

2-20-2006

Current, February 20, 2006

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: <http://irl.umsl.edu/current2000s>

Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, February 20, 2006" (2006). *Current (2000s)*. 281.
<http://irl.umsl.edu/current2000s/281>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Current (2000s) by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact marvinh@umsl.edu.



Training with ROTC P. 8

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Three UMSL baseball players arrested for theft

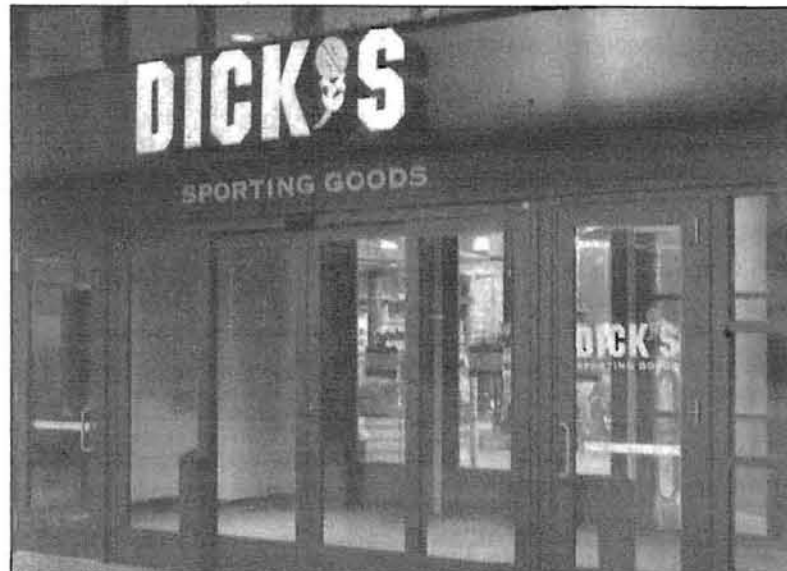


Photo courtesy John Barbee

Sixteen arrests were made in connection with the theft of \$15,000 worth of sports merchandise from Dick's Sporting Goods at West County Mall in Des Peres. Three baseball players from UM-St. Louis were among those arrested.

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

After certain members of the UM-St. Louis baseball team were said to be involved in a theft, Jim Brady, head baseball coach, said Thomas Payne's famous quote, "These are the times that try men's souls" came to his mind.

Arrests of 16 people, including three members of the Rivermen baseball team, have been made in connection with the theft of merchandise totaling approximately \$15,000. The items were taken from Dick's Sporting Goods at Westfield Shoppingtown in the West County Mall in Des Peres.

Brady confirmed that other UM-St. Louis students were involved in the incident, but to his understanding, they were not the majority of those involved.

"Seven thousand dollars worth of merchandise has been recovered at this time," said Lieutenant Paul Banta of the Des Peres Police Department, last Thursday in a phone interview.

Banta said the Loss Prevention personnel of Dick's Sporting Goods initiated the investigation. None of the personnel department responded to the situation. Dick's Sporting Goods employees at the Des Peres location were told not to comment on the incident.

According to Banta, no names were being released at this point in the investigation. However, he did say any felony arrests would be handled by the St. Louis County

Municipal Court. He said at least five people involved in the theft are facing felony charges at this time.

If any member of the baseball

"It's the last thing in your head. You never expect your guys to not think about things like the consequences."

- Jim Brady,
Head Baseball Coach

team is faced with felony charges, Kedra Tolson, manager of media relations at UM-St. Louis, said, "They will be suspended from the baseball team permanently."

"Currently, the students have been

suspended by the baseball team," Tolson said. "It just applies to their intercollegiate athletic participation, not their academic participation."

The University of Missouri system's Collected Rules and Regulations for Programs, Course and Student Affairs Chapter 200.040, Article C, states, "A student suspended from participation in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a felony charge shall not be prohibited from receiving financial aid during the pendency of such felony charge. Upon plea of guilty to such felony charge, or finding of guilt thereon, the University shall immediately determine, utilizing procedures consistent with applicable NCAA or other regulations, whether the student's aid shall continue."

see THEFT, page 12

SGA approves veto of student fee increase, passes two resolutions

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

The SGA assembly passed two resolutions toward granting the student curator a vote and receiving full funding from the MOHELA sale during last Friday's two-hour meeting.

After the Board of Curators came out against the student curator receiving a vote at their last meeting in Columbia, the SGA drafted a resolution in support of giving a vote to the student representative.

"Basically, what this says is we support a voting student curator," Maria Curtis, student curator, said.

Curtis presented the resolution at the meeting, which read, "Let it be resolved that the students of the University of Missouri - St. Louis strongly support any and all legislation that would result in the student representative to the Board of Curators becoming a full voting member, and we encourage the legislature to do the same."

David Dodd, senior, international business, agreed with the resolution but felt it needed to include a stronger voice. "One thing that we found out last week ... the Missouri lobbyists that we have working for the University of Missouri government relations are pushing this issue," he said. "They're pushing this issue against the student curator having a vote."

Dodd suggested the resolution include a statement that the SGA supports the dedication of University assets toward making the legislation happen.

The second resolution regarded how much money UM-St. Louis would receive from the MOHELA sale. The money MOHELA receives from the sale would be funneled into capital improvements for higher education.

SGA President D'Andre Braddix said 96 percent of UM-St. Louis students receive loans through MOHELA, which amounts to about \$60 million that the University receives from the Missouri loan agency.

see SGA MEETING, page 12

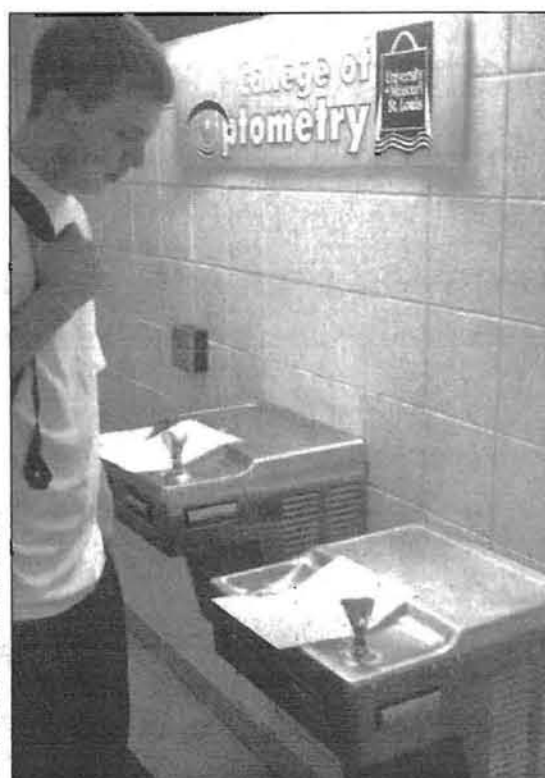
Recognizing UMSL's Clay Scholars



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Freshman Antoinette Dickens gets a hug from Wanda Clay, an administrator with the St. Louis Public Schools and a board member of the William Lacy Clay Scholarship Fund. Four UM-St. Louis Clay scholars were honored before Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr. spoke on Friday at "The State of Black America" at the Touhill. SEE PAGE 3 FOR A STORY ON CLAY'S TALK.

A student reads a sign warning people not to drink the water in the College of Optometry after a water main break on south campus. Students, faculty and staff were told later the water was safe all along.



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Water was safe in pipe break on south campus

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

When students, faculty and administrators came to South Campus last Thursday morning, they were greeted with signs that warned them not to drink the water because it may be contaminated.

However, after facilities services looked into the matter, they determined that while they found a leak in the water main system, "the water was never unsafe," said Frank Kochin, director of facilities services.

Tom Hockett, editor for media, marketing and printing services, sent out the first of two campuswide e-mails around noon regarding the water main break.

According to the e-mail, certain buildings would be without water on

South Campus, including the Kathy J. Weinman Advocacy Centre, the Nursing Administration Building, Pierre Laclede Honors College, Seton Residence Hall and Villa Residence Hall.

Police on duty reported the water main break Thursday at about 4 a.m. Kochin said the police placed the precautionary notices around South Campus "to let people know there was a problem with the water system."

Kochin said a pipe near the rear entrance of the Child Development Center caused the leakage. "The police didn't want to take any chances and impact the children who are dropped off as early as 6 a.m.," Kochin said.

After Kochin and his crew reviewed the site, they found the leak never caused the water to be contaminated. Kochin explained that when a pipe carrying water breaks, water usually leaks

out instead of contaminants leaking in.

At about 4 p.m., Hockett sent out the second e-mail, which stated, "As a precautionary measure, occupants of those buildings were instructed not to use the water. However, after further evaluation, this measure may have been overly conservative. At no time was the water unsafe to use."

The water main break had little effect on offices and classes on south campus.

Ryan Gamel, freshman, international business, lives in the Villa Residential Hall. He said he spent most of his day warning other students in the dorms. "I was spreading the word because a lot of people didn't know about it," Gamel said.

Gamel noted that no classes were cancelled but said, "It's been an inconvenience using the water taps [in the dorm rooms]."

Jessie Bridges, executive staff assistant to the dean of the College of Nursing, said the impact was minimal for the offices since no classes and only one meeting took place when the building was without water.

"There was plenty of notice," Bridges said.

She explained that nobody assumed the water was unsafe, so the clarification in the second e-mail was proper notice. "No one was alarmed."

Dr. Ralph Garzia, associate professor of optometry, said, "I don't think it affected us very much. It didn't last that long." He said the University told the optometry professors and staff that the water was safe for sanitation reasons. The Optometry College also had bottled water on hand for drinking.

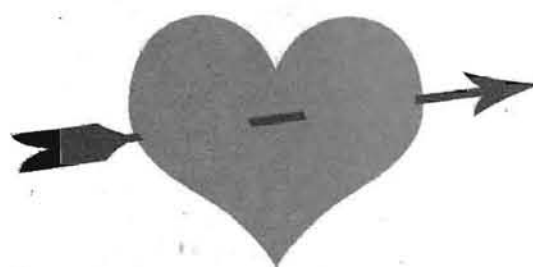
Crews repaired the water main break Thursday evening and water was restored around 7 p.m.

INDEX

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Bulletin Board | 2 |
| Opinions | 4 |
| Features | 6 |
| Sports | 9 |
| A&E | 10 |
| 'Life in Hell' | 13 |

Going once,
going twice,
sold at the
V-Day
Auction

See page 6



There's more
to Mardi Gras
than beads

See page 10



Souped up
smoking
with a
Hookah

See page 12



Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsu.edu

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.umsu.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon., Feb. 20

Arianna String Quartet

The Quartet will perform "Happy 250th Birthday, Mozart" at 7:30 p.m. at The Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Boulevard in St. Louis. The quartet will be joined by clarinetist James Campbell. Tickets are free for UM-St. Louis faculty, staff and students. Call 5818 for tickets.

Open House

The third annual Ward E. Barnes Library Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet new librarian Betsy Richie, evaluate the new microfiche, check out the new laptops, meet Raleigh Muns, the "Rogue Librarian," from 3 to 5 p.m., and enjoy refreshments. Call 4322 for more information.

Resume Mania

UMSL students and alumni may submit their resumes online to resumemania@umsu.edu today through Feb. 24. Resumes will be critiqued and e-mailed back within 24 hours. ResumeMania Week is being held in preparation for the UM-St. Louis Spring Job Fair being held March 10 and is sponsored by Career Services. Call 5111 for more information.

Short Course Classes

Instructional Computing Labs will again be teaching 1 hour classes through March 3. These classes are FREE to UM-St. Louis students, staff, and faculty. Topics include Word Basics, PowerPoint Basics, Excel Basics, Web Page building/HTML, Photoshop, and more. To sign up and view a list of complete course offerings, visit umsu.edu/training.

Tues., Feb. 21

Urban Film Festival

The Independent Urban Film Festival will be held from 1 to 9 p.m. in the Pilot House at the MSC. Films depicting hip-hop and its global presence will be shown. The festival is free and open to the public, and sponsored by Associated Black Collegians. Call 5731 for more information.

Wed., Feb. 22

Black Greek forum

"The Divine Nine Greek Forum & Exhibition Step Show" will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B at the MSC. Several historically black

Greek organizations will conduct a forum and perform an exhibition step show in celebration of Black History Month. Refreshments will be served. Call 5731 for more information.

Grand Opening

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will mark the grand opening of the Office of Transfer Services and Articulation and Center for Student Success at 2 p.m. in 225 MSC. Both organizations will be located at the site. Call 5162 for more information.

Thurs., Feb. 23

"Interfaith Music Wonder"

Join faith groups from colleges around St. Louis for a celebration of world religions. There will be musical performances from Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim faith groups. Program begins at 7 p.m. at Fontbonne University's Medaille Hall, 6800 Wydown Blvd. this event is free and refreshments will be served. Call 4545 for more information.

'State of Black Men II'

"Cousin" Jeff Johnson, host of Black Entertainment Television's "Jeff Johnson Chronicles," will discuss "The State of Black Men

II" at 7 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Student Center. The program is free and open to the public, and sponsored by Associated Black Collegians, Helping Hands, and the Office of Student Life. Call 4833 for more information.

Des Lee Music Festival

The Touhill will serve as host to the 2006 Des Lee Middle School Music Festival at 6:30 p.m. More than 150 middle school students from 14 school districts in St. Louis, St. Charles and Warren counties will participate. Several members of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and the UMSL Chamber Orchestra will perform as well.

Friday, Feb. 24

"Reality Check"

John Lusk, graduate of Harding Graduate School of Religion and former missionary of Southeast Asia, will be discussing spiritual reality at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House. Admission is free. Call (314) 732-6234 for more information.

'Earthquakes in Missouri'

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri, will chair a hearing on

"Earthquakes in Missouri" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Summit Lounge at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Call 5823 for more information.

Announcements

Litmag Deadline Extension

Litmag, the UM-St. Louis Literary Magazine, seeks poetry, prose, dramatic works and art. All submissions should be sent to the Department of English, 484 Lucas Hall, or e-mailed to psm2m5@umsu.edu by Feb. 28. Three winners will be awarded \$50.

CIS Photo Contest

The Center for International Studies is holding its first International Photo Contest for students, faculty and staff. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third-place winners. Entries must be original work, taken outside the U.S. Deadline is March 15, 2006. For more information, e-mail: ellpr@umsu.edu or call 7299.

Study Abroad Deadline

The study abroad application deadline for summer, fall semester and academic year programs is Feb. 24. Call 6497 or visit umsu.edu/studyabroad for more information.

The Current

Mike Sherwin • Editor-in-Chief
Kate Drolet • Managing Editor
Michael Pelikan • Business Manager
Rob Borkin • Advertising Director
Judi Linville • Adviser

Paul Hackbarth • News Editor
Melissa McCrary • Features Editor
Cate Marquis • A & E Editor
Lindsey Barringer • Sports Editor
Adam D. Wiseman • Photo Director
Christine Eccleston • Copy Editor
Ben Swafford • News Associate
Patricia Lee • Features Associate
Kevin Otley • Photo Associate
Rudy Scoggins • Cartoonist
Elizabeth Gearhart • Cartoonist
Miata Lewis-Harris • Page Designer

Staff Writers

Nakanya Shumate, Francis Lam, Brian Salmo, Zach Meyer, Benjamin Israel, Alberto Padino, Laura Ayers, Melissa S. Hayden, Mabel Suen, Brian E. Oliver, Javier Nadal, LaGuan Fuse, Bronwen Voss, Erin Boyle, Sean Michael, Jason Wendleton, Jeff Anderson, Hale Page

Staff Photographers

Carla Calmes, T.G. Weaver, Margaret Clarke

Ad & Business Associates

Kashif Ali, Mark Sanders, Tim Peters

388 Millennium Student Center
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174

Advertising • (314) 516-5316

Business • (314) 516-5175

Fax • (314) 516-6811

Email • current@jinx.umsu.edu

website

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff members or the University. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current. First copy is free; all subsequent copies are 25 cents and are available at the offices of The Current.



Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between Feb. 11, 2006 and Feb. 18, 2006.

Feb. 13, Drug Violation-Villa Building

A male student and another unidentified male subject were smoking marijuana in the residence hall, in one of the rooms. The UMSL Police were notified and responded to the scene. The unidentified subject ran from the area prior to the arrival of the police. The student had admitted to smoking the marijuana, and had some drug paraphernalia still in his possession. The subject was arrested and later released a

summons for the Possession charge. This matter will also be referred to Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

Feb. 14, Stealing Under \$500-Parking lot V-Marillac Hall

A Student reported that sometime in the past day person(s) unknown stole his 2006 MO license plate tabs from his parked vehicle.

Feb. 13, Stealing Over \$500-Clark Hall

The custodial staff reported several cleaning items were stolen from the storage area in Clark Hall. The items were stolen sometime between Feb. 10 and Feb. 12 from a locked caged area. The items include 2 floor polisher/buffers, a high speed blower, an extension cord and a case of tam-

pons.

Feb. 17, Burglary 2nd Degree-Gieger Road Construction site.

Sometime between Feb. 16 and Feb. 17 person(s) unknown broke into two storage containers next to the construction trailer. A large size generator is the only item discovered missing at this time. The crime scene was processed and the investigation is ongoing.



Long underwear is hot.

Good people! It is time to come play in the powder. To engage in frivolity. And to have an epic spring break at Keystone Resort, Colorado. We've had record snow, and we're ready to party. With you.

SPRING BREAK • SKI FREE • STAY FREE

Stay, Ski and Ride for under **\$99** per person per day. Stay 6 nights and get the 7th night FREE. Includes a 7-day lift ticket and FREE activities.

Featured rate based on quad occupancy in a 2 bedroom condominium. Other restrictions apply.

To make reservations call 888-275-2399 or to start planning visit keystoneresort.com

Statehouse Sisters event shows a different side of politicians

BY JAVI NADAL
Staff Writer

A panel of women showed the human side of politics as they explained their experiences on the way to becoming elected political officials at the “Statehouse Sisters” event hosted on Friday by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Hazel Erby, Esther Haywood, Yaphett El-Amin and Amber Boykins showed a different side of politicians than what most people are accustomed to seeing and hearing in the

media.

They are normal people who are active in their communities and care about the concerns and demands of their constituents. These civic-minded people officially have a part-time job, though they work all day every day.

“I never thought I became a politician,” said Erby, councilwoman from St. Louis County’s first district. Her case was not very different from the other guests.

After being involved for many years in civic, educational and government issues as a volunteer in University City, Erby received a call

that suggested she become a councilwoman. At first, she was reluctant to accept because she did not have political ambitions, but finally she decided to run when she realized how much she could do from an official position.

“I guess [to be politician] was in my blood and I hadn’t realized it,” she said.

Erby was always focused on taking care of her family, but as time went on she also became more and more engaged in schools, organizations and her community. She continued with these commitments until she became the first African American woman to

be elected to the St. Louis County Council.

El-Amin wanted to be a lawyer when she went to school, but life experiences changed her mind. While she was living in St. Louis, her home was robbed. Instead of leaving the neighborhood, she became more engaged with the problems and the situation in her district, and realized that young people needed to stay and help improve the community.

“I’ve been able to be a voice for many people who are voiceless,” she said, having worked almost four years as State Representative for District 57.

Furthermore, since she was elected in 2002, she has traveled to Vietnam and Sudan to improve foreign relations and work for peace.

The debate was led and moderated by Amber Boykins, who serves as chair of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus for the City of St. Louis. She was a pioneer and example for other women since she is the youngest African-American woman legislator in Missouri’s history.

All of the women demonstrated the importance of having women serve in politics and be active in the system.

However, they recognized that

women in politics face challenges.

“It’s very difficult to maintain a family and being engaged with politics,” El-Amin said, “but we bring a perspective to the system that it lacked without women.” Even more, “women bring so much because of their compassion,” Erby said.

The women ended by telling the audience that one does not have to serve in an official position to participate in the system. They encouraged people to have an active role in schools, neighborhoods and organizations in order to improve their communities.

Rep. William Lacy Clay discusses ‘The State of Black America’ at PAC

BY MYRON MCNEIL
Staff Writer

On Friday, Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr. fielded questions and gave a brief speech on issues affecting the African American community.

The event took place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center’s Lee Theatre. Not only were his family, friends and colleagues present; University of Missouri - St. Louis recipients of the William Bill Clay scholarship were also in attendance.

After a brief introduction of the evening’s proceedings and recognition of the scholars, Erin Jordan, a William Lacy Clay Scholarship recipient, introduced the congressman who then took the podium.

Clay addressed two major concerns that correlate to the state of Black America in 2006: the war in Iraq and the Federal Budget.

Clay said that the atmosphere in Washington is “full of mistrust” and that this mistrust is a reflection of the upheaval in society and a product of our current leadership in office. Clay said his criticism was not a personal attack on the president, but an honest observation.

Clay said, “Many of the issues affecting the African-American community have taken a big step backwards,” including voting rights, the income gap and education.

When addressing the two major

concerns (war in Iraq and Federal Budget) he had a major concern with the manner in which Bush’s governs. As far as the Federal Budget is concerned, he said that Bush asserted he’d govern with fiscal discipline.

However, Clay made the crowd aware of the annual ten year deficit, which is 5.3 trillion dollars and Bush wants to spend 70 billion more dollars for tax cuts for the rich.

When discussing his second issue (the war in Iraq) exclaimed he didn’t believe in weapons of mass destruction and that he voted no on the War Resolution. He felt the “invasion and occupation of Iraq would be a tragic mistake.” His overall point of emphasis was that it is “time to bring the troops home,” citing casualties and death as some of the main reasons.

The session was concluded with a brief question and answer session where he fielded questions pertaining to voter disenfranchisement of felons, the death penalty, integration and equality, higher education and Medicare. After being asked about leadership in the black community and whether it was necessary for one person to lead African Americans like MLK or Malcolm X, Congressman Lacy responded by saying, “Black people aren’t monolithic” and “we need numerous leaders” because “we don’t need to be marginalized.”



Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr. speaks at “The State of Black America 2006” at the Touhill on Friday.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

SGA committee plans for next homecoming

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

Although this year’s homecoming king and queen will have their crowns for another seven months, a student government committee is already at work planning next year’s homecoming celebration.

On Thursday, the SGA’s Homecoming Committee met in the Pilot House to discuss ways to draw an even larger crowd than last fall’s homecoming, which drew 750 students.

Plans for this year’s homecoming include a week full of events leading up to a dance on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in the Central West End.

Homecoming Co-chairs Lindsay Jakul, junior, communication, and Adriana Hughey, junior, business administration, handed out a survey to the students to find out what worked at last year’s homecoming and what could be improved this year.

Hughey said she wanted to encourage a variety of people to attend next year’s homecoming, including athletes and alumni.

SGA Vice President Tanzeena Hossain suggested a change in some of the entertainment. “Music was a problem last year, so this year we would like to play some music from TKO,” she said.

Hossain also emphasized the importance of getting more people to attend the soccer games this year. “Last year attendance at the soccer game was horrible,” she said.

Jakul and Hughey wanted to make this a bigger event, so they gave the students a chance to decide whether to change last year’s events or keep them the same. “I think that giving the students the option to choose the events that take place during homecoming week will be a

lot of fun,” she said.

Last year, the homecoming week included a blood drive, a banner competition, a karaoke contest, a “Big Man on Campus” contest, a parade, a tailgating party and bonfire and an award ceremony at the Sunday soccer games, in addition to the dance.

The committee discussed keeping the majority of the events, but debated whether to replace the karaoke competition with a billiards, darts or poker contest.

Jakul proceeded to hand out applications for committee positions to the students with the idea of involving them in the preparation. The deadline for turning in the applications is Friday, Feb. 24. An e-mail will go out to the students confirming who will be on the committee.

“If you want to be Homecoming King or Queen, then you can’t be on the committee,” Jakul said.

As part of the committee, students have the option of choosing party favors or decorations to line the hotel dance room with. They will also be responsible for attending every event.

“To be on the committee, you have to be willing to make a time commitment for the week of homecoming,” Jakul said.

Jakul said that this year rooms will be decorated with St. Louis-themed items, such as Cardinals memorabilia. In addition, there will be a room for the photos taken during the dance. The colors used at the hotel will be the traditional UM-St. Louis red and gold.

Jakul said homecoming planning gets more structured and organized each year, and she expects that this year’s celebration will be bigger and better than last year’s.

That sentiment was shared by co-chair Hughey. “Last year went really well, and I believe homecoming will be even better this year.”

Scholar discusses what hosting Olympics means to China

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

With the Olympic Games in Turin, Italy halfway completed, why are scholars looking more forward than sports fans to the 2008 summer games in Beijing?

Susan Brownell, associate professor of anthropology, discussed, “Europe and the People Without Sport History: What Hosting the 2008 Olympic Games Means to China,” Monday, Feb. 13, as part of the Monday Noon Series.

“In 2008, the Olympic Games will be hosted by the least westernized nation in the world to yet host them,”

Brownell said. This marks the third time in modern Olympic history that the games will be held outside the western hemisphere, after the Tokyo games in 1964 and the Seoul games in 1988.

Brownell said while it seems like a time to celebrate interconnected global culture, “there’s been a consistently negative reaction in the West centered around China’s human rights record.”

She cited examples of newspaper headlines and book titles regarding child abuse in sports that display a hostile attitude toward Beijing’s bid to host the Olympics.

She said, “People in the developed western countries seem fixated on the question of whether the Olympic

Games will change China.” However, Brownell has asked, “Why are we so concerned about changing China and not concerned about China changing us?”

She said certain westernized cultures see the global learning process as one way, in that China learns something from the West.

However, during her first visit to China in 1995 for her dissertation on sports, she said the Chinese are more concerned about teaching the West about their culture.

To explain the preconceived western attitudes, Brownell first discussed a brief history of the modern Olympics. The first games, revived by Pierre de Coubertin, were held in

1894 in Athens.

“It could be argued that Classicism and Phil Hellenism were the driving forces behind the Olympic revival and that sports were merely the most effective genre for expressing Classicism and Phil Hellenism,” she explained.

Brownell went on to say, “The establishment of the Olympic Games was a manifestation of modern sports and physical education, which was associated with the growth of nationalism because physical education would act as a way of making nations physically strong.”

Brownell claimed the Olympic movement was fundamentally western in its origins. “It was linked with the notion of western civilization and was part of the process by which the West developed and strengthened its own identity.”

Brownell explained that western cultures defined themselves through Classicism and developed Orientalism to define who they were not.

In her research, she found these definitions strengthened the West and weakened the Orientals by “limiting what Orientals could think about themselves. They’re always seeing themselves through the eyes of the West.”

She also noted few books on ancient sports history in the eastern cultures were found.

“The West has been fascinated with studying ancient sports as part of its own history, but there has not been much interest in the sports as part of the history of nonwestern civilization,” Brownell said.

“There has even been an assumption that China really didn’t even have sports,” which she said is inaccurate.

Brownell ended her lecture by showing a letter dated 1908 by a YMCA spokesperson asking when it would be China’s turn to hold the Olympics. “It’s going to be exactly 100 years after this that China finally hosts the Olympic Games,” she said.

Visiting professor teaches diversity at workshop

BY HALEI PAIGE
Staff Writer

What does it feel like to be a minority? Several students and professors experienced exactly what it is like in a workshop called, “Am I Someone’s Mirror? Diversity Issues in the 21st Century.”

Rudolf Wilson, assistant provost for cultural and social diversity at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville led the diversity exercises last Friday at UM-St. Louis.

To conquer issues such as prejudice, hostility, power and control, Wilson asked his audience, “Are you someone’s mirror?” Audience members got the chance to experience what it was like to be a minority in some short exercises.

Wilson told the audience members to write with their nondominant hands. Afterwards, he asked the group, “How did you feel writing with your nondominant hand? How would you feel if you had to use your nondominant hand all the time?”

Many responses to the first question were, “Awkward, slow, stressed and strange.” Others responded to the second question with, “Angry, robbed, hopeless and cheated.”

Wilson, then, walked around the room, looked at everyone’s work and judged them based on what he saw. He responded by perceiving everyone’s work as, “Sloppy, inferior, lazy, and illiterate.”

He then posed the question, “How

would you feel, if using your nondominant hand, you were then compared to others who used their dominant?” Most people shouted, “Incompetent, hopeless, and depressed.”

“The workshop is done,” Wilson said. “You know now what it is like to be a minority.”

Wilson began another exercise, asking the group, “Diversity, how can we make a person feel wonderful?” Wilson discussed racial and sexist historical events including the Puritans and women’s political rights.

“We as a people all want to be like the dominant,” he said. Wilson used examples from his years as a speech professor and 21st century issues affecting the nation today to convey the necessity of diversity. “It is okay that we all are not the dominant. We are all different,” he said.

Wilson had the group listen to a story depicting five characters for his final exercise. The story’s main female character dies, but each of the other four characters, including the female character, is responsible for her death.

The group rated each character’s responsibility in the female character’s death. After taking samples from the group, he posted a chart of different ratings, which showed no unanimous decision.

Wilson explained how everyone possesses certain “isms” that they are taught. He then asked the group, “When are we going to let these ‘isms’ go?” He assured the crowd that everyone is wrestling with issues.

got internships?

An internship fair for all students. Wed. March 1st. 1-5PM 3rd Floor MSC
Over \$600 in prizes been given away. Call 516-5835 for more info.

Our Opinion

Black History Month is about much more than skin color

Why should we celebrate Black History Month? Why isn't there a White History Month? Why should we honor dark skin and not light skin?

We shouldn't, and we don't. Black History Month isn't about skin. We don't use February to celebrate increased melanin. Like it or not, this country's history includes race issues, and it's important to understand where we came from. We use this month to recall the events that shaped today's America.

This month-long holiday reminds us of significant historical figures who faced difficulties and overcame the challenges related to race. We remember people like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks throughout the year, and while Black History Month honors their contributions, it also calls us to remember figures like Harriet Tubman,

Frederick Douglass, Dred Scott, the countless citizens who helped operate the Underground Railroad, politicians who supported equal rights, the kids who participated in the first school de-segregations, and significant cases like Brown vs. the Board of Education and Plessy vs. Ferguson.

Black History Month activities examine the history of how it impacted the entire American population, not just black people. These people and events changed the United States. They influenced every single person — skin color aside — who steps on American soil today.

During this commemoration, we recall the Civil Rights movement, which did major surgery on this country's social perceptions and practices. Just as the Fourth of July celebrates our nation's independence from another country, Black History

Month recalls America's freedom from our state of oppression.

Regardless of how much we'd like to put America's murky past behind us, we cannot and should not forget that slavery existed less than 150 years ago. We can't ignore the racial tension that escalated into violence less than 50 years ago. Black History Month encourages us to recall these dark times so we don't make the same mistakes in the future. The celebration reminds us to continue working toward equality in areas that still suffer from oppression, racially based or otherwise.

Biologically, race doesn't exist. The perpetually controversial four-letter word is nothing more than a social construct. What better time than Black History Month to think about the concept of race, to learn about human diversity and discuss your perceptions with peers?

Staff Viewpoint

Recognizing the 'Maker of Makers' during Black History Month

In a recent conversation with a friend, he exclaimed that Black History month is a month of typicality. A month where, year after year, names of similarity appear. He was not trying to discredit any African-American of greatness or success, however he felt as if other African Americans of greatness were often overlooked in a month that is dedicated to all, not some. The title of this article is "Maker of Makers."

While we know of the accomplishments of many African Americans in the limelight, we often forget about those who worked behind the scenes. We often forget about those who laid the first brick for the foundation of success of others.

The premier highlight of this article is a "Maker of Makers," and his name is Clive Campbell. I know what many of you are thinking, "who is Clive Campbell?"

Here is a hint: when you are listening to ringtones on your phone, if you select this particular genre, he helped create the blueprint for the sound heard. When you're shopping for trendy fashion, you may be buying into the essence of this style he promoted and made popular. When you are at the club and your favorite song comes on and there is a certain part of this song that is unforgettable because it makes you dance a certain



MYRON MCNEILL
Staff Writer

way, he is truly the inspiration behind this.

So, who is Clive Campbell? He is Kool Herc, not Paul Wall, T. I., 50 Cent or Kanye West, etc. Yes, Kool Herc, the Godfather of Hip-Hop. The reason why Hip-Hop is seen on commercials, heard on ringtones, sold as fashionable, and put into elements of music to make party people dance. Yes, if you are listening to a Hip-Hop ringtone, remember he created and provided the blueprint for what takes place presently in Hip-Hop song formats. If you are at Nordstroms, JC Penneys or wherever you buy the latest fashion, if the style is considered Hip-Hop, thank Herc. If you are dancing to the "Laffy Taffy" or any other Hip-Hop song remember the

originator of the breakbeat extensions of disco songs, which would later become background music to Hip-Hop songs (breakbeat deejaying).

Kool Herc was born in Jamaica, on April 16, 1955. He later moved to the Bronx, NY, where Hip-Hop had its birth. In the late 60s and early 70s he started the lifestyle of Hip-Hop in parks as a form of recreation. He provided music and dancing competitions for onlookers free of charge. One could also say he is the first to give a Hip-Hop concert. He would go on to become a musical composer and producer.

So, let us not forget the creators and advocates for movements in light of success that many share after the hard work of others.

It's easy to get lost in the diamonds of the star studded Hip-Hop moguls of today. It's easy to get lost in the pleasant sounds of Hip-Hop artists of the present, neglecting the creator. However, let us not forget to pay homage to those who are not often credited with their accomplishments. Puffy sells millions of records. Jigga sells millions of records and clothes. 50 Cent is on ringtones, movies, records and even has a book. These are significant contributions by African Americans. However, without a Kool Herc, none of them or the Hip-Hop lifestyle would be possible.

Letter to the Editor

UMSL-Vashon partnership is a step in right direction

Chancellor Thomas F. George established the Task Force on Diversity in the fall of 2004. Task force members have muddled through the muck and mire of discussing and questioning how to better nurture inclusion and increase campus diversity. A few members even wondered if the administration was committed to diversity at all.

This sometimes-agonizing experience of examining an entire campus community, including coming up with logical and feasible recommendations, has had its ups and downs. But thank God we stuck with it because there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are becoming more informed and more confident than ever.

The recent news that the campus struck a teaching partnership with Vashon High School says a lot about who we are as an institution of higher learning. This is a very forward thinking and positive move. Moreover, it will be very beneficial to these students who will be soon graduating and coming here or going elsewhere.

The exposures and experiences they receive will be invaluable. We are also gratified that so many members of the campus have reached out to these young people in a warm and welcoming way.

Equally as important is the gesture of goodwill that Chancellor George, Provost Cope and others have demonstrated. It is in keeping with our vision

of embracing diversity for the entire campus community.

While we continue to struggle with one of the most important issues of the 21st Century, it is most assuring that we can rely on an enlightened campus community, committed to creating a climate where the talent of diverse faculty, staff and students flourishes.

On behalf of the Task Force on Diversity, we would like to express our appreciation to all of those who made this possible. It certainly conveys the right message that we are in tune with the times and can adapt to a rapidly changing cultural and global environment.

Malaika B. Horne, Ph.D., director, Executive Leadership Institute

Staff Viewpoint

Doing good can be its own reward

BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

Our society is a little backwards in some ways.

The entertainment industry bombards us with messages that indicate we need to be richer, more beautiful and more powerful. And the news media make it seem like most of what is important that happens in society involves politicians, rich people, celebrities or crime.

These messages are missing something important: the notion that there is benefit to doing good and that doing good can be its own reward.

Ask some kid what he wants to do when he grows up and you might hear the kid say he wants to be a doctor or an engineer or an athlete.

Nobody expects to hear a kid say, "When I grow up, I want to do good." It sounds a little corny, but those words hold some good.

It doesn't have to drain us to help a friend or a neighbor in need, but it can help give us a good feeling to know that we did something that benefited another — even if we don't get recognized for it.

This idea is similar to the theme from the movie "Pay It Forward," which opened in 2000 with Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt, and Haley Joel Osment. In the movie, Trevor McKinney (the character played by Osment) creates a class project where his goal was to do good things for three people and have them pay him back by "paying it forward," or helping three other people and having them

do the same thing.

This ended up having a domino effect where the people Trevor helped helped others and then these people also helped more people. The end result in the movie was a better world as a result of what I like to refer to as "random acts of kindness."

Another benefit of doing good is the emotional reward you get in knowing that you helped another human being.

This is what happened to me a few weeks back.

Fairly late one night, I was still up when I heard some knock on my door.

When I opened the door, there stood some with whom I was vaguely acquainted. Her car had broken down and she needed a ride to get the problem fixed, but she

didn't know anywhere else to go.

I put my coat on and said I would give her a ride wherever she needed to go — in essence I was "doing good."

She was very grateful and I got to spend the next hour helping out a fellow student, having a rather pleasant conversation. After dropping her off, I went home feeling happy because I had gotten to help someone in need.

My reward did not involve money or glamour or fame. Instead I got the simple satisfaction of helping another person in need.

Perhaps what I have written sounds corny and maybe in this high-tech, got-to-have-it-all-right-now "me" society, I have the idea of "doing good" all wrong. Perhaps our society gives no reward for doing good. Perhaps we should forget about the long term benefits of "paying it forward."

Staff Viewpoint

Give the petitioners a break: It's healthy for democracy

During my many periods of unemployment, I often earned money working on petition drives.

Unlike some petitioners, I only worked for causes I believed in: raising the state minimum wage, stopping the Page Avenue extension, forcing St. Louis County to give the voters a chance to

stop the use of tax money for professional sports stadiums.

I thought I was doing something important, that if we succeeded there would be a little more justice in the world.

However, there are very few good places to stand and solicit signatures. I had to find places where people walked by, but few people walk anymore.

People in the St. Louis area generally walk either to or from their cars. And most of the time—at the supermarket or a shopping mall—they are walking on private property.

I have petitioned on private property many times. I've been kicked off of private property many times.

That's why I'm glad to see petitioners soliciting in the Millennium Center. To have a vigorous democra-

cy, we need a free exchange of ideas.

If there are no places where someone can solicit petitions, hand out leaflets, carry picket signs or even make a speech, the people or corporations stopping it are hurting our democracy.

When I worked on the campaign to raise the minimum wage in 1996, after we got on the ballot, we had no money for television ads.

But we could put out leaflets.

We gave out thousands around the state, including on college campuses.

The opposition, funded by some of the largest employers in the state, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on television and radio spots.

The commercials killed us—I could see how the public's response to our leaflets changed after the commercials started.

Think of how unfair an election is when one side can outspend the other.

Now think of how much worse that would be if no one could stand on campus and give out leaflets or ask for signatures. The little guy would have even less of a chance.



BENJAMIN ISRAEL
Staff Writer

Editorial Board

MIKE SHERWIN

KATE DROLET

MELISSA MCCRARY

PAUL HACKBARTH

PATRICIA LEE

CHRISTINE ECCLESTON

ADAM D. WISEMAN

MABEL SUEN

LINDSEY BARRINGER

MELISSA S. HAYDEN

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

LETTERS

MAIL
388 Millennium Student Center
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX
314-516-6811

E-MAIL
current@jinx.umsu.edu

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 Adam Wiseman
Photo Director

Which actor/actress would you want to marry?



Jennifer Murray
Senior, Communication

"Probably Paul Walker, because I think he is really cute and I like his movies."



Patipat Kruechotikul
Freshman, Engineering

"I would marry Julia Roberts, because she is a good actress and she is very funny."



Shannon Radan, Visiting campus
from McCluer North High School

"I think Angelina Jolie because she is so freakin' hot!"



Amanda Duckwall
Freshman, Biology

"I would marry Orlando Bloom. He seems like he has a great sense of humor and could make me laugh."

Science Column

NPR's 'Science Friday' host Ira Flatow visits UMSL

Ira Flatow, host of NPR's "Science Friday" radio show, visited the UM-St. Louis campus this week. The radio host was in town to broadcast his popular Friday public radio science program from the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual convention, which was held this past weekend at the downtown America's Center.

"Science Friday" airs on NPR radio stations, including our campus' KWMU, on Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 17, host Ira Flatow broadcast the show from St. Louis, at the AAAC convention downtown.

The two topics were: "Science and World Poverty," and "Stem Cell Research," both topics with connections here. St. Louis-based Monsanto is at the forefront of work on genetically modified crops, the major topic of the first discussion. Stem cell research, the topic of the second hour, is a politically hot topic in Missouri now, with a vote on the issue likely later this year.

On Thursday, Feb. 16, Ira Flatow shared lunch and chatted with about 20 rapt listeners on the UM-St. Louis campus. In person, Flatow is just as relaxed and funny as he seems on air.

"Science Friday" is a newsy and informative science radio program that appeals to both scientists and non-scientists. Flatow's program is both fun and far-ranging, covering a wide array of science-related topics.

"Science Friday" is popular, perhaps due in part to Flatow's personality and combination of curiosity and humor, and to its timely topics. However, the program is no light-weight, and has not shied away from difficult or controversial topics that connect science and the larger world.

"I am a ham," said Flatow with a smile, to the campus lunch crowd, explaining his relaxed and talkative on-air style. He also admitted to being "the kind of kid who blew things up in the



Ira Flatow, host of National Public Radio's "Science Friday," talks with staff members of KWMU including station director Patricia Wentz on Thursday afternoon in Lucas Hall. Flatow was in St. Louis for an American Association for the Advancement of Science. He broadcast live on Friday from the AAAS' convention at America's Center.

basement." He related a childhood story about trying to recreate a classroom demonstration to extract chlorophyll from plants in his family's bathroom, in which he accidentally set fire to a line of alcohol that ran across the countertop, creating a spectacular, if brief and non-damaging, blaze.

Flatow studied engineering at college but did not feel he was very good at it. However, he fell into doing radio at the same time, despite his lack of experience or training.

"I had done some television in high school. And I did some theater, which I think helped," said Flatow. He got into radio in Buffalo, NY in the 1960s, when student protests broke out and the radio station was looking for someone to cover them.

Later, when environmental protests flared up, he covered those as well. He begged his way into early National

Public Radio at the beginnings of "All Things Considered," by agreeing to do only behind-the-scenes work and never being on-air. The producer kept losing technicians to on-air positions and, according to Flatow, he was "introduced to the other staff as 'Ira Flatow, who will never be on-air.'"

"Two weeks later, they put me on air anyway," Flatow said. Along the way, he also did every job at NPR.

When "Science Friday" first went to a two-hour format, some affiliates balked at running the second hour of the program. In Seattle, the second hour aired at midnight and still drew the highest ratings, Flatow told the gathering. Flatow says the program is now available as podcasts on the NPR website, making it easier for listeners to hear the program if they miss it.

"There have been 6 million podcast downloads in six months," said Flatow.

Flatow said the program often broadcasts cutting-edge science announcements and breakthroughs but he has been disappointed that NPR has not issued press releases on topics on "Science Friday," as other networks do for breaking news on their programs.

Flatow said that he once lived in Washington, D.C. but has since moved. "Scientists don't make public policy. Washington is its own reality," Flatow said. "There is no science in politics but there is politics in science in D.C."

Like many who have an interest in science, he is concerned about recent political interference in government science.

"There has always been political abuse of science but this is on a new scale," Flatow said. He also decried the quality of news coverage generally. Apart from NPR news, "There is no more news, just show biz," he said.

The Rogue Librarian

Stuff on the internets

RALEIGH MUNS

UMSL Reference Librarian

"I hear there's rumors on the Internets that we're going to have a draft."

—George W. Bush, second presidential debate, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 8, 2004

A common misconception is that EVERYTHING is on the Internets. I date this idea to an early Buffy the Vampire Killer episode where Buffy and the Scooby Gang needed some information so they break into the Public Library (which is closed).

After, oh, three or four seconds of randomly pounding on the keyboard they retrieve reams of relevant newspaper articles and police autopsy reports from the 1930s. Who knew that in the mid 1990s public libraries had fiber optic internet bandwidth, lightning fast quantum computers, and historic police autopsy reports readily available on the Internets? You wish.

The truth is that more and more information IS available on the Internets, and a lot of it is truly cool stuff, if you know where to look (or whom to ask - hint - I am a reference librarian). In any case, here are a few of my favorite online resources:

NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture is available via the Library's Project MUSE database. I'm currently reading Lawrence Baldassaro's "Dashing Dags and Wallowing Wops: Media Portrayal of Italian American Major Leaguers before World War II" (Fall 2005, pp. 98-106). Baldassaro discusses the use of "benign" pejorative terms for Italian ballplayers, such as "spaghetti bender." NINE counts as a "scholarly journal" for those looking for interesting paper topics.

Journal of the History of Sexuality (also available via MUSE) is another obvious favorite. Granted, nothing makes sex more

boring than a scholarly analysis, but dang it, this is the only place you'll find articles like Glenn Olsen's "Sodomitic Lions of Granada" (January 2004, pp. 1-25). Something about gay lions.

The Library's home page lists databases alphabetically and links to the ever fascinating Ad*Access resource. This Duke University project contains high resolution scans of ads from 1911 through 1955 in categories such as radio, transportation, and the ever popular "Beauty and Hygiene."

I leave it to you as an exercise to find the 1945 ad wherein the "Army doctor's call to action!" is to recommend a Camel cigarette. Why? Because "Camels are such a big favorite with fighting men in all the services."

You should also check out the holdings of the University of Missouri Digital Library (digital.library.umsystem.edu). If you browse around you can find all copies of Mizzou's yearbook, The Savitar.

Why would this be interesting? Well, if you search for "Brad Pitt" you can find him in a 1986 group shot with the good brothers from Sigma Chi. He's the one wearing the "Where's Waldo?" shirt in the front row.

In the end, there's still tons of stuff you still can't get via the Internets. For instance, the journal Maledicta, the ultimate scholarly source for studies of crude, insulting, and aggressive language, does have a web site (www.maledicta.org). However, if you want to read articles by convicted felon Reinhold Aman on topics like "Catalan Blasphemies" (no. 7, 1983) or "Attorney-Hunting Permit and Bag Limits" (no. 10, 1988-89) you're going to have to find copies in the real worlds, rather than on the Internets.

Raleigh Muns' column, "The Rogue Librarian" appears every other week in The Current.

Read past "Rogue Librarian" columns at:
www.thecurrentonline.com

Letters from London

Trip to Dover and Canterbury gives lesson in British history



LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

This week my British Life and Culture class took to me two of England's older cities: Dover and Canterbury.

Once again we boarded the charter buses that we have come to dread for the monotonous ride ahead of us.

In order to get to Dover, our first stop of the day on the southeast end of England, we were forced to drive through most of London. This may seem like a trivial matter to people forced to sit in traffic on I-40 for hours waiting to go through St. Louis. As insane as I find the average St. Louis driver to be, I must say, the average Londoner definitely competes.

Drivers assault one another in the mad rush that is London traffic. Sitting high up in the hired bus, I could see near-death encounters every few minutes.

The bus drivers did not inspire much confidence in their passengers. Commanding the massive metal beasts, they careen around corners

coming within a few inches of the nearby lamppost or sign.

Keeping my eyes closed throughout much of the London journey, I remained comforted and fearless of certain death. Fortunately, we soon found ourselves skimming past the English countryside. I can understand the poets who praised its beauty, but honestly, I can only look at so many sheep.

Waking some two hours later, I found us near our destination. Peering through the front of the couch, I saw the English Channel and Dover Castle. We parked and followed our guides down a hill and up another to the castle itself.

A medieval castle, residence of the infamous King Henry VIII, the Dover landmark looks over the English Channel and protects the boundary. Walking the grounds, my group discovered that the castle had also been used in World War II and contained secret tunnels and an underground hos-

pital. Time constraints kept us from extensively exploring so we headed up to the castle.

The wind pushed us along the path as it tore at our clothes and hair. We struggled against it, forging a way up through the gateway. We climbed the ancient stairways and probed throughout rooms that had held royalty and the most important courtiers of the time. We mustered the strength to climb to the topmost towers and view the world around us.

To the far left we saw the blackish blur of France across the blue channel, which blinded any observer with the sun's reflection. The sun warmed ancient gray stones beneath my fingers, even though the wind teased away any warmth for the rest of me.

Next stop, Canterbury, a short 30-minute drive away. Upon entering the city, we followed the wall built by the Romans to fortify the city. Though Canterbury has sprawled far outside the wall, it still is a formidable show of

strength.

Our true destination in Canterbury was the famous Canterbury Cathedral. Walking the brick lanes, we found ourselves standing before the archway that would lead us into the cathedral's courtyard. Saints glared down from the massive archway, as if to spot any sinners and challenge entry to the cathedral.

A cathedral has stood on that site since 597 A.D., and the building we see today was constructed during the 1430s after many restructures and a massive fire changed the original building. The massive interior adds to the feelings of wonder at man's capabilities.

We made our way throughout the church, noting the memorials of great men buried there, including the Black Prince. We even found the spot where Thomas Beckett, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had been martyred. He had quarreled with King Henry II about the rights of the church. The king allegedly said, "Will no one rid me of this med-

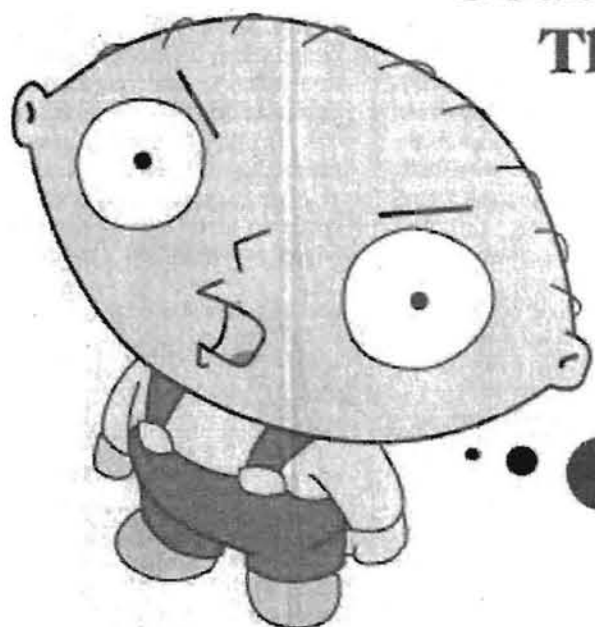
dlesome priest?" With those words, a few of Henry's knights went down to Canterbury and stalked the priest, murdering him on the steps of his own cathedral in 1170. Many people throughout time have traveled to see the place of the assassination. Chaucer's Canterbury Tales are about a pilgrimage to visit the shrine. Our group walked silently past the plaque that had replaced the shrine after Henry VIII had it destroyed.

Once free of the evil deeds of the past, we followed our noses to a restaurant nearby for lunch. Then we were off again to find an ice cream parlor. We indulged in handmade Italian ice cream and chatted until it was time to return to the buses. We rode home without incident and fell asleep quickly, trying to soak in all of the history we had seen in just seven short hours.

Laura Ayers is a junior history major who is studying in London for the Winter Semester. Her "Letters from London" column recount her experi-

Family Guy Movie Night

South Campus Chapel
Thursday, Feb 23rd
7:00 PM



COME SEE
MY MOVIE!

Free Pizza... Free Movie... Why not?

The UMSL Office of Transfer

Services and Articulation

and

The UMSL Center for Student Success

invite you to join us for
our Grand Opening

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place at 2:00 PM.
No RSVP required.

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Place: Suite 225 UMSL Millennium Student Center
Time: 2:00PM-6:00PM

FEATURES

EDITOR

MELISSA McCrARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

the week's
**best
bets**

Student Success and
Transfer Services
Offices Open

Wednesday, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will mark the grand opening of the Office of Transfer Services and Articulation and the Center for Student Success at 2 p.m. room 225 in the MSC. Call 5162 for more information.

Writers' Workshops

Saturday, the Write Stuff Chancellor's Certificate Program will hold "Writing Inspirational Fiction" from 10 a.m. to noon and "Communicating Effectively Through the Media" from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the University Center. The fee for each workshop is \$39. Call 5974 for more information or to register.

Student leaders go on sale at Valentine's Day auction



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Annual event raises money for IBC

BY MELISSA McCrARY
Features Editor

"We will start the bidding at \$5. Do I hear \$5, \$8, \$10, \$15? Sold for \$15."

These were the words of Maria Curtis as she hosted the second annual International Business Club Valentine's Day Auction, held in the Pilot House on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Sixteen daring members of IBC and Students Today Alumni Tomorrow auctioned themselves as dates to raise money for IBC's conferences and events.

"This is a fundraiser for IBC, which goes towards the group date and helps the club," Meghan O'Brien, senior, international business and IBC member, said. "We had the auction last year and it was a huge event. This year we functioned with STAT, making it a bigger success."

The purpose of IBC is to connect students with professionals involved in international business and to foster their education within this field of study. STAT is a campus organization in connection with the Alumni Association, which promotes students to get involved with services,

programs and special campus events. The main goal of STAT is to prepare students to become future alumni leaders.

O'Brien said that this is a fun event for IBC, but the fundraiser that collects the most money for the organization is the Pot Luck Fundraiser held in April.

Over 75 students attended the auction. As usual, students and faculty members got in on the bids, but this year some Vashon students and staff of the new La Cantina Loca even placed bids.

The men who were auctioned included D'Andre Braddix, president of the Student Government Association, Student Court Chief Justice Bryan Goers, and Aaron Golchert, president of Pi Kappa Alpha and InterFraternity Council.

The women participants included Homecoming Queen Tegan Viggers, Diana Watkins, student senator and Taz Hossain, vice president of SGA.

Although these students share a connection because all are involved on campus, many have lived in different cities and countries around the world, including Oklahoma, Germany and the Philippines.

see AUCTION, page 7



Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE:

Aaron Golchert, senior, business administration, auctions off Homecoming Queen Tegan Viggers during the International Business Club's Valentine's Day Auction on Tuesday in the Pilot House.

LEFT:

Valeria Oblitas, senior, international business and management, responds to questions as she is auctioned off on Tuesday.

Staff Viewpoint

Living at home has advantages for college students

Growing up, preparing for the real world and becoming independent are some things that most students think about when entering college. Whether they're planning for a future career, making preparations to begin a family or establishing credit to buy a house, many students not only try to earn a quality education, but also work a job to save money for their future expenses.

While establishing good credit, working between classes and saving every penny for a house, some might choose to rent an apartment or remain at home with family.

For those in their twenties, living under their

parents' roof might not sound so inviting; however, for broke college students like me, this living arrangement has definite benefits.

When I began college, I had no idea how expensive costs would be. I took college credit courses in high school, finished six other full-time semesters, a couple of summer classes here and there, and paid for books and parking during my higher education career. I have spent approximately \$45,000 for college so far.

I have made the choice to further my education by going to graduate school as soon as I finish my bachelor's degree, so that will add another \$15,000 to \$20,000 to my expenses.

Although living at home has had some disadvantages, overall for me, it has offered many advantages.

The main advantage is the "free" living. Staying at home has allowed me to build up a large savings account and put tons of extra cash aside for when I do decide to get my own place.

According to www.city-data.com, the median house value in St. Louis, in 2000 was \$51,000, and the median gross rent in St. Louis was \$442. Over the last six years, those figures have probably greatly increased.

The average cost for a one bedroom apartment does not include the extra amenities such as gas, electric, cable, phone service and Internet access.

A typical student part-time job pays between \$7 and \$10 per hour. After taxes, a week's salary averages out to be anywhere from \$200 to \$300. If a student is only making about \$1,000 per month and \$600 of it or more is going towards living expenses, he or she is left with hardly any spending cash or extra money to save. Any leftover money is most likely spent on food and gas.

UM-St. Louis is a four-year university. Those who live at home during those 48 months, can save up to \$30,000, which could be used as a good down-payment on a nice condo or new home, or it could be used to pay off student loan debts.

Living at home not only reduces the costs of monthly rent elsewhere, it also provides "free" food from the pantry or your mother's home-cooked meals at no extra charge.

College students usually have very busy and hectic schedules with their classes, school involvement and other activities. So how much time do we really spend at home, other than when we're studying, sleeping, eating and showering?

I am not encouraging students to become lazy and freeloader off their parents. Unless you have major issues with living at home, like very strict parents, a curfew or no privacy, consider the benefits of staying with family during college. Think of the bright side.

How much money can you save in the long run?



BY MELISSA McCrARY
Features Editor

Work and marriage come together for campus couples

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

Although it is far from a frequent occurrence, several UM-St. Louis employees share something in common - they are married to someone who also works at UM-St. Louis.

Such an arrangement can have both advantages and disadvantages.

Tom George, chancellor and professor of chemistry and physics, and Barbara Harbach, professor of music, have been married for 35 years. They met at Yale as graduate students when George hired Harbach to tutor him in music.

"He was one of the best organists I had," Harbach said.

She said that it was this relationship that led to their romance and eventual marriage.

Harbach said that an advantage of being married to another UM-St. Louis employee is "we understand the logo, the rewards, and the expectations."

Another advantage of being a married UM-St. Louis couple is that both get to interact with a diverse group of people they meet through their spouses.

One problem for George and Harbach is that there are certain things they cannot talk to each other about at home because some things at the University are confidential.

Another disadvantage to being married to another academic is that it is not always possible to work at



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

Bob Bursik, curators professor of criminology and criminal justice, and Jennifer Bursik, senior secretary of art and art history, are one of several married couples who work at UM-St. Louis.

the same school, or even in the same city, as the other spouse. George pointed out that for several years of their marriage, he and Harbach had to live and work in different cities.

However, some consider separations like these opportunities that ultimately could bring the couples closer and inspire them to forge stronger relationships.

Janet Lauretson, professor of criminology and criminal justice, is married to Richard Rosenfeld, professor of criminology and criminal

justice, and agreed with George's statement that employment could be an issue.

She said one potential problem for untenured faculty is the possibility of not getting tenure and having to find another teaching job.

Lauretson said that this has not been an issue that she and Rosenfeld have had to contend with because they are both tenured faculty and full professors, but she said that it is an issue some couples need to take into consideration.

Rosenfeld and Lauretson have

been married for five and a half years. They met each other while working at UM-St. Louis and were friends for a long time before getting married.

Rosenfeld said two advantages of being married to another UM-St. Louis professor are convenience and shared interests.

"We live just right across the street from the University, so it's more convenient. We share a great deal in common because we work in the same place. Actually that's the major benefit," Rosenfeld said.

Lauretson agreed with Rosenfeld's assessment, and said, "In my case, the benefit comes from being in the same profession and having the same intellectual interests."

Rosenfeld said one drawback of being married to another UM-St. Louis employee is that "people who work in different environments bring different experiences from their jobs home."

Like Rosenfeld and Lauretson, Terry Jones, professor of political science and public policy administration, and Lois Pierce, director of the School of Social Welfare, also met while working at UM-St. Louis.

Jones and Pierce both agreed that a major benefit of being married to another UM-St. Louis faculty member is the ability to understand and be interested in the other's job.

see MARRIED, page 7

Music on the MSC bridge: the next new iPod shuffle?

BY **NAKENYA SHUMATE**
Staff Writer

As students rushed to and from their classes, they heard "Pour me something tall and strong, make it a hurricane before I go insane" from the speakers overhead on the Millennium Student Center Bridge.

The tuneful lyrics of music playing on the Bridge can enliven those on their way to class, while the melodic classics can lighten the atmosphere of those heading home or planning to have lunch.

The types of music played are geared with the best interest of everyone and current trends in mind.

"I don't mind listening to it," said Mohamed Kouyate, freshman, political science. "It's not very aggressive. It's cool."

While the subtle background tunes are appreciated, it helps to be familiar with the songs.

"There's only been one time that I actually knew the song that was playing," said Jennifer Boyle, junior, elementary education.

Different students identify with different types of music, and Carmen Tisdale, support staff III of Building Operations for the MSC, and the other support staff take that into consideration.

"We try to play a variety," Tisdale said. She said there have been no complaints about the music since they began playing it.

While music and class are not exactly synonymous, many students find comfort in music during breaks between classes.

Since Apple's iPod erupted on the scene, many head-bobbing underclassmen are witnessed sporting the little device.

In that vein, the MSC Bridge is like an iPod shuffle dispensing its random variety of tunes.

Boyle said the music is a welcome addition to her morning walk to class.

"A lot of times there's nothing playing," she said. "It's kind of creepy when you are in this long bridge by yourself at 7:30 in the morning."

Usually the music plays continuously. However, out of courtesy "it's turned down for events on the bridge," Tisdale said.

Good music can change people's mood and demeanor. Boyle said the music affects her mood, but admits that this mood change could cause a backup on the Bridge.

"I get more relaxed by the music and I sometimes get slower. For me the music is a good thing, but for those people rushing to class, my relaxed slower pace may be a nuisance," she said.

iPod users have their music, but so do the rest of us. So take time to slow down and enjoy it—but remember to be careful of the people behind you.

And if you find you do not like what you hear, Tisdale said the staff takes requests.

But, in the future, the music on the bridge may be determined by student deejays. The Student Electronic Media Professionals Association, or SEMPA, is planning to broadcast the new campus radio station, 101.9 FM "The U" on the bridge once its programming is up and running.

The organization plans to begin testing radio broadcasts this semester, and have a full 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. lineup by fall 2006.

AUCTION, from page 6

The highest bidder won a date with one of the participants for Saturday, Feb. 18, at Breakaway Cafe, located on Natural Bridge Road.

Curtis and Golchert, who was auctioned off, helped coordinate the event.

Before the bidding started, each candidate was introduced with his or her major, participation in student organizations, ideal Valentine's Day date, interesting fact, zodiac sign and was asked to answer a silly question.

Sean Hanebery, president of IBC, was asked, "Can you play the harmonica or have you ever tried playing a tune on one?" whereas Braddix was asked, "Could Jesus microwave a burrito so hot that he could not eat it?"

"Asking these questions make me feel like a host on Miss America," Curtis said as she laughed on stage.

Mandy Altman, senior, political science and auction spectator, said that she really enjoyed the event.

"I liked the questions with the goofy answers," Altman said.

Audience members cheered and



SGA President D'Andre Braddix watches fellow student leaders get auctioned off at IBC's Valentine's Day Auction on Tuesday.

laughed while Braddix did push-ups on stage and Kevin Ottley, secretary for STAT imitated a cat-walk, strutting his stuff in hopes to increase the audience's bids.

For the women, Viggers was sold to the highest bidder for \$33 and for the men, Ottley received the highest bid, \$41.

In addition to the auction, IBC also

sold Valentine's gifts and raffle tickets for a door prize. A digital camera was raffled.

Whether students were bidding because they were lonely and wanted company during the week of Valentine's or they just wanted to give a donation to IBC, one thing is certain- the Pilot House brought entertainment to campus last Tuesday.

MARRIED, from page 6

A disadvantage, according to Jones, is that "you have to be careful not to speak for your spouse." Pierce added that another disadvantage is that "people think that we have the same ideas when we don't."

Joseph Martinich, professor of logistics and operations management, has been married to Vicki Sauter, professor of information systems, for 28 years and said that one problem with being married to another faculty member is that people often have difficulty understanding that the spouses are two different people.

"I think people have trouble separating us in their minds," Martinich said, "they think that whatever one of us believes, the other one believes, and that we speak for each other, which is not always true. Some faculty members

are surprised when we take opposite sides of issues at faculty meetings."

Not everyone thinks there are disadvantages to being married to another UM-St. Louis employee, however.

Bob Bursik, curators professor of criminology and criminal justice, and Jennifer Bursik, senior secretary in art and art history, do not see any disadvantages to being married to another UM-St. Louis employee.

One advantage of working at the same University, according to Bob, is that he gets to have lunch with Jennifer more often than he would otherwise and Jennifer said, "Plus you don't have to ask your spouse, 'How was your day?'"


While the Bursiks' son attended the University, their family was even more connected to UM-St. Louis and for them the University became a true family institution.

www.thecurrentonline.com

GREAT STORY IDEA?

Call *The Current* at 516-5174





(Even the 5 calls from your girlfriend in the last 20 minutes.)

Now, when people are wasting your time, they're not wasting your money.

Free CALL MESM Minutes

(in your local calling area)

\$20


per month

for the first 6 months, \$39.95 thereafter


- 1000 Anytime Minutes
- FREE Incoming Text Messages
- FREE Incoming Picture Messages

Plus, ask about:

- Unlimited Nights & Weekends starting at 7 p.m.




Motorola V710 Camera Phone



30 DAY GUARANTEE

GETUSC.COM

1-888-BUY-USCC



U.S. Cellular

We connect with you.

Offer valid on two-year service agreement on local and regional plans of \$39.95 or higher. All service agreements subject to an early termination fee. Monthly Access Discount: \$20 access discount valid for the first six months of a two-year agreement on plans \$39.95 and up. Credit approval required. \$30 activation fee. \$15 equipment charge fee. Hourly charges, fees, surcharges, coverage charges and taxes apply. \$0.36 Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies. This is not a tax or government-required charge. Local network coverage and reliability may vary. Usage rounded up to the next full minute. Use of service constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions. Unlimited Night and Weekend Minutes valid Monday through Friday 7:00 p.m. to 6:59 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday Night and Weekend minutes are available in local calling area only. Free CALL MESM Minutes are not deducted from package minutes and are only available when receiving calls in your local calling area. Local calling area differs from national calling area. Use of the AOL Instant MessengerSM service mobile application requires easy2goSM data services. 30-Day Guarantee: Customer is responsible for any charges incurred prior to return. ©2005 U.S. Cellular and AG Interactive are trademarks and service marks of their respective owners. All rights reserved. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. Limited time offer. ©2006 U.S. Cellular Corporation.

ROTC

Students go through rigorous training to become military leaders



LEFT:

As snow falls at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, the students that are involved in ROTC from area universities fall into line waiting for instruction.

BELOW:

After taking orders from the platoon leaders, the cadets walk towards their first objective.



A Current photographer documents one day in the life of ROTC cadets

UM-St. Louis ROTC cadet Jason Gipson is not a stranger to the army. He has already served for four years in the regular Army, and he is excited about continuing his military career.

He says the ROTC program "is a great way to make students into leaders, not only in the Army but also in the community." The Gateway Battalion is the local ROTC chapter and includes several colleges and universities around the St. Louis area.

Cadets from area universities get together for training exercises approximately once a month.

The following is a timeline of the training exercise that took place on Saturday, Feb. 11.

0600 hours - Jason Gipson and the rest of the Gateway Battalion start to arrive for early morning inspection. The meeting point is a parking lot near the intersection of Delmar and Skinker Avenues.

0700 hours - The ROTC cadets line up for morning roll call. It has begun to snow and the temperature is around 28 degrees. The sun has started to rise, but the cloud cover will make for a cold day.

0715 hours - The cadets start to help each other tighten helmet straps, pack away unnecessary items such as flashlights, and make sure everyone has the proper thermal cold weather clothing on.

Extra socks are a priority. The cold conditions will pose a threat to these cadets if they are not equipped correctly.

0730 hours - Falling into two lines, the cadets walk in unison towards the bus that will take them to the training facility in St. Charles. The Facility is located in Weldon Springs, and is also used by the local police and the FBI.

0815 hours - The bus arrives at



PHOTOS AND STORY BY
ADAM WISEMAN
Photo Director

the training facility and the cadets check in before the training exercises begin. Guns that have been loaded with blank rounds and also protective covers over the barrels are handed out.

There seems to be a lively hop in each step the cadets take.

0845 hours - The cadets have been separated into two platoons and have received their orders. They will be going through three scenarios. "They will encounter realistic situations, and they will be graded on their performance," Gipson said.

0915 hours - Several journalists have been assigned to one of the platoons. I will be assisting in the training exercise. The platoon starts out on its mission. It has gone over the objectives with all of its members and is following maps that were given to them by the command center. I watch them disappear into distance.

0945 hours - I have been placed in a clearing and have been told to act as if I am lost journalist, and to wait for help. I have my camera ready, but for some reason I am nervous. I wait.

1015 hours - Looking into the forest from all angles I finally see

a soldier come out of the tree line. Then several more creep out. I am startled that I did not see them first. I start to walk near them.

1020 hours - One of the Soldiers leads me away from the others, and starts to ask for my credentials. I show him what IDs I have. He asks me several questions, and I answer them. He then calls over another cadet and asks me to follow him.

1045 hours - after running for 200 hundred yards and back into the thick brush, the leading cadet decides to set up a perimeter.

1050 hours - The perimeter is set and I am laying on the ground next to several machine gunnists. The perimeter has been secured.

1100 hours - After this first exercise, the platoon had to go through a critique of how they did. Although some issues arose because of time management and also distance between soldiers, the most startling involved me.

When I was approached in the exercise, the correct protocol was used, but one thing they forgot to do was pat me down. I was not checked for any explosives and it was assumed that I was a lost journalist. This, in a real situation, could have been extremely deadly.

I came to the training facility excited and ready to observe the cadets. In fact, before the soldiers reached me in the field I was laughing to myself about how cool it was.

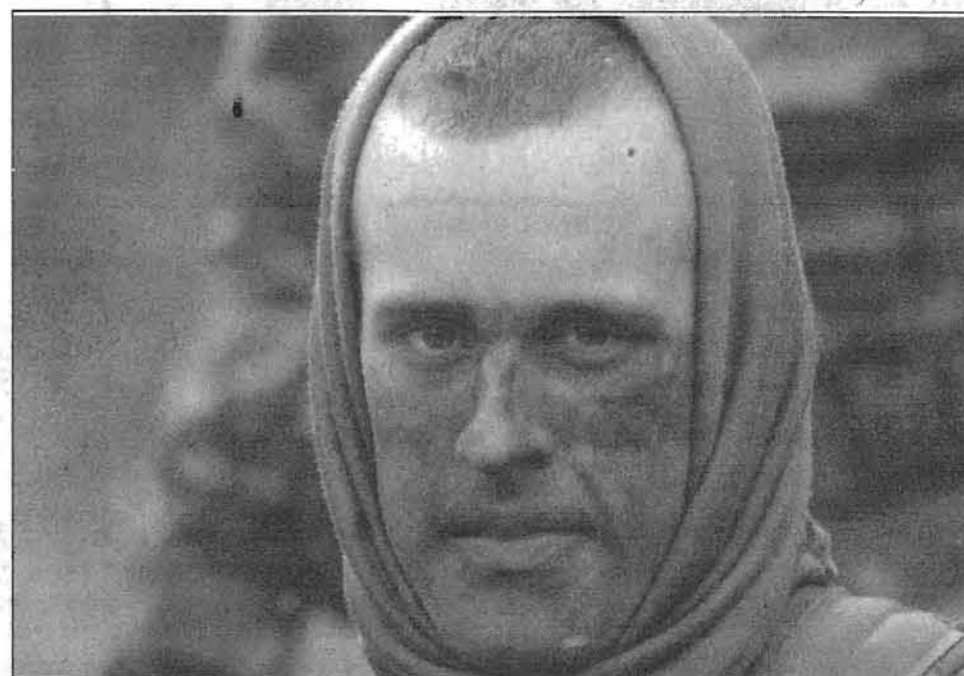
Then, on my way home I realized something. Although the day's scenarios were not real, these soldiers' commitment to their nation and to their fellow soldiers was real.

While I was just an observer for a day, these soldiers will go on preparing for what could become true-to-life scenarios and very real danger.



ABOVE:

Taking a defensive stance along a tree line, the cadets spot the lost journalists, and make plans to engage.



LEFT:

After the Training Exercise was over, the troops were allowed to take off their helmets and relax. Several cadets took out snacks from their MREs(Meal Ready to Eat), others just rested.

Suspensions leave baseball short-handed

Rivermen to start season Feb. 25 with only 13 players

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Several individuals had missed last Friday and Saturday's baseball practice and Head Coach Jim Brady was getting a little suspicious. On Monday, he urged his players to let him know if they had any involvement in the Dick's Sporting Goods investigation even if they were just "in the area."

According to Brady, the players that had any involvement in the Dick's Sporting Goods investigation, came to him and told him that they had something to do with the situation.

"What were you guys thinking?" Brady said. He then told his suspected involved players that until he knew all the facts and a complete investigation was done, they would be suspended.

"To their defense, at least they came and told me to let me know what transpired," added Brady.

The baseball program this year at UM-St. Louis has had several issues to deal with. In the fall, the Rivermen lost six players to personal reasons and academic eligibility. Now, roughly five players do not know the status of their baseball or academic career at the University.

The team could be starting their season this week with as little as 13 players.

"I've been here 20 years and never anything like this has happened. We graduate 80 percent of players and this is the last thing that goes through your head," said Brady.

Fan support for the baseball team might drop because the players involved do represent UM-St. Louis and are held at a higher level than the average student. There were 15 people that are known of at this time that

are involved and under investigation. Less than 33 percent have relations to the baseball team and not all of the 15 are students at the university.

"People understand that something like this is possible, not probable, to happen to all of us. People who are fans will understand," said Brady. "They are not going to condone but understand."

Brady said his biggest concern for the season is the game structure. Starting so few players gives the team lack of depth and puts a strain on the pitching. He also said that all players might be on the mound to get some innings out of them.

The Des Peres Police are not releasing the names of the individuals involved or letting the public know when the first items were stolen. According to the police, one individual would scan one item and bag it along with several others items that were not accounted for by Dick's.

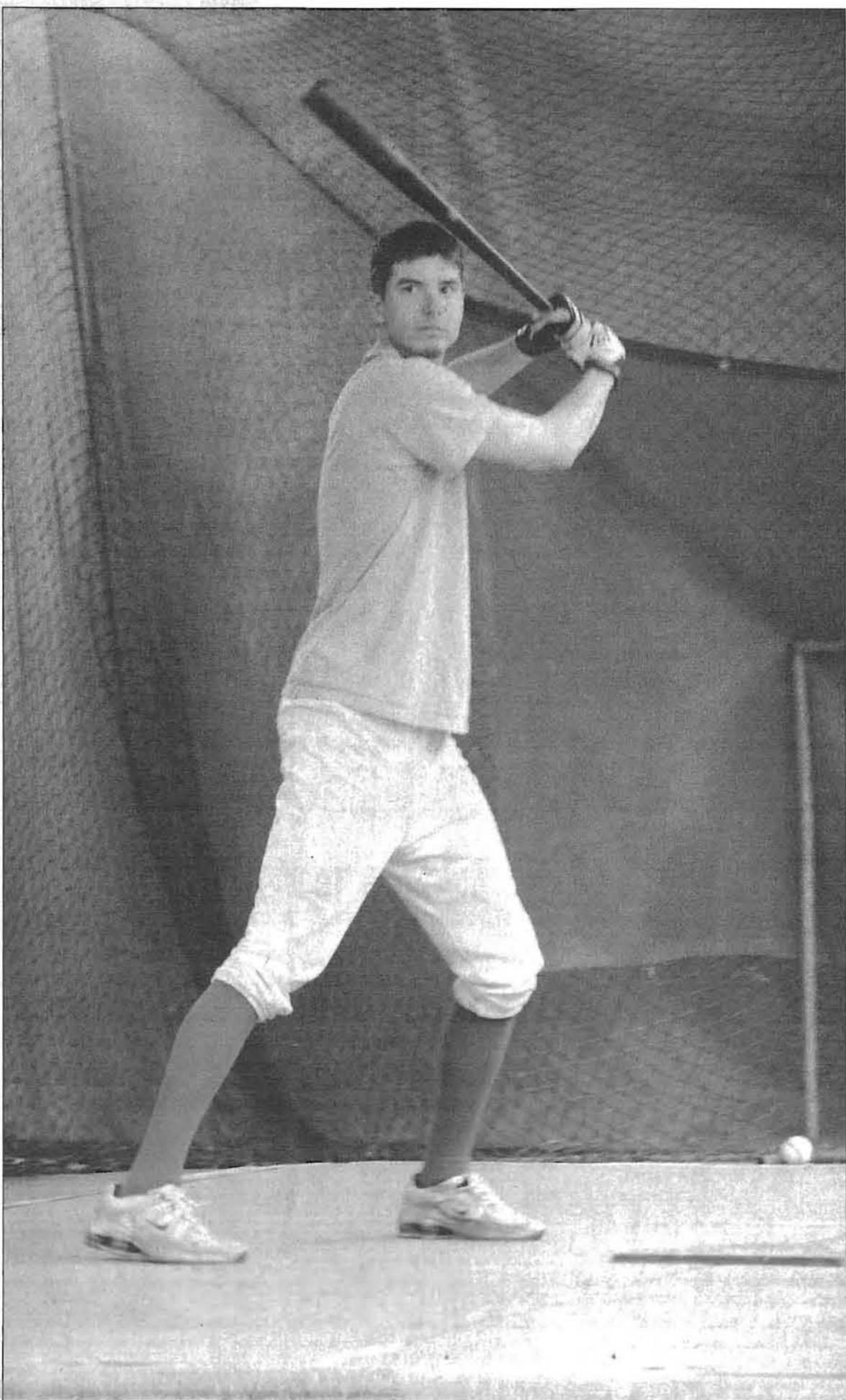
Athletic Director for UM-St. Louis Pat Dolan said once they hear back from the prosecuting attorney, the names of the baseball players would be released. Brady and Dolan speculate that it could be as early as today.

Coach Brady speculates that the scheme has been going on for several months because he allows his players to work in the fall.

"Like a brother or sister, we are upset but we have to understand that it was probably not intentional, not thought out," said Brady. "That doesn't change the consequences of the actions but help explain the reasons why."

The Rivermen will start their season off this weekend in two days of play against St. Joseph's in Sauget, Ill.

Assistant Coach Colby Hughes said that the players are in good spirits for the season but they will be happy when the investigation is finished.



Lindsey Barringer/ The Current

A baseball player takes practice swings on Saturday at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. The Rivermen will start the season on Feb. 25 with a roster of only 13 players.

Short Fuse

Stealing is an individual sport



BY LAQUAN FUSE
Sports Associate Editor

Last season, UM-St. Louis' baseball team was caught stealing only 18 times. This season, three people were caught stealing two weeks before the opening pitch.

Five members of the team have been suspended for their alleged participation in the Dick's Sporting Goods theft.

There were 16 people arrested by Des Peres police, and at this time, the names of the individuals involved are not being released. What was released is the fact that at least three people are on UM-St. Louis' baseball team.

A headline in the Post Dispatch

reads, "UMSL baseball players are among 16 arrested."

Why is this information released about these individuals and nothing is said about the other people involved? Unless these guys took their mug shots wearing their Rivermen uniforms, their part on the baseball team has nothing to do with the crime committed.

Maybe it is because one of the people involved worked for Dick's and plays for the Rivermen. Could be, but I doubt it.

Maybe it is because without a big name to take the fall, like the University of Missouri- St. Louis'

baseball team, this is just another retail employee abusing the system. Yeah, I think that is it.

This crime has nothing to do with the baseball team, the university or anyone between here and Dick's who happens to be wearing UM-St. Louis colors. This crime involves the people, not the players, nor the team.

Could this be the first scandal for the baseball team? I hope not. This incident has nothing to with anyone except for the people involved. And by involved, I mean the people who helped steal. Two players on the team were suspended but not arrest-

ed, so what did they do?

Maybe they were the look-outs. Maybe they carried the bags to the car. If they were not arrested, then there is a chance that they will not be charged with the crime. If the police let them go, then their suspension should be lifted. No crime, no foul.

The season starts Feb. 25 against St. Joseph's. Before the Dick's incident, the Rivermen had already lost several players to grades and other issues. With five of the team's 18 players suspended, I doubt if anyone will be complaining about not getting enough playing time this season.

Riverwomen winning streak snagged by top-ranked Drury

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

After defeating Indianapolis, SIU-Edwardsville and Quincy, the Riverwomen snagged their fourth straight win against Rockhurst 64-56 on Thursday night.

The Riverwomen have to win the last two of their games to make it to the GLVC tournament. Both games are away.

"We need to try and stay focused and do what we can on the road," said Courtney Watts, who contributed 10 points to win at Rockhurst.

Last week's GLVC player of the week, Jennifer Martin, contributed 20 points to the win along with Jennifer Dewell, who contributed 15.

Julie Cook of Rockhurst started the game with a lay up that was immediately followed by a lay up from Leslie Ricker to put UM-St. Louis on the board. A foul shot from the line by Ricker gave the Riverwomen the lead for the remainder of the first period. At the half, the Riverwomen led 31-27.

The Riverwomen never gave Rockhurst the lead in the second.

Martin scored the final two points for UM-St. Louis with the assist by Crystal Lambert.

Going into Saturday's game against Drury, the Riverwomen knew they would have tough competition.

"It's their homecoming and they are top ranked but if we play the way we play, we will be okay," said Watts.

Unfortunately for the Riverwomen, their winning streak was brought to a halt on the road. The third ranked Drury University defeated UM-St. Louis 81-47.

Lambert had the team high of 10 points followed by Martin with nine. It was not until three minutes in to the game that the Riverwomen were on the board. Ricker put the team on the board with a lay up.

The loss will not discourage the Riverwomen from winning their last two games and securing a spot in the tournament. "We started off well then we hit a bump that tested us but I think we needed it," Martin said.

The Riverwomen look to improve their GLVC record to 9-9 and their overall record to 16-10 at UM-Rolla Tuesday and then at Southern Indiana on Saturday.

Rivermen have high hopes for GLVC

BY KIMYATA JARRETT
Staff Writer



The UM-St. Louis Rivermen visited Rockhurst Thursday evening for the second time this season. Though the Rivermen came out on top earlier in the season 77-69, this time they were defeated 89-81. The loss brings their overall record to 13-11, 6-10 in the GLVC, and ties them with Rockhurst for fifth place.

Leading scorers for the team were guard Jonathan Griffin, with 22 points and forward David Ward, with 17 points.

"We matched up with them well and I had a good feeling that we were going to win," said Griffin.

Tension and determination were abundant on the court. "I knew it

was going to be hard because we both are looking for a spot in the conference," said Joey Paul, guard for the Rivermen.

The Rivermen have only two games left in the regular season. These games are away, however, so the seniors have finished their home basketball careers at UM-St. Louis.

"This is my last year and I wanted the season to go better than what it did," Griffin said.

Paul had similar thoughts on the season. "The season started off strong but it is the end of the season and we have to win two games to get to the conference," he said. Griffin and Paul both want to make it to the conference so their last year will be a memorable one.

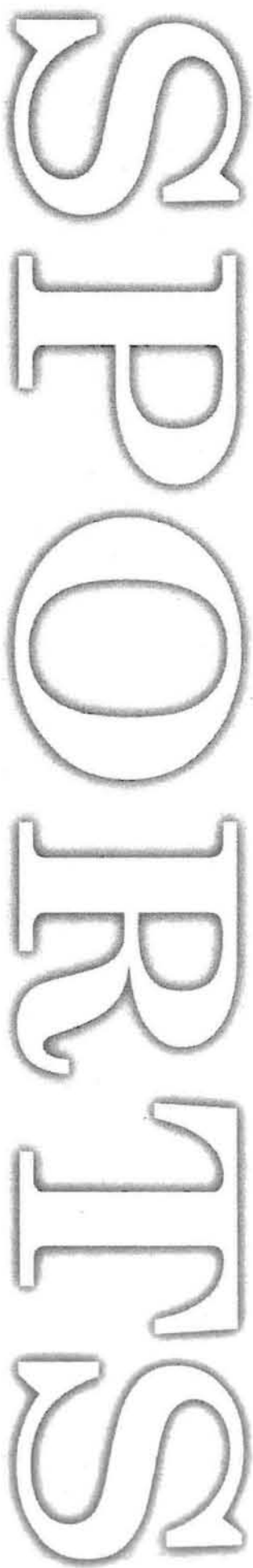
The season is coming to an end and the GLVC tournament runs March 2-5. "Even though we lost against Rockhurst, we still have a chance to be in the conference if we win two more games," said Griffin.

The Rivermen play Missouri-Rolla Tuesday and on Saturday they play Southern Indiana.

"We are going to stay focused so we can win the last games of the season," Paul said.

LEFT:
David Ward, forward for the Rivermen, pushes to the basket during a game last week against SIUE.

Matt Johnson/ The Current



EDITOR
LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Women's Basketball

Feb. 16
♦ at Rockhurst
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
♦ at Drury
5:15 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Feb. 16
♦ at Rockhurst
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
♦ at Drury
3 p.m.

A&E

EDITOR
CATE MARQUISA&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811this week's
arts
on campus

Monday, Feb. 20:

The Ariana String Quartet at UM-St. Louis will perform "Happy 250th Birthday Mozart" concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free to students. For info, call 516-5818.

Friday, Feb. 24

The Salzburg Chamber Solo concert at Touhill at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for students. For info, call 516-4949.

Monday, Feb. 27

Ragtime duo's "Classic Ragtime" Mardi Gras concert at the Ethical Society at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for students, \$23 for the general public. For info, call 516-5818.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Advice columnist Dan Savage will speak about "Savage Love" in the MSC Century Rooms at 7 p.m. The event is free to all. Call 516-6747 for more info.

Now through March 2

"Homage To The Family" prints at Gallery Visio. The display is free to all. Call 516-7922 for info.

Friday, March 3

Jazz trumpeter Chris Botti concert at Touhill at 8 p.m. Student tickets are \$19-26 and \$22-35 for others. For info, call 516-4949.

Sunday, March 5

Bizet's opera "Carmen" by Teatro Lirico d'Europa at Touhill at 7 p.m. \$26-38 for students, \$32-50 for others. Call 516-4949 for info.

Now through March 11

"Drawn" drawings by James Michael Smith at Gallery 210 Room B. Free to all. For info, call, 516-5976.

Now through March 25

Gallery 210 features Lawrence Lithograph Workshop prints in Room A. Free to all. For info, call 516-5976.



Marvin Hamlisch, composer of such hits as "The Way We Were" and "A Chorus Line."

At the Touhill

Valentine's Day concert delights PAC audience

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

Sunday, Feb. 12, was a magical night at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. At 7 p.m. award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch took the stage and began a Valentine's Day tinged performance of music and love.

I would hate to be the one who has to clean Hamlisch's mantle—if that is where he keeps all his awards. Over the past 30 years, Hamlisch has won: three Academy Awards, four Grammys, four Emmys, three Golden Globe Awards, and a Tony! Over his long and storied career, Mr. Hamlisch has written the musical score for over 40 motion pictures. His most famous work may have been done on the films "The Way We Were" and "The Spy Who Loved Me."

Hamlisch showed musical promise

at an early age. He was accepted in the Julliard School of Music in New York at age seven, the youngest student ever accepted. He worked as a composer, pianist and arranger of music for both Hollywood and Broadway.

Hamlisch's arranging credits include Woody Allen's "Bananas" and "Take the Money and Run," "Save the Tiger," which starred Jack Lemmon and "Kotch" which starred Walter Matthau. He did the soundtrack for Robert Redford's film "The Sting," including arranging and performing Scott Joplin rags such as "The Entertainer," which was a hit and is credited with a renewed interest in ragtime music.

Marvin Hamlisch also wrote the long-running Broadway hit "A Chorus Line," which was his first Broadway show.

Hamlisch's performance was similar to VH1 Storytellers, with Hamlisch

talking with the audience about his music and performing several of his most famous works. He charmed the audience throughout the night, regaling the crowd with his unique brand of self-deprecating humor.

Highlights of the evening included Hamlisch performing his signature song "The Way We Were" (whose title, Hamlisch confessed, he did not come up with).

In addition to his performance, Hamlisch held a question and answer session. During this portion, Hamlisch encouraged a 10 year old girl to keep practicing the piano. He also offered a song writing clinic of sorts, in which Hamlisch wrote a song based off original song titles thrown out by the audience.

Throughout both the performance portion and the following question and answer session, a good time was had by all.

Film Review

'Mrs. Henderson Presents'
comic relief in pre-war London

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

"Mrs. Henderson Presents" is director Stephen Frears's fact-based comic drama about a groundbreaking pre-WWII London musical theater collaboration between a wealthy, eccentric British widow and an innovative Jewish theater impresario. "Mrs. Henderson Presents" is also one of the productions of the new Weinstein Company, which was founded by the two Weinstein brothers who founded Miramax after their split with Disney.

The prickly but close relationship between Jewish theater impresario Vivian Van Damm (Bob Hoskins) and the well-connected but rudely outspoken British widow Laura Henderson (Judi Dench) is the center point of this entertaining, history-based film. Widowed at 69, Mrs. Henderson casts about for something to do with her money and time.

Rejecting the usual diversions, she instead buys a small theater called The Windmill, but with no theater experience she requires someone to run it for her. She is referred to Vivian Van Damm. She immediately irritates him by loudly and rudely observing that he must be Jewish, with the presumptive and anti-Semitic tone of her class.

Like many other Jewish theater professionals in the anti-Semitic 1930s, Van Damm keeps his family's Dutch Jewish roots under wraps.

Despite Henderson's abrasive personality, he agrees to run her theater as long as he has full control.

Van Damm immediately launches an innovative plan to have continuous musical revues instead of the usual three or five shows a day that other theaters present. Dubbed "Revuedeille," the new program opens the refurbished Windmill Theater to great success. But soon, other theaters copy their idea and ticket sales drop. That is when Mrs. Henderson suggests her own unconventional idea - to have live nudes on stage as they do in Paris. "Paris is just filled with naked girls wearing bananas and driving the audience bananas in return," she observes, in a reference to Josephine Baker.

Exploiting a loophole in the censorship laws, Mrs. Henderson notes that they can have nudes on stage as long as they remain still and pose as artistic tableaux. She sweet-talks the government's censor, played delightfully by Christopher Guest, who happens to be an old family friend, into seeing things her way by plying him with tea cakes. But a stage full of statue-like nudes won't hold an audience's attention forever, so Van Damm employs musical comedy acts to provide the entertainment in front of the frozen nude tableaux, who pose with strategically placed props and fans.

Between his theater knowledge and her social connections, they pull it

off and the Windmill is a hit again, with whole families attending as well as the troops going off to war. WWII begins and the bombing of London starts but the theater refuses to close and becomes a beacon of defiance against the Nazi onslaught.

Van Damm and Mrs. Henderson have a love-hate relationship but it forges a strong bond between them. Van Damm periodically bans the interfering and argumentative Mrs. Henderson from the theater, only to have her don disguises to sneak in.

The performers sometimes also dodge the eccentric Mrs. Henderson, but both Van Damm and Henderson take a protective approach to their employees, even having them come live in their theater's safer sub-basements during the bombings. As the continued bombing threatens to close the theater, Mrs. Henderson reveals her hidden personal reasons for producing the nude shows.

What makes this film enjoyable, and rescues it from schmaltziness, are the performances of the great Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins, and the chemistry between them. Dench and Hoskins engage in hilarious, biting repartee which adds much of the comic delight to the film.

Director Stephen Frears presents a polished production, as over-the-top sparkling and theatrical as a one of the performer's beaded costumes. The film also offers a slice of its times, with a sprinkling of comic musical



Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins star in "Mrs. Henderson Presents."

numbers from the Windmill Theatre's own history, performed splendidly by singer Will Young. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities for a bit of the fun with auditions for the live statues and with the logistics of nude tableaux.

"Mrs. Henderson Presents" is

more a fun romp than a serious or great film, but it is highly entertaining. It also serves as a showcase for the talents and work of a Jewish great of British theater, Vivian Van Damm, in an entertaining bonbon featuring two very talented performers, Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras marches in with ragtime music, parades ... and dogs

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

"Mardi gras" is French for "fat Tuesday," the last day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. But Mardi Gras is more than a single day; it is a season that concludes on Fat Tuesday. There is more to Mardi Gras than beads and parades.

A Mardi Gras concert of ragtime music, presented by UM-St. Louis' own Premier Performances on Monday, Feb. 27, is among the many Mardi Gras season treats that you can sample to enjoy the season. A whole series of parties and concerts are also part of the offerings.

Countries and regions with large Catholic populations have long embraced the Mardi Gras season. Mardi Gras and Carnivale celebrations have been traditional in many cultures for a long time, with an emphasis on costume balls, music and flamboyant floats in parades. In the U.S., the season has been the cultural signature of New Orleans, where jazz, creativity and a sense of humor underlie the pageantry. But with New Orleans still recovering from the trag-



File Photo/ The Current

ic blow of Hurricane Katrina, St. Louis' own Souldard-based Mardi Gras is getting new attention.

Souldard is St. Louis' French quarter. Souldard is an old neighborhood with French roots that has been has been celebrating its own Mardi Gras season for many years now. Over the years, it has grown from the neighborhood-based event it once was to an area-wide parade and party, some-

times described as the country's second-largest Mardi Gras. The growing popularity of the celebration has brought some problems, mainly from ill-mannered outsiders who engage in rude behavior and vandalism, much to the dismay of actual Souldard residents. Still, the neighborhood is hanging onto the uniqueness of Mardi Gras with its costumed balls, New Orleans music and general playfulness.

Mardi Gras Events

- Saturday, Feb. 25 - Grand Parade begins at 11 a.m. at Kiener Plaza
- Monday, Feb. 27 - Premier Performances at 7:30 p.m. at Ethical Society
- Tuesday, Feb. 28 - Fat Tuesday Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. at Kiener Plaza

www.mardigrasinc.com

The big parade, and start of the street party, is on the Saturday afternoon before Fat Tuesday. This year, the Grand Parade takes place on Saturday, Feb. 25, beginning at 11 a.m. at Kiener Plaza downtown and ending at 2 p.m. at Sidney and Seventh Streets, just short of the Anheuser Busch brewery. The whole festive season concludes with a downtown Fat Tuesday Parade on Feb. 28

that shifts the final night of revelry to the non-residential Kiener Plaza. In the week before and days after the parade, there are other Mardi Gras events, before Lent brings all the frivolity to an end.

Among the Mardi Gras events that have already taken place are a family favorite, the Barkus Pet Parade. A more laid-back event than the big parade, Barkus Pet Parade takes place in Souldard on the Sunday before the final weekend. This year, the event took place Sunday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. at Allen and Menard Streets in the heart of the neighborhood.

Dogs, cats and other pets were paraded by proud owners, all decked out in colorful purple, green and gold Mardi Gras costumes, often matching ones. There are no floats, it is all on foot and far more relaxed, silly and fun than the hysteria, drinking and crowds of the big parade. It is far more family friendly, although there are families at the big parade too. After the Barkus Pet Parade, there was the Weiner Dog Derby at 2 p.m.

Courtesy Diner offers alternate for fast food

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

Sometimes all you want for dinner is a nice, greasy cheeseburger. But getting one is not always easy. Fast food chains are okay every now and then, but after awhile they get old (plus, eating inside a McDonalds is not really my idea of a good time).

As a college student, one thing I have learned is the value of a dollar. I am always on the lookout for good tasting food that will not break my budget.

When I moved to St. Louis from Kansas City, I quickly learned about the popularity of Courtesy Diner. Located at 1121 Hampton Avenue (between Crescent Avenue and Berthold Avenue), Courtesy Diner is the perfection combination of quality food and reasonable prices. It has earned its local reputation.

As the name suggests, Courtesy Diner is a diner. There is a big counter when patrons can seat and

eat, and there are plush, plastic booths. There is a jukebox that is full of classic rock, country and, of course, lots of Motown.

I guess, if pressed, I would say Courtesy Diner is sort of like Denny's, only so much better. Stepping into this place is like stepping back to another era of dining--back when restaurants were personal and your food was made when you ordered it.

While I was there, I noticed that more than one customer was on a first name basis with the help. Courtesy Diner is the sort of place where you are a person, not just a customer. Speaking of customers, this place is so good that it attracts people from all walks of life. The night I ate there, I noticed a new Jaguar parked right next to a beat up pickup truck. Now that is what I call eclectic clientele.

You can watch the cook make your food, which is a plus if, like me, you wonder what goes on in those backroom kitchens (I will not say

anymore but you know what I am talking about).

Courtesy Diner is extremely casual and would make a great place to hang out. It is the sort of place that would be good for late night dinner/study sessions.

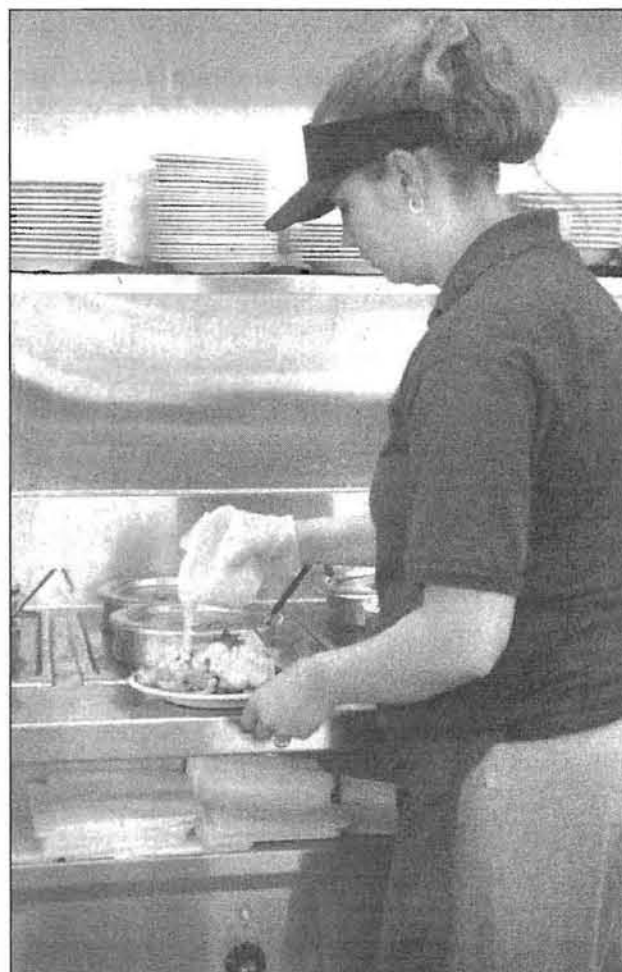
Speaking of late night, Courtesy Diner is open 24 hours a day (except on Mondays when it closes at 10 p.m. and then re-opens on Tuesday at 6 a.m.). Breakfast is served 24 hours a day. Wake up at 2 a.m. and feel like pancakes?

Why not go to Courtesy Diner for a late night (or I guess early morning) pancake fix.

The menu is everything you would expect a diner menu to be--burgers, chili, French fries, steak, omelets, hash browns and pie--you know, "health food." They also have a few things you might not expect a diner to have. I was really surprised at all the Mexican food on the menu, such as burritos and tamales. I really cannot recommend this place to vegetarians (they have salad and pan-

cakes, but that's about it). For everyone else, I think Courtesy Diner is a great place to get some delicious comfort food. Prices are, as mentioned, very reasonable. You can buy a hamburger for \$1.55. I am not talking about a little bitty "drive-thru" burger either. These things are good sized and taste much better. The Diner also has daily specials. For example, I ordered a 21 piece popcorn shrimp meal (with fries) that was less than \$6. I took my girlfriend out to dinner and spent a little over \$10. For about the same price as most chain restaurants, you can go inside and sit in a booth and be waited on. You can relax, talk and listen to the jukebox. So yes, call me a cheap-skate, but I love Courtesy Diner.

There are two Courtesy Diners: one located at 1121 Hampton Avenue, the other at 3155 South Kingshighway. Though Courtesy Diner does not deliver, they do offer carry out. Next time you are hungry and it's late, check out Courtesy Diner.



Christina Russell, waitress, prepares a plate of chili cheese fries for a customer Friday afternoon at the Courtesy Diner. The Courtesy Diner is located just south of Highway 40 on Hampton Ave.

Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Locally-made 'Saving Shiloh' movie gets time on big screen

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Filmmaking happens, even in Missouri. Here is a chance for fans of filmmaking and indie film to catch the local premier of a locally-made movie, and meet the filmmakers too. Come out to show your support for local filmmakers and for an organization that promotes them.

"Saving Shiloh," a film shot in Pacific, MO, will get a local big screen debut on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 5:00 p.m. at Wehrenberg's Ronnie's 20 Cine Theater, 5320 S. Lindbergh Blvd. Tickets are \$8 and are available at the theater or online at www.wehrenberg.com. This big screen premiere, sponsored by Cinema St. Louis and the Missouri Film Commission, is a one-time screening and offers both a first chance to see this film and a chance to see it on a big screen.

The tickets sales benefit the non-profit Cinema St. Louis, which is the organization that presents the annual St. Louis International Film Festival each fall. Cinema St. Louis also presents a local filmmakers festival in the summer, the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase.

The film "Saving Shiloh" is rated G, so you can bring little ones too. The screening will also give you a chance to meet the film's director and stars, and the author of the book on which the film is based. The film is the third based on the "Shiloh" chil-

dren's books, about a boy and the abused hunting dog he rescued.

The local sponsor of this screening, Cinema St. Louis, deserves more recognition for all it does on behalf of local filmmakers. Besides presenting the annual summertime St. Louis Filmmakers, a film festival of mostly short films for St. Louis made or connected films, the organization also offers budding directors a chance to get their feature-length films on the big screen in front of an audience. This kind of test audience screening can give directors invaluable feedback on their film, and is a technique for honing films that goes back to the silent film era. Once a month, filmmakers get a chance to see their feature-length film on the big screen at the Tivoli Theatre, and then receive feedback from the audience, their family and friends, and fellow filmmakers. Cinema St. Louis also offers a screenwriters competition, Cinema Spoke. The big St. Louis International Film Festival also is open to qualifying local films. You can learn more about the organization and their work on their website at www.cinemast-louis.org.

Some St. Louis filmmakers go on to Hollywood. St. Louis native James Gunn's latest flick, a horror film named "Slither," (do you think it might have snakes?) is opening nation-wide at the end of March. Universal Studios is distributing the movie.

Come out on Saturday, Feb. 25 to see "Saving Shiloh" and show some support for locally-made films.

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT
IT ON YOUR RESUME.

AN ARMY OF ONE.

The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

**ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER**

U.S. ARMY

For more information please call the Army ROTC Department at 314-935-5521, 5537 or 5546. You may also visit our web-site at rotc.wustl.edu

Something to sell?

Need workers?

Whatever your needs - advertise it in the Classifieds. Free to students, faculty, staff members. Cheap to everyone else. Email: CURRENT@JMWUMSLEDU

Room to let?

Come on in...

FRIENDS & LUVERS

Where Adults PREFER to Shop!

www.friends-luvers.com

Party Gifts Adult Toys
Jokes & Gags Massage Oils
Leather Lingerie Novelties

DVD DISCS
VHS TAPES

FOR SALE
FOR RENT

DON'T GET PUT IN DA DOGHOUSE!

RISQUE & FUN VALENTINE CARDS
"TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT" SUPPLIES
ROMANTIC COUPLE GIFTS
EROTIC GET-A-WAY KITS

Feb 14

(314) 771-9405 24hour in to line

3550 Gravois (at Grand) St. Louis, MO 63118
Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm Sun. Noon-7pm
Credit Cards, Layaway, Checks & Cash

Multi Years
Best of St. Louis
Awards Winner

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
©2006 Warner Bros. Ent. All Rights Reserved

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO A SPECIAL SCREENING

STOP BY THE CURRENT OFFICES AT 388 MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER TO PICK UP A COMPLIMENTARY SCREENING PASS FOR TWO TO SEE

16 BLOCKS

ALCON ENTERTAINMENT AND MILLENNIUM FILMS PRESENT AN ALCON/PICTURA FILMS AND CHEYENNE ENTERPRISES PRODUCTION
A CHEYENNE ENTERPRISES PRODUCTION
"16 BLOCKS" CASTING: LARRY SANDER, CYLIL CRUZARD, STYLING: KATHLEEN MILLER, MAKEUP: ELIAS BARRETT, HAIR: STEVEN HARTWICK, A.C.
COSTUME DESIGNER: VICKI GRATE, PRODUCTION DESIGNER: GLEN HARTWICK, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: DEBBY HOFFMAN, BRIAN READ
PRODUCED BY DANNY DUNFORD, TREVOR SHOOT, BOAZ DAVIDSON, GEORGE FORA, HADEEN REZA, ANDREAS THIESMEYER, JOSEF LAUTENSCHLAGEN
PRODUCED AND EDITED BY RANDALL EMMETT, JOHN THOMPSON, ANDREW BRYAN
PRODUCED BY JIM YAN WYNN, WRITTEN BY RICHARD DOWNEY, DIRECTED BY RICHARD DOWNEY

16blocks.com

CHEYENNE 16BLOCKS DONORS

OPENS NATIONWIDE FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD

This film has been rated PG-13 for Violence, Intense Sequences of Action and Some Strong Language.

Another trendy health hazard? A look at the hookah

BY CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
Copy Editor

Hookah is not just for hippies anymore. One of northwestern India's oldest and most popular traditions is catching on at colleges and universities around the nation.

People in the Middle East have been smoking hookah for over 500 years, and now this tradition is being introduced to homes, restaurants and night clubs around the nation.

Hookah, also known as shisha, kalia, ghelyoon or hubble-bubble, is a one to two part mixture of tobacco and a sweet substance like honey, distilled fruit flavor or molasses that can be smoked from a hookah piece.

The hookah piece consists of an ashtray-like filter and a container of water joined to a mouthpiece by a tube. The filter holds the charcoal that heats the shisha and causes it to smolder. To smoke, users inhale from the mouthpiece and draw the smoke out into their mouths and then their lungs.

Hookah bars and lounges are popping up all over the nation as this trend becomes more mainstream. At these places, customers choose the flavor or variety of their shisha and then either bring their own hookah piece or use one that is provided. Some bars and lounges offer multi-person hookah pieces to allow groups to smoke

simultaneously.

The atmosphere at a hookah bar is relaxed and laid back. According to Melanie Redhair, who owns a hookah piece and smokes once or twice a month, "Smoking hookah is a really relaxing way of unwinding from the past week."

While she enjoys frequenting hookah bars, Redhair prefers to smoke at home because it is easier and cheaper.

The most popular type of shisha is Naklia shisha, a light, fruity and flavorful tobacco that tastes and smells nothing like the tobacco in cigars, cigarettes and dip. When inhaled, the shisha is smooth, cool and tasty.

Sara Jobst, sophomore, nursing, who has never smoked but has been to a hookah bar, said the hookah smells really good.

"The smell depends on the type of shisha used, but the kind I have smelled was very fruity. It has a really distinct scent like a pipe, but not as musky," Jobst said. She does not understand the hippy stigma that surrounds people who smoke hookah. "My sister and brother-in-law have a hookah at their house. They're not hippies by any means."

Part of hookah's acceptance into mainstream American culture is due to the movie "Alice in Wonderland," in which the caterpillar smokes a hookah. Others believe the acceptance

is due to the increase in available flavors. U now offers nine flavors of hookah tobacco, and Nik's offers many flavors as well, including a cappuccino flavor.

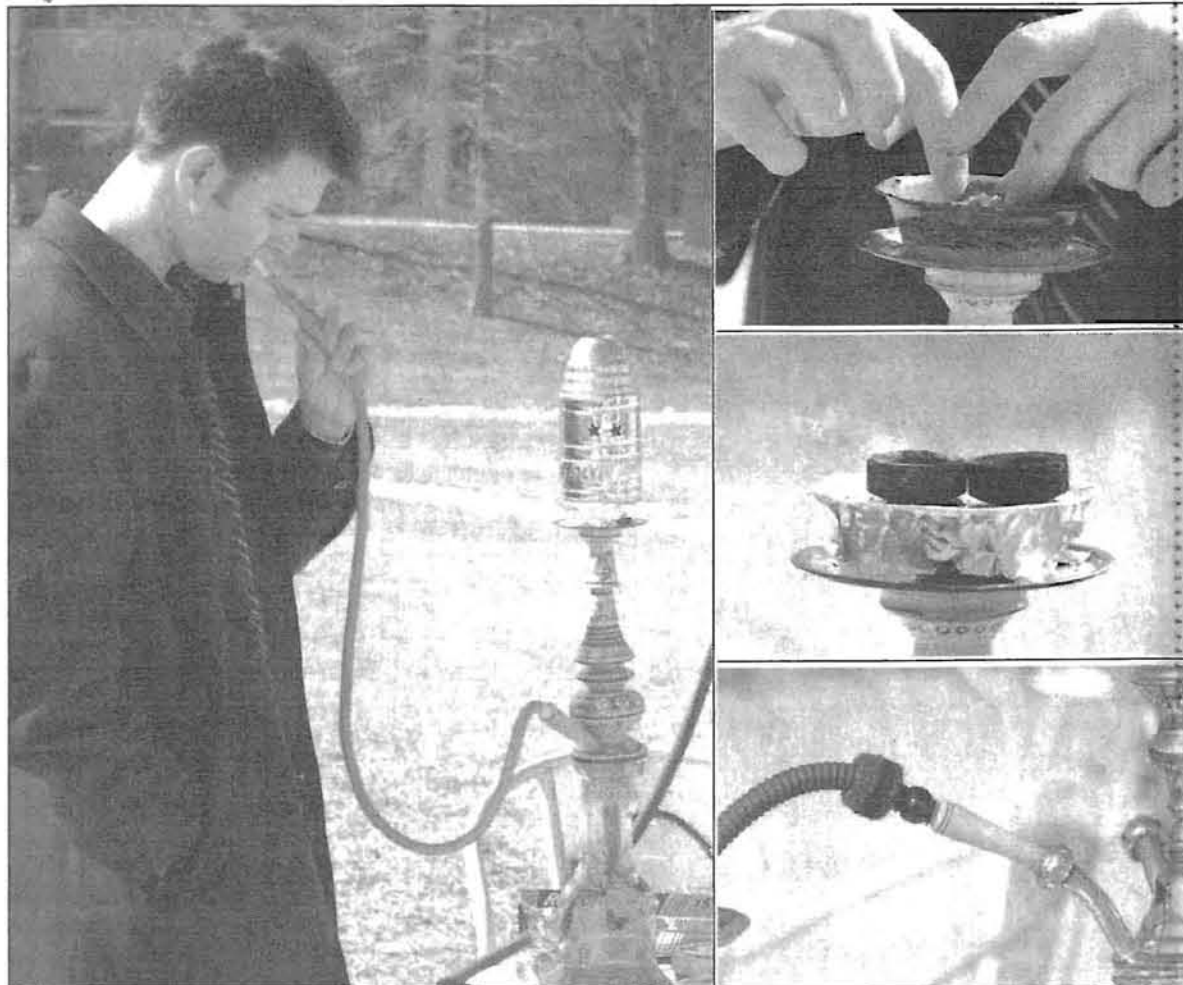
While smoking hookah may be relaxing and entertaining, some medical studies show that smoking a hookah is not any healthier than smoking cigarettes or cigars.

A few studies, including one conducted at Aleppo University, indicate that smoking hookah may even be more dangerous than smoking other types of tobacco because the water pipe used can increase smokers' exposure to carbon monoxide and nicotine.

Other studies propose that hookah smoking is healthier because the hookah mixture is typically only 30 percent tobacco and 70 percent flavoring, meaning hookah packs less of a punch in the tobacco department than cigars or cigarettes. Many hookah aficionados feel smoking hookah is better than smoking other types of tobacco because they smoke less often.

Regardless, hookah smokers should be aware of the potential health risks and weigh whether or not the risk is worth the reward. For many, including Tim Redhair, it is.

"I know it may not be the best thing for me health-wise, but it's so relaxing and peaceful to smoke once in awhile that I'm willing to take the risk," Redhair said.



Photos by Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Kayvan Lavasani, senior, computer science, demonstrates how to use a Hookah. The Hookah is a popular smoking device used in the Middle East and Europe.

SGA MEETING, from page 1

Braddix said UM-St. Louis's portion of the sale would amount to \$18 million. He compared this figure to UM-Columbia's share of \$80 million. Braddix said the amounts are unfair considering UM-Columbia students receive only \$3.6 million from MOHELA.

Any money received from the sale would go toward renovations on campus. "The Benton/Stadler/Research [complex], when we get that \$18 million, is the capital project we will be funding. I believe it costs \$31 million to renovate the buildings," Braddix said.

He said he wanted to see those buildings be fully funded before UM-Columbia got another building.

According to Braddix and Curtis, UM-St. Louis has been the number one priority for seven years on the CBHE's list of capital improvement to receive funding, yet the University has not received enough to fully fund those renovations.

UM-St. Louis already has received about \$3 million for the buildings, so the resolution asks for the remaining \$28 million.

"Basically, what this says is 'governor, thank you very much, but we've been number one for seven years, and why are you giving the money to Columbia?'" Curtis explained.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Tegan Viggers, Student Government Association secretary, watches the discussion at the SGA meeting on Friday afternoon.

Besides resolutions, Braddix announced that he, Vice President Taz Hossain and Comptroller Brian Rails made the executive decision to veto the SGA assembly's decision at the Nov. 11 meeting not to increase the infrastructure fee by 25 cents. Braddix said the vote to increase the fee failed 29-33 at that meeting.

Braddix explained the reverse decision would help with contract talks for Metro and the shuttle service. "Seeing as we're having current issues with Metrolink, we really do

have to pass this fee in order to not have more issues next year," he said.

Daniel Hollander, graduate student, management information systems, motioned to overturn the veto. However, he was unsuccessful as the assembly voted 2-51 with three abstentions not to overturn Braddix's veto.

Also of note, SLA members Dodd and Thomas Helton were re-elected to their board positions. In addition, Elsa Berman, sophomore, nursing, was elected as a Student Court justice.

THEFT, from page 1

"I'm certainly not going to step outside of my bounds. Our feelings on the matter is when we get all the facts, we will deem whatever we feel is fair and just," Brady said.

In his 20 years at UM-St. Louis, he said, "Something like this has never happened before."

Brady made the decision to suspend the players last Monday after those involved in the incident approached him and told him about the situation.

"That makes me feel better that they took it upon themselves to come and see me. We don't take these things lightly, and at least they came to let

me know what had transpired," he said.

After the talk and suspension, Brady said he still had to conduct practice and then notify his superiors of the suspension.

"I felt like I was in the middle of this huge wild fire, and I was controlling it with a garden hose," he said.

"I am extremely disappointed. You feel like somebody has just punched you in the stomach, and it has knocked the wind out of you," he said.

Brady neither condones the actions nor prejudices the guilt of any players that have been suspended, but he does feel the actions were "never really

thought out."

"It's the last thing in your head. You never expect your guys to not think about things like the consequences," he said.

Brady does not feel that all students understand that "once they put on that sweater or uniform, there is a responsibility that comes with that and recognition. You're an icon."

At the Student Government Association meeting last Friday, SGA President D'Andre Braddix chose not to comment on the situation. "I'm kind of at a rock and a hard place. It's not my business to report on it," he said.

ATTENTION:

Healthy Adult Men and Women
Looking for Tuition Assistance?
Would You Like to Study
and Get Paid for it?

Earn \$400 - \$2500

You May Qualify if:

- You are a healthy adult, male or female (18 or older)
- Take no medications on a regular basis
- Have no current health problems
- Available for 24 - 48 hour stays at our facility

You can earn hundreds of dollars and help generic drugs obtain FDA approval. Gateway Medical Research, Inc. has been conducting research for pharmaceutical companies for years and thousands of people have participated. Find out how easy it can be to earn \$\$\$, call our recruiters at (636) 946-2110, or visit our website at www.gatewaymedical.com



Gateway Medical Research, Inc.

Clinic Office located at

400 Fountain Lakes Blvd. • St. Charles, MO 63301



MARDI GRAS, from page 10

New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz and ragtime, so music is always part of Mardi Gras. There have already been a number of concerts for the season, including a Mardi Gras music event at the Sheldon concert hall, a musical tribute to Artie Shaw by Victor Goines and his quintet on Saturday, Feb. 18. While you missed the Sheldon concert, you can still catch a Mardi Gras concert presented by UM-St. Louis' own Premier Performances on Monday, Feb. 27 at the Ethical Society.

This time, the music is ragtime, another all-American musical form with New Orleans roots. Ragtime duo of pianist Tom McDermott and clarinetist Evan Christopher present a Mardi Gras concert featuring New Orleans-style ragtime. The program, titled "Classic Ragtime," begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd. Tom McDermott

is a St. Louis born-and-raised musician who now lives in New Orleans, as does Californian Evan Christopher. McDermott has toured extensively as part of the Dukes of Dixieland and the New Orleans Nightcrawlers, and as a solo artist. What could be a more fitting way to spend the evening before Fat Tuesday? Tickets are \$18 for students, \$23 for adults. Contact Premier Performances for info or tickets at 314-516-5818.

There are more Mardi Gras events this week, including costume balls, concerts and other events, before the Grand Parade. There are Souldard events all week including the Dogtown All-Stars Mardi Gras Party at the Broadway Oyster Bar on Feb. 23.

The parties reach a peak on Friday, Feb. 24, with the Mystic Knights of the Purple Haze's annual

Mardi Gras Ball is at the Casa Loma Ballroom, the Souldard Social Aid & Pleasure Club's annual Subterranean Ball at the South Broadway Athletic Club, and Broadway Oyster Bar's Mardi Gras Masked Ball featuring the Zydeco Crawdaddies, and other events. The biggest gala is the Mayor's Mardi Gras Ball Masquerade, a black-tie or costume charity fundraiser for those well-funded folks who want to rub elbows with the city's mayor and other power elites.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the day of the Grand Parade, nearly every Souldard bar has live music for the hardy partiers. Things taper off a bit after Saturday but Souldard bars still have special events until the downtown Fat Tuesday Parade on Feb. 28. For details on Souldard events, you can visit the official website at www.mardigrasinc.com.

Litmag Writing Contest. Earn Some Extra Cash!

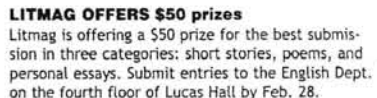
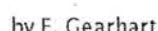
Submit original short stories, poems, or personal essays. Selections judged best in each category can win \$50. Don't let this opportunity pass by! Final Deadline **Feb 28th**. Look for the Litmag box outside the English Department Office (Lucas Hall). Or submit by email: psm2m5@umsl.edu

The Current

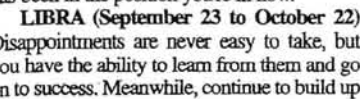
NOW HIRING STAFF WRITERS

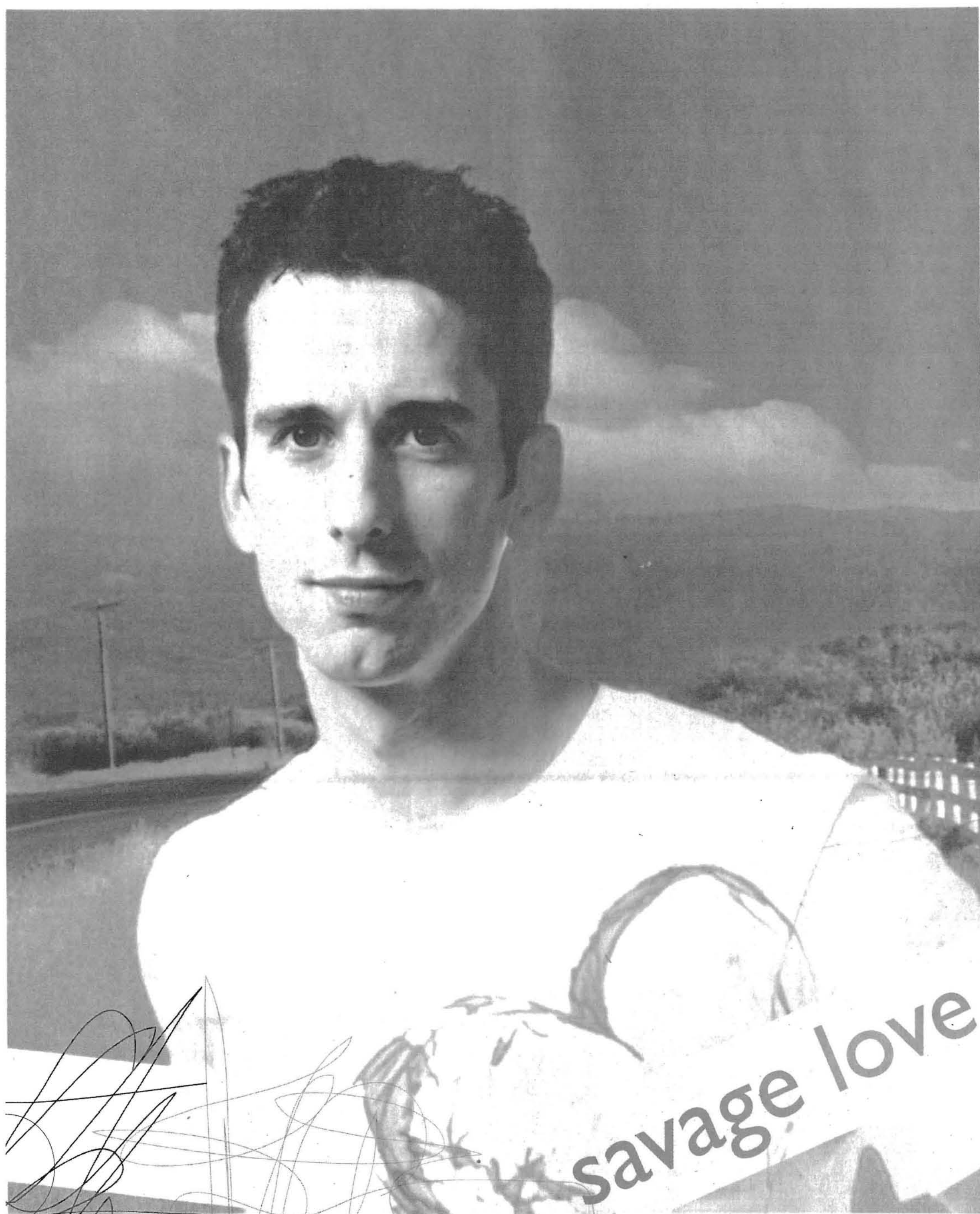
Contact Kate Drolet, Managing Editor, at current@jinx.umsl.edu or 314-516-5174. For an immediate interview, submit a cover letter and résumé.

"PG-13"



To see a list of companies and pre-register for the fair, go to www.umsi.edu/career and click on Job Fairs





DAN SAVAGE

FEBRUARY 28 '06

7 PM CENTURY ROOMS

Have a question about your love life?
Do you think you are too freaky? Come ask Dan!