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The CURRENT

Issue 750

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI- ST. LOUIS

January 19, 1993

In Memory Of A Great Man

Yesterday was a day of remembrance and celebration as the country observed the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

See the Features section on page 5 for an in-depth look at Norman Seay, the founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Committee that first sought to sponsor the bill that eventually made King's Birthday a holiday in St. Louis. Seay is now the director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at UM-St. Louis.

Below: even the young were there to remember a man they will never meet.

Right: Tumika Dalma handed out flyers for the second annual Martin Luther King Peace Symposium that will be held today at the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park in the Highlander Room.



Photo: Jeff Parker

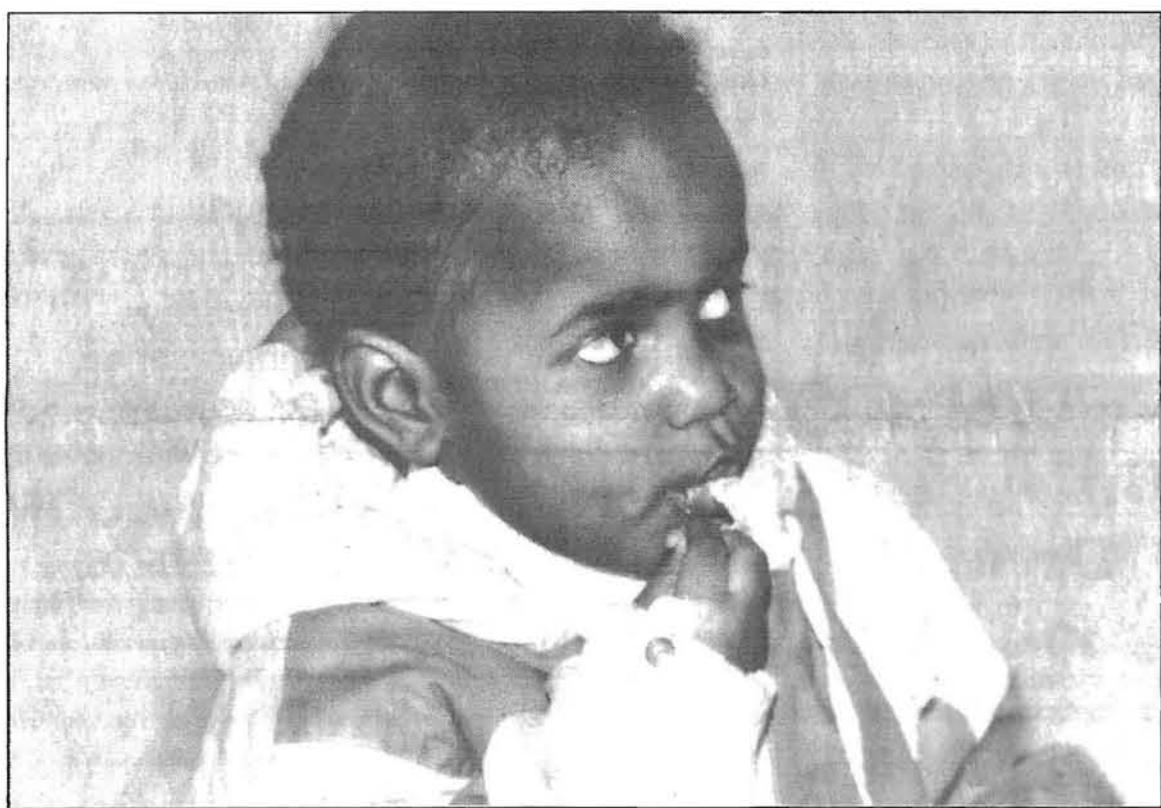


Photo: Jeff Parker

Student Drowns In Flooded Field

by Krista Goodin
associate news editor

A University of Missouri-St. Louis student died Dec. 18, 1992, after his car was submerged on Aubuchon Road in the flooded Missouri Bottoms area.

Steven C. Beran, 24, of Florissant, was found Dec. 20 at 7:40 a.m. by a Hazelwood police officer. He saw Beran's Chevy Cavalier in a flooded crop field. Only the roof and 10 inches of the vehicle were visible, police said.

Signs were posted stating that the street was closed due to high water. Lt. Richard Hogan, of the Hazelwood Police Department, said he believes Beran disregarded those signs.

"Maybe he thought he could make it," said Hogan, "A lot of people do that."

According to the police report, Beran's car hit the standing water and hydroplaned off the road into the field at approximately 10:20 p.m. Beran's car sank into the water, which was deeper than that on the road.



Both Beran's sister, Kelly (left), and brother, Jeffrey (right), attended UM-St. Louis.

The police report also said the car's electric door locks were shorted out by the water and Beran was apparently trapped inside the vehicle. He may have attempted to kick out the driver's side window, but apparently never tried to manually unlock the doors.

Beran was a physical education major at UM-St. Louis who planned to become a Physical Education teacher.

"An excellent student," said Dr. Darlene Johnston, one of Beran's

See BERAN, page 4

Rushing Receives National Humanities Fellowship

by Russell Korando
managing editor

W. Jackson Rushing, an associate professor of art at UM-St. Louis, will take leave of his duties in September to complete his manuscript on modern Native American art.

On Dec. 2, Rushing was notified that he would receive a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship. The stipend will pay Rushing \$30,000 to assist him in the

completion of his manuscript, which is called "Transformations in Native American Art Since 1960."

"I'm very grateful to receive the award," Rushing said. "There is still a lot of work to be done on the book. It could actually take the next couple of years."

Rushing, who has been employed by UM-St. Louis since 1989, grew up in Austin, Texas, and said he has held an interest in Indian art since he was a child. Rushing received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1990 and completed his undergraduate work there as well.

"I suppose growing up in the Southwest had something to do with my interest in Indian Art," Rushing said. "But, more importantly, is the message that Indian artists send through their works. Some of Indian art's most important issues are ecological, and they express the politics of representation."

The NEH fellowship will provide Rushing the opportunity to place all of his attention on his book. Applications for the fellowship were submitted in June.

The fellowships were awarded to



Photo: Jeff Parker

W. Jackson Rushing

a broad range of applicants studying the humanities.

Rushing's book will also track the evolution of Native American art since the 1960s. Rushing said this art had "fingers on the pulse" of Americans' concern with the future of politics and the environment.

"Native American art brings interest to their particular tribes; along with interest in non-Indian art. Indian artists have a provocative vision of the future of art in America," he said.

Campus Parking Problems Continue

by Bill Farnsworth
news editor

Parking on the UM-St. Louis campus has developed into a problem characterized by students, faculty and staff parking in fire lanes, on the grass and in front of dumpsters and loading docks.

The growing parking problem on the campus has led to many proposed solutions. These have included: a remote lot that offers free shuttle service; redesignation of lots as only Faculty/Staff, Student, Visitor, Handicapped or Patient; and the proposal to reassign Lot "I" as Faculty/Staff parking. Lot "I" is the 92-space lot near Lucas Hall.

The reason for the proposal to convert Lot "I" was, in part, because the Faculty/Staff parking

privileges of Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants from Lots "N" and "P" were revoked.

Police Chief John L. Pickens circulated a memo in August that notified these students that their Faculty/Staff parking privileges were going to be revoked and that they should scrape off their parking permits and return them to the police department. According to the memo, Pickens said that the reasons that these permits had to be revoked were numerous complaints by faculty and staff members wanting to park near the science complex and the blocking of the passages for emergency vehicles.

Parking Lots "N" and "P" are the lots that are in front of the science complex and the strip of parking along West Drive that leads from the science

complex to Garage "N" near the Computer Center Building.

Gail Ratcliffe, chair of the Senate Physical Facilities Committee, said that only half of those student turned in their parking permits and that the other half was still parking in the Faculty/Staff lots in the fall semester.

The Physical Facilities Committee met and determined that the number of parking permits revoked, 103 total, was approximately equal to the number of spots in Lot "I." She said that the decision to propose the conversion of Lot "I" was not an "anti-student" proposal.

Rather, she said, the arguments made by the

See PARK, page 4

Thompson Takes Over Black Studies Program

by Gerry Malone
of The Current staff

John Works, acting coordinator of the Black Studies Minor, has stepped down from his position. Dr. Vetta Sanders Thompson has assumed the position as the new coordinator.

Thompson also teaches psychology courses at UM-St. Louis as an associate professor. She said she feels that, in taking over the position, her first responsibilities are to find out who's interested in Black Studies and what resources she has with which to work.

In addressing the status of the Black Studies program as a minor, Thompson said, "We do not have the student interest or participation to go to the University and ask for a Black Studies Department."

Thompson does not recommend that the Black Studies minor be limited to black students.

"Some people think the minor is only for African-Americans, which is not true. The information learned in the Black Studies classes will help whites to interact with blacks," she said. "The minor program will help people to accept others without trying to change them. Thus it is beneficial for the entire university population."

See STUDIES, page 4

Federal Judge Finds KWMU, Wente Not Guilty of Racism

by Krista Goodin
associate news editor

Winnie Sullivan believes that "racism is alive and well and in residence" at the UM-St. Louis radio station, KWMU-FM, despite a federal ruling Dec. 23 to the contrary.

After listening to seven days of testimony, Federal Judge Jean Hamilton determined that University of Missouri officials and the station's management acted properly when reorganizing positions in the summer of 1990. She found no evidence that Sullivan was fired because of her race, a charge Sullivan filed in a civil lawsuit more than two years ago.

That summer, Patricia Wente, KWMU's new general manager, informed 19 part-time employees that

their termination would be effective August 31. This gave the employees three-months notice, as opposed to the usual two-weeks. These employees were invited to reapply if they wished to remain at the station. A new personnel structure with four full-time and eight part-time employees was being implemented.

Sullivan was the only African-American not rehired. She claims Wente fired her without cause, forced two other African-American employees to leave and offered the position of yet another African-American employee to a white person. Artie Solomon, Sullivan's best friend of 15 years, believes Wente engineered the reorganizations to eliminate Sullivan.

See KWMU, page 4



Artie Solomon (right) holds up a sign in the Fall of 1991 claiming that KWMU and Patricia Wente (left) were racist when they fired his friend, Winnie Sullivan.

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Metro-East Area Gets Bad National Exposure

Racism is apparently alive and well in the metro-east area. Former *Belleville News-Democrat* reporter Carolyn Tuft broke the story a year ago of alleged harassment of blacks by the police in Belleville, Ill., which made a national news show two weeks ago. Apparently, a disproportionate number of blacks were pulled over by the Belleville police for seemingly minor infractions of the law. Among those pulled over was a black Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent. The Belleville Police Chief said that the intended purpose of the stops was to keep gang members from East St. Louis out of the Belleville area. It was also disclosed that there were no blacks employed by the city of Belleville until after the story was first printed by the *News-Democrat*.

The CBS show *60 Minutes*, did a segment on the actions of the police in Belleville which, incidentally, were supported by some of the residents who felt the practice would curtail crime.

A few years ago, there were similar allegations of unnecessary harassment of blacks driving through Florissant, Mo. Some police officers even stated on the record that they were told to stop and harass blacks.

No specific group of people should be subjected to unnecessary stops or harassment by the police. Crimes are committed by all races and to single out certain people is to make a ridiculous stereotype such as if crimes are committed in that area then someone black must be doing it. Blacks driving through Belleville, or any other city in the nation, work and pay taxes like everyone else and should not be subjected to violations of their civil rights. Rights that so many at one point got arrested, fought, marched, sang and even died for.

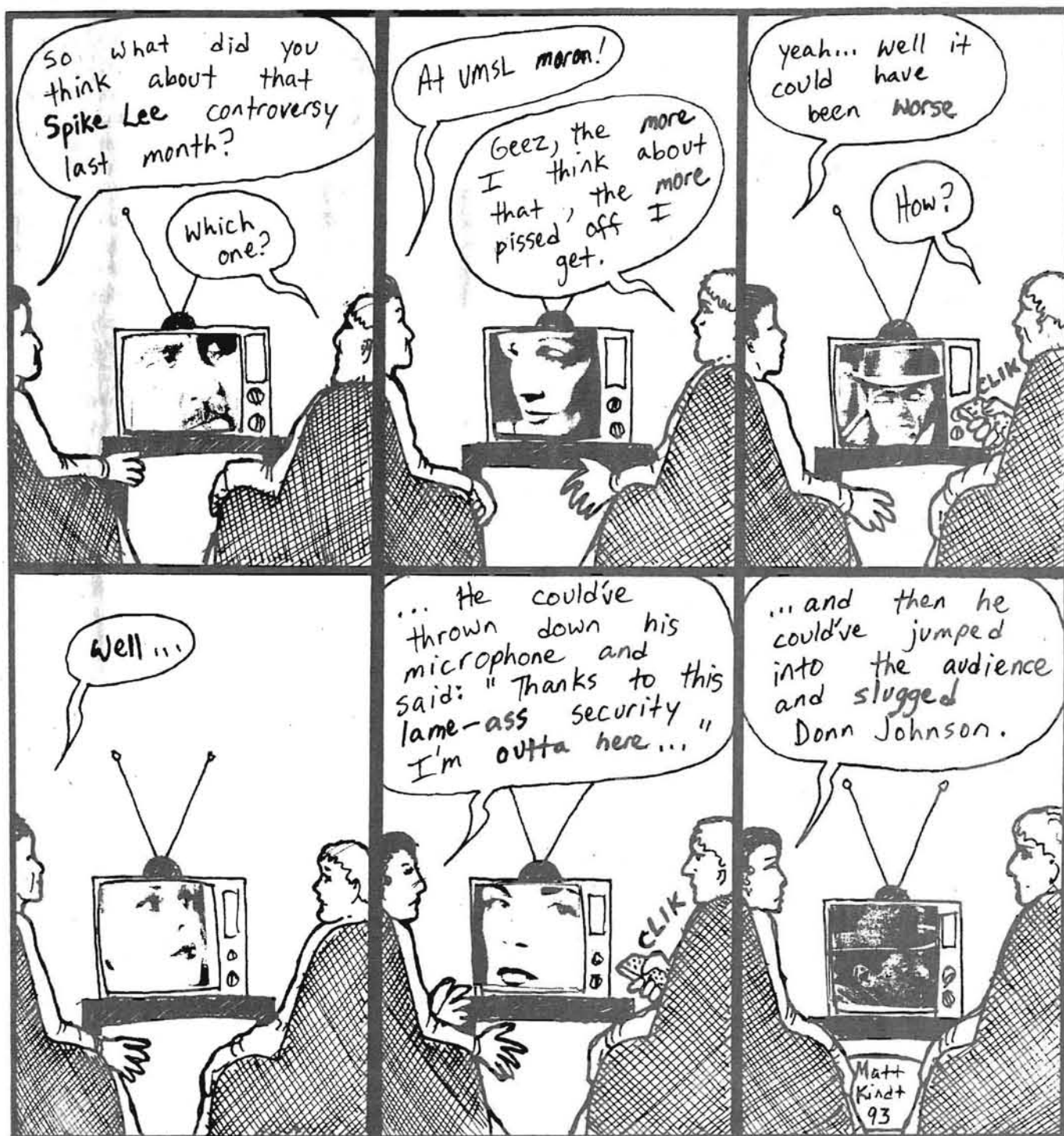
Mark Twain Building Crowded For Graduation Ceremony

The winter commencement ceremony held two weeks ago was a real nice affair with one of the best speakers to address the packed Mark Twain Building in a long time. Here is the problem that put a damper on a special occasion; the overcrowded gymnasium.

First of all, many family and friends of the graduates had to park their cars a good distance away in the freezing cold and snow to walk to the building when the shuttle was too full to take more passengers. After the ceremony started a large group of people were let in upstairs and did not get to see their loved ones march in with their class. After the ceremony was over the halls were wall to wall people and finding family members was impossible. The fact also remains that if there had been a fire the results could have meant disaster due to the crowds not being able to exit the building in a timely manner. Isn't there a limit on how many people can be in that building at one time?

Finally, for many of the graduates and families it took as long as twenty minutes to get out of the parking lot. While the Mark Twain Building was under reconstruction a few years ago graduation ceremonies were held at Keil Auditorium and ceremonies have been held at the Arena in the past.

Graduation is a special day for all involved and the classes are big enough to warrant having the ceremony at a place where families and friends came come to this major event and not be terribly inconvenienced by a mile long walk in the cold weather and the overcrowded hallways. For many students here their degree has taken more than four years of work. They are worth it.



Current Managing Editor Denies Paper's Racist Label



by Russell Korando
managing editor

Since running two stories and an editorial about Spike Lee's visit to the UM-St. Louis campus Dec. 7, *The Current* has been inundated with disapproving letters to the editor. Now, when we say inundated, that means more than one letter on the same topic. So far, we have received two.

The gist of the letters seems to be that *The Current's* coverage—of what was the most overhyped visit in campus history—was one-sided. It was even mentioned that we possessed a "racist mentality." Now, that hurt.

If a study were done of all of the

student organizations on campus, it would be discovered that *The Current* is as ethnically diverse as any group at UMSL.

Want proof? Just come visit us sometime. You'll meet Michelle McMurray—our editor. She is obviously female, but is also a minority. Conventional wisdom—including some people in the media—says that those two strikes wouldn't get her to bat anywhere in the corporate world. But if it weren't for the media, Joe Public wouldn't know or care about the less-than-ethical hiring practices of many companies.

Of course, *The Current* need not defend its hiring practices. Last year Ms. McMurray even approached students of black studies in an effort to recruit minorities for the paper's staff.

Other staff members are of Pakistani, Malaysian and Philippino descent. Our sports editor, Jack Wang, is Chinese, but more important is the fact that he rose from a general re-

porter to associate editor to section editor. From this, it should be obvious that the minorities hired aren't just paid lip-service about advancement.

It is unfortunate Mr. Lee chose his visit to UMSL to make a point about when and where being recorded by the mass media should be allowed. It is even more unfortunate UMSL had no guidelines in place before Mr. Lee's arrival—either to keep the cameras rolling or to prohibit filming as he wished.

One of the letters said *The Current* failed to report both sides of the stifling-the-media issue. That's funny, as two stories ran in the Dec. 7 issue, and while one specifically targeted the controversy, the other concerned Lee's speech and the agenda of the entire evening.

Personally, I think Spike Lee is a revelation to the entire movie industry. He is a shining example of perseverance to the black community. In an industry fraught with racial in-

equality, Lee has had enough attitude and intelligence to stick around even though powerful forces have tried to keep him from attaining his own dream.

Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday was celebrated yesterday, would be proud of the vision of treatment toward African-Americans Lee depicts through his movies. Although Lee stereotypes Caucasians in his films as white filmmakers do blacks, it isn't to the ugly point of violence.

King once said, "If we are arrested every day, don't let anyone pull you so low as to hate them. We must use the weapon of love." Because black filmmakers were few and far between before King's murder, he did not realize the most devastating weapon of all: Mass Media.

Lee now has a firm grasp of Hollywood's attention, and his weapon of choice is the camera's eye. We should all see so clearly.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

News Reports Of Spike Lee Incident Were One Sided

Dear Editor:

I was quite disturbed with the one-sided approach that your paper displayed in reference to the Spike Lee incident of Nov. 30. It was not enough that we are constantly buffeted with negative images on a daily basis from the local news and other biased sources, but now we must further encounter them in an infinitesimal periodical as a school newspaper—What's next, comic books?

From the way your paper reported these incidents, it is clear to see the one-sided nature of the business of reporting news. Was any effort made to receive comments from someone who was not strongly opposed to what he did, or would this have detracted from the image of Spike Lee that you (and numerous other publications) attempt to create and reinforce? As if quoting a few disgruntled local reporters is going to add an air of cred-

ibility to your paper's reporting. Was it really expected they would offer a less than biased opinion of Mr. Lee's actions? Anyone with an ounce of common sense can see what side of the fence that they are on. And frankly, I was not impressed with the feeble attempts of individuals to quote Bill of Rights philosophy in defense of their position. Let us recall that the original Bill of Rights was not meant to protect African-Americans, rather this phenomena is mid-twentieth century occurrence, and now even such protection is suspect. And if you have any doubts, why not ask Rodney King or Malice Green's widow if they felt protected. Until I can walk into a store and not be followed around, I do not.

Of all the groups participating in Spike Lee's event, why does the less-than-favorable editorial call for the Sisterhood Exchange to apologize and

no one else? Does the word scapegoat come to mind? And as far as the student crowd control is concerned, let us remember that campus police cost money and if we were to have them at every single campus event, then what would the costs be? And who is not to say that police do not push equipment and people around. Let's not be naive. And to Mr. (Donn) Johnson of Channel 2, I must say, as a young African-American, I do know my First Amendment rights and I'm tired of the press abusing their rights, taking every instance possible to discredit and slander us. Now who is being trampled on? Perhaps it is Mr. Johnson, not Mr. Lee as he suggested, who has forgotten where he has come from.

Sincerely,
Matthew Taylor
Graduate Psychology

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

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. Name and student identification can be withheld upon request.

The Current

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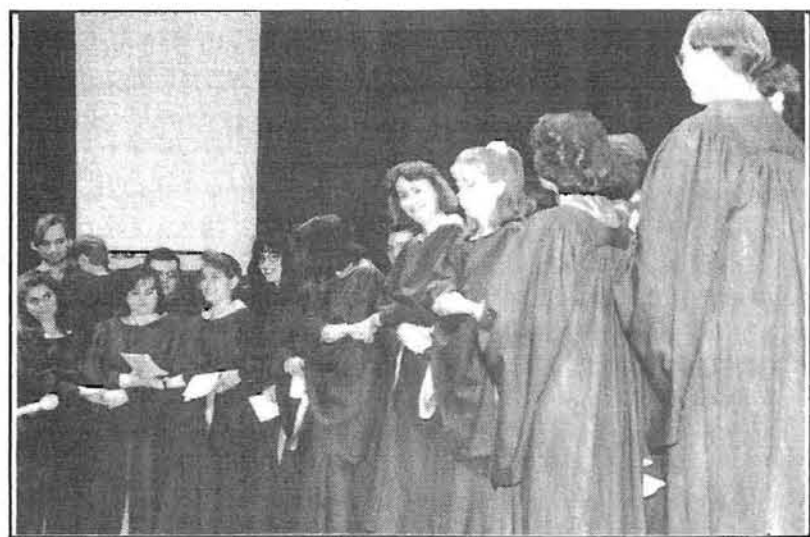


Photo: Jeff Parker
The University Singers performed yesterday, singing "We Shall Overcome" and other songs.



Photo: Jeff Parker
After the crowds had cleared, this man stood alone with his thoughts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

KWMU from page 1

"She was one of five black women that Wente forced out of their jobs because of their skin color," he said.

The attorney for UM-St. Louis, W. Dudley Carter, disagrees. "The reorganization of KWMU's staff had nothing to do with Sullivan's race. All the other part-timers who were not re-employed are white."

Sullivan said she thinks there are several ways to correct an injustice. "One is to attempt to inform the public," she said. With Solomon, she arranged a rally downtown on July 14, 1991. "We were complaining about racism at KWMU," Solomon said. "We held a few rallies at UMSL, but few

people showed up."

Both Sullivan and Solomon said the court proceedings were a travesty of justice. "It was a very disappointing outcome," said Sullivan. "This outcome makes me sad and angry. I feel the judge in Winnie's case was a racist," Solomon agreed.

Wente, on the other hand, felt differently. "I think the judge was fair. She was very thorough, and what we did here at KWMU was right," she said. "I'm proud to manage a station where the licensee supports the actions necessary to create a state of the art public radio station in the 90s."

Blanche Touhill, chancellor of the UM-St. Louis campus, expressed her support of the radio station and of

Wente. "The University of Missouri-St. Louis is and always has been committed to providing educational and employment opportunities to people of diverse social and economic backgrounds. This case indicates that Patty Wente has acted in a manner consistent with that commitment," she said.

Sullivan did find a positive result from the incident. "I'm pleased that the amount of public attention focused at the station because of the suit has resulted in KWMU hiring minority employees," she said. "But I think they have a long way to go."

Studies from page 1

Thompson does encourage black students to get involved in the Black Studies classes because, she said, one can lose their sense of self in a predominantly white institution. She feels

one way to combat that loss is to take courses in the Black Studies minor program.

She also said that whether the Black Studies minor grows into a

more productive and visible department on the UM-St. Louis campus depends on increasing interest on the part of students who might enroll in existing classes.

Beran from page 1

professors. "He was going to make an excellent teacher. We're really going to miss him here."

Kathleen Haywood, whom Beran had as a teacher last semester, agrees. "Steve was a very serious student, very committed. He really is the kind of student we like to have as a role model," she said.

Eldon and Mildred Beran, his parents, plan to set up a scholarship fund in memory of their son.

"We hope to raise money through the athletic department. We want to continue this for another student who wants to do what Steve wanted to do," said his father.

"It's something that people do

to memorialize a loved one," explained Lee Ann Mayhall, interim director of major gifts. "Mrs. Beran told me that they want to establish a scholarship to help a deserving and enthusiastic student to fulfill [his or her] dreams."

Beran is survived by a brother, Jeff, 29, and a sister, Kelly, 27. He also had two surviving grandmothers, Marie Beran and Mildred Carl.

Beran was a 1986 graduate of Hazelwood Central High School and played baseball for Florissant Valley Community College in 1987 and 1988.

Information for this story was contributed by Michelle McMurray.



Beran (left) was a physical education major at UM-St. Louis. His sister Kelly (right) received her bachelor's and master's degrees from UMSL.

Park from page 1

Teaching and Research Assistants present at the meeting convinced the committee to attempt to find suitable parking for those whose permits had been revoked.

Andy Masters, a student senator and member of the Physical Facilities Committee, fought against the proposed conversion of Lot "I" into Faculty/Staff parking and managed to get the proposal tabled.

"It probably would have been defeated anyway," said Ratcliffe.

The proposal, to be considered again, will have to be brought up again by the committee or voted back into consideration by the senate. Both Masters and Ratcliffe said they doubted either would happen.

The final decision made in the December Senate meeting was to grant temporary Faculty/Staff permits to Teaching Assistants so that the Physical Facilities Committee could examine the situation and devise a more equitable solution to the parking problems in lots "N" and "P."

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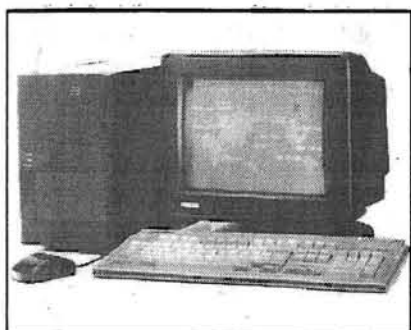
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UM-St. Louis Staff Member Has A Lot To "Seay" About Dr. King's Remembrance



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by Dana Cook
features editor

For the second time, all four campuses have been closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Some might be surprised to learn that the man most responsible for this day being a holiday works right here on our campus.

Norman Seay, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, founded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee. The committee sponsored the bill that led to Jan. 18 becoming an observance day for King in St. Louis in 1971.

Seay was born and raised in St.

Louis when African-Americans weren't allowed to go to the Fox Theater, restaurants or any of the hotels.

He attended Vashon High School, one of three schools for African-Americans in St. Louis at the time. It was at this school that Seay began his drive to knock down the barriers in his fight to end racism.

He belonged to an organization called Intergroup Youth. The organi-

zation provided an opportunity for student and teachers from black and white, public and parochial schools to come together. Seay says they "celebrated the oneness of mankind."

One of the activities the group did, according to Seay, was to hold discussions groups, which they called dialogues, once a month at a white family's house in University City. As a result, he said, the family's neighbors began to harass them, but they continued their meetings.

"At that time going from St. Louis to University City was like going from here to Germany," Seay said. "African-Americans didn't live in University City and we really hadn't been exposed to the county areas."

Out of that group grew the Committee of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.). Seay said C.O.R.E. was an integrated organization of people from different nationalities and religions. He said it was a group of "persons of goodwill" who were interested in eliminating various forms of racism in the St. Louis area.

"C.O.R.E. became the vehicle through which I spent most of my time," Seay said. "I would miss class to demonstrate against racism while I was in college."

Seay participated in a demonstration at the department store now known as Dillard's, which wouldn't allow African-Americans to eat on the first floor. They demonstrated for 18 months.

"We sat on the stools where they were serving people and read our Bibles," Seay said. "We passed out our literature. We did that three to four times a week."

In 1963, one of Seay's demonstrations landed him in jail for 90 days and cost him \$500 in fines, he said. The demonstra-

tion was to try to get African-Americans employed at Jefferson Bank. His jailmates were quite a diversified group. They included Congressman Bill Clay, former Missouri Senator Raymond Howard and a former University of Missouri Curator, Marian Oldham.

One of the accomplishments that Seay is most proud of came about while he was serving his time. He established a school to teach people to read and write. The school is still in existence in the city workhouse. Along with his group of inmates he also started a newspaper and a physical education program in the work house.

Seay became a C.O.R.E. member the same year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Seay said he was impressed by King because of their similar thoughts on how to combat racism.

"We both believed in direct action, attacking it (racism), not side-stepping it, straight on but using non-violent tactics," Seay said. "In other words, we received training in if another person spat upon you, you move on. You don't spit on that person. If the person hits you, remain passive. We turned the other cheek."

Even though there wasn't a law in St. Louis that segregated the whites



Photo courtesy of Norman Seay

MEETING A GIANT: Norman Seay, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at UM-St. Louis, shaking hands with Dr. Martin Luther King in 1964. Seay pioneered the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Committee.

from the blacks, in those days, according to Seay, it was a practice or a tradition. He said those are very hard to break.

"The ideal thing is to be able to change the attitude of the people. But

See KING, page 6

Adolescent Fathers: Villains Or Misunderstood?

62 Percent Had Never Used Contraceptives

by Cory Schroeder
of The Current staff

A man gallops his steed up an imposing cliff. He arrives in front of a shanty. He dismounts, and a maiden emerges from the doorway, carrying a baby in her arms, wrapped in a tattered cloth.

"Don Juan, I knew you would return. Look, this is your son," says the maiden, holding the baby out to Don.

"Be gone with you, wretch," says Don Juan, taking a step back and waving his hands.

He mounts his horse and rides away, leaving a crying baby and mother behind...

Adolescent fathers have been depicted in movies and books as scoundrels, interested primarily in sexual gratification. They are the Don Juans of the 20th century.

What is an adolescent father? A male between the ages of 13-20 who has fathered one of 1.1 million children born annually.

"Blake," 20, is a student at UM-St. Louis. He attends classes full-time and works 30 hours a week. He has a one-year-old daughter. She was born out of wedlock and lives with her mother. Blake sees his daughter only about once a month, but pays child support.

"She wouldn't let me see our daughter at first, but I coaxed her into allowing me to visit," Blake said. "I know she (the mother) doesn't want

me around, but I can't just turn my back on my daughter. I want to be a part of her life. I give her as much money as I can, even though I hardly get to see my baby."

Blake is not the only father who has maintained contact with both child and mother. Dr. Bryan E. Robinson, one of the foremost experts in adolescent parenthood, conducted a random sample of adolescent fathers in three major U.S. cities. He found that 88 percent of adolescent fathers had some kind of ongoing relationship with the mother. Seventy-three percent supported the mother in some way — by gifts, money or transportation.

Lack of applied knowledge of how the reproductive system works is an underlying cause for adolescent pregnancy. Sixty-two percent of adolescent fathers had never used contraceptives. Why? Many thought the female was too young to become pregnant, while others thought they had sex too infrequently.

"I had always thought she wouldn't get pregnant. We weren't very careful. I really didn't understand how intercourse led to pregnancy," Blake said.

According to Robinson, over 90

percent of the adolescent fathers had never had any form of sex education.

Do adolescent fathers see their fatherhood as a form of conquest, like



Photo: Jeff Parker

FULL-TIME FATHER: Seventy-three percent of adolescent fathers support their child's mother in some way.

Don Juan? Do adolescents impregnate a female to prove their manhood? Dr. E.S. Russel, a social scientist and the author of *Adolescent Fathers*, doesn't think so.

"Some adolescents see having a

baby as an antidote to loneliness and alienation," says Russel. "They believe parenting is the one thing they can be successful at. It can displace bad grades and other failures."

Blake supports this hypothesis. "I actually thought a baby would make my life a whole lot better," he said. "I wanted to have someone to love me as much as I loved them. I was ignorant of all the financial and psychological problems it would cause me."

Despite the common perception that the father doesn't want anything to do with the mother, many feel an extreme obligation. "I think it is important for me to be a part of her life," said Blake. "I never did have a good relationship with my own father. I don't want it to be like that. I want to be someone she can count on."

How important is a father's role in a child's life? According to Dr. Robinson, it is necessary for a child's well being. "A father's absence can have a negative impact on a child," said Robinson. "When adolescent fathers were absent from the home, children were more likely to have behavioral problems, lower self-esteem, lower trust levels and poor social competence in



Full-Time Grandmother Seeks Bachelor's At Age 71

by Carol White
for The Current

Just like most Evening college students, Olive Puetz feels pressured to make good grades. She works a demanding full-time job while attending UM-St. Louis part-time. There is never enough time in the day for this vivacious woman. She can't wait for graduation day, which is three years from now.

Puetz has much in common with any other Evening College student, even though she is 71-years-old and working toward her first Bachelor of General Studies degree.

"School is well worth the extra time and effort required," Puetz said. "I'm not seeking a degree for a career change. I'm happy with my job operating the public address system at St. Mary's Hospital. I've been there since 1974. I'm doing this to increase my own knowledge and because it's fun."

Puetz began her academic career at age 17 when she majored in secretarial management at the old Jefferson College.

"School officials told me that girls don't become accountants—math is for boys," she said.

Puetz managed to sneak in a few accounting and math courses, and didn't "fall flat on my face."

During the Depression, Puetz

See PUETZ, page 6

UM-St. Louis Varsity Team
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TENNIS
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Friday, January 22
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Frontenac
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Swimmers Treading Water Despite 1-6 Start

by Jack C. Wang
and Cory Schroeder
of the Current staff

Despite losing key members of last year's record-setting team, UM-St. Louis men's swimming coach Mary Liston doesn't fret about the team's current 1-6 record. Liston says the team, after a long lay-off, is ready to see some real swimming competition this weekend in Indianapolis at the University of Indianapolis meet.

"We haven't had a real competition in a real long time, because of illness and final exams," head coach Mary Liston said. "But they're training solid, so I don't think there will be problems."

"The meet in Indianapolis will be a big meet," Liston said. "The team isn't concerned about the long layoff like I am," she admits. "But Indianapolis will be strong, like Henderson State."

Liston feels that part of the reason lies in the good attitude of the swimmers. "They have confidence," Liston said. "I know they're ready because they are swimming fast times in practice."

Depth has been a problem for the Rivermen so far this season. Instead of carrying the usual 12 or 13 swimmers that most college teams have, the UM-St. Louis team is only carrying eight swimmers. This has created a major fatigue factor, but don't tell that to the Rivermen. Their recent second-place showing in the Henderson State Invitational in Jonesboro, Ark. (Nov. 13-14)

proved their determination.

What is more amazing about their second place win in Jonesboro is that the Rivermen did it with only eight team members. The Rivermen squared off against teams with 12 or 13 swimmers. Liston believes the size of her squad didn't hinder the team. "It's a good, small team," she said. "We did so well there. It was a real good meet," Liston said. "It's a reflection of how good they are, especially under pressure and out of town."

Unfortunately, the great win at Jonesboro couldn't be carried over into the meet at Missouri-Rolla, where the Rivermen lost to the Miners.

One of the stable factors of the team this year is Jeff Heveroh, a senior swimmer who competes in the breaststroke and individual medley. "Jeff is a good captain," Liston said. "He has the experience and is a leader in encouraging his teammates, especially Danny."

Heveroh currently ranked 11th in the 100-yd breaststroke and eighth in the 200-yd breaststroke in Division II.

Danny Schultz is another top swimmer for the Rivermen this season. A freshman who specializes in the freestyle and individual medley, he has been a surprise for the Rivermen thus far. "Every practice will be important for Danny," Liston said. "He will only swim this year, because he will be going on a Mormon mission next year."

Another swimmer Liston expected a lot from this year has been junior

freestyle swimmer Dave Roither. Roither, a All-American last year, has been bogged down by his duties on the Student Government Association, where he serves as vice-president. "Dave's schedule and obligations have made it hard for him to give his time to the team," Liston said.

Senior swimmer Nick Ranson is another swimmer for the Rivermen that Liston speaks highly of. "Nick is excellent in the backstroke for us," Liston said.

Liston is also very proud of swimmers Dave Roither and Doug Wilding, both of whom currently hold a 4.0 grade point average. "All the kids put in a lot of time, but haven't have a chance to showcase their talent at home," says Liston. "These athletes are dedicated and committed."

But two big fish in the UM-St. Louis pond are missing this year. All-American Ted Fischer transferred to University of Missouri-Columbia, and Mike Brickey, one of the nation's top sprint freestylers and relay specialists, is academically ineligible. "It's been hard for the guys to get over with," Liston said. "When a teammate graduates, that's different because it's expected. But you don't expect people to be ineligible."

Liston believes that Doug Wilding and Shawn Menke have helped to take Brickey's and Fischer's place.

The upcoming swim meet at the Washington University Invitational on Jan. 29 and 30 will be held at Washing-

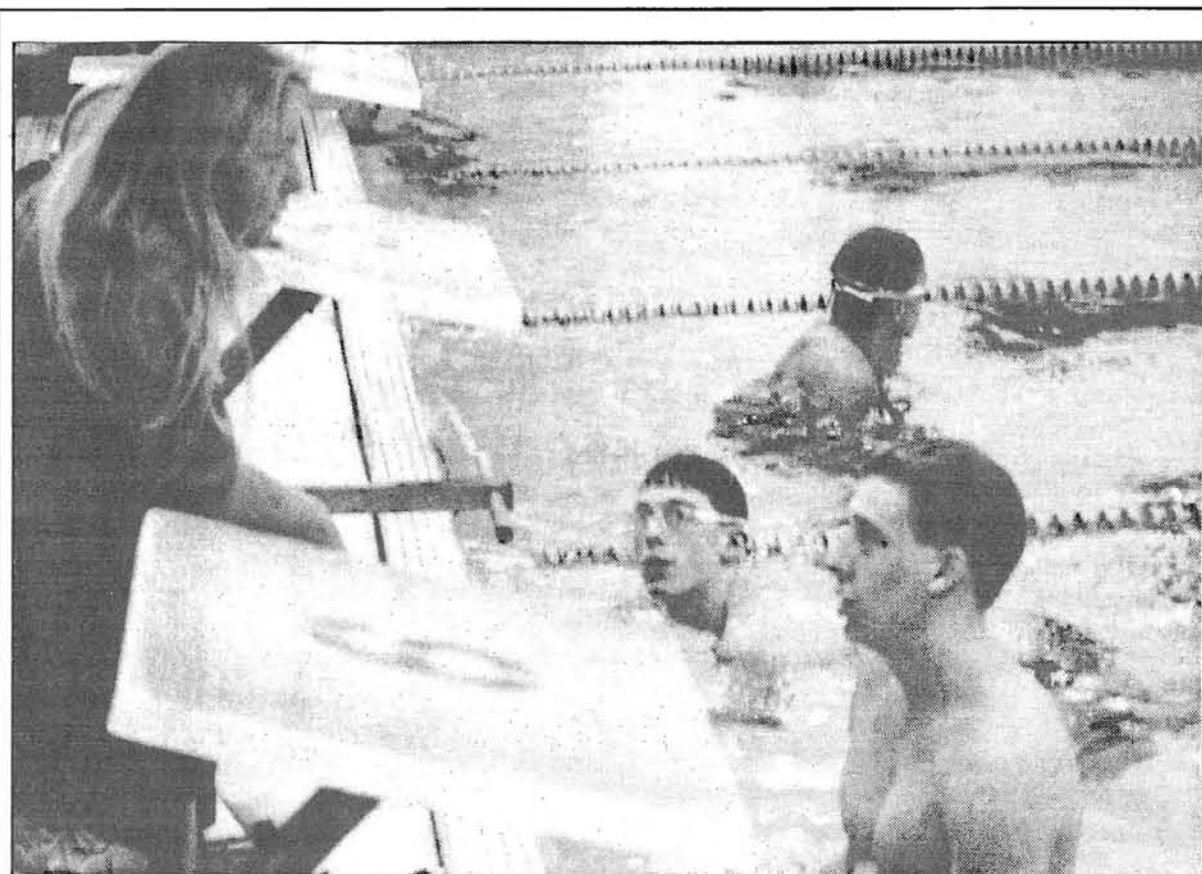


Photo: Dave Floyd

SPLISH-SPLASH: Swimming coach Mary Liston instructs sophomore swimmer Doug Wilding in the finer points of competing in Wilding's events, the freestyle and backstroke.

ton University, but Liston considers it to be like a home meet.

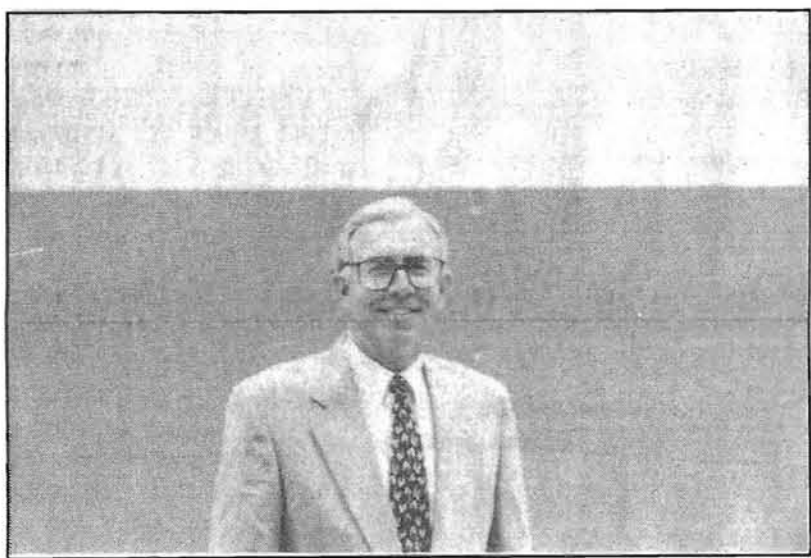
"We are always well supported at Washington University," Liston said. "It will be a showcase for us, especially for the high school kids who are con-

sidering coming to UM-St. Louis."

Mary Liston is looking forward to the NCAA Nationals, which is the last meet on the 1992-93 swimming schedule. "I'm confident that we'll be swimming well," Liston said. "That will

allow us to take a smaller group of swimmers."

The effort of the freshman and sophomores on the team this season has surprised Liston. "That bodes well for the future," she said.



Current File Photo

Rivermen head basketball coach Rich Meckfessel certainly has reason to smile after gaining his 400th career victory against Lindenwood on Dec. 9.

Meckfessel Gets 400 Victories

by Mike Hayes
Current sports reporter

When the horn sounded Dec. 9, 1992, the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team routed Lindenwood 102-54. Rivermen coach Rich Meckfessel shook hands with the opposing coach and walked off the court with victory number 400 in hand as a head coach.

Meckfessel, who is also the UM-St. Louis interim Athletic Director, has been at the helm of the Rivermen for 10 years now, or as Meckfessel was quick to point out, "10 years and four months." Before arriving in 1982, the Beaumont High graduate coached at Morris Harvey College in Charleston, West Virginia.

What kind of significance does 400 victories have for the St. Louis native? "It means I've been able to coach for a long time and I enjoy doing it," Meckfessel said. "Not many people get to do what they enjoy for their whole life. It also means I've had a lot of good players."

Meckfessel has a career record of 404-306, with a 153-138 mark at UM-St. Louis.

Although Meckfessel still carries the same enthusiasm with him to each practice session and game, as he did in his first season as a head coach back in 1965 he has continued to mature and evolve.

"I've tried to deal with players on a one to one level more over the years. I've become more flexible," Meckfessel said. "As I've seen my own children grow up I have become a little more understanding of problems 18-20 year olds go through."

As far as a basketball philosophy, Meckfessel hasn't wavered in his beliefs much over the years. He said, "If you can get a team to play hard at the defensive end and smart on the offensive end things are pretty

simple." He added, "Today coaches have to be committed to the three-point field goal and play good defense."

With 25 years of experience and 400 wins as a head coach, many would call that a career and go fishing, but Meckfessel, 54, isn't eager to hang it up just yet.

"I'd like to coach here as long as I feel productive and enjoy what I'm doing. I think I can squeeze out a few more years," Meckfessel said. But he added, "Things happen and opportunities come up. You have to take advantage of those opportunities, but I'm happy now."

Throughout his career, Meckfessel has received numerous accolades, but he considers his 1987-88 Rivermen squad that made it to the final 16 of the NCAA Division II tournament and his '90-'91 team that went 22-6 to be his greatest accomplishments at UM-St. Louis.

"We've had some pretty good players come through here," Meckfessel said.

He mentioned Dwayne Young, a graduate student at Duke, Tom Smith, now attending law school at St. Louis University, and four of whom are now local area high school coaches. Chris Pilz-Salem, Derek Thomas-C.B.C., Richard Hamilton-Roosevelt, and Bob McCormick-Ladue.

After all these years, what continues to drive Rich Meckfessel?

"I enjoy working with young men. The challenge of every year starting from scratch and putting together as good as a team as we can. I also enjoy trying to keep us competitive in the MIAA (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association), an environment where we don't have the resources that most other schools have."

Basketball Rivermen Receive Key Contributions From Players

by Mike Hayes
Current sports reporter

Missouri-Rolla sprinted out and grabbed the early conference lead in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association race with an 86-65 defeat of UM-St. Louis at Rolla.

The Miners were led by Lutheran North grad and St. Louis native Billy Jolly who lit the scoreboard up for 26 points and was five of seven from three point range.

The Rivermen were plagued by the high pressure defense of the Miners

by committing fifteen turnovers in the first half, and falling behind 47-28 at intermission.

"Rolla get after teams harder than any we've played this year. We knew that coming in, but didn't respond well," Rivermen coach Rich Meckfessel said.

The Rivermen surged back in the second half cutting the Miners' lead to 57-49 with twelve minutes remaining, but that is as close as they would get.

"I thought we were back in the game. We expended a tremendous amount of energy to come back and then Jolly beat his man and hit a really tough shot over Darren Hill," Meckfessel said.

Moments later with the Miners' lead at 61-51 Rolla's Chris Dawson stepped up and buried a three-pointer to push the margin to thirteen. From that point on the Miners forged ahead.

"Those two shots did us in," Meckfessel said.

A win on the road against one of the elite teams in the conference would've been a big plus for the Rivermen, but Meckfessel stated, "It was a road game. It's not going to affect us very much," Meckfessel stated. "We played a good team and we need to learn from it and bounce back."

Forward Darren "Dunk" Hill paced the Rivermen with 16 points and 10 rebounds while freshman Lawndale Thomas posted a career high 15 points.

"Jermaine Morris played a solid game and Smokey Evans along with LaVon Kincaid did a good job in our comeback," Meckfessel said.

With the loss the Rivermen fell to 7-5 overall and 2-1 in the conference.

Rolla will make the trek to the Mark Twain Building for a rematch on Wednesday February 3, 1993 and coach Meckfessel looks forward to it.

"We're going to have some special stuff for them when they come here where our chances are enhanced," Meckfessel said.

Four days before the Rolla game the Rivermen rung up an impressive 81-67 victory over Northeast Missouri State on a snowy Saturday night at the Pershing Arena in Kirksville, MO.

"We shot well and played well. We handled them easier than anybody they've played against except for the two Division I teams they played," Meckfessel said.

Senior guard Steve Roder was hot from three-point land, connecting on five of nine and had a game-high 19 points.

After a week-end battle at Emporia State the Rivermen return home to scuffle with Southwest Baptist on Wednesday Jan. 20 and Missouri Southern on Saturday, Jan. 23. Both games are conference matchups.

Southwest Baptist raced to a 10-0 start this season and were on the verge of cracking the Division II top 20 rankings before being succumbed in their conference opener. Presently they stand at 11-1 and 2-1 in the MIAA.

In last week's *Current*, Rivermen basketball player Scott Crawford was mistakenly identified as Steve Crawford. The *Current* regrets the error.

Former Player Jordan Returns To Assist Riverwomen

by Cory Schroeder
associate sports editor

Victor Jordan has turned in his jersey for a three piece suit and his ball for a playbook.

Jordan, 28, is the assistant coach of the UM-St. Louis women's basketball squad. Tammy Wilson, who had been head coach Bobbi Morse's assistant since the beginning of her tenure, left during the summer to pursue personal affairs. This left the squad, about to begin practices, minus an assistant coach. Jordan, who had done scorekeeping for the team, was snatched up by Morse and given a place next to her on the bench.

"He knows the game," said Morse.

Riverwomen Return Home

by Cory Schroeder
associate sports editor

Last season, the UM-St. Louis women's basketball team were definitely road-kill, with a 1-14 record at away games. The hex has already been broken with the Riverwomen already winning three games away from the cozy confines of the Mark Twain Building this season.

After blowing out Lincoln (Jan. 6) at home, the Riverwomen traveled to Kirksville to wreak more destruction on the Northeast Missouri State Bearkittens. The Riverwomen roared and the kittens meowed, and the result was 67-49 UM-St. Louis. Senior forward Liz Squibb led a balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Taking care of the ball was a priority. The Riverwomen only turned the ball over 13 times, a season low.

"We're gaining maturity with ball handling," said head coach Bobbi Morse. "If we could keep the turnovers at that level for the rest of the season, we'd be in good shape."

As the season goes on, a member of the Riverwomen bench has stepped up and contributed to each game. It was Rhonda Patterson's turn, as she added eight points and seven rebounds against the Bearkittens.

"She's doing a great job," said Morse. "Despite her ankle which has been bothering her."

The next stop was the University of Missouri-Rolla (Jan. 13). The bus pulled around and the Riverwomen were feeling confident, with two consecutive victories. Topgunner, junior forward Nancy Hesemann was ready for action after missing two games because of a stress fracture to her foot.

"My foot felt fine during the

game," Hesemann said. "It was very sore the next day."

Someone should have left the bus motor running as UM-St. Louis was overcome 83-72. The Riverwomen were only down by two points with 4:44 to go in the second half, but the Lady Miners went on a 10-0 run to stay ahead for good.

"We fought right back in it to within striking distance," said Morse. "But their full court press disrupted our offense."

The Riverwomen matched the Lady Miners in every statistical category, including rebounds, turnovers, and three point field goals made. So what was the deciding factor?

"The difference was they shot 52 percent from the field and we shot 40 percent," Morse said.

The end result was marred, but Squibb, the Riverwomen's top scorer, had her best game of the season, registering 21 points on 10-of-16 shooting.

"I had a very bad practice, but coach Jordan said that would mean I would have a good game," said Squibb. "I guess he was right."

Good news part two: Hesemann returned and it was if she was never injured at all, scoring 11 points and sinking two three pointers. Sophomore center, Connie Gillam, continues to be a force inside scoring 14 points on seven of 11 shooting.

Traveling lag will continue as the Riverwomen venture to Emporia, Kan. to take on the Hornets.

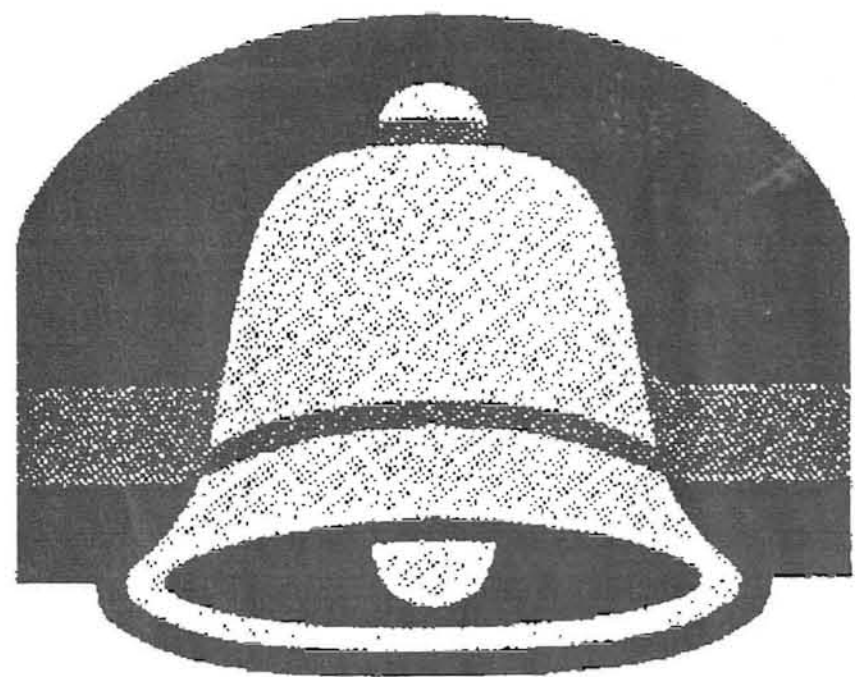
"We match up well with them," said Morse. "They're young inside and we're more experienced."

A two game homestand will be kicked off Jan. 20 against Southwest Baptist at 5:30 p.m. followed by a contest with Missouri Southern Jan. 23 also at 5:30 p.m.



Victor Jordan

See JORDAN, page 6



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