like being in another stream of consciousness," Hochwald explained.

The themes of Hochwald's poems ranged from the essence of Miles Davis's eyes to the dilemmas of

shopping. Most of her writing inspiration comes from personal experiences and people she meets.

Denise Bass followed Hochwald to the stage. Bass graduated from UM-St. Louis in January with a Bachelor's degree in General Studies.

Her poems were short and to the point. They also varied in style and composition like the other readers' poems. She recited poetry with titles like *Thai Fat Girl* and *Best Christian Ever*, which parodied how she felt some religious people behave at times.

"Some people are just too extreme," Bass commented.

Another poem was titled *Recipient*, which was about people who receive assistance from welfare. Bass said she received a lot of angry responses to that one. She continues to be a part of campus activities through her involvement with UM-St. Louis Women's Poetry Group.

Also presenting her poems was Jennifer MacKenzie, a UM-St. Louis English professor. MacKenzie started her reading with a comedic and abstract look at a headline about an old woman being hit with a large Bingo board. With the whir of the cappuccino machine in the distance, she continues with a poem inspired by a verse from the Bible's Book of Job.

Nanora Sweet, an UM-St. Louis English Literature professor, was the final speaker of the evening. Sweet recited poems that she said were keeping in step with the Valentine theme. One of her poems, *Interelopement*, eluded to a girl's infatuation with Rock Hudson.

"A girl for the Rock," she added with amusement. Sweet also read poems that she noted were about "newlyweds, formerly weds, gay loves, straight loves,"

see Litmag, page 6

"A Girl for the Rock [is about] newlyweds, formerlyweds, gay loves, straight loves, long loves and short loves."

—Nanora Sweet, poet

Two UM-St. Louis grad students strike it big in literary world

by Becky Rickard
of The Current Staff

Diana Davis and Julie Earhart. If you don't know these names, you will.

Both women are on rising to success in the St. Louis literary world.

Davis and Earhart are UM-St. Louis graduate students in English with an emphasis on creative writing. Both women are published writers who are having selected pieces of poetry and short stories performed in a theater production named, "Let out Voices be Heard and Scene" at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park, Feb. 21 through 23.

Earhart's short story, "Sometimes You're the Bug; Sometimes You're the Windshield," involves two dynamic characters, Davey and Cindy. Davey is a less-than-average trucker in love with Cindy, a cynical, yet down-to-earth truck-stop waitress. Davey deviously attempts to kidnap Cindy's heart. However, Cindy is not ready to have her heart won until everything goes wrong in Davey's plan. Not only is this story a comical parody of the trucker lifestyle but is also a story of unexpected love.

This short story can be found in the 1993-94 "Steps Astray" issue of *LitMag*.

Earhart is an energetic, self-made woman who has pulled herself up from the grim clutches of a divorce and down-sized job to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a writer.

She graduated magna cum laude from UM-St. Louis in 1996 with a BGS concentrating on journalistic and creative writing.

Earhart has received many distinguished awards as a result of her involvement with *LitMag*, the Evening College Council, and free

lance writing, editing and graphic design. She also finds time to hold an office in the St. Louis Writer's Guild.

English professor and accomplished writer, David Carkeet, believes Earhart's future is bright.

"She's creative, funny, lively, and promising," says Carkeet.

Diana Davis has four poems and one short story in the Forest Park production.

"Choices," a poem about the Vietnam War, is thought provoking and emotionally powerful, while "The day it rained suitcases and underwear..." another poem in the production, takes a comedic perspective on the delicate subject of infidelity. The female character in this poem is a cross between Alanis Morissette and Carol Burnett.

Davis's short story, "The Auctioneer in Beulah Land," occurs in a rural setting somewhere in the Bible Belt. Beulah is a controlling mother and wife married to a relaxed, yet talented auctioneer. Conflict arises when Beulah's husband drinks too many glasses of beer against her warning. The story offers poignant and humorous insight regarding men's dealings with controlling women.

"Diana has a tremendous feel for the spectrum of human emotion," says Richard Salamon, director of the Forest Park production.

It was no surprise that the actors in the production were excited to meet Davis.

In 1993, she received a BGS with an emphasis on writing from UM-St. Louis while working full-time as an admissions advisor. As a student, Davis has been recognized and honored for her involvement

see Students, page 6

Anthropologist receives World Ecology Medal

by John Jones
of The Current staff

The world-renowned Dr. Richard Leakey received an enthusiastic standing ovation as UM-St. Louis presented him with the World Ecology Medal. The ceremony took place at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton. Leakey, a paleoanthropologist, has been departing from researching human origins for the past ten years and is entering the dark and at times dangerous grounds of planning the future of world conservation.

Leakey is the son of the most influential husband-and-wife team in the field of paleoanthropology, Louis and Mary Leakey. Richard himself has been working in Africa to find the origins of the human race for the past thirty years. In 1984, Leakey made his anthropological mark by unearthing the 1.6 million-year-old skeleton of a *Homo Erectus* youth. This was one of the oldest skeletons of a species commonly thought to be an ancestor of modern man. He is also the co-author of the important *Origins* and *Origins Reconsidered* which offer theories on human evolution.

Leakey went on to become the

director of the Kenya Wildlife Services and Chairman of The National Museums of Kenya. Under his leadership, Leakey virtually eliminated the illegal ivory trade and the poaching of elephants in his country. He has become an expert on wildlife conservation. It is through this work that Leakey was recognized by the Center. In his speech, Leakey preached a vision and issued a warning.

"The greatest challenge of our time is to build a world that is a world. Not to build the components that tend to be, for one reason or the other, in conflict," Leakey said.

Leakey called for research centers like UM-St. Louis's Center for Tropical Ecology to become more active in the conservation of the subjects they study which may mean getting involved with politics.

When asked about why Leakey challenged students and researchers to become more active in the politics of world conservation, Leakey spoke in earnest.

see Ecology, page 6

UnderCurrent

by Ashley Cook
of The Current staff



"I study a few hours at a time, with breaks in between to watch TV or sleep."

— Mary Malecek
Senior • Early Childhood Education



"I drink a lot of capuccino."

— Julie Williams
Freshman • Engineering



"I drink lots of tea."

— Jennifer Adams
Freshman • Nursing



"Smoke a lot of cigars and drink coffee."

— Tom Holt
Freshman • Criminal Justice

What is your strategy for staying awake to study?

Theater Review

Theater lovers will find *Arcadia* jewel in Rep's crown

by Nathanael D. Schulte
entertainment editor

Lovers of the theater are in for a treat with the St. Louis Rep's production of *Arcadia*, winner of the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Play. Playwright Tom Stoppard paints a complex and moving picture of the parallels between early 19th Century England and modern day Britain.

Opening in 1809 at the country estate of the wealthy Coverly Family. We chance upon young Thomasina Coverly (Ashley West) and her tutor, Septimus Hodge (Mat-

thew Rauch), who are working on the day's lesson. They are suddenly interrupted by Ezra Chater (Anderson Matthews), a little known poet who accuses Hodge of tarnishing his wife's "pure" reputation by engaging in indiscreet activities with her.

Hodge does admit to it, but contends that Lady Chater's reputation was hardly commendable to begin with. In fact, the frail Mister Chater convinces himself that he is in fact indebted to Septimus Hodge for strengthening the bond between he and his wife.

In the same scene we meet Lady

Croom (Glynis Bell), mistress of the estate and Richard Noakes (Joneal Joplin), amateur design artist and gardener who is trying out his latest ideas on the Coverly gardens, both of whom cause their own share of havoc. We also meet Captain Brice (John Renshouse), pretended friend of Ezra Chater, who also secretly has his eye on Mrs. Chater.

Next, we enter scene two, at the Coverly estate, now in modern day England. Bernard Nightingale (Jim Abele) has just entered in search of Hannah Jarvis (Carol Schultz), a fellow literary scholar who is studying a

hermit believed to have lived on the estate in the early 19th century. We also meet the modern day Coverly heirs: Valentine (Chris Hietikko), a rather abrasive mathematician who secretly loves Hannah, Chloe (Jessica Jaques), the flirtatious daughter and Augustus (Ben Grimes), the mute one who is also in love with Miss Jarvis.

We find in Nightingale's possession a book that once belonged to a Septimus Hodge, with an autograph of thanks from one Ezra Chater. This book was found, though, among the former posses-

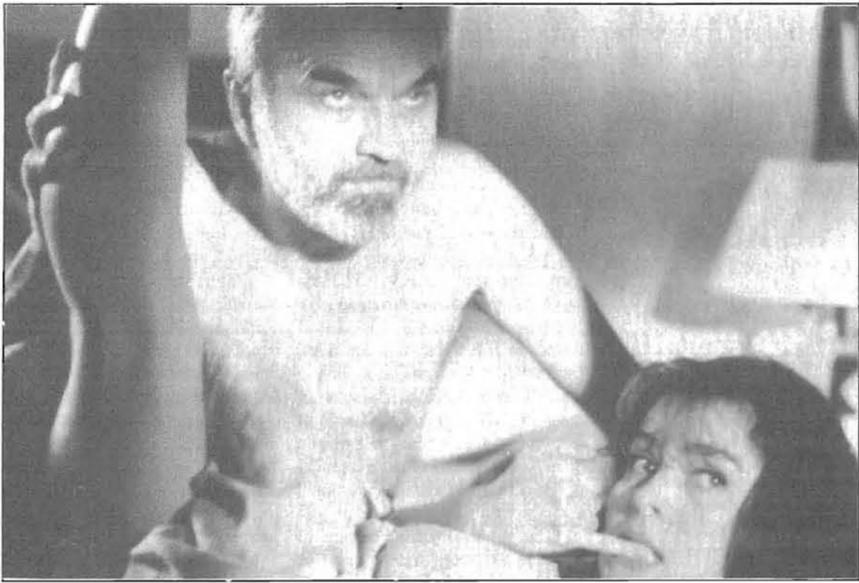
sions of Lord Byron, the famous English poet and former classmate of Septimus Hodge. It is Nightingale's theory that Lord Byron was confronted by Ezra Chater for a duel and that Chater was in turn killed in the duel, thus explaining why Chater was never heard from again after 1809 and why Byron left the country for a couple years after 1810.

The rest of the play continues switching between 1809 and today, always showing how Nightingale's assertions differed from reality and how much the past parallels the

present. Arcadia asserts in a very convincing manner that nothing is really new under the sun and that it's impossible to discover the entire truth when you come to a conclusion before gathering evidence.

Those who have never experienced the Rep are missing out on an artistic treat. Arcadia runs February 7 - March 7. Tickets range from \$9 to \$39.50 for regular prices and \$5 for student rush with an ID, 30 minutes before curtain.

For more information, call the box office at (314) 968-4925.



Zdenek Sverak and Libuse Safrankova star in Jan Sverak's *Kolya*.

Movie Review

Kolya's plot interesting, well-developed

by D.J. Sermos
of *The Current* staff

Kolya is a very interesting movie for many reasons. First, this movie comes straight out of the Czech Republic. This fact made it intriguing for me. I wondered how it would differ from American movies, both socially and visually. What I found was that it dealt with issues felt here in America and cinematography that was up-to-date. In some movies (ie. Japanese) the plot makes absolutely no sense, because as an American, I don't understand their customs or cultural ideologies. This wasn't the case in this movie. I followed the well-developed plot all the way through, fully understanding the motivations of all the characters.

This film was set in 1988, just before the "Velvet Revolution in

Czechoslovakia." The plot dealt with womanizing, espionage and communist oppression. The story line follows "Louka" an ex-Philharmonic cellist down on his luck. Needing quick cash, Louka agrees to marry a Russian so that she can have her Czech papers. Louka's new wife using her Czech papers emigrates to Germany, leaving behind her six year old son. The story then documents Louka's adventure as he discovers his true self through the young boy, Kolya.

Keeping with the story-line, the plot and dialogue (though subtitled) were each very strong. The director, Jan Sverak, son of a famous Czech actor, really knows what he's doing though some points are very self indulgent. A good example of this is when the young boy (Kolya) is sick and you can see his toy top spinning all around, elaborating the lad's sick-

ness. I didn't need to see the top spinning on the ceiling, the shadow of the top shot from this direction, or the shadow spinning on the boys face from each angle. Besides this, and one countryside scene which lasted for five minutes, the director stayed true to the focus of the movie and not his mad directorial skills.

On the flip side, the movie was weak in three aspects. First, it lasted two hours and sixteen minutes, a bit too lengthy for my restless soul. Secondly, it lost momentum in the middle, dragging on for fifteen minutes before it picked up again. Don't get me wrong, the story line was tight; it just got a little slow in the middle. Finally, the movie shoots at the "artsy" crowd rather than the general public (already selected for Sundance Film Festival 97).

This movie is highly thought provoking and definitely a stepping stone for the Czech movie scene. All said I give this movie a C grade. You may ask your self why a C. The answer: it's slow and not for the average Joe. Ratings receive A-F grades.

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Cardinals Winter Warm-Up a success for freezing fans

By Brian Folsom
sports associate

Winter is still here, and I hate it. I never have liked cold weather, especially here in St. Louis.

I dread when November and December come around because I know how cold it's going to get.

However, the thing that keeps me going through the winter months is knowing that April and May are right around the corner.

The first glimpses of summer, for me anyway, come around the last couple of weeks in February. This is a time when all of the major league baseball teams are gearing up for spring training in preparation for the long season.

For me, baseball is summer, and when I see teams working out in Florida on television, somehow I am not that cold anymore.

That time of year is slowly approaching when not only professional teams begin to work out, but also most schools around the country as well. In the past, I would just wait patiently until spring training started to see my favorite Cardinal players.

However, this year, things were a little different.

On Feb. 6, the Cardinals organization put together an event that will surely be an annual, favorite attraction for the fans. Several current and former Cardinal players and coaches were on hand at the America Center downtown for the first annual Cardinals Winter Warm-Up.

Many players, including Andy and Alan Benes, Ray Lankford, Ron Gant, John Mabry and other current Cardinals were there to sign autographs for their fans. Former Cardinal stars were there as well, including George Hendrick, Bruce Sutter and Bob Forsch.

There were also plenty of sports memorabilia on hand to observe, and they even had a question-answer session, where the fans got to ask their favorite Cardinal any question they wanted.

When I first heard about this event, I figured most of those who would attend would be kids, but I was wrong.

Many people of all ages came, both men and women. I had the chance to meet Jack Buck, and the new owners of the Cardinals. I got an autographed baseball from Lankford.

As much fun as I was having, I think my girlfriend was enjoying the event even more.

She got an autographed baseball from Andy Benes (her other boyfriend), and she got her picture taken with Alan Benes.

Admission was free, but if you wanted to get your favorite player's autograph, you had to pay \$10.

However, the money went to the Cardinals Care program and to other charities, so it was well worth it.

I hope this event is held again next year because it was fun, and it made me forget about winter, for a while anyway.

Quincy overpowers Rivermen in close game

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

Despite a game leading 19 rebounds by Rivermen center Kevin Tuckson, the UM-St. Louis basketball team lost 97-89 to Quincy.

The Rivermen had played well early. They held a commanding 10 point lead 6 minutes into the game.

"We shot well early, then the shots stopped falling and we fell apart," Rivermen head coach Rich Meckfessel said. "We turned the ball over and quit playing defense."

Quincy held a 47-41 lead at the half. The second half turned out no better for the team. The result was the same.

"In the second half we played well except for when it got down to crunch time. We couldn't make the shots," Meckfessel said. "They shot it well. But we didn't guard their guys who could shoot well. And we let their guys who couldn't shoot well dribble the ball around us. That is why they are 14-8 and we're 6-16."

The Rivermen were hurt by the

shooting efforts of Quincy players Frank MacIntosh and Matt Steffe. MacIntosh had 14 points, Steffe had 18.

"Steffe and MacIntosh shot well. They hit a lot of big shots,"

Tuckson said. "We were in it most of the game. A few turnovers here and a few missed shots there, and we were out of it."

Meckfessel said that only two players had good games. Guard Torrance Smith and Tuckson. Smith led the team with 25 points on a 3-for-5 shooting effort from 3-point territory. Tuckson had 19 rebounds and 13 points. He also hit 5-of-7 free throws.

Smith has seen increased playing time along with fellow guard Ryan Myers. Smith started against IP-Ft. Wayne while Myers played the point guard spot late in the second half of the game. Both had playing time against Quincy.

"They've produced," Meckfessel said. "Ryan hasn't played in two years so he's woefully lacking in experience. He went in Saturday and played

well. Tonight he was a little shaky but he was playing against a three-year starter. Torrance has played well in the past four games."

"I came out and tried to give the team a lift," Smith said. "Rodney got in foul trouble. I knew I had to come out and do well."

Myers had only three points against Quincy, but his ability to control the ball has given him the playing time.

Turnovers were again cited as the team's leading problem. They gave the ball up 14 times. Quincy only turned the ball over eight times.

"Our intensity was up, but not as much as it should have been," Tuckson said. "All we needed to do was not make the stupid mistakes. It's the self-inflicted mistakes that cost us today."

The Rivermen fell to 6-16 and 3-14 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. They have five conference games remaining before the season wraps up. Though down, the team still knows what they must do.

"We need to win," Smith said.

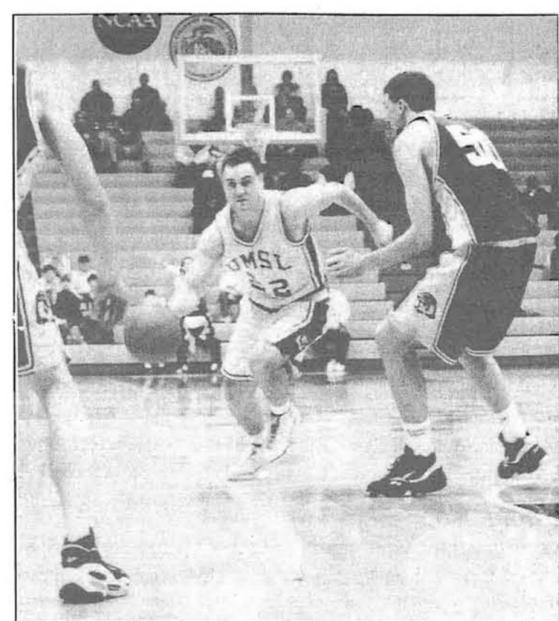


photo by: Ken Dunkin

Ryan Myers (#22) pushes the ball past a Quincy player.

Smith catches fire for cold Rivermen

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The bulk of the scoring in the past two games for the Rivermen has come from an unlikely source, guard Torrance Smith.

Smith had been playing sparingly for the 6-16 Rivermen. Early in the season he had been lost in the shuffle. The team has eight guard on their roster. After part-time starters Dwon Kelly and Jason Frillman went down due to injuries Smith was in the starting rotation for the first time for the Rivermen. Against IP-Ft. Wayne he scored a season high 30 points, he also had 6 rebounds.

"He's been given a big chance," Rivermen center Kevin Tuckson said. "He has the chance to show what he can do. That is a good thing and I am glad he has the chance to step up. Hopefully he will give us the boost we need in our last five games."

Smith led the team for the second consecutive game. Against Quincy he pored in 25 points. He shot well as he shot 9-for-17. He also had four assists.

"I try to get open shots and play within the team," Smith said. "I try to help the team with my offence as well as my defense."

In his two starts he is averaging 27.5 points per game. His 30 points was a team high for the team. He has helped take some pressure off the team's leading scorer and leading rebounder Tuckson.

"I'm glad he is scoring and helping boost the team up," Tuckson said.

In Smith's two starts the team is 1-1. According to Smith, he would trade his 55 points in the two games, for two victories.

"I'm not really happy, because we're not winning," Smith said. "I would be more happy with a win that to score a lot of points."



photo by: Ken dunkin

Torrance Smith (#30) fights the Quincy players. Smith averages 27.5 points as a starter.

Dixon dominates for Riverwomen

Point guard recovers from injuries to secure a spot on starting lineup

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

After suffering through an injury-riddled freshman season, UM-St. Louis sophomore Charlee Dixon has emerged as the starting point guard for the Riverwomen's basketball team this season.

Last season, Dixon appeared in 25 games for the Riverwomen as a reserve point guard, and averaging 5 points and 2 rebounds per game. However, she finished third on the team with 32 assists. She accomplished this despite constant back problems that limited her playing time and hindered her play.

This season, Dixon has recovered and has taken over the starting duties at point guard. According to head coach Jim Coen, Dixon has come into her own this season.

"We would have liked to have given her more playing time last year, but she played real well despite her injuries," he said. "This season she has really improved her shooting, and she has played outstanding defense."

Dixon, a graduate of Mater Dei High

School in Breese, Ill., said that this season has been one of many transitions and adjustments.

"I have had to adjust to learning the plays, becoming a leader on the floor and running the offense," she said.

Dixon said that she works hard to make herself a complete player on the court, but she does have certain weaknesses on which she concentrates.

"I want to improve the ball movement on offense," she said. "I want to get everyone to move and get involved because it will make our team that much better."

Although the team has struggled this season, Dixon said that she sees an improvement in the team's play every game.

"I think we have played better every game, but we still have many weaknesses," she said. "We are still not where we need to be."

Dixon added that if the Riverwomen are going to end the season on a positive note, the team is going to have to play together.

"We can win if everyone plays together as a team because the talent is there, and we just have to put it all together," she said.

Dixon has had to adjust to being the leader on the court, but she said that she leads more by example and tries to run the offense smoothly every time down the court.

This season, Dixon is shooting 32 percent from the field, and she is averaging over 7 points per game. However, she leads the Riverwomen with 50 assists and is tied for second on the team with 35 steals. Dixon scored a career high 23 points recently against Southern Indiana.

According to Coen, Dixon is a much better shooter than she gives herself credit.

"She is going to be a key player for us in the future, but she has to learn to take charge and be a leader on the floor for us," he said. "She is a great player, but in order to improve, she is going to have to continue to work hard to become stronger."

Coen said that because of her back injuries, she has lost a little quickness, but she can get that back during the off-season if she works hard.

"When we recruited her, she was a premier point guard, and if she continue to work and improve, she is going to have a great future here," he said.

Riverwomen take down Quincy

By Brian Folsom
sports associate

It had been a long time between victories, but on Thursday night, the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team overcame a poor shooting performance to defeat Quincy 66-64.

According to head coach Jim Coen, it was nice to get a victory, but he wasn't completely satisfied.

"We played poorly for about 30 minutes, and we didn't shoot well at all," he said. "It says a lot for our team because even though we weren't able to play like we wanted to, we were still able to pull out a victory."

The Riverwomen (5-17 overall, 2-13 Great Lakes Valley Conference) outscored Quincy 28-25 in the first half, despite shooting 11-30 for 36 percent from the field.

"We really struggled the whole game, but the key was that we played extremely hard," said Coen.

"We did what we had to do and we found a way to win."

Coen said that the Riverwomen played good defense throughout the game.

"I think our zone defense really bothered their (Quincy) shooting," he said.

Quincy had its problems from the field as well, as the team shot 11-33 for 33 percent.

"We were able to keep our heads up and stay focused," said Coen.

Senior Deena Applebury led the Riverwomen with 18 points, followed by sophomore Krystal Logan who added 13 points. Sophomore Denise Simon led the team with 11 rebounds.

Coen added that while Applebury led the team in scoring, she didn't shoot well (5-20, 25 percent).

"But that was a big 3-pointer she hit late in the game," he said. "We needed that."

Coen also noted that freshmen Jamie Dressler and Missy England played exceptionally well.

Dressler finished with 12 points, and England had 3 points and three steals in 15 minutes.

The Riverwomen have five games remaining, and Coen said that the team is going to have to win at least a couple of them to go out on a positive note.

"We need to be competitive and play hard if we are going to do that," he said. "If we can beat either Northern Kentucky or Bellarmine, two of the top team in the conference, that will be a huge success for us."

The Riverwomen were scheduled to play Northern Kentucky Sat. night at Mark Twain Building.

Coen said that if the team plays like it did against Quincy, it won't win.

"We have to execute and we can't turn the ball over," he said.

The Riverwomen turned the ball over 30 times against Quincy.

"If we can limit our mistakes and take care of the ball, we have a shot," said Coen.

The sounds of music

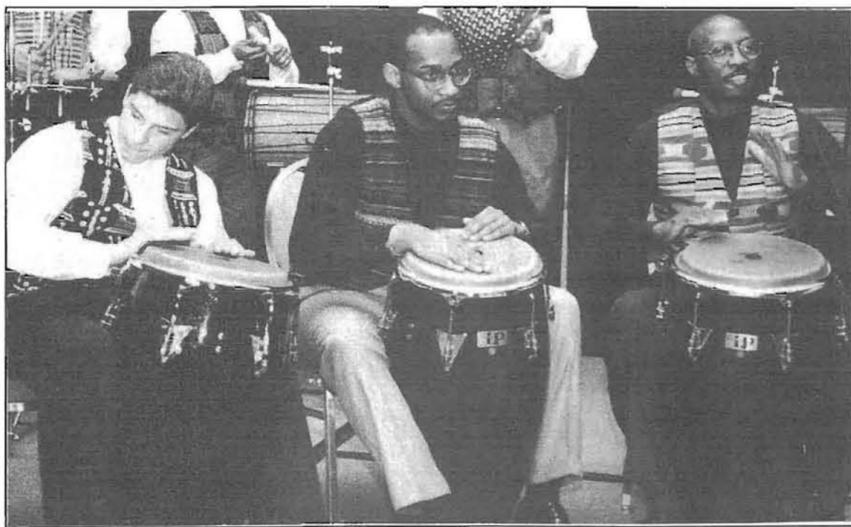


photo: Ashley Cook

An African music band performs at the Tropical Ecology scholarship fundraiser.

Love is the answer:
Speaker says couples ought to be friends first

by **Tonya Hearon**
of *The Current Staff*

Love was the topic of the day in the J.C. Penney Building.

Leon Henderson, a teacher at Cardinal Ritter Preparatory High School, lectured on male and female relationships in the African American community.

The lecture, "Lessons in Love," capitalism, racism and sexism. Henderson stated that relationships are becoming a commodity.

"You give up something in return for something," said Henderson.

Racism is apart of reality and it triggers our own perspective of eachother. This dictates how we chose each other.

"Stop operating off of appearance and go off of character," Henderson said.

The discussion on sexism seemed to light the eyes of those who attended. Henderson told the audience that he was a recovering sexist and for men to overcome that, he explained, they need to deal with women issues as well as their own.

Other issues discussed included how men approach women, how African American women see African American men and the differences between men

and women in the African American community.

Denise Jones, president of the African American Leadership Council, stated that the meaning of love is not sex.

"Couples really don't know the significance of developing friendships first before getting serious," she said.

Jones added that the key to a healthy relationship is to avoid carrying baggage from old relationships into new relationships.

"We should always learn how to respect each other," she said.

Henderson has already visited the University several times, lecturing on spirituality and political issues.

Yet Jones said that Henderson was a great speaker, and she would love to have him back again.

The seminar was sponsored by the African American Leadership Council, Associated Black Collegians and the Sisterhood Exchange.

For more information on issues concerning the African American community contact the Black Cultural Center at 516-5731 or Denise Jones at 516-5291.



Leon Henderson

Litmag, from page 3

As the lights began to brighten, giving more definition to the once-silhouetted frames from the audience and the clicks from the cash register in the bookstore ceased, **Ecology, from page 3**

Hamilton closed the program. "One of the best readings that we've ever had," Hamilton said.

The performance was in conjunction with LitMag, UM-St.

Louis's literary magazine. LitMag is a student publication published annually to showcase poems, plays, short stories and other literary works.

"We can't just conduct research and then leave, we *must* get involved," Leakey stated emphatically.

To help achieve this end, Leakey wishes that students could sustain more careers in the diverse fields of ecology. With such life-long commitments more people could become actively involved with combating the destruction of the world environment.

Leakey warned that there will be a gradual mass extinction almost to the scale of the dinosaur's fate, over time. However, this extinction will be perpetrated by the human race. In his new book, *The Sixth Extinction* Leakey described the results of the pollution and exploitation of the environment. He explained that 30,000 different species of plant and animals are being rendered extinct on a yearly basis.

Leakey pointed out in his speech that

a large part of the problems that environmentalist face is the fact that many developing nations are not democracies.

"Without accountable government, no matter how much you try to preserve the environment and wildlife and tropical ecosystems, you won't succeed, because unaccountable officials will seek to make personal gain over everything that good people try to do," Leakey argued.

By repeating this message in his native Kenya, Leakey has been threatened with assassination and has been beaten severely by henchman of the country's president.

His bravery for appearing before people all over the world, and continuing to spread his message proves that he will remain undaunted.



photo: Ashley Cook

Richard Leakey (right) receives a medal from Chancellor Blache Touhill at the Tropical Ecology fundraiser.

Students, from page 3

with *LitMag*, National Honor Society for Evening College, and Women's Studies Center.

Davis decided to become a writer when she returned to college after a 20 year sabbatical. As a student, career woman, and single mother, Davis has juggled many roles in her life, thus promoting her ability to define and express the emotions that are so well presented in her writing.

The works, themselves, are intriguing to read. However, seeing the works performed by talented actors is wonderfully powerful and entertaining. Friday and Saturday, Feb 21 & 22, the performances begin at 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, there is a matinee performance beginning at 3 p.m.

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Dean, from page 1

session on Feb. 11, and Frances Hoffmann held one on Feb. 12.

Brickhouse, a professor of ancient philosophy, has been at Lynchburg College in Virginia for 22 years.

He served as chairman of a committee in the mid 80s that was concerned about education. He said the administration was concerned that students were leaving Lynchburg to attend more challenging institutions.

"Our response was to create an honors program," Brickhouse said. "We started a program of courses that were small, interdisciplinary and challenging to students. We let the faculty teach a small number of students and took up some new courses."

Hoffmann, from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is an associate professor of sociology and also the director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies (IWGS). She served at Skidmore College in New York as dean of Student Affairs from 1978 to 1988.

Part of Chancellor Blanche Touhill's vision for the college calls

for it enrollment to increase from the current 200 to approximately 600 students and then level off.

Brickhouse said the faculty and staff size will also have to increase.

"I think there is necessarily a trade-off the University will have to make," Brickhouse said. "I am sensitive to the problem, but I can't make it go away unless I have a firmly committed staff to back me up."

Brickhouse said he would want to identify alumni from the Honors College and put them on a board to assist with programming.

"I want to try to have an outside advisory board that are not faculty members but are from the community," Brickhouse said.

Hoffmann said she would like to get faculty members involved with an advisory committee, without demanding a lot of extra time from them.

"I absolutely see a need for an advisory committee," Hoffmann said. "It is politically strategic...I don't work in isolation, but in collaboration."

Charles Larson, an English professor, served on the original planning board for the Honors College. "Originally we called for an advisory committee," Larson said. "Our plan called for one, but it has become dormant."

Larson said a common view is that committees get in the way.

With the proposed enrollment increase, Hoffmann said she is worried about the Honors College growing too fast.

"Class size remains a bedrock principle," Hoffmann said. "It would be folly to dilute the quality of the program by increasing the class size." She added, "With a strong group of faculty to stand behind me we could keep the class size low."

Honors classes are smaller than others on campus, offering a more intimate setting among students and professors. Both candidates have experience working in a college environment, which focuses on the undergraduate student. They are accustomed to working closely with the students.

Hoffmann said she believes the new dean will have to create a vision for the Honors College that complements rather than competes with the University.

"Right now, many missions are out there," Hoffmann said. "We need to answer the questions: Where do we want to be as a University and how does the Honors College fit?"

Brickhouse said that if the University cannot afford to sufficiently staff the Honors college the size of honors classes will have to increase.

"When you have a seminar with more than 15 students, it's starting not to be a seminar," Brickhouse said.

He added that class sizes may have to increase; however, he is "willing to be flexible when it's crunch time." He predicted that enrollment increases at the Honors College will be an expensive program.

"There is a strong fund raising component of the dean's position," Hoffmann said. "I hate begging the administration for money. I would rather raise my own money."

The Current Newswire

Alternative physician to speak at UM-St. Louis. The Pre-Med Society will welcome Dr. Dan Weidershein to speak on topics in alternative medicine. The lecture is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. in Rm B451 of Benton Hall. For more information, contact Amy Taylor at (314) 739-2977. He has already given lectures at St. Louis University and Washington University Schools of Medicine.

Women and violence to be focus of psychology colloquium. Jody Miller, assistant professor of behavioral studies, will lecture on women and violent behavior on Feb. 18 at noon in Rm 331 of the Social Sciences Building. The lecture titled, "Young Women, Gangs and Violence" is sponsored by the Center for Trauma Recovery. Call 516-6738 for details.

New admissions director named. Curtis C. Coonrod has been appointed director of Admissions, effective March 1997. Recently he served as director of admissions for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Immediately prior to that appointment, he was associate director of admissions at UM-St. Louis. Coonrod holds a master's degree from Sangamon

State University and is active in a number of professional organization dealing with university admissions.

New director of precollegiate program. Cyrus Rodgers, assistant professor of elementary and early childhood education, has been named director of "Access to Success," succeeding Doris Trojcek.

Future of banking to be distinguished speaker topic. On Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., R. Crosby Kemper III, president, UMB Bank of St. Louis, will discuss the future of banking in America.

The lecture, titled "The Future of Banking and the Future of the City," will be held in the Summit Lounge in University Center as part of the Winter 1997 Distinguished Speaker Series, sponsored by Price Waterhouse LLP and presented by the School of Business Administration Alumni Association Chapter. For reservations, call 516-6460.

Open session for dean candidate. An open session with William Frawley, of Lancaster, Pa., a candidate for dean of Pierre Laclède Honors College, is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. Feb. 17 in Rm. 156 of the University Center. Call 516-5372 for details.

Upcoming events celebrating Black History Month

February 18, 1997
Speaker: Ronald Henry
Topic: Misogynistic Behavior: Acts of Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Global Dehumanization of Women
254 University Center (The Black Culture Center)
11:00-3:00 p.m.

February 19, 1997
Panel Discussion
Panelists: Zaki Baruti, Richard "Onion" Horton, Minister Donald Muhammad and Alice Windom
Topic: "Black Leadership in the 21st Century"
78 J. C. Penney
12:00-3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Bernard Harris, MD (former astronaut)
J. C. Penney Auditorium
2:00 p.m.

February 25, 1997
Speaker: Dr. Frances Cress Welsing
Topic: "Racism (White Supremacy) and Black Mental Health"
J. C. Penney Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

February 28, 1997
Evening of Fine Arts
Live Music: UM-St. Louis Ensemble and choir from the Pattonville School District and other groups
J. C. Penney Auditorium
7:30-9:00 p.m.

March 1, 1997
Black Rhythm Celebration
J. C. Penney Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

• Check the daily events calendar in the lobby of the J. C. Penney Building for any time or venue changes for events.

• List compiled by Bill Rolfe

Incremental, from page 1

"I do not care for it either way," he said. "But, I have not used the system since it first started because the students voted almost unanimously against it."

Carol Kelly, a professor in the Biology department held the same view.

"I hate it," she said. "I would go back to the old system if I could."

According to Kelly, the biology department requires its instructors to use the incremental grading system.

This reaction was not expected by Larry Friedman, chairperson of the University Senate.

"I think that people felt it would be a much more accurate measure of a student's performance,"

Roosevelt Wright, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UM-St.

Grades, from page 1

campuses, Wright and Smith disagreed with the notion among many students that grade "deflation" was popular among faculty members or the administration.

"I do not believe that there is anything wrong with high standards," Wright said. "But, hard grading does not get [faculty members] tenure be-

Louis, agreed.

"The plus-minus system was a way of helping those students who, say, did work that was just a 'B' under the old system but was very close to an 'A'," he said.

Friedman was also unaware of any criticism of the new system.

UM-St. Louis was not the first campus to experience dissent to the incremental grading system.

According to Walter Gajda, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UM-Rolla, the recommendation encountered such resistance that the campus continues to use the system without pluses or minuses.

"Our academic council debated it at length," he said. "No one seemed to want it."

cause rigorous grading does not translate into good teaching at all."

Smith agreed. "I think you have to look at it on an individual basis. You do need to be suspicious of those professors who give mostly C's, D's or F's," he said. "But, you cannot generalize. There could be all kinds of circumstances."

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

The Current is now accepting applications for Editor-in-Chief of the 1997-1998 academic year.

Interested applicants must submit

- A cover letter
- A résumé
- Three (3) letters of reference

All information must be submitted to Scott Lamar by 5 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 1997 to be considered. Information can be mailed to or dropped off at:

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