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Remembering the dream: Celebrations of Martin Luther King day were held across the St. Louis area, including here on campus.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



Growing up is hard to do: It's not easy to turn a bestseller like "Angela's Ashes" into a successful movie, but director Alan Parker did it.

▲ See page 6

U-Wire News

Clinton proposes tax deduction for college tuition

BY MATT BERGER

U-Wire Washington Bureau

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — President Clinton will ask Congress to make college tuition tax deductible as part of his 2001 budget proposal, the president announced Thursday.

The proposal calls for \$30 billion to be invested in the College Opportunity Tax Cut, which would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief for a student per year, once the program is fully functional in 2003.

It would give students and their families the choice of either a tax deduction or a 28 percent credit for tuition, fees and other expenses. The plan would cover up to \$5,000 in expenses for the next two years and \$10,000 after that.

"This has never been done before," President Clinton said at an announcement ceremony in the Old Executive Office Building. "We will really be able to say anyone who wants to go to college can go."

The tax credit will be more widely available than previous education credits. The maximum income will be \$60,000 for individuals and \$120,000 for married tax filers. Those numbers are higher than the current education tax credits.

The president also announced \$1 billion to help students afford to stay in school, through additions to the Pell Grants and Work-Study programs, in addition to several new initiatives. Pell Grants would be raised to a maximum of \$3,500 per student each year.

In addition, \$400 million has been proposed to get students in middle and high schools to plan for college and understand higher education is affordable to them, through the TRIO program.

"We want to encourage more students at an earlier age to give them a sense they can go to college and earn a degree," Clinton said.

Riley said he believed, as part of Clinton's balanced budget proposal, this program will be passed by the Republican-controlled legislature.

Rep. Bill Goodling (R-Penn.), chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, said he believes the Pell Grant program should be the government's highest priority for higher education spending and should be funded to the maximum extent allowed in the budget.

"The president's commitment to spend more money on Pell Grants, the TRIO program and work study is a step in the right direction," Goodling said in a press release. "I am disappointed, however, that the president still sees the need to create new federal programs and new bureaucracies for proposals when existing programs could be used."

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SGA fills vacant positions at meeting

Assembly selects Rankins as vice president, prepares to expel Butler

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Michael Rankins was voted in as permanent vice president for the Student Government Association at its meeting on Thursday.

Rankins, a graduate school representative and former SGA vice president, filled the seat left vacated by Carrie Mowen on Sept. 17. Steve Wolfe has been the interim since.

Rankins, though, could become SGA president depending on a ruling by the Student Court. The presidency has been vacated ever since Darwin Butler's work release was revoked last October. Butler has since been unable to attend SGA meetings since.

The SGA constitution states that an officer can be expelled upon missing four meetings. Butler missed his fourth meeting on Thursday, and SGA officials said they would pursue having Butler officially removed through the Student Court.

"It's an automatic elimination if he's missed four meetings pending an appeal; he always has the right to appeal it," said Ben Ash, SGA parliamentarian. "However, I'm sure that after they count up four absences today, they'll send out a letter to Darwin, wherever he may be, stating

SGA representatives cast their votes for impeaching President Darwin Butler. The impeachment resolution failed, but the SGA did approve a new slate of Student Court justices as well as new SGA officers.

Rafael Macias/
The Current



the fact that he has been expelled, and he must appeal if he wishes to remain in office."

Rankins said he would welcome the challenge of the presidency if it were to happen. He said that restoring the students' faith in SGA is his top priority.

"We have Mirthday coming up, and student government can't drop the ball on that again," Rankins said. "We have to be out there. We have to

be present. We have to be sure that we are present in the appropriate way and the students see that student government is back and that we are taking our jobs seriously and that we are taking them seriously."

The vote came about in an attempt to start impeachment proceedings against Butler. The lack of quorum stopped those proceedings on the first try.

After several minutes of debate on

how to proceed, a motion was made and passed to close the meeting and to start a new one five minutes later.

The motion was made because the constitution says any organization that is absent from four or more SGA meetings will have their funds frozen and will be expelled from the assembly. The reasoning was that if enough groups were in violation, that would

see RANKINS, page 12

SGA approves slate of Student Court justices

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The ratification of a permanent Student Court was accomplished after nearly a semester delay at Thursday's Student Government Association January meeting.

The Student Court is a group of students who preside over such student legal concerns as traffic ticket appeals, grievances filed by students against another student and they would preside if impeachment charges were brought forth over an SGA official. The candidates had been working on an interim basis for the entire fall semester and there was concern if they had not been approved, their previous decisions would not hold up.

"If the interim justices had not been approved, then theoretically there could have been appeals on all the traffic tickets that we signed, and all the judgments we had made," Rick Eccher, student court justice, said.

see SGA, page 7

U may change policy on reporting drug, alcohol violations

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

An amendment to the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) may have an effect on how UM-St. Louis handles the drug and alcohol violations of students under age 21.

FERPA, also known as the Buckley Amendment, deals with the disclosure of students' records. In 1998, Sen. John Warner of Virginia introduced an amendment to FERPA, which has since become law. The amendment states that "nothing in this bill shall be construed to prohibit

an institution of postsecondary education from disclosing, to the parent of a student, information regarding violation of any federal, state, or local laws governing the use or possession of alcohol or drugs, whether or not that information is contained in the student's records, if the student is under the age of 21."

The issue of how to enforce the Buckley Amendment was raised at last Tuesday's University Senate meeting. Jeanne Zarucchi, Senate chairperson, read a report on behalf of the Inter-campus Faculty Council stating that the University of Missouri General Council has

reviewed the Buckley Amendment and how it pertains to the four UM campuses.

"The Council has agreed that each campus may notify parents, but will not be mandated to do so, and each campus will have written guidelines that will be subject to approval by the System President," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said that the University of Missouri Board of Curators is considering a proposal to approve a policy regarding the enforcement of the new amendment. Zarucchi's report noted that the University's current policy is to not report the drug and alcohol violations of minor students

to their parents.

Gary Grace, vice-chancellor of Student Affairs, said that the amendment to FERPA "made the release of certain information that had always been considered to be confidential somewhat discretionary."

Grace said that many universities have been changing their policies due to increases over the years in the number of drug-and alcohol-related incidents.

"The number of alcohol-and drug-related deaths has mushroomed, and the amount of binge drinking has mushroomed," Grace said. "The prevailing attitude is to do whatever pos-

sible to reduce or eliminate unnecessary student deaths and to curb binge drinking."

Grace said that the University of Missouri-Columbia already has a policy in place that allows the school to report minor students' second violations to their parents. He said that any similar policies drawn up by UM-St. Louis wouldn't "exactly follow" Columbia's because UM-St. Louis has a much smaller residential population.

Grace also spoke of the challenge of trying to balance students' privacy

see LAW, page 12

Campus Computing increases network security after hacker destroys professor's research

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

In response to a computer hacker who wiped out 18 months of a UM-St. Louis professor's work, Campus Computing has erected a fire wall around the campus computer system.

The fire wall has prevented users of the UM-St. Louis system from using ICQ and IRC services, from performing most kinds of file transfers, and from playing Quake with someone anywhere outside the fire wall, said Jerrold Siegel, coordinator of Campus Computing.

"We have made sure that no unauthorized connections can come to the campus," Siegel said. "No one can probe our servers and then crack our passwords."

Over Thanksgiving weekend, someone broke into physics professor Ricardo Flores' computer on campus. Flores said.

"The real chill down my spine was when I looked into the disks and found that everything was erased," Flores said. "It's a very devastating feeling. We're talking about years of research work."

Flores researches the astrophysics of the origin of the universe. To make his calculations, he must write his own programs involving thousands of lines of programming, he said.

He has published research results derived from the programs he lost, Flores said, but he needs the programs to solve new problems. "It's like someone spending years building

an apparatus," he said.

"There was supposed to be a backup system for this computer that was not operating," Flores said. He stopped using his own backup in May, 1998, Flores said.

Days after the first incident, a hacker broke into a computer in the Ophthalmology Department, one used by physics graduate student Srivisa Varadharagan. Although his disk was wiped clean, Varadharagan said he only lost a few days data, because he had backup files.

As a result of these incidents, and of time when hackers tied up and slowed down the computer system, Campus Computing installed the fire wall, Siegel said.

The new setup had some unintended consequences, Siegel said.

Quake is a popular computer game that enthusiasts can play over the Internet with others around the world. ICQ and IRC are like chat rooms where users send and receive short messages in real time.

The fire wall cuts off access to Quake, ICQ, and IRC outside the fire wall "because of the way the software is organized," Siegel said. "They use a less frequently used protocol that makes it very difficult to see whether someone is playing Quake or someone is trying to break in."

The fire wall extends beyond the UM-St. Louis campus to UM-Columbia and UM-Rolla, Siegel said. That means computer users on cam-

see NET, page 12

MoDOT to hold open house on planned I-70 changes

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

In a move that would dramatically change the north end of campus, the Missouri Department of Transportation plans to move Interstate 70 a little closer to campus and reroute Florissant Road to the east by the end of 2002.

On Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building, MoDOT plans to hold an open house about its plans for Interstate 70 between Hanley and Bermuda roads and the new interchange with Florissant Road. Transportation Department and University officials plan to be there to answer questions, to display maps and drawings, and to listen to suggestions from anyone who walks in.

University and state officials are negotiating a swap with the University, giving the state land for the highway right-of-way in return for other land and improvements in lighting and landscaping at the interchange that the University wants, said Reinhard Schuster, vice-chancellor for Administrative Services.

The new bridge would "make a statement that you are approaching something spectacular, the University," Schuster said. "It's for recognition; it's for aesthetics."

Schuster said he expects that when it's all over, the University would end up with some land on the north of the Interstate, control over the new, enhanced Interstate 70 bridge over the new Florissant Road, a boulevard entrance to the north side of campus.



Rafael Macias/ The Current

Bob Emily, senior survey assistant from MoDOT, surveys the area around Mt. Providence in preparation for the rerouting of I-70. The public will be invited to ask questions about the project at an open house this Thursday.

and ownership of the old Florissant Road.

Schuster said the University would have to keep the old Florissant Road open to traffic as long as it's needed for access to private residences on Geiger Road. "Our plan is to buy that all," Schuster said. "The University will own everything."

The University already owns the strip center on Florissant and plans to tear it down as well as the QuikTrip

and the Wendy's, Schuster said. Plans call for tearing down the old Mt. Providence School building on the hill southeast of the interchange within 60 days, Schuster said.

MoDOT plans show the new entrance ramp to eastbound Interstate 70 going right through the Mt. Providence building. However, Schuster said, the St. Louis Regional

see I-70, page 12

Bulletin Board

Monday, Jan. 24

•**Fences:** Considerations of the Black Repertory Production, is presented by Ron Himes, director of the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, and sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Himes and cast members will discuss the play, *Fences* (which is about a former player in the Negro baseball leagues and his family. Charles Korr, professor of history and baseball historian, will join them in exploring the historical and social issues this play addresses. Call 5699 for further details.

•**Interviewing Techniques Workshop,** sponsored by Career Services, will begin at 4:30 p.m. in room 308 Woods Hall. Learn how to prepare for a successful job interview. Discover the questions interviewers ask, what you should ask employers, and other valuable information in this free, one-hour workshop. To register, please call 5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

•**Noteworthy:** Getting the most from class notes and text books is the second seminar in the Academic Success Advantage Program, presented by Counseling Services. It will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. either today or tomorrow in Counseling Services, 427 SSB. For more information, call 5711.

•**Prayer Group** at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m. Free pizza got Chris here. Free hot dogs got Ron connected. What does it take to bring you??? For more information, call Betty at 385-3455.

Thursday, Jan. 27

•**How to Utilize Career Services Workshop,** sponsored by Career Services, will be from 12 to 12:30 p.m. in room 308 Woods Hall. Learn about the job search resources available through Career Services. To register, please call 5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

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.

•**Open House on I-70,** is a chance to discuss the I-70/Florissant Road Interchange Project, including bridge replacements at Bermuda and Hanley roads. It will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. in the lobby of the J. C. Penney Building. Missouri Department of Transportation and University officials will exhibit displays and answer questions related to the project. For more information, contact MoDOT area engineer Bill Schnell at 340-4305 or project manager Lee Hillner at 340-4359.

Friday, Jan. 28

•**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 Ministry.

Saturday, Jan. 29

•**Sigma Pi** presents their fourth rush party, the "Shagadelic Pussycat Swingers Club." 60s and 70s attire is encouraged, but is not required. The party is located at 8645 Natural Bridge Rd. (right across from Taco Bell) and will be from 9 p.m. - ??? Guys must have a college I.D. and girls must be at least 18 years old. If you have any questions call 426-0078.

Sunday, Jan. 30

•**Catholic Mass** will be held every week at 6 p.m. at South Campus Residence Chapel.

•**RCIA,** the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run till 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.). Anyone who is interested may attend. For further information feel free to call 385-3455.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

January 13, 2000

A staff person reported that between 2:40 and 4:50 p.m., unknown persons had scratched both right-side car doors using a metal object. The vehicle was parked on Parking Lot "G".

January 14, 2000

A vacuum pump was reported as missing from Seton Hall.

A student reported that his parking permit was stolen sometime between Jan. 10 and 12 while the car was parked in Garage "D" on the second level. The vehicle was not

damaged.

January 15, 2000

A visitor at the South Campus Residence Hall reported that at 11 p.m., he discovered that his vehicle had been broken into while parked at the Residence Hall. An empty DVD box was taken from the car. Entry was gained by damaging the left rear window. The vehicle was equipped with a working alarm, which sounded.

January 16, 2000

A Community Assistant at University Meadows reported that at 10:15 p.m.

she observed a nude male walking from the outside hot tub area at the clubhouse.

Two student residents at University Meadows reported that an unknown white male was peeping into their apartment by trying the doorknob to the front door. University Police searched the complex in an attempt to locate the suspect; however, he could not be located.

A composite sketch of the suspect was completed. The suspect is described as a white male, 6'-6"2" in height, medi-

um build, no facial hair, and dressed in black, including a ski cap.

January 18, 2000

A student reported that on Jan. 14, her parking permit was stolen between 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. while her car was parked on Lot "I".

January 19, 2000

The Optometry Clinic at Marillac Hall reported that several pairs of eyeglass frames were missing from the Dispensary.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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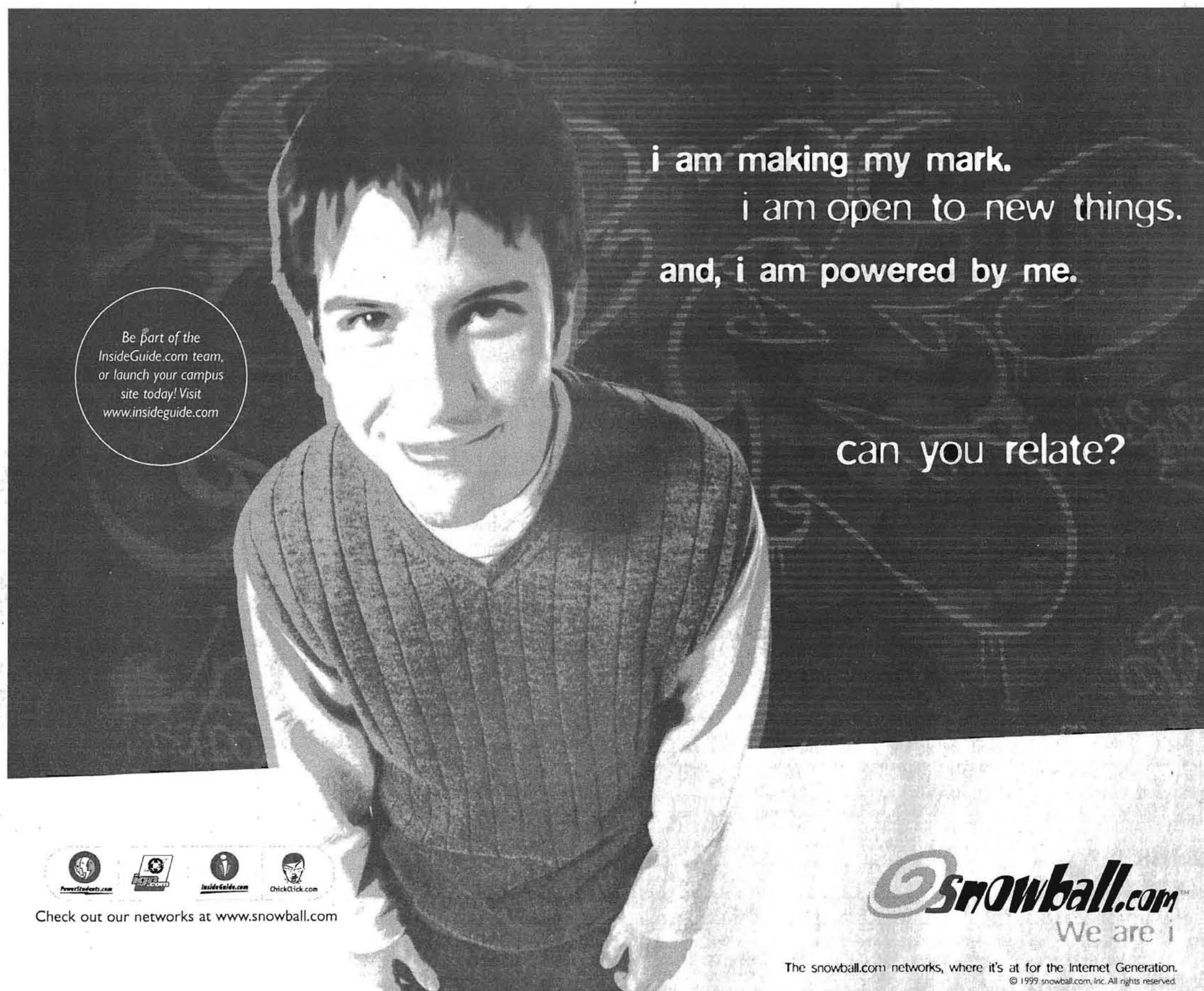
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Remembering

The Dream

Re-enactment of march staged at Old Courthouse

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

On Jan. 17, 2000 people began to gather outside the Old Courthouse, in downtown St. Louis, to re-enact the 1963 Washington D.C. civil rights march and to celebrate the 15th national observance honoring Martin Luther King. The march was one of many activities sponsored by the MLK Holiday Committee Foundation, Inc.

Before the march, Janet Reno, the U.S. attorney general, spoke of the slow strides Americans are taking toward equality for all.

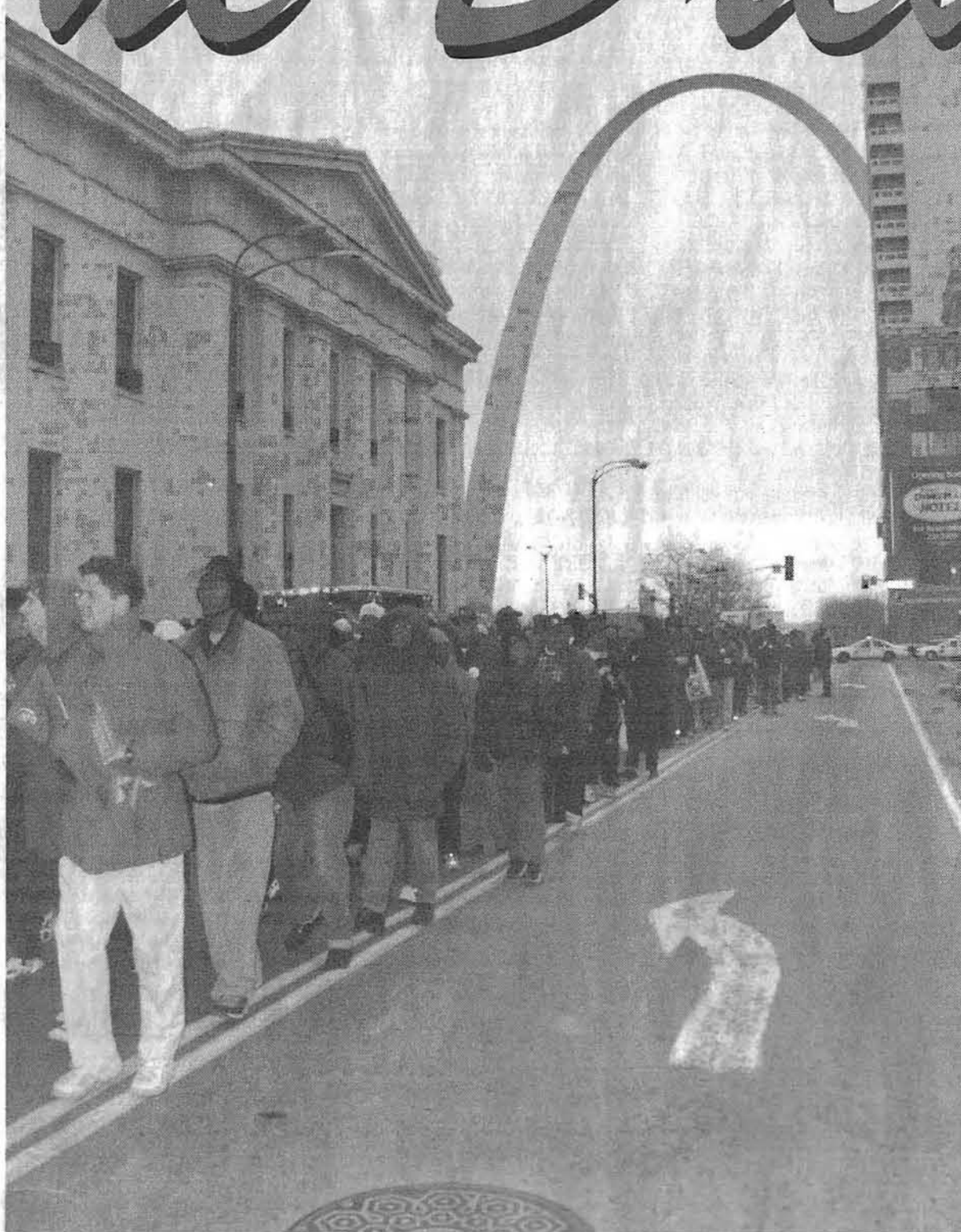
"Black churches still burn. Synagogues are still desecrated. Hate crimes are still committed. People are still denied jobs, houses and loans because the color of their skin. People with disabilities are still denied a chance to live and to work in America as equals. Dr. King would not be satisfied with our progress," Reno said.

Clarence Harmon, the mayor of St. Louis; Debra Powell, the mayor of East St. Louis; and Andrew C. Taylor, president of Civic Progress also spoke at the ceremony.

An hour and a half after the ceremony, marchers reached Powell Symphony Hall for an interfaith service.

This year's theme for the Martin Luther King celebration was "Remember. Celebrate. Act. A Day On, Not A Day Off. The Struggle Continues."

see KING, page 9



Rafael Macias/ The Current

St. Louisans prepare to march through downtown in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Campus honors King legacy at Penney building

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff assistant

The Office of Equal Opportunity celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday last Monday morning at the J.C. Penney auditorium. The annual event has been sponsored by OEO since 1987, said director Norman Seay.

Following an invocation by Dennis Chitwood, director of Campus Ministry, Chancellor Blanche Touhill welcomed the standing-room-only audience.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno also attended the celebration and delivered a brief speech concerning the lack of progress made by society. Seay said she addressed issues such as broken homes and educational opportunities. In addition, she delivered the message that, if Dr. King were alive today, he wouldn't be satisfied, Seay said.

Prior to the celebration, Seay received a phone call from the mayor's office regarding Reno's visit. He was told that Janet Reno, the attorney general "wanted to participate in a Dr. Martin Luther King celebration" while in town.

Also, there were a number of performances incorporated into the program. The UM-St. Louis Gospel Choir and the Normandy High School Jazz Ensemble performed a few selections. In addition, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company performed the one act play, "King: A Man and His Dream."

"It was just excellent," Seay said. "The entire program was well-received."

FEATUR

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Organization gets rep from St. Louis area

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

UM-St. Louis' International Business program has partnered with Washington University to become the St. Louis AIESEC representatives.

AIESEC (L'Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commercial) is the world's largest student organization providing internship programs in over 87 countries. To date, it has more than 50,000 members from 800 higher-education institutions with over 5,000 annual exchanges.

The uniqueness of this non-profit organization is that it is completely managed by students. AIESEC was founded after World War II in 1948, by a French student who wanted to start an organization that united students around the world. Members are responsible for networking and developing internship opportunities for students from other countries. The student in the hosting

see AIESEC, page 9

Surls embraces paradox in new art exhibition

Gallery 210 features showing

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

From Jan. 20 through Feb. 26, Gallery 210—located on the second floor of Lucas Hall—will be displaying prints and sculptures by artist James Surls.

The exhibit, "James Surls: Embracing Paradox," features a selection of large-scale woodcuts, linocuts and sculptures.

His exhibits currently on display are from personal reflections from the past decade.

Surls has been a significant figure in American art for the past 30 years. He is known for his rich symbols, narrative, use of materials, humor, and craft. All of these elements reflect day-to-day life experiences.

His artwork focuses on universal themes of love, birth, death and work. He searches for the meaning and integrity in everyday life. With each piece of work, he has one common goal.

"I want art to look back at me,"

said Surls.

The University Gallery at Old Dominion University and the Catherine J. Smith Gallery at Appalachian State University came together to assist Surls with the exhibit.

Surls, a native of Terrell, Texas, received a bachelor's degree in Science from Sam Houston State College, in Huntsville, Texas.

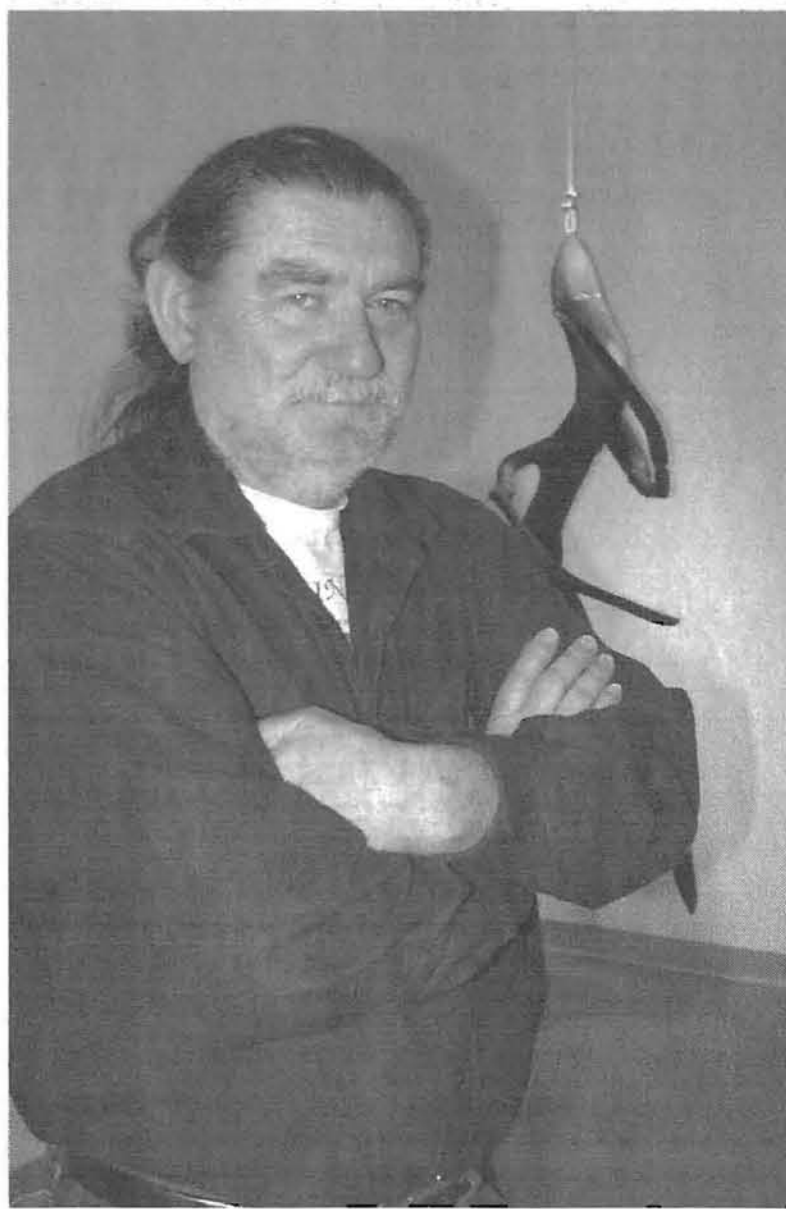
He earned his master's degree in fine arts at Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

In 1993 he was awarded the "Living Legend Award" from the Dallas Visual Art Center in Texas. Two years earlier, he won the Texas Artist of the Arts Fellowship from Houston Area Art League.

He's been a part of numerous solo and group exhibitions since 1987. Surls now resides in Basalt, Colo.

Surls displayed a great appreciation for art in a manuscript covering "James Surls: Embracing Paradox."

"Thank you art, I love you," wrote Surls.



Rafael Macias/ The Current

James Surls in front of one of his "Embracing Paradox" works being viewed at Gallery 210 Jan. 20 through Feb. 26.

No cupid's arrow for cheesy late-night dating shows



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

Sometime, in the history of man, some friend who had entirely too much free time decided to fix up two of his or her single acquaintances together because he or she thought the saps would make a great match.

Because it proved successful this one time, the "blind date" method became the most popular way to find cupid's golden-tipped arrow. Some people even choose to inflict these recipes for disaster on themselves.

Why exactly someone would want to do such a thing bewilders me, but nonetheless such a phenomena exists.

Some lonely lookers even join services to have themselves matched with their soul mate. Yes, all for the price of

\$339.29, these dating services will connect those desolate souls with their once-in-a-lifetime love.

Understandably, not all these computer matches will be blissful, but why advertise those lemon dates?

This is exactly why I don't understand television dating shows.

In the 1980s, Chuck Woolery hosted "Love Connection."

I watched that show for one reason only, to watch the ugly, insult-reeking tirades that could not even be called dates.

Other versions of these early dating galleries appeared and disappeared, but "Love Connection" never lost its slot in reruns aired at 1:45 a.m.

That is until approximately three

months ago, when I first heard about the 90s version of the show called "Blind Date."

In this version, the new information-age principle of "show all, tell all" applies.

In "Blind Date," a video camera follows the two ill-fated fools around on all the activities of their experiment.

I cannot say that I watch this show regularly. When it is scheduled, I am most often sleeping, drinking adult beverages, or a combination of both.

However, what I can say is that when this invitation-to-doom plays on my television set, it completely lives out every nightmare I have ever dreamed.

For example, tonight's guinea pigs

included the crackhead valley girl meets the four-by-four suburban stockbroker.

At first indication, things may have gone well. The valley girl liked his apartment (or so she said,) even though a monkey could have decorated it with more taste with a collection of tempera paints.

So, from his trash dump of memorabilia, they moved to a comedy club, where they become the comedians. They were almost as successful as I would be imitating Eddie Murphy in "Raw."

After such an exhausting performance, they ate dinner at some cafe, where they then argued about whether South Africa is on the continent of

Antarctica or Europe. Well, not really, but I don't really remember what they were bickering about so that illustration seems to work.

As if there was hope that this "love connection" could click, they then moved to a cigar bar, where they argued about at which level of the atmosphere ozone exists.

That was, of course, after the stockbroker attempted a weak pick-up line on another woman at the establishment.

Since the show's audience has a collective IQ of 21, or so the producers believe, an analysis of the "date" or

see PORTER, page 9

Thoughts for Today

"The world is proof that God is a committee."

-Bob Stokes

Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon."

-Susan Ertz

Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself."

-A.H. Weiler

Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Politics, as a practice, whatever its professions, has always been the systematic organization of hatreds."

-Henry Brooks Adams

Credit: Political Babble: The 1,000 Dumbest Things Ever Said by Politicians

STUDENT OPINION

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OUR OPINION

SGA decisions may not be constitutional

The issue:

Since the beginning of fall semester 1999 a number of problems have arisen keeping the Student Government from fulfilling its duty to the students of UM-St. Louis: SGA vice president Carrie Mowen was unable to register for classes due to financial complications thus vacating her position. SGA president Darwin Butler was later jailed for personal reasons, which then left a huge hole in the SGA. Steven Wolfe was appointed interim vice president, which led him to become acting president of SGA. Last Thursday, the SGA quickly adjourned its meeting so that another meeting could be held immediately afterwards. This was done to expel some student organizations due to some attendance bylaws. A vote was then held on whether or not to impeach Butler. It failed. Then a new vice president was appointed to act as president.

We suggest:

All of these decisions were made without certainty that they were constitutional. We hope the Student Court is careful when reviewing these actions.

So what do you think?

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

You have to give the Student Government Association at least some credit for trying. After a miserable fall semester in which nothing was accomplished, SGA representatives made a dogged effort Thursday to try to put in place an acting SGA president who can make the organization run smoothly. Unfortunately, the assembly's actions may not be constitutional.

The SGA actually held two meetings on Thursday, one immediately following the other. The idea was to get some organizations to incur enough absences to expel them from the assembly, thus making it easier to get the two-thirds majority needed to impeach jailed SGA president Darwin Butler. Although the impeachment vote failed to win approval after this maneuver, it did not mean Butler's job was safe. Thursday's meetings also proved to be the third and fourth absences for Butler, who is held to the same attendance standards as SGA organizations and who can be expelled for the same number of absences.

With assembly members working under the assumption that Butler could be officially expelled for missing Thursday's meetings, the assembly then faced the issue of how to appoint a vice president to serve in Butler's place. Steven Wolfe's appointment as interim vice president last October to replace Carrie Mowen was intended to be a temporary measure until a special election could be held to replace her. The SGA's 1989 constitution states that this election should have been held before Dec. 1; the assembly's 1986 bylaws forbid special elections from being held during the spring semester. Because the SGA failed to have a special election during the period allowed, the assembly decided to take matters into its own hands on Thursday by electing Michael Rankins the new vice president.

The assembly's justification for bypassing the student body and electing a vice president of its own choosing was a constitutional clause stating "In case of the vice president's resignation . . . the Association [the student body] shall elect from its membership a new vice president of the Association if the need for a new president is prior to Dec. 1st. After this date, a new vice president shall be elected by the Assembly [SGA representatives]."

This clause says that the SGA can elect a vice president themselves only if the need comes *after* Dec. 1; it doesn't

say they can do it because they just didn't get around to it.

What makes matters worse is the fact that the SGA is using two different versions of both its constitution and its bylaws, one from 1986 and one from 1989. Although the SGA promised to ratify a new, single constitution, its inactivity last semester prevented this from being accomplished. No one at Thursday's meetings seemed to know exactly which constitution and bylaws to use. At one point newly-elected parliamentarian Ben Ash held up a copy of one constitution in each hand and announced, "It's up to us to decide which one to use."

The SGA's determination to pick up the pieces of last semester and move forward is certainly admirable. The selection of Michael Rankins as the new vice president is also a step in the right direction, as Rankins has several years of experience with the SGA (including two as vice president) and has the leadership qualities necessary to make the SGA productive again.

Still, the SGA's creative constitutional interpretation leaves something to be desired. It was acknowledged at the meeting that the Student Court (the members of which were officially elected by the assembly) will still have to determine if Butler can indeed be expelled for excessive absences and if Rankins' election was constitutional. The SGA should recognize in the future that knowingly operating on shaky constitutional grounds, even for a good cause, can have the impact of nullifying its efforts. Should the Student Court find the assembly's actions to be unconstitutional, we'll be back at square one, dealing with an SGA that is almost incapable of being effective. It's better to follow the rules and accomplish something rather than using a haphazard process and accomplishing nothing.

The SGA should also note that this problem could have easily been avoided if it wasn't operating under two sets of rules. The fact that this error occurred in the first place is unacceptable; the fact that it still hasn't been fixed is inexcusable.

We hope that the Student Court, when reviewing Thursday's meetings, uses a careful approach to determine the constitutionality of the assembly's actions and not repeat the possibly indiscriminate process used by the assembly in order to achieve a common good.

LETTERS

High cost of medicine is justified

In response to Mary Lindsley's commentary on the high cost of health care, it is simplistic to blame one link in the chain when there are many reasons for the costs. Ask someone who has worked in the billing department of a hospital or for a doctor. A doctor may be driving a snazzy car, but there are twice as many of them who are sweating when the first of the month comes around, wondering if enough patient payments are going to come in to be able to pay the rent. They also entered practice with very large school loans to repay.

The United States is the only industrialized country without universal coverage. We have good examples of what works well from other countries, as well as what needs improvement. We know the costs involved in terms of increased taxation; but we also know the costs of going without health care. Prevention or early intervention for health care is far less costly than trying to fix health problems years after it has developed.

Universal coverage might be a blessing for some physicians who spend a great deal of time and money trying to collect on their outstanding accounts, but others fear that it would greatly reduce the amount of salary they could draw. The American Medical Association is a powerful lobby looking out for their interests.

When a charge for medical care is submitted to your insurance company for reimbursement, the insurance company reviews the procedures, physician, codes used, frequency of the procedures, location, and anything else relevant to the care. If for any reason the bill is not to its rules or liking, it is denied for payment. The billing clerk must go through the billing process again after finding out why the charge was kicked back. The people reviewing your claims in the insurance office are not doctors, or even nurses for that matter. They may have gotten the job simply because they took a medical terminology course in college. If the procedure is approved, then the insurance company pays the amount they set for the procedure, not the amount the doctor charges. Did you know that insurance companies have built-in computer programming that systematically denies payment to a certain percentage of bills submitted to them knowing that the doctor's office is busy and will not have time to resubmit the charge? The insurance company saves money this way because the bill will never come their way again. But the doctor's office has to absorb that cost. HealthLink even charges the doctor's office a \$1 fee for processing every claim.

There are talented doctors here in St. Louis who are so tired of fighting for

their money that they have left practice. Another aspect not many people see is that most hospitals and doctors accept a percentage of patients at a reduced fee of half-price to make care accessible to the poor. Unfortunately, there are more people with need than can be accommodated.

Add in the costs of the patients who are not able to pay their bills at all. They still require the critical operation or care regardless of their finances. They may have delayed the procedures as long as possible because they know that they cannot pay for it, and this often makes their medical condition worse and more costly. The only option left for the hospitals is to cover the costs any way they can, so other patients with health insurance are charged. Medicare and Medicaid only pay a fraction of the costs of running a hospital or office. For some types of doctors, their insurance reimbursements have been reduced instead of increased. Ask your doctor next time you see her or him—or better yet—ask the people who really know—the billing clerks. Find out how much your insurance reimburses your doctor, and then add up the costs of running an office. See if you could do it.

-Nina Chastain

Campus needs a hero to raise morale

Throughout its 35-year existence, the University of Missouri-St. Louis has had problems with student apathy. This comes along with the territory of being primarily a commuter school. Many students have families, and their first priority is to them, while others can find nothing on campus compelling enough for them to break away from their comfort zone of going to school, going to work, and hanging out with the same people they did in high school.

Recently, the UM-St. Louis administration finally seemed to acknowledge that there is a problem. Their proposal for the formation of a Greek row and their plan to make UM-St. Louis primarily a residential campus within 10 years promises to pay dividends in the student life department.

Unfortunately, these plans lack the one essential item that will be the catalyst to bring UM-St. Louis' student life out of the dark ages—a common force that bonds the students, faculty and staff as a whole. The Student Government Association's president is in jail and a University Senate committee has given Chancellor Blanche Touhill "no confidence" in her leadership. This lack of leadership from both the students and administration has lessened the moral and general confidence in UM-St. Louis.

It is clear that UM-St. Louis needs its own St. Louis Rams. I'm not talking about getting a football team (although that would be a nice addition). I'm talking about a common bond that stretches across racial, gen-

der, age and economic lines to bring all sectors of the UM-St. Louis community together.

Look at what the Rams have done for St. Louis. They have brought the city's morale up, have given back to the community and have provided good role models for young adults.

It is easy to root for these guys. For example, the team invited foster kids over to Rams Park before Christmas to celebrate the holiday with them. Each kid received a present, a meal and got to play football with the players. It will be an experience none of those kids will ever forget. They gave them hope and showed them that somebody cared about them.

Meanwhile, when St. Louis talks about the Rams, they no longer mention the phrase "arrest record." This team is winning and is full of good people. Kurt Warner, Isaac Bruce and Marshall Faulk have all publicly announced how their religious beliefs help them on the field and in life. This is a stark contrast to some of their counterparts who spend more time on Court TV than on the field.

St. Louis has rallied around this team. Men and women, rich and poor, sports fans and non-sports fans all have a common bond of interest in the Rams.

UM-St. Louis needs something like this. It could come from a variety of sources.

The Greek row, if it becomes a reality, could be a source to rally around. The Greeks are some of the



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

see HARRIS, page 7

High and mighty faculty lack tact

For one frustrating year, I was a student senator in the University Senate. I say frustrating because I spent most of my time trying to prove to the faculty senators that I was worthy of being included in the Senate.

From the beginning, it became crystal clear to me that student senators were not wanted there by many of the faculty senators. Some faculty suggested that the number of student senators be reduced to accommodate more faculty and staff members. We were met with looks of disdain whenever we tried to speak during meetings. I was elected to serve on a subcommittee, but was seldom told by the faculty member chairing the committee when the meetings would be held. All the while, the faculty portrayed themselves to be a higher form of life than the students.

Last Tuesday, I attended a Senate meeting, the first since I finished my term as senator last May. I was there to observe, to collect ideas for articles. While I did leave the meeting with material for stories, I observed a lot more than I expected to, things I had missed when I was trying to fulfill my duties as senator. What I noticed was some of the same holier-than-thou faculty senators displaying incredible rudeness towards their peers.

As speakers took the podium to present their reports, I noticed a complete lack of attention by several faculty members. Some were too absorbed in their own conversations

to listen to what the speakers had to say. And although I'm usually delighted to see someone reading *The Current*, I was appalled to find a faculty member reading the paper in the middle of the meeting. Were I to do either of these things during class, I'd probably get reamed by the professor for being so disrespectful, yet the faculty was carrying on as if this was acceptable behavior. I also noticed that while most of the student senators arrived promptly for the meeting, many of the faculty members were wandering in 10, 15, even 20 minutes late.

Compare this to the behavior of the students at Thursday's Student Government Association meeting. Most arrived on time. While there were a couple side conversations taking place, most of the students paid attention. And nobody had the gall to read the newspaper while we were trying to impeach the president.

I'm not saying that all the faculty members behaved abominably or that all the students behaved wonderfully at their respective meetings. However, the lack of respect that some faculty members afforded their fellow senators is inexcusable. And what really irks me is that despite the dedication and attentiveness of students at meetings, some faculty senators still think that we're unfit to serve on the Senate with them. This belief is so strong that the faculty managed to strip students' power last semester by dividing the Senate into two bodies and relegating students to



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

see LINDSLEY, page 7

Under Current

by Rafael Macias
photography director

Has the SGA been beneficial to UM-St. Louis?



Andy Schloss
Sophomore/MIS

“
No. There is no substance, and almost no credibility left.
”



Emily Finch
Senior/Psychology

“
No they haven't, but with more participation they could.
”



Svetlana Podokshik
Senior/Bio., Psych.

“
Beneficial? It's been a circus.
”



Steven Wolfe
Grad Student/Education

“
Yes and no.
”

Rivermen win two of three on road

Men's basketball is in the middle of the GLVC pack after a strong road trip

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team continues to be busy heading into the second half of the season, playing two of their last three games on the road. Despite the grueling travel schedule, the Rivermen have put on good showings winning two of the three and have begun to climb in the Great Lakes Valley Conference rankings.

UM-St. Louis' first of three games was a road game and came against a tough Northern Kentucky team, who were ranked 12th in NCAA Division II and third in the GLVC.

The Rivermen played hard and kept it close at the half, but Northern Kentucky dominated the second half and came away with a big win, 61-92.

"Northern Kentucky is a good team," said Mark Bernsen, the Rivermen's head coach. "They are well coached and had a lot of returnees' from last season."

The first half was positive for UM-St. Louis, who shot 65 percent from the floor while holding Northern Kentucky to 50 percent. UM-St. Louis trailed by only 2 at

the half, 37-39.

"Offensively," said Bernsen, "we played very well in the first half. In the second half, we came out and made a couple of baskets, and it was 41-all with about 18 and a half to go."

The second half saw UM-St.

Louis break down defensively as they could not keep up with the hot shooting by Northern Kentucky.

"Their 3-point shooters got hot," Bernsen said, "and we had a hard time guarding them. Their shooting

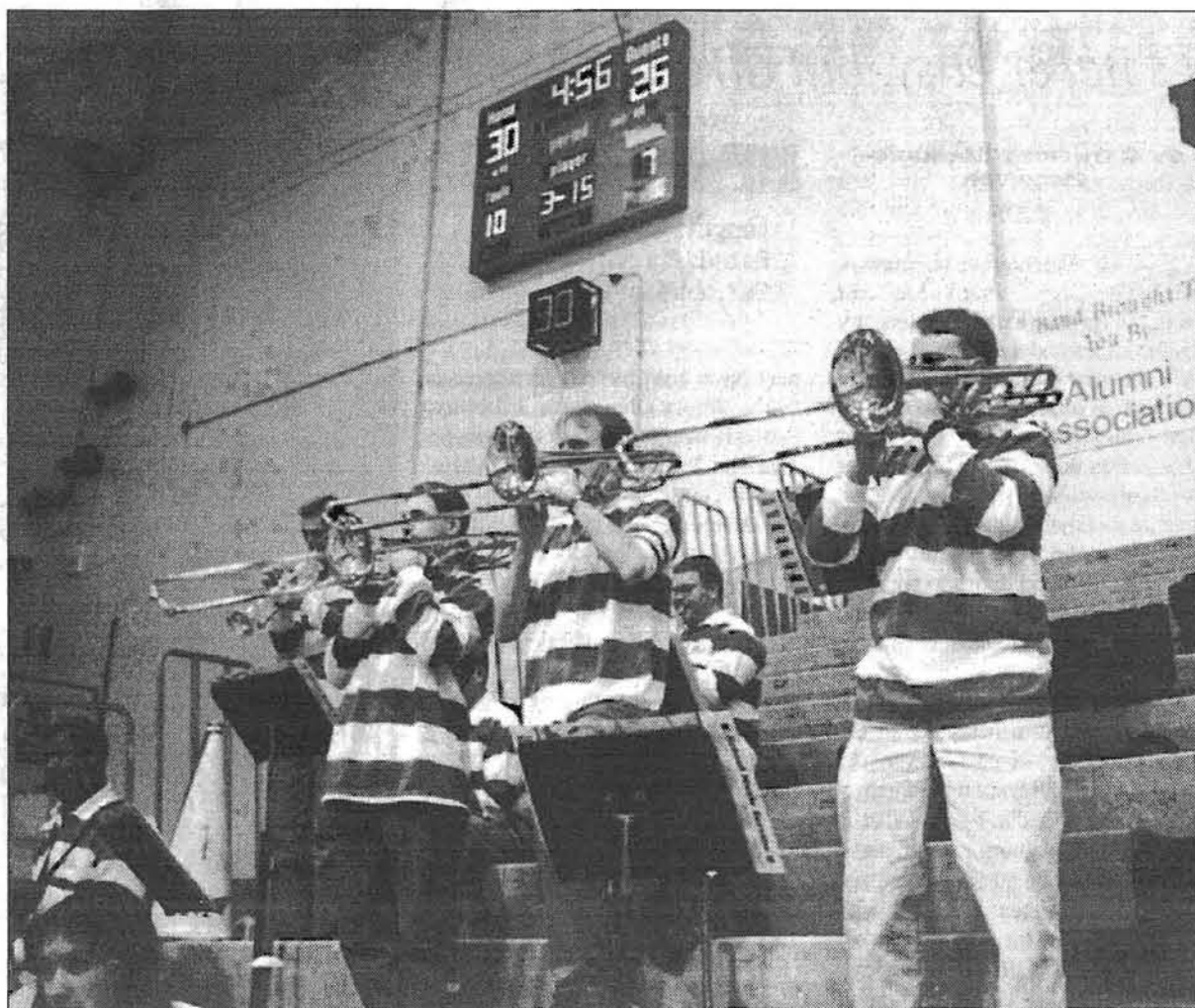
became very instrumental in their runs, and the game got away."

The Rivermen shot only 25 percent from the floor in the second half, while Northern Kentucky fired at the basket, shooting 72 percent.

The only UM-St. Louis player posting a double-digit point total was Brian Markus, while Terence Herbert led both teams with 10 rebounds.

UM-St. Louis then returned home for their second game against Lincoln and turned in an impressive 95-55 win.

The Rivermen established several season highs in the win, including a season best 95 points. They also established new marks for field



File Photo/The Current

Pep Band members jam during a recent Rivermen home game. The Rivermen, who only won seven games all of last season, have already won nine this season under new Head Coach Mark Bernsen.

goals made (33) and field goal percentage (.550).

"Lincoln is a young, inexperienced team, and we took advantage of that," said Bernsen. "Our competition in conference has made us stronger. It's a situation where you've got to mentally be able to gear up, gear down, forget and go ahead, remember and eliminate."

Riverman Terence Herbert recorded his sixth double-double of

the season with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

There were several other players with double-digit point tallies: Jim Schelich with 24, Shawn Massa with 14, Greg Ross with 13, Anthony Love with 12, and Brian Markus with 10.

The last of the three-game stretch came on the road against Wisconsin-Parkside, where UM-St. Louis pulled out a 59-57 win in an

important conference game.

Before the game, Bernsen spoke about Wisconsin-Parkside's ability to put offensive pressure on the Rivermen.

"Their two big guns are Willie Robinson and Brian Coffman," Bernsen said. "Willie's a strong, inside force and Brian's a shooter, so we're going have to combat

see MEN, page 10

Women's basketball splits two on the road, is 6-2 in the GLVC

Daniel scores 39 points in two-game stretch for Riverwomen

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen split a pair of Great Lakes Valley Conference matchups on the road this past week and have compiled a record of 8-5, 6-2 in the GLVC.

UM-St. Louis traveled to Wisconsin-Parkside (5-8, 1-6 in GLVC) and defeated the Rangers 90-83.

The Riverwomen jumped out to a 40-31 lead and held on for the victory. Amanda Wentzel led the Riverwomen with 26 points while

three other Riverwomen hit double digits in scoring. Tawanda Daniel scored 14 points while adding 14 rebounds, Lynette Wellen added 15 points and Sara Mauck contributed 12.

Previously, the Riverwomen lost to the No. 12 Northern Kentucky 68-89 in a conference matchup between the top two teams in the GLVC.

UM-St. Louis trailed at halftime 31-45 and could not recover from the deficit as Northern Kentucky improved to 11-2 overall.

Daniel led the team with 25 points. Jennifer Littleton added 12 points.

Up next . . .

Who: Lewis

Where: Romeoville, IL

Keys to success: Second place in the GLVC is on the line as UM-St. Louis (6-2) tries to keep Lewis (5-3) in their rearview mirror as conference play enters its stretch run.

The ice man cometh . . .



Riverman Ryan Craig (in white) moves in on a DuPage defender in a game earlier this season. The Rivermen won the contest 5-4. Craig got an assist on the game winning goal.

Rafael Macias/
The Current

Walking wounded . . .

Intangibles help Soph overcome ankle injury

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

One of the many keys to the success of this year's Rivermen hockey club is not so easily singled out. He's not the team leader in any statistical category, he's not a seasoned veteran, and he's not even on the first line, but he does have one thing that all athletes wish to have: intangibles.

In his first season with the club, sophomore Matt Brinker has made huge strides. A late bloomer (he missed the first half of the season due to a bad ankle), he has returned from injury to fill the anchor spot on the second line, a spot vacated by Keith Gaines, who left due to academic problems.

Playing on the second line is an integral part of the UM-St. Louis attack, as Derek Schaub, Rivermen head coach, tends to shift lines frequently during games.

"Brinker is playing very solid at the anchor spot," Schaub said. "He's still adjusting to playing with linemates [John] Winkler and [Dave] Hessel. He is more of a free skater, while Gaines was a grinder."

A four-year varsity letterman at Francis Howell North, he played with fellow Rivermen Ryan Craig and Ben Gilbertson.

After attending St. Charles Community College for a year, a few former teammates advised him to go

UM-St. Louis.

"Ryan and Ben were the main reasons that I decided to come to UM-St. Louis," Brinker said. "It was nice to play at this level with familiar faces."

As Brinker learned quickly, the college game is much more physical. Early into his second game, he took a huge hit which sidelined him for 11 games.

"It was a tough setback, but I learned a lot," Brinker said. "Sitting on the bench like that, I had time to evaluate my game."

These evaluations helped his game. After returning from injury, he increased his offensive output three-fold while using his leadership skills to mesh with his linemates.

And under the guidance of Schaub, he has further refined all of these skills.

"Schaub is a great coach with a lot of hockey know-how," Brinker said. "I've learned more in this one year than [in] my entire high-school career."

Like many of his teammates, Brinker is a year-round hockey player. When not at UM-St. Louis, he plays near his home on a Brentwood adult recreational league team.

Success is not new to Brinker, who in his four-year career has enjoyed fruitful seasons at Howell, including a fifth-place state showing in 1998. And in his first campaign with the Rivermen, he has a chance to play in the American Collegiate Hockey Association national tournament.

Up next . . .

Illinois State

Date: 10:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11

Where: U.S. Ice and

Sports Complex,

Chesterfield, MO

Key: Earlier this season the Rivermen beat

ISU 7-3

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

vs. St. Joseph's
7:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 27

vs. IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
3 p.m., Sat. Jan. 29

Women's Basketball

vs. Lincoln
7 p.m., Tues. Jan. 25

vs. St. Joseph's
5:30 p.m., Thur. Jan. 27

vs. IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
1 p.m., Sat. Jan. 29

Hockey

vs. ISU
t.b.a., Fri. Feb. 11

vs. Wash. U.
t.b.a., Sat. Feb. 12

Next Issue In Sports

Hockey
Men's/Women's
Basketball
Kinworthy's column

Jordan, tragedy and Shaq make NBA interesting



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Basketball in general has been quite interesting lately. Whether it be the National Basketball Association or the NCAA, there has always been a story this season.

Recently, Michael "Air" Jordan has come back to the professional scenes as the new president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards. This could be one of the best things that has ever happened to this organization.

Washington has suffered in the past few years with a losing record, young players, and a roster that has been depleted with injuries.

Juwan Howard, a Michigan graduate, has led the charge for Washington in the past two years as he has played consistently, with a scoring average in double digits all year long.

Jordan, as the president of basketball operations, has even volunteered his services to help the team improve its standings.

In an interview, Jordan said that he would even practice with the team in order to better prepare and train the Washington players. With Jordan helping in practice, this team could become great in a couple of years.

One thing to look for with

Jordan in the saddle will be a whole make over for Washington. Next year, do not expect this team to look the same. There will be new additions to the team, and many faces will be new.

Speaking of teams, the Charlotte Hornets faced a tragedy when Bobby Phills was driving at high speeds and lost control of his car. Phills was pronounced dead at the scene. Phills was a tremendous guard for the Hornets, a team that improved over the off-season to make a run at the title.

A word of advice out of all this would be to drive safely. I know that people like to cruise in their

new cars that go 90-plus, but you can lose control of your car. Is it really worth driving that fast to get somewhere 10 minutes early? The answer is a resounding no.

The final surprise this season has been the relaxed style of play that the Los Angeles Lakers have displayed. This team has gone from a team with no control, too many young players who want to play too many minutes, and a feud between Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, to a team with a tempo and a good head coach who has made a great difference.

The league should look out for Phil Jackson and the Lakers this

season because they are playing a team game. There is no more feuding over who is the star or who will score the most points. Now they have a team concept that is showing in their record. To date, the Lakers have only lost seven games, and there is already talk about their onslaught on the Chicago Bulls' record. That may be unrealistic this season, but watch out for it next year if the Lakers can retain their star players.

No matter what anyone says about the great big pumpkin these players dribble around, basketball has been exciting this year.

E
&
A

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Upcoming
Concerts

January

26

Full Devil Jacket
The Side Door

27

Strange Friends, World of
Fear & Five Feeler
Creepy Crawl

28

Soda Jerk, Supercrush &
Killjoy 4 Fun
Mississippi Nights

The Science Hip Hop Spin
Blueberry Hill

Drift, Rocket Park & E.M.
Greuve
The Firehouse

February

4

moe.
Mississippi Nights

5

Fragile Porcelain Mice
three ~1~ three

7

Lords of Acid w/Praga
Khan
Mississippi Nights

18

Not Waving But Drowning
CD Release Party w/
Locash, Big Blue Monkey
& Incision
Galaxy

Adapting a bestseller

It's never easy, but director Alan Parker succeeds with movie version of 'Angela's Ashes'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Near the beginning of his memoir "Angela's Ashes," Frank McCourt wrote, "When I look back on my childhood, I wonder how my brothers and I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while." This opening sets the tone for the combination of dark humor and struggle that makes this book so gripping. The same words open the film indicating the good things to come.

"Angela's Ashes" is a film based on the bestseller of the same name, which details Frank McCourt's poverty-stricken childhood in 1930s Ireland. Adapting a bestseller to the screen is always a chancy venture, because films and literature are inherently different media. A work that is so strong in its medium, as McCourt's book is, cannot be surpassed or even equaled in a different medium. With that in mind, director Alan Parker succeeds with this film where another director less committed to the core of the book may have failed, and has made as good a film as could be made from the book. Likewise, this is a film that will move viewers who have not yet read the book, so that the movie can stand on its own merits as well.

One of the dangers in adapting a book to the screen is that everyone has in their mind a vision of how the people and places should look. The director deals with this issue by shooting on location in Ireland and working closely with the author to recreate the world of his childhood. This approach produces a look that should please fans of the book and which sets the right tone for the film. Director Parker wisely chose to cast actors Robert Carlyle (as Malachy McCourt) and Emily Watson (as Angela McCourt) as the parents, actors with the right combination of youthfulness, good looks and talent to carry off these roles, rather than bigger stars who

'Angela's Ashes'

Length: 155 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★ ★★

may have been too old for the parts (early 20s at the start). Likewise, Parker makes good use of the author's own words in occasional voice-over, for McCourt's use of language and dry biting humor is part of the appeal of his memoir. Watson and Carlyle work well together, skillfully underplaying very emotional scenes, such as the father's Christmas departure for England, letting the tragedy of the event carry it rather than melodramatic acting. In casting the role of young Frank McCourt, director Parker's choice of three young actors to share the roll of McCourt at various ages works well, with nicely smooth transitions between them. However, because of the events that occur and the absence of McCourt's humorous phrasing, the film is more grim and less funny than the book.

Adapting a well-loved book to the screen requires that some parts have to be condensed or eliminated. Here again, the director makes good choices, so that readers of the book will feel that all the major parts and characters are included and viewers who have not read the book will not be confused about the importance of events or characters. In a well-designed symmetry, the film opens with a trip from the U.S. to Ireland at the start of the worldwide Great Depression of the 30s, when many Irish made the opposite voyage, and ends with a reverse trip, essentially preserving the ending of the book, and creating a satisfyingly balanced closure to the film. The film bracketed in between these trips is a moving view of the weight of poverty and the resiliency of children.

(Now playing at the Chase Park Plaza, Creve Coeur 12, Des Peres 14, and other area theaters)



Arriving in Limerick from America, the McCourt family (Joe Breen, Robert Carlyle, Sam O'Gorman, Emily Watson, Ben O'Gorman, and Shane Murray Corcoran) struggle up a street toward their new home.



Michael Legge as the older Frank McCourt throws a book containing the local moneylender's list of neighbors' debts into the River Shannon, following the moneylender's death.

FILM REVIEW

Epic-length 'Magnolia' may turn off restless moviegoers

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Yes, it rains frogs near the end of the movie....

"Magnolia" is the newest film by director P.T. Anderson whose previous work includes the critically well-regarded "Boogie Nights." This film weaves in a number of seemingly unrelated stories, in a stylish, artistic film with the structure of movies like "Pulp Fiction" without the violent tone or fast pace. The movie pulls together its various stories to create a unified tale of self-discovery, insight and maybe forgiveness. Each character has his or her own struggle, and the threads are blended together in a shared fabric by the end of the film, as each undergoes a transformation of some kind. The character-driven story, carefully plotted, is the film's greatest strength, combined with its stylish symbolic and visual approach.

The film has a strong visual tone, using some techniques viewers will recognize from music videos and TV commercials, and employing a number of symbolic devices, such as the frogs in a reference to the plagues visited on the Pharaoh in Exodus. These elements make the film intriguing to watch, although it's not quite as original as some other films released this year. The film also contains fine acting, notably and surprisingly by Tom Cruise as a sleazy promoter of a tech-



Luis Guzman plays himself in the movie 'Magnolia.'

'Magnolia'

Length: 205 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★ ★★

nique for seducing women.

While this film is a sincere effort, with artistic merit in its story and its style, it's not a film for everyone. I liked the story's blending of tales, and its development and transformation of the characters by the end of the film couldn't have been done more effectively. The problem lies in the

film's length and pace. At 3 1/2 hours, the film is the longest in a season of long films. Long films are not a problem for me, if the story warrants it—Abel Gance's masterpiece, "Napoleon," is just perfect at 6 hours. But the story of that epic film requires length and is often shown over several days. "Magnolia," on the other hand, doesn't even have an intermission, although the director at several points virtually stops the action of the film for a musical interlude while we see shots of the various major characters without advancing the plot. This

see **MAGNOLIA**, page 7

MUSIC REVIEW

Hyphenation aside, Jucifer rocks hard on newest album

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

'Calling All Cars on the Vegas Strip'

Artist: Jucifer
Label: Capricorn
Our opinion: ★★ ★★

Some genres of music never really die, they just mutate. Or hyphenate. Jucifer is a band that could be classified as post-punk, rock, punk-rock, alternative-rock, hard-rock, rock-and-who-knows-what-else. Hyphenations aren't important, though. What's important is that Jucifer rocks, and rocks hard.

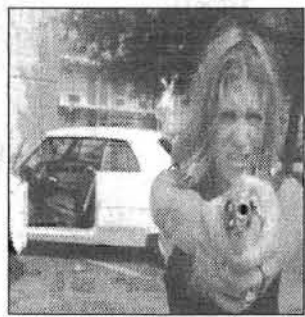
The Atlanta-based duo has been around since 1994, though in a slightly different incarnation than the current one. Jucifer started as a trio, but bassist Ed Livengood switched to drums (when the drummer left the band) under coercion from his girlfriend, guitarist Amber Valentine. Since then, Jucifer has been strictly a guitar/drum/vocal outfit. Jucifer's sound isn't hurting for the loss of a bassist, though, it is just stripped down a bit.

The music of Jucifer has been described as The Melvins with female vocals, and that seems to be pretty accurate. Other critics have claimed that the female vocals add a level of sensitivity, but that is little more than a stereotype. Valentine screams with as much fury and anger as nearly any male hard-rock singer. To belittle that because of her gender is doing her a

diservice.

Valentine's voice reaches PJ Harvey levels of power on songs like "Superman," while her guitar controls the feel of the songs more than her voice or Livengood's percussion. Any band with only two instruments instantly is burdened with a severe handicap—no bass guitar. Local H overcame the hindrance with catchy guitar riffs and phenomenal drumming by Joe Daniels. Jucifer overcomes by tuning their guitar down and playing hard. Very hard.

Jucifer is not a multi-faceted band. Hard and heavy tunes are the staple here, but with good reason. Valentine and Livengood have refined their hard and heavy playing to a science, and their sound is very cohesive. Duos are always entertaining in concert, and I am looking forward to hearing Jucifer tear apart their songs on "Calling all Cars on the Vegas Strip." After hearing the album, I am sure many more people will want to catch them live as well.



Line ticket lottery system robs die-hard sports, music fans



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

Line tickets have been in the news lately, and we can thank the Rams for that gem of unfairness. It isn't the Rams fault, so before you blow up my car, don't think I am bashing our new local heroes.

For those that live in a cave (you probably wouldn't read this anyway, but what the hey), line tickets have been what the Rams organization has been using to sell limited play-off tickets. Basically, the organizers had 1,000 tickets to sell, and more than 3,000 people standing in line. A first-come, first-served basis would be way too simple and fair, so the Rams have been

giving people in line lottery numbers, and pulling numbers out of a hat. The person that draws the lowest number becomes the first to be able to purchase a ticket. Lucky for them.

My main gripe with this system is that it in no way rewards the hard-core fans. Those that get in line at 6 the previous evening and those that arrive at 9:15 that morning, not 15 minutes before the drawing, have the same chance of buying a ticket. This, I guess, is fair, but only to the lazy.

This is not a new practice. I have had to deal with the line-ticket system while trying to get good seats to a number of concerts. The first Nine

Inch Nails concert I attended was in 1994, and tickets were sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. National food stores was probably not too happy about this, because a line of people in all-black clothes can be intimidating to soccer moms buying groceries. At any rate, I quickly learned to show up early for tickets sold in this manner. I showed up over two hours before tickets went on sale, and I still barely ended up on the main floor of The Fox. There were people that had been waiting for six hours to buy tickets.

That Nine Inch Nails show at the Fox was a sight to see. Tickets sold out in two hours flat, and only the serious

fans had any tickets due to the regular system of selling seats. After that, many stores decided they were not fond of music fans waiting outside their stores for hours on end, so line tickets began to be used.

There are ways around the line-ticket system; people can cheat. I have cheated (I won't tell you how, that'd get rid of my very small edge), and I don't even begin to feel guilty about that. Now the Rams have decided to use the line-ticket system. Why?

It makes St. Louis look like a real football town when you have 1,000 people camping outside the TWA Dome. It doesn't hurt anything, and if

anything, it brings a few more people into our ailing downtown regions. The biggest fans are not getting the tickets. For the Rams/Buccaneers game, the person with the winning number was in the back third of the line, which means that becomes the beginning of the line, and the front two-thirds get to move to the back. Kind of a slap in the face to those that have been waiting for more than 12 hours.

For the sake of The Rams, and for the sake of their fans, let the crazy people that are willing to nearly freeze to death waiting have their tickets. It is only fair. Unless, of course, you are lazy.

MAGNOLIA, from page 6

odd technique of stopping the narrative occurs several times in the film. The first one occurred at about 2 hours, and although the issues of the characters were not yet resolved, I assumed the director was encouraging the audience to let go of the story and that the film was about to end. Yet the story picked up again and continued for another 1 1/2 hours.

I don't want readers to think that this is not a worthy film. It is a good film, but they should be prepared for the experience, and perhaps even

consider making their own intermission during one of these musical interludes. I'm not sure that this story required the great length of the film at its rather languid pace. Those moviegoers interested in serious films will probably not be discouraged by the great length, but viewers looking for a simple evening's entertainment may want to take the length of the film into account.

(Now playing at the Chase Park Plaza, the Esquire, St. Charles 18, and other area theaters)

SGA, from page 1

There was debate as to whether to approve the candidates on the same slate, or to vote and approve them on an individual basis. It was decided that all of the candidates would be approved on the same slate, and were approved with no nays and two abstentions.

The justices are Steve Bartok, Eccher, Janice Wilson, David Horwitz, Dawn Boyer, Sarah Kraus, and Douglas Wallace.

Other SGA Business

• April elections were also set. April Cline, election committee chair, said the elections would take place on Apr. 17 and 18, and the winner would be announced the following day.

The election results "will be announced on Mirthday which is Wednesday, Apr. 19," Cline said. "It really hasn't been planned out when the announcement will happen, but I'll assume that we'll probably have the most turnout when the bands are playing, so probably that will be the time when they are announced."

Cline said applications should be available next week at either the SGA office or on the Internet.

• Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, said the new constitution should be ready to present to the SGA assembly at the February meeting.

The constitution would then have to be ratified by the assembly and then voted on by the student body in the April elections.

Blanton said a committee made up of eight students has been meeting to work on the constitution. Blanton said the committee has met three times, with each meeting lasting from two to four hours.

• The Big Event is scheduled for Apr. 15. Joe Fleece, chair of the Big Event, said that he is looking for additional universities in the St. Louis area to join this year.

The Big Event is a nation-wide community service project. This is the University of Missouri-St. Louis' second year of involvement. UM-St. Louis is the only St. Louis area school to participate in the project.

• A resolution submitted by Representative Joanne Eddington was passed to support reinstatement of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity as a student organization. The resolution cited the various community service projects performed by the fraternity such as "Take Back the Night" and "Adpot-a-Highway" as reasons for reinstatement.

Pi Kappa Alpha was expelled as a student organization several years ago for several student conduct code violations.

HARRIS, from page 4

most active on campus and their size, number and power should grow if a Greek row is formed.

Athletics always seem to dominate on a college campus. At UM-Columbia, most student activities revolve around football and basketball games. If UM-St. Louis can get their respective basketball teams into the upper echelon of Division II, that can be a source to rally around.

Existing clubs or activities can be a source. The SGA looked to be going in that direction before personal problems interrupted the year. The University Program Board can be a source with its big budget and numerous activities.

The bottom line is that UM-St. Louis needs something—anything—to pull everyone together. If not, the status quo will surely continue.

Department of Energy plans to transport nuclear waste on I-70

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

If the Department of Energy carries out its plans, in 2010, giant stainless steel trucks accompanied by armed guards carrying high-level nuclear wastes would drive past the UM-St. Louis on Interstate 70.

But not if most of the more than 100 people who showed up for a hearing Thursday afternoon at America's Center about the transportation and storage of nuclear waste have their way. The afternoon hearing was the first of two the Department of Energy held in St. Louis as part of a series of hearings in 20 sites across the country.

Department of Energy documents show that spent fuel rods from seven power plants in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina would go by truck down Interstate 70 by the campus on their way to the Yucca Mountain in Nevada where it would be buried at least 660 feet under the ground. Other shipments would use Interstate 270 through North County or the Union Pacific Railroad tracks that go through Webster Groves and Kirkwood.

More than 20 local residents told the Energy Department representatives there that they don't want the nuclear waste coming through their or any other neighborhood.

"In the event of a worst-case-scenario accident," asked Oakland resident Debra Wilson, "how long would it be before we could return to normal life?"

Wilson asked, "Why are they allowed to keep producing nuclear waste, if they can't safely dispose of nuclear waste?"

Currently, the U.S. government requires the 72 commercial nuclear reactors and five Department of Energy sites to store their high-level nuclear wastes on site in pools of water or above-ground concrete storage until the details of shipment to Yucca Mountain are worked out, said Wendy Dixon, project director for the Department of Energy, in her presentation Thursday. The hearing was part of the process for final approval for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain Project, including transportation to the site.

Congress has mandated that the Department of Energy use the Yucca Mountain site for the final disposal of high-level nuclear wastes.

The plan calls for transporting the waste by truck and train in specially designed casks to Yucca Mountain where it would be buried and guarded for at least 100 years, before being permanently sealed, Dixon said. The shipments would start in 2010 and end when the last nuclear reactor goes out of commission, which Dixon said would be in 2047.

She acknowledged that the waste would emit dangerous radiation and be potentially explosive for thousands of years and that a National Academy of Sciences report said it is impossible to predict what society will be like in 100 years.

Tracy Ikenberry, a health physicist for Dade Moeller & Associates, who is a consultant to the Department of Energy, said in an interview that the government has already determined that the nuclear waste in the 77 sites "is more vulnerable, presents more of a risk sitting at the sites than it is in a deep geological repository in Nevada."

Gavin Perry, a researcher at the Washington University School of Medicine, agreed with Ikenberry on that point.

"We fought against building these plants for over 20 years, and you built them anyway," Perry said at the hearing. "You created the most expensive electricity ever generated" as well as highly toxic wastes that pose a danger for thousands of years. He supported putting existing waste in deep mountain storage, but opposed using any highways or railroads that go through populated areas for transporting it. Instead, he proposed building secure rail lines around cities.

"Now you want to take the most dangerous elements known to man through major cities," Perry said, after

noting that radioactivity will inevitably escape from the casks even if somehow they avoid accidents. "I don't think so."

Helene Frankel of St. Louis objected to shipping the waste to "Nevada, the third most active seismic area in the United States." She noted that the area just had an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale. She asked the department to keep the waste where it is until science finds a way to neutralize it rather than dumping in the ground. "We don't know everything," Frankel said. "We can't predict 10,000 years. We can't even predict next week's weather."

Margaret Hermes of St. Louis said the only reason the government wants to transport the waste so soon is "The electric utility companies want to keep making this high-level waste and are running out of room." She said a better solution would be to shut the plants down so the waste could be stored "on site at non-operating reactors."

All of those who testified in favor of the Energy Department's plan were in some way employed by the nuclear industry.

Robert Jones, a consultant from California, said the technology is safe. "In 50 years of transporting these materials, there have been a few routine incidents," Jones said. "Only one was regarded as life threatening."

LINDSLEY, from page 4

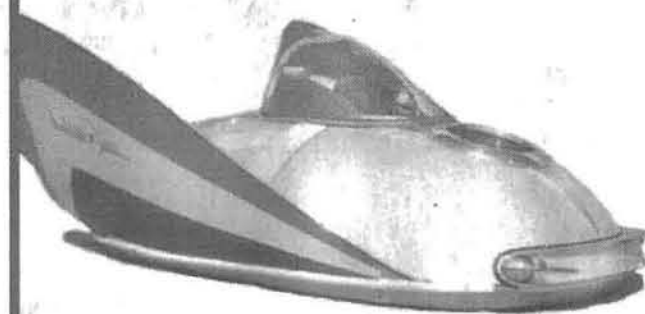
the one with the least amount of authority.

It's a shame that no matter how committed students are, the Senate faculty will probably always persist in thinking that we're a bunch of slacker losers. Rather than demanding that we be excluded from having a voice in campus affairs, maybe they should first demand proper etiquette at their meetings.

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Homecoming Week of Events

February 14 - 19

Monday, Feb. 14 • *The Current* comes out with the Homecoming Insert

Tuesday, Feb. 15 • Court Election Begins
• Ping Pong Tourny

Wednesday, Feb. 16 • Court Election Completed
• Pep Rally - 6:30 p.m.
• Rec Sports Day - all day
• Ping Pong Tourny Continues
• Big Man on Campus

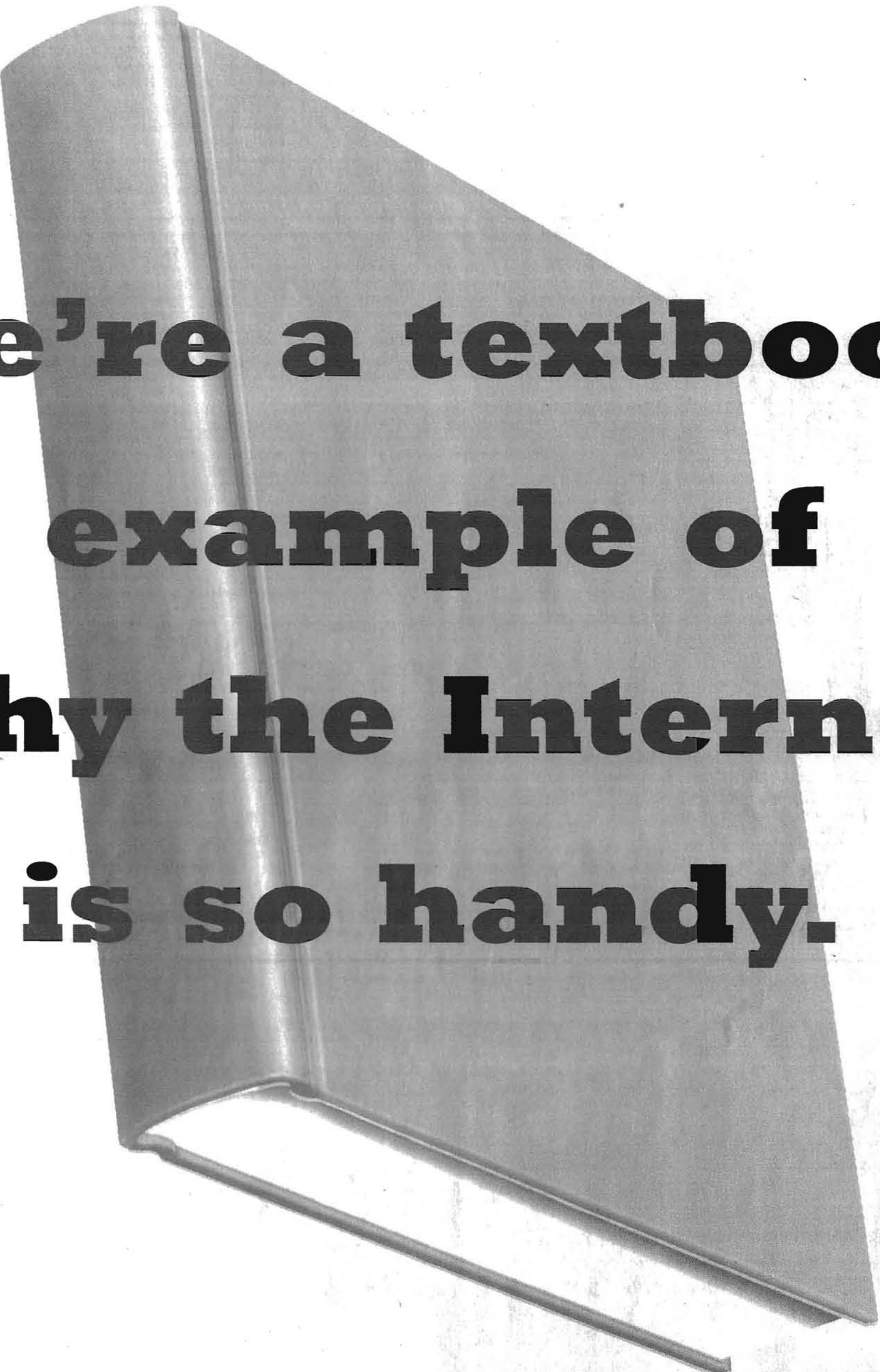
Thursday, Feb. 17 • Student night at Basketball Game
• Court Presentation at Game
• Ping Pong Finals at Game

Friday, Feb. 18 • Happy Hour
• Dance
• Crowning of King and Queen

Saturday, Feb. 19 • Alumni Family Day at Basketball Game (1 p.m. & 3 p.m.)
• Potential Student/Admissions at Alumni Family Day
• King/Queen Presentation at Game

For questions call 516-5291

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KING, from page 3

UM-St. Louis Symphonic Band performed two musical selections, along with Dell Thedford and The Symphonic Gospel Choir. There were greetings by Jacquelyn C. Harris, president of the Coalition of 100 Black Women St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter; and Jamala Rodgers, president for the Organization of Black Struggle. Guest speaker Olivia Ly-Peiknik, the president of the Coalition of Asian & Pacific Americans brought some diversity to the ceremony.

"When I first came to this country, it was during St. Patrick's Day. When I asked about the holiday, I was told on St. Patrick's Day everyone is Irish. I am proud to stand here today on a holiday celebrating the great Dr. Martin Luther King, as your African-American sister," Ly-Peiknik proclaimed.

Col. Wayman F. Smith III presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award to Norman R. Seay, director of UM-St. Louis Office of Equal Opportunity and founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee and to Percy Green, a civil rights activist and founder of Action. The Interfaith ceremony was closed with a prayer of benediction by the Rev. Albert Manson, pastor of Solomon Temple M.B. Church.

“

Black churches still burn. Synagogues are still desecrated. Hate crimes are still committed. People are still denied jobs, houses and loans because of the color of their skin.”

—Janet Reno
U.S. Attorney General

”

PORTER, from page 3

torture session is given by each party involved so we can be told the truth about why this catastrophic event occurred.

All I can say is that I have an IQ of 123, so I know to laugh at these silly, slobbering saps, and move to Paraguay if anyone from "Blind Date" contacts and asks me to participate in an episode.



Marchers head for the Martin Luther King Jr. event Monday. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon were among the speakers featured.

AIESEC, from page 3

Betty Vining

country also must find the visiting student transportation from the airport and a place to live and then help them get acclimated to the community.

The UM-St. Louis International Business program was looking to change its program to become more demanding and competitive, with the goal of becoming recognized nationally. According to Betty Vining, interim director for Continuing Education and Outreach in the School of Business Administration, the new criterion would be to require a semester working or studying abroad. By partnering with AIESEC, the International Business Program will be able to link more students with internships abroad.

Because AIESEC is internation-

ally known, it opens doors for young business graduates that would normally take years to open. Whether an AIESEC member opts to work in a foreign country or to stay at home, the skills they learn working with AIESEC—time management, organization, sales, leadership, and presentation skills—are priceless.

"It's a way of networking around the world," Vining said.

An AIESEC information session will be held on Jan. 26 at noon in SSB 301 and on Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. in the same room. More information on AIESEC can be found on its web site at www.AIESEC.org.

For information about UM-St. Louis International Business Program, contact Betty Vining at 516-6292.

**Pulliam Journalism Fellowships**

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 27th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1999-June 2000 graduating classes.

Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,500 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1999. By Dec. 15, 1999, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2000.

To request an application packet, visit our Web site, e-mail us or write:



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E-mail: pulliam@starnews.com

Russell B. Pulliam
Fellowships Director
Indianapolis Newspapers
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The Current is now accepting applications for the Editor-in-Chief position for 2000-2001.

To qualify, students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- must have completed a minimum of nine academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

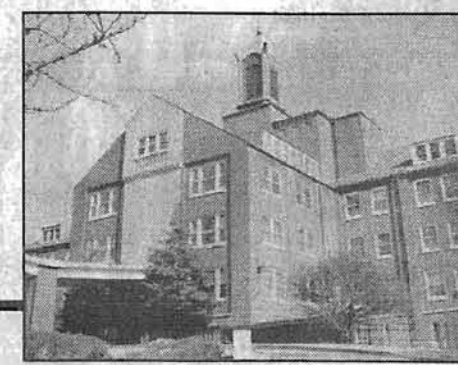
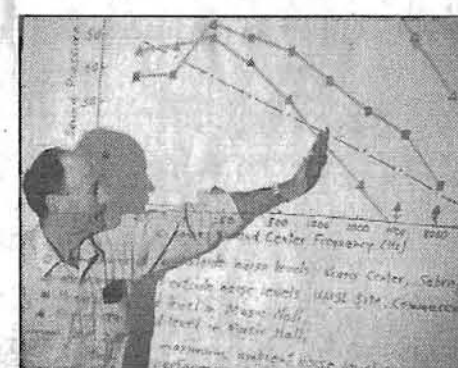
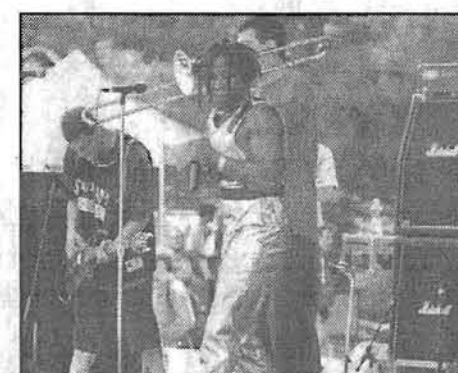
To apply, students must submit:

- a resume
- a cover letter
- three letters of reference

Applicants must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand. Experience in journalism and management is strongly recommended, but not required.

Please submit all application materials to the Editor-in-Chief by 5 p.m. on Feb. 18 at this address →

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SPORTS OPINION

Show some respect . . .

Take off your hat and shut up during the anthem

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

Standing up and paying respect for the national anthem and the American flag during athletic games should be as automatic as hot dogs, beer and that big fat guy who jiggles more than jelly at a football game. But I have been troubled this season by the lack of respect some fans, as well as players here at UM-St. Louis, show towards the playing of this national treasure and the displaying of our greatest symbol of freedom.

There have been several times where I have been at a game and have witnessed people busily engaging in conversation. They didn't have the decency to stand their lazy selves up when the announcer asked everyone to rise.

I have observed people talking and laughing during the anthem, as though it were no big deal to be in the Mark Twain Building at that particular moment listening to one of the most important songs in this country's history.

I have seen people continue to wear their hats while the song is being played, obviously unaware of the custom of removing head-

I witnessed a female member of the basketball team at a volleyball game who not only refused to take off her hat, but talked and laughed throughout the duration of the song . . . this habit of being disrespectful is an unfortunate by-product of people . . . disregarding the symbol of freedom that gave them the right to act like jerks in the first place.

gear to pay respect to the flag of this country.

Unfortunately, this trend of disrespect is not limited to the plain old Jack and Jill's who come to witness the Rivermen and Riverwomen play games.

I have seen players, who are watching other teams play, refuse to take off their hats. I witnessed a

female member of the basketball team at a volleyball game who not only refused to take off her hat, but talked and laughed during the entire duration of the song.

This habit of being disrespectful is an unfortunate by-product of people thinking they can assert their First Amendment rights by blatantly disregarding the symbol of freedom that gave them the right to act like jerks in the first place.

It is a sad thing to witness people who do not know, or care about, the sacrifices made by men, women, and their families, both past and present, to serve in the Armed Forces. It's looked upon as a history lesson, with everyone forgetting that there are still men and women who are waging unseen and unheard battles every-day just to give us the right to be able to do just about anything we please.

All I ask is for students, parents, athletes and the everyday fan to show some respect during the national anthem. Your conversation and your bad hair day are not as important as the people who are behind your ability to live in a free society. So please, take your hat off and shut up.

MEN, from page 5

those two guys. When you have a team that can go inside-outside, it becomes difficult."

The Rivermen were evenly matched with Wisconsin-Parkside throughout the game, shooting slightly better field-goal percentages in both halves, 45 and 46 percent to Wisconsin-Parkside's 44 and 45 percent.

UM-St. Louis players Brian Markus and Kechan Johnson both had double-digit point totals, 13 and 11 respectively, along with Terence Herbert who recorded his seventh double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Rivermen are now 9-5 overall and 4-4 in the GLVC with a fifth-place ranking.

GLVC Men's basketball rebounding leaders

Name	School	Rebounds/ave.
1) Tarrie Monroe	Lewis	149 10.6
2) LeRoy John	Kent.-Wesleyan	136 10.5
3) Travis Wallbaum	SIU-Edwardsville	141 10.1
4) Terence Herbert	UM-St. Louis	139 9.9
5) Jeremy Warner	Lewis	137 9.8
6) Chris Martin	Indianapolis	118 8.4
7) Albert Richardson	Kent.-Wesleyan	109 8.4
8) Willie Robinson	Wisc.-Parkside	116 8.3

GLVC BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Men			Women		
Team	GLVC Record	Overall Record	Team	GLVC Record	Overall Record
1) Southern Indiana	8-0	13-1	1) Northern Kentucky	6-1	11-2
2) Kentucky Wesleyan	5-0	13-0	2) UM-St. Louis	6-2	8-5
3) Northern Kentucky	4-1	14-2	3) Kentucky Wesleyan	5-2	8-5
4) Lewis	4-2	12-2	4) Bellarmine	5-3	10-4
5) UM-St. Louis	3-3	9-5	5) SIU-Edwardsville	5-3	10-4
6) Indianapolis	3-3	8-6	6) Lewis	5-3	8-6
7) IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	4-2	7-7	7) Indianapolis	4-4	10-4
8) SIU-Edwardsville	3-3	7-7	8) Southern Indiana	4-4	9-5
9) St. Joseph's	1-5	6-8	9) IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	3-5	7-7
10) Bellarmine	0-6	6-8	10) St. Joseph's	2-6	4-10
11) Wisconsin-Parkside	1-5	5-9	11) Wisconsin-Parkside	1-7	5-9
12) Quincy	1-5	4-10	12) Quincy	1-7	5-9

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To request an application packet, visit our Web site, e-mail us or write:

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UM-St. Louis discontinues reviewing charter school applications, angers state legislators

BY SUE BRITT
staff assistant

State legislators' push for charter schools in St. Louis has been hampered. UM-St. Louis and St. Louis Community College have decided not to review applications as a matter of policy under the current Missouri statute.

Bob Samples, director of Media Communications at UM-St. Louis, said that a bill proposed by state Senator Ted House is only one of the new bills that is being considered by the state. House's bill, as well as current Missouri statute, do not provide for funding to assist colleges in the review process. The lack of funding is at the heart of UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill's decision to discontinue sponsorship of proposed charter schools.

In letters to three recent charter school applicants, Touhill wrote, "At present, Missouri law provides no financial resources for sponsors to conduct either the evaluations of charter school applications or the subsequent reviews of charter school performance. Because of the costs associated with the

approval and monitoring of charter schools, we have reluctantly decided that we will not sponsor any additional charter schools under the current legislation."

Pat Matreci, coordinator for Media Relations for St. Louis Community College, said that the board for SLCC recently voted unanimously to end its involvement in sponsorship of charter schools and will no longer review applications after having reviewed, without approval, several applications.

George Hiram, interim executive vice-president of Harris-Stowe State College, said that they have received their first proposal for review and anticipate two more applications to arrive soon. He said the current application is from a chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and is proposed to teach students from preschool to grade two.

Hiram also expressed concerns about the ability of Harris-Stowe to continue to carry the financial burden associated with sponsorship of charter schools.

"If one really knew how much money and personal time and costs were associated with evaluating the proposals, he might wonder how it

should be funded," Hiram said, "We will probably have a difficult time doing the follow up."

Senator Steve Ehlmann, a strong supporter of charter schools, delivered a remonstrance to the Missouri Senate in response to Touhill's decision. He said that the public school systems in St. Louis, including UM-St. Louis, are "circling their wagons." He said that wanting to deny competition and to maintain the bureaucracy is the motive, not the financial burden.

"Why has that [financial burden] not been a problem for Central Missouri State University? They've approved 11 [charter schools] in Kansas City," Ehlmann said. "It's not about money. It's about not wanting to embarrass their friends down there at the St. Louis Public School System."

Ehlmann said that Touhill has agreed to meet with senators Monday, Jan. 24 to discuss a resolution to the stalemate, and that if none is reached, arguments will be made before the senate Thursday and the issue of whether or not UM-St. Louis is required by law to sponsor charter schools will be examined by the rules committee.

RANKINS, from page 1

bring the number required for quorum down to the point where it might be achieved in the meeting.

However, quorum was still not met when the second meeting was called. With quorum not established, and Butler being in violation at the end of the second meeting, the assembly then moved to shore up the SGA in case the Student Court upheld the SGA constitution and expelled Butler.

A two-thirds quorum is needed to start the impeachment process; however, a simple-majority quorum is needed to vote on a vice president. With a simple-majority quorum present, the assembly had the power to vote Rankins in.

According to the SGA constitution, if the president vacates the office, the vice president would take the position. This means that if the student court expels Butler, Rankins is automatically the president.



Rankins

Ash said everything the assembly did on Thursday, including calling the second meeting, was constitutional.

"The assembly can decide when they want their next meeting to be," Ash said. "In this case they wanted it to be five minutes after their last one. That's all constitutional. They can do that. Secondly, we have had two meetings and when we come down the constitution to whether or not [Butler] can be removed, Butler can be removed in a lot of ways now. He can be removed in an impeachment or it could be from just a lack of attendance."

Most of the SGA representatives in attendance agreed with the move and thought it was a step in the right direction.

Jackie Anderson, president of the University Program Board, said she hopes this will stabilize the student government.

"Hopefully it's a positive step,"

Anderson said. "We really need to get some leadership. We really need to get something done or at least stabilize it for the elections so that next year can be prosperous."

Wolfe, who was serving as both the interim vice president and acting president in Butler's absence, will temporarily stay on as interim vice president until the Student Court makes a ruling on presidency's status. If Butler is expelled and Rankins moves into the presidency, Wolfe will stay on as interim vice president.

Wolfe said he has mixed feelings about his current position within the SGA.

"I don't know; it's hard," Wolfe said. "I've given my life this semester; I've almost had a nervous breakdown [over this job]. I need to reevaluate my position; this is sudden."

Rich Eccher, Student Court justice, said he cannot comment until the Court reaches a verdict. He said that once the Court receives the papers from SGA, the matter will be dealt with in a prompt and timely manner.

I-70, from page 1

Educational Park and Mansion Hill will remain.

The Transportation Department estimates that realigning the highway, the new interchange at Florissant Road, and the new bridges at Hanley and Bermuda will cost about \$35 million, according to MoDOT documents.

Construction workers and orange barrels should be out in force on Interstate 70 for the next few years. Before it starts to rebuild the interstate from Bermuda to Hanley, the state this summer plans to put in new bridges at Goodfellow Boulevard and Lucas and Hunt Road as part of a planned \$130 million rehabilitation of Interstate 70 between downtown and the Missouri River. Work on new bridges at Florissant, Bermuda and Hanley roads will begin late this year or early next year, according to documents.

"This area has historically been a high accident area," said Lee Hillner,

project manager for MoDOT. "The bridges are wearing out. They're getting to the point that it's more practical to replace them than to keep repairing them."

Interstate 70 dates from the 1950s when engineers built highways differently, Hillner said. "We plan to have flatter hills, straighter curves and new ramps."

Plans call for putting Florissant and Hanley on the same exit for westbound traffic, with a connector road parallel to the Interstate carrying traffic for both roads. That would make entering and exiting the highway safer, Hillner said.

Plans are not final, and could change as a result of feedback from the public at Thursday's meeting, said Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction.

"I hope people will show up and present different points of view," Darandari said. "It will help us for the long term."

NET, from page 1

pus and those hooked up through dial-up services can play Quake or use IRC and ICQ with users on those campuses or who use their campus dial-up services. But they can't reach users that way in foreign countries, other states or even Washington University.

Siegel said he wants to restore that kind of access to students.

"We are working to restore those services consistent with maintaining the integrity of the campus network," he said.

LAW, from page 1

versus the well-being of the community.

"I find myself torn because students should be treated as adults," Grace said, "but in 28 years [of academia], I've seen the per capita consumption of alcohol increase and the problems associated with that increase."

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