



'The Hours' in theaters now See page 10

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

SGA back to business

Homecoming, SGA elections to be held online

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

Each winter semester UM-St. Louis students are asked to take part in democracy at the University level.

Starting this year, both the election of the Homecoming Court and Student Government Association elections will be held online through the University's MyGateway system.

"You [students] can vote from anywhere in the world. It is very cool and will hopefully increase voter turnout," SGA Vice-President Robert Clarke, who also heads up the Homecoming committee, said. Clarke also added that the MyGateway service is very secure.

All students currently enrolled at the time of the elections are able

"You [students] can vote from anywhere in the world. It is very cool and will hopefully increase voter turnout."

- Robert Clarke
Student Government Association Vice-President

to vote. By voting through the MyGateway system students' identities are able to be verified.

The change in voting procedures for both elections was announced at the January monthly SGA meeting this past Friday in the SGA Chamber of the 3rd floor of the MSC.

The UM-St. Louis Homecoming will be held the week of Monday, Feb. 17 to Saturday, Feb. 22. Applications for king and queen are now available in the Office of Student Life.

"We have an entire week of activities planned starting on the 17th. There is going to be a blood drive, the beginning of banner awards and Rec Sports table tennis," Clarke said.

Other activities during the week will include Powder Puff Football, the Big Man on Campus event, a mini-parade, a bonfire and pep rally and Homecoming Court elections. The Homecoming dance will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Feb. 21 at Windows off Washington.

"It is going to be a very nice affair. It is very classy down there. The king and queen will be crowned there, and the spirit competition winners will be announced," Clarke said. "Tickets will be available soon."

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UMSL underfunded

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

According to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE), which is funded by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, UM-St. Louis is the only campus in the UM-System that is underfunded.

CBHE's findings come on the heels of massive budget cuts to higher education out of Gov. Bob Holden's office. Holden has slashed nearly \$300 million from the higher education budget.

"This is the first public recognition of inequity...UMSL is underfunded in comparison to the other campuses."

-Sam Andermarium
Student Government Association President

The findings of CBHE lend credibility to System President Manuel T. Pacheco's testimony before the Missouri House Subcommittee on Appropriations-Higher Education Equity Funding on Oct. 10, 2001. In his testimony, Pacheco asserted that UM-St. Louis is underfunded in comparison to UM-Kansas City and Southwest Missouri State University.

The CBHE apparently agrees with this idea, as they released their findings last week, bearing out Pacheco's statements. According to the CBHE report, the UM-System itself receives appropriate funding, while UM-St. Louis "may not receive an adequate share of state funding from the UM Board of Curators."

UM-St. Louis currently has approximately 22 percent of the overall student population of the UM-System, yet receives only 16 percent of the overall System funding.

According to Vice-Chancellor for



Managerial and Technical Services Jim Krueger, UM-St. Louis's operating fund budget for this year is \$108,953,583. This includes money provided by the state for maintenance, construction, payroll and other general operation systems. It does not include private grants and loans from outside the UM-System or the state government.

Comparatively, UM-Columbia receives \$383,000,000; UM-Kansas City receives \$239,238,866; and UM-Rolla receives \$46,825,248, for a total System-wide disbursement of \$778,017,697.

Because the CBHE's report investigated just the System and not individual campuses, no adjustment for the budget was made. According to the CBHE, the investigation was conducted in this way because the other schools investigated (including Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and

Truman State University in Kirksville) are individual entities, not system participants, so the UM-System was counted as one school with many campuses. However, in their research, they discovered the disparity in the disbursement by the Board of Curators.

Krueger said he agrees with the CBHE's findings.

"I accept what the CBHE said about UM-St. Louis," Krueger said. "I believe that UM-St. Louis is underfunded, yes."

Do the findings of the CBHE mean UM-St. Louis is going to receive an audit to determine where, if at all, it will receive a raise in its funding? Probably not. The CBHE's overall finding, that the System is not underfunded, means that no new adjustments will be made. This means UM-St. Louis will not be receiving new funding, from either the state or the Board of Curators.

There are a few options open to

UM-St. Louis. Those options include:

- An aggressive campaign by the administration for funding from outside sources, including Monsanto, Anheuser-Busch and Savvis.

- An appeal to the Board of Curators to increase funding to the campus.

- A direct appeal to Holden to intervene and put pressure on the Board of Curators.

Of these options, the most realistic and easily attainable goal is a "donation blitz" made by campus administrators, something newly appointed System President Elson Floyd outlined when he was first named to the position. According to Floyd, it is the responsibility of each campus to engage in their own attempts to bring in private dollars. However, he has said that he will take a personal interest in the plight of each campus.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Sam Andermarium

expressed his pleasure over this report at the SGA meeting last Friday.

"This is the first public recognition of inequity... The commission has pointed out the equity that goes on within our campus, i.e. being UMSL is underfunded in comparison to the other campuses," Andermarium said. "It's very exciting. I think. It's something we've been fighting for for a long time, to have a legislative committee recognize that is a huge step."

Andermarium went on to say UM-St. Louis has hired a consultant to help spread the word of the inequity in the UM-System to the incoming freshmen legislators in the Missouri State Congress.

"How this relates to the budget issue, we get to know these legislators on behalf of our university," Andermarium said. "We explain how the budget breakdown works, and at the end of the day, hopefully, we'll get equity."

Gov. Holden addresses state

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Gov. Bob Holden gave his State of the State address before the assembled state senators and congressmen Jan. 15 in Jefferson City. Dominating his address was the issue of the \$1 billion shortfall the state of Missouri now faces.

"You have a unique opportunity to offer wisdom, experience and knowledge to help us meet the most challenging budgetary situation faced by our state since the Great Depression," Holden said. "For the first time in years, we have a divided government...with one party controlling the executive branch and another controlling the legislature. Cynics say this kind of government cannot work. For the sake of the people of the state of Missouri, I say it must!"

Holden went on to say that he wants to work with both democrats and republicans to solve the budget crisis the state now faces. He also encouraged veteran legislators to advise the incoming freshmen senators and congressmen on how to handle the crisis.

"We must all remember who sent us here," Holden said. "Our work is about the people. Our work is about those people back home who have put their trust in us."

Holden, who ran his gubernatorial campaign on an education platform, also addressed the need to keep Missouri as a "knowledge-based

economy." He said the key to maintaining this "knowledge-based economy" is via education. According to Nick Bowman, lobbyist for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), approximately one-third of the governor's address was dedicated to education, and specifically to higher education.

"[President Harry] Truman put it best when he said, some 50 years ago, that education and research are essential to the future of this state," Bowman said. "I think this is the year that the Missouri Congress will finally understand that."

Gov. Holden has taken steps towards ensuring the security of the Higher Education department, and he announced them in his address. According to Holden, Higher Education's future is largely in the hands of businesses in Missouri. As such, he has created the Commission of the Future of Higher Education and the Research Alliance of Missouri.

Holden's Commission on the Future of Higher Education is a voluntary commission that will make recommendations on funding sources for the colleges and universities, strengthening the link between higher education and economic growth in Missouri, and improving higher education as an overall structure.

"If you are in business in Missouri, the benefits of a strong higher education system flow directly to you," Holden said, "from the quality of your future workforce to



Gov. Bob Holden, shown from his public forum at UM-St. Louis last November, recently gave his State of the State address to the Missouri State Legislature.

the research that provides advances in agriculture, technology, life sciences, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing."

The Research Alliance of Missouri was created to coordinate

research and provide more access to technology for Missouri businesses. This organization contains both members of higher education and the private sector, who will both report to Holden.

According to Bowman, there is not much information available about the two new organizations.

see STATE ADDRESS, page 3

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
 The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, 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 postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, or fax 516-6811.
 All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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January
Tues 21
NEA meeting
 The first meeting of the UM-St. Louis student NEA will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in MSC conference room 313. At the meeting, the student conference and school supply drive will be discussed. For information, email umsl_snea@yahoo.com.

Tues 21
Homecoming
 There will be a homecoming meeting at 11 a.m. on Jan. 21 on the 3rd floor of the MSC. Anyone interested in planning Homecoming 2003, join the committee. For any questions, contact Julie Clifford at 314-960-1374 or julie_a_clifford@hotmail.com.

Tues 21 (cont.)
Rec Sports
 Rec Sports' Spring Aerobics classes begin today and run through May 9. Two 8-week sessions will be offered. Session 1: Jan. 21 to March 15; session 2: March 17 - May 9. There will be a one-time fee. Rec Sports spinning classes and 3-on-3 basketball tournaments are also available. For a complete wellness schedule or to register, contact the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain or call 516-5326.

Wed 22
Golden Key
 Golden Key International Honour Society will have its monthly meeting at 4 p.m. in the GK cubicle. The cubicle is on the 3rd floor of the MSC in the Student Organizations Office.

Wed 22 (cont.)
Rec Sports
 The entry deadline for the following Rec Sports activities is today, Jan. 22. **Wiffleball tournament** - Jan. 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Coed Volleyball League** - Games on Monday nights beginning Jan. 27. **Basketball Leagues** - Tuesday night men's & women's leagues beginning Jan. 28. **Arena Football Leagues** - Men's and women's no-contact indoor football on Wednesday evening, beginning Jan. 29. **Bowling Doubles Leagues** - Cost is only \$1.25 a week for 3 games. For more information on these events, call 516-5326.

Thur 23
Gallery Visio
 A reception for the artists of the Post-Neoism exhibit will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call the gallery at 516-7922. Gallery Visio will be hosting the exhibit "Post-Neoism" through Feb. 5.

Fri 24
UPB
 The University Program Board is having a general staff meeting at 3 p.m. in MSC Century Room A. The University Program Board is having an open meeting. Have opinions about what activities you'd like to see on campus? Let us know. For more information, call Shannon or Corey at 516-5531.

Fri 24
Academic affairs
 The office of Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs is sponsoring a Guaranteed 4.0 Seminar I/Workshop II. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 126 SSB. For more information, contact Linda Sharp at 516-6807.

Sat 25
Student Life
 The St. Louis Blues vs. the Dallas Stars is at 8 p.m. at The Savvis Center. Tickets are available for a reduced rate for students. For more information, call 516-5291.

Fri 31
Student Life
 There is late night ice skating from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Steinberg Skating Rink.

Put it on the Board!
 Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.

The Campus Crimeline

The following crimes were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Jan. 10 and Jan. 16.

January 10 Disturbance - University Meadows. Uninvited guests would not leave a party.	January 12 Burglary 2nd Degree - Hollywood Park Apartments. A TV, a VCR, and some tapes were taken.	January 14 Harassment - 3976 Florissant Rd. Argument between two parents waiting for school bus.
January 13 Burglary 2nd Degree - Clark Hall. A TV and VCR were taken.	January 15 Trespassing - Seton Hall. Juvenile taken into custody.	

Corrections

In issue 1073 of *The Current*, the photo that accompanied the article "Director hired for \$50 million center" was incorrectly labeled as being taken by Mike Sherwin of *The Current*. The photo was taken by Sara Quiroz of *The Current*.

In issue 1073 of *The Current*, numerous dates were erroneous in the story entitled "Gallery Visio and Black Arts Expo." For a correct listing of dates and times for gallery events see the calendar on page 6 of this issue.

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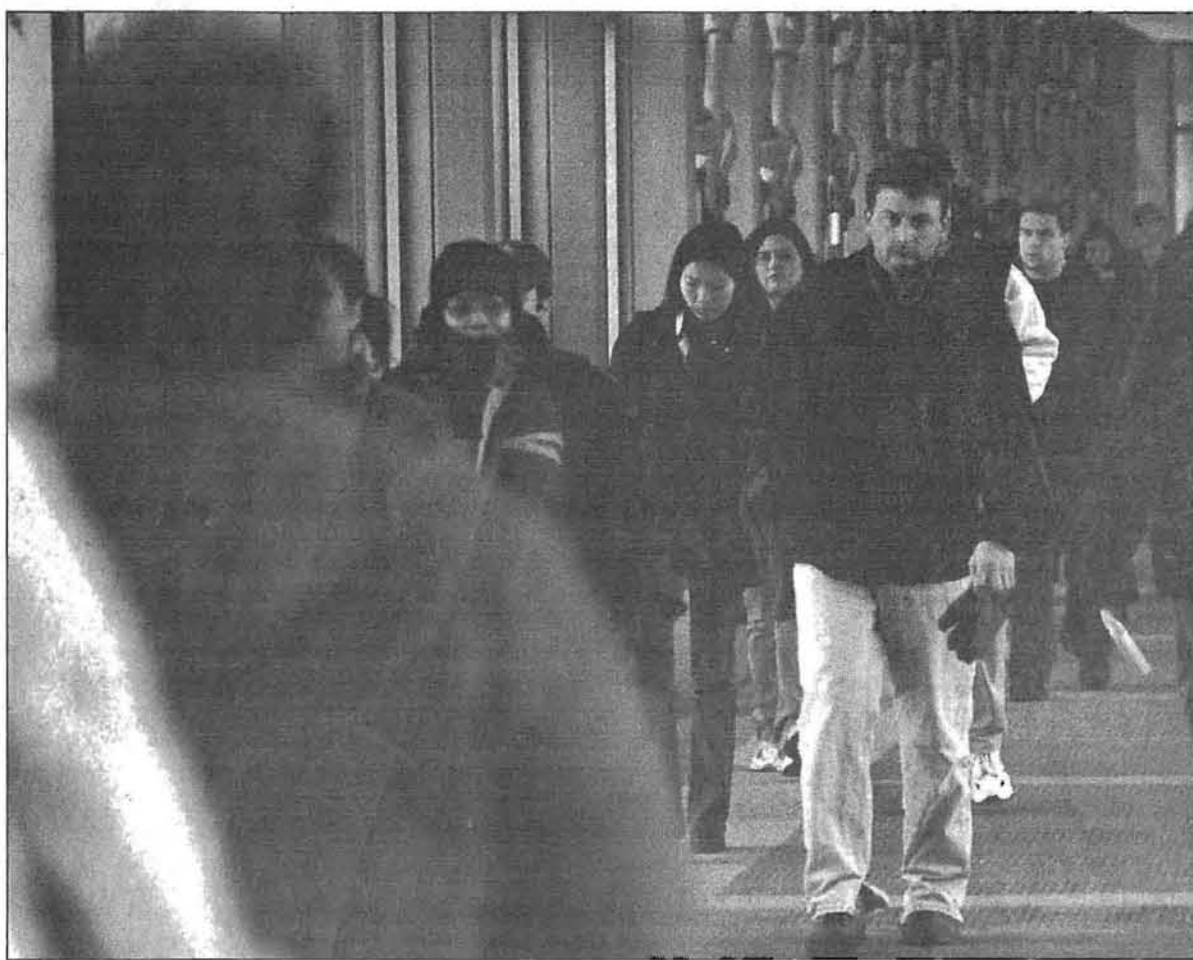
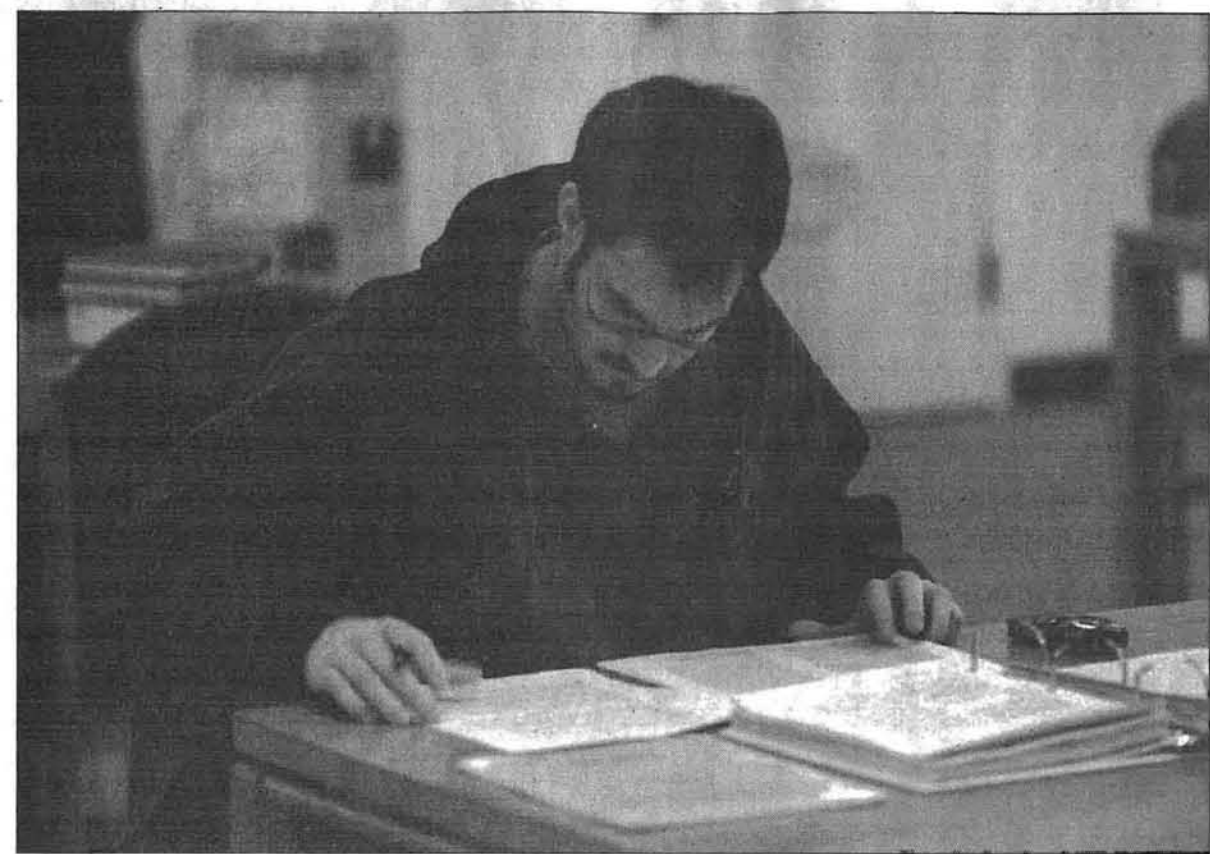
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Welcome back... UMSL back in books



Mike Sherwin/The Current

After a brief hibernation, the campus comes alive once again with familiar throngs of students. A long line of returning students march across the Millennium Student Center bridge Wednesday morning (above). Justin Lucy, general MBA student, studies in the Thomas Jefferson Library last Thursday (right).

STATE ADDRESS, from page 1

"It's kind of a wait-and-see situation," Bowman said. "Gov. Holden really didn't go into much detail during his speech."

Holden also said he believes the investment in higher education will become even more important as the economy goes through changes.

"As we advance to the economy of the future, our investment in higher education becomes even more important," Holden said. "Investments made in our universities...made when our economy was stronger...were the right investments to make."

According to Holden, Missouri is focusing on "innovation and the critical areas of the life sciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology."

But to quote the Chancellor at the University of Missouri-Columbia [Richard L. Wallace], "It takes a long time to build up a major research university, one that contributes to our economy and one that competes with other major universities, and only a short time to tear one down."

Holden spent a majority of his speech addressing the current economic crisis the state of Missouri is facing.

"We must also resolve our budget situation if we are to move our state forward," Holden said. "Missouri now faces a projected \$1 billion shortfall."

According to Holden, only \$6.8 billion of the state budget is state general revenue, the rest of the budget is federal money earmarked for specific programs such as interstate highway maintenance and state funds that cannot be used to balance the budget.

According to Holden, one half of the \$6.8 billion dollars is for education, both K-12 and higher education. The rest of the money is set aside for services for the mentally ill and the disadvantaged and for ensuring public safety, which includes state prisons and the Highway Patrol.

“
To those who suggest we need to cut spending, let me assure you we have...and will continue to reduce the size of government.
”

-Gov. Bob Holden

While Holden stressed bi-partisan cooperation, he did take aim at Republican criticism that the budget shortfall arose from over-spending.

"To those who suggest we need to cut spending, let me assure you we have...and will continue to reduce the size of government," Holden said. "But if we are to be honest, we must acknowledge that, already, Missouri ranks near the bottom in per capita spending by the state government. In fact, we are 44 in per capita spending."

Holden went on to point out the fact that his administration has done more to streamline the Missouri government than any administration,

Democrat or Republican, in recent history.

According to Holden, his administration has cut \$900 million from the budget, and more than 1,000 state jobs have been eliminated. Holden added that Missouri's constitution mandates a balanced budget, and his budget cuts and job eliminations have come in direct response to that mandate.

Holden asked the legislature to approve an appropriation for the securitization of the tobacco settlement awarded to Missouri after State Attorney General Jay Nixon successfully sued the major tobacco companies.

"Without this action, deep cuts in education and other vital services will be necessary," Holden added. "I trust you will see the wisdom of following through and implementing tobacco securitization as you overwhelmingly approved it last year."

Bowman believes the governor was sincere in his appeal to keep higher education in good economic standing.

"That's important to us as students because it shows that, perhaps, finally our elected officials are beginning to understand the role that colleges and universities play in the big picture," Bowman said. "Now it is up to us as students to let our legislators know that we simply won't stand for another cut; it is not acceptable. That is why, this session, it is very important that we contact our Congress and tell them, 'You cannot cut higher education out of the picture, or you're selling the state of Missouri short.'"

ELECTIONS, from page 1

There are several ways in which organizations can become involved in Homecoming, the most popular of which being the Spirit Contest.

"Over all the events throughout the week there will be a tabulation of the number of people from each organization that were involved. Whichever organization has the highest amount of points wins a trophy," Clarke said.

Homecoming committee meetings are held at 11 a.m. on Fridays in the Pilot House. Those organizations wishing to send a representative to help in planning and to receive more information on how organizations can become involved with Homecoming are urged to do so.

For this election the Chat Room on the 1st floor of the MSC will be

reserved strictly for students wishing to vote the two days of the election, April 15 and 16. The SGA 2003 General Election Policy packet is now completed and should be available on-line at the SGA website by the end of this week. The packet includes rules and regulations, job descriptions, procedures, scheduling, an application and eligibility requirements.

"This policy will cover any constitutional amendments. Members at large and the top three executive positions are elected by a general election: the comptroller, vice-president and president," Clarke said.

These packets, which include applications, are currently available in the Office of Student Life. The dead-

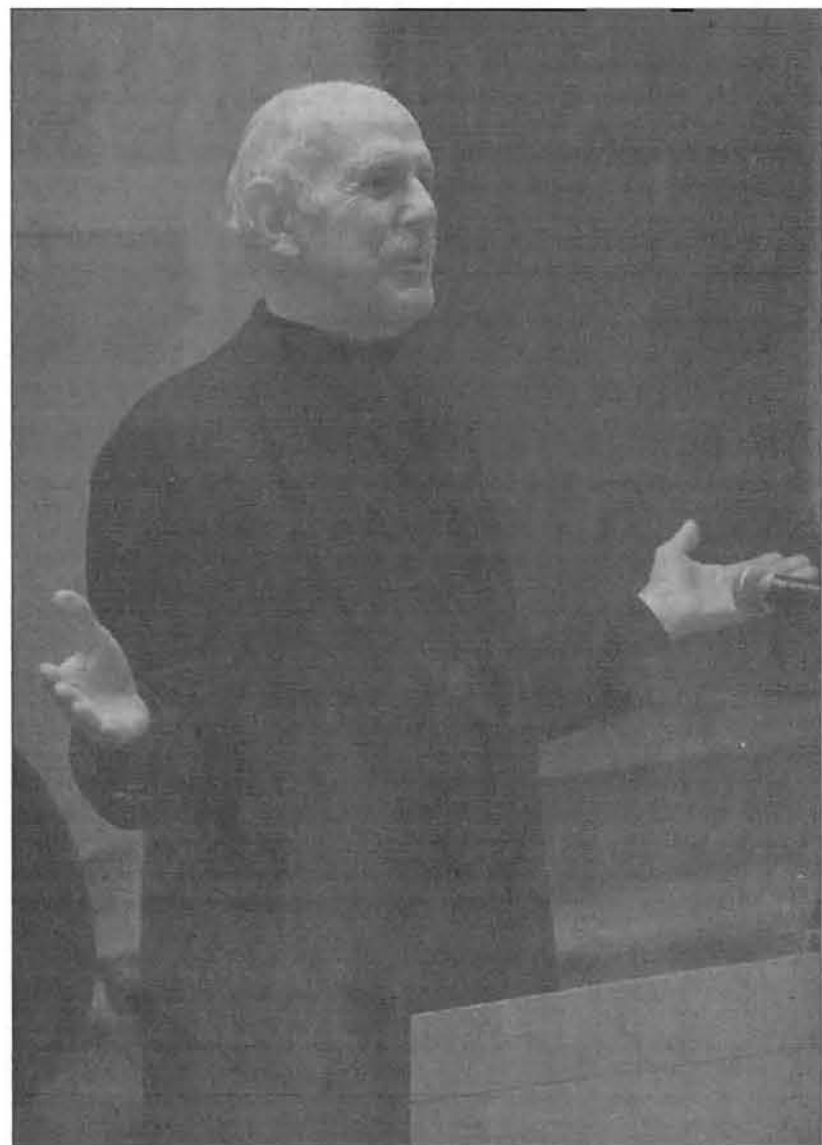
line to file for candidacy is 5 p.m. on March 21, the day of the March SGA meeting.

"Students will then have approximately two to three weeks to campaign," Clarke said.

Eligibility requirements include that students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above and must consent to a background review by the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, who is currently Curt Coonrod. From the background review, the student must be found free of any current or prior convictions exceeding misdemeanor crimes.

"Basically, you can never have any charge against you greater than a speeding ticket to serve in office," Clarke said.

Siegel: 'We cannot protect you'



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Recently there have been some problems with copyrighted material being downloaded and shared among those on the campus server. Associate Vice-Chancellor of Information Technology Jerry Siegel speaks to the SGA assembly Friday about the problem of Internet downloads of copyrighted material. He cautioned, "the University has to follow the law as an Internet Service Provider," and that for dorm residents caught with copyrighted materials, "we will block your port, and your accounts will be shut down." Siegel also noted that the University cannot protect students from corporations coming after them for sharing or copying copyrighted materials.

NEWS BRIEFS

Legendary rocker arrested for child pornography

Lead guitarist and songwriter for the legendary rock band The Who, Pete Dinklage, was arrested last Monday in London on suspicion of possessing and distributing child pornography via the Internet. He was released Tuesday morning.

Townshend was not charged with a crime, but he had to agree to return to Scotland Yard at a later date.

Townshend said he was researching material for his autobiography. He believes he was molested as a child and was trying to ascertain the extent of child pornography on the internet. In the past, Townshend has been outspoken about child welfare and the devastating effects of child pornography.

Townshend is responsible for all of The Who's hits including "Pinball Wizard," "Join Together," "Won't Get Fooled Again" and "My Generation."

UMSL tops in physics

According to a study conducted by Bruce Wilking, professor and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, UM-St. Louis produces the most physics degrees in the UM-System.

According to the study, UM-St. Louis produced 25 Bachelor of Science degrees and 14 Masters of Science degrees in physics.

Wilking also discovered that, of the 200 physics departments nationwide with between seven and fourteen faculty members, UM-St. Louis produced more physics graduates

than 80 percent of the other colleges.

President Floyd appoints chancellor search committee

New System President Elson Floyd has appointed an 18-member committee to search for the new chancellor of UM-St. Louis. Currently, Don Driemeier is serving as Interim Chancellor.

Blanche M. Touhill served as chancellor of UM-St. Louis from 1991 until December of 2002. She is currently serving as chancellor emerita.

On the committee, Floyd has included two UM-St. Louis students. The students are SGA President Sam Andemariam and Chair of the Student Senate Maria Curtis. The committee plans to meet sometime this week.

"Initially, it was going to be one [student], but persistent lobbying by Maria Curtis ensured us two student representatives," Andemariam said. "At the meeting, he [Floyd] is going to officially let us know what he expects from the committee and how he wants it to function."

Other members of the search committee are Douglas Smith, Lawrence Barton, James H. Buford, Deborah J. Burris, Karen Carroll, Richard C.D. Fleming, Melissa Hattman, Vinita Henry, John Hylton, Dixie Kohn, Jackie McBrady, Ronald Munson, Teri A. Murray, Lois H. Pierce, Van A. Reidhead and Patricia E. Simmons.

Winter storm fizzles out

Winter storm warnings were post-

ed for the entire St. Louis area as meteorologists predicted anywhere between 3 and 9 inches would fall.

As Thursday rolled around, St. Louis received a little less than an inch of snow. This occurred after several St. Louis area businesses and schools closed down in anticipation of the snow.

Nobel laureate in chemistry to visit UMSL

William S. Knowles, who shared the 2001 Nobel Prize for chemistry for his work on chirally catalyzed hydrogenation reactions, will lecture on "Thoughts from a Nobel Laureate."

His lecture will take place at 8:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. For more

information, call (314) 516-6226 or e-mail biokmare@admiral.umsl.edu.

On the fly: lecture to discuss tropical birds

Patricia Parker, biology department chair, will present the lecture "Surveying Birds in Paradise" at 7:30 p.m. in the Living World's Anheuser-Busch Theater at the St. Louis Zoo.

Parker will report on avian health research in the Galapagos Island chain. A social gathering beginning at 7 p.m. will precede the talk, which is a part of the St. Louis Zoo Friends Speaker Series. Admission is free for Zoo Friends members and five dollars for the general public. Admission for students and seniors is three dollars. For more information, call (314) 768-5440.

STANFORD GRIFFITH

OUR OPINION

A voice said, 'It's you,' or how I became chancellor

Let's start the semester off with an easy question: Who hired you? That is to say, who made the final decision to place you behind the desk instead of boot you out the door? That's a pretty basic fact everyone knows, right? Wrong.

Donald Driemeier, the newly appointed chancellor of UM-St. Louis, doesn't. He said that he thinks Manuel Pacheco, former president of the UM System, hired him, but he is not sure. Blanche M. Touhill, Driemeier's predecessor, claims to have stayed out of the replacement process. This dodging and uncertainty is not surprising, however.

Recently, the hiring pro-

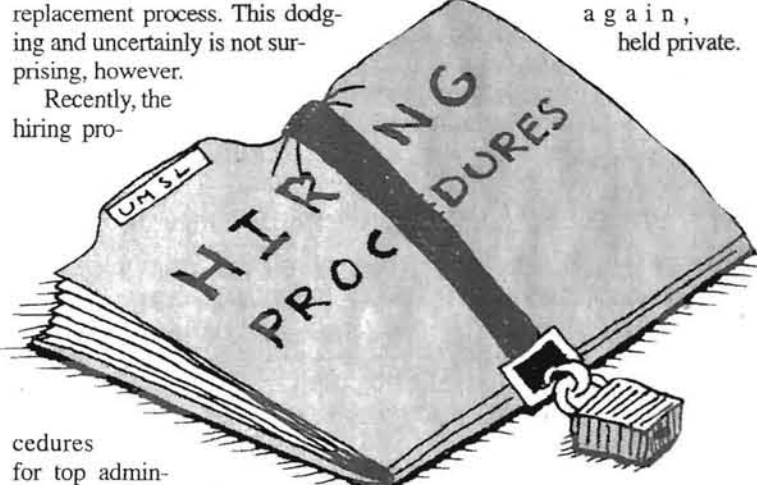
cedures for top administrative positions in the UM System have been anything but upfront.

The interviews and applications for UM System president were kept top secret. The names of candidates were not released. Was this because the System was making shady deals? Was it that the applicants didn't want their names attached to the University of Missouri—and if so, why were they even considered, and why did the System assist them in hiding their faces? Maybe it was simply that someone in the System got confused by the idea that the entire University of Missouri is a publicly funded school and therefore should release such important information to the citizens and students who pay the bills that keep the institution alive. While no claims of misdoing have can be substantiated (particularly because the same information that was hidden from the public is still being hidden) and few, if any, such accusations have been made, such secretive hiring practices lead only to suspicion and doubt.

Has the hiring process of the UM System become so cloudy and shady that it leaves even the applicants puzzled? Maybe it is this cloak-and-dagger approach that has Driemeier confused. It would probably bewilder anyone.

Even the concept of this kind of secrecy in hiring someone to what is essentially a public office shatters when held up against rational thought.

A similar scenario would cause uproar from the American citizens: Suppose the U.S. presidency is vacant. The president is obviously paid by tax dollars. All anyone knows is that a group is holding interviews with possible candidates in secluded meetings that are completely off-limit to the public. That group will not give out



cedures for top administrative positions in the UM System have been anything but upfront.

again, held private.

E READ VS

Interestingly, when UM-St. Louis was hiring a new vice-chancellor of student affairs, nothing was secret. The names were announced; their vitas were passed out; they were even allowed to meet faculty, staff and students. All sections of the UM-St. Louis community were given the opportunity to take part in the selection. Thus, when Curt Coonrod was hired for the position, few were surprised.

One could argue that no one was shocked because Coonrod was already a known figure as he had served as the interim vice-chancellor. The situation with Driemeier, however, is only different in that he had held the position directly below chancellor—deputy to the chancellor.

Sadly, this all means that in the UM System and UM-St. Louis the top decisions and the process of coming to those decisions are hidden while the decisions to hire lower administration are displayed royally. Although the vice-chancellors do play a vital role, shouldn't the decision to employ higher administration be the most public?

Why is this shroud of secrecy in place? Whom does it protect? What is being hidden? These answers are simple but are not given. This only creates more distrust. In a time of such budget crisis when the campus is looking to mostly private donors to give money, is causing the UM System and UM-St. Louis to seem corrupt in their hiring processes a good idea? Only if people start to give money to what they don't believe in.

The System and the University may very well not be dishonest; but if they are not, what are they keeping under so many levels of fogs and why are they creating this chamber of secrets around the mysterious it?

EDITORIAL BOARD

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LETTERS

MAIL
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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 and length, not for dialect, correctness or intent. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).

Smoking is good for friendships

"You're a second-hand smoker."

I was told this on Friday after my contemporary British novels class. Taking a look around me, I noticed that my classmate was right. I was surrounded by four highly intelligent individuals smoking away on their cigarettes. Suddenly, I realized that almost all of my close friends are smokers.

This is quite a change from my youth when, at the age of four, I would tell diners in restaurants that their smoking would give them lung cancer. I'm not sure how often my parents were afraid we would get kicked out before the entrée was served.

While the products of tobacco still eat away at the lining of the lungs and cause many other ailments, I guess I have mellowed out a bit.

I still despise the lingering smell of the smoke and the horrible smell of the burning paper, which always makes me think that something is rotting.

At the same time, I daily stand chatting with my smoker friends allowing the stench to penetrate my clothes and cling to my hair. That's what Lysol and washing clothes a lot more often than would otherwise be necessary is for. It's also why I often take a shower before bed.

I only slightly begrudge having to sit in the smoking section with them, but no one had dare light up in my car or my apartment.

I take my daily Sudafed so the smoke doesn't make my nose run or my throat clog up. At least it makes me drink more water, even if the decongestant depletes my body of potassium.

When I go to a smoking friend's place, I just simply try to sit so I'm not downwind from the noxious and toxic



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

fumes—as if such a place exists.

Everyone in St. Louis doesn't smoke, but even when I went to college in Jackson, Tenn., for two years, I had a lot of smoker friends there too. So why do I wind up with groups of friends consisting almost entirely of smokers?

The only common thread among them is that they are older than I am. I have several friends older than me, however, who do not smoke, so that theory doesn't work.

Maybe my body is telling me that I need nicotine. Well, since my parents never smoked and I wasn't around tobacco of any sort as a child, I can't believe it's a prenatal biological addition. If it is, second-handing smoking is cheaper and has no yellow teeth associated with it, but there is still

The issue

The University of Missouri System is a public educational institution funded largely by tax dollars. The System, however, continually hides its hiring practices from the citizens who pay the taxes to pay the salaries of those the System hires.

We suggest

The UM System and UM-St. Louis must be more open and forthright about who is being considered for jobs. It is important that the University community knows who could be the next chancellor and how he or she will be hired. The secrecy must end.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our Web site www.thecurrentonline.com.

Thanks, but no thanks

Everyone is addicted to something. In fact, they are lucky if they can only name one thing they are addicted to. There are a lot of unhealthy things that people love to indulge in; whether it is food, alcohol or even drugs. We all pick our poison, whether it is something that has officially been labeled as unhealthy or not.

I have one addiction that I have not been able to hide: cigarettes. Yes, dead, horribly smelling, gross, teeth-yellowing, expensive cigarettes, and I don't blame anyone but myself. I haven't been able to hide this addiction for several reasons. One, the obvious cigarette in my hand and smoke billowing from my mouth; two, the smoke smell on my clothes; three, the fact that I cannot go without one for long enough to hide it from anyone.

Because it has become so evident in the last decade that smoking is unhealthy, it is hard to defend an addiction such as this to the non-smoker and ex-smokers with halos around their heads - you know, the ones trying to save the smokers from the terrible death from lung disease that awaits.

I understand that they have good intentions, but most of these people who try to stop me from my dangerous habit have addictions that could likely cause them very unpleasant health in the future as well. But these do-gooders always fail to mention their unhealthy ways while pointing out mine. Can you imagine having an obese person tell you that you should

stop smoking while they stand still, huffing and puffing, trying to breathe while you, the smoker, run circles around them? I can, because I have.

I'm not going to sue the tobacco companies if I get cancer, and they shouldn't sue McDonald's when they have a heart attack. The same goes for the alcoholic that has chosen not to smoke because it is unhealthy, but can't stop twitching because they need a drink.

Some may argue that some addictions are more hazardous than others, but I think that only applies to very few scenarios when taking a person's health into account. Yes, smoking has long term effects, but I bet you have never heard of someone smoking one to many cigarettes causing them to wrap their car around a pole.

People also like to mention that when dealing with an addiction it is "mind over matter." Just because something is not physically addictive does not mean that it makes beating it any easier. In fact, I would think that psychological addictions are much harder to get over than physical ones.

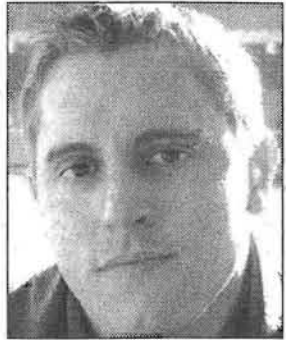
I know that smoking is not good for me, but it is one of my pleasures. I also know that you can't make people do anything they don't want to. I sincerely hope that later on in life, sooner than later, I will be writing a column about my triumphant beating of my addiction. Until that time, I can most likely be found outside the doors of one of the entrances to the MSC minding my own business.



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've written about?
- Hiring by the UM System
 - Addiction
- You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!
- Submit a Letter to the Editor
 - Write a Guest Commentary
 - Visit the Online Forums at TheCurrentOnline.com



Dane Cheek
Freshman
Psychology

I went club-hopping with a couple of friends.



Jaime Lincoln
Department Assistant
Office of Admissions

I spent the New Year in church with my family.



Chris Behrendt
Sophomore
Graphic Design

I visited my brother in Oakland, California.



Melissa Naples
Senior
Communications

I went to a party, and my fiancé and I got into a fight.

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What did you do for New Year's Eve?

Professor probes into Civil War

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

The Civil War is one of the most studied, most talked-about moments in American History, and when people hear about it, they mostly think of battles like Fort Sumter, Bull Run, and Gettysburg. Missouri's involvement in the Civil War is almost never discussed, but history professor Larry Gerteis aims to change that with his book, *Civil War: St. Louis*, which was released last summer and is now in bookstores.

Louis Gerteis, professor of history and chair of the same department, says that Missouri and St. Louis were on differing sides of the War during this time period, with the state of Missouri officially a slave state, yet most of St. Louis City and County was a union enclave.

"One of the stars in the Union flag represented Missouri, and so did one of the stars in the Confederate flag," Gerteis said. "Missouri as a state was pro-slavery, and St. Louis was anti-slavery and pro-union."

Much of Gerteis's book deals with the opening of the



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Louis Gerteis, professor of history, has written a book, "Civil War: St. Louis," which was released last summer and is now available in bookstores.

Mississippi Valley and the battle of Camp Jackson, which was on the intersection of Grand and Lindell Blvd., near St. Louis University. These were both key events in the

Civil War, Gerteis said. The opening of the Mississippi Valley was a strategic move for both sides of the Civil War, Gerteis said. "St. Louis was an open strategic port because of its close-

“ Missouri as a state was pro-slavery and St. Louis was anti-slavery and pro-union. ”

- Louis Gerteis
History professor

ness to the Mississippi River," Gerteis said of the city that in 1850 was one of the major cities in the United States. "If you couldn't take St. Louis, you wouldn't be able to move onto Vicksburg, for example."

Camp Jackson, Gerteis said, was an important battle in St. Louis. "That encampment was pro-Confederate, and it was surrounded by Federal Troops," Gerteis said. "Most were volunteers, and at the

encampment several dozen civilians were killed as were several soldiers."

Gerteis, who teaches 19th Century American History and, this semester, is teaching a class on Post-Civil War Reconstruction, was asked to write this book by editors from the University of Kansas. He believes that the Civil War is one of the most defining moments in American history.

"It's a major war fought on American soil," Gerteis said. "More Americans died in the Civil War than in all of the other wars combined, until Vietnam."

"The Civil War was a defining moment in modern America," Gerteis said. "Slavery came to an end, the supremacy of the federal government emerged to govern over the states. For example, the 14th Amendment stated that an American citizen was someone who was born or naturalized in America and then a citizen of the state in which they lived."

"The Civil War gave a sense of what the new nation was about," he said.

see CIVIL WAR, page 7

Residential Life seeks assistants

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

With the costs of school increasing dramatically, wouldn't it be nice to get a break, say free room and board? This is just one of many benefits for UM-St. Louis resident assistants (or an R.A.s).

The R.A. selection process has already begun for the 2003-2004 school year. The free room and board is, however, a privilege that must be earned. R.A.s are given a variety of duties and responsibilities, including community development responsibilities, administrative tasks and rule enforcement duties.

"I believe that community development is the most important part of being an R.A.," said Mitch Isaacs, who serves as the Graduate Assistant (G.A.) for Provincial House. "That

to disciplinary measures. The job of an R.A. is to make sure that residents follow these rules and, if necessary, to write up incident reports.

Since this position requires mature and responsible students, individuals must meet several requirements before being considered. The student must be enrolled at UM-St. Louis or one of its partners (Ranken Tech or Florissant Valley College). He or she must maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher and be in good financial, academic and disciplinary standing. This means that a student is ineligible if he or she owes the university money, is on academic probation or is in bad disciplinary standing with Student Affairs or the police.

To apply for an R.A. position, a student must fill out an application, which is available in the Student Life Office in the MSC, in the office of Residential Life in Provincial House,

at the University Meadows Office or from a current R.A. Applications include basic personal information and inquiries about other employment, and two recommendations and two essays are required.

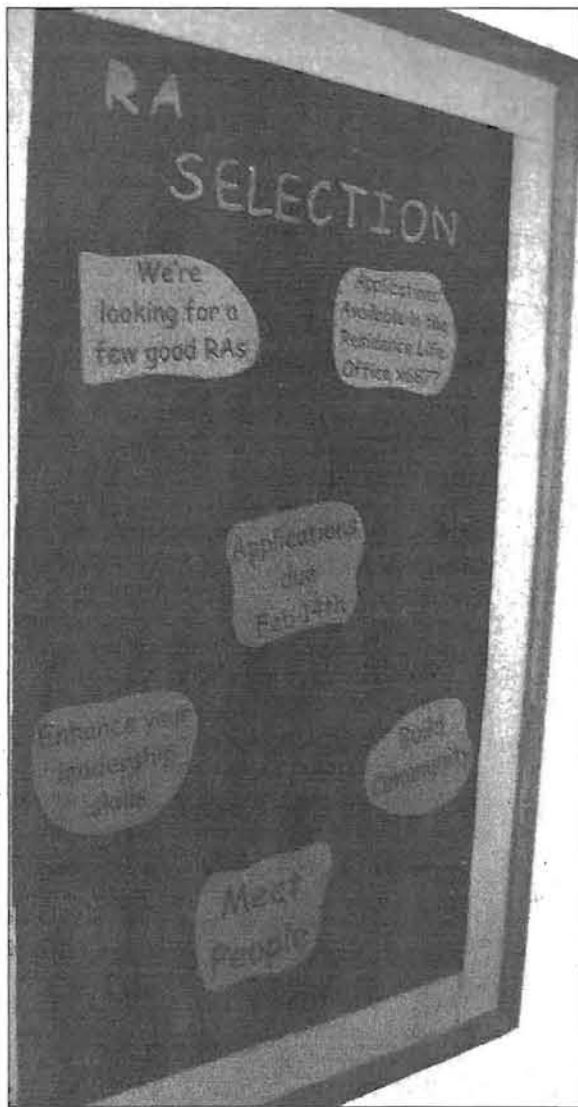
Applications are due Feb. 14. Once candidates are selected, they must attend an interview with Residential Life Officials.

These officials include Director of Residential Life Kimberly Allen, Assistant Director John Klein and Graduate Assistants Dana Barnard, Harry Harris, Mitch Isaacs and Eric Felver. After the interviews, the officials will decide on next year's R.A.s. Letters will be sent to those individuals on March 10. The selected R.A.s will attend workshops in April and August.

"Time management is essential to being a good R.A.," current R.A. and sophomore Jonas Zakour commented. "If you don't have time, this isn't for you."

Living environments are diverse, with co-ed floors, Greek floors, all male or all female floors and a Spanish floor. Seventeen positions are available with Residential Life, including eight in Provincial House, three in Bellerive, three in Normandy, two in Mansion Hills, and one in Hollywood Park. Several spots are also open at the University Meadows.

"Being an R.A. has so many benefits," Isaacs commented. "Aside from the free room and board and the biweekly salary, if you're in the University Meadows, you pick up so much: communication skills, leadership skills, time management skills and office skills."



Kevin Ottley/The Current

One of the many signs seen around campus for R.A. positions

entails planning programs for the hall and making an effort to get to know each of the residents."

The administrative duties include being "on call" several nights a week and on certain weekends. On call R.A.'s do rounds of the complex they live in and carry pagers in case a resident experiences an emergency. R.A.'s also attend one-on-one meetings with the G.A. periodically to discuss residential life or any problems. They are also responsible for keeping up to date paperwork concerning resident health and safety issues, incident reports, and program proposals. R.A.'s that live in the University Meadows are also required to work office hours.

Rule enforcement is another duty of an R.A. Students who violate university or residential rules are subject



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Sisters Julie and Jill Beckbugler, both seniors in graphic design, help prepare the gallery's forthcoming exhibit, "Ongoing Permutations," featuring the work of St. Louis artist Sue Eisler.

Artist steps on the right foot

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

Visitors who enter Gallery 210 might not be sure whether they have entered an art gallery or a shoe store.

That's because from Jan. 23 to March 1, Gallery 210 will present "Ongoing Permutations," an exhibit by conceptualist Sue Eisler that features displays and sculptures made from shoe patterns.

Eisler's unusual choice of artistic materials came from her studio on Washington Street, where many shoe factories had closed down. Eisler collected the patterns and began to make sculptures.

Director of Gallery 210, Terry Suhre, says that part of Eisler's talent is her inspiration from commonplace objects. "[Eisler] finds her inspiration from ordinary means," Suhre said. "She once told me it's like reading history."

A graduate of the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana in 1971, Eisler first became involved in the minimalist movement that had become popular in the late '60s and early '70s. Suhre describes minimalism as "getting the artwork back to its elementary excesses."

"Minimalism is work that is devoid of any literary reference," Suhre said. "It's getting the art down to just a square or blocks."

Eisler eventually left the minimalist movement because of its rigidity.

"Everything you do is a work of art. Everything has potential as art."

- Terry Suhre
Gallery 210 director

"They had certain rules that were meant to be followed," Suhre said. "You always had to draw boxes the same way, same size and shape."

It was then that Eisler tried her hand at conceptualist art, which is art that takes the form of ideas.

Suhre says that Eisler's artwork combines her minimalist training with geometric shapes and her conceptualist

art into art that is almost post-minimalist. "Her art keeps a very geometric form," Suhre said. "Sue's work is her passion, and her work is rigorously intelligent. She uses the same forms over to show the geometric intricacies."

Eisler once referred to her work as "disturbed geometry," a name that Suhre finds very apt since her work doesn't form any specific shapes. "[Eisler's art] is not representative of a thing; they are what they are," Suhre said. "Various shapes just take geometric form."

Suhre greatly admires Eisler for her independence and her devotion to her art. "She stuck with the kind of art that she believed in and didn't feel the need to change when the art world became more commercialized in the '80s," he said. "She stands as a symbol of that art world."

Suhre hopes that visitors to the show will get an appreciation for the ordinary things that can be transformed into a work of art. "There were people that used these patterns to make shoes from," Suhre said. "This artwork reflects on the work and the people who did that."

"Everything you do is a work of art," Suhre said. "Everything has potential as art."

Where are the fans? Silent bleachers at b-ball games

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

"He shoots, he scores! Another amazing 3-point shot for UMSL!" The opposing fans go wild in protest, yet no sound comes from the UM-St. Louis bleachers. That's because the bleachers are empty.

This scene has become the norm at UM-St. Louis sporting events. Turnout for athletic events has been extremely low this year. While rivals bring carloads of raucous fans, UM-St. Louis's side usually holds only a few bystanders who watch the game in silence.

To boost the attendance and the morale of the team, the Student

Alumni Association, along with the Athletics Department and Student Activities, has highlighted four significant games in the next two months.

Thursday, Jan. 20, UM-St. Louis faces Quincy. This is also Greek "Pick-a-Player" Night. The Greek organization that picks the UM-St. Louis player who scores the most points will win a pizza party.

Thursday, February 6, Kentucky Wesleyan will travel to St. Louis.

"Every year, Kentucky brings more than 200 people, all dressed in purple. It's kind of embarrassing when we don't have any fans, especially since the game is televised," commented Joe Flees, the coordina-

tor of the Student Alumni Association. This is a night when our players really need support since the opposing fans are traditionally extremely loud and obnoxious.

Thursday, February 20 UM-St. Louis faces Lewis. This is Homecoming Court night, and the candidates will be announced.

Saturday, Feb. 22 is the Homecoming game against SIU-Edwardsville, one of UM-St. Louis's oldest rivals. The players need support for this big game.

All of these games will be televised on News Channel 20.

see BASKETBALL, page 7

EDITORIAL

EDITOR
WE NEED ONE
Features Editor
phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

GALLERY VISIO
POST-NEOISM
Jan. 23
Opening Reception
"A Gallery Hop"
including
Gallery VISIO,
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Gallery FAB,
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Gallery 210
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

BLACK ARTS EXPO
Feb. 10 - March 3

GUERRILLA GIRLS
March 7 - April 7
Opening Reception
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

GALLERY VISIO
hosts
juried
student artwork
GALLERY FAB
hosts
professional
faculty artwork
GALLERY 210
hosts
guest
professional artwork

THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Jason Granger

Adam Bodendieck

Another week, another column...damn, our shoulders are getting tired from carrying this rag of a paper. But that's neither here nor there. The fact of the matter is, we're here for you, our loyal and adoring readers (Please just let us think you're loyal and/or adoring; delusions of grandeur do wonders for our self-esteem). So without further ado, let's roll:

This first letter was addressed specifically to Adam, so we'll let him handle it:

Adam,
 Long time no see! Haven't seen you since May, 1996! I am happy to see you are in the pages of the Current. Actually, I'm astounded to see you in the paper.
 -Be me, 'Jack D.' (from high school)

Dear Jack,
 Wow, it's really weird hearing from you, especially since I have no idea who in the blue hell you are! Or what "Be me" means for that matter...Why would I want to be you if I don't even remember you? But enough about you, let's talk about me. It seems like every time I go out to a bar, some cat there is like "Hey, remember me? We went to high school together! Remember that guy that kicked the back of your chair in study hall and spilled pizza on you in the cafeteria? Yeah, that was me!" And everyone always talks about how much they loved high school—Man, I hated high school! Back in high school I was only interested in two things: finding places that would serve me in spite of my ridiculously fake idea and...um...you know, that other thing...the one with girls (yeah, that one). Unfortunately, the only one I ever got any good at was finding shady bars—but the other one I'm still practicing every chance I get! [Jason's note: Once again, Adam's been drinking and he's totally rambling. Besides, I don't think he ever even went to high school...I'm going to take it upon myself to mercifully pull the plug on this fiasco. Let's move on, shall we?]

Dear Village Idiots,

You guys have got to help me! The other week my girlfriend said something about wanting to go see "The Vagina Monologues" with me, and I was all like "Sweet! She's into girl-on-girl porn!" So we went to the show, and boy was I in for a surprise! Can you believe that there is absolutely ZERO lesbian action in something called "The Vagina Monologues"? (Is nothing sacred?) It was just some broad sitting on a stool talking about empowerment (at least that's what my girlfriend told me it was about; I quit paying attention when I realized I wouldn't be seeing any boobies).

What's worse, my girl has now quit "giving it up" and is constantly threatening to entrap my penis in some bizarre and painful looking bear-trap-like device if I don't get in touch with my sensitive side and listen to her needs and cuddle on a regular basis. What can I do?!

-Fearfully, Dead Man Walking

Dear Dead Man,
 We wholeheartedly agree with you. Something that says "Vagina Monologues" should definitely feature some girl-on-girl action. This is what we recommend: Get yourself a lawyer and sue for false advertising. How could there not be lingerie clad buxom co-eds having a sweaty pillow fight? Where are the girls in the shower together? Ladies, before you accost us for our seemingly misogynistic comments, let us ask you a question: If you went to see something called "The Penis Diatribes," wouldn't you expect to see a penis? We sure as hell would! (Which isn't to say we'd like it...Cause we wouldn't...) Or if you went to see Chippendales dancers and were instead greeted by those pesky (but kinda cute) Disney chipmunks? Where is the truth in advertising? Wasn't there some court case about this at some point?

As for your whole penis in a bear-trap thing...we would highly recommend cuddling your ass off and keeping your damn mouth shut. We would also suggest, on the sly, removing all sharp objects from your house. Scissors, knives, sporks, they've all got to go. You don't want to be the next John Wayne Bobbit; trust us, that is not

something you want to become famous for—just ask Jason. He says it's mighty painful (he has a somewhat sordid past, and his last girlfriend wasn't nicknamed "Queen of the Harpies" for nothing).

Good luck, Dead Man, and for the love of God, please don't let your girlfriend ever see this column! That's the last thing we need...

-Love, Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots,
 I have this problem I am hoping you can help with. You see, I have this damn dog that likes to...molest...my leg. I have done everything I can think of to get him to stop, but it is just incessant. For the love of God, my leg has lost its innocence. I am taking two, even three showers a day, just because I feel dirty! When he isn't busy seducing my leg, he is a good dog. Great at bringing me my slippers and fetching a stick. I am just worried about what might happen if my boyfriend comes over and he dog goes after his leg.

Please oh wise Villagers, what can I do?!?!?
 -Signed, Gossed Out

Dear Gossed Out,

Wow, it seems as though you have a mighty serious problem there. We wish we could say we can relate, but well, we can't. So we'll just have to improvise this answer. Have you tried a nail gun? Adam says that they are a pretty good deterrent. You see he had this trip to Amsterdam that ended in an unintended piercing... But that is beside the point. If the nail gun doesn't work for you or you are just to squeamish for the wet work, try coating your leg in Crisco. If it's greased up, the dog can't very well latch on to you, can it?

The last thing we can possibly suggest is, for the love of all that's holy, let the dog out to get him some mad doggy lovin'! It's obvious he is just a little frustrated and needs a release. Since he isn't getting that from you (we hope), let him become the canine pimp of the neighborhood. He'll thank you in the end with a big doggy kiss.

-Love, Adam and Jason

Dear Adam and Jason

So, about a week ago my roommate and I discovered we get free porn on T.V. What lucky guys we are right? So naturally, we have kept it on at all hours, because hey, who wants to be the dorks who turned off free porn, right? But we have noticed some problems since our great fortune is has arisen. For one, when I went to the grocery store the other night, the hot bagger didn't ask me if I wanted to go back to the storeroom for some lovin' and my roommate, the poor guy didn't get propositioned by the hot police-woman who hauled him over for speeding! What's wrong with the world today?

Please help us! Befuddled

Dear befuddled,

First and foremost, we need to understand exactly where you are coming from. So, if you'd please let us know where you live so we can come over and do some firsthand research, that'd be great [Note: We'd just like everyone to know we don't like porn, we just watch it for the articles].

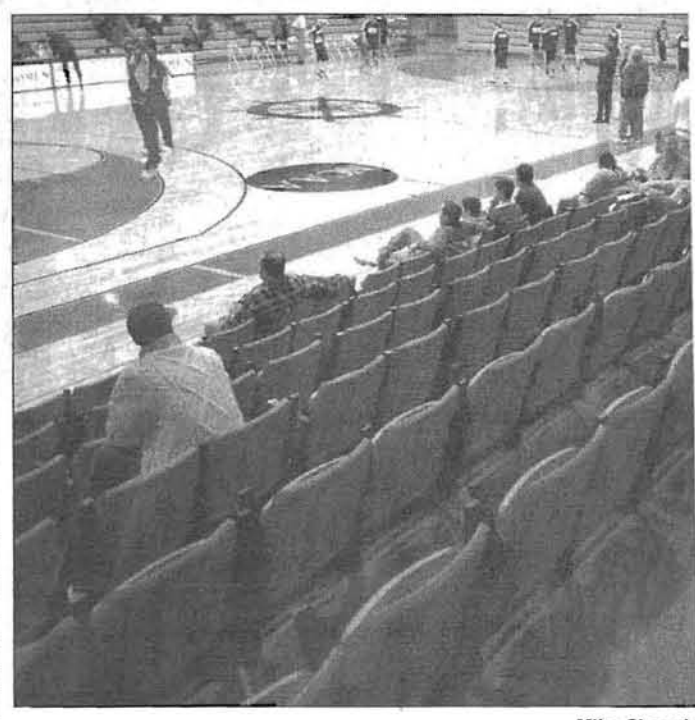
As for your problems with the ladies, we can commiserate. The same thing happened to Jason the other day. Of course the cop who pulled him over was a guy.... But anyway. What we suggest is to watch more porn. Seriously, those guys are getting chicks hand over fist, so they hafta be doing something right. Maybe by watching more of the porn, you will further understand the female psyche and finally get you some.

-Love, Adam and Jason

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: VillageldiotsJA@yahoo.com. If you don't like e-mail, you can bring a question to us on the third floor of the MSC, room 388.

!!!DISCLAIMER!!!
 Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody.
 -The Management

BASKETBALL, from page 6



Mike Sherwin

Filling the benches of the Rivermen's home games has been a problem this year.

Free food will also be available at the Quincy and Kentucky games. A variety of prizes and noisemakers will be given away as well. Women's games begin at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's begin at 7:45 p.m. Todd Taylor, admissions counselor for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, is a

diehard UM-St. Louis fan. "I think it is easy to get into it about unfamiliar things familiar is often overlooked a lot of things to be proud of St. Louis, and we have a lot to show that. One is at our events, sporting and otherw

CIVIL WAR, from page 6

Gerteis received much of his information from diaries, letters, documents, and books that he found in places like the Historical Society. He says that Missouri's involvement

also includes dealings with Civil War Missouri and St. I how the city became involved in corruption from the Recon era, in such events like the Ring.

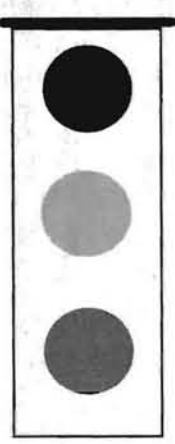
“Gerteis received much of his information from diaries, letters, documents, and books that he found in places like the Historical Society.”

“My book will tell the whole story.” Gerteis said. Gerteis's book

Gerteis said that even a one-hundred years the Civil still fresh in people's minds Jackson's Confederate officer named Daniel Frost, and defeated by Nathaniel Lyon, said. "The Union folks put a Lyon on the SLU Campus." "In the 1950s Frost's plunked a lot of money for S renovated under two con Gerteis said. "She insisted th a part of SLU Frost Campu remove the statue of Nathani They moved it to the Arsenal Gerteis said that he ho readers will get a new app for St. Louis history. "I he have a better sense of how Louis is and how big it is," I

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PG-13

REVOLUTION STUDIOS COLUMBIA PICTURES 1 & Current

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No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This movie is rated PG-13 for terror and horror images and brief language.

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH!

NOW SHOWING

Resident Assistant SELECTION RETURNS

STARRING...YOU

Resident Assistants are students who work and live within the residence halls or apartments that assist residents, build community, plan exciting events and much more.

Applications Now Available at:
 Res Life Office (x 6877) U Meadows Clubhouse (x 7300) Student Life Office (x 522)

Information Session
 Jan 28th 7pm
 316 MSC

Roller hockey squad moves forward

UMSL club has strong corps of starters and reserves for second half

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

In sports, the adage "some things will never be the same" has merit. Athletes come and go, and teams change divisions and leagues. For the UM-St. Louis In-Line hockey team, a change in the division is definitely a change for the better, considering its 9-3 record this season.

Last season, the team competed in Division I of the Great Plains Region of the Collegiate Roller Hockey League. And, according to student representative Matt Hirschfeld, the move to Division II was greatly needed.

"We were in Division I last year and we had to play against the best teams in the nation, literally, and they smoked us," Hirschfeld said. "We got mercies in almost every game so the league

decided to drop us down after last year, which they should have done after the first game of last year."

One of the losses the team suffered in the 2001-02 season was to Lindenwood University, which claimed a league title last year.

"We played them and we scored a goal off of them. It was the one shining moment for us last year," Hirschfeld said in jest.

All joking aside, Hirschfeld feels that his team has a definite chance of coming out on top.

"They dropped us down into this division, and we're in a competitive league," Hirschfeld said. "There's more teams on our level. We're 9-3 right now. We're getting better. We're getting a lot more good players on our team. There's a good chance we could win it."

One of the bigger factors to the success is the team's coach, Tom Schneider. According to Hirschfeld, Schneider has provided the framework for the success of the team.

"Before, we just had unorganized practices, guys just kind of showing up and just messing around for the full hour," Hirschfeld said. "It was like a pickup game almost. We weren't organized. We weren't getting anything accomplished. But now, Tom's at practice. He lets us know what we have to do, what's expected. He says drills for us. Basically, it's been great for us to have a coach."

Schneider, a student at UM-St. Louis, has been a major asset to the team.

"He's been generous enough to coach us," Hirschfeld said. "Without him, I don't know where we'd be. He's

also kept us disciplined and like I said, we'd be in trouble without him I think."

The team would definitely be in trouble without the depth of forwards it now possesses. Among those forwards are division-leading scorers Steven Kunst [21 points] and Ben Lambert [18 points]. The team also picked up Scott Robben and Colorado State transfer William Roestel.

"These guys are going to bring us depth," Hirschfeld said. "That's what's important for us. Depth is how you win."

Hirschfeld said that picking up players such as Robben and Roestel in the middle of the season is not uncommon.

"Usually this is how it works with us," Hirschfeld said. "We get guys halfway through. They find out about the team and join us."

A major part of the success of the

team this season is goalie Tommy Ames, who is fifth in the division in wins with five.

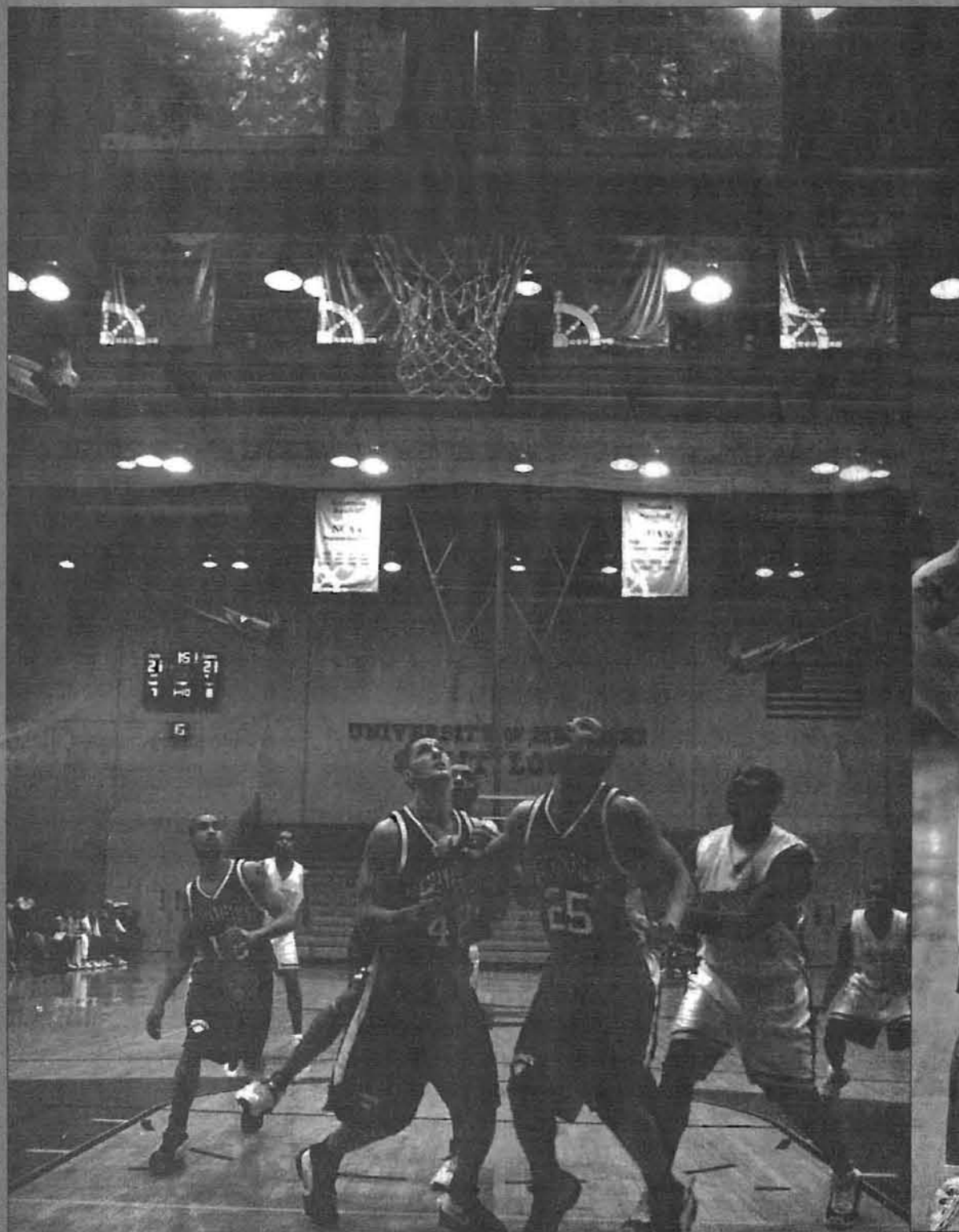
"He's incredible," Hirschfeld said of Ames, who has a 3.23 goals against average. "He's probably the best goalie in our league. I don't say that to boost his confidence. He's just a good goalie. That's just all there is to it."

With all of the necessary components for success, Hirschfeld is confident in his team's ability to win.

"I knew we were in a lower division, and I said at the first practice that our goal is to come in first or second in this division. Everyone laughed because we'd been beaten every time last year," Hirschfeld said. "I think we have a legitimate shot of going somewhere this year, and we'll see how things go."

For information on the team, visit www.pointstreak.com.

Indy beats UMSL, 69-54

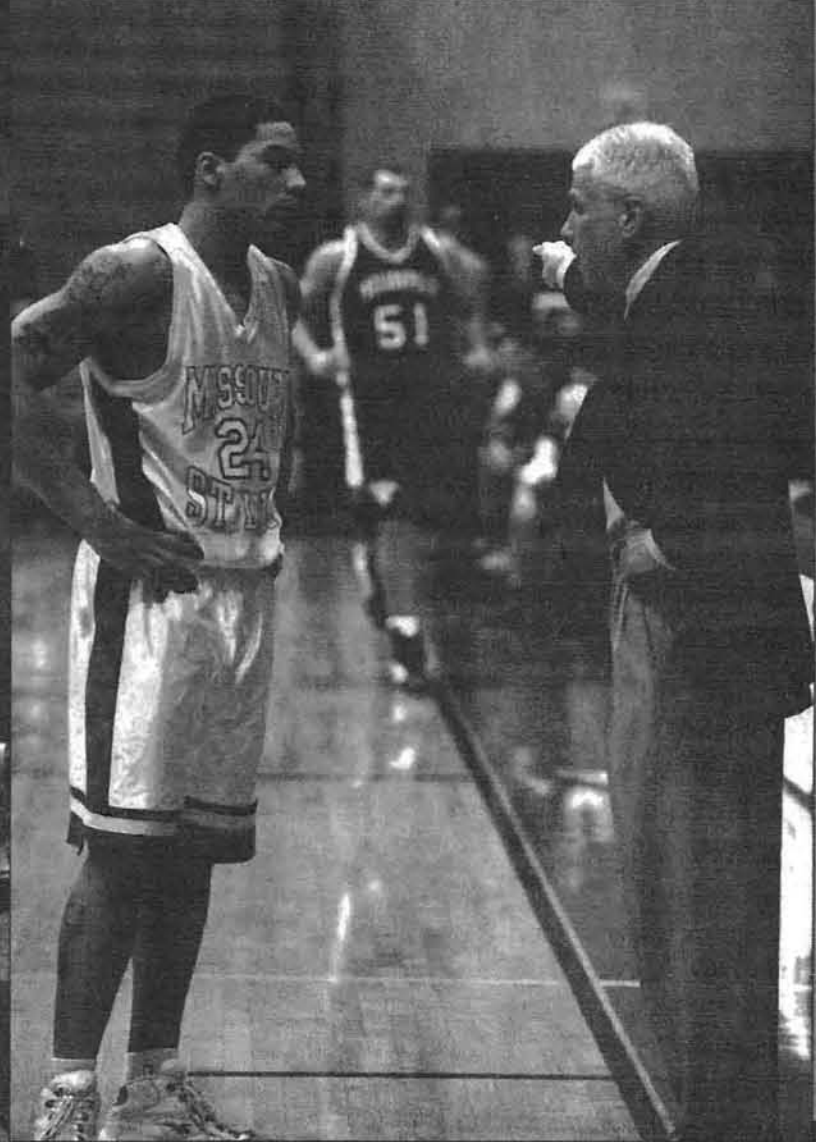


UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team suffered a 69-54 loss to Indianapolis on Saturday, Jan. 18. Standing at 2-8 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play, the Rivermen are in last place. The team is 5-10 overall, 3-4 at home and 2-6 on the road.

RECENT SCORES

- Saturday, January 18
- *Indianapolis 69 at Missouri-St. Louis 54
- *at Southern Indiana 87 Northern Kentucky 82
- *St. Joseph's 92 at Quincy 90
- *UW-Parkside 70 at SIU Edwardsville 53
- at Lewis 102 Judson 63
- *at Kentucky Wesleyan 110 Bellarmine 77



ABOVE: Rivermen and Indianapolis search for the rebound during Saturday afternoon's game.

Johnathan Griffin during the second half of play Saturday.

TOP RIGHT: Rivermen Coach Mark Bernsen talks sternly to Guard

RIGHT: Rivermen center Jared Pratt struggles with Indianapolis players for a rebound.

Photos by Mike Sherwin / The Current

EDITOR

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UPDATE

JMSL now accepting applications for the 2003 Hall of Fame

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Athletic Department is currently accepting applications for nominees into the University of Missouri-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame.

A nominee must qualify into one of three categories:

Student-Athlete: Must have competed for a varsity sport, have graduated from the University and have earned a degree prior to 1998.

Coach: Five years must elapse after active coaching service at the University to qualify.

Distinguished Service: For individuals who have made exceptional contributions (time, service or support) to the development and advancement of UMSL intercollegiate athletics.

The Sports Hall of Fame was created on a joint effort by the Alumni Relations Department and the Athletic Department. There were 12 inaugural members of the JMSL Sports Hall of Fame who were all inducted during the first induction ceremony on June 9, 2001, and today there are 20 members of the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame.

To nominate an individual, click the link below and to get a nomination form, fill it out and fax it to the UMSL Athletic Department at 314-516-5503.

Here are the five things I hate about sports



The ABCs of Sports
HANK BURNS

Got a comment?
E-mail it to
HFLB4@juno.com

WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at www.ums-l-sports.com

Everyone has his or her gripes about something. As far as my personal complaints in life go, I have many. And I have many complaints that are sports-related and that are mainly related to game officials.

The following, in no particular order, are some of the complaints that I have. And, although I do love sports and have an allegiance to and membership in the world of sports, there are many things that I am displeased with.

1. **Baseball Umpires** - This may seem rather cliché, but I really do have a passionate distaste for the often power-hungry baseball umpires. I will admit that when a player, coach or manager rushes up to an umpire to argue balls and strikes or whether or not a player is safe, they are usually in the wrong. However, there have been countless cases where close calls are made and mistakes have been made. Like it or not, the player or manager

involved in these calls has a different perspective than the umpire.

People may wonder why there is an often tense coexistence between umpires and everyone else. Well, for example, there have been many times where the individual making a complaint and providing a different perspective has been ignored or even tossed from the game for providing an insight that which may have been correct. Sure, there are many times when the manner of presentation is rather undesirable, but the insight was provided and should have been taken seriously.

2. **Advertising and Sponsorship** - Although this mainly applies to professional sports, there are deep chasms that have been caused by the current level of involvement with advertising and sponsorship at the amateur and collegiate levels of sports. Traditions such as the names of events and the colors

and mascots of teams and schools have been lost or changed simply because a major corporation puts down the money to reach a wider audience. Stadiums and fields of play, for example, are standing monuments to the sponsor who is able to write the biggest check.

3. **Colossal Contracts** - In professional sports, things have definitely gotten out of hand. Athletes of a few decades ago used to make as much as today's average businessman and now, the average pro athlete is making as much as the average chief executive of a major corporation. And the only loyalty of many athletes is to the dollar.

4. **Ownership** - Some would argue that, throughout the history of sports, owners and sports executives couldn't care less about which team they were affiliated with and were only in it for the money. Well, in many cases, that argument is correct. An owner can own

a team and not be loyal to it. Decisions to slash budgets, trade players, moving teams and change traditional team names are oftentimes made out of loyalty to the dollar and not to the city of origin, the fan or the team traditions.

5. **The Cost of Sitting** - As a sports fan, I find it enjoyable to sit at home and watch a game. Camera close-ups allow me to put myself in the place of an athlete, aerial shots allow me to view the overall, and microphones on the field and on the sidelines help me feel as though I am a part of the game. Although television broadcasts are entertaining, they cannot be used as substitutes to actually being at the game and sitting in the stands. But for many fans that cannot afford the massive ticket prices, television and radio broadcasts are the only choice.

FOR THE RECORD: I have nothing but love for all Greeks.

R-women drop to 7-8, suffer 85-58 defeat to Indy

Right: Riverwomen Sarah Hyslop and Alicia Ordner block in a Northern Kentucky opponent Thursday evening.

Bottom Right: UM-St. Louis forward Tameka Carter stares down advancing opponent Jessica Brock, of Northern Kentucky last Thursday.



UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Volleyball

The University of Missouri - St. Louis women's basketball team fell to second ranked Indianapolis Saturday afternoon 85-58. The Riverwomen move to 7-8 overall and 2-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

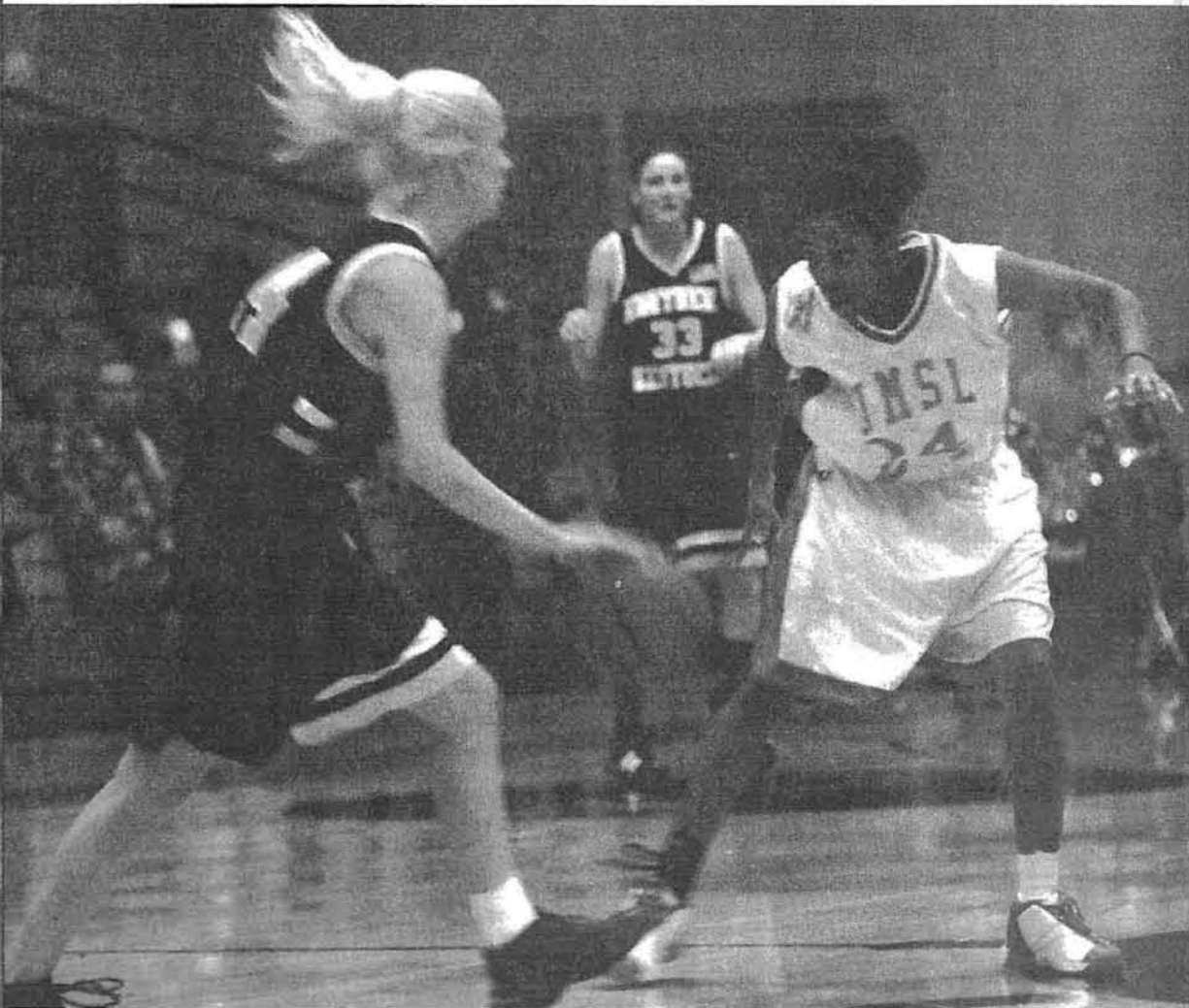
The Greyhounds came out strong in the first half with a basket in the first four seconds. Indianapolis then

hit a 7-0 run at the 14:24 mark to lead by 14 points. UM-St. Louis got within 12 points on a layup by Christy Lane. The Greyhounds then hit a quick basket and then turned around for a three-pointer by the Greyhounds' Amy Wisser. Indianapolis led 40-26 at the half.

The Riverwomen came out in the first half answering to the Hounds baskets for the first seven minutes, getting within 12 points on a jumper by Lane at the 17:28 mark. The Hounds then sparked an 8-0 run to lead by 20 on a jumper by Erin

Moran. UM-St. Louis ended the run on a layup from senior Samantha Cartwright. The Greyhounds continued to produce baskets, shooting 70 percent from the field. The Greyhounds clinched the 85-58 victory over the Riverwomen.

UM-St. Louis was led by Christy Lane with 16 points and six rebounds. Sarah Hyslop grabbed 12 points and Jessica Woods added four rebounds. The Hounds were led by Emily Hammes with 16 points and Erin Moran added another 15 on the afternoon.



DIG THIS: Sak named GLVC First Team All-Conference

RIGHT: R-women OH Daria Sak, recently named GLVC First-Team All-Conference



Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Volleyball

BY ASHLEY RICHMOND
Staff Writer

Sophomore Daria Sak earned First-Team All-Conference as a defensive specialist for her efforts in the 2002 volleyball season.

The fourth UMSL Volleyball player to be named on a Great Lakes Valley Conference All-Conference Team, Sak lead the conference with 4.65 digs per game. Leading the conference in digs didn't ensure an award; coaches have to vote, according to UMSL head volleyball coach, Denise Silvester.

"Each coach can nominate by position. Then each coach votes and

can't vote for their own player," Silvester said.

Recruited to UMSL in 2001 from Barrington, Ill. as an outside hitter, Sak showed her skills as a defensive specialist her freshman year. During the 2002 season, Sak played libero, a position recognized for the first time in 2002 college volleyball.

A libero plays only in the back row but has unlimited substitution capabilities. The one drawback, according to Sak, is that a libero cannot serve, whereas a defensive specialist can.

"I really missed serving, but playing libero this year gave me a lot of digging opportunities," Sak said.

Sak was able to convert opportunities to dig into top dig statistics throughout the season that the coach noted as worthy for nomination to the All-Conference Team.

"As the season progressed and the

league stats were posted on the internet, I saw that Daria was worthy of being named a candidate," Silvester said.

According to Sak, she did not think it was possible to be named an All-Conference player if her team didn't go to conference.

"I really didn't think I'd get the award until my teammate Janae said it was possible," Sak said.

Senior Janae Paas played two years with Sak and said she enjoyed the experience.

"Daria brings enthusiasm and selfless play to our team. She tried her hardest to keep the balls off our court and never complained. In fact, she would always try to raise the team's spirits," Paas said.

Junior Setter Stacy Pearl agrees with Paas.

"I could always count on Daria to get me a pass. Her cheers both on the

court and on the sideline encouraged everyone on the team," Pearl said.

Pearl went on to explain that Sak's athleticism proved to be a great asset for the team this season.

"Daria has played almost every sport imaginable: basketball, soccer, swimming, and badminton, to name a few. She is a well-rounded athlete and proved her skills on the court by sacrificing herself for the team," Pearl said.

With the motto "Love the team. Love the game," Sak admits she could not have had the success she had last season without her teammates.

"When the team believed I could do it, I believed I could do it. I love the girls, and that's who I think of, the team, each time a ball comes my way. I want to do it for the team."

For more info. on the volleyball team, visit www.umsl-sports.com.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'The Hours' delights literate

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"The Hours" is a movie for book-lovers. If you are a literate type, this excellent film will delight you with its intelligent adaptation of the best-selling novel of the same name. Even if you haven't read the book, "The Hours" is still a delight, with great acting, a thought-provoking story and intriguing tri-part structure.

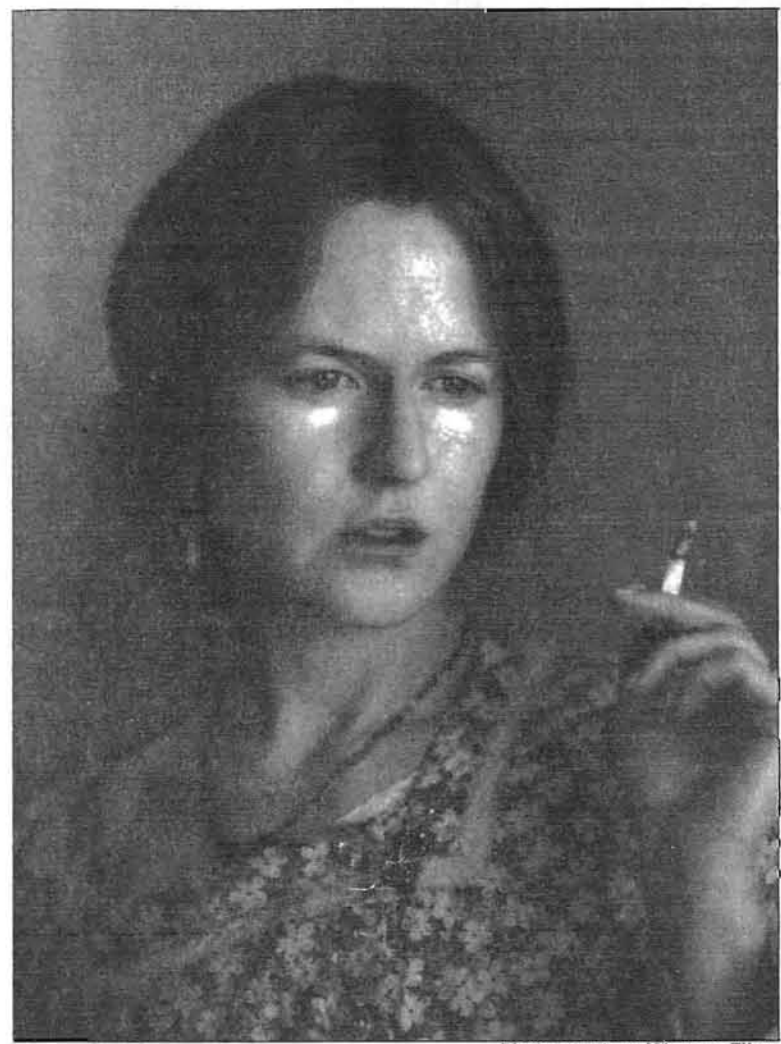
The film is divided into three stories that run parallel to each other. Each story takes place in a different time and place, but they are all joined to each other by Virginia Woolf's novel "Mrs. Dalloway." In the earliest

story, set in 1920s England, Virginia Woolf herself (Nicole Kidman) is in the midst of writing the novel as she struggles with her own sanity. Across the world and thirty years later, a 1950s California housewife, Laura (Julianne Moore), caring for a small child and pregnant with another, is reading the book and struggling with despair in her own life, much like Mrs. Dalloway. Ahead in time and across the country, in present-day New York City, another woman, Clarissa (Meryl Streep), feels like she is living out the novel as she organizes a party for her friend Richard (Ed Harris), a poet and former lover dying of AIDS. As we move back and forth between these equally lush sto-

ries, the plots bring them into an unexpected intersection.

"The Hours" succeeds in both story and dramatic power. The novel is all interior dialogs, and the film brings this inner voice out to us through actions that reveal character and thoughts. The acting performances are marvelous, particularly Nicole Kidman, who is unrecognizable as Virginia Woolf. But it almost seems unfair to single out one performance, because they are all luminous in this film. Ed Harris as the dying poet (a parallel to the novel) is stunning in his biting sarcasm and witty barbs, which cover his despair at his looming death. Streep is stunning in the range of expression demanded of her in this role, from determined, cheery organizer to a woman of anguished powerlessness. Moore, in her second '50s housewife role this year, plays a tightly controlled housewife in a tightly controlled world, so conventional on the exterior but nearly suffocating under her secret pain. The tightness of the character makes it seem as if she might explode at any minute.

As a piece of filmmaking, the movie moves seamlessly between its segments, with each on track to build in tension as its story unfolds. The gorgeous period sets and costumes of each segment glow with a beauty that suits each time period and adds to the authenticity. The combination gives delight to the eye and heightens the realism. However, director Stephen



Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf in "The Hours."

Daldry, whose previous work includes "Billy Elliot," keeps the film focused on the story and the acting, keeping cinematic technique in the background.

While the theaters are filled with so many late-season, quality films, it is hard to see them all. However, "The Hours" is among a handful of outstanding films that should not be



Meryl Streep as Clarissa and Ed Harris as Richard in "The Hours."

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Pianist' is lyrical, haunting tale of survival

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Simply put, "The Pianist" is one of the best films of 2002. More than that, it is a masterful work by master filmmaker Roman Polanski.

"The Pianist" is a riveting film, a personal tale of the Holocaust but one that focuses on individual survival and the enduring nature of the human spirit. It is so powerful because it is a fresh, personal story of individuals, good and bad, set against a historic backdrop. As a piece of filmmaking art, it is among the best works of the acclaimed Polanski, whose previous works include "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown." Whatever you may think of Polanski on a personal level, given his scandalous history, this film shows that his talent can't be denied or dismissed.

Not surprisingly, the film is based on real events, one person's memoir of the Holocaust. "The Pianist" was a well-known composer and concert pianist in Poland whose fame spanned the range of popular music as well as the concert hall. In 1939, Wladyslaw (Wvadek) Szpilman (Adrien Brody) is 27 years old and performing a concerto for live radio when the invading Nazis bomb the radio station. A complete professional, he finishes the piece with the walls falling around him, the last radio broadcast in Poland before it falls to the Germans. This gifted artist slowly sees his life, his family and his artistic expression stripped away in the sweep of the Nazi's onslaught, even though at first his talent and fame help to protect him. Yet it is the protagonist's will to live and his art that gives the film a sense of hope against all odds.

Szpilman survived the Holocaust by escaping from the Warsaw ghetto,

cluding capture and deportation to the death camps. His experience parallels director Roman Polanski's own childhood. Polanski escaped the ghetto through a hole in a barbed wire fence when he was 7 years old, hiding from the Nazis throughout the war. This shared history, without a doubt, adds a sharpness to the film it could not

he is again helped by a German officer in the closing days of the war. Around the central character, we see the eroding lives of the Polish Jews through cruel examples of degradation. We see smaller insults, such as Jews being banned from parks or forced to walk in the street and leave the sidewalk for Germans, evolve

use his talent is beautifully expressed in one scene where the pianist, ragged and starving, is looking for a hiding place from Nazi guards when he suddenly comes upon a piano. The instrument pulls on him like a siren, and we see the longing of an addiction as his fingers hover over the keyboard, fully aware that to touch it will

of the time and locations makes "The Pianist" so authentic. It hurts. Shot in Poland and Germany, real locations were used where possible, but much of Warsaw had been leveled, and some locations had to be recreated as sets for the film. The costumes and historic details give the film the realism it needs.

Polanski lets his star, Adrien Brody, carry the film, keeping his filmmaking technique carefully in the background. The entire cast is wonderful, but this should be a star-making role for Brody, who has been turning in excellent work in film after film. Here the focus is almost entirely on his character. Brody turns in a beautifully understated performance, so that we get a feel for the character as cool-headed, even while panic is all around him. This makes the few scenes in which he crumbles all the more powerful. Brody expresses volumes in the elegant stillness of his face, such as his peaceful look when he plays his music or the haunted look in his eyes as he watches from hiding as his family is taken away. These small gestures and nuances of expression contribute greatly to the film.

Everything else in the film supports this central tour-de-force performance. The often snowy or stark photography is sometimes hauntingly beautiful, underscoring the tragic circumstances. Not surprisingly, the musical score is breathtakingly moving, one of the few scores worthy of being purchased for its own sake but, like everything else, designed to fit perfectly into the structure of the film.

Even in this time, leading up to the Oscar season, when great films fill the theaters, "The Pianist" deserves special attention. It is one of a handful of must-sees and a great film that will endure beyond the present short season.



Adrien Brody stars in Roman Polanski's THE PIANIST, a Focus Features release.

have had otherwise.

Good and bad, much of what happens to Szpilman is just random luck. Yet with his persistent spirit, he always struggles to hold on one more day, one more hour. There are good Jews and bad Jews, good Poles and bad Poles, even good Germans and bad ones in this story. Early on, Szpilman is sheltered by Germans who admire his work; near the end,

into horrific events like an elderly Jew in a wheelchair being pushed off a balcony by German soldiers. Still, the film has a surprising sense of hope, sometimes expressed through music. We know that the war will end, but the pianist only has his will to live just a bit longer, hoping that, one day, the war will end.

The particularly poignancy of a musician deprived of the ability to

mean certain death. Certainly, any musician or even anyone who loves music will feel the ache and the pull the piano exerts in this gripping scene.

The book on which the film was based was written right after the war and retains a freshness in Szpilman's eyewitness account, a quality director Polanski keeps in his film. The attention given to detail in the re-creation

BOOK REVIEW

Read the novel 'In Her Shoes' with your sisters

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Jennifer Weiner's novel "In Her Shoes" is the type of novel that many women can relate to, particularly if they have sisters. With four younger sisters in my family, every few pages I kept thinking, "Uh-huh, yep, that's what happens." Weiner's novel is a deftly written, fiercely funny and wonderful story about two sisters who try to become closer after years of feuds and sibling rivalry.

Rose Feller is 30 years old, a successful attorney who has a secret passion for romance novels and always plans to diet but never seems to get around to it. Though single and sexually active, she dreams of the day when Mr. Right will take off her glasses and sweep her off of her feet. The bane in her life is her younger sister Maggie, a 28-year-old college dropout

who bounces from job to job while trying to be an aspiring actress, only succeeding in obtaining a bit part in a Will Smith video. The two women have nothing in common except the same shoe size and a hatred for their stepmother, Sydelle, who belittles them while constantly bragging about her daughter, who Rose and Maggie refer to as "My Marcia."

Rose and Maggie have a tenuous relationship that finally explodes when Rose catches Maggie in bed with her boyfriend. Furious, she throws Maggie out of her apartment, a decision that forces the women to come to terms with their unhappy childhood, their present day situation and their future.

Weiner's novel is wonderful. It

moves along at a brisk pace, never feeling forced or pretentious. The characters speak like normal people,

ters lies in the fact that they are like most people.

Rose and Maggie are terrific protagonists. They aren't committed to stereotypes, where Rose could just easily be the brain with no social life and Maggie could be the bubble-headed beauty. They are both multifaceted women with many character traits and quirks that make them endearing and memorable as well as very flawed, human characters.

Rose is a very smart woman who is able to be independent, but there is a side of her that is lost in her romances; she also has many self-esteem issues about her weight and looks. Maggie, too, has problems. Very beautiful but irresponsible, Maggie is aware of the fact that she has to grow up and get a job, but she wishes to remain an irresponsible teen



"In Her Shoes" by Jennifer Weiner.

not in a flowery romantic style or the style of someone who is trying to get in as many pop culture references as possible. The heart in Weiner's charac-

ter forever until she is forced to mature. The two women complement each other well.

Weiner's gift for characterization isn't just limited to her two protagonists. Weiner displays deft skill with characterization and plot throughout the entire novel. She presents a wonderful cast that includes the fawning Sydelle; Rose and Maggie's long-lost grandmother, Ella; their deceased, secretive mother, Caroline; and Rose's rap-obsessed friend, Amy.

There are some plot angles to the story that don't work quite so well and stretch to almost implausibility, such as Maggie's almost sudden education at Princeton. Rose also has a romance with a colleague that seems to go by a bit too fast in the story.

Despite the flaws, "In Her Shoes" is an excellent novel about two sisters undergoing a long-awaited maturing. The book is best when shared with a sister.

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

A&E Editor

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A&E Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change

Jan. 17

The Hours - wonderful adaptation of best-selling novel about three women in three decades tied together by Virginia Woolf's book *Mrs. Dalloway*; stars Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, and Meryl Streep

Kangaroo Jack - comedy about Mafiosos lost in Australia

National Security - Action/comedy with Martin Lawrence

A Guy Thing - Romantic comedy with Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, and Selma Blair

Special programs:
I'm Going Home - French drama about an actor who has to face the loss of his family when he returns to work; stars John Malkovich, directed by Manoel de Oliveira; in French and English; at Webster Film Series, Jan. 17-19

Alias Betty - A single mother who lost her young son in an accident finds herself caring for a kidnapped boy; from a novel by Ruth Rendell; one week only at the Tivoli

Jan. 24

Nicholas Nickleby - adaptation of the Dicken's classic with a humorous touch; stars Alan Cumming

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind - based on his autobiography, the strange tale of TV producer Chuck Barris, who claimed to also be an undercover CIA agent

Darkness Falls - horror/suspense

Special programs
Duke and Mike's Sick and Twisted Animation Festival - one week only at the Tivoli

BOOK REVIEW

'School' long on charm, flawed with short beauty

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

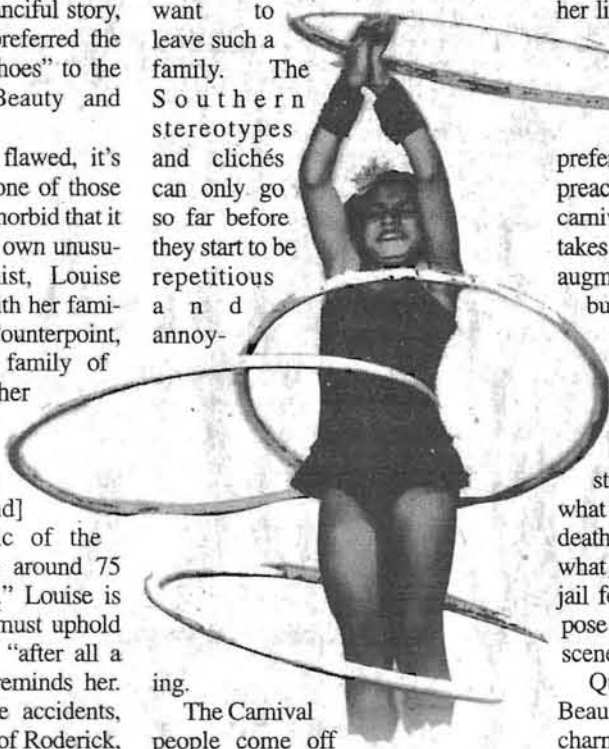
It's ironic that I would be reading Melanie Summer's "The School of Beauty and Charm" around the same time as Jennifer Weiner's "In Her Shoes." Both tell stories about young women and their relationships with their families, particularly siblings. While "In Her Shoes" is more realistic and natural in tone, "The School of Beauty and Charm" is more fanciful and grotesque, almost like a dark fantasy. Under normal circumstances I would prefer the more fanciful story, but this time around I preferred the more realistic "In Her Shoes" to the fanciful "School of Beauty and Charm."

Though "School" is flawed, it's not a terrible book; it's one of those dark comedies that is so morbid that it is almost charming in its own unusual way. The protagonist, Louise Frances Peppers, lives with her family in the small town of Counterpoint, GA. She lives with a family of eccentrics, including her asthmatic brother, Roderick, and parents who "avoid discussing religion, politics [and] sex...favoring the topic of the weather which averages around 75 degrees in Counterpoint." Louise is constantly told that she must uphold the family name; she is "after all a Peppers" as her father reminds her. After a series of bizarre accidents, which result in the death of Roderick, a grief-stricken Louise leaves college

to run away with a traveling show where she meets another cast of bizarre characters and attempts to fit in with them, especially Zane, a chauvinistic fire eater whom Louise falls in love with.

Eccentricity is the book's strength; ironically, it is also its weakness. The characters are funny one minute and very dark the next, sometimes stretched to parody. Louise's parents, Henry and Florida, are painted as such caricatures and stereotypes that eventually they annoy the reader; one can definitely see why Louise would want to leave such a family. The Southern stereotypes and clichés can only go so far before they start to be repetitious and annoy-

ing. The Carnival people come off slightly better,



becoming some of the more interesting characters in the book. Arthur Reese, the founder with a passion for Frank Sinatra; Lollibells, a homosexual clown; Eva, a woman with spider-like arms and legs; and of course the womanizing Zane, are selfish, greedy and irresponsible people who seem to live only for the next town and their own fame, dubious as that might be. They are also the most realistic and entertaining characters in the story.

Summer also gives an excellent protagonist in Louise, a young woman who is trying to understand her life, particularly in regards to the religion that her mother preaches about. As she grows older, Louise prefers to see all that her mother has preached against for herself, using her carnival friends as tour guides. She takes a frightening spiritual journey augmented by visions of her brother, but instead of the peaceful life-affirming visions in the Bible, her visions are frightening and gruesome and scare the young woman away.

Some plot elements are stretched, unbelievable and somewhat forced. The means of Roderick's death is a bit far-fetched and somewhat silly, and at the end Louise is in jail for absolutely no important purpose in the story but to add a new scene.

Quite simply, "The School of Beauty and Charm" can be extremely charming, but it's not very beautiful.

MOVIE REVIEW

Time's up: dumb movies return

Marquēe Ramblings



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

They're back. The dumb movies are already returning to the movie screens after a brief hiatus from the high-quality holiday season releases, including nearly all the Oscar hopefuls. Three films opened just in the last week that garnered one or two star ratings from local critics, even those who are more easily pleased. The sad thing about these returning no-brainer films is not just the brain-optional aspect but also that they aren't even that entertaining.

Sequels, remakes, "franchises," movies inspired by old TV shows and star vehicles for pop music stars—these movies are the ones that filled screens for most of last year. While a few of them offered a bit of entertainment value, most of them were pretty

weak. They are low-effort, low-creativity, low-originality pieces of lowest-common-denominator, mass-market entertainment whose greatest monetary expenses are the predictable special effects, the star's salary and the promotion and advertising. These movies rival the worst offerings of TV, a medium that has yet to rise to the level of an art form. In fact, increasingly, there are better pieces of filmmaking on the tube than in mass release to theaters.

The prevailing idea among big Hollywood studios (distributors, really) is that by not taking a risk on an original idea, these uninspired films draw enough crowds by evoking past concepts and not requiring anything of their audiences to make a profit, sometimes a very large one. These movies work best with the youngest demographic, mostly because younger people simply have not seen these plots and tricks as many times before. But as these kids see more movies over time, these tired and trite stories begin to bore them too. Sadly, many of these films still have great acting and high-quality production values, but these pluses are wasted on formulaic plots and unimaginative directing.

Maybe you feel that movies should be mass-market escapist entertainment and bristle at the idea of films with a message or that make you think. Sometimes, the assumption is that people who like art films prefer a boring movie with weird editing and a painful, "significant" message. Certainly, there are people who seek out films only for signifi-

cant content regardless of artistry or those who only go for unusual film technique (these are two different groups, by the way). But many more people just want to see a good film, something with a bit of artistic style or merit and fresh or meaningful content; these people are willing to take a risk on an unfamiliar name or subject, or even read subtitles, for a greater

“
Sadly, many of these films still have great acting and high-quality production values, but these pluses are wasted on formulaic plots and unimaginative directing.
”

reward. This isn't really so exotic. Recently, I was asked by a casual acquaintance about a film at a local theater. When I told him that the film, "Metropolis," was a restored classic silent film and expressed surprise that he had never heard of it, this fellow responded that he "didn't watch TV," implying that TV and movies were indistinguishable. In the not-too-distant past, films were regarded as an art form, albeit a popular one. In truth, film is still an art form, but it is getting harder to see this in modern films.

see MOVIES, page 12

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Murder and other merriment



lo-Interactive EIDOS

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

Now for something completely different. I will summarize the game "Hitman 2: Silent Assassin" with a poem.

He slowly sneaks behind his foes
Nude bodies litter where the hitman goes
He took their lives, their guns, their clothes
Where he is now, no one knows
"Hitman 2" can be played in two separate ways. You can either make it a first-person shooter, in which you

play a callous murdering guy with a nasty and varied arsenal, or you can pretend you're playing "Thief" and skulk from shadow to shadow, killing only when necessary. Maybe it says something about my personality, but I thought it was much more enjoyable to kill everyone and let the bodies fall where they may. This is, however, the "wrong" way of doing things, based on the point system at the end of each level. I found "Mass Murderer" and "Hatchet Man" to be much more interesting titles than the coveted "Silent Assassin."

You'll note from the handy poem

(which basically serves as a how-to guide for the first few levels) that the sneaking is described as slow. This is actually expanding the definition of slow to include such mind-bogglingly lethargic scenarios as waiting ten or 20 minutes of real "playing" time for a guard or chauffeur to pee on a tree so you can sneak up on him and knock him out. The entire game is slow in the same way that the kids on the short bus in grade school were slow. This can be fixed by setting your character "Mr. 47" (the hitman) to run all the time. Sadly, and by an amazing coincidence, every guard, ninja, and soldier in the game seems to have lost their parents in a freak jogging accident, and now they instantly shoot any fool who runs for even a fraction of a second. The "run equals death" equation wouldn't be so bad if Mr. 47 didn't walk like he had two broken legs and a head full of qualuludes.

Even with the detraction of speed, there are many things about "Hitman 2" that are admirable. The map system is amazing and real-time, displaying the locations of people and marking all important places for you. The guards are actually wary and will look at your face to see if they recognize you as a fellow guard. The levels are varied, and a few can't be won by just murdering everyone (though most can). The gun accuracy, and inaccuracy, is well done, meaning that your ability to hit someone at long range with a pistol isn't based on your computer's graphics card, it's based on the actual ability of a professional to hit at long range.

While there is no multiplayer option (47 works alone), "Hitman 2" has solid action and many worthwhile moments, and I'll probably find myself beating it and then going back to the beginning so I can snag weapon trophies like the mafia don's golf club. It's not worth the \$50 they're charging for it now, so pick it up later this year when you can get it online for \$35 or so. "Hitman 2" has finesse and is worth trying, especially if you're tired of the usual blast and kill of other first-person shooters.

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DARKNESS FALLS

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PRODUCED BY JOHN HEGEMAN JOHN FASANO WILLIAM SHERAK JASON SHUMAN DIRECTED BY JONATHAN LIEBESMAN

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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, JANUARY 31st!

MOVIES, from page 11

Cinema, the one original art form of the twentieth century, straddles performance arts like theater, visual arts like painting and photography, and imaginative and verbal forms like literature. That cinema could be art was established early in its evolution, dating to the silent era of the 1920s. Because it is both visual and moving, it strikes deep into the human psyche. Here this power is used for creative and expressive reasons, the result is moving art. Where it is used for comfortable but predictable repetition, the result is sedative pastime.

More and more, the artistic roots of film are harder to discern. Even among independent films, once a source of hope for fans of high quality cinema, films are growing more pedestrian and uninspired.

Often, they resemble mainstream films of an earlier era, pushing out more artistic films. The trend seems to be towards plots that say nothing that hasn't been said, a growing emphasis on clever editing for its own sake, stories where the point seems to be only to push the limits of taste, or filmed ways that ignore or diminish cinematic or photographic qualities. The trend strays the fact that these filmmakers are only outside the mainstream because they haven't yet broken into Hollywood or they were pushed out by its increasingly narrow style. They aren't artists with a vision, like great filmmakers such as Akira Kurosawa. Even foreign films, once a deep well of original filmmaking, more and more resemble the Hollywood style of "just entertainment" movies with explosions, pop music and modular storyboard characters and plots.

Even this trend towards "just entertainment" would be less of a problem if these movies were really entertain-

ing. But their formulaic nature means that they are constructed with a menu of stereotypes and well-worn plot devices. This means there are really only so many variations, and eventually you run through all the changes. It's all modular construction. Let's see, the hero will be (pick one): a misunderstood rap star with tattoos, a beautiful girl who is a struggling singer or a smart-mouthed kid who can do magic with computers who (pick one): becomes a secret agent, founders her own successful company or discovers a ring of drug lords. The villain is (pick one): a fashion conscious gangsta, a deranged head of a ring of terrorists or a rigid bureaucrat who looks like someone out of (pick one): "Alien," "The Godfather" or 1950s news footage and is obsessed with defeating the hero (or heroine). Hint at a plot, show some skin, have fabulous fantasy or location sets (maybe com-

puter-generated), and when you have the audience's attention, start the explosions. You've seen this movie, haven't you? But how entertaining is it really to watch this same

movie over and over? Sure, everyone has their favorite video or DVD, or might want to see a favorite hit several times, but if the movie has a different name, don't you expect something new? Of

course, wish fulfillment and safe, familiar plot elements are long-time components of escapist entertainment, but you have to have some surprises, something new and unexpected, or you don't really have an entertaining movie. But the creative elements are artistic and human things; they can't be pulled out of a box on demand, and they don't lend themselves to factory-assembled modular design.

Sadly, movie distributors are making big money without this missing element. These no-effort, no-risk movies make big enough profits, sometimes a whole lot of profit, so we will see more of the same. The trend will continue towards more "entertainment" movies that are more recycled and less entertainment. After a while, even those who testily object to movies that make them think or have a message (because all movies are supposed to be just escapist fun) will start to notice and may stop going to movie theaters.

Yes, they're back. It's starting to look like we could easily skip the movie-going experience until the good stuff comes out at the end of the year.



Taking notes



Sara Quiroz/The Current
Timmy Kloepfel, a senior in music, practices his piano skills on the third floor of the MSC the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 14.

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It's more productive than surfing for porn.
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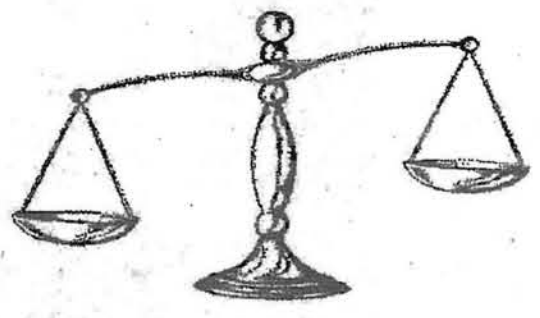
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Student Organization Leaders

You are invited to a luncheon with
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The luncheon will be held on
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at 11:30 a.m. in
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Misc.

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These paid positions are needed for Students With Disabilities and are available for the Winter Semester 2003. Contact Marilyn Ditto-Pernell, Disability Access Services at 516-5228 or visit 144 MSC for more information.

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Notebook computer: HP model ze5170, Intel P4-2.0 GHz, 512 MB DDR SDRAM, 40 GB ATA100 HD, DVD-Rom + CD-RW combo, ATI 32 MB video, 15" XGA-TFT screen, 10/100 NIC, 56K modem, Windows XP Home + tons of bundled software, 3 yr. ext. warranty, only 4 months old, \$1,700 firm. 516-6941.

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Misc.

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Rec Sports Fun

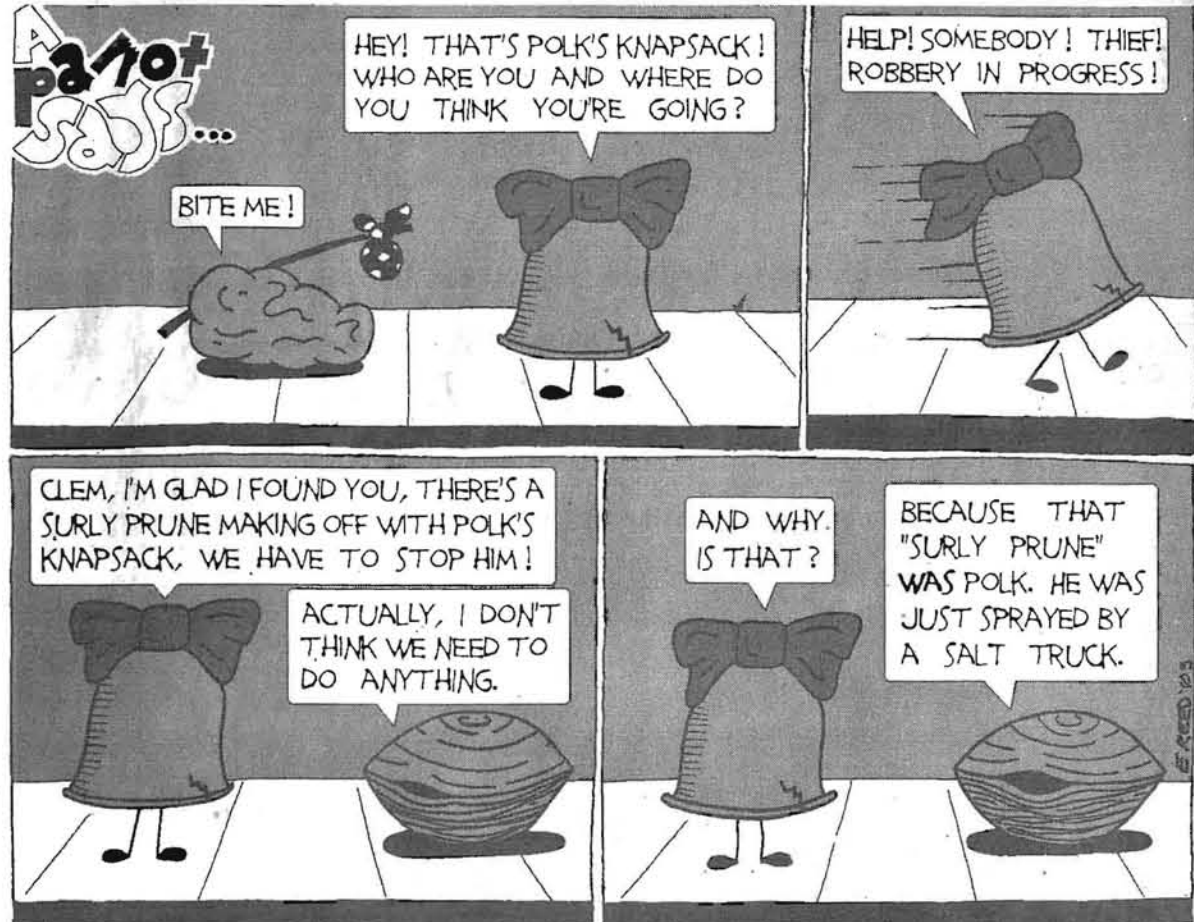
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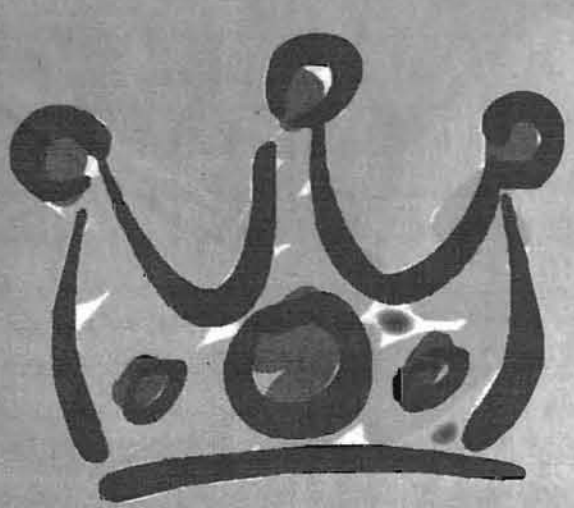
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**Homecoming
2003 Schedule**



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Philanthropy (blood and canned food drives)
• 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Banner Wars</p> <p>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Powder Puff Football • 3 - 4 p.m.
Penny Wars
Election for Court
• 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Rec. Sports • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Big Man on Campus • 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Bonfire/Pep Rally • 6 p.m.
Elections for Court
• 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Mini Parade • 12 - 1 p.m.
Basketball Game
• Men's team vs. Lewis at 7:45 p.m.</p> | <p>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
(CONTINUED)
• Women's team vs. Lewis at 5:30 p.m.
• Court Introductions, intermission of men's game
• Ping-Pong Championships, intermission of women's game</p> <p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Dance • 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. at Windows off Washington
• King and Queen Crowned
• Spirit Competition Winners Announced</p> <p>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Homecoming Basketball Game
• Men's team vs. SIU Edwardsville at 7:45 p.m.
• Women's team vs. SIU Edwardsville at 5:30 p.m.
Spirit Competition Winners announced during intermission of men's game</p> |
|---|---|

**Friday, February 7
8 p.m. @ the Fox Theatre**

**Tickets \$20
available in 366 MSC
(limit 2 per student ID)**

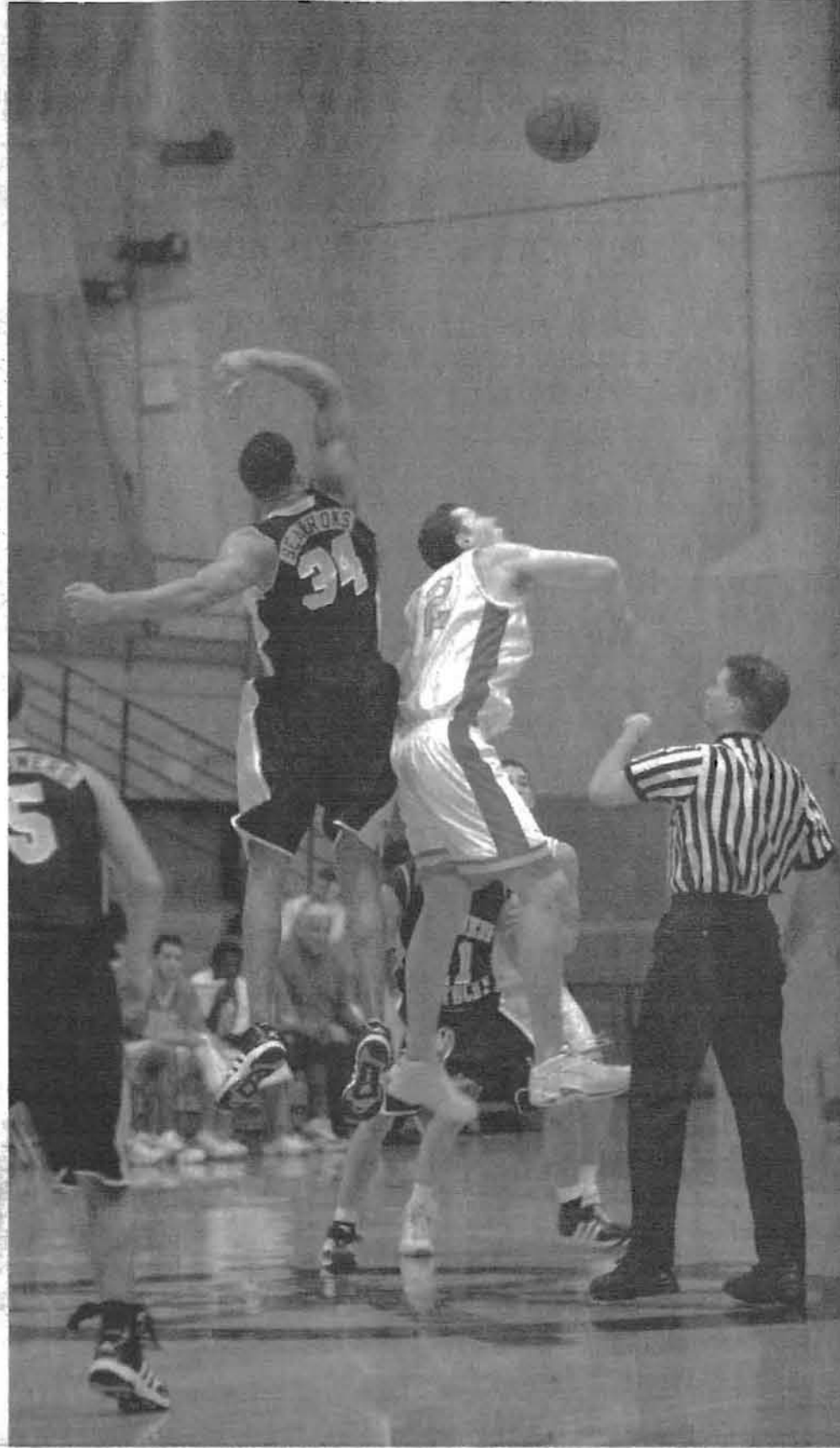
Signs of Life on Campus



ABOVE: Students pass by the entrance to Clark Hall on the first day of classes of Winter Semester 2003.



ABOVE: The UM-St. Louis Cheerleaders rally the crowd during the Rivermen Basketball team's game Thursday evening.



RIGHT: Rivermen center Jared Pratt (at right) and Northern Kentucky's Chris Seabrooks compete for the ball at the beginning of Thursday night's game. The Rivermen lost the game 64-52.



RIGHT: During the Student Government Association meeting Friday, Matthew Berra, communication, rests his head. Berra was representing the Rivermen Ice Hockey Team.

All photos: Mike Sherwin/The Current

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