

Man from Mound City: Meet Dan Martin, an artist from the Post-Dispatch. He visited UMSL last Wednesday to explain the history of the Weatherbird.

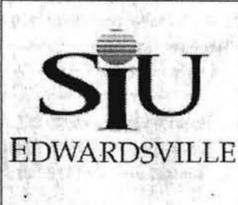
◀ See page 3



http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/current

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



Your money's worth: In this week's editorial, *The Current* compares the cost of going to school at UMSL with that of SIUE. You might be surprised what we found.

▲ See page 4

U-Wire News

Austin resident wins \$1 million in website drawing

BY AMANDA SAMMONS
Daily Texan

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — After accessing a website religiously for three months, Austin resident Evelyn Mata was declared a \$1 million winner by iWon.com by entering a drawing.

iWon.com, an Internet search engine supported by CBS, selected Mata as the winner for the month of January. Mata said an iWon representative called at 6:30 a.m. a few days before the official Jan. 15 announcement and told her the news.

"My first reaction was shock, then I started laughing when I hung up," Mata said. "I had very mixed emotions, but laughing is the best word for it. It was just unbelievable."

The website guarantees a daily \$10,000 winner, a monthly \$1 million winner, and a \$10 million winner on Tax Day, April 15, based on a point system. Participants gain points to enter the drawings by accessing links on the site.

Mata said her husband, Paulino, did not believe the news until they received the check from iWon.

The couple plans to buy a new house with the money, which will be distributed in equal annual installments of \$40,000 over the next 25 years, to replace the apartment that they currently rent in Northwest Austin.

"It was a big load off," Mata said. "We are now debt free."

She said they will also donate a portion of their winnings to the Polycystic Kidney Research Foundation, an organization that works to fight kidney disease. Paulino Mata suffers from the disease.

Mata, the site's third million-dollar winner, said she has been accessing iWon.com since it went online in October 1999, adding that she visited the site daily in December, which increased her chances of winning the random draw.

Mata works as a receptionist at a law firm and is currently seeking certification as a paralegal. Carlos Garcia-Cano, paralegal at the firm, said he's happy for Mata and her husband.

"We were all really surprised, and envious comes to mind, also," he said. "God gives to those who give back, and she really deserves it."

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Parking fees boosted again

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Students say available parking doesn't justify increase

Barring any unexpected changes, the cost of a student parking permit will rise to \$16 a credit hour for the fall semester, \$4 more than for the current semester, and double what it was for the 1998-99 school year, UMSL officials said.

The justification: "We have to meet the revenue stream to pay off the revenue bonds issued for parking garages," said Bob Samples, director of University Communications for UMSL.

In other words, the University borrowed money to build the parking garage on West Campus Drive and the one under construction east of East Campus Drive; to build two additional planned garages; to make improvements to Parking Garage "M"; and to tear down garages "C" and "D."

Already, some students are angry. Letitia McPherson, a junior studying music education, said the rise in parking fees is not worth it. "There's no place to park on campus," McPherson said. "They let faculty park in student parking. Parking isn't

good enough at UMSL to be paying \$12 [per credit hour]."

Janel Eckelkamp, a senior majoring in psychology, said the rates are too high for what she pays. "I use the new parking lot," she said. "I drove around for 10 minutes yesterday and couldn't find any space."

Parking fees aren't the only fees going up for the next school year. Last month, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri voted to raise the undergraduate educational fees to \$136.80 a credit hour, or a 3.2 percent rise.

In addition, the various fees that show up under the heading student activities are slated to go up to \$22.90 a credit hour from \$22.50, or a rise of 1.8 percent. That includes a new charge of 15 cents to pay for membership in the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, which students approved in a referendum.

The Student Government Association voted in favor of the 70-cent increase in student activities fees as recommended by vice chancellors G. Gary Grace and Reinhard Schuster.



Rafael Macias/The Current

Parking spaces such as these in the West Drive parking garage will cost \$16 per credit hour next semester.

Had the SGA voted no, the chancellor and vice chancellors could have overruled it, said Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

The Instructional Computing fee will rise from \$8.30 a credit hour to \$8.60, while the health services fee will remain at \$1.20.

Add all the fees together and stu-

dents will pay \$169.50 a credit hour in the fall, a rise of 3 percent. Add parking, and the cost of 15 credit hours will rise to \$2,782.50 for the fall semester, an increase of 5.4 percent.

In 1999, the Consumer Price Index, the most widely used measure of inflation, rose 2.7 percent, mean-

see **PARKING FEES**, page 10

New legislation could allow drug offenders to receive financial aid

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts has introduced a reform resolution that would allow students with previous drug-related convictions to receive financial aid.

The provision in question is in Section 483, subsection "F" of the Higher Education Act of 1998. The provision, effective on July 1, 2000, states that students convicted of possession or the sale of any controlled substance in a Federal or State court would not be eligible to receive grant, loan or work assistance for a period of time.

The resolution contends that no other class of offender faces similar restrictions on financial aid, and that the provision discriminates against students of low to moderate income

and against people of color.

Kris Lotlikar, national director of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, said that education should be used as a tool to fight drug use, not as a punishment.

"The answer to our nation's drug problems cannot be to deny an education to students who are trying to achieve it," Lotlikar said. "We feel that education can be a tool that can be used to fight drug abuse and not something that should be taken away in an effort to win the failed drug war."

Lotlikar said the current provision is discriminatory on many levels.

"If you're a student that has enough money to pay your way through school and doesn't need financial aid, you can have multiple drug offenses and this won't affect you in any way so this only affects poorer students," Lotlikar said. "On

another level it is discriminatory because of the way the war on drugs in this country is being fought. At this time it is predominantly focused on communities of people of color."

According to the Department of Justice, African-Americans make up 12 percent of this nation's population and 13 percent of all drug users. However, they make up 55 percent of all drug-related convictions.

Michael Rankins, vice president of the Student Government Association, said he is concerned with how this bill could affect minorities, African-Americans in particular.

"There is a higher percentage of minorities who are convicted in drug-related offenses, primarily young African-American males," Rankins said. "Unfortunately I think there are already too many ways these people are denied equal opportunity without

such legislation."

Rankins said the issue will be brought up in SGA's executive committee and will be brought forth to the Assembly to decide whether or not to make a public statement on the issue.

Robert Keel, a sociology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said the bill does not appear to be an effective way of controlling drug use. He said one of the theories developed by both sociologists and criminologists, the Social Bonding or Social Control theory, might be better used to lessen drugs' negative impact.

"Involvement or conformity activities seems to be one of the best ways to ensure that children and young people won't use drugs," Keel said. "So offering them educational opportunities as well as work opportunities

see **DRUGS**, page 10

Organizers hope to double participation in 'Big Event'

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The Big Event will take place on April 15, organizers said on Tuesday.

The Big Event, sponsored by the Student Government Association, is the nation's largest community service project. It was started about 15 years ago at Texas A&M and has since grown to include about 5,000 students at about 400 job sites nationwide.

"The national day is April 1, but we moved ours because it is during our spring break, and it is harder to get people over spring break," said Joe Flees, the Big Event chair.

Last year, Flees said anywhere from 15 to 20 University of Missouri-St. Louis students participated in its inaugural year here. The volunteers worked at St. Vincent's Children's Home, mostly doing yard work.

Flees said the main goal this year is to double the number of participants from last year.

"If we can get enough people, I hope we can go to two sites," Flees said. "Right now we are hoping to go back to St. Vincent's Children's Home where we were last year. I'm waiting to hear from them to make sure there are no problems with that, but I don't expect any. The second site will be decided upon if we get enough people."

To help recruit more people, Flees said he is looking to include Saint Louis University and

Washington University students this year. UMSL is currently the only St. Louis-area school to participate in the Big Event.

Flees said participating students get the chance to give back to their community.

"The purpose for the Big Event is less for the students gain, but the philosophy behind it is to say thank you to our school's surrounding community," Flees said.

Aaron Kohrs, a senior majoring in music education, participated in the Big Event last year. Kohrs said participants have nothing to lose by participating.

"There's always something that you get out of helping somebody else when they need help," Kohrs said.

Michael Rankins, SGA vice president, helped organize last year's Big Event and said he will be active again this year.

Rankins said the Big Event is just one of many events that SGA is planning that could ultimately help their image within the UMSL-St. Louis community.

"It's very important that students and the community in general understand that we do care about our image and we do care about them," Rankins said. "It's not that SGA is by nature a programming or philanthropic organization, but it is important to send a message that we are concerned about the welfare of the people, both the students and the

see **BIG EVENT**, page 10

Student Court plans to hear Butler appeal

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Student Government Association President Darwin Butler filed an appeal with the Student Court on Friday afternoon.

Rick Eccher, chief justice of the Student Court, withheld details about the appeal, he said, until he could hear from the General Counsel about whether its contents are private or public. The General Counsel is a legal counsel to the University of Missouri system that is based in Columbia, Missouri.

Eccher said he received the appeal from Darwin Butler around 1:30 p.m. Eccher said the General Counsel was consulted because this appeal could set a number of precedents.

"For example, let's take a hypothetical situation where a student makes an appeal from a hospital bed and he's going to be in that hospital bed for a period of longer than 16 weeks, which is the approximate length of a semester," Eccher said. "That student has a right to make an appeal under current judicial precedents because, if someone is accusing that person of something, that person has a right to look that person in the eye and refute that testimony. So in the case of a person who's prevented from attending an appeal at UMSL, what are our options?"

Butler has been in a St. Louis County Justice Center since October for work release violations. He was on work release from an April conviction of felony credit card theft.

With Butler unable to attend an appeal, but having the right to ask for one, the Student Court must make a decision on how to act. Eccher said this is why they are awaiting word from the General Counsel before acting further.

"We just want to make sure that what we are doing is legal and that we have the power to do that," Eccher said.

Eccher said he asked Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs, to contact the General Counsel, and she told him that she would call Friday and ask for a timely response.



Rafael Macias/The Current

Curators approve contract for Benton, Stadler, Research renovation project

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

The University of Missouri Board of Curators has approved a contractor to begin renovations of the UMSL-St. Louis Science Complex.

At their Jan. 28 meeting, the Curators approved a bid by United Construction Enterprises Co. to renovate portions of Benton and Stadler Halls and the Research Building. The renovations were originally suggested in a 1996 program-planning study.

Sam Darandari, associate director of Campus Planning and Construction, said the renovations were needed due to the age of the

buildings.

Two of "the buildings were constructed 30, 35 years ago, and still have all the original finishes," Darandari said. "We need to bring the buildings up to code and make sure they're safe."

At 13 years old, the Research Building is the newest of the three buildings in the Science Complex. It is far newer than Benton and Stadler Halls, built in 1964 and 1967, respectively.

According to a report issued at the Curators' meeting, the renovations will complete work begun on the buildings in 1993. So far, updates such as roof replacements and tuckpointing

have already been completed. The remainder of the work will focus on renovations in Stadler Hall and the Research Building.

The report says that work will be completed on space for biology laboratories on the first floor of the Research Building. The renovation will include structural work such as drywall partitions, painting, floor coverings and acoustical ceilings, as well as mechanical work such as the installation of an air-handling unit. The third floor of the Research Building is scheduled to become a laboratory for chemistry research.

see **BENTON**, page 10

Geese gather around Bugg Lake near the Benton, Research, and Stadler building complex. The Board of Curators has approved a contractor's bid to begin renovations in the buildings.

Bulletin Board

Monday, Feb. 7

•Noon Cultural Series presents a "Piano Recital." Andrea Triantafillou will perform the Liszt Sonata in B minor and Ravel's Suite Pour Piano, and discuss the music with the audience. Open to all those interested, the event will be located in 229 J. C. Penney and will last until 1 p.m.

•The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life presents a two-day Workshop for Women Seeking Local Office running today, and also on Wed., Feb. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. Sponsored by Continuing Education & Outreach. For more information, call 6623.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

•Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m. Free pizza got Chris here. Free hot dogs got Ron connected. What does it take to bring you??? For more information, call Betty at 385-3455.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

•Soup and Soul Food, a simple free meal and a time for prayer and devotion, from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Ministry.

•How to Utilize Career Services Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in room 308 Woods Hall. Learn about the resources available through Career Services to help you get that internship, co-op, part-time or full-time job. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•Rec Sports Registration Deadline is today for the Homecoming Table Tennis Tournament. This one-night tourney will be held Mon., Feb. 14 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Gym. Finalists win \$50 bookstor certificates. Open to students, faculty

Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

and staff. Sign up in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain.

Thursday, Feb. 10

•Resume Writing Skills Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 10 to 10:30 a.m. in room 308 Woods Hall. Create a resume that makes a positive first impression. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•African Cultures in America, a program sponsored by Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs, will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 126 J. C. Penney. African-American Faculty will discuss unity, culture and our Common destiny with African and African-American students. For more information contact Linda Sharp at 6807.

Sunday, Feb. 13

•Catholic Mass will be held every week at 6 p.m. at South Campus Residence Chapel.

•RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.). Anyone who is interested may attend. For further information feel free to call 385-3455.

Monday, Feb. 14

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Privacy, Informed Consent, and Genetic Research in Iceland." Sigurdur Kristinsson, assistant professor of philosophy, will discuss ethical issues in relation to plans to create a commercial database out of medical records from the Icelandic population. Open to all those interested, the event will be located in 229 J. C. Penney and will run from 12 to 1 p.m..



GO FOR IT!

The Current is now accepting applications for the Editor-in-Chief position for 2000-2001.

To qualify, students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- must have completed a minimum of nine academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

To apply, students must submit:

- a resume
- a cover letter
- three letters of reference

Applicants must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand. Experience in journalism and management is strongly recommended, but not required.

Please submit all application materials to the Editor-in-Chief by 5 p.m. on Feb. 18 at this address → 7940 Natural Bridge St. Louis, MO 63121

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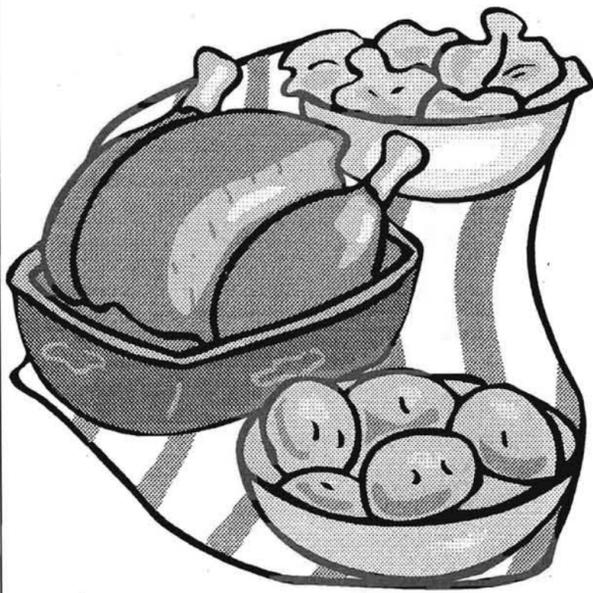
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Come enjoy the movie "Soul Food" with some original soul food!!!



Sponsored by the University Program Board

Thursday, Feb. 10th

University Meadows Clubhouse

9:00 PM

This event is FREE!!!

Spring Commencement

Saturday

May 20, 2000

7:00 p.m. • Kiel Center

— No Tickets Required —

Purchase your cap and gown, order announcements, class rings, etc. at The Graduate Salute, April 11, 12 & 13 in University Center Lounge from 11:00 am-7:00 pm.

Candidates for graduation will receive detailed information in the mail at the end of March.

For further information, contact the Office of Special Events at 516-5442.

WEATHER

..... or Not

St. Louis Post-Dispatch artist and writer Dan Martin holds up a sketch of the Post's famous Weatherbird during Wednesday's presentation. Martin has drawn the Weatherbird since 1986.



Mutsumi Igarashi / The Current

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff assistant

They gathered, ate lunch and admired his fluffy feathers and circular beak. Of course, there was nothing shocking about the familiar characteristics. They just brought back a whole lot of memories, that's all.

Last Wednesday afternoon, St. Louis Post-Dispatch Weatherbird lovers sat and listened to the newspaper's assistant art director, Dan Martin, speak briefly of the Weatherbird's history and origin.

Martin, who has drawn the Weatherbird for the Post-Dispatch since 1986, highlighted key figures that contributed to the cartoon and comic strip history. The Post-Dispatch Weatherbird is the oldest continuous cartoon in American jour-

nalism.

Martin spoke of the cartoonists and some of the "bird line" writers that contributed to the Weatherbird's history. He informed the attentive 50-plus audience members on popular cartoonists such as Chic Young, the creator of the comic strip "Blondie," and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Daniel Fitzpatrick. He summarized the artists' backgrounds and noted their contributions while showing copies of some of their sketches.

"They say the Weatherbird starts to look like the cartoonists," Martin said, while pointing out the influences the drawings portrayed from their creators.

Afterwards, Martin demonstrated the process of drawing a Weatherbird on a large white sketching pad.

He first began with the eyes by

drawing "... two big eggs."

"He can dress any way he wants to dress," said Martin, while filling in the details of his portrait. He can "be anything he wants to be."

After about a minute of drawing, an oversized Weatherbird was created. "A lot of people don't realize what a rich history St. Louis has in connection with cartooning," Martin said.

Coincidentally, out of the six Post-Dispatch artists that have kept the Weatherbird going, three of them were named Martin. But neither of the other two were related to Dan Martin.

Cartoonist Harry Martin, who drew the bird from 1901-1903, was the one who started it all. He is quoted as saying it "was a creature of accident more than design or serious thought."

In 1900, Harry Martin came up

with the idea on a train ride to St. Louis from Butte, Montana. He said that he saw "some very young chicks with their mouth wide open" in a magazine he was reading.

After Harry Martin, came Oscar Chopin, son of novelist Kate Chopin, who drew the Weatherbird from 1903 to 1910. Then came Carlisle Martin, who took over until 1932.

For the next 50 years Amadee Wohlschlaeger kept the artistic tradition going, before stopping in 1981. After Wohlschlaeger, came Albert Schweitzer, who was in attendance and highly praised by Dan Martin. Schweitzer was the Weatherbird cartoonist until he retired in 1986, leaving the door wide open for Martin.

"When Al went on vacation or got sick, I would fill in," said Martin. "[It was] kind of like a ballplayer coming

up from Louisville up to St. Louis just for a couple days, then going back down again."

After Schweitzer retired, an editor mixed Schweitzer Weatherbirds with Martin Weatherbirds and said that he couldn't tell the difference.

"Now Al and I could tell the difference. [But] to someone who wasn't a cartoonist, he thought they looked pretty close," he said.

Martin said that in addition to drawing the Weatherbird, he "directs and oversees the feature section in the Everyday section."

In addition, he says he does the comic strip on Fridays called "Postcard from Mound City" and sport cartoons.

"I've been doing a lot of Rams cartoons as you can imagine," Martin said.

FEATURES

ANNE PORTER
features editor

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Thoughts for Today

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

-John Wooden
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"When smashing monuments, save the pedestals - they always come in handy."

-Stanislaw Lem
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Status quo. Latin for the mess we're in."

-Jewe Moorman
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"An heretic...is a fellow who disagrees with you regarding something neither of you knows anything about."

-William Cowper Brann
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

Piece of history

Well-attended kickoff highlights African-American history month

Greensboro sit-in remembered during the event

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, freshmen at North Carolina A&T University, took seats at the lunch counter at Woolworth's in Greensboro, N.C. The woman working behind the counter promptly informed the four black youths that they would have to move to the end of the counter if they wanted to be served. The students stood their ground and for seven months they and other members of SNCC (Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) conducted a "sit-in" that was a jumping board for several other sit-ins until lunch counters in North Carolina and 14 other states were desegregated. Feb. 1 marked the 40th anniversary of the first day of what is now referred to as the "Greensboro sit-in." This is also the first day of the observance of African American History Month.

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) sponsored this year's UM-St. Louis African American History Month Kickoff Observance. Bonita Cornute of KTVI, FOX 2 was the master of ceremonies. This year's kickoff took a brief overview

of four important aspects of the African American community: heritage, entrepreneurship, religion, and health care.

The anniversary and the significance of the Greensboro sit-in was remembered in Tuesday's kickoff. Students have always been in the forefront in the civil rights movement, Cornute said. She gave a call to all the youth and college students in the audience to become more active in their surrounding communities.

The most significant presence was that of the Prince Hall Masons and the Order of Eastern Star, representing a segment of African American heritage. Present to give a brief history and introduction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri and its Jurisdiction was Kennard R. Jones, District Deputy Grand Master.

"Our doors are open to a few good men... men who rise beyond their occupations," Jones said.

The Masons is the oldest fraternity in the world, said Nelson Dean, a mason, in an interview.

He said the Masons arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the castles and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. In the United States, there is a Grand Lodge in each state, Dean said, with local organizations called lodges in most towns

and large cities. There are about 13,200 lodges in the United States, he said.

Physician Fran O. Richards gave an in-depth history of African American health care in St. Louis. According to Richards, prior to 1919, the African American population in the city of St. Louis was treated primarily in the black charity wards of Max C. Starkloff Hospital. Their treatment was provided by white physicians and other staff. Black medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, were not allowed staff privileges at the hospital.

In 1915, a group of black physicians and businessmen petitioned the city to admit black physicians and nursing students to the training programs at the hospital. Although the petition was unsuccessful, in 1918 the mayor and the Board of Aldermen laid the groundwork for building the largest teaching hospital for African Americans—Homer G. Phillips Hospital.

The kickoff to African-American History Month was well-attended. The Office of Equal Opportunity will sponsor a closing program for African American History month on Feb. 29 7:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney auditorium. For more details, contact Norman Seay at 516-5695.

African-American History Month

African-American History Month was originally introduced in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as a week-long celebration of African-American achievement. The observance was expanded to a month in 1976. UM-St. Louis and the rest of the community will observe African-American history month with a variety of events throughout February. A sample of this week's upcoming activities include:

UM-St. Louis events:

• **UM-St. Louis Movie: "Soul Food"**
Time/Day: 2 p.m./Friday
Location: U Center Lounge
Time/Day: 8 p.m./Friday
Location: U Meadows Lounge
Admission: Free

National Park Service, the Old Courthouse, and Gateway Arch Visitor Center presents:

• **"The Underground Railroad"**
Time/Day: 11 a.m./Saturday and Sunday
• **"The Dred Scott Mock Trial"**
Time/Day: 3 p.m./Saturday and Sunday
Contact: Anthony Gilpin (314) 655-1626

St. Louis Public Library's Cabanne

Branch presents:

• **"Black Romance Author" with Omar Tyree**
Time/Day: 6 p.m., Wednesday
Contact: Gerald Brooks 539-0305
Location: 1106 N. Union Blvd.

St. Louis Public Library's Central Branch presents:

• **"Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary African-American quilts with Carolyn L. Mazloomi**
Day: Monday
Admission: Free
• **"Sacred Bond: Black Men and Their Mothers" with Keith Michael Brown**
Day: Saturday
Admission: Free
• **"Stories from the World Village"**
Day: Tuesday
Admission: Free
Contact: Gerald Brooks 539-0305

Love and real estate: The similarities are striking



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

Today I fell in love. Please don't even think about asking who, and where I met him because that information does not even apply.

Today I went apartment shopping for the first time in two years. The previous time I looked, I was not able to finish the process because my potential roommates reneged on me.

Through this experience today, I realized that residence research simulates dating in many ways.

Just like when my other would-be roomies left me stranded, every once in a great while, my lovers leave me, or I run away... either one.

The first step to locating a possible abode begins with research. Should it

be from a newspaper, a friend, an apartment guide, most people find out information about a potential place or in the dating realm about a person, before embarking on a mission.

Once I collect the data, I utilize it to serve my needs. In the case of apartments, my friend and I cruised the town and checked the possible places we wanted to live. In the world of dating, once I find a nook where attractive, talented and wealthy men congregate, I am there.

When I was out today, exploring closets, climbing stairs, calling landlords, I found the perfect flat. The experience reminded me of this relationship I once had.

When I was in this romance, I

knew I was completely enamored, but I understood the whole affair was doomed. I'm certain crash test dummies can testify to this feeling because they can predict from experience that they will be ejected through the windshield every time they are not wearing a seat belt and the car collides with the wall.

I have dreamed about this third-level niche. Located in the Loop, the flat covered 1,200 square feet. The bedroom which would be mine had a sun room attached, and I could envision my black iron canopy bed looking onto the snowy ground. Maybe, if I was not involved in other things like the twist sheets, scattered garments, glowing candle...

Oh... I was writing about the apartment, wasn't I?

Suffice to say I really wanted to rent this place.

Reality infringed on my fantasies when I stepped down three flights of stairs and outside the door, and I realized it was on the outskirts of a gang territory, and safety concerns outweighed the allure of this place.

The second apartment candidate included security measures such as private entry and an intercom system. As Elwood Blues wanted his toast, however, dry and white, it lacked any ounce of creative charm.

As my parents have advised me in dating, the dry and sandpaper type defines stability and the dangerous

type appeals to unknowing and naive women.

I listened to their advice, which I seldom do (except for every third blue moon on the second even-numbered Thursday of the month), and made a compromise of a little temptation with a stealthy hand and a steady heart.

In my search for a new home, this common ground was found in an older unit with character and personality, with a security system Bill Gates could not uncode.

So when I see something or someone I desire like I did with this apartment, I pursue it or him with the per-

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

With UMSL fees increasing, SIUE may be better deal

The issue:

Educational fees in the UM system have been voted by the Board of Curators to increase 3.2 percent and by next year parking fees will have doubled since 1998. It seems that the total of expenses paid to UM-St. Louis by an undergraduate Missouri state resident is greater than that of a year at SIU - Edwardsville for an out of state undergraduate. This is because the UM Board of Curators bases its rates on the Higher Education Price Index and the SIU trustees uses the Consumer Price Index.

We suggest:

If the UM Board of Curators continues to increase fees based on the HEPI, UM-St. Louis students may cross the river for a cheaper rate. If the CPI is used, they may not.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind.

With the Board of Curators voting to raise educational fees 3.2 percent and the parking fee set to double from its 1998 level, the cost of going to school here could drive many UM-St. Louis students across the river to Edwardsville.

Already, the in-state cost of attending the University of Missouri-St. Louis is so high, it's about the same as out-of-state tuition at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for undergraduates taking 15 credit hours.

This school year, undergraduate students who live in Missouri paid \$2,443.75 a semester to take 15 credit hours at SIUE, including books. Missouri residents paid \$2,397.90 to take 15 undergraduate credit hours at UM-St. Louis without books or parking. The Curators voted last month to raise educational fees by 3.2 percent. Figuring in the other mandatory fees students must pay, the cost of 15 credit hours will be \$2,542.50.

Think about it. Students living in Bellefontaine Neighbors or Moline Acres could probably drive to SIUE just as easily as UM-St. Louis and pay about the same amount for a school of comparable quality. Students who decided a year ago to take a year off and move to Illinois to get residency would pay in-state tuition of \$1,194 for Fall Semester 2000. That's half of what we pay here.

What makes attending SIUE such a sweet deal is its textbook policy. This year, students there pay \$5.70 a credit hour, up to a maximum of \$62.50 to rent textbooks. That

means they get all but a few supplementary textbooks for less than what some UM-St. Louis students pay for a single book, even figuring in what they get for selling it back at the end of the semester.

And if the governing boards of the two universities keep up their current policies, the cost of attending UM-St. Louis will rise faster than the cost of going to SIUE, and, in a few years, it could be far cheaper to go across the river to go to college.

The Missouri Board of Curators policy calls for raising educational fees by the Higher Education Price Index, while SIU trustees abide by the Consumer Price Index. The HEPI measures the cost of goods and services colleges need for education and administration, while the CPI measures a market-basket of goods the average household buys. Since 1982, the HEPI has risen faster than the CPI 16 out of 17 years. So expect our rates to go up faster than SIU's.

Both schools have fine professors. The strengths of individual departments vary in each. But obviously, the state of Illinois is more committed to providing its citizens with a good, affordable college education than Missouri is.

At a time when it gets harder and harder to find a job paying a livable wage without some kind of higher education, shouldn't the state be looking for ways to make it more affordable? Instead, the cost of going to UM-St. Louis keeps going up, pricing some people out of an education and driving others to Illinois.

Rams fever can become contagious

Rams fever has hit St. Louis like an epidemic. Fans have Rams flags attached to their cars, stores can't keep Rams merchandise on the shelves, and last Monday, over 100,000 people packed the downtown area to welcome back their Super Bowl heroes.

I was one of those 100,000. I have either watched or listened to every Rams game start to finish since they came here. This season was a dream, and it was gratifying as a true Rams fan to see the humanity at the Super Bowl celebration.

There were little girls with blue and gold braids in their hair, one guy dyed his goatee blue, and another fan shaved his hair into the shape of the Ram horns.

There were old and young, rich and poor, sports fans and non-sports fans alike enjoying the moment together.

This was a tribute to the St. Louis sports fan. The St. Louis sports fan has been unfairly cast as a baseball-only fan. This is hardly the case. The only reason St. Louis has been stereotyped as a baseball town is because until recently that has been the only thing we have had worth celebrating.

The celebration was peaceful. St. Louisans do not riot like their fellow fans in Denver; instead we enjoy the moment and each other (and a few A-B products as well).

However, my fellow St. Louis sports fans, a word of warning—this could be contagious!

In recent years, history has shown that if one team wins a major championship (like the Super Bowl), then another team from that same city or region has followed with a championship of their own.

It happened in Denver when the Avalanche won hockey's Stanley Cup

and were followed by back to back Super Bowl wins by the Broncos. Texas was a big winner last year when the Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup, the San Antonio Spurs won the NBA championship and the Texas Rangers advanced into baseball's post-season.

Can the same thing happen to St. Louis? Things certainly point that way.

The Blues currently have the second-best overall record in the NHL as of press time and are one point ahead of the Detroit Red Wings for first place in the Western Conference.

The Blues have a young nucleus that includes such rising stars as Pavol Demitra, Michael Handzus and Roman Turek.

Aside from the youngsters, the Blues have proven stars such as Pierre Turgeon, Al MacInnis and Chris Pronger. This mix of talent could finally put the Blues over the top in the play-offs (keep in mind that the Blues have lost to the eventual Stanley Cup champion each of the past three years and have taken each of those series to at least six games every time).

The Cardinals also look like they're on the way. They are not the Mark McGwire show anymore with the additions of Andy Benes, Pat Hentgen and Darryl Kile. The infield is also stabilized with the acquisition of all-star second baseman Fernando Vina.

Throw in a weak NL Central division and the Cardinals have the makings for a possible play-off run. So can St. Louis fans expect more of the same type of excitement and celebration before next football season? Recent history would say yes, but until then, let's keep rocking and rolling whether it be at Busch, Kiel or the TransWorld Dome.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

Editorial Board

- JOE HARRIS
- MARY LINDSLEY
- BENJAMIN ISRAEL
- CHARMARE MALONE
- BRIAN DOUGLAS

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

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Letters to the editor 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 phone number.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Negro anthem stirs pride, hope

I find it very difficult to pledge allegiance to a flag that represents a country where I am not considered a first-class citizen. A few years ago, I attended an assembly where the audience was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. As I sat there in my own private protest, I happened to look to my left and saw a white gentleman who was probably in his late 60s or early 70s. As I watched him recite the Pledge of Allegiance with such awe and honor, I found myself feeling a tinge of envy. This was the first time I had had that feeling. There have been times when I have been out with my Jamaican friends, and they proudly wore their flag on a tee-shirt or had a version of it hanging from their rear-view mirror. I've felt it when I've watched international soccer games, and witnessed people decked out in their country's colors waving their flags in support of their home team.

I wondered if a flag could ever stir up that much emotion in me. And then this past Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, I was participating in an annual ceremony

when the audience was asked to stand for the singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." As the melody of the introduction was being played, an overwhelming feeling of pride flooded my being. I sang the first verse so loudly that the woman next to me turned around and gave me a strange look. Tears began to well up and run down my cheek. I began to think about all the men, women and children who have sung this song in the past, before marches and demonstrations, in church, at sit-ins, and at funerals. I felt a connection to my people that I can only describe as a oneness. This song has united my people in the past as it did on that particular day—a day that was honoring a man whose words transcended tolerance, but spoke of self-love, spirituality, peace and togetherness.

It was then that I realized that I had found my flag. My flag did not have bold colors, nor could it be limited by a shape. It was a song that allowed me to stand up with my people with pride, hope and dedication.



CHARMARE MALONE
guest commentator

LETTERS

Butler wants fellow students to vote

I would like to acknowledge the support I've received both verbally and non-verbally from the multitude of Rivermen and women at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Unfortunately, the dream I dreamt for equality, lower fees, and more student involvement has been put aside by a negative media fiasco spearheaded by an overzealous, fanatical contingent. Instead of uniting our forces and combatting the decades of ills that were before us, this faction chose to stigmatize me and sensationalize our student government.

Fortunately, the time will soon be upon you to again choose another representative to be your voice in

this struggle. I strongly recommend that you look beyond the surface facade of the would-be contenders for someone who is truly sincere and devoted to your needs. I solemnly regret that I won't be among the contenders for this position but I am confident that my constituents will make the right choice in April and keep the dream of equality, lower fees, and student involvement alive.

I am proud to say that I remain a Riverman and I will always keep all of you in my heart and mind. My wish is that my wake-up call has awakened a sleeping giant to the decades' ills that has led the students blindly like sheep to a slaughter. Consequently, I too learned a valu-

able lesson from this spectacle and that is the harder you work at what you should be, the less you'll try to hide you and what you are.

With that, I'll leave you with these words of wisdom: never let life's obstacles deter you from achieving your dreams, stand firm and deal with them head on and as the saying goes, "keep on keeping on." Remember, in order to win, you must learn to play, and when you play you must play to win, because you can't win if you don't play, and quitters never win and winners never quit!

-Darwin R. Butler, Sr.

Empty promises led by clever marketing

I used to think I was immune to marketing. I had always prided myself on being able to see an ad and not blindly believe the claims in it just because the manufacturer said so. I knew full well that the type of toothpaste you used wasn't going to make you a hit with the opposite sex, and I knew that driving a particular type of car wasn't the best way to go about expressing your independent spirit. Yes, I was a savvy consumer.

That is, until about a year ago. I was a few months shy of graduation and starting to feel the first twinges of post-graduation panic. In other words, I was wondering what in the world I was going to do once I graduated. I had this impending job search in the back of my mind when I sat down to watch the Super Bowl last year. While many of the commercials shown during the game were real attention-getters, one ad in particular caught my eye. It was for one of those Internet job-search sites, and it played perfectly into my fears of getting stuck in a boring job with a company that couldn't care less about its employees. This single, 15-second spot managed to dissolve any marketing smarts I had; the following day I was cruising through this site, hoping to find the perfect job.

This particular site, as it turned out, was a dud. What's worse, though, is that it wasn't the last job search site I rested my hopes on. Off and on throughout the course of the following months, I visited approximately 50 similar sites. I figured maybe my first experience was a fluke, and surely there had to be some good jobs posted

somewhere on the Internet. I have since learned that as of last summer, there are over 28,000 web sites with employment listings (according to Fortune magazine). They range from general sites that cover just about any field you can think of, to extremely specific sites (for example, there's a site especially for people searching for jobs as funeral directors).

Most of the sites I went through belonged to the former category, and most, like the first site I visited, led me to a bunch of dead ends. These sites search for jobs based on field of employment, location, and type of employment (full-time, part-time, etc.). As a communications major looking for full-time work in St. Louis, I was given full-time job listings in this region,

but they usually had nothing to do with my field. Often these sites translated "communications" into any job that involves talking: sales representative, customer service associate, sales representative, call center manager, sales representative . . . you get the idea. It wasn't until I stumbled across web sites geared specifically toward my profession that I started finding job listings that would actually be useful.

I can't say that I suffered greatly as the result of putting my faith in the promises made by job search sites; all I lost was a few hours of my time. Still, I was a sucker. In my desperation to find a job, I was willing to believe even the grandest of claims. It's something I'll keep in mind the next time an ad for a website or for anything else offers me the world.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

Under Current

by Rafael Macias
photography director

What do you think about UMSL's increasing parking fees?



Brian Billy
Senior/Communications

I think it's ridiculous. I take my chances with the \$25 tickets. That's 8 of them.



Humeleng Masisi
Senior/Business Admin.

After raising the parking fees what next?



Prangsiri Thipayaboonthong
Grad. Student/Economics

I don't like it. There's not enough parking for the amount we pay.



Shannon Davis
Junior/Accounting

I think it's crap. We should have better parking then.

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTH
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

vs Northern Kentucky
7:30 p.m., Thur. Feb. 10
vs Indianapolis
7:30 p.m., Sat. Feb. 12

Women's Basketball

vs Northern Kentucky
5:30 p.m., Thur. Feb. 10
vs Indianapolis
5:30 p.m., Sat. Feb. 12

Hockey

vs. ISU
t.b.a., Fri. Feb. 11
vs. Wash. U.
t.b.a., Sat. Feb. 12

Next Issue In Sports

Hockey
Men's/Women's
Basketball
Kinworthy's column

Bellarmino bashes R-women

Low shooting percentage, foul trouble lead to 95-80 loss

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

A second half shooting percentage of 37.1 percent destroyed UM-St. Louis' chances as the Riverwomen's basketball team lost to Bellarmine 80-95.

UM-St. Louis got down in the first half and went in at halftime trailing Bellarmine 39-46. The first half was played well by both sides as UM-St. Louis shot 53.6 percent from the field and were 7-11 from the 3-point line, but ended up turning the ball over 21 times.

Bellarmino only turned the ball over 15 times throughout the game.

The Riverwomen were also 11-26 from the free throw line.

Bellarmino decisively out-rebounded the Riverwomen by a margin of 49-37, 18 of those were on the offensive side.

Foul trouble was not another easy thing for the Riverwomen to overcome as UM-St. Louis had foul problems with Lynette Wellen and point guard Sara Mauck, who both fouled out along with Amanda Wentzel who finished with four as well.

UM-St. Louis was led by Trish Ackerman who had 20 points, while shooting 7-11 from the field. Ackerman was also 5-6 from the 3-point arc.

Amanda Wentzel added 16 while Sara Mauck and Tawanda Daniel finished with 13 and 10 respectively.

Daniel, the leading scorer for the Riverwomen only shot 3-12 from the field, but continued her excellence on the defensive side as she recorded seven rebounds and dished out seven assists to lead the team.

Bellarmino was paced by Stephanie Hutchcraft who was tied with Ackerman for the game high with 20 points.

The Riverwomen now stand currently at 11-7 overall and 8-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The next home match for the Riverwomen will not be easy as Northern Kentucky, the sixth-ranked team in Division II women's basketball and the leader in the GLVC currently with a record of 11-1, comes into St. Louis on Feb. 10.

Northern Kentucky's only loss this year in conference play was to Bellarmine 76-72. Northern Kentucky went 30-3 last season and went to the Division II Final Four.

Northern Kentucky is led by three players who average in double digits. They are Michelle Cottrell with 17 and Michele Tuchfarber and Heather Livingstone who each average 13 points, respectively.



Riverwoman Lynette Wellen (54) takes the ball strong to the hoop in UM-St. Louis' game against St. Joseph's last Thursday. The Riverwomen won that game 81-77 and are 7-3 in conference.

Herbert named GLVC Player of the week

The transfer leads the Rivermen in scoring and rebounds

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

Terence Herbert, a senior center for the Rivermen's basketball team, was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week.

In that week's span, Herbert helped the Rivermen defeat conference rivals St. Joseph's and Indiana-Purdue at Fort-Wayne. In those two victories, Herbert amassed an astounding average of 20 points per game and 13.5 rebounds per game. He also shot 70 percent from the floor.

"I was surprised when Coach [Mark Bernsen] told me," Herbert said. "It was unbelievable. I have never gotten anything like that before. I just go out there and do my best."

In amassing this honor in the GLVC, Herbert has also helped the Rivermen to their best record (11-7, and 6-6 in conference play) since the beginning of the GLVC in 1996.

Herbert came to UM-St. Louis after leaving the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"Things did not work out down there so I actually called my junior college coach who told me about UM-St. Louis and their new coach," Herbert said. "He told me that [it was] a good program, and it would be a good place for me. I enjoy playing for Coach Bernsen now. He is pretty down to earth, and he expects a lot from me."

The Herbert File



| GP | Points Ave. | Rebounds Ave. |
|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 17 | 21.1 | 12.4 |
| 172 | 17.2 | 10.1 |

Herbert was named GLVC player of the week for 1/31/00-2/6/00. During the week Herbert scored a career high 28 points against St. Joseph's in an 82-59 win.

Herbert has stood in the UM-St. Louis spotlight, and the sky has been the limit since conference play has started up. But once he came here, he didn't ask for much.

"All I wanted was the opportunity to play," Herbert said. "Coach Bernsen told me that I would have the opportunity at UM-St. Louis."

Herbert took the opportunity and ran with it. This year alone, Herbert has accumulated nine double-doubles, is ranked third in the GLVC in rebounding with 10.1 rebounds per game and is tied for seventh in the GLVC in blocked shots. Herbert is also

shooting .664 from the field and averages 3.29 offensive rebounds per game.

Although Herbert has played well in the GLVC this year, he believes it is a very tough and competitive conference where you have to come to play every night.

"It is a very tough league," Herbert said. "It is a good league to be playing in. Every night you have to bring your 'A' game and be at your best."

One of the major assets Herbert brings to the Rivermen this year is his humbleness when it comes to the team effort. He believes that the team is more important than individual statistics.

"I considered myself a team player," Herbert said. "All of the rebounds and all of the points are not worth it if we are not winning."

With the "we" attitude that Herbert emphasizes, the team's goal for this season would be to succeed in the GLVC.

"We want to get to the tournament," Herbert said. "We haven't been there in quite a while. I would do everything I could to get us there and play hard."

As a senior, Herbert hopes to leave a lasting mark on Rivermen basketball for future players.

"I just want to be on a team who made it to the championships," Herbert said.

Men's B-ball splits pair of GLVC games

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

St. Louis' first big snowfall of the season made it unpleasant outside, and the miserable field-goal shooting by the basketball teams inside the Mark Twain Gym made it unpleasant inside as well. But the Rivermen's defense was first-rate as they shut down IUPU-Ft. Wayne, 72-60. UM-St. Louis then traveled to Kentucky to face conference rival Bellarmine, where they lost in double overtime 78-77.

The game against IUPU-Ft. Wayne was a game of defense as the first half of play belonged to UM-St. Louis, which kept the shooting percentage of IUPU-Ft. Wayne, a team that is capable of more than 85 points a game, to just 22 percent.

The defensive pressure by the Rivermen affected their own offensive presence, and they ended the half shooting 33 percent from the floor and headed into the locker room leading by a score of 31-22.

"When you play a team like IUPU-Ft. Wayne, which is an offensive team," said Mark Bernsen, Rivermen head coach, "you've got to stop them defensively and that's what we did. You concentrate so much on your defense that you lose some concentration on the other end. But I was really pleased with the way we guarded."

The second half saw better shooting for UM-St. Louis as they upped their shooting percentage to 56 percent. The defense also stayed busy, keeping IUPU-Ft. Wayne to 33 percent from the floor.

"For the second half, we went in and talked about some things and

see RIVERMEN, page 7

GLVC B-BALL STANDINGS

| Men | | Women | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Team | GLVC Record | Team | GLVC Record |
| 1) Kentucky Wesleyan | 11-1 | 1) Northern Kentucky | 11-1 |
| 2) Northern Kentucky | 10-2 | 2) UM-St. Louis | 8-4 |
| 3) Southern Indiana | 10-2 | 3) SIU-Edwardsville | 8-4 |
| 4) Lewis | 8-4 | 4) Kentucky Wesleyan | 8-4 |
| 5) Indianapolis | 8-4 | 5) Lewis | 8-4 |
| 6) UM-St. Louis | 6-6 | 6) Southern Indiana | 7-5 |
| 7) IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 6-6 | 7) Bellarmine | 7-5 |
| 8) SIU-Edwardsville | 4-8 | 8) Indianapolis | 5-7 |
| 9) Quincy | 3-9 | 9) IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 4-8 |
| 10) Bellarmine | 3-9 | 10) St. Joseph's | 3-9 |
| 11) St. Joseph's | 2-10 | 11) Wisconsin-Parkside | 2-10 |
| 12) Wisconsin-Parkside | 1-11 | 12) Quincy | 1-11 |

Enjoy the Rams' Super Bowl ride while you can



LATEST SCOOP
DAVE KINWORTH

Just cannot get over it! The fact that St. Louis has finally, after decades of terrible football, won the National Football League title.

What a great thing this was for Kurt Warner and Dick Vermeil too. The both of them proved the 200-1 odds at Las Vegas wrong and did the unthinkable.

Whether or not Warner can continue this streak into next season with Vermeil retiring and a possible Trent Green-Warner showdown in next year's camps, he already has one title under his belt.

I don't care what people think of Brenda Warner either. I know that

this just came out of nowhere, but one of the premier criticisms that I heard throughout the football game itself was the bad haircut and wardrobe she had that day. The Warners have devoted a lot of their time and energy to help out disabled children and have focused on something important to them: religion. Don't knock a good thing.

Anyway, if there is one thing that I do remember about the game in a positive light, it would have to be all of the great friends that I had to sit around and hang out with while watching the game.

Where was I when the St. Louis

Rams won the Super Bowl? Well, I was at my fraternity house (Sigma Tau Gamma) with 15 other guys watching the game. The great commercials, the cheesy dip or even the spicy chili that I had could not compare to the feelings that I had in my stomach when the Rams were only seconds away from winning the game.

Thank God Mike Jones was there to save the day with a one-armed tackle to clinch the victory for the Rams. Who knows what could have happened in overtime with the Rams tied with the Titans.

It was the best Super Bowl that

has been played in the 20-year span that I have lived on this Earth. There was no comparison.

The game was so offensively entertaining that spectators had to put on a seatbelt for that wild ride. There was no telling if the Rams would kick a field goal with a hobbled Jeff Wilkens (his name is really "miss to the right") or if they would choke in the red zone another time. The Titans made the game what it was in their comeback that almost caught the Rams flat-footed.

The Titans rallied, but the Isaac Bruce touchdown catch alone had my fraternity brothers and me jump-

ing up and down and doing a pile on one another.

There is nothing that can take away from the remarkable season that the Rams had. The great touchdown passes, the interceptions returned for a touchdown or even a typical Faulk carry all were blessings. It was a magnificent year for St. Louis fans, and each and every single one who supported the Rams should be congratulated on a job well done.

Enjoy the time while the Rams lead the pack and are Super Bowl champions. We don't want to go back to the way things once were.

A&E

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Upcoming Concerts

February

7

Lords of Acid w/Praga Khan
Mississippi Nights

8

The Big Wu
Cicero's

Cro-Mags w/ All Out War,
Shut Down & Dogfight
The Firehouse

12

Cowboy Junkies
Mississippi Nights

16

Chuck Berry
Blueberry Hill

17

Wesley Willis
Hi-Pointe

18

Computers for Kids show
w/ Vitamen A, Javier
Mendoza, Drew Johnson
& Languid
The Firehouse

Not Waving But Drowning
CD Release Party w/
Locash, Big Blue Monkey
& Incision
Galaxy

20

Soul Brains
The Firehouse

21

The Business w/
Beerzone
Creepy Crawl

25

Type O Negative & Coal
Chamber
American Theatre

Quirky comedy of 'Cradle' makes it work

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Another good film hits the theaters. "Cradle Will Rock" is a film based on a true incident from the 1930s, when the Federal Theater project was about to open a new play with a pro-labor-union theme, "The Cradle Will Rock," staged by the young director Orson Welles (Angus McFadyen) and theater great John Houseman (Cary Elwes). Welles and Houseman are among the many historical figures who dot this film, which includes industrialist and art connoisseur Nelson Rockefeller (John Cusack), artists Diego Rivera (Ruben Blades) and Frida Kahlo (Corina Katt), and newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst (John Carpenter), along with a number of characters representing people of the era: government bureaucrats, union organizers, vaudevillians, Nazis, Congressional commie-hunters, the starving unemployed. The film takes place in the mid-1930s when the country was in the depths of the Great Depression, strikes and union organizing were at a peak, and both communism and fascism were on the rise. However, the story is mostly comic, sometimes serious and always entertaining.

The film was written and directed by Tim Robbins, well known for his acting work ("Shawshank

'Cradle Will Rock'

Length: 140 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

Redemption") as well as his previous directorial efforts ("The Player"). Like other films Robbins directed, the film is slightly surreal, with symbolic characters and incidents occurring along with real events. He employs this approach when he shows playwright Marc Blitzstein (Hank Azaria), obsessed with his work on his play "Cradle Will Rock," wandering into a labor-union rally that is being broken up by police. As the playwright sits passively in the middle of the developing riot, the fighting between police and the union takes on elements of dance and song and shows the confusion in his head as he begins to incorporate the event into his play.

This was a time of political extremes, and there are hot feelings on all sides, yet Robbins gently points out some of the absurdities in the various alliances. Therefore, we get a Jewish woman (Susan Sarandon) working for the Italian Fascists because she thinks they aren't as bad as the Germans, a gay playwright who would like to join the Communist Party but can't because the Party doesn't accept gays, and a vaudevillian (Bill Murray) who



Joan Cusack and Bill Murray star in the new movie "Cradle Will Rock."

says he hates communists because "they're not funny."

Robbins weaves the various characters around Welles' effort to stage this play, which he mostly wants to do because it will make people mad, and getting people stirred up is his idea of the purpose of all art. The characters overlap in different ways with this central story of the play, but the plot brings

them together or shows their true colors by the final performance of the play. The film is fast-paced and entertaining, and the performance of the play at the end is especially effective. The star-studded cast does a wonderful job with roles that sometimes move between comedy and social commentary and back. Despite its historical setting, knowledge of the time period

is not needed to enjoy the film.

While Tim Robbins' quirky, independent-film style as a director may not appeal to all filmgoers, this is an excellent film. The film may not suit those who prefer a more conventional film, but filmgoers who like a quirkier, edgier film, even in a comedy, should enjoy this one.

(Now playing at the Tivoli)

FILM REVIEW

'Topsy-Turvy' provides serious glimpse into Victorian times

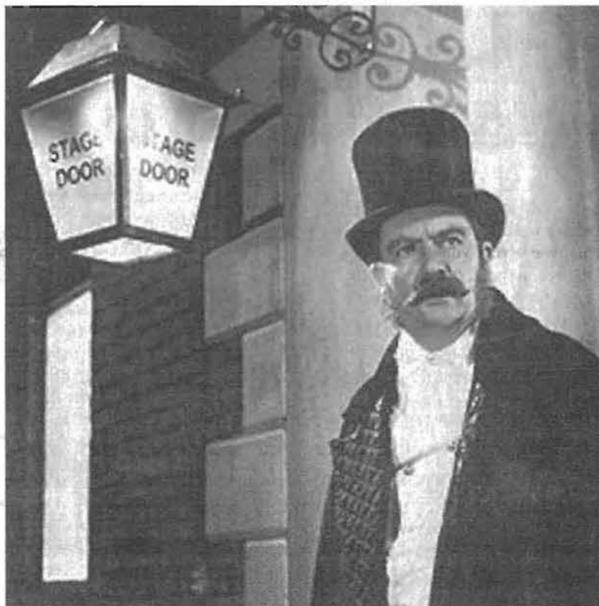
BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

What a season for good films! "Topsy-Turvy" is an excellent film by writer/director Mike Leigh about the operetta team of Gilbert and Sullivan, and particularly about the writing and production of "the Mikado." While the film is primarily comic, it also provides a more serious glimpse into the lives of these men and their Victorian times.

Composer Arthur Sullivan (Allan Corduner) and writer William Schwenck Gilbert (Jim Broadbent) produced light, airy musical entertainment that now epitomizes the tastes of Victorian England in the 1880s, with such works as "HMS Pinafore."

At the start of the film, the ailing Sullivan is bemoaning a trend toward story repetition that he sees emerging in his eccentric partner's work. He determines that, after his recovery, he only wants to work on "serious music" and intends to write a symphony or opera. However, he postpones notifying the difficult Gilbert of his decision. Ultimately, contractual obligations that bind both he and Gilbert to the Savoy Theater force him to return to producing a new work with Gilbert, but he demands from Gilbert a story that is more "realistic." As it turns out, he gets "the Mikado," a story set in Japan that Gilbert hits upon after visiting a display of a "Japanese village" set up in the middle of London. Despite the inherent absurdity of Victorian Englishmen and women dressed up as Japanese, singing in a light opera set in a country they know little about, Sullivan judges this a sufficiently "realistic" story and begins to compose the work.

Beyond its comic surface, subtle and not-so-subtle commentary on Victorian life and assumptions abound in this film, along with the portraits of these two men. Especially compelling are the scenes in which Gilbert visits the Japanese village, in which people of a non-European culture are on display—a common practice at this time, and one of several references to the ethnocentrism and imperialism of the times. Later,



Jim Broadbent plays W.S. Gilbert in the new movie "Topsy-Turvy."

'Topsy-Turvy'

Length: 160 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

Gilbert brings some of the Japanese to the theater as consultants, but without a common language to determine what he wants from them, they react variously with horrified embarrassment or amusement at the seemingly absurd behavior of the English theater people. The comedy is mixed in well with the story, so that we get both comedy and commentary on different levels in the same scene.

The acting is superb throughout, as we get vignettes of the various characters that tell both about the individual and their position in class-divided Victorian society. For example, in one scene a lead actor tries to negotiate a raise with theater management, but is tricked into revealing his lack of education showing how actors, despite upper class manners and appearance,

usually came from poor backgrounds. The scene plays as comedy on the surface, but we get the point about class divisions as well.

The film was shot in a warm, golden light, that makes the lush Victorian settings look even more romantic (sometimes providing a counterpoint to the events) and gives the sequences in the theater of the productions a glowing beauty, somewhat in the manner of the film "Amadeus." Production values are high throughout, so that the film is a visual treat, in addition to the excellent acting and well-structured story.

In a season of excellent films, it is amazing how these outstanding works keep appearing. Yet here again, we have another historically rooted film that provides a high level of entertainment, gives insight on the people and the time, and maybe makes us think as well. This is a very enjoyable film I can easily recommend for those interested in a look at the creators of those works that symbolize the popular taste of the turn of the last century.

(Now playing at the Hi Pointe)

CONCERT REVIEW

Sno-Core 2000 draws large crowd of metal fans to American Theatre

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

Some concerts are destined to sell out, no matter what venue they are in. When Sno-Core 2000 was first advertised at Mississippi Nights, a collective chuckle passed through the St. Louis music scene. How could Puya, Mr. Bungle, Incubus and System of a Down play such a small venue in one night?

They couldn't. The concert was moved to the American Theatre, where there are roughly twice as many seats, and remaining tickets sold out just as quickly. Puya was forced to drop out of the tour when one band member's wife had a child, but the remaining bands still had a commanding hold on the metal scene.

Feb. 1 at the American Theatre was a testament to these bands' fan bases, as people started lining up as early as 3:30 for the 7:30 show. Doors opened at 7:00 and not a seat was open by the time Mr. Bungle took the stage with its experimental brand of music.

Mr. Bungle is loud, odd, powerful, melodic, and can play two songs that take up an entire 30 minute time slot. Though not a radio-friendly band by any standards, they definitely held the audience captive, and surely picked up some younger fans in the process.

Incubus was up next, and the entire audience seemed very pleased with this fact. Apparently most of the people in attendance shelled out the \$20-something for Incubus, and as usual, Incubus didn't disappoint. Incubus is weird in a more conventional way. Mixing metal with jazz, drum, bass and plain old pop is nearly impossible to pull off commercially, but Brandon and company managed to do so, while making the ladies swoon.

Possibly the loudest scream of the

night came when lead singer Brandon Boyd removed his shirt, but Incubus had more to offer than just flesh. DJ Kilmore's scratches blended into songs like "Idiot Box" and "Redefine" flawlessly, while they nearly established control in new songs like "Pardon Me" and "Privilege."

After Incubus' too-short set was over, everyone tried to press even closer to the stage for the headlining act, System of a Down. System is not a live act to be taken lightly. The band took the stage so quickly and powerfully that many people were caught off guard, but the crowd erupted just the same. Whether it was Serj Tankian's octave-hopping voice on songs like "Know" or Daron Malakian shredding our ideas of a guitar's limitations on "Suite-Pee," System of a Down's live show is not to be missed. On-stage Malakian hopped from one side of the stage to the other like a kid with too much sugar.

System, always trying to push the limits on the First Amendment, dedicated one song to cocaine and even went so far as to openly mock St. Louis' recent Super Bowl championship.

Fans didn't seem to mind, as long as System kept playing hard. That's just what they did for one exhausting hour. Serj leapt, danced, jumped, screamed and everything else a lead singer can fit into an hour show. By the time System of a Down was finished, people were almost too exhausted to leave.

Once fans did leave, they were re-awakened by the cold and long lines of people getting autographs from band members of Incubus and System of a Down. Neither band retreated to the warm confines of their bus until everyone who wanted an autograph had been given one.

St. Louis could only be so lucky as to host any of these bands again.



Music censorship proves America is not a totally free country

The First Amendment grants us freedom of speech. Pretty cool, huh? We can say anything we want (as long as it doesn't pose a threat to anyone else), and it is our right and privilege to do so.

If you think this is true, think again. Our freedom of speech is more limited than you might think. This lack of freedom is especially true in the music industry. An author can write whatever they wish in a book and sell it right next to "Chicken Soup for the Soul," but place that same material on a CD, and chances are it will be changed.

Remember the song "Cop Killer" by Ice-T's band, Body Count? You

may remember it, but you've probably never heard it. It was deemed too offensive and removed from the album. In an act of defiance (and brilliance) Ice-T opted to replace it with a spoken word segment by ex-Dead Kennedy's singer Jello Biafra entitled "Freedom of Speech."

MTV (empty v) is the most obvious violator in the censorship game. The word gun cannot be uttered on it. Neither can drug, mushroom, stoned, kill, or any alcohol, like vodka. Oddly enough, bitch is perfectly fine by MTV's standards. What does that say about the state of our society?

I recently met Serj Tankian, the lead singer of System of a Down, and

I asked him his feelings on the System of a Down song, "Sugar" getting airtime on MTV. He said that he felt it was nice that they played it, but was astounded that they edited out the word mushroom. He said he could not even mention a portabella mushroom sandwich that he had eaten earlier in the day.

Does this sound like free speech? Obviously not. Some kid in Ohio got arrested recently for wearing an Insane Clown Posse shirt, simply because the police officer found it offensive. The shirt was not deemed offensive by the standards of the law, but this cop didn't like it and arrested the kid.

President Clinton has proposed a bill that would give CDs a rating system not unlike movies. Record labels and musicians everywhere are opposed, as well they should be. Books and plays don't have ratings, why should a CD?

Freedom of speech doesn't mean people can say whatever they want as long as it doesn't offend anybody, but that seems to be the way it is interpreted. People say that these things could get into the hands of children, and they could if the parents don't spend any time raising their children. While I feel that censorship is a terrible thing that shouldn't even be brought up, I also feel more than a lit-

tle disconcerted when I see 9-year-olds at Marilyn Manson concerts (this is not an exaggeration). With a little responsibility, freedom of speech can be a wonderful thing.

Even this column is limiting in what I can say. I cannot swear, and editors can change anything I say that might offend the people that read this before it is published. I am not trusted with what I wish to say. If that is not the case, then you, the reader, are not thought to be mature enough to understand what I have to say if it could be construed as offensive.

If you think this is a free country, think again. We have our freedoms, and they are nice, but they are limited.



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

Cycling team looks to rebuild this year

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The UM-St. Louis Cycling Team is headed outdoors for the spring road session and is looking for new cyclists to join their squad to compete in the Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference.

"We are down to about five cyclists right now," said Tim Ranek, the team's organizer. "I just want to get the word out on campus that we are here, and that we exist."

Previously, the UM-St. Louis Cycling Team had a decent season with a four-man "A" team. They competed in only three races last year, but the program itself has only been in existence for two years.

"Basically what happened was, I knew a bunch of guys who raced as amateurs and we started a club," Ranek said. "They were all upper-classmen and now have since graduated. So we are looking for new people to join the program. We are just looking to fill the voids. If you are a

beginner, you can race at a lower level so you don't get killed."

Within competitions, the higher the place, the better the cycling program is to do. There are three divisions in cycling with an A, B and C division for teams.

"We had a guy who finished fifth at a race last year, but we only went to three races last year and only guys place a couple times," Ranek said.

UM-St. Louis competes in a conference that includes 26 schools in seven Midwestern states.

One new thing the Cycling Team is doing this year is hosting their first ever road race on March 25 and 26.

"We are using the road races at Babler State Park and Gateway way to do the event," Ranek said.

"There are only eight weekends when the races can be hosted, and we put a bid together with Saint Louis University to get the race to come to St. Louis. They have had a cycling program for about five years now, and they even qualified for the national tournament last year."

RIVERMEN, from page 5

got it fixed," Bernsen said. "Offensively, both teams opened it up in the second half. I was just pleased that we could rally back to win."

Riverman Terence Herbert recorded his ninth double-double of the season, scoring 12 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

UM-St. Louis' next game was a tough, double-overtime battle against Bellarmine, with the Rivermen losing 77-78.

Before the game, Bernsen spoke about the difficulty of playing Bellarmine, a tough team to face offensively.

"Offensively, they're a team that plays man-to-man," said Bernsen, "and we're going to have to be aware of that because we set a lot of screens to get people open. Slipping screens and reading defenses is really crucial to offensive production."

Bellarmine's offense is also tough to guard against, and Bernsen spoke of what he would like his team to do against three of Bellarmine's top perimeter shooters.

"Defensively, on our part, we're going to have to guard their motion offense," Bernsen said, "especially [Jared] McCurrey, [Ron] Brooks, and [Brad] Bixler. We're going to have to

not get lost in transition, so guarding the perimeter is important."

The first half was a tough one offensively for the Rivermen who only managed to shoot 30 percent from the floor, with Bellarmine shooting 43 percent.

Despite the lack of shooting presence, UM-St. Louis went into the locker room at the half with the game tied 33-33.

UM-St. Louis shot the ball much better in the second half at 46 percent, and kept Bellarmine to 41 percent. The improved ball shooting allowed the Rivermen to take the game into overtime with the score tied 62-62.

The first overtime ended in another tie with the score 72-72. The game then headed into the second overtime where UM-St. Louis came up one point short.

Standouts for the Rivermen included rebound machine Terence Herbert, who recorded his tenth double-double of the season with 16 points and 19 rebounds.

Brian Markus and Jim Schelich also recorded double-digit point tallies, putting up 16 and 11 points, respectively.

The Rivermen are now 11-7 overall and 6-6 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.



Rafael Macias/The Current

Riverman Jim Schelich (33) takes a shot from 3-point territory against St. Joseph's last Thursday.

RIVERMEN HOCKEY NOTEBOOK

Wash U. forfeits, Gilbertson nominated for All-American

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

Last Friday, the Rivermen were slated to take on the Washington University Bears at 9:15 p.m., but due to the inclement weather, Washington University could not field an entire team. However, ex-Riverman Jason Hessel among other non-Riverman athletes suited up for the Bears, and the game took place as an exhibition.

"We had already paid for ice time, so we just went out and had some fun," said Derek Schaub, Rivermen head coach. "We used the game to stay fresh."

The Home Stretch

The next game will mark the final stretch of games for the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with conference battles against Palmer on Feb. 4 and Illinois State on Feb. 11. Also, a game against Bradley University has been scheduled for the Feb. 12.

All three of these games will

impact the Rivermen's standings in the Mid-American Collegiate Hockey Association polls, where UM-St. Louis currently holds the No. 2 spot with an overall record of 17-5-3. The top four teams at the end of the regular season will be invited to the MACHA conference tourney, and with the team's current standing among ACHA affiliates, this may be the only post-season play that the Rivermen see.

"These final games could turn into four-point games," Schaub said. "If we take a victory, that denies our opponent those two standing points."

Gilbertson an All-American?

One notation worthy of press would have to be the prospect of UM-St. Louis showcasing a possible All-American in sophomore and team president Ben Gilbertson, whose 30 goals and 28 assists are tops around the league. UM-St. Louis has never had an All-American hockey player in its 10-plus years of existence.

Gilbertson really began to shine

when his other half, fellow sophomore Ryan Craig, went down with a broken ankle in the pre-season.

"When [Craig] went down, it really changed my game," Gilbertson said. "With him out, [Coaches Schaub and Gevers] really looked for me to pick up the slack. It also changed my style of play, forcing me to shoot more accurately."

All-Americans must have a 2.5 grade point average, be nominated by league coaches, show superb hockey skill and then be voted onto either the first or second teams. There are usually 100 nominees, with only 12 of those skaters receiving the honor.

With 56 total points, Gilbertson is a heavy favorite for the first team. Honorees will be informed during the first week of March.

"When I was informed of the nomination, it was a very vindicating feeling," Gilbertson said. "I expect a lot from myself, as does my team and my coaches."

Intramurals has something for everyone this semester

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

Weekend warriors rejoice, for the winter semester 2000 intramural season is in full swing.

"One of the greatest things about intramural athletics would have to be watching the players grow together," said Pam Steinmetz, the Intramural Coordinator for the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "When you are a student at a University with 15,000 students, you need to have something in common."

The season starts on Monday nights, when the co-ed volleyball league sports a nine-team field of setters and spikers. This league features players of all skills and sizes, who play with just one thing: heart. Games start at 7 p.m. for volleyball fans.

If basketball is your thing, check out the gym on Tuesday

night, where you'll find the men of UM-St. Louis pounding the boards, with the first of four games starting at 7:00 p.m. This league also fields a nine-team rotation of players from around the University, with teams made up of fraternity men down to complete strangers just looking for game.

And last, but not least, for the soccer aficionados around St. Louis, there is the soccer league on Wednesday nights, with friendlies starting at 7:00 p.m. This league is split into a men's section and a co-ed section. The men's

section boasts a five-team field of soccer crazies, while the co-ed side of the ball sports three.

There are also many tournaments upcoming. The first is the Homecoming 2000 table tennis tourney, when athletes will compete for a \$50 bookstore gift certificate and a chance to be featured at half-time during the Homecoming men's basketball game against Lewis University.

Some other upcoming tourneys include men's and women's racquetball and a co-ed four-on-four basketball tournament.



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Feb. 14 - 19

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- Court Election Begins
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Wednesday, Feb. 16

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- Ping Pong Tourny Continues

Thursday, Feb. 17

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- Court Presentation at Game
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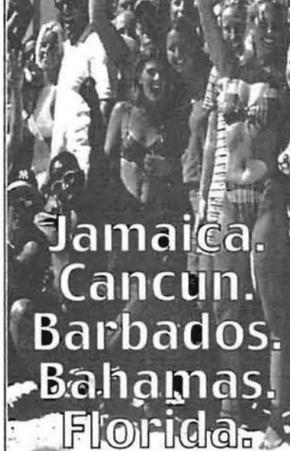
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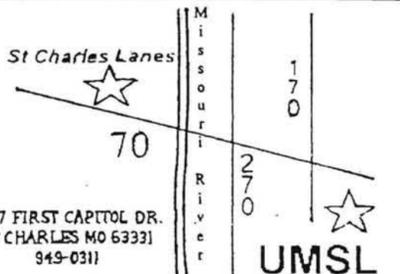
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Archdiocese reassigns Chitwoods to new ministry

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

The Archdiocese of St. Louis plans to relocate the husband-and-wife campus ministry team at the UM-St. Louis Newman House Catholic Center at the end of this semester.

Dennis Chitwood, director of Campus Ministries, and his wife Betty, campus minister, learned late last year that they would be reassigned by the Archdiocese to a new location. They will be replaced by Father William Kempf, who works with various campus ministries across the state of Missouri. The Chitwoods have not yet been told what their new assignment will be.

The Chitwoods came to UM-St. Louis in July of 1994. They replaced Bill Lyons, who had served at the University's Newman House for 27 years. In 1995, Dennis Chitwood was appointed as director Campus Ministries, an organization designed to unify the efforts of various religious organizations on campus.

In addition to providing mass and penance services, the Chitwoods have

also pursued endeavors geared toward the campus as a whole. Five years ago the couple, along with then-Student Government Association president Beth Titlow, organized Hunger Awareness Week, which has since become an annual event. The Chitwoods also started the Spring Break Alternative, which allows students to work on a community service project over their spring vacation.

The Chitwoods said they have sought to make the Newman House what Betty Chitwood calls a "safe house" for students to come to.

"People [here] feel free and non-threatening," Betty Chitwood said. "There's an openness and a trust that you don't get in too many places."

The Chitwoods are confident in Kempf as their replacement, a man they describe as well-liked by Newman House regulars.

"The students here know him, so it will be a smooth transition," Betty Chitwood said.

Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, has worked with the Chitwoods on several projects in the years that the couple has been on cam-

pus. "They've impacted the lives of many students, Catholic and non-Catholic alike," Blanton said. "They've endeared themselves to many, many people in the years that they've been here."

The Chitwoods will continue with their usual activities during the remainder of their tenure at the University, conducting the Spring Break Alternative in March and co-sponsoring a memorial service for deceased members of the campus community in May. They will hold two retreats and will have a farewell event in April.

The Chitwoods say they will miss UM-St. Louis and the rewards being at the University have brought them.

"I have mixed feelings [about leaving]," Dennis Chitwood said. "The University has been a wonderful place to minister... the relationships we've formed with students, faculty and staff will be lifelong relationships."

"I've highly, highly enjoyed the opportunity here," Betty Chitwood said. "I've been allowed to minister in ways I've never dreamed."



File Photo/ The Current

Betty and Dennis Chitwood lead a communion service for UMSL students before traveling downtown to see the Pope last January.

Student begins new multicultural sorority at UMSL

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

UM-St. Louis may soon have a new sorority on campus. Lambda Psi Delta Sorority, Inc., "Lil'ies," originating in Connecticut, is a fairly new sorority, founded in 1997 as a response to the need to forge sisterhood on campuses. Lambda is a multicultural sorority whose mission statement includes uplifting and empowering women in their communities through intellectual development, cultural awareness and leadership, and to engage in educational, cultural, political and public service activities that express and support such concerns.

Jeannette Sanchez-Wallace, a senior majoring in psychology at UM-St. Louis, said she wanted to bring a non-traditional sorority to the campus that women like her can identify with. Sanchez-Wallace, who is known as the "Founding Mother," has been receiving help from the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Multicultural Relations Academic Affairs with e-mail mailings and has been working closely with the national coordinator who will be coming to the school to help with the application process.

Currently there are 17 students wanting to become Lil'ies in what will soon be the UM-St. Louis chapter of Lambda Psi Delta.

For more information about joining UM-St. Louis' Lambda Psi Delta chapter, contact Sanchez-Wallace at 526-5291 or its faculty advisor, Orinthia Montague at 516-5538. General information about the national chapter can be found on their web site, www.lambdapsidelta.org.

BENTON, from page 1

In Stadler Hall, part of the second and third floors housing labs and office space will be made into faculty offices. A portion of Stadler's fourth floor will be turned into biology laboratories.

In the 1999 fiscal year, \$2.5 million was appropriated for the Science Complex renovations. The report says that in addition to this amount, \$5 million and \$15,781,000 in capital are being requested for the 2001 and 2002 fiscal years to complete the project.

BIG EVENT, from page 1



Photo courtesy of Joe Flees

Students participate in last year's "The Big Event" by cleaning up the grounds of St. Vincent's Children Home.

community." Flees said the SGA is currently looking for other student organizations to co-sponsor The Big Event, mostly by donating volunteers. As of press time, Flees said the SGA has

PORTER, from page 3

sistence of the Athenian army. I basically told all the other interested tenant shoppers that I was going to rent this apartment without directly addressing any of them. I told the landlord showing the unit that I want to fill out a credit application and that I would enclose a securi-

received a commitment from the Residence Halls Association for co-sponsorship and is looking for others. Flees said students can also volunteer on an individual basis by stopping by the SGA office.

ty deposit with it, that day, within one hour. Immediately all other potential renters left and my roommate and I reigned victorious. Now all I have to is wait for approval. Some things never change.

DRUGS, from page 1

... would seem to be a vital part of any kind of attempt to dissuade people from using substances."

G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said the Higher Education Act of 1992 had the same provision but had no mechanism to report students who had been convicted. He said that the Department of Education is currently writing the rules for implementation and that the University hasn't received them yet.

Grace said the provision puts the University in a unique position. "We want to make sure that we're reminding students of their legal responsibilities and not encouraging them to break any laws," Grace said. "At the same time, we're an educational institution. We're not the courts. We're not the cops."

Grace said the higher-education establishment lobbied for many of the provisions of the Higher Education Act. He said the act has reduced paperwork and has created relief in certain areas of the law.

Grace said he does not believe the provision will discriminate against

minorities because of the measures already put in place to ensure equal treatment in the financial aid process.

"I understand that to be the case of conviction rates of our citizens at large and what ethnic groups they belong to," Grace said, "but in terms of what we're required to do in enforcing this provision in the federal financial aid process, it should have no affect there."

Tony Georges, director of Student Financial Aid, said students convicted of drug-related offenses will report them through a new question on the Federal Student Aid application. It is question 28 and if a student has been convicted of a drug-related offense, the application instructs them to go to the Federal Student Aid website to fill out a worksheet online. The answers on the worksheet will then determine if a student is eligible for federal aid.

Georges said it relies on the student's honesty, but there are consequences for knowingly putting false information on the application. The application states that if a person pur-

posely gives false information, they may be fined \$10,000, sent to prison or both.

"[The Federal Government is] moving to a database match," Georges said. "I'm sure that at some point that they'll be able to verify that information, but there has to be some integrity on the part of the student."

Georges said students convicted of a drug-related offense can have their eligibility suspension time either cut or restored by completing a drug rehabilitation program. According to the Federal Student Aid website an acceptable drug rehabilitation program must include two unannounced drug tests, be qualified to receive state, federal or local government funds, or funds from a state-licensed insurance company and be administered or recognized by a federal, state or local government agency or court, or a state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

Lotlikar said he hopes to get this bill passed before July 1, the date this provision goes into affect.

PARKING FEES, from page 1

ing that the cost of going to UM-St. Louis and parking here will rise at a rate double that of inflation.

A report issued last year by the University of Missouri's Office of Planning and Budget said that since 1988, when the state subsidized 60

percent of the cost of a student's education at UM-St. Louis and students paid 36 percent, the level of support from state tax dollars has fallen while the burden on students has risen. For the most recent year in the report, 1997, students here paid 51 percent

of cost, while state tax money paid for 44 percent. Students on no other campus of the University of Missouri paid such a high percentage.

"I believe we're the most poorly supported institution in the state of Missouri," Samples said.

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