



► Making Noise: A new trio is creating an interesting blend of art and music. See page 3.

► Stop Thief! Thefts dominate 1997 campus crimes, latest police report says. See page 8.

► On Thin Ice: Mizzou Tigers defeat hockey Rivermen dampening UM-St. Louis' chance at a national tourney. See page 5.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Florida proposal would make SGAs sovereign entities

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — For the first time in history, Florida's public university student governments could be recognized as a legal entity.

And if a proposed bill passes through the Legislature, that legal status would make it impossible for university presidents to abolish them.

The draft bill, introduced last week by Kevin Mayeux, Florida Student Association director, proposes adding a statement to the Florida statute that each student government is organized by and accountable to students.

The proposal, to be considered first by the House Colleges and Universities Committee chaired by Casey, also states each student government will have a president and legislative branch responsible for its own rules and representatives, Mayeux said.

"Basically, the bill puts in statute guarantees that are already in place at UF," Mayeux said. "It will apply to all universities in Florida."

John McGovern, UF student body president, met with Casey on Thursday afternoon to discuss legislative objectives and talk about the draft bill.

"It codifies, generally, the student government's position and the role that they play in Florida's 10 State University System universities," McGovern said. "It makes student governments a formal, legal group."

The statutes currently make no formal mention of how a student government is created, and the draft bill is "aimed at making everything coherent," McGovern said.

"The bill makes student governments the sovereign voice of the students."

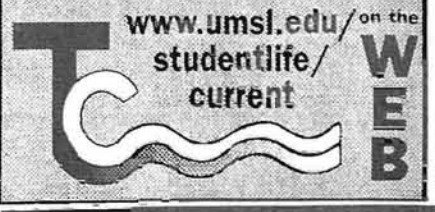
Casey said recognizing student governments in the statutes is important because some university presidents have taken extra liberties with student governments that the FSA did not think were warranted.

For example, McGovern said although "grave" student government abuses occurred at the University of Central Florida, the university should not have shut down its student government as it did in 1996.

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The Current

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

February 1, 1999 The University of Missouri-St. Louis Vol. 33 Issue 944

Board considers sexual orientation clause

Protest disrupts meeting as Curators implement order into system policy

BY SUE BRITT
 staff associate

The Board of Curators voted Friday at UM-St. Louis to make executive order three into system policy, eliciting a protest from some students who said the order does not go far enough to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"The policy [executive order three] was established to create a positive work environment and to enable all members of the University community to effectively perform their work or to achieve their educational goals," said Manuel Pacheco, President of the UM system. "It was intended to include all legal categories of nondiscrimination as well as other types of discrimination, including that based on sexual orientation."

Pacheco said that a committee was put in place to study the issue of including sexual orientation into the anti-discrimination policy.



Public hearings were held Nov. 13 at Columbia wherein faculty, staff, and students from all four campuses addressed the committee in person and hundreds more commented through letter, e-mail, fax, and telephone. Pacheco said that after reviewing all that was submitted, the executive committee held a telephonic meeting on Dec. 1 to discuss the issue.

Pacheco said that the committee asked him to present the Board with his recommendations which included making an extended version of executive order three into policy. The order reads, in part, that the University should provide an environment "where all individuals are treated with respect, regardless of their status."

Pacheco said that one of the criticisms of executive order three was that it could be struck down by a future president. Making the order into policy eliminates that possibility. Other additions to the order included procedures to make the policy more broadly distributed, training programs, and a spelling out in the policy of the grievance procedures.

"Training programs devised with the advice from the Equity Access Council includes four modules," Pacheco said. "Racial discrimination, sexual discrimination, sexual orientation, and disability awareness."

During the discussions following Pacheco's report to the Board, it was asked if this policy would be proactive, and Pacheco responded that it was time to move forward to eliminate harassment and assured everyone that the policy would be enforced. Also in the discussion Curator Paul Steele discussed his views in opposition to making executive order three into board policy.

"Sexual orientation is a private matter or it should be a private matter, a personal inner matter, and I believe it should remain that way," Steele said. "And I believe that we should not continue to add to this list."

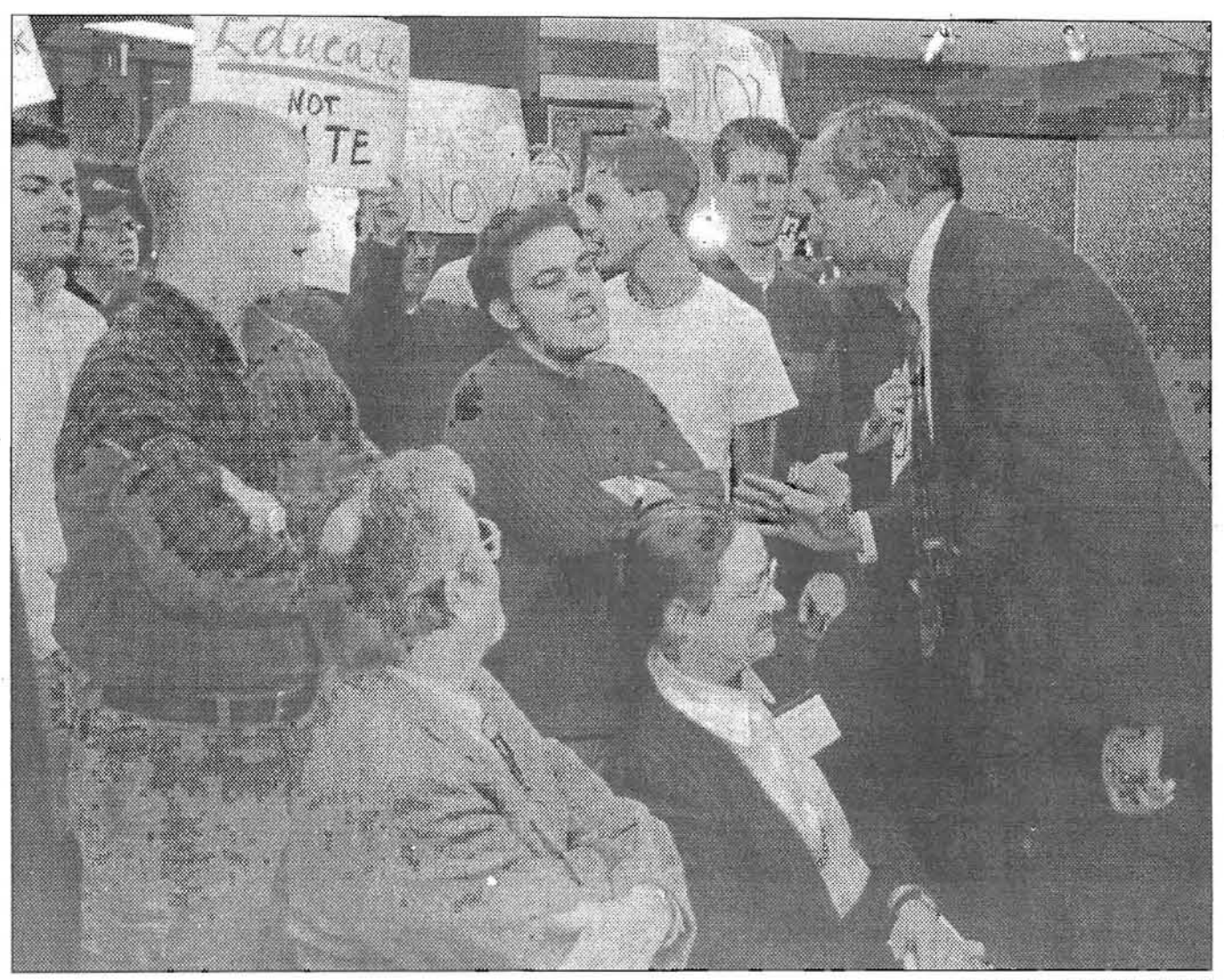
Within the meeting immediately following the decision a student from UM-Columbia, Dean Anderson, shouted out, "Full inclusion. Nothing less."

Others began chanting, "Inclusion now."

The group of students protesting the decision was removed from the meeting and then continued their protest in the hallway outside the meeting doors for a period of time. Protesters then continued to espouse their position outside the J.C. Penney Building. Tim Peacock, vice-president of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Students for Change complained that the Curators did not go far enough and that executive order three did not specifically list sexual orientation as a protected group, unlike other groups who are specifically listed in under the system's anti-discrimination clause.

"[The decision is] a load of something," Peacock said. "All the other things [included in the anti-discrimination clause] are delineated, and they need to delineate this

see DISCRIMINATION, page 8



UM-St. Louis Director of Institutional Safety Robert Roeseler confronts protesters as they disrupt the Board of Curators' meeting Friday. The protesters, upset over the Board's decision on a proposed sexual orientation clause for the UM system anti-discrimination policy, were eventually led from the room by police.

Curators pass fee hike package

BY DAVID BAUGHER
 senior editor

The UM Board of Curators gave final approval to a package of fee increases at its Friday meeting on campus; the package will increase student fees by approximately 5.1% for the average full-time UM-St. Louis student.

The proposal, which passed the Board unanimously, will bring the fees for a student taking 12 credit hours from \$270.60 to \$284.40. In addition to a 20-cent per credit hour jump in the recreation fee and a 45-cent per credit hour rise in the athletics fee, there was also an adjustment of the Health Services fee.

The fee, formerly collected as a \$9.00 flat rate expense per semester, was changed to an \$1.20 per credit hour fee. This amounts to a 60% increase for an average full-time UM-St. Louis student.

In addition, the Board approved minor increases in the student activity and student service fees as recommended by SGA leaders. At the December SGA meeting, the SGA was unable to come to a consensus on a recommendation for the two fees with Ben Ash, SGA comptroller, favoring small increases while Jim Avery, SGA president, hoped to keep the fees where they were after large increases for the 1998-99 fiscal year. In January, SGA recommended a two-cent increase in the student activity fee and a three-cent increase in the student service fee. The Board passed both recommendations.

At the December meeting, the SGA did not make any recommendation on the rest of the fee package because its leaders said that the University administration did not meet SGA's timelines in presenting its proposal.

The Board made no changes to the \$9.65 University Center fee. The fee more than doubled last year.

Viva Il Papa



UM-St. Louisans were among the faithful gathered to see Pope John Paul II at Kiel Center as part of his swing through St. Louis. For a full photo essay of the pontiff's visit and the campus' connection see page 6.

Photos by Stephanie Platt

Desegregation forum to start African-American History Month

BY JOE HARRIS
 senior editor

The UM-St. Louis Office of Equal Opportunity will kick off African-American History Month tonight at 7:30 p.m. with a roundtable discussion entitled "The Desegregation Proposal: The Legacy of American Leadership for the Present and the Future" at the J. C. Penney auditorium.

The discussion will be moderated by KSDK Channel Five education reporter Sharon Stevens. In addition to the roundtable discussion, Minnie L. Liddell and Dr. Everette E. Nance will be special guests. Liddell started the case Liddell vs. Board of Education that led the way to desegregating St. Louis schools. Nance is the dean of the UM-St. Louis Evening College.

The discussion will link the current desegregation proposal currently being debated with this year's African-American

History Month theme, "The Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and the Future."

"I don't see why anyone would not take part," Norman Seay, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, said. "Black History Month is a time to reflect upon all of the contributions African-Americans have made to society. It's an opportunity to seek role models."

The Office of Equal Opportunity is also sponsoring three other events to celebrate African-American History Month. They are co-sponsoring "Rivers of Women" and "I Am a Man" with the Center for the Humanities, and they are sponsoring "Slave Narrative" performed by the St. Louis Black Repertory Company.

"Rivers of Women" will also take place today at noon in 229 J. C. Penney. UM-St. Louis professor and internationally known poet, Shirley Le Flore will present a look at the texture

of the lives of the many women she has known.

"I Am a Man" is a play about the black sanitation workers' union strike in Memphis and the historical events leading to Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. Robert Himes, director of the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, along with cast members will present the play. The room number has been changed for this event. The play will now be held at 11:30 a.m. in 222 J. C. Penney on Feb. 22.

"Slave Narrative" will culminate African-American History month on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the J. C. Penney auditorium. The St. Louis Black Repertory Company will present the play and the UM-St. Louis gospel choir will perform as well.

Seay wants students to know that everyone, not just African-American students, are invited to these events.

see MONTH, page 8

Named UM - 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, Feb. 1
• "Rivers of Women" will be a poetry reading from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney.

• "The Desegregation Proposal: The Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and Future" This panel discussion is the kick off for African-American History Month. This event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of J.C. Penney. Contact: Office of Equal Opportunity, 5695.

• **Chemistry Colloquium "Chemical Effects of Ultrasound"** given by Ken Suslick, a University of Illinois professor of chemistry, at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Contact: 5311.

Tuesday, Feb. 2
• **Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series III** — African Culture in America from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in 78 J.C. Penney.

• **Spring Break Alternative** meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Newman House. Contact: Betty, 385-3455.

• **Recap of the Pope's Visit to St. Louis** in conjunction with the regular prayer meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Newman House. Contact: 385-3455.

Wednesday, Feb. 3
• **SOUP AND SOUL FOOD** (free lunch and a time for prayer and meditation) from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church at 8000 Natural Bridge. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation.

• **Lunch and Lecture Series:** Gregory C. Schwartz, chief of interpretation, Saint-Gaudens Historical Site, will discuss "Lay This Laurel: Platinum Photographs by Richard Benson of Augustus Saint-Gaudens" at 12 p.m. in the Summit Lounge of J.C. Penney. 7240.

Thursday, Feb. 4
• **Foreign Film Series: Farewell My Concubine** at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in 100 Lucas Hall.

• "Art, Science, and Mythology in Ancient Peru: Or, Love and War Among

the Gods" is a seminar given by Terence Grieder, Professor of Art History, from the University of Texas at Austin. This event will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in 203 Lucas Hall. Contact: 5753.

• **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament** from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. in the Mark Twain Gym. Men's and women's divisions are offered. Sponsored by Schick Super Hoops. Free razors to all participants and t-shirts to the winners. Sign up by Feb. 9. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

Friday, Feb. 5
• "The Impact of Interpersonal Immediacy in Learning Environments," is a communications seminar at 9 a.m. in 302 Lucas Hall. Contact: 5485.

• "The Genetic Foundation of Intercultural Communications Problems: Xenophobia and Ethnocentrism-Cultural Inheritances" is a communications seminar at 10 a.m. in 302 Lucas Hall. 5485.

• **Transportation Research Seminar "Applications of Service Quality**

Concepts for Academic and Sponsored Research in Transportation will be given by Larry Cunningham, Professor of Marketing and Transportation Studies at the University of Colorado-Denver and candidate for the John W. Barringer III Professorship in Transportation Studies. This seminar will be at 2 p.m. in 401 SSB. Contact: 6126.

• **Sig Tau Mystery Party.** All UM-St. Louis students and girls over 18 are welcome.

Wednesday, Feb. 10
• **SOUP AND SOUL FOOD** (free lunch and a time for prayer and meditation) from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church at 8000 Natural Bridge. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation.

Monday, Feb. 15
• **Homecoming Week Table Tennis Tournament.** Matches, scheduled according to player's skill level and availability, will be today through Saturday. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

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Staff: Kevin Buckley, Catherine Marquis-Homeyer, Erin Stremmel

7940 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-6811

email: current@jinx.umsledu
website: <http://www.umsledu/studentlife/current/>

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Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 26th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1998-June 1999 graduating classes.

Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1998. By Dec. 15, 1998, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam, Fellowships Director, The Indianapolis News, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

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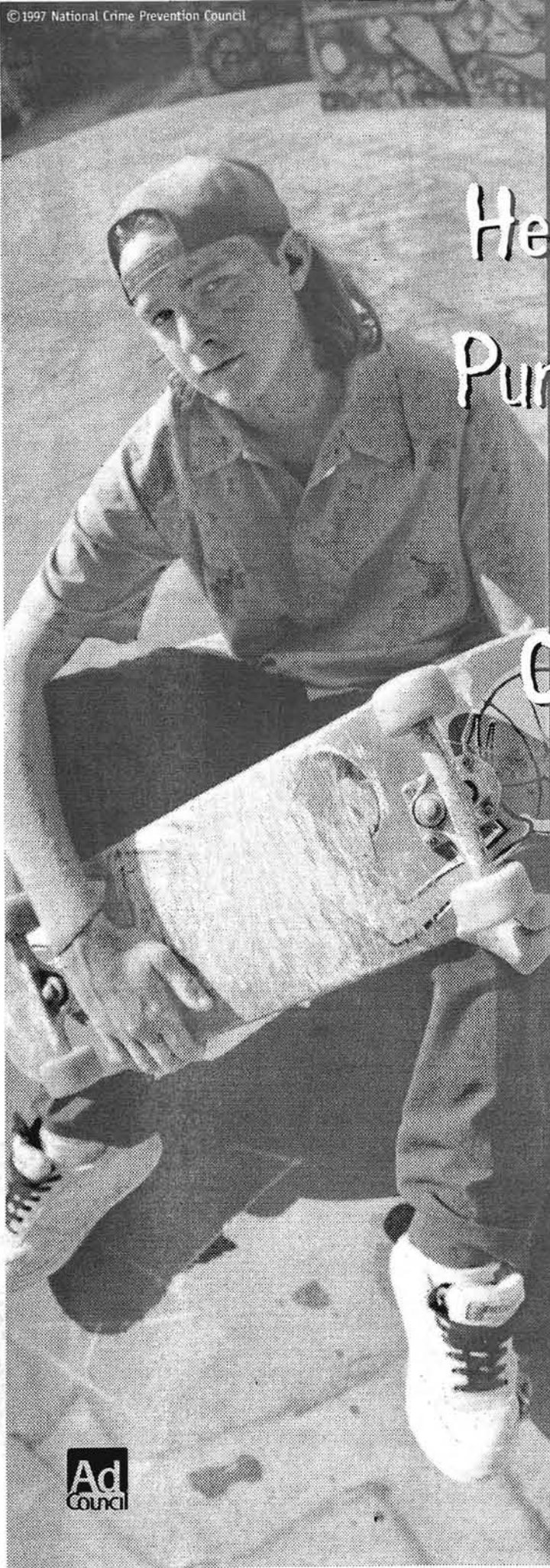
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Through the Looking Glass

Homecoming Week

Monday, Feb. 15
Visit the Homecoming information table from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the U Center Lobby

Tuesday, Feb. 16
Arresting Day donation tables in U Center and Marillac lobbies 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Ping Pong Tourney in Mark Twain. See Athletic Dept. (516-5661) for sign-up and times


Wednesday, Feb. 17
Arresting tables open, same time and location
Ping- Pong Tourney continues in Mark Twain
Rec Sports Day - various athletic games students can participate in and receive prizes, held in JC Penney
Bonfire 6:00 p.m., by C/D garages - pep rally for Homecoming basketball games, will include both teams, Riverettes, pep-band, and hot chocolate

Thursday, Feb. 18
Arresting tables open, same time and location
Speaker, Lech Walesa at JC Penney at 8:00 p.m.
Basketball Games in Mark Twain at 5:30 p.m. - includes championship game of Ping Pong Tourney, recognizing Homecoming Court and attendance prizes

Friday, Feb. 19
Arresting Day, N. Campus, JC Penney lobby 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Arresting Day, S. Campus, Marillac lobby from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Alumni Happy Hour, America's Center, begins 5:00 p.m.
Homecoming Dance, America's Center, begins 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20
Alumni Family Day and basketball games, begins 1:00 p.m.

Court Applications available in Student Activities Office (267 U Center)
Deadline for entries is Friday, Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m.
Dance Tickets also available in Student Activities
1 person = \$10, Couple = \$17, Table (10) = \$75
Call 516-5291 for questions



FEATURES

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

GET THIS

Fraternity folk disprove rotten stereotypes

I don't make it a habit to start my column with a warning, but I have to clarify something before you read any further. Today I will be addressing an issue that is more serious than my usual carefree banter. I want to make it perfectly clear up front that any sarcasm I may sneak in is not, in any way, intended to diminish the importance of the topic. I may poke a little fun, but my intent is not to offend, but to add a bit of color to my writing.

That being said, I begin. I used to think that fraternities were only about parties, drinking and rash behavior (not that there's anything wrong with that.) I am discovering, however, that that is a very narrow point of view. The more I get to know these guys, the more I realize that, although they are no stranger to fun, it's not their only function.

Take, for example, the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity on campus. In the words of their Vice-President, Mark Hessel, "We're sick and tired of people saying fraternities are no good to the school, no good anywhere, they're just a bunch of partiers that are causing trouble."

I admit, that was pretty much my assumption... until I saw the other side of the coin.

It so happened that one of their alumni brothers, Joe Poropat, recently had a tragedy in his family. Joe's cousin, Mike, seemed to be living a golden life. He graduated from college last spring with a double major in Mass Communications and Public Relations. He interned at TWA for a while and received a round-trip ticket to the destination of his choice—Europe. Mike, a passionate soccer player, tried out and was chosen to play for a professional soccer team in Sweden. He came back to St. Louis temporarily, and has been practicing with the Ambush until his return to Sweden in February for pre-season.

Unfortunately, a twist of fate threw him a curve.

Mike was in a horrible accident this past November and his right arm was severed at the shoulder. To make matters worse, Mike was without medical insurance at the time, so all costs are pretty much going to be out of pocket. The cost for a prosthetic arm alone runs about \$20,000 these days, not exactly pocket change.

Mike's family has been trying to come up with ways to raise money to pay for the mound of accumulating bills. When Sigma Tau Gamma heard about their situation, they decided to help out.

Now, this kind of selflessness is not what I would have expected from a fraternity. But, I guess I am proving a time-honored proverb wrong. Perhaps you can, in fact, teach an old dog new tricks, because my initial impression of "frat boys" is changing. (I would also like to add, for the record, that I consider myself neither "old" nor a "dog.")

The fellows are taking a couple of actions to support Mike and his family.

This Friday, Feb. 5, the guys will set up a table in the University Center to collect money for the cause. Later that night, they will host a benefit party at their house with all of the proceeds being donated. All students are welcome, the fiesta kicks off around 9 p.m. and wraps up at approximately 2-2:30 a.m. As the fraternity is well-educated in the ways of partying, it should be a good time for all and—bonus!—an opportunity to help out someone in need. After all, a friend in need is a friend indeed. (Sorry, I couldn't help that last one.)

Show your humanity, give a little, have a good time. What else is there?



AMY LOMBARDO
Features Editor

Diversity of DANCE

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Imagine moving to the beat of a West African djembe drum while the warmth of the room mingles with the body and the soul. This is what participants do in the West African Dance Experience with instructor Diadie Bathily.

Bathily comes from Cote D'Ivoire, located in West Africa. He is a native of Mali and has performed since he was three years old. Bathily has taught dance all over the world, including Africa, Europe, and the United States.

To learn more about African dance, Bathily attended the Mariam Guiraud's School of Dance and Cultural Exchange located in Abidjan and Adama Drame's Dance Institute in Bouake, Ivory Coast. From his education, Bathily formed his own dance troupe, called

the "Wara Dance."

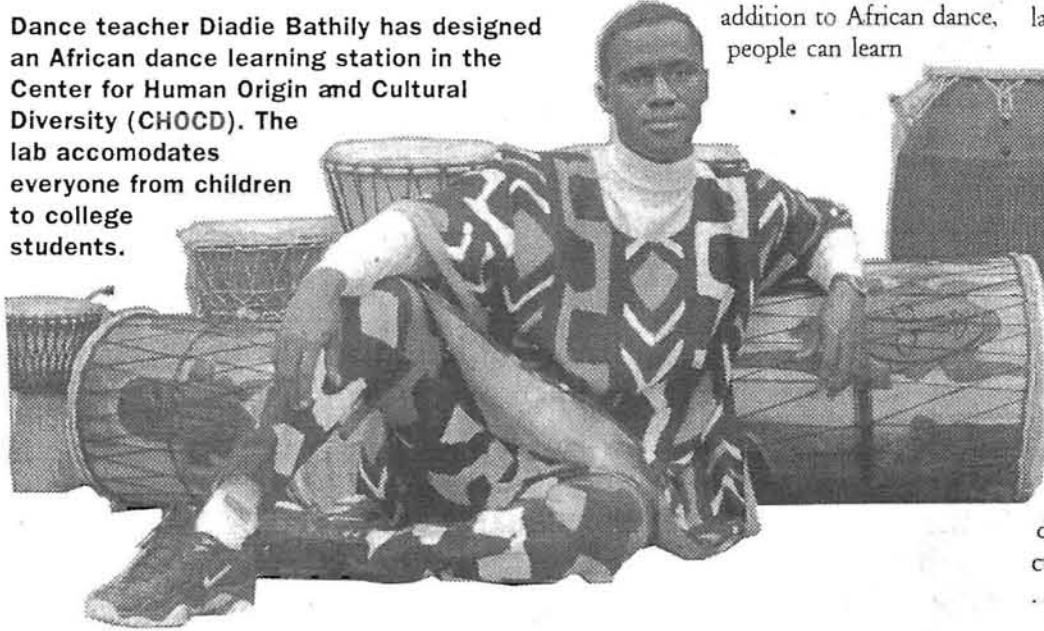
Before coming to UM-St. Louis, Bathily performed and choreographed workshops for the "Village of Arts and Humanities," which is a community development project in urban Philadelphia. This production was called "TIME Montage."

Bathily is currently learning to speak English in University City at the English Language School. He already speaks French, Jula, and Soninke fluently.

Bathily first came to UM-St. Louis in September of 1998. Since then, he has designed an African dance learning station in the Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity (CHOCD).

CHOCD controls two laboratories, the Human Origin Laboratory and the African Cultures Laboratory. In addition to African dance, people can learn

Dance teacher Diadie Bathily has designed an African dance learning station in the Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity (CHOCD). The lab accomodates everyone from children to college students.



about

African city and urban life, storytelling, and food preparation techniques, and play African musical instruments at the African Cultures Laboratory.

The programs host a variety of individuals, from fifth graders to graduate students. The lab can accommodate 10-50 people. The lab is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bathily teaches the Ngoron, which is the dance of the Senoufo people. The Senoufo reside in Cote D'Ivoire.

The Ngoron is an initiation dance which consists of four steps. This dance is a rite of passage that regards kinship and the continuity of the generations. This kinship is matrilineal which continues the cultural significance through mothers.

"I think the students are interested about the culture I am teaching. They dance very well. They are smart, and they are curious. I'm happy because they are listening... They want to stay and learn about the cul-

ture of West Africa," Bathily said.

Joe Hellweg, who helped in the creation of the African Cultures Lab, is hosting Bathily while he is working at UM-St. Louis.

"I think it's important to learn about Africa... Here is an opportunity at UM-St. Louis to learn about a part of a region in some detail in a participatory way," Hellweg said.

The importance of African dance is in the story about the dance. The story tells not only what the dance is for, but when it takes place, and why it is performed. The stories of the dances vary with different West African cultures as they all have different names for their dances.

"I want students to take the class with me and learn different dances of West Africa. We learn many dances," Bathily said. "African dance is good exercise for the body and the mind."






For more information on the eight-week dance class at Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center, call (314) 516-5911.

For more information on the dance station at the African Cultures Lab, call (314) 516-7227.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Jeremy Pratte/staff photographer

If you guest star on any TV show, what would it be?

<p>"Howard Stern show."</p> <p>-Sherry Carey Senior/Biology</p> 
<p>"Friends! Because I really like those girls."</p> <p>-Tom Grealich Freshman/Computer Engineering</p> 
<p>"The Wayans Brothers."</p> <p>-Lamar Brown Senior/P.E.</p> 
<p>"Dawson's Creek, because they seem like really friendly people unlike the students I've met here."</p> <p>-Mia E. Lawrence Junior/Political Science</p> 
<p>"WCW Monday Nitro because I'm in love with Buff Bagwell!"</p> <p>-Ricki Ehrhard Freshman/Accounting</p> 

Concert Review



Eric Leonardson and Carol Genetti

Photo by Jeff Callon

Unconventional instruments make for interesting music

Concert Review
Genetti, Leonardson, Marshall
Experimental Music

Have you ever banged on something incessantly because you like the sound of it? Do not fear. In some social circles, creating new and unconventional noises is considered music.

Carol Genetti, Eric Leonardson, and Scott Marshall debuted their experimental music Jan. 9 at the Forum for Contemporary Art as part of the New Music Circle '98-'99 concert series. New Music Circle is a not-for-profit organization devoted to bringing new and experimental music to St. Louis from all around the world.

The performance started with Genetti performing a solo piece called "Hear What I Hear" by Joan LaBarbara. On a table there were six plates, each with a different object on them. Genetti had been separated from the objects. She didn't know what was on the table. She emerged blindfolded and was taken to the table so she could feel the objects.

Genetti used her voice to describe the objects with amusing, emotionally charged, powerful and unnatural sounds. She would "ooh" for curved pieces of rubber and giggle at rubber worm fishing lures. She trilled her tongue for glass beads and sighed for cotton puffs. If you closed your eyes you could almost feel what she was feeling. Her ability to express the emotions people experience when

touching certain objects was amazing.

Her partners then joined her for some improvisational pieces. Leonardson, an inventor of musical instruments, played on an instrument called the springboard. It was a collection of stuff to bang on. It consisted of wires, springs, metal bars and an empty can of wood sealant as an amplifier.

Leonardson reminded me of that kid in school that was always banging on something during class. Practice paid off. Leonardson's contributions to the trio were impressive.

Their music invoked random mental images. There were no well-developed ideas. At times I felt I was waiting for the Tyrannosaurus Rex to emerge from Jurassic Park or that I was walking through the wicked witch's haunted woods. The lack of continuity was both exciting and disturbing.

Some might not call this trio's performance music, but rather sound effects. Some might say that they're just three people making noise. Yet, there is an aesthetically pleasing aspect to their music. There is a sense of amusement in their performance. It is visually entertaining. In fact, it is hard to experience the full impact of the music without seeing them perform.

Their music will not appeal to everyone. But if you want to experience something unusual and entertaining, it is worth the time to see this talented group.

-Stephanie Platt

COMMENTARY

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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

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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

Sexual orientation not represented

The Issue:

The UM Board of Curators has passed a version of executive order three into policy but did not add sexual orientation to the system's anti-discrimination policy.

We Suggest:

The Board of Curators should incorporate sexual orientation under this policy.

So what do you think?

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

current@jinx.umsl.edu

The UM Board of Curators' decision Friday to adopt executive order three as policy was a step in the right direction though it did not go far enough. The other alternative, inclusion of a specific phrase protecting sexual and gender orientation in the system discrimination policy, would certainly have been preferable.

While the wording of the version of executive order three adopted by the Curators is lofty and well-intentioned, hoping to provide a "positive work and learning environment where all individuals are treated fairly and with respect regardless of their status" it contains no specific language protecting sexual orientation or any other group.

System President Manuel Pacheco said that the order was meant to protect against all forms of discrimination, including sexual orientation but if this is true why are certain groups listed as protected under the UM policy while sexual orientation is not? Why are certain groups found worthy of specific protection while others fall under the vague, nebulous umbrella of the executive order's wording? Are some groups entitled to more protection than others. Anyway you look at it there is a clear discrepancy between the Board's

apparent intent and their actions.

We suggest that the Board make its policy a consistent one. Either sexual orientation should be included in the UM system's anti-discrimination policy as a protected group or the policy itself should be changed to replace the listing of certain protected groups with a blanket statement barring discrimination against any group. If the version of executive order three is truly meant to protect those with alternative lifestyles why not word the discrimination policy the same way as the order?

Until then however the debate over the policy's inconsistency will continue. Here's hoping, however that it will continue in a more productive manner in the future than it did Friday. The student protest that disrupted the meeting, while staged in a good cause, was in fact irrelevant and pointless at best and counterproductive at worst. Numerous resolutions and open forums as well as previous protests have made the Board well aware of the depth of student feeling on this issue. They will choose to act on that feeling or ignore it. Noisy disruptions in Board meetings may make good newspaper copy but will likely do little to change the minds of the Curators.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Performing Arts Center just misunderstood

In last week's issue of *The Current* (Jan. 25) there was a letter to the editor written in response to my guest commentary written the week prior about the planned Performing Arts Center. The letter (signed Jake Parker) pointed out the cons of even bothering to erect such a building. Unfortunately, there were a few fallacies cited in his letter.

Mr. Parker stated that the students of UM-St. Louis would like to see their money going toward more developed departments on campus rather than the performing arts.

First and foremost, the students are not paying for the Performing Arts Center. Over 90 percent of the funding has already been provided for the building. Students have not had to pay a dime. Nor will they for the remainder.

Secondly, I have great doubts that performing arts students are "the only ones who would even step inside the Center." On the contrary, I believe the new Center will be something of an attraction. People of all

ages will come to bear witness to some of the wonderful events that take place. I would think that this would even increase the UM-St. Louis enrollment.

Thirdly, since when has the University adopted the policy of discriminating against minorities, whether it be race, gender, or even (perish the thought) field of interest? I think it's about time someone took notice at what's become one of the fastest developing departments on campus.

For whatever reason, Chancellor Touhill has deemed it necessary to build a new Performing Arts Center. Whether it's a "quest for self-promotion" as Mr. Parker stated, or just that she's noticing a great thing starting to bloom and she wants to help in any way she can, it's going to happen.

Have some faith. You may even like it.

-Thomas Wombacher

GUEST COMMENTARY

Unity is theme of Ramadan and Eid celebrations

Recently the end of Ramadan and Eid were celebrated in UM-St. Louis with a variety of feelings.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar. It is comprised of 29 or 30 days, depending on the position of the moon. It's the month when Muslims all over the world fast during the daytime. The exact definition of fasting is translated by John L. Esposito as, "Refraining from eating, drinking, and sexual intercourse all day from dawn till sunset during the whole month of Ramadan each year with the intention of showing submission to God's command."

Actually, according to most Muslims, the most important part of the definition is, "submission to God's command," not "refraining from food, drink, and sexual intercourse." Although these are the requirements of fasting, they are not the spirit of fasting. The spirit of Ramadan means doing all that God likes them to do. As one student said, we can starve all day long and it would not matter. What matters is that we follow the requirements of fasting and obey the rules of Islam at the same time.

The fasting process starts in the morning before the sun rises, when the Muslims eat (they finish eating just before the sun rises). The fast goes until evening when the sun sets and Muslims break their fast; this meal is often referred to as breakfast. There are special prayers held in the night. In these prayers Muslims mostly recite one thirtieth of the Quran everyday for a full month.

After the full month of Ramadan arrives the Eid. It's a national holiday in the Muslim World. The day starts with Eid prayers which are held early in the morning. After the prayers, Muslims go to their friends' and relatives' houses to wish a happy Eid. It's celebrated with great enthusiasm. I find it to be like a cultural day when everyone is

dressed up in traditional dresses and everywhere you go you get traditional food to eat. It's like conducting a nationwide marriage.

It's not the same in non-Muslim countries, though, but Muslims like to celebrate with the same spirit.

"It's one of the human things," one of the Muslim students said.

At UM-St. Louis, Eid prayers were held at the Mark Twain building. The attendance at the prayers was astonishing. There were many Muslims from all over the world and of all ages and sexes. The Imam (person who conducts prayers) emphasized unity and peace for the Muslim world.

Later in that week, there was a get-together of Muslim students at the International Student House, along with a party arranged by ISO. The main organizers of the event were Marcos, vice-president of ISO, along with Salha and Inshirah, two Muslim students in the business school at UM-St. Louis. The event was pretty well-organized, along with some Arabic music, dances, and St. Louis-style pizza. The event was very multicultural.

"The best part of celebrating Eid in here is that you get to know Muslims not only from your country but from all over the world," as one of the participants named Mazin said.

I suppose that was the highlight of the event.

"I don't miss my country a lot after coming here with Arab music and people from my country," one of the Muslim students from Oman added.

Muslims all over the world wait for Ramadan all through the year. It is the holiest month of the year for them. They celebrate it, they cherish its memories, and they try to take its spirit and live with it throughout the year. They celebrate Eid, not because Ramadan ended, but because they fasted for thirty days and fulfilled all the physical and spiritual requirements of this month.



OWAIS GARAMAT
Guest Commentary

Preparing for Y2K

According to a January article in *Time* magazine, people are still going crazy over the Y2K problem. Many are adopting survivalist philosophies, storing food, buying generators and just generally preparing for the end of the world. Oh well, I guess everyone needs a hobby.

The problem, for those of you who've been living in a cave without Internet access, involves the fact that computer programmers in ancient days (such as the 1960's), used only two digits instead of four to represent the year in dated information. This means that when the clock strikes midnight the morning of January 1, 2000, computers, who are allegedly less intelligent than human beings, will go haywire.

Anyway, while the programmers try desperately to convince their PC's what year it is, sizable portions of the American public are apparently waiting for the collapse of civilization as we know it.

According to the *Time/CNN* poll in the article almost half of all Americans might take extra money out of their bank account to prepare. Thirty-eight percent believe riots or "other social unrest" are likely to occur. A third will stockpile water and food while more than a quarter may keep family members at home.

Guess that will put a damper on those New Year's Eve parties.

Even more disturbing, 13% say they may arm themselves with a shotgun when the bug hits. Somehow it's not particularly reassuring that more than a tenth of the American public plans to lock-and-load instead of singing Auld Lang Syne.

Even more interesting, 12% say they may actually move to a rural area to avoid the millennial mess.

I am sure I am just trapped in a complacent cocoon of my own naivete but renting a U-Haul and packing the family off to Petticoat Junction seems an extreme move even for a large scale bug like Y2K. I am not saying that we shouldn't take the Year 2000 problem seriously. We certainly should. Heck, you'll probably find me in line at the bank December 31 like everyone else. Better safe than sorry.

Still, the hype may outweigh the facts. Overreacting to the latest "crisis" is historically a boon only for panic-mongers and profiteers. Y2K may provide employment for professional worriers and the occasional cult leader but predictions of doom and gloom rarely benefit anyone else.

Y2K will cause malfunctions. There is no doubt about that. The only question is the extent of the problems. But for the pronosticators of 2000 one wonders if they may be disappointed on January 1 if the world is still here and society is still functioning more or less as inefficiently as it usually does.

Then again I might be wrong. Perhaps society's technological house of cards will tumble around our ears when the ball drops in the Big Apple. If so, feel free to let me know by sending your complaints to me on New Year's Day. Go ahead, I don't mind. I recommend e-mail.

Goodbye, Old Barn

Do you believe in miracles? Yes!

Those famous words from broadcaster Al Michaels as the U.S. hockey team defeated Russia in the 1980 Olympics symbolized hockey in the 1980's. Now, ironically, a miracle is what it would take to save the Arena, a building in which many great hockey memories took place.

"The old barn", as it is affectionately called by some, is scheduled to be torn down later this month and, with it, about 70 years of memories. This, despite the attempt to save the Arena by the philanthropic group, "The Gateway Foundation."

According to *The Post-Dispatch*, "The Gateway Foundation" offered up \$600,000 to get the city to temporarily delay its current demolition plans. The group offered to pay \$50,000 a month to cover the city's mortgage payments on the property for as long as a year to allow time to find a more economical way to use the building.

Harmon rejected this proposal, though, in favor of demolishing this landmark for an office park.

An office park!

It's a sad day when one of St. Louis' most historical landmarks is demolished in the name of another generic office park. However, instead of wasting this column space by showing what a stupid decision this is (that would be too easy), here's a brief look at the Arena's colorful history:

--On October 12, 1929, the Arena opens with the National Dairy Show. At the time, the Arena had a dirt floor suitable for agricultural displays.

--In the 1940's-50's, the Arena hosts some of the Chicago Blackhawks' "home" games.

--On February 10, 1959, a tornado destroys one of the "Dairy Show" towers and tears a hole in the roof.

--On October 11, 1967, the St. Louis Blues play their first National Hockey League game against the Minnesota North Stars. The game ended in a 2-2 tie.

--In 1977, Ralston-Purina buys the Arena and changes the name to the Checkerdome.

--In 1983, Harry Ernest buys the Blues and the Checkerdome. Ernest changes the name back to the Arena.

--In 1986, a group of local investors buys the Blues and the Arena from Ernest.

--In 1994, the Kiel Center opens, closing down the Arena. This is a very brief history of the Arena. It doesn't even do it justice, but it does more justice than, say, blowing it up does.

The Arena is much more than dates and figures. It is about carnivals, the St. Louis Hawks, and concerts. It is about the Billikens, the Blues, and all of the minor league hockey teams before them (including the lowly Blackhawks).

The Arena conjures up memories and nostalgia. It is about another miracle, the Monday night miracle when the Blues came back against the Calgary Flames to win Game Six of their playoff series in 1986. Doug Wickenheiser scored the game winning goal for the Blues that night, sparking a city-wide celebration.

Wickenheiser died of cancer last month. May both Wick and the Arena rest in peace.



DAVID BAUGHER
Editor-in-Chief



JOE HARRIS
Managing Editor

SPORTS

Ken Dunkin, sports editor
phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811
e-mail: kdunkin@rocketmail.com

LATEST SCOOP

Bowling: it's not just for dollars anymore

I would like to get off the basketball and hockey beat and talk a little bit about a sport that I have loved since I was five years old.

The sport is bowling. Yes, it is that game that some believe has no point to it whatsoever.

Ever since I was strong enough to pick up a six pound bowling ball, I have grown accustomed to the sport.

Bowling does not have any tackling or hitting involved, unless, of course, you think of it rationally. However, you do have a physical sport in the game of bowling.

It takes physical and mental preparation to excel in this sport.

It is kind of like the game of golf in ways.

You can be great at the sport one minute, and really suck the next.

I am currently averaging around 197 right now, but it is not easy to become good.

Practice makes perfect is the old phrase I remember, and in this sport, you have to dedicate yourself.

To become a better bowler, the easiest way to increase your average is to bowl. That may seem quite simple at first, but it gets tougher.

One way to bowl more often is to either join an intramural league or to get a group of friends together on a designated night and go out and hit the alleys.

I can still remember when I was little and started off on those weird looking bumper lanes. Those enormous tubes going down the gutters always scared me.

The first ball I threw hit off one bumper, then to another, and finally towards its destination: the pins. The pins tumbled and all of them fell. My parents were going crazy while I just sat there not knowing what to do.

Well, I know what to do now though—have fun.

Bowling is a sport that we all can enjoy. You do not have to take this sport seriously at all if your heart desires.

You can crazy bowl or even go to an alley where they have cosmic bowling, a variation of bowling where there are black lights.

You do not have to be an athlete to participate, just a person who wants to go out and have a good time.

If you are looking for competition, then this sport offers that as well.

The Professional Bowling Association (PBA) has bowlers of all kinds and talents (including our own St. Louis native Pete Weber).

Bowling may not bring the excitement that one may need nor does it have the huge mass media coverage, but it is a fun, recreational activity.

The intramurals here at UM-St. Louis even offer this sport, which takes place on Wednesday afternoons.

It is a good way to learn how to bowl and meet new people.

So next time you hear a group of people talking about hitting the lanes, give it a try. You might like it.



DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

Tigers pounce Rivermen in 7-3 win

Loss dampers UM-St. Louis' national tournament hopes

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen ice hockey team's national tournament hopes took a blow Friday night as they lost 7-3 to the Missouri Tigers.

A questionable goal at 16:55 in the second period turned out to be the game-winner for the Tigers. A Missouri player appeared to be in the crease before the puck crossed the line.

"There was definitely a guy in the crease," Rivermen Head Coach Gary Gevers said. Gevers let his frustrations known as he followed the officials to their locker room after the period while verbally stating his case.

The goal put the Rivermen in a 4-1 hole from which they never recovered.

The Tigers jumped on the Rivermen early with a goal from Sam Bodine at 4:15 in the first period. The fast start helped the Tigers cling to a 1-0 lead after the first period, even though the Rivermen outshot them 14-6 in the first 20 minutes.

The Rivermen would come out flat again to start the second period, but were helped by the play of freshman goalie Justin Smallen. Smallen momentarily kept the Rivermen in the game with several good saves including an amazing save on Missouri's Jeff Medolla who found himself in all alone after a Rivermen defensive turnover.

Two minutes later, Missouri's only loss of the night happened when goalie Mario Boccardi injured himself after stopping the Rivermen on a two-on-none breakaway. The loss turned out to be huge. The Tigers have lost Boccardi for at least the rest of the season, if not permanently, with a severely torn groin muscle.

Suddaker Vadivelu came on to relieve

Boccardi and the Rivermen would take advantage of the rusty back-up just 1:41 later. Junior David Hessell beat Vadivelu to tie the score at 1-1.

However, just 22 seconds later Missouri had an answer. Medolla scored, while the Rivermen still celebrated their own goal, to give the Tigers a 2-1 lead. The Rivermen wouldn't catch the Tigers again.

Medolla scored his second of the game at the 9:23 mark in the second to expand the Tiger lead to 3-1. Seven and a half minutes later Missouri capped the period off with the questionable "crease" goal.

"There was no intensity," Gevers said. "[The Rivermen] thought they could turn the scoring off and on at will, and before we know it we're down 4-1. Now the score forces us to start scrambling for offense."

The Rivermen showed life early in the third period. Ryan Craig was robbed point blank just two minutes in, but Missouri would strike first 58 seconds later to make it 5-1.

The Rivermen sponsored a bus for their fans to the game. As the score got out of hand, the UM-St. Louis fans did more jeering than cheering. At times it sounded more like a fraternity intramural game than a college hockey game.

Scott Bakol gave the Rivermen, and their fans, some life with a goal at 5:40. Craig almost cut the deficit to two when he hit the post one minute later.

"If we had any chance to get back into the game [that goal] was it," Bakol said. "Unfortunately we had a defensive breakdown on the same shift that killed it."

The Tigers destroyed any momentum the Rivermen had at 8:57 of the third period when Bodine scored his second of the game to give



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Rivermen goalie Justin Smallen (30) dives on the puck after stopping Missouri's Sam Bodine (12) moments earlier in the first period of Friday night's game. Smallen stopped 24 of 31 shots in the loss.

the Tigers a 6-2 lead. The Tigers would score two minutes later upping their total to seven.

Craig scored on a slapshot with three seconds to go to finish the scoring.

The game got very physical as the Tigers' lead grew, but amazingly there were no penalties called in the entire game.

"A lot of our guys were lying on their laurels," Gevers said. "A lot of our guys were worrying about the officials instead of executing. Winners execute."

Rivermen captain Jason Hessell believes the team suffered an emotional letdown.

"We hadn't lost since Nov. 17 and we had just come off a big win and a tie," he said. "We

got down early, then we had a little dissension on the bench. Guys started yelling at each other."

Hessell also believes the bus the team brought with fans from UM-St. Louis was another distraction.

The loss hurts the Rivermen's chances of going to the national tournament, but there is still hope.

"We have a lot of spirit on this team," Bakol said. "Our backs are against the wall. We need to win four out of our last five games and maybe that won't even be enough. And if we can't win these games then we don't belong in the tournament."

'Twins' come up big for Rivermen

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The men's hockey team is enjoying a very successful season and is on the verge of making it to the national tournament due in large part to a duo of freshmen: Ryan Craig and Ben Gilbertsen.

Craig and Gilbertsen have grown up together. Since they were eight years old, the two have spent time perfecting their hockey skills.

"We've known each other since the third grade," Gilbertsen said. "We started on the streets together, then moved to club hockey, high school hockey, and now we are at UM-St. Louis."

Ironically enough, "The Twins" as called by their teammates, were well on their way to play hockey for the Missouri Tigers, but plans changed quickly.

"We were really close to going to Mizzou, but we went to a game and their coach never showed up," Craig said. "We basically made our decision from there since the two schools are similar."

"The Twins" have adjusted from high school hockey at Francis Howell to becoming the leading scorers at UM-St. Louis.

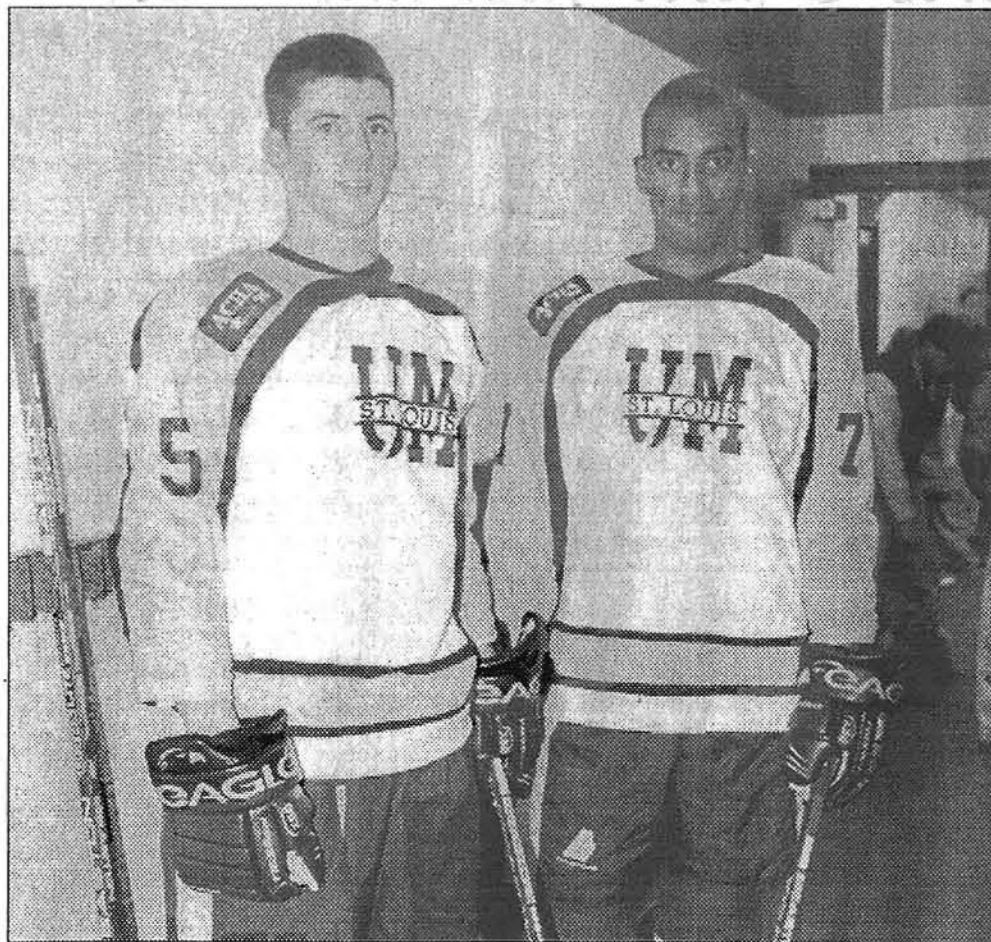
"Division II has a lot bigger players," Craig said. "It is different playing out of town with players like Chris Chelios' son at Northern Illinois."

Between the two of them, they have accumulated 46 goals and 48 assists to their credit.

Both Craig and Gilbertsen agree on one thing, that is the coaching staff is tops in their books.

"This is the best coaching staff I've played for in eight years," Craig said. "Coach Gevers has implemented a system. We all do what he says, and so far it has worked."

"Our coach knows what he is talking



Stephanie Platt/The Current

The "twins," Ben Gilbertsen (left) and Ryan Craig (right) stand outside the Rivermen locker room before Friday's game against the Missouri Tigers. The freshmen duo look to lead the Rivermen into this year's national tournament.

about," Gilbertsen said. "He shows us what to do and then shows us how to do it."

The attitude on the team has been different in the locker room this season as well.

"It took a while to get to know everyone, but there is really nobody who dislikes each other," Craig said. "Team chemistry is everything, and we've got it. This last month we've jelled and finally have the lineups settled."

As the Rivermen head towards the final

few games of the season, "The Twins" have their hopes on reaching the national tournament as a team, not as individuals.

"We are keeping the right attitude and not worrying about the statistics," Gilbertsen said. "Our goal is just to help the team win."

With Gilbertsen and Craig leading the Rivermen this season, the future looks promising with the hockey club headed in the right direction.

Free falling ... Rivermen continue losing ways

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff associate

The men's basketball team has gone on a two game skid and lowered its overall record to 5-13 and 3-11 in the GLVC.

The Rivermen lost to Lewis University by a score of 73-59.

UM-St. Louis trailed by 9 at half-time, and were never able to overcome the deficit.

Terrell Alexander and Durrell Robinson led the Rivermen with 12 points each, while Kechan Johnson finished with 11 points and nine rebounds.

The Rivermen then took on IUPU-Ft. Wayne and lost a close one 65-60.

UM-St. Louis led 39-27 at half-time, but IUPU-Ft. Wayne outscored the Rivermen 38-21 in the second half.

"We couldn't make shots early, and then we panicked," Head Coach Rich Meckfessel said.

Johnson continued his strong play with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Jermiah Foots led the team with 13 points.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.

Men

Women

Thursday

4

Kentucky Wesleyan 7:30 p.m. vs Bellarmine 7:30 p.m.

Kentucky Wesleyan 5:30 p.m. vs Bellarmine 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

6

Bellarmine 7:30 p.m. vs Kentucky Wesleyan 7:30 p.m.

Bellarmine 5:30 p.m. vs Kentucky Wesleyan 5:30 p.m.

Riverwomen beat up on Ft. Wayne

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff editor

The women's basketball team destroyed conference bottomfeeder IUPU-Ft. Wayne last Thursday 101-86.

The game was a must win for the Riverwomen. IUPU-Ft. Wayne came into the game 1-16 overall and 1-12 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. They were in the bottom of the conference standings.

The Riverwomen took control of the game early, setting the pace with a 45-37 halftime lead.

The second half was more intense scoring wise. The Riverwomen outscored

IUPU-Ft. Wayne 56-49.

A well-rounded offense was one of the keys to the Riverwomen attack. Five players scored in double digits for UM-St. Louis.

Lindsay Brefeld led the squad with 18 points. Amanda Wentzel also had a quality offensive game with 17 points.

Rebounding was a huge key for the Riverwomen.

They out-rebounded IUPU-Ft. Wayne 53-28. Melanie Marcy and Tawanda Daniel led the team with 7 rebounds each.

The victory pushed the squad's overall record to 10-8 and 9-5 in the GLVC.

SPECIAL FEATURE

A historic day in St. Louis

As His Holiness Pope John Paul II comes to town, UM-St. Louisans gather with others for a day they will remember for the rest of their lives



One student shares her reactions to the pontiff's visit

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
of the Current staff

As many witnessed the papal visit from television, UM-St. Louis sophomore Jackie Anderson had the privilege of making it personally.

As a member of the Newman House Catholic Student Center, Anderson had the opportunity to attend the youth rally held at the Kiel Center this past Tuesday.

Earlier that morning, she and other members from the Newman House had mass before proceeding down to the St. Louis Gateway Arch by MetroLink. Shortly thereafter, they participated in the youth march along Market Street which led them to the Kiel Center.

Before the pope's arrival at the Kiel Center, the students, along with an estimated crowd of 20,000 others, were entertained with influential speakers, mass choirs, and colorful bands.

According to Anderson, the rally started off slowly, but as the popular Christian band DC Talk began to play its alternative style of music, it livened up quite a bit.

"It seems like we were greeting a rock star instead of a little old man," Anderson said.

"During the pope's speech, there was a tone of interracial unity," said Anderson. "He was trying to work towards desegregation."

She was also very impressed with the youth's reaction to the pope. "I think it's amazing how much the youth admire him," she said.

Having the youth rally in the beginning appeared appropriate due to the energetic atmosphere it provided for the rest of the papal visit.

Betty Chitwood, campus minister of the Newman House also felt the energy of the youth rally.

"The enthusiasm of the young people was contagious to everyone," she said.

RIGHT UPPER MIDDLE: UM-St. Louisan Gail Rinkus holds the "E" in Tuesday's youth march from the Arch to Kiel Center.

RIGHT LOWER MIDDLE: St. Louisans Jeanne Godar-Kriss (left) and Sandy Freilberg hold banners during Tuesday's rally.

LEFT BOTTOM: Suzann McCaughtry of St. Louis enjoys a mid-morning snack outside the Kiel Center.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Tara Clark of Arcola, Ill. buys a T-shirt from Keith Grimes of Logomaster.

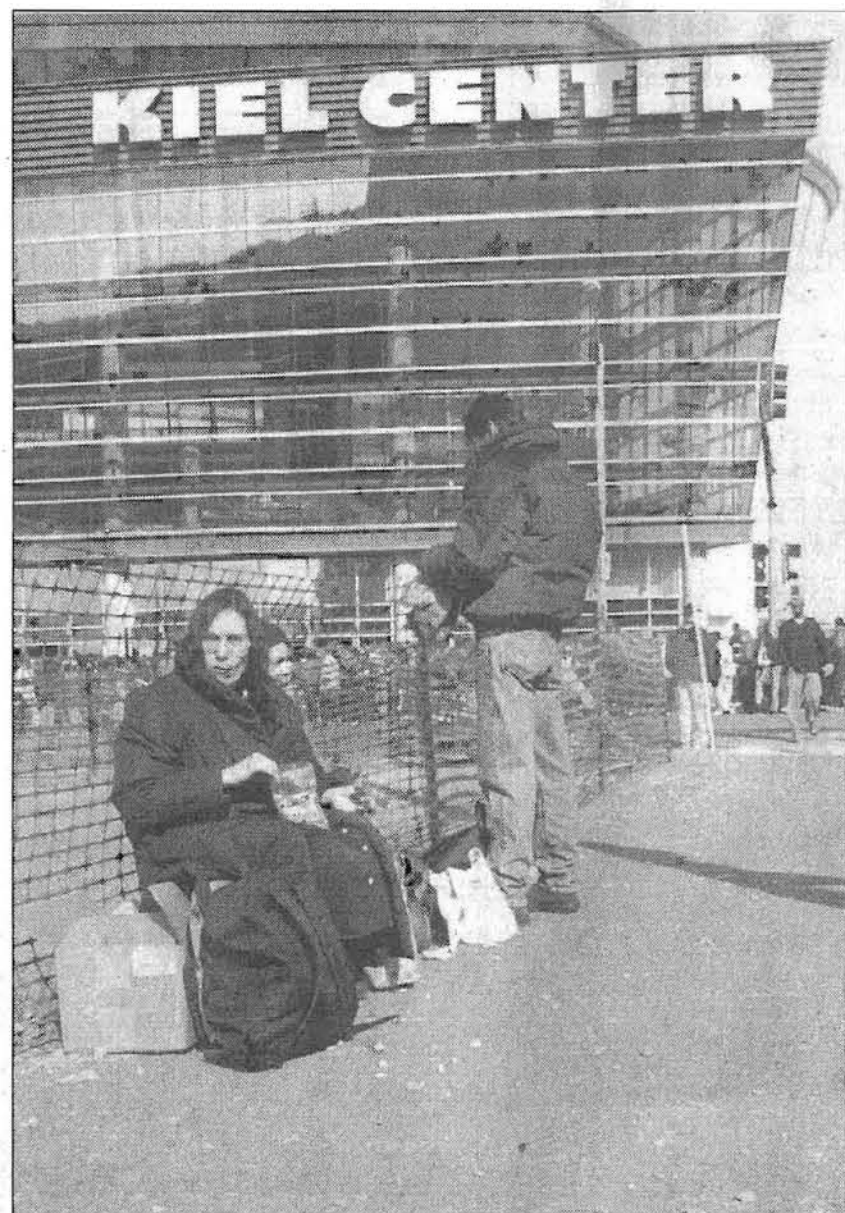
**Photos by Stephanie Platt
staff photographer**



TOP LEFT: Ariel Boulicault, 8, of the Falcons, a Polish gymnastics organization, sits above the fray to get a better view of the pope.

TOP RIGHT: Dennis Chitwood of Newman House gives Communion to Eric Taylor before Taylor departed for Tuesday's youth rally.

LEFT MIDDLE: Hector Torres of Matachines, a Chahuahua, Mexico dance group, drums in a dance to honor the Lady of Guadeloupe.



Mary Lindsley, advertising associate
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CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS needed for UM-St. Louis Indoor Swimming Pool this Winter semester. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours available. Pay is \$6.00/hr. Interested individuals can apply in the Rec. Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 516-5326 for more info.

GET THE RESUME EXPERIENCE YOU NEED

The Current is now accepting applications for the positions of **photo associate** and **advertising representative**. Volunteer writers and

photographers are also needed. Call 516-6810 for more information. EOE

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Macintosh Powerbook 190 laptop computer, 36K memory, Stylewriter printer, \$750. Call Linda: 664-8710.

Misc

SPRING BREAK ALTERNATIVE - Opportunity to serve the poor during Spring Break. If this is of interest to you, we need to know. Call 385-3455 a.s.a.p. At this point we have one student interested. We need at least five by Feb. 1.

PEER MINISTRY - Newman Center will have "Peer Training" Jan. 19, 2:30 p.m. for one hour. Those interested in helping staff the center one hour per week with hospitality and listening, please come to see what this

involves. For more information, call Betty: 385-3455.

AWAKENING RETREAT Looking for happiness? Try God. Opportunity of a lifetime awaits everyone willing to spend a week apart. College students direct and give this retreat for college students. **THIS MEANS YOU**, Feb. 5-7, 1999. Call Betty/Den: 385-3455.

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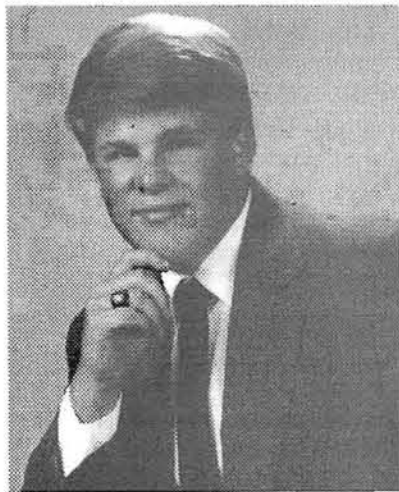
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Check out our Valentine's Day issue of The Current next week, Feb. 8

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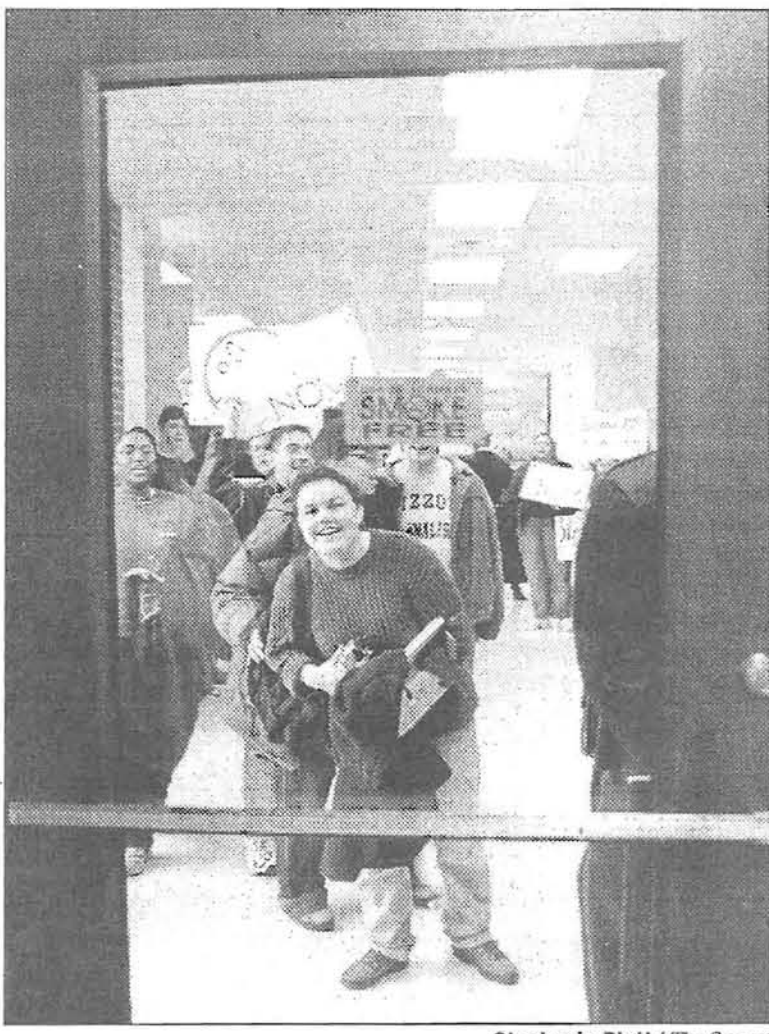
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Where: Holiday Inn - Forest Park at I-44 and Hampton
When: Feb. 20th 1999, Saturday
Time: Registration at 8:30 a.m. Seminar - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch on own)
Materials: Workbook to be supplied
Cost: \$99 at hotel or \$89 for preregistration
 To reserve your seat, phone or fax (314) 832-1397.
 Seating is limited to the first 40 reservations.

DISCRIMINATION, FROM PAGE 1



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Nicole Potulsky of UM-Columbia shouts outside the Summit Lounge after she and other protesters were removed for disrupting Friday's Curator's meeting.

System spokesman Maurice Manring addressed the issue of the differing opinions of whether to make the language of the policy overly broad or specific. He said that some of the arguments to keep the language vague is that it could be more flexible for future concerns that cannot be foreseen. He also said that there are state laws in place that could be applied to forms of harassment that may occur.

"It's purposely vague for the purpose of not being exclusive, in other words, not being limited," Manring said. "The problem everybody has is that they list certain groups and then there's something that you didn't anticipate. There's an evolution in society that you aren't prepared for. . . . When someone brings a complaint on that basis, you say, 'Well that's not one of our protected groups.'"

Michael Rankins, vice-president of the Student Government Association disagrees with that argument.

"My rationale for wanting it to be specific is this—at this day and time we know some of the target populations. That's why we have things like race, gender, Vietnam veterans status, physical [disability]. All those are target populations for discrimination," Rankins said. "It's fine for a policy to be somewhat flexible, but vagueness only invites people to interpret that, 'Well, they're not mentioned, so they're not covered.'"

Manring said he is well aware of the strong feelings toward the issue.

"I know this issue's going to come back. This issue isn't settled in our state. It isn't settled in our culture," Manring said. "Nobody has a perfect way to deal with it. I know we caught a lot of criticism today because they didn't include the term sexual orientation today. I do believe, not that this is a vote, if we had added the term sexual orientation that was just a fraction of the kind of criticism we would take, and there would be a lot of unhappiness expressed in the state of Missouri."

Hey, it was here just a minute ago!

Thefts top '97 campus crime report

BY SUE BRITT
staff associate

Crime statistics for 1997, the most recent year in which statistics were available show theft as the most often reported crime. Sex crimes, other than rape, showed a substantial increase, from zero in 1995-96 to 10 reported in 1997.

Captain James Smalley of the UM-St. Louis Police Department said that of the 10 cases of sex crimes, other than rape, it was mostly a matter of indecent exposure. He said that, of the 10 cases, seven have ended in arrest.

"Of the 10 cases that are listed, five were [allegedly] committed by the same person, an exposing person. . . . He admitted to all five. In two more," Smalley said, "two of the last cases, it was the same guy."

In reference to those two occurrences of exposure, the man arrested was wanted for the same type of crimes at the campuses of St. Louis University and Washington University. The suspect was captured at Washington University.

"In seven of the 10 [sex crimes], arrests were made," Smalley said. "Of the remaining three, there was no prosecution."

Smalley said that in the case of the one sexual assault reported in

1997, the victim did not want to prosecute.

Other increases from the 1996 statistics include drug abuse violations which doubled in number from three in 1996 to six in 1997. Although the 1997 campus report lists that five narcotics arrests were made, Smalley said that statistic is incorrect and that in all six cases arrests were made.

The campus report listed 143 reports of theft in 1997, a decrease of almost nine percent from the 157 reports of theft in 1996.

Smalley said that many reports of theft are of personal property. He said that it is often a matter of the naivete of people about crime and that there is a false sense of security because this is a college campus.

"In so many cases of theft [of personal property] from an office, the office was left unlocked," Smalley said. "It's a matter of people taking precautions."

Smalley said that leaving personal items unattended is a large contribution to the theft statistics.

"So many thefts could be prevented," Smalley said.

New band peps up campus spirit

BY KEVIN BUCKLEY
of the Current staff

Last semester, the music department and athletic department collaborated to form UM-St. Louis' first ever pep band.

Founder and current leader of this new organization, professor Bill Richardson of the music Department, describes the pep band as "a student organization designed to support the chancellor's initiative to enhance student life on campus. It is also a support unit of the athletic department, to add some life and spirit to athletic [home] games, basketball in particular."

"Part of the idea of the pep band is to engage non-music majors who have some playing experience in that activity and there are scholarships involved just for participating in regular and pep band," Richardson said.

As for the band itself Richardson said, "There are about 30 people involved; we would love to have 60." Of that 30, Richardson figures "there are music, political science, engineering, sociology, business, and pre-med majors; representative of the entire University, including the Honors College."

During the games, the band "adds some life" by playing, according to Richardson, "basic



Stephanie Platt/The Current

A trombone player plays in the UM-St. Louis pep band at a game last month.

rock' n' roll with some R&B. Popular music. Fast and lively, we have a good time."

At this point, Richardson is looking to expand. He explains, "We are looking for new people. We'll start auditioning people for pep band Apr. 1. We are especially looking for non-music majors to

be involved." As far as requirements, Richardson is looking for students who "played in high school band."

Looking towards the future, Richardson said, "We would like to become a part of the University-wide festivities, especially any outdoor activity."

The Pep Band can next be seen Thursday, at the home basketball game and the approaching homecoming festivities. "When spring happens, we'll probably do some impromptu concerts in the Quad or in front of the Student Activities Office," Richardson said.

Ticket appeals hampered by student carelessness

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff assistant

Some students are filing ticket appeals and then shooting themselves in the foot, said Steve Bartok, the student court chief justice, and he is concerned about it.

At the Jan. 21 Student Government Association meeting, Bartok explained that the court has noticed several troubling trends. One of those is a large number of appeal decisions that were sent to the addresses written on the appeals forms, but returned by the post office because the addresses were incorrect.

"Right now we have two dozen appeal decision letters sitting in the office waiting for the correct address," Bartok said. "We can't track all [the students] down, so we just wait for them to call us."

Some of the students who fill out the ticket appeal forms need to work on their penmanship, Bartok said.

"We are really starting to have trouble reading some of the stuff that is on

these appeals forms," he said. "If it takes as many as three judges to try and figure out what somebody's name is, then just forget it."

Most disturbing to Bartok, though, are the students who have confrontations with the UM-St. Louis Police Department.

"Instead of going and getting an appeals form and asking how to fill it out, some students go to the police station," Bartok said. "They go in ticked off and use four-letter language. The police are just trying to do their job and make sure the rules are enforced. When students go into the police station hot under the collar, I find out from the officers, and we take that into account."

In most cases, Bartok said, students will find out the decision on their ticket appeal before it gets entered in the police computer. He said students should avoid calling the police to find out the status of their appeal, because the police usually don't know.

Bartok admitted that the ticket appeal process can be slow, but he urged students to be patient as they wait for a decision.

"We don't have a computer or copier right now, so all this stuff is being

done by hand," Bartok said. "It's being done by three people and [students are] complaining that we're taking too long to do the job. If [students] aren't going to do what they need to do, it just slows everything down."

If a student is issued a ticket, there are ways to make the ticket appeal process go faster, Bartok said. The key is not to get frustrated, but to wait a couple of weeks, he said.

"What they need to do first is stay calm," he said. "They need to make sure that all their personal information is clearly written on the appeal. Their statement needs to be clearly written also. If I can't read something, then [the appeal] is automatically denied."

To save time, Bartok suggested that students attach the actual ticket to the appeal. Relevant information, such as the names and phone numbers of people who can verify the appeal statement or photographs that back it up can make the judges' jobs much easier.

"It's like a puzzle and everybody has their own little piece," Bartok said, "but the judges get stuck trying to put it together."

Corrections

In Issue 939, an editorial stated that no meetings had been scheduled or announced to revise the SGA constitution. An announcement of a meeting for that purpose was made at an SGA meeting last semester. In the same issue a fee proposal by Ben Ash was stated incorrectly. Ash proposed a two-cent increase in the student activities fee and a three-cent increase in the student services fee.

In Issue 943, Johnnie Cochran's name was misspelled. In the same issue, Jeanne Z arucchi's name was misspelled.

We regret any confusion these errors may have caused.

Got a gripe? Tell us.

Letters to the editor accepted at:
current@jinx.umsl.edu

MONTH, FROM PAGE 1

"Black History Week, as it was called, was started in 1926. . . . It was established because the achievements of African-Americans were not being recorded in print at that time. It was established not only as a way for African-Americans to learn about their culture's contributions, but for everyone else to learn about them as well," he said.

According to Seay, several contributions by African-Americans that are taken for granted are gas masks and electric street signals.

Seay is no stranger to the civil rights movement. In the sixties he participated in several civil rights demonstrations and even met Martin

Luther King. Even though African-Americans have come a long way in the past few decades, Seay believes that there is still a long way to go.

"There is still a great deal to be done," Seay said. "I believe Robert Frost said it best when he said 'I have miles to go before I sleep.' There are many challenges and hurdles to climb before we can rest."

"As far as controlling behavior, we have done well by getting rid of the segregation and the Jim Crow laws, but we have not yet developed a mechanism to eliminate the prejudice and bias within society."

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH EVENTS AT A GLANCE

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: "The Desegregation Proposal"

When: Today, 7:30 PM
Where: J. C. Penney Auditorium

PRESENTATION: "Rivers of Women"

When: Today, noon
Where: 229 J. C. Penney

PLAY: "I Am a Man"

When: Feb. 22, 11:30 AM
Where: 222 J. C. Penney Auditorium

PLAY: "Slave Narrative"

When: Feb. 26 7:30 PM
Where: J. C. Penney Auditorium