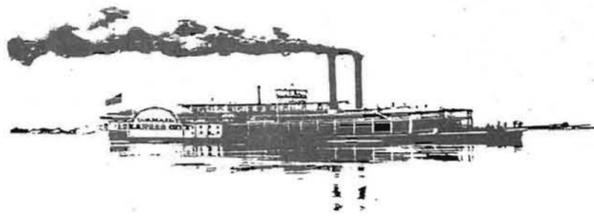




Sgt. Bruce Gardiner tells how to get child support. See page 3.



Riverman Ryan Meyers gives it his all for the team. See page 7.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

# The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

Issue 883

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 17, 1997



Above: DeGregorio poses with a group of Albanian children. DeGregorio said he tries to visit grade schools to get a feel of the whole picture, not just elections.



Left: DeGregorio, the shadowy figure, stands on top of an Albanian bomb shelter. The Albanian government built 300,000 shelters throughout the country for fear of a nuclear attack. DeGregorio said the money to build the shelters would have been better spent repairing the country's deteriorating roads and bridges.

photos: courtesy of Paul DeGregorio.

## DR. DEMOCRACY

Fair elections are Paul DeGregorio's business

by Scott Lamar  
editor in chief

As communism and socialist republics fell in the late '80s and early '90s, infant democracies experienced growing pains in their quest for a stable governance.

To assist these nations in their rebirth, the American government sent experts to observe and instruct officials on how to run fair elections.

One of those experts is UM-St. Louis' own Paul DeGregorio. DeGregorio currently serves as the University's director of Outreach Development.

A graduate of UM-St. Louis, DeGregorio worked under former Missouri Attorney General John Ashcroft and later served as chief elections officer for St. Louis County.

A recognized elections expert, DeGregorio has observed or assisted in elections in 13 different nations, including Romania, Macedonia, Kazakstan, Albania and Cambodia.

DeGregorio said he journeys with a contingent of other experts on two to three trips a year, with each trip lasting between one to three weeks.

Their mission is to do one of three things. First, they assess the election system and write a report. Next, DeGregorio works with the election officials. Finally, he observes the election process.

The report is given to the country's officials and another copy is forwarded to the U.S. government. DeGregorio said the report is used in establishing foreign policy.

One of DeGregorio's sojourns took him to a rural village in China.

He said the election process there took only three hours.

"The whole town gathers together at about 9 a.m.," DeGregorio said. "The candidates for mayor and the city council can declare their candidacy right there."

Then, he said, the people form a line and sign in, though there is no formal registration process, and

they're given a ballot.

"There are no booths," he said. "They go off privately and check a box. About 11 o'clock, they open the ballot box, count the votes and announce the winner."

"A system like that is discriminatory against the elderly and the disabled," DeGregorio said.

He said he will go back to China next month to see if they've made any changes.

But in speaking with DeGregorio, it's easy to see that his oversea adventures go past the realm of campaign speeches and ballot boxes. In fact, his travels have taken him through abandoned Cambodian torture chambers, lizard infested hotels and grass-hut villages.

### Goat eye and fried tarantulas . . .

To garner the respect of officials in many foreign countries, DeGregorio said you must know and honor their customs.

Much like a scene from *Indiana Jones*,

DeGregorio was once offered a foreign delicacy that would churn the stomach of most Americans.

**. . . the most honored guest has to take a piece of skin as well as the eye."**

He and a group of others were invited to lunch by a Kazak farmer. In Kazakstan, DeGregorio said, when a respected guest is over, they boil a goat—

from the horns to the hooves. "They put the goat on a plate of noodles and the honored guests has to take a piece of skin and eat it," he said. "But the most honored guest has to take a piece of skin as well as the eye."

Fortunately for DeGregorio, the locals showed

see DeGregorio, page 5

## SGA president candidate for editor of *The Current*

by Bill Rolfes  
news associate

For the first time since 1992, more than one candidate is seeking the position of editor in chief for *The Current*.

Following a question and answer session, staff members will vote on March 24 between SGA President Bob Fritchey and Doug Harrison, the current managing editor of the newspaper.



Bob Fritchey

Last year, Scott Lamar ran unopposed for the position. So did the three editors in chief before him.

Lamar, who will graduate in May, is glad to see some competition.

"I'm excited about there being two candidates for the position because it certainly makes for a more interesting election," Lamar said. "I must say that a non-staff member running for editor is at a disadvantage because the staff may not



Doug Harrison

be familiar with how that person conducts business."

The staff's choice is not the final decision, however. Lamar will take the staff's recommendation to the Student Senate Publications Committee, which ultimately appoints the editor.

Both candidates have experience in management.

Fritchey, of course, is president of the SGA. He has also worked for *Litmag* since the fall '94 semes-

see Editor, page 5

## Take this job



photo: Ashley Cook

Ryan McGrath of RHI Consulting discusses a resumé with MIS graduate student Susan Hurst. RHI Consulting was one of about 100 companies that participated in the 11th Annual Gateway to Careers Job Fair last Thursday. Several hundred students braved the cold wind and rain to attend the event.

## Karl Beeler officially named interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs

by Kim Hudson  
news editor

After nearly a week with no announcement of a replacement for Lowe "Sandy" MacLean, former vice chancellor of Student Affairs, Chancellor Blanche Touhill named Karl Beeler to the interim post.

Beeler, associate vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said he was "delighted" that he was chosen to fill the void left by MacLean until a permanent vice chancellor could be found.

A memo, dated March 5, was sent to members of the campus community an-

nouncing Beeler as the interim vice chancellor of student affairs. The announcement came six days after the official resignation of MacLean. Touhill said she had to wait until she received authorization from the University of Missouri system president before she could make an announcement.

"We had a search in Student Affairs, I talked to Karl and filled out the forms for presidential approval," Touhill said. "Sometimes things do not move as quickly as you would like."

Although he said he was glad Touhill had confidence in his abilities, Beeler added that he was also happy the search

for a permanent vice chancellor was under way.

"I believe the soon the position is filled, the better for the overall direction of Student Affairs," Beeler said.

As interim vice chancellor, Beeler will be responsible for issues concerning the Athletics and Career Services. He will also oversee the functions of the University Center/Student Activities, Counseling Services, University Health Services, Special Student Programs, Women's Center, Residential Life, new student orientation, and the Title III

see Beeler, page 5

## Final Honors Dean candidate visits campus

by Bill Rolfes  
news associate

The projected enrollment increase at Pierre Laclède Honors College remained a top issue as two more dean candidates visited the campus.

Robert Bliss, of Lancaster University in England, met with several groups March 4, and Ronald Holt, of Weber State University, visited March 6.

Bliss is chairman of the American Studies program at Lancaster.

Holt is an anthropology professor and head of the honors program at Weber State. Under his guidance, the honors college has expanded from 50 students to 500.

The Pierre Laclède Honors College faces an increase from 200 students to 600. Holt said he is prepared for an expansion, but he does want to remain cautious.

"I don't believe in growth for growth's sake," Holt said. "My goal is to make sure growth occurs with an increase in quality, rather than a decrease. We can't just water it down; that's a danger."

Holt added that the college needs to find a new location large enough to hold an increasing population.

For the Honors College to prosper, Holt said he would need commitment from the faculty. He welcomes any member to contact him about teaching honors classes.

Faculty members may not be willing to teach honors classes, however. Joe Martinich, a business professor, said a lot of the classes last only one semester. He said it is a lot of work for teaching a class only one time, and that discourages faculty.

"Just showing up and teaching a good

see Dean page 5

## Oh a hunting we will go

The race to the finish does not always go to the swiftest.

—Author unknown

And to be sure, the jobs for recent college grads are not guaranteed to the smartest. Possessing all of the book smarts in the world will land you nowhere unless you have initiative and ambition.

But even with that, it takes something extra to put yourself ahead in today's competitive job market. Namely self-confidence and drive. Unfortunately, those two characteristics aren't taught in most classrooms. They come only with practice and sheer determination.



**Scott Lamar**  
editor-in-chief

The Gateway to Careers Job Fair sponsored by Career Services last week at the Mark Twain Building presented students (albeit the ones who stayed home on spring break) with an excellent chance to build confidence speaking to professionals from local companies and to get an idea of what employers are really looking for.

From what I gathered, company representatives mostly want articulate students with the ability to sell. Not necessarily encyclopedias, real estate or insurance, but rather themselves. The ability to speak thoughtfully and earnestly is an invaluable commodity. Still, it's a trait few are born with. In fact, many people are scared to death at the thought of approaching a stranger and striking up a conversation.

Knowing this, job fair organizers presented first time job fair attenders with a helpful orientation session. The session covered pretty much everything, including a in-depth how-to on the proper way to shake hands.

But even a thorough orientation can't teach assertiveness or an effective delivery when speaking with a company representative.

The best advice I received is to picture a politician. Politicians always smile, shake hands with firmness and sincerity, and tell you what you want to hear. Furthermore, they always look you in the eye and exude an aura of assuredness. The same goes for the job hunter.

If, in the job hunting arena, where it's kill or be killed, modesty is not an option. So as much as society, and possibly you, frown upon speaking so highly of themselves, it may prove a powerful weapon when courting a potential employer. After all, if students can't speak knowingly about themselves, they can't be expected to speak confidently about anything.

Yet another item companies look for is previous work experience. For college students between the ages of 18 and 22 this presents a big problem. People in the aforementioned age bracket have had only a short time to accumulate life experience let alone any practical work experience. And it's the work experience that employers stress again and again when considering new hires.

Among the 100 or so companies that were represented at the job fair, many company delegates cared little about students' classwork taken and their GPA mattered about as much as their eye color.

A representative I spoke with from a big time St. Louis investment firm preferred that candidates for a particular opening have three to five years experience.

Understandably, human resources personnel want to employ someone who knows the craft over a college kid fresh out of the theory tank. Because students aren't just competing with their classmates and contemporaries, but a generation of people who have decided that they want to change careers, career-related work experience is crucial.

The best way, and perhaps the only way, to get experience while still in school is an internship. Myriad internship possibilities existed at the job fair. Internships can not only give a student valuable experience, but provide him or her with a reference or even a doorway into the company.

The only thing conceivably bad about last week's job fair is the fact that there are not more of them throughout the year.

Because there are so few, remember to take the initiative to look for those good jobs because nobody is looking for you. Happy hunting.



PAUL DEGREGORIO, WHO HAS HELPED TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, REALIZES WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST WITH THE SGA... AND... DECIDES TO GO FIND A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY TO HELP.

## Ignorance contributes to racial division

African-Americans and European-Americans on this campus are totally dispassionate to each other. They are mundane, uninvolved and disinterested. There are no intelligent discussions between the two. There are not even any fights or arguments. The African-American and European-American students walk around ignoring each other, and everyone just accepts it. Furthermore, the Asian, Asian-American and Malaysian students contain themselves in groups with little or no infiltration of black and white. In the four semesters that I've been here, I haven't witnessed one interracial relationship in any possible combination. It's as if they have all bought into the social myth and accepted that things should be this way.

There is no mistaking that UM-St. Louis is a tough school and that only the sharpest students graduate. The school has raised its standards and is acquiring a good reputation. But, it still has an advanced technical school atmosphere of uninvolved among the students. For example, the students are, and should be, competitive and career orientated. Nevertheless, they seem caught up in looking the part. Everyone seems to want to have the right friends and sexual partners, as if they are worried about making it to the company picnic. Moreover, a black student with many white friends is looked upon as some type of wannabe. The peer pressure has become horrendous, yet there

are only a few who haven't assimilated.

Furthermore, a university education should be a well-rounded experience that enlightens its students. The students at this University are not being enlightened. The factors that contribute to this social separation and lack of enlightenment are the selection of the degree programs, the humanities programs and the instructors.

The selection of degree programs contributes to this social divide because it seems that the Asian students populate the science and engineering programs, which puts them on one side of the campus. The white students dominate the business and computer programs, which puts them on another side of the campus. And the black students are predominantly in criminal justice, social work and accounting programs. Although business majors and criminal justice majors are in the same building, they are in different classes that impede them from getting to know one another.

Another factor that adds to this separation is the humanities classes. Among these are anthropology, philosophy and religion classes. All students have to take these no matter what

their majors are, and this is where you may also find an equal split of African-American, European-American and Asian-American students. These are the classes that should be asking the tough questions, sparking the enthusiasm to make students question their morals, ethics, beliefs and biases.

But they don't. So the students continue to walk around with total dispassion for each other.

Finally, the instructors have contributed to this problem. They don't seem to want to rock the boat; therefore, they ultimately help maintain the status quo and keep everybody nice and quiet. For example, in the class activities that are designed to promote interaction among students, the instructors on the whole make only feeble attempts to foster this interaction. Most of my instructors have only said "get each other's phone numbers." Then everybody sheepishly looks around to find someone to ask.

Black, white and Asian students don't hate each other like we may be led to believe. They just don't know one another. They may be afraid of rejection or peer pressure if they speak up. They may have bought into the lies of society and the status quo. Or they may think this is the way it's supposed to be. Whether it's selection of degree programs, humanities courses or instructors, we must address this problem rather than ignore each other and accept the way things are.



**Marcia Roye**  
guest columnist

## Letters to the editor

### Relativism is key to intellectual freedom

It is within the seemingly dogmatic confines of relativism that the doors of intellectual freedom are opened. Once the truth is given a subjective reality based on judgement, its innate objectivity is destroyed. Can one really enjoy a right when it is solely determined by a law? The right to free speech need not become a law to be expressed and enjoyed by the multitudes of citizens around the world. It is the limitations that such liberal doctrines place on our rights that inhibit the appreciation of our person. The only way that one can arrive at this intellectual plane is through the philosophy of relativism. Whether or not this leads to civilized (also relative) social anarchy is debatable. But what cannot be questioned is the place that the relativist views have in the internal makeup of man himself.

If everyone has the right to free speech, how can truth become endangered? I will tell you how. It is only when individuals desire to maintain the status quo that strides toward the relative truth are inhibited. This country was founded by individuals who had relative views. If George Washington and Patrick Henry had sacrificed their relativism for British moral hegemony, this particular debate would be futile.

As recent events such as the O. J. Simpson trial and the mayoral primary have indicated, both whites and blacks have relative viewpoints on many issues. Does this undermine the dialogue, or does it create the differences of opinion that lay

the groundwork for social cohesion? The South considered slavery to be one version of the truth, while the North had its own relative viewpoint. But who would tell any slave that the South had a monopoly on the truth? In the end, it is relativism that leads to piecemeal social justice. However, everyone has the right to a version of the truth and limiting that expression is the worst form of servitude. The danger of relativism will not come from regimes of ideological authoritarianism. Rather, it will come from liberal nations that place invisible shackles on the spirit of individual truth.

Mario Love

### Two cheers for banquet

The OXFAM Hunger Awareness Banquet was a wonderful awareness-building exercise. It was fun (especially since I knew that I did not have to stay in the Second World Country for more than just one meal), yet it made the point that so many people in the world are hungry—some of them very close to us. My thanks to the organizations that sponsored this event. Next year, I hope more people will take advantage of this very interesting activity.

Cindy Vantine  
University Relations

Thank you for your coverage of Hunger Awareness Week. As organizer and coordinator of this event, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the student organizations that were not mentioned in the article. SGA, Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha food drive, Delta Sigma Pi, U-

Meadows, Women's Center, Aramark, UM-St. Louis Gospel Singers, Lutheran Ministries, Student Activities, SMSTA, Norman Seay, Rick Blanton, Denny Kiehl, David Ganz, Karl Beeler, Amber Parrish, Christine Wells, Tonya Reed, Lisa Beares, Dennis Chitwood and those who staffed tables.

Betty Chitwood  
Newman House

### 'Customer' laments poor parking service

For the second time this semester, an event on campus has brought large groups of people here. The University did not provide alternative parking for these people. Instead, the parking spaces closest to campus were filled. These events leave no parking spaces available for students who have paid for parking above and beyond tuition and fees.

After searching in vain through two garages and two parking lots, I was forced to use a space reserved for faculty and staff. I was summarily ticketed for it. I see a pattern developing that is not in the interest of the paying customer (the student). For these large events, the University should provide alternative parking at one of the far lots or garages and shuttle people to their destinations. This would leave more spaces open for students who pay for them.

Loraine Lee

## They don't make 'em like they used to (experts, that is)

Let me be the first to say that KSDK, NewsChannel 5, Where The News Comes First, ought to be flogged openly for assembling such a noticeably lily white panel of "experts" on the night of the St. Louis mayoral primary.

That a panel of two white males, one of whom was UM-St. Louis grad and erstwhile mayor of St. Louis Vince Schoemehl, were the best possible analysts for such a racially charged election is at best laughable. Their opinions and perspectives, while quite apropos, should have been part of a larger, more culturally diverse group of analysts.

As it played out, the expert panel turned into the comedy showcase of the evening.



**Doug Harrison**  
managing editor

But in fairness to KSDK, experts are as popular as all of these currently fashionable news networks whose "in-depth" programming props up every marginally credible authority on any given topic. The latest addition to those networks fighting to be your television news source is Fox News.

It sports The O'Reilly Report weekday nights for some interminable amount of time, during which the host, Bill O'Reilly, engages the designated "expert" in chit chat about some timely issue or another. The host himself undermines the integrity and credibility of the show given his tainted past in tabloid TV. Before he landed this gig with Fox, O'Reilly was lead smut peddler for tabloid TV's American Journal.

His show with Fox is styled as CNNesque evening news talk and purports to contend with such news heavyweights as Dateline, Nightline and all those other Lines. Nevertheless, O'Reilly still conducts the show with characteristic tabloid tastelessness and sensationalism. His propensity to seize the conversation from the "expert" and begin shamelessly editorializing severely comprises the show's legitimacy.

More important than O'Reilly's lack of credibility are those aforementioned "experts." The show's directors obviously solicit the weak, ill, aged and infirm to help O'Reilly discuss his topics. I force myself to stomach at least ten minutes of the show two or three times a week just for grins and giggles, and I've yet to recognize one name. Still worse, I have a difficult time figuring what exactly qualifies the experts who are not immediately recognizable.

O'Reilly's "expert" for a discussion on the degree to which journalists have become jaded misery mongers? Pauline Smalltime from Mudpuddle, Maine. Obviously, her name escapes me, but it's only because O'Reilly's show was the first and last time I heard it.

What makes her an expert? She was a field correspondent for some mom and pop affiliate in New England for a few good years in the seventies. The jury is still out on what years in the seventies were good. But the jury has found her not guilty of being an expert.

After several weeks of this show, I've determined that The O'Reilly Report is little more than The O'Reilly Opinion broken up by a few has-beens and never-will-bees whose comments come cheap for the network and give O'Reilly a chance to clear his throat in between self-aggrandizing remarks.

Unfortunately, The O'Reilly Report and the growing number of programs like it find an attentive audience among those less discerning types who wouldn't see, know or care about the difference between David Brinkley's and Pauline Smalltime's comments on the same issue.

These easily-had opinions from people who have not the knowledge or ability to pontificate about the color of sky much less the condition of modern society mislead viewers who expect from these programs the integrity that their higher bred, more respectable ancestors (i.e. 60 Minutes, The Huntley/Brinkley Report and Dateline, to name a few) have established.

We have been lulled into a false sense of security by the largely competent, respectable work of Morely Safer, Stone Phillips, Leslie Stahl and Diane Sawyer. So much so that we haven't adequately scrutinized this new breed of trash TV cloaked in the auspices of credible journalism.

The local and national culprits must clean up their acts or get out of town if ever we are to stop the massive hemorrhaging of modern media that threatens to bleed all of us, good and bad, to death.

## Letters policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief and accompanied by your name, telephone and student numbers. The Current reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length; letters will not be published without the aforementioned information. Letters can be dropped off at or mailed to:

The Current  
7940 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, Mo. 63121

The student voice of UM-St. Louis

# The Current

7940 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, Mo. 63121 (314) 516-5174 Fax 516-6811

**Scott Lamar**  
• Editor in Chief

**Doug Harrison**  
• Managing Editor

**Pam White**  
• Business Director

**Josh Tobin**  
• Advertising Director

**Judi Linville**  
• Advisor

**Marty Johnson**  
• Cartoonist

**Kim Hudson**  
• News Editor

**Jill Barrett**  
• Features Editor

**Ken Dunkin**  
• Sports Editor

**Nathanael Schulte**  
• Entertainment Editor

**Shelley Satke**  
• Production Manager

**Wendy Verhoff**  
• Copy Editor

**Ashley Cook**  
• Photography Director

**Lisa Jaus**  
• Business Associate

**Bill Rolfes**  
• News Associate

**John Jones**  
• Features Associate

**Tom Wombacher**  
• Advertising Associate

**Brian Folsom**  
• Sports Associate

**Michael Urness**  
• Entertainment Writer

**Chris Wanta**  
• Web Editor

**Shakira Truss**  
• Features Writer

**David Baugher**  
• Reporter

**Tonya Hearon**  
• Reporter

**Becky Rickard**  
• Features Writer

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request by contacting The Current's advertising office at (314) 516-5316. Space reservations for advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to publication. The Current, financed in part by student activity fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for The Current's content or policies. Editorials expressed in the paper reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Articles labeled "Commentary" or "Column" are the opinion of the individual writer. All material contained in this issue is the property of The Current, and cannot be reproduced or reprinted without the expressed written consent of The Current.

column  
a generic offering



by Jill Barrett  
features editor

'Tis the season for Easter candy, and let me tell you that Peeps and Korean liquor just don't mix. A week ago, my roommate's brother flew in from Korea, where he had been stationed for the last year. When we got home from the airport, he decided to share with us a Korean delicacy called Jinro Soju. This is the Korean equivalent to Everclear with a twist of formaldehyde.

It looked innocuous enough. It was packaged in little juice boxes; you know, the kind you buy for your kids to pack in their lunches. I was looking for the plastic-covered straw and trying to tell myself that it couldn't be that bad.

It was. I survived two sips.

The next morning (much to my chagrin, there was a next morning), I was driving to an aerobics class. I had bought a package of Peeps to give to the instructor. For the innocent, Peeps are marshmallow candy dyed an array of colors not found in nature, shaped like chicks or bunnies and sold only at Easter time. This particular instructor had a thing about Peeps—God help him.

In his defense, though, he did accept many theories about junk food that few men understand. For instance, he had a firm grasp why you have to eat HoHos in an elevator. He would tell the class about stopping the elevator between floors to eat Hostess cupcakes before reaching his office. As anyone should know, this practice serves two purposes: nobody sees you eat the junk food; therefore, it never happened and the calories don't count anyway because of the laws of physics.

(According to a little-known and as-yet-unproved theory, if a person stops an elevator between floors to eat something, the poor nutritional qualities remain where they are—they cannot defy the law of gravity to follow the person up to the tenth floor. Of course, this only works when a person is going up. Never take that same elevator on the way down, because those empty calories are still lurking in between the third and fourth floors. Have a friend go first.)

Halfway to the gym, I started jonesin' for a sugar fix. I mean, I needed sugar *right now*. Unfortunately, the only thing available where those purple marshmallow bunnies. The next thing I remember was ripping the cellophane open with my teeth and biting the heads off two defenseless bunnies. I spent the rest of the drive trying to scrape lavender glue off of my chin and prying my sticky hands from the steering wheel. I spent the rest of the day promising whomever would listen that I would never breakfast on Peeps after drinking 120-proof liquor the night before.

Live and learn: At least the Peeps cemented together what was left of my stomach. Of course, I know that it is not a good idea to breakfast on candy anyway. Usually I don't. I have as much coffee as possible for breakfast and then eat candy. I eat candy until I feel the inevitable sugar coma coming on and then go back to the coffee, spending my days bouncing from caffeine highs to sugar highs.

I'm a great example for my nephew. One time, when he was about two-and-a-half, I caught him climbing onto the dining room table and start eating sugar straight

see Column, page 4

# Recent laws help single moms get well-deserved child support

by Jill Barrett  
features editor

Debtor's prisons are a thing straight out of a Charles Dicken's novel, but one debt can still be punished by incarceration—unpaid child support. A tougher federal child support law was passed in 1993, and this law enables states to bring felony charges against a parent who has not paid child support.

Sergeant Bruce Gardiner, a member of the UM-St. Louis campus police, gave students helpful advice on what to do if they were not receiving child support. Gardiner works for the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney as an investigator for the Child Support Division. In this capacity, Gardiner helps to locate people who are behind on child support.

"The first thing that someone has to do to get child support is to contact the Division of Child Support Enforcement," Gardiner said. "They will try to work with the AP [absent parent], but they will forward everything over to us if they can't find the absent parent."

According to Gardiner, child support enforcers first determine whether a particular case has an order of sup-



photo by: Ashley Cook

Sergeant Bruce Gardiner of UM-St. Louis campus police speaks to Coordinator Joanne Bocci (left), Veronica Washington and Toya Like in the Women's Center on getting child support.

port. This order of support can be administrative or court-ordered agreement which states that the parent without custody pays a fixed sum each month. Orders of support are legal obligations, and if the absent parent does not follow this payment schedule, the prosecuting attorney's office can file either civil or criminal charges. If civil charges are filed, the person

can be found in contempt of court; criminal charges can lead to probation.

Without this formal order of support, custodial parents cannot count on the money. Orders of support become an issue when the parent never marries. Usually an order of support is included in a divorce settlement, but never-married custodial parents

(in this case, usually mothers) must first obtain a formal order of support in order to pursue continued payments of child support.

To do this, the custodial parent must contact the Division of Child Support Enforcement. This agency will establish paternity, and the cus-

see Support, page 4

Child Support Numbers

**St. Louis City**  
Missouri Division of Child Support  
1501 Locust St.  
340-7707  
111 N. 7th 340-7400  
Circuit Attorney Child Support Division  
622-4021

**St. Louis County**  
Missouri Division of Child Support  
9900 Page 340-4485  
11775 Borman  
340-3800  
Prosecuting Attorney Family Support Division  
889-3394

**St. Charles County**  
Missouri Division of Child Support  
3737 Truman  
940-3100  
Prosecuting Attorney Child Support Division  
949-7365

## CHARIS celebrates Women's History Month

by Becky Rickard  
of The Current staff

On Saturday, March 15, CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus, presented "Women Rising," a concert celebrating Women's History month. The Florissant Civic Center housed the event.

The concert celebrated outstanding achievements by women throughout the 20th century.

Women such as Rosa Parks, U.S Representative Barbara Jordan and Israeli political leader Golda Meir, were honored for their accomplishments. Special attention was given to nationally recognized women who have ties with St. Louis, such as celebrated dancer Josephine Baker, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and black beauty-care guru, Annie Malone.

Every ray of the musical spectrum was touched, from rock and pop to spiritual and jazz.

St. Louis jazz great, Jeanne Trevor, added to the production by engaging in a written script between a grandmother and granddaughter. The script highlighted race, class and gender issues throughout the generations.

Trevor also performed a few musical numbers with the chorus.

The script was written by Amy Adams Squire Strongheart, a local author, syndicated columnist and



photo by: Scott Lokitz

### CHARIS

advocate of gay and lesbian rights, to enhance the messages of the songs.

"The script brings out themes and weaves the songs together," says Dina Young, representative and member of CHARIS.

CHARIS was organized in 1993 to promote music by, for and about women.

The group holds three major concerts a year, each with a message of peace, equality and non-discrimination.

The next performance will be held June 28 and will include a family togetherness theme. Because the con-

cert will be held in association with Pride Week, gay and lesbian issues will also be addressed.

CHARIS is hoping to team up with Pieces of Eight, a St. Louis a cappella vocal group, in their next performance.

The performance will be held at the Ethical Society at 8001 Clayton Road.

CHARIS is always looking for new members.

If you are interested in performing in the next production or want ticket information call, 726-0250.

## Portrait of a young artist

Shawn Telkamp tries to break into the big time

by Jill Barrett  
features editor

The romantic vision of the starving artist is not very romantic to those young artists who are struggling to make their mark on the artistic world. In today's world, the issue is less about basic survival than about choices — whether to follow a path that offers security or one that brings fulfillment. Shawn Telkamp, a young painter in his early twenties, came face to face with that decision after his recent graduation from Webster University.

"The hardest part is not only finding the time to do what you want to do, but also letting yourself do what you want to do," Telkamp said. "It's giving yourself the okay to follow the dream you want."

Telkamp, who graduated with bachelor's degrees in Fine Arts and Theater in May, 1996, struggled against the wishes of his parents, who wanted him to pursue a career in the family business, have a family of his own and a house in the suburbs.

"My father got accepted to play with the St. Louis Symphony way back when," Telkamp recalled. "He was a farming boy in Illinois, and he thought 'Oh, I have to move to the big city. I can't do that; I have to stay here and earn a living for a family.' There is nothing wrong with that, but

you have to come to the point where you say: 'Which dream do I want to live?'"

Telkamp believed that he had to ask himself what he was willing to sacrifice to live as a painter, but he also had to question what he might lose if he chose to work for his father's carpentry company.

"My father thought that I didn't

**"The hardest part is not only finding the time to do what you want to do, but also letting yourself do what you want to do."**

—Shawn Telkamp  
Artist

respect him at all because I chose not to be like the rest of my family," Telkamp said. "All my brothers are carpenters. My sister worked for him—everyone was into it except me. It took a long time for my father to understand that his dream for me was not the dream I had."

After coming to terms with pa-

see Artist, page 4

# Under Current

What is the best spring break you've ever had?



"My first time I went to Myrtle Beach — we drove all night to get there."

— Cristina M. Green  
Junior • Psychology



"Going to Florida to lie on the beach all day and party all night!"

— Kasey Kloster  
Senior • Special Ed



"My next spring break is always the best one!"

— Karen Huff  
Junior • Education



"I haven't had my best spring break so far — this semester's will be my best ever."

— Katy Auffenberg  
Junior • English

Support from page 3

odial parent can file for an administrative order of support. Then the custodial parent will have a legal basis to request enforcement of child support payments from the absent parent.

Child support enforcement laws became stricter in 1993.

According to Gardiner, in Missouri, officials had to prove that the absent parent fled the state to avoid paying child support.

After the 1993 law took effect, a parent can be charged with a felony if this person fails to pay 6 out of 12 months or is \$5,000 in arrears. This felony charge can mean up to five years in the state penitentiary.

"This new law has a lot more bite to it," Gardiner said. "We've filed quite a few felony charges in St. Charles County. We're not necessarily trying to put people in jail; we're hanging a hammer over some people's heads to make them do what they should do."

Why did the federal government crack down on child support?

According to the Congressional Research Service, only one-third of outstanding child support orders were collected in 1993—\$13 billion of \$34 billion.

Since single mothers—whether they were never married or divorced—comprise the biggest group of public assistance recipients, unpaid child support can mean more mothers on public assistance. Even if the parent's financial situation is not that drastic, the child suffers materially without support money.

"We don't want to send these people to jail," Gardiner said. "That helps no one. If they're in jail, how are they going to earn money to pay back their support?"

Gardiner said that his usual recommendation in such cases includes a probationary period and repayment of back child support plus up to 50 percent additional money.

"Sometimes people say 'Well, I never get to see the kids... so I'm not going to pay support,'" Gardiner said. "That's not an excuse. If [the

**"It's about the kids. That's what it's all about. They're the ones who end up suffering."**

custodial parent] is not complying with visitation rights, that's a violation of a court order, too, and the other parent can bring charges of contempt."

According to the Congressional Quarterly Researcher, experts in the field wish to start cracking down on visitation violators.

They argue that the parent/child relationship is as important as money.

While officials have been enforcing child support, these same officials have not been enforcing visitation rights.

"It's about the kids," Gardiner says. "That's what it's all about. They're the ones who end up suffering."

Artist from page 3

rental and societal pressure against becoming an artist, Telkamp began another struggle, that of beginning a career as a young painter. During his senior show at Webster, he sold \$1200 worth of artwork, and he has shown work locally at The Gothic Coffeehouse and Art Attack in the Central West End.

At these two places, Telkamp learned the economic side of art.

"A lot of times you run into a problem at places like that. They want a commission," Telkamp explained. "They ask you how much

you want for a piece of work, and then they'll add on whatever extra that they want."

For example, if Telkamp wanted \$400 for a painting, he might have to sell it for \$800. According to Telkamp, galleries add anywhere from 40 to 75 percent.

"Galleries eat prices alive," he said. "No one can afford that much for a painting, but my goal now is to get my name out, not so much to sell work."

Even if Telkamp never starts selling his work, he feels that he

owes it to himself to try. "It's probably the easiest way for me to express myself," he said. "If you want to be [an artist], you have to spend every minute of every day doing what you can. Unless you're wealthy, this dream seems so way out there. It's not not enough to say: 'I want to be an artist.' You have to find the technical aspect of art and hone in on it."

But even if nothing happens in my art career, I have to be able to say years from now that I gave it my best shot."

Column from page 3

**I eat candy until I feel the inevitable sugar coma coming on and then go back to the coffee, spending my days bouncing from caffeine highs to sugar highs.**

from the sugar bowl. He was so busy casing the place to see if his grandmother was around that he forgot to look right behind him, where I was standing. I couldn't scold him because I had been known to do the same thing in the past. (That didn't stop me from sneaking up behind him and saying—in the most parental voice I

could muster—"And just what do you think you're doing, young man?" I wanted to see how far he'd throw the spoon when I startled him.)

I gently explained to him that he really shouldn't eat sugar right from the bowl. The spoon would get all sticky and Grammy would find out every time. Much better

alternatives—ones that he could turn to only with adult supervision—were Pixie Stix and Lik-A-Maid. Both candies were nothing but colored sugar.

Although my personal preference was Pixie Stix (because I liked the name), Lik-A-Maid did have certain advantages. It had a candy spoon and was more technologically advanced than Pixie Stix. Lik-A-Maid came in flavors that changed colors (from blue to green, for example) if a little bit of saliva was added. It's entertaining as well as delicious.

That's my job—broadening the kids' horizons.

**THE GREEK ORTHODOX BYZANTINE CHOIR**

Midwest Premiere Performance  
8:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 20, 1997  
The St. Louis Cathedral  
4431 Lindell Boulevard

Medieval Byzantine chant, the music of the Byzantine Empire (324 A.D. - 1453), is the oldest tradition in Christian music. The concert will feature a Byzantine liturgical drama, "The Three Children in the Fiery Furnace."

The Greek Orthodox Byzantine Choir of Athens, under the charismatic director Lycourgos Angelopoulos, stands out in a field of thousands as the world's most critically acclaimed choir of Byzantine liturgical chant. The choir is known for its precise ensemble, beautiful vocal quality and its use of the Medieval Byzantine tradition of hand conducting.

Presented by the Karakas Family Foundation Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies of the Center for International Studies of the University of Missouri St. Louis and The Hellenic Spirit Foundation

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HELLENIC SPIRIT FOUNDATION

TICKETS (general seating): \$25

Metrox: 534-1111 \* St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church: 361-6924

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church: 618-288-3475

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church: 966-2255

Parking: ample, secure parking streetside and in church lot

For information about the concert: 516-5753



The National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) St. Louis Chapter is pleased to announce its 1997 Scholarship Competition.

The Chapter will award four scholarships for students pursuing graduate degrees, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and one undergraduate scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

Please call the NBMBA St. Louis Chapter Student Affairs hotline (314) 239-2404 to request scholarship material.

The completed application, essay problem, and transcript must be postmarked to the following address NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 1997:

NBMBA - St. Louis Chapter  
c/o Student Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box 5296  
St. Louis, Mo 63115

For additional information call Robert Lee at (314) 381-2626

**WELCOME TO THEIR WORLD**  
the debut album on Mercury Records featuring "Welcome," "Familiar" and "Bleed"

**JIM CARREY**

**TRUST ME.**

**LIAR LIAR**

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS AN IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION A BROADWAY PRODUCTION A TOM SHARTON FILM JIM CARREY "Liar Liar" MARGA THERY DENZEL WASHINGTON JENNIFER TILLY SHARON STONE JENNIFER LOPEZ AND PATRICK DEMPSEY COSTUME DESIGNER JOHN PENNEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES B. COOPER AND MICHAEL BOSTON PRODUCED BY PAUL QUINN & STEPHEN MALTON WRITTEN BY TOM SHARTON DIRECTED BY TOM SHARTON A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

**OPENS MARCH 21. HONEST.**  
www.universalpictures.com

DeGregorio, from page 1

mercy and nobody in the party had to eat the eyeball.

Before leaving for a foreign country, DeGregorio said he educates himself on its customs.

"In Asia, for instance," DeGregorio said, "taking a business card out of the right, front pocket and presenting it with two hands is a sign of respect."

He said he also learns some of the basics of the language.

"I learn how to say 'hello', 'goodbye', and 'can you help me?'" he said. "You want to make a good first impression. You want them to listen to what you have to say."

Sick with dysentery . . .

In May of 1994, DeGregorio was asked

to observe the election process in the Fujian province of China. One day at dinner with a group of Chinese and other foreign dignitaries, the menu was topped with snake, frog and shellfish.

Everything was cooked except for the shellfish, DeGregorio said. When a Chinese higher-up plopped one of the raw morsels on DeGregorio's plate, he respectfully accepted and ingested the crustacean.

A few hours later, DeGregorio said, he was very sick and soon had a temperature of 105. He suspected the shellfish as the cause of the severe case of dysentery he contracted.

DeGregorio spent six days in a Longyang hospital recovering from the illness. He said it took six months before he was back to normal.

"It was a nightmare experience," he said.

"I stayed in a hospital with no windows. They put a mosquito net over you. And at night, there's all kinds of bugs and roaches crawling around."

DeGregorio described the health care he received as primitive, with doctors working with instruments American physicians used 30 years ago.

"I was fortunate that they had good antibiotics," he said.

The incident was a huge embarrassment for the Chinese, DeGregorio said.

"Everyday, I had some official come to my bed with flowers," he said.

Helping a troubled SGA . . .

Last year, DeGregorio agreed to help the Student Government Association put together a set of election rules. He worked

with SGA President Bob Fritchey, Mario Love and Toby Lauer to help them put together a draft.

Past SGA elections have been rife with problems, DeGregorio said. He mentioned polls failing to open, polls closing too soon and the absence of a clear set of rules and regulations.

"There was no written procedures," he said. "They were flying by the seat of their pants."

DeGregorio will not get the chance to watch the SGA election next month. He will be returning to China to observe an election.

However, he said he has done all he can do, or will do, to help the students.

"It's not my job to run the election," he said. "It's up to them to implement the rules that have been laid down."

Dean, from page 1

class is not enough," Martinich said. "You need the commitment."

One of Holt's objectives would be to "try to see classes taught more than once." He added, "We need to have faculty associated with the Honors College at least part time, if not full time."

Charles Larson, an English professor, said the cost of professors has been an issue ever since the Honors College became a four-year program, rather than a two-year. Now the college needs to pay more professors. Larson suggested team-taught classes, and wanted to see more interdisciplinary classes.

Holt has experience with team-taught classes and said he likes the concept, as well

as interdisciplinary classes. Holt said students need interdisciplinary classes.

Larson warned Holt of an administration flux. The University of Missouri is currently seeking a new president, and vice chancellor positions at UM-St. Louis are becoming vacant. Larson said, "In two years you can bet you won't be talking to any of the same administrators."

"Except Kathy Osborn, raising money," Martinich added.

Holt does not see the administrative flux as a problem. "Maybe that opens up opportunities," he said. "Something's got to fill the gap. Why not the Honors College?"



Robert Bliss

Beeler, from page 1

Strengthening Institutions Grant.

Beeler's ongoing work with Title III seeks to improve admissions recruitment processes. Touhill cited this work as a major reason for her selection of Beeler to the interim post.

"Karl has shown a great deal of leadership especially in Title II and all the units that report to him," Touhill said. "I look forward to working with him."

In addition to his new du-

ties, Beeler will continue to oversee issues of student conduct as the primary administrative officer of the Student Code of Conduct.

Beeler joined the University in 1990 and has been serving as associate chancellor of Student Affairs since 1994. He replaces Lowe who served as vice chancellor of Student Affairs for 15 years.



Karl Beeler

ter and was directing editor for the 1995-1996 edition.

As directing editor, Fritchey was involved with production, sales, selections, organizational work and other duties.

While producing Litmag, Fritchey said he "did a lot of close work with The Current."

"I do well in running and organizing productions," Fritchey said. "Most of my experience lies in leadership."

Harrison, a junior, has been managing editor for The Current since May 1996. He has also managed a Burger King restaurant for the past 3 and 1/2 years.

Harrison joined The Current in winter '96, as a copy editor. Presently, Harrison also writes for the North County Suburban Journal.

"I started at the bottom," Harrison said. "I have experience here. I haven't just shown up and wanted the job [of editor in chief]. I feel I have an adequate knowledge of how the paper works in all of its processes."

So, who's the best one for the job?

Fritchey said he possesses three characteristics important for the position: leadership skills, connections and student advocacy.

"The president is 'the student voice of UM-St. Louis,'" Fritchey explained. "I represent the student body."

Fritchey added, "My connections in the University would

be an asset to reporting."

Harrison has been part of the staff for more than a year. He said he has gained valuable knowledge of how a newspaper is run.

"A lot of work goes between the final product on the rack and the initial interview," Harrison said. "It takes the experience I think I have."

If Fritchey gets appointed as editor in chief he does not plan to step down from the presidency. He said the two terms will not overlap much and, at that time, he will not be as active as he was earlier in the year.

"After the elections, most of the term as president will be spent breaking in the executive members," Fritchey said. "I will be stepping back to more of an advisory role in April. Most of the stuff should be done by the assembly."

Fritchey said he does not think holding both positions would be a conflict of interest. Students who are involved with student organizations frequently belong to more than one, he said.

As far as the positions of president and editor in chief, Fritchey said, "Both of our jobs are to call things as we see them."

Pikes collect cans for area needy

by Scott Lamar editor in chief

Keeping with a course of overcoming its tarnished image, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity sponsored a can food drive to benefit area needy.

The Mar. 1 party, which benefited the St. James Center of Normandy, garnered over 200 cans of food.

Pike president George Brier called the party a success and stated that the final tally exceeded his expectations.

"It was a lot more successful than I thought it would be," Brier said.

Why? "I thought people might think a can food drive at a party might be a joke and try to get in without a can," Brier said. "But it wasn't a problem. Everything went smooth."

The can food drive followed the fraternity's Condomfest party, which aimed at increasing awareness of sexually transmitted diseases.

The Pikes also held the first dry (meaning there was no alcohol) rush of the year, the only one of its kind among Greek organizations on campus.

In February of 1996, the fraternity's recognition was revoked by the Senate Student Activities Committee following an allegations of sexual assault, which was later dropped.

Last semester, however, the committee voted to reinstate the fraternity against the wishes of then vice chancellor of Student Affairs Lowe "Sandy" MacLean.

But according to former Pike president Ron Chamberlin, Chancellor Blanche Touhill supported MacLean and informed the fraternity that the committee's decision would not be honored.

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

BE PART OF A CREATIVE AWARD-WINNING STUDENT ORGANIZATION.

LITMAG NEEDS NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS FOR THE 1997-1998 ACADEMIC YEAR.

LITMAG

innovative creative rewarding successful visualize superior

The few,

The proud,

The Current

WIN A FABULOUS PRIZE

WALL-TO-WALL

Every Single Item In The Store Is On

SALE

SPRING SALE

1/2 OFF ALL BIRKENSTOCK SANDALS

NEW! GOR TEX HIKERS by H.H. BROWN reg \$159.99 NOW \$89.99 PLUS 1/2 OFF ALL ECCO SHOES & BOOTS



20% to 1/2 OFF ALL NEW BALANCE CASUAL & ATHLETIC SHOES



NEW! INTRODUCTORY SALE! DR. MARTINS SHOES & BOOTS NOW AT GRAVOIS BOOTERY

\*Coupon\* Bring this coupon for a bonus of 40,000 prize dollars Name Address City, State zip

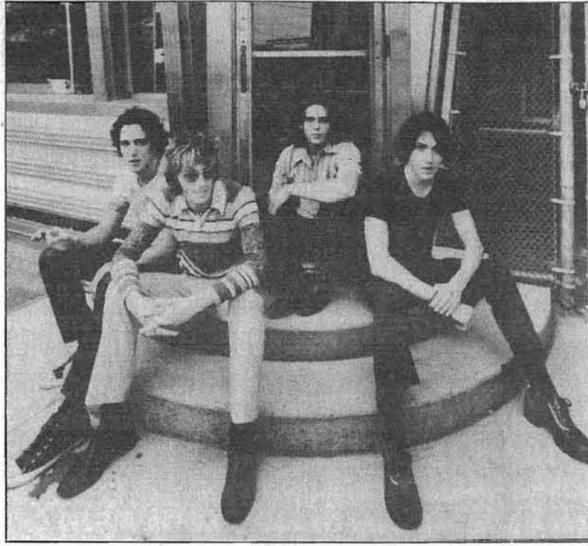
## Thin Lizard Dawn's catchy debut reminiscent of late Beatles

*Thin Lizard Dawn*—Thin Lizard Dawn (RCA Records)

This week I had the good fortune to review the self-titled debut album from Thin Lizard Dawn. To be truthful, I had never heard of this group until their cd was handed to me at *The Current* staff meeting. With a name like *Thin Lizard Dawn*, I expected a lot of loud noise. I was wrong.

*Thin Lizard Dawn* actually has an intriguing sound. The first time I popped it into my cd player, I enjoyed it. The second time I listened to it, I turned up the volume. The third time I played it, I was dancing to it. The songs are catchy. Each song has its own sound; Thin Lizard Dawn did not write one song and remake it ten different times with slightly different lyrics.

If you want a comparison to this band, check out late Beatles. The three part harmonies that Thin Lizard Dawn performs will make you reminisce about The Magical Mystery Tour. "Killing Charlie" is the most heavily influenced song on the cd. Other songs I like are "Sexual Dy-



*Thin Lizard Dawn*

namo," "Say What You Want" and "Power Ballad." Perhaps the funniest song (I know music isn't always funny, but this song is humorous) is "Sucks." It basically states that Oasis is a not-so-good rock-n-roll band.

I don't know if the cd is in stores

yet but if you see it, I would recommend it. It is a catchy album that grows on you. On the pit scale, a new scale with which I rate rock albums, it goes up to 5 mosh pits. I give this album 3.5 pits.

(Matthew Regensberger)

## Infinite Zero: an eclectic collection of obscure tunes

"Infinite Zero, Vol. 6—Various Artists (American Records)

This sixth volume of *Infinite Zero* includes songs from sources as unlikely as Devo, Trouble Funk, The Monks and Mississippi Fred McDowell. The original *Infinite Zero* collection began as an effort to keep obscure songs from the 'past alive. These songs certainly deserve a second listen. The group Trouble Funk inspired the early rap scene, and nowhere is

this influence more evident than in two selections on *Infinite Zero*—the raucous "Super Grit" and "So Early in the Morning."

This CD also provides much-needed American exposure to such songs as "Monk Time" by The Monks, which never saw release outside of Europe. This song, which opposed American involvement in Vietnam, is very dated but nonetheless interesting.

One negative note worth mentioning is the fact that the groups

featured range from electric pop to a combination of jazz and techno. Although each song stands well on its own, listening to the entire CD can be a jarring experience because one song can be a drastic change from the song immediately preceding it.

But *Infinite Zero, Vol. 6* follows its predecessors well and serves its purpose by promoting little-known—but very good—music.

(Jill Barrett)

## Ednaswap more than a mouthful

*Wacko Magneto*—Ednaswap (Island Records)

*Wacko Magneto* by Ednaswap provides a good example of musical diversity. Ednaswap's debut album combines a smorgasbord of punk, folk, metal and post-modern sounds without becoming disjointed or messy. Lead singer and lyricist Anne Preven uses her classical music training in the confessional selection "Violin Song," which gives a heartfelt conclusion to the eclectic CD. This haunting final song effectively closes the album dedicated to pushing the boundaries of musical categories. From the rhythmic intro "Stop Counting," to the tribal patterns of "Pale" and the metal guitar assault of "Shrapnel," *Wacko Magneto* does not fail to satisfy.

(Jill Barrett)

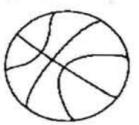


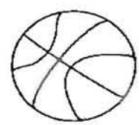
*Ednaswap*

# I WANT YOU

...to work at *The Current*. 516.5174 for information.









## MARCH MADNESS

### Final Four

### Basketball Special

in the

## Bookstore, Candy Store, and at the U-Mart

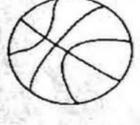
## Sign Up To Win --

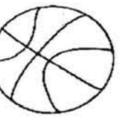
### Official Rawlings Basketballs, T-Shirts, Banners

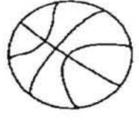
In Marillac Hall:  
at the U-Mart

In the University Center:  
at the Bookstore  
and the Candy Store

Drawing to be held March 24th  
Sponsored by Hershey  
Hershey Bars 2/\$.89









# Introducing the 1997 Rivermen baseball team

by Ken Dunkin  
sports editor

After a record breaking season and a trip to the College World Series, Rivermen Baseball Head Coach Jim Brady has found himself rebuilding his team again.

In all, seven players return from last season's team. Those returners include standout seniors Todd Schmidt and Dan Chinnici.

#### Catcher

**Todd Schmidt**—Schmidt not only handles the pitching staff well and blocks the plate but also is a phenomenal hitter. After getting used to college pitching in his first two seasons, Schmidt exploded with a .350 batting average and seven home runs. He will be the teams run producer.

#### Infielders

**Dan Chinnici**—A solid player, Chinnici has excelled in his three years with the program. He hit .375 with 53 RBI last season. The team's starting first baseman, Chinnici will be relied

on to bring in runs while batting early in the line up.

**Mike Stennett**—The team's leading hitter last season, Stennett batted .453. He led the team in runs (54), on base percentage (.535) and game-winning hits (7).

**Matt Beckman**—A career second baseman that comes to the program after playing at St. Thomas Academy in Minnesota, he hit .375 last season and .300 his junior year.

**James Hoffman**—Transferring from Labette Community College, Hoffman could see playing time at third base. He can also play at catcher.

**Chris Melsness**—A player who could play in the mid-infield positions, Melsness has played the past two seasons at Spokane Community College.

**Scott Luczak**—An all-around athlete that will see a lot of playing time in his first year with the program, Luczak is a shortstop and also a member of the Rivermen soccer team. He batted

.400 last season at Lindbergh.

#### Outfielders

**Tim May**—The only returning outfielder from last season, he hit .364 and stroked 5 home runs. He's a solid hitter who can also fill in behind the plate. May should be a key player for the

Rivermen again.

**Brian Payne**—Payne returns to the program after playing a minor role last season. He had five at bats and walked three times.

**Eric Blaha**—A big left-handed hitter. Blaha could fill a

role for the Rivermen. He played the past two seasons at Lake County Community College after starting four years at Antioch High School.

**Brandon Whitt**—One of the  
**see Baseball, page 8**



photo by: Ken Dunkin

The Rivermen baseball team accepts the award for being named the regional champions. The team has started off the season well and just completed a trip to Florida.

by Ken Dunkin  
sports editor

Nothing beats the excitement of high school basketball. Nothing comes even close in the sports world.

With my old high school Riverview Gardens advancing to the quarterfinals two weeks ago at the Mark Twain Gym, I got the chance to remember what it was like.

High school ball was such an etched-in-stone game.

No recruiting, no grade fixing, no scholarships. Just playing basketball to play basketball. The things that would come out of it were the ability to go play college ball and fame among your peers. Plain and simple.

High school March Madness is even more intense than its college counterpart. In high school, you know almost everyone in your school. It is your high school against the next. It's almost like a huge army roaring for a team.

It all changes in college.

No one knows as many people. Yeah, you know a lot of people, but you don't spend seven hours a day for four years together. Plus, the schools are much bigger.

In UM-St. Louis' case, no one even goes to the games. A few parents and a couple of die hard fans. That's it. But not as many as a low high school game. At Riverview we would have crowds that dwarfed the largest Rivermen game. And that was a blowout game on a Wednesday night.

So being able to see a high school game again was great.

Since the Rivermen were re-tched and didn't even make the conference tournament, it was as close to March Madness as I will get.

Riverview played tough. They were after all one of the top-ranked teams in the state. But Larry Hughes and company, all the rest are his supporting cast, just shot better and won. Hughes is going to be a great player at Saint Louis University. Given the opportunity to start from day one, this kid will shine. I had my doubts before this game, but when you shoot 11 for 16 and have 40 of your teams 77 points, you can change a lot of minds.

Hughes did that for me and many other people. Justin Tatum was not bad, but the guy didn't impress me. Getting in foul trouble early, whining and playing soft didn't really strike me as a player that will make SLU better.

Riverview's starters were o.k. in this game. Possible SLU recruit Brian Jefferson was never a factor as he only had 10 points before fouling out. Possible Division I recruit Bryant Robinson played hard but only came up with 12 points. CBC did what they had to do to shut the big men down.

They have now set up a possible all-St. Louis state Championship. Vashon rolled over Desmet in the second game. Now Vashon and CBC could meet in the finals.

Take CBC, Hughes is just too good.

## Men's basketball closes abysmal season

by Ken Dunkin  
sports editor

His first season in the Great Lakes Valley Conference was also Rivermen head coach Rich Meckfessel's worst ever; it finished 6-21.

Like any season, there were high hopes for this experienced and senior-rich team. But the new players didn't mix well with the old, and injuries set in. The season went down hill from there.

"I don't think we were a conference championship team, maybe not even a top-four team. But I thought we should have been as good as the bottom seven teams in the conference," Meckfessel said. "Finishing sixth in the league was possible. The bottom line is we didn't get the job done. Everyone shares the responsibility for that."

The team returned six players from the conference tournament qualifying team of a year before. But in the new and tougher conference, things were tough for the Rivermen.

"We turned the ball over too much, and we didn't play well as a team offensively," Meckfessel said. "Around late January when it became evident we were not going to the post-season, we didn't have that edge that would have gotten us four or five more wins."

Injuries also took their toll on the struggling team. Prize recruit Jason Frillman suffered many injuries this season. He would miss five games. Dwon Kelly broke his ankle mid-season after averaging 11.3 points per game.

"Two of the players we were counting on were not healthy," Meckfessel said. "Jason Frillman was never healthy, and Dwon Kelly went down on Jan. 23. He had not had a good season before that, but we had 14 games re-

**see Basketball, page 8**



Ryan Meyers drives to the lane.

photo by: Ken Dunkin

## Tennis team has high hopes for '97 season

by Brian Folsom  
sports associate

With many new faces and much improved talent, the 1997 UM-St. Louis tennis team looks to contend in the new Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Head coach Rick Gyllenberg is in his second year at the helm and said that he isn't really going to take a different approach because the talent has changed.

"We have have much more talent than we did a year ago," Gyllenberg said. "We are so much improved."

The team will have four freshman, one junior, and one fifth-year senior. Rich Durbin help strengthen the team.

In the new GLVC, Gyllenberg said his main goal is to get adjusted to the new teams and finish as one of the top eight teams in the conference, which would qualify them for the tournament at the end of the season.

"Anything better than that will be a nice surprise," Gyllenberg said.

In comparison to the old MIAA conference, Gyllenberg said that the bottom of the GLVC is a little weaker, but the top teams in the conference are tough, such as SIUE and Bellarmine.

"We don't really know too much about these teams yet because we haven't played them, but they will be decent," Gyllenberg said.

According to Gyllenberg, he will need the efforts of everyone on the team if they are going to be successful.

"Right now, I don't have that number one or two guy that is of national rank caliber, so everyone is going to have to

**see Tennis, page 8**

## Riverwomen end frustrating season

by Brian Folsom  
sports associate

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team dropped its last five games and finished the 1996-97 season 5-22.

The Riverwomen concluded its first season in the new Great Lakes Valley Conference with a 2-18 record with victories coming against Quincy and Lewis.

According to head coach Jim Coen, the team's record was not indicative of the way it played.

"We were very competitive the entire season, especially in the last four weeks," he said. "Although we didn't win, we were in every game, and we were just starting to come together as a team."

Coen, who was recently fired by Athletic Director Pat Dolan, said that he felt the team was close to winning the tight games.

"We just lacked a really big kid in the middle to grab rebounds," he said. "Denise Simon did a great job, but she really didn't have much help."

Coen added that the team went through some growing pains.

"These are great kids, but they just need a little more maturity as players," he said. "Maturity will come with time."

Coen said he was pleased with everyone's performance this season but was especially impressed with the play of Krystal Logan, Jamie Dressler, Donna Simon, Denise Simon and Charlee Dixon, who he said made the most strides this season. Dixon, a sophomore, had a team high 77 assists.

The Riverwomen will lose senior standout Deena Applebury, but Coen said that others will step up.

"You hate to lose your leading scorer, but others will fill in and I think the team will do all right," he said.

Applebury averaged 19 points per game, and she led the team in steals with 58. She shot a team high 36 percent from behind the three-point line.

"I don't know where we would have been without her," Coen said.

Sophomore Denise Simon led the team with 223 rebounds for a 8.3 per game average. Simon also

**see Women, page 8**

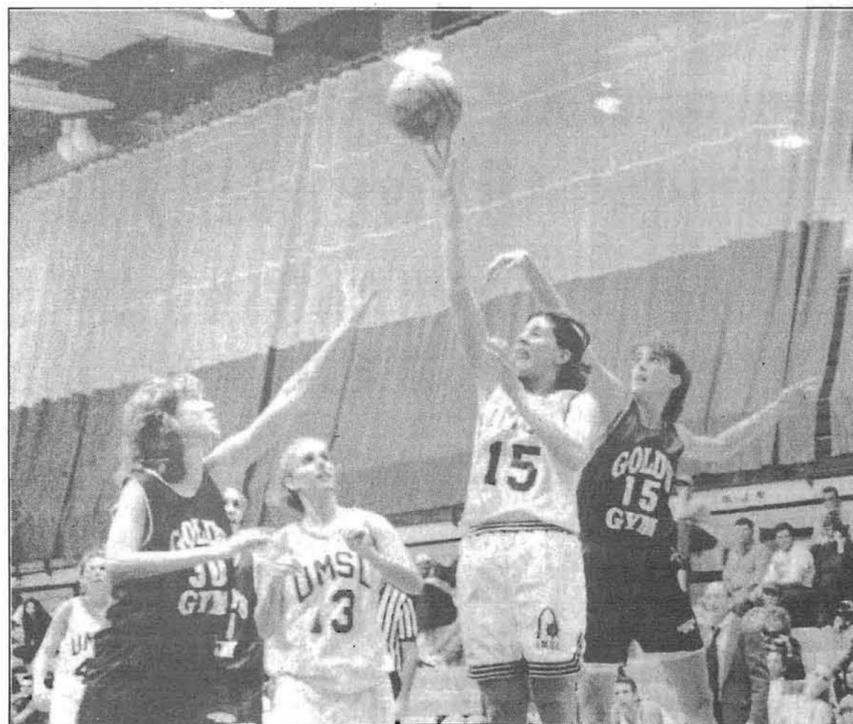


photo by: Ken Dunkin

Forward Denise Simon shoots while two opponents try to block her shot.

OFF THE WALL

# Baseball's season opener a smash

by Ken Dunkin  
sports editor

The Rivermen baseball team started off the season with a bang as they beat up on Westminster 10-0. Sparked by a pitching staff that only allowed two hits, the Rivermen made quick work of Westminster. Andy Seal started for the Rivermen going three innings.

He was perfect in his three innings. Dennis McCarty relieved him and allowed no runs and the only two hits of the game. In all, Head Coach Jim Brady used six pitchers in the shut-out. The offense was clicking early. Steve Johnson and Dan Chinnici scored when clean-up hitter Todd Schmidt doubled them home in the first.

Schmidt would later add an exclamation point to the victory with a home run in the eighth inning. Schmidt went 3 for 5 and had 3 rbi. Chinnici also went 3 for 5 with a rbi. Newcomer James Hoffman had a perfect day as he went 4 for 4 including a double and a stolen base.

## Baseball from page 7

many junior college transfers the team has, Whitt played last season at Brevard Community College. He started two seasons in high school.

**Steve Johnson**—A good new comer that could see playing time in the outfield, he hit .480 in high school. Johnson is a left-handed hitter.

**Joe Christian**—A switch hitter that could see time in the out-field and at pitcher, he's a freshman from St. Teresa's High School.

**Pitchers**  
**Andy Seal**—Seal should be the work horse of the staff. After he notched six wins without a loss last season and posted a 2.68 earned run average, there are high expectations for the team's leader in shutouts (3).

**Chad Thomas**—The big lefty

returns after having a season end in surgery. He posted a 2.35 era along with a 2-1 record last season. He could be the closer this team needs to win.

**Joe Radke**—A two-tier starter and a member of the Indiana State Champs in 1994. Radke could play a big role for the Rivermen.

**Josh Gerrard**—A lefty that joins the programs after playing two years at Meza Community College, Gerrard was a All-State first team selection while at Mountain View High School.

**Jeremy Hoback**—Hoback joins the team after playing two seasons on the Granite City varsity squad.

**Denny McCarty**—A new-comer to the squad, McCarty played four years for Arcadia Valley High School. He was team

MVP his junior and senior years. **Eric Stockmann**—This biggest player on the team at six-foot-four. Stockmann joins the team after playing two season in junior college. He went 5-1 his senior season in high school.

**Mark Winfield**—A solid lefty that could see a lot of time for the Rivermen. Winfield had a 1.87 earned run average in high school. He played the past two seasons at Kaskakia Community College in Granite City.

**Jeremy Birdeau**—A transfer from Waubensee Community College in Milwaukee. WI. he's a six-foot right-hander.

**Eric Stricker**—A big pitcher that has played on quality high school teams, he led his team in rbi and batting average his senior season.

## Basketball from page 7

maining, and junior college guys usually get better as the season goes on. Torrance Smith is an example of that."

After Kelly went down, Smith got the opportunity to play.

He had great games including 30- and 25-point efforts against IUPUI-Ft. Wayne and Quincy.

The team did have one bright spot. Rivermen center Kevin Tuckson finished eighth in Division-II standings with a 10.9 rebounds per game average. He also

led the team with 15.8 points per game.

"Two things made the season bearable," Meckfessel said. "Our players were great young men, and for the most part they played hard and did the right thing.

Also, watching Kevin Tuckson have a great year was rewarding. He had as good a season as any big man I've ever coached."

Though it will lose Tuckson, the team will add many new play-

Guard Kyle Bixler will join the team, and Mike Harris, a former starter for Indiana State, will finish his career at UM-St. Louis. Harris has been out of basketball for two years but, he has played high-tempo, competitive games.

"We think the two players we have added are good," Meckfessel said. "We just need to go out and get four more good players. This was a very disappointing season. It won't happen again."

## Women from page 7

averaged 8.4 points per game and led the team with 12 blocked shots.

Freshman Donna Simon also played extremely well finishing second on the team with 52 steals and

finishing second with 8.5 points per game.

According to Coen, the team has a great future. "We just need to replace Deena

with a good shooter and get a big post player to help out in the middle," he said. "This team was young, and they are only going to get better."

## Tennis from page 7

contribute and play tough," he said.

The Rivermen are in the midst of playing three nonconference matchups before conference play starts on Mar. 21.

They are scheduled to take on McKendree, Drury and Greenville.

Gyllenborg said he will use these three matchups to determine what the lineup will be when con-

ference play begins.

In the team's first matchup against McKendree, Gyllenborg said the team didn't play as well as he would have liked.

"We won only one of three doubles matches, and we are going to need to win those to be successful this season," he said.

Gyllenborg also added that the players didn't feel as comfortable as they need to be.

"We didn't have all the players there, and we still feel like we need a lot of practice, but I could tell the players were not comfortable," he said.

Gyllenborg said he feels confident that the team will be improved from last year, and he hopes to continue to get better.

"Right now we are only one or two players away from being a really good team," he said.

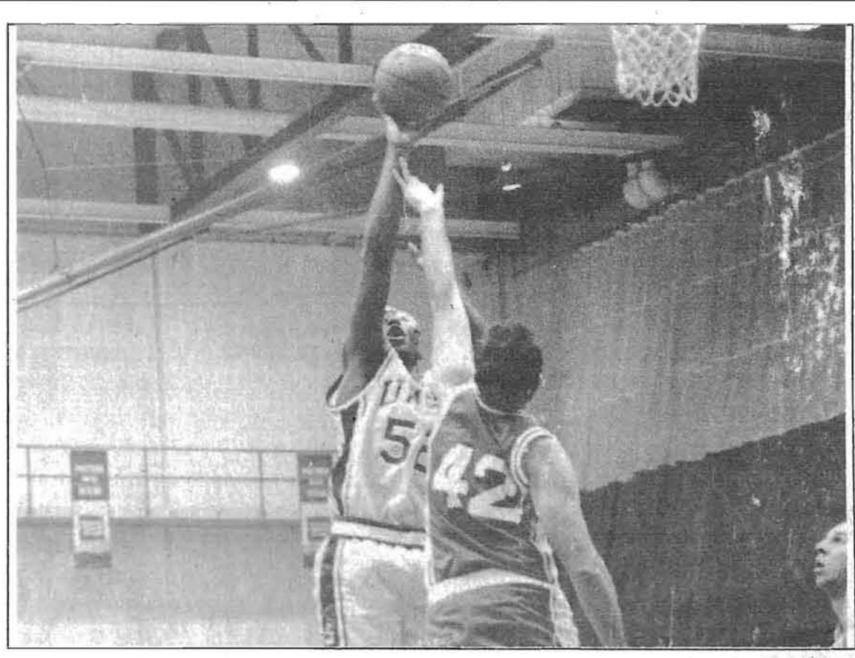


photo by: Ken Dunkin

Kevin Tuckson comes nose to nose with an opponent earlier this season.

# SGA Elections

President

---

Vice President

---

Comptroller

---

Representatives

Apply now in Student Activities Office

All Applications must be in by March 28th

Elections to be held April 8th and 9th

SEE HOLLYWOOD'S IDEA OF A REAL BLAST.

Bring This Ad and See SPECIAL EFFECTS at the OMNIMAX® for \$1.00 off with a valid college I.D.

**SPECIAL EFFECTS** at the OMNIMAX®

Show Times: Fridays at 7:00 & 8:00 pm. And Saturdays at 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 pm. Now through April 10th.

St. Louis Science Center

The Playground For Your Head.

(Not valid with any other offer. Must have this Ad & valid Student I.D.)

DANCE TO DRUMS BENEATH 78 YARDS OF HANGING INTESTINES.

(NO, IT'S NOT ANOTHER FRATERNITY PARTY.)

**AFRICA**

ONE CONTINENT · MANY WORLDS

St. Louis Science Center

The Playground For Your Head.

See the AFRICA: One Continent. Many worlds. exhibit at the Exploradome for \$1.00 off with a valid college I.D. Friday and Saturday 5:30-8:30 pm. (Entrance times, exhibit closes at 9:00 pm.) Now through April 10th.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. MUST HAVE THIS AD & VALID STUDENT I.D.

Ford TIME NationsBank SE LOUIS AMERICAN



**90.7  
KWMU**

**25**  
Quality Radio  
Since 1972

*Celebrating*

*25 Years in St. Louis*

KWMU is a service of the University of Missouri-St. Louis