

3-18-1996

## Current, March 18, 1996

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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### Recommended Citation

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<http://irl.umsl.edu/current1990s/202>

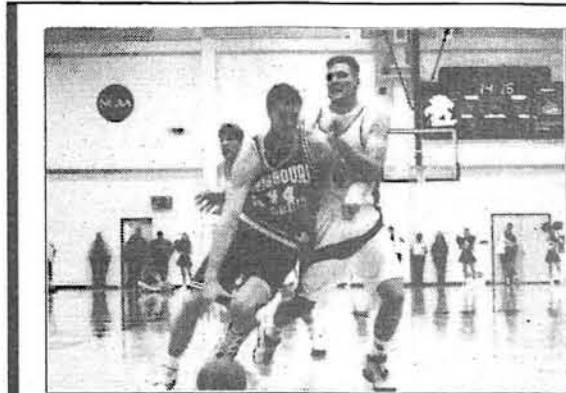
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# The CURRENT

Issue 852

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 18, 1996



Who got the Dunkin'  
Donut awards for mens  
basketball?  
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## EDITORIAL

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## Suspect arrested for alleged campus assaults

by Susan Benton  
of The Current staff

Campus police arrested a man  
on March 5 suspected of assault-  
ing two female UM-St. Louis stu-  
dents last month.

Kenneth Heard, 30, was ar-

rested on two counts of third de-  
gree misdemeanor assault and is  
currently awaiting arraignment at  
the St. Louis county jail in Ches-  
terfield, Mo. He was unable to  
post the \$1,000 bond that was set.

Heard faces a maximum pen-  
alty of one year in jail and a

\$1,000 fine.

A UM-Rolla woman, who is  
taking extension courses at UM-  
St. Louis, identified Heard as the  
same man who attacked her in  
Parking Lot "F" on February 13.

Heard was also identified in  
another line up by a woman who

was allegedly assaulted on cam-  
pus Feb. 25. In that incident, three  
UM-St. Louis students who were  
walking in front of the Thomas  
Jefferson Library at 7:36 p.m. A  
man reportedly approached the  
students, mumbled something,  
punched one woman in the face

and kept walking.

The woman suffered a small  
abrasion on the inside of her lip.  
One of the witnesses identified  
the man, and he was arrested on  
the Wednesday following the in-  
cident.

Detective Jim Huelsing of the

campus police department said  
Heard's apprehension was a col-  
laborative effort.

"The quick arrest resulted  
from great cooperation between  
the victims, witnesses and the  
police department," Huelsing  
said.

## WISH YOU WERE THERE?



Photo: Susan Benton

While most UM-St. Louis students stayed in town during spring break, Jen Erickson, a senior  
majoring in special education, hit the beach in Daytona for a few days.

## Custodian claims injury from clean up of Mark Twain

by Eric Thomas  
of The Current staff

The mold and mildew problem in  
the showers of the Mark Twain build-  
ing Feb. 15 did not end with the re-  
opening of the facilities. A UM-St.  
Louis custodian was allegedly in-  
jured by the acids in the cleaning  
compound.

The compound, a porcelain and  
shower cleaner, contains phosphoric  
acid. Users are required to wear pro-  
tective clothing: rubber aprons,

gloves, boots, mask and goggles.  
According to one member of the clean  
up crew, the only protective gear pro-  
vided to the workers were cotton and  
thin latex surgical gloves.

James Hickerson, Administrator  
of Environmental Health and Safety,  
became aware of the situation the  
following day.

"I had no idea of the strength of  
cleaner," Hickerson said. "After read-  
ing the material data safety sheet, I  
became aware of the protection mea-  
sures necessary for the job."

Following the initial cleaning ef-  
fort, one of the custodians who spoke  
with News Channel 30 was issued a  
memo ordering him to return to the  
showers and scrub the poles.

"My hands and feet are now a  
flaking, oozy mess," the custodian,  
who wishes to be named as Sam,  
said. "It's terrible what has been done  
to me. The specialist explained that I

SEE CUSTODIAN

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## Student Government Association passes resolution for gay rights

by Michael O'Brian  
of The Current staff

The Student Government  
Association passed a resolu-  
tion intended to persuade the  
UM-system to add a sexual ori-  
entation category to the non-  
discrimination clause during its  
March 5 meeting.

"We're no longer in this fight  
alone," said SGA President  
Beth Titlow. "Now we're trying  
to exert some general pres-  
sure on the Board of Curators."

The resolution will become  
part of the SGA by-laws in the  
next SGA meeting. With its  
passing, the SGA officially re-  
cognizes the category within its  
own system. The SGA has  
drafted an official resolution that  
it is asking faculty and staff  
councils to consider as well.

The resolution cites reasons  
why the UM-system should  
comply with this demand. It  
states:

"The UM mission statement  
holds that the University is com-  
mitted to the principles of ac-  
ademic freedom, equal oppor-  
tunity, diversity and to protecting  
the search for truth and its open  
expression."

Municipalities in St. Louis,  
Columbia and Kansas city have  
passed local legislation protect-  
ing gay and bisexual citizens,

several federal ex-  
ecutive agencies  
have issued execu-  
tive orders forbidding  
sexual orientation  
discrimination, and  
that uncensored acts  
of homophobia rob  
people of the civil  
rights.

In other news,  
Titlow announced  
SGA elections will be  
held April 15-18.  
There will be four poll-  
ing booths, but the  
locations have not  
been announced.  
The SGA executive  
officers will be  
elected during this  
general election.

The OxFam Din-  
ing Hall Fast will be  
held this Wednesday. Students  
and staff can sign up for this event  
in the University Center Lobby  
Monday and Tuesday, March 18  
and 19.

A Spring Dance will be held  
April 13 at the Stouffer Renais-  
sance Hotel 9801 Natural Bridge  
at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available  
in the SGA office at 262 Univer-  
sity Center.

The assembly was asked to  
consider joining the Associated  
Students of University of Missouri  
(ASUM); a lobbying group made

up of students from the three  
other campuses of the UM-sys-  
tem. If UM-St. Louis becomes a  
member, students would re-  
present this school on legislative  
issues that impact this campus  
as well as the UM-system. In  
order to become a member  
school, the SGA will have to  
pass a student fee to pay a  
membership fee. The Univer-  
sity is being asked to join ASUM  
for one year at a reduced cost  
to weigh the benefits of the or-  
ganization.



President Beth Titlow

## March marks Women's History Month

by Wendy Jeffries  
of The Current staff

March came in like a lion,  
and brought with it Women's  
History Month; however, the  
March 4 kickoff reception  
sounded more like a lamb.

This year's national theme  
for Women's History Month is  
"See History in a New Way."  
The few students who stopped  
by the University Center Lobby  
were greeted with cookies,  
punch and an exhibit illustrat-  
ing famous women in history.

The on-campus events for  
Women's History Month are  
sponsored by the Office of  
Equal Opportunity, the Black  
Studies Program, the Institute  
for Women's and Gender Stud-  
ies, and the Women's Center.

Recognition of Women's  
History Month continued March  
8 with a lecture titled, "Invest-

ing in Your Future." The lecture  
included information on per-  
sonal financial security, estate  
planning, retirement, and so-  
cial security.

On March 11, members of  
the organization UNITE held a  
reception and exhibit in Univer-  
sity Center. UNITE stands for  
the Union of Needle trades, In-  
dustrial and Textiles Employees.

Upcoming Women's His-  
tory Month programs will fea-  
ture lunch-time brown bag dis-  
cussions on working conditions  
which will be held on Tuesday,  
March 19 from noon to 1 p.m.  
in 229 J.C. Penney and again  
on the following day at the same  
time and location. An additional  
location will be offered on South  
Campus in 209 Marillac Hall for

SEE MONTH

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## SGA presidential candidates emerge for race

by Scott Lamar  
of The Current staff

Although four students applied  
for Student Government Associa-  
tion (SGA) president, only two at-  
tended a mandatory meeting Fri-  
day, March 8 in the J.C. Penney  
Building.

The election next month will pit  
Bob Fritchey and Ron Chamberlain  
against each other for student body  
president.

Fritchey presently serves as par-  
liamentarian at SGA meetings. He  
is also the managing editor of  
LitMag. Chamberlain is a member  
of the formerly recognized Pi Kappa  
Alpha fraternity.

Tonya Hutchinson, who ran last  
year, and Mark Harris filled out the  
paperwork, but they failed to show  
up at the meeting. Election Chair-  
man Rene Cuevas said they will be  
prohibited from running unless they  
can prove that circumstances be-  
yond their control prevented their  
attendance.

Angela Hornaday, a member of  
the University Program Board, ap-  
plied for SGA vice president. She  
will run on a ticket with Fritchey.

No one has expressed an inter-  
est in the comptroller position.  
Cuevas said the meeting was sched-  
uled mainly so that the candidates  
could become familiar with one  
another.

"It's just a get-to-know-you type  
of meeting," Cuevas said. "It's very  
informal."

Cuevas distributed information  
containing campaign rules and regu-  
lations. Among other things, Cuevas  
said candidates may not use sidewalk  
chalk or place materials in classrooms,  
on cars, or anywhere else except des-  
ignated bulletin boards.

Although the deadline for all  
SGA executive positions is over,  
the deadline for those interested in  
running for an assembly represen-  
tative seat was extended until March  
22.

The election will be held April  
15-18.

Bob Fritchey  
candidate for SGA president  
currently active as SGA  
parliamentarian and managing editor  
of LitMag



Ron Chamberlain  
candidate for SGA president  
currently active as member of  
formerly recognized Pi Kappa Alpha  
fraternity



Angela Hornaday  
candidate for SGA vice president  
currently active as member of  
University Program Board





## Sun-baked and ready to cook

by Michael O'Brian  
of The Current staff

To a graduating senior, the classes, after spring break are the homestretch.

As I move into this new phase of my life, I find that I am not incredibly confident about the opportunities that supposedly are going to be available to me as I step into the world of the college graduate. What I do feel is a lot of anxiety and fear.

Life is not a segmented series of events, but rather all events occurring constantly at the same time. There is no division between student and graduate, but rather a continuum where the student becomes recognized for having completed a task. Learning has been ongoing, and relations in the real world have been continual.

So now, I bookmark my position. Everyone around me says that I'm doing a great job. Still internally, I struggle through a relationship with my girlfriend as we attempt to conquer our mounting debts. I fight to maintain relationships with people who are friends and contacts outside of the University. I never seem to be able to handle my family situations properly, and I need to move to a bigger place and buy another vehicle.

As I try to budget my time (something I don't do particularly well), I ask myself how can I accomplish all these things? Graduating from college will not relieve any of my responsibilities. I will have to get another job, and I will have to start to tackle the mortgage I have put on my mind thanks to student loans.

I will no longer be able to live in my current income bracket. I am graduating into new time constraints and new responsibilities, but I have yet to conquer my problems at hand. I'm searching for a balance between other's expectations and what I am capable of doing. That is my answer, and it is my path.

All lessons are learned from living. Experiencing and applying book knowledge to our lives through limited understanding is the same as living through experiences first hand to learn from our mistakes. Life is a metaphysical mystery.

Every moment builds two in the future. If I don't do something today,

I will have to do it tomorrow and pay the consequence for not doing it before. Possibly something else will be put off which will only reappear further down the road. Like running through a blind maze, I'm trying to construct a future while experiencing the present.

The point I'm trying to make is that now is the time to prepare yourself, and the best way to prepare is to do what you have to do now. Come

back from spring break with a renewed vigor so that you can set your grades which will affect the classes you will take in the future. This will do nothing to alleviate fears of tomorrow, because tomorrow there will be a whole new set of things for you to

worry about. Proper planning can put you in position for a higher end.

The house is built from the foundation up. Knowledge is the accrual of experience. The future is constructed from the past.

Fear is good. It keeps us attentive and driven with purpose. Uncertainty is the spice of life. If we knew what was coming, we would never be excited when it got here, nor would we cherish our struggle to attain it.

Life is a train with an open ticket. Looking forward to the next stop, I wonder what it will be like. Still, I know that there will be work to do and failures to experience.

**Fear is good. It keeps us attentive and driven with purpose.**

A diploma may open doors, but those doors will close if I am not ready to assume responsibility. A college education will not make life easier. It will probably make life harder, but the taste of success will be sweet.

A professor once told me that obituaries are the hardest stories to write because you have to capture the essence of a person's life. I'm trying to make mine easier by constructing a vibrant past. That past is only as good as the present that I live it in, and the future is a vast playground.

Good luck through the rest of the year, and make your time count now.



## DON'T HOW EVENTS BECOME REALITIES ON THE CAMPUS OF UM-ST. LOUIS

- STEP 1 -  
STUDENTS GENERATE IDEA



- STEP 2 -  
STUDENTS ORGANIZE EVENT



- STEP 3 -  
EVENT CANCELLED BY GRUMPY ADMINISTRATORS



## The library isn't so bad with a little help

by Scott Lamar  
of The Current staff

For many students, coming back from Spring Break means having to start on the dreaded research paper(s). However, a strong knowledge of the library is something that few students possess.

Beyond walking into TJ or Ward E. Barnes Library, most students have no clue as to where to start their search. Some are intimidated at first sight of the textbooks and scholarly journals.

Those who are unsure of what they are doing usually find themselves entrenched in a difficult, time-consuming process that still may not lead them to what they need.

Because the library is such a menacing place, many classes take field trips there. This quick once-over does absolutely no good.

Students cannot expect to remem-

ber much when they have to stand on their tiptoes with 20 or more of their coughing, sneezing and whispering classmates as the librarian whizzes through a lesson on using

InfoTrac. It is a futile effort which leaves an unfavorable impression of the library in many students.

Fortunately, there are people who can save you and more important, who can show you how to use the library in ways you

never dreamed possible: the reference librarians.

Unknown to many students, is an enlightened path that will that journal article hidden in the TJL basement. It is a research consultation.

I recently discovered it after an instructor suggested it. A research consultation entails a one-on-one meeting with a reference librarian who helps point you in the right direction to start your search.

Students cannot run up to the desk

at the last minute and ask for one. First, they must fill out a form. Then a time will be scheduled for some date in the future (usually about a week later).

A designated reference librarian will then show you how to find items relevant to your topic using the various electronic databases as well as indexes and abstracts.

The best thing about a research consultation it is that you don't learn by watching, you learn by doing.

If you are like a lot of people, you could sit and watch someone demonstrate how to use a piece of equipment a jillion times, but until you can jump in and paw at it yourself, you'll never get the gist of it.

Although the librarian is extremely helpful, students must have at least some idea of what they are looking for. Even better, students should have already begun some sort of search so that the librarian doesn't think they're a lazy and trying to leech a free ride.

The consultation only lasts about 45 minutes, which is well worth the

time considering many students spend hours chasing their tail. When it's over, students will have a huge jump on their research projects. After all, obtaining the research is half the battle.

Furthermore, they may come away with the feeling that doing research can actually be fun. Yes, fun.

Occasionally, I have heard students say that they liked doing research. At first, I thought they were nerdy bookworms. But in hindsight, I see that a certain degree of satisfaction can come from locating a select number of documents from a sea of information. It also takes off some of the stress of having to collect beaucoup sources for that moose of a paper(s) that is due at the end of the term.

Students can't be expected to keep up the rapidly changing technology in the library from a distracting visit with their freshmen composition class. They can, however, receive quality, individual instruction that may change their entire outlook about doing library research.

## Letters to the Editor

### Fraternity brother defends Pike president

When I first began reading "Grecian formula for failure" The Current Issue 851, I really enjoyed and even agreed with the opinions and viewpoints expressed. However, Michael O'Brian concluded that "Bryan Billy, president of the Pikes, is one of the worst student leaders I've seen at this University." This opinion could be no further from the truth.

I have been a member of Pi Kappa Alpha since 1993. Our organization has had five presidents since that time, and every one of them has been a great student leader, including and especially Billy. Over the past three years these men have led our organi-

zation to be one of the more active groups at UM-St. Louis, to become the largest fraternity on campus, to win a Greek Week championship, and to inculcate the high ideals of brotherhood in each individual member.

As an active member, I can assure you, Mr. O'Brian, that we did elect the right man to be president of Pi Kappa Alpha. Billy has not shown a "lack of leadership" as you also claimed in your editorial. As a matter of fact, he has shown the authority and provided the leadership that is responsible for the much improved organization of our committee and officer systems within the fraternity.

He has also taken the initiative in implementing the new policies suggested by the University. With a number of structural and policy changes of such degree taking precedent in such a short amount of time, neither O'Brian nor the University should expect an immediate, flawless transition.

I was also disturbed to find that O'Brian felt as if Billy was "avoiding" the questions and comments at the meeting because an alumnus spoke on the organization's behalf. This also was a wrongly formed opinion. As our elected president, Billy does what the majority of the chapter decides is in our best interest. The

decision was made that a well respected alumnus of the University would probably be better testimony than that of the president of an organization which has already been prejudged. Billy was at the meeting to answer any questions directed to our organization, and he took the initiative over Doug Haldeman, our alumnus, to speak at times.

I assure, Mr. O'Brian, that Bryan Billy is our president not because he's popular, but because he "can do the job."

Mark Kenny  
Pi Kappa Alpha

### Student wants fraternities to give up funding

UM-St. Louis ought to get it's priorities straight. What are they? One: to provide its students with the quality education they need to get a job. Two: to pursue the truth through the championship of rigorous and innovative research.

By subsidizing drunkenness, our University not only ignores these goals, it actually opposes them.

Let there be no mistake. Fraternities such as Sigma Pi and the now-no-longer-recognized Pi Kappa Alpha have one function: to get students plastered, drunk, blitzed and three sheets to the wind. If their ostensive purpose is to help the community, then Vice Chancellor Lowe "Sandy" MacLean, the Student Senate and Chancellor

Blanche Touhill ought to make this so.

If they're sincere, disestablish all of them and form a social service organization. It could be called Students for a Better World. Then the students of UM-St. Louis could be sure that their money was going to a worthy cause, not to help underage kids get loopy on Satur-

day nights. Perhaps this centralization would result in lower tuition hikes.

How about it Sigma Pi and rest of you? I've thrown down the gauntlet; now pick it up.

Ronald S. Ribaudo  
Senior  
Philosophy

The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

# The Current

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The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request by contacting The Current's advertising office at (314) 516-5316. Space reservations for advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. the Wednesdays prior to publication.

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**We're on the Net baby!**  
See The Current's home page at  
<http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/current/current.html>





## The Column a generic offering



by Jill Barrett  
of The Current staff

The March 6 issue of the Riverfront Times, in the section "News of the Weird," mentions the Norway Losers Rights Union. Apparently, this organization provides support for Norwegians who feel doomed to failure. As much as I would like to join a group whose philosophy I could wholeheartedly embrace, I don't think I could become a full-fledged loser. The closest I could come would be by joining the 7,000 loser-sympathizers.

First of all, I'm not Norwegian, and it is the Norway Losers Rights Union. Norwegian losers must be a breed apart from the run-of-the-mill American losers if they warrant their own group.

More important, though, I disagree with one of the organization's basic tenets. You see, I don't feel doomed to failure. Failure is merely one of my options. I belong to the school of thought that preaches that life is much easier the lower everyone else's expectations are of you. If I were to have a philosophy of life (which I don't, because it involves far too much planning), it would be the following: *Incompetence means you'll never be asked to repeat the task.*

Don't knock it. It got me through childhood; I fully expect it to carry me through adulthood as well. ("Yeah, sure, Mom. I'll do the dishes, if you don't mind the dog licking them clean.") A tad bit cynical? Perhaps. I think, though, that I am not the only one who has a slightly jaded approach to life.

In fact, I think there are enough of us to form a national organization. We could call it The Association of Brooding Misanthropes and Assorted Cynics (TAB-MAC for short) or something along that line. Now, this is my kind of group.

Members would never have to sit through those boring organizational meetings. Misanthropes, by definition, hate or distrust people, so they wouldn't come. The cynics would believe that the only purpose of such meetings would be to keep them off the streets; certainly nothing would ever be accomplished at one. So they wouldn't come either. The association wouldn't have to maintain a facade of organization and the members wouldn't have to keep creating excuses for missing the meetings. Everyone would be happy (for cynics and misanthropes, anyway).

Even though the association would have no organizational meetings, it would sponsor monthly angst gatherings. These angst-fests would provide members the chance to grapple with life's larger questions in the company of like-minded individuals. This would be a community service as well; non-misanthropes would be spared the endless pondering of their angst-filled friends. For those members who couldn't get out of bed to attend these gatherings, they would get a phone list so that when the urge struck them, they could call someone's answering machine and leave long, rambling messages about their existential agony without actually having to talk to anybody.

Also, the group could teach neophytes the ways of neurotic misanthropes. New members would be schooled in the uniform of a brooder: basic black, mixed with shades of dark gray for more festive occasions. (At conventions, members could even wear name tags: "Hi! My name is... none of your damn business"). Apprentice misanthropes could attend workshops on how to sneer properly. As anyone knows, it is essential to have a sneer that is guaranteed to bring any social exchange to a screeching halt. That is the hallmark of the true misanthropes.

Now that I think about it, I would have a problem belonging to the group. It's full of

# HUNGER a WaR WEEK at UM-St. Louis

by Jill Barrett  
of The Current staff

It is hard to understand the realities of world hunger when a Schnuck's Market is just a short drive away. Hunger is not limited to non-industrialized countries, either. Many people in the St. Louis area need emergency services of food and clothing.

In an effort to dramatize the disparities of world resources and to raise funds to help the hungry, UM-St. Louis is sponsoring Hunger Awareness Week.

Activities for Hunger Awareness

Week start today and run through the end of the week, March 22. Students and staff members can donate canned goods throughout the week at various locations on campus, or they can sign up for the Hunger Banquet and Dining Hall Fast.

For the Dining Hall Fast, students, faculty and staff will be asked to eat smaller portions of their meals and donate the money they save to Oxfam America. Collection baskets will be at cash registers in the dining hall.

At the Hunger Banquet, participants will see first hand the inequities

of food distribution. Diners will be divided randomly into three groups. The First-World group, roughly 15 percent of the diners, will have a three-course meal served to them on china and glassware. Another 25 percent of the diners representing the Second-World, will eat rice and beans. The remainder of the diners will receive only rice and a cup of water.

Money raised and food collected will go to Oxfam America and the St. Jane Center in Normandy. Oxfam America is a nonprofit international agency that funds self-help develop-



Photo: Monica Senecal

Betty Chitwood has worked hard to make the premiere Hunger Awareness Week at UM-St. Louis a success.

ment and disaster relief in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The St. Jane Center is one of eight neighborhood outreach centers run by Catholic Community Services. It assists families in need with food,

clothing and utility payments.

Hunger Awareness Week activities are co-sponsored by the Student Government Association, University Meadows Apartment staff, The Current, and UM-St. Louis' campus ministries; the Wesley Foundation; the Baptist Student Union; and the Catholic Student Center.

Interested students, faculty and staff can sign up for the Hunger Banquet and Dining Hall Fast in the University Center Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Hunger Banquet takes place Thursday, March 21 in the Summit Lounge at two separate times, noon and 5 p.m. People can also donate canned goods throughout the week at 12 locations throughout campus.

## Calendar of Events

### — UM-St. Louis Hunger Banquet —

On Thursday, March 21, UM-St. Louis will host two Hunger Banquets on campus, one at noon and one at 5 p.m. A \$4 donation to Oxfam America will entitle the donor an unforgettable experience that demonstrates the distribution of food on planet Earth.

### — Canned Good Collection —

Canned good donations will be accepted Monday through Friday and can be deposited in the container placed throughout campus

### — Fasting at Underground —

Containers will be placed at each check-out station in the Underground from Monday through Thursday. The objective is for students/faculty/staff to fast from lunch for a day and donate the money they would have spent would spend to Oxfam America.

# UM-St. Louis student produces documentary on Bosnian refugees

by Jill Barrett  
of The Current staff

The problems in Bosnia hit closer to home than most of us realize. Farzad Wafapoor, a UM-St. Louis communications major, produced a documentary about the Bosnian refugees in the St. Louis area, and the local response to these refugees. "Plight of the Refugees: This Time We Know" examines the Bosnian community in St. Louis and highlights a program at UM-Columbia designed to train teachers still working in Sarajevo how to help children cope with the war.

Wafapoor's interest in refugees came naturally. "When somebody asks you 'Why did you do that?' you can't really explain why. I felt that I had to do something about it and it was just something reflexive," Wafapoor said. Wafapoor moved to St. Louis five years ago from Iran, and there he saw the problems refugees had firsthand.

"Iran has refugees from all over — Iraq, Kurdistan, and Somalia — and Iran allows them to stay," Wafapoor said. "I've seen these refugees, and I've seen how they suffer, especially families."

Wafapoor directed the documen-

tary, and co-wrote it along with student Chris Nesser. Nesser also hosted the video. Wafapoor worked with the UM-St. Louis

form of clothing and furniture, but it also acts as a support system for the refugees by giving them an environment where

studies that were cut short by the war. This program also helps to integrate students into the larger community.

Although higher education may have suffered, Wafapoor's documentary points out that it was only recently that the primary schools in Sarajevo closed. Previously, the schools remained open for the children. In an effort to help the children

cope with the war, UM-Columbia developed a seminar for Bosnian teachers, called "Teachers as Therapists."

Directed by Dr. Arshad Hussien, the program gives teachers the skills to provide therapy to their students in an attempt to minimize the adverse effects of the war on the children.

Wafapoor interviewed Professor Tank Obralic, director of the Bosnian Education Center in Sarajevo, who travelled through underground tunnels to reach the seminar.

Wafapoor's documentary has received attention from the public. An informational forum on the local network of humanitarian aid projects for Bosnian refugees featured "Plight of the Refugees" and Brazilian representative expressed interest in obtaining a copy for Brazilian television.

People interested in helping the Bosnian refugees can call 516-6858.

"The most effective thing that people can do in St. Louis is just be friends with the Bosnian refugees," Wafapoor says. "Go to their social gatherings, invite them to your homes. That helps a lot."

Copies of the documentary are available through the TV/Cinema Club. Interested people can contact the TV/Cinema Club by calling 516-6858 or through its Web page at <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/umsltv>.

**The most effective thing that people can do in St. Louis is just be friends with the Bosnian refugees.**  
**Farzad Wafapoor**

TV/Cinema Club to produce the film.

The documentary features the Bosnian Center in St. Louis, which is a gathering place for recent Bosnian immigrants and refugees. The Center provides help in the

they can celebrate their culture.

Another organization Wafapoor presents in the documentary is the Bosnian Student Project. This program provides Bosnian students a chance to complete

# 'Icons and Artifacts'

## An exhibition by Professor of Fine Arts Tom Patton

by John Jones  
of the Current Staff

Tom Patton is bringing the art of photography into the 21st century. As one of the first "digital artists" he is making quite a name for himself. His unique work is currently on display in the Gallery 210 of Lucas Hall.

"Icons and Artifacts" is a group of pictures that represent Patton's attempt to turn ordinary objects into powerful symbols of beauty. The method with which he does this is almost as interesting as the objects in his images. The pictures on display are not photographs, but are in fact, laser printed images. Patton uses a controversial technique of photo-

graphing his subjects and then digitalizing the pictures with an image scanner. Digitalization is the technique of converting normal pictures into information that can be read and manipulated by a computer. This allows the artist to alter the images much more easily than conventional photographs.

In the most notable part of this exhibition, Patton has attempted to assign meaning to ordinary objects by presenting them in the form of powerful religious symbol. He has scanned different aspects of one object and arranged the images in the form of a Christian cross. This was done on such commonplace items as match boxes, razor boxes and a baseball encyclope-

dia. The cross shape does, indeed, add to the beauty of the common objects represented.

Another part of the exhibition is Patton's "Beauty and the Grotesque: Cultural Cuisine." This is a collection of non-altered digital images of strange foods. Larger than life pictures of foods like tongue and blood sausage are humorously vulgar.



Tom Patton

Patton also has examples of his earlier "Rocks" work on display. The isolation of the stones depicted is somewhat unsettling. Like "Cultural Cuisine," these images are normal photographs that have been scanned and printed out via laser printer.

Patton's use of computer manipulation is clever, but not fancy. The resolution and quality of the images (300 to 400 dots per inch) enhance an object's fine detail.

# the UnderCURRENT

What's your favorite movie and why?



"12 Monkeys because it's psychologically challenging to understand the plot and it's very interesting."

— Jason Jones  
Freshman • Poli Sci

"Top Gun because I like the planes."

— Adam Stallman  
Freshman • Engineering



"The Muppet Movie because Kermit goes and follows his dreams on the other side of the rainbow."

— Tina Fanetti  
Junior • Physics

"Slapshot because it shows many different aspects of the game of hockey!"

— Lisa Lawry  
Sophomore • Elem Edu





# The Current Reviews

## Gren "Camp Grenada"

Gren's debut album "Camp Grenada" might foreshadow the emergence of the next pop/punk sensation. Lead singer and guitarist Brett White describes the band's sound as "the sound of your thumb being stuck in a door-jamb," and his explosive guitar-playing does reflect an intensity of a person in pain. Although the urgency of the band's sound is infectious when listening to one or two songs, the album becomes predictable and lacks enough variation to capture the listener's undivided attention.

The strength of the album lies in the lyrics and content of the songs. Some songs cover territory that is hardly new for rock songs (such as "Tripping the Life," a song about a drug trip), but "Bal-



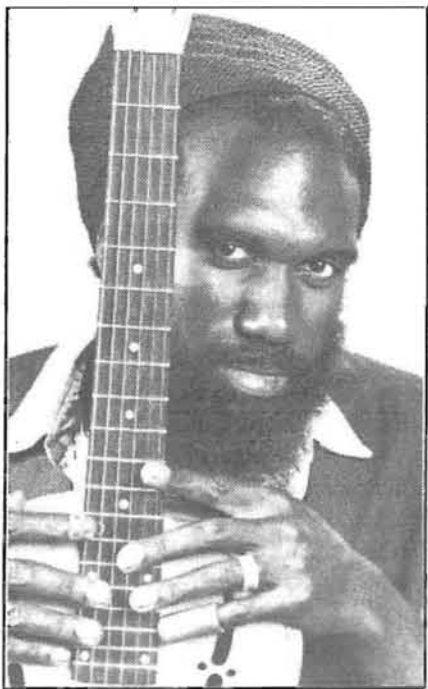
Brett White and Gren

let" speaks of a fresh topic. The juxtaposition of the lyrics  
*They seem so free and light and fluffy like a little bird*  
*That's what I want to do*  
with the hard-driving musical ac-

companiment reflects the band's sense of humor. Gren has the potential to evolve into a fine band if it develops a distinctive musical style.

— Jill Barrett

## Corey Harris "Between Midnight and Day"



Corey Harris

Corey Harris, a 26-year-old blues revivalist, will visit St. Louis later this week to celebrate the release of his debut recording "Between Midnight and Day."

The all-acoustic "Between Midnight and Day" is teaming with Harris' considerable talents as both a slide guitar player and as a vocalist. He moves effortlessly between traditional-sounding originals and numbers by such legends as Robert Johnson, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Son House and Blind Boy Fuller. While bending his guitars strings to their limit, Harris stomps and slaps out a rhythm that will move even the stoic to mark time with their feet. Great as his guitar playing is, it's Harris' vocals that invoke comparisons to the Delta legends of the '20s and

'30s.

Though his music and voice are mature beyond his years, Harris isn't without a juvenile sense of humor. He plays a kazoo on a couple of songs and makes it sound almost legitimate as a blues instrument.

It's somewhat odd yet refreshing to find a young black man who is so passionate about keeping the Delta blues tradition alive as Harris is. He will open for Ian Moore Friday evening at KSHE's Real Rock Cafe in Union Station. If you're a fan of acoustic blues and you can't make the show, not to worry, you can always go to the store and get "Between Midnight and Day."

— Michael J. Urness

Acoustic Blues

# FILM SPIN

## A MIDWINTER'S TALE

by Myles Shaw  
of The Current staff

Director Kenneth Branagh's "A Winter's Tale" is packed with more laughs than an entire season of "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

Billed as "The Spinal Tap for the Shakespearean set," this film is a witty tale of a hapless British theater troupe desperately preparing a play with too little time and almost no money. Branagh's cast is hilarious, and his direction is appropriately quick and wise. And though it's not for everyone, Branagh's black-and-white film is a comedic triumph that speaks to a sophisticated sense of humor.

Joe Harper (played by Michael Maloney) is an out-of-work actor about to give up on his entire life. In

a final attempt at success, he talks his agent (Joan Collins) into helping him finance a low-budget run of "Hamlet."

After a lengthy audition process featuring a slew of sorry thespians, Joe, who will direct and play the title role, settles on his cast of six. With only three weeks until the Christmas Eve opening, the group has a formidable challenge in readying this long play which boasts over 20 characters. They rehearse and live in a development-threatened and abandoned church in the tiny town of Hope, where the production will run.

The whole cast is marvelous and deserves credit for delivering this work in fine form. Still, two of the performers stand out.

Terry Du Bois (John Sessions) is to play Queen Gertrude, and a cheeky

queen he is. Sessions is wonderful in creating a talented and torn actor. His Terry is a gay father who is estranged from his son. He hides from his personal pain and professional struggles with unstoppable humor and wit. Thanks to Sessions' somehow subtle yet overbearing portrayal, Terry seems like a real person.

Equally notable is Richard Brinsley's skill as Henry Wakefield. The aging Henry comes off as a haughty snob, but he longs to connect with his fellow cast members. Wakefield's delivery is stingingly funny.

The goofy characters that round out the small cast ultimately make "A Midwinter's Tale" a real gas. Actors will love it, and fans of television's "Absolutely Fabulous" will adore it. Followers of Steven Segall and Sylvester Stallone just won't get it.

# A UM-St. Louis HISTORY LESSON

by Dierdre Oglesby  
of The Current staff

Students are often not aware of the history behind the UM-St. Louis campus. For example, the Ward E. Barnes Education Library is more than just a library; it is a memorial to the man responsible for developing UM-St. Louis into a branch of the state university system.

Barnes was born in Webster City, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State Teacher's College in 1928. Barnes became principle of the old Jefferson School that was part of the Normandy School District on Natural Bridge Road in 1931. He taught high school level science there for three years.

Barnes realized in his early years of teaching that a low percentage of graduating seniors

went on to obtain college degrees. Barnes initiated an advanced placement program in an effort to encourage higher learning among his students. This program was in conjunction with UM-St. Louis and high school seniors could earn as many as 20 college credits in English, mathematics, science and social studies.

In 1957, the directors of the Bellerive Country Club put their 128 acres up for sale for the price of \$1.3 million. Barnes, working with the Board of Education, established a junior college run by the City of St. Louis and open only to its residents. The Board of Education settled a bond issue that would cover costs of converting the country club into a classroom. Barnes dealt with the legislative

problems of the transaction.

During the school year 1961-62, President of UM-Columbia Elmer Ellis began discussions about making the Missouri University Normandy Residence Center (which is what the college was called) into a branch of the University of Missouri. And UM-St. Louis was created.

Barnes served 30 years as principal, superintendent, and member of the Board of Trustees. In the 1979-1980 school year, the University formed a Chancellor's Council; a representative advisory board similar to the Board of Trustees at the University of Kansas. Barnes was asked to serve on this board. A memorial service dedicated to Barnes was held on December 23, 1993.

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Sidney Savan, Lecturer in the Communication Department of UM-St. Louis and consultant to numerous Senatorial and Congressional campaign organizations.

The meeting will be held at the home of Prof. Richard Pacelle, 8674 Delmar Blvd., Apt. #2 E, in University City. Maps are available in the Political Science Office, 347 SSB.

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The PSA is a campus organization that aims to bring students and faculty to discuss "the great issues of the day" in an informal setting. Meetings are open to all members of the UM-St. Louis community. Come join us for a lively debate, over refreshments, on subjects of local, national, and international importance.



## OFF THE WALL



by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

The men's basketball team had a few great individual efforts this season. The team finished with a 15-13 record, but there are several players on the team who could grab post-season awards.

Even if they don't win any other awards, the following players have won: The Dunkin Donuts awards for this season.

**MVP**  
**Eric Bickel**

Bickel was the big man this program needed. He came here after two seasons at Saint Louis University and made an immediate impact.

The injury bug loomed for most of this season for Bickel. That hurt his stats which finished at 15.2 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. His stats would have been much higher had he not been hurt.

The most amazing thing about Bickel is that he led or tied for the team high scorer in 13 of the team's 28 games. The team would have had big problems if Bickel had not come to UM-St. Louis. His presence will be missed next season.

**Most Improved**  
**Rodney Hawthorne**

Hawthorne became the high-impact scorer and rebounder everyone said he would be.

He found his groove midway through the season and didn't let up until he fouled out in the season finale against Rolla. When he came through he made it big. From his block in the play-off battle in the waning minutes against Missouri Western to his 26 point scoring effort against Southwest Baptist, Hawthorne was the man for this team.

With the loss of seniors Scott Crawford, Bickel, Lawndale Thomas, Mark Lash and Dave Schroll it will be up with Hawthorne to help lead the team next season.

**Senior of The Year**  
**Lawndale Thomas**

Throughout the season Thomas came through for the team. He ran the team's offense as the starting point guard. He racked up 104 assists this season in route to helping the team to a 15-13 record.

Thomas was a four year member of the basketball squad and steadily improved each season. Even though he started off slow his freshman season, he did find his groove in his senior year when he averaged 12 points per game.

His hard work in the back-court will be missed by the program.

**The out look for next season:**

The Rivermen will be hard pressed to replace the six seniors that they lost. But with the rest of the squad returning, and redshirts Melvin "Melly Mel" Willey, Brian Clemons, and Ken Grasse joining the squad, the team looks like a team that will compete again next season.

Let's just hope they can hold onto a lead.

# Swim program sunk by Athletic Board

by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

The Swim program has been dropped at UM-St. Louis due to the cost of improving the program.

The Athletic Department is preparing for a conference change this summer. They will leave the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) and join the Great Lakes Valley Conference. With the move, UM-St. Louis developed the outlook of wanting to be competitive in all of their varsity sports.

"One of the things we looked at was that each team should have the

opportunity to do well," said UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Pat Dolan. "Looking at swimming, it seemed to create a good environment for them to do well it would cost a large sum of money."

"Many of the other sports are under funded. It is now a matter of where we can beef the rest of them up."

The cost for the program was \$20,000 per season. That included the coaches salary, scholarships and the cost of running the team. To upgrade the program, Dolan said, would have required hiring a full-time coach (former coach Scott Caron was part time) and doubling

or tripling the budget for the the program.

"It became a little cost prohibitive because there is no new money for athletics as far as large amounts," Dolan said. "Also, it is not a league sport, so should we take money from the league sports and reallocate it to non-league sports?"

That was a question that the Athletic Committee, the committee that oversees the operation of the UM-St. Louis Athletic Department, had to consider. They came to their decision in late January, it was announced March 6.

Dropping the program ends a 25-year run of swimming at UM-

St. Louis. It became a varsity sport in 1971.

"It's very disappointing, it's always very difficult to terminate a sport," Dolan said. "The hardest part is for the student athletes. They are the ones who have given their heart and soul for a program. It's a very unfortunate situation."

The swim team was obviously shaken by the announcement.

"I think the decision stinks to high heavens," said swimmer Matt Wiesehan. "The cost per credit hour keeps going up at this school and they're short of money?"

"The program was good PR for the school. The people involved in

swimming are usually good students and good people. I think it was a poor decision."

"The current sports we are left with all compete in the GLVC," Dolan said. "Now it is a matter of us becoming a competitive presence in the sports that we have."

Though the squad finished 0-6 in meets this season, the swimmers gained valuable experience under Caron. They expected to add several swimmers and make more of an impact in their competitions next season.

"Next year things were going to change," Wiesehan said. "Things were going to be better."

## Basketball season a disappointment despite good conference showing

by Ken Dunkin  
of The Current staff

It was was a weird season for the men's basketball team. It seemed that for everything positive that happened, a negative soon followed.

The Rivermen finished 15-13 on the season and 9-7 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). Though the team finished with a winning record and made the play-offs the players still were not happy with the season.

"It's not what it could have been, or should have been," said Rivermen Head Coach Rich Meckfessel. "We played very well, very often. We simply weren't consistent enough over a period of time or over a course of a game."

The team started off the season 1-3. They then rattled off three wins at home before dropping a squeaker to SIU-Edwardsville. At the beginning of conference play the team stood at 5-5.

In the MIAA seasonal play the Rivermen played well at times, but they often let teams get back into games resulting in losses.

"Somehow this team often found a way to self destruct," Meckfessel said. "We just couldn't get away from the self destruction."

"There were too many games where we had leads and got careless and let the other team back in the game."

Though they often let teams back into games, they were better than last year's team. Last year's squad dropped four games due to poor finishes, this year it happened twice.

"We were better this year at making the shots and play down the stretch" Meckfessel said. "We won three or four games after we came from behind, or held off a team that was rallying late in the game."

The Rivermen lost to UM-Rolla in their season finale in the second round

of the MIAA conference play-offs. They lost 74-69.

"This is a team that was good enough to get to the NCAA tournament. They were good enough in my opinion to win a few games in the tournament. To not have that opportunity is disappointing. We have no one to blame but ourselves."

Though the team lost five players to graduation the expectations are still high for next season. They have several key players returning next season and several new faces joining the team after setting out this season.

"Dave Reddy (Rivermen forward) is going to play a role next year, at least a bigger role than he has before," Meckfessel said. "Melvin Willey, Brian Clemons, and Ken Grasse were redshirted this season, one of them could play a role next season."

The team also returns starter Rodney Hawthorne and sometimes starter Kevin Tuckson. Hawthorne was second on the team in scoring with 12.7 points per game.

"Tuckson and Hawthorne have played a lot of minutes," Meckfessel said. "Rodney played like he is capable of in the last few months. Kevin should come through given the responsibility next season."

The team has three capable players that came off of the bench this season returning for next season. Todd Miller, Brandon Klaus and Jeremy Wright could all could play big roles for next year's squad.

"It's comfortable to have that many quality players back," Meckfessel said.

The Rivermen also have their sights set high for recruitment in the off season. They are in need of two players who can play immediately.

**SEE BASKETBALL**  
**PAGE 7**

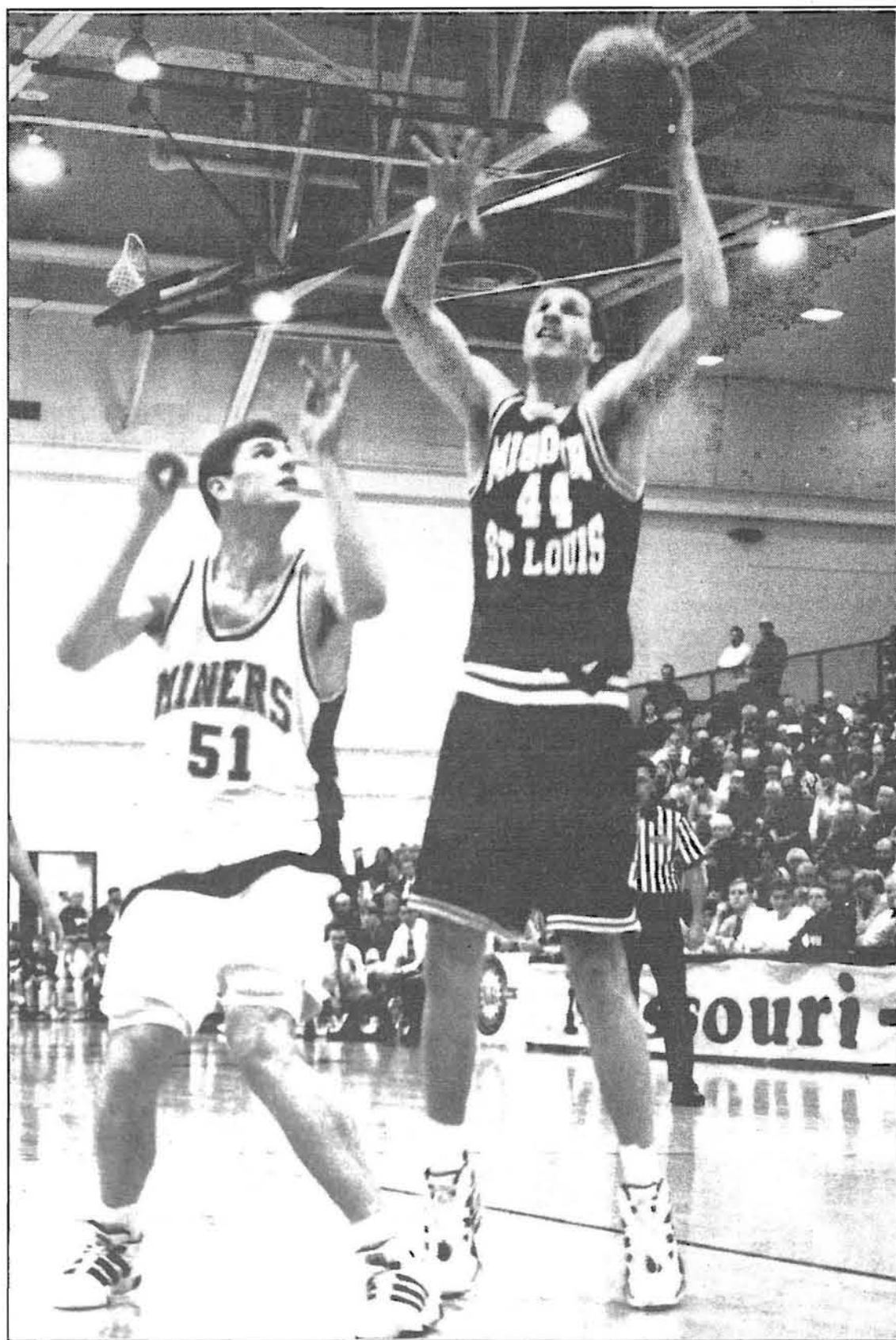


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Eric Bickel attempts to lay in a shot against UM-Rolla in the conference play-offs.

## LOOK FOR RIVERMEN PLAYER-BY-PLAYER IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE . . .

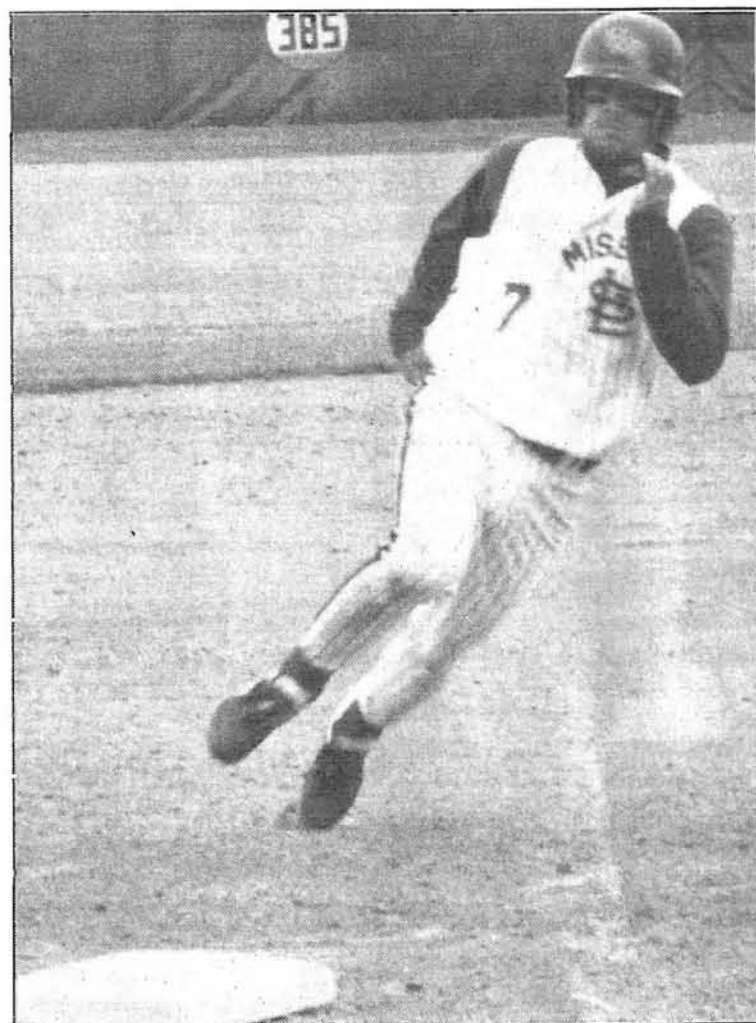


Photo: Ken Dunkin

Left-fielder Josh Banks returns to the Rivermen baseball team this year after an impressive record last season.

## New look, new coach, new season

### Riverwomen softball starts fresh for 1996

by Eric Thomas  
of The Current staff

Spring is here, and with it comes another exciting Riverwomen softball season. The 1996 Riverwomen team boasts new players, new uniforms, and above all, a new coach.

Head Coach Robert Westling takes on the role of skipper, and promises many new tricks throughout the season.

"We plan on playing an aggressive style of ball this season," Westling said. "We're going to steal often, hit-and-run, bunt, and even steal home."

Westling arrived at UM-St. Louis in November with five year's worth of coaching experience from various organizations under his belt. During his stay with Lindenwood, that team lead the country in stolen bases. Westling teaches history and sociology at Lindbergh High School in South County.

Sophomore Nicki Kocis is back on the mound as the team's number one hurler. She may see action at second base this season. Kocis led the team last season with a .376 batting average. She finished the season with an 11-3 record, a 1.93 earned run average, and she received an honorable mention by the All-MIAA. No stranger to thievery, Kocis stole 23 bases last season.

base attempts last year.

"It's been hard getting up at five am for practice since Christmas," Kocis said, "but Coach is a very positive influence and makes it worthwhile."

"I stayed in shape by playing on a summer A.S.A. league in Springfield named the Sweet Things. We've got a

hit well and runs fast," Kocis said. "It's great to have her on the team."

In her freshman year, Maas led the Riverwomen in hitting with a .323 average, runs scored, 19, home runs, triples and stolen bases, 12. She also earned second-team All-MIAA recognition.

"Maas is a real leader and understands the game perfectly," Westling said.

Nikki Christ hangs up her basketball shoes for cleats and will resume the position of short-stop for the Riverwomen. Christ holds the school records for hits, doubles and runs scored in a season.

"Christ is the type of player every coach wishes for," said Westling.

Returning for duty behind the plate is sophomore Audrey Kramme, who boasts both size and one heck of an arm.

"Audrey is the the Grant Fuhr of catching," Westling said. "She stays focused, drives the team, and she's not afraid to swing the bat."

Kramme started 71 of 72 games last season, and out of 10 base-stealing attempts, was caught only once.

Senior education major Vicki Tepen brings both power and experi-



**Nikki Kocis**

great deal of talent and I think that we'll surprise opposing teams."

Returning to the Riverwomen after a two-year hiatus is infielder Jeri Maas a senior criminal justice major. Maas is poised to be one of the team's top offensive threats this season. In her career, she has played 80 games for the Riverwomen, and accumulated 62 hits and 13 stolen bases.

**SEE SOFTBALL**

**PAGE 7**



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Jen  
Zetas, Sorry the balloons didn't blow up! Maybe next time ZLAM, Jenny

Elizabeth, You are an awesome Zeta, a great little sis! Keep up the great work!

Zeta Love, Jenny  
Good Luck in school this semester! I know you will do great! Jen

Congratulations to all the Zetas for a wonderful job during rush!! ZLAM, Holly & Nancy

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# Profile

RYAN REEVES

## Men's Baseball

by Brian Folsom  
of The Current staff



UM-St. Louis senior Ryan Reeves is faced with the challenge of alternating between playing the outfield and pitching as the Rivermen baseball team prepares to begin the 1996 season.

Reeves, 22, is entering his second season with the Rivermen after transferring from Lewis and Clark Community College. After playing the outfield last season, Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady decided to insert Reeves into the starting rotation.

"Ryan is still my starting right fielder, but we'll also use him as a pitcher," Brady said.

Last season, Rivermen pitching was solid and deep, but with the loss of most of those pitchers to graduation, Brady said Reeves would be a welcome addition to the pitching staff. "He is a fierce competitor, and a great athlete who thrives on winning," Brady said.

Pitching will be nothing new to

Reeves, who was a standout at Lewis and Clark. He did not pitch for the Rivermen last season. Reeves said that it shouldn't be that tough of an adjustment to make.

"I'll just have to worry a little about the wear and tear on my arm over the course of the season as I play both positions," he said.

He has been working out with the is now a pitcher with the New York Mets. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to play with him and learn from him," Reeves said.

Reeves is majoring in education, and in five years he said he sees himself student teaching at the elementary or coaching baseball. "I definitely want to stay involved with baseball in some way," he said.

"We're definitely better than we were last year," he said. "We've worked hard to improve both offensively and defensively. The potential is there, but we'll just have to wait and find out what we're made of during the season."

### BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 5

"I think we need to bring in two players who can make immediate contributions," Meckfessel said. "We need a guard who can play both guard positions. We also need a 3-point shooter. Our 3-point shooting this season was below average."

The Rivermen will also need to find a replacement for centers Eric Bickel and Dave Schroll. Kevin Tuckson will likely fill the starting role, but the back-up role is open. Bickel led the team in scoring with 15.1 points per game, Schroll averaged 2.9 points per game.

"It's a shame Dave Schroll didn't come along at a different time," Meckfessel said. "We've had teams here that Dave would have started on. It was just his misfortune to be here when we had two very good post players in Eric and Kevin."

The team had a decent season, but Meckfessel has reservations about the year.

"We never played a game from start to finish," Meckfessel said. "This team could have been a 20 game winner. We just didn't accomplish what we could have."

ence to Westling's pitching staff this season. Tepen boasts a ERA of 1.86 and saw action in 60 innings last season.

"Vicki has a powerful arm and can spot the ball well," Westling said. "I plan on seeing out-and-in innings behind her pitching."

Sophomore Dianne Mooney returns for another season of action, and she will assume the roles of outfielder and pitcher.

Now to the rookies:

Shannon Humphrey and Windy Hollon are not strangers to athletic competition; both could be seen tearing up the new field behind Mark Twain on Head Coach Ken Hudson's Riverwomen soccer team.

"We both played softball in grade school and high school, and decided to attend the pre-season softball meeting," Humphrey said.

Humphrey, who lettered in softball in high school, is pleased with Westling.

"He's a great guy and really knows how to motivate us," Humphrey said. "Whenever he talks about the team, it's always us or our team, not his team."

### SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE 5

Westling was enthused that freshmen came out to play, but he wasn't the only one.

"It's really great that soccer players Shannon and Windy have come out," Kocis said.

"They both hit excellent and will be a tremendous asset to the program," Maas said.

Sophomore nursing student Julie

Schartz joins the Riverwomen this season. Michelle Hogan will be out on the diamond for Westling.

The team isn't without it's share of obstacles to overcome.

"We have a limited number of players (8), so we'll all have to contribute equally," Kocis said.

Westling is confident the team has what it takes to succeed.



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Dr. Vetta Thompson, Psychology  
Dr. Francis Hoffman, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies  
Dr. Edith Young, School of Education

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Women's History Month



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Theme: "See History in a New Way"

March 19, Tuesday Noon-1 PM

Brown Bag Discussion "Family and Medical Leave: Rights/Responsibilities of Employees and Supervisors"

229 JC Penney

March 20, Wednesday Noon-1 PM

"Family and Medical Leave: Rights/Responsibilities of Employees and Supervisors  
209 Marillac (South Campus)

March 25, Monday 2:00-3:30 PM

"Impact of Gender on Arbitration Outcomes"  
1312 Tower

March 26, Tuesday Noon-1 PM

"Elder Care: Who's Taking Care of the Caretaker"

Women's Center

For more information contact the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 516-5695

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# The Current Newswire

**Media class offered.** Seats are still available for the March 20 session of Introduction to Multimedia, a brown-bag lunch introductory discussion on multimedia and how it can be used in education. The session will be held in Room 117 Lucas Hall, from noon to 1 p.m. Call 516-6196 to reserve a seat.

**Guest lecturer from St. Louis Symphony to speak.** A demonstration/lecture featuring a speaker from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will be held Wednesday, March 20 in Room 205 of the Music Building. The free lecture will be from noon to 12:50 p.m. Call 516-5980 for more details.

**"Cold Water:" a film and discussion.** A video highlighting international students at an American University starting their impressions of student life among Americans will be held on Thursday, March 21 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in Room 427 SSB. A discussion, giving international students at UM-St. Louis the opportunity to share their own impressions of the U.S. will follow.

**Scuba class offered.** A free introduction to scuba diving class will be offered on Thursday, March 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Mark Twain Swimming Pool. Call Larry Coffin at 516-5326 for more information.

**Hunger banquet to highlight Hunger Awareness Week.** Hunger Awareness Week will be held March 18-22. A sign-up sheet for the Hunger Banquet and Dining Hall Fast will be in the University Center Lobby from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18. On the patio outside of the University Center, gospel singers and dancers will perform at noon. The hunger banquet will take place in the Summit Lounge at noon and again at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. For more information, contact Maureen Zegel at 516-5493.

**Open house scheduled.** Chancellor Blanche Touhill is pleased to announce the opening of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Charles County Education Center. The Education Center is located in Room 2123 Academic Administration Building on the campus of the St. Charles County Community College, 4601 Mid Rivers Mall Drive, St. Peters, MO. The Center's phone number is (314) 936-8675. All faculty, students and staff are invited to attend the open house Monday, March 18 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Letterman Show director to speak at UM-St. Louis.** Hal Gurnee, former director of *Late Night with David Letterman*, will deliver a multimedia lecture on his 35 years in television at 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 19 in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Call 516-5531 for details.

## New program opens doors for university

### Twenty-four students chosen to head up ambassador program

by Wendy Jeffries  
of The Current Staff

University Relations and the Pierre Laclède Honors College have named 24 students to the new Student Ambassadors program.

According to Cindy Vantine, special events manager of University Relations, the main responsibilities of an ambassador are to help with University hospitality. The ambassadors will guide and assist guests of UM-St. Louis at various events throughout the year.

According to Sarah White, a student coordinator for the Student Ambassadors, the students' benefits from this program are minimal.

"The ambassadors can meet faculty, friends of the University, and the Chancellor, who could eventually help them get jobs in the future," White said.

However, she said, there has only been one instance in which an ambassador received a job from someone she met through the program.

White said the Student Ambassadors amount to free labor for the

Chancellor. "They needed help, and they decided to have the students do it," White said. The ambassadors will help with events like commencement ceremonies, new student orientation, student leadership awards banquet, the Founder's Dinner, the Chancellor's Report to the Community, and the State of the University Address.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the University to shine a spotlight on some of our students during events that draw considerable public attention," said Kathy Osborn, vice chancellor of University Relations. "At the same time, it offers our students an opportunity to cultivate their communication and leadership skills in preparation for future careers."

The 24 current ambassadors were asked to join the program based on recommendations from Frederick Fausz, dean of the Honors College. Each has a minimum 3.2 GPA. Other students may volunteer for the program if interested. Applications are available at the Honors College. A faculty recommendation is required.

## CUSTODIAN

have the equivalent of third-degree burns on my hands and feet."

"One of the custodians had an allergic reaction to the chemicals and latex gloves used in the clean-up of the showers in Mark Twain," said Director of University Communications Bob Samples.

"I understand that the administration fears any bad exposure," Sam said. "They were embarrassed by my actions and considered them a direct insult, so I was sent back in the showers without proper equipment."

Sam feels administrators were concerned with how the situation was portrayed to the media.

"I did nothing to harm the reputation of the University," Sam said. "I've worked here for seven years. I wouldn't do that."

Sam sought medical attention from his own dermatologist on Feb. 19. The doctor prescribed oral antibiotics and a skin cream.

On Feb. 27 he refused an offer of medical treatment from the University on the grounds that it was too late; he had already sought medical attention.

"(The custodian) declined workers compensation initially, stating that he had already visited his own personal practitioner," Samples said.

"They wanted me to see a general practitioner and I needed a specialist," Sam said.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor

of Administrative Services, was unaware of the situation until a meeting Thursday afternoon Feb. 7.

"I am constantly very concerned with the aspects of worker safety," Schuster said. "In the event of the asbestos removal, outside sources were utilized. Professional consultants were brought in and a removal company was hired."

"It is not my philosophy nor do I concur with management handling situations without focusing on safety," Schuster said.

"I assumed workers were familiar with product and procedure using this compound," Hickerson said. "My motto is safety first."

Since meeting with Schuster, Sam has received a worker's compensation form in the mail. He has also seen a worker's compensation doctor, who referred him to a skin specialist.

No accident report was filed concerning this incident.

"I stress there will be no repeat of this situation," Hickerson said.

Dave Martin, manager of Custodial and General Services, and Bernard Diggs, supervisor of Custodial Services, both declined to comment.

## MONTH

### FROM PAGE 1

the Wednesday lecture. The two lectures are titled, "Family and Medical Leave: Rights/Responsibilities of Employees and Supervisors."

Two lectures will wrap up the events for Women's History Month on March 25 and 26. The Monday, March 25 lecture is titled, "Impact of Gender on Arbitration," which will be held in 1312 Tower from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Michelle Hoyman and Sandy Crews of the UM-St. Louis Political Science Department will facilitate the colloquium.

Tuesday's lecture will discuss, "Elder Care: Who's Taking Care of the Caretaker." It will be held in the Women's Center from noon to 1 p.m.

All events during Women's History Month are free and are open to the public. The Office of Equal Opportunity has more information on these events.

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