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Current, February 17, 1992

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The CURRENT

Issue 721

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI- ST. LOUIS

February 17, 1992

UMSL Hosts Live Videoconference

by Michelle McMurray
news editor

A live video conference focusing on the needs of lesbian and gay students was presented on Thursday, Feb. 6, in the JC Penny auditorium. The video conference was broadcast simultaneously in 140 universities across the United States and Canada.

The "Donahue" style panel discussion with five speakers and a moderator, debated many issues and concerns. One of the common dilemmas is that the dominant structure of a college campus is heterosexual. One of the panelists made the point that everyone is basically expected to be heterosexual and when a young person discovers that he or she has feelings for the same sex, it causes confusion and often guilt. Many students cannot tell their parents, friends or resident assistants.

The panel members estimate at least 10 percent of all college students are gay and that counselors and deans at Universities should learn about homosexual issues facing these students so they can be more supportive.

Another serious issue is violence, harassment and discrimination against gay students. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force recorded more than 1300 incidents of harassment against gay students this year. Approximately one in twenty are beaten up and one in four are verbally harassed and threat-

ened.

Sandy MacLean, vice chancellor for student affairs, said it is not the policy of UM-St. Louis to discriminate against anyone because of their sexual orientation.

"There are grievance procedures for students that can be filed under discrimination or sexual harassment," he said.

The panel had suggestions for Universities to follow, such as enacting policies prohibiting discrimination and establishing formal procedures for the discipline of discrimination. They suggested both teachers and students should recognize that gay students are in their classes instead of assuming that everyone is heterosexual. This would help to eliminate casual anti-gay remarks in the classroom.

Michael Quinn, student services coordinator of student activities and the university center, said the videoconference was a real success. "We had a great turnout today. We did one on Greek life last semester. We might do more if they are relevant to the campus," Quinn said.

He said all of the colleges and universities in the metro area were invited to the videoconference.

Misty (last name withheld), president of the Lesbian and Gay Campus Organization (LGCO) said, "I thought it was good. People need to change their attitudes. People can

say they don't like something without being hateful."

After the videoconference, a question and answer session was led by Suzanna Rose and Dennis Lisenby of the Psychology Department.

They said UM-St. Louis has come a long way in realizing that gay and lesbian students are an active part of the campus but we still have a long way to go.

"Some of the problems are homophobia in the classrooms.

Homosexuals should not continue to be the brunt of jokes," Rose said. "These kind of jokes should not be in an institution of higher education."

Lisenby said professors should not make bigoted remarks themselves or allow students to make them in class.

Rose is the director of the St. Louis Lesbian and Gay Research Project in St. Louis. The project started in June of 1991 and is expected to take approximately five years. The purpose of the project is to investigate gay issues from an insider's view, Rose said.

"We are interested in how gays and lesbians fall in love, date, how race and class status are affected, and

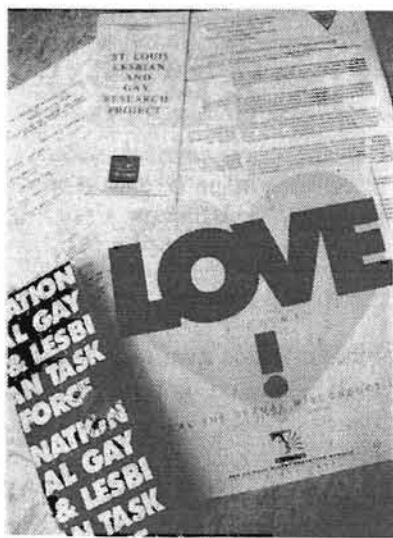


Photo: Tina Leu

how gays deal with prejudice," she said.

Rose said issues facing African-American homosexuals and the concern of what impact AIDS has had on gay and lesbian relationships will be researched.

"We want to know what things were like before all of the AIDS awareness and what it is like now. Is there more commitment and monogamy," she said.

Any gay man or lesbian who is interested in the research project can call 553-5467. Complete anonymity will be respected and you must be 18 years of age.

SGA Sponsors Lecture In Honor Of Black History Month

by Gerry Malone
of The Current staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) is presenting a lecture, "Racism 101: The Columbus Factor and Other 'White Lies'" (originally titled "Vipers in Righteous Garments"). The lecture will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Summit Lounge with Ronald J. Henry, instructor and St. Louis historian, as the lecturer.

Mark Grimes, SGA president, said the reason for the lecture is the need to uncover the "misnomers around blacks and their contributions to the history of this nation." Although Grimes is enthusiastic about SGA sponsoring the lecture, he hopes blacks will not be satisfied

with a "false sense of security" by receiving information for one short month.

Grimes said he would like to see a Black Studies Program because the current program at UM-St. Louis is not certified and does not have a permanent coordinator. Professor John Arthur Works of the history department has been the temporary acting coordinator for approximately the past five years.

"Black History Month is necessary because many blacks do not know their history and are learning it for the first time since black history is not a basic part of the curriculum at school or in the home," Henry said.

He said the lecture will help students to "recognize the inconsistency in the history they have traditionally been taught" by stimulating awareness, bringing forth understanding and motivating action for change.

Many more activities are planned to continue the celebration of Black History Month. Historian Ronald Henry will be speaking in the Summit Lounge Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. This event is being sponsored by SGA.

Companies Donate Money for Computer Center

by Matt Forsythe
Current news reporter

Three major computer companies have donated close to \$1 million for equipment needed in the new UM-St. Louis Computer Building.

University officials said the building, which is currently under construction and will be completed in the Fall of 1992, furthers the campus goal of integrating computers into all areas of UM-St. Louis. The "Computerizing the Campus" campaign was kicked off last year by Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

The largest donation, \$500,000, came from Apple Computers Inc.

"The pledge by Apple will help us move forward with our strategic plan to change the way computers are used to educate tomorrow's work force," Touhill said.

Touhill said the building is being built as part of the University plan to give access to students, faculty and staff members to computers throughout the campus and databases around the world.

"UM-St. Louis' new Computer Center Building profoundly will affect business and industry by fundamentally changing the direction of

education," said Jerry Malec, Apple Computer Inc. Southern Operations vice president and general manager.

Digital Equipment Corp. will donate \$300,000 to the campaign in the form of 30 workstations for the new center.

"This donation represents Digital's commitment to supporting the University's mission of teaching, research and service to the community," said Greg Schuster, sales unit manager. "We are confident that the addition of this equipment will enhance the continued quality of education provided at the University."

Data General will also provide support to the University's mission with a similar contribution of \$150,000 for equipment.

"Access to computers for students, faculty and staff is one of the campus' top priorities," Touhill said.

"We want to ensure that our students graduate with skills they need to compete in a competitive work force that will face an increasingly technological world in the 21st century," she said. "So far, the campaign has been quite successful with generous companies like Data General seeing the need for computer literacy among our graduates, who also are their future employees."

Warren Appointed New SGA Advisor

The new Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor David Warren said students still have a voice in the organization's future.

"It's not for me to take sides," Warren said. "It's up to the students to decide what they want for Student Government Association."

Warren became SGA's advisor after political science professor Lance LeLoup took a leave of absence from UM-St. Louis.

Warren said he felt it was "a neat choice" for SGA President Mark

Grimes and Vice President Julie Schwetz to select him.

"I have done some work with Mark and Julie," he said. "I have a great deal of respect for them."

The SGA advisor should fill out the necessary legal requirements and I will give my opinion when they consult me," Warren said.

Warren is a lecturer in writing and is a consultant for computers and curriculum for the Center for Academic Development.

Sexual Harassment Procedures Need Revamping: Some Say Not Adequate Enough

by Nancy Lewis
of The Current staff

Some faculty and students at UM-St. Louis say the time limit for filing sexual harassment grievances is too long, and campus officials should revamp the entire procedure.

Suzanna Rose, of the UM-St. Louis Psychology Department, said the 180 day time limit is "unrealistic."

"First, the definition of sexual harassment is vague. Students don't know what their rights are, and even then, the procedure is so complex. They may not want to hurt the person, they may feel that somehow it was their fault," Rose said. "They may try a variety of things, like trying to avoid the person before they come to talk to someone about it. They may feel guilt and there is also a fear of recrimination: 'how is this going to effect my grade and what are the consequences?'"

"Unfortunately, most students' reaction to sexual harassment is to drop the course. Sometimes they drop out of school, or change their major. They deal with it in a private way," Rose said.

Rose proposes an informal procedure to report alleged incidents of sexual harassment. She said that such a system is in place in several large universities and it has been effective. Such a system would protect the privacy of both the accuser and the accused. Under this system, anonymous complaints could be sent to one central location, such as an Affirmative

Action Officer at the Office of Equal Opportunity.

The Affirmative Action Officer would be responsible for maintaining a file for each faculty member named in an anonymous complaint. If and when the complaints accumulated to a certain point, (such as 10 anonymous complaints), the Affirmative Action Officer would then informally and privately speak to the accused faculty member about the nature of the complaints. Rose is critical of the present procedure.

"I don't think this should be handled by Student Affairs. There should be a central place outside of Student Affairs, preferably the Equal Opportunity Office, that would handle all these things. Now, (Student Affairs) decides 'Is it past the 180 day limit? Is it grievable?'" Rose said.

"Then, if they decide not to let you 'grieve,' that's it. You don't have any recourse. Unless you go outside of the University and get a lawyer. Now if it's past the 180 day limit, there is an option to petition that the 180 limit be waived," Rose said. "But the procedures are horrendous. They have to tell their story to two or three people. In this last case, she was told to go to the Counseling Center to fill out the forms there."

Rose was referring to the Carolyn West case. West, a graduate student in the Psychology Department, filed an informal grievance against a faculty member whom she alleges subjected her to sexual harassment West

said that the procedure for reporting the incidents was confusing, time consuming and embarrassing. She was told to go to the Counseling Center to get assistance.

"I really didn't know the purpose of that. I thought, 'well maybe they were going to examine my psychological motivation.' I didn't know if (Student Affairs) were saying I needed psychological help or what. The procedure is overwhelming and technical. It's too intimidating. It's enough to discourage someone right there," West said.

West commented on the informal hearing that she had to attend.

"It was hard for me to be there and face that man. No one could talk besides me and this man. I talked first, told what happened, and then he talked second. There is a panel of men who are listening to both sides, to decide who is telling the truth. It felt like being on trial," West said.

She said that the current procedure for reporting incidents of sexual harassment is ineffective.

"It's too easy to get lost in the system. Getting information is the hardest part. I could never get any straight answers. It seems like the process was so difficult, and no one knew what to do. I would ask questions and no one responded," West said.

Norman Seay, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, said

See STUDENT, page 2

BOOKIN IT

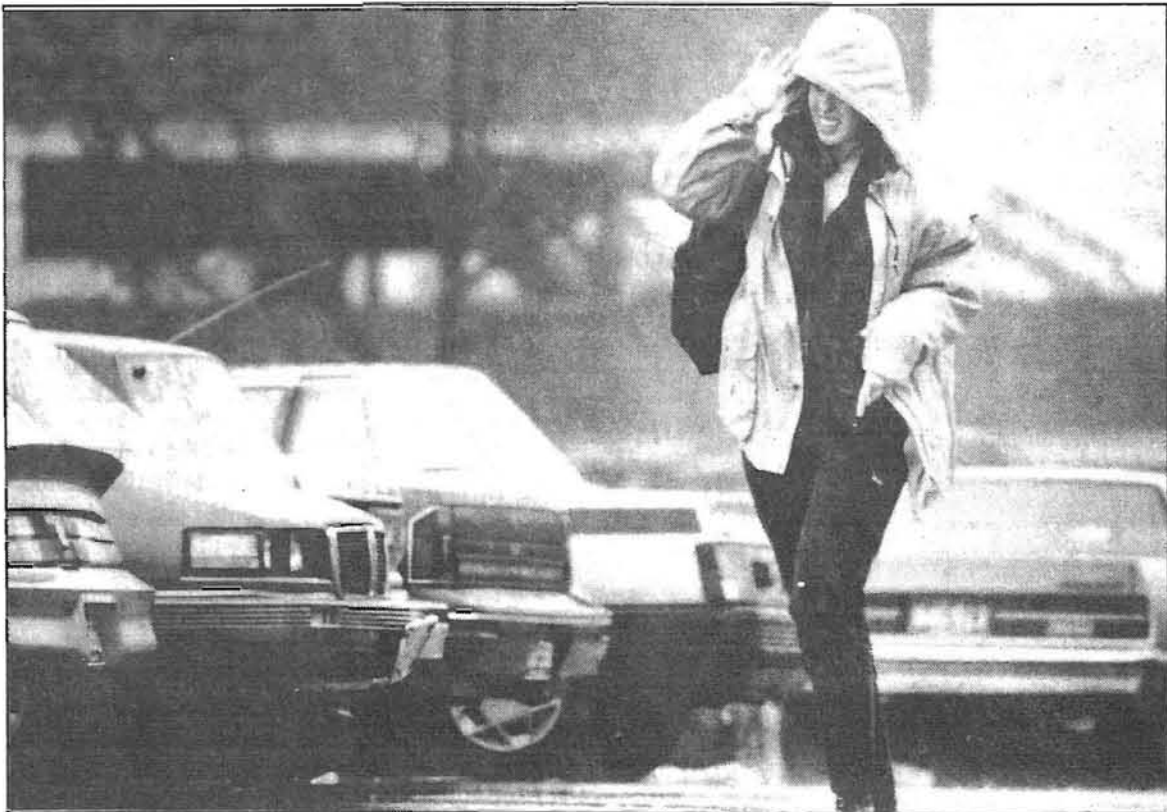


Photo: Dirk Fletcher

Jennifer Hoffman, UMSL freshman, goes for protection under her jacket while trying to get to her car during the rain last Friday.

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"Are you interested in participating in a co-ed personal growth group? The UM-St. Louis Counseling Service is offering a counseling group on Thursdays, 2:30-4:00, February 13 - April 30. Enrollment limited to 6-8 participants. Call 553-5711."

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Mx,
I seen you in your red hot car around campus. You are always parked in front of the art building. Are you an art student. I hear they are very romantic. I'd love to see your works. I'll be in touch, literally. X

Give it up. He's gay as the day is long. Marriage is definitely out of the question. Get a clue, hon.

Bev,
I love when you do that to me. Let's call it a double next time. Chukka, Chukka, Chuu. Doug

Shannon Olesen,
Hope you had a good Valentine's Day. I'm glad we're still friends, 9 long years. Thanks for ALL your help! Love, Cindy

Poopsie,
The rabbit has died and it's time for it to end. Call me soon. Kaybear

I hate all sororities and fraternity brothers and sisters, little sisters and little brothers. What a farce!

Chris,
You've been great to work with! Thanks for showing me the ropes! Tell Jason - you two need to get a room if you keep this shit up!

Max,
I want your bulge right now! You know I give the best of you know what. And I live alone. We can go to Dennis's so the cats won't bother you. Really, you are the best. Michelle.

Students from page 1

that his office plays "an ombudsman role.

"We can help to cut through red tape. We can informally, in confidence, try to resolve it. Chancellor Blanche Touhill has said that any complaint of sexual harassment will be investigated," Seay said.

Seay acknowledged that there may be some weaknesses in the system.

"The lack of feedback is something that can be improved. Whoever is handling the case, The Women's Center, the Office of Student Affairs, should be responsible for informing that person as to how things are going. But the UM-St. Louis is operated by rules and regulations approved by the Board of Curators. Any departure would have to be approved by the Board," Seay said.

Rose emphasized that the system needs to be changed.

"Now, it has to have a 'sleaze-factor' that is pretty big for people to believe that it is justifiable for the woman to complain," Rose said.

Carolyn West, who has been through the current system, believes that the procedure itself discourages women who are victims of sexual harassment from even filing a complaint.

"It's almost like they're saying 'We have a policy, but no one uses it, so therefore, there is no problem,'" West said.

Joanne Phelps-Grubb of The Women's Center will be conducting a workshop on sexual harassment on Wednesday, February 19, from noon to 1 p.m. The workshop will explain the current University procedures for reporting sexual harassment.

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Honda of America

As the UM-St. Louis parking lot fills up every day with the cars of students trying to brighten their future, how many of those cars are American-made. Most people would say that all of the Chevrolet, Ford and Chrysler automobiles fit the bill. And these same people would look at names like Toyota, Subaru, Isuzu, Nissan and Hyundai and know that they are foreign. But is their perception of the world around them really accurate?

Columnist George Will, in the Feb. 12, 1992, *Post-Dispatch*, pointed out that Ford's Crown Victoria for 1992 is assembled in Canada with parts from America, Japan, Mexico, Britain, Spain and Germany. Is this American ingenuity at its best? What about the Chevrolet Geo Metro which is made by Isuzu and Suzuki? Or how about the Mitsubishi Eclipse which is built on the same assembly line as the Jeep/Eagle Talon. Or the Geo Prizm which is built on the same line as the Toyota Corolla in a joint venture between Toyota and Chevrolet? And where do the profits go for all these fake American products? That depends on who you ask.

But one thing is for sure: Japan is far from the only offender. Who chose to have "American" cars built by Japanese manufacturers? Americans. That's right, the very people who try to convince the American public that American workers can build cars just as well as foreigners (i.e., Japanese), have agreed to allow the opposite to happen. And these foreign companies are not run by fools. When they see an opportunity, they take it. And who wouldn't? Surely not the Americans!

Wrong.

For instance, in the past five years, Chrysler managed to acquire Lamborghini and Maseratti, and Ford added Jaguar to its profit list. General Motors even bought 50 percent interest in the Saab Motor Company. And are the quality of these products lacking? Absolutely not.

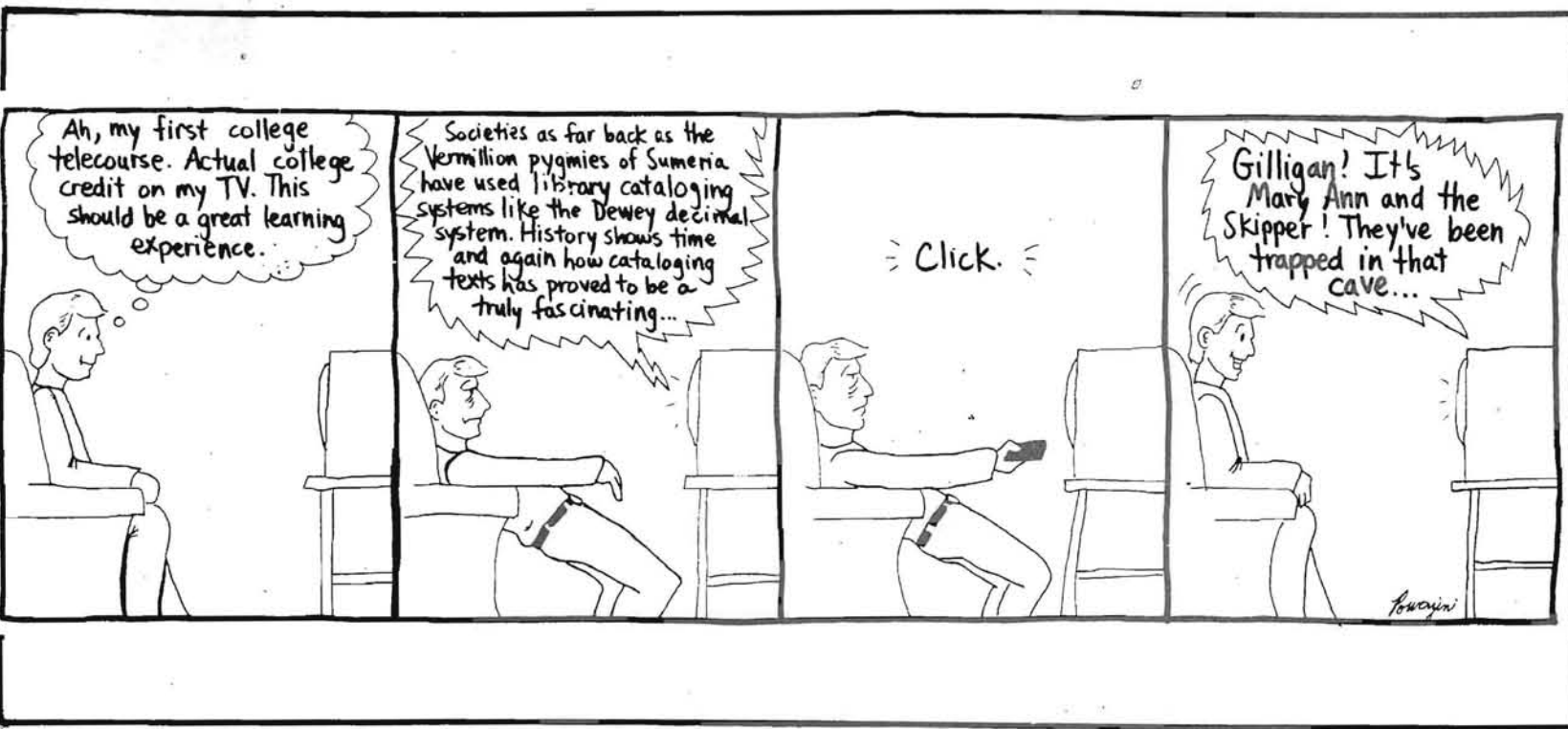
And have you caught the commercials on television that state that the Toyota Camry is "the best built car in America?" In where? Yes, folks, you heard it right: America. And does the Japanese automaker send its own employees overseas to work at the plant? Nope. That plant means jobs for Americans. In these times of economic hardship, this work should be appreciated. The Japanese manufacturers have spent over \$9 million building plants in the U.S. that employ 30,000 Americans and sustain several times that many jobs among suppliers, according to Will.

Toyota is not the only Japanese manufacturer with plants in the U.S. Honda opened a division in America as well, along with six other Japanese companies.

Forty percent of all Japanese-brand vehicles sold in America are made here.

Import paranoia is nothing new to America. Ever since the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townsend Act of 1767 restricting the import of British goods to the American colonies, American pride in "homegrown" products has blinded us. The biggest difference between then and now is where the products were made. The colonists' complaints were legitimate. Today's aren't.

So lest you think that the Japanese have cornered the U.S. market on automobile sales and profits, look at the manufacturer's plate on the next foreign car you drive. Don't be surprised to see "Made in America" stamped on it.



Wish List For Gay Student: Acceptance

Dear Editor:

A very good friend asked me if I would write down what it was like to be a gay student at UM-St. Louis. Well, I wish I could say it was no different for me than for any other student here. I wish I could say that there was no hatred here against gay s and that gay s were accepted for who they were and what they accomplish.

I wish gays were not hated, despised, slandered and ridiculed, or worse, ignored and dismissed as worthless. I wish I didn't have to sit and hear professors say that "gays and lesbians should be put in concentration camps" or "fags should be shot." I wish professors would teach from knowledge and not preach from biased ignorance. I wish I wasn't subjected to harassment from speakers from the John Birch Society in education classes. I wish I didn't have to see a fellow gay humiliated and told to leave class, while the professor watched in silence. I wish I didn't hear fellow students call me a "fag" in the halls or threaten to beat the shit out of me during class.

I wish faculty, staff and fellow students wouldn't give silent approval while I got cursed, threatened and spit on in Clark Hall in the fall, 1990 or by SSB in 1989. I wish I didn't have to put up with the Bible-thumping fundamentalists on campus, who blame me for all the woes of the world or the deterioration of the family unit.

It's ironic that those fundamentalists profess we should "love one an-

d" and "condemn" me. I have to laugh when they, out of context, quote the King James version of the Bible.

I overheard a staff person in the administration say that everyone knows what the sin of sodomy is. It's funny that what they say it is really happens to not be what Christ said it was. But it's useless to talk to them since they pervert the words of Jesus to serve their own bigotry.

I've learned, like most gays, how to be silent out of fear, laugh at "jokes" that hurt and insult and to succeed/ survive on campus by staying unnoticed. I've never worn an earring. I don't swish when I walk. I'm a natural baritone. I don't hang out (cruise) in bathrooms or parks. I don't use drugs or alcohol. I've never been charged with a crime. I don't fit any of the false stereotypes, and yet the rednecks and vacuum heads on campus hate me.

It really takes guts to be gay on this campus. The Bible-thumpers want to heal you from the truth. The counselors want to cure you of reality. In a psychology, they call you a deviant. In a criminal justice class, you are called a non-convicted criminal. The want-to-be jocks and cowboys want to hurt or kill you. The administration doesn't want to know, and probably couldn't handle it professionally.

I stopped wondering what my frat brothers would do if they knew I was gay. I no longer care if the guys I work out with find out. Now that I'm a senior, I only care if my professors or the administration finds out.

I wish I could say it was only paranoia. But when I was a freshmen, I got an A+ on a paper I submitted to a certain professor. Two semesters later, an open gay friend submitted the same paper to the same professor to prove a point to me. He got a D. The professor apparently didn't even bother to read it because of the front was the friend's name, but it was signed "written by (myself)" on the last page. The professor told the guy it was "garbage" and "made no sense," even though he gave it an A+ and high praise two semesters earlier. It's not uncommon at UM-St. Louis for professors to give grades based on their like/dislike for a student instead of performance. Or it could have been because the professor personally didn't like gays.

At the same time, some professors here are fantastic. I've even respected and trusted a few with my socially created and forced secret.

But in one department, the differences in academic and professional behavior, integrity and ethics were astonishing. One professor was great. I found her intellectually stimulating and challenging. She even had me considering changing majors. I've been told she knew I was gay.

The other professor had been here awhile. His ultra-right wing hypocritical opinions (which he boasted about) dripped with bigotry and hatred. He thought that all minorities and women were a waste. I got B's in both classes. But this professor's attitude and behavior got me to change campuses. I've heard from other stu-

dents at other campuses that because of him, they wouldn't attend UM-St. Louis even if it were free and they threw in a car.

I've never had the courage to check out the gay group on this or any campus. There were times, though, when I really needed a friend who could understand. Being around those like me, who think positively about themselves, would have been a big help many times.

But what really strikes me is the hatred other minorities and women have for gays on this campus. I had one girl in a wheelchair tell me that "queers had no right to be here." The African-American groups here avoid the gay group like the plague, so I'm told. Which is strange since on other campus, the minorities have realized that by banning together on a coalition, they can practically run the school. My gay African-American friends say they have a worse problem with acceptance than anyone else.

I guess this campus is, unfortunately, like the St. Louis society as a whole. Plato once said, "wherever, therefore, it has been established that it is shameful to be involved in homosexual relationships, this is due to evil on the part of legislators, to despotism on the part of the rulers, and to cowardice on the part of the governed." We have a lot of cowards on campus for not speaking up. I suppose I'm one of them.

I'm withholding my name, but I might be sitting next to you.

To whoever really wants to know

Student Smokers Don't Want Smoke Screen

Dear Editor:

We are a group of UM-St. Louis students who are concerned about the new smoke-free policy that has been adopted by the UM-St. Louis administration. The following is a copy of a statement that was mailed to Chan-

cellor Blanche Touhill and Sandy MacLean, vice chancellor of student affairs on Jan. 27, 1992.

We are a group of students who smoke cigarettes, and we are concerned about the effects of the UM-St. Louis smoke-free policy. Specifi-

cally, we see the policy (with which we agree in principle) as having a negative effect on both smoking and non-smoking students, faculty and staff of the university.

We also wish to remain anonymous and we want to offer our suggestions regarding the problems and polarization that the new smoke-free policy has created.

1. The university should live up to the promises espoused in the campus handbook which states that smoking cessation classes are being offered to students and staff members, free of charge.
- These classes were not offered last semester and are currently not being offered. Other suggestions for the smoking cessation classes:
 - The classes should be offered in both the daytime and the evening, and should be free of charge to all students, faculty and staff.
 - Staff should be able to attend the classes during their normal working hours, with pay for work time missed while the classes are in session.
2. There should be one or two

designated "smoking" areas on this campus. If this is not possible, then there should be ash cans placed by the entrances and exits of every building.

3. Anyone who violates the indoor smoking ban should be given a written reprimand. The second such offense should be prosecuted by a mandatory assignment to the smoking cessation classes.

We are tired of the university paying "lip service" to the noble idea that it cares about the health of the students who are addicted to nicotine. If the university is indeed concerned about this issue, the smoking cessation classes will begin soon, will be widely publicized, will be easily accessible and will be in the best interests of both people at this university who are struggling to overcome their addiction to nicotine and to the non-smokers who are struggling to find clean air.

Please don't throw out another "smoke screen." We would appreciate your response.

The Student Smokers

Sig Tau's Rush Party Doesn't Degrade Women

Dear Editor:

This is in response to the Feb. 3 letter from Mark Magas (Sig Tau's Rush: Get Screwed, Animal House). His bashing of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity was ridiculous and his arguments were completely "screwed" up.

True, Sigma Tau Gamma is not easy to ignore. That is why it is one of the largest fraternities on campus with the most diverse group of members. As far as the "Animal House" labeling goes, the fraternity has never promoted itself as such. The only atarism Magas pointed out was his own blind assumption that men's fraternal organizations focus only on alcohol consumption and the degradation of women. That stereotype went out a long time ago.

In reference to the T-shirts "promoting massive alcohol consumption," Magas again is clueless. THEIR shirt and display sign advertise "Sig Tau Dry," meaning dry rush parties where no alcohol is served. I guess this is a hard concept to comprehend.

If Magas had opted to attend the "Get Screwed" party, he would have found that it was a theme party where attendees matched up assorted hardware to win a prize- not to "screw" a Sig Tau or degrade women. In no way could this be interpreted as viewing women as "status seeking objects that fall at the feet of any frat brother."

As a woman and a feminist, I wasn't offended at all. Had the sign read "Hey, ladies, come and get screwed by the Sig Tau's," then it would have been different. It was merely a theme party, not an invitation to have sex at a fraternity house.

Obviously, Magas has a problem either with Greeks in general or with the entire concept of a party. He will never understand the "tradition of excellence" because he never took the time to find out what it really means. One would think an "older" student would dig for deeper meanings.

So, Mark, if the party themes offend you, don't go... I'm sure you won't be missed.

Erin Hoffner

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The Current welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to its readers. Short letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor.

Editing may be necessary for space and clarity to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy, but ideas will not be altered.

Upon request, editors will use initials only, but only rarely and for compelling reasons. A signed letter carries more weight with readers.

Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.

All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address, student identification number and phone number for verification purposes (address, student identification number and phone number will not be printed).

UMSL Celebrates Year of the Monkey

by Linda F. Jarrett
Current features reporter

More and more ethnic groups are striving to keep their cultures intact and alive in a hectic, stressful world. One example of this effort is the Chinese New Year Festival, which was held Saturday, Feb. 8, in the J.C. Penney Building at UM-St. Louis.

Between 400 and 600 people attended the event, co-sponsored by the St. Louis Chinese New Year Committee and the UM-St. Louis Office of Equal Opportunity. The festival consisted of exhibitions and a formal program, performed twice during the afternoon, which spotlighted folk dances, singing, martial arts, musicianship and a celebrity fashion show.

According to ancient Chinese legend, 12 zodiac animals were chosen to reign for one year in a 12-year cycle over the lunar calendar. Each animal symbolizes specific virtues that signify a good omen or blessing for the coming year and provide the theme for the festivities. This is the Year of the Monkey, the animal that symbolizes intelligence and clever wit.

"Two years ago, the event was held here, and we hope it can be held here again next year," said Gang Bao, of the UM-St. Louis Chinese Student Association-Mainland. "UM-St. Louis is a good school for this type of activity. It benefits the community and the school. An event like this enhances the school's international



Bing Moy uses his creativity and skill when producing a Chinese paintbrush drawing. Photo: Alfie Ali

image and helps to attract students from all cultures." Nancy Tao, in charge of the New Year publicity, said the Office of Equal Opportunity, which co-sponsored the event, would like to maintain the festival at UM-St. Louis, since it is so beneficial to the school. Model Jennifer Lane said, "This event was held at the Botanical Garden last year, but this facility is larger."

One of the many dances featured in the program was The Stick Dance, performed by eight young girls from the St. Louis Chinese Academy. This dance, which originated in South-

western China, was sometimes done in exchange for food, and uses bamboo sticks with bells attached to make musical sounds. The motion of the sticks is similar to American baton twirling.

"My boss gave me tickets, so I came for the afternoon to see what it was about. The dancers were my favorite part," Jean Haefele of Spanish Lake said.

The fashion show displayed costumes worn by models representing the dynasties of ancient times up to modern day China. A red and gold silk brocade gown represented the Han Dynasty. The gown was a replica of one worn by the emperor's mistress, who was offered to another emperor to prevent his territory from being attacked. She later committed suicide by jumping off a cliff.

"This festival provides a chance to educate others to the Chinese culture," said Sandra Liu, a UM-St. Louis graduate student in management

and information systems.

Lynn Wei, a senior majoring in accounting, said it is important to bring the Chinese community together.

The exhibit area featured Chinese painting, calligraphy and videos on Chinese tea making, opera and shuttlecock kicking. One exhibit that attracted many onlookers was the noodle-making display, demonstrated by Chun Hui Fung of Shur Fung's Restaurant. To form the lo mein noodle, Mr. Fung started with a ball of dough and continued to roll and stretch it until it became pliable enough to form many small, thick strands, much like spaghetti. Mr. Fung learned this art, which has been practiced for many years in his Korean homeland, from his parents, who owned a restaurant.

"The majority of young people go into the restaurant business in Korea," Mr. Fung said.

In the Underground cafeteria, an assortment of Chinese food was available, including the familiar egg roll (Chun Juan) and the not-so-familiar Kai Kou Xiao, a deep-fried dough wrapped around sesame seeds. The open end, resembling a smiling mouth, represents happiness.

"This festival contained about everything pertaining to Chinese culture," Wendy Yu, of Creve Coeur said.

Net proceeds from the festival benefitted the Salvation Army Family Haven.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

by Greg Albers
Current features reporter

The vision of an artist involves not only what is seen with the eyes, but also what is seen in the mind and the imagination.

Eudora Welty, born in Jackson, Miss., in 1909, has spent a lifetime recording her vision in her fiction and her photographs. An exhibit of her work will be on display in 362 SSB until Feb. 21.

The exhibit offers an insight into the mind of a writer. Guests are given a chance to read the description of a place or an object and then see what it was that inspired such prose.

One photograph on display is of a solitary church standing in the middle of an open valley. It is

accompanied by an excerpt from "Some Notes on River Country" which reads, "The thick soft morning shadows of the bluff on the valley floor, and the rose-red color of the brick church which rises from this shadow, are its dominant notes - all else seems green. The red of the bricks defies their element; they were made of earth, but glow as if to remind you there is fire in earth."

Welty has published several collections of short stories, novels, non-fiction and photography. Much of her work centers around life in the deep South during the Depression. For many of the subjects of her photographs, poverty was a way of life, but seen through the eyes of Welty, they show a sense of quiet dignity.



Curious viewers reflect upon the art of Welty. Photo: Dirk Fletcher



FROM LEFT: Sandra Liu, Lynn Wei and Nancy Tao show off their traditional Chinese attire. Photo: Alfie Ali



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would like to welcome the new neophytes of the Alpha Tau Pledge Class:
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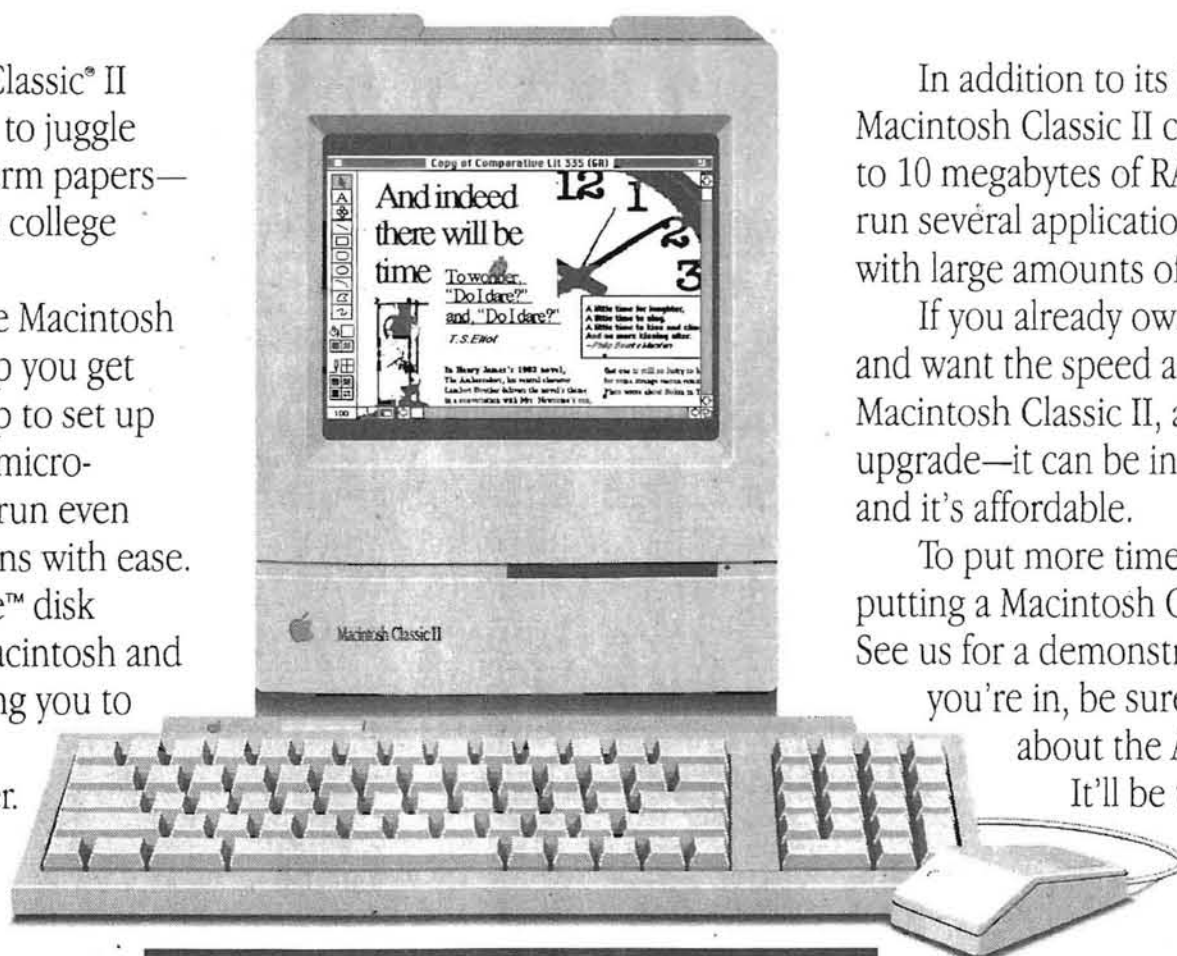
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In This Corner



Blues Season Like A Fine Whine

by Russell L. Korando
sports editor

Adam Oates has been gone for over a week now. No matter which side you agree with, Oates or Blues management, the only relevant detail to this sad chapter in Blues history, is it should have never taken place.

In 1989, Blues General Manager Ron Caron shifted the balance of power in the Norris Division with one stroke, when the Blues acquired Oates and Paul MacLean from Detroit for Tony McKegney and legend Bernie Federko.

Not since 1964, when the St. Louis Cardinals traded Ernie Broglio to the Chicago Cubs for Lou Brock, did a St. Louis sports franchise pull off such a successful, divisional coup d'etat. I'll admit, at first the trading of Federko, a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame, riled me, and, I'm sure, all true fans of the 'Note.' But watching Oates magically float passes onto Brett Hull's stick eventually cooled the sting.

Hull's unabashed attitude throughout the ordeal most certainly affected the teams play, but the "Golden Brett's" penchant for scoring has overcome worse ordeals.

Caron has become victim to his own sword. He had made several brilliant moves leading up to Oates' being acquired. Remember, Hull was playing on Calgary's fourth line before Caron got wind of his potential. So, the Blues traded popular defenseman Rob Ramage and goaltender Rick Wamsley to the Flames for Hull and long-since-departed Steve Bozek.

After plunging into the free agent market the year before to get Scott Stevens, the Blues jumped in head-first again this year, only to find the water too shallow. I'm sure Caron was leaning on Brendan Shanahan's ability to score 35-40 goals this year, but Shanahan just broke out of a 10 game scoring slump, and 30 goals would be the correct assumption now.

I really believe Caron wants the Blues to win as much as anyone else, but he has been general manager for nine years now, and the Blues seem to be losing ground in every game this year. Oates' situation was not Caron's fault, and the loss of Stevens stemmed from Head Coach Brian Sutter and President Jack Quinn's haste.

Sutter, whose number adorns my replica Blues jersey, could do no wrong on the ice. He could be counted on, with Federko's help, to plug in 30 or 40 goals a year, and kick the opposition's ass after celebrating. He was the idol for zealous Blues fans for over a decade on the ice.

Now, Sutter is being blamed by everyone but his wife for the Blues demise. It was Sutter who chased Rod Brind'Amour out of town. Sutter didn't like the way Peter Zezel played, and a packing he went. The only thing Sutter is not being accused of is the lease they play under at the Arena.

Which brings me to the real reason the Blues will not win the Stanley Cup this year. Instead of sharing the lucrative revenue generated by 17,000 fans, who drink more beer than 30,000 down at Busch Stadium, the city hoards the money for other non-hockey related purposes. I know I have a severe case of "rabbitears" everytime I exit a game.

Sure, I picked the team to finish first before the season began. But I'm not jumping on or off the bandwagon. I'll leave that to those people who's life revolves around being heard on KASP radio.

In the classrooms across campus, the debate rages on. Listen up in class, because the Blues season will be over before the semester is.

Riverwomen Look For Payback Against MIAA

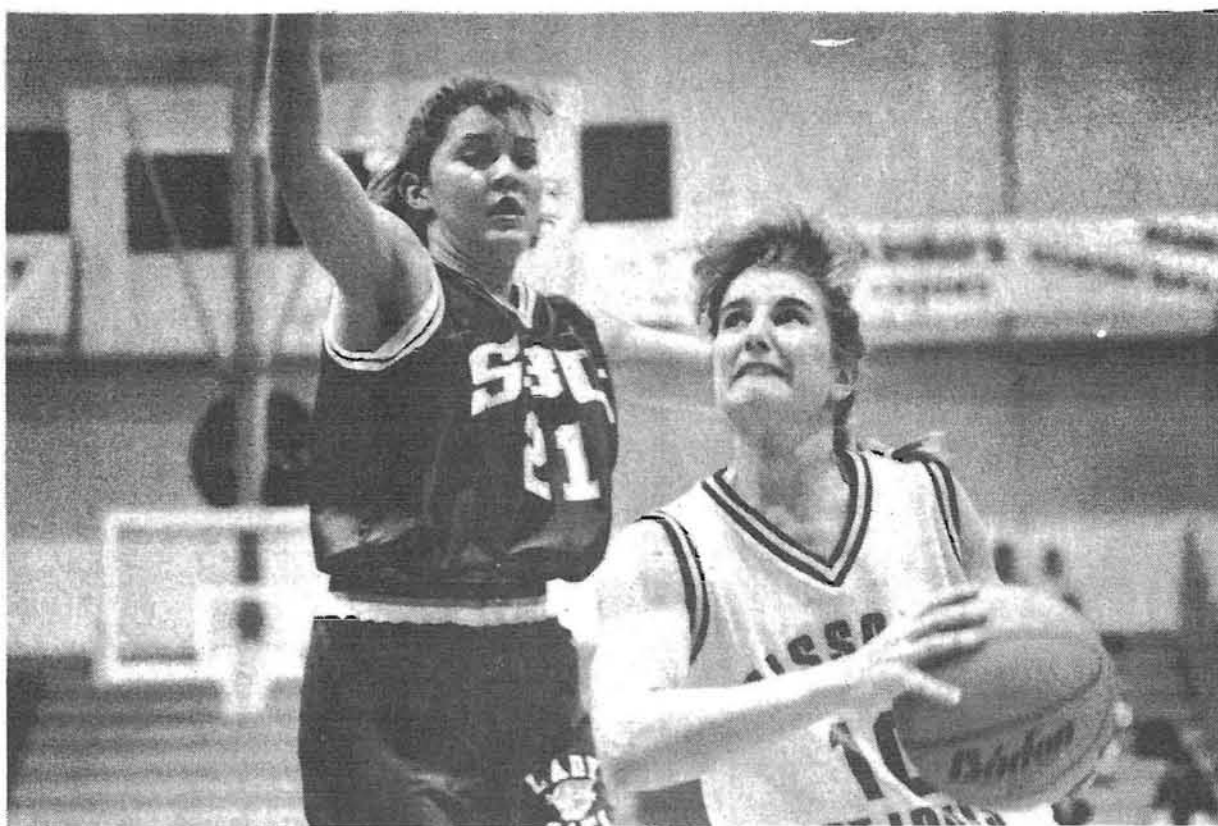


Photo: Dirk Fletcher

DRIVING FOR 2,000: Monica Steinhoff's facial expression personifies her competitive nature.

Meckfessel Questions NCAA Eligibility Rules

by Thomas J. Kovach
editor

Rich Meckfessel, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen's basketball coach, said if the NCAA wants to improve its graduation rates, first-time athletes should become ineligible.

"If the NCAA is really seriously interested about improving their graduation rates, they should make freshmen and junior college players ineligible their first year," he said.

Meckfessel said he recalls five athletes at UM-St. Louis that were within 24 credit hours of graduating, and their eligibility had expired. Athletes in football and basketball, in particular, then lose discipline and motivation, he said.

"While their playing, a coach can say, 'If you miss class, you have to sit out the next game,' or 'If you're late for class, you have to do this or you have to do that,'" Meckfessel said. "Once their done playing, we have got very little hold over them."

"So the discipline and motivation is gone. I think most of the steps that the NCAA has taken over the last five years have been good regarding reforms, but I would like for them, in this regard, to go one step further."

Critics to the plan argue that making freshmen or junior college athletes sit out a year denies them the chance to graduate on time.

"My response to that," Meckfessel said, "is that they can stay around for that fifth year of college and that fourth year of eligibility and get a second major or start to work on a master degree."

He also said the discipline to study will be lost because the NCAA has set a new date for basketball practice—Nov. 1—and reducing regular-season games from 27 to 26.

"I think reducing the schedule by one game and cutting practice by two weeks has gone too far," he said. "It's just the idea that they think by eliminating these two weeks of practice will make it easier for the athletes to study. They are not going to be in the library from three o'clock to six o'clock studying."

Meckfessel also said the new requirements of obtaining a certain score on the ACT/SAT and G.P.A. "was quite a substantial jump." If freshmen want to play college athletes, they must obtain a 17 on the ACT, 700 SAT and a 2.5 G.P.A. If they don't get a 2.5 G.P.A., a score of 21 on the ACT and a 900 SAT must be achieved. The

changes will take place in the Fall, 1995.

"I think the standards are too high. I think they have gone a little too far with the academic reform movement. There a lot of young men and young women from culturally deprived backgrounds, whether it be the inner-city, a coal mining town in West Virginia, or a small rural community in Missouri where the educational opportunities are not the same in, let's say, a Parkway School system," Meckfessel said.

Meckfessel said the requirements of a 2.0 and a 700 on the SAT a few years ago was a step in the right direction. But the NCAA's recent decision doesn't sit well with him.

"A better step would have been to

put the SAT at 800 and the G.P.A. at 2.25. That's a pretty substantial leap of 200 point increase on the SAT and half of their G.P.A."

Meckfessel, however, said the NCAA made a good move by giving athletes one day off and they can only be involved for a maximum of 20 hours a week.

"That includes practice, film sessions, meetings and anything that is related to basketball. That was a step in the right direction," he said. "We had a player transfer from a Division I school four or five years ago who said from the first day of classes until Thanksgiving, they never had a day off. They were either conditioning or practicing. I think that was wrong and excessive."



Photo: Dirk Fletcher

SHARP DRESSED MAN: Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel.

Home Stand Crucial For Run At Tournament

by Russell L. Korando
sports editor

After the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen trounced Lincoln University on Jan. 29, 118-73, they embarked on a three game road trip. The trip was to distinguish whether the team could be considered "Road Warriors" in the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA), but after losing three straight games, they returned home as a road kill.

Perhaps the loss that hurt the worst was against Central Missouri State on Feb. 8, 96-75. The Riverwomen led by six points at halftime and were controlling the pace of the game. But they got caught up in a flurry of fouls in the second half, and the Jennies beat them for the twenty-third straight time.

"In the first half we out-rebounded them and kept them out of the bonus," Head Coach Bobbi Morse said. "In the second, we did totally the opposite."

Morse said she didn't have any explanation for the team's Jeckyl & Hyde performances on the road this year, but some of the players attributed it to second half scoring droughts.

"Sometimes we start off so well, and then in the second half everybody forgets how to shoot and rebound," junior center Liz Squibb said.

"Most times we just beat ourselves, and it seems that we get beat by the

other team's bench," she said. "I can't remember being dominated by any top player."

Senior Nancy Heseman said that if the Riverwomen get three or four players in double figures, the team becomes very hard to defend.

"When everyone is scoring, that gives [guard Monica Steinhoff] more room to shoot," Heseman said. "Monica's deadly with time to shoot."

The Riverwomen started their three game home stand last Wednesday by beating Southwest Baptist. They will have played Missouri Southern, who beat them earlier this year, 93-83, and conclude the stand with a game tonight against Pittsburg State.

With the MIAA Tournament coming up, the Riverwomen must win at least four more games to qualify for a first round game at the Mark Twain Building.

Morse said it would be nice if the seniors could capture the conference title.

"If we win these three games at home, we will be hard to beat," Morse said. "The most important thing to the seniors isn't any statistical mark, but having the chance to take the conference."

Keeping Mrs. Hyde in the locker room for the second half could keep them from being wallflowers at the "big dance."

SBU Experiencing "Growing Pains"

by Thomas J. Kovach
editor

The Southwest Baptist University (SBU) men's basketball team, which plays UM-St. Louis in the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Conference, has been placed on "extended probation" after a booster club member co-signed on a car loan for the Bearcats' leading scorer last March.

Glenn Stanley, who was averaging 22 points and nine rebounds a game, was told by the MIAA that he is not eligible to play for the rest of the season. This suspension puts an end to Stanley's career with the Bearcats because he is in his senior year. Stanley also missed becoming the school career leading scorer by just 41 points.

The MIAA committee on infractions, which made the ruling on Jan. 29, also fined SBU \$500.

SBU's athletic director John Bryant told the school's newspaper, *The Omnibus*, that the violation is a result of the team's switch from the NAIA to the NCAA.

"SBU is still experiencing growing pains," Bryant said. "We have come out of a NAIA program not so long ago, gone into the NCAA program, where

institutional control is not only suggested, but demanded," he said.

SBU will disassociate itself with the Booster Club during the probationary period, said Chris Johnson, sports information director.

"We will keep an eye on things," Johnson said.

Bryant said the incident reached SBU administrators through the grapevine, and on Feb. 6, he told *The Omnibus* that he heard about the situation around Springfield, Mo.

"When we got back from the recent NCAA convention, the talk was essentially picked up by an athletic representative of our university," Bryant said. "Although the information came in as hearsay, the sources were good enough to cause us to ask questions."

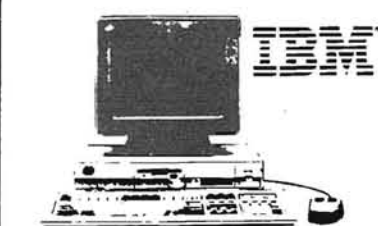
SBU cannot compete in the league's championship tournament this year because of an NCAA and MIAA inquiry last year concerning player Todd Murray's eligibility. The Bearcats will be eligible for post-season play for the 1992-93 season.

However, UM-St. Louis Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said, "By-and-large, the institutions on the MIAA do a good job of following the rules."

Rivermen Swimmers Meet Update- The dual meet season ended Feb. 8, and the team will travel to Indianapolis Feb. 19 for the final meet of the season.

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