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9-11-2000

## Current, September 11, 2000

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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## 'Titans' about more than football

This true story stands out in the field of football movies, because it tackles real issues and has relatively little to do with football. The real theme of the movie is racism in the difficult period of the early 1970s.

▲ See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## ONLINE



## SGA candidates will be listed online this week

To help students get involved in the SGA elections coming up, we intend to have a voter's guide available on our website this Thursday. The guide will list the candidates and give background information about each.

▲ thecurrentonline.com

## BRIEFS

### SGA presidential debate to be held Thursday

Students will have an opportunity to hear SGA presidential hopefuls and ask them questions at a forum scheduled for 12:30 to 2:30 this Thursday in the Student Lounge in the University Center. The debate will be moderated by *The Current*, which is co-sponsoring the event with SGA.

### Chancellor to speak at State of the University Address

Chancellor Blanche Touhill will speak to the university and present the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence at her annual address this Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the J.C. Penney auditorium.

### Irish poetry reading scheduled for today

Eamonn Wall, a specialist in Irish studies, will read from his own collection of poetry today at 12 p.m. in room 229 of the J.C. Penney building. The presentation, entitled "Poetry of Places: Ireland and America -- A Poetry Reading" is part of the Monday Noon Series.

## INDEX

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

# UMSL hosts stadium discussion

Cardinals official, civic leader make their case for replacing Busch

BY TONY PELLEGRINO  
staff writer

The University of Missouri — St. Louis hosted a forum discussion of plans for a new stadium for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Civic leaders and Cardinals officials offered their opinions and research on the latest plans for the ballpark last Thursday. A crowd of almost 100 students, faculty and members of the community participated in the forum, which was held in the Summit Lounge of the J.C. Penney Building. The forum was sponsored by UMSL's Public Policy Research Center.

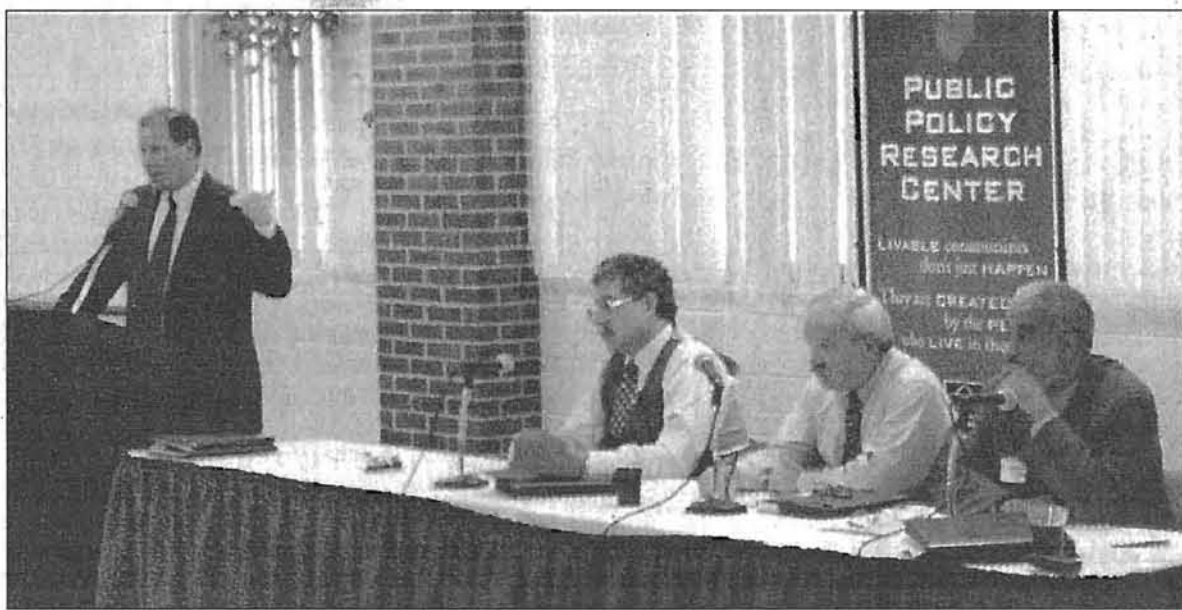
Mark Lamping, president of the St. Louis Cardinals, Michael Jones, deputy mayor for development of the City of St. Louis, Joe Cavato, chair of the Greater St. Louis Sports Authority, and Mark Rosentraub, a professor of public affairs at Indiana University,

were the featured speakers.

Rosenraub, one of the foremost authorities on the economic impact of sports, recommended that the Cardinals must have a new stadium in order to stay viable.

"The Cardinals sell more baseball tickets per capita than any other market in Major League Baseball, but this does not mean that the Cardinals make more money than any other team," Rosentraub said. "There are teams that the Cardinals compete with for players that have access to revenues that simply do not exist at Busch Stadium. Busch Stadium does not produce a sufficient level of revenue to guarantee that the Cardinals will have the money to compete." According to a chart Rosentraub presented, the Cardinals' market area is the fourth smallest of the 30 major league baseball teams, as well as in the bottom half in wealth per

see **CARDINALS**, page 10



Cardinals president Mark Lamping explains why he believes St. Louis should build a new baseball stadium. Other speakers on hand for the forum were Mark Rosentraub, professor of public affairs at Indiana University, Joe Cavato, chair of the Greater St. Louis Sports Authority, and Michael Jones, deputy mayor for development of the City of St. Louis.

UMSL creates new administrative position . . .

## Siegel named technology associate vice chancellor

BY STEVE VALKO  
special to *The Current*

In a newly created position, Jerrold Siegel has become the first Associate Vice Chancellor of Technology.

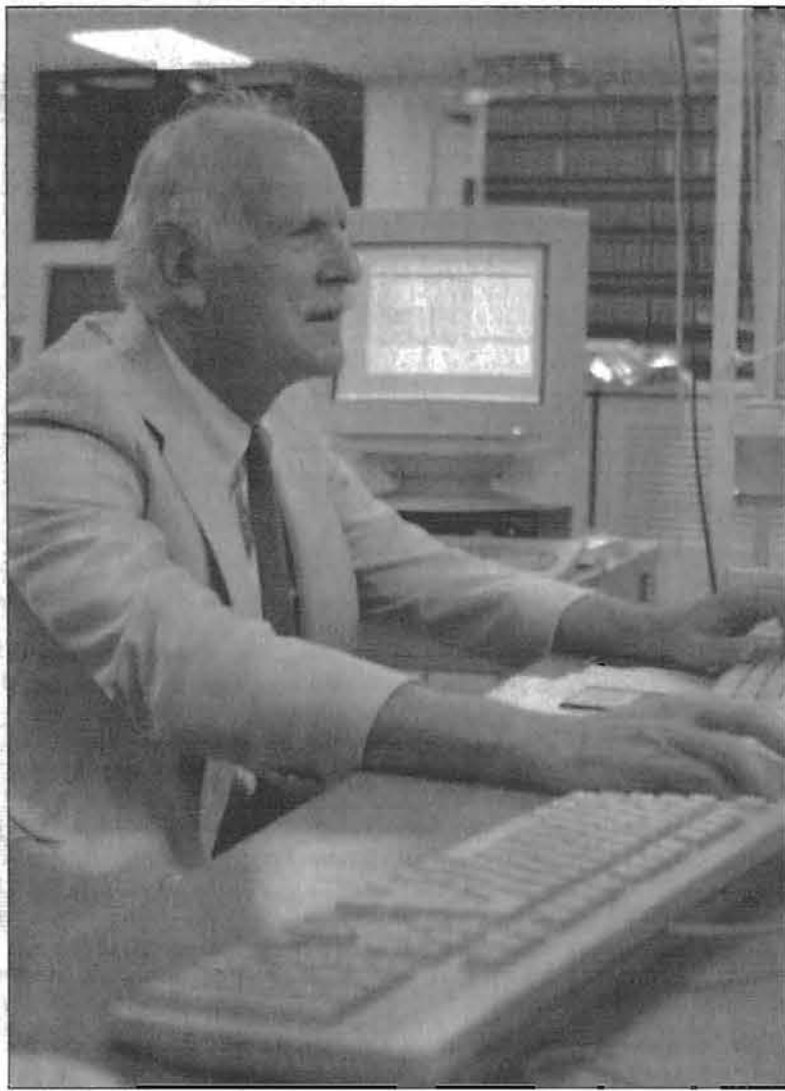
Siegel got the position after 29 years of service to UMSL. Starting in 1971 as a math teacher, Siegel gradually began working with computers at UMSL, leading to a promotion into Campus Computing in 1990. Siegel worked there for ten years until he more or less "grew into the job" of Associate Vice Chancellor with more technology to keep track of, he said.

Siegel's new position requires him to help keep all communications across campus and student housing running smoothly. This would include everything from television, video, voice mail, phones, pagers, the internet and the campus networks.

Siegel said his two favorite projects to participate in were the development of the "My Gateway" network and the Library Research Commons.

"My Gateway" allows course materials, quizzes, and notes from class to be placed on the web and available for students. "My Gateway" also has the capability to allow students and teachers to have greater options for interaction through the networks, e-mail and chat rooms. The goal, Siegel says, is to "break down the distance learning barriers," thus giving long-distance commuters greater access to learning tools.

The other project Siegel has gotten involved with is the development of the Library Research Commons. Here, computer technology is available within the resources of the library. The Library Research Commons employs both librarians and campus computing staff, making the Commons "the best of both worlds," according to Siegel.



Jerrold Siegel works on some of UMSL's new computing equipment. Siegel was recently named UMSL's first Associate Vice Chancellor of Technology.

Siegel also noted that students who would like to access the resources of campus computer technology have a whole host of options. The main sources of help include the Library Resource Commons, the computer lab on the first floor of SSB and the

Learning Center on the South Campus.

Siegel has accomplished this work by living a simple philosophy; "Work hard and love your field work. If you love your field work, you won't mind working hard."

## Eight students' SGA election candidacy applications rejected

BY JOSH RENAUD  
staff editor

Eight of the 14 students who filed for candidacy in the upcoming Student Government Association elections were rejected by a screening committee last Thursday.

On Friday, officials mailed notification to each of the 14 students of their status. The rejected candidates will each get a chance to appeal the committee's decision this Wednesday, said Rick Blanton, SGA adviser.

After the appeals hearing is completed, the screening committee will decide if they wish to overturn any of the application rejections. They will notify candidates of their status on Wednesday.

The screening committee is made up of "five students representing the demographics and the interests of student government and the University," Blanton said. "It's being coordinated by the president of the Staff Association [Curtis Coonrod] and witnessed by the manager of the Alumni office."

The students on the committee "are presidents of different student organizations," Blanton said. "They're people who were not actively involved in the SGA either as officers or as being close to the scene. In other words, it's not your usual suspects. It's people you probably wouldn't recognize or associate with student government."

The screening committee primarily rejected applications for being incomplete or for containing erroneous information, Blanton said.

This is the first time a screening committee has been used in the SGA election process. The Student Court recently heard a grievance

filed by Steven Wolfe contesting the legality of the screening process and found in his favor. Since then, Wolfe has taken no further action on the matter.

This controversial addition to the election process was made by members of the provisional SGA. The provisional SGA is made up of two students selected by administrators to serve as an interim governing body this summer, after the cancellation of the spring SGA elections.

Both members of the provisional SGA have filed for candidacy in the SGA elections, which some are complaining is a conflict of interest. Mary Grace Rhoda has filed for at-large representative for the College of Arts and Sciences and Ellory Glenn has filed for vice president.

Rhoda said she understands the complaints, but that she and Glenn discussed their concerns with Blanton. She said he assured them that there would be no conflict.

"We've pretty much become separated from the screening entirely," she said. Blanton "won't tell me who's been eliminated or whatever. We weren't on the screening committee at all."

"The reason I [ran for representative] was that at 12:30 on Friday, nobody else had signed up for that position," Rhoda said. "I feel a sense of responsibility. I think it looks bad when we don't have enough students who are doing that."

To support Glenn and Rhoda, Blanton cited the example of previous SGA presidents who ran for consecutive terms, saying the only difference was that the members of the provisional were appointed in the beginning.

# Blanton retires after 30 years at UMSL

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

After 30 years of service, Rick Blanton, the Director of Student Activities at UMSL, is retiring. Joanne Bocci will take over his duties on an interim basis, until a search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

Rick Blanton's tenure began on the first of August, 1971. He has been the only Director of Student Activities in UMSL's history. In that time, he has worked with every chancellor except one. As director, Blanton served as the adviser to every registered student organization on campus. He was also the chair of the Student Activities

Budget Committee.

Since the early 1970s, Blanton has witnessed many extraordinary changes on campus, as well as the growth of on-campus housing. He remembers a time when South Campus didn't exist. A Catholic church sat on that property back in the early 1970s.



Blanton

"When UMSL purchased that property, it nearly doubled the size of our campus," Blanton said. "It was a great acquisition."

Blanton said he always reminded himself that colleges wouldn't exist without students. With this in mind, he made sure that the various programs were free to students and paid for them with the academic fees. These programs included rock concerts, public speaking engagements and campus-wide expositions.

During his tenure, rock bands like The Fabulous Thunderbirds and Otis Day and the Nights performed on campus. The latter was immortalized in the movie "Animal House," starring

the late John Belushi.

Programming didn't stop there, though. Blanton was also instrumental in bringing public figures to campus to speak about issues ranging from civil rights to scientific advancements. Muhammad Ali, Vincent Price, Lech Walesa, Jimmy Carter, Jay Leno, G. Gordon Liddy and Al Gore have all spoken at UMSL over the last 30 years.

"These programs were all done on behalf of the students, and I was glad to see that so many attended," the former director said.

When asked to recall his proudest achievements, Blanton listed three: EXPO and the Chancellor's Picnic,

Mirthday and Holiday Fest. EXPO and the Chancellor's Picnic began 28 years ago.

"It started with only a few booths representing some of the student organizations on campus," Blanton said. "They would pass out pamphlets and try to get people interested enough to join."

Now, entertainment is included and there are more than 80 organizations represented at EXPO.

"It is really something watching the whole program grow and develop from infancy into adulthood," Blanton said. "I am very proud."

see **BLANTON**, page 10



# Bulletin Board

## Monday, Sept. 11

- Rec Sports Coed Volleyball League begins tonight. Games will be played in the Mark Twain Gym every Monday and Wednesday night until Oct. 16.

## Tuesday, Sept. 12

- Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

## Wednesday, Sept. 13

- State of the University Address & Chancellor's Award for Excellence presentation will be held in the J. C. Penney Auditorium at 3 p.m. A reception will follow in the lobby.

- Rec Sports Bowling Doubles League begins. Cost is only \$1.25 a week for 3 games. Your team of two can consist of guys and/or gals. This 10-week league is held Wednesdays, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at North Oaks Bowl. Sign up in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain.

## •Soup and Soul Food, a simple meal

and time for prayer, meditation and reflection, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church, 8000 Natural Bridge Rd., Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. All are welcome and for more information call Chris Snyder at 314-409-3024 or Roger Jespersen at 385-3000.

## •Sign-up Deadline for Flag Football

Leagues: 7-player men's and coed intramural games will be played Tuesday afternoons beginning Sept. 19. Team and individual sign-ups welcomed. Register by the end of the day in the Rec Sports Office (203 Mark Twain).

- Noon Live, *The Current* will be on the Patio holding drawings for special edition This Is Spinal Tap memorabilia as well as other miscellaneous promotional items.

## Thursday, Sept. 14

- Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200

### 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.

Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

## Friday, Sept. 15

- Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 12:05 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus, followed by a light lunch. For more information call 385-3455.

## Saturday, Sept. 16

- Club Sig Pi, beginning at 9:30 p.m., will be at the Sigma Pi Fraternity House, located across from Taco Bell on Natural Bridge Rd. Dance club will have a live DJ and no cover charge. Everyone is welcome girls must be 18, or older, and guys need to have a college ID.

## Sunday, Sept. 17

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

## Monday, Sept. 18

- American Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Barnes College Student Nurses' Association will be held at the Seton Center Lounge on South Campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. University Health Services will be on hand with valuable information concerning screenings for various disorders. All blood types are urgently needed! For more information call Nick Crusius, BCSNA president, at (314) 781-9492.

- 9th Annual Founders Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton St. Louis. Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space will be speaking. Reservations are required. For more information call 5442.

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## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### August 30, 2000

A student reported that her Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from her vehicle between 8 and 10 a.m., while the vehicle was parked on the first level of Parking Garage "D".

### September 5, 2000

A student reported that his Fall 2000 parking permit had been stolen from the rear window of his vehicle, while it was parked at Garage "D", level 2 between 9 a.m.

and 1 p.m. on Sept. 1.

### September 6, 2000

A student reported that between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. his Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from his rear window, while his vehicle was parked at the new West Drive Garage.

A student reported that between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. someone put a half-inch hole in the rear window of his truck, as it

was parked at the Social Science Building handicap lot on West Drive.

A faculty member reported being harassed by telephone by a suspected former student who had been previously expelled.

A student suspected of being intoxicated was removed from Benton Hall.

### September 7, 2000

A student reported that on Sept. 5

between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. her Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from her vehicle, which had been parked on the South Campus Lot "V".

A student reported that between Sept. 6 at 9 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. her Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from her automobile, while it was parked at the Honors College.

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

# SAVE ON GAS



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# Images of Devotion

## Exhibit of Ethiopian artist comes to Gallery 210 for campus display

BY ANNE PORTER  
staff editor

Alaqa Gabra Sellase, an Ethiopian devotional painter, may not have been present at Gallery 210's reception for his works on Thursday evening, and even if he was not alive to talk about the icons he painted, his personality could be felt just by looking at the pictures he created.

Sellase was born in the Ethiopian province of Gojjam during the early twentieth century and died at Maqale, the capital of the province of Tigray, between the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Sellase painted icons of the Holy Trinity, the Archangel Michael, Saint George, Christ with a Crown of Thorns and Saint Mary with her Beloved Son on recycled cardboard panels.

In addition to these religious figures, he portrayed the Ethiopian saints, including Abuna Gabra Manfas Qeddus, Abuna Takla Haymamat, and Abuna Aragawi. Sellase also depicted events in his works, such as Queen Helena's finding of the true cross, the story of Adam and Eve and the Holy family moving to Egypt.

Since the Ethiopian church considered Sellase's works so extraordinary, he was given the title "Alaqa," an honorary title meaning learned ecclesiastic.

Sellase studied Christian literature in the iconographic traditions of Christian religious art.

Sellase's style is called the Second Gondarine to reflect imperial Ethiopian court patronage.

Marilyn Heldman, an adjunct professor at UM-St. Louis, curated the exhibit "Alaqa Gabra Sellase Ethiopian Icon Painter" at Gallery 210.

"I and an anthropologist [Daniel Baur] had collected these pieces while doing field work, and we collected them initially because we thought they were really wonderful," Heldman said.

Sellase used cardboard for economic reasons, even though he was a full-time supported artist.

"He [Sellase] unfortunately didn't have patrons who were exceedingly wealthy, and if he had, he would have painted on wooden panels. These [cardboard slabs] are things that if we turn them around, we can see lettering on the back," Heldman said.

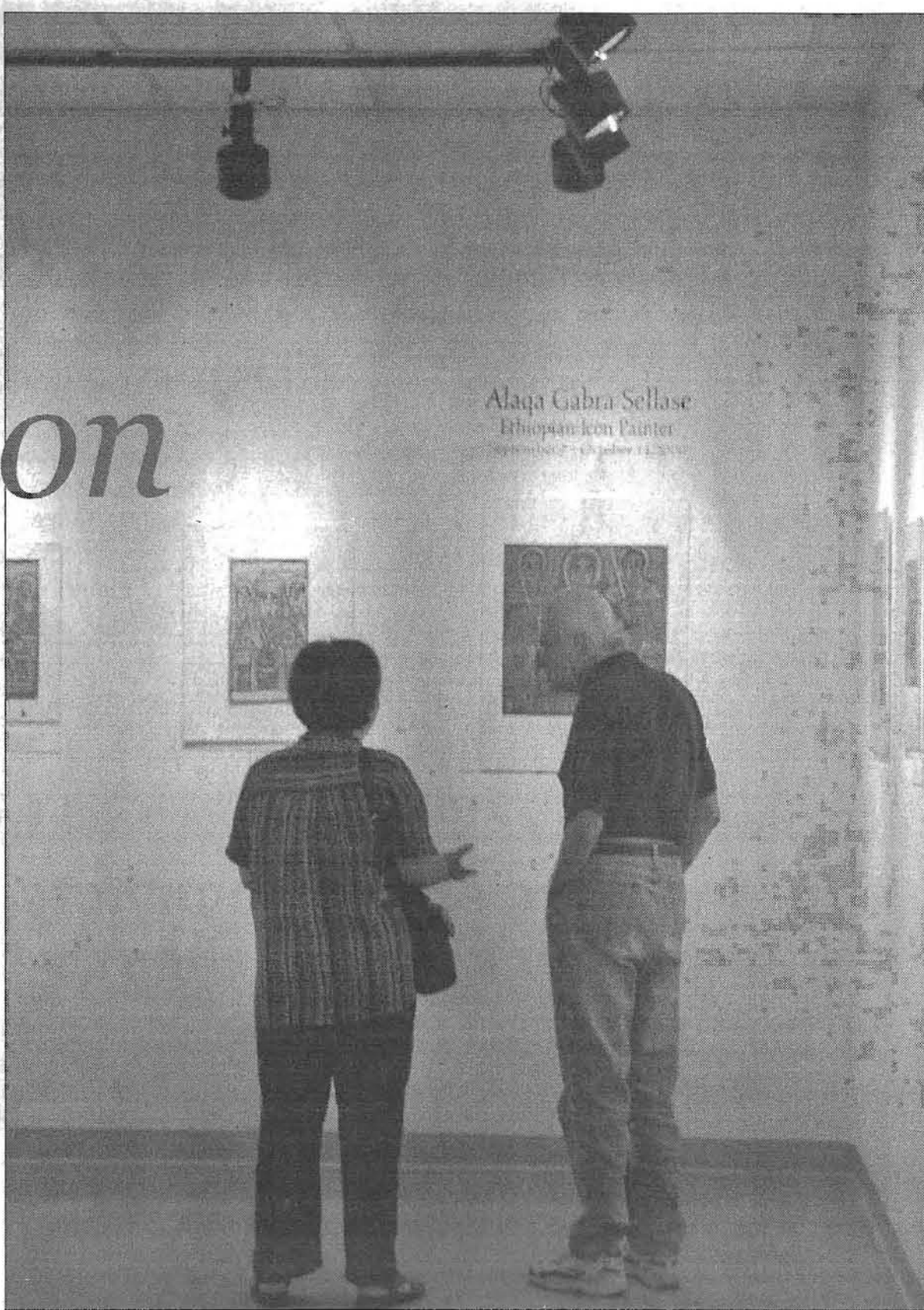
Heldman, through her studies, has seen Sellase's work in homes and churches.

"These were made as devotional images. People would buy them or order them and put them in their homes and frequently would give them as gifts to the church," Heldman said.

If a painting is placed in a church, it offers a special use for the congregation.

"You are able to address, you praise the saint. You don't really pray to the painting, but somehow [the prayer] is transmitted," Heldman said.

Terry Suhre, director of Gallery 210, is also an assistant professor in the art department, and recommends shows which will be presented to the Gallery Advisory board. The Gallery Advisory Board selects the exhibits



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Juliana Yuan Yuan, senior lecturer in art and art history at UMSL, and Louis Gilden, husband of exhibit curator Marilyn Heldman, visit the new Gallery 210 exhibit.

which will be featured in Gallery 210.

"The Gallery has a mandate to be as inclusive as possible and give as diverse a view as possible of the world as we can, and the opportunity to show work from an African artist who is attached to a 500 year old tradition that comes from Europe is quite a remarkable circumstance," Suhre said.

Suhre selected Sellase's work because of its quality and beauty, in addition to its impact in the commu-

nity. "This work was really of an extraordinary caliber, a very beautiful and rare thing. It addresses a community that's growing in St. Louis, that's becoming more prominent here as a dynamic economic force," Suhre said.

Juliana Yuan Yuan, a senior lecturer in art and art history, is familiar with Sellase because she has attended some of Heldman's lectures.

"Being a colleague of Marilyn

Heldman, I've heard her talks on Ethiopia and Christian art, and I find it truly fascinating that there was Christianity in Africa. It's so proper today in the orthodox way. The paintings are more folk art than high art," Yuan said.

"Alaqa Gabra Sellase Ethiopian Icon Painter" will be on display through Oct. 14 in Gallery 210 in Lucas Hall. For more information call 516-5976.

## Sayad presents talk on St. Louis artists

BY SARA PORTER  
special to the Current

Arts and culture writer, Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, presented a lecture on "Artists' Views of St. Louis: 1900-1940," in the Hawthorne Room, J.C. Penney Building, on Wednesday.

"I am demonstrating how St. Louis attracted artists, particularly the Mississippi River, Eads Bridge, and the Levee," Sayad said.

Sayad who is getting her masters degree at Washington University on culture, focusing on the local region, displayed various portraits and photographs by St. Louis artists: Frederick Sylvester, Joe Jones, Frederine Carpenter, Frank Nudschner and Catherine Cherry.

The paintings and photos demonstrated St. Louis in various stages through time. "The River" (1902), by Sylvester, displayed the Mississippi in the early stages of industrialism.

"This painting contrasts the beauty of the levee with the harbor

replaced by masses of industrial smog," Sayad said.

Carpenter illustrated "7th & Olive," which showed St. Louis citizens surrounded by the City.

"The figures are dwarfed by these skyscrapers," Sayad said.

A 1902 photo by photographer Ernst Boehl showed a vision of what may come.

"The skyline appears to be rising," Sayad said. "This shows what St. Louis might be."

Sayad displayed a painting by Jones that showed the levee during the Depression.

"The painting balances the chaos of above [the levee] with the darkness in the tunnels below," Sayad said.

Former Chair of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, Ruth Bryant, enjoyed the lecture.

"I love the river, being from Memphis," Bryant said. "[Sayad] clearly introduced some new views of the river."

Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, John Hoover, also enjoyed the lecture. "I thought

"**I love the river, being from Memphis. [Sayad] clearly introduced some new views of the river.**

-Ruth Bryant

Former chair of the St. Louis Mercantile Library

it was well-done," Hoover said. "She had clearly done a lot of research."

Sayad's lecture is part of the Mercantile Library's "Lunch and Lecture" series, held once a month, in the Hawthorne Room of the J. C. Penney Building. The price for lunch was \$12.50 for library members, \$15.00 for nonmembers. The lecture itself was free. For more information on the series, call 516-7240.

## Zarucchi gets Women's and Gender Institute position

BY SARA PORTER  
special to the Current

Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi, instructor of "Topics in French Art and Culture," has been named interim director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

"I am looking forward to a year of activities, and I value the opportunity to work closely with some of my colleagues from other departments," Zarucchi said.

"I look forward to Civil Colloquia, some taught by faculty," Zarucchi said. "There will be some new topics of interest."

"I will be supervising graduate students for internships and independent studies," Zarucchi said.

The IWGS will also initiate a search for a permanent director.

"In the meantime, we will maintain a vital program for our students and faculty," Zarucchi said.

Zarucchi has been involved in University governance for several years, and she is Chapter President of Phi Kappa Phi, an academic honor society.

A graduate of Harvard University, where she taught for three years before coming to UMSL in 1985, Zarucchi studied heroic poems on Joan of Arc and recently published an article on 17th-century Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi in the "Women's Art Journal."

"I enjoy opening a window into the past for my students," Zarucchi said.

"The 17th century has a particular charm, because of the close relationship between literature and the visual arts."

"There are always new ideas and approaches that come from my students, and this gives me a fresh perspective on my research," Zarucchi said.

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies is an academic program that offers courses in sociology, psychology, political science, literature, arts and other subjects, that focus primarily on women's issues and other gender-related topics.

## Hi, this is Dave . . . it wasn't important



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

Most people consider Caller ID a wonderful invention. Caller ID makes it possible to avoid ex's, mother-in-laws, work and bill collectors.

I have Caller ID on both my home and cell phone, so I know who calls (for the most part). I say for the most part because the out-of-area calls don't register in the little information disclosing box. In those cases though, I know who is calling, because the same people call and always have the same information (or lack of) in the little green box.

The one aspect which I don't

appreciate about Caller ID is the same one that I like about the device. I know who calls and I have their number to return the call, but then they don't leave a message about why they called. That lack of knowledge does not hinder me from calling them back. It only annoys me.

What irks me even more is that when I almost immediately dial their numbers, I hear a ring, and a ring and another ring.

Last night, my friend Dave called.

Not just once, Dave called two times and left no message. From

the fact that Dave tried to talk to me two times and was not able to reach me, I figured that he had something important to say.

I would give him a little room and tell you that he does not know how I feel about phone etiquette, but he does, because I've asked him politely numerous times before to leave a message.

So I asked him today why he called, and he said he wanted to tell me about the story he was writing. Just so you know, Dave also designs my feature page, so I know he has to read this.

I asked, "Why didn't you leave

a message?"

To this Dave responded, "It wasn't that important."

Already to this I disagree. If someone calls me, especially about an article or anything business related, I deem it important.

I then said, "I called you two times last night after you called and didn't leave a message."

Then I proceeded to question him about what he considered important. I never really received a good explanation. I continued though and told him that I understood why he doesn't always leave a message for me.

I've done it before. I am usually calling just to see what's going on, and how things are going. My roommate even told me to leave her voice mail.

Since then, most of the times I phone, I do.

Even if I only say, "Hey, it's me. Just wanted to see what's up. Call me back," I still say that after the little beep.

So, Dave, when you read this column and you call to tell me what you think about it, leave me a message.

When I return your call and you're not there, I'll do the same.

# FEEL THE CURRENT

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ANNE PORTER  
features editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

QUOTES

"Justice is incidental to law and order."

-John Edgar Hoover

Credit: www.quotablequotes.net

"I am extraordinarily patient provided I get my own way in the end."

-Margaret Thatcher

Credit: www.quotablequotes.net

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

-Leo Tolstoy

Credit: www.quotablequotes.net



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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

If you could travel to a foreign country, where do you want to go? and Why?

OUR OPINION

Nitpicking the elections won't solve SGA's problems

Jewish culture has this wonderful idea called the Jubilee. The Jubilee took place every fifty years. It involved as a key component the release of old debts. Mortgaged land was returned, slaves were set free, and the over-riding atmosphere was one of cleansing. Jubilee was a time when you could receive a clean slate. SGA needs to make this its Jubilee year.

A lot of questions have been raised about the provisional SGA, some frivolous and some quite noteworthy. We certainly have our share of concerns, but we feel nit-picking every little thing that has been done won't solve any problems. Instead, let's carry out the SGA elections as professionally and expediently as possible and then get on with trying to put the SGA back together with some semblance of order.

To be sure, there is plenty of fertile

ground for potential grievances, but what fruit that ground might yield is doubtful at best. At least one grievance was filed and won without any real action coming out of it to date.

SGA's problems won't be solved by complaining. Students who really care about student government should become informed about the candidates for the various SGA offices, learn their platforms, ask them questions and vote for the students who have a plan for rebuilding the SGA.

This Thursday a forum with the candidates will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 in the Student Lounge of the University Center. It will be a chance for students to listen to what the candidates have to say and ask them about their stances on the issues. Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard.

The issue:

Some are voicing concerns about the SGA elections, both frivolous and valid.

We suggest:

Nit-picking every detail of the elections won't benefit anyone. Students can make their voices heard by making an informed decision when they vote.

So what do you think?

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Elections hampered by conflicts-of-interest, background checks

Well, I guess that it is time for everyone's favorite annual tradition: the Student Government Association elections. And who are our contestants this year you may ask? Who cares? It doesn't matter, thanks to the complete disregard for any level of fairness or equity that may have been reached by the appointment of this provisional SGA (PSGA). The SGA elections will once again move straight to the toilet due to two factors.

One, the PSGA has two candidates running for office this year. Two people who have also set up the election dates, election times, election places, rules for application, etc. Doesn't every candidate wish that he or she could have the luxury of setting up the most opportune times to have the polls open. I'm sure that if I were to set up the elections, I could manage to win very easily by putting the election booths in places frequently traversed by my supporters. Not only is this shameless on the part of the PSGA, but it is also a conflict of interest that should not go unresolved.

Second, this little issue about the background checks for moral ethics. Or, as I like to call it, "How can we prevent Darwin from ever happening again." I'm sure that these little PSGA'ers have gotten good grades all through school and been little gems to the community, but is this fair for the rest of the campus? As for me, I don't have any crimes on my record, but even if I did, it would not make me a bad candidate or even incapable of running the SGA. What this reeks



BENJAMIN ASH  
Guest Commentator

of is a violation of every student's right to privacy. Get it through your thick skulls, faculty and staff of the University of Missouri. We are not in high school, and we do not need you to hold our hands as if we were children, being led across the street.

So, now that I have illustrated the problems, I won't leave you without solutions. The most important thing is that the PSGA members remove themselves from candidacy immediately. They knew that if they were to take on this job, their function would be running the elections. Knowing this, they should have known they wouldn't be able to run for office this year. Second, the University needs a much better way of conducting background checks. Their "consent-or-die" approach made me feel uncomfortable, and would make anyone else feel violated also. I encourage *The Current* to print a copy of the letter each SGA candidate received about the background checks, and let the students see this draconian administration in action.

I would like to thank all students who have supported SGA in the past and will continue to support SGA in the future. Hopefully, this PSGA will not ruin the elections and cause the SGA to be mired in controversy again and let the students lose what little voice they have remaining at this University.

P.S. I hope that *The Current* will not have to run a background check in order to print this editorial.

LETTERS

Paper should boost coverage of outside world

*The Current* is billed as "Your source for campus news and information." For the most part *The Current* is true to this billing sticking to campus issues. I have noticed that the entertainment, sports and opinion sections often touch on the outside world. I have not seen any coverage of political, social or economic issues that occur beyond the campus.

We are in a presidential election year. The outcome of the elections this fall will have a dramatic affect on all

Americans including UMSL students. Differing views of our presidential candidates on such issues as education, affirmative action and social security should be of concern to students.

It is important that the students make their voices heard in the elections. I believe that there is little political interest on campus and many students will not vote. Perhaps if *The Current* was to cover more contemporary issues students would become

more aware, take interest, and vote.

*The Current* can choose to print what it likes. It has chosen to focus on campus news. However, in its occasional glances at the outside world, I suggest that some of the social, political and economic issues affecting students be addressed especially in light of the elections. There is more to the outside world than pop music, professional sports, and Hollywood movies.

--Micah Hughes

ASUM needs help establishing language standards

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri has been the student voice in the state legislature for the past 25 years. In 1986, we successfully lobbied for the law creating English-proficiency standards for international teaching assistants in Missouri. While this legislation was a step in the right direction, problems of poor communication in classrooms due to language barriers remain. It is time to revisit this issue, and we need your help.

English proficiency is a problem at UMSL, and it negatively affects the quality of the educational experience here. Good communication is essential to learning. However, Missouri has

no regulations dealing with English proficiency of professors. Professors can and do teach courses without a sufficient mastery of the English language. In addition, current programs for teaching assistants do not seem to be working.

ASUM embraces diversity. We realize exposure to other cultures and countries is a desirable and essential component of modern higher education. However, our main concern is for student success. Students cannot realize their potentials if communication with instructors is not possible.

Our organization has worked to find a solution in the legislature and with the University administration. We

continue to search but cannot succeed without your help. The Board of Curators will be meeting in Columbia September 14-15. The meeting will include a presentation on English proficiency from students and administrators from all four campuses of the UM System at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. It is imperative that the Curators get your input before making a decision. If you have had a problem understanding an instructor, please contact our office by phone at 882-2701, or by e-mail at asumwww@showme.missouri.edu.

--Roger Johnson  
ASUM Legislative Director

New year means new batch of errors to fix

Well, we're knee-deep in September now, and across campus I've been seeing familiar sights and sounds - bands playing it loud for Wednesday Noon Live, fraternities advertising various exploitive opportunities for ladies, and of course the Student Government Association elections.

Well, perhaps not the latter.

In any case, another familiar sight at UMSL this time of year is *The Current*, fresh from summer hiatus and beginning to settle down. The first few weeks usually provide ample opportunity for the paper to embarrass itself with a few errors or gaffes as new staff members get acclimated and as new editors try to learn their roles.

This year is no

exception, and I'd like to take just a minute to talk about the nature of errors. Of course, everyone makes them. One could argue, for instance, that the University choosing to use externally-applied adhesive parking permits was a mistake of the highest order. Another person could argue that everything that happened in, about, through, over, and under the SGA last year was a mistake. I skipped a class two weeks ago. That was a mistake, and a costly one, at that.

So how does *The Current* deal with mistakes? Much as we pride ourselves on accuracy and attention to detail, the fact of the matter is that mistakes happen.

We have set up a system designed to catch virtually every mistake, at least when it's used properly.

We like to get things started on the right foot. Reporters get as many background details as possible from their editor about a story before they



JOSH RENAUD  
editor-in-chief

begin working on it.

As our reporters develop their stories, through interviews and research, we encourage them to use as many sources as possible. The more credible sources you tap in writing a story, the more accurate your story is likely to be.

We try to instill the habits of confirming the spelling of person's name after the interview and checking a person's title to make sure it's correct.

But reporters are human. Sometimes these habits are not enough to ensure everything is correct.

For that reason, we hire section editors, copy editors and proofreaders. Ideally, a section editor will go through a story when the reporter turns it in. Then the copy editor goes through the story Friday night. On Sunday night, our proofreader goes through the completed pages and checks headlines, bylines, and captions.

Unfortunately, so far this year we have had vacancies in a couple of the key positions I mentioned earlier. And, as you may have noticed, mistakes have been made, some glaringly obvious, like a series of question marks that I forgot to replace in a paragraph on the front page.

Be assured that we are doing the very best we can to eliminate mistakes like those. We hope to fill our vacancies over the next two weeks, and our reporters are becoming better writers with each story they write.

*The Current* is a learning opportunity for the people who work here. We're not perfect, but we're trying hard. We don't get many calls, but reader feedback is probably the thing we want most here. If you'd like to help us, please give us a call.

Just what are they trying to teach me?

An amazing thing happened to me the other day: I was almost on time to class. I am not a morning person by nature, and I just hate the feeling of waking up in the morning and knowing that there is somewhere I have to be. I always wind up laying in bed thinking of some reason, any reason, not to get up for five more minutes.

My dogs do not help. They have this routine that when my alarm goes off, they come in and look pitiful and solicit attention in an effort to keep me from going anywhere, and to their credit, it works.

No matter how hard I try, I can never seem to make it to that first class on time. Once I'm on campus, I get to all my other classes without any problems; it's always that first one that gets me.

Several days ago, in some strange and mysterious way I cannot understand, I actually got up, got ready, and left - five minutes EARLY. Honestly, I don't know what came over me.

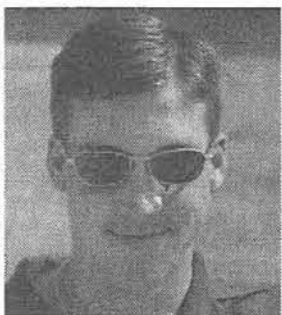
One of the reasons I had been so fed up with my own tardiness was that by the time I got to the parking garage, most of the spaces were already taken, and it took something just short of civil war to find some place to park. I had been parking in that big, beautiful new garage by the science buildings. It was great for the first few days, because many of

the students apparently did not know it existed, and I could find a spot with ease, but then everybody else caught on, and soon it too became crowded. I had been experimenting with different times (okay, honestly I was just showing up later and later) to see if there was any particular time that would give me the best chance at getting a spot, but so far the pattern has been shifting too much from day to day for me to really tell.

I had hoped that by arriving early, I would be able to park and get to class without all the last minute hassle. But when I got to the garage, there weren't any spots open at all. I drove around in my car, fuming, and tried to decide what to do. After paying those exorbitant parking fees for all these years to build the thing, there was no way I was going to leave that garage and go park on the other side of campus and walk to my science class. I've already done that in past years. My fees have doubled, and this is the thanks I get? Finally, just before my class started, this mass exodus of people from the last class came and got their cars to leave, and I went through the usual mess of struggling to get a spot, and got to class... ten minutes late. I certainly have gotten an education here at UMSL, but I'm not sure if it's the one they meant to give me.



BRIAN DOUGLAS  
managing editor



Daniel Byrd  
Junior/Literature



Elisha Williams  
Junior/Communication



M. J. Mooce  
Junior/French



Rebecca Langer  
Senior/Psychology

"Africa. I love animals and beauty."

"Italy. It was beautiful the 1st time and I would like to see the sights I missed."

"Montreal, Quebec to use my French."

"Scotland. I saw the movie. It was a very beautiful place to visit."



# Rivermen humbled twice on the road

Sonoma State, UC-Davis  
each overpower UMSL, 4-0

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

After opening the season with a 2-0 victory over Rockhurst, the Rivermen have slipped to 2-4, with some of their latest defeats coming at the hands of Sonoma State and the University of California at Davis.

The first road trip of the season proved too much for Head Coach Hannibal Najjar and his men, as flight fatigue played a major role in the losses.

"We had no chance in winning those games," said Najjar. "We arrived in California extremely late, and really just came out flat. We were never in the game."

The Rivermen offense was non-existent in the opener of the Cossack Classic, as the Cossacks of Sonoma State held UM-St. Louis to two shots on goal. The defense mirrored that effort, forcing goaltender Kevin McCarthy to face 18 shots in the game.

Sonoma put the first ball past McCarthy at the 24:00 mark, and never looked back. In the second half, the Cossacks scored four min-

utes in and the Rivermen never recovered. Sonoma would add two more goals to end the match at 4-0.

"We came out fired up for this game," Cossacks forward Tony Bussard said. "After two ties and a loss in the last three games, we knew we needed to win this one."

After the game, Najjar gathered his troops for a Saturday meeting.

"We haven't been able to fit a system into our game yet," said Najjar. "There are times when we implement one, and then somebody goes down or the opponent reads it too well. With only four returners from last season, we lack experience."

"This is a transition year for us," added Assistant Coach Eric Johnson. "We have a lot of rebuilding to do, and it starts with this group of guys."

The final game of the tournament pitted the Rivermen against the no. 6 team in the nation, UC-Davis. The team came out strong, as McCarthy and company held one of the most potent offenses in the nation to a 0-0 tie through the first 45 minutes.

"That first half was very competitive," said Najjar. "Everything that we talked about the day before



Darren Brune/The Current

The Rivermen made an aggressive effort against Sonoma State and University of California at Davis last week but lost 4-0 to both teams.

worked out and the whole field played very solid."

That momentum carried over into the second half before Sean Buchanan of UC-Davis found a way to break through the Rivermen defense and punch a loose ball behind McCarthy at the 58:00 mark.

After that, UC-Davis unloaded on a tired Rivermen squad, scoring three goals in the next fifteen minutes of play. Shortly after, McCarthy was pulled in favor of backup keeper

Adam Barnstead, who managed to keep the final score at 4-0.

Lack of discipline was another contributing factor in the loss, as seven Rivermen were carded for infractions, including junior college transfer Mike Matter, who received a red card and will miss the next two contests.

"Our boys really had a problem with the officials in the second half," said Najjar. "We just weren't on the same page."

Aside from the 0-2 road finish, Najjar is optimistic about the coming week.

"Although we did have a down week, losing two contests by 4-0, we did come out of the tournament stronger than when we came in," Najjar said. "In the [UC-Davis] game, we were able to implement a solid system. We should be able to relieve ourselves this week."

## Women's volleyball drops 3 of 4 in Michigan

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff writer

The women's volleyball team traveled to Michigan and lost three of four matches.

In the first match of the tournament, the Riverwomen lost to Lake Superior State 9-15, 15-7, 9-15 and 12-15.

UM-St. Louis was led by Melissa Frost, who recorded 11 kills, while Holly Zrout recorded 15 kills and also had 13 defensive digs.

In the second match, UM-St. Louis lost to Minnesota State-Mankato 11-15, 16-14, 10-15 and 3-15.

Kelby Saxwold led the Riverwomen with 16 defensive digs while Michelle Pasieka recorded 12.

In the third match of the tournament, the Riverwomen were swept by Grand Valley State 8-15, 8-15 and 8-15.

Pasieka showed the only bright spot in the game, as she recorded 11 kills.

UM-St. Louis then rebounded from the three consecutive losses to defeat Bryant 15-8, 11-15, 15-11 and 15-11.

Saxwold led the charge with 19 defensive digs, while Zrout also tallied 15 digs, posting 14 kills on the offensive side.

The team as a whole recorded 18 blocks in the match and in the third and fourth games the team had 29 kills.

The Riverwomen then traveled to Springfield, Missouri last weekend to take on Texan Wesleyan, Drury College and Central Arkansas.

After this trip, the Riverwomen jump into the Great Lakes Valley Conference regular season play by travelling to Indianapolis to kick off the season.

## Women's soccer team returns 2-1

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

The Riverwomen suffered their first loss of the weekend in an epic while playing a tournament in Tampa, Fla.

The loss, the first of two matches in the Orange State, came against the University of Tampa in a double overtime battle that lasted 114 minutes.

"That [Tampa] game was a great match," said Head Coach Beth Goetz. "We hoped to come out on top, but it was an incredibly hard-fought game."

Lindsey Jones opened the scoring, netting her first of two at the seven minute mark.

Tampa retaliated with two goals of their own, but the teams would go

into halftime knotted at 2-2 when Jones found the net again, this time at the 43:00 mark.

"We came into halftime very excited," said Goetz. "From the start, everyone knew that this game was going to be tough."

Tampa set the pace in the second half, scoring a goal early on. The momentum shift from that goal proved almost too much for the Riverwomen's offense, and with just under five minutes to play they found themselves down 3-2.

"I don't think the girls were ever worried," said Goetz. "Everybody was calm and we knew that we would score a goal. I told them to just keep attacking the net and the ball will find a way in."

see SOCCER, page 8

## Rec Sports offers fun, escape from studies

BY TONY PELLEGRINO  
staff writer

The slogan for UM-St. Louis' Recreational Sports Department is "Something For Everyone" and this semester will be no exception.

The fall recreational sports season began yesterday with two events: a coed softball tournament and barbecue, and a tennis singles tournament. Both took place at Mark Twain Sports Complex.

In addition to one-day events, intramural leagues will be opening soon as well.

Volleyball and bowling leagues begin this week, while the flag football league gets underway next week. Other leagues that are scheduled for later this fall are indoor and outdoor soccer, racquetball, floor hockey, and

a second session of volleyball. Shuffleboard, badminton and kickball are a few of the one-day tournaments slated for October and November.

According to Pam Steinmetz, director of Rec Sports, 3000 students participated in the recreational sports program during the previous school year and she expects a similar turnout this year.

Recreational sports "is something fun to do and a break from studies, but it's also a social interaction with other students, faculty and staff," Steinmetz said. "The recreational sports program also provides an outlet for those who enjoy competition, but may not be able to participate in sports at the varsity level."

see SPORTS, page 8

## New information director offers hard work, publicity

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

Being a native of Cincinnati, newly appointed UM-St. Louis Sports Information Director, Chris Cole still bleeds red, but not Cardinal red.

"Cincinnati is the best baseball town in the country," Cole said. "I'd take Griffey over McGwire any day of the week."

So, maybe the Cardinals aren't the reason why Cole, 24, came to St. Louis. But nevertheless, his career as a sports guru has, for the time being, placed him in the Gateway to the Midwest.

As an undergraduate at Northern Kentucky University, a Great Lakes Valley Conference school along with UM-St. Louis, Cole studied journalism after a brief stint as an accounting major.

"I had always told my high school teachers that I would be an accounting major," said Cole, an NKU alum, '99, with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. "They usually scoffed at me. Each one of them told me I had a certain flair for writing, and I shouldn't waste my time doing anything else."

After realizing his true interest, Cole turned to The Northerner, the student newspaper of NKU, where he worked as the Sports Editor for a year. Through this, Cole got involved in SID work for the first time.

"Everyone had always told me that I would make a good writer," Cole said. "And after realizing that my passion certainly did not lie in accounting, well, that's all she wrote — no pun intended."

Cole was approached by Don Owen, the SID at NKU, about placing an advertisement in the sports section of the paper. Owen was hoping to hire a student assistant for his office, and when he gave the ad to Cole, Cole showed interest.

Owen "mentioned that he was interested in hiring a student assistant, and that he wanted to place an ad in the newspaper and as he talked about what he was looking for, I fit that description," Cole said.

Cole was hired on the spot. It



Cole

took all of two weeks for Cole to decide that this is what he wanted to do and after learning the ropes of his newly found profession, he was offered the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

While working out of his office in Colorado Springs, Cole heard of the vacancy at UM-St. Louis. The prospect of returning to a GLVC school as well as holding the position of SID were both very appealing.

"I had known Michael DeFord already and when he told me that he was leaving, I was interested," Cole said. "When I came to the University for an interview, I felt a lot of positive energy and really seemed to get along quite well with the staff. It was a good fit."

Cole takes his role as the SID very seriously and works a virtual 24/7 week to promote UM-St. Louis athletics.

"Basically, I view my position as one that expects me to get the most publicity for the student-athlete as possible," Cole said. "These kids are here busting their tails all the time."

Aside from statistics and press releases, Cole has an extremely hands-on job in athletics, where his responsibilities include staffing, public address, and web/brochure design.

"My job is really all-inclusive," said Cole. "I tend to act as the hub of communications for the department."

SPORTS

### EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY  
sports editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

### GAMES

#### Women's Volleyball

at Indianapolis

6:00 pm, Fri., Sept. 15

at Northern Kentucky

1:00 pm, Sat., Sept. 16

#### Men's Soccer

v. Northern Kentucky

5:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 15

v. Indianapolis

12:30 am, Sun., Sept. 17

#### Women's Soccer

v. Northern Kentucky

7:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 15

v. Indianapolis

3:00 pm, Sun., Sept. 17

# Cardinals must focus on Central Division crown



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

The St. Louis Cardinals have 11 games and are counting until they clinch the Central Division crown.

The only question is if the Cardinals have enough to make it past the first round of the playoffs this season? With the Cincinnati Reds trading Dante Bichette and Barry Larkin out for the season, the only plus with the Reds is that Ken Griffey Jr. is coming on strong in the month of September. Too little too late for the Reds.

Are the New York Mets or even the Atlanta Braves too much for the Cardinals in the first round of the playoffs?

The Cardinals just recently won

their first two games of the season against the Mets, and the Braves pitching staff is starting to get into top form for their playoff run. Both teams have solid bats in Mike Piazza and Chipper Jones and have been through the wars before. Can the Cardinals compete with these two teams?

With a starting rotation that features Garrett Stephenson and Daryl Kile, the starters could not be in better position. Andy Benes was just activated off of the disabled list and should be fresh for the entire regular and postseason run. Rick Ankiel, the should-be rookie of the year because we know his true age, has been bril-

liant and should become a veteran in the playoffs.

The Cardinals have the infield secured with Fernando Tatis, Edgar Renteria, and Fernando Vina, but who will play first base in the playoffs? Will "The Thrill" Clark already have nine homers with the Cardinals this season and brings the excitement same excitement to the team that former-Redbird Rex Hudler brought years ago. His hustle and his aggressive grit that he brings to the clubhouse as a leader has helped the Cardinals understand what it took to be winners.

But with Clark playing so well in a Cardinal uniform, will Mark

McGwire start at first base again this season? Do you bring in Big Mac with the hurt back, knee, etc and run the risk of not having him at all in the playoffs? This is a big gamble on the Cardinals part if Big Mac comes back and demands to play. His replacement has been spectacular thus far and to take the chance of hurting a homerun hitter is just not worth it.

Another argument when it comes to first base, is who is better? Clark has an excellent glove in the field, hustles around the basepaths and hits for average more than power.

McGwire, on the other hand, has had injury problems in the past two

seasons, an okay glove in the field and a batting average of around .270, but makes up for all of this with hitting the longball on a consistent basis.

Who would you take between these two players to have on your team? The Cardinals have the luxury of having both players right now, but during the offseason, can they retain Clark just to become a reserve and a fill-in for McGwire when his back becomes sore?

Let us wait and see just exactly what is in store for the Cardinals, but right now, the Redbirds should just focus on claiming the Central Division crown.



# ARTS

## EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
age editor

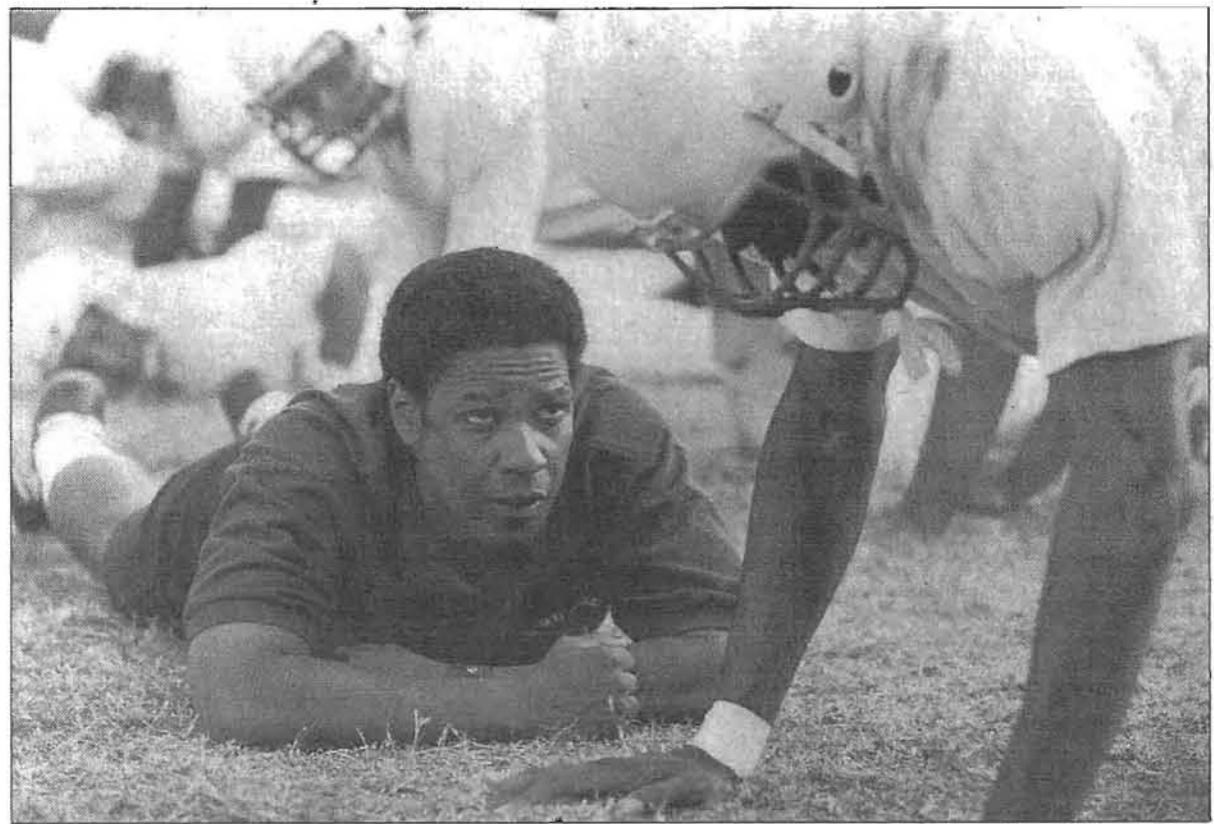
phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## MUSIC

### September

- 12  
Mest with Goldfinger  
Mississippi Nights
- Dave Stone and Friends  
Way Out Club
- 14  
Finger Eleven with One  
Way Ride  
Creepy Crawl
- Buena Vista Social Club's  
Company Segundo  
Sheldon Concert Hall
- 15  
Leo Kotke with Muriel  
Anderson  
Sheldon Concert Hall
- The Specials with Neville  
Staple  
Galaxy
- 16  
Bucky and John Pizzarelli  
Sheldon Concert Hall
- 18  
Dave Matthews with Bela  
Fleck and the Flecktones  
Riverport
- Peter Green and the  
Splinter Group  
Blueberry Hill's Duck Room
- 19  
The Robert Cray Band  
American Theater

# 'Titans' tackles racism impressively



Coach Herman Boone (Denzel Washington) speaks with one of his players during practice. Boone is caught in the middle of racially integrating his high school football team in a small Virginia town in 1971.

**BY CHARLIE BRIGHT**  
staff writer

Denzel Washington has been on a winning streak lately, both in terms of hit movies ("The Bone Collector," "The Hurricane," etc.) and as Coach Boone in "Remember the Titans." This true story stands out in the field of football movies, because it tackles real issues and has relatively little to do with football. The real theme of the movie is racism in the difficult period of the early 1970s during the desegregation of Virginia schools. Despite its serious content, the film is extremely jovial, and manages to maintain a lighthearted tone throughout.

Denzel Washington's fabulous performance is mirrored by Will Patton ("Armageddon"), whose face is far more familiar than his name. Patton, playing Coach Yoast, recently appeared in "Gone In 60 Seconds," produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, who also produced "Remember the Titans." Both actors realistically portray the two reluctantly-paired coaches, evolving their characters into complicated but likable people, and leading a talented cast to victory on the

**'Remember the Titans'**

Length: 110 min.  
Rated: PG  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

field as well as on the screen.

This film surprised me in many ways. First, it was about football, but managed to be a great movie anyway. After last year's positively vapid "Varsity Blues," I began to wonder if all the good sports movies had died and gone to the endzone in the sky. Second, this movie dealt with racism without noticeably offending anyone, more impressive in my opinion than an 80-yard field goal (a feat that does not appear in this film). Third, stealing the show in "Remember the Titans" was not the Academy Award-winning Washington, but an 11-year-old girl named Hayden Panettiere. Panettiere plays a very perceptive and commanding daughter of Coach Yoast, proving both quick-witted and adorable.

Patton, Washington, Panettiere, and a killer soundtrack combine to make this movie a real winner, something truly unforgettable.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Breakaway Cafe offers moderately priced food close to campus

**BY DEREK EVANS**  
special to The Current

The Breakaway Cafe was not a restaurant when I was a student 13 years ago, nor seven years ago when I was last on campus, so I was looking forward to eating there. A friend told me she had eaten there several times and she liked it. My interest was piqued.

I arrived around 1 p.m., immediately after my class. The establishment was seat yourself, although some people were seated after I arrived. The dining room was small, but very pleasant with a white interior and table settings. It was a relatively cool day, so the windows were open, creating a nice breeze.

The clientele included business men on their lunch breaks, some families out for lunch, and some other college students.

The menu included soups, salads, pasta dishes and pizzas, but they are going to make changes on the menu. The new menus should be available very soon. Drinks include fruit juices, tea, coffee and different kinds of beer.

One server took my drink order. The cranberry juice was a nice refreshing drink to go with the soup, salad and pasta dishes.

The service was quick and friendly, without the "hurry up and get out" feel that some other restaurants have.

Another server brought me the menu and took my order. First was the vegetable soup (\$1.65 cup; \$2.25 bowl) and the Breakaway Salad (\$2.25). The soup and salad were served almost immediately after I ordered them.

The vegetable soup had a tomato base with vegetables like yellow squash and tomatoes. It was slightly salty, but it had a good flavor. When you're hungry, the extra saltiness won't prevent a healthy appetite.

Breakaway Cafe

Address: 8418 Natural Bridge  
Tu-Thu: 11am - 9pm  
Friday: 11am - 10pm  
Saturday: 4pm - 9pm

One of the daily specials was Gazpacho, a cold tomato vegetable soup, originally from Mexico. Their version was not spicy, but had a nice mild tomato flavor with chopped raw onions, tomatoes, cucumbers and yellow squash among other vegetables. It was chunky but the raw vegetables were nicely crunchy. It was one of the better versions of Gazpacho I've tasted in years.

The Breakaway salad (\$2.25) was a dinner salad consisting of lettuce, chopped tomatoes, onions, red cabbage and cheddar cheese. It was cold and crunchy, but the cheddar cheese was a nice treat, because many restaurants don't use cheddar in their salads. The salad was topped with an avocado ranch dressing that had a slight, almost undetectable avocado flavor to it. The salad was not over-dressed either.

The pasta primavera (\$7.95) had thin spaghetti pasta with a variety of fresh vegetables like green beans, carrots, yellow squash, red bell peppers, broccoli and scallions. The dish had a tomato sauce base with garlic which was very good.

The pasta primavera can be ordered with shrimp or chicken for a slightly higher price; however, the extra chicken or shrimp might be too much food for some, especially after two cups of soup and a salad.

The Breakaway Cafe is a nice, moderately priced restaurant with good food, and quick, nice service for lunch after class.

The Breakaway Cafe's phone number is (314) 381-3554. They accept major credit cards and cash.

## FILM REVIEW

### 'The Opportunists' is quiet, thoughtful film

**BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
staff editor

"The Opportunists" is an independent film that is a thoughtful drama with a character-centered story and a well-written script. This film tells its tale in a subtle, understated way, very effectively playing up the fine acting. It uses its location to focus on both the dreariness and the family-centered strength of the New York working class neighborhood in which it is set. The result is a delightful thinking person's film with memorable characters and a gentle look at the lives of those with few opportunities.

Victor Kelly (Christopher Walken), a middle-aged former safe-cracker living in a once-Irish neighborhood of Queens, wants to forget his time in prison and live a quiet life with his nearly grown daughter Miriam (Vera Farmiga). By assuming the responsibilities of their household he hopes to redeem himself for the problems his life of crime caused for his family. While he helps his bar-owner girlfriend Sally (Cyndi Lauper) run her neighborhood bar, he regularly fends off approaches by former acquaintances who wish to lure him back into his old business. He's trying to make a living as an auto mechanic, but unfortunately, Vic is apparently not as good a mechanic as a crook, and his garage business is struggling.

Suddenly, a penniless young Irish man, Michael (Peter McDonald), appears at his door, claiming to be his nephew and hoping to find place to stay. Michael says Vic is legendary back in Ireland as the local boy who became a successful American mobster and Michael hopes to learn from him. At his daughter's insistence, Vic reluctantly takes Michael in but Michael quickly finds that Vic isn't like the stories told about him back home. However, Michael is soon befriended by a pair of neighborhood guys Pat (Donal Logue) and Jesus (Jose Zuniga), security guards at a small loan oper-



Vic Kelly (Christopher Walken) practices his rusty safe-cracking skills. Kelly, a proud man, can't seem to do anything right no matter how hard he tries.

**'The Opportunists'**

Length: 89 min.  
Rated: R  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

ation, who have a plan to rob their boss and need Vic's safe-cracking skill to do it. The young Irishman joins forces with Pat and Jesus to gain Vic's help.

We're all accustomed to seeing Christopher Walken in roles as a scary tough guy or a gangster, but this film offers him a different role. First-time director Myles Connell allows Walken to bring out a vulnerability in this character, a man trying to live a good life in the face of steep obstacles. The Irish-born director has lived in Brooklyn and is fascinated with the once-ethnic neighborhoods where generations have lived in the same house. This film is set in what was once an ethnic Irish neighborhood of New York, but an area that has clearly changed and has also been left in a backwash of society, filled with residents with few opportunities to improve their lives.

This movie is not a caper-film or

an action film, but a story about individuals struggling to do the right thing in a world of tough choices, living so close to the edge that chance events can easily push their lives in one direction or another. The characters and their dilemmas are realistically ambiguous, with no pat and simple events, which gives the story a nice edge and keeps the audience intrigued. The director uses a simple, understated style that allows the characters and situations to speak for themselves rather than dazzling us with photography and artistic techniques that would take our focus off the acting.

This film is a delightful but quiet thinking person's story in which people are sometimes more than they seem and the story is not always what you expect. Walken's nuanced, underplayed acting brings a real appeal to his character and hopefully will bring more opportunities to play this kind of role rather than only the villains he plays so well.

The script is a joy and it's nice to see such a well-conceived story on the screen.

(now playing at the Tivoli)

# St. Louis loses piece of history as Shady Oak closes

MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

The Shady Oak Theater, a lovely old movie theater located in the center of Clayton and once noted for showing foreign and art films, closed for good recently. Once a very popular destination for more sophisticated film connoisseurs, it had gone through a number of changes that paralleled general changes in movie theaters. Once independently owned, it became part of a chain, although, fortunately for its fans, it continued to show more artistic and intelligent films if not as many foreign ones. But it didn't change in one respect: it continued to have only one big screen and didn't have its own parking lot, while most local theaters have converted to multiple screens and suburban theaters have parking lots (if not always enough parking). Still, a visit to an old-fashioned

movie house like the Shady Oak was a trip to the past for a history fan like myself. While the mall theaters have many screens to choose from, they are often small, cramped, and unattractive, where the Shady Oak was spacious, comfortable, and more interesting to look at, more like the kind of theater where you might see a play with a really big screen instead of something that looks like an overgrown home entertainment center.

Recently, the big megaplexes of theaters have figured out that moviegoers like comfort and attractiveness too, and so some of the houses (as the individual rooms with a screen are called in the movie business) in the complexes have been enlarged, with wider more comfortable seats, and lobby décor has improved.

The closing of the Shady Oak made me think a bit about the histo-

ry of movie theaters and how much its disappearance was part of this history. In the silent era, movies were a booming craze and at first, storefront theaters popped up everywhere. Although they each had but one screen, there was a small movie theater every few blocks.

Later, movie exhibitors began to build big elaborate movie palaces, with stages for vaudeville shows as well as a big movie screen, like the Fox Theater (Did you know the Fox was built as a movie theater?) and the Tivoli. The Tivoli was built several years before the Fox, and comparing the two, you can see how elaborate this trend got before it was halted by the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Our region once had more of these lush movie palaces, such as the Granada on South Grand and the

Loew's downtown, but now only a few remain. You can sometimes guess the age of a theater by looking at how much of a stage and a curtain it has, since theaters continued to be built with non-functional bits of curtain and stage long after they stopped having stage shows.

Although theaters came and went, this basic trend toward a few big fancy theaters and a lot of little neighborhood theaters continued until the 1970s, when the big and little theaters started to disappear, replaced by complexes of small theaters and, more recently, by complexes with mixes of large and small theaters. Many larger older theaters converted to multiple screens, and if they were smart, they kept one big screen when they did this, as the Esquire and the Tivoli did. Since many of the earliest multiscreen theaters were ugly,

with barely tolerable seating and tiny screens; theaters that retained a nice theater and big screen had an edge.

As from the beginning of movie theaters, some theaters were independently owned (Wehrenberg started as a local theater that grew into a chain, although only in this area so far) and some were part of national chains (as the Fox was).

With the closing of the Shady Oak, we have one less piece of this history. Although the Shady Oak had not been an independent theater for several years, the independent theaters are few now too, with only the Chase and the Hi-Pointe remaining. A visit to the Hi-Pointe would be a nice nod toward the Shady Oak, as it is the other old-fashioned single screen theater that consistently offered the best intelligent art and foreign films.



# Soccer, from page 5

Jill Wacker took this advice, and with just under 40 seconds to play in the match, found a hole in the defense and blasted a shot to tie the game and force an overtime.

The first overtime showcased solid efforts by both teams' defenses, and after 25 minutes of play the score, much like the defense, stood firmly at 3-3.

"After that first OT, both teams showed that they could play each other very well," said Goetz. "This was a very well-balanced game."

It took 114 minutes and a lot of shots to finally wrap this contest up, when the University of Tampa finally found keeper Kathleen Hertling's weak side and won the contest 4-3.

The final contest of the weekend pitted the Riverwomen against Florida Southern. Fatigue set in

early on Goetz's squad, as the offense fired a lot of low-quality shots against the mediocre Southern defense. The first half ended with the score at 0-0.

"We didn't have very many quality scoring chances in that [Southern] game," said Goetz. "The girls were sapped from the previous game and the focus was just not there."

The defense improved in the final half, allowing only 4 shots to reach net in the final 45 minutes of play. Offensively, the Riverwomen made 19 shots, but the deciding one came off the foot of freshman Rachel Helling, who recorded the only goal of the game at the 60:00 mark. This would prove to be the game-winner, as the Riverwomen took home a 1-0 victory to improve to 2-1 overall.



The Riverwomen play against The Greyhounds in a game last year. The Riverwomen are currently 2-1 including last week's game against University of Tampa which went into double overtime.

File Photo The Current

# SPORTS, from page 5

Rec Treks are off-campus outings organized by Rec Sports and Student Activities that occur around once a month during the school year. The scheduled Rec Treks for fall semester are the Katy Trail Bike Ride, UMSL-apolis 500 go-kart race and paintball. All Rec Treks are free for enrolled UM-St. Louis students.

In order to participate in an intramural sport, call 516-5326, or stop at 203 Mark Twain. For students, all events except for bowling are free, and team sports require a \$10 refundable forfeit fee per team. Individuals who want to play team sports will be placed on a team by the Rec Sports office. Anyone affiliated with the university, students, faculty, and staff, is eligible to play.

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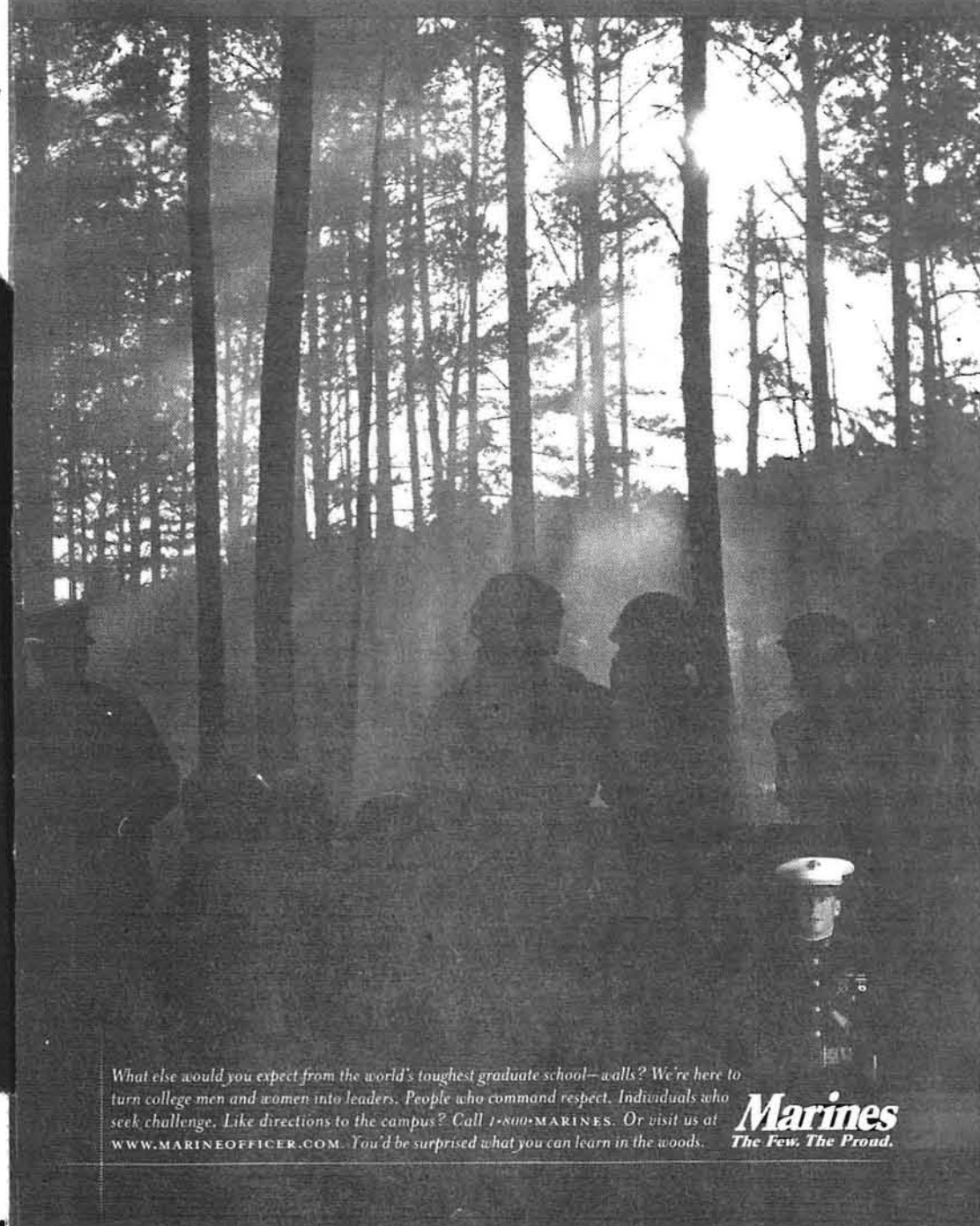
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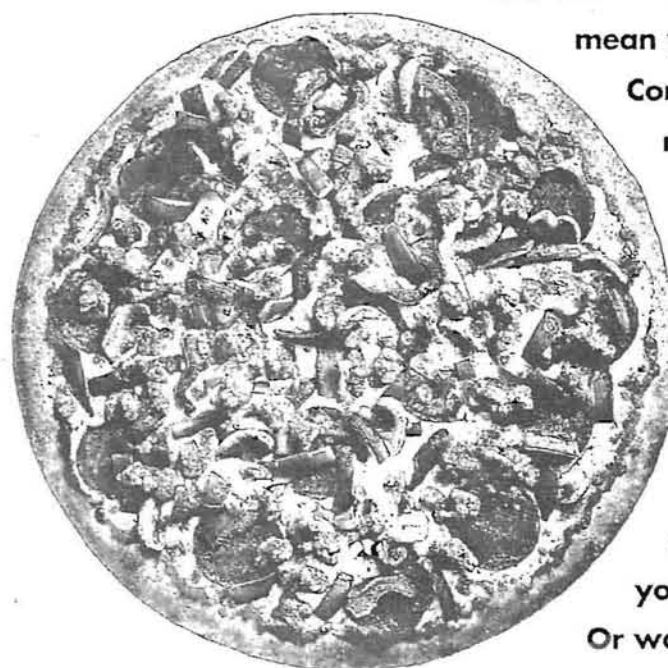
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# Tragedy exposed fatal flaw of majestic ship

At 1 a.m., September 8, 1985, undersea exploration did the impossible. For at that hour, on that day, exactly fifteen years ago, the wreck of the RMS Titanic was discovered by a joint American and French expedition. Perhaps no ship, with the possible exception of Noah's Ark, has captured so much of the world's attention and imagination the way the Titanic has.

The Royal Mail Steamship Titanic was built in Belfast, Ireland at the Harland and Wolff Shipyards. It was designed by Thomas Andrews, a 34-year-old architect from Comber, Scotland.

The Titanic was actually the second of the three gigantic sister ships, belonging to The White Star Line, a famous British transatlantic shipping company which began service in

1860. These ships were built to counter the Cunard Lines' Lusitania and Mauretania which had been in service since 1907.

The dimensions of the Titanic were astonishing! It was 882.9 feet long, 92.5 feet wide, and 176 feet tall. She weighed 52,310 gross tons and displaced 66,000 tons of water. Each link in her anchor chains weighed 175 pounds, while her awesome steel anchors themselves were 25 feet in height. Each of her four funnels were 65 feet tall and wide enough to emit a locomotive. In addition, each of her colossal reciprocating steam engines was as tall as a three-story house and churned out 155,000 horsepower. Providing fuel for these engines were 29 boilers. Each stood 17 feet tall and

weighed over 90 tons. The Titanic had three propellers. Each wing propeller was 26 feet wide and the center one spanned 16 feet.

The Titanic could carry 3,000 passengers and cruise effortlessly at 24-25 knots.

Work began on the Titanic in the spring of 1909. The first keel plates were laid in March of that year. By the summer of 1910, nearly 4,000 men were laboring 12-15 hours per day on her gigantic hull. Finally, on May 31, 1911, it was ready for launch. At precisely one minute past noon, with the help of thousands of tons of oil and other lubricants, the Titanic slid gracefully into Belfast Harbor. A crowd of 100,000 witnessed the procession.

Over the next 20 months, the Titanic went through her fitting out process.

Its owners were determined not only to make it the largest ship afloat, but also the most luxurious. It had priceless works of art such as the famous painting of Plymouth Harbor.

It had an ornamental clock depicting images of Honor and Glory crowning Time. It had a palm court, French side-walk cafe, first-class cabins with 50-foot sections of private promenade space, Turkish bath, squash court, swimming pool, reception rooms, writing rooms and smoking rooms. It was also equipped with libraries in both first and second class, as well as a hospital with both an operating room and recovery room. In addition, The Titanic contained two sets of elevators in both first- and second-class.

All of the furniture in first-class was made of mahogany, and the carpet in most of the rooms was nearly two inches thick. The Titanic also boasted a gymnasium for both first- and second-class passengers. It contained rowing machines, electronic bicycles, workout bags and camels, a piece of vaulting equipment used by gymnasts.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the Titanic's internal structures was its first-class Grand Staircase, 60 feet tall and made of mahogany wood with

brass trim. The staircase was topped off with a glass dome containing stained glass windows.

The Titanic's hull was subdivided into 16 water-tight compartments supported by 15 transverse bulkheads. At the lower portion of each bulkhead was an electronically controlled water-tight door. All of these doors could be closed simultaneously by simply activating a single lever on the bridge.

The Titanic was thought to be practically unsinkable for the following reasons. First, any two of her sixteen compartments could be completely flooded and she could still remain afloat. In addition, any three of her first five compartments could be flooded and it could still remain afloat. In fact, even if all of her first four compartments were completely filled with water, the Titanic would still remain afloat. Simply put, the Titanic was capable of surviving a broadside collision at the junction of a bulkhead or she could even ram another ship at full speed and absorb the impact to the first four compartments.

simultaneously. So, this design flaw was simply ignored.

The RMS Titanic embarked on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England at noon on April 10, 1912. After narrowly avoiding a collision with an American ship, the New York, it docked at Cherbourg, France that very night.

It was here where the Titanic took on perhaps its most famous passenger, Molly Brown, a native of Missouri.

On the afternoon of the April 11, the Titanic docked at Queenstown, Ireland, then set sail for New York City. It would never make it.

At 11:40 p.m., Sunday, April 14, 1912, it struck an iceberg along its starboard side and sunk two hours and forty minutes later in the single worst maritime peacetime disaster in all of recorded history.


Ironically, the collision with the iceberg ripped open the first five compartments, thus exposing the one flaw in the Titanic's design, causing it to sink.

In yet another ironic twist of fate, of all the excessive amounts of glitz and glamor the Titanic possessed, one was not in the form of lifeboats. It only had 20 lifeboats. As a result, only 705 of the 2,228 people on board survived.

The Titanic disaster forever changed the course of history. As a result, from that moment forward all ships had to carry enough lifeboats for everyone on board, and all bulkheads had to extend much farther up the hull. There were also mandatory lifeboat drills, and an International Ice Patrol was set up to clear icebergs out of the shipping lanes. It is just a terrible shame that so many people had to perish in order to make things safer for future maritime travel.

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### Musicians and Choir Members Needed

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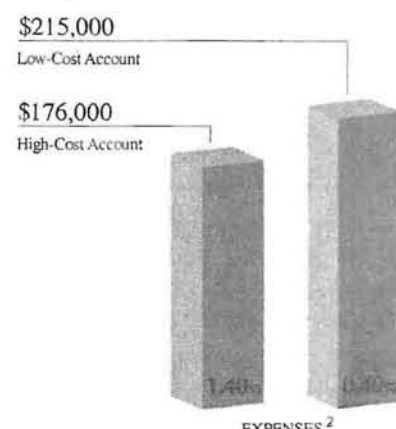
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<sup>1</sup> Total accumulations after 20 years based on initial investment of \$50,000 and hypothetical annual returns of 8%. Total returns and principal value of investments will fluctuate, and yield may vary. The chart above is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect actual performance, or predict future results, of any TIAA-CREF account, or reflect taxes.



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CARDINALS, from page 1

capita, yet the Cardinals annually have one of the top attendance marks in the league.

According to Lamping, the Cardinals will pay \$16.5 million in taxes from the business that occurs at Busch Stadium this season and may reach \$20 million with possible post-season play. "This year, the City [of St. Louis] will receive \$8.6 million, an increase of over \$5.5 million (from 1996)," Lamping said. "Who's generating these taxes for the City of St. Louis? Ninety-three percent of the people who go to Cardinal games do not live in the City. If the Cardinals were not players in downtown St. Louis, these tax dollars would not automatically just magically appear in the City of St. Louis."

"There's no consideration [given] to the negative financial impact of a non-competitive team and what that impact would have on the City. We are slowly getting toward a position where we could become non-competitive by staying in our existing ballpark," Lamping said.

He used the analogy that if Ford Motor Company were to propose a new plant in St. Louis, the City would offer financial help and tax breaks to the company in order to attract the business. If that is the case, why

should the City not help an existing company construct a new building?

According to Jones, the City agrees the Cardinals need a new stadium and that the problem is getting the two sides to come together on money issues. "There are currently 3 million people who come downtown 81 times a year. Those people generate \$8 million this year for the City of St. Louis. The City has a financial interest in maintaining that. Those dollars, if the Cardinals were not downtown, would definitely not be spent in downtown St. Louis," Jones said. "Our focus will be on what is the benefit to the City and how can that be structured."

CANDIDATES, from page 1

"If you were to look at the process and analyze it, can you see anything that's drastically different that would slant the elections to their favor?" Blanton asked. "I have nothing but praise for the things [Glenn and Rhoda] have done and the way they've done them."

This year, the polls will not be

manned by students. Instead, members of the Staff Association will work each location, in an effort to solve several problems that have plagued previous SGA elections.

"We're trying not to have too many polling locations," Rhoda said. "I think last year they overextended themselves and polls were closed

when they should have been. We have to make sure every one of these polling places is well-manned."

Blanton said using Staff Association members would eliminate the perennial accusations of favoritism or bias lodged when students manned the polls.

BLANTON, from page 1

Mirthday, which began in 1983, was another event Blanton developed. Every year, late in the spring, students unwind with free food, music, and volleyball games, while visiting the many booths set up by student organizations.

"I actually came up with the name 'mirth,'" Blanton said. "I was laughed at when I first suggested it, but once I pointed out that the word means fun and enjoyment, people began to accept it."

Holiday Fest is an event where UMSL gives something back to the community. Every year, food drives are organized across campus to help the needy. When the food is gathered, it is then sent to the North Side Team Ministry, located at the intersection of N. Grand and I-70, which then distributes the food.

"I chose this organization, after a great deal of searching, because they are free of bureaucracy and do not put stipulations on who gets the food. If

someone comes to the ministry in need of food, they get it," Blanton said. "It's a wonderful place which has one goal, to help people."

While activities make an educational institution fun to attend, the heart of a university is academics. Blanton said he was proud of the instruction students receive at UMSL.

"I believe that the quality of education here is second only to that of Washington University; and not second by much," he said. "Nearly 80 percent of our faculty have a Ph.D, and the research facilities are outstanding."

"Over the years, many students have come up to me and said they are challenged here much more than say at Columbia, and that is a credit to our faculty," Blanton said.

With such an exemplary record of dedicated service to the students at UMSL, one may wonder why Blanton chose to retire.

Blanton said he was taking advantage of a generous early retirement offer, and the timing was perfect.

"Students have come up to me and said, 'My mom and dad knew you, and wanted me to come by and say hi.' This served to remind me of just how long I have been at my present duties, and how old I am too," Blanton said.

Though he is retiring, Blanton is not leaving altogether. He will work part time over the next two years as the special projects administrator and coordinator for the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

"I am going to get practice on the art of retirement, before actually being retired," he joked.

With more time on his hands, Blanton said he plans to increase his level of frustration on the golf course, and do some travelling with his wife who he met at UMSL in 1973 when she was the director of Health Services.

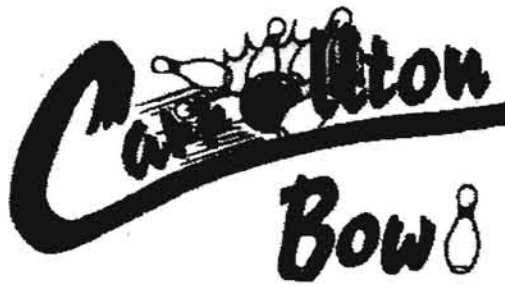
UMSL monuments stand test of time . . .



The University recently installed a fountain near the J.C. Penney Building and Parking Garage C, along East Drive. This fountain replaces the faux brick monument installed last year that was actually made of wood. The new fountain is illuminated at night.

Darren Brunel/ The Current

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