

# The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

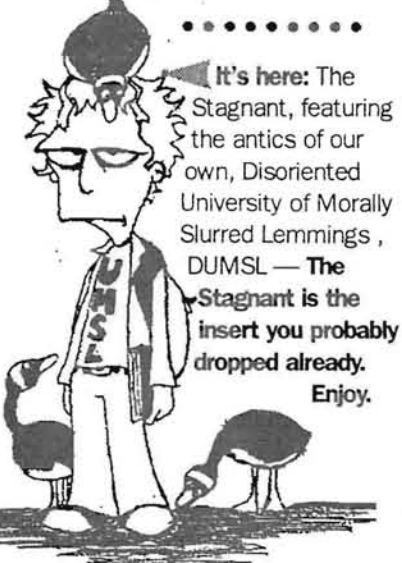
## In This Issue

**It's Fashionable:** Our features and photography departments have put together a look at Spring fashions. For this story, see page 3.

## SGA Elections



**Get thee to a pollery:** SGA elections are next week and the informed decision should include this special presentation on candidates for SGA offices. For this editorial feature, see pages 4 and 5.



It's here: The Stagnant, featuring the antics of our own, Disoriented University of Morally Slurred Lemmings, DUMSL — The Stagnant is the insert you probably dropped already. Enjoy.

## News From All Over

### Microsoft, Indiana reach agreement

**BLOOMINGTON, IND. (U-WIRE)** — In a groundbreaking deal with Microsoft, Indiana University will pay \$6 million to obtain Microsoft software for students, faculty and staff. IU announced the agreement Thursday at IU-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

IU will distribute the software free of charge to the IU community. This is the first time Microsoft has made a deal of this kind with a college or university.

Beginning Tuesday, students will be able to get copies of Office for Windows (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access), Office for Macintosh (Word, Excel and PowerPoint), Internet Explorer, FrontPage and Visual Studio at the Indiana Memorial Union's East Lobby. From 3 to 6 p.m., University Information Technology Services will distribute CD-ROM's with the software on it. The CD's will be free Tuesday, but students picking them up later will have to pay a \$5 charge for the CD itself.

IU's vice president for information technology Michael McRobbie said there will not be an increase in the IU student technology fee or other student fees because of the Microsoft agreement. The money has already been figured into the IU budget. Students now pay a \$100 technology fee per semester. □

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# Friedman unseated as chair of University Senate

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
special to The Current

The University Senate voted to elect Jeanne Zarucchi as its new Chairperson on Tuesday.

Zarucchi, an Associate Professor in foreign languages and art history who has been with the University since 1985, will officially start her term Aug. 1. In the meantime, she will attend organizational meetings of the senate, according to senate secretary Joan Arban.

Zarucchi defeated current senate chair Lawrence Friedman in a ballot vote, the exact results of which were not disclosed.

Although Zarucchi said she did not have any fixed agendas for the senate, she did express concern for certain issues. Zarucchi said she wanted to assure that the senate remained a forum for the representation of the variety of opinions found in the University.

"I would like to continue the tradition of broad representation of a variety of employees, faculty and students," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi also stressed the importance of the senate in setting University policy, saying she "would like the Senate to be recognized as a body that has the responsibility to set policy in many mat-

**I hope that the apparent enthusiasm (among students) this year is going to result in positive changes for next year.**

-Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi  
chairperson-elect, University Senate

ters, and not simply to offer recommendations to the campus community."

Zarucchi pointed to the revisions of the grade appeal process discussed in the senate on Tuesday as an example of the senate's power in

policy matters.

Zarucchi stressed the senate's ability to approve course curriculum changes, which she described as one of the senate's most vital functions.

Zarucchi said she is pleased that full student representation has been

achieved in the senate, and she hopes that students will be active in the senate by attending the meetings, keeping informed, and casting their votes. Zarucchi also highlighted the importance of student participation in standing committees to which they had been elected. She said that student attendance had been a problem in the past, something she hopes to see resolved in the upcoming year.

"I hope that the apparent enthusiasm this year is going to result in positive changes for next year in regards to the level of student participation in the senate," Zarucchi said. □

# Grievance Stricken

The latest hot-button issue on campus centers around a process beset on all sides by criticism from groups its supposed to protect

BY DOUG HARRISON  
staff writer

To June Hertell, a provision on page 40 of the faculty handbook was relatively clear: "a grievance [by a faculty member] is defined as an allegation that: . . .

[t]here has been an infringement of academic freedom of the faculty member." She had this in mind when she wrote to Chancellor Blanche Touhill on March 20, 1997. In that letter, Hertell, a 16-year veteran of nursing instruction and 44-year veteran of the nursing profession, alleged that her "academic freedom" had indeed been infringed.

A few weeks earlier, then-vice chancellor for Academic Affairs Roosevelt Wright had approved a change of grade for one of Hertell's students from the previous semester - a student Hertell failed in Nursing 102. Hertell said the student's performance in the practicum, or clinical, stage of the course was unsatisfactory.

The student appealed the grade to Wright. Wright met with nursing faculty in late January at which time Hertell said Wright "said he saw no reason to change the student's grade." What's more, no faculty member would agree to change the student's grade from F to DL (delayed) and issue a new grade.

So Hertell said she was surprised to learn later in February that Connie Koch, associate dean of nursing (who has declined previous requests for interviews), had signed on to supervise the student's repeat of the course, and, more surprisingly still, Hertell said, that Wright had approved it.

The student earned a B for the course in February. Hertell said she thought she was appealing that ruling in her letter to Touhill March 20, 1997.

"It didn't have 'this is a grievance' written on it, but anyone could tell what it was," Hertell said.

But Touhill didn't respond. So Hertell sent another letter to Touhill and then a third. Finally in May of 1997, Touhill, Wright and Hertell met, at which time Hertell said the chancellor told her "we change grades on this campus" and that Hertell had no standing to file a grievance.

Hertell, nonplused but undeterred, wrote a letter to Mel George, then-president of the UM System. On June 5, he

agreed with Hertell, that she did in fact have a grievance against the University for the student's grade having been changed, and he ordered that the "official" clock begin on that grievance.

If this story sounds complex and multilayered and rife with official dates and directives issued at the highest levels of University administration, it is. Grievances in general are a hot topic these days on campus; what many faculty have called "horror stories" like Hertell's in particular are especially sensitive issues - so much so that the University Senate gave first reading last week to a resolution that would keep all grade grievances "at the unit level."

This particular semantic inclusion is especially important for faculty and has the potential to impact students who grieve a grade. Under the resolution, if passed, the college administration would have the final say in grievances, giving faculty who support the resolution more assurance, they say, that their professional assessment and evaluation of a student's work will not be undone by an administrator with little or no academic expertise to make such a decision.

Charles Larson, professor of English, said the integrity of faculty members' decisions is vitally important to professors and instructors.

"The chancellor has said with some pride that in her tenure she had occasion to change only two grades," Larson said. "For faculty, that's two grades too many."

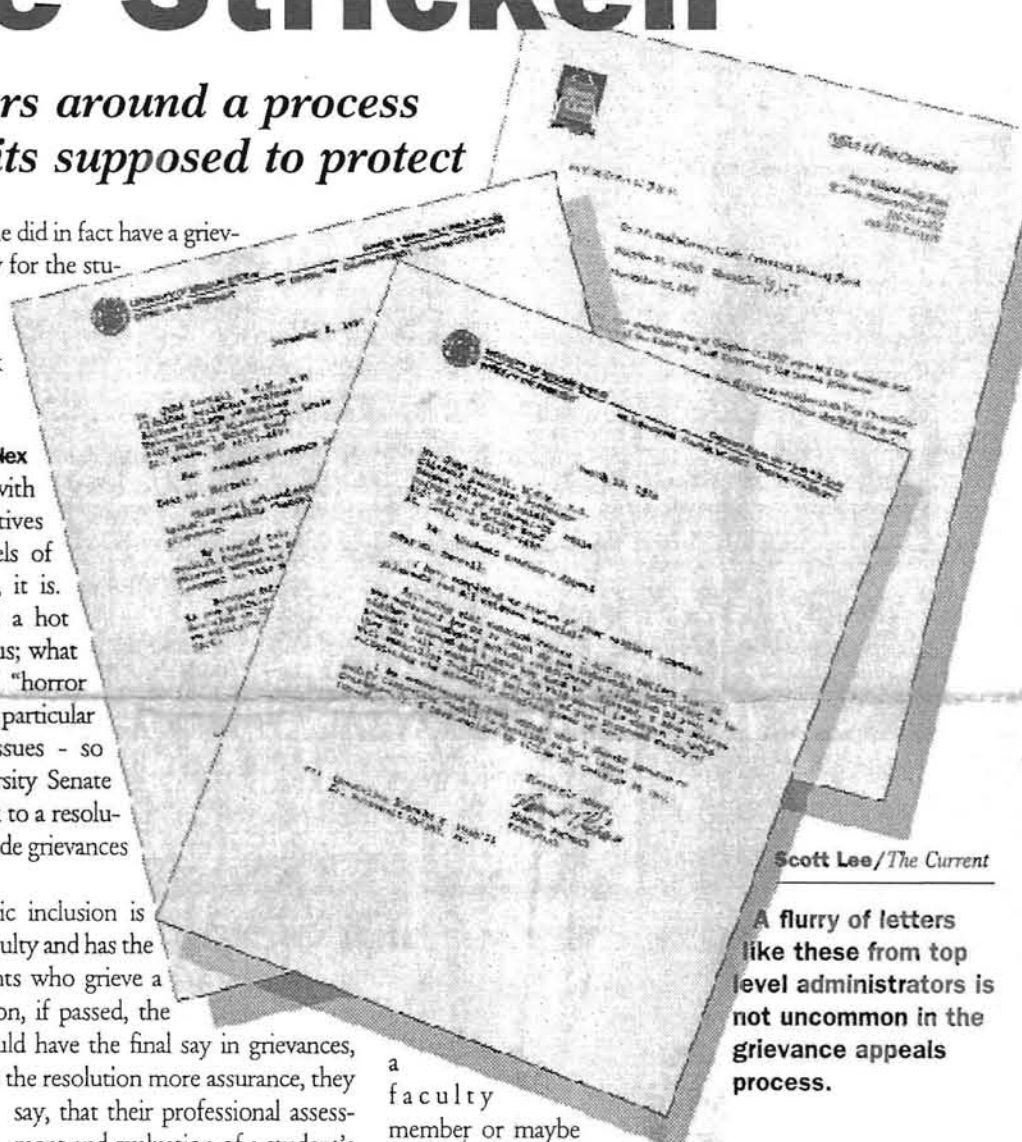
Larson, who participated in the formation of the senate resolution and has helped arbitrate grievances, says the impetus behind the senate's action is that "a grade is the responsibility of



Touhill has changed two grades



Wright oversaw grade changes



Scott Lee/The Current

A flurry of letters like these from top level administrators is not uncommon in the grievance appeals process.

a faculty member or maybe the department chair."

"It greatly harms faculty morale if it goes beyond that level."

Hertell's grievance strikes at the heart of the issues surrounding the Senate resolution. After she appealed to George in June 1997, a faculty panel, chaired by Michael Murray, professor in and chair of the Communication Department, unanimously sided with Hertell, saying that Koch's supervision of and Wright's signing-off on the changed grade violated Hertell's academic freedom. The committee reported its findings to Touhill, who responded to Murray Nov. 25 by overruling the committee.

In her letter, Touhill concedes that the hearing panel's conclusion that Wright failed to consult with all relevant parties

see GRIEVANCE, page 8

## SGA to unveil informal instructor evaluations on web

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
special to The Current

Before the end of the semester UM-St. Louis students will be able to evaluate their instructor's performance through the Student Government Association web site.

SGA President Jim Avery believes the idea will be a great opportunity for UM-St. Louis students to avoid teachers that may be a problem for them.

"They can avoid teachers that do not teach in a way they're accustomed to," Avery said.

Teacher evaluation will give students a chance to obtain a brief opinion of instructors by other students.

According to Avery, the idea for the teacher evaluation is not original.

"I saw the teacher evaluation

book from the University of Virginia and I thought it was a good idea," Avery said.

Avery said the resources to make this idea a reality have just become available.

"[The resources] became available to me two months ago," Avery said.

There have been positive responses from the presidents of Saint Louis University and Washington University, according to Avery.

"All the presidents from other campuses feel that it will be a positive influence," Avery said.

After logging onto the SGA website, click on the Book Swap icon. At the bottom of the screen there will be a button for teacher evaluations. Your answers to four questions and numerical rating will influence other viewer's decisions on what teachers they will request. □

## Trailblazers saluted in ceremony

BY BILL ROLFES  
staff writer

UM-St. Louis saluted seven women associated with the University for their achievements in obtaining positions that are usually held by men at the third annual Women Trailblazers Ceremony, Tuesday, in the Summit Lounge.

This year's theme, "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights," honors the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention, held in Seneca Falls, N. Y., in July 1848.

Keynote speaker Rose Kemp, regional administrator for the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, spoke to a crowd of 100 about the history and importance of the Women's Rights Movement. She attributed the success of women to the movement and to the Civil Rights Movement; however, she said women have not gained the status they desire, yet.



Daniel Hazelton/The Current  
Chancellor Blanche Touhill, left, presents a Trailblazer award to one of seven recipients.

She pointed out that women are a minority in both federal and state governments, using several examples including the Missouri Senate, which has 31 male and 3 female senators.

"We have a long way to go, but we have made

see SALUTE, page 8



# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board:** The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Todd Appel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

**Monday, Mar. 30**  
 • **"Visions of Gangs in St. Louis, 1990-97—A Slide Talk."** Scott Decker, professor of criminology and criminal justice at UM-St. Louis, will provide a pictorial examination of gangs and graffiti in St. Louis at 12 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **Colloquium "Masculine Landscapes: Walt Whitman and Marsden Hartley"** given by Ruth Bohan, Chairperson of Art History and Ph.D. American Studies, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 203 Lucas Hall. Contact: Nan Sweet, 6383 or Deborah Bowman, 5581.

• **Coed Wallyball Tournament at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts.** Register by March 25 in 203 Mark Twain. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic** begins today and runs Monday-Friday until April 10. Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **Coed Wallyball Tournament at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts.** Teams should consist of 2 men and 2 women. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

**Tuesday, Mar. 31**  
 • **Taize Prayer** from 12:25 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. in 75 J.C. Penney. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

**Wednesday, Apr. 1**  
 • **A three week Sand Volleyball Tournament Begins tonight.** The games will be played on Wednesday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Birth Control and STDs.** Ms. Carin Onning of Planned Parenthood presents information about birth control options, the increase in STDs and how a woman can protect herself from contracting STDs from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Women's Center 211/212 Clark Hall. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

• **"Ridicule"** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 8 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **Focus on the Future**, a personal and professional enrichment series for administrators, faculty and staff in J.C. Penney and in the TeleCommunity Center. Contact: 6022.

**Thursday, Apr. 2**  
 • **"Ridicule"** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 a.m. in the U-Center Lounge. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **Focus on the Future**, a personal and professional enrichment series for administrators, faculty and staff in J.C. Penney and in the TeleCommunity Center. Contact: 6022.

**Friday, Apr. 3**  
 • **Casino Night** at the Honors College from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.? Come for food, fun and music. There is a \$5.00 donation at the door. Contact: Todd Appel, 8671.

**Monday, Apr. 6**  
 • **Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students for Change Meeting** at 4 p.m. in 441 Stadler Hall. Contact: Ethel, 5013.

• **Institute for Women's and Gender Studies Colloquium/Brief Board Meeting** "Relationships and Personal Change in the Women's Studies Classroom"—Craig Malkin, Psychology Doctoral Candidate from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 1312 Tower. Contact: Nan Sweet, 6383 or Deborah Bowman, 5581.

• **Studio in St. Louis—Poetry Readings.** Nan Sweet, assistant professor of English and director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, and Carol Niederlander, professor of English, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, read some of their recent poems at 12 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **"Pompeii Revisited,"** a photographic exhibit will have an opening reception with a light luncheon at 12 p.m. and a Lecture "How Private Efforts Revitalize the City" at 12:30 p.m. by Professor Dennis Judd in 362 SSB. Contact: 5273.

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic** begins today and runs Monday-Friday until April 10. Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students for Change Meeting** at 4 p.m. in 441 Stadler Hall. Contact: Ethel, 5013.

• **Biological Society Meeting** at 1:30 p.m. in Benton 115. Anyone is welcome. Contact: Biological Society, 6438.

**Tuesday, Apr. 7**  
 • **Taize Prayer** from 12:25 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. in 75 J.C. Penney. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

• **"Some Recent Trends in Fiber Optics,"** Professor Ajoy Ghatak of the Indian Institute of Technology in New Dehli will discuss this topic at 3:00 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall with Coffee at 2:45 p.m. in 516 Benton Hall.

• **Biological Society Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in Benton 115. Anyone is welcome. Contact: Biological Society, 6438.

• **Introduction to Weight Training Class** on Tuesdays for the next three weeks. Class meets from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

**Wednesday, Apr. 8**  
 • **Assertiveness Training.** Katherine Welch, LCSW, a counselor at the Counseling Service, will teach us all effective techniques we can use to be assertive in our daily lives from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Women's Center 211/212 Clark Hall. Contact: 5380.

• **What's Love Got To Do With It** part of the

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 8 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **International Seminar "Sacred Space and Promised Land: Aboriginal and European Attitudes to Country and Landscape."** Frank Clarke, Associate Professor of History and author, Macquarie University in New South Wales, Australia will give a seminar. The Seminar will be from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the McDonnell Conference Room 331 SSB. Contact: Center for International Studies, 5753.

• **Psi-Chi Colloquium Series**—Dr. Ellen Tetlow will speak on Feminist Therapy at 1 p.m. in 120 Research Building. Refreshments served and Peer Educators will be recruiting. There will be employment opportunities for Psych Majors. Anyone can attend. Contact: Lyn Patton, 7214 or 381-6326.

**Thursday, Apr. 9**  
 • **"Ridicule"** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 a.m. in the U-Center Lounge. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **Student Social Work Association Meeting** in the Lucas Hall Evening College Conference Room at 4 p.m. on the third floor. Contact: Barb Collaso, 5105.

**Monday, Apr. 13**  
 • **"Reinventing Coeducation: The Case of the Change Colleges."** Frances L. Hoffman, associate professor of Sociology and of the women's studies, will compare the outcomes of the transition to coeducation of formerly men's and formerly women's colleges, examining how they met this unique opportunity to reinvent coeducation. This event will be at 12 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **Wallyball Doubles Tournament** at the Mark Twain Rec Center. Teams should consist of two same or opposite sex players. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

## The Current

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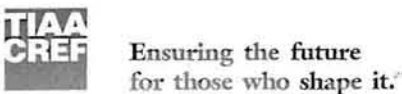
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**BRUCE WILLIS**

**SOMEONE KNOWS TOO MUCH**

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# Odds & Ends

## Stick It In The Fridge



**BECKY RICKARD**  
 features editor

I wish I could abstain from cheesiness but, I know you'd expect nothing less from me. I never used to be a big movie star junkie until I met a few of them in 1997 while spring breaking in Los Angeles. (I could drop a few names like Leonardo DiCaprio, George Clooney and Neve Campbell, but I won't.) Like many other college students last Monday, I gave myself an overdue break from studying and watched the Oscars.

I, too, was shocked by Helen Hunt and Kim Basinger's win, was overjoyed for Robin Williams, thanked the creative gods for allowing "the two dudes" to give hope to all the young writers in America and cried during the moment of silence for all who suffered in the Titanic disaster. However, I couldn't help but wonder if it was Linda Hamilton's killer biceps in *Terminator 2* that permanently floated James Cameron's boat. (Remember the chin-ups?)

Anyway, I started thinking about which actors I champion and why. You see, I am no longer one of those people who jumps on the trendy super-star bandwagon. (However, I do admit to having the Rob Lowe saxophone poster in seventh grade.) Now, I'm a little older and a lot less impressionable. I refuse to find Matt Damon attractive — talented, but not attractive. (I'm not going to buy his poster.) So, here's my list of five great actors that the Academy didn't recognize.

1. John Cusak — not only is he devastatingly handsome and incredibly prolific but, he also gets the best roles in typical chick flicks. (Lloyd Dobbler, Cusak's character in *Say Anything* is by far the most perfect man in any movie.) As an added bonus, he gets to portray the envied hit man that arouses every man's testosterone in *Gross Point Blank*. Sure, he's had his share of crappy movies but nothing is worse than John Travolta in *Urban Cowboy*, no matter how many times you deny watching it.

2. Gabriel Byrne — another silent but deadly type, whose talent rivals the likes of Kevin Spacey and Ray Finnes. Plus, he's got a sneaking sexiness that only increases with age unlike many other actors, except Sean Connery. *The Usual Suspects* — enough said.

3. Michael Keaton — forget his most recent work, I'm taking you all the way back to the '80s. Who didn't love *Mr. Mom*? You've got to love a guy that can iron a grilled cheese while conquering *Jaws* the killer vacuum cleaner within two screen hours. It takes an admirable man to put his masculinity on the line like that. I say, "Two twenty, two twenty-one. Whatever it takes."

4. Jeremy Piven — the king of background characters. He is currently starring on the TV show "Ellen" but renewal of the show is up in the air. He's also the nostalgic supermarket clerk in the movie *Singles* and the drunk guy "who must chill!" in *Say Anything*. Is he in focus yet? Interestingly, his stellar performance occurs in the movie *PCU*, as he portrays Dros, the fearless leader of the campus slackers. He'll teach you anything you need to know about college, like the Hackman-Cain theory or how to major in Gameboy.

5. Benicio Del Toro — even though you can't comprehend a single word he says in *The Usual Suspects*, *The Fan* or *Excess Baggage*, I still think he is brilliant. Not only is he the dark, brooding man I have waited for all my life, but he is also an astute and focused character actor whose presence is always felt on screen, even if you can't understand what that presence is supposed to be. Let's hope he doesn't make the fatal DiCaprio mistake.

Like many other Americans, I'm sucker for the boy-next-door type. Therefore, I am not in the Jack Nicholson, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro fan club. I'm just tired of the Oscars revolving around these self-proclaimed "king(s) of the world." Furthermore, I don't think that one billion viewers needed to know how important the number 69 is to certain actors that think sunglasses are an accessory to wear inside a theater. □



# Spring into Fashion

Story by Amy Lombardo  
 Photos by Daniel Hazelton and Erin Stremmel  
 of The Current staff

The warm weather is causing the usual bare-skin phenomenon. Sweaters are being traded in for tank tops, shorts and skirts are replacing jeans and corduroys.

This season calls for a look that is far from the dark winter wardrobe. Spring colors are everywhere, reflecting the sunny and breezy atmosphere. It is a welcome change for most students at UM-St. Louis, including Debbie Newberry, a junior in communications.

"The colors like mint green and the light airy colors are what I like best about spring," Newberry said. "It's very fresh."

Forget about the drab colors of yesterday, and focus on more romantic hues. The stores are full of soft shades of blue, green, yellow and red. Classic black still survives, and looks stunning on sun-kissed skin.

Speaking of skin, it's everywhere. Less is more this year, especially for females. Bare backs are all the rage, and crisscrossed

straps accentuate natural attributes beautifully.

There has also been a revival of the schoolgirl uniform, but with a contemporary flair. Pleated skirts are more versatile in solid colors, rather than patterned with plaid. The completion of the preppy look can be achieved with a cardigan sweater or classic jacket, and ankle socks with loafers.



But loafers may not be the ideal choice for warm temperatures. A lot of women look forward to the shoes of the season more than the apparel. Brenna Lodes is a communications major in her junior year at UM-St. Louis. She suffers from the same lack of cash flow as many students, but with a desire to buy.

"I wish that (spring fashion) was cheaper, because I really like the shoes," Lodes said. "Especially brown sandals with a heel."

For those who have been suffering from accessory-withdrawal in the age of the minimalist, this season provides a juicy fix. It's okay to wear flashier jewelry and put on noticeable make-up for those more important events. But clean and simple is the overwhelming choice.

The choice dress for spring is the sheath, in every color imaginable. It can range in style from sophisticated and elegant, to care-free and casual. The fact that it is sleeveless also remains with the bare-it-all attitude.

The amount of cosmetics used by females is an issue for both men and women. Although more formal occasions may require more make-up, the majority of both sexes prefer a clean, healthy look for everyday. Kevin Helmsing is an UM-St. Louis communications junior. He likes to see women bare, not just the amount of clothes they wear in the heat, but their faces as well.

"When women wear no make-up, that's what I like best about spring," Helmsing said.

Men also change their clothing style when the weather changes. The same lighter colors apply to the male dress codes. They also take advantage of the more breathable materials, exchanging thick jeans for cotton khakis.

The formal outing may call for a stylish suit or jacket in the same light fabrics. □

**UNDER CURRENT**  
 compiled by Stephanie Platt/staff photographer

What is the question that will go here is what this will say?

"Enhance Greek life and sports (i.e. football)."

-Dan Weyrauch  
 freshman/sec. ed.



"I would use it to help students pay for their college education."

-Nine Love-Knox  
 senior/biology



"Have other campuses built in other cities and around the world."

-Katy Auffenberg  
 senior/English and psychology



"I would use it to clean up all the goose crap."

-Amy Kennedy  
 junior/MIS



"Put more resources into student services, especially advising."

-Sharon Clark  
 assoc. dean, College of A&S



"Provide Greeks with new housing."

-Elizabeth S. Rauch  
 sophomore/secondary ed.



You read The Current and we'd like to thank you.

The Current's own features editor will be in the Underground at 12:30 tomorrow with free passes to Mercury Rising. Find her and the passes are yours. This week's movie is brought to you by TCI Cable and its entertainment show, EQ, hosted by FM 101.1 The River's Ken Williams and Dave Doerre, on TCI Channel 3 and Charter Cable channel 8.



Top left, junior Tom Holt sports a snappy spring suit. Top right, senior Michael Perkins prefers the lighter, looser feel while freshman Sara Larez is ready for warm weather now.

comfortable, and pretty.

Skirts can be longer, falling just above the knee in some cases, but with a flowing shape. The designs are floaty and romantic, but not girly. Delicate embroidery on an item will dress it up beautifully. The skirts are not tight like a second-skin, but more fluid in form. The fabrics are silk, chiffon and cotton blends.

What to wear on top? Very little. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops work with anything from skirts to jeans. Knits are an easy choice, and range from form-fitting

## (Mc)Cann do

BY BECKY RICKARD  
 staff writer

For over five years, UM-St. Louis' School of Education has been keeping a secret. It's not an amazing research study that will change the face of education as we know it or a recently published professor. Many of the students and faculty know this secret and talk to her many times throughout the semester. This secret is Pam McCann, receptionist for the School of Education.

McCann is the nice blonde lady who sits in the first office just inside the doors of Marillac Hall. She's the one who usually greets every student with a smile and helps them through the difficult times with a funny anecdote from a student she once knew who went through the same situation.

"I hope I make [students] feel a little bit at home, at ease. I hope I make a difference," McCann said.

In a money hungry society, where power and fortune have replaced happiness and complacency in the work force, it is nice to see a person who loves her job. McCann loves her job so much that she claims it gives her goose-bumps. Her enthusiasm may have been a reason that she was presented with the Staff Excellence Award for the School of Education last summer.

Deborah Buyck, an academic advisor for the School of Education, feels that McCann is an integral part of the welcoming feeling so many education students rave about when they enter the department. According to Buyck, McCann has learned a great deal about her surrounding environment because of her "feel free to come in" attitude.

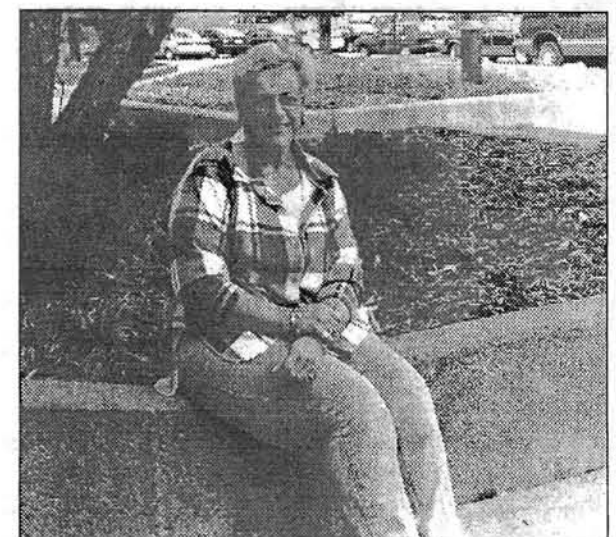
"She's learned so much about advising and is able to take up the slack," Buyck said.

"However, I'm the first person to say that if I don't know the answer, I don't get it. I pass it on," McCann added.

McCann considers herself a mom away from mom. She claims that her motherly instincts expound in many situations.

"The mom comes out in me no matter how hard I fight it," McCann admitted. "I think when you are at a University, everybody needs a mom."

It is obvious that McCann's strong sense of family follows



Erin Stremmel/The Current  
**Pam McCann outside the School of Education where she works.**

her from home into the office. She raised three sons of her own, Michael, 33, Matthew, 29 and Mitchell, 13. She also has three grandchildren from the ages 8 to 12.

McCann began working part-time at UM-St. Louis partly because she needed a change of scenery after her husband died of cancer six years ago. This experience allowed her to help other students facing rough times in their lives. In fact, she still keeps in touch with Brian Kessler, a 1995 graduate from the School of Education who, while in school, became close to McCann while his sister was battling cancer. McCann noticed that Brian had been chumming around with another education major, Brooke Langelier, and convinced him to ask her out. McCann attended their wedding over two years ago and still talks with the couple.

McCann isn't just a smiling face welcoming students to the School of Education. She'll tell you a funny joke, interesting anecdote, or give you a hug while you wait to hear which way your future is headed. McCann adds a humanistic aspect to a process that may fall by the wayside as the State of Missouri's bureaucratic red tape guides our future educators. □





# Comments: Election Special

## The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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**Doug Harrison**  
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**Bill Rolfes**  
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editorial page editor

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

### How to Respond

Your response is an important part of the weekly debate on this page. Letters 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 telephone number.



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### OUR OPINION

## For SGA president: a realistic vision will do

Next week, students will have the opportunity, as they do each year, to elect a new Student Government Association administration. Unlike many previous years, this year's election bodes well for the health of student government at UM-St. Louis. Three viable, active and articulate candidates are vying for the opportunity to lead the student body next year. This is our look and analysis of those candidates.

Since **Jim Avery** was elected, the homecoming dance sold out (for the first time ever); more people have attended SGA meetings than in the past; and for the first time there was an election for the 25 student seats on the University Senate. The last of these is Mr. Avery's greatest feat of the year, and he deserves credit for his efforts in recruiting 42 students to run for the Senate.

If re-elected, Mr. Avery plans to form a South Campus council, which would most likely get even more students to participate in activities. He has piqued many students' interests, and people are ready to do something. Although, he seems to have no specific direction for them, except the generic task of getting more people involved.

What should have been in Mr. Avery's plans from the beginning was to make sure the constitution was valid. Every leader should do this. Now that the academic year is almost over, Avery has made it a priority to rewrite the constitution and make sure it gets approved. Without a constitution, student government has no authority on campus.

He said the purpose of student government is to give students a "viable voice" on campus by organizing a group to speak for all students. Along with that, he said that student government gives the administration "something to answer to." Frankly, the administration doesn't have to answer to students. Administrators proved this in November, when they "asked" students' opinions about raising fees a year early to help pay for the new University Center.

Mr. Avery has a propensity for misjudging how much authority the SGA president has. Now he is wasting time trying to make sure the present University Center remains occupied by students after the new one is built. Mr. Avery plans to work with the chancellor personally to reach a suitable agreement; and if that doesn't work he is prepared to take "more drastic measures." If such drastic measures include hiring a lawyer, as he has intimated earlier this year, we hope Mr. Avery wouldn't waste good student activities dollars litigating such a frivolous case.

**Sharone Hopkins** has been at the helm of the University Program Board this year, and despite confusion surrounding the organization's budget, he helped plan some innovative programming.

Mr. Hopkins' candidacy for the president of SGA presents voters with a number of points that merit consideration.

He deserves to be regarded as a student who cares about student government and his fellow students, declaring his support for government "for, by and of the people." Moreover, several of his ideas would no doubt benefit both.

Mr. Hopkins' suggestion that student government should help students play a role in the larger St. Louis community would no doubt broaden the perceptions of many, increasing awareness of avenues toward involvement around the metropolitan area. His proposal to overhaul the SGA constitution and provide a viable "backbone" for student government would likewise prove equally beneficial as would his plan to encourage an ongoing dialogue — an "open-door policy" with his

constituents. This dialogue would help the SGA president remain familiar with the needs of students and help them feel a part of the governing process. His proposed "students' rights pamphlet" would only enhance this sense of inclusion as it would constitute dialogue in another form, SGA's attempt to help students understand how they are members of the larger campus community. Equally important, Mr. Hopkins' suggestion that SGA should plan more programming for students on campus than just Homecoming Week has the potential to further link this representative body to students and enhance its role on campus.

On their face, **Todd Appel's** ideas about how to lead SGA next year may seem overly simple: streamlining meetings, improving SGA's Internet presence, publishing a monthly newsletter, downsizing committee burdens and constructing a constitution that meets this SGA's needs, rather than SGA trying to fit into some misshapen cookie cutter model of student government.

If these goals seem basic, it can only be because SGA's weaknesses, its shortcomings, spring from basic problems. When Mr. Appel says "we've got to be realistic about involvement," and be realistic about the degree to which any person, organization or group can coerce a majority of students on this campus to "get involved," we understand that, and it makes sense. After all, as Mr. Appel has articulated, there are only about a 1,000 to "maybe 2,000 students" SGA or any governance body can expect to interest and retain as involved participants in campus life.

Most important, Mr. Appel knows that "we can't stop doing our work or wait for everyone to be involved" before we get about the business of SGA.

And he's right. SGA has tried to play high politics and ignore the obvious limitations of its own effectiveness, pretending for too long that "this year" will be the year that students get involved while its internal organization crumbled and disintegrated into confused finger pointing. At last, we are pleasantly surprised to find a candidate willing to state the obvious: the basic things must be fixed before SGA can get on to addressing larger issues. Its recent failures in large scale discussions with administration about long range goals has made this point painfully clear.

Of course, Mr. Appel must keep his eye on the bottom line in SGA: as a leader goes, so goes the organization. He must be willing to articulate more significant goals and strategic methods to address issues like the new U Center and the performing arts center and their long-term costs to students. These issues and others like them must take the SGA's attention and energy as soon as its procedural and functional difficulties have been addressed internally.

But overall, we find Mr. Appel's vision one that best fits SGA's needs. Yes, he does work for The Current. When the active student explores as many extracurricular activities to augment his education on campus as possible, it cannot nor should it disqualify or dilute the validity of his ideas and their efficacy. Indeed, one's willingness to support numerous organizations, as Mr. Appel has and does, should only further speak to his familiarity with numerous perspectives. **Mr. Appel**, by focusing on ways to unite the contingent of students on campus who are involved, by identifying the fundamental weaknesses of communicative breakdowns, procedural redundancy and generally unrealistic vision of recent SGA administrations, **has our support to be the next SGA president.** □

### GUEST COMMENTARY

## The case for involvement in campus elections of UM-St. Louis

As a metropolitan university, the University of Missouri-St. Louis enjoys a richly diverse student body — of all ages, abilities, philosophies of life, levels of knowledge, races and ethnicities, nationalities, degrees of wealth or poverty, faiths, creeds and purposes. UM-St. Louis shares another important characteristic with metropolitan universities — our student body is largely, although not exclusively, commuting in nature. Students choose to attend and to commute to a metropolitan university such as ours for a variety of reasons — availability and quality of academic programs, cost, a desire to retain identity with the local community, the need to continue in a job, family influences or convenient proximity of the campus. But the challenges for commuting students just commence upon deciding to attend a university like UM-St. Louis — pressed travel time, coordination of work and family schedules and responsibilities, selection of classes on the basis of other than academic factors, reluctance to return to campus for whatever reason after one's classes are completed and stress and time management issues ad infinitum.

Perhaps a more significant consequence affecting UM-St. Louis commut-

ing students is the "divided life" they live. Within a single day, a person may be a student, worker, spouse, parent, son or daughter or local St. Louis resident; and each of these roles competes for the time and energy of the individual. Family obligations often seem in direct contention with the time needed for study or to participate in campus activities. As working students, one's loyalties can be divided — expectations of the job are sometimes perceived by some as more significant or at least more pressing than class responsibilities.

With these realities, why would an administrator such as myself argue for the involvement of students in campus elections and co-curricular opportunities? For the very reasons of diversity and the complexities of commuting student lives I cite above, it is important that a variety of students come forward to have their diverse voices and needs expressed. We do not have a homogenous student body. At times, there appears to be as many divergent needs as there are students. In order for the campus to be truly responsive to our rich diversity and to the complex problems our students have, we require the active involvement of individuals from all walks of experience and characteristics. Our strong diversity of students must

populate our student governance structures and be involved in organized activities. It is only through this participation that the realities of commuting students can be understood and for meaningful responses be made to address the expectations and needs of our students.

Student participation in elections and campus learning activities is a barometer of sorts. It indicates to us whether we have a dynamic and responsive campus environment or one in which students are taken for granted or neglected. Students can and need to be active in student government, organized clubs and honoraria, groups related to their academic and career interests and in the myriad of educational, social, leadership, recreational performing arts, cultural and spiritual opportunities afforded by a comprehensive university such as ours. Without that student presence and involvement, a university can and does become divorced from the realities of commuting students and their needs.

Finally, there is an impressive body of research which reveals both intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of student involvement in out-of-class learning experiences. These studies have shown that involvement in campus activities has a tremendous potential for strengthening student learning and producing growth. Students who are involved in powerful out-of-class experiences are likely to have a much more satis-

fying college experience than those who do not participate. Research also indicates that persistence to graduation is positively impacted by campus involvement. Most recent evidence suggests that there is a small positive and statistically significant correlation between involvement in extracurricular activities, particularly in a leadership role, and subsequent earnings.

In closing, it is true that the uniqueness of commuting students at a metropolitan university — their diversity, the realities and challenges they bring to the educational setting and their divided lives — make the proposition of involvement in student elections, governance and out-of-class learning experiences most difficult. Yet, I believe that if we can view these problems and needs in the context of being part of some larger community of learners and leaders working together to shape campus response, then we can be a part of an improving situation... a more caring, sensitive and understanding environment... a university which supports the needs of its students, and a place that takes students seriously. And if our students perceive that governance, campus life, services and activities speak to their needs, then just perhaps the time, travel, and energy will be invested by our students in their out-of-class involvement in the larger learning community.

Grace is the vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

## Yes, elections are news

So what to make of this issue of student involvement? Is it a legitimate concern on this streetcar campus, or is it just a self-serving mantra of ineffective little people who want to play the part of a campus politico without the work? Or, is it an institutional reality that may have once been unique to UM-St. Louis but will begin to manifest itself at other colleges and universities as our "type" or "model" of commuter university becomes more prevalent nationally? It is, I believe, all of the above — a combination of apathy and genuine absence of time and concern and a healthy dose of the obvious: students attend UM-St. Louis for reasons that preclude involvement in traditional campus political systems. But part of the problem is more subversive, more institutionally conditioned by, I would say, a mixture of life-long students whose perennial game-playing rob SGA of its legitimacy (of this I have little to say, only unspoken disdain), and more disturbing, by a contingent of professionals whose narrowly focused view of what students' roles are on this, "their" campus, keeps things stymied.

This is not, mind you, a vast conspiracy of any wing, but rather an erroneous notion among some faculty and administrators (who have been here longer than most of their students have been alive) that students belong in the romper room of SGA, not the board room of the senate, that the longer students bicker about parking the smaller their numbers will become and the fewer of them will there be who are interested in the process, and well, that's all the better. It must of been something like this that led a prominent member of the University Senate to insist to me recently that student elections results for the senate were not worthy of public consumption. It would be different, he told me, if this were a race in the community where it was hotly contested and thousands of dollars were spent on the race, but these were students. In the end, His Prominence pertinently retorted that he didn't care if we printed the results or not. But that's an odd place to end a conversation whose main thrust centered on this faculty member's "concern" over how "we do things" around here, that these results "weren't news," that losers totals shouldn't be printed, that he needed to be sure we would be responsible with our use of the information. Concerns about our handling this or any issue responsibly are well-taken. But I can't help but believe it is this type of hostility at the highest levels of faculty governance at the University that helps stymie student participation. In point of fact, we must begin somewhere. No, this student election for the senate wasn't a blockbuster political contest, but it was the first in recent history where there was a contest. And if students see who won and who lost and by how much, they may say themselves "I can do that." And next year more people run and existing student senators will be forced to do more than file for re-election; they'll have to campaign, which in turn raises more awareness and in so doing a process has begun whereby student governance can materialize into something substantive.

Students have a responsibility to themselves and one another to take more active roles in the process. This week's SGA elections are just such an opportunity. But even if that interest is not as substantial or as developed as faculty administrative participation, it should be respected nonetheless. Student elections are news; I just hope there's more of it to come. □

## Questioning validity of SGA committees

When it came time to sign up for a Student Government Association committee, I chose the task force committee because I figured we wouldn't have to do anything unless some problem came up.

So far, we haven't discussed anything of significance during any SGA meeting, and we haven't met outside of the regular meetings (unless they met without me, which is fine with me).

There was one time during the semester that I was afraid the task force committee was going to be active. If you'll recall, a bunch of administrators came to the November meeting to get our opinion about charging us more money — of course they weren't looking for approval. In that meeting, the SGA assembly voted as to whether it supported the fee increases or not.

The assembly voted in favor of the fee increases, even though it had no power to stop them. The meeting was long, and people raised questions, and some were against the fee increase — I was one of them. The next meeting was called off because of el nino.

In January, a lot of people showed up at the meeting because Tonya Hutchinson and Gail Babcock had some students riled up about fee increases and the performing arts center. A bunch of music majors showed up, too. I guess they were thinking something was going to get resolved with the performing arts issue.

When it came time to meet in our committees, the task force committee had doubled since the last SGA meeting. All the music majors, Tonya and Gail were in our group. There was talk of trying to create some kind of student advisory board, so we could have some kind of dialog with administrators. We all wrote down our e-mail addresses and people said we should meet in a week or two to discuss this.

I never did get an e-mail about the meeting, much to my relief. Now that I think about it, I haven't seen half of those people since that meeting.

In the meeting two weeks ago, about 10 people from the task force committee were there. You want to know what we discussed for the 15 minutes that we were supposed to be meeting?

Well, I spent the time catching up with one of my friends who is in the student involvement committee. He couldn't find his committee, so we just shot the bull for a while. The rest of my committee broke up into subcommittees and discussed how they hated the cold weather and what they did for spring break.

Requiring students meet in committees is a waste of time in many cases. Most of the committees are useless, and I'm confident that the only reason they exist is because the constitution says we have to have them. Constitutions are adaptable, and they should fit our present needs. The SGA shouldn't be controlled by the constitution like a robot. Rather, the assembly needs to decide how important committees are and if the constitution still needs to make them mandatory. □



DOUG HARRISON  
editor in chief



BILL ROLFES  
managing editor



G. GARY GRACE  
guest commentator





# SGA Elections

CANDIDATES PROFILES

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## James Avery

(incumbent)



**age:** 26  
**year in school:** junior  
**major:** communication/political science  
**affiliations:** Student Government Association, president; Intercampus Student Council Association; Senate Student Affairs Committee; Homecoming Committee

**In his own words:**

"My biggest objective for next year is to fight for the present U Center — to keep it so that it's student occupied. I feel I can accomplish this through working with the chancellor herself, and if that doesn't work, then use more drastic measures.

Another one of my objectives is to start a South Campus council. It would be made up of students from the different schools on the South Campus, similar to the Evening College Council. We could meet on a regular basis and that would allow me to get an insight as to what issues they face on the South Campus.

My final objective would probably be to continue and increase the progression made in student involvement this year."

## Todd Appel

**age:** 22



**year in school:** fourth  
**major:** sociology (minor in criminal justice, certificate in photography)  
**affiliations:** Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, president; Catholic

Students at Newman House, interim president and SGA rep.; Ambassadors program;

**In his own words:**

"As SGA president, I would work on streamlining committees such as homecoming, election and task force. Also, meetings would be shorter and more productive. I would also like to focus on building a more unified campus community through promoting positive multicultural relations among students, faculty and staff. Additionally, I want to make it easier for students to get in contact with the campus community by having faculty offices', student organizations' and students' phone numbers in one directory that SGA, in conjunction with *The Current*, could provide."

## Sharone Hopkins

**age:** 21



**year in school:** junior  
**major:** business management  
**affiliations/awards:** University Program Board, president 1997-98; Associated Black Collegians, president 1997-98; Student Activities Budget Committee 1996; Olympic Torch Bearer 1996; spokesman for United Way 1996; Parkway

Central H. S. has instituted the "Sharone Hopkins Award" for students who overcome adversity

**In his own words:**

"I would like SGA to become a little more involved in what's going on in our immediate community. I also think we need to implement a roundtable discussion where students can talk about race relations... not deal with the symptoms of racism.

I really want to make sure that students know this is their campus. You have a right to know what's going on. There needs to be a students' rights pamphlet. I would like to send a newsletter to every student that's on this campus [once a semester], making them aware of issues.

The challenge [to SGA] this year was some leakage in the political structure of the organization. It never had an official constitution. If necessary, I will ask that another committee be formed."

**What the constitution says:**

**The President shall:**

- serve as chairperson of the executive committee of the assembly
- represent SGA in such areas as may require a true representative of the student body
- report to the association and the assembly on activities of the executive committee and actions regarding any other duties of the office of the president

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## Michael S. Rankins

(incumbent: running mate with James Avery)



**Age:** 27  
**Major:** MA, counseling  
**Year:** graduate student  
**Affiliations:** SGA vice president, 1997-98; SGA secretary 1995-96; member of Psi Chi and Golden Key National Honor Society

**In his own words:** "I wish to continue with humanitarian and equal opportunity issues on campus. I also wish to continue my own efforts to stabilize student fees."

## Thomas Albrecht

(running independently)



**Age:** 20  
**Major:** accounting  
**Year:** junior  
**Affiliations:** Student Activities Budget Committee; Steering Committee for Greek Week

**In his own words:** "[I want to] give students the proper representation they deserve and to get more people involved in student organizations by encouraging students who share a common bond to form successful groups or clubs on campus. I believe that I am fair and impartial and have had good dealings with all student organizations thus far."

## Brian D. Reed

(running mate with Todd Appel)



**Age:** 20  
**Major:** secondary education/Spanish/English/certificate in women's and gender studies  
**Year:** senior  
**Affiliations:** Residence Halls Association, 1995-96; Resident Assistant, 1996-97; University Program Board; working with Student Activities to coordinate programs; Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association

**In his own words:** "Improving SGA and its status on campus with students are priorities. I have a plethora of innovative ideas that are geared to the welfare of every student. Personal agendas will not smoke screen my intentions. Let students see their money at work."

**What the constitution says:**

**The Vice President shall:**

- assume the duties of the president in the case of the president's absence or illness
- succeed the president in the case of the president's death, resignation or impeachment and suspension
- oversee all other SGA and assembly committees and special boards

**Editor's note:** two other candidates, Patrick Aaron Grove and Keith Harris, did not respond to our requests for interviews.

READER RESPONSE

## Poor poll position portends ill for SGA

Once again, UM-St. Louis students need only to look to the Student Government Association for examples of violations of democratic principles. At the March SGA meeting, SGA president Jim Avery announced the formation of a task force to revise the SGA constitution with a meeting to be held last week. However, when I asked Avery last Monday about a meeting, he replied that no meeting would be held until after the student elections.

How much longer is the student body going to have to wait to see the SGA revise its constitution? After I proposed a similar constitution committee resolution at the April 1997 SGA meeting, the assembly requested that the incoming SGA president get a committee active on constitution revision. Why has it taken Avery until March 1998 to show any interest in constitution revision when last year's assembly directed the incoming president to do so?

The SGA election committee also brings the students an example of violating democratic principles. In the March 23 issue of *The Current*, Jason Brazeal, chair of the SGA election committee, said, "If [booths] are not going to be manned and somebody doesn't show up at one, obviously we're going to have to shut them down, and we don't want to do that."

Mr. Brazeal, I ask you, do other levels of government shut down polls if nobody signs up to staff them? No. The election committee is responsible to see that all polls are open during advertised hours. Otherwise, students are not given their right to vote and candidates could file an election grievance on the outcome of the election. A proposed solution to this problem would be to pay poll workers, something that SGA has not done in recent years. Other government entities pay these workers; why not SGA?

Students, if you want to learn democratic principles, take a political science or a U.S. history class. You won't see them in action if you look at this year's SGA.

And to the election committee:

1. Ballots must allow space for write-in votes. They are legal in SGA elections and space must be made available on scantron ballots to allow them.

2. Polls must be available when announced or candidates will file a grievance. You should not try to advertise as many polling places, but must always have someone at South Campus and at U Center (Lucas in the evening). If necessary, you should pay a poll worker at work-study rate to keep these polls open the entire election if you cannot get volunteers. Find the money in SGA budget even if it is not budgeted under the item of wages. Students have the right to vote during advertised hours. Your committee is responsible to keep those polls open during those hours no matter what it takes.

If you don't follow democratic principles in running this election, a grievance will be filed even if I win.

-Steven M. Wolfe

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## Benjamin Ash

(running mate with James Avery and Michael Rankins)

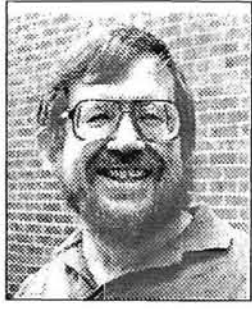


**Age:** 23  
**Major:** music  
**Year:** senior  
**Affiliations:** Chairperson: SGA Assembly, 1996-97; current interim chairperson: SGA Assembly; former president: Political Science Academy, 1992-95; University Instrumental Ensembles, 1994-present

**In his own words:** "My main objective is to work together with Jim Avery and Michael Rankins and the SGA next year and to continue the objectives we've been striving for this past year."

## Steven Wolfe

(running independently)



**Age:** 40  
**Major:** graduate degree in education (secondary/reading)  
**Year:** graduate student  
**Affiliations:** SGA representative; student Senator; Kappa Delta Pi (education honor society); recreational sports; "Captain Riverman," unofficial mascot of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen and Riverwomen.

no comments provided

## Paul Puricelli

(running independently)



**Age:** 19  
**Major:** computer science/MIS  
**Year:** freshman  
**Affiliations:** Student Activities Budget Committee

**In his own words:** "I want to help make the committees work and make the best decisions for the students, the University and the community."

**Editor's note:** two other candidates, Kimberly Muex and Tawnya Reed, did not respond to our requests for interviews.

**What the constitution says:**

**The Comptroller shall:**

- serve as chair of the Student Allocation Budget Committee
- check the accuracy of activity fee acquisition forms
- represent SABC in such areas that may require a representative of the committee
- present questions of misuse of allocated monies to the Senate Student Affairs Committee

**Editor's note:**

This special feature necessitated our shuffling the regular selections from "Reader Response" and the editorial cartoon and corrections to page 6. Please enjoy those features on that page this week so that we may bring you this election special presentation.

We hope you found this special feature informative and in-depth; please let us know what you think in comments either for publication or simply for our information. Send letters to the editor to the addresses or numbers listed at the top of page four.

-the editor



Movie Review

# A Primary disappointment

**Primary Colors**  
**Rated R (language)**  
**Running Time - 143 Minutes**



*Primary Colors* is disappointingly average for all of the accolades of the cast. John Travolta, Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates, Billy Bob Thornton and new comer Adrian Lester head the list for *Primary Colors*.

*Primary Colors* is disappointing because though it hits all the emotions, it doesn't leave out boredom. At times, it showcases poor editing. Some episodes that were left in truly had no relevance to the story at all. Take for example the scene with Henry Burton (Lester) and Daisy (Maura Tierney) in bed when Richard Jemmons (Thornton) comes in, asks to sleep in the same hotel room and they say

no. Hmm... what is the point of this scene? I have no idea.

To speak of the good things of this movie, the range of emotions was quite impressive. Kathy Bates was nothing short of spectacular. She alone made you feel the sadness of the lost feelings of one's youth. She also created the feeling of disillusionment.

Travolta and Thompson were decent in their roles, but not spectacular.

*Primary Colors* makes you think about the wrongs and rights of the individual running for President. It showcases the feelings of those who the media slings through the mud and tears away at their character. All in all it was a decent attempt at satirizing the political process and those inside the political campaigns. It doesn't reach the plateau of *Wag the Dog*, however.

-Matthew Regensburger



## Sounds of a Simpler Time



Stephanie Platt/The Current

St. Louis African Chorus member and drummer Ray Herod on the djembe native drum is accompanied by Weedie Braimah, a flutist from Lincoln Senior High School in East St. Louis.

Reader Response

### Hunger Awareness Week made possible through partnerships on campus

Thank you for the wonderful coverage of the third annual Hunger Awareness Week on our campus. I would be remiss if proper acknowledgment were not given to various groups. Food Service Consultants contributed most generously of their time and facilities. They donated all the food, set up and supplies used during the Hunger Banquets. We also made and stored our soup in their kitchen. Student Activities and The Current paid for a half page advertisement. Student Social workers staffed tables of information, helped make soup and wrote advertisements on all the classrooms blackboards. This year, for the first time,

students were allowed to make donations from their meal plan. Oxfam America will benefit as generous students (one gave \$100 another gave \$150) continue to give of their abundance. Thank you to Wesley Foundation for much needed input and involvement. Thank you to SGA for use of baskets for the canned food drive. Thank you to all who participated and donated in any way from time, talent or treasury. We truly had a partnership of cooperation which has built community. The effects of this Hunger Week will be experienced in the lives of many for a long time.

-Betty Chitwood

Corrections

- In issue 917, the web address for the SGA homepage should have been, [www.umsl.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html](http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html).
- In the same issue, Newman House Sunday Mass at the South Campus Residence should have been listed as 6 p.m.
- Gail Babcock's name was misspelled.
- Sam Darandari was incorrectly identified as a female.

The Current regrets these errors and any confusion they may have caused.

-the editor

### The Current to host state media convention

The Current campus newspaper for UM-St. Louis is preparing to welcome hundreds of delegates from around the state for the Missouri College Media Association's annual convention this weekend at the Renaissance Hotel.

Doug Harrison, president of MCMA and editor of The Current, is looking forward to the opportunity for The Current to host the meeting.

"This is a wonderful chance for colleges and universities across

the state to see not only The Current at its best but also the University."

Delegates will receive tours of The Current offices in addition to attending several seminars conducted by local media professionals including Greg Freeman (Post-Dispatch), Ed Bishop (St. Louis Journalism Review), Richard Byrne (Riverfront Times) and a keynote address from Ray Hartmann, founder of the RFT.

The convention culminates in an awards banquet Saturday night. □

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# University of Missouri-St. Louis

# 18th ANNUAL AWARENESS WEEK

## APRIL 6 - 10, 1998

**APRIL 6 Monday** \* **Movie Marathon - FREE**  
**U Center Lounge**

"Mr. Holland's Opus"	9:00 a.m.
"Awakenings"	12:15 p.m.
"Man Without A Face"	2:30 p.m.

**APRIL 7 Tuesday** \* **Movie Marathon - FREE**  
**U Center Lounge**

"Man Without A Face"	9:00 a.m.
"Mr. Holland's Opus"	12:00 noon
"Slingblade"	3:00 p.m.
"Awakenings"	5:45 p.m.

**APRIL 8 Wednesday**

\*Disability Awareness Information  
 Marillac Lobby  
**DISABILITY SIMULATIONS (South Campus)**  
 10:00 - 12:00 Noon  
 Fat City ("How Difficult Can This Be")

\*Disability Awareness Information  
 U Center Lobby  
**DISABILITY SIMULATIONS (North Campus) 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.**  
**\*WHEELCHAIR CROSS-CAMPUS MARATHON RACE 12:15 p.m.**  
**Sign-Up in U CENTER LOBBY by NOON**

**APRIL 9 Thursday** \* **Movie Marathon - FREE**  
**U Center Lounge**

"Slingblade"	9:00 a.m.
"Awakenings"	12:00 Noon
"Man Without A Face"	2:15 p.m.
"Mr. Holland's Opus"	5 p.m.

**APRIL 10 Friday**

**Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony**  
**126 J.C. Penney**  
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# Sports

Ken Dunkin, sports editor  
 phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811  
 e-mail: kdunkin@rocketmail.com

## THE LATEST SCOOP



DAVE KINWORTHY  
 sports associate

Spring training has finally ended and now is the time for the St. Louis Cardinals to "play ball."

Yes that is right, the Cardinals now have to go out and prove all of those preseason polls right and win the National League Central Division.

This may seem easy at first, but the Cardinals have a very inexperienced pitching staff and that could hurt the team.

With the young Alan Benes out until around May and the never ending problems with Donovan Osborne and his moans and groans, this team will rely on a few young people to get the job done for the first part of the season.

Sure you have the talented Todd Stottlemyer as the ace of this club due to the departure of superstar Andy Benes. The Cardinals will certainly miss this right-hander who threw for over 230 innings for the Cardinals last year.

The team will rely on Vianney graduate Cliff Polliete to put in some considerable innings for the Redbirds. This man was not even expected to make the club, but due to an impressive spring training, the club with a shortage of healthy pitchers is forced to bring this prospect up too early.

The Cardinals also have had problems with the talented Matt Morris due to soreness in his pitching arm. He did not even pitch in his last exhibition game and is undergoing tests to reveal what the stiffness in his arm really is.

The team will have to focus primarily on their offense side of the game where hitting instructor Dave Parker will focus on cutting down on the amount of strikeouts that the team has. Last season the Cardinals led the Major Leagues in strikeouts.

The Redbirds do have one thing to show; that is that they have one of the deepest benches of utility players in the Majors. With the likes of Willie McGee coming back for potentially his last year, either Gary Gaetti or David Bell as a backup to third base, the hustle of John Mabry will be an asset along with the ability to play multiple positions and either Vince Coleman or Brian Hunter will contribute offensively as well.

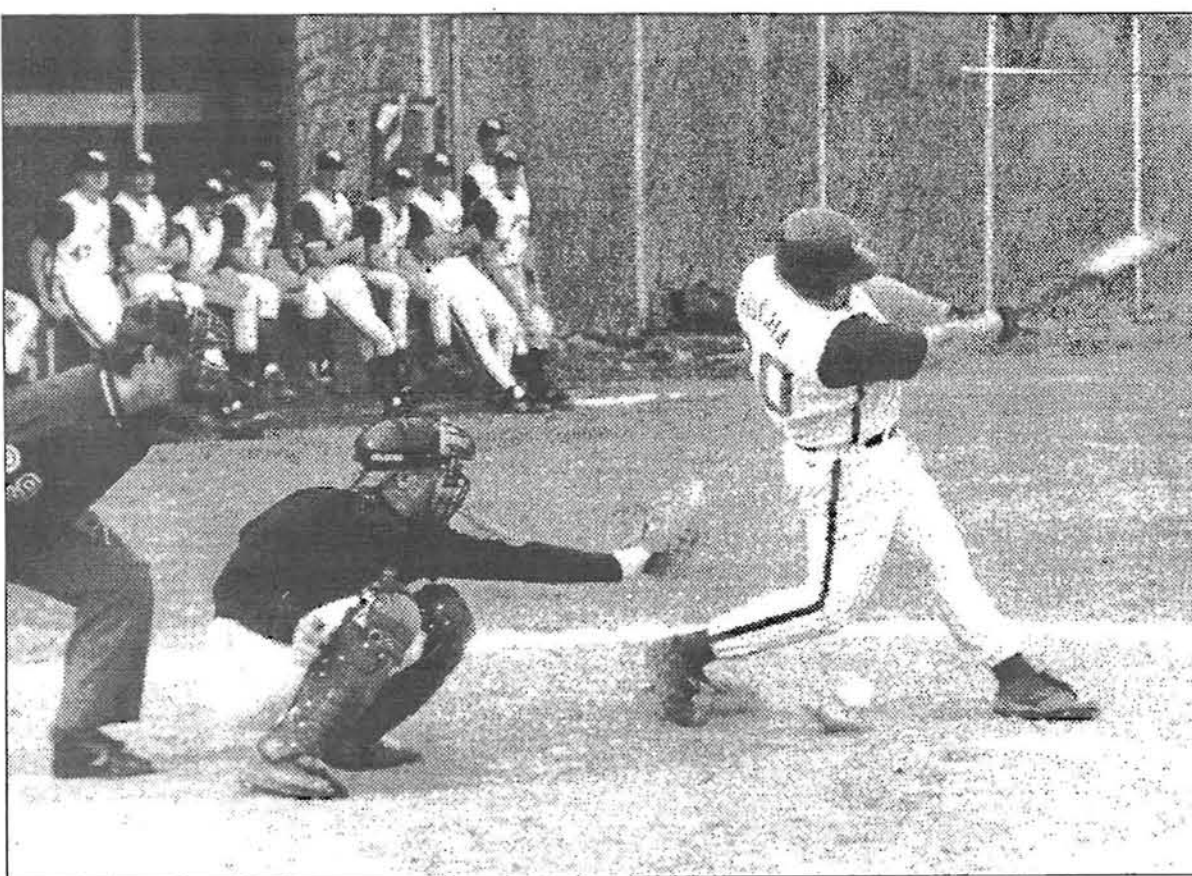
The Cardinal's outfield remains one of the best in the National League as it features All-Star centerfielder Ray Lankford, a healthy Brian Jordan and the renewed bat of Ron Gant. Look for Gant to make his bat felt throughout the lineup as he has something to prove. His had an off-season last year and now is in the last year of a multi-million dollar contract. If wants to remain a Cardinal, he will produce.

I have heard that the Cardinals will win the pennant this season from millions of adoring Redbird fans, but they have yet to answer one question of mine: If offense gets you to the playoffs, then what will the Cardinals do when they must rely on their defense and pitching to win the big games?

Only time will tell whether these pitchers will mature into the talent that it takes to carry a ball-club into the postseason. Atlanta did it, but can the Cardinals? □

Dave Kinworthy's column appears every other week. Contact him by phone at 516-5174 or by e-mail at s1019874@admiral.umsl.edu

## Rivermen Romp Rolla



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Designated Hitter David Rocha foul tips a ball to his feet against UM-Rolla, Thursday. The

game was a slug fest, as the Rivermen went on to win 20-5.

BY KEN DUNKIN  
 staff writer

Despite a horrible first inning the Rivermen baseball team rolled over UM-Rolla 20-5 last Thursday.

The Rivermen suffered through a first inning where the first eight batters in the game reached base. Starter Cory Sivumaki lost his control in the first. He hit three of the seven batters he faced. Rob Dockemeyer was then brought in to shut down the Minor offense.

"Dock really picked us up," Rivermen head coach Jim Brady said. "He came into a very difficult situation and kept the pitches in. He kept us in the ball game."

Dockemeyer threw three solid innings allowing only one hit. Jeremy Birdeau was brought into the game in the fourth inning and allowed a single hit. Mark Winfield closed the game out in the seventh. It was Winfield's first appearance on the mound in over a year.

"Birdeau pitched well. He is coming off of an injury that is still bothering him," Brady said. "It was also good to see Mark pitch again. It is good to have a lefty like him ready out of the pen."

The Rivermen offense also came to life in the second erasing the rocky start. They rallied for nine runs in the second. They then scored in every inning till the close of the game.

"It was one of those games with the wind blowing out where we knew it was going to take a lot of runs to win," Brady said. "In the second inning they made some blunders and we took the opportunities and went ahead. From there the game was pretty much decided."

The Rivermen took advantage of that swirling wind; they smacked four home runs. Trent Wesley, Marc Masesso, and Steve Johnson each hit home runs.

Eric Blaha made his first start of the season. He had been injured. "Just having Eric in the line-up is

a big lift. Once he gets into the timing he is going to be a huge force in the middle of the line-up," Brady said.

The Rivermen also ran rampant on the base-paths. Levar Dillard led the team with four stolen bases. Brandon Whitt had two, Matt Bryant and Wesley each had one stolen base.

"We need to help out the offense a lot more than we have been doing," Dillard said. "It will take a lot of pressure off."

"Levar can really wreak havoc on opposing teams defenses," Brady said. "The team has high expectations of themselves. They expect the best out of themselves. As a result they also expect the best things to happen to them."

"If we do our job, we will have no problem doing anything," Dillard said. "We have the pitching, hitting and defense. We just have to put it all together." □

## Softball team goes 3-2 in roller coaster weekend

Nowakowski's pinch-hit home run proves to be game-winning hit over Bellarmine

BY JOE HARRIS  
 staff writer

The weather relented, and the Riverwomen responded by going 3-2, March 21 and 22, in Evansville, Ind.

The trip started off with a forfeit victory over Kentucky Wesleyan.

"They had a couple of injured players and the coach wanted to discipline another one," Riverwomen head coach Charlie Kennedy said.

The forfeit will go on the books as a 7-0 victory, but the Riverwomen couldn't celebrate for long as they fell to Southern Indiana 3-1 in the very next game.

"We fell behind early and couldn't get it back," Kennedy said.

After falling behind 3-0, the Riverwomen attempted a seventh inning comeback but fell short.

Despite the loss, Kennedy remained optimistic.

"We played a really nice game overall," Kennedy said. "Southern Indiana is a tough team, they are ranked 16th in the country."

The next day, the Riverwomen again defeated Kentucky Wesleyan 7-0. This time it was on the field.

Senior Nicki Kocis earned the victory, upping her record to 3-4 on the season.

"Nicki pitched a great game," Kennedy said. "She really put it together."

Southern Indiana was the Riverwomen's next opponent, and the rematch from the day before again yielded similar results. UMSL-St. Louis fell 5-0.

"Again, we fell behind early,"

Kennedy said. "It's tough to come-back against a team as good as Southern Indiana."

However, the Riverwomen would rebound with a 2-0 victory over Bellarmine in the weekend finale. Kocis again earned the victory, to even her record at 4-4.

The hero, though, would be freshman Jill Nowakowski. Pinch hitting in the sixth inning, Nowakowski belted a two-run home run that proved to be the difference in the game.

"That's the way to do it," Kennedy said. "It really makes the coach look good

when you bring in the pinch hitter, and she hits a game winning home run."

Kennedy was not surprised at Nowakowski's success because she had led the club in hitting in the fall.

The 3-2 trip pulls the Riverwomen to 8-10 overall, and 3-2 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

However, Mother Nature hasn't been kind to the Riverwomen. As of press time all of their week-day games had been canceled due to weather.

"It's tough, but everybody has to deal with it," Kennedy said. "We've come out flat, and have been shutout four times. I think part of that is due to the weather. We just have to play through it."

The Riverwomen will host the GLVC cluster on Saturday and Sunday at Manchester. The team will play six games in two days against conference rivals Southern Indiana and SIU-Edwardsville among other conference teams. □

## Young tennis team struggles, wins one of last three games

Lack of maturity plagues squad, coach says

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
 staff writer

Team immaturity and a lack of discipline has led to the Rivermen tennis team dropping two of the last three games.

They had their toughest task as they took on Southern Indiana and lost 1-7.

Although this may seem a lopsided loss, the team grew with this loss.

"We were equal, if not superior, to them in talent, but it was one of those matches where we were flat," Head Coach Rick Gyllenberg said. "There was some dissension on the team when we got back from Hilton Head. We had some players who did not show up to practice and I think that split us apart going into that match."

"There was no team unity and we were unprepared for Southern Indiana."

The team then won against Kentucky-Wesleyan 5-0.

Gyllenberg felt this was a win that was expected.

"It was a 5-0 match that should have been a 5-0 match," Gyllenberg said.

The Rivermen then squared off against defending conference champion SIU-Edwardsville, and lost 1-6.

According to Gyllenberg, this match was much closer than it may appear.

"We lost at number one and

**"We are playing against teams with juniors and seniors on their team. It is tough to play against the physical and mental maturity these teams have."**

-Rick Gyllenberg  
 head tennis coach

number 2 doubles 8-6. In number one doubles, we were ahead 5-3 and still lost.

"We won at number three doubles, but could have pulled out a win at one and two doubles," Gyllenberg said.

He added: "Our biggest problem is our maturity. Other than Stein, we are loaded with sophomores."

"We are playing against teams with juniors and seniors on their team. It is tough to play against the physical and mental maturity these teams have."

"They have to learn to close out a game and a match. With experience you get maturity."

The Rivermen were scheduled to play Lewis University, Saturday, and St. Joseph's yesterday. □

## UM-St. Louis athlete chosen to attend NCAA conference

BY KEN DUNKIN  
 staff writer

Joe Christian was recently recognized for his leadership on the Rivermen baseball. He has been chosen to participate in the NCAA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Christian, a Rivermen baseball player, was among 370 student athletes chosen for the four-day event to be held May 25 through 28. Over 850 student athletes were nominated from various Division I, II and III schools.

"He is the kind of person that you want your son to grow up to be like," Rivermen baseball head coach Jim Brady said. "Everything he attempts to do he goes after with the ultimate incentive to be the best he can be.

Whether it be in the class room or the field it is his approach to everything. Those are the type of people who should be honored."

The event will be held at the Disney complex on the Coronado Springs Resort. The event will give the exceptional individuals an opportunity to discuss and enhance their leadership skills among other communication skills. Classes will also be available for Christian to attend.

The event will have several well known conference speakers. ESPN analyst's Quinn Buckner and Robin

Rovers will be among the many to attend.

The lessons will be a touch up for Christian as many including Brady feel

he is already an exceptional leader. "He is an exceptional individual. Joe will never go down without a fight. He will give maximum effort to achieve his goal. He will excel with whatever task is put in front of him," Brady said.

His coach also feels that Christian will continue his success long after he graduates and goes into the work force.

"Joe will succeed at whatever he decides to do because he strives to be the best," Brady said. □



Joe Christian

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	1	3	4	5	6
Men	at SIUE (DH) 1:00 p.m.		vs Northern Kentucky (DH) noon	vs Northern Kentucky noon	
Women	at Quincy (DH) 3:00 p.m.		GLVC Cluster at home TBA	GLVC Cluster at home TBA	
Men	vs Washington U. 3:30 p.m.	vs Principia 4:00 p.m.	vs Indianapolis 8 a.m.		at Illinois-Springfield 3:00 p.m.



# The Current Newswire

**Water will be shut off on the entire North Campus**, with the exception of the TeleCommunity Center, the General Services Building and the Mark Twain Building on Friday at 10:30 p.m. The shutdown, a result of work on the West Drive parking structure, will last approximately 24 hours. Those requiring more information can call Chris Samples at 7196.

**Open sessions for Dr. William Frawley**, candidate for Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, will be Thursday from 2:45 to 3:15 and 6:00 to 6:30 in 201 Lucas for students, and Friday from 1:00 to 2:00 for faculty in 72 J.C. Penney. Dr. Frawley is Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Delaware. Student sessions for Dr. Gail Dinter-Gottlieb, also a candidate for Dean, will be on April 6 from 2:45 to 3:15 in 201 Lucas and 6:00 to 6:30 in 302 CCB. Faculty sessions will be on April 6 from 11:15 to 12:30 in 331 SSB. Dr. Dinter-Gottlieb is Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Social Sciences at Buffalo State College. Curriculum vitae for the candidates are on reserve in the library.

**All students, faculty and staff are invited** to participate as Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill receives the 1998 St. Louis "Citizen of the Year" award during an on-campus ceremony at 4 p.m. on April 7 in the Mark Twain Building. A reception will follow the ceremony. Call 5789 to RSVP.

**Jody Miller, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, has been selected** as a Fulbright Fellow to Sri Lanka for the Winter Semester 1999. While there, she will conduct research into child sex tourism. Kimberly Leonard, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, has won the Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America for her book *Minorities in Juvenile Justice*.

Contact Mary Lindsley at 516-5174 to submit items for Newswire.

## GRIEVANCE, from page 1

before changing the grade "is plausible." But, she continues, changing the grade back to F is not "a suitable remedy for any procedural error that may have been committed by... Wright.

"Had the F stood, the student would have had to pay for and retake the entire course."

Leaving the B as assigned by Koch and approved by Wright "minimizes the damage to the student and the University community," Touhill concluded.

But Hertell didn't give up. She appealed to Manuel Pacheco, president of the UM System, in December. Two weeks ago, almost a year to the day of Hertell's first letter to Touhill, despite Hertell notes, the procedural allowances for a 30-day process or one that is a reasonable variation thereof, Pacheco wrote to Hertell and denied her appeal, telling her that "he did not think it was necessary" for him to reach his own "independent conclusion" about Hertell's appeal, merely uphold the chancellor's decision.

This, even though the faculty handbook governing faculty grievances calls on the president of the system, if appealed to, to "evaluate the records in order to arrive at a judgment." But Pacheco, in denying her appeal, offered no supporting citations on which he based his ruling and said only that he was "unconvinced" by Hertell's evidence.

These official rulings that circle back on previous judgments, themselves predicated on yet other administrators' findings are, faculty insist, the primary evidence for the necessity of resolutions like the one they read last week in the senate. And more than just protecting the faculty, Charles Larson says administrators should welcome such procedural prohibitions on the level to which a grievance can be appealed and overturned.

"I would think administrators would appreciate (this resolution)," Larson said. "I can't imagine they want to mess around with this topic much."

Touhill, who was unavailable to comment personally on the matter and who spoke through Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said she stands by her ruling in Hertell's case but would not elaborate on any apparent or perceived absence of professional justification

for the ruling.

Hertell said she is not satisfied with Touhill's or Pacheco's ruling, that the president's simply avoids the issues, that the chancellor's discounts the instructor's professional judgment and turns the university experience into a profit-driven machine, lacking academic integrity.

Larson agrees. Speaking generally, he noted the import of an F, especially in cases of academic dishonesty.

"If a professor finds a situation where a student has been academically dishonest, they are honor bound to come down hard. The penalty is deserved, or the professor probably couldn't sleep at night."

Larson and others are quick to point out that they recognize the importance of the grievance process and support its basic function as a recourse for students and faculty alike.

"If the dishonesty was unintentional and the student didn't realize they were, say, plagiarizing, then clearly an appeal is in order."

But the important component in the process, they say, is grievance resolution at a level where colleagues of the same disci-

pline can assess one another's decisions and reach solutions that are fair.

And therein lies the sticking point for some students. Melinda Long, a senior English and education major, is currently grieving a grade issued to her by John Onuska Jr., associate professor of English.

Long says the only redeeming value of a process otherwise marked by one painful experience after another is that a cross-section of University community members are hearing her grievance and that she has the option to take that ruling to another level.

"If Dr. Onuska's colleagues in the English Department are allowed to serve (on the committee), there would be bias," Long said. Long has throughout the process alleged that Onuska and other members of the English faculty have "blackballed" her, "gossiping about" her to one another, telling colleagues to "watch out" for her in their classes and "prejudging" her work because of her tormented relationship with Onuska.

If the process wasn't mediated by students and faculty unrelated to Onuska's department, Long said she would have "no

chance" of receiving a "fair shake." But in the end, Long has few good things to say of the process. She said she will file a federal lawsuit against the University when the grievance process is played out.

Onuska is equally dissatisfied with process; he has already filed his own grievance against the University for what he alleges are violations of his rights in the Long grievance process.

Grievances supplanting grievances, based on grievances.

For now, the process is much the same as it has been: ambiguous, faculty say; abused Onuska has called it; disappointing, Hertell says. Administrators won't comment; student's don't seem to care unless they're involved, but faculty say that, beyond the self-serving interests embodied in the resolution, their resolution in the senate also attempts to address the unilateral dissatisfaction with the grievance process from start to finish. The senate will give second reading to the bill and consider it for passage in upcoming meetings.

"This is a good resolution," Larson said. "I hope it passes." □

## SALUTE, from page 1

some progress," Kemp said.

She said that many times when women make advances, it is initiated by a few women working together.

"Countless times it has been small groups of women... who have changed their societies to meet their needs," Kemp said.

Kemp has worked for the U.S. Department of Labor since 1970, and became the regional administrator of the Women's Bureau in May 1983. She is on the board of directors at UM-Kansas City, and

## 1998 Trailblazers

- Janice Taylor Cataldi
- Theresa Crititiani
- Deborah Douglas
- Frances L. Hoffman
- Bridgette Jenkins
- Judith Elizabeth Titlow
- Haruko Watanabe

In July 1997, she was one of 65 people on the United States' delegation at the "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy" conference in Vietnam. □

# Casino Night '98

## Friday, April 3rd

Listen up, girlies and pallies...

I got the goods. Da Honors College is invitin' ya to the Fourth Annual Casino Night. Here's the dirt: Ya pick up yer girlie or yer guy and head to the Honors College at 7p.m. on April 3, 1998. When ya git there ya donate \$5 to the Head First Foundation and ya'll git a mess of clams. Those're kinda like dough, but not really. At da end of da night ya bid in an auction for prizes. Now that ya know da deal, I better see ya there or I'll find ya and kneecap ya. Remember the password: brainmoney

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"Indelibly stamped with soul and integrity. Robin Tunney gives a jolting, powerhouse performance." **Robert Ellsworth, DETOUR MAGAZINE**

"A fine feature debut by Bob Gosse" **Manohla Dargis, LA WEEKLY**

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