



Three-Spring circus: Jerry Springer's "Ringmaster" falls short of even the lowest expectations.

See page 7.

Spirit of the Season:

Kwanzaa's founder visits campus. That and more can be found in our special new holiday spread.

See Page 6.

Whatcha' Doin'? If you can't think of anything, try our special Arts and Entertainment insert for the hottest things to do over winter break. See inside.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Teacher's Assistants' strike hits UCLA

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES, Calif. — After three days of striking by UCLA teaching assistants, administrators said the effects of stopping work are limited, while the union said participation has been strong.

The strike by the Student Association of Graduate Employees (SAGE), which is affiliated with the United Auto Workers, began Tuesday at eight UC campuses in an attempt to get union recognition from the university.

While the effects of the strike have varied from department to department, UCLA officials estimate about 5 percent of the over 1,200 teaching assistants, readers and tutors are participating in the strike. But union officials estimate that strikers number in the hundreds.

While Executive Vice Chancellor Rory Hume is still waiting for reports from all department chairs, he said the work stoppage has not been widespread.

Connie Razza, an organizer for SAGE, disagreed with this assessment.

"The administration is obligated to present a front of as little disruption as possible," she added.

With final exams approaching, and SAGE organizers declaring they will continue the strike through at least the end of fall quarter if the union is not recognized, Razza said delayed final grades or changes in the format for final exams is possible.

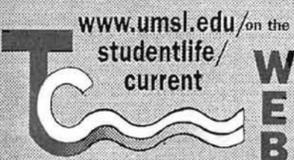
The chair of the English department, Thomas Wortham, said if the strike continues, finals will go on as scheduled, and grades will be in on time. Despite the help that TAs provide to professors in grading, Wortham said professors are ultimately responsible for the grades and should be able to handle the grading in time.

Students for Socialist Action is planning a march today to get undergraduate students to march along with SAGE strikers.

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SGA takes no action on fee increases

Controversy over SGA deadlines prompts adjournment

BY JOSH RENAUD
news assistant

SGA adjourned Thursday without making any recommendation on a series of proposed increases in student fees.

Gary Grace, vice-chancellor for Student Affairs, made an informational presentation of the 1999-2000 Student Housing, Facility, and Activity Fees Budget. The budget included a 6.2% increase in the athletic fee and an 8.5% increase in the recreation/facility fee. Grace said that the budget also included a change in the student Health Services fee from a flat fee of \$9.00 a semester for fall and winter and \$4.50 for intersession and summer session to a \$1.20 per credit-hour fee.

For a more complete breakdown of student fee changes, see page 7.

Grace explained that the UM System prepares a preliminary budget for all four campuses, and then sends them out. When the University receives the information, it triggers planning by people who are involved in Athletics, the University Center, Student Activities, Student Services, Recreation and Facilities, and Student Health Services, all of which are covered by the fees budget.

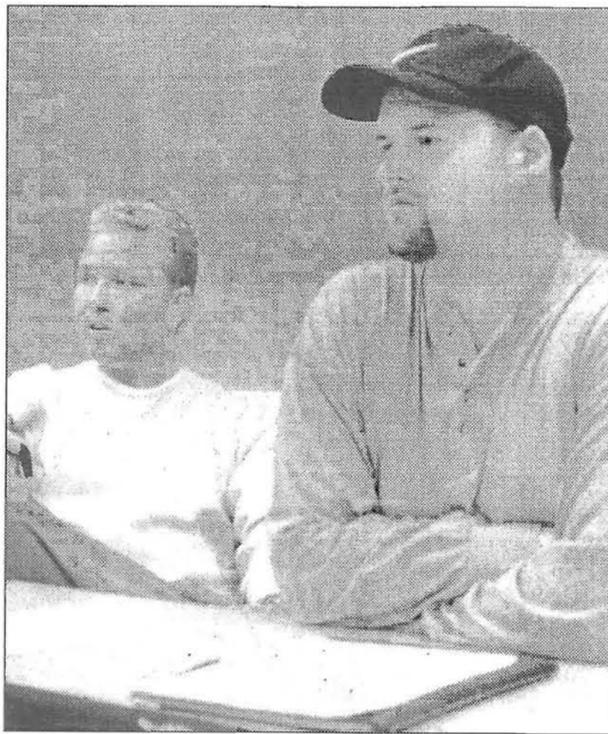
"The procedure requires us to then consult with students," Grace said. "I represented the administration and I will share the concerns of the students with the chancellor, who will share them with the Board of Curators."

After the presentation, SGA Vice-President Mike Rankins voiced his anger over the fee increases. "Students are telling me that the fees right now are way too high," he said. "If I'm supposed to represent students on this campus, how can I go another year and let the fees go up?"

Rankins proposed that the SGA consider making a

see Fees, page 7

see Fees, page 7



Stephanie Platt/The Current
SGA President Jim Avery (left) and Vice-President Michael Rankins answer questions at Thursday's SGA meeting.

Numbers on student service and activity fees remain undecided

BY DAVID BAUGHER
senior editor

The SGA took no action at Thursday's meeting to recommend setting new levels for the student service and student activity fees.

SGA President Jim Avery originally proposed that the fees, which fund student organization allocations each year, stay at their present level.

"I think we can go another year with the fees that we had last year," Avery said.

However, SGA Comptroller Ben Ash said he felt that the fees should see a slight increase so a more drastic one would not be necessary next year.

"I think if we keep doing zero increases and then all at once raise it twenty cents, people are going to wonder," Ash said after the meeting.

The student activity fee jumped by 25 cents a credit hour last year from \$1.78 to \$2.03, while the student service fee increased by more than one-third from 35 cents to 47 cents.

Ash proposed a "fiscally smart" increase of two cents for the student service fee, and three cents for the student activity fee. He said the two together would generate more than \$10,000 in new revenue for student organizations.

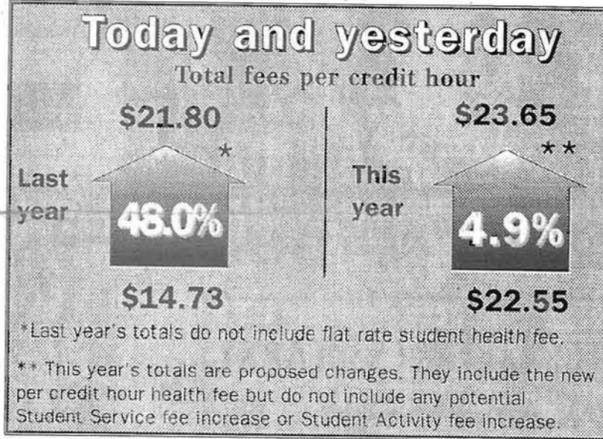
"We've got the new University Center opening in about two years or so and we're going to have a lot more organizations on campus," Ash said later. "I can almost guarantee that as we keep growing we're going to need more money."

SGA Vice-President Mike Rankins said at the meeting that he heard many students complain that they were paying too much. He proposed that the SGA pass a resolution encourage the Curators to not increase any fees.

A motion to suspend the rules clearing the way for a vote on the fees failed. A motion was then made to adjourn, with the SGA taking no action on the fees.

Ash said afterwards that the fees debate was not a really a disagreement.

"I don't like to use the word disagree," Ash said
see SGA, page 7



Parking stickers generate excuses

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff assistant

Students, faculty, and staff members seem to be avoiding extra traffic ticket problems in spite of the confusion introduced this year by construction projects on campus.

"It really hasn't been any different than in years past," said Bob Roeseler, director of institutional safety. "I expected to have more problems because of the construction, but in general, everyone is doing what they need to do."

While there may not have been a dramatic increase in ticket trouble this semester, police officers are still issuing tickets. A persistent problem is vehicles that are parked on campus parking lots without a parking permit sticker in the window. Student Court Chief Justice Steve Bartok said that many people try to appeal these tickets.

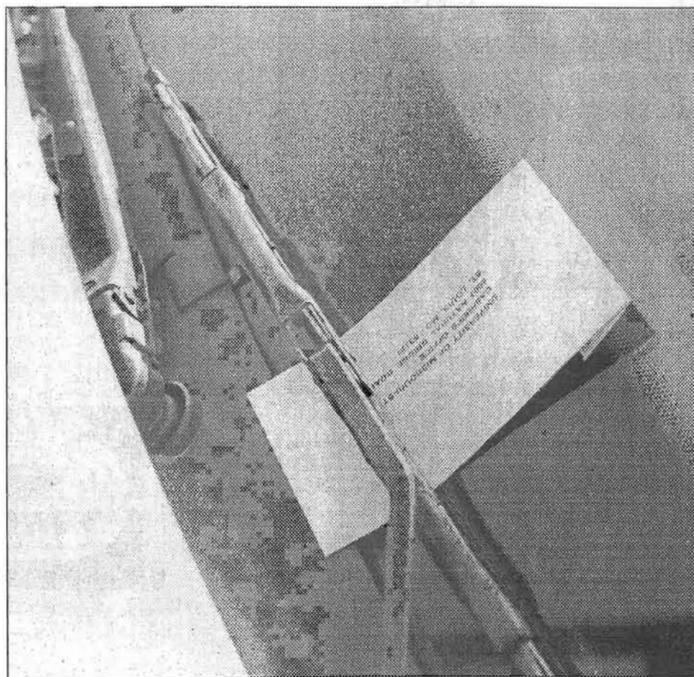
"It's a common excuse," he said. "People get caught not having their sticker in the window, and they turn around and say, 'Well, it fell off.' The vast majority of them either don't have [a sticker] at all or they haven't put it up in the window."

There are a few people who have had stickers actually fall off. As Roeseler explained, stickers that are applied to unclean areas of the window or stickers that are taken on and off repeatedly have a tendency to fall off. He said that the police department advises students to use tape to affix the sticker to the window when this happens.

"Don't use scotch tape," Bartok added. "It dries up within two or three weeks and the permit will fall off again."

Tinted windows are not an excuse for not having a permit sticker displayed, Bartok said.

"Whenever you have tinted windows, no matter what kind of vehicle, the permit belongs on the bottom of the front passenger-side window," he said.



Stephanie Platt/The Current
A parking ticket rests under the wiper of a vehicle in the Music Building parking lot last month.

For four years, students paid for parking permits at the cashier's office and then received their stickers through the mail. That process changed last semester when students were required to pick up the stickers themselves from the cashier's office.

In an interview earlier this year, Ernest Cornford, director of finance, explained that they stopped sending permits through the mail because of the potential for abuse, with some students receiving as many as five permits in a semester, and because students who registered on the first day of classes would not receive their permits on time.

Cornford also mentioned the possibility of changing the procedure further, so that the police department would issue permits rather than the cashier's office.

"It has been discussed, but it hasn't been finalized," Roeseler said. "One of the reasons [it hasn't happened yet] is our facility. We are not set up here to handle that. At this time, we don't have the luxury of having enough room or enough people to do that."

Roeseler said that if they make such a change in the future, the new Student Center might be where students would go to receive their stickers.

Garage repairs may last for months to come

BY JOE HARRIS
of the Current staff

Maintenance crews are sandblasting and painting the steel structures in Garages C and D to help prevent the accumulation of rust.

The repairs are being done at night so traffic and parking will remain uninterrupted. McCarthy is handling the repairs and Sverdrup is a consultant. The repairs are likely to continue for several months.

Tom Royster, senior construction project manager, emphasizes that the garages are safe. "Most of the damage had to do with the beams rusting out and we have already repaired most of them," Royster said.

Royster said that crews will continue to go through the garages for the rest of the month indicating needed repairs. Most of the repairs are done as the crew goes through both garages.

"There will be a complete analysis of the problems and then we will take a bid for the repairs," Royster said.

The repairs are being done to make sure the garages are safe to use for the next two years, after which time the garages are scheduled to be torn down and replaced by new structures.

Sam Darandari, director of planning and engineering, said there will be more parking in two years.

Darandari points to the current construction of a garage near Benton Hall and the construction of a 600-700 car garage to be completed with the new University Center.

Facilities Supervisor Harry Marler is in charge of the repairs to Garages C and D.

"We are painting and sandblasting during the night shift because we have to close down

see Garages, page 2

Named UM - St. Louis 1998 Best Campus Community Building Program

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board: The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Todd Appel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, Dec. 7

- **Basic Fitness and Weight Loss Class.** Learn the fundamentals of how to get fit and stay fit. The class meets from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **IWGS Holiday Lunch and Governing Board Meeting.** Contact: 5581 or 6383.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

- **Taize Prayer**—A quiet, meditative time for scripture, song and prayer in 266 U-Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

Thursday, Dec. 10

- **Dean of Arts and Sciences Interview.** Dr. Christopher Baldwin from Sam Houston State University will be interviewed with an open meeting with faculty, staff and students from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in 331 SSB the McDonnell Conference Room.

Sunday, Dec. 13

- **The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Newman House. All who are interested

in inquiring about the Catholic Faith or want to become Catholic are invited to this introduction session. Contact: Dennis Chitwood, 385-3455 or e-mail at chitwood@admiral.umsl.edu.

Monday, Dec. 14

- **Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium Series**—“Frames in Hilbert Spaces” will be at 10:00 a.m. in 302 CCB with Colloquium Tea at 9:30 a.m. in 204 CCB. This Colloquium will be given by Ole Christensen of the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, Denmark.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

- **Taize Prayer**—A quiet, meditative time for scripture, song and prayer in 266 U-Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

Thursday, Dec. 17

- **Chancellor's Holiday Dinner.** The Chancellor invites all faculty, staff, and students to be her guests in the Underground from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are required for this event and they may be picked up at various locations around campus by Dec. 11. One ticket per person. Call 5493 for details.

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GARAGES, FROM PAGE 1

the whole level of the garage when we do it," Marler said.

Marler said the sandblasting and painting will prevent further rust accumulation on the beams. He also said the crew is identifying any other needed repairs as they go along.

Darandari then evaluates the damage in the marked areas, and he consults with Sverdrup, who suggests how the problem can be fixed. If the crews cannot correct the problem, McCarthy is brought in.

Garages C and D are located on East Campus Drive on North campus. Both garages are located close to the University Center, J.C. Penney, Thomas Jefferson Library, and Clark Hall. Garage C is physically joined to the University Center and J.C. Penney by a concrete walkway.



Stephanie Platt/The Current
Parking spaces are blocked by maintenance activity in Garage C.

Pulliam

Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 26th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1998-June 1999 graduating classes.

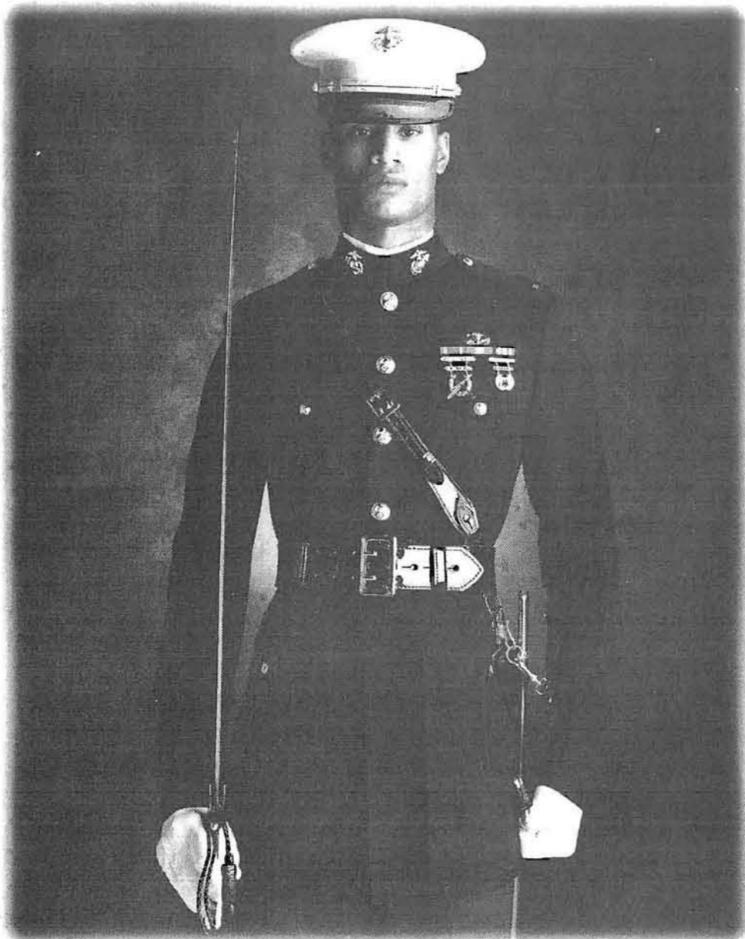
Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1998. By Dec. 15, 1998, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam
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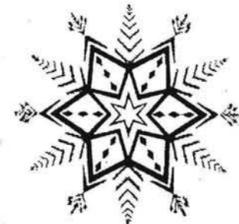
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FEATURES

Amy Lombardo, Features Editor
Phone 516-5174, Fax 516-6811

Get This

Turn of the century is hairpin curve

I must be getting old. Time just keeps going faster and faster - semesters fly by, holidays are a blur - and it doesn't show signs of slowing down any time soon.

I hear myself saying things like, "Where does the time go?" and "There just aren't enough hours in a day." Before I know it I'll be remarking to a friend, "Can you believe how high the price of Geritol has gotten?"

But I digress.

I was filling out some paperwork the other day, and it just so happened that I had to write down "January, 1999." For some reason this had a strange effect on me. Let me repeat the important part of that for point of emphasis: 1999. That means in a little over one year, it will be the year 2000.

Now, you may be thinking, "Well, Amy Lombardo, duh." . . . Features Editor and you would be right in a way. I admit, it does seem that I am simply stating the obvious. But it's a deeper meaning that has really struck me about this point.

I remember back in the '80s when the year 2000 sounded like an eternity. Twenty years. Two decades. 240 months. 7,300 days. 3,504,000 hours.

When I think about how long one school day felt when I was a child, or even one hour of class - Sheesh! - forget about it. That minute hand on that clock was pure torture. (Fifteen minutes until recess... ten minutes... 5... 3... 30 seconds... come ooooo!)

I could never truly comprehend the idea that I would (God willing, as my grandma "always says) be alive to see the dawn of a new millenium.

I used to think that by the time we reached the next century we would be living in a world more like I saw on television shows like "Star Trek," "Buck Rogers" or even "The Jetsons" I figured we would have flying cars, food replicators and robots as friends and/or servants. But my car still travels on land, I have to prepare my meals by hand and all my friends are live humanoids. (I have no servants to speak of.) I was under the impression we would have bonded with a few extra-terrestrial species or, at the very least, have a colony of Earthlings on the moon.

Maybe I'm being silly. I mean, look at how far we've come. The age of technology has been busy creating some amazing things that would have shocked the heck out our great-grandparents. . . or even our not-so-great ones. (I'm sorry, that was a poor and probably unsuccessful attempt to be humorous.)

As for the-getting-to-know-some-aliens aspect, who's to say they will be nice to us? Remember the mini-series, "V?" They weren't exactly the kind of people I'd want to hang with, if you know what I mean.

But it looks like the much anticipated Y2K may not be as groovy as I once thought. At least we will at last have the opportunity to find out what got 'the artist formerly known as Prince' (or whatever he's calling himself these days) so pumped about the parties of 1999.



Amy Lombardo
Features Editor

Living with AIDS

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Of the world's population 33 million people have AIDS. Only 10 percent have been tested and know that they are positive. Three million of those live in the United States and Europe. The other 95 percent live in Africa and Asia. DJ. Thomason has lived with AIDS for 15 years. Thomason spoke about his experiences on December 2 at the University Meadows Clubhouse and at the Honors College Convocation Hall.

"Five thousand five hundred people are buried per day [because of AIDS]," Thomason said.

Fifty percent of AIDS cases are contracted through intravenous drug use and dirty needles. Thomason remained abstinent through high school and college, but at the age of 27 he contracted the virus.

He is a member of the Missouri AIDS Council and the St. Louis Regional Concordia AIDS Council. Because of this work and his personal experience, he has accumulated a good amount of knowledge on the subject of AIDS.

"A person living with AIDS is no threat to you unless you are going to have sex with them," Thomason said.

He dispelled the myth that AIDS can be contracted through food or contact with bathroom seats.

The average cost of drugs for health maintenance is about \$52,000 per year. This does not include recent drug therapies that are an additional \$15,000 per year.

Thomason tells the audience a synopsis of his history.

"[It is an] effort to let you know who I am and what I am," he said.

From the years 1984-1991, Thomason was the Student Activities Director of UM-St. Louis. He is the inventor of such events as Mirthday and the Holiday Feasts. Thomason was given three to five years to live when he was diagnosed. He survived 15 years and is termed a "long-term non-progressor."

One of Thomason's goals is to help society to understand that people with HIV live in the community. He stresses that



Candles line the sidewalk to the Thomas Jefferson Library in honor of World AIDS Day.

Stephanie Platt / The Current

prevention is really the best form of protection against contraction.

"[It's] life without the possibility of parole," Thomason said. "[It's] living life by a clock and a pill box."

Every day he has to take fifteen pills at four-hour intervals, some with food and some on an empty stomach. The pills

costs \$75. One type of pill is AZT, the most toxic pill ever designed to be put into the human body. Thomason said that all of these things are reasons to use protection when having sexual relations.

"You can't tell by looking at someone they have HIV," Thomason said.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

If you were on Jerry Springer, who would you bring with you?

"I would want to meet the group K-Ci & JoJo to ask them to sing at my wedding. They are my favorite group."

-Kesia Williams
Junior/Business Administration



"The KKK-they are backwoods idiots who have no real argument for their cause."

-LeAnn Day
Junior/Communications

"My retarded roomates."

-Dave Connor
Sophomore/Comp Science



"I would never put my personal business on display . . . but I do watch the show."

-Angela Coburn
Senior/Communication

The vision thing. . .

'See to Learn' protects gift of sight for children

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Twenty percent of children will have a vision problem by the time they reach kindergarten. This statistic increases to 30-40% by high school graduation. UM-St. Louis brought the "See to Learn" program on campus to address this issue. It educates parents about the inadequacy of school and pediatric eye examinations. They do test distance and accuracy of letter reading, but problems such as lazy eye and refractive eye disorders may not be diagnosed without proper equipment.

"See to Learn" originated at the Kansas Optometric Association. The program has received numerous awards including the Kansas Reading Celebrate Literacy Award. This helped to gain enthusiasm for the effort and resulted in the program's expansion to Missouri.

The first step is a continuous effort to educate people about indications of vision problems in children. The second step is a complementary vision assessment for children aged 3 because most growth occurs before

the age of 5. The eyes change during this critical period and the belief that these children are considered unmanageable or untestable, necessitated the need for the "See to Learn" program. The third step is the complete eye examination which is performed if the vision assessment warrants the complete exam. The complete exam is paid for by the parent and performed at the clinic instead of the school, where all the necessary equipment is available to determine particular vision problems. Those vision problems include lazy eye, farsightedness, focusing insufficiency, or astigmatism.

These particular conditions should be diagnosed at a young age. As Dr. Aaron Franzel said, "The earlier you catch [the problems] the less challenging [it is] to address those problems."

Franzel is the Chief of Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service at UM-St. Louis. If these vision problems are not found in assessments and examinations and continue undetected, the binocular vision of the child will be distorted. This distortion can cause the

see Vision, page 8

Event Review

Battlin' bands provides night out

The battle of the Bands, sponsored by 104.1 the Extreme, took place Wednesday the 18th at Kearby's in St. Louis. Though the publicity was marginal, this was a big event for the bands that made it to the finals that night, because over 150 bands entered the contest, and the last five were there to compete that evening. The prize: an opening slot for Motley Crue at the Fox Theater Sunday, Dec. 22.

The crowd at Kearby's was very diverse, ranging from aging metal fans (rooting for Sentiment House and Mesh) to high school and college-age hip rockers, (rooting for Locash and Fuse 12) to a mish mash of other fans cheering Purge. Locash ended up with the unlucky first slot. Locash, a seven-member gang of 18-year olds and one 17-year old, were by far the youngest band, but they came out onstage like a bunch of pros. They have played everywhere from sold out crowds at the Galaxy and the Side Door, to UM-St. Louis' own Pi Kappa Alpha house on Halloween and they came on harder and tighter than ever hopping from song to song with hardly a break, and somehow managed to squeeze as much energy as they ever had in a full set into this abbreviated eight-song show. The crowd was rowdy enough for the bouncer to get in the middle of the mosh pit, which didn't take place for the other four bands. Eight songs and one stage dive (by singer Chris Ravenscraft) later, Locash left the stage and made way for Purge.

Purge was a good band with a lot of energy, but a

very confused stage presence, and I had a tough time watching both the singer in vinyl shorts and the bare-foot bouncing bassist. The crowd on the whole seemed to enjoy Purge, but sat through Sentiment House with poorly hidden boredom. After a drab eight songs, they made way for Fuse 12. Fuse 12's singer, Kyle Bova, probably has more energy in his pinky finger than any normal person has in their whole body. It was a shame the stage was so small, because after having played the Galaxy a number of times, the band moves around too much for a tiny stage, and Kyle nearly fell off a few times. Fuse 12's set was blistering as usual, and as always, I was impressed none of the five band members passed out after their set. Mesh took the stage after Fuse 12, and simply couldn't produce a show to beat the energy and talent of Fuse 12.

After the bands finished, "voting" took place on the bands by the fans. This was more a joke than anything, because the winner was decided on a point basis, and the screaming contest was just to make the crowd feel important. The bands got narrowed down from five to two, and the two finalists were Locash and Mesh. After a little more screaming, Locash was announced the winner.

After thanking the crowd and their parents at least a hundred times, Locash DJ Matt Deuschmann made a point to tell me Fuse 12 was the best band in St. Louis, and the rest of the band echoed his opinion.

-Cory Blackwood

Comments

The Current

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OUR OPINION

Annual fee proposal meeting comes to a standstill with refusal to vote

The Issue:

The annual fee proposal's meeting has, yet again, resulted in conflicts. This year the proposed fee increases are being held up by SGA's timelines as well as a refusal to vote on the subject.

We Suggest:

This January should have a better response than last year. For that to happen, SGA should give students the voice to appeal the resolution.

So what do you think?

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

Another SGA tussle over yet another set of student fee increases has resulted in little concrete action, oddly due to SGA's own rules.

The fight over fees has become a December ritual at UM-St. Louis, in which administrators walk into a hostile SGA meeting and explain to students just how much more the privilege of higher education and its assorted perks will cost them. Last year's fight was particularly nasty because along with the normal set of fee hikes the administration also presented an unexpected bonus lump of coal for student stockings, a wallet-lightening \$6.05 fee increase to fund construction of the new University Center. The SGA did manage to pass a non-binding resolution recommending the new round of fee hikes to the Curators but not without a great deal of dissent and political fallout from SGA representatives who complained about both the increases and the fact that the administration gave the assembly so little time to debate them.

In January, SGA leaders responded to the problem by passing a resolution that called

on the administration to give more notice to the assembly before proposing its annual set of increases. This reasonable request was marred however by an unusual clause that said the SGA should not be "bound or compelled" to consider fee alterations if the administration did not comply with SGA's deadlines. Given SGA's action (or rather inactions) at the last meeting this phrase has apparently been interpreted to mean that SGA will not vote on proposed fee increases before such increases go before the Curators. Indeed the SGA failed to make any recommendation, either positive or negative on the increases apparently because of this rule.

The rule, as originally conceived seems well-intentioned, but its results are unfortunate. In an honest attempt to make the administrators more responsive SGA has unintentionally hogtied itself with a resolution that deprives SGA representatives of any chance to officially debate or convey the will of the student body to the Curators through the usual process of passing resolutions approving or disapproving fee hikes.

The January resolution's backfire would not be so disheartening had it not been so foreseeable. Both at the time and now it was known that it is the UM system's lethargy rather than the UM-St. Louis administration which is holding up the fee proposal process. Even if administrators on this campus wanted to comply with SGA's timeline, delays in Columbia may make it impossible.

Worse, Vice-chancellor Gary Grace now says SGA itself may have had a hand in this year's delays by failing to give input on student service and activity fees until mid-November.

The SGA's desire to give representatives an earlier look at the yearly fees plan is understandable and in fact commendable. Doubtless, the system should move more swiftly in bringing its figures to campus administration. But SGA's counterproductive refusal to vote on fee proposals only gags the assembly and further erodes the already tenuous influence of student opinion over the Curators. The SGA should give students a voice and repeal the January resolution.

Death or taxes, which is better?

It's time to pay my personal property taxes again. Fortunately, this yearly ritual is never a major hardship for me since the sum of my personal property consists solely of a rapidly-decaying mid-80's Oldsmobile whose valuation St. Louis County has generously assessed at \$190. (It was worth \$220 on last year's bill.) True, this does earn me a break from the Collector of Revenue but somehow it seems a mixed blessing that my total worldly assets warrant a tax bill smaller than a tab for three at Steak 'n Shake (minus drinks and tip).

But the part of my tax bill that makes it more interesting than a Steak 'n Shake check is the "BREAKDOWN OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS" in the upper right hand corner. Here I can find out exactly how every penny of my \$13.48 will be spent.

This is how I know that twenty of my cents will go to "Road & Bridge" funding. While I'm not at all certain how much asphalt 20 cents will buy, I figure my Olds has probably done that much wear and tear on the county's arterials, so I'm glad to do my part. I am also happy about the 31 cents that will go to the "County Health Fund" though I am fairly certain that I have never utilized their services, whatever those services might be.

Other things I am not so sure about. While I am happy to contribute 27 cents to the "County Library" (I give them far more than that in overdue book charges anyway), I am less eager to spend 16 cents of my money on a "Sheltered Workshop" based mainly on the fact that I haven't the slightest idea what it is.

Don't get me wrong. Before I start receiving angry letters from people who have benefited immensely from "Sheltered Workshop," I should say that I have nothing against it and I am sure it is a fine program/event and/or facility. I just don't know why I should be paying for it since I've never actually used whatever the heck it is.

On the other hand I have no objection to coughing up 44 cents to support The Zoo, (I wouldn't want the polar bears to starve) nor can I complain about throwing 46 cents into the kitty for the St. Louis Community College district of which I am an alumni, (though I do wish that my loot would fund a diploma that would elicit a little more respect from students and faculty who snicker at the words "Associate's degree").

For those who think there is too much waste in government, you should know that in fact sewers are quite cheap (Waste, get it? Nevermind.) at only 13 cents. Parks are also cheap. It costs only seven cents of my money to install those crummy barbecue pits and maintain those smelly, terrifyingly deserted park bathrooms that no one ever uses.

But by far the biggest proportion of my patriotic donation goes to fund schools, to the tune of a whopping \$10.74. That's more than twice everything else put together. I know children are our greatest resource but gee whiz can't us childless people catch a break on the bill?

Then again maybe I'm just getting too crabby and libertarian in my old age. Who cares? Fund everything. If you need me I'll be outside watching my car depreciate.



DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

Lack of student involvement in Kwanzaa shows a lack of unity

Admittedly, I probably would never have gone to the Kwanzaa celebration if I had not been assigned to cover it for the Current. I wouldn't even have known it existed, though even if I had I probably wouldn't have gone. Fortunately I did go, and I left out of that room a better person than I was when I walked in.

Dr. Karenga is a powerful speaker who used humor and eloquent language to talk about everything from love to religion. He brought up issues that we all know about, but fail to address in our personal lives, and it felt good to see other black people of all ages there with me experiencing the same indescribable feelings I was.

However looking around the room, I was disturbed by the lack of attendance from the Black students on this campus. That is not to say

that people from other racial backgrounds weren't welcomed or expected to attend, but I expected more African American students to attend than those who were present. I arrived a half hour early to ensure I had a seat, but my troubles were for nothing. Don't get me wrong the room was crowded, especially when a professor brought her class over, but I expected there to be standing room only. Observing this, one thought occurred to me, why? What makes us, myself included, disregard so important an event. Why didn't we as African American students deem it important enough to attend. We can blame only so much on publicity. Do we not know what is going on, or do we not care. This is my first



SHONTA DODSON
Guest Commentary

year here and I am sure there is much I don't know, or understand. I definitely don't understand the lack of attendance. Even if we don't celebrate Kwanzaa, every African American student on this campus should have been there, if only for a few minutes. I hear my fellow brothers and sisters talking all the time about lack of unity,

and ways to make the lives of African American people better. I was rebuked, by someone handing out leaflets, for not attending the anti-Columbus day rally. I hear students all the time saying what we as African Americans need. I hear how racism is tearing us down. I hear how a white society has their heels on our heads. I hear the the talk, now lets see some action! Where were all these people Wednesday.

Why, when right hear on campus, an opportunity is given for us to come together and hear about ways to better ourselves and each other, do we not attend. I don't know whether to be angry or disgusted. When will we learn, what will it take to finally stir us from our slumber? After witnessing this on Wednesday, I decided to make a conscious effort to do more and show support for my brothers and sisters trying to make a difference, I hope more of you will do the same.

It is not easy to miss work, class, or various other obligations. It is not easy to put together, such an event as the Kwanzaa celebration. I applaud those who not only took out the time to come to the celebration, but I also applaud those who put it together.

Making the most out of your time

I made my own fresh Christmas wreath this year. That in itself is not too terribly unusual, but apparently it is quite strange for anyone under 30 to make something by hand, judging by some of the reactions I've had.

One friend of mine (who's just a wee bit over 30, by the way), was really surprised that I'd try something like that, and was amazed by how little it cost me (under \$10).

She has completed many beautiful crafts for her home, but remember, she's just a might over 30, so it's expected of her, right? Apparently.

My (somewhat under 30) pals here on campus are getting used to me talking about whatever project I'm working on or have recently completed - right now, I'm in the middle of sewing curtains for my home.

That's different from the beginning of the semester, when I'd get raised eyebrows after casually mentioning how my homemade fudge came out, or that I was planning on making beef stroganoff from scratch. Neither of those two are terribly difficult. They just sound intimidating because my generation has lost touch with what it means to make something without nuking it or tearing off the shrink-wrap.

Patience is not so much a virtue in these times of instant everything. The wealthy and stressed pay ungodly amounts of money to have someone beat them with seaweed and pack them in mud so they can return refreshed to the rat race. I'd be willing to beat them with seaweed for next to nothing, maybe even for free, depending on how my week had been.

Maybe it's the Girl Scout in me. Maybe it's the fact that I'm only one generation removed from the farm. I don't know. But I do know this: you can have a high-tech life and still find the time to enjoy simple pleasures. In fact, my stress level drops when I'm creating something with my own two hands. It's an escape for me that's inexpensive (as opposed to my other hobby, photography) and I don't have to consult a guru or wait for the shopping club to answer.

Here are some hints on the wreath project: Make sure you have some wire cutters and needle-nose pliers. Get your frame, bow, florists' wire, and wreath hook at a local mega-craft mart. Big hint: visit Ted Drewe's on Chippewa for very inexpensive greenery. If you give it a try, drop me a line at current@jinx.umsl.edu.



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SPORTS

Off the Wall

Displacing the blame isn't so professional

Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. Or in some cases some teams always win, and some teams always lose.

The world isn't a good place for many people. They hate to lose. This sometimes causes otherwise responsible people to make frantic phone calls to local radio stations, or to not attend athletic events because of a poor record. Jeez, people someone has to lose.

In my case it was years of watching sub-par football teams in high school. Riverview Gardens in some seasons flat-out stunk. They finished 4-6 my senior year. Not exactly a record that gets many fans excited. Yet five years later they won the state championship. The big difference? The school brought in a new coach and the players believed in his ideas and game plan. The talent had always been there; in fact this year's team is one of the smallest teams in years, sporting only 30 players.



KEN DUNKIN
sports editor

The only difference was attitude. The Riverview players have a winning attitude and air to them. The St. Louis Rams on the other hand have an excuse-riddled team who will not take blame for their mistakes. If Tony Banks throws three interceptions it isn't his fault according to him. It could be he didn't have enough time to throw, or his receivers didn't get open. The simple fact is Banks didn't make the play.

When Riverview rolled over Kirkwood it wasn't because Illinois-bound quarterback Christian Morton had a tremendous day, quite the contrary. Morton threw three costly interceptions that kept Kirkwood in the game. Morton took the blame for all three. Sure on one of the interceptions there were no options, and the other was a great play on the defense. There were no excuses from Morton. He commended his teammates for bailing him out. The defense had saved him that game.

While watching the St. Louis Rams I get the exact opposite impression. Everyone looks to blame someone else. If you listen to the players everyone else around them is screwing up and they are playing bad because of everyone else's mistakes. These comments are the same things I heard from the high school players several years ago. The difference is the high school players could make excuses like they did - they are 16 years old and play for free. The pro athletes make several hundred thousand dollars and sometimes several million. When you reach a certain level where you are supposed to be the best in the business, the excuses should stop.

With St. Louis though, I doubt they ever will. Quite often the excuse-making comes from the top. Dick Vermeil may win the nice guy of the year award but his goodie-goodie attitude is causing his players to become complacent finger-pointers.

It isn't easy for a team to lose. Every radio station that I have heard in a losing football city (Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, New Orleans) sounds just like KFNS. Fans berate the team but things don't get better. Everyone can take faith that what goes around comes around as Riverview demonstrated. All it takes is time, a little luck, and a good goal for a team to strive for. Riverview's was the state championship - St. Louis' should be a .500 record.

Rivermen fall to Lewis, dropping to 1-5 overall

B-ball loses 93-85 to Flyers; free throws scarce in first half

BY JOE HARRIS
of the Current staff

A poor first half did the Rivermen in last Thursday against Lewis University, as they fell 93-85 before a sparse crowd at Mark Twain gym.

The Lewis Flyers went 15-25 from the field and outscored the Rivermen 45-36 in the first half to seize control of the game.

"We didn't do a good job of guarding them off the dribble and they made some tough shots," Head Coach Rick Meckfessel said. "The first half our defense was horrible."

The loss drops the Rivermen record to 1-5 overall and 0-3 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

Greg Ross, Durrell Robinson and Michael Coleman led the Rivermen with 23, 20, and 17 points respectively. Terrell Alexander and Gene Stewart led the Rivermen with six rebounds apiece.

"Robinson has been terrific and Alexander has been very good," Meckfessel said. "[With Alexander] it doesn't show up necessarily on the stat sheet but

his effort and his commitment to playing hard has been tremendous."

"Durrell [Robinson] is a solid steady guy who can score and rebound. He needs to improve his defense, but he's going to be a very fine scorer for us," Meckfessel said.

Robinson's contribution is also key for the Rivermen because they have lost Kyle Bixler for the year due to a thumb injury. Bixler was a full-time starter at guard for the Rivermen last year and Robinson will take his place.

Free throws, or the lack thereof, were the glaring statistic for the Rivermen in the first half. They only had six attempts while the Flyers had fifteen.

"The best thing you can do offensively is get fouled," Meckfessel said. "We just don't do enough of it. I thought that some of the free-throw opportunities that Lewis got were not merited."

"I thought they protected [Milosh] Pujo a lot. He's a four-year starter and a four-year all-conference player and he gets the

type of protection that's usually accorded to a star player," Meckfessel said.

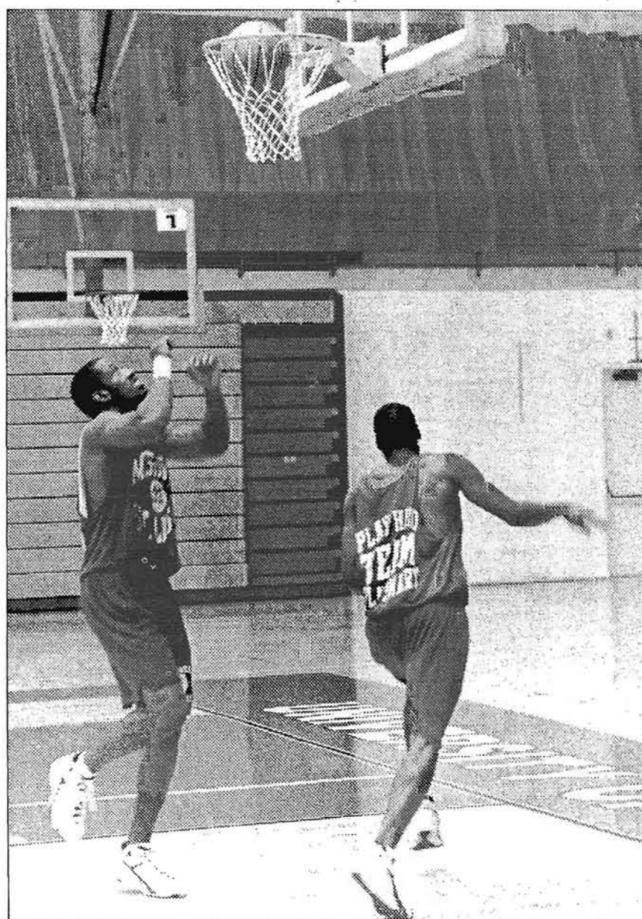
Pujo led the Flyers with 25 points and 10 rebounds. He also knocked down 13 of 14 free-throw attempts.

Even with the loss, Ross seems to have gained some of his confidence back. Last year as a freshman his performance compared with some of the top guards in the GLVC.

"[Ross] has been up and down, he played very well [against Lewis] offensively," Meckfessel said. "It hasn't been quite what we've hoped for but it's a long season and I expect [Ross] will play well down the stretch just like he did last year."

Meckfessel believes there are bright spots even with the slow start. He said the Rivermen played their best game offensively against Lewis and the team is close to turning it around.

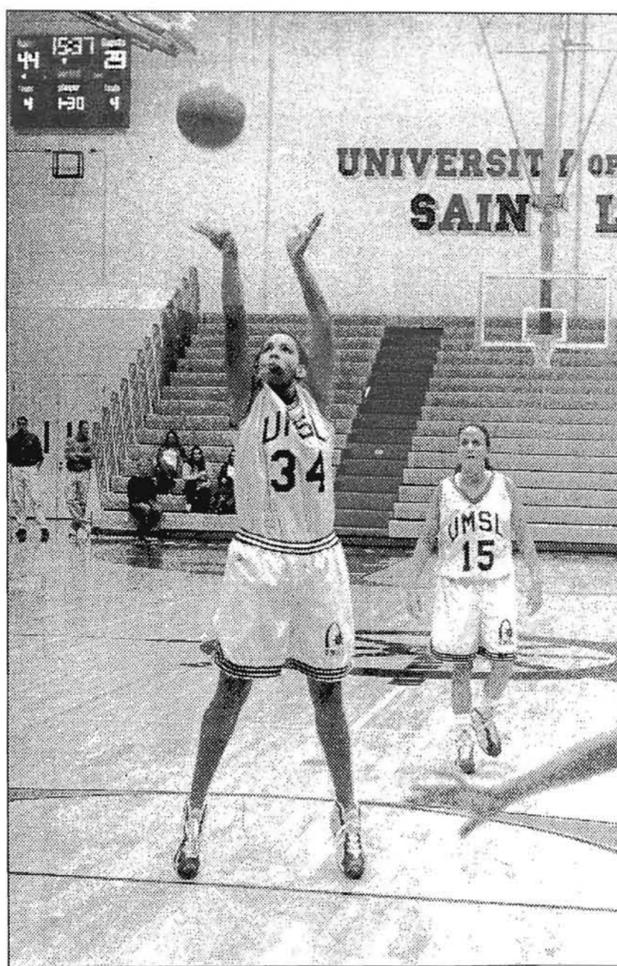
"We've got a lot of games to play yet and we expect to win a lot of them," Meckfessel said. "We expect to get better and we expect to win a lot of conference games."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Rivermen players getting in some practice the week before the game with Lewis. The Rivermen lost that game 93-85.

Women's b-ball tops the Rangers with a 74-58 win, putting them at 2-2 in GLVC



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Riverwoman Melanie Marcy shoots in a recent practice session.

BY JOE HARRIS
of the Current staff

The Riverwomen overpowered the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers for a convincing 74-58 win.

Melanie Marcy led the Riverwomen with a game-high twelve points and her eight rebounds and 2nd in the game only to the Rangers' Stacie Jury who had nine.

The game was close for the first nine minutes before the Riverwomen broke it open with a 9-2 run. The run put the Riverwomen lead at 18-10 and the Rangers would get no closer than six points the rest of the way.

Marcy sparked the run with a basket and two steals. Amanda Wentzel contributed with a three-pointer, a two-point basket, and an assist.

Wentzel and Tawanda Daniel turned in good performances for the Riverwomen. Wentzel finished with eleven points and two steals while Daniel totaled nine points and three steals.

Lynette Wellen and Lindsay Brefeld gave the Riverwomen solid minutes off the bench. Wellen and Brefeld combined for seventeen points and seven rebounds.

The win pulls the Riverwomen record to an even .500 at 3-3 overall, and 2-2 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

The next home game for the Riverwomen will be Saturday, December 12, against conference foe Quincy at 5:30p.m.

Sports Analysis

NCAA champions a numbers game

And the national champion is...

Unfortunately, again, there may be no clear-cut answer in the world of college football.

In the first year of the NCAA's Bowl Championship Series, a supposedly iron-clad, no-doubt-about-it system of determining a true national champion, there's a snag - three teams rightfully belong in the championship game.

Kansas State, Tennessee, and UCLA all have perfect records (providing they all win their last game of the season) and all have a legitimate argument about why they should be in the championship game.

The Bowl Coalition, which promised a game pitting the No. 1 against the No. 2 team, is hoping for a miracle - that one of these teams will lose their last game.

It could happen.

UCLA has to travel to Miami to face the Hurricanes in a game that was postponed by a hurricane named Georges. Though Miami got blown out last week against Syracuse 66-13, they always play well at home and an act of nature has already altered the game.

Tennessee faces Mississippi State in the SEC Championship game in Atlanta. The neutral site may help Tennessee but their opponent handled a tough Arkansas team earlier this year, an Arkansas team that Tennessee could only beat after a miracle fumble.

Kansas State also has a neutral site game against Texas A&M in the Big XII championship game in St. Louis. Look for A&M to attack the K-State secondary, a secondary that was very vulnerable against Missouri.

For fun, let's say all three teams win out. Then there are three teams with perfect records but only two spots in the championship game.

In this case a complicated computer program which takes in the teams' poll stand-

ing, strength of schedule, and team statistics (among other things) will decide which two teams will play in the "championship game." This computer formula makes Einstein's Theory of Relativity look like elementary math.

Strength of schedule may have a large part in determining the two teams. It is the reason why Tulane, another unbeaten team, isn't even considered. Tulane's way to perfection had them beating up on teams that wouldn't even do well at the high-school level.

Playing high-school caliber teams is what currently has K-State behind the other two schools according to the computer. However, the difference between K-State and Tulane is their respective conferences. K-State had tough conference battles with Nebraska and Missouri and one upcoming against A&M, while Tulane's conference is a glorified high school league.

Basically what it all comes down to is that a computer will decide the national champion and there's something very wrong about that.

What happened to deciding the champion on the field?

What can be done to fix this dilemma?

The answer is obvious: a play-off system. Keep the bowls the way they are now. Have the teams naturally go to their respective bowls, play the games, and rake in the advertising money.

Then take the top four teams and have a two round, single elimination play-off.

The money would be huge, the press coverage would be extensive, and most of all we would finally get a true national champion.

Unfortunately, the NCAA doesn't get it. And as long as they don't get it, we won't get our national champion.

-Joe Harris

Rec sports spins their wheels for fitness

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

Spinning is coming to UM-St. Louis.

What is spinning you ask? Spinning is a stationary cycling class with Johnny G. Spinner bicycles which is set to begin in January on the UM-St. Louis campus. Each person while on the cycle will ride through varying terrain. The riders will experience climbing hills, accelerating on flat ground, with several difficulties and levels of riding.

"Each participant controls their own bike, the amount of resistance,

and the amount of speed," Intramural Director Larry Coffin said. "The beginners can ride side-by-side with the experienced riders in the same class. Each participant can have a workout that fits their own needs, their own training goals and their particular work-out intensity."

The class is led by Johnny G. certified instructors who will lend assistance to the participants. The classes will last 45 minutes and will be accompanied by a variety of musical backgrounds. Classical and rock and roll are two of the styles

that will be accompanying the cycle riders during their workouts.

"The mind-body experience and the self-paced challenge will put you in the best shape of your life," Coffin said. "Everyone who can ride a stationary bike can benefit from this cardiovascular, mind-and-body strengthening workout."

The class will begin in January and will be free of charge for the month. There are 11 spaces left for the class. Students and faculty wishing to sign up should call Rec Sports at 516-5326.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Amy Lombardo, Features Editor
Phone 516-5174, Fax 516-6811

Happy

KWANZAA FOUNDER VISITS CAMPUS

BY SHONTA DODSON
of the Current staff

The Kwanzaa celebration in the University Center student lounge Wednesday was filled with symbolic tribute.

The celebration was a dedication to African ancestors from every area and arena of life who had made the way easier for their African descendents around the world.

The ceremony began with the harmonious beats of the drums which filled the room with stirring rhythms older than time.

The drums were followed by the Pouring of Liberations (Tambiko), which was "showing appreciation for those who walked before us," said Dr. Maulana Karenga, the creator of Kwanzaa. That was soon followed by the lighting of the candles (Mishumaa). There is a candle for each principle, with a black one in the middle, three red candles on the right and three green candles on the left. The black candle is lit first and then used to light the other six candles.

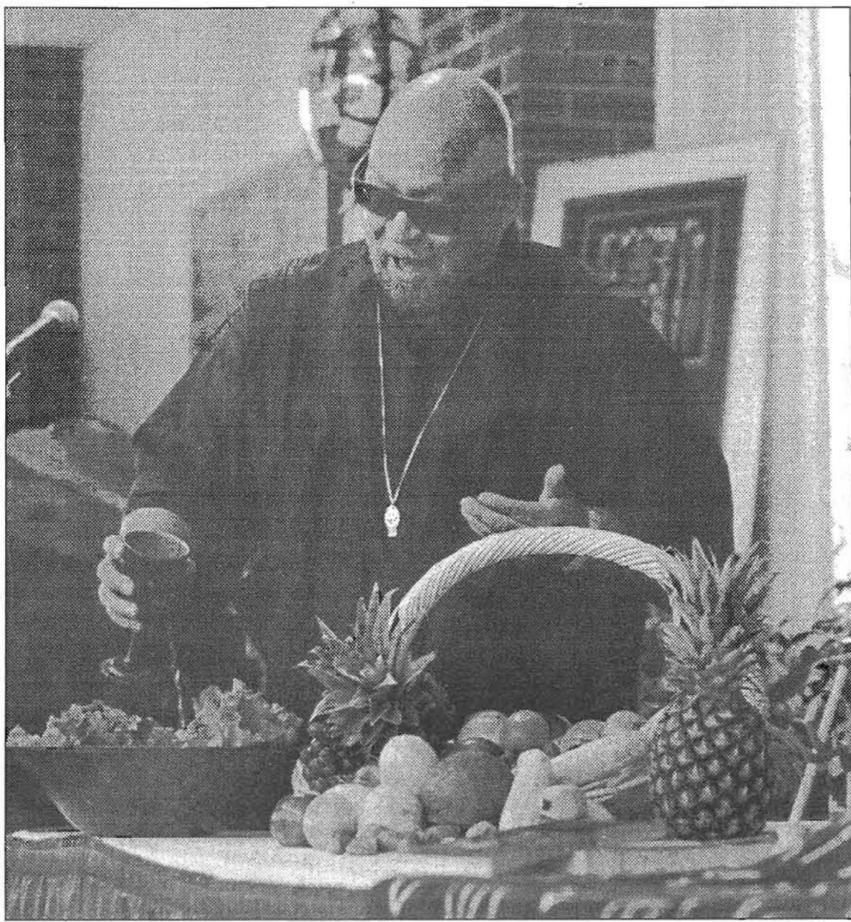
An African dance topped off the ceremony after Karenga had spoken.

Kwanzaa is a word taken from the Swahili language which embodies seven principles: UMOJA (Unity), KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination), UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility), UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics), NIA (Purpose), KUUMBA (Creativity), and IMANI (Faith). Along with these seven principles, there are five concepts that define Kwanzaa: in-gathering of the people, special reverence for the Creator and the creation, commemoration of the past, committing one's self to the highest value, and celebration of good and life. The holiday, which begins Dec. 26 and runs through Jan. 1, is celebrated by African descendents around the globe regardless of nationality, language, or religion.

Though gifts can be exchanged, Kwanzaa bears little resemblance to Christmas. Kwanzaa is more of a time of reflection and rededication to the building up of a people.

"It is a time for black people to come together to reaffirm the bond between each other," Karenga said.

The annual celebration, co-sponsored by the African-American Leadership Council and the Associated Black Collegians, was attended by many people around the St. Louis community as well as by students and faculty.



Stephanie Platt/The Current
Dr. Maulana Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa, performs the Pouring of Liberations during Wednesday's celebration of Kwanzaa in the University Center. The ceremony is a symbolic offering to those who have come before.

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Canned food drive highlights holiday festivities

BY SUE BRITT
staff associate

The 4th annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held Tuesday, Dec. 1 in the Alumni Circle in conjunction with other activities on campus. The tree lighting was sponsored by Administrative Services.

Many student groups and organizations participated in the activities. The community reception that took place in the lobby of the student center Thursday included a food drive. The food collected was intended to be made up into food baskets and given to the Northside Team Ministries, a non-denominational organization.

"The only requirement," said Denny Kiehl, of Student Activities, "is that you're in

need."

Kiehl said that the food drive last year at UM-St. Louis was very instrumental in assisting Northside Team Ministries. There was a cash collection of around \$300 and between 75 and 80 food baskets were delivered. This was a great help to the charity.

"Last year the pantry wasn't functioning," Kiehl said, "because they had no food to distribute."

Kiehl said that this year is looking better because the donations have

increased.

"This year we will exceed [75-80 food baskets]," Kiehl said. Another activity in the University Center lobby was the "friendship garland." Students were asked if they would like to sign their name on a slip of colored construction paper. The slips were then fashioned into a garland that decorated the tree and lobby. This activity was an opportunity for students to participate by signing a slip of paper to show their school spirit.

"We're getting people to sign for our holiday tree," said Jason Hessel, a junior special education major who was representing the Ice Hockey Club at the event, "to promote the holiday festivities among the [UM-St. Louis] student body."

Angela Christian, a special education major said that the various student organization signed up for periods of time to help. She said it ended up being a lot of fun and that many people who volunteered for a shift ended up staying all day.

"One thing that's kind of neat [is that]," Christian said, "all these different groups have gotten together."

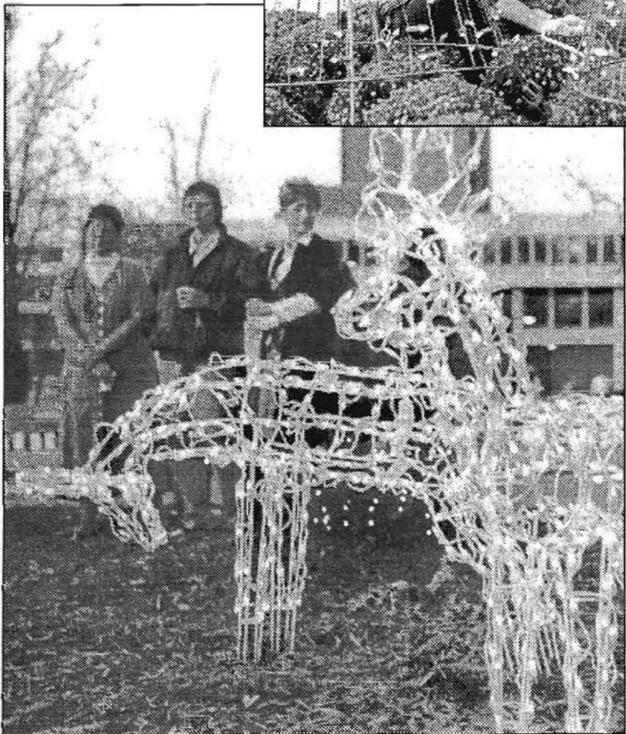
Matthew Schmeer, vice president of Litmag said that he didn't understand why some people were so shocked to be asked to sign a slip to be put on the garland to show holiday and school spirit.

"A lot of people assume there is no school spirit here," Schmeer said, "and it shocks them to see this... How many people are involved."

TOP: Lee Guttman (left) and Colin Walters light trees in front of the Thomas Jefferson Library, Dec. 1.

LEFT: Onlookers sing Christmas carols behind decorative reindeer.

RIGHT: Senior Andrea Kerley helps decorate the University Center Christmas tree.



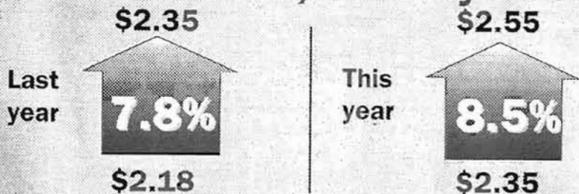
FEES, FROM PAGE 1

Fee increases at a glance

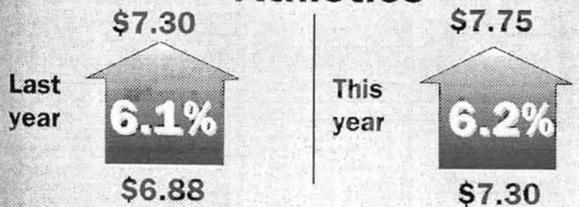
Per credit hour

(All of this year's figures are proposed changes)

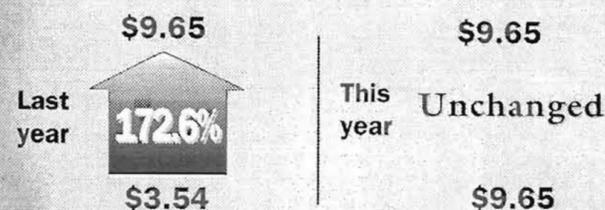
Recreation/Facility Fee



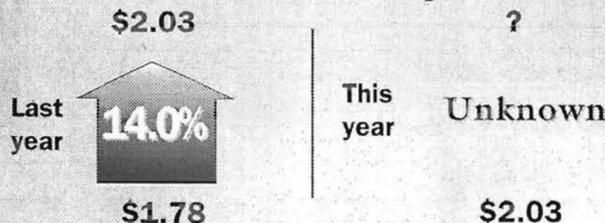
Athletics



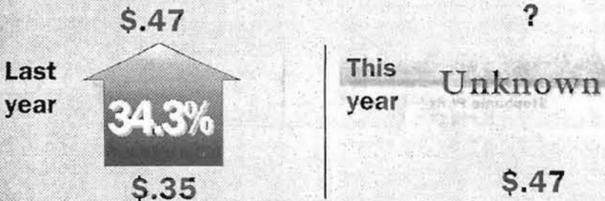
University Center



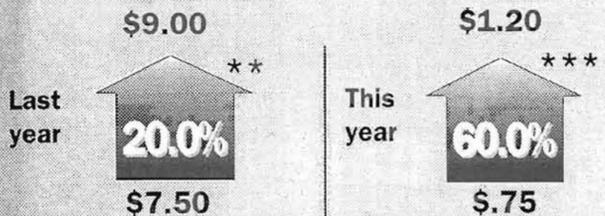
Student Activity Fee



Student Service Fee



Student Health Fee*



*Assessed as a flat fee last year. This year's proposal would assess it on a per credit hour basis.
 **Assessed as a flat fee.
 ***Assessed per credit hour. The \$.75 figure computes last year's \$9.00 flat fee as based on a maximum of 12 hours.

resolution to recommend zero increases in any student fees. He said that this would be a way of sending a message to the Board of Curators.

"The Board has turned a deaf ear to what we have to say," Rankins said. "These fees will be raised regardless of what we say or do. It's time to send a wake-up call."

Several students objected to Rankins' idea, saying that sending a hostile message to the Board of Curators might be counter-productive.

Rankins said he felt that the SGA and the student body were always left out of the decision-making loop.

"The Board sends out recommendations on what they think the fees should be and [SGA] is asked to approve those fee increases," Rankins said. "With the exception of the Student Activities and Student Services fee, we have absolutely no power at all over what the fees end up being. We can say what we think, but we can't change it."

Another complication came up when Rankins complained that the Board of Curators hadn't provided the student fees budget information to the University soon enough for any real discussion to take place.

After a controversial \$6.05 per credit hour fee increase was passed by SGA in a non-binding resolution last year many assembly representatives complained they hadn't had enough time to consider the fee hike.

"Last year we passed a resolution in the student government," Rankins explained. "It states that fee increases of any type that are to be voted on or approved by the SGA must be presented to the SGA body in writing, no less than 30 days in advance of their being voted or commented on."

"That didn't happen this year," Rankins added. "They presented them on the same day, despite our having made it very clear that this was not acceptable and was against our own rules."

Grace said, however that the SGA played a role in the delay. He said that the University received the student fees budget information in mid-October. To complete the information, he needed the proposed Student Activities and Student Services fees from Rankins and SGA President Jim Avery.

"They both knew we needed those two fees," he said. "I had wanted to get the materials out by November 16, but we didn't get [their input] until the Wednesday before Thanksgiving."

Rankins said he was confused about Grace's account. "The board is what held this up," Rankins said. "I don't know why Dr. Grace and I aren't on the same page about this."

After the SGA adjourned without taking action, Grace said that he would talk to the chancellor and vice chancellors about the opinions expressed at the meeting.

"I have written e-mail to vice chancellors Jim Krueger and Reinhard Schuster; that was a synopsis of the meeting," he said. "I will brief the chancellor about the meeting, and describe the student concerns over the process not having enough time and the concern with these fees going up."

Rankins said the next SGA meeting would be held before the Board of Curators meet on Jan. 28 to discuss the budget.

"We can at least see what people are thinking about the fee increases," Rankins said. "It may be too late to hold any vote, but there will be a petitioning of the Board. Either myself and Jim Avery will do it, or SGA as a body will do it."

SGA, FROM PAGE 1

said. "We had different opinions."

He stressed that SGA's main goal is to gain more of an influence with the Curators.

"I think that it's very important that we can work together even when we have our disagreements and I think that in the end we were all working toward the same thing to get more say, to get the board to listen to us more," Ash said. "That's what our main goal is."

Ash said he would push for the two and three cent increases at the January SGA meeting.

"I think that Mike and Jim will agree to something along those lines," Ash said. "I can't guarantee it."

Avery could not be reached for comment.

Movie Review

Circus act doesn't work for Springer

Ringmaster
Artisan Films

As I was watching "Ringmaster," the "fictionalized" film version of "The Jerry Springer Show," I found myself thinking back to my stint as a film major at another college remembering how one of the most daunting aspects of it was trying to get the financing together to make a movie. Those canisters of film are expensive little suckers, you know. It's such a shame then that thousands of feet of perfectly good film stock were squandered on "Ringmaster" when some poor, struggling college student could have put it to much better use. Now I know how starving people feel when they see someone throw away food.

In the film Springer plays Jerry Farrelly, a former politician who hosts a highly-rated, torrid daytime talk show (remember, folks, this is supposed to be fiction). The film follows both Farrelly and the guests appearing in episodes entitled "You Did WHAT With Your Stepdaddy?" and "My Traitor Girlfriends." These guests include Angel (Jaime Pressly), who's engaged to Willie (Ashley Holbrook) but is having flings with her stepfather, the customers of the motel where she works, as well as fellow "Jerry" guest Demond (Michael Jai White), who in turn is juggling liaisons with his girlfriend Starletta (Wendy Raquel Robinson) and her best friends. They all head for Los Angeles for their 15 minutes of fame and, well, wacky hijinks ensue.

What's most surprising about the film is not the saturation of scenes thrown in for shock value but the fact that Springer appears in so little of the film. His only purpose is to be a recognizable name on the marquee, as his scenes could be easily cut without it affecting the paper-thin plot. The 20 or 30 minutes he appears in the film are spent signing autographs for fans and delivering a sanctimonious speech toward the end in which he likens his show to providing a public service for low-income, dysfunctional people. Springer also manages in his short time on screen to deliver two of the most terrifying film scenes in recent memory: one with him singing, another with him having sex. Like most of the movie, these scenes aren't pretty to watch.

The bulk of "Ringmaster" is devoted to the show's bed-hopping guests, most of whom are not likable enough to care much about. Screenwriter Jon Bernstein has written the characters as one-dimensional stereotypes and saddled them with unimaginative dialogue. Although most of the actors lack the skill to rise above the flaws in the script, Molly Hagan, as Angel's jilted mother Connie, comes close to pulling it off. Her character is the easiest to be sympathetic toward, as she awkwardly adjusts to middle age by competing unsuccessfully with her daughter for men.

There's a scene in the film in which one of Farrelly's producers compares the show's guests to "the bottom of the gene pool." What the makers of "Ringmaster" don't seem to understand is that their movie is the cinematic equivalent.

-Mary Lindsley

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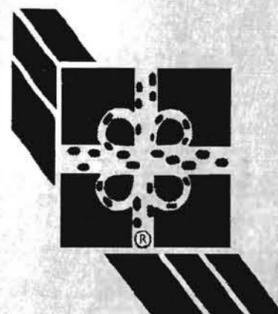
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Missouri Historical Society contains regional treasures

Museum revamp is geared for 21st century

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

For the one percent of the artifacts that the Thomas Jefferson Building is able to display for the public, another ninety-nine percent is in storage at the Missouri Historical Society Library on Skinker. The Thomas Jefferson Building was built in 1913 and is currently only able to display 8000 artifacts. The Historical Society owns many additional artifacts relevant to the history of Missouri.

Some of the artifacts are the Louisiana Purchase Transfer Document, journals written by William Clark in 1804 during the Lewis and Clark expedition, and many Native American artifacts. Recently, the Missouri Historical Society decided to begin the Thomas Jefferson Campaign to launch the History Museum into the 21st Century.

This campaign will cost approximately 20 million and will open in February of 2000. The first step in this project was to organize all the artifacts in storage which was conducted in late 1980s and early 1990s. Once the collections were organized an addition could be designed to complement the material in the collections.

The architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum was selected to design the new Thomas Jefferson Building, but still maintain the integrity of the first Thomas Jefferson Building. This was achieved by separating the first building and the new building by a courtyard and then having the new building at a lower height so that the original Thomas Jefferson Building shadows it. The new extension will not be able to be seen as the lower height will prevent this and this still gives precedence to the original Thomas Jefferson Building.

The new addition includes a Grand Hall which will be available for rental, an auditorium, and four new

galleries. The four new galleries will be able to exhibit between eight and ten percent of the collections owned by the Missouri Historical Society.

The most intriguing aspect about this extension is the most of the work, except the actual construction and design, has been accomplished by the staff of the Historical Society. Fifty to sixty members of the staff of approximately one hundred and thirty have been working on this project for two years. The trend is to hire staff for the selection and interpretation of artifacts for the Historical Society expansion.

Marcia M. Kerz is the vice president for Institutional Advancement of the Missouri History Society. According to Kerz the focus of the new Thomas Jefferson Building was to, "respond to children and adults [in a way that is] exciting and fun, yet still tell the story of St. Louis."

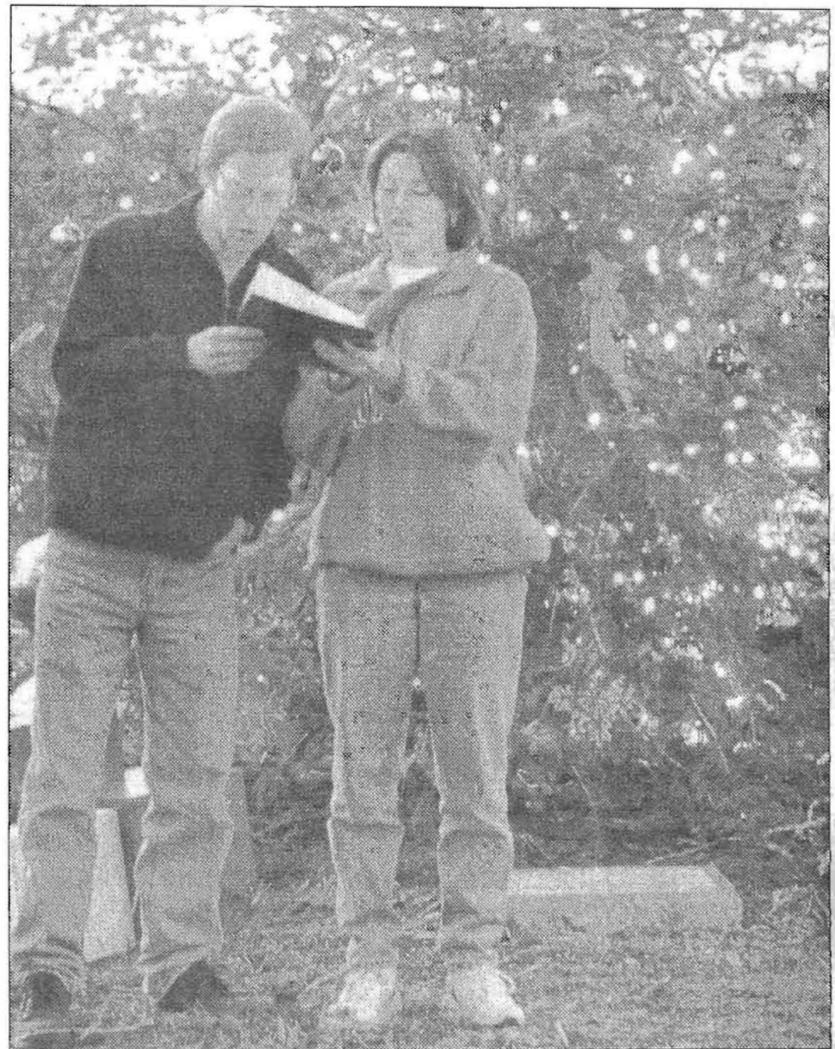
There are a number of exhibits already booked for the new Thomas Jefferson Building. One exhibit is "Can You Tell Me How to Get to Sesame Street?" which explores the historical, social, and political effects of the television show. "Sesame Street," for the last 30 years. Another exhibit will display the 24,000 items of the Historical Society's Native American collection which has not been displayed since the 1920s.

"Through the Eyes of a Child" is another exhibit based on research by the Missouri Historical Society that will entail the examination of institutions, role models, and resources of four traditionally black neighborhoods. The lives of children raised in these communities and how the environment has affected their lives is the basis for this St. Louis-based exhibit.

The most notable of these future exhibits will be the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial which will cost approximately three million and will travel the country after its unveiling in St. Louis. There has already been a year of work on this exhibit. It will exhibit in the years 2002 and 2003, and Kerz says it is, "the largest collection ever of all artifacts."

Kerz describes, "this location will allow us to be full and open when people come to learn about this region."

Your book or mine?



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Choir members Kelly Kemp and Dale Hampton sing Christmas carols at the University's tree-lighting Tuesday.

Arts and Sciences dean candidates hold open sessions

BY DAVID BAUGHER AND SUE BRITT
staff writers

Two dean candidates for the College of Arts and Sciences spoke to open forums of students, faculty, and staff earlier this month to discuss their priorities for the college.

The Arts and Sciences dean search committee, formed late last year, was reopened after previously-selected candidate William Frawley declined the University's offer.

David Young, provost, and academic Vice-president at Colorado State University, spoke to an audience of about two dozen faculty Nov. 24. He responded to questions about his ability to set standards for the various departments.

"You can't expect me to be an expert in all the disciplines but certainly I believe I understand what each discipline contributes to the overall mission of the College of Arts and Sciences and can be extremely supportive of all of the disciplines," Young said.

He said he would depend on a "collaborative effort" with department heads to set standards for the evaluation of faculty in their sections.

"I don't think that I'm qualified necessarily to set standards [for all departments]," Young said. "I am qualified to talk with you about whether or not your standards are sufficient."

Young also recounted some of his experiences as an administrator at CSU and the University of Oklahoma. He noted that if chosen dean, he felt the college should "take a hard look at the curriculum in general."

"[We could] take a fresh look at what we are doing with the majors and how are we serving them...really changing our thinking about what we do and that is shifting from the concept of simply teaching to being more focused on learning," Young said.

He suggested a "capstone experience" for students would be beneficial, especially for transfer students.

"What are we as a college doing to help those students funnel into our programs? Do we just take them and stick them in there?" Young said.

Young said he could be an effective advocate for the college when budget decisions are being made, but said the college must prioritize in order to prove they are using their resources effectively.

"The first thing I believe we need to do at the college if I were to come here would be to take a really hard assessment of where we are, what are our three or four top priorities, and look at how we're expending our resources," Young said.

The search committee for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences held a question and answer meeting with their second candidate on Monday, Nov. 30.

Dr. Mark Burkholder, chairperson of the history department, was the second candidate in the ongoing search for a new dean. Burkholder is the internal candidate according to Nancy Gleason, a senior lecturer in the English department.

Burkholder has a unique stand in the running as he has been on the UM-St. Louis campus as a professor and now department chair for a cumulative 20 years.

"I'm Mark Burkholder," Burkholder said. "Professor of history, chair of the history department; an old-timer on campus. I want to be your dean."

Burkholder began by addressing the many financial issues facing the College of Arts and Sciences.

Increased enrollment, he said, is one of the means towards a more sound fiscal college.

Burkholder said he is interested in pursuing the commodities that are already available to this campus with greater drive.

Burkholder mentioned the relationship that our campus has already established with the St. Louis Zoo.

"It had come to my attention...there seemed to be no programs in the country, graduate programs, in zoo administration...We've got a Des Lee professorship, an association with the zoo, we have a strong biology program, we have a school of business...maybe this is worth exploring and it just struck me there may be a lot of other things that are worth exploring," Burkholder said.

Burkholder said he is very interested and aware of the problems with finances and suggests that a number of avenues be explored to help solve the problems. He said he recognizes the debt and the dependence on soft money from the chancellor's office.

"It's striking to me that many of the soft money problems that existed when I worked in the dean's office from '77 to '83 are still there. I don't mean the occasional course or program. I mean English lecturer...math support...music, [which we] have been paying for on soft money forever," Burkholder said.

Burkholder gave many more examples of the use of soft money. He said he believes the College of Arts & Sciences is fully deserving of this money and he said that a better case should be made to show the chancellor's office the money is well spent.

"Were I dean," Burkholder said, "it would be my job to make the most convincing case possible to the chancellor and vice-chancellor that our needs are real."

Burkholder spoke of the size and importance of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We do 80 percent of the research. We teach one-half of the students. We're the core on which business and education rests, frankly. We have the graduate programs," Burkholder said. "We do a lot. I think that the case that has to be made is, doing all we're doing, we need to have an appropriate fiscal base."

VISION, FROM PAGE 3

child will be distorted. This distortion can cause the future of the child to be limited because binocular vision is necessary for such occupations as surgeons, police officers, and airline pilots. Frazel said, "Just about everyone has refractive eye problems, but it is not always enough to correct." Through the free assessment it is possible to determine if the refraction needs to be corrected.

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- 1) The "Ginger catches crabs in the lagoon" episode.**

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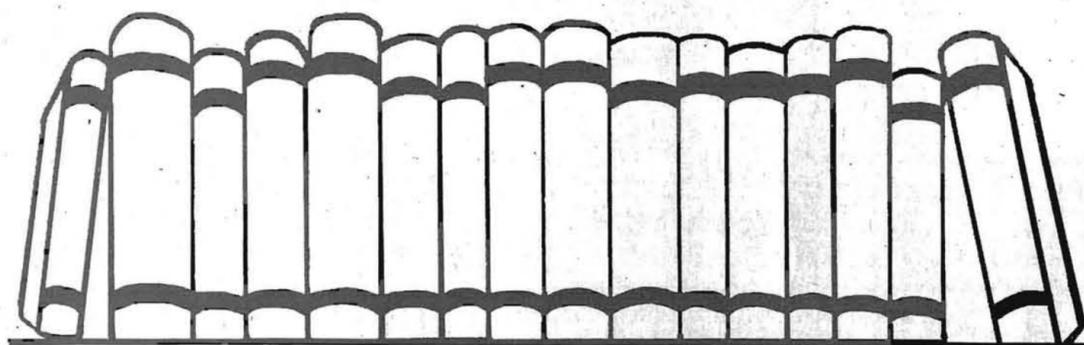
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