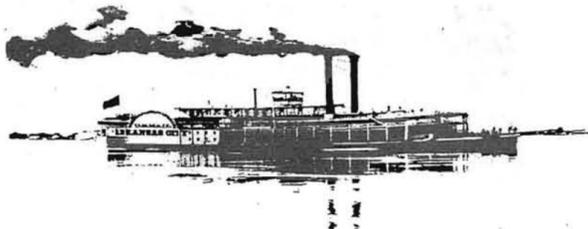


The Riverwomen softball team takes the field in Florida. See page 7.



Writer Becky Rickard has an in-"Depp"th experience. See page 3.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

Issue 884

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 24, 1997

Curators approve design of U-Center

• 'One-stop shop' three years away

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

(Rolla, Mo)—The Board of Curators approved on Friday a \$31 million structure tabbed as the "one-stop shopping" center for students.

Architects for the U-Center may now proceed with completion of the final designs before UM-St. Louis officials accept bids on the project from contractors.

Michael Kennedy of Kennedy Associates presented the plan before the curators and described the U-Center in detail.

He said that Kennedy Associates, which worked in conjunction with Chiodini Associates, tried to create a building that was user-friendly, festive and convenient.

"The first design objective was to energize the image of the campus," Kennedy said. "The U-Center, therefore, has to be a dramatic beacon that invites and welcomes students and faculty as they arrive on campus."

The new U-Center will rest in the valley between parking lot E and Garage C.

Students will enter the building on the second floor and immediately find themselves looking down into the dining area and through a large, curved, two-story glass atrium.

Most of the building's exterior consists of brick and glass. The green roof gives the student center what Kennedy calls "a character and vitality that set it apart from the other buildings on campus."

A 320-foot enclosed pedestrian bridge will span the distance from the U-Center to the stairs located between Lucas and Clark Halls.

Internal features include a food court and sites for the Women's Center, Health Services and the Disabled Student Center.

The second floor of the building is where much of the hustle and bustle will take place.

Here, multi-level vistas will allow visitors to view the quadrangle, which may include a large reflecting pool (an added attraction called for within the Masterplan). The bookstore, registration, several retail shops, financial aid and cashier's office will be housed on this level.

The third level is intended to be more quiet. Several conference rooms, quiet studies and student organizational offices will be located here. In addition, multi-level vistas and social lounges will be available on this level.



A look into the future



An artist's rendering of the new student center.

Construction begins next May...

Though much of the initial design is complete, much more has to be done before construction can begin. Laura Rees, project coordinator for the U-Center, said the architects will now begin the design development phase. This entails refining the design of the floor plan to make sure it meets all of the current building codes, she said.

"We will be getting into more detail," Rees said, "regarding building systems including structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and refining the floor plans."

Rees said this phase could last about four months. Then the architects will draw the construction documents, which are issued to the contractor. Rees said this process could last as long as five months.

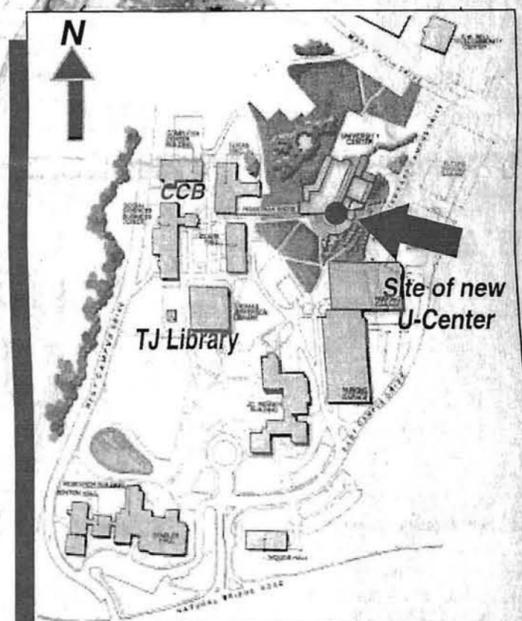
"Then in the early part of '98," Rees said, "the project will go out to bid with a groundbreaking in May of '98."

Squeezing in the amenities...

To finance the U-Center, the University will issue approximately \$29 million in revenue bonds. An additional \$3.5 million will be used out of general campus funds to help fund the building. However, amenities such as the pedestrian bridge and escalators may have to wait until Chancellor Blanche Touhill can locate more money if the bid for the project comes in too high.

"We have to stay within a certain amount of money," Touhill said. "So the bridge is one of those things we're going to say, 'what will it cost to

see U-Center, page 10



The current campus layout.

Airport expansion threatens observatory

by Jerry Weller
of The Current staff

The controversial W1-W plan to expand Lambert Field threatens more than just Bridgeton, according to Richard Schwartz, chairman of the UM-St. Louis Physics and Astronomy Department. Schwartz says implementation of the plan would seriously compromise the campus observatory's value.

"The W1-W plan will, in effect, destroy the research mission of the observatory," Schwartz said.

Proponents of the plan claim that it is necessary to improve the airport in order to maintain St. Louis' status as an aircraft hub.

Lambert Field's existing runways cannot be used efficiently because they are too close together for multiple planes to land safely when the weather is bad, officials say.

Under the W1-W plan, part of Bridgeton would be razed in order to create a new runway south and west of the existing runways.

Schwartz fears the research mission of the observatory would be se-

see Airport, page 6

Get it while it's hot



photo: Ashley Cook

Serven Carruth prepares a hot dog for Pauletta Whitehorn.

State senator proposes tuition freeze

Says increases must come to a halt

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

A state senator from St. Charles says a message must be sent to officials in higher education to stop skyrocketing tuition.

Senate Minority Leader Steve Ehlmann (R-St. Charles) recently introduced an amendment that he says will keep officials in higher education from absorbing a \$1,500 tax credit proposed by Gov. Mel Carnahan.

If approved, the bill would limit tuition increases at public colleges and universities to the rate of infla-

tion. Ehlmann likened soaring tuition costs to rising health care costs.

"Tuition has been rising at an average of 7.8 percent nationwide over the past 20 years," Ehlmann said. "When we had that type of increase over that period of time for health care, they called it a crisis. At some point, we've got to decide the cost of higher education."

Ehlmann said university administrators have to learn to stay within a budget. He said the maximum amount a professor can earn should be kept to a certain amount. He cited that pro-

fessors' average salaries in the UM system have risen from \$57,000 to \$72,000 over the past three years.

"When is it going to stop," he asked. "It just can't keep going on and on forever."

However, James Krueger, vice chancellor of Technological and Managerial Services, said, if implemented, the plan could ultimately hurt students.

"I think it's good for students," Krueger said. "But it could adversely affect the campus depending on the

see Freeze, page 6

Presidential candidate calls for up-graded computers

by Bill Rolfe
news associate

So far, only one candidate has officially entered the race for a position on the Student Government Association executive committee.

Jim Avery, a sophomore biology major, is the lone candidate (at press time) running for SGA president.

Bob Fritchey, the current SGA president, said one other student has applied for vice president. As of March 19, the applicant was waiting on the Student Activities Office, which checks the records of all who

apply, before releasing his/her name.

But even with that application, there still would not be enough candidates to fill the three executive committee positions. Fritchey call this "typical."

"Traditionally, most of the applicants sign up on or right before the deadline (March 28)," Fritchey said.

Fritchey added that several people have approached him about entering the election, but none of them have signed up yet.

Avery, 25, does not currently hold a position in the SGA General Assembly. He said his absence may

provide some fresh ideas and fair leadership.

"As a student who has never been involved with the student government, I can come in with clear objectives," Avery said. "I don't know anybody in the SGA, and I don't owe anybody any favors."

The main concern Avery wants to address as president is the quality of the campus computer labs. He complained that the computers are old and slow, and they are constantly crashing.

see Avery, page 6

Who will lead us?

It's about that time of year when it's out with the old and in with the new for the Student Government Association.

I'm sure most students don't know who the SGA president is, let alone the fact an election to replace him is on the horizon. But who can blame them? Little or no fanfare has emerged out of the smattering of hum-drum assembly meetings. The highlight of the year so far consists of the recently passed election rules. Commendable, but nothing strong enough to provoke new interest in student politics.



Scott Lamar
editor-in-chief

Personally, I've waited for the SGA elections for a long time. I would like nothing more than to see two or three candidates emerge, each with an original, exciting campaign platform. Something a little more creative than,

"I want more students to get involved." That tired slogan has been recycled time and again and has never worked.

Unfortunately, my hope for a three-person race is fading fast. The filing deadline for candidates is Friday and only one man, Jim Avery, has officially entered the ring.

Kudos to Avery for having the courage to take on the responsibility of leading the students. It's a daunting task given the apathetic nature of a commuter campus.

But c'mon people, somebody stand up and give this man some competition. One person races tend not to make for exciting press during political campaigns of any kind.

Not to take anything away from Avery. In an interview with *The Current*, he outlined an agenda that should pique the interest of the campus.

He suggests that SGA publish a booklet that lists the UM-St. Louis instructors followed by an evaluation from students. I'm sure most professors would scowl at the notion, but I think it's a fabulous idea.

It's similar to Slam Tables at the University of Texas-Austin. There, during registration, students have the opportunity write an anonymous and uncensored evaluation of professors on tables covered with butcher paper and divided into education subjects. The tables are meant to aid students in selecting their courses.

Though professors at UT-Austin equate the practice with writing on bathroom walls, the Slam Tables in Austin have proven to be a success. In fact, one student set up an online version of the tables. Establishing a forum for students to communicate at a large commuter campus such as this one would be a leap of epic proportions.

Currently, the only common bond students have is their local high school affiliation. Well, that and the campus computer situation.

Which leads to Avery's next issue: addressing the University's student computing fee.

Avery cited the increasing demand on students to use e-mail and the Internet in the computer labs. He contends that the fee shouldn't be as high as it is (\$6 for each credit hour) when the computers are always crashing.

Despite the fact that the computer issue is of interest to most students, it has not been raised by an SGA president in years.

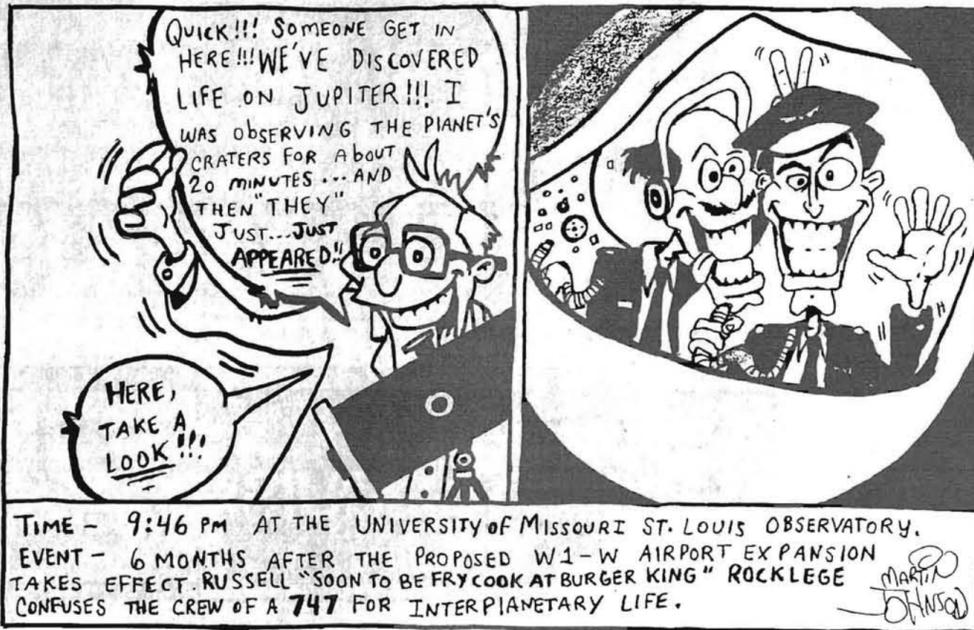
Avery has some good ideas, but there are other issues that another inspired candidate could ride to the polls.

The University system's backward incremental grading policy is but one. There's a D+, C+ and a B+, but where's the A+?

Or what about the ridiculous attendance policies many instructors enforce. I suppose just because we're adults and pay a healthy sum for tuition doesn't mean we can make the choice to stay home if we so choose.

Though many students never talk each other, there are still many issues that pertain to them on this campus. And student involvement is not on the list.

Anyone can run for a political office on this campus. That's the easy part. The difficult part, as past presidents' records have shown, lies in pinpointing and addressing the issues that affect the entire student body. Furthermore, an SGA president that can develop new policies and practices that elicit student discussions and debate is the true challenge and the best measure of success.



Familiar ritual nothing new to colleges

Look out college students. It's a rising trend in colleges and universities across the nations. It's probably the last thing people like you and me think about at this time in our lives. It's not the new attendance policies; it's not studying to pass midterms. It's not even what this May's graduates are doing after commencement.

In fact, it is something so common that some of us don't even think about it until after it happens and we are sleeping in our bed. What is this new trend to hit this campus and other colleges and universities?

It's the innocent ritual of one night stands. That's right friends. They are out of the movies and into our lives. No more fictitious *Beverly Hills 90210* episodes. This is real life, and it can happen to you and me.

The national news on Saturday evening, Mar. 1, 1997, donated an entire five minutes to air a segment about the stereotypical 90's practice. I would imagine some of you right now are saying to yourself, "Oh my gosh! Am I a statistic?" According to the nightly news, 1 in every 15 students has had the mean-

ingless experience of a one night stand. In this diverse university community, that figures out to be exactly a buttload of people.

Can you believe it? One night stands are a rising tradition on university campuses. I never would have guessed.

Have I been in the dark since my arrival to this institution? Chances are it's the news agencies that have been in the dark. One night stands are as common on this campus as the continuing rise in tuition.

Can these two be connected in some way? I doubt it, but it was worth a thought. To tell the truth, one night stands are more common than we might think. Meet at a college dorm room, socialize, go to a drinking establishment, socialize a little bit more, retire to some other dorm room, become a statistic and wake up the next morning with a headache and a weird sensation that you did something else besides the normal socializing you are used to.

The curators are already intimating that another five-year plan could follow close behind newly-named system president Manuel Pacheco's Aug. 1 arrival. The Governor's bill might just be the scapegoat curators need to put the hurt on students' wallets for another half decade.

The propagandists in both the system and UM-St. Louis insist the new five-year plan, if in fact it becomes reality, would only increase tuition by the rate of inflation (the same as Ehlmann's amendment), rendering legislative intervention unnecessary and unwanted.

But in these the final months of the inaugural five-year plan, University officials are scrambling to scrap together every last dollar they can find under couch cushions and in desk drawers to replace revenue formerly had by simply dipping into students' pockets. Furthermore, that the University finds itself financially strapped the first year after the five-year plan ends will likely become yet another reason, along with Carnahan's plan, that administrators and system officials will use to justify another five-year reign of financial terror.

Ehlmann's idea is sounding better all the time. These budget cuts (or budget reallocations as the spin doctors like to call them) only mask a deeper problem rooted not in a lack of funds but in a lack of fiscal responsibility and stewardship on the part

You ask yourself, "Who and how was it?"

Does anyone find a problem with one night stands?

I would love to hear your response because right now, I cannot think of an argument that establishes any ethics or morals behind it. Sure you can use the "responsibility" argument or the "I have been used" argument. But these do not put the responsibility on any party involved.

Is this wrong? I don't know. Am I susceptible to becoming a participant in this rising ritual? I don't know if I want to be. And, am I weird for thinking that way? All these questions race through my mind and cloud the logical answers.

I guess the answer to all of these predoctorate inquiries is simple in and of itself. The most evident answer would be: be safe. Have fun, be careful and don't become a statistic. If you get the opportunity to participate in this ritual, the least you could do is know each other's names.

Holway is a freshman English major and an opinion writer for The Current.



Craig Holway
guest columnist

Legislator's 'freeze' a good idea for students

Freeze. The word has long been associated with food preservation and poorly written cop movies, but state senator Steve Ehlmann wants to make it part of every student's and administrator's life by freezing college tuition at Missouri public institutions of higher education.

Ehlmann's proposal, which would allow tuition to increase annually by no more than the rate of inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index, is in response to Governor Mel Carnahan's recommended \$1,500 tax credit to students and their parents for the first two years of higher education at a public college or university, a plan Ehlmann says will "provide no financial relief to college students and their parents."

Clearly, Ehlmann is on to something here. The Governor's proposal does not adequately protect students from tuition increases similar to the five-year plan within the UM System that has nearly doubled tuition since 1992.

Ehlmann is right when he says, "the colleges [and universities in the state] will know you have this new found money and will be tempted to raise their tuitions, gobbling up the entire amount."

of University and system administrators.

The most "growing and dynamic" segment of this University is most likely the bureaucracy, and bureaucrats don't come cheap. To make matters worse, administrators and system heads come to students with hands out and guns drawn every time the coffers are low because they are too cowardly to deny greedy professors annual salary hikes.

Regardless of what the intellectual elitist mentality of academia would have us believe, students and faculty members exist symbiotically: we can't learn without them; they can't justify research without teaching somebody something. And since salary increases accounted for much of the last five years' tuition increases, it seems only fair that students should enjoy, at the expense of faculty members and their gravity-defying salaries, five years free of the unspeakable effrontery that was the five-year plan.

Acting in collusion with each campus' administration, the system and its opposition to Ehlmann's plan speak volumes about the representation, or lack thereof, that students have on the Board of Curators and even at the local administrative level.

We never thought our Robin Hood would be a politician.

Doug Harrison

Creating the news and reading it

Every morning on my way to school, I drive by a rack full of *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The stand is chained to a stop sign, so coming to a complete and unmistakable stop not only keeps those quota-mongering Normandy Police away from me but also allows me to glance at the headlines to see what's the big news in the city each morning.

From this morning ritual I discovered that McDonnell-Douglas had merged with Boeing, that two allegedly crooked old men hiding out in Chile were finally back in the Gateway City and that a man named Orenthal owes somebody a lot of money.

In this manner, I know what people are talking about

when I catch snatches of conversations that refer to these newsy items of interest. Furthermore, I can appear at least remotely informed until I have a chance to read the paper in its entirety. But as a budding young journalist, I ought to know better than this.

Readers who rely totally upon just one source, or even two or three, for news of current events throw themselves at the mercy of a handful of journalists. Every day, in a thousand newsrooms all over the free world, groups of editors huddle around a conference table and a pot of Maxwell House to decide what is news.

Clearly some decisions are easier than others. If you're in St. Louis and one of the metro areas largest, most lucrative employers merges with another larger, more lucrative industry giant, the choice is pretty obvious.

Unfortunately, most choices aren't that simple. That complexity can be attributed to a number of sources, and to attempt a discussion of them all would prove tedious and insufferably long. What emerges, though, from such a discussion is that journalists and readers alike must retain a sense of perspective when covering and ingesting news.

For journalists, the choices that make up that perspective are daily obfuscated by the perverted, often masochistic and insatiable thirst Americans seem to have for tales of misery, suffering, pain and disaster. This is not to excuse or dismiss the apparent genetic propensity many journalists have for the darker sides of life.

But in defense of my colleagues, however disreputable many of them may be, the widespread criticism of the media (which has become an industry itself) is often the result of readers' misguided interpretations of journalists' finished product.

I've wondered for years if the same naysayers who malign journalists for over playing airline crashes and natural catastrophes would patronize the same news sources that reported in depth every day the thousands of airplanes that did not crash and the millions of people who were not victimized by a tornado or an earthquake or a monsoon. The journalist's job is to report that which is unexpected, uncommonly good, indecently unfair or egregiously abusive. That many of us do not temper our work with a healthy dose of responsibility, ethics and morality bespeaks individual character flaws, not industry-wide corruption.

Unfortunately, the awe-inspiring graphics, impressive photo spreads and marquis reporters that accompany these reports too many times wow readers into accepting at face value what they read, see and hear as indisputably objective and undeniably true. When those dazzling spreads that appeared above reproach turn out to be a little disingenuous or hyped, readers feel duped and harbor an intense contempt that festers with every newspaper, radio program and television newscast produced.

So I'm not sure if, as Keats said, truth is beauty, beauty truth. For the truth, or a form of it, as journalists record it and readers receive it is often anything but beautiful. I am confident, though, that truth and objectivity are but a goal.

That we miss it does not mean we have failed to aim for it.



Doug Harrison
managing editor

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Rat's Ranblin's



Michael J. Urness
entertainment writer

They're quick to dress like other Americans in blue jeans, cowboy hats and sunglasses. Many smoke American cigarettes and drink American beer. They even drive the trendy sports cars and utility vehicles du jour that other Americans drive, yet on the roadways, they stick out like fishnet stockings at a funeral, because apparently Asian Americans, Middle-Eastern Americans and other ethnic minorities fail to fully comprehend and/or appreciate one of the oldest American traditions, civil disobedience.

I know it's not fashionable, and God knows it's not politically correct to find fault with a minority group, especially when the person finding the fault is a member of the dominant culture. But I'm only raising the issue in an effort to help these minority group members achieve the assimilation their other behaviors suggest they want to achieve.

In recent weeks, when rushing from one job to the next or from school to home, I've wound up behind several different cars that were doing the speed limit—one was going even slower—in the fast lane. In every case these cars were being driven by people who appeared to be of Asian or Middle Eastern descent.

And in each case frustrated and angry drivers were passing them on the right and casting angry looks at the offending vehicle's occupants as they passed. I noted in every case when I went to pass, the driver and front seat passenger stared straight ahead while, in three of the instances, children or young adults looking embarrassed and humiliated cowered in the back seat. They knew their parents were violating societal norms, yet they were powerless to do anything about it.

Assimilation is difficult enough for a minority group when the members' physical characteristics alone make them stand out when compared to members of the dominant culture. It will be difficult if not impossible to achieve when members of such minority groups refuse to adopt a behavior that so many view as the one that clearly sets Americans apart from other nationalities.

This country is built on a foundation of civil disobedience. Our colonial forefathers wrote the book on it. And today the traditions of speeding, insulting the cop who catches you, acting indignant at having to appear in court and glaring at the judge when ordered to pay a fine are every bit as much a part of the American fabric as Levi's®, Coke® and lawsuits over copyright infringements.

Are these people just so cheap they don't want to pay a fine, I asked myself. Or are they simply scared that if they're caught violating the law, they'll be thrown in jail or deported?

Being a devout student of human behavior, I was intrigued by this phenomena and curious to know whether it was merely a coincidence that all these deviants were ethnic minorities or if a definite pattern had developed.

I don't have the answer yet, but I would sure be interested in hearing from those who have been passengers in these vehicles. Specifically I'd like to know the English translation of what the male drivers are saying through those clinched teeth when people are driving alongside them honking, cursing and making obscene gestures.

Until I'm through with my study, please try to be patient with these people when you encounter them on the roadway. For many, this is the first country they have had a chance to own a car or drive in.

see Column, page 4

The Art of AIDS: Artist creates unique chronicle of life, death

by John Jones
features associate

How can a person feel or empathize with the suffering of another without ever having experienced that same pain? A panel of six people gathered last Thursday to discuss this and other questions regarding the controversial art exhibition of artist Jeff Colby that opened recently in Lucas Hall Gallery 210.

Jeff Colby died of AIDS almost two years ago. He left behind a legacy of art that acts as an autobiography of his life and his struggle with the disease. In his work, Colby went to great lengths to expose his feelings of helplessness, hope, and, at times, stark terror of living with AIDS. To help define his work, he went as far as the use of his own tainted blood as a medium in his art.

"You may turn away in distaste, not wanting to be associated with this," said panelist Kent Smith of the State Museum of Springfield, Ill., concerning the art's graphic nature. "He does not deal with this in the way of, I think, someone who has found peace."

Colby used several different types of constructions in his art. Most have traces of Colby's blood incorporated. He hits the viewer with many powerful images of religious significance, mixed in with blood filled sample vials, needles and gauze strips that the artist collected over his many hospital visits.

"Clearly, the audience must bring a great deal to the work," Stephanie Ross of the UM-St. Louis philosophy department explained. She said that the audience must know a little about the disease and Colby's experience to appreciate the artist's message. "Is it inevitable that art is autobiographical?" she asked.

The astute eye will notice that Colby was chronicling, through his art, his experiences. He describes the loss of his right eye due to an AIDS associated infection in two of his works titled the *Comfort Series*. In this series, he had taken several turn-of-the-century advertisements featuring facial views of attractive models and placed gaping black holes over their right eyes. This helps the viewer to visualize Colby's partial loss of sight and what it meant to him.

One member of the panel was moved. Richard Goss is a minister for the Metropolitan Community Church. He has helped many people stricken with AIDS, including his partner of fifteen years. "As I look at it I see stories that I've known."

Melissa Rountree, the associate curator of fine art at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, described some of Colby's last works as an urgent message.



At left, two of artist Jeff Colby's creations currently on display in Gallery 210: top, *Luck of the Draw* (1992).



Bottom, *Light a Candle* (1992). Colby (pictured here in 1995)

incorporated into his art elements and materials related to AIDS, the disease from which he suffered and ultimately died in 1995.

Colby knew that his time was growing more limited. In response, he churned out works as fast as his body would allow. In his work *Icarus Ascending*, Colby used hypodermic needles, filled blood sample vials, art supplies and needles.

He had combined the three into an abstract whole that gives the viewer the idea of the subject

rising but dread at the circumstances that will cause the eventual fall.

One panelist summed up his view of the work as: "as close as I'll ever be to that kind of terror."

The exhibition will be on display until April 26th. The gallery is located in room 210 of Lucas Hall.

Writer spends spring break with the stars in L. A.

The phrase "life in the fast lane" has never applied to me until two weeks ago.

On spring break, I had the good fortune of travelling to the West. Two of my friends and I flew into Phoenix on Thursday night, March 6, to visit another friend.

On Friday, the four of us piled into a Mitsubishi 3000GT with our luggage—destination: Los Angeles.

We began our first night at a bar in the hotel behind ours called The Peninsula. Feeling extremely uncomfortable in jeans at such a classy establishment in Beverly Hills, we obviously did not stay to finish our drinks.

However, as we were waiting for our cab outside the bar, we met a hotshot cigar dealer, Yarm, who gave us the secret password to Sky Bar, one of the hottest bars in L.A.

We were a little reluctant to take his advice, but after the valet pulled his white Dodge Viper into the carport, we decided to try it out. The password worked like a golden key.

I, Becky Rickard, 22-year-old, average native St. Louisan without much travel experience, was in the hottest

bar (not club) in L.A., city of the stars (not angels).

The drinks were expensive, but the setting falsely seemed worth it.

My friends and I decided to take a spot on one of the many couches lined against the walls to absorb the experience. As I looked to my left, I saw a familiar face. I looked again, only to discover that Drew Barrimore was sitting on the couch

next to us. It is strange how average the covergirl of childhood stardom-gone-awry seemed.

Yarm was extremely excited to see us when we actually built up the nerve to hobnob in the main bar. After a grueling conversation with him, we decided to go back to the hotel and rest up for the next day of shopping on Rodeo, seeing the stars on the sidewalk of Hollywood Blvd. and, of course, using the same password for entrance into Sky Bar.

Our quest for sleep was prolonged when the head bouncer began showing us where the stars were hiding. Leonardo Di Caprio was walking around the far left corner. Dean Cain was flirting in the near right corner, and George Clooney was just being his sexy self about three feet in front of me.

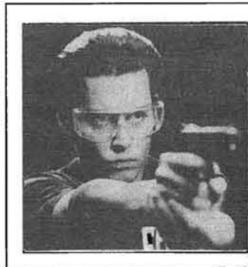
Pictures and autographs were out of the question so the only way we could validate our supernatural sightings was to say we had touched these people. I had the embarrassing privilege of telling Di Caprio: "You are the man" as I shook his hand.

Saturday night was as exciting as Friday, and this time we knew to look

(wearing the same black leather jacket that he had worn the night before). We also met Johnny Depp (who nearly smashes the bones in your hand while he shakes it), Scott Wolfe and Neve Campbell (who were extremely friendly) and Dewey from the movie *Scream* (whose funky dancing tactics did not help the already pathetic impression he had left with me).

The other stars we watched but did not dare interrupt were Ellen DeGeneres (out of the closet), Scott Baio, Matthew Perry (not quite so "Friend"ly) and Molly Ringwald's boyfriend in the movie *For Keeps*. In retrospect, the excitement has worn off a bit. Instead of thinking about how unbelievable my experience meeting these famous people was, I think about how I was wearing cheap shoes and a borrowed outfit when I met them.

I also think about how their flesh has the same consistency of water as



Johnny Depp nearly smashes the bones in your hand while he shakes it.

for movie stars.

The password worked again, and I turned on my star radar.

Di Caprio was at the bar again

does mine.

Although my "life in the fast lane" only lasted for a weekend, the memories will last a lifetime.



Becky Rickard
of The Current staff

Alternative Religion Club makes its debut on campus

by Jill Barrett
features editor

The spring equinox took place on March 20. This day marks the beginning of spring and is a time of religious celebration for some. The Alternative Religion Club, a new UM-St. Louis organization, took part in a full moon ceremony at Emerson Chapel Friday evening.

"The purpose of this club is to explore [religions] that are not considered mainstream," said Jenny Cloninger, a sophomore majoring in general studies. "There are about 20 religious organizations on campus except for the Catholic Student Ministry and a Moslem organization, the rest are Protestant. We decided that the campus needed more diversity."

Along with Misty Dawn, a junior accounting major, Cloninger gained recognition for the group through Student Activities and began activities this semester. In addition to the full moon ceremony, the club attended a Hare Krishna presentation and sponsored an on-campus discussion of

see Religion, page 4

Under Current

If you had it to do all over again, what would you do?



"Philosophy, psych, anthro, sociology—I would have decided on a major sooner."

— Thi Lam
Senior • Philosophy



"I would have listened to and respected my parents more."

— Denise Sloan
Sophomore • English



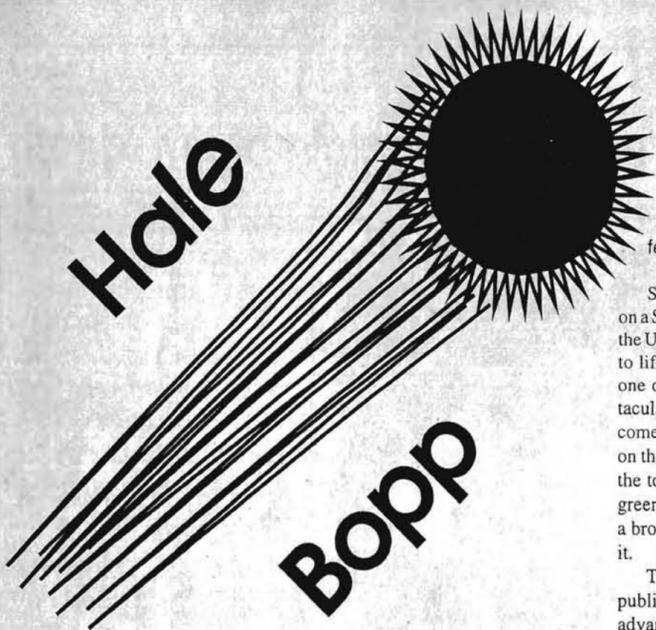
"I would do high school all over and try a little harder."

— Jim Avery
Sophomore • Biology



"I would have become a professional bowler."

— Bob Pavlakos
2nd year • Optometry



Fly by night

Hale-Bopp celestial goldmine for U observatory

by John Jones
features associate

Soft electric motors came to life on a Saturday night two weeks ago as the UM-St. Louis observatory swung to life and took aim. It's target was one of the brightest and most spectacular objects in the night sky, the comet Hale-Bopp. The object sat low on the northwest horizon, just above the top of one of the campus' evergreens. It looked like a gold star with a brownish-gold tail of dust trailing it.

The observatory was open to the public, and many people were taking advantage of it. A long line stretched out from the small entrance to the dome. Outside, a smaller University-owned telescope tracked the

comet as it swung above the horizon. Looking through the lens, visitors could see the comet's golden-yellow corona and most of the trailing dust and gas with reasonable clarity. The night sky was clear, and the city lights didn't seem to hamper the view very much.

Inside the University's active research observatory, the first thing visitors saw was the primary telescope. It is a large cylinder about three feet long with a cable connecting it to electronic equipment. On a computer screen nearby was an image of the comet: a bright yellow object in the middle of the screen. Standing nearby and overseeing the viewing was Richard Schwartz, UM-St. Louis professor of physics and astronomy.

Schwartz explained that opening

the observatory to the public often attracts large crowds of enthusiasts, especially during major astronomical events like Hale-Bopp. He expected over three hundred people on that particular night and about a thousand more visitors during the subsequent viewing.

Hale-Bopp took over 3,500 years to swing nearby and will not return for another two and a half millennia. It was discovered on July 23, 1995, by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp (thus the name "Hale-Bopp"). It is a very recent discovery, considering that the comet has been gliding along its solar path since before written history. The best times to view the comet with telescopes, binoculars or even the naked eye, include the later part of this month and early April.

After that time, the comet will fade away into the glare of the sun and the moon. Currently, one can see the comet reasonably well in an urban environment, but getting out into the country to see it will yield a much more clearer view.

The UM-St. Louis observatory will be open to the public at 8:00 p.m. on March 29 and on April 12 at 8:30 p.m. provided that the weather is satisfactory for viewing. Visitors are welcome but should come early. Hale-Bopp makes only a short appearance above the horizon and then dips down below the tree-tops at about 9 p.m. Observers should not be discouraged, however, because, comet aside, Schwartz said that many other bright celestial bodies should be visible through the telescope.

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Normandy Fire District Board of Directors



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Paid for by the committee to elect Robert (Bob) Lee; Linda Johnson, Treasurer

Religion, from page 3

Wicca, a pagan religion.

"The purpose of the club is not to come together to worship," explained Cloninger. "Most of our friends have come from mainstream religions, and we're interested in exploring what is out there."

Richard Robey, a member

of Covenant of Unitarian Universalist

Pagans (CUUPS) led the discussion on Wicca. According to Robey, Wicca is just one tradition that falls under the heading of paganism. The term was once used by early Christians to refer to persons who had not converted to Christianity. Modern-day pagans are persons who follow alternative reli-

gious paths and do not strictly follow teachings of the five major world religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity. Some pagan traditions include Druidism, Norse, Celtic, Judeo-pagans, Cristo-pagans, Hindu-pagans and shamanism.

Cloninger received some help organizing the campus group by the Council for Alternative Spiritual Traditions (C.A.S.T.). This society is an umbrella organization for networking in the alternative spiritual community in the St. Louis area. Although members of the club are interested in exploring the diversity among minority religions, some upcoming sessions will examine the mystical and folk traditions of the major five religions. In addition to Easter Mass at the New Cathedral on Sunday, March 30, UM-St. Louis professor Howard Schwartz will discuss Jewish folk tales at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in J.C. Penney Hall.

Column, from page 3

Remember, too, that many of them came from countries whose governments didn't tolerate any degree of civil disobedience. Show compassion and understanding whenever possible. If that doesn't work, honk incessantly, flash your bright lights and shake your fist out the window.



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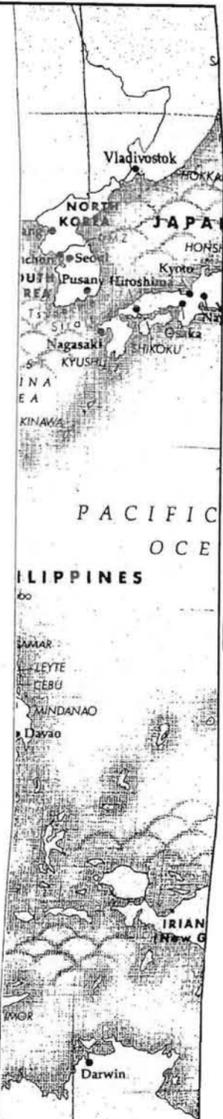
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Ford, Pitt deliver in *The Devil's Own*

by Nathanael D. Schulte
entertainment editor

Harrison Ford has been my favorite actor ever since *The Fugitive* and did nothing to disappoint me in *The Devil's Own*. Though it's probably not his best movie, he still managed to give a meaningful and believable performance.

The story begins in 1972 when young Frankie McGuire, an eight-year Northern Ireland resident, sees his father shot in cold blood at the dinner table by a couple of masked intruders. Jump 20 years to 1992 in Belfast where Frankie (Brad Pitt) has now become a chief operative for the Irish Republican Army.

The next scene follows with a botched attempt by British intelligence to capture Frankie and his cohorts.

Next we jump to New York City the following year. A younger looking, clean-shaven Frankie McGuire has now turned up there.

He is known as Rory Devaney, a young Irish immigrant sponsored by the kindly Judge Peter Fitzsimmons (George Hearn), a secret Irish loyalist. The Judge decides to place Rory with the family of Tom O'Meara (Harrison Ford), a police sergeant and long-time friend.

The O'Mearas welcome Rory into the family as if he had always been there, and he soon gains their trust, all the way down to the youngest daughter, Annie (Kelly Singer).

This trust is sound till one day some men in ski masks break into the O'Meara home and taking nothing, tear apart Rory's basement dwelling. Suspicious of this, Tom decides to



Harrison Ford (left) and Brad Pitt enjoy a game of pool in *The Devil's Own*.

search Rory's room while he's away and discovers the bag of money Rory has stashed below a floor board in the raised bathroom.

Under the suspicion that Rory is really an IRA operative and is using the money to buy arms, Tom decides to arrest Rory. Rory escapes and kills Tom's partner, Eddie (Ruben Blades).

At the hospital where Eddie is pronounced dead, Tom is introduced to the same British intelligence agent who shot down and killed all of Frankie's fellow unit members and is now con-

vinced Tom is hiding Frankie.

After deciding that the British mean to kill Rory rather than arrest him, Tom decides he must arrest Rory himself, for his own protection.

Though I personally think Harrison Ford is the best actor out there, Brad Pitt certainly shows himself strong as well. Pitt shows promise of becoming one of the best in Hollywood down the road.

Though it's not the best film I've ever seen and has with a couple slow spots, it is certainly entertaining and worth the ticket price.

Rapper's first solo project has help from big names



MC Eiht, appearing on DJ Muggs' solo album

Muggs Presents...*The Soul Assassins Chapter I*—DJ Muggs

Already possessing three hit albums by his group Cypress Hill and many more hits mixing other artists' work, DJ Muggs has made a solo album, but, it isn't quite a solo album. He is solo from his group Cypress Hill but on his debut release he produces 11 different artists.

So Cypress Hill braintrust DJ Muggs has begun to produce a new artist. So what? Sure, I think that Muggs is one of the top DJs in the rap industry. But a Soul Assassins project without Soul Assassin members, House of Pain and Funkdoobiest? That just doesn't make for a Soul Assassins. That is like having a Beatles Reunion without John Lennon, but I guess anything can happen.

While I was very disappointed that HOP and Funkdoobiest weren't a part of this mega-star album, Muggs' did find a way to get eleven fabulous musical tracks to-

gether. The best, a scary, hard creepy beat with a punchy sound-effect piano in the background, features Dr. Dre and Cypress Hill frontman B Real with some great lyrics that go perfectly on "Puppet Master." Muggs also kicks out a fabulous song with help from Wu-Tang Clan members RZA and GZA/Genius. The long but well-worth-the-listen "Third World" is a classic in the making.

The booming beat is just another example of why Muggs is one of the best things going in the hip-hop world. Part two of the song, "Battle of 2001" by Cypress Hill is short and disappointing. Other memorable names on the who's who of hip hop are MC Eiht and Boogie Down Bronx's KRS-One. Both of their tracks are great. Essentially Muggs has given one more reason why he should be in the same category as many of the legendary hip-hop DJs.

(Ken Dunkin)

Sister Hazel adds to list of grassroots greats

Sister Hazel's debut, *Somewhere More Familiar*, released in February, is a unique blend of grassroots, country-rock and intelligent lyrics.

Hailing from Gainesville, Fla., this quintet has a strong local following.

In fact, before the group released *Somewhere More Familiar* on Universal Records, it released two independent albums.

Both CDs sold out quickly. If Sister Hazel's local popularity is a predictor, *Somewhere More Familiar* should become a hit.

It is a collection of songs that flow smoothly together. The CD has an organic feel which immediately draws your attention.

The first single is "All For You," a love song that incorporates many different sounds. "Superman" and "Just Remember" are also catchy tunes.

The CD on the whole is easy listening with a positive vibe.

Sister Hazel sounds similar to Dog Eye's View and Belleville natives Son Volt and Wilco.

I would say, however, that Sister Hazel has a softer tone than Dog Eye's View.

If you enjoy any of the previously mentioned bands or are into the grassroots scene, I think you will enjoy *Somewhere More Familiar* from Sister Hazel.

(Matthew Regensberger)

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Airport, from page 1

iously damaged because aircraft using the new runway would fly almost directly over the observatory.

In order to do research on the faintest celestial bodies, the telescope must be focused on one point in the sky for 30 to 60 minutes at a time. At present, most aircraft passing near the observatory are within 20 to 25 degrees of the horizon. Schwartz said the planes generally don't interfere with research because the city lights and the thicker air mass at the horizon make research in this area of the sky impractical. If an airplane does fly over the observatory skyspace during this time, the work is ruined, Schwartz said.

A camera-like instrument known as a Charged Coupled Device Pho-

tometer (CCD) is used to take a picture of an area of the sky about one-fifth the size of the full moon. The CCD, which is 50 times as efficient as a camera at gathering light, enables researchers to make quantitative measurements and to get visual images of faint, distant objects that would be invisible to a human observer.

Schwartz has requested that the Federal Aviation Administration provide the money for a new facility in an area sufficiently removed from the airport traffic pattern if W1-W is implemented. According to Schwartz, another acceptable option would involve the FAA underwriting the cost of UM-St. Louis' participation in a facility shared with other universities.

... the observatory is the only observatory equipped for serious scientific research in the greater St. Louis area.

The UM-St. Louis observatory is the only observatory equipped for serious scientific research in the greater St. Louis area and one of only two research observatories in the state.

Currently, UM-St. Louis undergraduates receive stipends from NASA to finance observatory research through the Missouri Space Grant Consortium.

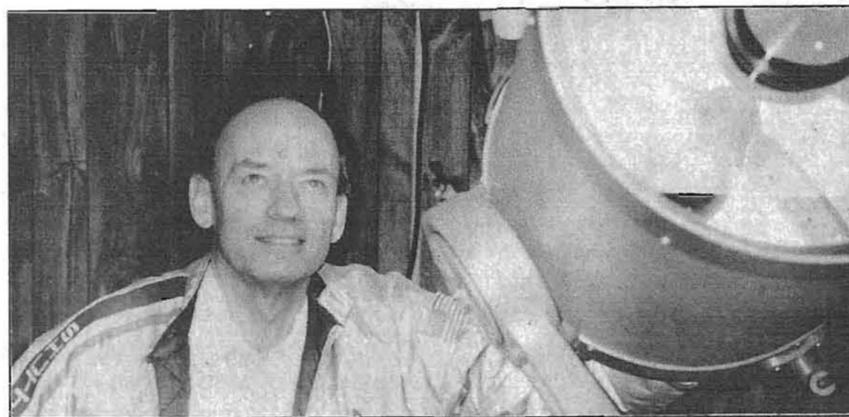


photo: Jerry Weller

Richard Schwartz shows off the observatory's telescope. Schwartz said the W1-W plan jeopardizes the observatory's mission.

Benton, Stadler scheduled for facelift

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

(Rolla, Mo.)—The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Friday approved the schematic design of phase one for a Benton Hall renovation project.

The project in the first phase will renovate approximately 34,900 sq. ft. of Benton Hall, 2,300 sq. ft. in Stadler and finish 4,400 sq. ft. of shell space in the Research Building.

Avery, from page 1

Every student pays a computing fee of \$6 fee per credit hour (\$7 beginning the summer '97 semester). Avery estimated that with about 14,000 full-time students, next year the fees will amount to at least \$1,176,000 each semester. But Avery said he does not see the money in action.

"I want [the administration] to rationalize the computer fees," Avery said. "Basically, I want them to show me the money."

He added: "Teachers are requiring more and more work on the internet; so there's a heavier demand on computer usage. I just

Freeze, from page 1

goals of the next five-year plan."

Krueger said student fees are one of the largest sources of revenue for the campus. If student fees are limited to the rate of inflation, Krueger said, certain programs and/or personnel will have to be cut.

"No matter who you cut, whatever that person was doing," Krueger said, "something

Included in the renovation plan is a centralized computer lab, a computer classroom and an additional science lecture classroom on the first floor of Benton Hall. The plan also calls for the completion of shell space for research laboratories.

Second, third and fourth floor renovations entail updating teaching laboratories in the east wing of Benton.

A portion of Stadler Hall will also be updated for teaching laboratories.

The schematic was presented to the board

by a representative of Canon of St. Louis, an architectural firm hired by the University last year.

The board voted unanimously to approve the schematic design. The University has given the O.K. to seek bids from contractors.

The project budget for phase one is \$5.7 million.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October of this year and finish in November of '98.

want to know, where's the money going?"

Avery also wants to introduce "student-run teacher evaluations." He said the SGA would publish a booklet that lists all the teachers on campus along with an evaluation from the students. The booklet would also contain a short "non-biased" write-up on the lecturers. "That way students can avoid the bad lecturers, and the lecturers will be forced to do a good job or get out."

Among other issues, Avery said he wants to address parking. He said it's already hard enough to find a parking space in garages C

and D. "Where are we going to park when they get rid of the two biggest parking garages (C and D) to expand the University Center," Avery asked. "We'll have to park even farther away from the buildings—next to the Metrolink and in old, condemned parking garages."

Instead of just complaining about the different problems on campus, Avery said he wants to do something about them. He figured the best way to address his concerns would be to run for "the most powerful position a student can have."

disappears. Sometimes people pick up the slack, but in general, something that you would have liked to have done falls by the wayside."

Ehlmann said administrators will be eager to take students' new found money though there are no new costs on college campuses.

"You can point to certain periods where we had a growing number of students, and it was

necessary to hire more professors," Ehlmann said. "But we have a pretty stable student population; we've got most of our building built, and yet apparently, the market bears what [university officials] are asking for."

If approved, Ehlmann's bill would take effect next year, when Carnahan's tax credit takes effect early next year.

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Chancellor Blanche Touhill accepts the 1997 Trailblazer Award from Fran Hoffman, director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

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Riverwomen have successful Florida trip

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team has started the season off on the right note as it returned from Florida with a 4-3 record.

The Riverwomen were originally scheduled to play 10 games, but three were postponed due to rain. Head coach Charlie Kennedy said he thinks the team played well.

"We played pretty well as a team, but we were plagued by many errors," he said. "We need to cut down on those if we are going to be successful."

Kennedy said that he felt that the pitchers did a great job, especially juniors Diana Mooney and Nichole Kocis.

"Diana pitched very well, but she doesn't have much to show for it because she didn't get very good defense behind her," Kennedy said.

Mooney is third on the team with a 4.74 ERA and a 1-3 record.

One of the Riverwomen's victories was over conference rival St. Joseph's, and according to Kennedy, the win was a major confidence lift.

"St. Joseph's is going to be one of our toughest opponents when conference play starts, and it was good to show that we could beat them," he said. The Riverwomen won the game 2-1.

Although the defense was shaky, Kennedy said that it did improve over the course of the trip.

"We struggled offensively, but we got better," he said.

Kennedy said that he was especially impressed with the play of junior catcher Audrey Kramme, Mooney and freshman outfielder Sarah Priest.

"Audrey was intimidating on both offense and behind the plate. Diana drove the ball well at the plate and pitched very well, and Sarah was impressive offensively," Kennedy said.

He noted that the rest of the team struggled for the most part, but he feels they will come around.

The Riverwomen's record stands at 5-5. The team played three games before heading to Florida. It split a doubleheader with Lindenwood on March 4, then lost to Quincy 3-0 on March 6.

The Riverwomen were scheduled to leave last Saturday to take on Bellarmine, Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan. They then followed the same schedule again on Sunday.

Kennedy said he expects the team to do well.

"We have worked real hard up to this point, and if our bats come around and we get solid defense, I think that will be the difference," Kennedy said.



photo courtesy of Charlie Kennedy

Nicki Kocis bats during a game in Florida over spring break.



photo courtesy of Charlie Kennedy

Junior Diana Mooney is on the mound for a game over spring break in Florida.

Rivermen roll through Florida

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

An 8-1 record in Florida has propelled the Rivermen baseball team into a winning season.

The Rivermen put together some fabulous offensive games. They started the trip off with a 10-0 rip of Bloomsburg. Joe Radke threw a seven inning complete game. The best hitting effort on the trip was put in by senior Dan Chinnici. Chinnici ripped apart Keene State. He went 4-for-4 with 8 RBI. Schmidt would go 10-for-10 in a several game stretch.

"We can slug it with the best of them but we have got to have our pitchers throw quality innings for us to be successful," Brady said. "If we do that with our capable offense we will win games. It is just up to our pitchers to keep us in the game."

Several pitchers had tough outings. Eric Stockman was knocked out after two and two-third innings. He gave up five earned runs.

"As far as keeping me off of medication, it is easier for us to get quality innings out of our pitchers," Brady said. "It can be nerve racking

see Florida, page 8

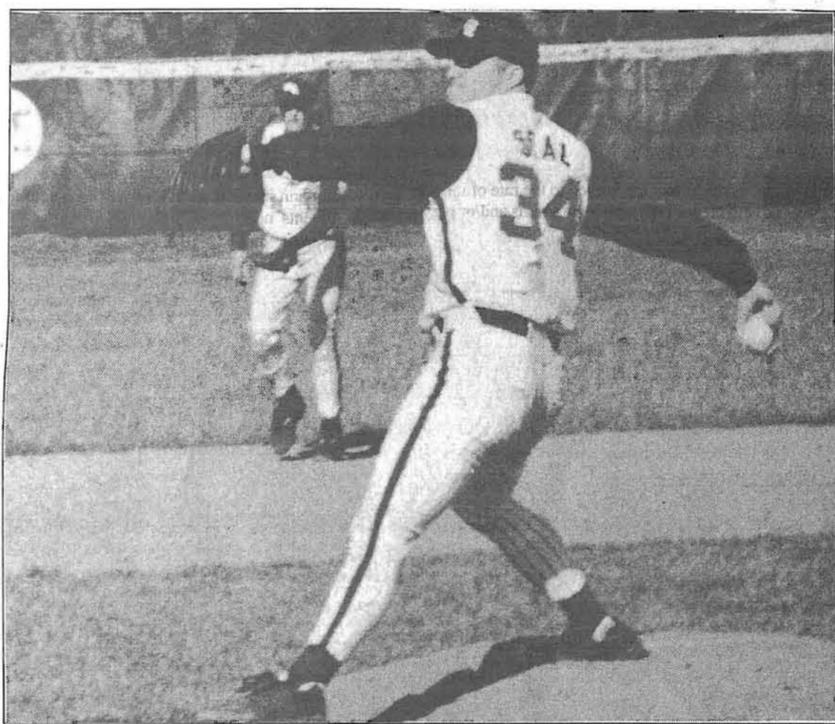


photo by: Ken Dunkin

#34 Andy Seal pitches in a game earlier in the season.

Few pitchers to carry burden for baseball

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Rivermen baseball will have to deal with only having six pitchers and other teams hunting for them.

Due to their College World Series berth last season, the team has had to face some tough tasks. The toughest is responding to a loss after a season and decade filled with wins.

"When we walk out there I expect to win," Rivermen head coach Jim Brady said. "Most of the players feel the same way. We tend to focus more on our losses than wins because we expect to win. When we lose we figure out a way that we won't do it again. We want to make our losses few and far between."

So far the Rivermen have done well at keeping the losses away. They are 11-3 on the season.

"We have seen every teams top pitcher," Brady said. "We have pretty much been able to control things. It says a lot about the balance we have from top to bottom. But I keep thinking, are they teasing me? Are they for real?"

They team has powered their way through the first stretch of games. They are averaging around six runs per game.

"We know Dan Chinnici and Todd Schmidt are for real, but the other people - they have to prove it over a period of time," Brady said.

One of the team's new players that has done well is Scott Luczak. Luczak, a second baseman/shortstop, has been a key member of the squad in the early going, but, as Brady said, he still makes freshman mistakes.

"It is encouraging to have young players in, because there was a time when Chinnici and Schmidt went through the same things," he said. "Eventually the light came on in their heads. Scott is a guy that combines very good athleticism with a very good work ethic and those are the guys that you like to build your ball club around. It bodes well for the future."

The team's pitching staff has only two players returning, Andy

see Baseball, page 8

Spring(breaking) into baseball

Another spring break has come and gone. I really can't believe that the semester is half over. Before you know it, summer will be here though some days we've had this spring already have felt like summer.

This is my fourth year of college, and for the first time, I didn't go anywhere at all. Last year I went to the Lake of The Ozarks for a few days, and two years ago, I went to Daytona Beach in Florida. This year, I simply just didn't have anything planned.

I even took a week's vacation from my job because I thought it would be nice not to have anything to do at all for a week, but in fact, I found myself wishing I had something to do or somewhere to go.

My girlfriend goes to school at SIUE, and she had her spring break at the same time I did. We talked about maybe driving to Hannibal or Branson for a couple of days, but nothing really materialized. The week was not a total waste, though, because I got a lot of stuff done around my house that needed to get done, and I helped my girlfriend renovate her bedroom at her house.

I plan to graduate from UM-St. Louis in December, so this may well

have been my last spring break.

However, whether I am in school or not, there is one place that I have always wanted to visit during mid-March, a place I have never been.

I have always wanted to visit St. Petersburg, Fla., to watch the Cardinal's spring training games.

I have always talked about going, but I never really had the opportunity.

In fact, two years ago when I was down in Florida, I was going to make the drive over to St. Pete, but as my luck would have it, there was no spring training that season because of the player's strike.

I have talked to people who have been to spring training, and I hear the atmosphere is unbelievable. It is much more calm and relaxed than at Busch Stadium.

I hope that in the near future, I will be able to go down to spring training and enjoy the atmosphere myself.

Next year, the Cardinals are moving to Jupiter, Fla., so if I get the chance to go next year, it will be in an entirely new ballpark for the Cardinals. So if next year comes and I get the chance to go, that's great. If not, that's alright too, I'll just keep looking forward to the next year.

in OVERTIME



Brian Folsom
sports associate

Young Riverwomen hope to compete in new conference

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The 1997 Riverwomen softball team enters the season with no seniors, but it hopes to gain respect and have success in its new Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Riverwomen finished at a respectable 8-8 last season in the MIAA conference. However, the team was 12-18 overall, and it would like to improve on that record.

New head coach Charlie Kennedy said he feels confident that the team will do better.

"We don't have any seniors, but if we get consistent play and everyone backs each other up, we should be alright," he said.

Kennedy said that the Riverwomen are going to have to be solid both offensively and defensively.

"Our strength is going to be our offense, but we are going to need our defense to step up as well," he said.

Kennedy was the assistant coach at UM-St. Louis the past two seasons, so he is familiar with the program. However, since this is the first year that the Riverwomen will compete in the GLVC, he said he really doesn't know what to expect yet from his opponents.

"We really don't know too much about our conference opponents yet, but we already beat St. Joseph's in Florida, and that was a big win for us," he said.

Kennedy said that SIUE, Bellarmine, Quincy and St. Joseph's will most likely be the toughest opponents.

Kennedy said that there aren't any leaders yet on the team, but there are plenty of players with valuable experience to help the Riverwomen.

According to Kennedy, two players he expects to be of help are junior Amy Costanza, who will be at third base, and junior Christina Pronto, who will be in center field. Both players are from Joliet Junior College in Joliet, Ill.

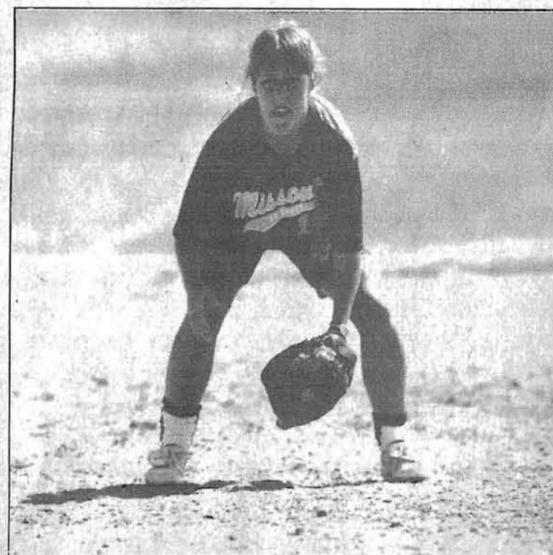


photo courtesy of Charlie Kennedy

Shannon Humphrey plays in outfield during a game in Florida.

Kennedy said he also looks to catcher Audrey Kramme. Kramme, a junior, hit .316 last season and finished second on the team in several categories, including runs batted in with 17, doubles with six and home runs with two. On the mound, Kennedy will rely upon juniors Nichole Kocis and Diana Mooney.

Kocis led the team last season with a 1.72 earned run average. 13

complete games, three shutouts and 46 strikeouts. She also pitched 110 innings.

Mooney had a 2.66 ERA a year ago, with seven complete games, and she issued only 15 walks in 58 innings pitched.

"If Kocis and Mooney pitch well and we get good defense behind them, we'll win some games," Kennedy said.

Baseball from page 8

could be done for the season as he has had arm problems since the Florida trip two weeks ago. Seal went 7-0 last season and should be the anchor of the staff.

"Our pitching staff is really going to have to step up," Schmidt said. "We've only got about six

guys and they will log a lot of innings. That is where winners are put together on the mound and in good fielding."

The line up isn't a problem for the team. Similar to last season the team can score runs and they hit well. They also have the stellar play

of four year players Chinnici and Schmidt.

"We field a solid line up," Brady said. "It is a line up that is very hard to pitch to."

"We know we can play and beat anybody," Schmidt said. "We're not afraid of anyone."

Florida from page 7

at times to be in slug-fest games."

The only blemish on the team was a 12-11 loss to North Dakota mid-way through the trip. The pitching fell through for the Rivermen as they gave up two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to lose the game.

"Because we have been so successful we tend to focus on the small

mistakes that account for one loss," Brady said. "We are such over-achievers that we expect to win every time we step on the field. We tend to dwell on our losses more than our wins because we expect to win. Good teams strive for that feeling."

Despite the loss the team had several solid hitting performances.

James Hoffman hit three home runs and had four rbi. Eric Blaha went 2-for-3 with three rbi and three runs scored. With the eight key victories the team gained some momentum they need for their first run in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

"We had good momentum coming out of Florida," Schmidt said. "We know we're a good team."

Rivermen split with IP-Ft. Wayne

by Ken Dunkin sports editor

The Rivermen baseball team split their first Great Lakes Valley Conference match up in school history last Saturday.

The Rivermen, 11-3 and 1-1 in the GLVC, destroyed IUPU-Ft. Wayne in the first game 16-7. Jeremy Birdeau threw a seven inning complete game. He struck out nine while walking only three. Many Rivermen had big games, Todd Schmidt was 4-for-4, James Hoffman was 4-for-5 and Dan Chinnici went 1-for-1 with two walks.

The second game went far worse for the Rivermen.

Ft. Wayne held them scoreless until the sixth inning. They were down by eight when they first scored.

"We came out focused in the first game," Schmidt said. "The second game we were dragging. We were seconds behind on everything. We came out flat and let a mediocre team beat us."

They lost the game 9-5. Andy Seal was tagged for six runs in five innings. He had trouble finding his

breaking ball.

"Andy Seal didn't get ahead of batters," Brady said. "He was having problems with his breaking ball. They were able to sit back on his fastball. They waited and got their pitches. His breaking stuff wasn't in the strike zone."

two games had alarmed several players. It is a huge problem for the coaching staff.

"It is cause for concern," Brady said. "It shows lack of mental focus over a period of time. Good teams can extend themselves over a double-header. It looks to me as though this team has yet to master that. When you beat a team into submission they are going to come back and try and get things even. You have to beat them up again so they don't come back."

"We came out focused in the first game. The second game we were dragging. We were seconds behind on everything."

-Todd Schmidt Rivermen First Baseman

A difference in the games was in the walk area. While the pitcher in the first game was wild, the pitcher in the second had good control.

"Their pitcher was throwing a lot of balls in the first," Schmidt said. "We took advantage of it."

Cummins, the IUPU-Ft. Wayne pitcher, walked 10 batters in the first and third innings giving up 12 earned runs.

"The second game the pitcher came right at us," Schmidt said. "We didn't make any adjustments to what he was doing. It showed in the scores."

The scoring difference in the

get focused," Schmidt said. "Guys have to act like they want to be here. We need to get our intensity to go up. We're in a little dead period now but in time we will come out of it."

The team had several problems on defense in the game, the worst was in the fifth when there was a pop to short left. James Hoffman and Eric Blaha let a fly ball drop which eventually led to several runs scoring.

"We didn't take the initiative to go after the ball," Brady said. "We got ourselves behind the eight-ball. We gave them too many outs that inning."

Catch all the exciting spring sports action as the Rivermen and Riverwomen begin GLVC play!!

Baseball

March 25 - Washburn	2:30 pm
March 28 - KY Wesleyan	2:30 pm
March 29 - KY Wesleyan	Noon
April 1 - Washington U.	3 pm
April 2 - SIU-Edwardsville	2:30 pm

Softball

March 25 - SIU-Edwardsville	5 pm
April 3 - Mckendree	5 pm

Tennis

March 25 - SIU-Edwardsville	4 pm
March 26 - Central College	3 pm
March 29 - Illinois-Springfield	11 pm

For more information contact the athletic department at 516-5661

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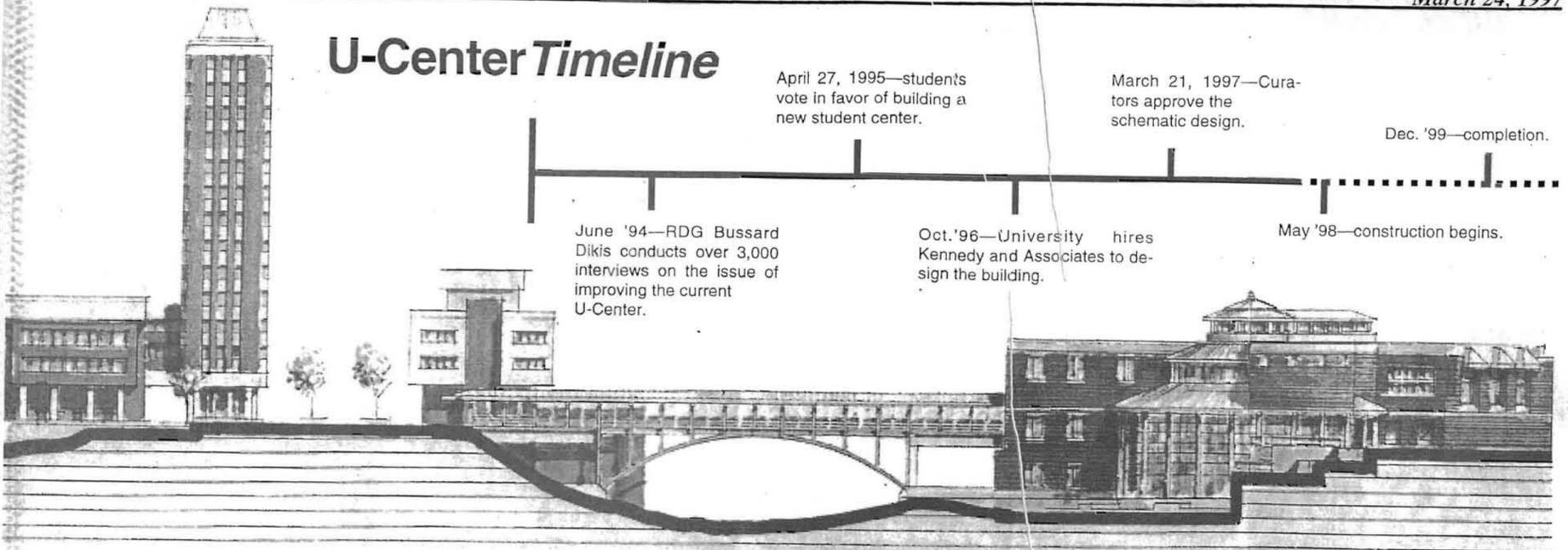
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Can You Help Us?

There will be a memorial service at South Campus Residence Hall on Thurs, April 3rd. We want to invite the families of all deceased students, faculty, and staff. Can you please call Campus Ministries at 385-3455 if you can help. Thank You.

U-Center Timeline



U-Center, from page 1

construct it?'. If we have the money, we do it. If we don't have the money, we don't do it."

Touhill said the escalators are a done deal and will definitely be in.

But Vice Chancellor of Managerial and Technological Services James Krueger said nothing is set in stone until the contractors submit their bids.

"Nothing's a done deal until the construction bids come in," he said. "But if the latest cost estimates are accurate, the bridge is in."

Krueger said if the bid comes in too high, the bridge will be the first thing the Chancellor cuts.

If indeed the bid comes in too high, Touhill said she will work hard to find the money.

"I'm working at it," she said. "I'm not just sitting in my office looking out the window."

The cost to students...

When the U-Center opens, which is projected to be before the start of the winter 2000 semester if all goes well, students will be assessed an additional \$6.05 for the student activity fee. With a 12-hour cap, the maximum amount a student would pay per semester is \$72.60.

The students agreed to pay the fee in a referendum two years ago. At that time, they voted overwhelmingly in favor of building a new student center, with 72 percent of the 936 voters marking "yes."

In the early stages of planning for a new student center, one option was to renovate the existing University Center. However, in the Masterplan study completed in 1995 by RDG Bussard Dikis Brailsford and Associates, it was confirmed that retooling the current U-Center could not meet the needs of students as spelled out in numerous student focus groups, surveys and interviews conducted by the consulting firm.

Not exactly one-stop...

Despite the moniker "one-stop shopping" for students, the new center will not be able to house every student service and organizational unit. Because of space

constraints (the structure is set at 168,000 sq. ft.) the International Students Organization and Counseling Services will not make it into the building.

Donald Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor, said that because of the building's size, choices had to be made.

"The building just wasn't big enough to put everyone we wanted in," he said.

Driemeier said some accommodations are possible. For instance, a lounge might be given to the international students.

Small details aside, Driemeier said, the U-Center will be no bigger than it is now.

The curators will vote one more time regarding the U-Center. This time it will be to approve the contractor.

Finalists for human resources director to be interviewed. The three finalists for director of Human Resources will be interviewed individually from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 24, 75 J.C. Penney Building; March 31, 75 J.C. Penney Building; and April 1, 78 J.C. Penney. The campus community is welcome to hear the finalists' presentations and stay for a brief question-and-answer session. Call Administrative Services at 516-5206 for details.

New student orientation to be teleconference topic. A teleconference titled, "A Meeting of the Minds: Two Perspectives on New Student Seminars,"

by John Gardner and David Ellis, will be conducted from noon to 3 p.m. March 25 in Room 78 of the J.C. Penney Building. Contact the Center for Academic Development at 516-5194 for details.

Kids 'n' computers. The Microcomputing Program

in Continuing Education and Outreach offers Saturday computer classes for students in preschool (age 4) through eighth grade April 5 through May 3 at the West County Computer Center, 1715 Deer Tracks Trail and April 12 through May 10 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Call 516-6910 for more information.

Finance office to move. On April 1, the Finance Office will move from 324 Woods Hall to 216 Woods Hall. The new fax number will be 516-5302. All other numbers will remain the same.

New writing, math programs clear CBHE. UM-St. Louis' proposals for a master's degree program in creative writing and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics have been approved by Kaja Stroup, commissioner of the state's Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The commissioner's decision will be reported to the CBHE when it meets again in April.

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