



Oscar fever: Everyone loves to speculate on who will take home the film industry's biggest prize. Check out our thoughts on nine of this year's Academy Award categories.

See page 6

http://www.thecurrentonline.com

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



A way to remember: All this week, "The Clothesline Project" will be on display in the U Center lobby. The shirts carry powerful messages about victims of domestic violence.

See page 3

U-Wire News

Upstage.com 7x7 contest to showcase student talent

BY ELIZABETH ARROWSMITH
The Daily Universe

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — The 7 x 7 contest — seven winners, seven weeks — is on. Upstage.com is now accepting entries for its debut talent competition.

The site, which officially kicks off in mid-April, targets Generation Y (18 to 24-year-old) artists and performers who are looking for a forum to post online portfolios, showcase work, participate in a collaborative environment and promote themselves to talent scouts and agents.

The inefficiencies of current methods of finding talent for films, music and other creative disciplines spurred the idea, said Lucas Beddows, co-CEO and founder of Upstage.

The site focuses on seven mediums — digital, visual, music, filmmaking, performing, modeling and writing.

Its current target audience, 18 to 24-year-olds, is people that are likely to be up-and-coming talent and are ready to do something about it, Beddows said.

"Even if you can't make it as a star, you can do something on an amateur level," he said.

The site will award a grand prize winner in each category of the 7 x 7 contest with an all-expense-paid seven-week trip to Europe, a laptop computer, a video camcorder, luggage, a digital camera and an MP3 player, among other prizes.

The group will travel together to Dublin, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Munich and Vienna to collectively produce an original film while a professional camera crew follows them around — road-rules meets real-world style, Beddows said.

The professional footage will be webcast on Upstage.com throughout the seven weeks of filming, allowing site visitors to follow the group around from country to country.

The film will likely be submitted to the Sundance Film Festival, Beddows said.

Seven x 7 contest submissions will be accepted until midnight on March 31.

Voting to determine the winners will be exclusively peer-review, said Jennifer Williamson, a public relations spokesperson for the site.

"We're not trying to be an online star search; we just want to create a cool online community. We're out there for the community and we want them to build (the site) as well," Beddows said.

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U will rehire retiring administrators

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

System president supports action despite rule against it

Are four top administrators violating the provisions of the University's Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program by taking retirement and then coming back as part-time staffers next year?

Dennis Judd, presiding officer of the Faculty Council, raised this question to Chancellor Blanche Touhill at the University Senate meeting on March 14.

The professor of political science said he heard that Betty Van Uum, assistant to the Chancellor; Don Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor; Wendell Smith, interim vice chancellor for University Relations, and Norman Seay, director of the Office of Equal

Opportunity, were taking early retirement, but would be back next year as part-timers.

According to the pamphlet about VERIP distributed to faculty members and available on the Internet, employees could return on a part-time basis without benefits. However, the policy text read, "Under no circumstances will senior system or campus officers be allowed to remain in their administrative positions [or similar positions] and draw retirement. Senior system and campus officers are defined as vice presidents, chancellors, vice chancellors, or execu-



Touhill



Judd

tive-level positions reporting to these officers."

At the meeting, Touhill declined to comment. "It's a personnel matter, and I'm just hesitating to respond," she

said. "Chancellor," Judd replied. "I'm not asking about an individual matter; I'm asking about an administrative matter."

"I'm just hesitating to talk about a personnel matter," Touhill answered.

The next day, *The Current* called and left messages for Driemeier and Smith, but they did not reply. Seay confirmed

that he was taking early retirement, and would be back at 74 percent next year. Seay said that employees must work at least 75 percent to be eligible for benefits.

Reached at her home Friday evening, Van Uum said, "I can't comment. I haven't talked to the Chancellor since the meeting."

Asked about whether rumors that she would run for the 1st District seat in Congress now held by Rep. William Clay, Van Uum said, "I'm thinking about it. If I were in Congress, I wouldn't be on campus next year."

On March 16, Touhill issued a statement that read, in part, "The General Counsel believes that participation in VERIP is an individual personnel action and therefore the list is not a

see RETIREES, page 10



Sean O'Hara, D. Mike Bauer, SGA chair, and Michael Rankins, acting SGA president, listen to a member of the Assembly during last Thursday's meeting.

Michelle Van Iseghem/ The Current

Constitution stalled by lack of quorum at SGA meeting

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Four amendments to the proposed Student Government Association constitution failed and another was tabled before a lack of quorum effectively ended the SGA meeting Thursday.

The amendments were part of 18 proposed amendments to the proposed constitution. All of the amendments were introduced by Steven Wolfe, SGA interim vice president. Of the four that failed, the first amendment would have had the most impact. The amendment called for an at-large representative for every 500 students instead of every 750 students. Opponents said that the amendment would result in more representatives, and therefore would

make it harder to reach a quorum.

"Organizational representatives unfortunately think for their own self-interest," Wolfe said.

Another amendment proposed that instead of automatic expulsion for groups missing two meetings, that the total be increased to three. Opponents argued that after three meetings the semester would be over therefore making expulsion no more than a slap on the wrists. Proponents said that an appeal process needs to be added for groups who miss meetings with legitimate excuses.

"I think while this is tabled we can work out something," Wolfe said. "I hate to say this, but I think attendance requirements for SGA should just be abolished." Though the first four amendments failed, Wolfe said he thinks some of the

other amendments will pass when discussion on the proposed constitution is resumed.

Ben Ash, SGA Parliamentarian, said the proposed constitution is too vague.

"The first thing about this constitution is it doesn't describe power very well in the student government," Ash said. "It's not a very good document for illustrating what powers we should have, what powers we shouldn't get."

Ash said the constitution needs to not only ensure that SGA officials keep the powers they already have, but that those powers are added to. Ash said that way administration has no loopholes to limit SGA's power in the future.

see CONSTITUTION, page 10

Committee prepares governance proposal for Board of Curators

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

In response to concerns raised by the UM System's General Counsel, the University Senate Committee on Bylaws and Rules revised the proposed faculty governance document with hopes of having it ready for this Thursday's meeting of the Board of Curators.

Marvin "Bunky" Wright, the general counsel who provides legal advice to the UM System, reviewed the proposed change in governance structure and sent it back with a list of 26 comments and concerns. Mark Burkholder, who chaired the committee which generated the proposed revision, characterized the changes the general counsel requested as mostly minor.

Lois Pierce, chairperson of the Senate's Committee on Bylaws and Rules, outlined the concerns of the general counsel at Tuesday's Senate meeting. She said some of the changes were a matter of wording. In other cases, language that had been borrowed from the current bylaws and rules was found to need revision. Pierce later said she did not feel the changes would vitally alter the document.

"I don't think there are any changes that we were asked to consider that would change the intent of the faculty governance document," Pierce said.

Pierce said the revised version of the new governance proposal was distributed to the faculty after Wednesday's meeting of the Committee on Bylaws and Rules. The deadline for receiving comments was to be noon Monday. Pierce said if there are no major concerns aired, the proposal will go to the system president's office, where it will again be reviewed by the general counsel and, if no further concerns are raised, it will go to the Board of Curators, which is sched-

uled to meet on Thursday.

Pierce said the president usually insists on having information for the Board meetings two weeks in advance so that it can be prepared for the meeting, but in this case he made an exception.

"This time [an exception was made] because they realized that we're under a time crunch because we're wanting to be able to carry out elections and implement the new faculty governance structure before everyone leaves for the summer," Pierce said.

Pierce said that if substantial changes are requested, the document will go back to the Committee on Bylaws and Rules for further revision in preparation for the May meeting of the Board of Curators.

Pierce said the earliest it would be possible to know if the proposal would be going forward to this week's Board meeting would be Tuesday.

Pierce expressed optimism that the proposal would be ready for the Board meeting this Thursday.

"After working on this all year we're very hopeful that it will go forward to the Board in March," Pierce said. "I think it really is an improvement. It's a good integration of what I think is the best of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council."

This latest version of the faculty governance proposal grows out of the work done last year by the Select Committee on Faculty Governance, an ad hoc committee formed to streamline the workings of the Senate. The proposal generated by the Select Committee calls for splitting the existing University Senate into two bodies, a campuswide University Assembly and a Faculty Senate. Although that move has stirred concerns over the possibility of diminished student involvement in the governance

see FACULTY, page 10

Hate Crimes Awareness Week to educate students on national issue

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

A campus organization has plans to bring a nationwide issue closer to home for UM-St. Louis students.

OUT!, a student group representing the campus' gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, will co-sponsor Hate Crimes Awareness Week, a series of events occurring this week designed to educate the campus community about hate crimes and their impact.

This event will follow a year of highly-publicized hate crimes, including the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Wyoming, and the death of James Byrd, an African-American in Texas who was chained behind a pickup truck and dragged to his death.

Dana Getz, co-president of OUT!, said one motivation behind the project is to focus the spotlight on the victims

of hate crimes rather than the perpetrators.

"We wanted to give the victims of hate crime a voice and to try to educate the campus that these crimes are happening," Getz said.

Statistics compiled by the FBI show that 7,755 "bias-motivated incidents" were reported to the agency in 1998 from law enforcement agencies nationwide. Over half of those crimes, 55.7 percent, were directed toward racial minorities. Nearly 18 percent were the result of religious bias, and 16 percent were caused by sexual-orientation bias.

"I really want to show that . . . it's not just one group that people are targeting," Getz said.

The American Psychological Association reports that rather than being spurred by factors such as drugs

see WEEK, page 10



Members of the student group OUT! discuss Hate Crimes Awareness Week during their meeting last Wednesday. Dana Getz, co-president, is in the middle. The other members asked not to be identified.

Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Bulletin Board

Monday, March 20

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Artist's Self-Representation--Two Slide Talks." Ruth Bohan, associate professor of art & art history, discusses "Visual Self-Fashioning in Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass." Yael Even, associate professor of art & art history, discusses "Judith Leyster: An Unsuitable Place for a Woman." Meeting in Room 229 J. C. Penney, the talk will run from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call Karen Lucas at 5699.

•Safe Spring Break information table and raffle will be held in the University Center Lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day this week. Enter FREE Raffle for \$2500 scholarship and other prizes. Call 5730 for information.

•How to Utilize Career Services Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Learn about the job search resources available. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with A-H will be heard.

Tuesday, March 21

•Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

•UMSL TV will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, March 22

•Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs presents "Financial Fitness for Life: Consumer Credit Counseling Services," number six of the Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series. Karen Johnson of Empowerment Inc. will be speaking from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 222 J. C. Penney. UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

•Resume Writing Skills Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Create a resume that makes a positive first impression. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•Soup and Soul Food will be from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.

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.

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with I-Q will be heard.

Friday, March 24

•Conducting Business in China, a two-day seminar sponsored by the Center for International Studies, will run through Saturday, March 25 at the Radisson Hotel Downtown. It will offer a blend of theory and practice for conducting business in China and Taiwan from the perspective of both local and foreign businesses. Keynote speakers will be Robert Kapp, president of the US-China Business Council in Washington, D.C.; Douglas Noth, a Nobel Laureate and professor of economics at Washington University; and Murray Weidenbaum, a key economic advisor to Presidents Nixon and Reagan and chairman for the Center for the Study of American Business at Washington University. For more information contact Maureen Zegel at 5493.

•Pirates of Penzance, an Opera Workshop Production, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. Other performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26, also in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. Call 5980 to confirm events, ticket prices, or for further information.

•Interviewing Techniques Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 12 to 1 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Polish your interviewing skills. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•UMSL TV will meet at 12 p.m. in room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with R-Z will be heard.

Sunday, March 26

•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.).

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

March 8, 2000

University Police discovered a vehicle parked at the new West Drive Garage to be displaying a forged student parking permit. The permit was confiscated and the incident will be referred to the Student Affairs Office.

Residents of University Meadows reported seeing a suspicious person on the premises at 11:40 p.m. The suspicious person was seen looking into apartment windows. The suspect is described as a white male, 15-25 years of age, wearing a dark-colored jacket with white stripes on the

sleeves and black pants.

March 14, 2000

Staff at the Thomas Jefferson Library reported that the P. A. system microphone was stolen.

March 15, 2000

Staff at the University Meadows leasing office reported that unknown persons had tampered with the voice mail system, causing the system to jam up. University Telephone Services was notified.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UMSL Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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Spring Commencement Saturday May 20, 2000

7:00 p.m. • America's Center

New Location!

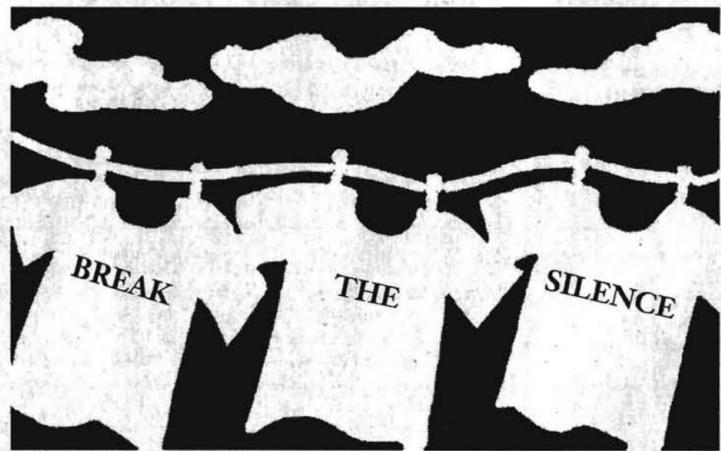
No Tickets Required—

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**.

THE CLOTHESLINE



PROJECT

The University of Missouri - St. Louis is proud to present *The Clothesline Project*. Come witness T-shirts displayed by women who have been victims of violence. See the stories they tell.

March 13-24
University Center lobby
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (daily)

sponsored by UPB and SGA

"It was something just very powerful. I could see some of the experiences of people I met."

-Gail Rimkus, student



Criminal justice junior Harmony Wade (right) and English creative writing senior Lorna Maclachlan view "The Clothesline Project" in the University Center last week.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

The Clothesline Project

Campus event helps promote awareness of violence in the home

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

The shirts hang neatly on the clothesline. Each one appears peaceful and unnoticeable. These shirts, upon closer examination, carry a message of anti-violence.

These shirts together make the Clothesline Project, which will be on display in the University Center Lobby from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily until Friday.

Women who have either been victims of crime themselves or have friends or family who have

been violated designed these telling garments.

Gail Rimkus, a member of the University Program Board, decided to help bring the Clothesline Project to UM-St. Louis this year.

"It was something just very powerful. I could see some of the experiences of people I met," Rimkus said.

The project originated in Hyannis, Mass. in 1990 with 31 T-shirts. By 1995, over 35,000 T-shirts comprised the collection and the idea had grown to national scale as well as to international expansions of the project.

The purpose of Clothesline is composed of

four objectives: to bear witness to the abuse and victimization of women (for both survivors and casualties); to help in the healing process; to educate and document the awareness of this issue in society; and to create a network of support and information for communities nationwide.

In the display a white shirt means a woman died and yellow signifies a battered or an assaulted woman. Red, pink or orange tells about rape or sexual assault. Blue or green covers incest and

see CLOTHESLINE, page 8

Dating abuse affects millions of women yearly

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

Domestic violence is commonly associated with spousal and child abuse, but now there is a new trend being seen in local colleges and high schools—dating violence. This is any violence committed by an acquaintance or significant other. Every year 2.4 million women experience physical, sexual and emotional abuse by the men in their lives. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women ages 15 to 44.

Michelle Schiller-Baker, executive director of St. Martha's Hall, a shelter for battered women and

see VIOLENCE, page 8

FEATURES

ANNE PORTER
features editor

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Thoughts for Today

"A banker is a person who is willing to make a loan if you present sufficient evidence to show you don't need it."

-Herbert V. Prochnow
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"There is no human problem which could not be solved if people would simply do as I advise."

-Gore Vidal
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"A man is only as old as the woman he feels."

-Groucho Marx
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"A jury is composed of twelve men of average ignorance."

-Herbert Spencer
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

Nobel Prize winner lectures at Penney

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

In 1976 in Northern Ireland, a family out for a walk was hit by a runaway car whose driver was an Irish Republican Army gunman shot dead fleeing from British soldiers. Two of the children were killed outright, the third was mortally injured, and the mother critically injured. All this happened outside the home of Betty Williams.

Frustrated with the violence of the war and the senseless deaths of children, Williams spoke out against such violence and teamed up with the aunt of the slain children, Mairead Corrigan. The pair organized tens of thousands of Catholic and Protestant women to march through Northern Ireland's main cities demanding an end to the violence. That same year the two women were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Tuesday evening, in the J.C. Penney auditorium, Williams conducted a lecture as part of the World Leaders Lecture Series sponsored by the Office of Student Activities. Williams was intro-



Betty Williams (center) Nobel Peace Prize winner, stands with Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities and Catherine Vatterott, who supports local peace activities.

Darren Brunel/The Current

duced by Vivian L. Eveloff, director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Very early in her movement,

Williams incorporated the non-violent approach.

"How dare we allow ourselves and any country of the world to feel

that violence is the answer to anything," Williams said.

Williams was able to successfully gather the mothers of Northern

Ireland in search for peace and civil rights, using the non-violent methods of Martin Luther King Jr.

To her audience of students, faculty, staff, Chancellor Blanche Touhill and community members, Williams spoke of the plight of children around the world.

"Creating Safe Havens for Children" was the topic of Wednesday's lecture. Williams, the president of the World Center of Compassion for Children, has committed the past 25 years of her life to relieving and revealing the suffering of children around the world.

"I rage in a world that can feed itself, that our military budgets are extraordinary. I rage that in the United States of America, you have 30 million [hungry], that in which 12 million are children. Shame on us."

Williams said developing a political voice has been the new goal for her. In 1997, she organized the Mothers of the Earth for World Peace Summit in Vienna. The organization invited all the first women of the world. From the summit, the World Center of

see WILLIAMS, page 8

Drinking and driving is dangerous combo



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

Last May, I learned the painful lesson that alcohol and driving do not mix well. The night of the accident, I fell asleep behind the wheel, going about 50 or some odd miles per hour. That trip ended with my car lodged on top of a fire hydrant.

When I awoke, I was so disoriented I attempted to drive away in my car, not able to understand what extensive damage the car had withstood.

The car was a new 1999 model; I had just bought it about three months earlier and it now was damaged in the amount of about \$20,000. In

addition to all the damage to my car, I had to pay for the fire hydrant, which cost the reasonable amount of about \$700.

Since I didn't have about 20k, my insurance company absorbed the expense of my little adventure. They later dropped me without notifying me. That's entirely another story. If I had not been in this accident, I would not have been placed in that situation.

The part that I remember most about the whole situation was when my parents saw me get arrested. About two hours after I was taken to the police station, my mom picked

up my wiser and sorer behind after I had had all the finger prints, mug shots, etc.

I do not allow myself to regret anything I do because I believe I can always learn from the situation. Some things I would prefer to have learned vicariously, but the impact is not the same.

This same lesson, however, happened to a co-worker of mine recently. Only this time, the incident involved more than just a fire hydrant and an automobile.

This happened last weekend. My friend, according to police reports, was driving too fast for conditions

and hit a light pole. The car then rolled several times and hit a concrete building.

Police cited my friend with driving under the influence and without a valid driver's license. From my understanding, I don't think he was insured either.

In the accident, his best friend was killed due to injuries. His friend also happened to be married to his cousin.

The car, owned for less than three days by another friend of my co-worker was totaled, so the owner of the vehicle will have to pay the dealer the \$18,000 to cover that expense. I don't know what will happen to

my friend or his wife or his baby girl or the one who is on the way into this world. I do not know if he will go to jail.

What I do know is that if he has a felony on his record, he will not be able to practice law. He was to graduate soon.

So please, when you go out to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, Spring Break, Memorial Day, Independence Day, graduation (for those of you who aren't on the long term plan)... please do not drink and drive. It takes more from your life and the lives of those around you than you can ever know or understand.

DRUMS

Editorial Board

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- CHARMARE MALONE
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"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.

OUR OPINION

OUT! pays tribute to victims of hate crimes

The issue:

OUT!, a student organization on campus which represents gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, is co-sponsoring Hate Crimes Awareness Week. People are constantly being persecuted because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. It does not matter who they are. The purpose of the Awareness Week is to show people that these crimes are happening and there are things that could be done to prevent them. This event will focus primarily on the victims of hate crimes and their struggles rather than those who commit the crimes. The event will take place in the University Center this week.

We suggest:

Preventing hate crimes begins with a change in attitudes. These crimes are based on prejudices and hate-related groups such as The Order and The Church of the Creator. Even male chauvinism can lead to hate crimes. Many people don't realize that the way they act affects the way others might

So what do you think?

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

When you walk into the University Center this week and see cardboard tombstones, pay attention. They are not the usual notices promoting a fraternity party or a part-time job. They have an important message.

OUT!, the UM-St. Louis student group, wants to make our usually apathetic student body take notice: There are people out there who just might kill you, not because you have done something to offend them, but just because you exist.

OUT!, which represents gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students will co-sponsor Hate Crimes Awareness Week this week. The group is not limiting its focus to victims like Matthew Shepard, the Wyoming college student, beaten, tortured and killed because he made a pass at a man in a bar. OUT! is going beyond that to recognize people killed because their color, religion, ethnic background or gender offended someone.

OUT! recognizes the connection among all hate-crimes: bigotry, the perverse idea that people are inferior or evil just because of who they are.

Imagine you're a 43-year-old African-American man walking down the street with your family, and, with no warning, shots ring out, bullets rip through your body, and you die hours later. That's precisely what happened to former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong last July 3 in the Chicago suburb of Skokie, Ill.

Imagine you're a 26-year-old Korean graduate student walking home from church on a Sunday, and, without warning, you're shot to death. That's what happened last Fourth of July to Won-Joon Yoon in Bloomington, Ind.

Byrdsong and Yoon were victims of Benjamin Smith, a college student from Chicago, who loaded some guns in his car and went on a rampage through Illinois and Indiana. By the time he killed himself as police were closing in on him, he shot and wounded six

Orthodox Jews walking home from synagogue in Chicago, an Asian-American motorist who honked at him for driving too slowly in Springfield, Ill., an African-American man standing on a corner in Springfield, Ill., and an African-American minister in Decatur, Ill. Everyone was just minding his or her own business.

And just when the furor died down over Smith's connections to the white supremacist, anti-Semitic and male chauvinist Church of the Creator, Buford Furrow, a member of the white-supremacist organization called The Order, went on a shooting rampage in Los Angeles, shooting up a Jewish day-care center and wounding three kids, a teenager and a 68-year-old woman. He then saw Joseph Iletto, 39, a Filipino letter carrier, walking down the street and shot him to death.

These are not isolated incidents. Groups like the Church of the Creator, The Order and the various factions of the Ku Klux Klan, incite this kind of violence—although if you ask their leaders, they'll deny it.

But more insidious is the climate in this country at large—a country where male chauvinism and white supremacy were enshrined in law just a generation ago, and where gay sex is still a criminal offense in many states, including Missouri. It's a place where male chauvinist, anti-gay and racist jokes are still acceptable in some circles. It's a country where entire suburbs are populated by white flight, by people fleeing their old neighborhoods because they don't like the skin color or ethnic background of the people moving in.

So when you see the cardboard tombstones, think about the ways you may have contributed to the atmosphere that created the bigoted criminals who killed them. And think about the victims—people who were just living their lives like anyone else when they were cut down. It could have been you.

LETTERS

Athletics' lack of quality leadership forces Coach Redmond to leave

Sixteen years ago, after an outstanding collegiate career at Indiana University followed by several years of playing professionally, Tom Redmond returned to St. Louis to become an assistant soccer coach at UM-St. Louis under Don Dallas. Coach Redmond deservedly was appointed Head Soccer Coach after the unexpected passing of Mr. Dallos several years ago. Since that time, the soccer team has performed competitively while Coach Redmond and several players have been awarded honors during this time.

On Tuesday, March 7th, he was informed that he will no longer be Head Soccer Coach. How this decision was arrived at and how it was communicated to Coach Redmond

is nothing short of incredulous and reflects very poorly on the UM-St. Louis.

Although the goals of the men's soccer program were never articulated to Tom, his contributions to our program embody what many would desire in a coach. He maintained a competitive program but, more important, he was an outstanding role model for his student-athletes and was a well-respected ambassador to the soccer community.

It has been no secret that the Athletic Director has desired a new coach in this position. How she endeavored to make it become a reality was embarrassing and reflected poorly upon herself and the Chair of the Search Committee.

Tom Redmond, as well as every coach at UM-St. Louis, deserves to be treated with respect.

It's quite evident that there is a much greater need for respectful leadership in the UM-St. Louis athletic department than there is for change in any one specific program. Coach Tom Redmond deserves to be commended for the exceptional legacy he has left at our institution. It has been our good fortune to have had such a positive role model for our student-athletes for the last 16 years.

-Edward S. Bennett,
Associate Professor of
Optometry

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about in the Opinions section this week?

1.

- Hate Crimes
- Coach Redmond and the Athletics Department
- Family Influences

2.

You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Participate in the Student Forum on The Current Online

Growing up under uncle's influence

I guess I'm lucky. Most kids whose parents divorce tend to get shafted on the amount of parental influence they get. This is true especially when it comes to having strong male role models around.

It's been sort of the opposite for me. My parents divorced when I was one year old, and since my mother was still very young she moved us back home with her parents. Though my father has never been a part of my life, my grandfather raised me as his own son, and my uncles, identical twins who are only 14 years older than I am, adopted me as their younger brother.

So instead of having just one strong male role model, I had three. Each of them taught me different things, and this is something I really didn't realize until this week when my uncle Charlie was hospitalized.

Charlie has Crohn's disease, a disease that attacks the small intestine. He has had numerous surgeries and procedures, and recently he showed signs of improvement. Unfortunately, the progress stopped, and Charlie had to be hospitalized again.

In a way, Charlie's having to go to the hospital has become routine for the family. He has to be admitted several times a year, but something struck me differently about this stay. Maybe it was the fact that the last time I saw Charlie he looked so healthy and strong, or maybe it was something else, but either way I

started thinking about the influence Charlie has had on my life.

He was the one who first taught me how to ride a bike. He was the one who took me to Florida for the first time. More importantly, though, he was the one who taught me how to believe in something and how to stand up for that belief.

Charlie has very different political and social views than the rest of the family. Often he is criticized for those beliefs but that has never stopped him from standing up for what he believes in.

Several years ago, Charlie and I got into our first real fight. It was over something so petty that I don't remember it now, but we were in each other's faces screaming at the top of our lungs. My mother actually had to pull

us apart. Since then, Charlie and I have made up and, in fact, probably have become closer from the experience. In a way I think it was a test, a rite of passage into manhood.

What it boils down to is that Charlie and I had different beliefs on a subject. We disagreed to the point where an argument started. We are both so stubborn and concrete in our convictions that neither of us would back down. In fact, Charlie owes that argument to what he has taught me.

Charlie has always done what he wants, when he wants. If anybody can overcome Crohn's disease, he can, on his own terms.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

A girl, a book and a missed opportunity

I'm a horrible human being. There are certain things in life you should never take for granted, but I do, and I'm a lesser person because of it.

My boyfriend has a 12-year-old daughter. When he and I began dating, Kelly had just turned six years old. I remember being nervous prior to the first time I met her. So many children of divorce have trouble accepting their parents dating again, and I feared Kelly might resent me being with her dad.

But Kelly was wise beyond her years. She knew dating would make her dad happy and was excited that he had started seeing someone new. When we met, the first thing she did was give me a hug. She looked up at me and smiled, and I knew we would get along just fine.

Of course, Kelly got along well with everyone. She had a happy, laid-back personality that was impossible not to like. She never whined, never pouted, never got into trouble. You could practically see the halo over this kid's head. She had other endearing qualities, too. She pronounced her r's like w's, making her sound like the kindergarten version of Elmer Fudd. She was an affectionate child, always giving me hugs whenever I'd arrive at or leave her dad's apartment (and lots of times in between). She also loved to read.

Kelly had a decent selection of books, but there was one in particular that she couldn't get enough of: "Dr. Seuss' ABC's." Every weekend I could count on at least one time—although usually there were several—in which she'd crawl into my lap with the book and ask me to read it with her.

At first, I enjoyed it. Even in my adulthood, I still liked Dr. Seuss

books, and I certainly loved spending time with her. But as any parent who has seen "The Lion King" 500 times knows, once kids latch on to something they like, they latch on hard. Kelly and I read the book over and over... and over. I began to resent Seuss. I began wishing the alphabet was shorter.

I tried to get Kelly interested in other books, in other things we could do together, but Kelly was too enamored with Seuss and his ABC's. That's when I did something that to this day I'm still kicking myself for. I hid the book. I put it in a cupboard with some of her other toys thinking that if the book was out of her sight, it would be out of her mind.

It worked. Kelly moved on to other things to do. I meant for it to be only a temporary measure, something to give myself a break. But after a while I forgot about the book, and so did she.

Kelly is now 12 going on 20. She's still a good kid, but has an omery streak that rears its head every now and then. Her main interests are the Backstreet Boys, clothes and makeup. She plays video games more often than she reads.

I still love her for who she is, but I miss the days when she was still tiny enough to crawl into my lap and read "Dr. Seuss' ABC's" with me.

I took her childhood for granted. There's something magical about a human being who doesn't have to worry about mortgage payments and retirement plans and who still believes that Santa Claus will show up on Christmas Eve. I didn't understand all this back then, and I missed out.

At least one thing hasn't changed: she still gives me a big hug whenever I walk in the door.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

Under Current

by Jay Romero
staff photographer



Eric Sadi
Junior/Communication



Lori Hasenstab
Junior/Communication



Rashad Rice
Graduate/Business Admin.

Do you think Hillary Clinton should run for president?

Absolutely not. Her being elected would be the biggest presidential disaster.

No, she probably wouldn't get many votes because people would be biased.

Yes, she has talents to head the nation.

Riverwomen sweep Bimidji State

Pitching, defense are key factors in win; team improves to 11-2 overall, 1-1 in GLVC

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis softball team blazed through the early season, amassing win after win. That did not change as the team took on Bimidji State University on Tuesday in a home double-header, improving its overall record to 11-2, 1-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The first game extended to 10 innings with the Riverwomen pulling out the victory, 2-1.

Lesa Bonee', Riverwomen head coach, said she was troubled by her team's lack of consistency with the bats.

"Defense really kept us in that ball game," Bonee' said. "At one point, we had a batter up with two on base, and we struck out. We just did not hit like we should have, and we've really got to work on that. But, we stayed persistent, didn't panic and got it done when we had to."

UM-St. Louis pitcher Kathleen Rogoz picked up another win in the first game, upping her total to seven

wins and no losses for the young season.

The second game was a much better hitting performance for the Riverwomen as they beat Bimidji 10-5 in seven innings.

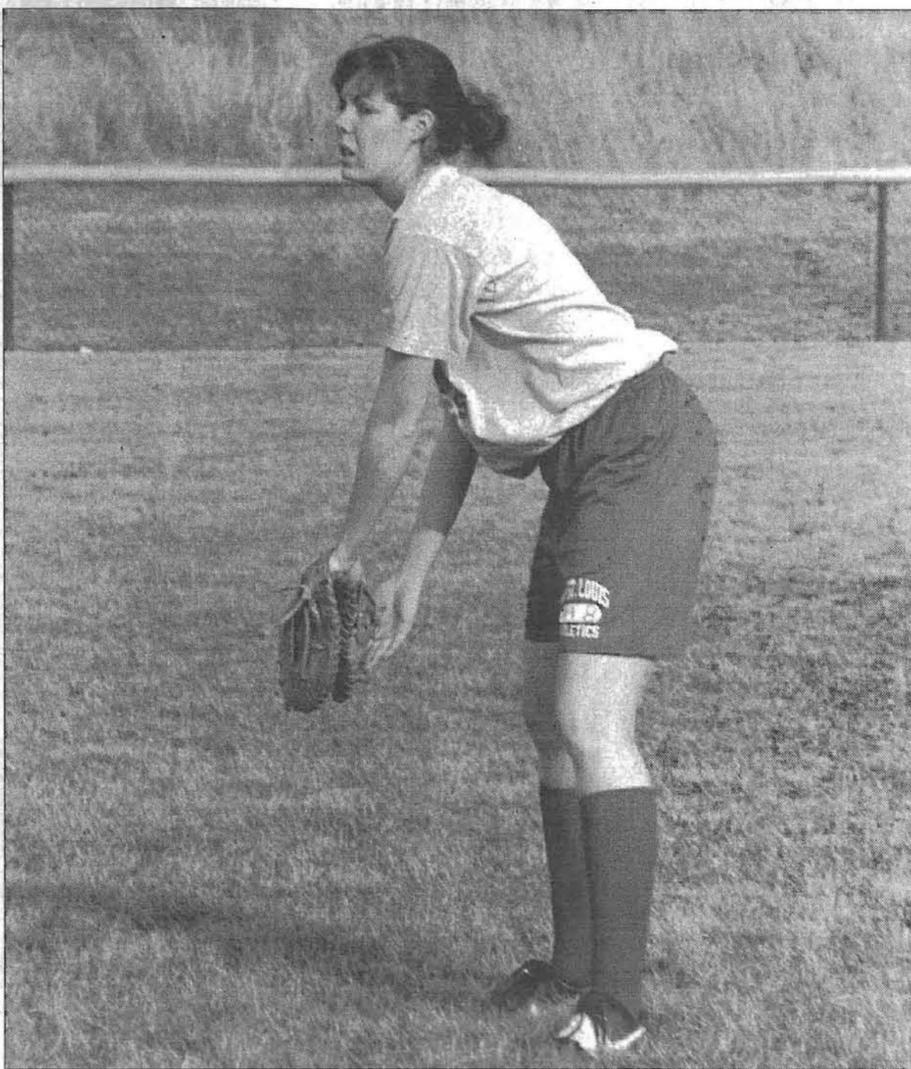
Although the Riverwomen played and batted much better, Bonee' reiterated her desire to improve her team's performance when stepping up to the plate.

"We had much better hitting in the second game but had one bad inning, with two throwing errors," Bonee' said.

"Offensively, we've been on a roller coaster, and we just can't do that. We've got to be more consistent, and we've got to get on base and push them across. Fortunately, we've got time to get better, and we can't panic. It's early in the season."

Pitcher Megan Kuebler picked up the win for the Riverwomen in the second game.

The women's softball team will be at home to face Missouri Baptist College in a non-conference matchup March 22.



Rafael Macias/ The Current

Riverwoman Megan Kuebler warms up during practice.

DOUBLING THE FUN . . .

Game 1		Game 2	
Bemidji State	1	Bemidji State	5
UM-St. Louis	2	UM-St. Louis	10
	10 innings		7 innings
WP-Kathleen Rogoz (7-0)		WP-Megan Kuebler (1-1)	

Next Home Game: Missouri Baptist College, Wed. 6 p.m.

BRADYBALL 2000

Florida trip will test the Rivermen

Team to face Division II powerhouse Slippery Rock, among several others

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

With a 7-1-1 start, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball squad has continued to carry the tradition that UM-St. Louis teams have on the diamond: that of excellence.

Under the leadership of head coach Jim Brady, the Rivermen have enjoyed 14 straight years of winning baseball, and this season

he does not intend to stop.

"Over the seasons, this school has really developed a sort of mystique," Brady said. "Sometimes our name precedes us, and when we show up for a game, opponents have already started to lock up."

And with good reason. This year's team sports eight seniors, many of whom can be considered the best in National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II

baseball.

Tyler Bates, second baseman, was selected to the pre-season NCAA D-II All-American team.

Scott Luzcek, also a big factor in the men's soccer team's success earlier in the year, is considered by many as one of the premier short-stops in the nation.

Norman Mann is currently carrying a .400 batting average this season, while Joe Christian, a five-year veteran of the team, is one of the team leaders in his final year.

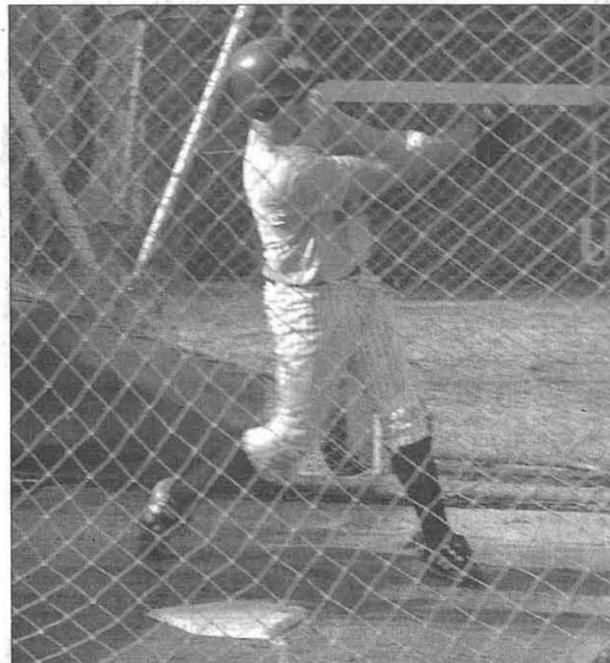
"We've got an incredibly strong team, especially up the middle," Brady said. "Bates and Christian have been incredible assets. You won't find a better defensive short-stop than Luzcek, and with Mann swinging over .400, this team is incredible."

Pitcher Bob Kavran, who is currently out to a 4-0 record, and closer Kevin Meyer, who has an earned run average of 0.00, have complimented an explosive offense that is currently averaging over 10 runs per game.

"Kavran has been throwing the ball very nicely this year," Brady said. "And Meyer is definitely a money player. We can always depend on him to close a game."

Over the weekend, the Rivermen traveled to Florida to participate in the annual Gene Cusic Tournament. This tournament featured some of the nation's upper-echelon teams in Division II baseball, and is a dependable measuring stick of a team's performance.

"This tourney will really test our strength as a team," Brady said. "With such teams as Slippery Rock, who is always a national power, we really have to be at our best to win."



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Nat Jakul takes batting practice inside the cage during a team workout a couple weeks ago. The Rivermen are off to a 7-1-1 start to the 2000 season.

Tennis team loses pair of 1-point meets

Three game losing streak drops overall record to 1-3

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team opened the spring season slowly, posting a 1-3 record.

The Rivermen opened the season with a win over UM-Rolla and were looking to do the same when they played Northwest Missouri and Rockhurst at Maryville.

The Rivermen were not as lucky, falling 5-4 in both matches.

"We had a couple of close matches," said Rick Gyllenberg, the team's head coach. "I thought in both matches we did not have players play very well in important games."

Singles winners in the Northwest Missouri match included Josh Heape and Eric Schrupf.

Doubles winners include the No. 1 team of Scott Goodyear and Minh Phan and also the No. 2 team of Heape and Schrupf.

Rockhurst, on the other hand, with a preseason national ranking of 15th, loomed as a tough match.

Singles winners were Andy Forinash and Brad Houx.

Coming off their first two losses of the season, the Rivermen were looking to take aim at Washington University.

The Rivermen fell short, losing

see TENNIS page 8

Riverwomen Basketball Wrap-Up . . .

Preseason goal holds true: R-women make school history

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

In early October, the women of the 1999-2000 University of Missouri-St. Louis basketball team met to discuss their goals for the season.

Their main goal was to finish in the top three of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, a goal that, with a 12-6 conference record in the regular season, was easily accomplished. The other, much to the shock of head coach Shelly Ethridge, was to qualify for the first National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II National Tournament in school history.

"When the girls informed me of

their goals, I questioned them," Ethridge said. "I told them that once they established the goal, they have to follow through."

The women looked around the room at each other, and about five seconds later, a resounding "yes" echoed throughout the locker room.

In the preseason coaches' meeting, Ethridge and her assistants, former UM-St. Louis basketball players Kevin Tuckson and Melanie Marcy, were informed that, according to the GLVC coaches, the Riverwomen were picked to finish sixth in the conference.

"That seeding in the coaches meeting didn't sit well with anybody

see RIVERWOMEN page 8

March Madness hits Missouri hard with three early exits



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

When the brackets came out, Missouri had three teams representing the Show Me State during March Madness.

Although all three, the University of Missouri-Columbia, Saint Louis University and Southeast Missouri State University, went down in the first round, the surprises never ended.

Missouri had a solid season and was chosen to play the University of North Carolina's Tar Heels.

With sophomore sensation Keyon Dooling running the point for the Tigers and the deadly range of Clarence Gilbert hitting his jumpers, the Tigers looked primed and ready under new head coach Quin Snyder to

make a run in the tournament. But they couldn't overcome the Tar Heels superior size.

With the new recruits Snyder has under his belt in Kareem Rush and Josh Kroenke, with hopefully many more to follow, Missouri should become a mainstay in the NCAA Tournament.

SLU made a great impression in the first year of head coach Lorenzo Romar. What is there to say about a team that defeated the Cincinnati Bearcats and won the Conference USA tournament by winning four games in a row?

SLU may not have had the best record going into the tournament and

lost to the University of Utah in the first round, but the impression SLU gave in its determination and media attention should land some top-notch recruits for next season.

Senior Justin Love will be missed by all, but the National Basketball Association should take a long look at him as a potential second-round pick. The Billikens also return the core of its big men in the middle with Matt Baniak, Chris Heinrich and Justin Tatum all returning for their senior season, while freshman Chris Braun has added experience for the Billikens down the road.

The Southeast Missouri State Indians made their first appearance in

school history and played quite well in the NCAA. The Indians played highly-touted Louisiana State University and lost by only three points.

With the national exposure in the tournament, SEMO should fair well next season as the recruitment should benefit the Indians significantly.

What is the point to all of this praise for these three teams? The state of Missouri has always been known for its skill in soccer, but now the tides are changing as SLU is not only dominating soccer, but also making strong showings in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Missouri has always had a decent basketball pro-

gram under the departed Norm Stewart, but will flourish over the next four years with the talent that will be coming to Missouri.

Chris Carrawell, a senior forward for Duke University and Cardinal Ritter graduate, mentioned that if Snyder was at Missouri while he was a senior, that he, along with Loren Woods, would have been playing for the Tigers.

With a strong showing in the NCAA by any Missouri school, the talent to become champions will land in the state of Missouri. If the state wants to be successful in collegiate basketball, the talent has to be there.

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Baseball

vs tba
2:30 p.m., Tue. Mar. 21

vs Lewis (DH)
noon, Sat., Mar. 25

vs Wisc. Parkside (DH)
noon, Sun., Mar. 26

Softball

vs Missouri Baptist
6 p.m., Wed. Mar. 22

at Lewis
tba, Sat., Mar. 25

at Wisc. Parkside
1 p.m., Sun., Mar. 26

Men's Tennis

vs Indianapolis
tba., Fri. Mar. 24

vs IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
tba, Sat. Mar. 25

Next Issue In Sports

- Baseball Florida trip recap
- Softball update
- Latest Scoop

And the Oscar goes to . . .

A&E

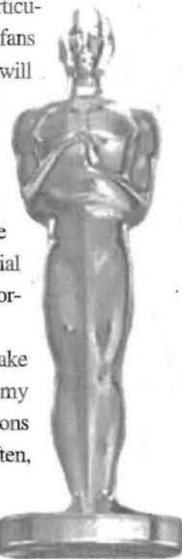
BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

The Academy Awards ceremony to award the Oscars will take place March 26.

The Oscars are like the Superbowl of American movies. Everyone has their favorites. The experts give their prediction for the winner and tell us why they will win, along with who deserves to win. Among fans, we each have our own idea about how the contest will turn out, and who should be the winner. Some years it seems like the most worthy contenders make it to the final contest, and other years it seems like a fluke that a particular competitor is there. Finally, the fans gather around the TV to see who will really win, often with a party. In the end, it's sometimes the favorite who wins, and sometimes it's an upset - you'll never know until the big day. The winner is lionized in the press, and the career and financial rewards to the participants are enormous.

It is a film critic tradition to make predictions about the Academy Awards, and to also give their opinions of who ought to win the Oscar. Often, the predictions include a pick of the likely choice of the Academy, and a pick for a long shot winner, since the Academy is well-known for its penchant for awarding Oscars for other reasons, such as an overlooked performance of a previous year, or a sentimental favorite, or to reward a film that was a close loss for another category. The Academy is also well-known for their middle brow tastes, their tendency to reward financially successful films, and their tastes for big, traditionally Hollywood-style productions. Still, every once in a while, they go for the artistic film or risky subject, just to keep us all guessing. While the artistic merit of the award is a bit suspect, its financial impact for the film's makers is enormous and undeniable, which leads to some fierce competition. Often there is a film that makes a big sweep and take home a lot of the Oscars, and other years the awards are more spread out. This year's film likely to make a big sweep is "American Beauty."

Of course, part of the fun of these picks are for fans to make their own predictions, and then see how everyone's predictions stack up against the results. In the spirit of that traditions, I present my Oscar predictions for selected categories for who will probably win and who ought to win.



Picture

Nominees: "American Beauty," "The Cider House Rules," "The Green Mile," "The Insider," "The Sixth Sense"

Likely winner: "American Beauty"

Long shot: "The Green Mile," because it is both a more traditionally Hollywood movie and profitable, or "The Insider" because its message about censorship resonates with the Academy - it's a long shot because it didn't make enough money.

My pick: "American Beauty" (but "The Insider" is a close second)

Actor

Nominees: Russell Crowe ("The Insider"), Richard Farnsworth ("The Straight Story"), Sean Penn ("Sweet and Lowdown"), Kevin Spacey ("American Beauty"), Denzel Washington ("The Hurricane")

Likely winner: Kevin Spacey

Long shot: Richard Farnsworth (the sentimental pick) or Russell Crowe, as a consolation for not picking The Insider for Best Picture

My pick: This is probably the hardest category to pick, with each nominee turning a performance that would be an easy winner in a different year. But I would say Kevin Spacey, by a nose.

Actress

Nominees: Annette Bening ("American Beauty"), Janet McTeer ("Tumbleweeds"), Julianne Moore ("The End of the Affair"), Meryl Streep ("Music of the Heart"), Hilary Swank ("Boys Don't Cry")

Likely winner: Hilary Swank

Long shot: Annette Bening - a very long shot, because Swank's performance is so good.

My pick: Hilary Swank



Supporting Actor

Nominees: Michael Caine ("The Cider House Rules"), Tom Cruise ("Magnolia"), Michael Clarke Duncan ("The Green Mile"), Jude Law ("The Talented Mr. Ripley"), Haley Joel Osment ("The Sixth Sense")

Likely winner: Haley Joel Osment - in part to reward the very profitable film

Long shot: Michael Caine - for the same reason as above, plus a sentimental choice

My pick: Tom Cruise - one of the strengths of "Magnolia," which should have been a best picture nominee.

Supporting Actress

Nominees: Toni Collette ("The Sixth Sense"), Angelina Jolie ("Girl, Interrupted"), Catherine Keener ("Being John Malkovich"), Samantha Morton ("Sweet and Lowdown"), Chloe Sevigny ("Boys Don't Cry")

Likely winner: Angelina Jolie - because it was the tour-de-force kind of performance the Academy likes

Long shot: Samantha Morton

My pick: Samantha Morton - a more subtle, but more powerful performance.

Director

Nominees: Sam Mendes ("American Beauty"), Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich"), Lasse Hallstrom ("The Cider House Rules"), Michael Mann ("The Insider"), M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense")

Likely winner: Sam Mendes

Long shot: Michael Mann

My pick: The category should be the same as Best Picture, but the academy often uses it to reward a second movie. I think "Being John Malkovich" should have made the best picture list, but I'm going to pick Sam Mendes, with Michael Mann and Spike Jonze very close behind.



Cinematography

Nominees: "American Beauty," "End of the Affair," "The Insider," "Sleepy Hollow," "Snow Falling on Cedars"

Likely winner: "American Beauty"

Long shot: "The Insider"

My pick: "American Beauty"

Adapted Screenplay

Nominees: "The Cider House Rules," "Election," "The Green Mile," "The Insider," "The Talented Mr. Ripley"

Likely winner: "The Green Mile"

Long shot: "Cider House Rules"

My pick: "The Green Mile"

Original Screenplay

Nominees: "American Beauty," "Being John Malkovich," "Magnolia," "The Sixth Sense," "Topsy-Turvy"

Likely winner: "Being John Malkovich"

Long shot: "Magnolia"

My pick: "Being John Malkovich" - very creative and original.

So you missed them the first time around . . .

You still have a chance to see a number of them. After the awards, some of the winners not playing now may come back. Here's a list of those still playing:

- "Sweet and Lowdown" Creve Coeur, Crestwood
- "The End of the Affair" Plaza Frontenac, Westport
- "Sleepy Hollow" Lindbergh, St. Andrews, Village Square
- "The Hurricane" Halls Ferry, Plaza Cinema
- "Tumbleweeds" Plaza Frontenac
- "Anna and the King" Lindbergh, St. Andrews, Village Square

- "American Beauty" The Chase, Galleria, Creve Coeur 12, and many other theaters
- "The Cider House Rules" The Chase, Crestwood, Des Peres, and others
- "Boys Don't Cry" The Tivoli
- "The Green Mile" The Tivoli
- "The Insider" Keller
- "The Sixth Sense" Crestwood, Lindbergh, St. Andrews, Village Square
- "The Straight Story" Plaza Frontenac

'Making the Band': It'll be just another television debacle



RANT & ROLL
CORY BLACKWOOD

Just when society seems about as low as it can get, it dips lower. There's a new show set to debut soon, a miniseries to beat all miniseries. This new show isn't just a miniseries, it is a contest, so all the bored people that sit transfixed during "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" or "Greed" or pretty much any other mind-numbingly dull contest will hold the same interest in this new plot. This new show will also have a pop musical backing, so all the teeny-boppers that adore Carson Daly and the rest at Empty-V will be forced to tune in. There are also people that will watch anything that is promoted

enough on commercials, and, of course, people that watch bad television with the same interest that they watch car accidents on the highway, so expect ratings to be high. What is this show, besides a new low in television AND music? The show is "Making the Band." The whole premise behind the show is that 1,800 guys are competing for the five slots in a boy band. What makes the show so sick is that it pays no attention to the actual music. Music is just the vehicle for money and attention in this contest. We're all familiar with boy bands these days, whether we want to be or not. They are shoved in our faces pretty much 24/7.

The sad truth behind many of these bands is that none of the band members knew each other before they were assembled by some mass media conglomerate to make a record label bags of money. This is no different, with 1,800 guys competing to see who has the best voice, best moves and the most character in interviews. The winners will form one completely soulless group. Knowledge of how to play an instrument is not necessary, or even recommended. None of these contestants will need to know how to write lyrics. That will be taken care of by people who know what the kids want to hear. There will

be absolutely no depth or real human emotion allowed in any song, just cheap Hallmark sentiments. I remember growing up and always wanting to be a rock star. I wanted to be in a band that mattered, the next Rolling Stones, Nirvana, Ministry, whatever, but never the next New Kids on the Block. Long after my dreams were crushed by my own lack of musical talent and tone-deaf voice, I still continued to support music that mattered, music with soul. I think I honestly saw one of these boy bands advertising on the back of a cereal box in the supermarket. When's the last time Jimi Hendrix or Radiohead did that? "Making the Band" will probably

have very high ratings, and the television gurus will all claim it to be a screaming "success," but they won't notice a few of the repercussions of this show. People will slowly stop realizing the real power behind music and forget about music that changes lives. In doing so, musicians like Incubus, Beck, Miles Davis and countless others will fade from our society's collective attention. The power of music will only be equated in units sold, money made, and the number of people that watched the latest television special on their favorite "band." I've seen T-shirts that say "Keep music Evil." Maybe we should just try to keep it real.

FILM REVIEWS

"Mr. Death" more chilling than fiction

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER staff editor

'Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.'

Length: 95 min. Rated: PG-13 Our opinion: ★★★★★

Gruesome. Chilling. Bizarre. These are among the words that spring to mind while viewing Errol Morris' documentary film, "Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr."

to just talk, while carefully editing his discussion and cutting in atmospheric shots of his subject inspecting the equipment or recreations of his reminiscences.

Leuchter is a very odd fellow, who describes how his father, a prison guard, used to take him to work with him when he was as young as four, and how comfortable he became in that world.

reduce suffering, both of the condemned who may be executed with defective equipment that made the process prolonged and painful, and of the guards who had usually known the condemned for as long as twenty years and would be forced to watch the process.

would use it for. It is, in part, this unthinking naiveté that ultimately leads to his downfall.

Leuchter is contacted by neo Nazi Ernst Zundel, who is on trial for an incident related to his denial that the Holocaust took place.

This very unusual documentary is artistically brilliant but unlikely to appeal to a mass audience, due to its distasteful subject.

(Now playing, for one week only, at the Tivoli)

Woody Allen returns to greatness with funny, moving tale of fictional 1930s jazz musician

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER staff editor

'Sweet and Lowdown'

Length: 105 min. Rated: PG-13 Our opinion: ★★★★★

"Sweet and Lowdown" is a sweet-spot of a film, a Woody Allen comedy that successfully combines humor and a touch of tragedy in a tale about a gifted but flawed 1930s jazz guitarist who is struggling in the shadow of jazz great Django Reinhardt.

Yes, comedy. Woody Allen, who first was recognized as a filmmaker for his delicious comedies, makes a return to the realm of humor in this film which is his best in years.

"Sweet and Lowdown" returns him to the level of filmmaking that first led people to regard him as a genius.

"Sweet and Lowdown" is the story of fictional jazz guitarist Emmett Ray (Sean Penn), the self-proclaimed second-greatest guitarist in the world who appears to be every bit as good as he says.

amazing Django was quite real, and the soundtrack filled with his music is one of the treats of the film.

The film is told in the style of a documentary about a historical figure, with shots of experts, complete with their name and credentials printed on the screen, who each discuss what is known about Emmett Ray's career and colorful life.

Oscar and would be a deserving winner.

Unlike many of Allen's recent films, this one is less of an ensemble piece and is focused on a single character. The film also has a lot less of Allen's signature self-conscious direct discussion with the audience.

sive face speaks clearly and hauntingly to the audience, often effortlessly carrying the message of entire scenes.

This film is worth seeing for many reasons—powerful, nuanced acting, a wonderful story that is both comic and poignant, great music, and directing that is subtle and compelling.

ALBUM REVIEW

Patti Smith returns to her punk roots with smart, edgy songs on 'Gung Ho'

BY CORY BLACKWOOD staff editor

'Gung Ho'

Artist: Patti Smith Label: Arista Records Our opinion: ★★★★★

Some Rock & Roll legends never die; they just fade away. Some refuse to even fade away, but continue screaming until their last breath is taken.

Patti Smith first got attention in the punk world with her 1974 independently released single, "Piss Factory." From there, Arista Records picked her up, and 1975's "Horses" became a critically acclaimed masterpiece.

"Gung Ho" is Patti Smith's first album in three years, and it sees her returning to the edgy punk feel she knew and developed so well.

Some songs, like "Persuasion" and "Strange Messengers" actually start with more of a folk feel than punk or rock 'n' roll, but that is dispelled early in both songs.



much power as any of the other songs on this album.

The fact that Patti Smith has melted over the years is not in question. "Gung Ho" doesn't contain any songs near as searing or inflammatory as "Rock and Roll N****," but her newer songs are just as smart, if not smarter, than her previous punk anthems.

Patti Smith is an important musician, one who revolutionized music for all women with the Riot Girl movement, and revolutionized music for all people with her skewed interpretations of punk and rock music.

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RIVERWOMEN, from page 5

involved in this team," Ethridge said. "The team felt snubbed, and it really lit a fire under the women."

After dropping their first conference matchup to Kentucky Wesleyan, the Riverwomen went on a five-game tear through the GLVC, and talk about the team began to surface around the basketball community.

"We love playing the underdog," Ethridge said. "That ranking gave us a lot of motivation, and the desire to prove our worth."

The season continued to brighten for the Riverwomen, and they earned a GLVC tournament berth, Ethridge's second in three years, well before season's end.

"I was very impressed with this team's play," Ethridge said. "The women had really come together as a team, and looked very sharp entering the tourney."

The Riverwomen wrapped up the regular season on a three-game winning streak, and entering the GLVC brackets, the Riverwomen earned the third seed, contrary to preseason picks.

However, the Riverwomen were surprisingly ousted by a strong Indianapolis team, and their great season appeared to be finished.

But with a late night call on March 5 from the selection committee, Ethridge and her staff were informed that the women had been invited to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

"When we got that call, the feeling was just unbelievable," Ethridge said. "Just a overjoyous feeling...it still tingles."

At the NCAA, the program was put in the national spotlight. The team advanced to the second round of the



Joe Ruh/ Northern Kentucky University

Tawanda Daniel (42) attempts a free throw in the Riverwomen's 90-77 first round win over Ferris State in the NCAA tournament.

tournament before falling to No. 4 Northern Michigan. However, during their stay, the Riverwomen learned a great deal about basketball.

"At the NAAs, our women had the chance to watch some great basketball teams," Ethridge said. "Northern Michigan was in the top five in the nation, and playing them was a learning experience. They are an awesome team."

Next season, the Riverwomen face the daunting task of filling the shoes of six departing seniors, including Tawanda Daniel and Amanda Wentzel,

captain Sarah Mauck, Pauline Harris, Trish Ackerman and center Jennifer Littleton. One of the strong points of this team is its depth, which has been evident throughout this season.

"During our games, we have always had great transition, and I don't see our system breaking down soon," Ethridge said. "We will miss the girls, however."

Next season, expectations will no doubt be high, and the Riverwomen will be prepared.

"When you get to this level, you always want to go back," Ethridge said.

WILLIAMS, from page 3

Compassion for Children adopted the universal declarations of the rights of children.

When a UM-St. Louis student asked what students can do to assist her organization or children in general, Williams stated that signing up as a mentor or providing any assistance to a child will make a difference.

Copies of the universal declarations of the rights of children and other information about The World Center of Compassion for Children can be obtained by calling Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, at 516-5291. Those wanting more information about the 2001 summit can contact Catherine Vatterott at 738-0584.

The three children killed 25 years ago in Northern Ireland did not die in vain.

Through their deaths an extraordinary woman, with the assistance of people from around the world, gave millions of children a political voice.

Universal Declaration of the Rights of Children

We, the children of the world, assert our unalienable right to be heard and to have a political voice at the United Nations and at the highest levels of the governments world wide.

We, the children of the world, must live with justice with peace and freedom, but most of all with the dignity that we deserve.

We, the children of the world, require a Marshall Plan, a Geneva Convention and a world court of human rights that meets regularly to listen to the testimony as to what is actually is happening to us. We plan to provide our own testimony.

We, the children of the world, demand the right to be taken to safe shelters in situations of war.

We, the children of the world, consider hunger, abuse, forced labor and all forms of abuse and exploitation perpetrated upon us to be acts of war.

We, the children of the world, until this day June 20, 1997, in the city of Vienna, Austria, have had no political voice. We demand such a voice.

We, the children of the world, will develop our own leadership and set an example that will show governments how to live in peace and with freedom.

We, the children of the world, serve notice unto our abusers and exploiters, whoever they may be, that on this day hence, we will begin the process of holding you responsible for our suffering.

CLOTHESLINE, from page 3

child sexual abuse crimes. Purple or lavender describes the experiences of women attacked because of sexual orientation.

Rimkus is pleased with the success of this exhibit and with the impact that Clothesline has created.

"We put it up Friday to make sure everything was up on time and a lot of people stopped. Students would stop and look and read some of the T-shirts. Some people would look informed. Some people would cry.

Some people would approach me and ask, 'How can I get involved?'" Rimkus said.

One white T-shirt Rimkus described particularly caught many people's attention. The shirt is plain except for a pocket, which contains the picture of a child. Another white shirt with red stitching also made students stop and take a closer look.

"Whatever people can relate to is what strikes them the most," Rimkus said.

In addition to the shirts, Rimkus has provided information at the exhibit about services for abused women, shelters and violence statistics.

The Clothesline Project works to serve as both a deterrent to violence against women and as a memorial for those who died from its results. Clothesline is not designed just for women, though. It informs society that crimes against women do exist and should be ended.

VIOLENCE, from page 3

children, is on a community education campaign about violence against young women.

"Acknowledging that violence occurs in adolescent relationships is not easy. Adolescents often hold beliefs

that prevent them from seeking help," explains Schiller-Baker.

According to Schiller-Baker, adolescents are becoming a larger number of the one out of four women who are abused. According to the St. Louis

Regional Sexual Assault Center, 75 percent of all victims are females under the age of 18.

She also points out that dating violence occurs on college and university campuses.

"Women on college campuses are more at risk of being murdered by people they know, beaten up by people they know, more at risk of being raped by people they know..." Schiller-Baker said.

St. Martha's Hall is trying to get more people active in informing the community and in preventing violence against women.

"It is imperative that universities, especially schools that offer a degree in social work, deal more with women's issues," Schiller-Baker said.

People opting to go into social work are more likely to deal with women who are seeking their help due to some form of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not a one-gender issue. Schiller-Baker says that everyone needs to get involved in preventing dating and domestic violence. She also said the next step is getting women who are being victimized to seek help.

UM-St. Louis' Center for Trauma Recovery is conducting a study to find out more about how violence affects women. There women can get the necessary counseling and help dealing

with the emotional stress a rape and battering can cause. St. Martha's Hall is a shelter for women who are trying to escape domestic violence and an abusive spouse or partner. Women must first overcome certain barriers that keep them from recognizing the abuse. Schiller-Baker says that adolescents especially have a problem with seeing these barriers, which include: "He hits me because he loves me"; "If I tell someone what is happening, he will find out and hurt me worse"; "But I'm nobody if I don't have a boyfriend"; "Mom and Dad will freak out if I tell them."

Schiller-Baker states, "Adolescent girls involved with violent boyfriends need to learn that certain behaviors are absolutely unacceptable."

Anyone wanting more information about UM-St. Louis' Center for Trauma Recovery study can contact the center at 516-6737. St. Martha's Hall is always looking for volunteers. To find out more information about the center and volunteer opportunities, contact Chris Chitwood Cooley at 533-1313.

“ Women on college campuses are more at risk of being murdered by people they know, beaten up by people they know, more at risk of being raped by people they know . . .

-Michelle Schiller-Baker
Executive director, St. Martha's Hall

The Clothesline Project is currently on display in the Student Center. The Clothesline Project is a visual exhibition that bears witness to the violence against women by displaying T-shirts designed by abused women or by someone who cares about them. The exhibit will be up all week.

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TODAYS
OFFICE STAFFING

TENNIS, from page 5

their non-conference match 9-0.

The Nos. 1, 3 and 6 singles matches were close, along with the No. 2 doubles match. The No. 3 and 6 singles matches went the distance with three sets a piece.

"We were not close to winning the match," Gyllenborg said. "They are a very good team."

The non-conference matchups won't affect the Rivermen's conference standings, but losses to Rockhurst and Northwest, teams that are in UM-St. Louis' region, could affect the Rivermen's chances of getting a regional bid.

The Rivermen have since played their first conference matches at

Northern Kentucky March 17 and Bellerme College March 18. As of press time no results for these meets were available.

"We definitely need to win them both if we are going to make an impact on the division standings," Gyllenborg said last week. "I will be very dissatisfied with two losses or a split."

UM-ST. LOUIS
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APRIL 3-7, 2000

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April 4 Tuesday	• Movie Marathon (FREE) "At First Sight" "Instinct" "Analyze This"	U Center Lounge 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:15 p.m.
April 5 Wednesday	• Disability Awareness Information DISABILITY SIMULATIONS • WHEELCHAIR CROSS CAMPUS MARATHON RACE Sign Up in U. Center lobby by 12:00 noon	U Center Lounge 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. U Center Lobby 12:15 p.m.
April 6 Thursday	• Movie Marathon (FREE) "Analyze This" "At First Sight" "Instinct"	U Center Lounge 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:15 p.m.
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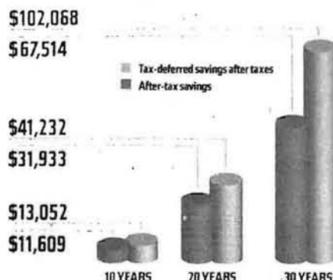
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Josh Stegeman speaks during Thursday's SGA meeting. Stegeman was among the students selected to be ASUM delegates.

SGA selects four ASUM delegates amid questions

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

The Student Government Association chose four delegates to represent UM-St. Louis on the board of directors of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, the group that lobbies for student interests in the state government: Josh Stegeman, Joe Flees, Joe Frank and Corey Inskip.

But the vote didn't come until Orlando Greene questioned the conduct of the election.

SGA members passed out plain white slips of paper and collected them without checking to see whether those who voted were duly elected members of the SGA. Some of the people present were not members.

"How do you know that everyone

who is voting should be voting?" Greene asked.

"I'm hoping everyone is on their honor," said D. Mike Bauer who presided over the meeting. "This is the way it's been done. I do apologize for the fact that there is no concrete method here."

Stegeman and Flees were elected to six-month terms, Frank and Inskip to one-year terms.

In other business:

April Cline announced that she needs volunteers to help her run the election for SGA offices to be held April 17 and 18. She said she has no volunteers yet.

Acting president Michael Rankins suggested that she post notices on the bulletin board outside the Student Activities Office.

RETIREES, from page 1

public record. Each individual can, of course, share information as they deem appropriate, and the individuals mentioned by Dr. Judd have given me permission to share the following information."

The letter said that Driemeier, Smith and Seay will participate in VERIP, be rehired at 74 percent capacity for two years and 30 percent for the third year. Smith would continue as interim vice chancellor until the University hires a permanent one, but would remain to work on fund-raising and outreach projects.

The letter concluded, "I expect that

UMSL will realize a cost saving from these moves because I do not intend to fill the positions held by Dr. Driemeier and Mr. Seay for at least two years. These personnel decisions have been approved by President [of the University of Missouri system] Manuel Pacheco and are consistent with the purpose of VERIP."

When asked whether these retirements adhered to the rules, Bob Samples, spokesman for Touhill, said, "The system made the rules, and the president of the system granted exceptions in those three cases."

WEEK, from page 1

and alcohol, hate crimes are often the result of prejudice.

Getz said this prejudice is often associated with issues of control.

"What we find [with hate crime perpetrators] is that it's all about power and control of [victims], or about fear of losing that power and control," Getz said.

Getz believes that the cultural diversity of the campus and the metropolitan area make an event such as Hate Crimes Awareness Week necessary.

"We're very diverse in the people on campus and also in the St. Louis community," Getz said. "For some rea-

son, there's a lot of tension, and if we don't educate ourselves about other cultures and appreciate differences, then that's how hate crimes escalate."

The activities of Hate Crimes Awareness Week will include an information table at the Women's Expo on Monday and Tuesday at which visitors can pick up black ribbons to support an end to hate crime violence. On Wednesday, a guest speaker will discuss her personal experience as the victim of a hate crime.

OUT! also plans to display tombstones bearing the names of hate crime victims outside the University Center throughout the week.

Charter school to apply with Harris-Stowe, president says

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

The president of a charter school that Chancellor Blanche Touhill rejected said he plans to take his application to Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis, rather than resubmit it to UM-St. Louis.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis accepted an application from the school, The African-American Rite of Passage, last year. That application included a consultant agreement with Boston-based Beacon Education Management. After Beacon pulled out, TAARP chose Charter Consultants of Belleville, Ill., to replace Beacon. Charter Consultants operates two schools in Illinois: The Governor French Academy and the Fort Bowman Academy, a charter school in Cahokia.

Lamar Beyah, president and CEO of The African-American Rite of Passage, Inc., said the different consultant was the only substantive

difference between the application Touhill accepted last year and the one Touhill denied this year.

"By law, we didn't need the consultant, anyway," Beyah said. "It's good business sense to have a consultant of this nature when you don't have experience running a school."

Beyah said Touhill didn't raise the financial questions she raised in the second application the first time around.

Earlier this year, Touhill agreed to accept two other charter school applications. Beacon has signed agreements to manage both schools—The Thurgood Marshall Academy and the St. Louis Charter School—according to the applications.

The University accepted the two schools because they meet all the criteria required by law, said Bob Samples, director of University Communications.

A fourth school, The Academy, was rejected, in part, because one member of its board of directors,

Gwen Moore, is an adjunct faculty member of UM-St. Louis, Samples said.

According to Section 160.400 of Missouri Revised Statutes, "No university...shall grant a charter to a nonprofit corporation if an employee of the university...is a member of the corporation's board of directors."

Under Missouri law, charter schools are "independent, publicly supported" schools that can operate only in cities with populations greater than 350,000. They must be sponsored by the local board of education, a nearby college or university or the state board of education. The sponsor may not receive any fees from the charter schools.

Samples said that since the University gets no additional funds to sponsor charter schools, charter schools take time and money away from the University's primary mission—the education of college students.

CONSTITUTION, from page 1

Ash said more time should be taken to make sure the constitution is done right.

"There's too much leeway to what's being added to it or being discussed about it," Ash said. "We don't have a plan to add to it or discussing it. We're doing everything on the fly so there's no real true thought into what we are doing."

"Instead of doing this, I would like to take more time. It's something that students on this campus realize that there is a problem, and that the assembly realizes there is a problem. It must be fixed, but it must be fixed right and it must be fixed properly."

Michael Rankins, acting SGA president, said more time is not an option. Rankins said approval of the new constitution immediately is necessary.

"I do not intend for this to be tabled over the summer," Rankins said. "If I have to put this thing on a

pad myself and carry it around The Underground until I have 5 percent of the student population, I will do that."

The proposed constitution needs either two-thirds of the SGA assembly to approve it, or a petition from 5 percent of the student body to bring it to a schoolwide vote. Lack of a quorum at the meeting prevented any hope of voting on it Thursday. Rankins said the new constitution may not be perfect, but it is better than what the SGA is working under now.

"It is a significant improvement over our current [constitution]," Rankins said. "We need to make some amendments to it. We will make some of those amendments before we ratify it, but some of the other amendments need to be made afterwards."

Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, said SGA needs to ratify the constitution for its own good.

"I think we don't think for the greater common good, and we think more specifically about how each little bit of this proposed document will affect one or more specific initiatives," Blanton said. "We operate from that standpoint instead of realizing that globally we've got a pretty good thing and we ought to get it approved and start working to refine it."

Blanton said the proposed constitution is more comprehensive than the current one and that it would stand the test of time. Though the proposed constitution is being held up for approval, Blanton said he is not interested in intervening.

"I think this is democracy in action," Blanton said. "Sometimes democracy takes an inordinate amount of time and I'm not looking to get around it in any way." Rankins said the proposed constitution will next be discussed in the SGA's executive committee.

Bill to finance education with gambling money put on hold

BY ZACHARY MOORE
special to The Current

A controversial method to raise more money for higher education has been put on hold once again.

A bill to create a "Video Gaming Machine Network" to raise revenue for higher education will not likely pass this legislative session, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Ken Jacob, D-Columbia. The Senate Education Committee declined to hold a hearing on it.

The proposed bill would generate \$200 million toward financial aid and capital improvements at Missouri state universities. If it passed, certain types of video gambling machines would be licensed to authorized locations, such as restaurants and bars, and then audited by a main computer.

Jacob, who first introduced the bill 10 years ago, said the bill does not have a chance of passing this session. He said the manufacturers of the video gambling machines asked him to introduce the bill to keep the idea alive.

"No one expected the bill to be taken seriously," Jacob said.

Joe Flees, the vice chairman of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, said it should.

"I think it's a creative and good idea," Flees said. "Higher education needs more money for all sorts of purposes. Any bill that gets approved would be good."

Jacob, a member of the Senate Education Committee, said he introduced the bill before riverboat casinos were legal. If this bill was to pass, many citizens feel there will be too many gambling temptations, he said.

"If a guy wants to put a quarter in a machine while drinking a beer and support higher education, that is fine by me," said Jacob.

FACULTY, from page 1

process, the proportion of student representation in the Assembly would actually be slightly increased from the current level in the Senate. Mark Burkholder, who chaired the Select Committee, has pointed out that the committees which would comprise the Faculty Senate are committees which deal primarily with faculty interests.

TESTIMONIAL

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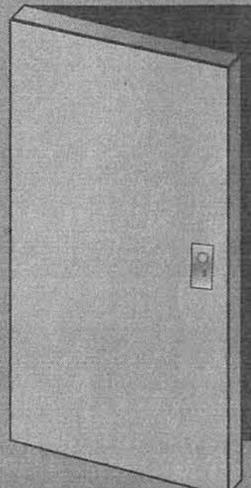
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