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INSIDE



Who's afraid of the big bad Opera? Opera Theater's presentation of La Traviata brings performing arts to popular audiences in a production that is elegant . . . and understandable.

▲ See page 6

BRIEFS

Board of Curators approves name for Student Center

When is a plaza not a plaza? When it's the Millennium Student Center, of course. The new facility was to be called the Millennium Plaza Student Center, but for reasons unknown to us the word plaza had been dropped from the name by the time it was presented and approved at the May Board of Curators meeting.

Congrats to UMSL graduating class

Congratulations to the some 800 UMSL graduates who walked down the aisle at the Spring Commencement, and to the two couples, Judith and Adam Aronson, and Alyn and Martyn Essman, who received honorary degrees. The Current wishes you well.

Creative writing award winners announced

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies has announced four writing awards for 1999-2000. Awards for creative writing were presented at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Stephanie Hicks won the undergraduate award for her poetry. The poetry of Amanda Crowell was awarded in the graduate category. Awards were also presented for essays, with the undergraduate award going to Cami Jeliti. The graduate award was presented to Bonnie Laughlin.

Jessica Altenbernd has won this year's Robert E. Smith Award. The award, which recognizes a student's academic achievements and written communication abilities, is named after the organizer of the first Public Relations Program at UM-St. Louis.

INDEX

Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	9
The Nerd Table	9

U to hear charter school appeal

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
senior editor

The African-American Rite of Passage, Inc., will have an opportunity to appeal the rejection of its application for a charter school at an open hearing this month.

Don Driemeier, Deputy to the Chancellor, said the exact date of the hearing was not yet determined.

The African-American Rite of Passage (TAARP) had applied for and been granted a charter with the University of Missouri—St. Louis last year. Driemeier said that when the University received charter applications this academic year, it also received a second application from TAARP which was substantially different from the first. Driemeier said that while two other charter applications were approved, the application from TAARP was rejected. He said there was confusion at the time about whether TAARP had intended the second

application to be a request for a new charter or a modification of the old one.

Driemeier said that either way, the University found the new application unacceptable due to the changes it contained. He said that one of the major changes was that Beacon Education Management, an organization which specializes in running charter schools, would no longer be involved. Instead, TAARP had enlisted the services of Charter Consultants, a division of the French Governor's Academy. Driemeier said Beacon's involvement was a "key element" in the approval of the original charter.

Lamar Beyah, the President and CEO of TAARP, said that Beacon left because of a dispute over the use of certified teachers. Beyah said that TAARP wanted to hire certified teachers for 80 percent of its teaching staff, as required by law, but fill the remaining 20 percent with teachers

who were not certified but who could bring valuable knowledge from their experiences in the community. Beyah said that Beacon had insisted on hiring certified teachers only, and that this disagreement led to Beacon's departure from the project.

"Beacon pulled out because they wanted to be able to influence the activities of TAARP," Beyah said.

Driemeier said the change from Beacon to Charter Consultants was significant not just because it changed the management from one group to another, but because it changed the structure of the management itself. Under the old charter, the principal of the school, who was instrumental in hiring and retaining the rest of the staff, would have reported directly to Beacon as well as TAARP's Board of Directors. Under the new charter, the principal would report only to the Board. Bob Samples, Director of University Communications, said this change in management structure drastically

reduced the involvement of outside management.

Driemeier said that without an experienced group taking an active role in the day-to-day operations of the school, the University did not feel comfortable relying on the Board.

Driemeier said that University's approval of last year's charter was based on information which had been significantly changed, hence the old charter was no longer valid.

Beyah insisted in a reply he sent to the University that he had not broken any of the provisions contained under charter school law which allow a contract to be terminated, and that the original charter was still valid. A committee appointed by the Chancellor to advise her on the matter will hear from Driemeier and TAARP at a meeting later this month.

Driemeier said the wording of the legislation itself was problematic in that it was very vague about the duties of the sponsor of a charter school and

provided no compensation to the sponsor for the time spent reviewing a proposed school or doing follow-up work to insure the quality of the institution. He said the University had hoped the legislature would address those problems with the law with changes proposed last year, but the revisions never materialized.

Beyah said he felt the politics surrounding the review of the charter school law tainted the decision-making process.

Another issue which may have complicated matters was the surfacing of Beyah's criminal record. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on July 9, 1999 that Beyah had been to prison in 1986 after violating his probation by testing positive for cocaine and PCP. The article also said Beyah spent 41 months in prison for stealing federal postal money orders.

As of Friday, *The Current* had not

see **CHARTER SCHOOL**, page 10

Out with the old . . .



Workers carefully tear apart Garage H, near the Telecommunity Center. Garage H had to be demolished to make room for the new Performing Arts Center, scheduled to be completed in Sept. 2002.

Darren Brunel/The Current

Popular math professor dies of heart attack

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Every once in a while, someone comes along who touches all who meet him in a very special way. Perhaps nobody exemplified this more than Professor Edward Z. Andalafte. His death on Tuesday, May 30th, 2000 has left a void in the Department of Math and Computer Science at the University of

Missouri—St. Louis. Friends, colleagues, and students all remember him fondly. Professor Andalafte came to UMSL in 1964, when



Andalafte

the department consisted of just one building which was nothing more than a clubhouse. But according to Dr. Ray Balbes, a close friend and colleague of the late professor, Andalafte had a clear vision for the future of the UMSL Mathematics Department should be. In the early years, the department received strong support from the administration

see **PROFESSOR**, page 8

. . . and in with the new

Student Center nearing completion, other projects progressing on schedule

BY PATRICK WESTON
staff writer

As students may have noticed, several areas of the UM-St. Louis campus are currently under construction, including the new Millennium Student Center.

According to Sam Darandari, Director of Campus Planning and Engineering, the construction is going well. All projects are currently on schedule and most should be finished before the fall semester begins.

The Millennium Plaza's main structure should be completed by the end of June, Darandari said. Minor adjustments will continue throughout July while departments relocate to the new Student Center. The bridge linking the building with the quadrangle should be finished by August 1 with the Center entirely completed shortly after that.

The new Student Center will provide space for administrative offices and student organizations, rendering the previously-used University

Center and portions of Woods Hall obsolete. Darandari said that the University was "exploring different options" regarding what would be done with the University Center and Woods Hall once the Center is completed. The final decision, however, is left to Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

The University's food court and cafeteria, the Underground, will also be moved to the new Center. George Schmidt, Director of Food Services, cited a few changes to be made in the Underground once it relocates, such as the addition of a new "World's Fair" section featuring a variety of foreign foods. Also, the popular student charge will no longer be an accepted method of payment, Schmidt said.

Meanwhile, other areas of the campus are under construction as well, Darandari said, including the Performing Arts Center, the service road, Benton Hall and the new East Parking Garage. Darandari said that all are keeping to schedule and should be completed soon.



Contractors use a giant crane at the construction site of the new East Parking Garage, located near the Millennium Student Center.

Mutsaers/Current

Faculty, friends celebrate life of optometry dean

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Faculty and friends from all over the Midwest, mourn the passing of Dr. Jack Winn Bennett, the former Dean of Optometry at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. He died unexpectedly of a rare neurological disease Friday, April 28th at his home in Bloomington, Indiana.

Dr. Bennett lived an extraordinary life. He was born in 1932 in Bloomington, and attended Indiana University. Then duty called. He joined the U.S. Army in 1950, and was an optical technician during the Korean War. After serving his country with dignity and honor, Dr. Bennett returned to Indiana University. In 1958, he received his bachelor of science degree in optometry. Dr. Bennett did not stop there, however. The following year he earned his masters in optometry. For the next 12 years, he practiced optometry with skill and dedication in Bloomington. From 1970 until 1998, Dr. Bennett served in a

see **DEAN**, page 8

Bulletin Board

Monday, June 19

•**Performance-Based Assessment and Inquiry-Based Learning** in Elementary School Mathematics begins and will run until Friday, June 30 in the J. C. Penney Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by the College of Education, Continuing Education & Outreach, the main focus of this workshop is to deepen the understanding of the mathematical content elementary school teachers are to teach as well as to enhance their knowledge and practical skills. The program is free unless a credit option is chosen. For more information contact Dr. Simon Kim at 6437

•**Kids 'n' Computers**, sponsored by Microcomputers Continuing Education & Outreach, gives children the opportunity to discover the thrill of computers. Children will be encouraged to explore beyond the usual by using their creativity and imagination to solve problems, seek alternatives and explore the future. The classes will run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 p.m., 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. and 12:30 to 1:50 p.m. at the West County Computer Center, near I-270 and Manchester Road. Fees for the classes are \$49 or

\$90 per two and \$59 per couple for parent/child classes. For more information contact Sylvia Poe at 5957.

Friday, June 30

•**2000/2001 John Perry/Staff Association Scholarship** applications are now being accepted. The scholarship is awarded to a dependent of any UM staff member, housed at UMSL, who is an entering freshman, pursuing an undergraduate degree and enrolling in at least 12 credit hours. Selection is also made on merit, need and class rank. The deadline is June 30 and for more information contact Student Financial Aid at 5526.

Friday, August 11

•**New Student Orientation** will be held in the brand new Student Center (scheduled to open in Summer 2000!) and will run from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, August 11, Saturday, August 12 and Friday, August 18. Come learn about the campus, meet current students and organizations, learn policies and procedures and qualify for bookstore gift certificates. Become a part of our community of scholars and have fun.

Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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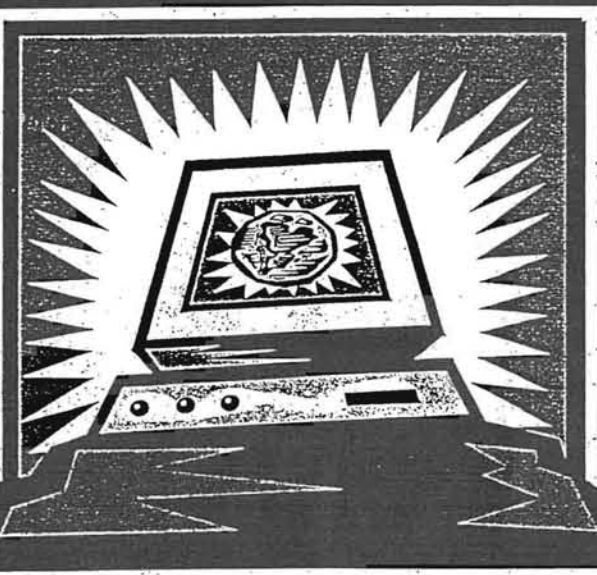
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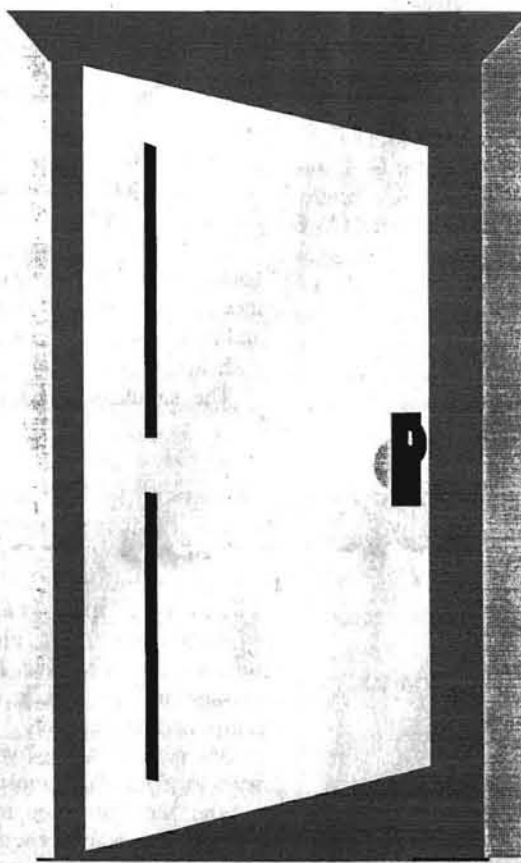
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Treasures

— of — Russia

Exhibit on display now at
Missouri History Museum

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

The Russians are here. Maybe that would mean more during the Cold War, but many years after the thaw and the opening of Russian and American relations, the gates of Russia have warmed for Americans to glimpse at the wealth and detail of Russian treasures.

"Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World," an exquisite collection of over 350 Russian art pieces and artifacts, will be on display through Aug. 17 at the Missouri History Museum's Emerson Electric Center. The center, newly opened, is located in Forest Park.

The Russian State Historical Museum, the Russian Archives and the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation in a collaborative effort present this exhibit in only three United States cities.

"Unseen Treasures" offers art objects of rulers Catherine the Great and Alexander I along with icons of the Russian church, costumes and portraits. The collection includes items used in Russia's energies to create trading posts in what is now Alaska.

John Dalzell, senior curator at the History Museum, helped to build "Unseen Treasures."

"You'll never get another chance to see these items anywhere else," Dalzell said.

Some pieces Dalzell really appreciates offer insight into the past events and people who have shaped Russian history leading to American and Russian communications. Much of this was established in the sale of

Alaska to Seward in the 18th century.

Russia initially began trading with Alaskan natives to gain furs, wood and new materials to be used to decorate their courts.

"What they gave in return was the Orthodox church and a unified government," Dalzell said, adding that the natives did not always like that, but it was a system of government they did follow.

Some pieces taken from Alaska include a leather seal, a water-spirit mask, furs and woodcarvings.

Objects that date before that, such as Catherine the Great's portrait, a baroque sleigh for the coronation of Catherine II and a silver cast model of Peter I on his botik, hint at the elegance and luxury of the items that adorned the court.

Catherine II's sleigh still is covered with its original red-velvet cushioning, gilt gold metal and leather detailing. The sleigh was used once and put back in storage, never seen again. The same applies to the dress that was made for a czar's daughter. The rose colored dress has a train at least 11 feet long and

is constructed of hand-woven silk.

"The dress was worn one afternoon, put in storage and never worn again," Dalzell said.

"Unseen Treasures" will be on display

From left to right: An early nineteenth century wedding crown, a ceremonial dress of grand duchess Maria Fedorovna, an oil portrait of Catherine the Great, an eighteenth century wedding chest, and a baroque sleigh of Catherine II.



Photos courtesy Missouri History Museum

daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

For more information, call the History Museum at (314) 746-4599.

Local NOW leader attends classes at UM-St. Louis

BY PATRICK WESTON
staff writer

You might not have noticed, but walking the halls of UM-St. Louis these days is the vice-president of the St. Louis division of one of the nation's largest and strongest feminist groups. Claralyn Price-Bollinger is not only vice-president of the Greater St. Louis chapter of the National

Organization for Women (NOW), but also a student here at UM-St. Louis.

Price-Bollinger has been attending UM-St. Louis since last fall, taking education courses. She is currently enrolled in the elementary education master's degree program, focusing on obtaining her teaching certificate.

As it turns out, Price-Bollinger is not only a college student and vice-president of the Greater St. Louis

NOW chapter, but also serves as chair of the Freedom of Choice Council, "a coalition of many local groups concerned about reproductive rights" as described in the Greater St. Louis NOW newsletter. In addition, she is also on the board of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and is employed at the Sierra Club, the nation's oldest and largest environmental protection organization. "I'm

concerned about progressive causes in general," Price-Bollinger confides.

This past winter, she headed the Council's "Choice Event," an annual celebration of the Roe v. Wade anniversary. The event featured discussion groups on various reproductive rights issues, a documentary on violence associated with abortion protests, as well as an awards ceremony honoring local activists.

Price-Bollinger has been involved with NOW since 1996 when she first took an interest with the Greater St. Louis chapter. She is currently running for president of the division. At press time, the election was over although results were not yet available.

For more information on the National Organization for Women, refer to their website located at www.now.org or call (314) 253-4060.



Kumba, one of the world's largest roller coasters, located in Busch Gardens, Tampa Florida, is only one of the adventures featured in OMNIMAX's "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun."

OMNIMAX has 'Thrill Ride'

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

The world's first air-conditioned roller coaster has arrived in St. Louis. No, it's not at Six Flags and you don't even have to wait in long tedious lines to get on the ride.

"Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" is currently being run at the St. Louis Science Center's OMNIMAX theatre. Because of the design of OMNIMAX when the film races through footage of the Big Shoot in Las Vegas' Stratosphere, and the Kumba and Montu at Tampa Bay's Busch Gardens, you feel as if you really are moving. Your stomach gets a little bit

queasy and you want to grab the side rails to hold on for support.

It's a little like a horror movie, you tell yourself that you are just in a movie theatre and you are not really on a roller coaster.

Then it stops. Here's where the education happens.

"Thrill Ride," gives a brief synopsis of the history of roller coasters and the simplicity of how they operate.

In order to lengthen the film, the content expands to cover how the mechanics of roller coasters (gravity and momentum) have been combined with computers to create simulators.

The simulator effect is what the

OMNIMAX operates on to give you the sensation that you are really there and swimming a sea or sky diving.

If you can ignore or at least tune out the annoying country hick who graces the screen periodically, you will enjoy this short, entertaining flick that also educates. For parents, it's almost ideal with its friendliness to children's attention spans and the fact that it teaches while it plays the senses.

One drawback, it's a bit pricey with adults paying \$6.75 and children slightly less.

"Thrill Ride" runs through Sept. 4. For more information, call the St. Louis Science Center at (314) 289-4444.

Cool Science Tuesdays give respite from heat of summer doldrums

BY ERIN STREMMEL
of The Current staff

Are you looking for something to do during the cool summer nights? The St. Louis Science Center's "Cool Science Tuesdays" has just what you're looking for.

Each year the St. Louis Science Center and other members of the Forest Park community extend their hours making it easier for those who work during regular business times to enjoy the exhibits and programs each establishment has to offer.

"It gives [families] a night to come in and experience the science hands-on when it's not so crowded," said Marketing Coordinator Julie Stewart.

This will allow people to spend more time in the "Discovery Room" with its activities, excavating fossils in its new exhibition "Dig Dinosaurs," or swimming with sharks in the OMNIMAX theater's "Island of the Sharks," while at the same time providing special evening programs for families and children.

With "Cool Science Tuesdays" the St. Louis Science Center will "try to draw people in... by offering certain special features instead of what would go on during the day," Stewart said.

These special programs will

include a variety of crafts and activities focusing on the "Dig Dinosaurs" exhibition - films, murals and a name that dinosaur contest. Also mentioned was that the Science Center's "Space Base," or inflatable planetarium, will run on selected Tuesdays while the Planetarium is being renovated.

What people need to look for, Stewart said, are the fliers and coupons the Center will distribute to promote "Cool Science Tuesdays" and their other programs. Stewart said there will be a "buy-one-get-one-free OMNIMAX [ticket], a buy-one-get-one-free 'Dig Dinosaurs' [ticket] and also a 20% off [discount] in the [gift] shop," which are coupons available in the fliers. The fliers will be available at local libraries and through various sponsors.

"Cool Science Tuesdays" began Jun. 6 and will run through Aug. 29 with hours until 9 p.m. The Science Center's extended summer hours running from Jun. 5 through Sept. 4 are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Tuesday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about the Center's summer programs, ticket prices or show times, call (314) 289-4444, toll-free 1-800-456-SLSC or visit their web site at www.slsc.org.

Shopping, activities cure summer boredom



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

I call it the "mush brain effect." I experience this phenomenon every summer when I don't take classes and just slack around the house and collect dust.

My remedy when I was younger was to feed the monster and sit around the house or my friends' homes and watch movies and eat ice cream.

When I joined the minor work force, at the age of 16, I would work and then warm the couch cushions after I got off until I had to go to work the next day.

I even took a class for a couple of summer sessions. The only reason I did that was because my friend

would drag me out off bed everyday, but as much as I detested it at the time, I was ultimately proud of myself at the end.

So I have to say that I truly admire those who possess the diligence to take summer school and attend occasionally. I tried on my own for almost every summer, but I believe my body has an aversion, so I usually can't make the first class, and finally I drop the thing.

Oh, I forgot... I also shop a lot during the summer. In fact, yesterday I bought \$80 worth of just "stuff." I bought some nail polish, a couple of lawn chairs and a cocktail table (that cost almost as much as the

two chairs and contains less plastic), a telephone, some cotton squares, etc. The point is that it is so easy to spend a lot of my funds on 'stuff.'

Everyone else I talk to seems to understand my predicament. I was saying how I spent all this money on just "stuff" and they said, "Oh yeah, we went to the pool hall, and then the grocery store, and picked up seven items for the cost of about \$90."

This leads to the grocery store where I spend another chunk of money. I call it impulse buying. I'll be standing in line waiting to check out and I'll see croutons or some other meaningless item I think I

need. It's always on sale and I think, "It's just another buck."

So I say after every one-item trip that evolves into a 20-item checkout that I'm going to write a list and stick to it. I have yet to do that.

What I do know is some cool cheap stuff to do during the summer that is relatively inexpensive and that will allow me to continue to "stuff shop."

The St. Louis Zoo is one of the only free zoos in the country, and the bonus is that it's rated third in quality.

The History and Art Museum are also free and air-conditioned.

Movies are not too much to pay

for especially with a student discount and even less to rent.

Forest Park and the Science Center offer a lot of no-cost fun for the college student's budget.

Another benefit to these locations is that they also buffer the "mush brain effect" so that returning to school and thinking in the fall is not so horribly difficult.

Anyway, I think for a while I'm going to submerge myself into non-thinking mode. This whole writing a column has taxed my facilities and I need to refill the reserves.

Until next semester, stay air-conditioned and don't think or work too much. It is summer after all.

STARLING

EDITOR

ANNE PORTER
features editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

QUOTES

"A precedent embalms a principle."
-Benjamin Disraeli
Credit: www.bartleby.com

"Everything is funny as long as it is happening to Somebody Else."

-Will Rogers
Credit: www.starlingtech.com

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be."

-Peter de Vries
Credit: www.starlingtech.com

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Provisional government good idea for elections

The issue:

Although SGA elections - which should have been held last semester - will not be held until the fall, a provisional student government has been formed to handle the coming elections.

We suggest:

This creates hope that the elections will run smoothly. It also means interested candidates should not wait long to begin campaigning.

So what do you think?

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

For the first time in quite a while, the news coming out of the Student Government Association is actually good.

Last year, the tensions of the spring SGA elections carried over into the fall, getting the entire year off to a bad start. This year, that doesn't seem to be the case. The impassioned arguments and threats precipitated by the canceled spring elections will probably be cooled by the selection of three SGA "outsiders" to serve as members of a provisional government.

This is a good move for several reasons. First of all, it should stave off any accusations of conflict-of-interest when the fall elections roll around. Second, students are more apt to trust a provisional government that isn't made up of names and faces that students would associate with last year's SGA debacle.

So where do the members of this provisional student government go from here? Well, if they focus their

energy on the fall elections, things should go smoothly. It will take dedication and attention to detail to ensure that the elections this fall don't become a victim of the same problems of the spring: a lack of ballots, election officials, and voters.

While this planning is taking place, potential candidates for SGA offices would be wise to do their own preparation. If the SGA is to be successful this year, there is a serious issue that needs to be addressed from the get-go: Who will overhaul the SGA constitution and the bylaws, and how quickly? The candidates should all have a plan of action, and they should get their message out to the students as quickly as possible. There will be two weeks to hit the campaign trail, so don't waste them.

It would be a tragedy if these elections are put off to the last minute by both the planners and the candidates. Thankfully, though, that doesn't seem to be the case and the provisional government is off on the right foot.

LETTERS

UMSL not worth the trouble or the cost

I just finished my 2nd year at UM-St. Louis and upon returning home today, I was interrupted by another telemarketer trying to get me to sign up for a special Mastercard for students with no annual fee, low interest, etc. I asked this man where he got my name from and he replied, "I believe it was from your school." After declining his offer, I was reminded of the many offers I'd gotten this semester, most over the phone. I've lost count of how many times I've been interrupted at home by someone from Mastercard or Visa trying to get me to sign up for one of their special college student cards. I've also gotten the same offers in the mail. Some of the mailings even say that my school has "passed my name on to them as someone who may be interested in" whatever it is they're selling. It really irritates me that I spend thousands of dollars to go to UM-St. Louis (when I could have just as easily gone to a community college for much less) and then they turn around and sell my name to these companies so they can bother me at home with phone calls and fill my mailbox with junk!

Thinking about this also reminded me of many other things at UM-St. Louis that I've dealt with over the past two years.

Getting screwed on books: today they gave me \$5 for a book in perfect condition (we hardly used it in the class) that I paid \$25 for just a few months ago. I also have books here at home that I just got stuck

with because "it's an old edition and we're not buying those back." There have been numerous instances throughout my two years here where a teacher lists all the books you need for the class, then at the end of the semester you have some books that were never used and others that were only used for 1 or 2 chapters. I would much rather have paid a few dollars so the teacher could print up copies of just the material we actually used rather than paying \$25 - \$75 for a book that sees very minimal use throughout the class. Add that money lost to what I've paid in tuition.

Getting to class: it was impossible to find a parking space anywhere even close to a building after 9 a.m. for the first year I was here. Then they opened the new garage and parking was no longer a problem. The spaces were finally available but then they started tearing up the whole campus so that now no matter where you parked you had to walk around a construction zone. So I ended up walking twice as much to get to class even though I could now park closer.

Getting screwed on parking permits: man those things are expensive. For what those cost it should be a gold plated plaque that you bolt onto the bumper! Some people don't buy them, some steal them or some make their own at home. Not me, I played by the rules and I still got screwed! In January of '99 I got a \$25 parking ticket because my permit was in the wrong place. I

appealed the ticket. In the meantime the \$25 charge was applied to my student account which I paid off at the end of the semester because they hold your grades until it's paid off, or so I was told. I paid the charge expecting to get a refund check once the appeal was settled. I have since read in the paper that the student court is having problems and not getting anything done. So I guess I'm out another \$25. Add that to tuition, parking permit, and book cost; quite a hefty sum!

Don't get me wrong, I learned alot from the classes I took and I probably could have learned a lot more. There are some excellent programs there and quite a few excellent, first rate instructors like Alan Wagner, Terry Korpals, and Capt. Ed Nestor. But there is a hell of a lot of B.S. to put up with there. And maybe I'm just naive; maybe it's no different at any other college. I simply can't afford to waste any more money at UM-St. Louis for a degree that I'm not sure will do me any good. And I'm just so fed up with trying to deal with the bureaucracy at that school.

So, I'm just going to say goodbye UM-St. Louis. I won't forget it; because I'll be getting credit card offers over the phone all summer, thanks to them!

P.S. As far as I'm concerned you still owe me \$25. You know where to send the check.

-Andrew Weusthoff

What's your opinion?

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

- The Provisional Student Government's try at SGA elections
- The amazing inner-self-cleaning human
- Excessive construction that covers the UM-St. Louis campus

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

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

Behind the doors of the human fridge

There was one thing I especially loved about going to Sunday school at church when I was a kid: object lessons. It seemed I had several Sunday school teachers who were really good with taking real-life events and finding a practical, personal application.

After a recent incident, I thought I, too, might try my hand at a little object lesson.

Here at the newspaper we have our own refrigerator. Refrigerators remind me a lot of people. They're made with a purpose, a job, if you will. And, much like people, what's inside is far more important than what's outside, yet we tend to keep the outside cleaner than the inside, since that's what other people see.

Our refrigerator is no exception. Though you couldn't tell by looking from the outside, the inside of our refrigerator was an almost-literal hell frozen over. Each shelf was coated with some sort of sticky substance, from months-old soda to melted and re-frozen chocolate and to hardened italian salad dressing. Sitting on some shelves were packets of salt, pepper, sugar, parmesan cheese, and pizza peppers; all turned to gooey mush by the aforementioned spillage.

The worst of it, though, had to be the liquefied food. Yes, folks, it would seem that even the crispiest of foods — say, for instance, carrots — will be converted to a hideous black poison, if given the

chance.

All of this nastiness combined together to produce a foul mutant odor. This odor had the ability to permeate our office five seconds after the refrigerator door was opened.

After just a few weeks into the summer, I couldn't take it anymore. Something had to be done.

I declared war and began wagging it. The easiest part was throw-

ing away everything in the fridge that wasn't unopened. After that, though, came the hard part: taking the refrigerator apart, shelf by shelf and then scrubbing, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing each one. After the individual pieces were finished, I had to hit the inside of the fridge itself.

It was a long battle, and I have the scars to prove it, but when all was said and done, the refrigerator was beautiful on the inside again and it didn't smell as much.

So what's the application here? Well, maybe you're like my dad and you've figured out the conclusion ahead of time, but let me tell you anyway. I think everybody is a refrigerator in need of cleaning, from time to time; some of us maybe more so than others. It certainly wouldn't hurt to take a look inside and see what little things might be going bad. Throw them out, use a little sanitizer, and then fill yourself up with good, new stuff.

After all, you can only hide the smell for so long.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Renovations getting to be too much

I hate to start off with a complaint, but here goes:

The other day I went down to Forest Park in an attempt to visit an exhibit at the history museum. I say attempt because I never found the place. It's been a while since I have been to the park, and I'm really not that familiar with the area, but I have heard a lot about the plans to fix it up, so I was curious.

After driving around for the better part of a half hour, I was no longer curious; I was just frustrated. I'd had enough trouble finding the place. There was no big sign saying "Welcome to Forest Park" with a catchy slogan under it. Instead there was only a small street sign, and the one way arrow telling me I was about to turn where I was not supposed to. Once inside, there was little to tell me that I was even there. I drove around for quite a while, during which time I found the art museum, the zoo, The Muny, and a seven-dollar parking lot (seven dollars!?) I saw several mounted police (unfortunately I saw no sign of the guy with the bucket and the pooper scooper, whose services were needed about then).

I followed the wooden signs all over, and I think I finally caught sight of what may have been the history museum, but following the

signs would have taken me up a one-way street with a big "Do Not Enter" sign in front of it, and one of the horse cops was looking at me just then, so I decided against it. Finally, I wandered out, saw a ramp for 40 West, and went home.

Afterwards, I couldn't help thinking that if city officials really want to lure people to the park, they should at least make it easier to get around the place. And that

got me to thinking about UM-St. Louis. We have a lot of construction going on around here: there's the new student center, garages are going up, work is soon to begin on the performing arts center, a new street is being put in — this is a very busy campus, with lots going on. And that's great. If all these projects go through,

this is going to be an amazing campus.

But with all of those things going on, the administrators need to remember that there are lots of students here now who have to put up with all of the hassles of construction, the torn up roads, bull dozer crossings, etc. And there are lots of potential new students visiting for the first time who may not be impressed with our campus/construction zone.

UM-St. Louis seems poised for a period of tremendous growth, but that growth has to be balanced with a commitment to solid academics as well as basic convenience



BRIAN DOUGLAS
managing editor

BOARD

JOSH RENAUD
BRIAN DOUGLAS

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

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

Under Current
by **Mutsumi Igarashi**
staff photographer

What color do you like
best in the sky?



Nao Kobayashi
Sophomore/Undecided

"Blue or orange (sunset)"



Mike Hemphfling
Graduate/MBA

"Sky blue"



Karin Aronson
Graduate/MBA

"Orange (sunset)"



Ed Kroon
Shuttle Bus Driver

"Blue"

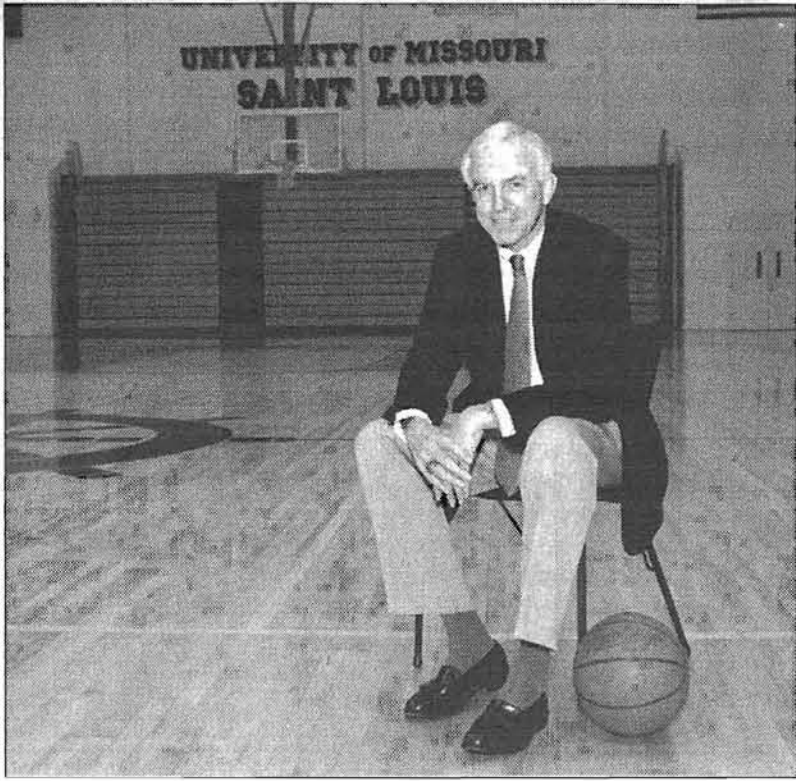
Meckfessel retires

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

Former men's basketball coach and athletic administrator Rich Meckfessel announced his plans to retire from UM-St. Louis this summer.

Meckfessel has been with the university as the head coach of the men's basketball team for 17 years and has been working with Vice Chancellor Reinhard M. Schuster on special projects related to sports.

Meckfessel's 214-252 record made him UM-St. Louis' winningest coach. In 1987-88, the Rivermen's basketball squad set a school record under Meckfessel winning 22 games and making it to the "Sweet 16" of the NCAA Division II national tournament. In 1990-91, Meckfessel coached the Rivermen to a 22-6 record and finished at no. 16 in the national polls. Meckfessel was named the MIAA Coach of the Year three times and boasts an overall record of 463-420.



Meckfessel

Men's golf team loses momentum in NCAA Division II tournament

Team had placed second in North Regional Tournament

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

The Rivermen's golf team earned its first NCAA Division II Championship finals berth as UM-St. Louis placed second in the North Regional Tournament.

UM-St. Louis was second, four shots off the leader Ferris State as the Rivermen shot a score of 900 for the 54-hole score.

Andy Schwob, Doug Kreitner and Denny Lees all finished in the top 20 of the regional tournament.

Upon landing in California for the NCAA Championships, all five members of the qualifying team felt very confident that they could grab a fair share of the points and under the leadership of Head Coach Steve Housemann, all things seemed to be under way for a great run.

"Going into the first day of the tournament, the guys were all thrilled to be

competing at this level," Housemann said. "We talked, and everyone felt that if we kept our momentum through this weekend, we can break the top ten."

But early in the tournament, the Rivermen would find the competition to be much greater than expected.

"During the first day of nationals, we were up against guys from around the world," freshman Kyle Szczeciak said. "In my opening rounds, I saw top-quality guys from Finland, Argentina, and Colombia. There was some great golf showcased out there."

After the opening round, the Rivermen were in a deep hole, and the team's psyche took a beating.

UM-St. Louis shot a 17-over par 305 to put the Rivermen in 16th place overall after the first day. Lees finished the first day tied for 45th place shooting a three over par 75 and Schwob finished one shot behind Lees.

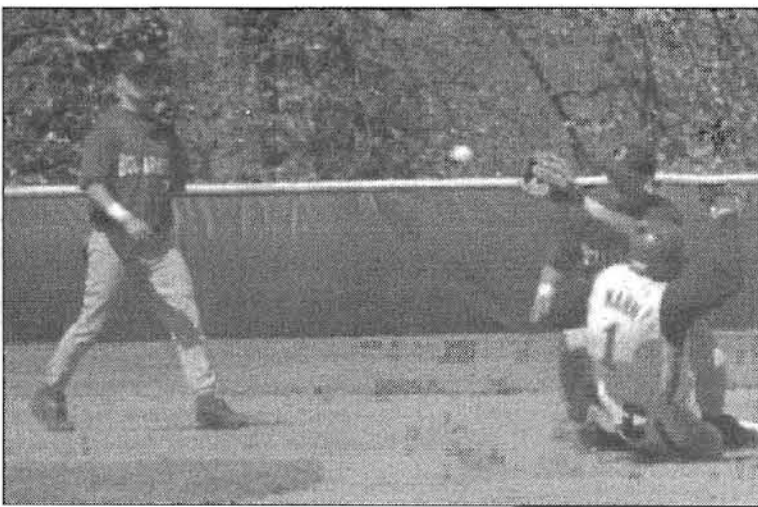
"I think the boys were really overwhelmed by the levels of competition

out there," Housemann said. "A lot of mental breakdowns led to very high shot totals. Really, the team just picked the worst time of the season to play the worst golf of the season."

Before the end of the final day, the Rivermen found themselves sitting in 18th place overall while shooting a four-day total of 1260. Lees tied for 69th overall while Schwob tied for 82nd overall.

With all five members of the traveling squad returning, as well as the others on standby, UM-St. Louis will field a very solid group of golfers for the fall season.

"One thing we did take from this trip was an incredible amount of golf knowledge," Kyle Szczeciak said. "We were exposed nationally to the best of the best, and we all learned how to compete at the highest levels. Also, the whole team really came together during the tourney, and we are all a whole lot closer than ever before."



Darren Brunel The Current

Norman Mann (1) slides into second base ahead of the tag during a game Apr. 21 against Bellarmine. The Rivermen won 1-0.

Baseball Rivermen denied chance to play in post-season

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

After a stellar regular season, where the men's baseball team won the regular season Great Lakes Valley Conference with a 33-10 record, UM-St. Louis looked poised for what could have been a memorable National Collegiate Athletic Association World Series run.

Entering the GLVC playoffs, the Rivermen faced a hungry Quincy University team, which the Rivermen had both beaten and lost to in the regular season. Quincy ended up winning by one run.

In the ensuing play-backs, UM-St. Louis faced Lewis University and through eight innings, they held a 4-3 lead. But in the bottom of the eighth, the Rivermen's pitching staff couldn't put the Flyers out, as with two outs, Lewis managed a pair of runs to eventually take the game.

"Our conference tourney was rough," Head Coach Jim Brady said. "It wasn't a matter of the guys not being prepped, or playing badly. We just had a couple of really bad breaks and we were playing at a level where you can make no mistakes."

Barring a travesty, the Rivermen still looked to be bound for the Series, despite their losses in the conference tournament. However, some questionable voting denied UM-St. Louis post-season play,

despite their regular season accomplishments.

"This whole situation really leaves a black eye on what was a phenomenal season," Brady said. "The national tournament is supposed to be a showcase for the best teams in the nation. Teams that showed winning ways consistently throughout the regular season are supposed to compete for the title. How a team that lost two one-run games can be excluded is beyond me."

Surprisingly, the GLVC only sent one representative, despite having an average conference record of .537. Even more appalling, the GLIAC, whose average was a tad above .300, sent three representatives.

"That I don't understand," Brady said. "How can a selection committee honestly take three teams from a conference of that caliber and say that is the best representation for NCAA baseball?"

Despite the way their season ended, Brady and the team are not disappointed in their play.

"I think when we all look back on this season, we at the university will truly understand how good we were," Brady said. "33-10 is nothing to balk at, and I think most will agree. It is a shame that we weren't allowed to compete for the championship, but that does not take away from our season."

Softball Riverwomen end up third in GLVC

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The women's softball team hit full stride heading into the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament during the spring and finished third overall.

Going into tournament play, the Riverwomen were seeded sixth with a 10-8 mark, but strong defense and solid pitching by senior Kathleen Rogoz allowed the Riverwomen to finish the season on a tear.

UM-St. Louis struggled through the middle part of their regular season, but Head Coach Lesa Bonee' thought that it was a building process for the team coming into the conference tournament.

"I think that while we were on our roller coaster ride, one day at practice, we went back to the basics," Bonee' said. "From that point on we started over. We reached a point where we knew we were better than that. We went into the tournament with the mindset of having nothing to lose."

UM-St. Louis opened the tournament with a loss to SIU-Edwardsville 6-2, but won three consecutive games against Bellarmine 2-0, Quincy 2-0 and Northern Kentucky 5-4 in 14 innings to become one of the top three teams along with Wisconsin Parkside and Lewis University to battle it out for the championship.

The Riverwomen challenged Lewis to a great battle, but lost the



Andrea Sczurko waits patiently as the Bellarmine pitcher seems to constantly avoid pitching over the plate.

game 5-2. Lewis went on to lose the tournament to Wisconsin Parkside, but went on to the NCAA Division II Championships where the team made it to the Elite Eight before bowing

out. "With such a strong finish, the girls are going to feed off of that for next year," Bonee' said. "Finishing third just shot our expectation up.

Next year we expect to be in the championship game."

Two UM-St. Louis players were honored on the All GLVC team. Junior outfielder Andrea Wirkus was

selected to the first team as she led the Riverwomen in almost every category while being second in the nation in triples.

"She did a great job this season," Bonee' said. "She is just a tough out while on offense. She will move out from behind the plate next season and play more in right outfield."

Senior pitcher Kathleen Rogoz made the second team as she led the Riverwomen with a 21-8 record while striking out 105 batters during her last season as a Riverwoman. Rogoz was also named to the Second Team All-Great Lakes Region team as well. Rogoz will remain with the team as a student assistant.

"You can't replace Kat," Bonee' said. "Those shoes are going to be just so hard to fill because she is a tremendous player. She is the best pitcher that I have ever had the privilege of working with. There is no way that [Rogoz] belonged on the second team."

With such a successful season in the first year under Bonee', the Riverwomen's look for the 2001 season will change, but become more offensive through new recruits as the Riverwomen have big shoes to fill through the losses of Rogoz and middle infielder Sara Mauck.

"We are going to spend a lot more time on the offensive," Bonee' said. "We got into a sluggish period with our offense this season, but that lapse won't happen next season."

Even without signing Sanders, Rams are still the team to beat



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Since the Rams have won the Super Bowl this past year, all I have heard is that they are not going to be as good, the team has lost too many players and Dick Vermeil was the heart and soul of the team. I think the heat has got to all of these people a little too much and they should be seeking some shade, if not some psychological help.

The Rams are not only going to be good this next season, they could possibly be even better than they were a year ago. With a healthy and surgically repaired Kurt Warner as the declared quarterback for the 2000 season, the

Rams' offense feels confident and knows the system after a strong 1999 season.

The offensive line is stronger than ever with Orlando Pace returning from his Pro Bowl season last year and the wide receiving core of Holt, Bruce, Hakim and Proehl will dazzle and outrun any secondary in the National Football League. Outrunning the Washington Redskins secondary will not even faze the speedy receivers.

It does not even matter that the Redskins got Deion Sanders from the free agent pool this offseason. He is not a proven commodity with

his long list of injuries from last season alone. He suffered from what was called not wanting to play on a team that did not make the playoffs syndrome. His team was not as good as others and he was ashamed of it.

The real question, though, is if Deion is worth a seven year contract. The Rams were in the hunt for Sanders' services, but for seven years? It was too much of a gamble to pay a man as much as his contract offered for the long duration. He would have been too much of a distraction for the silent but deadly Rams' secondary.

His loud mouth running ram-

pantly to the media about the club and the showboating is not what the Rams wanted in a safety. Yes he is good, but does all of the attention bode well for a team coming off a Super Bowl championship? It was like Dennis Rodman wanting to sign with the Los Angeles Lakers before the playoffs after he had been released by the Dallas Mavericks. Phil Jackson did not want the distraction for his ballclub and wanted them to be mentally ready for the playoffs.

Well now that Sanders is not an issue for the Rams they can focus on what makes them the team to

beat again in the playoffs heading into the 2000 season: the underdog.

The excitement that the Redskins are hyping up about them being the ones to beat this upcoming season gives the Rams' underpublicized and underappreciated players more motivation than ever to go and prove to the world that they are the team to beat again.

Mini camps may have just begun for the Rams, but some consider it the regular season already. We must wait and see who is the best of the best and which team can and cannot buy a championship.

SPORTS

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sports editor

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SUMMER

Mark Twain Hours

Mon-Thurs 6:30am-9pm
Fridays 6:30am-5pm
Saturdays 10am-7pm
Sundays CLOSED

Intramurals

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Wednesdays at noon
June 14 - July 26

GOLF MEDAL TOURNEY:
St. Charles Golf Course
Friday, June 23, 7am-3pm

SINGLES TENNIS TOURNEY:
UMSL Tennis Courts
Saturday, July 15, 9am-1pm

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recsport/index.html

A&E

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MUSIC

June

15

Staind, P.O.D., Dope
Pop's

24

"Power To The People"
Riverport Amphitheatre

26

Sunny Day Real Estate
The Firehouse

28

'N Sync, Pink
Kiel Center

29

Red Hot Chili Peppers, Foo
Fighters
Riverport Amphitheatre

July

1

Blink-182, Bad Religion
Kiel Center

3

"Summer Sanitarium Tour"
Gateway International
Speedway

WEB

There's lots more A&E stories, reviews, and calendars available on thecurrentonline.com! Visit this week and get the scoop on "Mission Impossible: 2," a summer movie series at the Tivoli, and much more!

Understandable, Enjoyable



Soprano Mary Dunleavy stars in "La Traviata" as courtesan Violetta.

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

If you enjoy classical music even a little, but are hesitant about plunging into opera, Opera Theater offers the most pleasant introduction imaginable without watering down the works so fans would be disappointed. Before I turn my remarks to their wonderful production of the classic opera, *La Traviata*, I want to offer a little introduction to Opera Theater generally. The name of the company says it all: operas staged with an eye to the drama of the work. Sung in English, which makes it easier to follow the story, the visual appeal of the costumes, the sets and staging, and the acting all combine to add zesty flavor to the music itself. If you get to the theater a half hour early, you can attend a brief talk about the evening's opera, where they give you the story of the opera and some background on it, in a gossipy, highly entertaining form that is both informative and fun rather than stuffy and academic.

And then there are the performers.... Opera Theater is committed to casting mostly young, upcoming singers in their parts, and here's why this is such a bonus to the audience: You will be seeing the rising stars of opera, with their voices at the peak of the power that will earn them fame in the world of opera. Along with the remarkable power of their voices, their youth means that they look the parts of the young people they are playing (no fat middle-aged sopranos playing a beautiful 20 year-old courtesan here, this soprano really is 23 years old and looks the part). What's more, the emphasis on the dramatic elements of

the opera as well as the music means the young cast skillfully act the parts as well as sing them. Opera Theater presents both popular and familiar works, making it a good introduction to opera, and a few lesser-known works. This season's openers are perfect examples: *La Traviata* is one of the most popular and famous operas, and it alternates in performances with the season's opener *Treemonisha*, Scott Joplin's only surviving opera, a work never performed until recent years and which is winning glowing reviews.

So, what about *La Traviata*? In a word, it was marvelous. In an opera, often tragedy and the dramatic dominate. The story, in a nutshell, is a tragedy about an 1850s Parisian courtesan, Violetta, who falls in love with a young man, Alfredo, and is later persuaded by his father to sacrifice her feelings by giving him up. Later, when he finds out the true reason she left, he seeks her out in Paris, where he finds her dying of consumption. Frankly, you could hardly pick a better introduction to the art form.

The classic beauty of the music of Verdi's opera needed only the singers' voices to bring it out, and what talented voices they are. The whole cast was wonderful, with powerful voices of crystalline beauty and the dramatic acting the parts required. One of the standout performers was Gary Lehman, as Alfredo's father, who sang his role with a remarkable level of passion and subtly in feeling, and John Bellemer as Alfredo, also strong in his

role. And then there was Violetta, soprano Mary Dunleavy, whose power and skill was nothing short of astounding. With every aria, she filled the theater with sound and sent thrills through the audience. The opera was stopped several times by the audience's enthusiastic applause.

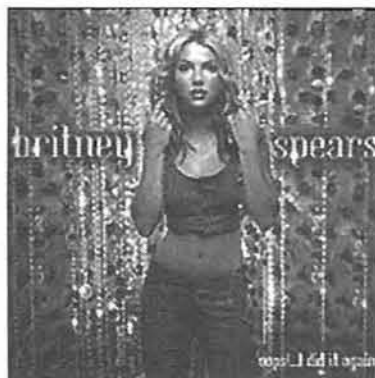
The look of the simple, elegant sets were perfect, evoking the time period and the lushness of high society, and enhanced by the inspired lighting, which added a depth to the simplicity of the sets and added to the changing scenes. The costumes were colorful and beautiful, and the designs added subtle commentary on the characters or the events, such as the nearly transparent gown through which one could see the red slip of the courtesan. The drama of the work was carried well by the attention the performers paid to the acting as they sang their parts. There is an energetic scene at a party where members of the supporting cast are called on to perform some acrobatic moves, and it couldn't have been better staged, adding tremendously to the scene.

At the end of the evening, lead soprano Mary Dunleavy's appearance was greeted with the most spontaneous and sustained standing ovation I have ever seen. This was an accolade well-deserved, not only by this talented performer, but by the entire wonderful performance.

(Now playing through June 24, performances alternating with other operas, at the Loretto-Hilton Center, on the campus of Webster University)

ALBUM REVIEWS

Britney Spears
Oops!... I Did It Again
Jive, 2000



Britney Spears has done it again: she's recorded another album that manages to sell by the millions while lacking any sort of real artistic content. Instead of focusing on music, Ms. Spears, the pop princess who blazed the trail from Mouseketeer to teen sensation, has been spending time appearing on MTV's *Total Request Live* and publicizing her new memorabilia line. However, this makes sense considering that the reason Jive released *Oops!... I Did It Again* is not for music but money.

Nonetheless, Britney manages to have catchy pop songs manufactured for her by producers Max Martin, Robert Lang and Rodney Jerkins. Songs such as "Oops!... I Did It Again" and "Don't Go Knocking On My Door" are truly catchy, albeit in the mysterious sort of way informercials are interesting. Meanwhile, Spears takes an unsuccessful stab the Rolling Stones' tune "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," a song even respectable artists Devo and Aretha Franklin have been unable to do justice.

Britney asserts that this album is "a little bit more mature-sounding" than her debut, according to SonicNet News. While that may be the case, the difference is negligible and all but lost on her prepubescent fan base. The only thing slightly mature about *Oops!...* is that she actually co-wrote one of the album's

songs, a first for the singer. Still, the fact that the featured performer penned only half of one of the 12 tracks does nothing for her musical credibility.

Be sure to save your money rather than support Spears' new record. A set of breast implants would do less to damage the minds of young girls.

Kid Rock
The History of Rock
Atlantic, 2000



Kid Rock is the American Bad Ass. Here he is following up the largely-successful *Devil Without A Cause* with a selection of songs chosen from the Kid's previous ten years along with a few new tunes. Kid Rock (born Robert Richie) classics such as "Paid" and the grooving "Early Mornin' Stoned Pimp" are as rocking as the songs the public has grown to love, albeit they are touched up a bit, and in some cases, rerecorded. Meanwhile, "Fuck That" from the "Any Given Sunday" soundtrack is thrown in for good measure along with the current sample-heavy single "American Bad Ass." A bit interesting are the older Kid Rock moments such as "Dark and Grey" and the country-rock "Born 2 B A Hick," pulled from Kid Rock's personal stash of demo tapes.

"All this shit that I've been bragging about, talking about 'I've been here for ten years...'" the Kid said in a recent issue of *Rolling Stone*.

"Here's the proof of it." In a recent press release, he says with pride, "That's where I was and I want the kids to hear that."

Kid Rock will be performing in St. Louis this summer along with Metallica and Korn on the "Summer Sanitarium" tour.

Belle and Sebastian
Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like A Peasant
Matador, 2000



Belle and Sebastian have returned after taking a short break filled with re-releases of previously hard-to-find material — their debut, *Tigermilk*, and *Lazy Line Painter Jane*, a boxed set of UK EP's. Their new record, *Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like A Peasant*, finds the group expanding their intimate chamber-pop sound with string and horn arrangements as well as vintage keyboards. Tracks such as "The Model" and "Women's Realm" sound like the best material from *The Boy With The Arab Strap*, while "I Fought In A War" and "Nice Day For A Sulk" continue to push the limits of what this seven-piece is capable of. *Fold Your Hands* is full of interesting songs as beautiful and catchy as anything you'll ever hear. Why these songs aren't tearing up the charts is beyond comprehension.

-Reviews by Patrick Weston

Corgan talks about Smashing Pumpkins' new album, breakup

BY PATRICK WESTON
staff writer

On Tuesday, May 23, Billy Corgan announced the imminent end of The Smashing Pumpkins after 13 years and six albums. Through an on-air interview for the Los Angeles radio station KROQ, Corgan explained that the band will break up at the end of the year.

"We felt that before the start of this album [*Machina / the machines of God*] that we had sort of come to the end of our... road — emotionally, spiritually, musically," Corgan said. He later told *The Chicago Tribune* that "if you listen to [*Machina*], look at the artwork, it's screaming this is the last record. The concept of the record, the story inside the record, is about the band ending."

"We wanted to make one more album, together," Corgan said. "That was the intention of getting Jimmy back in the band... and sort of end on a good note."

Corgan mentioned that the band had hoped to tour with original bassist D'arcy Wretzky-Brown, but in Pumpkin tradition, plans fell through. D'arcy left the band after completing work on *Machina* and is presently pursuing an acting career.

The group's breakup wasn't announced sooner for fear of overshadowing the music, Corgan said. He went on to describe the Pumpkins' plans for the rest of the year, including shooting a video for "Try, Try, Try," recording an episode of VH1's *Storytellers* and possibly launching a farewell tour. Corgan also mentioned that more songs from the *Machina* sessions may be released sometime in the near future.

"We've actually... got about another album's worth of songs left



Billy Corgan (front) announced May 23 that Smashing Pumpkins would be disbanding after 13 years together.

over from *Machina* which we're going to try to finish starting in June," he said. "We also might do some additional... live recording, so there's other stuff that we're going to... release, but when it comes out, whether [it's] now or ten years from now, I really can't say."

According to Corgan, guitarist James Iha will continue with his solo work, while drummer Jimmy Chamberlain will pursue auto racing. Meanwhile, Corgan weighs his options regarding future projects.

"I'm lucky... I think I can do whatever I want to do. I think all... doors are open now," he said.

The KROQ interview was concluded with "Muzzle" from 1995's *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*, featuring the lyrics "As all things must surely have to end / And great loves will one day have to part."

Summer is great time to expand your cultural horizons

As the long hot summer stretches out ahead....

In June, the summer seems long and its possibilities are endlessly inviting, but then it really passes so quickly. In summer, the pace and pattern of activities change. Movies change from the more serious dramas and art films to the big summer blockbusters of special effects and action films, and from sophisticated, subtler comedies to broader, sillier (but still funny) comedies. The weightier drama of shows like "Miss Saigon" at the Fox makes room for the perennial fare of the Mundy. The St. Louis Repertory Theater's reliably wonderful plays fade out as the

approachable, opera-in-English presentations of Opera Theater of St. Louis opens. The Symphony goes from Beethoven to the Summer Pops. The outdoor concerts of all musical types beckon us - rock, pop, metal, jazz, blues, classical. Special summer-only offerings in arts and entertainment appear everywhere, tempting us with choices ranging from the Tivoli's summer-long series of mid-night showings of cult and offbeat films to St. Louis Shakespeare Company's creative and enthusiastic presentations of the Bard's works.

In this issue, we'll offer you some suggestions on these summer treats. Offerings that appeal to every taste are available, but summer is a good

time to try something you haven't sampled before.

Have you toured the City Museum downtown yet? This eclectic urban experience is the creation of artists Gail and Bob Cassilly, who have specialized in reuse of found materials in creating some of the most beautiful and usual walk through environments.

The Cassillys' interests in the natural world and in historic urban environments are reflected in the diverse nature of the Museum. Everything from an actual iron train trestle just outside the entrance, a fantastic whale you can walk through, to a staircase made from the mechanical parts of a conveyor, now painted in creative

patterns, can be found at this playground for the urban arts. The City Museum also has Beatnik Bob's, artist Bill Chrisman's whimsical combination of Gaslight Square and 1950s sideshow attractions. This exists right along side the Everyday Circus, a small local circus dedicated to the fun of circus arts and connected with the wonderful Circus Flora, and fascinating museum of St. Louis architecture. To say nothing of the shoele factory, traveling exhibits, the glassblowers, and the other artists found here.

Summer is a good time too to visit some of the jewels of Forest Park and nearby areas. A trip to the Art Museum to visit one of its many trav-

eling exhibits or just enjoy the beauty of the 1904 building itself and its contents is a good way to spend a summer day - free and out of the summer heat! Or the newly renovated History Museum nearby offers intriguing glimpses at history in a graceful setting. If the weather is more bearable, visit the new elephant compound, The River's Edge, at the Zoo or the beautiful Botanical Garden (considered the world's best).

In addition to all this, lots of concerts are scheduled for the summer and new movies are opening every week. Read through the reviews and the calendars and you'll be sure to find something to raise your curiosity. Before the summer rushes by....



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FILM REVIEW

'60 Seconds' takes audience on non-stop action joyride



In "Gone in 60 Seconds," Randall "Memphis" Raines and his posse must steal over 50 cars, like this Porsche, in one night.

BY ERIN STREMMEL
of The Current staff

Jerry Bruckheimer restores and revives the 1974 cult classic "Gone in 60 Seconds". The 1974 film, which H. B. "Toby" Halicki wrote, directed, produced and starred in, runs only 95 minutes and destroys 93 cars in a 40-minute chase scene, which proclaimed Halicki as the "Car Crash King" and named the film "The Original Basher."

In this new "Gone in 60 Seconds", producer Jerry Bruckheimer stays true to Halicki's "basher" vision with fast-paced action sequences and phenomenal stunts (including a return performance by "Eleanor", a 1967 Shelby Mustang GT 500, in the final chase scene), altering the concept only by improving in the plot with writer Scott Rosenberg's character development. This new "character driven" version of the film focuses more on redemption and love, the relationships between the young and the old, and the varying degrees and styles of stealing cars.

Randall "Memphis" Raines (Nicolas Cage) takes the place of Maindrian Pace (Halicki) as an auto aficionado and masterful car thief. When he discovers that his brother, Kip (Giovanni Ribisi), has followed in his footsteps and gotten himself entangled in a life-threatening boost, Memphis must use his expertise to find a way to steal 50 cars in one night.

The new "Gone in 60 Seconds" takes the audience for a non-stop joy

ride with action and humor reminiscent of Bruckheimer's earlier works "The Rock", "Con Air" and "Days of Thunder". This movie is definitely worth a trip to the theatre.

Now playing at Esquire, Des Peres, and other theaters.

'Gone in 60 Seconds'

Length: 119 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★★★★



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CONCERT REVIEW

Despite imminent demise, The Cure puts on energetic show at Riveport

BY PATRICK WESTON
staff writer

The Cure is touring and once again vocalist Robert Smith has identified this, the Dream Tour 2000, as the last outing the band will make. With the group's end looming in the near future, The Cure performed an intense and wonderfully positive set Wednesday night at Riveport Amphitheatre.

The band played a varied selection of songs from their 21-year career while focusing heavily on the trilogy begun with 1982's Pornography, continued with 1989's Disintegration and recently completed with this year's Bloodflowers.

The Cure began with Bloodflowers' first two tracks, "Out of This World" and the epic "Watching You Fall," followed by 1996's "Want" as swirling colours and lights illuminated the stage. The group went on to perform a selection of songs from Disintegration, including the hits

"Fascination Street" and "Pictures of You," as well as "In Between Days" and a few songs from Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me. The set wound down with "Siamese Twins" and "One Hundred Years" from Pornography before closing with "39" and Bloodflowers' title track. A single yellow spotlight highlighted Robert Smith as he sang the words "These flowers will never die."

After taking a short break, the band returned to the stage to perform the first in a series of concise encores. Beginning with "Jupiter Crash" and "M," the first concluded with an amazing performance of "A Forest" from their 1980 sophomore effort Seventeen

'Dream Tour 2000'

Artist: The Cure
Date: June 7, 2000
Venue: Riverport

Seconds. Shortly the group retook the stage once again for a set of songs taken from Pornography — "Cold," "A Strange Day" and "Pornography."

Concluding the evening was the show's third encore, three songs from The Cure's debut Boy's Don't Cry. The concert ended with an energetic "Killing An Arab." "Thank you," Smith said, "and goodnight."

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Pages of History . . . Remembering D-Day

Normandy invasion changed the course of world history

The time was 25 minutes past four, Tuesday morning June 6th, 1944. Major-General Werner Pluskat, of the 352nd German artillery division, peered through his field glasses at the swirling white caps on the English Channel. From his bunker overlooking Omaha Beach, he witnessed tranquillity in its purest form. He put his binoculars down for a moment and rubbed his weary eyes. After a short conversation with a young lieutenant, Pluskat decided to have one more look before returning to his headquarters. Suddenly, hundreds of dark shapes began to appear on the horizon. They were the silhouettes of Allied ships. "My God," Pluskat exclaimed, "It's the invasion!" He was right. It was the D-Day invasion.

This past Tuesday, June 6th, 2000, was the 56th Anniversary to the day, of perhaps the most prodigious moment in the history of the world. For on that day back in 1944, 175,000 Allied soldiers stormed Fortress Europe and smashed through Hitler's vaunted Atlantic Wall.

The spectacular D-Day invasion was the single largest amphibious assault of all time. The force comprised of 6,483 ships, 4,000 landing craft, 5,000 fighter planes, 7,000 bombers, 1,200 transports, 700 gliders, 20,000 paratroopers, 200 U.S. Rangers, 33,000 tanks, 40,000 artillery pieces, and 3.5 million troops. Nearly 70% of the entire force was American.

The massive attack took place along the Normandy coast of France between the towns of Cabourg and Quineville. The plan called for three divisions of paratroopers, two of them American, to drop behind German lines. Their objective was to take and hold key road junctions and prevent German reinforcements from moving up to the coast. After this was accomplished, an enormous air and sea bom-

bardment would pave the way for one Canadian, two British, and three American divisions to assault five beaches code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Resistance was light on four of the five beaches. The one beach where German resistance was heavy was Omaha.

With its 100 foot high bluffs, the seven-mile long beach was a perfect defensive position for the Germans; and they took full advantage of it. Nestled behind concrete fortifications some three-feet thick were 85 heavy machine-gun nests, 24 heavy artillery pieces, 39 light artillery pieces, 100 mortars, and a dozen sniper towers. In addition to this, the beach itself was strewn with several thousand tons of obstacles, and topped off with four-thousand mines.

The American attack, which began at 6:30 in the morning, met ferocious resistance. By 9:00 a.m. casualties were so high that the commanding general considered abandoning the beach. Two hours later, the American attackers were still pinned down. Then, in one of the most monumental displays of bravery in military history, small groups of Americans began moving straight up the bluffs.

They destroyed German bunkers with flame-throwers at point blank range. By early afternoon, most of the bluffs at Omaha were safely in American hands. The price of victory did not come cheaply, however. In the battle for Omaha, 1,200 Americans were killed, and 3,300 were wounded.

D-Day forever changed the course of history. It also marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. We should never forget the men who perished that day. Many of them were younger than either you or I. They sacrificed their lives, so the world would forever be free of tyranny.



TIM THOMPSON
history columnist

Provisional student government to fill SGA void until fall elections

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

Administrators and student leaders think they've found a way to fill the leadership void left by the cancellation of this spring's Student Government Association elections.

The solution is naming three relatively unknown students to serve as a provisional government after the terms of the current SGA officers expire July 1 and until new elections can be held this fall.

The three students selected to serve are Ellory Glenn, Mary Grace Rhoda, and Janice Black. Each will have an equal say in the government during a ten week term.

None of the three has served on

the SGA before, nor has any ties to former SGA officers.

There is nothing specific in the SGA's constitution regarding a voided election, so the students of the provisional government are traveling uncharted waters.

"They will bring a lot of life experience as well as input. They're just interested in serving the students," Blanton said of the appointees.

Ellory Glenn is the president of the Delta Sigma Pi fraternity and a 20-year veteran of the US Marine Corps. Mary Grace Rhoda was recently elected president of the Political Science Academy and is a member of the Pierre Laclède Honors College. Janice Black's

experience includes being the president of the Student Social Work Association.

The problems with SGA leadership are not new; last year vice-president-elect Carrie Mowen was unable to serve because of financial problems. President Darwin Butler spent a controversial term in and out of the St. Louis County jail.

Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities and SGA adviser, called for action at a recent meeting of student leaders, "so we're not just leaving it in limbo," Blanton said.

That meeting resulted in the formation of the provisional government that will control SGA affairs from July 1 until the fall semester.

This move ended speculation that

last year's SGA officers would be asked to extend their current terms until the next election.

Blanton suggested at the meeting that the special fall election should be held off until the second week of classes to allow students to "get into the swing of things." He said he felt that the extra time would allow new students to learn about the candidates, and make a more informed decision when voting.

When asked about the importance of the SGA continuing to serve UMSL, Blanton said, "I think there's a whole lot of importance placed on student activity in the SGA, and it would be a tremendous void in the leadership structure of the University without it."

PROFESSOR, from page 1

to go out and hire the best and brightest professors. According to Dr. Balbes, that is exactly what Andalaft did. He brought in astute professionals and proceeded to build the department from the ground up. Dr. Andalaft got the department started off in the right direction.

His colleagues referred to him as being energetic, enthusiastic, and imaginative. "He had a natural way about him" Dr. Balbes said. "He had high standards, and although he was sometimes kidded about having the initials E.Z.A., he was no push over."

He also had a great ability to communicate with his students. He was an extremely popular teacher. In addition to this, he was always very accessible and available to both students and colleagues. His door was always open.

Professor Andalaft enjoyed his relationships with his former students. According to Dr. Richard Friedlander, the associate chair of the department, and a good friend of the late professor, students would come back and visit him even after they had graduated. They would stop by his office just to talk with him.

His impact upon their lives was very positive. His impact upon the St. Louis school system is equally impressive. For example, a large

number of the high school geometry teachers in the St. Louis area took advanced math classes with him.

Professor Andalaft cared about his students and wanted more than anything for them to succeed. It was a reflection upon himself. Doloris W. Licklider, heartbroken over the recent tragedy, commented, "I will miss him and continue to miss him." She went on to state, "I believe the students will miss him terribly, as well, especially in the long run."

Shahla Peterman, a lecturer in the department, expressed the following sentiments:

"From the first day I met Dr. Andalaft 18 years ago, to the last time I said goodbye to him on May 22nd, he was my mentor, supporter, and a cherished friend. He loved both teaching as well as the students he taught. He established a lifetime of friendship with his students. He touched so many lives. He will be greatly missed by so many." She said she was very honored and privileged to know the late professor.

Professor Balbes said that a tribute to the late professor will be held in the fall, after the semester starts. If any of Dr. Andalaft's former students wish to share an anecdote or memorable experience at the tribute, please feel free to contact Dr. Balbes at 516-6338 or to e-mail him at balbes@arch.umsi.edu.

DEAN, from page 1

number of professional positions.

In 1970, he became an associate professor of optometry and director of patient care at the Indiana School of Optometry. Five years later, he became the founding dean of The College of Optometry at Ferris State University in Michigan. It was here that Dr. Bennett displayed his true genius. Not only did he found the College of Optometry at Ferris State, but was also instrumental in developing the entire program. From 1975 until 1988, he also spent time as the executive assistant to the president and vice-president for administrative affairs.

Dr. Bennett loved Indiana. In 1988, he returned there. For the next decade, he served as the Dean of Optometry at Indiana University. He was so well respected, upon his retirement in 1998, he became Dean Emeritus. As a tribute to Dr. Bennett, the Indiana Optometric Association

passed a resolution proclaiming April 29th, 2000 as Jack W. Bennett Day.

Dr. Bennett accepted the position of dean of the School of Optometry at UMSL in late 1998.

He held the post from January 1999 to April 2000. He also made a wonderful impression on many people during his tenure. One such individual was Dr. Earle Hunter, the former executive director of the American Optometric Association. "He was

very down to earth," Dr. Hunter said. "He had a natural way about him, and a great sense of humor. Students always loved his stories. Simply put, Dr. Bennett was such a nice man."

Dr. Hunter served as a special assistant to Dr. Bennett during his time at UMSL, and developed a very good working relationship with him. "He always made me feel welcome," Dr. Hunter said. "I will miss him terribly."



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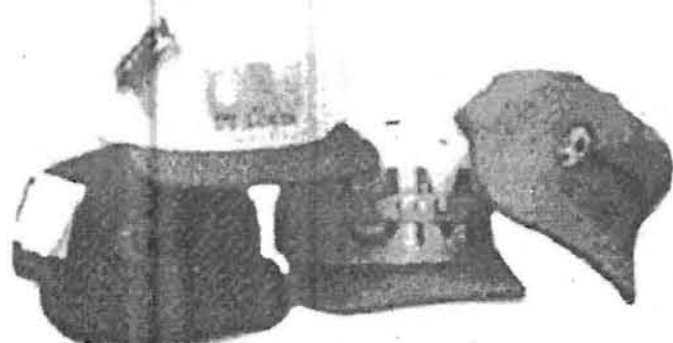
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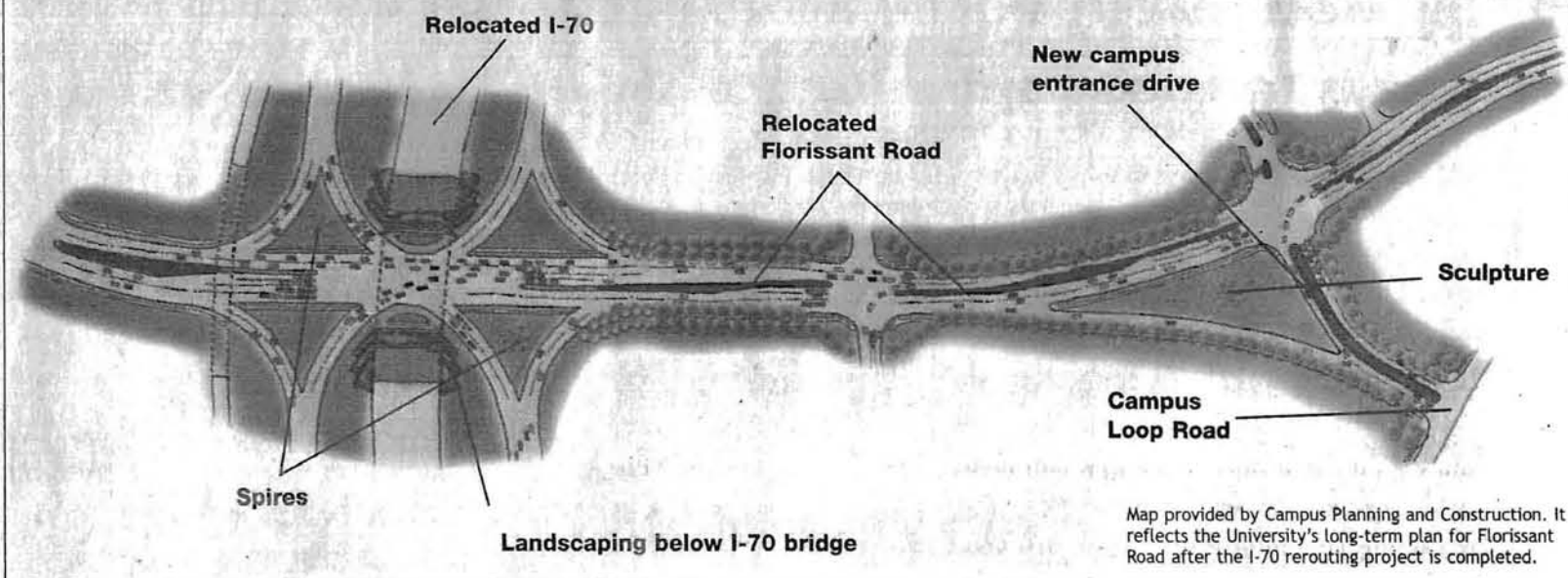
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NEW I-70 / FLORISSANT INTERCHANGE



UMSL, MoDOT prepare for I-70 project

BY JOSH RENAUD
senior editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis and the Missouri Department of Transportation are close to having everything they need to begin the project to reroute I-70, said officials from both sides.

Motorists driving along the interstate near the Hanley Road exit might believe that the project is underway already. Along that stretch, MoDOT is tearing apart a bridge and leveling ground near the highway as part of a project to replace bridges on I-70 near the airport. The I-70 rerouting project probably won't begin until early next spring, said Lee Hillner, the project manager for MoDOT.

The plan hinges on a land swap between the University and MoDOT. Once the exchange is agreed upon and signed, work will begin to demolish buildings along Florissant Rd. near the highway. MoDOT will then have the

room it needs to straighten I-70; a move that will make that stretch safer for motorists, said Hillner.

"It has historically been a problem because of the hill [where Mt. Providence is located] and the curve," Hillner said. "We are going to improve that curve and improve the grade so it will be a highway that is up to today's standards."

The project will replace several bridges along the highway, including the bridges at Hanley, Bermuda, and Florissant Rd., Hillner said. MoDOT will also add an auxiliary bridge for exit and entrance ramps north of I-70 over Florissant Rd.

As compensation for its part in the project, the University is getting an attractive new "front door" to the campus, said Sam Darandari, director of campus planning and construction. The new bridges will feature faux-stone support pillars, terraced landscaping around the concrete slopes, and ornamental lighting. The bridge

over Florissant Rd. will also be emblazoned with the University's name, Darandari said.

MoDOT intends to make the interchange of Florissant and I-70 a "single-point" interchange. An example of this type of interchange has been built at Lindbergh and I-55, he said, though that interchange is over the highway, whereas the I-70 interchange would be located under the highway.

Hillner said MoDOT hopes to accept bids and finalize a contract on the project this fall and begin construction in the spring. MoDOT wants to have all lanes of I-70 open to traffic again by the end of 2002, Hillner said, because work will begin on I-40 in 2003.

"I believe [almost] everything is worked out," said Darandari. "We're all set and we're going full speed."

In exchange for the land it gave up, the University will end up with portions of land along the new Florissant Rd. north and south of the rerouted I-

70, said Darandari. University officials are beginning to make plans for additional improvements after the project is finished.

On this land, the University hopes to construct a new boulevard entrance from the highway to the campus, Darandari said. The entrance would be lined with trees and other landscaping features in order to stand out visually. Also in the works are monuments, pillars, and sculptures to be placed near the interchange and the entrance to campus, he said.

Traffic will be inconvenienced during the project because of its sheer scope, Hillner said. I-70 will probably be reduced to 2 lanes for a period of time.

"Everybody on campus will have to be patient with us [during the project]," said Darandari. "We're doing the best we can to minimize the inconvenience. This will be a great place to be and [the new entrance] will be more than worth the wait."

CHARTER SCHOOL, from page 1

been able to reach Beyah for comment on his criminal record, but he was quoted in the Post-Dispatch article as saying "I made a lot of wrong turns. But that was the past, and this is now. I was a young man in a cruel society. I have grown. I know how not to do things wrong."

Beyah founded TAARP, a non-profit organization, in 1991 and continued developing his educational philosophy while he worked in public schools through 1998. His efforts included a revision of psychology and sociology curriculum at the twelfth grade level and a revision of middle school curriculum.

Beyah said TAARP's educational program emphasized multi-cultural learning without focusing on color.

"We have no color-coded concepts on who can learn the best," Beyah said.

Beyah said the school's curriculum was designed to include traditional academics but to also teach parts of history which were "left out" of other learning programs.

"We feel strongly that this lack of information has lead to the decay of education," Beyah said.

Beyah said the school would also

provide students with other learning opportunities, such as broadcasting and even a little marine biology while studying in the oyster lab, which he hopes may yield some pearls and help finance the institution.

Beyah said TAARP's approach was to provide a supportive environment where individuals could acquire a strong education in order to become financially independent adults while helping to build the community.

Beyah said that one thing TAARP did not want to do was over emphasize race.

"We're not going to use race as an issue when building the community," Beyah said.

Beyah said he'd found many organizations were "race based", and that he did not want TAARP to be seen an organization that was only interested in helping African-Americans. Instead, Beyah said he wants TAARP to be inclusive of all people.

"St. Louis is becoming too diverse to be color conscious," Beyah said.

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University of Missouri - St. Louis.

Our Goal

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to promote the well-being of the entire student body of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In doing so Student Government will be at the forefront of issues that affect students regardless of race, creed, religion, or gender. The Student Government Association intends to assist in any student endeavor that serves to benefit the campus. With input from the student body, SGA will go into the community and use the community's resources to make a good campus life, thereby creating an environment that will enhance growth and learning.

By following a well thought-out and inclusive yearly agenda and by keeping a keen eye on current events, the SGA feels it can properly serve the students here at the University. Keeping in mind that anything that affects the University affects the students, the SGA will make sure that it will aggressively represent its constituents.



If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 516-5105
or visit us at our new office in the new Millenium Student Center.