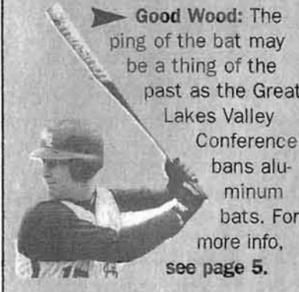




Center of the Storm: As construction continues on the new student center, the debate over future use of the old center continues.
See page 8.



Good Wood: The ping of the bat may be a thing of the past as the Great Lakes Valley Conference bans aluminum bats. For more info, see page 5.

Papal Preparations: How are UM-St. Louisans getting ready for the Pope's visit to our fair city?
See page 3.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Anti-discrimination clause causes stir at U of Florida

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. — When President Betty Castor asked for a state university policy banning sexual-orientation discrimination, she may not have foreseen the controversy it would cause.

Her proposal stalled at last week's Board of Regents meeting, when Chancellor Adam Herbert said it did not have the authority to ban that type of discrimination. Supporters around the state refuse to let it die.

Students and faculty from universities around the state will trek to the Florida Education Building in Tallahassee Monday to protest the BOR's decision.

K.J. Thompson, co-president of USP's Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Coalition, said he hopes to change the regents' minds. His organization plans to unfurl a large scroll listing more than 300 colleges and universities around the country which protect against this type of discrimination and lay it on the front steps of the BOR's office.

"State law is very specific with regard to state agencies and we cannot provide protections that are not specifically authorized by the state Legislature," Herbert said last week.

Regent spokesman Keith Goldschmidt said the BOR could not institute such a policy until the Legislature adopts its own anti-discrimination policy language.

"The Legislature would have to change the law or create the law that would protect sexual orientation, and then we would be able to write our policy off of that," Goldschmidt said.

Thompson said there are several university systems that have enacted similar policies without similar protections in state statutes.

In 1990, Florida International University President "Mitch" Maidique requested a policy similar to Castor's. His request was denied, as were similar requests in 1991 and 1992 by the office of the chancellor.

The chancellor's office said at the beginning of the decade that not only could the SUS not adopt policy banning sexual-orientation discrimination, universities could not do so either. The SUS said there was not sufficient legal precedent.

Index

BULLETIN BOARD 2
 FEATURES 3
 COMMENTARY 4
 SPORTS 5
 CLASSIFIEDS 7
 THE NERD TABLE 7

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The Current

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

January 25, 1999

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vol. 33 Issue 943

Campus senate votes to include non-regulars

BY SUE BRITT
 staff associate

An amendment to the bylaws of the senate allowing non-regular faculty to be granted privileges of senate membership was passed at the last senate meeting on Jan. 19.

The amendment initially proposed to redefine the word "faculty" in the bylaws to include all full-time, non-regular faculty who have at least 50 percent teaching duties each year. During the meeting a motion was made and passed to include those faculty with 50 percent research responsibilities as well. Other motions to include research professor and specialist to the list of titles in the amendment were also passed by the members of the Senate.

Patricia Resick, professor of psychology, discussed the issue of including researchers during the meeting. She said in her department there are researchers who also teach and work with both graduate and undergraduate students and are interested and invested in the workings of the campus.

Move to redefine faculty must pass referendum, Curators

"There are other full-time faculty that have research positions who are not teaching [50 percent] who are integral to the mission of the university," Resick said. "There are not very many of them but they want to be part of the campus."

Joseph Martinich, professor of operations management, expressed concern over the changes to the amendment. He said that adding researchers could risk the possibility that the non-regular faculty may outnumber regular faculty in some departments or that the addition changes the intent of the amendment. He also thought the changes were not discussed at enough length.

"My main concern [was] there was really a major change in the thrust of the amendment without any understanding of how many people are affected by it," Martinich said. "It is my understanding [adding researchers] is something the ad hoc

committee had considered and they decided not to include people who are not in teaching positions."

Martinich was surprised at the quickness of the vote on the change without much discussion. He said he thought people should first consider at length why the ad hoc committee had rejected the idea and what their rationale and thought processes were.

"It was out of character for the senate and I haven't seen that in 19 years," Martinich said, "and when a secret ballot was requested and was denied, I haven't seen that in 19 years."

Optometry professor Dr. William Long of the Bylaws and Rules Committee said the vote before them would not change the bylaws immediately.

see SENATE, page 6

SGA passes new student fee cap

Resolution limits increases on student service, activity fees

BY JOSH RENAUD
 news assistant

The Student Government Association took a step toward "fiscal responsibility," said Benjamin Ash, comptroller for SGA, after the assembly passed his resolution Thursday.

The resolution was written in response to the debate over fee increases at the Dec. 3 SGA meeting. Jim Avery, SGA president, and Michael Rankins, SGA vice-president, supported keeping the student activities and student services fees the same this year because there had been a \$6.05 overall increase in student fees last year. Ash had argued in favor of a slight increase so that a larger increase wouldn't be necessary in future years.

As a result of the passed resolution, the SGA president may not recommend fee increases lower than the rate of inflation. The president is also restricted from recommending a student activities fee increase that is over five cents or a student services fee increase that is more than three cents. The SGA assembly may override this with a

More SGA news, see page 8

see SGA, page 6

New dean to head Optometry school

BY SUE BRITT
 staff associate

A new dean has been hired for the School of Optometry after a two year search. The new dean, Dr. Jack Bennett, took his position Jan. 4.

Dr. Jack Nelson, vice-chancellor of Academic Affairs, said that Bennett is a highly qualified person for the position. Nelson said that Bennett is very energetic and dynamic.

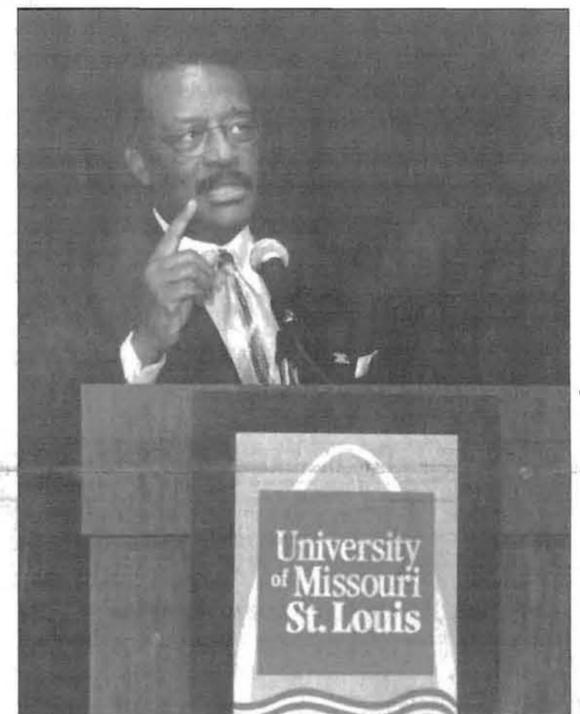
"He comes to us from Indiana University, where he was the dean of their School of Optometry. Indiana University has an internal rule that administrators must relinquish their administrative post at the age of 65. They may remain as faculty. So, when [Bennett] turned 65 he had to step down as dean," Nelson said. "We don't have such a rule."

Nelson said that Bennett has come from a university with a well-respected and well-known School of Optometry.

Bennett was faculty at Indiana University in his early career before moving to Michigan State College of Optometry at Ferris University as their founding dean of optometry. Bennett remained there for 13

see DEAN, page 6

In memory of King . . .



Stephanie Platt/ The Current

It's not just about celebrating every third Monday in January. It's time for us to live his dream every day of the year...

—Johnny Cochran at Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration

Johnny Cochran, who gained national fame during the O.J. Simpson trial, makes a point during his keynote speech Monday. He was on campus to mark the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Cochran visits campus for King's birthday observance

BY JOE HARRIS
 senior editor

Nationally-known attorney Johnny Cochran spoke to a late-arriving crowd at the J.C. Penney Auditorium on Monday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s contributions to society.

Cochran's speech highlighted the ceremony and was met by thunderous standing ovations from the crowd. Cochran emphasized the need to live King's dream every day.

"It's not just about celebrating every third Monday in January," Cochran said in his speech. "It is time for us to live his dream every day of the year, all 365 days. Live in there as Dr. King would when he made a commitment to change this country for the better. We need to be about that business every day."

Cochran spoke about education's role in the equality process and remembered the contributions of Rosa Parks to the civil rights movement.

Cochran concluded his speech by saying, "In the final analysis, it's not always about being popular. What it's about is about being respected and standing for something."

Aside from Cochran's speech, the celebration offered something for everyone. The UM-St. Louis Chamber Orchestra played before the ceremony and Gwendolyn DeLoach-Packnett, director of Multi-Cultural Relations, opened the ceremony with a few remarks.

"Today we have assembled in this auditorium to join with people around the world to celebrate the honor and legacy of [King]," she said. "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. successfully sculptured for himself and others the title 'Drum Major for Justice.'"

Chris White, a UM-St. Louis alumnus, followed DeLoach-Packnett's words with a piano solo to the

see KING, page 6

SGA president, students criticized for absences

BY DAVID BAUGHER
 senior editor

Jeanne Zarucchi, chair of the campus senate warned students at Thursday's SGA meeting that they may lose representation on the senate if student senators and the SGA president do not begin attending its meetings.

"My name is Jeanne Zarucchi and some of you know that because you were elected student senators and I thank all of you who did that," she said. "Unfortunately, I have to admit that I don't recognize your faces and that's because I haven't seen you at senate meetings."

Zarucchi said that student senator attendance has been low since the new senate took office last year and that some in the senate were suggesting that the student contingent may be reduced.

"I came here to report to you what is currently being said about student representation in the senate," Zarucchi said. She also told students during the meeting that SGA

Senate chair says student senators don't attend meetings

President Jim Avery had not been attending the senate's regular or executive committee meetings, as well as meetings of the Chancellor's cabinet and the Intercampus Student Council, which is composed of student government leaders on all four UM campuses.

"President Jim Avery has attended one senate meeting this year but he did not give a report at that meeting," Zarucchi said in a later interview.

Avery said after the meeting that Zarucchi's account was basically accurate, admitting he had not attended the meetings regularly.

"I could give reasons for a lot of things, some of the things I can't give reasons for but I'll just say that what she said is true," Avery said. "I'm not going to try to make an excuse for anything."

Avery said that as a student he was often very busy and

couldn't always clear time on his schedule on short notice for chancellor's cabinet meetings "some of which don't take place on a regular or even semi-regular basis."

"They might take place once every month or once every three months and I'm not going to schedule my life around when the chancellor decides to call me on a Friday afternoon at four o'clock."

Avery said although he had helped revive the Intercampus Student Council in 1997 he has since decided to unaffiliate himself with the organization.

"It wasn't the organization it started out as," Avery said. "It was something totally different."

Avery said that at the senate's regular and executive committee meetings he often felt that there was little reason to

see ZARUCCHI, page 6

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

Bulletin Board

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

Monday, 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.

• **Sally Ebest, "Feminist Pedagogy: Educating the Next Generation of College Professors"** from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in 324 Lucas Hall.

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.

• **"Africa and the Creativity of Dissent in Urban Popular Culture."** A seminar given by Dr. Sandra Barnes, professor of Anthropology, from the University of Pennsylvania from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 331 SSB. Contact: 5753.

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.

Friday, Jan. 29

• **Graffiti Party** at Sigma Tau Gamma. All UMSL students and girls 18 years old

and over are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 1

• **Rivers of Women** — a poetry reading from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

• **Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series III African Culture in America** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in 78 J.C. Penney.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

• **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.

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A new comedy that proves there's more to attraction than meets the eye.

Freddie Prinze Jr.
Rachael Leigh Cook

she's all that

Matthew Lillard Paul Walker Jodi Lyn O'Keefe Kevin Pollak Usher Raymond "Lil' Kim" Jones Kimberly Williams Anne Paquin

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she's all that

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OPENS IN THEATRES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH.

Look for our Valentine's Day issue on Feb. 8.

Pulliam

Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

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

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

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

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam
Fellowships Director
The Indianapolis News
P.O. Box 145
Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

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Through the Looking Glass

YOUR ALUMNI HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Like Alice, you've enjoyed wonderful adventures. Share those experiences with friends during homecoming week at UM-St. Louis.

HOMECOMING HAPPY HOUR & DANCE
February 19 beginning at 5 p.m.
America's Center-Downtown

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February 20
Women's Game 1 p.m.
Buffet 1:30 p.m.
Men's Game 3 p.m.
Mark Twain Building-UM-St. Louis

Call your Alumni Association Office for more details at 314-516-5833.

FEATURES

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

GET THIS

Now I lay me down to sleep, if I die before...

Did you ever have that dream where you are looking over the side of a high cliff and suddenly, without warning, you fall off? Then you're just barreling straight down, gaining speed with every second, and right before you hit the ground, you wake up!

It's a good thing, too, because if you didn't regain consciousness before you hit the bottom, you would actually die. It's true! Your body would have a heart attack or something because of the intense shock it experiences. Your mind would think you were dead, and therefore, you would be dead.

Bummer, huh?

When I first heard this little "fact," I believed it. I thought, "Wow, that's so weird, man. I'm, like, sooo glad I never hit the bottom before, you know?" (I was young, and that was the way we talked for some reason.) In fact, I spread the word, telling my friends and loved ones of the dangers of cliff diving in dreamland.

Then one night, I died in one of my dreams. Now granted, it was not in a free-fall excursion (the planet was blown up by aliens, but that's another story), but I did, in fact, perish from the face of the Earth. It was actually very surreal; all the particles of my body just sort of separated and floated away in different directions.

The next day, I woke up and thanked my lucky stars that I had only been incinerated and not fallen off a cliff. Then I wondered why one particular dying method would differ from another. I got to thinking about the whole theory of physical body failure caused by dream content, in general. I wondered how the research was done exactly. How did the doctors know what the person was dreaming before he or she died? I doubt the deceased was available for comment and, as far as I know, there's no other way to determine that particular factor.

I'm not denying that people do pass away in their sleep. Heck, I'm not even arguing with the possibility that individuals may have expired in this very fashion. I just want to know how it became such a widely accepted idea that death in the subconscious equates a call to the coroner in reality.

Maybe I'm way off base. Maybe the majority of people have never even heard of this phenomenon and would never buy into it if they did.

Everyone that I talked to, however, was familiar with the alleged "fact." Some of them had, like myself, died in their dreams before and thought the whole thing was false. Others fought me on the issue, insisting that it was true. When I pressed and asked how it could be proven, they usually came back with an intelligent response like, "Well... um... it just can be."

As convincing as this argument is, I stand by my statement that this entire concept is a bunch of bunk invented by some bored, although somewhat creative, individual based on very little scientific fact.

It's amazing to me what people will accept as truth without question, myself included.



AMY LOMBARDO
Features Editor

W A 9 7 9 2 9 7 0 J P

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

In April of 1998, an announcement was made that Pope John Paul II would visit St. Louis. Since then, many hours of preparation have been devoted to this historic event. Chancellor Blanche Touhill was selected to be on the committee to plan for Pope John Paul II's visit.

Pope John Paul II has made many changes in the Roman Catholic Church, which have made the church more modern and less worldly. Even from the beginning of his term as bishop, Pope John Paul II chose not to have a coronation. In addition, he chose not to have a sedia gestatoria, which is the elaborate ceremony where the Pope is carried in a chair. Instead, Pope John Paul II invented the "Popemobile." His inauguration was quite simple with only the investment of a pallium, which symbolizes his ministry as Bishop of Rome.

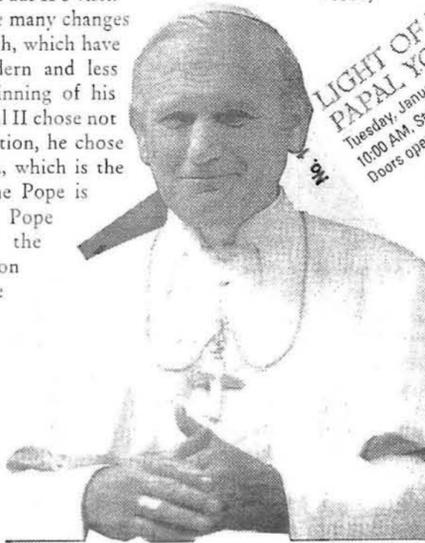
This visit to St. Louis is historic because it is the only time the Pope has come to just one city and not made an actual tour. Before arriving in St. Louis, the Pope will commemorate the Synod on America in Mexico. Pope John Paul II will only be in St. Louis for 32 hours, but no doubt every one of those 32 hours will be memorable. After St. Louis, the Pope will return to Rome.

Dennis and Betty Chitwood manage the Newman House at UM-St. Louis. The Chitwoods are guiding a group of about 150 stu-

dents from UM-St. Louis to see the pope.

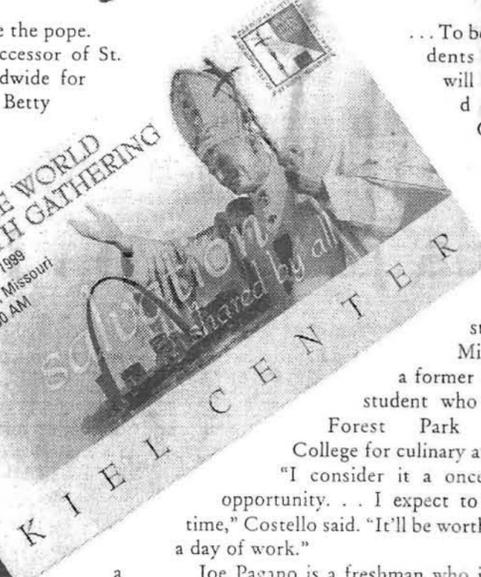
"Our Pope is not just a successor of St. Peter... he is received worldwide for bringing God's truth to all," Betty Chitwood said.

The night before Pope John Paul II's visit,



meet at the chapel in the South Campus Residence Hall at 7:30 a.m. for a short prayer service. From there, they will have breakfast at the Newman House, hop on the MetroLink, and arrive downtown at the Arch. They will parade to the Kiel Center around 9:00.

"The closer it gets, the more excited I become



a vigil will be held at College Church. The day of the visit, the group of UM-St. Louis students will

"I consider it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... I expect to have a good time," Costello said. "It'll be worthwhile to miss a day of work."

Joe Pagano is a freshman who is majoring in nursing.

"I'm kind of excited about seeing him and hearing about how the youth will effect the church," Pagano said.

Jennifer Suedmeyer, a student at UM-St. Louis, is volunteering in order to see Pope John Paul II. Suedmeyer has to be in downtown St. Louis at 1:30 a.m. and will direct traffic until 7:30 p.m.

Suedmeyer called the Pope volunteer line in order to be able to help in the ceremony. Suedmeyer, born and raised Catholic, is looking forward to seeing the Pope.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing. I was more than happy to do what I could," Suedmeyer said.

... To be with our students all together will be just wonderful," Chitwood said. "It's like going on a pilgrimage, except with 150 students."

Mike Costello is a former UM-St. Louis student who now attends Forest Park Community College for culinary arts.

H
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UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratt/staff photographer

If you could be any kind of car, what kind would it be?

"My car Alex, because he's cute and a firm believer in civil rights."

-Devon Jones
Sophomore/Criminal Justice



"New Volkswagon Jetta: They keep going and going and going..."

-Brian Kilpatrick
Senior/Chemistry

"A Lexus, because I like to ride smooth."

-Kawonza Jones
Junior/Criminology



"Acura NSX; so I live out my dreams."

-Scott Foster
Junior/Business/Finance

"A McLaren F1. The reasoning is implicit."

-Christopher Altman
Senior/Psychopharmacology



Women's and gender studies has much to offer campus

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

In this time of ideas about equality for all, for one to see actions take place locally to further the development of such ideas is quite encouraging. The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at UM-St. Louis offers classes and certificates that allow students to learn about gender issues. These classes are not only available for undergraduate students, but also for graduate students.

Nanora Sweet, program director for the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, said that a graduate level program in this area is unique. Sweet does note that there are some classes available on the community college level at Meramec and Forest Park.

At UM-St. Louis, a student can take 18 hours of interdisciplinary classes and earn an undergraduate certificate through the Institute of Women's and Gender Studies. The undergraduate certificate is much like a minor. To earn a graduate certificate, a student must take 18 hours, with nine of those above the 400 level. The graduate certificate allows further education in women's and gender issues.

This semester, there are 19 undergraduate exclusive classes, an independent study, and an internship available. There are three graduate seminars, an internship, and an independent study.

In order to allow access for more students to take these classes, Sweet said the institute is expanding the selection of classes and creating new ones. The institute is also including classes that are already taught to count towards the certificates.

The institute, created in the late 1970's, has changed throughout its 20 year history.

"Over 20 years ago the program was more radical. We were trying to something nobody had done before [and] that part has never stopped for the students. Everything is a new issue to contend with," said Sweet.

In 1993, The Women's Studies Program progressed into the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. This change was precipitated by the graduate certificate first offered in 1991.

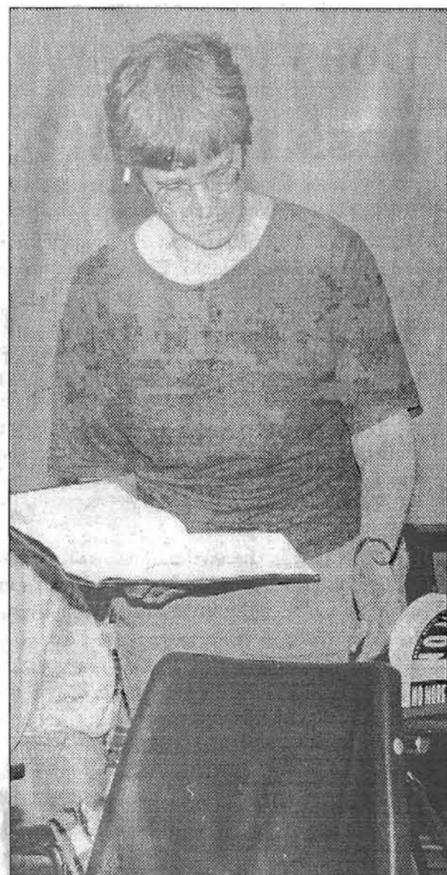
This was made possible through the efforts of women like Harriet Woods. Woods, a former Missouri lieutenant governor and state senator, still teaches a political science class for the institute every fall semester at UM-St. Louis.

In June of 1997, UM-St. Louis hosted the Convention of National Women's Studies Association. Over 1100 people attended this conference.

In addition to directing the institute, Sweet teaches classes in English and women's studies.

"I'm fascinated by the connection between poetry and history," Sweet said. "It allows for a crossover between the private and public."

In the future, the institute could take two possible paths or a combination of both. If the class selection continues, a master's degree and a bachelor's degree will



Sweet

be possible selections for students. If that happens, the institute will become a department.

The other possible outcome is the institute will become more research oriented, in which case the institute would provide professors with time and grants for research in women's studies.

The combination would be the graduate students working towards their master's and conducting research. Then this would be both a department and an institute for research.

"One of the things we would have to do is develop the office more. We need a little bit more meat on the bones in here," Sweet said.

For more information about the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, contact Nanora Sweet at (314) 516-6383, or the department assistant at (314) 516-5581.

"There is really a lot of interest out there," Sweet said. "You just have to open the doors."

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

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

New caps placed on fee increases

The Issue:

A debate over new figures for student activity and student service fees has resulted in a resolution capping fees while insuring that they rise at the rate of inflation.

We Suggest:

The resolution is an excellent way to keep fees in check without compromising the quality of student activities on campus.

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

On Thursday, the Student Government Association passed a resolution meant to settle the fee increase debate that has swirled around SGA for over a year. The resolution calls for the SGA president to call for at least an inflationary increase for the student activity and student service fees each year. Furthermore, the resolution limits the SGA president from recommending an increase of over five cents for student activities fees and three cents for student service fees without 2/3 approval from SGA.

The resolution is seen as a way to maintain fiscal responsibility over the exponential increases that have plagued student fees over the past six years. It comes in lieu of the fee debate in last December's SGA meeting where SGA president Jim Avery favored recommending no increase in student fees while SGA comptroller Benjamin Ash favored a moderate increase of two cents for the student activity fee and three cents for the student service fee.

Avery favored not recommending a raise based on the 25-

cent raise imposed on student fees last year to cover the costs of building the new University Center. Avery did not want to hit students up for a raise two years in a row. However, Ash believed that it would be better to raise it moderately this year instead of having another dramatic increase next year. That way, students would no longer be hit with big student fee increases every other year.

This resolution will benefit UM-St. Louis students in several ways.

First, it guarantees at least an inflationary increase in student fees every year. This increase is needed to keep the current level of student activities as it is. Without this guarantee and without increases, student organizations may suffer and as a result, the quality of student activities will decline.

Another benefit is that it allows room to fund new activities. There are more and more organizations available to UM-St. Louis students every year. With a stagnant budget, no additional

funds will be available for new worthwhile endeavors. Money would then be decreased from current activities to fund these new activities. Again, the quality of student activities would be compromised.

Finally, this resolution does have a cap on the amount the SGA president can recommend. Anything over this amount would have to be approved by 2/3 of SGA. This ensures that there will be no exponential increases without student approval. This way students are finally protected from the major increases of the past six years.

This resolution provides a blanket of protection UM-St. Louis students have needed for several years. It ensures that the quality of student activities will remain constant for years to come and it allows room to grow as student's needs grow without breaking the bank.

This resolution should not be seen as another fee increase, it should be applauded and heralded as a type of fee insurance for UM-St. Louis students.

Grocery store trauma

My local grocery store was out of Macaroni and Cheese, so naturally I got to worrying about the state of modern American life. As a columnist, I am paid to do this. Anyway, when the world's last remaining superpower can't keep a box of pasta and powdered cheese in stock, it clearly indicates cause for alarm. I suspect this is how ancient Rome began its collapse.

Actually, I'm being unfair. They did have Macaroni and Cheese. (I mean the grocery store had it. I don't know about ancient Rome.) There were, in fact, dozens of boxes of it. There was Deluxe Macaroni and Cheese, EasyMac Macaroni and Cheese, Cheesy Alfredo Macaroni and Cheese, White Cheddar Macaroni and Cheese, and Premium Three Cheese Macaroni and Cheese. I found out that Kraft's signature product also comes in many odd, themed shapes, including spirals, "Rugrats," "D.C. Superheroes," "Charlie Brown's Christmas," and "Bugs Bunny and Friends, Special Edition" (in honor of Marvin the Martian's 50th birthday, in case you were wondering).

In fact, it seems the only kind of Macaroni and Cheese they didn't have in stock was... well... Macaroni and Cheese, the plain, simple, honest, God-fearing Macaroni and Cheese packed in the old familiar blue box that didn't come with unheard of cheeses and strange shapes and "special editions." It seemed the original that had started it all had been squeezed off the shelf by ten of its own mutant variations.

Macaroni and Cheese, however, is not the only product to suffer the consequences of over-hyped overselection. Remember Gatorade, the original sports drink that came in easily understandable flavors, such as red, orange, and yellow, all of which tasted pretty much the same. Not anymore. Now Gatorade comes in an assortment of neon colors with super emotive names that sound like rejects from a failed cologne marketing campaign. I can now sample such exotic flavors as Riptide Rush, Alpine Snow, Midnight Thunder, and Glacier Freeze. All titles that say a lot and tell you nothing. (What the heck does "Midnight Thunder" taste like anyway? Wasn't he on American Gladiators for awhile?)

Worse yet are new Gen X "energy" drinks housed in a scary section of the beverage aisle next to the Jolt Cola. These all come in narrow cans with one-word monikers like "Stamina" and "Dynamite." The best looks to be "XTC" which warns that it is "not suitable" for diabetics and persons sensitive to caffeine and advertises itself as "A carbonated slap in the face." I guess they think this is a complement.

But worse still are the products that try to be everything to everybody. For instance in the freezer section, you can find New York brand, European-style, Texas garlic toast. I bought some and it actually tastes pretty good but I have to wonder what marketing genius came up with the idea for garlic toast with a severe identity problem.

Oh, well, I suppose its not important. I'll get used to "Bugs Bunny" Macaroni and Cheese. Maybe I can wash it down with a little Gatorade. "Whitewater Splash" sounds good.



DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

Does food service pass the test?

I had originally intended to write an article that would express my concern and dismay over a terrible and traumatic experience that I had suffered here early last semester, the Fall of '98. I perceived that I was being over priced and under portioned by the food service in the Underground Cafeteria! Yes, it's true! I stood and watched transfixed with shock and horror as the person preparing my order meticulously, obsessively, and compulsively counted out the morsels (not more than two of each item) that I would consume. I was aghast, the incident leaving me dazed and speechless. Bewildered, I shuffled off to the register with my meager meal.

OK, so I exaggerate a little, I didn't really shuffle off to the register. I must stress, however, that after being a faithful and regular customer at The Underground for three semesters (two days a week) I did feel a bit betrayed, that I was no longer getting my money's worth there. Lunch is my main meal for the day and I went off to pursue other options, taking my business elsewhere.

Now it's Winter '99, and my schedule is completely changed. I don't have time between classes to go off campus for lunch. I'm far too lazy, or perhaps yet too crazed with hunger to pack my lunch, so I found myself back at The Underground. I ordered, I braced myself, and you know what? I think that I might have gotten a reasonable portion at the same price that I remembered from a semester ago. The person preparing my order did not use an electron microscope at any time.

Maybe things have changed for the better at The Underground. Maybe my server back in '98 was just having a bad food day. Maybe some that will read this commentary have had experiences similar to mine. I am a firm believer in fair portions at a fair price anywhere that food is served, and will enthusiastically lend my support to any activist movement to reform an unfair system. But at this time I am reserving final judgment on The Underground. Please stand by.



JOE FELSEN
Guest Commentary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arts Center not so good

Thomas Wombacher's argument for the building of the Performing Arts Center brought up a point that should be responded to. Being that Mr. Wombacher says that the millions that the Center needs to be built can be raised by "selling candy", I propose that the only ones who would even step inside the Center (performing arts students) do exactly that: sell candy, or whatever else they can get their hands on. I bet that if the students who are now paying for the Center saw their money going to things that they cared about or needed, like maintaining and improving the University's central departments, neither they nor the faculty would object to this project.

Really, though, Mr. Wombacher doesn't need to write commentaries to get support for the Arts Center. UM-St. Louis is no democracy. Autocracy is more accurate. Under this regime, Blanche Touhill is in charge and her agenda is the one followed. Touhill, in what can only be seen as a quest for self-promotion, runs UM-St. Louis with little regard for the needs of its constituents. When it is convenient for her, she plans new buildings, funds new projects and builds gated communities. She gives little attention to the faculty, even less to the students (you have better odds of winning Powerball than getting a response to an e-mail sent to her) and is doing a pretty good job of suburbanizing UM-St. Louis; that is, of building along the University's borders while destroying its core.

The Performing Arts Center is Touhill's latest scheme for immortality and there is really no way to stop it. Having listened to detailed examinations of the Center's costs and benefits, the Center is a travesty to this campus. Yet, Mr. Wombacher needn't worry, at least until a couple of years down the road when the performing arts departments start to lose funding and faculty despite growing student numbers, all to fund some new project. (Anyone for a new vacuum cleaner research facility?)

If there is one thing that UM-St. Louis is currently excelling in, it's eating the heart out of its central reasons for existing.

-Jake Parker

Invisible SGA President

Where is the SGA President? He failed to attend the University senate meeting Tuesday the 19th.

I noticed that, in your article on the SGA in last week's Current there was no mention of Mr. Avery at all! The article gives the impression that Mr. Rankins and Mr. Ash are doing all of the work. Was any attempt made to contact Mr. Avery?

I think that it's scandalous that the student body is raising no protests against Mr. Avery's lack of appearance at his "job". Perhaps your editorial staff can turn up the heat!

-Gail Ratcliff

When our childhood dreams come true

Let's face it, all of us who have ever dreamt about being a professional athlete have had the same dream--to go out on top.

Whether it's winning the World Series with a home run, scoring the game-winning goal in the Stanley Cup Finals, or winning a gold medal in the Olympics all of us have dreamed of finishing our athletic careers on top.

Unfortunately if you have the coordination I have, a career as a professional athlete is nothing but a dream. Nevertheless, I still want to see my athletic heroes live out this dream for me.

Sadly, though, in many cases the opposite becomes true. Many athletes have such a strong competitive drive that it makes it impossible for them to know when to retire. Fernando Valenzuela, Sugar Ray Leonard, and Wayne Gretzky are just a few of the athletes who have waited too long to say good-bye.

It is sad as we see our heroes deteriorate before our very eyes. Before long the glorious memories we have of them are replaced by newer memories of failure and dejection.

However, there are some athletes who left their respective sports while still on top. Rocky Marciano, Michael Jordan, John Elway, and Mario Lemieux are just a few. They left their respective sports while our best memories of them were still fresh in our minds.

Marciano became the undisputed Heavyweight champion of the world on September 23, 1952 when he knocked out Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round of their championship bout.

The victory moved Marciano's record to 43-0. He defended his title six times and retired 49-0 with 43 knockouts. Marciano was one of the best heavyweights ever and he left before losing a fight.

Jordan is simply the best basketball player ever and he topped his career off by hitting the shot that gave the Chicago Bulls their sixth championship in eight years.

Jordan was more than stats, though, we knew him as a person. We mourned with him when his father was killed, we cheered when he came back to basketball after his first retirement, heck, we even knew what kind of underwear he wore.

Elway will probably retire after winning his second super bowl in as many years on January 31. Who can forget the countless last minute game-winning drives he has engineered, or the play-off heroics that have come to symbolize his career?

Lemieux was still one of the top players in the NHL when he retired. He led the Pittsburgh Penguins to two straight Stanley Cup titles. Though he had to battle Hodgkin's disease during his career, he still finished with a higher points per game average than the "Great Gretzky."

These athletes have left us with memories of greatness and of accomplishment. They left still having the aura of invincibility only associated with professional sports. Most of all, they let us live out our dreams.

Thank you.



JOE HARRIS
Managing Editor

SPORTS

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OFF THE WALL

Tyson's just a shadow of former self

Mike Tyson may be one of the greatest boxers ever to don the gloves. He is certainly the most dominating athlete of his era. That era ended, though, when he bit Evander Holyfield's ear almost two years ago. Mike Tyson is washed up.

Tyson proved in his most recent fight that he no longer has the magic that made him the best in the business. He still does have more than most boxers in the business—one of the best knock-out punches in the world.

The big KO punch is what has kept Tyson around. Unlike plodding oafs like George Foreman and Larry Holmes, Tyson will not be able to last forever.

Foreman and Holmes' boxing plan is to slowly wear down their opponent. Tyson's plan, on the other hand, is worked entirely around speed and knockout power.

In his fight against Francois Botha, he proved that he still has the power. He caught Botha with a punch in the fifth round, ending the fight. Looking at the punch the first time, it didn't look like much. But coming from Tyson, even a jab has the ability to put any fighter on the canvas.

I'm not saying that in any way Tyson has lost his ability to fight, not by a long shot. Though he struggled early against Botha's holding tactics, he figured out how to win. That is what boxing is all about, winning at any cost. In future matches he will find that the fighters don't fall as easy. They will punch harder and will be quite a bit smarter than Botha. He could be in trouble at that point.

The comparisons between Tyson and Muhammad Ali are almost uncanny. Both were almost unbeatable before they left boxing for the first time. Ali left due to his religious beliefs; Tyson left for his prison time. And both struggled to regain their form after their imposed retirements. Ali returned a great fighter and entertainer. Tyson returned several weeks ago a beaten and confused man looking for the fighter he was in his younger days.

In interviews Tyson seems friendly, but sadly confused. Will he ever go back to being "Kid KO" or will fans in the future look at Tyson as a sad case of wrong decisions and a man who was washed up before his time? I think more of the latter. When he lost his youthful love of the sport, it seemed to eat him alive.

Now instead of wanting to win fights for pride, for the simple fact that in his eyes no one could be better than him, we have a man that boxes for the money.

The sport and life have beaten Mike. This is one fight from which he won't get up.

Sure, he may fight again, and he may regain his old titles. But the Tyson of today is half the fighter he used to be. It could be time to say good-bye to one of the greats.

Maybe Mike should hang them up.



KEN DUNKIN
sports editor

GLVC bans aluminum bats for conference play

Officials cite safety concerns as main reason for the change

BY KEN DUNKIN
sports editor

To use wooden bats or to use aluminum bats—that was the question posed to the athletic directors of the Great Lakes Valley Conference last Friday.

The directors of the GLVC schools decided by a 12-0 vote to use wooden bats in conference play beginning this season. The decision was made for safety reasons.

"We thought it would be best for everyone involved to make the move to wooden bats," said Jim Brady, head coach for the Rivermen baseball team. "We were concerned about the exit speed that the ball comes out at. It had become very lethal and dangerous. We felt it was our obligation to make the move in the direction of safety."

Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis' athletic director, pointed out in her speech to the Rivermen baseball team that several players had been killed last season due to the speed of baseballs that had come from aluminum bats.

The integrity of the game was also in question with the GLVC officials.

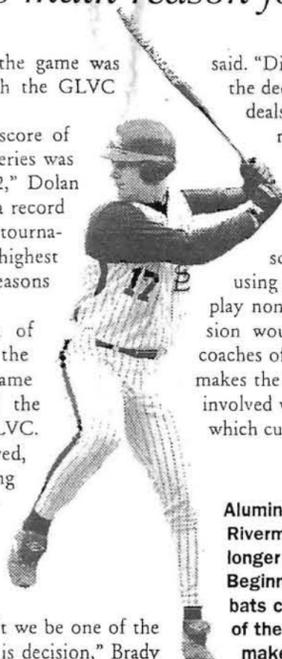
"Last season the score of the College World Series was something like 26-22," Dolan said. "They also set a record for home runs in a tournament with 62. The highest total in previous seasons was in the 40's."

The combination of safety issues and the integrity of the game sealed the fate of the metal bat in the GLVC. For everyone involved, the benefits of using the wooden bats outweighed the convenience of using aluminum.

"We figured, why not us? Why couldn't we be one of the first ones to make this decision," Brady

said. "Division I schools wouldn't make the decision because of their lucrative deals with the bat companies. We may cause some controversy, but it had to be done. There were too many issues that we had to address."

Also decided in the ruling, schools would have the option of using wood or aluminum when they play non-conference games. The decision would be left between the head coaches of the opposing teams. If a team makes the regional tournament, the team involved would follow the binding rules, which currently is to use aluminum.



Aluminum bats like the one used by Riverman Eric Blaha (left) will no longer be allowed in GLVC play. Beginning this year, only wooden bats can be used. The GLVC is one of the first NCAA conferences to make the switch.

Why Wood?

Last summer 17-year-old Julius Rlofir was struck in the head by a ball hit with an aluminum bat. The impact fractured his skull and killed him.

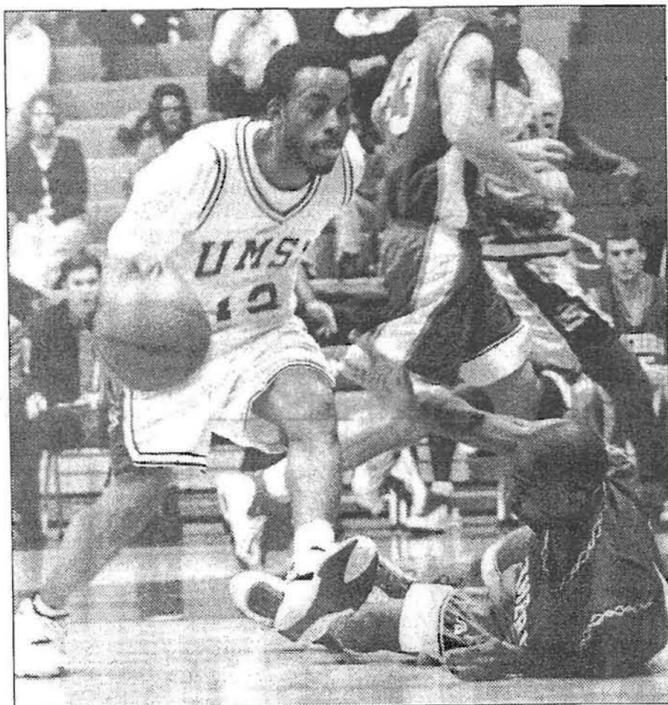
Three pitchers on the Lawrence Kansas High School team were injured from line drives off of aluminum bats last year.

More deaths occur in youth baseball and softball than any other sport.

An average of four kids die each year after being struck by the ball.

*Information courtesy of Associated Press and Heart-Gard

Coming through!



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Rivermen guard Greg Ross runs over a Southern Indiana defender in their game on Jan. 6. Ross led the Rivermen with 20 points in their win over Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday. The win improved the Rivermen's record to 3-9 in the GLVC and 5-11 overall.

Rivermen end skid

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

The first battle between UM-St. Louis and Wisconsin-Parkside was a rout; the second battle was very close.

The first time around, the Rivermen beat their fellow conference cellar dweller 70-49. The second battle at Wisconsin-Parkside saw the Rivermen win 69-66.

The Rivermen played well for most of the game, getting quality 3-point shots. They shot 53 percent from the 3-point arc. Greg

Ross was on fire as he shot 7-11 overall and hit 4 of his 7 shots from 3-point range. He had a team high 20 points for the game.

Terrell Alexander also had a good game. He shot 7-11 and had 18 points for the game. He also led both teams with eight rebounds.

Guard Jason Frillman continued his good scoring stretch as he scored 12 points.

Winning the game put the Rivermen at 5-11 overall and 3-9 in the GLVC. Wisconsin-Parkside dropped to 0-13 in the GLVC and 1-16 overall.

Riverwomen fall in OT

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team lost to Kentucky-Wesleyan by the score of 100-105, putting their conference record at 6-5 in the GLVC.

Kentucky-Wesleyan outscored UM-St. Louis 40-31 in the first half, but the Riverwomen rallied in the second half to outscore their conference opponent 58-49 to send the game into overtime.

In the overtime, Kentucky-Wesleyan put the game away for good as they outscored the Riverwomen 16-11.

The Riverwomen were paced by six players who finished with double digits in scoring.

Tawanda Daniel led the charge with 22 points, followed by Melanie Marcy's 18, Amanda Wentzel added 14 to the losing effort, Sara Mauck finished with 12, Katy Gwaltney scored 11 and Lindsay Brefeld

added 10 points.

Marcy ended up with a double-double in this intense and high scoring game with 18 points, and 13 rebounds.

The key point of the game was during the first half. The Riverwomen shot .300 from the floor while Kentucky-Wesleyan shot a tremendous .538.

Overall, the Riverwomen shot .900 from the free throw line, which enabled them to reach the overtime.

The Riverwomen then moved on two days later to beat Wisconsin-Parkside 83-54.

UM-St. Louis shot .522 from the floor in the game and outscored Wisconsin-Parkside 50-27 in the second half.

Wentzel led the Riverwomen's charge with 23 points, followed by Krystal Logan who added 14 and Marcy who finished with 10.

The Riverwomen move on to play IUPU-Ft. Wayne at home Jan. 28.

Hockey team offers bus to Friday's game

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis men's hockey team, along with Student Activities, will sponsor a shuttle bus on Friday, Jan. 29 to escort fans to and from the U.S. Ice Complex in Chesterfield to see the Rivermen take on the Tigers of Missouri.

The shuttle bus will require an initial deposit of \$5 which will be refunded to the students as soon as they board the bus.

Sign-ups for this event will take place in Student Activities.

Before the team and bus depart to take on the Tigers, the ice hockey team will be in the J.C. Penney building, Room 72 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. to answer any questions anyone may have for them. Refreshments will be provided.

"This is just a way to get anyone who wants to come along and have some fun," Team Captain Jason Hessel said.

"We are on the brink of getting a bid to the national tournament, and we would appreciate any fan support that we can get."

Rupp named Cards class A skipper

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

Former Rivermen baseball player Brian Rupp worked his way up the Cardinals' minor league system. Last week he got word he wouldn't be playing anymore; he would be managing.

Rupp had been a player for the past five seasons having had .300 season after .300 season. Last season he was stymied at the Cardinals' AAA farm team.

While he sat on the bench, the younger players played. This winter, he became a 5-year free agent after having played for one team for five years without being added to the major league roster.

He had hoped to hook on with another club. However, the Cardinals had

I wish he would have gotten his shot at the majors, but most players can play forever and never get the shot that he is getting.

Jim Brady, Rivermen head coach

other plans for Rupp. They named him manager of their Peoria farm team of the

Midwest League. Rupp will take control of the class A ball team in the coming weeks.

"Brian got as close as anyone can get to major league baseball," Rupp's former coach Jim Brady said. "I feel sort of mixed about the decision, though. I wish he would have gotten his shot at the majors, but most players can play forever and never get the shot that he is getting."

Rupp is getting the opportunity to run a team at age 27. Most of his players will be younger players recently drafted into the Cardinals' farm system.

Rupp played for the Rivermen through the 1991-93 seasons.

GLVC Basketball Standings/Upcoming Games

| Men | | | Women | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| | GLVC | Overall | | GLVC | Overall |
| Kent. Wesl. | 11-1 | 18-1 | N. Kentucky | 10-2 | 14-2 |
| S. Indiana | 9-3 | 13-3 | SIUE | 9-3 | 11-4 |
| N. Kentucky | 9-3 | 12-4 | Bellarmine | 9-3 | 11-5 |
| Lewis | 7-4 | 10-5 | S. Indiana | 9-3 | 11-8 |
| Indianapolis | 7-4 | 9-6 | St. Joseph's | 7-4 | 10-5 |
| SIUE | 6-6 | 7-8 | Lewis | 7-4 | 10-5 |
| Quincy | 5-6 | 6-8 | UM-St. Louis | 7-5 | 8-8 |
| Bellarmine | 5-7 | 8-10 | Kent. Wesl. | 6-6 | 10-6 |
| St. Joseph's | 4-7 | 5-10 | Indianapolis | 2-9 | 6-10 |
| IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 4-8 | 7-9 | Quincy | 2-9 | 3-12 |
| UM-St. Louis | 3-9 | 5-11 | Wis-Parkside | 1-11 | 2-14 |
| Wis.-Parkside | 0-12 | 0-9 | IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 1-11 | 1-15 |

As of 1/23/99

As of 1/23/99

This Week:

Thursday, January 28

Riverwomen vs. IUPU-Ft. Wayne at 5:30pm

Rivermen vs. IUPU-Ft. Wayne at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 30

Riverwomen vs. St. Joseph's at 5:30pm

Rivermen vs. St. Joseph's at 7:30pm

All games played at Mark Twain Gym

Movie Review

'Red Line' differs sharply from 'Ryan'

The Thin Red Line
Rated R
Running time 160 minutes
Now Playing

James Jones' book The Thin Red Line tells of the experiences of a group of American soldiers during the battle of the Guadalcanal during World War II.

Director Terrence Malick (whose previous films include the beautiful classic film Days of Heaven) retains his ability to produce beautiful, lush, natural images in his story, and this film tells a story about a horrible war being carried out in what would otherwise be a beautiful Pacific island setting.

The story is told through an ensemble cast rather than one main character, passing through each man's concerns and thoughts as they face combat. Beautiful shots of both the natural beauty of the land and the graceful lives of the Pacific Islanders, whose world they are passing through, reoccur throughout the action of the battle and also in one soldier's thoughts of the islanders' peaceful, natural existence, and serve to tie together the various stories.

The film periodically employs an intriguing technique of using a voice-

over for the character's thoughts, interspersed with their conversation, and this effect produces a counterpoint of their motives against their actions.

Like Saving Private Ryan, this film deals with the ugliness of war, and the bad and good that war unexpectedly brings out of individuals, but in tone, intent, and appearance, this is a very different kind of film. This film is collecting a great deal of critical acclaim, and while I enjoyed it myself, for many moviegoers it will present some problems. The film is three hours long, with a languid pace and long-running shots, with certain images revisited frequently.

The Thin Red Line is a much more artistically serious film than the popular Saving Private Ryan, in the best sense of both those terms, but it will not appeal to everyone. Others may find its unique visual style and storytelling approach well worth seeing.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

ZARUCCHI, FROM PAGE 1

give a report since he believed that the faculty members did not listen to student input. He said he was sometimes "cut off" in the middle of sentences.

Avery said that he had sometimes designated people to attend functions to represent SGA but that often those people did not show up.

Avery said he has now designated SGA

comptroller Ben Ash to attend such meetings.

"My main objective is to worry about students and student government," Avery said.

Zarucchi said that she had previously asked Avery to come to senate meetings or send a representative. She also said that elected student senators should take their

responsibilities more seriously.

"Faculty who serve on the senate are expected to be there for every meeting," Zarucchi said. "So are students and if students find that they are not able to attend during the hour of the senate meeting then they [should] resign their seat in favor of someone else who is willing to serve."

Zarucchi said she did not know how many students miss senate meetings because attendance is not taken. She also said that although there was no specific proposal to reduce the number of student seats, future changes to the bylaws might occur.

"It's always an issue of who's there and who's not there," she said.

KING, FROM PAGE 1

song "Precious Glory," one of King's favorite songs. He was followed by Erica Ball, a junior at UM-St. Louis, whose harp solo drew a raucous standing ovation.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill then spoke about King's devotion to the silent majority and the impact of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"What I perhaps will remember most about the teachings of Dr. King is not his rousing commentaries against the promoters of racial discrimination and hatred, but his eloquent prodding of the silent majority. In the end Dr. King said, "We will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends," Touhill said.

The UM-St. Louis Chamber Chorus followed Touhill. They were led by Professor Robert Ray and were accompanied by White on the piano. Then a segment of "War and Peace, 1940-1950" was shown.

The segment was a collaborative effort between KETC and the Missouri Historical Society. The piece focused on the changing racial climate, along with the changes to St. Louis society after World War II ended.

"[War and Peace] suggested that when people got tired of being sick and tired, they did something about it. And then it suggested that when people work together, change is inevitable," DeLoach-Packnett said.

Cochran followed "War and Peace" with his speech and was followed by Dr. Rudolph King. King

represented the government of the people of the Bahamas and is King's cousin.

He urged the audience to keep his cousin's dreams and visions alive through their own actions.

David Anthony Johnson then captivated the crowd with a spine tingling oration of King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Johnson, a professional vocalist, gave an oratorical presentation that caught the emotion of King's speech.

Johnson was treated to a standing ovation that lasted several minutes after finishing "I Have a Dream."

The UM-St. Louis Community Chorus took the stage again, and seized the emotional spark planted in the audience by Johnson. The chorus sang "He Never Failed Me Yet," a song written by Ray that featured a solo from his wife Sylvia Ray. By the middle of the song, the audience was on its feet, cheering and clapping along.

Shirley LaFlora, a well-known international poet, and Dwayne Bosman, from the Bosman Brothers, followed the Community Chorus. They finished the celebration by performing two works of LaFlora's, "Beyond the Rapture" and "Dream Eaters."

The audience's attention was glued to LaFlora and Bosman, especially during the reading of "Beyond the Rapture," when Bosman accompanied the reading with a version of "Amazing Grace" on an alto flute.

To top the ceremony off, the audience finished by joining hands and singing "We Shall Overcome."

SENATE, FROM PAGE 1

"We are not allowed to re-define faculty," Long said, "The curators define faculty."

The Senate vote on this issue is only a first step in a process. Jeanne Zarucchi, senate chair, said the procedure to change the bylaws is more complicated than that.

"When a bylaw change is proposed there is a multistep process. It has to go to the general faculty in a ballot referendum. If in fact the faculty members pass it, it has to go to the board of curators," Zarucchi said, "We've just taken an important first step."

SGA, FROM PAGE 1

two-thirds majority vote.

"What this is basically saying is that we want to approach the student [services and activities] fees fiscally responsibly," Ash said. "We don't want to see anyone not increase them, yet we don't want them increased 30 or 40 cents at a time without [student] input."

Ash said that because of the growing number of student organizations, the fees should be raised slightly every year.

"This is just there to make sure we keep up with the rate of inflation and don't go into a hole," he said. "This says that, at the very least, there will be an inflationary increase recommendation on the table every year."

Ash was quick to point out that only the president is restricted by this resolution. If students want to recommend a very large fee increase, SGA can vote to do so with a two-thirds majority.

"Don't make a mistake," Ash urged. "What it says is that if the president had 80 new organizations and we were desperately low on funding, at that point you would have to have 66 percent of the assembly agree on it, instead of the normal 50."

The resolution was also intended to send a message to the administration, Ash said.

"We want to increase [the fees] gradually to show them that we are not the type of organization that wants exponential [fee] increases anymore," he said. "We thought the best way we could tell the administration was by showing them."

Ash said the SGA would recommend a two-cent increase in student activity fees and a three-cent increase in student service fees for this year.

Corrections

In Issue 942, incorrect information was provided about ticket prices and a location for the Homecoming Dance.

The dance will be held at America's Center Feb. 19. Tickets will cost \$10 for one, \$17.50 for a couple, or \$75 for a table of ten.

DEAN, FROM PAGE 1



Bennett

years before returning to Indiana University as their dean of optometry. He was dean there for 11 years before having to abdicate his deanship and was still there when approached to consider coming to UM-St. Louis.

"I was dean emeritus. [This title] has some significant meaning in a university setting," Bennett said. "I was still an active, tenured full professor."

Bennett said that he was happy to return to the position he has enjoyed for more than 20 years as dean of optometry and is looking forward with pleasure to working with the people he has met here.

"I'm very pleased to be here. There is a challenge here but also the potential for great opportunity," Bennett said. "There is a great potential to accomplish some really great things here."

Valentine's Day advertisement for Shopping.com featuring various products like phone cards, books, and nutrition supplements.

Marines advertisement featuring a Marine officer in uniform and the slogan 'We'll Give You 10 Weeks'.

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CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS 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.

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Misc

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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.

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U Center resolution tabled in SGA; president vows to keep old center

BY JOSH RENAUD
news assistant

It's back to the drawing board for Jim Avery, president of the Student Government Association. Because his resolution failed to pass at last Thursday's SGA meeting, Avery must now plan a new strategy for keeping the current University Center under "student control."

The resolution claimed that the administration wishes to take control of the current University Center, when the new University Center is built. The Center is scheduled for completion next year. If it had passed, the resolution would have expressed the SGA's desire to continue the use of the present University Center for students.

"The problem I saw is that students paid for this building, so it should continue to be used by the students," he said. "The administration shouldn't come over here and make it its new office."

Most of the representatives at the meeting seemed to agree with this idea but felt the resolution would not be convincing to the administration. Several students said the resolution should include specific details and examples of students uses for the building, rather than a vague statement.

The assembly decided to table the resolution until the next SGA meeting and develop ideas during the time in between.

"I'm glad we got so much dialogue," Avery said about the meeting. "It's nice to hear other people's input and that was the purpose of the meeting. Now I am going to go back and rewrite [the resolution] to be a little bit more specific. We're going to put together a committee, and we have a plan."

Avery mentioned several possible new uses for the present University Center, including using it to house a new computer lab, a fitness center, a quiet study lounge, and additional space for student organizations, or even converting it into a first-class Alumni Center.

"Mizzou has an Alumni

Center and a University Center," he said. "Rolla has two university centers, so we wouldn't be setting a precedent. I've thought of a hundred things we could do with this place."

Most of his ideas would require money to pay for building renovations, Avery acknowledged. While it might be difficult, Avery said he believes that it would be possible to raise the necessary funds.

"It would be an expensive thing," Avery said. "I'd have to sit down with someone who knows numbers and see the operating budget, but I think it's very realistic. Rolla and Mizzou do it, so there's at least two other schools in the Missouri system that [have been] able to do it."

Between now and the next SGA meeting, Avery said he will assemble a committee and work with them to develop a plan.

"Basically, I want to get things rolling," Avery said. "We will do all we can do, and hopefully the next president will take charge and continue to press for student control of the building until it becomes reality."



Stephanie Platt/The Current
Progress continues on the new University Center as controversy swirls around the future use of the present Center. SGA President Jim Avery has said he wishes to keep the Center for student use.

Movie Review

Thumbs up for Travolta in tragic 'Civil Action'

A Civil Action (PG-13)
Running time: 118 minutes
Opened Jan. 8

A *Civil Action* is a film based on a true story of a lawsuit that was filed by some families in a small town after several children died of leukemia. The families believed the condition was caused by the town's heavily-polluted drinking water.

The story pivots on personal injury lawyer Jan Schlichtmann (played by John Travolta), and the confrontations between the lawyers on the opposing sides. The town's water problem appears to be connected to the presence of two industrial sites, owned by two different large corporations, and it is their presence that draws Schlichtmann into the case with expectations of a lucrative cash settlement.

The situation soon becomes more complex. The case is not as straightforward as it appears at first. The acting was good, especially Robert Duvall as a rather eccentric lawyer on the opposing side. As the case progresses, it takes over Schlichtmann's life and eventually changes him into a different person, not all of the changes for the good.

I found the story appealing and tragic, and free of stereotypes without being free of drama. I would recommend this moving story about tragic loss, muddled responsibilities, and obsessions.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

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