

10-11-1999

## Current, October 11, 1999

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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**Look out below:** Area citizens took time out to lend a helping hand to local neighborhoods in need of cleaning up.

◀ See page 3

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## What's Inside



**Time waits for no man:** Venerable musician David Bowie's latest album, 'Hours,' is a strong effort.

▲ See page 6

## U-Wire News

**Man arrested after amassing huge \$31,000 library fine**

BY NELL HIDALGO  
Washington State News

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK—A man accused of hoarding 570 overdue books from the Bobst Library of New York University, incurring \$31,000 in fines, was arrested Monday and charged with grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property, police said.

George Szamuel, 44, was arrested at a SoHo gym. Police also raided his Stanton Street apartment Monday and recovered the mostly history and political science books that were checked out in 1997, officials said.

The figure of \$31,000 was calculated by adding up fines of a 25 cents per day, \$1 per day for recalled books, and \$20 in processing and fines plus the cost of each book after fifty days, New York University spokesman John Beckman said.

The university made several attempts over the last two years to retrieve the books from Szamuel, a freelance writer for the New York Press, who was a continuing education student at the university from 1993 to 1997.

"We made many attempts here to ask for the books but he either spurned us or ignored us," Beckman said.

After the matter was referred to the university's general counsel, the police were called to resolve the situation. The police found the books packed in 29 bags in Szamuel's Lower East Side apartment, officials said.

"[The books] are rich treasures of scholarship. Many of the books are out of print," Beckman said. "They may not be a Gutenberg Bible but they have value and can't be replaced. Libraries work on an honor system."

He called the incident a unique case because overdue books are usually returned in a reasonable amount of time as the university withholds transcripts and degrees from students with outstanding books or fines.

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# Students to hold forum on president

Organizers hope meeting will clarify confusion over recent events

BY CORY BLACKWOOD  
AND JOE HARRIS  
staff editors

A meeting will be held to discuss issues concerning the presidency of the Student Government Association at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 411 Clark Hall. The meeting is open to all students.

Gail Rimkus, a senior majoring in education, is one of the organizers of this meeting. The meeting is meant to make sense of the recent events surrounding the SGA office.

"The purpose of this meeting is for students to sit down and talk about everything that has occurred in the last few weeks and days," Rimkus said. "I hope that maybe we can sort out exactly what is going on. A lot has happened, and [this meeting] is needed for clarification."

Rimkus said everyone has his or her own agenda pertaining to the president's office so this meeting will be important to clarify the issues and to clear up any confusion regarding Butler's actions.

Rimkus said the meeting will not advance any future impeachment proceedings against Butler; rather, it is meant for students to voice their concerns about recent events.

"Impeachment would have to occur in a SGA meeting," Rimkus said. "This [meeting] is gathering facts and ideas. Impeachment would, at the very earliest, have to take place at the next SGA meeting."

Butler said he plans on attending the meeting, but not if it has to do with impeachment.

"Anything with impeachment I will not recognize in that fashion because the people together [who organized the meeting]... said they don't have the power for impeachment," Butler said.

Instead Butler would like to focus the meeting on issues concerning student fees, he said. One, in particular, that he would like to discuss is another planned increase in the student parking fee.

Butler said he would like to stay away from sensationalizing this meeting with terms like impeachment.



Butler

Sarah Kraus, president of Manheim Park and a graduate student obtaining her masters in sociology, will help moderate the meeting. Manheim Park is an organization of

"I think the word impeachment creates sensationalism," Butler said. "If they want to try to form some type of witchhunt or whatever, then I'm not going to get involved in that."

Butler said to his knowledge that he has committed no impeachable actions.

students geared towards bringing people together to discuss various issues.

"This meeting is to bring everything out in the open; it has nothing to do with Butler," Kraus said. "The students need to know what is going on. Right now, everything is hearsay."

Kraus noted that this meeting will settle any disputes, and everything will be said and done after the meeting.

"People will not be able to complain after this meeting, especially if they do not attend," Kraus said. "I'm totally neutral, and that's why I've decided to moderate."

According to Article 8 of the current SGA Constitution, written in

see FORUM, page 9

## 'Granny D' stops in St. Louis during trek for campaign finance reform

BY SUE BRITT  
staff editor

Eighty-nine-year-old Doris "Granny D" Haddock took time from her walk across the country promoting campaign finance reform to visit New York, Chicago, and St. Louis.

Haddock began her walk from Los Angeles on Jan. 1 this year and is walking about ten miles a day, six days a week. She is planning to arrive in Washington D.C. on her 90th birthday, Jan. 22.

Haddock was in St. Louis Saturday Oct. 2 at the Aloe Plaza, Meeting of the Waters Fountain, across the street from Union Station. A small crowd attended the rally, including speakers from a variety of organizations promoting the need for campaign finance reform.

At her various stops Haddock has espoused her belief in reform for the good of our nation.

She says our society is more divided now than it was during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"The tax and labor and business laws of this nation drive that division and those policies are held hostage by a corrupt Congress and its system of campaign finance bribery and billion-dollar political favors," Haddock said. "These favors are paid at the expense of programs that could make our society more fair and less trou-

see GRANNY D, page 9



Gay Norris/The Current

**Doris "Granny D" Haddock speaks about campaign finance reform at Aloe Plaza, across from Union Station, Oct. 2. Haddock, 89 years old, hopes to win support for reform legislation as she walks across the country.**

## Groups exchange ideas at Conservation Forum

BY SUE BRITT  
staff editor

The annual Conservation Forum, sponsored in part by the International Center for Tropical Ecology, took place Wednesday Oct. 6 at The Living World in the St. Louis Zoo.

Patrick Osborne, executive director of the ICTE, said the ICTE in partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden organizes the Conservation Forum each year. Osborne said the forum is an opportunity for various conservation organizations to meet, to interact, and to discuss their work with each other.

He also said it provides opportunity for graduate biology students from UM-St. Louis and other universities to learn more about these organizations.

Osborne said 185 people came this year.

Co-sponsors for the forum included the St. Louis Zoo, the Missouri Botanical Garden, The Nature Conservancy, and the World Wildlife

Fund. Presentations were provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Botanical Garden regarding plant conservation in Missouri; the World Bird Sanctuary about reintroduction of Owls, Falcons, and Eagles into the wild; and others in individual sessions for attendees.

Walter Crawford, executive director of the World Bird Sanctuary, said his organization is involved in a variety of ways in protecting bird species and the habitats in which they live. He said the sanctuary runs a hospital for birds that have been injured, a captive-breeding program for endangered or rare birds for release, and conducts field research and educational programs.

"Combining all of these together, we feel that we have been able to provide a full spectrum of protection for a lot of species," Crawford said.

The keynote speaker was Meg Symington, program director for the

see CONSERVATION, page 8

## Power failure forces evacuation from Woods

BY SUE BRITT  
staff editor

Within a week of the emergency drill and evacuation of a building on campus, the real thing occurred when a transmitter overheated at Woods Hall releasing smoke into the building and calling for an evacuation.

Frank Kochin, director of Facilities Services, said he was unsure what caused the transmitter to break down but that no other machinery was damaged and full power should be restored to the building by the weekend.

"The transmitter failed; actually it overheated," Kochin said. "It caused a lot of smoke. The power went out and the fire alarms went off."

Kochin said that it was fortunate that the drill was conducted so recently and that the responding parties were well prepared.

"Normandy Fire Department responded well," Kochin said, "and maintenance identified the problem right away."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

**Officer Tony Griemel locks up Woods Hall after a transmitter in the building blew. The building was evacuated and closed for the entire day. The building was run by a generator while the transmitter was being fixed.**



# Bulletin Board

## Monday, Oct. 11

- Jazz Ensemble will perform in the J. C. Penney Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. for all of those who wish to attend.

## Tuesday, Oct. 12

- Yuka Uzibuse, the Zulu Dance and Drumming Troupe starts off the International Performing Arts Series' Inaugural Season. The performance will be in the J. C. Penney Auditorium and will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$11 for seniors and \$7 for students with season tickets available as well. For a brochure and ticket orders call 7299.

## Wednesday, Oct. 13

- S.A.B.C. application deadline, the Student Activity Budget Committee will accept applications until 5 p.m. Live interviews will take place on Oct. 14, in the evening and the chosen applicants will be nominated at the SGA meeting on Oct. 21. Application forms are available outside the SGA office in the University

Center and on-line at <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/sga/sabeApplication11Post.html>. For more information contact the SGA office at 5105.

- Meet Tim Page, the Artistic Advisor for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Professor of Music will be in room 205 of the Music Building at noon for a discussion and to answer questions. For more information call 5980.

- Soup and Soul Food, a simple free meal and a time for prayer and devotion, from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry.

- Interested in Catholicism—The Newman Center will be sponsoring a lunch at 8200 Natural Bridge. For more information contact Betty Chitwood at 385-3455.

### Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

## Thursday, Oct. 14

- Party on the Patio, Johnny Johnson and Billy Peek will entertain the University on the U-Center Patio from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Scary 70's film fest, UPB and the Spanish Club present *Carrie* at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Lucas 100.

## Friday, Oct. 15

- Got Game??? The 1999 Basketball Season Opener Party will take place in the Mark Twain Gym and feature free games, prizes, food and a preview of the 99-00 Rivermen and Riverwomen. The party starts at 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Oct. 16

- Fright Fest! Come experience St. Louis as the University Program Board treks to Six Flags. Tickets are available in the Office of Student

Activities for \$5. Limit 2 per valid UMSL student ID.

## Saturday, Oct. 16

- Music Showcase Featuring Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students, along with special guest: Jermaine Smith. Sponsored by the UM-St. Louis Department of Music, Retirees Association and Alumni Association and the St. Louis Ethical Society Ethical Action Education Committee. The Showcase will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society 9001 Clayton Road. There is no admission charge and for more information call the Music Department Office at 5980.

## Tuesday, Oct. 19

- Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a former middleweight boxer will speak at 8 p.m. in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. The event is free but tickets are required and are available in the Student Activities Office.

## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### October 3, 1999

A student residing at University Meadows reported that between 5:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., his Schwinn mountain bicycle was stolen while he was at work. Also taken was \$50 in cash which was taken from a roommate's wallet and a checkbook belonging to a third roommate. The apartment door had been unlocked for maintenance.

### October 5, 1999

A student reported that on Oct. 3 at 12:45 p.m., an unknown person entered her apartment at University Meadows and began to ask for another person. He then left. The apartment door was not locked.

A staff person reported that between Sept. 17 at 11 p.m. and Sept. 20 at 4 p.m., a Kent vacuum cleaner was stolen from the second-

floor janitor's closet at the Social Science Building.

### October 6 1999

A student reported that his parking permit was stolen on Oct. 5 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The student's vehicle had been parked on Lot "N" at the time of the theft. The doors to the vehicle had not been locked.

A student reported receiving a number of harassing telephone calls at his University Meadows apartment. The calls originated from another apartment at University Meadows. The investigation continues.

A student reported that between 1 and 2:30 p.m., his parking permit was stolen from his vehicle while it was parked in Garage "D". The vehicle's top had not been secured.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UMSL Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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## ATTENTION ALUMNI OF

### The National Young Leaders Conference, Washington, DC

-or-

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If you are a first or second year student, there is a prestigious on-campus leadership opportunity we have been asked to discuss with you.

Please call Toll Free at 1-877-282-4952 no later than **October 19, 1999** and ask to speak with one of the program co-founders: Barbara or Richard.





Stephanie Platt / The Current

# B

## Area citizens lend helping hand to local neighborhoods in need of cleanup, revamp

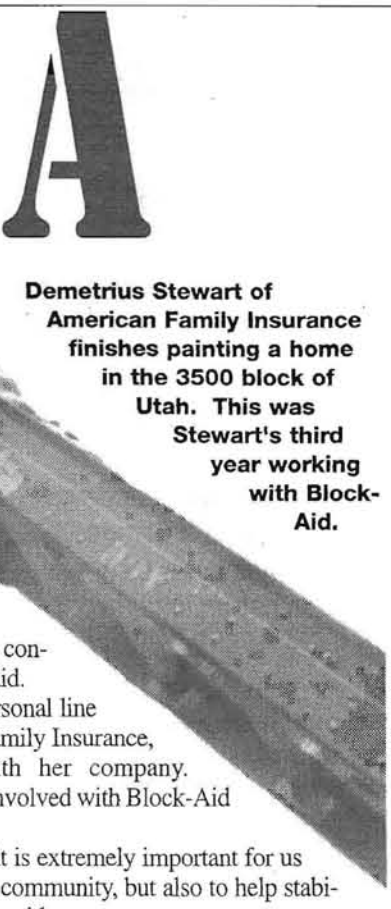
BY ANNE PORTER  
staff associate

Superman can leap a building in a single bound, but can he rehab a home as quickly as the volunteers in the Neighborhood Housing Services of St. Louis in Block-Aid '99? Block-Aid volunteers arrived by 6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2 in the Tower Grove East neighborhood. A breakfast consisting of muffins and juice was to be served around 7:30 a.m. The volunteers would receive a free Block-Aid '99 T-shirt

and a hamburger lunch during a work break. In return, the volunteers were expected to scrape and apply new paint to trim and frame houses, and repair roofs, porch railings, and steps. Workers landscaped by cutting weeds and cleaning up trash. Kate Reese, Neighborhood Housing Services Executive Director, coordinates corporations and home-owners in the ninth annual Block-Aid. Block-Aid "has been successful every year. Primarily it's working on homes that are owner-occupied, and the bulk of the work is painting [and] landscaping," Reese said. The renovations performed mainly are limited to exterior work. Block-Aid has worked in Forest Park Southeast and the 4200 blocks of Swan and Norfolk. The workday locations rotate around the St. Louis area. The NHS has been working with homeowners for approximately 25 years. "In its own way, it's been a shot in the arm to the neighborhood we work in. Over the years, Block-Aid has proven to give neighborhoods a leg up," Reese said. Block-Aid serves also as coordinator between companies and

neighborhoods. "It's to marry folks from St. Louis companies who have a desire to give back to the community, but didn't necessarily know who to contact or what to do," Reese said. Mary Ellen Kruger, a personal line coordinator for American Family Insurance, coordinates the event with her company. American Family has been involved with Block-Aid since the beginning. "American Family feels it is extremely important for us not only to contribute to the community, but also to help stabilize neighborhoods," Kruger said. Block-Aid helps homeowners make minor

see BLOCK-AID, page 12



Demetrius Stewart of American Family Insurance finishes painting a home in the 3500 block of Utah. This was Stewart's third year working with Block-Aid.

# 'fag/hag' shows complexities of relationships

BY ANNE PORTER  
staff associate

Popular culture recently has scripted many scenarios focusing on gay men and their relationships with their female friends. In the movie "My Best Friend's Wedding," Julia Roberts chases her best friend across a lawn after an attempt to ruin his wedding because she discovers she is in love with him. Roberts' attractive gay friend then comforts her after her efforts crumble.

Other scenarios of this trend include "The Object of My Affection" and the television series "Will and Grace." With all the energy focused on this topic in entertainment today, Joan Lipkin, artistic director of That Uppity Theater Company, decided to open the 1999-2000 Alternate Currents/Direct Currents (AC/DC) Series with "fag/hag," a play about gay men and their friendships with straight female friends.

see PLAY, page 12



"fag/hag" explores nature of friendships between gay men and straight women.

# Breast Cancer Month activities set to raise awareness of dangerous disease

BY CHARMANE MALONE  
special to The Current

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. All month long, time is taken to dispense knowledge about this illness, to celebrate with survivors, to remember those who have lost their battles with this disease, and to help educate women on self-awareness that can lead to early detection and prevention. Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women nationwide according to the American Cancer Society. So far in 1999 there have been 175,000 new cases and 43,000 deaths due to breast cancer. Although the incidence increases with age and women younger than 30 make up less than one percent of the total cases, women as young as 18 have been diagnosed with breast cancer. There are other circumstances that may predispose you to this cancer at a younger age. This means all women of all ages should be educated about early detection of breast cancer. The Young Survival Coalition: Young Women United in the Fight Against Breast Cancer Action Advocacy Awareness (YSC) is a fairly new organization dedicated to supporting young women with breast cancer. According to the ACS, young women have been left out of the loop when it comes to breast cancer research. The majority of the studies have been on white women over the age of 45. This has left young women a silent minority

### Breast Cancer Facts

IN 1999...

175,000 new cases

43,000 deaths

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

[www.youngsurvival.org](http://www.youngsurvival.org)

[www2.cancer.org/bcn/index.html](http://www2.cancer.org/bcn/index.html)

ty overlooked by the breast cancer community. According to the American Cancer Society, the best way to early detection is through knowledge and self-awareness. Knowing the warning signs, doing a monthly breast exam, and seeing a gynecologist annually are the best ways to early detection. Warning signs vary from person to person, but according to the American Cancer Society, there are some things

women should look for when doing their monthly breast exam. First, be aware of any new lumps or masses. A lump that is painless and hard, and has irregular edges is more likely to be cancer. But some cancers are tender, soft, and rounded. Pay attention to swelling in any part of the breast; skin irritation or dimpling; nipple pain or the nipple turning inward; redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin; and lastly, a discharge other than breast milk. A young woman noticing any of these symptoms should see her physician right away. It cannot be stressed enough how important early detection is in fighting this particular cancer. It is also suggested that women, 18 years and older, do a monthly exam approximately 5 days after the last day of their period. Ask a doctor to demonstrate the proper way to perform a breast exam or get a "how-to" card from University Health Services, 127 Woods Hall, that gives step-by-step instructions that can hang on a shower head. More information is available at the University Health Center, 516-5672. Most organizations have web sites where there is more information. YSC's web site address is [www.youngsurvival.org](http://www.youngsurvival.org). There are articles written by breast cancer survivors and their friends and family, a chat room, a message board, and links to other web sites with related topics. The American Cancer Society's web address is [www2.cancer.org/bcn/index.html](http://www2.cancer.org/bcn/index.html).

# On the Nursing Beat Barnes College starts new degree program

BY CHARMANE MALONE  
special to The Current

UM-St. Louis has long been known for its ability to adapt to its ever-changing community. The Barnes College of Nursing at UM-St. Louis, keeping with the university's flexibility, has a new addition to its curriculum. Beginning in the intersession of May 2000, there will be a new accelerated program. This program will be an intense 15-month program where one can obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. The purpose of this accelerated program is to meet the needs of the RN shortage in this city and nationwide. Currently, St. Louis University is the only other local institution offering a similar program. UM-St. Louis will be the only public university to offer this curriculum. Teri Murray is the director of the undergraduate nursing program at the Barnes College of Nursing. "The accelerated program will target adults who are looking for a career change," Murray said. "Because of the intensity of the courses, we strongly suggest that students in this program do not work." All the courses will be offered

only during the day. The requirements for enrollment are steep. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and a bachelor's and have taken some nursing courses; or be a transfer student with 62 credit hours and a minimum grade point average 3.2. Applicants will qualify for the same scholarships offered to students in the normal BSN program. Completion of this 15-month program would prepare graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), to enter professional nursing practice as a generalist, and to pursue graduate study in nursing. On Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m., the Barnes College of Nursing will host an Open House, located at the Nursing Administration Building on South Campus of UM-St. Louis. More information will be available at this event. For questions, please contact Kathy Canda, director of Student Services, at (314) 516-6066 or 1-888-NURSE-UM. You can also get more information via the internet at [www.ums1/divisions/nursing](http://www.ums1/divisions/nursing).

# THEATRES

AMY LOMBARDO  
features editor

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## Thoughts for Today

- "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

-Hunter S. Thompson  
Credit: Better Than Sex: Confessions of A Political Junkie
- "The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory."

-Paul Fix  
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Ever Said
- "I married beneath me. All women do."

-Nancy, Lady Astor  
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Ever Said
- "The defect of equality is that we only desire it with our superiors."

-Henry Becque  
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time
- "I could prove God statistically."

-George Gallup  
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

# Over the hill: The joys of getting a little fresh air



GET THIS!  
AMY LOMBARDO

There's nothing like an early-morning hike in the beautiful, crisp autumn air. At least, that's what I was thinking last Saturday when I thought of the idea. I remember the night like it was yesterday... I sitting was in a dark, smoke-filled room drinking a beer and talking to my friend. I'll call her "Donna" because, well, it's her name. Anyway, Donna was telling me about how she went hiking at 7:30 a.m. that morning and took pictures of the wildlife. It was her first date with this young man, Tim. Isn't that the most adorable thing? It just sounded so sweet that I decided that I wanted to try it. So, I talked to my

boyfriend and he agreed that it sounded like a good idea. And so it began, innocently enough. All week I looked forward to the excursion. I like being in the outdoors - for reasonable periods of time, of course - and I knew that the leaves would be turning. Fall is my favorite time of year because it's just so darn beautiful when the Earth's vegetation begins to slowly die off and wither. It's a little twisted when I really think about it. Nevertheless, I was psyched. Until, that is, the alarm went off at the crack of dawn. No, let me take that back, the sun was no where in sight yet. It was still pitch black out-

side. This was pre-dawn territory. Did I mention that I am not a morning person? Thank goodness for the snooze button. About two hours later, I finally got out of bed. It was about 9:30 by that time, but I figured the woods weren't going anywhere. So, I ate some oatmeal (that new French Vanilla flavor which, by the way, is delicious) and we were on our way. Somehow discussing a hike up a hill is a lot more romantic than actually doing it, especially if it's not a new relationship where everything is fresh and exciting. Luckily, the trail began on a steep hill that went on for about 200 feet.

This allowed me to find out very quickly that I am not in good physical condition. I was huffing and puffing in the first five minutes. (This was not one of those situations where heavy breathing is considered attractive.) Fortunately, it had rained most of the night before, so there was plenty of mud to slip on and distract us from the intensity of the climb. But then, we reached the top. I must admit, the view was worth all the trouble - trees stretching out for miles, the river snaking its way downstream, majestic birds floating across the sky. It really was beautiful. I wonder if all Missouri natives

take the time to appreciate how fine our fair state is. Then it was time to finish the trail. We had to go downhill now, which was not the most ideal direction for 3-inch thick mud paths. It did help increase our speed, however. We reached the bottom in no time. All things considered, it was a good day. After my body adjusted to the unusual notion some call "exercise" everything went pretty smoothly. We even saw some deer and a chipmunk! This is pretty exciting for a kid who spends the majority of her time in the city. Maybe I should get out more often.



# STUDENT

## Editorial Board

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

## How to Respond

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Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length, and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

## OUR OPINION

# Postponing national campus activity says something

### The issue:

Last week, the Student Government Association was suppose to host a Campus Week of Dialogue which was part of a nation-wide event targeting President Clinton's Initiative on Race. The event was indefinitely postponed due to internal SGA problems.

### We suggest:

If UM-St. Louis plans to participate in a nation-wide program with 600 other college campuses, then these plans need to be acted on. By doing it later than everyone else, we're not really participating.

### So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else that's on your mind.

The Student Government Association's decision to postpone the Campus Week of Dialogue epitomizes the main problem afflicting UM-St. Louis—we are all talk and no action.

In the October 4 issue of *The Current*, Steven Wolfe, interim vice-president of SGA, stated that the reason for postponing the event was because he wanted "to do it right, not just throw it together." He also told *The Current* that there were internal problems that needed to be resolved before the event could be held.

Wolfe's reasons for postponement are just more problems that plague SGA this term. It is our opinion that Wolfe and SGA failed to take into consideration the importance of this event by not providing the organizers enough support or publicity.

The reason for holding the Campus Week of Dialogue, or any other awareness event on a specific week, is to provide organization. It provides a deadline for the sponsors and creates a network of student organization across the nation. By changing

the week of the event, the campus loses the support of holding it at the same time as 600 other universities. There is no longer a deadline to make sure the event even happens.

The Campus Week of Dialogue is important to UM-St. Louis, especially considering the fact that local media has focused their attention on Darwin Butler's felony conviction. It is important that the students of UM-St. Louis develop an open line of communication between themselves, the faculty, and the administration. This will help break down misunderstandings. Opinion lines should not be formed by racial stereotypes. They should be determined by what is right and wrong.

Wolfe told *The Current* that the event has been postponed indefinitely. *The Current* hopes this event doesn't translate into another good idea that never came into existence. We suggest that SGA puts more effort into publicizing the event and give more support to the organizers. The students of UM-St. Louis deserve to benefit from this event.

## LETTERS

# Issue of the University Senate division

When *The Current* (in "Our Opinion," Oct. 4) in describing the recent proposal of the Conference Committee on Governance, uses phrases like "faculty bullies" and "blatant attempt to try to strip... power from students," the paper is betraying its lack of knowledge on the subject.

This proposal is absolutely not a greedy power grab by the faculty, and that needs to be made clear. This is not even a 'faculty versus students' issue. What's going on here is simply an attempt to streamline governance and make policy-making on this campus more efficient. The fact that student representation is being minimized (and I certainly don't mean that this fact should be ignored) is not the main focus of the proposal, as *The Current* would have us believe. It also is not born of greed, maliciousness, or animosity between the faculty and the students. The reason students were taken out of many aspects of the decision-making process is simply a response to a long tradition here of a student

body that couldn't care less about things like representation and involvement.

The vast majority of this campus' 14,000 students are apathetic about campus issues, and the Conference Committee on Governance is simply recognizing that fact by leaving us out of many important processes.

What do students really stand to lose if this proposal passes?

Really, very little: something like one percent of our current representation to the main policy-making body. *The Current's* "Our Opinion" spoke of "the already embarrassingly low 21 percent student representation," when in reality, in comparison to other state schools, this is quite high. Many, many schools out there don't even have students on their senates and councils.

Now, there seems to be a trend in the last couple of years towards more student involvement, less apathy, and maybe this is why student leaders and *The Current* feel like they're being slighted by this proposal, or why they feel that this proposal is

mainly a malicious attempt by the faculty to "strip power" from the students. While neither is the case, it is necessary to consider the proposal in light of this new-found student activism. The formation of the Student Senator's Organization and an issue oriented Student Government Association would seem to speak for some sort of a commitment, on the Students' part, to taking a much more active role in policy-making at UM-St. Louis. This really does need to be considered when the Senate votes on this proposal. This Committee began its work last year, when student apathy was more of a factor than it is now, but it's time now for the faculty to start recognizing that students really are making a commitment, and that this proposal will only hinder our ability to adhere to our commitment.

**-D. Mike Bauer,**  
Chair, SGA Assembly,  
Chair  
Senate Student Affairs  
Committee

# What's it take to get a student involved?

I have been on this campus for three years, and will admit I don't know or participate in everything that goes on here at UM-St. Louis. But, this situation with our Student Government president has really opened my eyes to the fact that a lot of people don't even know that we have a Student Government. I first heard about the incident from reading *The Current*, and talked it over with many of my fellow students who also read the paper. When the "Post-Dispatch" and Channel 30 picked up the story, I was surprised to find out that some students still had no idea what was

going on in our student government. Many also did not know about our campus's newly acquired 'fourth tier' rating, which is rating us below other Missouri universities in the area when we are just as good if not better.

I have a feeling why we as a campus are not doing well in comparison with other schools. It is this lack of involvement and care in the running of the university. We, as a community of peers and educators, need to stand up for our university, and start being involved instead of just coming for class and going home. We

need to design our government and education policies again to incorporate the real student body's educational goals and attitudes, and not the 10 percent of students who usually vote or participate in the elections. When we accomplish this as a family (yes, a family of close knit adults striving for the best education possible), we will raise our rating amongst other Missouri universities and provide ourselves with the best education and future.

**-Robert Fienup**

# Major influences affecting one's life

This has been a topsy-turvy school year already, and we've only started the month of October. It seems like yesterday I was sweating to death in the Busch Stadium bleachers during a Cardinals day game in the middle of July, and now I'm having to wear coats and sweaters as the temperatures drop and the winds pick up.

The biggest thing I have learned from July to now is that growing up is hard to do. This past summer I was just getting acquainted with my new position as editor of *The Current*. I really had no obligations, no bills, and I had an excess of money.

Now things have changed. I've moved out on my own. I have rent and utilities to pay. I am the editor of *The Current*, and I am still with the same girl from the summer (a new relationship record).

I am beginning to see the big picture, and to be truthful, it's a bit scary. I no longer can be totally carefree and go on a weekend road trip to Columbia, MO and party with my fraternity brothers. These things now have to be budgeted for weeks in advance.

All of the things I have mentioned above—the moving, my position here, my relationship with my girlfriend—have all combined to help me grow as a person. Each one has had its own part in shaping who I am today.

My position as editor of *The Current* has taught me how to be a leader. It has taught me how to

stand up for what I believe in and how to go from being equals with friends to being their boss overnight. It hasn't been easy, but I have a focus and goals that I want this paper to achieve while I am the editor. Friends now have no room in my decision-making, not if I want this paper to achieve the lofty expectations I have put on it.

I know it sounds cruel, but for the most part the staff understands (at least I hope). They know that sometimes I can be a jerk, but when we are out of the newspaper setting, I'm no longer the editor—I am their friend.

Moving has also helped me grow. I buy and make my own food. This has been an adventure (whoever knew grease could catch fire?) and the cost

of food has been a shocker. Thank God for sales and double coupons!

My relationship with my girlfriend has also changed me. The thought of being with someone for more than a couple of weeks never appealed to me. This relationship is approaching six months, and while we have had our disagreements, we have always worked them out. In fact, I wouldn't change the last six months for anything.

The point of me writing this is that these changes have had a major impact on my life. They have influenced the person I have become, and hopefully these experiences will better enable me to serve you, our readers, as editor of this newspaper.

**JOE HARRIS**  
editor-in-chief



# No armed forces for me, thanks anyway

After looking through a lot of my family tree records, I realized something. My generation of my family tree will be the first that didn't have someone join the armed services.

That came as a surprise to me. I can't think of anyone that joined. Most of the guys I know who joined didn't have any other choice. They couldn't do much else. The service was a last resort. There are so many other things to do in life, and in my eyes, joining not only would change my life but I would also be taking a chance of losing it.

This is one of the first eras that hasn't had a major war. We have had minor conflicts, the Persian Gulf War being the most prominent. That lasted all of a month? Two months at the most?

Many things have changed since the last major battle, the Vietnam War.

There was once a time when the honorable thing to do was join the service. Both my grandfathers joined. Several of

their brothers joined too. They enlisted during WWII because their country needed them. I can't say that I would do the same.

Instead of standing up for the pride of the USA, I'd rather go about my own life. Maybe this generation is selfish, myself included. I would rather let someone else risk their life trying to defend the rights for which this country stands.

The only way I'd be willing to fight is if the war was on our soil. Call it cowardice, but I'm not alone. How many people do you know that would enlist to fight? What had

once not even been a thought is now looked at as craziness. When a war broke out, men lined up for blocks to join. Now, we hope that they don't start the draft.

I think views like my own and those that came from the anti-war backlash of the Vietnam War has helped to keep us out of conflicts. I could not be any happier.

**KEN DUNKIN**  
managing editor



**Under Current**  
by Rafael Macias  
staff photographer

Are you concerned about Y2K and what have you done to prepare?



**Anne Marie Potchen**  
Grad. Student/Masters of  
Social Work

I'm not too concerned, but I will store some water.



**Gloria Henderson**  
Secretary in English and History

I'm going to store water and groceries, and be prepared to hang out.



**Matt Shucart**  
Freshman/Business

Nothing. It hasn't really worried me too much.



**William Dalton**  
Grad. Student/Psychology

I updated the operating system on my laptop.



# Cougars savage Rivermen

## 4-1 drubbing continues UM-St. Louis' freefall in the GLVC standings

BY NICK BOWMAN  
special to The Current

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen soccer team continues to slip in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Rivermen 4-1 loss to SIU-Edwardsville dropped their conference record to 1-4. SIU-Edwardsville amassed a total of 14 shots on goal while allowing UM-St. Louis only five.

For the second time in less than two weeks, goalkeeper Kevin McCarthy was pulled prior to the game in favor of sophomore goalkeeper Adam Barnstead.

McCarthy has been recently hampered by hip problems and during the pre-game warm-ups, his hip started to bother him and his performance.

Once again Barnstead was steady in the net, although the score board did not show it.

"(We) don't have any physical presence on the field," senior Ryan Inkley said. "We aren't tackling at all and we really need to stop taking falls and start giving them."

Inkley was later ejected during the

game against Southern Indiana for fighting.

The defense, which has been spectacular all year, lapsed during the contest as Barnstead faced twice the number of shots that he did in his previous outing.

"We don't have any numbers in our attack," forward Mark Mendenhall said. "There just doesn't seem to be any intensity from the team. There seems to be a lot of players that are apathetic at practice, and this shows come game time. It takes 11 players to win a soccer game and it just seems that we are not getting an effort from all 11. [There is just] very little to no team effort."

One problem that has plagued the Rivermen all year is lack of offense. The team has accumulated only 10 goals all season and have only three

goals in their past six games.

"We need to try not to get over-excited about our goal shooting," freshman Chris Stockman said. "Too many shots are rushed or they are fancier than they need to be. [We] just need to square up and take accurate shots on goal."

Without a set starting line-up, the Rivermen still remain unsure of themselves and their amount of playing time.

"Coach Redmond is still trying to find a good line-up card, one that clicks very well," Stockman said. "We have a deep bench, but we really need a solid rotation."

SIU-Edwardsville started the game with a flurry of goals and never let UM-St. Louis into the contest.

Justin McMillan of SIU-Edwardsville scored the first two goals

of the frame at the 22nd and the 40th minute, of the first half. The second goal was assisted by Oakville graduate Brad Kroenig.

UM-St. Louis went to halftime trailing by two goals, but came out in the second half with some intensity.

The Rivermen showed signs of mounting a comeback, with a goal from freshman Jeff Stegman, who scored his team-leading sixth goal of the season on a run-in goal in the 52nd minute, with an assist credited to senior Kevin Pierce.

SIU-Edwardsville crushed any hopes for a victory when Barnstead was called for holding in the penalty box in the 56th minute.

SIU-Edwardsville capitalized on the penalty kick boosting the score to 3-1.

"There was not much we could do on a penalty kick," Stockman said. "It's just Adam versus the shooter and the shooter won."

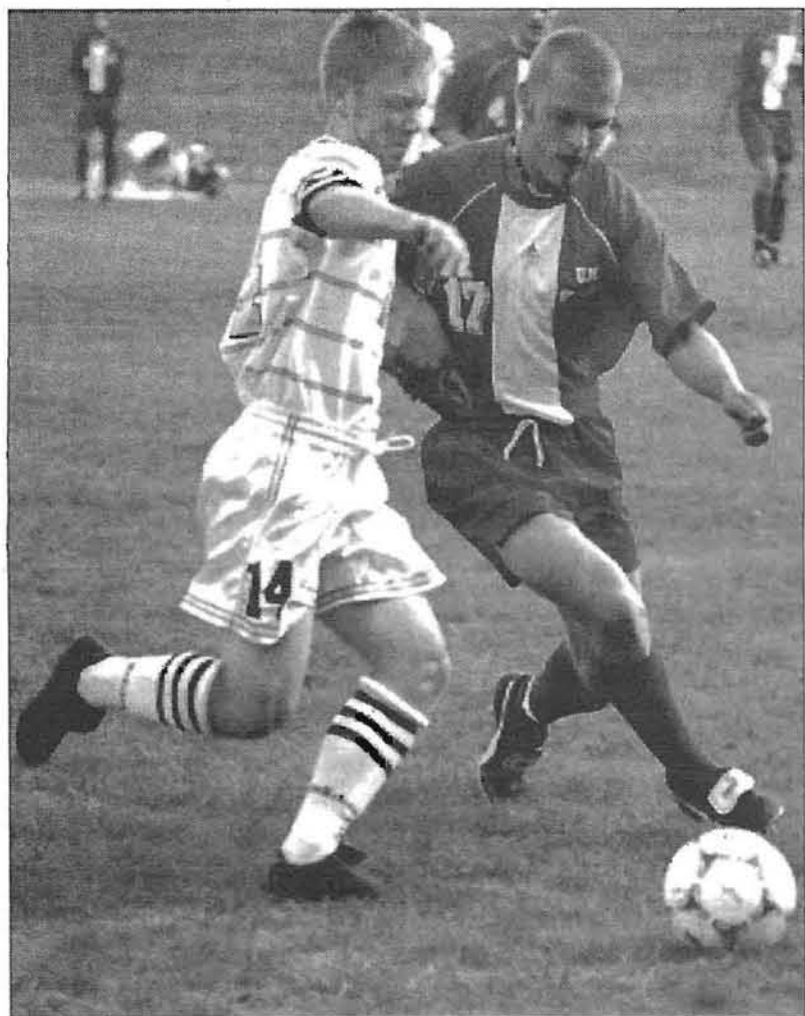
Three minutes following the penalty kick goal, SIU-Edwardsville scored a soft goal off the foot of Yuzuru Takami from 30 yards out to lead SIU-Edwardsville to the final outcome 4-1.

### GLVC Men's Soccer Standings

School	GLVC Record
1) Lewis	5-0-2
2) SIU-E	4-1-0
3) Wisc.-Park.	4-1-1
4) IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	4-1-1
5) Quincy	3-1-1
6) Indianapolis	4-2-0
7) North. Kent.	2-3-1
8) Kent. Wesl.	2-4-0
9) St. Joseph's	2-5-0
10) South. Ind.	1-4-0
11) UM-St. Louis	1-4-0
12) Bellarmine	0-6-0

## Stegman starts career with bang

### Freshman shows goal-scoring touch



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Josh Stegman (17) has made a big impact in his freshman year at UM-St. Louis. He has been one of the lone bright spots so far for the Rivermen who are 3-7 overall and 1-4 in the GLVC. He leads the team with six goals and 12 points. Stegman and his teammates look to rebound this weekend with road games against conference foes Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis.

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

Men's soccer player Jeff Stegman is not the typical freshman that sits on the bench and learns from the older more experienced players.

Stegman, from Vianney High School, currently leads the Rivermen soccer team with six goals and 12 points overall. More importantly, two of Stegman's goals were game-winners.

As a native of South County, Stegman chose to attend Vianney to play soccer. It was here in the Metro Catholic Conference where Stegman became the player that he is today.

"With SLUH, CBC and DeSmet, we have one of the hardest conferences in the country," Stegman said. "It really prepares you to take it to the next level."

Stegman was a second-team All State selection during his senior year at Vianney.

After graduation, Stegman was set on going to a school other than UM-St. Louis, but Head Coach Tom Redmond stuck to his guns.

"[Coach] Redmond contacted me first," Stegman said. "At first I got accepted to SIU-Edwardsville but their coach never contacted me. I really wanted to stay home."

When Stegman's career began at UM-St. Louis, other opponents were not taking notice of him, but they are now.

"I figured maybe I would average 20 minutes a game," Stegman said. "But then I got into my first game and scored two goals. It just helped my confidence. I expected a couple of easy games to start with, but we have not had any with all the games being one or two goal games."

## Women lose, tie

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY  
special to The Current

It was a mixed week for the traveling UM-St. Louis women's soccer team as it lost to Southern Illinois Edwardsville 1-4 and tied UM-Rolla 2-2.

SIU-Edwardsville, 2nd in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, established themselves quickly in the first half.

"We had a very poor showing on our part, giving up three goals in the first 20 minutes of the game," Head Coach Beth Goetz said. "If you don't start when the whistle blows, it's hard to come back, especially against a good team."

SIU-Edwardsville scored in the first, seventh, and 16th minutes of the game.

UM-St. Louis had very little offense, managing only one goal coming in the 36th minute by Jennifer Terbrock.

UM-St. Louis gave up another goal in the second half in the 58th minute.

The Riverwomen had only six shots on goal compared to 25 by SIU-Edwardsville and only one corner kick to Edwardsville's nine.

"I was disappointed and the girls were disappointed with their performance," Goetz said. "We were just not mentally ready."

The loss was an eye opener for the team and may have given them a new sense of focus.

"We came in Monday and did a lot of soul searching," Goetz said. "We worked on some things in practice and had a pretty good talk."

The Riverwomen then traveled to Rolla and were greeted with an

unexpected delay when a referee failed to appear.

The game was postponed, and the Riverwomen went back to Rolla the next day to begin and finish the match.

UM-Rolla started the game quickly with a goal in the 12th minute, but UM-St. Louis' defense kicked in and held Rolla to only one goal in the first half.

UM-St. Louis came back in the second half and tied the game with a goal by Jennifer Terbrock in the 47th minute.

Rolla scored again in the 63rd minute, taking the lead 1-2.

The Riverwomen were not to be outdone as Lindsay Siemens scored the tying goal in the 80th minute.

The game was taken into double overtime, with neither UM-Rolla or the Riverwomen scoring a goal.

Although UM-St. Louis did not emerge victorious in the contest, the game seemed to re-energize the team.

"It was a great game for us," Goetz said. "We started playing well, but above all else, for 90 minutes they worked well together. They played with a lot of heart and intensity."

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team now stands at 4-6-1 overall and 2-3 in the GLVC. With new focus and intensity, Coach Goetz and the team will look to improve their standing with their upcoming conference games.

The Riverwomen hit the road to play Lindenwood, Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis University before returning home Oct. 23 against St. Joseph's.

## Volleyball drops four set match to GLVC foe Lewis

BY NICK BOWMAN  
special to The Current

The Riverwomen volleyball team looked to improve on its sub-par conference record going into the contest against Lewis at home.

"(We) started out very intense and took an early lead in the first set," senior outside hitter Yorhena Panama said.

After taking the first set 15-11, Lewis battled back with an impressive 15-9 victory in the second set.

The Riverwomen remained persistent though to come back and dominate the third set winning 15-6.

The third set displayed a very solid team effort anchored by a strong showing of skill from sophomore outside hitter Holly Zrout, whose attack percentage of .348 and 23 total digs led

both teams.

In the fourth set, Lewis played good defensive volleyball, holding UM-St. Louis to an attack percentage of .189 and accumulated the majority of their 103 digs in the contest during the fourth set.

This proved to be the deciding factor in Lewis' 15-13 victory. This defensive integrity really showed in the end, as UM-St. Louis was held to

an eye-popping 0 attack percentage while Lewis could only muster a .050 attack percentage of their own.

"We need to improve on the basics, such as ball-handling, calling, blocking, and keep up our level of play throughout games," Panama said. "If we can eliminate some of the mental errors in our game, we can compete at the higher levels."

"Of course losing such close

matches is very disappointing, (but) we are still a growing team, and we improve with every practice and every competition," Head Coach Denise Silvester said. "Our goal is to peak in November for the [Great Lakes Valley Conference] tournament. We have a big home match on Thursday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. against Quincy University. The fans will be treated to a very exciting volleyball match."

## Cardinals have many questions to answer this offseason



LATEST SCOOP  
DAVE KINWORTHY

What do the St. Louis Cardinals need to make them a contender? I leave the question to the fans of the game to decide.

The Cardinals, under the Tony LaRussa regime have not met the fans expectations whatsoever the past three seasons.

A mere glimpse of hope was there when the Redbirds were beating the Atlanta Braves 3-1 in the 1996 playoffs, but those dreams were shattered and there has been a very unpleasant downfall since.

At first base, Mark McGwire won the home run title, again defeating Sammy Sosa, and was the main reason fans continued to come

to the ballpark when the Cardinals were out of the pennant race. McGwire did his part.

At second base, I do not know if Joe MoeBing is the answer. He is a good defensive second baseman, but his offensive production towards the later part of the season lacked. I will give him credit though because he came from nowhere to make the starting roster. Is Adam Kennedy the real answer the Cardinals have hoped and longed for? The Cardinals also thought that Carlos Baerga was the answer, but where is he now? Released.

At shortstop Edgar Renteria showed signs of what made him a

great World Series player for the Florida Marlins, but he also was in his own world out on the diamond certain days. If Renteria wants the Cardinals organization to take him seriously, he needs to wake up and play like the prominent base-stealing offensive-minded player that he was.

At third base, the Cardinals finally did something right when they got Fernando Tatis from the Texas Rangers. Tatis started the season strong and finished well. I just hope that next year, his head does not get too big after a solid season like this and demand more money.

The outfield is comprised of more players than ever imagined during the beginning of the '99 season.

Memo to Ray Lankford: Do not continue to get hurt or you will be traded. Lankford has had his woes continue this season with numerous injuries.

J.D. Drew was not what supporters said he would be yet. He is not the man who will be the next Mickey Mantle, yet. For those Drew haters remember, the man is still young. It takes time to develop a feel for the Majors before you can dominate it.

Eric Davis, who is that? I never

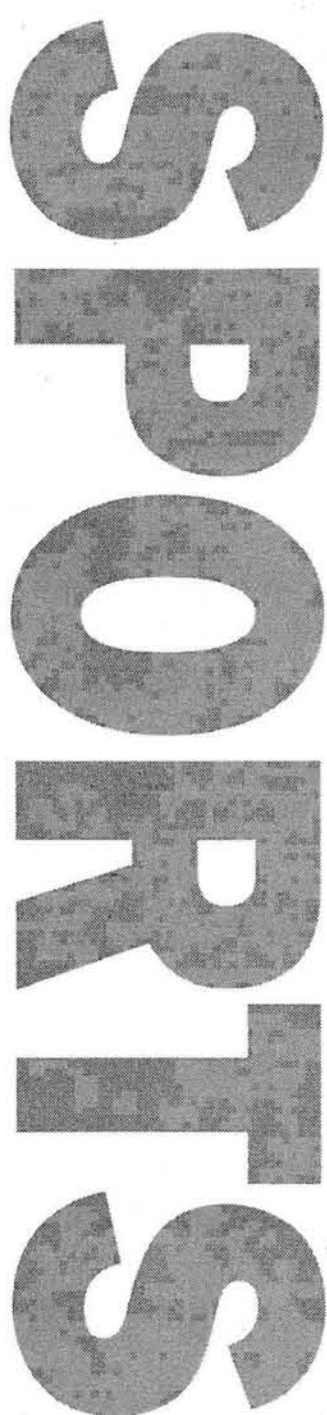
saw him play for the Cardinals.

Well as you can see, the Cardinals do need some help to shore up their lineup. Look for the Cardinals to go after a solid second baseman and even a utility player to replace the great Willie McGee.

The fans of St. Louis will miss you Willie if you do decide this is your last season. Your heart and character exemplifies what it takes to be a true professional athlete. Thanks for the memories.

Until next baseball season, let's hope the Cardinals wise up and decide to actually make an attempt to catch the Houston Astros.

Go Mets!



DAVE KINWORTHY  
sports editor

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### Upcoming Games

#### Men's Soccer

at Wisc.-Parkside  
3 p.m., Sat., Oct. 16

at Lewis  
3 p.m., Sun., Oct. 17

#### Volleyball

vs Quincy  
7 p.m., Thur. Oct. 14

at Southern Indiana  
7 p.m., Fri. Oct. 22

#### Women's Soccer

at Wisc.-Parkside  
12:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 16

at Lewis  
12:30 p.m., Sun., Oct. 17

### Next Week In Sports

Men's Soccer  
Women's Soccer  
Volleyball  
Kinworthy's Column



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Upcoming  
Concerts

October

16  
Digital Underground  
w/Midwest Avengers  
The Firehouse

19  
Coal Chamber, Slipknot,  
Dose & Amen  
Pop's

20  
Moke  
Hi-Pointe

21  
Dirty Dozen Brass Band  
Blueberry Hill

22  
Dr. Zhivegas  
Blueberry Hill

23  
Pietasters  
Karma

Bloody Mess & The  
Waynes  
Creepy Crawl

25  
Godsmack w/ Jim Rose  
Circus  
American Theatre

27  
George Clinton  
The Firehouse

28  
My Life With The Thrill  
Kill Kult  
Mississippi Nights

30  
Sarah Cloud  
Side Door

ALBUM REVIEW

Time's no obstacle for David Bowie

The venerable musician's solid new CD 'Hours' returns to his stylistic roots



BY CORY BLACKWOOD  
staff editor

One of music's most prolific personalities, David Bowie, just released his newest album. Now on Virgin records, Bowie gave us "Hours," an album going against every trend in popular music today.

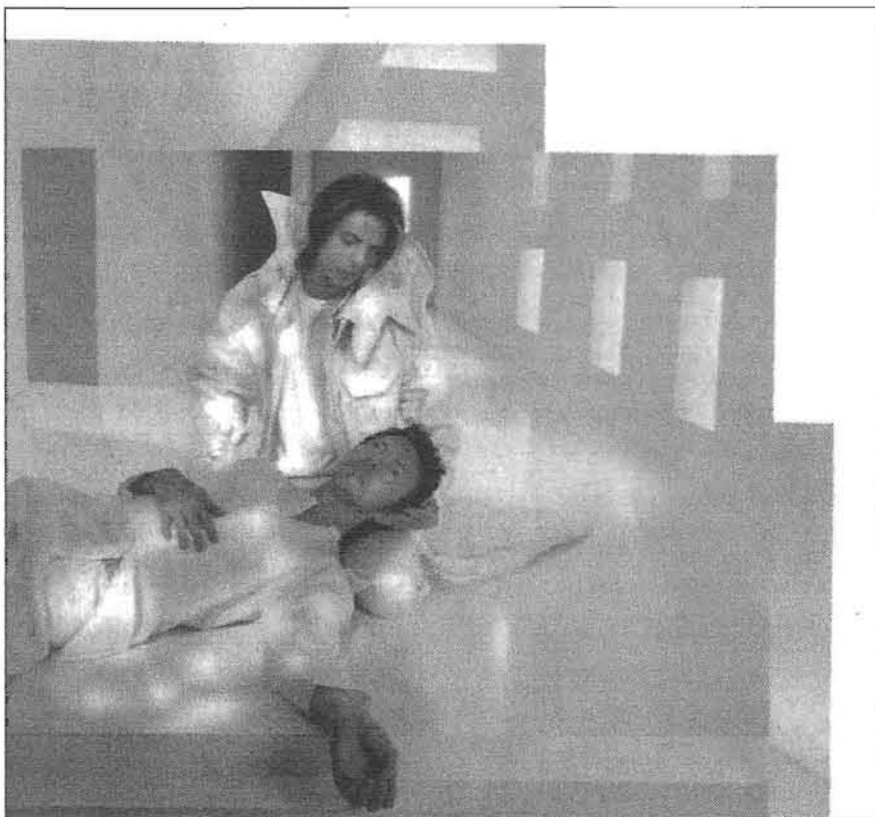
"Hours" is David Bowie's 33rd full length album since 1969's "Space Oddity," his debut album, that found him 21 years old and naive to the musical business. In the 30 years since "Space Oddity" hit number five on the U.K. charts, Bowie has revolutionized music and the way we see it.

Ever the entrepreneur, Bowie was the first to adopt an alter-ego, as Martian rock star Ziggy Stardust. After Ziggy got killed by his band (as found in 1972's "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars"), Bowie went on to release "Diamond Dogs," an album tying in with George Orwell's "1984"; three of the most experimental albums in pop music, "Low," "Heroes," and "Lodger" with ambient musician Brian Eno; and he even transformed into his arena rock days in the '80s. After a short stint as the Thin White Duke, Bowie simply became the Bowie we know today.

While Limp Bizkit and friends are either getting angrier or taking more from the hip-hop genre with each album, Bowie went back to an older style of music—his own. "Hours" is reminiscent of "Hunky Dory" and "Young Americans," while avoiding the Nine Inch Nail-esque feel of 1995's "Outside" and the techno rock of 1997's "Earthling."

The album has a melancholy feel to it, nothing depressing, but there is an evident sadness present. Bowie's voice is a little less upbeat and a little deeper than usual, but still as rich as ever. The opening track, "Thursday's Child," is a song of love and longing, as beautiful as it is bewildering.

The first single, "The Pretty Things are



'Hours,' the latest album from David Bowie, is his 33rd full-length album since 1969.

Going to Hell," is the fastest song on the album and possibly the best; it can also be found in "Stigmata," Hollywood's recent horror flop. Longtime friend to Bowie Reeves Gabrels lends his genius touch on the guitar once again. Gabrels is credited with co-producing each of the songs, and the listener is better off for it. The guitars on "Hours" are ever-present, but they never out-do or compete with Bowie's magnificent vocals.

When most musicians are heading in the direction to the next quick buck, Bowie is daring enough—and talented enough—to go the opposite direction, and come out sounding better than the compe-

'Hours'

Artist: David Bowie  
Label: Virgin Records  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

tion. While "Hours" is nowhere near as good as "Ziggy Stardust," "Diamond Dogs," or "Lodger," it is still better than his drought in the late '80s to early '90s. "Hours" will fit in nicely with Bowie's collection of good, timeless albums, just as will fit in nicely with any true music lover's collection.

FILM REVIEW

It's slapstick, it's crazy, but most of all, it works

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

"Black Cat, White Cat" is a slapstick comedy about an eccentric Gypsy family living on the banks of the Danube River in an equally eccentric, energetic community. The family of father, son and grandfather live in a crazy-looking house on the bank of the Danube River. The father is a struggling schemer, looking for that quick buck and not too good at finding it. His 17-year-old son helps out, but really feels closer to his music-loving, always-partying grandfather.

This Felliniesque film is filled with weird devices and colorful, oddly dressed people engaged in loopy behavior. In one scene, the granddaughter of the owner of a ramshackle restaurant leans out the restaurant window with a rifle to take potshots at the flower pots on the railing of the neighboring restaurant. The manager of that neighboring establishment reacts not with fear but with the outrage and hysteria of someone being taunted by one of the Marx Brothers. In another scene, the Gypsy tuba band that follows Grandpa everywhere is seen suspended from a pair of trees, happily playing as usual. No one in the film seems to notice these bizarre events, creating an effect both comic and surreal.

The father comes up with a money-making scheme and goes to two different local gangsters to get money to



Bajram Severdzan plays Doctor Kolja in 'Black Cat, White Cat.'

help with his plan. One of these gangsters, an old friend of Grandpa, gets around in a stripped down motorized cart and dotes on his goofy-looking grandsons, while the other gangster is a coke-snorting, gold chain-festooned refugee from the seventies. Dad's plan soon involves his family and a cast of offbeat characters in a whole lot of trouble.

The story is a classic farce, with twists and surprises, full of slapstick and low-comedy humor amidst its charmingly bizarre characters, and with a little romance thrown in. Although it is in Serbo-Croatian and Romany with subtitles, the humor and story are mostly visual and easy to fol-

'Black Cat, White Cat'

Length: 135 min.  
Rated: R  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

low. As a matter of fact, the whole film looks a lot like the mayhem of the Marx Brothers. Slapstick humor, and even some crude humor, is everywhere in this film. The film has a lot of charm and, if this kind of low comedy doesn't irritate you, you will enjoy watching this appealing, crazy movie. (Now playing at the Tivoli)

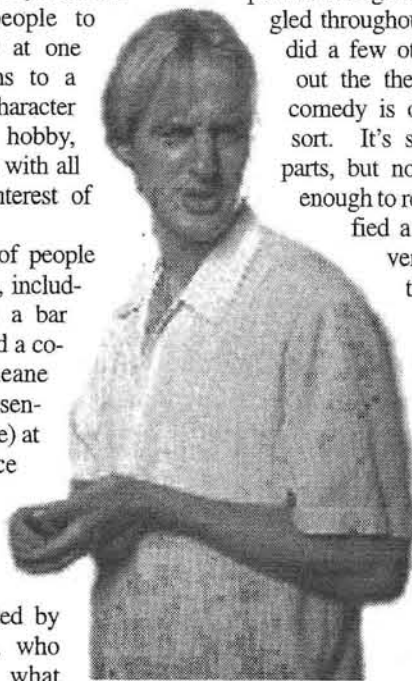
FILM REVIEW

Hard-to-classify movie chokes on clichés

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

Looks can be deceiving. That cliché sums up the message of this movie, or at least its initial premise. Vann Siegert (Owen Wilson), a blonde-haired, blue-eyed man with all-American boyish looks wanders into a small town and appears to become part of the community. The stranger's appealing looks and sweet, innocent manner draw people to him, as he says at one point "like moths to a flame", but this character has an unusual hobby, which he pursues with all the cool, mild interest of stamp collecting.

Indeed, a lot of people are drawn to him, including a woman in a bar (Sheryl Crow) and a co-worker (Janeane Garofalo, in an essentially dramatic role) at the Post Office where he finds a job. The stranger also has episodes in which he is visited by two FBI agents, who grill him about what he's doing. His blank,



Owen Wilson

Pointe)

'The Minus Man'

Length: 105 min.  
Rated: R  
Our opinion: ★★★

simple manner sometimes makes him seem like a combination of Forrest Gump and Ted Bundy.

Actually, this film is hard to categorize. Parts of it are funny (the person sitting next to me giggled throughout the film, as did a few others throughout the theater), but the comedy is of the darkest sort. It's suspenseful in parts, but not consistently enough to really be classified a thriller. It's a very strange film that some people may like but others won't. It's the kind of film you might see if you're willing to take a chance.

(Now showing at the Hi-Pointe)

Five years after his death, Bill Hicks' humorous tirades are still relevant



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

Bill Hicks: Another Dead Hero. This is what is printed on a page of the liner notes to Tool's latest CD, Aenima, next to a painting of Bill Hicks as a doctor. Bill Hicks was not a doctor, he was a comedian.

In 1994, Bill Hicks died of pancreatic cancer at 33. To those of you who do not know who Bill Hicks was, this information does not mean much. To everyone else, Bill Hicks was a wickedly funny, shockingly honest comedian afraid of nothing. Hicks wasn't afraid to offer his view on whatever he felt like, so much so that Hicks was banned from CBS's Ed

Sullivan Theater, where the David Letterman Show is filmed. He didn't get banned until his 11th appearance on the David Letterman show, but something he said was too much for the execs. The only other person to be banned is Elvis Presley.

Hicks never pulled punches in his routine, especially later in life. You see, Hicks knew he had cancer. He knew he was dying. He just didn't tell anyone. Once a man knows he is dying, worrying about the feelings of others really doesn't seem to be important, so Hicks felt it was time to say what he felt.

From gays in the military ("If anyone is stupid enough to want to die for a country, who's stoppin' them?") to his hatred of pro-life rockers, nothing was sacred, but it was always funny. People sometimes were intimidated by what was said, because it was closer to home than the regular stand up shtick.

Rednecks, fundamentalist Christians, pro-lifers, patriots, conservatives were all prime targets of his rants, but that didn't save liberals or apathetic individuals from staring down the barrel of Hicks's proverbial gun.

"Last year in the United States,

where people are permitted to carry guns, there were 23,000 deaths by handguns. In England, where people aren't permitted to carry guns, there were 14 deaths - probably shot by American tourists. But you'd be a fool and a communist to believe there's no connection between owning a gun and shooting someone and not owning a gun and not shooting someone," Hicks said.

David Letterman, Dennis Miller, and Dennis Leary all cite Bill Hicks as a major influence and great comedian. Tool has a painting of him in their CD liner notes. And that song "Eulogy" by

Tool, isn't about Jesus, Kurt Cobain or Jimi Hendrix, it's about Hicks.

Why am I writing about this? Hicks died in 1994, five years ago. It shouldn't really be of much consequence what he said, but for some reason it is. The reason that this is still relevant is because what Bill Hicks said

"Here is my final point. About drugs, about alcohol, about pornography (whatever that is) what business is it of yours what I do, read, buy, see or take into my body as long as I do not harm another human being on this planet?"



# Study shows lowest national average college tuition increase in four years

BY MATTHEW BOEDY  
Independent Florida Alligator

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla.— College tuition increased an average of 5 percent nationwide this year, the smallest increase in four years, according to a study released Tuesday by the College Board.

According to the study, a survey of 3,200 higher education institutions, students at four-year public institutions are paying \$109 more, a 3.4 percent increase. The average cost of tuition at a four-year public institution this year is \$3,356, up from \$3,247 last year. At U. of Florida, tuition was increased 5 percent this Fall.

At two-year public institutions, students are paying \$73 more this year, a 4.7 percent increase. The average cost for two-year schools is \$1,627, up from \$1,554 the year before. At Santa Fe Community College, students taking 12 hours pay about \$500 for in-state and more than \$1,800 for out-of-state.

With the slowing of costs, the College Board - which also produces the SAT - reported that a record \$64 billion was available in student aid in 1998-1999, an 85 percent increase over the last decade.

"It doesn't surprise me that that amount of money is floating out there," Karen Fooks, UF director of student financial affairs, said.

The amount of money given out is keeping pace with the number of students getting into college. Students are paying more because they want a degree and the high cost

of college is worth it, according to the College Board's analysis.

According to the College Board, bachelor's degree recipients earn 75 percent more than people with a high school diploma. Over a 40-year career, the difference between a high school education and a college one is about \$1 million.


Students also are amassing more debt than ever. Most of the \$64 billion was in the form of student loans, which accounted for 58 percent of the total, up from 40 percent in 1980-1981. The report indicated that tuition is a problem for many low- and moderate- income families. Since 1981, tuition has nearly

doubled on average, while family incomes have risen just 22 percent.

The report also focused on how programs like Federal Pell Grants cover tuition costs. Pell Grants do not have to be paid back and were intended to be the foundation of federal student assistance when they were created 25 years ago. The maximum Pell Grant covers one-third of the average cost for a public four-year college and one-seventh the cost of a private four-year college. The maximum award for 1997-98 was \$2,700.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.

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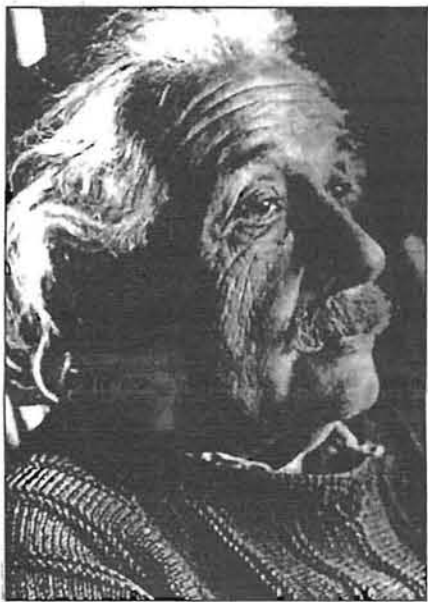
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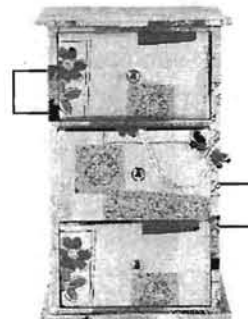
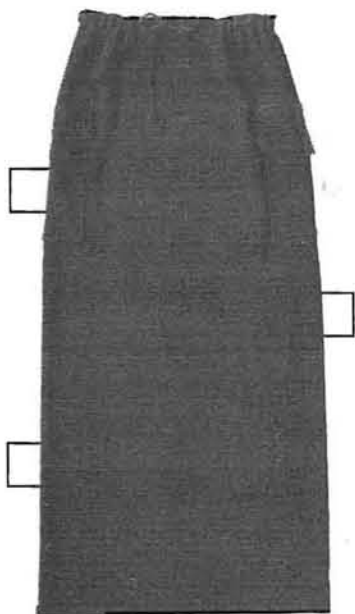
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**CONSERVATION, from page 1**

**Walter Crawford, executive director of the World Bird Sanctuary, speaks to students about his organization during the Conservation at the St. Louis Zoo, Oct. 6.**

World Wildlife Fund in Latin America and the Caribbean. She came to speak about the roles of technology, civil society, and the corporate entities in regard to conservation.

"Those are three trends that I see for conservation in Latin America for the next few years. [These groups] are ones that we will have to be working more on," Symington said. "I think we're going to have to [get the involvement of the corporate sector] if we are going to make it a win-win sit-

uation. They are not going to help out of the goodness of their hearts."

Osborne said the ICTE is involved in a variety of functions related to the graduate programs in biology at UM-St. Louis.

"One of the things we try and do is raise money for research scholarships," Osborne said. "We have various boards of people within St. Louis that help us do that. Another function is to create an academic atmosphere, such as the Conservation Forum."

## Social event planned to raise funds for helping victims of domestic violence

**BY SHAVON PERKINS**  
staff associate

Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW), an advocacy group for victims of domestic violence, invites St. Louisans to "Take LAAW Into Their Own Hands" and be "W.O.W.ed" at the third annual fundraising social event at Windows on Washington.

Legal Advocates for Abused Women is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence establish lives free

from violence through free legal representation, legal information, and crisis support services.

The LAAW group will host an evening of music, food, drinks, and a silent auction at the annual gala from 6 to 10 p.m., Oct. 15. The silent auction will include items ranging from gift certificates and dinners, to Blues and Rams tickets and one of a kind Cardinal items.

Underwriters of this year's event are Bridge Trading Company, Ernst & Young LLP, and Thomas Coburn. Drury Inn and Ballwin/Metro West

Rotary Club have also given financial support to this event.

"We are thrilled to have major firms in the community helping underwrite our expenses," said Lynn Loebner Rothbarth, executive director of LAAW. "This is our major fundraiser for the year. Our goal for this year's event is \$15,000."

Gaylon Davis, director of Education and Administration at LAAW said, "I believe the first event started out small in someone's house and has grown into this."

Tickets for the event are \$50 per

person, \$35 for those 35 and younger, and a Circle of Friends (a group of eight) is \$350.

"Proceeds from the event will go directly into our programs and projects," said Davis.

Reservations are available through the LAAW concierge free toll line 1-877-311-LAAW, e-mail at laaw@stl-net.com, or calling or writing LAAW at 3115 South Grand Blvd., Suite 102, St. Louis MO 63118. The phone number is 314-664-7864.

## Students serve community by collecting books for children

**BY SHAVON PERKINS**  
staff associate

The Student Social Work Association is forming a coalition among student organizations for a campus-wide community service project. The Student Social Work Association, along with the Student National Education Association, Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, and the Kathy J. Weinman Children's Advocacy Center will be collecting books for kids November 1st through the 30th.

Books for Kids collects new and gently used books for children who, for various socio-economic reasons, are at risk of failing in literacy skills. The books are redistributed to non-profit organizations that have children's reading programs.

"By giving children books that help retain their interest in reading, we hope to keep them working on their literacy skills when it becomes difficult for them to do so," said Nina Chastain, president of the Student Social Work Association for 1999-2000.

"This is our second year with Books for Kids. Our president from last year, Janice Black, developed this idea as a way to bring together

various student organizations that might not normally associate with each other to work on a common goal," Chastain said.

Last year the group collected 3,500 books. The goal for this year is to collect 5,000 books.

"Ideally, we would like gently used books geared toward children in 'pre-school through eighth grade," Chastain said.

Donation boxes will be placed in buildings on both campus locations throughout the entire month of November.

"We will also be accepting cash donations for new books in the Campus Bookstore. Gloria Schultz was very instrumental in helping by providing us with storage space for the books until we sorted and redistributed them," Chastain said.

In addition to The Children's Advocacy Center, the coalition is in the process of selecting four other organizations who are in the greatest need of additional books this year. Chastain said that the decision making process would continue through the month of October.

"We could easily use 25-30 volunteers for collecting, sorting, and distributing these books," Chastain said.



**Jesse Figueroa/ The Current**

**Nina Chastain is president of the Student Social Work Association, which is leading a coalition of student organizations to collect books for children.**

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A \$1000 prize will be awarded in an Essay Contest. All UM-St. Louis are eligible to enter. Entries must be received by Friday, Oct. 22.

Winner will be announced at a reception on Nov. 17, 1999.

Submit essays to the Center for International Studies, Room 366 SSB. More information can also be obtained in 366 SSB.

All entries become property of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. All works must avoid plagiarism and partisan politics.



United Nations Day  
is October 24th,  
1999.

This contest is endowed by Dorothy Schneider, former Red Cross overseas worker, college faculty member (English Department) in San Diego, California, and St. Charles, Missouri, and author of the UN resolution to create United Nations Day as an international holiday.



# University says 'thank you' to its staff members for years of service

BY KEN DUNKIN  
senior editor

The University showed its appreciation for its employees with the 1999 Service Awards Program held Oct. 1. The program was held to celebrate staff who had worked five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years for the University. Each staffer had their name read and then was given a personalized program booklet with a section for each person honored. Each staffer will also receive a gift of their choosing from a catalogue.

"We made it a point to say something about each person as their name was read," said Deborah Burris, manager of employee development and employee relations in Human Resources. "We wanted to recognize them as employees and as great people. We wanted a personal approach."

Burris said the University wanted to say "thank you" to its employees.

"We don't get enough opportunities to thank each person," she said. "They work hard, and they are a vital part of this organization. Without them it would be tough for this university to survive."

The turnout for the event was the largest in years. Approximately 90 staffers attended the event.

"We normally don't get such a large turnout," Burris said. "We made it more prestigious. We were really wanted them to know we appreciate the years of dedication that they have given the University."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Patricia Bennett (left), general manager of KWMU, receives an award from Chancellor Touhill (right) during the 1999 Service Awards Program, Oct. 1.

## FORUM, from page 1

1986, upon written demand of either two-thirds of the SGA assembly, or a petition of 5 percent of the students, an officer or an assembly member of the association may be impeached.

Then the officer or assembly member would be required to appear before the student court.

Neither has happened as of press time.

Butler and SGA have called a press conference for Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Student Lounge to help answer student questions before Wednesday's meeting.

## VICE PRESIDENT, from page 1

cations for vice-president.

Butler said the election committee is still planning for the vice-presidential election. He said that if the election is held, forms will be available

after the October SGA meeting, and the election should take place sometime in early November.

Butler said he plans on talking to the Student Court about the constitu-

tional conflict this week. He hopes to have a definite answer on the status of the vice-presidential elections by Friday.

## GRANNY D, from page 1

bled."

Haddock said that whole parts of our society have had their opportunities taken from them and a "young generation of urban poor is in jail or in the justice system" and that people are working too many jobs and hours to be able to rear their families.

"It is the duty of our leaders to shape society so that the great masses of its people can work to provide

decently for their families and their future," Haddock said. "Our leaders, distracted by the corruption of the campaign finance system, are failing that duty."

Ben Senturia of Missouri Voters for Fair Elections took the podium to speak of the petition drive that is now ongoing in the state of Missouri for an initiative regarding reform.

"Imagine a system where issues

rise and fall based on their merit, not on their relative funding of their advocates," Senturia said. "We are on the brink of creating such a fair election system in Missouri. To do it, we need all of you, all those who have committed, who are fed up with the cash-ocracy, to take a simple action, to help us gather 71,000 signatures by May 7 of next year."

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## Upcoming Student Government Association Activities Involvement in Student Government

### Election Committee

Applications are available on the SGA web site  
[www.umsi.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html](http://www.umsi.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html)

### Press Conference

The SGA administration will be meeting students on Oct. 12 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss their concerns. The Press Conference will be held in the University Center Lounge.

SGA

### SGA Meeting

The upcoming SGA Meeting will be held on October 21, 1999 in the Hawthorne Room. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will adjourn at 4:00 p.m. For more information, call the SGA at 516-5105.

### Student Court

The time is now for those students interested in serving as justices on UM-St. Louis' Student Court.

#### Applicants must have:

- 2.0 GPA,
- A status of good standing within University Policies,
- Dedication, hardworking, Honest, and Fair characteristics to meet the necessary criterion.

Applications are located in the SGA Office, located in Room 262 on the second floor of the University Center. Completed applications are to be turned in to the SGA Office.

Contact Steve Bartok at x. 5104 for more information.

### Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC)

The SABC is also accepting applications. All interested students should be aware that applications will be accepted up until Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1999 at 5 p.m. Applicants will be interviewed on Thursday, Oct. 14, 1999 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Our goal for these aforementioned dates is to get the committee approved in time for the Oct. 21 SGA Meeting.

#### Applicants must have:

- 2.0 GPA,
- A status of good standing within University Policies,
- Dedication, hardworking, Honest, and Fair characteristics to meet the necessary criterion.

**All applications are available on the SGA web site  
[www.umsi.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html](http://www.umsi.edu/studentlife/sga/sga.html)**

The SGA Office is more than happy to assist all students interested in these positions for continued progress here at UM-St. Louis.





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BLOCK-AID, from page 3

and major changes they might not be able to do otherwise. When five or six houses on a block are rehabbed, others follow, Kruger has noticed.

"You start to see change, and that is really neat to be able to do that," Kruger said.

American Family supports Block-Aid with 75 volunteers, materials, and supplies.

On the Tower Grove East home of Mel' Lisa and Maurice Ramsey, American Family landscaped with shrubs and flowers, cleaned the patio, added a new storm door, and painted the front of the house.

Vada Parker, a resident who lives

on the 3500 block of Utah, is working with Block-Aid for the first time.

"It's been a good experience. I'm used to doing volunteer work before Block-Aid '99 came along [and] it goes hand and hand," Parker said.

Bill Gilbert, the president of the Neighborhood Housing Service in St. Louis, makes Block-Aid an annual project.

"I'm looking forward to seeing major changes in 20 homes on a couple of blocks."

"It's always been a lot of work, but enjoyable," Gilbert said.



Stephanie Platt / The Current



Stephanie Platt / The Current

TOP: Volunteers help paint and refurbish a home in the 3500 block of Utah.

LEFT: Katie Schembri a student at North High School paints trim for Block-Aid.

# 'Almost A Woman' author will sign books at Left Bank

BY ANNE PORTER  
staff associate

Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez, Javier Mendoza and Marc Antony may represent the music side of the Latin explosion in American culture, but some lesser known authors such as Esmeralda Santiago depict the written history of the lives of the people of Latin America.

Santiago wrote "When I Was Puerto Rican" and, as a response to all the questions from her readers about the rest of her memoirs, she wrote "Almost A Woman."

"It's a memoir. Life as best I can remember it," Santiago said.

Santiago will appear for a book signing at Left Bank Books on Tuesday, October 12 at 7 p.m.

Experiences that shaped Santiago's life include learning English and adjusting to a new culture. In addition to adapting to a different environment, Santiago also modified her traditional values.

"Anytime you move from one culture to another, you will be challenged. So I don't know what my life would have been like if I had stayed [there] in Puerto Rico as a child and grown up into womanhood," Santiago said.

Santiago came to America brother Raymond in 1961 so he could receive medical treatment.

In the 21 years that she lived with her mother, they moved at least two dozen times.

In those two dozen moves, Santiago not only learned to change from the Spanish language to the English language, but also from the more traditional perspective of Puerto Rico to the more progressive culture of America. Santiago's mother still tried to teach her the traditional ways by not allowing her to date, but Santiago rebelled and sought the American romantic scene.

"These kinds of things are the kinds of things that when you start writing a memoir, you start to analyze for yourself, so that you can answer those sorts of questions and frequently there is no answer," Santiago said.

In addition to her extracurricular activities, Santiago, or as her mother called her "Negi," translated at the welfare office in the morning; starred as Cleopatra at the New York Performing Arts High School in the afternoon; and danced salsa style at night.

Santiago intends "Almost A Woman" to provide non-immigrant Americans with an understanding of the experiences that many immigrants had.

"My book is taught in many universities and high schools, so people are able to understand a lot about themselves [and] the people around them," Santiago said.

Santiago traces the Latin explosion back about five-to-10 years with the growing interest in Latino literature.

"I think as the literature has evolved and the people become interested in the literature, they will also be interested in the other forms of the expression in Latin culture," Santiago said.

PLAY, from page 3

Lipkin elaborated that gay men are often portrayed like accessories to their heterosexual female friends, almost like strands of pearls.

This idea is first performed in theater and then leaks to feature movies and mainstream society.

"In fact, a lot of gay men and straight women have historically had really deep and profound relationships that are often quite complicated," Lipkin said.

For that reason, Lipkin selected "fag/hag" from Sleeveless Theater as a way to look at this social trend without the use of uncomfortable language.

Kate Nugent and Joe Salvatore perform the main characters in the production.

Nugent and Salvatore met at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and had such a rapport that they became good friends.

Both Nugent and Salvatore conducted interviews as research for "fag/hag." Some of the interviews are spoken word-for-word on stage during the course of the play.

"They literally transcribed some things that people said. You get a sense [of] individual personalities and speech patterns," Lipkin said.

Nugent often portrays the male responses, and Salvatore conveys the female perspectives.

Through the exploration of gender issues and Nugent and Salvatore's friendship in activities such as talking on the phone and cruising for men, the feeling of a real-life relationship is depicted.

"Some of the scenes are quite funny," Lipkin said. Such scenes are scripted, and the play speaks to younger audiences because many of the people interviewed for research were college age.

Another reason Lipkin chose "fag/hag" is because she wanted to acknowledge the National Coming Out Day and the anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard.

Before the performance begins, Nugent and Salvatore explain the meaning behind the play's name.

"Hag" formerly was defined as a sorceress or woman with magical powers, and "fag" often is defined by the person who says the word.

At the top of the show, they define these terms and how these terms have been used, and how they are contextualized, and on some level they reclaim them," Lipkin said.

Most of all, Lipkin hopes people will have a good time.

"It's a fun night out, even if it's not in a mainstream setting [and] it's an interesting and worthwhile experience to see something you haven't necessarily heard of," Lipkin said.

Lipkin believes friendships and sexual issues can be very complicated.

"I want [the audience] to have an experience on the complexity of relationships. I think they'll see themselves on stage. They'll see friendships they've had or friendships of people they've known," Lipkin said.

Salvatore first opened "fag/hag" last February in North Hampton, Mass. with five performances.

"The response was so overwhelming we were forced to remount it very close by again about one-and-a-half months later because so many people had seen it before and wanted to see it again or had heard about it and hadn't had a chance to see it," Salvatore said.

Salvatore enjoys his relationship with Nugent, especially as far as acting is concerned.

"Kate and I have a lot of fun together. In fact, it's been the most fun I've had for a long time," Salvatore said.


For the past three years, Salvatore has been directing and doing historical research for performances.

"('fag/hag' allows) people to get an introduction to community they might not have access to before. I hope that people will come to see the piece [because they] . . . are curious about what all the fuss this relationship is about," Salvatore said.

"When you see a piece like 'fag/hag,' you see that these are complicated, supportive, joyful relationships that millions of people enjoy," Lipkin said.

"fag/hag" plays Friday, Saturday and Sunday at St. Marcus Theater. Tickets cost \$15 with discounts for students, seniors, and groups.

For more information or reservations, please call (314) 995-4600.




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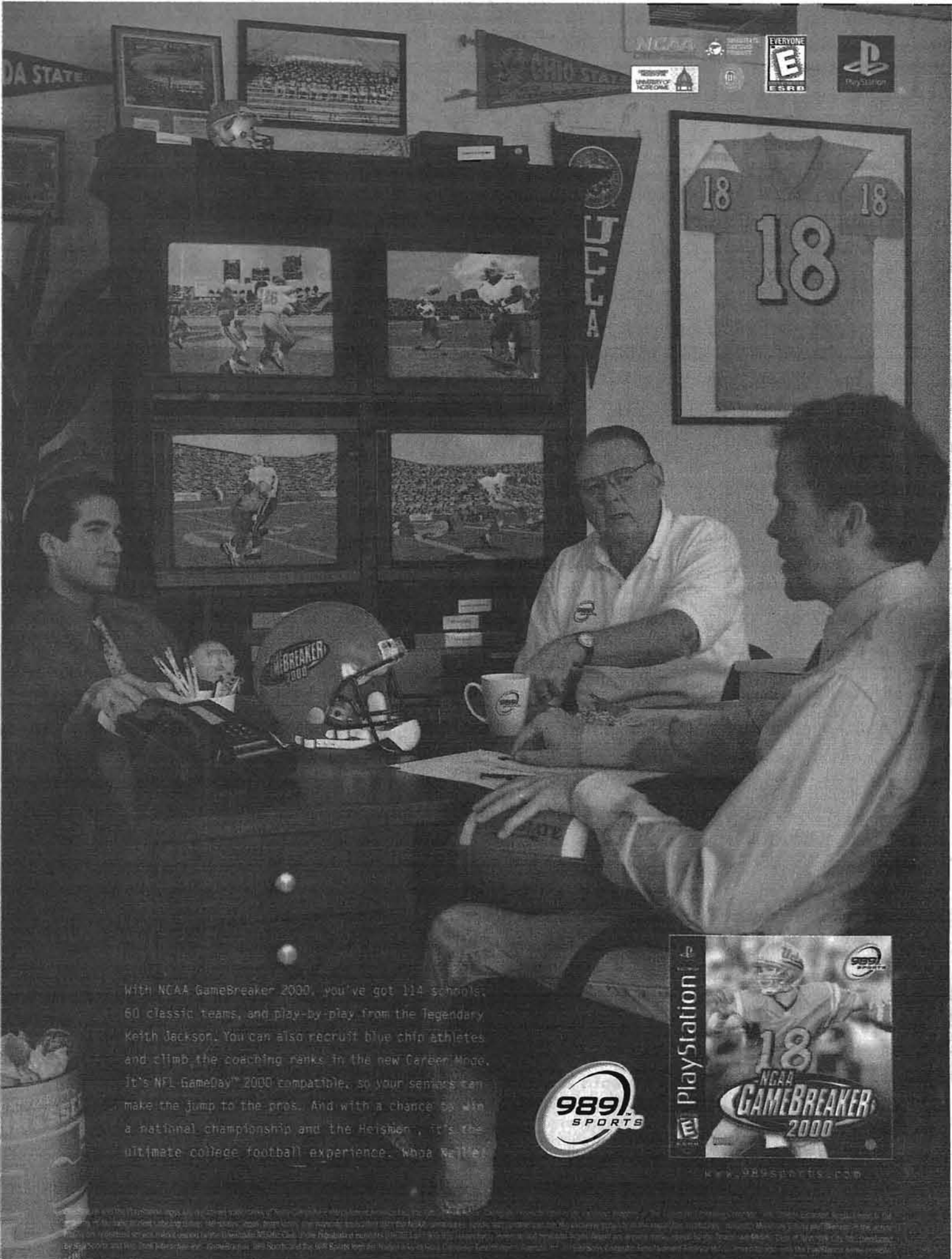
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