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## Current, April 12, 1999

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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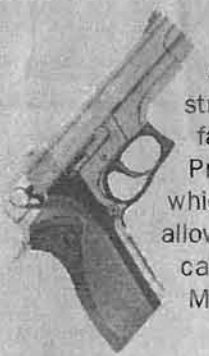
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► **Ready, Set . . . "Go"** is "Pulp Fiction" for the young crowd.

See page 10.



► **Bang!** Students react strongly to the failure of Proposition B, which would have allowed concealed carry of guns in Missouri.

See page 7.

► **Fashionably Pink:** Spring has sprung and pink is in for the new season. Check out our spring fashion preview.

See page 3.

## NEWS FROM ALL OVER

### Security to be tightened after espionage case

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — Chinese spies may have stolen top-secret neutron bomb designs from another University of California laboratory — marking the second report of possible nuclear technology leakage in less than a month.

A United States spy stationed in China told officials in 1996 that he heard Chinese intelligence officials boasting that U.S. nuclear secrets stolen from the UC-run Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory aided their development of a neutron bomb, the New York Times reported Thursday.

According to the report, China, using stolen technology from the Livermore lab, had attempted to build and test the neutron bomb in the 1980s.

The 1988 attempt failed, however, and Chinese spies returned to the United States in 1995 and stole more confidential information from the laboratory, the report said.

The allegation of Chinese espionage is the second in the past month and comes after officials at the U.S. Department of Energy launched a sweeping mission to boost security at the nation's top national laboratories.

Just last week, employees at the UC-operated Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos Laboratories, as well as the Sandia National Laboratory — all top U.S. nuclear labs — were ordered to suspend all classified work on computers.

The computer stand-down, ordered by U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, came in the wake of previous allegations of Chinese espionage last month and is part of a nine-point plan to improve laboratory security.

In that case, former Los Alamos computer scientist employee Wen Ho Lee allegedly stole nuclear secrets from the lab to help China develop a small yet powerful nuclear warhead in the early 1980s.

Although Lee was dismissed from his post at the laboratory and has been the subject of an FBI investigation, he has not been arrested nor charged with any crime.

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# The Current

THE AWARD-WINNING STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

April 12, 1999

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vol. 33 Issue 953

## Two will compete for SGA president

BY JOSH RENAUD  
staff assistant

Two candidates will face off for the presidency of the Student Government Association in elections scheduled for later this month.

SGA Treasurer Jacqueline Anderson, a sophomore biology major and Darwin R. Butler, a junior in business administration and president of the Organization for Producing Successful Black Men and Women, have both filed applications to be the next student body president. Two-term incumbent president Jim Avery is not running for re-election.

The campaign for comptroller will also see a two-way contest between senior accounting major Jana Johnson and Bryan Shaw, a senior accounting/management information systems/finance major and current president of the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

University Program Board President Carrie Mowen, a senior anthropology major, is the sole candidate filing for the position of vice-president. Neither incumbent Comptroller Ben Ash nor incumbent vice-president Mike Rankins are running for their respective posts again.

Anderson, Mowen and Shaw are all running on the same "Reformation" party slate. Butler and Johnson are running on a separate unnamed slate.

In addition to the SGA executive offices, seven students have chosen to run for open representative seats in the SGA Assembly. One is an incumbent. None will run with opposition with 15 assembly spots remaining unoccupied.

### Election committee may face shortage of polling volunteers

Members of the SGA election committee are trying to recruit volunteers to man the polls during the elections on Apr. 21 and 22.

"To pull this off, we really need to have about fifty volunteers," said committee co-chair Joshua Stegeman, "but so far we only have about 24."

The committee hopes to have ballot boxes available at nine locations on the North Campus and the South Campus, including the University Center lobby, the Underground, the Mark Twain Gymnasium, Lucas Hall, Marillac Hall, the Research Building, the Social Studies Building, the Honors College, and a booth at Mirthday, said committee co-chair Gail Rimkus.

Students can vote during the day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. or in the evening between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Rimkus said they will also have ballot boxes at the UM-St. Louis satellite locations in St. Charles, Jefferson County Community College, and Fox High School.

Stegeman said that over the past few years, the number of students casting votes has increased.

"Two years ago, there were about 600 votes cast," Stegeman said, "and last year, there were around 800. The candidates last year raised awareness with a really exciting campaign and got students involved."

see SGA, page 8

## Special week brings experience of awareness to UM-St. Louisians

BY SUE BRITT  
staff associate

UM-St. Louis's 19th annual Awareness Week featured movie marathons, disability awareness information, disability simulations, a wheelchair race, and ended with a meritorious achievement award Friday afternoon.

Speaking at the awards ceremony was Jim Russell, a licensed psychologist from Webster Groves Counseling. Marilyn Ditto, director of Student Affairs, said that Russell was asked to speak, particularly because of his expertise in the area of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). She said that this is a disorder that is sometimes more difficult for professors to recognize and understand.

"Dr. Russell is an expert in that and he also has [ADHD]."

The disability simulations that were set up in the University Center included diagrams that would help one to

better understand cognitive disabilities such as dyslexia and other learning disabilities. In an exercise in dexterity, participants were asked to insert their dominant hand into a shoe and lace it with the other.

"We also [had] a 'losing your senses' type of display which involves tasting things without being able to see them, without being able to smell them, and to see if you can identify them," Ditto said, "just to stir an awareness of just how much we depend on our eyesight and our scent in things like eating. And that's something people never really think about."

The wheelchair race was designed to show non-disabled contestants the realities of living with a disability. During the race they had to retrieve things like add/drop forms and a variety of other items from one end of the campus to the other. Ditto said there was a lower turnout this year and said

see WEEK, page 8



U Communications

An artist's conception of the proposed Performing Arts Center.

## Chancellor discusses Arts Center backstop

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS AND STEPHANIE PLATT  
of The Current staff

Chancellor Blanche Touhill spoke to the Faculty Council Thursday regarding a potential agreement to backstop the proposed Performing Arts Center.

In an interview after the meeting, Touhill described her backstop plan as keeping a "cushion" of funds to pay off deficits at the end of the year.

"Everybody has a budget. It generally has a little cushion. That's the backstop plan," Touhill said.

Touhill cited the Kathy Weinman Center as an example of her backstopping policy. "I just put the money up, and then slowly over . . . research grants, we paid it off," Touhill said.

Touhill also cited the construction of the greenhouse. "When we built the greenhouse, I knew what it would cost; I knew I had to raise a certain percentage of that money from the public. I said go ahead and build it. I backstopped about a third of the cost and then went to the community and over the period of about a year or two replaced it," Touhill said. "That's what a backstop is."

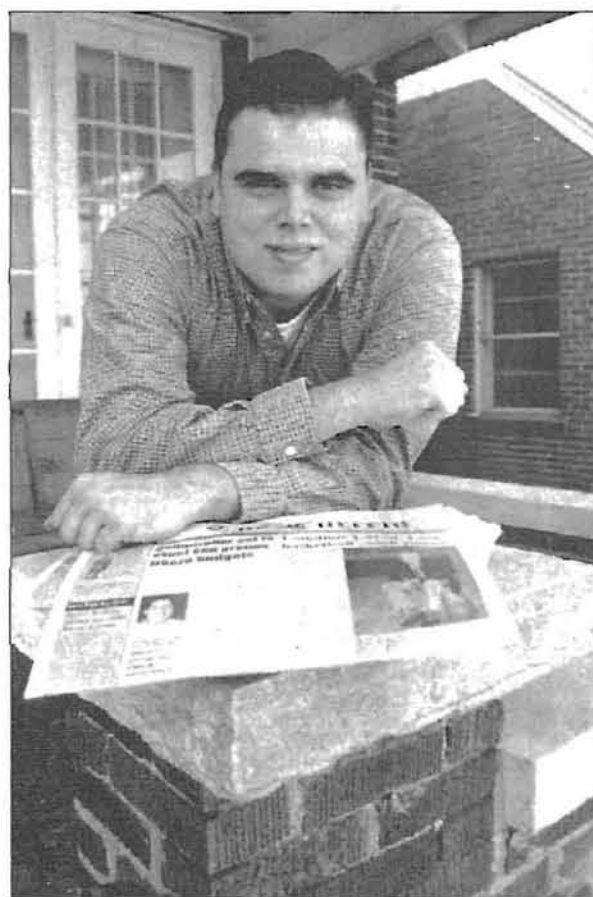
Dennis Judd, presiding officer of the Faculty Council, said the Chancellor's proposal was not, in his opinion, what some faculty members had wanted or what they had come to expect from a meeting in October. A resolution passed by the Faculty Council in December had asked the Chancellor for a written backstop agreement.

see CENTER, page 10



Stephanie Platt/The Current

University employee Graylin Smith participates in the wheelchair race, designed for non-disabled people to experience life in a wheelchair as part of Awareness Week.



Joe Harris

## New editor is chosen to head campus newspaper

BY MARK LYONS  
special to The Current

On Mar. 29 Joe Harris was named the Editor-in-Chief of *The Current* for the 1999-2000 school year. Harris has been on staff as an editor and writer for nearly two years.

He began his work on *The Current* in the fall of 1997, working as a sports writer for three semesters before being promoted to Managing Editor at the beginning of this semester. He has also been the editorial page editor.

Harris' top priority is continued improvement at all levels of *The Current's* production.

"We are only as strong as our weakest link," Harris said. "Every department feeds off the others. It's not enough to have good writing if the layout and photos can't match that quality."

Training and regular reviews of staff work in every department are thought by Harris to be key to elevating both the educational experience for staff members and the esteem in which the campus community holds *The Current*.

"I want *The Current* to serve as more of a learning tool for the staff," Harris said. "I would like to see section heads

trained in how to deal with conflicts and how to communicate with staff more effectively."

All of this, he feels, will result in increased education for staffers and a better product for the reader.

Harris made it clear that the business of running a paper is cyclical. If *The Current* can produce a good paper, advertisers will pay to have themselves associated with it. With increased resources comes an even better finished product and so on.

"I want my legacy after next year to be our web page," Harris said. "[Web Editor] Jeremy Pratte has done an excellent job getting it up to speed. Web advertising will only increase our options."

In addition to putting the printed edition of the paper on the net, the future plans for web access to *The Current* may also include a 35-year retrospective of UM-St. Louis' history as viewed by *The Current* and a space for articles from all sections of *The Current* that don't make into the printed version.

"The need for a hard copy of the paper will always be there," Harris said. However, he adds "The Internet offers many exciting possibilities."



Named UM-St. Louis' 1998 Best Campus Community Building Program

# Bulletin Board

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

## Monday, Apr. 12

• **Monday Noon Series: Why the Arts Are Necessary** in 229 J.C. Penney. Ellen Dissanayake, Seattle scholar and lecturer, discusses what the arts have contributed to human life and survival, and what the implications are of modern society's neglect of the arts. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **One Night Men's and Women's Volleyball Tournaments** at the Mark Twain Gym for students, faculty, and staff. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Homophobic Violence: It Does Happen Here** from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Women's Center in 211 Clark Hall. Suzanne Rose of the UM-St. Louis Psychology Department will open the eyes of all present concerning local violence against the gay and lesbian community along with exploring the aftermath of Matthew Shepard's tragic death last year. Contact: 5380.

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic.** Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

## Tuesday, Apr. 13

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic.** Sign up at the TJL Reference

Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **Student Social Work Association meeting** from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the third floor Evening College Conference Room of Lucas Hall. Contact: Terri Kettenbrink, 924-6402.

• **Mandatory Election Meeting** stressing the rules and regulations of the SGA elections for the candidates in 72 J.C. Penney from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Contact: Gail Rimkus, 663-2781.

## Wednesday, Apr. 14

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic.** Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **1999-2000 SGA Candidate Debate** in the Convocation Hall of the Pierre Laclède Honors College from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Contact: Gail Rimkus, 663-2781.

## Thursday, Apr. 15

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic.** Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **Mathclub Film Series: "A New Age: Information Age"** will be at 2

p.m. in 132 SSB.

## Friday, Apr. 16

• **Library Research Assistance Clinic.** Sign up at the TJL Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.

• **Introduction to Weight Training:** Learn how to use the Fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

## Saturday, Apr. 17

• **Pre-Optometry Association's Annual Tailgate Sale** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Parking Lot E. Students, faculty, staff or student organizations can sell anything they can in two parking spaces for just \$10.00. Contact: Thebe, 521-8328.

## Monday, Apr. 19

• **Monday Noon Series: The Fred Tompkins Poetry and Music Ensemble—A Performance** will take place in 229 J.C. Penney. Musicians David Black, Charlie Dent, and Fred Tompkins and poet Michael Castro of The Fred Tompkins Poetry and Music Ensemble present a variety of musical settings of poems by such writers as e.e. cummings, Emily Dickinson, Michael Castro, John Keats, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

## Wednesday, Apr. 21

• **SGA Elections.** Voting is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Thursday, Apr. 22

• **SGA Elections.** Voting is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Sunday, Apr. 25

• **Intramural Tennis Tournament** at the UMSL Tennis Courts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Men's and women's A, B, and C singles will be offered to students, faculty, and staff. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Coed Softball Tournament and BarBQ** at 12 p.m. Free food and fun for all. Teams consist of students, faculty, and/or staff. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

## Monday, Apr. 26

• **Walking Clinic:** Learn how to make your walking workouts more effective for you. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Monday Noon Series: Ring the Banjar!** Musicians provide a brief history and performance of the most American of stringed instruments, the banjo, in 229 J.C. Penney. The performance features banjo styles from Appalachian frailing to Dixieland and Jazzgrass. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.



## NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Becoming involved with on-campus events like these is as easy as applying for a job at **The Current**. Not only will you be a part of campus life, you can also add great experience to your resume and cut your commute time by working on campus. We currently have paid positions open for **Managing Editor and Business Manager**. Volunteer positions are also available. If interested, submit a cover letter and a resume to us at 7940 Natural Bridge Road, or call 516-6810.

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**Pam White** • Business Manager  
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**MCMA**



# Birthday April, 1999

Near Parking Garage D/C

**Tarot Cards**  
**Booths**  
**Caricaturist**  
**Palm Reader**  
**The Urge**

... and more!





FEATURES

Amy Lombardo, Features Editor  
Phone 516-5174, Fax 516-6811

GET THIS

Telemarketers  
prey on society's  
most gullible

I was getting ready to leave my house the other day, when the phone rang. I was running late as usual, so my dear mother answered it. She came down the hall and informed me that my friend, Dustin, was on the line. She added that he was in quite a surly mood.

Now, even though I was in a huge rush, I went to talk to him because he is, under normal circumstances, a real sweetheart. I wondered what it could be that was bringing him down.

I cheerfully answered the phone, expecting to lift his spirits quickly and efficiently. Unfortunately, it was not my pal who responded, but a complete stranger who immediately went into his sales pitch. I vaguely recall it involving combining my credit card with my calling card or something. I stood there, wishing my robe was made of warmer material, and wondering if he was a swimmer in high school because he had the biggest lung capacity that I had ever heard. When he finally paused to take a breath, I thanked him but informed him that I was perfectly content with my phone card and my Visa remaining as two separate entities. It was at this point that he made an angry grunt-like sound, and then he hung up on me.

Now, this sales tactic was so effective that I almost considered calling him back and accepting the offer . . . right after I shaved my head and dyed my skin purple.

What are these companies thinking? I used to be in teleservices and, although I never made calls to people (they'd call us with questions, etc.), I was never blatantly rude to a customer. People don't respond positively to that kind of attitude, unless they're from New York.

Not only that, but he asked for me by my first name and introduced himself by his, giving my mother the illusion that we were acquainted. If you ask me, this is borderline misrepresentation.

How do these telesolicitors stay in business? With all of the risk there is of fraud and other crimes, very few people will deal with them. I know of no one that will agree to anything over the phone, much less give out their credit card number or personal information.

So, here's my theory. (It's not founded on any research or fact, just an idea that popped into my head.) These companies feed off of incompetent people who can't make wise decisions for themselves. They take money from trusting men and women who don't realize they may be taken advantage of. They manipulate the naive with confusing double talk and sell them things they don't need or even want.

There's no way to escape, either. If you say you're not home, they call back. If you say you're not interested, they call back. If you scream into the phone as loud as possible and hang up, they call back.

I can't think of one person who enjoys phone solicitors. I know I don't get a warm, fuzzy feeling when I hear a voice on the other line asking for Ms. 'Lombardo' or 'Lombardi'. I think it's gotten out of hand personally. I have received up to 10 phone calls in one day from various businesses. I once had the same company call me three times in a two-hour period. It's ridiculous. The madness has to come to an end.



AMY LOMBARDO  
Features Editor



**BY ANNE PORTER**  
staff associate

Think pink. Think spring and flowers, pastels and the feminine flatter of clothes. These are the guidelines that spring fashions are following for the Spring of 1999.

Amanda Herman is a manager at "The Limited" in Chesterfield Mall.

"Pinks that sell are really light or really bright," Herman said.

She added that there is no middle ground in sales. If a woman does not want to wear a really pastel or "Easter" shade of pink, she may choose to go with the bright, on the edge, fry the eyeballs pink.

Herman also noted the revival of shorter length slacks, like capris, and shorter shirt sleeves, like the 3/4 length sleeve. Gingham plaids, which portray a very feminine feeling, have also returned to the racks. Herman has noticed a rise in boat neck sales as well.

For the feet, Herman mentioned that the managers of "The Limited" do shoe research to advise their clients. Slim and flat sandals are popular this spring, replacing the clunky and

Think Pink!



Spring has sprung and the fashions of the new season are already being seen

Photos by Sam Kastle/ The Current



cumbersome, heavy sole and mile wide straps.

Some UM-St. Louis students have spring fashion advice.

Jodie Grass is a junior majoring in communications.

"You must paint your toenails," Grass said.

Grass also mentioned that in spring, she wears skirts and dresses most of the time.

Maureen Sullivan is a junior majoring in English.

"I dress not very different than the rest of the year. Comfortable and casual," Sullivan said.

*Glamour* magazine shows more variation in color than just pink, which can be quite a relief for those who do not wear the red and white blend well. The gentlemen out there will also appreciate this also because there have been sightings in *Glamour* of men in pink pants and pink shirts. It is doubtful that men would actually emulate that particularly fuzzy vision.

*Glamour* fashion layouts show a plethora of

colors, both pastel and neon in nature. The colors include baby blue, grass green, street sign red, Easter egg lavender, chiffon orange, fuchsia and rose combinations, and buttercup yellow. All these colors are shown in solid dresses, skirts, lawn pants, stretch pants, and capris. Popular fabrics include silk, satin, cotton, and natural textures that feel smooth to the touch.

Some tips provided by *Glamour* include mixing pieces of the same color together to create a monochromatic ensemble. Make sure that the pieces are clearly different shades, unless they are the exact same shade because they will clash if they are too close in color.

*Glamour* also suggested combining separate shades located close to each other on the color wheel—yellow and orange, for example.

When wearing color, try to keep accessorizing to a minimum because the colors themselves accent the wearer. If too much adornment is worn, one could appear gaudy.

Other *Glamour* features include the "The

10 Most Wearable Looks!"

These are "anoraks, utilitarian chic" (cargo pants and a tank top), "a-line skirts, romantic skirts" (long and swishy, the kind to twirl around the dance floor in), and "hip-hippy" (calf catching boots with a knee clinching floral dress).

Others include "bare back dresses" (which show the entire back), "Gypsy modern" (stretch off the shoulder blouse, chain belt, and pants), "hot pink," "cropped pants," and "leather luxe" (tight fitting leather jacket, sport pants, and sneakers).

If none of *Glamour's* ten looks are appealing, there is the "Old Navy" drawstring. The drawstring can be found in shorts, skirts, dresses, and pants. The drawstring adds a fresh and current look to any ensemble.

If the men in the reading audience feel as if they have been unjustly treated, please do not despair. Here is some fashion advice for men for the Spring of 1999 courtesy of GQ magazine.

UNDER  
CURRENT

compiled by Sam Kastle/staff photographer

What was the last book you read?

"Flowers for Algernon, it was awesome. Sad, but good."

-Nick LoGrasso  
Sophomore/Electrical Engineering

"The Great Gatsby. It was a depressing love story all about illusions of grandeur."

-Lindsay Fox  
Junior/Communication

"Women of Brewster Place. It was a good book, but I liked the movie better."

-Stephanie Manubay  
Junior/Psychology

"Reviving Ophelia. Different stories about teenage girls. A better understanding of growing up a teenage girl."

-Julie Burgoyne  
Freshman/Photography

"The Giver. It is about a utopia, a perfect world. It's an interesting book."

-Shannon Johnson  
Freshman/Electrical Engineering



Left Bank Books

LitMag's 'Bluemoon' issue and reading give voice to authors

**BY ANNE PORTER**  
staff associate

Courtesy of Left Bank Books and UM-St. Louis, the *LitMag* "Bluemoon" issue will be brought to life by the authors of the poems and short stories. The "Bluemoon" reading will take place at Left Bank Books, 399 North Euclid, at McPherson, in the Central West End on Apr. 21. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and is scheduled to last until 9 p.m. This event, for everyone's enjoyment, is free and open to the public.

The "Bluemoon" issue is the 15th issue of *LitMag* to be published at UM-St. Louis. *LitMag* is a compilation of poetry, short stories, and other forms of literary works, written by the faculty and students of UM-St. Louis. Pieces that represent the best works of each year are selected. The "Bluemoon" issue includes photographs and artwork to accompany the poetry and short stories.

Kelly Cowan is the president and managing editor of *LitMag*.

"The relationship we've built with Left Bank Books has been important to the success of the magazine," Cowan said. "They are very supportive and always have been. This is nothing new."

At the reading on Apr. 21, all the readers will be students. Most of these students will be first time readers, which means that they have never read poetry in public before. The only experience most of these readers have is reading in a classroom environment.

Not only are these first time readers, but most of these are the first published works for many of these authors. There are approximately 17 authors, with 33 works including 4 short stories and 29 poems. Also included in "Bluemoon" is an interview with Mary Troy. Troy, the director for the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at UM-St. Louis, gives her philosophy in an

interview conducted by Cowan.

*LitMag* "Bluemoon" was very much supported by the English Department and by the alumni which provided financial support for the issue.

Cowan said that all the work submitted was "good and deserving." Even though not all the work was accepted because all 150 poems and 20 short stories could not be published, Cowan said all of the submissions were high quality pieces of work.

The staff of 12 to 14 people has worked since last autumn, with Scott McKelvie as faculty advisor. McKelvie also teaches poetry classes at UM-St. Louis.

The staff consisted of three fiction editors, art editors, a submission tracker (who makes sure for the selection process that the works are anonymous), and graphic art designers.

Many junior art students created work for "Bluemoon" with the help of graphic and computer design.

The deadline for entries was Feb. 19, with three weeks allotted for editing, but editing actually took four weeks. The preliminary proofreading to decide which works would be published took four hours alone.

Technical challenges, such as the pages had to be divisible by 16 and the font type and font size, had to be worked out in the designing process.

For future issues, Cowan mentioned adding business and advertising associates. Some ideas for future issues were translation poetry.

If interested in working for the next issue of *LitMag*, please contact Kelly Cowan at (314) 481-1475. *LitMag* provides excellent publishing and editing experience, as well as graphic arts and design experience.

"I'm really excited. I feel really good about the show," Cowan said. "It's another great venue to see the quality of UM-St. Louis."



## COMMENTARY

## The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

## Editorial Board

David Baugher  
Editor in ChiefJoe Harris  
Managing Editor &  
Editorial Page Editor"Our Opinion" reflects the  
opinion of the editorial board

## How to Respond

Your response is an important part of the weekly debate on this page. Letters should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number.



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## Telephone

(314) 516-5174

## OUR OPINION

## Preparation for post-PAC projects

## The Issue:

Chancellor Touhill has come up with a financial cushion to help with the potential costs of the Performing Arts Center. This doesn't seem to be enough for those who oppose it.

## We Suggest:

Some sort of fiscal policy should be implemented for future projects for the University.

## So what do you think?

Let us hear from you on this or any issue in a letter to the editor.

current@jinx.umsl.edu

Faculty Council head Dennis Judd's admission at a meeting on Thursday that the Performing Arts Center issue was a "dead horse" seemed to sum up well over a year of active faculty and student debate over the design as well as budgetary concerns associated with the Center's construction and operation.

After months of complaints, resolutions, arguments and counterarguments, the Chancellor has finally agreed to implement a financial "cushion" for the proposed Center to alleviate fears that potential operating losses may bleed away resources from other areas of the campus.

The cushion proposal, however, is not enough for some faculty who want nothing less than a written backstop agreement to fully protect other departments against the Center's possible cost. Unfortunately, a backstop arrangement suitable to the concerns of the Center's opponents does not appear forthcoming. Either the Chancellor is unable to give such an ironclad guarantee due to the financial unpredictability of any new venture or she is simply unwilling to do so. In either case, further argument over the matter seems academic at best. The present proposal seems to represent the furthest the chancellor will go to meet in the middle, and as for concerns over the design of the Center, the blueprints seem set in stone.

Judd has suggested that the main issue for the future is not the Arts Center itself but the way in which future

projects will be brought forward, planned, presented, and implemented. Implementing policy in this area would seem to be the most productive goal one might draw from the lessons learned in the Performing Arts Center debate. Judd himself tried to begin such a policy discussion at the February Budget and Planning Committee meeting when he introduced a resolution suggesting the University operate on a "pay as you go" principle. The resolution passed unanimously.

"Pay as you go" may or may not be the solution to campus dissension over projects such as the Arts Center, but it is important that some type of fiscal policy be in place to prioritize the campus' needs before a large scale project is undertaken. Such a policy would sharply diminish the level of complaints when a major reallocation of funds takes place.

It is unrealistic to believe that everyone will be in agreement when a new project makes the rocky transition from the drawing board to the real world, but adherence to a coherent fiscal policy would go far to proving that any new project is a part of the University's mission.

Hopefully, the stormy process that has rocked the campus for more than a year will produce a successful and vibrant arts facility at UM-St. Louis. Let's hope that better communication and firmer policy guidelines make the process for the next campus improvement a smoother one.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Prop B would have been beneficial

Joe Harris' April 5th column on Prop B was very interesting and deserves a response. I voted for Prop B even though I'm not a gun owner or a member of the NRA.

Prop B didn't pass but the issue isn't going away. On paper, supporters outspent opponents 5-1. But the opponents got free media support and coverage through the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the Riverfront Times and most of the other media sources in this area. The Post's Kim Bell and KSDK's Dan Gray were the exception. Also as reported by a Mizzou reporter the opponents also may have violated the law by using taxpayer-funded materials. The supporters used logic, reason and evidence. The opponents used rhetoric, scare-mongering, distortions and outright lying.

Joe mentioned statistics regarding right-to-carry. How many of the 2,000 people that were arrested in Texas were because of gun violations? University of Chicago professor John Lott wrote a report and a controversial book in which he did extensive research and documentation which refutes Joe's stats. Of course Lott was biased because he was supposedly bought and paid for by the gun lobby.

Joe next says Prop B would have posed a threat to the public and the police. The real threat to police is habitual lawbreakers that liberal judges treat with kid gloves. Forty-three policemen are alive today because armed citizens came to their aid. Also guns are used in self-defense numerous times a year and many people are alive today because they owned a firearm. While there are accidents involving guns, there are also accidents involving roller blades, skateboards, bikes, swimming pools, household products, model glue, paint, etc. (which don't get as much attention).

He next makes the stupid statement that the supporters of Prop B and the NRA want to go back to the Wild West. Joe, do you know any

of the 103,000 members of the NRA in this state? Most of my friends are members. Like me, they believe that responsible, competent and law-abiding citizens should own firearms. Also, like me, they oppose the liberal elitist view of punishing decent gun owners for the acts of criminals. Instead, we support mandatory sentences for gun use in crimes.

What the bashers of the NRA conveniently forget to mention is that the NRA supports the Eddie Eagle program and other programs. Their purpose is to teach young people and those of all ages the proper use of firearms to prevent bad things from occurring. The NRA also has Crimestrike. That's right Joe, the old boogeyman NRA cares about the public safety and doesn't view firearms as "toys." Joe, a gun is a piece of equipment and doesn't work until someone uses it.

He finally mentions road rage. During acts of road rage guns aren't the only things that can be used as a weapon. Other weapons are the car you drive, flashlights, window scrapers, tire irons and other things people keep in their car. In fact, a man in Texas is probably alive today because after a car accident, he was having his face smashed in and used a gun to save his life and he wasn't charged with anything.

Since Prop B failed I think the taxpayers should stop paying for the bodyguards of the elected officials who came out against Prop B. After all, they don't think the people who pay for their bodyguards are competent enough to defend themselves. I'm particularly referring to our fine Governor Mel Carnahan who has 10 full-time bodyguards who cost about \$700,000 a year.

Joe next time do yourself and all of us a favor and get your facts and information straight.

-Kevin J. Hinostroza

## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Kindness found in the bar of a bowling alley

Caution, I have been advised by the editor that this commentary should only be read by those of legal drinking age. Sometimes, people are very nice. Not always, and not even often, but sometimes humanity comes through, making us look, well, human. Every Tuesday, my friends and I go bowling. (No, it isn't cool, but it is something to do, and the drinks are cheaper than any bar.) The same bartender works every week, a nice lady named Lynne. Since we are all loyal customers, we make sure to tip her every trip to the bar.

This past trip, my roommate Willy (last names will be withheld to protect the drunk) made a few more trips to the bar than the rest of us. Besides the pitchers of beer we were all sharing, Willy felt it necessary to invite Jose Cuervo, an old friend, over. Tequila wasn't cutting it, so Willy ordered a Kamikaze. Lynne had a little trouble remembering what was in the shot (how many bowlers order Kamikazes, really now?), so she gave my roommate a free Jack and Coke for having to wait so long. My roommate made sure to tip her extra for that, and gave Lynne what he thought was five dollars.

CORY BLACKWOOD  
Guest Commentary

The bar had closed at this point, and Lynne was shutting down, counting out her money. Suddenly, or at least it seemed like suddenly by that point in the evening, Lynne showed up and told Willy he had tipped her too much, that he had given her four ones and a ten. She wouldn't keep it, and made Willy take it back.

Thinking back on it, we all realized that Willy would have never noticed the missing ten dollars (he may have not even noticed a new tattoo at that point), and that Lynne was just being a nice person. Because of this, she will probably get bigger tips from us, but that isn't why she gave the money back.

Karma loosely means that if you are a good person, good things will happen to you. Willy is a good tipper, and he got his money back. Lynne always takes care of us, so we in turn, take care of her. Many would have kept the ten dollars, knowing full well that they could have gotten away with it. Instead of ten dollars right then, Lynne will probably make more money in the next two weeks alone from us than that. Willy, however, will probably lose the ten dollars to some less-forgiving bartender, I'm afraid.

## Sorry, Dr. Grace, blame the Orcs

This week I need to use my column space to issue a formal apology to Dr. Gary Grace for missing last week's monthly student leader luncheon. The luncheons were an excellent idea cooked up by Dr. Grace to promote discussion and gauge student opinion on issues of major concern to students. (Forgive Grace's naivete, he has not yet been on campus long enough to realize that UM-St. Louis students don't have any opinions on issues of major concern.)

Anyway, I just wanted to tell Dr. Grace that I couldn't make the luncheon due to an unavoidable last minute commitment elsewhere on campus. As I said, I wanted to tell Dr. Grace that, but only because I didn't want to tell him why I really didn't make the lunch which is because I was up until 6 a.m. the previous night defending a small village from Orcs in the forests of the kingdom of Azeroth.

This is not something I like to admit, but I used to be able to go entire months without thinking about Orcs. Then weeks, then days. Now I find myself daydreaming about protecting the peaceful people of Azeroth even during class. Okay, so I'm a computer gaming freak, and the Orcs and "Warcraft," the game they inhabit, are one of my worst vices. I have an addiction, and I'm willing to admit I need help. Worse yet, it goes even further than the Orcs.

It all started when I began playing "SimCity 2000," a truly wonderful game by Maxis, in which you build and run a simulated metropolis, creating simulated plumbing, stringing simulated electrical wires, and constructing a simulated mass transit system. You can even raise the simulated taxes. (Unfortunately, if you do this too much your citizens may decide to move out of town causing simulated urban blight. Thank goodness the program does not give them the option of voting for tiny, suit-wearing, simulated Republicans.)

The problem with SimCity is that it sucks the time out of your life like nothing I've ever seen. You can literally play for six or eight hours at a stretch without ever getting bored. (Double vision has been known to set in, around Hour Five, however.)

Worse, even when you're not playing SimCity, you're thinking about playing it. For months I would be engaged in normal daily activities, writing news stories, talking with friends when I would suddenly have some revelation about the science of city planning: "That's it!!! HYDROELECTRIC POWER!!! If I convert my solar plants to hydroelectric, then I can repeal the pollution controls on the commercial sector and save enough to pay off the bond issue!" Some people stopped hanging out with me altogether.

Anyway Dr. Grace, I really am sorry about missing the meeting. I'll try to make the next one. Really. Of course, you can never tell what might pop up at the last minute.

Those Orcs are tricky.

DAVID BAUGHER  
Editor-in-Chief

## The fruits of honesty and human kindness

A funny thing happened to me the other day while working at my other job (no, my measly pittance for working at *The Current* isn't enough to sustain my bar tab, let alone my cost of living.)

I deliver for Domino's Pizza. I've worked there for two years, and the job gets pretty routine. Take the order, make the pizza, get it there fast.

However, there are times when the job gets a bit tricky, even dangerous. There was the time when a drunk man at a hotel tried to steal the pizzas I was delivering, and the time when another drunk guy tried to break into our store after closing because he wanted a pizza. Do you see a theme here?

Well, this incident has nothing to do with drunks or pizza theft; it has to do with honesty and human kindness.

It was a down night—most of the nights in the few months after Christmas are—and I was disgusted after seeing where my next run was. It was to a run-down hotel on the edge of our delivery area. Not only did you have to drive a long distance to get there, but you also hardly ever get tipped.

By this time, I had resigned myself to fate and figured that this wouldn't be my night at all. So I go to deliver the pizza as fast as I could, figuring that the sooner I get this over, the sooner I can get a run that will earn me some money. Along the way, I accidentally cut a couple people off (Domino's stresses safety, for the record). In my time at Domino's I have seen almost every hand gesture imaginable, but this gentleman was particularly upset; it's a good thing Proposition B didn't pass or I might have been a goner. It's a shame really because this time it was an honest mistake.

I finally got there, and a man answered the door. I expected him to be drunk or a jerk, like some inhabitants at this particular hotel often are, but he was neither. He was a nice guy who greeted me when he answered and wished me a good night when I left.

He counted the money out loud and his tip was a dollar and change (at my store I average two dollars and change, but for this establishment I was happy for what I got). However, when I got to my car, I found that a ten dollar bill got stuck between a couple of singles.

It was decision time, either return the money or keep it and have an extra ten dollars. After a moment of soul searching, I decided to give the money back, simply because the guy was nice to me. He was so happy that I gave it back that he gave me a couple of extra bucks for my honesty and called my manager to let him know of my honesty.

There's a lesson here. Be nice to your delivery guy; it pays in the long run.

JOE HARRIS  
Managing Editor



**Ken Dunkin, sports editor**  
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e-mail: kdunkin@rocketmail.com

SPORTS

OFF THE WALL

Lack of record longevity brings baseball down

It is kinda funny to me that in the year of celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hank Aaron breaking the home run record that everyone is so record-breaking hungry.

I know that seeing records broken is very exciting. I remember running in the house from playing baseball in my backyard to see Pete Rose smack hit number 4,192 off Eric Show. Rose broke the record that had stood for 65 years. Now, there is a record that stood for a long time.

That is something that will be lost soon, the rarity of seeing records broken. Mark McGwire destroyed the home run record last season. Sammy Sosa wasn't too far behind either. It was embarrassing to see the record destroyed in that manner.

Sure, offense is exciting. Most fans would rather see a 10-7 game than a 1-0 pitchers duel. Which is better for the game?

I'm not quite sure, but I think it is somewhere in the middle. This is a hitter's era. At no point in history have hitters had as much dominance over pitchers. Between expansion of the league and an unsure strike zone, the pitchers are up a creek without a paddle.

It is beyond me why baseball didn't bring things to an even keel as they did in 1967. In that season Bob Gibson dominated hitters. His ERA was an astonishing 1.12. That is unheard of today when most pitchers are happy to keep their ERAs to below 4.00.

The next winter, major league baseball voted to raise the pitchers mound which made the ball easier to see for the hitters. Why they didn't make a change, such as lowering the mound this past winter, to give pitchers a slight edge is a joke.

Baseball needs to learn from indoor soccer. Soccer was once very popular in St. Louis. Steamer games were on quite often and The Arena was packed when Sobo and friends played. Soon the fans disappeared, and so did the Steamers.

The lesson here? Too much too quick can really kill a team. There were tons of records broken last season. How long before the home run record hits 100?

To me it seems as if many fans aren't happy unless a home run is hit. That is sad. Baseball has placed their hopes and well being in the hands of the home run. And like any hitter, it could be shut down at any point.

A lot of these games seem like professional softball games where box scores include 7 different guys homering. Something has got to be done.

And while I'm at it, what is up with all the baseball players complaining about being so popular? McGwire complained that people asked for his autograph.

Get over it musclehead. You get paid the big bucks because one of the downsides of your career choice is you love privacy.

Fans pay your salary which is the down side of your life. Try flipping burgers for a while for minimum wage, and then complain. And then and only then complain when someone requests an autograph.

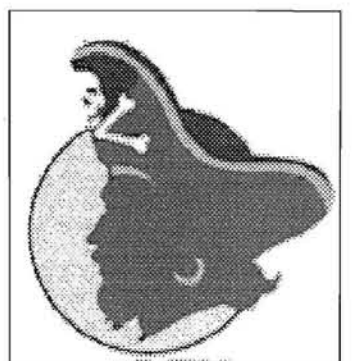
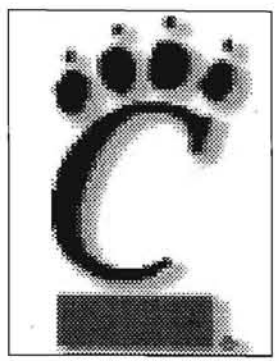
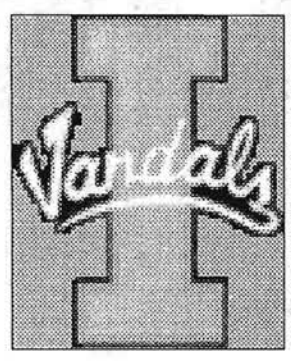
And if you don't like the fame, then try striking out a little more and see how famous you are then, androboy.



**KEN DUNKIN**  
sports editor

And the winner is?

UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Pat Dolan recently narrowed down the University's wish list to three for the Rivermen head basketball coaching job. Here's a look at the three, along with their qualifications



**Mark Bernsen**  
Experience: Assistant coach at U. of Idaho (1997-present), head basketball coach Kirkwood High School (1996-97), assistant coach New Mexico St. (1995-96), head coach Southwest Missouri St. (1992-95), assistant coach Southwest Missouri St. (1989-92), head coach Murray St. (1986-89), assistant coach Murray St. (1985-86), head coach Jefferson Community College (1977-85), assistant coach UM-St. Louis (1975-77), head coach McCluer High School (1974-75), assistant coach McCluer High School (1972-74).

Past coaching accomplishments: Coached Southwest Missouri St. to quarterfinals of NIT in 1992-93.

In 1975 he led McCluer to the 4A state championship and was named coach of the year by several outlets.

St. Louis ties: Coached several local schools including UM-St. Louis. He was coordinator of recruiting and scouting for UM-St. Louis.

Bernsen received his bachelor and masters degrees from UM-St. Louis.

Age: 49

**Geoff Schimberg**  
Experience: Assistant coach and administrative assistant U. of Cincinnati (1996-present), head coach Olney Central College (1992-96), assistant coach St. Louis University (1986-92), assistant coach Belleville Area College (1985-86), assistant coach Horton Watkins (Ladue) High School (1983-85).

Past coaching accomplishments: Cincinnati has a winning percentage of 80% since Schimberg arrived in 1996.

His Olney teams went a combined 83-44 over four seasons.

Recruited the 17th ranked recruiting class for SLU in 1990-91. It was the first time SLU had ever had a recruiting class ranked.

St. Louis ties: He attended SLU Law School and Washington University.

He has held various coaching positions at several local schools.

Caught glimpses of St. Louis fans as Cincinnati plays SLU several times a season

Age: 39

**Griff Mills**  
Experience: Head coach Armstrong Atlantic St. U. (1991-present), assistant coach East Carolina U. (1989-91).

Past coaching accomplishments: Participated in the movie "Hoosiers".

Coached NBA veteran Blue Edwards while at East Carolina U.

In his time at Armstrong Atlantic St., 23 out of 26 student-athletes who completed eligibility have graduated or are currently graduating.

Traveled to France as a representative of Adidas to teach basketball to French children.

Currently possess an overall record of 120-98. Won the Peach Belt Championship in 1994-95 which helped to earn him the conference coach of the year award.

St. Louis ties: NA

Age: NA

Serving aces...  
Winning streak brings confidence for tennis team as they head into the GLVC tourney

Young Rivermen team looks for fourth seed after winning four out of five

**BY DAVE KINWORTHY**  
staff associate

The men's tennis team have won four out of their last five matches and is looking ahead to a potential fourth seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

The Rivermen defeated Bellarmine 5-2, and then the next day took on Northern Kentucky and emerged victorious 5-4.

Freshman Mario Gruden played extremely well for the Rivermen in that match.

"He won the match for us," Head Coach Rick Gyllenberg said. "He was the 9th match with the score tied 4-4. It was obviously a good win for the team and for his confidence."

From there, UM-St. Louis moved on to play Kentucky-Wesleyan and won their third straight match.

The Rivermen then moved on from the worst team in the GLVC, Kentucky-Wesleyan, to play the best team in the conference, Southern Indiana.

Southern Indiana defeated UM-St. Louis 5-0, but the score did not reflect the way the Rivermen played.

"My guys played pretty well," Gyllenberg said. "They seemed a little better than us, and I honestly do not know if anyone will knock Southern Indiana off. They are a really strong team."

UM-St. Louis then played host to Quincy University and solidly won 8-1.

With the Rivermen having such a young team, the youth of the team may be a question mark come tournament time, but Gyllenberg disagrees.

"The freshmen are doing excellent," Gyllenberg said. "Ryan Trela had surgery and the knee injury has slowed him down a bit. We have great expectations of him in the future. TJ Schaefer has struggled a little with his confidence, but not with a lack of talent or lack of skills. Everybody will return for next year, and we will be better maturity wise and talent wise."

This season, the Rivermen have a positive approach going into the GLVC tournament.

"I like to be optimistic. If the opportunity would come if we got to play Indianapolis or SIU-Edwardsville again, realistically we can play with them," Gyllenberg said. "From a factual standpoint, if we end up fourth in the tournament, we will end up playing the fifth seed, Northern Kentucky. If we were fortunate enough to make it to the semifinals against Southern Indiana, the one thing that I would tell my players is that we always do well in conference. We have a little bit of history of playing well in conference."

With the goals of the Rivermen during the preseason of being in the top four in the GLVC and a goal of being first in the conference, Gyllenberg has set his team's sights on the next few weeks.

"We are a legitimate top four team in the conference," Gyllenberg said. "Other teams talk about us around the conference as though we are a top four team and that makes us feel good and helps with our approach to things. We have not lost our goal of winning the conference tournament because we can still win it until we don't win it. I think my players think they can beat anyone in the conference if we are healthy."

The confidence the Rivermen have this season does not compare Gyllenberg said from years past, and that is one of the true assets of the team.

"To be honest, the chemistry is better than any other team that I have had. That is not taking anything away from the guys who have graduated, but this group gets along with each other better," Gyllenberg said. "When you are out there playing, it is an individual sport, but when you are out there every day practicing, it is a team sport. Their teammates give them more confidence in themselves. Things spread like cancer, but good, positive things spread too."

Players prefer wood

**BY KEN DUNKIN**  
staff editor

In addition to the usual changing of players, the baseball team has had to adjust to using wooden bats as opposed to the aluminum bats that they had used in recent history.

The change was made when the athletic directors of the Great Lakes Valley Conference voted to strictly use wood bats in conference play. The move was made to alleviate the risk of shot-gun injuries that had been happening across U.S.

"A couple of guys got hurt pretty bad around the country last season," pitcher Jon Buckingham said. "It really made sense for the conference to make this move. Aluminum was the dumbest invention ever created."

The invention has caused several players around the country to be seriously injured and in one case fatally injured.

"It made it tough to go inside on the batters," Buckingham said. "If you slipped up too much, it could come right back at your head... pretty quick. Sometimes it is hard to get out of the way. With the wooden bats, it gives pitchers a lot more confidence. We know it is isn't likely to end up over the fence or to kill us."

The difference has been noted in the play of games. The number of home runs are down for both the Rivermen and their opposition.

"I've noticed a huge difference in play," Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady said. "It was a safety issue. We will just have to adjust to using the wood."

The safety issue made the schools in the conference pass it. Though the ball may travel farther with aluminum, it also causes more injuries because of the speed that it comes off of the bats.

The Rivermen had known of the rule change last fall and had prepared for the decision. The coaching staff recruited a team that wasn't based solely on power. The team is based on its solid defense, which is enhanced by the inability for players to hit for extreme power.

"It was a definite move in the right direction," first baseman Mark Massesso said. "With our defense the less travel time by the ball only enhances our play. We have one of the top defenses in the country. The pitchers aren't worried to put the ball in play because most likely someone is going to get to the ball."

Indy's and TRU take winter intramural championships

**BY DAVE KINWORTHY**  
staff associate

The intramural winter season has already wrapped up its activities, and now the intramural department looks towards another season.

Previously, the indoor soccer league had the Betty Swollocks (6-0) and the Indy's (4-2) competing in the finals.

In the finals, it was the Indy's who defeated the Betty Swollocks 4-2 to capture the championship. The Terminators captured third place with a record of 4-2.

In basketball, TRU (5-1) played Moettown in the semi-

nals and emerged victorious 71-58. In the other semifinal, No Limit defeated the Bulls 49-48.

In the finals, TRU defeated No Limit 57-56 in a close and entertaining championship.

Another league that is still in progress is floor hockey.

Sig Tau is leading the division with a 3-0 mark, trying to defend their undefeated championship from the fall.

Hat Trick and Thugz are 1-1 in the league, while the Yeddies are 1-2 and Sigma Pi is 0-2.

The semifinals for floor hockey will be on April 26 and the championship will take place on the following Wednesday.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS				
Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.	Monday	Wednesday	Saturday	Sunday
	12	14	17	18
Men		at Quincy (DH) 3:00 p.m.	vs Bellarmine (2) noon	vs Bellarmine noon
Women			at Indianapolis (2) 1:00 p.m.	at N. Kentucky (2) noon
Men	vs William Jewell 3:30 p.m.	vs Principia 5:00 p.m.	GLVC Tournament Indianapolis, Ind. tba	GLVC Tournament Indianapolis, Ind. tba



## Movie Review

# Action in 'Matrix' saves weak plot from collapse

**The Matrix (rated R)**  
**Running Time: 135 minutes**  
**Now Showing**

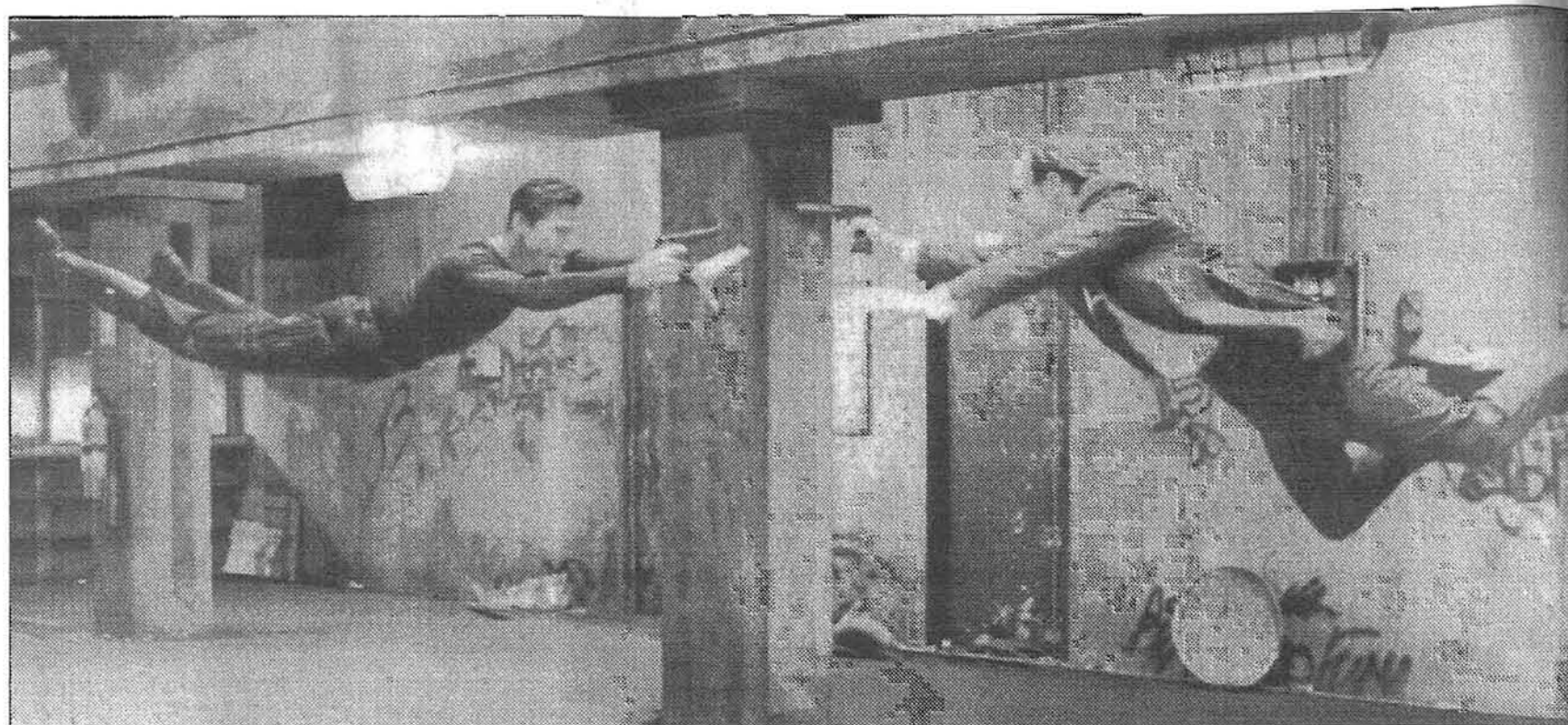
This entertaining science-fiction film is very strong on visual effects and less strong on plot.

The story takes place in a world where people live out their lives through computer programs. The blurring of what is real and what is computer-generated creates some initial confusion for the audience, but becomes clear as the story progresses. The story raises issues about the relationship between perception and reality, and the relationship between man and machine. Unfortunately, the story follows the paradox of what is reality only so far, before veer-

ing off into more standard action film fare. But this doesn't matter, because the real appeal of the film is in the visual effects and martial arts stunts, which are spectacular and entertaining and more than make up for any shortcoming in the storyline.





Keanu Reeves, slimmed down and shaped up for this role, is well-cast as the laconic hero, the latest person released into the real world, but Laurence Fishburne's excellent acting as the rebel leader really carries the story. The pace is fast and furious by the end of the film and gives a ride that is well worth the price of admission.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer



Keanu Reeves (left) and Hugo Weaving in "The Matrix."

University Program Board in conjunctions with  
 Funny Business Entertainment presents.....

<p><b>Jay Deep</b>          BET's          Comicview</p> 	<p><i>Campus          Comedy          Explosion #1</i></p>	<p><b>Ralphie</b>          BET's          Comicview</p> 
<p><i>Doors Open at 8</i>                      <i>Sat. April 17, 1999</i></p> <p><i>Show Starts at 9</i>                      <i>J.C. Penney Auditorium</i></p>		
<p><b>Damon Williams</b>          BET's          Comicview</p> 	<p><i>For Tickets Call:</i>          314.516.5291          Student Activities Office          267 University Center</p> <p><i>\$5 w/ College ID</i>  <i>\$8 w/o College ID</i></p> <p><i>Comedians provided by</i>          Deep Thoughts Inc.          888.8319          All Avenues Entertainment          708.535.3673</p>	<p><b>DeRay</b>          BET's          Comicview</p> 
<p><b>Grand-Stand Winner</b>                      <b>Jerry Springer Show</b></p> <p><b>Music by:</b>          DJ Charlie Chan</p>		

## MIRTHDAY APRIL 21, 1999

The 1999 Mirthday Committee is seeking student organizations and university departments to participate in this year's Mirthday festivities by sponsoring a game booth. Booths are given to organizations and departments on a first-come-first-serve basis. A booth requires a minimal fee of \$25<sup>00</sup> for organizations and departments, \$55<sup>00</sup> for off campus organizations. Complete the form below and return it to the Student Activities Office, 267 University Center by:

\*\*\*\*\*April 14, 1999\*\*\*\*\*

Student Organizatoin: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY/EVENT/BOOTH: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Own Room

# Own Phone

# Own Rules

Some things just can't  
 be done at home.

For an Apartment on Campus contact us at 314-516-7500 or visit  
 us on South Campus at 2910 University Meadows Dr. 63121



## SGA

## 1999-2000

## Candidate Debate

Wednesday,  
 April 14, 1999

From 7:00 p.m.  
 To 9:30 p.m.

At the Great Hall in the  
 Honors College

President, Vice President,  
 and Comptroller



# Ecologist speaks on environmental issues

## Tropical Ecology Center sponsors lecture series

BY LISA M. PETTIS  
of The Current staff

The International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden presented the ninth "Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture Series" on Tuesday, at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Internationally acclaimed scholars are invited each spring to speak on tropical biology, ecology, or conservation. Dr. Ariel Lugo spoke this spring on "Active Management and the Conservation of Tropical Forests."

Dr. Blanche M. Touhill, Chancellor of UM-St. Louis gave accolades to those who have made this event possible.

"Jane Harris is responsible for these lecture series," Touhill said. "The Garden serves as co-host and also is involved in the education of tropical ecology at UM-St. Louis."

Dr. Patrick Osborne, adjunct associate professor of biology and executive director of the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UM-St. Louis introduced Dr. Lugo.

"He received his B.A. and M.A. in Puerto Rico and his Ph.D. in North Carolina," Osborne said. "He did his thesis on the ecosystem. Dr. Lugo is an outstanding ecologist."

Audience members applauded as Dr. Lugo took his place at the podium.

"The best way to protect the world's biodiversity is through active management," Lugo said. "We can learn to manage other ecosystems by learning what is going on in the Caribbean."

Lugo showed a slide of the world, and pointed out how

human activity has depleted the earth's natural resources by using up the land and not allowing it to renew itself.

"One-third to one-half of the planet has been modified by human activity," Lugo said. "We need flexibility of thought and action."

According to Lugo, research is the tool necessary to provide us with the knowledge in dealing with the land more efficiently. Lugo said a holistic approach is also the key in conservation and management. He stated that it is important to look at the "whole landscape." Lugo said it is important to look at all of the land, not just one lot, to determine how to manage that particular forest. Some of the land shown in the slides appeared to be devastated in one area, but when Dr. Lugo showed the larger picture of the land, there were other parts that were green and healthy. Dr. Lugo explained how that was making good use of the land.

"Protection only is not enough," Lugo said. "We tend to set our sights too narrowly focused."

According to Lugo, many times the needs of the people who are expecting to draw resources from the land are not calculated into the plans of conservation and management. People need the resources from the land and that needs to be taken into consideration when plans are being made.

And although people require land resources, humans have misused the land throughout history.

"The Maya[n]s changed species composition, and we are still trying to figure out the

human legacy," Lugo said.

According to Lugo, although human legacy has caused some of the land devastation and diminished biodiversity, proper human intervention and management can help in preserving biodiversity.

Lugo also stated that the earth has a "natural resilience" when it encounters hurricanes, volcanoes, and other natural disasters. Lugo indicated with his slides how the Caribbean land had been devastated by natural disasters and had experienced "tremendous growth in one year."

Because of the "natural resilience" of the earth, resources are still being supplied to sustain human society. Dr. Lugo still believes that good human intervention can make a difference and will not cause further damage to the land.

"I don't think the management I'm speaking of is irreversible," Lugo said.

The room was filled with applause when Dr. Lugo completed his in-depth lecture on "Active Management and the Conservation of Tropical Forests."

### FASHION, FROM PAGE 3

Popular items for men this spring include nylon windbreakers, cotton walk shorts, and ribbed tanks. Styles continued from last year include cargo shorts, khaki shorts, and bottom down shorts.

Any type of cotton shirt is a basic component for any man's wardrobe.

For all the lucky gentlemen graduates, here is advice for selecting a suit for that crucial interview or first "real world" job.

For shirts and ties, stick to the basics such as spread collar cotton

One-third to one-half of the planet has been modified by human activity. We need flexibility of thought and action.

-Dr. Ariel Lugo  
ecologist



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Dr. Ariel Lugo addresses the audience during his presentation, "Active Management and the Conservation of Tropical Forests."

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## Student views on failure of Prop B vary widely here

BY SUE BRITT  
staff associate

Proposition B, that would have allowed for the carrying of concealed weapons, failed in a close election Tuesday. The election results were at times running neck and neck as they were tallied.

The eventual defeat came by a slim 52 percent to 48 percent margin. Rural areas of Missouri voted largely for the proposition and metropolitan areas voted mainly against.

Doug Westadt, a junior majoring in general studies, voted for the proposition. He cited his beliefs in personal freedom and a constitutional basis for his decision. He said that he would never carry a concealed weapon, but that he did not feel laws should prohibit others from doing so.

"I'm a staunch supporter of personal freedoms. I'm a liberal, a member of the ACLU. I don't believe that we can legislate away a personal right of someone who feels they need a gun to be protected," Westadt said. "The people that are going to carry a weapon and shoot you already have those weapons. The people that are going to rob the QuikTrips already have [guns]. The people that are going to shoot you in your car for road rage already have the guns. They don't care about a law or following the law or applying for any kind of license to carry a weapon. I am afraid of gunfights on the street, but my biggest issue was once again we are legislating away another personal freedom."

Gay Norris, a student at UM-St. Louis taking courses in public policy and politics after having completed a bachelors in sociology, disagrees.

"Americans are so concerned about their freedoms but don't consider at all the responsibilities that go along with freedoms," Norris said. "I guess I'm really concerned about how people are going to use these guns and when they think it's necessary. Like that incident in Texas, there was some kind of a minor traffic situation and one guy punched the other one and ... the guy had the gun and ended up killing the [other]. Is that what carrying concealed weapons is all about, some minor traffic infraction turns into shoot out at OK Corral?"

Visiting assistant professor of political science, Stephen Caliendo does not agree that there is any constitutional basis for a law allowing concealed weapons.

"The Constitution doesn't say that you have a right to keep a gun hidden in your waist-belt and carry it around; all it says is that you have a right to have a gun," Caliendo said. "Nobody's said you can't have guns. Nobody's ever said you can't have guns. Not even the gun control people are saying you can't have guns. No modern legislation has ever proposed that."

Caliendo said the argument of the slippery slope was also used to defend the argument of allowing assault weapons. He said the question should be whether or not someone needs to carry a concealed weapon or have an assault weapon rather than what regulation of guns might be next.

"The question has to be what do we need them for," Caliendo said. "The NRA always wants to talk about hunting, hunting, hunting. Well, you don't hunt with a 9 mm handgun or a semi-automatic or any of those things. What do you have to conceal it for? The deer are going to see you carrying it. [Are] you going to get a better buck if they don't know you have it?"

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From left to right: Donald Driemeier, deputy to the chancellor; Chancellor Blanche Touhill; Tim Eby, vice-president of PRIMA; Patricia Bennett, general manager of KWMU.

# Public radio group honors campus for Klan fight

BY DAVID BAUGHER  
senior editor

Campus radio station KWMU and the University of Missouri were honored Thursday by Public Radio in Mid America (PRIMA) for having "exercised and protected editorial discretion" in defending themselves against a lawsuit by the Ku Klux Klan.

"We think it's important to acknowledge institutions that are so supportive of their stations," said Tim Eby, vice-president of PRIMA. "In this case the University really stepped up and supported the station."

The suit, filed in late 1997, began after KWMU refused to air an underwriting statement promoting the Klan. In December of last year, a federal judge ruled in favor of the station saying that the Klan had no First Amendment right to force KWMU to accept its underwriting. Patricia Bennett, general manager of KWMU, said the Klan has since appealed the case.

PRIMA passed a resolution in February which "commends and supports the efforts of KWMU-FM and the University of Missouri leadership for protecting the editorial discretion of public broadcasters across the country."

Bennett commended Chancellor Blanche Touhill and the University of Missouri as "very instrumental" in supporting the station's decision not to accept underwriting.

"Really, what she did in standing up for that issue is stand up for the whole country and set a precedent in the country so that we can continue to raise money and not have to take it from anyone we don't want to," Bennett said in an interview.

Touhill was presented with a plaque from Eby. She then commended KWMU and public radio in general calling it "a part of the American culture."

"[Public radio] is a very wonderful thing," Touhill said. "It has taken root. It has been institutionalized and it is really unthinkable that public radio would go away."

## WEEK, FROM PAGE 1

the free pizza given away in the quadrangle may have swayed those who may have otherwise gotten into the race.

"That's probably why it's slow. You know," Ditto said, "tasting a few fruits is probably no competition for free pizza."

## SGA, FROM PAGE 1

While the committee is preparing for about 1,000 voters, Stegeman said there was a good chance the election turnout would be smaller than in years past.

"All the SGA mess this year has turned a lot of people off," he said. "There's no way to know for sure,

but it looks like there will be fewer candidates and voters. When they hear at all the talk about possibly disbanding SGA, or rewriting the constitution, or impeaching the president, they don't want to get involved in something like that."

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Misc

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
The Student Government Association needs volunteers to work the polls for the upcoming SGA election on April 21 and 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5 p.m.-8 p.m. If you're interested, contact Gail at 394-5193 or 663-2781.

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## Movie Review

# Generation Xer's will go for 'Go'

Go (rated R)

Running Time: 100 minutes

Now Showing

Tarantino for teens—that pretty well sums up the new film *Go*.

This *Pulp Fiction*-like film mixes violence and humor in several interrelated stories told from different views, whose relationship to each other isn't completely clear until near the end of the movie. This film, however, is less complex and clever in its structure than other *Pulp Fiction* inspired movies, but still has plenty of surprises and plot twists. The particular cast and setting of this movie will make it more appealing to some viewers, touching as it does on rave parties and other familiar experiences.

The basic story centers on a drug dealer who has gone to Las Vegas for the weekend and his co-worker at a grocery store who tries to make a drug deal in his place—a deal which soon goes wrong. The consequences of the drug deal, as well as the trip to Vegas, lead the characters into a labyrinth of difficulties for them to solve. The acting and photography are adequate, but the story is the real strength of the film, although the pacing is a little slow. Overall, it is an entertaining, well-made film with special appeal for teens and young twenty-somethings.

-Catherine Marquis-Homeyer



Jay Mohr (left) and Scott Wolf in "Go."

## CENTER, FROM PAGE 1

"... Her understanding of what a backstop agreement would be is utterly different than I think the faculty's understanding is] as a whole..."

Judd said the faculty had wanted a written agreement promising that the operating budget would not be affected. He said that under the Chancellor's plan, that possibility did exist.

"The operating budget certainly will be affected if there are operating deficits," Judd said.

Touhill said she believed the disagreement over the backstop plan stemmed from different ways of viewing the budget.

"I think it's a question of whether you believe the budget is one or whether you believe it's in the hands of a number of unit managers," Touhill said. "For 35 years we've gone down the road that each team or unit manager controls their budget. And the Chancellor has always had a certain cushion. Some people think it should all be in one budget and moved wherever the needs are."

Judd expressed disappointment in the Chancellor's plan, but said it was clear that the Center would be built and that he was glad the discussions had taken place.

"I don't think it is profitable to kick that dead horse," Judd said. "I think that the horse that I want to ride is the horse of how decisions will be made on this campus in the future."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Chancellor Blanche Touhill speaks at Thursday's meeting with faculty. The meeting was called to discuss "backstopping" the Performing Arts Center.

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