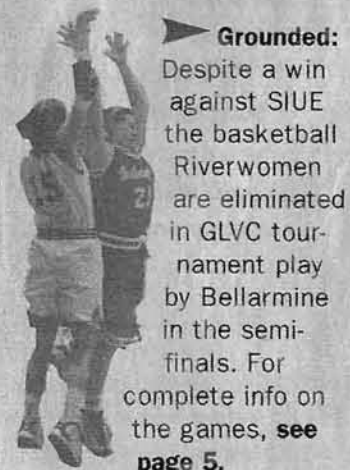




► **Art of Learning:** Gallery 210 displays the photos of Nathan Lerner.

See Page 3.



► **Grounded:** Despite a win against SIUE the basketball Riverwomen are eliminated in GLVC tournament play by Bellarmine in the semi-finals. For complete info on the games, see page 5.

See page 8.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Social Security number use under fire in Arizona

(U-WIRE) TUCSON, Ariz. — The Arizona Board of Regents yesterday proposed changes to a legislative bill prohibiting colleges from using student Social Security numbers for identification purposes.

While board members said they wanted to ensure students' privacy, they were reluctant to accept the bill's 2001 deadline for implementation.

University of Arizona President Peter Likins said the student-driven legislation would create a financial hardship for the three Arizona universities.

However, student concerns about administrative stonewalling prompted the bill's 2001 deadline, said Sam Leyvas, executive director of the Arizona Students Association.

"The board shouldn't oppose students who are trying to protect their rights," Leyvas said after the meeting. "We thought the Regents should support the legislation."

But Leyvas added that Regents and university presidents had "legitimate" points that his organization can agree with - provided that something is done to address its concerns.

"If you need another year, take another year, but we feel very adamant that the legislation needs a deadline," he said. "It needs to be done."

Likins said the UA is already working on a process that would enable students to be identified by methods other than their Social Security numbers.

Likins added that the legislation may constitute a total ban on the use of Social Security numbers, making it incompatible with university needs. The university will require the number for certain transactions, such as when dealing with financial records, he said.

Leyvas said his organization has confronted Arizona's university administrators in the past about the abuse of student privacy rights and nothing tangible had been done before legislation was proposed.

"I think with the universities it's always wait and see," he said. "We brought this to the table nine months ago - the only thing that got their attention is there's legislation now."

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The Current

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

March 1, 1999

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vol. 33 Issue 948

Comptroller set to expel SGA groups, freeze budgets

BY DAVID BAUGHER
senior editor

SGA Comptroller Ben Ash said that he hopes to begin proceedings this week to expel 28 student organizations from the Assembly and freeze their budgets due to poor attendance at student government meetings.

"Being expelled from the assembly means your budget is automatically frozen," Ash said.

Ash called the move a "constitutional decision" based on a set of SGA bylaws he found while organizing his computer. The bylaws state that organizations must be expelled from SGA after missing four meetings, though Ash said academic honorary and new organizations are not required to live up to the mandatory attendance clause.

Ash also noted that another nine organizations have missed three meetings and will be subject to expulsion should they miss either of the two remaining SGA meetings.

Ash said that the punishment would only affect organizations for the remainder of the fiscal year which ends this summer and that they would be SGA members again by August. He also said that the attendance requirement would not directly affect the organization's SABC budget request though he hopes that will change in future years.

"Hopefully, by next fall we can have attendance measures set up that organizations that do not meet them will either a) lose their funding quicker or have it be frozen quicker and expelled quicker or b) have some sort of SABC punishment entailed to it."

Ash said the process of sending out letters to affected organizations could begin as soon as Wednesday. He said that in the meantime he will consult the other members of the SGA executive committee including President Jim Avery, Vice-president Mike Rankins and Treasurer Jacqueline Anderson. He said Avery told him he wished to discuss the matter further before taking any action.

"I'll be happy to discuss it with [Avery] but as you can see, it's in our bylaws," Ash said. "It's a requirement."

Avery could not be reached for comment. Ash said that the proposed temporary expulsions may have a more permanent effect by removing defunct organizations that have existed "in name only" for some time.

see SGA, page 8



Ash

For a list of affected groups, see page 8.

Longtime UM-St. Louis basketball coach resigns

Rich Meckfessel ends seventeen year stint here

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The winds of change swept through the UM-St. Louis athletic department as Rivermen Head Basketball Coach Rich Meckfessel announced his resignation, Tuesday.

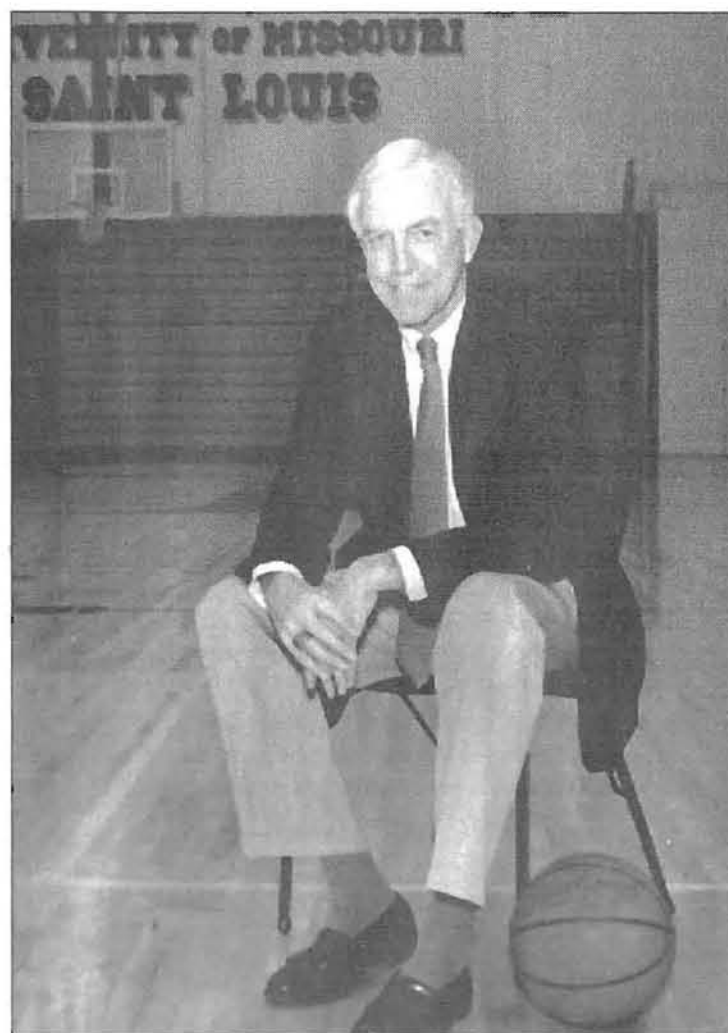
The resignation marks the end of an era for UM-St. Louis basketball. Meckfessel has been the Rivermen head coach for 17 years. The ongoing search for Meckfessel's replacement began immediately.

"We would like to name a successor by early spring, but it is a difficult decision," UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Pat Dolan said. "Time lines are certainly part of the process, but you don't want to rush the decision to the point where you make a mistake."

Dolan said that she is currently putting together a search committee, but the committee is not finalized. She also said that the coaching change should not disrupt the Rivermen's recruiting.

"The signing period [for new players] is not until Apr. 8, so we have some time. Plus new coaches usually have some kids they bring with them, and of course, we have a good group of players coming back," Dolan said.

Meckfessel said he made the decision in late January after a difficult homestand. However, he



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Rich Meckfessel, who announced his resignation last week, has been the basketball Rivermen's head coach for 17 years. For analysis and a review of Meckfessel's career, turn to page 5.

waited until last week to inform Dolan.

"We set goals prior to the season, and it became apparent during a four game homestand in late January that we weren't going to make those goals. One of them was to make the conference tournament. And that's when I made my decision," Meckfessel said.

The resignation comes after a

third losing season in a row. The Rivermen finished this season with a 7-19 record overall, failing to qualify for the conference tournament. Over the past three seasons the Rivermen have posted a record of 19-60 overall.

Meckfessel admitted that UM-St. Louis is a tough school to have success at because of the

see COACH, page 6

Campus senate to see full student contingent

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff assistant

Forty-four candidates will be competing for 25 student seats in the University senate this week.

Students in the University senate have been under fire for their lack of attendance at senate meetings recently. So, members of the Student Senate Election Subcommittee and the faculty and staff members working with them said they were very encouraged by the number of candidates who applied.

"I think it's great, what's going on around the campus," said Sue English, the senate's administrative assistant. "The students who are calling and asking questions seem to be

Forty-four candidates vie for twenty-five seats in this week's elections

very interested in getting involved."

Also pleased was senate chair Jeanne Zarucchi, who spoke at the Jan. 21 Student Government Association meeting. At that meeting, she said student senator attendance had been low, and that some in the senate were suggesting reducing the number of student seats.

"I think [44] is a great number," she said, "because as long as there are more candidates

than there are seats to fill, there will be a genuine election. The most important thing, however, is for all twenty-five seats to be filled by people who want to serve."

Gail Babcock, a co-chair of the Student Senate Election Subcommittee, said she thought the turnout was significant and would help keep students represented in the senate.

see SENATE, page 8

SENATE VOTING INFORMATION

Thursday, March 4

10 a.m.-2 p.m. U Center, SSB lobby, Marillac Hall

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Evening College, SSB lobby, Marillac Hall

Friday, March 5

10 a.m.-2 p.m. U Center, SSB lobby, Marillac Hall

Floatin' By



Ron Edwards/Auxiliary Services

UM-St. Louisans wave from the campus' float in Souldard's Mardi Gras parade Feb. 13. About 53 students and staff turned out for the event. Participants are already being recruited for another float UM-St. Louis will enter in the St. Patrick's Day parade Mar. 13.

UM-St. Louis Pikes join in effort to aid Rolla chapter

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
of the Current staff

At one o'clock in the morning on Feb. 13 tragedy struck the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house in Rolla. A fire burned the over 70-year-old house to the ground, killing one fraternity member.

That resident was Jared Adams, a junior at the University of Missouri-Rolla, and a native of Ballwin. He died of smoke inhalation, near his bedroom on the other side of the basement from the utility room where the fire started. The fire was started by an unknown cause, but fire officials said it was likely an electrical fire.

None of the other 55 residents were hurt, but all of their property was destroyed.

Pikes from around the country banded together to help the Rolla chapter, including the Zeta Phi chapter of Pikes at UM-St. Louis. While the Pikes here could not donate much money due to their shaky financial status, a clothing drive was held all

week, and all of the clothes were dropped off at Rolla on Feb 19. A trust fund worth nearly \$750,000 has also been opened for a new house at Rolla.

While this disaster has already occurred, measures can be taken to avoid this happening in the future, especially with older houses such as the one at Rolla and the one here at UM-St. Louis.

"We have fire inspections twice a year, the most recent being last week. We have multiple exits with signs posted on all of them, including all of the windows in the basement, where most people congregate during our parties," said Brian Orbals, a junior at UM-St. Louis and a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. "While we do allow smoking inside the house, there are an enormous amount of ashtrays available, so no one throws their cigarette butts on the ground."

Making sure a party is safe requires more than ashtrays and exit signs, so the Pikes

see PIKES, page 8

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

Bulletin Board

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

Monday, Mar. 1
 • **Monday Noon Series: Indigo Ink—Prose Readings.** Members of Indigo Ink, the St. Louis Association of African-American Writers, present readings of some of their recent works in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

Tuesday, Mar. 2
 • **Spring Break Alternative Meeting** at 3:30 p.m. at the Newman House for all those interested in working with the poor in cooperation with other UM-St. Louis students. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.

• **You've Got to Put Dignity On: Black Women, Black Activism, Black History.** Leslie Brown, UM-St. Louis assistant professor in History and Women's Studies, gives her perspective on American history from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

Wednesday, Mar. 3
 • **Taize Prayer,** a quiet, meditative time for scripture, music and prayer sponsored by campus ministries. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

• **SPINNING CLASS** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Introduction to Weight Training**

from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Thursday, Mar. 4
 • **Men's and Women's Recreational Weightlifting Contest** for students, faculty and staff at 1 p.m. in the Mark Twain Weight Room. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Student Senate Elections** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers still needed. Contact: Senate Office, 6769.

• **"Patterns of Nature: Biology"** will be shown at 2 p.m. in 132 SSB as part of the MathClub Film Series.

Friday, Mar. 5
 • **Student Senate Elections** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers still needed. Contact: Senate Office, 6769.

• **FUN & GAMES** at the gym. All Residential Life, University Meadows, & International Students are invited to use the gym from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and eat free pizza. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **International Seminar "United Germany Today: America's European Partner"** given by Dr. Harald W. Braun, Minister for Political Affairs at the German Embassy in Washington D.C., from 2 p.m. to 3

p.m. in the McDonnell Conference Room 331 SSB. Contact: 6620.

Saturday, Mar. 6
 • **Third Annual Japanese Dinner** at 6:30 p.m. in the South Campus Residence Hall. Tickets must have been purchased by Feb. 26. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact: Yoshiko Shimizu, 7045 or Christopher Follis, 8676.

Monday, Mar. 8
 • **Monday Noon Series: An Introduction to the Sitar.** Allyn Miner, lecturer in Indian music, South Asia Regional Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, performs on the sitar and discusses its history in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

Wednesday, Mar. 10
 • **SPINNING CLASS** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **Taize Prayer,** a quiet, meditative time for scripture, music and prayer sponsored by campus ministries. Contact: Roger Jespersen, 385-3000.

• **"Stories of Hope."** Join the Women's Center in welcoming the women of the "Let's Start" program as they perform a play based on

their efforts to turn their lives in a positive direction after facing legal problems. This event will be from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in 100 Clark Hall. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

• **Introduction to Weight Training** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Thursday, Mar. 11
 • **Coed Wallyball 4-on-4 Tournament** will be from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts. Each team should consist of 2 men and 2 women. A and B divisions offered. Win a T-shirt. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Friday, Mar. 12
LETS TAKE YOUR BODY FAT: Find out what your body fat is so that you can use it as a baseline to measure "real" progress! It only takes 1 minute. Meet at the Rec Sports office between 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Monday, Mar. 15
 • **Monday Noon Series: The New Bauhaus—A Slide Talk.** Myron Kozman, a former student at UM-St. Louis, provides an overview of the efforts to transplant the pedagogical principles of the famous German art school to Chicago in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

The Current

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Campus CrimeLine

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

February 5, 1999
 At 5 p.m. a student reported the theft of a cellular phone from her purse while she was in the Underground.

February 8, 1999
 A person was arrested at the Lucas Hall Dock area as a fugitive from St. Louis County on an active arrest warrant.

February 9, 1999
 A faculty member reported that sometime between January 11 and January 19 a Panasonic AM/FM double cassette "Boom Box" was stolen from 305 Music Building.

February 10, 1999
 A visitor to the Meadows reported that on August 26, 1998 between 1:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. a Visa and a Famous Barr credit card were stolen while

he slept. A female acquaintance is suspected.

February 11, 1999
 A staff person reported that a vacuum cleaner was missing from the first floor janitor's closet at Lucas Hall.

February 15, 1999
 A student reported that between February 13 at 1:30 p.m. and February 14 at 1:30 a.m. a Yamaha Scooter was stolen from the parking lot at the Meadows. The scooter was not in operating condition when it was taken.

A student reported that between February 13 at 8:00 p.m. and February 14 at 2:30 a.m. unknown persons attempted entry into his Meadows apartment by kicking the patio door. Entry into the apartment was not gained. No witness could be located.

February 16, 1999
 An International student reported being assaulted by another International student in front of 7946 Natural Bridge Rd. at 2:45 p.m. Prior to the assault, the two students had argued over a game of ping-pong.

February 19, 1999
 A student reported that on February 5 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. unknown persons damaged her auto by leaving numerous scratches on the hood. The auto was parked on parking lot "E" when the damage occurred.

A student living in off-campus University housing reported that the residence was burglarized between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A laptop computer was taken by unknown persons after gaining entrance by breaking out the kitchen door glass.

First Annual Battle of the Bands!!!

FEATURING:

Patrick Clark Band
 Fat Cactus
 Hindsight
 The Kinetics
 The Mims
 Planet Terry

March 6, 1999
 in the J.C. Penney Auditorium
 from 4 PM to ?? PM

Free admission for all!
 Great local music!

For more information, call the University Program Board @ 516-5531 or the Office of Student Activities @ 516-5291

Go for it!

The Current is now accepting applications for its Editor-in-Chief for 1999-2000!

To qualify students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- must have completed a minimum of nine academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

To apply students must submit:

- a resume
- a cover letter
- three letters of reference (must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand; experience in journalism and management strongly recommended but not required)

Please submit application materials to the Editor-in-Chief at The Current at 7940 Natural Bridge Road by 5 p.m. March 8, 1999
 E00

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your help is urgently needed to staff polling booths during the SGA elections in April. To volunteer, call Michael Rankins at 516-5286.

FEATURES

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

GET THIS

Royally flushed: Lady Luck can be terribly cruel

It's been some time since I wrote about my arch-nemesis, Marty. Recently, however, he told me a story that I thought most people would enjoy. Hence, I will share it with you today. Keep in mind that this is a true story and names have not been changed to protect the stupid.

It all started with an innocent trip to the gambling boats. (I don't remember the specific establishment, but it's not really relevant.) Marty and his friend, Don, were playing Caribbean style poker at one of the tables.

Now, there happens to be a kind of side-bet-thingy going on at these places. I hope my advanced use of technical terminology didn't lose anyone there. The basic idea is to throw down an extra dollar with each hand to go towards a jackpot of varying proportions.



According to Marty, Features Editor it's pretty much the expected thing to do. All the real gamblers do it! But Don is not one to conform to the norm. You see, in order to claim the pot, one must be dealt a royal flush. That's a really good hand, almost impossible to get. So Don saw it as a waste of a buck.

As luck would have it (you probably see where this is going) Don was dealt that rare hand. Marty and Don were stunned. Unfortunately, the gentleman sitting next to them was not so taken aback. Even more unfortunately, he did not know that Don had not thrown a dollar down beforehand. The man assumed that he had - all the real gamblers do it! - and proceeded to jump up shouting, "He won the jackpot! He won the jackpot!" and pointing at Don.

Once Marty regained his ability to speak, he carefully explained to the stranger that he was mistaken and Don had not won the \$180,000 (that night's jackpot) as it may have appeared. Although the man did not seem to understand at first, he eventually calmed himself and sat back down. For the rest of the night his eyes looked rather glazed over, and he just kept shaking his head in disbelief.

Even though he didn't win \$180,000, Don still had a killer hand. If the dealer had anything worthwhile, Don could be a few thousand dollars richer. Fate was in an evil mood, however, and had a taste for blood. The dealer did not qualify which means he had nothing. So Don only won \$5.

As if all this wasn't bad enough, the gambling boat wanted to put the whole thing in the newspaper because, after all, a royal flush is quite a unique accomplishment. Don bashfully declined their kind offer.

About a week later, Don received a nice little plaque for his amazing feat. Of course, his last name was misspelled.

Time passed. About a month later, Marty and Don decide to once again hit the boats.

Before the first hand, Marty throws down \$1. Don does not. The man next to him, in an attempt to be friendly, says, "Hey, man! Aren't you going to put a buck down? One time, this guy didn't and he lost \$180,000!"

At least, if nothing else, the event has given Don legendary status among gamblers.

"I SUPPOSE THAT TIME DOES MODIFY THE MEMORY IN STRANGE UNPREDICTABLE WAYS WITH THE UNPLEASANT BECOMING MUTED AND INDISTINCT, AND THE GOOD GROWING AND EVER FRESH. SO, LOOKING BACK, ONE MUST CAREFULLY TRY TO BALANCE THE IMAGES AND FEELINGS THAT FLOOD THE MEMORY."

LEARNING CURVE

Gallery 210 will display Lerner exhibit until April

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Nathan Lerner coined this remarkable quote in a speech given at the Institute of Design reunion on May 11, 1974.

Gallery 210 will feature an exhibition highlighting Lerner's work, opening on Tuesday. The exhibit will run through Apr. 3 and is called "A Singular Vision."

Lerner, born in 1913 in Chicago, was the second of three sons. His first educational experience with art was when he attended Saturday morning art classes at The Art Institute of Chicago. From then he attended The National Academy of Art, located in Chicago.

Lerner's first photographs were of the street images and the street life of Chicago during the Great Depression.

In 1937, the New Bauhaus was created from the remnants of artists who were persecuted in Nazi Germany. Lerner later joined this school, where he learned to take a more abstract view with an emphasis on light. The "light box," Lerner's invention which teaches students the aspects of light in photography, was a result of Lerner's education at New Bauhaus, where Lerner also stayed to teach and later became head of the photography department.

Lerner left the school to work for the U. S. Navy as a civilian light expert and work on other projects such as developing a machine that made plywood.

Lerner returned to New Bauhaus which had changed names and was now called the School of Design. Upon his return he was named dean of faculty and students, and the head of the product design workshop. Lerner left the school in 1949 over a merger.



Christine Flavin, guest curator and photography professor adjunct takes measurements with gallery assistant Linda Bangert. The Nathan Lerner exhibit will run through April 3.

From 1949 to 1970, Lerner worked for Lerner-Bredendieck Design Associates in Chicago.

Lerner married Kiyoko Asai, a Japanese pianist, in 1968. This marriage provided Lerner with a great interest in Japan and Japanese styles. Lerner intensely photographed Japan in the 1970's and 1980's.

Lerner died Feb. 8, 1998.

Terry Suhre is the director for Gallery 210. Suhre had worked with Lerner since she first became acquainted with him around 1983.

"Photography reaches across many boundaries," Suhre said. "Almost everyone takes photos whether it's a throw-away camera or what."

That is one of the reasons Suhre chose to exhibit Lerner's photographs.

All of Lerner's work implements abstract

forms with an emphasis on textures. In Lerner's later work all these ideas are combined to create a self-contained work.

"First Communion," "Sleeping Man," "City Forms," and "Children on Ford" all depict life during the Great Depression. Some of his later works like "Kiyoko" and "Lips on a Sidewalk" are more abstract in nature, but still reflect the human spirit that Lerner always seemed able to express in his photographs.

This is the perhaps the greatest and most known aspect of Lerner's photographs. The aspect of the human spirit that is an omnipresent and everlasting denominator of mankind.

"It's a nice lesson and easy way to learn that lesson," Suhre said of "A Singular Vision."

Gallery 210, located in Lucas Hall, is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

Who would you nominate for president in the next election?

"Elizabeth Dole would make our country proud."

-April Cline
Freshman/Communications



"Hillary Clinton."

-Janie Williams
Junior/History

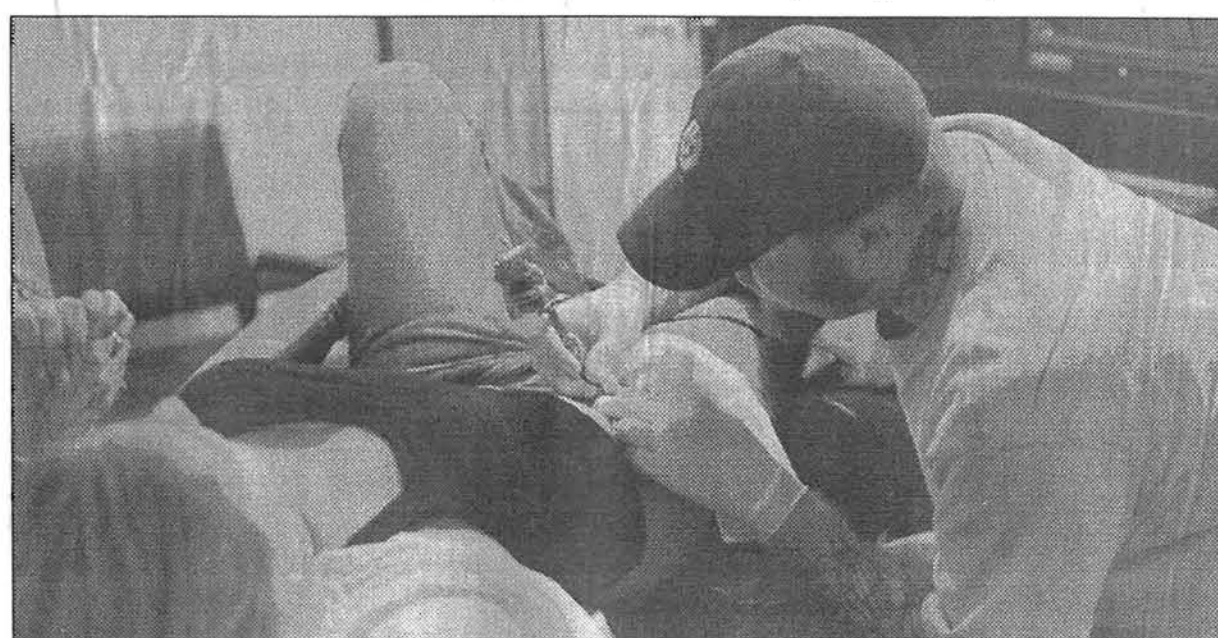
"Chris Tucker. He could get a lot of good things done, because his voice makes him hard to argue with him."

-Terry Wesley
Sophomore/Mass Communication



"Rosie O'Donnell."

-Patty O'Driscoll
Junior/Social Work



Shawn Garrison works on a customer at West End Tattoo and Piercing Co.

Under the needle

An interview with a tattoo artist

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
of the Current staff

To many people, tattoos are taboo. They are thought to be found only on convicts and individuals with "lower moral standards." Tattoos seem to represent only those too defiant to leave well-enough alone with their body but they are, in fact, becoming quite mainstream. Everything from Kool cigarettes to specialized mountain bikes and Dockers pants use tattoos in their advertising. Movies like *Blade* feature fake designs drawn on box office actors like Wesley Snipes for mass appeal.

As the demand for tattoos goes up, the competition for talented tattoo artists in major cities increases, and St. Louis is no exception. Some of the best tattoo artists in the Midwest work in St. Louis, I pinned one of them down long enough to get an interview, Shawn Garrison of West End Tattoo and Piercing.

It was impossible to catch Garrison at a time when he was not drawing ink somewhere on a person's body, so the interview took place in the middle of a tattoo session. Between *Soufly* playing on the stereo and the incessant droning of the tattoo gun, the questions were more shouted than asked.

The Current: "Why did you first get interested in tattooing?"

Shawn Garrison: "Because it looked cool basically, and fun to do. When I got my first tattoo, I fell in love and wanted more. Then I started wanting to do them on other people."

TC: "How long have you been tattooing? How long have you been an apprentice, and what exactly entails being apprenticed?"

SG: "I've been tattooing for three years, two-and-a-half of them here, and I was apprenticed for six months. Being an apprentice is mostly grunt work, mopping and sweeping floors, cleaning the machines, but then I got to draw designs and learn how to tattoo, too."

TC: "Where is the future of tattoos and tattooing headed?"

SG: "Tattoos are definitely becoming more popular, more mainstream these days. I even saw a commercial on ESPN the other day, showing nothing more than the tattoos of the NBA."

TC: "Why do you do it, and how long to you plan to be a tattoo artist?"

SG: "I do it because I can do what I want, wear and listen to what I want, and I get to create art on people's bodies. I'll be a tattoo artist for the rest of my life. I couldn't picture myself doing anything else."

TC: "I am sure you have been asked countless times, 'Does it hurt?' How do you respond to that?"

SG: "I tell them that, yeah, it hurts, but it isn't unbearable, and usually not as bad as they are expecting it to be."

Garrison's tattoos are becoming more well-known as his portfolio grows. Not everyone that gets a tattoo has money to pay, and Garrison realizes that, as he has received various means of payment. He has often accepted things like rare books and stereo equipment. Once he was even given a hearse that he actually drove around for a couple years before selling. However, his most unusual trade was probably the human skull from a Washington University Medical School graduate student who was short on cash.

When all was said and done, Garrison had just successfully conducted an interview while listening to angry metal and pressing a needle into someone's back. Fortunately, the finished product on the customer's spine was beautiful. Especially lucky for me, because I will have it forever.

Shawn Garrison can be found at West End Tattoo and Piercing Co., 322 N. Euclid in the back of the Rec Club. Call 367-0590 for an appointment, Tuesday through Saturday.

COMMENTARY

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

Editorial Board

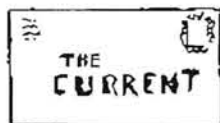
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Editor in Chief

Joe Harris
Managing Editor &
Editorial Page Editor

"Our Opinion" reflects the
opinion of the editorial board

How to Respond

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



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OUR OPINION

Too late for an impeachment in the SGA

The Issue:

It's too late to start an impeachment process against the SGA president.

We Suggest:

Students should use the Harris letter as the standard for future SGA presidents.

So what do you think?

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

The open letter read by Rosalind Harris at the Feb. 18 Student Government Association meeting was well-intended and made several good points, but it may be too little, too late.

Harris called SGA President Jim Avery to task on his attendance at senate and chancellor's cabinet meetings. Harris said Avery is never there for his fellow students and asked what the students were paying him for.

The open letter sparked several minutes of heated conversation about what to do about the situation. Some talked about impeachment while others defended Avery. Unfortunately, Avery was not there to defend himself to the assembly.

Though there is no doubt that the Avery administration has left much to be desired, unfortunately it appears to be too late for any SGA disciplinary action to be initiated.

According to Benjamin Ash, SGA comptroller, if an impeachment resolution was brought forth against Avery

in the March SGA meeting, Avery would have one month to respond to the student court meaning that it would be at least April before the court would reach a verdict. Since the SGA presidency term ends this summer, an impeachment would amount to no more than a slap on the wrist.

Instead, this letter should be used as the standard to which future SGA presidents are selected and judged. Regular attendance to senate and chancellor's cabinet meetings along with accessibility to both students and faculty should be demanded, not just expected.

If anything, this letter should serve as a wake-up call to the UM-St. Louis student body. Through the chaos that has become the Avery administration, students now know that they alone are the only bodyguards for their rights.

Now the students need to make their expectations for the next SGA president clear. They need to voice their concerns and demands loudly, because if they don't then a bad sequel to this year's SGA will occur.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The campus senate: a vital asset to the students

On March 4 and 5, the student Senate elections will be held. Recently, there has been considerable discussion on this campus regarding student participation in the Senate: the poor attendance of student Senators at current meetings, the lack of respect felt by some students from faculty members of the Senate, and whether student seats on the Senate should be reduced or eliminated all together. As a current member of the Senate and a member of the election committee, I would like to share my thoughts on each of these areas of discussion.

I feel that the poor student attendance at Senate meetings is indefensible. I also believe this poor attendance speaks to the heart of the other two issues being discussed. We, as students, have to own up to the inherent responsibility of running for and being elected to a seat on the Senate. I understand that as students we have deadlines at school to meet as well as jobs, and perhaps, family obligations to attend to. These other considerations, however, should be taken into account prior to deciding to commit oneself to running for the Senate position. Once the decision has been made, I believe it is our responsibility to attend the Senate meetings on a consistent basis.

I have felt some of the lack of respect students speak of as members of the Senate. I felt it at the beginning of this year when I first became a member of the Senate. I do not feel any lack of respect, however, today from faculty or administrators with whom I have become acquainted through the Senate meetings or on the Budget and Planning Committee to which I was elected. In fact, I believe that our mutual respect for each other and our diverse viewpoints is growing through our participation, especially on the committee. I, therefore, have come to see that respect is a two-way street. Showing up and participating allows students, faculty, and administrators to get to know and understand each other. That is how mutual respect develops.

I have very mixed feelings on the elimination of student seats from

the Senate. One discussion suggests reducing the student seats from 25 to 15 in order to give staff access to representation on the Senate. Since I believe all stakeholders need to be represented, I tend to favor this suggestion. The proposition that students should be eliminated from the Senate entirely, frightens me. I think it should be a great concern to all students, whether any of us choose to exercise our right to participation or not today. Students have the ability to bring a perspective to the Senate that cannot be represented by faculty, administrators, or staff members. Even if that doesn't seem important to a majority of students today, I believe we need to preserve the right for future students to have their perspective heard. Future students may find their education lacking without such a voice. To retain those seats for future students, I believe it is our responsibility to keep that option alive by showing up and participating if we choose to run for an elected position.

The purpose of this letter is twofold. We need volunteers to help with the election process. Students who are willing to help can contact Sue at the Senate office (516-6769). Also, students have an opportunity to demonstrate responsibility by committing to voting at the elections on Mar. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University Center, SSB lobby, or Marillac Hall; from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Evening College, SSB lobby or Marillac Hall; or on Mar. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University Center, SSB lobby, or Marillac Hall.

I am tired of hearing that student apathy is one of the major problems on this campus. The only way I know to disprove such accusations is for enough students to participate in governing bodies such as the Senate. Through such participation, attendance will necessarily improve and the issue of respect for students can be resolved.

-Gail Babcock

GUEST COMMENTARY

Finding success in your New Year's resolutions

Have you made New Year's resolutions, but time and time again you fulfill only a few or none? Are you tired of making New Year's resolutions?

Could it be that your despair of making New Year's resolutions comes because all of us make promises to ourselves that we're going to lose weight, stop smoking, or send our resume out, but as soon as the freshness of the new year wears off, we're back to where we were the year before?

I have taken the time to look over my past to see where I have failed and why. I would like to share three principles with you that I have found helpful in my success. I know they will help you take charge of your life and succeed.

I was preparing to teach a class for the continuing education department at a local community college when the director informed me that the college would pay for me to take a class. I had had no intentions of going back to school, but I decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

While applying to the college, I discovered that I was eligible for the honors program. This meant that I could take honors classes or sign a contract with a professor to do a project and receive honors credit when I completed the class. So I took an oral communications class and signed a contract with the professor; however, taking a class wasn't anything new for me. I had taken classes before at the community college in my hometown, but something always kept me from completing them. This time I decided not to let anything stop me from completing this class.

I was enjoying my class as the weeks went by, receiving encourage-

ment from my professor as well as my fellow classmates. Then my car broke down. At the time, I lived about 15 minutes from the college. But remember, I had decided not to let anything stop me from completing this class. So I walked to class.

Finally, I completed the class, and I was happy. Now you're probably wondering, if my car breaks down, do I have to walk to class? No. It just means that that was an obstacle I had to get over. What obstacles keep you from completing your goals? You can move beyond them.

First, welcome your opportunities. I had no intentions of going back to school, but the opportunity arose, and I welcomed it. Test your opportunities to see how they will help you accomplish your goals, then welcome them.

Second, welcome your experiences. When my car broke down, I chose to move beyond that obstacle after reflecting on past experiences. Identify your past obstacles, and move beyond them.

Finally, welcome your capabilities. When I discovered that I was eligible for the honors program, I was scared. Yet, I contracted to teach the ethics portion of the oral communications class because I knew I could do it. You might be a good organizer or problem solver. Don't be afraid to use your talents and abilities, and don't let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do.

The power is within you to welcome your opportunities, to welcome your experiences, and to welcome your capabilities, but you have to decide within your heart; from your goals you will not part. Decide within your soul; your dreams you will control.



LISA PETTIS
Guest Commentary

Good samaritan or potential victim?

There's something subtly awful about living in a world where you can't trust people. Take an incident that happened to me a few weeks ago.

It was about two in the morning and I had just finished dinner at Steak 'n Shake. (Two a.m. is dinnertime when you operate by my body clock.) I was headed back to *The Current* to finish my work. (Two a.m. is a normal business hour when you work at *The Current*.)

But as I pulled up to a local intersection, I noticed a young man trying to flag me down. He waved his arms as I passed, indicating I should pull over. The light at the intersection was red, so I stopped and saw the man walk calmly out into the street, maybe a hundred feet behind my car, still signaling.

I'm a nice guy at heart and my first inclination was to back up and see what he wanted. Maybe something was wrong and someone needed help. After all, if I didn't stop to help my fellow man, what kind of citizen would I be?

The kind who is still alive to write a column about it, that's what kind. These days, stopping for midnight pedestrians is not the best way to lengthen your lifespan. In the age of carjackings and kidnappings, good samaritans are often not rewarded for their generous nature. Anyway, the neighborhood wasn't all that great. (Come to think of it, what neighborhood is great at that hour?)

Even if something was wrong, what was I supposed to do about it, that the young man couldn't do himself? There was a well-lit gas station and a couple of porch parties only few hundred yards in either direction. Anyhow, the man didn't seem panicked. He was calm enough. Maybe he just wanted a ride. I am under no obligation to pick up hitchhikers at two in the morning or at any other time. Then again maybe I should stop and ask...

The light turned green. The man continued motioning to me. I paused — and drove on.

Whatever I may have thought, it wasn't worth the risk. I have to look out for me before anyone else and a stranger's potential problems don't trump my need for self-preservation, so I kept going.

Still it bothered me. But the incident itself says a lot about my priorities as a human being. Was there subconscious racism at work? No, I decided I wouldn't have stopped for him if he'd been white either. Chances are he wasn't an attacker. Chances are also good it wasn't an emergency, probably he had a stalled car or simply needed a lift. But who plays the odds in today's society? Who can afford the risk?

Then again there's risk of lacking trust in our fellow citizens, too. I guess I made the right decision, but there was danger in it. How safe can any society be if we all make the choice to be anonymous drivers-on?

Late at night with a TV remote control

Late night television, though not intellectually challenging, can be very entertaining. Jerry Springer, Jenny Jones, and MTV's *Loveline* all serve to entertain and update us on the lifestyles of America's down and out.

To a night owl like myself, these programs along with a remote control serve to pass the time while I wait for the Sandman's arrival. And while not all three of these shows are on at the same time, it is fun to think about the possibilities if they were.

It might go something like this:
Of course I would start off with Springer. Tonight's topic, "My third cousin twice removed from my mother's side stole my man!"

The show starts up with a woman named Madonna, who lives in a tornado-devastated trailer park and is crying about her man Bubba. It seems like her third cousin twice removed on her mother's side, Darla, has been sleeping with Bubba.

What a shame, but this is boring. I think I'll tune in later when the fights start.

Click.
Jenny Jones' topic, "I am a teenage hooker, and proud of it!" It's a repeat.

Click.
Loveline's on and some guy named Jasper from Wyoming is crying about his girlfriend moving away. Of course she's moving away, what the heck is in Wyoming?

Click.
Jenny Jones has this 17-year-old girl who calls herself Aphrodite. She's dressed in these bawdy clothes and she's wearing so much make-up that it will take a jack knife to get it off her face.

This girl's bragging about how much money she makes and all the while I'm wondering why anyone would pay to sleep with someone like her.

Click.
All right! Madonna and Darla are rolling around the floor and pulling each other's hair out. Finally they are separated, and Springer makes a funny comment about cats.

Everybody laughs, even Bubba who smiles with his one tooth for a close-up.

Click.
Jasper's still on Loveline. Come on, man. Even if it's over, there are other girls. Oh wait, I'm sorry, no there aren't. I forgot he lives in Wyoming.

Click.
Now Madonna's mother is being restrained from attacking Darla by Springer's security guards. I have no time for a woman who names her child Madonna.

Click.
Aphrodite's mother is crying to Jenny about her daughter's profession and how it's her fault. Aphrodite doesn't seem to care though, because while her mother is carrying on she's trying to pick up a guy in the first row.

Click.
Wow! It seems Madonna's brother and Bubba don't get along too well. Somebody needs to break this up. It seems Bubba missed

see HARRIS, page 8



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LATEST SCOOP

Baseball's back and so are the Cards

There is nothing better than to have the sun shining, the birds chirping, and the lovely smell of tar and tobacco chew. The baseball season is finally here, and I cannot wait for it to get started.

Whether it be the local high schoolers or even our own Rivermen who finished last season ranked number 17 in Division II, you can just feel the anticipation for the start of the season.

This new start is what St. Louis needs. With our Blues playing only .500 hockey and the Rams, well that just speaks for itself, the area needs something positive to look at.

The Cardinals have bolstered their squad tremendously, have a chance to win the Central Division and even move on from there.

With the offseason acquisitions of outfielder Eric Davis, replacing the strike-out-ridden

Ron Gant and solidifying the middle of the infield with Carlos Baerga and Edgar Renteria, the Cardinals have the look of a play-off team.

Now with all of Gant's talk about Tony LaRussa being a racist to fellow members of his team, that is all a bunch of bologna.

LaRussa has done nothing short of a miracle for the Cardinals organization. After all, who, besides the fans, lured Mark McGwire to St. Louis? The opportunity to play for his ex-coach had to be a factor.

He has turned a team around in four years, a recovery that is almost a miracle. The Cardinals had a bunch of underdeveloped talent in Ray Lankford, John Mabry, and even Brian Jordan. These players excelled with LaRussa as the coach. Now granted, two are not with the Cardinals anymore, but because of LaRussa's gamble on these players, they are now making nearly triple the amount of what they were being paid before.

Just look at LaRussa's track record over the past decade. He turned the Oakland Athletics into a powerhouse to reckon with. He turned old and rusty players like Carney Lansford and Mike Gallego into quality role players. Each did what was expected of them in order to achieve the team's main goal: winning a World Series.

Gant cannot complain that LaRussa did not give him a fair chance with the Cardinals organization. Over the past three seasons, Gant has struck out over 300 times. For a power hitter and player that the Cardinals should be able to rely upon, that just does not cut it.

Gant was given his chance when the Cardinals gambled on him after the motorcycle accident that almost ended his career. The Cardinals organization and fans both supported Gant, but he just could not cut it. To replace Gant, the Cardinals have the talented J.D. Drew and Eric Davis to run the outfield.

This duo will only excel from the departure of the overpaid Gant. Drew will finally get his chance to play everyday and Davis will have another impact year.

As for Gant, I just wish him the best of luck and hope that his next whiff at a vicious curveball just doesn't hit him in the mouth.



DAVE KINWORTHY
sports associate

March Madness hits Riverwomen early

First round upset leads to second round heartbreak in the GLVC tournament

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

The Riverwomen basketball team had battled all season. Their season came to an end last Friday as a last-second shot fell short in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

The season ended when a last-second Melanie Marcy 3-point shot attempt fell short against Bellarmine. The Riverwomen lost 64-62.

"The girls have no reason to hang their heads," Riverwomen Head Coach Shelly Ethridge said. "Bellarmine is a good team and we played well today. We just did not pull off a victory. We had a ten-point lead early and Bellarmine fought back into the game by making their free-throws. We got beat by a good team."

Bellarmine was the second seed in the tournament. The Riverwomen were the sixth.

The Riverwomen had several problems during their game with Bellarmine. The toughest was the rebounding margin between the two teams. Bellarmine out-rebounded UM-St. Louis 49-34.

"One of our strong points all season had been our rebounding," Ethridge said. "Today we had a tough time on the boards. It showed in the score."

The other problem, foul trouble, kept several of the starters out of the line-up. Tawanda Daniel picked up two quick fouls, Marcy played the final ten minutes of the second half with four fouls and Krystal Logan had several quick fouls.

"I was really proud of the seniors," Ethridge said. "Krystal

and Melanie played well all season and I was really proud of the way they played in the tournament. We couldn't have done it without them."

Earlier in the week the two seniors led the Riverwomen to one of the greatest upsets in school history. The Riverwomen defeated SIU-Edwardsville in the first round of the GLVC playoffs.

The six-seeded Riverwomen had not beaten the three-seeded Cougars since joining the GLVC and this season the Cougars had mauled the Riverwomen.

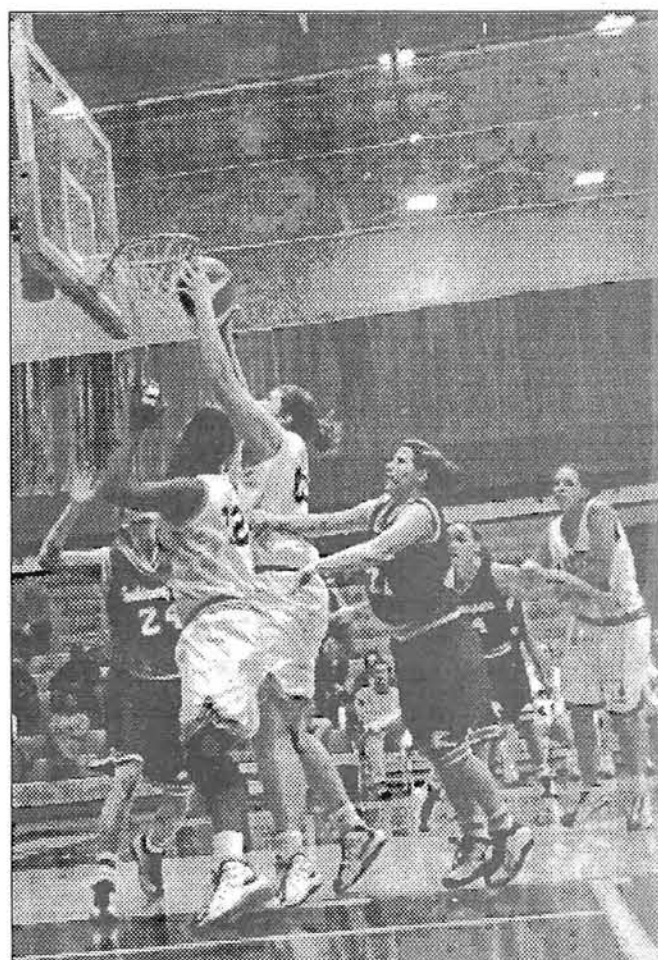
In their two previous games, the scores had been lopsided with the Cougars winning 60-47 at St. Louis on Jan. 11, and 73-53 at Edwardsville on Feb. 11.

Their latest rematch went down to the wire with SIU-Edwardsville having an opportunity to win the game with a last-second shot. The Riverwomen stopped the offensive attack allowing only a weak attempt at a shot.

Daniel grabbed the errant shot and avoided defenders successfully running out the remaining five seconds. The Riverwomen won 69-68.

The victory against SIU-Edwardsville was huge. It marked the first time UM-St. Louis had won a post-season game since the first season of the program in 1974-75. During that post season it was a state run tournament.

"It is a frustrating way to end the season but overall it was a great season," Assistant Coach Kevin Tuckson said. "I am just glad that I had the privilege to work with all the women. They were really great to work with."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Jennifer Littleton (00) goes over teammate Tawanda Daniel (32) for a rebound in a Riverwomen game against Indianapolis earlier this year.

Sports Opinion

This Riverwomen team was the best ever

The record may not show it but this was the most successful women's basketball team in UM-St. Louis history.

Never had the team done so well in a post-season tournament. The best the team had done in the postseason was a win in the AIAW state tournament in 1974-75. Since '75 there has been blow-out after blow-out in the tournaments. The program had been shaky to say the least. Solid individual performances aside, UM-St. Louis wasn't a place where good teams resided, until now.

A 15-13 record may not be the greatest record in school history. But with a 69-68 victory over SIU-Edwardsville in the first round of the GLVC tournament, this team secured their place in school history.

The GLVC is not a push-over conference. It boasts some of the top teams in D-II basketball. The Riverwomen were in the hunt in almost all of their conference games. It just goes to show how far the program has come. It was only two seasons ago the program finished 5-22 under then Head Coach Jim Coen. Under Head Coach Shelly Ethridge the

team has flourished. She is 29-25 at UM-St. Louis. This season was her first full attempt at assembling a team from the beginning to the end of recruiting and it was a fabulous job.

This year's team was great. Their effort against SIU-Edwardsville was commendable. Edwardsville had owned the Riverwomen this season handing them two losses. The Riverwomen seemed to not remember the two games and played hard. Melanie Marcy came through big, putting in 23 points. Krystal Logan also added 13 points.

Against Bellarmine, the women played well but the end result just wasn't there. There wasn't much the team could do. Bellarmine shut down the Riverwomen on the boards and shut several players out. That was the key to Bellarmine's attack. The Riverwomen played well but there is probably more to learn from the loss than if they had won. Next season with many returning players and the experience of playing in the tournament, the post-season results could be even greater.

-Ken Dunkin



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Lindsay Brefeld (44) dives for a loose ball against Indianapolis earlier this year. Brefeld, a sophomore, will be one of the players counted on to lead the Riverwomen next season. The Riverwomen finished the 1998-99 season 15-13 overall, and upset SIU-Edwardsville in the first round of the GLVC tournament.

Meckfessel leaves with many winning memories

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Rivermen Basketball Head Coach Rich Meckfessel resigned Tuesday, ending another chapter on his lengthy resume. He spent 31 years on the sidelines and had his share of high points.

Meckfessel started his basketball career as a walk-on at Washington University. His coach then was Chuck Smith, who later became the first coach in UM-St. Louis' history.

After his playing days, Meckfessel served as an assistant coach at Washington University.

"Any success I have had is due to people like Chuck Smith, who gave me my start in coaching, and the many fine young men who have played for me," Meckfessel said in a released statement.

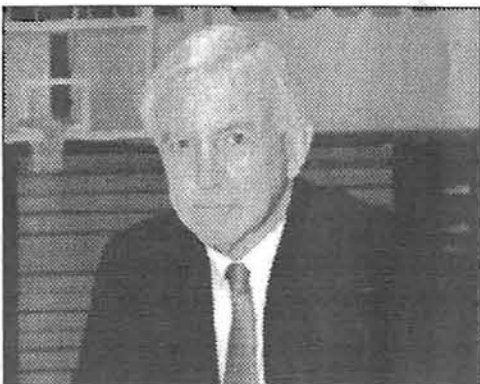
After his stint as an assistant, Meckfessel was named the head coach at Morris Harvey College (now the University of Charleston). In 14 seasons, his team went 250-168 and advanced to the NAIA national tournament semifinals in 1966-67.

Every year his team would take on several Division I schools. His last team at Morris Harvey was no exception as they took on Larry Bird's Indiana State team.

Meckfessel left the sidelines after 14 years to become the school's full-time athletic director, but after three years Meckfessel came home to coach the UM-St. Louis Rivermen.

Seventeen years later, Meckfessel steps down as UM-St. Louis' winningest coach at 214-252. He was named the MIAA Coach of the Year three times in 1985, 1989, and 1991.

Meckfessel's 1987-88 squad set a school record with 22 wins and advanced to the NCAA Division II national tournament's "Sweet 16." And the 1990-91 team went 22-6



Meckfessel

before finishing at number 16 in the national polls.

In 1992, Meckfessel was inducted into the Golden Eagle Athletic Hall of Fame at the University of Charleston.

Throughout his career, Meckfessel worked with many young men, one of which was player turned broadcaster, Frank Cusumano.

"I always thought that his greatest asset was that he was a non-confrontational guy," Cusumano said. "He realized that we were 19 or 20-year-old kids and that we would make mistakes. But he would never jump all over us when we made them."

Meckfessel attributes the tolerance and patience Cusumano described to having kids of his own. And though he has accomplished a great number of things over the years, Meckfessel does not rule out a return to coaching.

"I would not rule out coaching again. I always thought that a great way to end my career would be as an assistant coach on the collegiate level," Meckfessel said. "That way I wouldn't have the pressures of being a head coach but I still would be involved in the competitive aspects and working with the kids on a daily basis. Time will tell."

Sports Analysis

Rivermen coaching change could be better, closer than we may think

Mixed emotions went through me when I heard that longtime Rivermen Basketball Head Coach Rich Meckfessel had resigned. On the one hand maybe it could be a new beginning for the program; Meckfessel had run the program for 17 years.

On the other hand it marked the end of an era. Meckfessel had done quite well with the Rivermen. He took the team to the NCAA tournament in 1988 which is a great achievement for a coach at a school where the academic

restrictions are fairly high. He had lost out on several players he had recruited; he was handcuffed on others. The players had seemed to quit this year, and in January it seemed Meckfessel had also. The emotion that I had seen in previous seasons was gone. Instead of Meckfessel being the one screaming at the referees after a bad call, as it had been in the past, it was Assistant Coach Scott Matthews. This was a different Meckfessel than the one that I had first seen when I came to UM-St. Louis five years ago. The coach I first met was very aggressive and fiery. About mid-way through the season the fire seemed to have gone out.

A new coach might not be named for months, but he might already be at UM-St. Louis.

Many players don't realize how much their coaches know. That was the case at UM-St. Louis.

Meckfessel has said that Assistant Coach Chico Jones would make a great head coach. Jones has the credentials. He has been an assistant coach at UM-St. Louis for 20 years. He knows the area as he teaches in the Normandy school district which would help for recruiting. The players respect and listen to Chico. It wouldn't be a bad decision. On the upside, he has seen the program go through its highs and lows. Chico deserves a shot, hopefully it will be at UM-St. Louis.

The women's program proved that sometimes a change works out for the best. Two years ago the women's team couldn't buy a victory. Two seasons later they had a shot at going to the conference finals. Hopefully the men will have the same turnaround.

-Ken Dunkin

Veteran Rivermen start season off with high expectations

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

After a 32-15 season in 1998, the men's baseball program is gearing up for another solid year.

Last year, the men placed second in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and return six starters and their top four pitchers.

Head Coach Jim Brady appears anxious and is ready for the season to begin.

"We put a lot of hard work in," Brady said. "We feel like we have covered everything we need to cover. Now the next phase is to put it to use and we feel like we are ready."

The difference from last season to this season is the team's focus and hard-work mentality.

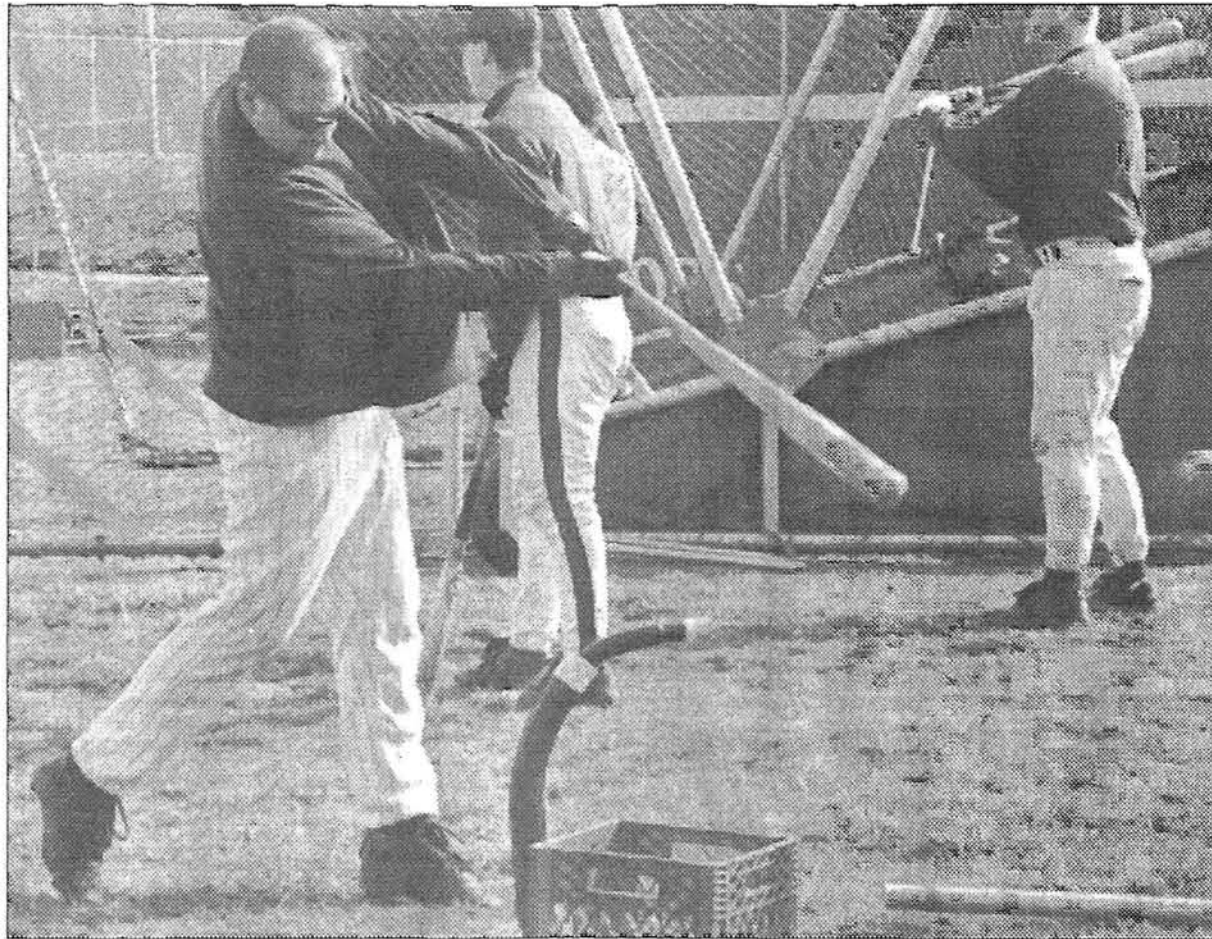
"There are a few less question marks," Brady said. "They know what it takes to win. The chemistry among players is really tight. They all get along really well and do a lot of things off the field."

One crucial question for the Rivermen is how they will replace first baseman Eric Blaha who hit 15 home runs and drove in 50 RBIs, but Brady has confidence in his newer players.

"I don't think that you can really replace somebody who goes out and puts up those kind of numbers," Brady said. "You just try to balance a little more and get production out of other people. We have two pretty good players in Mark Masesso and Nick Post who will both really serve us invaluable. I am very optimistic that we will pick up where we left off last season."

With the losses of Blaha, Levar Dillard, Steve Johnson and Brandon Whitt, the Rivermen are looking to other players to step up into the leadership role.

"Some of the guys who have been here in a while, especially our up the middle combination of Bob Hlousek and Scott Luczak are pretty impressive," Brady said. "Joe Christian has now been here with me for four



Riverman Mark Masesso smashes a ball off the tee in practice. Masesso's bat will be counted on heavily if the Rivermen are to live up to preseason expectations.

years and he will be a force because he is such an intensive competitor and brings so much leadership to the table. Catcher Mike Andrew returns behind the plate and knows what it takes and will be a big asset for us."

The Rivermen begin their season March 2 as they host Westminster.

The long term goals for the Rivermen are quite simple.

"Our goal is to get back to the conference playoffs and then get a bid to the regionals," Brady said. "We have a great chance to win. This may be the best year we have ever had, but we have to stay healthy. Everything has to come together with the pitchers and hitters. Our running game is probably the most impressive I have ever seen here."

With the optimism that the Rivermen have for the season, Brady is anticipating a very successful campaign.

"I feel real good about this team," Brady said. "They have just worked their tails off and they have shown me so much dedication. They are a really special group. They have that special quality in a team. There is a special bond."

1999 NCAA Div. II Baseball Top 20

Rank	School (1998 Record)	Points
1.	Tampa (46-14)	480
2.	Kennesaw St (61-5)	462
3.	Florida Southern (37-21)	450
4.	Alabama-Huntsville (41-17)	432
5.	SIU-Edwardsville (38-15)	410
6.	Central Missouri St. (39-8)	396
7.	North Alabama (39-15)	374
8.	North Florida (32-21)	372
9.	St. Joseph's (39-19)	356
10.	Cal. St.-Chico (37-18)	340
11.	S.E. Oklahoma (51-9)	328
12.	Central Oklahoma (38-14)	294
13.	Mount Olive (34-23)	271
14.	Delta St. (39-12)	258
15.	West Virginia St. (29-13)	250
16.	Armstrong Atlantic St. (38-21)	233
17.	UM-St. Louis (32-15)	200
	Sonoma St. (33-21)	200
19.	Presbyterian (40-20)	199
20.	Slippery Rock (34-14-1)	182

Softball team has new faces, new attitude, higher goals

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

There are only four returning players this year for the Riverwomen softball team, and although there are a lot of new faces, Head Coach Charlie Kennedy has high hopes for this year's squad.

Kennedy said his team's goals are to win their conference, get an NCAA tournament bid, and have no home losses.

"We're talented enough [to reach our goals]," Kennedy said. "It depends on how well we come together. We have a lot of new players, and it takes time to gel."

The Riverwomen will have a total new look this year, especially on the pitching staff. Gone are Nicki Kocis and Diana Mooney; here are Ashley Blust, Kathleen Rogoz, Donna Massey, and Jennifer Vancil. In fact, the only returning pitcher from last year is sophomore Megan Kuebler.

For the first time, Kennedy has depth on the mound but has no clear-cut ace. Instead, Kennedy said these pitchers all offset each other.

"We had one quality pitcher in the past and a couple of other throwers," Kennedy said. "I really think that we have some pitchers here, and they are capable of being very good for us with help from the defense behind them."

The Riverwomen again will start with a tough non-conference schedule to open up the season. They will

play several teams ranked in the top 20, including Kennesaw State who was ranked number one in the country for four weeks last year.

Kennedy said the tough schedule will help the Riverwomen down the road.

"If you've seen the best out there, then what we want to do in conference won't be as big of a path," Kennedy said. "There's no sheltered fear because you've seen the best."

With the tough early season schedule, a lot of focus will be on the Riverwomen's four returning players. Andrea Wirkus, Andrea Sczurko, Melissa Shumate, and Megan Kuebler will need to step up.

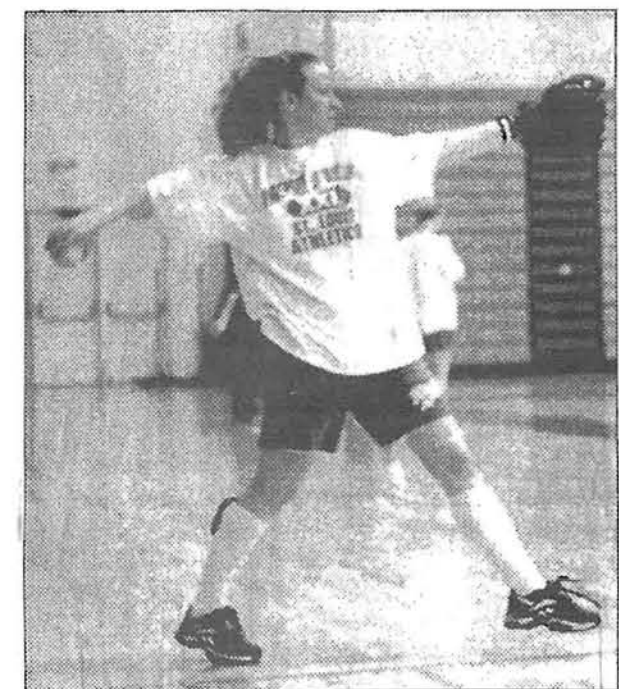
Wirkus led the team in hitting with a .331 average in 1998. Sczurko played a steady shortstop and Kennedy looks for improved offensive numbers from her this season. Shumate plays centerfield and has been moved down the line-up to be in a position to drive in more runs. Kuebler will also see time at third and first base as well as on the mound. Her offense will be a plus for the Riverwomen.

Kennedy is also excited about the new on-campus softball complex that is the new home for the Riverwomen. The new complex will allow the Riverwomen to schedule more home games which will cut down on the team's travel.

The Riverwomen will open up their new complex Friday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m. with a doubleheader against Olivette Nazarene.

1999 UM-St. Louis Softball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.
1/11	Katy Meyer	C	Fr.
4	Melissa Gerber	2B-LF	Jr.
5	Andrea Wirkus	RF-C	So.
6	Sara Downey	2B	Jr.
7	Sara Mauck	SS-2B	So.
8	Ashley Blust	RF-P	Jr.
10	Megan Kuebler	P-3B	So.
13	Melissa Shumate	CF	So.
14	Vicki Gorvo	LF	So.
18	Andrea Sczurko	SS-2B	So.
21	Kori Allison	P-LF	Jr.
22	Sybill Wall	LF	So.
33	Kathleen Rogoz	P-1B	Jr.
34	Jennifer Vancil	DHP	Jr.



Sam Kasle / The Current

Andrea Sczurko works out in the Mark Twain Gym during inclement weather on Tuesday. Sczurko played a steady shortstop for the Riverwomen as a freshman last year. As one of only four returning players from the 1998 season, Sczurko will have to play well if the Riverwomen are to challenge for the conference title.

COACH, FROM PAGE 1

high academic standards; however, he would not use that as an excuse for the team's losing record.

"It's not easy being successful here because of the high academic and financial constraints," Meckfessel said. "But we've always been able to follow up an occasional down year with a good year, until recently."

Until a new coach is named, Meckfessel will carry out the same responsibilities that the head basketball coach would, except those of recruiting. When a replacement is hired, Meckfessel will start work on special projects related to athletics under Vice-Chancellor Reinhard M. Schuster.

No favorites have emerged to take Meckfessel's place, but Dolan has several criteria that the new coach needs to meet.

"The new coach needs to be a man who is in touch with what is going on in the [Great Lakes Valley Conference]," Dolan said. "It is very important that we hire a coach who has experienced a lot of success."

Dolan said that she wants to keep the pool of applicants as large as possible, that UM-St. Louis' assistant coaches are invited to apply, and that previous head coaching experience is not necessary.

"Assistant coaches will also be considered. The main criteria is that they have experienced a great deal of success where they have been previously," Dolan said.

Although Meckfessel will remain in contact with the Rivermen players while a replacement is chosen, he said he will try to stay out of the selection process.

"No, it would not be appropriate [to help name a new coach]. That will be a decision for people with less of an emotional attachment to make. But if anyone asks for my opinion, I would be happy to assist and answer their questions," Meckfessel said.

Dolan said she plans to ask Meckfessel for his opinions about possible candidates.

"We certainly will ask Rich for his opinion about candidates. He knows a lot of people, and he knows a lot about basketball," Dolan said.

Throughout his coaching career, which lasted over 30 years, 17 at UM-St.

Louis and 14 at Morris Harvey (now known as the University of Charleston), Meckfessel has worked with many people.

One person was Frank Cusumano, who played for the Rivermen from 1980-1984, and under Meckfessel for the 1982-83 and the 1983-84 seasons. Cusumano, now a sports reporter for KSDK newschannel 5 in St. Louis, said he wasn't too surprised by the resignation.

"It was not really a surprise that he resigned," Cusumano said. "He really didn't have the success at the end of his career that he had at the beginning and middle."

Meckfessel's 214-252 record makes him UM-St. Louis' winningest coach. In 1987-88 his Rivermen set a school record with 22 wins and made it to the "Sweet 16" of the NCAA Division II national tournament. In 1990-91 Meckfessel coached the Rivermen to a 22-6 record and finished at number 16 in the national polls. Meckfessel was named the MIAA Coach of the Year three times and posted a 463-420 record overall.

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