

The season to be jolly: Author Frank McCourt continues the autobiographical story he began in "Angela's Ashes" in the new book "Tis."

See pages 6-7

What's Inside



Quilt of Life: As part of AIDS Awareness Week, a quilt made in memory of victims of the disease, was displayed at UM-St. Louis.

See page 3

U-Wire News

Students could get sick from other Y2K bugs

BY PETE MORTENSEN
Daily Northwestern

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, ILL. — The millennium might bring a plague of new computer viruses, and students aren't ready for them, Northwestern University administrators said. With the FBI warning that many viruses will be set to "explode" at the turn of the century, NU students need to prepare their computers for the worst, said Roger Safian, information security coordinator for the Northwestern Network Security Group.

Computers in the business world and even NU's academic departments are updated regularly to check for new viruses, Safian said, and students are falling behind.

"They need to get in the habit of updating," he said. "They need to treat it like a car. With a car, you need to fill it with gas, check air pressure in the tires and take it in for tune-ups. A lot of people just let their computers sit."

NU Information Technology posts weekly updates to antiviral programs such as McAfee First Aid for the PC and Virex for the Macintosh, Safian said.

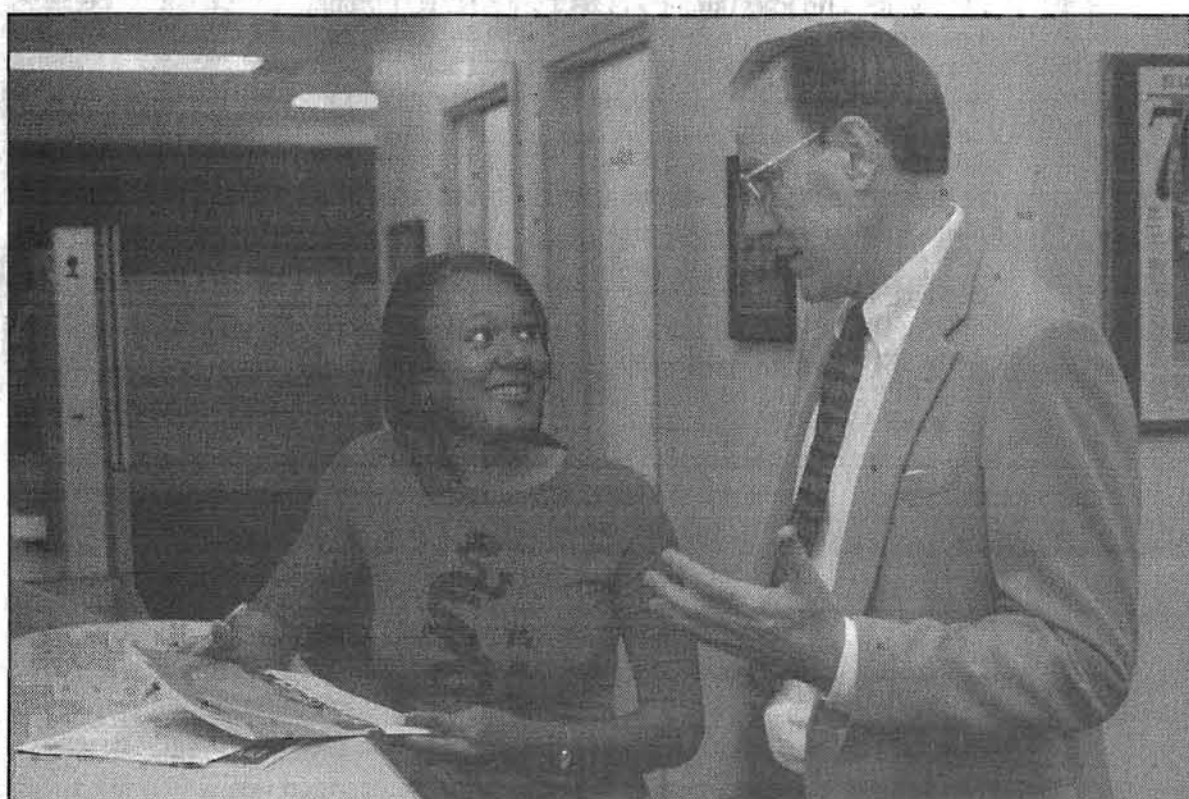
"There are a total of about 500 new viruses every month," he said. "In departments they generally have computer people to keep them updated. Students have to do it themselves."

A virus that struck campus in April left faculty and departmental computers nearly unscathed while attacking the terminals of more than 40 students, Safian said.

Students have to update their computers before it's too late, Safian said.

"We need to fix this ahead of time," he said. "Some of those viruses can be fairly damaging. We don't want someone's data blown away right before finals. No one needs that pressure."

The latest updates can be downloaded from <http://helpdesk.tss.nwu.edu/find.html>.



Gary Grace, vice chancellor for student affairs, explains the new policy for overdue student accounts to Tilly Lashel, a junior.

Stephanie Platt/The Current

Administrators want to cut delinquent payments

BY SHAVON PERKINS
staff associate

Earlier this semester, students with delinquent accounts were notified of new policies for paying student fees and tuition. James M. Krueger, vice-chancellor of Managerial & Technological Services, sent a letter to students with past due account balances telling them they faced cancellation of classes if they did not pay their accounts in full.

"By Dec. 13, 1999, students are expected to pay their past due balances in full or face financial holds and cancellation of classes for the

Winter 2000 semester," the letter read in part.

The letter continued, "Although we expect students to comply with this payment policy, some students may prefer to make financial payments in stages. Thus, you may protect your enrollment at the University by bringing your account balance to less than \$1,500 (excluding Winter 2000 charges) by Dec. 13, 1999."

As the letter reads, the decreasing balance policy will be in effect as follows: Prior to the start of Fall 2000 semester, account balances must be less than \$1,000. Prior to the start of the Winter 2001 semester, account

balances must be less than \$500. Prior to the start of the Fall 2001 semester and each semester thereafter, account balances must be paid in full.

Krueger warned students that, unless they make other arrangements, past due accounts will be sent to a collection agency.

Tony Georges, director of the Office of Financial Aid, said that this is a problem that the University faces every year.

"In many ways, coming to UMSL is a bargain, but it is expensive in its

see ACCOUNTS, page 9

South-African students visit campus

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

A delegation of students from the University of Western Cape (South Africa) visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus on Dec. 1. The delegation hoped to learn more about residential life, financial aid and student leadership.

The delegation is made up of three students: Nkateko Mayimeli, Bella Msenyana, and Sandi Mbu. All three are involved in the student government at UWC.

Rayvon Armstead, the UM-St. Louis International Program Coordinator, said the visit was designed to promote cooperation.

"It adds to our diversification and the internationalization of our campus," Armstead said. "Through our center we promote a lot of programs, such as international delegates and things of this nature."

The delegates learned a lot about higher education in the United States particularly differences in admissions, financial, residential, and cur-

riculum.

Msenyana said curriculum changes at UWC should be high on their agenda. She said she would like to see UWC's curriculum competitive with others around the world.

"I think the system (in America) is quite liberal," Msenyana said. "For us you'll find our curriculum is reasonably structured. If you are going to do commerce, these are your courses and you have to choose one or two. Here I realize that you can do a combination of the weirdest of things but come out with a good product."

South Africa is in the middle of many political and institutional changes. Mbu said the process has been difficult.

"The difference between America and South Africa is that currently South Africa is in the process of change," Mbu said. "At the heart of change is to make sure that the inequalities that were the result of 300 years or so are changed over a period of say two or three years which is quite different and difficult to do."



Students from South Africa meet with UM-St. Louis SGA representatives Wednesday to discuss the different aspects of their student governments.

Stephanie Platt/The Current

Mbu said that while things have gotten better between blacks and whites in South Africa, institutions which traditionally served blacks still suffer.

Mayimeli said the delegation learned that UM-St. Louis has four South African exchange students, but

none from their campus. She said the delegation would like to initiate an exchange program between the two universities.

"What we would like is to implement an exchange between us and

see DELEGATES, page 9

Faculty Council demands more involvement in decision-making process

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

In response to Chancellor Blanche Touhill's formation of a task force for campus-wide strategic planning, the Faculty Council passed a motion Thursday which reiterated its call for greater faculty involvement in the planning and decision-making process.

Dennis Judd, presiding officer of the Faculty Council, described the motion as a middle-ground proposal. Previously, Judd had expressed the view that the faculty's confidence in Chancellor Touhill was so badly marred that a change in leadership might be the only way to resolve the situation. The proposal was presented in response to the formation of the task force and the Chancellor's statement of her willingness to receive questions from the faculty.

The motion begins by saying that "The Faculty Council finds that the faculty of the University of Missouri-St. Louis has often been excluded from meaningful participation in major initiatives and governance processes of the campus."

The motion goes on to call for more faculty involvement in the planning and decision-making processes of the campus.

"In order to restore the confidence of the faculty in her administration, Chancellor Touhill must implement steps to meaningfully involve the faculty in the campus' planning and governance. At future meetings the Faculty Council will consider whether effective steps have been taken," the motion said.

Judd acknowledged that the motion was not satisfactory to all members of the council. Criticism of the motion ranged from statements that it was too harshly worded to complaints that it was overly vague.

The formation of the Chancellor's task force followed the recent controversy over a system-level audit of UM-St. Louis' budgetary practices. The investigation, headed by James Cofer, vice-president of UM System Finance and Administration, was in response to a report generated by the Faculty Council's Select Committee on Fiscal Practices, which had expressed no confidence in the Chancellor.

Judd said he felt there had been a real change on campus.

"I think the culture of the campus has changed from a year ago when I really was fearful that we wouldn't

see FACULTY COUNCIL, page 8



Touhill



Judd

December SGA meeting cancelled

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The Student Government Association's December meeting, scheduled for Dec. 2, was canceled due to a lack of participation and will not be rescheduled.

D. Mike Bauer, SGA chair, said that nothing much could have been accomplished even if the meeting was held.

"We were sensing that there was going to be a low turnout," Bauer said. "In addition (acting president) Steven Wolfe, (comptroller) Bryan Shaw, and myself could not attend (the December meeting)."

Without the SGA's three top officers and a quorum, which hasn't been achieved at the last two meetings, issues facing the SGA couldn't have been addressed. The biggest issue, voting on new members of the Student Court, remains tabled.

Bauer said SGA business will be conducted in its Executive Committee over winter break. The Executive Committee is comprised of Wolfe, Shaw, Bauer, and the heads of all of SGA's standing committees.

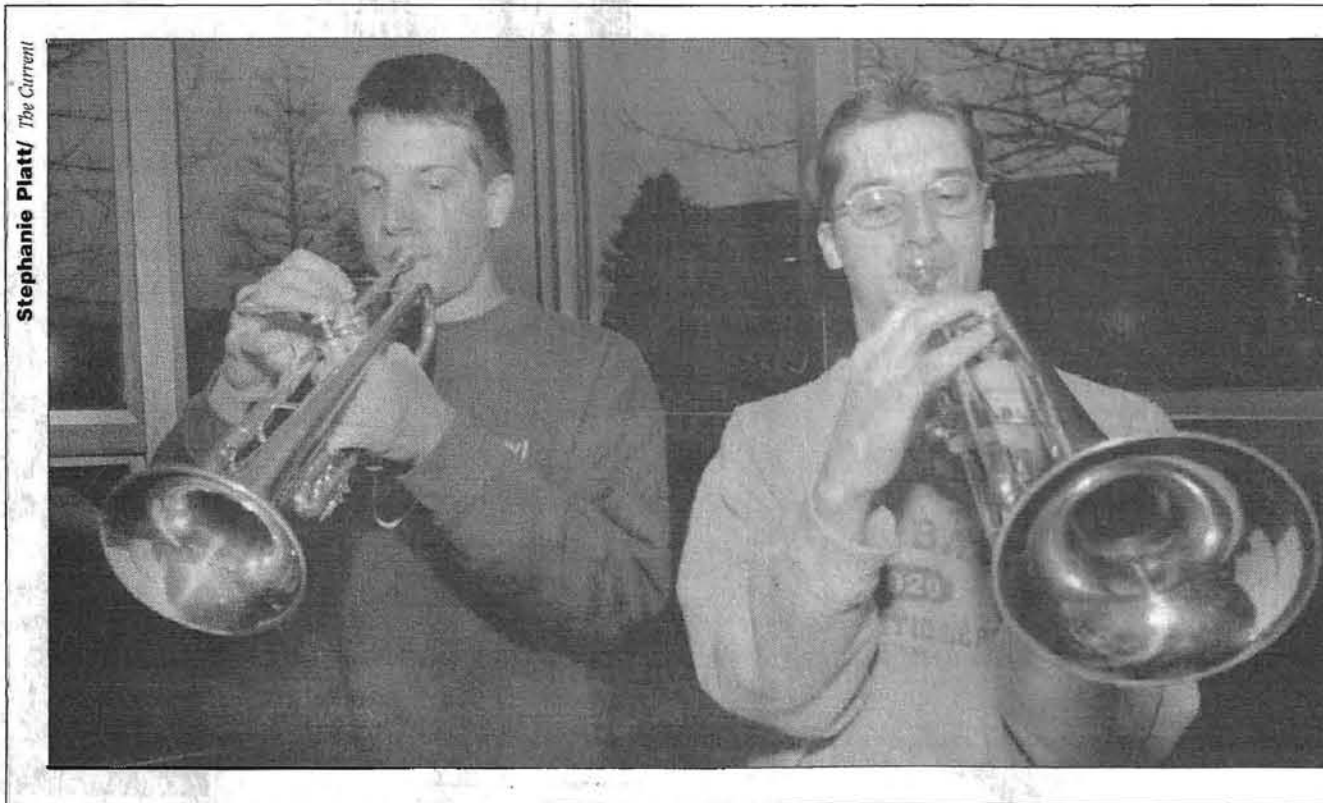
Bauer said that although the Student Court isn't permanent, it can still function.

"As far as I understand, the interim court is still working," Bauer said, "so they ought to be able to continue business as usual."

Bauer said the Student Court should still be able to handle everyday functions, but would have to be made permanent in the case of impeachment for embattled SGA president Darwin Butler.

Like the SGA Assembly, the SGA Executive Committee has had trouble reaching a quorum recently. If a quorum is not met, then the Executive Committee's decision would not be

see MEETING, page 8



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Can you hear that holiday spirit?

Erich Froeschner and Adam Walker, freshmen, play their trumpets during a Christmas music performance Dec. 1 at the holiday tree-lighting ceremony.

Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Dec. 7

- **Center for Trauma Recovery**, director of the War Trauma Recovery Project, Priscilla Schulz, presents "PTSD in War Refugees" at noon in the lower level auditorium of the Kathy J. Weinman Building as part of a Colloquium Series. Call 6738 for more information.
- **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.
- **Vigil Mass** for the feast of The Immaculate Conception will be at Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge, at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Betty at 385-3455.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

- **Taizé Prayer**, A prayer service of song and silence, will be occurring in room 266 University Center, from 12:05 to 12:35 p.m. For more information call Roger at 385-3000 or Betty at 385-3455.
- **UM System President to Visit Campus**, All faculty, staff and students are invited to a meeting with University of Missouri System President, Manuel Pacheco and Chancellor Blanche Touhill from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 200 of Lucas Hall. Pacheco will discuss the UM System Strategic and Resource plans and Touhill will discuss how UMSL is responding to these UM-System initiatives, including a \$1.6 million reallocation mandate for FY 2000-2001.

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.

Friday, Dec. 10

- **Chancellor's Holiday Dinner** will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 14, in the Underground and Summit Lounge. All tickets must be picked up from the following persons and locations. One ticket per person please. Ted Ficklen, Health Science Library; Julie Gram, 331 Marillac; Linda Callies, 210 Music Building; Erma Collins, Honors College Office 132; Bob Kennedy, University Meadows Office; Nancy Forbes, 163 Nursing Administration Building; Betty Covington, 243 General Services Building; Barb

Schorp, 225 Mark Twain; Betty Ramirez 598 Lucas Hall; Jim Karslake, 562 Clark Hall; Karen Wagster, 1107 5SB Tower; Karen Kirkwood, 451 Computer Center Building; Deni Kiehl, 267 University Center; Keith Laden, 207 J. C. Penney; Dianne Dei Santi, 223C Research Building; Elias Hindeleh, Thomas Jefferson Library Circulation Desk; Karen Crawford, 401 Woods Hall; 123 S. Campus Residence Hall; Karen Vaughan, Suite 8, Regional Education Park.

Sunday, Dec. 12

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

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

November 18, 1999

A visitor to the campus reported that sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., her 1988 four-door Chevrolet Caprice was stolen from Parking Lot "J".

November 19, 1999

A student residing at University Meadows reported receiving five harassing telephone calls from an unknown person between 2:50 and 3:30 a.m. A telephone number was recorded on the telephone ID box.

November 20 1999

A student residing at University Meadows reported being stabbed in the arm by another person during an argument. The suspect in the case cut himself on the leg accidentally. Warrants will be applied for at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

A former student reported being assaulted in a University-owned apartment at Mansion Hills. The suspect who resides at the apartment is wanted by the University Police on assault charges.

A cellular telephone was reported as being stolen on Nov. 13 from the third floor of Stadler Hall.

November 22, 1999

Staff at the School of Optometry reported that between Aug. 3 at 9 a.m. and Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. a certification stamp was stolen from 328 Marillac Hall.

November 23, 1999

A student reported that her backpack was stolen from the bookstore storage shelves at 11:30 a.m. The back-

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

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The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UMSL Police Department to promote safety through awareness.



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The Meadows is the best opportunity for students wishing to live close to campus. The great staff and residents make for a wonderful college experience.

-Bethany Jenkins, University Meadows resident

I enjoy the activities that the Meadows sponsors. They provide a great opportunity to socialize and have fun with other residents.

-Amy Glasgow, University Meadows resident

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Stephanie Platt / The Current

QUILT of WIFE

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Since the AIDS quilt began in 1985, 46,000 panels have been made to remember the disease's victims. Each 3-by-8-foot panel represents someone who died from AIDS. Eight panels make a quilt block. Only 10 percent of the people who died from AIDS have been honored with panels.

On Dec. 2, Amy Schoenberger, a registered nurse in University Health Services who directs education programs, coordinated a program to commemorate National AIDS Awareness week in which D.J. Thomas spoke about the effects of AIDS. The quilt was also exhibited for students to see.

"This is reality. We are doing this because we care about [the students]. The only way we are going to fix this is to get it out in the open," Schoenberger said.

Schoenberger's father died of AIDS' complications in the early 1990's.

"I don't want you to be the one to

get that phone call. Worse yet, I don't want [anyone] to be the one to make that call," Schoenberger said.

Since 1981, 16 million people have become infected with AIDS. One in every 200 college students will acquire AIDS if this current trend progresses.

Thomas has lived with AIDS for 16 years. Thomas, when he worked at UM-St. Louis, created Mirthday, EXPO, and Holiday Fest.

Thomas contracted AIDS while chaperoning a trip to Mexico. Four years and five AIDS tests after that trip, Thomas found he contracted AIDS in his first sexual encounter at the age of 27.

"I grew up in the 60's, the age of free love, free sex, and free drugs," Thomas said.

Thomas abstained from all these activities.

"I couldn't believe it...me... because [I found that I contracted AIDS] four years after I'd had sex for the first time," Thomas said.

see AIDS, page 10

Jill Marquard, Senior biology major, views a panel of the AIDS quilt Wednesday at the J.C. Penney Building. Wednesday was national AIDS awareness day.

FEATURES

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Thoughts for Today

"Most of the evils of life arise from man's being unable to sit still in a room."

-Blaise Pascal
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas For Our Time

"Every journalist has a novel in him, which is an excellent place for it."

-Russell Lynes
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"For three days after death hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls taper off."

-Johnny Carson
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them."

-Aristotle
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas For Our Time

Funny girl

UM-St. Louisan manages job, family, comedy career

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

like the combination of music and talk together," Agnew said.

Agnew began performing stand-up comedy in 1987 and stopped in 1992 to have a baby. In 1996, Agnew began to do stand-up again, only with new material, such as the motherhood experience.

Agnew has performed at the Funny Bone, the Comedy Forum, Harris-Stowe College, Truman State University, and Southeast Missouri State University.

"I look at the hypocrisies of life, and that's where my humor comes from," Agnew said.

When she first took the stage, Agnew used topics of men and sex.

Now she covers a broader area including politics, parenting, and sex.

"Comedy is an art form and when you take it to its lowest common

denominator, it's just a bunch of people laughing at each other."

see AGNEW, page 10

Twenty four hours make a day. That may be enough for some people, but certainly not Carolyn Agnew.

Carolyn Agnew is a department assistant in strengthening institutions, works at UM-St. Louis, is a single mother, takes classes, and also performs as a stand-up comedienne.

Agnew has worked at UM-St. Louis for four years and is taking classes to earn her bachelor's degree in mass communication. With her bachelor's, she plans to work in radio and broadcasting.

Agnew enjoys the working-with-students-part most about her job.

"One good aspect is that I get to interact with the students," Agnew said.

Agnew has always been intrigued by radio broadcast shows.

"I've always liked radio because I



Carolyn Agnew, departmental assistant, student and mother leads a busy life. In addition to her other roles, she has also performed as a stand-up comedian, something she gave up during the early '90s. She has since performed at The Funny Bone, The Comedy Forum and other venues.

Stephanie Platt/
The Current

Creative gift-giving can make holiday fun

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

lennium, "The Hippie Survival Guide to Y2K" by Mike Oehler tells how to use resources immediately in case of a Y2K disaster, which might be useful for the computer junkie in someone's life.

Jeanette McFarland, a student in adult education at UM-St. Louis, recommends a more creative solution.

"My daughter is giving her grandmother a jar of memories," McFarland said.

The jar consists of pieces of paper with words to invoke remembrances of the past. Some of the person cues McFarland said were "pet" and "love."

To make the world better with a gift, use breast-cancer postage stamps. They not only send letters, but also help support research. Since these were issued, \$8.6 million has been raised for research. This gift would be perfect for a grandparent or even for Mom and Dad.

Jim Dreyer, a junior majoring in communication, suggests a simple approach for just about anyone from a best friend to your neighbor.

"I'd recommend taking them out and showing them a good time—like going out to dinner," Dreyer said.

For long-term food enjoyment, the beer- or wine-of-the-month will last all year and please even the most difficult mother-in-law. These can be ordered at wine.com via the Internet.

Kris Chisolm, a junior majoring in studio art, advised trying the web site www.presentpicker.com to find the perfect gift.

"It came up with all these great ideas. Either that or make a pillow like my friend and I are doing. You know they'll use that," Chisolm said.

For children, some ways to avoid

see GIFTS, page 10

Bugged: Y2K genius tech heads need lesson in humility

With the pending hypothetical yet conceivable disaster facing us with the new millennium, I have one thing to say, "Y2 Kiss my butt!"

As much as I rely on computers for just about everything in my life, I still think this mounting suspicion and unspoken fear that seems to be running through many people's minds is absolutely ridiculous.

What is it about computers and the people who work them? My first job after college was as a Marketing Analyst for a computer-consulting firm. I met a lot of computer people through this job, which is a major reason why I am no longer working for that company in that industry. Yes, the information technology industry and

many of the people in it are completely whacked out.

I don't mean go off on a rant here, but I cannot believe that there are computer professionals out there that are making more money than doctors are making. These people are working with computers, not saving lives! . . .

And the egos! Many of these IT professionals walk around like they own the world. They treat you like the village idiot if you don't know what a gigabyte is. Just because I'm not technically oriented and would rather leave those details in someone else's hands, doesn't mean I'm an idiot.

Bill Gates deserves the mythical stature that is given to him. He utilized his talents, dreamt a dream, worked

hard to build an empire and now he's sitting on top of it. Good for him. However, he has kept a pretty level head for his accomplishments. The man still refuses sit in first class on an airplane because the ticket prices are outrageous. I wish other IT professionals would follow his lead.

So save me the song and dance about making the world Y2K compliant. That is your job. It is no different than the accountant at tax time, the lawyer during a trial or the doctor when you are sick. Go ahead, command a high salary—it is the American dream. But don't treat me second-class because I don't share your technical enthusiasm.

And what is up with these sickos

that create these computer viruses! They have to be certifiably insane. It reminds me of the jealous ex-husband-stalking syndrome. While these people claim to love their computers (like jealous ex-husbands claim to love their ex-wives), they are so obsessed with it that they want to control them and the effect they have on other people's lives. It's not my computer's fault that you lost your mind sitting behind your computer all day, everyday, losing any ounce of social grace you might have had.

Guess what? People, no matter how badly the tables have turned, created computers. If you get your kicks by creating a virus that will erase my hard drive then you really need to step

away from your computer and visit the nearest mental hospital. Reality exists and it isn't always virtual. Sometimes e-business is the best way to go but who isn't impressed by an old-fashioned handshake to close a deal.

I applaud those computer professionals who are truly helpful and willing to explain and answer questions. They are few and far between and I think most of them work with me. I don't know what a gigabyte is, and I don't care. The people who should be allowed to have God complexes are usually the people who are the most down to earth. And for those computer

see RICKARD, page 10



OUTSIDE IN

BECKY RICKARD

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Semester ends with very little done in SGA

The issue:

SGA has wrapped itself in the media hype surrounding president, Darwin Butler, and has not accomplished anything this semester.

We suggest:

The SGA has to start serving the students.

So what do you think?

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

Chalk up one more failure for the SGA. The December meeting for the student assembly was canceled due to an expected low turnout.

When will this joke of an organization get its act together? As a group it can't function which hurts all the branches of student government. It is said that the Student Courts can't function and are having a horrible time handling student appeals. This is inexcusable. Something must be done and done quickly.

As a group SGA has done nothing. Sure, there was the major media hype surrounding the Darwin Butler fiasco, and it got everyone interested, but the hype only lasted so long as a month later it was back to normal with many of the student reps electing to be absent. What has SGA

accomplished this year? A lot of paper work and a lot of hype.

This isn't to say that everyone in the student assembly has failed in his or her duties—there are quite a few members who attend the meetings and genuinely want to get things accomplished. Yet, there are enough less dedicated people in the group to hold everyone back.

The first semester will end on a sour note, not like it has ever been going good. The second semester needs to make up for it. Things need to be done and quickly. The SGA needs to have a student-elected president and vice president in office. Quorums need to be reached regularly and things need to get done. If not, this year will have been a waste of everyone's time.

LETTERS

Acting President explains his choices

As Acting President/Interim Vice President, I have the difficult job of filling two jobs with little support from the members of the association. The whole framework of the Student Government Assembly could be called into legal question (if the Assembly approves a Student Court without a quorum) by someone who has a traffic ticket or if the court holds an impeachment hearing.

While I would like to see the assembly move forward, we have to be extremely cautious. The SGA Constitution has to be followed or chaos could occur. Until a new constitution provides a quorum that is less than a majority, I must see that we follow the constitution and bylaws are followed, even if we don't like it.

With one justice of the three member interim Student Court unable to fulfill her duties, I have asked the Chief Justice to give me written notice that it is an emergency so that the Executive

Committee can approve a full court until such time as there is a quorum to vote on the Court. It is easier for me to get a quorum of the Executive Committee together. However, the Chief Justice has not given me written notice and I have called two Executive Committee meetings that did not have quorum.

Nowhere is it stated that the court has to be approved at an assembly meeting. The constitution only states that it has to be approved by the assembly. That does not mean that I cannot have assembly members (or first the Executive Committee) approve the nominees by written ballot. This is not the most ideal way but I will have the office staff send out a mailing to all Assembly members to vote on the Court.

Impeachment does not have to be done at an assembly meeting. Once a petition with the signatures of two-thirds of the representatives or 5 percent of the student body is collected, then the Student Court has to hear

the impeachment. There is nothing stated in the SGA Constitution that states that the articles of impeachment have to be voted on by the assembly.

The Election Committee is responsible for having an election for a permanent vice president as well as filling the at-large seats of the Assembly. I have told the committee what needs to be done. It is their responsibility to take care of the procedures. Since I have stated that I plan to run for the office, it would be a conflict of interest if I got involved in the elections any more than telling them what needs to be done.

The work of the Student Government Association cannot be done by just one student. While I have devoted more time to the office than others in the past, I am only human. Problems of the association must be dealt with by all students, not just me.

-Steven Wolfe

GUEST COMMENTARY

Fees paid but no "free elections"

What a sorry day this is for the students of UM-St. Louis, who could benefit so much from an effective Student Government, as they have in the past. Case in point: the new University Center, the crowning achievement of the era of student politics 1993-1998. No such accomplishments will be forthcoming from this pitiful year in SGA. The new parking garage on the East side of campus, currently under construction, has nothing to do with SGA 1999-2000, nor will anything else worthwhile.

Instead, important issues which should be addressed by the SGA remain on the back burners, while petty squabbling, shameless posturing, and blatant selfishness continue to add insult to injury. That the presidency of SGA remains in a quagmire, with the official president unable to escape his fetters and return to his duties, while those who would remove him remain equally unable to drag students and SGA reps from the depths of their narcoleptic slumber to sign a simple petition, is shameful enough. Worse still, however, is that the SGA vice-presidential office continues to be dominated by an individual who was appointed, not elected.

The SGA Constitution (1998) clearly states that when this office is vacated before December 1, a special election is to be held. Carrie Mowen resigned more than TWO MONTHS AGO. The office currently is filled by an appointed interim, intended to serve only until an elected vice president can assume the position. How

much longer are students to wait for the opportunity to freely elect a new representative?

I will be the first to commend Steven Wolfe, current interim vice-president, on the job he has done while serving in this capacity. He, along with a small number of other dedicated students, have saved the SGA from complete implosion during this disgraceful administration. However, the time has long-since come for Steven to run for the position, along with any competitors, in a fair and open election in which all students may cast their votes. If he prevails, he may then serve as vice-president with honor.

Presently, however, some are suggesting that the delay in the special election for vice-president is deliberately being exacerbated by Steven as a matter of strategic planning. Some have implied that Steven believes he will lose an open election, but if he can delay the election beyond the Dec. 1 deadline, he is home free, and will continue to serve the remainder of the year. I, however, am suggesting nothing...I am making a direct accusation to this effect. Furthermore, I make no secret that I find this course of behavior to be unethical, improper, and unbecoming of an individual who has historically placed the welfare of the students ahead of his own. I hope that Steven will step back into character and will himself call for a fair and open election of a new vice president immediately. The students of this University deserve no less.



MICHAEL RANKINS
guest commentator

Actions need taking on Social Security

I took a class taught by Sid Savan last year. It was "Introduction to Public Relations," and at the beginning of the class he asked how many of us thought we would collect Social Security benefits. Most of the students answered that they didn't expect to collect any Social Security.

Then Savan asked how many students were interested in politics. Only one or two answered yes.

Unfortunately, this is reality in today's society. As a result, this generation is going to get screwed.

If we believe we won't collect Social Security, then our generation won't see a dime of it.

The evidence is right in front of us. In 1983, Congress passed Social Security Amendments to increase the age for collecting Social Security benefits.

Instead of 65, the minimum age for our generation will be at least 67 and that is if no other bills of this kind are passed before we can qualify.

According to Social Security Online (www.ssa.gov.), Congress cited improvements in the health of older people and increases in average life expectancy as primary reasons for increasing the normal retirement age.

Social Security Online states that since Social Security first began in 1940, the average life span in males has increased by four years to 81. Likewise, the average life span of women has increased in that time by six years to 84.

Furthermore, Social Security

Online states that the average age for both men and women retiring in 1998 was 64. In 1998, nearly 69 percent of men and women who retired started taking Social Security benefits before age 65.

Congress passed these amendments, and it now appears that our generation is just going to sit back and accept it. Sorry to break the news to you, but the only reason Congress passed these amendments in the first place is because they know they can get away with it.

It is not about increasing life spans or early collection of Social Security benefits. In fact, the money we spend on Social Security doesn't go to Social Security at all. Instead, it goes to fund the government's pet project of the moment. If the money we spend on Social Security went to just that, then

there would be plenty of money which could be collected in full by age 65, regardless of life spans.

The bottom line is that legislators know this generation doesn't care. Ignorance and apathy are now their weapons.

Since this generation doesn't care, legislators do not care about us. Legislators only care about those who are politically active and who vote. Our generation has the lowest percentage of voters and therefore the lowest representation in government.

Meanwhile, our Social Security benefits are going out the proverbial window. It is time for this generation to wake up and fight for what is ours.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

Problems in some stadium design

There is just something about new stadiums that doesn't feel right to me. They aren't personable enough, they are too planned out, and they are too expensive.

Not that I was a big fan of how the old Kiel Auditorium was set up. That place was a dump, but in its own way, it was very cool. Comparing it to the new Kiel Center is like comparing a Ford Model-T to a new BMW; it just doesn't compare. Yet in its own way, the old parts seem to be more homey than the new "cookie cutter" places.

Kiel, or Yuppie Heaven as it is sometimes called, is a very nice facility. It has almost everything any fan could want—nice seats, great views, food at every corner of the building, and bathrooms that never seem to be out of order. It has just never felt right in that building. It seems too structured.

A few years ago, a spur-of-the-moment trip to Chicago brought on an experience of a lifetime. The Cubs happened to be in town and tickets were available. By luck my buddy Tim and I scored a pair. If you have never had the luck of seeing a game in the "Friendly Confines," you are missing out. The park is quite an experience. You can almost hear the echoes of history rattling like chains in the park. There wasn't a second I didn't enjoy being at Wrigley. The seats are close to the field, the bullpens are close to the seats, and it seemed like a very loving stadium. The ivy and everything else in the stadium was just awe-inspiring. Television doesn't do the old place justice.

On a trip to New York over the summer, I had the exact opposite feeling in the Mets home Shea Stadium. Built in the early 60's when the phenomena of building "cookie cutter" stadiums began, Shea didn't have much appeal. Other than the outfield looking onto Manhattan, it was nothing special.

Those same feelings come out in Busch Stadium. For years I thought Busch was something special, a really nice place to see a game. After going to Wrigley, I realized how subpar it really is for viewing a game.

I've really admired owners who build parks like Camden Field in Baltimore. They took a chance building a retro-park that looks like something out of the 1920's. Changing things up when it comes to the looks of a stadium is always nice.

With all the talk about the Cardinals getting a new stadium in a few years it is hoped they take a few things into consideration. Number one, Busch Stadium is not a good stadium. Adequate maybe, but not a good park. Second, don't make a stadium that looks like everyone else's home field. Be original with it and try something different. And finally, don't make the place so busy. In many stadiums, the game is secondary. Commercials and games flash on the score boards constantly. T-shirts and coupons are being shot out into the crowd. The games have gone too commercialized. Give the fans what they want—a really cool stadium and a good team. That's what makes the fans happy.



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managing editor

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Ken Dunkin
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Stephanie Platt
photography director

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

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

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about in the Opinions section this week?

You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!

1.

- Ineptitude of the SGA
- SGA elections
- Social Security
- Baseball stadiums

2.

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Participate in the Student Forum on The Current Online
- Call our offices

Wesleyan rips Rivermen

Fatigue, sluggish defense factor into team's first loss

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team, previously 2-0 and off to their best start in nine years, faced their toughest opponent of the young season at home Thursday night and came out empty handed. Kentucky Wesleyan dominated the second half and took home a 53-68 win.

Kentucky Wesleyan began the charge to pull away from the Rivermen with 14 minutes to go in the second half as Albert Richardson and Leroy John began to score at-will against a sluggish UM-St. Louis defense. Ten minutes later, Kentucky Wesleyan had taken a considerable 43-61 lead.

"Physically, we became a little fatigued in the second half," said Mark Bernsen, the Rivermen head coach. "We went from the 14 minute mark to the eight minute mark and did not score. It was just a six minute spurt where they outscored us 0-10, and that was really the game."

Rebounds proved to be another key factor as the Rivermen were held to just seven offensive boards. Kentucky Wesleyan took advantage of UM-St. Louis' failure to attack the boards with 13 offensive rebounds resulting in numerous second shots.

"A lot of those second shots produced baskets," Bernsen said. "It

became a physical game in the second half where whoever controlled the boards would win the game, and that's what happened."

UM-St. Louis started the game well, shooting 40.7 percent from the field, and went into halftime trailing Kentucky Wesleyan by a deficit of only 30-32.

"We did some things that were fairly effective in the first half," Bernsen said. "We shot the ball well, and we surprised them with our triangle-2 defense."

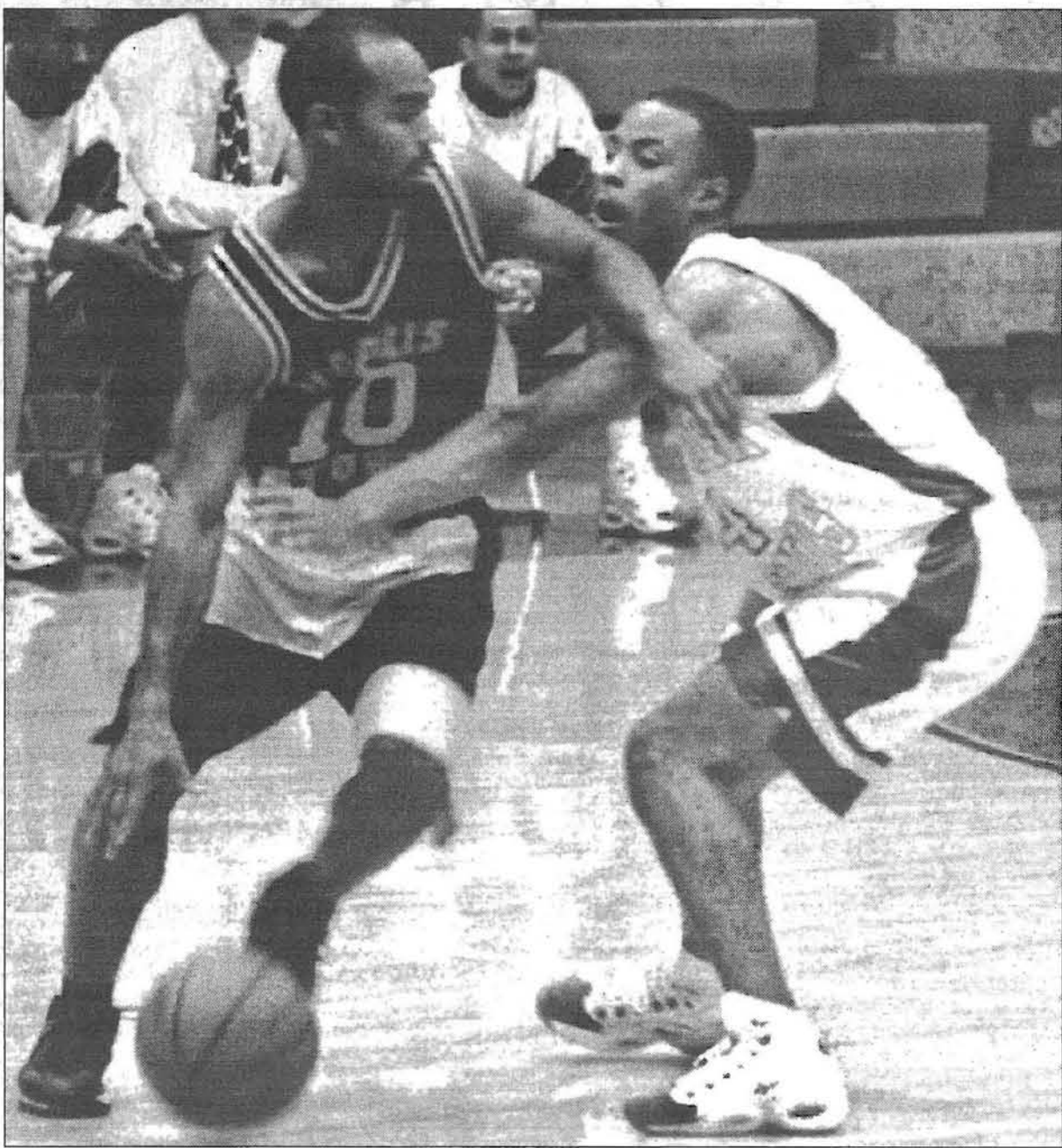
The momentum did not last long, however, as Kentucky Wesleyan came out firing in the second half, shooting 48.5 percent from the field, while UM-St. Louis shot only 36.8 percent.

"They did a nice job of adjusting at halftime," Bernsen said, "and that is always a concern of ours in that you show your best hand in the first half, and they have time to adjust."

Adding to the the Rivermen's poor shooting were missed opportunities due to turnovers. UM-St. Louis had 18 turnovers, most of them in the second half, while Kentucky Wesleyan had only 11.

"We turned it [over] at inopportune times," Bernsen said. "Just about the time we needed a basket, we turned it over. We'd miss two more shots, then

see RIVERMEN, page 11



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Riverman Greg Ross (14) guards a Harris Stowe player in UM-St. Louis' 76-62 win Nov. 23.

Riverwomen slowed by Kentucky Wesleyan

UM-St. Louis is 2-2 after 82-80 loss

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen's basketball team got off to a great start to the season, but ran into problems at home against conference rival Kentucky Wesleyan.

The game remained close throughout the entire first half as both teams kept pace, but with four minutes left in the half, the Riverwomen mounted a little spurt to put them ahead at halftime 43-40.

Tawanda Daniel paced all scorers with 21 first-half points. Daniel finished the game with 33 points along with nine rebounds, and was the lone Riverwoman scoring in

double digits. In the second half, UM-St. Louis made a run at Kentucky Wesleyan and pushed the lead to 57-49, but Kentucky Wesleyan rallied late on key turnovers by the Riverwomen to seal the victory, 82-80.

In the second half, the Riverwomen were held to 14-35 shooting and committed 29 turnovers in the contest.

Previously, UM-St. Louis traveled to Lincoln University and showed their determination for their the upcoming games against the Great Lakes Valley Conference as they defeated Lincoln University

see RIVERWOMEN, page 11



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Riverwoman Sara Mauck (15) drives to the hoop in a game last season. Mauck will be a key factor in UM-St. Louis' success this year.

Thug in harmony . . . "Project Duffy" pays big dividends for Ice Men

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

When Derek Schaub, the head coach of the Rivermen ice hockey team, got his first look at Craig Duffy, he had his doubts.

"When I met Duffy last year," Schaub said, "the first thing that I thought was, 'This kid can't skate. He has good size and strength, but no feet.'"

But, as with most anything in life, you can't judge a book by its cover, and that old truism came through yet again. Schaub started "Project Duffy" last year, and Duffy stayed after every practice, fine-tuning his 6-foot, 208-pound frame into one of the best big men in the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

Duffy, who played at McCluer North High School, came to UM-St. Louis mainly because of friends. He enjoyed moderate success in high school, but nothing that drew attention from any college programs. In his first two years at UM-St. Louis, he saw the ice moderately and left a lot to be desired.

Since his training, however, he has become the anchor for an extremely stingy UM-St. Louis defense, which allows just over two goals per game, and is an integral part of the Rivermen's No. 9 national ranking. He has also been promoted to assistant captain, a position that fits his natural per-

"I never realized how much there was to hockey before I met coach (Gregg) Gevers. He taught me things about hockey that I had never thought of and was a huge factor in my development."

-Craig Duffy
Rivermen Hockey Player

"My experience here has been incredibly exciting," Duffy said. "I never realized how much there was to hockey before I met coach (Gregg) Gevers. He taught me things about hockey that I had never thought of and was a huge factor in my development. Add in my one-on-one with Schaub, and you can see why I am the type of player that I am today."

That type of player would be a "thug." Duffy is definitely the enforcer of the team, and takes this position very seriously. "Of the three captains, Jason (Hessel) is the leader, (Josh) Winkler is the example that we all should follow, and I am the enforcer," Duffy said. "When one

of our guys gets nailed, I'm the one that is responsible for making sure that the other team knows that we won't take it lying down."

This shows in the fact that Duffy has racked up as many penalty minutes through the first 15 games of this season as he had all of last season, and is close to the top in penalty minutes in both the Mid-American Collegiate Hockey Association and in the ACHA.

He is the most vocal player on the team. Whether it is on the ice, in the locker room, or from the penalty box, his booming voice can be heard clearly, and it's not always in the rah-rah spirit.

"I yell at everyone," Duffy said. "I am very critical when I play, but I also am very critical on myself. I yell at guys when they mess up, but I also play them up when they do well. But if I yell at a guy, and he learns something from it and corrects the mistake, then I've done my job."

In the locker room, he can regularly be spotted standing in the center of the room, trying his best to rally the Rivermen.

"Having Duffy is like having a third coach," Schaub said. "Both coach Gevers and myself depend on him to keep the guys in line."

But Duffy understands that he is a student at UM-St. Louis, not a hockey player. He is enrolled in the Washington University joint engi-

see DUFFY, page 11

No more dump and chase: Blues' new style is exciting



LATEST SCOOP
DAVE KINWORTHY

The St. Louis Blues have come out of nowhere this season. The Blues are currently tied for first place in their division with the talented Detroit Red Wings and have a few games in hand.

The Blues might have appeared to have lost a step or two with Al MacInnis going down to injury and Geoff Courtnall retiring due to post-concussion syndrome. The only problem is that they have not.

The Blues have won five out of their last six games and have only lost twice in their last 10 games. This is pretty remarkable for a team without the proven offensive punch

of a few years ago.

The Blues have surprised us all this season with their scrappy play and their great defensive execution. The Blues should be applauded for their hustle and great defensive strategy.

I can remember before the Pavol Demitra and Pierre Turgeon days when the Blues were just an average team with a few stars.

I could not stand Brian Sutter as the head coach of the Blues. Every time I watched a game, I kept saying to myself, "dump and chase, dump and chase." The offensive production from Brett Hull was all the

Blues had.

I could not stand the Blues just dumping the puck in to the offensive zone and trying to create opportunities from that. Turnovers may play a key in games, but the majority of the time is spent in the neutral zone waiting for the other team to have a mental lapse.

The one good thing the Blues had in the early 1990s was the checking line of Bob Bassen, Rich Sutter, and either Ron Sutter or Dave Lowry. That line always made for a great action-packed shift for the fans. Whether it was Bassen's scrappiness or the Sutters coming off with

another bloody nose, it was always interesting.

Now it's out with the old and in with the new style of play.

For now, the Blues look tough with the defense anchored by Al MacInnis and Chris Pronger. With them, the Blues have two of the best, if not the best defensemen in the entire National Hockey League.

Offensively, the Blues look to new faces in Demitra, Turgeon, Michael Handzus, Scott Pellerin and Craig Conroy to capitalize on defensive mistakes.

Roman Turek, although well over six-feet tall, is a good goaltender,

SPORTS

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Upcoming Games

Men's Basketball

vs Quincy
7:30 p.m., Sat. Dec. 11

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

Women's Basketball

vs Quincy
5:30 p.m., Sat. Dec. 11

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

Hockey

at Wheaton
tba., Fri. Dec. 10

at Dupage
tba., Sat. Dec. 11

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

Next Week In Sports

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

but not comparable to Dominik Hasek. Whenever I heard the outrageous comparison between the two, I laughed and I still do.

Turek is too young and inexperienced to have the capabilities of Hasek for now. He has looked good at times, but the Blues need to take a serious look at Jamie McClennon as their potential starting goaltender. He has proven himself in the play-offs and is worthy of a starting spot.

All and all, the Blues have made hockey more enjoyable for the fans of St. Louis to watch. Attendance has picked up and a run at the Stanley Cup looms ahead.

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McCOURT**



'Tis

A MEMOIR

By the
Pulitzer Prize-Winning
Author of
the #1 *New York Times*
Bestseller
Angela's Ashes

**Rising from the
Ashes**

BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff editor

"'Tis: A Memoir" is the long-awaited sequel to Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize winner, "Angela's Ashes." In "Angela," McCourt shared with the world the story of his life growing up in Ireland. "'Tis" begins where "Angela" ended, with McCourt's arrival to America. It has all the McCourt characteristics that were made famous in "Angela" - the brutal honesty, the straightforward dialogue - and it deals with the same real-life everyday issues. In "'Tis" the reader follows McCourt through new trials and obstacles. He quickly learns that the United States is not the 'promised land' that he expected. He is faced with new forms of poverty, discrimination and ugliness that he had hoped to leave back in Limerick.

McCourt refused to give in to the stereotypes, however, and struggled to remain true to himself. Thanks to some time spent in the Army, he eventually receives an education and becomes a teacher in New York City. Because of McCourt's ability to communicate to his audience like he is talking to a friend, the reader is able to become a part of the story and follows along as McCourt joins the army, works a number of odd jobs, meets a number of odd

characters, falls in love, falls out of love, wishes, hopes, dreams and feels homesick. We feel his triumphs, his failures, his heartbreak and his rapture.

McCourt's work is still full of his sarcastic wit and insightful observations. Often he seems to write like a little child talks - simply saying the first thing that comes into his head without really thinking it through. It makes the words seem even more sincere, somehow.

Perhaps the best thing about "'Tis" is the fact that anyone can relate to it. Maybe the

'Tis: A Memoir'

Author: Frank McCourt
Publisher: Scribner

reader isn't a poor Irish kid from the Old Country, but it's easy to understand what it's like to feel guilty about disappointing your parents (or being disappointed by them), to have questions and doubts

about faith and religion, to be angered by injustice, and to desire to have it all. "'Tis" is a story for everyone.

One weakness is that the book is closely linked to its predecessor, "Angela's Ashes." Although "'Tis" could be read by someone who hadn't read "Angela," it would lose a lot of the background information that is supplied in the first memoir. There are many references that refer back to McCourt's time in Ireland that could be understood either way, but hold more meaning for someone who has read both books.

**Bestseller
List**

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
2. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling
3. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling
4. Timeline by Michael Crichton
5. The Official Pokemon Handbook, Deluxe Collectors Edition by Maria S. Barbo
6. Jewels of the Sun by Nora Roberts
7. Guinness World Records 2000 Millennium Edition
8. Dr. Atkins New Diet Revolution by Robert c. Atkins
9. The Green Mile by Stephen King
10. Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay
11. The Carbohydrate Addict's Lifespan Program by Richard F. and Rachael F. Heller
12. Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

BOOK REVIEW

Romance, humor, politics stir together deliciously in new book 'Cup of Love'

BY CHARMANE MALONE
of The Current staff

Sometimes dubbed the male Terry McMillan, author Franklin White surprised his critics with his new book "Cup of Love."

"'Cup of Love' is a story about individuals who desperately want to be in a relationship but who don't have the ingredients to make their relationships flourish," White says.

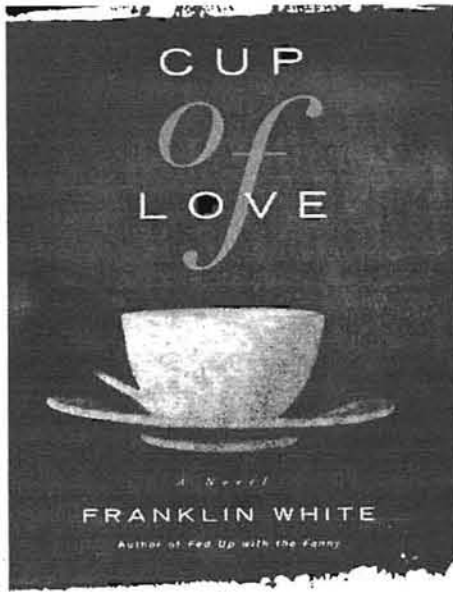
This book is truly different from White's debut book "Fed Up With the Fanny," a gossipy, street-wise urban satire that earned him the title the male Terry McMillan. In "Cup of Love," White explores the lives of four friends living in Columbus, Ohio, who get caught up in the

momentum of their 20s, finishing college, and establishing their careers, and, before they realize it, they are in their 30's. White clearly has matured since his first novel. The dialogue is rich and flows off the page. White, a native of Columbus, uses his knowledge of the area and its politics to set off an interesting political mystery that

will keep the reader in suspense to the very end.

Vance, the main character, cheated on his girlfriend, Artise, for the third time in 10 years and has been caught for the third time. Artise is fed up with his deception and is torn between moving on or accepting his marriage proposal. Meanwhile Ethan, Vance's best friend has moved back to Columbus and continues practicing his WWK (woman with kids) dating. His philosophy is that WWK's aren't looking for commitment, just someone to spend the evening with. At the same time, Ethan has to deal with Tassaha (Artise's best friend), to whom he had proposed before fleeing to Atlanta.

White successfully intertwines romance, humor and politics. He also includes some of his own poetry throughout the book. "Cup of Love," a tear-jerker, will keep the reader wanting more. Look for his third novel, "Til' Death Do Us Part," and first book of poetry entitled "Loose Tongue"; both are due out around the holidays.



FILM REVIEW



Alvin Straight (Richard Farnsworth, center) rides out of town and begins his six-week journey to Wisconsin from Iowa, leaving behind his skeptical friends.

Retracing steps of Straight's journey makes for good movie

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'The Straight Story'

Length: 120 min.
Rated: G
Our opinion: ★★★★★

A movie based on a true story about an old man crossing 2 states on a riding lawn mower to visit his dying brother hardly sounds like the kind of film you'd expect from David Lynch, the director who brought us "Twin Peaks," "Eraserhead," "The Elephant Man" and "Blue Velvet". Yet this is indeed Lynch's film and what's more, it's receiving top ratings from nearly all critics across the country, a rare event among this group. This is a film about more than the physical journey Alvin Straight made.

When Alvin Straight (Richard Farnsworth) learns that his long estranged brother has had a stroke, he decides he must see him. Despite poor eyesight that has cost him his driver's license and difficulty with walking that causes him to use two canes, Straight determines that the

only way to make this trip is under his own power.

Obviously, this is not an action film, but a film whose strength rests on fine acting and marvelous photography. "The Straight Story" is a journey both physical and philosophical, a thinking person's story about a man's journey near the end of life, as he travels in his own way with determination and resourcefulness to accomplish a last task.

This visually beautiful film, photographed by the cinematographer who did such photographically compelling films as "Glory", uses the natural world of the Midwestern countryside almost as another player in the story to tell the tale of this traveler in a particularly

visual manner. As Straight moves along at 5 mph, buffeted by passing 18-wheelers, finding shelter from sudden thunderstorms in abandoned barns, and coping with hills too steep for the design of the lawn mower, we become aware of nature as a looming force through which man moves. As he overcomes the obstacles before him and the limitations of his own frail health, we see this man's inner strength and resourcefulness. Since the film was shot in chronological order along Straight's actual route, we see the changes of fall and the growth of the old man's beard as the journey progresses. The traveler encounters various people along his route, which allow us to learn something of his views on life and his journey, and through Richard Farnsworth's dignified, and gentle performance, we come to see his simple and profound wisdom. The story becomes

see MOVIE, page 7

Market-savvy pretty faces putting artists with integrity out of business



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

It appears these days that a band need not be good to "make it" in this soulless industry. I guess this is not a new thing, but it is still rather disconcerting.

Just notice what gets played on the radio, what makes the cover of Rolling Stone, what gets played every other song on MTV (Empty V?), or what sells in music stores nationwide. Most of it is not what many people would consider groundbreaking, innovative, or even good music. The Backstreet Boys? N'Sync? 98 Degrees? I can't even tell them apart. What's worse, I'm not sure if they can tell themselves apart. None of the members in these bands play their

instruments, so their concert essentially becomes a cute little karaoke event with them singing along to tunes written by other people.

The Backstreet Boys have been bragging that their new album actually features songs they wrote the lyrics to, and what a wonder that is! It has been said that 50 monkeys in front of 50 typewriters with an infinite amount of time to hit keys would eventually produce all of Shakespeare's works. I am guessing that it would take these same monkeys about an hour to write all the Backstreet Boys' lyrics.

I recently asked a girl at a mall music store why she liked the

Backstreet Boys. Her reply? "They're so hot! They're just cool." My question (that I didn't ask the poor girl for fear that her head might explode) is why LISTEN to a band that is hot? You can't see 'em once the CD is playing, so why bother? I got this same response a few years ago when I asked someone why they liked Bush.

Sometimes bands make it on their simple brown-nosing abilities. Some bands get to the radio people bearing gifts (or God knows what) and suddenly they are the "featured local band" for that radio station. Nothing like that would EVER happen in St. Louis though,

of course? I mean no band named after a type of netting would instantly find favor in a radio station with a name similar to a dot, right? Right.

Truly awesome bands like Sloan go trudging along in the club scene for years unnoticed while some dumb punk with a pretty face like Stephen Jenkins from Third Eye Blind skyrockets up the charts with a meaningless song about talking speed. It sure isn't fair, but who are we to try and prevent it? I really want to go buy that new Mariah Carey CD because she is a really good, um, and her songs, uh, well, her album cover is revealing and she sure looks cute!

Luckily enough, the No. 1 selling album in the world is still Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon," but before long, one of the boy bands that can't play instruments will overtake that, and then what will we have left? Our culture will then be musically represented by meaningless fluff and gibberish, with all the records being held by bands with dance choreographers.

Integrity always loses to marketing savvy or a pretty face, but it shouldn't with music. Keep on buying music by bands that have no musical integrity, and soon enough that will be the only thing left to buy.

MUSIC REVIEW

FILM REVIEW

'1900' fails to carry story through despite well-developed characters

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'The Legend of 1900'

Length: 119 min.
Rated: PG
Our opinion: ★★★

"The Legend of 1900" is a beautifully photographed fantasy about a man born and raised on a turn-of-the-century luxury ocean liner who lives on the ship as it makes its endless Atlantic crossings.

This film from the Italian director of the magical "Cinema Paradiso" (which was about a boy growing up in his family's movie theater) shares with that earlier film the same lush and even startling visual beauty. "The Legend of 1900" uses the elegant settings of an ocean liner resplendent in stained glass windows and dark velvet, the dark industrial look of the ship's boiler room, and graceful period beauty of 1920s fashions to evoke a dreamy image of another time.

After a shipboard New Year's Eve party celebrating the year 1900, a crewmember finds an abandoned baby left by party revelers. The founding is taken below deck and raised in secret by the crew, so his birth is never registered, he has no home country and no official existence. The crewmember that found him cautions the young boy to stay hidden and to never get off the ship. The boy is given the last name 1900, for the year of his birth, and as he grows he displays a startling talent for music. His artistry as a pianist reveals his existence to the officers

a position as an entertainer on the luxury liner's endless voyages.

The director effectively creates this mythic character and strange setting for the tale. As 1900 (played by Tim Roth) becomes a young man in the 1920s, rumors of his talent as a musician spread from the ship. This leads to one of the best parts of the film: a musical confrontation with flamboyant jazz great Jelly Roll Morton.

Unfortunately, having set up this mythical presence in the character 1900 and the intriguing situation, the filmmaker fails to develop enough storyline to carry the film. Also, the director's use of a narrator, a fellow musician, keeps the audience at a distance from the character, so that the audience does not come to care enough about the character. Essentially, the beautiful period look of the film and its unusual premise give the film appeal, but the director's failure in these two areas prevents the film from being as good as it could have been.

(Now playing at the Chase Park Plaza)



Beck lounges around. His latest album features well-crafted folk-rock and dance tunes.

Beck does it again with 'Midnite Vultures'

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

'Midnite Vultures'

Artist: Beck
Label: DGC
Our opinion: ★★★★★

Beck wants you to get down and shake your groove thang, and who are you to argue? Beck Hanson, the epitome of cool, has returned to get people moving on "Midnite Vultures," and this time it's personal.

"Loser" made Beck a superstar in 1994, and "Mellow Gold," the album that it appeared on, was an instant college radio hit. No one had mixed funk and folk, rap and rock so smoothly before. Not to be resting on his laurels, Beck released an album on a tiny label as a side project entitled "One Foot in the Grave." In 1996 Beck returned with "Odelay," an album filled with samples, beeps, blips, bizarre lyrics, and a lot of danceable tunes. "Odelay" was an instant hit, but people wondered if he could top "Odelay's" style and success.

Instead of building on his bizarre style, Beck turned and came out with "Mutations," another indie label album, this one filled with some of the most seamless folk-rock seen in decades. Beck is a man who defies pigeonholing.

"Midnite Vultures" was intended to be a follow-up to the style and sampling found on "Odelay," but somewhere along the line it transformed into something very different. "Midnite Vultures" is a Prince meets Barry White crossbred with Curtis

Mayfield and the Beastie Boys album. AC/DC and Willie Nelson both hold influence over the L.A. baby-faced rock star, too, but don't be mistaken, Beck is nothing if not original.

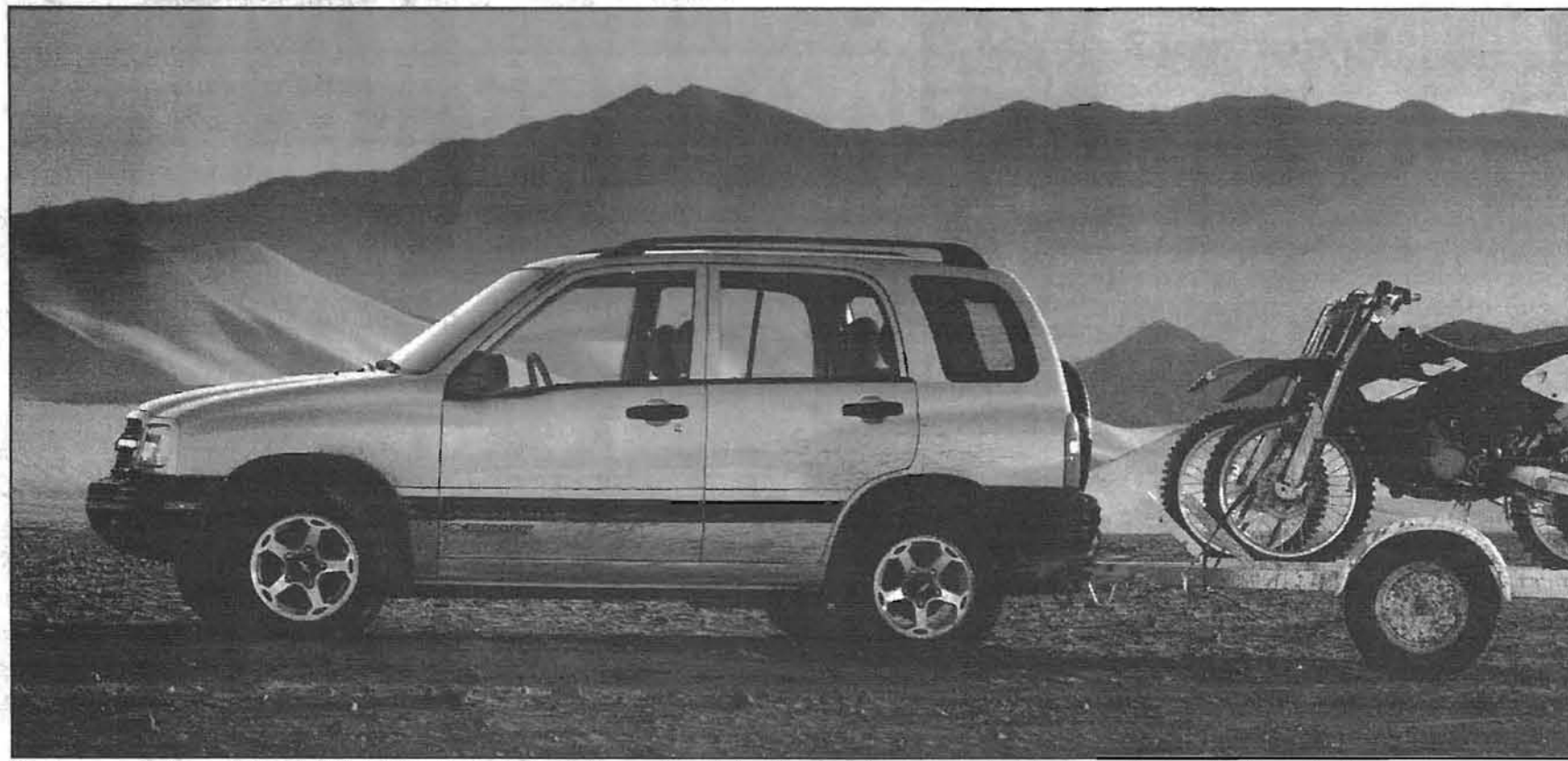
The album opens up with "Sexx Laws," an infectious dance song that may only be remembered for the chorus lyrics, "I want to defy the logic of all sex laws." "Get Real Paid" has the '80s synth beat down to a science while "Peaches & Cream" sounds like the funky Prince of old returned to prance about singing with his gui-

tar in hand.

One folk song manages to sneak its way onto this '70s L.A. funk music, but "Beautiful Way" is not a weak link for standing alone on an otherwise party-ready album. Once again, Beck has proven that he is a master of many styles.

"Midnite Vultures" is best summed up by Beck himself in the song "Hollywood Freaks;" "People look so snooty, Take pills to make them moody, Automatic bzooty, Zero to tutti-frutti."

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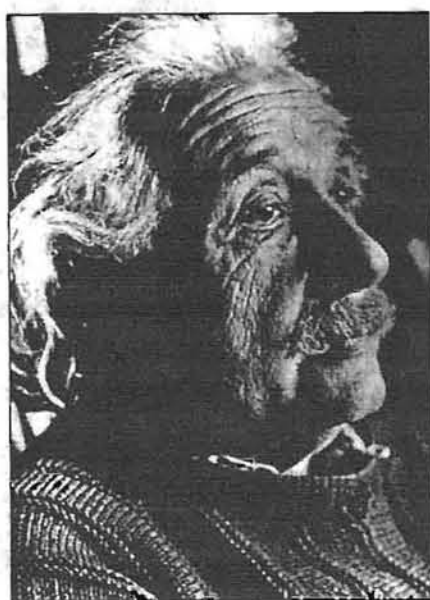
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MOVIE, from page 6

like a mythical tale of a hero. It's hard to put in words how powerfully Lynch uses visual images to tell the tale.

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FACULTY COUNCIL, from page 1

be able to, for example, discuss the performing arts center without such a division that... civility would break down," Judd said. "We're clearly past that..."

Judd again emphasized his view that the University's problems were process-related, and said he anticipated the planned reform of the

University Senate as part of the solution.

"I look forward next year to a reformed governance that will guarantee that this kind of buildup of pressures because the demands have not been met could be avoided because the normal processes will work better," Judd said.

MEETING, from page 1

binding as well.

Bauer said he is not worried about the Executive Committee making a quorum.

"It's always a danger, but that situation I feel can be resolved a lot easier than the quorum with the assembly," Bauer said.

Some SGA representatives are unhappy with the decision. Les Owens, University Program Board representative, said he isn't surprised by the decision.

"It is just business as usual for SGA because they haven't done anything all semester," Owens said. "I am very dissatisfied."

Owens said the SGA has several things which need to be accomplished right away. Along with the Student Court, Owens said the rest of the Executive Committee has to be established.

"Right now we have no Parliamentarian and no Sergeant-at-Arms," Owens said.

Both positions have spots on the Executive Committee.

Owens said he is also concerned about the lack of a permanent Student Court.

"We have no Student Court," Owens said. "If we have an impeachment, we can't have a hearing."

Owens said he hopes the SGA will refocus over break and start making progress next semester.

"I would like to see SGA get down to the business of SGA and get away from jockeying with the media," Owens said.

The original SGA December meeting was to have taken place on Dec. 16, but was rescheduled to Dec. 2 because the original meeting was during finals week.

Health Services offers to help students cope with stress

BY **KEN DUNKIN**
senior editor

In hopes to ease stress for students, Student Health Services is sponsoring "Surviving Final Exams" this week.

"Surviving Final Exams" is an effort by health services to help students cope with the stress of their exams. There will be a booth set up in the University Center on Dec. 6 and 7. At the booth, there will be packages filled with snacks and stress relieving toys.

"We want to take the students' mind off of their exams for a little while," said Diane Mitchell, a health services staff nurse. "We want them to relax."

In addition to the packages, there will be fliers explaining how to deal with stressful times like final exam week.

"We are giving out fruit to encourage students to do the right thing when it comes to eating," Mitchell said. "That way they won't fall into the trap of taking in lots of caffeine

and greasy foods."

The table will be going from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. In addition to the booth, there will be special nights set up at residential housing on campus. The event at U. Meadows will happen on Tuesday at 8 p.m. The same sessions will also be given at Seton Hall and the Honors College on the Monday. The Honors College time will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. while Seton Hall will have theirs from 9 to 10 p.m.

"We have done this event for quite

a while on campus, for the past three or four years," Mitchell said. "This year we decided we wanted to do it for everyone."

The attempt to hold the event for the campus didn't come without help. Career Services and UPS are co-sponsoring the event.

"We couldn't have done it without them. We don't have enough supplies to do it for everyone. This way, we can try to help everybody," Mitchell said.

Report says quality of airline service may decrease over holiday season

BY **MICHELLE STARR**
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Flying the friendly skies this holiday season may not be too friendly of an experience.

According to research by the National Airline Quality Rating, travelers might expect a lower quality of service from now until January for all major airlines.

The report, based on 1998 statistics released in April, also ranked airlines in order from highest quality to lowest, but forecast an overall drop in quality for the holiday season compared to other times of the year.

"If travelers pick one of the higher ranked airlines, they're more likely to have a good experience," said Brent Bowen, director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Aviation Institute.

Bowen, along with Dean Headley, associate professor of marketing at Wichita State University, recently released their report that compared

data from November, December and January of 1998 to forecast 1999's service.

The report compiled national statistics such as consumer complaints, overbooking, delayed flights, denied boarding, age of the fleet and mishandled baggage from the Department of Transportation and the National Transportation Safety Board.

The report does not examine problems with equipment.

The report shows that U.S. Airways will offer the No. 1 service, according to 1998's airline performance during the holiday season.

U.S. Airways hopes to continue the same amount of quality this year, said Rick Weintraub, primary press spokesman for U.S. Airways based in Arlington, Va.

"In our own standing from last year, we're quite proud of our service, but you can't always count on your past performance," Weintraub said.

Following U.S. Airways in ranking from best to worst are:

Continental, Delta, Southwest, American, Northwest and American West.

Southwest Airlines, rated No. 1 in quality service for 1996 and 1997, moved to fourth for 1998. Linda Rutherford, spokeswoman for Southwest Airlines based in Houston, Texas, attributed the difference to a change in the rating system.

Rutherford said Southwest Airlines' quality has not declined in the past year. If anything, she said, the airline characteristically has the lowest number of customer complaints.

The National Airline Quality Rating has been released annually since 1990 and is used throughout the nation as a gauge for airline quality, Bowen said.

"We're the only place that evaluates the airlines in this quantitative capacity. Nobody does it like we do," Bowen said.

Michaela SchAAF, program coordinator for NASA Nebraska Space Grant and Epscor at UNL, said about

50 million people across the nation would see or use the report.

This year's travel season may be different from previous years because of Y2K, Bowen said.

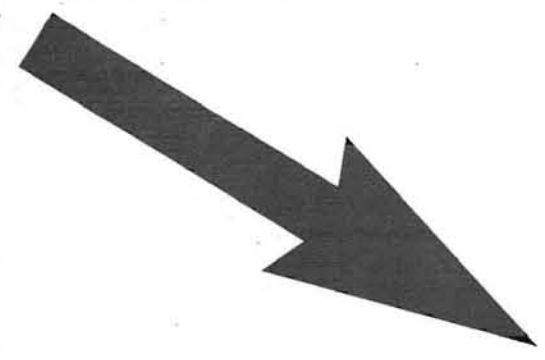
Bowen said he didn't think there would be Y2K problems because he was confident that the government had everything under control for travel, but travelers seemed more concerned with Y2K.

"Airlines are already seeing a decrease in booking around New Year's," Bowen said.

Rutherford disagreed that Y2K has decreased flights, adding that Southwest Airlines had an increase in bookings this year.

Airlines generally decrease the number of flights on holidays because people usually are where they want to be going, Rutherford said.

Regardless of quality of flights or the threat of the Y2K bug, airline representatives said they expected flights to run smoothly this holiday season.



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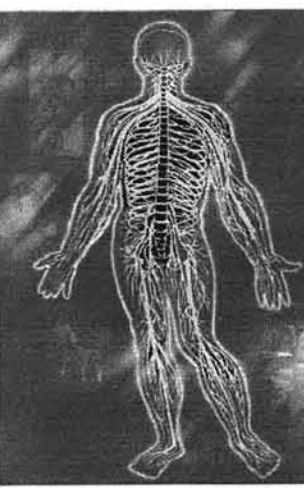
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Professor: David Ricks
Department: International Business
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What Makes University of Missouri-St. Louis Students So Smart?

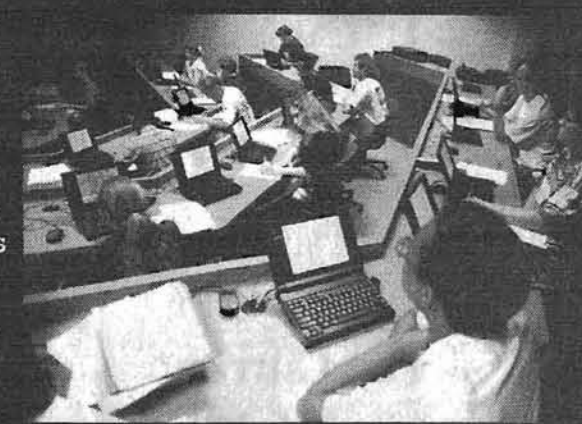

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ACCOUNTS, from page 1

own way. Sometimes students depend on alternative sources who don't come through or they try to apply for financial aid in the middle of the semester when it is a race, and they end up with past-due accounts," Georges said.

Georges said that after Krueger sent the letter, a tremendous number of students contacted his office.

Krueger announced in his letter that special times would be set aside

on Nov. 29 and 30 for financial counseling regarding financial aid and alternative loans. Georges said that although his office experienced additional traffic on those days, they were not too busy.

"The letter helped the students take action much sooner before the actual date. We are getting ready to send out a follow-up letter to students who did not respond and are still considered delinquent.

DELEGATES, from page 1

you here and also between the student leadership," Mayimeli said.

The delegation's visit also brought more diversity to UM-St. Louis' representatives.

SGA Representative Michael Rankins led the delegation on a tour of the campus. He said that he has learned several things about South African culture due to the time he spent with the delegation.

"Every time I meet someone from a different culture, I learn something

new," Rankins said. "I didn't realize some of the subtle nuances of South African culture (until now)."

Rankins said differences in dietary habits and the South African political climate were two differences that stood out for him.

The delegation's visit was set up by the University of Missouri system. After touring UM-St. Louis, the delegation traveled to UM-Rolla. They will also visit UM-Columbia before returning to South Africa.

Successful one-act plays help reintroduce theater to UM-St. Louis

BY SHAVON PERKINS
staff associate

Two one-act plays, "The Murder Play" and "Identity Crisis," were performed Dec. 2 and 3 in the Benton Hall theater. The shows were produced by the English department and available free to the public.

Barbara Kachur, associate professor of English, directed the performances. Jacklyn Sarris, who was one of three students in charge of the sound, lights and props on stage, was pleased with the production.

"Since UMSL does not currently have a theater department, this is a great way for students to show their interest in performing: There are a lot of students on campus who really want to get involved with some-

thing of this nature," Sarris said.

Sarris said that it has been around 11 years since the University has had a theater department. She acknowledges that there is no current proposal to initiate a theater program on campus but hopes that the new Performing Arts Center will kick start such action.

"To my knowledge, this is the first year for the one-acts but there is a lot of interest in keeping it

going. I think that next year if students would like to get more involved and direct the one-acts that is a possibility," Sarris said.

The cast of the one-acts consisted of nine actors and three stage hands who handled lights, sound, and props. The cast had been rehearsing since October. Sarris said that the students have very diverse majors including communications, veterinary medicine, and

English.

"Kachur has been talking about this project since orientation and has been encouraging students to audition. There hasn't been a lot of promotion involving this production. Most information came from word of mouth although we did post some flyers around campus. Considering the fact that finals are approaching, I think we have had a pretty good turn out," Sarris said.

Trim the tree, deck the halls...



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Denny Kiehl hangs a friendship garland with student names on it around the Christmas tree in the University Center lobby. Sophomore Rich Geiler, in the background, helped her.

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Auditions will be held from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. on December 7 and 8, 1999, in Room 205 Music Building.

Questions? Call Dr. Haggans, 516.5343.

AGNEW, from page 3

denominator, it really trivializes it. My horizons have broadened. I will go from the range of political humor to all the way to sex. Sex is tried and true. You know people will laugh about that," Agnew said.

When Agnew walks on stage, she has learned that she has 15 seconds to grab the audience's attention. Agnew's routine may change as she as her experience differs, but Agnew never attacks a crowd.

"I don't want anyone waiting for me in a parking lot," Agnew said. Agnew considers the newspaper the most reliable source for humor. In addition to reading and staying current with events, she keeps a journal.

"I'm always writing . . . I love to

write . . . [It's] an outlet for me," Agnew said.

Stand-up comedy has taught Agnew a few lessons of life.

Agnew said she has learned "what you're going through, everybody else is going through [and] when you do something you really like, you do it well."

Not just a single mother, student and worker, Agnew puts it all together when she walks out on stage.

"It's an incredible high" to make someone laugh," Agnew said. "It's such an adrenaline rush. I would say to anybody considering comedy as a career to really look at it as something you have to love because it can be very frustrating."

RICKARD, from page 3

people who think they are intelligent they will force you to get a life away from your e-life.com. And that's my view from the outside in.

GIFTS, from page 3

purchasing Pokemon toys include the Fisher Price Peaceful Planet Aquarium. The Aquarium glows and lights up a room at night.

A real pet that will give unconditional love also fills the request for a wonderful selection, and if they come from the shelter that little pooch is also given the gift of a safe home. A word of warning for wise, however, make sure the recipient of the gift will appreciate it and care for the animal as it

deserves. All this shopping is certainly difficult work, so even sometimes Santa Claus needs to buy himself a treat. For that, cashmere is not only soft and fuzzy, but it is also warm for the season.

Jeremy Comp, a student mentor, bought his dad a J.R. Ewing foot couch.

"The only thing you can buy for someone who has everything is something they don't want or they don't know exists," Comp said.

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AIDS, from page 3



Joshua Miller (left), Jason Parmentier and Teresa Schmitt light luminaries at the Founder's Circle Wednesday to remember those that have been affected by AIDS.

Stephanie Platt / The Current

indirectly to an AIDS contraction.

"They are a risk because when [someone] smokes pot, when [someone] drinks, they make [them] do things [they] wouldn't do when [they] are sober," Thomas said.

Thomas has lectured all ages from sixth graders to post-graduate medical students. Transactions are only possible through four body fluids, including blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and breast milk.

AIDS works only through fluid-to-fluid transfer which make unprotected sex, blood transfusions, transplants,

mother-to-child (through birth), and intravenous drug use the primary transmission routes.

Four means of prevention that stop someone from getting AIDS are abstinence, the use of clean drug needles, latex sexual barriers (condoms), and universal protections like latex gloves.

AIDS goes through four stages. The first step is acquiring the virus. In the second, flu-like symptoms occur, along with possible weight loss. In the third, the immune system weakens enough to bring about the complications of other conditions, such as pneu-

monia or lung cysts. In the fourth stage, the white blood cell count decreases to less than 20,000.

Although medicines exist to fight AIDS, there is no cure. Thomas lives by a bottle and pill box. He take 20 pills a day at different times, all with side effects. These pills are more toxic than chemotherapy.

Thomas sees a problem in that people do not understand that AIDS is still out there because they don't hear about it as much. If anyone sees the AIDS quilt, they won't forget it, or that what it represents.

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SPORTS OPINION

No more fear: Rams fan comes out of the closet

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

I am a St. Louis Rams fan! I (allegedly) picked them in every office pool imaginable, I have a blue and gold helmet in my car, and I am willing to spend hundreds of dollars just to see the Kurt Warner Show in person. I can finally say this without any fear of being ostracized from the sports writing community.

For years the nay-sayers laughed at my No. 80 jersey (\$125), my seven fitted hats (\$20 a piece), my Rams under-ones (\$15), and my pile of ticket stubs. They giggled at my undying support for a team that was transplanted from the great city of Los Angeles because of a lack of fan support. This was a team that had not been to the playoffs since Ronald Reagan got the biggest acting job of his life; a team that seemed to have a very fine-tuned knack for finding the worst possible man for any given position, and placing him there at the worst possible time; a team that was on pace to be the

poster child for NFL inferiority; and a team whose rival happened to be a team with four Lombardi trophies sitting on their mantle.

But I stuck it out, through two head coaches, six quarterbacks, the whole PSL mess, Lawrence Phillips and the ever-rising cost of the whole NFL experience. I sat through the ups (a 4-0 start) and downs (records of 7-9, 6-10, 4-12). I tried to conceive why a head coach was fired after one so-so season and replaced by a burn-out who had two horrible seasons. I tried to understand why the draft system had failed me yet again, getting us a heck of a lineman, but also an anti-football magnet, a convicted halfback, and numerous "the (insert favorite position here) of the future."

I watched as my beloved Rams, who I gave a rat's posterior about until 1995, I admit, tried their best to emulate the Big Red's final seasons in St. Louis, and they did a pretty good job.

But I kept telling myself, all is well. Every preseason I would talk up the boys in blue, and I would brag that

(insert favorite Ram here) would lead the league in (insert corresponding statistic here). I would boast that (insert coach here) would finally take St. Louis to the top of the NFL.

Well, guess what. I WAS RIGHT. The St. Louis Rams are 10-2. 10-2! We have already clinched the NFC West Division with four weeks to spare! We are considered heavy favorites to take the NFC title, and Sports Illustrated has us seeded No. 2 in the NFL. And, yes, people actually believe this, myself being one of them.

We have a quarterback making roughly \$250,000 this year who has a QB rating of 111, a running back who is near the top of the NFL in both rushing and receiving, a kick returner who missed four games due to L.P. syndrome and is still tops in return yards, and a coaching staff whose Geritol intake is higher than most players' caloric intake.

So if you're not on my bandwagon yet, please jump on. But be prepared to hear "I told you so!"

DUFFY, from page 5

neering program, and has a 3.4 GPA.

"It's hard to balance academics and athletics, but it's fun," Duffy said. "The secret is time management."

Duffy is also managing the Rivermen quite well as they are off to a 9-3 start this season and hope to make progress in their quest for a playoff berth.

RIVERWOMEN, from page 5

102-72.

The Riverwomen led Lincoln University at halftime 48-37, but their defense and offensive production stepped up in the second half.

UM-St. Louis forced Lincoln University into 31 turnovers throughout the contest and only allowed 22 shots in the second

half.

On the flip side, the offense was steady, shooting .585 in the second half and .524 for the entire game.

Daniel led the Riverwomen with 27 points followed by Amanda Wentzel and Lynette Wellen, who each had 18 points, respectively.

RIVERMEN, from page 5

turn it over."

Mental toughness and leadership are important for any team, and Bernsen was particularly disappointed with his team's effort in these crucial areas.

"I knew we would hit a spell in the second half," said Bernsen, "where we would have to find a way to produce baskets and keep them from scoring, and we just didn't. I was really disappointed with our inability to be more mentally tough. We just didn't have anybody step up and take control."

Riverman Brian Markus led both teams with 20 points, while teammates Kechan Johnson and Jim Schelich each scored 10 points, respectively.

The loss drops the Rivermen to 2-1 on the season.

GLVC BASKETBALL STANDINGS

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

Ye Olde Ad

Back in the old days, I was a student, just like you. Every day I commuted to and from the University. At 8:00 a.m. sharp, I would enter the vibrant world of Español. For the next several hours, I would be engrossed in studies, expanding my mind, and learning oh-so-many things I had never before thought possible. But I felt cut off from the rest of the world...

Then things changed.

I visited The Current Online and discovered that my college experience had only been one-dimensional! I was missing out on a chance to meet new people and have real discussion! I was missing a new full-color "Nerd Table" cartoon every week! I was missing the week's top news, sports, and entertainment information. In short, I was deprived before I got online with The Current Online.

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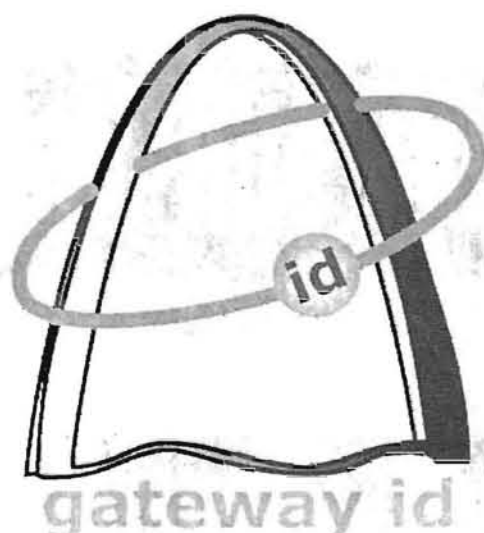
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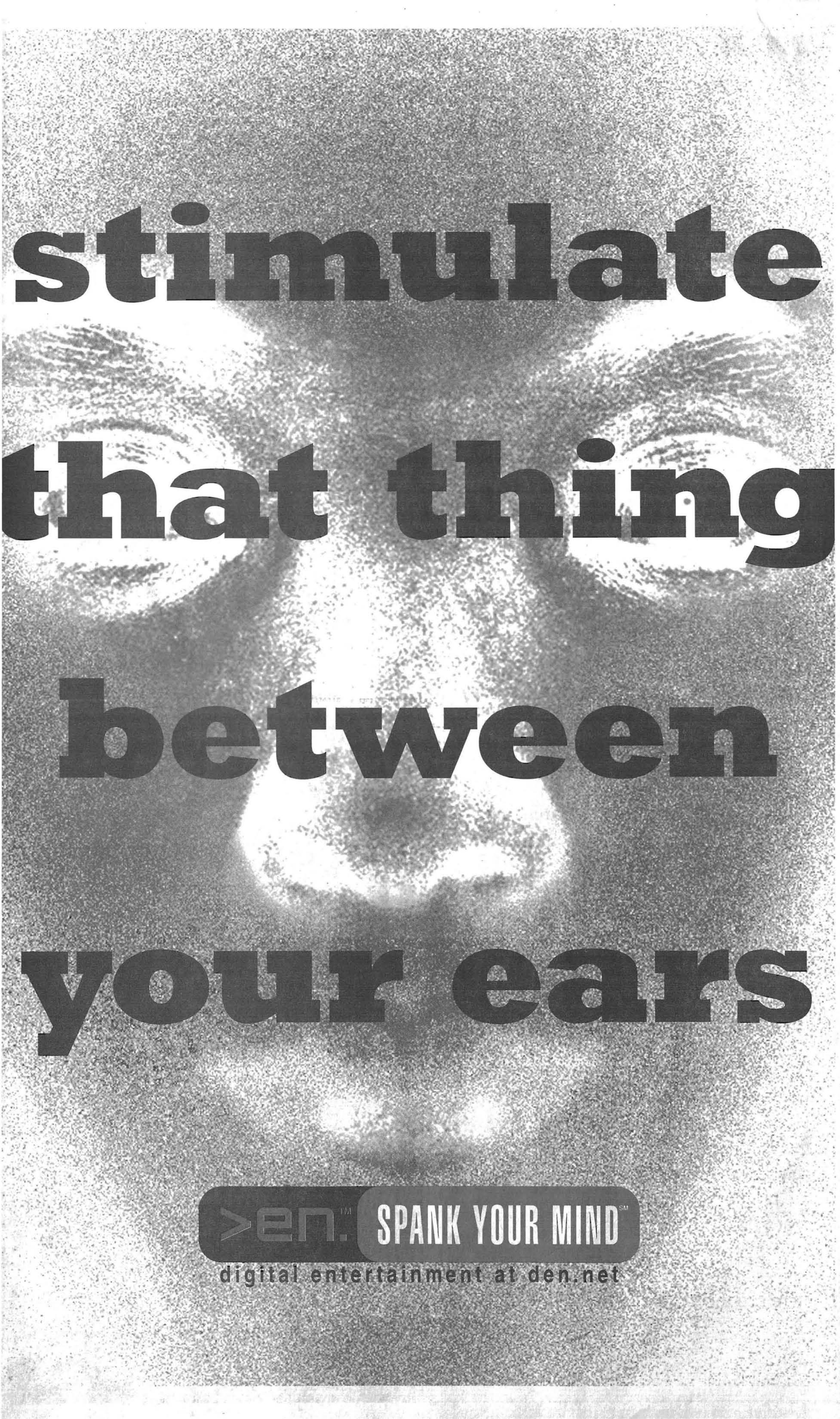
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Misc

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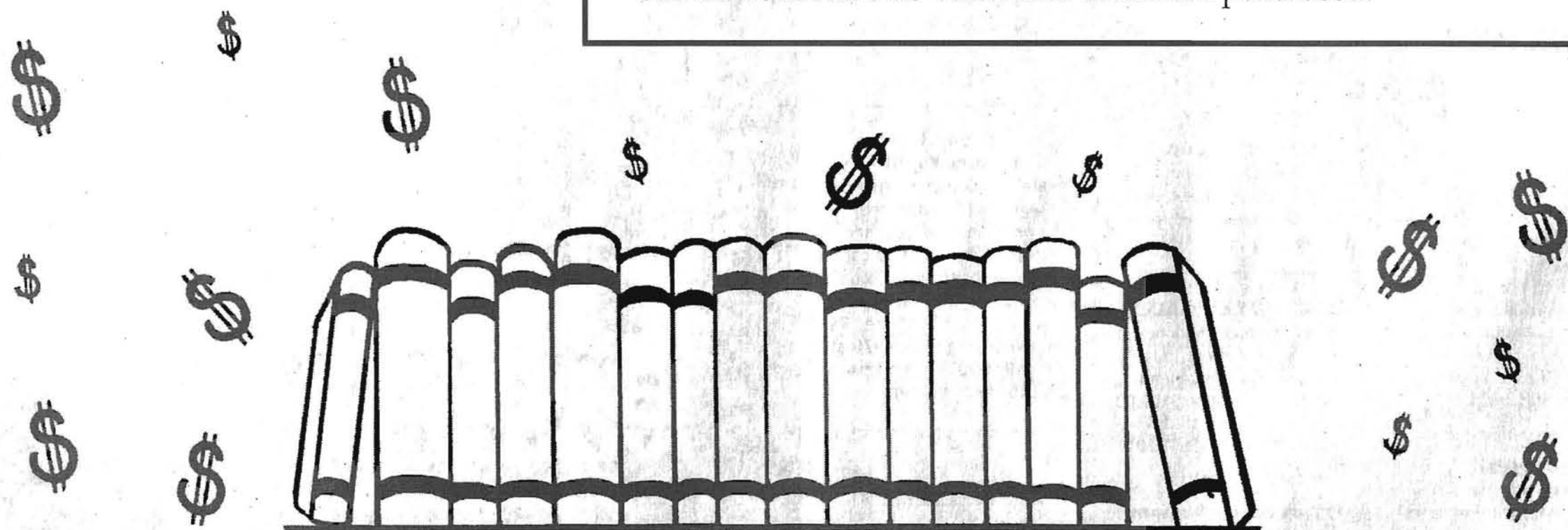
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