



"Inherit the Wind" has stood for many years as a classic drama of electrifying style. The play at The Rep is a wonderful representation of this powerful courtroom drama.

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THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

INSIDE



Student's essay wins him \$3,000 scholarship

When finance instructor Ed Lawrence came into senior Bradley Spillman's treasury management class to tell him he won the AFP National Essay Contest, Spillman was thrilled. "It was one of the best reasons for getting pulled out of class," he said.

▲ See page 3

BRIEFS

In loving memory

Chancellor Blanche Touhill and the mathematics and computer science department invite the entire campus community to take part in "A Tribute in Memory of Professor Edward Z. Andalaft." Andalaft, who was well loved by faculty and students, passed away earlier this year. The tribute will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 in the Century Room of the Millennium Student Center. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by calling 516-5789.

UMSL scholars to be honored

The annual Scholarship Recognition will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Century Hall of the Millennium Student Center. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling 516-5789.

Lecture spotlights South Africa

Shelia Sisulu, South African ambassador to the United States, will discuss "AIDS, Poverty and Economic Development in South Africa" at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9 in the Summit Lounge of the University Center. Admission is free but those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by calling 516-7299.

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Darren Brunel/The Current

The Nosh, the old underground, is the new place to eat on campus due to its recent opening this past Monday.

Food service begins at Student Center

BY TONY PELLEGRINO
staff writer

The Millennium Student Center officially opened to students on Tuesday, Nov. 1, with the move of Food Services to the new building. The Nosh, which will retain the same hours as The Underground, is now the major food outlet on campus. Located on the first floor of the Student Center, the Nosh serves salads, deli sandwiches, pizza and pasta, grilled foods, and, depending on the day, foreign fare like Chinese or Mexican. The other food option in the building, Aroma's Bakery, has been open the past couple of weeks on the second floor. Aroma's serves sandwiches, soups, coffee and pastries, and will be open during all

operating hours of the building.

The Student Center will be open from 7 a.m. until midnight Monday through Thursday, providing somewhere for students and faculty to stay on campus after classes during the week. The weekend hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday. All study lounges and common areas will be open during these hours. In addition, any time that the building is open, food will be available.

The new location of the University Bookstore, which is now open, features extended hours, staying open until 9 p.m. during the week, Friday until 5 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. As an

incentive to come visit the new bookstore, there are daily door prizes for just stopping by throughout the month of November.

Students seem excited about the opening of the building, which some have begun calling "The Len" for short. Many feel it will bring a sense of community to campus.

Graduate physics student Adam Tournier said, "I am very pleased with the atmosphere and the quality of the food at 'The Len.'" Transfer junior Sarah T. Clark summed up her feelings about the Student Center by saying, "'The Len' rocks!"

The official grand opening of the Student Center is scheduled for Nov.

see CENTER, page 8

Marijuana debate lights up UMSL

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

Last Thursday, the University of Missouri—St. Louis hosted a debate on the legalization of marijuana. This debate drew a crowd of enthusiastic and curious students.

Introduced by UPB President Jackie Anderson, Peter Bensing and Allen St. Pierre took the stage debating the pros and cons of the use and legalization of marijuana. Bensing, a former head of the Drug Enforcement Agency, began with 20 minutes of exposition on why marijuana legalization is a bad idea, and why current laws should be supported.

"I appreciate the opportunity of being invited to UMSL to share my views with you," Bensing told the audience. The crowd of around 100 people were largely unresponsive to the views he expressed. He began with a statistic, saying that most high school seniors interviewed claimed to have been offered the drug by the age of 13. This use among children (unsupported even by St. Pierre's organization) was a danger, he claimed, to the future of America.

One of Bensing's main points of contention was drug testing in the workplace. He contended that this was both legal and an important tool for employers (the view upheld by the Supreme Court). After asking who in the audience would be subjected to a drug test in the next year, he was unsurprised a majority of attendees said they would. Bensing also said that there were new tests available, including blood, hair, and even sweat testing, to detect the recent use of marijuana and to discourage the use of devices sold to allow marijuana users to beat urine tests.

"THC [the active ingredient in marijuana] is fat soluble," Bensing explained. "What part of the body do you think has the most fat in it?" After one enthusiastic opponent in the first row bent deeply at the waist, and indicated his opinion on the fattest part of the body, Bensing explained that it was, in fact, the brain. Unlike alcohol, which is water soluble and leaves the body relatively quickly, traces of THC can remain in the brain for long spans of time.

The Food and Drug Administration approved synthetic



THC for medical use, but has never condoned the use of marijuana. According to Bensing, other drugs (like Zofran) work better for every known condition treated by marijuana, including glaucoma. He said that allowing voters to decide on the safety of legalizing marijuana was a bad idea when the FDA had a collective professional opinion.

"Experts ought to determine what substances should be used as medicine," he said. "I don't think anybody can pick and choose what laws they want to follow."

Allen St. Pierre came to the podium cheered as a hero. The NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) Foundation Executive Director, commanded the stage and applauded Bensing for standing up for what he claimed was an unpopular opinion.

Pierre's attacks on marijuana legislation began with an explanation of the history of laws regarding the drug in the United States. He claimed that in a minute and 15 seconds of debate in Congress in 1937, the drug began its fall in the U.S. Like alcohol is today, marijuana was intended to be legal, he said, only the stamps indicating that proper taxes have been paid (as seen on alcohol and tobacco products) were simply never issued.

He claimed that early marijuana use in the U.S. was predominantly among Mexican immigrants and black jazz players, and that legislation was racially motivated against the drug for that reason. The St. Louis audience was very receptive to this attack on current marijuana legislation, and went on to say that current arrests are racially disproportionate. In St. Louis last year, there were 180 arrests per 100,000

see DEBATE, page 8

Soul music of a different kind...



Darren Brunel/The Current

Members of the Brazilian music group Anima perform last Monday in the Millennium Student Center. "Anima" is a Latin word which means "soul." Students, faculty, and staff were able to enjoy the music throughout the day thanks to the efforts of eight different campus departments.

Crime stats posted on website

UMSL crime rates lowest in UM System, police say

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

A website sponsored by the Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education shows that UMSL is a safe campus, with crime rates consistent over the past three years.

The OPE Campus Security Statistics Website displays criminal offenses for over 6,000 colleges and universities. The website was set up to help potential students to research crime rates on college campuses.

"There hasn't been a large fluctuation of any offenses," said Bob Roeseler, chief of police.

UMSL reported four robberies and two aggravated assaults since 1997. The site shows 13 burglaries occurred on campus last year, six in the residence halls.

Two forcible sex offenses committed in the halls were also reported, one in 1997 and one in 1998. On-campus motor vehicle thefts in 1998 were the highest in the past three years, at 11.

"The majority of crimes are thefts of personal items, computers, purses, wallets," said Roeseler. "We don't have very many burglaries and robberies. Our campus rates are pretty low. In fact, we're the lowest in the

	1997	1998	1999
Murder / Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Forcible sex offenses	1	1	0
Nonforcible sex	0	0	0
Robbery	2	2	0
Aggravated assault	1	0	7
Burglary	11	7	13
Motor vehicle theft	6	11	10
Arson	1	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0

[University of] Missouri System."

Roeseler said that UMSL police are using various strategies to fight the crime that they do have. Depending on the crime, officers may use surveillance cameras, sit in unmarked cars, or cover the campus by foot, he said.

Roeseler attributes the jump of on-campus burglaries, from three in 1997 to 13 in 1999, to the increase in on-

campus housing.

"We didn't have people living on campus, which is where some of the burglaries are being committed," he said.

Roeseler said that the University's crime statistics are compiled "daily, monthly, weekly" and "have to match up yearly" with the FBI and Missouri Highway Patrol's data.

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: Erin Stremmel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax: 516-6811.
 All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, Nov. 6

•Library Skills Workshop, part of the Center for the Humanities' Monday Noon Series, will be held in Room 229 J. C. Penney until 1 p.m. The workshop is free and open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information call 5699.

•Sign-up Deadline for Paintball Rec Trek: Register in the Student Activities Office, 267 University Center. It is free to students and includes transportation and paintball games and gear. Enrollment is limited.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

•Political Science Academy Election Watch will run from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the UM - St. Louis Alumni House, 7956 Natural Bridge Rd. For more information call 5521.

•Campus Crusade for Christ will hold their weekly Metro meeting so that students can come together for worship, teaching and fellowship. The meetings will run from 8 to 9:15 p.m. at Covenant Seminary. If you need directions to Covenant, check their website for more information at www.ccstlouis.com or call Julie at 6901.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

•Defend Yourself, sponsored by the Women's Center, will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. in Room 126 Millennium Center. Officer Gary Clark of the UM Police Department will demonstrate self-defense techniques geared towards women. All are welcome to attend and for more information call 5380.

•Indoor Soccer Leagues begin. Intramural soccer games will be played every Wednesday night at the Mark Twain Gym (Nov. 8 to Dec. 6).

•Soup and Soul Food, a simple meal and time for prayer, meditation and reflection, from 12 to 1 p.m. at

Normandy United Methodist Church, 8000 Natural Bridge Rd. Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. All are welcome and for more information call Chris Snyder at 409-3024 or Roger Jespersen at 385-3000.

Thursday, Nov. 9

•Student Social Work Association will hold their meetings the first and third Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 316 Millennium Student Center.

Friday, Nov. 10

•Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, with a special guest appearance by Clare concertina champion Gearoid ÓAllmhuráin, will perform at 8 p.m. in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. For tickets, \$15 for adults, \$11 for seniors

and \$7 for students, call the box office at 7299.

•Master Fiddle Class, conducted by Martin Hayes, will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the J. C. Penney Auditorium. Admission is free. Call 7299 for reservations and more information.

Saturday, Nov. 11

•Paintball Rec Trek, a fun and free program cosponsored by Rec Sports and Student Activities, will be held. To participate, sign up in the Student Activities Office, 267 U Center. Enrollment is limited.

Sunday, Nov. 12

•Catholic Mass will be held at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

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Millennium Student Center Is Now OPEN

Grand Opening - Nov. 28

November is Student Appreciation Month at the Millennium Student Center

Festivities All Month

Swipe your Student ID in the University Bookstore every day to win prizes. Winners will be posted at the front of the store. One swipe per student each day please.

Millennium Center Hours

Mon-Thur 7:00 a.m. - midnight
 Fri 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Sat 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Sun 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Food Services Has Moved

Check out the new Nosh Dining Area, Aroma's Bakery, and the new location of the Quarters game room.

The following departments have moved to the new Millennium Student Center:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Academic Advising | C-Store -- coming soon | Financial Aid | Quarters Pool & Video Games | Student Organizations |
| Accessibility Services | Career Services | Fireside Lounge | Registration | T.V. Lounges |
| Admissions | Cashier's Office | Food Services -- Nosh Food | S.T.A.R.S. | United Missouri Bank -- coming soon |
| Associated Black Collegiates | Chatroom | Court and Aroma's Bakery | Student Activities | University Program Board |
| ASUM-St. Louis Chapter | The Current Newspaper | Health Services | Student Court | Women's Center |
| Bookstore | Degree Audit | Kwik Kopy -- coming soon | Student Government | |
| Building Operations | Evening College | OUT! | Association | |

WE ♥ STUDENTS!

Write

Student's essay wins scholarship

BY SARA PORTER

special to the Current

When finance instructor Ed Lawrence came into senior Bradley Spillman's treasury management class to tell him he won the Association of Financial Professionals (AFP) National Essay Contest, Spillman was thrilled.

"It was one of the best reasons for getting pulled out of class," said Spillman, a finance major.

The AFP contest was announced in January by instructor Bob Sherrill.

"It was offered as extra credit, and entering the contest was optional," Spillman said. "As far as I know, I was the only person in the class who entered the contest."

Spillman submitted his paper on the current application of technology to financial management or "The Finance Function Goes Online" in April, and his award was announced in September.

Spillman won a \$3,000 scholarship, which he plans to use towards

business school. He will also have his paper published in an AFP journal and will attend the 2000 AFP conference Nov. 12-15 in Philadelphia, Pa.

The conference holds particular interest for Spillman.

"It will be attended by various people in treasury management like Charles Schwab, A.G. Edwards, and others," Spillman said.

"Since I will be graduating in December, I can fill out my applications with them now and keep my options open," Spillman said.

Spillman hopes that winning this contest will work towards his goals in finance.

"I hope it opens doors to my future education, when I move on to graduate school," Spillman said.

Next year's contest will include a \$5,000 scholarship.

"They should go for it," Spillman said.

Anyone majoring in finance and interested in the contest should visit the AFP's website www.afponline.org for details.

this way



Darren Brune/The Current

Senior Bradley Spillman poses in front of the Millennium Student Center. Spillman recently won a \$3,000 scholarship in the Association of Financial Professionals National Essay Contest.

Noon Series offers upcoming events

BY ANNE PORTER

staff editor

CNN may not soon come to UM-St. Louis to broadcast live. However, through the Monday Noon Series, students can experience in an intimate setting news and information that will expand their worldviews.

"Election 2000," "Chamber Music as an Academic Resource," "Miriam's Way: A Story about Nature and Humankind in Eastern Europe," and "Nazi Medicine" are the upcoming shows for November.

Karen Lucas, the coordinator of the Center for Humanities, has planned the Monday Noon Series for five years.

"We have poetry and different kinds of music. We have artists come and talk about how they do their work and philosophers, all kinds of people," Lucas said.

Lucas strives to vary the shows, so they appeal to all audiences. For speakers, Lucas looks both to faculty and off-campus resources.

One to focus on Election 2000

"We try for a diversity of subject matter, but we like to have presenters with different ethnicities, races and from other countries," Lucas said. "In general, one of the first programs that the Center for Humanities offered was the Monday Noon Series. In fact, the Monday Noon Series existed before the Center for Humanities."

Chancellor Blanche Touhill gave the responsibility of making the schedule to the Center.

"When the Center for Humanities got going, the Chancellor gave us the opportunity to have the Monday Noon Series come out of our office," Lucas said. "It's fun looking for all that variety. I know really how much fun it is to get in there and to meet [the speakers] in an intimate setting."

The audience usually has 30 or 40 people.

"You get the chance to ask a poet 'What did you mean by that line?' or 'How did you get that idea?' Not

many of us get that opportunity anywhere else," Lucas said.

Lucas has a particular method to select what show will be presented for the Monday Noon Series.

First, she reminds herself of the various disciplines such as poetry, literature, philosophy and history. Second, she adds a few more, including politics and other time-sensitive issues. In order to fulfill meeting these topics, Lucas researches what is happening around town, like art openings and theatre performances. Third, Lucas asks everyone she knows for suggestions and finally, she puts together 12 or 13 shows.

"I seek people's advice. I have to, because I want to have something fresh and different every semester," Lucas said.

The Monday Noon Series takes place in 229 J.C. Penney. For more information call the Center for Humanities (314) 516-5699.

Workshops give learning opportunity

BY JENNIFER DODD

special to The Current

UMSL students on Saturday mornings are normally doing errands, recovering from the night before, watching cartoons and now adding a workshop series to the weekend of activities. These workshops for Early Childhood Educators promise to be a lot more exciting and educational than the adventures of cartoons.

These Continuing Education and Outreach workshops have been around for about seven years.

"The reason why this program was implemented was because there was a perceived need for continuing education opportunities," said Clark Hickman, associate dean of the College of Education.

Some of the topics of the work-

shops will be everything from "Real Literacy" in the Preschool Classroom to the last workshop on Dec. 2, "Using Stories to get Excited." These topics are designed to present up-to-date information in a hands-on format.

"The Dec. 2 workshop on stories, is going to be very interesting and energizing. The teachers will be able to inject drama into the stories and create connectors in an entertaining way with the kids. This workshop will give preschoolers unusual and exciting ways to learn," Hickman said.

These workshops are designed to keep educators in the loop with Missouri education standards and practice new ways to teach children. Parents and childcare providers will find these sessions stimulating and enjoyable.

For the past seven years, Hickman

has gotten a lot of response from the child-oriented community.

"I have gotten good feedback from people who have taken these workshops in the past. The educators have found that it raises the level of education, and it's also a two-way communication level. The teachers tell us what other programs they need for future use, and we try to provide them with it and keep them up with education standards."

In conclusion, these workshops benefit all that are involved in them. Everyone from children to educators are able to flourish from these new ways of teaching and learning.

"The benefits are that the increased level of professionalism helps when it comes to children and their learning," Hickman said.

FAR OUT

'Observations' presents info on night sky

BY JENNIFER DODD

special to The Current

What exactly is "Observations The Fall Night Sky"? It's not a new Shakespeare play, nor is it a new movie playing at the Tivoli. It is actually a noncredit course that starts Nov. 2 and goes to Dec. 7, and is open to all community participants.

"I love astronomy and weather, and I think that a lot of young people have a natural built-in interest for topics like this. They are going to learn a lot more about the sciences, and it is going to be an informal class," said Richard Schuler, instructor of the class.

If one worries that this class is going to interfere with his or her turkey plans or finals, don't, because the class is going to take a break during the Thanksgiving holiday and will end before finals start.

"These classes are not mathematical-based and instead, they focus on intuitive learning. Hopefully, students are going to get a better perspective of our solar system and galaxy. I'm hoping the participants will have fun and learn more about astronomy," Schuler said.

Imagine looking up at night and seeing a billion stars around you. Also, being able to see all the planets and to identify them. Another part of this class is taking a field trip.

"We are going to go to a dark site, hopefully in Troy. The participants will be able to see the night sky with very little light pollution. The students are going to learn about this in the classroom and then link a visual appreciation to it. They are going to be able to get a really good feel of the Milky Way," Schuler said.

Participants don't need to worry

Our beginnings and understandings come from the sky.

-Richard Schuler
instructor

about being in the hands of a novice who can't tell Jupiter from Pluto.

"This is my first time teaching it here, but I taught something exactly like this at University of California at San Diego. When I taught at that school, we went to the Planetarium for our observation on the night sky. At UCSD there were mountains, and it was very clear for our night sky trip," Schuler said.

These lectures are going to incorporate the UMSL's department of physics and astronomy resources, including the observatory. The fee is \$65 a person, but don't let the fee hinder anyone interested, because the rewards of this class go beyond observing the sky, to learning about the origins of life.

"Life comes from carbon and when large stars exploded, which is as important as our life processes. Our beginnings and understandings come from the sky," Schuler said.

If this sounds like something interesting, then sign up for the class, because registration is limited to only 30 people.

"My first goal is that astronomy is linked to how the galaxy is formed, and in turn, I feel that the participants will gain appreciation for everything," Schuler said.

EDITORIAL

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QUOTES

"The young man who has not wept is a savage, and the old man who will not laugh is a fool."

-George Santayana
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

"It's the opinion of some that crops could be grown on the moon. Which raises the fear that it may not be long before we're paying somebody not to."

-Charlie McCarthy
Credit: www.quoteablequotes.net

Getting the runaround leaves frustration



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

We live in a technologically-advanced age. So far, we can shop without even getting dressed, talk without really talking (e-mail) and work without even seeing our employers. And who even knows what we'll be able to do in the future. At the rate technology is increasing, someday we'll be able to transcribe our thoughts to a computer, just by thinking them. How scary would that be?

With all these advances in the information industry, I think we have lost a few personal touches.

The most important is a real-life customer service representative and not someone who was thousand miles away.

On Monday, I was paying bills.

In February, before I moved out of my parents' place, I bought a computer. I knew I would not be able to function in any orderly fashion without one, and as I was moving 30 minutes from my parents' house, it seemed like the best option, because I could foresee I would not drive that long just to type a column.

Best Buy seemed the best place to purchase a computer. So I researched and paid for half the computer, and put the other half on a charge at no interest a year.

Little did I know then that Best Buy makes up for no-interest with late fees. I can send my payment two weeks before it's due, and it will still be one day late. For that one day I am assessed a \$25 late fee. Over the eight months

since I've had the computer at home, I've paid at least \$100 in late fees.

So last month, I decided to pay off just the remainder of the balance.

Imagine my surprise when I received another bill in the mail. At first, I thought it was a late fee. I was ready to call then and tell them what they could do with their late fees.

Instead, it turned out to be an insurance plan. I signed up for extra insurance when I opened the account. I had the understanding that this insurance was included in the payments. It is, if you take the full 12 months to pay off the account.

Since I opted to pay the whole amount off, I was assessed the fee. For every \$100 on my account history over

the course of nine months I had to pay \$0.75. This totaled up to \$33.

I called Best Buy to try to resolve this issue. I told the customer service rep that I no longer wished to have the insurance and would like the charge dropped, since I did not know that this was a separate charge and would not have signed up for the insurance in the first place if I had known this.

He referred me to the insurance division of Best Buy, where I talked to yet another person and gave the whole story. That person sent me to a third party, because they just picked up my account in October. Then, after I explained to the third customer service representative my story, I was told about some premium request and to call

back Best Buy.

Once again, I called Best Buy and told them what the last rep had said. Then, they shipped me off to the insurance department, and I gave them the request.

They told me they could not drop the charge, because I signed up for it. If you feel like you are reading in circles, it's because I'm writing in circles and getting more and more frustrated with every turn, without even the issue being resolved.

So please, read every sentence of anything you sign up for, and hopefully, you will avoid at least some of this utterly exhausting and maddening situation.

SENIORS

OUR OPINIONS

Students should vote in this crucial election

This may be the most important election in quite a while, and some would say the most boring. That's unfortunate, because it will probably keep U.S. citizens away from the voting booths tomorrow.

These elections are important, because the candidates we choose to represent us will have an unprecedented opportunity to make decisions that will shape the future of our region and our nation.

Consider this: 2001 is a redistricting year. That means our elected representatives will redraw the congressional district lines. Because changing these district lines can shift the balance of political power, the choices we make at the voting booth will affect politics for the rest of the decade.

The candidates in this election have said a lot about education - as students, we should be listening, because the decisions they make will affect us.

Our next president will probably appoint several Supreme Court justices. This is important because the Court interprets the U.S. Constitution. It holds the power to strike down laws. An example being touted by both major political parties is abortion. Many other laws and freedoms are

examined by the Supreme Court every year: privacy rights, laws affecting student journalists, discrimination, religion.

Ralph Nader, the Green party candidate for president, has made a push this year to capture enough votes to make his party eligible for federal campaign funds in the next election cycle. If he is successful, the Green party will have taken a giant step toward becoming a legitimate challenger to the Republican and Democrat stranglehold on American politics.

The news media has frequently reported that students say George W. Bush and Al Gore aren't talking about issues that matter to them. So why not consider other candidates? Have you heard of Nader? What about Pat Buchanan of the Reform party, Harry Browne of the Libertarian party, or John Hagelin of the Natural Law party? In Missouri, there are seven candidates for governor, not just two.

There is so much at stake. It's time for students to think about the future. What do you believe? What is important to you? Decide those things, then choose the candidates who reflect your beliefs and vote for them.

The issue:

With the elections tomorrow, everyone will be faced with an important decision, to vote or not to vote. The decisions made will affect the coming years.

We suggest:

Get the information about each candidate, know who is running for what and decide who will best reflect the views and beliefs of the state and the country.

So what do you think?

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

Drug war needs new strategy

Last week the UMSL campus hosted a debate over the legalization of marijuana. We will not rehash that debate here, other than to say that while we are interested in the possible benefits of legalization, we are very cautious about what repercussions it might have. Marijuana has long been regarded as a gateway to the abuse of other, more harmful drugs, and it is not clear what would happen if that substance were to be given legal sanction. Any such decisions must be weighed very carefully.

The point we would like to take up is the apparent failure of what has been called "the war on drugs." Each year law enforcement agencies confiscate thousands of pounds of narcotics, but thousands more still get through. Analysts say even the most successful busts never show up in real terms on the street. There is always someone else willing to provide the drugs. Meanwhile, our jails and prisons are

filling up while the fourth amendment rights of our citizens are flagrantly violated, but for the dealers it's business as usual. The supply keeps pouring in despite the valiant efforts of law enforcement.

The reason that supply is so abundant is because the demand is so high, and if we really want to win this war, we are going to have to re-evaluate our strategy. Even enforcement agents are saying that enforcement alone cannot solve the problem, that we must look for other answers. The traditional alternative to enforcement has been education. Education strategies were favored for a number of years before they seemed to fall out of favor as they were replaced by a "get tough, crack-down" mentality. In the mean time, education seems to have taken a back seat. But how effective has this new approach been?

As usual, politics complicates everything, making it hard to get a

clear answer. Education was favoured during much of the 1980's, taking forms like the DARE to keep kids off drugs campaigns. But discussing the 80's is a bit tricky when so many people seem to base their assessments of the successes and failures of the decade on whether or not one supported Ronald Reagan. Whatever one's political sentiments, the education campaigns did have an effect in society. Movies, television, and videogames resounded with anti-drug sentiments. Villians were usually drug dealers, and the catch phrase "just say no" was everywhere. And it seemed to work. Drug use went on the decline during the 1980's. Enforcement played a vital role, but more vital still was the creation of a culture which did not approve of drug use. It is this culture war that we must win if we are to take serious steps towards reducing drug use in this country.

LETTERS

Reader takes issue with editor's column

Last week, The Current's editor-in-chief Josh Renaud made in his editorial an obviously anti-Catholic statement by calling Halloween a pagan holiday. Well, Mr. Renaud seems to be just another in a long line of radical Protestants, who have persisted in attacking Roman Catholics by associating Catholic holidays with satanic rituals and by associating the Pope with the devil.

Fact: Halloween, does not mean the Great Feast of the Dweller of the Dark Pit, it means the Eve of All Saint's Day. Fact: The usage of 'devilish' fright-masks, was conceived by the Church during the Middle Ages as a way for the superstitious populace

to scare off believed 'demons,' who (according to Celtic/ Gallo-Roman myth which still existed) wanted to steal the proceeds of the Fall harvest (which happened in October).

True, Mr. Renaud was unfortunately raised by misinformed and biased parents, true he will (and has a right to) believe in certain religious principles; nevertheless, he does not have the right to use his position in a public newspaper to express any ethno-religious superiority, as well as inventing made-up holidays to replace religious ones.

True, one would think, as a socialist, I should be indifferent to religious issues; While I am anti-clerical (sep of

church and state), I am not true to the typical Marxist anti-religious repertoire. Indeed, true de-centralized democratic non-industrial communism (which I'm for) comes from the Neo-Platonic Catholic ideas of great thinkers such as Sir Thomas Moore.

Therefore, if Mr. Renaud is attacking Catholicism, then logic says that he is attacking farmers and democrats as well. Therefore, I will ask Mr. Renaud to make a public apology, otherwise I urge students to demand Mr. Renaud's resignation.

Oh, by the way, vote for Nader. Vote For Nader. Vote For Nader.

- Robert C. Montague II

Campus life calls for increase in student activity

The first priority of every plan to rejuvenate downtown St. Louis calls for more people to live there. Similarly, our first priority in promoting campus life should be to attract more residents.

What are we going to do with the J.C. Penney center? Why not renovate it into a residence hall on main campus, or even tear it down to build a new

residence hall? Why not tear down the decrepit, ex-convent South Campus Residence Hall and build a real residence hall in its place? We also need to attract students from outside the 314/618 area codes to fill the new halls.

So let's continue to improve this campus. The new Millennium Student Center is great, but now we need to

take the next logical step. I guarantee you that if more students live on campus, there will be an increased activity in campus activities, and more commuters will then decide to take part in the more popular student activities. The results: a fuller college experience and a better reputation for UMSL.

-Jeff Griesemer

Past plays on the mind with memorable leads

Last week, I returned to my old high school, Hazelwood West, to see the fall play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

West has traditionally had a terrific theater program. This year they decided to break the mold and do a modern version of that classic Shakespearean play. The sets ranged from psychedelic to idyllic, the costumes from hippy to gangster to Backstreet Boys. It was a fun show, all the way around.

Going back to West reminded me of a show from the fall of 1998, called "Scapino." I was involved in that show, and it changed my life.

One thing I should establish is that I bounced around a lot of different schools. In junior high, I attended a small Christian school, and was involved in drama classes there. My freshman year of high school, I attended an even smaller Christian school, and was involved in similar stuff. The entire school had 60 students.

My sophomore year, I transferred to West, and what a change of scenery it was. West had thousands of students, a mammoth auditorium, and a dizzying array of sports fields. In short, I was overwhelmed.

I put off trying out for any plays. Mostly I was intimidated by the size of the auditorium and by the caliber of the people who performed in it. I figured there was no way I could match up. My sophomore and junior years passed, and I couldn't muster the courage to try out.

In the fall of my senior year, I realized that I was running out of chances. There would only be two more plays. I didn't want to graduate,

regretting never even trying out.

So, I tried out for "Scapino." I prayed about it before I did it, giving it up to God. I knew if He wanted me to make it, I would be in.

Try-outs were very easy. When I started reading the lines, it was like the fear washed away. I felt like I was back where I belonged.

I didn't get a part. I went home after the cast list was posted, disappointed, but feeling good about trying out.

Several weeks later, I received a phone call from the student director of the play. One of the leads had dropped out of the play. He wanted to know if I'd be interested in trying out again.

Somehow, I ended up getting that role. "Scapino" was a physical comedy, and my character "Geronte" got to push people around, get tied up in a sack, and yell memorable lines like "What the devil was he doing onboard that boat?" I spent weeks memorizing the lines and coming to practice and rehearsals. It was the biggest role I'd ever had in my life.

My self-confidence soared during the four nights we performed the play. I got a lot of support from friends and family. Being on stage just felt right for me, it energized me.

Amazingly, because of the play, I was asked to take a tiny part in a Rodney D. Young television commercial that aired throughout that winter.

It's amazing the memories that come flooding back when you reminisce. And it's also amazing the opportunities we sometimes miss, just because we're afraid.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Liberal Arts versus Credentialism

Liberal arts has become something of a dirty word these days. Majoring in tangible fields like engineering, computer science, or business administration is accepted by society. The humanities, such as art, music, or literature, draw a few jaded chuckles from the so-called real world, but they can of course retaliate with a bit of cultural snobbery, and thus hold their own. Liberal arts used to be the definition of higher education, but now someone seeking a general studies degree is likely to be viewed as overly intellectual and out of touch with reality. What happened?

A large part of the change can be tied to developments in the workplace. As more and more employers rewarded or required college degrees, students

have flooded into universities and campuses like ours have grown to meet the demand. It's a wonderful opportunity for us as a society to become more educated, but somewhere along the way, our idea of the university changed from a place of higher education to something more akin to job training, and the love of learning for learning's sake has increasingly been replaced by an x, y, z checklist as students ask how much more will they make if they get their Masters or Ph.D.

As students, we often feel like we have to jump through an endless series of hoops to get our degrees, but as I near graduation, I am surprised by some of the subjects I have not had to take. It is easy to get

through four years of college without ever learning a word of Latin. Rhetoric, once the centerpiece of education, has been largely discarded as the province of corrupt politicians. I find this particularly disheartening: the ability to express oneself in both verbal and written communication ought to be one of our main goals.

Math is a kind of shorthand for the language of the universe, while sciences like physics and chemistry map out the physical principles it follows. Biology studies life itself.

History gives us an open book to learn from the mistakes of all who went before us instead of having to make them for ourselves while humanities such as art, music, and literature let us express ourselves in other

ways. Philosophy and theology shape our thoughts, giving meaning to it all and answers to those nagging "why" questions: Why am I here? Why do we exist? Why do English majors still have to take math?

There's really no room to leave any subject out. I haven't even mentioned business, foreign language, sociology, or others.

My point is not to fault students, who are busy struggling to get through, or the University, which has given us broad freedom to construct our own study programs. But when you sign up for next semester's classes, consider taking a class that interests you, even if it isn't a requirement for your major.



BRIAN DOUGLAS
managing editor

EDITORIAL BOARD

JOSH RENAUD
BRIAN DOUGLAS

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

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

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi
staff photographer

Who do you think will be president, Bush or Gore? and why?



Catherine Lefler
Junior/Psychology

"Gore because he appeals more to college students, and I think more students are getting involved in this election."



Lisa Scally
Sophomore/Elementary Education

"Gore, he acts halfway intelligent, unlike Bush."



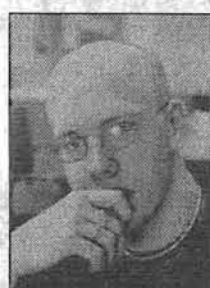
Louis Cooke
Freshman/Undecided

"Bush only because he is a better speaker and appears more down to earth than Gore."



Mike Petetit
Sophomore/Chemistry

"It's probably going to be the guy that scares people the least. Our choices really suck this year."



Thom Evans
Senior/Clinical Psychology

"I think it will be in favor of Bush because of the nature of our economy and our negative image with foreign relations. Even though I'm more democratic, things like this come in cycles."

Bernsen makes history

Due to time constraints, we weren't able to run all the material we had prepared for the 1000th issue. For the next few weeks we will print some of what didn't make it in.

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

"It was one of the most fantastic shooting exhibitions I've ever seen," said senior forward Jim Buford.

In what came to be one of the more pivotal games in the 1972 season, the Rivermen's basketball team downed the University of South Dakota 114-72, thanks largely in part to a 42-point shooting gala from senior Mark Bernsen.

"Things just fell into place," said a jubilant Bernsen. "The guys just kept feeding me the ball, and before I knew it, BAM-BAM-BAM-there you are. We've got a win."

Aside from the record-setting performance, which has since been broken, Bernsen was happier that the victory insured UM-St. Louis a spot in the Midwest Regional Championship.

The Rivermen, 20-5, faced and eventually defeated Lincoln University, earning a berth to the National Collegiate Athletic Association College Division finals.

"The game was huge," said Bernsen, now the current head coach for the Rivermen. "But aside from my game, the big thing was advancing to the finals."

The Rivermen, with a red-hot Bernsen filling the guard spot in Chuck Smith's attack, shot to a 50-37 advantage at the end of the first half. Bernsen poured in 13 of those and had set a pace for 25 at the 20:00 mark.

However, in the next 10 minutes of play, the former McBride High standout hit 14 of his next 18 shots, nailing every shot from every board on the court.

"He was great, just great," said center Greg Daust.

Bernsen would finish with 29 points in the second half, and his mark of 42 would set both Rivermen and house marks.

But when asked, Bernsen, he was quick to play down the record-setting performance.

"We had a team of guys that could read each other extremely well," Bernsen said. "And when one person was on his game, we worked at feeding him the ball."

Bernsen left the game amid cheers from the crowd as the Rivermen led 104-67 with 3:55 left to play.

Another senior, Ron Carkhum, racked up a double-double, scoring 25 points, and snatching 14 boards in what Smith called "his best game of the year."

R-women advance to GLVC semis

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

With the second best home crowd of the season of over 300, the Riverwomen's soccer team turned the lights out on the St. Joseph's Pumas in the second half en route to a 2-0 victory, which advanced UM-St. Louis into the semifinals of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

In the first half of the game, the Riverwomen dominated the first 15 minutes of play with numerous scoring chances. Freshman Rachael Helling made continuous runs to the corner with outstanding crosses,

sophomore Lindsay Jones nearly scored on a close corner kick, and senior Dana Thompson missed an open net as her shot sailed high over the crossbar.

With a lapse in play after the first 15 minutes, the last 20:00 of play in the first half was dominated by the aggressive play of freshman Lindsay Noftsger, a player who went down early in the season with a leg injury.

With only four shots on goal in the first half, the Riverwomen came out in the second half and showed St. Joseph's why they were the third seed in the GLVC tournament.

"We had 45 minutes and either we

get it done then or we don't get it done at all and you want to get it done early," head coach Beth Goetz said. "We wanted to go out and play intense for the first 15 minutes and see if you can get the ball in the back of the net. We had to have a lot more chances and a lot more shots on goal with a lot more people in the box. There is no tomorrow when you hit this time of the year so you have to get it done."

The Riverwomen certainly got the ball in the back of the net as sophomore Lindsay Siemens, with only 28:40 remaining in the second half, was fed a ball from junior Alaina O'Donnell. Siemens quickly turned

and blistered a shot past the St. Joseph's goaltender to give the Riverwomen a 1-0 lead.

"She has worked hard all year and it is something that she feels that she cannot buy a goal," Goetz said. "She made a great move up the middle and turned around and put it in the side of the net. So it all worked out well."

The Riverwomen continued to strive after the first goal as Noftsger scored a goal only 1:22 after the Siemens goal to stretch the lead to 2-0. Corie Chik crossed the ball on the Noftsger goal, but the St. Joseph's

see RIVERWOMEN, page 7

UMSL drops ball against USI

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The UM-St. Louis womens volleyball team played a five game match against first place team Southern Indiana this past weekend and held strong through good senior leadership, but eventually fell 12-15, 17-15, 10-15, 15-9 and 11-15 to fall to 7-7 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Southern Indiana defeated the Riverwomen earlier in the season in straight games and came in boasting a 22-3 overall and 12-2 GLVC record, but the Riverwomen held strong on Senior Night as they took Southern Indiana to five games, only the third time all season that Southern Indiana had been taken the distance.

Southern Indiana jumped ahead early as in the first game; they held a commanding 12-6 lead over the Riverwomen, highlighted by two service aces in the first four points. The Riverwomen evened the contest up at 12-12, but a questionable line call led to Southern Indiana claiming the first game.

In the second game, the seniors of the women's volleyball team stepped up, as this was their second last home match of the season. Senior Michelle Hochstatter and sophomore Kathryn Freeman played well getting the Riverwomen side-outs, while a kill by Freeman evened the contest at 15-15.



Riverwomen rally together before their game against Southern Indiana last Friday.

William Hellige/ The Current

Kelby Saxwold would then serve two straight points as the Riverwomen claimed the second game.

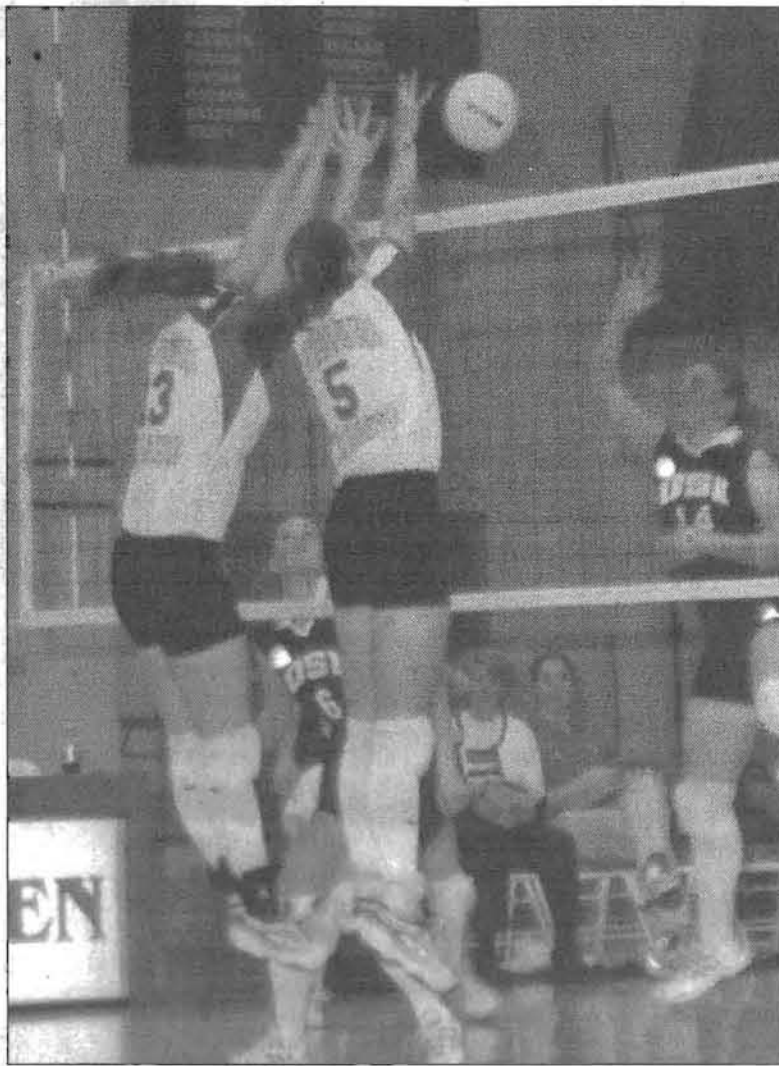
The third game was marred by a slow start by the Riverwomen as they got behind 1-7 to start the game. UMSL pulled as close as 10-12, but a three point run by Southern Indiana captured the third game.

The fourth game showed what the Riverwomen were made of as the team took it to Southern Indiana and jumped out to a 12-6 lead. Hochstatter at one point mustered four straight kills and Gretchen Duffner recorded numerous kills in the Riverwomen's fourth game victory over Southern Indiana 15-9.

The fifth game featured rally point scoring and the Riverwomen hung strong as Southern Indiana led 6-10, but the closest the Riverwomen pulled was 11-13 before Southern Indiana recorded two straight points to win the game and the match.

"Both teams played with a lot of intensity," head coach Denise Silvester said. "The seniors wanted this match very, very badly. We played about as hard as we could. A few little breaks here or there, one way or the other, can make the difference. I have no complaints about how hard the kids played today, especially against one of the best teams in the conference."

The key to the fight that the Riverwomen still possess is due to the



William Hellige/ The Current

Kathryn Freeman and Michelle Hochstatter block a ball in the game against Southern Indiana this past Friday November 3.

battle for the seeding in the conference tournament.

"This is for seeding as to who we are going to play in the first round of the conference," Silvester said. "We are in the conference tournament, that is not the question. The question is who we are going to play in the first round and these matches are key to who we get matched up with. We want to be able to finish as high as we possibly can. Our goal for the season was to get past the first round of the conference tournament."

Previously, the Riverwomen took two out of three matches to pull to the middle of the pack in the GLVC standings.

UMSL defeated Kentucky

Wesleyan in three games, 15-5, 15-8 and 15-2. Duffner led the Riverwomen with 12 kills, and Michelle Pasieka led the team with 20 defensive digs.

The Riverwomen then traveled to Bellarmine to defeat them in four games, 14-16, 15-5, 15-7, 15-12. Holly Zrout claimed 22 kills, while Duffner and Michelle Hochstatter each had 18 and 10 respectively.

Before returning home to face Southern Indiana, the Riverwomen ventured over to Quincy University where the Hawks defeated the Riverwomen in four games. Duffner led UMSL with 20 defensive digs, while Saxwold and Pasieka had 15 and 14 respectively.

Najjar looks to next season to mend men's soccer team

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

In his first year at the helm of Rivermen Soccer at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Head Coach Hannibal Najjar had some big shoes to fill. As Tom Redmond was relieved from his duties last season, he left the program on a high note. Despite finishing below .500 on the season, his Rivermen advanced to the Great Lakes Valley Conference finals, falling to the no. 1 seeded IUPUI-Ft. Wayne, after blitzing through the lower rounds of the annual tournament.

Only four players returned to the team for the 2000 season. Of these four, Kevin McCarthy, Adam Barnstead, Jeff Stegman, and Josh Fair, two were goalkeepers in McCarthy and Barnstead.

Stegman, a sophomore and the leading goal scorer from '99 and Fair, the lone senior on the pitch, were called upon to anchor the dismantled offense.

Najjar, who was a late hire, was sent scrambling to find quality recruits to UMSL and to hire an assistant.

All of these factors and a multitude of injuries took their toll on the team, as they finished the season at 3-15-1,

winning only one GLVC game, in route to one of the worst seasons in Rivermen's soccer history.

"This was a transition year for us," said first-year assistant coach Eric Johnson. "It was difficult in the sense that we knew what kind of team that we needed to field to be successful in the GLVC and we knew that we did not have that team."

Najjar, who was hired in April, was only given about four months to recruit a team and despite the obvious setbacks, he is not worried about the upcoming seasons.

"It was a learning experience for everyone associated and it feels good

to have this first season under my belt," said Najjar, who before this season had never experienced a loss as a player or coach. "One of the encouraging things that helped me were the many people who came to me and said 'When you get your team, things will be the way you want it'."

Neither Stegman nor Fair could save the offense, despite the injection of new talents such as Kyende Bormentor, Kirt Spencer and Tim Besmer.

The team found the net only six times throughout the season and fired off 141 shots. Also, McCarty and the defense surrendered 39 goals, while

the backfield let 393 shots go.

"Much of our games were played with a weak backfield," said Najjar. "There were numerous games that we were in the running for, and to score those go ahead goals, we would move our pressure forward, which left us vulnerable."

The schedule that the Rivermen played this year was very tough, featuring schools perennially ranked in the top 25. UMSL played eight nationally-ranked teams, and five of those games were decided by a goal or less.

see RIVERMEN, page 7

SPORTS

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sports editor

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GAMES

Men's Basketball

v. Team Reebok (Exhibition)
7:45 pm, Sat., Nov. 11

v. William Penn
7:45 pm, Fri., Nov. 17

Women's Basketball

at Southeast Missouri State (Scrimmage)
7:45 pm, Wed., Nov. 8

v. Washington U. (Scrimmage)
5:30 pm, Sat., Nov. 11

Visit the UMSL athletics website at

www.umsl.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html

Riverwomen primed to win against Lady Bears



LATEST SCOOP

NICK BOWMAN

On November 11, the Mark Twain Recreational Complex will host one of the most prolific teams in National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Yeah, the Riverwomen are pretty good too as they went to the second round of the NCAA Tournament last year. I happen to think they are very good, but as a writer, I'm not allowed to have an opinion—that I can state here.

At 5:30 p.m., the Washington University Bears will roll into town, bringing their 68-game win-

ning streak with them. With Nancy Fahey at the helm, the Lady Bears have won the last three NCAA Division III championship trophies. They have won 10 of 13 University Athletic Association crowns, had three D-III Players of the Year, five UAA MVP's, and seven All-Americans. They are the first UAA team to rack up 100 conference victories and sport an 84-2 home record against conference opponents.

You know what? To heck with being a writer for a second. For the

rest of this story, *The Current* is not to be held responsible as I'm going to say exactly what I want, unedited and unabridged.

I personally want to see Shelley Ethridge and company beat the stuffing out of Washington University. I want to see the score run up so high that next game the sports information director Chris Cole is still tallying up how many field goals the kid in the third row made, because I want everyone to score in this one. I want to see Megan Mauck show her older sister

how to do it and land 30 points in the contest. I want to see Christy Lane make all of us Jefferson County folks proud—a fact that I never readily divulge. Lynette Wellen and Kathleen Gwaltney, I want to see them all tear it up. I want to be surrounded by multitudes of Red and Gold in the stands as we, yes I used the pronoun we, watch Fahey break another NCAA record-distance record of a thrown chair (a Robert Knight holds this record with 13 miles).

Not that I don't respect the

Bears. I like them. I think that Alia Fisher should have gone high in the WNBA draft. 68 victories in a row is an incredible feat. But this is my chance to mouth off, and I'm gonna take it.

"Ohh, look at me! I have three trophies on my mantle! I'm special!"

It makes me sick. I think that the University of Missouri at St. Louis will go down in the history books as the team that showed the Lady Bears the way out.

This courtroom drama sets THE BAR

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"Inherit the Wind" has stood for many years as a classic drama of electrifying style. Based on the 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial," it was called "the trial of the century" at its time and riveted nation-wide attention on the courtroom battle of the two most powerful legal stars of the time, three-time presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan and legendary defense attorney Clarence Darrow. These two legal greats were locked in battle over the prosecution of a Tennessee schoolteacher, John Scopes, for teaching evolution in violation of the local law.

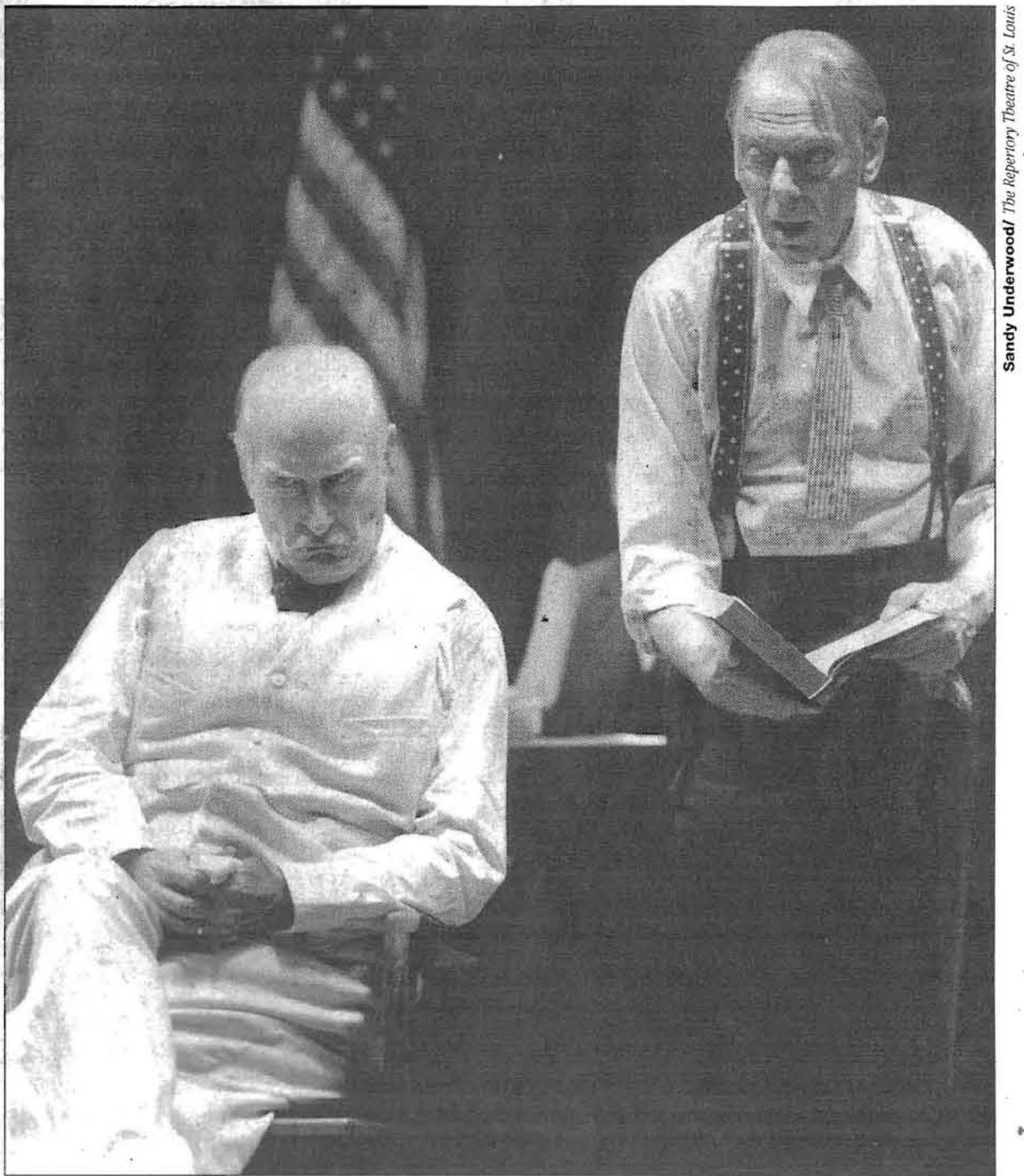
The trial drew national attention to the small county courtroom, where media, supporters, and the curious descended on the small town in a carnival-like atmosphere, in a fashion much like the later "trial of the century" O.J. Simpson trial. This play set the style of courtroom dramas, which have been enduringly popular over the years, and the fact that the issue of the teaching of evolution in schools has resurfaced gives the play an edge it would have lacked a few years ago, and even at the time it was written.

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee wrote the play thirty years after the Scopes trial, compressing some of the events and fictionalizing the story somewhat (in the play, William Jennings Bryan becomes Matthew Harrison Brady and Clarence Darrow becomes Henry Drummond), but overall it retains much of the history of the actual trial and is regarded as one of the best dramatizations of history. The play itself is a must-see for both its dramatic power and its portrayal of history. The trial itself was not about teaching Darwin's writings in the classroom, as is commonly thought, but teaching from a textbook that referred to Darwin's theories in a high school class. Darwin's work by this time had long been accepted among biologists, and was commonly taught in colleges, but this text's casual acceptance of Darwin's work and the teaching of the theories at the high school level is what sparked the controversy. Despite the extra sharpness

that the recent reemergence of this controversy gives the play, the play is not really about evolution. It is about competing ideals in American society: freedom of thought versus community beliefs, science versus religion, traditional versus progressive views, the role of the public and the press in these national debates. The issues are difficult and complex, and the drama pits against each other two good and honorable men with opposing views.

Joneal Joplin and Phillip Pleasants play the lead roles of Matthew Harrison Brady and Henry Drummond, respectively. Joplin, a tall thin actor who is one of the gems of the Rep and one of the area's most popular and respected actors, plays the corpulent Brady in a padded body suit, but pulls the portrayal off well. Joplin's Brady brings out the personal charm and presence the perennial candidate needs to have, as well as his fervent vision and commitment to his cause, but lightens the character a bit with some personal weakness when it comes to food. Phillip Pleasants' Henry Drummond is by contrast a much more irascible and biting character, but is charming and likeable in his own way. His portrayal brings out Drummond's equally idealistic commitment to his cause. These two well-done performances brim with power and tension, especially in the courtroom scenes. Their work is further supported by the excellent work of the rest of the cast, with Allison Krizner's sweet and conflicted portrayal of Rachel Brown, John Scopes' fellow teacher and budding romance, and David Haugen's characterization of sarcastic and caustic reporter E. K. Hornbeck as two stand-outs.

The play at the Rep is a wonderful presentation of this powerful courtroom drama, with the Rep's usual creative and striking simple sets. No other theater in town does as well at effectively using its performance space, with sets that are at once beautiful, compelling, and simple enough for the limitations of its theater-in-the-round performance space, while also contributing to the message of the play as well. The performance space design allows the audience to be intimately involved with the play, but the innova-



Defense lawyer Henry Drummond (Philip Pleasants) questions prosecution lawyer Matthew Harrison Brady (Joneal Joplin) on the stand in "Inherit the Wind," now playing at The Rep.

tive and appealing sets support the fantasy aspects of theater very well.

Besides the simple but compelling sets, the costumes and props are all perfect for the time and place, as well

as having powerful eye-appeal. The Rep's always-careful attention to details is one of the things that makes their productions so enjoyable for audiences.

This wonderful play is an excellent evening out, offering history, riveting drama, and stellar performances, with the added level of the thought provoking handling of a resurgent topic.

EDITOR

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
a&e editor

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Rugrats in Paris
Original Sin
The Golden Bowl
The 6th Day
Requiem for a Dream
You Can Count on Me

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400 Blows (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

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Unbreakable
102 Dalmatians

25-26

400 Blows (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
M (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

December

2-3

M (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
Viridiana (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

8

Vertical Limit

9-10

Viridiana (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
Jean de Florette (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

FILM REVIEW

'Exorcist' still scares, even after 25 years

BY SARA PORTER
special to The Current

Even though it was released 25 years ago, "The Exorcist" is still one of the best horror films of all time. "The Exorcist," originally released in 1973 and re-released this year for its 25th anniversary, is based on William Peter Blatty's equally excellent novel with the same title. The novel, in turn, is loosely based on a Bel-Nor case involving a demonic possession. Regan McNeil (Linda Blair) is a normal little girl who suddenly begins exhibiting shocking behavior—speaking to invisible spirits and cursing at people for no apparent reason. The doctors believe it's a psychological or neurological disorder.

It doesn't take long before Regan's mom, Chris (Ellen Burstyn), realizes that her daughter is possessed by the devil and calls for an exorcism, bringing in two priests—Damien Karras (Jason Miller), a young priest suffering from a lack of faith and Joseph Merrin (Max Von Sydow), an expert on exor-

The Exorcist (2000)
Length: 131 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

cism.

Some of the more popular scenes, such as the devil vomiting in Regan's body and stabbing her crotch with a crucifix, are well-done and somewhat frightening. But the eerier scenes are the more subtle ones; for example, when Regan is first possessed and alternates from a devil to just a spooky child. Also, the scenes where a demonic face appears for a split second and foreshadows the possession to come.

The performances are wonderful. Burstyn gives a slightly hysterical over-the-top performance as Regan's terrified mother, but her concern for her daughter is as apparent as her fear of the devil inside her.

Von Sydow plays Father Merrin as a veteran of countless battles with the

devil who is ready for one more.

Because there was a body doubling for the possession scenes, Blair's performance as Regan's was only at the beginning and the end as a normal girl, but that makes her possession harder to accept. What would harm such a sweet girl?

Standout performances are from Miller as the tormented Karras, who slowly regains his faith through the ordeal, and Mercedes McCambridge (who originally went uncredited) as the voice of the devil. The scenes where the two are verbally battling each other for Regan's soul are some of the best.

Admittedly, the special effects and the makeup are a bit dated by today's standards, and the scenes fail to shock, because we've seen them reenacted and referred to countless times before.

The movie does more than scare. It raises countless issues of good vs. evil, and science vs. religion.

Unlike a lot of other horror films, this one stands out, because it makes the audience think.

The Loop is place to be this week

This past week marks the beginning of the St. Louis Film Festival and the opening of the Pageant Theater, two significant events for area music and film fans. The Film Festival runs all this week and through the next weekend at the Delmar Loop's Tivoli Theater, the nearby Hi-Pointe Theater and Forest Park's St. Louis Art Museum. The Pageant, located a few blocks east of the Tivoli on Delmar, features a mix of local and national acts with a mix of styles. Its recent opening coinciding with the start of the Film Festival makes this area a very hot place for arts and entertainment this week.

The Pageant offers a mid-size venue for music, a niche that has not been well served in the St. Louis area

except for Mississippi Nights in the Landing. With the closing of that venue, the Pageant is especially needed, but its well-thought out design should make it even better. Like the "House of Blues" chain of music venues and bars found in Chicago and other cities, the Pageant offers a good line of sight from nearly every seat, due to the use of balcony seating. The club like set-up allows for dancing and rails for drinks while allowing everyone a good view of the band. The combination of features in a larger venue that accommodates bigger name bands and their fans should prove very popular indeed.

The Film Festival, which we covered in The Current's 1000th issue, is the film-going highlight of the year,

with ten days of great and unusual new films from around the world. The festival is much more compact this year, which makes hitting more than one film in a day that much easier. The festival also features parties, street festivities on Delmar over the two weekends, several special sidebar events, and finally culminates in the New Filmmakers competition over the last weekend. Over 80 films are shown over the festival, most more than once, but for many this will be their only stop in St. Louis, although they will go on to play in larger cities.

This looks like the week to spend some time in the Loop, whether you are a fan of film or music. It's certainly where I'm going to be this week.

CONCERT REVIEW

Barenaked Ladies entertain local crowd at Savvis Center

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

What is composed of five guys, Sesame Street, giant inflatable heads, classical music, and a parody of Britney Spears? If you didn't answer "a Barenaked Ladies concert," then you weren't there when these guys blew the roof off of the Savvis Center.

The concert began with a band called Guster, an amazing trio who have earned the right to play any venue as a stand alone act. Guster, whose most popular song is Fa Fa (Never Be the Same Again), played the crowd to its feet, an impressive showing for an opening band. I heard several people around me say that they couldn't imagine what such talented guys were doing opening for another band, and in a few short years Guster will probably have a tour of its own. While the set for Guster wasn't really impressive, it was still pretty good for an opening band in a hockey stadium.

More than half the crowd got up to meet Guster after their set for a signing, and I've never seen the halls of the Savvis Center more packed. I was so inspired that I jumped out of my seat to buy their album. It was the fourth CD I've ever purchased, which gives you some idea of how few I buy, and how good these guys are.

Only half an hour after the Guster set, the backdrop to the stage shimmered and fell, revealing a trippy, colorful two-story tall head and floating lighted balloons. The video screens played a cartoon that would have made hepcats proud. The rhyme scheme (revolving around the word maroon) was a mix between Dr. Seuss and Rocky and Bullwinkle.

Pitch darkness overwhelmed the

stadium, followed by a brief and brilliant flash of light. The Barenaked Ladies had entered the building. Steve and Ed, the stars of BNL, pranced around like they owned the place, doing a parody of Black Sabbath. The show was composed of equal parts cultural spoof, BNL music, and comedy. The mixture was absolutely delightful. Somehow, the guys in the sound-booth actually managed to make all the songs an appropriate volume, and the audience could make out all the hip BNL lyrics they knew and loved.

Ed wore a pair of red underwear outside of his pants, which he later threw into the crowd—the underwear that is—and told us that it made him feel like a superhero. For reasons known only to BNL, a chef stood on the stage for part of the show, contributing nothing to the music, but looking cool while dancing.

There really isn't anything else one can say about the concert itself, except that it had a cello solo, Star Wars music, thrown monkeys, "Who Let the Dogs Out," and gratuitous references to the Arch and Ted Drewes. BNL knows their audience, and plays to it.

This leads us to the main point of their show. BNL is the Beanie Baby of rock and roll. They have totally sold out. So much so, that according to Ed they work for "The Man," and get their paychecks directly from The Gap. Whether this is true or not (we have only their Canadian senses of humor to blame), BNL did a fantastic job of impressing the people who'd spent money to see them.

Having seen acts like The Who and the legendary performer Billy Joel, I can say without hesitation that the Barenaked Ladies put on the best concert in America today.



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Mammoth storm sinks legendary ship in minutes

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa down of the big lake they called Gitche Gumee. The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead when the skies of November turn gloomy. With a load of iron ore, 26,000 tons more than the *Edmund Fitzgerald* weighed empty. That good ship and true was a bone to be chewed when the gales of November came early."

These eloquent lyrics came from a 1976 smash hit called "The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*" by Canadian singer/songwriter Gordon Lightfoot.

Lightfoot was singing about the loss of the iron ore freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald* and its crew of 29 men on Nov. 10, 1975. It was one of the greatest tragedies in United States maritime history.

The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was launched on the afternoon of June 8, 1958, at the Great Lakes Engineering works, near River Rouge, Mich.

It was 729 feet long, 75 feet wide, and weighed 13,632 tons. The "Big Fitz," as the mariners referred to her, was the largest freighter in service on the Great Lakes and would remain so until the summer of 1971.

For 17 years, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* served the ore fleet with honor and distinction. It also set numerous shipping records. For instance, in 1964 the *Fitzgerald* became the first vessel to carry more than 1 million gross tons of iron ore through the Soo Locks of Lake Superior.

In 1968, the *Fitzgerald* topped this record by hauling 1.2 million tons of ore through the locks. The ship also set a single trip record of 27,402 tons of

iron ore in the fall of 1969. The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was quickly becoming a legend on the Great Lakes.

In addition to tonnage records, the *Fitzgerald* also set many speed records.

Twice in 1966, and once again in 1967, the *Fitzgerald* made the trip from Superior, Wis. to Cleveland, Ohio, in less than 3 days. It was a voyage that routinely took other vessels in 4 days. In 1969, the *Fitzgerald* actually broke its own previous record from Superior to Cleveland by nearly 4 hours.

Such exploits earned the ship the famed blue ribbon—something it would proudly carry on its forward mast right up

through its last voyage. On Nov. 9, 1975, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* dropped anchor at Burlington Northern Dockyard No. 1. For 6 hours, the ship was loaded with 26,116 tons of iron ore pellets. This was enough ore to produce the steel for 7,500 automobiles.

At 2:15 p.m., the ship left Superior, Wis., bound for Cleveland with 29 crewman aboard. It was under the command of Capt. Ernest McSorley, a veteran of more than 40 years of experience on the Great Lakes.

Everything was proceeding perfectly well, until at 7 p.m., when a gale warning was issued by the Nation Weather Service out of Chicago, Ill.

This report predicted 60 mph winds and 12-foot waves for all of Lake Superior, the deepest, roughest, and most treacherous of the Great Lakes, especially during the gales of November.

There was no panic aboard the *Fitzgerald*, though. The ship and most of its crew were seasoned veterans and had experienced many storms before, always making it through.

However, the November gale would escalate throughout the night, causing conditions on Lake Superior to worsen with astonishing speed. By noontime on Nov. 10, wind speeds were clocked at 80 mph, with waves cresting at 22 feet. Barely 2 hours later, wind gusts of 96 miles per hour, and 30-foot-waves were hitting the *Edmund Fitzgerald* from every direction possible.

Even Captain McSorley, with all his 40 years of experience, had never witnessed anything like this.

Despite the mammoth storm, the *Fitzgerald* just kept sailing on. By 3 p.m., it was just a few hours from the Soo Locks and the safety of Whitefish Bay. Everything seemed like it would be just fine. Then, fate took a dramatic turn. The heavy winds disabled the *Fitzgerald's* radar.

This caused the ship to drift into an area of Superior known as Six Fathom Shoal.

It contained jagged rock formations similar to a coral reef, which could tear out the bottom of the best of ships. This is exactly what happened to the *Fitzgerald*. With portions of its hull compromised, the ship began to fill with water rapidly.

By 5 p.m., the *Fitzgerald* had taken on an unmistakable list and was forced to reduce speed. The great ship and its crew were now at the mercy of Lake Superior.

The lake would not show any mercy. At about 7:15 p.m., the *Edmund Fitzgerald* was hit by a series of enormous waves in rapid succession, causing the ship to break in half and capsize. All hands were lost.

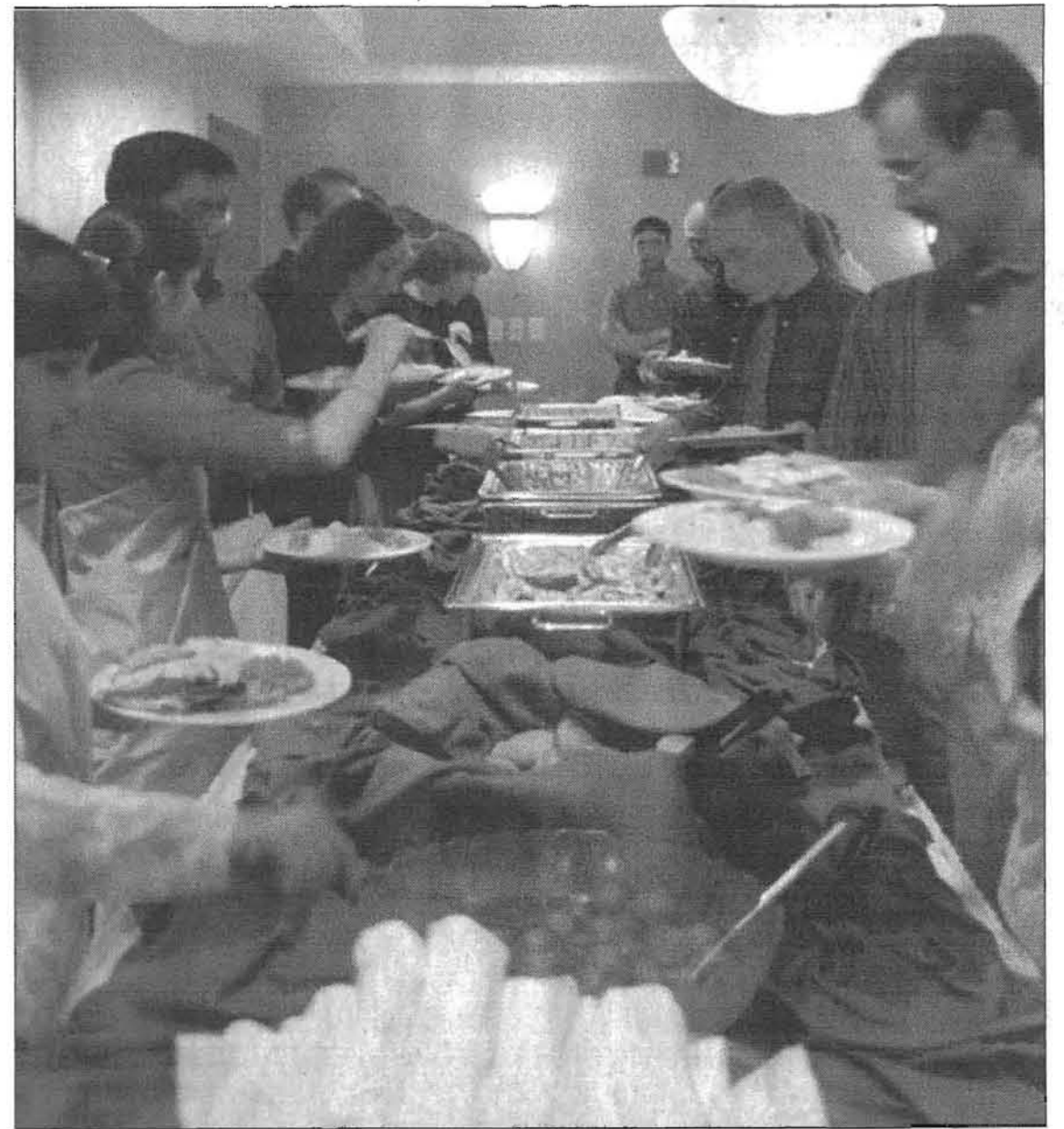
The end was so sudden and catastrophic that not a single distress signal was even sent.

In 1996, the *Fitz's* bell was recovered by a team of divers and placed in the Maritime Museum of Superior Wisconsin in honor of all the crewmen who perished in this horrible tragedy.



TIM THOMPSON
history columnist

Can I have some more?



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Students line up for a taste of Indian cuisine at the Diwali Night held at the Doubletree Hotel Oct. 28. The dinner was sponsored by the Indian Student Association in honor of the Diwali, which is the Indian festival of lights. About 100 people attended the event, which featured Indian classical dances and food prepared by Rasoi, an Indian restaurant.

DEBATE, from page 1

Caucasians while there were 704 per 100,000 African-Americans. His statistics, he explained grudgingly, came mostly from the DEA, the organization Bensingher once headed.

St. Pierre said that minor possession of marijuana shouldn't even be a crime today. To support this, he listed several states that had decriminalized the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, making its possession an

offense only fined \$100 or \$200. In Missouri, he said, again using DEA statistics, marijuana is the fourth largest cash crop, following soy, corn, and hay.

He closed by saying that if Anheuser-Busch could be a good corporate citizen, there was no reason why the slogan "This Bud's for you," shouldn't apply to marijuana use too. Questions from the audience kept

the J.C. Penney auditorium jumping for more than half an hour after the two had finished their presentations. and while St. Pierre was certainly more popular with the crowd, there was a respect among the students for Bensingher's stand as well. It was a debate that will not likely be settled in the near future, but will continue to generate interest among college students for years to come.

CENTER, from page 1

28. Ceremonies are planned for Chancellor Blanche Touhill to present the symbolic key to the building to the student officers, as well as a ribbon cutting. All alumni have been invited to the event, as well as all current stu-

dents and faculty.

"Quarters," the new arcade, is finished and open for business. Located on the first floor, it is home to numerous video games and two pool tables. The computer lab and the television

lounges are scheduled to open this week. The retail outlets on the second floor are scheduled to be in operation before the grand opening later this month.

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Personals

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Beth

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THE NERD TABLE BY: MARTIN JOHNSON



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