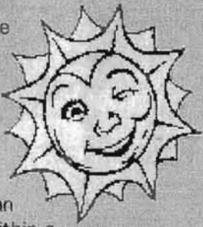




**Wound Up:** Baseball Riverman go 4-for-4 after tough opening loss to Westminster. They'll now gear up for a trip to Florida. For all the stats and details on the games, see page 5.

**Spring Broke?:** Need a spring get-away on the cheap? Check out our spring break insert detailing how you can have fun within a day's drive. See inside.



**A Taste of Japan:** The Japanese Student Association hosts its annual dinner at UM-St. Louis.

See page 3.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**Alabama SGA candidate victim of racial threats**

(U-WIRE) TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Student Government Association Presidential candidate Fabien Zinga received a threatening phone call loaded with racial slurs late Monday night, and he believes the University's underground fraternity-based organization known as "the Machine" was behind the threat.

"I could tell by the voice on the phone that it was a white man," said Zinga, a senior in pre-med. "He mainly said a lot of curse words, but the one thing that really caught my attention was when he said they were going to hang me up on a tree."

The University Department of Public Safety is investigating, but Zinga said he believes the Machine is the culprit.

The Machine, a select coalition of traditionally white fraternity and sorority members designed to influence campus politics, has a long history on the University campus.

In 1993, presidential hopeful Minda Riley was attacked, allegedly by a member of the Machine, resulting in then-Vice President of Student Affairs Harry Knopke's shutting down the SGA.

Chris Strong, one of Zinga's opponents, received several phone calls threatening physical harm three weeks prior to the start of campaigning. Amanda Jarrell, Strong's campaign manager, also said she was threatened by phone. Strong said there is a possibility the Machine is involved, but he does not want to point a finger yet. Jarrell said she thinks someone is willing to do anything they can to eliminate the competition.

Strong said he did not report the calls placed to himself and Jarrell because he knew things such as that would happen when he decided to run for office.

University President Andrew Sorensen condemned the threat, but said talk of shutting down the SGA was premature.

In addition to the threatening call, 14 of the 16 signs Zinga and his supporters put out on campus have been either destroyed or vandalized.

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# The Current

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

March 15, 1999

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vol. 33 Issue 950

## This Old Barn



Stephanie Platt/The Current

A crowd gathers outside The Arena demolition site after the historic building was torn down Feb 27. For student reaction to the demolition of the "Old Barn," and photos of its final moments, see page 6.

## SGA constitution to be presented at next meeting

BY DAVID BAUGHER  
 senior editor

SGA President Jim Avery and Comptroller Ben Ash have apparently come to an agreement regarding the presentation of a new constitution to the student body.

Avery said Ash will allow a version of the constitution he worked on over the summer to be revised and voted on by the assembly before the end of the semester. Ash had earlier withdrawn his document from consideration after becoming discouraged by poor attendance at special meetings held to revise SGA's governing document.

"Ben and I had a discussion and decided mutually that the best thing for SGA would be for Ben to bring forward the constitution that he worked so diligently on and we will have the presentation at the next meeting and all the members can go back and review it to make any necessary changes," Avery said.

Ash and Avery both said that the new constitution makes no major changes from the old one though both agreed it would clear up vague or imprecise wording from the old document.

"It's a lot cleaner, a lot more to the point, a lot better organized, a lot fewer mistakes, a lot of things that have been fleshed out..." Ash said.

Ash said that the document was not all it could have been however.

"I've always said that this is a skeleton constitution," Ash said. "Perhaps that's what this school wants, something that has a lot of stuff that can be read into it instead of a lot of hard and fast rules."

According to the SGA bylaws the Assembly must pass the new constitution by a two-thirds majority before it moves to a vote of the student body. Avery said that the SGA election has been delayed until late next month in order to give the student body a chance to pass the constitution while electing SGA officers. The document needs a simple majority of the student body to pass.

"Instead of having an election and then ten days later have another election, the plan was that we were going to wait until after the SGA meet-

**Ash, Avery decide against proposed student group freezes, see page 7.**

## VITA program helping community with income tax return assistance

BY SUE BRITT  
 staff associate

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is sending volunteers to assist area citizens with their income tax returns, while new tax laws could allow UM-St. Louis students to save on taxes this year.

The UM-St. Louis program, sponsored by the School of Business Administration, has been operating since 1973 and is the largest university-based income tax service in the region. Volunteers, including upper-division undergraduate and graduate accounting students, alumni, and certified public accountants assist senior and low-to-moderate income tax payers at several locations throughout the area. The service began Feb. 13 and will continue until the middle of April.

Lindell Chew, instructor in the School of Business Administration, is faculty advisor for and co-founder of the VITA program. Chew said there have been some recent changes to the income tax laws that may be of interest to college students or parents of college students.

Chew said that there is a new deduction for student loan interest paid within the first 60 months that interest is due for up to

### New tax law changes may benefit college students

\$1,000. Chew said this is subject to reduction or elimination depending on the level of modified adjusted gross income.

There are another couple of new deductions to benefit college students or their parents. One is the Hope Scholarship credit and the other is the Lifetime Learning credit.

"There's some real benefit here in terms of educational expenses," Chew said. "The Hope Scholarship credit is a tax credit for tuition and related expenses incurred for the first two years of post-secondary education. So it could be trade school, it could be junior college, community college, or it could be a four year university like [UM-St. Louis]. The credit is a maximum of \$1,500 per student. So, that's a big chunk if you can shelter \$1,500 of tuition and related expenses."

The Lifetime Learning credit applies to tuition and related

see VITA, page 7

## Campus senate election turnout reported as high

BY SUE BRITT  
 staff associate

Turnout for senate student elections was higher this year than last. The cause of the increase was credited to a combination of factors by the staff of the office of the senate.

This year 317 students voted for other students running for senate seats compared to the turnout last year of 224. There were also two more students running for the 25 available student seats than last year. Forty-four ran this year.

Sue English of the senate office said a strong group of students brought awareness to the student body concerning the need for involvement in senate issues.

"We had a great student subcommittee [this year] that made sure we had volunteers to man the polls," English said. "They passed out hundreds of flyers. They put them in each student organization mailbox and on billboards. They also talked to different professors and asked them to [announce the elections]."

English said the advertising and articles in *The Current* also increased consciousness

regarding the senate elections this year. English said that with all the discussion about lack of student involvement in the senate and in the Student Government

**"I just encouraged the professors to model the right behavior for the students. [I asked them to help] recruit students they felt would take the responsibility [of senator] and [to help recruit] volunteers."**

Gail Babcock, co-chair of the senate student election committee

Association, students were more encouraged to take a stand. She said the students who voted may have been trying to convey that they do care and will become involved.

English also said Gail Babcock was a vital contributor to the success this year. Babcock, a co-chair of the election committee, spoke before the senate at its last meeting, and English said that she set a good example for the rest of the students.

"I just encouraged the professors to model the right behavior for the students," Babcock said. "[I asked them to help] recruit students they felt would take the responsibility [of senator] and [to help recruit] volunteers."

Babcock said the support of the staff at the polls was a great help. She said more than half of the volunteers were faculty and staff.

"They deserve credit," Babcock said, "[because] it wasn't about them, it wasn't for them—it was for the students."

## Winter's Comeback



Stephanie Platt/The Current

A goose leaves his footprints in the snow after a brief winter storm hit campus early last week. The storm coated the area with about half an inch of ice and snow, most of which melted within hours.

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

**Monday, Mar. 15**

• **Monday Noon Series: The New Bauhaus—A Slide Talk.** Myron Kozman, a former student at UM-St. Louis, provides an overview of the efforts to transplant the pedagogical principles of the famous German art school to Chicago in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **Women's Expo** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 78 J.C. Penney to educate and inform UM-St. Louis students, faculty, and staff on local and national issues involving women and equal rights and to bring UM-St. Louis and the community together to work as one towards our common goal. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Organization.

• **Picture Day** with 105.7 The Point, Beach Volleyball and Caricatures is part of Horizons Peer Educators Safe Spring Break Week. Horizons will be in the U-Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up for the free drawing. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5730.

**Tuesday, Mar. 16**

• **Living On Your Own.** Patrice Dollar of the University of Missouri's

Extension Program will discuss how to set up your own living space within a budget from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

• **The Alcohol Awareness Day Mocktail Party** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the U-Center is part of Horizons Peer Educators Safe Spring Break Week. Sign up for the free drawing. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5730.

**Wednesday, Mar. 17**

• **Taize Prayer**, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in 156 U-Center, is a quiet, meditative time for scripture, music and prayer sponsored by campus ministries. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

• **Women's Expo** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 78 J.C. Penney to educate and inform UM-St. Louis students, faculty, and staff on local and national issues involving women and equal rights and to bring UM-St. Louis and the community together to work as one towards our common goal. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Organization.

• **BASIC FITNESS AND WEIGHT LOSS CLASS** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Safe Sex Day** pledges, condom roses, and information from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the U-Center is part of Horizons Peer Educators Safe Spring Break Week. Sign up for the free drawing. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5730.

**Thursday, Mar. 18**

• **Mathclub Film Series: "Chances of a Lifetime: Probability"** will be at 2 p.m. in 132 SSB.

• **Sun Care Day** pledges, sunglasses, and information from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the U-Center is part of Horizons Peer Educators Safe Spring Break Week. Sign up for the free drawing. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5730.

**Monday, Mar. 29**

• **Monday Noon Series: "The Screened-In Porch": Considerations of the Play** will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in 222 J.C. Penney. Ron Himes, director, St. Louis Black Repertory Company, and members of the cast talk about the current pro-

duction of "The Screened-In Porch." Vetta Sanders Thompson, associate professor of psychology, UM-St. Louis, and Shirley LeFlore, adjunct professor of English, UM-St. Louis, explore various psychological and family issues raised in the play. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

**Wednesday, Mar. 31**

• **Taize Prayer**, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in 156 U-Center, is a quiet, meditative time for scripture, music and prayer sponsored by campus ministries. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

• **Trailblazers Awards Ceremony** at 12 p.m. in the Summit Lounge.

**Thursday, Apr. 1**

• **Mathclub Film Series: "Shape of the World: Exploration"** will be at 2 p.m. in 132 SSB.

**Monday, Apr. 5**

• **Monday Noon Series: The Meaning of Life** will be held in 222 J.C. Penney. Thaddeus Metz, assistant professor of philosophy, UM-St. Louis, outlines some non-religious perspectives on what makes a life worthwhile. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

## Campus CrimeLine

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

**March 1, 1999**

A student reported that between 9:25 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. an attempt was made to steal his vehicle while it was parked on the top floor of parking garage "D". The attempt failed, however, a CD player, 50 CD's, a cell phone, and a radar detector was taken.

At 6 p.m. a person wanted as a fugitive from St. Louis County was arrested on the East Drive on the South Campus.

A student reported that sometime between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. a Motorola cellular telephone was stolen from her coat pocket in 316 Clark Hall. The victim had left the coat and bookbag in the room while she went down the hall.

**March 6, 1999**

A campus visitor reported that while at the Mark Twain Building between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. a man's leather coat valued at \$1,000 was taken. The coat was last seen on the back of a chair in

the gymnasium.

**March 7, 1999**

At 8:10 p.m. a person was arrested on the South Campus East Drive for possession of a controlled substance. The person had been riding as a passenger in a vehicle that was being driven by a person wanted as a fugitive by the City of Ferguson.

A person wanted by the City of Ferguson as a fugitive was arrested on campus at 8:45 p.m.

## The Stagnant is coming - - March 29, 1999



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Ernst & Young, the most dynamic professional services firm in the world, would like to congratulate the following University of Missouri - St. Louis students for accepting a challenging and rewarding career at Ernst & Young LLP.

Laurie Massey  
Whitney Mintert  
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Nilima Rajagopalau

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FROM THOUGHT TO FINISH.™

FEATURES

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

GET THIS

Litterbugs ruin joy of urban living

There are many things in life that I do not understand. I'm not ashamed to admit this.

I can rarely follow anything math-related, I know very little about brain surgery, and I can't for the life of me figure out why men don't like to ask for directions. But one thing I really do not comprehend on any level is the act of littering.

This may sound pretty trivial, but perhaps it is the very fact that it's such a minuscule thing that really grinds me. Because it's really not a big deal to shove that gum wrapper in your pocket until you find a trash can. It's no major effort to leave that fast food bag in your car until you get home. There's no difficulty involved in holding on to that empty soda can for a few extra minutes.

So, what's the problem? Are these people afraid that someone might give them something important to put in their pocket and that piece of paper will take up too much room? Is she scared that she will be ridiculed for not partaking in a finer dining establishment? Does he have a fear of being labeled the "Empty Can Man?"

Let's face it, the worse thing that could happen is a possible lingering burger odor in your vehicle if you forget about the trash for a few days. It just boggles my mind that a society such as ours that is supposed to be civilized in most areas can be so... barbaric.

That's a pretty strong word, I know, but I think it's pretty fitting. Here we are, this cultured and progressive group of people, and we can't even toss our used tissues into a wastebasket.

I'd now like to share a few horror stories I've personally witnessed. Before I begin, I'd like to say that any readers who are easily disgusted with the obvious hypocrisies and indecencies that continue to pollute humanity, proceed with caution. I've seen some abominable occurrences in my day. There was the time that a grown man dumped out the entire contents of his overflowing ashtray onto the parking lot in broad daylight. I once watched a kindly grandma clean out her purse at a bus stop by indiscreetly dropping the undesired items on the ground... directly next to the trash can. I looked on as unattended children ripped open pop-sicles and immediately threw the wrappers into a nearby bush without a second thought. Then, when they finished their snack, they - brace yourself - discarded the sticks in the exact same manner. Ohhh, the INSANITY!

I am repeatedly confounded by this sort of behavior.

I don't know, maybe it's just not a priority to anyone but me. Maybe some people feel that the earth needs a little "decoration" in the form of unwanted, dirty materials. Once, a litterbug tried to explain to me how he was helping the economy by giving work to the trash collectors and street cleaners. Okay, so I suppose with that logic, you could say that cancer is actually a good thing because it provides doctors and surgeons with plenty of patients, or that car accidents and divorce benefit society by ensuring the jobs of countless attorneys?

No matter how many excuses are invented, fact is fact. It's just plain laziness, and there's no rationalizing it. Deal with it, and then dispose of it in the proper container.



AMY LOMBARDO  
Features Editor

Taste of another culture



Yuka Sato (left) and Kanako Zaitzu prepare sauteed ginger polk for the Japanese Student Association's third annual dinner, Saturday.

Hungry for knowledge? The third annual Japanese Student Association Dinner was an opportunity to understand the foods, arts and people of the richly-cultured island nation of Japan

BY LISA M. PETTIS  
of the Current staff

The Japanese Student Association held their third annual dinner at the South Campus Residence Hall on Saturday, March 6.

While the guests arrived, members of the Japanese Student Association continued to make last minute preparations for the dinner. Japanese music played softly as the guests walked into the entrance of the room, mesmerized by the Japanese masks, pictures, and posters that decorated the walls.

Megumi Narita, a junior in communication theory, welcomed guests when they

entered the back room filled with items from Japan. Narita proceeded to hand each guest a coin with a ribbon tied through it.

"This is a five-yen coin from Japan," Narita said.

There was a sign posted saying that "goen" means "5 yen" in Japanese.

Tomoko Sukegawa, a senior in communication theory, explained the other meaning of "goen."

"It means good luck to meeting good people," Sukegawa said.

Japanese students also wore traditional gowns for this festive event. Mariko Noguchi, a senior in communication theory, describes the kimono (a traditional dress) and the yukata (a summer version of the kimono), which she was wearing.

"[The] kimono is the traditional dress, and is made of silk," Noguchi said. "It is very expensive. It is like buying a car. [The] yukata is made of cotton."

These gowns are worn for graduation, adult days (when a person reaches the age of 20), weddings, funerals, and regional festivals. In the past, more than twelve layers were worn under the gowns; now only two layers are worn.

Yoshiko Shimizu, a senior in anthropology, is the president of the Japanese Student Association. Shimizu welcomed the guests, introduced the officers, and directed the guests to the buffet table.

The Japanese cuisine represented at the buffet was yakisoba (fried noodles), yasai-itame (fried vegetables), buta-no-syougua-yaki (pork with ginger and soy sauce), soba (buckwheat noodles), sushi, and potato salad. Later, during the Jodo and Shotokan Karate presentation, guests were introduced to green tea ice cream for dessert.

Dave Lowry, current president of St. Louis/SUWA Executive Planning Board for the Japanese Festival demonstrated "Jodo," an older Japanese art form (different from "Judo") with his student, Bill Lough.

"It's a form that not many people in Japan see," Lowry said. "We don't have competitions. Maybe 200 people in Japan practice it, and 100 people outside of Japan."

David Campbell and Girish Chandranmenon, members of the Washington University Shotokan Karate Club, and Tabitha Miller, a member of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Shotokan Karate Club demonstrated the techniques while Robert Miller, also a member of the UM-St. Louis Shotokan Karate Club, describes the purpose of the movements.

"In the beginning stage, the students learn a series of turns," Miller said. "We're trying to get the student to move from their body center."

After the dinner and the presentations, the guests returned to the back room to learn how to do origami, an artwork using paper and folding techniques to make a frog or the popular crane. Also, guests had their names written in Japanese by calligraphy.

For those who missed this festive event, don't miss it the next time. Contact Yoshiko Shimizu for more information about the Japanese dinner or the Japanese Student Association at 516-7045.

UNDER THE CURRENT  
compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

What other uses for the Arena can you think of instead of tearing it down?

"Give to community and organizations for various functions."  
-Salim Phillips  
Junior/Graphic Design



"The world's largest Chinese buffet."  
-Eric Eiler  
Senior/Communications



"I think they should've thrown a huge party in the Arena. And then tear it down."  
-Heather Baudino  
Senior/Education



"Another UM-St. Louis campus: UMSL East."  
-Jacqueline Sarris  
Junior/Communication



"Use it to hold all of McGwire's homerun balls."  
-Gabriel Douek  
Sophomore/Business



Conference will set sights on future of female leaders

BY ANNE PORTER  
staff associate

In Missouri, only about 20 percent of the General Assembly members are women. This number may seem low, but it is a record-breaking percentage. In 1990, only 15 percent of the General Assembly were women representatives.

The 21st Century Leadership Training conference has decided to change this.

At the 21st Century Leadership Training conference last year, 25 participants attended. This year, the 21st Century Leadership conference will provide 36 new participants from nine Missouri schools with new insight into the world of public policy.

This conference, only in its second year, is a week-long program that will be held at the Pierre Laclède Honors College on the UM-St. Louis campus. The conference will begin on Mar. 23 and end on Mar. 28.

Through this conference, Missouri college women will be able to experience the different aspects of public policy, and will learn many leadership skills.

The agenda includes meeting with elected women officials, government leaders, and policy makers. The conference also includes a trip to Jefferson City to meet with state leaders and to participate in a mock legislative session of their own.

Dayna Stock is the manager for the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

"We really want to encourage women interested in public policy. It seems that public policy is an area where women are underrepresented. So we are trying to take college women [who are] interested and introduce them to women in public policy so that can seem more attainable," Stock said.

Stock said that the overall effects of this conference

see WOMEN, page 7

Concert Review

Son Volt heats up stage

Son Volt wrapped up the tour supporting their latest release, "Wide Swing Tremolo," with two consecutive sold out shows at Mississippi Nights on Feb. 26 and Feb. 27.

Throughout most of February, Son Volt toured across the nation, playing a show almost every night. The last two shows were not only the end to this grueling schedule, they were also a chance for the band to play for their friends and family.

Singer and guitarist Jay Farrar and drummer Mike Heidorn both come from the St. Louis vicinity and had much of their family and friends in attendance. Some of the more recognizable guests were Freddy Friction of the Highway Matrons and some of the members of The Bottlerockets.

The opening act was singer/songwriter Richard Buckner who was backed up by his girlfriend on the drums. Buckner's solemn folk/rock performance suited the crowd's tastes, and he was very well-received. Son Volt's performance reflected the sound of their new release—more rock n' roll than ever.

Son Volt performed almost every song off of "Wide Swing Tremolo" with amazing accuracy and tasteful arrangements, further supporting their reputation as one of the finest live bands around.

The rock songs from the release such as *Flow*, *Question*, *Right on Through* and *Straightface* were just as impressive as the recordings with their dropped tunings, mellow vocal harmonies, driving rhythms,

and powerful endings.

The new release's slower folk and country inspired tunes, such as *Hanging Blue Side*, *Carry You Down*, and *Dead Man's Clothes*, were a surprise to hear since the recorded versions employ organs and pedal steel guitars. However, multi-instrumentalist Dave Boquist compensated with beautiful fiddle playing.

"Wide Swing Tremolo's" other more uncategorical songs, like *Driving the View*, *Medicine Hat*, and *Blind Hope*, were also just as good, if not better, than the recording.

Of course, mixed within their new material were various gems from Son Volt's two previous recordings, *Trace*, and *Straightaways*. Songs, such as *Tear Stained Eye* (which featured a harmonica solo by Farrar), *Caryatid Easy*, an electric version of *Windfall*, *Live Free*, *10 Second News*, and *Drown*, all evoked an enormous response from the audience.

Both nights ended with loud covers that allowed the band to "cut loose." Friday night ended with a furious Del-Vetts song called *Last Time Around*, and on Saturday night, they ended with an old Uncle Tupelo tune from "Anodyne" called *Chickamauga*.

Even though Son Volt is not the kind of band to smash their guitars and jump into the crowd, it is always exciting to see them because they rely solely on the quality of the music, which in itself is an extremely rare trait among rock musicians.

-Kevin Buckley

# 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  
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**

## Senate election or popularity contest?

**The Issue:**

The student senate race had a surprising number of applicants this year. However, little information was given about these candidates on the ballots.

**We Suggest:**

The senate should take steps to better inform the students for whom it is they are voting.

**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

Last week's senate student election was very successful in regards to the high number of candidates running for the 25 student seats in the campus body. The election marked the highest number of candidates in the recent history of UM-St. Louis with 44 candidates running for the seats. In fact, it was only the second time in recent school history that they had more candidates run than seats available.

The senate election committee should be applauded for their efforts and attempts to run the election as smoothly as possible. Not only did they have to prepare the list of candidates on a ballot, they had to organize volunteers stationed at various polling places around campus.

Unfortunately, with the increasing number of candidates running for student seats comes another concern about the voting process which the senate election committee needs to address before next year's election. This concern is how the candidates were listed on the ballot.

This year all 44 candidates were listed in alphabetical order and next to their names were their majors. There was no way to know about qualifications, past experience, or the candidate's expectations for the future.

The lack of voting knowledge turned the senate balloting into a popularity contest instead of an informed choice. Many students only voted for those students who they knew instead of voting for the most qualified candidates.

This system may have worked in the past when the senate was literally begging for students to run, but it doesn't anymore. There needs to be more information on the candidates with more students running.

When the best student candidates get into office, many of the complaints about student participation in the senate may disappear. Faculty senate members have continuously blasted students about poor attendance by elected student senators. However, the senate needs to look no farther than themselves to find a solution to the problem.

The solution lies in giving student voters the information they need about senate candidates before they vote. A name and a major just doesn't cover it all. Perhaps more time to campaign would allow greater dissemination of information. Instead, all a student has to do is to get their fraternity, sorority, or organization to vote them in and it's over and done with. They look good when they put it on their resume, their organization looks good because they have a student senator, and they don't even have to show up for the meetings.

If the student senate attendance figures continue to be abysmal, then the students and the senate have no one but themselves to blame. More time to campaign to inform the students or more information provided on the ballot as to the candidate's qualifications would be a good first step. After that it's the students' job to choose the best ones. Let's stop the popularity contest.

## Goofs are not as funny as they seem

Recently, a newspaper has been circulating around the office getting a chuckle or two. I will not name the publication (just that it's not ours, thank God) but will tell you about the minor error that's left more than a few folks in stitches.

On the front page above the fold is a dull-looking article with an equally dull headline (something like "New Commissioner Named"). The layout also includes a mug shot of the fellow in the story. However, the photo's cutline (that's a caption, for those of you not knowledgeable in the lingo of newspaper production) where the person was supposed to be identified contains only the immortal words "Name Here."

Ooops! It was the sort of boner you expect during the chaos and confusion of page design and layout. Someone forgot the name and put in a filler caption and someone else missed it during final proofing.

My first inclination upon reading it was to laugh. But perspective is a funny thing. What is it about other people's mistakes that's so hilarious? I bet the guy who layed out the page wasn't laughing. If I had been doing his job I wouldn't be. Yet it's considered socially acceptable to lampoon the failings of some poor anonymous schmuck page designer none of us even know. Human beings have a terribly cruel streak in them.

As an editor myself, I know the pain of having your screw-ups published and distributed to the community-at-large. Sometimes small things. Sometimes bigger ones. But mistakes do happen and when I have the misfortune of making them, I certainly don't like to be snickered at. Yet, I'll laugh as hard as anyone at the frailties of a guy doing the same job I am, whose bloopers could, but for the grace of God and a good copy editor, be my own.

Okay, so mistakes are funny. It is for better or worse human nature to laugh at such things. Perhaps laughing at others will make us feel better about ourselves. But while we can't control our impulse to giggle all the time, maybe we could at least try to regulate it. After all, to err is human, no one's perfect. So next time you see someone else's goof, pause a little before you laugh, just to remember that every mistake has some anonymous person's feelings wrapped up in it. Perhaps someone a lot like you.

(Clever column ending here.)



DAVID BAUGHER  
Editor-in-Chief

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## Comptroller owes group an apology

The Student organization of the National Education Association requests a formal apology from SGA comptroller Ben Ash. In the Mar. 1 issue of *The Current*, Mr. Ash submitted the name of our organization as one of the campus organizations listed on page eight that "have missed four or more [meetings] and may be facing expulsion."

In 1996, the previous SNEA organization disbanded. In October of 1998 six UM-St. Louis students decided to reorganize the SNEA. The would-be co-president submitted the necessary paperwork to register us as a student organization on campus. When she attended the Oct. 29 SGA meeting, the university did not yet officially reorganize the SNEA. All meetings since then have been attended.

In the five months of our existence we have increased our membership to over 100 members. We greatly appreciate *The Current's* journalistic integrity, and so assume that the paper faithfully printed the information it received. Therefore, the responsibilities

for the slight lie with Ben Ash, comptroller of the SGA, whose visage and comments appear on the front page of *The Current*. While an article in the Mar. 8 issue of *The Current* states that the SNEA "should not have been listed," we are of the opinion that Mr. Ash should not have made such serious accusations without thoroughly researching the history of each organization listed.

To both the current and future members of the SGA: the SNEA is not an irresponsible organization. We are young and growing, and very earnest in our attempts to reestablish ourselves. If there are fears that we will not remain on campus for very long, freezing our budget will certainly help along those fears. We have no intentions of allowing ourselves to be stricken from the SGA, and we want to assure the members of the SGA of our continued cooperation. Thank you.

-Katherine Davis  
Co-President, SNEA

## Unfilled seats are SGA's real problem

The real problem of the Student Government Association is not Jim Avery. It is the lack of representatives that represent the whole student body.

The SGA is not just made up of the three executive officers. It is also made up of the representatives from student organizations as well as supposedly, representatives from the various schools and colleges, of which there is only one: me. As Graduate School representative, I am the only student that represents students, not just students in a particular organization. The other seats representing the other schools and colleges were not filled in last April's election.

The organizations make sure that their representatives are at the meetings in order that they do not lose their funds from the Student Activities Budget Committee. But do these representatives really care about the student body as a whole? Would they be there if their funds were not being held hostage, pending their attendance at SGA meetings? Even with the mandatory attendance requirement (which treats organizations like they are in high school, not college) SGA Comptroller Ben Ash is planning to expel 28 student organizations for not attending SGA meetings.

These organizational representatives represent only a small number of the UM-St. Louis student body. Most of the students

are not in campus organizations and have no representation in SGA.

The reputation of the SGA has fallen in recent years. Something has to be done. One possibility is to have students run to become representatives from the various schools and colleges in the upcoming SGA election in April. If the seats for the various schools and colleges were filled, we'd have approximately 25 more seats on the SGA working for the students. Having dedicated representatives who represent students, not just the minority of students who are in student organizations will create an environment for the SGA to work for a better UM-St. Louis for all students.

However, if UM-St. Louis students are truly apathetic, then I propose a second solution. Maybe, SGA should be abolished. Then student organizations could get their funds without attending SGA meetings. There would be more funds available for these organizations since there would be no SGA budget. Then these organizations could go about their activities without worrying about the rest of the students who help pay for these clubs with their student activities dollars.

-Steven M. Wolfe  
Graduate School Representative

## Social discomfort reveals deepest fears

If we think about it, most of us live a pretty charmed life. We have a warm roof over our heads, we are intelligent, hey, we can even walk. Unfortunately, all too often, we take these blessings for granted.

Recently, on one of my frequent visits to QuickTrip (you'd be surprised at how much caffeine helps you work late hours) I had an eye-opening experience.

I walked in to get my customary 64-ounce refill of soda. When I got to the soda fountain, I heard a loud, incoherent, voice. I turned around to see a mentally-handicapped gentleman with a young boy. The young boy, who was not mentally handicapped, was helping the man with his soda and telling him what to do.

The boy couldn't have been more than ten years old, but I was impressed that he kept his composure when the man didn't understand or listen to him. He obviously had a lot of experience in dealing with the man and I realized that without the boy, the man would be totally helpless.

Unfortunately, the scene caused me to experience a feeling within myself. I was uncomfortable. I wanted to get away as fast as I could so I hastily finished pouring my soda and left.

Why?

I felt immediate guilt once I got to my car. Why did I react that way? There was no way that man could have hurt me. He wasn't talking to me, or even acknowledging me.

I felt bad. In a way, my actions lump me in with the worst hate groups. I was at least as intolerant of him as these groups are of different cultures.

I thought about it more later that night. I didn't want my actions to be on a bigot's level. I was raised better than that.

However the question of why I reacted the way I did still went through my head. Then I found my answer.

I reacted as strongly as I did because I could actually see a bit of myself in the gentleman. In fact, I could see a bit of society as a whole in him.

I realized that we are all one bad car accident away from becoming a paraplegic, a vegetable, or the fellow at Quick Trip. That fact scared me - that's why I reacted the way I did.

Sadly, I realized that I wasn't the only one in the store acting that way either. Other customers seemed to migrate to other sections, and the "always friendly" clerks seemed to have better things to do.

It's time that we all learn to enjoy the simple things in life. Things like taking a walk on a warm summer day, driving a car, or reading a good book are abilities taken for granted by most people - including myself. These are precious abilities and freedoms that many of us hold dear but don't realize it.

Unfortunately, often, we aren't thankful for these blessings until it is too late.



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# SPORTS

## LATEST SCOOP

### SLU will be hard pressed to find another Spoon

The news went down a couple weeks ago that Charlie Spoonhour had retired after the Billikens' disappointing 1999 campaign.

This was a huge blow to the Billikens and college basketball fans around St. Louis.

Spoonhour exemplified excellence and smoothness on and off the court. He built a Billiken program up after Rich Grawer had destroyed it.

Players such as Scott Highmark, Erwin Claggett, H Waldman, and Larry Hughes came out of the discipline and mold that Spoonhour had on them. He made each of these players rise above the adversity of their teams and play with leadership and heart.

That is one thing that no fan could ever doubt—the heart of any Billiken ballclub. They came to play, whether it be good or bad, each and every sports associate night. They were well-mannered and composed themselves as Spoonhour taught through his actions.

What would have happened to Spoon though if all of the St. Louis talent had stayed home?

You would have a surplus of talent on a ballclub that was at best a .500 club this season.

Pattonville graduate Brian Grawer or St. Charles West's Ryan Robertson would have run the point guard position, while they would have Larry Hughes as the shooting guard, if he still remained in college. The forwards would consist of Webster Groves' Johnnie Parker, Cardinal Ritter's Chris Carawell, and an academically eligible Justin Tatum. The center spot would be a battle between Cardinal Ritter graduate Loren Woods (currently sitting out a season after leaving Wake Forest and enrolling at Arizona) and Hazelwood Central's Pat Schumacher.

This team would and could compete with any team in the nation. They may not be as successful as I make them out to be, but they would compete for the title in Conference USA.

Spoonhour did a great job with the talent that he had and made players compete to the best of their ability, but with his vast knowledge about the game and his coaching mentality, he deserved better.

At Southwest Missouri State, this talent would have been acceptable, but at SLU, a team competing in a much more physical and media oriented conference, the talent was lacking.

Spoon did the best he could, but the mental strain the head coaching job took on him was too much. He did not want to leave the city of St. Louis saying "I screwed them." He simply said that he was retiring and that was that.

Spoon has a certain comedy about him, and that will be missed.

I watched the Billikens play in the NCAA tournament last year and Spoon was the only coach not wearing a tie; he was wearing his usual turtleneck and khaki pants. This style and his humorous antics will be missed.

I wish Spoon the best of luck in his future endeavors and wish even more luck to the upcoming coach of the SLU Billikens. He will need it.



DAVE KINWORTHY sports associate

## Rivermen bounce back, win four in a row

### Team puts "fluke" loss behind them while streaking to a 4-1 record

BY KEN DUNKIN staff editor

The season may not have started off as planned, yet Rivermen baseball has high hopes for the remaining portion of the season.

The first game ended in the bottom of the ninth when a Westminster player smashed a two-run game-winning home run off of Rivermen pitcher Mark Winfield. Since the loss in the season opener, the team has been on a roll defeating Mount Mercy College and Missouri Southern in double header battles.

"That was a tough loss to Westminster. We could redo that inning 10 other times and it wouldn't happen again," Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady said. "It was a fluke. We have regrouped since then and have been playing good baseball."

The team put up solid numbers in their games against Missouri Southern last week. They won the first game 6-0 on a seven inning shut-out by Jeremy Birdeau. The win was helped along with a two run homer from designated hitter Mark Haglund. The second game saw the same winning results as Steve Stamm went seven innings, giving up one earned run in the 3-1 Rivermen victory.

The victories helped to give the team the chemistry that Brady feels they need to have a successful season.

"This team has really played well together," he said. "They really get along, and with the winning streak it is all building up. If we can put together a solid winning streak, things can really build up for a great finish to this year."

The big winning streak may come when the team makes their annual trip to Florida to play seven games in five days.

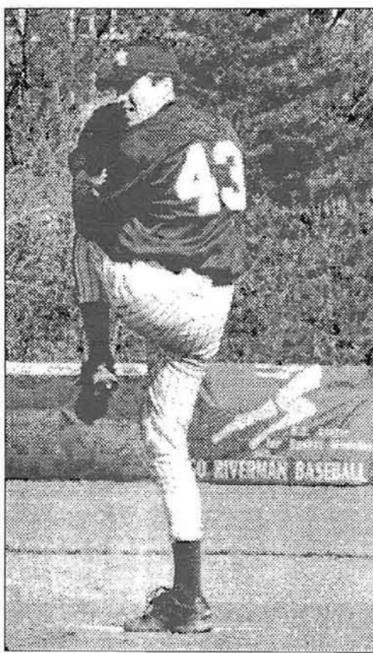
In the past the team's play in Florida has dictated the play for the remaining portion of the season.

"We really have a good run of games in Florida," Brady said. "We will see some good competition. Then the following week we will play two tough teams in SIU-Edwardsville and Quincy. It is a must that we play well in all of these games."

One of the strong points in the first five games for the Rivermen has been their team speed. They turned several key double-plays against Missouri Southern.

They have also wreaked havoc on the base-paths, stealing 14 bases in 15 attempts. Third baseman Tyler Bates leads the team with four stolen bases. Joe Christian is second with three.

"We can run. Our overall speed is one of our biggest bright spots," Brady said. "That aspect of the game has come more into play with wood bats being used. Teams that win



Sam Kasle/The Current

Rivermen hurler Jon Buckingham (43) pitches against Mount Mercy College in the first game of a double header on March 7. Buckingham and the Rivermen won the game 5-1, and took the second game 7-1.

must have good team speed. Our pitchers can put the ball in play, and with our outstanding defense they can track down almost anything."

## Softball continues to struggle, falls to 2-6

### Back to back 1-3 weekends leads to closed door team only meeting

BY JOE HARRIS senior editor

The Riverwomen softball team suffered through a bad sequel to their season's opening weekend as they once again went 1-3 in last weekend's St. Louis Invitational.

The Riverwomen lost 8-1 to Alabama-Huntsville, 5-3 to Wayne State, and 6-5 to Quincy. Alabama-Huntsville was ranked no. 15 in Division II last week, and Wayne State and Quincy are tough regional opponents. Their lone win came against Lincoln, 6-2.

Despite the games being played in poor weather conditions, Riverwomen Head Coach Charlie Kennedy refuses to use that as an excuse.

"I think the weather affected everybody. The conditions were not the conditions you would want to play in on a normal basis," Kennedy said. "I can't say that [the weather] had anything to do with it, but it had something to do with everybody playing in the same conditions."

Kennedy said that he really wasn't disappointed with his team's play; he was just disappointed in the fact that they let several games get away.

"There's disappointment in two of the losses this weekend because they are regional teams in Wayne State and Quincy. In both of those games we led the game and let it slip away," Kennedy said.

Despite the results, Kennedy was once again pleased with his pitchers. Jennifer Vancil and Kori Allison had good performances for the Riverwomen.

Kennedy said Vancil pitched an outstanding game against Lincoln to earn her first win

of the season. Vancil pitched a complete game with seven strike outs and no walks in her first start of the year.

"[Vancil] kept them off-stride, she threw drop ball after drop ball, she threw an off-speed here and there, she spotted the fast ball, and we actually allowed them on the board early in the game or she would have shut them out," Kennedy said.

Though they lost to Alabama-Huntsville 8-1, that score may be a bit misleading. The Riverwomen jumped in front 1-0 in the first and Allison shut down Alabama-Huntsville's powerful attack for five innings until Alabama-Huntsville struck back with an opposite field home run to make it 2-1.

The next inning, they got two more runs on a controversial call at first base, and in the next inning Alabama-Huntsville got four more after an apparent strike three was called ball four to set up the inning.

"The game just blew out of proportion when it should have been a 2-1 ball game," Kennedy said. "We hit the ball hard. It was our best offensive performance as far as hitting with nothing to show for it."

With the team struggling, Kennedy and his players sat down in a closed door meeting after the games. The team met last Monday during one of their days off.

"Everybody came together, it was a round table, and it was an opportunity for everybody to get things in the open and move on," Kennedy said.

Moving on is what the Riverwomen need to do. Ahead is the tough Kennesaw State Invitational that includes national power Kennesaw State and regional foe Wisconsin-



Sam Kasle/The Current

Riverwoman Sybil Wall (22) attempts to slide under the catcher's tag at home plate in the St. Louis Invitational last weekend.

Parkside. The game against Wisconsin-Parkside is particularly important for the Riverwomen because of the two regional losses against Wayne State and Quincy.

"If you're not in the top four [in the region] you don't have a shot at the NCAA tournament," Kennedy said. "There are 24

teams in the region and the top four get to go to the NCAA tournament. Right now we're sitting at 0-2 behind Quincy who is 2-0 and Wayne State who is 1-1 and we're not even listed in the top ten. That tells me that we're pretty far off the pace and we're going to have to pick it up."

### Sports Opinion

## Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?

Spring, a time when life begins anew. The flowers come back, the birds start chirping, and baseball begins another season full of promises for the future while still cherishing the past. Sadly, one part of baseball history left us last Monday when the Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio, died after a five-month battle with lung cancer.

DiMaggio's career achievements speak for themselves. He batted .325 lifetime and hit 361 home runs. He was also named the American League's Most Valuable Player three times, played in 11 All-Star games, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955.

However, aside from the statistics, the 10 pennant winners and nine World Series championships, Joltin' Joe will always be remembered for his 56 game hitting streak in 1941. Despite intense fan and media pressure, DiMaggio got a hit in every game from May 15 to July 17, during which time he hit .408 with 15 home runs and 55 RBIs. The record still stands today, over 50 years later, and it may never be broken.

But DiMaggio was more than just a ballplayer; he was an American icon. He lived every young boy's dream. He

played for baseball's most glamorous team, he married Marilyn Monroe, and he signed baseball's first ever \$100,000 contract.

Those who knew him said he was a gentleman both on and off the field. Even though his marriage to Monroe only lasted ten months, he still arranged for her funeral eight years later.

The son of Italian immigrants, Joe and his brothers Vince and Dom all played professional baseball.

DiMaggio's mystique drew even the most powerful personalities to him. He visited with President George Bush, shook hands with Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev, and was a central reference in Ernest Hemmingway's classic novel "The Old Man and the Sea."

"I would like to take the great DiMaggio fishing," Hemmingway wrote. "They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

The quote from the old fisherman in the novel sums up what DiMaggio was to America—someone who understands, a friend to all.

These lessons could serve notice to the prima donna

players of today. These players make ten times more than DiMaggio did, but aren't a tenth of the player he was.

I'll never forget the stories of old time baseball my grandfather told me. He spoke of the greats—Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth. His favorite was Ted Williams, but DiMaggio always seemed to have a special place in his heart. Maybe my grandfather, himself being the son of immigrants, felt the connection that America did with DiMaggio.

In death, though, that connection still holds strong, because even though Joltin' Joe may not be with us any longer, his legacy remains. It will be passed down through the generations. Like my grandfather passed it on to me, I will pass it down to my kids, and so on.

In the meantime, I am reminded of the famous Simon and Garfunkel lyrics:

"Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio?"  
"Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you."  
"What's that you say, Mrs. Robinson?"  
"Joltin' Joe has left and gone away."

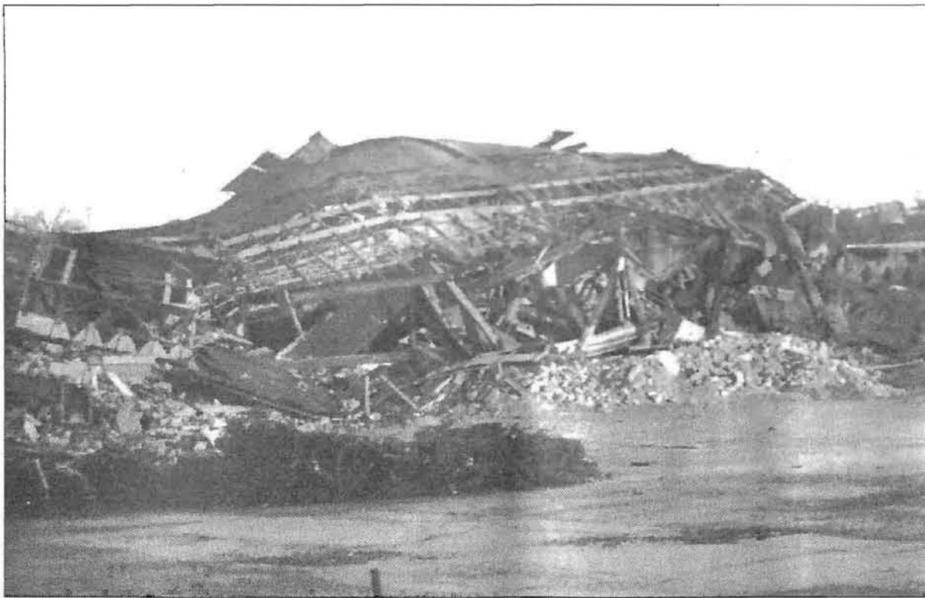
Joe Harris

# SPECIAL FEATURE

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

# One last look at the Arena

*Many St. Louisans will always remember where they were when the majestic 'Old Barn' fell*



## UM-St. Louis students' opinions differ on the Arena implosion

BY SUE BRITT  
staff associate

Last month the implosion of the Arena, former home of the St. Louis Blues, left many UM-St. Louisans with only memories of the landmark held dear.

Diane Parker, a senior at UM-St. Louis majoring in Business Administration said she has fond memories of the concerts and special events she attended at the Arena. She also loved the architecture.

"One of my [favorite concerts] would . . . probably have to be the Funkadelics," Parker said. "That concert was there, with the mothership and all that. That was one of my favorite concerts. I'll always remember that."

Regarding the demolition of the Arena, Parker said she was upset about it and has not been able to even look toward the empty site when she passes it.

"I really wish that they could have let it stay and maybe have done something else with it, but if it's not financially feasible for them, you know, they don't care," Parker said. "The aesthetic beauty of it, that's what they missed."

Some students are angry. Senior George Meier blames St. Louis City mayor Clarence Harmon.

"Tearing down the Arena was a terrible decision. It's an old place and has a lot of history," Meier said. "Tearing it down for an office park is just not right and I think people should campaign against Harmon

in the next election because of this decision."

Senior Edward Belter is neutral on the subject. "It really doesn't matter one way or the other. The city has their agenda, and they're going to do what they want anyway," Belter said. "Plus the Arena has been dead ever since they took hockey away."

Belter said his favorite memories of the Arena were going to Blues games with his father.

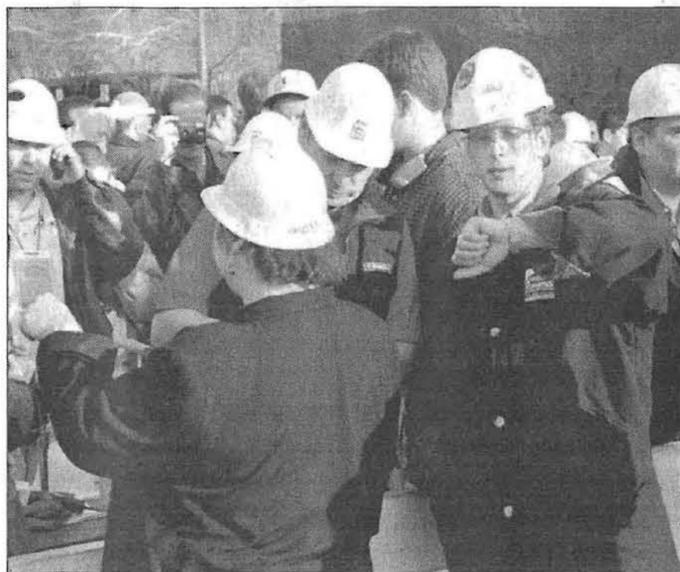
"We used to be Blues season ticket holders, and my dad and I would go to a lot of games," Belter said. "I remember one time I was drinking a soda when the Blues scored and I got so excited that I spilled my soda all over the woman in the row below us. I am lucky that she was very understanding."

Others are not so concerned with the demolition and seem to not need the building to remain as a symbol of their memories of it. They take a more practical view of it. George Sotiropoulos, a senior majoring in political science, is one.

"[My best memory of the Arena] would be the very first Blues game I ever went to and I got to see Gary Unger and Bobby Gasoff play, some of the older Blues. I witnessed my first hockey fight. I remember coming home all charged up. Bobby Gashoff is the one that got into the fight that I saw, and I remember from that time on he was my favorite Blue," Sotiropoulos said. "You know I'm not as upset about [the destruction of the Arena] as other people. My memories are still there, and I didn't need to have it standing as a reminder. I mean those are things that will always be inside of me."

**LEFT THREE PHOTOS: And the walls came tumbling down. A series of photos show the Arena before, during, and after implosion. The 69-year-old Arena was imploded Feb. 27, 1999 at 5:45 p.m. by Spirtas Wrecking Co. ABOVE: Spirtas employees watch as dust from the Arena settles. Shortly after the implosion, street sweepers began cleaning area streets.**

Photos by  
Stephanie Platt  
photography director



**LEFT: A lone Blues fan takes a last look at the Arena before its implosion. People wearing all sorts of sports and concert memorabilia showed up to say an emotional goodbye to the "Old Barn."**

**ABOVE: Eric Spirtas (right) checks his watch to see how long until the implosion countdown while Debbie Wingbermuehle (left), the person chosen to push the plunger to implode the Arena, talks to reporters.**

**RIGHT: Thom Dowd carries the detonator to a press area. Debbie Wingbermuehle walks with him.**

# SGA won't expel groups, freeze budget allocations

SGA Comptroller Ben Ash has apparently reached an agreement with President Jim Avery over the issue of whether to expel more than two dozen student organizations from the assembly.

Ash had said earlier this month that he wished to freeze the organizations' budgets due to poor attendance. Avery refused to sign off on the expulsions. Ash had said he may even take his case to the student court, but he now said he feels that it's too late in the year to enforce the attendance clause.

"I felt that... it's too late to do anything," Ash said. "It was late on our part because with all of our changes in leadership and our organizational structures also, the time did just get too late to pursue something that would have a lasting impact."

However, he said that he believes releasing the names of the affected organizations was the right thing to do.

"We have our rules. We have our guidelines. I was just saying this is what was in our rules," Ash said.

Ash said he hoped that next year SGA would choose to take the attendance clause more seriously, perhaps

## SGA, FROM PAGE 1

in April," Avery said. "That way we would have enough time to put it on the ballot."

Avery said that students Gail Rimkus and Josh Stegeman had recently been appointed to co-chair the SGA election committee.

SGA Vice-President Michael

## Comptroller hopes for sterner policies for next year's SGA

even attaching it to the Student Activities Budget Committee.

"Whatever attendance rule we decide to follow it will be... in the future and... it will most likely have something to do with SABC," Ash said.

Ash said he hoped next year the SGA would "get off the ground running."

"Hopefully, next year we can get a dynamic president and one that will have a good leadership and a good following and one who will really make students want to come to next year's meetings and not just make them come because because of their budgets...," Ash said.

"We're going to have dynamic leadership, that's going to get people involved and let them know what's expected of them and have people really come and support student government."

Rankins said that he would not be involved in the remainder of the election process calling it a "fiasco." He said the committee must take responsibility for the process.

"They have got to do it and they are now [since the appointment of the co-chairs] but they weren't for along time and they

didn't respond to my calls to get motivated and now that they have that's great," Rankins said.

Rimkus said she could not comment on the elections because the committee only exists pending approval by the Assembly at Thursday's upcoming SGA meeting.

## WOMEN, FROM PAGE 3

ence are that the women who participate have more confidence and believe they can do great things. In addition, they learn many leadership skills which will help them succeed.

Other sessions with women in public policy include ones designed to teach the skills of networking, public speaking, locating a mentor, and conquering a handshake.

Shannon Mayer, a graduate student at UM-St. Louis, attended the conference last year.

Mayer is currently finishing her coursework for her Master's in sociology and teaches an undergraduate class in statistics.

In order to participate in the 21st Century, women must

**“We really want to encourage women interested in public policy. It seems that public policy is an area where women are underrepresented.”**

-Dayna Stock  
Manager for the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

demonstrate leadership skills and interest in public policy. Public policy does not just include politics, though. It includes city government, commissions, boards of commerce—almost all aspects of

everyday life.

No specific major is required because a more diverse background of majors creates more ideas and energy at the conference. Some women may also be interested in public policy and not be a political science major as well, which is another reason any major can attend.

The conference, which includes housing and most meals, is free to attend.

The deadline for applications is March 19, 1999. The application is very easy to complete.

For more information or to fill out an application, please call the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at (314) 516-6623.

## VITA, FROM PAGE 1

expenses paid after June 30, 1998. The credit is based on a 20 percent or up to \$5,000 educational cost each year. There is no limit on the number of years that can be claimed.

"[The Lifetime Learning credit] applies to [the] costs of undergraduate and graduate students and those acquiring or improving their job skills through a training program. Students who are learning job skills may claim the credit even for part-time attendance," Chew said. "There are a lot of people in their 20s, 30s and 40s, [at] UM-St. Louis and a lot of nontraditional students, who might be eligible for this."

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# Can we talk?

## UM-St. Louis debate team gets moment in the sun

BY SUE BRITT  
staff associate

President of the Debate and Forensics Club, Joy Ducree-Nash, won first place in five of the 12 competitions in a tournament held at Central Missouri State University, Feb. 19-21.

Ducree-Nash came in first in the competitions for dramatic interpretation, program of oral interpretation, duo, and persuasive speaking and was presented with the overall championship award.

Ducree-Nash is a transfer student from the University of Chicago in her second semester at UM-St. Louis. Before coming to UM-St. Louis she had not participated in a debate club.

In the tournament, the category of dramatic interpretation calls on competitors to display some thespian skills. Contestants that interpret poetry and scenes from plays are judged not only on their skill of interpretation but on how they go about the interpretation.

"You have to have to have acting skills, theatrical skills," Ducree-Nash said.

Ducree-Nash said that in the prepared events, such as persuasion, the competitors write, memorize, and perform their speeches to persuade the audience of a viewpoint and also offer options for betterment of a circumstance. Her topic for the persuasive speech was regarding medical trials and how people should be sure to be informed before becoming involved in these trials. She also suggested reforms the pharmaceutical companies, the FDA, and the medical professionals should consider.

Ducree-Nash is a junior majoring in communication and credits her partner, Steven Cutts, a freshman music major, for his role in their first place ranking in the duo competition.

"I couldn't have won the duo without him," Ducree-Nash said.

Cutts also placed first as a novice



Photo courtesy debate team  
The Debate Team: (Left to right) Steven Cutts, Chris Taylor, Joy Ducree-Nash, Jason Shaw, Henry I. Davis, and Amanda Jones

in dramatic interpretation which is a competition for students participating in debate their first semester, and he took fourth place in programmed oral interpretation.

Other students of the UM-St. Louis debate team that placed in the tournament were Amanda Jones, Henry Davis, and Christopher Taylor. The team's advisor and associate professor of communications, Thomas Preston, said everyone contributed to the overall team standing and also credits the team's coach, Jason Shaw, as essential to the team's success.

"[Shaw has] done an outstanding job," Preston said. "A really marvelous job."

Preston said the state competitions are hard to win. He said it is "the best and the brightest" of each college.

"The other schools go all out," Preston said. "It's a no-holds-barred competition."

Preston said the winners have an appointment to meet the governor, and there is a lot of distinction involved in winning.

"[It is] really neat because the winner goes to the national tournament. It's the oldest forensics competition in the United States. William Jennings Bryant competed in it," Ducree-Nash said. "And your speech gets published."

# Men's golf is young, but optimistic

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff associate

The men's golf team is a program that will have its ups and downs this season as they have three sophomores, two freshmen, and one junior on the team.

The team is composed of Tim Little, Denny Lees, Andy Schwob, John Johans, Doug Krietner, and Matt Stiles. The golf squad will look toward Doug Krietner for leadership this season.

"He is the oldest and most experienced on our team," Little said. "He used to play at Mizzou so he has been through this before."

The goals of this year's team are fairly simple. "We just need to do the best we can," Little said. "We

have a lot of young guys on our team, and hopefully we will just get better as time goes on."

The Great Lakes Valley Conference is always competitive according to Little, but he feels the team will hold their own.

"There are always strong teams like Southern Indiana and Indianapolis, but with the tight bond we will compete.

"We are all really good friends and there are no enemies. We have been practicing really hard and are just anxious to get the season started."

UM-St. Louis will compete in two golf tournaments over spring break: the first in Kentucky and the second in Warrensburg, Missouri.

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SANDRA BULLOCK BEN AFFLECK

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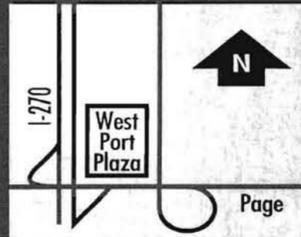
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## Misc

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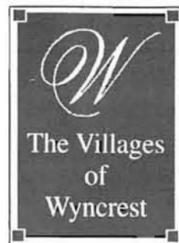
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### THE NERD TABLE BY: MARTY JOHNSON



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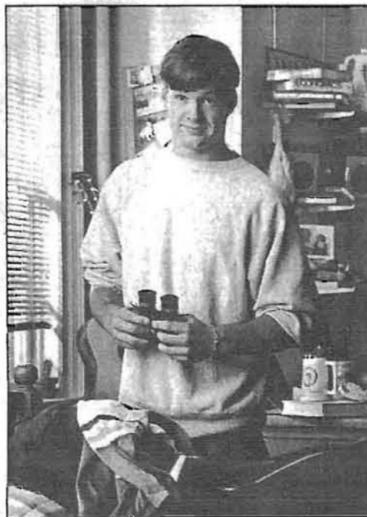
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"BE A PART OF HISTORY"

# Carnegie Mellon economy prof speaks at annual lecture event

BY KEVIN BUCKLEY  
of the Current staff

UM-St. Louis hosted the annual Homer Jones Memorial Lecture at the J. C. Penney Auditorium, Thursday, with guest speaker Bennett T. McCallum, H. J. Heinz professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University.

"He's extremely well known. He is also quite a bit in demand these days," said Clinton Greene, assistant professor in UM-St. Louis' economics department, regarding McCallum. "He is a little older than many of the new 'hot shot' theorists and has a lot of perspective on policy, theory, and the history of the field."

The official topic of McCallum's lecture was "The Evolution of Monetary Policy and Analysis, 1973-1998." However, McCallum said he would "focus more on the situation of today" and address the recent research into Monetary Policy Analysis. McCallum first recognized the unprecedented increase in interaction and agreement between theoretical economists and bankers concerning monetary policy's goal of keeping inflation low.

McCallum then examined two ways in which one may view economic policy: with regard to monetary base or interest rates. If central banks were to focus their money policy on the amount of money printed (monetary base) rather than focusing on interest rates, McCallum proposes that banks could do as good or better at controlling inflation.

Finally, McCallum applied equations with monetary base variables



Sam Kastle/The Current

Bennett T. McCallum, H.J. Heinz professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University spoke Thursday at the J. C. Penney Auditorium for the annual Homer Jones Memorial Lecture.

to the current economic conditions in Japan, saying, "The Japanese economic policy has been too tight since 1990. If we are correct, it is extremely unfortunate for the people of Japan, perhaps even the whole world, that this view [a policy rule that uses a monetary base as an essential variable] did not prevail sooner."

In other words, if Japan had used a policy focused on the amount of money being printed and not interest rates, its current recession might have been avoided.

The late Homer Jones (1906-1986) was the senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and was noted to have a deep involvement in monetary research and statistics, paving the way for famous economists such as Milton Friedman, last year's Memorial speaker, John Taylor, and Bennett McCallum.

Bennett McCallum is an established authority on economic research and contributes editorial duties to such publications as the Journal of Monetary Economics, the Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking, the International Journal of Finance and Economics, and Economic Letters. He is also involved with the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and the Econometric Society.

"I did not know Homer Jones myself, but I've been very strongly influenced by economists who knew and admired him greatly," McCallum said.

## Concert Review

# McGrath, Sugar Ray pose, put on sorry performance

Sugar Ray/Everlast  
The American Theater  
March 7

The American Theater was chaos waiting to happen Mar. 7, the evening of Sugar Ray, Everlast, and 2 Skinnee J's—or at least it should have been. Outside were vans from three competing radio stations, but luckily only one was broadcasting their music, mostly stuff heavier than what would be found inside. To help control the possible madness, security guards frisked all the 15 year-old girls to make sure they weren't carrying too much lipstick, or some other devious item. Police officers sat twiddling their thumbs at the predominantly pre-pubescent crowd, and chaos was deterred for the show.

2 Skinnee J's took the stage first, and their blend of rock, ska, and dorky Brooklyn rap won the crowd over. 2 Skinnee J's, named after their slightly built frontmen, J Guevera and Special J, hosted what was easily the most energetic and most impressive set of the night. Their goofy lyrics mixed with an amazingly energetic and mobile band was more a sight to see than nearly any DJ, and the sound concocted was nothing other than original.

Everlast, the musician responsible for the portion of the crowd old enough to drive, appeared next, along with a band consisting of a keyboardist, guitarist, DJ, stand up bassist, and drummer. Everlast's recent heart attack had apparently taken its toll on him, as his set contained very little of the energy he was known for in his days of House of Pain. The folk/rap show sounded nice, but was nothing to get the crowd up and moving, which seemed to upset Everlast a bit. He and his band, the White Folx, trudged on through the rest of their set and made way for the headliner, Sugar Ray.

When Sugar Ray pranced onstage, no one noticed a thing but the lead singer, Mark McGrath. This is obviously where the show could have turned into chaos, but instead it was nothing more than the previously mentioned 15 year-old girls screaming at the top of their lungs while McGrath posed onstage.

There were two highlights of the Sugar Ray show, and neither involved Sugar Ray playing a thing. The first was a freestyle competition Sugar held between two members of the audience, one frightened high school kid, and one fearless Beatle Bob. Beatle Bob stole the show from Sugar Ray in less than a minute, and all he got for it was a T-shirt. The other highlight was when Mark McGrath lamented the loss of a fellow musician, Lynn Strait of Snot, who died in a car crash last December.

All in all, Sugar Ray showed their true colors as the metal band that couldn't, so the band shamelessly played the pop music they used to mock. Mark McGrath's onstage bravado wore thin after the first song, and I kept hoping that the clocks reading 14:59 (the name of their new album) on top of the speakers would change to 15:00, and their 15 minutes of fame would be over.

-Cory Blackwood

# UM-St. Louis grad becomes next Curator Board member

BY JOSH RENAUD  
staff assistant

Usually, people get toothbrushes and dental floss when they visit the dentist. On Feb. 18, when Connie Silverstein went to the dentist, she got a phone call from the governor and a new job.

On the other end of the phone call was Governor Mel Carnahan, and he invited her to become a member of the UM Board of Curators. Silverstein received the good news while wearing a lead vest and having her teeth X-rayed.

"That morning, some people from the governor's office had called and asked if I could be at the phone all day," Silverstein explained. "I told them I had an appointment with the dentist at ten, but they said that was fine and to make sure I had a cell phone with me all day."

Silverstein accepted Carnahan's invitation. On Mar. 3, she participated in a confirmation hearing, and six days later she traveled to Jefferson City to meet Carnahan for the swearing-in ceremony.

Silverstein, a UM-St. Louis graduate herself, said she had interacted with thousands of students through her job at Edward Jones as a principal of banking services, as well as through a new program on campus. She said this contact has kept her in touch with the attitudes of University students.

"About a year ago, the Business School set up a community advisory board," Silverstein said. "I got involved, and I started doing a lot more things with the campus and just before Christmas, people asked me if I [might be willing to do this] if I had enough time."

Her new position as a curator will be a challenge, Silverstein said, and she is looking forward to learning more about her new role.

"In St. Louis, we don't have as much coverage on what goes on [in the Board of Curators], so I will have to immerse myself in this," she said. "My goal is just to learn about everything that's on the slate for a curator."

As a curator, Silverstein said it is important to recognize the uniqueness of each UM campus, while working for the goals of the system as a whole.

"The most important thing for a curator to appreciate is that the strength and personality of the system is in these four different campuses," Silverstein said. "There's a



Silverstein

family resemblance, but none behaves quite like the others. I come into the role with more knowledge of what's going on at UMSL, but I have more catching up to do with the other campuses."

The Board of Curators has nine voting members, and for the first time ever, three of those nine will be women. Silverstein said she thought that was a great thing.

"I hope we have a good broad representation from across the state," she said. "The board ought to be as diverse as the state of Missouri is."

Keeping Missouri students in Missouri universities and bringing in more students from around the country is an important goal, Silverstein said.

"We have to have the best possible product," she explained. "We always want UM to be on the top of student's minds, so it's a place people aspire to attend."

The Sunday Times-Herald, March 31, 1999

## You Can't Put Your Best Foot Forward When It's On The Interviewer's Desk.

**NEW YORK**—A recent survey of personnel executives at 200 of the Fortune 1000 companies, conducted for Commemorative Brands, a manufacturer of college class rings, detailed the unusual interviewing habits of some job applicants. Here are the highlights:

- "She actually showed up for an interview during the summer wearing a bathing suit. Said she didn't think I'd mind."
- "He sat down opposite me, made himself comfortable and then proceeded to put his foot up on my desk."
- "Why did he go to college? His ill-conceived answer: To party and socialize."
- "Wanted to know if employee perks included a swimming pool, paid lunches at the company cafeteria or a free computer to use at home."
- "When I gave him my business card at the beginning of the interview, he immediately crumpled it and tossed it in the wastebasket."
- "The candidate never looked directly at me once during the entire interview. Just stared at the floor."
- "An otherwise qualified candidate took herself out of the running when she opened her mouth. She had her tongue pierced."
- "When I mentioned that we had gone to the same college, he stood up and began to belt out the school football fight song."
- "Insisted on telling me that he wasn't afraid of hard work. But insisted on adding that he was afraid of horses and didn't like jazz, modern art or seafood."
- "Without asking if I minded, he casually lit a cigar and then tossed the match onto my carpet—and couldn't understand why I was upset."
- "He had arranged for a pizza to be delivered to my office during a lunch-hour interview. I asked him not to eat it until later."
- "On the phone I had asked the candidate to bring his resume and a couple of references. He arrived with the resume—and two people."

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