

9-29-1988

## Current, September 29, 1988

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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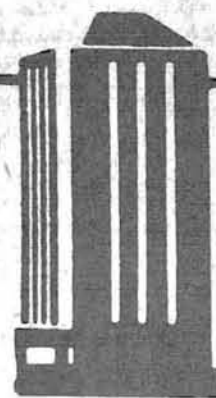
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## Seminar To Seek Religious, Academic Ties

by Paul Thompson  
editor

Some of the finest minds in academia and religion will seek common ground on campus next week during a three-day seminar exploring relationships between religion, the university and the community.

The Rev. M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., a world-renowned theologian and spiritual leader, will be guest speaker at the seminar, "The University, Religion and the Community: Toward a Dialogue for the 21st Century," to be held Oct. 4, 5 and 6 in the McDonnell Conference Room, located in 331 SSB.

"The purpose of the seminar is to address whether or not — given the reality of separation of church and state — there is an appropriate role for the university in the spiritual life of the community," said Van Reidhead, chairman of the UM-St. Louis Department of Anthropology and a key organizer of the seminar.

"We've tried to make this really

broadly religious and broadly academic," Reidhead said. "We will be addressing some very broad questions."

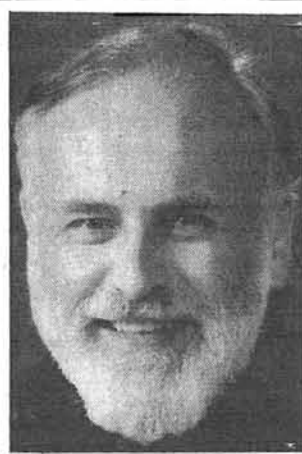
Some of the participants in the seminar are: Walter J. Ong, a Jesuit priest from St. Louis University; Doris Trojcek, acting chairperson of elementary and secondary education at UM-St. Louis; Corby Finney, associate professor of history; Donald Driemeier, dean of the School of Business; Donald Phares, special assistant to the chancellor; and various other scholars.

Pennington will also be offering several informal seminars, sponsored by Newman House, on Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The first of these, an informal discussion with the Trappist monk, will be held in 229 J.C. Penney. The second seminar will be on "centering prayer," a concept and method of prayer popularized by Pennington, and will be held in 222 J.C. Penney.

Tom Wagner, UM-St. Louis campus minister and representative of Newman House, said Pennington's

**"He's a prolific writer, a friend of (the late) Thomas Merton — another famous Trappist monk. He's a spiritual master."**

—UM-St. Louis Campus Minister Tom Wagner on M. Basil Pennington, pictured right.



visit should be appealing to all students, regardless of their religious or spiritual affiliations.

"Basil Pennington is a world-renowned theologian. He was present at the Vatican II council, which is a watershed for the 20th century," Wagner said. "He's a prolific writer, a friend of [the late] Thomas Merton — another famous Trappist monk — he lectures, literally, worldwide.

"He's a spiritual master," Wagner said.

Reidhead added that Pennington has met with spiritual and religious leaders around the world, including Buddhist, Hindu and Greek Orthodox figures.

"He's a really broadly ecumenical character," Reidhead added.

Wagner said the Newman House events are less academic and will

focus on "heart issues" appealing to students. The first session will be an open discussion, with students asking Pennington questions.

"We wanted to do something that would relate to people in a less formal way," Wagner said. "Students are the agenda — it's whatever's on your mind."

In the second Newman House session, Pennington will instruct those in attendance on "centering prayer."

"It's a chance to learn a way of contemplation," Wagner said. "It's one thing to talk about it, but to actually do it is something else. Pennington is coming out of a tradition [of contemplation] that's hundreds, thousands of years old."

While the Newman House sessions are aimed at busy students, the meetings are open to the public.

"I think this has a universal appeal," Wagner said. "It's broad enough for all students, not just for Catholic students."

The academic seminars in McDonnell Conference Room will

be held in three sessions:

● Oct. 4 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. the discussion will focus on "The University, Religion and the Community: A Question of Spiritual Needs and Partnership in the Post-Modern Age," exploring the feasibility and necessity of a relationship;

● Oct. 5 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. the topic will be "Toward an Appropriate Relationship: The Role of the University," considering how such a relationship might be appropriately focused; and,

● Oct. 6 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. the session will center around "Building the Partnership: Steps Toward Dialogue," carrying the discussion toward actualizing concepts, possibilities and directions.

Reidhead said he hopes the discussion will raise questions about the role of religion and the public university, and seek to reach common ground.

"As we struggle for enduring values in a new world order that is highly technical, is it really possible

See MONK, page 8



Steve Eschner

**MAYDAY! MAYDAY!** This TWA jet appears to be crashing into the SSB Tower; but, rest assured, the objects are a safe distance apart. Such illusions happen every day, every hour on the main campus.

## 64 Campus Crimes Reported

by John Kilgore  
special projects editor

According to the campus police, 13 crimes involving property valued at \$150 or more (felonies) and 51 crimes involving property valued at less than \$150 (misdemeanors) have been committed on campus since January.

Police Chief John L. Pickens said that no violent crime has been reported on campus since he was named chief in July 1987.

"We have a very low crime rate. Most of the crime can be attributed to a lack of the victim taking precautionary measures to secure their valuables," Pickens said. "Very few of the thefts are the result of forced entry or breaking and entering."

Pickens said that most crimes occurred because victims left valuables on the seat of their car and left the car unlocked or the windows rolled down.

"In order for the crime to occur, there needs to be an opportunity," Pickens said. "I would suggest that people take that extra second. If you have valuables, put them out of view, put them in the trunk or the best way is to not even leave them in the car."

According to Pickens, two auto thefts have occurred within the past year. One car was stolen, at night,

from Lot J during a basketball game. The car was never recovered. Another theft, from Lot B between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., involved a car that was recovered, abandoned in the city of St. Louis, the next day.

Pickens said that the University employs 17 full-time campus police, including one detective. He said that all campus policemen have graduated from the Police Academy and have the same powers on campus as regular policemen. Pickens, formerly, was police chief in Pine Lawn.

"Most people don't realize that. They look at us as just security," Pickens said. "The work is different, we try to be more service-oriented, serving the community. We do a lot of things a normal police force would not do."

The campus police offers a free service to all students with car trouble, providing jump starts, gasoline, helping with minor repairs and unlocking doors as well as providing assistance in changing flat tires. Any student with car trouble on campus can dial 5155 for assistance.

According to Pickens, the campus police also work with student patrols to provide safe escorts for students concerned about getting to and from their cars at night.

"Basically, they're eyes and ears for us," Pickens said.

Pickens said that one of his priorities for the coming year is to get more and better-located emergency telephones installed near the garages on campus.

Last year, campus police got warrants and arrested a suspect accused of stealing a car from a campus lot. The suspect was also accused, along with an accomplice, of breaking into four cars belonging to students. Pickens said that the suspect wasn't a student or employee here, but that he was familiar with the campus layout.

"What makes it difficult in this type of an environment is that we're open to the public. We can't stop everybody," Pickens said. "We don't violate people's rights."

"You're never going to get an environment that's crime free," he said. "We can do a better job when we get community involvement."

Pickens said that students who see suspicious activity should notify the campus police immediately. "It's important that they call us as soon as they see something," he said.

"Some people think all we do is hand out parking tickets," said Pickens. "The bottom line is that we're here to serve."

## Date, Dollars Set For Twain

by Steve Ward  
news editor and  
Tom Kovach  
sports editor

One of the few issues circulating around the UM-St. Louis campus this semester is that concerning the renovation of Building Nine — the Mark Twain Building. Recently, Athletic Director Charles Smith told the Current exactly what monies would be appropriated to what improvements, what the schedule of renovation would be and, most importantly, when the increase in student fees would take effect.

Students will be able to vote on the referendum on Oct. 17 and 18 at either the Mark Twain Building, Social Sciences Building, University Center, South Campus or Lucas Hall. At issue is whether the Mark Twain Building should have a complete face-lift. If the students approve the referendum, student fees will increase by \$1.25 per credit hour up to 12 credit hours and no more than \$15 per semester. Even though the vote will take place next month, the actual increase will not take place until the summer of 1990. Completion of the building is

the university donating \$350,000 from its building fund.

Currently, recreation membership passes are owned by approximately 110 people who pay \$25 a year to use the athletic facilities. Once the building is completed, the university plans to sell 250 memberships at \$100 per person.

The \$350,000 from the building fund is a left over from when the Mark Twain Building was first built. At that time, 17 years ago, the contractor fell \$500,000 short on his bid. The chancellor at that time, James L. Bugg, simply wanted to stop construction without adding a swimming pool. The issue was put to the students, however, and they passed a \$2.50 increase in student fees.

The university then bought bonds to raise money for the pool — bonds that sold at three percent. Inflation drove the interest rates up, causing the university to actually make more money than they needed to finish the project. The extra money went into the building fund.

If the referendum is passed, Chancellor Marguerite Barnett will then go over the proposal and send it to the Board of Curators. In January of 1989, the curators will let out bids. The summer months will be spent with architectural firms drawing up schematics. In September the final contract will be awarded and construction will be set for November. Completion should come in the fall of 1990.

A consulting firm and university officials see renovation costs breaking down thusly:

- weight room: \$159,000
- locker room: \$69,000
- gym mezzanines: \$213,000
- entrance/security control: \$152,000
- pool renovations: \$96,000
- lower-level track: \$263,000
- general operation costs: \$402,000

All figures are estimates that could increase or decrease depending on the outcome of the bids.

In the opinion of Smith, UM-St. Louis will have one of the best athletic facilities in the system. "We would be a lot better than Rolla. We would not be as good as UMKansas City because they just spent \$13 million building a new recreation facility. They are charging their

See TWAIN, page 8

## Jury Out On Candidates' 1st Debate

by Tony M. Laurent  
associate news editor

Vice President Bush and Gov. Michael S. Dukakis squared off at Wake Forest University Sunday night in the first of their scheduled debates.

"People were a little disappointed that the candidates were not clearer. I was surprised at how clear they were," said David Robertson, asst. professor of political science at UM-St. Louis. "The big story to me is how it will be played out in the media. That's where the debate will be won or lost," he added.

"Whoever wins the debate will receive a slight boost," said Michael B. MacKuen, assoc. professor of political science at UM-St. Louis. "The media will determine the winner and the boost will disappear in about a week," he added.

Polls taken immediately after the debate showed Dukakis as the winner but by a very slight margin.

"Neither (Bush or Dukakis) are even mediocre politicians, but neither will embarrass his party," Robertson said. "Dukakis was smoother, Bush stumbled a bit."

Generating excitement has been a real problem for both these candidates. ABC News started their Monday evening newscast by stating that "there was no earth-shattering moment in the debate." ABC chose to make the Ben Johnson steroid case their top story.

"We must remember that the candidates are rewarded for mudslinging and punished for giving precise answers," said Robertson.

MacKuen pointed out that historically the debates have had little impact in an election. "Reagan did terrible against Mondale in their first debate in 1984, but he redeemed himself in later debates and he won the election easily," said MacKuen. "Dukakis needs to make his points without seeming mean or like he's picking on minor issues," said Robertson. "Bush needs to play down his image of a rich boy who got where he is

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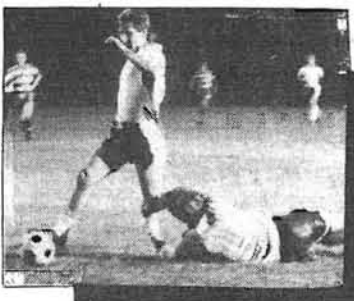
### HAIR...

E. C. Earth Spirit explores the multitude of hairstyles that abound on campus.  
See story page 3



### BEST IN BUD...

Rivermen take 1st place in Budweiser Soccerfest.  
See story page 5



### CAMPUS REMINDER

The State of the University Address and the 1st annual campus awards for faculty in teaching, research and community service will be held today in the J. C. Penney Auditorium.



## Campus Events

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

● Horizons will offer a time management workshop in room 427 SSB from 1-2 p.m. To pre-register call 553-5730.

● State of the University Address: The Chancellor's annual speech and the First Annual Campus Awards for Faculty in Teaching, Research and Community Service will be held in the J.C. Penney Auditorium at 3 p.m.

● Annual Fall Book Fair: Held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Library Annex, southwest of the Thomas Jefferson Library.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

● Black Alumni Reception: A gala reception honoring black alumni of UM-St. Louis will be held in the J.C. Penney lobby on campus and hosted by Chancellor Marguerite R. Barnett and the Minority Relations Committee of the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association. For reservations, call 553-5776.

● Marlene Difiori Locke's ART EXHIBIT continues to be on display in SSB Tower Lounge on the 13th floor. The display will continue through Oct. 12. For more information, call 553-5820.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

● UM-St. Louis Women's Soccer Team plays host to Wright State at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 553-5121.

● 20th Annual Crucial Early Years Conference: Held at McCluer North High School at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact the UM-St. Louis Department of Early Childhood Education at 553-5961.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

● Premiere Performances: Leon Bates, the American pianist, will kick off the concert series season when he performs at The Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Ave. Tickets are \$8 for students, senior citizens, UM-St. Louis faculty and staff, KWMU Studio Set members and the Ethical Society. For more information call 553-5818.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 3**

● UM-St. Louis and Beta Alpha Psi Blood Drive: The drive will be Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room 78 J.C. Penney. Attendance prizes and a Busch jacket will be given away. Please donate, blood is needed.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

● The University, Religion and the Community seminar begins with Session 1, which is titled: "A question of spiritual needs and partnership in the post-modern age." The seminar will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 331 of the SSB Building. For more information call 553-6020.

● Miranda Salkoff, J.D., coordinator of the Dispute Resolution Program at UM-St. Louis, will discuss approaches to handling interpersonal conflict. The discussion runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. For more information, call 553-5380.

● The International Women's Study Organization will hold a potluck dinner. International students can bring a traditional dish to share with other international women students and friends. Co-sponsored by the Women's Center, the dinner will be held in the International House, 7646 Natural Bridge Rd. from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call 553-5380.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5**

● An organizational meeting of the Television/Cinema Production Club will be held in 216 Lucas Hall at 1 p.m. Activities for the year and their cable access show "UM-St. Louis Connection" will be discussed. For further information, call 553-5485.

● The University, Religion and the Community seminar continues at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in room 331 of the SSB Building. Wednesday's featured is titled "Toward an Appropriate Relationship: The Role of the University." For more information, call 553-6020.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### Miscellaneous

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**TYPING/WORDPROCESSING.** Term papers, reports, tables, resumes. They will be typed on top of the line wordprocessing software, and printed on a letter quality laser jet printer. Two day turn around. Resumes - \$5, reports and term papers \$1 per page. Call Renee, 481-1200 or 353-4865.

Applications are now being accepted by the UM-St. Louis Police Department for positions on the student patrol. The patrol's hours are from 6-11pm. Applications may be picked up and turned at the police offices in the General Services Building.

### Personals

To Ellen R. Biggs, If you are religious then I'm the answer to your prayers. Wish I could get to know you better. Signed ???

To the big cheese, the next time you are impressed by a word you heard in class, look it up before you use it, or you may make yourself look like an idiot...again. Cyrano.

Matt, yes I do recognize you!!! Sorry about last week, it took me a minute and after that minute you were gone. Come by and visit me, you know where I'm at! Rene.

Pam K, You're a great kid. I'm glad you are part of Delta Zeta! Love MOM.

To our great Delta Zeta pledges. Congratulations! We love you all. Your Delta Zeta Pledge Committee.

Grandma, Keep those grades up and I will help all I can. In DZ, love, Your Grand-Kid. Psychology major Julie. Are you going to the UMR Triathlon. Call Gary 227-8529

S. 'Lean on me, when you're not strong. I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on...' D.

To all new DELTA SIG pledges, Congrats! We're looking forward to a great semester.

Sharon and Tracy, Thank you both for giving me a lift every morning. I appreciate the listening you do as well as the car ride. Let me know if I can do anything for you!

Yeng, Beri, Che Will, Mael, and Jang. No more Hardyboys, Lemanz, Hero or Shilton Jokes this week please... I am sick of it. Anyway there is an old saying 'Gua caya sama lu brother.' It should be Propagail for the P&G.

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SCREENPLAY BY MAURICE JARRE BASED UPON THE BOOK BY DIAN FOSSEY AND HAROLD T.P. HAYES STARRING ANNA HAMILTON PHELAN AND TAB MURPHY  
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**Oct. 3rd and 4th**  
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## A Hairstyle Called By Any Other Name....

by Emily C. Earth-Spirit  
guest contributor

This intrepid reporter, with no thought to her own safety, went out and fearlessly sought the opinions of her fellow students as to why they, in general, chose a specific hair style.

Down through the ages, hair fads have come and gone, so I thought that I would provide you with a partial list of the state of hair in the past, present and future.

**Hair-Conditions:** ponytail, plaits, marcelled, matted, flat top, feathered, wigs, wedge, ducktail, damaged, bouffant, bobbed, leonine, lacquered, afro, alien, heinie, hippie, teased, tousled, ratted, straightened, shaved, pageboy, pigtailed, buzzcut, bangs, spiked, spicurlis, braids, bubblecut, waved, wilted, crewcut, curled, natural, nil, punk, pompadour, dyed, dreadlocks, permed, poodlecut, layered, loose, chignon, coiffed.

Okay, so now that we have the technical stuff out of the way we can get on with the actual questions, and the sometimes unexpected answers.

The questions were:

- 1. Are you trying to make a statement with your hairstyle?
- 2. Does convenience have anything to do with your choice?
- 3. What kinds of comments, positive or negative, have you received on your current hairstyle?

Here are the answers of just a few of the many, many students queried (This was an exhaustive survey. At

least I was exhausted afterwards)



Rick Malek

**Long, layered locks-**

"No statement, just personal preference. There should be less emphasis on hair styles for jobs. I wear long hair for variety and my friends like it. Long hair still has a hippie reputation, though, in some people's eyes," said Rick Malek from Business Administration.



Jennifer Samples

**Many mini braids-**

"Some people think that I changed my hair style because of a negative

reaction to my afro. It wasn't that at all. I just wanted to go back to braids. Those are my two favorite hair styles, mainly because they are the easiest to care for. Any political statement is a fringe benefit. I don't mean to make it into a political statement, but if I do, that's cool," said Jennifer Samples, Speech Communications.



Diane Harvestmoon

**Buzzed, with a baby tail-**

"It challenges a person's preconceptions about how women should look. People can't help but ask me about my hair. When they find out I'm not a particularly weird individual as they talk to me, I think that challenges some preconceptions, too. Convenience has a lot to do with why I have my hair cut like

this. It has to be the world's easiest most carefree hairstyle. I don't even really have to comb it, but I still do, more out of habit than necessity. I was surprised to find that most of the people who get up the courage to say something to me love it. Several

women have said they wished they were brave enough to get their hair cut so short. Very few people have had anything negative to say about my hair, although a few people have been downright hostile about it. I don't care. I love it," said Diane Harvestmoon, English.



Bee Soo

**Modified spiked-**

"Really, just personal. It looks good. I always swim, and I don't want it to drop down on my forehead.

It's clean and neat. I think it's the trend now. Maybe it is too informal for when I go to look for a job," said

Bee Soo, Business school.



Julie Moore

**Spiked punk-**

"It's just an avenue for personal creative expression, kind of like clothes. Also, partly for convenience. I don't want to do anything special to it in the morning. I've noticed that radical styles like the mohawk are back. I see that as anti-establishment," said Julie Moore, General Studies and Women's Studies.

**Short, natural-**

"I'm not trying to be political or fashionable. It's easy to manage and



James Green

also a lot cooler. Short hair is becoming more popular. It's more acceptable in the business world. Some women like it shorter. They tease me that they can see the shape of my head now," said James Green, Business Management.

So, we've gone from locks to manes, and one thing I've discovered, people are very concerned with their hairstyle. Not in a 1960's way, or even a 1970's way, but in an individualized, 1980's manner.

Past years had their musical "Hair," we have the musical group TIM BUK THREE singing about, — you guessed it, hair.

Gee, you guys get so emotional about your hair. Now as for me, I couldn't care less. So, what do you think, should I let it grow, or what? Now be honest, I can take it.

## Mixed Reviews: Dreyfuss Shines Like The Moon In Parador

by Eileen Pacino  
movie reviewer

Just when you thought it was safe to take a Latin American country seriously, along comes satirist supreme Paul Mazursky ("Down and Out in Beverly Hills") blowing a big raspberry at our neighbors to the south in his new comedy, "Moon Over Parador."

Mazursky isn't trying to be malicious, but he does take artistic license of most the cliches ever devised to paint a prejudiced picture of those lower-than-our-standard-of-living tropical lands.

Into this quaint set-up stumbles the actor Jack Noah (Richard Dreyfuss) who's just wrapped an action/adventure movie in the Caribbean island nation of Parador, whose president, Alphonse Sims (presently running as the candidate of the Red Party against himself as the candidate of the Blue Party — "this is a free dictatorship"), looks amazingly like him.

When the leader keels over from a distinguished career of poona-ingestion, the Harvard alumni Chief of Police, Roberto Strausmann (Raul Julia), makes an educated and true-to-his-heritage decision: kidnap Jack, reassure him with the offer of an acting job (that requires good dancing, a flip salute and 20 lbs. of padding), show him the frozen carcass of the deceased leader, order him to assume the dictator's place ("or I'll kill you") and appeal to the actor's swollen but very vulnerable ego by comparing him to Robert DeNiro.

Jack bows to Strausmann's deadly persuasion ("you'd make a very good director") and quicker than you can say "Carumba" he's filled

the shiny shoes of the little man, made a rousing campaign speech that borrows heavily from "To Dream the Impossible Dream," and won the hearts of his subjects. Sims' mistress Madonna (Sonia Braga), and the servants: who aren't fooled for a minute by the ruse, but who know the value of discretion and who find it easy to transfer their loyalty to anyone who looks like a fuhrer, talks like a fuhrer, walks like a fuhrer, therefore, must be a fuhrer.

Like any actor worth his salt, Noah plays his part to the hilt, relishing the perks; but misses his home country's Broadway openings, wishing someone besides Madonna and Roberto could acknowledge what a great acting job he's doing.

So one year after his impromptu engagement, Jack wipes off the grease paint and gets back to scrambling for casting calls, telling anyone who'll listen about his role of a lifetime.

One-time actor Mazursky has a lot of fun poking fun at the vanity of actors, and, closely related, the vanity of politicians.

There are some wildly funny jabs at Reagan and his love of saluting, his trouble hearing the press and his rhetoric filled speeches that are all "sound and fury signifying nothing."

Dreyfuss is the perfect "takes his acting seriously enough to make a complete ass out of himself actor" to pull off this farcical fandango; and superb Raul Julia is extra virgin oily as the super patriot who thinks nothing of murdering and deceiving "for the good of his country."

"Moon Over Parador" is a Universal picture, rated PG-13 for language, sexual situation.



**THE MAN IN THE MOON:** Richard Dreyfuss impersonates the deceased dictator of "Parador" in Paul Mazursky's comedy "Moon Over Parador." Along with Dreyfuss are Raul Julia and Sonia Braga. It is Braga's ear that appears in the left portion of the picture.

by Christopher A. Duggan  
features editor

My first exposure to Richard Dreyfuss was in either "Jaws" or "The Goodbye Girl."

I can't remember which I saw first. I can, however, remember the impression those movies made on me.

I knew then, even at that young and ignorant age, that Dreyfuss was a great actor with a flair for saying a line in just the right way to make you laugh or whatever.

Well, Richard Dreyfuss is still a great actor, and almost without assistance, he makes "Moon Over Parador" great fun to watch.

Dreyfuss plays an actor, an ego on wheels, actually, similar to the character from "The Goodbye Girl."

The film starts with him telling two fellow actors about his experiences overseas shooting a film in a country called "Parador."

After the film is completed, an action epic that ends with him tumbling off a wall with a gunshot wound (a real test of his acting ability), he decides to stick around for the small dictatorship's annual festival, a party similar to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Parador's minister of internal affairs, played by Raul Julia, decides that Dreyfuss would be the perfect person to assume the identity of the country's newly-dead dictator, based on a one-minute impersonation Dreyfuss had done earlier.

Julia plays on Dreyfuss' ego to get him to play the part, and he gives him added incentive.

"Play the part or I'll kill you."

Who could resist? Julia gets more than he bargained for when Dreyfuss decides it would be a good idea to change the image of the dictator.

His steady supply of alcohol is replaced by Diet Coke, he loses 20 pounds, and is sometimes seen leading the adoring masses in aerobics.

Of course, there are people other than Julia who know that the dictator is dead.

The servants at the palace know, (but don't care), and, of course, the departed monarch's mistress (Sonia Braga) knows.

She helps him with the role, tells him about the former dictator's peculiarities, and falls in love with him.

The whole escapade results in a dictator that is more convincing than the old one.

Within no time, he is rubbing elbows with the likes of Dick Cavett.

It was a role that would have fooled his own mother, and does.

Even with the success of the transformation comes regret. He constantly reads the New York Times for the theatre news, and has yearnings for home.

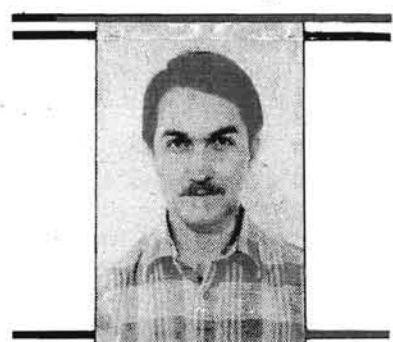
His solution to the whole situation is inventive and pretty funny as well.

Also in this movie, look for Jonathon Winters in a couple of scenes.

He has some funny lines, but his talent is really wasted in that part.

That aside, you have a very well-made and funny movie, as they say in these types of features, "Well worth the price of admission."

## You May Think I'm Crazy, But Who Cares?



**Don't Panic**

by Christopher A. Duggan  
features editor

I sometimes wonder why certain things happen to me instead of other people. Then I realize exactly how boring life would be if these little things did not occur.

I am referring to an incident that happened about two or three weeks ago. The phone rang here at the office during a staff meeting.

Tom, our sports editor answered it and said that it was for me. The individual on the other end then greeted me using a nickname that has plagued me most of my life, so I assumed it must have been someone I knew.

The person on the other end was speaking in a voice that I have heard on an old TV show called "Green Acres."

I assumed it must be a crank call,

someone I knew who was pulling my leg, metaphorically of course, or someone on one of the other extensions in the office, a trick that has grown popular around here.

Usually, the prank goes like this. Someone on one of the other phones calls from a closed office, asking for another staff member.

He or she then disguises his or her voice and tries to shake the person up, claiming to be the IRS or some such thing.

It usually doesn't work. After carefully and silently checking the other offices from my vantage point, I decided that this was someone from the outside.

Besides, no one on our staff can do that "Green Acres" character that well.

I remained on the phone with this person for a long time. The first part of the conversation consisted of my trying to find out who the person was.

After the voice was abandoned and the mystery caller settled into his normal voice, I gave up trying, but stayed on the phone anyway.

He seemed to be able to point out incongruities in my language with relative ease.

I stopped wondering who he was, and began wondering how he managed to make me feel like an idiot so easily?

To make a long conversation (about 90 minutes) seem short, I

eventually decided to accept a creative story or whatever from this person for my section (I think that's what he called for in the first place.), but still failed to glean his identity.

He identified himself only as Levon. (I'm not sure if that's spelled correctly or not.)

It's funny. The people around the office were all instructing me to hang up on this person.

We had spent the better part of an hour discussing philosophical issues, the fact that more and more newspapers are writing in "bonehead English" to accommodate even the most mentally deficient individuals and various other matters, and they wanted me to just hang up, merely because I didn't know who he was?

They must be crazier than they thought he was.

Other friends of mine, after hearing about the incident, got that "Oh my God!" look on their faces and said, "And you talked to this person?"

One of them, a psychology major, even suggested that he might be homicidal and could want to kill me.

I told her that I was sure that wasn't the case.

By the way Levon, if that is the case, I know karate, as well as 18

other Japanese words, and I carry a gun with me all the time.

He suggested at the time that I write a column about the experience, a thought that had occurred to me way before he mentioned it actually.

I said I'd do it if I could figure out a way to make it interesting or funny, or both.

I don't think this is the best it could be, to be perfectly honest. But I had no other ideas for this week.

As for why I stayed on the phone all that time with someone I didn't even know, I can't tell you, because I don't really know myself.

It's probably for the same reason that my fellow columnist Julio West and I are writing to a convict on death row in Florence, Ariz. who sent us a letter saying he wanted a pen-pal.

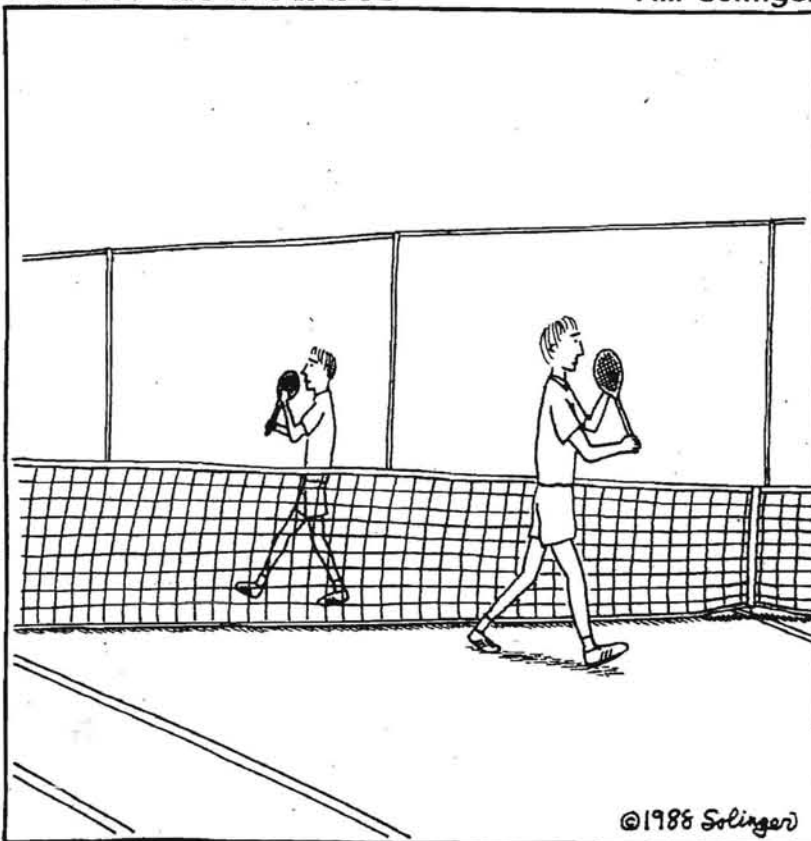
Not everyone out there is exactly like you and me, but that doesn't mean they should be ignored, or, as the psych major said, referred to the proper authorities.

Life can get pretty boring if you never do anything out of the ordinary. Maybe that has something to do with it.

As for Levon, I don't think we've heard the last of him. If you see some piece in the Current in the near future by someone named Levon, you'll know where it came from.

## PLAIN BANANAS

Tim Solinger



©1988 Solinger

Stages of tennis development: (1) Learning the basic strokes; (2) Acquiring a wardrobe; (3) Perfecting a contemplative look while adjusting the racquet strings after each shot.



# Scenes From University's 1st Pow-Wow



**NATIVE DRUMS:** American Indians from seven states participated in the American Indian Center's regional pow-wow held here last weekend. (Clockwise from top left) 1. The intertribal dance is performed by members of several Indian Nations. 2. A "traditional" dancer. 3. The Gourd Dance, performed by "old style" dancers, honors warriors of the past and American Indian veterans. The dance reenacts that they are not afraid to die, said Master of Ceremonies, Chester Ellis. 4. A cow skull rests at the base of a pole showing the owner's "personal medicine." 5. One of the "fancy dancers." Fancy dancers differ from the traditional dancers in that they have two bussles (rings of feathers worn on their back) as opposed to one worn by traditional dancers.

PHOTOS BY  
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E/O/E M/F



# Men Take 1st Place, Women 3rd At Budweiser Tournament At Soccer Park

## Dempster Injures Left Leg

by Tom Kovach  
Sports Editor

After beating Oral Roberts 5-1 and Rollins College 3-1, the Men's Soccer team received some good news. They had won the Budweiser Soccerfest, improved their record to 7-1, and had five players named to all-tournament status.

Later, though, Coach Don Dallas received some bad news. With three minutes left in the game against Rollins, senior forward Mike Dempster was injured.

A Rollins player came up and struck him to the ground. Dempster's weight shifted to the right, but his left leg was planted into the ground. After play was stopped, Dempster told the trainer of the snap that he heard.

He was taken to Missouri Baptist, where he was taken in for x-rays. Preliminary reports indicated no broken bones, but Dempster was placed in an immobilizer and given crutches.

Monday morning Dempster saw Dr. Bassman. The results showed that he has a partial tear in the interior ligament. Dempster will be in a cast for seven to ten days. Afterwards, he will go through a rehab program, consisting of time in a whirlpool and exercises.

Dempster said he may return for the back-to-back home games against Oakland University and Metropolitan State or for the Florida trip.

Then Dallas heard on Tuesday that his team lost their number one ranking. New Hampshire College defeated Oakland University and Mercy College, two top twenty teams, to move into first place, leaving the Rivermen in second place.

In their first match-up, the Rivermen jumped on the scoreboard early. With 6:28 elapsed in the first half, Dempster found John Galkowski open and he shot it past Derek Turner, putting the Rivermen on top, 1-0.

Before the Titans could compose themselves, the Rivermen struck again. At the 8:01 mark, Boyd Buchek fed Mark Keller with a pass and the freshman scored his first goal of the year.

With the score 2-0, Oral Roberts came out aggressive at the start of the second half. Quickly, though, the Rivermen played solid defense and hit Turner with a number of shots, especially from Dempster.

First, Dempster hit a shot that Turner saved. But Dempster tried to score again. This time Galkowski spotted Dempster in the box, but the senior hit the crossbar.

Buchek then found out to that the crossbar was his enemy as well. Keller, seeking his third point of the game, saw Buchek breaking, but he banged a shot off the crossbar.

The Titans took advantage of this and scored at the 63:39 mark. Ed Hughes saw a hole in the defense and blasted a shot past goalie Jeff Robben.

At the 71:54 mark, Warren Dey made the score 3-1 as he took a pass from Buchek. Soon the Rivermen took advantage of the inexperienced Titan team and the scoring assault would continue.

Three minutes later, Keller added his second goal of the game when he rifled a shot outside the penalty box that Hughes never saw.

With one minute left, the Rivermen added yet another goal. Tim Gauvain found Mark Golstein to the right of the goal. Gauvain pushed the ball close to the goal crease and Golstein leaped out and blasted a shot that went off a Titan defender.

In the championship game, Both teams kept each goalie busy early. Mark Keller opened the first of 19 shots on goal that just went over the crossbar. Next Galkowski took his turn, but he missed wide.

With 12:46, the Rivermen finally scored. Boyd Buchek scored off a feed from Ron Schnohoff, making the score 1-0.

In the second half, the team tried to increase its lead. Buchek, looking for his second goal, took a hard shot. But Behrman made the save.

On the other side, Robben continued to be spectacular in the nets. Rollins's Doug Kriska took a free kick, aimed at the upper right hand corner. But Robben threw his right arm, knocking the ball out and keeping the shutout alive.

But the Tars would eventually score. Dave Gauvain made a pass that Daegen Duvall intercepted. Duvall passed off to Brad Johnson. Johnson scored, tying the game at 1-1.

At the 77:17 mark, Wibbenmeyer saw Galkowski in the penalty box. He shot it off the hands of Behrman, putting the Rivermen on top, 2-1.

Next, Galkowski assisted on a goal. He passed off to Wibbenmeyer and the senior kicked it past Behrman.

After the game, Galkowski was named most valuable player and Robben was awarded the defense MVP.

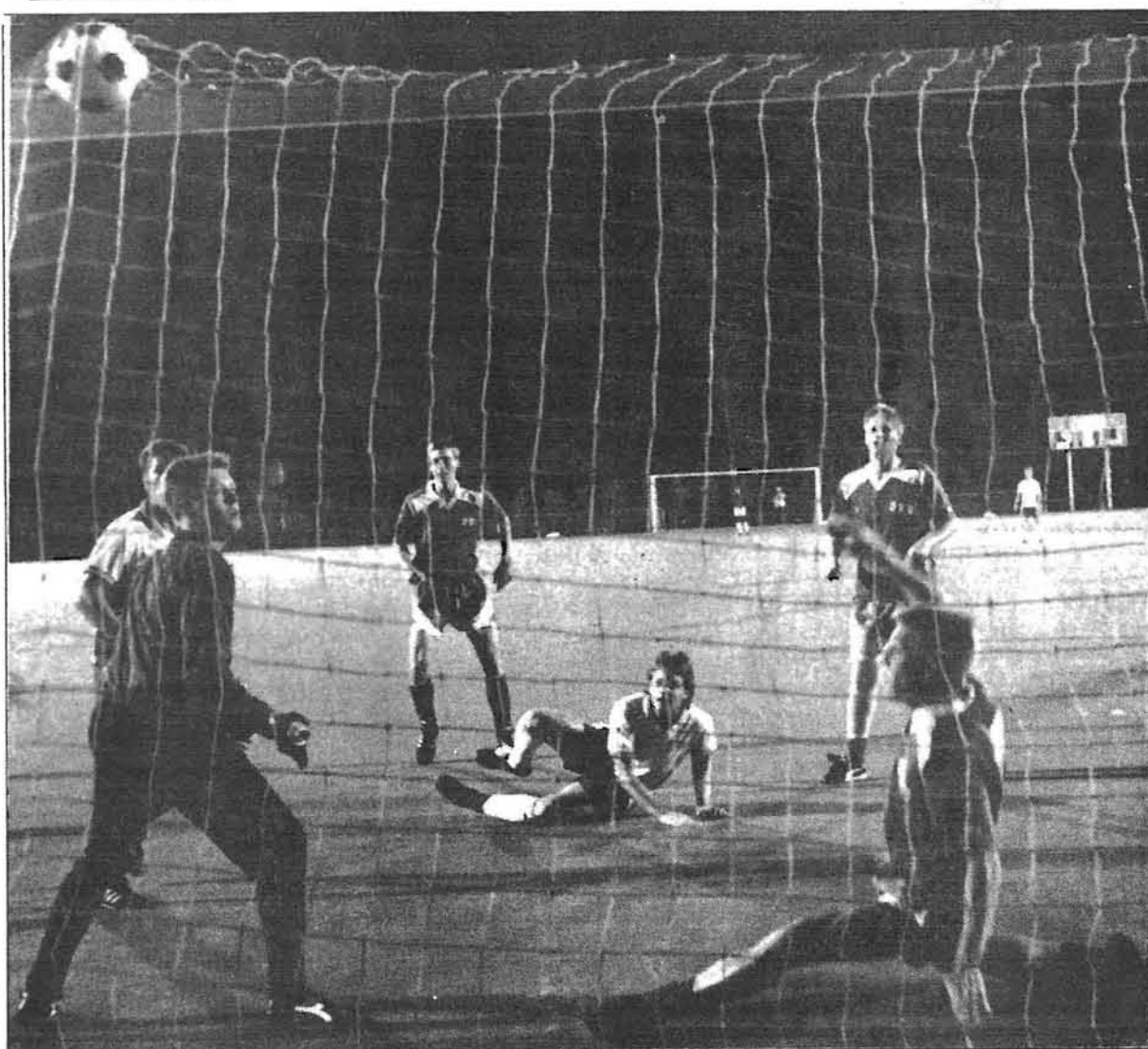
Buchek, Keller, and Wibbenmeyer were named to the All-Tournament team.

### He Shoots...



Scott Brandt

### He Scores!



Scott Brandt

**LOOKING UP:** Mark Golstein scores one of the Rivermen's five goals against Oral Roberts. The men defeated the Titans, 5-1. Later, the men defeated Rollins College, 3-1.

## Women Take 2 Out Of 3

by Jim Wieners  
reporter

Last weekend's performance by the Riverwomen in the Budweiser Soccerfest started and ended with wins.

But their victories were sandwiched in the middle with a loss that set them back from playing for the title.

The road to third place ended with a win over Quincy College 2-1. But in order to take third place, the Riverwomen had to face George Washington University and they lost to the Lady Colonials, 1-0. A win would have sent them against SMU for the championship.

In the first game of the tournament, the women faced Xavier and came away with a 1-0 victory.

The win over the Ladyhawks was sweet revenge for the Riverwomen. In the season-opener, the Ladyhawks edged the Riverwomen, 1-0.

"That's what we try to stressed before the game," said Head Coach Ken Hudson. "It is a game we expect to win which may have a bearing on the regional rankings."

The Riverwomen outshot Quincy 14-3 in their most recent encounter. Last time the Riverwomen were shutout by Quincy goalie Jane Schutte. But this time, the women made sure they scored, putting two goals past her.

Laurie Aldy scored both of the goals, including the game winner at 37:49.

Aldy stole an errant Quincy pass, moved through the Ladyhawk defense and drilled a high shot over Schutte. About 11 minutes earlier, she took a lead pass from Stephanie Gabbert and shot it low past Schutte.

Aldy now leads the Riverwomen with three goals and six points. Early in the season, Aldy had many opportunities to score, but she couldn't connect.

"Aldy has had a lot of chances (to score) but could not put the ball in," Hudson said.

Two of Aldy's shots hit the goal post and the crossbar. "That has been typical of our luck this year," he added.

Quincy had only two shots on goal in the first half, but both of them

played a role in the Ladyhawks only goal.

Tina Bono moved in on Linda Allen's right side and drilled a shot at Allen. But Katie Ehlman put the rebound in at 32:55, which tied the game and remained that way for almost 5 minutes.

The Riverwomen did not allow Quincy to have another shot directly at Allen. They had a shot that hit the goalpost and another that just missed the crossbar.

Saturday's loss to George Washington University was a flat performance by the Riverwomen. The game was decided at 22:05 when Jen Morrison set up Maureen Schaffer, on a midfield free-kick and Morrison shot it past Allen.

Both teams had their share of opportunities, however the Lady Colonials had stronger chances to score. But Allen turned away several key scoring opportunities.

Xavier came into the game with a perfect 3-0 record. But Gabbert changed all that.

At the 77:20 mark, Gabbert took the ball away from a defender and blasted the ball past Schutte.

Linda Allen preserved the shutout, making some fantastic saves.

Xavier's Amy Finke, with her booming right leg, took a hard shot that hit the ground in front of Allen. Allen was caught off-guard for a moment, but she put her hands down on the ball, tossing it over the crossbar.

The Riverwomen, with only two home games left, host Wright State University Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. before travelling to Northeast Missouri State on Sunday.

Wright State is new to the Riverwomen and "we're going into this game cold," Hudson said. "I know nothing about them and sometimes it's better."

The Riverwomen, meanwhile, are undefeated against NEMO, including a 2-1 win, with Gabbert scoring the game winner, last year.

### BUDWEISER SOCCERFEST NOTES

Aldy, Allen and Gabbert were named to the All-Tournament team, for the Riverwomen. Lisa Cole of SMU and GWU's Lora Mozer were the tournament's most valuable players.



**NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T:** Laurie Aldy blasts the ball past a nervous Xavier player. Aldy scored two goals to lead the women to a 2-1 victory over Quincy College in the Budweiser Tournament.

**WANTED: Associate Sports Editor for the Current. Sportswriting and layout experience preferred but not necessary. If interested, call Tom Kovach or Paul Thompson at 553-5174.**

### Current

### Player of the Week

Who: John Galkowski  
What: Men's Soccer  
Position: Midfielder



Many players were up for nomination for our player of the week. Laurie Aldy scored two goals in one game, Linda Allen had a pair of shutouts, and Jeff Robben was spectacular in the nets. But John Galkowski was one of the key

players in helping the Rivermen win the Budweiser Soccerfest. Against Oral Roberts, he scored the first goal. But his play continued to improve in the final game. He assisted on the second goal and scored the third goal of the game.

### Last Week

#### Volleyball

UMKC game cancelled

#### Men's Soccer

win Oral Roberts 5-1 (Galkowski, Dey, Golstein, and Keller-2)

win Rollins College 3-1 (Buchek, Wibbenmeyer, Galkowski)

#### Women's Soccer

win Xavier 1-0 (Gabbert, Allen SO)

loss George Washington Univ. 1-0

win Quincy College 2-1 (Aldy-2)

### Next Week

#### Volleyball

Sept. 30, and Oct. 1 away MIAA Conference Round Robin Tournament. (At Central Missouri State)

#### Men's Soccer

Oct. 2 away vs. Northeast Missouri State (2 p.m.)

#### Women's Soccer

Oct. 1 home vs. Wright State (7:30 p.m.)

Oct. 2 away vs. Northeast Missouri State (4 p.m.)



A True Meeting Of Minds

In 1949, T.S. Eliot — who incidentally would have turned 100 on Sept. 26 — wrote an essay titled, "Notes Towards The Definition of Culture," in which he describes education as a means of transmitting culture. But the purpose of the essay is to define what culture is.

He notes that any comprehensive definition of culture would be lacking were it not to include religion and its relationship to culture as a whole. If a culture tends toward separation and narrow specialization — which ours surely has — then each part of culture is impoverished, particularly when that part happens to be the religious.

"If I am not mistaken, some disintegration of the classes in which culture is, or should be, most highly developed, has already taken place in western society — as well as some cultural separation between one level of society and another," he wrote. "Religious thought and practice, philosophy and art, all tend to become isolated areas cultivated by groups in no communication with each other."

If Eliot's assertion is true, and education does and should function to transmit culture, then the modern public university is not fulfilling its proper function in society.

In such a case, the introduction of a dialogue between UM-St. Louis and the religious community is a welcome thing indeed.

World-class theologian and Trappist monk Basil Pennington will arrive on campus next Tuesday to open a three-day seminar on building ties between the communities of faith and the university. This dialogue could bear great fruit both for the future of religion as an active participant in culture and for the university, now in so many ways isolated from the mainstream of American life.

The theme of the seminar, which will attract other top-notch scholars and theologians, is "The University, Religion and the Community: Toward a Dialogue for the 21st Century." Anthropology Professor Van Reidhead noted that such a dialogue between academia and religion is essential if we are not going to "write religion off" in the post-modern world.

"Our ultimate questions continue to be the same as they've always been," Reidhead said. "Today, we really cannot address those questions without the whole of human knowledge."

Indeed. For too long, public universities have slighted the significance of religion in seeking answers to our greatest questions. This dialogue could become a crack in the over-fortified wall separating religion and public inquiry.

First For Native Americans

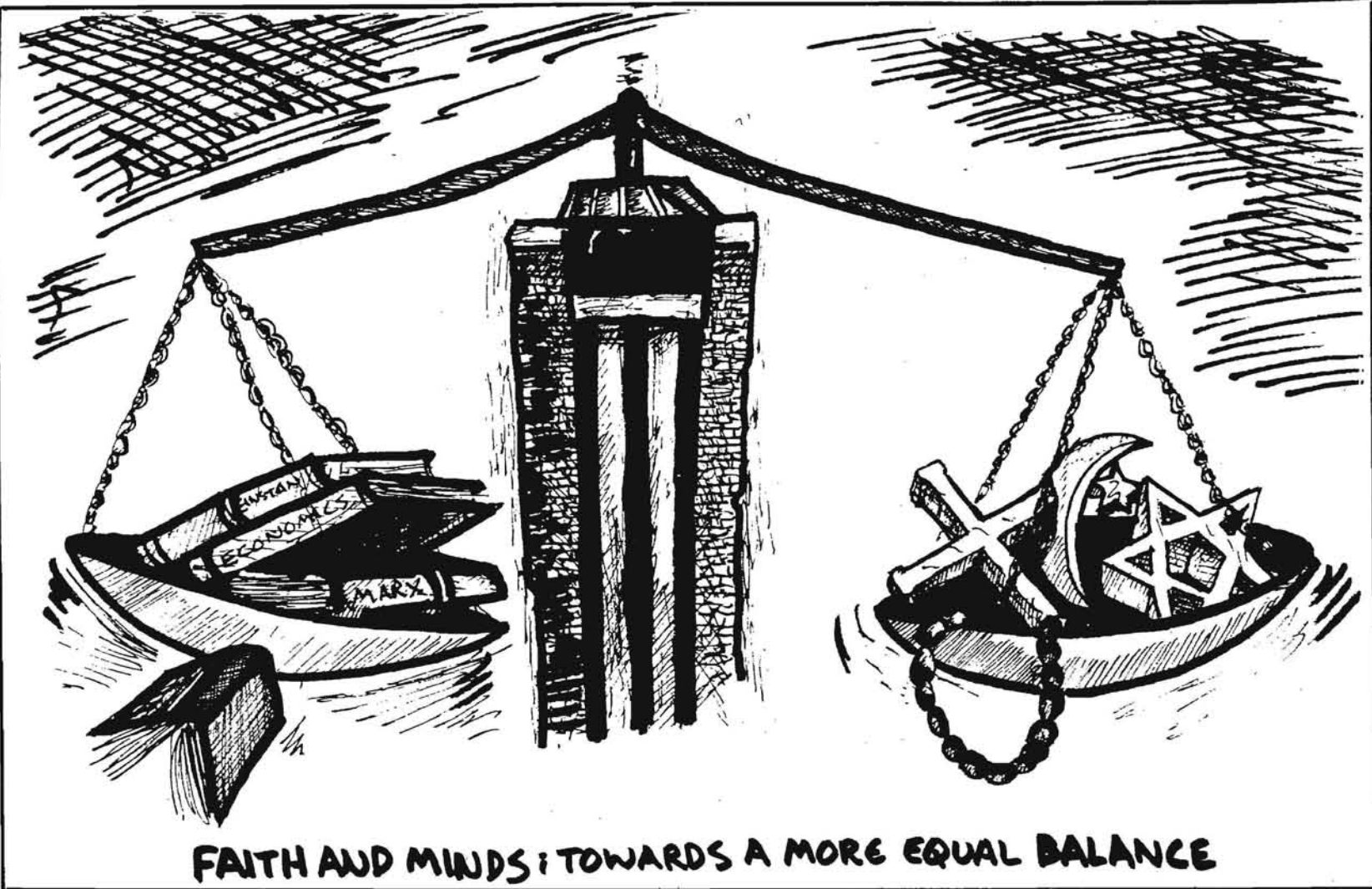
The university helped to bring recognition to the needs of Native Americans over the weekend by hosting the regional pow-wow of the American Indian Center, making UM-St. Louis the first institution to host such an event.

Other universities and area parks have refused the Indians space for their pow-wow, but Assistant to the Chancellor for Minority Affairs Norman Seay saw the need on campus to represent all student groups. Seay saw to it that the American Indian Student Association was given its equal share of space and time in celebrating Minority Awareness Week.

Efforts to meet the needs of all students should continue on this level and venture into the academic area as well as social and cultural ones.

One objective of a university is to expose students to alternative ideas and cultures; therefore, more functions along the lines of Hispanic/Latino Week and the AIC pow-wow should be encouraged. AISA President Matt Thornton put it best when he said of the pow-wow, "If this isn't education, I don't know what is."

Thornton and others at the pow-wow, like AIC Executive Director Evelyn Voelker, believe that American Indians are at the same level of poverty and discrimination that blacks were at 30 years ago. Sponsoring an event like this reaffirms the university's commitment to minority education. Hopefully, the needs of students as a whole will be given the same careful consideration as minority needs. Problems still remain in advising and Financial Aid that, if corrected, would improve the quality and affordability of higher education for all students.



Instead Of A Pledge, An Oath Of Allegiance

by Lawrence Mosblech

GUEST EDITORIAL

This whole thing about the Pledge of Allegiance is making me mad. The Republicans are playing flag-waving McCarthyistic games. They are trying to make Governor Michael Dukakis look unpatriotic. He didn't force the teachers of Massachusetts to have their school children recite the pledge. Dukakis had to veto the proposed bill or the Republicans would now be charging that he signed into law an unconstitutional mandate. It is nothing more than sensational mud-slinging. When Republican congressmen brought it to Capitol Hill, they only showed the unified stupidity of their party.

If the Republicans want to force everyone to take an oath, however, we had better set down some proper ground rules.

First, it should be an oath of allegiance to our country, not our flag. I like our flag. It's a nice design

and a lot different from most others. But I think it can stand pretty well on its own, whereas the country needs the allegiance of its people.

All naturalized citizens of the United States of America have taken the Oath of Allegiance and it is only fair that native-born citizens take a similar oath.

Next, the oath should not have to be recited on a regular or daily basis. It seems foolishly redundant and excessive to wake each morning and once again pledge your allegiance. It is almost as if you might have forgotten. The oath would provide that yours is a lifetime pledge: "I absolutely and entirely..." (Oath of Allegiance).

It is also important that the oath

be understandable by all who take it. The words and their meaning should not be misconstrued or mechanically babbled. When grade school children pledge allegiance to the flag, they have no idea what allegiance means; in our school systems, they probably won't find out until college.

People who do not want to pledge allegiance should not have to. This brings up a sticky but easily resolved point: When should anyone pledge? I think it is important for each individual to make a verbal commitment, and perhaps back it in writing, that he or she will use the voting right in the best possible way to protect and preserve this country and its laws. Therefore, if a pledge is

to be mandatory, it should only be so for those who want to vote. When you pledge allegiance at the right age, you are granted the right to vote. If you refuse to pledge your allegiance, there is no reason you should be allowed to vote.

The Oath of Allegiance is already required of any immigrant who wants to become a citizen of the United States of America. This country is founded on the principle of freedom. However, with freedom comes responsibility. Every person born in the United States should have the freedom to accept his or her responsibility as a citizen.

Governor Dukakis was probably remembering his father's verbal commitment to "defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic" (Oath of Allegiance). That is why he had to veto a law deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLET

Land Grant Mission Of University Questioned

To the editor:

Your editorial of Sept. 8, 1988, "Students First," in a very "local" way accounted for the paradox that exists here at UM-St. Louis campus. It is a paradox by contradiction. The contradiction has [been], and is, demonstrated by a repeated contempt (by action or inaction) for the student's fundamental needs at our campus, while publicly dispensing the rhetoric "Students are always our greatest concern." The fault is, in fact, a UM-system problem and not totally a result of poor UM-St. Louis administration such as your editorial suggests.

The most fundamental dilution of what the traditional UM-St. Louis student seeks through his/her enrollment is rooted in the very little-known and vague "land-grant mission" of the UM system. Unfortunately, the best account of this subject was published in the UM Spectrum, April 1988, a publication for faculty and staff.

Within this issue of the Spectrum, the feature article deals with how our UM-system Curators hear a "refresher course" on the land-grant mission of the UM system. Peter H. Raven (UM Curator) appears to have best summed up the land-grant mission within his commentary, as follows:

Our mission by definition, history and legislation is to present the broadest possible spectrum of activities for the people of the state. These activities include not only undergraduate education, but also research and extension. Extension is a logical and historically-dignified expression of the land-grant movement. It brings about other kinds of educational services to people of the state and enriches their lives and enables them in turn to contribute more to the common welfare.

Mr. Raven's comments reveal the fact that land-grant universities have unfairly been compared with those of the nation's best private universities. He cites that private universities are not chartered to maintain the "breadth of programs" as do the land-grant universities like UM-St. Louis. The very context of Mr. Raven's summary brings to

question the UM-system plans for selective eminence and the concept of creating a world-class campus. These objectives certainly serve more than our state taxpayers and our community; however, they are noble and worthwhile goals. But can and should the UM system continue in the 21st century attempting to provide almost limitless high-quality community services with finite funding?

The UM system by definition is burdened with providing most everything to everyone. Compounding simple administrative decisions of importance of one program over another occurs when the paltry budget appropriated by the state legislature is unfairly distributed among the four campuses. In a press release of Sept. 15, 1988 the Office of University Communications reiterates the fact that the UM-St. Louis campus only receives 12 percent of the UM-system operating budget. Our academics, staff/faculty retention and physical plant have all suffered as a result of a variety of problems all directly relating to unfair distribution of state funds and too broad of a service direction to our community. This method of financial allocation and delivery of community services does not promote the intent that the land-grant mission would imply.

The land-grant mission of the UM system is generally a very noble and important gesture of our state's founding fathers. However, it is time to realize that the generous and idealistic nature of providing such a "breadth" of services may not be a viable mission for the university by itself in the 21st century. The average Missouri taxpayer perceives the UM system as a state university attempting to deliver higher education to the masses. The land-grant mission has, in effect, allowed the UM system to foster many noble social, and some not so noble, new programs that are underfunded and under-committed and, in result, their functions dilute and potentially compromise core academic programs.

The state legislature continues to provide new monies for new programs and fails to return monies to sustain the old programs. Today's

new programs are, of course, tomorrow's old programs. Many of the compromises manifest themselves as reduction of student service. Doesn't this suggest that it is time the land-grant mission of the UM system be amended? Amended in a manner that reflects the ideals of the Missouri people (some of which

are students) and their wishes and needs for the UM system in the 21st century and not just those of campus and state bureaucrats attempting to further their political careers?

Paul Discher  
Supervisor of Technical Labs  
UM-St. Louis Dept. of Physics

Science, God, And Human Destiny

To the editor:

In the Current, Sept. 15, 1988 issue, UM-St. Louis Professor of Chemistry Hal Harris made a quote that I have a desire to comment upon. The statement said, "[God] didn't exist elsewhere because there was no elsewhere."

Although the following does not constitute the full meaning of his works, Stephen W. Hawking, Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University, tends to agree. In his book "A Brief History in Time" he quotes, "... one might as well cut the big bang, and any events before it, out of the theory, because they can have no effect on what we observe."

Carl Sagan of Cornell University, closing the introduction of the same book, claims, "... the conclusion of the effort, at least so far: a universe with no edge in space, no beginning or end in time, and nothing for a Creator to do."

These thoughts, by some of the greatest minds of the 20th century, make me ask myself some heavy and profound questions: What

makes man believe that he can understand the "mind" of God? How can god-fearing people believe that there is a Being up in the heavens looking down upon us and pushing buttons? How can there be people (lots of 'em) that think that because their mind conceptualizes the word GOD that they have an understanding of the Creator?

Isn't it a bit analogous to say that a fruit fly can contemplate to a high degree of logic the workings of Madison Avenue? Except this analogy is, of course, on a lesser level — we didn't create the flies.

Can a just-born baby decipher that the tears of her mother are not only of pain, but also of joy? My friends, God is not so small. Perhaps we never will observe our Creator. Perhaps she is observable, but with our limited senses, any further discovery is a very, very long way off. However, if we keep asking questions, we will be fulfilling our evolutionary destiny — to keep moving forward.

Stephen Weber

Choice Not Respected During Expo

To the editor:

What kind of school is UM-St. Louis that its students' choices are not respected? What happened to the right to NOT join in?

The food service in the Underground was stopped in an attempt to force students to buy food at the Expo. Luckily, I brought my food that day. When I attempted to study past 10 a.m. in the Underground, I was told to go upstairs to the Summit because the Underground was closed. Although I had taken the signs to mean food service would be halted, at least this

closing was publicized beforehand, nothing I saw mentioned the closing of the Summit. Not ten minutes after being sent to the Summit, I and many other students were informed the Summit was closed as well.

Is this an institution of higher learning? Do I not have the right to decide when and where I wish to study? Which of my decisions will be respected and accepted here?

But whether my decision was acceptable or not, I did not attend Expo '88.

John Schulte

CURRENT

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The Current is published weekly on Thursdays. Advertising rates are available upon request by contacting the Current Business Office at (314) 553-5175. Space reservations for advertisements must be received by noon Monday prior to the date of publication.

The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of the University of Missouri. The university is not responsible for the Current's contents and policies.

Editorials expressed in the paper reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Articles labeled "commentary" or "column" are the opinion of the individual writer.

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The Current welcomes letters to the editor. The writer's student number and phone number must accompany all letters. Non-students must also include their phone numbers. Letters should be no longer than two typed, double-spaced pages. No unsigned letters

will be published, but the author's name can be withheld upon request.

The Current reserves the right to edit all letters for space and newspaper style considerations. The Current reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.



## Interview: Jonathan Franzen On '27th City'

St. Louis is making waves in the literary world these days. "The Twenty-Seventh City," a novel set in St. Louis and written by Webster Groves native Jonathan Franzen, was reviewed, mostly favorably, in The New York Times last month. The reviewer said that the reader of the novel comes away "feeling both impressed and disturbed."

Impressed by Franzen's writing ability (described by the reviewer as a "rich, full-bodied prose") and disturbed by the plot of the novel, which involves a conspiracy engineered by a foreign-born police chief who plots to take over the city.

Franzen, who spoke on campus Sept. 16, said the novel, his first, was influenced by the work of Thomas Pynchon. Pynchon's novels are marked by his characters' involvements in vast conspiracies. "The world is a fairly frightening place with fairly sinister powers out there," Franzen said. "For the novelist, there is a lot to be done with conspiracy."

The following interview, conducted by John Kilgore, the Current's special projects editor, took place just before Franzen spoke to a crowd of about 100 students, concentrated mostly on the writing process and the struggles of the writer.

**QUESTION:** This first question is a two-part question. What was the first thing you knew about the book before you started writing it, the kernel, so to speak, and how much of the book did you have before you started writing it?

**FRANZEN:** Basically [I had] the premise when I started writing. I had this idea of Indians showing up in St. Louis, conspiring to take the place over.

The kernel came from ten years ago. Some friends and I wrote a play that had an Indian police officer in it. It was set in British Colonial India. I brought this character into a Webster Groves kitchen. It was funny and the idea didn't go away.

You come up with all kinds of strange ideas and occasionally it seems that one of them will actually do something for you.

**QUESTION:** What was your writing process, physically? How many hours, when and what did you write on?

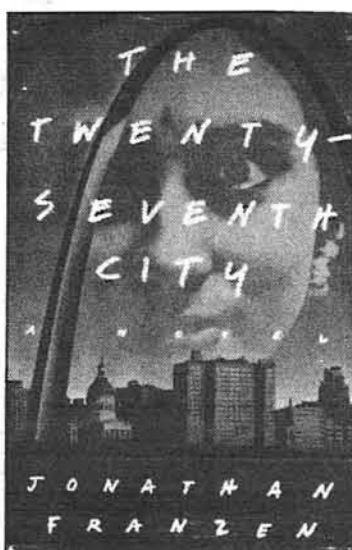
**FRANZEN:** For about four years all together, over a space of about six, I tried to work from breakfast to dinner, five days a week. I had a two-day a week job to support my wife and me.

Basically, it was just thousands of pages banged out on a portable manual typewriter. And rewritten and rewritten and rewritten. That was basically the physical process until it was done and then it was typed up on a larger typewriter.

**QUESTION:** Thousands of pages?

**FRANZEN:** I spent probably three or four months doing the first chapter and I ended up throwing it all away.

You turn out probably ten to fifteen pages of draft a day. Over a space of years that adds up to, well, thousands and thousands of pages. Ten or twenty thousand pages.



**THE BOOK AND THE MAN:** Cover of "The 27th City," written by Jonathan Franzen, at right.



**QUESTION:** How did you gain the confidence to finish a novel? Did you face a "personal crisis of confidence" in writing? And, how would you advise someone who wants to write a novel but is not sure they can?

**FRANZEN:** They should just try to do it and see how it goes.

Crisises of confidence come more and more frequently and they are more and more terrible the longer you go without being published.

I guess I was sustained along by the feeling that this was a good idea. If you have some confidence in your idea then the only thing that counts is sticking to it and being realistic and not deluding yourself about whether your stuff is good. Because it's probably not going to be good for a long time.

You just have to keep on finding it bad and finding it bad and finding it bad and after a number of years it ends up not being quite so bad.

**QUESTION:** It seems that having an idea that has a potential marketability would almost be required to sustain one through the long writing process.

**FRANZEN:** Marketability wasn't so interesting to me as was the literary possibilities and the way I could explore a city in a strange way.

Marketability was never my concern so much as entertaining people like myself and trying to write a book that you would like to read. This is one kind of book I'd like to read, there are lots of others which I am not able to write.

**QUESTION:** Stop me if you've heard this one before: Are there any writers in particular who you feel influenced your writing in this novel or your writing in general?

**FRANZEN:** Goethe, Dickens, Kafka, Thomas Pynchon. Swedish writers, crime writers named Majorsjowall and Perwahlo. You're right, I have answered that question before.

**QUESTION:** How has the success gone to your head or how do you keep it from going to your head? Has your life changed since the book has been accepted?

**FRANZEN:** My wife is a writer too, and she hasn't had her break yet. That alone keeps you honest. That's been a chief factor in keeping me on an even keel. It would just be unattractive for me to get too excited about it when I feel, as a partnership, we're only half-way there.

**QUESTION:** The rewards of writing, financially, aren't always great. What purpose can writing serve in general and this book in particular?

**FRANZEN:** I could talk about that for about three hours.

What purpose can writing serve? I can only answer that personally. I try to entertain people and make them think, which people, including myself, are generally unwilling to do, unless forced to.

I try and set them up, get them thinking they're just going to be entertained and then, when they're not looking, whack them over the head and make them think a little bit.

Beyond that, on a purely personal level, anybody who writes, I think, if they are honest about it and try and see it for what it is, [finds that] it tells you something about yourself. It increases your self-awareness. Not everyone wants to have their self-awareness increased, but those who do can get a lot out of writing even if they're not showing it to anyone, even if they're not publishing it.

Even if you don't get widely read, there's still something in it for the writer, I think.

**QUESTION:** Writing increases your self-awareness?

**FRANZEN:** Yes. If that's valuable to you, and most of the people I like think it is, then you'd have to call writing a good process for anybody to be involved in.

**QUESTION:** I think the value of this novel, with its continual references to the things that make up our city, is that it can help the St. Louis reader look at "the movers and shakers" who run this town in a different way.

**FRANZEN:** Yes, and hopefully look at the whole city in a different way.

I'd be happy if people got a little on their high-horses. I think people have a tendency to be complacent. It's always valuable to be forced to think about where you are and what makes the place tick. I'd be happy if this book did that for any St. Louisan who read it.

Certainly, I do intend to turn the place inside out and make it look really weird.

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## MONK

from page 1

to arrive at a synthesis without a relationship between religion and the university?" Reidhead asked.

"I would hope that what we would arrive at would be a just statement from a cross-section of religion and academia that would make it possible to identify what the nature of a more mature involvement is for the university in the religious life of the community."

## TWAIN

from page 1

students about \$30 a semester. The UM-Columbia facilities are terrible for a campus that has 20,000 live-on students."

In the weeks prior to the election, the athletic department and the stu-

dent government association plan an assault of publicity. The athletic department tentatively is scheduling to circulate fliers about campus, pass brochures out, meet with concerned students and advertise in the

Current. Berhorst plans to attend large lecture classes to discuss the issue.

## DEBATE

from page 1

today by having the right connections." The problem has gotten worse now because "that image is reinforced by his running mate," said Robertson.

"Both candidates are very close in the polls," said Robertson. (When this is the case) there is an enormous tendency to get dirty at the end of the campaign, when there is not enough time to strike back," said Robertson. "I hope I'm wrong but there could be some real dirty television ads."

Both Robertson and MacKuen stated that if the mudslinging continues people will lose interest in the election and the voter turnout could be very low.

Up to this point the campaign has been a lot of childish name calling, MacKuen said "Neither candidate has anything. Neither has a vision of where he wants to lead America. They just want to be the President," MacKuen said.

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Interested students should first consult the packet of information literature on research in the Library. Students may apply to the Secretary of the Missouri Rhodes Committee, Dr. Doug Hunt, Campus Writing Program, 319 General Classroom Building, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia MO 65211 and/or make application the UM-St. Louis Campus Selection Committee. Students who plan to go through the Campus Committee should pick up an application form from the Office of Academic Affairs, 401 Woods Hall. Students should return their completed application form to Academic Affairs by noon, Wednesday, October 12, 1988.

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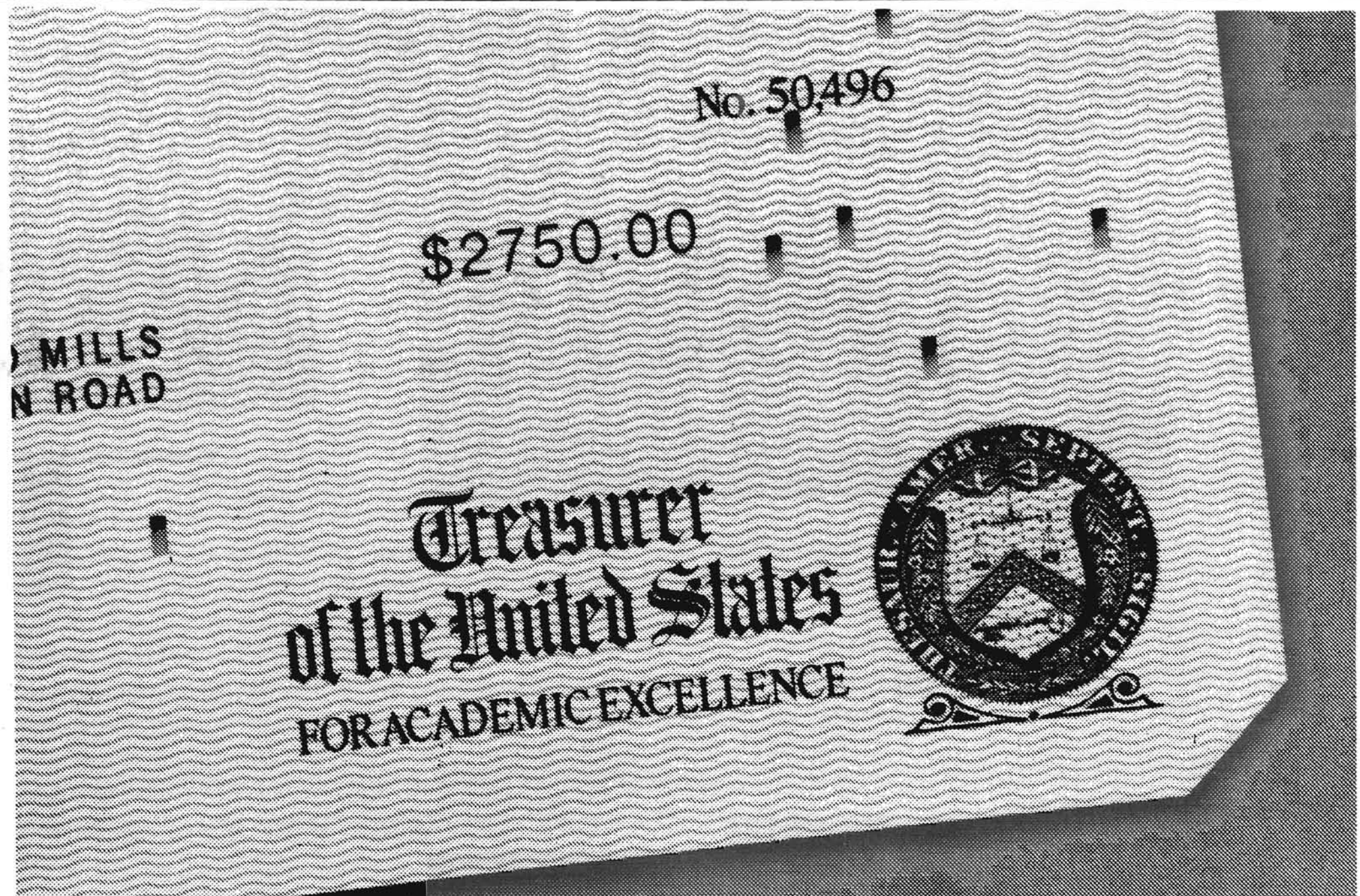
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