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The CURRENT

Students March on Woods Hall

Tonya Hutchinson leads campus call to end racism

by Susan Benton of The Current staff

In a month set aside for the recognition and celebration of African-American History, the first two weeks of February at UM-St. Louis were laden with racial slurs, incidents and protests.

A student-organized rally Friday, February 9 with over 100 faculty and students of UM-St. Louis was held outside of the University Center and ended in a march to Woods Hall.

The Chancellor, who was out of the country at the time, was expected to greet the demonstrators at Woods regarding a letter that had been sent to her prior to the Friday protest. The letter included a list of demands from students who want a change in UM-St. Louis race relations.

Tonya Hutchinson, a sophomore social work major, began the demonstration gained strong support of students and faculty alike. Passersby of all races and colors were drawn in by the anti-hate sentiments that were expelled with the aid of a bullhorn outside of University Center.

"We are all here together to fight institutional racism and individual racism," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson's speech was spawned out of anger by two incidents that oc-

curred last week on campus.

"Anger does not equate violence," Hutchinson said. "Anger is not bad."

The first incident involved an argument between freshman Christella Hairston, a black woman, and a white couple over a parking space outside of Woods Hall on Wednesday, January 31.

race lines. We want action now!"

"Today is an example of white people and black people working together," said senior psychology/peace studies major Mikey Krajcer. "We're not going to take this anymore. We won't accept racism on this campus."

Hairston, the black woman involved in the argument on Wed., Jan.

quadrangle to the lower level of Woods Hall. Upon arrival, senior social work major, Allison Gianino drew a large 'X' in front of Woods Hall marking the spot where the parking lot dispute had occurred.

"What we're trying to do is form an anti-hate group on this campus - now - to handle these situations in the future," Maria Whitter, senior Social Work major said.

"The group we'd like to form is against all hatred," said senior Social Work major Edna Green. "It's against all 'isms': sexism, racism, anti-semitism. If we're going to be diverse, we need to accept people for who they are."

Whitter said she was pleased with the size of the crowd with one exception.

"I'm pleased with the turnout, but I'd have liked to see more African-Americans here," she said.

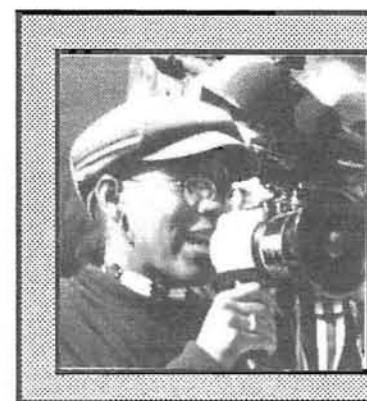
An investigation continues concerning the Black Culture Center office. According to the St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney's Office, there were no charges regarding the Woods Hall incident.

"I cannot fault the campus police for lack of charges," said Donald Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor. "This is a campus, however, that will not have any tolerance for intolerance."



Photo: Monica Senecal

Christella Hairston, psychology freshman who alleged she was assaulted in the Woods Hall Parking Lot, was one of many speakers at Friday's March Against Violence and Hatred.



"We are all here together to fight institutional racism and individual racism." Tonya Hutchinson

The second incident occurred Tuesday, Feb. 6, when someone entered the offices of the Black Culture Center, scattering furniture and other materials. Left behind was a racist note which made reference to the parking lot incident. It was addressed to the "Pure White Students of the Honorable University of Missouri."

"We want opposition to these white supremacy groups," Hutchinson said. "We're going to come together across

31 commented on the incident outside of Woods Hall.

"I'd like to say I'm the last person to scream racism, but that's exactly what it was," she said.

En route to Woods Hall, protestors touted signs such as, "Mean people suck," and "Is my skin my sin?" A radio playing Bob Marley and John Lennon music, and crews from several local television stations were in tow as the group marched from the

Vandalism of Black Culture Center prompts campus-wide meeting

by Michael J. Urness of The Current staff

An overflow crowd filled Room 78 J.C. Penny Tuesday Feb. 6, when UM-St. Louis administrators called an emergency meeting with faculty, staff and students to address recent racial incidents on campus. The meeting was called shortly after a reported incident of vandalism to the Black Culture Center offices in which letters containing racial slurs were left behind.

Lowe "Sandy" MacLean, vice chancellor Student Affairs and Norman Seay, director Office of Equal Opportunity, hosted the meeting. They were joined by Nicholas Wren of the Coalition of Black Student Organizations. It was Wren who called and reported the vandalism to The Current earlier in the day.

MacLean opened the meeting by describing both the vandalism to the Black Culture Center and the parking lot incident Jan. 31. He pledged the University would do everything in its power to find and punish those responsible for the vandalism.

After MacLean finished his opening remarks, Wren described his per-

ception of the events leading up to and including the altercation between the female student and the non-student female.

"Last Wednesday, a sister named Christella Hairston was verbally attacked in the parking lot near Woods Hall over a parking spot," Wren said. "As the altercation went into the build-

"Isn't it coincidental that the vandalism occurred after the assault was aired on Channel 5 last night?"

Nicholas Wren

ing she was physically kicked by a non-student on campus who just happens to be Caucasian.

"We are not happy with the steps that were taken by the police after this assault," Wren continued speaking on behalf of the Coalition of Black Student Organizations. He went on to say that the police should have arrested the non-student after she was accused of assault. Wren said that of the available options the police had in

this case, they opted to take minimal action.

"I think what the police did was investigate the case and interview the witnesses," MacLean said "I think minimal action [on the part of the police] would have been to drop it. They did not do that. They took the evidence to the County prosecutor

Because it's up to the County prosecutor to file charges."

After MacLean finished speaking, Seay asked for questions and comments from the audience.

"If we reversed these roles and we had an African-American male accused of attacking a white female would we have the same sort of action?," asked one participant.

"There are several ways in which one can administer any type of situa-

tion," answered Seay. "We would hope that the actions would have been the same.

"What we are doing is bringing our experiences—I'm talking about as African-Americans and the way we have been treated by the typical police officer in the greater St. Louis area—onto this campus."

Several students then told of incidents in which they had been treated unfairly by the campus police.

"African-Americans know what the problem is," one participant said, "It's that there's a differential in terms of treatment [of African-Americans by campus police] on the campus."

"Is it true that at the time of the incident, the girl who initiated the alleged assault was not arrested, but yet the black girl was asked if there was a warrant out for her arrest?" asked another participant.

"That is correct," replied Seay. Several members of the audience vocalized disbelief and displeasure at this revelation.

The discussion then turned to the act of vandalism to the Black Culture Center. The first questions asked related to who had keys to the Center. According to MacLean there are about



Photo: Michael O'Brian

Room 78 J.C. Penney Building packed a standing room only crowd for a meeting in response to the vandalism.

15 keys issued to students as well as between 40 and 50 master keys in the hands of custodians and other University employees.

"Isn't it coincidental that the vandalism occurred after the assault was aired on Channel 5 last night?" Wren asked.

"What does the University and the police department plan to do to

prevent these future break-ins and racial attacks upon the African American students?" asked another student. "The bottom line is I fear for my safety now, and I know I'm not the only one."

SEE VANDALISM PAGE 9

No charges filed in Hairston incident

by Michael J. Urness of The Current staff

Despite the outcries of African-American students, prosecutor says no charges will be filed in parking lot incident

Robert McCulloch, St. Louis County prosecutor, has decided not to charge either party in the Jan. 31 parking lot dispute involving racial slurs and claims of assault.

Despite claims by Christella Hairston and her supporters that she was an innocent victim of a racially motivated attack

McCulloch says witnesses have indicated she was equally at fault in the altercation.

"There were undoubtedly some racial slurs thrown back and forth, even gender slurs," McCulloch said. "Nobody came into this thing with clean hands. Basically it was an argument over a parking space. That's not an assault and not something we're going to issue charges over."

A dispute erupted Jan. 31 be-

SEE CHARGES PAGE 9

'Violence is the enemy of community' UM-St. Louis participates in a national teleconference on violence

by Wendy Jeffries of The Current staff

UM-St. Louis, along with approximately 300 other campuses, tuned in Tuesday for a national teleconference on violence, hosted by Charles Kuralt.

The conference was hosted by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and included guest speakers from around the world. Professor Margaret Sherraden of the Social Work department, organized the event for our campus.

"Violence is the enemy of community," said Kuralt in his opening address.

Kuralt's opening statements spoke

and concerned with America's problem with violence.

Violence as a global problem was an overriding theme in much of the conference discussion.

"Problems that many people face across the world are much worse than the problems we face at home, but they never lose hope," said Dessima Williams, professor at Brandeis University, and former ambassador to Grenada,

Vicky Fenton, a senior in Social Work, and part coordinator of the conference, agreed, "Violence happens world wide and what happens here affects other countries, and what hap-

Hopefully the teleconference will make people more aware."

The conference speakers then turned to gender violence, saying that it is a dangerous, global problem that especially plagues American society. Hillary Rodham Clinton said at the Fourth World Conference on Women, "It is time for us to say here in Beijing, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights."

According to the Surgeon General, battery is the leading cause of injury to adult women, and the problems are worse world wide. The United Nations estimates that 67 percent of the world's

that throughout the world, women own less than 1 percent of all property, make approximately 10 percent of the world's income, but do two-thirds of the world's work.

Next, the conference discussion turned to racial violence, active and passive, saying that it is also a dangerous problem.

"Race should not be the prism through which society is seen," Williams said. "Americans have been taught that our way is the right way. We need to realize that we don't have all the answers."

SEE VIOLENCE PAGE 9

Reflections of reactions

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

Let's all stop and take a deep breath.

Christella Hairston alleged that a non-student came to UM-St. Louis and verbally and physically assaulted her. Hairston has pushed for charges to be filed, but the County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch has said that there was no assault. His office is refusing to prosecute.

Before we all lose our heads over this matter, we should consider that all of our public record statements, everything we have seen on the local media news has all been from the side of Hairston or factions supporting her throughout this series of events.

Christella Hairston, Tonya Hutchinson (organizer of Friday's March Against Violence and Hatred) and Nicholas Wren (coordinator of the Coalition of Black Student Organizations) have all publicly criticized the way the UM-St. Louis Police handled the incident.



However, the Chief of UM-St. Louis Police Bob Roeseler said his officers have acted within procedure, and there were no violations of regulations. McCulloch has publicly vested his trust in Roeseler having an extensive history with him during the Chief's service for the St. Louis County Police. I believe both of them.

The initial incident which was a fight over a parking space was just that. I think both sides need to realize at least the absurd premise over the initial argument. Even if there was verbal or physical assault, why couldn't somebody have just said I'll find another space?

All of the dialogue right now is how to do things that will improve our cultural acknowledgement of each other: blacks and whites. Still before we take History Lecturer Priscella Dowden's advice with a mandatory class on racism, a little common courtesy to each other may go a long way.

As for common courtesy, why did Wren distance himself from Friday's march with statements specifically stating that he did not support it? If the common goal is to improve communication on this campus across the racial divide, two of the more prominent African-Ameri-

cans on campus (Wren and Hutchinson) should be working together instead of butting heads for publicity. As we have seen this week, there is plenty of media coverage available for both. A united effort from the African-American community at UM-St. Louis will certainly have more lasting effects than a fragmented one.

As for Hutchinson, here is a woman for whom I have great admiration. Even as I talked with my personal friend Tom O'Keefe over the "Sexy Legs II" fiasco, I found deep respect for Hutchinson in her passion for her cause. A true rebel is hard to find.

However, when I see her taking such strong stands against Chancellor Blanche Touhill, Vice Chancellor Lowe "Sandy" MacLean and Chief Roeseler I have to comment that these are people who I believe want the best for all students at UM-St. Louis. Though I may not always agree with their policy calls (especially when it comes to money), I find all three to be devoted, hard-working, caring individuals who give fair opportunity to everyone on our campus. I also believe they want to resolve these racial incidents as much as anybody else. Let's not forget we are all on the same side.

We must direct our efforts to solving the mystery of the group or individual responsible for the entry of the Black Culture Center: "White Power." This group has about as much sense as a Three Stooges skit with a half-hearted vandalistic effort and a poorly written letter sent to their proclaimed enemy not constituency. Still any motion of outward racism should be shouted down in mass (which it has been so far), and obviously we cannot tolerate unlawful entry into closed offices on campus. Anyone who knows anything about this situation should realize the implications of what the group has done. It is a social responsibility to inform the UM-St. Louis Police about who is responsible for the entry. The pinnacle of the campus unrest lies in the identity of "White Power."

Let's take this problem on together as adults. Let's cease all racially offensive dialogue and begin to intelligently work on building a stronger cultural relationship across racial divides. Positive leadership now will spur positive growth for the future.



Troubled times have a bonding effect on campus

by Scott Lamar
of The Current staff

What started off as a trivial dispute in a parking lot actually may have been something very beneficial for the campus.

Although some people are concerned that the local television reports are giving UM-St. Louis a bad image, a lot was accomplished last week.

First, students, faculty and staff crammed into Room 78 J.C. Penney to discuss racial concerns. Second, except for some eye-for-an-eye type solutions that were offered, some really intelligent comments were made. Third, people were thinking, interacting and brainstorming together. It was a diverse group sharing ideas. Most importantly, it was an excellent tool to heighten awareness as to the situation that some African Americans must deal with in their everyday lives.



For example, in light of the racist literature left in the Black Culture Center, one African American stated that he was scared. Another man said that he was harassed by police on this campus. Other African Americans stood up and said that they were treated unfairly as well.

When any student, white or black, is ill-treated, the situation should be brought to everyone's attention. After last week, it's obvious that the local news media is willing to come at any sign of controversy, and certainly, The Current is more than willing to listen to a student's story. People need to stand up for their rights, but they can't do it alone.

On the down side, the meeting would have run smoother if Norman Seay and Sandy MacLean had complete control. Nicholas Wren, the director of the Coalition of Black Student Organizations, seemed too anxious to interject skewed and one-

sided information. Seay, on the other hand, is a professional with experience in matters of civil rights. Unfortunately, all of the information that was given to the public has been from Christella Hairston's point of view. Seay and MacLean did their best to ensure that the audience had all of the facts.

Wren did, however, help forge a

When any student, black or white, is ill-treated, the situation should be brought to everyone's attention.

bond of solidarity among African Americans. Furthermore, he deserves credit for standing up for all African Americans.

Last Friday, Tonya Hutchinson, UM-St. Louis's own paladin, resurfaced after a year-long media absence. If you will recall, she was

involved in the Sexy Legs controversy during the 1994 fall semester.

This time, with bullhorn in hand, Hutchinson lead an impressive protest and march against violence and hatred. This event was much different. She was in complete control. She was authoritative and believable, albeit abrasive at times. When MacLean announced that he had a room reserved in the J.C. Penney Building, Hutchinson made it clear that she was in charge. Hutchinson pulled about 150 students from this campus and Washington University's together as well as two television crews. She takes action where others stop at speech. One of her weaknesses, however, is her tendency to alienate her white supporters. I think that when she realizes who is on her side, she will be a tremendous asset to the students of this University.

I hope that Hutchinson continues to make noise on campus. Moreover, I hope that the ideas generated during the meeting and protest don't just make headlines, but are implemented so that a real difference can be made.

The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

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Letters to the Editor

Student wants African-Americans to act

In the history of all people we can find shortcomings and accomplishments. February is the time set aside to recognize the contribution that African people have made to the advancement of the world. Being African in Amerikkka, a land mass that was once occupied by numerous thriving nation states of an indigenous population (Native Americans), we understand that any contribution that we make on this land mass is an extension of our African roots. What is called African/Amerikkkan culture is in fact African culture taking place on this land mass.

Africans in the United States "step" and it comes from continental African Dundumba. Jazz, the Blues, Rock 'n' Roll and Hip Hop culture are all contributions African people have made to the "melting pot." The traffic light, golf tee and blood plasma are other examples. We as a people are not selfish giving blood plasma for just African people. Our history, culture and contribution is rich and evolving. We are ever fresh and new.

People's relationships to the means of production has evolved throughout time and will constantly change. We know that the forms may change but the essence is quite simple, either all people will own and control the means of production, or just a few will profit from the Earth's resources. In Amerikkka as Native Americans, Africans, Asians, and Europeans attempt to eat, clothe, shelter and pay bills from the backlash of material acquisition, there is conflict. European immigrants often protested sla-

very because they could not find jobs. European abolitionist John Brown was a humanitarian because he stood up against injustice. There have been many attempts at conflict resolution, and we must learn from them all.

Recent events at UM-St. Louis and in the larger St. Louis community force us to deal with these issues now. In 1996 the same individual racist acts are being supported by educational institutions and the very make-up of Amerikkkan society. We must have justice.

Will you support oppression in activity (ganging up, physically and verbally assaulting lone African women), or will you sit by while it all happens? I'm sure we have all witnessed oppression in some form. We must act to end this. Join an organization and make a contribution. Ending oppression is a process not an event. As revolutionary Pan-Africanist people we understand that when we liberate and unite Africa under scientific socialism we will again make another contribution to betterment. We should make sure Africa's resources (gold, diamonds, bauxite, iron ore) are used to benefit African people worldwide instead of being exploited for an adverse effect against us. We will eliminate the anti-human principles and practices that make people spend their entire existence trying to acquire money and material objects.

It is a rat race as the European person, is mad at the African and the African with the Asian concerning who will get these crumbs from the imperialists. It's rooted in the history

of not respecting land sovereignty. It's rooted in the colonization of Africa and the enslavement of millions of her children. It will be corrected. We witnessed the power of over 2 million people protesting at the Million Man March. This February we will re-affirm our atonement pledge and move our mobilization power to

organization power. We will constantly build for Africa and humanity. We must put people before profits. Power to all people! Izwé Lethtu, I Afrika! AFRICA for the Africans!

Tyrone Rodgers
Junior
History

Student says break-in was media-ploy

I am very concerned about an incident that happened on campus on Tuesday, Feb. 5 or Wednesday morning Feb. 6. The Associated Black Collegians office was "broken" into. Frankly, I don't believe this. Not a week ago there was an incident involving an African-American student and a non-student. After this happened, there was a wave of protest from ABC about what the University was going to do to a non-student, and that whatever was done would not be enough. Then the ABC office is broken into apparently with a key, papers are thrown around, nothing is

destroyed and racist propaganda is left behind.

Something smells fishy. This is a University with 15,000 students. Just because there are still some angry individuals that come here, it does not mean that the University is against African-Americans. This is supposed to be a place that through higher-learning we learn to co-exist. Not a grandstand for obvious media ploys.

April Marshall
Junior
Communication

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. They must be signed, as the editorial opinion of The Current is that a signed letter carries more weight with the readers.

Happy Valentine's Day

Students, staff send special messages to loved ones

Photos by Monica Senecal

To my Valentine (the mumbler)

I hope the spark is still hot this time next year. Otherwise, we will have to fake it.
Love Mary P. Sottile

John,
You are not just loved today, but everyday. Happy Valentines Day!
I love you today and forever!
Maggie

Rebyata!
S dayom svyatogo Valentina! Ya vas vseh ochen lyublyu y jelayu chtobi u vas bilo ysyo khorosho. Pezvonite. Svoim druzyam, vi ih oschastlivite!
Nam vsem nujna teplota y podderjka!
Zarina

Nadia,
You are the world to me.
Demond
P.S. Tell your brother to give me

David,
No puedo imaginar mi vida sin tí. Sería muy aborido y triste. Se amo para siempre.
Alicia

Alicia,
You are the light of my life.
David

Maggie,
I love you now and forever! I can't wait for the Ozarks.
John

Spider Monkey (Monica),
Our love is like standing naked together on a mountain-top everyday.
I love you through the highs and lows and all the in-betweens.
Michael

Jan-
The last 5 months with you have been truly unbelievable. My love for you grows & grows making me feel wonderful today & excited for our tomorrow. I love you.
Clint

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Dear Seton Women I love you.
To all of my valentines in Seton Hall Love, Red

Jenny,
You are the best friend anyone could ask for, and I'm very lucky that you're mine. Happy Valentines Day!
Love Maggie

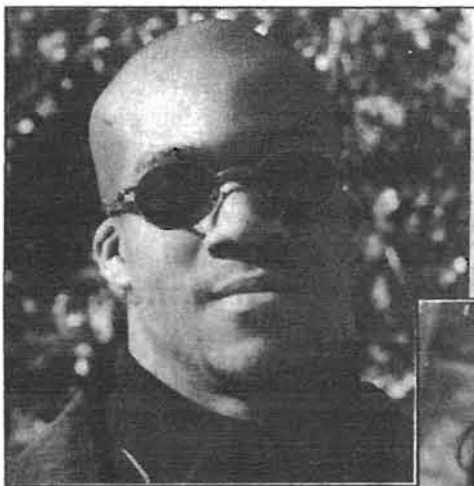


Cory Hunter steals a kiss from a reluctant Daphne Rice.

Kevin,
You have to pick the movie, but I'll win afterwards! Happy Valentine's Day!
Trisha

Carol,
Drop the zero, get with the hero.
Missing you severely, love you lots,
Keith

Happy V-Day "Sexy!"
Glenn Stewart



Feliz día de los enamorados a todos mis estudiantes.
Señora Baldini



Jim
I love you, Honeybunny! Happy Valentine's Day!
Amanda

UMSL's KWMU radio raises money with love

by John Jones
of The Current staff

Last week KWMU 90.7 FM kicked off their "For the Love of KWMU" pledge drive to raise money for the station. During this drive the public radio station is giving out Valentine's Day gifts for monetary "pledges". If a listener pledges to give a certain amount of money the station will send that listener's sweetheart a romantic gift. The smallest present is a box of chocolates for a \$40 pledge, and the grandest is a night at a St. Genevieve bed and breakfast for \$200.

KWMU is an affiliate of the National Public Radio system. Nearly half of the station's funds are from local listeners who enjoy their talk radio format. Since it is a public station, KWMU does not run commercials. "For the Love of KWMU" has been one of

the most successful money making drives this year.

"We are running 29% up from last year." Said station manager Patricia Wente-Bennett.

"The idea is catching on. This is a fun way to invest in KWMU and have something sent to somebody on Valentine's Day."

Much of the money that is raised will go into updating some of the station's aging equipment.

"We are a twenty-four year old station. Some of our equipment has never been replaced," said Wente-Bennett.

The station managers feel that this year's pledge rates are up due to increased concern over the future of public broadcasting. The success of this drive is a hopeful sign for the station, which faces potential cuts from the federal government.

To make a pledge, call the station at 516-4000.

'For the Love of KWMU' has been one of the most successful money making drives this year.

English professor leads discussion on women, racial issues

by Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

"Recall the earliest memories of what your family told you about people of other races," requested Shirley LeFlore, visiting professor of English. LeFlore led a discussion of issues around women and race in today's society on Tuesday, Feb. 7. As part of an exercise for the audience, LeFlore asked a series of questions designed to challenge each individual's assumptions of women and race.

LeFlore is a nationally renowned poet, playwright, performing artist and psychologist. She addressed a group of women at the Women's Center Tuesday to discuss how women have used literature to come to terms with issues concerning their race and gender. She read selections from Sojourner Truth, who spoke of what it meant to

be a woman over one hundred years ago. LeFlore's discussion focused specifically on what it meant to be a woman of color, and the relationship between women of minority groups and white women.

According to LeFlore, during the 1960s, African-American women identified more with the civil rights movement than with the women's movement because what the women's movement was fighting for - a women's right to work alongside men - was something the African-American woman had already done.

"Now women need to come together across race and age," LeFlore said.

LeFlore sees the need to talk about is-

sues you were told not to talk about. The discussion provided an opportunity to do this.

"What we have done here is plant a seed," LeFlore said.



Shirley LeFlore

The Column

a generic offering



by Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

Several nights ago, I was wandering around a dark alley trying to find my way back to civilization. I had left a theater by the wrong door and found myself in an alley that led nowhere. I was becoming more and more disoriented when I turned a corner, only to see a gaping black doorway that I recognized as a portal into The Unknown. Displaying uncharacteristic common sense, I did not enter. (Instead, I grabbed my friend and started pushing her toward the door.)

Later, in the comfort and safety of the corner 7-11, I thought that maybe I should have gone in. Horror movie characters do things like that all the time and look at what interesting lives they lead. (Short ones, of course, but still interesting.) It was this relatively insignificant event that made me realize a Significant Truth. Here it is: All I really want is for my life to run like a movie.

I'm not really talking about the glamour and artificiality of movies. (Although choreographed sex scenes would be nice. Maybe then I wouldn't bang my head into the wall so often. And somebody probably should tell me how to dress.) No, I'm talking about all the behind the scenes work that goes into making a movie.

Think about it. My life would have a script, a plot, and most importantly, a director. Lord knows my life could use some direction. As long as I didn't lose my script, I would always know what to say in any given situation, and any scenes I didn't like would be rewritten by the script doctors to suit my specifications. I could also peek ahead just to make sure I get the right guy in the end. Plus, I have the added bonus of knowing my life has an honest-to-God plot and is not just a series of random scenes strung together for the sole purpose of keeping me busy.

The finer details of movie-making would come in handy, too. For example, there's a marvelous thing called blocking, where the director's assistant puts white tape on the floor to show actors where to walk or stand, and the director also tells the actors what hand to use to pick something up.

I would avoid so much wear-and-tear if only I had someone blocking out my moves well in advance. (Just to illustrate how desperately I need this: Once I walked into a plate glass window in a restaurant, thinking it was an open door. I tried to convince everyone that I was doing an impersonation of a hummingbird and meant to do it. Nobody bought it.)

Also, I could have a group of production assistants scurrying around like little elves making sure I had all my props in place. If the script said I needed a twenty-page paper on a certain day, it would be in my backpack - courtesy of the production assistants. If I were going somewhere, they would mutter into their walkie-talkies to other assistants to make sure my journey would go smoothly. ("Okay, she's walking down the stairs. Fix the carpeting on the third step before she trips. Here she comes. FIX THE CARPETING! FIX IT! Oooooooh! Oh, man. Well, call Makeup over to fix her hair. I don't think she hurt herself.") Someone else would always get the axe when things went wrong, too. (That production assistant that let me trip? On the street.)

I know what you're thinking. "Spend much time in the real world, Jill?" Well, I try not to. Writer William Gass once said, "Reality is not a matter of fact, it's an achievement."

Obviously I'm an under-achiever.

The Current Reviews

FILMspin

GEORGIA

The RUGBURNS

"Taking the World by Donkey"

Weird music that really rocks is real hard to find.

There's Weezer, and well, that's about it. Well now The Rugburns have put out an alternative for the Weezer crowd, and it is actually better than the band that they sound so much like.

The Rugburns show something on their first full length release that many bands have tried to show but failed, they are funny yet they don't try to be as shown on "Pile on Hang-over."

Betty Ford won't talk to me, she says my life's a waste, In the morning I'd agree with her, but my mouth is full of paste

This is a mellow band that uses acoustic-based rock to emphasize their slow songs and hard biting guitars in their rougher songs. Lead singer Steve Plotz likes to consider their music "really slow speed metal." But that is about as inaccurate of a statement as it comes.



The RUGBURNS

In essence the group has put together an awesome disc that comes off about as serious as their album cover. The cover has all

the band members sitting on donkeys that are painted like Zebras. This is a very good disc that deserves any air play it can get. It

is also a good one to add to any music listener's collection.

—Michael J. Urness

Alternative

Jill Barrett
of The Current staff

Hollywood seems to believe that a film cannot be both realistic and entertaining. Real life does not make neat films; the plots aren't clean and the characters aren't always witty and well-defined. The movie "Georgia" sacrifices some of Hollywood's conventions in order to present an honest portrayal of a down-and-out singer and her relationship with her very successful sister, who is also a singer.

Jennifer Jason Leigh plays the main character, Sadie Flood. Sadie wants to be as popular of a singer as her sister, Georgia (Mare Winningham), who sings on the stadium circuit while Sadie travels the bowling alley circuit. Sadie has little talent and no stability in her life, while Georgia lives with her husband and kids on the family farm between tours. An alcoholic, Sadie lives with a passionate recklessness that leads her to devour everything in her life - her friends, her lovers, and her sister - in search of her own dream. When Sadie travels to Seattle, where Georgia lives, the conflict between the two sisters intensifies and leads to an inescapable confrontation.

The plot is a vague one; early on in the film it is easy to see that a confrontation is inevitable. Screenwriter Barbara Turner (Leigh's mother) did not base the movie on a strong plot, though; she built the movie on Sadie's character and her relationship with Georgia. The character of Sadie is certainly interesting enough.

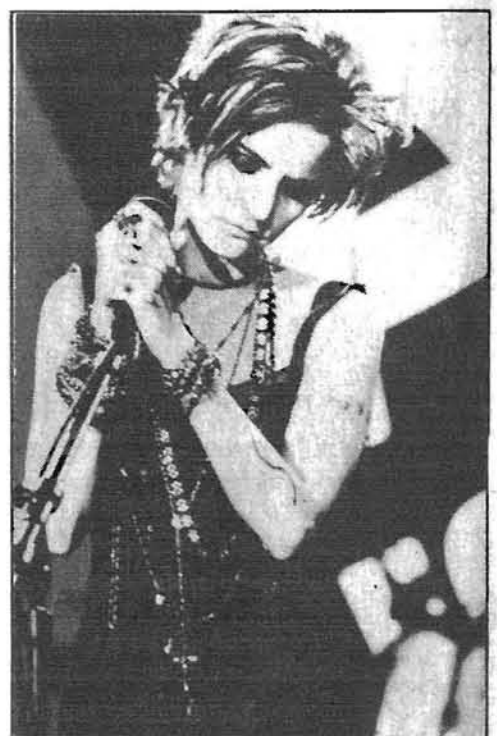
The scenes of the movie are at first seemingly random vignettes of Sadie's life and do not necessarily flow from one into another. Rather, these scenes are meant to reveal what drives Sadie - the feverish need for recognition and the wild passion that consumes everything in its path, including Sadie herself.

In Sadie's big break, she

is invited on stage to sing by Georgia. Drunk, Sadie sings a painfully embarrassing rendition of Van Morrison's "Take Me Back." Director Ulu Grosbard lets the camera stay on Leigh for most of the song, and the effect is powerful. Although Leigh's singing becomes excruciating, her emotional intensity is mesmerizing, and the scene reveals Sadie's deep need to perform.

The movie is not always easy to watch. Leigh does a remarkable job bringing Sadie to life, but Sadie's intensity and abandon in living her life can grow tiresome. The film is very honest and realistic in portraying the life of a musician on the fringe of the music scene, and this is its greatest strength. This is not a romanticized version; Sadie is not an unrecognized genius, or about to make it big. She will not find her niche in life, or even change very much, but she is always interesting to watch.

If you prefer films with a closure or resolution, then this is not the film for you. If you would like to see a fascinating character study, then check it out.



Jennifer Jason Leigh in Ulu Grosbard's GEORGIA

Coolio

"Gangsta's Paradise"

Coolio is back at it again. From the artist who gave us 'Fantastic Voyage' comes "Gangsta's Paradise" a strange yet good release by the man with the weirdest hair in music.

The disc starts off with the title track "Gangsta's Paradise," a chilling song off of the "Dangerous Minds" soundtrack. The song was often mentioned as the "song of the year" for '95, no one

can doubt that it was played a lot. Coolio has found himself on the top of the rap scene in less than two years. His song "Fantastic Voyage" catapulted him to mega-heights. His appearance on the second-stage at Lolapalozza last summer proved to be a huge success, as he stole many fans from Sined O'Conner in their show in St. Louis. The man just controls the stage in live perfor-

mances. On the studio-made album he takes a lively and often playful approach to music. In his music he plays with the listeners with bumpin' beats and smooth flowing lyrics as shown in "Geto Highlights." In the song he tells about life in "tha hood" from the "pimps players and hoez" he covers everything that happens in one day. The song is perhaps the best on

the disc. The second release "Too Hot" is no reflection of how Coolio has adjusted since his last album. This song would have been better left off of the disc, as it is a horrible song. Coolio has adjusted to the success thrown at him and continues to put out good, solid music. Hopefully he can keep it up.

—Ken Dunkin

Rap

Adam Sandler



Happy Gilmore

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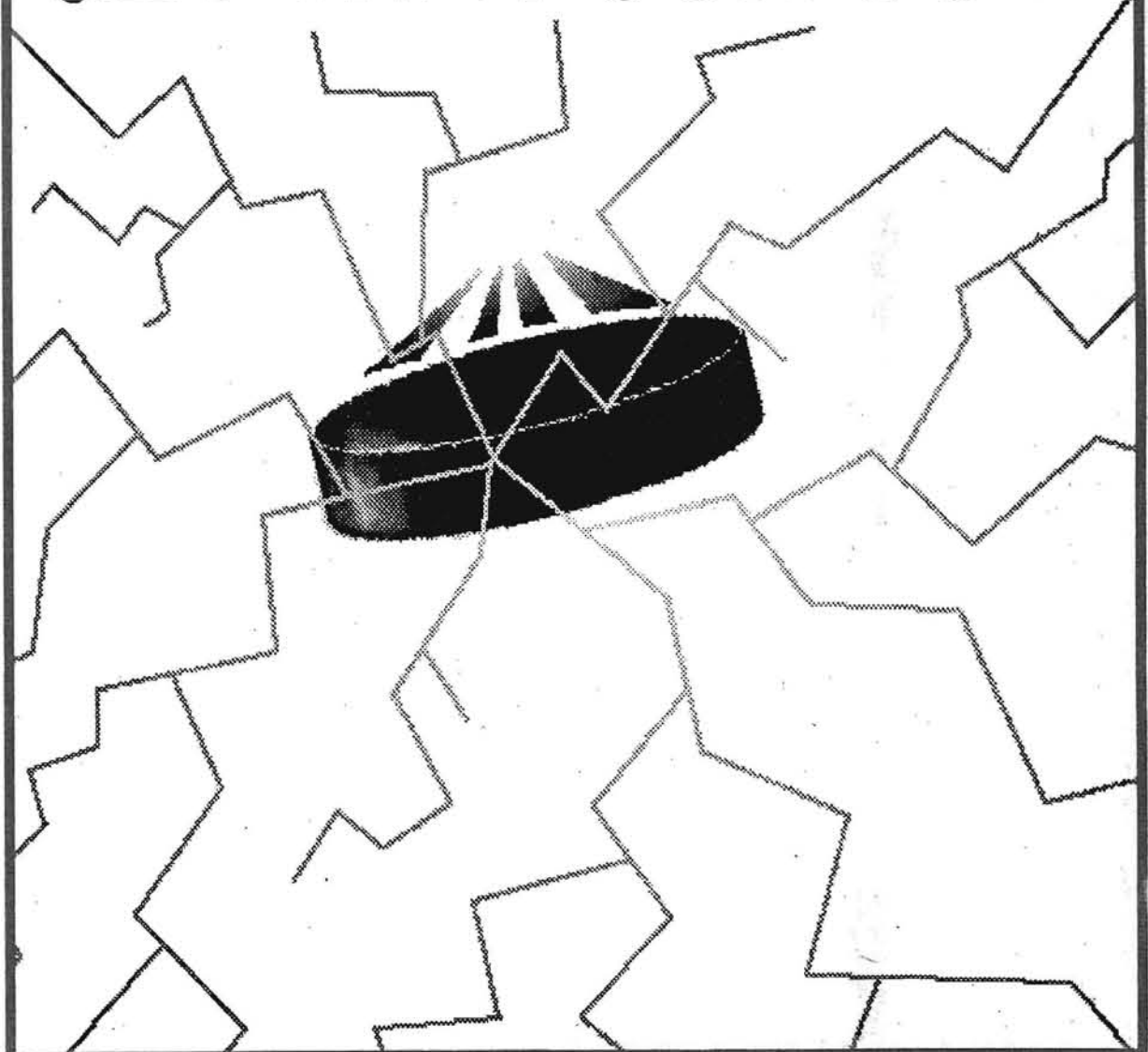
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Bending bodies invade Mark Twain

by Heather Phillips
of The Current staff

February 9-11 marked the fifth annual Coca-Cola St. Louis Classic gymnastics competition held at Mark Twain.

Forty-three teams competed this past weekend from all over the country. Gymnasts came from Tennessee, Missouri, Connecticut, Georgia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Nebraska, Arkansas and Minnesota. Each gymnast competed in the floor exercise, balance beam, uneven bars and the vault.

The floor exercise must be to music and last between 70 and 90 seconds covering the entire floor. The gymnast must incorporate graceful dance movements and her tumbling runs should have height and distance.

The balance beam routine should consist of dance elements, turns, jumps and tumbling such as handsprings and somersaults. The balance beam is one of the hardest events due to the beam being a mere 4 inches wide.

The uneven bars is the newest event in women's competition. The routine should have 12 to 14 moves consisting of continuous swings, release moves and the dismount.

The vault requires speed and explosive power to successfully execute the move and "stick" landing. A deduction is given for moving on the landing.

General deductions are given for falling off of the apparatus, having to be assisted by the coach, any unnecessary stops in the routine and not presenting themselves to the judges before and after the exercise.

The younger competitors must perform the same routine to the judges. The older, more experienced gymnasts are able to add variety and create a routine that will fulfill the requirements set. The requirements normally include certain tumbling/acrobatic moves and a 360 degree turn on the floor and balance beam. The gymnast may only do four elements in a row on the uneven bars before moving to

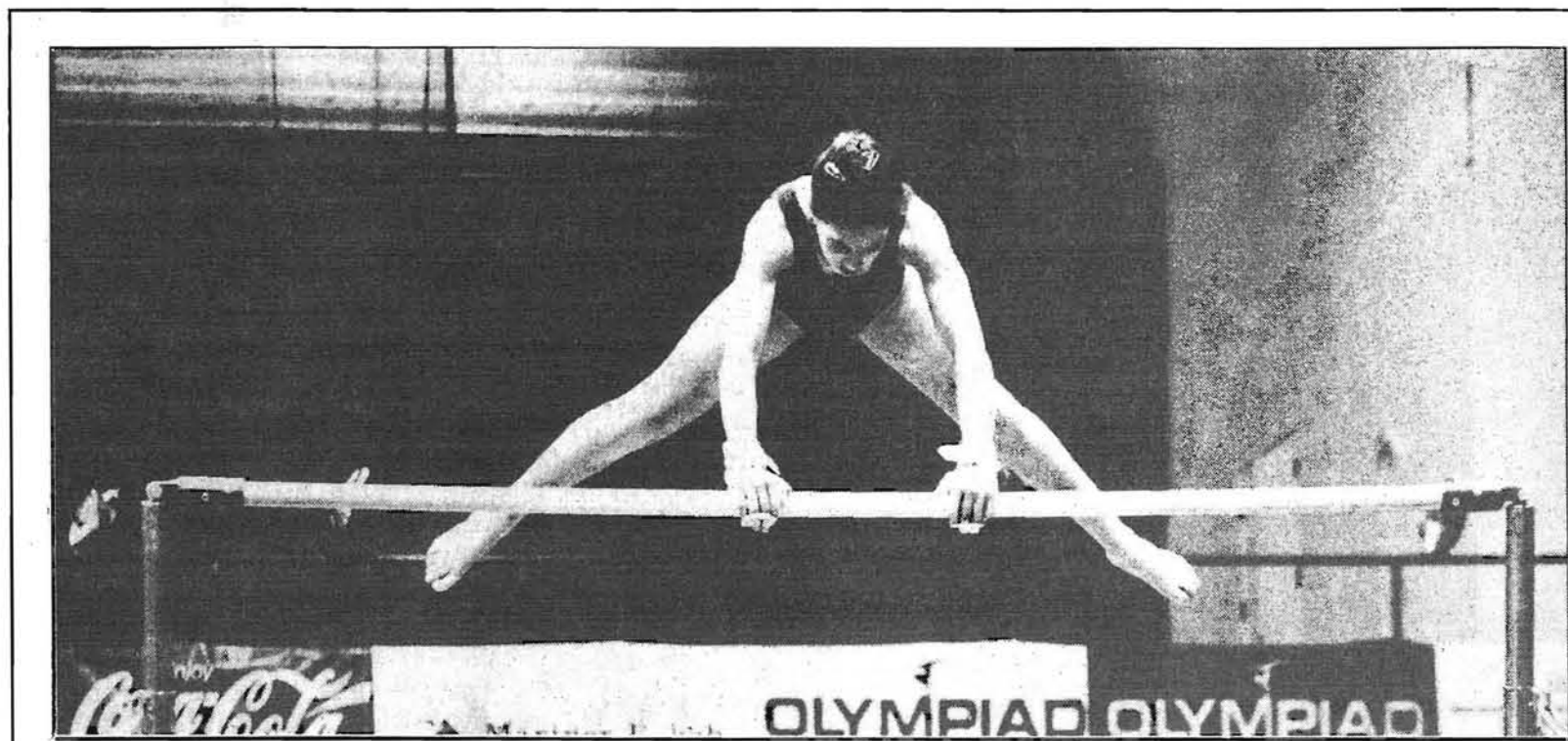


Photo: Shelley Satke

Gymnastics groups throughout the Midwest competed in last weekend's tournament hosted by UM-St. Louis.

the other bar.

The major sponsors of this event are Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Dierbergs Family Markets and St. Louis Sports Commission. This event was hosted by Team Central of Maryland Heights.

There were six different levels of competitors. The ages ranged from 7-17 & over.

All of the gymnasts were excited about coming to St. Louis to compete in such a large event.

"This is a lot better weather," said Megan Fey of Norther Illinois Academy of Gymnastics of Sycamore, IL. "I liked how it ran. You did not have to wait to compete. Everything was fast moving. Plus, it was a lot of fun."

Fey's best event was the vault where she finished 5th in Level 9 competition.

"It feels pretty good coming here [to compete]," said one Riverside Gymnastics gymnast. "We've been practicing pretty long."

Tournament Results

Level 5:

- 1st - Illinois Gymnastics Institute- Addison, IL
- 2nd - Team Central Maryland Heights, MO
- 3rd - Perryville Gymnastics Perryville, MO

Level 6:

- 1st - Cincinnati Gymnastics Fairfield, OH
- 2nd - KC Elites Kansas City, MO
- 3rd - Illinois Gymnastics Institute- Addison, IL

Level 7:

- 1st - Eagles Gymnastics Kansas City, MO
- 2nd - Team Central Maryland Heights, MO
- 3rd - St. Louis Spirits Gymnastics- St. Louis, MO

Level 8:

- 1st - Midwest Gymnastics Dublin, OH
- 2nd - KC Elites Kansas City, MO
- 3rd - Southern Indiana Gymnastics School- Clarksville, IN

Level 9:

- 1st - Cincinnati Gymnastics Fairfield, OH
- 2nd - Team Central Maryland Heights, MO
- 3rd - North Florida Gymnastics Orange Park, FL

Level 10:

- 1st - Illinois Gymnastics Institute Addison, IL
- 2nd - Cincinnati Gymnastics Fairfield, OH
- 3rd - Arena Gymnastics Stamford, CT

Riverwomen drop two

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team battled Central Missouri State at the Mark Twain Building Feb. 7 in front of a crowd of 125.

Central MO 48 37 —85
UM-St. Louis 30 25 —55

Starting for Head Coach Jim Coen's squad were Sarah Carrier, Krystal Logan, Deena Applebury, Nicole Christ, and D.J. Martin.

Leading the Riverwomen in scoring was Applebury with 14. Applebury rebounded two and fouled three times. Two points behind Applebury was freshman Krystal Logan, who rebounded six, four defensively, and two steals. Seasoned-veteran Christ had her say-so by

hitting the basket for nine points on the night, rebounding four, and fouling only once. Freshman center Becky Pawlack shot three-of-six from the field and hit one free-throw, totaling seven points. Pawlack also fouled out.

Contributing four points to the cause were both Martin and freshman forward Denise Simon. Simon rebounded five as did Martin.

Carrier, another freshman starter, threw three points on the scoreboard for the Riverwomen and rebounded one. Freshman guard Charlee Dixon sunk a field-goal, rebounded one and assisted on four baskets. Michelle Hogan led the team in steals with three.

SEE WOMEN

PAGE 7

Thomas comes through for Rivermen, hits 1000-point mark

by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

Last week's battle against the Central Missouri Mules was a huge game for the Rivermen, luckily for them Lawndale Thomas came up big.

Thomas a four-year player for the Rivermen had a huge game. Not only did he hit the 3-pointer that broke the Mules back, but he hit a career milestone by hitting the 1,000 point plateau.

"A thousand points is a nice thing to do," Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said. "That's a nice number for someone that has worked hard for four years. He has generally played pretty well for us. He has hit some big shots. He has had a solid year."

"I'd like to see him go out on a really good team. The other three teams he played on were not that good. This team has the chance to finish up as a very good team."

The 89-86 victory pushed the Rivermen's record to 12-9 and 7-4 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

"If we were gonna stick around in

the conference race we had to win both of those games (Central Missouri State and Emporia State)," Meckfessel said. "I thought both games we played pretty hard."

The Rivermen have been playing hard and diving for the ball. Meckfessel said the reason the team best Central Missouri State was hard work.

"I thought both teams played hard," Meckfessel said. "I think both teams knew that the loser was out of the conference race for first place."

Against the Mules the Rivermen looked to a few players that had not been offensive threats in earlier games. Guard Todd Miller hit four-of-four 3-pointers in the first half and totaled 12 points for the game.

"Our guys coming off of the bench played well," Meckfessel said. "They all contributed in some way. Miller hit his 3-pointers. Tuckson had that little flurry of put-backs in the second half. Klaus hit a big 3-pointer at the end of the half to put us up by five."

The Rivermen were led in scoring by Rodney Hawthorne with 22 points. He has scored with consistency in the teams past four games.

"He has been a big difference for us," Meckfessel said. "We can't win unless he is a factor offensively."

The team has seemed to click after their defeat against Missouri Southern. They are undefeated in the conference since then.

"They finally understand that we're not going to win games on talent alone," Meckfessel said. "We have to play hard to win games. You look at the standings and Northeast University in 1-10 in the conference, that one win is against us. So we're capable of losing to anybody. We're also capable of beating anyone if we play hard."

The team will be in action this week in two important games. UM-Rolla will enter the Mark Twain Building Wednesday for a rematch. The Rivermen squeaked past them earlier this season. On Saturday they will play Northeast University, the team with the 1-10 MIAA record.

"It's the seniors last go around," Meckfessel said. "I think they would like to finish out successfully. We've gotten ourselves in a good position. We just have to take advantage of it by winning these games."

Hockey team promises spills and thrills

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen Hockey Club will attempt to retain the victor title this weekend as they battle Indiana's Ball State. The last time these two teams met in Indy, the end result was a bench-clearing brawl and numerous player ejections.

Also planning to make an appearance this weekend will be the UM-St. Louis Dance Team, featuring Jamie Burkett, Julie Davidson, Erica Jones, Dona Ellis, Tawnya Reed, Sharhonda Swearingen, Kimberly Langley, Kim Hudson, Amy Tjaden, Shane Scott, and Jeannette Ervin.

Planning to video record the event is Associate Professor of Communica-

a cable access channel.

"We're really stoked that the game will be taped. We dig the idea of television exposure, and it's cool that people will get the chance to observe all the goals we score and the ones we don't let

"I'm putting a bounty on the head of Ball State's goalie right now."

Ian Mackie, rookie goalie

in," team president Ian Mackie said.

No doubt that David Letterman's salma mater will be in town this weekend looking to avenge both losses at the hands of the Rivermen Jan. 19 and 20. At the last meeting, the Rivermen spanked Ball State 12-3 and 10-1. Mackie has a personal message for the team.

of Ball State's goalie right now," rookie goalie Mackie said.

"I really didn't appreciate when he charged me last game and made me use his head for a punching bag. I'm not a goon, but he's made an enemy outta me and he'll have numerous problems this weekend. I'm callin' it right now."

Although the team missed out on the bid for a spot in the Florida tournament, they have applied for the Florida A&M tournament, not to mention a possible trip to Russia.

"We've been invited to travel to Russia for the White Knights tournament," Mackie said.

SEE HOCKEY



Photo: Eric Thomas

Rookie goalie Ian Mackie looking to reject all rubber sent his way. Check out next week's issue for Mackie profile

OFF THE WALL



by Ken Dunkin
of The Current staff

Will all the Tony Twist fans in St. Louis please settle down?

Twist a hard-punching forward for the St. Louis Blues has been receiving a lot of press lately for being the "best fighter" in the National Hockey League. That statement is a little far-fetched.

Granted, Twist is undefeated this season. But who's counting? And who has Twist fought?

The answer is no one up until Thursday when he fought the best fighter in the league Bob Probert.

Before his draw with Probert he fought Rob Ray (an out of control fighter who loses more than he wins), Ken Baumgartner (is he still playing?), Shawn Antonski (perhaps the least menacing of the goons), and a few rookie goons that had a lot to prove and nothing to lose.

So he pounded Ray's nose back into his skull and put him in the hospital. So what that he pounded Baumgartner resoundly in only his second game of the season. Antonski fell after only one punch, so what?

All three aren't top-notch fighters. But his encounters with the Flyers Eric Lindros and Probert proved something to me, Blues fans and Blues media have become about as distorted as Rob Ray's face was. They aren't dealing in reality.

Attention Blues fans! The Blues lost that game 6-1. Did anyone notice? When the Blues were slaughtered on national television by the Flyers 8-1, the only thing everybody wanted to talk about was Lindros running from Twist. Well, why would Lindros want to fight? His team was killing the Blues, and he had a hat-trick. What was in it for him? Nothing except the strong possibility that he would whip Twist's ass, or if he lost getting the fans back in the game. It was a situation that Lindros wisely stayed away from.

The possibility of getting the Blues fans back in the game has kept many a fighter from dropping his gloves with the Twister. Why wake a sleeping beast? The Blues are always behind and lack motivation, a win in a fight would be just the right amount of motivation to get hyped up over. That is the reason no one has 'gone after' Twist.

The players who drop em' with wout considering the consequences have no reason to be in the NHL. These are the dumb, stupid players who plague the minor leagues.

Now that we have that cleared up, let me explain where Twist lies in the fighter rankings. He is not quite a prime time, ready-for-the-title fighter. He lies in the class below guys like Probert, Tie Domi, Marty McSorley, and Scott Stevens.

He isn't far behind those guys, but he is behind them.


I just can't wait for the next Blues-Blackhawks game that is shown on television. I can see it now, Twist gets pummeled by Probert and all the Blues fans have nothing more to brag about. Though they then might start arguing over who has the fastest Zamboni, yawn. I can't wait

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Delta Sigma Pi and the Accounting Club will sponsor a representative from Convisor Duffy to discuss the various Accounting licenses--CPA, CMA, CIA-- as well as their review course options. Feb. 15 in room 335 SSB at 2:30 the representative will be giving away two half scholarships which will be offered to those in attendance. All students and faculty are encouraged to come to this professional event.

To Deana
 You finally got out of here. Congratulations, we miss ya. Erik hasn't been the same.
 The Current

Andy,
 Return my movie or suffer my wrath.
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WOMEN

FROM PAGE 5

UM-St. Louis 41 31 — 72
 SWest Baptist 46 57 —103

Three days later the Riverwomen hit the road for a game in Bolivar, MO. After being down just five points at the half, the Riverwomen went on to be out-scored by 31 points.

Leading the Riverwomen with 25 points was Christ. Christ hit four-of-six from three-point range and sunk three-of-five free throws. She also fouled four times.

Applebury again had a spectacular game with 20 total points but fouled out of the contest.

Pawlack and Dixon both found the basket for five points on the night. Pawlack rebounded three; Dixon two. Pawlack again fouled out of the contest.

Simon added four points on five free-throws, and rebounded two under the Riverwomen basket. Carrier hit two from the field and rebounded two as well as stealing three from Southwest Baptist players.

Logan tallied up four points in 14 minutes of action before she fouled out. Hogan added three points and was called three times for fouls.

Martin hit a field-goal, rebounded two and had two steals on the night.

The Riverwomen are again in action at home against UM-Rolla on Valentine's Day. Tip-off time is 5:30, with the men's game following at 7:30.

That was a big shot Mark hit," Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said.

"I had been struggling a bit and I was just hoping it would go in," Lash said. "Fortunately it did. We needed it to make sure we would win the game."

Though the Rivermen had held their lead going into the final 10 seconds, the game still was not decided. That was when the Hornets fouled Todd Miller.

Miller stepped to the free throw line with 8 seconds left and the

Rivermen tie for fourth in conference with final-second win over Emporia State

by Ken Dunkin
 of The Current staff

With the game clock trickling down and the Rivermen clinging to a two point lead, senior Mark Lash nailed a 3-pointer that shut down the Emporia State Hornets.

Lash's shot put the Rivermen up by five with 32 seconds to play. The Hornets had been creeping up in an attempt to sneak in a road victory.

Miller connected on both shots to give the Rivermen a 4 point lead. It put the game out of reach though the Hornets hit a 2-point shot with 1 second to go.

"We feel like we can win any night," Miller said. "If we come out with intensity and are mentally prepared, then we will do well. If we

Rivermen up by 2 points.

"The game was on the line," Miller said. "If I miss those and they come down the court and hit a 3-pointer then the game is over.

"I have a lot of confidence in Todd," Meckfessel said. "I feel that he will make those free throws most of the time."

come out and do not give a full effort, then we can be beat by anybody."

With the victory the Rivermen moved into a tie for fourth place in the conference. They improved their over-all record to 11-9 and their Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) record to 6-4.

"It's a big win for us," Miller

around," Klaus said. "Emporia is a big win for us. They are one of the tougher team in the conference."

Lawndale Thomas led the Rivermen in scoring with 13 points, Eric Bickel had 11 and Rodney Hawthorne had 10.

Klaus had a fine game, yet the stats don't reflect it. He shot 2-8 from the floor and 2-6 of his 3-point attempts. He also had three rebounds.

"Every one of Brandon's 3-pointers with the exception of one were right on the money," Meckfessel said. "He could have easily been 5 for 6 of his 3-pointers. He did a nice

job." The Rivermen also rebounded well. Hawthorne had 10 rebounds and Thomas had 6. Bickel and Lash each had 5 each.

"We're talented, but we're not talented enough to rely solely on talent," Meckfessel. "We simply have to play hard to win."

"We're talented, but we're not talented enough to rely solely on talent. We simply have to play hard to win."

**Rich Meckfessel,
 Rivermen Head Coach**

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE 5

"It's a nine day adventure starting on June 20. Provided that we get the required sponsorship, the club will take off to skate on Russian ice and compete against international teams. Included in the \$1,700 fee are hotel accommoda-

tions, three meals a day, ice time, and a translator. It will be bitchin'."

Don't miss the action this Friday at 10:30 p.m. and again at noon Saturday at the U.S. Ice Sports Complex in Chesterfield.



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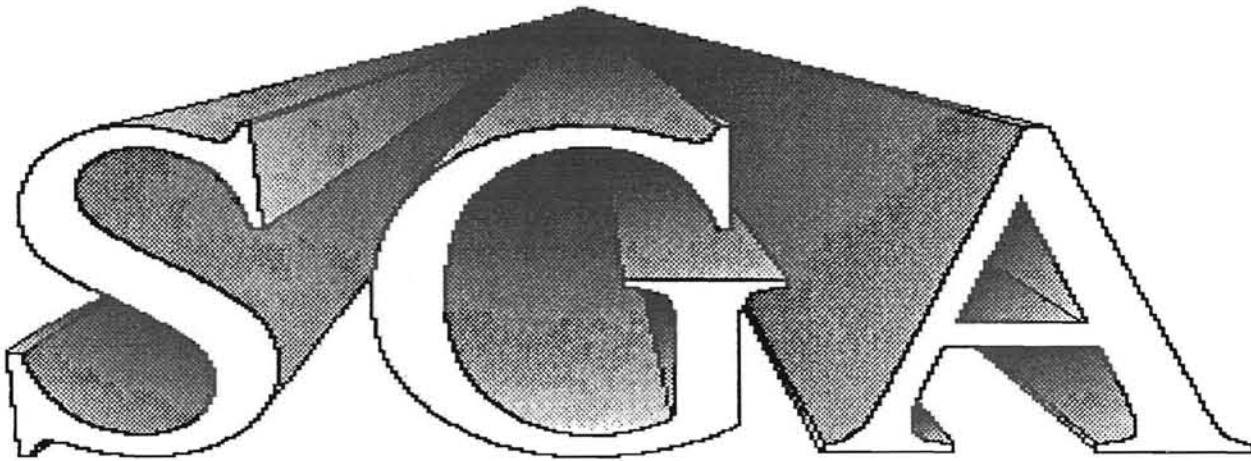
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GET INVOLVED!



ELECTIONS

Applications are now available in the Student Government Association office for the elections of the executive positions. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 8, 5:00 pm. Pick up your application at the SGA office. All candidates must attend a meeting March 6 at 5:00 pm. (Location to be determined.)



**Student Government Association
 262 University Center**

Campus wide meeting cuts SGA meeting short

by Michael O'Brian
of The Current staff

Student Government President Beth Titlow held a short SGA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6 to allow organization representatives to attend a campus-wide meeting dealing with race related incidents that have occurred on campus motivated.

"When one person's safety is threatened, everyone's safety is threatened," Titlow said.

She encouraged representatives to show their support in numbers by attending the campus wide meeting.

Rene Cuevas, coordinator of Student Government Elections, said that

applications for the SGA executive offices for 1996-97 will be available on Monday, Feb. 12 in the SGA office. Applications will be due back in the SGA office by Friday March 8. The executive offices are SGA president, vice president and comptroller. Accepted applicants will run in a campus wide election to secure positions with

the SGA. The date of the election has not been announced.

Dennis Chitwood, director of Campus Ministries, and his wife Betty asked that students join them in planning a Hunger Awareness Week to benefit charities that fight world hunger. The dates of events have not been announced.

"When one person's safety is threatened, everyone's safety is threatened."

**Beth Titlow,
SGA President**

VIOLENCE

FROM PAGE 1

The UN Development Program says that a lack of income security is a basic cause of racial violence in many countries, and that only one quarter of the world's population has a basic, steady income. Violence against a race does not necessarily mean active violence. The UN says that in the United States, the unemployment rate for African Americans is twice that of whites, and the poverty rate for African Americans is three times those of whites.

"People tell us America is homogenized, but everyone looks at the world differently," Kuralt said. Violence can take many forms in our modern world."

Nora Schimming-Chase, an Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, said that society is taking a turn for the worse.

"The violence of poverty and war-time violence are becoming more dangerous in modern society" she said.

"The conference speakers agreed that violence is a growing problem in America. Geoffrey Canada, CEO of Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, remembered a time when a fight meant a few cuts and bruises. Today, children may not be able to

walk away from a fight.

"The advent of handguns into today's communities has changed the entire face of violence," Canada said.

Fenton said that change is the way to reduce the problem of global violence. "Even though violence is getting more violent, things are moving in the right direction," Fenton said. "The more people that become aware of the problem, the more that can be done to change things."

According to the speakers at this conference, change is the answer to the problem of violence. Hubie Jones, president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said that, "We cannot be 6 percent of the world population and consume 40 percent of the world's oil. Everyone must make sacrifices. We have to have a global perspective. We need to empower people to take control of their lives."

Fenton agreed that change is possible.

"I think that there are more people getting involved," he said. "People are making more of an effort to get involved, and listen to the problems."

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The Current Newswire

Descendant of W.E.B. DuBois to speak at UM-St. Louis. David Graham DuBois, president of the W.E.B. DuBois Foundation, will discuss "The Color Line for the 21st Century" at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, in the J.C. Penney auditorium.

Racquetball Tourney, Floor Hockey Leagues to form. The deadline to register for a one-week racquetball tournament to be held Feb. 19-23 is Feb. 14. Beginner, Intermediate and advanced divisions are available. Call 516-5326 for more information.

Representative from Convisor Duffy to visit campus. Delta Sigma Pi, Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Club will sponsor a representative from Convisor Duffy to visit UM-St. Louis to discuss various Accounting licenses. The representative will be giving away two half scholarships and will only be offered to those in attendance. Contact Luke Niedringhaus by e-mail at s984467@umslvma.umsl.edu.

Applications available for SGA executive offices. Applications for next year's executive officers must be submitted by to the Student Government Association office by Friday, March 8. Pick up an application in 262 University Center or call 516-5105 for more information.

Do you want to be the editor of The Current? Applications for next year's Editor-In-Chief of The Current are due March 1. Call 516-5174 for more info.

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If you would like to run for Editor-in-Chief of The Current, call Michael O'Brian at 516-5174 to find out how to apply. Applications for the position are due by Friday, March 1.

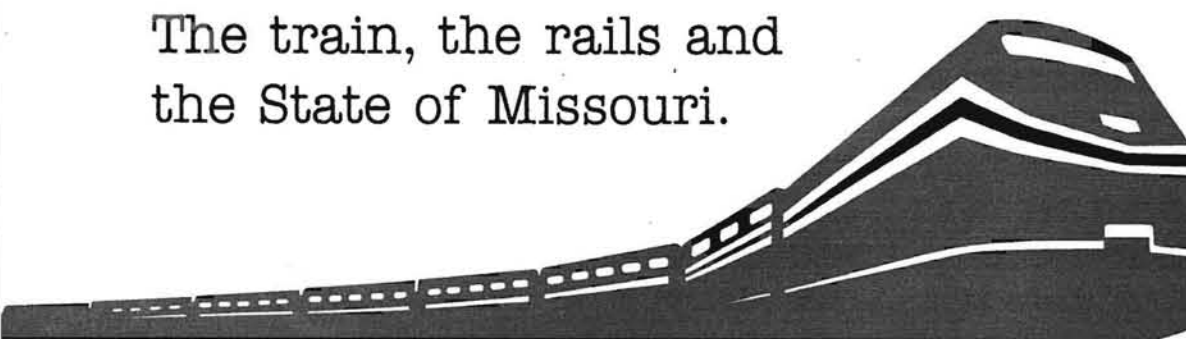
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CHARGES

FROM PAGE 1

tween Hairston, an African-American, and a white female non-student. Hairston claims that when the other woman cut her off and took a parking place she had been waiting for, she approached the other woman's car to confront her. She said the woman exited her car and began insulting her using racial insults. Furthermore, she says that when she went into Woods Hall to summon the police, the non-student physically attacked her.

With only Hairston's version of the incident to go by, many students feel the police erred in not arresting the non-student for assault.

"There was no physical contact between the two," McCulloch said. "That is confirmed by witnesses to the event who are not associated with either party, and there were black and white witnesses."

According to McCulloch,

Hairston took a broom from a custodian who was on duty near the incident.

"The Black woman did grab a broom from the custodian who was standing there," he said. "She may have attempted to swing it, but there was no contact."

Hairston and her supporters have been featured on at least 2 area news programs [Channel 5 and Channel 30] telling her version of the incident. The other woman has not come forward.

Because no charges were filed the police report that was sent to the county prosecutor by UM-St. Louis Police is not available. Citing the Sunshine Law, the warrant office employee contacted by The Current said she could not release the report.

It was an argument, and an ugly argument," McCulloch said, "but ugly arguments are not crimes."

VANDALISM

FROM PAGE 1

MacLean said among other measures, there was stepped-up security in the parking lots as well as various personnel reassignments.

"We've taken some of the police officers out of the cars and we're putting them on bicycles, and they're walking around the campus," MacLean said. "Their highest priority is the safety of our students, faculty and staff."

Against Seay's advice, Wren then produced and read a copy of the letter that was left behind during the vandalism.

"That is terribly wrong and I know I speak for the administration and the staff and we abhor that kind of statement," MacLean said emphatically when Wren was finished. "I'm embarrassed as a University administrator that has happened on our campus."

Another student voiced a concern that there was not enough African-American representation on the UM-St. Louis Police Department. Seay said the UM-St. Louis Police Department had diversity in terms of both blacks and females.

"As an institution of higher learning, we have a larger mission here; to address the roots of racism," said Priscilla Dowden, lecturer in History, "I feel very strongly about this issue both as a historian and as a teacher who is in the classroom daily looking at hundreds of white students. And I have to struggle with first of all believing what I'm

END RACISM

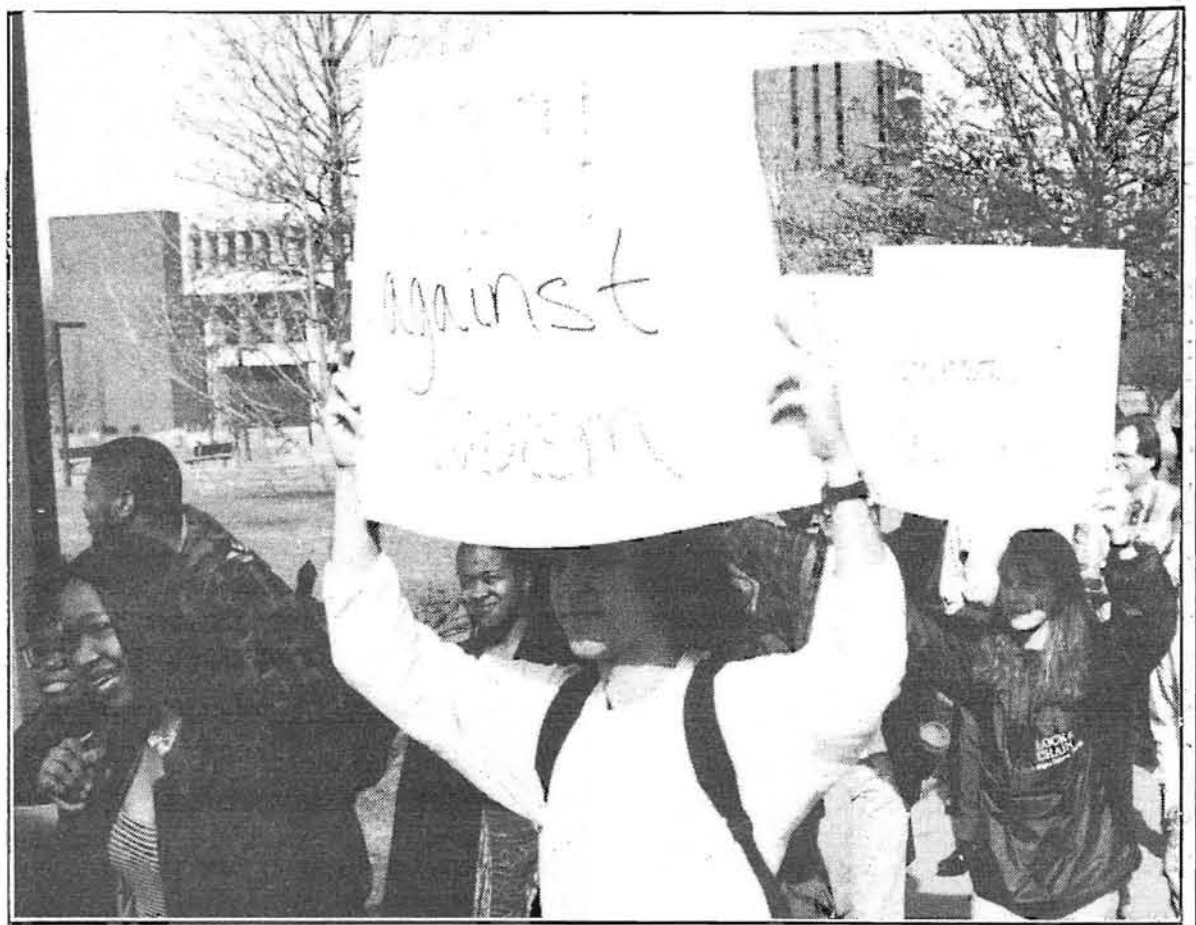


Photo: Monica Senecal

Students took up signs down-crying racism and marched to Woods Hall behind Tonya Hutchinson to deliver a letter with demands to Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

telling them."

Dowden revealed plans to ask the administration to implement a course in the history of racism. The idea drew cheers and applause from the audience.

"While we need to continually increase the number of minority and African-American faculty," she said, "I'm here to put out a call to the white faculty and other faculty, stop the silence in the classroom.

We have got to do what we need to do to learn about the issue of America and its racism, because if the white community doesn't work to solve this problem of racism, it won't be solved."

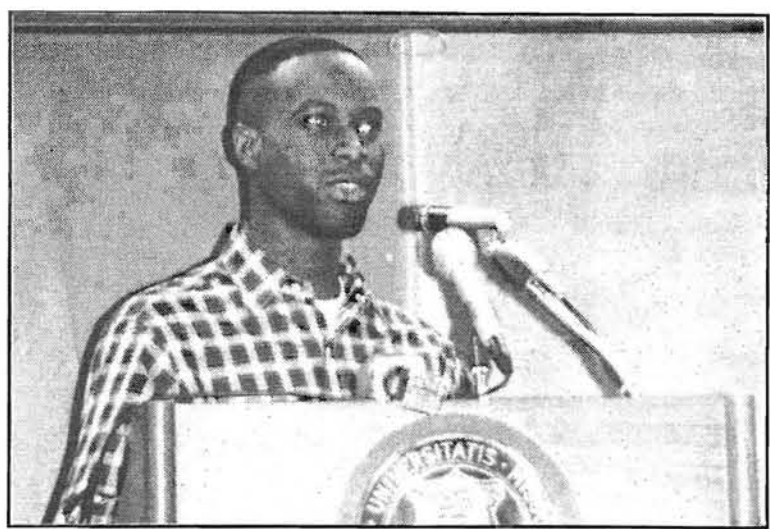


Photo: Michael O'Brian

Nicholas Wren (left) and Vice Chancellor Lowe "Sandy" MacLean (right) took questions during Tuesday's meeting.

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