

10-17-2005

## Current, October 17, 2005

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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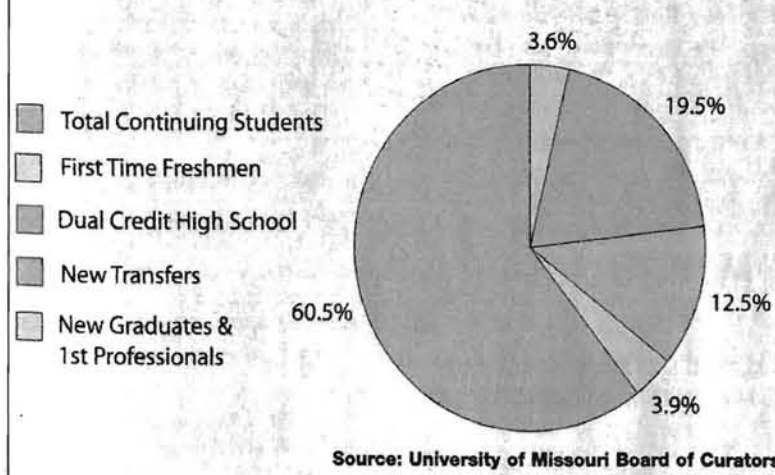


St. Louis haunted attractions  
See page 7

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Types of Students Enrolled at UM-St. Louis  
Based on a total enrollment of 15,230



## UM prepares for enrollment drop

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
News Editor

Missouri may soon reach its peak in the number of high school students graduating each year, which spells out bad news for attempts to increase enrollment across the University of Missouri system.

Enrollment managers at the four UM campuses discussed the issue during the Board of Curators meeting at UM-St. Louis Friday, Oct. 7.

Jay Goff, dean of enrollment management at UM-Rolla, said the UM System has increased enrollment in almost every area. He named more diverse students, better access to campuses and Missouri's dominant market share as reasons for the overall increase.

The number of high school graduates in Missouri increased by about 10 percent between 2000-2005, while enrollment in the University of Missouri grew about 10.4 percent during that same time, Goff said.

However, Missouri is expected to show a 4 percent decrease in the number of high school students graduating between 2002 and 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Goff said a declining percentage of undergraduates enrolling at universities in the Midwest has already started as recruiters from the east and west coasts have been recruiting more Missouri students.

To counter these prospective figures, UM President Elson Floyd proposed a plan "to be clearer in our poli-

cy of admitting students and make sure that we're able to admit the top 10 percent of students graduating here in Missouri."

In addition, Goff named five practices the UM System can use to understand the current trends in the changing diversity of students and how to better prepare for the next generation of students in the coming years.

First, the University must prepare for the decline of high school graduates.

see ENROLLMENT, page 5

## PRIZM drags out UMSL's best to Pilot House show



Justin "Jojo" Bello, sophomore, nursing, clutches several dollar bills given to him while he performed to Britney Spears' hit song "Toxic," during an impromptu dance routine at PRIZM's second annual drag show on Friday night before a capacity crowd in the Pilot House. The event, which was billed as "A National Coming Out Day Celebration" featured six drag queens, and was co-sponsored by Horizons, UPB and SGA.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

## Baseball field will be demolished for business park road

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
News Associate Editor

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball team will soon be moving their home. As early as November, UM-St. Louis will be having the groundbreaking on a new business park, which will become the new headquarters of Express Scripts, the second largest corporation in the state.

To service the business park, a road will be built that will go through third base of the Rivermen's field. UM-St. Louis has plans to build a new field on south campus but in the meantime the Rivermen will be homeless.

"You'll probably come as close as third base," Bob Samples, director of university communications, said.

The road will be a \$8 million project that will be paid by the developer, North Park, and St. Louis County. The road will go straight from the small

connecting road between the new Florissant and the small strip of the old Florissant, that provides the outlet to West Drive, through the baseball field and under a MetroLink bridge eventually reaching Hanley.

"There is also a lot of elevation issues. It's a very challenging piece of property," Samples said. "So part of this road project is actually a leveling of [the property] and doing the sewage."

Some are unhappy at the plans though. Several homeowners are being forced out or bought out and Jim Brady, head coach of the Rivermen baseball team, is concerned about the team's short term future.

"My concern is for the safety of the players, I do not want an incident like the one that happened at Missouri," Brady said, alluding to the death of football player Aaron O'Neal after practice because of a lack of proper medical attention.

A place for the Rivermen to practice and play next season has not yet been found. Matthew Dickey's Boys and Girls Club is one likely candidate, but some minor league baseball fields might be options as well.

see BASEBALL FIELD, page 5

## Graduate School Day brings record turnout

BY MELISSA HAYDEN  
Staff Writer

This year's Graduate School Day had its highest attendance since the annual event started three years ago.

On Monday, the Graduate School at UM-St. Louis held Graduate Day in the Century Rooms in the MSC. By Thursday, Oct. 6, 62 people had already replied to the Graduate School to be in attendance at the event.

Judith Walker de Félix, associate provost and dean of the Graduate School, said the school did a targeted mailing to teachers without graduate degrees.

Betsy Sampson, coordinator of academic programs/records at the Graduate School was happy with the turnout at the event. She contributed the success to the fact that this year it was held in the fall instead of the spring and that it happened to fall on Columbus Day.

Nancy Ashford, coordinator of graduate advising at the College of Education, said, "The timing was perfect. Today was a very good day for teachers."

Other contributing factors to the

success of this year's Graduate Day were an advertisement the Graduate School ran in the Riverfront Times, input from the Pierre Laclède Honors College and the economy.

"When the economy goes down, the interest in graduate school goes up," Walker de Félix said.

The event showcased the various graduate programs through representatives. They provided information and answered any questions of concern regarding their programs.

Keith Morton, graduate, communication said, "A lot of people are kind of afraid of stats, but they work you through it really well. It's a really good program." Morton was a representative for the communication graduate program.

Janice Carrell, executive staff assistant and coordinator of graduate business programs, wanted to let students know what a great program they have. She also wanted students to know what opportunities the program would allow them.

"(In) our internship office, they're doing an excellent job matching students with internships," Carrell said.

see GRAD SCHOOL DAY, page 3

## Media misportrays Medicaid cuts, Muschany says

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
News Associate Editor

Media coverage of Jefferson City has been inaccurate and biased, said Scott Muschany, Republican State Representative 87th District, at the Associated Students of the University of Missouri sponsored "Lunch with a Legislator."

Papers like the St. Louis Post-Dispatch had not covered fairly the recent cuts in Medicaid by the Republican-run Assembly, Muschany said, and had unfairly categorized the recent changes to state Medicaid.

"Most of the news sources on this subject are extremely skewed," Muschany said. "In fact I don't recognize what we did based on reading the newspaper articles that I see about them."

Lunch with a Legislator was held in the Century Rooms at the UM-St. Louis Millennium Student Center. It is a monthly ASUM sponsored event for students to meet and talk with local legislators and get a free lunch.

"Certainly many of the media sources are skewed on the issue and I don't think they are doing the public a justice in the way they are reporting on the issue," Muschany said.

The state could not afford the high cost of Medicaid, Muschany said, and



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

State Rep. Scott Muschany talks with John Barnes, senior, history, Betty Van Uum, assistant to the chancellor, and Damien Johnson, junior, criminology after 'Lunch With A Legislator,' held by ASUM in the MSC on Wednesday.

many people were taking advantage of the system. What the Medicaid reform did was lower the cost of Medicaid to the state by making higher income recipients pay a part of expenses and raising the requirements for Medicaid, he said.

"Over the course of the 12 previous years, the Medicaid roles had been expanded by at times as many as

50,000 people in the state of Missouri per month. Eligibility requirements were extended and expanded until we had a situation last year where one in five Missourians was on Medicaid. That's a million Missourians on Medicaid," Muschany said. "Which wouldn't be terrible if we could afford it."

Using the example of a four person

family making \$68,000 annually, Muschany said he did not think it unreasonable to ask them to pay a part of their children's insurance.

"I don't think you improve the life of people if you provided them something for free. It's not for free; it seems for free. The taxpayers pay for it. It's coming from somebody's pocket."

"If you provide them with something they can do themselves I think you provide them a disservice," Muschany said. "You do not help them, you do not improve their lives, you do them a disservice."

The only other option was to raise taxes, which Muschany said stunts economic growth and is unfeasible because of the Hancock Amendment.

Muschany went to the University of Illinois-Champaign and received his MBA at Northwestern University. Along with an engineer friend, he founded Trileaf Corporation, an environmental engineering company that was one of the fastest growing companies in 1998. Last year he ran for the 87th District, which includes an area south of Page Blvd. to Manchester Road between I-270 and I-170.

"I have always, since I've been back in St. Louis, been active in politics and political campaigns," Muschany said.

see MUSCHANY, page 12

'Elizabethtown' reveals director's life



See page 8

What's cooking at Carondelet Grill?



See page 8

Riverwomen kickin' butt in soccer



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# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board!** Call 516-5174 for details or email [current@jinx.umsi.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsi.edu)

## Monday

**Help paint the Sukkah**  
Geshar (UM-St. Louis' Jewish Student Group) will be painting the Sukkah located outside the Nosh patio from 12:30-2 p.m. today, come join us.

## Tuesday

### Five Percent Nation and Hip Hop Panel

Today an expert panel will explore the cultural force of Five Percent Nation Hip Hop Music at UM-St. Louis in the Pilot House at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more info call MK Stallings at 4833.

### Registration deadline for Campus Rec activities

Today is the deadline for some Campus Rec activities. They include volleyball, racquetball, floor hockey leagues, and coed volleyball leagues. Activities are free and open to students and staff. Call 5326 for more info.

### Percussion Concert

UM-St. Louis' percussion ensemble along with the UM-St. Louis Afro-Cuban Ensemble will be performing a free concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Theatre in the PAC. Please call 7970 for

## Wednesday

more info.

### Sukkah Discussion

Geshar (UM-St. Louis' Jewish Student Group) will be talking about the sukkah and the Jewish holiday surrounding it. Come outside the Nosh Patio from 12-2 p.m. to learn more.

### Peer-Net

Who says you can't have it all? Come and learn about practices that will allow you to maintain academic and extracurricular success, a job and a social life.

Free snacks and beverages.

Sponsored by STAT. For more information, email Scott at [scot-twbopp@umsi.edu](mailto:scot-twbopp@umsi.edu).

## Thursday

**Poet to read from her work**  
Nanora Sweet, associate professor of English at UM-St. Louis, will read from her poems at 3 p.m. in Gallery 210 located in the Telecommunity Center. The reading is free and open to the public. Please call 7776 for more information.

### Conference to Explore the Roles and Contributions of Women in the City

Fascinating speakers from throughout the country and St. Louis will explore women's roles in enriching our lives and solving

urban problems at the 11th annual "What is a city" conference. Anyone interested in hearing a cross-disciplinary dialogue about the past, present, and future of women in cities is invited to this free conference today and Friday beginning at 9 a.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The theme of this year's conference is "Urban Women." For more information or to register for this free conference, call 5974. Participants are asked to bring a canned food donation for a local women's shelter.

### UMSL Course Teaches Group Facilitation Skills

Facilitators can be the catalyst for helping a group to see a situation from multiple points of view, develop a cohesive working agreement, and capably execute the plan. UM-St. Louis' College of Business Administration, Continuing Education & Outreach offers an interactive, group-based course that teaches the practical skills and knowledge needed to be an adept and effective facilitator. This course will be held Thursday and Friday in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The fee for this course is \$850 or

### Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at [current@jinx.umsi.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsi.edu). All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

\$795 each for three or more people from the same organization. For more information or to register, call 5908.

## Friday

### Practice Exam

Phi Alpha Delta (Pre Law Sorority) is holding a practice exam for the GRE and LSTAT at 9 a.m. in Clark Hall room 305. Cost for the practice exam is \$5. If you have questions or need more information, contact Nicole Jamison at 680-8737.

## Saturday

### Hear Me Out

The women of Delta Zeta present the third annual "Hear Me Out." This event will take place at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House and costs \$5 for general admission. Come see performances by The Cause, Rivendell, Bear Hug Jersey and Avenue. Contact Emma for tickets and more information at 636-373-2758. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf.

## Ongoing

IC Short Course Classes  
Oct. 17-21

Instructional Computing Labs will offer free one hour classes at a variety of times on several topics, including Microsoft Office, HTML, CD Writing, File Management, UNIX/Macintosh, Adobe Photoshop basics, Viruses and Spyware and Studentmail Basics. The classes will also be taught on various "Instructional Computing Fridays." To sign up or view a course list, visit [www.umsi.edu/training](http://www.umsi.edu/training) or ask a computer lab consultant.

## Mon. Oct 24

### Texas Hold'em Tournament and Monday Night Football

Try your luck in the Second Annual No Limit Texas Hold'em Multi-Table Tournament. Event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Provincial House located on South Campus. Free. Make the final table and win prizes. The Monday Night Football game between the New York Jets vs. the Atlanta Falcons will be on TV beginning at 8 p.m. (this is between games 2 and 3 of the World Series). Enjoy snacks and soda while participating. The sign up deadline for this event is Oct. 21. Call 5326 or 5125 for more information.

## CORRECTIONS

- The story "750 attend homecoming dance, ending week of events" [Page one, issue 1164] was misattributed. The story was written by Melissa Hayden and Paul Hackbarth.
- The story "Dance group 'stepping' in at PAC" [Page nine, issue 1164] was written by Javier Nadal.

- The article "Sue Shear Institute comes under fire at Curators meeting" in issue 1164, included several misstatements:
  - The Sue Shear Institute is not "exclusively made up of women." Men have attended the institute's events, donated money to the organization and signed up for the organization's

- mailing list.
  - The internship program referred to in the article no longer exists.
  - Participants in the institute's 21st Century Leadership Academy are selected by each of the nine schools that take part in the program, not by the Sue Shear Institute.

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# Author discusses being Muslim in Sri Lanka

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Editor

Imagine what it would be like to be a female fiction writer addressing issues of gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, conflict and identity while living as a minority in a country.

Aameena Hussein, award-winning author, publisher and editor gave a short presentation on Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Gallery 210 that discussed some of the struggles and circumstances she has faced as a Muslim writer in Sri Lanka.

Jody Miller, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, opened the presentation by introducing Hussein and sharing her personal feelings towards her work.

"Aameena and I have been friends and colleagues for 15 years, since our days as graduate students together at the University of Southern California," Miller said. "We have developed a life-changing friendship and, through her, established lifelong personal and professional ties to Sri Lanka."

Before giving the stage over to Hussein, Miller described some of her many accomplishments.

"Aameena has published two books

**LEFT: Author Aameena Hussein talks with the audience at Gallery 210 on Tuesday after speaking on "Being a Muslim Writer in Sri Lanka" and reading from her two books of fiction, "Fifteen" and "Zillij."**

Mike Sherwin/The Current

of short fiction. The first, 'Fifteen,' was shortlisted for several national literary prizes, including the Graetian Award, which was instituted by the well-known Sri Lankan author Michael Ondaatje. Her second, 'Zillij,' just received the National Literary Award," she said.

Miller said, "In addition to her fiction, Aameena is the co-founder of the Perera-Hussein publishing house dedicated to finding and giving voice to emerging and established Sri Lankan writers. She is also the editor of 'Nethra,' a journal published by the International Centre for Ethnic Studies which addresses issues of violence, governance and development."

After thanking the Center for International Studies, the Institute for Women's & Gender Studies, the English department and the Center for the Humanities' Poetry and Reading Series, the audience gave a warm welcome to this visiting speaker.

Hussein began by reading a brief letter about being a Muslim writer in Sri Lanka.

"I am a Muslim who lives in a non-Muslim country and not a day goes by that I don't give thanks for that fact. As a Muslim, writing in Sri Lanka I am fairly confident that even though the Sri Lankan Muslim community may have objections to what I write and how I write it, I am reasonably safe where the State is concerned. In a Muslim country, however, I doubt that I would have the freedom to write about women, sex, minority issues and religion in the same style that I do,"

Hussein said.

Hussein explicated some of the dilemmas and problems with the Islamic religion and why she feels that they need to be discussed on a more global level rather than strictly political.

"Islam is going through a crisis. In my mind it is the only one of the three Western religions that has not gone through a long-term modern moderating reform movement. Islam needs to be talked about because it affects all of us in some way or another; it is claimed to be the fastest growing religion in the world and the second largest religion," she said.

Hussein said that she wants to talk and write about the limitations of being a Muslim.

"I want to write about apostasy; I want to write about the spiritual inequality of non-Muslims in Islam; I want to write about interpretation; I want to write about re-birth. As a Muslim woman, I want to write about gender, inheritance, marriage, female circumcision, sexuality and polygamy. I want to write about freedom and free will and equality," she said. "But I have no space."

Hussein said that she often finds herself in the precarious position of the insider outside.

"As a believing Muslim who finds contradictions and inconsistencies in the practice of the religion, I am in that unenviable situation where if I critique the religion I am the friend of the anti-Muslim and if I keep silent I am the enemy of myself."

Hussein said that often the Muslim community of Sri Lanka views her writings as treacherous and overly critical. She said that being a Muslim writer can be powerful and yet dangerous.

"Some writers have been banned, some imprisoned, others exiled and still others killed."

She said that she is aware of the dangers in which she faces, but believes everyone has the right to express their feelings towards controversial subjects.

Hussein read short excerpts from both of her books, including "Pain of Imagination," "Now and Then," "Muslim on the Periphery" and "Traditional Wife," about a Muslim woman's role in the family.

The audience was given the opportunity to ask Hussein their own questions regarding her writing style, techniques and specific works.

Mike Costello, adjunct professor of business and the Center for International Studies, asked Hussein how she centered herself in her writings and who she felt was the intended audience.

"I have to do lots of fact checking. With that kind of censorship, I have to be absolutely sure that I know where it comes from," she said. "I have been secretly writing for me. I write primarily for South Asia and Sri Lanka."

Hussein said that she writes to make people think. Whether they agree with her or not, if they come back and do some research, she feels she has served her purpose.

## Stress relief fair lets students unwind

BY JAVIER NADAL  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, the Office of Multicultural Relations and Academic Affairs held a mid-term stress relief fair in their offices.

This event tried to help students better prepare for the rest of the semester, advising them on issues like health, diet, stress or relaxation methods.

Students walked among the different rooms where they could check their blood pressure, take a diabetes test, obtain information about alcohol and drugs' effects, receive free massages or eat healthy food.

Gwendolyn D. Packnett, director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, explained the reasons they hold this fair.

"The idea behind the fair is to give students an opportunity to relax and to know if they are prepared to take the midterm exams," Packnett said. "We are concerned about the whole person."

We are making sure that during midterms students are taking care of themselves, of their bodies, they are eating right and they are getting enough rest."

Traci Carpenter Bond, research assistant for Multicultural Relations, was the person in charge of the event. Bond thinks UM-St. Louis students have stress because they are busy people.

"Our typical student is involved in a number of things. They are often employed, some are parents, some are working and [going to] school full-time," Bond said.

The Black Student Nurses Association participated, testing students' blood pressure. Tiffany Robinson, junior, nursing, and president of the organization, felt very happy about helping students.

"Everything is working great. Lots of people have come to check their pressure and ask us questions about their health. I think this fair is very helpful because students can monitor

their bodies and know how are being affected by school," Robinson said.

Students from Webster University came to advise students about alcohol and drugs and passed out flyers to learn more about their effects and consequences. They explained that consuming alcohol or drugs can seriously affect students' health.

Kimberley Edwards, junior, communication, enjoyed a free massage and some healthy food. For her, this was a useful event to prepare for the rest of the semester.

"I feel great after the massage. I have walked around the office, I have checked my body and I am ready to begin my midterm exams," Edwards said.

This fair will be held again during midterms in the spring semester. For more information in dealing with stress contact Counseling Services at 314-516-5711. To find out about other events sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations call 314-516-5532.



Chris Johnson, freshman, criminology, enjoys a relaxing massage from therapist Victoria Metcalfe of the St. Louis College of Health Careers.

## Cisco Systems speaker begins ITS series

BY MICHAEL KENNEDY  
Staff Writer

For many computer users, information security can seem like an hopeless cause. There seems to be no end to the constant barrage of viral infections and fraudulent emails. However, Information Technology Services (ITS) hopes to help with these issues and more.

ITS, with assistance from Cisco Systems, hosted the first seminar of the Technology and Career Briefing Series on Tuesday. The seminar featured Bill Hentschell, a security specialist at Cisco Systems, and focused on both current trends in computer security as well as employment with

Cisco Systems.

During the seminar, Hentschell went through the various threats currently facing the technology industry and the significance of those threats to home users. Threats covered during the seminar included everything from ordinary computer viruses to identity theft rings and organized crime.

Several examples of recent security incidents were given, including a large-scale attack that knocked the popular "Yahoo!" Internet server offline and false e-mails designed to steal account information from unsuspecting users.

The seminar also focused on careers at Cisco Systems. A brief listing of careers at Cisco Systems was given, including everything from high-

ly technical positions such as "Consulting Systems Engineer" to people-orientated positions such as "Human Resources." Hentschell also stated that the "ability to interact with people and technology is a rare skill" and that candidates should have realistic expectations on their starting pay.

As for advice on security for home users, Hentschell gave several recommendations. Home users should update software frequently, invest in a firewall software, encrypt sensitive and personal information and turn off file sharing. However, even with the best security measures, there is no solution that will yield total security. Hentschell warned, "if you are not doing protection on your PC, you're liable."

## GRADUATE SCHOOL DAY, from page 1

Nicolle Martinez is a prospective student interested in enrolling in the College of Education at the Graduate School because of its location. She found Graduate School Day to be helpful.

"I wanted to see what programs were available," Martinez said.

Students interested in the any of the programs offered at the Graduate School have no need to worry about

housing situations. On campus housing is an option they can consider.

David Hart, apartment coordinator for residential life and housing said, "We're here so graduate students know we have housing on campus."

Katie Kubiak, marketing director for University Meadows, wanted prospective graduate students to know they had facilities available on

campus within a short distance of campus facilities and libraries.

Kubiak said, "We have students from undergraduate to graduate. We have a lot of students stay with us."

The Graduate School also plans to hold an event in the spring to display the research and projects students at the Graduate School have been working on. The event is tentatively going to take place in April.



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EDITORIAL

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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

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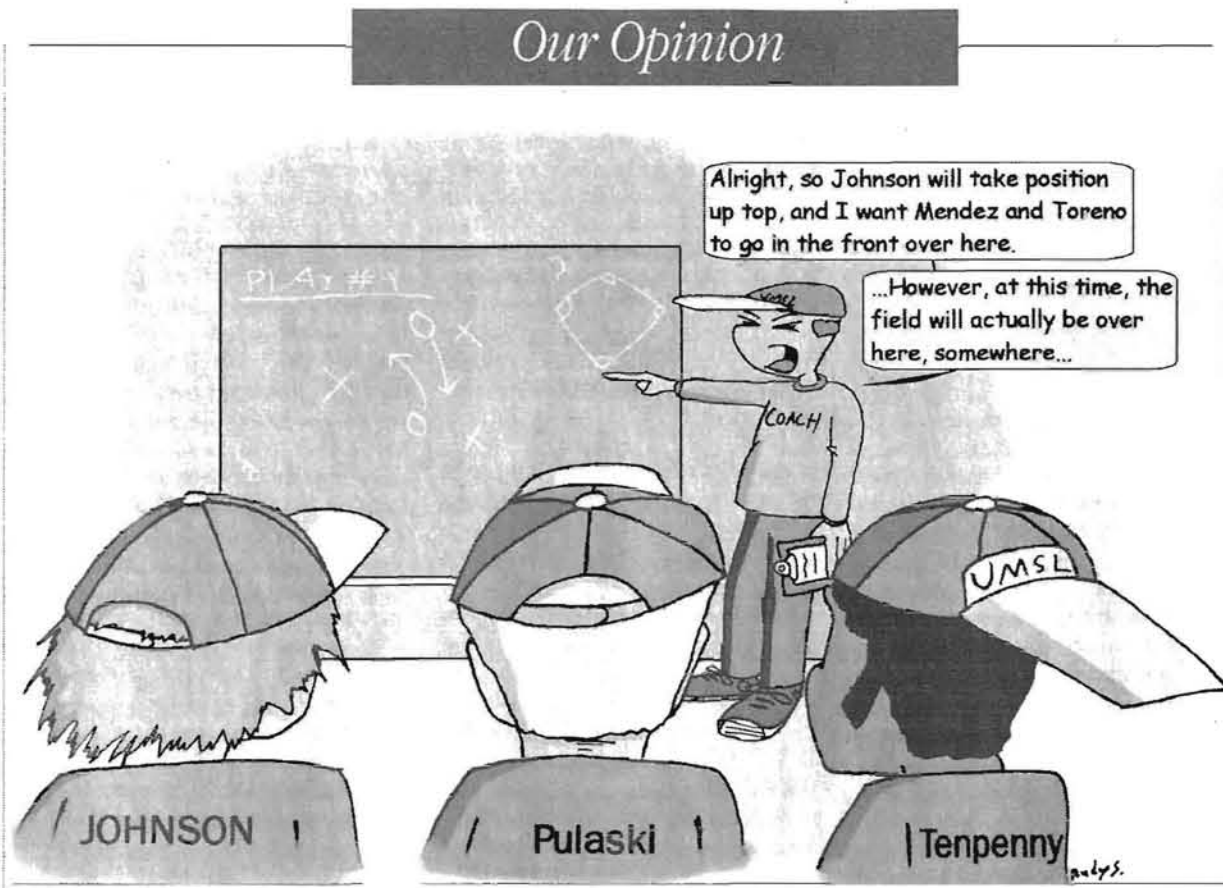
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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

# Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Photo Associate

Can you make a World Series prediction?



## All roads don't have to lead to home (plate)

As Cardinals fans cheer on the home team, the UM-St. Louis baseball team is left to wonder whether they will have a home field to play on anytime soon.

As part of Express Scripts' move to the UM-St. Louis campus, campus administrators have planned a road crossing right down the third baseline of the Rivermen's field.

A private developer and St. Louis County will fund the road construction, but there is no plan in place to guarantee that Rivermen baseball will have a home. While a site on South Campus has been picked for the new ball fields, only \$750,000 has been allocated for the project. Will that cover the cost of a new ball field?

Not likely.

Even a cursory google search turns up a \$1.4 million bill for a Carson City community college's baseball field. And, that plan only includes the bare bones grading, turf, fencing and a backstop.

So, why is the University planning to demolish baseball field for another, rather than suggest a road that curves around the baseball field?

The answer from the University is that in order to go under a MetroLink bridge, the road can not be curved around the field.

However, with all of the brain power in our engineering department, couldn't the University find a way to use existing roads to connect the new business park to campus, without destroying an existing ball field (and having to build a brand new one from scratch)?

For too long, the University has sidelined Athletics. With all of the hard work done by the chancellor's taskforce on athletics, it would be a shame to take a step in the wrong direction by placing road building ahead of student athletes.

## Student lobbying group should fight to keep funds here

At its monthly board of directors meeting in Columbia, Mo. last weekend, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri brought forth a proposal to radically change the way each campus' fees are allocated to the central ASUM office.

The change would mean that ASUM's UMSL chapter would pay more than six times what it paid last year. The organization that takes in about \$34,000 a year from UM-St. Louis students via a dedicated 15 cents per credit-hour fee.

Instead of the \$3,000 ASUM-St. Louis paid last year to the central office, the new total would be \$18,750.

The plan is intended to even out the contributions each ASUM chapter makes to the central ASUM administration, by basing the contributions on proportion of enrollment in the UM System.

Basically, UM-Columbia is tired of bearing the lion's share of the overall ASUM organization's bill. Before, Mizzou contributed the vast majority of the \$91,000 ASUM pays for its central operation (78 percent of which is dedicated to paying payroll for its full-time executive director and five paid student positions).

At UM-St. Louis, we understand very well the idea of the 'funding gap,' or funding based on proportionality of students. Less than 15 percent of state appropriations to the UM System have been given to UM-St. Louis, which has a quarter of the total UM enrollment.

However, the long overdue plan announced in May wasn't a one-year plan, slicing into the other campuses' budgets. Rather, the plan is phased in gradually over 10 years.

By slamming a 600 percent increase on the UM-St. Louis chapter, the central ASUM office essentially wrests control of UMSL funds and places it in the hands of the 'central office,' located on the Mizzou campus.

ASUM board member David Dodd did a good job at sticking up for UM-St. Louis, arguing that the increase would "cut UMSL off at the knees." Indeed, ASUM's highly successful (and this year, very well attended) 'Lunch with a Legislator' could be directly affected (meaning 'cut') if ASUM's budget is drastically changed.

Other campuses' board members chided the UMSL delegation's 'Lunch' series (One board member saying 'If you want your students to meet legislators, take them to Jefferson City...or ask for more money from your students').

However, shouldn't ASUM-St. Louis retain the right to decide whether it wants to augment its lobbying efforts with direct student contact with legislators at its home campus?

Or should the decision be left up to the 'central' ASUM office, comfortably located in the heart of Mizzou's campus?

The ASUM-St. Louis board, and ex-officio members D'Andre Braddix, Taz Hossain and Maria Curtis should do a bit of lobbying for their own campus, and fight tooth and nail to convince UM's vice chancellors to vote down this proposal, in order to keep UMSL dollars under the control of UMSL students, whose priorities may not be neatly aligned with those of Mizzou...er, I mean, 'Central' ASUM.



MIKE SHERWIN  
Editor-in-Chief

## Eat your media with some salt

I usually eat breakfast and watch national news, but it's getting harder to stomach what I see each day.

Today I saw that a prominent lawyer's wife was murdered, our CDC is worried about bird flu and Louisiana doctors are being investigated for patient euthanasia in the post-Katrina days.

All that before I finished my grits.

In theory, I love the role of media. I wouldn't spend so much time at *The Current* if I didn't believe in our cause: to inform, entertain and inspire intelligent thought. Unfortunately, big name news organizations have warped that ideal civil-service concept and turned it into a twisted program to increase TV ratings.

My dad, an Army soldier deployed to Iraq, regularly sends my family e-mail updates about life in the war zone.

"Don't believe what you see in the news," he said the other day. "Every day progress is being made. Things we have always taken for granted... running water, electricity, sewers, are coming on line for people who have never had those things. The TV crews only cover sensational events like car bombs."

"We invited them to a special media event to show what progress is being made, like a new teaching hospital or a school for the deaf renovation, but they're not interested in that sort of stuff. Regardless, great things are happening and life is getting better. I've been all over the country... places like Fallujah, Ramadi, Baquba, Sammara, Najaf, Mosul and Tal Afar. In every place, the people are great, very thankful, and helping us fight the insurgents, terrorists and criminals that want to disrupt normal living."

"I feel like I'm in Philadelphia in 1776," he said.

We live world history every day, and we delegate the task of recording our history to the media.

Grateful and wary of this blessing and burden, *The Current* wants to give the UM-St. Louis community a well-rounded picture of campus. Even at the college level, though, we face challenges. Our regular 12-page issue can only hold a slice of the constant stream of campus life.

As recipients of news, from *The Current* to major networks, we should all take media information with a grain of salt.

Or in some cases, a warehouse full of salt.

There's a difference between ignorance and naivety; the former exists when people choose not to seek the entire balanced story. If you watch CNN faithfully, flip to Fox now and then. Watch CSPAN, listen to NPR, and find your news from different sources and brands of media.

Sometimes we just need to turn off the news. Discuss events with your peers, evaluate their opinions and take into account how much information exists out there.

As hard as we try, even *The Current* staff can't cover it all. Be your own primary campus source by attending events. When you can't keep tabs on life in the large-scale, understand that you'll need a little salt to ingest the news.

Here's a grain of salt from my primary source in Iraq, a view not commonly seen on national news:

"I want you to know that I'm doing my job and making the most of it, where I can make a difference. I know it's dangerous, and I'm always cautious about what I'm doing and make sure we have all the security measures in place. I just hope that what we're trying to do takes hold and makes this a better place for the Iraqi people."



KATE DROLET  
Managing Editor

## Libraries should be freed from Patriot Act

Maybe the Rogue Librarian should be writing this column. If he does, however, he might have to go to court to do so.

That's because, if the federal government wants to look at your library records, the library must turn them over, even if the government does not have a warrant. And if a librarian tells the public that it has turned over records to the government, the librarian is breaking the law. So if the feds contacted the Thomas Jefferson Library on campus and asked for your records, your rogue librarian couldn't tell you.

This really happens.

For example, in August, the FBI ordered a Bridgeport, Conn., library to tell it which employee had access to records of who took out what books and who used which computers when. The library instead refused and sued Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and the FBI in federal court. At least I think it's a library.

That's because there is a case in federal court in Connecticut called John Doe, et al v. Alberto Gonzales, in his capacity as Attorney General of the United States, et al. The petition mentions that John Doe, et al, belong to the America Library Association.

In the weeks after the Sept. 11; 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act. USA PATRIOT is an acronym for Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism.

The act, among other provisions, expands the federal government's search and seizure powers well beyond what the constitution allows. Under the law, the FBI can snoop around your house without a warrant, and when the agent finds something interesting, go to a judge and get a warrant for the search.

Another provision gives the government access to business records including those of bookstores and libraries.

This clearly violates the Sixth Amendment which reads, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

What Congress did when it passed the USA PATRIOT Act was to add a clause that says, in effect, except when we say so. John Doe and I agree, the government should not be allowed to get away with this.

So when the FBI contacted John Doe of Bridgeport, he went to court. Not only did Mr. Doe want the court to quash the inquiry, but he asked for the right to disclose his name to the public.

Judge Janet Hall agreed to end the gag order, but the government immedi-



BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL  
Columnist



Renata Williams  
Graduate Student, Chemistry



Christian O'Brian  
Junior, Marketing



Susanna Steimel  
Freshman, International Business



Amy Barker  
Junior, Special and Elementary Education

I'll say the Cardinals and the White Sox will be in the series, and I hope the Cardinals sweep Chicago.

I think the White Sox will beat the Cardinals in five games.

The Cardinals will go all the way in 4 games against the White Sox.

If the Cardinals win the NLCS, they will beat Chicago in game 7. Go Cards!



The Intern Diaries

Gary lands action job, reflects on lifetime of personal stunts

Amy Grant, singer and TV host, once said, "You do your best, you do all this stuff, but the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

After finishing my work on the film "Short Bus," my agent called with another gig. This time I would be in Spike Lee's new movie "The Inside Man" starring Denzel Washington and Jodie Foster.

The movie is about a bank heist gone wrong in the Business District on Wall Street.

The scene was a bit more daring than my other roles. This time I would have to do stunt work. I wasn't too concerned about this exciting opportunity because I've been doing all my own stunts since the day I was born.

I remember one time my brother and I decided to take my dad's green Ford pickup truck for a drive. The only problem was that I was six, and my brother—who was driving while I sat in the bed of the truck—was only five. Ben released the truck from park to neutral, and we went plowing

through the garage door.

Another time, when I was in junior high, I decided to mimic something I saw in "Mary Poppins."

At that time I lived in a three-story house with a back deck that hovered 20 feet above the ground. I decided to jump off the deck using a large round pink patio umbrella for a parachute. I remembered Mary Poppins used to fly in the air with one, and I thought it would be cool if I could float off the top deck and land gently on the ground.

Needless to say, I found out that air passes really quickly through the tiny little holes in the umbrella and I went crashing to the ground.

I also pulled a stunt when I car surfed after watching Michael J. Fox in "Teen Wolf."

My cousin got behind the wheel of his 1986 red Ford Mustang while I climbed on top of the roof of his car. I tapped on the top of the roof, signaling him to drive. Pete hit the gas and the car jerked forward, throwing me off the back of the car and into the ditch.

It took him a few miles until he realized that I had fell off my "car board" and crashed into the black sea of pavement.

Besides stunts with cars and large pink umbrellas, I even did some with animals.

Growing up on a small farm, we had several different farm animals.

Our Noah's Ark on land included cows, a bull, sows, boars, turkeys, rabbits, chickens, a rooster, horses, fishes, a donkey, peacocks, dogs, cats, hamsters, parakeets, turtles, geese and a goat.

Our goat's name was Billy. My brother and I use to taunt Billy in order to get him to buck us off the porch, which was only five feet off the ground. I would bend over and look between my legs and yell, "Billy."

Billy would whip his head around and fix his horns in my direction, and then charge.

And finally, my biggest stunt was a deadly duel between me and a snake near Grandpa Sohn's pond.

One summer, a pesky water snake kept bothering us. Every time we would pull our string of caught fish in from the water, the fish would be missing. A water moccasin was attacking our catches, challenging ownership of the pond.

Annoyed, I chased the serpent around the pond with a long stick. I must have done this for an hour. Finally, instead of trying to swim away, it decided to crawl up on land and face me man to snake, snake to man.

Grandpa was too old to intervene,

and my brothers were too far from the battleground to help. I won.

My name actually means 'spear-head.' Apparently I'm named after a long stick with a sharp pointy end used for poking things. I'm not sure what that sign means exactly, but I do know that if I could face a dangerous snake, a pink umbrella, a pickup ride with my five-year-old brother and a couple of other rough landings, I can handle a choreographed police raid.

My scene in the Lee movie involved cops cars sliding all over the road and sidewalk where I was standing; motorcycles whizzing in between the sliding cars around me; and SWAT teams encircling a bank, pushing bystanders and me while the entire building was wrapped in yellow tape; all with five minutes.

For the Spike Lee movie I decided to invest all the money I made from my last picture into my Wall Street character, Buck Spearhead. I bought a yellow shirt that went with my light gray Hilfiger suit, got a matching dark yellow tie, splurged on a manicure,

and went in for a cucumber facial. I wanted to look and feel like a successful broker at Wall Street and my purchases and pampering achieved that goal.

Spike Lee was pretty laid back on the set. Unlike his animated presence at Knicks games, he was quiet and observational. He had several cameras, some hanging from cranes above, that filmed the entire action at once. I learned a lot by watching him work, and it has gotten me to think about looking on the other end of the camera.

After wrapping up this picture, my agent told me of another shoot for "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." I would use my experience on the Spike Lee set, and some things I noticed at the Belmont Horse race, which would land me some serious camera time.

Stay tuned next week when Gary goes shopping at Tiffany's and is filmed in an episode of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" that airs Nov. 6.



GARY SOHN  
New York Correspondent

Letters to the Editor

Congress should be concerned about steroids

I just read the article written by Myron McNeill [issue 1163] and I would just like him to know that he has seemed to overlook a few ideas in his recent article about steroids and Congress' obsession with them.

He said, "I cannot find a legitimate reason for Congress to crackdown on drug use when other issues are prevalent. I do not feel that anyone can find a justifiable reason as well." I have a serious problem with this statement in the sense that millions of kids around not only this country, but also the entire world, idolize professional athletes. Surely there is someone you

admired when you were a wee lad and would do anything to get where they were - dress like them, talk like them, get interested in his or her activity, and coach yourself in all shapes of your life to get to his or her status.

When big name athletes are idolized around the world and use not only banned substances, but also illegal drugs, it becomes a concern of Congress.

I agree that it probably should not be the number one concern, but when professional athletes use drugs either to boost performance or because they like to pass a bowl, it sends a message

to kids that drugs are okay. It sends a message that even though the drugs are technically illegal, if you are good enough (professionally) then using is okay. This message is obviously not a good one and should, of course, be prevented because drugs are one of the factors that tear families apart, endanger the innocent and tarnish neighborhoods. Are you really saying that role models who are influencing the world's future generations should not be moral and ethical people bound by rules?"

Hank Wilkinson

Reader to legislators: Come to listen, not pontificate

Rachel Storch left much to be desired as a guest speaker of the popular Lunch with a Legislator series. The problem is simple: she seemed to be much more interested in sharing a speech about herself than listening to the students. Admittedly, I don't know what took place after my fiancé and I left, but after nearly 30 minutes of listening to her recite an obviously written speech about herself, my fiancé was ready to run out of the room.

Talking about Medicaid is not on everyone's minds, at least not those in attendance of the event. My fiancé wanted to ask about the gas prices and other things that directly affect us but was not given the opportunity. Students and others who attend these events have a limited amount of time. Personally, I didn't have more than an hour to spare for this and I missed out on my favorite part: the question-answer session of the event. In the

past, legislators that I've heard have given a brief overview of themselves and then moved on to discuss what the students were there to discuss. I suggest that whoever asks the legislators to come and speak will in the future ask them to please keep their "introduction" to just that.

Sincerely,

Stacy Beckenholdt, junior,  
anthropology

Nursing editorial cartoon was not offensive, reader says

[In response to letter to the editor in The Current, Oct. 3, which was in response to an editorial cartoon in the Sept. 26 issue]

I found the cartoon to be both appropriate and reflective in the way nurses deal with a stressful situation, they laugh it off. It's a cartoon, get over it. If you want to talk about distasteful, let's talk about the dean's character. I commend the faculty and student effort to rid the dean. The cartoon is very reflective. The dean came into the college of

nursing and was a ticking time bomb. She exploded too many times at the wrong people (resigned faculty) and disaster occurred.

It will take many years to clean up the mess the dean created in a little over a year.

If any chancellor in the U.S. is thinking of hiring this dean in the future I would encourage them to think otherwise. I commend The Current for their work in covering the college of nursing's issues in the last month. I believe

that your articles put pressure on the university administration to step in quickly and take action. You reported accurately and fairly on this issue and you should be applauded.

I want all students to know their voices are important and will be heard. It's our education: if we don't speak up, no one else will.

Sincerely,

Todd Renner, Proud Senior Nursing Student only after the resignation of Dean Travis.

Sports editor's column on hockey is off the mark, reader says

I've read some bad articles in your paper over the last couple years, but the ones that really annoy me are when you guys pretend to know something about hockey.

Lindsey Barringer's article "Hockey's back, but who cares?" wasn't the worst article you've printed, but it certainly wouldn't make it into any reputable publication either.

I don't claim to know much about journalism, but one thing I could assume would be that to write on a subject, you would have to actually have to know something about it. Good thing Lindsey clarified for me that this is

DEFINITELY not the case. Not only are her facts skewed (pre-season attendance as a marker for popularity is one of the lamest things I've heard in some time, and I don't believe for a minute she spent the summer reading about hockey when she lists the cause of the lock-out and doesn't even use the words "salary cap"), but the piece is really nothing more than stating her opinion and belittling those that feel differently. FYI to Lindsey, hockey is a sport that where the climate is fitting for it, its popularity flourishes. It's a sport that takes a dedication to understanding b/c in a given game there's a lot more going

on than the untrained eye can see. That's the problem with ignorant people like Lindsey, they didn't like the sport the first time they saw it, and refuse to develop an understanding of it.

Lindsey wants an NBA team? Here's an idea.. How about she moves to a city that has one, so I never have to read her dribble again.

Oh and if you guys need someone to write an article about hockey in the future, I'd be more than happy. I mean, I don't know anything about journalism, but neither do you ...

Matt Cook

BASEBALL FIELD, from page 1

Either way the team will have to find transportation to and from these fields. None of the UM-St. Louis sports staff and facilities will be convenient and all of this risks the safety of the students, Brady said.

"This was done without full people's knowledge, people that use this space. Come to me first. Don't leave me out of the equation," Brady said. "Now it's a liability issue about making students drive out to a practice field."

Samples said the University has not made plans for team transportation.

Brady was also upset that while

all the plans where made he and the baseball team were not represented.

"I feel that we were left out of the loop with those plans. Since we are the ones to be directly influenced by the plan, we should have been given exact and detailed information, enabling us to explore our options," Brady said.

The need for the road to go under the MetroLink bridge makes the curving of the road around the field an impossibility, Samples said.

"We always wanted to connect back under the MetroLink to Hanley," Samples said.

The school has allocated

\$750,000 for the construction of a new field to be built just south of the old hospital building. The field will be regulation size, whereas the current field is too short at points. However, it will have few other amenities. The field will be expanded on as more money becomes available and eventually stadium seating may be put in, Samples said.

The new field is scheduled to be open for the spring 2007 season.

And what of the appeal of Brady's age discrimination lawsuit?

"It's a separate issue from the baseball field," Samples said.

ENROLLMENT, from page 1

A report given to the Board of Curators stated, "For Missouri, it could mean up to 4,000 fewer traditional students starting college each year between 2009 and 2014."

Second, the UM System needs to focus on recruitment and retention of students. Goff said retention has become a larger issue "because it's more important for us to keep the students we brought in."

In the UM System overall, Floyd said, "We've been primarily focused not only to definitely keep the number of students but to increase the number of out-of-state students coming to the University, especially at the graduate and professional level."

Third, the University should address the problem of meeting the interests of K-12 students. Goff said trends show certain professional fields that Missouri

universities offer "are not in the interest of high school students."

Fourth, more need-based scholarships should be offered to increase affordability. UM-St. Louis began a need-based scholarship program last year. These scholarships have been especially significant to the UM-St. Louis campus, said John Kundel, associate vice provost of student affairs and enrollment management at UM-St. Louis.

Fifth, the University's recruitment efforts should embrace modern technology. Campus visits and face-to-face recruitment efforts have been effective, but interactive Web sites are becoming increasingly helpful, Goff said.

"We recognize with today's students...they want that high tech feel."

Since each campus serves different types of students, each campus has its

own strategy to approaching enrollment management.

"One of the unique parts of [UM-St. Louis'] program is we go into the corporate sector in the St. Louis metro area," Kundel said. The University has met with employers to see what kind of students local companies are looking for.

UM-St. Louis also has had a partnership with high schools through the College Summit program since last year. College Summit helps inner city youth in low-income families prepare the students for or to continue their college education.


Kundel said the foundation for college enrollment is laid down in middle and high schools. "We've redoubled our efforts in focusing on the high schools to make contact with the new students," he said.

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Valerie Breshears/The Current  
A member of the New York-based Japanese drumming group Taikoza performs Friday at the Touhill PAC.

# Taikoza: a maelstrom of Japanese drums

BY ALBERTO PATINO  
Staff Writer

Visiting New York-based Japanese drumming group Taikoza recently rumbled the sold-out seats of the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Friday, Oct. 14.

The taiko ensemble, led by artistic director and musician Marco Lienhard, proved to be a veritable percussive force skilled in the stylized Japanese art form.

Roughly translated, "taiko" means "big drum," and it has been an integral part of Japanese culture for the past 15 centuries. It originated in China and later was adopted by feudal Japan. It was first used to stimulate Japanese troops in warfare, and has since been used in Japanese Buddhist rituals, imperial court orchestras, Noh and Kabuki theatre and even in rice fields during harvest season.

Musical notes on the rawhide heads of the taiko are played with thick sticks called "bachi," typified by graceful, fully extended arm movements. The beats are done in a marching, duple-metered swing pattern where players alternate syncopation with rumbling crescendos and play off of one another's series of beats.

Ancient and traditional taiko primarily consists of drum work but, as is

common in contemporary taiko performances, Taikoza incorporates dynamic use of woodwind and string instruments, such as the "fue" bamboo flute and the "koto," a 13 string cylindrical zither with moveable bridges.

In their stellar Touhill show, Taikoza delivered a diverse sampling of pummeling rhythms and calculated dance. The group thundered away on many sizes of the taiko, ranging from snare-sized all the way up to 250-pound, 5-foot barrels carved out of solid pieces of keyaki trees.

Compositions such as "Utsu Hachijo" and "Amadare" featured the four primary taiko drummers starting off in quiet and orderly unison, sounding like light showers, building up a theme with each drummer placing individual accents, and then climaxing in a furor of sound nothing short of panicked buffalo narrowly escaping a pride of lions! Songs like "Odaiko" were equally impressive, featuring an elaborate duel between two standing drummers on opposite ends of a gigantic raised taiko, blind to each other's face and wholly dependent on complementary beats. And equally charming was Chikako Saito's dance in "Tabi," where she used superior balance to twirl multiple fans while holding one fan suspended between her toes. This was no small feat by any standard, especially for this clumsy critic.

Lighter selections without drums provided tasteful equilibrium with the bombast of the taiko. There were two solos showcasing the versatility of Lienhard with the piccolo-sounding fue flute and the simply breathtaking musicality at the hands of koto player Masayo Ishigure. Her chillingly phantasmagoric melodies were the greatly lauded subject of much post-show rumination and it was a shame that she had no recorded solo material available.

The performances overall were only slightly hampered by a bit of drawn-out antics involving a masked clown trying to take over on drums. Fortunately, even this gimmick couldn't cheapen the great overall impression the group left and it resulted in a hearty opportunity to engage the audience's participation. The audience was encouraged to clap loudly with the main beat and this carried on well into the exciting full group finale titled "Yataibayashi," a relentless battery of mid-sized taiko floor drums and chiming hand cymbals, which resulted in an enthusiastic encore.

Just in case you missed this concert, The East Winds Ensemble, an extended Japanese dance and music group featuring members of Taikoza, will be performing at the Touhill next year.

For further information, visit [www.taikoza.com](http://www.taikoza.com).

## Award winning novelist returns as English professor, Litmag adviser

BY GENELLE JONES  
Staff Writer

Award winning novelist John Dalton is a new English professor and literary adviser for Litmag magazine.

At a young age he asked his parents to buy him a handheld tape recorder so he could speak his stories into the microphone.

He was not a fan of writing and did not master it until the age of 27. He was not proud of being a writer, because many people viewed it as not a real career. Dalton faced many obstacles but always enjoyed writing short stories and storytelling.

"It's a very hard career to be successful in, [because] you never know what will happen," said Dalton.

After graduating from UM-St. Louis with a bachelor's degree in English, he ventured overseas to Taiwan to teach English as a second language. While in Taiwan, Dalton got his inspiration for his first award winning novel, "Heaven Lake."

"Heaven Lake" has won many awards such as: the Barnes and Noble 2004 Discover Award and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for best first fiction of 2004. It is a compelling novel that has won national accreditation.

"Heaven Lake" is based on true events that Dalton experienced while in Taiwan. During the late 1980's, China was separated by opposing political powers and men from Taiwan were not allowed to marry women from mainland China.

Months into his journey, Dalton was approached by a Taiwanese businessman who had been to mainland China and wanted to marry a Chinese woman. He approached Dalton with a \$10,000 proposition. His only request was to have Dalton go to mainland China, find the woman, marry her and then turn her over to him in



John Dalton, professor of English at UM-St. Louis, is the author of "Heaven Lake."

Photo by Rebecca L.B. Daugherty / Photo courtesy John Dalton

Taiwan.

Dalton rejected his request because of dangerous and risky obstacles, but life in China and the man's request motivated him to write his first published novel.

Dalton returned to the states in 1991. After being rejected by four universities, he applied to the University of Iowa's creative writing program. He did not have any published work and he struggled to finish his first novel but he never felt doubtful. He set his expectations high.

"If you are legitimately working hard toward that goal then you are the real thing. If you are sitting around in a bar talking about writing then you are probably not the real thing," said Dalton.

Dalton returns to UM-St. Louis to teach a writing program for

graduate students and to teach Editing Litmag. Editing Litmag is a three credit hour course that will count for the independent writing project for the Writing Certificate or for a regular writing course.

Litmag is a literary magazine made up of short stories, fiction, poetry and art work published by UM-St. Louis students.

On Wednesday Oct. 5, Litmag offered a free workshop to all students who want to have a chance in getting their best work published. There will be boxes around campus for students to submit their work if they can not attend the meeting or if they want a chance at being published.

"As long as [you] are working hard everyday and improving then [you] are the real thing," said Dalton.

## Wellness programs teach students proper nutrition

BY PATRICIA LEE  
Features Associate Editor

When customers pick up their orders at a fast food drive-through window, they see food. What they do not see is all the fat that clogs up their arteries after the meal.

According to Kathy Castulik, health educator for Health Services, proper nutrition and a healthy diet are some of the keys to living a happy, healthy life. In the past three years, Castulik has developed several wellness education programs, including a new Nutritional Assessment program, designed to help students make healthy lifestyle choices.

The Nutritional Assessment program is one of the largest wellness programs Health Services will be offering. Before she even formally finished the program at the end of September, Castulik said she had already gotten 11 requests for testing.

Castulik uses a variety of visual aids to help student picture what goes on inside their bodies. Health Services regularly sets up an informational table on the second floor rotunda of the MSC. The tables feature graphic posters about the effects of diseases such as diabetes, and displays that allow students to see tubes of fat that represent what goes into their arteries after consuming a cheeseburger or order of french fries.

Among other things, the nutrition program offers students a chance to get glucose screenings, learn exactly how many calories they should consume based on their size and activity level, find out their metabolic rate and learn exactly how much water to consume.

"There's a lot of myths behind nutrition," Castulik said. "If you don't eat right, it increases your risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke, any type of disease. [Nutrition is] feeding your bodies what you need, not what you want."

The cost of the program is \$35 for the initial assessment and includes

free follow-up visits to monitor progress with any lifestyle changes and vitamin and mineral sprays. Each program is personalized to fit the exact needs of different people.

Ashley Jordan, sophomore, management information systems, often stops by the Health Services table and said she would like to eventually take the Nutritional Assessment program.

"I need it because I'm doing cheerleading and we need to know our body fat so we know what to work on," Jordan said. "If you're too fat or too thin you need to know why."

Another new program Health Services is offering this year is a free diabetes testing.

"A lot of people have it and don't know it," Castulik said. "And it's not just older people or people who are overweight. At first I was surprised, but after I did some research I wasn't because there are just so many risk factors."

With early detection, diabetes can be treated successfully. With pre-metabolic syndrome, the pancreas is unable to process insulin properly, but full-blown diabetes can be avoided by losing about 2 percent of total body weight.

Diabetes currently has no cure, and Castulik is also starting a support group for people with the disease to help them maintain healthy lifestyles and manage the psychological aspects of diabetes. For more information, contact Castulik at 516-5671.

One of the goals of the wellness programs is to dispel common myths about diet and nutrition.

"You can be overweight and still healthy if you eat right and exercise," Castulik said.

Eating right and exercising regularly can also prevent or reduce the risk of developing many diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and breast cancer.

see WELLNESS, page 7

## The Rogue Librarian

### Where's Waldo? Not in the libraries because he's been banned

BY RALEIGH MUNS  
UM-St. Louis Reference Librarian

According to the American Library Association's "Challenged and Banned Books" web site ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)), Martin Handford's "Where's Waldo?" was one of the top 100 most banned books between 1990 and 2000.

The ALA regularly registers complaints about books as well as actual book bannings and keeps ongoing

track of them. Consequently, the ALA releases an annual list of the most banned books in America. The ALA also annually celebrates "Banned Books Week" the last week of September. The Top 10 Banned Books in 2004 range from John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" to the "Captain Underpants" series of juvenile books.

I have read the Steinbeck work (or seen the Mr. Magoo cartoon version, I forget) but confess that I have never even heard of "Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie

Woman" (Dav Pilkey, 2001). I am intrigued.

For those who don't know about Waldo, the books consist of page after page of intricately drawn scenes. The reader must find Waldo amidst the cluttered illustrations containing hundreds of active characters who are NOT Waldo.

Since all the people are drawn in miniature it is a true challenge of concentration to pick the diminutive protagonist from the legions of other characters. Waldo books are often sold

with a magnifying glass to facilitate searching.

So why ban Waldo? What would place this series of books alongside the last decade's other banned titles such as "Daddy's Roommate" (Michael Willhoite, 1990), "Sex" (Madonna, 1992), "Girls and Sex" (Wardell Pomeroy, 1991), and "Heather Has Two Mommies" (Leslea Newman, 1989)? What is it about poor Waldo that got the book banners' panties all in a twist? What mysterious sin in Waldo's background would cause

such wrath and ire?

One of my Reference Librarian colleagues, Ms. Frances Piesbergen, did some research and discovered a couple of interesting leads on this infamous Waldo issue.

According to the October 2003 "Banned Bookslut" column by Chris Zammarelli ([www.bookslut.com](http://www.bookslut.com)), the author claims that one of the Waldo books contains (gasp!) a bare breast.

see ROGUE LIBRARIAN, page 7



# History students, professors do lunch

BY LAURA AYERS  
Staff Writer

As any organization will tell you, offering food at an event is a sure way to guarantee attendance. This is especially true in a college atmosphere, but "Pizza with the Profs" offered more than just free lunch.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday, history students were invited to "Pizza with the Profs," offered by the history department, to sit together and enjoy free pizza, soda, and conversation with their professors and peers.

This event was offered on two days to accommodate class schedules, and provided students and professors the opportunity to come to one or both days. Students also had the opportunity to look at classes that will be offered next semester and ask their respective professors about them.

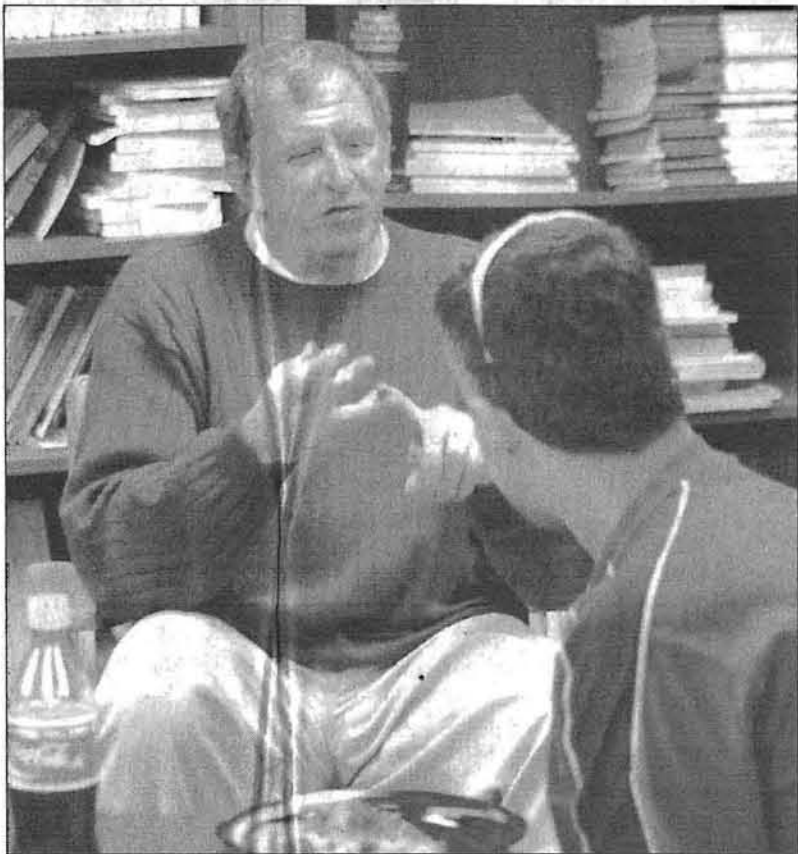
The event was well attended on both days and the students and teachers enjoyed themselves immensely.

"It was fun," Margaret Bethage, senior, history, commented afterwards.

LaVonda Staples, graduate student, history, said, "It was nice to talk to the professors outside of the classroom."

"Pizza with the Profs," an informal affair located in the College of Arts and Sciences Lounge in Lucas Hall, lasted an hour and a half. People walked about freely and joined conversations with the professors and the students. Several different topics were under discussion at any given time and the atmosphere was open and friendly.

This semester there has been a



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

**Peter Acsay, affiliate assistant professor of history, discusses different topics with a student at the history department's "Pizza with the Professors" on Wednesday afternoon.**

string of social events meant to bring students and administrators or professors together. The topics under discussion vary from each event, but the general idea seems to be to seek out students' opinions and answer any concerns they may have.

Recently, UM-St. Louis had "Coffee with Curt" and "Dean's Day." The aim of these get-togethers is to improve the University by developing a more understanding relationship between students and teachers.

It is quite probable that after the success of this event, more departments will try similar approaches to understand students. Students will have the opportunity to talk about concerns they have without the pressure of being in a classroom. This will then help the administrators and faculty cater to the students' direct needs. "Pizza With the Profs" may not be a landmark event, but it is a big step in bringing faculty and students to a more complete rapport.

## ROGUE LIBRARIAN, from page 6

An amazon.com book reviewer, Mr. Sir, wrote: I have looked into it, and it appears that the reason "Where's Waldo" got banned was because it features adult material such as "topless sunbathers," and other adult "hidden pictures."

Despite these claims, I have been unable to find anyone yet who can cite a specific Waldo book, by page number, containing

an errant mammary. Avid Waldo hunters are encouraged to forward any such evidence to the Rogue Librarian for inclusion in a future column.

This does make me consider what else might be hidden in the complex world of Waldo. I'm wondering if I'll find pictures of Waldo eating guinea pigs or engaging in cannibalism. What if there are pic-

tures of Waldo flashing the "hail satan" hand sign? Could Waldo be gay? Not that there's anything wrong with that, but it could explain the fury of the book banners. Rumors abound that Waldo was seen in one picture hanging out with Tinky Winky the Teletubby. The horror, the horror!

In my humble opinion, banning books just isn't groovy.

# St. Louis prepares for the haunted holiday season

BY GENELLE JONES  
Staff Writer

Haunted attractions around St. Louis are eager to open their doors to visitors. Most college students enjoy taking brave and adventurous walks through haunted houses, mansions and graveyards, while others enjoy riding in old squeaky wagons through dark and unfamiliar territories.

"I just like being scared," said Sana Alam, graduate student, biochemistry and biotech.

The Darkness, Silo-X and Tombstone Haunted Ghost town are a part of Scarefest 2005 and also some of the top 10 haunted attractions in America. The Darkness is located in Soulard. It is a two-story building offering two events for the price of one.

Before entering the first attraction, people are placed on an elevator and shaken back into the time of the "Long Lost Tomb of Wapawet." Groups of dead warriors chase and terrorize people through the archaeology exhibit of skeletons, mummies and creatures of the underworld. The second attraction is located up a dusty stairwell and a surprise to uninvited guests.

Silo-X is located off Highway 141 in Fenton, Mo. but well worth the drive and the wait.

This year's feature is the "Endless Green Fog of Toxic Death." As guests wait patiently in long lines, the Gull Band offers humorous musical entertainment. Once inside, people will experience a secret government science experiment gone haywire.

Fearful guests will face an abandoned funeral home and graveyard, dangerous tunnels, and a frightening military ride. Just when you think it could not get any worse, a mysterious creature lurks in the shadows.

The Tombstone Haunted Ghost Town is new to Scarefest this year. It is located off highway 61 and 67 in Kinnswood, Mo. It offers a haunted hayride where "souls of the living are transported to souls of the dead."

Guests will take an amazing ride through a ghost town and then get



Photo courtesy Halloween Productions

**This family of skeletons scares visitors in the Darkness, a haunted attraction in Soulard.**

dropped off at a haunted hotel and courthouse.

"I enjoy haunted hayrides because everyone is just as scared as you are ... you are so scared and into the moment that you just grab people that you don't know," said Darryl Diggs Jr, senior, education.

Over the years, St. Louis has been known as one of the most haunted cities in America, which leads to many legendary stories. The Lemp Mansion is located in South St. Louis and is in a class all by itself.

"It is one of the best haunted houses in St. Louis. If I could rate it I would give it five stars," said Bracie Harris, senior, business management information systems.

It was previously owned by a dysfunctional family and is "one of the most haunted houses in America." Guests will wait anxiously listening to the history of the mansion before entering its creepy atmosphere.

Along with the Lemp Mansion, other rumors and haunted stories, Halloween attractions are based around real events such as: the Exorcist, Ghost of Jefferson Barracks, Old Courthouse, Lost Caves of St. Louis, Plant Avenue House, the Edgewood Children's Center and our very own Normandy Hospital.

## Halloween Attractions in and around St. Louis

- The Darkness in Soulard  
1525 S. 8th St.
- Silo X in Fenton  
N. Highway 141 & 13th St.
- Tombstone Haunted Ghost Town in Imperial  
5901 Lindwedel St.
- Lemp Mansion in South St. Louis  
3222 DeMenil Place

UM-St. Louis and the Residence Hall Association is hosting their annual Haunted Hospital. They are uncertain of the location at this time, but the event is free for everyone and convenient for UM-St. Louis students.

"In the past, the haunted house on campus has been fun and it is not that scary, in case you want to bring children. You also get candy at the end and you can enter as many times as you want," said Emily Ewings, sophomore, fine arts.

St. Louis has numerous attractions to get residents and visitors in the mood for Halloween.

## WELLNESS, from page 6

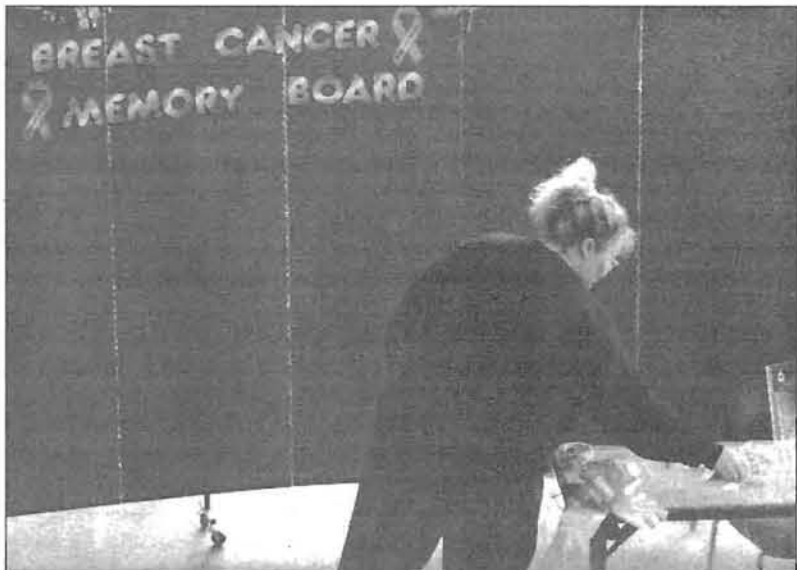
Health Services plans special events a year in advance to coordinate with national health campaigns. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and during the week of Oct. 10, Health Services will set up a table promoting breast cancer awareness. The program will include door prizes and raffles for those who participate in Breast Cancer Awareness month. Donations will be accepted for the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation.

Last year, more than 4,000 people signed pink cards remembering, honoring or supporting someone with breast cancer, completely filling a wall divider in two weeks.

"People sign in memory of someone or supporting someone; it's what touches them," Castulik said. "Our goal is to completely fill up the room divider in one week."

"With the lifestyles we lead, the foods we eat, and the lack of exercise, there's higher risk of breast cancer at younger ages," Castulik said. "It's not just women; men are getting breast cancer, too."

According to Castulik, genetics play a role in breast cancer, but diet is one way to reduce the risk of



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

**Kathy Castulik, health educator for Health Services, prepares for Breast Cancer Awareness Week. A Memory Wall is downstairs in the MSC all this week.**

breast cancer. She suggested exercising and following the basic food group guidelines, decreasing fat intake and balancing it with a high-fiber intake.

"You can reduce risk factors by how you choose to live your life,"

Castulik said. "My goal is to reduce these risk factors for the students and teach them what the myths and the facts are. Knowledge is power, you can't take that away. Power is prevention. Prevention is wellness."

# TOUHILL

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Photo Credit - Michael Hiller

### ROSEANNE BARR

OCTOBER 19, 7:30 p.m.

One of stand-up comedy's premier legends of the stage - the one and only Roseanne Barr comes to the Touhill. A groundbreaking pioneer for over 20 years, the "Queen of Comedy" still delivers the edgy, acerbic humor her fans love her for. Opening Act: Alexandra McHale

Intended for Mature Audiences



### DIE FLEDERMAUS

PRESENTED BY THE CZECH OPERA PRAGUE

OCTOBER 23, 7 p.m.

Strauss' comic operetta is presented in its original German with English supertitles, full chorus and orchestra, and dancers from Bulgaria's Ballet Arabesque. Translated to mean "The Bat," this comedy of errors reveals trickery and misperception at a costumed New Year's Eve party. Presented by

EMERSON.

### ROCKIN' BLUES REVUE

FEATURING JOHN MAYALL & THE BLUESBREAKERS, ROBBEN FORD, ERIC BIBB

OCTOBER 29, 8 p.m.



Three guitar icons rock the house for one incredible evening of blues. Creating a trinity of music legends, the "Godfather of British Blues" John Mayall is joined by founder of the Yellowjackets, Robben Ford and Grammy Award-nominee Eric Bibb.

### JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

"A KIND OF GRACE"

NOVEMBER 8, 7:30 p.m.



Overcoming amazing obstacles to achieve record-breaking success, the Olympic gold medal winner and East St. Louis native speaks on "A Kind of Grace," winning races and respect around the world. Q&A to follow.



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this week's  
**arts**  
on campus

**St. Louis Women Composers and Friends: Premieres and 21st Century Music**  
Monday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Touhill PAC Lee Theater  
Free  
Chamber concert will focus on music by women composers. Sponsored by Women in the Arts. Call 314-516-7776 for more info, or visit [www.umsl.edu/~wia](http://www.umsl.edu/~wia).

**Five Percent Nation and Hip Hop**  
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.  
Free  
Expert panel will discuss cultural force of Five Percent Nation Hip-Hop music. Panelists include leading musicologist Dr. Felicia Miyakawa and Minister Stacy El-Muhammad, a minister for the Nation of Islam. DJ Needles will provide music. For information, contact MK Stallings at 516-4833.

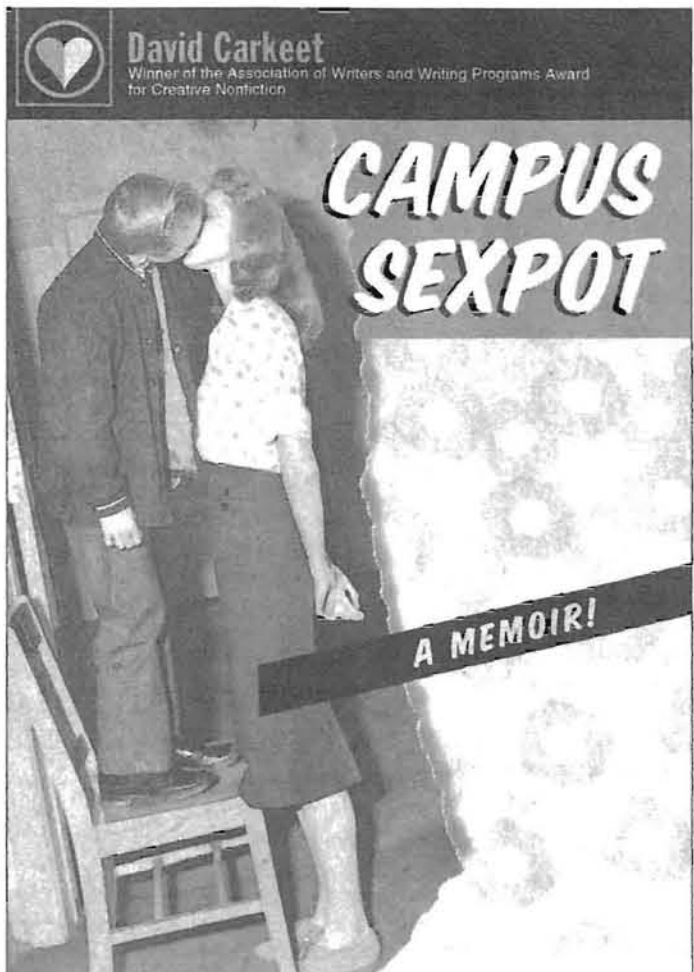
**UMSL Percussion Concert**  
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Touhill PAC  
Free  
UM-St. Louis Percussion Ensemble and UM-St. Louis Afro-Cuban Ensemble will perform in concert, featuring music of Mozart, Denis Dablasio, James Romig, Thelonius Monk, Joe Henderson and Duke Ellington. Sponsored by the Department of Music. Call 516-7970 for more information.

**Poet Nanora Sweet**  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 3 p.m.  
Gallery 210  
Free  
Nanora Sweet, associate professor of English at UM-St. Louis, will read some of her poems. Sponsored by Women in the Arts. Visit [www.umsl.edu/~wia](http://www.umsl.edu/~wia) or call 516.7776 for more information.

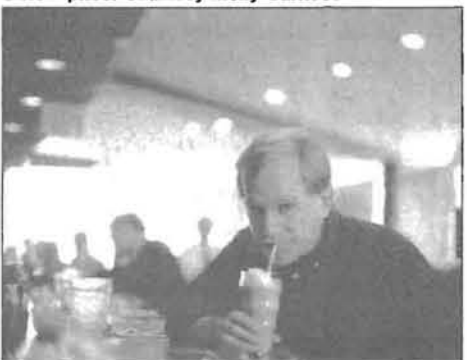
**Comedienne Rosanne Barr**  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Touhill PAC  
\$25, \$28, \$35  
Roseanne Barr, comedienne and star of the 1990s television show, "Roseanne," will perform a stand-up comedy concert. Intended for mature audiences. Students may call one hour prior to curtain to check on the availability of half-price rush tickets. All UM-St. Louis students are eligible for 25 percent regular ticket discount with student ID. Call 516-4949 for tickets or information.

**Four-Handed Piano Recital**  
Friday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Touhill PAC Lee Theatre  
Free  
Pianists Noemi and Dorotyya Maczelka will put all hands on one piano to perform "A Four-Hand Piano Recital: Works by Rossini, Liszt, Bartok, Harbach, Faure, Grieg, Dvorak, Zaimont, Benjamin and Brahms. Sponsored by Women in the Arts. For information, call 516-7776.

# 'Sexpot' author to read from comedic memoir



Below photo courtesy Molly Carkeet



**LEFT:**  
Author David Carkeet. Carkeet will read from his new comedic memoir "Campus Sexpot" on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in Gallery 210.

**BY CATE MARQUIS**  
*A&E Editor*

"Campus Sexpot." Is this title supposed to get your attention?

While the book "Campus Sexpot" is described as a memoir, author David Carkeet is not describing his own bedroom history with that title. Rather the title is the name of a racy, pulp fiction book written in the early 1960s by a former teacher at Carkeet's high school in little Sonora, Calif. The author left town before the book came out, which was a good thing since he used thinly disguised versions of the town's people as characters. The book caused the 15-year-old Carkeet to see his boring, nothing-every-happens-here, predictable small town in a new light.

David Carkeet will read from his new book, "Campus Sexpot," at Gallery 210 on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Carkeet is a former UM-St. Louis professor of English who has a knack for writing award-winning comic fiction. Previous books include the Mark Twain-themed "I Been There Before," "Double Negative," "The Greatest Slump Of All Time," "The Full Catastrophe," and "The Error Of Our Ways." His short stories and other writings have appeared in The Village Voice, The New York Times Magazine, and other publications. Three of his books have been listed as notable books by the New York Times. In his time on this campus, he established the Master of Fine Arts writing program. His return to this campus from his home in Vermont is sponsored by the MFA writing program. The reading is free and open to all.

This is Carkeet's first memoir but it retains the same comic streak as his

fiction writing. The book features passages from the trashy novel, punctuated by descriptions of his 15-year-old's reaction to its purple prose alternating with some present-day English professor's analysis. Throughout the memoir, Carkeet both evaluated the novelist's efforts and reflects on the experience of growing up.

The memoir begins with the town's reaction to "Campus Sexpot." While the whole town is outraged by the book's descriptions of the town's upstanding inhabitants, everyone in town reads it. Carkeet himself first encounters the racy novel when he finds his mother reading it, red-faced and blustering, in their kitchen. Indignant at the writer, she nonetheless lets her son read the book, before they burn it in the backyard. The passage is both hilarious and a perfect vignette of the early 1960s era.

The novice novelist has set his steamy tale in a junior college but clearly the real setting is their high school. Names are barely changed and people are readily identifiable, giving quick insight on why the teacher so abruptly left town. Carkeet continues to both analyze the pulp fiction novel's prose and recount his adolescent life, through his reactions to the book's eye-opening content with side trips into his own memories. "Behind every porno novelist is an aspiring real novelist," he whispers to the reader before one of his professorial dissections.

The heavy-breathing excerpts from the novel continue throughout Carkeet's memoir, as he uses the pulp fiction writing as a guide on how not to create a first novel. In between, he recreates life in quiet, small Sonora in 1962. Carkeet also shares sometimes comic, sometimes telling recollections, recounting his earlier and later memories of growing up.

"Campus Sexpot" is a look back in time to an earlier era, as well as a revisiting of adolescence that might evoke some of your own, perhaps awkward or embarrassing, memories. As Carkeet analyzes the novelist's style, he compares the fictional version of its author featured in the book to the real thing, and the various town people to their fictional counterparts, while commenting on the sexual and social mores of the time.

Carkeet switches easily between issues of growing up and his witty but telling deconstruction of the porno novel writer's stylistic failings. You might learn something about the art of writing but it is also entertaining just to read his observations on the magical reality of the porno book. Set in a school, Carkeet notes "There is no teaching in 'Campus Sexpot.'" He notes that porno happens in a vacuum, without food, newspapers, money, or other everyday trappings and events. It exists in its own one-note reality. You just got to love a book that contains a sentence like "In 'Campus Sexpot,' there is no ironing."

Despite his spot-on hits at "Campus Sexpot's" stylistic troubles and reality-challenged world, Carkeet does find turns of phrase in the book that he likes, like a beautifully composed shot or a finely tuned performance in an otherwise forgettable film. Likewise, his thoughts on growing up and on life's values sometimes take on poignant or philosophical shadings, to balance the more comic coming-of-age tales.

"Campus Sexpot" is personable, readable, and entertaining. Aspiring writers might also find a pointer or two within its pages. On Oct. 18, you get the chance to hear David Carkeet in his own voice, as he reads from his book "Campus Sexpot."

## Restaurant Review

### Expect casual dining at Carondelet Grill

**BY MONICA MARTIN**  
*Staff Writer*

If you are looking for a nice place to hang out with your friends while enjoying a hearty meal, visit the Carondelet Grill in the heart of Clayton.

My friend and I arrived Tuesday evening at about 5:45 p.m. We walked inside and were told to sit wherever we wanted. We opted to take advantage of the warm weather while it lasted and sat outside. A gentleman followed us and gave us menus and took our drink orders: IBC root beer for me, water for my friend. The menu offers over well over 50 items, including appetizers, salads, soups and chili, pizza, wraps, burgers, sandwiches, side orders, and specialties. Items with a picture of a fire next to it indicated a house specialty.

We started off with a sampler platter from the appetizers, consisting of mozzarella sticks, toasted ravioli, chicken strips, potato skins and chicken "drummies." My friend ordered a cheeseburger (\$7.75) and I ordered a French dip (\$7.95). Each came with a choice of fries, coleslaw, cottage cheese, mixed vegetables or a half-order of onion rings. We both went with the fries.

The appetizer came out first and was hot and delicious. Both of us knew what we liked, and were able to share without fighting over the last "drummy." Then the entrees came out next. Both sandwiches came with pickles, lettuce and tomato on the side. My sandwich was hot and fresh, making it was hard to focus on anything else. My friend



Adam Wiseman/The Current

**Rachel Ayers, bartender at Carondelet Grill, takes food out to a busy bar on Saturday during the Cardinals game.**

enjoyed her burger very much. It was the right size and piping hot. The only downside to the entire meal was that dessert was not offered. We were devastated.

Since we ate outside, we only got a small, quick glance into the interior of the restaurant. It was small but clean. The bar was opposite the door, manned by a bartender and two male patrons. Televisions are available for those die-hard sports fans to cheer on their Cardinals as they chow down on delicious food.

Service at the Carondelet Grill is great. Our waitress, Rachael, was friendly and sweet. She was also helpful when it came to choosing menu items. For it being only her third shift, she did a good job.

Carondelet Grill opened in late

December of 2003. Bill Morrissey owns the establishment. Hours are Monday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Hours on Sunday are from 11 a.m. to midnight. There are different drink specials each night of the week. Thursday is the best drink special night, as there are specials from 9 p.m. until closing time. Carondelet Grill can even be found on the web, at [www.carondeletgrill.com](http://www.carondeletgrill.com).

Carondelet Grill is located in the heart of Clayton, at the corner of Carondelet Ave. and Meramec. Visit them after working up a healthy appetite from shopping. If you work in the Clayton area, carry-out and office delivery are also available. It is a great restaurant for a date or to meet your friends.

## Movie Review

### 'Elizabethtown' is a quirky, dark look at director's past

**BY CATE MARQUIS**  
*A&E Editor*

Director Cameron Crowe has used his own life for inspiration for a film before. In "Almost Famous," he draws on his experiences as an under-aged young music writer for Rolling Stone. In "Elizabethtown," he revisits his father's death and his family's connection to Kentucky. But it is a romantic comedy.

"Elizabethtown" does have something in common with "Garden State," to which some comparisons have been made. Both are darkly comic tales about a family death, which brings a person whose career is failing back to a small town where he is still regarded as a success. Both are about reevaluating one's life and both have a romance that helps bring renewal. But the similarity is more superficial than it seems.

"Elizabethtown" blends fiction with real experience in a kind of loosely structured, magical realism way that might be one reason some people have not responded well to this highly anticipated film. Yet I found an unexpected appeal in the film, mainly because Cameron Crowe nails exactly much of the quirky charm of the visiting relative embraced by small town family. Anyone who has a family that is made up of a city side and a country side, particularly if they are also separated by the geographic and cultural gulf, will chuckle with recognition at

"Elizabethtown."

Rising-star shoe designer Drew (Orlando Bloom) has a dream job and dream life until his debut shoe design fails so miserably that it may take the company down with it. Drew loses his job but it will be a few days before the news of the debacle appears in industry magazines on newsstands, and everyone knows the extent of his failure. While Drew prepares to commit suicide prior to the big news, he gets a frantic call from his sister (Judy Greer), telling him that his father has died suddenly while visiting relatives back in his native Kentucky.

Back in his home town in Oregon, his mother (a delightfully manic Susan Sarandon) is falling apart, throwing herself into a series of activities like tap-dancing lessons as a way to cope with her grief by "staying busy." She has never gotten along with her husband's family anyway, and now cannot bear to face them. Drew's sister is needed to watch over her, so they dispatch Drew to little Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to bring back their father's remains. This forces Drew to postpone, not cancel, his own secret plans for suicide. As he is boarding the red-eye flight to Kentucky, Drew's mother warns him not to expect his country relatives to be nice to him, reminding him that his father's family always hated her for taking him so far away.

see **ELIZABETHTOWN**, page 12

## Movie Review

### 'History of Violence' smashes expectations with fresh, unexpected plot

**BY CATE MARQUIS**  
*A&E Editor*

A pair of sinister-looking strangers rolls into a small town. These bad men boldly rob a small café in broad daylight, terrorizing the customers and employees. Suddenly, the café's owner, a mild, ordinary family man, stands his ground and, in a blaze of violence, kills them both. He becomes the town hero, but lingering questions are raised about where that sudden burst of violence came from.

This is not the plot of an old John Ford Western. Despite the iconography, this story is set in the present time. The setting is not the Wild West but the mild Midwest.

It is also not just another action film but a film about the relationship between two people, about secrets, trust and questions neither want to ask. Canadian director David Cronenberg has taken iconic elements of film and crafted something fresh and unexpected. The thing about myths and iconic things is that they are timeless and tap into deep human wells of imagery. Such is also the case with the excellent gripping drama "A History of Violence."

Tom (Viggo Mortenson) and Edie Stall (Maria Bello) are a long-married couple with a teenage son Jack (Ashton Holmes) and a young daughter Sarah (Heidi Hayes). The Stalls live in a modest, rural farmhouse, with a white picket

fence enclosing their yard. They have a quiet Midwestern life, with ordinary ups and downs. Their un-athletic son Jack is having trouble with bullies at school but his father Tom seems such a meek, mild person, that Jack doesn't even bother mentioning it to his dad.

Tom Stall's uncharacteristic actions during the café robbery make him a reluctant hero and bring him national media attention. It also brings more strangers to their small, quiet town, Philadelphia mobster Carl Fogerty (Ed Harris) and his musclemen, who claim that Tom is someone else, a cold-hearted killer named Joey Cusack.

The town and his family rally around Tom when tell them it is a case of mis-

taken identity. But as much as he denies it, the strangers are convinced they have the right man. They keep coming back with stories of a violent past, demanding that Tom come with them, so eventually whether they have the right man or not is beside the point. Their presence forces a crisis in Tom's family and his marriage.

We get hints that Edie has chosen not to ask certain questions about Tom's life before they met, to close her eyes to things she did not want to know, accepting him as a man without a past. There are some hints that there might be something hidden in Tom's past, although this might not be the secret he is keeping but a threat that might reveal something else. The film also leaves unanswered many

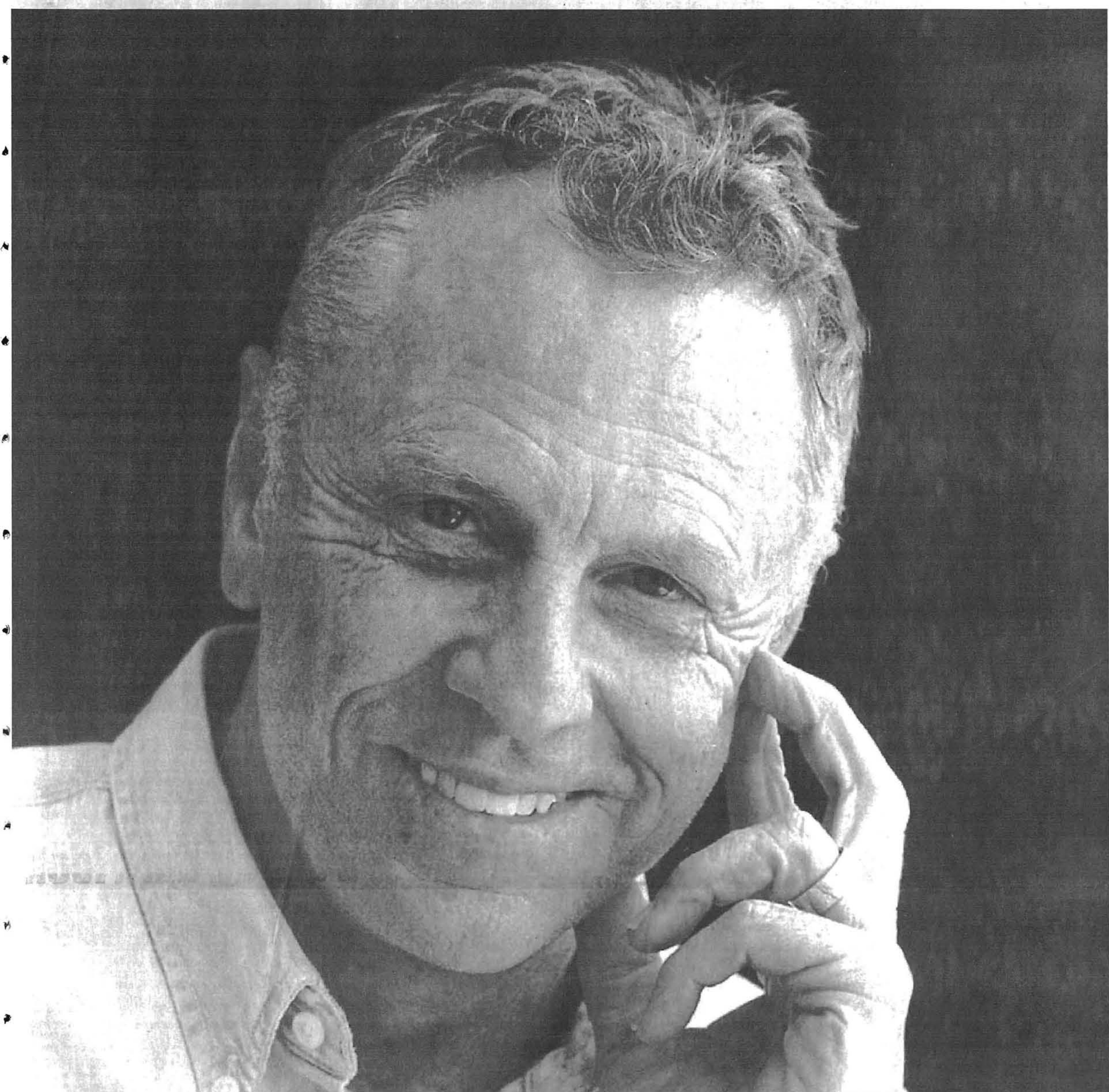
details of Tom and Edie's relationship, teasing us with the missing pieces.

When Tom's hidden capacity for violence is revealed, we see the fears and doubts in the eyes of his wife and children, when someone they thought they knew suddenly becomes unrecognizable. And we see the pain in Tom's eyes as he recognizes the look.

David Cronenberg's excellent film "A History of Violence" raises questions about what happens within families in the aftermath of violence. The film is actually based on a graphic novel but far exceeds its original material, due to Cronenberg's masterful direction.

see **NOV** page 12





# Morris

# Dees

Morris Dees is the co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Dees and his associates have successfully dismantled a series of hate groups including the Aryan Nation and the Ku Klux Klan.

## **A Passion for Justice**

October 26

7 p.m.

MSC Century Rooms



# SPORTS

## UMSL soccer still kicking in conference

**Riverwomen take 3-1 win; Rivermen lose 2-0 in GLVC**

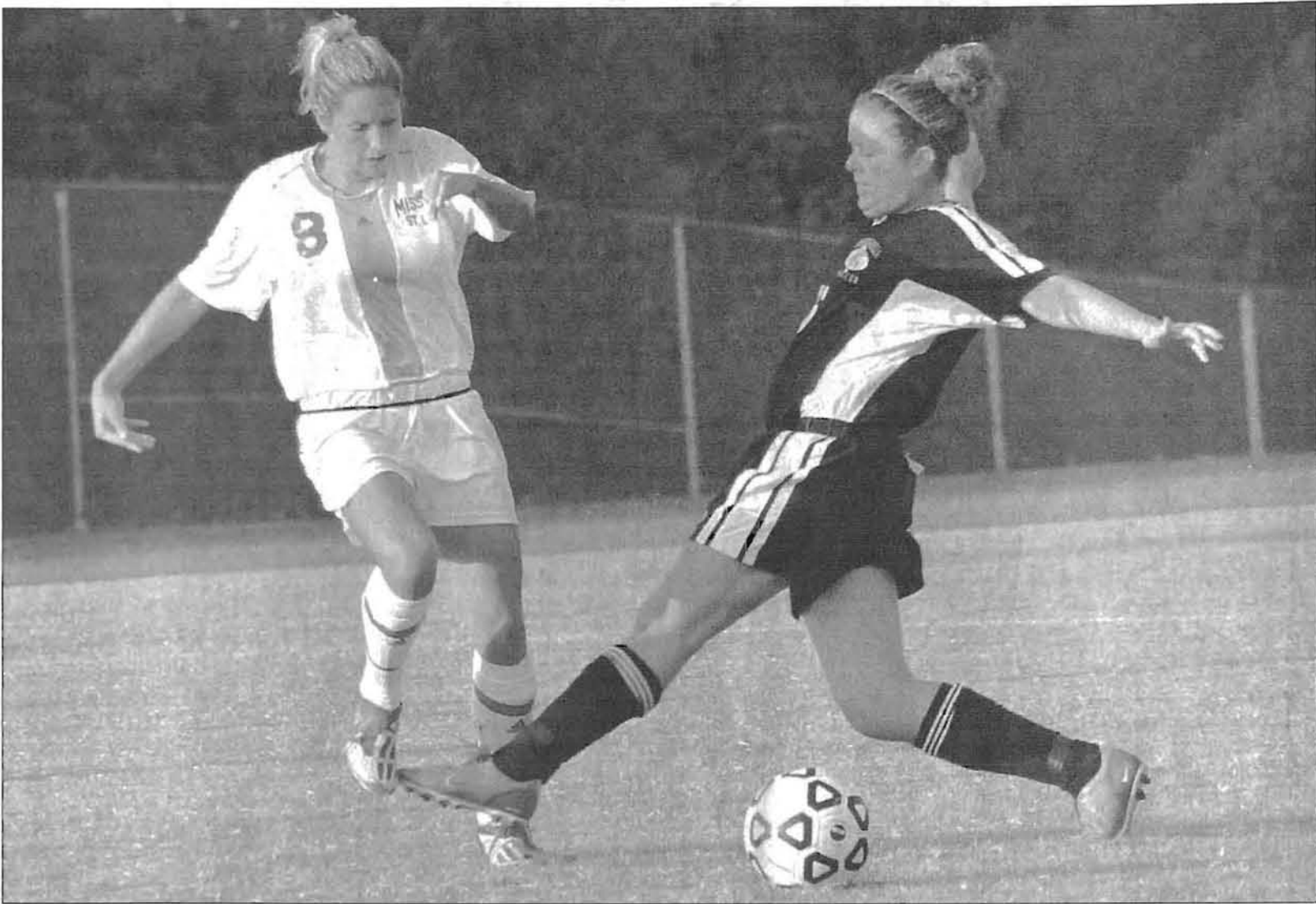
BY LINDSEY BARRINGER  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis soccer teams hosted the UM-Rolla Miners Wednesday for GLVC matchups. The women walked away with a 3-0 win that brings their record to 10-5 overall and 7-4 in the GLVC.

The Riverwomen had 17 shots and nine shots on goal. The Miners had only five shots and two on goal. Calli Fisher (5) scored the first goal for the Riverwomen followed by Mandy Meendering (3) then at 87:01, Molly Buyat (9) scored the final goal for the team from 15 yards out. The goals were assisted by Meendering, Meghan Tragesser, Krisie Muesenfechter, and Tara Reitz.

For Rolla, Erin Rouse (3) had three shots and one on goal along with Beth Babb (15), who had one shot and one on goal. Goalkeeper Brittany Parker (29) picked up three saves for the Miners. The women Miners are 1-8-2 in the GLVC and 3-9-2 overall.

The Rivermen were not so lucky against the Miners, losing 2-0, also in a conference game. The men had 13 shots and eight on goal but none made it through the hands of goalkeeper Mike McNamee (1). McNamee had eight saves on the game. Nick Toeller (7) scored the first goal for the Miners with the assists by Will Kirby (10) and Phil Scloss (4). 26 minutes later, Igor Melnacic (1) shot off a pass from Justin



Kevin Ottley/The Current

**UM-St. Louis' unstoppable forward Tara Reitz blows past her outstretched UM-Rolla opponent during the Riverwomen's 3-0 win Wednesday evening.**

Lightner (12) from the left side to make it past UM-St. Louis goalkeeper Zach Hoette (1) for the second and final goal of the game.

For the Rivermen, Alen Jujic (10) attempted three shots and two on goal. David Walters (9), Jeff Facchin (11),

and Colin Huber (14) each had one shot on goal. They also had seven fouls with Rolla having 13. The loss brings the Rivermen's record to 3-6-3 and 3-6-2 in the GLVC.

The UM-St. Louis soccer teams will look to improve their records

when they travel to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Friday for a GLVC matchup. The women play first at 5 p.m. followed by the men at 7:30 p.m. They then travel to Quincy in Illinois for another GLVC game. The women begin their final GLVC game

at noon followed by the men at 2:30 p.m. The men's last GLVC game will be Oct. 26 at McKendree in Lebanon, Ill. Both teams are hoping their seasons do not end in October. They are looking to play in the GLVC tournament in November.

### EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER  
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

### Sports Briefs

#### UMSL basketball teams unveiled, amongst festivities

On Thursday, Oct. 20, the UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will be unveiled to staff and students. Doors will open at 10:15 p.m.

Pizza and sodas will be available while supplies last and there will be several activities. Some of the activities include a tuition shootout where three contestants will be drawn for a chance to win complete tuition provided by Curt Coonrod.

The activities will end at 12:30 a.m. All students and staff are encouraged to attend to meet the players and coaches. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the athletic department at (314) 516-5642.

### Fans show Cards support

BY ROBBIE STONE  
Staff Writer

What makes postseason baseball in St. Louis so special is the way the team brings people together. People cutting out of work in the middle of the day and cramming into a single car headed to the ball game, strangers in the bleachers exchanging high fives, the sea of red which can be seen not only at the stadium but in the workplace, at school, and all through the streets. Whether you're a baseball fan or not, it is hard not to get hooked on October baseball.

In Cardinals nation it has almost become a staple of life to see the Redbirds take part in October baseball. Every year the team seems to find a way to get the job done. Could this be the year the Cards taste the sweet success of being world champions? St. Louisans remain optimistic. But what gives this years team the edge over last year's that, lets face it, failed to show up for the World's Series? Only time will tell how the rest of the postseason will unfold but the one thing that is certain is that everyone has an opinion.

Longtime Cardinals fan Chris Mabie, junior, criminal justice, is predicting the Cards to gut out and win a tough series against the Houston Astros and roll through the World Series against the Angels with a sweep.

"The difference from this year's ball club from last is the big three in the start-

ing rotation, Chris Carpenter, Mark Mulder, and Jeff Suppan. They are all playing at the top of their game right now," said Mabie.

The smell of playoff baseball in the air at Busch Stadium has never been sweeter than in 2005. After a dismal performance from the San Diego Padres, the Cardinals are faced with a more than formidable Houston Astros team who are certainly seeking vengeance from last year's dramatic series.

Tears of joy are sure to be shed as Albert Pujols rises out of the bench like a medieval warrior for a curtain call. As well as tears of sadness, as the ballpark baseball fans in St. Louis have always held close to their hearts will, alas, be reduced to rubble in less than a month.

Freshman Kyle Cottner believes the final two teams standing will be the Cardinals and the Angels.

"The Astros have proved to be a tough team especially in the postseason. I've got to stick with my team the Cards though. They have been the best team in baseball the past two years. Now that the Red Sox's curse is over and the Yankees are out of the playoffs we should be able to walk all over either one of those two teams in the American League," said Cottner.

The new Busch Stadium is sure to provide plenty of charm to the downtown area and will without a doubt be welcomed with open arms by the greatest baseball fans in the world as the new mecca for St. Louis baseball.

### Staff Viewpoint

## Once again, it's Houston and St. Louis

After I moved from St. Louis, my best friend did also. I was in Florida, he was in Texas. We had two things that we knew we could always talk about: how extremely hot the weather was and baseball.

We were both die-hard Cardinals fans and in areas where the Cardinals were hardly appreciated. This time last year I was sitting in Coyote Ugly watching the World Series and nobody cared at all that I was rooting for the Cards.

Everyone said to cheer for Boston but "Go Boston" was not going to come out of my mouth (and luckily this year, nobody will be able to say that. It is time to jump on a real team's bandwagon).

All last winter, we could not wait for baseball season. When it finally came, ironically, Chris was fortunate enough to score Houston home opener tickets against the Cardinals. I, on the other hand, flew in from Florida to attend the last home opener at Busch against the Phillies.

That was just something I could not miss. Well, Chris being Chris wore all Cardinal gear from head to toe to the games. And when he left the stadium, he was covered in



BY LINDSEY BARRINGER  
Sports Editor

ketchup, mustard, hot dogs and just down right Astros hatred for the Cards.

Fans were knocking down the bathroom door to yell "Cards suck" and other obscenities. Not only that, he was refused beer service and Brandon Backe would not even sign his ball because he had a Cards hat on.

Well, this year seems to be no different. The Astros' hate for St. Louis has lingered for a year

because we beat them in the NLCS and they are sure not going to let any St. Louis fan forget that. Chris' experiences, (known by the ushers at Minute Maid Park as "Cardinal"), discouraged him for the first few games because he had been surrounded by the best baseball fans in the world, had a love for "baseball" and he never thought other baseball fans could be so nasty.

Though the 'Stros fans will not admit it, they know they want to be at Busch instead of Minute Maid.

It is a simple question, would you rather have a beer or orange juice?

Now, the two teams meet again. I saw the Cards take the first one Wednesday and hopefully I will see that again at Busch.

"Cardinal" has playoff tickets to all the games in Houston and I can guarantee he will walk out of the park with very little red still showing but he will have a huge smile on his face because, once again, the Cardinals just go to work. Houston will hold their heads down in shame because St. Louis "is just that good" and will once again, "Go Crazy!"

### UPCOMING

#### Men's Soccer

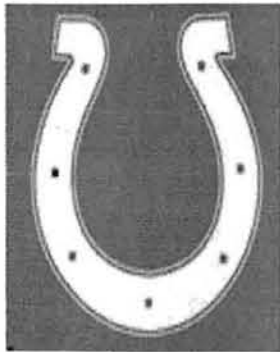
Oct. 21  
♦ at SIUE  
7:30 p.m.

#### Women's Soccer

Oct. 21  
♦ at SIUE  
5 p.m.

#### Volleyball

Oct. 18  
♦ at UMSL  
7 p.m.



## Monday Night Matchup Indianapolis vs. St. Louis



### Colts to send Rams home packing

The St. Louis Rams visit the Indianapolis Colts, the only undefeated team left in the NFL, tonight. The Colts are first in the AFC South and have allowed less than one touchdown per game.

Under head coach Tony Dungy, the Colts were 12-4 in 2004 and have made a complete turnaround since preseason play where they lost all five games. They lead the league with 20 sacks and crushed the San Francisco 49ers last week 28-3.

Peyton Manning has attempted 145 and completed 96 for 1123 total passing yards. The Colts also have an outstanding defense. Defensive End Dwight Freeney was named the NFL's defensive player of the month for September.

With a 2-3 record, the Rams will have their work cut out but will not complete the task. The last time these two teams met was in December of 2001 where the Rams won 42-17.

The Rams are second in the NFC West but with Mike Martz out for health reasons, the Rams will have bigger issues on their shoulders. They are 1-2 on the road and are meeting a team that has not lost anywhere and has the winningest coach in the NFL 1999-2004. With Isaac Bruce doubtful for tonight and Torry Holt questionable, the Rams will not walk off the field with a win. The Colts have too good of an offense and an even better defense.

--Lindsey Barringer, Sports Editor

### Rams will go the distance against Colts

Rams head coach Mike Martz will not be on the sideline tonight for the game with the Indianapolis Colts, and that is why they will win.

The Rams boast a mediocre record of 2-3, and have thus far been very disappointing. They are the underdogs in this match-up with the last undefeated team in the NFL. But there are several things people are overlooking:

- The Rams are averaging over 25 points per game.

- Marc Bulger has over 300 hundred more yards, and 3 more touchdowns than Peyton Manning does.

- Tory "Big Game" Holt has almost as many yards as Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne combined.

The final thing that people are over looking is the Rams emotions. Marshall Faulk, the heart and soul of the Rams, is returning to the RCA

dome for the first time since he left the Colts in 1998. The homecoming will create mixed feelings for Colts fans, but Faulk will have only one thing on his mind, and no defense will be able to stop him.

Monday Night Football is always filled with excitement. There is something magical about it. Teams come back from huge deficits, players steal the show, and legends are made. Tonight will not be different. The Rams will have the story of David and Goliath playing over and over in their minds. Bulger, Holt, and Faulk will bring the team together to fight as one. Like all of us, Martz will be watching to see how his team does with out him, and he will not be disappointed. This game is for Marshall Faulk, and Mike Martz, and that is too much for the Colts to handle.

--Adam Wiseman, Photography Director



NUT 'N BUT THE FUNK

So what's our possessed TV doing now?

I think it's playing an episode of "Full House" backwards!

There's gotta be some way we can fix this. Maybe we can put in a tape of "The Exorcist" or something...

Who...what happened? Who are you?

I'm the guy haunting your TV!!!

POOF!

I got him out using the "Eject" button on the VCR.

That really worked? It sounds so...fast and cheap.

Of course it does, silly! This is a Halloween special, isn't it?

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LIFE IN HELL

© 2005 BY MATT GROENING

I NEED LOVE.

I NEED A SMILE.

I NEED SHARING.

I NEED A KIND WORD.

I NEED HONESTY.

I NEED TENDERNESS.

I NEED CARING.

I NEED A HUG.

I REALLY WISH I COULD HELP.

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Some flashes of Aries might erupt as you confront an unusually bewildering situation. But you should be able to keep your temper under control as you work through it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That marriage twist the arts and practicality that Taurus excel at once again highlights your enjoyment of much of the week. However, you need to watch any sudden urge to splurge.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Even with all the plusses apparently outweighing the minuses, you still might want to defer an important decision to make sure you have all the facts you need.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) One or two problems might threaten to derail otherwise smoothly running situations at work or at home. But a few well-placed words should help get things back on track quickly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This could be a good time for all you Leos and Leonas in the spotlight to open your generous Lion's hearts and share the glory with those who helped you accomplish so much along the way.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might want to get advice from someone who's been there and knows these situations better than you do, before investing time or money (or both) in a questionable matter.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be careful how you handle a workplace matter that seems out of place in the schedule you've prepared. Before you act, one way or another, find out who set it up and why.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your entertainment aspect is strong this week. Besides providing a wonderful break from everyday obligations, sharing fun times brings you closer to those you care for.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Having a weekend fun fest? Your friend or relative who's down in the emotional dumps could perk up if you find a way to include him or her in your plans.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) If you're in one of those "the Goat knows best" periods, you might want to ease up and try listening to what others have to say. You could learn something.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) That new challenge is getting closer, and you should be out there now showing facts and figures to potential allies to help persuade them to rally to your support. Good luck.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting a head start on holiday plans could help free up some time later to spend on other projects. Meanwhile, a colleague has some ideas that you might find worth discussing.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are always there for others, and sometimes you need to be reminded that you need to be there for yourself as well.

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SELF-RESTRAINT

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Seaside shelter

7 Zoo baby

10 Donated

14 Caprine feature

18 Incarnation

19 Genetic info

20 Surrounded by

21 Singer

22 Start of a remark

24 Leaf

25 Light weight?

26 Shoe-maker's tool

27 TV's "Empty"

28 Wine choice

30 Ray

32 Frantic

34 Fawcett

35 Wrapped up

36 Hershey town

39 Upscale shop

40 Contemplative

41 Part 2 of remark

46 Funnymen

50 Rethink

51 Coffee or cognac

52 Orient

54 Singer

55 Reasonable

57 Actress

58 Orgasm

61 Word with nose or numeral

63 Pop in

65 Any

66 —garde by

67 Monty Python's

70 Part 3 of remark

74 Tightly packed

75 Overact

76 Director

77 Conclude

79 Go over

80 Calculating

82 To — (perfectly)

83 Petite pie

87 TV-kissing abbr.

88 British

90 Straightens

92 Bud's buddy

93 Foyer

95 Part 4 of remark

100 Qatar's continent

102 Wing

103 Discernment

104 Peripatetic

106 Soft

107 Manzanillo

110 Liberate's birthplace

112 Lacquered

113 "The Simpsons" character

116 Atelier item

117 Mulgrew or Moss

119 End of remark

122 Polish prose

123 List entry

124 Letters of credit?

126 David

128 Mongrel

129 Got what one basketed for

130 Cumberland

131 Remarkable

132 Watch

133 Temptation

134 "72 Cici" Tyson film

135 Publisher

136 Nast

138 Shaped like a bow

139 Lively

140 Dance

141 Complaints

142 Compains

143 Rock's

144 Tears for —

145 Cat

146 Wolf wall

147 Like

148 Basic

149 Organism

150 Anesthesia

151 Vintage

152 Band-leader's phrase

153 Russian

154 Halen

155 "The Sound of Music"

156 Carrol or partner

157 Adjust an Amari

159 Tearjerker?

160 Made wine divine

161 Muchacha, for short

162 The

163 Intimidated

164 Big bang letters

165 "Wild —" (60 hit)

166 Singer

167 Janis

168 Poppyrmand

169 Biscayne

170 Bay city

171 Selling point

172 Model

173 —d'Alene, ID

174 City on the Danube

175 Intoxicated

176 Show sorrow

177 Lose control

178 What you used to be

179 Bard's

180 Soccer superstar

181 Secondhand

182 Funnymen

183 Spasm

184 History

185 China's —

186 Biao

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These birds make great pets, will keep you company, and are low-maintenance. Both looking for a good home. Take both or just one. Please call for more information: 941-3396.

'93 Nissan Quest

Hwy miles. Power everything. \$1500 OBO Must sell fast. Call 636-579-9391

1992 Toyota Tercel

Manual, power steering, radio/cassette player. Very good condition. Selling for \$1000 or best offer, it has never been in an accident, selling because I got a new car. Contact Brian at 314-805-5949.

Laptop 4 Sale

Dell (Inspiron 510M) Laptop, just 1 month used with all drivers. It's a Centrino Mobile running 256 MB RAM and 40 GB Hard disk. Price \$1000 OBO. Plz Call (314) 497-6550.

Pit Bull Puppies For Sale

ADBA registered w/ papers. Wormed and vaccinated. 5 females, 3 males (fawn, blue fawn, blue brindle, brindle). Stocky. Good temperament. Dame and Sire on premises. \$200-\$300 each. If interested, please e-mail [jld4qf@studentmail.umsi.edu](mailto:jld4qf@studentmail.umsi.edu) or call 314-393-6234.

For Sale

1994 BMW 318i Conv

Two door, White, Black Top, Tan Interior. XM Radio 138,000 miles. In Great Shape. \$6,200 OBO. Call Phil @ 314-600-1981.

TV For Sale

19" RCA color tv. Everything works perfect, but no remote control. Asking \$50. Call Garrett @ 314-680-8412 or eMail [gnuxbb@studentmail.umsi.edu](mailto:gnuxbb@studentmail.umsi.edu).

Envision Flat Panel LCD Computer Monitor

Need more room on your desk? This 15" flat panel LCD computer monitor is perfect. The picture is crisp, clear, and colorful, and it is still in new condition. Asking \$120 obo. Call Garrett @ 314-680-8412 or eMail [gnuxbb@studentmail.umsi.edu](mailto:gnuxbb@studentmail.umsi.edu). Thank!

Help Wanted

Part-time Advertising Sales Person Needed

Work at the On-Campus college newspaper along with other students. Gain valuable sales experience useful for the rest of your life. 15-20 hours/wk. Paid positions. Experience recommended but not required. Call 516-5316 for more info.

Petra Fashions Now Hiring!

Make your own hours, flexible income, free merchandise and trips. Call Kathryn @ (314) 322-8982 for more info.

Live in Male Wanted

To assist elderly male in Hazelwood home. Light housekeeping. Free room & board. \$100.00 weekly. Can go to school part-time. Call 314-428-1856

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Animal Rescue of St. Louis, Doggy Doodles Adoptions, is seeking volunteers and foster homes for their homeless pets. To learn how you can help rescue animals in need, please call 314-800-4156 or visit [www.doggydoodles.org](http://www.doggydoodles.org)

PART-TIME HELP NEEDED

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and possibly more. Perfect job opportunity for a student who has classes on Monday and Wednesday. Call for details or email your resume to [rsignarama@centurytel.net](mailto:rsignarama@centurytel.net). Sign-A-Rama, Wentzville 636-332-5277.

Start @ \$70 for a 5-hour event!

Promote brands by distributing samples/brochures and/or demonstrating products to consumers. Premier in-store Promotions Company and authorized agency of Mass Connections, Inc., has great opportunities in Various Mo. cities. Positions available are part-time, mostly weekends, and typically 5 hours. For more information and to apply online, visit [www.eventsandpromotions.com](http://www.eventsandpromotions.com).

Looking for greeting cards

In the following languages: Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Swedish, Chinese, Thai, Lao, Tamil, Malayalam, Konkani (spoken in Goa, India), and Hindi. Please e-mail Chris at [ccindberg@yahoo.com](mailto:ccindberg@yahoo.com) for additional details.

Get Involved on Campus

The Current is looking for talented students to work in a variety of positions. We are hiring for photographers, illustrators, news writers, and advertising reps. All positions are paid. Submit a cover letter and resume for consideration at 388 MSC or via email: [current@jinx.umsi.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsi.edu). Info: 516-5174.

Housing

Seeking Roommate

I need a God-fearing female roommate to share my home in Maryland Heights. 15 mins from campus. \$350/mo + utilities. An amazing deal! Will also have access to facilities for Maryland Heights residents. Call Hareta (314) 600-2767.

Male roommate wanted for sublease

200 or 250/mo + Utilities. Lease runs until next September. Location: in the city at Shaw and Alford by The Botanical Garden. Literally one block South of 44. Contact: [gabrielrice@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielrice@gmail.com) or call (314) 397-2028 (cell).

Home for Sale

8112 Albin, charming 1-1/2 story family home, five minutes from campus, four bedrooms, one bath, one-car attached garage, updated kitchen & bath, new plumbing, electric, & HVAC. \$82,500. Virtual tour: [www.danagray.com](http://www.danagray.com). Call 314-776-3472 or 314-560-3472.

Roommate wanted

Looking for quiet male, at least 21, to move in with male and female in 2 bedroom apartment. Page and Lindbergh, less than 15 min. from UMSL. Around \$350 including utilities. Call Nick @ 314-323-1819

Apartment for Rent

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# **ELIZABETHTOWN, from page 8**

On the nearly empty flight, Drew becomes a special project of pretty flight attendant Claire (Kirsten Dunst). Claire turns out to be from the area around Elizabethtown and gives him directions to the tiny burg, along with instructions on the proper local pronunciation of Louisville (Lou-ah-vul).

"Elizabethtown" finally gives English actor Orlando Bloom a chance at a role where he is not in a costume from another time or a fantasy world. Bloom does a fine job as the reserved Drew, mastering an American accent and creating some nice screen chemistry with Kirsten Dunst.

Dunst herself does very well with a role that could have been very difficult to pull off, the perpetually sunny Claire, who seems to have some hidden sadness and low self-esteem issues. Susan Sarandon creates a charming dynamo as Drew's mother who is devastated by the death of her husband but responds with a strange flurry of pointless, bustling activity. Alec Baldwin is wonderful as Drew's Zen-spouting CEO boss, who fluctuates between being philosophical and being bottom-line about Drew's shoe disaster.

The problem with "Elizabethtown" is that it is a kind of fairy tale, which has one foot in the real world, and shifts a bit between the two worlds. Drew's life is full of harsh realities and failure. Once he arrives in Elizabethtown, he enters a magical realm where everyone roots for him and anything is possible. On one level, the film is about Drew discovering too late that he wished he knew his father better and re-evaluating what really matters in life.

This the real world arena of the film, the one that hints at roots in the director's own experiences. On another level, there is this loving postcard to small town Kentucky, and the strange charm of Southern country folk and family, a combination of the real affection and warm fantasy. There is also the on-off romance with the not-quite-real Claire, the most surreal, magic-drenched level.

What Cameron Crowe gets right is his affectionate but hilarious portrayal of the Southern small town, something that comes out of his own experience. It is far more believable than the usual movie versions of small towns, especially in the South, which are often

filled with both smug disdain and stereotypes. Rather than the heavy fake accents often heard, Crowe lets people speak in the real accents of the region. He captures the sense of warmth and hospitality of a small town, creating a magical world of family affection, while also showing the head-banging party around the local wedding, the clueless single father who laughs at his unsupervised little boy's destructive antics, despite the families disapproving glares. The other part of this film is its fantasy, fairy tale romance. Orlando Bloom and Kirsten have real screen chemistry, although why he resists and why she persists are both a bit of a mystery and a stretch. Still, if you see Claire more as a magical creature, a guardian angel, sent to see him through coming to grips with his father's life and death, this part of the story has far more appeal.

The lack of focus has been one criticism of this movie. Perhaps they are focusing on the wrong journey, the romance with Claire, not Drew's relationship with his father and bringing the family together. A change of point of view might bring it into focus.

# **HOV, from page 8**

Whether Tom has a secret past or not, it is the doubts and unasked questions that saturate every scene and layer meaning on every look. The film makes use of themes that are iconic in film, of a man who makes a new start, while carrying secrets from his past, but it is also a metaphor for a soldier returning from war, who longs to shut out the violence of war and return to the world of normalcy.

There are elements of films like "Straw Dogs" as well as classic Westerns in "A History of Violence." When there is violence, the director forces us to look unblinkingly at the bloody results. Although violence and sex are used sparingly, when they appear, the scenes are graphic and powerful. But it is the emotional truth in the family dynamics, especially in the relationship between Tom and Edie, which makes this film stand out.

The acting is remarkable in this film, from every performer. Viggo Mortenson starts out as a mild, even passive man but subtly takes Tom Stall beyond the Gary Cooper aspects of the role. Maria Bello as Edie is fierce and unpredictable, a whirlwind torn between conflicting emotions as her world flies apart. Ed Harris strikes the right level of balance between sinister and cool as the ever-present gangster Carl Fogarty, and William Hurt's smaller but pivotal role as Joey Cusack's brother Richie is equally noteworthy.

Cronenberg's skillful direction takes the film to unexpected levels. As the film opens, we see the two men who later rob the coffee shop checking out of a motel. We sense that something is wrong, even before we see them casually murder three people before refilling their water bottle for their trip. The calculating coldness sets the tone for their arrival at the coffee shop.

In films, the mythology of the ordinary man who becomes a hero is also shared by many genres, including samurai movies, Hong Kong action films and gangster movies. In real life, it has echoes to the experience of soldiers in wartime. We honor the heroes but we may not wish to dwell on the details of what was done in order to keep us safe. Likewise, the ordinary man who finds the capacity for violence in himself might hold that part of himself apart and keep those memories in a secret place he may not wish to revisit.

"A History of Violence" is a powerful drama, sometimes hard to watch, but filled with riveting performances and thought-provoking commentary on humanity and relationships. For the serious-minded filmgoer, it is a must-see film. Its unblinking directness makes it an unlikely award winner or popular hit, but it is first-rate filmmaking buoyed by award-worthy performances.

# **MUSCHANY, from page 1**

"The corporation was coming to a point where we had some good managers in place and it freed up quite a bit of my time to be able to pursue some things that are very near and dear to my heart," Muschany said.

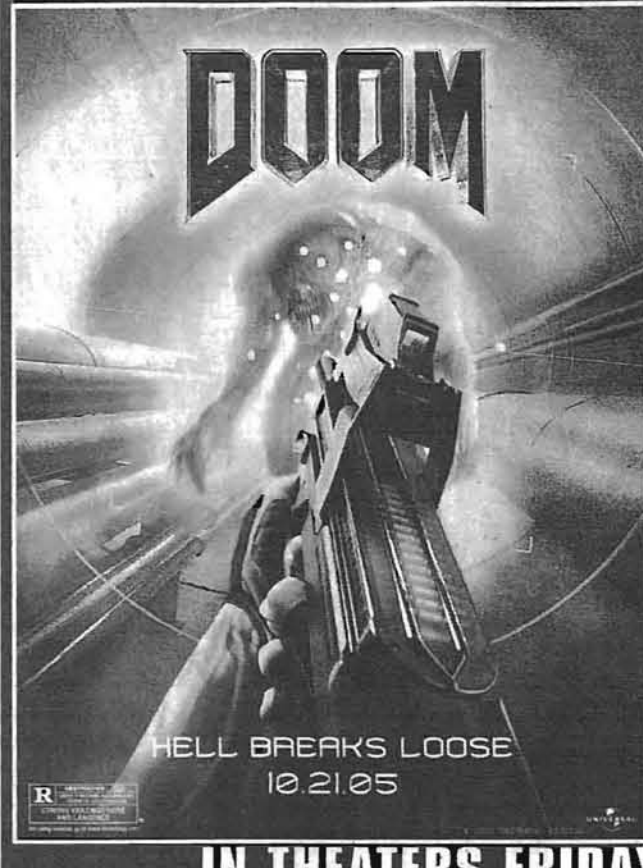
"I didn't get into politics to be political, I got into politics to achieve things and hopefully to benefit all the citizens of Missouri," Muschany said.

The cooperation in Jefferson City had surprised him at first, Muschany said, and the citizens of Missouri were in the hands of good citizen legislators.

"There are really people on both sides of the aisle that have a real interest in doing what is best for the state of Missouri and working really hard at it," Muschany said, "They don't write news stories on all the things we agreed on."

Muschany sits on the Appropriations-Education Committee, Children and Families Committee, Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, Special Committee on Urban Issues and the Special Committee on Education Funding.

"[UM-St. Louis] is a very wonderful asset to our state and higher education, with people staying here, is very critical, obviously, to the vitality of our future," Muschany said.



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