



No Shows: Riverman baseball rematch against Quincy is cancelled due to a lack of umpires. See page 5.

Deathly Quiet: 'Silent Witness Project' exposes tragedy and terror of domestic violence. See page 3.

Getting The Urge: Mirthday's Urge performance left smiles on many a face, but were they worth the money it took to bring them here? See page 6.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Fraternity ritual draws protests, charges of rape

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Three days after State Attorney Rod Smith announced he will charge as many as 50 Delta Chi members with criminal conduct for their actions during a "Big Brother/Little Brother ritual," University of Florida/SFCC Campus NOW representatives said they are not satisfied with Smith's decision and want an outside investigator.

Campus NOW members on Thursday, speaking on behalf of the 27-year-old stripper who danced at the Feb. 26 party and later claimed she was raped, for the first time demanded that a grand jury or the U.S. Justice Department investigate the case — which Campus NOW believes Smith is ignoring. Standing outside Smith's downtown office building and waving signs, about two dozen women and men of all ages also demanded that Smith give Lisa Gier King a "formal, public apology" and charge Delta Chi members with "conspiracy, facilitation and sexual assault."

On Monday, Smith said he will not file sexual battery charges against anyone present during the Feb. 26 party, but he also will dismiss charges that King filed a false rape claim against a Delta Chi member. Smith will, however, charge King with dancing exorbitantly without a county license. University police watched a two-hour videotape made by Delta Chi members during the events that began in the Ocala National Forest, deciding the videotape "clearly showed consensual sex."

Stephanie Seguin, Campus NOW treasurer, said Smith's decision to charge King for stripping without a license, a misdemeanor crime that can result in up to a year of probation and court fines, shows he is not willing to handle the subject of rape. Smith said that as early as Monday, he will file misdemeanor charges of "assignation," or engaging in lewdness or prostitution, against any of the men he can identify on the two seized videotapes. Dean of Students Julie Sina said as many as 50 men, some as young as 18, are seen on the videotape that shows King and another stripper dancing and getting tips for things like licking chocolate syrup off a pledge's naked body.

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The Current

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

May 3, 1999

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vol. 33 Issue 956

Student senator group influences appointments

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
 of The Current staff

Student members of the University senate attempted to make their presence felt at Tuesday's organizational meeting, of the 1999-2000 senate.

Members of the newly-founded student senator organization organized a system of recommended withdrawals in an effort to ensure that the candidates they endorsed were elected to committee positions. During committee elections at Tuesday's senate meeting, student senators withdrew their names from the different committee elections, until, in many cases, the only student names left on the ballot were the candidates endorsed by the student organization.

Josh Stegeman, a member of the student senator organization, said the series of withdrawals originated from a meeting on Apr. 20.

Coordinated withdrawals set committee choices

Stegeman said the organization originally wanted to make recommendations to the senate about its choices for the various committee positions, but were not permitted to do so because it could have been considered electioneering. Stegeman said they then decided they would use the withdrawals. He said there was not a lot of conflict over who to endorse for the various positions.

"In most cases it was pretty easy because there were only two people, or one, or however many the committee needed, so we didn't have to vote. Otherwise... we voted and said these are the people that we're going to recommend," Stegeman said.

Stegeman said the actions of the students at Tuesday's meeting represented student

power in the senate.

"... The neat part about it that I think is unique to the student senators is that we know we can't vote-for-vote beat the faculty, but we were able to express our power and authority in the senate indirectly by withdrawing our names and forcing the faculty to accept the students that we... the student senators, had decided on, not who the faculty thought were best," Stegeman said.

Stegeman said he hopes the faculty won't misunderstand the students' intentions, but will see the student senators in a more serious light after Tuesday's move.

"I hope the faculty say, 'Well, look, they all got organized, they made a decision together, and they stuck by it, and they expressed the

power that they do have as senators by doing this," Stegeman said.

The student senator organization was founded by Ryan Metcalf, who currently serves as its president. Jake Parker is vice-president. Stegeman said the organization had two main goals.

"... We want all the people that are on the committees to come together before the actual senate meeting to inform all the other students about what's going on in their committees so that when we go to the senate we can make a unified vote as to how we want to rule on something or how we want to talk about something, what view we want to put out

see SENATE, page 6

A remembrance...

Memorial honors deceased UM-St. Louisans

Annual service recalls ten no longer among us

BY JOSH RENAUD
 staff assistant

A special service was held on Wednesday in memory of ten UM-St. Louis students, faculty, and staff members who died during the last year.

About a dozen family members, friends, and colleagues gathered in the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel to remember their loved ones through the memorial service, which was sponsored by Campus Ministries.

"It's always important to process grief," said Dennis Chitwood, the director of Campus Ministries. "The more you talk and the more you memorialize, the easier it is to get through the grieving process. This year we had a small gathering, but for those who were there, I think it helped."

Members of several different campus religious organizations helped lead

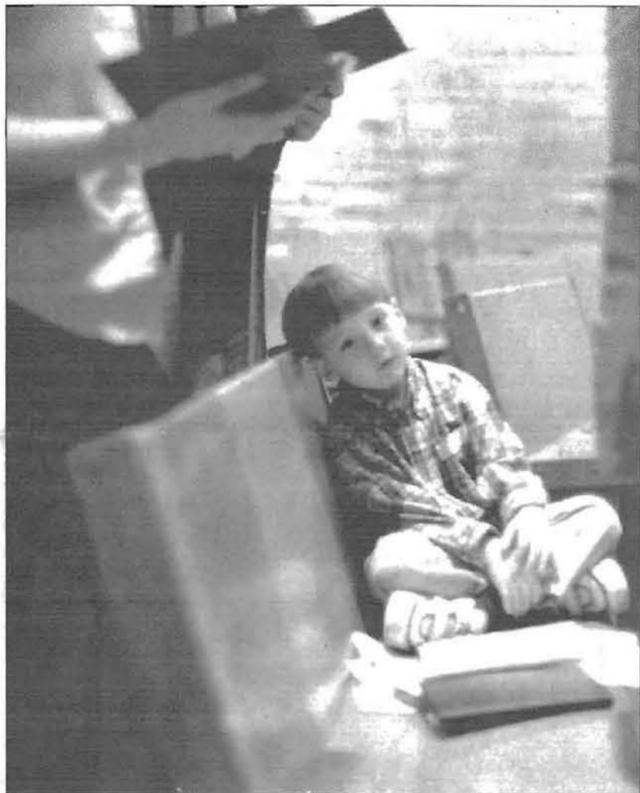
the service by reading scripture, leading hymns, playing music, and praying.

The service included a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of the ten. A candle was lit for each of the deceased as their names were read aloud. Family members and friends were encouraged to come forward and light a candle or to say a few words in tribute.

Connie Patterson was the first person to speak. Her daughter Tracey died after a car collision on April 11, 1998. Patterson said her daughter was a typical college student, a member of the Delta Zeta sorority who was trying to decide what she wanted to major in. Eventually, Tracey transferred from UM-St. Louis to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

"Tracey lived each day as if it were her last," Patterson said. "She lived a very full

see MEMORIAL, page 6



Justin Patterson, 5, attends Thursday's memorial service at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel, honoring his late mother Tracy Patterson, and nine other UM-St. Louisans who passed away during this school year.

Stephanie Platt/The Current

Homecoming committee gets new allocation

BY JOSH RENAUD
 staff assistant

Hoping to build on the success of Homecoming this year, the Student Government Association's executive committee has allocated \$15,000 for next year's Homecoming Committee.

It was the executive committee's decision, said SGA President Jim Avery. Funding has been set aside for next year's Homecoming Committee by the Student Activities Budget Committee.

Hoping to build on the success of Homecoming this year, the Student Government Association's executive committee came up with the idea of moving the money into a new account, Avery said.

"This year's [Student Activities Budget Committee] reallocated the monies that SGA spent on Homecoming to the Student Activities Programming account, a budget in the Office of Student Activities," said Rick Blanton, manager of Student Activities.

Avery said the executive committee felt that funding the Homecoming Committee through Student Activities would give planners next year more time and more freedom to do their work.

"Now they have money in their account, so when they get together this summer, they'll already have it," Avery said. "This will make it easier for them, [and since] they can get more accom-

see HOMECOMING, page 6

Heated exchanges mark hearing

Butler alleges due process violations, bias in Student Court proceedings

BY JOE HARRIS
 senior editor

The Student Court is expected to issue a ruling by Tuesday on Student Government Association vice-president-elect Carrie Mowen's grievance alleging campaign rule violations against president-elect Darwin Butler.

The Court held an open hearing on the grievance, Tuesday. At times, the hearing became testy as Butler exchanged verbal barbs with both the Court and Mowen.

Butler first argued that due process was not followed with the hearing. Butler said he never received any of the documents he needed to build a defense.

"You are going to have to dismiss this on a technicality. You did not present me with the proper evidence at a proper time," Butler said. "How am I supposed to form a defense when you don't present the evidence to me until the day of the hearing?"

Butler then asked the the Court's justices if they knew anything about due process. After the justices said yes, Butler then asked if this was a violation of due process. The justices asked if he was informed of the allegations and Butler said no. Then Chief Justice Steven Bartok said that Butler was informed of the allegations.

Butler said that he was starting to see biases in the proceeding, saying he felt that the papers containing the allegations should have been sent to him by certified mail and that he was continuing under protest.

Butler then asked where the official stenographer was and was told that all of the justices keep their own records.

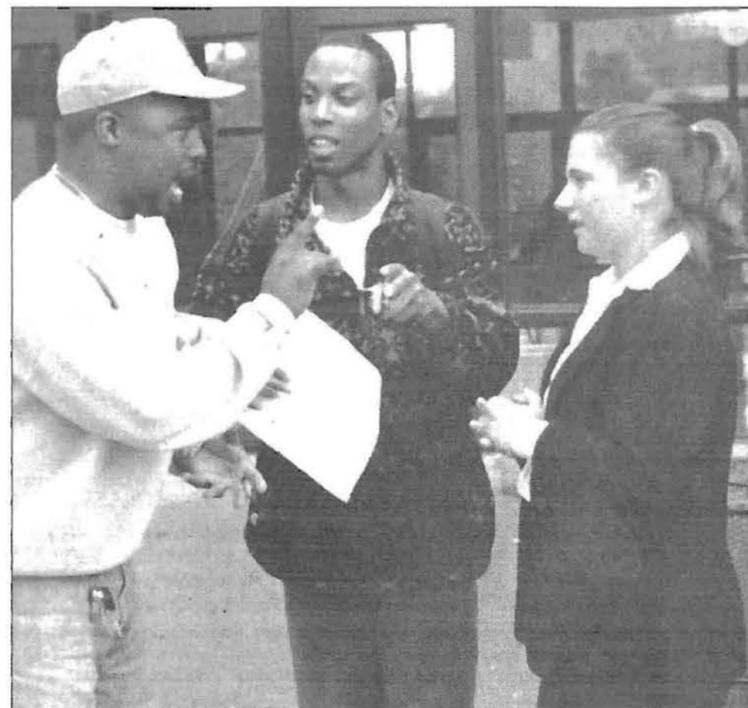
"You bring me here with these allegations, you throw due process out the window, and then you are going to tell me that there's nobody keeping a record of what transpired here?" Butler said. "If you didn't want me in [office], then you should have told me this from the start. Now let's carry on with this nonsense because that's what I believe it is."

Mowen began to present her case. Mowen said that Butler's flyers did not contain their source of funding, which she said is a violation of the election rules.

Mowen said Butler handed one of his flyers to a comic at a University Program Board event on Apr. 17 and that the comic proceeded to go on stage and endorse Butler without the proper paperwork being filed.

Mowen also said that Butler addressed his classes without the proper paperwork on file. "I don't know how [the alleged violations]

see GRIEVANCE, page 6



Student Sharone Hopkins (center) looks on as SGA President-elect Darwin Butler has words with Vice-President-elect Carrie Mowen on the U Center patio after Tuesday's grievance hearing. The conversation, which became animated at times, centered in part on the grievance Mowen filed against Butler late last month. The Student Court is expected to rule on the issue early this week.

Stephanie Platt/The Current

Named U.M.-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, May 3
 • **Donut Day** at the Women's Center in 211 Clark Hall from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Come by for complimentary donuts and coffee and meet the staff that keeps the Women's Center going. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

Tuesday, May 11
 • **Appreciation BBQ** at the Newman House from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet good people, eat good food, and drink good drinks. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.

Sunday, May 23
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

Monday, May 24
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

Tuesday, May 25
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

Wednesday, May 26
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

Thursday, May 27
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

Friday, May 28
 • **21st Century Leadership Training Program for College Women** at the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Contact: Dayna Stock, 6623.

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FEATURES

CHILDREN OF VIOLENCE

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Tuesday, April 20, 1999, two students, ages 18 and 17, strolled into Columbine High School and began to shoot at anyone that moved or tried to lead the student body to safety. As a result of this tragic event a teacher and 12 students lost their lives.

This school shooting spree, one major tremor in a series of many quakes, has created a series of aftershocks that are still strongly felt. Because of this incident, many members of schools and parents have taken a second glance at teenagers and how they relate to society.

George J. Yard is an associate professor in the Division of Teaching and Learning in the School of Education at UM-St. Louis.

Because Yard has worked with teenagers who have acted violently and aggressively and because of his work with the Mental Health Department since the mid 1960's, Yard has noticed some trends in teenagers of today. Children in schools are classified in two different categories: children with disabilities and children without disabilities.

The children that Yard has worked with are considered violent in the classroom, and emotionally-disturbed. These emotionally-disturbed children present many legal and regulatory issues for schools to contend with and provide services for their care. Ten percent of the population of children contend with mental issues. Two percent of the identified population are educated in public schools.

According to Yard, in the past 10-15 years, violent activity in children has increased. One variable involved that could alter this is the fact that information has an almost immediate feedback. The fact that more knowledge is readily available alters the view that the past had less violence.

From Yard's own experiences of adolescence, Yard recalled no access to the technology, firearms, and knowledge that children today have. Yard's exposure to violence was limited

to only about one or two times a month, when he went to the movies.

One morning about a week ago, Yard watch 10 minutes of cartoons on morning television. In that 10 minutes, Yard witnessed 10 to 15 acts of violence and aggressive assaults wrapped in humor.

"I saw people or things, cartoons, doing hurtful things to other cartoon figures at a very high frequency," Yard said.

Because of the violence children watch on television, they will not necessarily go out and shove their classmates of a cliff like Wile E. Coyote would with the Roadrunner, but after prolonged exposure to violence, a definite desensitizing occurs.

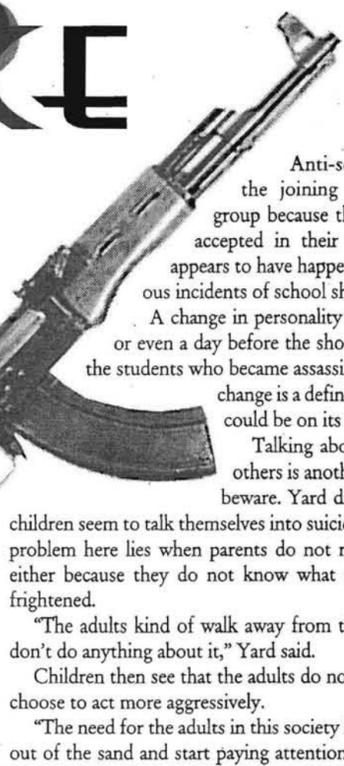
"The more children see evidence of violence in their environment, the less traumatized they are, the less shocked they are by that violence," Yard said.

By the time children attend middle school, the martial arts movie becomes popular. In their play, children portray martial arts moves without contact. The problem lies in the whole premise that martial arts are to defend oneself or to place harm to others.

In children acting violently, a definite corrosive effect deteriorates their perception of what is appropriate social interaction. This corrosive effect can become deadly when teamed with today's fast-paced society. In today's society parents often have to schedule time with their children, and because of every family member's activities, parents have less quality time to spend with their children.

"It's very difficult for parents to have any idea on a consistent basis what's happening to their children," Yard said.

Some warning signs present in the Columbine incident may give clues as to what parents should look for in their own children.



Anti-social behavior or the joining of an alternative group because the children are not accepted in their larger peer group appears to have happened in all the previous incidents of school shootings.

A change in personality a few days, weeks, or even a day before the shooting took place in the students who became assassins of their peers. A change is a definite sign that trouble could be on its way.

Talking about harm to self or others is another sign of which to beware. Yard discussed how these children seem to talk themselves into suicide and murder. The problem here lies when parents do not respond to the talk either because they do not know what to say or they are frightened.

"The adults kind of walk away from these kids and then don't do anything about it," Yard said.

Children then see that the adults do not care, so they may choose to act more aggressively.

"The need for the adults in this society is to get their heads out of the sand and start paying attention to their children," Yard said, detailing that it matters not if the children are their own, those of a neighbor, or those at the local school.

Teenagers like to feel that they are not a part of society, but they will really do anything to fit in their peer group and that culture. If rejected, teenagers will create their own subculture to counteract mainstream society. Most teens grow out of these subcultures, but some never do. For years the government has wanted to create a commission to be a safety net for teens. One of these nets has yet to be created because various agencies continue to pass the responsibility.

"Sadly enough, out of the Littleton situation we'll create a new commission, we'll put famous people on [it], we'll write new policies, we'll spend the next six months beating our breasts and saying how terrible it is, but a year from now there

see VIOLENCE, page 6

GET THIS

'Seriousness' of high school is but a memory

I find myself reminiscing about high school a lot lately and, boy, am I so very, very, VERY happy to be out of those teenage years.

Don't get me wrong, there were parts of the experience that I enjoyed. I participated in sports and scholastic activities. I hung out with a fairly large group of friends. I wasn't voted "most popular," but I wasn't a complete outcast either. I was about as average as you could get, but I still remember the pressures and the intensity of that stage.

The thing that really amazes me is how important everything seemed at the time. I believe that people's perception of the importance of things

must be greatly enhanced by the effects of puberty. I still see that in my AMY LOMBARDO nieces and Features Editor nephews

today. Even the smallest event constitutes life or death circumstances in their minds. I can't recall why such trivial things seemed so pertinent back then. I suppose it's all part of growing up.

My, how things have changed!

I look at my present-day life, and I realize that I am so much happier now than then. All of those individuals who I held in such high esteem just a few years ago are now virtually non-existent in my life. I only stay in contact with one person I went to high school with, my good friend, Kelly. (That is actually an unusual circumstance, because we've known each other since we were 5 - we're like family!)

Other than that I only have a handful of people who I would consider my friends, none of whom I knew five years ago. I am lucky to have people in my life who I have chosen because of their personalities and unique characteristics, not just because we had homeroom together for four years. As glad as I am to be out of the acne-era, I must admit, I miss some of the people. It's been so long since I've seen some of them they have almost evolved into movie-like characters in my head. There was Kim, the incredibly hilarious boy-crazy woman; Stephanie, the devastatingly beautiful girl who had a tendency to spit when she talked; Jason, the rather dumb, yet also appealing, jock; Jose, the sexy exchange student from Spain. (Man, what an accent!)

I'm not really sure what my point is. Maybe I don't really have one, and I apologize for that. I guess I am just relieved to be at a point in my life where I am young, the world is at my feet (both literally and metaphorically, if you really think about it) and I am lucky enough to realize it. I am no longer bogged down with the stress of cliques and social status. Yes, these things still exist, even on our beloved campus, and I recognize that. But now, with my new and improved outlook, I realize that other things are more important to me - my family, my quality-not-quantity friends, my dogs, my health, my education, etc. These are the things that float my boat.



UNDER THE CURRENT

previously run 6/15/98
compiled by Erin Stremmel/staff photographer

If you were a cartoon character, who would you be and why?

"I would prefer to be Roger Rabbit because not only is he well-liked by everyone (except Dr. Doom) but he also gets Jessica Rabbit."



-Paul Hackenberger
Senior/Communication w/emphasis in theatre



"Rafiki (Lion King) He's intelligent, humorous, and a little bit kookie. He makes everyone laugh."

-Kelly Schwer
Senior/Business

"Scooby Doo --get to eat scooby snacks and always solves the mystery."



-Jason Hershberger
Business/Finance major



"Tasmanian Devil-- He's F*#@! crazy."

-Jason Nasrallah
Architecture major

"Answer is Coyote. Creative and persistent to kill Road Runner."



-Ziad Nasrallah
Junior/E.E. major

Project displays results of domestic abuse

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

In 1997, boyfriends or husbands killed 29 percent of female murder victims. In the same year, three percent of males were killed by their wives or girlfriends.

To help inform the UM-St. Louis campus, the Weinman Center exhibited nine wood silhouettes painted red with the stories of relationship violence murder victims. The display, called the "Silent Witness Project," shown Monday and Tuesday of last week in the University Center, generated much interest in the students and faculty in the area.

Nanci Bobrow is a Missouri co-chair for the National Council of Jewish Women of the St. Louis section. Bobrow directs the tour of the "Silent Witness Project."

"The silhouettes stir you emotionally and motivate you to take action to counteract domestic violence," Bobrow said.

The "Silent Witness Project" is available for exhibit for the cost of \$50 which goes to the National Council of Jewish Women. For more information on exhibiting the "Silent Witness Project," call the National Council of Jewish Women at (314) 993-5181.

Terese Evans is the Grant Coordinator at the Center For Trauma Recovery at UM-St. Louis. Evans exhibited the project and helped to inform those interested in more information at the silhouette exhibit.

"Many, many people stopped and let their jaws drop as they looked [and] read the little minuetts," Evans said.

Most relationship violence occurs before marriage or cohabitation. The difference between the violence in men and women is that almost always men are the perpetrators and initiate the violence. When women use violence, most of the time it is to defend themselves.

Relationship violence does not usually become spontaneously better. In fact, in most cases the violence will become progressively worse.

"Signs of aggression or violence should be taken very seriously. Once a woman has tolerated it and stuck around, it just sends the message that violence is okay," Evans said.

The perpetrator may even be very apologetic, bring flowers, and take the victim out to dinner. This does not mean the violence will end; it is just part of the cycle that continues.

Many questions are raised about why victims remain in violent relationships.

"I think that what is really more important is to ask why the perpetrator is doing this, [and] how is it that he gets away with it. This, rather than looking at the victim; 'What is she doing to bring this on?'" Evans said.

Evans noted that most of time the victim does nothing to cause violence, and the perpetrator would attack whoever they were with.

This trend of focusing on the victim is another part of larger society. Society often asks what the victim did to deserve the crime against them and the reason for the act.

"If we can find some reason that this is happening to the victim, then we sort of believe we can keep ourselves safe," Evans said.

Women remain in abusive relationships for a number of reasons including they earn less money, they are the primary childcare providers, and women who are abused are often isolated by their abusers. By isolating themselves, these victims avoid being questioned, or so they believe, by their abusers.

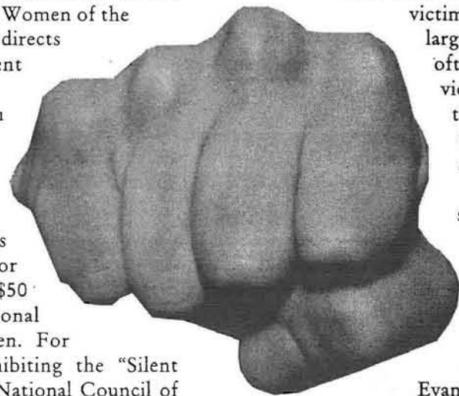
In order to learn more about relationship abuse, some classes are available.

These classes include Psychology 390, which teaches about how research studies are conducted, formulated, and the different aspects of data entry.

Psychology 232 teaches about the psychology of victims. A practicum in helping victims of crime can be taken in Psychology 295.

If concerned about anyone, for personal therapy or to take part in a study, please call the Weinman Center at (314) 516-6737.

Evans concluded, "It can happen to anyone. . . It crosses over all economic boundaries. I think that's very important to realize."



COMMENTARY

The Current
THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

Editorial Board

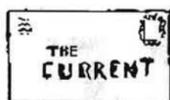
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OUR OPINION

New campaigning rules good for U

The Issue:

Two rules regarding electoral campaigning have been changed to make advertising easier.

We Suggest:

Hopefully, SGA will continue to improve its election rules.

So what do you think?

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

Last week, the Student Government Association changed two rules pertaining to future electoral races. The changes will now allow for the chalking of sidewalks and the use of yard signs in SGA election campaigns.

Chalking is the advertisement of a particular slate, urging voters to vote for them by the candidates writing their names in chalk on campus sidewalks. This practice has been used as recently as last year's SGA election when all the candidates used this form of campaigning. The rule was basically ignored, until this year, when complaints were heard about the use of chalking.

Yard signs displaying candidate's names will also be permitted in next year's race. The signs will be used as another way to get the candidate's names in front of the voters.

These changes make sense for all of the parties involved. Since chalking had already been going on for

several years, it makes sense for this practice to be legal. Chalking provides an inexpensive way of campaigning for SGA hopefuls who are strapped by a college budget.

The yard signs are another innovative way to campaign and it will be interesting to see how they will be used, and how they will affect the results of future campaigns.

Voters will benefit from these rule changes because they will have an easier time finding out who the candidates are. As a result, not only will voters hopefully be more informed, but there may be an increase of attendance at the polls as well.

It is clear that by modifying these two obscure rules, SGA is making a conscious effort to make voting more student-friendly. Hopefully this trend will continue and will result in quality choices of student leadership.



DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief

Hearing shows gap between the races

A young lady approached me to talk about the recent grievance hearing involving SGA president-elect Darwin Butler and vice-president-elect Carrie Mowen.

"There'll be a riot on this campus if the election is overturned," she said. It wasn't threatening, just a statement.

A riot? Over an SGA election?

Butler, like the young lady who approached me, is African-American. Mowen, who filed a grievance against him alleging several election rules violations is white. It was interesting to note that during last week's hearing the left side of the room, on which Mowen sat, was almost all white, with three African-Americans, while the right side, on which Butler sat was almost completely black with only three whites, (one of whom was reporting on the event for *The Current*.) The picture was telling - and disturbing. Is our campus really this divided?

Unfortunately, Tuesday's grievance hearing may reveal less about Butler or Mowen than it does about the sorry state of race relations at UM-St. Louis. The lady who approached me is not the only African-American I've talked to who feels that Butler is the victim of discrimination. Butler himself commented after the hearing that if he were "any other person" then none of this would be happening.

Whites I've talked to, on the other hand, often feel differently, that race is not an issue in the dispute. Grievances are not an indication of discrimination. They are in fact not even unusual, being filed or threatened so often in SGA elections, it's become almost a normal part of the process. Race is unimportant. In the end, it's a simple matter of determining whether or not rules were violated. Why is this seen as a grand racial conspiracy? I must admit that I myself feel this way. Thus far, I've seen absolutely no evidence of a racial conspiracy against Butler or any other candidate in this election.

But as you can tell by my column photo, I may not be the best judge of the level of racism in society. Being of the Caucasian persuasion, I, like most whites tend not to see racism as much as those who are often its victims. Whites may have more faith in institutions simply because in the past those institutions have often favored them. Some African-Americans may take the opposite view for the opposite reason. This was evident Tuesday when Butler began accusing the Student Court of bias and due process violations eliciting stares of bemused disapproval from many whites on the left angry at the apparent disrespect for the justices, while some African-Americans on the right side responded with nods of approval hearing a ring of truth in Butler's words.

One hearing, two perspectives. Who is deluding themselves?

I don't pretend to know the answer but I suspect it starts with an act of faith in our fellow human beings. Many of the African-Americans present on the right seemed from the beginning willing to believe that the justices had only the worst, most conspiratorial of intentions. Why? As yet, the Court had done nothing but schedule a hearing, as they are supposed to do. What prompted suspicion that the Court's motives were anything but honorable? Likewise, many on the left side of the room cast worried gazes at the African-American onlookers. Why? What would convince the white observers that others at the hearing bore ill intentions simply because of their skin color?

Our suspicions. Our prejudices. Our stereotypes. White and black, we've come to expect the worst from one another. Why then are we so surprised when we each fulfill our own dark prophecies? Perhaps coming together starts with expecting the best from one another, from assuming the intentions are good until proven otherwise. It would be nice to one day see each other as people rather than monolithic conspiracies of color. I hope that day comes soon, a day when we can all sit comfortably in the middle of the room.

Wrestling and women

Like millions of other Americans, I watch professional wrestling. I am not ashamed to admit it, nor do I think it's real. However it is entertaining, the scriptwriting is generally pretty good, and there's really nothing much else on T.V. on Monday nights.

Last Monday I was watching WWF's Monday Night Raw. A wrestler named The Rock was hit from behind by a woman named Chyna. When The Rock got up, he hit Chyna back.

I didn't think anything about it at the time. I knew it was part of the script and that he really didn't hit her. But later the announcers were analyzing the situation and one of them said something to the effect of, "If Chyna wants to step into a man's territory, then she should be treated like any other man."

It bothered me. What kind of statement is that to society? It is bad enough that women are cast only as mere sex symbols, wearing skimpy outfits and supplying nothing more to the matches than something nice to look at. Now we have professional wrestling advocating violence against women.

Don't get me wrong, I have enough faith in humans to believe that most of them realize that wrestling is fake and that wrestling's barbaric casting of women is only an act. But what about those who don't see it that way? What message is this sending to the kids who watch wrestling who may not understand that it is just a male soap opera?

The Current's own sports editor, Ken Dunkin, hosts a wrestling call-in show called *Bodyslam* in Columbia, Mo. He says that an alarming number of his callers actually believe wrestling is real. They idolize their favorite wrestlers and in some cases behave like them too.

Wrestling's negative portrayal of women is most likely to be most felt in this segment of society. The impact may most likely come with an increase in domestic violence or other abusive behavior.

More than anything, though, wrestling's portrayal of women only serves to reinforce the stereotype of women being submissive to the male culture. In wrestling, women are always dependant on the male for their survival. However, this isn't the case in real life.

One of the strongest people I know is my own mother. She became a single parent when I was just a one-year-old (she was only 18 herself) and she has raised me on her own ever since. It is through her love and understanding that I have become the person I am today.

My mother has never needed a man in her life. In my eyes, she's a saint. She raised me to not be a violent person, but I have enough respect for her that I would raise my fists to defend her honor.

She taught me how to treat women: open doors, pull out chairs, etc. I find it very strange that almost all of her teachings are not even remotely found in wrestling relationships between men and women.

Of course wrestling officials will defend themselves by saying that if people are offended, they can simply turn off their televisions. They know that not many, if anyone, will do it. (I know next Monday, I'll still be watching wrestling myself.) But society needs to take a stand somewhere, and we, as a people, need to recognize what's real and what's not.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Butler must show respect for campus

If Darwin Butler is indeed instated into the office of SGA president, I hope that he will show greater respect for the students and system he claims to represent than he has thus far. Mr. Butler's recent question (in *The Current* 4/26/99) "Do you really think that you are going to dismiss me over some allegations?" show a stunning lack of respect for fairness in the SGA elections. As potential president Mr. Butler of all people should be concerned with fairness in SGA proceedings.

On the contrary, however, Mr. Butler seems to believe that rules created to preserve justice should be manipulated to

serve his personal interests. After crashing a private party sponsored by his competitors with their own private funds, Mr. Butler asserted that his right to attend the party was assured by "the Civil Rights Act of 1964." He then claimed that he was not allowed to attend because of "being the only black candidate" (in *The Current* 4/19/99). Does Mr. Butler sincerely believe that the Civil Rights Act gives everyone the right to intrude on private property at will? Should we all go over to his house uninvited and help ourselves to his food? If I tried to do so and Mr. Butler asked me to leave, would that be because

I was a minority? Or because my behavior was rude?

Actually, I don't think Mr. Butler believes what he has said about civil rights. I think he has been attempting to justify himself in any way possible. But that's not good leadership; it's an arrogant refusal to own up to his mistakes. I hope that Mr. Butler will reflect on this and will change, so that his acts in office will show honesty and a willingness to correct his mistakes rather than deny them.

-Tara Robbins

GUEST COMMENTARY

A challenge to the 'Whatever' Generation

There's a question that I ask all of my students, at the beginning of each semester, "How many of you feel you're going to collect Social Security benefits?" For the last couple of years, nearly all answer, "We most likely won't."

Then I ask how many are interested in politics? The answer is practically none.

One of my colleagues gives surprise "current events" tests, asking students to identify people in the news and recent news events. The results would be ludicrous, if they weren't so frightening.

Newspaper readership continues to fall. Last week, the Post-Dispatch reported that daily and Sunday circulation was at its lowest in 30 years. Studies show that one of the reasons for the drop in circulation is that young people aren't buying the paper.

Research also shows that the drop in the percentage of eligible voters going to the polls has been, to a large degree, caused by the lack of participation of younger voters, 18 to 25.

All of these facts are not unrelated. They seem to express the attitude of the "Whatever" Generation.

I notice, in my classrooms that the majority of my students go to extremes to avoid calling attention to themselves. Somewhere in their education or today's culture, young people have found it convenient "not to make waves", to "avoid controversies", to pride themselves in abstaining from political issues.

"Why should I be interested in the news?" some say, "it's always the same."

"Who cares about politics?" most say, "all politicians are crooks."

Are those accurate conclusions? Or are they cop-outs? The problem is that it takes effort to be informed. Reading is more difficult than "blocking out" in front of the boob tube. It's comforting to fall back on the excuse that, "it wouldn't be worth the effort, if I did."

If politicians are all crooks, then we don't really have to spend our valuable time finding out about them and listening to their positions. We already know they're not trustworthy or worth our time.

In my earlier career I handled political campaigns. From my personal knowledge, I found that most of my political clients were more honest and forthright than my business clients. Most of them were dedicated people who wanted to devote their lives to public service. My business clients were motivated by their desire to make as much money as possible.

The attitude of the "Whatever" Generation is unique to my experience. My generation grew up in the middle of the Depression and then fought in the bloodiest war in all history. We weren't allowed the choice of ignoring current events and politics.

The students of the sixties and seventies certainly took an active part in the happenings of their day. It was college students, then, who led the nation in fighting the stupidity of the Vietnam War. These students also helped to make desegregation become a reality in our school systems.

Somewhere between the eighties and nineties, college students have become depressingly silent and uninvolved. It seems to me that too many of today's students aren't particularly interested in anything that doesn't contribute, immediately, to their personal satisfaction.

That's why I want to challenge this generation. I know, from my experience, that you are capable of changing the future. I know that deep-down your generation can be as bright and dedicated as your predecessors'. All it takes is a little effort.

Yes, you can make sure that you will collect Social Security. And, just as important, that this country can make large strides towards fairness and justice in your time.

Politicians listen to the groups that make the most noise. Silence won't do it. If you want fairness in Social Security, start joining groups that demand it effectively. Start voting. Start paying attention to what your representatives are saying and, particularly, doing. If you disagree, let them know you do. And let them know where it counts the most... in the ballot boxes. If your generation started voting to the same degree my generation votes, no smart politician could ignore your wishes.

My mother used to say, "God helps those who help themselves." My mother was always right.



SID SAVAN
Guest Commentary



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SPORTS

LATEST SCOOP

UM-St. Louis Athletics are on the right track

As this is my last column of the winter semester, I would like to just start off and thank all of the supporters of *The Current*.

This semester has been full of numerous sporting activities and events that have affected UM-St. Louis.

The men's basketball team said goodbye to Rich Meckfessel and said hello to Mark Bernsen.

This new-age of Rivermen basketball that Bernsen will head up will feature an up-tempo type of game with the future of UM-St. Louis basketball looking bright.

The women's basketball team made a valiant strive towards winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament, but came up short.

Head Coach Shelly Ethridge has blossomed this program along and made it quite a success in the short amount of time this energetic coach has been here.

Next season, the **DAVE KINWORTHY** Riverwomen sports associate will lose senior Melanie Marcy, but will be a force to be reckoned with come tournament time.

The women's softball program finally has a place to call home and hang its cap. The Riverwomen have had a very solid season under the guidance and mastermind of Head Coach Charlie Kennedy.

The softball program, with a solid showing in conference, will only lure the best to UM-St. Louis. The women have stars such as Sybil Wall and Ashley Blust returning for them next season, and with these offensive stars, mixed with the likes of GLVC co-player of the week pitcher Kathleen Rogoz and Megan Kuebler, the sky is the limit.

The sporting events that UM-St. Louis has experienced have only positive effects on the campus and the surrounding community.

Throughout the St. Louis area, UM-St. Louis is recognized as a decent college. With the athletes that are coming to UM-St. Louis now and the publicity that they should and will get, the programs are headed in the right direction.

You must always start somewhere, and from what I have experienced in the past two years, this school is headed in the right direction athletically.

Just look at some of the teams that have moved up.

The men's tennis team is three or four years old, and now they are competing for the championship of the GLVC. That is outstanding. Head Coach Rick Gyllenberg has done for this program what any coach coming in could only dream of.

The tennis program has its eyes set on next season as they do not even graduate one player. The core that Gyllenberg has brought in has molded and jelled like a donut (no coach, I am not comparing your players to a donut).

The new program of women's tennis is not stabilized yet, but if they can compete like the men in three years, I will just stand and applaud.

Through these years of athletics, UM-St. Louis looks like it wants to head in the right direction.

My only question is: Do they? The future can only tell, but unless something dramatic happens, the programs will only rise to the top of the class and succeed beyond anybody's wildest dreams.

Lack of umpires cancels game

Rivermen's 2-2 tie with Quincy remains unresolved; effects not immediately felt

BY KEN DUNKIN
 staff editor

It has been a weird season for the UM-St. Louis baseball team. They have had games called due to weather, field conditions and protested umpire calls. The worst may have come last Friday when no umpires came to the UM-St. Louis field to call the Rivermen's game against Quincy.

The game had been called due to darkness earlier in the season. The game had been played to a score of 2-2 with the 14th as the final full inning being played. The Rivermen are currently making a surge to qualify for the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament which made the game very important to finish.

"Put this one in the books. It just goes to show that if we didn't have bad luck we would have none at all," Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady said. "It just goes to show what kind of season it has been."

Due to the rain that had been pouring earlier in the week, many high school J.V. and varsity baseball games had been canceled and rescheduled for Friday.

"The commissioner of umpires had tried all day Thursday to get an umpire here. He also got up at 5:00 a.m. (Friday) to try to get someone here," Brady said. "It just couldn't be done. All the high school games were being made up and the umpires were all locked into previous obligations."

The Rivermen had planned on getting the game finished, but with the cancellation it will depend heavily on conference tournament implications. They will have a make-up game against Indianapolis today also.

"We really have [to] win all six games that we have remaining," said Riverman Mark Masesso. "SIU-Edwardsville also has to lose otherwise it is over for us in the conference."

The Rivermen will have a long haul in the



Stephanie Platt / The Current

Riverman Andy Warden (5) slides into second base ahead of the Truman State second baseman's tag in a game earlier this season. The Rivermen recently had a nine-game winning streak snapped against Lewis University.

conference after dropping two games last Thursday against Quincy. They lost the first game 4-0 and the second 5-3.

"Those were two tough games. We should have won the second game. We just broke down. An error and a couple of walks led to a three run rally," Masesso said. "It takes a lot of

air out of the balloon when those kinds of things happen in a close game."

Making the conference tournament may not be the only way the Rivermen will make the Regional Tournament. There are four at-large bids which the Rivermen could receive as they stand at 26-11-1. They are 19th in the

Division II standings and 4th in the Regional standings.

"There is a possibility that we could miss the tournament and have the same record as Indianapolis," Brady said. "They could look at our overall record and season and put us there based on the way we have played."

Softball makes a statement in GLIAC challenge

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
 staff associate

The Riverwomen's softball team is as hot as a pile of charcoal burning in a barbecue pit as they have won eight out of their last ten and have secured the fourth seed going into the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

As the team remained hot, Sybil Wall increased the intensity even more as she was named the GLVC player-of-the-week. This honor is the second time in history a Riverwoman has been given such a title.

The first coincidence was when pitcher Kathleen Rogoz won the award during the week of Apr. 5 this season as well.

Wall was 13-25 on the week and was batting an extremely impressive .520. Also not to take away from her skill as a solid hit-for-average player, Wall notched four home runs and collected nine

RBI's during that stretch.

The Riverwomen and their cohesive unit have strived long and hard from where they have come.

They started off the season 3-7, but have overcome adversity to strengthen their final record to 30-19 overall and an impressive 12-6 in the GLVC.

The Riverwomen play against Wisconsin-Parkside in the first round of the GLVC tournament on April 30.

UM-St. Louis hosted Wisconsin-Parkside earlier this season and defeated them 2-0 and 6-5.

If the Riverwomen do advance to the second round, they will be forced to play the no. 1 seed, SIU-Edwardsville.

SIU-Edwardsville stands at 13-3 in the GLVC, but the Riverwomen did defeat SIU-Edwardsville earlier this season in the first game of a doubleheader 3-2.



Riverwoman Melissa Schumate slides into second base safely in a game against Lewis earlier this season. The Riverwomen have won eight of their last ten games and are the fourth seed going into the GLVC tournament. Their first round opponent will be Wisconsin-Parkside.

Photo by
 Stephanie
 Platt

Sports Opinion

Coaches, parents should stress sportsmanship to kids early on

I believe that it is one thing to go to a game to support your team, but it is another thing altogether to ruin another person's experience because you couldn't keep your mouth shut. This, I believe, to be true at all levels, including grade school sports.

I referee basketball for grade school kids and have done so for eight years. Up until the past few years though, I never noticed just how much parents speak their mind. I have had to throw people out of the gym altogether because they never stop. I have even had to call the police once because a coach

refused to leave the gym. I find that not only to be absurd, but also a terrible influence on the kids who look up to that coach.

I recently attended the high school state basketball finals, where the competition was very hot. I did notice, though, that there was very little disrespect among players, coaches, and fans to the other teams. There was even an award given at the end of the tournament to the team whose players, fans, and supporters were the most sportsmanlike. I believe this to be one of the only events that I have attended where I was able to

enjoy watching the game being played without having to block out a bunch of people who like to speak their minds freely.

I do have to admit that, yes, I do open my mouth on occasion when I go to games, but that is the competitive force in me. I don't continue to ramble on when there is nothing to ramble on about. But it all starts at the beginning. If sportsmanship can be brought back, I believe that sports will become all that much more enjoyable again.

-Brian Ortvals

Concert Review

'Creatures' put on marathon show

The Creatures Karma April 12

Siouxsie Sioux and drummer Budgie, both formerly of Siouxsie and the Banshees, stopped by St. Louis Apr. 12 as their new incarnation, The Creatures. The mostly goth crowd (with more than a couple cross dressers thrown in for flavor) packed Karma and eagerly awaited for one of their mentors to show them the way.

Local band Larissa Dalle, formerly known as Collaborateur, opened up the show, and quite impressively. The duo has since dropped the more heavy and industrial sound for their softer, yet equally dark music. This time around, Larissa Dalle's music was eerily sensual, and quite impressive in a very original way. St. Louis is lucky to have such a talented band right here in town.

The Creatures, after a very extended break in between bands, took the stage, and the crowd stopped everything at once to gaze upon one of rock's heroes. Siouxsie Sioux, though slight of stature, had more stage presence than almost any performer I have seen. The music focused almost solely on the drums and vocals, with Budgie and Siouxsie writing the music. The drums were never so overpowering as to take away from the show, but they were

definitely featured more prominently than the guitars.

Siouxsie held the audience captive somewhere between frozen adulation and mass frenzy, simply by the way she moved and sang. There were no stage antics or running around, no bashing of equipment, just pure charisma, and an amazing chemistry with the crowd. At one point in the show, I was shocked to look down at my watch and see that already an hour had passed in the Creatures' set, and not a soul was restless.

The Creatures knew the crowd well, and they knew the reaction would be somewhere near reverence when they played 'Nightclubbing', an Iggy Pop song written by David Bowie. With Siouxsie's sultry voice and Budgie's pounding drums, the cover worked as well as any of their own songs, possibly better than some. The marathon set continued for the length of three encores, the first being a four-song encore.

When The Creatures left the stage for the final time, an exhausted crowd slowly filtered out of Karma, and not one of them seemed disappointed in the least. And they had no reason to be, either. Between Larissa Dalle's scorching set and the mesmerizing Creatures performance, disappointment was not an option.

-Cory Blackwood

Concert Review

Urge is good but not quite worth the cash

The Urge UM-St. Louis

The Urge played this year's Mirthday show on Apr. 21, and judging by the crowd, this is not news to many people at all. The Urge rolled into St. Louis on a break in their tour for a chance to enjoy a show in their hometown.

Fat Cactus, a local ska band, opened the show to a sparse crowd consisting of more high school girls than UM-St. Louis students. The lack of an audience could not be blamed on the band, because they did not choose to play at 10 a.m., a time when most concert-goers are still sleeping off the previous night's festivities. Fat Cactus put on an impressive and energetic show; it is a shame that no one was there to see it.

After over an hour break between bands, The Urge was set to perform, right around noon, and there was a sizable crowd this time. People were spilling out of the beer garden, and up the hill, while brave souls fought for space up front. Once The Urge took the stage, they were greeted with an approving roar from the mob of Urge followers, music fans, and the simply curious.

The Urge put on one of the best shows I have seen them play (it was the fourth or fifth time, I can't remember) and why not? They got paid a cool twenty grand to play the UM-St. Louis Mirthday show. Yes, that's right, twenty thousand dollars, enough money to fill the Galaxy

for a week. Not only did they add to their wallet size significantly, but everything, except for the liquor, on their "hospitality" list was granted.

Most of the items on the list were fair enough: fruit and vegetable trays, thirty six bottles of water for on-stage consumption, chips and salsa, a newspaper, cups and ice. Some of the items on the list were a bit odd, such as the three cases of soda along with the two and a half cases of beer, garbage cans, and eighteen large bath towels (BAR TOWELS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE, the list states.)

The weirdest part, mainly because this is The Urge's hometown, is the family style dinner for eleven people, two king single rooms and three triple rooms in a nearby major chain hotel. Granted, this was a form contract for any gig they play, but did the folks at UM-St. Louis have to fulfill all of it?

I don't feel there is much to talk about with the show itself; The Urge was great (they usually are), and that is why they are so popular. Were they worth twenty thousand dollars, especially when a lot of the equipment wasn't theirs and the stage guards weren't theirs? No, they weren't. Hopefully next year we can spend the same amount of money and get two or three bands The Urge's size, or one larger band. Either way, it is a better use of our money.

-Cory Blackwood

VIOLENCE, FROM PAGE 1

will be a lot of people saying 'Littleton, where?' Yard said.

In order to curtail this situation, the parents have to go to the schools, the schools have to go to mental health authorities, and the mental health authorities have to go to the police organiza-

tions.

The trouble parents encounter when attempting to get help is they do not know where to go. When they do find the right place, it does not have the necessary resources. Or from the beginning, the parents do not have the resources nec-

essary to afford help.

"Violence in our schools is nothing new. It's the act of kids bringing guns to school and killing their peers that's new," Yard said.

For more information, please call the Youth in Need at (314)946-0101.

SENATE, FROM PAGE 1

there from the students," Stegeman said.

Stegeman said the second purpose of the organization was to provide the student body an easier line of communication with the student senators.

"... we wanted to provide the organization for the student body, if they're interested, to come to our meetings and express concerns to us so that we can bring those up in the senate,"

Stegeman said.

Stegeman said the organization's current plans were to draft a constitution and seek formal University recognition. He said they would also like to make organization membership a requirement for student senators. Stegeman said they would like to draft a resolution in cooperation with the entire senate to give the organization power to recommend a student

senator be dismissed for lack of attendance or other problems.

Stegeman said he hopes the student organization will inspire other students to get involved and bring their concerns to the senators. He said that "no matter what people say, as far as, well, you don't have enough votes or whatever, we still have a voice in there and we don't want to lose it..."

HOMEcoming, FROM PAGE 1

plished faster, it will expedite Homecoming activities."

This year, the SGA and the University Program Board spent approximately \$15,000 on Homecoming, said Michael Rankins, SGA vice-president. The same amount has been allocated for next year, he said, but more would be available if the Homecoming Committee

needed it.

Ryan Metcalf, chair of the Homecoming Committee this year, said he thought this was a good idea.

"We have every intention of building on the success of this year and making next year even more exciting," Metcalf said. "It does eat up a lot of money, but it's worth it."

MEMORIAL, FROM PAGE 1

REMEMBERED

- Megan Ariel Brandon
- Paul Chris Budennholzer
- Dr. Bernard Cohen
- D. Cheswick
- Michael Peter Gaffney
- Dr. Charles Larson
- Tracey Ann Patterson
- Dr. Richard Resh
- Mrs. Kaye L. Stone
- Ajay Shah

GRIEVANCE, FROM PAGE 1

affected [the election] or what they did," Mowen said. "I feel that if you are handed a set of rules and regulations, you need to abide by them, and I don't feel that Mr. Butler abided by the rules in any way, shape, or form."

Butler said that his flyers were printed up before the election rules were handed out.

"At [the March SGA meeting] I specifically stated... that three weeks isn't enough time for a candidate to put together a campaign," Butler said. "[The Monday after spring break]... Jim Avery told me I can begin my campaign, so I had my literature already made [before the rules were handed out]."

Butler said the comedian at the event on Apr. 17 was a friend of his and that the comedian learned of his campaign through a conversation backstage.

"[He said], 'Darwin, what [are] you doing here?' [I said], 'Well, I'm going to school here, and I'm running for president.' Black man trying to do something, that's what he said," Butler said. "I didn't coerce him; I didn't pay him; I didn't do nothing of the sort."

Butler also argued against the validity of the formal endorsement forms. Butler said the forms only apply when the candidate uses another's name for their campaign, not when an individual or group endorses a candidate on their own.

"If you read [on the endorsement form], it states that I won't use no one's name to endorse me, and I didn't use their name to endorse me," Butler said.

Butler said that he never spoke to his classes, but his professor took it upon herself to address the class.

Josh Stegeman, co-chair of the election committee, then addressed the court. Stegeman said that if violations have been found, then the Court should consider disqualifying a candidate instead of holding another election.

Bartok said that the request would be noted.

The Court now has seven days from the hearing to issue a verdict. Bartok said deliberations will center around two things.

"One, if a violation did occur, and two, how severe was it?" Bartok said.

Butler said he feels he is a victim of racial discrimination.

"I think that if it was any other person, it wouldn't have went this far," Butler said.

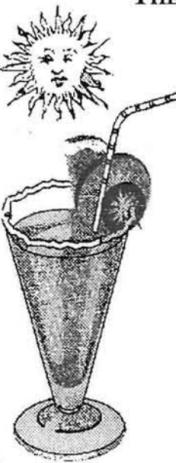
Mowen said she will try to serve the student's best interests, despite her differences with Butler.

"I was elected by 400 some-

odd votes," Mowen said.

"Obviously, the students want to see me in the vice-president's position. I am willing to fight for the students. I will be in my office... as much as I can be there. I will be there to speak out for the students because I am the voice of the students, as I was elected by the students."

LUCAS HUNT VILLAGE
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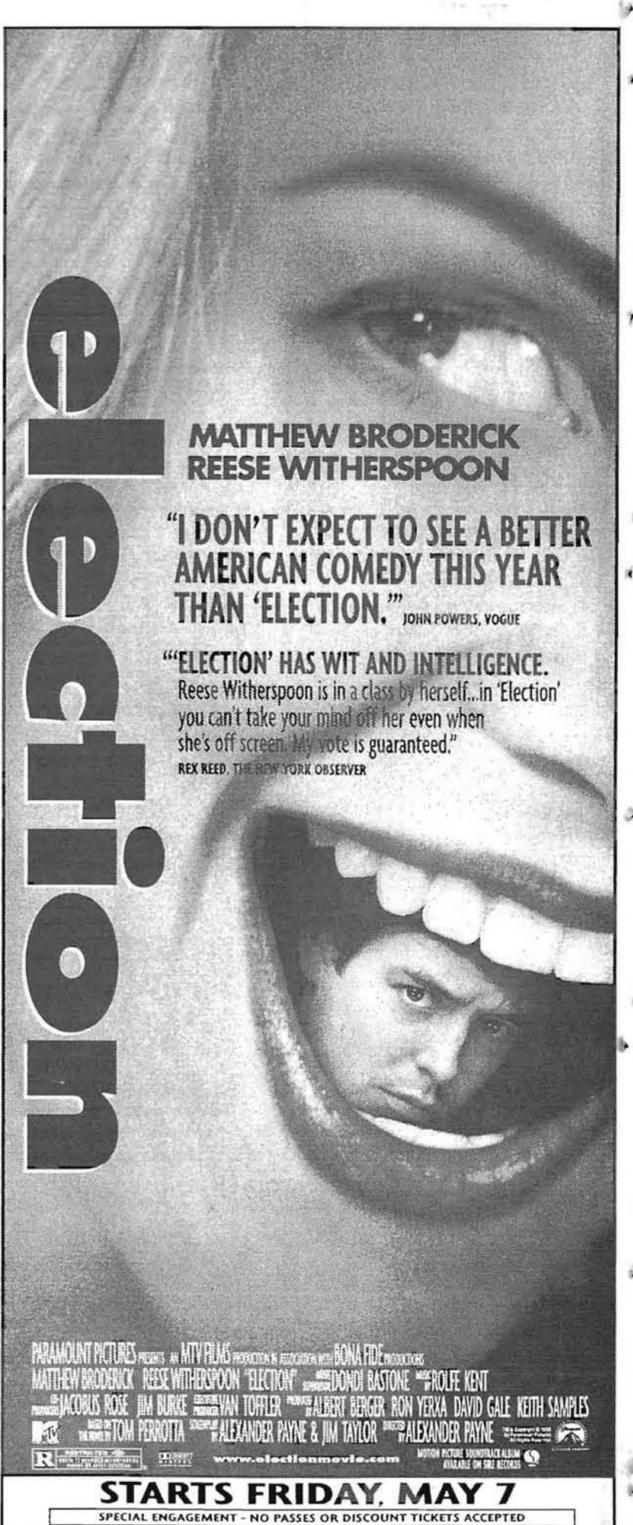
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life in a very short amount of time." Patterson said that the ordeal has been difficult for Tracey's five-year-old son Justin. He asks questions all the time, she said, as he tries to understand what happened to his mother.

Dr. Richard Resh, a history professor at UM-St. Louis, was remembered by John Macke, a former student.



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Misc

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