

Madonna is a hit in Evita.
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Alumna creates cards with
healing touch.
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The Student Voice
of UM-St. Louis

The Current

30th Anniversary
1966-1996

1997

Issue 875

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

January 13, 1996

Commencement '97 Graduates set off into working world

by Scott Lamar
and Doug Harrison
of The Current staff

Braving bitter cold temperatures and a jammed packed Mark Twain Auditorium, the fall semester graduating class took part in commencement exercises held in their honor Sunday while their friends and family looked on.

Nearly 500 students from over 40 majors received degrees in the ceremony.

Curator James McHugh commended the graduates on their accomplishments and praised the University for its commitment to excellence in education.

"As the only land grant university in Missouri, this campus is the embodiment of the vision to research, teach and serve," McHugh said. "You can take pride in the grave honor and responsibility you are receiving here today."

Malaika Horne, newly-elected president of the Board of Curators, delivered the keynote address.

Horne, a St. Louis native and UM-St. Louis graduate, commended the University for provid-

It was tough working full-time and taking classes at night, not to mention raising a child as a single parent."

-Willyetta Carter

ing her with an "outstanding" education.

She offered encouraged graduates to work from "a tool box" of traits that should become personal characteristics.

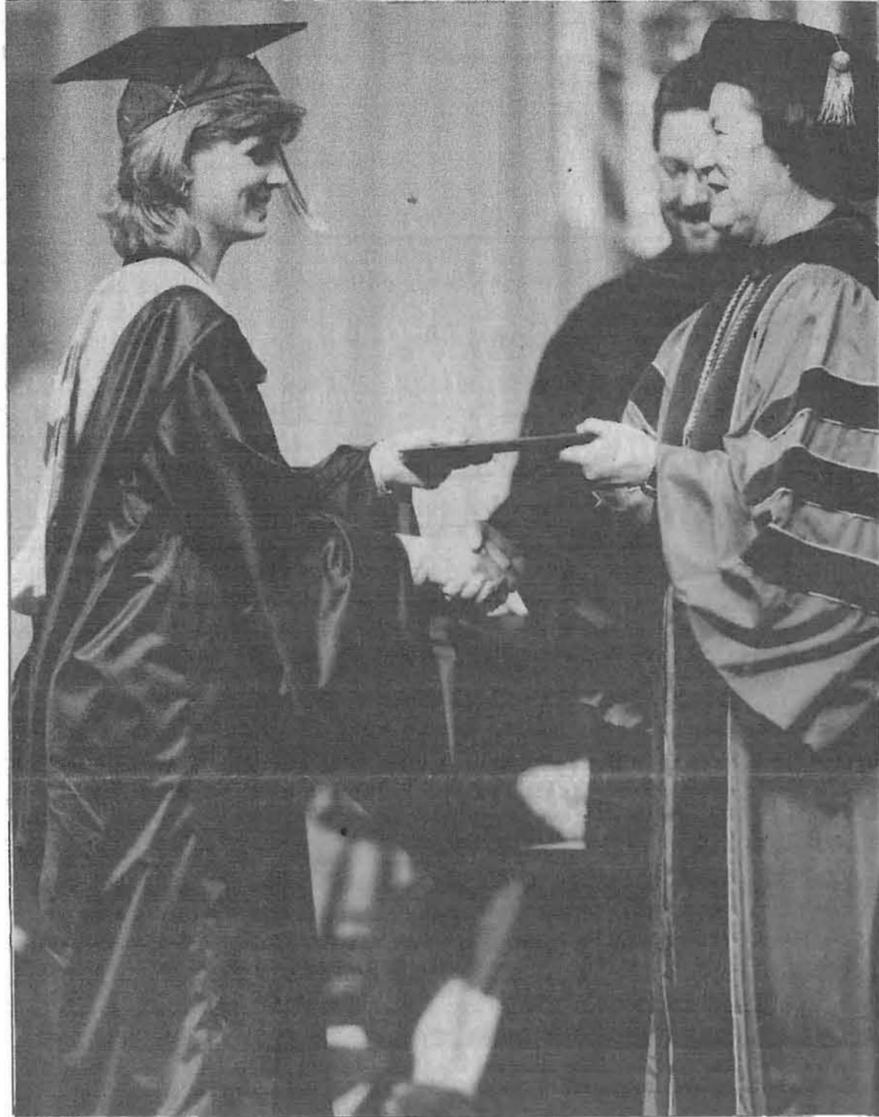
Among other items in her "tool box," Horne said the calendar was a major key. Horne said a calendar urges one to "be up to date."

The technological revolution sweeping this country will leave behind those who do not learn to compete in it, she said.

Another tool, the light bulb, represented illumination.

"Illumination is the key to enlightenment," Horne said.

Thanks for the memories.



Julie Ann Summers accepts her diploma from Chancellor Blanche Touhill. Approximately 500 people took part in the commencement exercises.

photo: Ashley Cook

Chancellor Blanche Touhill, assisted by Lois Pierce, chair of the Department of Social Work and member of the University Senate and the deans from each college, presented the degrees to graduates.

Sarah Hertter received a bachelor's degree in nursing.

She said she was thrilled and delighted to see this day arrive.

"I, we, (pointing to her surrounding graduates) have worked very hard and think this is a wonderful day," Hertter said.

Carletta Washington, who received her M.Ed., said that despite the excitement and pomp, life will resume without much fanfare.

"I have to go to work tomorrow so I'll probably go home," Washington said.

Jennifer Stroud echoed her sentiments. First on her priority list is moving to New Jersey to join her fiancé, she said.

"I have no idea what I want to do," said Stroud, who now hold a bachelor's degree in criminology.

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"I'm just going to go up there and see what happens."

For Andrew Barnes, graduation means looking for a real job. He said he will start sending out his resumé, which includes a bachelor's degree in economics, tomorrow.

Others have already landed a

see Grads, page 6

Curators to vote on 3.1 percent tuition increase

by Bill Rolfe
news associate

The winter of 1997 marks the last semester of a major increase in educational fees for the University of Missouri.

Maurice Manning, a spokesman for the UM system, said the Board of Curators decided during its December meeting to stop the large fee increases.

"The administration recommended that the Board increase the fee by about the rate of inflation," Manning said. "Around 3.1 percent was the best guess at that time."

In 1992 the Board of Curators set a five-year financial plan to increase educational fees on all four UM campuses by more than the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). Instead of raising fees all at once, the Board raised them gradually for five years.

Educational fees for the 1991-92 academic year were \$67.20 per credit hour. This year the cost is \$121 per credit hour—an 80 percent increase.

The largest portion of the University's funds goes toward faculty salaries.

"Salaries take about 80 percent," Manning said. "So, if you're going to increase salaries by a lot, then fees have to go up a lot."

He explained that faculty salaries

received the biggest boost from increased revenues, rising from the bottom third among universities to about average.

Manning said the second largest boost from the increase went to building maintenance and repair, adding that repairs on all four campuses have almost been completed.

"The University has wiped out deferred campus maintenance in Rolla, Kansas City, and St. Louis, and it is finishing up in Columbia," Manning said. "Now (the Board of Curators) feels like it's time to stop the major increases."

Manning said educational fees will increase every year with inflation. The Board has always had an inflationary policy, he added, except for the past five years.

The Board of Curators will meet Jan. 30 and 31 on the St. Louis campus. The Curators will vote whether to approve the proposed increase or not. If they vote to increase fees by 3.1 percent, next year's educational fees will cost \$3.75 more per credit hour than this year's.

The Board of Curators meets about six times a year, Manning said. "Educational fees always come up in January so the business offices and the financial aid offices have time to calculate all of their figures."

Cashier's manager dies of cancer

by Doug Harrison
managing editor

Known for her organization and remembered for friendship, Janet Robertson, manager of cashiers, left in her passing more than a vacancy in her department.

Robertson, 41, was diagnosed in Sept. 1995 with cancer. She died Jan. 4 from complications related to the disease.

Beginning her work at the University in February of 1988, Robertson served in a variety of positions in the administrative services department and facilities, according to Ernest Cornford, director of finance.

"When the former manager of

cashiers left that position, Janet expressed a desire to move into the cashiers department," Cornford said.

Robertson began her work in the cashiers department in July 1992 where she served until her death.

Cornford attributes much of the success at the cashiers department to Robertson's work.

"She was very organized, and we desperately needed that," Cornford said. "She could put things back together with precision."

Beyond her natural tendency for organization and efficiency, Robertson is also credited with developing the miscellaneous accounts receivable and modernizing the

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Roosevelt Wright steps down as vice chancellor of Academic Affairs

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

Citing personal reasons, Roosevelt Wright, the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, announced he will resign his position effective Sept. 1, 1997.

He declined to give specifics, saying that the transition would be better for his family.

Wright, who has held the title for five years, said he will return to the faculty as a professor in the Department of Social Work.

Wright arrived at UM-St. Louis from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1992. There he served as a dean of social work.

Wright said one of his goals was to become the chancellor or president of a university. He said he felt that taking the job of vice chancellor was the most logical step in attaining that

However, Wright said he has begun to rethink his plans.

"I'm not sure that [becoming a chancellor] is an important goal anymore," he said. "I'm not as strongly committed to that idea as I was when I came here."

Though Wright will take a pay cut and relocate from his spacious, corner office in Woods to an office in Lucas Hall, he said he doesn't think of the move as a step down.

"It very well may be seen as stepping up," Wright said. "I think it will give me time for reflection and meditation."

Wright's resignation is just one of a series of top level University officials who have opted to take on a different assignment.

Wright said the high turnover rate can be attributed to the stress associated with the job of a chancellor or vice chancellor.

faculty to administration," Wright said, "you do increase the stress level. There's no question about it."

As vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, Wright was responsible for the preparation of academic budgets and the planning of academic programs. The position also entails planning for the recruitment and retention of all students.

During his tenure, Wright said he was most proud of the contribution he's made in the growth of the University. He cited new degree programs acquired over the past few years. Some of them include the bachelor in fine arts program, the doctoral program in criminal justice and several masters programs.

"During my tenure, we were successful in putting a variety of new programs in place," he said.

On the other side, Wright said he wishes he could have had more finan-



Roosevelt Wright

the departments.

"We had to deal with a series of adjustments in our budgets," Wright said. "Sometimes, my role was more of bearer of bad news when it came to budgeting."

In addition to classroom teaching next semester, Wright said he will conduct research in the areas of gerontology and alcohol and substance abuse among minorities.

A search committee has been formed to find a replacement for

Wright's departure latest in a rash of administrative resignations

All roads may have once led to Rome, but all vacancies do not necessarily lead to immediate replacements in the UM-St. Louis Administration.

Rick Blanton, interim director of University Center, has held that post for nearly a year and does not foresee changing jobs any time soon.

"There is currently no movement to name a director," Blanton said.

He said the new University Center will change and redefine the role of the director. Therefore, Blanton said the director will not be sought or named until

Hardly a bargain

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

As many of you know, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is part of a system that includes schools in Rolla, Columbia and Kansas City. At each of the four universities, the price of tuition is the same—\$121 per credit hour.

Even though each school varies in size, location and prestige level, the state of Missouri and the UM Board of Curators apparently sees all four institutions as equal. The Curators' decision to double tuition over the past five years supports this assumption.

But it is painfully obvious that the schools are not equal. Far from it. UM-St. Louis is an entirely different university than the other three. Therefore, it should have a separate fee schedule.

Let's take UM-Columbia and UM-St. Louis, both of which I've attended, and compare them.

As far as academic programs go, each university is solid. Nobody can say one is better because it depends on the student and what he or she is studying. I'm sure that any degree program at either school, UM-St. Louis Communication Department aside, is rigorous and demanding. The two universities could be considered equals except that Mizzou has a much bigger selection of classes and degree programs to choose from.

Quality of education aside, Columbia has amenities galore and a reputation that UM-St. Louis won't have for at least 20 years, or until ivy adorns the walls of the Computer Center Building.

Furthermore, students in Columbia have their own TV and radio station. The university has a hospital on its campus, as well as a basketball team that usually can be seen in the NCAA tournament. In the past, the city of Columbia has been ranked as one of the most livable cities in America. It is a college town in every sense of the word.

UM-St. Louis, on the other hand, is perched in beautiful downtown Normandy. Just outside the University's borders, Bel-Nor cops will pull you over and threaten to throw you in jail for going three miles per hour over the speed limit. It is a commuter school in every sense of the word.

However, the biggest inequality rests with the level of prestige that comes with holding a degree from one school or the other. When people around the country hear 'University of Missouri,' they think without hesitation of the University of Missouri-Columbia. I've known UM-St. Louis graduates to leave off 'St. Louis' on their resumes and just include 'University of Missouri,' so employers might give them stronger consideration.

Yes, my ears are burning from those of you saying, "quit complaining and go to Mizzou already."

Don't get me wrong, transferring to UM-St. Louis was the best decision for this scribe. The University is a good fit and I like it here.

It's just that students here are being taken advantage of by the system heads. The curators know that the hard working students at this University will bust their rump to pay whatever costs are levied. These unchallenged tuition increases help pay for the added luxuries enjoyed by students at Mizzou, considered by the board to be the crown jewel of the UM system.

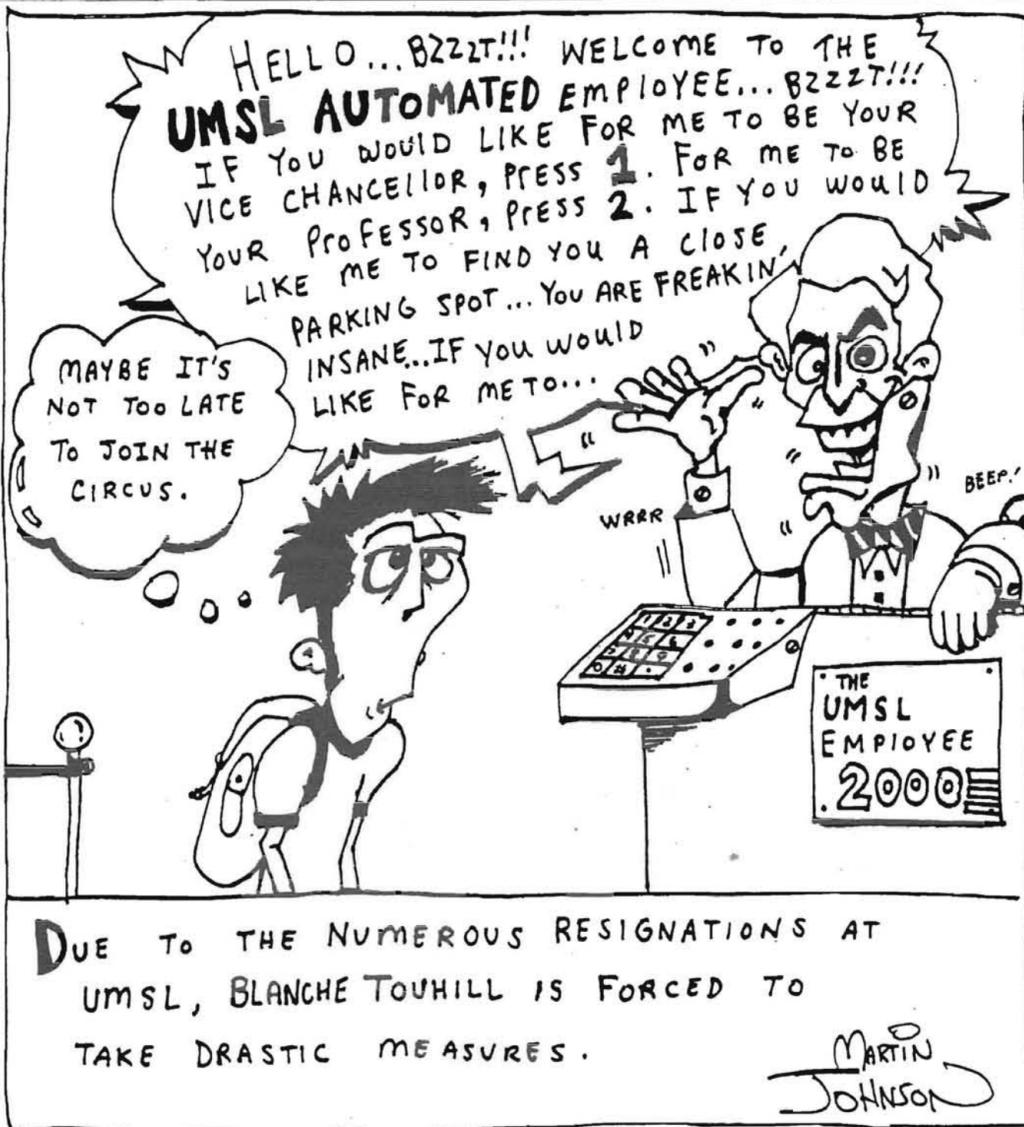
The same fee schedule cannot be justified. UM-St. Louis students' fees are being raised because the board knows that they won't, or at least don't think they will, say or do anything about it.

My ears are burning again. "Well genius, what are us blue-collar folk to do?"

Here's what. On Jan. 30, the curators are coming to this campus to raise your fees in your own backyard. It's as if they're rubbing it in your face. This is the perfect opportunity to speak up.

Can students make a difference? Certainly. In the past, the board has consisted of old men, some Mizzou alums, who have viewed UM-St. Louis as the red-headed step-child of the system. Now, things are a little different. Malaika Horne, a St. Louis native, is the new board president. Horne is sympathetic to the financial situation many UM-St. Louis students face. I think she will be the most receptive to student input.

So on Jan. 30, if you have any complaints, direct them to the Board of Curators. It will hear you out, and it has the power to change unfair policies.



Due to the numerous resignations at UM SL, Blanche Touhill is forced to take drastic measures.

MARTIN JOHNSON

Administration resignations threaten University

Chancellor Blanche Touhill's "growing and dynamic" University is going through some growing pains.

No less than 10 top-level administrative posts are currently vacant. The alarming rate at which vice chancellors, deans and directors are leaving their positions has forced the University into a search-off for an unusually high number of candidates to fill vacant posts.

(The director of University Center, the director of admissions, the associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, the dean of the school of optometry, the dean of the Pierre Laclède Honors College, the director of physical plant and the director of the Public Policy Research Centers are all vacant. In addition, the vice chancellors of academic and student affairs have

both announced their resignations.)

The Chancellor does not consider the resignations a trend, nor does she attribute them to any one cause, saying only that the vacancies arose from "natural turnover." Short of help from the Psychic Friends Network, one should expect little more. And while the Chancellor sees no cause for alarm in the near-Biblical exodus, the high number of recent resignations belies her optimism.

The departures raise serious questions about the degree to which administrators share a corporate vision for the University. Is it merely coincidence that these integral members of the administration left within the same year, or is it indicative of a larger, more deeply-rooted septic strain of dissent within the administration? Furthermore, vacancies often necessitate naming an acting or interim administrator to

maintain the department while a search committee does its work.

These stand-ins are almost always named from within the University, in essence creating yet another vacancy. The existing administrator or faculty member must either perform both jobs or, more likely, allow some tasks to fall by the wayside. Though each department can sufficiently absorb this temporary arrangement, the vacancies serve only to weaken the University's operational capacity.

In isolation, no one vacancy is particularly corrosive nor does it compromise the vitality of the University.

Together, they create an unstable mixture of volatility that threatens to put the University and all of the Chancellors best-laid plans into an uncontrollable tailspin.

Letters to the editor

Student laments the errors of our ways

To the editor:

I was fairly impressed by the Dec. 2 issue of *The Current*. Not only could I get through the front page without falling asleep, I actually took a gander at the op/ed page.

What I saw there both shocked and amazed me but not for the reasons you may think.

I was amazed at the apparent lack of copy editing being done by the rather extensive editorial staff (when you have 7 editors and 24 staffers, each piece of copy should be going through at least 3 editing channels after being proofread by the writer).

It was of great concern to me that there was no byline on one of the major op/ed articles, namely "In support of abolishing bimonthly SGA meetings," because I was in total agreement with the author.

I was impressed by the writing talents of both Scott Lamar and Doug Harrison but have to point out that the poor editing was no more apparent than

in these two editorials.

My first reaction was one of hysterical, unrestrained laughter, until I realized that others would also read this paper. And some would find the mistakes just as humorous as I had.

The only problem with this is that I do not know who these people are, and I was upset to think that someone would base their opinion of the University of Missouri-St. Louis on this edition of *The Current*.

This paper is read by prospective students who might question the educational level of a school that allows such a sloppily-produced newspaper to be distributed with its name blazoned across the top.

The Current is also read by prospective benefactors who may choose to take their money elsewhere.

All this concerns me because I want my school to have the best possible reputation and the best possible resources, both monetary and educational. I recommend that you take your (paid??) editing jobs more seriously; we students are counting on you.

Michelle Klemm
Freshman—pre-medicine

**Talk Back
Talk Back**

Have we stepped on your toes?

Okay.

Like what you read?

Good.

Let us know in a letter to the editor.

The Current

An equal opportunity organization

email your letter to: current@jinx.umsl.edu

An open letter to the Chancellor

by Doug Harrison
managing editor

To the Chancellor:

The new year has overtaken us once again ma'am, and I was just wondering what we could expect from you in the coming year.

Specifically, I was wondering if you're ever going to take off your game face. You know, put away the PR scripts and the screenplays that your propaganda people put together for you, and just be Blanche, or Dr. Touhill, or whatever it was people called you before you rose to your eminenceship.

I hear from some of your colleagues that time was when you weren't quite so programmed, that you were genuinely interesting and actually responded to questions with answers that didn't sound like press releases.

Don't get me wrong. I understand a little about damage control and image restoration.

The chancellor of a large, metropolitan institution of higher education can't very well respond to questions with glaring honesty. Every response has room for a little tweaking, right?

Take the fracas over at the Honors College last year for instance. I had to admire the forthright manner in which you summarily charged over to the Honors College to meet with grumbling students at a time when their beloved dean, Fred Fausz, had quite unexpectedly and rather unwillingly resigned.

I know you called the meeting nothing more than an informal Q&A about the future of the Honors College, but I don't think it was pure coincidence that you decided to meet with students over there at such a tumultuous and potentially volatile time.

Good thinking. Nice strategy. But as a student, an honors student, who was at that meeting, you just didn't seem very approachable. We appreciated the brief, hour-long synopsis you shared about your vision for the University.

But we were there to talk about Fred, and your well-disciplined media image made you look like you didn't really want to understand.

I mean, no one really expected you to come right out and say that Fred Fausz was more generous with scholarship money than your administration would like or that the Honors College looked more like a money pit than a fiscally sound college.

No one really expected you to say that Dean Fred was squeezed out.

No, no. I understand the far-reaching implications such brutally honest responses might have for you.

But it would have been nice to hear the truth, whatever it may have been. We're big boys and girls; we can handle it.

I guess sometimes it just seems as if you're reading from a script no matter what the circumstance.

To be totally honest, we have a running joke around our office over here, a good-natured one with no malicious intent, mind you. But a joke nonetheless.

We try to keep a running tab on how many times you use certain catch-phrases in your press conferences and speeches. My personal favorites are "Let me say this: We are a growing and dynamic institution" and any use of the words "links" or "partnerships."

I once had a J.J. Walker doll, you know, from that 70s smash hit *Good Times*. Anyway, he was thin and gangly and if you pulled the string in his back he said, with great conviction, "Dyno-mite!" every time, without hesitation.

Don't take this the wrong way or anything because I think you are a consummate professional who has the University's best interest in mind, but I've come to expect those predictable, string-in-your-back, canned responses from you to everything from "how's the weather?" to "who'd you fire today?"

So take it or leave it from a newby who is just getting started in a world about which I know and understand so little.

I'm just optimistic enough to believe we could learn a lot from one another, you and me, if you could but descend from the heights of your ivory tower long enough to mix with the students you work so hard to serve but just never get to know.

The student voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

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The Column

a generic offering



by Jill Barrett
features editor

It's a brand-new year and I'm out of the loop already. I have yet to make my New Year's resolutions. I don't know why I'm concerned about it — I make the same resolutions every year, and every year I break the same resolutions within a week. As unsuccessful as I am at keeping my resolutions, I feel compelled to continue making them. Starting the year with a string of failures can be so inspiring.

My resolutions are always: to be on time to work; to organize my schedule; and to pay attention to what I'm doing. Two years ago, I had a job that required employees to clock in. On previous jobs, I had grown accustomed to viewing the starting time of my shift as a motivational tool — as long as I was at work within a half hour of when I was supposed to be, nobody really noticed. (Quitting time, on the other hand, was carved in stone.) If I tried to make it on time, then I could usually squeak in during that half-hour window.

Imagine my surprise when my new supervisor called my house to remind me that I was scheduled to work the first time I was running fifteen minutes late. For awhile, I managed to make it to work on time but usually at a dead run. It became a common sight to see me hopping on one foot to the time clock while I changed into my work shoes, or struggling into my lab coat with my bookbag dangling from my neck as I dashed up a flight of stairs. Finally, I resolved to give myself fifteen extra minutes to get to work.

This plan was doomed from the start. I was scheduled to work New Year's day, technically the first day of my being on time. Yeah, right: Riotous living and early rising just don't mix. Okay, so I wouldn't count New Year's Day.

Four days later, I was late because a favorite song started playing on the radio just as I got to work, so I drove around the block until it was over. Then another really good song began playing, and I ended up driving around the block about ten times.

I still had my other two resolutions, but they were both dead in the water by January 3. I had prepared for my resolution to become organized. I bought an organizer with a calendar, day planner and telephone book. I couldn't remember what I did with most of my phone numbers, but I felt confident that I would find most of them scribbled on the wall over the phone, written in book margins and on scraps of paper at the bottom of my purse.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find my organizer. I was sure I left it on my dresser — absolutely positive. Positive, that is, until I found it in a kitchen cabinet, where I laid it when I was getting a glass.

Not only did I break my resolution about organization, but also the one about paying attention to what I was doing. You see, the organizer was for the year just passed. No wonder it was so cheap.

Last year, I tried the same thing and broke all my resolutions within 48 hours. At least I'm getting more efficient.

Maybe this year, I should try something a little more attainable. I'm going to concentrate on writing "'97" instead of "'96" on my checks. I have twelve months to accomplish this. I'm sure that by June I'll have it down.

Student succeeds with assistance of public aid

by Jill Barrett
features editor

For those students who received a degree at yesterday's commencement, their graduation represents a personal triumph. For Pamela S. Ford, one of the 500 graduating students, her degree represents an example of where welfare works. Ford graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. The accounting firm Lopata, Flegel, Hoffman and Company has recruited Ford to work as a public accountant. Ford, a single mother of two, acknowledges that public assistance enabled her to complete her education.

"I received AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), Section 8 housing assistance, and child care assistance," Ford said. "If it weren't for those things, I never would have made it."

Ford received welfare off and on over the 10-year period she was in school. While she worked part-time jobs throughout college, she could not work for more than 20 hours a week. She found it difficult to survive on part-time jobs that paid \$5 an hour.

"When I worked these jobs, I couldn't get health insurance," Ford

explained. "I was earning too much to receive Medicaid and my kids would be without health insurance."

According to Ford, single mothers are often in worse financial shape if they work a minimum-wage job. This problem, she explained, is the drawback to state experiments with "welfare-to-work" programs. Ford believes that this emphasis on "welfare-to-work" misses a very important point.

"Pushing work is the wrong thing," Ford said. "What jobs are available to young single mothers? Usually they can only get a minimum-wage job, and since these jobs don't have benefits, they're often worse off when they're working."

Academic studies document what Ford experienced. In a study done by Kathryn J. Elin of Rutgers University and Laura Lein of the University of Texas at Austin, researchers found that welfare benefits have fallen sharply in real terms in recent years. The single mothers studied spent an average of \$876 a month for such necessities as food, clothing and shelter.

These families' monthly incomes from AFDC and food stamps averaged only \$565.

As inadequate as this study illustrates welfare to be, Elin and Lein

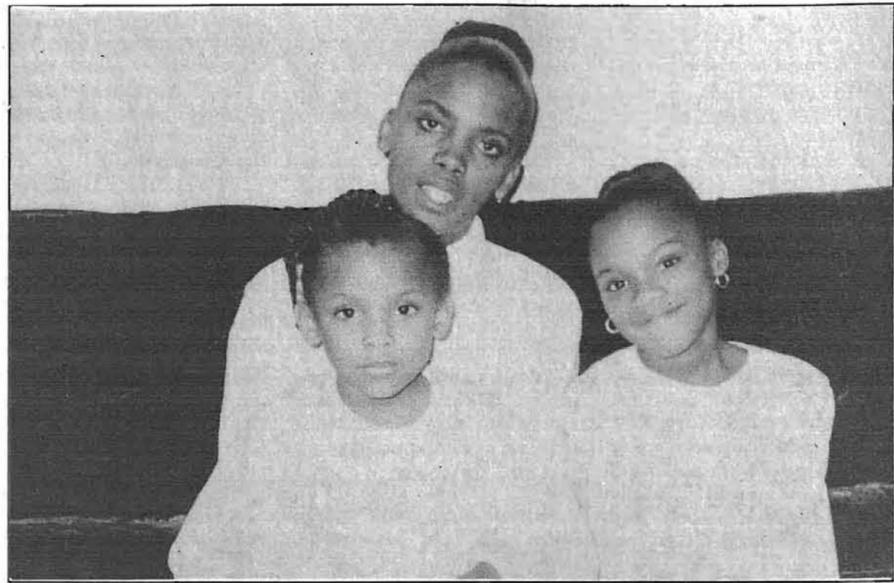


photo: Jill Barrett

Pamela Ford relaxes at home with her daughters, Cynthia, age 4 and Danielle, age 10. Ford, who graduated Sunday, will sit for the Certified Public Accountants exam in November.

argued that getting a job would increase expenses, but not increase income.

This study estimated that, to be free from public assistance, a single mother would need an additional \$300 a month to cover work-related expenses such as child-care and transportation, as well as an increase in rent that would follow lower housing subsidies.

This estimate would far exceed the average income of workers in low-wage jobs.

Because of the type of jobs that would be available to an uneducated mother, Ford argued, the government should emphasize education. Other-

wise, she claims, former welfare recipients would always live close to the poverty line and remain in constant danger of needing public assistance in the future.

People cannot discuss welfare without considering the special problems of single mothers.

Government statistics show that the typical welfare family is a single, white mother in her late twenties or early thirties who cares for two young children.

Ford, who dropped out of high school when she became pregnant with her first child, is passing her beliefs in the importance of education to her daughters.

"Mom says it's important to stay in school so you can be somebody," Danielle said. Her daughters Danielle, age 10, and Cynthia, age 4 both attend Classical Junior Academy.

Ford will sit for the Certified Public Accountants' exam in November. In the long term, she plans to receive her doctorate and teach at the college level.

"I want to show the young women of the world that it's not over if you make a mistake," Ford said. "A lot of people counted me out when I dropped out of school, but I want to show people that you can succeed if you have dreams and a focus."

Alumna creates cards with the healing touch

by Jill Barrett
features editor

UM-St. Louis alumna Rosie Baggot follows in the tradition of Mary Engelbreit.

Baggot makes hand-made greeting cards and sells them in a shop in Clayton.

Her lucrative hobby might seem a far cry from what UM-St. Louis prepared her to do.

Baggot has a master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Counseling.

She works part-time as a therapist and full-time as a psychiatric nurse at Alexian Brothers Hospital.

Baggot graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1994. It was after her graduation, she said, that she began making her cards in earnest.

"I started drawing them in 1992," Baggot said. "That's when I got copy-righted."

She drew cards for an artist friend, and this friend suggested that she show her cards to Marcia Conaghan, the owner of The Greeting Gallery in Clayton. Conaghan told Baggot to copyright her work, make a portfolio and then Conaghan would sell her cards.

"I Xeroxed a collection of my cards and the copyright office (in Washington, D.C.) gave me a copyright for a collection," Baggot explained. "That way every little thing

I want my cards to minister to people. It's in my nature to give to people, and I feel like my cards are something that touch people.

—Rosie Baggio

on my cards is not copyrighted, but all new designs are covered."

After sending off the required forms and her collection, Baggot found that the copyrighting process took about six weeks.

But because Baggot was in graduate school at that time, she stated that she did not have time to pursue selling her greeting cards.

She graduated in Winter 1994, and started selling cards Nov. 1995.

"I started selling to people I work with, and I made \$1100 in two months just selling them around the hospital," Baggot said. "I began to think that maybe they would sell pretty good in a shop."

In Jan. 1996, Baggot returned to The Greeting Gallery with her portfolio and copyright, and Conaghan placed an order.

Baggot draws about 100 cards every three months for Conaghan, and she continues to handmake each one.

"It takes me about 10 minutes to draw a card," Baggot said. "I never

had any art classes or any training so what I do is a cartoon-style that works good in a small way. That's why I kept drawing cards."

Baggot says that she tries to take nine or ten new designs into the shop with each order.

She has cards for special occasions, but her best-selling cards are her friendship cards.

Although her education and career seems widely separated from her card-making hobby, Baggot believes that her education has helped her creativity.

"I think that the more spiritual you become, the more creative you become," Baggot said.

She explained that her training as a therapist gave her the confidence to use her creativity.

"It gave me what I needed in side to give me inspiration for my cards."

"I want my cards to minister to people. It's in my nature to give to people, and I feel like my cards are something that touch people."



photo: Jill Barrett

Rosie Baggot draws a favorite character (shown below)



Under Current

by Ashley Cook
of The Current staff



"I forgot to make a new year's resolution."

—Aurélie Bruy
Sophomore • non-degree seeking



"To exercise more—I'm starting tomorrow."

—Isabelle Moynan
Sophomore • business



"I don't have any resolutions."

—Delvalle Brice
Senior • computer science



"Not to make fun of people as much—but it's impossible not to."

—Sergei Onishchenko
Sophomore • computer science

What was the first New Year's resolution you broke and why?

Evita cries too much for Argentina

by Wendy Verhoff
of The Current staff

In what will likely be remembered as one of the most unique cinematic efforts of 1997, the life of Eva Peron has been portrayed by a cast of thousands.

Breaking distinctly with convention, *Evita* contains only a negligible amount of spoken dialogue. Most of the action in the film takes place within a musical context, and even the simplest conversations are sung.

The melodies of Andrew Lloyd Webber combine with the lyrics of Tim Rice to provide the soul and foundation on which the movie builds, along with a good deal of its sparkle.

However, this medium does present drawbacks. Because the plot develops through lyrics exclusively, at certain points a lack of clear annunciation on the part of the background singers makes it difficult to fully comprehend events unfolding in Eva's world. In fact, viewers unfamiliar with her life will likely find some scenes confusing.

The film leaves one with only a general impression of Eva, an impression colored by relatively few firm details about her or the major figures in her life.

Evita traces the rise of young, illegitimate Eva Duarte from the dusty

streets of Junin to Buenos Aires, from celebrity as an actress to the side of Juan Peron.

Madonna shines as Argentina's first lady in a sharp contrast to some of her previous, less-than-award-winning performances. This role seems tailored for her.

While the film focuses on Eva, it also highlights the political intrigues and violent, social unrest taking place in Argentina during Eva's lifetime. Along with scenes of rioting and rallies, Antonio Banderas' character, Che, helps draw attention to these conflicts.

In a brilliant portrayal, Banderas plays the common man present at nearly every step along Eva's journey to fame and power. He jabs at her unscrupulous ambition, self-absorption and failure to make meaningful improvements in the

lives of the poor.

In many respects, *Evita* presents audiences with an extravaganza. Over 4,000 extras make appearances. To outfit Eva, designers created 85 changes of clothes, 39 hats, 45 pairs of shoes, 56 pairs of earrings and 42 hairstyles. Many of these creations have found their way into the production.

Because director Alan Parker insisted on authenticity, the funeral sequences exactly mirror historical films of Eva's services. Gorgeous cinematography, realistic sets and beautiful music combine often to create some truly delightful moments.

If you can overlook the lack of dialogue and detail, you will probably find *Evita* entertaining. However, if you can't, wait for the dollar-show opening.



Eva Peron (Madonna) and Juan Peron (Jonathan Pryce) in Hollywood Pictures/Cinergi Pictures' *Evita*.

Larry Flynt renews Stone's knack for the sensational

by Doug Harrison
managing editor

Oliver Stone specializes in re-telling history with a fictitious flare; his latest effort, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, remains true to this mantra with humorous and provoking intensity.

The movie, starring lover of controversial roles Woody Harrelson (*Natural Born Killers*) as Flynt, focuses on the life of this defender or destroyer of the first amendment by way of pornography peddling. From a humble and somewhat dehumanizing childhood, Flynt rises to the top of the porn industry by streamlining adult literature to

include less "mocking," Playboyesque written content and more envelope-pushing, in-your-face nudity.

Flynt's refusal to confine *Hustler*, his monthly masterpiece, to more traditionally tolerated images and his willingness to mock and ridicule mercilessly lands him in a number of first amendment court battles. Eventually, his fight to secure free speech in America and ensure his million-dollar empire takes him to the Supreme Court, where his attorney and life-long friend, Alan Issacson (Edward Norton), argues on behalf of the porn king.

The movie's casting is magnificent, so much so that one wonders if Courtney

Love, who portrays Althea Flynt, had to try very hard at playing the drug-addicted, bisexual, unhygienic anti-heroine in the movie.

The supporting cast is equally brilliant. James Carville's self-deprecating role as Jerry Falwell's attorney is nothing short of hilariously satirical. But alas, Stone's penchant for tweaking history taints the movie's brilliance. The noticeably glamorized and inflated portrayal of Flynt makes it hard for a generation who grew up on MTV and *The Cosby Show* to know just how much of Larry Flynt to love, hate and even believe and how much is the work of Stone's creativity.

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Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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January 13, 1997

OFF THE WALL

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

As I walked up to Korleone Young, I realized that I was getting ready to ask a future millionaire for an interview.

So what? The 17-year old manchild had just completed a high school competition game against Riverview Gardens in the Coca-Cola Shootout. He will someday hit it big. The College recruiters and possibly the NBA scout are waiting in line.

I think it's weird that a person can go from playing a game for free to making tons of money playing professional ball. I'm not complaining, far from it. If I could go from nothing to everything, I would do it in a second. I'm just a little envious.

This guy has his life planned out, barring a career ending injury. That is something many college students don't have planned and this kid has his plans made. Life just isn't fair sometimes.

Seeing Young play brought back memories of the McDonalds All-America Team game that was held in St. Louis two years ago. After touring the nation with the country's best high school players for free, several of these athletes have made the jump to the NBA. Kevin Garnett, a member of the McDonalds team, was the first player in recent memory to jump from high school to the pros. Several months after the game and his 19th birthday, Garnett signed a multi-million dollar deal with the Minnesota Timberwolves. Not a bad job if you can get it.

Several other members of that talent laden All-America squad have also made the jump to the NBA. Stephan Marbury and Shaquille O'Neal are several new members of the millionaire club. Both are 19 years old.

It's tough for me to accept that someone my age has achieved so much in so little time, millions in only several years, for only potential work. That is the worst part about the young players contracts. They are paid based on what they might do, not what they have done.

It seems like only yesterday that this guy was getting his ass chewed out for not having his geography homework. Months later he is drafted into the pros, has a fat money sack and a new Mercedes Benz. What a great deal.

But that isn't the only reason I feel weird around the high school players. I feel weird because I collect autographs and asking a guy, I mean asking a kid, for his autograph just feels odd. Some of these guys are 14 and 15 years old. I mean, they can't even drive for pete's sake.

The stars seemed so much older when I was a kid. I guess that is just a part of getting older. Or, maybe it just means the old guys suck, probably a bit of both.

Rivermen hit cold streak over break

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Rivermen basketball team had a tough stretch over the semester break as their record fell to 4-8.

Throughout the break, the team suffered tough losses against several quality opponents. It went 1-4.

The weekend before the holidays the team fared well finishing second in the Drury College Tournament. It defeated West Virginia State 62-61 on a big night from Dwon Kelly. Kelly scored 19 points and got help from Kevin Tuckson who finished with 14 rebounds. It was down hill from there for the team.

The following night the Rivermen lost to Henderson State 70-67. A week later they lost to Division-III power-house Washington University 87-79.

They then lost to SIU-Edwardsville by 23 points. A four point loss to IUPUI-Ft. Wayne soon followed.

The only victory came on a 82-67 rout of St. Joseph's. Rodney

Hawthorne led the team in scoring for the third time this season with 24 points.

Quincy caught the Rivermen by surprise and clobbered them 73-56.

"We're up against the wall, and we need to come out fighting," Kelly said.

Part of the problem is they have been against someone else's wall. Of their 12 games, only three have been at home.

"It hurts playing away from home," guard Jason Frillman said. "You get familiar playing on a court and you like to play there."

"I'm looking forward to playing at home again," Kelly said. "So we can have some fan support."

A positive for the team is that it will play eight of its next 14 games at home.

The team will play Quincy this Thursday at 8 p.m. in a rematch of a recent Rivermen loss. They then host Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday. Game time is at 8 p.m. Games can also be heard on 92.0 AM.

"We have nothing to lose and everything to gain," Frillman said.

"Hopefully we can get an upset and win a few more games."

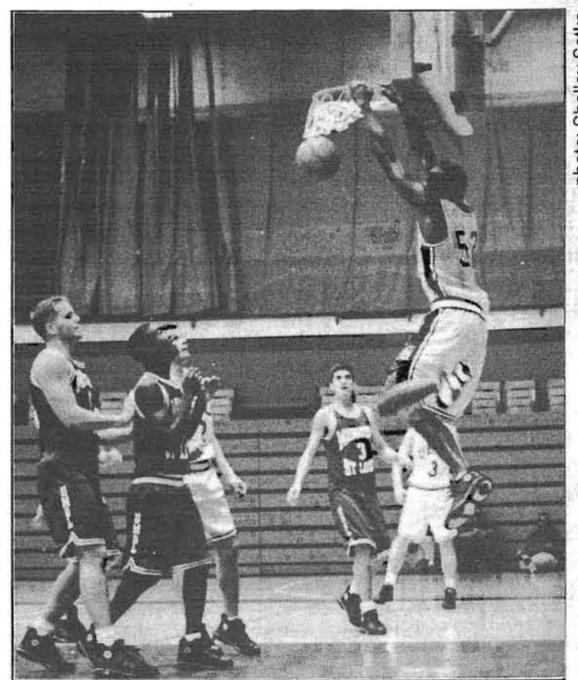
If the team is to win many games center Kevin Tuckson must keep up his play. He has led the team in rebounding the past eight games including a career high 14 against West Virginia State. He leads the team in rebounding with an average of 10 a game. He also leads the team in scoring with a 15.7 average.

"Tuck has stepped up his play and helped the team out," Kelly said. "He has six double-doubles this season and has been a leader consistently. With him playing well, things should work out."

"When Kevin wants to play, he is one of the best players on either team," Frillman said.

Tuckson hasn't been the only player to pick up his play in recent games. Brandon Klaus has averaged 10.6 over the past five games, this after averaging under two points for the first seven games.

"When Brandon hits his shots and plays well, the team plays well," Frillman said. "His shots get the team riled up and gets us going."



Rivermen center Kevin Tuckson dunks the ball. Tuckson has led the team in rebounding the past eight games.

photo: Shelley Satke

Turnovers doom Rivermen

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

When a team's high scorer has only 10 points total it can be assumed that a team didn't play well. That is the case with the Rivermen's 73-56 loss against Quincy last Thursday.

The Rivermen suffered their eighth loss of the season to Quincy. It was also their second worst defeat of the season.

The team struggled in the first half on the scoring end. They were down 31-19 at the end of the first half on a dismal 6-for-23 shooting.

The team had its problems early. Their shooting was poor and their 3-point shooting also fell short as they connected on only 4-for-12 shots.

"We came out and went up 13-8," guard Dwon Kelly said. "Then we turned the ball over a few times and we couldn't recover. It turned the game around."

The team turned the ball over 20 times in the game.

"We had problems with ball control," Rivermen guard Jason

Frillman said. "We have been working having longer possessions and controlling the ball better. We need to work better with the ball."

That is a problem the team has had all season. They have turned the ball over around 19 times a game, as opposed to generating 15 turnovers a game.

"We're still working on getting everyone used to playing together again," Frillman said.

The loss took its toll on the team. They had looked at this game as a possible win.

"We were very disappointed with the loss," Frillman said. "We had been concentrating on this game. We just came out cold and struggled in the first half. In the second half, we let the shots come to us, and we played well."

The loss also marked the team's fifth defeat in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Their only conference victory came Jan. 4 against St. Joseph's. Despite the 1-5 GLVC record, the Rivermen still have high hopes of competing for a spot in the conference tournament.

"We're still in it," Kelly said. "We're still in it for the long run. We just need to pull some up-sets and get a few more road wins and we will be fine."

The team made a come-back in the second half. They kept the score close as they were out-scored 42-37. They also improved their shooting as they shot 13-33 in the second half. Kelly said he saw many positive signs in the second half.

"Last night we saw that there are no tough teams in this conference other than Indianapolis," he said. "They aren't that better than us. We just have to go out there and show how good we are."

Frillman led the team with 10 points on four-for-nine shooting. Tuckson led the team with 10 rebounds, followed closely by forward Rodney Hawthorne with seven.

The team was helped by an excellent shooting night from forward Eric Stiegman who shot a perfect three-for-three scoring nine points for the Rivermen in a succession of 3-Pointers.

Quincy has big game against Riverwomen

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team traveled to Quincy University Jan. 9 and suffered an 83-69 defeat.

According to head coach Jim Coen, this was the most disappointing loss of the season for the team, which has not enjoyed much success.

"This was our poorest performance of the year so far," he said. "We just did not have any intensity. It really was a game we should have won."

Quincy (7-5 overall, 3-2 Great Lakes Valley Conference) entered the game with only six available players.

"We did not take advantage of the fact that they had fewer players than we did," Coen said. "We just let them get away."

The Riverwomen were out-re-

bounded 57-33 and out-shot 48 percent to 38 percent.

Senior Deena Applebury led the way with 26 points, Krystal Logan added 17. Leading rebounder Denise Simon again led the Riverwomen with 15 boards. Applebury also hit 7 3-point field goals.

According to Coen, the Riverwomen (3-8 overall, 0-5 GLVC) started the game against Quincy flat.

"We did not play well at all in the first half, and we just never got it going," he said. "In the second half, we didn't start playing well until the end, but by then it was too late."

Coen said the team still needs to work on rebounding and free throws.

Aside from Denise Simon, the next leading rebounder in the game was Charlee Dixon, she had four.

"We're still having trouble coming together and playing well as a team at the same time," Coen said. "It is very frustrating."

Hockey has hot rivalry with St. Louis U. Billikins

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

At the Chesterfield U.S. Ice Sports Complex Head Coach Wayne Gholson's UM-St. Louis Rivermen Hockey Club ended 1996 with a commanding 7-4 victory over the St. Louis University Billikins. Gholson elected to go with Scott Bokal in net, leaving Ian "Dennis Rodman" Mackie on the bench for the evening.

"Defense is the key, and I hope we display it tonight," Gholson said. "We're lacking manpower a bit, but I plan on them skating short shifts."

Missing from the line-up were Nick Carosello and Tim James.

Craig Herweck scored the Rivermen's (and the game's) first three goals, earning himself the hat-trick. Assisting on the goals were Dave Parks and Brian Schoffner.

It wasn't until the second period that SLU beat Bokal for the goal, but Herweck netted another just two minutes later, negating SLU's goal and reestablishing the Rivermen's decisive three goal lead.

Schoffner then scored twice, assisted by Lashon Altman, Herweck, B.J. Grafeman and Brian Diel.

SLU retaliated with a goal in the last five minutes of the second and two more in the third, all on questionable power-play calls.

Assistant Coach Greg Gevers was pleased with the team's performance.

"No even-strength goals were given up by the guys, and for that I'm real proud of them," Gevers said. "Not one player was in the minus category this evening, and that's how you win hockey games."

Jasson Hessell netted his first of the season with seven minutes remaining in the third to nail the coffin shut on the Billikins.

"It was a pro-like goal," Gevers said. "He walked in and sniped the upper corner."

"We only had nine skaters and two goalies, but we still creamed 'em," Bokal said.

Despite numerous injuries, (Bokal broken wrist, Herweck deep bruise on ankle, Mike Oliva bruised ribs, Altman sore melon) the team pulled

through.

"In reality, we only played one period," Bokal said. "After the four goal lead, we had the mindset that the game was ours. It could have ended with a football score."

"Yet again we had to prove our point to those SLU putzes that we are better than them," Herweck said. "After the first period, we just went out and had fun."

The roster for 1997 will have one drastic change. Gholson, working on his Master's Degree here at UM-St. Louis, will lace 'em up and skate as a defenseman for the Rivermen.

"The plan is that I will work with the forwards, and Wayne will guide the defense, as well as handle general managing, scheduling and budget duties,"



Forward Craig Herweck avoids a hook from an opposing player. The Rivermen rolled over the St. Louis Billikins 7-4 in their second meeting.

photo: Shelley Satke

Women struggle for wins over winter break

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The 1996-97 UM-St. Louis women's basketball team has struggled to gain victories so far this season, but it hopes to remain confident and turn things around over the course of the next two months.

The Riverwomen began the week 3-8 overall and 0-5 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. According to head coach Jim Coen, the results have been disappointing, but the record may be deceiving.

"We have not been losing because of a lack of effort," Coen

playing well." Coen added that other concerns was the poor free throw shot percentage of all players and low rebounding totals.

"Those have really been the difference in most of the games," Coen said. "We need to improve in those areas if we are going to be successful."

The Riverwomen are shooting 60 percent on free throws.

On the other hand, Coen said the team has done a great job of running the offense, and the shooting has improved. The teams' shooting percentage is 38 percent.

"If we can keep it up, and then

we'll see a turnaround," Coen explained.

Over the holiday break, the Riverwomen were involved in several close games, including a 78-75 loss to SIUE-Edwardsville, a 83-72 loss to IUPUI-Ft. Wayne and a 79-72 loss to St. Joseph's. However, the team defeated Harris-Stowe 92-41.

Senior Deena Applebury leads the team in scoring with 19 points per game, followed by sophomore Denise Simon who averages 10 points per game. Simon also leads the team in rebounding with 9 per game.

The Riverwomen were scheduled

against Lewis University on Jan. 16 and Wisconsin-Parkside on Jan. 18.

Coen said that if the team is going to turn things around, it needs to gain back enthusiasm and confidence.

"It has been very frustrating to this point," Coen said. "There has been a lot of second guessing going on, and we are waiting for things to happen instead of making things happen."

Coen added that he has a good outlook for the team.

"We are in just about every game, then the opposing team pulls away at the end," he said. "If we continue to work hard on our weaknesses and play well together at the same time, we'll

impressed."

Gholson said the players have stepped up.

"BJ (Grafeman) really stepped up last five or six games. I have been really

impressed."

impressed."

Source: UMSL Career Services

UMSL Salary Averages

Bachelor Degrees:	
Public Accounting	\$29,600
Corporate Accounting	25,000
Biology/Chemistry	26,500
Business	23,100
CCJ and Social Service	21,200
Computer Science/MIS	30,900
Education	22,800
Marketing	24,100
Graduate Degrees:	
MBA	30,800
M.Acc	28,100
M.Ed	27,100
MS/MA	33,100

National Salary Averages (1995-96)

Accounting	\$28,395	Chemistry	\$28,586
Business	26,585	Mathematics	33,717
Economics	29,909	Sciences	26,433
MIS	32,462	Computer Science	34,222
Marketing	27,161	MBA	42,200
Liberal Arts	25,170	M.Acc	33,000
Chemical Engin.	39,614	M.Ed	28,300
Computer Engin.	35,855	MS/MA	35,900

Source: UMSL Career Services

The Current Newswire

Horne elected board president. Malaika Horne, a graduate of UM-St. Louis, was voted president of the UM Board of Curators. Horne has served on the board since 1994. In addition to serving the UM system, Horne is the chief operations officer at Haley Travel Service and president of Haley Characters Inc., which focuses on management of cultural sensitivity training.



Malaika Horne

Honor Society recognizes faculty, students. Ellie Chapman, senior lecturer emeritus of English, Vetta Sanders-Thompson, associate professor of psychology, and Charles Schmitz, dean of the School of Education, were selected for honorary membership in the Golden Key National Honor Society. Students inducted were senior psychology major Diane Maasen and junior general studies major Nancy L. McInaney.

cents and children. For more information, call the Office of Equal Opportunity at 516-5695.

Abstract exhibit open at Gallery 210. An exhibition of 30 recent works by abstract painter Clarence Morgan will run from Jan. 16 to March 8 in Gallery 210, Rm. 205 Lucas Hall. The opening reception for the artist will be held Jan. 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call 516-5952 for more information.

Acting chair named for Social Work. Joan Hashimi, associate professor of social work and gerontology, has been appointed acting chair of the social work department. She will serve as acting chair while Lois Pierce, department chair, serves as interim faculty fellow in the University of Missouri System Office of Academic Affairs.

Program planned for Martin Luther King day. Missouri Supreme Court Justice Ronnie White will be the featured speaker at the University's annual Martin Luther King observance. The program is scheduled for Jan. 20 in the J.C. Penney Auditorium from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Special programs are planned for adoles-

Reaching out.



Normandy School District student Mike Belton with his teacher, Evelyn Preston, surfing the Net at the Dec. 11 opening of the Southwestern Bell TeleCommunity Center on North Campus. The center is equipped with 22 state-of-the-art personal computers and will serve as a prototype for future centers. The center is open to the public at no charge.

dents and students' needs," Cornford said.

As a result, Robertson implemented the computerized system now in use at the cashiers windows.

"Whereas before, students had to wait considerable lengths of time while cashiers went back to the office and checked documents, now

students can make payments, get account balances, receive receipts and many other services much quicker," Cornford said.

Cornford and Krueger both count Robertson a personal friend as well as a dependable colleague.

"She was truly wonderful," Krueger said.

the committee has narrowed the field of candidates to six and will review that short list Jan. 17.

He said selected candidates could begin arriving on campus for interviews "a week or so" after the meeting on Jan. 17.

Lowe "Sandy" MacLean, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, and Roosevelt Wright, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, both announced their resignations last year to teach and research.

MacLean will leave his post in February, at which time an interim will be named and search initiated for his replacement.

Wright plans to stay on as vice chancellor through Aug. 31.

sonnel in computing services," Krueger said. "She designed the program and the people in computing services developed it."

Robertson also modernized the window service at cashiers, Cornford said.

"She was very interested in stu-

a single parent."

In closing, Horne emphasized that graduates make the most of their educations. She stressed that a diploma was only a piece of paper, and graduates must find new ways to serve the community.

She added that they "must put theory into practice in order to be successful."

Turnover, from page 1

after the U-Center is well underway. Blanton said he is interested in the job if it is offered to him, but he does not consider himself a shoo-in for the position.

"I have been working toward the job since I became the interim director," Blanton said. "I would probably accept the job if it were offered to me."

Other administration vacancies are being filled more expediently.

James Doyle, interim dean of the Pierre Laclède Honors College, projected in September that a search committee would likely fill that position by early- to mid-summer.

Thomas Schnell, chairman of the search committee for the dean, said

Robertson, from page 1

cashiering system at the window in the cashiers office.

Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial and technological services, said Robertson's role in the development of the miscellaneous accounts receivable was invaluable.

"She worked closely with per-

Grads, from page 1

job. Willyetta Carter, who now has a business degree, has a job working as a bookkeeper for a McDonald's franchise.

For Carter, graduating was special for several reasons.

"It was tough working full-time and taking classes at night," Carter said, "not to mention raising a child as

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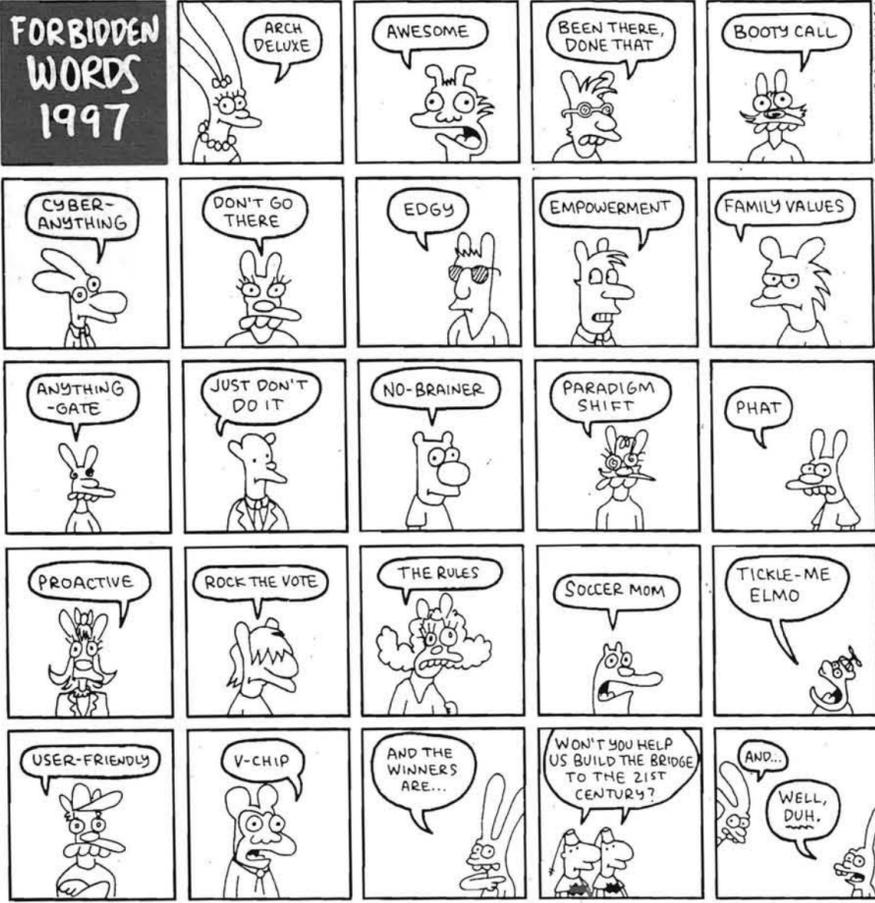
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To all and any interested person or group planning for Hunger Awareness Week Tuesday Jan. 21st at 1:30 p.m. Room 266 University Center. For more information call Betty Chitwood at 385-3455.

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Abilities: You must be dependable and cooperative, present a neatly groomed appearance, have a pleasant, positive personality and be comfortable in meeting the public. Your work ethic must include a desire to give 100% and continually expand your knowledge. Your math skills, social skills and communication skills should be no less than average. Above average is desirable.

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Apply: An application can be obtained at the Normandy Bank office in the University Center on the UM-St. Louis campus or at the Normandy Bank office at 7151 Natural Bridge

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