



FEATURES

Standing tall: Cheetahs and many other animals at the St. Louis Zoo are getting a new home as part of "The River's Edge" project.

See page 3

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U-Wire News

U. Michigan sued for refusing to fail dental students

BY HANNA LAPATIN
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Dental School associate Prof. L. Keith Yohn filed a lawsuit against the University of Michigan last month after it refused to fail two sophomore dental students.

Acting as his own attorney, Yohn filed claim in the U.S. District Court in Detroit and charged the University with the "deprivation of freedom of speech" and property right to protect the "health care interest" of the public and their children.

Dental School Dean William Kotowicz, associate Dean Robert Fiegall and course directors Merle Jaarda and Kenneth Stoffers were also named as defendants in the lawsuit.

The students in question failed a pre-clinic class during the 1999 winter term and failed a remedial class the following summer. Yohn said it is Dental School policy that students who fail these classes are dismissed from the program.

Kotowicz proposed in September that the two students be allowed to repeat the course for a third time. The school's executive committee upheld this decision and created a course for the students to complete.

In a new examination administered by co-defendants Jaarda and Stoffers — and, according to Yohn, not approved by the executive committee — the two students passed with C and C-plus grades. The administration did not honor our grades," Yohn said.

One of the students, said Yohn, is a daughter of a part-time faculty member at the University. "It smacks of nepotism," said Yohn. "But we'll have to let the court decide that."

University spokesperson Julie Peterson would not comment on the specifics of the case but said, "We consider this lawsuit to be utterly without merit and we expect to win this case."

Kotowicz said in a written statement, "The Michigan School of Dentistry is considered one of the top five in the nation. Our academic programs are rigorous and challenging and 95 percent of our students pass all of their board exams within six months of graduation."

The other three faculty members who joined Yohn in failing the students have not joined him in the lawsuit. Yohn said he attributes this to the fact that the other professors are new to the school and could be afraid of losing their jobs.

"Fear is the ally of administration," Yohn said. The University "counts on professors being afraid to lose their jobs. How many professors are going to sue the University?"

Index

Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	9
The Nerd Table	9

University proposes 'Greek row'

Fraternities, sororities may rent space in Mansion Hill next year

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Fraternities and sororities at the University of Missouri-St. Louis may occupy houses in a Greek row within the Mansion Hill Condominiums complex on the north side of campus as early as next fall.

G. Gary Grace, vice-chancellor for Student Affairs, said the Mansion Hill proposal came out of December meetings with sorority representatives. At the November Student Government Association meeting, Joanne Eddington, vice-president of Delta Zeta sorority, voiced her displeasure about the new University Center's lack of permanent meeting rooms.

"When [the University Center] project was started in the 1980's, a wish list was made," Grace said. "One of the 40 or 50 things on that list was a Greek meeting space. That got bumped off the list, but somehow the idea that the new University Center would have such a meeting room never died in the Greek community."

Grace said the idea grew out of several meetings and the framework at other universities.

"Many other institutions have a Greek row," Grace said. "We are proposing that part of Mansion Hill be set aside for rent by sororities and fraternities."

The sororities and fraternities would pay rent for the space in Mansion Hill so there would be no cost increases in student fees to cover the proposal.

Though the proposal is in its initial phases, Grace said there are advantages to having sororities and fraternities in one place.

"If we are going to help promote sororities and fraternities, it would be helpful to have them in one area for folks to see that's where they are," Grace said.

Sororities have been unable to have a house of their own because Bel-Ridge and Bel-Nor ordinances ban houses with three or more females of non-blood relation living in them, calling them brothels. Eddington said those laws would not apply to this proposal.

"Greek row would be on campus property," Eddington said. "If it's on campus property, then the city rules do not apply. It would be governed by the laws of the University."

Eddington said the proposal is still in its early stages and that the prospect of moving into Mansion Hill has not been approved by the Delta Zeta national office.

Still, Eddington said she likes the message the proposal is sending from the administration to the UM-St. Louis Greek community.



Rafael Macias/The Current

If a new administration proposal is finalized, Greek organizations may be allowed to rent space in the Mansion Hill Condominiums complex as early as next fall.

"Fraternities and sororities are the most active student groups on campus," Eddington said. "Every fraternity and sorority has a philanthropy that they raise a lot of money for and, on top of that, fraternities and sororities give back to their communities in other ways as well. The administration is sending a message that fraternities and sororities are good for more than just partying."

Other sororities are also making plans for a possible move. Jennifer Collins, president of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, said that her sorority is still discussing the matter with their nationals and are not sure how it will work out.

However, that has not lessened Alpha Xi Delta's enthusiasm about the proposal.

"Everyone's really excited about

it," Collins said. "We've wanted our own place for a long time."

Grace said the proposal fits into Chancellor Blanche Touhill's agenda to increase student activity.

"I think that fraternities and sororities are great for some undergraduate students, but not for all of them," Grace said. "We are still planning on

see MANSION HILL, page 2

International Studies founder dies

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

Last semester saw the passing of one of UM-St. Louis' key architects. Edwin H. Fedder, founder of the UM-St. Louis Center for International Studies and noted scholar, died Dec. 1, 1999, at the age of 70.

Fedder came to the University in 1967 to start an international studies program at UM-St. Louis. At that time, he was already well-respected for his work in political science.

Joel Glassman, current director of the Center for International Studies, said Fedder made it a priority to support faculty research and to acquire faculty members with international

interests. "He was a very skillful advocate for international studies," Glassman said.

Charles Korr, professor of history and a fellow in the Center for International Studies, said Fedder put aside money to invite guests from overseas and took many other actions to promote international awareness.

"He changed the whole climate of the campus," Korr said.

Since it began, the Center has grown considerably. Glassman said it now supports the International Studies Certificate. Glassman said recent years have seen the development of more study abroad and student exchange programs, as well as

support services for international students. Glassman said the Center also provides for international studies outreach to the community.

Fedder was a well-known expert on U. S. foreign policy and national security. Glassman said Fedder's most famous works were his studies on NATO, and the roles of alliances in both theoretical and practical contexts.

"Some of that work is still considered the best work on NATO that has been done," Glassman said.

Fedder is perhaps most remembered among faculty and students for his role as a mentor. Glassman described Fedder as someone who was not just respected, but also deeply

loved by faculty and former students.

Glassman highlighted Fedder's willingness to help new faculty.

"He played a huge role in the development of the whole institution, not just international studies," Glassman said.

Fedder retired from University life in 1991, but remained active, writing satirical commentary in the form of poetry.

An annual lecture has been established in Fedder's honor. The Dr. Edwin H. Fedder Annual Lecture in Foreign and International Affairs has been endowed by contributions from faculty and some of Fedder's former students. The first lecture is planned for this spring.

SGA makes Student Court, elections goals

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The start of winter semester has brought no change as far as the leadership of the Student Government Association is concerned, and as a result the organization has no clear cut goals or programming planned for the upcoming semester.

Steve Wolfe, acting SGA president, said April elections are the only thing that is a priority for him.

"We've got to work on the April elections," Wolfe said. "Basically, I'd really like to not say anything until the executive committee meets."

Wolfe said he has tried to arrange a meeting of the executive committee through e-mail, but none of his messages have been returned. Wolfe said a meeting of SGA's executive committee would occur when he is able to contact some of the members.

Wolfe said in the meantime, issues like the interim student court would remain on the table. Wolfe also said Student Affairs has stepped in as far as the student court is concerned.

G. Gary Grace, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said Student Affairs has traditionally served in an advising capacity to the student court in the parking appeals process, but denies that Student Affairs has taken over the student court.

"I think what Joanne Bocci [Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs] and I have encouraged Steve Bartok [chief justice of the student court] to do is to not let the dysfunctional situation of the student government cause the student court to stop dead in its tracks," Grace said. "They can still continue to operate and there's no prohibition to operate. Unless there is some constitutional issue or bylaw, they can invent their own process as long as its not in violation to any standing rule."

Wolfe also said the SGA's priorities would be thrown further into the air if embattled SGA President Darwin Butler returns.

Butler has not been in office or on campus since campus police escorted him from his office in October for work release violations. Butler was on work release since pleading guilty to

see SGA, page 2

Campus computer systems performing better after thorough Y2K preparations

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

When the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve, officially starting the year 2000, the feared Y2K bug turned out to have no effect in much of the world. The same was true for the University of Missouri-St. Louis computer system.

Jerrold Siegel, coordinator of Campus Computing, said there were no Y2K related problems with any of the campus' software or servers.

"We've been working for about two years just systematically going through the server and looking at the systems, working with vendors to determine where problems are, replacing hardware where that was necessary, but mostly replacing software and updating software with patches and fixes," Siegel said.

Siegel said that there were virtually no pieces of hardware or software on campus that weren't visited. He said they were still receiving Y2K-related fixes for software from vendors on New Year's Eve.

Siegel said the result of the Y2K updates is better performance.

"A lot of times, (software) vendors honestly just took the time to do things better," Siegel said. "They also took advantage of the situation and just basically installed fixes and patches that increased performance and did other things."

One of the biggest Y2K updates occurred in both the student and faculty and staff dial-up software. In November, the faculty and staff dial-up system changed, followed by changes in the student dial-up in December.

Siegel said the changes were inevitable and have made the dial-ups more user-friendly.

"The old dial-up system which was originally designed for Windows 3.1 involved a whole bunch of configurations," Siegel said. "This one, you just use the dialog box, you put your name in and a password, and you are home free."

"It's more stable. I think the connections should be taking place more quickly and we will be able to put in more high speed lines. We are going to have a significant number of 56K lines with the new system that we didn't have

see Y2K, page 2

Out of season



Rafael Macias/The Current

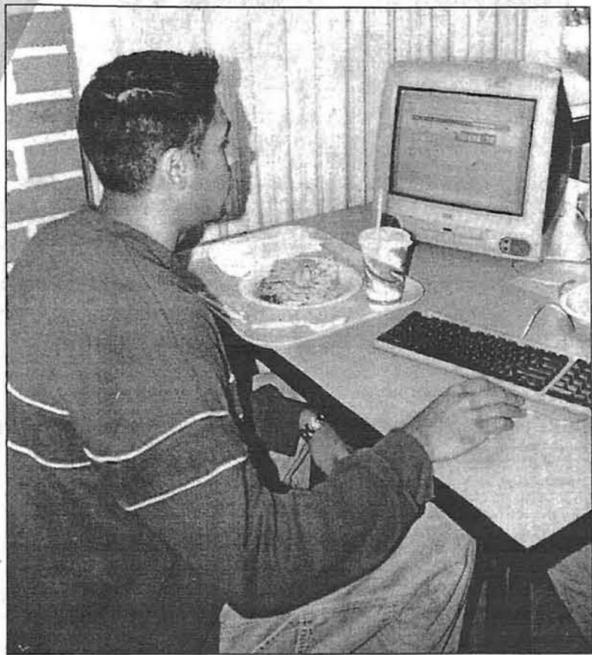
Workers continue construction on the new University Center full force. The building effort has been helped by unseasonably warm weather this winter.

Y2K, from page 1

before.”
 Though the Y2K preparations were thorough and time-consuming, Campus Computing managed to minimize spending, Siegel said.
 “A [dollar] number was associated with that but a lot of that was opportunity cost in a sense that people who were on staff did that rather than doing something else,” Siegel said. “We never hired anybody to do it and very rarely did we spend money. The fixes and everything were forthcoming.”

Siegel said that while some of the apocalyptic predictions were amusing, Y2K did bring some good things for the UM-St. Louis campus computing system.

“It certainly provided us with a framework to review all of our systems, and our vendors, I think, took advantage of it to upgrade, and it sort of helped us confront the issue of upgrading software in general and to fix some Y2K problems in the process,” Siegel said. “We certainly have a much more stable system than we did earlier and certainly a lot of that motivation was addressing this problem, no matter how serious it may have turned out to be.”



Rafael Macias/The Current

Business marketing major Hetal Patel uses an iMac in the Cyber Cafe to obtain stock quotes. Generally, computer systems on campus are performing better thanks to preparations made for Y2K.

MANSION HILL, from page 1

offering a wide array of activities that appeal to all students.”

Grace said the Greek row would be located in units already purchased by the University in Mansion Hill. These units are part of the process of the University's gradual buyout of

the Mansion Hill property in order to turn it into a residential area for students.

Grace said no current residents of Mansion Hill would be removed or displaced to make room for the Greek row.

SGA, from page 1

credit card theft charges in St. Louis county in April. *The Current* has confirmed that Butler registered for classes for the winter semester through telephone registration, but he is still being held in St. Louis county pending word from Nevada on possible parole violations there.

D. Mike Bauer, SGA chair, said he has tried to contact Butler but his telephone calls were not returned.

“I do know for a fact that (Butler) is registered this semester and somebody put a typewritten note on the SGA office door about a week ago and it was signed ‘D.B.’,” Bauer said. “So we didn't really put a lot of stock in that, anybody could have put that up there.”

Bauer said he has three things he would like to see SGA take care of this semester, including addressing

the issue of the interim student court. “Get the Darwin Butler thing worked out, good or bad, one way or the other, that will be our first priority,” Bauer said. “Secondly, we've got to get the student court together. We've been for over a semester with an interim student court and Steve Bartok is getting his tail worked off. Three, we need to do some programming. We've got a \$40,000 budget that's just been sitting there. We haven't done anything with it all year.”

Wolfe said a date for the SGA January meeting has not yet been confirmed. Wolfe said Jan. 20 is the date he is shooting for and at that meeting a consensus date for the rest of this semester's SGA meetings will be decided.

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Staff: Brian Douglas, Jesse Figueroa, Jamie Kerry, Mary Lindsley

7940 Natural Bridge Road
 St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
 Advertising • (314) 516-5316
 Business • (314) 516-5175
 Fax • (314) 516-6811

email: current@jinx.umsl.edu
 website: <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/current/>

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1:30 pm		Low & Step with Audrey		Total Body Toning with Lisa	Weight Room Circuit with Ricki
2:30 pm			Open to Students Faculty & Staff Register in the REC SPORTS OFFICE • 203 Mark Twain	Cardio Mix with Lisa	Cardio Mix with Ricki
3:30 pm	Low & Step with Ricki				
4:30 pm	Taebox with Ricki	Step & Abs with Stephanie			
5:30 pm	W. E. T. with Rose	W. E. T. with Rae	W. E. T. with Rae	W. E. T. with Rose	
6:45 pm	Total Body Toning with Rae		Low & Step with Ricki	Cardio Mix with Stephanie	

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THE RIVER'S EDGE

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Project at St. Louis Zoo will give Raja new home for new millenium

Raja, the most recent elephant to be born at the St. Louis Zoo, has found a new home. Well, he didn't really just find it . . .

The St. Louis Zoo has built a lush new home for Raja, the young bull elephant born at the Zoo who has become a beloved local celebrity. The new facility for Raja and the other elephants is part of Phase I of a larger project, "The River's Edge," which will be completed over the next two years.

When Raja was born, Zoo officials recognized that a new facility would be needed to house him, and that realization led to the development of "The River's Edge." In addition to the elephant exhibit, the Phase I portion includes displays for cheetahs, dwarf mongooses, and spotted hyenas in lushly forested riverside and plains settings designed to mimic their natural habitat.

Bill Houston, assistant general curator at the Zoo, helped develop "The River's Edge."

"The exhibit takes an innovative approach in its structure and landscaping. The goal of the display is to blur the line between the viewers and the animals in the exhibit, so that visitors get the feeling of total immersion in the habitat," Houston said.

To this day, Zoo architects and landscapers have worked to conceal buildings and fences in the exhibit,

Cheetahs are among those who will see a new dwelling place in Phase I of "The River's Edge."

Chuck Dresner/ St. Louis Zoo



Crowds view Raja at the St. Louis Zoo. The growing elephant has a new home in Phase I of "The River's Edge." All three phases of the project are set for completion in 2001.

built footpaths that resemble beaten earthen paths complete with animal tracks, and recreated the landscape of the riverside and savannah habitat including termite mounds, streams, and a waterfall, so visitors to "The River's Edge" will travel on footpaths through foliage that was designed to make it seem as if they were actually in the animals' habitat, while not compromising access or safety.

"Exhibits are designed to have a multi-layered effect, so the different species may appear to have no barriers between them," Houston said.

The exhibits also contain off-viewing breeding areas for elephants and cheetahs, and a series of compounds and enclosures that can be combined in a number of ways; to give the facility flexibility.

The first phase opened to the public Dec. 10, although there will be a Grand Opening later this spring.

Phase II, an area devoted to St. Louis' river heritage will be added, along with a river-camp restaurant. This phase is slated to be completed this spring.

The largest part of the project, Phase III, will include the bulk of the species in the exhibit. This phase will feature underwater viewing of hippos, areas for black rhinos, bushdogs, capybaras, warthogs, giant anteaters, and carmine bee-eater birds, thus including species from South America, Africa, and Asia.

This part of the project is due to be completed in summer 2001.

"The River's Edge" was built on the site of the old Aquatic House, so the elephants were able to observe the construction of their new home.

"When the elephants were moved into their new space, Raja and his mother were moved first and settled right in," Houston said.

The other elephants had various responses to the move, with some eager to explore the new space, and others reluctant to leave their old home, but all are well settled in now, and ready for visitors. With the same hours as the Zoo, "The River's Edge" is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free.



Anthropology chair Clarke-Ekong has had long journey to UM-St. Louis campus

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

For Sheilah Clarke-Ekong, the road to becoming chairperson of the anthropology department at UM-St. Louis has spanned thousands of miles, from the United States to Africa and back again.

Clarke-Ekong's research as an anthropologist focuses on African cultural and organizational structures, as well as women's role in economic structures. After earning a bachelor's degree from Florida International University, Clarke-Ekong left the United States to pursue graduate studies in Nigeria. In 1979, she earned her master's degree and joined the faculty of the University of Ife in Nigeria, teaching in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Clarke-Ekong returned to the United States in 1989 to become the assistant director of the James S. Coleman African Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles. She became an assistant professor of anthropology at UM-St. Louis in 1992, and has since played an active role in both the campus and local communities.

Since coming to UM-St. Louis, Clarke-Ekong has taught courses in cultural anthropology, African culture, women in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as courses in the Honors College. She is a fellow in the Center for International Studies and serves as faculty director of the Missouri Africa Program. The UM-St. Louis-directed program is a student exchange program between a consortium of universities in Missouri and the University of Ghana, Legon. Clarke-Ekong will be accompanying the program's participants to Ghana next fall and will teach a course at the university while she's there.

Clarke-Ekong is also one of the first co-directors of the University's



Sheilah Clarke-Ekong

Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity, providing students in kindergarten through 12th grade an interactive experience in physical anthropology and cultural diversity. Off-campus, she is on the advisory board of the Community Women Against Hardship Organization and participates in the Mentor Dropout Prevention Project and Role Model Experiences Program with the St. Louis City School District.

Clarke-Ekong became chairperson of the anthropology department last August. She is the first female, African-American chair in the department's history.

"I'd like to see more sustained pro-

grams in archaeology, and I think we've worked very diligently toward that," Clarke-Ekong said.

She is looking forward to increasing enrollment in the department's human origins class now that the course has received approval to count toward the University's general science requirement. She is also committed to not letting a tight budget hinder the department's ability to serve students.

"We want to continue to create an environment supportive to our majors and to all students, even in hard times," Clarke-Ekong said. "It's important that we not lose our sense of purpose."

Money matters

Cash woes can dampen holiday spirit

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

At Christmas time, Santa Claus cheerfully calls "Ho ho ho." The question soon becomes, what happens after the festive holiday season that corporate America has defined for its citizens and all those bills arrive in the mailbox? Many well-meaning consumers are left saying, "Oh oh oh..."

What is the answer? Try these tips in the next holiday season. For example, buy less, perhaps substituting cookies or some other home-made goodies.

From looking at the calendar, holiday gift-givers have 11 months to pay all their creditors and dig their checkbook from under the house foundation. This mass exodus of money calls for a strategy.

The first step in this operation may be possibly the most depressing. Just like the first step for rehab is to admit a problem, debtors must determine the extensiveness of the damage to their finances. Starnet.com reminds consumers that not all debt is bad debt, such as home and student loans.

Starnet.com then suggests to check credit reports and make certain they are accurate because they represent the financial past. The report lists about loans, bills, payment records and could adversely affect a consumer's future when purchasing a home or automobile.

Now that all the debt is accounted for, the next idea is to begin to pay the money suckers. What is credit card freedom?? Credit card freedom offers the advice of organization when deciding which companies to settle first. This system will provide a method to list all the interest rates and transactions with each credit card which makes it much easier to watch the spending.

Money magazine advises closing costs with the cards that carry the highest interest rate and paying more than the minimum that the company dictates. By following these guidelines, money will be applied to more than interest and will allow consumers to become credit card debt free.

Starnet.com advises creating a budget and adhering to it. With this monitoring of funds, it becomes much easier to pull money from the cracks between the checkbook pages.

This extra cash can then be turned into more cash with investing.

Starnet.com recommends not being afraid to ask for help if necessary. Many services such as Consumer Credit Counseling provide free assistance to debtors and those lessons can be applied to future financial situations.

Then next year around Christmas time, every Santa will be able to say "Ho ho ho," without any regrets after the New Year.

FEATURES

ANNE PORTER
features editor

phone: 516-5174
fax:516-6811

Thoughts for Today

"A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person."

-Dave Barry
Credit: Dave Barry Turns 50

"Some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers."

-T.S. Eliot
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"When turkeys mate, they think of swans."

-Johnny Carson
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"If you don't say anything, you won't be called on to repeat it."

-Calvin Coolidge
Credit: Baseball: A Laughing Matter

Placemat helps 'eccentric' columnist to classify self



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

I only eat at Chinese food restaurants for two reasons. The first and foremost is because of the gift of fortune cookies. I am aware that I can merely go to the local grocery store and purchase a box, but just the pleasure of a singular little phrase that defines the whole day makes the experience most exciting.

Yesterday when I visited the Village Buffet Chinese restaurant on Lindbergh Boulevard, I received a fortune which said, "I am the master of my own destiny."

At first I resisted my friend's idea of the Oriental cuisine because for whatever reason, exactly two

hours after eating Chinese food, I am starving. No small tingling sensation at the base of the stomach either. It is as if I have not touched a morsel of food for days, hours, months, or weeks.

But because my friend cajoled me to lunch at this buffet, I discovered another valid excuse to go.

This new cause to go currently would not be the excellent service or the tasty cuisine. That does not particularly interest me. What did, however, at least yesterday, was the Chinese astrology place mat.

I am not confessing that Chinese astrology is a new topic to me. For

years I have known I am a dragon as I was born in 1976. However, in all the accounts and descriptions I have read about dragons through the years, never before did a prediction call me "eccentric" as this one did.

Until now, whenever I envisioned the word "eccentric," Andy Warhol walked into my brain carrying his portrait of Campbell Soup cans. Or some misguided individual who lives with 20 freely-roaming felines, or even some members of my family who insist on wearing bulky, gaudy jewelry which flatters them in no way whatsoever.

No, "eccentric" fits me in no

detail of my life. Other details about me that the 20-word horoscope included were, "Full of passion and health," and with my passion and health I should, "Marry a rat later in life," with the condition that I should avoid dogs.

The rest of the prediction about me, after pondering that maybe it has some value, still paled in comparison with the first word, "eccentric."

Since "eccentric" fixated on my brain's agenda, I decided I must broach the subject after my friend had the audacity to say this description sounded like me.

"Am I eccentric?" I asked. To this, he replied, not eccentric because I have no money (in order to be "eccentric" one must have money), but nonetheless strange. For someone to call me "strange" created no new phenomenon in my life and at least it cured me of the obsession with that incessant word, "eccentric."

The moral of the story here is that whatever people read, say, list, write, they mold it to fit their way they define themselves. Either that, or it's the age-old adage "Don't believe everything that you read."

New year but same problems exist

I am the Millennium Man!
I came to this conclusion while in a drunken stupor at my New Year's Eve party. At first, it was meant to be a joke between my friends and I. I mean how seriously can you take a guy when he has had some champagne and a few seven and sevens (minus the 7 Up), and he's running around in a house full of people with a Happy 2000 paper top hat on and a noise blower sticking out of his mouth?

Okay, so it wasn't one of my finer moments, especially when I ran up and down my street screaming "I am the Millennium Man" to people I didn't know.

Come to think of it, I am glad I hosted the New Year's party because I was in no condition to drive. This column does not condone the excessive use of alcohol unless of course it is during finals week or in between classes.

Enough of what I did New Year's Eve, the point of this column isn't how much of a drunken fool I was. What this column is about is the realization I had upon waking out of my drunken stupor the next morning.

That realization being, I am the Millennium Man!

I'm a student going at least 30 years into debt for a degree that doesn't guarantee me a job in my chosen profession after graduation. I have two jobs to support myself, I like sports, good books, and walks in the park. In a sense, I embody the average college student on this campus.

As the self-proclaimed Millennium Man I demand several

things.
1.) A Student Government Association that works for the students. The current SGA has been stagnant for the last semester and it must stop. Do something, do anything. There has been no official quorum for any SGA meeting for the last two years. A suggestion: stop calling for a quorum, and you may be amazed at how much work you can actually get done.

2.) An SGA President that is actually in office. Steven Wolfe has done an admirable job in Darwin Butler's absence, but this has gone on for too long. First it was Jim Avery being non-existent and now Butler's personal, legal troubles have forced him away from campus.

3.) A student body that cares. Most of the student body would like for Butler to be impeached, but nobody takes the ten seconds to sign the petition. Also, do you know where your SGA President is? Not in the University Senate representing the students.

4.) A University Senate that offers more than token student representation. These people have forgotten who actually pays the bills on this campus. No students, no classes and that means these professors who moan and groan about student input would end up in the welfare line.

I have several more demands but I will waste no more of your time.

Hey wait... the new millennium doesn't technically start until 2001. Oh well, I guess the Millennium Man and his demands can wait for another year.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

Signs of age minus the benefits

At first, the fax appeared to be just another one of those junk faxes that we get at *The Current* all the time. MTV was notifying colleges across the country that it was searching for cast members to appear in the upcoming season of its "Real World" series. I may not have given the fax a second thought except that it said they were looking for people between the ages of 18 and 24. The words hit me like a frying pan in the face. I was too old to try out for the show. Not by much, but too old nonetheless.

Mind you, I have absolutely no desire whatsoever to be a "Real World" cast member. The idea of spending a year cooped up with six people who have the combined IQ of a walnut is about as appealing as drowning. It was the principle of the thing. I've never been prohibited from doing something because I was too old.

It seems like I've spent most of my life being too young to do things and barely able to wait until I was old enough to do them. Things like driving or walking into a bar without having to worry about getting carded. It's harder to look forward to those milestone birthdays knowing that the only privileges they'll bring is membership in the AARP and eligibility for Social Security.

Part of the reason the fax was so jarring was because it came at about the same time that I was starting to display the characteristics of getting older. I noticed that I couldn't hear conversations quite as well as I used to. Smile lines and crow's feet were

turning up on my face. Worse still, I found myself starting sentences with phrases like "Back in my day..."

Aging is supposed to be a trade-off: what you lose in looks and vitality you gain in wisdom. Unfortunately, this trade-off is pretty uneven. Wrinkles seem to appear overnight. Knowledge and experience do not. I feel a little smarter about things than I used to be, but not always. I keep waiting for that morning when I wake up and quit doing things like sticking my foot in my mouth or making bad decisions, but that day hasn't come yet.

When it comes down to it, though, I really don't feel old. I may look a little worse for wear, I may think differently about things than I used to. But I don't think I've started acting like I'm old, which, for me, takes some of the edge off of aging. I still dress the same way I used to. I listen to the music that all the "kids" are listening to, and I can still party until four in the morning with the best of them.

Trouble is, we have a double standard about the way people are supposed to behave. When an 80 year old acts like a 60 year old, everyone marvels at how young that person seems. But when you're close to 30 (which I am) and you act like you're closer to 20 (which I do), you're considered immature.

If being the oldest person out on the dance floor makes me immature, then so be it. I'm enjoying my life right now, and that's what matters to me the most.

OUR OPINION

Greek row in Mansion Hills good for campus

The issue:

Recently, the University's administrators began considering the possibility of using part of the Mansion Hill Condominiums (part of which is owned by the University) into a greek row where Fraternities and Sororities would all finally have houses. Currently some fraternities have houses in Bel-Nor but an old city law states any house occupied by women that are not of the same blood is considered a brothel. This has kept sororities from having their own houses in the past.

We suggest:

With the possibility of a new greek row brings the potential for a raise in student involvement on campus. We hope this will be considered when the decision is made.

So what do you think?

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

At last, the University of Missouri-St. Louis appears to be on the right track as far as student life on campus is concerned. The possibility of a Greek row within the Mansion Hill Condominiums would have far more impact on student life than anything else done to this point.

The move would give UM-St. Louis credibility among incoming undergraduates who are looking into more of a university experience and atmosphere. Just coming to school, going to classes and going home, which is the status quo, holds no interest for a student looking for a healthy student life.

New students upon touring the campus would be able to identify where the fraternities and sororities are. It would also help the Greeks rush more actively. Having signs advertising rush events on campus that say "party at Mansion Hill" would be more effective than signs saying "party at the house next to Popeye's" or "party at the house across from Popeye's."

The Greek row would also help dispel the negative stereotypes Greeks have on this campus. Fraternities and sororities do more than just party. They signify a lifetime bond. All fraternities and sororities have philanthropies and make large contributions in order to help their surrounding communities.

Currently, the fraternities and sororities at UM-St. Louis are among the most active student

organizations on campus. They are constantly attending athletic events and SGA meetings as well as hosting parties and weekend social activities which are open to every UM-St. Louis student.

Furthermore, by centrally locating UM-St. Louis' fraternities and sororities, it could foster more cooperation between UM-St. Louis' Greek systems. More cooperation could lead to even more on campus involvement from the Greeks.

For example, at UM-Columbia nearly all of the fraternities and sororities are located together. The result is cooperation during Homecoming and Greek Weeks. For Homecoming, the fraternities and sororities get together and make homecoming floats that go with the Homecoming theme. The Greek floats are also joined by floats from other student organizations for a Homecoming parade.

Greek Week is an entire week devoted to increase awareness about the Greek system and is culminated by a one-act play performance given by the Greeks. This could be easily done in our new Performing Arts Center.

Having the fraternities and sororities in one location makes it easier for the Greeks at UM-Columbia to perform such services. Similar traditions can evolve here at UM-St. Louis with the Greeks in one place at Mansion Hill.



LETTERS

A brief analysis of what really is cool

What is cool? This is a common question, and while there are many answers, there is no real concrete definition of cool. Webster says cool is slang for very good, but that is kind of misleading. An entree that tastes very good would not be called cool.

Cool, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. So basically, football is going to be called cool by a bunch of athletes, but your average chess club may not agree. At the same time, those athletes might show disdain for Star Trek, which the chess club probably

bases much of their social life around.

Some things and people always have and always will be inexplicably cool. Take the Fonzy, for instance, he was cool, but no one knew why. It had to be more than the leather jacket, right? Beck is the modern day definition of the Fonzy, cool without explanation. The guy wears Atari video game shirts with red pants and everyone adores him... it must be rough.

Bruce Campbell is another cool guy (read my column on the A&E page next week, it will explain

further.) There are also those that will never be cool, like Regis Philbin. No matter how many times that guy asks, "Is that your final answer?" no one will like him.

I have worked long and hard to decide what is and isn't cool, and while different people will always have slightly different views, I think I have a system figured out to decide what is cool. Oops, I'm out of space.

-Cory Blackwood

Editorial Board

JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

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

How to Respond

Mail

Letters to the Editor
7940 Natural Bridge
St. Louis, MO 63121

Phone

(314) 516-5174

Fax

(314) 516-6811

Email

current@jinx.umsll.edu

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.

*ALL CHARACTERS ARE FICTITIOUS. ANY RESEMBLANCE OR SIMILAR NAMES PURELY COINCIDENTAL. EXCEPT FOR THE GOAT, HE IS A STUDENT.

Under Current

By MARTY JOHNSON
STAFF CARTOONIST

WHAT DID YOU DO ON NEW YEARS EVE?



LENNY ASWORTH
FRESHMAN / BIOLOGY

"MY MOM WENT OUT, SO I HAD THE FELLAS OVERTO WATCH STAR TREK... EVERY TIME KIRK TELEPORTED, WE DRANK O'DOULS!"



GARY WILKS
SOPHOMORE / PSYCHOLOGY

"I WAS KINDA DRUNK, AND I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH... BUT I DO KNOW I DIDN'T MAKE OUT WITH A GOAT."



NOLAN
SENIOR / UNDECIDED

"IN A SHOCKING ACT OF DEFIANCE AGAINST THE Y2K BUG I PLAYED MY OLD ATARI 2600. THE ONLY THING THAT BROKE WAS MY HIGH SCORE AT PONG... BEEEAACHH."



GOAT
JUNIOR / EDUCATION

"GARY WILKS GOT DRUNK AND MADE OUT WITH ME."

Riverwomen outlast Southern Indiana

2-OT victory salvages 2-2 holiday break

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen basketball team overcame an eight point halftime deficit to beat Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Southern Indiana in a double-overtime thriller Thursday night at Mark Twain.

Tawanda Daniel's 3-pointer with just over a minute to go in the second half tied the score at 57 and helped send the game into overtime.

"Tawanda's shot was huge," Etheridge said. "It takes somebody with a lot of guts and leadership to take that shot."

Daniel led the Riverwomen with 28 points. Daniel was joined offensively by teammate Jennifer Littleton who added 19 points in the win.

Most of Littleton's points came with the game on the line in the second half and in the second overtime.

"Jennifer can be that productive offensively every game," Etheridge said. "But teams key on her defensively, sometimes she is double and triple teamed."

The Riverwomen played a match-up zone defense against Southern Indiana. It was the first time they had used the defense and it cost them in the first half as they gave up 41 points.

As the game went on, the Riverwomen settled into the defensive system and held Southern Indiana to just 18 second half points. The defensive effort by the Riverwomen made the comeback possible.

UM-St. Louis started off the break

with an 86-79 conference victory against Quincy at home in front of a large audience with Littleton leading the Riverwomen with 23 points. Daniel added 20, while Amanda Wentzel and Sara Mauck scored 14 and 13, respectively.

The Riverwomen were slow out of the gates, shooting 32 percent from the field and surrendering 36 first-half points to trail by seven at the break. In the second half, the Riverwomen outscored Quincy 57-43 while shooting 49 percent from the field, helping UM-St. Louis clinch the victory.

The Riverwomen then hosted Washington University in a non-conference matchup.

Washington University came out flying in the first half, outscoring the Riverwomen 47-19. Washington University would hold on the rest of the way to defeat UM-St. Louis 81-58.

UM-St. Louis was led by Daniel and her 19 points, while Washington University had four players in double digits. The Riverwomen shot a season low 32 percent from the field.

UM-St. Louis then tried to rebound from the drubbing when they hosted Ferris State.

The Riverwomen came out in the first half slowly, but led at half-time 36-30. In the second half, Ferris State took over, outscoring the Riverwomen 46-37 and won 76-73.

UM-St. Louis was paced by Mauck and Daniel who each had 21 points, while Lindsay Brefeld added 13. Tanisha Albert was a force on the boards with 11 rebounds in the loss.



File Photo/The Current

Riverwoman Tawanda Daniel (22) passes the ball to a teammate in a previous game. Daniel led the Riverwomen with 28 points in UM-St. Louis' marathon double overtime win over Southern Indiana. The win improves the Riverwomen conference record to 3-1.

Rivermen split four games over holiday break

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

The Rivermen basketball team went 2-2 during the holiday break. The Rivermen lost the first game, 80-68 to Washington University. Although outshooting Washington U. 72 to 56, the Rivermen couldn't counteract the shooting of the Bears, who shot 52 percent from the field, 34 percent from behind the arc, and 71 percent at the foul line.

The next match showcased sophomore Jim Schelich, who lit up the board with 31 points, shooting 11-17 from the court, and setting a school record by sinking 9 of 11 three-pointers. The previous record of eight was set by Marcus Albert on Jan. 26, 1994 against Lincoln. The Rivermen fell victim to the fast-paced Northwood attack, falling behind 34-30 at the half, but with a few half-time adjustments from Mark Bernsen, the team's head coach, UM-St. Louis would outscore Northwood 50-34 in the second half, wrapping up an 80-68 victory.

"Northwood had a very fast-paced attack in the first half, and our play under the boards could have been better," Bernsen said. "But we shot much more accurately in the second, avoiding long rebounds, and that helped improve our transition. It was a case of offense helping the defense."

After a week-long hiatus, the men were back in action, this time against Benedictine. Greg Ross scored 20 points for the Rivermen and Schelich added 14 to put UM-St. Louis over the top 56-51 in their first overtime contest this season.

"A lot of the guys were rusty following the holidays," Bernsen said. "That [Benedictine] game is one that we are just happy to win."

The final game pitted UM-St. Louis against Southern Indiana. Southern Indiana defeated the Rivermen 96-69.

Although the UM-St. Louis attack outshot Southern Indiana 58-55, they could only find the net 36 per cent of the time to Southern Indiana's 60 per cent.

Hockey team tries to avoid playoff deja vu

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

The memories of last season still haunt many of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen. At this time last year, the Rivermen were well on their way to a national title berth, and if not for an alleged lack of communication, they would have been invited. That team shared a similar record to this one, 15-7-3 to the current 14-4-3, and the squads had success against top 10 opponents, but in the end UM-St. Louis would be snubbed out of the top 10, and out of the tourney.

But this year has been filled with success, and the Rivermen have made a point to be seen by out-playing and out-working opponents. Over the semester break, they played four games, two of which were not scheduled. The first contest, at Chicago against Wheaton College, proved to be no contest as the Rivermen rolled to a decisive 10-1 victory. Following that was a must-win against conference powerhouse College of DuPage.

This game, DuPage defeated the Rivermen 6-3. UM-St. Louis chalked up two five-minute/game mis-

conducts in the match that led to three goals by DuPage. Senior netminder Nathan Frankenberger was pulled mid-way in favor of freshman Dan Schuermann, who came in for damage control but is now vying for the starting position.

Derek Schaub, the team's head coach, then scheduled two exhibition games against the Illinois Thunder in order to rate his team.

"I used the two Thunder games to set skills, and to keep the guys skating. We had a small flu outbreak over

the holiday which really set us back, and I wanted them to stay prime and poised," Schaub said.

These two games featured high school standout Chris Carley, who played on the Rivermen's starting line during both games. Carley, who currently attends Francis Howell North, could have a very bright future if he stays with UM-St. Louis. Other standouts over the stretch were Matt Brinker, who returned from injury to shine, and Matt Carapella, who continues to improve with every shift.

"The future looks good for this

“
The future looks good for this team. We have a host of young talent incoming, and we are starting to receive more calls from promising area athletes.”

-Derek Schaub
Rivermen Hockey Coach

”
injury to shine, and Matt Carapella, who continues to improve with every shift.

SPORTS OPINION

16-team tournament wouldn't settle college football debate

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

Well, the 2000 Nokia Sugar Bowl successfully wrapped up another season of collegiate football, with the Florida State Seminoles being the undisputed champions of college football, right?

You be the judge. Since college football rankings have come to be totally objective, anyone and everyone should have a say-so in the matter. At least that's what anyone who is not a Seminole fan believes.

Every year there are numerous bar fights and lost friendships over who the 'real' champion is. Every year people scream that college football should go to a tournament setup that would give each Division I team a fair shake at the Sears National Championship trophy.

People argue that popularity is the only thing that the AP poll represents.

They say that small schools don't get nearly the opportunities to grow, and they don't have the money to gain exposure.

How would a national tourney set up? Let's say 16 teams make the tourney, the winners of the 12 conferences gaining an automatic berth, and 4 at-large teams, who qualify based on national ranking.

This setup would feature Florida State, Virginia Tech, Wisconsin, Fresno State, Stanford, BYU, Louisiana Tech, Boise State, Alabama, Marshall, Nebraska, and Southern Mississippi as the automatic qualifiers. The four at large teams, based on the AP poll, would be Michigan (5), Kansas State (6), Michigan State (7), and Tennessee (9).

The first argument, from a traditionalist's standpoint, would be the loss of the bowl games, which aside from their history, generate billions of

dollars in revenue for the NCAA. Also, the amount of time teams would have to spend preparing for multiple games would extend the college football season well into January/February, which would interfere with athletes' study time. The two teams making the finals would be extending their season to at least 16 games.

As far as the Seminoles not deserving the college football crown, consider the following: they are the only team in the history of the NCAA to be ranked No. 1 in the pre-season polls, and keep that ranking through the post-season (pre-season polls have only been kept since 1950).

They received 70 out of 70 first place votes on the AP panel. This is their second title in a row. Quarterback Chris Weinke, the oldest quarterback in college football to date, has only lost one game out of his 22 as the Seminoles starter. Wide

receiver Peter Warrick, if not for his extracurricular activity, was a strong Heisman candidate. And all of this is coming from someone who really doesn't care for Florida State all that much.

This year's title game featured two undefeated teams, both who won their conferences outright, and both who successfully played through tough schedules. Virginia Tech featured a true freshman quarterback in Michael Vick, who, with his precision passing attack, kept college football fans everywhere on the edge of their seats. Although the final score, 46-29, doesn't reflect it, this game was very competitive. If not for a Vick fumble with 11:58 left, V. Tech might possibly have won.

I believe that this year's title game featured two very deserving teams, and therefore was a fair measuring stick as what any NCAA Division I team should aspire to be.

ACHA RANKINGS

Team	Points
1) Saginaw Valley	44
2) Northern Illinois	38
3) Michigan State	30
4) Central Michigan	26
5) Illinois	20
6) MSU-Mankato	17
7) Ferris State	15
8) Univ. of Minnesota	11
9) UM-St. Louis	11
10) College of DuPage	9

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

at Indianapolis
6:30 p.m., Thur., Jan. 13

at Northern Kentucky
2:00 p.m., Sat. Jan. 15

vs Lincoln
7:30 p.m., Mon. Jan. 17

at Wisc.-Parkside
7:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 20

Women's Basketball

at Indianapolis
4:30 p.m., Thur., Jan. 13

at Northern Kentucky
12:00 p.m., Sat. Jan. 15

at Wisc.-Parkside
5:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 20

Next Issue In Sports

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

The best is yet to come for UM-St. Louis athletics



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Well, it is the year 2000 now and what a better way to start the new year than to talk about all of the positives that UM-St. Louis will have to look forward to for the next year.

The men's and women's soccer teams may not have won the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournaments, but the competitive spirits that both showed were great.

The men made it to the finals for the second consecutive year led by freshmen standout Jeff Stegman from Vianney. With the crop of freshmen that Coach Tom Redmond has brought in, this program will be one of the top three teams in the GLVC next year.

The team will suffer from the

loss of veterans Kevin McCarthy, Eric Wilson, Kevin Pierce, Derick Kaspar, Ryan Inkley, Bobby Carter, Mark Mendenhall, and Scott Luczak.

The women lost a great competitor in Carrie Marino after she finished her senior season with the second highest point total in team history and led the Riverwomen with 25 points. The women return numerous field players next season including Jennifer Terbrock and the freshmen duo of Lindsey Jones and Lindsay Siemens who will look to step the Riverwomen up a notch in the rankings.

The Riverwomen will miss seniors goaltender Samantha

Grashoff, midfielder Julie Reiter, Dana Thompson, Jeanna Bunt, and Amber Godfrey.

The women's volleyball team finished the season battered and worn through all of the rigorous play throughout the year. The loss of Yorhena Panama, Nicole Wall, Susan Claggett, and Anne McCord will hurt the Riverwomen, but Coach Denise Silvester will have her team primed under the leadership of freshman setter Janae Paas and the talent of junior Michelle Hochstatter and sophomore Holly Zrout and ready to do battle in the tough GLVC next fall.

The women's tennis team finished its second season and looks to

be making slow, but steady strides to fielding a competitive team under Coach Lisa Schuito.

Although the Riverwomen did not win team-wise this season, individuals Jamie Franklin, Lina Galinurova, Erin Ryan, Katherine Winkelmann, and Wendy Young all have experience going into next season.

The men's basketball team has shown us glimpses of what the future should be like under new Head Coach Mark Bernsen and their 6-2 record. The Rivermen are more athletic, are more disciplined, and have a better understanding of what a winning team should be.

The fast run-and-gun pace that

UM-St. Louis is setting should have them landing top-notch recruits in the years to come.

The women's basketball team has always been a main-stay in UM-St. Louis athletics, and this year proves no differently. The Riverwomen are off to a steady start to the season with a 4-4 record, but with sharp shooters in Tawanda Daniel and Sara Mauck, the Riverwomen are just waiting to explode.

UM-St. Louis athletics has been fun and exciting at times in the past, and the future in these programs is nothing but bright and promising for the Rivermen and Riverwomen and the students of UM-St. Louis.

A&E

CORY BLACKWOOD
A&E editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
films editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Concerts

January

- 14**
Big Blue Monkey & Cleared Out
Galaxy
- 15**
Larissa Dalle
The Side Door
- 26**
Boy Sets Fire w/Reach
The Sky Creepy Crawl
- 28**
Drift, Rocket Park, E.M.
Greuve The Firehouse
- 29**
Disturbing the Peace & Clever
Mississippi Nights

February

- 1**
Sno-Core featuring System of a Down, Incubus, Mr. Bungle & Puya
Mississippi Nights
- 2**
Insane Clown Posse
Galaxy
- 5**
Saigon Kick
Pop's
- The Jazz Mandolin Project**
Mississippi Nights
- 7**
Lords of Acid
Mississippi Nights
- 8**
Big Wu, Fox Trot Zulu
Cicero's
- 12**
The Specials
Galaxy

Cory Blackwood's column will return next week!

1999: A great year for moviemakers

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

With the end of a year, it's customary to think back on the passing year, and therefore movie critics often compile a list of the 10 best films of the year. Although the new year has already started, I would like to offer such a list, and next week, I'll add a list of my picks for the 10 best films of the century (and the millennium; since movies are about 100 years old, that would be the same thing), drawn from various expert sources as well as my personal taste.

This has been a very good year for films, so paring the list down to the ten best was hard to do. Some years, there are hardly enough films to make up a 10 best list, but this year there are so many good choices that films which would make the list in a lean year will be forced off this year, such as the popular "The Matrix" or "Mystery Men." So I will add a few extra suggestions, and describe some limits to the list.

1. Being John Malkovich
2. American Beauty
3. Ride with the Devil
4. Fight Club
5. Dogma
6. The Straight Story
7. The Green Mile
8. Three Kings
9. The Sixth Sense
10. Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels

The list will exclude films that were released late in 1998, but didn't make it to this area until after the start of the new year. Thus it won't include such excellent films as "Waking Ned Devine" or "Gods and Monsters." The list will also exclude films released elsewhere that are just now reaching the St. Louis area, because I have not yet seen them. In this group are some very promising films that I will be reviewing in the future, including "Cradle Will Rock," "Magnolia," and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," and which may deserve to be on this list. Keep these extra films in mind as possible additions to the list. I also tried to have a mix of both comedies and dramas.



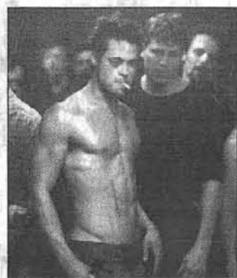
Being John Malkovich



American Beauty



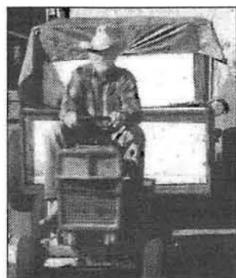
Ride with the Devil



Fight Club



Dogma



The Straight Story



The Green Mile



Three Kings



The Sixth Sense



Lock, Stock, and 2 Smoking Barrels

FILM REVIEW



Photo courtesy of Universal Studios, Inc.

Bushwhackers Pit Mackeson (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) and Black John (Jim Caviezel) hole out in a cabin, under siege by Union troops outside.

Film takes authentic look at tragedy of Civil War

Careful historical research adds to its authenticity

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'Ride with the Devil'

Length: 138 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

"Ride with the Devil" is a film about the Civil War as it was fought along the Missouri-Kansas border. Ang Lee, whose previous work includes "Sense and Sensibility" and "The Ice Storm," directed it.

The Missouri-Kansas border was one of the areas that most reflected the brother-against-brother, neighbor-against-neighbor aspect of the Civil War. Through careful recreation of this period, the film presents a personal view of the Civil War that emphasizes its tragic aspect, as well as the extreme youth of the men involved in the fighting. As a result, the film is both a personal view of the issues and events of the Civil War and a unique tale of self-discovery amidst the horrors of war.

As the film opens, war is on the verge of breaking out and is on the minds of everyone in the Missouri countryside. In this area are two teenage boys who are friends as close as brothers: Jack Bull Chiles (Skeet Ulrich), son of a plantation owner, and Jake Roedel (Tobey Maguire), Missouri-raised son of a Unionist German immigrant. As war is declared, the fighting between neighbors of opposing views starts immediately, and when

Jack's family plantation is attacked, both Jack and Jake join the Southern-sympathizers in the Bushwhackers. The Missouri-based Bushwhackers, including Quantrill's Raiders, were Southern irregulars who raided regular Union Army units and Northern sympathizers in Kansas and Missouri.

A great deal of careful historical research went into the construction of this film, which is based on a novel, "Woe to Live On," by a Civil War historian. The story that unfolds deals with an array of issues, personal and moral, against the backdrop of these young men coming of age in this time of turmoil. However, the story and its philosophical underpinnings are presented through the actions of the characters, rather than through frank discussion of the topics. The film presents its issues in a very personal way, giving an added realism to the character's struggles, and this is supported by excellent acting throughout, especially by Jeffrey Wright as Daniel Holt, a freed slave who fights with the Bushwhackers

alongside his white childhood friend. Although none of the characters are based on particular historical figures, this odd circumstance did actually occur among Southern troops, indicating the importance of friendships and childhood connections in determining which side individuals chose to fight on.

The film tells this story beautifully, with an authenticity that strengthens the plot and the believability of the characters. Shot on location in Western Missouri, the film looks and feels as right as a Mathew Brady photograph. The characters act and talk as convincingly as Lee chose the locations and costumes. Lee handles the personal story of these young men grappling with the issues of the day and coming of age under the pressure of war with the realism and feel of truth. Even the singer Jewel who appears as a young widow, Sue Lee, who aids the Bushwhackers, turns in an effective performance. The action is dramatic and moving, particularly in Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas. Coupled with marvelous photography of the beautiful countryside and the skill of the actors in displaying the right mix of passion and dignity in their characters, the resulting film is a marvelous work that is both epic and personal. (Now playing at Plaza Frontenac)

FILM REVIEW

'Moon' captures comic genius of Kaufman

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'Man on the Moon'

Length: 118 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

The lyrics to a song remind us of the continued popularity of comedian Andy Kaufman. Kaufman first came to fame on the TV show "Taxi" playing Latka, an odd but sweet foreign mechanic. As audiences were exposed to Kaufman's other work, it soon became apparent that Kaufman's humor was much weirder and more unpredictable than any other comedian around. As he pushed the envelope with his audience, his work left some people baffled and others impressed with his originality.

"Man on the Moon" is a film about Kaufman's career and life, starring Jim Carrey as Kaufman and directed by Milos Forman, renowned director of such films as "Amadeus." Jim Carrey campaigned hard for this role, and actually does an amazing job of recreating Kaufman's performances as well as his appearance and manner, despite no particular physical resemblance to Kaufman. I don't usually care for Carrey's work, but

I was impressed with his remarkable performance here, and his work is the greatest strength of this movie. The film details the rise of Kaufman's career and the faltering of his career at the time of his death. While the film covers his professional life well, his personal life is covered more lightly, and he remains somewhat puzzling, as he was in life. However, this may be appropriate for a man who always strove for originality and surprise and whose sense of humor tended to treat his interactions with his audience as a private, practical joke. A lot of the film features recreations of Kaufman's comedic bits, which are very well done, especially with the opening credits. The one thing that the film could have emphasized more was that

see MAN ON THE MOON, page 7

MUSIC REVIEW

Album is must-have for fans of 'The Crow,' industrial music

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

'Fear and Bullets'

Artist: Trust Obey
Label: Invisible Records
Our opinion: ★★★★★

Caliber Comics published the first issue of "The Crow" in 1989. "The Crow" was the brainchild of James O'Barr and a product that would later evolve into two movies, a short-lived television series, two soundtracks, and countless spin-off comics.

In 1989 "The Crow" was just a black and white comic book about deadly revenge. Shortly after the publication of the first issue, James O'Barr, writer, artist, and part-time musician befriended fellow comic-book entrepreneur and musician John Bergin. Bergin read the first issue of "The Crow" and decided he was going to score the comic book, a new idea in the industry.

By 1990, the first four issues of "The Crow" were available, and the

recording of the soundtrack was finished but had no packaging or design. In 1991 James O'Barr went to Tundra publishing and had the first four issues reprinted along with the fifth and final installment in the series. Once a graphic novel was completed and ready, the CD was set to come with the book, where the story and sound would come together.

The graphic novel did not come out until 1994, shortly before the release of the movie and was limited

see TRUST OBEY, page 7

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