



Riverman focus on improvement See page 8

Judge's verdict shocks University System

Refunds may be issued to past, present students

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Students of the University of Missouri may soon be receiving a surprise. If Robert Herman has his way, past and present students of the UM-System will be receiving refunds of their "educational fees" that the school has been charging since its inception.

Herman took the UM-System to court after coming to the conclusion that "educational fees" was really just a way of getting around saying "tuition." A Missouri state law enacted in 1872 mandated free tuition at the state universities for all Missouri residents 16 and above to receive free tuition.

Herman stumbled upon the law five years ago, but he was not sure that he was correct in his determination.

"I read it a couple of times to make sure I was reading the right thing," Herman said. "(I was) thinking 'This is really going to come as a surprise to a lot of people.' I kept saying, 'How could this be? What am I missing?'"

According to Herman, he went to UM-St. Louis and picked up an admission package that he said used the term "tuition" several times.

Herman filed suit against the four-campus system after coming to the conclusion the schools were illegally charging tuition to in-state students. His suit, which was filed in 1998, was on behalf of former UM students Douglas Sharp and Sandra Lynn. He also needed an active student for the suit, so Herman contacted Frederick Eccher III, a UM-St. Louis student.

"Before I had a client, it was curiosity," Herman said. "Once I had a client, it was a case."

The case went to trial last December, and former president Manuel T. Pacheco testified that the schools never broke any laws because the charges were "educational fees," not tuition. Pacheco maintained that a school could not effectively run itself without collecting fees from the students.

However, St. Louis County Circuit Judge Kenneth Romines disagreed. On Dec. 6, Romines ruled that the University violated state law between the years of 1986 and 2002, when Gov. Bob Holden overturned the law. Romines ruled that charging fees under any name was, in essence, charging tuition.

see TUITION RULING page 3

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'No secrets,' Driemeier

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Moving up from his former role as deputy to the chancellor, Donald H. Driemeier, 64, became interim chancellor of UM-St. Louis on Jan. 1. Although Driemeier plans to stay in office only six to nine months, he said, "I intend to be more than simply a caretaker. If hard decisions have to be made, I will make them."

Driemeier, who holds both a masters and doctorate of business administration from Washington University, said that he plans to make "improvements, not changes."

“I want to be open because there are no secrets in a university, and certainly not in a public university.”

-Interim Chancellor Donald Driemeier

One of his key plans is "to secure enough funding that we don't close the doors," Driemeier said. "I'm going to put a lot of my effort into the relations of UMSL to the System and the System to the state to ensure funding."

Driemeier believes that "working with the Budget and Planning Committee to be sure they understand the governor's budget" is essential to handling the financial problems created by a shrinking budget.

Driemeier also wants to "make sure the PAC does open on time and is seen by the community as the beautiful asset it is." "It's a great complimentary building to the MSC and a tremendous leap forward," he added.

In an effort to increase communication within UM-St. Louis, Driemeier plans to publish a monthly

electronic newsletter from the chancellor's office detailing what he and his staff have been working on for the past month.

Prior to every Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate meeting, Driemeier plans to request questions that he or someone in the administration can answer. He thinks this will allow the concerns of those who are not vocal in meetings to be addressed.

"I want to be open," Driemeier explained, "because there are no secrets in a university and certainly not in a public university."

Driemeier acknowledges that not everyone will always agree with him, but he believes strongly in commenting on the reasons behind his actions.

"It is my hope that even in those areas where people disagree with me, I will be able to articulate something," Driemeier said. He wants "dialogue, not assertions."

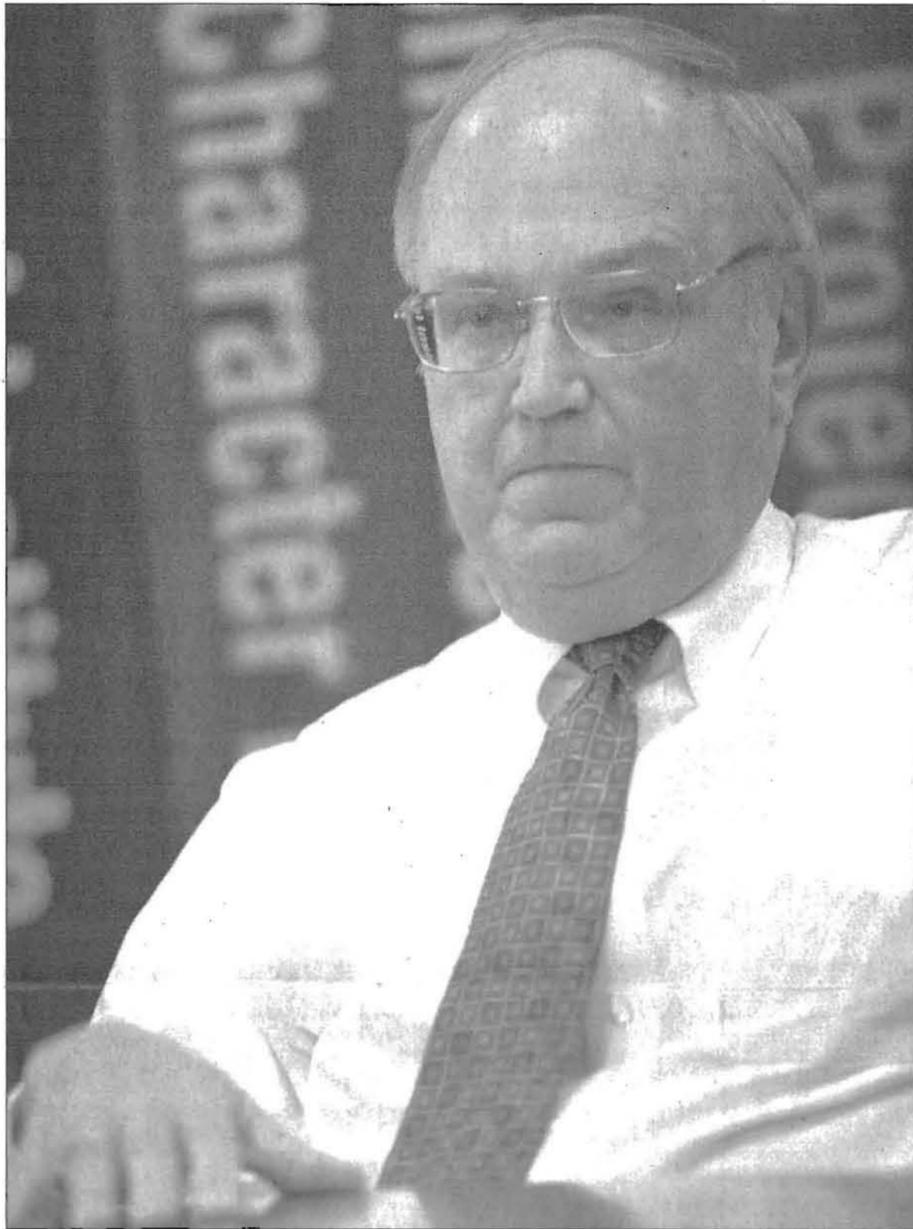
One secret of the University, however, seems to be who made the final decision to hire Driemeier as interim chancellor. Blanche M. Touhill, Driemeier's predecessor, said that she took no part in Driemeier's hiring. Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said he does not know who hired Driemeier either.

"To my thinking, it was Pacheco, consulting with the Board of Curators," Driemeier said, but even he was unsure.

"I feel I've been preparing for this position since I first set foot on this campus," Driemeier said. "I was a young faculty member in a small department but had prior experience with administrators."

It was this interaction that lead Driemeier to believe that he belonged in administration. Although he became a member of the UM-St. Louis in 1965 as an instructor of finance, he was in administration by 1969 as the first assistant dean of the School of Business Administration, which is now known as the College of Business Administration. In 1976, Driemeier became the dean of the school.

see DRIEMEIER, page 3



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Donald Driemeier has been appointed to serve as interim chancellor. He fills the vacancy left by former-Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill who retired Dec. 31, 2002. Driemeier was formerly the deputy to the chancellor and an associate professor of finance.

Holden cuts budget, again



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Gov. Bob Holden responds to a question Nov. 26, 2002, during his public forum at UM- St. Louis. Gov. Holden recently cut the state budget for the fourth time in the last year. Since August of 2001, Holden has cut the budget by almost \$900 million. Holden's most recent cut resulted in almost \$70 million in budget slashes and the elimination of almost 600 jobs.

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Missouri citizens have to deal, yet again, with another budget cut from the governor's office as Gov. Bob Holden cut almost \$70 million from the state budget on Jan. 7.

Holden's cuts are in response to a continued economic recession at the state level. New projections for the State of Missouri have the deficit reaching \$1 billion by the end of the

2004 fiscal year. This is more than double than originally projected by state researchers. In response to this new prediction, Gov. Holden began to slash the budget yet again.

In the past two years, Gov. Holden has cut the budget by nearly \$900 million, including close to \$300 million from the Department of Higher Education.

Gov. Holden refused to comment to *The Current* about the issue, but in a written statement issued after his most recent cuts, Holden outlined some

scenarios that could play out if the budget shortfalls continue to mount and government spending continues unchecked.

- Those scenarios include:
- Eliminating state funding for 11 of the 12 community colleges in Missouri.
 - Eliminating seven of the state's four-year colleges.
 - Eliminating scholarships for 2,000 students.
 - Slashing payments to foster parents.

•Making it impossible for 8,500 senior citizens to receive the care necessary to keep them out of nursing homes.

•Laying off 5,000 state employees. According to Holden's statement, he has chosen not to pursue these options. Instead, he believes the way to take care of the current budget woes is to slash and cut the budget until the shortfalls right themselves.

Recently appointed Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier believes Gov. Holden and the state legislature

need to look elsewhere for money.

"The state must use future proceeds from the tobacco settlement funds to protect the state budget," Driemeier said. He went on to say that part of that money needs to go to the projected \$300 million to \$450 million-dollar shortfall higher education faces.

Holden has been working on a new course of action since September of 2002, coming up with what he calls the "Fair Share Budget Plan."

Under this plan, Holden plans to continue to streamline state government while increasing government efficiency.

"I have held budget summits throughout Missouri to outline the situation we face," Holden said in his statement. "I have learned that Missourians want government to provide educational opportunities for their children as well as programs that will expand our economy. Missourians also want assurance that funds are spent wisely, and that everyone is required to pay their fair share."

Holden also pointed out that the shortfall in Missouri is not unique.

"Missouri, like 45 other states, faces a budget shortfall," Holden stated. "Illinois has a \$3 billion shortfall. California has a \$35 billion shortfall. Missouri's shortfall is expected to reach \$1 billion by the end of fiscal 2004."

According to Linda Luebbing, the state's top financial official, the budget shortfall may lead to, among other options, laying off close to 6,000 teachers, eliminating Medicaid services to over 50,000 citizens and giving early release to 5,578 convicted felons.

see BUDGET CUT, page 12

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
 The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations. 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-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, or fax 516-6811.
 All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Spring Semester 2003 Schedule

Classes begin 8 a.m.	Monday	January 13
Martin Luther King Holiday	Monday	January 20
Spring recess begins 5 p.m.	Saturday	March 22
Classes resume	Monday	March 31
Classes end at 11 p.m.	Monday	May 5
Intensive study days	Tues. & Wed.	May 6 & 7
Final exams begin	Thursday	May 8
Spring semester closes	Thursday	May 16
Spring Commencement	Saturday	May 17

January

Mon 13 Chemistry colloquium

The departments of chemistry and biology are sponsoring a chemistry colloquium. The title is "Chemistry of Volcanic Eruptions on Jupiter's Satellite Io." The event begins at 4 p.m. in Room 451, Benton Hall, and is open to the public. For more information, contact James O'Brien at 516-5717.

Fri 17 Homecoming Committee

Help plan UM-St. Louis's Homecoming. There will be a Homecoming Committee meeting at 11 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the MSC. All students are welcome to attend.

Mon 20 Rec Sports

Aerobics (Tae Box) will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. There is one session from Jan. 21 to March 15 and another session from March 17 to May 2. The one time cost of \$25 allows students to attend any class at anytime for the entire 8-week session. For more information, contact Larry Coffin at 516-5124.

20 Martin Luther King, Jr.

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, "Floodgates: Black and White in St. Louis" will be shown at 10 a.m. in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. The master of ceremonies will be Vickie Newton, anchor and reporter for KMOV Channel 4. The event is free and open to the public.

Tues 21 NEA meeting

The first meeting of the UMSL student NEA will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in MSC conference room 313. At the meeting, the student conference and school supply drive will be discussed. For information email umsl_snea@yahoo.com.

Wed 22 Golden Key

Golden Key International Honour Society will have its monthly meeting at 4 p.m. in the GK cubicle. The cubicle is on the 3rd floor of the MSC in the Student Organizations Office.

Thur 23 Gallery Visio

A reception for the artists of the Post-Neoisism exhibit will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call the gallery at 516-7922. Gallery Visio will be hosting the exhibit "Post-Neoisism" through Feb. 5.

The Campus Crimeline

- January 2**
Theft under \$750: University Center VCR was stolen.
- January 3**
Theft over \$750: Seton Hall furniture was taken from lounge.
- January 5**
Property Damage: University
- January 2**
Meadows front gate was rammed by an unknown vehicle.
- January 5**
Attempted Burglary: Person attempted to pry open the entry door to Education Administration.
- January 6**
Theft under \$750: At the University

- Meadows it was reported that a credit card had been stolen and was being used.
- January 7**
Theft under \$750: There was a stereo taken from an auto on Bellerive Drive.

- January 8**
Theft under \$750: In Lot E a purse with money and checks was stolen from an unlocked car.
- January 8**
Assault 3rd Degree: At Woods Hall three juveniles were taken into custody for fighting on University property.

Put it on the Board!

Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.

Correction

In issue 1071 of *The Current*, in the story entitled "Officer fires seven shots at suspect near campus" incorrectly stated that Jonathan Terris was a Normandy police officer. Terris is a police officer from Bel-Ridge.

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Director hired for \$50 million center

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

After four months without management, a director for the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center has been hired.

Just before her retirement on Dec. 31, Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill hired John Dale Kennedy to



Photo courtesy of John Kennedy

John Dale Kennedy

direct the center and prepare it for its opening season. Kennedy's annual salary at UM-St. Louis will be

\$96,000. Kennedy was one of the original finalists for the position when the University first began its search for a director close to two years ago.

"I applied for the job two years ago, in February of 2001, and was invited down for the first round of interviews. I was a finalist but was not selected," Kennedy said.

Bryan Rives was hired as directed last January but left the University last August due to the budget cuts.

"It was not a firing. We agreed to a departure," Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier said.

After learning that there was no management for the center, Kennedy called the University, seeking information about the position.

This past October and November, Kennedy was invited back to UM-St. Louis to discuss the position with University officials. Touhill then hired him in mid-December.

When asked if the fact that there has been no management for the center the last few months has made his new position harder, he said "probably" but added that he was ready for the challenge.

"I don't know what the situation now would be like if someone had been here. It's definitely a challenge, and I am up for it," Kennedy said. "I

have a sense of what universities are like and what it takes to get things up and running. Those at the University seem to be eager to help."

During the months after Rives left,

“
I have a sense of what universities are like and what it takes to get things up and running. Those at the University seem to be eager to help.”

- Director John Kennedy

the University looked into finding outside management for the Center to cut cost but then decided on hiring Kennedy.

"It was simply a matter of recognizing that when we got proposals from outside management, it was not going to be less expensive," Driemeier said. "We really needed a manager who is a full-time employee of the University."

This is Kennedy's second time



Director John Kennedy was hired mid-December by Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill just before her retirement on Dec. 31. The center is scheduled to open in September. "The completion is close enough that we are continuing to plan a full season there next year, starting this September," Don Driemeier, interim chancellor, said.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

opening a center for performing arts. Kennedy has been the director of the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield since 1980 and prepared it for its opening season in 1981.

Since his hiring, Kennedy has started writing job descriptions for a management team for the center. He projects that 15 - 20 employees will be needed, some of which are already employed by the University.

"The first phase of hiring will be for a director of operations, a stage director, and a marketing director. These

directors will then do the second phase of hiring," Kennedy said.

Kennedy added that he would also be looking, in the future, for volunteer groups, such as UM-St. Louis students and members from the community, to serve as ushers and to help with an annual fund drive.

"Much of what happens at the performing arts center is shaped by the community. Everyone has had a hand in its development, and it is taking on a personality of its own," Kennedy said.

The center is now scheduled to open in September. Kennedy referred

to this fall as the center's "opening season."

"There will probably be a couple of soft openings," Kennedy said in reference to a series of opening events and celebrations that may be held at the center.

Though no performances have yet been scheduled for the center, Kennedy said that he has spoken with groups that are interested in having performances at the Center.

"I will be talking with a lot of agents I have worked with in the past," Kennedy said.

DRIEMEIER, from page 1

He was appointed interim vice chancellor of Academic Affairs in 1990 and served in that position for two years. Driemeier was then named the deputy to the chancellor by Blanche M. Touhill, chancellor emeritus.

"I think that an advantage to me is that I know a lot of people in the UMSL community through my long tenure here," Driemeier said. "There have been some people who [have] disagreed with me, but they still bring something to the faculty. The fact that I have served as the chancellor's deputy for 10 years has given me access to the Board [of Curators] and the president's staff."

"My entire career in education has been here," Driemeier added. Many administrators also believe that to be his greatest asset.

"I think Don has a great knowledge of the campus," Touhill commented. "He has very good relations with the

vice chancellors." Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of Managerial and Technical Services, worked with Driemeier in the School of Business Administration.

"Don has tremendous history and experience with the campus and will continue to move us forward during this transition period," Krueger said.

Curt Coonrod, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, believes that Driemeier must increase support for the UM-St. Louis campus in order to lead the campus. He also thinks that actively incorporating the views of all the entities of the campus is essential.

"I'm hoping that Don will continue to move the campus forward," Coonrod said, "and that he will collaborate with faculty, staff and students."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Don Driemeier, interim chancellor.

"I could not have worked in all those administrative positions," Driemeier concluded, "and not enjoyed administrative challenges."

TUITION RULING, from page 1

Romines wrote in his verdict that the University's argument was "sadly not believable."

Romines went on to say that all editions of dictionaries describe tuition as having the same meaning as "educational fees" and that "honest scholarship demands the conclusion that tuition and 'educational fees' are synonymous."

Romines has yet to render a decision on what, if any, damages the University System will have to pay. At the worst, the University faces refunding nearly half a million dollars in tuition, not good news to a university feeling the impact of multiple budget cuts out of the governor's office.

Interim Chancellor of UM-St. Louis said the System is going to respond to the suit and that the individual campuses have been asked not to comment on the situation, either

speaking for the campus itself or on a personal level.

According to University Spokesman David Russell, the UM System has not decided whether or not to appeal the case; but according to UM-St. Louis Director of University Communications Bob Samples, the decision has been made to appeal the ruling. Russell maintains that he discussed the issue with the University's lawyers last Tuesday and no decision had been reached.

"We were mildly surprised and very disappointed," Russell said. "We have a difference of opinion with the judge."

Before 1986, undergraduates were charged a flat \$200 fee, no matter the amount of credit hours taken. After 1986, it began charging the "educational fee," a fee per credit hour. Over the last 16 years, the per-credit fee has jumped from \$20 to

\$150. Herman does not think the court will go so far as to order reparations as high as \$500 million, but he wants some sort of ruling from the court. He suggested vouchers students could use for tuition and alumni donating to the University for a tax credit.

Herman said he does not expect the issue to be resolved until 2004, though he said he has received numerous calls from parents and students wondering if their refunds were in the mail.

Missouri was the last state to do away with laws forbidding tuition to in-state residents.

Information for this story was contributed by CNN.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Tranel named PPRC director

Mark Tranel has been named director of the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) at UM-St. Louis. Tranel had been filling in on an interim basis.

The PPRC is designed to target issues such as neighborhood and community development; economic vitality; governance at the local, county and regional levels; land use and transportation planning and health, education and social policy.

Tranel came to UM-St. Louis in 1990 as a senior research analyst. In 2000, he became director of the center's division of research.

Martin Luther King Day party

Vickie Newton, anchor of KMOV-Channel 4's newscast will M.C. UM-

St. Louis's Martin Luther King Day celebration at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the J. C. Penney Auditorium.

Ralph Boyd Jr., assistant attorney general for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Justice, is the keynote speaker for the event. The celebration is free and open to the general public.

Winter commencement

More than 500 candidates for graduation participated in UM-St. Louis's winter commencement ceremony at 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center.

Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill delivered the commencement address for the last time to the graduates. Touhill retired from the position Dec. 31, 2002.

Honorary degrees were presented

to Harriett Woods, former lieutenant governor of Missouri, and Seigo Arai, a Japanese business man who established a professorship at UM-St. Louis.

Maharishi U teaches peace

For students interested in more than just talking about peace, Maharishi University in Fairfield, Iowa, is offering students a chance to help create it. The university is offering students a chance to come for a semester of peace studies in 2003.

The curriculum, which earns between 16 and 20 credits that can be transferred back to another university, entails taking courses in peace studies as well as practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique. The technique is designed to

be effortless and easy to learn and is meant to promote peace in society.

In the past, Transcendental Meditation and the Maharishi have had negative connotations applied to them. From 1967 to 1968, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi was involved in a scandal involving numerous public figures and celebrities, including actress Mia Farrow, Brian Johnson of the Beach Boys, singer Donovan and The Beatles.

Sexual predators and the web

The Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis at UM-St. Louis held a free workshop Dec. 6, 2002.

The workshop, which was open to the public, was held at the Brentwood Community Center. Sgt. Joe Laramie lead the workshop entitled "Child

Sexual Predators and the Internet."

According to Laramie, in the past five years, the issue of sexual predators on the internet has become a major issue with parents and teachers around the country. The workshop was designed to educate adults about the dangers the internet presents. Not only does the internet provide easy access to pornography, but it is also a convenient way for sexual predators to lure children into meetings where the child may be assaulted or molested.

Sgt. Laramie heads the federally funded Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in the St. Louis area. He also works closely with Safety Net, a program created by Children's Advocacy Services at UM-St. Louis.

New mileage reimbursement

Faculty and staff using personal vehicles for official UM-St. Louis business may now be reimbursed at a rate of up to 36 cents per mile. The new rate went into effect Dec. 31, 2002. The previous maximum reimbursement rate was 36.5 cents per mile.

Rock band against war in Iraq

Punk rock group Green Day has started a petition against going to war with Iraq. Frontman Billie Joe Armstrong feels going to war with Iraq is unjustified. People against the looming war can go to the band's website, www.greeneday.com, and sign the petition that will be sent to President George W. Bush.

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Boy Meets Girl's Cousin.

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STANFORD

OUR OPINION

Starting the New Year right... Resolutions for UMSL

Studies have proven that New Year's resolutions are most more kept when there are only two. The only question is "Which two should you have." To help you solve this delima, The Current has created a list of several suggested ones for various members of the UM-St. Louis and UM System communities.

For Elson Floyd

I will use University funds to decorate my swell new digs in Columbia.

I will not blow out the speakers on my University-provided car rocking out to John Denver and Pat Benatar.

For Driemeier

I will not stress out over too much. Hey, I'm outta here in a couple months anyway.

I will finally find out who hired me for this position.

For the new chancellor

I will be young enough that I am not offered instant early retirement when I sign the contract.

I will not do my job for the express purpose of getting a house in Belle-Ridge-Nor-Berk-Norm-issant.

For UM-St. Louis

I will stop stealing McDonald's color scheme for the school colors.

I will make "Fight for Your Right to Party" the UM-St. Louis school fight song.

For the new Performing Arts Center

I will stop impersonating an actual Performing Arts Center.

I will not wait ten years to complete my construction.

For the freshmen

We will not get suckered into the "glitter" of the Greek system.

We will work our hardest to maintain grades and make mommy and daddy proud.

For the fraternity boys

We will not increase my chances at getting lucky with chemical "helpers."

We will build new houses that don't look like they were imported from East St. Louis.

For the sorority girls

We will always carry a wet-nap in my pocket.

We will not circumvent University rules and sneak liquor/drugs/small peanut butter and Lucky Charms-producing animals into "Survivor Games."

For the UM System

I will try to remember that the only reason I exist is for the education of students.

I will not treat UM-St. Louis as a pedestal for Columbia.

Curt Coonrod

I will continue my crusade for the students and their best interests.

I will not let outside influences sway my beliefs that stu-

dents are the backbone of this University.

For the Alumni Association

I will continue to provide Joe Flees with lots and lots of nifty sweaters.

I will not allow myself to be corrupted by the rest of the System.

For Blanche M. Touhill

I will forgo my idea to write a book about the sexual underground at UM-St. Louis.

I will stop thinking of my old job as a legitimate stepping stone to being a freshman.

For Manuel T. Pacheco

I will enjoy my retirement by scaling K2 in nothing but boots and a thong.

On second thought, I will NOT scale K2 in nothing but boots and a thong; I don't want to wind up on "Girls Gone Wild."

For Sam Andermarium

I will work my hardest to make myself heard above the din of noise at SGA meetings.

I will drink less than last year's President.

For Nasser Arshadi

I will come clean about my shady dealings pertaining to my new office.

I will not waste University funds on cleaning my new office.

For the Garages

We will not endanger the lives of students by collapsing on top of them.

We will hide our flaws behind new layers of paint and temporary wood blocks.

For Chartwells

I will stop letting stock prices dictate the prices of my food.

I will not let anyone get food poisoning this year.

For the state budget

I will not let thousands of people go without Medicaid.

I will go on a diet and try to trim a few million dollars more from my waistline.

For the Village Idiots

We will try to look better as men than we do as women.

We will try to maintain our high level of journalistic integrity...oh, whom are we kidding?

For the Board of Curators

We will not use the "short straw" method to select UM-St. Louis's next permanent chancellor.

We will continue to wear those snazzy suits UM-Columbia sent us during the presidential selection process.

For The Current

We will no longer allow Adam and Jason to dictate the rules to us.

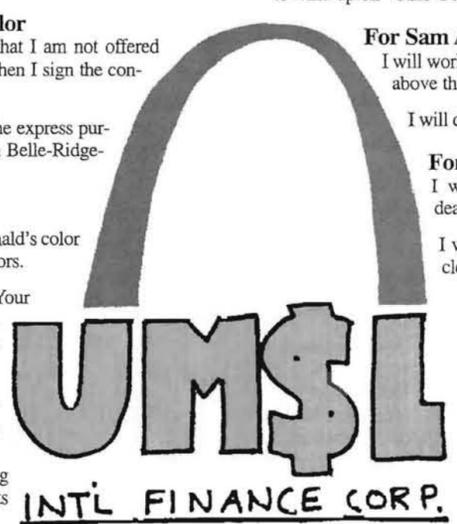
We will print only issues with odd numbers of pages.

For Stanford Griffith, Editor-in-Chief

I will drink less than last year's editor-in-chief and refrain from throwing my cell phone into a drunken crowd.

I will start naming names in my columns.

SUGGESTION # 17 A NEW, MORE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY SEAL.



FEARED '03

Now where'd I steal this one?

Plagiarism. So many words are automatically associated with this word—failing, flunking, probation, stealing, trouble and maybe even student. This is probably because we've had professor after professor drill this into our heads: "Plagiarism (slight pause for dramatic effect) is taking someone else's words or ideas as your own. You will fail for this. I will turn you into the vice-chancellor of Academic Affairs [I always wonder if that means I'll become the vice-chancellor or if I'll be reported to him] and see that you never graduate from UM-St. Louis [How can one see me not graduate?]."

Few, however, connect plagiarism with the professors and lecturers themselves.

For starters, where did that every-semester speech come from? I've had so many give it to me verbatim that I know it must come from some obscure faculty handbook or something. If nothing else, at least the idea of plagiarism should be cited.

What about the handouts in class? How many of those ever have any acknowledgement of their source? Few, if any, I've seen. This is not only stealing ideas, but also words and graphics and even the very layout of the original work. Can I just photocopy my next report out of National Geographic and turn it in? Better yet, can I just hand in a VHS copy of the nightly news as my report on, well, anything?

Information contained in lectures

is more often than not something from someone other than the speaker. According to the speech, it must be cited. If I write an informative paper, can't I just take someone else's paper and paraphrase the whole thing? As long as I don't use exact quotes (or probably even if I do), it would be the same thing.

So, the students cannot plagiarize others' works, but those who tell us not to can? We're expected to have used how many forms of citation prior to graduation? We can get expelled for doing something our instructors have demonstrated to us on countless occasions?

I'm a little confused now. It seems like as long as the paper or speech flows from the front of the classroom to the back, no citation is needed. But should the flow go upstream, it had better have "Ibids" and "sics" all over it.

Maybe there's a fine line I'm missing here; I doubt it, but maybe. But if so, where is it? How does one cross it? And how can I teeter close, but not trip over it? Maybe that's what should be taught directly in the classrooms. After all, getting away with plagiarism is now being taught by example anyway.

Hmm... I wonder who will be passing around this column without citing it. Maybe I should have just tucked it away under my bed for fear that someone with a Ph.D. will steal my work and claim it as his or her own.



STANFORD GRIFFITH Editor-in-Chief

Serious students go to serious schools

It is that time of year again that students dread. Its time for less play and more schoolwork. In fact, probably more course work that students at other colleges and universities.

A year ago when I came to UM-St. Louis, I noticed the difference between this University and other schools I had attended. I noticed that the classes I had enrolled in were, by far, no joke. This came to my attention merely by looking at my syllabus for each course on the first day of classes and my first day as an UM-St. Louis student.

Many students here, at least those that grew up in the St. Louis area, have heard UMSL referred to as "the University of Missouri for Slow Learners." I have never understood the reasoning behind this nickname. The strange thing is that every person that I have heard refer to UM-St. Louis in such a way has never taken a course. These name-callers also happen to know next to nothing about the programs at the University and courses that are offered.

In my previous college experiences at St. Louis Community College - Meramec and Southwest Missouri State University, the extent of my class work was minimal in comparison to what I have had to do in my courses here. Before taking courses here, I had never been asked to write a paper more than six pages long. I always found that strange since I was attending accredited schools and I was in college. Here I have found that papers twice that size or larger are common requirements in most courses. Sure, every school has easier classes than

others, but UM-St. Louis upper-level courses are not a breeze.

Though the average student does not consider more work as fun, larger assignments make the smaller things easier. Now when I have an eight-page paper due for a course, I think of it as no big deal. In the past, I would have been very stressed over an eight-page assignment. At Southwest Missouri State University the majority of my assignments were 2-3 or 3-5 page papers for a Communication Theory class. I did very little work outside of class and received a 3.5 GPA for the semester.

A few months ago my mother told me that she ran into an old neighbor at the store. Making conversation, the ex-neighbor asked how my brother and I were doing and where we were attending school. My mother informed her that we were both going to UM-St. Louis and that my brother was going to be graduating this January. The neighbor replied, "Oh, hard school." I was glad to hear that someone realized UM-St. Louis was not all that easy.

The only sense I can make of the nickname "the University of Missouri for Slow Learners" is that UM-St. Louis has gotten this erroneous name because it is mostly a commuter school (which seems to remind people of community college), does not have a football team and has few sororities and fraternities. This is true because this University focuses on academics, not sports and parties.

Serious students choose UM-St. Louis.



ANNE BAUER Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- UM-St. Louis resolutions
• Teachers plagiarizing
• Comparing universities

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LETTERS

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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. Students must include their student ID number. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).

Under Current by Sara Quiroz Staff Photographer

Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?



Shaun Rivera Senior Computer Science

I'll be in Japan or the U.S. and married to my girlfriend Yuko.



Shenelle DuBose Student Teacher English Education

In five years, I'll be finishing my 5th year of teaching, and in ten I'll be finishing my doctorate and on my way to being a principal.



Jerry Hill Junior Psychology

Oh, I think by then I'll be almost done with my doctorate, and well in debt.



Gretchen Howpt Sophomore Anthropology

With today's job market, I'll have to go to grad school so I can have a job dealing with what I study.

Limits of life—highs and lows Stew Season Fare thoughts

Most living things are far too small to be seen by the human eye. The most abundant creatures on our planet are less than 100 micrometers long and are so small that thousands of them can fit on a single human cell. Microorganisms were the first form of life to evolve in the primordial sea,

lakes, in extreme salt water where most cells would shrivel or in highly acidic waters where many organisms would simply break down.

Extremophiles are pioneers, moving into harsh areas that are devoid of life and then multiplying and eventually evolving into new species capable of living in hostile fringe environments. Over billions of years, microorganisms have changed the character of the earth, shifting the chemical composition of the atmosphere and the ocean and driving the evolution and diversification of life on earth. Recent research has illuminated some strange new species of microorganisms living in environments that have always been considered unlivable.

Researchers from Oregon State University have recently discovered microorganisms living over 1,000 feet beneath the ocean floor. Utilizing equipment left over from an ocean-drilling program set on the Juan de Fuca ridge off the coast of Oregon, researchers were able to bring up 3.5 million-year-old sedimentary deposits from far below the ocean floor.

After analyzing these deep-sea sediments, scientists found a very diverse array of microorganisms able to live in that deep, oxygen-deprived environment. These deep-sea crustal organisms utilize abundant sources of inorganic molecules such as sulfides, hydrogen and carbon dioxide to fuel their life processes.

Steve Giovannoni, a professor of microbiology at OSU and one of the principal researchers in the study, says that this study represents one of the most precise biological samplings ever taken from deep under the ocean floor. "People have wondered for a long time what types of organisms might live within the Earth's crust,"

Giovannoni said in an article submitted to the journal Science. "This has given us one of the best looks we've ever had at that environment."

Moving from the very low to the very high, researchers from several institutions in India have collaborated on a project to send balloon-borne sampling mechanisms high into the atmosphere to find out how high life can reach.

In early January 2001, researchers collected large volumes of air from the stratosphere from heights ranging from 20 to 41 kilometers above the earth's surface. At 41 kilometers

very similar to some common terrestrial species but show sufficient differences in their detailed properties, indicating that these organisms may have a different origin.

Critics have called attention to the possibility that terrestrial organisms may have contaminated some of the study's sample containers, but the researchers say that the isolated organisms are not those that usually contaminate laboratory samples and that rigorous conditions were asserted to safeguard against such contamination.

If Wainwright's study proves valid, the organisms isolated in his samples would be the highest organisms ever found. In addition, some scientists believe that this new work lends credence to the theory of panspermia, developed by Hoyle and Wickramasinghe, which says that new inputs of "modern" organisms are constantly being delivered to the earth from cosmic meteors that strike the earth's surface. Although panspermia is still a very controversial theory, research in recent years and months has provided a growing body of evidence that seems to support the idea of cosmic life.

To human eyes, the world of microbes is as invisible as the air. To the microbe, the world of humans and human creations is just another part of the chemical environment. Ten percent of our own body weight consists of millions of bacteria and other microorganisms! Despite their tiny size, microorganisms are the supreme biological force on our planet. They are the explorers and the transformers. Long before the first human walked the plains of Africa, microorganisms had, for billions of years, defined the limits of life and transformed their world.

“

After analyzing these deep-sea sediments, scientists found a very diverse array of microorganisms able to live in that deep, oxygen-deprived environment.

”

above the earth, some of these samples were being taken above the earth's atmosphere, in space.

The stratospheric samples were taken to England to be analyzed by microbiologists. Milton Wainwright of Sheffield University's Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology was able to isolate one species of fungus and two species of bacteria from some of the space-derived samples collected at 41 kilometers.

The isolated microorganisms are

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Winter is a time for bitter winds, hibernation and warm foods. That's why slow-cooked stews are perfect for these chilly days.

Foods cooked over several hours always have a blended medley of flavors. If done correctly, this doesn't mean one must stand over a bubbling pot all day long. In fact, modern cooking has allowed us the easy of the crock-pot. With a few extra minutes spent before heading off to class, work or sledding, one can return to a warm meal waiting.

The key to any stew is the flavoring. Typical ones include a combination of fresh garlic, roasted garlic, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, salt and cracked black pepper. Adding these and other spices and herbs is up to the cook. In general, it is better to allow the ingredients to simmer together instead of seasoning at the end. Adding butter at the beginning will richen the stew; adding it at the end will also thicken it.

Meat is an important ingredient in stews. Beef or lamb is generally considered the best, but pork will also work. Seasoned first with salt and pepper, any meat must be fully seared and cooked prior to adding it to the crock-pot.

The main flavor of the stew, however, comes from the drippings from browning and caramelizing the meat. The browned fat from the meat should be mixed with a slurry of cold water blended with flour or cornstarch. This will provide the majority of the flavoring for the stew.

Vegetables in stews vary greatly. Carrots and white potatoes are the

standard. They should be cut into approximately the same size. Sliced white onions are also excellent in stews. Additionally, the caps of button mushrooms soak up the flavor of the juices and add texture to the stew. Corn off the cob and green beans can also be added. Tomatoes and their juice contribute color and acidity to the pot; add a small amount of MSG with them to cut their sometimes-sharp flavor (yes, it's safe).

And for the liquid? Use stock or broth. Vegetable, beef or lamb stock is always good. Each imparts flavor and richness to the stew.

After the meat, vegetables and seasons have been added to the crock-pot, pour in enough broth or stock to cover them. Let them simmer for several hours or all day. It is a great way to return home from work and find dinner ready.

If waiting that long for stew is not appealing, simply cook the meat in a stew pot first, then add the other ingredients and cook until the potatoes are tender, but not falling apart. The secret to clear stew is constantly skimming off the junk that rises to the top of the broth while cooking. This isn't possible in a crock-pot, however, because it will rise too slowly. Cloudy stew is not of poor quality or taste; it just isn't as aesthetically pleasing.

Serve the stew with fresh bread or sprinkle it with homemade croutons just before eating.

What goes into the stewpot is really a personal choice. I prefer lamb tendered with a small amount of bourbon, potatoes, baby carrots, garlic, corn, parsley, plenty of salt and freshly ground black pepper simmered in vegetable stock.

So, what's in your pot?



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

and today, over 3.5 billion years later, they remain the largest and most diverse group of organisms that have ever existed.

Microorganisms are capable of surviving in areas that no multicellular organism could tolerate for even a fraction of a second. Many microorganisms have evolved to withstand extremes of temperature and chemical concentrations that would be fatal to humans or other multicellular creatures. Scientists sometimes call these creatures "extremophiles," which literally means "lovers of extremes."

Some extremophiles live deep in the ocean near fissures in the earth's crust known as hydrothermal vents. The water around these vents can reach temperatures of over 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Other microorganisms thrive in sub-zero arctic

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UMSL recruits high-schoolers at reception

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Mid-Missouri high schoolers and their parents joined current UM-St. Louis students on January 7, 8 and 9, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in Springfield, Rolla, and Columbia, Mo., to discuss what the University of Missouri-St. Louis has to offer.

Todd Taylor, admissions counselor for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, spearheaded the reception.

"The purpose of hosting these events was to give prospective UM-St. Louis students and their parents a chance to speak with current students," Taylor said. "I travel to high schools all over the state and speak with students, but at this reception they had the opportunity to talk to actual college students on a one-on-one basis."

The casual atmosphere provided easy conversation. Chartwells catered the event, and the attendees munched on deli meats, a variety of vegetables and desserts while asking questions and voicing concerns. UM-St. Louis students offered advice on many aspects of college life, including financial issues, housing options and student activities. They also addressed financial awareness and the importance of scholarships and options such as joining the military.

see RECEPTION, page 7



Pat Johnson, the Gallery Visio manager, works with UM-St. Louis student Valerie Raithel who serves as the reception coordinator. The first reception of the Black Arts Expo will begin on Feb. 13, at 5 p.m., in the Pilot House.

Sara Quiroz/The Current

Gallery Visio & Black Arts Expo

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

The Third Annual Black Arts Expo is sure to bring a little excitement to the month of February.

The Ahmadi Muslim Student Association and the Associated Black Legions will host this event with the intent of highlighting artists' abilities in both the visual and the performing arts.

Other UM-St. Louis organizations who will contribute to the events include Multicultural Activities, the University Programming Board and Student Life.

Exhibits to be displayed include a variety of forms of art, such as jewelry making, sculpture, photography and fashion design.

The first reception of the Black Arts Expo will begin on Feb. 13, at 5 p.m., in the Pilot House. The first phase of the talent showcase will start at 7 p.m., following the reception

Not only is this event open to faculty, staff and students, but in previous years, there have been many outside artists who have come to share their abilities with others. Two outside artists are scheduled to appear this year.

"We want to really encourage more people to get involved and to have more participants," AMSA President Kareema Ahmad-Shaheed said.

This year, there are many changes to the Expo. The main development is that a student gallery is now available to present the work, instead of in previous years when the event was forced to find a corner to exhibit the work. Another benefit to the artists is that their work will be displayed during February, which is Black History Month. Also, performers in the talent show will have a chance to receive prizes. On an average, 15 to 20 entries are submitted, but this year, all of the sponsors hope that there will be an even bigger turnout.

"There has been a very large

amount of positive feedback, and many people have signed great comments in our guest book at last year's expo," Ahmad-Shaheed said.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Student Life office, in the Fine Arts Building, Gallery Visio, which is located in the Millennium Student Center, and at Gallery Visio, which is located in the Millennium Student Center. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 22.

"People should take advantage of the many exciting activities like this one that UMSL offers," said ABL President Parker Denny.

Another event that the gallery will be offering this semester is the exhibit "Post-Neoisim," which opens Feb. 23. The reception for this event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with James Woolridge as the curator.

"People love watching and these are just some of the great activities that many are sure to enjoy," Ahmad-Shaheed concluded.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Dismantling the holidays

Signaling an end to the holiday season, UM-St. Louis groundskeeper Kevin Usery takes down strands of lights from a tree near the North Campus entrance on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The many thousands of lights placed around campus take more than a week to put up but less than two days to bring down.

Best on-campus events of 2002

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Every year UM-St. Louis plays host to many events in the Arts and Entertainment field, and 2002 was an extremely memorable year for such events. The school presented such diverse events as book readings, music concerts, art and photo exhibits, musicals, operas and even a film premiere.

These were the best events around campus in 2002:

1. The New Shanghai Circus - In

only the second sold-out performance in the International Performing Arts Series history, The Incredible Acrobats of China lived up to their name as they demonstrated many impressive feats, such as balancing 35 benches or ceramic jars on their foreheads. They also demonstrated some of China's most beautiful artistic traditions, including Lion Dances and Fan Dances.

2. Navan - The three-woman, one-man vocal group from Madison, WI, performed all of their songs in Celtic, a language once thought dead but that is now having a revival. Thanks to the tight harmonies of members Joan Bettener, Elizabeth Fine, Sile Sigley and Paul Gorman and superb solos by the three women, Navan performed beautiful songs from a language that is lovely to listen to.

3. Aphrodite Matsakis - Clinical Psychologist Aphrodite Matsakis gave a humorous and touching reading of her book "Growing Up Greek in St. Louis." Throughout the evening, Matsakis entertained the audience with her stories about growing up in a tightly knit Greek family and neighborhood and by detailing how she used the myths that were part of her childhood in her therapy sessions.

4. Ed Miller - This was the best of the Irish Performing Arts Noon Day Concerts. The Scottish folksinger/guitarist gave a lively, spirited performance as he invited the audience to sing along with songs having such various subjects as

romance, migration and the plight of miners in Scotland.

5. "La Boheme" - Puccini's opera about two sets of lovers in 19th century France was brought to life by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis in beautiful music and memorable performances by Michael Spyres and Partician Andress as Rudolfo and Mimì, the younger, more idealistic romantic couple and Ryan D. Kinsella and Kimwana M. Doner as Marcello and Musetta, the older, more cynical and argumentative couple. And speaking of operas...

6. "The 1940's Radio Hour" - The Opera Theatre Workshop 2002 production of "Radio Hour" was short on plot but long on charm, hilarity and fun. It tells the story of the Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade's radio show on Christmas Eve during WWII. It features wonderful music from that era and a terrific ensemble cast comprised of excellent singers and actors.

7. "You Are the Coolest Girl in the USA" - Student filmmaker Pavel "Pasha" Zalutski's film debut was given the full red carpet movie premiere treatment as it presented a brief but very strongly characterized film about a young Eastern European woman's (Nina Sorokupud) first few days in America. The film accurately describes the new-kid feeling that many people go through.

8. "Chicago From the River" - The Public Policy Research Center presented a photo display of Chicago's architecture as seen from a riverboat cruise. Joan V. Lindsey presented Chicago's most beautiful and captivating buildings, such as the Montgomery Ward building, the Wrigley Building and the Jeweler

Building, which were all shown in bright color and breathtaking vibrancy.

9. Charles Fanning, an editor, and Mary O'Malley-Fanning, a poet, read excerpts from their respective books "I've Never Been This Far, But I've Been to Norwood," "A Knife in the Wave" and "Asylum Road," giving witty, descriptive and touching narratives about their childhoods, growing up Irish and issues that still trouble them today.

10. The 2002 Juried Student Art Exhibit - Every year Gallery

210 hosts an exhibit of UM-St. Louis's student artists, but this year presented a variety of modern art, photographs,

lithographs and even a children's book.

The artists were well represented in every category in diverse and interesting displays.

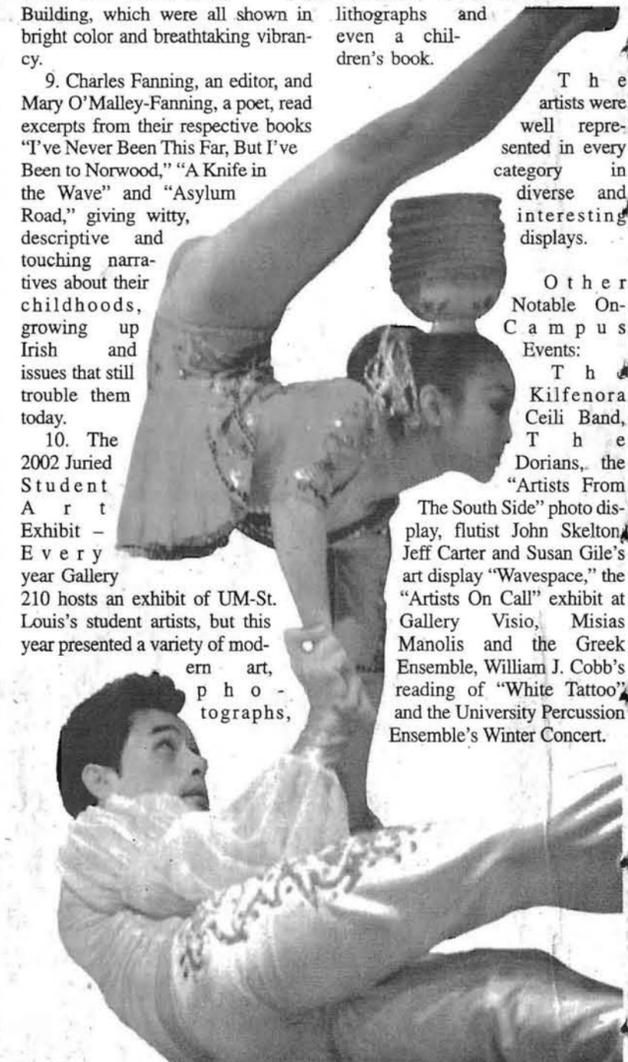
Other Notable On-Campus Events:

The Kilfenora Ceili Band, The Dorians, the "Artists From

The South Side" photo display, flutist John Skelton, Jeff Carter and Susan Gile's art display "Wavespace," the "Artists On Call" exhibit at Gallery Visio, Misisia Manolis and the Greek Ensemble, William J. Cobb's reading of "White Tattoo" and the University Percussion Ensemble's Winter Concert.



(Above left) A capella group Navan, (Above right) Acrobats from the Shanghai Circus, (Below left) the opera "La Boheme, (Below Middle) Folklorist and musician Ed Miller, (Below right) Author Aphrodite Matsakis.



THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Jason Granger

Adam Bodendieck



Hot damn! We're still here. (We know that all of our faithful readers were holding their collective breath wondering if the dawning of a new semester would bring with it the triumphant return of the fabled Village Idiots.) For those of you who are new to UM-St. Louis, the following letter should serve as a proper introduction to our little corner of *The Current*, and for those of you who already know and love us, it should nicely sum up how you undoubtedly feel about us:

Dear Village Idiots,
This letter is a testimonial to how much you nice boys changed my life. Not only did you advise me not to murder my roommate, saving me years of incarceration, but with your guidance I have found God, stopped mixing stripes and checks and managed to remove those nasty mildew stains that plagued my bathroom. Oh, Village Idiots, how can I ever repay you? (No, not like that...)
-Your Grateful Devotee

Dear Devotee,
The beautiful thing about us is that we're just delusional enough to believe that every word you wrote was written with the utmost sincerity (except for the "No, not like that..." part; we're choosing to ignore that altogether). As for repaying us, we put our heads together and came up with a few suggestions. First of all, Adam's bathroom is in severe need of a cleaning. He is a firm believer in the old axiom "If it's yellow, let it mellow." As for Jason, he has this annoying cyst that could use popping. On top of that, there are plenty of household chores that need to be done. Please let us know.
Anyway, we're just going to chalk this one up as yet another satisfied customer!
-Love, Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots,
I have a very serious problem. I have this brother, let's call him "Wolfgang." Wolfgang has this very serious problem of thinking he's really cool when he's really a massive loser. He thinks he's a "journalist" and a "writer," but I've seen better writing

on a box of cereal. He probably hasn't seen any action since the Clinton administration. He also has this humor advice column, and for some reason thinks it's pretty funny. And it is, as long as you still think Nick Jr. is good television. What can I do about my brother?
-Sincerely, The Cool Brother

Dear Jason's Older Brother,
[Note: This is Adam; Jason has no idea I'm sneaking this into the column, so whatever you do, don't tell him. . .] Yeah, Cool Brother, you pretty much nailed it right on the head. Jason, I mean "Wolfgang" (ahem), really isn't that funny; nor is he really all that cool. And I can't say for sure, but I'd wager that you're probably right about the not seeing any action thing too. But he does have his good points. For example, whenever he's around, I automatically feel better about myself for whatever reason. I recommend that you just put up with his thinking he's cool and whatnot in exchange for the extra degree of coolness it gives you in comparison. Or just give him a quick kick in the shin; that usually works pretty well. Also, leave Nick Jr. out of this; don't make me get on my soapbox and espouse the virtues of Spongebob Squarepants et al. . . .
[Note: This is Jason. Adam is oblivious to the fact that I am adding this as he is in a gin-induced haze.]
Well then, seeing as you are my brother, I feel comfortable using your first name in print, Jeremiah. That's right. I said it. As for thinking I am really cool, what can I say? If the shoe fits. . . . And about not getting any action—well, I guess I have too much time on my hands. And unlike some people, who shall remain nameless (Adam), I don't go after every hussy and trollor that comes along. Sometimes it's okay to wait, you know, especially if you know who you are waiting for. . . .
Adam, here I thought we were friends, but noooo. Back stabber! And I just went out and bought you a box of delicious sausages and cheeses. I think I'll just keep them for myself. SO THERE!!!! JERK!!!!
-Love, Adam (and Jason, even though he doesn't know it) (Oh, Jason

knows it.)
Dear Village Idiots,
After reading your last two columns (which were very insightful), I thought I would ask you this: Does showing this graph to my friends classify me as arrogant? By the way, I was born in 1979.
-Thanks again, UNCONKABLE!!!!
p.s. (click on the attachment TheTruth.jpeg to view the graph)

Dear Unconkable (we're leaving off the excessive exclamation points because they bother us),
You know, this would make a whole lot more sense to both our readers and ourselves if we had actually bothered to print, or even look at for that matter, your attachment. Unfortunately, we didn't (Does that make us arrogant?) Therefore, we're going to utilize the age-old method of asking the magic 8-Ball:
Oh mighty and all-seeing Magic 8-Ball, we come to you humbly and beseech you: Does showing this alleged graph to his friends classify our dear friend Unconkable as arrogant? (We're waiting for the answer. Don't worry, we're sure it will be well worth the wait. Here it comes. . . .)
"Answer unclear at this time. . . ."
Well, there you have it. We couldn't have said it any better ourselves!
-Love, Jason and Adam (and the almighty Magic 8-Ball)

Dear Village Idiots,
We only take the time to grab a copy of the current each week to read the "Village Idiots" section. The rest is just trivial information, and it is all a waste of space (oh, and did I say boring?). We are sorry that people are mailing you hate letters, but sometimes people can't handle the truth.
Some people just don't know how to utilize the quality advice that you give. In conclusion, please do not "can" the "Village Idiots" or else we will no longer have a reason to pick up the Current because the best part will be missing.
-Sincerely, Idiot Fans

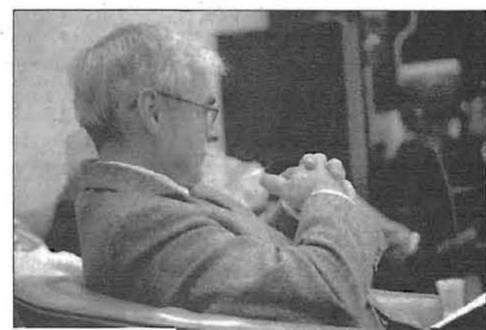
Dear Idiot Fans,

Wow. We don't mind saying that we are blushing right now. It is good to know that we are reaching such fine, upstanding young people as yourselves. It gives us warm and fuzzy feelings, but maybe that's not a good thing. On second thought, it is more like a hairy, burning sensation. We may need to go to the doctor and get that problem checked out. [Note: Adam, this is Jason. No more trips to Bangkok. Those "urban professionals" were shady.] [Note: Jason, this is Adam. Don't be a wussy! You only live once, and just remember: Penicillin cures all].

As for receiving hate mail, no worries! We kinda like getting the hate mail because, love us or hate us, that means you are still reading us. The way we look at it, we are kinda like a song that at first you hate but eventually begin to like, like that Mumba Pumba song.... "Thumb Pumping," or "Pump Humping" or "Tub Mounting" or whatever it's called. You know, the song where they get knocked down but get up again.
Oh yeah, our editors wanted us to defend your comment about the rest of the paper being boring. Don't disrespect *The Current*. It's great and blah blah blah, yadda yadda. The Current provides a valuable serv. . . Hey, look at the kitten! Aww, what a cu. . . Oh, yeah. *The Current* is great and all that. (Jason would like to add that he thinks the news section is quite good.)
-Love, Adam and Jason

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: VillageIdiotsJA@yahoo.com. If you don't like e-mail, you can bring a question to us on the third floor of the MSC, room 388.

!!!DISCLAIMER!!!
Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody.
-The Management



Before his Dec. 31 retirement, former Foreign Languages and Literature Chairman Roland Champagne bid adieu to UM-SL in style. He invited the Arianna Quartet to play for his French course on the works of Charles Baudelaire. The quartet performed songs by Debussy, who was strongly influenced by the works of Baudelaire, and the students discussed works from his masterpiece "The Flowers of Evil."



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Poetic farewell for retiring chairman

RECEPTION, from page 6

Several parents of UM-St. Louis students also attended the events. This gave the prospective students and parents a chance to talk with parents who have already experienced their children's college transition. The parents discussed issues ranging from serious things, such as finances, to smaller matters like transforming their children's rooms once they move away.
"The attendance was not quite as high as we had hoped for, but I really feel like the students and parents who did attend benefited greatly," Taylor said.
UM-St. Louis students who attended the receptions included Lee Saul, Emily Thomas, Justin Kimble, Paula Easton, Elizabeth Jones, Kate Drolet, Lateia Shed, Bridget Cheaney, Lisa Blume, Damien Deloyola, Jennifer Malone, Kristen Rush, Regan Gustafson, Sam Wiles, Jennifer Fowler, Chris Marino, Marla Montgomery, Lekisha Hamilton, John Russo, Jennifer Russo, and Kristen Lewis.

Unless otherwise stated, for more info. on these events, contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291 (MSC 366) or the University Program Board at 516-5531 (MSC 381); to receive this schedule by e-mail; email us at UM-SL_UPB@hotmail.com



Student Life

Your Guide to Cultural, Athletic, Recreational, and Social Activities on the UM-St. Louis Campus

January/February

- SGA Meeting**
Friday, January 17
1 p.m.
SGA Chambers
- Martin Luther King Holiday Observance**
Monday, January 20
10 a.m.
J. C. Penney Auditorium
Speaker: Ralph F. Boyd Jr., assistant attorney general for civil rights.
For more info, call 516-5695.
- University Program Board General Meeting**
Friday, January 24
3 p.m.
The University Program Board is having an open meeting. Have opinions about what activities you'd like to see on campus? Let us know!
- St. Louis Blues vs. the Dallas Stars**
Saturday, January 25
8 p.m.
The Savvis Center
Tickets are available for a reduced rate for students.
For more info, call 516-5291.
- Guaranteed 4.0 Seminar**
Saturday, January 25
10 a.m.
126 SSB
For more info, call 516-6807.
- Late Night Ice Skating**
Friday, January 31
9 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Steinberg Skating Rink
- Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Opposite Sex But Were Afraid To Ask!**
Wednesday, February 5
6 p.m.
The Pilot House
Aren't boys and girls just the most confusing, hard to figure out creatures? Bring all your friends and ask the questions that have been plaguing you in a fun, festive, open forum!
- World Lecture Series: Dr. Cornell West**
Featured Topic: "Race Matters"
Thursday, February 6
7 p.m.
The Millennium Center Century Rooms
The noted scholar and head of Princeton's Afro-American Studies Department discusses issues affecting all people in the new Millennium.
- Black Media Workshop**
Speakers: Robin Smith and Johnny Little
Saturday, February 8
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Open to all students.
- Black Arts Expo (Visual Exhibits)**
February 10 - March 3
Gallery Visio
- Battle of the Sexes**
Wednesday, February 12
Which sex knows more about the other? Four-person teams duke it out in struggle to see who will come out on top!
- Black Comedy Showcase**
Saturday, February 15
7 p.m.
The Pilot House
Get your laugh on!
- Homecoming: A Journey Through Time**
February 17 - 22
Features a whole week of activities
17: Blood and Canned Food Drive 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Banner Wars
Table Tennis 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
18: Powder Puff Football 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Penny Wars
Election for Court
19: Rec Sports 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
BMOC
Bonfire/ Pep Rally
Elections for Court 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
20: Mini Parade: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Basketball Games vs. Lewis
Women's: 5:30 p.m.
Men's: 7:45 p.m.
21: Dance 7 p.m.
Cocktails w/ Alumni 6 p.m.
King and Queen Crowned, Spirit Competition Winners Announced
22: Homecoming Basketball Game vs. SIU Edwardsville
Women's 5:30 p.m.
Men's: 7:45 p.m.
If you'd like to be involved, with these activities, contact Julie at 960-1374.
- Les Miserables**
Sunday, February 23
Fox Theatre
8 p.m.
Tickets are available Jan. 23 at a reduced rate for students at the Office of Student Life. For more info, call 516-5291. They'll sell out fast!

SPORTS

R-women look for improvement

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Basketball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Despite a 20-point game by Guard Christy Lane, who is currently second among the Riverwomen in scoring, Kentucky Wesleyan claimed a 75-72 victory over UM-St. Louis. With the loss to the Panthers, the Riverwomen are in the midst of a three-game losing streak and are 2-6 in conference play. However, the team is 7-6 overall and, despite its recent losses, is showing strength both defensively and offensively.

"I'm fairly pleased with the way our team is playing, especially as of late," Riverwomen Head Coach Shelly Ethridge said. "It seems after Christmas break, we've caught our second wind, and we kind of understand what I'm expecting as far as the defensive aspect. We had a really good 40 minutes of basketball versus Edwardsville [UM-St. Louis won 75-69]. If we can keep improving and fairly well as we did at Edwardsville, I'll be very happy."

Improvement is something that is a trait for the Riverwomen as a whole and will continue with consistency from some key players. Lane is showing consistency for the Riverwomen, averaging 28 points and playing in all 13 games this season. Guard Ebonye Halliburton is leading UM-St. Louis in scoring with 29 points and is second to Lane in rebounds, averaging 12 per game. Guards Sophia Ruffin is also making a splash for the Riverwomen, averaging 27 points per game.

"I think that everyone has a particular role on this team and naturally when you have those girls hitting from



Photo Illustration by Mike Sherwin / The Current

Riverwomen Basketball Coach Shelly Ethridge supervises practice Wednesday afternoon at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. The Riverwomen have a 7-6 record so far this season.

the outside, we have a tendency to win for whatever reason," Ethridge said. "Luckily there have been times where they haven't been hitting and our posts have rose to the occasion and filled that void. I think everybody plays a big part of this team."

Before the Riverwomen made their trip to play Southern Indiana, Ethridge said that she would have liked to have

been at a .500 winning percentage in conference play by the end of the week of play.

"We play Southern Indiana, which is a big game for us, because we're both, right now, in the same spot in the conference," Ethridge said, before the Southern Indiana game. "We're 2-4 and we're playing on their home floor. It's always hard to win there. We go to

Kentucky Wesleyan, which is another game that is big for us. If we can come out of this week being 4-4 in the league, that'll be a great week for us."

Although Ethridge and UM-St. Louis did not achieve their immediate goal this week of a .500 mark in conference play, the team has ongoing goals, which they are still working to achieve.

"Early, we started the league play with Bellarmine and Kentucky," Ethridge said. "That kind of put things into perspective for us real quick. We know how tough this league is, and we know it's very competitive, and that's something that I like. That's something that I look forward to everyday that I do this job is how competitive this league is. We're definitely not out of it."

Bernsen, R-men, try to regain a winning course

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

After a 76-51 loss to Kentucky Wesleyan on Jan. 11, the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team is now 5-8 overall and 2-6 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The team is now in the middle of a five-game losing streak.

Rivermen leading scorer, Guard Ronnie Banks, had 19 points on the game. Justin Foust, seventh in scoring for UM-St. Louis, had 10 points in the game.

The loss to the Panthers followed an 85-61 loss to Southern Indiana on Jan. 9 and an 82-68 loss to Quincy on Jan. 4. Rivermen Head Coach Mark Bernsen said that,

"Obviously they've been on the road and I don't care what league you're in or who you are, when you go on the road it's a totally tougher game on the road," Bernsen said. "... Except for the Quincy game in the first half, I thought defensively we were pretty good. So 5 out of 6 halves in those three games, we did play defense very well."

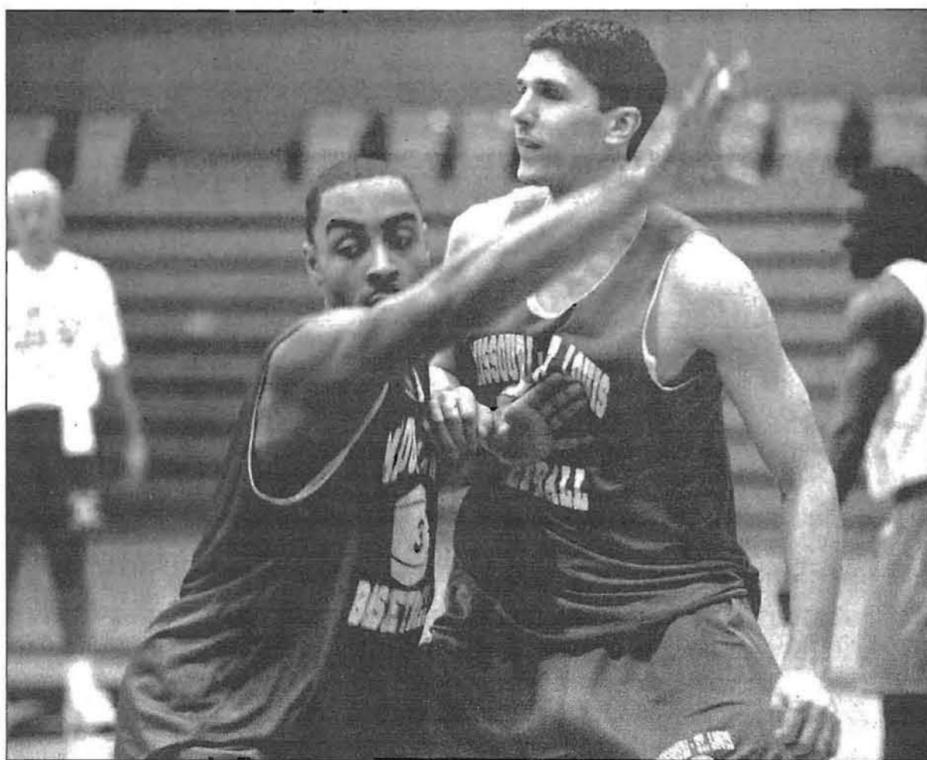
Bernsen said that, although the defense is a strong point, the offense has yet to gel.

"Unfortunately, we were struggling to score," Bernsen said. "We're not shooting the ball as well as we should. You can only motivate yourself, I think, as a player and even as a team sometimes for so long playing defense. And then, all of a sudden, you need some scoring, you need a breakaway lay-up, you need a three and at inopportune times, we're not getting a basket when we need it."

Despite an apparent lack of clutch play, several of the Rivermen starters are making major contributions to the offense. Banks is leading the way for UM-St. Louis with an average of 34 points and 11.7 rebounds. Guard Jonothan Griffin is second on the team with 28 points and 11.1 rebounds per game. Forward Qwanzi Samuels has also contributed highly to the offensive front, averaging 20 points in 265 minutes of play.

"Our defense has been pretty constant and pretty consistent throughout the year," Bernsen said. "What's missing is some kind of consistency, offensively, where we'll take a bad shot or we'll miss a free throw or we'll turn the ball over on the offensive end."

see BASKETBALL, page 9



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Rivermen players Johnathan Griffin and Mindaugas Adamonis practice Wednesday afternoon.

Skipper teaches R-men to learn from mistakes

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Learning to coach is something that does not happen overnight. In many cases, it doesn't even happen in a single season. Personal experience, former coaches and victories help to guide the careers of coaches. That is the case for the skipper of the UM-St. Louis basketball team.

"You take bits and pieces from every place you've been, and hopefully, you take the things that were successful and incorporate them into what you're doing at that present time," Head Coach Mark Bernsen said. "I think you learn from your successes, but you also learn sometimes from your failures."

Bernsen is now in his fourth season at UM-St. Louis. Currently, his all-time record at UM-St. Louis is 41-53. And although he has only held the position for such a short time, he has had much experience to draw on.

Former Rivermen Head Coach, and Missouri Basketball Hall-of-Famer Chuck Smith coached basketball at UM-St. Louis for 13 years. In that time, he attained the program's highest winning percentage, with a .545 mark.

During one of his team's many post-season runs in 1971-72, his team was assisted by Bernsen's scoring. Bernsen amassed 990 career points and a 13.9 average for number 15 on the all-time scoring list. And, according to Bernsen, his collegiate experience under Smith is drawn from to this day.

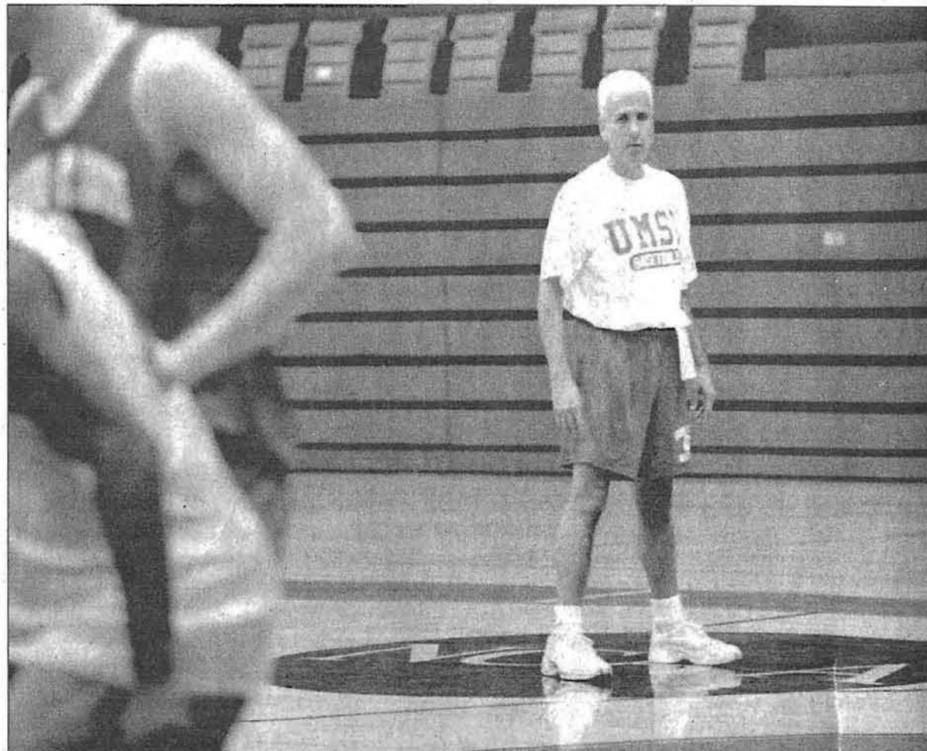
"You learned a lot from Coach Smith and how he structured his program and his team," Bernsen said. "I think any coach looks at another coach, especially a former coach of his, and tries to do things and model what he's doing after the successes that his predecessors have had."

Bernsen would later coach under Smith as an assistant from 1975-77.

Bernsen has had success in all levels of basketball, save professionally. As Head Coach at McCluer High School, Bernsen and his team claimed a Missouri Class 4A State Championship. He coached at Jefferson College, garnering eight straight 20-win seasons and a 182-69 mark as a coach. The team also claimed Midwest Championships in 1980 and 1985.

Among Bernsen's other experiences was his time served as an assistant at Southwest Missouri State under former SLU Head Coach Charlie Spoonhour.

see BERNSEN, page 9



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Rivermen Head Coach Mark Bernsen oversees practice drills on Wednesday. "I think you learn from your successes, but you also learn sometimes from your failures," Bernsen said of his coaching experiences.

EDITOR

HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

COMING UP

Basketball

Jan. 16

• Women - 5:30 p.m.
vs. Northern Kentucky

• Men - 7:30 p.m.
vs. Northern Kentucky

18

• Women - 1 p.m.
vs. Indianapolis

• Men - 3:15 p.m.
vs. Indianapolis

23

• Women - 5:30 p.m.
at Wisconsin-Parkside

• Men - 7:45 p.m.
at Wisconsin-Parkside

UPDATE

Alberts signs with UMSL, signs to play b-ball, softball

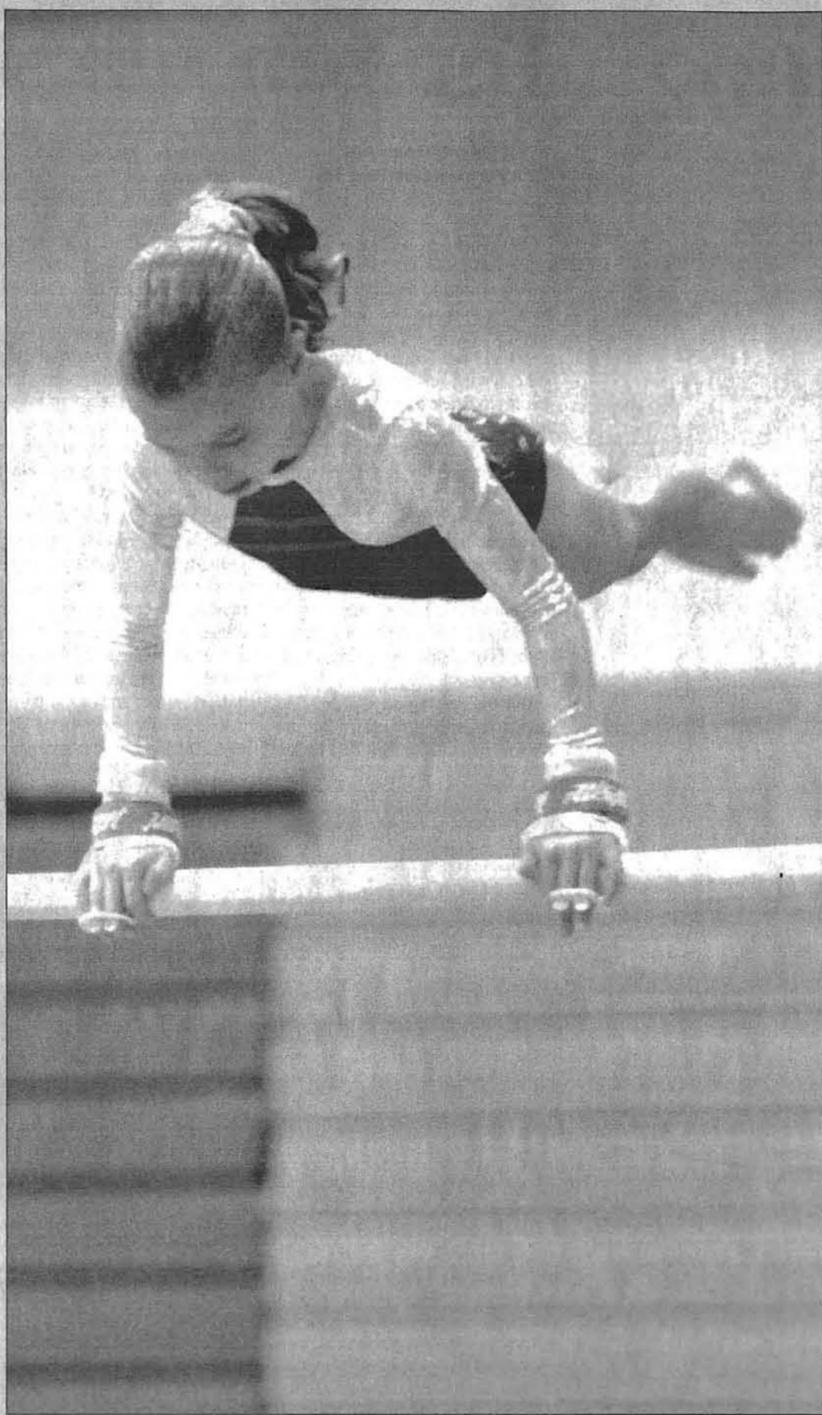
The University of Missouri-St. Louis has signed Megan Alberts (Freeburg, Ill./Freeburg) to play basketball with the Rivermen beginning next season. Alberts will also play for the softball team at UMSL during the spring season.

Alberts is a 5'10" forward who chose UMSL over SIU Edwardsville and Southeast Missouri State because of the combination of academic opportunities and athletic opportunities. Last year, Alberts averaged 18.3 points and six rebounds per game as a junior for Freeburg High School.

While basketball will be her main focus athletically, Alberts plans on playing for the softball team as well. As a junior, she hit .398 and had a slugging percentage of .580 with 19 RBIs on the season as an outfielder. Academically, Alberts chose UMSL as the best fit to meet her professional goals of going into optometry and plans on attending UMSL's School of Optometry.

WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at www.umsml-sports.com



Mike Sherwin / The Current

A young gymnast with the St. Louis Spirits Gymnastics Club competed at the St. Louis Classic tournament held January 4-5 at the Mark Twain Athletic Building.

BASKETBALL, from page 8

"Those kind of things have been biting us in the back a little bit," Bernsen said.

Bernsen said that, although consistency is needed, the team as a whole has to gel.

"I don't know if it's so much an individual stepping up," Bernsen said. "I think as we get more and more familiar with the offensive patterns and the motion offense that we're running, I think we'll be able to figure out where our best opportunities come."

"They're all capable of scoring. It's just, right now, we're not getting the ball in the basket, and he's going right and he's going left and so forth and so on," Bernsen continued. "We've had a couple of situations where people who've been injured have come in and out of the line-up. That doesn't help your chemistry, and that's probably as much as anything right now. We don't have a flow to our offense."

Bernsen said that it is up to the players to correct the problem.

"We're going to continue to work on our defense and make that maybe create some of our offense and through repetition maybe figure out how we can improve our offense," Bernsen said.

"It's a practice, practice, practice type of thing. We just need to do what we're doing better. Chemistry comes from knowing each other and when you have a group that's new to each other like these guys are, it's taking a little longer than I thought."

BERNSEN, from page 8

Bernsen was named Head Coach in 1992 and had a 48-37 record in three seasons in the position. He has had many experiences and remembers many mistakes. And Bernsen learns and tries his best to never make the same mistake again.

"I tell all of my players 'you can make as many mistakes as you want, but don't make the same mistake over

because you're not learning,'" Bernsen said. "So, whether it be changing defenses or changing offenses or how you play, you've got to learn what is the right way to play and what is the wrong way to play, and then you've just got to work at it."

This season, Bernsen and his squad will attempt to learn from the mistakes of last season. Bernsen hopes that his team, which is 5-8 overall and a 2-6 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, will

hopefully improve under his direction.

"Coaching is a funny business," Bernsen said. "You can have success or you can get some things done in a positive manner, and sometimes it doesn't show up in terms of wins and losses. For instance, the last couple of games we've lost three in a row now, but we're playing better than we did early. But, it doesn't come up in a win column. So, it's just one of those things. You've just got to keep working at it."

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BOOK REVIEW

Best books of 2002

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

In 2002, a trip to the bookstore may have included visits to a New England town still carrying remains of the Salem Witch Trials, a spiritual and very dangerous trip to India, a long-forgotten tale about sex, revenge and horror in New Orleans, a return to Nazi-era Germany to relieve the sins of WWII and a romp through a tongue-in-cheek fantasy world. These are the best books from 2002, all of which were reviewed in previous issues of *The Current*:

1. "Mysteries of New Orleans" by Baron Ludwig Von Reizenstein and translated by Steven Rowan: This was a long-forgotten banned novel that was found by UM-St. Louis History Professor Rowan and translated into English for the first time. "Mysteries" tells an eerie, thought-provoking tale of New Orleans during the time of slavery and right before the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1853. It is an unforgettable novel filled with disturbing scenes and Gothic elements amplified, as well as plenty of deliciously eccentric horrible characters.

2. "Losing Gemma" by Katy Gardner: This almost made it to number one, but "Mysteries" won out because of its unforgettable images, which is not to say that "Losing Gemma" doesn't have its share of interesting scenes. This story of two English girls who travel to India only to have one of them die is a mesmerizing spiritual journey into an almost-Hell for the protagonist, Esther. The book is a frightening psychological journey and gives us two rich lead characters, Esther and her best friend, Gemma, a quiet girl who hides a devious mind behind a shy exterior.

3. "Salem Falls" by Jodi Picoult: This is an exciting book about a stranger in a small town who gets accused of rape by the daughter of a prominent businessman. "Salem" rises above its standard movie-of-the-week premise with a believable setting, genuine suspense and realistic but memorable characters, especially



Mike Sherwin/The Current

the protagonist, Jack St. Bride, and his accuser, Gillian Duncan.

4. "Whispers and Lies" by Joy Fielding: Fielding knows how to tell a really suspenseful story and does it well, presenting Terry Painter, a middle-aged nurse who receives a new housemate, who may or may not be all that she seems. "Whispers" is a strong novel with a lot of suspense and terror that lead to a shocking but somehow clever ending.

5. "Funny Money" by James Swain: There has been a trend for mystery and suspense novels this year, and this thriller set in Atlantic City is no exception. "Funny" is an

interesting novel in which an Atlantic City detective must explore the dark world of casinos and gambling. It's a clever novel rich with a believable hero, an eccentric supporting cast and plenty of details about casino life.

6. "Wood to Wuin" by Peter David: David successfully skewers the epic fantasy genre with his anti-hero, Sir Apropos of Nothing, who uses a long-forbidden object and becomes a "peacelord." Fantasy clichés such as magical objects, fights with dragons and mysterious old wizards are honed to predictable but hilarious perfection in this send-up.

GAME REVIEW

Don't hate the player...

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

The past year was a good one for video games. Simulated violence was up three-hundred percent from the year before and hardcore heroines in skimpy outfits were up almost thirty percent. It only seems right then to do a year in review of 2002, awarding randomly the games that were coolest, deadliest, and so on.

Most Ridiculous Number of Bullets Fired Award:

The nominees are "No One Lives Forever II: A Spy in H.A.R.M.'s Way" (PC), "Medal of Honor: Allied Assault" (PC) and "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" (Multiplatform).

In a hotly contested battle (with a total death toll of street mimes, Nazis and hookers slightly in excess of the actual global population) the award goes to "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" for its use of the minigun and Apache helicopter.

Unreal Tournament 2003, "Jedi Knight II" and "Metroid Prime" were disqualified because a majority of the weapons used in those games did not involve bullets.

Honorable mention is given to "James Bond 007: Nightfire," "Hitman 2" and "Ghost Recon: Island Thunder," but these games required stealth and/or accuracy, which cut down on the total bullet quantity.

The Wow, My Brain Hurts Award: The nominees are "Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast" (Multiplatform), "The Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind" (Multiplatform) and "E-card Reader" (Game Boy Advance).

While "JKII" had seemingly unsolvable puzzles (how, in Yoda's name, am I supposed to open this damn door?!), the GBA "E-card Reader" takes a dozen or more scans before it will "work," the longest game in the history of RPG's has truly earned this award. It takes eight hours of play just to walk across the island of Morrowind, and that's enough to make anyone's brain hurt. Much to the delighted horror of those who still

twitch when someone whispers "Dagoh-Ur," Bethesda Softworks just released an expansion, "The Elder Scrolls III: Tribunal."

Wackiest RPG Award: The nominees are "Freedom Force" (PC), "Kingdom Hearts" (PS2) and "The Sims Online" (PC).

Role-playing games seem to be either long or good, but this year there were several that were just plain weird. It was fairly odd to see Goofy and Donald Duck fighting Sephiroth (from "Final Fantasy VII") in the Disney/Squaresoft joint venture "Kingdom Hearts." "The Sims Online" barely counts as an RPG since it doesn't have any way of killing your fellow sims. In the end

miraculously failed to be anything remarkable. Therefore the award goes to both "Age of Mythology" and "Warcraft III," not because they are equally fantastic, but because neither of them sucks too badly.

The Golden Turd Award for Excellence at Sucking:

The nominees are "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" (Lamentably Multiplatform), "Dark Angel" (PS2) and "Farscape" (PC).

While "Farscape" and "Dark Angel" are both based on entertaining shows (okay, Alba's outfits are the only redeeming quality of "Dark Angel"), the games made from them are not just bad, they're atrocious.

They would both win if I had a category for worst video game made from a TV series, but the mighty Golden Turd Award goes to "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring". This game was made for every platform so that people everywhere could get a swift kick in the mental groin. Please note that "LotR: Fellowship of the Ring" is a very different game from "LotR: The Two Towers" (PS2 only), a game that kicks someone else's ass rather than your own groin.

And finally: The Game that Made My Thumbs Bleed Most: The nominees are "Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast" (Multiplatform), "Super Smash Bros. Melee" (GameCube) and "James Bond 007: Nightfire" (Multiplatform).

Hundreds of hours of "JKII" might make that game seem to be a shoe in for this award, and while it's easily the most entertaining game of 2002, this award is for bleeding thumbs. Using my mouse and keyboard for "JKII" only made my wrists and eyes bleed. "Super Smash Bros. Melee" was too frustrating because often the level, rather than my friends, would be responsible for my demise, so I didn't play it enough to get my thumbs all that bloody. Despite these excellent candidates, the winner is James Bond, in the greatest multiplayer partygame (on PS2) since "Goldeneye" (for the N64), which can also be played on PC. "Nightfire" will keep my thumbs bloodied long into the new year, and hopefully beyond.

MOVIE REVIEW

Top ten films

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

As we bid farewell to that year that was a palindrome, 2002, you knew the new year would be met with two things: reassessments of the year and Top Ten lists.

Ah, the Top Ten list. An attempt to boil down the best or the worst of the year in ten little examples. In this case, the ten best films of 2002.

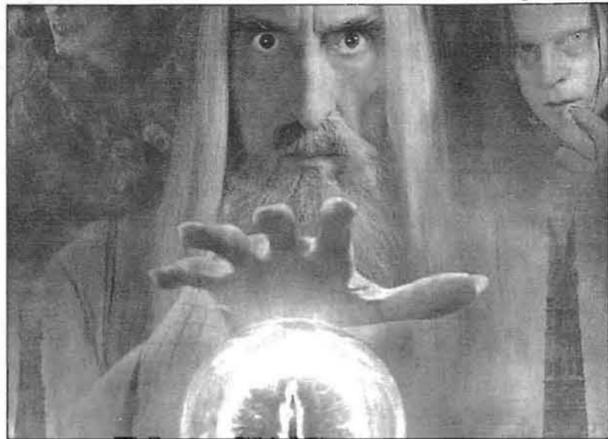
Earlier in 2002, it was starting to look like it might be hard to even find ten worthy films to make a Top Ten list. Yet late in the year, mostly in December, there was a sudden deluge of excellent films. This is such a flood that quality-starved cinephiles are now staggering from theater to theater in an endless round of movie-going before all the bounty dries up (or class work gets too heavy).

But for this region, this may not happen before the Oscars. Film distributors like to hold their best for late

film is as entertaining as it is biting. Michael Moore's new documentary about gun violence may be even better than his famous documentary "Roger and Me." Moore wisely knows you can say powerful things with humor, as he explores the nature of our violent culture. As people have groped for an explanation for the Columbine murders, many have blamed video games or music. Yet right before the tragedy, the young assailants went bowling. Does bowling lead to violence? Despite his humor, Moore's film is thoughtful and surprisingly balanced, uncovering facts about our culture that fit no one's preconceived ideas.

4. Y Tu Mama Tambien - This Mexican film was one of those mid-year bright spots. While it starts out as a frank look at male teen sexuality, it moves into a unique kind of coming-of-age film when the pair of boys take a road trip with an older woman who has her own preoccupations. Great acting, great story and one of those films that always surprises you.

5. The Hours - This adaptation of a



Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

in the year so they are fresh in the Academy members' minds when it comes time to hand out the gold statuettes. This year was an extreme case. There was a seemingly endless drought, with a very few good films sprinkled in to quench our cinematic thirst, even as late as Thanksgiving. Since the film distributors all waited until the last possible moment, several of the films on this list have just opened here or on the East or West coasts and won't make it to our screens until January or even later.

Ideally, to make the top ten list, a film has to be something more than entertaining. The film has to be moving, be sharply original, say something or make you think. Just having good box office isn't enough. Conversely, having a message, good intentions or artistic merit alone are not enough either. The film has to be absorbing and work as a piece of cinema, something that grabs an audience. Several well-intentioned films didn't make the list because they didn't seize the audience as effectively as other films. To qualify, a film has to combine both elements into that magical package that is "the good film." Of course, this formula is somewhat slanted towards dramas and perhaps against comedies, musicals or documentaries, but those genres have had this disadvantage since the beginning of film. With this sudden flood of outstanding films it was fairly difficult to pare down the list to ten. It was even harder to come up with a ranking; so many of them were so good that any of them might have been the top film in a different year. Therefore, I included some near misses at the end of the list. So, what were my picks for the year's best films? Read on.

1. The Pianist - This taut, haunting tale of a renowned pianist who evades the Nazi concentration camps in Poland during WWII is a riveting story of survival and the human spirit. Like many of the films on this list, it is based on real-life memoirs, in this case those of a musician survivor. Adrien Brody is smashing in this film, which is Roman Polanski's most autobiographical, drawing on the director's childhood as a nine-year-old who evaded the Nazis. This is the best Holocaust film since "Schindler's List" and may sweep away reservations some may have about Polanski.

2. Talk to Her - Spanish director Pedro Almodovar follows his hit "All About My Mother" with a beautiful film that pivots on a ballet dancer and a female bullfighter, both in comas. The hospital experience brings together two men in a surprising friendship as they share their memories about the women they love. As unlikely as the premise seems, the film that unfolds touches on love, philosophy and friendship, and you never know where it will lead. The film has skillful acting, an unpredictable story and a lovely visual beauty. Maybe the most cinematic of the bunch and perhaps Almodovar's best film yet.

3. Bowling For Columbine - Documentaries almost never make this kind of list, but this exceptional

best-selling novel follows three women in three time periods tied together by Virginia Woolf's book "Mrs. Dalloway." The film is also tied together by masterful plotting and stunning acting by Meryl Streep, Julianna Moore, Ed Harris and most notably by the unrecognizable Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf.

6. About Schmidt - In a year marked by great acting, Jack Nicholson makes his contribution with a stunning turn as a self-centered man coping with retirement, the loss of his spouse and his daughter's marriage into a very different family. Alternately hilarious, moving and darkly biting, the film combines elements of a fish-out-of-water comedy with hints of "Death of a Salesman."

7. 25th Hour - In a year of great films by great filmmakers, this one is an unusual and powerful film from Spike Lee. Edward Norton stars as a man convicted on a drug charge and spending his last night of freedom before starting his sentence. The film deals with regret, friendship, race, society, suspicion and parental love, along with issues of right and wrong in the shadow of 9/11. A remarkable film from a remarkable filmmaker.

8. Heaven - Although it had a very short run here and has been misunderstood by some, this haunting film about vigilante justice gone wrong is a kind of love story in doomed circumstances that is strangely moving and poignant. Cate Blanchette offers another great performance and Tom Twyker's film is wholly different from his "Run Lola Run," but carries out the artistic promise. A tragic and beautiful film.

9. Gangs of New York - Although it is marred a bit by some bits at the beginning and end that look like they were tacked on by someone other than Scorsese, the greater part of the film is fabulous. Once again, a film based on a history book of the same name, the strong acting set against the historical epic sweep is breathtaking. Daniel Day Lewis is remarkable, and Leonardo DiCaprio shows there is more to his acting chops than "Titanic." The look into the violence and poverty of mid nineteenth century New York and the conflict between immigrants and native-born Americans is moving. Martin Scorsese has created an entire breathing cinematic world to house his powerful story. The film is equally artistic and absorbing.

10. Two Towers - The second film in the Lord of the Rings trilogy has the same epic character, even though it deviates more from the book. While fans might feel that the Ents should have retained more of their original profound and wise nature, the director did wonderful things with the computer-generated Gollum, brought to life by the voice of Andy Serkis.

This list includes two outstanding foreign language films, but if we were to restrict it to just English language films, here are two alternates: "Chicago" and "Igy Goes Down."



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

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fax: 516-6811

A&E Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change

Jan. 10

25th Hour - Spike Lee's masterful tale of 24 hours before a man starts his prison sentence, stars Edward Norton, Rosario Dawson

Adaptation - The folks who brought you "Being John Malkovich" are at it again with a sort of true tale within a tale about a scriptwriter adapting a non-fiction book into a movie, stars Nicholas Cage, Meryl Streep

The Pianist - Riveting film about a pianist who escapes the Warsaw ghetto and hides from the Nazis, based on a true story and directed by Roman Polanski

Narc - Ray Liotta and Jason Patric in gritty story of cops and murder, a film that started as indie and grabbed Hollywood attention for its powerful performances

Just Married - Romantic comedy with slapstick

His Secret Life - When a man dies, his wife discovers his secret life; one week only at the Tivoli

Jan. 17

The Hours - wonderful adaptation of best-selling novel about three women in three decades, tied together by Virginia Woolf's book Mrs. Dalloway, stars Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Meryl Streep

Kangaroo Jack - comedy about mafiosos lost in Australia

National Security - Action/comedy with Martin Lawrence

A Guy Thing - Romantic comedy with Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, Selma Blair

Special programs: I'm Going Home - French drama about an actor who has to face the loss of his family when he returns to work; stars John Malkovich, directed by Manoel de Oliveira; in French and English; at Webster Film Series, Jan. 17-19

Quartet to kick-off the international performing arts season

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Quartet was founded in 1978 and consists of Marcia Mann on cello, Sallie Coffman on violin, Wendy Lea on second violin and Sarah Borchelt on viola. They have traveled throughout the Midwest and have been featured on such radio stations as KMOX and KFUE. Marsh said that the quartet will play a selection of light classical music, including selections by Bach, Strauss, Haydn and from various other operettas. They will also play "Villa," from the operetta "The Merry Widow," with a solo by soprano Lynn Working.

"[Working] is a soprano from the St. Louis area who has performed in many New York shows before coming

“
The St. Louis-based Laclede Quartet was founded in 1978 and consists of Marcia Mann on cello, Sallie Coffman on violin, Wendy Lea on second violin and Sarah Borchelt on viola.
”

here," Marsh said. She has sung the National Anthem at games and is a very talented woman."

Marsh has been acquainted with the Laclede Quartet for many years, but has not had the opportunity to invite them to do a concert until now.

"I have known the members for some time, and we were looking for an opportunity to do something together, and this proved to be a benefit for us and the German Center," Marsh said.

Last year the German Culture Center sponsored many workshops for German professors and hosted quite a few entertainment events, including a cabaret duo; a pop quintet, the Wise Guys and a comedian. This year Marsh said that there has been a slight decrease in the amount of funding that the GCC has received, which he

believes is because of the dwindling economy.

"We, like every public institution, are suffering from a downtime in the economy," Marsh said. "Though we have received some help from the Goethe Institute, which is a worldwide organization for teaching German. They receive funding from the German government, but there is less money for institutes; at the same time, we are trying to do more and more."

The "more and more" includes a workshop in which a professor will use rap music to teach German pronunciation, a performance setting the poems of Hermann Hesse to music

and a traditional band concert in June.

"We continue to expand our programs, offering extensive resource and special events for the German/American community German teachers and the general public," Marsh said. "To maintain that level of activity, we really need to increase our income. [The Laclede Quartet concert] will be both a treat for our supporters and a means to show support for the important work that the GCC does. The St. Louis German Culture Center has gained nationwide attention for its programs, and I want us to be able to continue our work," Marsh concluded.

FILMS, from page 10

The musical film "Chicago" may be less original than last year's "Moulin Rouge," but it is still a very entertaining film version of a darkly toned stage hit. The musical numbers are handled like fantasy sequences, separate but parallel to the story, like in "Dancer in the Dark," the art-house film hit of recent years. "Chicago" is a terrific adaptation of the stage musical (again, based on a Bob Fosse musical inspired by real events in the 1920s), but the

real surprises are the show-stopper song and dance numbers actually performed by the cast. Who knew that Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere and John C. Reilly had a background in musical theater? Interestingly, John C. Reilly seems to be everywhere on this list, appearing in supporting parts in "The Hours" and "Gangs of New York" as well as in this film.

The other alternate film on this list is "Igy Goes Down," another com-

ing-of-age story, part comedy, part harrowing story about the effects that families have on one's life. Once again, remarkable acting and an unexpected story set this film apart.

Regardless of how you would rank these films or even if you would pick some of the other excellent films now playing for your list, it is a great time to see a film or two. But you'll have to catch them quick, before they melt away.



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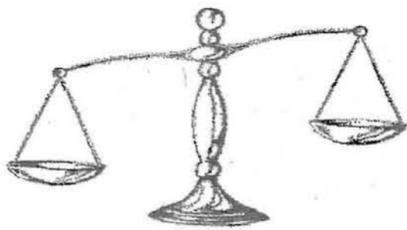
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CD REVIEW

Pinkeye d'gekko combines jazz, classical and rock, poorly

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

With combined rhythmic sounds from almost every instrument, Pinkeye d'gekko has been trying to reach popularity from its listeners.

Steve Richards Mahoney, the leader of this dynamic group, focuses on the sounds of the guitar, keyboard, drum, bass, saxophone and his vocals to produce, in his mind, a powerful form of music.

Their music can be described as classical meets jazz with a twist of rock.

The group began playing in New York City and Boston, eventually moving to the Midwest to get a recording label. Their dream became a reality after Force MP Entertainment designed their first album.

The Pinkeye d'gekko album was released in 2001, but is still far from reaching the top of Billboard charts.

The full released album "Rhythm Western" lives up to its title. Its

Neinhaus (acoustic guitars and banjo), Rob Mathis, Dave Grelle (clarinet), Steve Bunck (Drums and Percussion), Michelle Isam (saxophone) and Lisa Campbell (vocals).

Being a local St. Louis band, the group has made many appearances at the Great Grizzly Bear, in Soulard; Cicero's, in University City and 'at Pops Night Club.

"At the groups last performance, around 150 - 200 people showed up," Cicero's Music Production Coordinator Jay Mumma said.

The band members were originally inspired by many late '60s and '70s rock artists, such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Led Zepplin and the Mamas and the Papas.

Their music can be compared to that of the Dave Matthews Band, Moby, Beck and Bob Dylan.

Their hit song "Possibly" is said to offer more than just some quick beats and fast melodies. The song has a powerful meaning behind it, displaying attitudes towards love, sexuality and friendship. According to the band, "Possibly" gives its listeners a chance to look deep into what music is.

Towards the end of the song, the chorus: "What could you possibly want with me?" And the line: "...cause what I've got you cannot see," is where the singer tries to get an understanding of someone else's love. However, in the beginning when he describes his bad teeth, bad skin and bad bones, it does not sound like any romantic pick-up lines. When the song is over, I wonder what they were possibly thinking.

The third song on the album, "The Theme From The Working Poor," is another song that did not strike me as interesting in the least. The song plays for about one



pinkeye d'gekko

minute, which seems like an eternity, before any of the vocalists begin singing.

The background made me feel like I was at a funeral procession. Throughout the song, Mahoney talks about being left for dead. This is not a song that I think anyone would want to start off their day hearing.

In the song "N.S., Parts 2B & 2A," the beginning began to amuse me because the rock tunes sound like those of the group Metallica. Just when I thought that I actually liked what I was hearing, the noise of a stampede of horses came into the background and broke my attention.

The rest of the tracks on the album are not too impressive either. Does this group really sing, or do they just read the words off of their music sheet?

On a scale of 1-10, I would give them a 2. The only thing that I found appealing about Pinkeye d'gekko was its album cover.

Here's some last advice to music lovers: save your money and just turn your radio to a country station if you're looking to find true rhythm and western.

On a scale of 1-10, I would give them a rating of a 2. The only thing that I found appealing about Pinkeye d'gekko was its album cover.

ard to classify the genre as being classical rock when the lyrics sound like country stories.

Along with the lead vocalist and guitarist, the other band members put in their hard work and effort. The group wouldn't have been made possible without the help from Marc Johnson (electric guitars), Scott

BUDGET CUT, from page 1

She said she believes a tax increase unavoidable.

UM-St. Louis may be facing tough times in the near future. As the newest of the four UM campuses, UM-St. Louis would be on the short list for closure if the state legislature and Gov. Holden feel that state colleges need to be closed down. Despite having the second highest enrollment of the four system campuses, UM-St. Louis has the fewest professional programs, making it even more susceptible to closure.

Gov. Holden has faced criticism from members of the higher education community about his willingness to cut money from its budget, while not cutting a dime from the elementary and secondary education budgets.

"I have been firm in my belief that education is the key to maintaining our goals," Holden said. "Maintaining these priorities has allowed us to increase funding for elementary and secondary education - at a time when 17 other states have had to cut theirs - and to continue progress in education...."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Gov. Bob Holden came to UM-St. Louis Nov. 26 to address concerns regarding the current budget crisis. According to new figures from the state, Missouri now faces a \$1 billion shortfall.

With a budget crisis that is growing at a rate not seen since the Great Depression, does this mean Holden will continue to cut the budget?

"To address a \$1 billion shortfall by cutting government would require a 15 percent cut," Holden said. "This is not the road I choose to take."



Outtakes

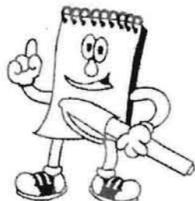
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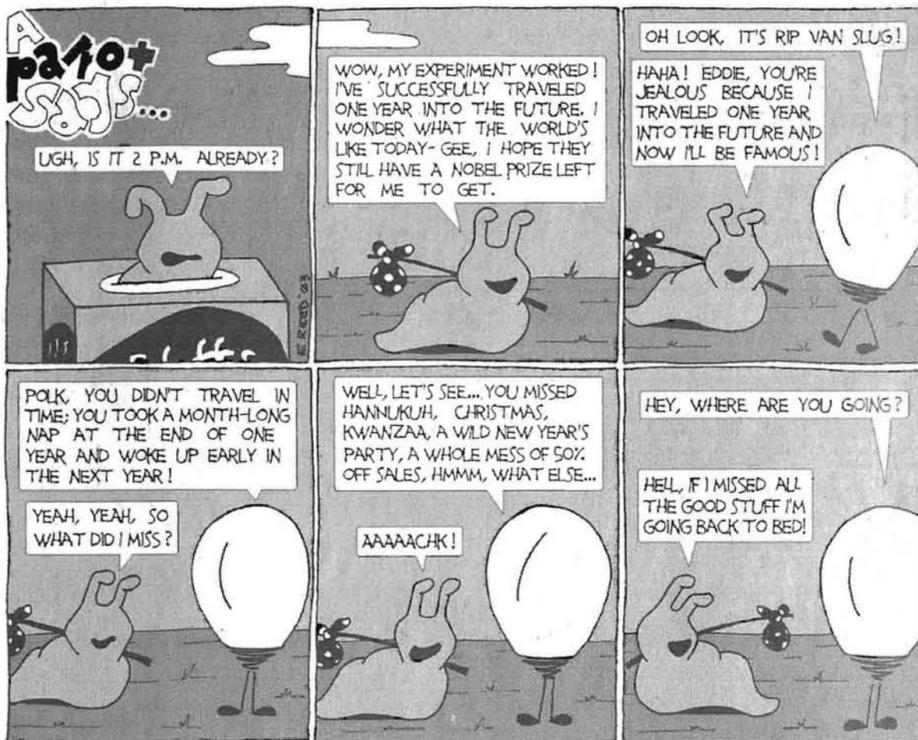
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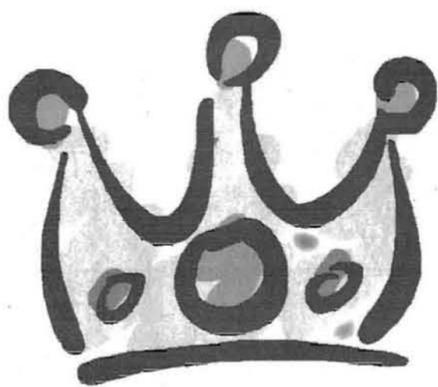
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Pomp and Circumstance

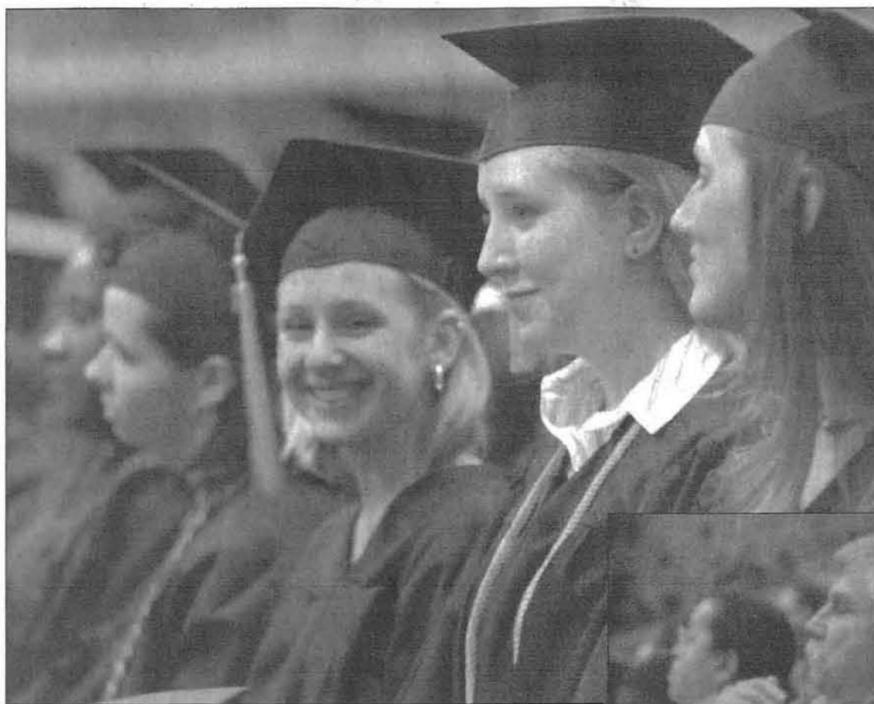
UMSL grads take the stage



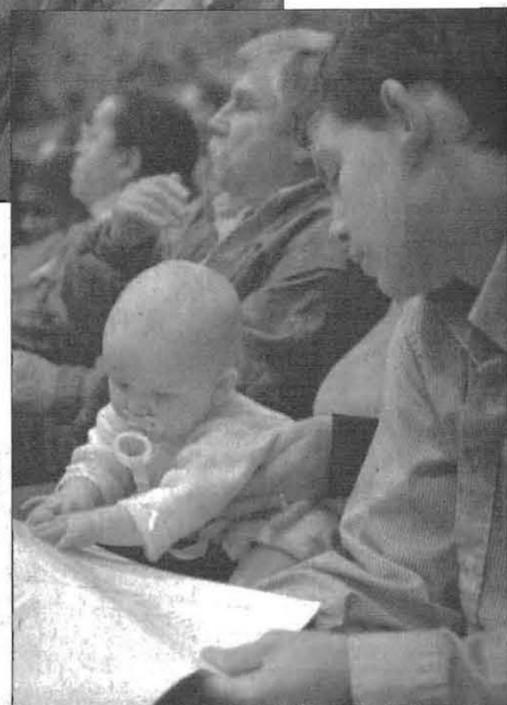
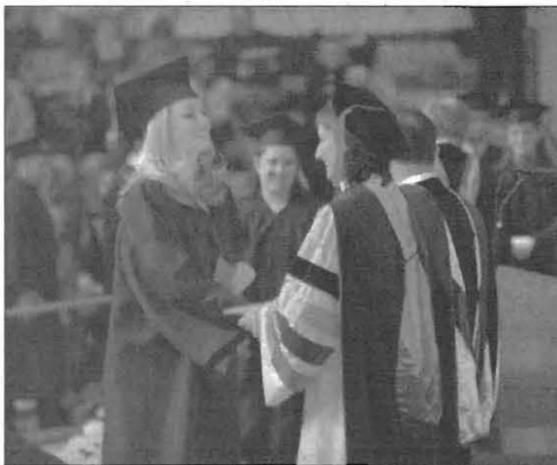
Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

After the winter commencement Sunday, a total of approximately 65,000 student have graduated from UM-St. Louis since it opened in 1963.

At right: Kristen Michelle Lawson, BA communication, receives congratulations after receiving her diploma. Lawson served as the student marshal for the College of Fine Arts and Communications.



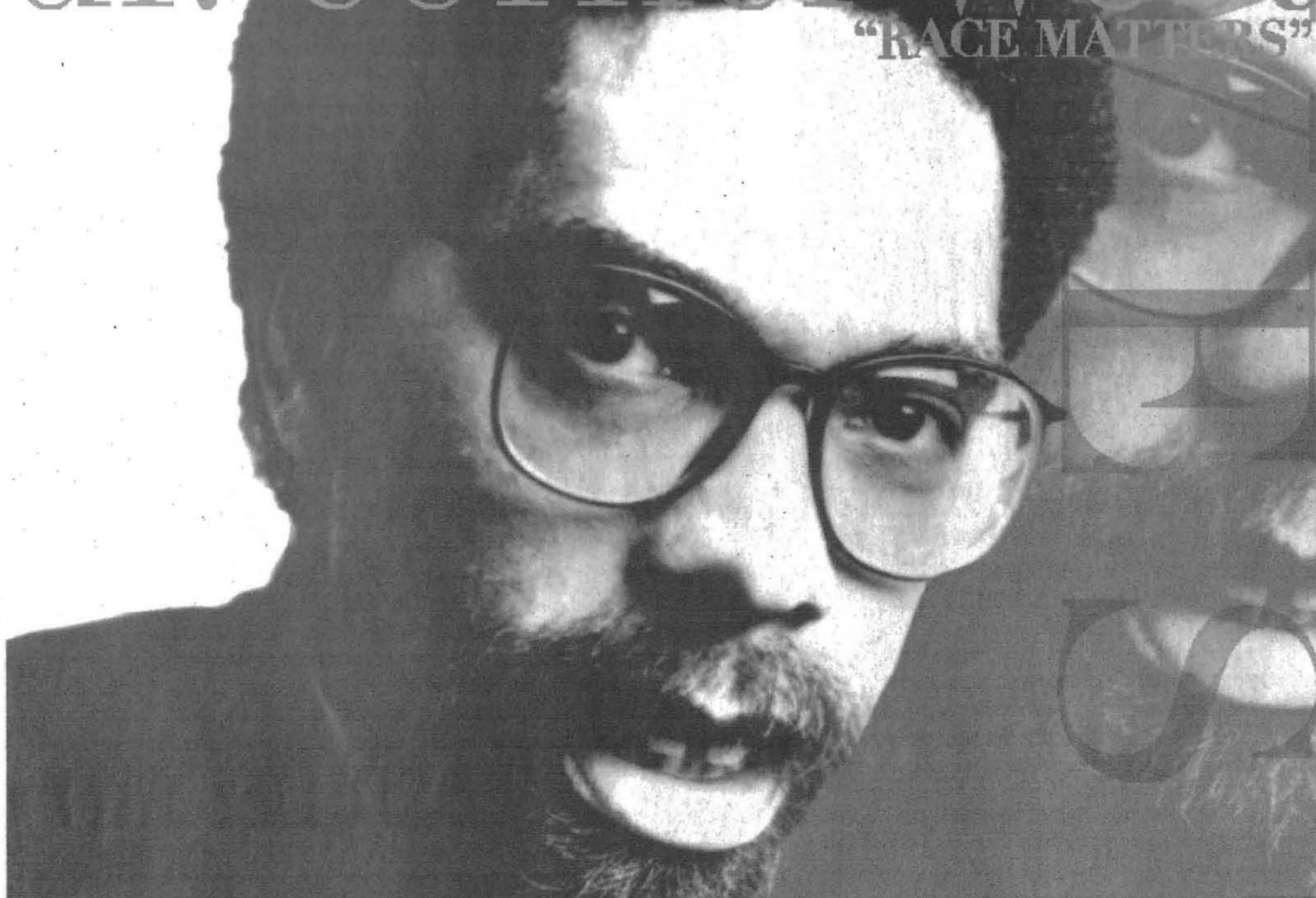
Graduates are all smiles at the winter commencement ceremony Sunday. The ceremony was held at 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. The commencement speaker was Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill.



Below: The family of graduate Sam Anseln peruse the commencement booklet during the graduation ceremony Sunday afternoon.

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