



**Simon Says:** Good cast saves "Simon Birch" from lackluster script.  
See page 6.



**Having Butterflies:** Visit the grand opening of the Butterfly House. Page 3.

**Undeclared:** Riverwomen volleyball is off to a 3-0 start.  
See page 5.

**Other News:** Student grievance procedures to undergo revisions.  
See page 8.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

State College police go undercover with school ID cards

(U-WIRE) STATE COLLEGE, Penn.— Undercover police officers may use Penn State ID cards to enter parties this weekend, State College Police Chief Tom King said.

King made the announcement Monday during a question-and-answer period with members of the Interfraternity Council. Hushed whispers met King's statements about the privileges of undercover officers.

"It seems like (the State College Police Department is) going pretty far out of their way to make sure students get busted," said James Hornick, Undergraduate Student Government fraternity senator.

King would not comment on whether non-student police officers would have access to ID cards.

Although police may have access to ID cards, those cards have not been provided to State College police through the Penn State ID office. Dave Rose, manager of the ID card office, said. The cards only are provided to currently enrolled or employed students, faculty and staff, he said.

With or without ID cards, the officers of student volunteers working on State College police's behalf are not obligated to reveal their affiliation at the door of the party, King said. Once inside, the officer does not have access to closed rooms unless permitted inside, King added. In both cases, even if the officer or volunteer lies to gain entry, he or she can still report incidents.

Leaders of some fraternities that screen guests before they enter parties are supportive of State College police's possible measures because they stress responsibility.

"(Officers with IDs) is a good thing. It will make fraternities run their parties the way they should be run. If you're going to take the risk of a party with alcohol at your house, you should take the proper steps to make sure everything goes safely," said Chris Hauck, president of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, 508 Locust Lane.

Index

BULLETIN BOARD ..... 2  
 FEATURES ..... 3  
 COMMENTS ..... 4  
 SPORTS ..... 5  
 CLASSIFIEDS ..... 7

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www.umsl.edu/on the studentlife/ current WEB

## Contractors Association sues University

### U Center project provokes controversy over minority participation

BY DAVID BAUGHER  
 senior editor

The St. Louis Minority Contractors Association has filed a \$25 million lawsuit against the UM Board of Curators, claiming it failed to gain enough participation from women and minorities in awarding the construction contract for UM-St. Louis' new University Center.

The suit, filed by attorney Eric Vickers June 12 in U.S. District Court, alleges that the awarding of the U Center contract was "part of the pattern, practice and custom of the University to exclude minorities and women from entering into contracts with the University because of their race."

According to the complaint, the University had set a goal for the project of 25 percent participation for minority and women contractors but awarded the contract to KCI Construction Company, whose bid proposed 7.8 percent minority participation.

"On or about May 29, 1998 the Board of Curators decided to award the contract for the Project to KCI, notwithstanding the fact that KCI failed completely to meet the Project's specification of a 25% [minority and women business enterprise] goal," the complaint said.

Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said that he could not comment specifically on the suit but noted that the University had asked KCI to increase its initial proposal of 7.8 percent minority participation after which KCI agreed to guarantee 15.5 percent minority contractors.

"The central administration felt that that was a good faith effort and recommended to the Curators the low bid, which was KCI," Samples said.

A bid summary for the U Center shows



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Construction continues on the University Center, but a lawsuit filed earlier this summer by minority contractors is requesting \$25 million in damages in a dispute over campus hiring goals.

that KCI submitted the lowest base bid of \$18,064,000. Its bid for the project plus "alternatives" was also the lowest at \$20,544,000. Alternatives for the project include additional features for the U Center such as escalators, shell space, food service equipment and a bridge connecting the center to Lucas and Clark halls.

The complaint notes that the bid submitted by the firm of Alberici/McIntosh met the

original 25 percent minority participation goal.

The bid summary shows that the Alberici base bid was the second-lowest at 18,230,000. Its bid plus alternatives was the third-lowest at \$20,992,000.

Samples said that UM-St. Louis has an "excellent" record of Diversity, averaging 23.5

see SUIT, page 6

## UPB directorship to change hands

BY ASHLEY COOK  
 senior editor

The University Program Board is expected to have a new director by the end of this week.

Don McCarty, student services coordinator, said Wednesday that the job search was closed, and that former director Sharone Hopkins had not put in an application to continue the directorship. McCarty said that the job was opened to board members, and that a few applications had been turned in.

"We have received two or three applications," McCarty said. "We will have one selected by the next [UPB] meeting on the 14th."

McCarty said that he did not know why Hopkins decided not to renew his application, but Hopkins' directorship for the 1997-98 academic year was completed.

Hopkins was not available for comment.

McCarty said the decision to appoint a board member to the position will be made by himself and Rick Blanton, interim manager of Student Activities.

"This year, in this situation, it will be Rick and I; we will make a

joint decision," McCarty said.

McCarty said that he and Blanton took on the responsibility of selecting the appointment when the directorship became a compensated position two years ago.

"Part of the understanding with the Senate Student Affairs Committee was that [the director] would be selected as opposed to voted on by the board," McCarty said.

McCarty said that he had heard there was a possibility that only one applicant was still interested in the directorship, and said he could not comment on the names of the students who had applied.

A couple of things will go into assessing the applicant, McCarty said, including the student's amount of time available and whether or not the student has "too diverse a commitment" in other areas on campus.

"We look at those two things, and then we look at their vision; do they have the skills and motivation. If all those things come in line, then we'll choose this person," McCarty said. "But if they don't, just because they are the only person does not mean it is an automatic

see UPB, page 8

## Grade appeal procedures to be decided by senate

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
 staff editor

The revised version of the student grade appeal procedure will be voted on at today's University senate meeting.

The procedure outlines the process to be followed by a student who feels he or she received an unjustified grade in a course and wants that grade reviewed.

Jeanne Zarucchi, chairperson of the senate, said the main topic behind the revision is "the issue of who has the right to make a judgment about the fairness of the grade."

"The most significant difference between the existing . . . text and the proposed revision is that the decision of whether or not a recommendation should be made to change a grade rests within the hands of faculty members who have familiarity with the discipline," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said that past decisions to change grades had come from persons at the department chair, dean and vice chancellor level.

"Under the previous version, a decision about changing a grade could be made by a dean or the chancellor, and in some cases those individuals would not have knowledge of the discipline," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said that under the terms of the proposed revision, faculty members would review the process by which the grade had been given and a committee of faculty members "in the course instructor's department or in closely allied fields" would decide if there was some basis for changing the grade. She said the role of a dean in the revised version of the appeal procedures would be restricted.

"The role of a department chair or dean would be limited to seeing that the appeal process was appropriately carried out, but the department chair or dean would not have the authority to make a grade change without the agreement of the instructor or the express recommendation by a faculty committee,"

see APPEALS, page 6

## Homecoming moved to winter semester

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
 staff editor

In an attempt to increase student participation, the celebration of Homecoming has been moved to February.

Robbyn Wahby, manager of alumni relations, said that in the past, Homecoming had been too much of an impromptu event.

"Homecoming came and went last year," Wahby said. "The dance was very successful, but anything around it seemed to have trouble either getting launched or surviving . . ."

Wahby said the problem did not originate with the people in charge of last year's events. Instead, she said it was a matter of timing. Wahby said having Homecoming so near the start of the school year did not allow adequate time for preparations to be made.

"It looks like people show up to school this week, next week somebody starts talking about Homecoming and they basically have three weeks to get it together," Wahby said. "And then it's Homecoming and then everybody says 'Well that didn't work — nobody came to that.'"

Wahby said that after last year's Homecoming, she met with Rick Blanton, interim manager of student activities, and Patricia Dolan, director of athletics, as well as others, to discuss whether or not the University would have Homecoming events anymore.

Wahby says she asked, "Are we serious about Homecoming? Because maybe we're not — maybe we should say as a school we don't have Homecoming and stop playing around with this . . ."

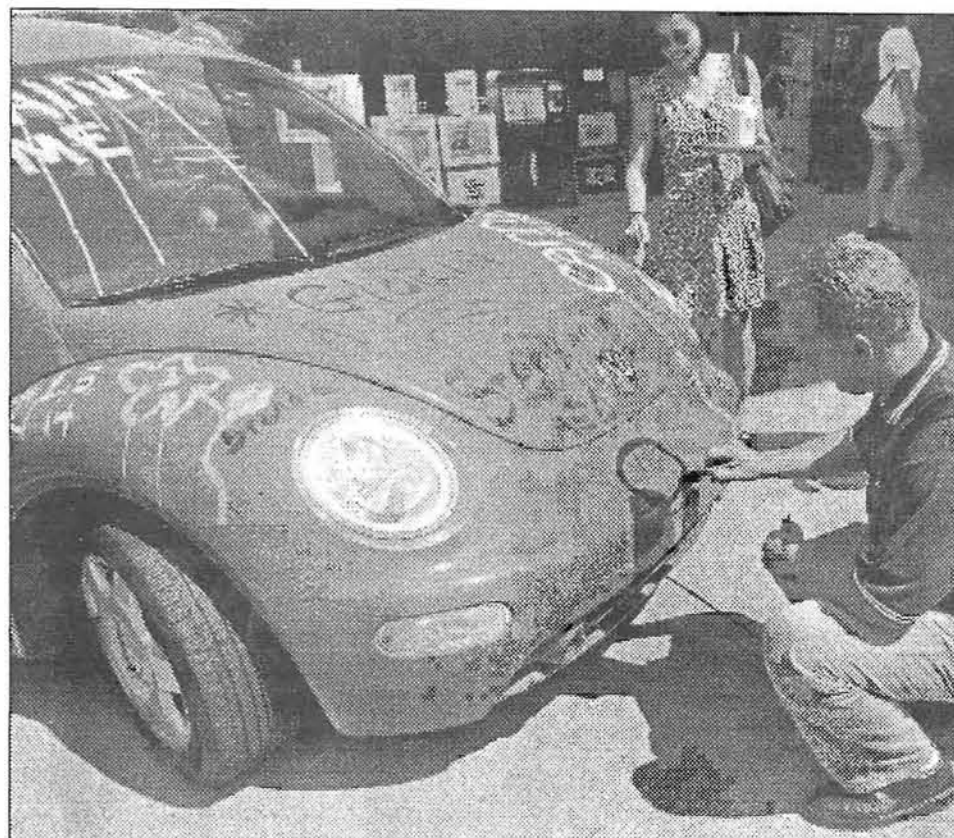
Wahby said everyone agreed that Homecoming was important, so they next decided to take a more long-term approach to it.

Wahby said the next consideration was whether or not the fall was the best time for the celebration.

"We have a great soccer program . . . it just makes it hard for Homecoming, though," Wahby said. "It hasn't attracted people like other sports programs would."

see HOMECOMING, page 8

## Leave a message...



Stephanie Platt/The Current

**BUGGED:** SGA President Jim Avery leaves his mark on the Cherry Coke VW Bug. Students were encouraged to paint on the car, which is part of a national tour sponsored in part by local bottling companies.

Named UM - St. Louis' 1998 Best Campus Community Building Program

# 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.

**Wednesday, Sept. 9**  
 • Get free barbecue and ice cream and learn about student organizations at EXPO and the Chancellor's Picnic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Contact: 5291.

**Thursday, Sept. 10**  
 • **Student Networking Program** in 126 J.C. Penney from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact: Linda Sharp, 6807.

• **SGA Meeting** at 2:00 p.m. in 72 J.C. Penney.

• **SOUP AND SOUL FOOD** (free lunch and a time for prayer and meditation) from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church at 8000 Natural Bridge Rd. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. Everyone invited. Contact:

Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

**Friday, Sept. 11**  
 • **Dancin' in the Streets** or Shake, Shake, Shake Your Booty. Food, beverages and music from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Free parking at the South Campus parking lot.

**Monday, Sept. 14**  
 • **Institute for Women's and Gender Studies Governing Board Meeting** from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 325 Lucas Hall, Evening College Conference Room. Contact: IWGS, 5581 or 6383.

• **Calling ALL organizations: Hunger Awareness Week** planning meeting at 1 p.m. at the Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge Rd. Contact: Betty, 385-3455.

• **Monday Noon Series "War and Peace in the Horn of Africa"** is the topic of Ruth Lyob, assistant professor of political science and a fellow in the Center for international Studies at UM-St. Louis, will discuss her research in the Horn. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**  
 • **International Seminar: "Canada-U.S. Relations"** given by Hon. J. Christopher Poole, Consul General of Canada from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the McDonnell Conference Room, 331 SSB. Contact: Center for International Studies, 5753.

**Thursday, Sept. 17**  
 • **Distance Education Faculty Roundtable**, led by Dr. Donald Boehnker, ITC Director. This session is

aimed at faculty contemplating teaching at a distance in the future. This event will be from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in 117 Lucas Hall. Contact: ITC, 6171.

• **SOUP AND SOUL FOOD** (free lunch and a time for prayer and meditation) from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church at 8000 Natural Bridge Rd. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. Everyone invited. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

**Friday, Sept. 18**  
 • **Awakenings Retreat** beginning at 6 p.m. with PIZZA and ending on Sunday with a 3:00 p.m. Mass at the South Campus Residence Hall. The cost is \$20. Contact: Contact: Betty at the Newman Center, 385-3455.

## The Current

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- Judi Linville • Faculty Advisor
- Tom Wombacher • Advertising Dir.
- Brian Douglas • News Editor
- Amy Lombardo • Features Editor
- Ken Dunkin • Sports Editor
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## NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Becoming involved with on-campus events like these is as easy as applying for a job at The Current. Not only will you be a part of campus life, you can also add great experience to your resumé and cut your commute time by working on campus. We currently have paid positions open for News Associate, Features Associate, Photo Associate and Copy Editor / Proofreader. Volunteer positions are also available. If interested, submit a cover letter and a resumé to us at 7940 Natural Bridge Road, or call 516-6810.

## SECRETS FOR SUCCESS

The Center for Academic Development (CAD) offers the following services:

### Mathematics Lab (425 SSB)

1998 Fall Semester

Monday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tutorial assistance with mathematics courses and math-related courses. Maple and Mathcad available for math assignments. Walk-in, FREE of charge. (Hours subject to change.)

### Writing Lab (409 SSB)

1998 Fall Semester

Monday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Assistance with all forms of writing problems and assignments. Walk-in, FREE of charge. Macintosh and Windows computers available. The lab serves undergraduates, graduates, and faculty. (Hours subject to change.)

### Tutor Referral Service

CAD maintains a list of students who are certified by their departments as knowledgeable in a given subject and who are willing to tutor for a fee. Students are responsible for the tutor fees. A computer bulletin board version of the referral list is available on CAD's home page under the UM-St. Louis home page (<http://www.umsl.edu/services/cad/cad.html>). This list and possible other names are also available in CAD, 507 Tower, 516-5194

If you are interested and are qualified to tutor for UM-St. Louis courses, contact CAD, 507 Tower, 516-5194.

## Student Government Association

# MEETINGS

- 2:00 P.M. Thursday, September 10
- 2:00 P.M. Thursday, October 1
- 2:00 P.M. Thursday, October 29
- 2:00 P.M. Thursday, December 2

We welcome all students to join us!  
 All SGA Representatives are requested to attend these MANDATORY meetings.

For more information, contact the office of Student Government at 516-5105  
 72 JC Penny

# FEATURES

Amy Lombardo, Features Editor  
Phone 516-5174, Fax 516-6811

Get This

## Amy's b-day greetings: keep puffing

Every birthday, I receive a card from my grandma before anyone else. Last week, however, someone else beat her to it.

It looked like a regular greeting card at first. At first glance, the greeting even appeared to be handwritten (a later investigation revealed that it was artfully crafted type from a computer). The return address did not include a name, only a P.O. Box in Colorado.

I opened the envelope and pulled out a beautiful card. The scene was breathtaking - majestic rocky mountains, patches of green shrubbery and a sky ranging from violet to clear blue colors filled with puffy white clouds.

The inside message read: "LIVE LARGE. Happy Birthday from Marlboro Country."

Excuse me???

On the back of the card is a Surgeon General's warning that cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide. Now, I'm not too sure about this, but I believe that carbon monoxide, being poisonous and all, will pretty much prohibit me from living too largely. In my view, some signs point to a shorter life span for those who stay in Marlboro Country.

I can't escape from partial responsibility for receiving this birthday wish. Many years ago, my friend Jen and I filled out a form in a bar to take home a free T-shirt or a water bottle or something cheap like that. We were in Florida (it was spring break), and we didn't want to spend any money on souvenirs. This was the perfect solution to our dilemma.

Unfortunately, like the elephant, Marlboro never forgets. Since that time I have received numerous mailings from my dear friends in Colorado. Most of the time it's usually just a pamphlet or a brochure. One time I did get a compact disc consisting of the "sounds of Marlboro Country."

It is a combination of classical music and animal noises like stampeding horses, singing owls and rattlesnakes.

My friend recently got a Marlboro cookbook in the mail. I'm assuming it's called "A Taste of Marlboro Country" or an equivalent title. It is full of spicy little recipes sure to tempt your taste buds. Jen tells me that some of them actually look pretty good.

Maybe it's just my cynical side talking, but I can't help wondering if the dishes include jalapenos and hot peppers for a reason other than an attempt at the Tex-Mex theme. Could it be that the recipients of the book are people who have experienced dramatic taste loss? I believe that my damaged taste buds are one of the lesser consequences of smoking cigarettes.

I guess my main problem with this is that there are actually people at the company who come up with these ploys, and even more who approve them and see that they are followed through.

There is a certain irony in the fact that the very company that supplies a product that is required to have warnings about deadly diseases such as lung cancer and emphysema is sending out birthday greetings.

Then again, I might just be miffed that Jen got a cookbook and all I got was a stupid card.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

Ready or not, the Fall is here but there are ways to get back into the swing of things

BY BRENDA GUYNES  
special to the Current

With the fall comes the promise of a new start for students. Forget that C in biology or the fact that you did not travel all over the U.S. as you had intended to do this summer. For traditional and non-traditional students alike, the new semester means a new beginning with new classmates, new professors and new challenges. A new school year is a bigger change than the first of January, with even more resolutions. Students walk around the first few weeks of class muttering, "I will study harder," and "I won't procrastinate," until the fifth week of class, when they fall back into their old patterns. Most students do not realize that they do not have to do everything on their own and there are other options.

UM-St. Louis offers many resources designed to help students help themselves. The University offers Success Classes and Orientation for new students. The Counseling Program helps students with study skills, career choice and personal issues.

Sharon Biegen is the director of Counseling Services at UM-St. Louis.

"We are dedicated to helping students build effective study habits while increasing their motivation and confidence," Biegen said.

The Center for Academic Development has programs to help students with writing and math, as well as study groups for courses. According to Biegen, these programs "help students be successful in school."

All of these programs and more are offered by the University to help students.

Peggy Cohen is an associate professor and chair of the Division of Educational Psychology.

"On this campus, although faculty make efforts to assist,

students must take responsibility for their own success," Cohen said. "Traditional and non-traditional students can benefit from self-evaluation and an understanding of the best ways to study. Figuring out how you learn is an important piece of academic success. If you know you are a procrastinator, understand that and do not get anxious when you wait until the last minute. But if that is a problem for you, then focus on schoolwork on a day to day basis, [and] set short goals to the longer term tasks to avoid

**"Many students have never been taught how to learn and many faculty members have never been taught how to teach."**

- Peggy Cohen  
chair, Division of Educational Psychology

getting into trouble."

Not only should you try to understand how you learn, but also "connect with the faculty, connect with the campus and connect with other students if you want to be a success," Cohen asserted.

Become involved in the academic resources and become involved in campus organizations. College is not just about getting the degree, it is about learning and experiencing while you can.

Study tips for freshmen include taking advantage of all that there is to offer on campus and focusing on yourself as a student.

"We take our most vulnerable students, those coming out of high school with 25-30 students in a classroom, and we put them into a lecture hall with 300 people. It is overwhelming to them," Cohen said. "Students need to learn to become self-advocates and learn to speak up in class and take advantage of

faculty office hours."

This is where campus resources can help. "New students must learn to raise grades by learning how to read textbooks efficiently, reduce text anxiety, improve time management and organize papers," Biegen stated.

Non-traditional students should take advantage of campus resources, too. Tom Glick is an UM-St. Louis graduate now working as a lawyer.

"It is tough to remember how to read and study for classes when you've been out of school for a while," Glick said.

"Non-traditional students need to learn to be experts at time management and to be realistic about what they can accomplish," said Cohen.

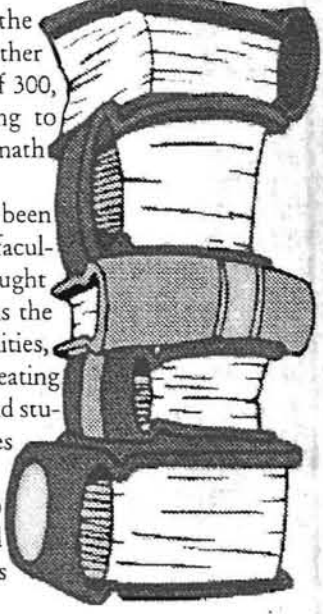
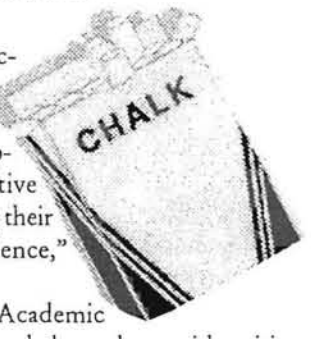
All of the on-campus resources can be helpful to part-time students as well.

"Non-traditional students could benefit from sticking around after class instead of only coming to campus for three hours a week per class. Meeting with professors and studying with other students is an invaluable piece of the learning experience," Cohen said.

So check out what the University has to offer, whether you are a freshman in classes of 300, a non-traditional student trying to juggle or a senior taking that math or history class you hate.

"Many students have never been taught how to learn and many faculty members have never been taught how to teach," Cohen said. "As the University confronts these realities, faculty must be sensitive to creating avenues for academic success and students must become advocates for their own learning."

It is up to the student to overcome these obstacles and UM-St. Louis has the resources to help any student.



AMY LOMBARDO  
Features Editor

## UNDER CURRENT

compiled by Erin Stremmel/staff photographer

### Karaoke in the Underground: why or why not?

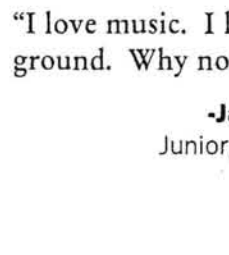
"Why the smeg not. Make noise, have fun."

-Alan Judy  
Freshman/Computer Science



"Music is a great thing, but bad music is just plain inedible."

-Charlie Bright  
Freshman/Biology



"I love music. I love the underground. Why not?"

-Janel Eckelkamp  
Junior/I.O. Psychology



"NO!!!"

-Nick Greene  
Junior/Graphic Design

## Butterfly House shows beauty of nature

BY ANNE PORTER  
special to the Current

Monarch butterflies, the most frequently seen type of butterfly in St. Louis, have captivated both adults and children of all ages. Now it is possible to see Monarchs, with their cousins, at the grand opening of the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and Education Center, 15185 Olive Boulevard. The Butterfly House is located in Faust Park in Chesterfield, about two miles east of Highway 40 and Olive/Clarkson Road in west St. Louis County. The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, September 18.

The Butterfly House, a not-for-profit organization, was created in 1995 with the goal of educating the public about the global environment. This is achieved in great style with the open-air glass dome that allows the butterflies to fly uninhibitedly among the visitors.

Dr. Charles Granger is a professor of biology at UM-St. Louis in the Division of Teaching Learning.

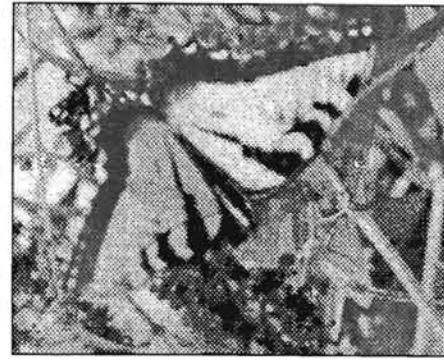
"The Butterfly House is another fabulous opportunity for the informal education in the St. Louis area along with the St. Louis Zoo, Botanical Garden, Science Center and Mid-American Aquatic Center," Granger said.

The Butterfly House consists of an entry plaza, sculpture gardens and the actual conservatory. The entry plaza greets the visitor with a collection of butterfly stones inscribed with tributes and memorials.

The sculpture garden is the work of local artist Robert Cassily. His work consists of a massive Monarch that soars through space as well as a 30-foot-long caterpillar. Both the Monarch and the caterpillar

are accompanied by flowers and greenery.

The conservatory is the most notable part of the Butterfly House. Over 100 species of butterflies, such as the Blue Morpho of Costa Rica, the Goldbanded Forester of Kenya and the Ruby Lacewing of Malaysia, fly freely for all to appreciate. The conservatory is alive with a variety of tropical plants that simulate the natural environment where the butterflies thrive. Many of these tropical plants flower to provide beauty as well as a food source for the butterflies.



Swallowtail butterfly

The conservatory completes itself with the Miracle of Metamorphosis. This display, sponsored by the May Company, shows the emergence of a butterfly from its chrysalis, otherwise known as a cocoon. The conservatory presents facts about butterflies and their environment along with information about how butterflies function in the natural world, their geographic locations and identification. A theater shows the life cycle of butterflies and the Lopata learning lab offers the opportunity to learn about butterflies in a classroom-like experience.

The Butterfly House is truly a unique way to see the world far away close at hand. This makes an innovative and educational day trip for an afternoon with family and friends. Hours are 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. until Memorial Day and 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. all other days. Tickets are five dollars for adults, four dollars for children 3-12, and free for children three and under. For more information, call (314) 361-3365 or visit the Butterfly House in person. It makes a most wonderful day.

### CD REVIEW

#### 'Stella' CD gives variety of sounds

*How Stella Got Her Groove Back* is a movie about the life of an overworked, middle-aged woman from the United States named Stella. On a much-needed vacation to Jamaica, Stella falls in love with a much younger local man. The rest of the movie is based on their struggles to overcome the criticism of their differences in geographic location, age and culture.

However, I have found that many of this summer's movie soundtracks are better than the actual movie. *Stella* is no exception.

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis of Flyte Tyme Productions, Inc. produced the soundtrack to *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*. It is currently available in stores.

I enjoyed the soundtrack to *Stella*. I found that it had a nice mixture of dance, R&B and rap. It also had Jamaican influences on several of the tracks. I was pleasantly surprised by an original song, "Your Home Is In My Heart," performed by Boyz II Men. This song is deemed Stella's love theme and features the superior vocals of Chante Moore. Mary J. Blige, Jazzy B. and Stevie Wonder are just a few of the other artists featured on the soundtrack. I liked this album because it allowed you to sample the best of many different artists without having to buy 20 different CDs.

The producers' purpose was to "embrace the differences and oneness of music in our tangible Universe." I think they succeeded.

-Stephanie Platt

# COMMENTS

## The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

### Editorial Board

**David Baugher**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Ashley Cook**  
Managing Editor &  
Editorial Page Editor

**Brian Douglas**  
News Editor

"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

## University senate grade appeal policy shows promise despite minor flaws

### The Issue:

Pacification of grade appeals causes the grades and even the degrees to lose their meaning

### We Suggest:

The University senate should take steps to strengthen this proposal to allow for further inquiries past the faculty committee level. By doing so the senate should alleviate further biases on the part of the committee.

### So what do you think?

Let us hear from you on this or any issue in a letter to the editor.

The University senate holds its first meeting of the semester today, and one of the items coming up for a vote is a revision of the student grade appeal procedures. The document itself is small, only about two and a half pages long, and written in the anonymous language common to legislative proposals. In many places it might easily go unnoticed, but we would like to highlight some of the issues it addresses, issues that are of tremendous importance to students and faculty alike.

Academic freedom is one of the most important concepts on this or any other campus. If we take away the right of faculty members to give grades and to make those grades stick, we undermine what a university stands for. When the idea gets out that grades are not based on merit alone but also on who has the loudest voice, on who can raise the biggest stink, then the grading process itself loses meaning. Then the degrees lose meaning. Academia can already seem alien to many people without putting up any additional walls.

We are not unsympathetic to the plight of administration. While the University's size lends it some protection, it also leaves it vulnerable. The temptation to pacify people instead of taking a stand is always there and can seem very persuasive when the alternatives may involve lawsuits in the multi-million dollar range. Nonetheless, it is a temptation that must be resisted.

We support the idea of a faculty committee and of keeping the appeal close to the faculty level for as long as possible. It is not fair to the students to let unqualified persons review their cases, nor is it fair to

an administrator to be put in the position of having to make those kinds of decisions when there are other alternatives. It is certainly not fair to the faculty members, who in such cases have their professional standing called into question and all too often walk away only after being slapped in the face.

However, there is a weak link in the senate proposal. Specifically, it does not allow for enough appeal past the faculty committee level. A student who feels the committee acted improperly may turn to the dean, who then decides whether the committee followed the outlined procedures. If the dean feels they did, the appeal ends. If the dean feels otherwise, then the case returns to the same committee for reconsideration. There is not enough protection for the students or the University to guard against bias on the part of the committee.

While one hopes that professionalism and public scrutiny would be enough to keep things level, human nature offers too many indications to the contrary. It would be all too easy for a committee formed of members of the same department or closely related departments to have bias towards one of their colleagues, even if they sincerely intended otherwise.

Also, it would be far too easy for a student to claim there was bias on the part of the committee, even if there was not. People have a way of making claims when they don't want to admit they were wrong. And that gets us back to lawsuits again.

So while the ideas embodied in this proposed revision are a step in the right direction, there are other issues that still need to be addressed.

## Coming home to something new

After a disastrous Homecoming last year plagued by poor planning and rampant cancellations, the campus community may finally be getting serious about making the annual event worthy of its name.

A committee formed last semester after the Homecoming problems has decided, among other things, to move the event to February in an effort to increase participation and planning time among both students and alumni. While there is, of course, no guarantee that the campus community will respond to any changes that the committee makes, its effort to cut through the legendary apathy that has become a hallmark of UM-St. Louis is commendable. We feel this represents a genuine attempt to make Homecoming the gala celebration it's supposed to be.

Switching dates for the event, however, will not solve the underlying problems that hurt last year's Homecoming. Miscommunication, lack of participation and planning problems were the main stumbling blocks to a successful party. The dance, which went off without a hitch, and which sold out for the first time in recent memory, proved that when events are coordinated and publicized effectively, students do turn out.

The committee's actions are a good first step towards a creating a Homecoming we can be proud of, but the real test will be whether the planners can follow through on their vision.

## A stroll through the night life

I am a night person. I used to be ashamed to admit this. People look at you strangely when you admit to a nocturnal existence. You must be a cop or a criminal or something. Immediately you fall into a stereotype. Lazy, weird, vaguely unwholesome. No one likes night people.

Night people are regularly discriminated against in everyday life. Everything runs on morning people's schedules. Who invented the Egg McMuffin? Bankers' hours? Mindless sayings like "The early bird always gets the worm?" Some morning person, no doubt. Morning people are clearly evil. They are always abnormally happy, up cheerfully at the crack of dawn, full of energy, ready to face the world with a terribly unnatural enthusiasm.

Anyone who has taken a 7 a.m. final can recognize these people. See the smiling, eager, Stepford clone in the front row, whistling a peppy tune as he merrily fills in ovals with a precisely sharpened No. 2 pencil, while everyone else sits there in a bleary, semiconscious state in desperate need of an intravenous coffee drip, ransacking their bookbags for a writing utensil and unfurling wadded notes.

This just isn't normal. No one not on a controlled substance should be that thrilled to be alive when the alarm goes off.

The fact of the matter is that scientific studies prove night people are the normal ones. The human body runs on a natural 25-hour a day clock. That means it's perfectly okay to go to sleep and get up later. "Early to bed, early to rise" is really just a myth, yet another disturbing piece of the morning people's diabolical propaganda campaign to convert everyone to their odd schedule. Night people unite. We are the true silent majority.

Don't misunderstand, I don't begrudge morning folk their right to exist. All I want is equality for those of us tuned to the p.m. side of the clock. Classes at 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. McDonald's that are open until two in the morning. Gas stations where I don't have to prepay after dark. Are these things too much to ask?

So, morning people, next time you see that poor soul in a nearby desk yawning or catching a short nap, remember it's not his fault the world doesn't function on his time. Be nice to him, let him sleep, lend him your notes. Just show a little consideration for those of us who like to see the sunrise at the end of their day.



DAVID BAUGHER  
editor-in-chief

## Smokers' fumes put a damper on the air

We have air quality days here in the city of St. Louis, telling us whether the day is a red (bad air) or a green (good air) day. Bi-State gives out those AQ (air quality) cards that allow the cardholder to ride public transportation for free that day in order to cut down the output of vehicle pollution. Citizens are asked to avoid filling up at the gas pump until after 5 p.m. Children and adults with respiratory difficulties are advised to stay indoors.

UM-St. Louis has an air quality problem that seems to get worse with each semester. I can't walk between buildings on this campus without the inevitable choking sensation of inhaling secondhand smoke from the student or faculty member walking in front of me, having a smoke while they meander to their destination.

My problem with them is that while they are enjoying the freedom to smoke tobacco if they so choose, at the same time they are infringing on my right to breathe clean air while I try to get to the TJ Library or to the Underground to meet a friend.

I am glad that campus buildings themselves are designated smoke-free, and while that makes being inside a relief for us non-smokers, it creates another problem, since we then have to run the gauntlet of entrance-door smokers, forcing us to decide whether or not to suffer through coughing out what smoke of theirs we've inhaled on the way in, or to risk passing out from holding our breath long enough to get inside the building.

Another unpleasant side effect of the numerous student smokers this campus has is the litter they create. By the end of each semester, you can't take one step between Lucas Hall and the Student Center without stepping on or over a cigarette butt.

For a generation that is supposed to be so concerned with both the environment and their health, UM-St. Louis students are showing a pretty poor lack of judgement in both instances.

Students should be issued an LQ (Lung Quality) card, allowing non-smokers some walkways free of smoke and trash, and giving smokers a route they can feel free to pollute all they wish.



ASHLEY COOK  
managing editor

### GUEST COMMENTARY

## Graduating thoughts

I can't wait until I graduate. If I had a dime for every time I heard myself or someone else say that, then I would have enough money to pay all of the loans used to pay for this educational endeavor of mine.

As students, we have all said that phrase from time to time (especially when we're starting a research paper at 10 p.m. the night before it's due). It's natural to feel this way. Graduation is a major achievement in not only our education, but our lives as well.

I am scheduled to graduate this May (scheduled being the key word here). Last year I expected to be counting down the days by now, but a funny thing happened - reality set in.

The realization that after May school will be over and I will have to find a job to support myself (preferably a job using my degree, but I have no illusions).

It started when my alarm clock woke me up on August 24. My first coherent thought was, "This is the last first day of school for the rest of my life."

Driving to school that day, I started thinking about what I had done over my college career. The answer was mostly partying and working. To my chagrin, I found that my first two years of college were a complete waste. I wasn't involved in any organizations and I could not have cared less about the campus.

I was another apathetic UM-St. Louis student. However, my junior year I got involved. I started writing for the paper and I joined a couple more organizations. I met new people, had new experiences and I actually started to appreciate the UM-St. Louis campus.

Last year was the best year of my educational experience, and it was mostly due to the fact that I got involved.

So get involved. Join a club that interests you, check out an organization you know nothing about or start one of your own. The good thing about this campus is that since so few students are involved, there plenty of opportunities for students to carve their own niche.

Freshman and sophomores, don't waste the two years that I did. Juniors and seniors, it's never too late to get involved. You'll all find that not only your social life improves, but your academic life will improve as well.

Now as graduation approaches, my only regret is that I didn't get involved sooner. It's a regret I can live with.



JOE HARRIS  
guest commentator

## Picture this and smile

As a child, my parents bought me a 110 camera. This was a very popular, inexpensive, compact, point-and-shoot camera. In truth it was junk. The quality was poor, the photos were grainy and the zoom button allowed you to move from four feet to three and a half feet from the subject. But I didn't care, because my camera had a built-in flash.

I was looking through my photo album from when I had my first camera. I had quite a few pictures of animals at the zoo. Mind you, there were no pictures of faces, just tails and feet and horns. As I grew older I started taking pictures of people, places and things that you could actually recognize.

This is not a story about how my parents bought me a camera and I grew up to be this great photographer who takes dramatic photos in exotic lands. I hope that someday that might be the case. But until then I can offer my advice on how to be a better U.S. citizen.

I have noticed that many people do not like to have their picture taken. They back away from the camera, turn their heads and draw attention to the situation by yelling "NO, DON'T TAKE MY PICTURE." This in turn causes the photographer to slink away in search of another victim. What these people do not realize is that there are only two types of responses possible when someone takes your picture. You can either act like you enjoy having your picture taken or you can act like you don't want your picture taken, but secretly hope that the photographer continues to snap away.

Celebrities are famous for using the second response. After years of practice they master the response so well that some people actually believe that they don't want their picture taken. Quality tabloid magazines promote this viewpoint by publishing slightly blurred photos or pictures of people's hands in front of the camera lens. This has led to the American public believing that they don't have to have their picture taken. However, I would like to note that this is NOT an option. You are supposed to have your picture taken. You are supposed to preserve your image for posterity. You are supposed to like it.

So the next time you see me or a fellow photographer on campus, please don't cause a scene or run away from us. Just smile and nod and I promise we won't make you say cheese.



STEPHANIE PLATT  
guest commentator

# SPORTS

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

## Off the Wall

### College football poll is definitely worth a look

It took me a few years to understand why college football was so popular. Actually, I still don't understand it. I find the NFL more exciting.

The one draw to the college ranks is that there are hundreds of games a week as opposed to the 10 or so in the NFL. Also, a lot of the players are my age. I can relate more to someone like Korby Jones and what he goes through as he is my age and also a college student. It is tough for me to relate to someone like Steve Young who is a multimillionaire. He is in his late 30s and has nothing in common with me. That is my draw to college football.

Either way, I recently got named to the Sporting News College Sports editor poll. The poll consists of college sports editors from around the country. Oddly enough, I am one of the only pollsters from a Division II school. Guess that is quite an honor.

The poll, in my opinion, should be one of the best around as long as the other sports editors don't try to juice their schools up in the poll. I can see it now: Mizzou in the top 10 when their record stands at 4-6.

I think the first poll put that skepticism to rest. I put the defending champion Michigan at number one; the rest of the pollsters put Ohio State at the top.

I think one of the benefits of following a poll being done by college students is that we are a TV generation. We watch ESPN all night, we flip the channels all day watching the games. We are the TV generation. If anyone knows the teams and games, it would be us.

It also gives a lot of would-be sports editors the opportunity to see what it is like to participate in a poll that many people look at each week. The major polls that are out now, the coaches and writers' polls, are always criticized. Now people like myself all around the country can see what criticism comes from putting down an opinion in print all over the nation.

It is a tough thing to do. With no records to go on the first week, I went mostly on reputation and the teams' records last year. I even went as far as to put local boys Mizzou at 23. Go figure, I don't think they are even a top 40 team. Either way, I am going to have fun with the poll. And I hope the readers do too.

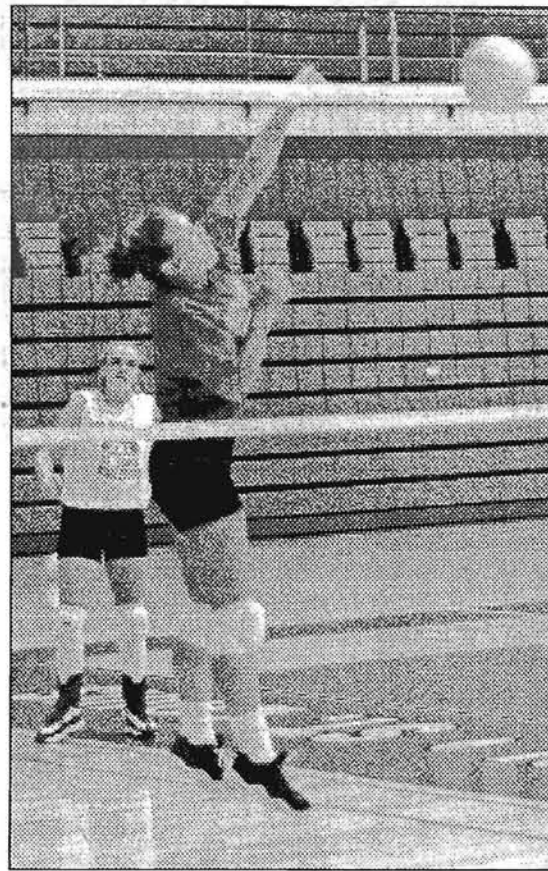
The poll can be found at: <http://www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/poll/editors.html>. It is updated each Tuesday. Check it out and tell me what you think.



**KEN DUNKIN**  
sports editor

## Riverwomen sweep SIU-Edwardsville tourney

### Volleyball spikes opponents, is off to strong 3-0 start for the new season



**Stephanie Platt/The Current**  
Riverwoman Leslie Armstrong, returns the volleyball in practice last week.

BY JOE HARRIS  
of the Current Staff

The Riverwomen are off to a sizzling 3-0 start after last weekend's sweep in the SIU-Edwardsville Invitational.

The victims included South Carolina-Spartansburg, Drury College and Hillsdale College.

"Some of the wins were not pretty," head coach Denise Silvester said. "We had back-to-back five-game matches, and they really take a toll on you physically."

Consistency on offense hampered the Riverwomen's early performance and was a cause for the two five-game matches.

"We have to get more consistent on offense," Silvester said. "The less con-

sistent we are, the longer the rallies become."

The Riverwomen showed character in the tournament, especially in the two five-game wins. "Good teams consistently win the fifth game of matches," Silvester said.

Sophomore middle hitter Susan Kleinschnitz and newcomer Junior Yorhena Panama led the way for the Riverwomen and took all tournament honors. Both Kleinschnitz and Panama led the team in blocks with 17 and 12, respectively.

Kleinschnitz also lit up the opposition with an outstanding .373 hitting percentage. The performance indicates that Kleinschnitz is finally feeling comfortable in the middle hitter position that she had to learn as a freshman last year.

"Her hitting percentage itself shows she's feeling more confident," Silvester said.

Panama's performance may have come as an even bigger surprise because not only is she new to the team, she doesn't yet have a set position.

"Yorhena [Panama] is not comfortable because of the different positions she's playing," Silvester said. "We don't have a set six right now and we probably won't for the rest of the year. Instead we will have contributions from many different people."

Holly Zrout, another newcomer, shook off some freshman jitters to have a strong last match. Zrout's five blocks were instrumental in the Riverwomen victory.

The Riverwomen also had contributions from seniors Kristen Brugnara and Leslie Armstrong who led the team in assists with 88 and 29, respectively.

Even though the fast start has the Riverwomen out to a 3-0 record, there are some areas in need of improvement.

"We need to work on our offensive consistency," Silvester said.

Kleinschnitz being the exception, the Riverwomen as a team had a .155 hitting percentage. That number has to increase if the Riverwomen's success will be prolonged.

The Riverwomen are scheduled to have hosted the Red and Gold Tournament on September 4-5.

## Volleyball player preview

BY JOE HARRIS  
of the Current staff

The Riverwomen volleyball team looks to be much improved this year. This is a list of players who could have a big impact on the Riverwomen's season.

Nicole Wall saw time as a starter her sophomore year. Her hitting percentage should become more consistent and her defensive skills and quickness are outstanding.

Sue Claggett was the starting outside hitter her sophomore year and suffered a sophomore slump in her hitting consistency. Her defensive skills have shown improvement and the Riverwomen's success is dependent on her ability to finish at the net.

Michelle Hochstatter led the team in hitting percentage as a starting middle hitter her freshman year. One of two starting freshman middle hitters, she saw tremendous improvement during spring workouts. The Riverwomen's success is in direct correlation to the success of the middle attack.

Susan Kleinschnitz was the other starting freshman middle hitter. Kleinschnitz had to switch back to middle hitter in the middle of last year, so she had to relearn the position while adjusting to the college game. Still, she led the team in blocking and was second in hit-

ting percentage.

Kristen Brugnara was hampered by two foot surgeries last year. Brugnara is a defensive specialist and also plays the role of setter. As one of only two seniors on the team, Brugnara should provide excellent leadership if she can stay healthy.

Angie McCubbins led the team in digs last year. Due to new roles this season, she will see more time as a defensive specialist.

Leslie Armstrong led the team in assists and will be a big factor in the team's success this season with her versatility and desire to be a force at the net.

Anne McCord's sophomore year was limited by injury. Her turnaround this year could be the spark the Riverwomen need to get back into the running for a top-four finish in conference. Michelle Pasioka has seen most of her time as a defensive specialist. However, her newfound confidence could make her a threat as a starting outside hitter.

Holly Zrout is one of two newcomers and is an AAU All-American. Zrout is a tremendous athlete and will push for a starting position as an outside hitter.

Yorhena Panama is the other newcomer. Panama has tremendous versatility and will see playing time at a few different positions.

## Riverwomen win exhibition match

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff associate

The Riverwomen played their first and only exhibition match against Tennessee-Martin and won 4-0.

The team was paced by two goals from Julie Reiter while Jennifer Terbrock and Sarah Kalish each netted one. Coach Beth Goetz seemed impressed with her squad and their skills demonstrated on the field.

"We possessed the ball very well and our pass work was very good," Goetz said. "We did not rush things and we played very composed."

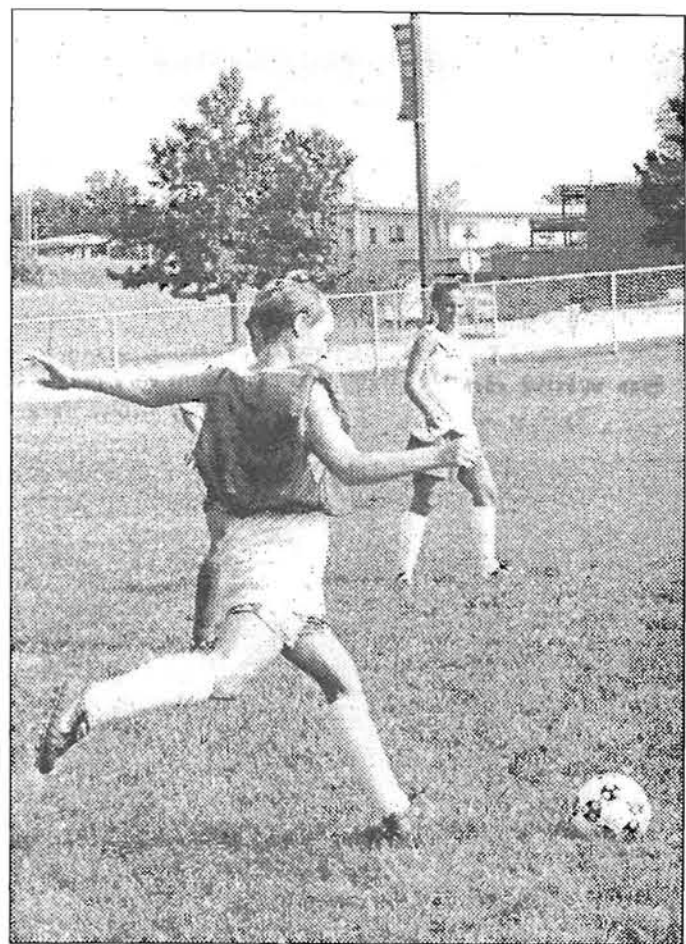
As far as youth is concerned, the freshmen played quite well, according to Goetz.

"The first five to ten minutes of the game, it took a while to calm the nerves, but the freshmen fit right in and did a lot of nice things," Goetz said. "My main goal was to get them working together and see them in a collegiate match."

The Riverwomen showed that they have the ability to play as a team and work together.

"It was nice that everyone contributed equally. They worked together well with so many new players. They jelled really well," Goetz said. "You are going to win as a team. In soccer, there are no Mark McGwires on the field who will overwhelm the opposition."

The Riverwomen started their season last



**Stephanie Platt/The Current**  
Beth Ostermeyer kicks the ball in practice last week.

weekend as they played Belmont Abbey and Gardener Webb, both members of the SAC in Evansville, Indiana.

Southern Indiana's coach has organized the event where both UM-St. Louis and Southern Indiana will play two teams, but not each other. There is no decisive winner in this event.

## Women's GLVC Soccer Rankings

- |                     |                       |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. St. Joseph's     | 4. Southern Indiana   | 7. Quincy       |
| 2. SIU-Edwardsville | 5. Wisconsin-Parkside | 8. UM-St. Louis |
| 3. Lewis University | 6. Indianapolis       |                 |

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

	Tuesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.	8	11	12	13
Women				vs. Lindenwood 1 p.m. Home
Women		vs. Bellarmine 7 p.m. Home	vs. North. Kentucky 1 p.m. Home	
Women	vs. Quincy 3:30 p.m. Away		vs. Lewis University Noon Away	vs. St. Joseph's TBA Away

## Riverwomen Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 11	Bellarmine	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	Northern Kentucky	1 p.m.
Sept. 18	Kentucky Wesleyan	7 p.m. CST
Sept. 19	Southern Indiana	2 p.m.
Sept. 25	Lewis University	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Wisconsin-Parkside	2 p.m.
Oct. 2	St. Joseph's College	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	Quincy	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	Northern Kentucky	6:30 p.m.
	Wayne State	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Bellarmine	1 p.m.
Oct. 30	Southern Indiana	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Kentucky Wesleyan	1 p.m.
Nov. 4	Quincy	7 p.m.
Nov. 6	University of Indianapolis	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	SIU-Edwardsville	2 p.m.
Nov. 8	Truman State	5 p.m.
Nov. 11-14	Great Lakes Valley	TBA

Home games in bold.

# Georgian group visits UM-St. Louis

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
staff editor

## Delegation comes to campus to study American democracy

A delegation from the former Soviet republic of Georgia visited the UM-St. Louis campus as part of their trip to America for the purpose of studying democracy.

The delegation was hosted by Paul DeGregorio, director of Outreach Development and former Director of Elections for St. Louis County. DeGregorio said he has spent the last five years traveling to different countries to help emerging democracies with their elections.

DeGregorio said the delegation consisted of 20 members, including five members of Georgia's central election commission, five members who work with Georgia's government at the local level, five representatives of the country's top political parties and five members of non-government organizations which are involved with the promotion of democracy and elections in Georgia.

Georgia broke away from the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, and while it has since had parliamentary and presidential elections, those elections have not been held at the local level. DeGregorio said that until now, local offices have been appointed by the central government.

"Georgia has not had local elections since becoming a free and independent country in 1991," DeGregorio said.

DeGregorio said Georgia passed a law earlier this summer to facilitate elections at the local level. He said those elections are scheduled to take place November 15.

DeGregorio said the delegation's trip to America was intended to train them for their upcoming local elections. He said they studied the mechanics of an election, such as voter registration, candidate eligibility and the composition of the ballot.

DeGregorio said that while the Georgians came to America to study democracy, the point was made that America itself does have problems, such as negative campaigning, low voter turnouts and people not trusting their politicians. He said efforts were made to warn the delegates against taking America's foibles home with them.

"While they come here to America to learn a lot about us, we also try to instill among them that we have our own problems here..." DeGregorio said.

Jumber Lominadze, chairman of Georgia's central election commission, spoke of the difficulties involved with reforming his nation's government, such as corruption, crime and inflation, but remained optimistic.

"We try [to] make democracy, but it is difficult," Lominadze said. "[The] United States [tried] 200 years to reach such a democracy. We also need the time."

In spite of the political issues surrounding the delegation's visit, DeGregorio highlighted some of the more light-hearted aspects of their trip: the Georgians stayed in the South Campus dorms and played soccer with visiting students from Japan.

DeGregorio also related a humorous anecdote about the Georgians' sur-

prise at learning that Budweiser beer was made in St. Louis. Apparently, there was a Czechoslovakian beer of the same name, and the Georgians, who had been drinking it since they attended an election convention in Florida as part of their trip, were not aware that it was made here.

DeGregorio talked about the impact the trip had on the members of the delegation.

"It was a big learning experience for them," DeGregorio said. "Of the 20, only two had ever been to the United States before. Fifteen of them had never, ever left the republic of Georgia in their life."

DeGregorio said the Georgians were particularly surprised by the warmth of the Americans.

"What surprised them the most was the warmth of the American people... They did not expect... the people that they met to care too much about who they were because they were from a very small country in eastern Europe that most people had never heard of," DeGregorio said. "They were surprised how kind everyone was and warm and how people were willing to share their time and knowledge with them."

DeGregorio said that it was hard for him to explain to the delegation the low voter turnout during the August 4th election.

"It was pretty disheartening for me to tell them that 86 percent of the people in St. Louis County did not vote... here we talk about elections, we talk about democracy, we talk about America being the greatest democracy in the world, and I have to explain to them that 86 percent of the people chose not to vote..." DeGregorio said.

DeGregorio said that the Georgians' reaction to this was that America takes what it has for granted, and he agreed with them.

"I guess in America people are satisfied," DeGregorio said. "The economy is going well, people are generally satisfied with their lives and so they don't vote because they don't think it'll make a difference..."

DeGregorio said that Americans do tend to vote when they are unhappy with the way things are going and wish to make changes, but cautioned against low participation.



Lominadze



Mary FitzGerald, former professor of English at the University of New Orleans, has been named associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. FitzGerald, whose research specialty is modern Irish literature, had been at UNO since 1977, including serving as the associate vice chancellor for academic programs from 1990 to 1992. She holds a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in New York City and master's and doctoral degrees from Princeton University.

Business Services will conduct an auction of surplus property at 10:00 a.m. next Wednesday at 8030 South Florissant Road. All surplus equipment and supplies will be offered for sale to University departments before disposal at auction. The surplus warehouse will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. this Thursday for interested departments to view and remove desired items.

Lawrence Friedman, associate professor of biology, has been named associate dean of the Evening College. He replaces Harry Gaffney, who recently retired.

The senate committee on research has set the following deadlines: Small Grants Fund, Sept. 21, 1998 and Jan. 25, 1999; Research Awards, Oct. 19, 1998 and Feb. 5, 1999. The UM System has set the deadlines for Research Board applications for Oct. 5, 1998 and Feb. 22, 1999. Guidelines for these internal funding opportunities and application forms are available the Office of Research Administration's home page at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/ora/internal.html>.

"It's a danger signal," DeGregorio said. "It is something that we need to recognize that it's not good for this nation because when that happens, the power... is in very few hands. It's not in the hands of the masses; it's in the hands of very few people, be they wealthy people or special interest groups or whatever — those are the ones that are having the biggest influence." DeGregorio said he will be going to Georgia this September to serve as an advisor to the central election commission.

### APPEALS, FROM PAGE 1

Zarucchi said. The proposed revision states that if the faculty committee recommends the grade not be changed, the student has the option of appealing to the dean, who then determines if the procedures were properly followed. If the dean determines that the procedures were followed correctly, the appeal process ends. If the dean finds otherwise, the case is returned to the faculty committee for "reconsideration."

Zarucchi said the proposed revision does not address the situation of a student claiming that there was bias on the part of the faculty committee. She says professional integrity and the pressure of the public eye will aid in keeping the judgments fair.

"The procedure as it exists now does not address that case [of a student claiming bias on the part of the faculty committee] and the revision does not specifically address that case," Zarucchi said. "However, it is assumed in the revised version that the faculty review committee will be very much aware of the public

scrutiny of the issue and it is highly unlikely that any group of faculty would render a judgment regarding a grade without giving the case due consideration because the results of that judgment will become known."

Zarucchi said the proposed revision was the result of a collaborative effort between the senate curriculum and instruction committee and the faculty council grievance committee. She said there had been discussion during the 1997-98 academic year, with the revision being brought up last semester on the senate floor, where it underwent several "friendly amendments."

Zarucchi said that "because of the significance of this issue to both students and faculty, the curriculum committee decided to deliberate over the summer and to wait until the fall to present the revision for a vote to make sure that all possible questions could be answered..." She says the committee has endorsed the version of the revised procedures which will go before the senate today.

### SUIT, FROM PAGE 1

percent minority participation in construction and design projects over the past five years.

"I can tell you that we are very sensitive to the issue of diversity, very proud of our record and we have probably the best record in the state," Samples said.

Samples said the 25 percent figure for the project was a campus goal but not a "system rule."

"There's multiple players and multiple judgements involved in bringing a contract to the Curators," Samples said.

Vickers called the 23.5 percent figure "misleading" because we don't know what size projects those are and if they can get 23 percent on those projects, why didn't they on this one?"

Samples said the 23.5 percent was an average of all construction and design projects and not based on one specific project.

The suit calls for a \$25-million judgement against the University with the money to be placed "in a trust for the use and benefit of minority businesses." It also asks the court to "enjoin" the University from continuing with the KCI contract and requests that the court require the University to set

aside 25 percent of all contracts for minority- and female-owned businesses.

KCI could not be reached for comment. Vickers has taken no legal action against them.

Vickers said he hopes to involve community groups to support his cause "in an all-out effort" and plans to have pickets at the campus job site. He also said he is currently in discussions with both Washington University and St. Louis University over minority contractor participation at those schools.

Ann Nicholson, senior news editor at Washington University's Public Affairs Office, confirmed that officials at the school had had consultations with Vickers recently but could not say what had been discussed.

John Kerr, associate vice-president of Public Relations at St. Louis University, released a statement which said that the University is "discussing possible methods to increase the number of minority contracts awarded with the St. Louis Minority Contractors Association and the St. Louis Minority Business Council."

**"...we are very sensitive to the issue of diversity, very proud of our record and we have probably the best record in the state."**

-Bob Samples, director of University Communications

### MOVIE REVIEW

## Trite 'Simon Birch' buoyed by excellent cast

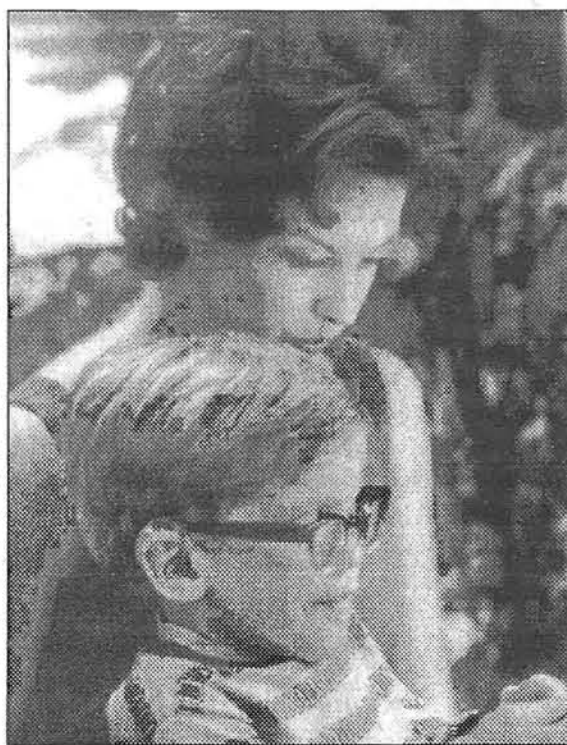
**Simon Birch**  
Rating: PG  
Running time: 1:50

Some of us, as adults, spend the better part of our lives trying to determine what our purpose is, what we are meant to do with our lives. Others, like Simon Birch, have it all figured out before puberty.

Simon, the title character of first-time director Mark Steven Johnson's film, begins his life with the distinction of being the smallest baby ever born in Gravestown, Maine. The fact that Simon (Ian Michael Smith) survived is considered miraculous by his doctors but embarrassing by his parents. He retains his small size as he gets older, something that makes him the local oddity, but which he feels figures into God's plan for him - he's going to be a hero.

As Simon searches for the way he will fulfill his destiny, his best friend Joe (Joseph Mazzello) is searching for something as well: the identity of his father, a person his mother, Rebecca (Ashley Judd), has promised to reveal when she feels the time is right. A tragic accident occurs, however, and both boys begin to question whether they'll ever find the answers they're looking for.

*Simon Birch* is certainly a sweet movie, but sometimes it's sweet to the point of overkill. The blame for this lies with director Johnson, who



Ashley Judd and Ian Michael Smith in "Simon Birch"

up for by the acting.

wrote the screenplay inspired by John Irving's novel *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. Although Johnson has written for film before (*Grumpy Old Men*) and should know how to translate a story into film form, his script is trite and filled with clichés (sample line of dialogue: "You're the best friend I ever had."). He also tells us too much too early. Within 30 seconds of the film's opening, he has revealed two major plot points, ones which would have had more of an impact if the audience was able to learn about them as they happen.

The saving grace of this film, the one which makes it worth seeing, is its cast. Smith (in his movie debut) and Mazzello deliver heartfelt, down-to-earth performances that lend credibility to Johnson's so-so script. Other stand-outs include Oliver Platt as Rebecca's new boyfriend and Jim Carrey in a cameo role playing Joe as an adult.

*Simon Birch* is fine as light entertainment, even if it's not quite the cinematic event its chalked up to be. What the film lacks in plot and dialogue is more than made

-Mary Lindsley

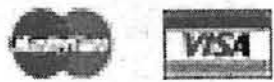
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# Senate to revise grievance guidelines

## 'Open discussion' set for October

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
staff editor

On October 6, the University senate will host an open discussion of a proposed revision of the faculty grievance procedures of the University of Missouri.

Jeanne Zarucchi, who serves as a representative to the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC), said the purpose of the revision was to eliminate discrepancies and make the grievance process fairer and more timely. She said there had been problems with gaps in the schedules for some actions.

"They [the proposed revisions] reflect cases where there was no deadline for an action to be taken and grievants were reporting that there were what appeared to them to be significant delays in certain parts of the process being carried out, so language was introduced in the revision to provide specific timetables where previously there were not," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said another purpose of the revision was "to make information access more equitable to both parties" to help remedy cases where the

grievant had access to information, but not the respondent.

The proposed revision defines grievances as cases of violation or improper application of University policy with regard to the privileges, responsibilities or terms of employment of a faculty member, discrimination or infringements upon academic freedom.

Zarucchi said the revision is the work of the 1997-98 IFC, which includes members from the UM schools in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla. It will be discussed on the individual campuses before being submitted to the University Counsel and the Board of Curators for their approval.

Zarucchi said the revision could go before the board sometime in November.

"It is hoped that discussion on individual campuses will be completed by the end of October and after that the IFC will meet again to finalize

their proposed revision of the document and then it will be sent to the board — we hope during the month of November," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said that while the senate did not generate the document and will not be voting on it, it will provide a place for public discussion of the revision.

"All members of the campus community are welcome to attend this meeting and to provide a response..." Zarucchi said.

She said that persons unable to attend the meeting could send comments to the IFC representatives including herself, Silvia Madeo and Paul Roth, via e-mail.

Zarucchi noted that with the document having already gained the recommendation of the IFC, "at this stage of the discussion the most productive feedback would be based on issues other than very minor language changes."

## HOMECOMING, FROM PAGE 1

Wahby also stressed the inconvenience of past years' Homecoming schedules for many students.

"People are swamped with getting back to school," Wahby said.

Wahby said that after consulting with other uni-

versities, it was decided to move Homecoming to the winter, so it would involve the last game of the basketball season, and also be tied in with Alumni Day.

"That would allow us then the time necessary to get people back to school, get

everyone organized in terms of classes and what group they're going to be involved in..." Wahby said.

Wahby said the homecoming committee began to form shortly after last year's celebration, and had

actually met for the first time in April. She said it intended to meet monthly. Plans for next month's meeting include the formation of various subcommittees to handle different events.

**"This is how the committee has decided to work: whoever shows up makes the decisions."**

Robbyn Wahby, Manager of Alumni Relations that this policy would allow the committee to operate even

when not all members could attend all of the meetings, but noted that the committee would be willing to go back over something if a large error had been made.

Wahby said that some of the

events planned for this year's Homecoming included a dance, a happy hour and family day for alumni, the last basketball game of the season and "Arresting Day," a fundraising event. Campus figures who volunteer for the event, such as the chancellor or the various deans, could be arrested and put in a mock jail if students were able to raise the

necessary amount of money.

Wahby stressed the cooperation among different groups to make the events happen. She said the committee would try to encourage anticipation for the celebration.

"We want to build momentum for this... We really want to make it [so] when it really comes, people are excited about it..." Wahby said.

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## UPB, FROM PAGE 1

selection."

McCarty said that the first year the directorship became a paid position, in 1996, applicants were accepted from the student body. He said that the following year applications were accepted only from the board.

McCarty said that if none of this year's applicants are chosen, applications will again be accepted from the student body. McCarty said that in 1996 they had six applicants.

"The first year that we did the compensated chair position, we opened it up to the campus," McCarty said.

McCarty said that 14 of the 15 board positions are currently filled. He said that the remaining position is being held open in hopes that an international student will apply.

"As yet, we have not received any interest [from international students] in participating in the board," McCarty said. "If that doesn't happen in the next few weeks, then we'll select somebody to fill that position."

McCarty said that none of the other board positions are earmarked for specific student groups.

"The rest of the representation is taken into consideration as we go through the application process," McCarty said.

McCarty said that at the moment, he and Blanton are taking care of the UPB director's responsibilities.

"Here we are in the second week into the semester, and everything the board isn't doing, Rick and I have to do," McCarty said. "At this point we feel like we need to get someone good in there and get moving."

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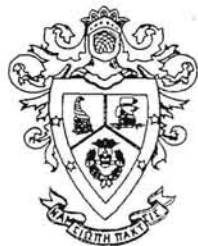
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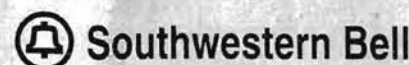
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