



► **Out of Bed:** 'Waking Ned Devine' is one of the year's funniest movies. See page 8.

Student Association Government

► **In the Works:** From Homecoming to the constitution, get the lowdown on Student Government's plans for the winter semester. See page 6.

► **Marcy Beaucoup:** Melanie Marcy is making the basketball Riverwomen a force in the GLVC. See page 5.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

UK profs develop Viagra nasal spray

(U-WIRE) LEXINGTON, Ky. — Two UK College of Pharmacy professors have developed a faster-acting version of Viagra by making the compound soluble and administering it as a nasal spray. Dr. Lewis Dittert and Dr. Anwar Hussain have been developing the new Viagra out of their company, New Millennium Pharmaceutical Research Inc., in the ASTeCC Building for almost two years. "Hussain was overseas last year, and we talked on the phone. He said people are complaining about having to wait for Viagra to work," Dittert said.

The Viagra that's currently available to men suffering from impotency comes in tablet form and is poorly soluble in water, Dittert said.

This delays response to the drug and requires a higher dosage to combat the digestive enzymes the tablet encounters on its way to the small intestine, where it is absorbed into the blood.

Dittert said a nasally administered Viagra would take 10 to 15 minutes to begin working.

The faster-acting Viagra would help to eliminate overdoses.

"The effects of Viagra taking so long to work can range from embarrassment to danger," Dittert said. "If a man takes Viagra and gets no response, he may become impatient and after 30 to 45 minutes be tempted to take one or two more tablets, just as the first one is being absorbed. The result would be an overdose."

Dittert and Hussain did their first experiments in February 1998, and filed a provisional patent on June 25, 1998.

The experiments have so far been on animals, and the next step is humans, Dittert said. They are looking for a sponsor to help fund their future experiments or to sell their information to.

As soon as they find a sponsor, Dittert said they would be willing to help point the new company in the right direction but that they "don't want to be involved 24 hours, like it is now."

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The Current

THE AWARD-WINNING STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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The University of Missouri-St. Louis

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New dean named to College of A & S

Arts and Sciences head to start in July

BY SUE BRITT
staff associate

An offer has been made to and accepted by Dr. David Young for the position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He will begin July 1.

"I was offered [the position] on the phone just before the holidays," Young said, "but, officially, the offer letter came last Thursday."

Young said that he came to St. Louis and had lunch with the chancellor on Jan. 9 and gave his acceptance to Jack Nelson, vice-chancellor of Academic Affairs that evening.

Nelson said that he was pleased to have a candidate with so much experience.

"He has extensive leadership experience," Nelson said. "He was dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, budget management, faculty development, and diversity issues."

Nelson said Young decided to seek another position as dean of Arts and Sciences because it is his preferred situation.

"Dean of Arts and Sciences is the job he loves most," Nelson said.

Young is currently a biology professor at Colorado State University. He stepped down as provost and academic vice-president at that institution in October 1997. Young said the position of provost at CSU is the

equivalent to that of vice-chancellor of Academic Affairs at UM-St. Louis.

Young said the University of Oklahoma, where he was dean of Arts and Sciences, was dissimilar to UM-St. Louis mainly in that it is larger.

"The University of Oklahoma would be larger. They have about 20,000 students," Young said. "[The position of dean of Arts and Sciences is the same], except at UM-St. Louis, they also include the fine arts. The theater, music, art, art history, and fine arts were in a separate college at Oklahoma."

Young received his undergraduate and master's degrees from California State University at Fullerton and his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in California in 1975. He began his career as a professor of botany at the University of Illinois. In 1982, he went to Cornell University as a professor of botany and eventually became that university's associate dean of the Graduate School. In 1988, he left academia for a time to work at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

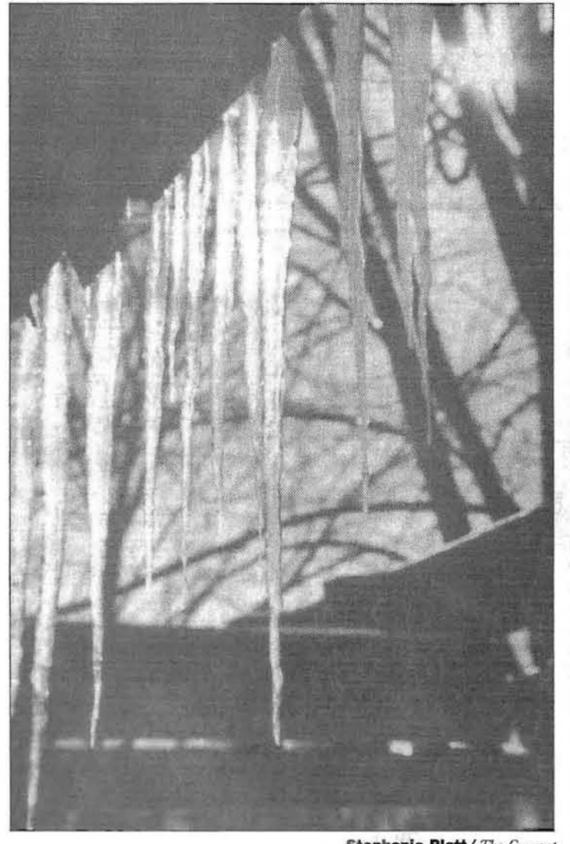
"I've had a varied career which I think helps a lot," Young said.

Young cannot yet comment on any precise courses of action for the College of Arts and Sciences but has several general ideas of how to go about serving the needs of the college.

"One is to update and produce a new strategic plan. Everything else will flow out of the strategic plan," Young said. "[Within that plan are issues of] the general education program as it relates to the college, enrollment issues, advising, and what we are doing there. [We need to look at the question of] how is the college

see DEAN, page 8

Peekaboo, icy you



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Ice sickles hang from a bulletin board on the North Campus after an ice storm Tuesday night cancelled classes Wednesday. The forecast calls for a continuing thaw with high temperatures in the 50's through mid-week.

State Rep to Touhill: Racism present on campus

Legislator's series of letters requests info for 'investigation' of UM-St. Louis campus

BY DAVID BAUGHER
senior editor

A Missouri state representative has written a series of letters to Chancellor Blanche Touhill promising to continue an "investigation of the racism on your campus" over an alleged incident of police brutality and several other issues.

Charles Quincy Troupe, who represents the 62nd District in the Missouri House, sent a letter to Touhill in early November regarding "a fact-finding mission related to matters of grave concern to me and other legislators in Jefferson City."

"Dr. Touhill, the Black community is concerned that many of the gains for African-American faculty, staff, and students, realized during the administration of Chancellor Marguerite Ross [Barnett], are eroding," Troupe's letter said.

Troupe's letters began in the spring when he criticized the UM-St. Louis police department over an incident of alleged police brutality against Jacqueline Davis, a Bi-State bus driver who said she was mistreated by two campus officers in April. She filed suit in federal court against both officers and the University in July. Davis' attorney, Anita Rivkin-Carothers said that a third campus officer has now been named as a defendant in the suit.

Davis was charged with resisting arrest in the incident. A St. Louis County jury acquitted Davis of the charge last month.

Troupe, who is the second vice-president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788, of which Davis

is a member, wrote to the chancellor in April saying he thought both officers should be terminated. He later appeared as a character witness for Davis at her criminal trial.

Troupe's November letter alleged "reports of police insensitivity and brutality, insufficient participation of minority contractors, the dismantling of successful programs that retained and graduated significant numbers of Black students, wasteful spending of Missouri tax dollars on experimental activities/programs with no track record and questionable leadership, frequent complaints regarding financial aid matters and services, and raising admissions standards and tuition, just to name a few."

Among other things, Troupe's letter also requested a set of statistics from the chancellor including enrollment, retention, graduation, and financial aid numbers for African-American students, numbers and percentages of African-American faculty, and dollar amounts of minority contracts.

The St. Louis Minority Contractors Association filed suit against the University in June over the amount of minority participation involved in the construction of the new University Center on campus.

Troupe also asked for a justification of the "dismantling of Student Support Services Programs for African-American students." The University combined the program with two others in 1997 to form the Office of Multi-Cultural Relations.

see TROUPE, page 8



Dr. Touhill, the Black community is concerned that many of the gains for African-American faculty, staff, and students, realized during the administration of Chancellor Marguerite Ross [Barnett], are eroding.

-State Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe in a Nov. 2 letter



In terms of progress with respect to African-Americans...I am happy to report that we have continued the positive trend that was visible during Dr. Barnett's tenure as Chancellor.

-Chancellor Blanche Touhill in a Dec. 3 letter

UPB plans active semester

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff assistant

Recent snow and ice storms may have transformed UM-St. Louis into a bleak, desolate winter wonderland, but Carrie Mowen, director of the University Program Board, said there is hope. Members of the UPB hope to promote a vibrant campus spirit by hosting a variety of programs and events this semester.

Last semester, more students took advantage of UPB-sponsored events, Mowen said. This semester, she said, they are working to reach people who don't normally participate in campus activities.

"The people who are involved in campus organizations all tend to be the same people," she explained. "We want the general population to know that they are going to have fun. We really want people to get involved."

One of the programs Mowen believes will encourage students to get together is the international film series.

Movies will be shown twice each Thursday, once for day students and again later for evening students.

"Since we are co-sponsoring with the Spanish Club to carry out this event," she said, "every other week we will show a Spanish film and then another country the next week. So every other week we will have a different movie from a different land to satisfy our very diverse student population."

"Experience St. Louis" was a successful program last semester that will continue during the winter semester. Barbara Nelson, chair of the Experience St. Louis Committee, explained that through Experience St. Louis, students will have the chance to see productions such as "Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk," "Bourbon on the Border," and "The Taming of the Shrew." Trips are planned to Powell Symphony Hall, the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, and the Fox Theatre. The events will

see UPB, page 8

SELECTED UPB EVENTS AT A GLANCE

International film series
Every Thursday

Experience St. Louis
Throughout the semester

Super Bowl party
Jan. 31

Mirthday
April 21

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

Bulletin Board

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

Tuesday, Jan. 19
 • **Spinning:** Spin your way into shape. All January classes are FREE! Check out the schedule on line at www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/index.html, reservations are recommended. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
 • **Wellness Classes:** Aerobics, Water Exercise Training, Boot Camp, etc. have already begun. There are 17 classes to choose from and you can take them all for one low fee. Check out the schedule on the web at www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/index.html for schedule, fees, and more info.

Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.
Thursday, Jan. 21
 • **Prayer for Christian Unity** from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Lobby. All are welcome. Sponsored by the UM-SL Campus Ministry. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

Monday, Jan. 25
 • **Volleyball League:** Recreational coed league. Teams should consist of 3 men and 3 women plus unlimited subs. Refundable \$10 team forfeit fee. Individual sign-ups taken also. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Tuesday, Jan. 26
 • **Basketball Leagues:** Men's and women's leagues; teams play one game a week in regular league play followed by a playoff tourney. Refundable \$10 team forfeit fee; individuals welcome. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Wednesday, Jan. 27
 • **SOUP AND SOUL FOOD** (free lunch and a time for prayer and meditation) from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church at 8000 Natural Bridge. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation.

• **Indoor Soccer Leagues:** Six-person indoor soccer leagues played on Wednesday nights. Coed teams consist of 3 men and 3 women. Special coed rules are used. A men's league is also available. Individual sign-ups taken. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Bowling Doubles League:** Bargain bowling for students, faculty and staff. Only \$1.25 for three games a week. Doubles teams consist of 2 guys and/or gals. Held at North Oaks Bowl, 7125 Natural Bridge. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

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NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Becoming involved with on-campus events like these is as easy as applying for a job at **The Current**. Not only will you be a part of campus life, you can also add great experience to your resume and cut your commute time by working on campus. We currently have paid positions open for **Business Associate**, **Photo Associate** and **Advertising Representative**. Volunteer positions are also available. If interested, submit a cover letter and a resume to us at 7940 Natural Bridge Road, or call 516-6810.



“If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it.” Christy Haubegger

crazy,” she recalls. “But I figured the worst thing that could happen would be that the business wouldn't fly and I'd end up being a lawyer after all.”

As President of her class at law school, Christy already possessed the leadership skills that entrepreneurs need. Her publishing experience, however, was limited to editing the Stanford

women's magazine aimed at African-Americans. Christy convinced the magazine's president to meet with her, and his company agreed to help fund her start-up. Christy launched *Latina* magazine in 1996, and it was an immediate hit. Today, it has an impressive circulation of almost 200,000, but it wasn't easy getting there. One of the hardest things about being a young entrepreneur is simply the fact that you are young.

Potential business partners often assume you are inexperienced. “Nobody saw me walk into a meeting and thought they were looking at a magazine publisher. But I persevered. You have to be prepared

to get over your pride and fake your confidence when you need to.”

While there is a certain glamour associated with being the publisher of a major magazine, Christy still relishes the role of underdog. “Each milestone means so much more when you're a start-up,” she says. “A major retailer just advertised with us for the first time. To a larger publication, it wouldn't be such a big deal. But when they agreed to be in our magazine, we jumped up and down and cried and hugged. Then, “she laughs, “we ate ice cream.”

As an owner of a growing company and Publisher of *Latina*, Christy has continued to nurture her dream magazine into a leading lifestyle publication, read by thousands of dynamic, educated young women just like herself. She says that she hopes to inspire other young women to pursue their dreams as well.

The Secret Success Series

brings you information designed to help you achieve your personal and career goals. Watch for the rest of this series in future issues of your school newspaper.

Law Review. Still, she figured she could learn what she needed to know pretty quickly. “If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it,” she says. “All the data I needed was in the public library. Census data, information about the magazine industry, books on how to write a business plan, it was all there.” In the meantime, she lived on the cheap in San Francisco's Mission District and did legal research to pay the bills.

Once Christy's business plan was done, she started to show it to people who might be willing to invest the millions of dollars she would need to launch a glossy publication. “192 people told me no. I counted,” she says. “But most of them didn't slam the door in my face, and I was able to learn a lot by asking them how I could improve my business pitch.”

Eventually, some good old-fashioned networking led her to her first big investor. “If you don't believe that stuff about using all of your contacts, you should,” she says. Turns out that Christy's classmate's aunt's neighbor (follow that?) knew the editor of *Essence*, a

Name: Christy Haubegger
Age: 30
Career: Entrepreneur-Founder & Publisher *Latina Magazine*

For someone who is only 30 years old, magazine magnate Christy Haubegger has already put together a pretty impressive resume. She's won an award from the Ms.

Foundation (also given to Oprah Winfrey and Madeleine Albright), and Tom Brokaw named her one of the “most influential people of the year” in 1996.

So how did she end up in company like that? Turns out it all started with one simple question. “I took a few business classes in school with some great professors, and they always talked about the search for that mythical big idea,” she recalls. “As a Mexican-American, I'd always wondered why no one had ever produced a magazine for Latina women. Then I wondered if I could do it myself.”

Christy graduated from the University of Texas in 1989 with a philosophy degree and immediately headed off to Stanford University Law School. But as law school graduation approached, she couldn't shake the magazine idea from her head, so she decided to devote a year to chasing her dream. “My friends thought I was



“Strong enough for a Man. But Made for a Woman.”

FEATURES

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

GET THIS

Forty-five cents is a bargain for meaning of life

Today I remembered what it really means to be a human being.

It happened at a Walgreen's, of all places, which just goes to show that really important epiphanies can happen just about anywhere.

Stephanie, my friend (and sometimes co-conspirator in crime), and I had just finished buying construction paper and rubber cement—don't ask. We were walking back to her vehicle when we were approached by a man who offered to clean her car's windshield for 50 cents. Steph replied that she only had 45 cents on her, the change from our purchase, and he said, "Well, that's something, at least."

He quickly got to work and made sure it was a neat job; he even cleaned the side mirrors. We found out his name is Earl, and the three of us exchanged pleasantries for a few minutes.

While he was working on our vehicle, another



shopper asked him to do her windows next. "You ladies brought me luck!" Earl said with a laugh.

Now, I'm not proud to admit it, but there was a time when I would not have even bothered to acknowledge Earl's polite offer. I believe my behavior can be attributed to my upbringing. For pretty much the entire span of my life, I have been told not to talk to strangers because they could want to rape, mug, beat or murder me. These warnings do serve a practical purpose on certain levels. I am all for women and men being aware of dangers and knowing how to be smart about getting out of or avoiding altogether potentially harmful situations. Unfortunately, they also made me uncomfortable about talking or coming into contact with any individual that I was not familiar with.

In cases similar to the Earl scenario, there were another group of reasons why I used to hesitate. Again, my head had been filled with stories of con men who actually make a fortune off of naive passersby like myself. Or that once he gets the money he'll just spend it on alcohol. Or of rip-off artists who will steal your wallet when you pull it out to give them a buck. Worse yet, they will grab you, drag you to a dark alley or the equivalent thereof, and finally beat/rape/kill you. (There's that fear-all-strangers message kicking in again.)

These concerns do have a time and place, and I want to restate that I am in no way putting them down. As for buying booze with the cash, who am I to judge? If I was in that situation, I may favor a drink or two myself from time to time. However, the whole point is to make people think about their actions and their consequences, don't you think? So, think about this. When I met Earl, it was broad daylight. I was with a friend in a relatively crowded parking lot. He provided us a service in exchange for a very reasonable price, he didn't just ask for a handout. What would have been the better action? To walk as fast as I could to my car with my eyes focused straight ahead and breathe a sigh of relief as I shut the door because Earl didn't get the chance to overpower me with his bottle of glass cleaner? I don't think so.

I know that it's often better to be safe than sorry. I don't think our safety is always being threatened, though. The more human beings you let yourself come into contact with, the better you may become at figuring out who is good and who is not so good. What could be better than that?

Coming Back

After nearly losing his life, UM-St. Louisan James Wiczorek recovered from a devastating injury to start his college career

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

After two and a half years at UM-St. Louis, James Wiczorek graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and a grade point average of 3.87, making him summa cum laude. This alone is an achievement in itself, but for Wiczorek, it was a personal triumph.

For 15 years he drove trucks for teamsters to support his wife, Kerry, and their four children.

"It paid the bills, [and] put groceries on the table," Wiczorek said. "Work was [hard.] but..."

All that changed Christmas Eve, 1991, when Wiczorek was shot at a rest area in Memphis, Tenn. He was on his way to St. Louis from Jackson, Miss. and was about to call his headquarters to check on a shipment.

Wiczorek was getting change from a vending machine when he heard three teenagers behind him. One put a handgun to his neck and fired—all for \$21 and a gold chain.

He described feeling tingling sensations all over his body.

"I knew I was shot but didn't know where," Wiczorek said.

Fortunately, a custodian was there cleaning the bathrooms, and he called the police to report a vending machine break-in. When he saw Wiczorek on the ground, he called an ambulance.

Wiczorek said that after he was shot, so much was happening, but he really had no idea what was going on. As CPR was performed on him, he remembers thinking while they were pounding on his chest, "Why are they beating me? I've done nothing wrong."

When the hospital called Kerry, she thought it was a prank call, so she hung up. She later called back and found out that her husband had been shot and was in critical care. To confuse matters further, the police called and told her that Wiczorek



Stephanie Platt/The Current
Political Science graduate James Wiczorek receives his degree from Chancellor Blanche Touhill, Jan. 10.

had died. "[Kerry] didn't know if I was dead or alive," Wiczorek said.

As a result of the shooting, Wiczorek lost sight for 48

hours and had two strokes, one upper brain and one lower. Because of the damage to the fourth and fifth vertebrae, he became wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life.

He found communication frustrating after the strokes. "I knew what I wanted to say, but I just couldn't," Wiczorek said.

He also sustained 5 percent brain damage, which the doctors told him would cause loss of memory retention.

After three weeks in Memphis, Wiczorek returned to St. Louis for three months of rehabilitation. It was then that he made the decision to start college with the help of the Missouri Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

He began his college experience at St. Charles County Community College. He found that he really enjoyed going to school.

When he completed his studies at St. Charles County Community College, Wiczorek chose to go to UM-St. Louis. The University helped him to set up rides with other students because he lives in New Melle, Mo., which is about an hour away from St. Louis.

His recent graduation has rustled up a lot of new attention. "People come up and say, 'You are such an inspiration,'" Wiczorek said. "I'm glad I can influence people like that."

In the fall, Wiczorek plans to attend law school at either St. Louis University or Washington University. Wiczorek would like to study disability law or possibly labor law.

"I'd like to be able to help people because people have helped me," Wiczorek said.

Wiczorek appreciates the UM-St. Louis campus, especially the political science department, the Underground and the Thomas Jefferson Library, for all the support he received in both his public and personal life.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would do it at UM-St. Louis," Wiczorek said.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

Do you know anybody you think might really be an alien?

"A friend of mine's brother. Anyone who names his car 'Goose Egg' is definitely not from this planet."

-Eric McIntyre
Senior/Fine Arts



"Kenneth Starr. I believe his parents brought him from Saturn."

-Garrett T. Harrell
Senior/Music



"All liberals."

-Matt Frakes
Senior/CCJ



Laughs are a team event at new 'Comedy Sportz'

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

It has all the makings of a baseball game. There is a locker room decorated with team colors and various memorabilia like hats and trophies. All who attend sing the national anthem with their hands on their hearts.

This is no baseball game, though. It is a comedy club. ComedySportz is an improvisational comedy performance set up in a competitive format, like a baseball game, that is based on audience suggestion.

The basis of a ComedySportz match is two teams, the home team and the away team, who compete for points. Points are earned through

audience ratings and laughs from the audience. A referee calls fouls and maintains the action of the games. There are over 100 improvisational games to choose from, of which 7-12 are selected and played.

Raphel was the referee for the evening show on Thursday, Jan. 14. He opened the match with a short monologue to the audience.

"You can go anywhere in the world and hear two people cussing, but this is something a little more intelligent," Raphel said.

ComedySportz opened in St. Louis on Aug. 12, 1998. Eric Karwisch is the managing director of the St. Louis location, which is in Union Station.

There are 23 ComedySportz in the United States. The first one opened in Milwaukee, Wis. in 1984. In 1985, the next addition opened in Madison, Wis.

Karwisch was glad to be able to bring the experience to St. Louis.

"This is one and [a] half to two hours to make someone laugh and forget about everyday life," Karwisch said.

ComedySportz only uses humor designed so that audiences of all ages can join in the fun.

"It is more challenging for us as actors to do clean humor, and we take a great deal of pride in a

clean show," Karwisch said.

Three groups of people participate in every show. The first are the players who are kept in check for good humor by the referee. The referee is assisted by the sound coordinator and the announcer, who make up the second group. The third group is the audience, who gives suggestions.

Everyone is required to warm-up appropriately. The teams and the referee do this by running up to the stage. The referee warms up by explaining the game to the audience, and the audience warms up singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," but with a twist. The lyrics differ from the original version; they instead describe the trip to ComedySportz.

There are two types of fouls—the "groaner" and the "brown bag." The "groaner" happens when a joke is so corny that the audience groans. The "brown bag" is a foul for inappropriate humor.

One of the games played Thursday night was called "Historical Ballet." For historical ballet, the audience supplies a historical event, a song to be danced to, a person that would be at the event, and two things that would be at that event.

The historical ballet Thursday night was the Boston Tea Party, with Sam Adams dancing with tea and feathers to Paula Abdul's "Straight Up." Imagine that.

Susan Fee was a member of the audience at that performance.

"I wanted to laugh tonight, and they are doing a good job," Fee said.

Every performance is different at ComedySportz because there are different players who play different games, with different suggestions from different audiences.

Performances are Thursday nights at 7:30, and Friday and Saturday nights at both 7:30 and 9:30. Regular admission is \$7 with student discounts of \$2 and no drink minimum. For more information, call (314) 241-2275.

What:
ComedySportz

Where:
Union Station

When:
Thursdays - 7:30PM
Fridays - 7:30PM and 9:30PM
Saturdays - 7:30PM and 9:30PM

How Much:
Seven dollars for admission with a student discount of two dollars.

Info Number:
(314) 241-2275

COMMENTARY

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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Editor in Chief

Joe Harris

Managing Editor &
Editorial Page Editor*"Our Opinion" reflects the majority
opinion of the editorial board*

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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

Attendance problems
in University senate

The Issue:

Problems have arisen in the UM-St. Louis campus senate in that non-regular faculty members have not had representation and low student attendance has led other senate members to question the right of students to be senators.

We Suggest:

The UM-St. Louis campus senate should at least consider allowing non-regular faculty to have membership in the senate and student senators should attend meetings before their representation is taken away.

So what do you think?

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

current@jinx.umsl.edu

Two problems seem to face the UM-St. Louis campus senate, one regarding faculty and one regarding students.

The faculty problem refers to the exclusion of non-regulars from membership. While the senate has long included students and regular faculty, non-regular faculty have been prevented from joining its ranks. According to Deborah Larson, chair of the ad hoc committee on non-regular status, the issue was two-fold. Larson notes that in many departments non-tenure-track faculty are beginning to outnumber tenure-track faculty making it difficult to have so few people being active as representatives. Larson also pointed to the issue of fairness to non-regular "colleagues" deserving of representation.

Indeed it seems that fairness is indeed an issue if some departments are seeing more non-regular than regular faculty. How can a representative body hold any claim to legitimacy if a department sees a majority of its faculty prohibited from membership?

While some counterargue that the inclusion of non-regulars would dilute the composition of the senate, or suggest that student seats should be removed in order to add non-regular faculty seats, it seems to make sense that such "dilution" would actually spell representation for a group not currently included in the senate's deliberations.

Unfortunately, student senators who don't show up to senate meetings make it harder to argue against the proposed reduction in student seats.

Despite the excellent candidate turnout for the student seats (forty-two people vied for twenty-five spots), there seems to have been a general disinterest when it comes to students actually showing up for senate meetings. Attendance has often been poor.

Though some absences are understandable, many student senators seem to care little about the position to which they've been elected. This irresponsible indifference only reinforces the stereotypes of many faculty that student seats on the campus governing body are only a waste of valuable space. Further, student apathy makes it difficult for the senate to even maintain the quorum necessary to function properly.

The issue of the twenty-five student seats on the senate has come up before and is likely to come up again. If students are to prove they are worthy of sitting on the senate, they must be willing not only to run for a position on the campus' most important body but also to serve on it as well. If, however, students continue to show little regard for the seats they have been allocated, suggestions that that allocation be reduced may be heeded. Worse yet, such suggestions may be justified.

Grade policy
doesn't work

Another semester has begun, and again students begin the process of becoming acclimated to their new classes, their requirements, and their expectations. Each class has its own expectations, and sometimes students have a difficult time making this adjustment. Further complicating matters is the lack of a uniform grading system at UM-St. Louis.

Currently, individual professors have the option to grade their class on a plus/minus or standard grading scale. As a result, a student may have some classes graded on a plus/minus scale and others graded on the standard scale. Students are forced to focus more attention on how the class is graded as opposed to the actual class content.

UM-St. Louis needs to adopt a uniform grading policy. Under the current system, UM-St. Louis students are being penalized. For example, two students may have 15 hours of classes and earn an 80 percent in each class. Student A has two classes graded on the plus/minus scale, while Student B has each class graded on the standard scale. The result is that Student A will have a lower grade point average than Student B even though they each earned identical grades.

If UM-St. Louis is to continue to build its reputation as one of the top learning institutions in the region, then the University needs to create a level playing field for all of its students.

It is our belief that the standardized grading system would be the most beneficial to UM-St. Louis students. The system is easy to understand and is more forgiving if the student earns a low grade on a test or a paper.

If a plus/minus scale is the answer, we propose a modified version of this scale that will benefit students and faculty alike.

This scale has only pluses. In this system, a student is rewarded for earning an 89 percent rather than being lumped in the same category as a student earning an 80 percent. Conversely, a student earning an 80 percent would not be punished for not earning an 83 percent.

This innovative approach would work well and may have positive results here. Either way, a level playing field needs to be created so that all students can be graded equally.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Arts Center good for campus

I wonder how the students and faculty of UM-St. Louis would react if the chancellor had decided to erect a new building for the chemistry department, or any other major department on campus. Or even a new library. I would imagine almost everyone would give a positive response to this. So I ask why are there so many objections to the planned Performing Arts Center when it offers the same educational value as any other new building would?

These past few years the music department has grown in leaps and bounds and it still continues to do so. The Symphonic Band itself has more than quadrupled in the last four years. A theater program formed on campus in '98. In the fall UM-St. Louis formed its first pep band performance ever which has played at every basketball game for both men's and women's teams. And to top it all off UM-St. Louis will be hosting its first major theatrical performance, Man of La Mancha.

Despite all these great things that are coming out of our great university, some people are still hesitant to think for even a moment that money could be spent on a building that would further expand the music department and other theatrical organizations as opposed to funding departments that have already received large amounts of funding in years before.

A number of points were brought up in argument with the

planned Performing Arts Center. The first was that it would cost too much to build. Since then the legislature has decided the state would fund \$40 million towards the \$49 million building. Chancellor Touhill says she has another \$2.5 million raised from private funds. The rest can be made selling candy.

Another point (one of the more recent ones) is that the building won't be completely for academic use. What is now the General Services Building on north campus will be used for classroom space when the building is complete so the students will be able to attend classes near the Center. Also, special guests may be invited to perform which would also be academic to the students.

Other performances (by on-campus organizations and guest performances) may also be held. These would be open to everyone. So if nothing else the Center will be an attraction. This may even create a larger enrollment for UM-St. Louis.

There are many people who have a problem with the planned Performing Arts Center. To those people I would like to say, have a little faith in your chancellor; I'm sure she knows what she's doing. Learn a little bit about culture; attend a performance or two on campus. See the reason the building is being built. You may change your mind.

THOMAS WOMBACHER
Guest Commentary

From the police blotter

I don't know about you, but my favorite section of The Current is the Campus Crimeline (usually found on page 2.) It's a fascinating gauge of how life on campus is really going.

Item: 1/7/98--Staff at the J. C. Penney Building reported that a University floor mat was stolen from the building between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m....

Item: 8/31/97--A ground tent owned by Southwestern Bell was reported stolen between 5 p.m. Aug. 29 and 9:40 a.m. Aug. 30.

Things are often stolen around campus--CD players, laptops, car stereos--but apparently some people will steal almost anything. You have to wonder what the street value of a used University floor mat or Southwestern Bell ground tent is. Odder things are stolen however, often in bulk.

Item: 10/29/98--Athletics staff reported that between Oct. 20 and Oct. 29, seven pairs of Rawlings Basketball shorts were stolen. The shorts were found at the Shipping and Receiving Office at the General Services Building...

They were found where? This sounds to me more like a shipping snafu than a theft.

Item: 9/22/97--At 12:10 p.m. a person was arrested at the UM-St. Louis South MetroLink station after having stolen 23 pairs of eyeglasses from the Optometry Clinic at Marillac Hall.

Not all incidents are thefts; however, some of these come from the "duh" department but are reported without the least bit of sarcasm.

Item: 10/21/98--A vehicle parked on Lot "A" was found to have scratch marks on it. Possibly a sharp object was used to make the scratches.

Possibly, but how long did it take the crack investigative team to draw this stunning conclusion.

Item: 12/23/98--An Honors college resident reported that on December 22, between 12:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., a Sanyo refrigerator was stolen...The refrigerator was last seen on top of a hallway trash can.

Maybe the garbage man took it.

Some incidents have a sort of "doesn't play well with others" feel to them.

Item: 11/16/98--A student reported that another student took her food and threw it on the ground outside the Mark Twain Building entrance. The incident was referred to the Student Affairs Office.

This was reported to the police? When was this? Recess?

Other incidents are just odd.

Item: 12/28/98--At 1:55 p.m., a juvenile was reported to have broken several coffee mugs at 301 Marillac Hall. The office was insecure.

Well, I guess I'd be insecure too, if someone had broken my coffee mug.

In the end, I guess none of us are safe from crime. But that doesn't mean we can't pause and chuckle at it occasionally.

DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief

No kindness for grads

Graduation...the crowning achievement for a student. The reward after years (sometimes decades) of laborious study.

It should be a day to be savored. The day should belong to the graduate, and the memories should last a lifetime.

First class universities understand this. Their ceremonies are prepared with the graduate in mind. Unfortunately, UM-St. Louis' commencement ceremony on January 10, 1999 was not.

On what should have been a day to remember for 547 graduates, a Barney Fife-like security guard managed to mar the day for several graduates and their families and friends.

The guy took his job way too literally. First, he started by proclaiming that nobody could stand on the balcony, even though the standees were not in the sight-line of those sitting in the bleachers.

I understand that the man has superiors who are telling him what to do and it would be understandable if he were nice about it. However, he acted like a drill sergeant, ordering us where to go and talking to us like we were servants. If he could have moved us faster with a cattle prod and a whip, he would have used them.

Even the way he found seats for the standees was also rude and demeaning. He would go up row by row screaming at people to scoot over in the middle of John W. Bachmann's Commencement speech. He was so loud that Bachmann might have heard him on the floor.

The looks of disgust and outrage on the attendee's faces said it all, but Barney got his way and he found everyone a seat.

After an hour and a half of sitting uncomfortably on the bleachers (standing would have been a more comfortable alternative), the ceremony finally ended. My group and I spent the next 20 to 30 minutes navigating through the crowd until we found our graduate.

Instantly the picture-taking started. Then, almost as instantly, Barney appeared again. Instead of "sit down!" his vocabulary expanded to "let's move it people" along with the occasional "take your pictures and get out!" It was like closing time at a bar.

The seat thing can be excused, but this latter action can't.

The irony is that just 30 minutes before Barney decided he wanted to go home, Joseph Porter Jr., vice-president of UM-St. Louis' alumni association, spent five minutes politely asking for future financial donations and involvement from the new alumni.

How can anyone support an institution that treats its alumni so poorly within 30 minutes of graduation? I can't, and I don't know of anyone else that would in a similar circumstance.

Things need to be changed, like allowing a full hour for photographs after the ceremony. Etiquette training for those working the event would be useful and having a place for attendees who wish to stand or have back problems would also be nice.

I was once proud to be a student at UM-St. Louis. Now after seeing how poorly alumni are treated, I'm not sure if I can say that anymore, and I would have to think twice before recommending this institution to a prospective student.

This University cannot be seen in a positive light until students, the ones who keep this institution running and have given so much to it, are put first.

It's time for UM-St. Louis to give something back.

JOE HARRIS
Managing Editor

SPORTS

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Happy days are here again: Air Jordan finally retires

I hate to say it, but I am glad Michael Jordan retired. Mike was just too good for his own good. He made basketball boring for me. One of the benefits of Mike leaving the NBA for good is that the younger generation can now finally show off their skills. With the best of the previous generation still playing the game, many of the young bucks often found themselves going head to head with their idol. Now many of the youngsters have lived out their dream of playing against their idol, but how many times do I have to see Mike make a fool of Alan Iverson?

This isn't a knock on the young guys.

In 1984 when Jordan made his debut, he was made a fool of by many of his peers. How many times did I see Larry Bird or Magic Johnson make Jordan look like the inexperienced player that he was at that time? It just takes younger players time to get adjusted to the game.

Many point to the big fat zero next to the number of titles won by the young kids. But at the same time, the old vets like Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley, and the duo of John Stockton and Karl Malone also have the lack-of-a-ring problem.

The young guys now must become the big names of the league. Kevin Garnett has received tons of hype since his rookie season. Though the hype is well deserved, he now must prove that he can win.

With the Jordan-led Bulls down for the count, the room for growth could be endless for many young teams.

The Bulls were filled with crafty veterans who knew how to play the game. In all the years of the Bulls' dynasty, only one rookie, BJ Armstrong, ever got significant playing time. The reason? They weren't ready for prime time, so they dealt their young guys off for veterans.

In turn they got Dennis Rodman, and serviceable guys like Bill Cartwright and Steve Kerr. They weren't superstars, but they knew the game and they would let Mike do his thing.

Now, without Mike, everyone will be gone. Pippen is rumored to be going to Houston and Rodman may retire. Without Mike, the Bulls are nothing, and this year will prove it.

I can't say that I was a Jordan fan. I was happy when he retired a few years ago. Now hopefully he will stay put, play golf, and gamble his millions away in casinos.

The game was getting boring with Mike and his Bulls plowing through every team in their way.

When was there really a doubt that the Jazz would come back and beat the mighty Bulls?

What part of 70+ victories didn't people understand? How can you beat a team that almost lost as many games (10) as the Vancouver Grizzlies won (15) in the 1995-96 season?

How do you beat the unbeatable?

These reasons are why it is good for the game now that Mike is gone. The game existed before Mike, and it will exist afterwards.

Mike wasn't God. He was just a damn good basketball player.



KEN DUNKIN
sports editor

Marcy leads Riverwomen to next level

With 12 games left in her career, #34 plays to win with no regrets

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

When Melanie Marcy came out of high school, all she wanted to do was play basketball and get a good education.

While in high school, Marcy attended Oak Park River Forest and was an All-Conference selection her senior year. Along with the All-Conference status, Marcy set new school records in blocked shots and rebounds during her four year career.

With the demand of college recruiters at her doorsteps, Marcy selected Illinois State to be the school of her future.

"Ever since I was young, I always wanted to play basketball in college," Marcy said. "Basketball has always been a part of my life."

After two years at Illinois State, Marcy was lured by Head Coach Shelly Ethridge to attend UM-St. Louis.

"I never heard of UM-St. Louis before, but I was looking to transfer to a school that was not Division I," Marcy said. "I met Coach Ethridge and saw her coach at a junior college,

and I liked her style of coaching. I love playing for intense coaches."

And so Marcy went to play at UM-St. Louis.

During the past two years while Marcy has attended UM-St. Louis, the Riverwomen have made dramatic strides toward becoming a power in the GLVC.

Marcy herself can even see the change in the team's performance.

"Last year with all of the new people that were brought in came a love for the game of basketball," Marcy said. "Some peo-

ple weren't enjoying playing. College ball is hard and time consuming, but our team this season has a lot of heart and comes to play every game.

We had tons of talent on this team [last year], but now there is a different attitude on the team. This team and the new people do not take losing very well."

As far as this season is concerned, Marcy believes the best is yet to come from a team that is 7-8.

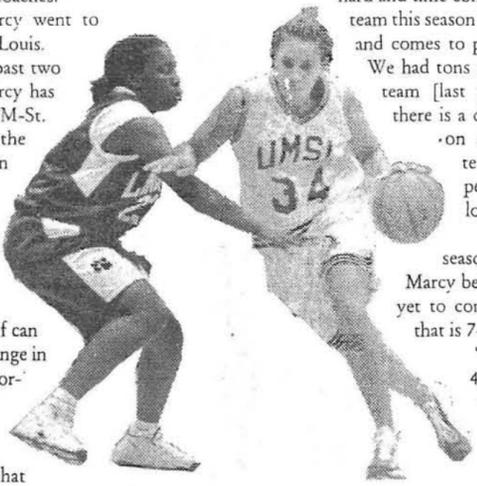
"If we could put 40 minutes together, we would be unstoppable," Marcy said.

"We wanted to take the stress off, so if we play our game and give

everything we have, our team will have no regrets."

As the season, and Marcy's career, dwindles down, she seems confident that she will go out a winner.

"I have 12 games guaranteed left for me," Marcy said. "I am just going to go out there, have some fun, and play ball."



The Marcy File

1997:				
Gms.	FG Pct.	Reb-Avg	TP-Avg	
26	153	455	232-8.9	381-14.7
1998*:				
Gms.	FG Pct.	Reb-Avg	TP-Avg	
12	57	518	88-7.3	147-12.3

*Through 12 games

Bellarmino bashes Rivermen

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

The first three minutes of Thursday's game destroyed the hopes of the Rivermen basketball team as they lost to Bellarmine.

Bellarmino jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the opening minutes of the game. It was an uphill battle for the UM-St. Louis team for the rest of the way.

The Rivermen lost 84-73.

"We got down early and we had to play catch up the rest of the game," said Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel. "We really hurt ourselves on the defensive end of the court, too."

Rebounding though, wasn't a problem for the Rivermen.

They had 33 rebounds for the game, 14 of those were on the offensive end.

A major reason for the success on the boards was Kechan Johnson. Johnson had 10 rebounds.

"Kechan had a good rebounding day. He battled for almost all of the chances, and he did a really good job," Meckfessel said. "Early in the season he had been one of our rebounding leaders. I think he is moving back towards that again. His effort has been very good."

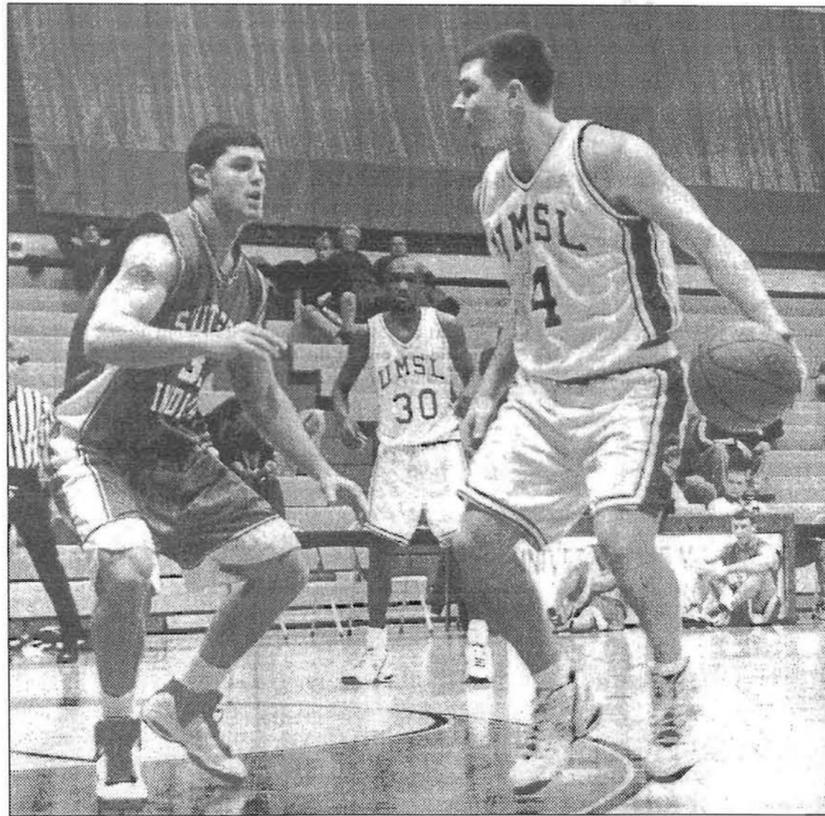
Greg Ross and Jason Frillman also had good games in the loss. Ross was 4-for-9 shooting 3-pointers; he finished with 18 points. Frillman also had the hot-hand from the 3-point arc. He was 3-3 from outside and finished with 11 points.

Even with solid performances spread through the season, Meckfessel said he had higher expectations for this team.

"At this point of the season, we had thought we would

have made bigger steps than we have," Meckfessel said. "After the past two seasons, we are playing better; it just doesn't show in our record. The last five games have really hurt us."

The past five games have been tough for the Rivermen.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Riverman Jason Frillman (4) handles the ball in the Jan. 6 game against Southern Indiana. Durrell Robinson (30) watches in the background.

Riverwomen lose, fall to 7-8 overall

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The Riverwomen basketball team lost a close game against Bellarmine 87-79, and its overall record fell to 7-8, 6-5 in the GLVC.

UM-St. Louis was led by four players who reached double figures. Tawanda Daniel led the Riverwomen with 19 points, Amanda Wentzel added 13, and Sara Mauck and Lindsay Brefeld each had 10.

The Riverwomen were down at halftime by a score of 37-31, and Bellarmine held strong to fend off an aggressive UM-St. Louis team.

According to Michael DeFord, UM-St. Louis sports information director, Riverwomen Head Coach Shelly Ethridge said, "I certainly can't fault the team's effort. I thought they played really hard. Unfortunately we didn't execute well. We tend to play in spurts. Had we played a full 40 minutes, I believe we would have won the game."

The Riverwomen's next opponents will be the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Jan. 21 and Lewis University Jan. 23.

Hockey team wins in OT, 5-4

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The Rivermen hockey team emerged victorious in their last two outings, defeating College of the Page and the Illinois Thunder.

UM-St. Louis defeated College of the Page 5-4 with goals coming from Scott Bokal, Dave Hessel, Ben Gilbertson, Ryan Craig, and Craig Duffy.

The Rivermen had a large lead on College of the Page, but almost suffered a letdown.

"We were beating them 4-2 going into the third period, but we took some dumb penalties which led to a few man-advantages in which they took advantage," said Jason Hessel, the team captain. "We were fortunate that we won the game."

Although the Rivermen dominated the game, Hessel thought College of the Page was a good test for UM-St. Louis.

"It was a pretty rough game," Hessel said. "They beat SLU the next day 6-3. They had some big guys and guys

see HOCKEY, page 8

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	20	21	22	23
Men		at Wisconsin-Parkside 7:30 p.m.		at Lewis 3:00 p.m.
Women		at Wisconsin-Parkside 5:30 p.m.		at Lewis 1:00 p.m.

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.

Sports Opinion

Davis, Falcons make 1998-99 NFL season memorable

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

Well, the NFL playoffs are dwindling down to just two teams now, and in two weeks, the Super Bowl will be played to determine the champion.

A few things that I have seen and now will acknowledge over this past season are as follows:

Congratulations to Terrell Davis for finally coming out of the Barry Sanders mold to emerge as the MVP of the NFL. This well-tuned running back has only bright things in the future for him.

The Atlanta Falcons were the team that finally put an end to the dominating San Francisco 49ers' hold atop the NFC Western division. Dan Reeves, along with former Rams Head Coach Rich Brooks, have compiled a winning team when only a few years ago, the Falcons were in the basement of the NFC West.

Kudos to the Rams for having another unsuccessful year. Do you think that maybe Tony Banks and Dick Vermeil are not the men for this job? With

see NFL, page 8

OTHER NEWS

Commencement sees first doctoral degree from Barnes Nursing school

BY SUE BRITT
staff associate

John W. Bachmann, managing principal of Edward Jones, was the keynote speaker at the commencement that was held Sun., Jan. 10 for graduates of UM-St. Louis.

Bachmann said that it was an honor to be asked to speak at the commencement and mentioned the role UM-St. Louis played was not only significant in the St. Louis community but in his firm, Edward Jones.

"We [the firm of Edward Jones] have more graduates of this institution than any other institution in the nation," Bachmann said. "We owe a great debt to UM-St. Louis."

Bachmann spoke about the time of graduation as a time of reflection of achievement and as a time of transition. He said the current graduates were joining the work force at a time of tremendous change. He then traced through history periods of great change and subsequent periods of stabilization.

"Today we are in another period of change," Bachmann said, and in the technological age, he said, "Work is changing. Work is no longer physical."

Bachmann concluded by asking three questions that he said he would hope the graduates would ask themselves.

"What is your responsibility to your alma

mater? What is your responsibility to your community?" and lastly Bachmann asked, "What is your responsibility to yourself?"

Among the 547 graduates attending the commencement, there were 438 bachelor's, 101 master's, and eight doctoral degrees awarded. The doctoral degree of nursing awarded was the first degree from the School of Nursing at UM-St. Louis.

Dr. Sally Hardin, director of the Ph.D. nursing program, said that the program was established five years ago and there are approximately 30 people currently enrolled. Hardin said she expects two to three more graduates within the next year.

"It is a program to prepare beginning level nursing researchers and faculty. [Graduates are prepared for] positions as faculty in colleges of nursing and as nursing researchers in medical centers," Hardin said. "We are focused on important clinical problems that help people stay healthy."

Dr. Janice Johnson DeMasters was the first graduate of the UM-St. Louis Ph.D. nursing program; her dissertation was entitled, "Women and the Hormone Replacement Therapy Decision: A Study of Concerns, Values and Behaviors Using a Multiattribute Utility Model."

"It's very exciting to be the first," DeMasters said.

DeMasters first became involved in creating a model of predictors that would indicate which women would or would not use hormone replacement therapy while she was working on her master's degree.

"I worked on my master's through a cooperative program between UM-Columbia, UMKansas City, and UM-St. Louis and that was in women's health," DeMasters said. "I got interested in women and aging."

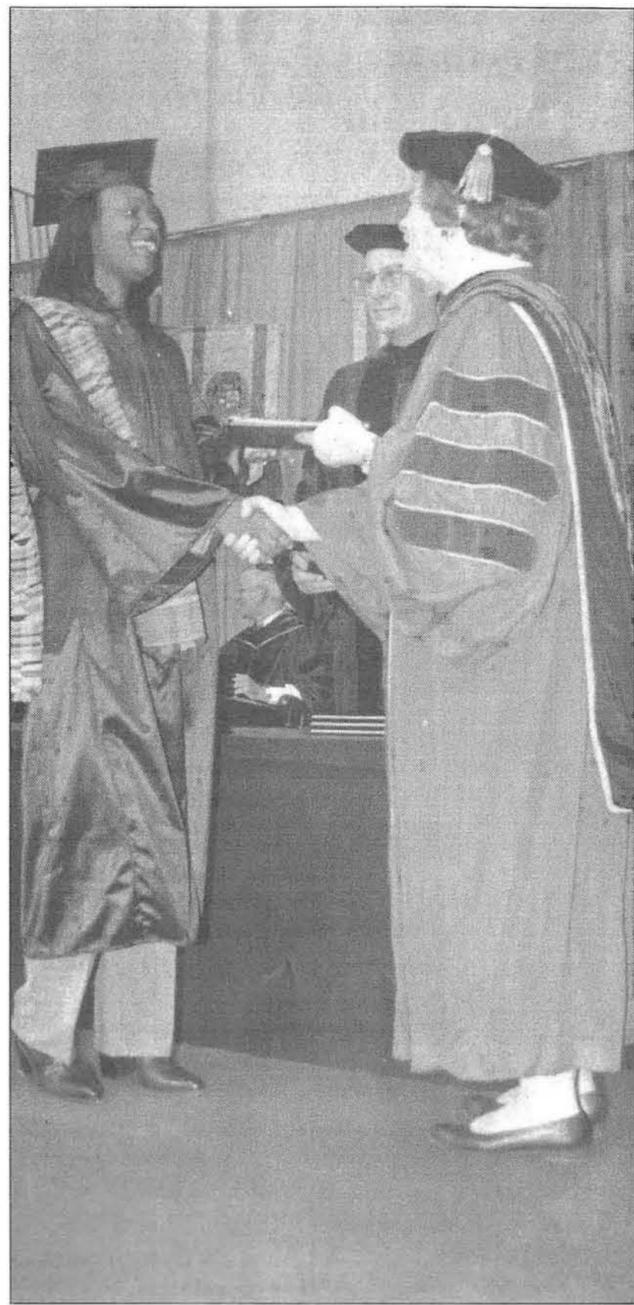
DeMasters is a certified clinical specialist in gerontology and teaches at St. Louis University as a full-time faculty member in the area of gerontology.

A doctor of arts and letters was also awarded at the commencement to James D. Burke. Burke is an active community member and has been director and chief executive officer of the Saint Louis Art Museum since 1980.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Graduates walk down a hallway in the Mark Twain Building to the graduation procession, Jan. 10. More than 500 received their degrees in the ceremony keyed by John W. Bachman, managing principal of Edward Jones.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Psychology major Roeshelle Roby receives her degree from Chancellor Blanche Touhill at the graduation ceremony in the Mark Twain Building Jan. 10.

Assembly unveils winter goals

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

As the winter semester kicks off, the Student Government Association embarks upon a busy semester that will include "The Big Event," Homecoming, Mirthday, the presentation of a revised constitution, and preparations for the selection of a new student curator.

"The Big Event" is brand new to the SGA schedule. According to Michael Rankins, SGA vice-president, "The Big Event" will take place sometime in April and will involve several student organizations.

It is Rankins' understanding that "The Big Event" will take place over a period of days, possibly even a week, and it will consist of volunteers doing work for the public good.

"We would go out into the community here around campus and, as volunteers, do something like paint an elderly person's house who's on a fixed income," Rankins said.

Rankins said the event was scheduled for April due to weather-related concerns.

"They want to wait [to schedule a fixed date] as long as they can, so that the weather is less inclement," said Rankins.

Aside from the positive public relations this undertaking represents to the University, there may be another benefit gained from "The Big Event."

"I think that sometimes people see this University as separate from the community that encapsulates us in," Rankins said. "We are actually a part of North County, and I think this will raise the public awareness and also the awareness among students that we are a part of North County and that we like being here."

According to Rankins, the University Program Board and the Associated Black Collegians will probably be involved with "The Big Event," but there is always room for more support. Rankins urges interested groups or individuals to contact SGA for more information.

Homecoming, with its new date and semester, is also on SGA's agenda. Rankins said SGA will commit at least \$12,000 to Homecoming along with volunteers and other resources. Rankins said most of the money will go toward securing the venue, which is the Regal Riverfront.

Homecoming will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 and will be centered around the last basketball game of the season against Northern Kentucky.

Rankins said UPB is co-sponsoring

'Big Event,' constitution top Student Government agenda for winter

Homecoming with SGA and will commit a large amount of resources for the event.

Rankins believes tickets for Homecoming will be the same price as last year, \$12.50 for one ticket and \$20 for two.

"It is very important that people understand it's not \$20 for a . . . couple; it's \$20 if you buy two tickets at once," Rankins said.

Homecoming tickets will be available at the Student Activities and SGA offices, as well as other locations. Rankins said tickets should be available at the end of this month or in early February.

SGA will also have a booth at Mirthday and will be involved with its planning. Mirthday will be held on Apr. 21, and Rankins urges UM-St. Louis students to participate.

"I think [Mirthday] is just about the same as Expo; it's to draw the entire University together," Rankins said. "It gives the sense of oneness, a sense of belonging on campus."

The constitution revision will also be addressed by SGA this semester.

"I think that we're all on the same page in commending Benjamin [Ash] on being very meticulous with his revision of this constitution," Rankins said. "Because it is important that it be done right, but by the same token, it's also important that it be done."

Rankins said Ash intends to present the revised constitution either at the next SGA meeting on Thursday or at the following meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Rankins does not expect major changes with in the revision.

"A lot of the things that were quote gray areas in the old constitution have been clarified and further elucidated so that it eliminates a lot of guess work," Rankins said.

"I cannot say that a lot of policy has been changed. It hasn't been; rather, it's been clarified," he said.

According to Rankins, areas like the role of the comptroller that are unclear in the current constitution have been addressed and made clear.

Once the revised constitution is presented, Rankins said the assembly has to first view the new constitution and then come back the next meeting and vote to approve the revisions. When

approved, the revised constitution will be brought before the student body in a special vote. The student body must approve it by a 2/3 majority. Finally, the constitution must pass the desks of Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, Gary Grace, vice-chancellor of Student Affairs, and Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

Rankins said SGA will make a strong effort to inform the student body about the revised constitution in the weeks leading up to the special student body vote.

"The student body needs informed consent," Rankins said. "You can't just say 'vote on this constitution, but you don't know what it is, just vote.' That's not a vote at all. So they need to be made aware of what exactly the new constitution says and have some idea of what the old constitution says," Rankins said.

Rankins said that a copy of the revised constitution will need to be made available for any interested student. This would entail making thousands of copies. One solution, Rankins said, would be to buy ad space and to print a copy of the revised constitution in *The Current*.

According to Rankins, the student vote will be held after the constitution has been approved by the assembly and when students have enough time to reach informed consent.

Last, but not least on the SGA agenda, will be the selection of a new student curator. Last year UM-St. Louis got the honor of having one of its own to serve as a student curator. This year it is UM-Columbia's turn.

Rankins, who oversaw the process in 1997 will be more than an interested spectator during this year's process.

"Something that I want to see is that we are given our fair share in this process," Rankins said. "I went to great pains to accommodate other universities during the most recent selection process as chairman of the selection committee. And this time I intend to see that we are given our fair say in the selection of the new student curator."

Rankins said the role of the student curator is very important within the UM system because as the student's voice, the student curator brings many student concerns before the Board of Curators.

Physics professor honored in capital

BY KEVIN BUCKLEY
of the Current staff

On Dec. 10th, 1998 Bob L. Henson, professor of physics, received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"Prof. Henson was nominated for the award by a colleague," said Bob Samples of University Relations. "The University senate reviews those nominations. They selected him among those who were nominated, and it was forwarded to the government."

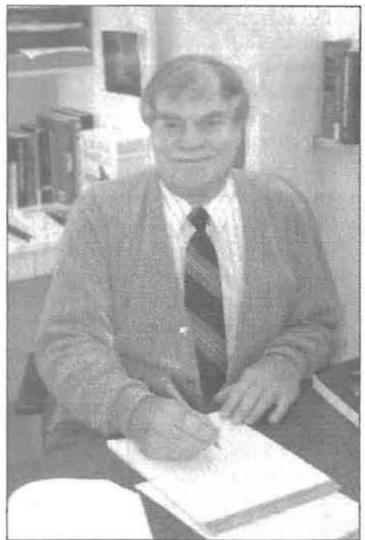
The ceremony took place at "The 1998 Governors Conference on Higher Education on Dec. 10th in Jefferson City. The conference was being held by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education," Henson said.

"I received official notice about the award from the commissioner on higher education in Jefferson City. The governor was there to present the award. Chancellor Touhill was also in presence, and she, in fact, escorted me to the governor, and my photograph was taken with the governor and Chancellor Touhill. There are other people around the state who get the award as well. I was the only one from UM-St. Louis [the University of Missouri system has one from each campus]," Henson said.

For 32 years, Henson has been and is currently covering large class loads and a wide range of material.

"I've taught nearly every physics course we have in the department since 1966. We've grown a lot over the years. We had a few people here in the beginning. It started one year before with one person; then I came. Consequently, we had to teach heavy loads, and so that's why I've taught so many different types of courses; it was something necessary in order to build the department. So I have a lot of teaching experience," Henson said.

Concerning the award itself, Henson said, "I got a very nice plaque mounted on brass on colored glass and the award was signed by Governor Mel Carnahan and other officials. I consider this award a very great honor."



Henson

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Help Wanted

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needed for UM-St. Louis Indoor Swimming Pool this Winter semester. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours available. Pay is \$6.00/hr. Interested individuals can apply in the Rec. Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 516-5326 for more info.

Looking for an easy job?

Shelve books for the St. Louis Library at the Natural Bridge branch for approximately 20 hours per week. Contact Vicki at 382-3116.

The Current is now accepting applications for the position of production assistant. Volunteer writing and photography positions are also available. Call 516-6810 for more information. EOE

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Misc

BOWLING DOUBLES LEAGUE

begins Jan. 27. \$1.25/week for 3 games. Teams of two can be guys and/or gals. 10-week league, Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 p.m., North Oaks Bowl. Open to students, faculty, staff. Register: Rec. Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain by Jan. 20.

AUDITIONS

UM-St. Louis Pom Squad. Jan 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. Call Tonya at 945-0982.

SPRING BREAK ALTERNATIVE

- Opportunity to serve the poor during Spring Break. If this is of interest to you, we need to know. Call 385-3455 a.s.a.p. At this point we have one student interested. We need at least five by Feb. 1.

PEER MINISTRY

- Newman Center will have "Peer Training" Jan. 19, 2:30 p.m. for one hour. Those interested in helping staff the center one hour per week with hospitality and listening, please come to see what this involves. For more information, call Betty: 385-3455.

PRAYER SERVICE

- Calling all Christians. Interdenominational Prayer Service for Christian Unity Week, J.C. Penney lobby Jan. 21, 11:45-12:15 p.m. Join us for five minutes or whatever you can. Everyone is invited.

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

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

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam Fellowships Director
The Indianapolis News
P.O. Box 145
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Web site: www.starnews.com/pjf
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Movie Review

Entertaining 'Arlington Road' bogged down by poor direction

Arlington Road

Arlington Road is a thriller full of conspiracy theories, from real-life and from the plot of the film itself. An accident involving a neighbor's son brings together a recently widowed man (Jeff Bridges) and his ten-year-old son with their new neighbors (Tim Robbins and Joan Cusack.)

Soon mysteries crop up, hinting that this couple is not the ordinary suburbanite pair they appear to be. Through an amazing number of coincidences, the film soon involves conspiracy theories, the FBI, and terrorist activities, until it starts to resemble a mix of Oliver Stone's *JFK*, *Pacific Heights*, and the *X Files* (but without the aliens.)

There are references to incidents like the Ruby

Ridge siege and the Oklahoma City bombing (but relocated to St. Louis, thank you very much.)

While some of the mysteries were too obvious, so that the audience figured it out long before the characters, and some of the action was just not believable, the twist at the end took me so much by surprise that I'd say the film was worth seeing just for that.

I think this story had the potential to be a great film, and it has a talented cast, but the film was dragged down by clumsy directing and a slow pace.

Overall, it was fairly entertaining, and you would particularly enjoy it if you are a fan of conspiracy theories.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

Movie Review



David Kelly in *Waking Ned Divine*

'Divine' shows humor, charm

Waking Ned Divine
Now Playing at Plaza Frontenac
Rated PG-13
Running time: 1:40

Everyone dreams of winning the lottery.

In this funny, charming film, Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen), who's always playing the lottery, figures out that someone in the neighboring tiny Irish village is the sole winner of the lottery jackpot. With the help of his wife Annie (Fionnula Flanagan) and his best buddy Michael (David Kelly), this old rascal sets out

to secretly discover the winner, with a plan of buttering him or her up before everyone else finds out.

The discovery of who that winner is and the particular circumstances around that discovery leads to a plan that involves the cooperation of the whole village if it is to succeed. All the characters are vividly drawn and delightfully distinctive, especially the older ones, from the resourceful old duffer who discovers the winner to the smelly pig farmer who needs the money to get out of the odorous pig business so his girlfriend will come within ten feet of him.

This tale of resourcefulness and cooperation is packed with laughs with one joke piled on another so that the audience howled with laughter as one absurdity led to another, and was filled with marvelous visual jokes. It was one of the funniest films I've seen in a long time. What more could you want?

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

Music Review

'Babe' displays wide range of music

Babe the Blue Ox—"The Way We Were"

Babe the Blue Ox's CD "The Way We Were" could almost be described as "Hip." The selection of songs deals with everyday issues and occurrences that happen in life.

One of the more humorous songs on the CD is "Lotto Train," which describes the lotto temptation at liquor stores. Other issues such as love relationships, at both happier stages and more depressing stages, are explored. There is a fairly wide variety of personal issues that are accented by differences in beat and tempo. Some of the songs strike a nerve for those emotional moments in life and others could be used on an electric, busy dance floor.

Overall, this is a good CD. It provides a range of music from soft and sedate to lively and upbeat—one for almost any mood.

The best part is some humor in examining the facets of everyday life like "Tattoos" and "Basketball."

-Anne Porter



Babe the Blue Ox (from front to back): Tim Thomas, Hanna Fox and Rose Thomson.

Movie Review

Oscars should take notice of 'Shakespeare in Love'

Shakespeare in Love
Now Playing
Rated R
Running time: 2:10

Can you imagine Shakespeare having writer's block? *Shakespeare in Love* is a wonderful, fanciful comedy about William Shakespeare falling in love while he's trying to write *Romeo and Juliet*.

A young struggling actor and playwright, Will Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes) is in the grips of writer's block, grappling with writing a play in which he's not yet sure of the title (*Romeo and ...*), not sure what the play's about or even what kind of story it is, and is bedeviled by the success of rival playwright Christopher Marlowe.

While he's in this dilemma, he

meets and falls in love with a beautiful and wealthy noble woman (Gwyneth Paltrow), a woman so far above him in social status that he's not even allowed to speak to her. What ensues is a tale of romance and farce, with all the intrigue and confusions that can be brought to bear.

From a script by Tom Stoppard, this delightful fictional tale weaves in elements from Shakespeare's life and works, while providing enough surprises, laughs, and romance to delight the audience. Nominated for several Golden Globe awards, this winner of a film features beautiful, authentic sets and costumes, excellent acting, and an entertaining plot. This one's sure to be a winner at Oscar time.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer.

TROUPE, FROM PAGE 1

Troupe said he was "baffled and dumbfounded" by many of the chancellor's decisions and he "would not sit by and allow the destruction of Black children in a state supported institution such as UM-St. Louis, and, furthermore I will use all the power of my office and legislative influence to make sure this does not happen."

The chancellor responded to the charges in early December with a four-page letter to Troupe which included ten pages of attached statistics.

"In terms of progress with respect to African-Americans, both those on the campus and those with whom we deal in the larger community, I am happy to report that we have continued the positive trend that was visible during Dr. Barnett's tenure as Chancellor," Touhill's letter said. "In fact, in some instances, we have put a more positive slope to that trend line."

The letter provided statistics for African-American first-time freshmen noting "an upward trend" in the graduation rate. Financial aid for 1998 for African-American students totaled more than \$8.2 million.

It went on to say that between the fall semesters of 1990 and 1997, the campus has "more than doubled the number of full-time African-American tenured and tenure track faculty and almost quadrupled the number of those faculty who are tenured."

In an interview, Bob Samples, director of University Communication, said that according to Black Issues In Higher Education, UM-St. Louis ranked twelfth in a list of 105 Doctoral I and II institutions in number of African-American fac-

ulty.

The letter also says minority contractors have fared well at UM-St. Louis.

"Examination of the data reveals that in none of the last five fiscal years did we award fewer dollar contracts to minority business enterprises than we did in FY 1990," the letter said.

Touhill also defended the creation of the Office of Multi-cultural Relations saying that it came from a task force recommendation in 1996.

"In order to better coordinate the existing programs and expand their impact, I decided to bring together these existing programs into the office of Multi-Cultural Relations," the letter said. "This was a reflection of the fact that I felt we needed to recognize the strength the campus can draw from its diversity."

She noted that the budget for the office has grown from \$171,000 in FY 1996 to \$400,000 in FY 1999.

In a Dec. 23 letter to Touhill, Troupe said he was unsatisfied with her statistics saying the letter "does not address the issues that I requested in a usable manner."

"The was no inclusion of white statistics and total numbers in much of the information that you provided me," Troupe's response said.

Interviewed earlier this month, Troupe said his effort was "larger than just UMStL" and that he was already in the process of investigating other campuses around the state for evidence of a "deliberate, contrived conspiracy" to undermine affirmative action and successful African-American-oriented programs. He also said he planned to take his case to the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus in hopes the caucus may choose to investigate UM-St. Louis.

UPB, FROM PAGE 1

be free, she said, but a \$10 deposit will be required to hold a ticket until the actual performance.

"Everyone rides the buses down to each [Experience St. Louis] event," Nelson said. "We are trying to develop more of a campus community feel, so [students] get to know people and become familiar with them."

A college bowl is also in the works, Mowen said. The format will be like a combination of "Jeopardy" and "Family Feud," she explained, with teams competing to answer questions correctly.

"The varsity sport of the mind" is what some people call it," she said. "The questions are pretty goofy, but it is basically general knowledge. People need to start putting together teams if they want to get ready and start practicing."

Marsha Nored, chair of the Recreational Events Committee, was excited about a number of

events she has helped to plan. Among them is a Super Bowl party students can attend at the University Meadows on Jan. 31.

"It's going to be a non-alcoholic Super Bowl party," she said. "There will be food and beverages, plus random door prizes. We're going to have all the pre-game shows going, and we might have card games and board games beforehand."

Lots of other fun stuff will be happening throughout the semester, Nored said. A ski trip to Hidden Valley is being planned for February, she said, as well as a Twister competition in March, a St. Louis Blues game in April, and a horseback riding event also in April.

Mowen was excited to announce that Mirthday will be held on Apr. 21. She didn't want to give away many details about what to expect, but she said it would be a must-attend event.

DEAN, FROM PAGE 1

going to grow over the next few years."

Young said another important concern of the College of Arts and Sciences is in the area of research.

"The University [UM-St. Louis] has a stated goal of becoming a Research II facility," Young said. "We need to look at increasing research productivity and how [we are] going to do that while maintaining quality undergraduate programs. [We need to] get the departments and students involved in talking about what [is] appropriate."

Young said one of the reasons he is looking forward to coming to UM-St. Louis is that this campus is similar to CS-Fullerton, where he did his undergraduate work, and he thinks he has a great understanding of the needs of the kind of students that attend here.

"I'm really excited about coming. It's going to be great," Young said. "I'm a first generation college graduate. I worked the entire time I was attending college. I have a very keen appreciation of what a lot of UM-St. Louis students are going through."

Mowen also touted a new incentive program designed to encourage people to participate both in Mirthday and in other UPB-sponsored events.

"We have decided to give away 'UPB dollars' at every event we sponsor," she said. "People will be able to use the UPB dollars in exchange for [food] on Mirthday

and not have to spend any money on food."

All dates and events are subject to change, Mowen said. Any student interested in getting more details about the various programs and events should contact the UPB by calling 516-5531 or by calling the Office of Student Activities at 516-5291.

HOCKEY, FROM PAGE 5

who could skate as well."

The Rivermen then took on the Illinois Thunder and won 7-6 in overtime.

"We came out fired-up just like in the College of the Page game and played them tough, but then we took some bad penalties leading 5-2," Hessel said.

The Illinois Thunder mounted a comeback to tie up the score, but the Rivermen finally put the

game away in overtime.

Freshman Ryan Craig notched his fourth goal of the game in overtime. He was assisted by Scott Bokal to seal it for the Rivermen.

Other scorers for the Rivermen included Dave Hessel, John Winkler, and Jason Hessel.

The Rivermen return to action Jan. 22-23 to face the University of Illinois.

NFL, FROM PAGE 5

a strong defensive line, the Rams' offense played absolutely miserably the entire year. But there is a bright point—the Rams get another first round draft pick! Just hope they do not spoil this one.

The Arizona Cardinals made the playoffs for the first time in franchise history, only to be slaughtered by the Minnesota Vikings. I just hope that it took its toll on Bill Bidwell.

Speaking of the Vikings, the Rookie of the Year honor will be a landslide with Randy Moss accepting the award. This late first round draft pick was a steal in the draft. Moss has made the Vikings and its explosive offense even more deadly with a talented receiving core.

The Dallas Cowboys bounced back to a respectable team with Troy Aikman and Emmett Smith carrying the load. With these aging superstars, look for the Cowboys to invest in a new crop of young talent during this off-season.

The Green Bay Packers have finally been knocked off their pedestal as the supreme and dominant team of the NFL. The 49ers knocked them off in the first round of the playoffs and put an end to the dominant Packers and their surplus of talent.