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Current, April 03, 2000

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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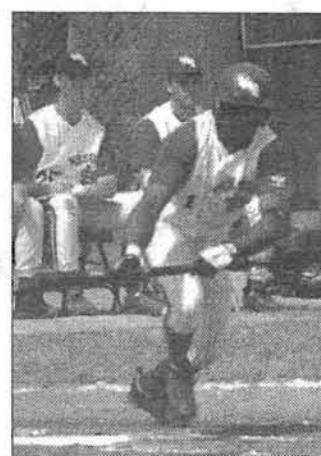
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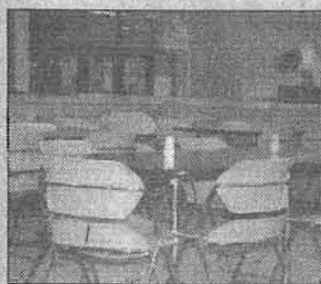
Rollin' along: With a fresh slew of victories, the baseball Rivermen have improved their season record to 11-1-1 overall.

◀ See page 5



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



Looking Lonely: Has the campus been deserted, or is there a sinister DUMSL senate conspiracy at work? Find out in *The Stagnant*, our annual April Fool's Day parody tabloid!

▲ Special pull-out

U-Wire News

Alleged hacker faces charges in California

BY ELIZABETH ARROWSMITH & GREGORY WESLEY

The Daily Universe

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — A Berkeley resident has been arrested in connection with hacking into the computer systems of several national laboratories and government agencies, the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco said Thursday.

Max Ray Butler, 27, was arrested March 22, almost a week after a federal grand jury indicted him on 15 counts related to computer break-ins at the U.S. Department of Defense, the office of the Secretary of Transportation, Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.

The U.S. Department of Justice alleges Butler accessed those systems in May 1998 using Berkeley Internet Name Domain buffer overflow.

BIND attacks computers by filling up memory areas and overloading them with commands, essentially providing hackers with free entrance to the system, according to court documents.

Systems at UC Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory were also infiltrated using BIND in May 1998.

"There was a relatively new type of attack used to break into UCB and LBL machines," said Vern Paxton, who handles computer security for the lab.

Paxton said he does not know if Butler was connected to the lab and university attacks, but the FBI included those incidents in an affidavit filed for a search warrant of Butler's apartment.

Butler worked for two years as a confidential source for the FBI, during which time he "provided useful and timely information on computer crimes," according to the affidavit.

Butler is charged with three counts of recklessly causing damage to computers, five counts of unauthorized access to government computers, five counts of interception of electronic communications and one count each of unauthorized access to stored communications and possession of unauthorized access devices.

If convicted of all counts, he could face more than 75 years in prison and fines exceeding \$1 million.

FBI documents also named several U.S. Air Force bases and the National Institute of Health as victims of BIND attacks.

The Air Force, NASA and the U.S. Navy joined forces with the FBI 22 months ago to start investigating the hackings.

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State auditor investigating retirements

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Complaints from unnamed members of the University of Missouri faculty led State Auditor Claire McCaskill's office to start an investigation of the University's voluntary early retirement program March 21.

Still, Manuel Pacheco, president of the University System, told the Board of Curators at its March 23 meeting in Rolla that nothing was wrong. But his statement appeared to contradict a written statement issued by UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

At press time, the dispute centered around the retirement of two top UM-St. Louis administrators—Wendell Smith, interim vice chancellor for University Relations, and Norman Seay, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity.

A spokesman for McCaskill's office said he wouldn't identify the faculty members who complained. "We have granted them anonymity," said Glenn Campbell. "It was of great concern when we saw that the University rehired administrators who, by University policy, were not to be rehired."

Plans call for Smith and Seay to retire and come back next year as part-time staff and bring home more money from retirement and salary combined than their current salaries.

Public records indicate that Smith makes \$120,765 and Seay makes \$72,220 this year.

A third administrator, Don Driemeier, deputy to the chancellor, made a similar arrangement, but backed out of it before the Curators

meeting.

"If I have less responsibility and a little less to do, and I come out of that deal making 30 percent more than I was making before that," Campbell of the auditor's office said, "the question is why you would give these individuals a substantial increase in pay. Is there no one else who could have done these jobs for this kind of money?"

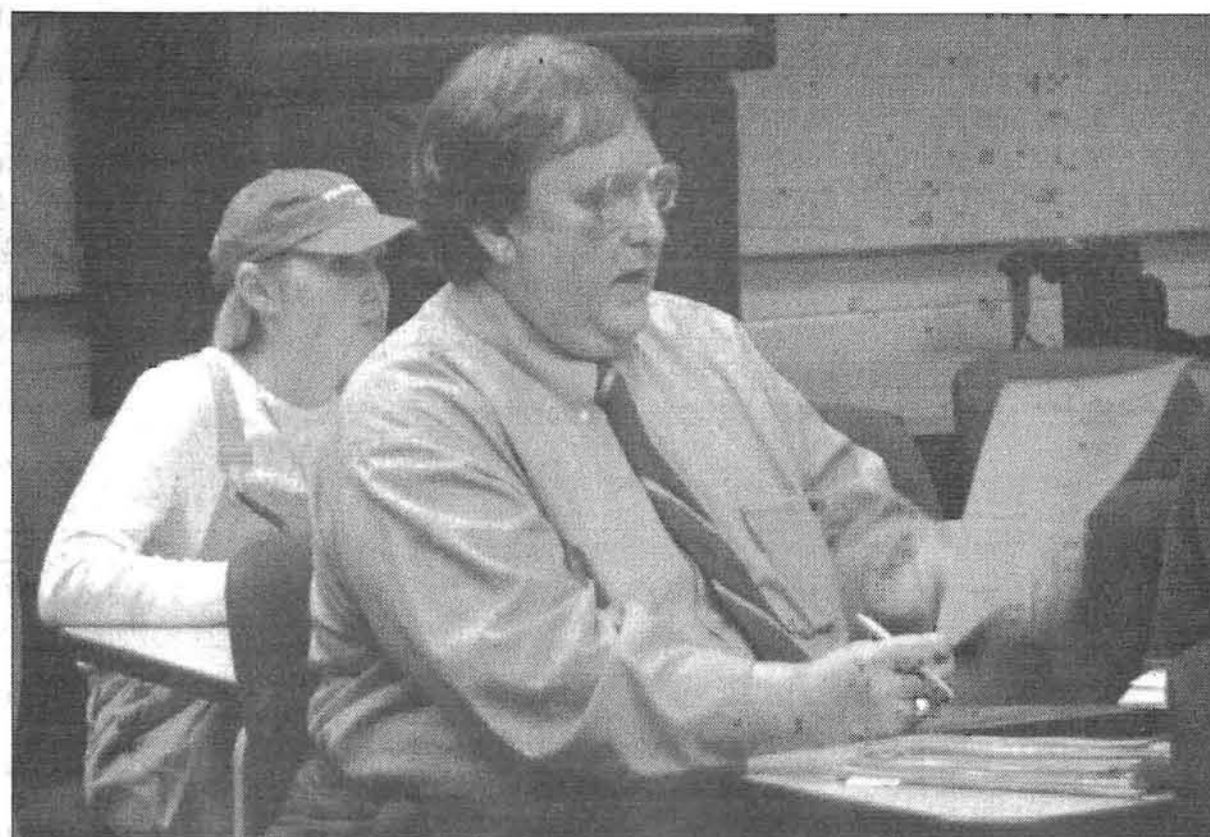
In his address to the Curators, Pacheco said the early retirement program was being administered fairly and according to the rules.

"Those who believe that there was ever a prohibition against rehiring administrators are just simply mistaken," Pacheco said. "The policy states that 'Under no circumstances will senior system or campus officers be allowed to remain in their administrative positions [or similar positions] and draw retirement.' The understanding that I have with Chancellor [Blanche] Touhill relative to individual administrators from UMSL who have been identified in media accounts, is that they will relinquish their official positions, including any line authority they may currently possess."

He said Touhill will put them in staff roles where they would "provide essential support to the campus administration in a number of critical areas where their expertise is needed."

In a letter released March 16, Touhill wrote that Smith "will continue to serve as interim vice chancellor until a replacement is appointed. At that time, Smith will become a

see AUDITOR, page 10



Darren Brune/The Current

Rick Eccher, Student Court chief justice, checks his notes during Darwin Butler's appeal on March 22. Eccher presided over the appeal.

Butler makes his case

Student Court hears president via teleconference

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Embattled Student Government Association President Darwin Butler appealed the validity of SGA's Jan. 20 meeting and his expulsion from SGA at that meeting to the Student Court March 22 via teleconference.

Butler made the appeal from the St. Louis County Justice Center where he has been detained since his work release was revoked last October. Butler was on work release for felony credit card theft and fraud.

Butler was scheduled to be released on March 23, but was awaiting word on his future from the state of Nevada. Nevada authorities said Butler's conviction in St. Louis County is a probation violation for a previous conviction there, and have issued a warrant for his

arrest.

Butler said his attorney in Las Vegas, Clarence Gamble, is working with authorities in Nevada and that he is hopeful the situation will be taken care of without an extradition.

"I'm for the best interests of the students of the University of Missouri-St. Louis," Butler said to the court and those in attendance. "If I can't make it to the April 20 meeting, I will personally resign my position."

April 20 is the next scheduled SGA meeting.

Butler said holding a second meeting on Jan. 20 was unconstitutional and called it unethical, unfair and malicious. Butler said that if a second meeting was needed then the executive committee, not the assembly, should have called it. Butler cited Article III, Section 1, subsection D of the SGA

constitution which states, "The Executive Committee shall function in place of the Assembly in dealing with emergency business which must be completed prior to the next scheduled regular meeting of the Assembly."

"I think it showed malice, in that it had a premeditated intent," Butler said. "I don't think the meeting served any other purpose but to make me miss another meeting."

Butler also questioned the length of terms in which a member of the Assembly can miss three meetings before automatic expulsion. Butler said the terms coincide with the semesters, and since he missed just two in the fall semester, that the missed January meetings shouldn't count against that total.

see BUTLER, page 10

UM-St. Louis to honor Desmond Tutu

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

The University Missouri-St. Louis plans to honor Desmond Tutu, a leader in the struggle for racial equality in South Africa and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, with its Global Citizen Award at a ceremony on campus May 18, said UM System President Manuel Pacheco.

The ceremony will be part of a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and the

15th anniversary of linkage agreement between the University of the Western Cape and the University of Missouri.

"That agreement holds the distinction of being the first between an American university and a university serving historically disadvantaged South Africans," Pacheco said.

Also coming that day will be UWC Rector Cecil Abrahams, Pacheco said, and several professors from the four UM campuses who have participated in exchanges with the University of the Western Cape,

said Maureen Zegel, a spokeswoman for the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Since 1998, Tutu has served as chancellor of the University of the Western Cape.

A bishop in the Anglican Church since 1976 and general secretary of the South African Council of Churches from 1978 to 1985, Tutu used his position to work to end the apartheid system in South Africa, a system of racial segregation which kept the white minority of South Africa in power and relegated its

African, East Indian and mixed-race citizens to the worst living areas, the worst jobs and kept black Africans from voting.

Since the fall of apartheid, he served as chairman of the South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission which investigated crimes committed by both sides during the apartheid era.

Tutu is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. May 18 at J.C. Penney Auditorium, after a reception at 6 p.m.

Curators say 'yes' to new governance structure

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

After months of discussion and debate, the plan to restructure the University Senate went to the Board of Curators, which voted unanimously to approve it.

The Board passed the governance revision without comment at its meeting March 23 in Rolla.

Steve Spaner, a member of the committee which wrote the original draft of the proposal, described the board's approval in one word: "Wonderful."

Spaner went on to say that this constituted the first substantial change of the governance structure that he'd seen in his 30 years at UM-St. Louis.

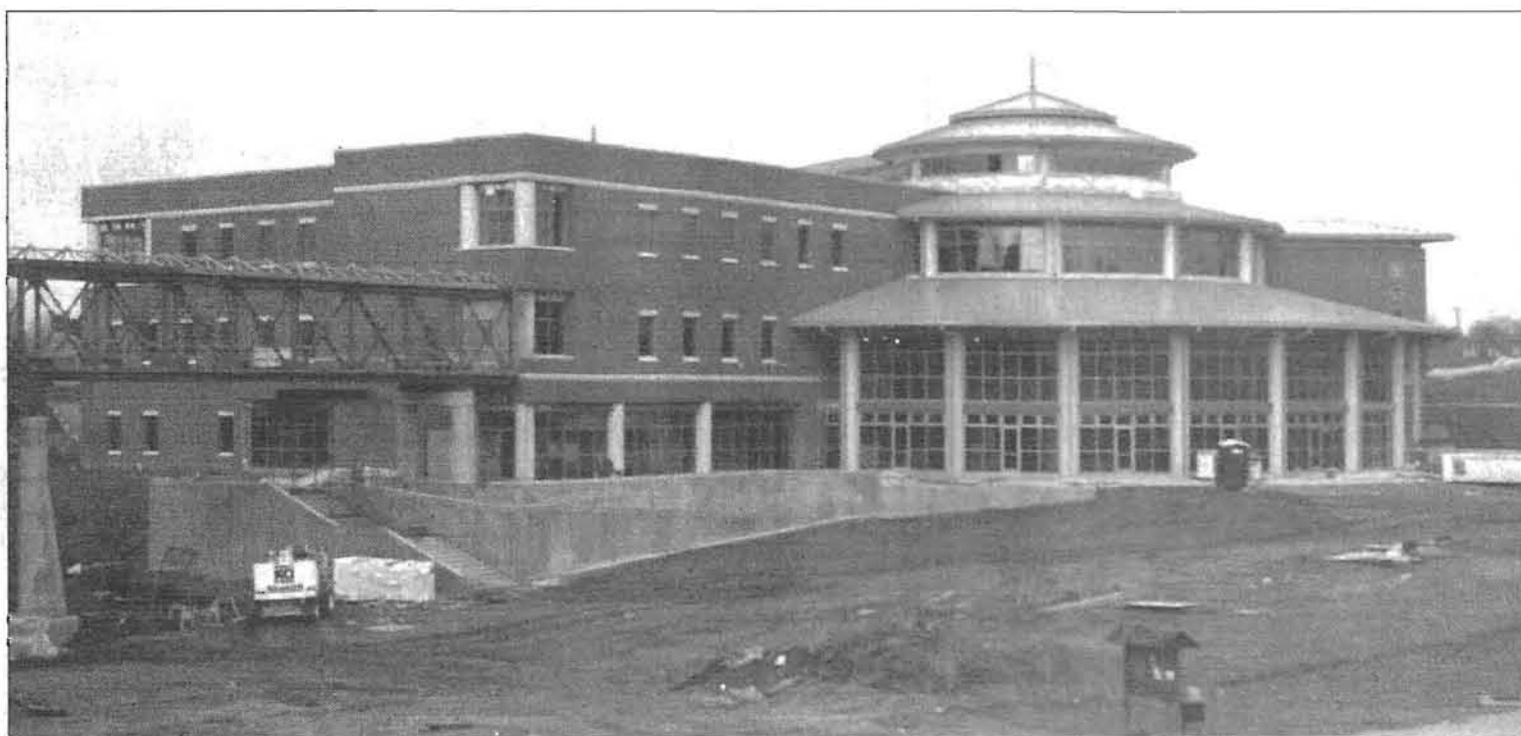
"I think that this is going to make the functioning of this campus far better than it's ever been," Spaner said.

Under the new governance system, the existing University Senate will be divided into two bodies, a Faculty Senate which will handle issues which are deemed faculty concerns, and a University Assembly, which will deal with matters which are considered to be of a campuswide nature.

The approval of the Board is the culmination of a months-long process. The draft of the proposed governance revision was generated by a conference committee, whose members included: Nasser Arshadi, Mark Burkholder, Joyce Corey, Tim McBride, Lois Pierce, Gail Ratcliff, Steve Spaner, and Lana Stein. Burkholder, who served as chairper-

see SENATE, page 8

Welcome to the new millenium (plaza, that is) . . .



Darren Brune/The Current

Say goodbye to the University Center, and say hello to the Millennium Plaza Student Center. That's the name of UM-St. Louis' new university center, as approved unanimously by the University of Missouri Board of Curators at its March 23 meeting. The board followed a recommendation by the UM-St. Louis Honorary Awards Committee. The Millennium Plaza Student Center is expected to be completed this June.

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Dr. Leonard Ott, will begin at 7 and run to 9 p.m. in Room 205 Music Building. To confirm events, ticket prices, or for further information call 5980.

•Mizzou Credit Union will be closed through Tuesday, April 18. It will reopen Wednesday, April 19. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 1-800-451-1477.

Friday, April 7

•UMSL TV will meet at 12 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with R-Z will be heard.

Sunday, April 9

•Mark Madsen, tenor, and Alla Voskoboinikova, piano, will perform their faculty recital at 7:30 p.m. in the Marillac Provincial House Chapel. This is a free event, but to confirm or receive further information call 5980.

•Lisitsa and Kuznetsoff, piano duo, a Premiere Performances event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall. A pre-concert lecture will be provided by Professor Leonard Ott of the UM-St. Louis Department of Music at 2 p.m. For ticket information concerning Premiere Performances events call 5818. To confirm events, ticket prices, or for further information call 5980.

•RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.).

Monday, April 10

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Meanderings on the Internet: Reflections on the Use of Electronic Technology in the Classroom." Robert Keel, lecturer in sociology, UM-St. Louis will discuss his experiences in introducing students to the World Wide Web and other forms of virtual interaction as tools for learning. Meeting in Room 229 J. C. Penney, the discussion will run from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call Karen Lucas at 5699.

Monday, April 3

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Poetry Reading." Jennifer Mackenzie, senior lecturer in English, UM-St. Louis, will read poems from her manuscript, "Controlled Burn." Meeting in Room 229 J. C. Penney, the reading will run from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call Karen Lucas at 5699.

•Skampa String Quartet, a Premiere Performances event, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall. A pre-concert lecture will be provided by Professor Leonard Ott of the UM-St. Louis Department of Music at 2 p.m. For ticket information concerning Premiere Performances events call 5818. To confirm events, ticket prices, or for further information call 5980.

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with A-H will be heard.

Tuesday, April 4

•Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

•UMSL TV will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, April 5

•Rec Sports Registration Deadline is today for the Tennis Tournament (which will be held at the UMSL Tennis Courts on April 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Coed Softball Tournament and BarBQ (which will begin on April 9, at 12 p.m.), and Men's and Women's Volleyball Tournaments (a one-night tourney which will be played April 10 in the Mark Twain Gym). For more info contact the Rec Sports Office at 5326.

•Soup and Soul Food will be from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

•Student Court will hear personal appeals on traffic violations from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in 272 University Center. Students with last names beginning with I-Q will be heard.

Thursday, April 6

•Backstage Opera Theatre, hosted by



Positions for the 2000-2001 year are available

The Current is now hiring the managing editor and business manager positions for the 2000-2001 school year. Interested? Submit a cover letter and application to Josh. If you have questions, please give us a call at 516-5174.



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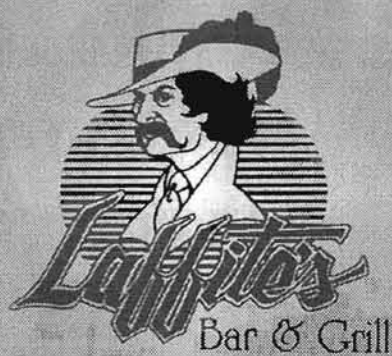
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Dance Fever



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UM-ST. LOUIS 20TH ANNUAL AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 3-7, 2000

April 3 Monday	• Movie Marathon (FREE) "Instinct" "Analyze This" "At First Sight"	U Center Lounge 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:00 p.m.
April 4 Tuesday	• Movie Marathon (FREE) "At First Sight" "Instinct" "Analyze This"	U Center Lounge 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:15 p.m.
April 5 Wednesday	• Disability Awareness Information DISABILITY SIMULATIONS • WHEELCHAIR CROSS CAMPUS MARATHON RACE Sign Up in U. Center lobby by 12:00 noon	U Center Lounge 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. U Center Lobby 12:15 p.m.
April 6 Thursday	• Movie Marathon (FREE) "Analyze This" "At First Sight" "Instinct"	U Center Lounge 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:15 p.m.
April 7 Friday	• Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony	126 J.C. Penney 12:15 p.m.

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 The Current
 UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
 AMERICAN HOMEPAIENT (Formerly United Medical)



EDUCATING EXPERIENCE

The Women's Expo 2000 gives chance for learning

By RHASHAD PITTMAN
Staff writer

Although an overwhelming crowd was not on hand for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) Women's Expo 2000 a couple of weeks ago, the event lived up to its mission, which was to educate, educate, educate, said FMLA representative Lashonda Harvey.

"If you think about it, issues that affect women also affect men," Harvey said as she stood at her organization's booth, pointing out pamphlets for onlookers to take a look at.

The senior majoring in anthropology was referring to domestic violence, non discrimination and pro-choice issues, while noting the urgency of their awareness.

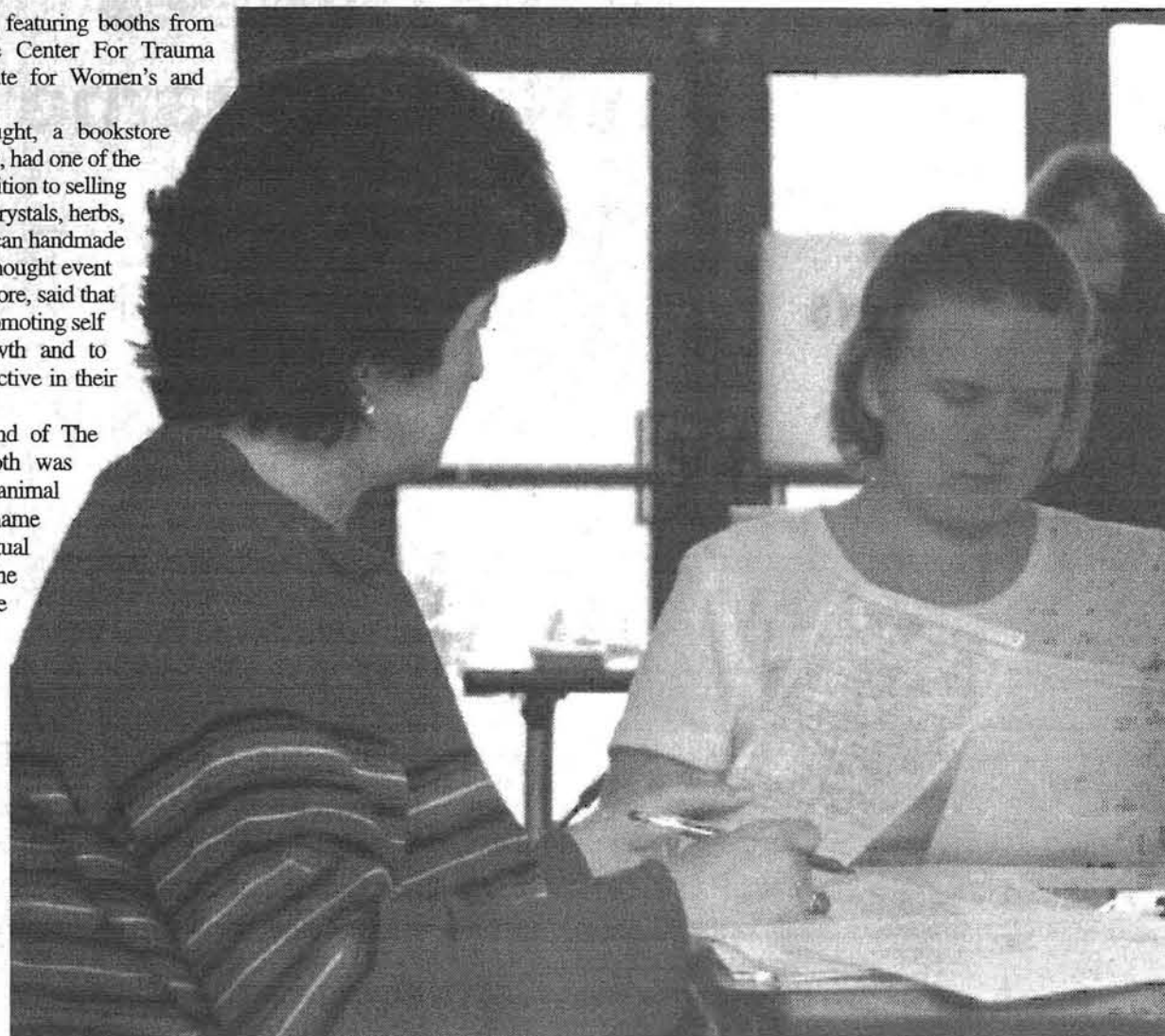
"Whoever is elected president will have the power to tell you whether you can have an abortion or not," she said. "If Governor [George W.] Bush is elected president, he actually said that he will ban abortion, which would result in 'back alley' abortions and things of that nature," Harvey said.

The two-day event was held in honor of

Women's History Month, featuring booths from Planned Parenthood, the Center For Trauma Recovery and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

The Alternative Thought, a bookstore located at 4455 N. Hwy 67, had one of the booths at the Expo. In addition to selling books, the store provides crystals, herbs, incense and Native American handmade drums. The Alternative Thought event coordinator, Amy Zoe Moore, said that the center's focus was "promoting self awareness, personal growth and to encourage people to get active in their community."

Sitting at the other end of The Alternative Thought booth was Star, a spiritual reader of animal totem cards. Star is the name she uses when doing spiritual readings. Depending on the card picked, Star said she reveals different qualities and characteristics about a person. Star says that the animal totem cards stem from the Native American tradition, which used the animals as guides for direction and personal empowerment. The cards "kind of focus on what our spirit-ed gifts are. They're kind of symbolic about what's going on in our lives," she said. "They're very uplifting and they tap into the positive part of yourself."



Darren Brune/The Current

Wendy Baggett, volunteer coordinator for Bridgeway Counseling Services, and volunteer Linda Bickel work at the Women's Exposition last Tuesday.

Trailblazers ceremony honors six

By CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

March, Women's History Month, was dedicated to remembering the contributions women have made and continue to make over the years, said Norman R. Seay, the director of the Office of Equal Opportunity. During the month of March, women's issues are put in the forefront to be examined and to educate others, Seay said. Keeping in the spirit of women's history month, the Office of Equal Opportunity had its annual Trailblazers award ceremony, recognizing UM-St. Louis women who have made enormous contributions, Seay said.

Seay defined Trailblazers as UM-St. Louis students, alumnae, faculty and staff who were the first to occupy positions traditionally held by men, who were trailblazers in their fields or who have made noteworthy contributions to the University and/or their profession.

Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, one of the first women to be given a Trailblazer award, and the guest speaker of the fifth annual Trailblazer Ceremony, thinks that this year's group of recipients are a stellar group.

"Everybody that has gotten this award has opened doors for other women. It's just a great feeling to be with all these Trailblazers," Touhill said.

This year's honorees are six women from various backgrounds, according to the Women Trailblazers program. Katharine T. Corbett assisted in the development of UM-St. Louis' first Women's Studies Program and researched and published the first historical study of the impact of women upon St. Louis history. Patricia

see TRAILBLAZERS, page 7

S.T.A.R.S. sponsors disability week

By CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

Every morning Zimmie guides Shonta through the maze of sidewalks at UM-St. Louis. Ignoring distractions like an occasional pat on the head or scratch behind the ear, the scent of something interesting lurking behind a tree or a Canadian goose that is begging for attention, Zimmie treks along until

he has gotten Shonta safely to class, where he obediently sits until it's time to take her to her next class.

Zimmie is Shonta's seeing eye dog. Shonta Peebles, a 21-year-old biology major, lost her sight to a condition called Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. A year and a half ago, she flew to New Jersey and went through an 10-week training program with Zimmie. Upon her enrollment at UM-St. Louis, Peebles has received the necessary

assistance through the S.T.A.R.S. program (Students Taking Advantage of Resource Services) and Disability Access Services.

"People do not know that they aren't suppose to play with Zimmie while he is working," said Peebles.

She went on to explain that distracting Zimmie can cause him to get off track - causing him to guide her in the wrong direction.

S.T.A.R.S. and the office of Disability Access Services decided

to hold UM-St. Louis' 20th annual Disability Awareness Week so that students will learn how to interact with someone who is being aided by a seeing eye dog and other people with disabilities, said Rachel B. Sommerer, a counselor for Student Support Services.

Marilyn Ditto is director of the office for Disability Access

see DISABILITIES, page 7

Services Available for Students with Disabilities

- pre-admission counseling
- specialized orientation and campus tours
- special parking permits
- assistance in finding tutors
- Disability Services Resource Center located in 312

- Thomas Jefferson Library
- assistance in locating and training note takers
- assistance in hiring readers for the blind
- auxiliary aids/services policy and assessment

- certified interpreters for the deaf
- on-campus electric wheelchair storage with recharging locations
- liaison with community resources such as

- Vocational Rehabilitation, Paragrad, and other organizations
- information clearinghouse
- emergency location procedure for mobility impaired
- testing accommodations

Housing tour views city life

By ANNE PORTER
staff editor

Sometimes the best way to discover the truth is to take a tour—a sneak peek behind the scenes that allows participants to view what the reality of the scenario is.

Metropolis St. Louis, in conjunction with the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, has organized the first St. Louis Affordable Housing Tour and Information Fair to make this sneak peek at St. Louis city homes possible.

The Housing Tour will take place on Saturday and meet at approximately 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica St. Louis grade school building at 4430 Maryland Ave.

The Information Fair begins at 9 a.m. and lasts until 11 a.m.

Different entities that will participate in the Information Fair include the Gateway to Home Ownership, St. Louis Reinvestment Association, real estate agents, lenders and neighborhood association representatives.

Amy Stringer, a volunteer with Metropolis St. Louis, helped to coordinate the logistics of the Housing Tour: interviewing residents of the homes, selecting the particular stops, and working with the participating neighborhood associations.

Metropolis "selected the project before it started, and then they got participants to come in," Stringer said.

Selected abodes on the Affordable Housing tour demonstrate many aspects of city living, she said.

"We definitely wanted to look at the North- and South-side homes, making sure we were inclusive of the entire city, just having a geographic mix," Stringer said.

Other aspects include accessibility and the preservation of St. Louis City's historic architectural importance.

"The homes have to be affordable and we classified that as \$120,000 or less," Stringer said.

Many neighborhood associations, such as Forest Park Southeast (a sus-



Darren Brune/The Current

The Housing Tour, sponsored by Metropolis, will view numerous city homes, such as this one, Saturday.

tainable neighborhood initiative), have communicated an interest in the Metropolis Affordable Housing Tour.

"That neighborhood has come together to devise a plan of where

they want to see their neighborhood go and how they want to implement change," Stringer said.

see TOUR, page 7

FEATUR

ANNE PORTER
features editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Thoughts for Today

"TV -- chewing gum for the eyes."

-Frank Lloyd Wright
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling space."

-Rebecca West
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"A man must not swallow more beliefs than he can digest."

-Brooks Adams
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"I am not young enough to know everything."

-James M. Barrie
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"The surest protection against temptation is cowardice."

-Mark Twain
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

Officials' early retirements raise questions



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

In a lifetime, events follow a certain cycle. A person is born, goes to school, graduates (hopefully), attends college and graduates (in some cases), lands an adequate job, works 40 years or so and then retires. UM-St. Louis has modified this formula.

The first change was made when many staff members and professors chose to take early retirement.

The second change was when a select few of these early retirees (two who work very closely with the Chancellor) were rehired from retirement at 74 percent of their previous work capacity.

The explanation given was that this

magical percentage will not include benefits, and will be for only three years, 74 percent for the first two, and 30 percent for the last.

I'm no crystal ball reader, but I suspect they will hang around for longer than three years.

It even explicitly states in the University's Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program (VERIP) that faculty and staff members could return on a part-time basis without benefits, but here's the killer. It also states that "Under no circumstance will senior system or campus officers be allowed to remain in their administrative positions (or similar ones) and draw retirement."

These senior positions, according to the policy, include vice presidents, chancellors, vice chancellors or executive-level positions reporting to the above-listed positions.

Dennis Judd, the presiding officer of the Faculty Council, asked the Chancellor to explain this blatant exception to the VERIP code (I give him a standing ovation for this).

All Chancellor Touhill would say, and after great hesitation, was something to the effect that it's a personnel matter.

Does all that not have to be recorded, audited and accounted for?

Chancellor Touhill did later issue a letter attempting to explain, in very

politically correct and very high-context language, that said "The General Counsel believes that participation in VERIP is an individual personnel matter and therefore the list is not a public record. Each individual can, of course, share information as they deem appropriate, and the individuals mentioned by Dr. Judd have given me the permission to share the following information."

Would someone care to translate that into English for me please? I am just a mere student and have not learned corporate lingo yet.

The letter also stated that all three of these staff and faculty members—Don Driemeier, Wendell Smith and

Norman Seay—will receive early retirement in addition to "part-time employment" salary.

Must be a nice gig.

I sincerely hope that the Chancellor will be able to explain the close of the letter which declared "I expect that UMSL will realize a cost saving from these moves because I do not intend to fill the positions held by Dr. Driemeier and Dr. Seay for at least two years. These personnel decisions have been approved by the President [Manuel Pacheco] and are consistent with the purpose of VERIP."

see PORTER, page 7

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Rule-bending for retirees gives University bad name

The issue:

The early retirement program at UM-St. Louis has become an issue lately because the rules of the program state that under no circumstances shall any top administrative officers be allowed to take early retirement while holding their present jobs or similar jobs.

We suggest:

There are top administrators doing this with UM System President Manuel Pacheco's approval. That caused a state audit, which just hurts the University. These things need to be avoided in the future.

So what do you think?

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

To the uneducated layman, a phrase like "under no circumstances" might seem very straightforward, very literal. But we here at UM-St. Louis, in the halls of academia, know that "under no circumstances," if used in the right circumstances, might actually mean "under some circumstances." At least it does under certain special circumstances, such as when the system president says it's OK, which he did, so everything must be fine. Welcome to UM-St. Louis Administrative Logic 101. Any wonder we're being audited?

According to the rules of the early retirement program, under no circumstances are top administrative officers to be allowed to take early retirement while remaining in their jobs or any similar jobs. It sounds so basic you'd think there wouldn't be anything else to say, but then again, this is UM-St. Louis. The University was planning to rehire three retiring administrators next year, until somebody blew the whistle. Claire McCaskill, Missouri State Auditor, was putting it gently when she was quoted in the *Post-Dispatch* as saying that the rehire "appeared to violate the university's own policy." Appeared? So near as we can tell, it just plain

does.

UM System President Manuel Pacheco sought to smooth things over by explaining that the retirees would be leaving their official positions and giving up the authority those positions entailed. The wording in the policy is just vague enough that he might be able to get by on that one, but what kind of message is this sending? Too much of the business of this campus is conducted in such a way that it gives an impression that there is always something shady going on.

The Cofer team spoke of this when they visited the campus. For anyone who doesn't remember, that was the last time we were audited, something which seems to be becoming as frighteningly regular as those annual budget reallocations. While we're on the subject of audits, that last one was at the system level. Now it's a state audit; is it going to be the feds next?

There's no need to break out the list of accomplishments that have taken place under this administration, how much the campus has grown — we've heard it all before, and that is not the issue. What we'd like to see is an end to this kind of nonsense, which gives this University a bad name.

LETTERS

Editorial failed to show both sides

This letter is in response to *The Current's* editorial opinion (Monday, March 13) concerning the hiring of Hannibal Najjar, who replaces Tom Redmond as head men's soccer coach.

The headline "Redmond's ouster turns athletics joy into chaos," in my opinion, contains misleading, unresearched information, and poor journalism.

The Athletic Department and the University are more than pleased with hiring Najjar. His qualifications,

as a coach as well as an educator, speaks volumes toward the future of UM-St. Louis athletics. However, your article does not point out any of those qualifications.

For instance, you do not even mention the three degrees Najjar holds. You fail to point out the fact that he successfully started two Division II men's and women's programs from scratch. There is no mention of Najjar's duties as a head coach of Trinidad's World Cup Team. There is no mention of his background as an

athletics administrator, or as an educator. You fail to mention the fact that Tom Redmond was one of five finalists interviewed for the position, as well as the informed decision to hire Najjar on behalf of the search committee.

As an editorial staff, you failed in your duties to present both sides of the story — the very essence of quality journalism.

-Michael DeFord
Sports Information Director

Butler to battle powers that be

It is very unfortunate that the past year was one filled with sensationalism and stigmatism, but one comes to expect such tactics of cowardly factions. When I embarked on the presidency I sincerely wanted to make a difference. I have always looked at the powers that be as obstacles strategically placed in one's way to stifle the ability of the average American to receive higher education. These powers covertly attempt through various applications, criteria and high costs, as well as other stipulations, to make

higher education a thing for the privileged few. I've endured the civil rights of individuals violated, the Missouri legislators passing on higher costs for education to Missouri residents, and fickle students haggling over irrelevant issues and I could do nothing but shake my head in disgust.

But fortunately I'm a fighter, one who won't sit back and allow things to happen. I make things happen. I cannot stand aside and watch a spineless bunch of conformists bully a student body. The things that recently

have transpired are sickening, therefore I withdraw my current stand of not pursuing my incumbency and formally announce my candidacy for SGA President for 2000-2001. I believe the students of this University know my sincerity and understand we all make mistakes, and I've paid my dues. So with that said, Let the games begin.

See you at the polls,

-Darwin R. Butler Sr.
SGA President

What's your opinion?

1. How do you feel about the topics we've written about in the Opinions section this week?

- The current early retirement controversy
- New soccer coach Hannibal Najjar
- Darwin Butler's candidacy for a second term as SGA President

2. You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Participate in the Student Forum on The Current Online

University short-changed by politics

It appears that UM-St. Louis could be getting the short end of the stick financially from Jefferson City. In a March 15 debate on the higher education budget, state Rep. Louis Ford shifted \$1 million from the University of Missouri to the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center in Columbia, MO.

According to Jerry Berger's March 19 column in *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Ford said the move was done to punish political rivals at the University, specifically Betty Van Uum, an assistant to Chancellor Blanche Touhill. Van Uum is reportedly considering a bid against state senator William Lacy Clay in the August primary for Congress.

Ford has made it public that he thinks Clay deserves the promotion and has been very critical of Van Uum and other UM-St. Louis officials. Meanwhile, his motion to shift the money from the University to the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center was approved by the House.

Van Uum did not return *The Current's* telephone calls, and Maureen Zegel, manager of Media Relations at UM-St. Louis, did not want to comment on the matter at this time.

Clay said he has no influence on Ford's actions.

"Sir, you're barking up the wrong tree," Clay said to me. "Louis Ford is 25 years my senior and I've never been able to direct him in his actions."

Clay said that the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center is a worthwhile project and that the House voted to approve the move. Clay went on to say that he is a supporter of UM-St. Louis.

True, the Ellis Fischel Cancer

Center is a worthwhile project. This column agrees with that statement 100 percent.

Clay also said that he is a supporter of UM-St. Louis. Again, he has shown through his record as a representative to be a supporter of the University.

Then why would Clay's ally Ford punish something Clay supports to show his own support for Clay? Why punish the University for the anticipated actions of Van Uum?

According to an article in *The Riverfront Times* on March 22, Van Uum stated that the University of Missouri is considered a "constitutional entity." This means that legislators cannot decide individual salaries of university employees. The University budget is

approved as a whole which goes to the Board of Curators to dispense as they see fit. This means that instead of punishing university employees' salaries, \$1 million dollars could be taken out of programs designed for students in order to cover Ford's personal vendetta.

This is classic abuse of power by government officials. The same abuse of power that has crippled mankind from its very existence.

Legislators are able to shift money in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. at their whim, while the cost of education spirals out of control. Higher education within 15 years will be accessible to just a privileged few.

This is not what this country was based on. Remember? Wasn't it based on life, liberty, and the pursuit of something?



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

Urban development or xenophobia

Recently I've been thinking about the family that lived down the street from me when I was growing up. The Franks had seemed like relatively nice people, albeit not always the most politically correct.

I lost touch with the Franks—not their real names—after I left home to attend college. I ran into Mrs. Frank one day while I was visiting my parents. She excitedly told me that her family would be moving to St. Charles soon. She and her husband thought the schools over there would be much better for their two children. She also told me about the young couple they'd sold their home to.

"They're, well, you know..." she said.

I had a feeling I knew what she was going to say, but I pressed her anyway.

"They're what?" I asked.

"They're black," she responded in a hushed tone.

The demographics of my neighborhood had been changing over the years. When my family moved there in the mid 1970s, it was possible to count on one hand the number of racial and ethnic minorities who lived in the subdivision. In just a decade's time, that number has increased steadily. Although Mrs. Frank hadn't directly said so, I knew from her comment that there was another reason she and her husband wanted to move to St. Charles.

Whenever I think of urban sprawl, I think of the Franks. The families who leave often use the noble-sounding "better schools" excuse, but there's more to it than that. It's no coincidence that they're choosing to move to largely Caucasian geographic areas. I think a fair number of these families got rattled when people who weren't exactly

like them started moving into their neighborhoods. Visions of increasing crime and decreasing property values flashed before their eyes, and they bolted.

The Franks came to mind again recently in light of the recent turmoil in the Francis Howell School District. A clerical error several months ago left the district with a surplus of funds it wasn't supposed to have. To correct the problem, the district's school board cut \$10 million from its budget. Over a hundred teaching positions will be eliminated, and students will have to deal with larger class sizes in a district that had already been experiencing growing pains to begin with.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not smirking with satisfaction over this development; it's not fair that Francis Howell students will have to suffer the repercussions of mistakes they didn't make. I do think, however, that the situation is proof that the grass

isn't always greener on the other side of the Missouri River. I also think it eliminates that last, safe excuse that urban sprawlers use. Now we know the schools aren't necessarily better.

That young African-American couple that moved into the Franks' house still lives there. They have two young children whose favorite playmates are the white kids who live a couple doors down. They attend school in a good district that has been consistently supported by taxpayers whenever a bond issue comes around. They live in a neighborhood that's virtually crime-free. They live in the kind of place most families would be happy to raise children in.

The Franks didn't need a new home; they needed an attitude adjustment.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor



Nicole Garofalo
Junior/Fashion Marketing

Arizona, to visit my boys.



Denny Lees
Sophomore/Political Science & Business

I'm going to Panama City.



Rachelle Perkins
Junior/Psychology

I'm going to Cancun, Mexico.



Susan Yoder-Kreger
Spanish Professor

Voy a visitar Arizona.

Under Current
by Michelle Van Iseghem
staff photographer

Where are you going for Spring Break?

Rivermen rip four more opponents

Baseball team mixes offense and pitching to improve to 11-1 overall, 1-1 in GLVC

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The UM-St. Louis men's baseball program is on a tear as of late, posting four consecutive victories while improving its overall record to 11-1-1.

The Rivermen swept a pair of games from Davis & Elkins College in Fort Myers, Fla., March 17.

In the first game, UM-St. Louis struggled to a 4-2 victory behind solid pitching from Tim Stringer who got the victory and improved his mark to 2-0. But in the second game, the Rivermen exploded on Davis & Elkins en route to a 7-1 win. While posting seven hits, the offense, along with solid defense, ensured Scott Johnson the victory.

Two days later in Fort Myers, UM-St. Louis then played a tight game with East Stroudsburg College and emerged victorious 3-2. The Rivermen only posted three hits, but freshman sensation Greg Bierling pitched well enough to secure the victory. East Stroudsburg posted four errors in the loss.

The Rivermen then hosted Fontbonne, a team coached by former St. Louis Cardinal Scott Cooper. Fontbonne won 45 games last year and went to regionals. The Rivermen

busted out of an offensive slump and won the contest 11-1.

"We were able to jump on them early and it pretty much set the tone for the rest of the day," Brady said.

UM-St. Louis posted 13 hits without committing any errors. Bierling picked up the win for UM-St. Louis and improved his mark to 3-0 overall.

Bierling "Is an exceptional talent," Brady said. "He works hard, and good things come to those who do so."

Currently, Norman Mann and Bob Stehman lead the Rivermen in batting average at .412 and .391 respectively, while Nick Post and Joe Christian are close behind at .341.

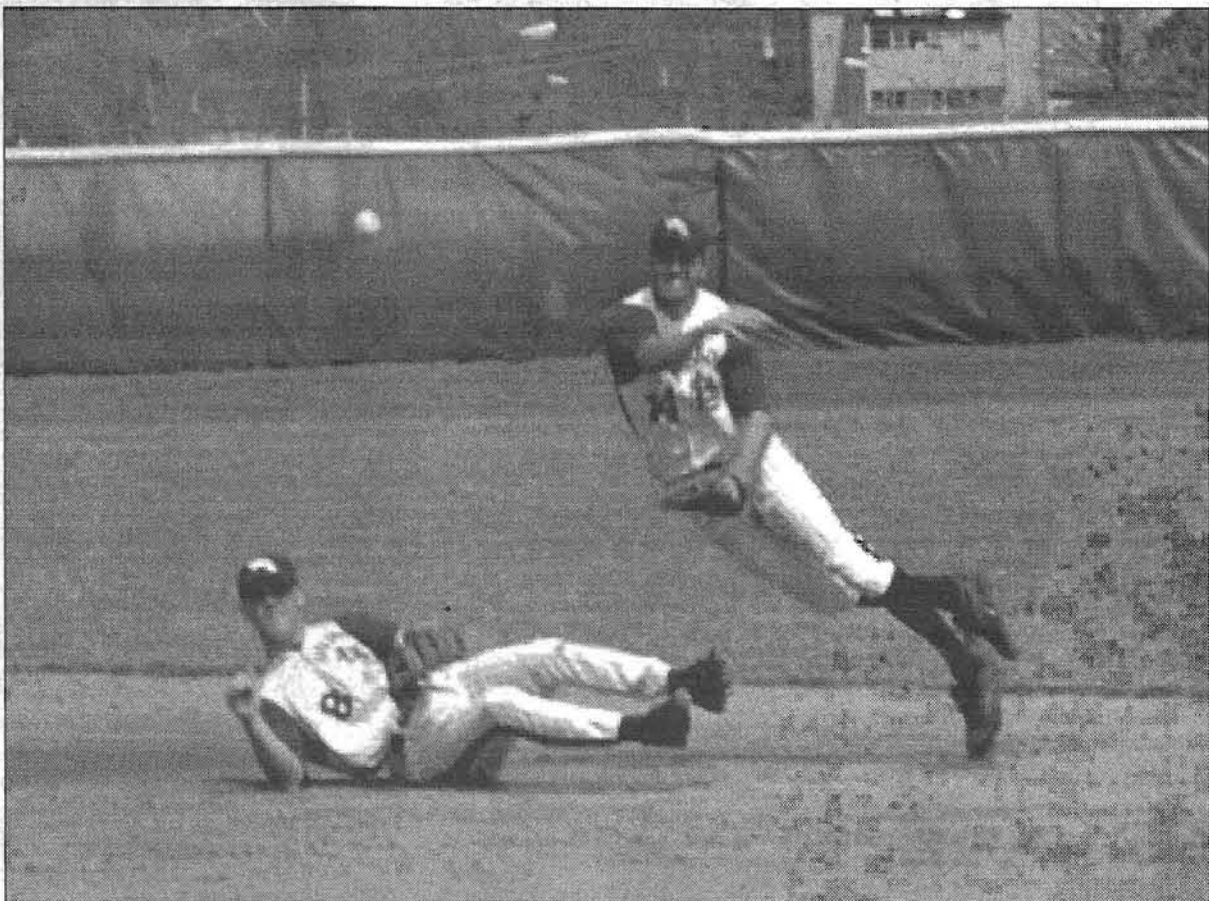
Mann also leads the Rivermen in stolen bases being safe 18 out of his 19 attempts.

Christian and Tyler Bates trail Mann with 11 and 10 to their credit.

Stehman leads the Rivermen with 22 RBIs and is tied for the team high in home runs with two.

"These guys are high-caliber defensive talents," Brady said. "It is really a pleasure to watch them. It is really a testament to their hard work ethic. They are something special."

The designated hitter role is also something Brady is pleased with as Trent Wesley and Buddy Simon are



Scott Luczak (14) makes a diving throw over teammate Tyler Bates (8) in a game against Lewis.

filling the role.

"They have come in and really given us a spark," Brady said. "That is nice to have guys like this step up and add that dimension and spot you are looking for."

Bierling and senior Bob Kavan

lead the pitching staff of the Rivermen, both currently at 3-0.

After spring break, UM-St. Louis hosts Quincy University April 5 and then goes on the road to battle with Southern Indiana in a doubleheader April 8 and a single game the fol-

lowing day, then play Truman State in Ballwin at 7 p.m..

"The first 12 games have been kind of a build up and its been a confidence builder," Brady said. "But now, school really begins."

Softball team splits double header

Hitting fails, pitching and defense remain strong against Missouri-Baptist

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

Playing an outdoor sport can sometimes be unpredictable due to weather conditions. The UM-St. Louis softball team (12-3, 1-1) recently dealt with mother nature as four of its games were canceled due to inclement weather.

The layoff may have hurt the Riverwomen as they went into their double-header against Missouri-Baptist College.

The first game was a defensive battle and ended 1-0 in favor of the Riverwomen, as both teams struggled to bring runners in.

Head coach Lesa Bonee discussed her teams ongoing struggles with hitting.

"We had another good defensive stance," Bonee said, "But again, we just could not hit the ball. In the first game, we were hitting right at people. We really struggled just to get the one run we did. Despite the hitting problems, I'm still proud of the team. We

didn't panic, stayed persistent and the right people worked hard to pull the game out for us."

Recording the only run for the Riverwomen was Melissa Shumate.

Picking up the win again for UM-St. Louis was standout pitcher Kathleen Rogoz, who now holds a record of 8-0.

The second game was another bad showing for the Riverwomen's bats as they only managed one run for Rogoz and lost to Missouri-Baptist 1-3.

"The second game was not a good one for us," Bonee said. "Again, we were just not hitting the ball. Offensively, we are just not consistent enough."

The loss prompted Bonee to have the team hit against live pitching in practice all week and work at correcting the errors that have plagued their losses.

"We've spent our entire practices having our pitchers throwing to the team in order for them to see live pitches," Bonee said. "It's important for them to see different pitch selec-

tions from different types of pitching styles."

Bonee stressed the importance of watching themselves hit in order to improve their hitting techniques and pitch selection.

"We've been filming the games, and we sat down and watched our batting techniques," Bonee said. "Throughout the practices, our hitting mechanisms got a little better as did the pitch selection, so we're heading in the right direction. Again, we've got plenty of time and we aren't going to panic about this. We're just going to keep working to improve."

Bonee also talked about the loss of momentum associated with missing four games over the weekend.

"It's hard to be heating up and be on a roll and then all of the sudden not play for a week," Bonee said. "I'm definitely not making excuses because I don't let the girls make excuses for their play. But, I do believe that the layoff slowed us down and really hurt us. We had been steadily improving, and then you get a setback and it's tough."

UM-St. Louis' spring-break weekend was a tough one as they headed to Indiana and Wisconsin to face two conference opponents in nationally ranked Lewis, who stands at 19-1 and Wisconsin-Parkside, who is 12-5.

Rivermen sweep two conference meets

Three game losing streak drops overall record to 1-3

BY CHRIS BUNCE
special to the Current

The Rivermen tennis team looked to avenge their two home losses to Rockhurst College and Washington University as they went on the road to take on Great Lakes Valley Conference opponents Northern Kentucky and Bellarmine.

The Rivermen fared well defeating Northern Kentucky 5-3.

The Rivermen started out very shaky, losing their first three doubles matches, but rebounded very well winning their next five singles matches. Singles winners included Scott Goodyear, Josh Heape, Eric Schrumph and Ryan Trela.

"We played very well but I told them they should be ashamed of the three doubles losses," head coach Rick Gyllenberg said. "It was a blow to their confidence, but they bounced back very nicely to win the next five matches."

The Rivermen then traveled south to take on Bellarmine where they were also emerged victorious 6-1. Singles winners included Goodyear, Heape, Schrumph and Trela.

On the other side, doubles win-

ners were the No. 1 team of Goodyear and Schrumph and the No. 3 team of Heape and Andy Forinash.

With the two wins over the weekend the Rivermen's tennis squad is 2-0 in the GLVC and 3-3 overall in the standings.

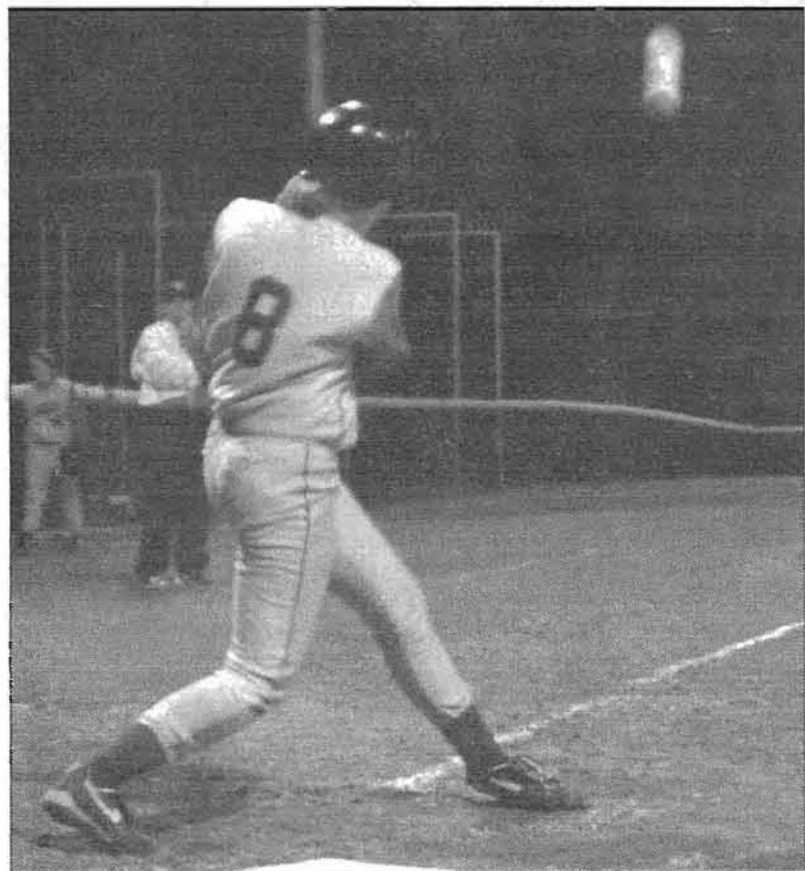
The Rivermen played host to Indianapolis March 23 and IUPU-Fort Wayne before heading east.

The Rivermen also traveled to Hilton Head, S.C. where they played three non-conference matches over spring break.

The Rivermen will run up against three highly ranked schools: South Carolina, DePaul and Carnegie Mellon.

"All three of these matches will be pretty tough, and won't hurt our standings, so I want them to go out and play tough and hopefully have some fun," Gyllenberg said.

The Rivermen will finish their nine-match road trip at the end March when they travel to take on St. Joseph's College and then Lewis University. "We should definitely win both of these matches, and by this time hopefully, we will be looking brighter in our division standings," Gyllenberg said.



The ball explodes off of Erin Shepherd's bat during the Riverwomen's doubleheader against Missouri-Baptist. The Riverwomen are currently 12-3 overall, 1-1 in the GLVC.

SPORTS OPINION

Despite NCAA snubbing, Springfield still loves its Bears

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

There are some towns that live, eat and breathe sports. Springfield, Mo. is one of those towns. Springfield is not very big, 150,000 without college students and 175,000 during the semester, but the small-town environment and party spirit make it a perfect breeding ground for sports' fanatics.

There are no bigger teams in Springfield than the men's and women's basketball teams at Southwest Missouri State University. UM-St. Louis, with the apathy associated with athletics, is lucky to get 500 people to their home basketball games. SMSU, especially at the end of the season, continually sells out their games and bring huge contingencies for their away games.

Because I used to attend SMSU, I can identify with the all-out effort that goes into supporting the Bears and Lady Bears. When the men made the Sweet 16 last year to face favorite Duke, the town shut down, literally.

The 1999-2000 season held a great amount of promise for both teams. Unfortunately, those dreams and hopes were dashed when the men's team was passed up for an at-large bid. It was a devastating blow and many people were very angry.

The Lady Bears were a bit luckier and did go on to the NCAA tourney but there was a bitter taste in the mouths of many fans as the Bears made their way to the Not In Tourney consolation bracket (NIT).

I guess I kind of expected the Bears

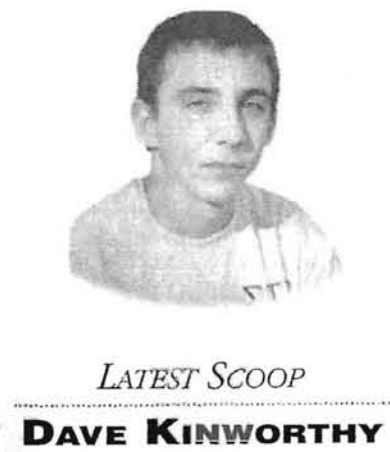
not to make it, which lessened the blow a bit.

Even with this blow, the Bears took their wounded hearts and headed to the NIT to try and put a positive light on an unpleasant subject. The Bears beat Southern Methodist 77-64 but lost severely to Mississippi 70-48.

Even with the loss, they were greeted like heroes back in Springfield. All Bears' fans knew that they had been cheated and reached out to console five departing seniors who would not end their playing careers on the greatest of notes.

Springfield does take great pride in their Bears. There will be another season, another set of faces, and a renewed sense of hope for both the men's and women's teams to make the NCAA tourney.

Speed, veterans and youth could make Cards a contender



LATEST SCOOP
DAVE KINWORTHY

Spring break has finally come and gone, but as something leaves, so too does something come. The baseball season is finally upon us and the St. Louis Cardinals are shaping up as a team that looks primed and ready to be a contender.

Through the offseason acquisition of quality pitchers in Andy Benes, Pat Hentgen and Daryl Kile, the pitching staff, if healthy, is comparable in many aspects to the Atlanta Braves.

Benes, a former Cardinal, returned from the Arizona Diamondbacks to pursue a career that should never have allowed him to leave St. Louis. He is a dominating ace for the Cardinals and

should rack up well over 200 innings for the Redbirds this season.

Hentgen had wondrous years in Toronto as a Blue Jay, but this veteran looks to redeem himself in the National League this year as he has had a quality arm throughout spring training.

Kile, a former Colorado pitcher, experienced a slump in his pitching abilities once he signed with Rockies. The altitude in Colorado may have affected his style, but in St. Louis, Kile should excel as he did previously in Houston with the Astros.

Along with a great pitching staff, the Cardinals also secured the infield

by acquiring second baseman Fernando Vina from the Milwaukee Brewers. The trade had been talked about for quite some time and finally the Cardinals front office took a gamble by releasing some younger talent.

Vina is a Gold Glove second baseman who hits for average and some power as a leadoff hitter. He gives the Cardinals more speed alongside shortstop Edgar Renteria and gives opponents another worry on the base paths.

With Shawon Dunston coming back to the Redbirds in the offseason, the Cardinals have more depth in the outfield and the infield with this talented utility player coming off the bench.

But while Dunston came, Joe McEwing had to leave. It is hard to say, but he had to go. He would not have made the team and now may be sent down to the minor leagues anyway.

He was a great hustler, but his late-year slump at the plate gave the Cardinals no choice but to go out and make a trade to refine the infield.

So now I guess there will be no more Baby Mac, but Big Mac is here for the long run. McGwire, coming off a great season as always, is surrounded this year with the most athletic Cardinals team in recent history.

The only team comparable to this

team's speed and youth is from back in the days when the Cardinals were all base-stealing threats with Willie McGee, Vince Coleman and company on the base-paths.

No matter where the Cardinals were then, they are here now and St. Louis could be looking at another potential champion here if everything goes the way it should and injuries remain minor.

Look out Houston Astros, because with Jeff Bagwell getting older and Moises Alou coming off season-ending surgery last year, are you sure you can hang with the Cardinals?

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Baseball

- vs Quincy (DH)
noon, Wed. Apr. 5
- at Southern Ind. (DH)
noon, Sat., Apr. 8
- at Southern Ind.
noon, Sun., Apr. 9

Softball

- at McKendree
3 p.m., Wed. Apr. 5
- vs St. Joseph's
1 p.m., Sat., Apr. 8
- vs IUPU-Ft. Wayne
1 p.m., Sun., Apr. 9

Men's Tennis

- vs UM-Rolla
4:30 p.m., Tue. Apr. 4
- at Quincy
3 p.m., Thur. Apr. 6
- vs Kent. Wesleyan
9 a.m., Sat. Apr. 8
- vs Truman State
3 p.m., Sat. Apr. 8

Next Issue In Sports

- Baseball update
- Softball update
- Latest Scoop

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Upcoming Concerts

April

5

Afro-Cuban All-Stars
Powell Symphony Hall

6

Long John Hunter
Generations

7

Skatalites
with the Kinetics
Firehouse

String Cheese Incident
American Theatre

8

Gov't Mule
Mississippi Nights

Bruce Springsteen & the E
Street Band
Kiel Center

Dirty Dozen Brass Band
Firehouse

10

Smashing Pumpkins
American Theatre

11

Rockin' Highliners
Generations

12

Ekoostik Hookah. With
Seven Days
Mississippi Nights

18

Korn. With Spike & Mike's
Sick & Twisted Animation
Festival and Staind
Kiel Center

25

Static X. With Pitchshifter
and Revelle
Mississippi Nights

Cory Blackwood's column will return next week!

FILM REVIEW

'Romeo' provides little poetry, much mayhem

BY **BERNIE KORBERG**
Daily Californian

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — The title of the newest movie by Joel Silver, producer of "The Matrix," is one which brings a whole lot of expectations. I mean, if a film's called "Romeo Must Die" then Romeo has to die, right? In modern America there aren't a whole lot of fellows named Romeo, so the title obviously refers to Shakespeare's early masterpiece, "Romeo and Juliet," right? In order to have a proper adaptation of the work, Romeo just better hunker down and die.

As "West Side Story" proved, you can replace two families with two races and let Juliet live and still gain popular acceptance and approval, but Romeo must absolutely die. No doubt about it.

Well, Joel Silver figures otherwise. I guess he figured that if "West Side Story" could strip away most of the good stuff that made "Romeo and Juliet" great and even let one of the characters live, then he just needed to finish the job. "Romeo Must Die" has two children of warring families falling in love, one black, the other Asian. There is no other similarity to the Bard's work. So don't take a date to this film, expect her to get all weepy, and then expect to get some afterwards.

So now that we have the film's cheap lets-get-people-to-see-this-great-love-story-updated setup out of the way, lets talk about this film, which is actually quite a lot of fun.

"Romeo Must Die" is so far the best attempt in awhile, by a long shot, to bring Asian action stars to prominence on the American screen. The two recent previous entries have been Jackie Chan (too G-rated for action stardom) and Chow Yun-Fat (had potential, too bad "The Corrupter" and "The Replacement Killers" were just bad ideas all around) and neither achieved half the success Bruce Lee had in "Enter the Dragon."

Enter Jet Li. Not only is he supremely talented in the martial arts (Chinese National Champion of Wushu for four years in a row), he's

got flair and acting skills. Ever since his turn as the villain in "Lethal Weapon 4," I've hungered for a major film debut that would knock him into the stratosphere, and this is it. Period. Easily the best action film since "The Matrix" and the best American martial arts film since who knows when, this movie provides a whole lot of adrenaline and ass-kicking.

Li plays Han Sing, son of former Hong Kong crime lord, Ch'u Sing (Henry O), and former cop. He helped his father and brother, Po (Jon Kit Lee) escape from Hong Kong when they were being charged with crimes, and he went to jail for it. Now Ch'u has built a new empire on Oakland's waterfront, competing with Isaac O'Day (Delroy Lindo) and his son, Colin (D.B. Woodside.) Both gang leaders have right hand men, kung fu expert Kai Sang (Russell Wong) and smooth talking Mac (Isaiah Washington). You can figure out who works for whom. Both gangs are currently at peace due to a deal where they get their hands on all the waterfront property deeds necessary to build a football stadium, something a nice big white corporation is willing to pay a lot of money for. Oakland just got an expansion franchise, it seems.

Unfortunately, things stop going smoothly when Po gets strung up in the middle of a black neighborhood, presumably by someone who was upset about his showing up and causing trouble in the middle of an all-black club. Trisha O'Day (Aaliyah, who follows the trend of mediocre musicians being, for some odd reason, competent actors) gets stuck in the middle of the whole thing when she becomes a potential target for revenge. Two seconds after hearing of his brother's death, Han fights his way out of jail (it's really cool) and the rest proceeds as you would expect.

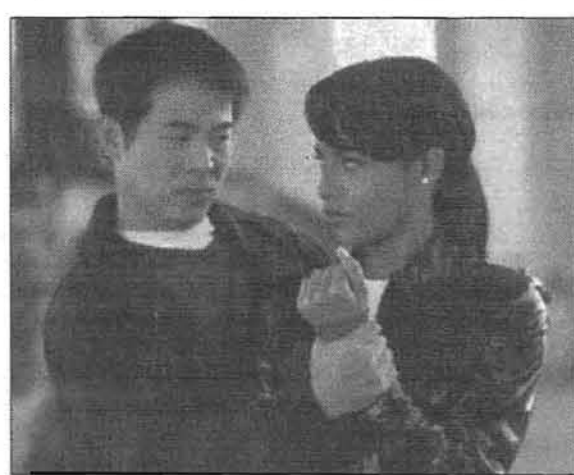
Of course, what makes or breaks the movie is the action, and it certainly makes it. As you might guess, the above setup leads to plenty of violence. To the credit of the screen writers and director Andrzej Bartkowiak, the movie starts with the intense escape from jail by Han and then calms down a lot, only to re-intensify



as the film continues way past the levels of the start. Not that the action stops, but it becomes more comical beatings than actual fights to the death. Think of the movie starting with Chuck Norris, moving instantaneously down to Jackie Chan and then slowly making its way up to Bruce Lee.

It's not exactly an uncommon formula, but one that is effective when used right. Think of "The Matrix." "Romeo" does the same thing. It starts super-intense and goes straight to the stratosphere. Since the two films share a producer, there are likely to be similarities; but this isn't a bad thing, as "The Matrix" can really be seen as the movie that took action movies out of the rut they had been stuck in for the last few years. It's okay to copy the pioneer to an extent.

When there isn't fighting the plot moves and is interesting enough. In an attempt to keep the culture familiar the movie concentrates more on the O'Day family than the Ch'u family (excluding Han), and you wish it wouldn't because the feud is what keeps the heat on. The acting is quite



Jet Li and Aaliyah play Han Sing and Trisha O'Day, members of rival gang families who fall in love, in the new movie "Romeo Must Die."

good, with everyone, including Aaliyah, acting convincingly. Oh wait, I was wrong, DMX does a terrible job, but he's not in the movie for long and you get to see him die, so it's okay. Jet Li has obviously taken lessons from both the Chan and Lee camp, and he blends the two styles well and brings a lot of his own to the table.

The dialogue itself is funny enough, and when it needs to be morose it does a decent job of it.

There's a minimum of deus ex machina, and except for the last scene you never really question the logic of it all. The rap and R&B soundtrack tries to do the same as "The Matrix"'s soundtrack did in terms of effect and ambience, and it works, but not quite as well, since you have to listen to DMX. But we'll excuse that fact in favor of all the good things going on.

CONCERT REVIEW

Newsboys please fans with 'Disco' tour traveling stage

BY **JOSH RENAUD**
staff editor

I'm sure passers-by were puzzled by the sights and sounds spewing from a corner of the South County Mall parking lot Thursday, March 24.

What was all the musical ruckus? Well, youth groups, parents, families, college students and fans of all ages flocked to see one of Christian music's most popular rock bands, the Newsboys, perform.

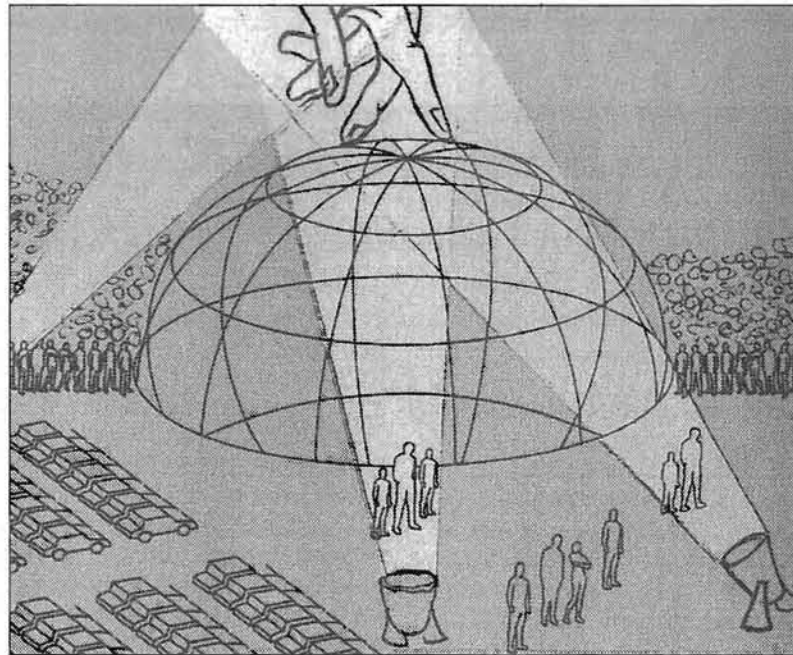
Initially, there might have been a let down as people drove in and filled the parking lot. You see, the Newsboys have been toting two large, inflatable domes with them across the country on their "Love Liberty Disco" tour. Instead of trying to adapt various arenas to their high-velocity and gizmo-laden stage, they have been bringing their own stage and their own venue from city to city. On this night, though, the 'Boys elected not to erect the dome because the weather was so beautiful.

Any fans who were disappointed about missing the 'concert-in-a-portable-dome' were soon feeling good again because this concert was really incredible.

The Newsboys brought along two opening bands, Bean Bag and Sonicflood. Bean Bag played a really short set—three hard, up-and-down thrash songs. Just as quickly, Sonicflood took the stage and steered the concert in a completely different direction. The band made it very clear that the purpose of their set was to praise and worship God. They played several of their more popular songs, all of them second-person songs of devotion to God that ranged in style from contemporary to light rock.

The crowd really took to Sonicflood and it was impressive to see so many people worshipping in so many ways. One girl sang softly and instead used her hands so expressively to paint pictures of worship in the air.

After a 15-minute intermission, the Newsboys were ready to play and so



The Newsboys' "Love Liberty Disco" tour features two giant inflatable domes. Because of great weather in St. Louis, the band chose not to set up the domes. Instead, fans enjoyed an outdoor concert with an "in-the-round" stage and the Newsboys' trademark high-tech gadgetry like their rotating/levitating drumset.

was the crowd. With disco music raging, all the band members ran on stage in their all-white 70s garb, and the audience ate it up.

The band stuck mostly to a set list of their most popular songs like "Shine," "Breakfast," and "Entertaining Angels," as well as a large helping from their album "Love Liberty Disco." Truth be told, most of the songs on that album and at the concert were not really disco. The Newsboys played pretty solid double-guitar rock, with their trademark sampling and 80s-style keyboard effects.

Peter Furler, the band's founder and lead singer, definitely held the crowd's enthusiasm. The past several years of touring have clearly sharpened his performing skills.

And the Newsboys brought their bag of tricks along with them. The stage was set up in-the-round, with the audience encircling it. This meant the band members were frequently running from one side to the other,

mixing it up with the entire audience. And many in the crowd gasped when Furler and drummer Duncan Phillips buckled themselves into their seats on the drum platform, and a hydraulic lift pushed the platform high into the air. As the two beat mercilessly on their trap sets, the platform tilted and began rotating almost 360 degrees like a ride you would find at Six Flags. While one cymbal fell off the platform to the stage, the sight gag was very impressive and had the crowd cheering.

After a long, energetic set, Furler quieted the crowd to share a brief message about Jesus Christ. The crowd was absolutely silent, and seemed to absorb everything he said.

The Newsboys ended the show with several more hit songs and closed by inviting the audience to sing the old hymn "Hallelujah."

Despite the surprise of the open-air show, most fans seemed very happy and worn out—always a sign of a good rock show.

FILM REVIEW

'Closer You Get' rehashes other films but still makes for fun moviewatching

BY **MARY LINDSLEY**
senior editor

It's hard to watch "The Closer You Get" without thinking about last year's sleeper hit "Waking Ned Divine." Both comedies are set in small, picturesque Irish towns. Both feature a colorful cast of characters. Both have plots involving an entire town uniting around a common goal. And, perhaps not coincidentally, both films were produced by the same studio, Fox Searchlight. Even if Fox may be guilty of rehashing one hit film to produce another, the result is still worth watching.

In "The Closer You Get," the bachelors of the Irish town of Donegal share a common problem: healthy libidos, but no women. Their problem is exacerbated by the fact that life in Donegal has become rather routine. Every day they go to work, every night they gather at the local tavern, and every morning they wake up with hangovers from the night before. The most exciting thing to happen to the town in years is the addition of a weekly movie night courtesy of the local Catholic parish.

It is during one of these movies, when a copy of the Bo Derek film "10" is accidentally shown instead of "The Ten Commandments," that their desperation comes full circle. The bachelors decide that the solution to their problem is to find some attractive, American women and marry them. For them, Bo Derek isn't just another babe who looks good in a swimsuit (although that certainly is a selling point); she represents the excitement they want but can't find where they live.

The men place an advertisement in *The Miami Herald* for "attractive, sporty women between the ages of 20 and 21" to be their dates at an upcoming annual dance. If things go well at the dance, they reason, then perhaps marriage will follow.

Length: 90 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★

Meanwhile, the women of Donegal take umbrage at the men's plan. They resent that the men see them as being merely "acceptable" and decide to find romance on their own. The search for the perfect mate turns into a competition between the men and the women, with each side more willing to scout prospects from the far corners of the globe than to consider candidates who have been under their noses all along.

"The Closer You Get" is not quite as sharp as the film that inspired it. The inexperience of first-time director Aileen Ritchie occasionally shows in the static setting of shots and sometimes slow pacing of the film. There's a sense that the subject matter covered in the film could have been a little more original. For example, the subplots involving a 26-year-old seeking to lose his virginity and the secret crush between a farmer and the tavern owner's wife are simply variations of story lines we've seen before.

However, on the whole, the film is fun to watch. Despite its flaws, the movie still manages to be more substantive and more engaging than the garbage Hollywood has a propensity for cranking out. The movie relies on the charm of its characters to drive the film rather than gimmicks. There are also some genuinely funny moments, as when the men hide in the bushes by the town's sole bus stop so that they can casually appear and greet their American dates, should they arrive.

"The Closer You Get" may be a knock-off of another film, but that doesn't detract from the enjoyment of watching it.

TOUR, from page 3

Metropolis has focused on two target audiences for the tour, Stringer said.

"The county dwellers who might be interested in home ownership that might want to get a little bit more for their money, but might need more education about the city and what it really means because there are a lot of preconceptions about what city living is," Stringer said.

The second group is comprised of current city "renters who might not realize their capacity to be owners," Stringer said. "That ties into the Information Fair piece where they will have lenders, real estate agents and developers present to talk to people."

Lynn Josse, an associate research director of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, conducted information queries to create a tour route and to

narrate it.

"One of the focuses of the tour, besides going to houses and walking through houses, is to be able to drive through the neighborhoods of St. Louis and learn something," Josse said.

Stringer sees stabilization as a viable result of St. Louis City home ownership.

"It's definitely important to have

people who are committed to the long haul in a neighborhood and want to invest the time, energy and money in a community to see it flourish," Stringer said.

Through the development of the Metropolis Affordable Housing Tour and Information Fair, both Stringer and Josse said they have been able to see how much of a community spirit exists in St. Louis City.

"The community themselves seem to be very receptive to the idea of new residents and very welcoming, accommodating, and helpful," Stringer said. "There is real sense of community."

For more information on the Metropolis Affordable Housing Tour and Information Fair, call Metropolis at (314) 421-6474 or locate them on the Internet at <http://mstl.org>.

PORTER, from page 3

I will in no way claim I have any ability with math, but I do have some common sense, and with over half the part-time pay, the early retirement pension seems to cost more than the money this move is supposed to save.

In response to the letter, spokesman Bob Samples said on behalf of the Chancellor, "The system made the rules, and the president of the system granted exceptions in those three cases."

I want to thank *The Current's* news editor Benjamin Israel for supplying the information for this column and for bringing this matter to the attention of UM-St. Louis students.

DISABILITIES, from page 3

Services, and originator of Disability Awareness Week at UM-St. Louis. Ditto's office services over 700 students on campus, 125 of which are referred to S.T.A.R.S. Those students are able to take advantage of a new grant from TRIO, a federally-funded program that helps disadvantaged students attend college and receive extra services like tutors, academic advising and tickets to area events.

"I've been able to see students through their struggles and assist them with programs like

S.T.A.R.S.," Ditto said.

Disability Awareness Week also promotes awareness concerning hidden disabilities, such as learning disabilities, said Joseph Flees an honors political science student, whose learning disability isn't commonly known to his peers.

"What I think people don't understand is that we have to put in a lot of extra work and doing things," Flees said. "And since my disability effects my writing, I have to put in a lot of extra work. I have to put in twice the time on a paper

and spend most the time writing and editing it and revising it and seeking outside help."

Flees said there are some negative stereotypes surrounding people with learning disabilities.

"If people do realize that you do have a learning disability, they tend to think you are dumb," said Flees.

Disability Awareness Week runs through Friday. Activities planned include a movie marathon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. in the University Center Lounge. Wednesday there will

be wheelchair races outside the University Center. The week will be capped off Friday with the Meritorious Service Awards ceremony.

For more information about Disability Awareness Week, contact Sommerer at the S.T.A.R.S' office, 516-6554.

TRAILBLAZERS, from page 3

A. Ford has advanced from administering one Boeing program to being lead counsel for the United States Navy and Marine Corps and FA-18 programs and lead her team to receive the Diversity Award for four of the five years nominated. Sharon G. Levin has achieved the rank of full professor of economics in microeconomics with a focus on immigrant scientists and engineers and published numerous articles. Margaret B. Hartung established the first program in Continuing Education for Women and is former president of the Missouri State Division of the American Associations of University Women. Victoria Sork was the first UM-St. Louis woman director of an international center when she became founding director of the Center for Tropical Ecology. She is also a former director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Harriett Woods is the only woman to serve as Missouri's Lieutenant Governor and the first woman elected to statewide office in Missouri. She also served as president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

"It feels very special to be following in the path of so many Trailblazers before us, specifically



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Trailblazer honorees are (from left) Patricia A. Ford, Margaret B. Hartung, Sharon G. Levin, The Honorable Harriett Woods, Victoria Sork, Katharine T. Corbett

the Chancellor," Woods said. "Young women today so often don't know how difficult it was, and I just hope some of these younger women will be Trailblazers tomorrow."

This year's Trailblazers were honored in the Summit Lounge in front of their peers, students and faculty.

Sork advised young women to seize the power.

"Go for it, figure out where you [young women] can make a difference and do it," Sork said.

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Disagreement holds up Honors College land swap

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

A disagreement over a right of way for emergency vehicles is holding up a land deal that would connect the Honors College to the rest of campus and keep the Campus Shuttle from having to maneuver over the speed bumps of Bel-Nor.

If the deal goes through, the

University would acquire a 6.535-acre strip of land on the north side of St. Vincent County Park that would connect the Honors College to University Meadows and the former Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul property, according to University documents.

The University has already designed a service road and sidewalks to connect the Honors College to the South Campus, said Sam Darandari,

director of Campus Planning and Construction. "If you would want to go for a walk, it would be lit and secure with sitting areas and benches," Darandari said.

The Campus Shuttle would use the new road instead of Bellerive Drive in Bel-Nor, Darandari said.

In exchange for the strip, the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation would get two parcels, 4.730 acres north and west of the Castle Park Apartments, just south of a fallen-down fence that forms the south boundary of St. Vincent Park and 1.805 acres south of the Normandy Nursing Center that adjoins the road that connects the park with St. Charles Rock Road, according to University documents.

The deal needed federal approval because St. Louis County purchased the land using some federal money, said Gary Biedenstein, special project manager of the St. Louis County

Parks Department.

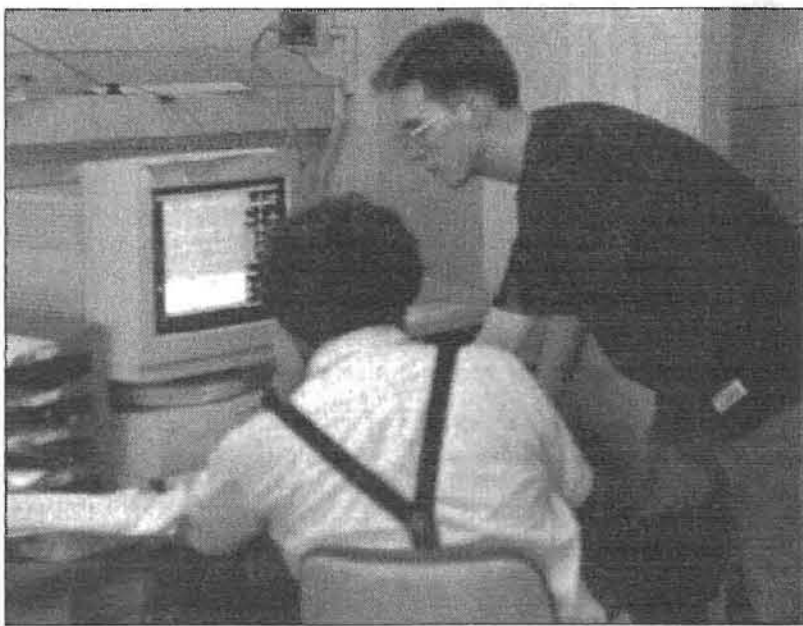
That came a year ago, Darandari said.

But officials for the park department and the University have yet to agree on the exact configuration of the right-of-way the parks department would have through the strip, Darandari said.

The park is in Normandy, but the park's only vehicle entrance is from the south on St. Charles Rock Road in Pagedale. The right-of-way would roughly follow the current asphalt bicycle and pedestrian path that enters the park from Bellerive Drive just north of the Honors College, said Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for Administrative Services.

The University wants the right-of-way to be six feet wide, the same width as the path, Schuster said.

The parks department wants it to be eight feet wide on a 30-foot easement, Biedenstein said.



Darren Brunel/The Current
Editor-elect Josh Renaud (right) assists news editor Benjamin Israel with a computer problem on Friday, March 24. Renaud was selected editor-in-chief of The Current by staff members and approved by the University Senate Publications Committee.

New editor in chief promises 'year of growth' for paper

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

The Current's next editor says the upcoming school year will be "year of growth" for the newspaper.

Josh Renaud, a sophomore majoring in communications and pursuing a writing certificate, was elected to the position as editor in chief by Current staff members on March 17. The University Senate Publications Committee officially approved him on March 21.

Renaud said he hopes to build upon what he considered to be a groundbreaking year for the paper.

"I think this year was kind of a pioneer year in that we were able to do a lot of things for the first time, and we were able to do a lot of things really well," Renaud said. "My plans for next year are to take what we did this year . . . and continue doing it well and trying to improve on it."

Renaud said two of his goals are to increase distribution of the paper and to expand The Current's website to

include content not found in the print edition. He said he also plans to foster a more interactive relationship between The Current and its readers.

"I want to start having more person-to-person contact between people from the newspaper and our audience," Renaud said. "My goal in doing that is to get feedback and more comments from the people we're serving, to get a better understanding of what they expect from the newspaper."

The editor-elect said he also intends to create a challenging work environment for staff members.

"One of my goals is to try to push everybody that works here—no matter what department they're in—to do a little bit more, to try something new," Renaud said. "The people that work here will take something out of it, and I think the audience will see the results of that too."

Renaud joined The Current staff as a news assistant in October of 1998. He became both the production manager and the web editor last May. His tenure as editor in chief will begin May 16.

SENATE, from page 1

son for the committee, said the revision was intended to strengthen the role of the faculty in campus governance and eliminate the ambiguity of having faculty opinion represented by two groups. Burkholder said that under the existing system there is sometimes confusion about

whether the Faculty Council or the Senate speaks for the faculty.

The proposal went before the Senate in September. It was subsequently discussed and revised before being presented to the Board on March 23.

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UPB

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6 Lecture "Sex, Power & the Media" presented by Anne Simenton 8:00 p.m. JC Penney Auditorium	7 Black Reportory Theater presents "Steal Away" Tickets \$5 - limit 2 w/ valid ID	8 Zoo Day Bus departs Alumni Circle @ 12 noon This is a FREE event!
9	10 Acoustic Guitarist "Mike Rayburn" 8:00 p.m. Honors Residence Hall Free Reservations	11	12	13 Movie: Chamber University Meadows Clubhouse @ 9:00 p.m.	14 Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour Bus departs Alumni Circle @ 2:30 p.m.	15
16	17	18	19 Mirthstock 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. outside University Center Free games & prizes!	20	21 Outdoor Movie: "Screamfest 2000" 8:30 p.m. South Campus Residence Hall	22
23	24	25	26	27 City Museum Tour Bus departs Alumni Circle @ 3:00 p.m. This is a FREE event!	28	29
30	1	2	3	4 Intense Study	5 Evening at the Symphony Bus departs Alumni Circle @ 7:00 p.m. \$10 per ticket limit 2 w/ valid ID	6

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University Program Board

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mike rayburn

Mike Rayburn is at the top! As *Billboard Magazine* says, "He's makin' it happen!" For two years in a row he is "America's Campus Entertainer of the Year" as voted by a poll of 5300 colleges and universities in *Campus Activities* magazine. And for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year Mike is the "Coffeehouse Entertainer of the Year" as voted by The National Association for Campus Activities. In addition to many other awards, Mike won the prestigious "Harry Chapin Award" in 1995 - past recipients include Jackson Browne, Jimmy Carter and Kenny Rogers. No doubt Mike's more than 1400 college concerts throughout the U.S. and Canada, and his ability to out-do himself every performance, earn him the title of America's Campus Entertainer of the Year.

Mike Rayburn's show is a perfect blend of music, comedy and truly masterful guitar. As a published songwriter, Mike's style is pointed, poetic and often whimsically irreverent, drawing from influences such as Sheryl Crow, Dave Matthews, John Hiatt and Bruce Springsteen. His songs range from the light-hearted and fun to the emotionally insightful; they are favorites everywhere he plays. With a degree in classical guitar and his self-taught avant-garde style, Mike's guitar playing is amazing. He even does an acoustic guitar adaptation of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" which you must see to believe.

Mike Rayburn plays at the Honors Residence Hall
Monday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Free Reservations call 516-5291 for details.

Student Government Association wants

YOU

to apply for SGA President, Vice
President, Comptroller, or At Large
Representative.



Pick up an application in the Student Activities Office at 267 University Center.
Deadline for applications is April 7, 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact the Student Government office at
516-5105.

Board approves Arts Center contract, garage demolition

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

It's a done deal now. Garage "H" will come down and the Performing Arts Center will go up.

On March 23, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri unanimously and without public comment approved a \$41.4 million contract with KCI Construction Company to build the Performing Arts Center where Garage "H" now stands, just east of the Southwestern Bell Communications Center near the UMSL North MetroLink station.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill thanked the curators for "all the support we've had over the years."

On March 24, Capt. James Smalley of the Campus Police

announced that Garage "H" would be closed at 6 a.m. April 1 in preparation for its demolition.

Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction, said demolition won't begin until at least late April.

According to documents presented to the Board of Curators, KCI is scheduled to complete the 123,100 square-foot facility by September 2002.

The bids came in under original estimates, Darandari said. One reason was that the University saved \$500,000 by not requiring contractors to cart away the dirt that will be excavated from the site and instead found places on campus for the soil, he said.

In addition, he said, competition for the contract was fierce. He said

that the facility, designed by the internationally known firm of Pei, Cobb, Freed and Partners, will be "one of the best buildings in St. Louis" and "a signature building, the kind of building any contractor would want to have their name on."

Plans to build the center have been under fire from faculty members. Some say the money would be better spent on teaching, while others say the center is too close to the landing approaches to Lambert St. Louis International Airport and will be vulnerable to noise.

Garage "H" on the other hand is overdue to come down, Smalley said. "We haven't used the fifth floor for a number of years," Smalley said. "It's been in disrepair for years. The steel in stairwells have big holes and have rotted."

Candidates prepare for SGA elections

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

With the April 7 filing deadline approaching for candidates for Student Government Association office, several hopefuls have announced their intentions to run next year.

Three people have announced their intentions to run for SGA president. They are current president Darwin Butler, Ben Ash and Rick Eccher.

Butler is seeking a second term. He has been absent since October when his work release was revoked by St. Louis County authorities. Butler has been in jail ever since, but may be released within a week.

Butler was convicted of a previous offense in Nevada and his April 1999 conviction in St. Louis County for credit card theft may be considered a probation violation there. Nevada authorities have until April 7 to extradite Butler; if no action is taken before then, Butler will be a free man.

Ash, currently the SGA Parliamentarian, said he is planning to file for president after spring break. Ash said he will file as part of a slate.

"The slate that we are going to have is more than just the three or four usual number of candidates," Ash said. "Because of the number of at-large representatives, hopefully we can get more on the slate to get more involvement."

"If my slate is elected," Ash said, "it will mark a fundamental change in how SGA is run."

Ash previously served as the SGA comptroller.

Eccher is currently the chief justice of the Student Court. He said he has been asked by three different people to run for SGA president.

"I am seriously thinking about running for SGA president," Eccher said. "And I would want Michael Rankins as my vice president."

If Eccher runs for SGA president, then another justice would have to

oversee the election committee. Traditionally, Eccher said, the chief justice oversees the SGA elections, but it would be a conflict of interest if he ran for office.

Rankins, the acting SGA president, said he is not interested in running for SGA president, but he is interested in running for vice president. He said he will most likely run with a slate but declined to name any names.

"I don't want to announce anything [about running mates] until April 7," Rankins said.

One notable name missing from this list is interim vice president Steve Wolfe. Wolfe said that at the present time that he is not interested in either the president or the vice presidential office.

Wolfe said he will run for graduate representative, but did not rule out changing his mind.

"At the present time, you can never tell what will happen," Wolfe said.

CORRECTION

In issue 985, Erin Shepherd was misidentified in a caption as Megan Kuebler. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

MIRTHSTOCK 2000

The University Program Board is actively seeking student organizations and University departments to participate in this year's MIRTHDAY festivities by sponsoring a game or information booth. Booths are provided free to recognized student organizations.

Organizations wanting private booths must pay \$55. Campus offices and departments are charged \$25 for a shared booth and \$55 for a private booth. Booths are assigned to organizations and departments on a first-come first-serve basis. Please complete the form below and return it to the Student Activities Office, 267 University Center no later than:

*****April 14, 2000*****

Student/University Organization: _____

Activity/Event/Booth: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

BUTLER, from page 1

Butler said that the attempts to get him removed from office come from a "fanatical" minority, and that the majority of students want him in office.

"They didn't get enough signatures on the petition to impeach me," Butler said. "That's a non-verbal sign that the majority of students are behind what I'm trying to do here."

As far as his expulsion after the Feb. 17 meeting, Butler again questioned the length of SGA terms and stated that he never received a formal notice of his expulsion as is required by the SGA constitution.

At the appeal's end, Rick Eccher, chief justice of the Student Court, said to Butler that the court hoped to make a decision within the week and hoped to have the paperwork to him within two weeks.

"The main issues are going to be on Jan. 20, was the calling of that second meeting constitutional, whether Darwin was notified of his expulsion and the results of that second Jan. 20 meeting," Eccher said.

AUDITOR, from page 1

special assistant to the chancellor on fund-raising and special outreach projects."

She wrote that Seay "will maintain many of his current activities."

The issue was first raised publicly at a meeting of the University Senate March 14 when Dennis Judd, presiding officer of the Faculty Council asked whether Touhill violated policy in granting early retirement to four top administrators and then hiring them back.

The fourth administrator, Betty Van Uum, assistant to the Chancellor, declined to say whether she had made such an arrangement.

Pacheco, when asked if she was involved said, "Your source gave you wrong information."

He walked away without elaborating.

In addition, the auditor is investigating whether the University is concealing information that it is required by law to make public,

Campbell said.

When the *Rolla Daily News* requested the names of every University employee taking early retirement, the University declined to reveal them.

"The fact is the news media were denied access to come in and independently show how this program was being applied," Campbell said. "It can be difficult for the University to give assurances to anyone that this program has been fair and applied to everyone equally."

Missouri law requires nearly all records held by government bodies to be open to public inspection. However, the law exempts "individually identifiable personnel records" except for "the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service" of employees.

Pacheco said in an interview, "The law would not allow us to release that information. Those are individual records."

Happy April Fool's Day

See why people love Ferguson



Michael Cunningham (B.A., '77; M.Ed., '85) and his wife Cathy (B.S., '77) were happy to come to Ferguson twenty years ago. They needed to live close to where they taught and wanted to be close to campus for graduate classes. Since then they've moved from their brick bungalow to a 110-year-old three-story Victorian home. But they haven't moved from Ferguson. They didn't want to leave their children's hometown. Their son Andy is a second-generation UM-St. Louis student. Their daughter Colleen attends Incarnate Word Academy and frequently rides to school with her father, who now works on campus. Living close to the University makes it very convenient for the whole family. Come visit Ferguson and see what we have to offer the University community.



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