

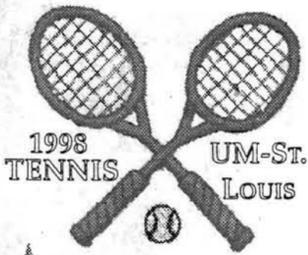
The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

In This Issue

Senate race is packed:

An unusually high turnout for student senator candidates has reversed a dismal trend of disinterest. See page 3.



Rackets Ho: UM-St. Louis tennis starts preparation for the 1998 season. See page 7.



You shouldn't have: Richard Dreyfuss assaults the general, innocent public with another insulting waste of good time, *Krippendorf's Tribe*. See page 6.

Editorial: Repeated budget shortfalls point out fatal flaw in the process — overly optimistic enrollment projections. See page 4.

News From All Over

WGRE under fire over KKK invite

GREENCASTLE, IND. (U-WIRE) — DePauw radio station WGRE's cancellation of a the Ku Klux Klan's appearance sparked more controversy than the invitation.

Jeffrey Berry, the imperial wizard of Indiana's KKK, was scheduled to be on "In Focus" this past Wednesday night. However, WGRE canceled his visit saying they were unable to get DePauw faculty to debate Berry.

Since WGRE announced the cancellation last Thursday, the issue has filled DePauw's campus with controversy. At Monday's faculty meeting, professors passionately discussed the KKK's possible visit to DePauw. David Newman, chair of the sociology department, began the faculty's discussion, asking what WGRE's reasons were for both Berry's invitation and the cancellation.

They addressed a letter to Jeff McCall, faculty adviser to WGRE, and Patrick Kessler, station manager, asking the station to detail their decision making process and what led them to invite the KKK.

The controversy has exposed differences among the faculty views of the issue. McCall responded to the faculty letter by saying, "Programming decisions involving individual departments are generally left to those individual departments..." □

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Professor fires back with new grievance against U

Faculty member says he will make disturbing 'revelations'

BY DOUG HARRISON
staff writer

An English professor against whom a former student filed a discrimination grievance has turned the tables, filing his own grievance against the University.

In a letter to English Department faculty Feb. 24, John Onuska, associate professor of English, told colleagues of a grievance he had filed that would make "revelations that should deeply disturb" faculty members.

Though Onuska's letter does not elaborate on the nature of his grievance, Steven Ryals, Onuska's

attorney, said that Onuska's complaint "arises from the constitutional infirmities of the process itself and how it applies to Dr. Onuska and his treatment by the University."

In his letter, Onuska, who has declined repeated requests for an interview, wrote of "[t]his unpleasant situation . . . [that] has been going on now for 15 months," calling it "the most distressing episode in my long career."

"This marks my 30th year on this campus," Onuska wrote in the two page document. "I have foregone any of the public occasions marking the event. Given the part

played in this academic nightmare by various administrators . . . in Woods Hall, I felt it would be hypocritical of me to participate in any ceremony in which they "honored" me for my long service."

In his letter to faculty, Onuska offers faculty a four-point list of suggestions about dealing with students, including the prohibition against tolerating "academic dishonesty . . . because you fear litigation," adding that "the reason I have not rolled over and played the martyr/victim is my determination

see PROF, page 3

A 'Long' Time Coming

FS '96:
Melinda Long enrolls in Onuska's Eng 338 class

Jan. to Mar. '97:
Long/Onuska unable to reach informal resolution

April '97:
Long files grievance against Onuska

Nov. '97:
Long threatens federal suit; alleges Univ. delayed hearing

Feb. '98:
Grievance committee hears case, Onuska files grievance

Report finds driver at fault in June crash

BY BILL ROLFES
staff writer

The National Transportation Safety Board found driver error and bus station design were at fault in the death of four people at the MetroLink station on South Campus last summer.

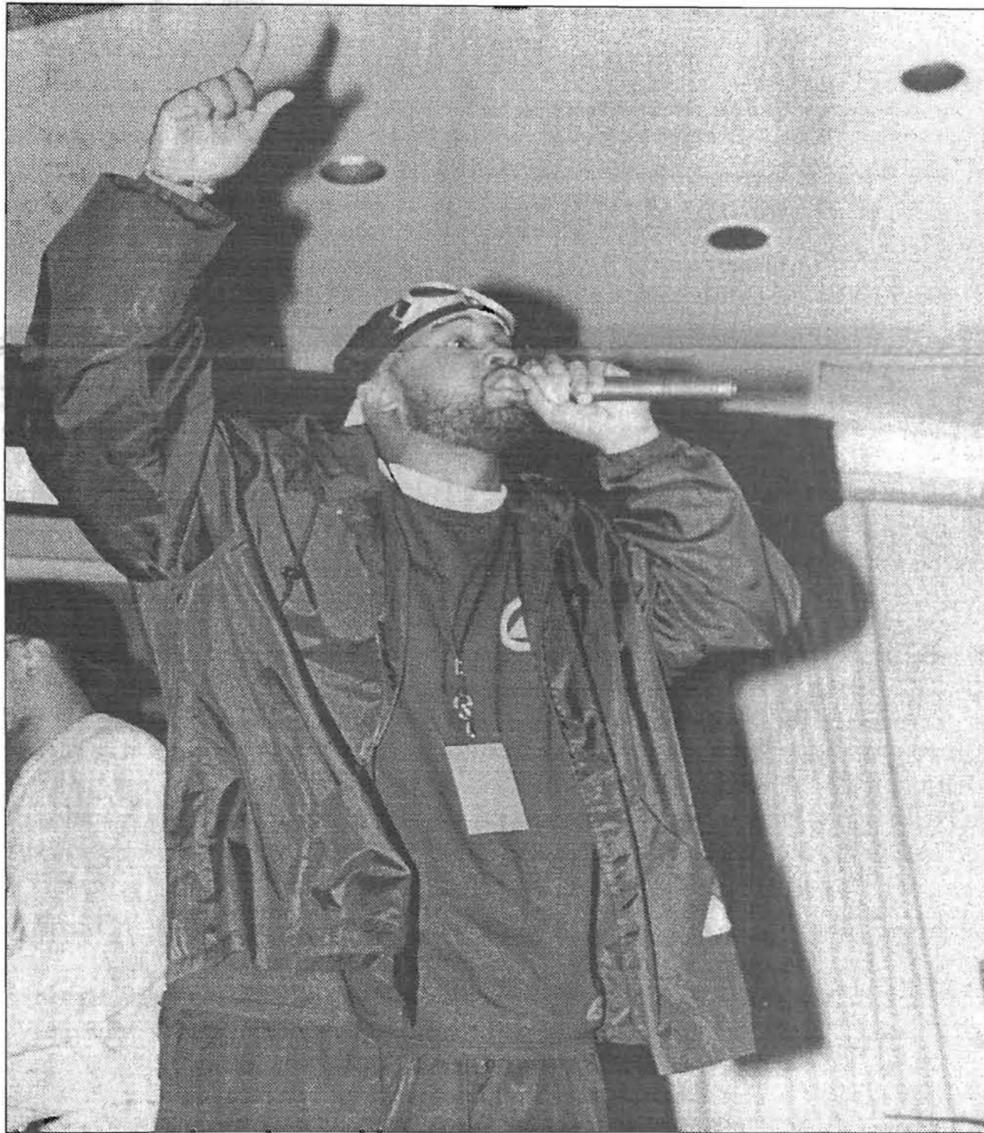
In a report released Feb. 24, the NTSB stated that the "saw-tooth" design of the bus station "fail[ed] to provide adequate pedestrian safety" without the 42-inch steel barriers that were installed after the June 11 crash.

The NTSB found that Bi-State driver trainee Nicola Ball had mistaken the gas pedal for the brake but design safety measures could have prevented the deaths.

The report stated, "had the positive separation

see CRASH, page 8

A Rising Star?



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Big Lee of St. Lunatics performs live in 100 Clark Hall Feb. 25. The performance was part of the "Take Stock in Your Future" Seminar sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations.

Gwen Packnett has merged a lifetime of experience and education as well as three diversity programs on campus

THE RIGHT COMBINATION

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

When the Office of Multicultural Relations was created last year, it was designed to be an ideal combination of services geared to the academic support of students. It is only fitting, then, that its director has the ideal combination of qualities to lead it towards its goal.

Gwendolyn DeLoach-Packnett, director of the Multicultural Relations Office, says her background in community service and her studies in social work and education have helped her guide the office in meeting students' needs.

"As an educator, it helps with understanding how to work with the academic

side of students' concerns," Packnett said. "As a person with a degree in social work, [it helps with] students that come our way to talk about personal issues."

Since her days at St. Louis' Central High School, Packnett has been working with students, doing volunteer work for the Mathews-Dickey Boys and Girls Club and the Annie Malone Children's Home. She later earned two undergraduate degrees - one in education, the other in social work - from William Jewell College and a master's degree in social work from Washington University.

Packnett spent five years in private practice as a family therapist in Connecticut before returning to St. Louis and marrying the Rev. Ronald

Packnett of the Central Baptist Church. She says her husband, who died a year ago, shared her devotion to helping students academically.

After taking time off to care for the couple's two children, Brittany and Barrington, Packnett returned to work as a coordinator for the St. Louis Public Schools. There she created a variety of programs, including mentorships, and dealt with infractions by students in the desegregation program. She came to UM-St. Louis four years ago as a coordinator for African-American Student Relations.

see PACKNETT, page 8

Former food services director charged in campus assault

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

The St. Louis County prosecuting attorney's office has filed charges in connection with an on-campus incident involving a food service manager.

Ron Medley, district supervisor for Food Service Consultants, has been charged with third degree assault, a misdemeanor charge, said Captain James Smalley, assistant director of University Police.

According to police reports, an argument had ensued on Feb. 13 between Medley and Corey Childs, a food service employee, over Childs' arriving late for work. Medley alleged that Childs had threatened to hit him, after which he told Childs to clock out and leave.

see GUN, page 3

Nursing students express concerns with dean

Forum convened after faculty cuts

BY DOUG HARRISON
staff writer

Frequent curriculum changes, conflicting information from advisers and concerns about "production line mentality" at the Barnes College of Nursing dominated two recent meetings between nursing students and the college's dean.

About 50 students turned out on Feb. 25 and Feb. 27 for hour-long opportunities to hear Jerry Durham, dean of the School of Nursing, discuss the recent faculty cuts that will leave nine non-regular instructors out of work next year.

"I'm concerned about the production-line mentality in the college," said Greg Nemeck, senior nursing student.

see NURSES, page 8



As an educator, it helps with understanding how to work with the academic side of students.

-Gwen Packnett

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, Mar. 9

- The Louvre: An Architectural History—A Slide Talk. Jeanne Morgan Zarruchi, associate professor of foreign languages and literatures and of art and history, will discuss the growth of the great French palace from a watchtower to a world-famous symbol of empire.
- **Biological Society Meeting** at 1:30 p.m. in 115 Benton Hall. Contact: 6438.

Tuesday, Mar. 10

- **Student Social Work Association Meeting** at 4 p.m. in the Lucas Hall Evening College Conference Room on the third floor. Contact: Barb Collaso, 5105.
- **Biological Society Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in 115 Benton Hall. Contact: 6438.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

- **Daughters of the Dust** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.
- **Student Senate Elections** on the North Campus in the U-Center Lobby from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Lucas Hall 3rd floor from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on the South Campus in Marillac from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 12

- **Daughters of the Dust** 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.
- **Robbie Barber: Speaking in the Vernacular.** Reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Gallery 210 Lucas Hall. Contact: 5976 or 5952.
- **Student Senate Elections** on the North Campus in the U-Center Lobby from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Lucas Hall 3rd floor from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on the South Campus in Marillac from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **The Tawainese Struggle for Identity,** part of the 1997-98 Colloquium Series Forging National Identities in East Asia, given by Jack Williams who is the director of the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University. This event will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 331 SSB. This event is sponsored by the Joint Center for East Asian Studies. Contact: 5753.
- **Reception for artist Robbie Barber** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a lecture presented by Barber at 6 p.m. in Gallery 210 Lucas Hall. Contact: Terry Suhre, 5952.

Friday, Mar. 13

- **Session 2 Introduction to Weight Training:** Learn how to use the Fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Fridays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. Fee \$5.00. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **"Folk Art, Popular Culture, and Contemporary Art"** is a symposium co-sponsored by the Center for Humanities from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in 203 Lucas. Contact: Terry Suhre, 5952.

Saturday, Mar. 14

- **A CPR-Adult/Infant/Child course** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a \$5.00 fee for this course. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Monday, Mar. 16

- **Men's and Women's Table Tennis Tournament** starts today in the Mark Twain Rec Center. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
- **It's Time to End the Economic War Between the States.** Kenneth Thomas, assistant professor of political science and fellow in the Center for International Studies, reports on the research from his forthcoming book and argues that we have lessons to learn from the European Union and Canada on ways of controlling competition for investment among states and localities. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

- **Institute For Women's and Gender Studies** governing board meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 1312 Tower. Contact: Nan Sweet, 6383 or Deborah Bowman, 5581.

Wednesday, Mar. 18

- **The Last Emperor** 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, Mar. 19

- **The Last Emperor** 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, Mar. 20

- **Session 2 Introduction to Weight Training:** Learn how to use the Fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Fridays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. Fee \$5.00. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Monday, Mar. 23

- **Did Women Have a Renaissance?** The Self-Image of the Creative Woman. Yael Even, associate professor of art and art history, UM-St. Louis, and Deborah Aldrich Larson, associate professor of English, UM-St. Louis, discuss women artists and writers of the Renaissance. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

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Campus CrimeLine

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

February 13, 1998

A fist fight was reported at 3:00 a.m. between two students sharing an apartment at the U-Meadows. No prosecution by either party was desired.

A Food Service Worker was charged with Possession of a Weapon during an argument

with another worker. A warrant will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

February 14, 1998

A student reported her wallet containing cash and several credit cards was taken from 307 Research Building.

A person at the U-Meadows Apartments was arrested at 10:50 p.m. and charged with Violating Missouri Controlled Substance Law. There were also two outstanding warrants for the person's arrest.

February 16, 1998

A staff reported that between Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 9 a.m., a Denver Electronic Balance Scale was stolen from 442 Research Building.

February 19, 1998

A student reported that between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., her purse and its contents were stolen from 103 SSB (Computer Lab). The purse had been left unattended by its owner.

A student was arrested after it was learned that he was wanted by Green County Sheriff's Department on two active warrants.

At 6:25 p.m., a person reported that a subject was in the hallway of SSB masturbating.

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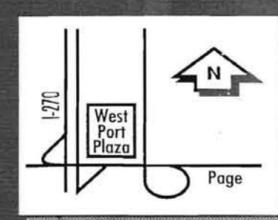
Applicants must be 16 years of age or older. Applicants for security & concessions must be at least 21 years of age.



The Top 10 Summer Jobs Usher at Riverport Amphitheatre. St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Exit Page Ave. east off I-270 - Follow signs to Westport Plaza - Westport Playhouse is located next to Casa Gallardo in the Indoor Mall

Riverport Amphitheatre Job Fair
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 Noon - 4:30pm
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 Questions Please Call: (314)298-9944



Riverport Amphitheatre is an Equal Opportunity Employer

High turnout in senate race reverses trend in recent years

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
special to The Current

Forty-seven students have filed applications for candidacy in this year's University Senate election.

According to senate member David Ganz, in recent years there were fewer people filing applications for candidacy than there were seats in the senate. This meant that anyone who declared candidacy and met the eligibility requirements was elected without contest. Last year only 13 students ran for the 25 student seats in the senate.

According to Student Government Association president Jim Avery, the increased student interest in the senate election is a direct reflection of the effort he put into it.

"I told them I was going to get 25 people to

run," Avery said.

Avery also said that due to the low levels of student participation in past elections, there had been some discussion in the senate of reducing the number of student seats. Avery lamented this, and said he had no intention of losing any student seats in the senate.

Richard Wright, a member of the senate's election subcommittee, said the increased interest in the election was the result of efforts by many people, and that visible issues, such as the University Center, also played a part in boosting interest in the election.

Wright said that having a real election meant

Voting Venues

March 11 and 12
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in UCenter Lobby and Marillac Hall
5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Lucas Hall and Marrillac Hall

voters must show student ID

the students have a real choice in determining who will represent them in the senate.

"I think the fact that there is a real choice is good news for the campus," said Wright.

According to Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, the election is important because it is a reflection of student opinion, both as it is now, and as it changes in the future.

"If students aren't represented, their views aren't known," Grace said. "Democracy requires all of us to be engaged," Grace said, "It's not a spectator sport." □

PROF, from page 1

to do everything in my power to see that no one of you or any member of the community is subjected to such treatment again."

Onuska's grievance will not be heard until after the current grievance against him has been adjudicated. Melinda Long, a senior English and education major, has charged that Onuska violated her civil rights as an African-American woman and her right to privacy. She alleges that in the fall of 1996, Onuska both distributed copies of her quiz and attendance records to his English 338 class and penciled in "disparaging" comments about her weight and race in the margins of the roster. Long said she wants the original grade she received in the course, a D, to be changed to an A and Onuska to be fired.

Documents obtained by *The Current* show an excerpt from Onuska's roster. Next to Long's name is the handwritten word "black."

Ryals said Onuska "denies the allegations that he wrote disparaging remarks on the roster circulated in the class."

A grievance committee is currently hearing the case. Long, who has insisted since she filed the grievance in April that Onuska and administrators have intentionally delayed the process, said Feb. 24 that the hearings were in violation of University guidelines.

"The committee lets [Onuska's attorney] bad mouth me, call me a poor student and say that I cheat," Long said, referring to regulatory prohibitions against attorneys' direct involvement with grievance hearings. "They can't do that."

Under the Collected Rules and Regulations 390.010, section F.6b, "the advisor of the grievance or respondent may briefly explain his or her position but shall not be permitted to testify or cross examine." Long alleges Ryals has done both.

"He has yelled at me, at the committee, at everybody," Long said.

Ryals said he has not overstepped the provisions of the guidelines.

"I have not been permitted to participate more than the rules allow," Ryals said. "I certainly didn't yell at her or any witness. I asked twice to participate and was denied."

Bob Fritchey, a student and chairman of the grievance committee, said "attorneys have been allowed to speak in some instances."

"I can alter or suspend the rules as I see fit, though I've not chosen to do that," Fritchey said, referring to Section 6 of the collected rules that states the "chairperson may, for good cause and with the concurrence of a majority of the entire committee, authorize deviation from the suggested format."

Long said few of Onuska's 10 proposed witnesses have testified, though the grievance hearing has continued through two different sessions, lasting two and a half hours each: the first on Feb. 9, the second on Feb. 16. Long blames the delays on the time "wasted" by Ryals when he hand writes questions for Onuska



Melinda Long

The Current Newswire

The Student Senate elections will be held on Wed. and Thurs. at the following locations: the University Center lobby from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., third floor Lucas Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. and in Marillac Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Barnes College of Nursing will hold an open house for prospective nursing students Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Seton Center on South Campus. Students are encouraged to bring unofficial transcripts or grade cards for preliminary evaluation by an advisor. Call 6066 for details.

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking nominations for its annual Lecturers' Award for Excellence in Teaching. The names of eligible lecturers and nomination forms are available in this issue of *The Current*. Deadline for submission to the dean's office is March 23. Call 5404 for more information.

The Southwestern Bell TeleCommunity Center needs volunteers to help teach approximately 40 free computer classes a month. Volunteers need a good working knowledge of Microsoft applications, good communications skills and a willingness to share knowledge. Call 679-1400 for details.

Donna Ferrato, award-winning photojournalist, author of Living With the Enemy and founder of Domestic Abuse Awareness Inc. will present "When Love Hurts: A Visual Journey into Violence and Relationships" at 7 p.m. Thursday in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Call 5291 for tickets or more information.

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

GUN, from page 1

According to reports, Medley went to his car, took a gun out of the car and tucked the gun in his belt as campus police arrived to break up the initial argument. A police officer confiscated the gun, but no arrests were made at the time.

Neither Medley nor Childs could not be reached for comment. Gloria Schultz, director of auxiliary services, said that Medley, an

employee of Food Service Consultants, no longer works on campus.

"He has been transferred," Schultz said. "It was mutual, something [the University and Food Service Consultants] both agreed on."

Childs also has not worked on campus since the incident occurred, although Schultz could not confirm the status of his employment.

Dave Phillips, president of Food Service Consultants, declined to comment on the matter. □

SUMMER SESSION, 1998 NEW PRE-REGISTRATION DATE

All eligible undergraduate and graduate students may register for the Summer Session, 1998

ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 1998.



**CALL THE TRAIN (516-7000)
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COME IN PERSON
(Room 230 Woods Hall)
OR SEE YOUR ADVISOR**

Pre-Registration for the Fall Semester, 1998 has not changed.

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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OUR OPINION

Failed predictions guarantee future cuts

The Issue:

For the past five years, student enrollment has fallen short of what administrators have predicted, causing 'reallocation' of funds.

We Suggest:

Administrators must project enrollment accurately so that budgets, instructors and academic programs will no longer get cut.

So what do you think?

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

In the best of all worlds, cuts like the ones handed down last month in the College of Nursing would never happen. Dedicated faculty would not be let go in order balance bottom lines; students would not be left in a curricular lurch.

But more troubling still than the direct impact these most recent manifestations of budgetary woes will have on students and the campus, is that the "non-renewals" in nursing last month, the "budget reallocations" all over campus last year, the fear and trembling in the hearts of many an administrator and faculty member this year — all most likely could be or have been averted were it not for the repeatedly failed promises of overly optimistic enrollment projections.

Consider: for five straight years, academic units on campus have had some portion of their budget "reallocated" to make up for losses created by enrollments that didn't meet the expected levels. We don't pretend to understand the larger force, be it sociological, economic, cultural or a combination thereof, that may have originally been behind these vexing enrollment shifts.

But however elusive the initial propellant may be that put enrollments on the fritz, one thing's for sure: the cuts that were initially made to offset those first losses are contributing to a self-defeating, in fact, cannibalizing process.

It works something like this: there aren't enough students coming in the doors so we cut a few instructors and reduce a few offerings. And in the process we reduce the breadth and appeal of the University's offerings to

potential students, many opting to attend another school (a community college, we suspect) where they can get what they want. So we're back where we started: there aren't enough students coming in the doors and we recycle this process again, only this time, the cuts are a little deeper and the effects a little more serious.

And whatever the original cause of the enrollment shifts, it has now been subverted by a very apparent, "unavoidable" we're told, reality of fiscal management: budgets must keep pace with enrollments. Again, we're told that this is not administrators' fault. UM-St. Louis suffers from its low place on the system totem pole, which means fewer stable dollars from the legislature.

But we wonder if, among other things, the chancellor's aggressive pursuit of "partnerships with the community" is not creating a false sense of security among system officials, state legislators and the "community" in general that UM-St. Louis doesn't need or deserve the state funds. It's got partners.

If the fallacy inherent to this line of reasoning seems unmanageably paradoxical, it can only be because it is. Witness the nine faculty let go in nursing.

There are after all, very real human costs involved in "reallocations," "non-renewals" and other snazzy, evasive terms. Unless administrators from the chancellor down are ready to revisit the grossly inadequate strategy currently employed to project budgets, we may find ourselves at a loss for words, at a time when there is nothing or no one left to reallocate, not renew or reassign. □

Would the real constitution please come forward?

At the last Student Government Association meeting, the assembly discovered it is not really sure which constitution it follows. Apparently, the constitution revised in July 1993 — the one by which the assembly assumed it was governed — was never approved by the chancellor.

If this is true, then the previous constitution, from 1988, has been erroneously archived as a relic of history while SGA fooled itself, and a lot of other people, into thinking the 1993 constitution was effective.

Now the assembly faces tough questions about, among other things, the constitutional validity of the comptroller's position. Oddly, the executive committee defended itself against allegations of procedural incompetence by invoking its general administrative incompetence: we couldn't have broken the rules; we didn't know what they were.

The first thing leaders of any organization should do is to identify its constitution. If leaders are to provide effective direction and vision, they must know from the outset what guidelines they must follow. Given that SGA leadership, not just this year, but since 1993, hasn't even bothered to research the authenticity of the one document that is the life force of any governing body — its constitution — it's no wonder SGA faces its current crisis of credibility.

Hopefully the next SGA administration will spend some time over the summer bringing the constitution up to date, so that students can know that the assembly's actions on their behalf are not being undermined by poor leadership. □

The Knight the lights went out in London

Silly me. Here all along I thought the Royal Family would condemn the likes of Elton John and his shameless, though highly successful, scams to milk the Princess of Wales' death for every last note, both musical and monetary.

But it seems they're especially proud of his musical necrophilia. So much so that the Queen herself knighted the Rocketman last week.

Knighthood for Elton? C'mon. Who's next? The drunk driver who killed Diana and her friend, not to mention himself? Shall we confer royal titles to the seven photographers who pursued the infamous black Mercedes that August night? Or maybe we should just dig up Diana now, desecrate her corpse and accomplish in one fell swoop what has been mercifully prolonged by this business of using her death for personal profit by so many.

Forgive me if I'm not all atwitter about Sir Elton's knighthood. The notion of "Sir" Elton sickens me about as much as Ozzie Osborne drinking a bucket of his audience's spit on stage.

Of course it's not a big secret that Elton and the Dianamania he's helped whip up since her death irritates me to no end. A few months ago, I wrote that we seem to believe "it's okay for Elton and every other moneychanging junk peddler to cash in on a car crash as long as 'portions of the proceeds go to charity.'"

The origin of that particular comment sprang from Sir Elton's tacky revision of his tribute to decadence warmed over for Diana's death and the announcement that tickets would go on sale that week for sail-bys of Diana's graveside.

"Did Elvis teach us nothing," I asked. At the time, my response was "apparently not." Looks as though I need to revise that. It appears both the Queen and Elton learned quite a lot from Elvis: mainly, that one shouldn't wait until one kills oneself from decadent living to receive the royal homage one covets.

Ironically, Sir Elton has managed to acquire, through someone else's tragic death, the legitimate (and I'm using that term very loosely) claim to royalty that attended "The King" only after his own senseless decent to drugs and death.

Sir Elton may be shameless, but he's not stupid.

The stupid ones are those sentimental lemmings who keep buying "Candle in the Wind 1997" (I understand that's the new official title) and every other tacky trapping of Dianamania that crops up.

Sales of that atrocity (known by common Dianamaniacs as "England's Rose") have now topped \$37 million while the number of dumb suckers has soared to the unprecedented level of almost everyone.

For those people, Sir Elton's knighthood is probably a big deal. But to me, it speaks to John's character about as much as Rupert Murdoch's receiving Papal recognition speaks to the spirituality of the robber baron of international media.

Dress up a crook and trot him out in front of a bunch of drooling royal (or holy) sycophants in some sort of ceremonial idiocy and you've got the stuff of great comedy.

Thing is, didn't this all start from a tragedy? □



DOUG HARRISON
editor in chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

Truly embarrassed

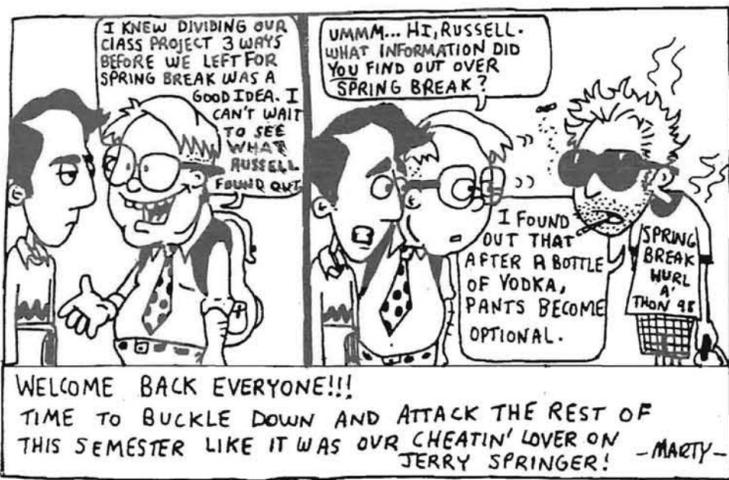
As president of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students for Change, I am painfully aware that homophobia (irrational fear of homosexuals) is alive and well at UM-St. Louis. Because of that, I was not shocked to see blatant homophobia in a letter to the editor ("Managing editor's opinion proves he is 'embarrassment' to the University") in the February 23, 1998 edition of *The Current*. When I first read, "The higher educational landscape is now littered with courses that are hard to take seriously (e.g. the proliferating courses on 'Queer History')." I was mildly annoyed at what I thought, at the time, to be a homophobic student using gays as the standard whipping post once again. Imagine my dismay, shock and horror to find out that the author of this insulting comment was not a student at all, but instead, a full tenured professor at this University.

I found it appalling that this professor felt so maligned as to feel it necessary to attack a student, Bill guest commentator Rolfes, in print calling him, "an embarrassment to the University." However, to compound that unprofessionalism by using gays as a scapegoat for his obvious anger is completely inexcusable.

So why did Professor J. Martin Rochester single out "Queer History" as an example of a higher educational course that is hard to take seriously? Although "Queer History" is offered at some universities, UM-St. Louis does not offer it. I seriously doubt that the majority of students reading *The Current* even realized when reading his statement that the course exists anywhere, making "Queer History" come across as nothing more than derogatory. Professor Rochester could have chosen a course out of the summer session schedule for 1998 such as "Economics of Professional Sports" or "Business Ethics" as his example of courses that are hard to take seriously.

But that might have offended athletes or future corporate leaders which is not nearly as socially acceptable as offending gays and lesbians. Therefore, Professor Rochester singled out the one group which can still be legally discriminated against — gays and lesbians.

see GUEST, page 8



READER RESPONSE

Nursing article seemed biased

I would like to comment on Doug Harrison's front page article "Nursing Crisis Forces Cuts in Faculty." I found the article wholly informative and written with the authority of a journalist who has spent some time researching his assignment. The nursing issue is one that has broader implications for people's lives than many issues within the microcosm of a university.

What bothered me about an otherwise informative piece was a sense of political 'side taking' that lurks within Harrison's report. This stems from the personal situations revealed by Harrison of two of the non-returning faculty. Other than the professional situation of Georgia Urban, Harrison does not mention any of the other faculty members that are to be released. Also, no mention was made if any of these faculty members had indeed sought re-employment with BJC. What happens if these people lose their jobs is another article or story and can turn a report into an issue.

Issues do not belong on the front page; news does. This writing technique seems to be prevalent even in this city's professional newsreporting, be it television or print. In my opinion, Harrison (and for that matter *The Current*) could benefit from keeping this "coloring" away from their headline news.

-Brian R. Jenkins

Student calls for complete overhaul of SGA

The Student Government Association Executive Committee has once again taken away students rights by not allowing the assembly to approve the members of the Student Activities Budget Committee.

After operating under a 1993 constitution which was on file in the SGA and Student Activities Offices, SGA President Jim Avery is claiming that constitution is not valid. If that constitution is not valid, the office of comptroller does not exist because it did not appear in the previous constitution. Therefore, any previous comptroller held the position illegally (and earning a stipend from the SGA budget) even though students have voted people into that office. The position of comptroller is illegal even though the position's job description was approved by the Senate Student Affairs Committee since that job does not exist in the previous constitution.

The comptroller can not be a member of the executive committee of the SGA since that position does not exist under the constitution that Avery claims is valid. Therefore, Comptroller Neal Lewis has no right to sit on the executive committee and make decisions on SABC members. Even though the con-

see LETTERS, page 8

Lent made easy

Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent have become easier to handle for me in the past year. For people who aren't of the same religion as I, Lent is the six and a half weeks of penance before Easter Sunday.

Lent has a lot of spiritual significance for Catholics, but basically the rules are we can't eat between meals on the first day of lent, which is Ash Wednesday (the day after Fat Tuesday), or on Good Friday, the last day of Lent; and we can't eat meat on Ash Wednesday or any Friday during Lent.

To get back to the point I was making, Lent has been easy for me since I gave up eating meat, permanently, almost two years ago. While many Catholics suffer because they have to eat fish or a completely flesh-less meal on selected days during Lent, I'm used to it.

So far this has been the first positive social aspect of not eating meat since I have "turned" vegetarian.

Usually I get weird looks from carnivores, and they ask me how I can go without eating meat or if I ever crave a thick, juicy burger. Well, I'm not forcing myself to be a vegetarian — I just don't feel like eating meat — so, no I don't break out into cold sweats or start hallucinating as a result of depriving myself of meat.

Many vegans would call me a sell-out, not a true vegetarian, because I'm a lacto-ovo vegetarian (I'll consume eggs and dairy products). Vegans don't even eat honey or wear animal products like leather or wool. I think that would be difficult to find dress shoes and belts that aren't leather but still look nice.

What is difficult enough for even us impure vegetarians is going out for a meal, because most restaurants don't serve many vegetarian entrees. Whenever my girlfriend and I go out to dinner, she always makes me chose the restaurant, because I'm "the picky one."

I guess being picky pays off around this time of the year. Although, I do feel a bit guilty, because abstaining from meat is no longer a penance for me. I probably should find some other way to make up for it.

I think the rule of not eating meat during certain days of Lent has more of a symbolic significance than simply sparing the lives of a bunch of animals. The whole idea is abstaining from something we use regularly.

One priest explained it this way: A rich guy gives up his usual Friday steak dinner and eats lobster instead, since Catholics don't consider sea food to be meat. This isn't an acceptable penance because lobster is a delicacy — an indulgence.

Maybe for my Friday penance I'll chow down on a six pack of White Castles. I'm sure my digestive tract will be doing some serious penance the next morning. □



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More than A-B-C and 1-2-3

University prof explores ways to improve learning

BY BECKY RICKARD
staff writer

The growing concern in the media regarding the failures of the St. Louis Public School system is becoming a hot topic of conversation, one that Matthew Keefer is hoping to change. Keefer, a behavioral studies professor at UM-St. Louis, works closely with the teaching staff at Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center Middle School, a magnet school located near the St. Louis Science Center.

“Students] have ownership of learning because they raise questions toward the dilemma or ‘the big idea.’”

-Matthew Keefer

Keefer received a grant in 1996 from the James S. McDonnell Foundation, a highly recognized research institution furthering cognitive studies in the educational setting, that allows him to teach the “Schools for Thought” curriculum program. “Schools for Thought” is

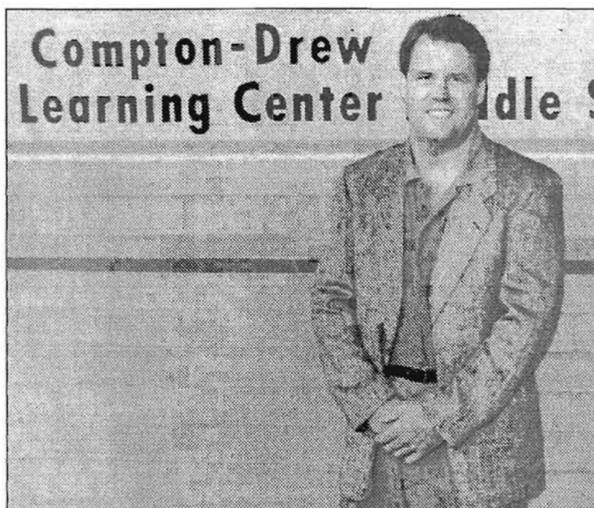
an inquiry-based method of education where students follow a process of problem resolution.

“The teacher isn’t the sage on the stage but rather the guide on the side,” Keefer mused.

The process by which student solve problems in the “Schools for Thought” curriculum is based on three steps. First a student must be presented with information that creates a dilemma, thus giving the students reason to inquire for further information. In the dilemma phase of the curriculum, deep principles or “big ideas” are promoted as the basis for the inquiry.

“[Students] have ownership of learning because they raise questions toward the dilemma or ‘the big idea,’” Keefer said.

The second step is to research the problem. By researching the general topic pertaining to the problem, the teacher enables students to become “experts” on the information. Students are usually grouped into “pods,” or smaller groups, that develop certain aspects



Matthew Keefer outside the Compton-Drew Learning Center Middle School where he conducts his research and work.

of the general topic. “It allows students to see each other as collaborators,” Keefer added.

The last step is the final product produced by the students, or consequential task. This step is considered the “hands-on or active” part of the process that produces a final result.

“The process is integrated. The common theme that carries it out is interdependence,” Keefer said.

Compton-

Drew has a distinct “partnership” with the learning facilities at the St. Louis Science Center that encourages educational field trips. Although Compton-Drew is the only public school in the St. Louis area entirely devoted to the “Schools for Thought” technique, Keefer believes other schools will soon follow this model.

“The world is our classroom. Teachers are encouraged to use outside expertise, like exhibits and trips to the Science Center,” Keefer said. “We are trying to have the students experience the subject as it is experienced by the scientist.” □

column a generic offering



Becky Rickard
staff columnist

Poverty sucks. I am certainly not the first to make that observation, but in fact, poverty never really bothered me until recently—especially if it was someone else’s poverty. Hey, I’m not out to save the world, just my financial standing. And until about a year ago, I wasn’t even interested in that.

I knew at a very young age that my earning potential was practically nonexistent. I used to compare it to a mathematical term that I’ve since forgotten completely—the phenomenon in which a line approaches zero, but never actually touches it. (I think that’s a mathematical phenomenon. I spent most of my math classes in the smoking lounge, but the concept is the same. I earn close to nothing, but never actually have no income, so I’m never eligible for state aid or anything.)

Obviously, I need a new line of work. I don’t remember what my career goals were when I graduated, from Washington University, although I’m sure I had a couple. The only remaining goal is that I get a job that has a yearly salary that’s equivalent to one year’s tuition at Wash. U. To do that, though, I could work in a warehouse or as an Aldi cashier and earn more than at my current job, which requires a bachelor’s degree.

Of course, I am not the first to have low income after graduating from college. When I lived in New Mexico, all of my friends were in graduate school or just finished and we used to gather together and lament our impoverished fates, compare creative recipes for Ramen Noodles (7 for \$1 at the local Albertson’s) and grocery-shop at a gas station food mart (because someone’s parents still let their kid use the charge card).

At one such piss-and-moan session, we began reminiscing about how poor we had been in the past (erroneously believing that the worst was behind us). One guy regaled us with tales about living on water and cornflakes for a year while saving to build his house. He had no right to bitch—at least he had running water.

Later this session, we all decided that we were hungry, but of course no one had any money. We headed over to the dorms, hoping to pass as dorm-dwellers and sneak through the cafeteria line. Our efforts met with crushing failure, primarily because we couldn’t find the residential dining area. (This was not unusual, coming as it did from people who couldn’t find their own departmental office, even after they had been in graduate school for nearly a decade.)

Depressed and desperate after our botched attempt at con-artistry, we decided to skulk out through the basement of the dorms.

It was in the basement of the dorms that we found our salvation—two 32-pound tins from the nearby air force base. These tins—chock full of “carbohydrate supplements”—were from 1963, but that did not deter us from hooting and hollering like we were early hunters who had just brought down a moose for the tribe.

Of course, we weren’t quite as loud once we found out what was in these tins. We discovered we were the proud owners of 64 pounds of what can only be described as “grandmother candy.” You know, red and yellow hard candy that fuses into the shape of the candy dish, and you can’t pick up just one piece without an ice-pick nearby.

I’d like to think that we had some standards, but apparently not. By the time the semester was over, all the candy was gone. But what can you expect from people who will gladly charge Moon Pies at the local gas station for dinner? □

UNDER CURRENT
compiled by Stephanie Platt/staff photographer

If you were president, what would be your first executive order?

“National Healthcare”

-Terry Fauchied
senior/education



“Legalize drugs.”

-Patrick Aaron Grove
junior/comm. and psychology

“Hire a group of interns.”

-Jim Avery
junior/comm. and political science



“Make education free for everyone.”

-Ken Winfrey
senior/psychology

“Disband the military.”

-Tanya Webber
third year/sociology



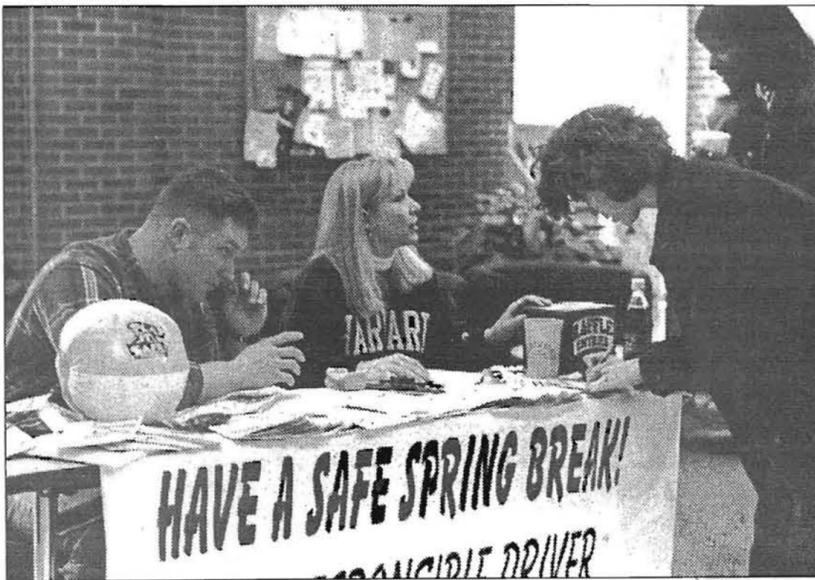
“Get rid of Kenneth Starr.”

-Steve Rulon
senior/general studies

You read The Current and we'd like to thank you

The Current’s own features editor will be in the Quad next week with FREE movie passes. Find her and the passes are yours. Next week’s movie will be *My Little Giant*. Tickets are courtesy of TCI Cable and its new half-hour entertainment show, EQ, hosted by FM 101.1 the River’s Ken Williams and Dave Doerre, on TCI channel 3 and Charter Cable channel 8.

Safety First



Erin Strommel/The Current

Promoters offer information on Safe Spring Break, just like the sign says, in the U Center lobby the week before students left for a respite from classes.

Jazz it up a little, or a lot

Renown musician kicks off Jazz Festival with special presentation

BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff writer

The walls of the J.C. Penney Auditorium were vibrating to the rhythms of jazz and Cuban music on Feb. 27. That Friday night marked the beginning of the Jazz Festival Concert hosted by UM-St. Louis, in celebration of African-American History Month. The festival included selections from and performances by special guest, Leon “Nduju” Chancler.

“This is the end of Black History Month,” Chancler said. “I’d like to say that every month is Black History Month.”

The Central Visual and Performing Arts High School Jazz Ensemble opened the evening’s performances with selections from Carl Strommen, Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie. They were followed by pieces from Reggie Thomas, Sammy Nestico, and Jeff Jarvis, performed by the Chaminade College Prep Jazz Band. There were young soloists featured during the performances from both schools.

Dizzy Gillespie’s music popped up again later in the evening, in a selection by the UM-St. Louis Afro-Cuban Ensemble. The group also did a number by Joe Henderson.

The night came to a close with the UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble, who did a George Duke piece, and two numbers written by the show’s guest of honor, Nduju Chancler. The selections were introduced to the ensemble members only a short time before the performance. Marvin Sparks, Jr. is the director of the students and a personal friend of Chancler. They worked together in preparing for the festival. One of the pieces was so difficult that Chancler admits that very few musicians can play it. It involves a diverse mixtures of instruments and musical genres.

“I’m very happy to say that, even though I worked with these musicians very hard, they did come through in a pinch,” Chancler said.

The list of Chancler’s impressive credentials as a drummer and percussionist is a long one. He has contributed to the work of artists such as Miles Davis, George Duke, Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Marvin Gaye, Santana, Lionel Richie, Kenny Rogers, Quincy Jones, Thelonus Monk, the Crusaders, James Ingram, Joe Cocker and more.

“One thing about me, I don’t just play drums, I don’t just write music,” Chancler said. “I do what my heart desires.”

Chancler realizes that obstacles may lie in the path of a person pursuing their dreams.

“I was very fortunate,” Chancler said. “All my life, all I had to do was play music, because that’s what I wanted to do.”

As a successful African-American performer, Chancler is a role model to young musicians striving to make it big someday. He is sometimes asked for advice because of his influence.

“Every time you perform, you must always do your best,” Chancler said, “because you never know who’s watching.”

On Saturday, the festival continued with Chaminade College Prep School, Central High School for the Performing Arts and the UM-St. Louis Afro-Cuban Ensemble appearing in the morning. In the afternoon hours, Chancler gave a Drum Set/Drum Percussion Clinic.

Up-coming events for music lovers include the UM-St. Louis Percussion Ensemble performing on March 18, and the UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble on April 21. □

“This is the end of Black History Month. I’d like to say that every month is Black History Month.”

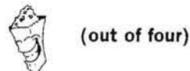
-Leon “Nduju” Chancler
jazz musician

Movie Review

Website Review

The comedy that wasn't

Krippendorf's Tribe
Rated: PG-13
Running Time: 94 minutes
Now Playing



(out of four)

At first glance, *Krippendorf's Tribe* seems like a hilarious comedy; it isn't. This movie is almost as far fetched as one can find.

It starts off with a brief history of the Krippendorfs. Right after this point, it becomes a fantasy. Jennifer Krippendorf (Barbara Williams) dies unexplainedly and leaves James Krippendorf (Richard Dreyfuss) a single-father raising his three children. He is a terrible father wallowing in the misery of losing his wife rather than raising his children. Just when you begin hoping that the social service people will step in and take away the children and place them in foster care, it gets worse. A young, ambitious anthropologist, Veronica Micelli (Jenna Elfman), who was in love



Jenna Elfman, left, and Richard Dreyfuss, center star in the movie *Krippendorf's Tribe*.

with Krippendorf since she took one of his classes steps in and pushes Krippendorf to speak about the new tribe he discovered in New Guinea. The catch is he didn't find any new tribe. Krippendorf begins making speeches about a fictitious tribe. He uses his family as an example. When he is asked if he had film of this new tribe, Micelli proclaimed she had seen it and it will blow you away. Of course, there was no film. Krippendorf changes his backyard into a New Guinea tribal village and uses his family and clips of other tribes to

create this non-existent tribe. This is all illegal and Krippendorf continually runs the risk of losing his job and his kids. At this point, the movie is so far out of control that there can be no help. It spirals downward farther and farther. With each scene, it becomes more unbelievable.

This film is supposed to be light-hearted and humorous, but the seriousness of the violations in academia prohibit enjoyment.

-Matthew Regensburger

Concert info is a click away

www.stl-music.com
St. Louis Concert Web

For those into local music and supporting local music, The St. Louis Concert Web is for you. This site offers the user such options as links to local bands' homepages and links to concert venues. It is definitely a plus for those who love local music.

The largest section of this page consists of lists of local bands who have homepages. It provides links to these pages as well. It even has links for bands that are defunct, but still have pages on the internet.

This is definitely a handy tool when looking up information on local bands. Most of these homepages have detailed accounts of a bands' discography, history and the latest events.

The listing even includes large artists such as Gravity Kills, The Urge and Stir.

This page also has listings for concert venues, production companies and labels - large and small. It provides links for these places as well, if they have internet sites. This is a great location to visit for budding artists who are looking for small independent labels.

Perhaps the most useful page on this site is the listing of upcoming concerts. Not only are there listings for local artists but also national acts that will be passing through the area.

These listings give a brief description of the type of music the band plays and provides access to the band's home site. The St. Louis Concert Web also has reviews of these bands.

With all of these features available at your fingertips, it is a most useful tool when looking for concerts.

-Matthew Regensburger

Theater Review

Skylight tackles tough human issues, delivers solid acting

Skylight
Written by David Hare
Directed by Steven Woolf
The Repertory Theater
Feb. 13, 1998

On Feb. 13, I had the opportunity to see the opening night production of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis' new production, *Skylight*, by David Hare. I am pleased that I did not miss this performance.

Hare has previously been known for his plays regarding England's social and political climate, however, he leaves most of this behind to focus on the relationship between two previously estranged lovers, Tom Sargeant (Robert Elliot) and Kyra Hollis

(Katherine Leask). At the beginning of the play, they have not seen each other for three years. Their love-affair ended suddenly when Tom's wife discovered his affair with her best friend Kyra. Three years later, Tom's son Edward (Matthew Millar), precipitates their reunion when he seeks Kyra out after a terrible fight with his father. The reunion, which would normally have been uncomfortable, is made all the more so by the death of Tom's wife the previous year.

The play deals with some very hard, human issues such as guilt, selfishness and sorrow, which are understandably difficult to watch. Surprisingly, Hare, does an excellent job of giving this play a lighter side. He balances the heavier moments of the play without losing

the emotional momentum of the piece.

For the most part, the acting is enjoyable to watch. However, with some of the more firey moments, Elliot seems to waver on the line between fierce method acting and an epileptic fit; spewing forth saliva with Vesuvius-like intensity. Leask is a joy to watch and is a technically proficient actor. Millar, although not seen very much, is also good.

All in all, I recommend this play, and at \$5 a ticket with student ID (\$19 without), it is worth the money. Performances run until March 13. For ticket information, call The Repertory Box Office at: 968-4925.

-Stephen Willis



Katherine Leask and Robert Elliot in *Skylight*.

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES LECTURES' AWARD for Excellence in Teaching

To recognize the excellent teaching done by lecturers in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College announces an award of \$500 to a lecturer who has demonstrated excellent teaching performance, including advising, counseling, and classroom instruction.

The following lecturers are eligible

ART & ART HISTORY McMichael, Luci Yuan, Juliana	ENGLISH Burns, Barbara Gleason, Nancy Grant, Susan Gurley, Judy Kick, Linda Klein, William Linville, Judith Mackenzie, Jennifer Martin, Terence Mayhan, William McKelvie, Scott Mueller, Susan Peters, Lyman Rota, C. David Troy, Mary VanVoorden, Barbara Weber, Harry	BIOLOGY Baxendale, Mariette Weber, Carol	COMMUNICATION McMillion, Clark Phipps, Steven Savan, Sidney	CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE Maher, Timothy Malloyd, Norman Phillips, Margaret	ECONOMICS Allision, Michael Phares, Kathleen Suiter, Mary	FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES Baek, Judy	PHILOSOPHY Griesedieck, David	SOCIAL WORK Rosenthal, Patricia Sprieder, Beverly	SOCIOLOGY Keel, Robert
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Anyone wishing to nominate one of the above persons should fill out this notice or send a letter of recommendation by Monday, March 23, 1998 to:

Lecturer Award Committee
 c/o Acting Associate Dean Leonard Ott
 College of Arts and Sciences
 308 Lucas Hall

I wish to nominate: _____
 Faculty member or current enrolled student name: _____
 student number: _____
 campus address: _____
 or home address: _____
 Phone number: _____

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

Ken Dunkin, sports editor
phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811
e-mail: kdunkin@rocketmail.com

Sports

OFF THE WALL



KEN DUNKIN
sports editor

The women's basketball program has no reason to hang its head. In the past the programs suffered through year after year of below average play and just plain poor effort. Within one year the program has turned around and the future is looking a lot brighter for the Riverwomen basketball team.

So the team may not have made the conference tournament. No big deal, the over .500 records speaks for itself. They still made one of the biggest turn around in school history. They had been a team who struggled to compete against middle of the road MIAA schools in the past. This season they may not have beaten the best the new conference had to offer, but they did compete.

That alone is a great accomplishment for the team. First year coach Shelly Ethridge had picked up the down-trodden program and has given it a new identity. For the most part every game this season was well played and each player gave a solid effort. That can't be said for past seasons.

For starters this year's team had an entire squad. This year they had too many players. In the past there had been games where they struggled to field an entire roster. To have seven players on the team was the norm. This year all the jerseys were used and the playing time was earned not given as the result of a lack of players.

The team had its troubles. Annette Brandy suffered through injury after injury. The team had first year mistakes. They had a bad slide towards the end of the conference season.

The problems weren't that bad tough. Brandy still managed to play, most of the time dominating scoring. The mistakes were by far not as numerous and plentiful as in previous seasons and the conference slide still left them with a much improved conference record.

It was like night and day. Ethridge and her assistants Carl Clayton and Majenica Rupe should be commended as should the players. This year was quite a turn-around season.

The bad part about this season is the team has decided to let two players go. This for me is a huge let down. I never like to see anyone leave a program under bad terms.

Missy England and Jamie Dressler were told they were not in the team's plans for next year. As a result they will not be on the basketball team next year.

This is the worst part about athletics. I hate this side of the sporting world. These two women came to the program before last season in hopes of helping Jim Coen turn his down-trodden program around. Now they are no longer playing. Their hard work and effort will be missed.

Next season will be interesting. The team improved by leaps and bounds this season. Can they do the same next year? Using this year as a ruler I think they can. □

Ken Dunkin's column appears every other week. Contact him by voicemail at 871-2192, fax at 516-6811, e-mail at kdunkin@rocketmail.com or mail at 7940 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121

Rivermen's season ends with loss

Turnovers and few free throws in final game are trend form men's team

BY JOE HARRIS
staff writer

After a season that gave new definition to the word disappointing, the Rivermen basketball team looks to rebound with a successful year in the 1998-99 season.

The Rivermen ended this season with a 98-85 loss to SIU-Edwardsville at home. The loss dropped UM-St. Louis to 6-20 overall and 2-16 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

Turnovers and the lack of free throws once again plagued the Rivermen as they have all year. Edwardsville also jumped out of the gate quickly amassing a 42-24 lead at half time.

One of the bright spots for UM-St. Louis continues to be the play of two freshman guards, Kyle Bixler and Greg Ross. Ross led the team with 21 points while Bixler chipped in another 18.

"If he [Ross] makes the same commitment on the defensive end as he does on the offensive end next year, I think Greg can be one of the best point guards in the league," said head coach Rich Meckfessel. "Bixler's shot the ball well for us . . . I think with those two our back court is good enough to compete with anyone in the league."

Despite the turnover problems - the Rivermen have averaged around 20 turnovers a game this season - and the

UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3FG	FT	REB	ST
Mike Harris	324	139-294	12-45	34-69	175	28
Jason Logsdon	295	108-235	8-32	71-85	139	21
Jeremiah Foots	279	104-244	44-114	27-36	119	19
Kyle Bixler	275	91-230	57-151	36-44	83	19
Greg Ross	260	100-241	20-63	40-58	115	22
Terrell Alexander	147	55-98	1-2	36-61	105	11
Eric Stiegman	62	23-78	8-28	8-15	72	9
Josh Wolf	44	18-59	6-25	2-4	41	7
Ryan Meyers	42	13-36	4-12	12-17	37	11
Jason Frillman	39	9-30	6-24	15-18	18	5
Stein Rotegaard	15	4-13	3-10	4-4	1	2
Bret Cariveau	0	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0
Team					99	
Totals	1782	722-1660	169-507	285-411	1005	154

lack of free throw attempts, a category the Rivermen are dead last in within the GLVC, Meckfessel remains optimistic.

Jason Frillman's return from injury next year gives them depth at guard and Gene Stewart who was red shirted this year gives them a force at power forward.

"Gene [Stewart], had he played this year would have been a starter," Meckfessel said.

With the season over, coach Meckfessel is now turning his attentions to evaluating the team's performance this year and on recruiting for next year. The team has two scholarships available, but Meckfessel said they could be spread out so that as many as four people could be brought in for next year.

"We need to improve ourselves at the

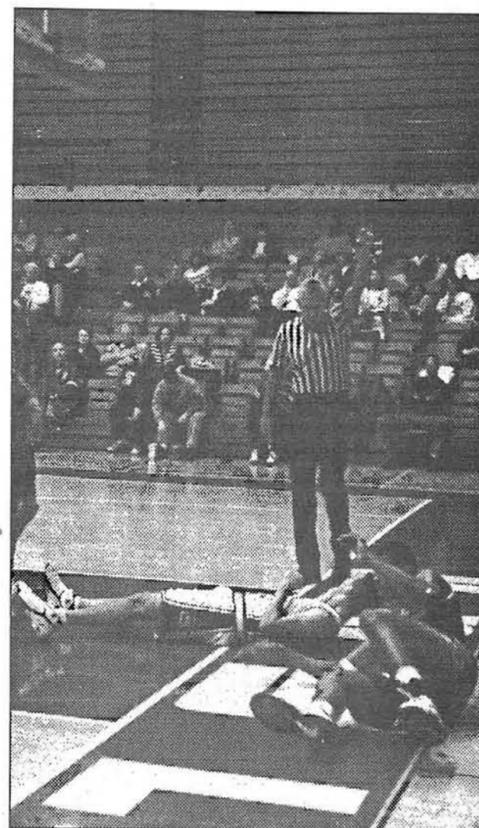
small forward and at the post position," Meckfessel said. Help can come from either the junior college route or from bringing in a four year transfer.

Strength at the post could help the free throw problem. Holding onto leads also helps.

"When you're winning at the end of a game, that's when you get a lot of your free throws because you're shooting to keep the lead," Meckfessel said. At 6-20, the Rivermen weren't leading very much. "We need to get players more aware of the importance of getting to the free throw line."

Meckfessel wants to see improvement in four areas next year. They include a reduction in turnovers, getting to the free throw line more consistently, having a better shooting percentage and playing more aggressively on defense.

According to Meckfessel, it all starts with the defense. "When you play aggressive defense you get more steals. When you get more steals you get more lay-ups. The more lay-ups the better your shooting percentage will be." □



File photo

Rivermen guard Kyle Bixler, in white, feels the brunt of a collision with a Southern Indiana player earlier this season. The men's team finished its season Feb. 21, with a record of 6-20, overall, and 2-16 in conference.

Riverwomen fall short of conference tournament

Women's team doesn't advance to post-season play, but Ethridge pleased with turn around of sub-.500 program

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writer

Although the women's basketball team did not get into the GLVC tournament this season, the team has made dramatic strides this past year.

The Riverwomen finished with a final record 14-12 and 7-11 in the GLVC.



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

The Riverwomen basketball team defends its basket against GLVC opponent Indianapolis in January.

Compared to last year's team, this team has done the exact opposite.

With Coach Shelly Ethridge in charge and instilling in the team a sense of confidence and dedication, the women were able to have a successful season.

The team went from sub .500, to a team that was feared by opponents.

"During the beginning of the season, teams were surprised by us, but as the season went along, they had our number," Ethridge said.

The team ended its season with a five game losing streak, but the team was in contention for a playoff berth the entire time. They never gave up even as the final games became tougher because of the level of

competition.

Junior forward Annette Brandy averaged nearly 20 points a game while averaging 6 rebounds. Melanie Marcy averaged 15 points and 9 rebounds a game while teaming with Brandy to become a powerful force.

The team struggled at some points during the season as their offense lagged and their defense was not as tenacious as it could have been, but these Riverwomen should be proud of themselves. They have taken the next step in becoming a dominating force in the GLVC. Coach Ethridge should be proud of the many things that her team has accomplished.

Going from a preseason ranking of second to the last in the GLVC to a contender is quite remarkable. Although they came one game short of making the tournament,

Riverwomen Final Stats

UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3FG	FT	REB	ST
Annette Brandy	506	203-444	13-53	87-126	155	44
Melanie Marcy	381	153-336	9-28	60-107	232	38
Lindsay Brefeld	251	78-228	50-140	45-57	54	12
Charlee Dixon	155	54-137	23-71	24-38	64	43
Beth Ragsdale	143	47-119	27-60	22-34	44	51
Krystal Logan	134	48-103	0-1	38-66	157	21
Jane Ackerman	88	31-83	14-45	12-18	23	16
Sarah Carrier	80	31-91	2-14	16-35	80	15
Angela Stewart	70	24-72	3-26	19-26	56	9
Jamie Dressler	52	16-33	0-1	20-26	46	5
Donna Simon	41	17-37	3-6	4-13	15	14
Missy England	33	8-23	5-14	12-13	7	3
Sarah Lawrence	27	11-31	2-5	3-7	16	7
Liz Kraeger	10	3-11	0-0	4-9	13	1
Denise Simon	10	4-8	0-0	2-3	19	1
Team					90	
Totals	1981	728-1756	151-464	374-578	1071	280

Ethridge had nothing but praise for her team.

"I am extremely proud of the girls," Ethridge said. "They have really turned this program around."

Through the dedication and persistence that Coach Ethridge and her team has shown, they have proven to themselves and to the critics that they are a legitimate contender in the GLVC. □

Tennis team focusing on conference wins, coach says

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writer

The men's tennis team has begun their season already and have high expectations for this year's team.

Although the team is comprised of only two seniors and six sophomores, the lack of experience on the team will not be a problem.

The Rivermen played against Washington University in the first exhibition match of the season. The men lost this dual match 8-1, but coach Rick Gyllenborg took this loss lightly.

"Both teams are going to Hilton Head and we needed a match before we left," Gyllenborg said. "We wanted to see where our guys were."

Currently, the number one singles player on the team is senior Stein Rotegaard who is followed by sophomores Scott Goodyear, Townsend Morris, David Crowell and senior Brad Timon. The rest of the team is comprised of sophomores Andy Kuhn, Wendell Haug and Andy Forinash.

The team is coming off of a 13-12 season and a fourth place finish in the GLVC with a record of 7-3. Although

"I gear these guys towards conference matches. I am not interested in our overall record, but I do care what our record is in the conference."

-Rick Gyllenborg
men's tennis coach

their record is not all that impressive on paper, Gyllenborg believes that the only matches that count are those in conference play.

"I gear these guys towards conference matches," Gyllenborg said. "I am not interested in our overall record, but I do care what our record is in the conference."

The team traveled to Hilton Head over spring break and faced tough competition.

The team played Grand Valley State from Michigan, Lake Superior State, Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, and Technical College of Low Country which is one of the top ten junior colleges in the nation.

With schools coming here to play from all over the country, the level and caliber of teams could overwhelm anyone. But Gyllenborg he views it as a learning experience.

"I am going to let all eight players play in the four matches that we have," Gyllenborg said. "The players are being evaluated on how they play. These first six preseason matches are an evaluation as to who will be in the lineup."

The tennis team starts conference play on March 21 against Southern Indiana and later that day plays Kentucky-Wesleyan.

Although UM-St. Louis is still in a rebuilding mode from three years ago, Gyllenborg has confidence that his team will fare well in the GLVC.

"We are hoping to be in the top four," Gyllenborg said. "We will be disappointed if we do not make the conference championships in Indianapolis." □

Rivermen Tennis Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 21	Washington U.	6 p.m.
Mar. 2	Grand Valley St.	noon
Mar. 3	Lake Superior St.	noon
Mar. 4	Philadelphia T&S	8 a.m.
Mar. 5	College of the Low C.	noon
Mar. 12	Missouri-Rolla	3:30 p.m.
Mar. 21	Southern Indiana*	9 a.m.
Mar. 21	Kentucky Wesleyan*	2 p.m.
Mar. 25	SIU Edwardsville*	3 p.m.
Mar. 28	Lewis*	noon
Mar. 29	St. Joseph's*	9 a.m.
Apr. 1	Washington U.	3:30 p.m.
Apr. 3	Principia	4 p.m.
Apr. 4	Indianapolis*	8 a.m.
Apr. 4	IPFW*	3 p.m.
Apr. 6	Illinois-Springfield	3 p.m.
Apr. 7	Mckendree	3 p.m.
Apr. 8	Quincy*	3:30 p.m.
Apr. 10	Bellarmino*	4 p.m. (EST)
Apr. 11	Northern Kentucky*	TBA
Apr. 14	Missouri-Rolla	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 16-18	GLVC Tourney	TBA

Home games in bold
* GLVC Conference Matches

GUEST, from page 4

Why do I find Professor Rochester's letter so infuriating? Some of you might be thinking I am blowing a harmless comment out of proportion, but this is merely a symptom of a much larger problem involving ignorance and homophobia. The lack of positive role models and the presence of blatant discrimination in homes and schools drive young lesbians and gay men to commit suicide at twice the rate of heterosexual youth.

So, to Professor Rochester I say, yes, academia has failed us. It has failed to include us therefore we have had to seek our inclusion in courses such as "Queer History."

Professor Rochester owes a person-

The lack of positive role models and the presence of blatant discrimination in homes and schools drive young lesbians and gay men to commit suicide at twice the rate of heterosexual youth.

M. Ethel Myers

al and public apology to Bill Rolfe for viciously attacking his character. And, Professor Rochester owes a public apology, not only to lesbians and gays everywhere, but also to the students at UM-St. Louis for subjecting them to his discriminatory remarks and homophobia. It is time for personal feelings of bigotry to be relegated to the closet and for gays and lesbians to feel safe coming out of their closet prisons. □

LETTERS, from page 4

stitution that is claimed to be valid makes no mention of the Assembly having to approve the members of the SABC, the precedent of previous administrations has been to have the Assembly approve the members after the executive committee had made its recommendations and before forwarding it to the vice chancellor of Student Affairs. I know this personally, having served as an SGA representative for a number of years. This approval from the Assembly is supposed to come before the start of the committee's work. I remember in 1995 when SGA President Beth Titlow had to call a special meeting just to approve the SABC members.

Mr. Avery had planned to submit the names to Assembly for approval after the fact, according to the Feb. 16 issue of The Current. However, he changed his mind when he found a constitution that sup-

ported his views. This situation shows how corrupt the SGA has gotten in the last couple of years. Records have disappeared and have shown up when they are needed to support a particular point of view. What is needed is a complete overhaul of the SGA. How soon will it happen? Unfortunately, not soon enough.

Even though I have been trying to get a committee to rewrite the constitution for over two years, my efforts have been stalled. Unfortunately, the student body will not get to approve a new constitution this academic year. Until such constitution is approved by the student body and ultimately, the chancellor, the SGA executive commit-

tee can find, if they want, ways of stepping on students rights.

-Steven M. Wolfe

More letters on the web www.usml.edu/studentlife/current

NURSES, from page 1

"Respect has been lost for us in the last few years with so many students. I hope you can get that back."

Nemec said faculty put more priority on getting students through the program than about what students learned, attributing that behavior to the large numbers of students who enrolled in the college shortly after the Barnes College of Nursing merger with UM-St. Louis in 1994.

Durham said he recognized that enrollments were surprisingly large during that time and said that the college was trying to find an ideal number of students to admit.

"We're allowed to admit 75 students a semester," Durham said. "But I'm not sure we want to do that."

Nemec and others also expressed concern that valuable clinical experience like emergency room work would be lost with the cuts to facul-

ty who supervise those programs. June Hertell, associate professor of nursing, who currently supervises ER clinicals, will not be offered a contract in August as part of the cuts.

"I know that in the ER clinical I gained more than I did in any other course," Nemec said. "It brings everything you teach us together in one setting, across socio-economic levels and lines."

Durham said that new curriculum changes would allow students to take the ER clinical as an elective. But students were skeptical of the new curriculum changes, enacted in response to falling rates of students who take and pass the Missouri Board of Nurses professional examination after graduation.

"I've been waiting for this thing to flow each semester," another student said of the nursing degree program.

"Yet every year something changes. One adviser tells me I need Human Growth and Development, so I take it. Then they say, 'Oh you don't need that.' And now I've wasted my time. My time is very valuable."

Durham said he was unable to address specific cases but he assured students that the faculty and administration were working to develop the most effective curriculum possible.

"I want you to be alums who are proud of your school, with a degree that means something." But after the meeting, Nemec wondered how many graduating students would "recommend this program to others."

And would Nemec? "No." □

CRASH, from page 1

barriers now in place at the [South Campus] station been in place at the time of the accident, the collision with the pedestrians would not have occurred."

With the saw-toothed design, buses pull up to the curb in a diagonal, staggered formation. The saw-toothed configuration is a popular design for many bus stations in the nation, said Ted Lopatkiewicz, a spokesman for NTSB.

"We don't know how many of these designs exist," Lopatkiewicz said. "We expect there are many."

The NTSB made a recommendation to national agencies and associations to improve the safety of existing and future saw-tooth designed stations. It recommended "that future transit facility designs incorporating 'saw-tooth' bus parking bays, or other types of designs that direct errant vehicular traffic toward pedestrian-occupied areas, include provisions for positive separation between the roadway and pedestrian areas sufficient to stop a bus

operating under normal parking area speed conditions from progressing into the pedestrian area."

The accident at the South Campus MetroLink station occurred when Ball, 32, began to pull forward in order to let another bus pass. NTSB officials said Ball mistakenly applied the accelerator, instead of the brake pedal, causing the bus to surge forward, jump the curb and crash into a bus shelter.

Four people died, including UM-St. Louis student Cristina Green, and three other people were injured in the accident. Green, 34, was to graduate after the summer 1997 session with a degree in communications.

The NTSB is planning to hold a public hearing March 3 and 4, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel downtown on, the safety of nationwide transit bus systems. Lopatkiewicz said no local, state or federal agencies monitor maintenance or driver training of Bi-



Doug Harrison/The Current Investigators confer at the site of the Bi-State bus crash in June.

State buses.

Lopatkiewicz said the hearing will not center on the South Campus accident, but the board will discuss "what would be the proper level of oversight" the federal government should have in implementing safety regulations. □

PACKNETT, from page 1

Eventually, Packnett's office joined with the African-American Scholars Retention Program and the Student Support Services Program to form the Office of Multicultural Relations.

Next month will mark the office's first anniversary.

Packnett says she is excited about the office and its function of meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse culture.

"Our population of students from various diverse groups contin-

ues to grow," Packnett said. "There's a need to respond to the challenges that confront students from all diverse backgrounds at the University."

The office is available to all UM-St. Louis students, providing opportunities to work one-on-one with counselors or to participate in the office's programs, such as the Guaranteed 4.0 Seminar and the Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series.

Packnett said some of the most pressing concerns of students who visit the office involve financial aid, choice of majors and the campus climate. She says students come to the office to discuss personal issues as

well. "Many students come our way for non-academic issues, i.e. trying to go to school and work and in some cases, raise children," Packnett said.

To help address students' concerns, the Multicultural Relations Office will conduct an Academic Essentials workshop on March 23, and a Career Exploration workshop on April 13. A Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series will be held on March 25.

The office will also celebrate its first anniversary on the weekend of March 27 and 28 with a Multicultural Awareness Fair, with a reception, a dance and workshops. □

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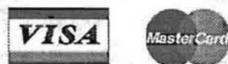
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If you tried to cheat and turned here to see the crossword answers before you started the actual puzzle itself, guess what? No puzzle this week. Just goes to show you that cheaters don't win if, if... Well, never mind. You'll have to wait till next week to cheat.

Crossword Companion
will return on March 16.

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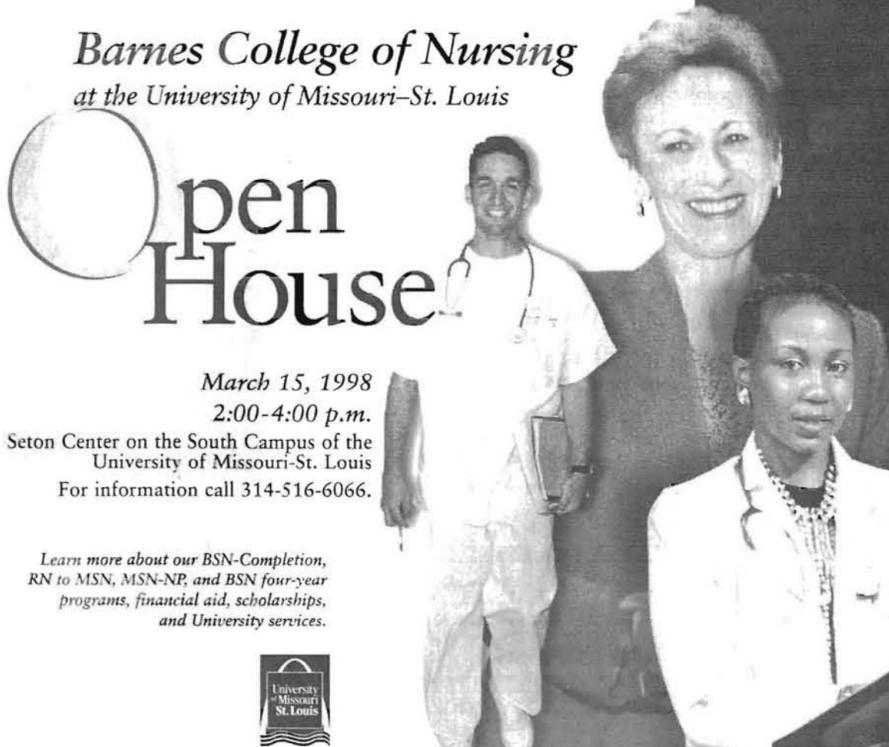
Barnes College of Nursing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

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March 15, 1998
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Seton Center on the South Campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis
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HUNGER aWAREness WEEK at UM-St. Louis

March 16 - 20, 1998

Monday, March 16th, Program at Noon, U. Center Lobby

Wednesday, March 18th, SOUP LINE from 11am - 1pm near Underground (Bowl & roll) or in a (Soupbowl) \$2.00 donation

Thursday, March 19th, HUNGER BANQUET at Noon and again at 5:00 pm in the Hawthorn Room

Celebrities, Local Hunger contacts, Served by University Personnel

Look for containers all around campus to donate non-perishable food for

Operation Food Search and/or \$\$ for Oxfam

Contact Betty Chitwood - 385-3455 (FULFILL)




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