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This old house: UM-St. Louis student Tim Vogt recently started a business restoring the beauty of old houses in the city.

See page 3

What's Inside



Now that's hot: Though it looks demonic enough, 'The Ninth Gate' manages to avoid being steeped in occult themes and focuses on suspense.

See page 6

U-Wire News

Alleged cheating scandal was really human error

BY SANJAY BASU The Tech

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Last week's reported incident of cheating in Cell Biology (7.06) turned out to be a computer sorting glitch, according to Professor Harvey Lodish, who teaches the course.

"Changes in the 7.06 grade sheet were introduced by accident during sorting of a spreadsheet," said Biology Department head Robert Sauer in an e-mail to Biology undergraduates.

An unidentified but authorized user of the course computer improperly sorted grades, causing students' names to be associated with other students' grades.

Last Thursday, however, Lodish announced to his lecture audience that an unknown individual had broken into the course's computer system and raised the scores of two students while lowering those of several other students.

The discovery that the incident was simply an error came after a formal investigation and questioning of the two students suspected to have raised their grades in the course.

According to those attending 7.06 lecture, Lodish formally apologized to the two students who were implicated.

News that a cheating incident occurred at MIT appeared both on National Public Radio and in The Boston Globe.

In his e-mail, Sauer said that his suggestion that the errors resulted from human error were deleted by Globe editors and that quotes attributed to MIT spokesperson Ken Campbell were incorrect.

"The end result was a prominent and misleading story that impugned the integrity of MIT undergraduates," Sauer said.

The Globe also cited a 1990 cheating incident in Introduction to Computers and Engineering Problem Solving (1.00) and recounted a 1991 study that found that 83 percent of MIT students admitted to cheating on homework.

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Despite rejection, charter school still hopes to be approved

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL staff editor

The day after the University of Missouri-St. Louis rejected its application for a charter school, the chairman of the board of The African-American Rite of Passage, Inc. said he believes the University will eventually approve its application.

The University approved an application from the group last year, but the deal collapsed when the Beacon School, a Boston-based consulting group, pulled out.

The African-American Rite of Passage submitted a new application Jan. 10 with Charter Consultants of Belleville, Ill., as its consultants. According to the application, Charter Consultants operates two schools in Illinois: The Governor French Academy and the Fort Bowman Academy. The Fort Bowman Academy in Cahokia was the first charter school in the St. Louis area.

On March 9, Chancellor Blanche Touhill sent The African-American Rite of Passage a letter rejecting its application. The letter said the application

failed to show that Charter Consultants "possesses substantial, long-term experience in the area of charter schools" and raised questions about finances that the application failed to answer.

Touhill's letter said that the application shows no contingency fund, projects a financial loss in the first year and projects that "revenues from categorical funding will increase 20-fold from Year 1 to Year 3 without any apparent reason for or explanation of such a projected increase."

Cedric Benbow, chairman of the board for The African-American Rite of

Passage, said he believes UM-St. Louis will eventually approve the application.

"We're going to send more information to UM-SL," Benbow said. "They're doing a very thorough job. The initial time, before UM-SL approved it, they sent us more items they had problems with."

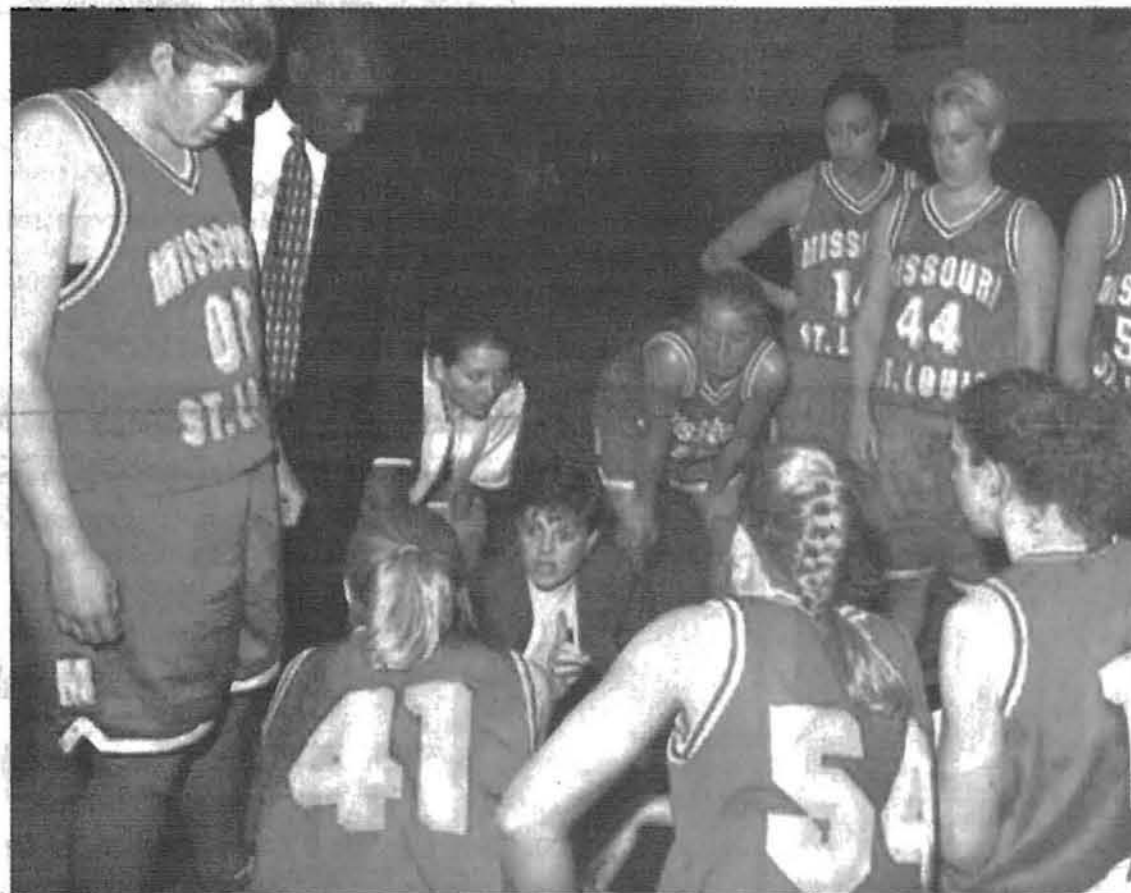
This is the fourth charter school application Touhill has ruled on this year. She accepted applications from the St. Louis Charter School and the Thurgood Marshall School and rejected one from The Academy.

The University accepted the two

schools because they met all the criteria required by law said Bob Samples, director of University Communications.

According to its application, "The African-American Rite of Passage's purpose is to bring an integral African-American identity to the conscious mind of all American youth in a manner that includes, rather than excludes. It is an approach in which students are encouraged to see themselves as part of a multicultural global fabric with all the rights and responsibilities, duties and opportunities incumbent on every citizen of the United States."

Making History



Joe Ruhf/Northern Kentucky University

On March 10, the Riverwomen became the first UMSL basketball team to advance to the second round of the NCAA tourney. Turn to page 5 for the full details!

Youth stabbed at UM-St. Louis South MetroLink station

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL staff editor

A 14-year-old boy stabbed a 16-year-old boy on a train as it pulled into the UM-St. Louis South MetroLink station March 2.

Just after noon, two 16-year-old boys left the MetroLink train at the St. Charles Rock Road station but returned when they noticed a 14-year-old on the train who they had fought with previously, said Capt. Marion Monteleone of the St. Louis County Police Department, commander of the MetroLink Police Unit.

The two 16-year-olds approached the 14-year-old and started a loud argument with him, Monteleone said, and a Whelan security guard who was on the train "told them to knock it off."

The boys ignored him, the argument escalated into a fight, and the two 16-year-olds started beating the 14-year-old, he said.

"Just as the train pulled in the

UMSL-South station, the single individual took a steak knife and stuck it in the chest of a 16-year-old," Monteleone said.

"Another Whelan guard and a County Police officer were at the station when they pulled in," he said. "We took everyone into custody."

Captain James Smalley of the University Police Department said a University Police officer helped out and took the victim to DePaul Health Center.

"He got a puncture wound to the chest that missed his heart by an inch," Monteleone said.

Monteleone said he referred the case to juvenile authorities. He said he couldn't release any names or talk about the victim's condition because they were juveniles.

Monteleone said none of the other passengers were ever in danger from the incident. "Their fight was with someone they knew," he said. "It's not like they were out there looking for random victims."

Gore addresses UM-St. Louis en route to Super Tuesday victory



Vice President Al Gore spoke about education during a campaign stop in the Mark Twain Building last Monday evening.

BY MARY LINDSLEY senior editor

Vice president Al Gore brought his campaign for the presidency to the University of Missouri-St. Louis on the eve of the Super Tuesday primary elections.

Gore appealed to the nearly 1,000 supporters who gathered in the Mark Twain Athletic Center on Monday evening "to make a decisive statement about the democratic election" in the Missouri primary on Tuesday.

"We are at a fork in the road," Gore said. "The decision America makes in November this year between the democratic nominee and the republican nominee is going to determine what kind of country we are for a long time to come."

Gore said that as president, he

planned to "make education my number one priority." Part of Gore's education platform calls for tax cuts and savings plans to help families finance college education for their children.

"You don't need to graduate with the equivalent of a home mortgage without the home," Gore said. "We need to give [graduates] more help so they don't have to go so deeply into debt."

Although students comprised the minority of those in attendance, Gore addressed younger voters when he spoke of the disenchantment he felt towards politics in the 1960s and 70s. Gore said that following the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and the assassinations of John and Robert

see GORE, page 12

Clay introduces bill to outlaw parental notification by schools

BY JOE HARRIS senior editor

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri Senate that would outlaw parental notification by school administrators in alcohol-related incidents involving students under 21 years of age.

The bill was introduced by William Lacy Clay and was first read on March 1. It will negate a provision in the federal Family Educational Right to Privacy Act that allows for such notification. The bill states that "an institution of higher education shall not disclose, to a parent or guardian of a student, any information regarding any violation of any federal, state or local law or rule or any policy of such institution, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, regardless of whether that information is contained in the student's education records, if the student is at least eighteen years of age."

Clay said the bill originated after the issue was brought to his attention by a student group in the University of

Missouri system.

"The Associated Students of the University of Missouri asked me to sponsor it for them, so therefore I felt the need to give them a forum to discuss this," Clay said.

Michael Rankins, acting president of the Student Government Association, said he supports Clay's bill.

"I think I stand with all of the other student leaders on the other campuses of the University of Missouri in opposing the reporting of alcohol infractions to parents of those under 21," Rankins said.

Rankins said that reporting to parents alcohol infractions of students under 21 is a violation of those students' civil rights.

Rick Echer, chief justice of the Student Court, said he thought FERPA would be challenged judicially within five years. However, the bill was not the kind of challenge Echer said he was expecting.

"It's not really being challenged," Echer said. "What's happening is a different set of legislation is being introduced to balance the FERPA."

Echer said that if FERPA is challenged judicially, he doesn't think it will stand up because at age 18, an individual is emancipated and is legally not under the parent's supervision.

G. Gary Grace, vice-chancellor of Student Affairs, said that usually a federal law takes precedence over a state law. In this case, though, Grace said the situation might be different.

"Generally speaking it's the federal law that takes some precedence," Grace said. "However, in this one the wrinkle is that the federal law is permissive; it doesn't mandate. So I think you'll probably hear an argument at least at the state level that since we are not required to do it then the state law, if it is passed and signed into law, would stand as the priority."

Clay said the bill still has to get through the Missouri Senate at the committee level, then pass on the floor and then pass through the House of Representatives before it can become law.

Grace said the University of Missouri-St. Louis will comply with whatever the law dictates.

Bulletin Board

Monday, March 13

•Amadeus Trio, a Premiere Performances event, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society of St. Louis. For more information and to purchase tickets call 5818.

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Natural Bridge: An Awareness of Place--A Slide Talk." Michael Piazza, a Chicago artist, speaks on collaborative public art practice as it applies to local culture. Meeting in Room 229 J. C. Penney, the talk will run from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call Karen Lucas at 5699.

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

Tuesday, March 14

•Resume Writing Skills Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 3 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Create a resume that makes a positive

first impression. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

•UMSL TV will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, March 15

•Beth Schneider, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of California--Santa Barbara, will speak on "Feminist Political Action Committees: Grassroots and Electoral Organizing for the 21st Century." The meeting will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Room 222 J. C. Penney; a reception will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information on the events of March 16 and 17 contact the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at 5581.

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. 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: Erin Stremmel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax: 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

•Equinox Chamber Players will perform in Room 205 of the Music Building at 12 p.m.

•OUT! (formerly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Students for Change) will have their monthly meeting in the Oak Room, J. C. Penney, at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 5013.

•Soup and Soul Food will be from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.

Thursday, March 16

•Interviewing Techniques Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 1:30 to 2 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Polish your interviewing skills. Advanced registration is required. Call

5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•Weightlifting Contest from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Mark Twain Weight Room. This is a men's and women's recreational competition in a host of weight classes for students, faculty and staff. Participants do not need to register in advance but must weigh in at 12 p.m.

Friday, March 17

•UMSL TV will meet at 12 p.m. in room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Sunday, March 19

•RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.).

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

February 29, 2000

University Meadows management reported that their electronic entrance gate had been struck by a vehicle at 10:45 p.m. on Feb. 28. The vehicle that struck the gate is reported to be owned by a student resident.

March 1, 2000

A video cassette tape was stolen from a mailbox at Marillac Hall.

Two Missouri license plate tabs were stolen from a vehicle parked in Parking Garage "H".

March 2, 2000

A female student residing at University

Meadows reported that at 1:05 a.m. she observed a male looking into her bedroom window. University Police apprehended the suspect after a short foot pursuit. The suspect also had an outstanding arrest warrant from the City of St. Louis. The suspect was arrested with warrants to be applied for at the St. County Prosecutor's office.

A student reported being assaulted by a construction worker at 12:28 p.m. on the sidewalk/stairs area between Clark and Lucas Halls. The student reported being grabbed by the shoulders. The investigation continues.

March 3, 2000

At 8:10 a.m. staff at the Kathy Weinman Center reported that the exit gate arm at their lot entrance had been stolen by unknown persons between 7 p.m. on March 2 and 7 a.m. on March 3.

A staff supervisor reported that at 5 a.m. he received a threatening telephone call from a temporary employee. The employee was irate about his paycheck.

At 1:10 p.m. a vehicle displaying a counterfeit student parking permit was discovered on Parking Lot "V" on the South Campus. The permit was confiscated, and the incident will be referred to the Student Affairs office.

March 6, 2000

A UM-St. Louis parking permit was stolen from a vehicle parked at Garage "C".

A resident assistant at Seton Hall reported at midnight finding an obscene message on the Residence Hall answering machine. The telephone call originated from University Meadows Apartments. Residential Life will investigate the telephone call.

March 8, 2000

Update: The assault case was presented to the St. Louis County Prosecutor's office, and the arrest warrant was refused for lack of evidence.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through an awareness.

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MCMA



Spring Commencement Saturday May 20, 2000

7:00 p.m. • America's Center

New Location!

No Tickets Required—

Purchase your cap and gown, order announcements, class rings, etc. at **The Graduate Salute,**

April 11, 12 & 13 in University Center Lounge from 11:00 am-7:00 pm.

Candidates for graduation will receive detailed information in the mail at the end of March.

For further information, contact the Office of Special Events at **516-5442.**

CASINO NIGHT

\$5

March 17

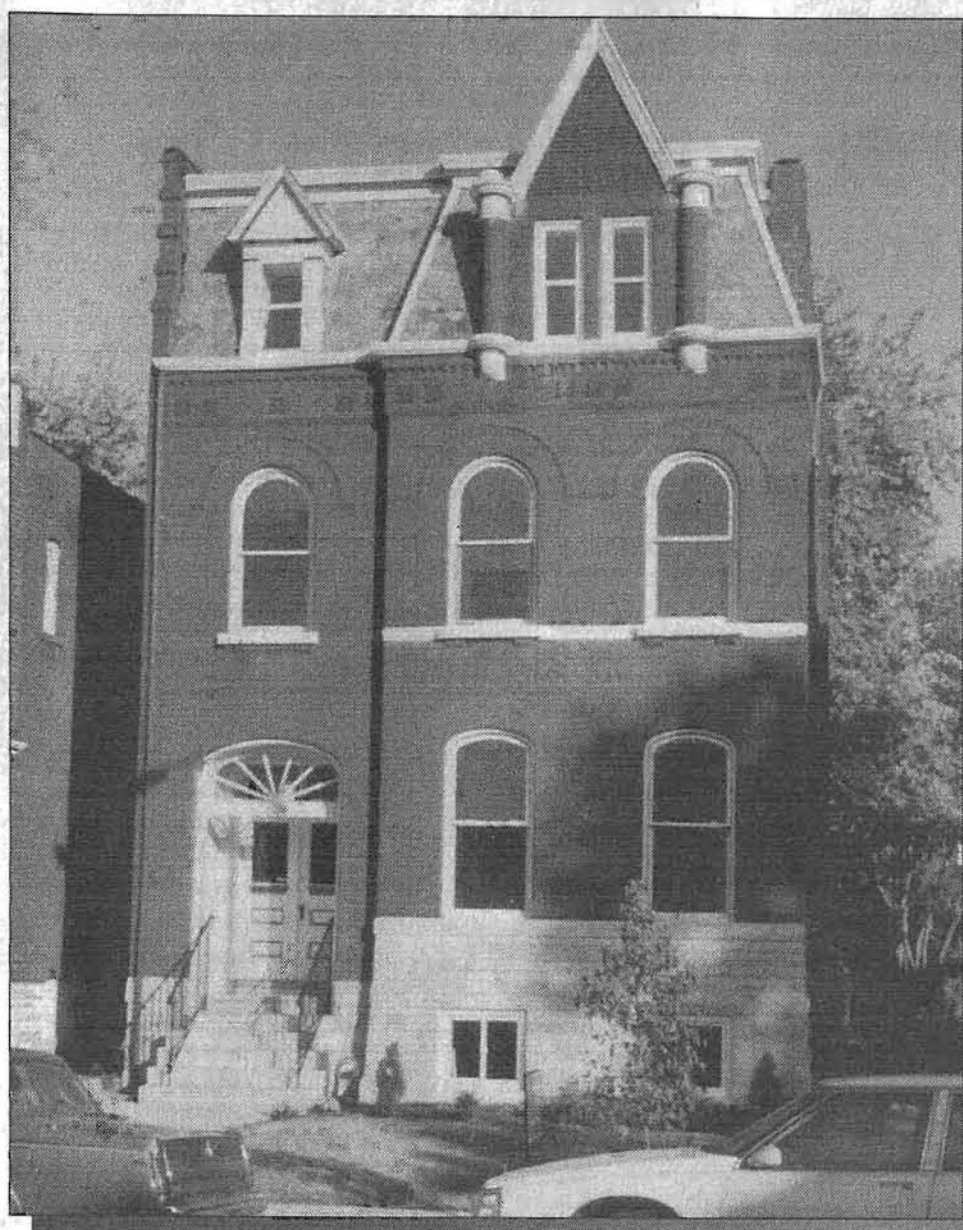
free food doors games

6:30
7:00

Come gamble fake money at the Honors College

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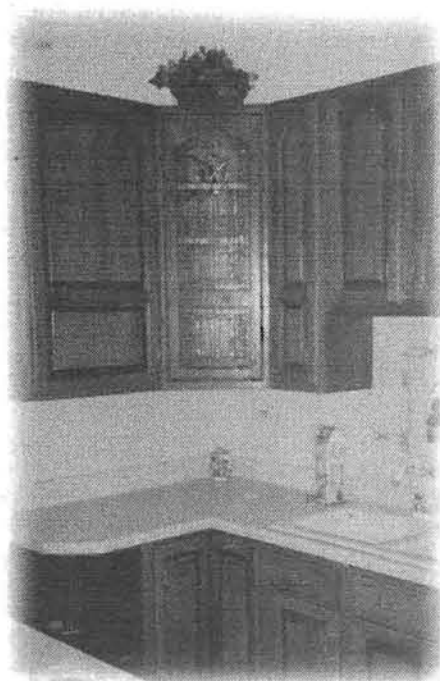


RESTORED HOUSE

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

Sometimes the best way to build a better home is to simply take an older one already filled with character and improve upon it. This phenomenon, called renovation, has been greatly utilized in St. Louis City and surrounding areas. Instead of leveling old homes, which have been here since the 1890s or earlier, builders gut and reconstruct the beauty and greatness of the abode.

Tim Vogt, a UM-St. Louis senior majoring in finance, started a business in January 1999 with the support of his mother, Claire Vogt, to rebuild the grandeur of these massive and huge residences in the city. Tower Grove East, located at the intersections of Arsenal, Union and Compton, is where Vogt selected his first project. The home listed at 2922 S. Compton covers approximately 4800 square feet, and is the home Vogt chose as his first remodeling project.



"I just paid really close attention to what [he] was working on, plumbing or electric, redoing a bathroom..." Vogt said.

In addition, he also learned the skills of painting and refinishing floors.

With all these necessary capabilities, Vogt needed just one more—to talk his parents into supporting his future business venture.

"It took a couple of years, but I finally talked them into it," Vogt said.

In Vogt's opinion, the home has

become a reflection of all the work performed on it.

"It's all the old qualities of the staircase and wood floors and all the woodwork and all the new amenities—real modern bathrooms, updated kitchen with all the top-of-the-line appliances," Vogt said.

Vogt believes this quality in the home helps to improve life in the neighborhood.

"This is the type of work we want to do. It helps attract a better buyer. People who buy property like that, they will take care of it and be good neighbors and be involved with the neighborhood," Vogt said.

The house contains a total of 11 rooms, three and a half baths, and three stories. The master bedroom is composed of three rooms itself. In addition, the home even has a butler pantry.

"We wanted to really do an exceptional job on it because it's such a wonderful home with architectural detail on the front and side of it," Vogt said.

The house still displays its original doors from when it was built by a shoe salesman in 1897.

Only three families have lived in the residence.

In the remodeling of the kitchen, Vogt had to remove and replace the entire roof. The restoration took about six months to complete.

"My goal is to really work on Arsenal and Compton, to really focus and beautify them," Vogt said.

The house at 2922 S. Compton stands as a monument to the renovation work of Tim Vogt, founder of the Millennium Restoration and Development Corporation. The house was featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last year.

Photos by Tim Vogt

UM-St. Louisian finds rehabbing old homes fun

As the result of his work, on his first major reconstruction, Vogt's house was featured as the City Home of the Month in the Post-Dispatch for November 1999. Vogt indicated that there is such competition for this spot because there are only 12 city homes featured a year and never before has Tower Grove East been showcased.

"Three people in the neighborhood got involved and made some phone calls and really pushed the issue. It was really good for me and it was really important for the neighborhood as well because it got a lot of attention," Vogt said.

Since the success of the Compton home, Vogt has decided to renovate the buildings next door to make them into condos and to also recreate a corner store at Arkansas and Arsenal.

Vogt did not plan for this to be his career, he happened to fall into it.

"I really enjoy this stuff. How I got into it? It just happened. It wasn't anything I really planned on doing," Vogt said.

Vogt's mother, a retired vice president of finance became his financial backer, and in order to sell the property obtained a realtor's license. The name of their collaborative, Millennium Restoration and Development Corporation, was borne of their efforts.

Vogt's energy, not directed in conventional methods, seemed to follow a course of self-management.

"Going to school, I hate[d] being at work when they told me I had to be at work there," Vogt said.

Vogt began his self-education by completing small projects for his parents such as building gazebos and high walls.

From there, Vogt worked during the summer for a friend's father who rehabbed apartments.



FEATURES

ANNE PORTER
features editor

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Thoughts for Today

"There is a difference between a philosophy and a bumper sticker."

-Charles M. Schultz
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"Tact is the art of making a point without making an enemy."

-Howard W. Newton
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

-George Bernard Shaw
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up."

-Tom Lehrer
Credit: 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

Bump in the night: Paranoia strikes deep



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

All the boxes are unpacked, the telephone books are stacked in the cabinet and the teapot is sitting on the stove. Okay, so the only food in the pantry consists of Hershey's, Cheerios, Lipton iced tea and Carnation instant breakfast.

Grocery shopping comes later. In the refrigerator, milk, Natty Lite beer (it's not mine), orange juice (for vodka), Mountain Dew and Coke awaits drinking.

For 23 years, I lived at home. I know, I know ... it took me 23 years to move. The point remains that I did, finally.

For those 23 years I did live at home, we always had dogs. At least one dog cheerfully greeted me by knocking me over as I walked in the door.

After I would manage to get up, I would sometimes say hi to the turtle. The most recent additions, Amazon parrots, screamed and cursed. What I am attempting to say is there was always noise and some form of ruckus to fill the silence in the air.

The very early hours of the morning did not seem so isolated and just so, well, noiseless.

If I did hear some indistinguishable tick, I could usually attribute it

an animal. If it happened to be something frightening, I woke some animal and we investigated.

Now when I arrive home, not one animal meets me at the door, although my landlords informed me that I could have cat.

Just what I need—some critter to give me attitude. Cats don't know how to show affection. The only time any thought of leaving the top of the refrigerator occurs is when they do not have any more Friskies.

Another factor I really miss about dogs: I knew if I was not the only one in the house.

My ritual begins after I unlock

the door.

I promptly rest my backpack, purse and other items on the bar top. I then leave the door open.

From there I walk into my bedroom and check to see if I have company of whom I am not aware.

After I peruse my bedroom, I then turn on the light and look in the furnace closet. Then it's to the kitchen, the pantry, the bathroom (where I check the shower) and lastly my roommate's closet. She has yet to move all her furniture and does not live there.

Then after I am assured, I shut the door. By leaving the front door open,

I allow an easy exit should I not be alone.

In addition to my irrational fears about intruders, I am adjusting to an unknown apartment settling noises. I am not really bothered by odd noises during the day.

At night though, all those creaks and cracks and miscellaneous interruptions make me wonder sometimes.

Just like my first night when I took a shower and the light turned itself off, I sometimes do not understand where these glitches originate.

As I say, all this adds character. Not just in the apartment, but in me.

OUR OPINION

Redmond's ouster turns athletic's joy into chaos

The issue:

With all the great things happening to the UM-St. Louis athletics department, it seems hard to believe something bad could happen. Women's basketball got to play in the NCAA national championship tournament. Men's basketball qualified for the GLVC tournament under new coach Mark Bernsen. Even baseball and softball are off to a great start. But last Tuesday, after a 9-11 record this season, soccer coach Tom Redmond was told he will not be coaching soccer next year.

We suggest:

The athletic department is one of the greatest sources of school spirit at any school. Just as UM-St. Louis' sports seem to be excelling, a very good coach is released. It seems the athletics department needs to realize they're hurting the whole university.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind.

It was a week of extremes for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' athletic department. Late Sunday evening the Riverwomen basketball team was informed that it received an at-large spot in the NCAA national championship tournament. This extreme positive was met with an extreme low. On Tuesday, Tom Redmond, the Rivermen soccer team head coach, was informed that he will not be retained in that position next year.

The Riverwomen's accomplishments seemed to finally give hope that there was a bright future as far as UM-St. Louis student activities was concerned. After nearly two semesters of having the Student Government Association on Court TV and having any decent parking spots stripped away by the University Senate, the students seemed to finally have something to rally behind.

The Riverwomen had put up impressive numbers this season, going 18-10 overall and earning the third seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Riverwomen's accomplishments have evidently been noticed on a national scale. Despite a heartbreaking second-round upset in the GLVC tournament by Indianapolis, the NCAA committee respected the Riverwomen enough to award them a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Finally, it seemed as though things were on the move for the athletic department. The Rivermen's basketball team had turned things around as well.

Led by first-year coach Mark Bernsen, the Rivermen went 12-15 overall and qualified for the GLVC tournament for the first time since UM-St. Louis joined the conference three years ago. This turnaround came from a team that won just six games a year ago.

With the success came fans. The

Mark Twain gym got loud and opponents started to regret having to play there.

The momentum seemed to be spilling over into the spring sports as the baseball team and softball team have both gotten off to quick starts this season.

Unfortunately, the air was let out of the balloon with Tuesday's decision. The dismissal of Redmond leaves a cloud of confusion, not just over the soccer team, but the athletic department as a whole.

Sure, Redmond's regular season record this year was a mediocre 9-11, but overall he has a 94-65-16 record. In 1998 Redmond was voted co-coach of the year by the GLVC and in his first year as the Rivermen head soccer coach the team went 17-1-2.

Also, despite the 9-11 record this season, the Rivermen made the GLVC conference finals. It was the second year in a row the team accomplished such a feat.

The Redmond decision is just another in a line of questionable decisions made by the UM-St. Louis athletic department. The last of these changes was the replacement of Charlie Kennedy as the Riverwomen softball coach at the end of last season.

Not retaining a coach as accomplished and successful as Redmond does not make sense. What's next? Is UM-St. Louis going to fire Jim Brady, the Rivermen baseball coach? After all, he has only won 400 games and has taken UM-St. Louis to two College World Series' in the 1990s.

Of all the student organizations, the athletic department is in the best position to provide a unifying force for UM-St. Louis students. Unfortunately, that will never happen unless the department shows consistency and loyalty to the leaders of their programs and to the students themselves.

Base your vote on important things

Al Gore, meet Generation X. OK, so maybe it wasn't exactly that way on Monday when the vice president came to the University of Missouri-St. Louis as part of his presidential campaign. However, Gore did display something many of his critics said he lacked—a personality.

Personality in a presidential candidate has now become more important to some voters than a candidate's stances on religion, abortion or the economy. Personality, in fact, has won elections for certain candidates (just ask Richard Nixon after his infamous nationally televised debate with John F. Kennedy in 1960).

Unfortunately, the stereotype of those in Generation X, or the MTV Generation, is style over substance. The mode of thought is that the Generation X'ers would rather have a president who they feel could live up to a keg party than a president with the know-how and intelligence to lead this country into the next millennium.

This stereotype, along with most other stereotypes, is heavily flawed. Sure there are a few in Generation X who would like a "cool president," but Generation X for the most part is growing up. X'ers are starting to move out on their own and, likewise, are taking more of an interest in the economy and other political decisions that affect them.

As a member of this generation, I personally would rather see a boring candidate in a three piece suit talking

at Mark Twain about how he will lower the costs of education instead of some goof in sunglasses, jam shorts and a flowered T-shirt cracking jokes like he's the next Howie Mandel.

It's time to give this generation more credit. Yes, it's human nature to be able to identify with someone with a personality, someone you can connect with. However, it's also human nature to look out for one's best interests, especially with a decision as important as choosing the next president of the United States.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

I want real issues. Forget the mudslinging. I want to know about taxes, the economy, health care and the environment. Will the United States become the policeman of the world, or will this country revert back to a dangerous policy of isolationism?

Those are the topics I want discussed by the presidential candidates, not who could kick who's behind in a McDonald's parking lot.

I hope the rest of Generation X feels the same way I do and from what I've seen, it does. Most of my friends are watching every candidate closely, as well they should be.

Finally, I hope that the Generation X'ers on this campus, if nowhere else, will take this election seriously. Through our own student government this year, we have all witnessed what apathy and ignorance can do in the election of our leaders. Let's not let this happen again on any level.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Proposal offered to SGA constitution

The Student Government Association will be voting on a new constitution at the March 16 meeting. The committee has worked long hours in the creation of the document. So, it is extremely important that organizations are at the meeting to vote on the new constitution.

However, a major problem with the SGA in recent years has been the issue of organizational representatives. Most organizational representatives are only there for their budgets. And many of these representatives do not show up for the meetings as we had to expel 39 organizations this year for not attending four meetings. This year, the SGA has taken action regarding the expulsions. The time spent dealing with expulsions could have been spent working on student issues. In previous years, the SGA could have expelled a number of organizations but did not.

Therefore, I am proposing an amendment to the proposed constitution to abolish organizational representatives and have only at-large representatives in the Assembly. Then those students who really care about student govern-

ment will be involved in the Assembly. Instead of representatives attending meetings in order to avoid having their budgets froze, we will have representatives who care about student interests.

Those organizational representatives who truly care for students' interests will run for the at-large representatives. A smaller SGA Assembly will be better able to meet quorum as well as discuss issues that concern students in a constructive fashion. Committees will be able to do business and SGA will function more smoothly. Therefore, students and their concerns will be better met.

The SGA Assembly is presently dominated by organizational representatives who mainly look out for the interests of their members. However, a minority of the student body are members of organizations. All students interested need to be represented in the SGA since they pay mandatory student activities fees. Maybe, a Student Government Association Assembly of all at-large representatives will better represent the interests of all students not just the minority of students in student organizations.



STEVEN WOLFE
guest commentator

LETTERS

Faculty clear confusion of Senate

Recent *Current* editorials contain some misleading statements about the proposed campus governance system. Under this plan, the existing Faculty Council and University Senate will be dissolved, and a Faculty Senate and University Assembly will be formed. According to the mandate of the Board of Curators, the Faculty bears responsibility for academic decisions. Academic matters will be handled by the new Faculty Senate. Broader issues will come before the University Assembly, including physical facilities, computing, and student activities.

The Chancellor will give Budget and Planning reports to both bodies.

The University Assembly will be significantly smaller than the current University Senate. Students will have the same proportion of representatives as in the existing Senate. We have also added staff representatives to the Assembly. There will be no change in student representation on standing committees -this includes Budget and Planning, Curriculum and Instruction, Student Affairs, and Physical Facilities, among others. Positions on standing committees are open to all

students, not just members of the Assembly.

We expect that the Board of Curators will pass the new governance proposal at its March meeting. We encourage students to play an active role in campus governance, by volunteering to serve on the University Assembly or standing committees of the Senate and Assembly.

-Mark Burkholder, Joyce Corey, Tim McBride, Gail Ratcliff, Steven Spaner, Lana Stein

William Woods University is either incredibly innovative or incredibly desperate.

According to last Friday's *Post-Dispatch*, the Fulton, Mo. university will essentially begin paying students to participate in extracurricular activities. Beginning next fall, students will receive a reduction in their tuition fees for participating in a certain number of campus athletic and cultural activities, student organizations, and volunteer organizations. Resident students will get a \$5,000 discount and commuter students will get a \$2,500 discount off the school's annual tuition of \$13,200.

Lance Kramer, the university's vice president and dean of academic affairs, said a "fall-off" in student participation in recent years had spurred the initiative. He said students would rather spend more time working part-time jobs or playing video games than participating in campus activities.

The article also noted that the William Woods situation is not unique. Southern Illinois University at Carbondale started a program in the fall of 1999 that allowed students who participate in a certain number of extracurricular activities the opportunity to win a semester's worth of books or tuition. However, William Woods—as far as they know—is the only university in the nation that guarantees a reward to students for their participation.

I can understand the motivation behind the William Woods proposal. In the nearly three years I've attended UM-St. Louis, student participation in extracurricular activities has been dismal. A couple of months ago, I attended a meeting for students to learn how the University will handle the drug and alcohol violations of minor students. You would think that the meet-

ing would have been full of students from the residence halls and University Meadows, but instead, only eight or nine students showed up. Most of them were officers of the student organization sponsoring the forum.

I've seen a number of student organizations come close to being expelled from the Student Government Association for missing too many meetings. It's pretty bad when an organization can't even get just one of their members to attend just one meeting per month.

I've also seen student apathy in my experience with *The Current*. We've come across a lot of students who say they'd love to get a job here, but just don't have the time. We offer to pay them, we offer an opportunity to get to know other students, we offer them the types of experience employers are looking for—sorry, shameless plug—but we still struggle to compete with local firms who can usually pay more money to hire this campus' most talented students.

On the other hand, I can empathize with students, to an extent. While I don't understand why someone would choose an afternoon of Nintendo over spending time with his or her peers, I can understand the desire to spend a lot of time at work. Most of us can't or don't want to rely on our parents for support. It's a struggle to earn enough money to cover tuition, books, rent, car payments, etc. It's even tougher for those who have families.

Still, I think there's one thing a lot of students forget: we have our whole lives to toil at a job, but we have only a limited amount of time to take advantage of campus activities. Students shouldn't have to get paid to take advantage of experiences that will stay with them the rest of their lives.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

OPINIONS

Editorial Board

- JOE HARRIS
- MARY LINDSLEY
- BENJAMIN ISRAEL
- CHARMARE MALONE
- BRIAN DOUGLAS

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

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Letters to the editor 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 phone number.

Under Current
by Darren Brune
staff photographer

If this were the '60s, what color bandana would you wear?



Phillip Blevins
Freshman/Studio Art & Graphic Design

“
All colors.
”



Bob Songster
Freshman/Undecided

“
Blue.
”



Kris Jasper
Freshman/Undecided

“
I wouldn't wear a bandana.
”



Amanda Jones
Freshman/Accounting

“
Red.
”

March Madness 2000

R-women dance to second round

UM-St. Louis makes first NCAA tourney, loses to N. Michigan

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

On Thursday night, the 1999-2000 University of Missouri-Saint Louis women's basketball team took a giant leap into the future. As they stepped onto the floor of Regents Hall, the women stepped into the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball tournament. They faced a familiar foe in the first round against Ferris State University, a team that the Riverwomen lost to 73-76 earlier in the season.

"We feel very comfortable against Ferris State," said Melanie Marcy, an assistant coach. "We had a disappointing loss to them earlier in the season, a game that we could have won."

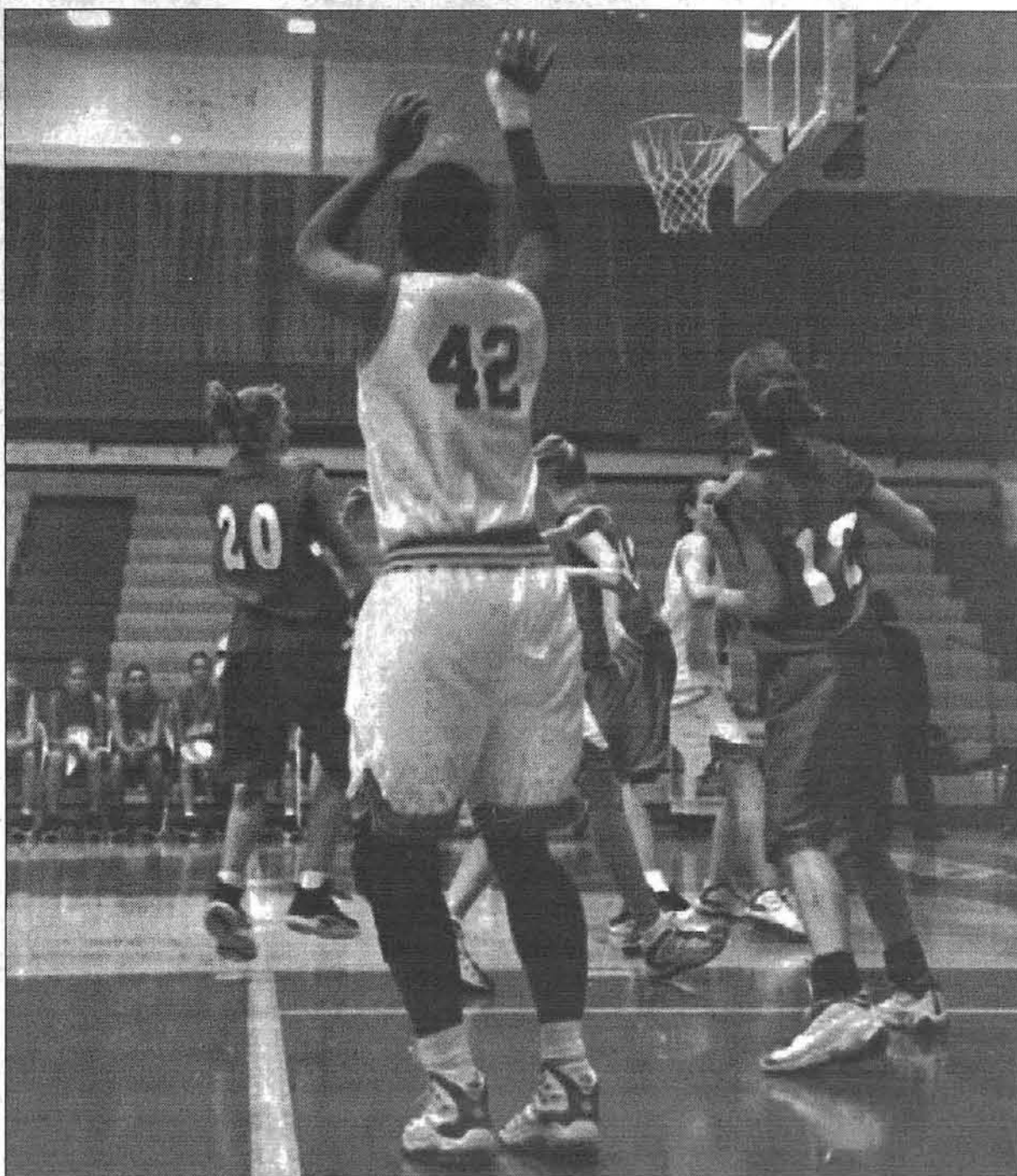
This time, the Riverwomen exacted revenge, defeating Ferris State 90-77 to advance to the second round of the tourney.

As a team, the women shot 56 percent from the field, going 9-12 from 3-point territory, while holding Ferris State to 31-77 from the court and 28 percent from the 3-point.

Tawanda Daniel, who was named to the Great Lakes Valley Conference first team, scored 25 points. Sarah Mauck chalked up 34 points, and All-GLVC tournament player Amanda Wentzel shot perfectly from the field, hitting 5-5, including 4-4 from 3-point range, as the Riverwomen extended their season into the second round.

UM-St. Louis, the No. 6 seed in the

see WOMEN page 9



Tawanda Daniel (42) takes a shot from 3-point land earlier this season.

File Photo/The Current

Three UM-St. Louis basketball players get GLVC honors

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

To add to the acclaim that UM-St. Louis' basketball has already amassed this season, three players were named to the All-Great Lakes Valley Conference team.

On the women's side, senior guard Tawanda Daniel was named to the first team, while fellow senior Amanda Wentzel was named to the second team.

Daniel led the Riverwomen in scoring and rebounding this season, with 18.3 points and 7.1 rebounds per game. Daniel earned GLVC Player of the Week honors twice this season. She also ranks 16th on the UM-St. Louis women's all-time scoring list.

Amanda Wentzel was named to the GLVC All-Tournament team after averaging 12.1 points per game.

Riverman Terence Herbert earned honorable mention honors.

Herbert, a 6-foot-8-inch senior from Cole Bay, St. Martin, averaged a double-double with 11.5 points and 10.3 rebounds per game, started all 23 games he played in, and earned the GLVC Player of the Week honors once.

BRADYBALL 2000

Brady reaches winning milestone

After achieving his 400th victory, the Rivermen skipper gives credit to others

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The baseball team at UM-St. Louis has been nothing but spectacular ever since current head coach Jim Brady took over the program 14 years ago. He has taken two teams to the Division II College World Series in '93 and '96 and produced many players who have played professionally. He was even an assistant on the U.S. Olympic baseball team in 1992.

His UM-St. Louis teams have never had a losing season and won his 400th game this year.

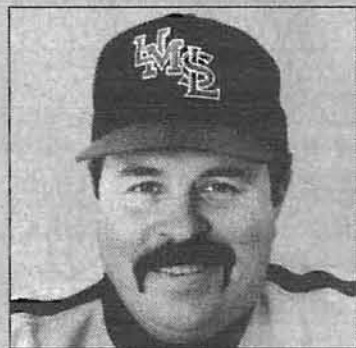
"When you first start off, you wonder how you are going to get to the next year," Brady said. "It is a nice feeling knowing that you have a tangible thing to show for all of the time and effort that you have put in. It is special and something that when you have time to reflect on, it makes the frustration phase of it go away. I just love baseball."

Brady actually had trouble deciding whether to play soccer or baseball in high school, and his grandfather said a key phrase that Brady has lived by: "Stick with baseball. It will be good to you."

Brady stuck with baseball and now has many fond memories of his time with the Rivermen, but the World Series still sticks fresh in his mind.

"Highlights would be both of those World Series teams," Brady said. "Your first in '93 riding back from the games were just like floating in the whole way home. When you get there and conquer some incredible odds, it makes it even better. They are just extra special moments. It was just a great credit to the spirit of the players, and the individuals who made up those teams were just so much fun to

The Brady File



•Brady has coached the Rivermen to over 400 victories in 14 seasons as head coach.

•is UM-St. Louis' all-time winningest coach

•took the Rivermen to the Division II World Series in 1993 and 1996

•has never had a losing season at UM-St. Louis

be around."

Brady praises the men behind the scenes of Rivermen baseball.

"I have been really blessed by having some extra-special assistant coaches," Brady said. "They bring up things that I would not think about. I have been really fortunate to have these men. They are the liaison between yourself and the players. As a head coach, you sometimes become unapproachable. The little things that they know about the game contributes to your teams' success. They are just as important as your best players on

your team. These guys have the potential to be great college coaches because they are dedicated and they care. You are only as good as your [ability] to delegate your responsibilities to them."

Brady also gives credit to the talent that has come through UM-St. Louis.

"I have great mind-makeup of players that have the same type of mentality as myself," Brady said. "They get the most out of their ability. They have bought in to what we do and make the goals really realistic. It makes for a special relationship and something that you carry forever. It is just a great feeling when you see your players smile after a win."

UM-St. Louis has given Brady the opportunity to showcase his talents, and he is thankful for the support the administration has shown.

"The school has done many things to help me in our quest," Brady said. "The University of Missouri-St. Louis identifies with this community. I am proud of UM-St. Louis baseball. I want players to think that St. Louis is a great place and we are only 30 years old. Some of the greatest things are in your own backyard. It offers you so much on the field and off the field."

The job of a head baseball coach is not just dealing with on-the-field situations, but the evolving of the collegiate athlete.

"I can't think of another profession that is so gratifying," Brady said. "You put your stock in 18- to 22-year-old kids, and there are days where you just wonder why. But when you get to the mountain top, you know why. You see that they are the reasons why you do this. They take a lot of it to heart, and you try to teach them how to be more successful than yourself. They are a better extension of you."

Redmond replaced as soccer coach

Hannibal Najjar named new men's soccer coach

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

UM-St. Louis formally announced the hiring of the new men's soccer coach, Hannibal Najjar, effective April 10.

Najjar comes from the Mid-Continent College. He served as the MCC athletics director, the head men's and women's soccer coach, and vice president for student development.

Before MCC, Najjar held the head coaching positions at Bethel College and Belhaven College.

"We are exceptionally pleased to have Hannibal Najjar join our ranks at the University," said Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis' athletic director in a released statement. "He is an outstanding coach and educator. I see a bright future for Hannibal and the men's soccer program."



Redmond

Along with Najjar's coaching experience, he comes well-qualified to teach as well.

Najjar holds degrees in management studies, philosophy and education.

Najjar replaces only the third coach in Rivermen history, Tom Redmond.

Golf team starts season ranked 26th in nation

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

Right on the tails of a tournament victory at the Drury Invitational in Springfield, Mo. to end the fall season, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen's golf team has busted its way into the top 30, boosting its status from 75th to 26th.

"We really look forward to this season," said freshman Kyle Szczesniak, one of the five traveling members of the squad. "That

victory should give us plenty of momentum to bring into the spring. I think we could break the top 15 by season's end."

If the Rivermen could do that, it would almost certainly mean a trip to San Diego for the 2000 National Collegiate Athletic Association golf tournament, but first the team will have to battle through a tough Great Lakes Valley Conference field that includes Indianapolis, Bellarmine

see GOLF page 9

Redmond's loss makes future of men's soccer cloudy



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Out with the old, in with the new, and make progress with what you have.

This is a phrase that my grandfather has always told me to live by. It appears relevant to UM-St. Louis sports today.

Out with the old pertains to the vacancies in the men's basketball team, men's soccer team and the women's softball team.

These vacancies aren't the result of players that graduate or reach the end of their years of eligibility. It is about coaches who have come and gone.

Rick Meckfessel, Charlie Kennedy and now Tom Redmond put in their

time at UM-St. Louis and now have hit the streets.

What is to become of successful teams that have coaching changes occur?

First of all, why would any athletic department decide to not hire back a coach after the job has become a "full-time" position? If the program successfully brings in revenue for the University and has no problems, why change it?

Secondly, when a coaching change does occur, why would it be decided during key recruitment times? If a coach is going after a top-of-the-line player and has to say "Well I may not

be here next year, but please join our program," it does not take a genius to say thanks, but no thanks. If you want quality coming in, you must maintain quality at the head.

This is not a reference to any of the current softball, basketball or soccer coaches at UM-St. Louis, but it is rather a very poor way to get better quality athletes coming to be Rivermen and Riverwomen.

The third and last point is that with a new coach coming in, fans are somewhat skeptical about the team from the beginning.

Look at what Mark Bernsen has done for the Rivermen's basketball

team. They have gone from cellar-dwellers to the big surprise in the Great Lakes Valley Conference in one year.

The point is that no matter how well the Rivermen did this season, how significantly did people come out to games in the beginning of the season compared to the end of the season? The answer being quite obvious with the end of the season drew more fans than the beginning.

With the departure of a quality collegiate coach in Tom Redmond, what will actually happen to the status of the Rivermen's soccer team? They are bringing back an enormous amount of talent next season, but will all of that

talent stay at UM-St. Louis?

The problem is that when a successful team makes adjustments, there are always people who disagree with the strategy and leave due to it.

Will any Rivermen soccer players leave the doors of Mark Twain just as their fearless leader Redmond has? Only time will tell the real truth. But until then, the responsible approach for a winning organization should not be to strip itself of its leader, no matter what the scenario may be. The professional approach in keeping winners at UM-St. Louis would be by giving them a shot at making or breaking the team first.

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY

sports editor

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fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Baseball

vs tba
2:30 p.m., Tue. Mar. 14
at Gene Cusic Tourn.
tba, Mar. 16-19

Softball

at CMSU
3 p.m., Wed. Mar. 15
vs Northern Kentucky
1 p.m., Sat., Mar. 18
vs Indianapolis
1 p.m., Sun., Mar. 19

Men's Tennis

at Wash. U.
4 p.m., Wed. Mar. 15
at Northern Kentucky
tba, Fri. Mar. 17
at Bellarmine
tba, Sat. Mar. 18

Next Issue In Sports

- Baseball/Softball Update
- Women's basketball wrap-up
- Latest Scoop

A&E

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films editor

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Upcoming Concerts

March

15
Derek Thomas Blues Band
three -1-three

The Itals
Club Viva!

16
STIR CD Release Party
w/Verbaw
Mississippi Nights

18
Matthew Sweet
Blueberry Hill

Agent Orange
The Side Door

21
Men of Porn & Lost Goat
Hi-Pointe

Lit w/ Save Ferris & 22 Jacks
Mississippi Nights

22
H2O, Saves the Day &
Dogfight
Galaxy

23
Dillinger 4 w/ Scared Chaka
Creepy Crawl

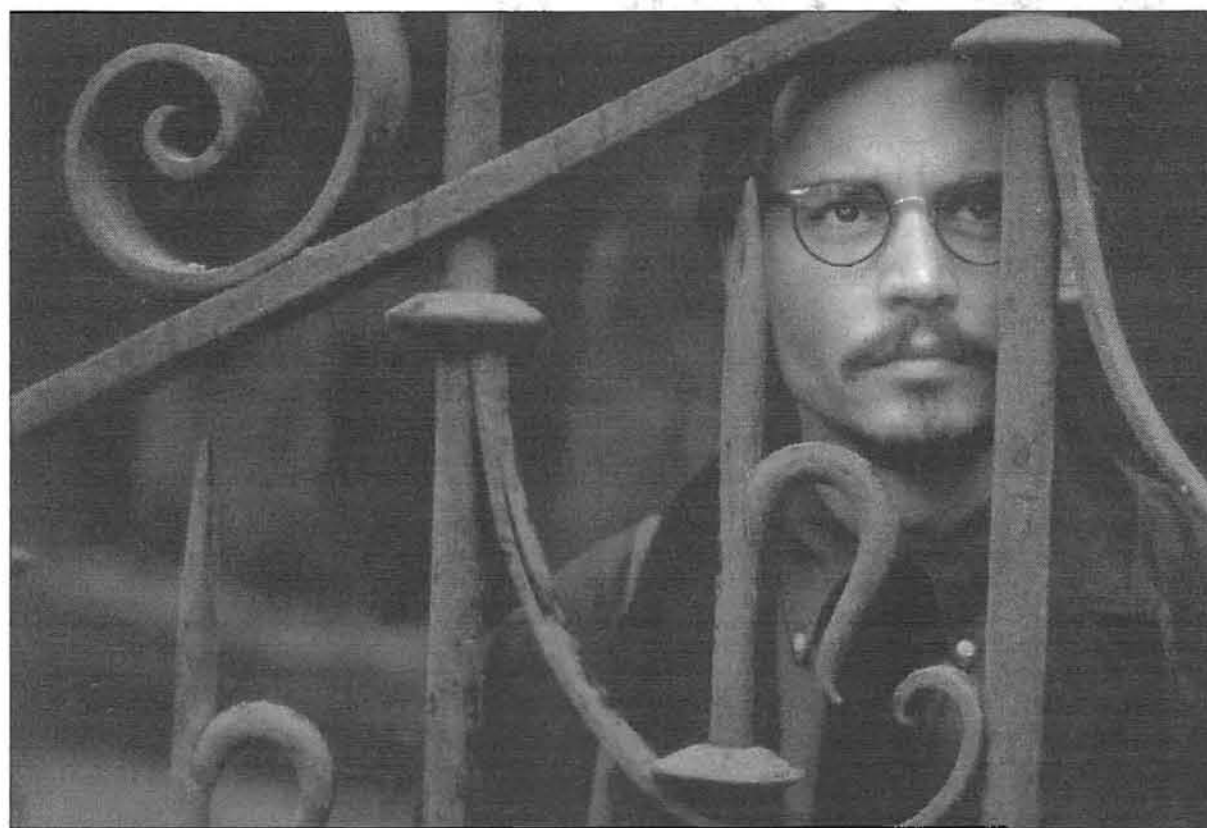
24
Mix Master Mike & Rahzel
The Firehouse

31
Leftover Salmon
Mississippi Nights

FILM REVIEW

THE NINTH GATE

This thriller is less demonic than it looks



ABOVE: Dean Corso (Johnny Depp) is hired by an eminent book-lover and scholar of demonology to find the last two copies of a legendary manual of satanic invocation, "The Nine Gates of the Kingdom of the Shadows."

RIGHT: Boris (Frank Langella) prepares to deliver his soul to the devil.



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Roman Polanski's latest film, "The Ninth Gate," is a thriller about some devilish mischief and a book that might raise the Devil. This supernatural thriller is the tale of a rare book dealer's search for the secret of a book which may have the power to summon the Devil.

The film begins with rare-book dealer Dean Corso (Johnny Depp in a goatee, looking rather like the Devil himself), a man who procures and sells rare books for his wealthy clients. Corso is a cold, cynical man known for his ruthlessness and skill who appears only motivated by money. He is hired by Boris Balkan, a collector and scholar who specializes in books about the Devil, to authenticate his recent purchase, a book called "The Nine Gates of the Kingdom of the Shadows." The 1666 book, illustrated with nine engravings similar to the medieval Tarot cards, is said to have been adapted by its author from a book written by the Devil himself and purportedly has the power to summon the Devil by opening the "Ninth Gate." Although the book's author was burned at the stake by the Inquisition, along with his books, three copies survived the flames. However, Balkan suspects that only one of the three is authentic. The collector knows the whereabouts of the other two volumes and sends Corso to Portugal and France to compare the books to his copy. Balkan offers a very large sum of money to Corso for this task, raising Corso's suspicions about the job but also ensuring that he takes it. When murder and intrigue ensue almost immediately, the nervous Corso's attempt to withdraw is met with both a threat and an increase in his fee. Now

'The Ninth Gate'
Length: 140 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★

committed to the task, Corso proceeds with an obsessive focus.

Roman Polanski is a director of international renown, and hence expectations for his films are quite high. The director skillfully draws the audience into the tale and builds suspense around this quest, but doesn't explore all the possibilities of his subject. Johnny Depp, looking both devilish and bookish with glasses and goatee, is effective as the solitary book dealer who is at first uninterested in the supernatural aspect of his quest, but gradually becomes absorbed in solving the book's puzzle. Likewise, Frank Langella turns in a good performance as the obsessive Balkan as does Emmanuelle Seigner as a mysterious girl who trails Corso through Europe and who appears not to be human. Despite its supernatural theme, the film is actually rather light on this background, and focuses instead on just thrilling and entertaining the audience. Polanski's suspense is effective, if done rather conventionally, but the lack of explanation of some of the events and characters, such as the motives of the supernatural girl, ultimately leads to an ending that is rather muddled and unsatisfactory.

Overall, the film is an entertaining thriller, with a look that is rather reminiscent of earlier occult films like "The Omen," but with more of a mystery flavor than a trip into occult themes. The studied focus of the director in keeping the film on the entertainment level rather than the philo-

see NINTH GATE, page 7

FILM REVIEW

Vibrant restored Hitchcock classic now playing at Tivoli

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'Rear Window'

Length: 112 min.
Rated: PG
Our opinion: ★★★★★

"Rear Window" is one of the great classic films by the master of suspense films, legendary director Alfred Hitchcock. Right now, film fans have a rare chance to see this classic on the big screen in a sparkling newly-restored print. If you've seen this classic before on video, it's worth seeing again on the big screen—you'll be surprised at the detail and nuances you missed.

Hitchcock's films are very strong visually, with their tight editing, dramatic lighting and creative framing of shots, so the big format gives the powerful photography that much more impact. This 1954 color film also features one of the great stars of the classic Hollywood studio era, James Stewart, in one of his most famous roles, and Grace Kelly at her peak beauty. Kelly was one of Hitchcock's favorite actresses for her cool, controlled performances, as Stewart was one of his favorite stars for his everyman quality. Even without the strong story and acting, the film would be worth seeing for how the photographic quality in this clear, crisp print enhances the masterful direction of the film.

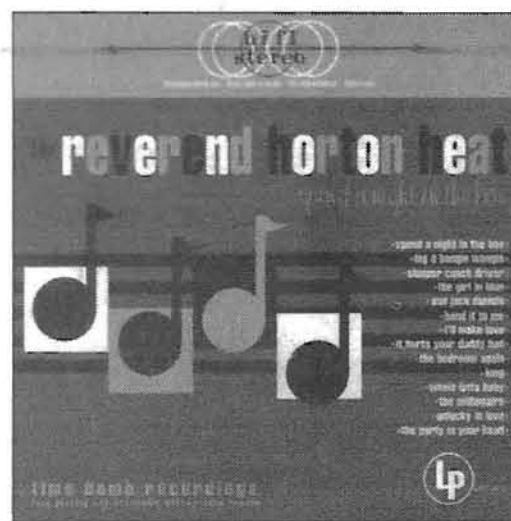
The story of the film concerns a photographer confined to a wheelchair by a broken leg. The bored photographer (Stewart) spends a lot of time

looking out the rear window of his apartment, which opens onto a courtyard and the rear windows of other apartments. The photographer is visited by his crusty nurse (Thelma Ritter) and his girlfriend (Kelly), who worry about his growing obsession with the activities of the neighbors he observes out his rear window. As the photographer indulges his voyeuristic pastime, he witnesses something that he believes may be a crime.

The story is a stylish and creative suspense tale, as it plays with ideas about voyeurism, intrigue and paranoia. Nobody is better at manipulating these elements and keeping the audience off balance in building the suspense than Hitchcock, and his work is supported by Stewart's strong performance. The photography is layered with detail in the lighting and composition, in what the director reveals to his audience and the unerring pace and editing maximize the effect of the inventive story. If you're unfamiliar with Hitchcock films but have seen a lot of suspense films, you may see some elements you've seen in other

see HITCHCOCK, page 7

ALBUM REVIEWS



Spend a Night in the Box

Rockability fans unite! The true kings of Rockabilly are back, twang and all. The Reverend Horton Heat, long known for their showmanship and heavy-duty rockin' albums, have returned with "Spend a Night in the Box."

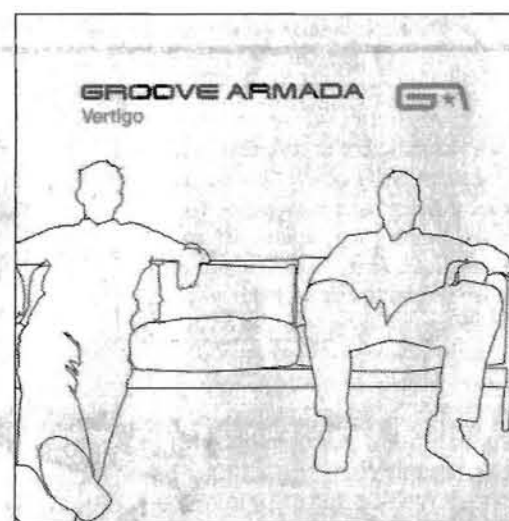
The Horton Heat have stayed true to the genre that made them famous without taking too many liberties. While this would come off as complacency in many bands, Horton Heat just sounds like they're sticking to their guns.

The Reverend Horton Heat have had an unfair advantage in the music industry since their 1993 debut, "Full Custom Gospel Sounds Of The Reverend Horton Heat." Until 1997, there simply were no bands worth comparing to Reverend Horton Heat, and their new competitor, Mojo Nixon, still sounds like a Horton Heat tribute band.

With hits like "Sleeper Coach Driver," "Big D Boogie Woogie" and "Hand it to Me," it is obvious why the Horton Heat have not changed their sound in seven years—they don't need to.

Reverend Horton Heat will likely be rolling through St. Louis in the near future, as they seem to tour incessantly. Keep your eyes peeled for the concert date, and get tickets early, as they will sell out quickly.

Reviews by Cory Blackwood



Vertigo

Electronic music has become as diverse as music itself. There are jazzy electronica albums, dance albums, hard rockin' albums, chill out albums and pretty much everything in between. Electronica is an extremely wide classification for any music group to be lumped into.

Groove Armada is a group that uses the classification of electronica to its advantage, working many different styles into one album. "Vertigo," the debut album from Groove Armada, goes from jazz stylings and trumpets to dance in the blink of an eye. "Pre 63" is as jazzy as Dizzy Gillespie with its muted trumpet, but by the next song, "If Everybody Looked The Same" dance, funk and rap samples rule with authority.

"I See You Baby" is the first single from the album, and is likely what Groove Armada will be remembered for. With a catchy hook line repeated throughout, the song is as infectious as they get, without being annoying. There is even a Fatboy Slim remix of the song at the end of the album, and many DJs will pick up the album for this high-light alone.

"Vertigo" is a great jazz album, as well as a great dance album, or even a DJ mix album. Most importantly, "Vertigo" is a good album.

Unoriginal cover songs prove some bands are worthless

Cover songs seem to be a lucrative business these days. Before the '90s, it would have been commercial suicide to put another musician's song on one's own album; now it seems like standard procedure.

Can you imagine the Beatles putting a cover song on "Abbey Road"? It would be sacrilege, to say the least. Pink Floyd's "The Wall" would have meant so much less with a song written by anyone other than Roger Waters.

Jimi Hendrix is a very rare exception. "All Along The Watchtower" is one of his biggest hits, but it is originally a Bob Dylan song. "Knockin'

on Heaven's Door," while everybody seems to remember it as sung by Axl Rose, is also a Dylan tune.

Nowadays, it seems that every CD makes its name on the merits of a single and little else. Marilyn Manson started a trend with a remake of the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams" and his career blew up. Limp Bizkit followed suit with "Faith," a George Michael song. These songs, and the Jimi Hendrix and Guns n' Roses songs, managed to stand on their own feet for one very important reason—they were different from the originals.

Korn did War's "Low Rider" and it was comical enough to fit in with the rest of their album, but things

started heading downhill from there. Orgy's whole career has been based on the success of New Order's "Blue Monday," but the song is nearly unchanged from the song it was modeled after. Fear Factory actually got Gary Numan to play guitar on a cover of his own song "Cars," and the remake sounds identical to Numan's first attempt. Why try again?

Is it money? Added recognition? People wondered if the Eurythmics were upset at Marilyn Manson's cover, but with the royalty checks, I doubt Annie Lennox or Dave Stewart seemed to mind. Many bands want to have an up-and-coming artist cover their song, because attention will be

given to their band as well, increasing their sales once again.

Some covers are so tongue-in-cheek that they are done only as a joke, like when the Dead Kennedy's covered "Viva Las Vegas" or when Powerman 5000 covered the Car's "Good Times Roll." I have to say I tend to enjoy covers in this instance. One band, Me First and the Gimme Gimmes have released two albums of nothing but covers, and I would dare to say that they are borderline genius in adding a punk flavor to songs like "Uptown Girl" or "Sweet Caroline."

This is all well and good, but back to the bands that owe their whole careers to a cover song. Orgy should

be kissing the ground that New Order walked on, and Limp Bizkit probably paid for a new house for George Michael, but they all still act like tortured artists... of their own music.

What real talent does it take to steal another's song and hardly change any facet of it? Not much, just ask the bands that rely on such barely disguised theft. Just think of how many albums today have cover songs on them, and worse yet, cover songs as the first single. It will all work out, however, and in ten years, we will have forgotten that Orgy ever existed, and will pop in New Order's "Blue Monday," enjoying it as we did in years past.



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

FILM REVIEW

'My Dog Skip' appeals to kids with comedy, sentiment and a cute dog

BY CATHERINE MARGUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"My Dog Skip" has a very appealing premise for a family film: a man reminisces about the amazing dog he had as a boy. The movie is based on a book that a man wrote about his dog, and the "true story" aspect adds to the already appealing concept. While the story could have been adapted to entertain both adults and children, the film is geared more to kids and is more sentimental than funny.

The film starts out very well as a tale about Willie, a lonely nine-year-old boy who gets a puppy on his birthday. The story is set in a small Southern town during WWII. The boy feels isolated since he's an only child in an era of large families and he's small for his age. The boy's overprotective father and lack of athletic skill heightens his isolation. Despite his father's objections, his much livelier mother responds to his loneliness by giving him a puppy. The puppy grows into an amazing pet who helps turn the boy's life around.

The first half of the film has a strong comic element and will really appeal to all ages. The scene in which the dog drives the car is a gem. The dog is quite a personality and an athlete who has the run of the town and is known by everyone. The dog helps the boy make new friends and to break out of his confining world. The work of Frankie Muniz (from TV's "Malcolm in the Middle") as the boy is marvelous, and he works well with that wonderful dog (the same pooch who appears on TV in "Frazier"), who is quite the performer himself. A very strong supporting turn is provided by Kevin Bacon as the boy's father, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War who lost a leg and gained a cautious and pessimistic view of life.

The film has quite a nostalgic tone, with lovingly photographed details of life in the 1940s. The film veers more into sentiment from humor as the film progresses, and has an especially good serious scene with the boy and his



After seeing a newsreel about dogs in the military, Spit McGee (Cody Linley) and Willie (Frankie Muniz, right), Skip's owner, start training Skip.

'My Dog Skip'
Length: 80 min.
Rated: G
Our opinion: ★★★

father encountering some hunters in the woods.

However, having set the story up well, the filmmakers fail to really follow through with the kind of film this could have been. Information that I've heard about the book indicates that a lot of good, particularly comic material was not used, especially regarding the dog's abilities as an athlete, so that overall the dog in the film comes across as pretty ordinary. There is a heavy emphasis on the idyllic nostalgia of the film's time period. A story about the boy's neighbor, the town's star athlete who had befriended the boy before going off to serve in the

war, doesn't develop into as strong an element as it could have. To create a dramatic peak for the film, director Jay Russell chose to use a conventional movie crisis, full of emotionally effective but familiar movie shots, that gives this film its tear-jerker aspect, followed by a rather weak ending in a voice-over narration.

This movie will appeal to younger kids, although the emotional crisis in the middle may be too intense for the very young, and will be moderately entertaining to adults and older kids. It's great to see this kind of better-quality film available for kids, but this film does not reach the level of entertainment for every age that was achieved in other great family films like "The Sandlot." I wouldn't recommend you go see it on your own, but if you know a 6- to 10-year-old who wants to go to the movies, this is the film to pick.

(Now playing at the Creve Coeur, Des Peres and other area theaters)

NINTH GATE, from page 6

sophical/supernatural leaves too many unanswered questions, so that the ending is confusing and flat rather than mysterious and chilling, as it was apparently intended to be. Still, the suspense works through

most of the film, so that the result is good entertainment, if less steeped in the occult than you might expect. (Now playing at Esquire, Des Peres and other area theaters)

HITCHCOCK, from page 6

films, but remember this is the film that did them first. Even if later filmmakers lifted some of Hitchcock's ideas, no one combined them with his unique timing and style.

If you are a fan of classic films, this one is not to be missed. If you've never seen a Hitchcock film, this is a very good introduction to his later color film work. While I espe-

cially like his earlier black and white films, this color film is from his peak period and shows his mastery of the color medium as well. For any film fan, you won't be sorry if you go see this classic.

(Now playing at the Tivoli Theater)

CORRECTION

In issue 983, Sean Dwyer was misidentified in the Under Current. Dwyer is a senior. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

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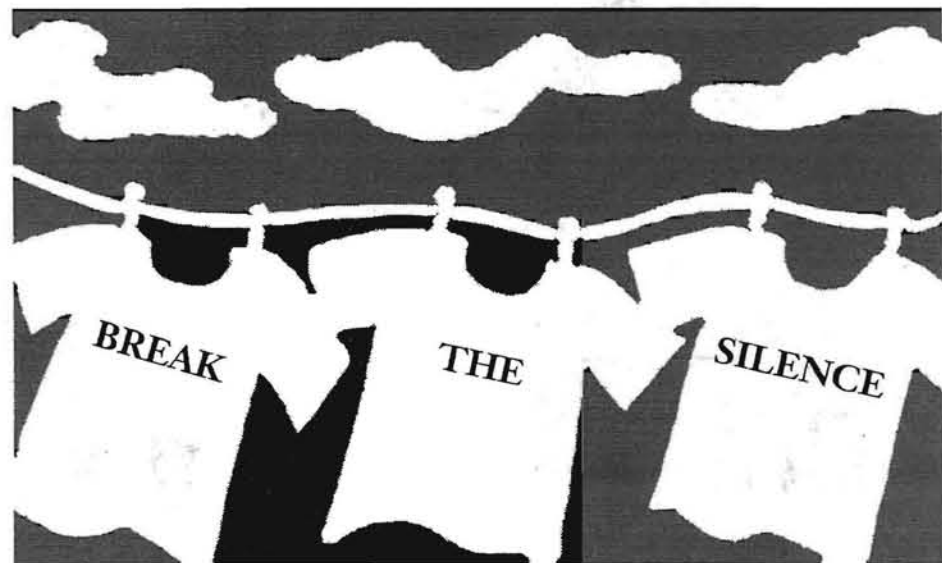
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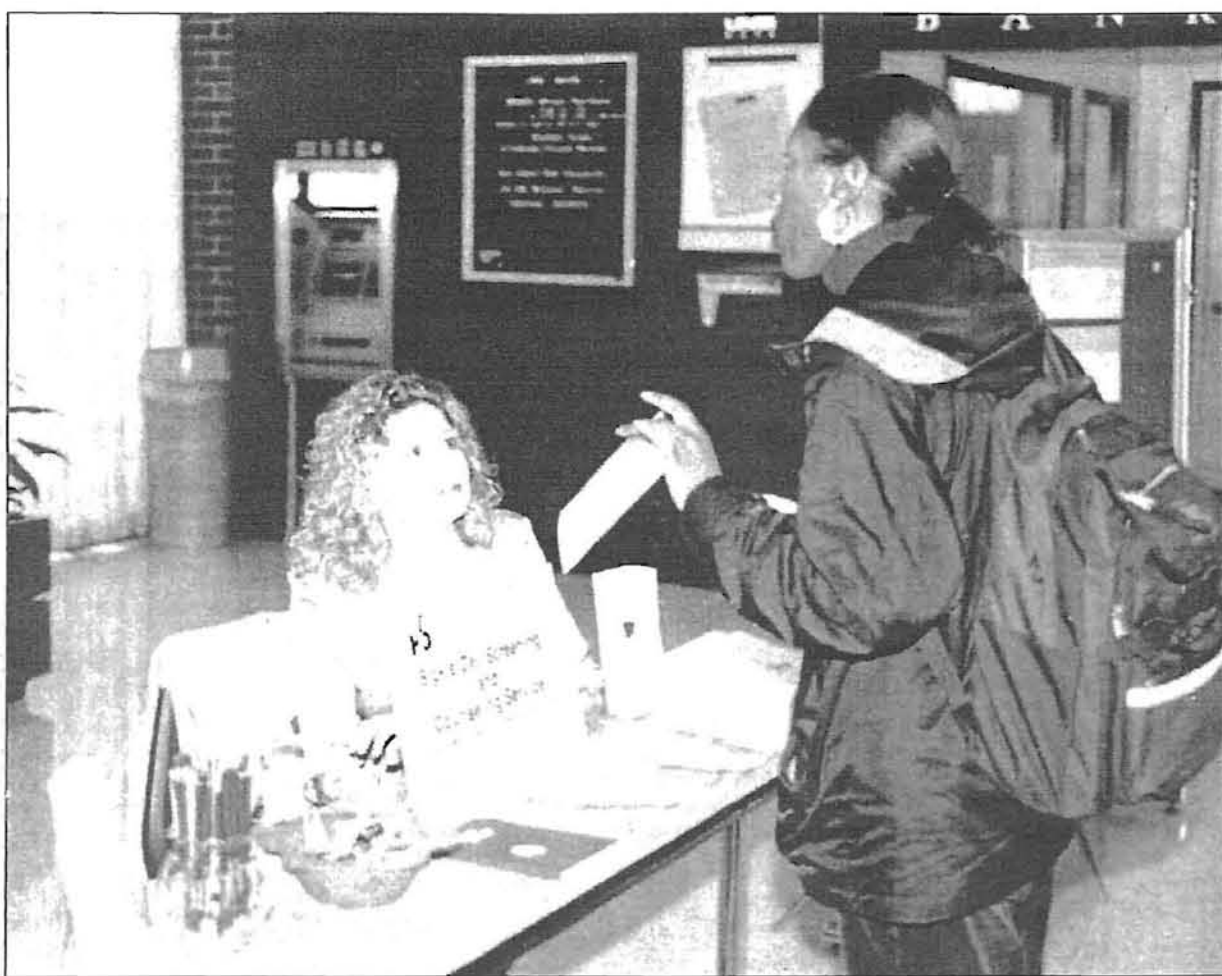
Meeting

March 16
2:30 p.m.

Hawthorn Room

Student Government Association meetings are open to all students and are mandatory for SGA representatives.

For more information call 516-5105.



Michelle Van Iseghem/ The Current

A student inquires about sickle cell testing in the University Center.

Students receive sickle cell testing

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff assistant

Amy Schoenberger, a University Health Services registered nurse and health educator, and Rose Cleaves from the City of St. Louis Department of Health and Hospitals came together last Tuesday and Thursday to screen UM-St. Louis students for either the sickle cell disease or the sickle cell trait.

While setting up shop on the third floor of Lucas Hall and in the University Center's lobby, both Schoenberger and Cleaves disproved some popular misconceptions about the disease.

Although sickle cell affects mostly African-Americans, it occurs in Africa, countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, several Middle East countries, Canada, all the Caribbean islands, many South American countries, and in France,

Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Secondly, just because there's not a family history of the disease does not mean that offspring aren't susceptible to getting it. If both parents of a newborn baby have the sickle cell trait, then it can be inherited by the child.

"Just because you have the sickle cell trait, doesn't necessarily mean your baby will have the disease," Schoenberger said.

That's why it's so important to get tested for the trait, emphasized Schoenberger.

"[We're] focusing on future generations passing it on," Schoenberger said.

Rarely does the sickle cell trait affect a person's health. In some cases, people with the sickle cell trait have problems at high altitudes or in places where oxygen levels are low.

According to the St. Louis City Department of Health, more than 60,000 Americans have sickle cell disease, and about two thirds of these have sickle cell anemia, which is the

most common type of sickle cell disease.

Hemoglobin tests, in which finger pricks and minor shots are used to test blood, are offered year-round and free of charge by the City of St. Louis Department of Health and Hospitals (658-1167).

"It's one of the most valid tests in use today," Cleaves said.

There is no cure for the sickle cell disease, although there has been about 100 cases that were successfully treated with bone marrow transplantation.

"It cures some people of sickle cell disease but it doesn't cure everybody," Cleaves said.

There are many techniques for managing sickle cell disease that involve medications such as pain relievers and antibiotics, along with drugs to prevent dehydration.

Gene therapy, the ultimate cure of sickle cell disease, is still years away, but it is being tested on other diseases.

Canadian speaks on politics, women

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

While there were several volunteers preparing for vice president Al Gore's visit to UM-St. Louis, an intimate group of students, faculty, politicians and community members gathered to welcome Eleni Bakopanos, a member of the Canadian Parliament.

Bakopanos was the guest speaker at Monday's lecture, "Women in Politics," sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

Diane Toulitatos-Miles, director of the Center of the Humanities, commented that Bakopanos represents a handful of highly regarded international politicians.

Bakopanos was first elected to the House of Commons in October 1993, as the Member of Parliament for Saint-Denis. She was re-elected to office in 1997 as the Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic, representing one of 24 percent of women in the House of Commons.

Bakopanos discussed the obstacles and rewards of being a female politician in hopes of inspiring young women to pursue careers in public life.

"It is a challenge to be a woman and a politician in today's society. Political life is like riding a roller coaster—wonderful highs and despairing lows, often occurring within the same hour—none of which are related to menopause or PMS," Bakopanos said.

In 1988, the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) conducted research on the

impact of women in public office. According to the center's findings, women have different policy priorities such as women's rights policies and other policies related to women's traditional roles as caregivers in the family and society. The study also concluded that female public officials are more active in women's rights legislation and that they are more likely to be more feminist and liberal in their attitudes on major policy issues. Lastly, CAWP found that women officials are more likely to bring citizens into the process and are more responsive to groups previously denied full access to the policy making process.

Bakopanos has been able to successfully balance the role of wife, mother and politician. As a woman and a mother, Bakopanos has assisted with legislation concerning women issues, or as she refers to them, "social issues." Excellence for women's health, legislation on gun control, a prenatal nutrition program and a national screening system on child sex offenders are just a few issues that have successfully passed.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the liberty to influence the governing of our country and I personally believe that we all have the responsibility to ensure that we leave our communities better than we inherited them," Bakopanos said.

In closing, Bakopanos quoted Aristotle: "The basis of democracy is liberty which means that as responsible citizens we all have a role to play, not just politicians."

News from 210

'Natural Bridge Road' exhibit gives historical perspective

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

"Cool room!" said three-year-old Makanaalha Perry. A simplistic, but accurate description of the exhibit, "Natural Bridge Road: An Awareness of Place," in UM-St. Louis' Gallery 210.

"Natural Bridge Road: An Awareness of Place" is an exhibition by Michael Piazza, a member of the Illinois Arts Council Arts-in-Education. Piazza, a collaborative artist, acted jointly with The Normandy Historical Society, Normandy School District, St. Louis County Library-Natural Bridge Branch, The Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, Arts-in-Transit, and Gallery 210.

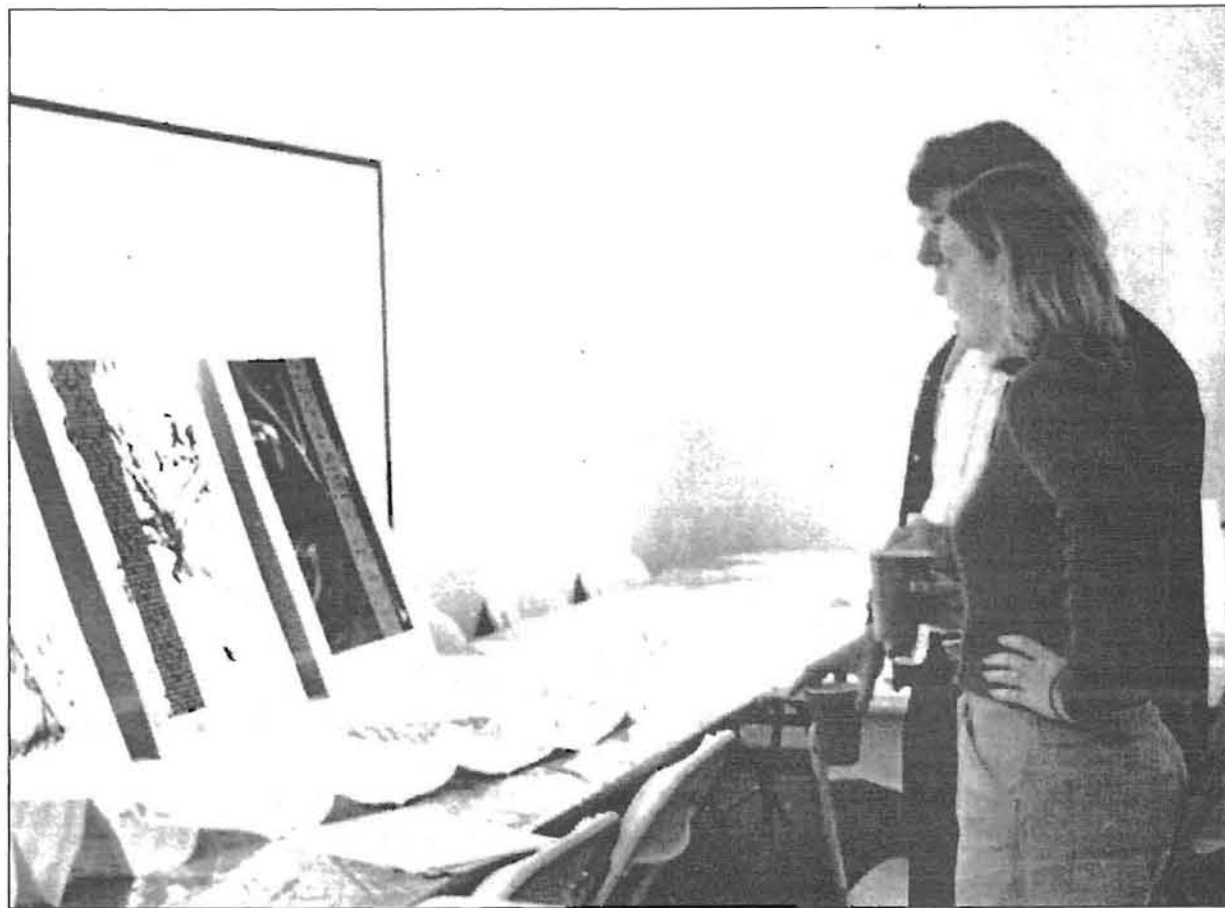
Originally Piazza was invited by Terry Suhre, Gallery 210 director, to do a collaborative project with UM-St. Louis that reached out to the community.

"It's quite gratifying when you can put together a project that brings in University faculty from all disciplines, students, the artist, and even the mayor of the city... [it] really demonstrates how much the University is becoming a part of this community," Suhre said.

Upon his arrival, Piazza couldn't help but notice the University was on Natural Bridge Road.

"Natural Bridge is something that connects...The title found me," Piazza said.

Jeanne Rosen, a former student of UM-St. Louis, participated in gathering historical information, such as finding the original Natural Bridge that was an actual bridge over a limestone creek, Rocky Branch, in North St. Louis. Rosen worked with community members



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Senior art major Sarah Hammond admires the Gallery 210 exhibit with her father Jim Hammond.

like Elanore Waldt, the co-chair of the Historical Association, who was also present at the exhibit opening.

Denise Perry, a visual arts teacher at Normandy Middle School, was one of the teachers who allowed Piazza into her classroom for the Natural Bridge collaboration.

Two of her students' murals are on display outside the gallery.

"What was really neat for the children, when they were doing the research, was finding out the history

of not only the street, but of the neighborhood. One of the children said, 'I didn't know that.' It was just having those light bulb moments," Perry said.

"What was neat about this project was starting [it]. Mike was the catalyst that got something growing that will be continued even after he is gone," Perry said.

This project has uncovered interesting tidbits of information, like the fact that the Natural Bridge Road and Florissant Road wedge was

once a toll that people paid to pass through on their way west in the 1800s.

"Natural Bridge Road: An Awareness of Place" will be on display at Gallery 210, located on the second floor of Lucas Hall, now until April 8.

Piazza is planning a walk along Natural Bridge Road in late April to place manhole markers that he designed.

For more information, contact Terry Suhre at 516-5952.

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Riverwomen off to scorching 9-2 start

Double-header sweep of UM-Rolla, 4-0 and 7-2, highlights week

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
sports associate

The UM-St. Louis softball team continued its quest to sit atop the Great Lakes Valley Conference rankings, facing non-conference opponents University of Missouri-Rolla and Quincy University.

The Riverwomen traveled to Rolla to face the UM-Rolla Lady Miners in a double-header, winning both games 4-0 and 7-2.

Softball head coach Lesa Bonee' discussed the team's effort against Rolla and what they will continue to work on for upcoming games.

"We hit the ball okay but played good, solid defense," Bonee' said. "We still have to work on getting our bunts down though."

UM-St. Louis recorded six hits in the first game, with pitcher Kathleen Rogoz getting the win.

The Riverwomen were solid with bats in the second game, recording nine hits, with pitcher Megan Kuebler getting the win.

Coming back home, the Riverwomen faced Quincy University, winning the first game of the double-header 8-0 but fell short of a sweep, losing the second game 3-6.

"We pounded the ball in the first game and had 14 hits," Bonee' said. "In the second game, [Quincy] threw in a slow pitcher, and we were just too



Rafael Macias/The Current

Riverwoman softball coach Lisa Bonee' looks on as her players loosen up during practice.

far in front of the ball. We committed a two-run error when we failed to catch a fly ball and got into a pinch with our own pitching. We just did not play very well."

Riverwomen Kathleen Rogoz was the winning pitcher for the first game, while pitcher Allison Maurer took the

loss in the second.

The softball team is now 9-2 overall and 1-1 in the GLVC.

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team will be busy in the upcoming week, facing Bemidji State University in a home game on Tuesday. The Riverwomen will then travel on

Wednesday to Warrensburg, Mo., to face Central Missouri State University. The team will then return home for a two-game home stretch to face conference rivals Northern Kentucky University on March 18 and the University of Indianapolis on March 19.

Tennis team is ready for tough 1999 schedule

BY CHRIS BUNCE
special to The Current

The spring season has started for the men's tennis team and the players are well-prepared for the schedule ahead of them.

"We have a very tough schedule this year with really only one easy stop on the trip," Rick Gyllenborg, Rivermen head coach, said. "Non-conference wise, we will play the No. 1 and 2 ranked schools in the nation. Conference wise, we finished fourth last year behind Southern Indiana, Indianapolis and SIU-Edwardsville, but we hope to step up a spot or two."

The Rivermen had fine off-season recruiting. The team picked up its newly-acquired single players, No. 2 player Minh Phann, No. 3 player Josh Heape and No. 5 player Eric Schrupf from community colleges. This group, along with all-conference player Scott Goodyear, hopes to put some fear in their opponents' eyes this year.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference stacks up to be very competitive and with the Rivermen at fourth in the conference, every win is important.

"This weekend will be very crucial playing Northwest Missouri on

Friday and Rockhurst on Saturday," Gyllenborg said.

UM-St. Louis opened the season on March 7 at UM-Rolla with a 5-4 win.

"It was a good match to start the spring season with a road win," Gyllenborg said. "But obviously we could of done better in doubles only winning one of three matches."

Singles winners included Minh Phann, Josh Heape and Eric Schrupf and on the doubles side, Josh Heape and Eric Schrupf.

The Rivermen were due to play Jefferson College on March 9, but were rescheduled due to bad weather conditions. The new date is tentatively set for April 19.

The top three positions are solidified with each player having different distinct qualities at each position.

"Scott is our No. 1 player," Gyllenborg said. "Only in certain cases will he not play at No. 1, but for the most part, the top three are very high class individuals and respect each other."

UM-St. Louis hosts Washington University March 15 and then hosts its first conference match this season March 24 against Indianapolis.

SPORTS OPINION

Good weather is here, take advantage of it

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

With the change of seasons ever imminent, weekend warriors everywhere will rejoice. As the temperature outside increases, so does the competitive spirits of the armchair quarterback.

Whether it is a game of roundball on the asphalt, manning the sandlot for a game of wiffle ball or driving to Fenton Park for soccer, athletes everywhere are turning off their televisions and heading for wide-open spaces.

And why not? We don't want to head to the pool this summer with our beer bellies still flopping around from the Super Bowl, or our "Thanksgiving Thighs" or any number of "ailments" that prevent anyone from going out and enjoying the sun. We want to look our best, and one of the ways to do so is by exercising and toning our bodies to fit society's portrayal of the perfect being.

The only problem is that nobody is perfect. We are not all going to have that perfect supermodel physique. We should not try to. It is a stupid pursuit and a wasted goal. But we, as humans, are animals at heart and need to be active. Like the neighbor's dog that just will not shut up until you let it off of its leash, we need to let go of our responsibilities and just play and have fun.

I have never heard of anyone complaining that he just shot a round of golf (without a golf-cart), ran a couple of miles or swam 10 laps. You never see someone upset because she spent her entire Saturday playing volleyball on the beach, threw horseshoes while at a barbecue or hit the courts at a country club.

Why no complaints? Why should there be complaints? They could have

spent the day at the mall, watching NASCAR or playing the latest PlayStation game, but they chose to suit up on the gridiron, knock around a shuttlecock or hike in Castlewood Park.

Ask anyone who has ever done any of these things, and he will smile. There is just something about beating your best friend in the paint, slamming that winning home run with your significant other pitching the ball or catching that touchdown pass right over the head of someone you really don't like, but you can't tell her.

How can you not go outside? Look out your window. You see those golden rays of rejuvenation and you would rather burn your retinas in front of a computer monitor? Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to lead the boys to another Lombardi Trophy.

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WOMEN, from page 5

GLVC regional, paired off against No. 3 Northern Michigan in the next round. This game ended with the Riverwomen dropping a 97-73 decision to NMU.

Northern Michigan had five players in double figures. Sasha Leverenz scored 19, Jill Goebert 14, Carrie Dykstra 13 and Shari Rehmann and Leigh Ann Daulton each scored 11 in the win.

The Riverwomen, however, end their season on a high note, being the first UM-St. Louis women's basketball team to ever reach the NCAA tournament.

GOLF, from page 5

and Southern Indiana.

"This team has more than exceeded my expectations," said head coach Steve Hausmann. "The Drury tournament set us against four nationally-ranked teams, and when we won, our ratings skyrocketed."

Finishing with a record of 51-9 over four events, the fall season will be a tough one to outdo. But under the guidance of Hausmann, an assistant pro, breaking the top 25 is not out of reach, especially with the five-man rotation of Szczesniak, Matt

Stiles, Dennis Lees, Andy Schwob and Doug Kreitner, who has the team's best average at 73.

"This team has great camaraderie," Hausmann said. "When the guys finish a round, you will see them waiting for their teammates at the end of the course, cheering and helping the best they can."

With its strong national ranking, UM-St. Louis has been invited to the Billiken Invitational, a tournament consisting largely of NCAA Division I schools, and they hope to make a strong showing.

"We have a chance to place in

the top five at the Billiken tournament," Szczesniak said. "If we could to that, our standing, as well as our confidence, would really benefit."

They will see their first action over March 20-21 at the Ambria Golf Course in Waterloo, Illinois, hosted by Missouri Baptist College.

"This season should be one to watch," Szczesniak. "We have a solid core of guys, and really look to win."

Professor: Marvin Berkowitz

Years: 1
Department: Character Education
Degree: PhD
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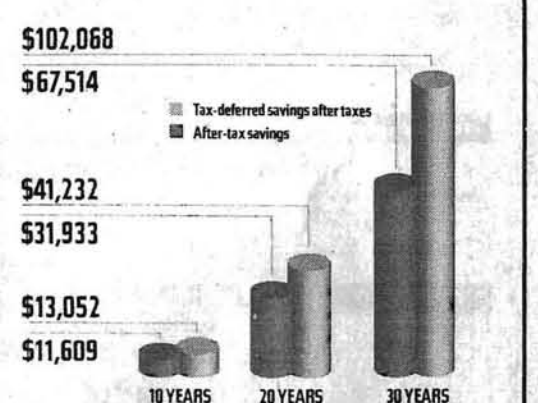
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Student Court will hear Butler appeal through teleconference

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Student Government Association president Darwin Butler told the University of Missouri-St. Louis Student Court on March 3 that he wanted an appeal by teleconference.

Butler is protesting the actions taken at the January SGA meeting in which Michael Rankins was voted vice president by the SGA assembly.

The appeal will be held Wednesday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m. A location has not been determined.

Butler cannot attend an appeal in person because he is currently in the St. Louis County jail. Butler has been incarcerated since October, after his work release on credit card theft charges was revoked.

Rick Eccher, chief justice of the Student Court, said the teleconference format does not bother him.

"As long as it doesn't in some way contaminate or poison the appeal process, it doesn't matter to me," Eccher said.

The appeal has been delayed pending word from the University of Missouri General Counsel, the UM system's legal counsel. Since Butler cannot attend the hearing in person, Eccher said he wanted to make sure that a teleconference is legal.

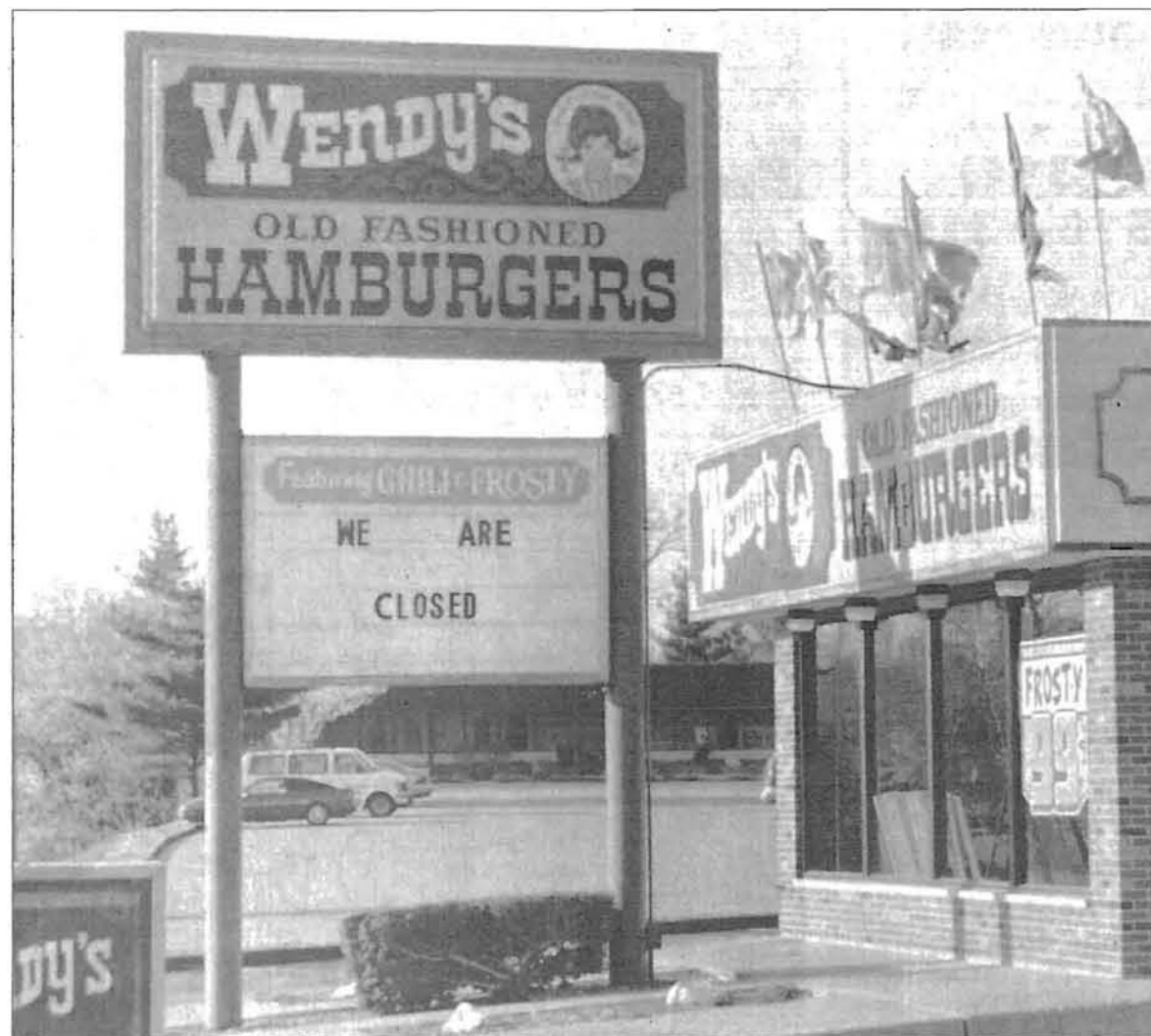
"If the General Counsel were to rule that according to the law, Darwin Butler needs to appeal in person to refute the testimony, then that would make this option of teleconference illegal and the Student Court could not use it," Eccher said.

The General Counsel, though, has not responded to the Student Court's requests.

Eccher said whether there is a response or not, the Student Court has to put this matter behind it.

"Whatever the situation is," Eccher said, "we can't let this go until May when finals are done and this is a moot issue. We need to act with reasonable speed."

Phillip Hoskins, a member of the General Counsel, refused to comment on the status of the appeal's ruling, citing confidentiality.



Darren Brunel/The Current

Flags still wave over the now-vacant Wendy's on Florissant Road. The University bought the Wendy's property as part of its land acquisition project for the rerouting of I-70.

University buys Wendy's, needs one more property

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis still needs to buy one more property and evict a few tenants before it can consummate the land deal that would make rerouting Interstate 70 possible, said Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for Administrative Services.

Last month, the University bought the Wendy's at 8219 Florissant Road from both the property owner and the franchisee, Schuster said. The only remaining piece of land that the University does not own that the Missouri Department of Transportation needs is part of the property occupied by Michon's Bar B Q Restaurant & Lounge at 8181 Florissant Road, Schuster said. "We

just need a corner of that property," he said. "The restaurant can stay."

He added that the University is negotiating with Michon's landlord, who lives in Florida, but that it would probably evict the restaurant when its lease runs out.

Four businesses—Left Bank Lounge, Denny B. Lowell II Financial Services, Womack Style Shop and Spirits Plus—remain in a building the University owns in the 8400 block of Florissant Road. The University has given them all eviction notices, and, Schuster said, they should be all gone by the end of April.

The swap is part of a \$35 million plan to straighten Interstate 70 from Bermuda to Hanley roads and completely redo the intersection of the highway and Florissant Road, said Bill Schnell, area engineer for the

Transportation Department. The department cannot begin work on the project until the land transfer is completed, Schnell said, and that cannot happen until the University acquires all of the land, and the University of Missouri Board of Curators and the State Highway and Transportation Commission approve the deal.

Under the plan, the University would give the Transportation Department more land than it gets, and in return the department will build the University a new entrance on its north side and make aesthetic enhancements to the bridge at the intersection.

After it's complete, the University will own land on the north side of Interstate 70, Schuster said.

Schnell said he hopes it will be completed in 2002.

MoDOT activates new traffic signal early for Gore visit

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

In an indirect way, Al Gore is responsible for activating the traffic signal at Natural Bridge Road and Clearview/West Campus Drive and taking out the traffic barrier at West Campus Drive.

The signal was originally scheduled to be operational at the beginning of the winter semester in January. It had been blinking for more than a month. It started cycling from red to green March 6, hours before vice president Al Gore spoke on campus.

"Anytime we have a high-ranking person like the president or vice president in town and we have orange barrels, the Secret Service types do not want the barrels there," said Bill Schnell, area engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

"They didn't call this time," Schnell said. "We just got them out of there."

If Gore or someone like him hadn't visited, Schnell said, the orange barrels and the blinking lights would have remained at the intersection for another six to eight weeks.

That's because the signals are not interconnected with the signals at Natural Bridge Road's intersections

with Hanley Road and with Arlmont/University Drive, Schnell said. "Once it's connected, you should see some impact on the flow of traffic," Schnell said.

The signals won't be interconnected until the University receives 20 feet of fiber optic cable it has ordered, said Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for administrative services. Schuster said he doesn't expect the cable to arrive for at least six weeks.

The cable has to connect a fiber optic cable on the south side of Natural Bridge with a control box on the north side of the street.

A contractor working for the Missouri Department of Transportation installed the cable on the south side before contractors under contract to the University put the control box on north side of Natural Bridge.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is in charge of design and construction of the intersection under a permit issued by MoDOT. That means the University is in charge of making sure the materials are there, while the transportation department must approve of it before the light goes into operation.

The new signal is a small part of a \$9 million project that includes rerouting West Drive and building the West Parking Structure.

GORE, from page 1

Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., "I was as disillusioned as any young person you have ever met."

He said he began to get more involved in community issues following the birth of his first child. He encouraged younger voters to avoid becoming cynical and apathetic toward politics.

"If you are at your first political event, stay involved," Gore said. "Everybody that is involved in democracy is imperfect, but the system works if we give of ourselves and make it work."

Rather than positioning himself against his democratic opponent, former N.J. Sen. Bill Bradley, Gore spoke of the differences between himself and the republican presidential candidates. Gore criticized Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Ariz. Sen. John McCain for what he said was their opposition to hate crimes legislation and the "patients' bill of rights" health care proposal.

He also warned the audience against a return to the economic policies of President Ronald Reagan's administration.

"We've got to keep prosperity going and keep this economy strong and not turn back toward the old supply-side economics that failed before," Gore said.

Gore conceded that he agrees with McCain on the issue of campaign finance reform.

"Both parties have made mistakes," Gore said, "but the point is what [we have] learned from those mistakes."

Gore defined his stance on several other issues during his speech. He told the audience he favors additional gun control legislation, affirmative action, a minimum wage increase, pre-school for all children, and the use of the federal government's budget surplus to fortify the social security system.

Rick Eccher, chief justice of the UM-St. Louis Student Court, attended Gore's speech. He said he went to learn more about issues that would ultimately affect students.

"I decided to attend because I'm a member of the Student Court and we have some issues pending in legislation," Eccher said. "I thought it would be appropriate to see one of the gentlemen who might be president."

Gore went on to win the Missouri primary as well as democratic contests throughout the nation last Tuesday. Bradley subsequently withdrew from the presidential race, while John McCain suspended his campaign.

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