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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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'Vanilla Sky' is pure vanilla

This movie has elements of a thriller, romance and even a touch of science fiction.

▲ See page 6

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Resolution to uphold Equity Funding in the University of Missouri System

(The following is a direct transcript of the funding resolution that was adopted by the SGA, the first of its kind in over 15 years.)

To: Student Government Association

From: Student Interest Committee

Date: November 20, 2001

Whereas, the University of Missouri System has four unique campuses that are each dedicated to the common goal of educating students across the state of Missouri, the United States and the international community; and

Whereas, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is a strategic part of this goal and remains committed to providing an education that is affordable and that is an investment in its students future; and

Whereas, this lack of funding has burdened the individual St. Louis campus and its students to increase educational fees in order to maintain the quality of programs expected and meet the educational needs of the growing student body, and

"The SGA demands equity funding and an adjustment in the way in which the Board of Curators allocates the UM System funds to UM-St. Louis."

Whereas, the current methodology used for distributing funds to the UM System does not meet the needs of our students, and is inadequate, and

Whereas, the Student Interest Committee of the Student Government Association of UM-St. Louis has received numerous communications from the student body, indicating the need for the Board of Curators to uphold the ethics and fairness of funding between the four UM campuses.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, demands equity funding and an adjustment in the way in which the Board of Curators allocates the UM System funds to UM-St. Louis in order to be adequately funded to meet our current educational needs and to further our growth as a campus.

Respectfully submitted,

University of Missouri-St. Louis,
Student Government Association

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SGA demands fair funding

Resolution calls for re-allocation of UM System funds to better compensate UMSL

"We are not getting our fair share and we want to know why"

Joe Flees
SGA Vice President

BY DAN WIEGERT
SGA Correspondent

Behind the scenes at UM-St. Louis, a fight is brewing. In one corner, you have the students of UM-St. Louis, and in the other corner, the University of Missouri system. It is all regarding the age-old issue of funding and why UM-St. Louis is not getting its proportional share of state funds when compared to the other three institutions in the UM system. Making this situation even more serious, funding is being cut statewide, which could result in the students bearing more of a financial burden than they did a semester ago.

When it comes to state funding, not all Universities are created equal. The UM system divides up state money between four main campuses: Mizzou, Rolla, UMKC and UM-St. Louis. When this state money gets doled out, every school doesn't get an equal share. "Most of the state money is given to Mizzou, then to Rolla, UMKC and finally to UM-St. Louis," said

SGA Vice President Joe Flees.

In the past three years, UM-St. Louis has grown considerably, adding the Millennium Student Center, new parking garages, and the Performing Arts Center, which is scheduled for completion in 2003. Flees points out that although these additions to the campus are improving student life, the funding used to pay for these improvements has remained constant at 12 percent. "The problem is that we (UM-St. Louis) are accelerating in our growth faster than the system can support us. Eventually we're going to hurt our potential for growth," Flees said.

To attempt to remedy this issue on behalf of the students, the Student Government Association has drafted and passed a resolution to "uphold equity Funding in the University of Missouri system." In this resolution, the SGA points out that as an institution UM-St. Louis is under-funded for its size. This under-funding has caused

student costs to go up so the university can continue to provide all of its services. It goes on to say that the current method of fund distribution does not meet the needs of the students and is inadequate.

"To illustrate just how bad this funding issue is, UM-St. Louis is the only UM campus where students cover \$1.15 for every state dollar. We are not getting our fair share and we want to know why," said Flees.

It looks as though the problem will get worse before it gets better, according to Flees. He went on to say that the school's Board of Curators, no matter if the members agree with the SGA's resolution or not, will never support direct criticism of the way the University of Missouri allocates funds, because that would mean that the Board of Curators would be criticizing its superiors.

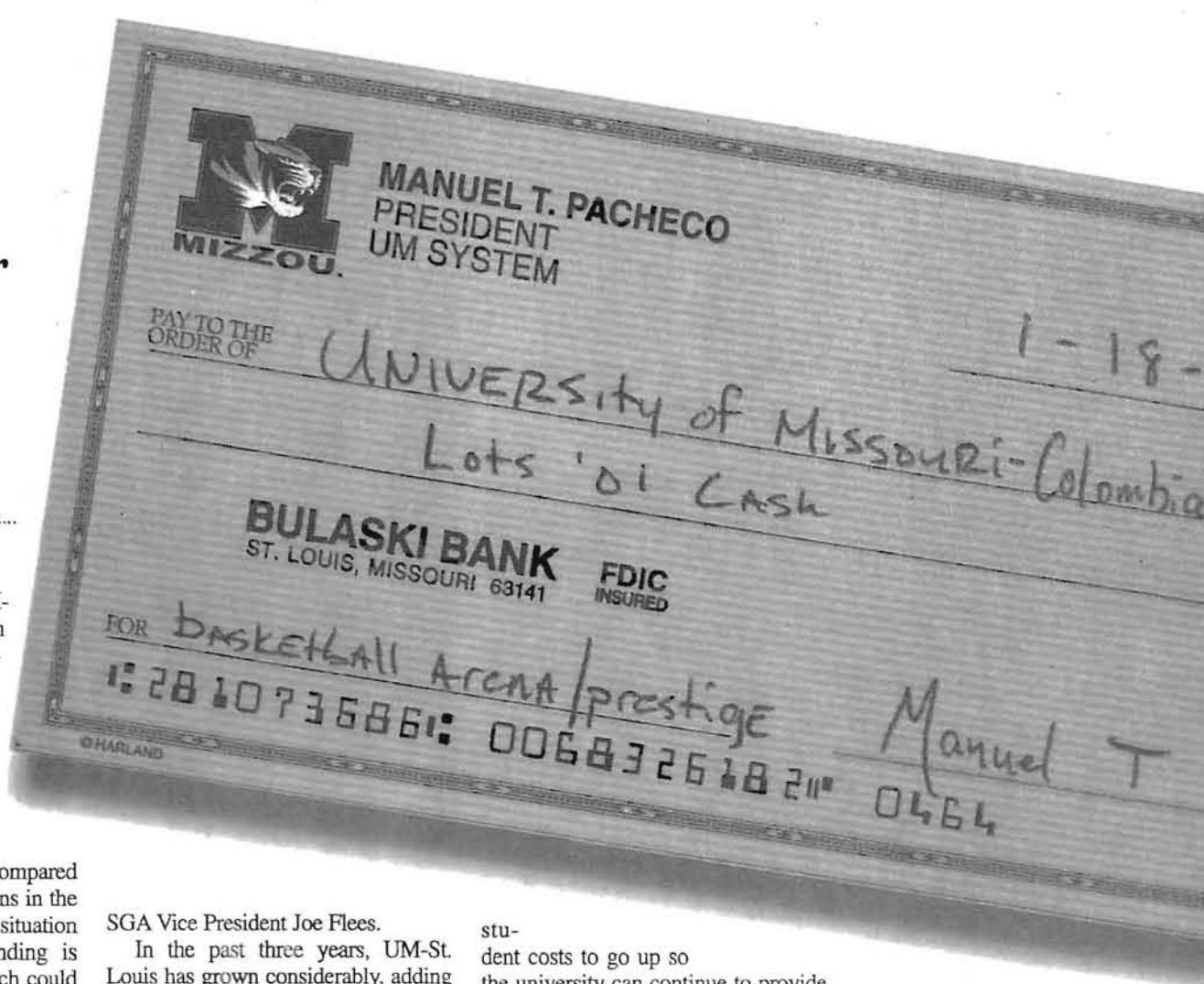
"It's an age old issue, and for years

we have been cut dead by the Curators, mostly because the Curators' bosses control the funding," Flees said.

With the governor cutting funds from the state budget, it looks like the problem could get worse before it gets better.

"In the end, there won't be any state money available to even remedy the problem. The goal of what the SGA is trying to do is to make sure that UM-St. Louis is treated fairly regarding dividing up funding for all state universities. Right now, all we can do is pass these resolutions and communicate with the Curators," Flees said.

Being sent with this proposal is another proposal regarding the extension of library and computer lab hours past 12 a.m.



Metro fee rates among topics at UM meeting

At the University of Missouri Board of Curators' meeting, held January 18 on the campus of the UM-Kansas City, the following transpired:

The Board amended the University's FY2002 budget to reflect an additional two percent state appropriation withholding. This brings the total withholding of state appropriations for FY2002 to 10 percent. Overall, the state appropriation to the University has been reduced from \$457 million to \$414 million. Individual campuses and University Outreach and Extension received the following reductions from their operating budget: UM-Columbia, \$3.75 million; UM-Kansas City, \$1.65 million; UM-Rolla, \$1 million; UM-St. Louis, \$1 million; UM Outreach and Extension, \$0.6 million. The latest withholding will be met by adopting austerity measures, including but not limited to delaying the filling of vacant positions, deferring purchases of desktop computing hardware for academic and administrative units, reducing funds for business travel and supplies, suspending plans to expand telecenter sites to serve rural Missouri in partnership with the Missouri National Guard, and possibly not offering some classes.

The Board approved a metropolitan fee concept for UM-Kansas City and UM-St. Louis. Beginning in fall 2002, the UM urban campuses will be allowed to charge a reduced fee to students living in specific counties out of state but in their metropolitan area. For UM-Kansas City, those counties



Image courtesy of the state of Illinois

Madison, Jersey, Monroe and St. Clair Counties are being considered for a metropolitan fee reduction that would give citizens of those Illinois counties a reduced fee to attend UM-St. Louis. Currently, those students pay full out-of-state tuition fees.

are Johnson, Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Miami. For UM-St. Louis, those counties are Jersey, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair. The Board will set the dollar amount of the new metropolitan fee with other student fees at a future date. The metropolitan fee concept is part of a series of student fee recom-

mendations put forward by a student fee task force.

The Board approved the engagement of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors. The firm will provide audit services to the University of Missouri for fiscal year 2001-2002 for a fee of \$337,879. This is the second year of a five-year contract that requires annual approval of the scope and fees of each engagement.

The Board approved hiring a consultant for the UM-Columbia Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center addition and renovation. The Kansas City, Mo. firm, The Clark Enersen Partners, Inc., will be paid a fee not to exceed \$32,560 for programming, and a basic services fee of 9.5 percent of construction costs. The project includes construction of a new, 6,900 square foot laboratory addition and conversion of existing space into three floors of modern research laboratories. The Clark Enersen Partners, Inc., was also approved to provide design services for the dental school third floor addition at UM-Kansas City.

The Board approved employment of the St. Louis firm Jacobs/Sverdrup Civil, Inc., to plan and design Phase I of the campus road system project at UM-St. Louis. The St. Louis firm will be paid a preliminary design fee of \$128,370, and a basic design services fee not to exceed 8 percent of actual construction costs.

The next meeting will be held March 21-22 on the campus of UM-St. Louis.

Bill would add voting student to UM board

BY MATT WILLIAMS
State Capital Bureau

January 18, 2002 JEFFERSON CITY - Students would get a greater voice in future tuition increases and university policy under a proposal to have a voting student member of the UM system Board of Curators.

The bill, filed by Rep. Chuck Graham, D-Columbia, would require one of the nine curators to be a full-time student at one of the UM system's four campuses. Currently, a student representative serves on the board but does not have a vote.

Graham said he always thought students should have a vote, because their tuition is a large part of the university's budget.

"If they're investors in the institution, I think they should have a say over the policies," he said.

Graham said he has been impressed by the student representatives' performance. But without a vote, he said, their power is limited. "They're not always treated with respect, and their opinions are not treated as valuable as the rest of the curators," he said. "They can voice their concerns, but they don't have any real power."

Stephen Sugg, the current student representative, said he thinks having a voting student member is long overdue.

"There are times that I felt that I didn't have the same access and respect as my colleagues," he said.



The plan has the support of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, a lobbying group representing students in the UM system. Hugh Stevenson, a former board president, has also signed off on the proposal, saying student representatives have always looked at issues responsibly.

Graham said that other schools, such as his alma mater, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, have voting students and that the idea should be considered here.

Curator Angela Bennett said she hadn't seen the proposal but was not opposed to the idea.

"I don't have any problem with giving a student a vote," she said.

Under the proposal, HB 1527, the governor would appoint a student to the board for two-year terms. The bill would not eliminate the current position of student representative.

Bullet In Board

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations. University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 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 postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

23**Dean Nance Memorial**

A memorial to celebrate Everett Nance's 30 years of contributions to the university will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

23**Career Services**

A free interviewing techniques workshop. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 327 MSC. Polish your interviewing skills to impress employers in this, free, one-hour workshop. Advance registration is required; call Career Services at x5111 or register in person at 327 MSC.

23 (cont.)**Sigma Pi Fraternity**

Sigma Pi will be hosting a Brotherhood Barbecue at the fraternity house, 8645 Natural Bridge Road, starting at 7 p.m. Stop a brother on campus, or call Dave Powers at 805-4510 for more information.

23**Rec Sports**

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. A one-nite tourney will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the Mark Twain Gym. Men & women divisions offered. Sign up by noon today in the Rec sports office at 203 MT.

24**Gallery 210**

"Divine Humility: Jesus Icons in Contemporary Mexico," a photographic exhibition will open today and run through Feb. 23 at Gallery 210 located in 210 Lucas Hall. An opening reception for the artist will be held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Call x5976 for more information.

24**Center for International Studies**

Western China: The flow of International Capital featuring Dr. Yingqui Liu. 3 p.m. room 331 Social Sciences and Business Building. R.S.V.P. x7299.

24 (cont.)**St. Louis Lecture and Dialog Series**

Humanitarian Crises: Balancing Human Rights and Nation Sovereignty When Should the World Intervene? Featuring Danilo Turk. 7 p.m. Century Room C, Millennium Student Center. Free admission, R.S.V.P. x5753.

25**Career Services**

Free resume writing skills workshop 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 327 MSC. This free, one-hour workshop focuses on the basics of resume writing. Advance registration is required; call Career Services at x5111 or register in person at 327 MSC.

26**MFA Day**

MFA Day is giving undergraduate students the opportunity to talk to universities in the area about their MFA programs. Saturday from 1-4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building. Call x7516 for more information.

26**Sigma Pi Fraternity**

Sigma Pi will be hosting it's third rush party starting at 9:30 at the fraternity house, 8645 Natural Bridge Road. Bring your toga for "Toga, Toga, Toga." Women must be 18+ and men need a valid college ID. Call Dave Powers at 805-4510 for more information.

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MCMA



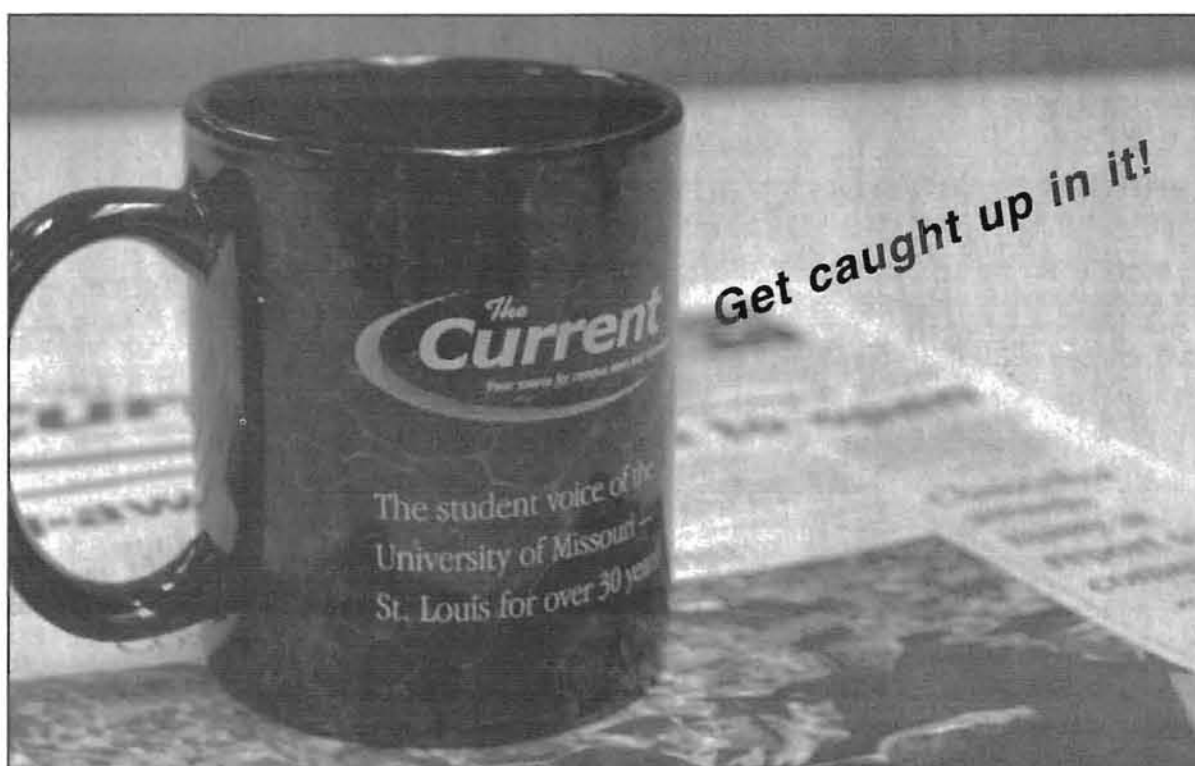
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Dr. King's vision lives on at UM-St. Louis

"We need to work on ending racism and we need to understand what Dr. King stood for and we need to respect and value one another."

-Deborah Burris
Interim Director of the
Office of Equal Opportunity

BY JENNIFER DODD
Features Associate

Rarely does a man with such a vision of racial harmony touch the ground, but it happened in the 1960s with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was born on Jan. 14, 1929; but the celebration of his birthday and vision is on Jan. 21.

Dr. King blew the dust off ignorance and racism in this country. He made small towns in the South such as Selma, Albany and Birmingham take notice of the world around them. In the 1950s and '60s, with his message of peace and equality, he was able to move the human spirit.

A holiday observance was held at UM-St. Louis at 10 a.m. in the JCPenney Auditorium. The event was free and featured guests, Rabbi Susan Talve, Khatib Waheed and Olivia Ly-Pieknik who spoke about King's vision of racial harmony.

"I am very excited to hear what Waheed, a distinguished alumni, has to say about Martin Luther King, Jr. He will invite some insights and ideals about King's Legacy," Deborah Burris, Interim Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, said on Thursday before the big event on the 21st.

Another person who provided insight into King's legacy and vision is Ly-Pieknik, former president of the Coalition of Asian-Pacific Americans. "I feel that Ly-Pieknik will be able to help the UM-St. Louis community grow and understand the differences in Dr. King's message," said Burris.

Besides the distinguished speakers who attended the event there was a mix of music as well. Featured guest soloist Marabeth Gentry and the University/Community Chorus sang "A Man with a Dream." The chorus is under the direction of Professor Robert Ray. The King celebration was designed to be a mixture of different

religions and ethnic backgrounds.

"I purposefully planned a wide background of people when we started planning the event in September. I wanted to bring folks with different thoughts and perspectives on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Burris said.

Also, I think in our society we need to work on ending racism and we need to understand what Dr. King stood for and we need to respect and value one another," Burris said.

Much of the UM-St. Louis community is behind the scenes including the holiday observance, the Office of Equal Opportunity, the Student Government Association and the English Department.

Students were invited to celebrate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., way of thinking. Eleven people entered an essay contest held to involve students with the event.

"The essay competition was to think about how King's philosophy, his ideas, his views on education and use your critical thinking skills as well. The essays were wonderful, and the first prize winner gets to read her essay to the audience at the King Celebration," Burris said.

In the essay contest, students had to take the philosophies of Dr. King in the 1960s and apply them to the world today.

"Especially after the Sept. 11 inci-

dent that shook our country, the students had to apply King's concepts to the current events," Burris said, relating King's mission of ridding the world of racism and prejudice.

The Dr. King celebration has been hosted at UM-St. Louis for 12 years and the whole campus community has come together for this one.

"I think the students need to remember the rights for all people and we need to look towards the future," Burris said.

Thomas Hart Benton displays regional work at UMSL exhibit

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Thomas Hart Benton is considered by some to be one of the greatest regional artists in America. The St. Louis Mercantile Library is displaying an exhibit of his art until March 15.

"I think it's great that UMSL and its students have a chance to look more deeply into the life and career of one of the 20th century's most important American artists," Coordinator Donor & Member Services of the Mercantile Library, James Palmer said.

The exhibit features regional paintings and sculptures of frontier life, by Benton and some of his contemporaries including Aaron Pyle, Whitfield Carter and Reginald March. The collection was put together by Lyle Woodcock, a longtime friend of Benton's.

The exhibit also explores the friendship between Benton and Woodcock by displaying letters and books by both authors. They were not only friends, but Woodcock was Benton's patron.

"The exhibit is intended to be a master class in the art of collecting as well

as an illustration of the dynamic between the artist and patron," Palmer said. "It shows the various steps that a collector takes and why a collector does what he or she does."

Benton was born in 1889 in Neosho, Missouri, the son of a Congress mem-

"Benton drew his inspiration from the American Expansion and old folklore stories and songs."

James Palmer
Coordinator Donor & Member
Services of the Mercantile Library

ber. He was named after his great uncle, a prominent Missouri senator. He studied art in New York and Paris, and worked as a cartoonist, an architectural draftsman, and a freelance artist.

Benton was interested in frontier life and American folklore.

"Benton drew his inspiration from the American Expansion and old folklore stories and songs, such as John Henry, Frankie and Johnny, Jessie James, Huck Finn and Jim," Palmer said.

In the 1920s, Benton took a trip to

the South and drew from many scenes he saw there, including his painting, "Boy on a Mule."

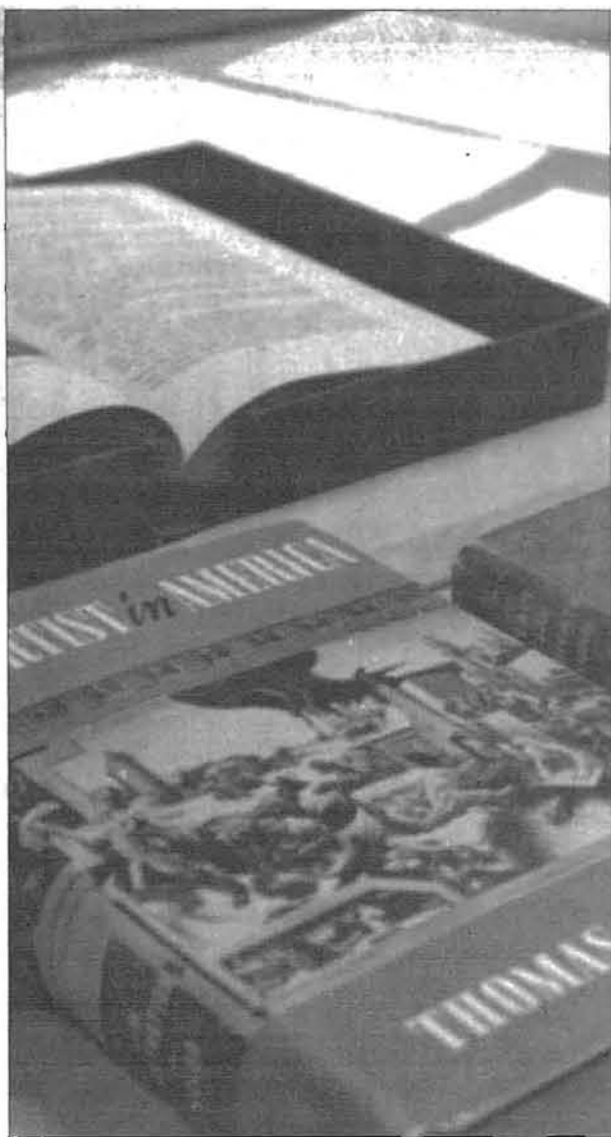
"He looked out the window of the train he was on and saw the boy, so he sketched him," Palmer said. "Boy on a Mule" is just so quintessentially American, so deeply American."

In his life, Benton was known primarily as a muralist and painted many murals at Indiana University, Jefferson City and other places. It was while he was working on the mural at Jefferson City that he met Woodcock.

Benton was blacklisted in the 1950s during the McCarthy era as a Communist. He worked until his death in 1975 while he was working on a mural for the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn.

Besides the Benton exhibit, The Mercantile Library acquired more pieces in the Woodcock Collection including paintings and sculptures by such artists as Charles M. Russell, George Caleb Bingham and Frederic Remington. Though the Benton exhibit will last until March 15, the rest of the Woodcock Collection will remain in the Mercantile Library indefinitely.

The artwork of Thomas Hart Benton will be on exhibit in the Mercantile Library until March 15.



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

The art of schedule design: a test in finding identity

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

One week down, now onto the next one. Surprisingly, I only visited the advising office once to rearrange my schedule.

I discovered this little trick at the end of my sophomore year, and it has benefited me greatly in terms of reevaluating my focus in working toward my degree. I used to feel bad about exchanging classes because I felt like I was cheating the educational system. However, after rationalizing it, I concluded that all of the hundreds of class options listed in the course catalogue were for students. If I sign up and go to a class not right for me, I hold the right to exchange it for another class that I want to take.

The class trading phenomena appears to be a trend among many of the students I know. Whether one is motivated by interest, laziness, or the

desire to finish a degree, acquiring the drop-add form has become a practice beneficial to many. It can make a person feel like they are not trapped in any situation. It can allow someone to explore other options that fall outside the field of his or her degree, or it can ease a scheduling conflict.

In my experience, it has led me toward a minor in political science, a subject I never would have considered if my whimsical interest hadn't forced me to get out of something else. What an English major with a minor in politics is going to do with her life is another story.

If I did not have the opportunity to get out of interest-spheres relating to my degree, I never would have figured out what directions I could take. A university education should be about expanding horizons and combining

seemingly dissimilar interests in a way that makes sense for an individual. We may not have another opportunity to actually study something we find fascinating.

This brings me to another point related to course switching and personal interest. A friend of mine was forced to switch his entire schedule around after one class required for his major was dropped due to a lack of enrollment. Ironically, a different class he intended switching out of was the only one that fit into his new schedule. At first glance, this appears to be a pitfall of class trading as he is now stuck in a class he fears will be a motivational struggle. The class he felt held greater relevance to his interest had been eliminated because others did not see it that way (a phenomena that happens quite frequently in humanities classes I

might add).

Exchanging a class late in the first week can also force a student into an unfamiliar situation if there are no other options. In cases where all of the classes I wanted to switch into were full, I had to decide to stay in one class or drop it for something just to fill the day.

I am not advocating that every person rush to the advising offices and change their schedules. For a while, I thought I was the only person who changed things around, but recently I noticed that I was not and therefore this trend should be addressed. If there is anything I advocate, it is that people think about why they take the classes they do and follow their interests. It is a lot easier to fill out a form and drop a class in an effort to find yourself now than it is later.

FEATURING

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Former Vice
Chancellor at
West Cape to
teach at UMSL

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Dr. Cecil Abrahams, the new distinguished professor of higher education and international studies, spent his youth in South Africa, 28 years in exile in Canada, and lived this past year in America. Abrahams' goal is to show the diversity between the African and American education system, so the two can learn from each other.

"My own slant is international education and studying our educational system in the U.S. and Africa," Abrahams said. "I want to help bring diversity by the system in the U.S. and compare with what is happening in Africa and Canada."

Abrahams, the former rector and vice chancellor of the University of Western Cape in Capetown, South Africa, was approached to work at UM-St. Louis by the administrators.

Abrahams is no stranger to the UM System. UW and UM have had a 15 year relationship, exchanging faculty members and students.

"So UM can be connected to other universities," Abrahams said. "Whatever advice I can give,

see DIVERSITY, page 8

OUR OPINION

Student Union really for the students, or for \$\$\$\$?

Is the Millennium Student Center the new cash cow for Touhill and her band of pickpockets? Or is this the Student Union, a place that we studious types can call home?

That seems to be the argument brewing, and if last Wednesday is any sign of things to come, the former may be more than just an insane notion.

Last Wednesday, an off-campus job fair was held in the MSC, much to the dismay of hundreds of students. Parking, which was free for the intruding guests was impossible to come by, keeping many night students from attending their classes, and seating and study area in the building was almost non-existent.

The event was held in conjunction with the Public Policy and Research office, so we suppose technically that this wasn't an off-campus event.

But did anyone here keep in mind that this is the Millennium Student Center, and not the community Elk's Lodge?

One the one hand, UM-St. Louis is a state-owned, public University, and has made a clear mission to associate with the community. Indeed this is a good thing, both for the University's image and the students. In this section of the community, there really isn't a venue capable of hosting many of the events that have been held in the MSC, such as this job fair. Also, the MSC is an extremely expensive building to run, and it's operating budget depends somewhat on off-campus hosting (the exact figures were not available at the time of this editorial).

One more thing that is worth noting. There is, according to Building Operations management (which, incidentally is comprised of some UM-St. Louis alumni), an unwritten policy that gives students priority booking, but all space is on a first-come, first-served basis. Building Operations has made it quite clear that the "big money" is not a deciding factor in who gets booking space in the MSC.

And although we feel that student's should

not be so naive as to think that this is our student union and close the doors to the outside world, they still should feel like this is their building.

As students ourselves, we felt first-hand the effects of hap-hazard planning on the office's part. We are not against the hosting of off-campus events, indeed we know it is necessary for the funding of the MSC and we understand the politics behind UM-St. Louis being a public institution.

What we are suggesting to help rectify this situation in the future is a proactive way to solve any anticipated inconveniences.

With booking conventions and events of this magnitude, we strongly urge that a student voice be thrown into the mix.

Our reasoning behind this is very clear. Taking last Wednesday as an example, if a student was on that board that planned the event, questions would have been raised about the feasibility of hosting such a large-scale event during the school week that the office may not have thought of before giving their approval.

A student would have pointed out the extreme folly of allowing free parking at an already-packed campus with an ongoing parking problem. A student would have pointed out the failure to provide any sort of adequate line system for the participants, or the lack of space for visitors to lounge while waiting for the event to start.

Simply put, we feel that, in order to better serve both the students of the University and the community, Building Operations should consider forming a student advisory board before booking events of this magnitude. This may cut out a lot of confusion and headache from both parties, and we can all share the building.

"As students ourselves, we felt first-hand the effects of, what we feel was, hap-hazard planning on the office's part."

The issue:

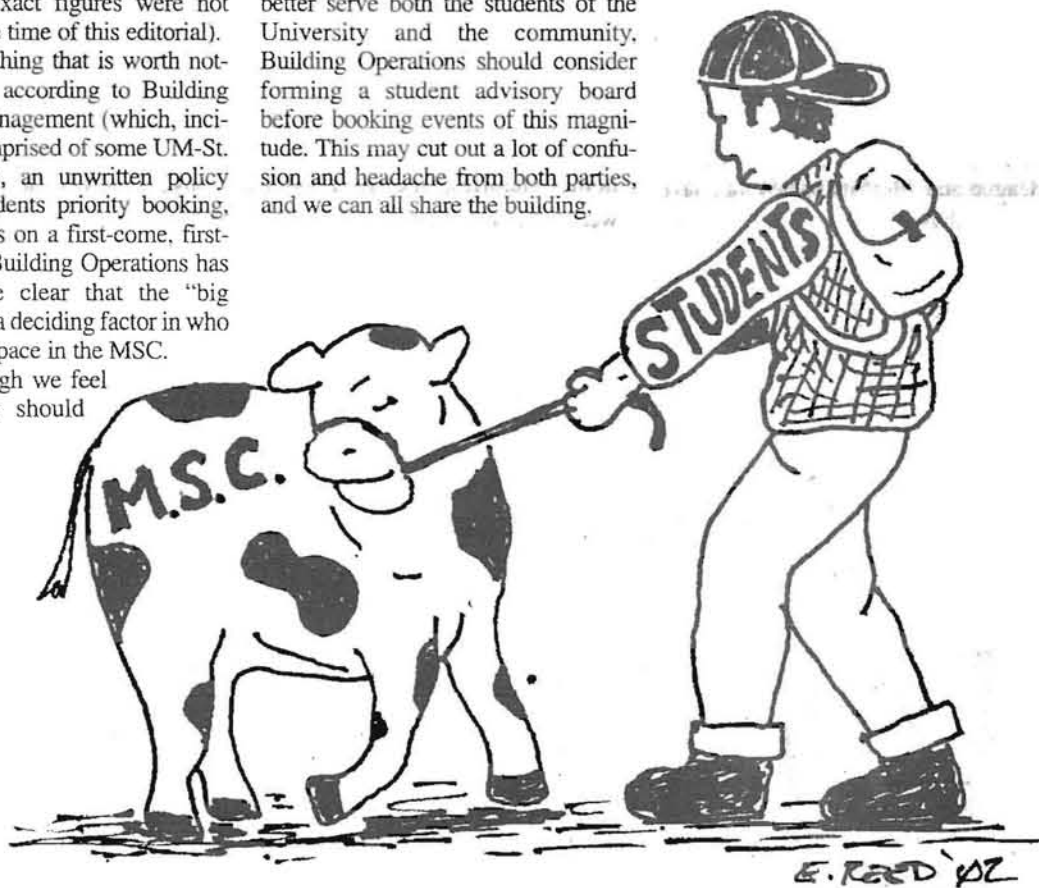
Last week, a off-campus job fair was held in cooperation with the Public Policy and Research office in the Millennium Student Center. The event was attended by over 3,000 people, causing major traffic problems both inside the building and outside in the parking lots. The guests all were given free parking, which caused an even greater strain on the already-delicate situation here. Many students are beginning to wonder if the student union really is for the students, or has it turned into the community Elk's Lodge?

We suggest:

Building Operations should consider forming a student advisory board when planning events of this magnitude. These students would be able to offer some perspective that may be passed over when planning such conventions.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC or online at: thecurrentonline.com



What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- The Student Union
- The winter season
- Enron and accounting

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at thecurrentonline.com

Let it snow!

Oh, Joy! It's finally happened, that beautiful blanket al blanco has covered the walkways and waterways of our beloved University. The geese have fled from the frigid frost forth-coming, and we have taken back the hills with our sleighs and skis.

Soon the football games will begin, the beers will open and the pigskin will sail, piercing the icy winds of the cold season and resting in the frost-bitten mits of weekend warriors everywhere.

The markets will be filled with panicked persons pinching and prodding for the final flakes of dried milk, and the shelves will resemble the barren-limbs of the trees that surround us.

The city streets will be found again by the morning commuters, who will forge a new path down an all-too familiar stretch of their trip. It is these footsteps that we will follow until the spring thaw (or until St. Louis County decides to plow a wider path).

Everyday landmarks take on a whole new meaning in the winter, as they are shrouded in a veil of snow and their edges smoothed by the new clothing that they now wear. If you dare, take in some of these new (snowflakes courtesy of www.snowflakes.net)



NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

images; you may be taken back by what stands in front of you.

From the first flake that flutters from above and finds a rest on the flora and fauna of our fields, our world slows down a smidgen. Thoughts move slower, cars should move slower, and the winds calm, gently carrying the crystallized raindrops through the cityscape. They are gingerly placed around, scattered and swirled through the sea of confusion as we sit back and smile, wondering when and if it will stop, and supposing whether or we mind if it does.

Kids gather around the radio, the television, the phone; anywhere that they feel may bring news of a snow such a nuisance that it does the unthinkable - closes the schools. Some of us older, mature college kids still do the same. And I bet that you could find a few professionals who probably do the same as well, listening for their company to call of the daily grind, at least for one day.

And yet, in the face of all this beauty, all of this tranquility, there are those of among us who beg to differ. To them, a big, icy, nasty-black snowball, right against the ear!

Enron, accounting and journalism

With the Enron bankruptcy (Enron is an energy trading company) unraveling in the last few weeks, I felt the two worlds of my professional career coming together. In a short time, I feel that the accounting and journalistic world have taken a huge hit. Both have taken huge hits in credibility within the last month.

I should point out while I am a journalist, my major is accounting. I chose the accounting profession because I like math, and I feel that accounting is a reputable profession.

So why do reliable accountants matter? The Securities and Exchange Commission requires all public companies to have an accounting firm independent of the organization audit their financial statements. Larger companies rely on the larger accounting firms due to their reputations (these firms are commonly known as the "Big 5 firms").

After we leave college, we hope to make enough money to invest in these public companies. And we hope that the financial statements that we use to make our investing decisions are reliable. When bankruptcies happen like the Enron case, our confidence in the accounting world is shaken.

Does the Enron fiasco mean that accountants can't be trusted with financial statements? Accounting firms faced similar problems in the past; one of the most famous was the Savings and Loan collapse of the late 80s. Because the accounting firms didn't give warning about the collapse in the financial statements, they were steamrolled by shareholder lawsuits.

After this, the accounting firms tightened their financial reporting standards and fired people who were associated with the investigations.

Sure, the accounting profession has some bad apples within the profession. The best thing to do is to fire them and have serious penalties from the SEC to send a message about what happens to dishonest accountants. The rules are in place, they just need to be enforced.

On the media side, the tone they take to the Enron story is quite incredible. Listening to the media, you would think that President Bush and Enron have an evil connection together. After all, Bush made a lot of money from oil and Bush accepted money from Enron (an energy trading company).

If there was ever an example of biased and lazy journalism, this takes the cake. Sure Bush took money from Enron, but did he help bailout Enron? No he didn't, even though he took campaign contributions from the company.

Enron has also given money to people on the left side of the aisle as well, which has been underreported. Missouri's Dick Gephardt, Jean Carnahan, as well as the Senate majority leader Tom Daschle have accepted Enron cash.

Attorney General John Ashcroft will not launch any investigations of Enron because he accepted campaign contributions. Meanwhile, the media is fawning praise over Joe Lieberman, the head of the Senate committee investigating Enron, even though he has accepted Enron contributions as well.

The accounting and journalistic professions need to show they are more reliable in reporting financial statements and news stories respectively. Otherwise, the pessimism the public views the professions with will be harbored for quite some time.



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Managing Editor

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

LETTERS

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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. Students should also include their student ID number.

Under Current

by Maggie Matthews
staff photographer

Have you dropped or added any classes this semester?



Tara Hines
Graduate / MBA

"I've added a class because it was a Saturday class that meets only five times this semester. I can graduate in May."



Jean Hoester
Junior / Accounting

"I'm dropping and adding a class. I went to English class last night and knew that I was in over my head."



Gavin Galantowicz
Senior / Computer Science

"No not yet. I'm happy with my classes so far."



Nathaniel Davis
Junior / Sociology

"I dropped one and changed three to accommodate my work schedule."

Illinois is no place for R-men

Team loses two games on east side of Big Muddy

BY CHARLIE BAILEY

Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball program has seen better days. Losers of four straight and eight of their last 10 games, the morale in the locker room has fallen.

The Rivermen, who probably feel that if it weren't for bad luck they would have no luck at all, have played more than a handful of games that have ended in a dramatic fashion. These games have become almost a ritual for the struggling Rivermen. The latest set of nail-biters both took place in Illinois, where UM-St. Louis squared off against Quincy University and Lewis University.

The Rivermen faced Quincy in the first contest of the road trip. From the opening tip off, the game teetered from one side to the other, with the

lead changing with each shot fired.

The game remained tied at 19 until the launcher from Lithuania, Mindaugas Adamonis, buried a long three to take the 22-19 lead over the Hawks. On the following possession, yet another long shot was hit as Derrick Redd sank his three-point attempt, followed by another Adamonis trey.

With a nine-point lead and only 2:27 left in the half, the Rivermen had a comfortable lead going into the half, but Quincy still had some fight left in them. In the closing minutes in the half, Quincy's top gunner Tony Certa hit a pair of three-pointers to cut the UM-St. Louis lead to three points.

The Rivermen started the second half with a lay up by Deryn Carter, inching their lead to five, but the Hawks countered with their own 7-2 run, knotting the score at 40.

The rest of the second half was

comparable to a heavyweight title bout, and the slugfest got heavier in the final 10 minutes. This span of the game would see five lead changes and three ties.

With 2:24 to play in the game, the Hawks reclaimed the lead with another three-point field goal, but the Riverman answer was Jarret Brown, who sank a dramatic three to give the lead back to the Rivermen.

The final two minutes the Hawks would tie the game for the thirteenth time at 65-65. After a stop on both ends the Rivermen turned the ball over, opening the gate for Quincy and the last shot of the game. With little time on the clock the Hawks cleared out the lane so that Jonathon Edmunds could shoot the final jumper. Edmunds was up to the task. With only 2.7 seconds on the clock, Edmunds drained the game winning 15 footer as Quincy went on to defeat

the Rivermen 67-65.

The next opponent for the Rivermen was the Flyers from Lewis University, and the Rivermen were looking for a chance at victory with no frills, no overtime, and no buzzer-beaters.

Bernsen and Co. showed no sympathy on the Flyers early, capturing the lead and never looking back. This trend would continue despite going six minutes without a field goal. During that span, six foul shots kept the numbers rising, and a solid defense stunned the Flyers so they could not capitalize on the lack of scoring. By the end of the first half, the Rivermen had the lead, 33-30 over the home team.

The Flyers kept themselves in the game with their consistent three point shooting, but the Rivermen were diligent in holding the lead. The lead was safe for all but three minutes of the

game. In those three minutes, with the Flyers trailing by seven, the Flyers went on a 10-0 run, obliterating the Rivermen lead and putting them on top within the final minute of the game.

Despite the late charge by the Flyers, the Rivermen would not quit cutting into the lead, and tied the score at 64. But with seven seconds left in the game Quincy star, Harley Peircey, banged out another crucial and devastating blow to the already shell shocked Rivermen.

The game ended with the Flyers from Lewis on top 67-74.

In weekend action, the Rivermen defeated the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers in Kenosha 60-57. Deryn Carter led UM-St. Louis in scoring with 19 points and Scott Kassel added 13 points in the victory, which put UM-St. Louis at 7-8 on the year, 3-7 in conference play.

The Jordan of old is back

Ladies losers of last 4

BY DAVE KINWORTHY

Staff Editor

Has anyone noticed that Michael Jordan's return to the National Basketball Association has finally started to draw praise compared to the criticisms that he drew when he first announced that he was coming back to play for the Washington Wizards?

When Jordan first announced that he was coming back, skeptics said that he was too old and that the younger players in the NBA were much better, from speed to skills, compared to present-day Jordan.

Well, he proved everyone wrong except those Jordan believers and has even scored more than 50 points in a contest this season. Although the Wizards will never be like the Chicago Bulls of old, Jordan has resurrected a team from the cellar and made the Wizards a decent team.

The last time I remember anyone talking about the Wizards was when

St. Louis was doing a feature on Cardinal Ritter graduate Jahidi White, the current center for the Wizards. It was relating his life back in high school compared to his lucrative job at the present moment and what he was doing for certain charities.

Before the White story, the last I remember about the Wizards, or as they were known previously as the Bullets, was when they had an All Star player in Bernard King. He averaged in the mid twenties in points scored and was the only bright spot on a team that was just destined for failure.

Even with high lottery draft picks, the Wizard/Bullets could not resurrect a struggling franchise whose owner did not care about winning or losing.

But along came a guy named Mike and all of this has changed. The Wizards do not go into games and expect to lose anymore. They have a

winners attitude, one which Jordan brings to the table every game. His attitude of to be the best, you have to beat the best is portrayed every time he and his Wizards step foot on the court.

Now as much as I hate the NBA, it is Jordan who has brought back a taste that I can swallow for the league itself. Before, it was all of these flashy players who talk a good game of trash and collect a paycheck. Jordan didn't do that back in the day and has created some respect for the league and all of its babies that have to be baby-sat.

With every game that goes by, Jordan silences critics about his age and what he can and cannot do in his body. He still shows everyone that he is the best at any given point in a game. Kobe Bryant cannot stop him and neither can Tracy McGrady or Vince Carter. Jordan has one thing that these players still do not have for the league: respect.

BY CHARLIE BAILEY

Staff Writer

For the UM- St. Louis women's basketball team, the new-year started out with two impressive home victories over two conference foes. With those two victories the team finally reached near the .500 with a record of 6-7.

But with every high moment in a team's season there is a low, and this season that low, for the Riverwomen, has been the road. After the two home victories, the Riverwomen went on a three-game road trip, starting with the Drury College, where the Riverwomen were smashed 81-56. Despite the loss, the team still had momentum coming into the next contest, against the Quincy University Lady Hawks.

One of the major dilemmas that faced head coach Shelly Ethridge was how to keep the players from relapsing to their previous style of play: losing on the road. The Riverwomen have only one road win this season. But the focus was not on the past, but instead the future, and the future consisted with a date in Quincy.

The Lady Hawks, who held an overall record of 8-7 at the mid point of the regular season, had only been defeated once at home this season.

The game started in a stalemate until the Lady Hawks broke an 11-0 run late in the second half. This move would be the crushing blow to UM-St. Louis and their hopes of a second road victory of the season, and the Lady Hawks took the victory 75-68.

Some of the bright spots in the loss were the play of senior forward Lynette Wellen, who led all scorers with a game high 21 points. Wellen who was 10-16 from the field, and also snatched 6 rebounds. Two other positive aspects of the game was the unusual scoring outbursts from Krista Longseth, who scored a season high 19 on a near perfect 10-11 shooting, and Ebonie Halliburton, who dropped 10 and dished five. Both were impressive performances off the bench.

After the loss, the Riverwomen could not sulk in depression long. A

challenging road contest against another Illinois foe, the Flyers of Lewis College, was next on the docket.

After the opening tip off, the Riverwomen got on the board first with a quick bucket from star Lynette Wellen. Although the Riverwomen did strike first, they did not strike enough, finding themselves on the short end of an 18-1 run made by the sizzling Flyers, which put them on top 27-5.

One of the main reasons for the onslaught was the play of Bryanne Callahan, a gritty small forward, who personally damaged the Riverwomen with an 11-point outburst in the first five minutes of the game.

As the first half came to a disappointing end, the Riverwomen found themselves trailing the Flyers 48-27. The second half would show some of the determination that the Riverwomen have shown all season despite losing all but one on the road. Although playing against a huge deficit, the Riverwomen ignited a charge to cut into the double-digit lead. Halliburton started the run by establishing an outside game with a three. But as the run died out, so did the Riverwomen, who never cut into the double-digit lead set by the Flyers.

When the final buzzer sounded, the Flyers had yet another win and for the Riverwomen another road loss. The 83-63 loss was the worst defeat of the season for UM-St. Louis.

Between the team shooting 50 percent from the field and 57 percent from behind the arc, the Flyers were unstoppable on this occasion.

The Riverwomen turned the ball over 27 times in the contest, putting Lewis in a grand position to make the opposition pay for their mistakes, and so they did.

The team ended the road trip with a 72-65 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Halliburton shined in this contest, scoring 18 points, and Wellen and Sophia Ruffin each scored 12 points. Larissa Cordiano added 10 points and six rebounds in the loss, the Riverwomen's fourth in a row.

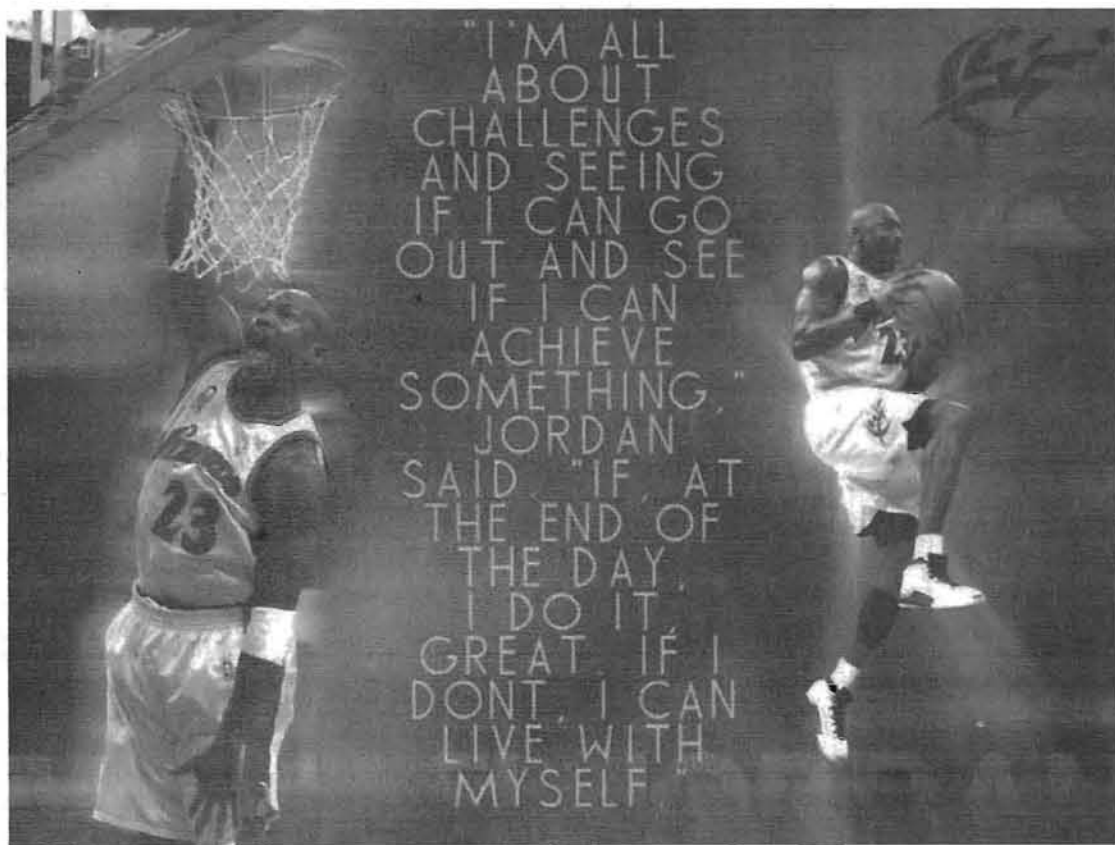


Image courtesy of www.community.webshots.com (mikewilday@hotmail.com)

SLU basketball program underrated



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Over the Christmas break, the University of Missouri Tigers men's basketball team took a turn that most sports writers and polls did not expect: they showed that their team was human in nature.

The Tigers were defeated by DePaul University, a loss that I am at a loss of words for. I recently attended the Saint Louis University versus DePaul game and still to this day, wonder how on earth the Tigers lost to such a horrible team.

In the SLU contest, DePaul played like a high school team in certain aspects. The individual players on their team were out for statistics, not to win the game as a whole. They did not show the athleticism that they were capable of with a talented recruiting class and the Billikens exploited them

from the beginning of the game, shooting roughly 70 percent from the field in the first half and pounding the ball inside in the second half.

With DePaul defeating Mizzou, skeptics question who is the better team between SLU and Mizzou. The game between the two this season came down to a Wesley Stokes jumper at the buzzer to win the contest for Mizzou, but critics say that Mizzou is far better as far as rankings are concerned.

SLU is a class act when it comes to the game of basketball. They have, in the past, drawn incredible talent, including Anthony Bonner and Larry Hughes, both of which advanced to play in the National Basketball Association. After their collegiate career, I will not comment on their

value in the professional rankings. With all of the attention Mizzou has got, from the preseason top 10 ranking to the All American status of Kareem Rush, SLU has persisted in drawing solid basketball players from around the St. Louis area and even expanded their recruiting on the west coast. (Head Coach Lorenzo Romar previously coached Pepperdine University)

Conference USA (the league that the Billikens belong to) is beginning to turn some heads when it comes to athleticism of it's players and the skill of it's coaches. With Rick Pitino at Louisville and John Calipari at Memphis, the Billikens are seeing top-notch coaching come into town at the Savvis Center. This will only help the Billikens, who have to play better teams, and will allow them to attract

better recruits with a top-level basketball schedule.

Although DeJuan Wagner will only be at Memphis for one season, he is bringing exposure to Conference USA and the Billikens. He makes the players for SLU better when he competes against them.

With such a tough conference schedule and better players being brought in each and every year, SLU has closed the gap between themselves and the Big 12 Mizzou team. With a couple of more years of quality coaching and players in Conference USA, I strongly believe that although Mizzou will have a great team with talented Duke-like players, SLU will be able to compete with them and silence critics about their downward program.

SPORTS

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DAVE KINWORTHY

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UMSL Hall of Fame Nominations Being Accepted

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is accepting nominations for the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame. Last year was the first year for the Sports Hall of Fame induction, which saw 12 individuals honored for their contributions to UMSL Athletics. This year's induction ceremony will take place in the summer of 2002 at a date to be named later.

Anyone can nominate an individual who has made significant contributions to the success of UMSL Athletics as a student-athlete, coach or administrator. All nominations must be reported before the deadline of February 1, 2002.

Individuals can be nominated in one of three categories:

Student-Athlete: Must have compete for a varsity sport, have graduated from the University and earned a degree prior to 1996.

Coach: Five years must have elapsed after active coaching service at the University to qualify.

Distinguished Service: Individuals who have made exceptional contributions (time, service, support) to the development and advancement of the University of Missouri-St. Louis intercollegiate athletics.

(contact the Athletic Department at x5661 for more information)

WEB

www.ums.edu/services/athletics

for the latest sports news and information

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

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A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

January

24

Jan. 24 - Feb. 23. Gallery 210 will present a display on "Divine Humility: Jesus: Icons in Contemporary Mexico," presented by photographer, Robert Lewis. Gallery 210 is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The exhibit is free. For more information call Gallery Director Terry Suhre at 516-5592.

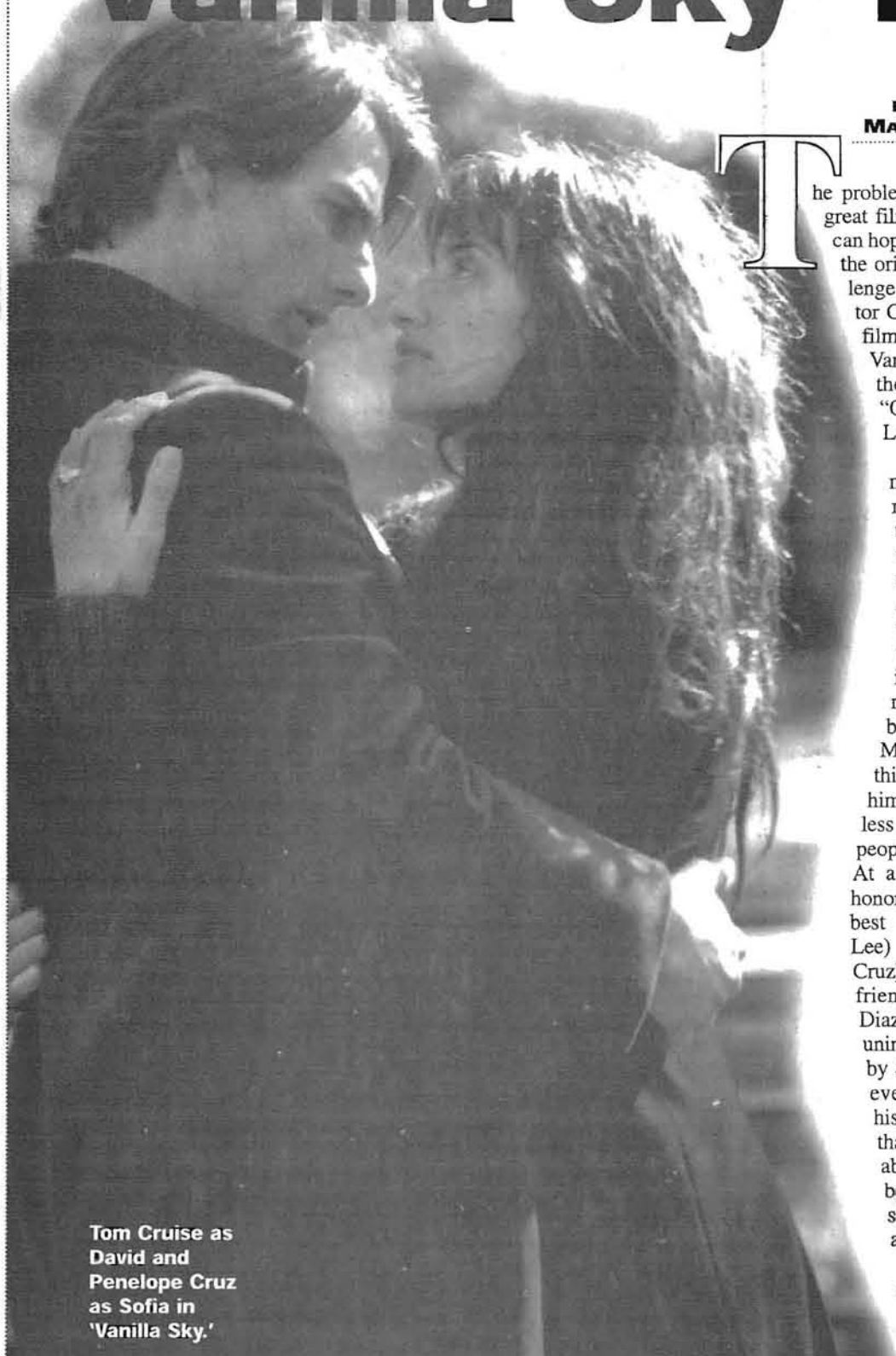
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Singer/songwriter, Larry Kirwan will perform a concert from 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., in Room 205 of the Music Building. The Concert is free and open to the public. For more information please call International Studies at 516-6495 or visit www.center-international-studies.org

WEB

Check out our website for the latest movie and music reviews as well as interviews and much more. *The Current* online is your source for campus news and information. Our website, updated daily, is full of reviews not found in the print edition. Log on today! www.thecurrentonline.com

'Vanilla Sky' is plain vanilla



Tom Cruise as David and Penelope Cruz as Sofia in 'Vanilla Sky.'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

The problem with a remake of a great film is that the most you can hope for is to be as good as the original. That is the challenge for *Vanilla Sky*, director Cameron Crowe's latest film starring Tom Cruise. *Vanilla Sky* is a remake of the 1997 Spanish hit, "Open Your Eyes (Abre Los Ojos)."

This movie has elements of a thriller, romance and even a touch of science fiction. The story is about a wealthy young David Ames (Tom Cruise), who seems to have a very easy life, with inherited money, no responsibilities and blessed with good looks. Maybe because everything is so effortless for him, he's sometimes careless in how he treats other people, especially women. At a birthday party in his honor, David picks up on his best friend Brian's (Jason Lee) date Sofia (Penelope Cruz), to discourage ex-girlfriend Julie (Cameron Diaz), who has turned up uninvited. David is smitten by Sofia, his disregard for everyone's feelings but his own leads to an event that changes everything about his life. The film becomes a story about self-discovery, struggle and personal loss.

"*Vanilla Sky*" has some impressive and enjoyable visual effects, primarily in

dream sequences and in the opening shot of Tom Cruise in an otherwise empty Times Square - a stunning shot actually filmed on location in New York, not computer generated. For fans of Cruise, it has lots of nice photography and what seems like a meaty role, plus the attractive Penelope Cruz as his co-star. The story is excellent, and if you have not seen the original movie, it will be fresh to you.

Cruise and Crowe collaborated on the successful "Jerry Maguire," and Cruise has certainly shown he can rise above his "Top Gun" persona, as he did in the film "Magnolia." Crowe's work, as shown by last year's "Almost Famous," demonstrates his skill at emotionally complex personal journeys. But it's a bit curious why the talented Crowe would want to remake a recent successful foreign film - it's not the usual step for a creative and original filmmaker.

It appears that Crowe and Cruise wished to collaborate again, after their success with "Jerry Maguire," and it's tempting to think that maybe Cruise wanted to play this role opposite his real-life love interest, Penelope Cruz, who plays Sofia in both this film and the original version. In interviews, both Crowe and Cruise described this remake as being like a band doing a "cover" of a hit song. But a cover of a hit, just like a remake of a great film, has the same problem: doing a cover of a good song and turning it into a great song is a great move, but re-interpreting a hit is more homage than creation and invites comparison to the original. Once again, the best you can hope for in re-doing a great work is to be as good as the original, and the potential to do something less is great. And the closer you follow the original, the less remarkable the cover is.

Vanilla Sky follows the original film very closely at times, even recreating scenes and dialog exactly. Where it differs is primarily in the

spectacular special effects, which are fun and beautiful, and in adding background details in the main character's life, such as developing a business conspiracy around him, something vaguely hinted at in the original.

I had not seen the original film before seeing "Vanilla Sky," although I saw it afterward, so the plot was new to me, and it is indeed a good story.

Cruise and Crowe do attempt to explore the character's weaknesses and flaws a bit more directly than in the original, but I got the feeling that maybe Cruise's own personal vanity prevented this character from being more unattractive, so that they were pulling their punches, so to speak.

Curiously, Penelope Cruz is both more appealing and more believable in the original version. Despite the added material, the original version of this story is better, and the characters are both more real and even more likeable. The one exception to this is Cameron Diaz's role, which is better, thanks to the depth her performance adds to it. The ending of the film is essentially the same as the original, but the English language version spells everything out in great detail, which seems a bit insulting to the audience's intelligence.

The pluses and minuses of "Vanilla Sky" make a recommendation a bit problematic. If you like really gorgeous visual special effects, it's almost worth seeing. The story is good, but if you saw the original "Open Your Eyes," you might find this film irritating. If you're a big fan of Tom Cruise, he certainly looks good in this movie, but this is not really a "Top Gun," just entertainment, type of film, so it might be a bit puzzling at times (although they will explain all at the end). Generally, the best recommendation I can make in regard to this movie is to rent "Open Your Eyes" on video - it's truly a wonderful film, and the better version.

ALBUM REVIEWS

Find your home with a great Vue

BY KEVIN KORINEK
Staff Writer

Completely bypassed by various music critics and magazines since its release on Sept. 18, The Vue's sophomore release, *Find Your Home*, is exactly the dose of musical medicine that will cure an ailing rock and roller.

If the massively over-hyped Strokes album blew you away this year, then The Vue is sure to rock your socks off. With the release of the album last September on Sub/Pop Records, the San Francisco based quintet kicked off a cross-country tour, hitting essential cities on the map, as well as playing in minor venues. Alas, when performing at St. Louis's own Creepy Crawl, an argument erupted between the band and some drunken patrons and a brawl soon followed. Exactly who started the fray is still unclear to me;

however I do know that the Vue lost it and spent the night in the hospital as one of the band members was treated with stitches. In any case, I wouldn't expect them back for a while.

The Vue's self-titled debut record was merely a predecessor, an inkling if you will, to *Find Your Home*. True rock-n-roll hasn't been this flirtatious with the mainstream culture in decades; and on this record, the band calls upon a number of forgotten influences, most of them hailing from the late '60s. Sans hesitation, the first major influence brought to mind is the Rolling Stones. The Vue's music stands with the same moxy, yet swaggers ever so slightly from their convention. You can almost see the fury of a biker gang, fueled by the distorted Keith Richards style riffs, courtesy of guitarist Jonah Buffa. Rex Shelverton's vocals are a tour de force medley of uninhibited Jagger, a shot of uninterested Reed, with a twist of Gordon Gano (from Violent

Femmes.) *Find Your Home* rocks back and forth on the same chair as The Who, borrowing their nitty-gritty tube and fuzzy bass sound and taking it up a notch. And though she's not very apparent on all the tracks, Jessica Graves hits up an old school Rhodes keyboard for a touch of flavor.

After a while, the songs begin to have the same feel, and the voice and the singing style become monotonous, causing the songs to kind of bleed into one singular sound. In fact, the one crime this album commits is



that if the listener is not paying attention, each song starts to ring with redundancy.

There seems to be an inability to display a soft side, to be sincere and emotional, which is overshadowed by their desire to maintain a deep and mysterious persona. Each song, from beginning to end is full of the same sense of urgency and angst. And though they are similar, they seem to lack The Who's ability for playfulness with their music, no sense of humor or fun. Even so, *Find Your Home* still comes out on top like the unrecognized winner it is. It pounces on the listener with a kind of dark and brooding lament that has been lost in the art of garage rock for some time. There is no soft side to the Vue. This is a very serious rock album for the very serious rock listener. I sincerely urge you to check it out. It is by far one of the best, if not the best, unrecognized album of the year.

Fugazi stresses a new found love of melody

BY RYAN MEEHAN
Music Writer

The archetypal politically charged punk band that carries an inflammatory message and an anti-establishment posture is a mold that claims Fugazi as one of its greatest champions. To their infinite credit, Fugazi has never surrendered these virtues, always choosing artistic integrity over increased commercial successes. Fugazi, whose music is often referred to as "post-hardcore," has sweated out their vision of punk for 14 years now. They have performed the near impossible by managing to entertain both critical and commercial respect in a punk genre that is extremely hostile to bands of popular success.

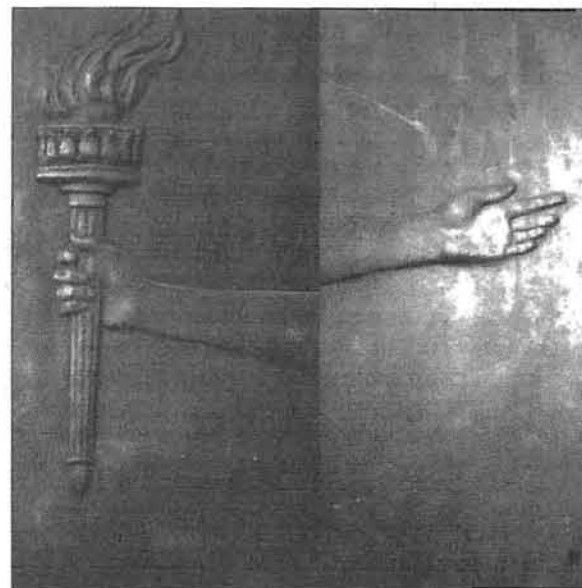
Ian MacKaye and crew have long purported a sneeringly aggressive shot of musical rage as being the most effective way to influence an active scorn for the establishment. Yet on their newest album, *The Argument*, Fugazi largely sets aside its historically unrelenting grind for a sound that is significantly more melodic. The *Argument* finds Fugazi in a state of a considerably more laid-back song structure. Perhaps the band's new sound is the byproduct of the natural slowing down that accompanies maturity.

Nonetheless, Fugazi's foray into somewhat calmer waters is successful enough to be among the band's very best work.

The album opens awash in static tinged police transmissions intersecting a languid cello drone. The cello rolls like mist into the album's first song "Cashout." It is a socio-political awareness campaign that details the inhumanity of a nameless city taking over an apartment complex in the name of "urban development," and subsequently evicting all of the tenants.

The next track of the album, "Full

Disclosure," shows that Fugazi still has some bite. Amiss raging guitar interplay the lyrics run toward the dramatic as Guy Picciotto screams, "I want a mutually assured destructive life." The edginess continues



"Fugazi is a group of men of deep musical skill who are still able to create an album of integrity."

with "Epic Problem," a song that deals with the aching frustration that accompanies an inability to get one's point across. The ballad begins with a flurry of anger and continues all the way to acceptance, ending in a laid back stance of melodic resignation.

"Life and Limb" showcases Fugazi's newfound love of melody. The song has a sort of below the surface tension that is kept at bay by the subtle stance taken by the vocals and instrumentation. "Strangelight" shows a continued departure from some of Fugazi's earlier work. The backbone of the tune is the lazy drawl of Amy Dominguez' cello, which is gorgeously complimented by an intermittent piano accompaniment.

A resurgence of energy comes with "Ex-Spectator," a frantic mess of screaming guitar and vocals. MacKaye aggressively expounds, "Looking out for cars and morality/ Trying to find some sort of geometry/ Avoiding mistakes/ Keeping an eye on every step I take."

Fugazi even manages an acoustic guitar cameo on "Nightstop." The last of song of the album, "The Argument," ends in cliché punk rock fashion as MacKaye states, "I'm on a mission to never agree/ Here comes the argument."

The great thing about Fugazi is their rigorous devotion to the same principles that identified them fourteen years ago. Never has Fugazi surrendered themselves to the capitalistic obsessions of increased revenue and glamour. Fugazi has always chosen to stay true to an ethic of art over money. Even though the band regularly reaches the Billboard 200, they have never opted to sign with a major label, thereby keeping their albums at unheard bargain prices. Instead the band bravely created their own label, Discord, and has put

all their faith in their discerning fans. This has paid off for Fugazi in a big way. Their devoted fan base has recognized the pains Fugazi has taken, and is willing to follow the band in any new direction. The comfort of the arrangement allows Fugazi to attempt to redefine their musical direction as they mature, as shown in the newfound stress on melody that defines "The Argument." Gone is some of the characteristic rage that identified the band throughout its earlier career. Yet, in its wake emerges a group of men of deep musical skill who are still able to create an album of integrity. "The Argument" is a work of matured brilliance. It is always touching to see the good guys win.

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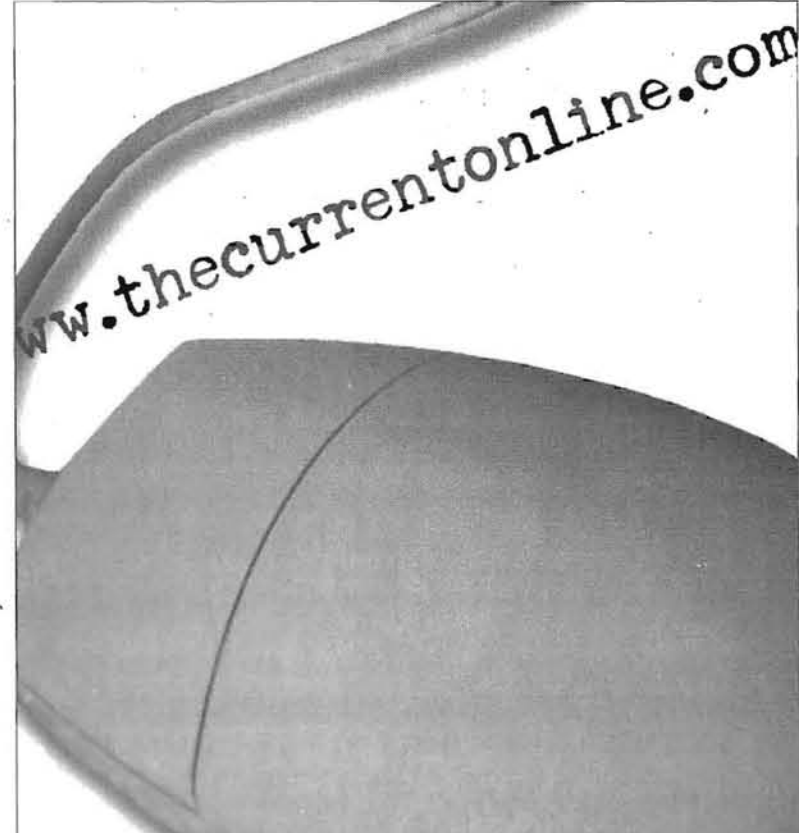
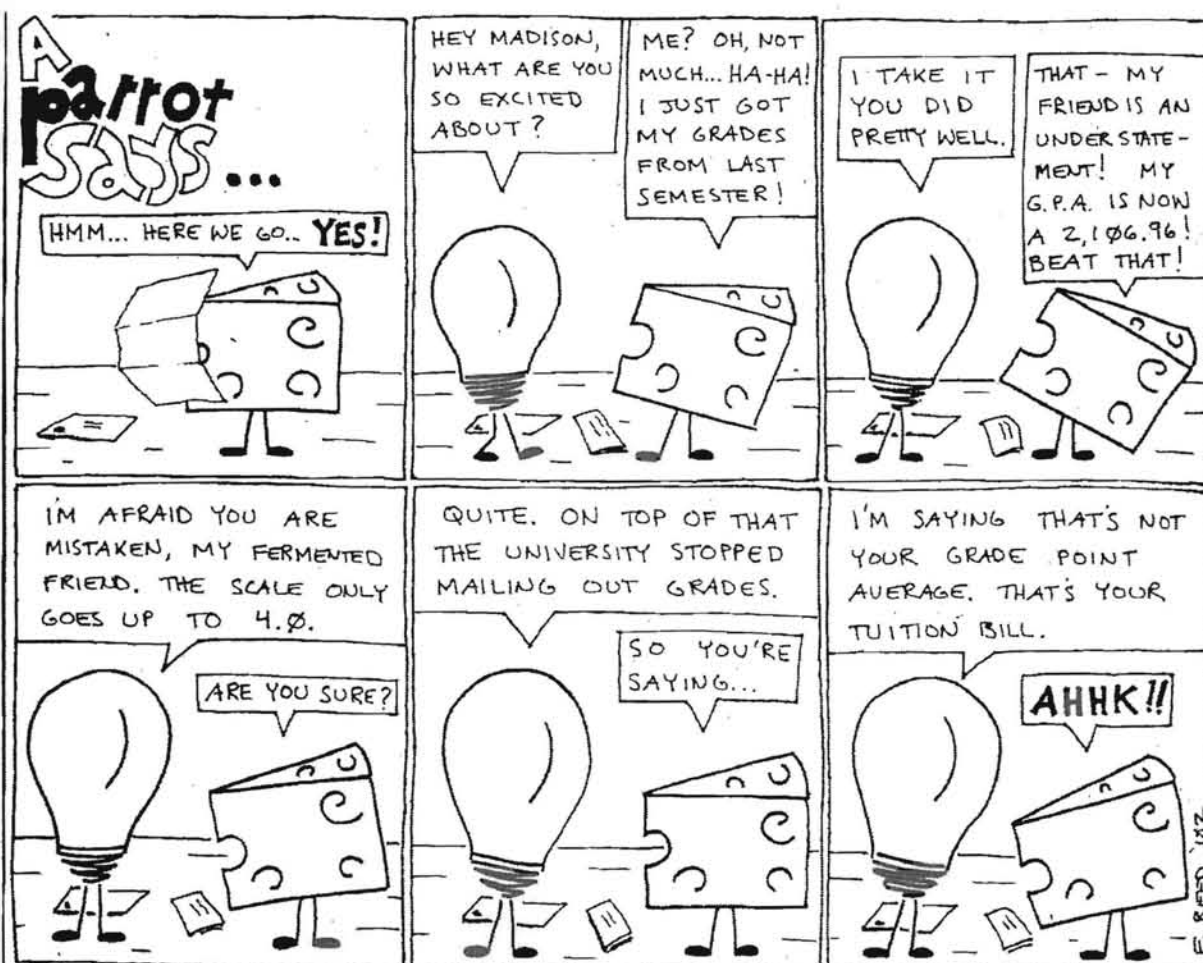
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MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

What is science for?

paints a perfectly lifelike elephant on her canvas even though she has never seen one.

Sometimes it is hard to see all the ways that science influences our lives, but virtually everyone uses science. There was a time when no one knew what a computer was, or the ozone layer, the Milky Way or thousands of other natural wonders revealed by scientific investigation.

Science expands our knowledge, not just the scientists' knowledge but anyone who reads, listens to the radio or watches T.V. Scientific principles we learn through the media become a part of our lives.

Scientific knowledge is part of the raw material that fuels our imaginations. This knowledge is transformed into metaphors for our experiences as we relate the exuberance of nature to the complexity of our own lives.

Whenever a person refers to the beauty of a supernova or the emptiness of a black hole, they are using science to paint a picture. Because of scientific investigation, people can

imagine that they are as lonely as the last Dodo or as excited as the atoms in the center of an atomic blast.

Scientific metaphors are demonstrated in the magnificent poetry of Pattiann Rogers, whose work

"Because of scientific investigation, people can imagine that they are as lonely as the last Dodo or as excited as the atoms in the center of an atomic blast."

demonstrates an intimate familiarity with natural history. She writes about animals, plants, planets, and molecules with insight and emotion, showing clearly how someone who is not a scientist can be inspired by science.

Rogers' poem "Love Song" uses

imagery from the American prairie to illustrate love and passion. She gives the impression of someone who has intently watched and deftly understood the essence of a prairie in the feverish height of mating season. Her poem has the ability to translate the prairie into a visual impression that scientists and non-scientists alike can relate to and appreciate.

Some people, to the shock of the astrophysicist, will never want to know the mathematical formalities of how the existence of the quark was predicted, but they may like to use the quark as a metaphor for how the tiniest things can sometimes conceal the greatest mysteries.

Science doesn't just investigate nature for its own advancement. The knowledge scientists illuminate is for everyone. It fills our minds with exciting ideas and stimulates us to think about strange new things. In this way, science belongs to all of us; it is our intellectual property, and it is equally well-used to cure a disease, engineer a voyage to the moon or write a love poem.

Love Song
By Pattiann Rogers

It's all right, together with me tonight,
How your whole body trembles exactly like the locust
Establishing its dry-cymbal quivering
Even in the farthest branch-tip leaves
Of the tree in which it screams.

Lying next to me, it's all right how similar
You become to the red deer in its agitated pacing
On the open plains by the sea, in its sidling
Haunch against haunch, in the final mastery
Of its mounting.

And it's all right, in those moments,
How you possess the same single-minded madness
Of the opened wood poppy circling and circling,
The same wild strength of its golden eye.

It's true. You're not better
Than the determined boar snorgling and rooting,
No better than the ridiculous, ruffled drumming
Of the prairie chicken, no better
Than the explosion of the milkweed pod
Spilling the white furl of the moon deep
In the midnight field. You're completely
Indistinguishable from the enraged sand myrtle
Absurd in its scarlet spread on the rocky bluffs.

But it's all right. Don't you know
This is precisely what I seek, mad myself
To envelope every last drupe and pearl shaped ovule,
Every nip and cry and needle-fine boring, every drooping,
Spore-rich tassle of oak flower, all the whistling,
Wing-beating, heavy-tipped matings of an entire prairie
Of grasses, every wafted, moaning seed hook
You can possibly manage to bring to me,
That is exactly what I contrive to take you into my arms
With you, again and again.

Pilot House set to take-off next month

BY JOHN WALTON
Staff Writer

An area covering 17,000 square feet of the ground floor of the Millennium Student Center is set to open next month. This newly renovated space is called the Pilot House, a moniker provided by past SGA Vice-President Ellory Glenn. The name's source originates from the names of the university's sports teams, Rivermen and Riverwomen, where a steamboat's skipper would command the vessel from the pilothouse.

The Pilot House will present a visual contrast to the viewer. Most of the wall space will be bare concrete. Ditto for the ceiling and the floor. Cement columns will be unadorned. A chain fence will span the entrance during closed hours. But vivid splashes of color will decorate the wall behind the stage, the tabletops, the furniture selection and the floor mural. The floor mural is in front of the stage, which will be the biggest stage on campus. The mural depicts a steamboat pilot wheel.

"We wanted to evoke a sense of a

rustic, elementary setting," says Gloria Schultz of Auxiliary Services. "The idea was to create an atmosphere that differs from any other room in the Millennium Student Center."

Tabletops display artistic designs created by various groups on campus. AIGA, the graphic arts organization, Pan-African Research Organization, the University Program Board and Fine Arts Building are examples of the representation. Patrons can sit in the old-style restaurant booths that were used in the Underground, the on-campus cafeteria before the Nosh. Easy chairs, sofas and an assortment of other furniture came from Normandy Hospital.

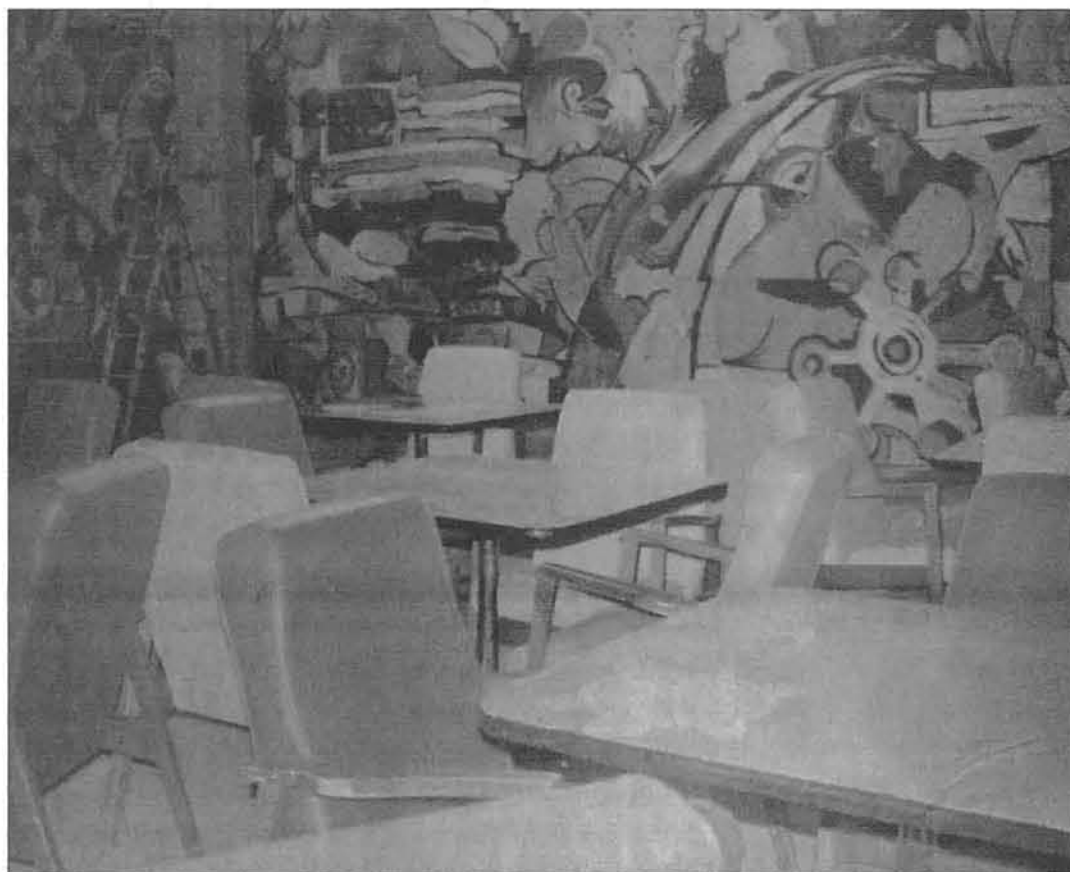
Customers will be able to munch on fresh popcorn, peanuts in the shell, hand dipped ice cream and hot pretzels while playing pool or watching sports telecasts on a projection screen. A Golden Tee machine for golf lovers is against one wall. The facility has two sound systems, one for concerts and the other to be used to play background music when a concert is not in progress.

"It's a place we can provide where students, faculty, graduates and staff at UM-St. Louis can interact with each other," SGA President Ryan Connor. "Also, what may be the largest painting in Missouri will be there."

The painting is a mural, approximately 120 feet by 10 feet in dimension. It will cover the wall behind the stage and extend to a portion of each adjoining wall. It is the artwork of two UM-St. Louis art students, Luke Schulte and Abril Borrego. It contains a collage of images and designs. The students used their own ideas and ideas presented by others on campus, including a chancellor and a professor.

Student groups will have priority booking for the Pilot House. Its uses range from concerts, parties, comedians, talent shows and movie presentations. The Big Man on Campus event during Homecoming Week in February is slated to be its initial event.

The Pilot House will be open during the regular hours of the Millennium Student Center.



The Pilot House, covering 17,000 square feet, will open next month. It is located on the bottom floor of The Millennium Student Center.

Mutsuni Igarashi/The Current

Proposed bill would require military time

BY ERICA CORDOVA
Ka Leo O Hawai'i (U. Hawai'i)

(U-WIRE) HONOLULU - Young men may be forced to enlist in the United States Armed Forces for one year if a bill that is currently in session is passed in the House of Representatives.

Men that are 18 to 25 years old are now required to register with Selective Service.

The bill, "Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001" would require that men between the ages of 18 and 22 serve one year of military education. Currently the United States Census lists nine million males in this age group. The bill would also authorize young women to volunteer to receive basic military training and education.

On Dec. 20, 2001, Reps. Nick Smith of Michigan and Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania introduced a bill to the Armed Services Committee that will go before the 107th Congress' 1st session. The bill will require the introduction into the Armed Forces of young men registered under the Military Selective Service Act.

"I believe that if the American people understand the need for this implementation that they will support it and rise to the occasion to maintain our national security and way of life," said Maj. Trey Johnson, enrollment officer for University of Hawaii Army ROTC program.

"If congress implements the Selective Service Act generally speaking, the American people will support it based on the threat of our national security," Johnson said.

The "treatment" of basic military training and education will consist of instruction of physical fitness, international relations, military tactics, homeland security, United States and



world history, and vocational training.

If the bill is enacted, after a person receives basic military training he or she will be entitled to prorated benefits through the Montgomery GI Bill. Benefits would vary based on time served in the armed forces.

"I think it would be a good thing if this bill is passed because it would show us guys a little more responsibility ... who knows, make you a little more mature by doing that," said Yong Sohn, 21-year-old senior at UH.

Song said his parents are from Korea, and it is required that men there join the military for two years. He feels it is a benefit to the United States.

"I'm sure that you'll learn a lot of new and different things that you will never learn in school. I know guys who don't even know how to change a tire," Song said.

Robert Lee, a liberal arts and sciences major, said, "I feel against it because it would limit my freedom, and it would delay my studies for a year. It should be a choice not a requirement."

Grant Tsumoto, a political science major said, "Whether you enter the military or not it should be a choice, I don't feel it should be a requirement. In fact, I didn't even want to sign up for the Selective Service."

DIVERSITY, from page 3

I will provide."

"I have spent a long time looking at different systems in other countries," Abrahams said. "What I would like to see is that the groups learn from the experience."

Abrahams, who moved to Kirkwood in August, is quite pleased with the city of St. Louis and the University.

"St. Louis is a large city, more spread out than a lot of the cities in South Africa," Abrahams said. "It's a lot harder to get a sense of the entire city."

Abrahams says that he finds the people of the Midwest very relaxed.

"In some of the other cities like New York, people are aggressive and jumpy," Abrahams said. "Here, people are very civilized."

Abrahams said that what impressed him the most about UM-St. Louis is the diversity and growth. "I visited the University in '95 and I have watched it grow in size and in students," Abrahams said. "It's been quite active on the international front."

"It's been quite open to new innovations," Abrahams said.

Abrahams grew up in Capetown, in what was called a "Cape Colored Community." Years of segregation and being treated like a second-class citizen made its mark on Abrahams' life, he said.

"Once you were not seen as a citizen you knew you were not to be regarded as a human being," Abrahams said.

Abrahams was one of the few in his area who went to school and he said that gave him an added responsibility.

"People expected us to teach them how to fight the government," Abrahams said. "Leadership was thrust upon people. We didn't have a choice."

Abrahams was heavily involved in the resistance by his early teens, even getting arrested for peaceful protests, but was faced with a dilemma: he

couldn't study in a South African school.

Abrahams then attended a college in the nearby country of Lesotho and then earned his masters degree in English in Canada. Abrahams was exiled from his homeland never to return until after apartheid was over in 1991.

"While I was in exile my parents and my brother died," Abrahams said. "I was not allowed to return for their funerals."

Abrahams said that his exile was awful.

"I was one of those homebodies who always dreamt that I would spend my whole life at home, in a new South Africa," Abrahams said. "But as a human being, you have to survive."

In Canada, Abrahams still became involved in improving his homeland by joining the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

When he returned to South Africa in 1991 and 1995, Abrahams said it was indescribable.

"The first time I was so excited that I was finally able to go back home, it was hard to describe," Abrahams said.

In 1995, Abrahams assumed the vice chancellorship, he said he had a larger role to play. "I would play a role in the transition of running a country," Abrahams said. "I would go to help my country."

Abrahams' return to the professorship side of education was because of his desire to return to teaching. "I was losing touch with the academic world," Abrahams said.

In addition to conducting research to help his country, Abrahams is also working on his own memoirs as well as a novel dealing with people in exile and finishing a novel by writer and resistance fighter, Alex La Guma.

"He died in 1985, but his wife and myself have emailed each other and she showed me his sixth novel," Abrahams said. "It was filled with enough notes that we deduced how he wanted to finish it."



Dr. Cecil Abrahams is the new Distinguished professor of Higher Education and International Studies. His goal is to show the diversity between the African and American education system so the two can learn from each other.

Mutsuni Igarashi/The Current