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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The CURRENT



Judge Ito

Tommy Collins (Pauly Shore) and his dog Gizmo star in the new movie 'Jury Duty.' See our review in features.

EDITORIAL

Matt Forsythe sums up this weeks on-campus events. See the editorial page.

FEATURES

Students with Disabilities Awareness Week featured a wheelchair marathon and a screening of the movie 'Forrest Gump.'

SPORTS

Rivermen clinched second place in the MIAA with a victory over Pittsburg State.

Issue 824

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

April 17, 1995

Man shot in leg; chase on campus ensues

by Rob Goedecker
news editor

A man was shot in the leg at around 1:30 p.m., Wednesday in the 8100 block of Florissant Road. After a foot chase, a suspect was captured on the UM-St. Louis campus.

Police said the shooting was sparked by a dispute several months ago between the two men, which involved the victim's girlfriend.

Police said the assailant saw the victim in the Quick Trip convenience store on Florissant Road. The assailant waited for the victim to leave. Then he got in his car and proceeded to follow the victim, who was walking south on Florissant Road. The assailant pulled his car over to the side of the road, got out of the car and shot the victim in the upper thigh.

According to police, four witnesses saw the suspect get back into his car and drive to the Hollywood Park apartments, where he currently

resides.

After being shot, the victim crossed Florissant Road and called the Normandy Police Department from the Normandy Villa apartments at around 1:40 p.m.

Normandy police immediately dispatched two cars to the scene. One of the responding officers, Tom Battles, went to aid the victim, who was sent to DePaul Hospital. He was released the following day. Battles said the bullet passed completely through the victim's leg.

Battles said the victim didn't know the suspect very well, but he remembered his first name. The victim gave police a precise description of the suspect, which made the case easier to solve. The suspect was slender, wearing a red hat, tan pants and a jacket.

Police say that, following the shooting, the suspect dropped off his gun, a .22-caliber pistol, at his apartment and fled into the woods behind the apartments.

In searching the suspect's apartment, the police recovered the weapon, a shell casing, and a \$15 rock of crack cocaine.

Normandy police then proceeded to chase the suspect on foot for about 10 minutes. Battles said the assailant took off his hat and jacket in the woods.

Once the suspect came out of the woods, he was almost on the campus of UM-St. Louis. At this point, the Normandy police called the UM-St. Louis Police Department and told them about the man who was coming onto the campus.

UM-St. Louis police officer Jerry DeGuentz was working as a dispatcher at the time. DeGuentz was able to give the direction of the suspect to the other UM-St. Louis officers through the Normandy police.

The first person to spot the suspect on campus was UM-St. Louis emergency vehicle driver Jim

see Shooting, page 4

'Uninvited guests' spark free-for-all

Officer injured in front of 'Pike' house

by Matthew J. Forsythe
editor-in-chief

Bel-Ridge Police Officer Dave Warner was struck in the back of the head and injured early Sunday morning while attempting to break up a fight in front of 8826 Natural Bridge road, the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house.

According to Sergeant William Thomas of the Bel-Ridge Police Department, Warner, who was on pa-

trol, passed by the house at 2:17 a.m. and noticed a fight taking place in front of the house.

After approaching and attempting to break up the fight, Warner was struck from behind by a person involved in the altercation.

President of Pi Kappa Alpha Navdeep Thakur said the incident did not have anything to do with fraternities. Thakur said the inci-

see Scuffle, page 4

SGA presidential candidates voice opinions at Residence Hall debate



by Julie Pressman
of The Current staff

The three Student Government Association (SGA) presidential candidates faced off Tuesday in a panel debate hosted by the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

RHA president Jeremy Kennedy kicked off the event by introducing presidential candidates Tonya Hutchinson, Tom O'Keefe and Beth Titlow.

This was followed by the introduction of the panel of UM-St. Louis publication representatives and the moderator, Sherry Laboon.

There were three members of the campus media on the panel asking the candidates questions: representing *The Current* was Matt Forsythe; Richard Matt represented the Evening Tide, and Thompson Knox Jr. from Brain Stew.

Laboon then laid out the ground

rules for the debate.

Each candidate was allowed a three minute opening argument. They were allowed one minute to respond to each question directed to them by a panel or audience member. Finally, they were given two minutes to make a closing argument.

Hutchinson stressed in her platform the need to reform the problems of sexism, racism and homophobia on campus. She also stressed that she believes in action not just the threat of action.

"I'm about action," Hutchinson said. "I won't sit on my duff. I walk the walk as well as talk the talk."

In response to a question, Hutchinson stated her opinion that professors should teach only history and art classes that correspond to their ethnic backgrounds.

When one student denounced that kind of thinking as racist, Hutchinson said that racism has to do with power

Student Government Association elections

Where: Marillac Hall, Mark Twain Building, U-Center lobby/patio, SSB lobby/patio and Barnes Nursing College

When: April 18-19

*Polls are open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m.; 2-8:30 p.m. at Barnes.

(Left) Panelists: Matt Forsythe (*The Current*), Thompson Knox Jr. (Brain Stew) and Richard Matt (Evening Tide). (Right) Presidential candidates: Tom O'Keefe, Tonya Hutchinson and Beth Titlow.

and blacks can not be racist "because they don't have the power."

Current comptroller, Titlow, mentioned her disappointment with the financial aid department. She included her plans to attempt to add well informed volunteers to help with the tedious process. She also stressed her commitment to improve communication to students.

Titlow appeared to be a little offended when Knox questioned her about complaints regarding the makeup of the Election committee board, which led to the extension of the application deadline. Titlow felt there were too many members of the Sigma Pi fraternity (of which Tom O'Keefe is a member) on the board.

In the March 27 issue of *The*

Current, Chris Alexander wrote a letter to the editor claiming that those actions were hypocritical because Titlow also complained when current SGA President Chris Jones extended the Student Budget Committee deadline.

'[The debate] gave people a good chance to discover the residence halls. I also think the candidates were well prepared and did an excellent job.'

- Jeremy Kennedy,
RHA president

him," Titlow said.

O'Keefe ran on a more general platform of overall campus improvement. He also stressed his intention to try to reach more of the student

body, both at UM-St. Louis and other campuses so they get the most out of their tuition.

"A lot of the reason people complain about tuition is because they feel they aren't being offered services," O'Keefe said. "They simply don't know about them."

After the panel exhausted their supply of questions, the audience was given a shot to express their concerns.

Several students mentioned the difficulties Residence Hall students face with food service and transportation. Evening college student Grace duMaine commented on the poor physical conditions of the campus.

She mentioned problems with the heating and cooling system and the improper maintenance of the bathrooms.

Each candidate promised to explore each issue presented.

After the debate, many students



stated their confusion in deciding the best candidate. Hutchinson supporters were firm in their commitment to her.

"Tonya is the best candidate," duMaine said. "She's the only one who will get the student body riled up enough to give a damn."

Many other constituent mentioned the difficulty in choosing between the two remaining candidates.

"I'm pretty much undecided except that I know I'm not voting for Tonya," junior Rebecca Witte said. "I like the Titlow platform and the O'Keefe platform almost equally. To be frankly honest, Tonya Hutchinson scares me. She's just too extreme."

This is the first time the residence hall has hosted such an event.

"This was a great idea," Kennedy said. "It gave people a good chance to discover the residence halls. I also think the candidates were well prepared and did an excellent job."

Start your engines



Photo: Monica Senecal

Joanna Webb, a Nursing student, goes for a spin in a wheelchair race last week. The event was part of Disabilities Awareness Week.

Global Citizenship award goes to Johnston

by Amy Pierce
associate news editor

Dr. Philip Johnston, president and CEO of CARE, Inc. was presented with the first annual Global Citizenship Award at the Pierre Laclède Honors College Convocation Hall on Wednesday.

Joel Glassman, UM-St. Louis director of the Center for International Studies, opened the evening with a welcome and introduced UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill.

"Planning for this evening's pro-

gram began almost two years ago when Chancellor Blanche Touhill

became chancellor of this university," Glassman said. "At that time, Touhill announced that one of her highest priorities was the internationalization of this University. Her goal has been to transform this institution into an international university that prepares all of our students to meet the global challenges

and opportunities of the 21st century."

The UM-St. Louis Center for International Studies promotes the Internationalization of the curriculum across the campus. The center also supports faculty research in a wide range of disciplines and top-

Touhill presented Johnston with a medallion, congratulating him for his international work.



Philip Johnston

Community samples Debate team's success

by Rob Goedecker
news editor

The UM-St. Louis Forensics and Debate Squad put on an emotional performance for the community last Thursday in the Convocation Hall at the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

The performance night was just a week after the team took fourth place in the biennial Pi Kappa Delta National Convention and Tournament. A total of 86 schools participated in the Tournament, which was held at Louisiana State University.

Before the performance began, the team was presented with proclamations from the Hall of Congress, St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall, and U.S. Congressman Jim Talent (R-Mo.) The team won a total of 148 awards for the 1994-95 year.

Thomas Preston Jr., director of Forensics and Debate, is happy with his team's performance this season.

"This is, overall, the best team I've ever had," Preston said. "I'm really pleased. We've got a great shot at doing well next year."

The evening featured a collection

of speeches which stirred up everything from crying to laughing in the audience. Each speech lasted from 10 to 20 minutes.

Rebecca Witte started off the performance with an oral interpretation speech. Her speech was about the life of a prostitute. In the speech, Witte took on the role of a prostitute. Her stellar performance silenced the crowd.

Overall, Witte had a spectacular season. She won a total of 39 individual awards in tournaments throughout the 1994-95 school year,

which is the most awards won by any UM-St. Louis student. Witte, a junior, said she's pleased with her improvements since her freshman year, but she is always looking to better herself.

"When I was a freshman it was a big deal for me to win one award in a tournament," she said. "It doesn't seem like I've won 39 awards because they're all spread throughout the year. I've really improved a lot, but I know there are a lot of improve-

see Perform, page 4

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MISCELLANEOUS

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MISCELLANEOUS

HISPANIC/LATINO ASSOCIATION
Meeting Monday, April 17th
J.C. Penney Room 75 @ 1 p.m.
Contact Alicia & David Friedrichs
397-5829
Students, faculty and staff are invited

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Contact Alicia Friedrichs

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ALUMNI CENTER SPECIAL EVENT

JOIN us on Secretaries Day April, 26, for high tea. Catered by Cuisine d'Art. Seatings at 1:00-2:30 and 3:00-4:30. \$7.50 per person. Reservations required by 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 21. 516-5722

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Mirth Day • Wednesday, April 26th. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

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Hail to the new editor, SGA chief

by Matthew J. Forsythe
editor-in-chief

There are just a few things I would like to report about last week. It was a week filled with many smaller events that I just can't help but comment on.

A brand new editor is ready to take over the roost at *The Current*. Michael O'Brian has made the same change I did nearly a year ago, jumping from advertising director to editor-in-chief. This might sound funny to hear from the former editor, but I am really looking forward to seeing the paper next year. It will be nice to see a new editor, who is not as conservative as I am, take this paper in a different direction. Michael is the perfect person to do this. Michael, it warms the cockles of my heart to see that all the hard work you have done for the paper will not go unpunished.



I got a call from Pamela White, the student senator and possible student comptroller. She was downright mad at the editorial I had published last week about making student senators more effective. It seems in searching for a transition I had inadvertently slammed White. I had quoted her saying the senators had not discussed organizing in the Senate, but it would be discussed in the future. Of course, like the sensitive, caring guy I am, I wrote, "Discussion is nice, but how about a little action." I would apologize for the way I wrote the editorial, but White was calling me to tell me she had come up with about ten more ideas to make the student senators more effective. Some of these included having four caucuses a year, electing a facilitator, and changing some Student Government Association (SGA) bylaws to promote more communication between the different groups. It seemed that, for once, my whining and complaining actually might have accomplished something simply because there are people like Pamela White out in the world. It is very gratifying to me that my words can be so annoying.

The SGA Presidential Debate, sponsored by the Honors College, was a blast. I was invited to attend as a member of the questioning panel. I enjoyed the debate very much, but I do have to take issue with the behavior of fellow panelist Thompson Knox, the editor of Brain Stew. Unfortunately, we had to wrench the microphone away from Knox a couple of times in order to keep the debate going. In addition, Knox had this annoying habit of stealing all of my best questions. I won't hold it against you, Tom; you are a fellow editor for God sakes, but the next time we are on a panel together—watch out mister!

The four candidates put on quite a show. Tom O'Keefe handled questions smoothly and gave quick and concise answers. Tonya Hutchinson earns points for her sheer bravado—did you hear what she said about the Chancellor? Can she say that?

But I think that Beth Titlow stole the show that particular evening. I am not telling who to vote for; I don't think that is my job as editor-in-chief. I just want to congratulate Beth on a very impressive performance that evening. For those of you who didn't attend, you missed it!

The last thing I want to say is to the person who insinuated that the members of the panel were racist because they only asked Tonya questions concerning race. This person from the audience summed up all of the panelists as "white males" and said we had all trivialized the issue of race by addressing our questions about racism only to Tonya. I just want to let everyone know I never asked Tonya any questions pertaining to race, and I do not appreciate being called a racist. In defense of the other panelist I would like to say that Tonya Hutchinson has set herself up as a lightning rod concerning questions of race. Her whole campaign is based on that issue. Just because the other panelists did not ask the same question to O'Keefe or Titlow doesn't mean they were in any way trivializing the issue. Titlow and O'Keefe were asked questions about their platform in the same way that Tonya was asked questions about her platform. Hate does not have a color, but it rings out loud and clear when it is present in a person's comments.



SGA candidates lack aggressiveness

by Jeremy Rutherford
managing editor

Could someone please tell me who is running for Student Government Association (SGA) president? This is the question those of us who didn't attend the presidential debate are asking.

Let's face it—nearly 14,960 UM-St. Louis students were not present at the debate. So who are we supposed to know who to vote for—or even who's running.

I think that Tom O'Keefe is running because I did see a few signs around campus.

Wait a minute. I think Beth Titlow is running, too. I did the story on her when she announced her campaign. I guess she's still running. If anybody knows the whereabouts of Elizabeth Titlow you are urged to—ask her if she's still in the race.

We have seen Tonya Hutchinson's name in the paper lately—and on local television for that matter—but it has had nothing to do with the upcoming election. Maybe that is her way of campaigning, with action.

Regardless, all three candidates are

doing a poor job of communicating with the students. Here we are the week before the election, and the campus newspaper is having trouble figuring out who's in this darn thing.

Do you know why other students aren't running for president of the SGA?



Hutchinson.

For real—find a job. If it's politics you like, new terms for national candidates are just around the corner; see if they need some help.

UM-St. Louis needs a candidate who can devote some time to this thing.

I think that it's funny because all of the candidates are joining every committee under the sun—the Committee on this, the

Committee on that, the Committee on Keeping the Staircases Polished At All Times, etc.

I think all the candidates are on the 25-member student senator list. Is it just to get your name going in campus conversations, or what is it?

I feel sorry for the candidates that lose because they're going to be sitting in meetings all next semester.

The winner, instead, will drop his or her name from those committees because it did what he or she wanted, in that, it got them elected.

How about more signs?

Obviously, running for the President of the United States and running for SGA president are two different things. I don't expect the candidates to charter a bus and visit each student individually.

But it would be nice to see a crowd gather in the open area of the University Center, with a candidate atop a stage, shouting his or her views and goals.

Won't see it.

I don't know why. Ask the three candidates—if you can find them.

Stop-hour sound off: it's your call

The Current wants to know what you think about the idea of UM-St. Louis not offering class from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. one day out of the week so that students can participate in campus activities.

Proponents of the idea feel that they could then become a part of the decision-making process at the University. They could play a larger role in the Student Government Association and could also attend Senate meetings.

Opponents feel this would conflict with their class schedule and work schedule. These students feel there is ample opportunity already to become a part of an organization, but

they do not have the time.

And yet, some students feel that the time of the suggested stop-hour would be a major conflict. Many students feel that 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is time that could be well spent in the classroom. Students have also commented that they would support the stop-hour if other items were addressed such as more campus activities.

The Current would like to hear from you. Call us at (314) 516-5174 or write us at attn: *The Current*, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., Normandy, Mo., 63121. *The Current* is located at 7940 Natural Bridge Rd., for students who would like to drop off their response.

What do you think?

☐

YES, the stop-hour proposal would be worthwhile.

☐

NO, the stop-hour would be too much of a hassle.

Mark, cut out and mail or return to *The Current*, 8001 Natural Bridge road, Normandy, Mo. 63121. Respond today!

To my staff thank you

Matthew J. Forsythe
editor-in-chief

I hate to say it, but in just one more week I will be stepping down as editor-in-chief. So, taking this in mind I would like to write about the people who have helped make every issue of *The Current* possible—my staff.

Jeremy Rutherford is the hardest working student/reporter/managing editor in St. Louis. I really can't think of another person who could write five sports stories for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, write two stories for *The Current* and then come in and help me with production till the wee hours of Monday morning. Thank you, Jeremy, I couldn't have made it through this year without you.

From sports editor to news editor, Rob Goedecker has been an innovative force at the paper. Never afraid to ask the big questions, Rob will be remembered by all of the staff as a person who is willing to pay the price to bring about improvements. Thank you for your dedication Rob and good luck at Mizzou.

Ever since I have been working at *The Current* I have noticed that features editors are usually creative types who like to work by their own deadlines. Scott Lamar has been giving me trouble with deadlines ever since he became features editor. But, luckily for Scott, he has also given me some very creative pages. Scott, thank you for helping me learn that sometimes being late can improve a page, ...sometimes.

The sports section this year has seen more than its share of changes. The latest change has moved Ken Dunkin up to sports editor, a post he has earned. I have seen Ken over the past few weeks do every aspect of his page—writing, layout and photos—by himself. I am sure he will be able to use this experience to build himself a fine future, good luck, Ken.

Every paper is built out of images. The chief person who we turned this responsibility over to this year was Monica Senecal. Monica has done an excellent job with coping with our last minute requests and putting up with a production system that was at best unpredictable. For all the work and effort to make our photos, thank you, Monica.

I would also like to thank Mitch Land. Mitch came on late in the semester as our copy editor and really helped us clean up our act. For the thousands of errors you caught, Mitch, thank you very, very much.

Our business goddess for this semester was Julie Ball. Whenever I ran into the business office worried about a some kind of letter from student activities, Julie was always there to say, "don't freak out." She kept everything running smoothly this year and did a very good job on the 1995-96 budget. Thank you, Julie.

All hail the next editor-in-chief of *The Current*, Michael O'Brian. Michael was the perfect advertising director. He also has some great plans for the paper. Watch out world here comes a brand new version of *The Current*.

I would also like to thank Dole Othmann, our circulation director, whose years of service at *The Current* came to an end this semester. Thank you and good luck in graduate school Dole.

Of all the decisions I have made this year, I know that appointing Judi Linville as my adviser was the best decision I ever made. Thanks for everything Judi and good luck with this crew next year!

I would also like to thank our associates: Amy Pierce, Julie Pressman, Fernanda Lima, Beth Robinson and Tricia Braucksick. Without their help a lot of the senior staff would have gone crazy.

I wish the staff of this paper the best of luck no matter where their path in life takes them. They have proven to me that they are extraordinary achievers willing to work harder and take on more to benefit many people.

They have my sincerest gratitude for the job they have done these last two semesters.

The CURRENT

Address all correspondence to: *The Current*
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Staff members also include all reporters and correspondents.

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Shooting from page 1

Stewart. He saw the suspect coming through the woods by the MetroLink north station near the Blue Metal Building.

Stewart then advised UM-St. Louis officer Tom McEwen where the suspect was coming from.

"I was able to get behind the Blue Metal Building, where the suspect and I met," McEwen said. "That is when the foot pursuit began."

McEwen said he chased the suspect through the back of the MetroLink station, past the Blue Metal Building, behind garage "H" and up through the back side of the General Service Building, where the

UM-St. Louis police department is located.

At this point, McEwen asked DeGuentz, who was the only other officer available, to help in the pursuit.

"I had some of the front office staff take over on the radio right as the suspect came in front of the building," DeGuentz said. "I was able to bail out of the building and take over the pursuit for Tom. He had already chased him a pretty good distance over some rough terrain."

Both DeGuentz and McEwen continued to chase the suspect to the bottom of the hill near Mark Twain

drive.

At the fence which separates the University and Normandy, they asked the assailant to surrender, but he refused.

"He attempted to go over the fence, which allowed me enough time to close the gap between [us]," DeGuentz said. "At the time I overtook him, he didn't offer any resistance. We were able to cuff him and transport him back over to the station."

Scuffle from page 1

dent started when some uninvited guests tried to get into the Pi Kappa Alpha party taking place that morning.

"Five guys tried to get into the party," Thakur said. "We asked them to leave and they didn't. Then they started pushing and shoving some of our guys, and a fight broke out."

Thakur said the five men were not allowed to enter the party because they did not have college identification cards. As is the case with the

tion."

DeGuentz said that, after the suspect was arrested, there was a helicopter sent in by the St. Louis County police as a precaution in case of any other at-large suspects.

He also said the Bel-Ridge police department sent over a canine unit to help with the search.

Lt. Bob Roeseler, director of Safety Operations at UM-St. Louis, said he was pleased to see the team-

work between the police departments.

"It was a real good cooperative effort between Normandy and the campus police department," he said.

McEwen said without the detailed description and the precise directions given by the Normandy police, the suspect could have simply walked away.

"It was a joint effort," McEwen said. "Without the joint cooperation from all the departments involved,

this guy would have probably never been brought into custody.

"Once he gets on the campus, he looks like any other person."

McEwen said the campus is usually a safe place, and an incident like this one is rare.

"This crime really had nothing to do with the campus," McEwen said. "[The suspect] just happened to run this direction."

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other fraternities on campus, Pi Kappa Alpha does not admit a person to a party without a college I.D.

Thomas characterized the fight in front of the house as "large." Thakur estimated that there were between eight to 10 people involved.

Thomas said that after being struck and injured, Warner then radi-

Perform from page 1

ments that I can make. Hopefully, I can increase that number of 39 next year."

In three years at UM-St. Louis, Witte has won a total of 80 individual awards.

The next speech was a poetry interpretation by Kristin Harter. Her speech was about the importance of holding on to your childhood memories, when the realities of life are knocking on your door.

Harter's speech was followed by a duo interpretation speech performed by Witte and Tim Ennenback. They played the roles of husband and wife in a sad story about problems in mar-

riage brought about by the abuse of alcohol.

This speech was followed by a duo interpretation speech by Ennenback and Jennifer Czarnik. Their performance was about a young couple living together trying to find out if they are ready to commit to marriage. This piece won a national championship for the team.

The next performance was an after dinner speech by Witte. This comical piece was about dating in the 21st century.

Perhaps the most impressive performance of the evening, was the impromptu speech given by Traci

Goldstein.

Goldstein only took :30 seconds to prepare her speech, then went on to give a solid six and a half minute speech about why people think negative and how one can look at things in a more positive light.

Assistant director of Forensics Sherry T. LaBoon said she has a strategy she teaches her students which helps them prepare for an impromptu speech. She requires her students to develop a topoi, which is a 10-page book that requires students to list 10 areas of interest. Whenever the students see or hear things throughout the day that relate to their selected areas of interest, they can write them in their topoi.

"By having developed a topoi, and reviewing it regularly, all these things come to mind," LaBoon said. "Pretty soon they find themselves recalling dates and names of philosophers, which looks really impressive and very credible."

The last performance of the evening was an after dinner speech given by Ennenback. His speech, which won second in the nation, was about deception people encounter in everyday life.

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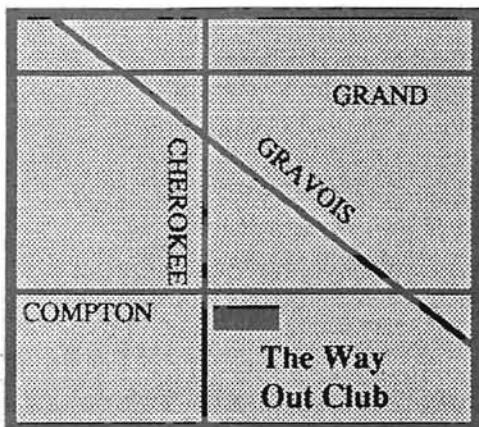
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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Students with Disabilities Awareness Week aims to educate all, honor others

by Scott Lamar
features editor

Students with Disabilities Association held its 15th annual awareness week April 10-14. The schedule of events included several showings of the movie, "Forrest Gump," a wheelchair marathon and an awards banquet honoring faculty, students and staff who have made an extra effort to accommodate the disabled on campus.

Marilyn Ditto, the staff advisor for Students with Disabilities, coordinated the activities. She said the purpose of the event was to make people realize that their good fortune should not be taken for granted because everybody is susceptible to injury.

"Everybody is on a fast pace and they don't stop and think about it (getting hurt)," unless it happens to them," Ditto said. We all could be a few moments from being disabled. Most of the students who are in wheelchairs weren't born in them."

Ditto said that about 15 students use a wheelchair on campus while 180 others need some kind of other accommodation. She noted that many more have problems that are unidentified and they do not seek out assistance.

Devices used to assist the disabled were demonstrated last Wednesday morning. Some of the equipment included computers with speech synthesizers, adaptive keyboards for those with five-finger dexterity problems and voice-activated



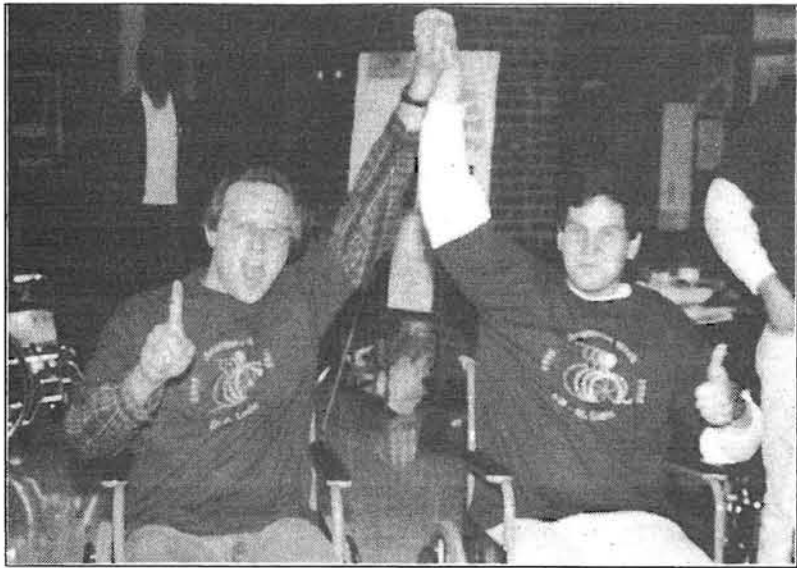
Winner Joanna Webb rolls on her way to a first place finish.

computers.

A wheelchair marathon followed the demonstration. The race has been held every year during the Disability awareness week. Twelve able-bodied

students participated in the race, which lasted about 30 minutes.

"The race is designed to depict the typical day a disabled student in a wheelchair would encounter," Ditto



photos: Monica Senecal



Top: Jeff Laumann and Dave Richards gear up for the race. Bottom: A weary Laumann and Richards rest after the race.

said. "It's like a scavenger hunt. Items used daily by all students must be retrieved at different locations on the campus using the elevators and

wheelchair accessible entrances." Ditto said participants must think up a strategy to see what is the quickest way to get from place to place.

Writers aside: The wheelchair marathon gave me a great deal of insight into how difficult it is to negotiate all of the hills, valleys and construction on campus. I believe an earthworm blew past me on the hill leading to the bookstore. A few other wheelchair racers' feet magically came alive on some of the inclines.

Freshman Joanna Webb took first place in the event and received a trophy for her accomplishment.

"I have a lot greater respect [for the disabled], Webb said. "I'm glad I don't have to do this all the time."

Ditto warned the group of wheelchair amateurs to be careful. "The object is to create awareness, not more disabled people," she said.

For SGA vice-presidential candidate Clint Zweifel, the ride wasn't as smooth as he would have liked. "I almost took a tumble going down a hill to Clark Hall," he said, "my campaign almost ended."

Zweifel added that the race taught him a few things about life in general.

The culminating event for Students with Disabilities week was the 12th Annual Meritorious Awards Ceremony honoring individuals and groups who have shown sensitivity towards disabled students.

Dr. Deborah Dee, commissioner of the Office of the Disabled and UM-St. Louis alumni, spoke about the outstanding improvements the University has made to serve the needs of the disabled.

"When I attended 20 years ago, see Race, page 6

Criminology professor uses burglar's expertise to help write new book

by Dan Holtzer
of The Current staff

Dr. Richard Wright spoke at the J.C. Penney Building Wednesday o, "The Adventures of Street Daddy & the Boss: Doing Research with Active Residential Burglars."

Fortunately, the talk was less tangled than its title. Dr. Wright, an UM-St. Louis Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, spoke of how he was given \$one-third million in grant money to study and speak to burglars who are presently active.

After obtaining the grant, Wright was worried that he would not be able to get any criminals to speak to him. Fortunately, he had a former thief right in his own class: Street Daddy.

Street Daddy had paid a high price for his actions; he is now confined to a wheelchair.

Street Daddy was able to find subjects for Dr. Wright, with the added incentive of \$25 a story. One man's claims seemed so egotistical and unbelievable that Wright asked why this master of crime had spoken to him for \$25?

The man took out his wallet and, without a word, displayed a wad of \$1000 bills. Wright decided this man was the coolest in the world.

But, Wright went on to say, this man was later arrested, not for trying to steal the Hope Diamond, but for impulsively ripping a T-top off a Camaro in broad daylight.

The criminal is usually portrayed as being either a spur of the moment, strung-out-on-heroin type, or a mix of Fred Astaire and Sartre, able to

walk on a ceiling and open a safe with his or her manicured, sandpapered feet — all while giving a lecture on "Being & Nothingness."

Wright's anecdote showed that reality is more complex: the "coolest guy in the world" and the child-like geek can exist in the same body.

Wright also said his research does not agree with the myth of the peaceful burglar as opposed to the violent armed robber; he said that the switch from one crime to another is driven "almost entirely by firearms."

Wright explained that the reason the average burglar is not an armed robber is that he has sold his gun for money. If that has been done, and one still has a "strong emotional need for money," usually linked to drug or alcohol abuse, then burglary is the solution to the problem.

Wright's latest book, which will be coming out soon, is on assault. He said he will not do this kind of research again, as it disturbs him from an ethical standpoint. He said, putting himself in the position of a crime victim, that he could take the idea of social scientists looking at his house after it was burglarized, but the idea of them talking to those who beat and assaulted him would not be so easy to accept.

He has deep personal reasons for his feelings, saying that, after he began his study of assault, his brother was attacked (in an unrelated incident), and suffered brain damage. Understandably, the idea of speak-



Richard Wright

see Burglar, page 6

Current Chatter

by Monica Senecal
photography editor

What was your most embarrassing moment on campus?



Two days in a row I fell up the steps and the same group of people were behind me both days.

Tonya Jones
Special Education
Junior

I sat down in wet grass, and walked around campus all day with a wet butt.

Adam Brenner
Marketing
Senior



I wore a shirt inside out the whole day and no one even noticed.

Wil Chu
General Studies
Senior



I walked out of the candystore, dropped my juice bottle, and just walked away.

Julie Morley
Chemistry
Junior

I was getting on a shuttle and the shuttledoor closed on my hand.

Dorian Williams
Physics
Graduate Student



VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION ISN'T THE PROBLEM



by Scott Lamar
features editor

Crime—it will always be around as long as there are people on earth. Theories as to the cause of crime are numerous and are easily shot down by criminologists.

The theory that violence on TV causes crime was brought up during the keynote address at MCMA's awards banquet that the staff of The Current attended in Kirksville, Mo. The speaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Robert Unger, was adamant about taking shows like COPS, which depict graphic language and scenes of criminals getting caught in the act, off the air. I thought it was very odd that a man of his stature

was telling a room full of journalists that TV is having an adverse affect on children and adolescents.

Unger's belief that kids copy what they see on TV is referred to by criminologists as differential identification.

I am not saying that he is dead wrong, but really, television is the least of our worries. Television entertains and educates. It doesn't give step-by-step details on how to hold up a convenience store.

Crimes are either committed out of temptation, need, ignorance, anger, frustration or some twisted mental state. Sure, watching a television show with violent, graphic scenes may get ones adrenalin pumping and make them angry. But realistically, if that person goes out and commits a crime, then chances are they would

have done it sooner or later anyway.

The popular animated series The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers are also being blamed for violent behavior in children. Do these same critics attribute the rash of murders and robberies that we must see and hear about everyday to the cartoons that were on 15 years ago.

For years during my youth, I would watch Bugs Bunny's pal Daffy get his face blown off by hunters in "duck season." Wile E. Coyote was even more vile. He tried everything to kill the poor Roadrunner. Somehow though, I've managed to restrain myself back from using my ACME tar and feather kit on some unsuspecting sap. How did I ever make it? A strong social structure, that's how. My parents taught me right from wrong and the community I grew up in was sup-

portive and friendly.

It wasn't a utopia though, no place is. I recall when a young couple was murdered down the street from my home by the woman's ex-husband. I think that jealousy, anger and some serious psychological problems were the cause, not a TV show.

Most crimes are committed by young males ages 14-21. They are mostly done by poor kids, but juveniles from affluent backgrounds commit crimes just the same. All adolescents rebel to some degree, but differences lie in the presence of a positive male role model. Teens often will do things just to get attention or to

see Violence, page 6

American Red Cross makes this year's third and final stop at UM-St. Louis

by Julie Pressman
associate features editor

With the help of business fraternity Beta Alpha Psi, the American Red Cross collected lots of life-giving juices at a blood drive in the J.C. Penney building on April 10 and 11.

In the two-day span, approximately 65 people gave away one of their most valuable resources—blood. Their blood will be tested and then used for people in need of this simple but precious resource.

As one volunteer noted, cancer and accident victims as well as people undergoing surgery will use the blood.

"I had a son who died of leukemia several years ago," Red Cross volunteer Rich Hayden said. "I know the need for a steady blood supply."

Members of Beta Alpha Psi manned the entrance tables and scheduled people for blood drawing.

"We wanted to give students and faculty an easier opportunity to give blood," said senior and member of

Beta Alpha Psi, Laura Suetterlin. "We feel that, if they start giving blood now, they will continue to do so in the future."

to eliminate those people who may have contagious diseases.

Following the questionnaire, students must wait several minutes to be

about their personal health history.

The nurse or technician then pricks the possible donor's finger or ear and tests the blood for anemia. If a person is found to be anemic, their blood will be refused. According to one volunteer, only two or three people were turned down for this reason.

If a person is not anemic, they next head to the table to reveal their veins to one of the four nurses and technicians. Each person then gives one pint of blood. The blood drawing time varies from person to person.

Following the blood draw, students are directed to one of several tables. Students then receive high sugar content snacks and soft drinks from one of a few volunteers. Among these volunteers were several members of the St. Ann American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

"I do it because I love helping people," Hayden, who is also a member of the AARP, said.

This was the third blood drive of the 1994-95 school year.



photo: Monica Senecal

UM-St. Louis student Brad Reznick has his ear pricked to test his iron during the blood drive last week.

After students signed up to give blood, they were given a short questionnaire. The questionnaire attempts

assigned to a registered nurse or a technician.

The person is then questioned

Violence from page 5

gain popularity and nobody is there to watch over them. Many poor kids don't care because they feel the opportunities for success don't exist. The only way for them to gain status is to show how tough they are by victimizing someone. Going to jail doesn't deter them, it only makes them more respected among their peers.

Middle and upper-class juveniles may feel that they can't keep up with the changing world around them or that they are above the law because of their parents' status.

One thing remains constant for all offenders and non-offenders—the television shows they watch. TV does little, if anything, to persuade inno-

cent youngsters to commit heinous crimes against people.

Unger stressed that adults need to be more responsible, and he is right. Adults should always know what their kids are up to in school, at home or wherever.

Unger's wrong to blame the television for the violence in society. Crime prevention goes much deeper than cancelling "COPS." It requires building a social structure which supports and nurtures young adults.

A simple first step is to let the young ones watch what they please (except for the skin flicks), make them finish their homework and send them to bed on time so they don't miss school. That's responsibility.

Race from page 5

there was very little physical access in the classrooms," Dee said. "Now, anyone who identifies themselves as disabled can ask for any kind of supportive service that they need."

Ninety-nine awards were handed out to students, faculty and staff. An award for the most accommodating

faculty member went to Cynthia Radding; the most accommodating staff award went to Charles Bradley and the University Bookstore won for outstanding accommodating department. A committee of ten students selected the winners.

Burglar from page 5

ing to criminals specifically about how they brutally altered life is now offensive to Wright.

Wright enjoyed the excitement of field work, but stated that he is not going to do it any more, preferring to spend his days, more peacefully, on campus.

His book on burglars, titled "Burglars On The Job," and co-written by Scott H. Decker is out now in hard-back.

Wright modestly advised his audience that the book is far too expensive and that one should wait for the paperback or go to the library.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

The Verdict: 'Jury Duty' guilty of first degree stupidity

by Scott Lamar
features editor

The very idea that the criminal justice system can be trivialized for the sake of humor and mockery doesn't work. Combine this with bad acting and horrible writing, and viola, you've got a major flop.

Pauly Shore, a.k.a. the weasel, plays Tommy Collins, an unemployed slacker who gets a notice for jury duty. When he hears that jurors are sometimes sequestered for a very long time, he scurries down to the courthouse for the jury selection. Shore does know how to get off a jury if it appears that the trial will be short. Either by shouting "Bob, is that you?" or, "you're gonna fry" during the opening statements, which inspires a chuckle or two. Oddly enough, Collins's little dog, Peanut, gener-

ated more laughs throughout the movie than anyone else. Peanut follows Collins everywhere, but he stops everything when it's time for Jeopardy to come on. Peanut even knows how to work the remote.

Collins manages to bounce from jury to jury until he settles on the Carl Wayne Bishop case. Bishop (Sean Whalen, "Reservoir Dogs") is the alleged drive-thru killer that is dominating the media. The judge expects a very long trial to the delight of Collins.

The proceedings of the trial are unruly, and the participants seem confused as to how to act. Their performances lie between a serious and comical frame of mind. The two attorneys come off as stupid rather than funny. The judge (Abe Vigoda), throws "the book" not at the defendant but out the window. Ignorant to

courtroom etiquette, Collins attempts to romance Monica (Tia Carrera, "Wayne's World"), a fellow juror while a witness is being cross-examined. On top of that, he teases the expert witness and casually joins the judge, prosecutor and public defender for a private session in front of the bench. The dopey looking killer makes a lackadaisical attempt to seem frightening but just makes it clear that he is a full-blown idiot. After days of stalling during deliberations to stay in his luxurious presidential suite, Collins finally sees what two lawyers and 11 other jurors have overlooked—the killer is innocent. The real culprit is, low and behold, Frank, the pessimistic environmentalist on the same jury! Frank's (Stanley Tucci, the killer from "The Pelican Brief") scheme is uncovered by Collins after the trial, the sleuth that he is, while digging through cellophane containers—the one thing Frank despises.

If the movie didn't seem bad enough, the lame ending clinches it. Staring death in the face, Collins and Monica must rely on Peanut to save them. If only Final Jeopardy could have lasted longer.

For the most part, "Jury Duty" tries too hard to make you laugh. The Weez seems to be out of sync with a plot that isn't for him. His "hey buuuuhdy" brand of humor doesn't fit in with this movie as well as it did in "Son-in-Law."

If you are looking for some laughs, look somewhere else because this one is void of anything humorous. "Jury Duty" is guilty of being stupid.



Tom Wilkinson and Linus Roache in 'Priest'

'Priest' a gripping tale of faith and desire

by Scott Lamar
features editor

"Priest" takes a provocative look at the problems facing priests with the rules and guidelines set by the Catholic Church.

Father Greg Pilkington (Linus Roache) comes to a poor Liverpool parish and finds turbulence between his own morals and the Church's doctrines, which he is compelled to adhere to. Greg must deal with topics that the Catholic Church would rather forget about—homosexuality and incest.

Father Greg befriends a priest, Father Matthew Thomas (Tom Wilkinson), though he disagrees with him on several philosophical issues. Right off the bat, they find that their ideologies differ. Matthew preaches that the rules of the church can be bent in certain situations. Father Greg believes that the rules of the church should strictly be followed.

However, Father Greg must battle his own conscience as he tries to hide his own homosexuality from his pulpit. In a gripping moment, Greg's lover, Graham, comes to the church and tries to accept communion but he is turned away by Father Greg.

He also must decide what's right when a young girl named Lisa confesses to him that she is being abused by her father.

His own torment causes him to lose faith in the church, which has laid down the rules and guidelines that he begins to question. When Lisa's mother catches her father molesting her, she confronts Greg, who can say nothing for himself.

In one last poignant moment, Greg, who has seemingly committed a grave sin, is embraced by Lisa, who has been a victim to the ugliest of sins. What Father Greg learns is that nobody is qualified to judge others. He also finds that the denial of his desires is too hard to resist.

This movie is nothing short of powerful. I believe that it will strike a nerve with people of all faiths and those with none at all.

Unfortunately, some Catholics may find the subject matter offensive in the way priests are portrayed. The image of a Catholic priest, which is already tarnished, may be damaged further in the eyes of some.

"Priests" magnificently shows the human side of men who take an oath of celibacy. However, its graphic nature may shock many with a conservative outlook on the world (some people in attendance left early during a homosexual love scene). The scenes between the male lovers were done tastefully, but it may bring out a reaction of shock, and possibly, disgust.

I highly recommend this movie. It teaches you something about the nature of people in an institution that is slow to accept change. I believe that it suggests to people that the answers to life's mysteries should come from within, not from another person or power.



Tommy Collins (Pauly Shore) and his dog Gizmo

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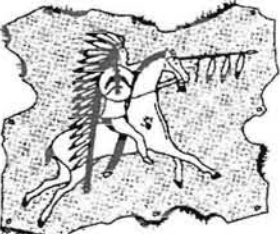
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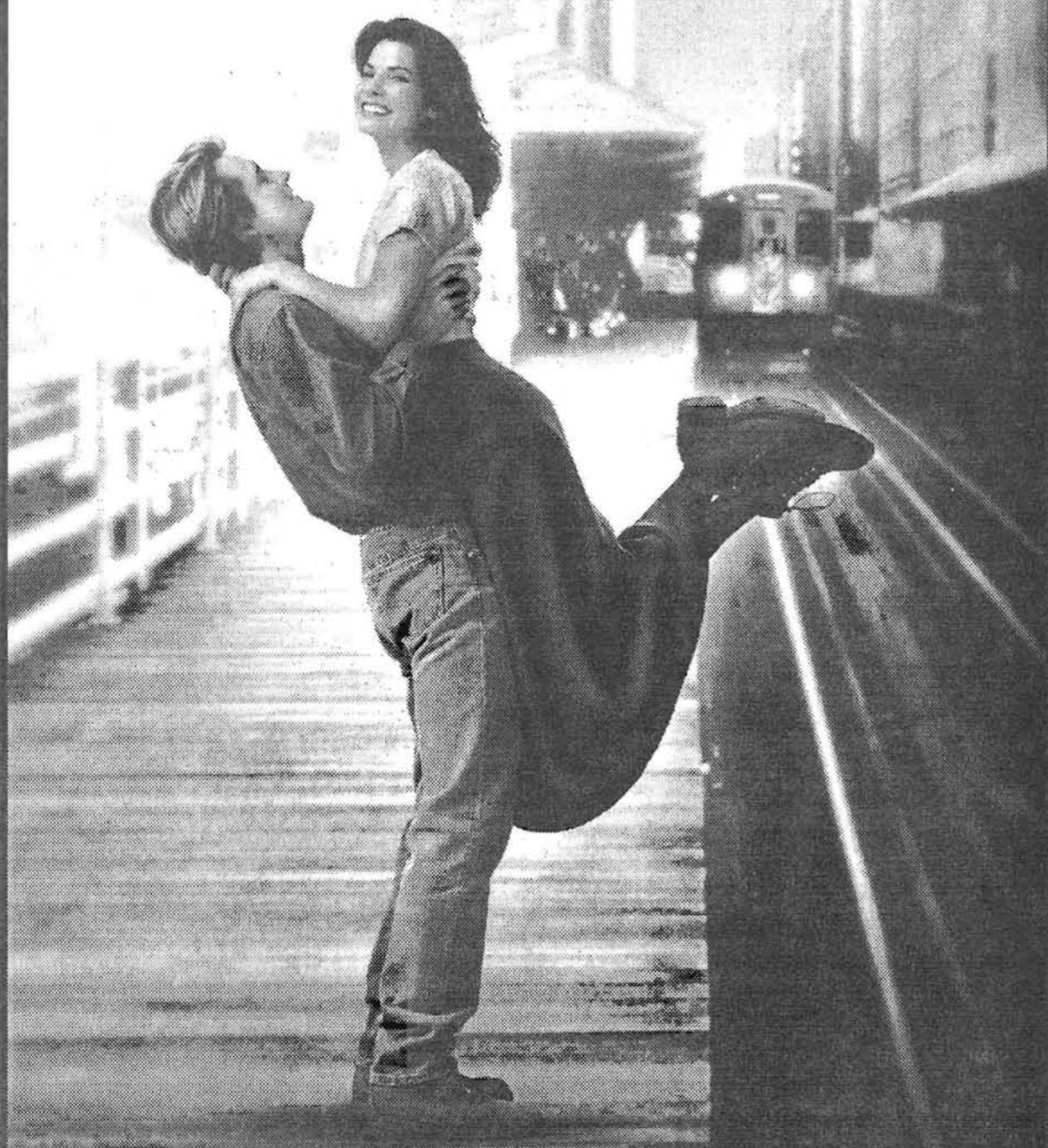
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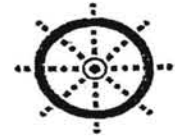
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Off the wall



by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

Isn't it funny, folks, how much a sport's personality's popularity can change in an instant? Take for example the St. Louis Blues franchise player Brett Hull. Hull, perhaps the greatest Blue in history, went through hell last summer for downing coach-to-be Mike Keenen.

Hull has been known, since his trade to the Blues, to speak his mind with the press. He has always said what's on his mind even if it gets him in trouble. The media has made him a hero as a result. The fans embraced the Golden Brett. He was racking up goals like his legendary father. He topped off at 84 goals, which led the National Hockey League.

Hull then began to "slump" as many fans called it even though he was still scoring over 50 goals with consistency. He didn't have a regular center after his favorite passer Adam Oates was traded to Boston, and the team wasn't good. Head coach Bob Berry was fired at the end of last season, and the Blues hired defending Stanley Cup coach Keenen to help get the Blues farther than a first-round elimination.

The fans quickly embraced the hard nosed Keenen even though his track record of player problems and scandals has been horrible. He expects each player to bust his ass, which means hard checking and tough defense, even if that isn't the player's style.

Hull has been a one-dimensional player his entire career. His job has been to score goals, and he's been one of the best in the league at his job. Hull talked with the media about his thoughts of playing under Keenen. He didn't really know how "Iron Mike" would make him play and whether or not he could adjust.

The national media released the story, and the fans went crazy. How dare Hull question Keenen's hiring? Hull was made a villain by the media, and as a result, the fans called for Hull to be traded. The trade rumors ranged from giving Hull to the Kings for two mediocre players (Rob Blake and Tony Granato), to Hull for a bag of sticks and a puck to the Alaskan Buttmunches.

Fast forward to the present--Hull still bucks all authority, rebelling against Keenen and the league. Yet the fans embrace Hull as the hero. He is a prime candidate for the MVP trophy, as he ranks very high in the league leaders in goals scored and overall points.

Hull has conformed somewhat to Keenen's style, and the fair-weather fans have quickly jumped back on the Hull bandwagon. They claim that Hull is the leader of the team. True Hull fans would have told you that all along; he leads by scoring goals. He did a fine job of leading by example against Detroit last Sunday. He scored four goals against the Red Wings, the toughest team in the league to score against.

Many say Keenen is going to bring our fabled St. Louis its first Stanley Cup. I say all the team needed was a little discipline and some hard workers. Guys like Tony Hrkac and Philippe Bozon played with no heart often letting opponents run all over them, they were replaced by grinders like Greg Gilbert and Glen

see Hull, page 10

Rivermen clinch second place in division

UM-St. Louis goes ape over Gorillas; team takes 3 of 4 from Pittsburg State

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The Rivermen clinched a second place finish in the South division of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association with a 7-6 victory over Pittsburg State last weekend.

The first game lasted 14 innings. With two outs Ryan Reeves came through in the bottom of the 14th ripping a game-winning single that drove in John Riva.

"It was a game that was well played on both sides," said Rivermen head coach Jim Brady. "It really said a lot about the heart of this team. They never say die. It was a very draining game. We were within a pitch of losing many times, and we came back."

In the second game, the Rivermen hit without authority. They only had three hits and two walks in the seven inning game. Dave Shanahan led the Rivermen with two hits including a double, but it wasn't enough. The team lost 5-2.

"We came back in the second game and didn't jump on them in the beginning," said Reid Hensley. "We let them get back into [the game]. We sort of lay down and let them have the second game."

The first game on Saturday was a

pitcher's nightmare. Both teams combined for 35 hits and 39 runs. The Rivermen won the game 23-16.

"It was boring," said Reid. "Everybody was hitting the ball really well. If you were a pitcher, you didn't want to get in there."

The Rivermen tied a school record with four home runs in a game. Dan Chinnici, Josh Banks, Mark Peterson and Casey Hensley each had homers. Peterson's homer was a grand slam that helped shut the door on the Gorillas. Casey's was a rocket to right field that was estimated by many to have traveled over 400 feet.

"I was struggling a little," Casey said. "The pitcher fell behind in the count, and I knew he was going to come at me with something."

Casey and Peterson led the Rivermen with five RBIs each. Starting pitcher Jason Fischer won the game despite allowing seven earned runs in six innings.

The final game of the weekend saw Dan Archer dominate the Gorillas. Archer threw seven innings striking out six. He allowed five hits and no walks.

"It's as well pitched a game as I have ever seen on this field," Brady said. "He was not only in command, but he was dominating. It really gave us a lift, because our bullpen was



photo: Fernanda Lima
Ken Howes (left) and John Riva (right) wait for teammate Mike Atkinson (center) to cross the plate earlier this season.

somewhat exhausted. It was a dominating performance."

The Rivermen won 5-0. The victory pushed the Rivermen record to 28-11. They will host the first round

MIAA tournament this weekend.

"You're never satisfied until you have complete dominance," Casey said. "We showed we were the superior team."

Playoffs start here

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

The first round of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association will be held at UM-St. Louis with the UM-St. Louis Rivermen bidding for a victory.

The Rivermen hold the second seed in the South division; they will play the third seed from the North. They will play a best of three series to decide who goes to the next round.

"We wanted to get first, but obviously we will be happy with second," Ryan Reeves said. "We get home field next week. It is important to play at home and get the fans behind you."

The players feel that the home field advantage will help the team drastically. They have dominated their opponents when they have had the homefield advantage.

"We're going to benefit greatly from playing at home," Rob Rogers said. "We have only lost one game."

Brady said that the three possible starters for the series were Trevor Wolfe, Dan Archer and Jason Fischer. Wolfe, the teams ace, will start the first game. The three have proven that they deserve to get the ball in clutch situations

"We are coming around big at play-off time," Casey Hensley said.

see Home, page 10

Softball team struggles; can it rise again? Christ may be key

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen softball team has been busy playing three double headers in the last two weeks.

Central Missouri State 9-2, U.M. St. Louis 1-1

First up on Friday was Central Missouri State in Warrensburg, and they weren't very good hosts to the Riverwomen winning the first game: 9-1 in six innings. Stockdale was on the mound for the Riverwomen, but it wasn't her day. Central knocked her all over the field. The Riverwomen accepted their loss and moved on to game two for revenge.

In game two, Vicki Tepen started the game for the Riverwomen.

"Vicki was fantastic," said head coach Kristi Toppins. "She had her control down and did an excellent job for us. She couldn't have pitched any better."

The Riverwomen were up by one run going into the seventh, but a few

bad breaks led two Central runners to score. The final for the second game was 2-1. Close to respectable, but the team knew they had to focus on getting to their next destination: Missouri Southern.

Missouri Southern 8-5, U.M. St. Louis 6-0

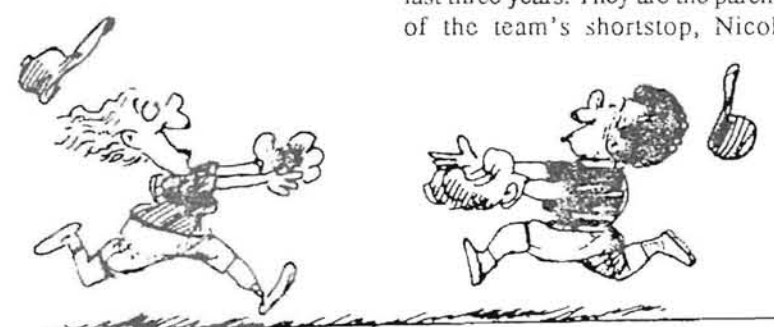
The game Saturday, down in Joplin, was a bit disheartening at first. At the end of three, the scoreboard read 3-0, and, unfortunately, the goose egg belonged to the Riverwomen. But just when they thought it couldn't get worse, it did. Central ran the score up to 8, but the game wasn't near over. Center fielder Tracy Kitrel scored on a squeeze play, and that's when the bats came alive. It wasn't enough to cut the lead, and the Riverwomen lost 8-6.

"It was a valiant effort on our part," Toppins said. "After yesterday's games, I wasn't sure how much the girls had in them. There were no errors up until the last inning. Our fielding kicked butt, and to come

back from a deficit of eight against a team of this caliber really deserves recognition."

Kitrel played great defense snagging several hits that should have dropped in for hits.

"The problem at the end wasn't



that we didn't hit the ball, we hit the ball fine. We just hit it to the wrong places on the field," Rathbun said. "The fact that they made some real good defensive plays didn't help us a whole lot either."

The Riverwomen didn't get any

see Softball, page 10

by Eric Thomas
of The Current staff

Riverwomen Softball Coach Kristi Toppins thanks Paul and Catja Christ almost daily for their contribution to the Riverwomen team these last three years. They are the parents of the team's shortstop, Nicole

Christ.

Christ is a 21-year-old criminal justice junior who is here at UM-St. Louis on a softball/basketball scholarship. She hails from St. Charles and grew up with an older sister, Kim, and one terrier spaniel, Sadie.

Christ graduated from Duchesne High in 1991. During her distinguished high school career, Christ played point guard in basketball and short stop in softball. She admits to being a total sports freak from an early age, and she even likes to fish. Baiting the hook is not a problem, but she hates to take the fish off the hook. In her formative years, the TV had a mysterious magnetic power about it when a game was on, unless, she says, "it's golf."

Christ is taking 12 credit hours this semester, and that, combined with daily practices from 1 to 4 p.m., keeps her pretty busy.

"When I get home, I just want to relax, and take it easy, and hang with my friends and do anything," says Christ. "I hardly have any free time."

The last time Christ says she had a total blast was down in Pensacola, Fla., during spring break. The team was in a tournament down there, and Christ just "had a blast."

"There were 25 games played, and we went 19-4. That was one of the greatest times ever. Everyone got along great and had such a great time, especially when we were pouring water and picking on Kocis." Christ is referring to freshman pitcher and designated hitter Nicole (gosh, there's a lot of them on this team) Kocis.

Christ lives alone at Lucas and Hunt apartments, but floats around between her parent's and friends' houses. This summer her plans are to

play a lot of ball, swim, and work at Sno Train snow cone stand on highway 94 at Hawk's Nest Plaza in St. Charles. Her favorite teams were hard to define, but she is dead-set against Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks. On the other hand, Michael Jordan is the man, and she's tickled pink that he's out of retirement and on the court again. She digs the Blues, and on the mention of football, the Miami Dolphins were number one in her book.

She says a full-size Chevy Blazer, hunter green with tan interior, would do just fine for a dream vehicle. It was about this time during my chat with her outside the batting cages that one of the Rivermen baseball players uttered, "Nikki Christ is God." It made me wonder...

Now whether or not Nikki is the Messiah is irrelevant at this time. But what is relevant and obvious is her total commitment to the welfare of the team.

"The team is the most solid one I've seen to date," Christ said. "We're very productive and determined."

One might wonder why Christ sports the Robo-Cop leg brace during the games. She had a collision with first basemen D.J. Martin on the basketball court and tore her anterior cruciate ligament. This, as we all might guess, was rather painful and required surgery. This didn't put a

see Christ, page 10

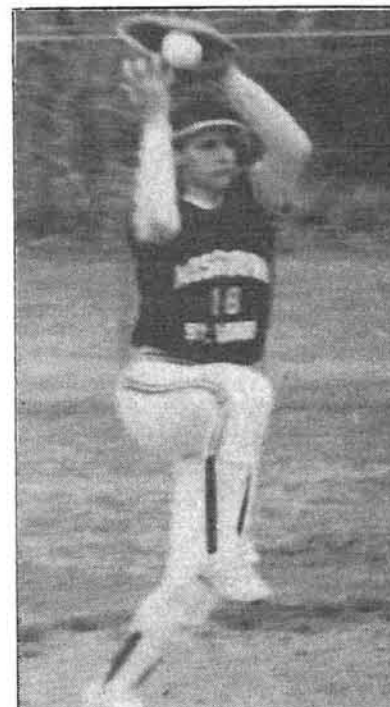


photo: Ken Dunkin

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen shortstop Nichole Christ leaps to make a catch.

Coaches Corner

Featuring
Kristi Toppins

Interim softball head coach



by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

Birthplace: St. Louis MO.
College: UM-St. Louis.

Favorite college memory:

When we went to the national tournament my sophomore year. After riding on vans all year, we got to ride on planes paid for by the NCAA. We stayed in nice hotels. You are treated like your team means something.

One thing I can't stand: A lazy athlete. If you're going to play ball at the college level, being lazy won't help you at all. It really bothers me when an athlete comes out of high school and thinks, because they were good in high school, they will be good in college.

People who knew me in college would say: I like to have fun but I'm really conservative.

Hobbies: Softball, it is my life. Any extra time I have goes to softball. I'll play until I can't walk anymore.

What I am reading now: Nothing. I have too much paperwork with softball to be reading anything.

Greatest game I have ever coached: It was our 15 inning victory over Pitt. State. To see our girls want to win just as bad as I did. They kept going at it. They were going even harder in the 15th than they were in the first. They were nationally ranked, and we won 6-0. We had never beaten them.

Most disappointing game: The loss to Lincoln. I don't think, in the years I have played and coached here, we have ever lost to

Lincoln. We beat them 14-1 in the first game and then lost 1-0.

Favorite sport (other than softball): Swimming, when I was little I swam a lot. It then came to a point where I had to choose softball or swimming. Swimming took a lot more time to practice at the level I was getting at.

Favorite athlete: Andre Agasssi, I love to watch him play tennis. He is a showman and is entertaining. Some of the shots he pulls off are amazing.

Favorite movie: Anything with Sylvester Stallone or John Claude Van Damme in them. Even though they are awful movies I love them. Their acting may not be the best, but they are fun to watch.

Favorite restaurant: Casa Gallardo or Pasta House.

Favorite fast-food: Taco Bell.

Softball from page 9

better in game two, they were shut out 5-0.

Pittsburg State 0-5, U.M. St. Louis 6-1

On Sunday April 9, the Riverwomen were counting on Jill Stockdale.

"Jill told me, 'I want it. I want it bad... let me at her,' so I let her go," Toppins said. "She seemed determined to redeem herself and assure the team a road victory."

"Jill was just totally psyched before the game," said Martin. "I hadn't seen her that fired up in a long time."

In the first two innings, she sent five batters back to the dugout with

K's.

"That was really hard and an accomplishment because this team had some really dangerous hitters," said Stockdale.

The Riverwomen stood their ground, and the score remained 0-0 until the top of the 15th when Martin decided that she'd had enough.

"I've kinda been in a slump lately, so I was really glad to have made contact with the ball and get on base," she said.

Martin didn't just make contact, she got the six-run inning started with a lead-off double to right-center field. Audrey Kramme laid down a

picture-perfect bunt to advance Martin. After an infield error, there was runners at the corners, with nobody out.

Julie Schwartz got the first RBI of the game by smacking in Martin. The entire lineup got a chance at the plate that inning. Tracy Kitrel, Nikki Christ, Nicki Kocis, Kramme, and Nicole Barret all scored for the Riverwomen.

The girls held on to win the game 6-0.

Game two was a little different than it's predecessor. Diana Mooney got the call from skipper Toppins, mainly because she "throws hard,

keeps the ball down, thus the only hits are grounders to the infield."

Mooney got 2 1/3 innings under her belt before Vicki Tepen, stepped up to take care of business on the mound. The Riverwomen found themselves playing catch-up again. They lost the game by four runs.

The Riverwomen played in the Iowa Tournament last weekend, which the girls have mixed emotions about playing in.

"The field is indoors, and it's real hot," Rathbun said. "The field is astro-turf, so it hurts to slide. I'm gonna miss that dirt too. Not to mention the whole Easter thing that I'm

going to miss. But the home-run walls are short, so we're going up there to take no prisoners."

Home from page 9

"Our pitchers are getting stronger, and the hitters get better game to game. I'm very optimistic [about the tournament]."

"We all have worked our butts off. When play-off time rolls around the weaker teams go away and the better teams stick around. I think we are one of the better teams. I think we are the best team out there."

Christ from page 9

dampener on her sports career here at U.M.-St. Louis though, and she's recovered and says she feels 100 percent when running.

Christ's theme is "roll with the punches, and don't stop." She sees a great deal of potential for this year's team, as long as they don't beat themselves too bad for their mistakes.

"We have a lot of depth that I haven't seen before, and we can use that depth to take us places in the ranking."

Hull from page 9

who can play their style under any coach.

Soon the play-offs will arrive, and we will all find out if this guy Keenen is for real or not.

One thing is for sure, Hull has brought this organization back from the dead when fan support was low and the team's income was low. He saved this team from The Blues and the fans need to remember that before thinking about getting rid of the greatest Blues player ever.

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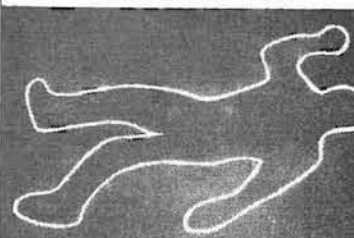
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Support Research

New editor-in-chief wants to listen to students

by Matthew J. Forsythe
editor-in-chief

The new editor-in-chief for *The Current*, Michael O'Brian, hopes to put out a paper next year that will boost readership and increase student responsiveness on campus.

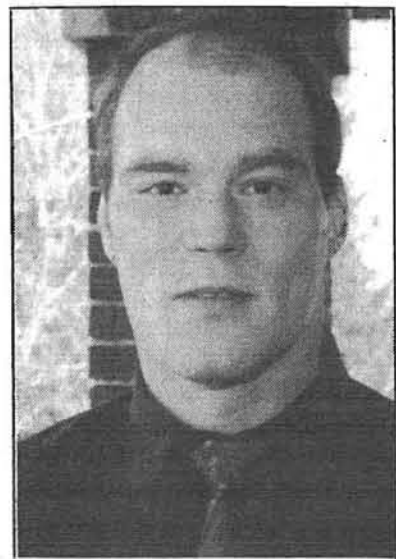
O'Brian, who ran unopposed for the position, received a recommendation from the 1994-95 staff and was recently approved by the Senate Committee on Student Publications.

Strangely enough, a love of poetry was what lead O'Brian to *The Current*. In 1993 O'Brian was attending Forest Park Community College and doing open mikes. His involvement in the poetry scene at Forest Park led him to find out about other publications on campus. The journey to *The Current* included a stop at The Scene, the student newspaper at Forest Park. O'Brian became The Scene's arts editor. Kathy Dunlop, the chairwoman of the communications department and an instructor at Forest Park, was credited by O'Brian with getting him "charged" about local publications.

In Winter semester 1994, O'Brian started attending UM-St. Louis and dropped by *The Current* to check out his options. Then Editor-in-Chief Russell Korando hired O'Brian almost immediately as features associate.

O'Brian found out that working at *The Current* was a little bit different.

"I was very surprised people even got paid to work at a college paper," O'Brian said.



Michael O'Brian

At the end of that semester, O'Brian applied for and was appointed advertising director for the 1994-95 school year. He said that his experience in advertising helped him understand the business side of the paper.

If O'Brian's wishes come true, the paper put out next year will be entirely different from the paper put out this year.

"There are many different areas I would like to change," O'Brian said. "But the biggest change that I am going to make is the production system."

Presently, *The Current* uses page editors in the Features, News and Sports sections to perform most of the writing and all of the layout in all three sections. O'Brian plans to split up the writing and the layout work.

"I want to decrease the work load of [page editors]," O'Brian said. "I believe splitting up writing and production will give people more hours to work [on their assigned tasks]."

He also believes this system will help the staff with their G.P.A. scores and reduce the number of typographical and grammatical errors in copy.

O'Brian also said the general appearance of the paper could be redesigned to catch more readers.

"I really want the paper to explode off the rack, design-wise," he said. "I want to turn those part-time readers into full-time readers."

O'Brian said the way to do this is to get out and listen to the students.

"I am curious about what the students think about higher tuition and student services," he said. "We need to cut to the chase and get to the cream of the stories. The only way to do that is to get out and talk to the 13,000 students on this campus."

Current newswire

Speaker Series on Business and Environment

The UM-St. Louis Center for Science and Technology will sponsor a free speaker series, "What's This Business About the Environment?," on ways the economy and society are changing to achieve better balance between business and concerns about our impact on the environment. The first presentation will be at 5:30 p.m., April 18, at the World Trade Center St. Louis, 121 South Meramec in Clayton. Christopher Amos, chairman of the St. Louis Clean Cities Campaign, and Andrew J. Polcyn, director of client services and senior air pollution control specialist, Foth & Van Dyke, will speak. For information, call 516-5322.

African American Alumni to Hold Reception

The African American Chapter of the Alumni Association will hold a reception at 6:30 p.m., April 21, at the Alumni Center. The featured

speaker will be Harry K. Ratliff of Merrill Lynch. For information, call 516-5789.

Rosenfeld to Speak on Homicide Patterns

Richard Rosenfeld, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, will speak at 7 p.m., April 20, at the Missouri Historical Society's Library and Collections Center, 225 South Skinker Blvd., on "Changes In St. Louis Homicide Pattern, 1960-1992."

Program on Classroom, Campus Violence

UM-St. Louis Police Officer Gary Clark will present a program to help future teachers learn how to deter and deal with violence in their classrooms and on campus at 6 p.m., April 20, in the Marillac Hall Auditorium. The program, sponsored by the Student Missouri State Teachers Association, is open to the campus community. For information, call Mary O'Hara at 426-0013.

Global from page 1

Rwandans.

"I am very please to accept this award," Johnston said to Touhill. "It is not very often that one is speechless."

"My life with CARE and working internationally has been great," he said. "I'd do it all over again for 32 years without pay. It is not monetary, it's psychic. I accept my gratitude."

The medallion was designed through a contest by UM-St. Louis art students. A \$1,000 award was also presented.

'My life with CARE and working internationally has been great. I'd do it all over again for 32 years without pay. It is not monetary, it's psychic.'

**- Philip Johnston,
Global Citizenship award winner**

Johnston conclude the evening with an informal speech about refugees and how to get involved. He later spoke about sustainable and unsustainable development. Finally he answered question from the audience.

The Women's Center Presents

Lesbian Health Issues

Sharon Meyers, resident physician at Deaconess Medical Center, discusses medical issues and her project with the American College of Physicians, which will give free health screenings at the end of April 1995.

Wednesday, April 26, 1995 12:00PM-1:00 PM

211 Clark Hall

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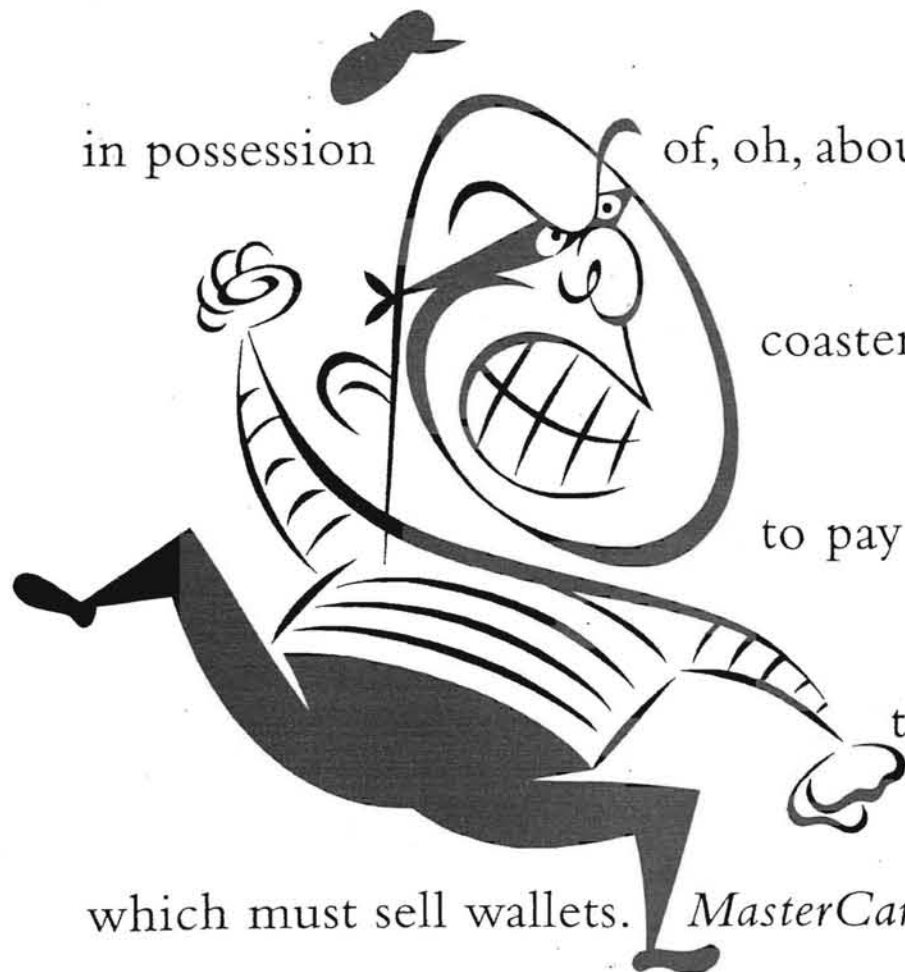
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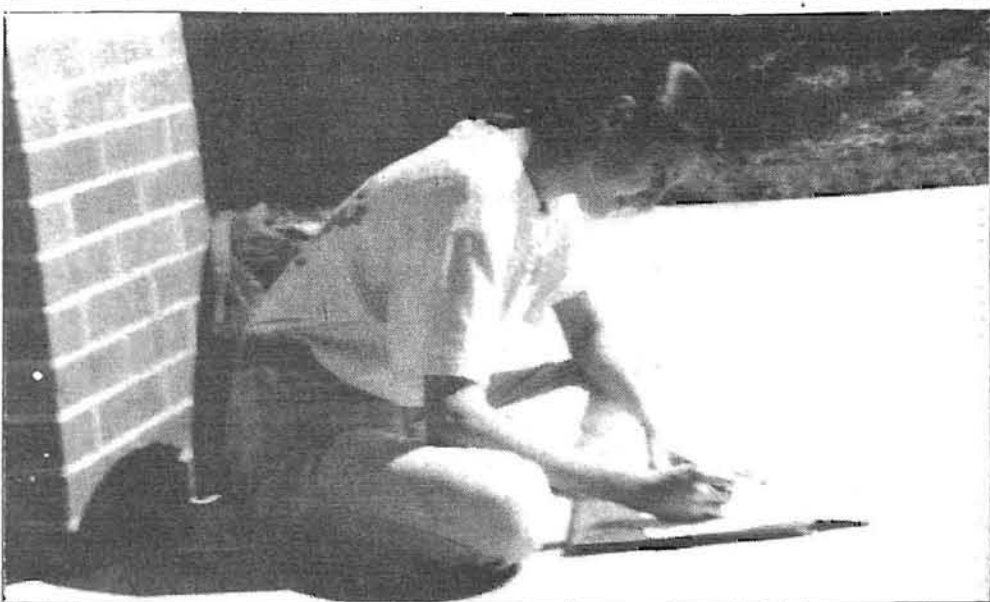
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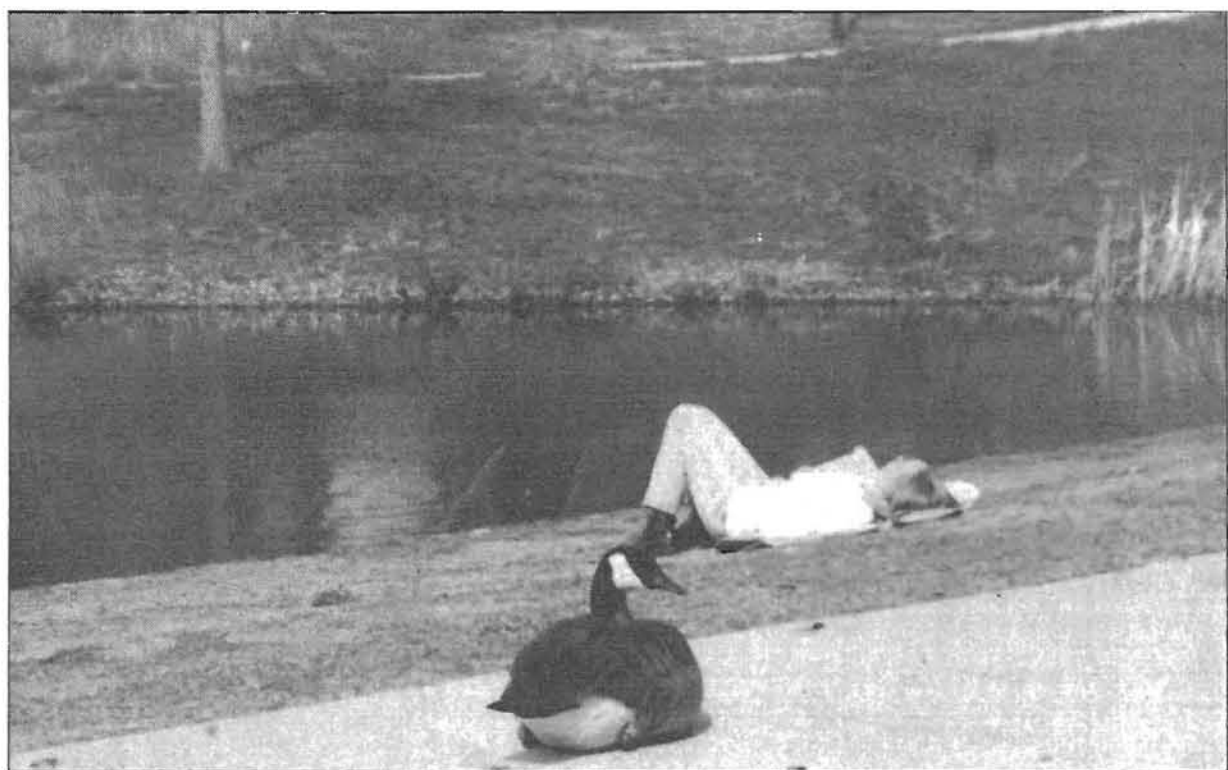


The new University Meadows is springing up before students' very eyes. The apartments are expected to open in August of 1995.

UMSL student Zareena Safdar discovers that Spring studying is more effective if done outside.



Spring Is In The Air at UM-St. Louis . . .



The ducks of UMSL are getting ready to fight for their turf as more students like Dawn Nye discover their lovely Spring spot.



Susan Vaughn, Tom Sullivan, Antoinette Gerbin, and Don Barnes take advantage of the spring atmosphere and do some serious bonding between classes.

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