

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

In This Issue

Do the math. Enrollment figures for recent semesters are in and they are making administrators happy. For this story, see page 3.

It's that time of year: Valentine's Day is here and you're going to need a gift idea right? Then you'll want to take a look at our look at this year's best picks. See page 6.

Women's basketball team wins one and loses one in recent conference action. See page 7.

Editorials: SGA President Jim Avery should choose his battles more carefully. See page 4.

Columns: Bill Rolfes takes a look at the Nagano Olympics. See page 4.

News From All Over

HIV strains resistant to new classes of drugs

STANFORD, CALIF. (U-WIRE) — Postdoctoral fellows Sarah Palmer and Jody Lawrence, working under Professor of Medicine Thomas Merigan at Stanford University's Center for AIDS Research, have recently conducted laboratory and clinical studies on HIV.

The studies show that many of the new, experimental drugs being developed by pharmaceutical companies are not effective against "resistant" strains of HIV. The clinical test confirmed that the phenomenon of cross-resistance - the tendency of HIV strains resistant to one drug to be resistant to all drugs in the same class - manifests itself not only in laboratory studies but also in patients.

The success of the drugs against non-resistant strains of HIV contrasts with their inability to suppress resistant strains. Against those strains, the viral load may decrease temporarily, but eventually the HIV load rebounds to the set point. These resistant strains are a product of the HIV's ability to mutate rapidly. "Any suboptimal treatment gives the virus a chance to develop resistant strains," Lawrence said. The resistant strains arose partly due to the early HIV drugs, which were not completely effective.

-Krishna Rangarajan
The Stanford Daily

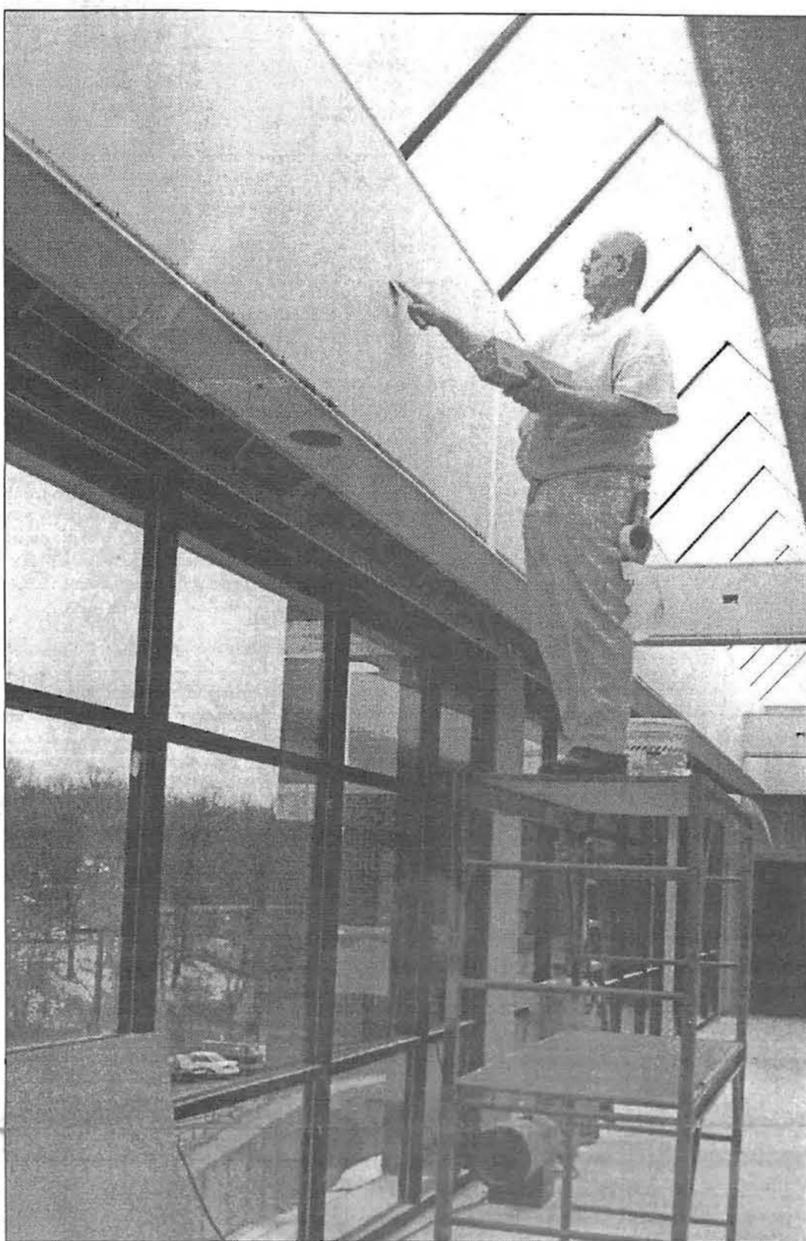
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Head in the Clouds



Daniel Hazelton / The Current

A worker fills in the dry wall of the walkway and Business Building and the Computer Center Building near completion between the Social Science Center Building.

Students sue University for reimbursement of fees

BY BILL ROLFES
staff writer

A new law suit against the UM Board of Curators is calling for the University to refund educational fees to all students who are state residents.

Robert Herman, of Schwartz, Herman & Davidson, filed a class action suit against the board, Jan. 30, on behalf of Douglas Sharp, a criminal justice major at UM-St. Louis, and Sandra Lynn, a fall 1997 graduate of UM-Columbia. Herman is claiming the University of Missouri is unlawful in charging educational fees to state residents, citing Section

172.360 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

The statute states that "all youths, resident of the state of Missouri, over the age of sixteen years," do not have to pay tuition fees other than in the professional departments or for incidental expenses. The statute also allows the University to charge laboratory, library, hospital and late registration fees.

"The University is claiming that the amount charged is an incidental fee," Herman said.

Instead of tuition, the University charges students educational fees. Herman says he does not see any difference

The University is claiming that the amount charged is an incidental fee.

-Robert Herman
attorney for students suing the University

between the two.

"The definition of tuition is educational fees," he explained.

The law suit is petitioning for a declaratory judgment (declaring the University is charging tuition and has violated the rights of Herman's clients), injunctive relief (forbidding the University

see SUIT, page 10

SABC imposes restrictions on groups' funds

Organizations' failure to attend budget workshop causes UPB, others to lose direct control of dollars

BY DAVID BAUGHER
AND MARY LINDSLEY
staff writers

Four student groups will not receive direct Student Activities funding for the 1998-99 fiscal year due to a failure to comply with budget committee rules, according to University officials.

Budgets for the University Program Board, the American Black Collegians, the University Instrumental Ensembles and the Kemetic Performing Arts Workshop were all rejected by the Student Activities Budget Committee because none of the organizations sent representatives to mandatory budget workshops last semester, said Rick Blanton, interim director of Student Activities.

Blanton, who chairs the student-controlled SABC, said the regulations have always been that all organizations seeking funding must send a representative to one of five workshops. He said that the SABC learned at a mid-December meeting that the four organizations hadn't done so.

"Ultimately the consensus [of

the SABC] was we have rules. Let's adhere to those," Blanton said.

Blanton said programming by two of the organizations, UPB and ABC, would still be funded through other channels, because the groups' programs have "social, cultural, and educational" value which "benefit the entire campus." He said that the African-American Leadership Council would receive a much larger allocation than usual to fund "ABC-types of programs."

"They have similar kinds of interests and cross-membership in the organization," Blanton said.

He said the SABC also decided to fund UPB activity directly through the Office of



Sharone Hopkins
Two groups he leads are affected

Student Activities because it is "historically connected" to the organization. Blanton said the decision would not entail a serious change in procedure because UPB will still have input in programming. Student Services Coordinator Don McCarty, who is also UPB's adviser, will have authority over the funds.

Hopkins said he originally signed up for the workshop but couldn't attend due to "extenuating circum-

see FUNDS, page 3

Garage construction to begin on West drive; more projects planned

BY KRIS NORMAN
special to The Current

Construction of a new garage will begin this week according to Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for Administrative Services.

It will be located on West Drive between the Molecular Electronics Building and the library.

"About 50 [spaces] will be lost," Schuster said. So, about 50 people will have to find some other place to park.

The new garage will house about 660 cars.

Schuster also said that there are going to be two more garages added to the campus. One is called "The U Center garage," which will house about 800 cars, but will not begin

For an artist's rendering of the garage, see page 8.

construction until the new U Center is built.

The other is Garage XX. Though there is no definite site, the administration has guaranteed that it will be built sometime in the near future, Schuster said.

Garage H, near the UM-St. Louis North Campus MetroLink station, will be demolished soon. Garages C and D will also be demolished, but "will be up for another three years," according to Schuster.

Parking fees will increase, "but only three to four dollars," Schuster said. □

Reflection on past frames hope for future

Urban League president delivers address to University and community leaders

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

UM-St. Louis' observance of African-American History Month began Monday with an event to reflect upon past struggles and to mobilize for future challenges.

The program, held in the J.C. Penney Auditorium, featured musical selections and speeches from campus and community leaders as well as a keynote speech by James Buford, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Buford, who has been president of the not-for-profit service organization since 1985, traced the evolution of African-Americans in the United States, beginning with slavery.

"[We were] stripped of our identity, our names,

stripped of our culture, our family, our tribe, our support system, our motherland of Africa and our self esteem," Buford said.

Buford said that while emancipation brought freedom to African-Americans, it also left them without the education and the economic base from which to build.

"We just had freedom," Buford said. "And we had no tools to do anything with it."

Despite this, Buford said, some progress was made in the era following the Civil War. African-American colleges, churches and businesses were established at the turn of the century along with organizations such as the Urban League and the NAACP.

Buford called integration, the next phase of the



Urban League President James Buford, left, with a friend after Buford's speech here Monday.

see BUFORD, page 10

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, Feb. 9

- **Governing Board Meeting** for the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact: Nan Sweet, 6383 or Deborah Bowman, 5581.
- **Poetry and Short Stories**—Readings From Litmag. Students, faculty, and staff contributors to the campus literary journal will read from their recent works at 12:00 p.m. in 229 J.C.Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.
- **Come and Dance** at the UMSL Pom Squad Tryouts. Call Tonya, 904-7478
- **"For the Love of KWMU."** The Seventh Annual Valentine's Day Fund Drive until Feb. 12. Send roses or chocolates to a special loved one anywhere in the United States. Contact: 4000.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- **Red Cross Blood Drive** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the U Lounge on the South Campus. This blood drive is sponsored by the American Optometric Student Association walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Angela Ernst or Kay Smarzynski, 839-3052.
- **Introduction to Weight Training:** Learn how to use the Fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Fee is \$5.00. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **Racquetball Clinic for Beginners** will be held at 12 p.m. at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **Poetry and Short Story Series** presents **Kevin Stein** at 7 p.m. in 331 SSB reading his recent works. Kevin Stein is a professor of English at Bradley University. He is the author of two books of poetry *A Circus of Want* and *Bruised Paradise* as well as two books of criticism. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.
- **Educating Women About Options, Treatment, and Diagnosis of Breast Cancer.** Dr. Joshua E. Jensen, M.D. will speak on these topics from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the

Women's the Center in 211 Clark Hall. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

- **Student Social Work Association Meeting** at 4 p.m. in the Lucas Hall Evening College Conference Room (3rd floor). Contact: Barb Collasso, 5105.

Wednesday, Feb 11

- **Rosewood** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 8 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact : Student Activities, 5291.
- **Hunger Awareness Week.** All are invited to the next planning meeting for Hunger Awareness Week which will be held at 11 a.m. in the Newman House. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- **Floor Hockey Leagues for Men's, Women's, and Coed teams** will begin today. The games will be played in the Mark Twain Gym. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **Michael Burnett**, with the Giga Information Group, will be speaking at 3:30 p.m. in 106 CCB. There is Colloquium Tea at 3:00 p.m. in 204 CCB. Mr. Burnett will be introducing Students and Faculty to the use of Advisory services like Giga, for both use as computer specialists, as well as employment opportunities. Michael will discuss the evolution of our industry as well as give a demo of the product. Contact: Nick Lewis, 862-3673.
- **Guaranteed 4.0.** The office of Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs will have Donna O. Johnson who will present to the students this life changing seminar from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. in 126 J.C. Penney. Contact: Linda Sharp, 6807.

Thursday, Feb. 12

- **Rosewood** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 a.m. in the U-Center Lounge. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact : Student Activities, 5291.
- **An intramural 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament** sponsored by Schick Super

Hoops will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mark Twain Gym. Men's and women's divisions are offered. Free Schick razors will be given to all participants and tournament winners will take home t-shirts. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Friday, Feb 13

- **Mardi Gras Sigma Tau Gamma rush party.** Open to all students with UM-St. Louis ID. Free. Contact: 428-3364 for more information.
- **Olympic's Party** from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. at the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Sponsored by the International Students Organization, Student Activities and the University Meadows.

Monday, Feb. 16

- **The Muir String Quartet** will be performing for the Chamber Classics at the Ethical Society as part of the Premiere Performances at 7:30 p.m. Contact: 5818 for tickets and information.
- **The Rec Sports Racquetball Tournament** is scheduled to begin today. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **"Teen Pregnancy Prevention"** American Association of University Women, Ferguson-Florissant Branch will present a program on Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education, featuring Leah Edelman the Public Relations Coordinator for Planned Parenthood, at 7 p.m. in 838-8917. 75 J.C.Penney. Contact: Debra Knox Deiermann, 432-3575.

- **"The Traditional Music Maker in Irish Society."** Seminar by: Dr. Gearoid O Allmhurain, Lecturer, University of San Francisco. from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the McDonnell Conference Room (331 SSB). Sponsored by the Center for International Studies, Anthropology, History, and Music, UM-St. Louis, and St. Louis Irish Arts. Contact: International Studies, 5753.

- **A Millennial Retrospective of the Twentieth-Century Woodwind Chamber Music-A Performance.** Eastwinds, a local quintet, will play a variety of pieces from this centu-

ry. This event will be held in 229 J.C.Penney. Contact : Karen Lucas, 5699.

- **Biological Society meeting** at 1:30 p.m. in 111 Benton Hall anyone is welcome. Contact: 6438.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- **Biological Society meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in 111 Benton Hall anyone is welcome. Contact: 6438.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 8 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

Thursday, Feb. 19

- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 a.m. in the U-Center Lounge. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact : Student Activities, 5291.

Friday, Feb. 20

- **A Basic Fitness Nutrition and Weight Loss Class** will be held in the Mark Twain Building from 1-2 p.m. Gain practical knowledge and learn how to set goals to achieve the results you want. Fee is \$5.00. Contact: Rec-Sports, 5326.

- **Anthropology's Humanistic Project: Fieldwork as Anomaly, Ethnography as the Shaping of the Unknown** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in 331 SSB. Edith Turner former comrad-in-arms of the eminent anthropologist Victor Turner. She will be speaking about her effort to develop and promote innovative ways of writing about the experience of fieldwork, drawing on her own lifetime of fieldwork among the Ndembu of Zambia, the Inupiat of Northern Alaska, and the rural folk of Ireland. Contact: 5699.

- **Olympic's Party** from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. at the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Sponsored by the International Students Organization, Student Activities and the University Meadows.

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editor in chief
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7940 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121
(314) 516-5174 Newsroom
(314) 516-5316 Advertising
(314) 516-5175 Business
(314) 516-6811 Fax
email: current@jms.umsl.edu
http://www.umsl.edu/studentinfo/
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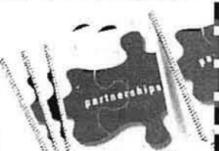
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Spring Commencement Saturday May 16, 1998 7:00 p.m. • Kiel Center

— No Tickets Required —

The date was changed from May 17 because of the National Hockey League Schedule.

Purchase your cap and gown, order announcements, class rings, etc. at **The Graduate Salute, April 6, 7 & 8** in the Summit Lounge.

Candidates for graduation will receive detailed information in the mail at the end of March.

For further information contact the Office of Special Events at **516-5442**.

More News

David Baugher, news editor
phone: 516-5174 fax: 516-6811
e-mail: current@jinx.ums1.edu

Enrollment takes small upturn

Administrators say second semester usually brings tough times to admissions

BY DIANE OUSLEY
special to The Current

The US economy is in an "upswing," and so is enrollment at UM-St. Louis. This is not the usual phenomenon; generally a good economy has a negative impact on college enrollments. According to Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, "Census day at UM-St. Louis indicated a different trend." Jan. 22, the 10th day of classes is census day, and enrollment numbers show an increase of 1 percent over the 1997 winter semester. In comparison to winter 1997 enrollment, there are 104 more students taking 839 more credit hours in the winter 1998 semester.

"Colleges and universities face an uphill struggle with winter enrollments since traditionally, school begins in the fall," Grace stated that, "UM-St. Louis engaged in typical recruitment for students through radio advertisement and recruiting throughout local community colleges," but he attributes the increase to changes in policies.

It has been the policy of UM-St. Louis to cancel continuing students in mid-December if fees have not been paid. According to Grace, "this generally results in the cancellation of 300-400 students. Most of these students attempt to

Count Your Blessings

Winter 1998
11,573 students
104,283 credit hours

Winter 1997
11,469 students
103,444 credit hours

Fall enrollment was down.

Fall 1996: 12,197
Fall 1997: 11,858

re-instate courses, only to find classes they need are closed." This cancellation policy was abandoned in light of recent changes in federal income tax laws. The new tax law allows families to deduct education costs, provided they were incurred in 1998. Grace agreed that, "It just made sense to allow students this option, and it has had a positive effect on our enrollment." Grace indicated that of the 200 stu-

dents who had not paid tuition and fees the week before classes began, "only three were cancelled because of non-payment." Grace indicated further that, "a task force assigned to evaluate registration and enrollment will seriously consider a non-cancellation policy for future semesters."

Grace cited higher admission standards adopted by UM-St. Louis this school year as another possible stimulus for winter enrollment increases. "Higher admission standards means stronger students who are more likely to persist, rather than dropping out."

A task force has been created with the ultimate goal of continued improvement of enrollment. According to Grace, "During a robust economy, institutions must be more effective and flexible. The reality of the times are; that students must work, they have families and must finance their education." Grace went on to say that "in order to be competitive, universities must become responsive and accessible to students. The task force will take a careful look at enrollment, region, economic trends, population and competition. They will assess the strengths as well as the weakness of UM-St. Louis looking at a plan that will position the institution to be more responsive and provide accessible academic programs to the students we attract." □

FUNDS, from page 1

stances," so the job was assigned to others.

"They informed me after the fact that they weren't able to make it and I said 'well, don't worry about it, I'll talk to McCarty and [Blanton] and we can get it straightened out.'"

Hopkins said he hadn't felt missing the workshop would be a problem since he and other ABC and UPB members had attended one last semester and Hopkins himself had conducted such workshops in the past. He said he didn't realize it was mandatory.

"I thought it was just for individuals that didn't know how to prepare a budget," Hopkins said. "I am fully aware of the process . . . probably better than some of the people who sit on the budget committee."

Blanton said the presidents of each organization were informed by mail of the mandatory workshops. He also said an ad was placed in *The Current*.

Hopkins said in previous years the committee had elected to dock organizations who missed workshops rather than deny their request entirely.

Hopkins said he felt the decision may have been influenced by negative feelings toward him or racial animosity toward the predominantly African-American University Program Board.

"I just found out that the powers that be have a big, big problem with

the fact that the Board is black," Hopkins said.

Neal Lewis, Student Government Association Comptroller and committee member, said there were no personal feelings involved in the decision.

"We made up the rule before we knew what groups wouldn't attend," Lewis said.

Hopkins also spoke of the potential of increasing revenue for the organizations through fundraisers.

Hopkins said he filed an appeal on behalf of both organizations but it was denied.

Hopkins also filed an appeal on behalf of the KPAW, of which he is the treasurer. He said a representative

I thought it [the workshop] was just for individuals that didn't know how to prepare a budget. I am fully aware of the process . . . probably better than some of the people who sit on the budget committee."

-Sharone Hopkins
president
UPB and ABC

from that organization did attend but did not sign in. The appeal was denied.

Keith Harris, president of KPAW, couldn't be reached for comment.

James Richards, advisor to the University Instrumental Ensembles said he thought someone from that group attended also but may not have signed in.

Lewis said he could not comment on the other organizations because he was not aware that they were denied

funding.

Two other organizations experienced unrelated funding problems.

Blanton said Sigma Pi fraternity's allocation was docked because their request came in after Jan. 16.

The budget request for the National Association of Black Accountants was denied because it came in beyond the late deadline of Jan. 20, Blanton said. □

University eyes funds from System for 'mission enhancement'

BY JULIE PINGLETON
special to The Current

UM-St. Louis is involved in the UM system's plan for a better University. Three divisions of the improvement are the Honors College, International Studies, and Faculty Productivity. Mission enhancement is the name and improvement is the game.

"The system would like to provide students with improved, more advanced educational opportunities," said Doug Wartzok, Dean of the Graduate School. What the program will require is approval of the legislature for a designated budget amount, which is expected

some time in May.

The funding, \$9 million, will be integrated throughout the next four years in particular phases.

"UM-St. Louis is trying to reach the federally appointed Carnegie Classification of Research II."

The requirements for this status are to award 50 Ph.Ds a year and to obtain \$15 million in federal support. Currently, UM-St. Louis is at the lowest end of the system, Doctoral II, which requires at least 10 doctoral degrees annually in three or four more disciplines, or at least 20 doctoral degrees annually in one or more disciplines.

The enhancement programs that are to be

improved are the Honors College, by strengthening programs for academically superior students, improving the activities and services of International Studies, and enhancing overall productivity of the faculty.

"With the acquisition of the new status, Research II, UM-St. Louis will be looked upon much higher and with more admiration by professionals and students," Wartzok said. Mission enhancement continues to be discussed as we await the Legislature's decision about the budget amount that UM-St. Louis will receive.

If the legislature approves funds for mission enhancement, money will become available July 1, 1998. □

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

TO: 8483
FROM: 8492

I LOVE YOU! What more can I say? We have shared so much together. Just being with you makes my day. Open up your heart and let me in.

TO: Steph
FROM: MOM

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to a great person! I'm looking forward to spending some time with you soon.

TO: K
FROM: P

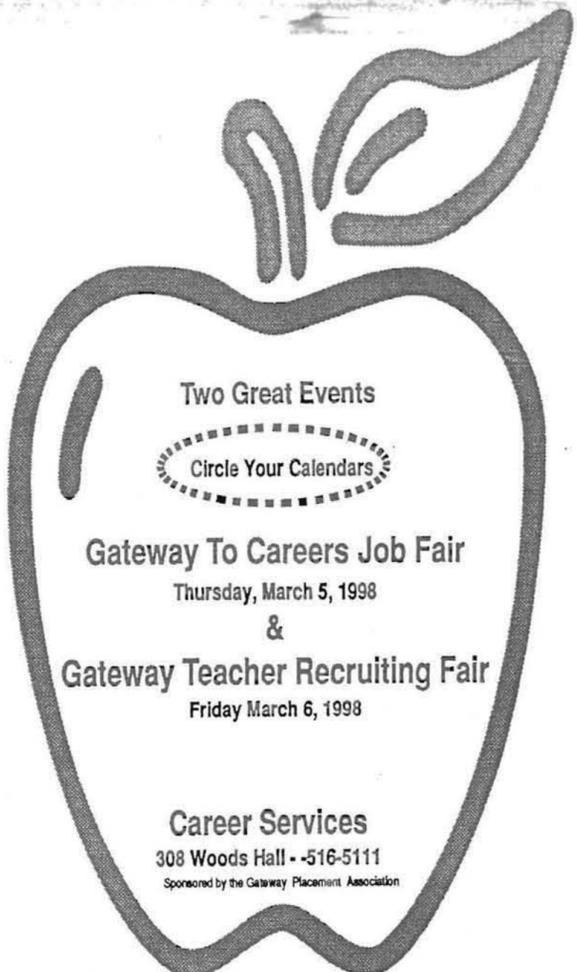
You know all that bloody stuff about Cupid piercing the heart, love, bla bla bla-- well, I could have done without it

TO: All you possessed fools
FROM: Disillusioned

Love is hell. Don't fall for the hype.

TO: Leslie
FROM: Erwan

Ik ben erg gelukkig met je te leven sinds bijna een jaar. Ik ben zeker dat wij zullen veel gewicht zoals deze sint valentin tag samen leven. Ik hou van je. (Dutch)



Two Great Events

Circle Your Calendars

Gateway To Careers Job Fair
Thursday, March 5, 1998

&

Gateway Teacher Recruiting Fair
Friday March 6, 1998

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Be the One

The Current needs the one among many to lead UM-St. Louis' campus newspaper. The Senate Student Publications committee is now accepting applications from qualified students wishing to become candidates for editor in chief of The Current for 1998-99.

The Current

To qualify students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- must have completed a minimum of nine (9) academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

To apply students must submit:

- a resumé
- a cover letter
- three letters of reference

(must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand; experience in journalism and management strongly recommended but not required)

Applications must be submitted to the editor of The Current on or before March 6, 1998 at 5 p.m. The Current is located at 7940 Natural Bridge Road. All applications must be presented in person. Call 516-5183 for more details.

an equal opportunity organization

Comments

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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Bill Rolfes
managing editor &
editorial page editor

Wendy Verhoff
community relations director

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

How to Respond

Your response is an important part of the weekly debate on this page. Letters should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number.



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Letters to the editor
7940 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121



Fax

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(314) 516-5174

OUR OPINION

U Center not available for rent

The Issue:

Student Government Association president Jim Avery has suggested charging administrators for occupying space in the current U Center.

We Suggest:

The U Center is not student property, legally; it is, rather, the University's.

Though we have put money into the building, we cannot rent it out.

So what do you think?

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

While Government Association president Jim Avery believes he has stumbled upon a chance to accomplish something innovative for students, his campaign to win reimbursement for the old University Center cannot help but fall short of its goal.

In the midst of recent calls for student action, a number of crucial realities have been overlooked or forgotten altogether.

At this very moment, administrators occupy space in the University Center, the facility student government officers continually label a "student use building." The bookstore and cafeteria also occupy space, and neither serves students exclusively. As such, neither should be embraced as a "student" entity.

If the line between "student use" and general use is blurred even here in a situation where only one University Center exists, Avery has little hope of drawing clearly defined lines after the construction of a second large building.

Truly, the University comprises overlapping spheres of activity, and this attempt to mark boundaries between student and administrative areas amounts to an exercise in futility.

But even more important, no point of law entitles students to reimbursement.

The Collected Rules and

Regulations governing the UM system stipulate that all campus facilities belong to the University. Consequently, they fall under the jurisdiction of the chancellor, and the SGA will fail in any attempt to assume control over a building.

Even the student fees that SGA officers cite as their justification are University funds administered by the UM curators.

In fact, a question has been raised as to whether student fees actually covered the full cost of the University Center's construction, further weakening arguments for student control of the building.

Apart from all the legalities and the uncertainty of whether boundaries among student and administrative areas can even be defined, the very spirit of this campaign is misguided.

In reality, as the University exists for students, every building is a student building, and students have paid for all of them. The chancellor does indeed wield control over University holdings, but only to administer them in the best interests of students.

Administrators have not sought to steal from the cup of students by constructing a new University Center. Instead of arguing over who owns what, SGA officers would do well to foster a spirit of cooperation with administrators, a collective effort that will no doubt yield more benefits than fruitless confrontations. □

Suit against UM seems frivolous

Sure, getting a rebate from the University sounds good on the surface, but to think the University of Missouri is going to be forced to refund all state residents their educational fees is preposterous.

Robert Herman, the attorney who is also representing the Ku Klux Klan in its suit against KWMU, is suing the UM Board of Curators for charging Missouri residents tuition. His clients claim that "education fees" are no different from "tuition." And since state law prohibits the University of Missouri from charging Missouri residents "tuition" (except in professional programs) the University is violating state law.

While the difference between tuition and educational fees may be largely semantic, the University could not support a large number of students on state revenue only were educational fees to be abolished as Herman's suit requests. The University would turn into a glorified public high school.

People would flock to Missouri so they could get a free undergraduate college education, and the system would be overwhelmed.

No, the University of Missouri cannot be forced to reimburse state students for their educational fees. Unfortunately, frivolous law suits such as this one are what bog down the legal system, and cause other more worthy cases to linger in a log jam of loop holes. □

GUEST COMMENTARY

Trying to tame today's teens

Question: At What age do we turn on our youth? I recently read an article about three new bills being introduced to the Missouri Legislature: SB 508 (a loud booming car stereo bill), SB 575 and HB 998 (tattoo and piercing restrictions) and finally SB 528 (a teen driving bill).

What the hell is going on in Jefferson City? Aren't these the same long-haired flower children who screamed about freedom in the '60s?

No, you're right, probably not. But let's take them head on, shall we?

First is SB508. No loud booming music from cars, or something like that; but get this, there are exceptions. Police and politicians giving speeches in parades! Well I for one, don't want to hear the loud, incomprehensible crap that spews from cars. The political speeches anyway. Sponsor: Sen. Ronnie DePasco, D-Kansas City.

Next are SB 575 and HB 998 (same bill, different sponsors, go figure). These two bills want to rob our little brothers and sisters of the right to get pierced and tattooed without mommy and daddy's permission. This bill isn't all bad, it does want to crack down on sanitary codes, but what's with this under 18 parental permission crap? Like the parents are going to sign a permission slip. Get a clue! Sponsor: Rep. Don R. Kissell, D-St. Peters (same guy who threw a fit about that really cool store at Mid Rivers Mall).

And finally, get a load of this, SB 528. This bill wants to, now let me be sure I get this right, require students to have written permission from school principals to be able to get a driver's license! The kicker, drop outs can't drive unless they go back and get a GED!

Doesn't this make you want to laugh... or spew? This woman, (Sen. Anita Yeckel, R-St. Louis County) is obviously bored; why is she even proposing this crap? (Yes, Senator Yeckel, I have read your reasons, I still think it's crap!)

I can't imagine a large contingency of young people pressuring you for these changes.

People, it's time to take a stand. Now, for most of us, these bills won't affect us, but think of your younger siblings — of younger people in general — think of what you could do for them; think of how

see GUEST, page 8



READER RESPONSE

UM-St. Louis students need to show more support for our Rivermen and Riverwomen

Joe Osborne's guest column last week in *The Current* was right when he said, "there are usually more visitor team fans at our home sporting events than our own!"

However, I will add that these visiting teams even bring their cheerleaders and mascots to these games. Both Joe's and my statements have been true since UM-St. Louis sports teams have joined the Great Lakes Valley Conference. As "Captain Riverman," the school's mascot, I have seen this at many home games where the visiting team's fans and cheerleaders outnumber our fans.

Where are the UM-St. Louis cheerleaders? We don't have any. The Athletic Department eliminated our cheerleaders about four years ago. Our fans and players deserve more to help motivate a victory. As "Captain Riverman," I can only do so much, especially when the visiting team brings their cheerleaders and mascots to the game to help pep up their fans which outnumber ours.

Something needs to be done to generate more school spirit for our teams. First, UM-St. Louis

Where are the UM-St. Louis cheerleaders? We don't have any. The Athletic Department eliminated our cheerleaders about four years ago. Our fans and players deserve more to help motivate a victory. As 'Captain Riverman,' I can only do so much...

needs to re-establish its cheerleaders to help motivate fan spirit at both Rivermen and Riverwomen home sporting events.

Second, more students need to come support the Rivermen and Riverwomen at the home games. Each week *The Current* prints the schedule of sporting events on the sports page. Remember, admission to regular season home games are free, just show your student ID.

—Steven M. Wolfe

Suffering through sue-age problems

Sometime shortly after "L.A. Law" took to the airwaves and right before that woman in Dubuque splashed coffee on her crotch, the court of common sense adjourned for good. We blurred the distinction between that which is truly worthy of a litigious resolution and those matters that would be immediately resolved were we to chuck our hubris and say, "my bad."

Instead we set up a toll booth at the entrance to a one-way street whereupon value judgments and blame placing are okay so long as they establish a pretext to sue someone else for an event that forces a legal system — created to adjudicate crime, not assuage whiners — to make a black or white distinction in cases fraught with grayness.

So we haul Oprah Winfrey, the undisputed high priestess of shuck, into court because the invisible hand of capitalism has chosen to backhand the price of beef about the same time the mad cow herself aired a show about the disease.

Had Oprah's line went something like "Hang it all. I'm heading down to the Billy Goat right now to have me a fat burger," the same group of bumpkins that accused her of disparaging beef would probably pin some kind of cloven hoofed honor on the her.

And it's this same knee-jerk, "someone's to be held legally accountable" mentality that lands Dick and Ed in court for peddling Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. I'd be willing to bet every penny of my \$10-million winnings that behind this suit is some junk mail addict trying to stave off the creditors who want him to make good on all the crap he bought in anticipation of the 10 million samolians that were all but in the bank.

Of course he wouldn't have to resort to second rate exhortation if he would've thought to join the Plaintiff of the Month Club when its featured litigant was Philip Morris.

Now the poor sap is still devouring a pack a day, convinced that someone played a dirty trick on him 20 years ago when he first lit up (all those "Smoking is Good For You" commercials is no doubt responsible) barely able to get through all the stamp licking necessary to register for the next Prize Patrol because the oxygen upon which he's dependent to support his black lungs dries out his mouth.

It's not that Publisher's Clearing House and Philip Morris (and even Oprah in my opinion) aren't contributing to the general strain of stupidity afflicting a large segment of our population. It's just that the people who keep Dick and Ed and Phil and Oprah in business won't admit that to support to these people is to suspend common sense. After all, who really believes that they're going to be the next \$10-million winner, or that smoking is actually good for them (or at least not harmful) or that the Oprah Show is the proper place to adjudicate a largely scientific discussion about food safety?

Blaming cigarette makers for smokers' choices, or conveniently invoking morality to indict unscrupulous advertising or, most hypocritically, holding a televised news conference to lament the adverse effect of, what else, television programming on our children — that might make you feel like you're doing something to preserve those precious "American values" to which everyone alludes; but the joke's on you.

Better just watch another I.A. Law rerun. □

Please, not another Olympic sob story

Well, the 1998 Winter Olympics are under way. Some athletes are seeking to add to their collections of medals from previous games, while many emerging stars are waiting for their first opportunities for world-wide fame. The world will gain new heroes.

Hopefully these new heroes will gain fame through their efforts as athletes, and not through the same onslaught of sob stories NBC crammed down our throats during the summer games in 1996. It seemed as if every athlete had to struggle through some kind of adversity to make it to Atlanta.

NBC turned the Olympic games into a giant Hallmark commercial after the 1988 winter games — the year speed skater Dan Jansen's fall caused the planet to weep. On Valentine's Day, during the speed skating competition, Jansen's sister died of leukemia.

Jansen was still in the running for a medal when he slipped on a turn and slid into the boards. He didn't get up — there was no point to, he couldn't catch up — he sat on the ice and bowed his head to cry. The world had just fallen down on him, yet the world wept for him. He was a hero.

And rightfully so. Fortunately, he won the gold in 1994.

The networks, NBC especially, learned from Jansen's experiences: viewers loved to hear his story. It was sad and triumphant.

While Jansen's story is worthy of telling, NBC decided to find a sad and triumphant story in the depths of every athlete to follow. The 1996 Olympic Games were plagued with nauseating attempts at duplicating such tear jerking stories as Jansen's. The only tears I had to hold back were those from laughing at NBC's attempts at melodrama.

One profile was about an American diver who had "lost his way" during a time in his life. While he was narrating his life story the image of him posing at the end of a diving board faded in, and he fell off the board backwards (like a statue) when he got to telling about all of the problems he had.

His story had a happy ending. Thanks to training for the Olympics, he found his focus in life and was then competing for a medal. After the diver finished his story of moral resurrection, the image of him falling into the water was reversed — he flew up, out of the water, landing back on the diving board.

Instead of respecting him as a contender for the gold, I was rolling on the floor laughing at him.

Hopefully CBS will show more of the events than NBC did in 1996, but I'm not confident of that. □



DOUG HARRISON
editor in chief



BILL ROLFES
managing editor

Odds & Ends

Becky Rickard, features editor
phone: 516-5174 fax: 516-6811
e-mail: s100854@admiral.umsl.edu

Stick It In The Fridge



BECKY RICKARD
features editor

A lot of my friends are waiting to see what I'm going to write about in this week's column being that it is the week before Valentine's day. I've vacillated on the idea and have decided to be cheesy and typical by writing on the Valentine's Day dilemma.

Dilemma may be a harsh word for such a "love"ly day but for those of us who don't have significant others, the day of love becomes a day of loathing.

Don't get me wrong, the sight of two people celebrating the love, like or even lust they feel touches me like an AT&T or Hallmark commercial. On the other hand, after the five seconds of "touch" I feel for cute couples, I have to deal with the fact that I am solo, uno, half of a couple and alone.

Being single has its advantages. When I make a decision, I don't have to worry about the decision affecting another person. When I decide to hit McGurk's for a nightcap, I don't have to worry about a boyfriend being mad that I partied without him. I don't have to deal with the "call me/I'll call you" syndrome or even the "am I fat?" syndrome. When I go to Blockbuster, I can hit the cheesy romance section anytime I want (no matter how many times I've seen *Say Anything*).

There is also the downside of being single. You don't have the opportunity to kiss someone who will always kiss you back whenever you want. You have to go through endless encounters with people trying to see if one could fit as your significant other. Friends rarely ever offer back rubs for bad days. And lastly, there is a general lack of that warm, fuzzy feeling that follows you around when you are dating someone.

Valentine's Day is one of those days that makes you sit back and evaluate the state of romance in your life. Some years it is good and some years it is bad. I'd say most of my friends are in the bad year category — including me.

In fact, I have one friend who was dumped by her serious, long time boyfriend on Valentine's Day two years ago (the jerk!) and now she has just ended a relationship a week ago (her first good relationship since the Valentine's incident). She is one of the only people I know who actually has a valid reason for loathing Valentine's day.

Those of us who aren't in relationships rely on crushes to ease the loneliness. Everybody knows what a crush is — you know, the harmless liking of someone who doesn't know you exist. It could be a teacher, a bartender at your favorite bar, a co-worker or even a person in one of your classes. Crushes are fun. They offer a kick in your step and a sense of mystery that makes you blush.

I love crushes. I always have them. It's my way of being goofy about a guy without having to decide what I really want. That's the hard part. If a crush turns into more, you have to decide where you want it go — commitment or dating or sex or both, blah, blah. I hate all the deciding you have to do in a relationship. I think it takes away from the fun and that's what relationships should be — FUN!

So if you are deciding what to get your significant other for Valentine's Day don't forget the fun. Romance is one thing but fun is always romantic. I'd much rather go to Chuck E. Cheese, play Whack-a-Mole until the cows come home and share a slice of pizza than have to talk about how much I care about someone at an overpriced restaurant, smelling roses that are traditionally boring while sipping on a wine from one of those mysteriously "good" vintage years. Maybe I'm too simple or too weird. Come to think of it, maybe that's why I'm single. □

When cultures collide

With an ocean between them and home, international students must often overcome a sea of cultural differences

BY G. O. AKURA
special to The Current

Penda Ndao and Daba Niang are 6000 miles away from home and they now live and go to school in a country where everything—the land, the climate, the language and the culture—is strange. They come from a continent seemingly misunderstood yet still romanticized in the West. Their homeland has a palpable, albeit sad historical connection with their host country, the United States.

Ndao and Niang are two international students from the West African country of Senegal. Ndao is a senior biology major who will graduate in May. She transferred from St. Louis University to UM-St. Louis in 1996 after meeting Chancellor Blanche Touhill at an event at the St. Louis Science Center celebrating the twin cities of St. Louis in the United States and in Senegal. Niang is a senior mathematics major and college algebra teaching assistant.

Their American experience has been a challenging journey where they have had to navigate obstacles not just in Senegal.

limited to taking examinations and writing term papers at UM-St. Louis. For these French speaking West African women, there is the additional handicap of doing all their course work in a foreign language.

"When I arrived in America, "yes" and "no" were practically the only English words that I knew," Ndao said.

"It was frustrating when I could not express myself well in the English language during class discussions and in my written work. What was even more annoying was when I would turn on the television to catch some news and I would not understand a word of what was being said."

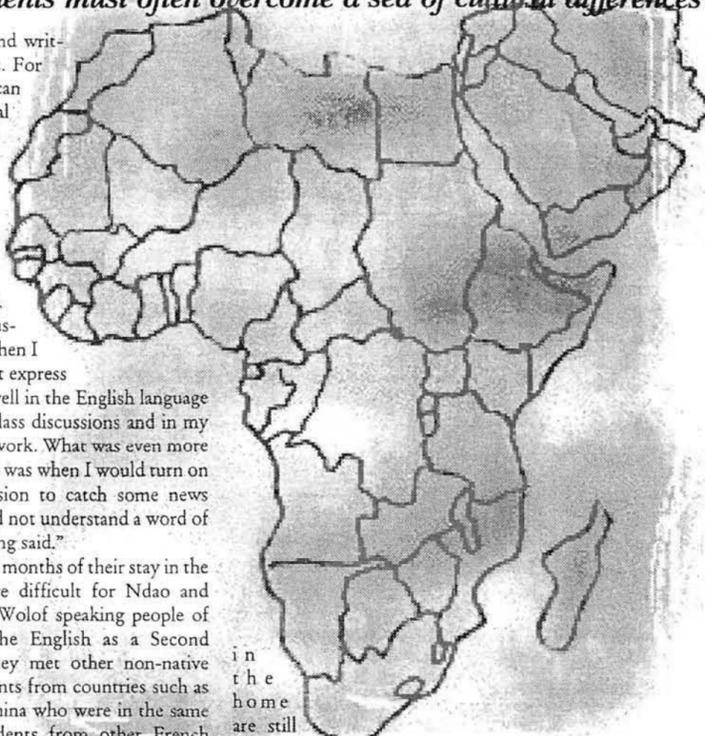
The first few months of their stay in the United States were difficult for Ndao and Niang, who are of the Wolof speaking people of Senegal. Upon enrolling for the English as a Second Language program, they met other non-native English speaking students from countries such as Japan, Malaysia and China who were in the same predicament. The students from other French speaking countries and students who practice the Islamic faith also helped make the transition a little easier.

Making friends with students from different countries enables Ndao and Niang to appreciate other cultures. Although it takes time to make really close friends, they have learned that Americans are very friendly. They have also realized that Americans value their privacy and independence, whereas in Senegal, there is a lot of sharing and closeness, especially within the typically large extended family.

"Friends and family can visit at any time and if they find us dining, it would be rude for them to decline joining the meal," Ndao added.

Ndao and Niang have had to answer tons of questions about Africa and Senegal from curious Americans. Some of the questions, like "Where is Senegal?" and "Are you planning to go home when you graduate?" are mildly irritating to them. Senegal is on the westernmost point of the bulge of Africa and is roughly the size of South Dakota and her plans to go home are, well, her business.

Coming from an Islamic country in Africa where the social structure and relations are still governed by strong ultra-conservative rules that favor men, the education of women and women's roles in society are issues these women face daily in the United States. According to Ndao, roles with-



UNDER THE CURRENT
compiled by Stephanie Platt/staff photographer

What's your least favorite cliché?

"Been there. Done that — and all its additions."
-Jerald M. Ferrell Jr
junior/political science

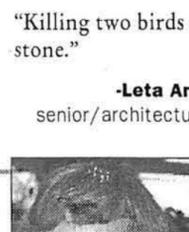


"Don't get caught kissing the donkey in the closet."
-Amy Kathrein
freshman/undeclared

"I think; therefore, I am."
-Ben Poremba
freshman/philosophy



"The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."
-Shiri Shemer
senior/communication



"Killing two birds with one stone."
-Leta Annette Thomas
senior/architectural engineering



"Do as I say, not as I do."
-Lynette Williamson
alumna (class of '86)/special ed.

When I arrived in America, "yes" and "no" were practically the only English words that I knew.



-Penda Ndao
international student from Senegal

in the home are still very well defined where women do most of the domestic chores and men are the bread-winners. However, contemporary men prefer their wives to be educated and to pursue professional careers outside the home.

One cultural practice that many Americans find difficult to fathom is polygamy, the practice of a man taking many wives. In Senegal, polygamy is acceptable and practiced. Although Ndao and Niang may not agree with the practice of polygamy, they accept it as an aspect of their culture that has its own merit since women have always outnumbered men in demographic data.

"Being an Islamic country, a man can take as many as four wives at a time, as long as he can afford to," Ndao said.

For many people in Africa who are exposed to imported American television programs, such as "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and MTV, American culture and hip-hop style is the dominant cultural model. Many young Senegalese aspire to come to America to study and to experience first hand the culture that they only see in films and on TV. On the other hand, many African-Americans have visited Senegal in droves, attracted by such historical sites as the Goree Island Museum of slavery.

"[The Goree Island Museum] has the chains and other things that were used during the slave trade displayed at Goree," Ndao added.

These cross cultural interchanges and visits between the African and Americans can only help to break the chains of misunderstanding and bridge the gap of communication in two very diverse cultures. □

Valentine gift-giving can be as hard on the mind as it is on the pocketbook

BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff writer

Valentine's Day gifts have traditionally remained within a specific realm of choices: The most common of these are usually flowers, candy, jewelry or perfume. For those who strive to be original, these tokens of affections can take on a new twist.

The key to making any present unique is to put some

Valentine Factoids

- St. Valentine could've been two people who were executed on February 14. One Valentine was a Roman priest and the other was the Bishop of Terni, a city near Rome.
- In ancient Rome, the middle of February marked the beginning of the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan fertility celebration where women would write love notes and place them in a large urn. The men would pick from these notes and woo the women whose message they picked from the urn.
- Medieval Europeans believed that birds began to mate on February 14.
- The first paper Valentine is dated back to the 14th century. source: Lawrence Cunningham Ph.D. University of Notre Dame

thought into the decision before the actual purchase. "It's the thought that counts," may be a cliché, but it's sentiment holds true.

Jennifer Espy is a graduate student in education at U.M.-St. Louis who agrees.

"A gift on any occasion should come from the heart. Valentine's Day is a time to think about your boyfriend or girlfriend, and remind yourself of all those reasons you love them," Espy



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Those warm and fuzzy Hallmark displays might not be a bad place to shop for Valentine's gifts.

says.

Flowers may not seem to be the most creative gift, but they can be, with a little effort. Instead of the usual red roses, the arrangement of choice could be made of the receiver's personal favorite. If your sweetheart prefers day lilies or violets, have a bouquet made up of those instead.

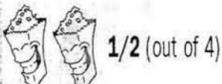
Candy can be a risky choice these days with the emphasis on health and diet. This could be a good time

Movie Review

Plot MIA

Non-stop, well-done action redeems movie without any real story between bullets

The Replacement Killers
Columbia Pictures
Rated R (violence and language)
Running time: 88 minutes
Now Playing



Editor's note: This week, *The Current* introduces its own personalized rating system: bags of popcorn. What else? Four bags of popcorn is a must see; three, go see it pretty soon; two, see it when you get the chance; one, don't bother unless you're bored.

Rarely do I find a movie with absolutely no plot entertaining; *The Replacement Killers* is however. This film is action, action and just a touch more of action.

The Replacement Killers centers on two individuals: John Lee (played by Hong Kong superstar Chow Yun - Fat) and Meg Coburn (Mira Sorvino). John Lee is a hired gun for the powerful crime figure, Mr. Wei. Lee has a change of heart after he fulfills the second of



Chow Yun-Fat, left, and Mira Sorvino star in the new action flick *Replacement Killers*.

his three obligations. His morals get the better of him and he can't kill the third target. This is extremely bad for Lee, however. Mr. Wei finds this act of rebellion irritating and wants Lee dead. He goes to the extreme of hiring two more thugs to kill the target left alive by Lee and Lee himself.

Coburn falls into the story when Lee seeks her out for her forgery skills. Lee asks her to forge him a passport to his native homeland, China. She agrees to do this and becomes a target herself. The action heats up when Mr. Wei's replacement killers find Lee and it becomes a full scale battle.

In the meantime, between gunshots, Coburn falls for the distant, dark Lee. They become a team and turn the assault back on Mr. Wei. DO they live, kill Mr. Wei, or are killed themselves. . . for these answers go see the movie. I'm not going to tell you the ending.

The Replacement Killers is a decent movie with tons of action. The action is the main play of the movie. The plot and the discombobulated side plots were second class to the awesome action scenes. If you were wondering, yes, John Woo produced this action flick.

-Matthew Regensburger

Web Site Review

The force be with you

Website has it all for *Star Wars* junkies

Star Wars Homepage
www.StarWars.com

If you can't get your fill on *Star Wars* gossip, memorabilia or trying to talk like Jabba the Hut then the *Star Wars* homepage is for you. Even if you aren't the biggest *Star Wars* freak, you may enjoy this site.

It has everything one can imagine about the trilogy, the new trilogy and even biographies on the artists and the crew. It includes a list of the cast who will be appearing in the new trilogy.

The largest section of the website centers on the prequel; it features info on the up and coming Episode I. It contains pre-views of the set and the story line. It also has sketch books of the *Star Wars* art department demonstrating how the set will look once it's completed. It gives the layout of the bedroom of young Anakin Skywalker. This page also gives production updates for

those of us who cannot wait until the movie opens in 1999.

The *Star Wars* homepage also gives a tour of the *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition. This tour includes a virtual look at the anatomy of a dewback. Yes, the very dewback that was included in the latest version of *Star Wars*.

This site is the official homepage of *Star Wars*; it is sponsored by LucasFilms. It is not com- ons fanciful imagination trying to



start rumors and get everyone hyped up about something untrue.

StarWars.com is everything that a *Star Wars* junkie loves and craves. The site is expertly done (as if we would expect anything else from George Lucas and company). It also has a mirror site that enables the user to view the same info but in Japanese. What a wonderful thing technology is.

-Matthew Regensburger

Music Review

Regional band releases second, stronger album

Downward is Heavenward
Hum
RCA Records

Semi-local band Hum has just released its second major-label album on RCA Records, *Downward is Heavenward*. The follow up to the popular *You'd Prefer an Astronaut*. The skinny is this: this album is better than the previous attempt.

Calling Champaign, Illinois, home, Hum has quietly built a huge fan base in the Midwest. They have built a decent following throughout the country with the hit single,

"Stars," from their major label debut. *Downward is Heavenward* is better than their last album. It starts off with a typical Hum sounded song, "Isle of Cheeah." It then flows into "Comin' Home." The rest of the album demonstrates the creativity of Matt Talbott and company.

This album is a terrific testament to how creative Hum can be. *Downward is Heavenward* is truly a good CD that deserves even more attention than *You'd Prefer an Astronaut* received.

-Matthew Regensburger

Crossword Companion

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
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65						66		67		

ACROSS

- 1 Flaw
- 4 Plebe
- 9 Cap
- 12 Metal
- 13 Odor
- 14 S.E. state (abbr.)
- 15 Household (Literary)
- 17 Beetle
- 19 Happening
- 21 Carson
- 22 Wise
- 24 Help
- 26 Tableland
- 29 Utilizers
- 31 The Raven (Poet)
- 33 Green
- 34 Indefinite pronoun
- 35 Price
- 37 Tree
- 39 Eastern state (abbr.)
- 40 Number
- 42 Water barrier
- 44 Pro
- 46 Great lake
- 48 Rove

DOWN

- 11 Mother (slang)
- 2 Form of be
- 3 Back out
- 4 Close in
- 5 Stadium
- 6 Perform
- 7 Uncle (Prov. Eng.)
- 8 State
- 9 Former
- 10 Indicating ileum (comb)
- 11 Daughters of the Ameri
- 16 Veer
- 18 Goal

20 Edge

- 22 Group of rooms
- 23 Flower
- 25 Male deer
- 27 Flavor
- 28 Knowledgeable
- 30 Unhappy
- 32 Fairy
- 36 Sack
- 38 Clubbed
- 41 Pleasantly
- 43 Chart
- 45 Luggage
- 47 Age
- 49 Flower
- 52 Number
- 54 Carol
- 55 Relative (slang)
- 56 Feline
- 57 Bed
- 59 Edu. Group (abbr.)
- 60 Ever (Poetic)
- 63 Exclamation

Answers on pg. 9

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OPENS FEBRUARY 13

Ken Dunkin, sports editor
phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811
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Sports

THE LATEST SCOOP



DAVE KINWORTHY
sports associate

When people talk about Saint Louis University basketball, certain names like the great Ed McCauley, Anthony Bonner, Erwin Claggett and Scott Highmark come up. But now there is a new heir to the throne of greatness. He goes by the name of Sir Larry Hughes.

As the biggest recruit in SLU history, Larry has turned around a team that without him, would only make the NIT tournament if they were lucky. The team with this standout freshman has a chance to make an impact on the Conference USA standings. Only one game out of first place, Hughes' role as SLU's savior becomes even more critical. The pre-season critics gave SLU no chance at all to make a difference. They predicted them to finish a dismal fourth place out of five teams. What a difference recruiting makes.

While Larry was at CBC, he went down as one of the most celebrated players that have ever played basketball in the state of Missouri. He set records for most points in a game, most career points, most assists, most steals and plenty of other records that are nearly impossible to overcome. He even appeared in the McDonald's All American game in front of a capacity nation-wide audience. Billy Packer even gave his infamous "Oooo Baby" to the effort Hughes gave while scoring 18 points. He went into the game a nobody, and came out of the game as a rising star.

Another thing Larry brought to CBC was the state championship during his senior year. The title was the most important to Hughes, but basketball was not all of his life.

During the 1996-97 year, Larry's brother, Justin, came down with a rare heart disease and was in and out of the hospital during the championship run. With treatment by doctors and a little help from the CBC community, Justin defeated odds and was court-side during the playoffs. The side of Larry that few know was portrayed for the entire community. One would think that this superstar in the makings would not be emotional or have a gentle side to him. They think that athletes are above human standards and classify them as immortal. Larry proved to the critics and the community that he was only human and that family came first.

With all of the hype about Larry being an All-American selection, inside his 6'5" frame was a fragile and torn heart. He was a gifted athlete with potential, but family came first.

That is the one thing that in my mind, separates Larry from all of the other stars that Missouri has produced. He comes down to the level of others and does not stay high up on a pedestal like many other athletes.

Larry said when he signed a letter of intent to play for SLU that one of his main reasons that he stayed home was due to the impact that his family has on him. He could have just decided to go away like the typical Loren Woods, Jahadi White, Johnnie Parker or Ryan Robertson, but he did not.

Other players in the state of Missouri should look to Larry as an idol. He is serving his community and helping bolster college with such a great history behind it. If players followed Larry's example, just think of how good SLU would actually be.

You would have Ryan Robertson running the point, Larry playing the off-guard position where he belongs, Johnnie Parker playing small forward and Matt Baniak playing strong forward, and either the slender Tate Decker or Chris Heinrich playing center. I honestly believe that with this lineup, SLU would finish atop of Conference USA every year.

Instead of dreaming, let us be content: with getting the best player out of these elite players. His contributions on and off the court are the difference between love for the game and family and obsession with stardom. □

Home court advantage not enough for Rivermen

Second half technical proves to be start of downward spiral

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff writer

The men's basketball team took a tough loss at home last week as they fell against Wisconsin-Parkside.

The Rivermen dropped the game 75-71. Their record fell to 6-15.

"We just didn't give the effort that we needed to give to win," said Jeremiah Fooks, Rivermen guard/forward. "We just let down. I wish we would have played with a little more heart at the end. We don't know how to finish the game off."

The Rivermen had been in command of the game. They held a 38-33 half time lead. The second half was marred by a technical foul and poor shot selection.

"We got very little defensive effort in the second half," head coach Rich Meckfessel said. "We didn't compete at the defensive end in the second half. They shot 14-25 in the second half very few of those were tough shots. Most were lay-ups and 10-foot shots."

Terrell Alexander picked up the Rivermen technical foul with 14 minutes left in the game. After the foul the team lost its steam and eventually fell apart at the end of the game.

"We had the momentum and a five-point lead," Meckfessel said. "We had three technical fouls early in the season. I told them the next player who gets a technical will be suspended for one game. I thought it would make the players be disciplined out there, I guess it didn't. It was huge."

Alexander sat out the team's game last Saturday.

Wisconsin-Parkside	33	42	75
UM-St. Louis	38	33	71

Wisconsin-Parkside	PT	FG	3FG	FT
Nick Newbauer	0	0	0	0
Corey Sterling	14	5	0	4
Dayon Ninkovic	19	6	0	7
Tory Smith	11	5	0	1
Brian Coffman	7	1	1	4
Alfonzo Lewis	5	2	1	0
Jeff Woods	4	1	0	2
Matthias Kautzor	3	1	1	0
Nenad Mirkovic	12	6	0	0
Totals	75	27	3	18

UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3FG	FT
Terrell Alexander	4	2	0	0
Eric Stiegman	2	1	0	0
Jason Logsdon	19	8	1	2
Greg Ross	17	7	2	1
Mike Harris	12	5	1	1
Jeremiah Fooks	15	5	0	0
Kyle Bixler	0	0	0	0
Josh Wolf	2	1	0	0
Totals	71	29	9	4

The Rivermen also had a problem with getting to the free throw line. They made 28 3-point attempts for the game. They were at the free-throw line a dismal six times.

"If you want to get to the free throw line you have to take the ball to the basket," Meckfessel said. "Instead we were content with standing out there and jack up the 3-pointers."

The team had a huge break down with seconds left on the clock. The Wisconsin-Parkside shooter missed two free throws which left the game within reach. The Rivermen were down by two. The Rivermen had a clear opportunity to get the rebound but the shooter broke through and grabbed the rebound to seal the game.

"He was the only guy on the line. All we had to do was block him out,"

"We had three technical fouls early in the season. I told them the next player who gets a technical will be suspended for one game. I thought it would make the players be disciplined out there, I guess it didn't. It was huge."

-Rich Meckfessel
Rivermen head coach

Meckfessel said. "I don't know if we would have won. We would have been coming down the court full steam. I know we would have gotten off a good shot. We could have tied or won with a three. We didn't get the rebound because the shooter wasn't blocked out by our player who was standing right next to him."

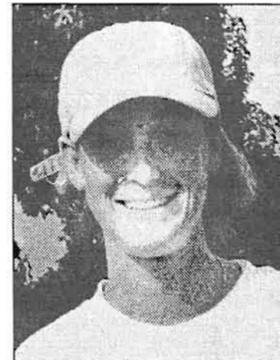
There were a few positives for the Rivermen despite the loss. Jason Logsdon led the team with 19 points while point guard Greg Ross led the team with 8 rebounds.

"BJ Fooks played very well at both ends of the court. Greg Ross played well defensively. He was our leading rebounder with eight," Meckfessel said.

The team also received notice that guard Jason Frillman will likely miss the remainder of the season. □

Beth Goetz named head soccer coach

BY KEN DUNKIN
AND DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writers



After completing her first coaching season with the Riverwomen soccer team interim coach Beth Goetz was named head coach last Friday.

With a sub-.500 record for most of the season, Goetz urged her players on and never gave up. Her dedication and persistence with the women's team eventually led them to a 10-9 record to finish the season.

The coaching spot came as quite a surprise to Goetz.

"I did not expect to get the job," Goetz said. "I am thrilled to get the position. I am young and you are always competing with people with more experience. I thought I could offer positive traits even though I do not have as many years of experience."

Goetz commented on how being the head coach and the interim coach had its differences.

"It is a full time position where I can spend 100 percent of the time helping the girls reach their goals," Goetz said.

The next step for Goetz will be to continue on the recruiting path. Now since a head coach has been named, Goetz hopes to fill a few scholarships within the next couple weeks.

Though Goetz was just

"I did not expect to get the job. I am thrilled to get the position. I am young and you are always competing with people with more experience."

-Beth Goetz
head Riverwomen soccer coach

named head coach she had been recruiting several players for next years squad. She hopes to fill several scholarship spots in the upcoming weeks.

"Recruiting looks really good," Goetz said. "We are looking to now sign four or five additional players." □

Riverwomen fall short of come back

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writer

The Riverwomen lost a close game to Southern Indiana 84-76 as their record fell to 13-7, 6-6 in the GLVC.

The team fell behind from the beginning as the team was down 42-31 at halftime.

Head coach Shelly Ethridge felt that her players needed to adjust to the tempo of play.

"The kids had to get adjusted to that level," Ethridge said. "Once 20 minutes went by, they realized they had to kick it in gear."

The team fell behind by as many as 19 points, but mounted a ferocious comeback only to succumb to Southern Indiana.

Ethridge believes that the Riverwomen could have closed the gap and even have taken the lead if they would have executed their fundamentals.

"If we would have hit our free throws, we could have won the game," Ethridge said.

The team hit 19 of 32 from the charity strip, shooting a dismal .594 for the game.

Coach Ethridge commented that the loss was crucial, but it was a learning experience for the team.

"I am not happy with this loss," Ethridge said. "They were subbing five in and five out and we might have just run out of gas."

Annette Brandy scored 28 points in a losing cause, while Melanie Marcy recorded 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Coach Ethridge praised Brandy for her dominate scoring.

"[Annette] is doing well scoring," Ethridge said. "She needs to cut down on her turnovers and realize what is a good and bad shot to take."

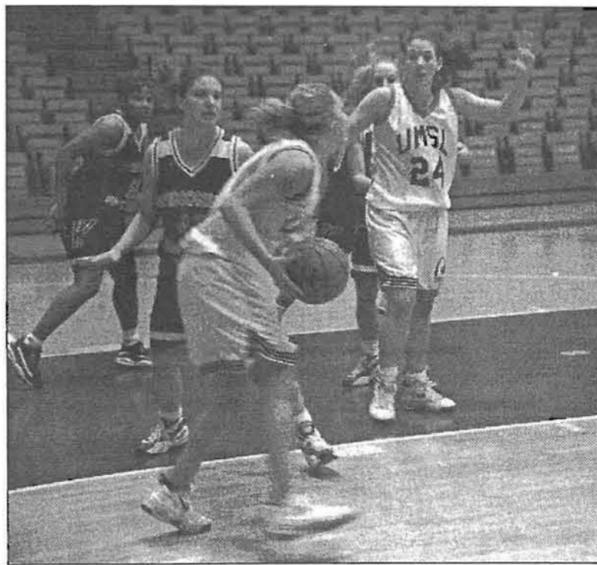
Another pleasant surprise for the Riverwomen has been the play of guard Charlee Dixon.

"[Charlee] is really starting to come around," Ethridge said. "She has improved in all aspects of her game. She is our team leader and she has earned her spot."

The team now moves on to play Wisconsin-Parkside who currently stand with a record of 3-17, 2-11 in the GLVC. □

Tough D too much for Wisconsin

Despite for sure victory, Ethridge sticks to usual, intense game plan



Daniel Hazelton/ The Current

Krystal Logan calls for the pass from Lindsay Brefeld in Thursday night's game against Wisconsin-Parkside. The Riverwomen trounced their conference opponent by a whopping 26 points.

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writer

The Riverwomen handily defeated Wisconsin Parkside 88-62 and moved their record to 14-7, 7-6 in conference play.

Head coach Shelly Ethridge commented about how the team handles the pressure of playing a team with a dismal record.

"To start off the game, there was pressure on us to win," Ethridge said. "It may look like a blow out, but it was a total team effort. Everyone on the team scored."

Men's basketball team approaches end of season

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff writer

The Rivermen basketball team have four games remaining with no hope of a post-season berth yet they still have hopes of finishing the season strong.

The Rivermen will play four conference games to wrap up a disappointing season. The remaining games should give the team a

glimpse of what the team will look like next year.

"I hope we play hard in the last four games," Meckfessel said. "This is going to be a very good team next year."

The squad will also have the benefit of a year of experience. Several players who played a key role were freshman. Greg Ross, Kyle Bixler and Josh Wolf have all played key roles for the team this season.

"Greg is going to be a terrific point guard," Meckfessel said. "Kyle is going to be fine he is just going through a tough time lately. Josh is going to be fine. We are going to see about playing him with Jason Logsdon more often. We will also be bringing in Gene Stewert who would have been a starter this year."

Stewert was a transfer who had problems with credits transferring. He will be eligible next season. □

to point out who made the difference.

"Sarah Lawrence was the biggest surprise defensively," Ethridge said. "Her defense really sparked us."

The defense for the Riverwomen has been the key to their excellent play lately according to Ethridge.

"Our defensive pressure was a problem for Wisconsin-Parkside," Ethridge said. "If we play defense well, our offense comes easy. If we have problems with our defense our offense lacks."

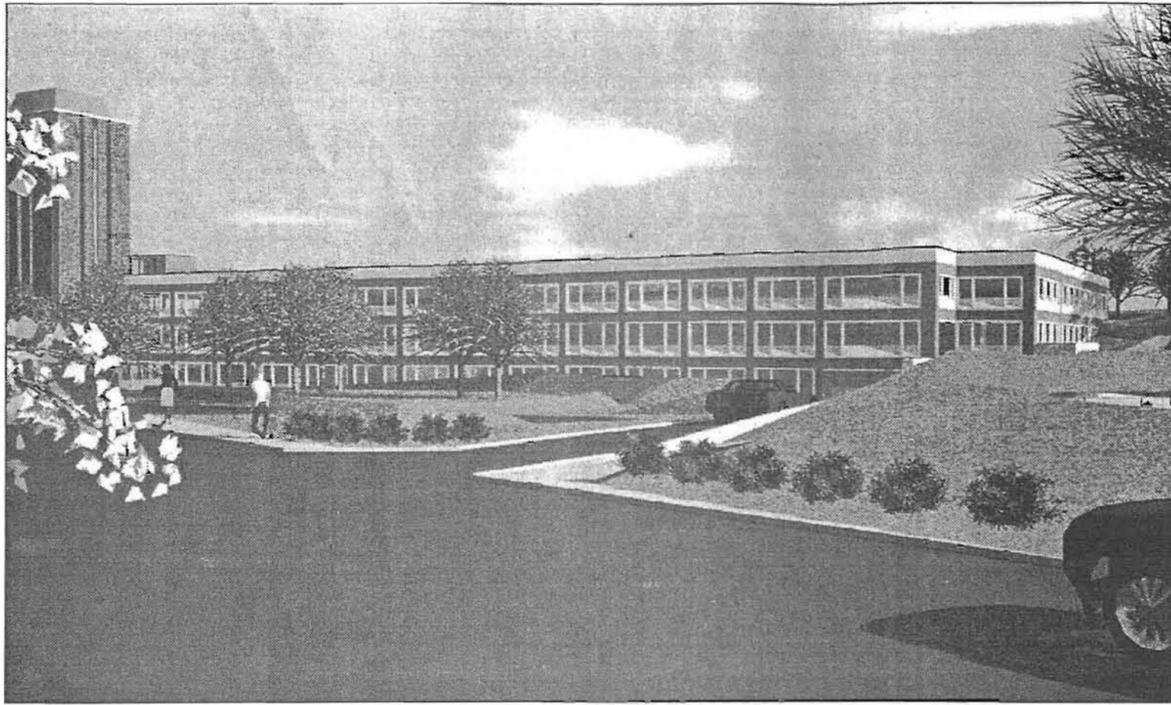
Looking down the road, the Riverwomen are ranked sixth in the conference and need to be in the top seven to advance into the regionals.

They are battling it out with St. Joseph and Kentucky Wesleyan for the remaining two spots in the region.

"We have the toughest schedule," Ethridge said. "Every game is crucial now." □

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.	Thursday	Saturday
	12	14
Men	at Kentucky Wesleyan 7:30 p.m.	at Bellarmine 8:00 p.m. (EST)
Women	at Kentucky Wesleyan 5:15 p.m.	at Bellarmine 5:45 p.m. (EST)



An artist's rendering of the garage along West Drive. The garage will be situated between the Thomas Jefferson Library

and Bugg Lake and hold approximately 600 vehicles. Construction will begin this week.

Flag Day



Daniel Hazelton/The Current Organization sponsored the event in an effort to raise awareness among American students of the organization and its members. ISO will have continuing events as the Olympic Games progress.

GIFTS, from page 5

to splurge a little, especially if the one you love is a closet chocolate lover. Another thing to remember about giving gifts it's always good to buy something that a person loves but doesn't like to buy for themselves.

There are also other options for a love with a sweet-tooth. Cookie or ice cream cakes can be made to order with a catch phrase written with icing, perhaps using a nickname shared only with each other. A cookie bouquet can combine the flowers and candy ideas into a more unusual one.

The variety of types of jewelry make it easy to pick an item somewhat out of the ordinary. The choices can range from earrings or

tennis bracelets for her, to earrings or tie clips for him. With an item large enough, engraving can be a nice addition.

Perfume and cologne are often viewed as romantic, therefore placing them as appropriate for valentines. The most obvious and safest choice would be to buy the person's usual brand. For the riskier individuals, spend a little time at the fragrance counter sniffing out the different aromas and find one that is a reflection of that special someone.

For those more intimate couples, lingerie is always a fun way to go. The articles of clothing can be romantic, or even a little risqué for some.

If the tried-and-true ideas are not unusual enough, a few key thoughts may help in deciding. Focusing on a persons hobbies and

interests — sports, music, books — may assist in figuring out the perfect gift. If the individual loves movies, buy a couple of her favorites. If he loves to cook, buy him some cookbooks, and maybe a chef's hat for fun.

Other classic touches include heart-shaped balloons, teddy bears with big red bows and, of course, a sentimental card. The card can make any present even better. There are ways to make personalized cards in a lot of card shops if there aren't any commercial ones that say just the right thing.

Dinner is commonly included in the Valentine's Day celebration. Taking her to a fancy restaurant is fine, just make sure to make reservations in advance. Waiting two hours for a table may not be very romantic. □

www.uwire.com

GUEST, from page 4

cool it would have been to have someone do it for us. They can't vote. Sure, they could write and complain, but they can't vote, so they won't care.

We on the other hand can vote, and we can do something about this crap! We can show the younger generation that we are with 'em, that we are still hip, and we can show the elders that it's not nice to turn on the younger generations.

We are getting older, but we are still cool.

-Bill Clifford
guest commentator

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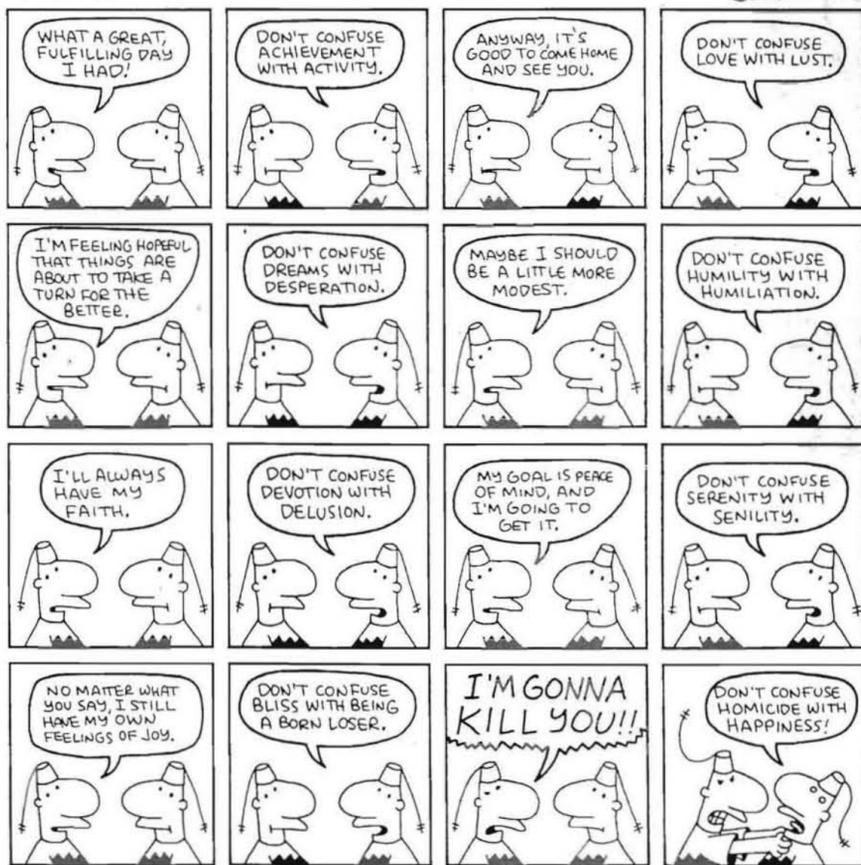
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For Seay, special emphasis is welcome change

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
special to The Current

Director of the UM-St. Louis Office of Equal Opportunity, Norman Seay, is enthused about the upcoming celebration of Black History Month at UM-St. Louis.

"I'm excited that we're celebrating Black History Month. I think it's extremely important to have a Kick-off," Seay said.

Not too long ago Seay states that there was a lack of involvement in educating people of the contributions that blacks have made to society.

"Companies would not publish anything on blacks... many people were unaware of many of the contributions blacks have made," Seay said. "That's the value of Black History Month, it's a time to stop and think about the contributions of blacks."

Throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s Seay became actively involved in three organizations: the NAACP, the Committee Of Racial Equality and the Federation of Block Units).

They had a common goal of achieving equality for all, especially blacks.

As a Vashon High School stu-

dent Seay became involved in CORE, a non-violent organization of peers that protested public accommodations that would not serve them because of their race.

"We decided we would use the philosophy of Ghandi which is direct action without any violence... if a person were to hit you, you were to tolerate that beating," Seay said.

The Federation of Block Units requested community involvement in cleaning up their area and making sure their yards look respectable. If need be, they would go to the alderman or the mayor about any prob-

lems that occurred.

"We work together to improve the quality of life for the residents on that block," Seay said.

As chairman of the criminal justice committee for the NAACP he fought to have black police officers employed, promoted and simply to have the same rights as did their white predecessors.

"Blacks were not allowed at one time to arrest whites, they could only detain the white citizens until a white policeman came along," Seay said. "Blacks could not ride in police cars... they could not command districts." □

BUFORD, from page 1

evolutionary process, "the height of the experience of African-Americans on these shores... we gained public access to schools, housing and jobs."

It was during the civil rights era that an African-American middle class began to form. Buford said that although this meant African-Americans were starting to fare better economically, it also meant that more of them were distancing themselves from the communities they had built.

"We deserted our businesses and our small economic base and we have certainly left our institutions," Buford said. "The middle class grows and leaves the community. The poor stay and become dependent on the federal government... there is now a gap within our own community."

Buford said the problem is exacerbated by the racism African-Americans have had to contend with.

"Racism is not going away, it's not going away at all, ever, to perpetuity it will be there. It's a part of people," Buford said. "The level of racism is what we can deal with."

Buford blamed current levels of racism on the anxiety brought on by unemployment due to a shift from an industrial to a technological society,

and the emergence of a global economy.

"People are being replaced by computers," Buford said. "The majority is insecure as to its future economically."

Buford said he believed action, rather than dialogue, will go further to solve the problems faced by the African-American community.

He expressed concern that groups such as Civic Progress and the Regional Commerce and Growth Association are responsible for mapping the direction of the community.

"If you're an African-American, you must take the initiative and set your own agenda," Buford said. "What we have learned from our history is that when we set the agenda, we progress."

Buford said part of that agenda includes campaigning in favor of affirmative action.

He said the Missouri Legislature is currently considering a bill similar to a California law passed last year outlawing affirmative action programs.

"If that happens in our state, we will have the same losses," Buford said.

Audience members were encouraged to sign pledges as a show of support of affirmative action programs. □

SUIT, from page 1

to charge educational fees) and a refund to all students who were violated.

Maurice Manning, a spokesman for the University, said that, since he is not a lawyer, he wouldn't try to explain the difference between tuition and student fees. He said discussing whether or not to charge fees to attend the University is not a valid argument.

"The University has charged educational fees since 1872 and will con-

tinue to charge them," Manning said.

Although even the curators call educational fees "tuition," Manning said it is merely a technicality.

"Everybody slips... people use 'tuition' as shorthand to mean educational fees," Manning said. "All the official documents call it educational fees."

Herman said he expects the University will be forced to refund educational fees to state residents.

"The University should be required to live under the same law that we all do, or at least give a reason why they are not," Herman said. □

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The Current Newswire

1998-99 Student Senate applications are available from the Office of Student Activities, 267 University Center. The deadline for submission is 10 a.m., Feb. 26. Elections will be held on the North and South Campuses on March 11 and 12. Call Richard Wright at 5034 for details.

Construction will begin this week for the West Drive Parking Structure and Phase 1 of the West Drive Relocation. The road will remain open during most of the construction, with traffic flow maintained by flagmen. For more information, call Chris Samples at 522-1872.

The Instructional Technology Center will hold an open house from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., Feb. 16 in Rooms 113 of Lucas Hall and 145 of the South Campus Classroom Building. Faculty and staff are invited to meet Don Boehnker, ITC's new director, and the ITC staff, as well as learn more about ITC's services. Call 6171 for details.

The deadline for preliminary nominations for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity is 5 p.m., Feb. 25. Twelve copies of a one- to two-page nomination letter describing the purpose and significance of the nominee's research and creative works and a complete vita must be submitted to the Office of Research Administration, Room 338, Woods Hall. Call 5897 for details.

Michelle Hoyman, associate professor of political science, will be interviewed on the cable television program, "Labor Vision," on Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Hoyman will discuss her book, "Power Steering: Global Automakers and the Transformation of Rural Communities." Check your local cable listings for show times.

Call Mary Lindsley at 516-5174 to submit items for Newswire.

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