

INSIDE



Ross scores 1000th point of college career

Senior guard Greg Ross dribbled the ball into the lane and missed a lay-up, but on his tip-in, only 1:36 into the game, he became only the 14th player in Rivermen's basketball history to record 1,000 points in a career. Ross currently leads the Rivermen in scoring with 13.4 points per game.

▲ See page 5

BRIEFS

Family donates house to University

BY JEFF GRIESEMER
special to The Current

Students are noticing a lot of changes and additions around campus lately. Some of them are the newly completed Millennium Student Center, new parking garages, and work on the future Performing Arts Center. Now, one more can be added to the list—the "Beffa property."

According to Bob Samples, director of University Communications, UMSL made a deal to buy 11.5 acres of property on the western edge of the MetroLink tracks on the east side of campus in 1988. UMSL paid \$1.1 million for the property, and it was agreed that the Beffa family could continue living there for an undetermined amount of time.

The University is already using part of the property for the new garage along East Drivem which was needed immediately to serve the new Millennium Student Center and, according to Samples, is almost complete. The majority of the property, though, has not been touched because the Beffas were still living there.

The property contains a complex of four houses. Although University officials are not sure of their condition, they recently received news of a pleasant surprise. "One house—the biggest house, worth \$280,000—will be gifted to the University," said Samples. The house is scheduled to be officially given to the University on January 15.

Samples also said that plans are in the works for an additional parking garage adjacent to the one currently nearing completion. Speculation remains on prospective uses for the remainder of the property. Ideas ranging from new office space to fraternity/sorority houses have been mentioned. It will be some time before any plans become reality, he said.

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	9
The Nerd Table	9

Board to discuss fee increases

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

On Jan. 19, the University of Missouri Board of Curators will meet in Columbia to vote on a proposed increase in student fees and parking fees.

The student fees which may be raised include, but are not limited to: housing, activity, facility, computer, and health.

The parking fees—which are optional and currently stand at \$16 per credit hour—if raised, will not take effect until fall 2001 semester.

All fee-increase proposals are pre-

UMSL's fees could increase more than other UM campuses

pared under the direction of the vice chancellors for Student Affairs on each campus in the University of Missouri System. They are computed by calculating probable operating costs with the number of enrollments.

James M. Krueger, vice chancellor for Managerial and Technological Services explained why there is a proposed increase in the parking fees.

"We have to pay off the debt service incurred on the bonds which were sold to raise funding for the new parking garage," Krueger said. "The 16

credit-hour maximum will still remain intact, however."

Last semester, UMSL switched from a static-cling parking permit which could be easily adhered to the inside of a vehicle's window, to one stuck on the outside of a vehicle's window with adhesive. This caused a great deal of student backlash.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, could not be reached to comment on whether or not the new parking permit will be changed.

The proposed increases in student educational fees at UMSL average out to 3.6 percent.

This is compared to 3.3 percent at UM-Kansas City, 3.4 percent at UMColumbia, and 3.5 percent at UMRolla.

When costs for room and board are factored in, the total proposed fee increase for UMSL students will be 4.1 percent.

This proposed increase can be broken down in detail. For example, family housing at UMSL, which includes

the Mansion Hills units, will increase \$25 per month. However, the two-bedroom unit is an important exception. It will increase \$50 per month, or 10.5 percent. UMSL is anticipating a .7 percent increase in its residence hall, which factors out to about 100 rooms. This represents a far greater increase than any other school in the UM System. UMSL justifies the increase in student housing because of financial projections pointing to

see FEES, page 8



Darren Bruner/The Current

Workers continue gutting the strip mall on Florissant Rd. near I-70. The mall, like several other buildings already torn down on Florissant Rd., will be razed to make room for the realignment of the interstate.

Fred Weber lands \$48 million contract for I-70 realignment

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Fred Weber, Inc., a construction firm based in Maryland Heights, has been awarded the contract for rebuilding the interchange of I-70 and Florissant Rd. The contract bid was \$47,962,939.93.

Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in early March, and the time table for completion is 24 months.

The project was born in 1997, when the Missouri Department of Transportation developed an ambi-

tious plan to widen and repair I-70 from the Poplar Street Bridge to St. Peters. A major portion of the repair work will focus upon the numerous overpasses and bridges.

The bridge over Florissant Rd. was specifically targeted for rebuilding. Bob Orange, an engineering specialist in charge of the project's art design, explained why in a phone interview. "We were determined to eliminate the growing number of accidents taking place near the access ramps," Orange said. "It was both alarming and unacceptable."

The solution, as MoDOT saw it,

was to straighten and flatten I-70.

Before this could take place, a sizable portion of land and several buildings would have to be torn down. One such building is Mt. Providence, a former boys' home which was operated by nuns. Another is the tiny strip mall located just to the north of UMSL's Florissant Rd. entrance. UMSL owned the properties.

"UMSL graciously agreed to sell the land and the buildings in exchange for architectural aesthetics which would be compatible with their campus," said Lee Hillner, project manager. "Throughout the nego-

tations, we developed a very good working relationship with UMSL."

For nearly 16 months, starting in 1999, 10 designers and technicians from MoDOT worked with UMSL officials on the design of the interchange.

The specifics of these architectural aesthetics were explained by Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction.

"The bridge, specifically its retaining walls, will have the appearance of stone, rather than just plain

see I-70, page 8

New Student Center kiosks put information at students' fingertips

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

For anyone who has been confused by the cryptic code of the STAR-UMSL system, this is for you. As the winter 2001 semester comes to pass, students will have access to a new informational kiosk system.

The system, currently two terminals on the second and third floors of the Millennium Student Center, is the brainchild of University Bookstore Manager Gloria Schultz and Senior Systems Analyst Pamela Kaiser-Lee.

"Basically, we have installed touch-screen information kiosks throughout the building with built-in printers," said Kaiser-Lee. "The audience will be predominantly new students and visitors who wish to access information quickly and easily."

The homepage of each kiosk will have touch-activated "buttons" that direct the user into five basic areas titled: Today's Events, Building Guide, Calendar, MyInfo Login, and Campus Guide.

The first, Today's Events, will be an

interactive calendar of events taking place both in MSC and throughout the UM-St. Louis community. The link will contain the time, location, and other pertinent information having to do with the day's events.

Building Guide will contain information about MSC, ranging from the location of offices and meetings to an alphabetical listing of faculty and staff in the building. Also, there will be sections that list the different options that students may take advantage of in MSC.

The Calendar section will have a more in-depth overview of scheduled events in the UM-St. Louis community. Users can either browse a standard calendar—much like the live calendars posted throughout campus—or search by date, category, and location.

The next section, MyInfo Login, is a very sleek, user-friendly way for students to access everything normally contained on the STAR-UMSL system. From grades to schedule to financial aid status, all student information will be made available with proper Gateway ID.

The final category, Campus Guide, contains a virtual tour of UM-St. Louis, as well as a three-layer interactive map of the MSC.

"I think that the new system is a great way for students to access their information easily and quickly," said Heather Tolbert, a junior Business Administration major. "STAR-UMSL can be very confusing for some students, and this makes their information easily accessible."

The two initial kiosks cost about \$8000, with two more being donated by the now-defunct TeleCommunity Center. Those machines will be renovated and re-fit with existing CPUs.

"We eventually plan to expand this system to the entire campus and community," said Kaiser-Lee. "This is a big step forward for us, and we'll have to see how the initial machines do."

The system will be a read-only, secure format to prevent possible hacking. Maintenance and updates will be done via a touch-based password known only by qualified staff.

The kiosks should operate by the end of this week.



Pamela Kaiser-Lee explains the new kiosks at a press conference.

University closes unique technology resource

BY STEVE VALKO
staff writer

UMSL and the St. Louis community lost a unique technological resource when the Southwestern Bell TeleCommunity Center officially closed its doors Dec. 19.

"Primarily, [UMSL] decided not to extend the funding after 2001," said Kevin Adams, former manager of the TeleCommunity Center. "The published reason why it closed was that the program had its peak. Southwestern Bell pulled out, and without the help of a corporate sponsor, the University decided to pull funding."

The TeleCommunity Center enjoyed a life of just over four years. Officially opened in Dec. 11, 1996, the TeleCommunity Center's mission was "to help people become comfortable with today's technology and to enhance the quality of their lives on a personal and professional level. It is open to the community for training, education, economic development and civic purposes."

The TeleCommunity Center provided a variety of technologies to the public in many ways.

"We provided computers, training for free, and internet access. We also offered training to our corporate members, where a group of employees from a corporation would come in and get training all at once. We also offered access to video conferencing across the city, state, and country. We were also connected with the university to

see TELECOMMUNITY, page 7

Darren Bruner/The Current

Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Jan. 16

•**Rec Sports Winter Aerobics** classes run today through May 12. A one-time fee (students- \$35, faculty, staff, alumni-\$50) allows participants to attend any class at any time for the entire semester. Classes are held at the Mark Twain Aerobics Room. Choose from Tae Box, Step Interval, Cardio Mix, Water Exercise Training, Body Toning, Piloga and more. To register, contact the Rec Sports Office at 516-5326 or check online at www.umsl.edu.

•**Rec Sports Spinning** (stationary cycling) is a work-out experience like no other. To inquire about class times and to reserve a spot, call Rec Sports Office at 516-5326. Each class costs \$3.00 for students and \$4.00 for all others. Spinning cards are available with 10 spins for students (\$20) and fac/staff/alumni (\$30).

•**Catholic Mass** will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge Road, located across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information, call 385-3455.

Global Refugee Problem to Be Seminar's Focus

Roberta Cohen, Co-Director of Brookings Institute Project on Internal Displacement, will discuss "Twenty-five Million in Flight: What Can and Should We Do?" at 7 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center. Call 516-5753 for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

•**Public Policy Research Center at UMSL** presents the first of its research seminar series, "Toward More Relevant Policy Research: The National Cross-Site Evaluation of High Risk Youth Programs." The seminar is held from noon to 1:00 p.m. at 75 J. C. Penney Building. The speakers are J. Fred Springer, Director of Research, EMT Associates, Inc., and Professor Emeritus in Political Science and Public Policy Administration. For more information, call (314) 516-5273.

•**Soup and Soul Food**, a simple meal and time for prayer, meditation and reflection, from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center, room 315. It is sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. All are welcome, and for more information, call Chris

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: Violeta Dimitrova, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Snyder at 314-409-3024 or Roger Jespersen at 385-3000.

385-3455.

Thursday, Jan. 18

•**Personal Money Management** for the College Student will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 75, J. C. Penney Bldg. Students will be given practical information about budgeting, savings and spending. For more information, contact Linda Sharp at 6807.

Friday, Jan. 19

•**Physics Colloquium** Wilfred Sorrell, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy, will discuss "Interstellar Chemistry, Panspermia and the Origin of Life" at 3 p.m. in Room 328 at Benton Hall. Call on campus 516-5931 for more information.

•**Soup with Sister** will follow mass at the Catholic Newman Center at 12:05 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information, call

Saturday, Jan. 20

•**Music for Charity Premiere Concert at UMSL.** The concert is free and it will be held at 7:30 p.m. at J. C. Penney Auditorium. The show will feature acoustic performances by William Smith and Kendra Mahr, as well as some of the most talented jazz ensembles of St. Louis, Vocalice. The aim of the organizers is to spread awareness about heart disease and to benefit the American Heart Association. This free concert will promote the American Heart Association's Heart Walk on February 10, 2001 and their first major fundraising concert at the Firehouse the same evening.

Sunday, Jan. 21

•**Catholic Mass** will be held at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

December 12, 2000

A student reported that some time between 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. unknown persons had damaged the ignition switch on his or her vehicle, while it was parked on Lot "Y" on the South Campus.

December 14, 2000

A staff person reported that her cigarette case was stolen from her purse,

which had been left unattended at a desk in the Marillac Hall lobby. The cigarette case contained an Illinois driver's license and other picture IDs.

January 2, 2001

Computing staff reported that between Dec. 26, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. and Jan. 2, 2001, at 10:25 a.m., unknown persons

stole a Gateway monitor, keyboard, and mouse from the Millennium Center Chat Room. The equipment is valued at \$2500.00. Several other pieces of equipment in the Chat Room were tampered with in a theft attempt.

January 3, 2001

A student reported that an unknown person had obtained his date of birth, name, and social security number and

was using him or her to gain credit cards illegally. Several thousand dollars had been charged to the accounts. Federal authorities were notified.

University athletics reported the theft of numerous bottles of water and soda in a box which had been stored at the Mark Twain Building. Two males were seen leaving the indoor track area at 8:30 p.m., carrying a leaking box. The investigation continues.

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

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UPB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15 Martin Luther King Holiday No Classes	16 Class Resumes	17 Wednesday Noon Live 11:30-1:00 The Nosh	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Movie Night Any Given Sunday 375 MSC - 7pm	27
28	29	30	31 Wednesday Noon Live 11:30-1:00 The Nosh	1	2 Black Film Festival 375 MSC - 7pm The Wood	3
4 The Chieftans Powell Hall Tickets:\$10 limit 2 w/ ID	5	6	7 Creative Dating 7 pm	8	9 Black Film Festival 375 MSC - 7pm Love and Basketball	10
11	12 Open Mic Night 375 MSC - 7 pm	13	14 Wednesday Noon Live 11:30-1:00 The Nosh	15	16 HOMECOMING 7PM	17
18	19 Historical Soul Review 11:30-1:00 The Nosh	20 Celebrate Mardi Gras 11:30-1pm The Nosh	21 Battle of the Sexes MSC - 6pm	22 Dr. Ruth MSC Century Room 6:30 pm Reception to follow	23 Best Little Whorehouse in Texas Fox Theatre, Tickets:\$10, limit 2 w/ ID	24
25	26 Open Mic Night 375 MSC - 7 pm	27	28 Wednesday Noon Live 11:30-1:00 The Nosh	1	2	3

For more information contact **516-5291**

Remembering Elvis on his birthday

The king of rock'n'roll

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Sixty-six years ago this month, the man who would forever be remembered as the "King of Rock and Roll" was born. His name was Elvis Aaron Presley. His untimely death on Aug. 16, 1977, at the age of 42, resulted in an outpouring of emotion and sympathy throughout the world. Graceland, Elvis's home in Memphis, Tennessee, became an instant shrine, attracting more visitors annually than even Mount Vernon, the former residence of George Washington.

Unfortunately, many books, magazines, and newspapers seem obsessed with focusing upon some of the negative aspects of Elvis's later life. That's a shame, because all things considered, he had an amazing life, and gave a great deal to the music world.

Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss., on Jan. 8, 1935. His family was very poor, and struggled to make ends meet. In search of a better life, the Presley family moved to Memphis, Tenn. in the summer of 1948. Upon graduation from high school in 1953, the future King took a job as a truck driver. The money he saved was eventually put toward the purchase of a guitar.

The year 1954 changed Elvis's life forever. He recorded the song "That's

Alright Mama." A very influential record promoter, Sam Phillips, the owner of Sun Recording Studios, heard it, and was overwhelmed by Elvis's unique style. He took the young man under his wing. In less than two years, Elvis had recorded four other songs: "Heartbreak Hotel," "Jailhouse Rock," "Love Me Tender," and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" They all soared to No. 1 on the charts. The King's career had been launched. Elvis's success was so phenomenal, he soon became far too big a star for the Sun label. As a result, Phillips was forced to sell the rights to him to RCA Records for \$30,000.

Elvis's career as an entertainer was interrupted by military service in 1958. He felt proud to serve his country, and was stationed with NATO Forces over in Germany. It was there that Elvis would meet his future wife Priscilla.

When Elvis was honorably discharged, his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, had him sign a series of movie contracts which lasted for nearly eight years.

The King hated doing the movies. He would say later how much he missed the closeness of performing in front of a live audience.

Many people felt that Elvis's career was dead. They were wrong. He made a stunning comeback in 1968. In a televised Christmas special, Elvis, dressed in a black leather jumpsuit, performed live with some of his band members. With intense energy and passion, he recaptured the spirit of the old days of rock'n'roll. His career was reborn.



Photo courtesy of photo-guide.com

Over the next nine years, Elvis entertained enthusiastic audiences throughout the United States. His most memorable performance came in the summer of 1973, when he performed via satellite from Honolulu, Hawaii. This was the first time in history that an entertainer had performed via satellite. An estimated one billion people viewed the concert throughout the world. Proceeds from the concert

went to benefit the American Cancer Society. It epitomized the giving and caring nature of the man. This is something that is often times overlooked by the books and magazines who choose to report on the negative rather than the positive.

The 1973 concert may have been Elvis's finest hour. He had never been better.

Four years later, the King left us.

He also left behind a music legacy which has been rarely equalled. He had over 50 top-100 hits, and 17 No. 1 hits.

The world of music has given us many great entertainers over the years. However, one could make a strong argument that nobody was greater than Elvis Aaron Presley.

Explore the Mississippi with photographer Allen Hess

"The river's green margins"

BY SARA PORTER
staff writer

"You really don't know if it's there, or it's not there. It's almost like you're looking at the edge of the earth," said photographer Allen Hess, describing the Mississippi River— one of the many subjects in his display "The River's Green Margins," which is at the Mercantile Library.

Hess, the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts scholarship and a winner of various other awards, presented a slide show, detailing his photography and others on the Mississippi River.

"I think of my photography as yet another record of the steamboats," said Hess, "My work is reflected in the light of others."

Hess recalls the many images people have of the river. "We all have an image of the Mississippi, but there are few of us who have that image first-hand," said Hess, "Most of our images come from Mark Twain, theatre, music, and movies, such as the Buster Keaton film 'Steamboat Bill Jr.' and the Mickey Mouse short 'Steamboat Willie.'"

"We all have an image of the Mississippi, but there are few of us who have that image first-hand."

-Allen Hess
Photographer

Besides Hess's pictures, the display included early paintings by such 19th-century artists as Karl Bauer, whom German Prince Maximilian commissioned to illustrate the romantic images of the river, and some New Orleans artists who opted for a more realistic view of the Mississippi, depicting a steamboat explosion and a cemetery in order to commemorate the explosion of the "Louisiana" in 1849.

For Hess, his love of the Mississippi River is also connected with his love of photography. "I loved to watch the steamboats when I was young, and my father took a photo of the 'Idlewild', a steamer, in 1955," said Hess, "When I got older, I loved to take pictures of the steamboats. There were only six steamboats, so after a while I could only take so many pictures of them," said Hess. "I wanted to move onto bigger things, so I

concentrated on river life."

Besides such sights as steamboats and bridges, Hess uses his photography to display the many changes that the rivers bring, including natural disasters.

"In 1988, I heard about a drought on the Mississippi, so I went down there and took pictures of the levees," Hess said, "When I got to Town Rock, the water was so low that people could walk in."

Hess' work also included floods, including many pictures of the Flood of '93. These photos included a baseball stadium in Ohio almost completely covered in water, and the Eads Bridge on the water level. "As terrible as the flood was, it enabled me to take beautiful pictures," Hess said.

Hess's work will be on display at the Mercantile Library until January 31.

PPRC invites students to attend seminars

BY SARA MUELLER
special to The Current

The Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) would like to invite students and staff to have lunch with them during their Applied Research Seminar Series, which begins Jan. 17, 2001 and will continue throughout the semester. The series will consist of seminars given by professors concerning their research in subjects such as the neighborhood and community development, economic vitality, and governance.

The PPRC began in January 2000. It is a campus-wide unit consisting of all UM-St. Louis colleges. The PPRC conducts two series: The Metropolitan Issues Forum, which is more formal, and the Applied Research Seminar Series.

"These seminars are meant to be an exchange between the professors and students. It is not just a lecture where the audience listens and then leaves. Students are encouraged to come and participate," said Director Alan F. J. Artibise Ph.D.

The first seminar will be given by J. Fred Springer, Director of Research, EMT Associates, Inc. and Professor Emeritus in Political Science and Public Policy Administration on Wednesday January 17 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in 75 J.C. Penney building. The topic is "Toward More Relevant Policy Research: The National Cross-Site Evaluation of High Risk Youth Programs."

The second seminar will be given by Dr. Carole Murphy, Associate

Professor, College of Education. She will be discussing her research in education. The topic is titled "Creating the 21st Century School: Promising Practices." This seminar will be held in the Cypress Room in the University Center from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The third seminar will be conducted by Dr. Bruce Jacobs, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice. He will be discussing his book "Robbing Drug Dealer: Violence Beyond the Law." The seminar will be at 229 J.C. Penney from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

There are two more lectures in this series that will be given in April. The Metropolitan Issues Forum is also running throughout the semester. On January 24, 2001, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., the PPRC will be conducting a seminar "Blending the New and Old Economies." On January 26, another seminar in this series will be conducted, titled "Nurturing Regionalism in the St. Louis Area."

"The goal of this seminar series is to have faculty present the work they are doing. It is a good way for students to see the connection between academic and scholarly research, their career paths, and the real world around them. It is also an opportunity for students to see what the faculty at UM-St. Louis is doing," said Artibise.

For more information concerning the Public Policy Research Center and its events, students can check out their website at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/pprc/index.html>. Students can also call the Public Policy Research Center at 516-5273.

Children's advocacy center receives Mark McGwire foundation grant

BY LORI CALLANDER
special to The Current

The Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, a social service center at The University of Missouri - St. Louis, has been awarded with a \$50,000 grant from The Mark McGwire Foundation for Children. This grant, as well as funds from state organizations and private donors, supports the services provided by the center to sexually abused children and their families.

CASGSL began its important work in 1997 through the suggestion of Kathy J. Weinman, the generous contributor of the funds needed for

CASGSL's child-friendly building, located on UMSL's South Campus. The center moves forward with the mission to improve the St. Louis community's response to child sexual abuse by providing a variety of services in this central location. Through providing investigation and legal services, as well as on-going individual, family, and group therapy, the center works to ease the aftermath of abuse and helps survivors cope with the trauma during the process of recovery. There is no limit to the number of visits a sexually abused child and his or her family can make to the center, and no child is ever turned away because of a lack of financial resources.

The center not only serves the pub-

lic, but also contributes to the education of UMSL graduate students. Under the supervision of a team of professional staff members, these students gain valuable work experience in the fields of psychology, social work, and counseling. To learn more about the services and resources offered by the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, or to find out about internship opportunities there, log onto the CASGSL website: www.safekidsmo.com

CASGSL's collaboration with Cardinals baseball slugger, Mark McGwire, further serves the St. Louis community by bringing awareness of the issues surrounding child sexual abuse. The director of the center, Jeff

Wherry, explains that, "Mark McGwire's gift to our agency will greatly help the children we serve. However, beyond the financial gift, his attention to this topic has legitimized its discussion and helped more children come forward to get the help they need."

Susan Scribner, CASGSL's associate director, agreed, saying, "to have a well known sports figure associated with this issue makes it less taboo."

By creating the Mark McGwire Foundation for Children, the sports hero utilizes his infamy and his salary to make a positive impact on adults, as well as children. In his call for public attention to this serious matter, McGwire states, "we catch a glimpse

of the future when we look into the faces of our nation's children...tomorrow's generation is being shaped today by the environment in which they live. Whether or not this environment nurtures them to become caring and productive citizens rests in our hands." McGwire encourages adults and children to join his team by becoming educated on prevention. To learn more about how several St. Louis organizations are working to strike out child abuse, visit the Mark McGwire Foundation for Children website: <http://www.yahoo.com/promotions/mcgwire>.

EMMA JONES

EDITOR

WE NEED ONE!
features editor

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QUOTES

"Human misery must somewhere have a stop: there is no wind that always blows a storm."

-Euripides
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

"It is a painful thing to look at your own trouble and know that you yourself and no one else has made it."

-Sophocles
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

"Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never happen."

-James Russell Lowell
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

"A diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor the man perfected without trials."

-Chinese Proverb
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

"The best way out of a difficulty is through it."

-Anonymous
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

STUDENT OPINION

EDITORIAL BOARD

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ANNE PORTER

"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.

Under Current
by **Mutsumi Igarashi**
staff photographer

What is your New Year's resolution?

OUR OPINION

First Amendment protects freedom of student press, too

Two hundred twelve years ago, the First Amendment established the freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and petition for all Americans. The one other major component of the First Amendment was freedom of the press, which is one reason why we are still printing today.

As a student newspaper for a major university, The Current is obligated to report on controversial issues that may or may not be detrimental to the university's image in the public eye.

However, because we exercise our rights under the Constitution, we are protected when we do print a story that the University may deem damaging to its reputation.

In a strange twist of events, those rights were threatened, thanks in part to a 13-year-old court case involving a local high school.

On Jan. 13, 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a ruling made by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit Court in St. Louis.

The case was *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*. A high school newspaper had published a story discussing birth control and pregnancy. The article used a "direct discussion" format that involved students addressing the issues, but not in particularly graphic terms.

The Eighth Circuit Court upheld the students' rights of press and speech.

The Supreme Court overturned that ruling, saying the principal did have the discretion to censor the paper's content because it was not a public forum and it was school supported. The justices also cited the age level of the students.

Now flash-forward to 1994. The administration of Kentucky State University confiscated 2000 year-

books, saying they were poor quality (actually meaning no school colors were used), had too many photos of celebrities, and current events, and they had "inappropriate titles" (The yearbook was titled "Destination Unknown").

Laura Cullen, adviser for the yearbook, filed a grievance with KSU and lawsuit. Her lawsuit and appeals were thrown out on the premise that her rights hadn't been violated and that she was no longer employed by the university. Cullen resigned one year after the incident.

A student from KSU, Charles Kincaid, joined the lawsuit, allowing it to go to court.

The court ruled in favor of KSU based on *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*.

Kincaid v. Gibson was appealed three times, all in the favor of KSU.

Then the students filed a petition for another hearing with a panel of 13 federal appellate judges.

On Jan. 5, 2001, the judges declared that *Hazelwood vs. Kuhlman* did not apply to *Kincaid vs. Gibson* because of the difference in the ages and sophistication of the students—high school in *Hazelwood*, and college in *Kincaid*.

"The KSU officials' confiscation of the yearbook violates the First Amendment and University has no constitutionally valid reason to withhold distribution of the 1992-94 *Thorobred* from KSU students from that era," the court's opinion stated.

We agree with this ruling. Before this case, various court rulings over the years have held that college journalists have the same rights as their professional counterparts. Without our First Amendment protection, we would be unable to truly do our duty to the campus community—to report the news, even when it's bad news.

The issue:

Kentucky State University administrators confiscated the school yearbook on questionable terms, violating the rights of the students who produced it. A federal court has ruled in favor of the students, but the university could appeal to the Supreme Court.

We suggest:

The Supreme Court should uphold the rights and freedoms of student journalists if the case is brought before it.

So what do you think?

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

Kincaid vs. Gibson may not be over. If KSU chooses to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court, then college journalists across the nation will have to wait yet again. It is our hope that if the Supreme Court were to hear such an appeal, it would recognize the constitutional rights of the student journalists who produced the *Thorobred*, and in doing so, protect the rights of other students across America.

Battle ends in ultimate victory for one warrior

Grandma Becker was a warrior in her own ways. She was certainly a prayer warrior. Before I left to go to Israel after Christmas, she told me she was a little concerned about the trip, and that she would pray for my safety. One of my cousins said he thought I was crazy to go there in the midst of all the violence.

Israel was safe and the trip was fantastic. But one night I thought about my cousin. He's a nice guy, but he likes to tease. I worried that he might try to scare Grandma.

I called her from the hotel basement after a few nights to tell her I had been to the Old City in Jerusalem, and that everything was fine. I think it was New Year's Eve, though I'm not sure. I could hear a party in the background, which is standard for that side of the family. They have lots and lots of get-togethers. She was glad that I called. Every day, she said, she was praying for my protection. And she knew I would be taken care of. I couldn't stay on the phone long. But I'm glad I was able to reach her.

When I got back to St. Louis, the first thing I did on the way home was drop off my film to be developed. I knew I would be at a friend's party and people would want to see them. I also knew we were going to see Grandma that weekend. Her cancer was pretty bad by then, and family members from all branches of the tree were coming by to see

her, perhaps for the last time.

I spent some time sharing my pictures with her, trying to express the things I had seen and experienced on the trip without overwhelming her or talking too long. As we talked, she leaned farther and farther to the left, slightly contorted until finally she adjusted herself. She didn't say it, but I knew her back hurt. She was fighting the pain. She was a warrior.

And, oh, how she loved Jesus. So strong was her assurance, so solid her faith. Her eyes lit up when I told her about Jerusalem and Galilee, and the Jordan River. I described the realization that hit me as we drove along the Sea of Galilee. All at once, the story came to life. I could see

Jesus crossing the sea in a fishing boat with his disciples. I wish she could have seen it, seen the very places she read about everyday in her Bible, come to life at last.

The irony is, she's pulled one over on me. After we were done looking at the pictures, I remembered about the spectacular New Jerusalem the Bible describes, and I mentioned it to her. It's a place I've read a lot about and now she's seeing it. I'll just have to wait for my turn.

When my turn comes, I hope I can face reality as bravely as Grandma Becker. She was a warrior, after all.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Note to telemarketers - Never ask for Mr. Porter

It always happens. I'm behind schedule and just walking out the door and then the phone rings.

It's even better when I'm just finished with my shower, usually the most relaxing part of the day, and the phone rings.

We have caller ID, which I greatly value, but sometimes those "Out of Area" or "Private Call" labels get the best of my intuition that tells me to not answer the phone.

The other day, for example, I was running late as usual and just stepping out of the shower, and I decided to pick up the receiver.

The man on the other end said, "Is Mr. Humphrey available?"

To be honest I don't remember what last name he said, but I do know it wasn't mine.

I responded, "You have the wrong number."

He then said, "That's okay, you are still eligible for this promotion."

I am not aware of whoever this telemarketer was originally looking for, but I am aware that they probably do not fit same profile as me credit-wise or in any other possible way that same offer should apply to both of us.

I then said my normal response, "I am not interested."

My general attitude towards telemarketers is that I understand they have jobs just like the rest of us and so I treat them with respect . . . to a point.

When one disregards my statement, which I consider to be very

polite one, I simply repeat it.

If they act like I never spoke a second time and ramble on with their tirade, I gently place the receiver back on the base of the telephone.

Back to my example, the man then said, "I'm not trying to sell you anything."

To me, this phrase starts the warning sirens ringing in my mind.

And I again said for the second time, "I am not interested."

And "Relentless Man" continues on with something, which I don't know because I was ending the very one-sided conversation.

My other great story about telemarketers comes from my roommate.

Lorrie told me that one evening, someone called and asked for Mr. Porter—how wrong is that?

I moved out of my parents' house about a year ago and I'm pretty certain that I have not gotten married in the past few months.

As Lorrie said, "They must not have done their research."

My one wish, at least for this column, is when I say I am not interested in whatever product, service, new invention or magazine of the month some telemarketer may attempt to sell me, please respect me.

Trust me, the company behind the business will look so much more reputable, in my eyes at least, that if I should ever need that particular item or operation, I will have a much better recognition in my memory.

Maybe they might earn my business by listening to me and letting me call them at a later date.



ANNE PORTER
managing editor

GUEST COMMENTARY

Honors College offers students a lot

What do these numbers mean to you: 134 freshmen and 71 new transfer students last August, 460 total students; average class size 13:1; 75 or more Missouri Bright Flight students (nearly one third of the entire school's Bright Flight scholars)? If you said, "I don't know," you are not alone. The UM-St. Louis Pierre LaClede Honors College is one of the best-kept secrets on this campus. But it's here, and it's open for business.

Located on the South Campus next to Incarnate Word Academy, the Honors College has been a part of the campus academic program for over a decade. In short, its mission is simple, "...to enrich the educational experiences of its students by providing a challenging general education curriculum based chiefly on the traditional disciplines of the arts and sciences [and] to foster an intellectual climate in which democracy, diversity, excellence and civility are fundamental, coequal values."

Okay, maybe that isn't quite so simple, but it basically means the Honors College wants to provide a challenging seminar environment to enrich and enhance the analytical skills of students and to produce intelligent, thinking and productive graduates who thirst for knowledge forever. (Somehow that does not seem so simple either.)

Many Honors College students graduate with Latin honors—summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude—because the analytical skills they work so hard to enhance tend to carry over to their main campus course work. Honors students take their studies seriously enough to enjoy them, and they enjoy other

things, too. Many are active in campus activities (soccer, basketball, fraternities, clubs and organizations), and the Pierre LaClede Honors College Student Association softball team is a three-time campus intramural softball champion. In addition, the student body is very diverse. The Honors College has over 27 countries and 14 states represented within its student body.

Main campus students who are freshmen, sophomores, or first-semester juniors may apply to the Honors College for fall or winter semesters, and for either the two, two-plus, or four-year program. The choice of program is based on the student's level of academic achievement prior to entering. A basic rule of thumb is that four-year students will take approximately 40 credit hours in the Honors College, two plus-year students around 28 hours, and two-year students roughly 22 hours.

Students choose seminars that meet the University's general education requirements and also breadth and diversity requirements (e.g. global awareness and cultural diversity) for specific majors and minors. Some Honors courses meet major requirements, and there is the added opportunity of pursuing scholarship-supported undergraduate research through the Honors College Independent Study program.

In addition, the Honors College has teamed up with the colleges of business and nursing, and the School of Optometry, to develop collaborative degree programs. The Honors in Optometry program takes the normal eight-year program and makes it a seven-year program when the courses

are taken in proper sequence. The Honors and International Business program is a true innovation, and although it only began in August 2000, other universities are already asking us about it.

The Honors program fosters a small seminar-style learning approach with a heavy emphasis on classroom participation and written assignments. Each seminar's goal is to help students build a knowledge base, form their thoughts, articulate them on paper and sight-review them before presenting them for others' review and analysis. Sight editing is a major objective of the Honors College Writing Program, which operates in parallel with the student's seminar work. The resulting personal portfolio serves as a collection of the student's works and can be used as a reservoir of writing for job interviews, graduate and professional school applications, or simply as a measure of one's academic success over the years.

So, there you have it. The cat is out of the bag, the Honors College has been exposed. This program is a diamond in our University cluster, shining bright for many to bask in its success. For more information about the Honors College, contact the admissions office at (314) 516-7769, stop by the Honors College, or ask one of the many students sitting in your class who are in the program. Applications are accepted daily, students are admitted based on their academic performance and potential, and scholarships are awarded to top performers.

--Todd A. Taylor
Admissions Counselor



John Dale
Junior / M.I.S.

To see 2002.



Alicia Carmier
Freshman / Business

Quit smoking.



Anna Madison
Junior / Business, M.I.S.

To get a 4.0 this semester.



Scott Cerrich
Freshman / Undecided

I have two: to treat people with more respect, and to work harder this semester.

Ross scores 1000 points

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Rivermen's basketball team won their first conference game of the year over SIU-Edwardsville, but something happened in record-setting on the first two points that the Rivermen scored in the game.

Senior guard Greg Ross dribbled the ball into the lane and missed a lay-up, but on his tip-in, only 1:36 into the game, he became only the 14th player in Rivermen's basketball history to record 1,000 points in a career.

Ross currently leads the Rivermen in scoring with 13.4 points per game, which is good enough for 21st in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. He also ranks third in the GLVC in free throws with 87.7 percent accuracy.

When asked about the great honor that he had reached, Ross was ever mindful of his present team.

"I just wanted to get the win first and I was going to let the points come later," Ross said. "We have been struggling a little bit this last month or so. We just needed a win. That was just second hand that 1,000 point thing."

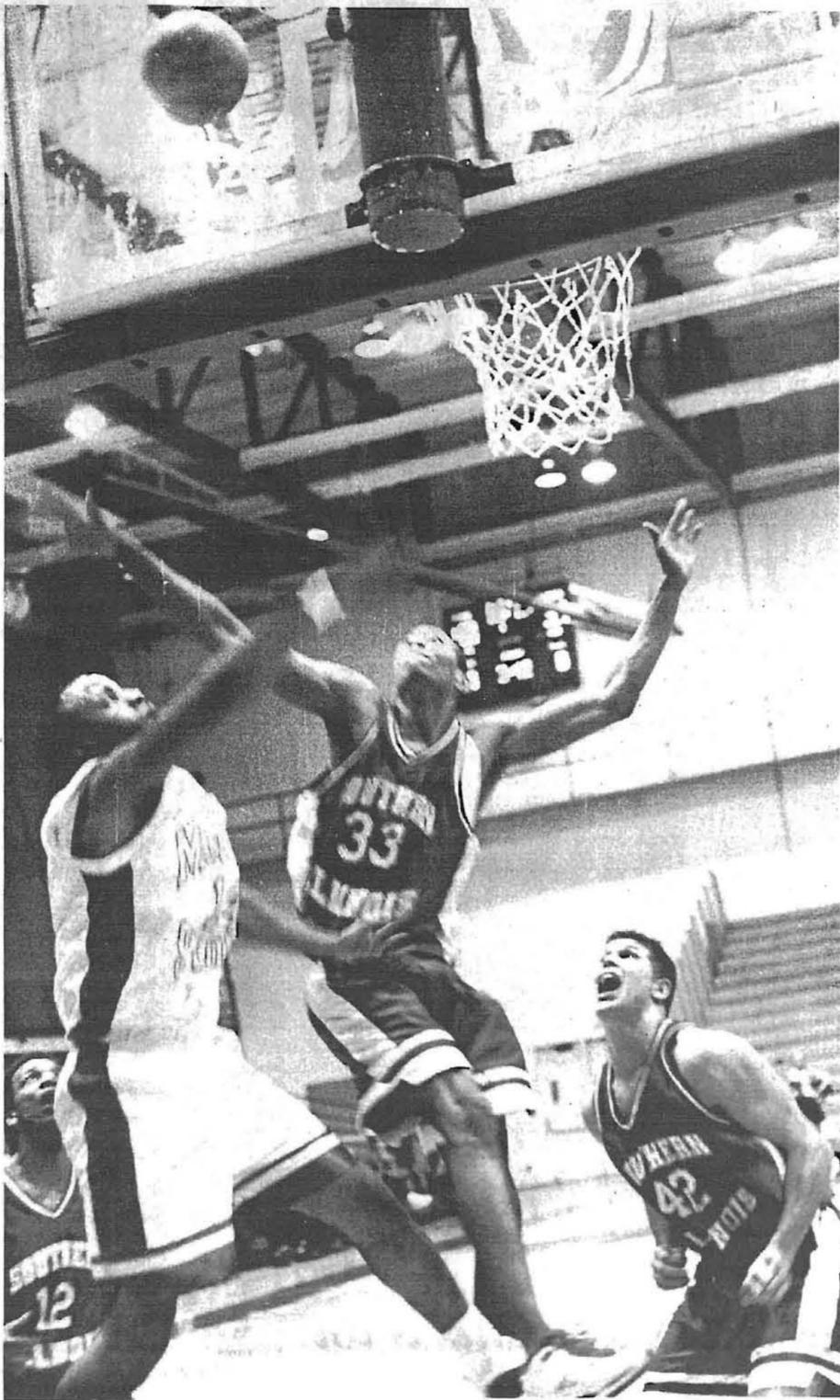
Head Coach Mark Bernsen had nothing but high praise for his senior guard.

"Greg has worked hard his entire career here and he deserves everything that he gets," Bernsen said. "I was glad to see him get that first tip-in and get it over with because I am sure it was on his mind—wanting to get that 1,000 point and then just play. After that first tip-in, he relaxed and I thought played very, very well and under control. When he sees something is not up to par, he will try to fix it and be a complete player. He is a credit to the Rivermen and UM-St. Louis basketball history."

Bernsen also talked about how consistent Ross has been now since his high school days at Normandy High School.

"One of the big things that has been consistent all four years is Chico Jones," Bernsen said. "If you see a picture of Greg right now and a picture of him when he was a senior in high school, the big difference is his added strength. That allows him to go to the basket strong and get rebounds. I think Coach Jones also deserves as much as anybody for Greg's improvement, besides Greg."

Ross' parents were on attendance to witness their son's great accomplishment and never had a doubt about their son's abilities.



Darren Brunel/The Current

Riverman Greg Ross goes up for a rebound at last Wednesday's victory against SIU-Edwardsville. During the first few minutes of the game Ross scored his 1000th career point.

see ROSS, page 7

Rivermen break bad streak

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The men's basketball team ended an 0-5 skid in the Great Lakes Valley Conference by notching their first conference victory of the season over SIU-Edwardsville 74-58.

UM-St. Louis set the tone early as they led 24-12 with only 10:00 remaining in the first half. The Rivermen then extended that lead to push the margin to 37-21 going into half-time.

"Greg [Ross] made some key three-pointers early in the game and that helped," Head Coach Mark Bernsen said.

Ross agreed that the team worked together in the first half to jump ahead early against SIU-Edwardsville.

"We were trying to make the extra pass and get a better shot," Ross said. "I just seemed to get on that extra pass and made a couple of shots and built some confidence from there."

In the second half, the team relied upon their defensive pressure to force a total of 25 turnovers in the game while the offense shot 41 percent from the field for the game.

"I thought we got a little stale in the middle of the second half and the missed free throws became contagious," Bernsen said. "That can get you in trouble, but we held on and didn't have a big problem."

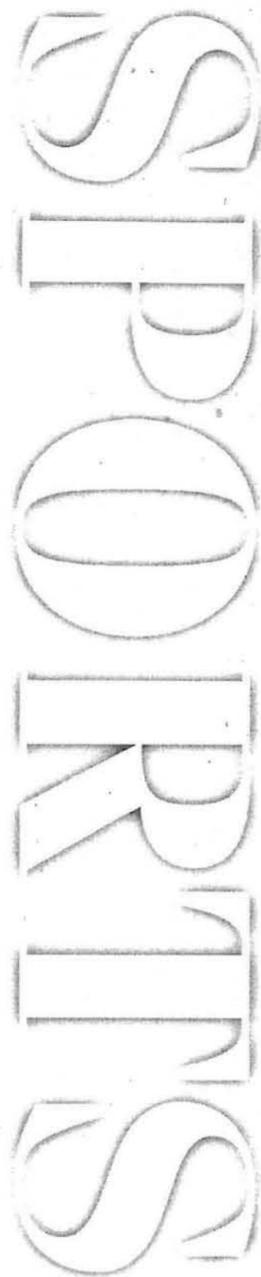
With the first conference victory of the season, it is a stepping stone for the road-bound Rivermen thus far.

"It is important that we build off of this and it is a step in the right direction," Bernsen said. "There were two things that pleased me tonight. One was our defensive presence on the floor and then also our rebounding. I think that both of those things, no matter even with our poor shooting especially in the second half, I believe the defensive presence and the rebounding kept us in the game."

Senior guard Greg Ross paced the team with 18 points, pushing himself over the 1,000 point mark for his career. Guard Michael Hamilton added 13 while guard Anthony Love also tallied 11 in the victory.

The Rivermen now move on to take on Southern Indiana in their second home conference matchup. USI (11-0, 5-0 GLVC) comes into the con-

see RIVERMEN, page 7



EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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GAMES

Men's Basketball

at St. Joseph's
7:30 pm, Thur., Jan. 18

at IPFW
3:00 pm EST, Sat., Jan. 20

v. Indianapolis
7:45 pm, Thur., Jan. 25

Women's Basketball

at St. Joseph's
5:30 pm, Thur., Jan. 18

at IPFW
1:00 pm EST, Sat., Jan. 20

v. Indianapolis
5:30 pm, Thur., Jan. 25

Visit the UMsl athletics website at

www.umsl.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html

Riverwomen score five straight wins over break

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

With a five-game winning streak on the line that the Riverwomen's basketball team built up over the course of the Christmas break, SIU-Edwardsville came into town and ended the streak, defeating the Riverwomen 67-51.

Turnovers and rebounding was the key to the first half as SIU-Edwardsville forced UM-St. Louis into 14 first half turnovers and led 39-25 at half-time. SIU-Edwardsville also held the Riverwomen to 30 percent from the field in the first half.

In the second half, the Riverwomen played even with SIU-Edwardsville, but the Riverwomen still shot a low 25 percent from the field, while SIU-Edwardsville shot 52 percent. The team was led by senior guard Tanisha Albert who tallied 14 points in the loss.

"We just wanted to contain the boards tonight, and we didn't do that, obviously 42-23 and if you can't contain the boards, I don't think you are going to be in many ballgames," Head Coach Shelly Ethridge said. "The other factor in losing this game

tonight was that they shot 51 percent and we shot only 28 percent for the whole game. There again, if you are shooting as poorly as we do, more rebounds will go to them. We have to convert turnovers. I think always, our kids give 100 percent and the effort is there. We just need to be able to execute. It just wasn't a good outing tonight."

This Riverwomen's team has been compared to last season's NCAA team because of the 4-4 start only to hit a winning streak over Christmas break, but Ethridge still believes it is going to be a tough road ahead in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

"Going into the Christmas break, 4-4," Ethridge said. "The past two years we have been 4-4 and of course, last year's team went to the NCAA Tournament. We have a long road ahead of us for that to happen again. I think again that the talent is there and it is just a question of us putting it all together to be there in the end."

The Riverwomen were unbeaten in the last five games as they boosted

see RIVERWOMEN, page 7

Club returns strong from break with 18-1-1 record

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

As the St. Louis region has experienced weeks of sub-freezing weather, the University of Missouri-St. Louis ice hockey club has kept warm in the comfort of an 18-1-1 overall record. The Rivermen have not lost a contest since Oct. 27, dropping a 5-6 decision to Bradley University.

Since then, the squad has streaked to the top of the Mid-America Collegiate Hockey Association standings, despite their early-game woes. The Rivermen have had trouble all season-long with intensity levels in the first period of their contests.

"For some reason or another, we have trouble getting started in the first period, and it's hurt us," said Head Coach Derek Schaub. "We've enjoyed a great season so far, but still have not reached our potential."

Offensively, the Rivermen have excelled. With freshman forward Jeff Wear heading the attack, the shooters have found the net an average of eight times per game, and outscored opponents by 45 points on the year. Wear currently leads the team in scoring with 63 points on the year. This also

places him with the top forwards in the MACHA.

"It's a sweet feeling to have this much success this early," said Wear. "We've been blessed with a great team, we're winning games and our leadership in the dressing room is incredible."

That leadership, provided by Schaub and team captain Craig Duffy, has added to the cohesiveness of this squad.

"With the type of guys on this team, it allows me to find and use everyone's unique skills," said Schaub. "We really don't have the one line that stands out above the rest. This squad is very deep."

Unlike last season, where Schaub lost his team captain and two other players at semester, this team will look to retain its winning form through the second semester. In fact, the Rivermen will add two fresh faces to their colorful roster with John Yacovelli and Joe Kuene suiting up in the maroon and gold.

Yacovelli is a transfer student from Division III St. Mary's (Minnesota) where he found time on the ice. Kuene will get a late start on the 2000-2001 campaign. Neither

will be new to the system, however, as Yacovelli played under Schaub for the 2000 state champion Francis Howell North roller hockey club, and Kuene is a local. In addition, defenseman Josh Ulrich, who was Duffy's compliment during last season's campaign, will return to the ice to add some much-needed strength to a very thin defense. Ulrich will probably line up with Duffy, with the other four swapping out.

As of Dec. 14, the Rivermen were not ranked in either the regional or national polls, despite their 12-1-1 standing. Much of this is attributed to a relatively weak schedule over the stretch.

UMSL is in good shape to finish strong for a trip to the MACHA finals. The teams only recorded injury, Jake ToJd, will be in action effective Jan. 12.

"The layoff made us a little sluggish, but we should be in good form for the finish," said Wear. "We've got a solid team, and the roster changes are more than welcome. We just need to take care of our business: winning hockey games. That's what we're here for and we don't need any other reason to win."

Lemieux's triumphant return to NHL widely accepted



LATEST SCOOP
NICK BOWMAN

On December 27, 2000, do you remember where you were? I certainly do.

With my Bud Ice in the left hand and a Sony remote in the right, I found myself seated ever-so-delicately in the comfort of my sofa, watching a little boy in a press box attending a hockey game.

Austin Lemieux, 6, was standing in the center of Fleet Center, eyes wide open and mouth agape as a gigantic No. 66 was lowered from the hallowed rafter spot above the ice. Austin had heard stories of his father's greatness, but at two years old never recalled watching him play.

His favorite National Hockey League player is the Pittsburgh Penguin's own Jaromir Jagr.

It was hard for Austin to fully know what exactly was transpiring at the time. Why was everyone so excited that his dad was going to play hockey? His dad IS hockey in Pittsburgh. His dad is the guy who pays Jagr and company to play the sport. His dad is the man in the black suit that sits in the nice glass booth and sips Chandon Brut as if it was water.

It took 33 seconds to change everything. As dad skated onto the frozen pond, roars of acceptance

erupted as he made his way to the face-off circle. Pittsburgh took control of the biscuit, and Lemieux, camped behind the Toronto net, fed a hungry Jagr for a goal.

This was Dad; the same guy who skated onto the NHL scene in 1984 as the first pick overall of the Pittsburgh Penguins. The guy who, during his first career, took three All-Star Most Valuable Player awards home, the first of which came in 1985, where as rookie he netted two goals and one assist. Lemieux shot 20 percent over 13 seasons of grandeur, finding the back of the net 613 times. The guy who waged war on Hodgkin's dis-

ease and won.

Dad would go on to add another assist and a goal en-route to a 5-0 blanking of the Leafs.

But Austin wanted a hat trick. So in the next five games, Dad scored five more goals and eight more assists to tally in with 16 points in his first six games back.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman will most likely offer Lemieux, whose name is not on the All-Star ballot, a position with the North American All-Stars for the 51st NHL All-Star game. Is there anyone better? Not in recent times as Lemieux has taken over and domi-

nated the NHL ever since his return. He has made Jagr a goal scoring threat anywhere on the ice now and the Penguins are now in the hunt to make a considerable run at the Stanley Cup with Lemieux back. There is no team or no player who is as good as Lemieux with the Penguins throughout this season thus far.

Lemieux left the game in 1997, but the game never left him and it never will.

As for Austin, he may be a No. 66, but he's still a fan of No. 68. So maybe Dad is the best player to grab a stick. Where's that hat trick?



The 10 best movies of Y2K

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

It is traditional at the end of the year or beginning of the new one to make a list of the ten best films of the past year. This New Year's Day marked not only the end of the year but also the end of the decade, century and millennium. Since film itself is about 100 years old, I thought I would make up lists for the best of the decade and the best of the century (which would also be the best of the millennium for film).

Many of the year's best films open around Christmas, so it was much better to wait until after the new year had begun to make this kind of list. If you've seen many movies this year, you know that this has not been a good year for films, a fact that is especially glaring because the previous year was so wonderful, so waiting to

make this list until after the holidays was critical this year. As you will notice on this top-ten list, many of the year's best were films that just opened here.

So here is my Top Ten List for 2000:

1. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" - Ang Lee's tour-de-force Chinese epic combines a compelling period story steeped in mythology, heart-pounding martial arts action sequences, lush photography, and gorgeous sets and costumes into a film with both broad appeal and great beauty. Features martial arts stars Chow Yun Fat and Michelle Yeoh.

2. "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" - this latest film by the Coen brothers, who brought us "Raising Arizona" and "Fargo" among others, may be their best yet. Loosely based on Homer's Odyssey, but re-set in the 1930s South with the protagonist a fugitive from a chain gang, the film is

funny, bizarre, entertaining, with a great period musical soundtrack. Stars George Clooney in what is clearly his best movie role to date.

3. "High Fidelity" - directed by Stephen Frears and featuring John Cusack, this film is probably the one of the best movies about relationships ever made, both comic and thoughtful, with wonderfully drawn characters and presented in a uniquely creative way with a great pop music soundtrack. A very polished, fully developed film that can be enjoyed over and over.

4. "Shower" - a Chinese film about a brother estranged from his family, that is also about the conflict between the new and old, family relationships, and changing society overall. The characters are unique, real, appealing, and fully drawn and nothing is predictable and pat. The photography is both simple and amazingly beautiful. A simply beautiful and real-

istic film with deep appeal.

5. "A Time for Drunken Horses" - a hit of the St. Louis International Film Festival that stayed on for a theatrical run, this Iranian film with non-actors tells a gripping tale of children caught up in the crossfire of war. Dramatic and unsentimental, the power lies in the story itself.

6. "Dinner Rush" - another hit of the film festival, this wonderful comedy tells the tale of one night in the life of a successful New York restaurant. A big winner at many film festivals and scheduled to return here in a few months.

7. "State and Main" - David Mamet's ("The Spanish Prisoner," "The Winslow Boy") latest film pokes fun at both the film industry and people who are awed by it in this comedy about what happens when a movie company invades a small town to shoot a movie. Very funny.

8. "Saving Grace" - funny, with

an original and appealing story about a very proper new widow's unique solution to her new financial difficulties. Polished performances, and perfect timing. Great charm and humor, and never predictable.

9. "Meet the Parents" - a comedy with marvelous performances by Ben Stiller and Robert deNiro that features some of the best visual comedy in years. Extremely well constructed visual gags, nicely underplayed by Ben Stiller and with great comic flair from deNiro. One of the best slapstick-style comedies of recent years.

10. "Requiem for a Dream" - the gritty follow up the director's previous independent film, "Pi." A well-done chilling film about drugs, not for the faint-of-heart. Powerful stuff.

Some honorable mentions: Chicken Run, Chocolat, Wonder Boys, X-Men, Girlfight, Croupier, Shaft, Return of the Idiot, Dancer in the Dark, and American Psycho.

EDITOR

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a&e editor

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MUSIC

January

17
Echelon
Grace Lutheran Chapel

Fat Apple
Cicero's

19
Kelis
Firehouse

21
El Buho
7 p.m.
Hi-Pointe

25
Freelance Bishops
Cicero's

Eddie Money
Pageant

27
North Mississippi All Stars
9 p.m.
Blueberry Hill

27
Steve March Torme
8 p.m.
Sheldon Concert Hall

30
Michael Burks
8 p.m.
Generations

30
Galactic
with Les Claypool's Frog
Brigade & Lake Trout
8 p.m.
Pageant

FILM REVIEW

Rent captivates St. Louis audiences at the Fox

BY TOM WOMBACHER
of The Current staff

In a single sentence "Rent" is defined by Jonathan Larson, writer, composer and lyricist of the production, as "about a community celebrating life, in the face of death and AIDS, at the turn of the century."

Shown at the Fox Theater from Dec. 19-23, "Rent" is based on "La Bohème," Giacomo Puccini's famous opera written near the end of the 19th century. But the fact that "Rent" was produced and first performed only five years ago immediately suggests to those unfamiliar with the vivacious rock-musical that it is not going to be like any other show.

It begins Christmas Eve with a brief narrative by Mark (Matt Caplan), who describes the poor living conditions of the apartment he shares with his roommate Roger (Cary Shields) who just found out his girlfriend committed suicide upon discovering she and Roger have AIDS. Now Roger refuses to leave the apartment. Later he meets Mimi (Dominique Roy), a spunky, young dancer with a drug problem who teaches Roger to "live each moment as your last." At the end of the first act, Roger and Mimi each discover the other has AIDS.

Meanwhile, Benny, Mark's and Roger's former roommate who now owns the building and the lot next-door, wants to evict all the tenants, including a number of homeless who have taken refuge in the neighboring lot, so that he can build a new cyber-

arts studio. Mark's ex-girlfriend, Maureen (Maggie Benjamin), who left Mark for Joanne, plans a performance protest against Benny's studio for midnight Christmas Eve. Against this backdrop, Maureen and Joanne struggle with their relationship through the remainder of the show, as do Roger and Mimi.

Another friend of Mark's and Roger's is a HIV-positive teacher named Tom Collins (Mark Richard Ford) who was recently fired then mugged, en route to meeting Mark and Roger. Collins finds comfort in the arms of Angel (Shaun Earl), a jovial drag queen who is also HIV-positive and who was recently paid \$1000 to kill an obnoxious dog, an Akita we later learn belongs to Benny.

"Rent" is more closely related to a rock concert than your typical Oklahoma musical. Performed by an outstanding cast and under the direction of Michael Greif, it was a brilliant success. Dominique Roy and Maggie Benjamin both gave thrilling vocal performances on every one of their respective numbers.

The only problems the show really seemed to have were in the opening act. Mark, performed by Matt Caplan, gives a number of narrations in the first act, as well as performing his own role in the story. Unfortunately, his voice was barely audible at times. This seemed to pass after the first 45 minutes, but anyone who didn't do their homework before seeing the show

see RENT, page 7

CONCERT REVIEW

Disney's 'New Groove' is surprisingly entertaining

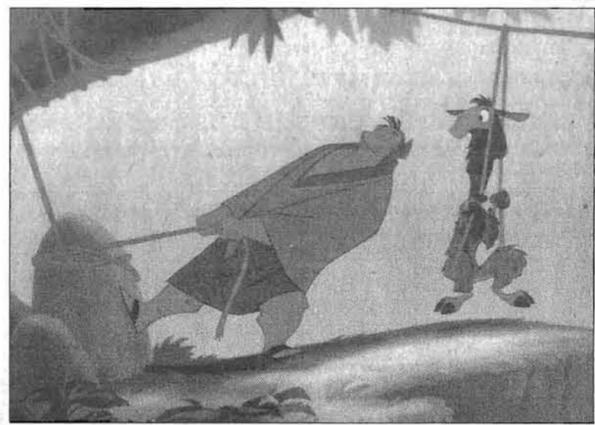
BY SARA PORTER
staff writer

With a title like the "Emperor's New Groove" and a plotline where the lead character spends most of the film as a llama, one isn't expecting Disney's latest feature to be a hard-hitting drama, but what was unexpected was this to be the funniest and most entertaining film from last year, animated or otherwise.

The film focuses on Emperor Kuzco (David Spade), a spoiled, arrogant Incan ruler who fires his advisor Yzma (Eartha Kitt). Incensed, Yzma plots to kill the Emperor, but only succeeds, thanks to her inept henchman Kronk (Patrick Warburton), in turning Kuzco into a llama. Thrown out of the palace, Kuzco must get back to his home with the help of Pacha (John Goodman), a peasant whose home the emperor was intending to destroy in order to build a summer get-away.

This movie's animation is hardly the classic style of the later Disney movies, like "The Lion King" or "Mulan," but that doesn't really matter. Most of the characters are purposely drawn in caricature forms to enhance the humor. But the average animation helps the audience make way for the hilarious jokes and one-liners. Everybody has their moments, from Kuzco and Yzma to an unnamed waitress (played by Patti Deutsch).

This film also does a great job of



After reluctantly agreeing to help Emperor Kuzco (who has been turned into a llama), a good-natured peasant named Pacha (left) devises a plan for crossing a gorge.

'The Emperor's New Groove'
Length: 75 min.
Rated: G
Our opinion: ★★★★★

breaking the typical Disney mold by having a purposely unlikeable hero, non-identifiable love story, and hardly any songs. At times it almost reads like a Zucker parody of a Disney film, making light of some animated clichés like the villain falling to his or her death, or turning into a scary monster. There's even an on-air

"Theme Song Guy" (Tom Jones) to sing the songs in the film.

The voice acting is superb. Spade does his sarcastic wise-guy character well. Much of the humor comes from Kuzco's narration, where he says one thing, but thinks another. It's also refreshing to see an animated protagonist with identifiable flaws, making him more human.

Goodman's Pacha is the perfect contrast to Spade's Kuzco. Visually similar to Goodman, he is a kind, good-hearted center to the film. He also stands out for being one of the few Disney leads who are married

see GROOVE, page 7

America provided 20th century with jazz, films

This year is, of course, the real beginning of the new millennium and the new century, so I thought I'd take a look back, not at the whole millennium, but at the 20th century, from an arts and entertainment perspective. While many articles have been written over the past year about the technological and scientific advances and the social and political changes of the century, this has also been a time of sweeping changes in the arts and in entertainment.

One of the most striking things about the twentieth century is how much it was the American century. This is true in arts and entertainment too, as America was the source of the two new great art forms of the century: jazz and film. The century saw changes in all forms of art, mostly in a change from more confined expres-

sion to freer and looser styles, as painting moved from the representational to the abstract to pop art and mixed media. Theater moved from the conventional to the experimental, partially in response to competition from new forms of entertainment and the rise of popular entertainment. Photography blossomed as art and gave rise to a new form—film. The novel and poetry evolved into new forms unexpected by previous generations.

Something that was key was the rising power of popular entertainment. No longer were entertainment and art only for the wealthy few, but they became accessible to the middle and work classes as well, first with popular forms like vaudeville and the Broadway musical, and later thanks to the spread of new technologies—recordings, radio, movies, and later

television. Technology made entertainment global and created the international superstar—Charlie Chaplin, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, the Beatles, even Michael Jordan. America's role in the development of these new technologies and new art forms are why this world culture has an American flavor.

America's diversity played a large part in the evolution of these new art forms. Jazz, the great new music of the century, was created by Americans of African heritage, drawing on other developing American music forms like the blues, ragtime, and influences from European music. Later in the century, other emerging American music, bluegrass and country, combined with blues to yield another new form, rock music. American music also gave rise to swing and big band,

soul, Broadway musical showtunes, and other genres. Some of these musical forms both flowered and faded within the century, but it's hard to imagine a more amazing, outpouring of popular music.

The other great new art form of the twentieth century was film. In the late 1910s and 1920s, movies became a worldwide mania, and are probably the dominate art form of the century. Once again, America's diversity was its strength. Many of the founders of filmmaking in the 1910s were immigrants and many were Jewish, former nickelodeon operators and vaudevillians, who went on to run the big movie studios of the sound era and gave rise to the entertainment industry giants of the present. Hollywood in the twenties set the standard for what a movie should be, developing the basic

grammar and conventions of filmmaking, and dominating the new industry worldwide. Hollywood in the twenties was also the origin of the icon of "Hollywood"—international stardom, glamour and riches, stars engaged in excesses of self-indulgence, and the rags-to-riches story. The icons of stardom were passed down over time to popular stars in other fields—rock stars in the '60s, sport stars in the '80s.

So what's next for arts and entertainment in the new century? The periods of economic good times in the twenties and sixties gave rise to great expansions in popular art—especially film, jazz, and musical theater in the twenties and rock music and pop art in the '60s. The '90s have been good times too (although not really on the

see MARQUEE, page 7



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Court rules in favor of students in Kincaid vs. Gibson appeal

BY STEVE VALKO
staff writer

On Jan. 5, a ruling came down from a federal court that sided with the Kentucky State students in a dispute over yearbook distribution with the Kentucky State administration. The court reversed a lower court's ruling, saying KSU had censorship rights based on a case involving a high school censorship dispute in the St. Louis area.

In a 10-3 decision the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled in the Kincaid vs. Gibson case that the confiscation of yearbooks by KSU administrators for questionable content violated the students' First Amendment rights.

The dispute whether the yearbooks were to be distributed began in the fall of 1994. When KSU Vice President for Student Affairs Betty Gibson received a copy of the book before distribution, she ordered all of the yearbooks to be confiscated due to a problem with the quality. Specifically, the items which Gibson had a problem with were: the absence of the school colors (green and gold) on the yearbook, an "inappropriate title" for the yearbook called "Destination Unknown," the lack of captions underneath photographs, and too many photographs of celebrities

and current events.

In response to this action, Laura Cullen, KSU's student publication adviser, filed a complaint in March 1995 with the U.S. District for the Eastern District of Kentucky saying that the confiscation violated the students' First Amendment rights. Cullen, in her complaint, said the reason for the confiscation of the yearbooks was due to her support to unionize the school's employees who were non-academic.

After a year-long legal battle, which saw Cullen resign from KSU and KSU student Charles Kincaid join the lawsuit, Judge Joseph M. Hood sided with the school. In his ruling, he said that Cullen had no First Amendment rights in the case, and could not assert First Amendment rights for the KSU students.

The case was appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the lower court's decision. After the students amended their case, Judge Hood heard their case again. Judge Hood voted for dismissal in November 1997, citing the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier saying that the yearbook was not a public forum, and therefore the censorship claim was reasonable.

The students appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the three-judge panel sided with the

school again in a 2-1 verdict in September of 1999. Judge Alan E. Norris wrote the majority opinion, saying that KSU has a reasonable objective in censoring publications which might be detrimental to the University's image.

The students filed a petition to have the case reheard in front of a larger number of Federal Appellate Judges, which was granted. On January 5, 2001, the court came down with the ruling for the students. The judges disregarded the Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier case, saying that the Hazelwood case didn't apply because it dealt with high school and that the "university environment is the quintessential 'marketplace of ideas' which merits full, or indeed heightened, First Amendment protection."

The Student Press Law Center represented the students. Their Executive Director Mark Goodman said, "I can only hope that this ruling will serve as a wake-up call to other colleges and universities in the country that are inclined to censor the student press. This is a resounding endorsement of the free press rights of college journalists."

KSU had not said if they would appeal, however Student Press Law Center Attorney Mike Heistand says he wouldn't be surprised if KSU did appeal.

King's life was quest to secure equality for all

"Like everybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I am not concerned with that now. All I want to do is God's will. And he has allowed me to go up to the mountain top. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land."

"I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. So I am happy tonight. I am not worried about anything. I am not fearing any man. Because mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!"

These eloquent words came from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He spoke them on the evening of April 3, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. The language and tone of these words is truly haunting considering King would be shot and killed by a brutal assassin the next evening.

Jan. 15, 2000 would have been King's 72nd birthday. In honor of that, I dedicate this week's history column to his memory and life.

King was born Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga. King came from a family with a strong religious background. His father and maternal grandfather were both Baptist preachers.

King showed enormous intelligence, even at a young age. At age 15, he entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, a special school for gifted children. In 1948, he received a B.A. in liberal arts, and planned to go on to law school.

His father pressured him into entering the ministry instead.

For the next three years, King studied at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., receiving an M.A. in 1951, while graduating at

the top of his class.

It was at Crozer where King first became acquainted with the teachings of Gandhi, as well as with the writings of contemporary Protestant theologians.

From Crozer, King went on to Boston University, where he earned a Ph.D in 1955.

While at Boston University, King met Coretta Scott, who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. They were married in 1953, despite protests from King's father who felt that she was "too common" for his son.

King returned to Montgomery, Ala. in 1955, becoming the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

On Dec. 1 of that year, an incident took place that would help spark the civil rights movement. After a long day at work, an African-American woman, Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person.

Parks having broken Birmingham's segregation law, was arrested.

In response, an enormous boycott of the entire transit system in Montgomery was organized and King was elected as the leader of the newly formed Montgomery Improvement Association.

The boycott lasted 56 weeks, until the transit system, practically bankrupt, gave in and ended segregation on Montgomery city buses. It was a tremendous victory and propelled King to the forefront of national politics.

After this stunning victory, King organized and was elected head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

This organization gave him a plat-

form from which he could organize mass movements across the United States to combat discrimination.

The best example of this is his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech, which he delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, to about 250,000 people.

In this speech he spoke of a time when all people would be "judged not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character."

The speech itself spoke volumes about the essence of the man. He did not want special treatment for anyone—rather, equal treatment for everyone.

In 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize. It was the crowning achievement of his life.

In 1965, he led a march from Montgomery to Selma, Ala., in an effort to register African Americans who were being denied voting rights. He and his marchers were brutally attacked and turned away. However, King would not back away. Less than one month later, with the support of 750 federal marshals sent by President Lyndon Johnson, King entered Selma triumphantly.

King reached a turning point in 1966. He spoke out against the ongoing war in Vietnam. He felt that the war was immoral. His actions alienated Johnson and caused dissent within his own ranks.

By 1968, the United States was on the verge of revolution. The Vietnam War escalated. Racial tensions mounted. The nation was coming apart. In Memphis, sanitation workers went on strike for better wages. King traveled there to lend his support to their cause.

His lifelong quest for racial harmony came to an abrupt end at 6:01 p.m., April 4, 1968. While standing on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel talking with friends down below in the parking lot, he was felled by an assassin's bullet.

He was only 39 years old.



TIM THOMPSON
history columnist

I-70, from page 1

concrete. It will also be colored a light shade of red. Street light fixtures, like the ones on campus, will run all the way from the Florissant Rd. entrance down to the bridge itself," Darandari said. "The words, 'University of Missouri—St. Louis' will be placed on both sides of the bridge, giving people a nice first impression of the campus."

The project will not be without its difficulties, though. Gary Drikow, the resident engineer in charge of construction, expressed his thoughts on some of the upcoming challenges.

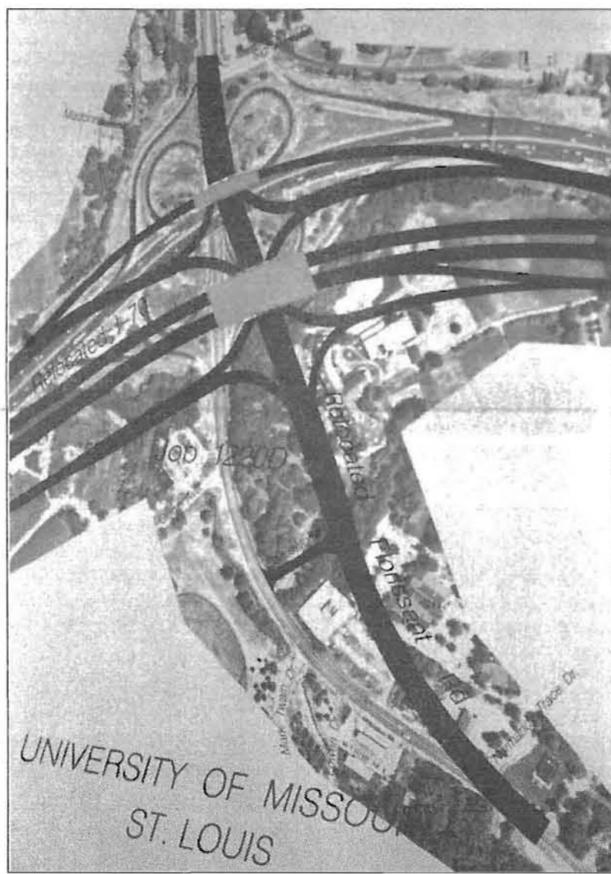
"The very first thing which will have to be done is the removal of 750,000 cubic yards of earth," Drikow said. "This will allow us to take the dangerous curve out of the highway, while making it lower and broader. It will go straight through the hills when we are finished."

Florissant Rd. will be relocated eastward and will literally "hug" the apartments which are presently opposite of UMSL along I-70.

Drikow described how the project's time table will be broken down.

"Eighteen months of the construction will be set aside for the completion of I-70 itself, while six months will be allotted for landscaping and work on the sides of the highway," he said. "In addition, we have set a target date for the end of June 2002 to have three eastbound and three westbound lanes completed on I-70."

Drikow said the interchange will look similar to the interchange of Manchester Rd. and Highway 141 in west St. Louis County when completed.



File Photo/The Current

This map shows the position of the relocated I-70 and Florissant Rd. superimposed over a photo of their present locations.

FEES, from page 1

slightly greater expenditures than revenues in fiscal year 2002.

In addition to family housing, increases in activity and facility fees are being proposed. UM-Columbia is proposing the most modest increase of 1.9 percent, while UMSL is proposing the highest increase of any school in the UM System at 4.5 percent.

Specifically at UMSL, the largest proposed increase is in the student activity fee which amounts to 22 percent, or \$2.50 per credit hour, and has already been approved by the students.

The Student Government Association, which hasn't raised any fees in three years, plans to use the proposed increase toward more student activities. To balance this increase out, there won't be a proposed increase in the University Center, student services, or ASUM fees. As a result, the average proposed increase of activity and facility fees at UMSL stands at 4.5 percent.

UMSL administrators have also placed on the table proposed fee increases in athletics, health services, and instructional computing.

If passed, the athletic fee increase will be \$0.50 per credit hour to \$8.50. On the other end of the spectrum, the health services fee increase will be a mere \$0.03 per credit hour to \$1.23, while instructional computing will increase \$0.30 per credit hour to \$8.90.

G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, offered an explanation for UMSL's proposed fee increases.

"Most of it has to do with compensation packages," Grace said. "It will go toward raises for faculty and staff members, as well as operating costs."

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11:30am		SPIN PLUS with Jeff		SPIN with Viv	Lo/Hi & Muscle 45 min. w/ Diane (I, A)	
12:00pm	Step & Muscle with Viv (I)		Cardio Mix with Diane (I, A)			
12:30pm		Tae Box with Diane (I, A)		Piloga with Viv (M)	SPIN INTERVAL with Diane	
1:00pm				Tae Box with Lisa (I)		
1:15pm	SPIN with Viv		SPIN with Diane			
1:30pm		Total Body Toning 30 min with Diane (M)			Piloga with Melissa (M)	
2:00pm			Yoga 90 min. w/ Melissa (M)	Total Body Toning 30 min. w/ Lisa (M)		
2:30pm					Step 30 min. w/ Melissa (I)	
3:00pm				Competition Training with Jeff (M)		
4:30pm	Total Body Toning 45 min. w/ Ricki (M)	SPIN with Rae		Total Body Toning 45 min. w/ Rae (M)		
5:30pm	SPIN with Ricki	Step Interval with Laura (B, I)	SPIN with Jim	Tae Box with Laura (M)		
	W.E.T. with Ricki (M)	W.E.T. with Rae (M)	Aqua Box with Rae (M)	Aqua Sculpt with Rae (M)		
6:45pm	Cardio Mix with Ricki (I)		Cardio Drills with Rae (M)			

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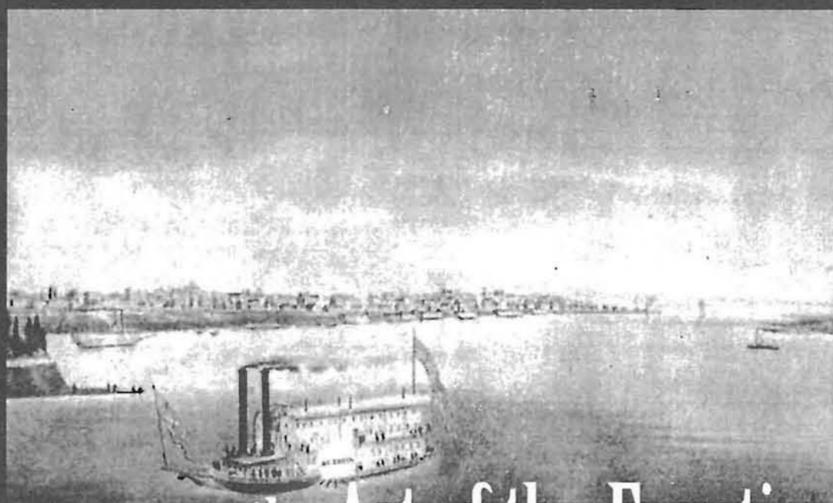
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