

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



SPORTS

You can't catch me: The Rivermen begin a 3-game stretch against some of the best hockey teams around, and it could help their national ranking.

◀ See pages 5

http://www.umsi.edu/studentlife/current

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



Tuesday Talkies: Every week, serious moviegoers see a new film at the Tivoli and meet afterward to discuss what they saw.

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U-Wire News

Booming tech job market is greeting grads

BY RAY HENRY & JESSICA VAN SACK
The Daily Free Press

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — Graduate student Jeff Considine is a man in demand—a major corporation is offering him a starting salary of \$63,000.

But, he is not sure if he wants the job. To Considine, who will graduate with a computer science degree, the \$63,000 offer from Compaq is a run-of-the-mill starting salary in the computer field. Compaq is just one of many companies courting Considine.

Facing a variety of offers, he expects to have his pick of jobs upon graduation, but hasn't made a decision yet.

And he is not alone. According to a recent University of Michigan survey, Considine is one of many students facing a rich job market, where starting salaries are up 3 to 5 percent. The study also found that the college labor market is expected to expand 10 to 15 percent in the upcoming year.

"In general, salaries are up," said Boston University Career Services Director Richard Leger.

Through the combination of extra benefits and high salaries, Leger said, corporations hope to lure top candidates, especially Internet operators, designers and security programmers.

"Anything that clicks into the Net seems to be doing very well right now," Leger said. "My guess is technology is...going to command top dollar and be competitive."

Leger says two factors typically determine a starting salary -- geographic location and job type.

According to the Electronic Engineering Times, engineers working in Northern California make more money than anywhere else in the nation.

Leger urges students to begin their job search as early as their freshman year to familiarize themselves with job search resources available on campus.

"Get an idea about what you like doing," Leger said. "Ultimately, you're going to be good at what you do because you like it."

1999

A look back at the top news stories of the year

File shows Butler plead guilty to felony charges in April

In September, *The Current* reported that Darwin Butler, the often controversial president of the Student Government Association, was serving a one-year sentence in the St. Louis County Jail after being convicted of felony stealing and credit-device fraud. Butler was able to attend UM-St. Louis because a judge granted him a work release.

After several weeks, a national newswire picked up the story and UM-St. Louis students found Butler featured on national cable-television shows, mentioned on radio talk shows, and covered in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Eventually, Butler ended up back in jail while waiting for the courts to sort out attempts to revoke his work release and a request to extradite him to Nevada to face several different charges.

Committee votes to express 'no confidence' in Chancellor

The year-long dispute between some faculty members and Chancellor Blanche Touhill came to a head when the Faculty Council Select Committee on Fiscal Practices cast a unanimous vote to express "no confidence" in Touhill.

The committee also issued a scathing report Sept. 15 stating that Touhill "implemented imprudent fiscal policies" and "created chronic fiscal crisis on the UM-St. Louis campus."

The committee recommended that the Faculty Council "consider the question of whether its members retain confidence in Chancellor Touhill's leadership," but the Faculty Council never formally addressed this in 1999.

On Nov. 8, Touhill responded by writing "An Open Report to the Campus Community" that addressed the issues raised by the committee.

Later, the UM System issued a report that concluded that while there were problems with the decision-making process, there was no pattern of intent to directly violate the planning and governance process."

Board of Curators considers sexual orientation clause

The Board of Curators voted in February to make Executive Order 3, which called on UM chancellors to help students develop healthy attitudes toward different kinds of people, into UM System policy. This caused a protest from some students who felt the order didn't protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

UM System President Manuel Pacheco recommended that the Board take this action, but didn't satisfy some students, who began chanting "Inclusion now." After being removed from the meeting, the protestors continued complaining in the hallway that the Board should specifically list sexual orientation as a protected category like others listed in the System's anti-discrimination clause.

Longtime UM-St. Louis hoops coach resigns after 17 years

Winds of change swept through the UM-St. Louis athletic department when head basketball coach Rich Meckfessel announced his resignation in March after the Rivermen finished the season with a 7-19 record overall.

The resignation marked the end of an era for UM-St. Louis basketball, as Meckfessel had been the Rivermen head coach for 17 years. Meckfessel's 214-252 record made him UM-St. Louis' winningest coach, and he was named the MIAA Coach of the Year three times.

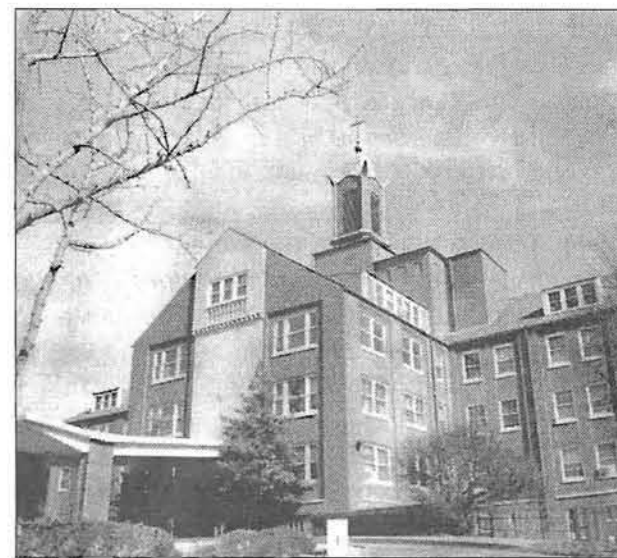
In April, the University hired Mark Bernsen, a UM-St. Louis alumnus, to fill the head coach position. Under Bernsen, the Rivermen have jumped to a 3-1 start this season.

Senate votes to accept governance restructuring plan

Acting on a proposal from a committee formed to examine University governance, the University Senate voted to divide itself into two new governing bodies: a Faculty Senate and a University Assembly.

Proponents of the change said it would streamline the campus governance process and strengthen the role of the faculty in that process.

Although the change increases the proportion of student representation in the University Assembly, some student members of the Senate voiced concerns about the change and proposed two amendments to the resolution. Both amendments were defeated.



The University announced in February that the Mt. Providence building was scheduled to be torn down early next year as part of a highway construction project. The Adult Day Services Center once housed in the structure was closed during the summer.



The Urge performed at Mirthday in April and drew a large crowd. Their unique brand of ska/metal provided a lot of energy for the day's festivities.



The Music Department brought theater back to UM-St. Louis with "Man of La Mancha." Mark Madsen, pictured here, directed and starred in the play, which had a successful run.



The implosion of the Arena, former home of the St. Louis Blues, in February left many UM-St. Louisans with only memories of the landmark they held dear.

Photos by Stephanie Platt/ The Current

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Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Dec. 14

- Weekly Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge) at 7:30 p.m. Free pizza got Chris here. Free hot dogs got Ron connected. What does it take to bring you??? For more info call Betty at 385-3455.

Friday, Dec. 17

- Memories of the Century a division breakfast hosted by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will be in the the Alumni Center from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Please bring memorabilia dating any time from 1900 to 1999. Please send two pictures of yourself (one of when you were young and one of you now) to Marilyn Ditto, 301 Woods Hall, by Dec. 14, there will be a contest. There will also be a sign up sheet available to bring food contributions.

Saturday, Dec. 18

- Annual Toys for Tots Party, sponsored by Sigma Pi will start at 9 p.m. and is open to all UMSL students. Girls must be 18 and guys must have a college ID. Admission is a new, wrapped toy or money donation. The house is located right across from Taco Bell at 8645 Natural Bridge Road. Any questions call 426-0078.

Sunday, Dec. 19

- Catholic Mass will be held every week at 6 p.m. at South Campus Residence Chapel.

Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Have A Happy New Year!!!

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THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

November 23, 1999

A student reported that her backpack was stolen from the bookstore storage shelves at 11:30 a.m. The backpack contained textbooks, a special tape recorder for the blind, and recorder tapes.

The items contained in the stolen backpack were recovered. The books had been sold to the bookstore. The recorder tapes were found in a restroom toilet at J. C. Penney.

At 11 p.m. University Police arrested a person wanted on outstanding warrants from Florissant.

November 28, 1999

At 9:10 p.m., a faculty member reported that his office computer had been tampered with and 18 months of information was lost. The

incident occurred at 513 Benton Hall.

November 29, 1999

Two Hewlett-Packard laptop computers and a network card were reported stolen from 134 Social Science Building between Nov. 24 and Nov. 29.

A student residing at University Meadows reported that a set of keys was stolen from her apartment door. They had been forgotten. University Meadows was also notified.

December 1, 1999

A student reported that sometime before Dec. 1 her student parking permit was stolen from her car.

A student reported that sometime between Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. her student parking per-

mit was stolen from her car. The doors to the car were not locked.

December 2, 1999

A Hewlett-Packard Omni-Book was reported stolen from 005 Computer Center Building. There was no sign of a forced entry. The actual time of the theft is unknown.

December 3, 1999

A vehicle parked on the second level of Garage "N" was found to have a counterfeit parking permit on the window. University Police took possession of the permit. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs office.

December 6, 1999

University Police discovered a counterfeit student parking permit to be displayed on the window of a vehicle parked on the fourth floor of the new

West Drive-South Garage. The permit was confiscated. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs office.

A counterfeit student parking permit was discovered on a vehicle parked on the fourth floor of the new West Drive-South Garage. The parking permit was confiscated. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs office.

A residence at 8438 Geiger Road and owned by UM-St. Louis was burglarized between 8:45 a.m. and 6:10 p.m. Stolen from the residence were a Phillips 25-inch television, a 13-inch television, an Emerson VCR, VCR tapes, CDs, women's underwear, and \$400.00 in cash.

An arrest has been made in a burglary case, which was reported to University Police on Nov. 14, 1999. The investiga-

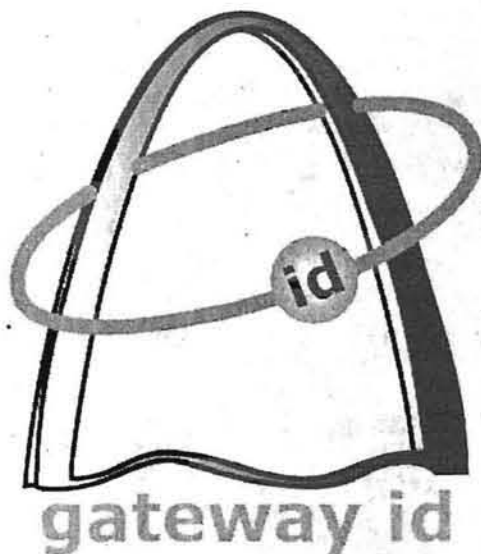
The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

Sure the millenium is coming...
 Good will fight evil and all that stuff but no matter what the final outcome is dialup will be a whole lot easier at UMSL.

Starting December 22, 1999 UM-St. Louis will be switching it's dialup system. Your e-mail address won't change and you don't need new software, you'll connect differently using your new Gateway ID.

For instructions check the web site www.umsl.edu/~dialup or pick up instructions at the library, ssb 103, computer store or the technology support center, 211 Lucas.

Here's to the future...



The Meadows is a community of friends. There's always plenty to do with programs for every type of person.

-Sharon Kelly,
 University Meadows resident

The Meadows is convenient, close to campus and I love the perimeter gate. My little brother said the gate was good because I'll be safe.

-Lee Ann Lojkovic,
 University Meadows resident

Real residents. Real life. Real fun.

516-7500

UNIVERSITY MEADOWS
 Student Community

Located on South campus behind Marillac Hall
 2901 University Meadows Drive
 St. Louis, Missouri 63121
umeadows@go.com

TUESDAY

Film discussion group takes on new cinema

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

If you love movies, chances are you love talking about them too. You know who you are. Going to a movie theater isn't just another way to spend your spare time. For you, watching a movie is like hearing a really juicy piece of gossip—you can't wait to pore over the details with someone else.

The organizers of the Tuesday Talkies, a film discussion group based at the Tivoli Theatre, understand this. They've created a way to do formally what some movie lovers have been doing informally for years—seeing a movie and meeting afterward to hash over its various aspects.

The idea for the Tuesday Talkies came about when Bill Shamleffer, an avid movie-goer and a regular patron at the Tivoli, began discussing with some of the theater's staff members the possibility of "getting some type of movie club going." With the help of Tivoli staffers Dale Sweet and John Thompson, Shamleffer's idea came to fruition last spring with the first meeting of the Tuesday Talkies.

As the name implies, the group meets on the second Tuesday of each month to watch one of the films running at the Tivoli. Attendees then gather after the movie at either Blueberry Hill or Riddle's (two of the Tivoli's neighbors in the University City Loop) to discuss what they've just seen.

Sweet said that attendance at the Tuesday Talkies varies, ranging from

see TALKIES, page 10

TALKIES



The Tivoli Theatre, located on Delmar, is home to the group Tuesday Talkies. Its members meet monthly to discuss films.

Rafael Macias / The Current

FATAL DRESSES

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Thoughts for Today

"The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives."

-Albert Schweitzer
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas For Our Time

"Is it progress if a cannibal uses a knife and fork?"

-Stanislaw J. Lee
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas For Our Time

"It's no exaggeration to say that the undecideds could go one way or another."

-George Bush
Credit: www.quoteland.com

"Be obscure clearly."

-E. B. White
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas For Our Time

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on."

-Samuel Goldwyn
Credit: www.quoteland.com

Partnership to open downtown ice skating rink after Christmas

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Winter means snow, freezing temperatures and ice. But winter weather, contrary to popular belief, isn't automatically a problem. The Downtown St. Louis Partnership is opening an outdoor skating rink in the city of St. Louis.

The "Downtown on Ice" rink will begin operations Dec. 26 and will be located in the Gateway Mall. The Mall encompasses the area between 9th and 10th Streets.

The rink, owned by Los Tres Papagayos, Inc. of Los Angeles, will

be transported into St. Louis a week before the skating will begin. Five semi-tractor trailers will move the rink in parts from California.

Included in all the set-up material is 580 pairs of skates for rentals. The crew expects to have the ice made in two days and to maintain it at 22 degrees for the duration of the rink's life.

Bleachers will also be placed so that spectators can watch their favorite skater. Parking will be available on Chestnut Street and Market Street as well as 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Streets.

"Downtown on Ice" covers 9,000 square feet and can accommodate 300

skaters at one time.

Admission costs \$3.50 per person with skate rentals available for \$2. Weekly lunch specials for downtown employees and students include both the skate rental and session fee for \$3 per person.

Jodi Jordan, the special events program manager at Downtown St. Louis, has worked there for two years.

Jordan said the partnership is bringing "Downtown on Ice" here to provide local families with a healthy and fun activity in the winter, when things slow down. The rink will also provide tourists with an outdoor experience that has a long history in movies and

popular culture.

Skating rinks have long been in downtown Chicago, New York and Baltimore, while Houston and San Diego have recently added rinks.

Downtown St. Louis Partnership released the announcement on Tuesday, and the news of the rink has spread quickly.

"The response has been extremely positive," Jordan said.

When Jordan called Home Depot to order some indoor/outdoor carpet, the sales person had already heard about "Downtown" through the media before the announcement.

The Partnership is also promoting

the rink by distributing bookmarks at local schools in both Missouri and Illinois.

If "Downtown" is successful, Jordan hopes to make it a yearly event.

"It is new now, but hopefully it will become a tradition. If the response is positive, yes, we will do it next year," Jordan said.

The rink will be in operation for 29 days. As its popularity grows, more promotions will be added, such as shows and broom-and-ball leagues.

"It not every day [someone] has a chance to skate with 10 buildings around them," Jordan said.

Can You Dig It?

Granteer looks for archaeology degree

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

When she was a teenager, Shirley Granteer got her first job. As the oldest of four children, t Granteer provided precious extra income for her large family. It also meant putting off going to college for a little while.

That was nearly fifty years ago. What began as "a little while" turned into decades, as Granteer went from helping to support her siblings to supporting a family of her own. Now, at age 65, she has set out to earn the bachelor's degree she has always wanted. Granteer is a sophomore at UM-St. Louis, majoring in archaeology with a minor in history. While some students may view their undergraduate years as a long, tiresome chore, Granteer would be hard-pressed to find somewhere else she



Granteer

would rather be.

Granteer decided to study archaeology, a subject far removed from her work experience. Prior to entering college, she worked for several different firms as a legal secretary and an office manager, finishing her career at the Edison Brothers in

1997. Despite having two children, three stepchildren and seven grandchildren to keep her busy, she found the lifestyle of a retiree to be too leisurely for her taste.

"Sheer boredom," Granteer said with a laugh. "I'd always been active. When my children were [younger], I was a Girl Scout leader, and I've always done a lot of sewing and things at home, but I needed the mental stimulation."

Rather than succumb to her boredom, Granteer saw retirement as an opportunity to deal with the unfinished business of earning her degree. Completing her education had never been far from her mind while she was working. She took enough college classes over the years to enter school as a first-semester sophomore. She started at UM-St. Louis last January, finally able to pursue the

field she had long found to be exciting: archaeology.

"I've always been an avid reader and [was interested in archaeology] long before things like Indiana Jones came around," Granteer said. "It's just fascinating. Those 'poor savages' did so many things that they were not given credit for."

Granteer's interest is apparent to Tim Baumann, a lecturer in archaeology. As one of Granteer's teachers, he has seen her tackle her studies with an unusual level of enthusiasm.

"Most people her age are stereotypically not that active or outgoing," Baumann said. "She's a very good student. She goes above and beyond what most students do in the classroom."

In addition to the two classes she takes, Granteer also works as an intern in the campus archaeology lab.

She works with prehistoric- and historic-era materials, helping to make the University's collections more accessible to students and archaeologists in the region. She also participated in a field school in Arrow Rock, Mo., last summer. Although the work at Arrow Rock involved long hours of digging through mud, Granteer said she "enjoyed every minute of it. It's a fun thing to do, and you don't have to be an archaeology major to enjoy it."

The fact that Granteer doesn't fall into the typical age demographic of a college student hasn't fazed her. As is her nature, Granteer sees only the positive side of her situation.

"I have quite a rapport with younger individuals. I think they have a lot to teach us, just as we probably

see GRANTEER, page 10

Road rules: Instructions for operating your vehicle



GET THIS!

AMY LOMBARDO

Guess what? This is my last semester at our grand school and, therefore, my last column. Now, now, dry those tears, boys and girls. I'm leaving you with a gift. I'd call it a Christmas present, but I'm not allowed to single out a specific holiday because I might offend someone. So, I'll just call it an end-of-the-year trinket. If it doesn't apply to you, please pass it on to a friend or loved one that may benefit from it. It's little something I like to call, "Amy's Tips For Avoiding Fatal Accidents."

Now, I realize that this may seem elementary to some, but my personal experiences have proven that there is

a large portion of the community that needs some schooling in this area.

My first tidbit of information concerns the big orange signs often spotted on the side of the road. Many of you may have noticed that these signs often coincide with construction. This is not just an eerie coincidence. Don't let the bright colors and natural beauty fool you; these structures are not just for decoration. I realize it can be confusing, but they are actually there to warn you about upcoming obstacles (and I don't mean in a few days, I mean in a few seconds). The more observant individual will also see that there are big,

black words on the signs that give specific instructions. For instance, it may read, "RIGHT LANE CLOSED." For the simpler people, there are usually giant arrows pointing in the left direction. This just means, "GO THAT WAY." In either case, you would move into the left lane as soon as it is clear to do so. I repeat, as soon as it is clear. Make sure to look for any vehicles already occupying the other lanes. If you see any type of automobile in your side mirror and it is rapidly getting bigger, let them pass before changing lanes. Remember, anything causing drivers doing 60+ mph to slam on

their brakes is bad.

Another tricky question comes up concerning the interior of the vehicle. You know that round thing used to steer, commonly called the "wheel"? Well, there's a small lever on the side which can be pushed up or down. (No, that's the windshield wiper. It's the other one). When moved, it activates a light that clicks in a rhythmic pattern. This is not a gadget for keeping time to the beats of the songs on the radio. It is a turn signal or "blinker," and it is used to alert other drivers when you are turning or changing lanes. You see, due to the Y2K bug, many people are

experiencing incorrect readings in their car's telepathy option, so we still need to communicate the old-fashioned way on the road.

Those are just a couple of helpful hints to prevent road rage and the like.

My way of showing how much I care, if you will. I suppose I have spread enough holiday cheer for one year. Please know that I will dearly miss our bi-weekly one-way conversations. Have a very Happy (fill-in choice of holiday or exercise your right not to celebrate here), and may every day be a little better than the last.

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Faculty-heavy senate strips students' power

The issue:

Last Tuesday, the UM-St. Louis University Senate approved a plan that would divide it into a University Assembly and a Faculty Senate. Students would still be represented in the University Assembly, but the Faculty Senate would have the real authority. On top of that, any chance of student representation on the steering committee (which affects students as well as faculty) was refused because it was deemed necessary for the faculty senate to deal with "important work."

We suggest:

Since the faculty makes up 75% of the current Campus Senate, this perfectly illustrates how the faculty are able to crush student representation when already there's too little of it to influence anything.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue.

The campus senate struck a blow against the cause of student representation Tuesday with the passage of a flawed campus governance proposal.

The plan, approved by a wide margin, will split the senate into two bodies, a Faculty Senate and a University Assembly. The plan graciously allows students to serve on the Assembly which appears to have few meetings, little power and no obvious reason for existing. The Faculty Senate seems meanwhile to retain much of the present senate's real authority.

But making this thinly-disguised power play even worse were the actions of the faculty majority, whose comments and votes made it painfully clear that student involvement in campus governance is not a priority at UM-St. Louis.

One of the most disappointing examples of the plan's problems was the failure of Amendment 3, which would have placed two students on the steering committee, a group whose actions affect both bodies. The proposed student membership was cut to one. But even this was too strong a student voice for some. One faculty member argued no student should sit on the committee because the plan's purpose was to strengthen faculty governance and even though the committee's actions would have ramifications for the Assembly, the "important work" would be dealt with by the faculty senate. Another asserted that a lone student repre-

sentative would be "disproportionate" to other members. The faculty-dominated senate agreed, rejecting the amendment and effectively decided that the ideal proportion of students on the committee would be zero.

But the senate's latest action seems only part of an unfortunate trend. Who can forget the senate's September meeting at which faculty, who outnumber their student colleagues by a margin of three-to-one, voted themselves parking privileges in student lots, while students were denied reciprocal rights in faculty lots.

Decisions like these only exemplify an apparent lack of recognition by many faculty that they are only one part of a campus community, a community composed not just of professors but also part-time instructors, the students they educate, the administrators who manage the institution and the staff members who make it run. Only by listening to all of these diverse voices can any community develop a consensus about its future and the actions best-suited to the interests of its citizens. Recent senate meetings seem to be teaching students a very different civics lesson - that democracy can be an effective tool for denying representation to an unwanted minority and granting special rights to oneself at the expense of others.

Let's hope that this is one lesson the future alumni of UM-St. Louis do not take with them into the real world.

A few suggestions for the holidays

I can't believe that Christmas time is here again. It seems like yesterday we were just starting school, strolling from class to class in shorts and T shirts in sunny, 90-degree weather.

Now the semester is coming to a close, finals have started, and this is the last issue of *The Current* this semester.

I guess realization that the season is upon us first came to me on Thanksgiving. After dinner, my aunt came to me and asked if I could tell her what I wanted for Christmas so she could finish her shopping that weekend.

That weekend! My response to her—bah humbug.

Christmas break for students is really not a break. Sure, we've got three weeks away from school; however, a closer look reveals a startling fact—students still have no time to unwind.

Here is how it works: school ends, finals begin. Once finals are over, then students have to hustle around for Christmas presents. By the time students finally recover from the Christmas holiday, New Year's rolls around. If students do New Year's right, then by the time they recover from that party, school starts again.

Add in self-supporting jobs, and break becomes that much shorter. So to my overworked fellow students, I offer 10 tips that will help you get through the holiday season.

1.) Do not drink egg nog while working with Christmas tree lights or electric house lights. My friend's dad made that mistake last year, and he still has a convulsive twitch.

2.) Christmas gift tip for the child who has everything: anything

Pokéman.

3.) Christmas gift tip for the adult who has everything: fruit cake.

4.) Respect your friends who may have different religious beliefs. For example, your Islamic friends may be celebrating Ramadan which means they will be fasting. So it would be rude to eat a Big Mac in front of them.

5.) When wanting to avoid a relative who has approached you wishing to start a conversation,

bring up a subject so disarming that your relative will have no choice but to shut up. For example, "I am appearing on 'The Jerry Springer Show' next month to discuss my bondage fetish."

6.) Football and beer are a good combination.

7.) To alleviate holiday shopping stress, find the person buying any 'N Sync, Backstreet Boys, or Britney Spears merchandise and beat the heck out of them.

8.) To get the most out of Santa's visit, forget milk and cookies. If he's a real man, then he would prefer a six pack and a burger instead.

9.) Using credit-card fraud to buy gifts is not acceptable.

10.) Cheap meal idea for poor students: order from Domino's Pizza on Mondays. They have a promotion that you get a dollar off for every touchdown the Rams score the previous Sunday. With the Rams playing teams that local high schools can beat, you can get a pizza for next to nothing.

But seriously, have a safe and happy holiday. Y2K will not end the world, and everything will be normal when we come back in January.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

LETTERS

Congratulations to Joe and news staff

I want to commend you and your staff on the excellent job of breaking the Darwin Butler story and the stories that followed. I am proud of you! How exciting! I am a former editor of *The Current*, and I can imagine the hard work and hours that must have been put in on those stories.

I do want to comment on the letter written by Carol Klaus in the October issue. The only one responsible for Darwin Butler's problems is himself. It is crazy to blame racism, UMSL, *The*

Current or anyone else. He alone made the decisions to commit those crimes, and he should pay for it. Trying to play the race card is a cop-out. Take a lesson. The only gift Mr. Butler has given you is some great press and a poor example of what student leadership should be.

To the staff of *The Current*: keep up the good work. As Joe's column stated, when I first came to UMSL I also couldn't wait to get out of there. I started getting involved working at the newspa-

per and eventually made editor. I also cherish the memories of working late nights at the paper and all the fun we had. As you will see, some of the friends you have made there will be close friends for life. These are your best years! Enjoy it while you can. When I graduated it had been so far one of the happiest days of my life. Carry on!

-Michelle McMurray
former editor

Editorial Board

Joe Harris
editor-in-chief

Ken Dunkin
managing editor

Stephanie Platt
photography director

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

How to Respond

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Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length, and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Meaning of the season lost

The holiday is upon us. With a strong economy, retail and online sales are up. The St. Louis Galleria, wanting to reap all the fruits of the country's prosperity, even tried to keep its tenants from advertising online sales, which may cut in on consumers walking into their doors. UM-St. Louis has decked the buildings with lights and holly. And children are preparing their lists for when they sit on Santa's lap. With many Americans getting caught up with the hustle and bustle of the season, the reason for the season is getting lost.

Whether you are a Christian or Muslim, the spirit of giving that the holiday season produces can be appreciated by all. Many religions teach it is good to give, be it tithing, donations, Zahat, or time; people of all cultures and religious backgrounds participate in holiday generosity.

Christmas season is also a time of remembering your spirit. As an African-American, I participate in the holiday tradition Kwanzaa. This celebration

abstracts all the religious rituals of the Christmas seasons and honors seven principles that should be practiced year round. Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith) are principles that are remembered and reaffirmed from December 26th to January 1st. African-Americans celebrating Kwanzaa do it together with family and friends.

This Christmas season is the dawn of a new millennium, and as a beneficiary of a prosperous year, Americans have the opportunity to give like we have never been able to do before. I implore you to remember those who are less fortunate than yourself; give time where there isn't money. It is said that

however you set off your new year will be a snap shot of how your year will look. So as we approach the end of the 20th century, let's set the standards for the next.



CHARMANE MALONE
guest commentator

Faculty insecurities result in lost student representation

That the student voice in University politics will be reduced by the newly approved governance proposal is a given. That said, it is important to look at the issue from more than just the student perspective. We students must not get bogged down in thinking that this new governance structure was created expressly to limit student representation. I've said it before, but it needs repeating: Any reduction of student representation (or anything else otherwise considered political power) is simply an occasion of the governance proposal, and certainly not at the root of the thing.

Now, let's look at what happened in the Senate on Tuesday, though. It was thought that perhaps some of the problems concerning the student voice were mere oversights that the ad hoc committee, what with no student

members (a separate problem itself), may have committed due to a lack of our perspective. No problem there; nothing a couple of well-placed amendments couldn't fix. So we thought. The faculty overwhelmingly rejected worthy attempts by the students to remedy the proposal's shortcomings, and with a 3-to-1 faculty-to-student ratio in the senate, any vote along party-lines will result in the faculty prevailing.

I have tried to reconcile my immediate response to Tuesday's senate session, which was that the faculty betrayed their insecurity about students' participation in campus politics. I really tried to find another logical reason for faculty to vote against Senator Josh Stegeman's amendments, but fear and insecurity seem to be the only things I can settle on.

Why isn't there a logical reason? Because the amendments made damn good sense. For instance, at least one student belongs on the steering committee (even the Bylaws and Rules committee, which has a faculty majority, agreed with that). The steering committee makes decisions that affect the University Assembly as a whole, not just the faculty, and when a clause like C.4.b.iv is included in its charge: "[It shall be the responsibility of the steering committee] to maintain avenues of communication with the faculty and student body", the argument could be made that the existence of the steering committee mandates at least one student voice. Professor Gail Ratcliff's argument that putting a student on the steering committee would violate certain lofty principals of the document dealing with the faculty

remaining in charge, is pretty ludicrous in light of the committee's charge, and considering that one student on a committee otherwise made up of faculty would pose zero threat to any faculty decisions.

The rejection of the other amendment, which would have moved the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction out of the Faculty Senate and into the University Assembly, is equally illogical. To say that students have no business voting on issues like course proposals, changes in degree requirements, the grading system or the University's calendar, which the Committee would regularly bring to the larger body, is tantamount to saying that students don't belong on the Assembly at all. These are among the very issues that students should be most concerned with, and regardless

of whether students are on the committee (which the faculty figure ought to appease us), the fact that students won't get to vote on the committee's issues is at the heart of the matter.

The newly approved governance proposal is not without merit. It is an excellent vehicle to streamline university governance and to clarify a lot of misconceptions about who is really in charge (it's the faculty, and they have no shame in asserting that, as we saw on Tuesday). It is flawed, however, particularly in areas of student representation, and as long as the faculty continues to refuse to grant even the smallest concessions to the deserving students, it will remain flawed. That is why the document is unacceptable to the students of UM-St. Louis.

People are too busy to enjoy the season

If 'tis the season to be jolly' then why did a guy try to run me over in the grocery store parking lot?

Christmas is supposed to be the time of year where people are nice to each other but it seems like every store that I go to seems to be more insane than the previous.

There are people pushing and shoving. I had an easier time driving the highways in New York than I did navigating the aisles with some of the people shopping. I can understand that some people feel like there is going to be a mad rush on certain items but there is no need to be a complete ass while shopping.

And driving has become downright dangerous. There are so many people out trying to get their shopping done making the roads insanely crowded. That's the first sign the holidays are here: when I get cut off by someone who has filled their car with too many boxes and can't see out of the windows.

Essentially Christmas has become a holiday for the kids. There is nothing like seeing the look on a kid's face when he gets a gift that he really wanted. My greatest feeling as a kid was running into my living room and seeing presents under the tree.

Christmas was the best day of the year.

But as I got older the mystique has worn off. If I want something now I just go out and buy it. So the whole thing about Christmas being about the gifts has been thrown out the window for me. The season for me is about spending time with my

family and resting, taking the time to see and talk to people I haven't seen in quite a while and spending time away from work and school. Resting and getting away from jobs is the most important.

A tradition my family has had for years is getting a cheese cakes and ham. I'll have to

admit I look forward to things like that more than anything.

The entire holiday has become too commercial. The displays and holiday sales seem to start earlier each year. The stores and advertisers can't seem to start the holiday early enough for their liking. It can't be a simple production such as Halloween or even Easter. Christmas is where the money is made.

Christmas is a time where people get crazy and blow all their cash, but I still try to look forward to this season. I do it because the holiday means family. I just wish everyone else would do the same.



KEN DUNKIN
managing editor



GUEST COMMENTATOR
D. MIKE BAUER

Tough stretch tests Ice Men

Nationally-ranked opponents will test team's toughness

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

UM-St. Louis started a three-game stretch of games against the upper-echelon teams of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, with games against No. 1 Illinois, No. 2 College of DuPage, and No. 3 Palmer. The series started off with a bang, with a decisive 6-3 victory over the Palmer Dragons, and a 3-3 tie with Illinois.

"This stretch can really help us in the national rankings," Head Coach Derek Schaub said. "Our team can show what they are made of, and it will be interesting to see how the guys respond. If we win these games, there is no reason why we can't be ranked in the top five."

The first game, against Palmer, was arguably the best game the Rivermen have played to date.

"We played great hockey all 60 minutes, and it showed," Schaub said. "The whole team played to potential, and showed that we can compete at the highest levels of collegiate hockey."

It didn't take long for the Rivermen to start the scoring. At 11:08 of the first period, Dave Hessell got his first of four points in the contest off of a slapshot from the left point that found the top right corner of the net. Josh Ulrich got the assist.

The Dragons countered with a rebound goal about two minutes later, but UM-St. Louis fired right back, with Keith Gaines scoring off of a feed from Hessell, and that would wrap up the scoring in the first period.

Four minutes into the second peri-

od, Riverman Mike Getz capitalized on the first power play of the game off of a solid pass from Rocky Alberti.

Palmer countered, this time on a cross pass that beat goalkeeper Nathan Frenkenberger high.

Forty seconds later, the Rivermen came back with a slapshot from the hot stick of Ryan Craig, who since coming back from a broken arm has racked up 10 points in six games.

During the second intermission, Schaub said he was very pleased with his team's play.

"We only have 20 minutes left," Schaub said to the team during the break. "Just keep up the intensity, and finish strong."

Apparently, the defense was not in the locker room when Schaub said this, as Frankenberger would face 26 shots in the third period. He turned away 25 of them to finish the game with 44 saves. The Rivermen would add a pair of goals to wrap the contest up with 6-3 win.

The second game featured the Rivermen in their third contest with the top team in the ACHA. This time, they would put up a much bigger fight than in their previous games.

"We had a sloppy second period, which cost us two goals, but played well the rest of the contest," Frankenberger said. "I think we all know that we are highly capable of competing at a higher level, and it showed over the weekend."

Illinois would score the only goal in the first period, lighting the lamp on a bounce that squeaked under Frankenberger.

"Their first goal was odd,"



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Riverman Keith Gaines (17) carries the puck across center ice in an earlier game against Mizzou.

Frankenberger said. "The puck bounced and went straight up in the air, and someone just tipped it into the net."

The Rivermen would go down 3-0 in the second, but rally with goals

from Craig, Ben Gilbertson, and assistant captain John Winkler to end the period at 3-3.

Frankenberger kept the Rivermen alive, stopping 30 of 33 shots in the contest, raising his save percentage to

95 percent, and raising his goals-against-average to 1.69.

But UM-St. Louis could not muster a goal, and the contest ended in a hard fought draw.

Rivermen blow out Bellarmine

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team is making a name for itself in the Great Lakes Valley Conference as they defeated rival Bellarmine in an offensive display, 73-58.

The Rivermen started the game slowly with Bellarmine controlling the offense, shooting 43 percent and holding UM-St. Louis to 32 percent from the floor. UM-St. Louis trailed Bellarmine 27-33 at the half.

Rivermen Head Coach Mark Bernsen attributed the bad start to the team's inability to get past the second-half mistakes against GLVC leader Kentucky Wesleyan.

"We played two games in less than 48 hours," Bernsen said. "A lot of our first-half woes against Bellarmine were carry-overs from the second-half woes from our game against Kentucky Wesleyan."

The second half saw the Rivermen getting back into their game as they had their best offensive run of the season, shooting 54 percent, and connecting on a season-high 31 field goals.

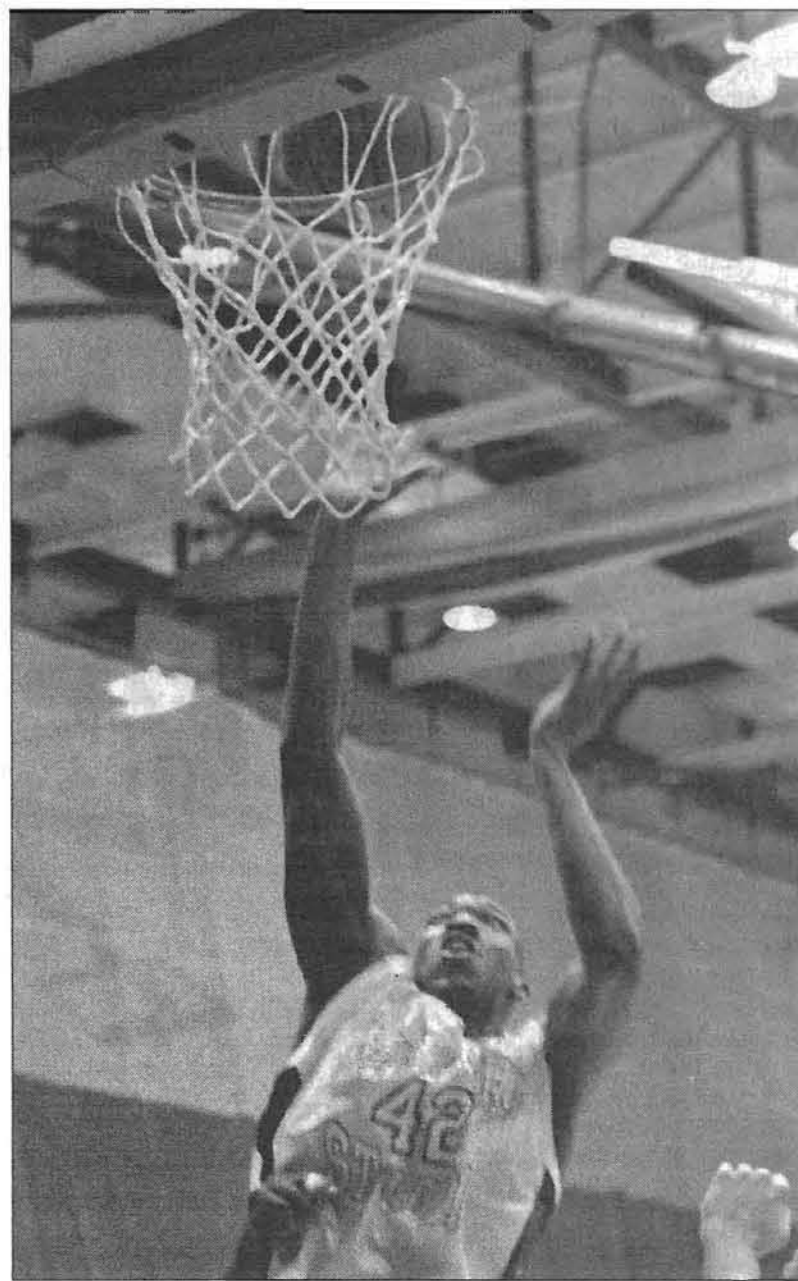
"We shot the ball better," Bernsen said. "We executed our offense better, and we guarded better."

UM-St. Louis smothered Bellarmine's offense, holding them to 29 percent shooting and nine percent from three-point range.

The Rivermen also out-rebounded Bellarmine as UM-St. Louis' Terence Herbert registered his second double-double of the season with 14 points and a game high 21 rebounds against the Knights.

"Terence, after not playing and sitting out a lot due to a foot injury last year, gets better every game," Bernsen said. "He just played really well."

Other Rivermen players with double figures included Jim Schelich, who led both teams with 17 points, along with Brian Markus and Kechan Johnson who posted 11 points each.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Terrance Herbert skies for the tip against Harris-Stowe in the home opener. Hebert recorded his second double-double of the season in the win against Bellarmine.

The win now leaves UM-St. Louis with an impressive 3-1 start on the season.

They are 1-1 in GLVC play.

GLVC B-BALL STANDINGS

Men		Women	
Team	GLVC Record	Team	GLVC Record
1) Kentucky Wesleyan	2-0	1) Northern Kentucky	3-0
2) Southern Indiana	2-0	2) Kentucky Wesleyan	2-0
3) Quincy	2-1	3) SIU-Edwardsville	1-1
4) IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	2-1	4) Bellarmine	1-1
5) Northern Kentucky	2-1	5) Southern Indiana	1-1
6) SIU-Edwardsville	1-1	6) IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	1-1
7) Wisconsin-Parkside	1-1	7) UM-St. Louis	1-1
8) Lewis	1-1	8) Lewis	1-1
9) UM-St. Louis	1-1	9) St. Joseph's	1-1
10) Indianapolis	1-1	10) Indianapolis	1-2
11) Bellarmine	1-2	11) Quincy	0-2
12) St. Joseph's	0-3	12) Wisconsin-Parkside	0-2

First time for everything . . . Riverwomen beat Bellarmine

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen rebounded from a heartbreaking loss against Kentucky-Wesleyan to soundly defeat Bellarmine 66-57.

In the Bellarmine matchup, Tawanda Daniel led the Riverwomen with 16 points while Amanda Wentzel and Sara Mauck added 14 and 11 points respectively.

The victory against Bellarmine was the first for UM-St. Louis since the rivalry began in 1991. Bellarmine, prior to the game, was 8-0 against the Riverwomen.

On their way to a good start on the season with a 3-2 record, the Riverwomen have been impressive in their first two Great Lakes Valley Conference matches.

UM-St. Louis boasts a .433 shooting percentage from beyond 19 feet,

which is second best in the GLVC. The Riverwomen also have Daniel, the second leading scorer in the league, averaging 21.6 ppg. Daniel scored a career high 33 points in the loss to Kentucky Wesleyan.

The Riverwomen are also averaging 77 points per game while shooting 45 percent from the field. UM-St. Louis is also outscoring their opponents in the first half 188-161.

The Riverwomen were recognized for their play by receiving 13 votes in the past week's USA Today/WBCA Top 25 poll.

The Riverwomen played host to Quincy over the weekend in a conference match. Previously Quincy has struggled, posting a record of 1-4 overall. Results were unavailable at press time. UM-St. Louis holds an 11-8 advantage in the overall series dating back to 1974.

Rams are still unproven despite playoff caliber record



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Yeah, the St. Louis Rams have finally made it to the postseason. The Rams have not beaten a winning team all season, and now they are primed and ready to make a run at clinching homefield advantage until the Super Bowl.

Don't get me wrong, but there is just something about the Rams that is not right. They lost their only two games of the season to the Tennessee Titans and the Detroit Lions.

Those two teams command a lot of respect from the league, and costly offside penalties (Fred Miller) and mental mistakes prevented the Rams from winning those games

also. The NFC West is by far the weakest division in the National Football League. The only team that is close to the Rams is the Carolina Panthers who do not even have a .500 record.

The San Francisco 49ers have been the biggest bust in a long time. The management problems they have along with an inconsistent quarterback and a shaky secondary have destroyed the 49ers' dynasty.

The New Orleans Saints, led by Mike Ditka, have traded away the farm for Ricky Williams who has been hampered by nagging injuries all season long.

The Atlanta Falcons have been destroyed by the injuries to Chris Chandler and Jamal Anderson. They are not what they were last season when they made it to the Super Bowl.

What will happen to the Rams when they go against the wide receivers from the Minnesota Vikings? Will their secondary finally crumble like it has shown signs of doing earlier in the season?

Can Isaac Bruce, Tory Holt and Az-Zahir Hakim handle the great secondary of Jacksonville?

All of these questions need to be answered, but have not yet because of the lack of competition the Rams

have played. You can't tell me with statistics that the Rams can compete with the likes of Jacksonville and even Dallas yet because they have not played the high caliber teams.

They will get a chance to prove themselves worthy in the playoffs, but they better not lose.

Anyway, I do have one thing about the Rams though that I do like: Kurt Warner. He has come from nowhere to emerge as one of the leading passers in the NFL.

The time Warner spent in the Arena Football League has helped him make quick decisions while getting rushed this season.

Warner has been the heart and

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

vs Washington U.
7:30 p.m., Sat. Dec. 18

vs Northwood
7:30 p.m., Tue. Dec. 21

Women's Basketball

vs Washington U.
5:30 p.m., Sat. Dec. 18

vs Ferris State
5:30 p.m., Tues. Dec. 21

Hockey

vs Dupage
10:15 p.m., Fri. Jan. 7

at SIU-Edwardsville
tba, Sun. Jan. 9

Next Issue In Sports

Hockey
Men's/Women's
Basketball
Kinworthy's column

soul of the Rams and has handled the pressure with ease. He even was quoted as saying any of the money he may make in addition to what he makes now next season will all be donated to charity. He represents what any professional athlete should: a gentleman.

Dick Vermeil, good luck when you lead your team into the playoffs not knowing if they can beat a winning team or not. But if the Rams do get homefield advantage, just make sure that they win at least one game. Otherwise the season will be a huge disappointment.

OTHER NEWS

Senate votes to split itself

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

Committee says change will strengthen role of faculty, but students want more involvement

The University Senate voted on Tuesday to change the campus governance structure, dividing the roles of the existing Senate between a Faculty Senate and a University Assembly.

Mark Burkholder, chairperson of the committee which generated the proposal, had stated earlier that the purpose of the change was to streamline the campus governance process and strengthen the role of the faculty in the spirit of the Collected Rules which govern the campus. Burkholder said the existing governance system was needlessly complicated and diluted faculty representation by spreading it between the Senate and the Faculty Council.

Although the proportion of student representation is actually slightly increased in the Assembly, some student members of the Senate voiced concerns. Controversy centered around two amendments proposed by student senator Josh Stegeman, both of which the faculty voted down.

One of the amendments sought to establish student membership on the Steering Committee of the Senate, which also serves as steering committee for the Assembly. The Steering Committee calls meetings, sets the agenda, supervises elections, meets with the Chancellor and coordinates the activities of the two bodies. Stegeman's amendment would have placed two student seats on that committee. The governance proposal as written does not provide for any student seats on the Steering Committee.

Tim McBride, a faculty senator who served on the committee which generated the governance revision, said the amendment ran counter to the governance committee's intentions.

"One of the rationales [behind the revision] is [that] the current Executive Committee is quite large, and we purposely wanted to keep it small to make it more workable, and I think adding a student would add them disproportionate to the other representatives," McBride said.

McBride said the amendment was not vital because the governance revision allowed persons who are not on the Steering Committee to meet with it to discuss agenda items.

Faculty senator Gail Ratcliff also spoke against the amendment, and said that because it would deal with academic matters, "the Faculty Senate is going to be dealing with the most

important work..."

Another amendment proposed by Stegeman sought to move the Curriculum and Instruction Committee from the Senate to the Assembly. This amendment was also defeated.

Burkholder pointed out that the governance proposal did allow for a student voice on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee in the form of two student members.

D. Mike Bauer, a student senator, commented on the amendments' defeat.

"I can't see any other reason for it than a bit of insecurity about maybe losing some of their [the faculty's] power..." Bauer said. "I don't think that either one of the amendments represented any kind of threat to faculty governance. It's just an attempt to keep students from asserting any kind of representational power in University governance."

Bauer said he did think the amendments' defeat would have a great impact on students.

"I think it's probably not going to affect us greatly," Bauer said.

Jeanne Zarucchi, chairperson of the University Senate, said the governance process provided channels for student opinion, and pointed out the dangers of relying solely on representatives.

"I don't think that participation by students should be limited to having a representative on a particular committee," Zarucchi said. "That is an uncertain business because any given student representative may have to be absent and may have to miss meetings. I think every student on this campus is welcome to voice an opinion..." Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi said that anyone wishing to become involved in the governance process had the opportunity to read the Senate's agenda, request information from the Senate Office, and attend Senate meetings. She said students have not exercised these rights very much in the past, but that there was no reason they could not begin to do so now.

According to the bylaws, the proposal must now be voted on by the full-time, regular faculty. If passed, it would then go before the Board of Curators.

"I don't think that either one of the amendments represented any kind of threat to faculty governance. It's just an attempt to keep students from asserting any kind of representational power in University governance."

- D. Mike Bauer
Student Senator

Oh, Christmas Tree . . .



Ken Dunkin/ The Current
The Giving Tree in the Uiversity Center has paper gloves which are to be taken and and real gloves to be returned. The gloves are for needy children in the area.

Forgetting to take test can cost students chance to register for their classes

BY KEN DUNKIN
senior editor

What you don't know may keep you from being able to register for classes.

It has been a standing policy at UM-St. Louis that students must take an academic test to give an estimate of knowledge. The Academic Profile II must be taken by undergraduate students before they reach 23 credit hours. Students who haven't taken the test and have 23 credit hours, will have holds put on their accounts keeping them from registering. Students with 90 or more credit hours must take the same test again.

"We want to be able to compare the two scores and get an idea of knowledge that was added through education at UM-St. Louis," Simon said. "We can't claim that they acquired all the knowledge while at the University but where they began with the test

score and where they finished."

The 40-minute test is given over 100 times during a school year. There is no registration fee for the test. Students can attend any time but they are asked to arrive five minutes early with proper identification.

"This test is mandated by legislature," Simon said. "We aren't trying to be mean by making students take this test. We realize students are paying a lot of money to attend, and we want to protect their investment by making sure their time spent here was money well spent."

During a student's last semester at UM-St. Louis he or she is required to take a major field test. Students must take a take to show how well they have mastered in their major. The School of Education uses the C-Base which is given to students wishing to apply for admissions to the school. It is given to students when they get in the 45-65 credit hours range.

New computing tools are making life easier for UM-St. Louis researchers

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff editor

Researchers at the University of Missouri—St. Louis are finding it much easier to solve complex problems thanks to some innovative new tools developed by Campus Computing.

One of those tools is a special Beowulf-class cluster computer called Valhalla. Beowulf clusters are made of many ordinary computers linked together in a network. The resources of the computers are combined using special software, and the cluster acts as one powerful machine, able to perform many calculations at the same time.

"Say you have two calculations that could be done at the same time because one is not dependent on the results from another," explained Gary Stiehr, a senior who works in Campus Computing as a department assistant. "On one computer with one processor, you have to do one calculation and then the next, so it takes [twice as long]. If you have two computers [connected in a cluster], you can start one [calculation] on one processor and one on another, and they will both finish in the time it takes one to finish."

With as many as 14 computers connected in this way, Valhalla is often able to reach speeds of about 6,300 MHz when applications take advantage of its parallel processors, Stiehr said. By comparison, current fast consumer desktop computers run at 600 MHz.

The ability to do many calculations at once makes Valhalla the perfect tool for researchers doing complex mathematical work.

"Calculations that took 40 to 50 hours on a workstation in my laboratory now take only 4 to 5 hours on the

cluster," wrote Bill Welsh, a chemistry professor, in a letter about his use of Valhalla to design pharmaceuticals and other chemicals. "This has led to a tremendous acceleration of our drug design and discovery efforts on this project."

Because of Valhalla, researchers like James Campbell, a management information systems professor, are able to tackle harder problems and create more realistic models than before.

"A lot of the work that's been done in the area I'm working on [transportation networks] has been with small data sets of five, 10, 15, 20, or 25 cities," Campbell said. "You can say certain things with 10 cities, but you don't know how general the conclusions you can draw will be. If you can look at 200 cities instead of 10, it's going to be a lot better."

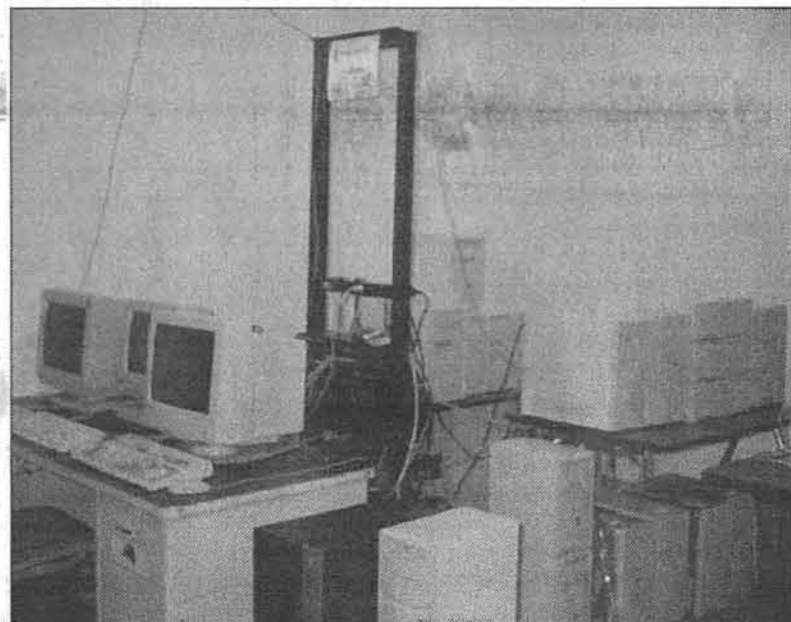
UM-St. Louis has given researchers another powerful tool by becoming a member of the "Internet-2," a dedicated educational network with much more bandwidth than the existing internet.

The original internet began as a military and then a university research network. Now it is dominated by commercial interests, Siegel said, and most research projects won't work in that environment.

"The Internet-2 basically provides a very, very high-speed connection to the internet, but it will be limited to researchers," Siegel said.

Researchers can solve problems and create complex models on Valhalla, but using the Internet 2, they will be able to share their discoveries in real time with colleagues around the world.

"Normally a researcher has to be on-site if you're doing testing in real time and looking at images through a



Ken Dunkin/ The Current
A paper sign hanging on a hardware rack welcomes visitors to 'Valhalla.' Valhalla is the name of UM-St. Louis' new Beowulf-class cluster computer.

telescope, for example," said Jerrold Siegel, coordinator of Campus Computing. "You have to be there because you need instantaneous feedback. Now you'll be able to run the machine as if it was in the next room. [Internet 2] removes the constraint of locale."

A researcher like Welsh can manipulate a three-dimensional object, such as a molecule, and a colleague across the country can see the model move in real-time, Siegel explained. There is so much bandwidth, the two could even have a conversation as they both work on the model.

One point that has Campus Computing officials smiling is the price tag of the new tools. UM—St. Louis' connection to Internet-2 actually cost nothing, Siegel said, and Valhalla was relatively inexpensive to

build.

"This is really a win-win situation," Campbell said. Valhalla "gives us something we couldn't afford otherwise. For a state university, you can't go out and buy a \$50 million supercomputer. It seems like we're getting a tremendous resource at a tremendous price."

The win-win situation appears to have a bright future, as well. Stiehr and Siegel both have big ideas on different applications for future Beowulf clusters and the Internet-2.

"You know, the [student computing] labs are closed at night," Siegel said. "[What if] at night the lab becomes a supercomputer, and during the day it becomes a lab?"

"Before, that wasn't a concept you really thought about, because they

see RESEARCH TOOLS, page 8



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Suspect charged in U. Meadows stabbing case

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

A man accused of stabbing a UM-St. Louis student at the University Meadows on Nov. 20 has been released on bail. Shane Heth has been charged with second-degree assault and armed criminal action.

James Smalley, assistant director of Institutional Safety, said the University of Missouri-St. Louis police department originally applied for a warrant on more severe charges.

"We applied for warrants against the guy displaying the knife. Originally it was first-degree assault and armed criminal action," Smalley said. "The prosecuting attorney's office changed it to second-degree assault."

Smalley said the UM-St. Louis police department's investigation of the incident is over.

Smalley said they have interviewed all of the witnesses who were at the scene and have recorded their statements. He said the next step is setting a court date.

The victim said the incident started as a feud between residents of two rooms. He said he was asked to come up to one of the rooms to make sure nothing happened.

The victim said he thought the residents had worked out their differences, until someone came into the room and punched one of the residents.

The victim said the person who had punched the Meadows resident then ran out of the room. Heth, a friend of the person who was punched, then allegedly ran after the individual, the victim said.

The victim said he and another person tried to stop Heth at the door and didn't know Heth had a knife until he was stabbed in the arm.

The victim was stabbed in the arm. He spent the night in the hospital and received seven compression stitches and numerous internal stitches. He is expected to make a full recovery.

Heth is not a UM-St. Louis student or a resident of the Meadows. The police report stated that Heth suffered a cut leg in the incident.

College students and alcohol Administration considers making U. Meadows dry

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

A meeting was held Dec. 8 at the University Meadows clubhouse for University of Missouri-St. Louis administrators and Meadows residents to discuss ways to reduce alcohol-related incidents there. One solution may be making the Meadows a dry campus.

G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor of Student Affairs; Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor of Student Affairs; Robert Roeseler, director of the UM-St. Louis police department; and Bob Kennedy, director of University Meadows, met with a group of approximately 20 Meadows residents. The administrators said they wanted student input on solutions for the problem.

Residents voiced displeasure about the inconsistency of the alcohol policy enforcement. Residents suggested increasing the number of house meetings and creating a Meadows resident judicial board to hear appeals on alcohol-related punishments.

Grace said all of the suggestions made by the Meadows residents could be implemented.

"The house meetings and the judicial kind of board . . . I think there were some pretty constructive suggestions that were made by the students that probably are going to go much further than just discipline."

If an alternative solution is not found, Grace said another option is to make the Meadows a dry campus.

"The dry campus would be basically the same policy that we have at Seton Hall and the Honors College and so forth that there will not be any alcohol allowed on the property period," Grace said.

Grace said that policy, though the most extreme, would provide consistency in alcohol-related enforcement.

Shawn Wittenberg, former Meadows community assistant and current resident, said he thinks many residents would feel that part of their experience would be taken away if the Meadows were to go dry.

"I think a lot of the reason students come to live at the Meadows is because of the experience of living on

your own while going to school," Wittenberg said. "I think making it a dry campus would take it away somewhat."

Several recent incidents involving alcohol have brought attention to the problem. On Nov. 20, a Meadows resident was stabbed during a conflict. The suspect allegedly was drinking alcohol. More recently, a resident fell off of a third-story balcony while drinking at a party. The resident suffered only minor injuries.

Bocci said to the group that since school started, 30 to 35 cases involving alcohol at the Meadows have been brought to her attention.

"These are severe cases," Bocci said. "These were arrests have been made or violence was involved . . . I'm regretting coming in on Monday because it's like, what happened at the Meadows this weekend?"

Roeseler said he is concerned about the safety of everybody associated with the Meadows.

"I'm concerned not only for the safety of (the residents), but for the safety of the officers as well," Roeseler said. "For example, one of

my officers had a bottle thrown at them (several weeks ago)."

Wittenberg said he would like to see the Meadows management take a more active role.

"I'd like to see the Meadows upper management-wise become more involved in interaction with the residents instead of just punishment," Wittenberg said.

Grace said there is no timetable for any changes at the Meadows. He said he would like to hold more meetings with the residents before an official plan of action is adopted.

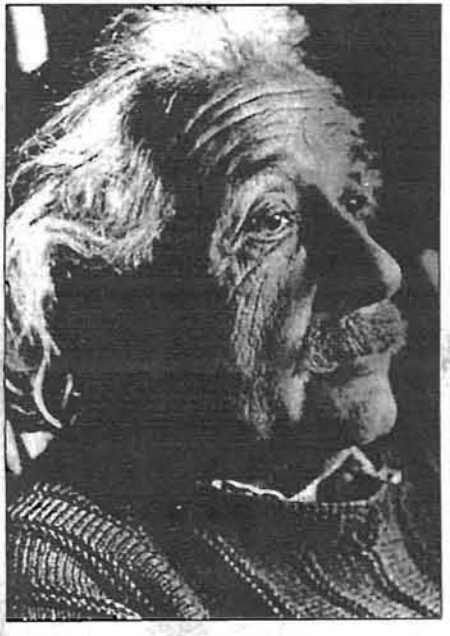
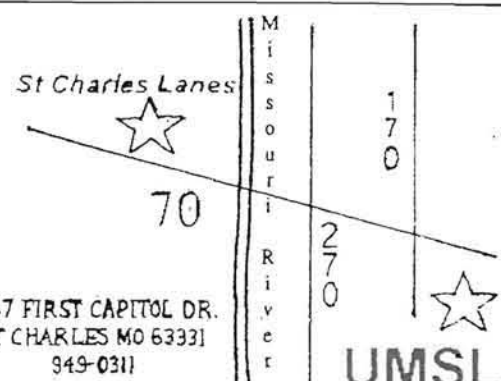
Grace said if Meadows becomes a dry campus, it would not be until next school year.

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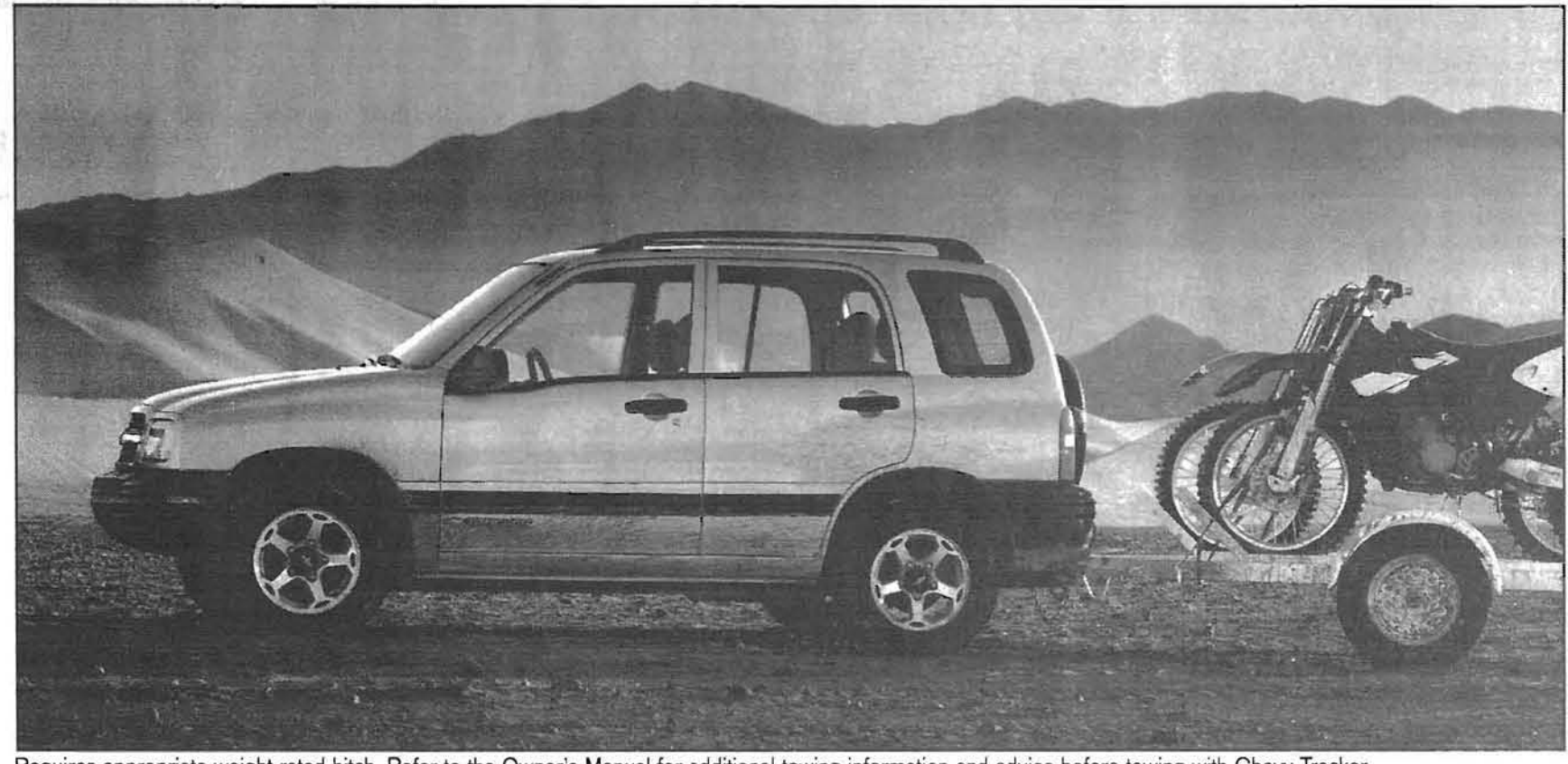
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Outlet stores are another way to save holiday bucks

BY SANDY VAN
The Rebel Yell

(U-WIRE) LAS VEGAS — There are a lot of items out there that outlet stores sell below retail because they do not meet the manufacturer's standards.

These items are labeled as irregular, damaged or factory second and make up less than 15 percent of the outlet's merchandise. The defect may be unnoticeable or obvious.

Sometimes there isn't even a defect: the manufacturer has simply labeled the merchandise as defective to maintain good relations with department stores that also carry the company's line. That way outlets and department stores aren't direct competitors.

Are irregulars worth buying? That depends on what defects you are willing to accept. Important things to remember are to look very carefully and when in doubt, ask questions.

Visit www.Outletbound.com before you shop and request a VIP Voucher. It is redeemable for coupons and special offers worth hundreds of dollars that are good at many participating outlet stores. The site also lets you search outlets by location, stores, brands or product category.

Sometimes you can ask a store manager for a coupon book. These books are given to bus tour visitors, usually not to individuals. Some stores might give you one out of generosity. You might also get these coupon books from the customer service desk.

Ask the stores for early mark-downs. Stores might let you buy an item that is going to go on sale in two weeks for the sale price. Sign up for mailing lists. You will receive advance notice of sales as well as possible discounts. If you are going to buy a lot of things at once, ask for a volume discount.

Look out for items that may have never been sold in retail stores. Many popular stores create their own lower priced line with the same brand name and style and sell them through the outlet stores. They may lack quality work or have something that the original might not have, such as plastic buttons instead of wooden buttons.

Most of the items made for the outlets have "factory store" stamped on the tag. Items from the designer's

retail stores will have tags that are cut in half or are marked with ink. When in doubt, ask a salesperson.

Make sure to test the fabric for quality. Take a handful of fabric and squeeze hard, then release. Any item except linen should keep its shape and wrinkle very little. The items usually worth buying are those marked irregulars. Irregulars have very little noticeable flaws. Clothing marked seconds is not worth buying because it usually has very big flaws. Also, try to skip clothes that are 100 percent silk, because they rarely hold their shape or color for very long.

Ask the store about its refund and exchange policies. There may be different policies for the holidays. Before you buy, find out if the item can be returned only through the out-

let stores, their full priced retail stores or through the mail. To defend yourself, save the tags. It may say, "all sales are final," but if you want to return it, look for a defect. If the garment was not marked imperfect in the first place, you may get a refund. If you find an item you like better that costs more, you might ask the manager to use your "all sales are final" garment toward the purchase price.

Don't always assume that outlet stores have the lowest prices. Some outlet stores mix full price items with discounted items. So if a retail store is having a sale, it may be cheaper to buy from the retail store than the outlet store. Do your homework at the retail stores and then expect to pay at least 25 percent less at the outlet store. Also, disregard the suggested

retail price because these are often exaggerated to make items look really cheap.

Here's a handy list for checking items:

Bath towels: Are the hems even? Are the stitches near the ends tight?

Belts: Full-grain leather is twice as thick as split grain leather, which wears out quickly.

Dress Shirts: Turn the shirts inside out to see if the lining at the collar and armholes are sewn well. Try and buy items that are 100 percent two-ply cotton because they stand up better than polyester blends in repeated washings.

T-shirts: There should be strong stitching around the neck, shoulder seams and armholes.

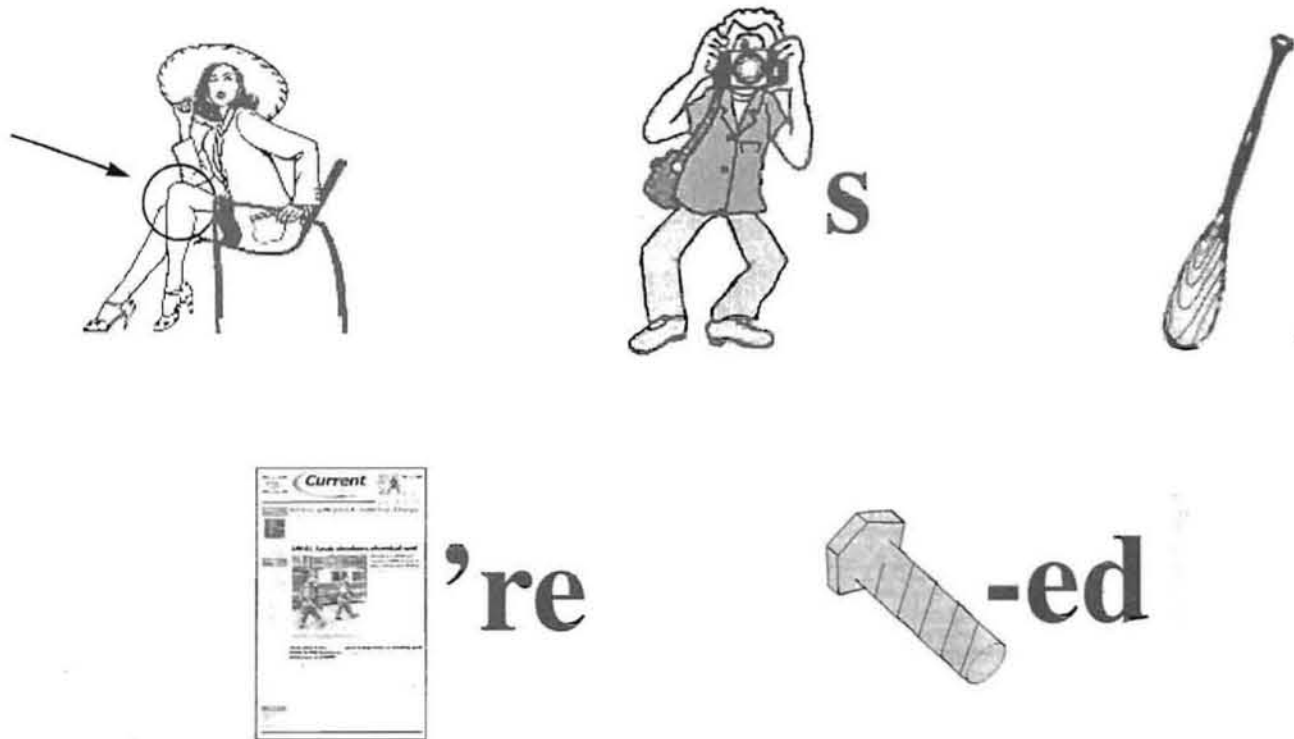
RESEARCH TOOLS, from page 6

were separate computers," Stiehr said. "Now that we are clustering different computers, anywhere you have a bunch of separate machines, they can be strung together."

Internet-2 access will be available to UM—St. Louis researchers very soon, Siegel said, while Valhalla is operational right now. Siegel said he wasn't sure how heavy the demand for

the new tools might become.

"Campbell is a good example of somebody who is going to try problems, techniques and solutions that he wouldn't have without [these resources]," Siegel said. "So the question is, how many other people like that are there out there? This is really just the tip of the iceberg, I believe."



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THE NERD TABLE BY: MARTY JOHNSON



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Many activities available to welcome new year

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Everyone is worried about Y2K. Before all the panic attacks begin and all the banks and automobiles cannot operate, everyone should kick it off with a memorable time on New Year's Eve. The final calendar day to be marked 19— is quickly approaching, and it is time to decide where to be at the long-awaited stroke of midnight.

though, to check travel times as many airplanes have travel restrictions.

Katherine Romine, a UM-St. Louis senior majoring in communication, has two possible options this New Year's.

"I think I might be going to Chicago," Romine said.

She explained that her friend there has a house overlooking Lake Michigan. If not Chicago, Romine said she would stay in town and go to Souldard to check out the scene.

Other cities near St. Louis that are within driving distance include Kansas

City, Memphis, and New Orleans.

Local concerts that include excellent performers are Johnnie Johnson at Blueberry Hill and Mesh and Stir at Stage Left. Latin lovers can find the flair with Javier Mendoza at the Firehouse. There will even be Elvis sightings at the Casino Queen's Club Sevens, when "The King" celebrates the holiday with The Elvis Tribute.

Theater buffs can enjoy performances of "Into the Woods" at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. The Bissell Mansion Restaurant and Dinner

Theater and the Lemp Mansion offer mystery dinner theaters.

Other possibilities for the over-21 crowd include bar hopping on a visit to the Landing, Souldard, or the Central West End. All these areas have many bars, ale houses, and dance clubs in close proximity to each other, so there is less of need to travel great distances. For those who are opting for the home advantage, the house offers methods to millennium madness.

Throwing a party honors the classic way to ring in the new year. The small

get-together complete with favors, food, and beverages that includes family and friends can make a great alternative without leaving the comfort and convenience of your home. Movies, board games, and baking could provide activities that include all members of the party. For the romantics out there, a candlelight dinner with floating water-roses can create a very elegant and romantic setting. If someone does not want to attempt a culinary concoction, many local establishments offer New Year's packages with both

food and drink. Since many college students do have to work, tribute has to be paid to them. Mike Funaidi, a UM-St. Louis junior majoring in mass communications, is one of those working students.

"Right now it looks like I'll be working until 10 p.m., so if I'm lucky, one of the guys there will have a party," Funaidi said.

So for everyone, whatever you do this millennium celebration, have a festive and safe time.

GRANTEER, from page 3

have a lot to teach them, if they're willing to listen," Granteer said. "It's extremely stimulating, both intellectually and physically, the camaraderie and the energy that's generated by a group of people with a goal in mind."

Baumann believes Granteer's attitude extends beyond her classmates to everyone who surrounds her.

"She has a rapport with people, period," Baumann said. "She gets along with everybody. I've never heard anybody ever say anything bad about Shirley."

Granteer is looking forward to a second internship next semester at the Missouri Historical Society, where she will likely focus on North American collections. She hasn't made any definite post-graduation plans, but she's leaning toward getting a master's

“
She gets along with everybody. I've never heard anybody ever say anything bad about Shirley.”
- Tim Baumann
Archaeology lecturer

degree in museum studies.
She hasn't ruled out the possibility of beginning an entirely new career. Whatever she decides, she has just one condition.
"I will not give up digging," Granteer said. "It's great fun."

TALKIES, from page 3

as few as 25 people to as many as 50. Some are Tivoli regulars, while others patronize the theater less frequently. Although discussions can cover a wide variety of topics, Sweet said the direction conversations take is largely influenced by the personalities of the attendees.

"Someone with a technical background, who's worked in, say, stage production, will always mention costumes and lighting," Sweet said, "while someone who's worked in writing or just reads a lot will always notice phrases in the characters' dialogue."

Because the Tivoli specializes in specialty, art and foreign films, the Tuesday Talkies also provides a way for filmgoers to become better acquainted with movies outside the cinematic mainstream.

"It's a nice way to support inde-

pendent films, as opposed to the heavily marketed Hollywood movie, or to support a director or writer who's really trying to put a point across rather than something that just sells well," Shamleffer said.

The Tuesday Talkies are also an excellent way for movie lovers to see films in a setting other than the run-of-the-mill multiplex.

The 75-year-old theater underwent an extensive renovation in 1994 to closely restore it to the way it appeared when it first opened.

The ornate ceilings and proscenium arches in the building have a nostalgic feel that complement the memorabilia and classic movie posters that line the walls in the lobby.

The next meeting of the Tuesday Talkies will be Tuesday, Dec. 14;



Rafael Macias / The Current

The main lobby of the Tivoli Theatre

organizers have tentatively decided to discuss the 7:20 p.m. showing of "Being John Malkovich."

Those wishing to attend are asked to call the theater at (314)

862-1100. There is no charge to attend the meeting although attendees will pay regular admission prices to see the film.

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