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# Current, February 10, 1997

University of Missouri-St. Louis

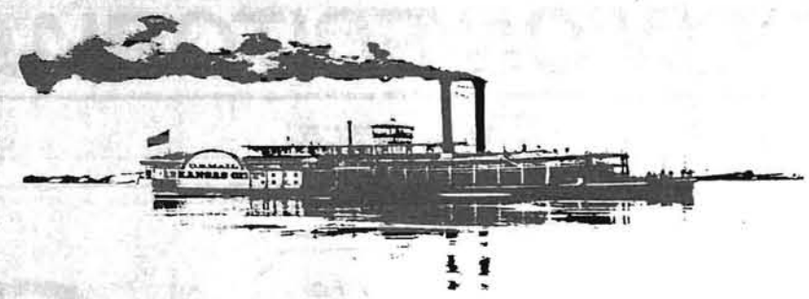
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Author Abenia Busia discusses multicultural issues. See page 4.



Ladies' basketball takes a loss at St. Joseph's. See page 5.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

# The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

*Issue 879* | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI–ST. LOUIS | *February 10, 1997*

## Harvard professor delivers civil rights address

**by David Baugher**
of *The Current* staff

According to Christopher Edley Jr., who spoke to a racially diverse crowd of about 100 people in the J.C. Penney Auditorium Monday night, common values and common experiences are the keys to racial understanding.

Edley delivered his remarks during the two-hour presentation titled, "Civil Rights & African-Americans: A Reappraisal".

The program, which included a performance by the UM-St. Louis Symphonic Band, was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity in honor of African-American History Month.

Co-sponsors included the University Program Board, the Black Faculty & Staff Association, the Women's Center and the Music Department. The evening's events were emceed by KTVI-TV's Bonita Cornute.

African-American History Month was originally introduced in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as a week-long celebration of African-American achievement. The observance was expanded to a month in 1976.

Edley, a Harvard Law School professor and former official in the Clinton and Carter administrations, urged a return to the "selflessness that makes us look beyond ourselves and our immediate families" and expressed anxiety over the future of the civil rights movement.

"My deepest concern is that the generation younger than mine seems often to feel that progress is impossible, and therefore there's no point in struggling to bring about change," Edley said. "One of the things that those who would be leaders today must do is teach my generation and the younger generation that progress requires struggle and is possible."

Edley stressed education's role in the process, saying that universities should be "thoroughly engaged" in improving the areas they serve by producing "participants in history" rather than observers.

"For an educational institution, I think that means looking beyond the boundaries of the university to see how they can be a part of the larger community," he said.

Edley discouraged the idea of

*see Edley, page 8*

***The Empire Strikes Back (at the snow)***

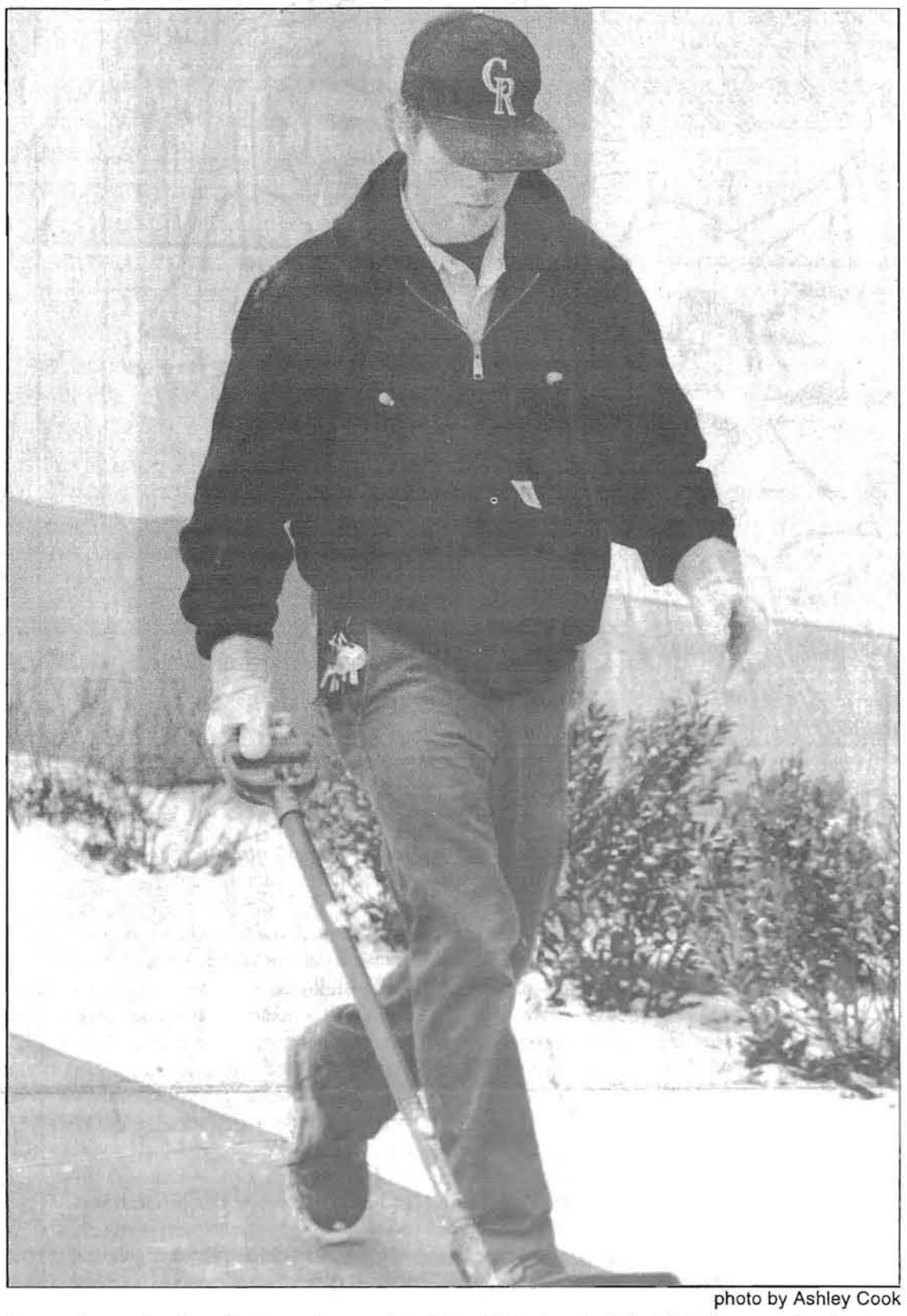


photo by Ashley Cook

**Grounds worker Lee Gutman keeps the sidewalk in front of the TeleCommunity Center snow-free and safe for pedestrians.**

## Absent(ee) minded

*Compulsory attendance policies have become standard practice for profs*

**by Bill Rolfes**
news associate

It's 8 a.m., maybe earlier. Your alarm just went off for the second time and you ask yourself, "Do I really want to go to class? It's no one's decision but my own, right?"

Wrong.

Many students do not like the mandatory attendance policies implemented by some professors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mandatory attendance policies usually allow a student to miss only a set number of classes without being penalized.

Not every instructor has a mandatory attendance policy. Terrance Jones, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the University has no universal policy regarding mandatory attendance. He said attendance policies are at the discretion of the individual instructor, and the instructor is required to notify students in the class syllabus.

"The chairperson of a department cannot mandate the policy," Jones said. "It might look like it is a department policy because some instructors might get together and all decide to have the same policy."

Kevin Kemper, a sophomore majoring in engineering, said the policies are good because they keep students going to class. Kemper said the down-side to an attendance policy is that it could make a difference between an A and a B.

"Personally, it's no big deal because I don't have any problem coming to class," Kemper said. "But, if I couldn't make it because of personal commitments or an emergency, I wouldn't want my grade to reflect that."

Van Reidhead, anthropology chairperson, said he uses mandatory attendance policies. Reidhead said the policies give students an incentive to attend class. "It's a negative incentive," he added, "but it's an incentive."

Reidhead said students who show up to class "definitely do better." He said he noticed students who skip usually perform poorly on exams.

James Oerding, an English major, said he doesn't think students should be penalized for missing class.

"College students are adults," Oerding said. "We should be treated like it. I feel mandatory attendance is good for incoming freshmen, but it's our money, and we're paying it. It's up to us if we want to come to class."

According to Michael Murray, communications chairperson, some classes are too big to take attendance. He said he does not take attendance because some of his classes have about 100 students. Instead, he gives current-event quizzes frequently; the student need to attend class to get quiz points.

"I have found a great deal of success in giving the quizzes," Murray said.

Sally Ebest, of the English department contends that attendance and participation are necessary for writing classes to operate correctly. Students in her classes do a lot of in-class workshopping, where students read and critique each other's papers.

"Most classes have permanent groups," Ebest said. "If someone doesn't show up, the group dynam

*see Attedance, page*

## Search for financial aid could lead to scholarship scam

**by Bill Rolfes**
news associate

Little old ladies aren't the only target of scam artists looking to line their pockets with cash.

According to Anthony George, director of Financial Aid, students should be wary of scholarship-search services that may be looking to make a quick buck.

"There isn't a year that goes by that I don't see a family get ripped off," Georges said.

Many services are legitimate, however. A scholarship-search service is a company that compares the student with a database of scholarship programs to see which scholarship a student is eligible to receive.

Some scholarship search services cost over $100, and some are free, such as at a library or a university. "If you do a little bit of research," Georges said, "you can do this yourself without spending hundreds of dollars."

Students can run their own searches by using a scholarship database on the internet. The "Financial Aid Information Page" (http://www.finaid.org/) provides five free databases on the World Wide Web. These include: SRN Express, ExPAN Scholarship Search, CollegeNET MACH 25, fastWEB (Financial Aid Search Through the WEB) and fastWEB Canada.

A good database for students to

*see Scams, page 8*

### Scam Spotting

*Scholarship scam artists can be difficult to spot and dangerous (not to mention expensive) to do business with. Some, but not all, use common lines and phrases.*

**• The scholarship is guaranteed, or your money back."**
**• "You can't get this information anywhere else."**
**• "May I have your credit card or bank account number?"**
**• "We'll do all the work for you."**
**• "The scholarship will cost some money."**
**• "You've been selected" by a 'national foundation' or "You're a finalist" in a contest you have never entered.**

*—Compiled by Bill Rolfes*

### Inside

*Managing Editor Doug Harrison waxes poetic. See page 2.*

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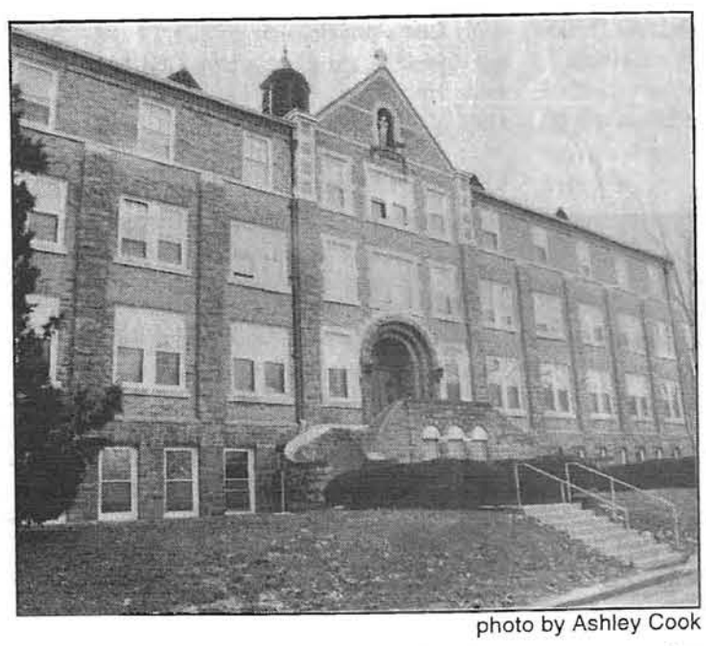


photo by Ashley Cook

**The Honors College residence hall and conference center on South Campus currently lacks sprinklers.**

## Administration: sprinkler-free hall poses no threat to residents

**by Kim Hudson**
news editor

The Honors College dormitory is in operation yet another year without sprinklers. However, University maintenance personnel says existing alarms make the building safe.

The Pierre Laclede Honors College, formerly Incarnate Word Convent and currently home to Honors classes and over 100 residential students, was acquired by UM-St. Louis in 1993 with no sprinkler system. Reinhard Schuster, director of Administrative Services, says the building is well protected by other devices.

"The building has a fire alarm that reports back to the police department," he said. "So it is not like [the dormitory] is not protected."

Schuster added that due to the "spread out" design of the campus, activated alarms send calls through the campus police who summon help from the Normandy Fire Protection District. In a memo regarding the safety of the Honors dorm, he also stated that the building has been inspected by the Normandy Fire Department for compliance with existing fire district requirements.

In the same memo, he state that the building is also equippe with carbon monoxide detectors fo the boilers, a new fire escape, dry type fire extinguishers locate throughout the facility, existin stand pipes and fire hose boxes lo cated throughout the building and new Honeywell fire alarm pan that communicates electronicall with campus police.

Lisa Grubbs, director of Res dential Life at UM-St. Louis, adde that each room is equipped wi

*see Sprinkle, page*

# Where are the new leaders?

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief



Last week, Christopher Edley, a Harvard Law professor, said that our leaders in Washington can't be expected to lead our nation in a discussion of tough issues—mainly race.

He cited three reasons why our elected officials can't/won't speak to the matter. First, he said that legislators will always be preoccupied with other issues such as Bosnia, health care or welfare.

Second, Edley said that politicians never initiate discussions on difficult subjects voluntarily.

The media's slanted reporting was the third reason offered by Edley, a former editorial writer for the *Washington Post*. He said that the messages politicians send are filtered by journalists.

Edley said this during his speech to a sparse audience on Monday in the J.C. Penney building. Edley is a brilliant man and an exceptional orator. His lecture was perhaps the best one I've heard at this University.

Edley, whose credentials could go on for pages, served as an aide to Bill Clinton. It's safe to say that Edley was in the loop.

OK. So the men and women in Washington have given up on doing something about the racial inequalities in America. Maybe that's not such a bad thing. The public perceives a great many politicians as dishonest, disinterested crooks. Anything and everything out of their mouths is just lip service anyway.

So if the answer to who will step up to the mic and discuss race relation isn't on Capitol Hill, then where? If people continue to remain silent, problems that appear miniscule will undoubtedly start to fester.

The O.J. Simpson civil case is a shining example. In Simpson's first trial, he was aquitted by a jury mostly composed of African Americans. But in the civil trial, he was found libel of the murders—by a panel made of mostly of whites. In an ideal system based on evidence and testimony, the end result in both cases should have been the same. Unfortunately, race played a deciding role in one or both of the trials.

Edley, who is in his mid to late 40s, said hope for a realistic race discussion doesn't lie with his generation either. And the outlook of the twentysomething is even worse, he said. "If my generation viewed [racial] progress as inevitable, this generation sees progress as impossible." Still, many young people might say, "What's the problem."

Now that almost every segment of the population has been ruled out, whose job is it to step up and make a difference?

The answer lies in the university setting. Every university's mission should be to help its students make an impact on society. And the way they must do that is to challenge its student to challenge conventional ways of thinking.

Is UM-St. Louis challenging its students? I don't know. But students should ask themselves how they are approaching their college education. Are students trying to expand their minds or merely memorize data and try not to forget it before the big test.

The exchange of ideas has to play a pivotal role in the academic arena. The tough questions have to be asked and debated. And more important, the intellectual stimulus must be there.

As Edley put it, students should not merely be authors of history, but participants in it. Don't just study the criminal justice system, think of ways to make it better. If relations amoug groups of people are tense, how can they be improved? You get the drift.

If students don't look at their education from the view of making things better, than hopes for having a better life and a better country are pretty bleak, given that our country's leaders would rather just stay out of it.

But serious thought and change isn't initiated by giving speeches or writing newspaper columns. That is too easy. Instead, it's changing the way you think to prevent progress from coming to a screeching halt.

That is our challenge.




# Instructors' attendance policies violate students' rights

Chalk up one more for self-important faculty members.

That annoying, juvenile attendance policy instructors lead you to believe is a departmental policy is actually a defacto collaborative effort on their part to command your presence in class.

Instructors across campus in all departments have hopped on this attendance band wagon that wreaks of petulance and smacks of what should be bygone high school days.

Yes, students should go to class. No self-respecting student who aspires to a degree would choose to miss class regularly. Chronic absenteeism is academic suicide.

Students know this.

It is next to impossible to take comprehensive exams in almost any liberal arts class without the benefit of daily class discussion. The cumulative nature of science and mathematics courses preclude success for the habitual no-show.

But these are all conclusions at which any rational, literate student can arrive and are not exclusive secrets to which only instructors are privy.

Ironically, instructors regularly invoke the adulthood of students and remind them that the onus of responsibility falls to no one else when it comes to class work and assignment deadlines.

Yet, these same instructors suddenly decide that their students are adults no longer when it comes to attendance. It seems that instructors want to give students the responsibility of adults but do not want to allow them the freedom of decision that should accompany these responsibilities.

A well structured course is designed to encourage attendance through daily course work that comprises 10 or 15 percent of semester grades, not small-minded, whip-cracking attendance-taking.

Just as easily as instructors got together to implement this insult to students' intelligence, they can revoke it and return some degree of dignity to students.

*Doug Harrison*

# Letters to the editor

## Mascot takes fire for remarks

In his Feb. 3 letter to the editor, Steven Wolfe raised a good point—there is a serious lack of fans at UM-St. Louis sporting events. However, we find it rather ironic that while Wolfe complained about this, he also complained about those of us who do support the school.

As members of the Riverettes Pom Squad, we resent the comments Wolfe made about us in his letter. It would be nice, as he pointed out, to have cheerleaders at sporting events. However, this is not the responsibility of the Riverettes. By definition, a pom squad is meant to perform halftime routines, not cheer during the games. We attend many sporting events whether we perform or not during halftime. We resent the negative comments Wolfe made about us "sitting in the stands dressed in their outfits before and after halftime performances." Maybe if we destroy our school mascot more students would be willing to attend sporting events.

**The Riverettes Pom Squad**

## Correction

In issue 878, *The Current* incorrectly identified Aramark Services as the operators of the new coffee carts on campus. Praxton Enterprises owns and operates the carts but leases the space from Aramark.

Jerry Jordan, President of Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland, was incorrectly identified as Jerry Joseph.

We regret any confusion these errors may have perpetuated.

## Reader recommends spiritual, emotional cure

In response to Michael J. Urness' review of *The Prophet*. I agree that during emotional and spiritual crises, it is important to receive comfort and help. It is great that he has found these in *The Prophet*. Often, poetic words can speak to one during depression because it touches one at an emotional and spiritual level.

I suggest another book which can pull any person out of a depression, allowing its Author to speak to us through it. I'm talking about the Bible. Though written centuries ago, the Bible can touch us where we live today because its characters, like us, dealt with loss, pain, failure and confusion. Though men wrote the Bible, God worked through them; what they wrote was all He moved them to write. He used their writing styles and personalities to preserve for all generations all things which He wanted to reveal to us concerning Himself. The Bible contains poetry, genealogies, history and doctrine. It also foretells what the future holds for mankind.

Most of all, the Bible points us to God the Son, Jesus. The New Testament tells us how He became a man, shared with us all our limitations (except for sin), suffered poverty, misunderstanding and willingly gave up His life to spare us punishment that our sins deserve. The New Testament emphasizes His bodily return to life. Learning about God's unconditional love for you and for me can change our lives, assuring us of God's willingness to forgive our sin because of Christ's death. Through studying the Bible and seeking to apply God's principles to my life, I have put myself in the place where God has made Himself available to me—through faith.

**Lisa A. DeSherlia**

# Poetic Justice

by Doug Harrison
managing editor

*Jack and Jill went up a hill to get an education.*

*Jack could jump and shoot and score, the best throughout the nation.*

*Scores of schools across the land vied for his attention.*

*"Come play for us," the coaches called. "We'll pay for your tuition."*

*USC, UNLV and Duke—Jack had to laugh.*

*The next move he would likely make was spelled NBA draft.*



*And yup, he played a vicious game, the fans they loved him too.*

*Fame and praise, his name they raised, these things to him weren't new.*

*For everyone had told him while he grew up as child,*

*"If you stay strong and practice long, you'll make the fans go wild."*

*So ball in hand and visions grand he dribbled, shot and jumped.*

*When college came, teams called his name; Jack, the man, was pumped.*

*First freshman year, his name he'd hear on TV on occasion.*

*Next year rolled 'round and Jack had found that he was a sensation.*

*By junior season Jack had reasoned stardom was his lot.*

*Basketball to him was all, all else to him was naught.*

*And as he neared his final year, Jack had a choice, you see.*

*"If here I stay and ball I play, I'll leave with a degree.*

*But then I'd miss athletic bliss and fortunes yet untold.*

*The NBA would make my day, and there I could grow old.*

*No books to read no smarts I'd need to play among the greats.*

*Sex and money flow like honey, Magic told me what awaits."*

*The school he left, it was bereft and loath to see him go.*

*He'd made them cash with every dash and move they'd come to know.*

*They begged and pleaded, a degree he needed, oh how they tried to tell.*

*But Jack departed unbrokenhearted; school served him mighty well.*

*Now Jill was smart but not as sharp as many of her peers.*

*Loans and grants, the seat of her pants, would be her plight for years.*

*She wanted more than life itself to Wash U. gain admission.*

*The grades she had weren't all that bad, but one thing marred her vision.*

*For 20 K she'd have to pay for just one year of school.*

*And in Jill's case, the debt she faced is generally the rule.*

*Nonetheless, I must confess, Jill accepted this her fate.*

*And with a sigh she said "I'll try UM. It's not too late."*

*There she went, less cash she spent, and classes there weren't bad.*

*Few friends she made for no one stayed after each course they had.*

*And all the while she worked a mile from school at Burger World.*

*The pay was poor she needed more, for the bills at her were hurled.*

*It took five years, much sweat and tears for Jill's pig skin to get.*

*But alas dear friend she reached the end, this school Jill won't forget.*

*And now you know the story of these two, of Jill and Jack.*

*Of Jack you'll hear for many a'year if his game keeps him on track.*

*Of Jill, I fear, will no one hear for she is but a part,*

*Of massess who take classes flat broke right from the start.*

*No offers filled her coffers; no schools paid her to learn.*

*Even though, as we all know, her keep in life she'll earn.*

*'Tis sad but true, I wish I knew why schools across the land,*

*For Jack would fight with all their might to sign him and his hands.*

*Yet these great schools and all their rules without one hint of shame,*

*Refuse to pay if Jill can't play or score in the big game.*

The student voice of UM-St. Louis
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## the coLumN
a generic offering



by Jill Barrett
features editor

Will the seventies ever stop coming back to haunt me? First it was the *Brady Bunch* fashions, then TV shows from my childhood made it to the big screen. Just the other day, I caught myself debating whether or not both Shaggy and Scooby Doo were potheads or just Shaggy. I seem to remember that both of them liked their Scooby snacks a bit too much.

It's kind of weird how I can never recall where I parked the car, but I can't seem to forget the theme song to *The Jetsons*, a cartoon I haven't seen for over fifteen years.

Two years ago, I lived in an apartment I fondly called The Slacker Commune. One of my roommates could recite what every button on Speed Racer's steering wheel could do, and firmly believed that, in a fight between Racer X and Race Bannon (of *Johnny Quest* fame), Race Bannon would clearly triumph. (Of course, such a fight would never take place, because both Racer X and Race Bannon were good guys.

Good guys *never* fight each other — it goes against the Code of Ethics for Cartoon and Claymation Characters.)

But to put my former roommate's much-heralded skill into perspective, this was the same man who remembered entire dialogues from *Animaniacs* and often argued the significance of subtle *Star Trek* plot points with a third roommate.

I thought it was a gender-specific trait until a recent conversation with a female friend.

This friend and I were comparing our Lists. (The full title of this list — at least, the printable version — is: My List of Celebrities I Would Like to Have an Affair With.) We were discussing how our Lists had evolved over time. (I'm ashamed to admit that Ted Kennedy made a brief appearance on mine. I have no excuse, but I was very young and impressionable at the time.)

Soon, we began talking about childhood crushes. Both of us had a thing for Erik Estrada of *CHiPs*, and I would watch reruns of *Hawaii 5-0* to see Jack Lord in action (*Jack Lord* for God's sake! What was I thinking?).

But the two crushes that lasted the longest were Randolph Mantooth of *Emergency!* and Shaun Cassidy. I'm sorry to say that I can still sing Do Run Run from memory.

Mantooth played a paramedic or firefighter on the show and was always rushing into danger to save people. My favorite episode was the snake-bite show, where Mantooth had to take off his shirt to use as a tourniquet. Too bad this was before the days of VCRs.

This is an important point — why feel nostalgic about a time when disco became popular, kids had to watch really bad Japanese animation and the only video game we had was Pong?

I can just see myself telling my kids "When I was your age, all we had to play was Pong! Two white rectangles knocking a little white square back and forth across a TV screen! And we were happy to have it! NO! I'm not buying you a color monitor so you won't have to play computer games in black and white!"

*Star Wars* again? Do we *have* to?

# UM-St. Louis radio station pledge drive is yet another success

by Michelle Sarver
of *The Current* staff

KWMU, the radio station in Lucas Hall we all pass on our way to class, has come a long way since first signing on the air June 2, 1972. Volunteers once sat at "a 4-by-8 piece of plywood on two sawhorses for pledge control," according to Millard Cohen, KWMU's longest serving volunteer.

KWMU, St. Louis' only source of National Public Radio, informs listeners with in-depth news programs and entertains with off-beat, humorous shows like "Whad'Ya Know." The station provides family, science and jazz programming, among many others.

KWMU boasts success after success, even though its funding from federal and state grants has dropped from 60 percent to 30 percent. Robert Peterson, program director, attributes the station's steady progress to "giving the listeners the programs, the news, the information and the talk entertainment they're asking for."

"The more time listeners spend, the more loyal they become, and the more they want to become members," he said.

KWMU's listeners are loyal during this year's fund drive. According to Patricia Bennett, general manager and director, at least 430 pledges are renewing their memberships. The station provides more incentives than just intelligent entertaining programming for pledges. It will send chocolates, roses or bed and breakfast to anyone, anywhere in the country. By Feb. 5, the station had raised $44,000 toward its $106,000 goal.

I've been here five years, and we have reached our goal every single time," membership coordinator Helen Fields said.

Though pledgers must give at least $40 to become members, any amount is appreciated. KWMU also holds events. In fact, station supporters can join the staff Feb. 21 at the Tap Room where admission to "Singles Night" is free and includes live music by The Dave Black Trio, featuring Beth Tuttle. Or, they can participate in many upcoming events celebrating KWMU's 25th anniversary, such as KWMU Cafe with Zorba Paster and KWMU's 2nd Annual Missouri Wine Tasting.

People who want to give back to the community what the station gives to them can volunteer. Volunteers witness what happens behind the scenes of talk radio and experience news in ways they never have before. "A lot of relationships blossom at our station and during our functions," Bennett said.

KWMU is the recipient of 22 national, regional, state and local news awards. The station constantly adds listeners and surpasses fundraising expectations each year, however its equipment needs renovating and replacing. The studio that attracts so many listeners is not even soundproof. And, according to Bennett, "Federal funding is on its way out." The station welcomes any support.

"I've known adults who will sit in their cars until the show "Rabbit Ears Radio," (Sundays, 9:00-9:30 a.m.) ends," Bennett said. If you want to know why, tune in to 90.7 FM, or if you want to learn more about KWMU, stop by the station on the first floor of Lucas Hall.



photo by: Ashley Cook

**Volunteers for the KWMU fund drive ring up the donations. Left to right: Linda Oppland, Margy McKelvie, Patricia Bennett, Robert Peterson.**

# The *Black, Bold and Beautiful* on display

by John Jones
of *The Current* staff

For the next month and a half, UM-St. Louis students passing near Room 362 of the Social Science and Business building will have a chance to glimpse into a unique sisterhood of women. This is a group that has inspired people both outside and inside of their communities to strive to their fullest and beat down any barriers, social or otherwise, that have been placed before them. They are: *Black, Bold, and Beautiful.* Students may now view photographs of the lives of several prominent African-American women in the Public Policy and Research Center of UM-St. Louis.

The photos are a cumulative project of local St. Louis photographer Rosalind Guy and are presented by the Public Policy Research Center and the Women's Center. Individuals featured in the photos are acknowledged for their influence in shaping African-American culture, politics and style.

"All these women," Guy explained, "have been chosen for their work." She pointed to the different images.

One photo depicted a distraught author Maya Angelou pushing back a mob of autograph seekers. Another photo showed the African-American journalist Betty Lee with friends at a social engagement. Freedom fighter Rosa Parks is photographed while she is on the phone.

The photos are not stuffy portraits but are alive and vibrant with life and work. The women are photographed with friends and spouses. Malaika B. Horne, president of the UM system Board of Curators, spoke at the opening reception. Horne is the first African-American woman to be elected to this position in the history of the UM system. She is also featured among the esteemed faces on display.

One of the women honored is not a stranger to the UM-St. Louis campus. History professor Priscilla Dowden smiles for the camera.

"P. and I have been friends for a long time," Guy said. "She is a wonderful person."

Professor Dowden has also worked with students on campus to help understand and end campus racism.

The photos are a combination tribute to Black History Month and the Women's Month celebrations.



photo by: Ashley Cook

**Photographer Rosalind Guy (left) discusses her art with UM Board of Curators President Malaika Horne. Guy's photos are displayed in the Public Policy Research Centers.**

## UnderCurrent

by Ashley Cook
of *The Current* staff

### *What is your favorite game and why?*



"Golf—so I can get away from it all."

*– Jeff Scholtenn*
*Senior • Chemistry*



"Soccer—my dad is a professional coach and it has always been a part of my life."

*– Leslie Desaeyere*
*Senior • Business*



"Beach volleyball—what else can you play in your bare feet and a bikini?"

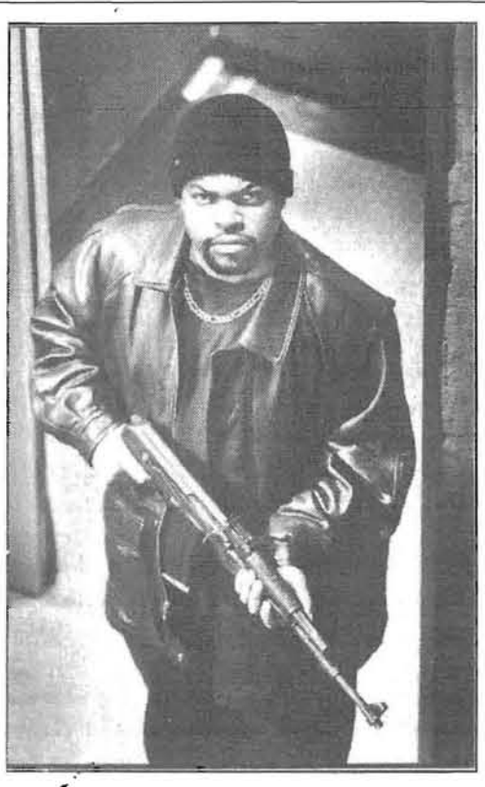
*—Tammy Davis*
*Junior • Foreign Language*

"Baseball—it's fun to hit things with a bat!"

*–Keith Robinson*
*Junior • MIS*



# *Dangerous Ground* killed by mediocre script and acting



Ice Cube (Vusi) in *Dangerous Ground.*

**by Nathanael D. Schulte**
entertainment editor

Take a typical ghetto movie with AK-47s, crack heads, pimps, hookers and the gangsta rapper in the lead role. Now take that movie and set it in Johannesburg, South Africa. What follows is a recipe for mediocrity called *Dangerous Ground.*

The story begins with a little flashback to South Africa in 1983, during the height of apartheid.

Here we meet Vusi (Thokozani Nkosi), a young revolutionary, fanning the flames of discontent among his grade school classmates.

Before his fourteenth birthday, he is forced to flee to America and does the rest of his growing up in the Bay Area of San Francisco. Twelve years later, the grown up Vusi (Ice Cube) receives word of his father's death and finally comes back to the "New South Africa."

Besides being snubbed by his brother Ernest (Sechaba Morajele), he discovers his youngest brother, Steven (Eric Miyeni), has been missing for several months and has left an address in Johannesburg. Vusi, now head of the household, promises his mother he'll find Steven and bring him back home.

At the address, he meets Steven's next door neighbor and love interest, a white stripper named Karen (Elizabeth Hurley). He also finds out his brother's been dealing and doing crack with her.

Eventually, a long trail of night clubs and crack houses leads Vusi and Karen to Muki (Ving Rhames), a Nigerian drug lord, to whom Steven owes about $15,000. Vusi agrees to pay off the debt and also eventually finds Steven.

He, Steven and Karen take the money to Muki, but Muki kills Steven in front of them to send a message to everyone that nobody can screwed with him.

Now Vusi decides it's time for revenge and after burying Steven, enlists Ernest's help to assassinate Muki. The main problem with this movie is that it takes a potentially serious topic and degrades it by throwing in shoot-em-up scenes and cliché action film one-liners.

Another problem is Ice Cube, who can't seem to decide whether he's playing a genuinely nice guy or a bad- ass out for revenge.

This film seems like it was a bad idea from start. Save your money.

# *Sling Blade* a story of friendship in the midst of pain

**by Michael J. Urness**
of *The Current* staff

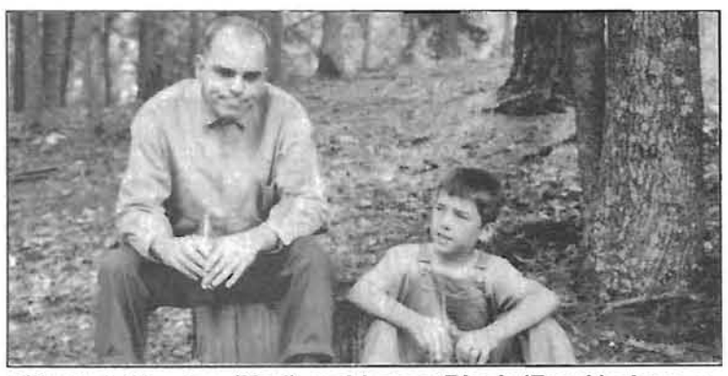
Billy Bob Thornton is absolutely brilliant in the new film *Sling Blade* which he also wrote and directed. Thornton stars as Karl Childers, a forty-something mental patient who is sure to remind viewers of the Forrest Gump. The movie begins with Karl being interviewed by a young reporter as he waits to be discharged from the mental institution that has been his home since he committed an unspeakable act at age 13. Now some thirty years later, despite that he has no family or friends with whom he can stay, Karl is forced to leave the institution when it is deemed he no longer poses a threat to society.

The first person Karl meets outside the institution is a young boy, Frank Wheatley (Lucus Black). Karl and Frank become fast friends.

In short time, Karl, who's something of an idiot savant when it comes to fixing small engines, is hired to work as a small engine mechanic at the local fix it shop. The shop owner offers to let Karl stay in the back room of the shop.

At the urging of Frank and over the objections of her abusive boyfriend, Doyle Hargraves (Dwight Yoakam), Linda, Frank's mom (Natalie Cannerday), invites Karl to stay in her garage. Once settled in, he becomes both a companion and a role model for young Frank. John Ritter delivers a strong performance in the supporting role of Vaughn Cunningham, Linda's friend and the the object of the small town's gossip mill due to his same sex orientation. There is constant friction between Doyle and Frank and between Doyle and Vaughn. Doyle can't accept that Frank isn't his natural son, and he constantly belittles Vaughn for being a "queer." Eventually he begins verbally assaulting Karl for being a "retard." Using stories of his own troubled childhood, Karl helps Frank to overcome his feelings of worthlessness that have resulted from Doyle's verbal abuse. *Sling Blade* is laced with a few cometic one-liners that serve well to relieve the tension of the current situation as well as that caused by Karl's disturbing revelations about his horrific childhood. *Sling Blade* is a story about dysfunction, betrayal and the ultimate gift of friendship.

theaters.



Billy Bob Thorton (Karl) and Lucas Black (Frank) share a special moment in *Sling Blade.*

# Poet shares life, writing

**by Becky Rickard**
of *The Current* staff

Try to imagine yourself unmarried, thirty-something and wanting to adopt a child. Abena P. A. Busia, Africana speaker and associate professor at Rutgers, does not have to imagine. She lives it. Because Busia only has a green card and is single, she is having trouble adopting a child from Ghana, her native land. To properly adopt this child according to United States law, she must either "marry an American man or marry the country."

Identity is a tender subject of conversation. However, Busia boldly confronted the identity issue last Thursday in a speech titled, "At Territorial Borders." In a lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, Busia addressed the topic of identity through poetry, essays, personal anecdotes and humor. By examining her life and the cities where she lived, Busia came to the conclusion that "we find our voices and translate as best we can."

Busia, a native of Ghana, has lived in Holland, Mexico, England and the United States. While living in England, she received a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D at Oxford. Because of her diverse upbringing and exquisite education, she was able to speak gracefully about slavery in relation to her own life as an African-British black woman.

Busia urges everyone to speak about slavery rather than keep it secret. Busia read "Achimota," a poem she had written to further her point. The poem is about the terrible silence of a well-known forest in Ghana where slaves secretly hid when rescued. Achimota is not only the title of the poem but is also a Ghanian phrase translated as "You don't shout for something here."

Busia brought many different perspectives to the issue of slavery. She elaborated on the role of slave descendent and also proposed many different roles through her essays and readings. Ethel Myers, a student present at Busia's speech, found Busia's perspective unique because she showed.

"People who suffered a loss rather than those who were captured," she said.

The speech was eloquent and enlightening. However, it was her intelligent and witty responses to questions that proved her authority on the topic of identity. Busia focused on "being an identity."

The identity she strives to achieve involves the re-presentations of Africans and the representation of women. Busia believes this identity is a negotiation of: "How we see, how we see ourselves and how we are seen."

## Music

### Space
*Spiders*
(Universal Records)

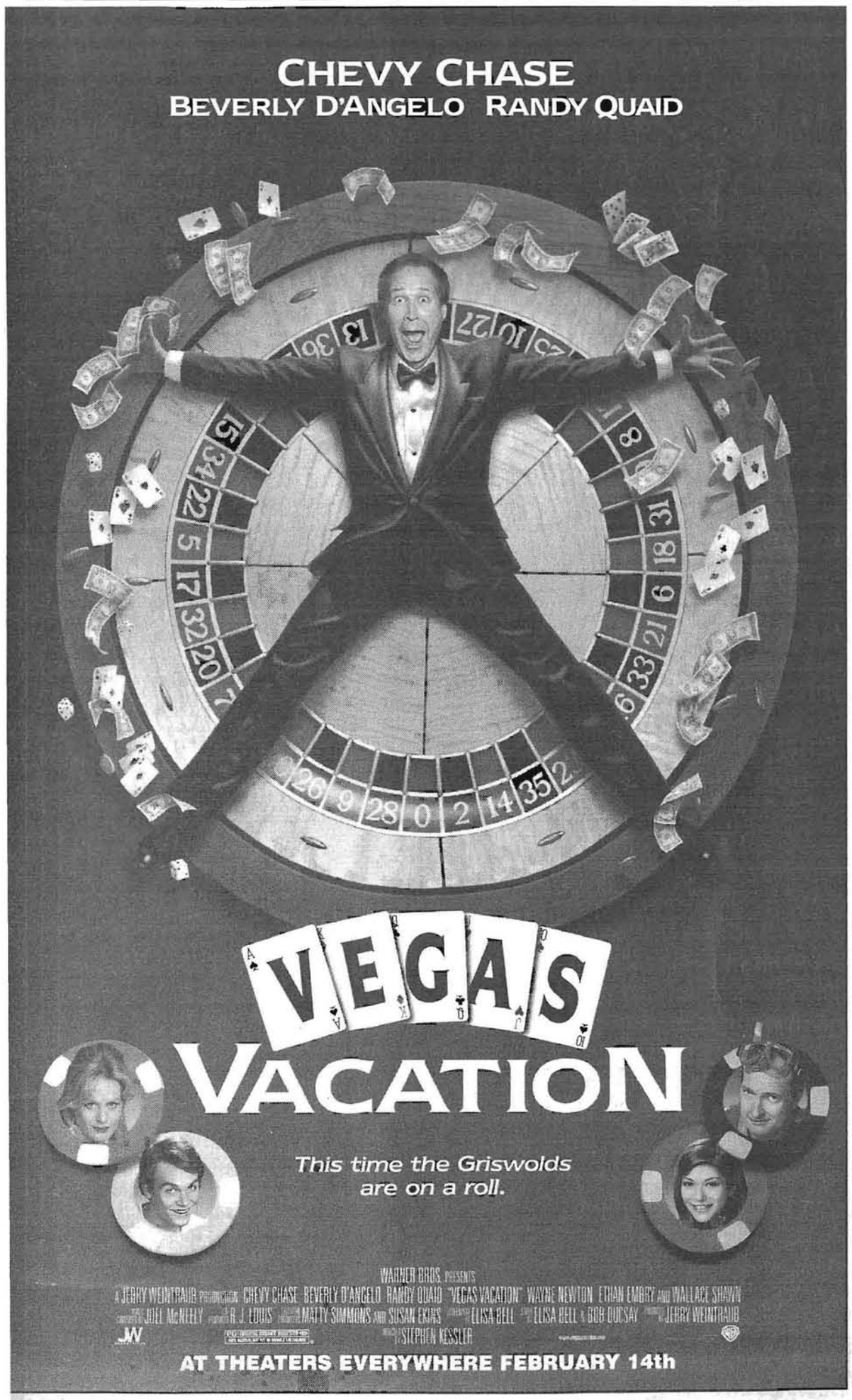
Space's debut CD, *Spiders*, is truly a musical carnival. I've heard sounds ranging from cartoon voices and theme songs to strange noises and crashes. Space's lead singer, Tommy, also has an unusual voice. One moment he's doing a killer impression of Speedy Gonzalez, then Ren (of Ren and Stimpy) and finally Frank Sinatra.

Space's music can be defined as pop with a twist. One minute you'll swear you're in a Latin club doing the Lambada or shaking the maracas. Then they throw a trick-bag over your head when they switch to cocktail jazz. This CD has a little of everything on it.

Space may look like four ordinary lads from Liverpool, but don't think Britpop or Merseybeat. Believe me, this group sounds nothing like the Beatles, Oasis or any other traditional guitar-rock Britain band.

Overall, on a scale from 1 to 10, I'd give this CD a 5. It's a bit too strange for my liking, but it does have a few good songs that make it worth a listen.

**Nola Mahone**




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- Three (3) letters of reference

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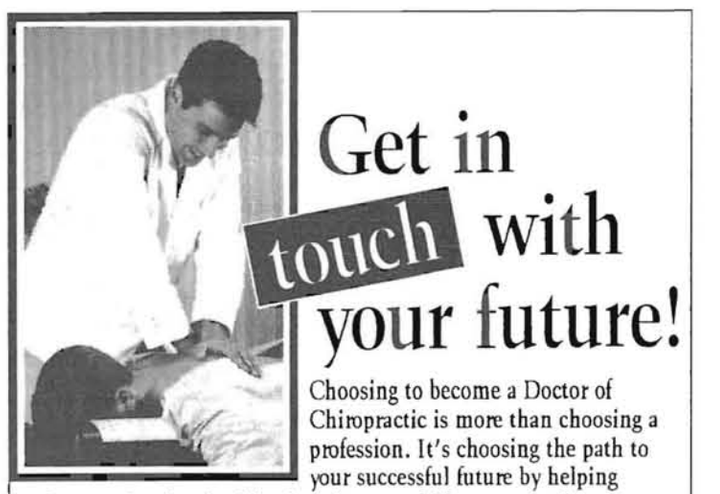
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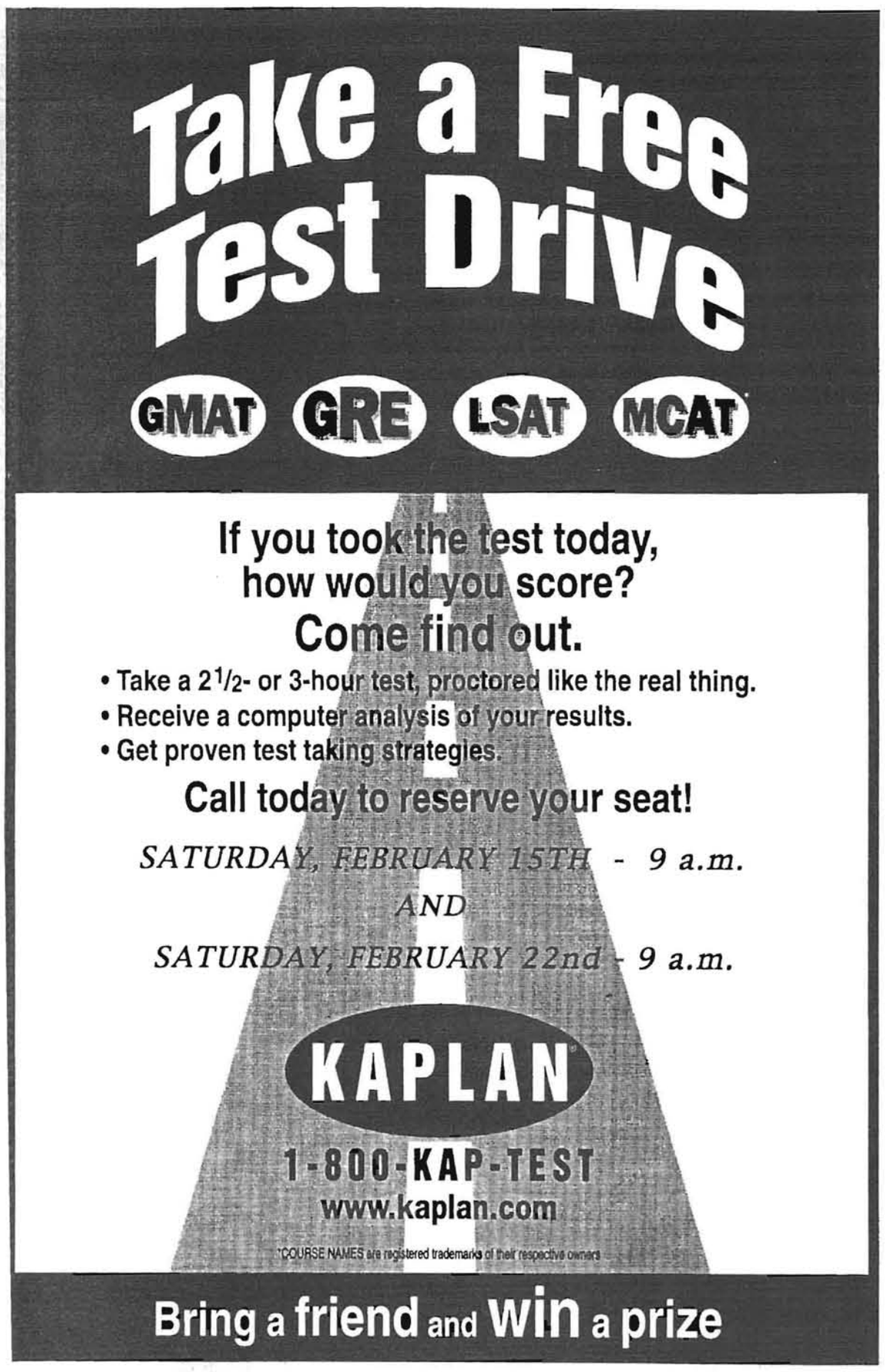
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E.O.E.







### Ernst, from page 5

became only the second player in school history to top the 20 goal plateau. She neared the marks held by scoring superstar Jenni Burton.

Hudson added that Ernst will be missed next year. Last year was her senior season.

"She was definitely one of the best five or six players I've ever coached," Hudson said. "Her greatest attribute was probably the way she not only strived to make herself better, but she went out of her way to help her teammates out so that they could improve as well."

### Smith, from page 5

the broadcasters of 920 AM. "I scored 38 in junior college. I was hoping to score that many, but (38 points) is good enough."

The team also received clutch play from guard Ryan Myers. Myers has played sparingly for the Rivermen this season. He saw a season high 13 minutes.

He hit four key free throws to seal the game in the fourth quarter.

"I've never played this much," Myers said. "I've only seen little action. I'm glad to get chance and I wanted to make most of it."

The victory increased the team's record to 6-15 overall. The victory is a confidence booster for the team.

"With a record like ours any victory is big," Myers said. "If we can win some games and end the season on a good note."

### Defeat, from page 5

We are going to have to execute better than we did against Southern Indiana."

The Riverwomen return home this week to battle conference rival Quincy on Thursday and Northern Kentucky on Saturday.

UM-St. Louis has six games remaining, and Coen said that the Riverwomen could beat any of them if the team plays well.

"If we can play together as a team, shoot better and capitalize on the opposition's mistakes, we will be alright," Coen said.

## Troubles continue for Riverwomen

The never ending troubles for the Riverwomen basketball team continued against Indiana-Purdue at Ft. Wayne last Saturday night.

The Riverwomen lost to the 8-13 team in a battle that had been tied at the half. IPFW pulled away in the second out-scoring the Riverwomen 3-26.

Deena Applebury again led the team in scoring with 28 points. Denise Simon led the team with six rebounds.

The Riverwomen fall to 4-17 on the season and 1-13 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

## Sporting Around Campus

### Recreational Sports

| | Begin | Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| Coed Basketball | 2/12 | 2/11 |
| Racquetball tourn | 2/17 | 2/11 |
| Coed Wallyball | 2/20 | 2/18 |
| Volleyball touurn | 3/5 | 3/4 |
| Weightlifting | 3/6 | 3/6 |

### Upcoming Home Games

**Women's Basketball**

**2/13 UMSL vs. Quincy**
Game will begin at 6 P.M.

**2/15 UMSL vs. Northern Kentucky**
Game will begin at 6 P.M.

**Men's Basketball**

**2/13 UMSL vs. Quincy**
Game will begin at 8 P.M.

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Game will begin at 8 P.M.

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***February 12,** 8:00 a.m., 72 J.C. Penney
**February 17,** 126 J.C. Penney
***February 18,** 8:00 a.m., 78 J.C. Penney
**February 20,** 78 J.C. Penney
**February 21,** 222 J.C. Penney
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## Attendance, from page 1

ics are thrown off, not everyone would have a partner."

Nanora Sweet, of the English department, teaches some writing classes and also some literature. She said a student can do the reading at home and still pass exams.

However she added that a literature class is a discussion, and the class progresses through exchanging with other students.

"It's important for students to actively participate in literature classes, in particular, because many of my students are planning to be teachers, and will be mediating in a classroom session," Sweet said. "An aspect of that is performative—putting things in words that are suitable for an intellectual setting."

Susan Mueller, a senior and business management major, said she has two classes with attendance policies, but she does not have any problem adhering to them.

"I understand professors need a participation grade and need the students present, but many students have other obligations which make it inconvenient, at times," she said. "When you have a project due, sometimes you have to compromise one class for another."

Albert Derby, biology chairperson, said he only takes attendance for the first couple meetings to familiarize himself with names and faces.

He said he assumes if students want to learn, they'll come to class.

"The students who do show up generally seem more interested," Derby said. "[Attendance] does not always translate into a good grade, but it can't hurt."

Fran Pickett, an art history major, said she understands the need for students to attend, but no one should mandate when a student should go to class.

"It's college; you're responsible for yourself," Pickett said. "If you don't want to go, that's your choice."

## Edley, from page 1

looking for political panaceas to deep-seated racial divisions.

"The problem with doing race through politics is that in politics 'I'm right and you're wrong'," Edley said. "I simply don't believe that that is the path to racial understanding."

Instead, he highlighted the need for a common set of values and a greater sense of community.

"The most powerful redemptive force in racial healing will not be speeches leaders give, but the experiences that we give people that will change their sense of community and by changing their sense of community, change their values," he concluded.Edley is a graduate of Swarthmore College and an honors joint-degree graduate of the Kennedy School of Government and of Harvard Law School.

His new book, *Not All Black & White: Affirmative Action, Race and American Values* is due out in September.

## Scams, from page 1

use is fastWEB, Georges said. With fastWEB, a student can create a personal mailbox, and then check it two or three days later to see if the database has found any matches.

Georges said students need to be aware of possible warning signs because it is difficult to distinguish which search services are legitimate.

"One thing to look out for is companies claiming to have a lot of unclaimed money for scholarships," Georges said. "Any private organization that has money for scholarships isn't going to let a penny go to waste."

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has initiated "Project $cholar$cam" to warn students and families about scholarship scam services.

The FTC has a home page on the internet, including a page titled, "Six Signs that Your Scholarship is Sunk." It warns students to be suspicious of any service that says:

"The scholarship is guaranteed, or your money back."

"You can't get this information anywhere else."

"May I have your credit card or bank account number?"

"We'll do all the work for you."

"The scholarship will cost some money."

"You've been selected" by a 'national foundation' or "You're a finalist" in a contest you have never entered.

The "Financial Aid Information Page" warns: "But as a general rule, if you must pay money to get money, it might be a scam."

Students who think they might have been scammed by a scholarship search service or a low-interest loan service can contact the local Better Business Bureau office.

Students can also contact the National Fraud Information Center (NFIC) at 1-800-816-7060.

The NFIC will pass information along to the FTC, which does not take action on individual cases. It attempts to discern possible fraudulent patterns.

Georges said a scholarship search service cannot guarantee students that they will receive scholarships.

It can only search for scholarships for which a student might be eligible.

They can only give you names of possible scholarships," Georges said. "You still have to apply and do all the work yourself."

# The Current Newswire

Panel discussion on '96 Olympics to feature Bob Costas. Sports commentator Bob Costas, host of the 1996 Olympic Games on NBC-TV, will be part of a panel discussing the 1996 Olumpics at 1 p.m. Feb. 14 in Rm. 222 of the J.C. Penney Building. The program titled, "The Whole World Was Watching: The 1996 Olympics and the Politics of Television," will also feature Susan Brownell, assistant professor of anthropology at UM-St. Louis; John MacAloon, professor of social sciences at the University of Chicago; and Thomas McPhail, associate vice chancellor and professor of communication at UM-St. Louis. For more information, call 516-5699 or 516-5753.

Open sessions to be held with dean candidates. An open session with Frances Hoffman, associate professor of sociology and a candidate for dean of the Pierre Laclede Honors College, is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., Feb. 12 in Rm. 72 of the J.C. Penney Building. An open session with Thomas Brickhouse, another candidate, is scheduled for 11 a.m. Feb. 11, in Rm. 411 of Woods Hall. Call 516-5372 for details.

University relations wins writing award. The Division of University Relations has won a silver award for writing excellence from the Council for Advancement of Support of Education. The award was presented last week at the CASE Mid-America District VI conference in Kansas City, MO. CASE is widely recognized as the leading professional organization for university and college advancement in the nation.

Campus Lenten service. A Christian interdenominational Lenten service titled "Service of Ashes," is being sponsored by Campus Ministry. The event will be held from noon to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the South Campus Residence Chapel, 3036 Bellerive Drive. Call 385-3455 for details.

New curators appointed. The two newest members of the University of Missouri System board of Curators were introduced at last week's curators meeting at UM-St. Louis. The two new curators are John Mathes of Sunset Hills and Paul Steele of Chillicothe. Mathes, 53, is the founder of the Mathes Companies, a diversified engineering firm. He replaces James McHugh of Webster Groves. Steele, 56, is co-owner of several businesses in Chillicothe. He replaces John C. Cozad of Platte City.

Input on food service operations sought. Faculty, staff and student focus groups are being formed to evaluate and make recommendations on campus food service operations. Input is needed from all groups. Interested parties are asked to call Gloria at 516-5760 or Joe at 516-6430.

## Sprinkle, from page 1

smoke detectors that are inspected twice a year.

"There are smoke detectors in all the rooms and common areas," Grubbs said. "And, we know they all work."

She said that the batteries are replaced regularly during daylight savings time each year.

However, she attributes compromises in the dorm's fire protection system to students who tamper with the detectors.

"The biggest problem we have is students removing the battery or smoke detector when it starts chirping [when the battery is low]," she said. "And when I do room checks in May, I find students saying that they needed a battery, so they borrowed it from the smoke detector."

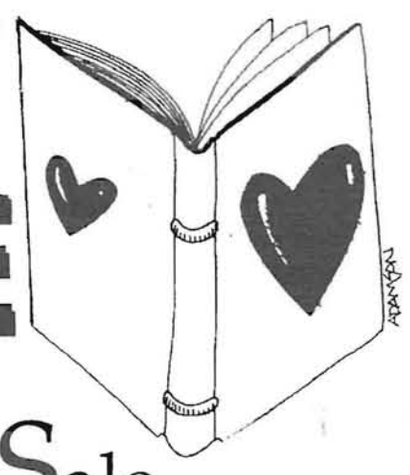
She added that this problem is not at epidemic proportions, but that these instances do happen.

Despite all the safety devices added to the building, it is still unclear when a new sprinkler system will be installed, though installation is being planned..

"[Installation of the sprinklers] is underway," Schuster said. "But, I do not have a date, yet."

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