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Rivermen take third in tennis tournament

The tennis Rivermen defeated Bellarmine 5-2 Saturday to capture third place at the GLVC championships. The Rivermen were defeated Friday by tournament champion Southern Indiana.

◀ See page 5

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

INSIDE



This hilarious diary is worth peeking into

Bridget weighs too much, smokes too much, drinks too much and is afraid of approaching "spinsters." To overcome these problems, she makes some resolutions and buys a diary to record her progress. You may not think this sounds like a promising premise for a comedy, but that's where you'd be wrong. Bridget's self-effacing humor turns her pedestrian concerns and her diary into high humor.

▲ See page 6

BRIEFS

Big Event will help St. Vincent's

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

A new position overseeing campus housing has been created in an effort to help increase the number of students living on campus, which is one of the primary goals of Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

The director of residential life and housing will handle the business operations for all the residence halls on campus housing facilities, which includes Mansion Hill Condominiums and the residence halls.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for Administrative Services, said that the University currently has 1,000 beds for on-campus students and Touhill is looking to expand to 2,500 in the next five years.

Lisa Grubbs, campus housing administrator, is the only internal applicant that is being considered for the position. Grubbs has managed all campus housing as the campus housing administrator for the past seven years. "Her position will end once a director has been selected," said Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

"I've been here for seven years," Grubbs said. "I love it. I want to be here a lot longer."

If selected for the new position, Grubbs said that one of her goals for the dormitories is to have more "peer-to-peer support," where students help each other.

Grubbs said that many students living in the dormitories have similar schedules. She wants those students to team up and help each other.

"You can have two students [living in the same hall] sitting on opposite sides of the same lecture hall and do not even know they're there," she said.

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MIRTHDAY 2001



Photos by Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current



ABOVE: Nao Kobayashi, a junior majoring in business, takes a ride on the swings at Mirthday. Organizers brought in several carnival rides like this one for students to enjoy.

LEFT: Students crowd together near the main stage to hear Ludacris, one of three musical acts that performed at Mirthday.

SEE PAGES 3 & 12 FOR STORY & PHOTOS

MoDOT to reroute traffic at intersection of I-70, Hanley

BY JOSH RENAUD
senior editor

Evening students who normally come to campus by taking I-70 east to Florissant Road may run into delays this week as crews dismantle half of the bridge over I-70 at Hanley Road.

Most of the work will be done at night during the week, weather-permitting, said Tom Evers, MoDOT project manager.

"The times will vary, but we're going to start from the westbound side to the eastbound side, removing the bridge deck from one direction to the other," Evers said.

On April 23 and 24, from 8:30 p.m.

until 5:30 a.m., westbound traffic will be detoured off the interstate at the Hanley Road exit and entrance ramps and then back onto the interstate. On April 24, westbound I-70 will be open between 10 and 11 p.m. for St. Louis Cardinals traffic.

On April 25 and 26, from 8:30 p.m. until 5:30 a.m., eastbound traffic will be detoured at the exit and entrance ramps and then back onto the interstate.

On April 27, the far right lane of eastbound I-70 will be closed at Hanley from 6 p.m. until 5 a.m.

"At the worst, the students will have to sit for a little bit," Evers said. "I-70 is not being closed, but you will have to sit in five to 10 minutes worth of traffic

you weren't used to before."

Motorists will not be able to cross over the Hanley Road bridge while the dismantling is underway. The Hanley Road bridge will be restricted to one lane in each direction through late 2001.

The other half of the bridge will be dismantled in 3-4 months, probably near the end of summer, Evers said, depending on how quickly the first half is rebuilt.

The Hanley bridge is being replaced as part of the six-year "I-70 corridor project" which is scheduled to be completed in 2003. Work on the Hanley Road bridge is expected to be complete by late 2002.

Legislator discusses alma mater, term limits

BY DAN GALLI
special to The Current

Tim Green, chair of the Missouri House of Representatives Budget Committee, visited the Millennium Student Center at UMSL on April 16. Green was here for the first annual "Brunch With A Legislator," sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

Green, a Democrat who represents the 73rd District in the House of Representatives, is a graduate of UMSL. He spoke about his background and his job, and also fielded questions from the audience.

One of the more interesting topics discussed was UMSL's lack of funding. UMSL has about 30 percent of the students in the UM System, but receives only 12 percent of its budget.

"UMSL has always been on the short end of the stick," said Green. "[The House Budget Committee] approves a lump sum to the UM System and then the Board of Curators and president [Manuel Pacheco] decide where the money goes."

Green believes a lot of St. Louis delegates are more supportive of the Columbia and Rolla campuses. He said a lot of people really haven't seen what UMSL can do for the community.

Five of Green's siblings graduated from UMSL. His wife is currently attending the University to receive a bachelor of science in nursing. So while Green respects UMSL a lot—unlike many of his peers in the St. Louis delegation—he believes little

see LEGISLATOR, page 8



Tim Green, chair of the Missouri House of Representatives Budget, visits UMSL students at ASUM's "Brunch With a Legislator" event on April 16. Green discussed topics ranging from UMSL's share of the UM-System budget to term limits for Missouri politicians.

Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

SGA election gives voters few options

BY LAURA BROWN
special to The Current

This week's Student Government Association election will offer voters little choice on the ballot, with only one candidate running in each position.

SGA elections will be held for Student Government President, Vice President and Comptroller. Nine other candidates are running for Assembly Representative positions. None of the candidates are opposed by anyone else, giving little reason for campaigning.

Ryan Connor, current SGA president, is running for reelection. Joe Flees is the vice president candidate, and Brian King is running for the office of comptroller.

One polling place on each campus will be open for the election on Tuesday and Wednesday. On North Campus it will be located in the Millennium Student Center, most likely near the cross walk where most of the traffic through the building occurs. The location on South Campus hadn't been determined as of press time.

There is no need for more than one polling location on each campus, said Rick Blanton, adviser to

the SGA. Since there are no challengers to the incumbent president, Connor will become president for a second term mainly by default. Only one student is needed to cast a vote for each candidate to become elected. The expense needed to establish and run more than one polling location with supplies and personnel is unjustified, Blanton said.

"I'm at a loss why there are so few applicants," said Blanton.

A deadline was set for interested students to get their name on the ballot. Because so few candidates applied, the deadline was extended, but no one else signed up.

Blanton said he believes there could be several reasons for this. Either students are completely satisfied with how things on campus are going right now and do not see a need for change, there is a lack of confidence in the entire system or there is just no interest in the election all together, he said.

"I think competition is healthy. It makes the product better," said Blanton.

There is always the possibility a write-in candidate could win the election, but that appears to be unlikely since there has been no campaigning for one on campus to this point.

Visit thecurrentonline.com to find out more about the candidates in our SGA Voter's Guide.

Police chase man with gun through campus

BY JOSH RENAUD
senior editor

A man was arrested last Wednesday after an incident involving a gun on Florissant Road. The man was apprehended by Normandy police with help from the UMSL police after a chase that crossed campus.

The chase occurred around 7 p.m., about an hour after the Mirthday festival ended.

Sgt. Bruce Gardiner of the UMSL police explained that he and other officers were handling a separate incident at Hollywood Park Apartments when a motorist flagged them down and said a man was pointing a gun at another man farther down Florissant Road.

Gardiner notified Normandy police, since the incident occurred in their jurisdiction. The UMSL officers located the victim of the incident and then an UMSL police dispatcher informed them that the suspect had been sighted on the MetroLink platform.

Gardiner approached the platform from the south and was spotted by the suspect, who began walking

to a telephone near the MetroLink parking lot. Gardiner gestured to a Normandy police officer who was approaching from the opposite direction and they stopped the suspect at the telephone.

"The Normandy officer was attempting to cuff him when he broke free and started to run through the MetroLink lot," Gardiner said.

He and the other officer began chasing the suspect, Gardiner said, when he saw a gun had fallen.

The officers chased the suspect through traffic on East Drive and past the new East Drive parking garage onto the private Lucas property east of the garage. When more officers joined the chase, the suspect reached for his waistband, Gardiner said. There was enough light that the officers could see he didn't have anything in his hands.

"They were going to protect themselves if they had to," Gardiner said. "That guy was lucky it was still daylight. He went in looking, and I don't think he realized he'd dropped his gun."

The suspect was finally caught and arrested on the MetroLink tracks near the Lucas property.

UMSL to offer courses online

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Faculty members in the College of Education and the College of Nursing will begin teaching online during the summer and fall semesters 2001 respectively.

The Nursing team members will be Jean Bachman, Sandra Lindquist, Cynthia Mitchell, Donna Musser, and Mary Jo Stralka. The members of the Education program will be Susan Catapano, Mary Cooper, Carl Hoagland, Allison Hoewisch and Christopher Simon, a graduate student.

When the idea of online classes was being kicked around during the

see ONLINE COURSES, page 12

Bulletin Board

Monday, April 23

• "The Development of the European City" will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 331 Social Sciences and Business Building. Free. Call 516-6495 for more information.

• Spencer and Spencer Mathematics Lecture will be presented from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Summit Lounge. Free. For more information, call 516-5446.

Tuesday, April 24

• Looking for a Bible Study
Non-denominational Bible Study meets in Room 313 of the Millennium Student Center, from 11 a.m. to noon. There is also a meeting on Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your lunch. For details, call 516-6901.

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

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

Wednesday, April 25

• Conversations About Teaching and Technology: This Semester's Lessons/Ideas for Next will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at Marillac Hall. Free and open to faculty. For details, call 516-6082.

• Meeting for OUT—UMSL's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Alliance—in Room 385 at the Millennium Center, Student Organization, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call Mathew at 516-5013 or at 636-230-7483.

Thursday, April 26

• The Spring Singer/Songwriter Showcase will take place from 7 p.m.

Put it on the Board:

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, April 29

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

Monday, April 30

• Monday Noon Series
"An International Storytelling Odyssey" is presented by Annette Harrison, Kenya Ajanaku and Peter Theodore. All of them share tales from their ethnic heritage as a preview for the annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival, May 2-5. The event is held in Room 229, J.C. Penney Conference Center, from noon to 1 p.m. Free and open to the public. For inquiries, call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

Friday, April 27

• Soup with Sister 12:05 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge, across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information, call 385-3455.

• Annual Multicultural Awareness Celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center, Century Rooms A, B and C. All are welcome for a multicultural fashion show and various cultural performances. For more information, call 516-6807.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

April 13, 2001

At 9:20 a.m., a juvenile was arrested for the attempted theft of a vehicle on parking lot "E." The arrested juvenile was released to St. Louis County Juvenile Authorities.

A University Meadows resident reported

that between 3 a.m. and 11:55 a.m., four ashtrays and a red-and-white wicker basket were stolen from the patio of her apartment.

April 16, 2001

A student reported that on 4/13/01 at 4 p.m. his Winter 2001 parking permit

was stolen from his vehicle, while it was parked in the West Drive Garage.

At 1 p.m., two vehicles found to be parked on Lot "E" displayed counterfeit student parking permits of the same number. Both parking permits were confiscated, and the incident will

be referred to the Student Affairs Office.

A student reported that between 6:30 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. his wallet was stolen from the gym floor at the Mark Twain Building. The wallet contained cash and credit cards.

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

www.thecurrentonline.com

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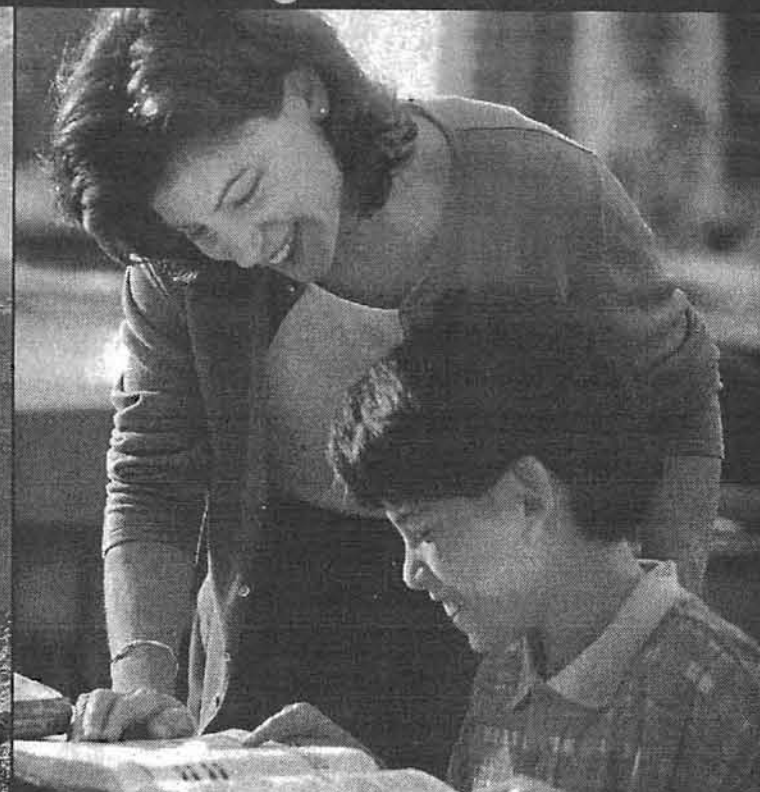
Candidates should bring transcripts and proof of certification to the fair. Counselors, psychological examiners, speech therapists, librarians and substitute teachers are also needed. Tentative job offers, pending record checks, will be made to the most promising candidates. If qualified, candidates will be hired for the 2001 – 2002 school year. (If the candidate is available, intent to hire offers can be made to finish the current school year.)

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Mirthday

UMSL's annual spring event is a success

BY ANNE PORTER
senior editor

Webster, in the NewWorld Dictionary, defines mirth as joyfulness, gaiety, or merriment, especially when characterized by laughter. The definition of that keyword certainly explains why Mirthday, celebrated last Wednesday, was so much enjoyed by students, faculty and staff.

Last Wednesday, unlike the week before, was somewhat cooler, although this did not seem to detract from the crowds.

Orinthia Montague, the student services coordinator, helped plan Mirthday with the University Program Board.

"I'm very pleased [with the results]. The past two years Mirthday has seemed similar to EXPO. I wanted to do something different this spring," Montague said.

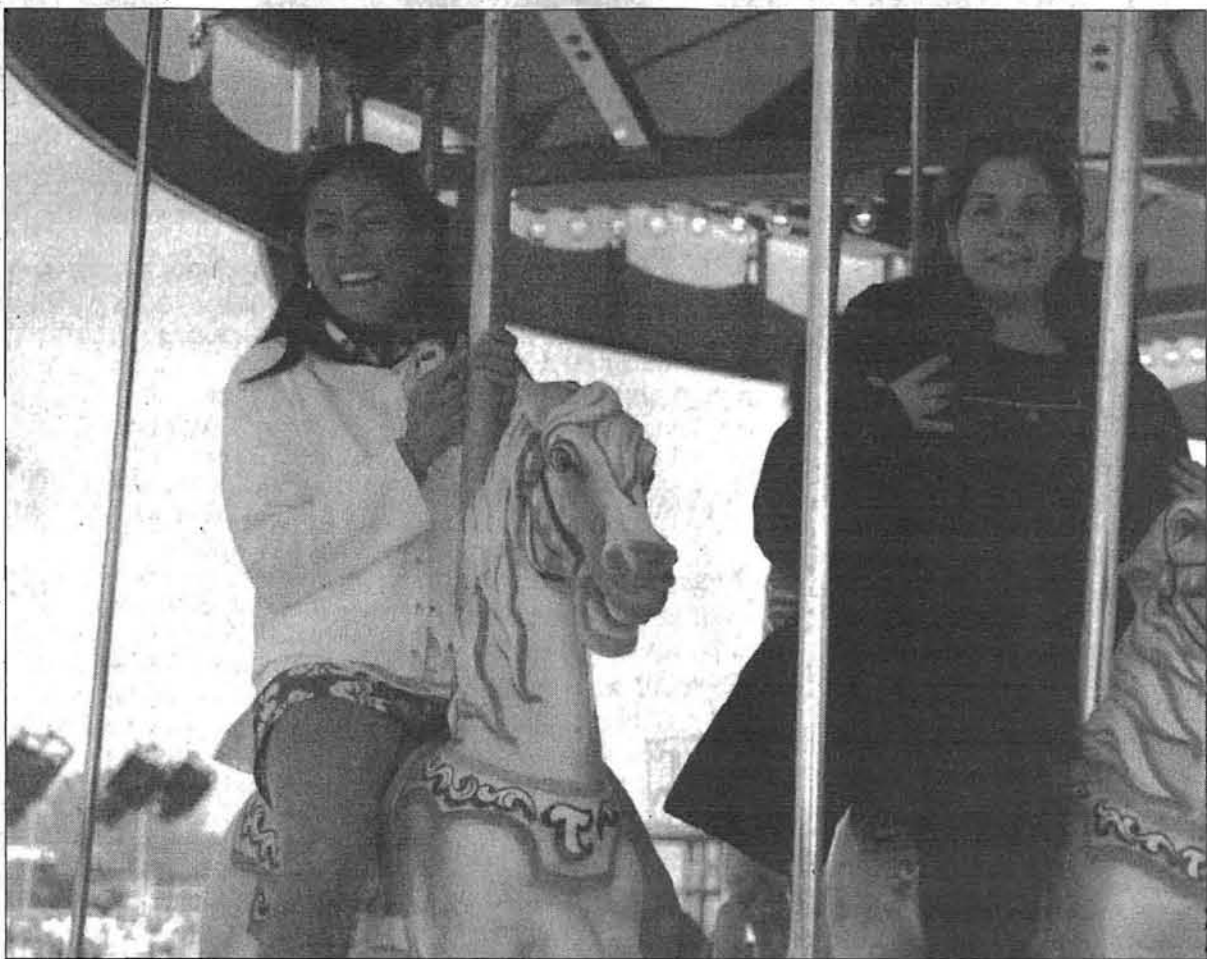
Changes that Montague made this year included no breaks in the operation times of the event, a nationally recognized band, different location, all-ages rides and a focus on Greek Week.

Montague thinks many of these changes worked well to improve the carnival atmosphere of Mirthday, and she plans to implement them next year as well.

Montague also noted a few people who helped make Mirthday a success: Randy Vogan of Accounting Services, Gloria Leonard and Gloria Collins of Business Services and Facilities Services respectively and the UMSL police.

What did students think about the new Mirthday?

Jennifer Cave, a junior majoring in mass communications, waited in line for a psychic reading, while she visited with other students.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

UMSL students who attended Mirthday were treated to food, rides, concert performances and various fun games from UMSL student organizations.

"This Mirthday had its good and bad points. I liked it on the grass better. They didn't take meal plans, but there is more to do and more music," Cave said.

People who worked at Mirthday also enjoyed many of its activities.

William Bell, of Food Services, helped make sure that everyone hungry was fed.

"This was my first time. I enjoyed it. I felt like a kid again. Popcorn, rides, what more could you ask for?"

Bell said.

Rides at Mirthday included a Ferris wheel, a scrambler, mechanical swings, a carousel and a spinning circle, similar to the Tom's Twister at Six Flags.

These rides made it possible for students with children to bring them to the carnival as a family outing.

If rides were not on the agenda, one could find out the future with the psychics or palm readers and also have their own portrait made by a caricatur-

ist as a memento.

For an educational appeal, many organizations staffed booths to provide interested students and faculty with information about what they do and how to become involved.

Most had a game of some sort and used one of them as a chance to win a prize.

Music for Charity—the UMSL group which supports local musicians and music groups—had to match the character to candy game. If the partic-

UMSL women march to 'take back the night'

BY KATIE STUCKENSCHNEIDER
special to The Current

Join women as they "take back the night" at 4 p.m. April 27, in front of Marillac Hall on the South Campus.

The "Take Back the Night" march is a program that provides support to all victims of violence.

"[Violence] is a big problem in our country," Annette Curdt said, program director of the Women's Center.

The annual, internationally-acclaimed event began in 1976, when Belgium held the first march. UMSL began the tradition last year. The Women's Center as well as the division of counseling and student organizations are planning the event.

The march starts at Marillac Hall and ends at the Thomas Jefferson Library where Melissa Hattmon, director of Admissions, and Curdt will be speaking about the violence of women and children in today's society.

"Last year, the walk included a lot of women and a lot of men from campus," Curdt said.

The march at UMSL this year is in

"We need to voice our concerns about the violence in our society. Everyone is welcome to 'take back the night.'

-Annette Curdt
Program director of the Women's Center

coordination with the National Crime Victims' Right Week that runs from April 22-28. Last year, around 75 people participated in the program. Curdt hopes it will be "even larger this year."

The program began at UMSL when H. Lori Schnieders, assistant professor in the division of counseling, mentioned to Curdt that "Take Back the Night" would be beneficial in helping to take a stand on violence.

"We need to voice our concerns about the violence in our society. Everyone is welcome [to 'Take Back the Night']," Curdt said.

Student artists bring wondrous variety to Gallery 210 exhibit

BY SARA PORTER
staff writer

The 2001-juried student art exhibit, held in Lucas Hall, Gallery 210, brought a lot of visitors, a lot of excellent art work and a lot of variety in the fields of painting, sculpture, photography, computer graphics and lithography.

The exhibit was presented, according to Terry Suhre, director of Gallery 210, to show the different styles of art.

"The program is an opportunity to display the best work under many artistic disciplines," Suhre said.

Suhre says he was impressed by the artistic talent embedded in the works.

"They are very sophisticated and have a strong sense of professionalism."

Besides the professionalism of the works, their variety was also striking. "There isn't a particular UMSL style," said Dan Younger, coordinator of the B.F.A program. "Everybody is doing their own thing with their own particular style."

The works themselves displayed

the artists' many talents and interests. The photography exhibit, for example, had many different photos, from landscapes of the Big River to a sad-faced clown. Each photo told a bit about the photographer taking it.

In her picture "Dennis Bergkamp at Highbury," photographer Kate Cassidy displayed a love for photography and English football.

"I traveled through Britain going to football games, and I snapped this picture of Dennis Bergkamp, an international Dutch player," Cassidy said. "Football is my niche."

A fairly new exhibit this year was the waterless lithographs, printmaking without using certain chemicals. Leonard Massey, a student lithographer, showed three displays—two from his water lilies and one of the Roman pillars in Lyon, France.

"I chose the Roman columns because of their architectural significance," Massey said. "They are purely Roman with the way they are made with the columns out of stones and then covered in marble."

The paintings were quite colorful and portrayed the artist's talents. Painter Larry Sowell's portrait,

ipants guessed who would be on the card, they either won a piece of candy, or went double, or nothing.

Horizon Peer Educators had the Volkswagen Bug with the flowers and "Be True to Yourself" message for everyone to admire and to drive it around the parking lot.

Groups with booths reported favorable results from their time and energy invested in the event.

Jessica Schneider, a freshman who is currently undecided, staffed the Horizon Peer Educator area.

"I was happy with how everything went. We worked hard at putting these things together and making sure things ran smoothly. We handed out applications, and we actually ran out of prizes. I really had a great time handing out sunglasses and piggy banks," Schneider said.

If joining a group wasn't a goal, then what about getting a job? UPS was answering questions, as well as registering for Pointfest tickets.

Speaking of music, three bands performed on the Mirthday stage. First up was Ludacris with their two rap hits. Then the Fifth Element, a local band that offered a rock show for the crowd. The last band to perform was the Javier Mendoza band, whose songs have been played on 101.1 The River. Mendoza played for a sparse audience, but the music still sounded like it was a show of a 1000 with its American Hispanic mix of rhythms and beat.

The fraternities and sororities had their own skits on the mainstage, which included many parodies of television shows, such as the Man Show and Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

It's impossible to see into the future and what exactly next year's Mirthday will offer, but one thing is certain—it should be a good time for students, faculty and staff.

"Cliff," depicted a man surrounded by colorful streaks, and "August" showed a woman whose mouth stands out in her face; both presented models with unusual twists.

"Cliff" is an expression of who the model is with a splash of color," Massey said. "'August' is a portrait of my neighbor. I always thought that her most beautiful body part is her mouth. Most artists go for the eyes, and I thought it was the least interesting part about her face."

At the end of the opening exhibit, the winners were announced. They were awarded as follows:

First place—Sowell for "Cliff." Second place—Peter Pranschke for "Mr. Potato Head and Power Ranger." Third place—Derek Dylan Simmons for "Roderick in Red," Merit-Betty L. Jehle for "First Phal." Honorable Mention—Chris Draper for "brainstorm stl" website, Massey for "Water Lilly Pink," Gina Lumsden for "Innocence," Abril Borrego for "Reflection" and Grant Asmus for "Beyond the Mental Capacity." The exhibit will run through May 9 at Gallery 210. It is free and open to the public.

UMSL student making his way to a hopeful career

BY JENNIFER DODD
special to The Current

You pass a guy in the hallway, he is about 5 feet 11 inches tall with a medium build, spiky dark blonde hair frames his face. He is dressed in khakis and a Tommy Hilfiger shirt. He smells good when you walk by, but you don't think anything of it. The person you just passed is Jason Dunn, a senior at UMSL, majoring in mass communication.

Dunn is not your typical UMSL student; first of all, it takes him about an hour and a half to drive to school each morning because he lives in Troy, Mo.

"A typical weekday for me is getting up at 7:30 a.m. and getting ready, and being at school by 10 a.m. for my first class. Then at about noon I go to work at Magellan Behavioral Health, in Earth City, and work till 8 p.m. Then it takes me about an hour to get home. I try to watch some decent TV shows, get in about an hour and a half of studying and then crash," Dunn said.

One of the reasons Dunn chose UMSL was because it was relatively

close to Troy.

"I would have liked to have gone away to school somewhere like Southwest Missouri State University, but it would have been too far away. I have gotten pretty close with my family recently, and I would have really missed my friends Josh, Alesha and Tiffany. It was a battle between the brain and heart, but I think I made the right choice," Dunn said.

Dunn goes out of his way for his friends and family. On Saturday nights, when he doesn't feel like going to the clubs, he baby-sits his best friend Tiffany's daughter.

"When Tiffany feels like going to the clubs, I will stay at her apartment and take care of little Sarah. Tiffany is a single mom, who gets no financial or emotional support from Sarah's father. I don't mind helping her out and in fact my mom takes care of kids for a living so it rubbed off on me," Dunn said.

Besides babysitting, Dunn is always willing to lend an ear to a troubled friend.

"If my friends are having a personal crisis, I will miss out on things that I

want to do, so I can help them in their time of need. I also have put off other friends, so I can hang out with the close ones when they need me. When Tiffany's Grandpa died and she called me at 3 a.m. in the morning, I let her cry on the phone till 6 a.m., and I had a test the next day," Dunn said.

Dunn works eight hours a day, five days a week at Magellan. He is a sympathetic ear.

"I'm a customer service representative at this insurance behavioral health company. Customers will call me and just be bawling on the phone, and some are contemplating suicide. I often stay on the phone with them till I can calm them down and a professional can talk to them. Often they threaten to hurt themselves, and they also talk about their problems with me," Dunn said.

Besides being a customer service rep and a student at UMSL, he is also a group leader at a cancer camp during the summer. The camp is for the brothers and sisters of cancer patients who are going through the traumatic ordeal.

"I got involved in this when I was 10 years old, and my sister was diag-

nosed with a rare form of cancer. Jim and Connie Miles run the camp, and I went there for four years as a brother. Then the Miles called me to be a counselor, (which I was) for five years. This past summer, I became a group leader. The camp's purpose is to help kids understand their feelings about this ordeal with their sibling, and whatever they're feeling is okay. The kids feel everything emotional from jealousy to being scared. A lot of the campers from the summer still call me everyday and let me know about what's bothering me. The problems range from the cancer issues to pre-teen issues, and I try to help them through it," Dunn said.

Dunn does have a lighter side to his personality, and it can be found on the stage.

"When I was a freshman in high school, I got the lead role in 'Dracula' at the local community theater center. Then, when I was a sophomore, I took some acting classes, and I got the lead comedy role in the high school spring play, which was highly abnormal for a sophomore. In my junior year, I was in the community college plays, as well as

high school plays. I got the lead in my high school's spring play, Neil Simons, 'Rumors,' and I had a three page monologue that involved some Spanish," Dunn said.

Dunn didn't stray away from the acting bug his senior year of high school at all.

"I did quit the community theater, but I continued to act in my high school. I won awards for duet acting, improvisation, and I got the lead in the senior play which was a musical," Dunn said.

Although Dunn is extremely attached to the UMSL community because of his friends, and also enjoys his hometown Troy, he feels he needs to be on a coastal city.

"After I graduate, I am going to save some money for about a year and then move to New York City or Los Angeles. I am going to stay in either city for at least six to eight months, so I can prove to myself that I can handle it. If, for some reason, I fail, I will move back to St. Louis and work, and try for either city a little bit later," concluded Dunn.

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

features editor

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EVENTS

April

23

The Arianna String Quartet will perform with the University Singers in a Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel on the South Campus. Free. Call the music department at 516-5980 for details.

The Public Policy Research Center presents "The City: Digital Photographic Works," an exhibit of photography by Thomas E. Patton. Now through June 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in room 362 at Social Sciences Building. Free. Call 516-5273.

The Public Policy Research Center's Metropolitan Issues Forum Series presents a lecture "Is St. Louis Safer: Community Policing and Crime Reduction" from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center, Century Room C. Free. Call 516-5273.

The Center For International Studies sponsors a lecture "The Development of the European City," by architect Hill Burgess, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room 331 of the Social Sciences Building. Free. RSVP by calling 516-6495.

25

The Public Policy Research Center's Applied Research Seminar Series "City Streets and Neighborhood Identities" by Dr. Andrew Hurley, associate professor, History Department. Free. Call 516-5273 for details.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL BOARD

- JOSH RENAUD
- ANNE PORTER
- ERIK BUSCHARDT
- RHASHAD PITTMAN
- TIM THOMPSON

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

LETTERS

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

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi

staff photographer

What kind of events do we need in UMSL?

OUR OPINION

Next year, SGA officers must establish structure

Normally, this time of year, just before the SGA elections, *The Current* creates and prints a voter's guide where we endorse the candidates we believe are the best choices.

This year, however, only one candidate per position is running, so that notion seems useless in this election.

Instead of a voters guide, *The Current* has decided to suggest solutions to problems we see. We hope next year's officers will create a more positive student government that represents students more effectively and is more accessible to them.

Ryan Connor, who is running for re-election as SGA president, said in his application that the key to future success for the SGA is "structure." Connor did not elaborate much on this idea, but we believe he is on the right path.

There must be a consistent method of passing resolutions which document and make official the voice of the student body.

One way to create this consistency is to use committees. Committees are given particular areas to focus on, like "parking." A committee works to solve a problem and then when the Assembly meets, the committee presents its proposed solution for discussion and a vote.

This method may not be the quickest, but it does work and the results are recordable and concrete. In order for this to work, the committees would have to standing and the leaders would need to make sure the members attended regularly. This is perhaps the most difficult part of student government—keeping people involved.

At the beginning of the year, it may be helpful to write an agenda of all the issues the SGA officers would like to address over the course of the year.

This syllabus of sorts would be changeable, meaning the SGA could add issues or remove them, as they are solved.

We hope the next SGA administration will keep the website up-to-date so that interested students can find out when and where meetings will be held, download candidacy applications, or learn how to contact their representatives.

Despite a redesigned SGA website and officers who promised a host of new features at several SGA meetings, only one link on the site actually works, and it's a link to the old constitution.

And next year, the SGA must do something to address the dreadful problems they've had publicizing events this year. For instance, if the candidacy deadlines had been publicized better, more students would be running for the positions of president, vice president and comptroller.

SGA has publicized the upcoming election in very thorough manner, which should help to increase voter turnout. Unfortunately, those voters will have no actual choices to make.

Next year, maybe the president could select one person to be a "P.R. director" supervising the publicity of events, elections, meetings or whatever is happening that involves the SGA. This one person would be the point man or woman, and would be accountable to the Assembly.

The past academic year has been semi-successful for the SGA. Sure no presidents were arrested, but much more could have been accomplished.

The major achievements include passing a constitution (with a very small voter count), holding a parking forum, and passing a resolution against parental notification, as well as beginning to research handicapped accessibility issues.

One major disappointment on the part of Connor was his procrastination in setting up a Student Court to deal with grievances. This can't happen again.

Joe Flees is running for vice president and he has a lot of experience within legislative structures, as a member of ASUM and a student representative to the University Assembly. We hope he uses this experience to get committees established in the SGA Assembly. He's also helped to plan things like the Big Event, where students helped to clean up at St. Vincent's Home for Children.

Brian King, running for comptroller has worked for the SABC and has some experience in student government.

The issue:

With one candidate running for each position, it's no mystery who next year's SGA officers will be. While this year was mildly successful, SGA could be much, much more. The goals these individuals choose to pursue next year will be very important.

We suggest:

These individuals should focus on building structure within the SGA Assembly, improving event publicity, having a legislative agenda, and getting a Student Court.

So what do you think?

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

Everyone has fascinating stories to tell, if you listen

Join *The Current* and see the world!" When I got this editor-in-chief job last spring, I had no idea that that distortion on a Navy slogan would turn out to be so true.

But this year, I've been to so many places I've never previously been to, like New York City, Washington D.C., Georgia and Israel, to name a few. These trips were blessings, and they enabled me to meet a lot of new people.

I love to meet people. When I visited New York in December, I decided to check out the NBC Studios. I didn't have much money, so I nixed taking the paid tour. Instead, I wandered through the gift shop, marvelling at the vast array of TV junk—everything from Cheers T-shirts to Katie Couric playing cards.

An employee noticed my red St. Louis Cardinals stocking cap and interrupted me. We quickly struck up a baseball conversation, since the Cardinals had been knocked out of the playoffs only a couple months earlier by the New York Mets. Inwardly I smiled as I listened to this man through his thick New York accent. I was talking with a real, live New Yorker!

In Israel, I remember meeting so many fascinating people, including an ultra-orthodox rabbi who answered one of my biggest questions ("Why do the ultra-orthodox wear the style of clothing they do, if it's not mandated in the Old Testament?") and a beautiful Israeli Arab woman with distinctive Persian features, who is trying to be a voice for an overlooked and increasingly disheartened segment of the Israeli population.

At UMSL, I got countless chances to meet people in various circumstances with different outlooks on life. I remember the day I found out a Black Student Orientation was going to be held on campus later in the evening. I was surprised I hadn't heard anything about it before that point, but I wanted to make sure *The Current* had a presence there.

I recruited another staff member to come with me and set up a little table. We talked with folks about the paper and got their opinions on it, as well as offered job opportunities to anyone who was interested. I ended up meeting some great people, especially in the gospel choir. My favorite, though, was the guy showing off his web design abilities to anyone who was interested. I didn't know each other, but we hit it off instantly, sharing the common language of technology (some might call it "jargon").

This year, I've relished my opportunities to develop relationships with janitors, police officers, secretaries, telephone operators (especially UMSL "Operator 1"), mailroom personnel, international students, the folks in Graphic and Printing Services, and that MetroLink guy who missed the last train late one Sunday night (or Monday morning, depending on how you look at it).

They are the ones who have the most interesting stories to tell. I regret we at *The Current* didn't do more to share their stories within these pages. It's my hope that our successors will do better next year.

Yes, the University is a place where we can all be enriched by the sharing of opinions, beliefs and cultures. I just think you have to look beyond the stuffy-nosed administrative and academic gobbledygook to find it.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Neglecting family can lead to pride, bitterness

My cousin Nickolous is getting married on May 26 in St. Charles.

This may not seem like anything special if you don't know the situation behind this.

My grandma Elda died when I was 13 years old. She connected my St. Louis family with my father's side of the family, who all live in Murphysboro, Ill.

Elda planned the Christmas gift exchange, fixed dinners for us, took us shopping—everything a grandma does.

Since her death, we have grown increasingly distant, and for years, the only person I have spoken with on my dad's side is my grand dad.

But even that has been strained.

Over the last 11 years, I have only seen him about three times. I only heard from him at Christmas, with a card once a year. And even then he stopped sending those a couple of years ago, because we never sent him thank you notes. I am sorry to say.

We would find out about happenings on the Illinois side from my dad.

We found out my cousin Julie (Nickolous' sister) was getting married one day before it happened. My dad's cousin Vern was married, and we found a year after. My grand dad was in the hospital; we were never notified. My cousin Julie divorced. The list continues.

And all these are major events. We never celebrated holidays like most families do, and this didn't really affect me until this invitation.

I realized I let bitterness fill me over the years. Out of pride, I blamed them for everything that had distanced us. For instance, they would never tell us anything.

But we never told them anything either.

I see now how all these years have been wasted in that respect.

Sure some may say, they are only inviting us so they can get a gift. Sometimes couples do invite everyone they ever knew, including their first grade teacher, just so they can get more gifts.

I don't believe that, and that makes all the difference.

What I am trying to say with all this is if you have these family distances, make a call, write a letter, send a fax, do whatever you need to close the gap.

Pride can take years away. Those years slip through your fingers, and when you try to pick them up, they evaporate.

I am fortunate that I discovered the truth before it became too late for me to meet my family again.

AND THE POINT IS...



ANNE PORTER
managing editor

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi

staff photographer

What kind of events do we need in UMSL?

Christina Kraft

Department assistant / Bookstore

“

More events with big musical guests, because this seems to catch a lot of people's attention.

”

Drum Crenshaw

Junior / Vocal music

“

An event similar to Mirthday, with all departments showing what they do and with all performance majors performing.

”

Kanana Karichu

Senior / MIS

“

A day done by international students with food, games, displays, etc. from countries represented on campus.

”

Katie Minnigerode

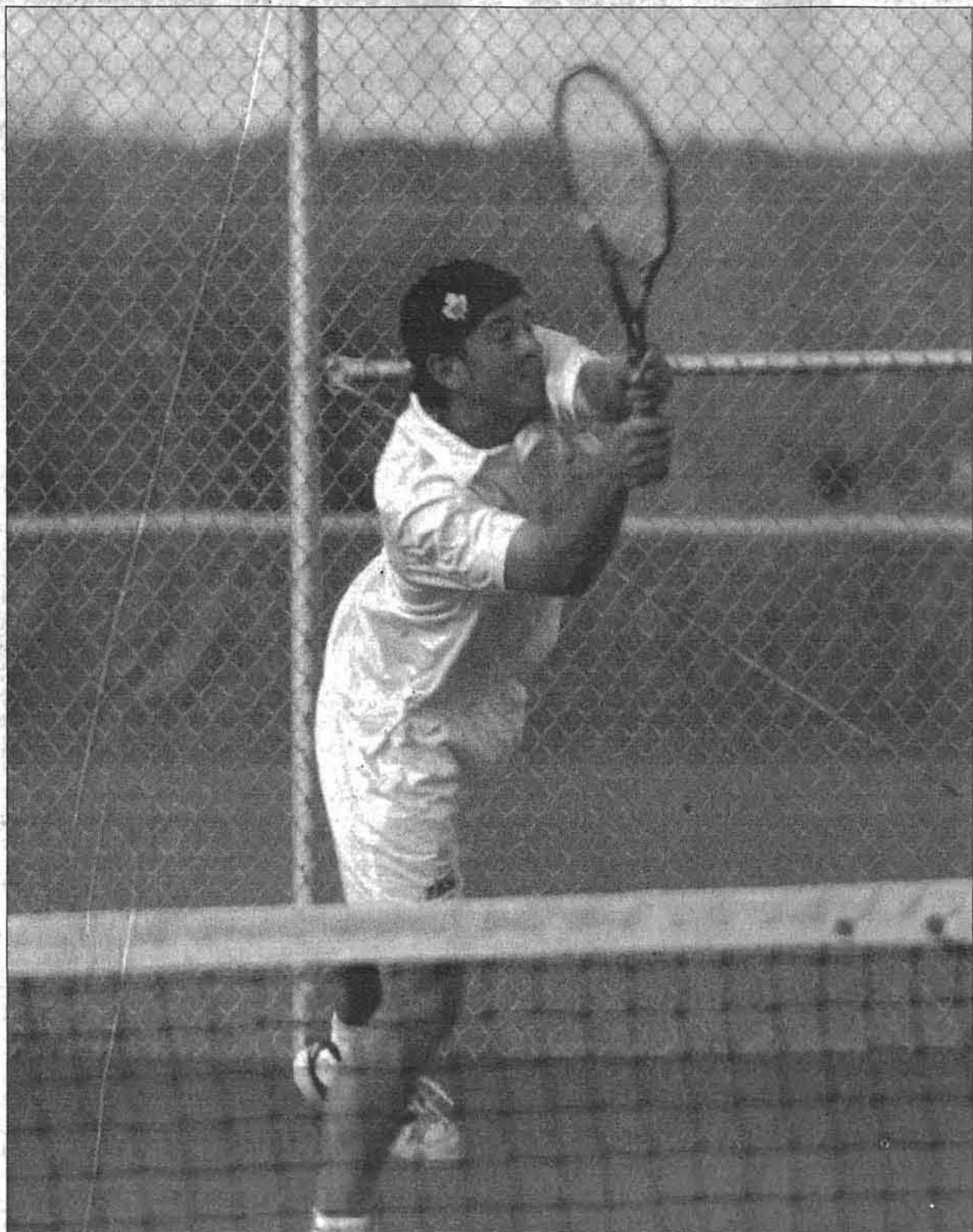
Junior / Secondary Education

“

UMSL needs more focus on students getting together and cooperating with each other.

”

Rivermen take third in tournament



BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

Due to a canceled match against the University of Illinois-Springfield, the UMSL men's tennis squad entered the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament after a seven-day stretch without a match. This made for a well-rested team, but a cold one, as the Rivermen, ranked third in the GLVC, had not won a contest since April 7 when they defeated Indiana-Purdue at Ft. Wayne 9-0.

The Rivermen had hoped to use the match, which was originally scheduled to be played in the beginning of the season at Springfield before being cancelled the first time, to gauge where they stood. UMSL played SIU-Edwardsville in the first round of the tournament, a team which UMSL downed 8-1 in the regular season, with T. J. Shaeffer suffering the only loss for the Rivermen.

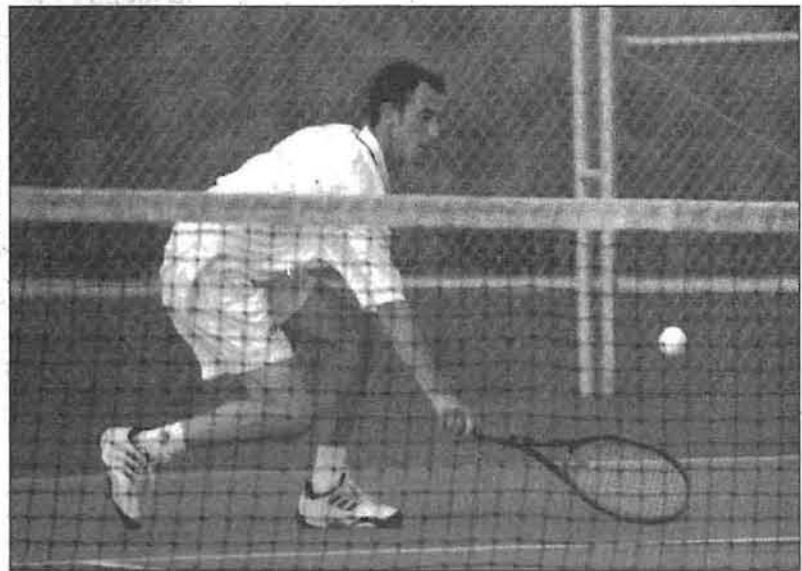
Prior to the tournament, UMSL

stood at the No. 3 spot by virtue of their 7-2 GLVC record. Southern Indiana, who the Rivermen faced in the second round, and Indianapolis, the No. 1 seed, are the only teams to defeat UMSL in GLVC play this year.

In the GLVC tournament, the Rivermen were victorious in the first round, as UMSL defeated SIU-Edwardsville 5-0 to advance into the second round of the tournament, where they would face Southern Indiana—a team who has won the GLVC title for the past two years.

Against Southern Indiana, the Rivermen won two out of the three doubles matches, but lost all four singles matches, falling to the Screaming Eagles 5-2.

The Rivermen took on Bellarmine for third place and were victorious 5-2 as UMSL won all four singles matches and one of the three doubles matches. The Rivermen finished the season with an overall record of 13-6.



LEFT: Riverman Matt Valkhard reaches to connect with the ball at a recent match. **ABOVE:** T.J. Schaeffer lobs one over the net for UMSL in a recent game against Vincennes. The Rivermen entered the GLVC tournament last week at No. 3 and finished third.

Baseball team splits doubleheader with Quincy

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The UMSL men's baseball program had been riding a hot streak towards the end of this season, going into their contest with a five-game streak on the line. The Hawks of Quincy University ended that streak as the Rivermen fell 9-1 in the opener.

The Rivermen's only run came in the fifth inning when Brett Katz hit an RBI single to score first baseman

Nick Post. Katz had two of the three Rivermen hits in the game. The other hit came from designated hitter Scott Miller. Quincy pitcher Josh Kinney allowed only those three hits as he stayed in the full seven innings, delivering eight strikeouts to UMSL hitters in the process.

UMSL starting pitcher Tim Stringer went 4.2 innings in the game, allowing eight runs on nine hits while striking out three Quincy hitters. The Rivermen did not help Stringer's chances as three of the runs allowed

were unearned.

The Rivermen bounced back in the second game of the doubleheader as they defeated Quincy in the second game 8-1. Rivermen pitcher Matt Robinson shined as he went 7.1 innings, while only giving one run on five Quincy hits. Keith Wallace came in to close the game out as he struck-out three in the last 1.2 innings.

The Rivermen's offense exploded in the second game as Bryan Beckmann led the game off with a triple and later scored on a double by

Brody Jackson. The Rivermen then scored two more to take a 4-0 lead in the fifth inning. UMSL added four more runs going into the eighth inning to secure the victory. The only Quincy run came in the eighth inning on a solo homerun that Robinson allowed.

Post and Beckmann each had two runs and two hits for the Rivermen in the victory. Jackson had two runs scored and two runs batted in for the UMSL victory.

The split against Quincy put the Rivermen at 22-14 overall and 10-7 in

the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Rivermen are currently tied with Southern Indiana for second place in the GLVC South Division.

Over this past weekend, the Rivermen played four GLVC games at home against St. Joseph's and Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne.

The Rivermen will travel on the road this week to play at Truman State April 24 and at SIU-Edwardsville April 28, before returning home to finish off the home-and-home series with SIU-Edwardsville April 29.

R-women move back and forth splitting three doubleheaders

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The women's softball team split three doubleheaders last week against Great Lakes Valley Conference foes Kentucky Wesleyan and Bellarmine along with Lincoln University to move their overall record to 14-22 on the season.

In the match with Kentucky Wesleyan, the Riverwomen lost a heartbreaker 7-6. The Riverwomen got off to an early 4-0 lead in the first two innings, but Kentucky Wesleyan answered that with two runs in the third, one run in the fourth and four runs in the sixth inning to take a 7-5 lead. UMSL rallied late with one run in the seventh and final inning, but fell short 7-6.

The Riverwomen avenged that early loss by countering in the second game of the doubleheader. UMSL scored seven runs in four innings, including four in the extra inning to secure the victory.

Andrea Wirkus went 5-9 in the doubleheader, including four runs batted in and two runs scored. Megan Kuebler picked up the extra inning win for the Riverwomen as she went eight strong innings while only allowing three earned runs to cross the plate.

The next conference match pitted the Riverwomen against Bellarmine. The Riverwomen lost a close 2-1 in the first game but came back once again to rally in extra innings in the second game to defeat Bellarmine 3-2.

The Riverwomen jumped out to an early 1-0 lead as Kelly Jackson scored on an Allison Maurer double. But Bellarmine ended a no-hitter attempt by Megan Kuebler in the fifth inning as Bellarmine loaded the bases and scored two runs on a double that clinched the game.

In the second game, the Riverwomen went up on Bellarmine once again with runs scored by Cassey Attebery and Jackson, but the Riverwomen could not hang on to the lead with Bellarmine scoring runs in

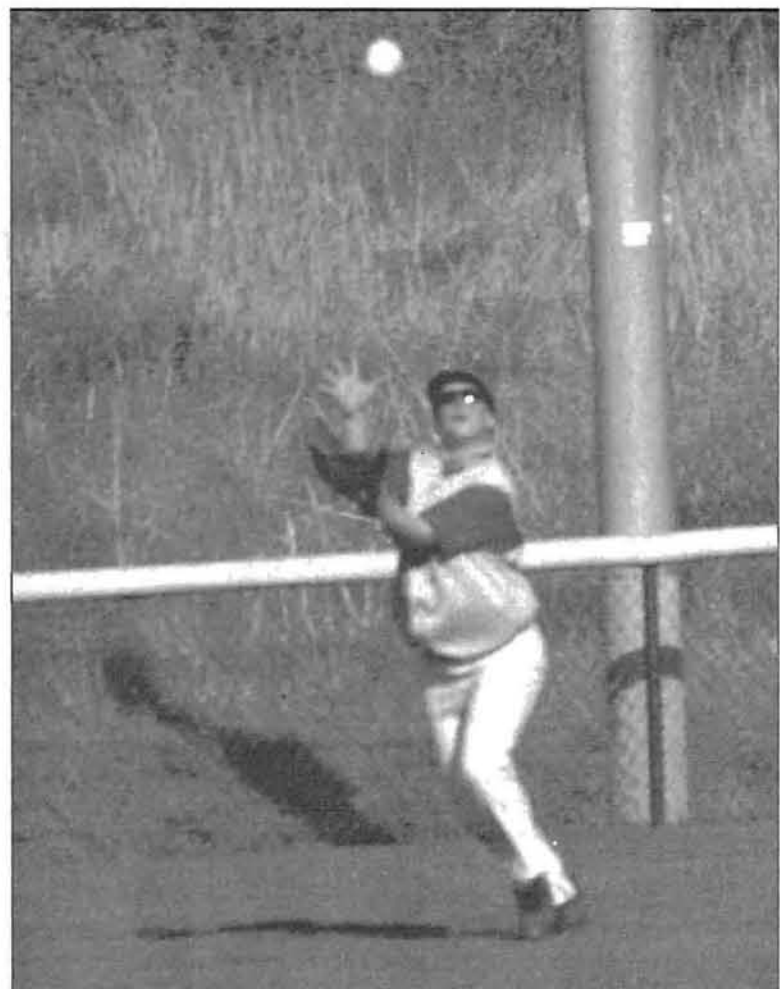
the fifth and sixth innings to tie the game at 2-2.

UMSL rallied in the eighth inning as Chrissy Griefe scored on a ground-ball hit by Christine Langenbacher to win the second extra inning game in two days for the Riverwomen.

The Riverwomen then moved on to split another pair of games against Lincoln University as UMSL dropped another close, low-scoring game 2-1 in the first game. In the second game, the Riverwomen exploded out of the gates and their bats got hot as they dismantled Lincoln in the second game 13-3.


The Riverwomen scored four runs in the first inning, added one in the second and touched home plate seven times in the third inning to put UMSL up for good.

Griefe, Jackson and Brandy Winters all went 3-4 for the game as Winters had three runs batted in and Jackson scored three runs. Attebery got the win for the Riverwomen as she went five innings, allowing three runs while striking out five Lincoln batters.



Andrea Wirkus fields an out a recent game. The Riverwomen have won every other one of their last six games for a 14-22 record.

Cardinals sat on hands too long at contract time



LATEST SCOOP
DAVE KINWORTHY

The St. Louis Cardinals were supposed to come into the 2001 campaign with more depth at the pitching position, more powerful hitters and a weaker bench. Nothing could be farther from the truth thus far in the 2001 season, as the Cardinals are depending on more of their bench players, Bobby Bonilla and Craig Paquette, than ever before.

The one big problem during the offseason for the Cardinals was the fact that they lost one of the most valuable pinch hitters in the league when Shawon Dunston left the team to play for the San Francisco Giants. Dunston played the game with a Rex

Hudler heart and did anything and everything to get on base in order for the Cardinals to have a shot at winning the ballgame.

While Dunston was with the Chicago Cubs, he was the starting shortstop with a cannon of an arm at the position. He later became a journeyman, utilized his talents and adapted well in the outfield. The Cardinals used him anywhere the team needed his talent. But before long, his contract ran out and Mike Hampton, an overpaid left-handed pitcher who signed with the Colorado Rockies, came into contract negotiations with the Cardinals.

Dunston's contract was up and he was sick of waiting to see if Hampton would become a Cardinal, so he became a Giant. You can't blame a guy who gives every ounce of energy in a ballgame and then was not repaid with a contract extension at least for another year.

What the Cardinals did to Dunston should give them a wake-up call to show that a human heart can always be broken. The Cardinals ignored a talent that they should not have and while they did not get Hampton, they also got snubbed in the Dunston deal.

Walt Jocketty and his crew should be ashamed of what they did to

Dunston. Eric Davis, a former Cardinal outfielder who came close to retirement, also signed with the Giants. I just wonder if the Cardinals even offered Davis a contract or if they just assumed that he was retiring from the game of baseball forever. Even Michael Jordan is entitled (I guess two times now) to come out of retirement.

The Cardinals tried everything in their power to replace Dunston this offseason with the acquisitions of Bernard "I am an" overrated, University City High School product" Gilkey and John Mabry. What will this do for the Cardinals come clutch-

time, though? Nothing, because the two have been on the disabled list more than Darryl Strawberry has been in a rehab clinic. The two pickups were worthless for the Cardinals and by signing Dunston, both of these salaries could have been eliminated.

The bitterness of not signing Dunston has been a big deal for me, but the Cardinals better take notice that if the Giants do make the post season, and if the Cardinals pitching does get better, you might see Dunston pinch hit in a playoff game to win the game not for the Cardinals, but the Giants.

SPORTS

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DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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GAMES

Baseball

at Truman
1:00 pm, Tues., Apr. 24

at SIU Edwardsville (DH)
12:00 pm, Sat., Apr. 28

Softball

at Saint Joseph's (DH)
1:00 pm, Sat., Apr. 28

at IPFW (DH)
1:00 pm, Sun., Apr. 29

Tennis

Look for a wrapup of the Tennis season next week.

Visit the UMSL athletics website at
www.ums.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html



EDITOR

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a&e editor

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MUSIC

April

23
Arianna String Quartet
Provincial House Chapel
UMSL

Star Death with V For
Vendetta
The Way Out Club

Edgar Meyer
The Sheldon
8 p.m.

26
Catch 22
The Creepy Crawl

Lofreq with Swampass
and Syrup
The Way Out Club

27
The Prime Ring
The Galaxy

Final Theory
The Way Out Club

Leon Redbone
The Sheldon
8 p.m.

28
Tinfed with
the Psychedelic Furs
The Pageant

Trip Daddys
The Way Out Club

May

1
Frank Black and the
Catholics with House
of Large Sizes
The Galaxy
9 p.m.

2
Keller Williams
Mississippi Nights
9 p.m.

3
Vertical Horizon
The Pageant

Catherine Marquis-Homeyer's column will return next week.

A peek at 'Bridget Jones's Diary' proves to be hilarious

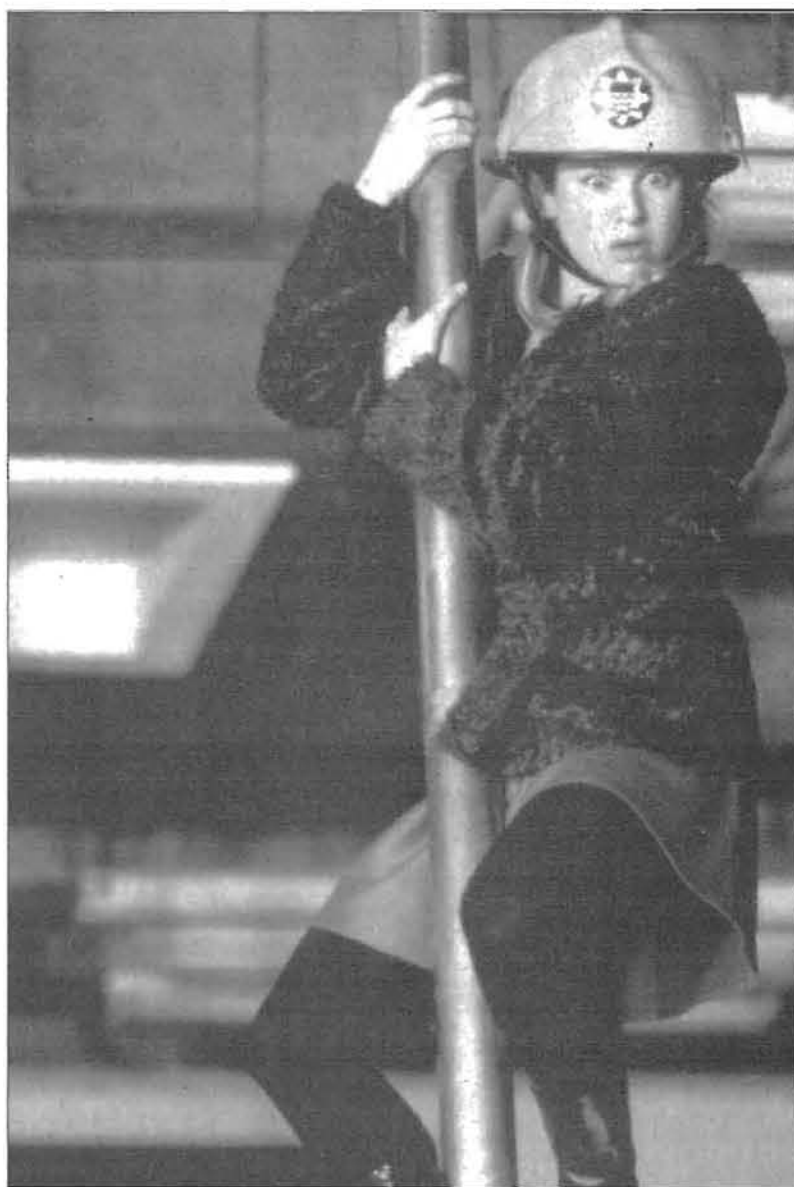
BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Bridget has some problems: she weighs too much, smokes too much, drinks too much and in her early thirties is afraid of approaching "spinsterhood." To overcome these problems, she makes some resolutions and buys a diary to record her progress. You may not think this sounds like a promising premise for a comedy, but that's where you'd be wrong. For Bridget is possessed of a dark, biting and self-effacing humor, that turns her pedestrian concerns and her diary into high humor.

This romantic comedy, based on a best-selling book, is really a tour-de-force by American actress Renée Zellweger, in a British film with a sharp sense of humor. Zellweger not only flawlessly masters the accent, but the timing and flavor as well, to produce a character that is funny and fallible, and whom we come to care about no matter how goofy she is.

Bridget's biting inner commentary on her ordinary life shows her intelligence and appeal, yet nearly every time she opens her mouth, things go all wrong, with very comic results. Bridget is aware of her self-destructive tendencies, but still can't seem to help herself. Although she is aware that her boss in the publicity department of a publishing house—the handsome Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant)—is a cad, she still becomes involved with him, following a very humorous exchange when she comes into the office wearing a very short skirt. The short skirt prompts him to e-mail that her skirt seems to be "missing" that day and inquiring if she just forgot it; or whether the skirt is "out sick," which prompts her to reply that her skirt is indeed present, and perhaps it is management that is sick—an exchange you'd never see in a politically-correct American office! The film offers Hugh Grant, who nearly always plays nice-guy romantic leads, a chance to play a villain, albeit a charming one.

Bridget's life is also bedeviled by well meaning but oddball friends, who are always trying to fix her up with someone; her mother, with her own "issues," bent on the same task as well. One of her mother's attempts in this quest leads her to introduce



Renée Zellweger in "Bridget Jones's Diary"

Bridget to the newly-divorced son of a neighbor, Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), with the helpful "you remember Bridget, she used to play naked in your pool, when she was three." Bridget's embarrassments give her both a uniqueness and a universal quality, as all singles have endured an awkward introduction like this.

Some viewers who are not fans of dark humor, or the British humor, might find some of the ideas behind this film unappealing, but Renée Zellweger's performance and personal charm on the screen are so strong that she'll win you over and make you laugh anyway. Romantic comedies vary in terms of whether they lean to the romantic or the comic side. This

one has a bit more of the comic slant to it. The film delivers the romantic as well, although it doesn't turn out quite as you might expect. The supporting cast is very good as well, with the characters played more broadly and eccentrically than they usually are in American films, using a typical British humor.

Director Sharon Maguire lets her heroine lead the way and just uses her skill to support the comic effects, generally from Bridget's point of view. Unless you really hate British humor (a few people do), Renée Zellweger is going to leave you with a smile, after your peek into Bridget Jones's diary.

Now playing at Chase Park Plaza, Des Peres 14 and other theaters.

MOVIE REVIEW



Johnny Depp (left) and Jordi Molla star in New Line Cinema's drama, *Blow*

'Blow' is hit-and-miss

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"Blow" takes a different look at how drugs could mess up your life. Instead of the usual tale of addiction and violence, this movie focuses on how a youthful decision to pursue a business outside the law ruined the life of a person who could otherwise have been a decent and successful entrepreneur. For George Jung was not the usual stereotype of the gangster drug lord but an organized, resourceful, dependable businessman who just happened to import illegal substances. By the time George realizes he doesn't want to be in an illegal business, it's too late—it's the only way he knows to earn a living.

Based on the real life of George Jung, the man who was the first American drug dealer to bring Colombian cocaine into the United States, "Blow" is more biography than an overview of the U.S. drug trade, as many previous films on this subject have been. By taking a personal view of the life of an insider in the drug trade, we learn more about the history of his times—from his hippie days in the late '60s to his final arrest in the mid-'80s—in a slice of life look at the changes in American society during those years.

The film follows its subject from his childhood to the present, and in doing

so, presents a look at his times. From his East Coast working-class origins, where watching his good and honorable father (Ray Liotta) struggle to make a living and his parents' stormy relationship, young George vows never to be poor. George (Johnny Depp) travels with his childhood friend Tuna (Ethan Suplee) to California for a life on the beach. There, George and Tuna discover marijuana, as so many young people did at that time, but instead of falling into a stupor of addiction, George immediately sees a way to make big money.

Unlike the typical pot-smoker, George takes the approach of an entrepreneur, locating a grower and contracting to buy his entire crop on a regular basis. He sets up an arrangement with a hairdresser, Derek Foreal (Paul Reubens), to distribute it and eventually buys planes and hires pilots. Conventional and resourceful entrepreneur, admirable in its organization but with the one small problem that George chooses to overlook—it's illegal.

Even as big money starts to roll in, George remains the nice boy-next-door, loyal to his friends, modest and reliable, kind and loving towards his stewardess girlfriend Barbara (Franka Potente). The things that go wrong in George's life are tragedies that could happen to anyone, not particularly linked to drugs, except for the issue of the law, which sends him to jail periodically. As

George's career advances and he makes the switch to cocaine, he becomes the American connection for Pablo Escobar and the Colombian Medellin cartel; this odd juxtaposition of a reliable, ethical young businessman in a destructive, illegal business remains, and jail (not addiction or violence) becomes his primary nemesis.

The movie presents a truly fascinating kaleidoscope of its times, surprisingly accurate, although limited to the experiences of its central character. A great deal of attention is paid to details of the time period with sets, costumes and even contemporary music. We see the almost innocent gathering of young people on the California coast in the late '60s, naively experimenting with marijuana in the days before drugs were in every high school; on beach parties with "stewardesses," before they were called flight attendants and it was a job for young girls who liked to travel, rather than a career for women. The snapshot of the change of women's role in society and of the subculture of high school is almost worth the admission for a fan of recent history.

The film also accurately portrays the mid to late '70s, which revisionists like to paint as a time of economic hardship. In fact, it was a time of economic prosperity, with glittering parties and conspicuous consumption, where

see **BLOW**, page 7

CONCERT REVIEW

The Pageant hosts three rising stars

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

The best news that you will read today is that Guster will be back. On Thursday, April 12, the three members of Guster did not just appear at The Pageant, they single-handedly made the new venue worth constructing. Of course, their concert at The Pageant was sold out and couldn't handle the scores of Guster fans who wanted tickets, but for those who saw the concert, it was an almost spiritual experience.

The opening act was remarkable only for the fact that it represented a single performer with a guitar. The audience was appreciative of John Mayer's talent, but the overall consensus was that every musician needs a band, no matter how good he is individually. In general, the audience was just waiting through its soup and salad until the main course arrived.

The first thing I noticed about Guster's appearance was the lights. A half-dozen mechanical spotlights twirled and spun a plethora of colors, shapes and designs throughout the hall. It reminded me of stepping through the looking glass and walking into wonderland. They had an amazing setup that coordinated the light show with the music and drove an already ravenous audience into a feeding frenzy.

They started with some Guster classics and moved into newer music. Ryan Miller, the band's frontman, began his characteristic humorous dialogue with the audience, claiming that sometimes he felt more like a standup comedian than a musician.

"The Arch and toasted ravioli!" he yelled spontaneously to thunderous applause.

In addition to having a great sense of humor, the band also has a strong sense of irony. Adam Gardner was forced to sit through most of the concert while he played guitar and sang, because of an injury he sustained while playing

racketball with Brian Rosenworcel, Guster's legendary conguero (see interview below). Ryan announced that if Adam got "really, really into it," he would stand up at some point in the concert.

Of course, Adam did get into it and eventually he stood, receiving screams of approval and applause. With efforts like these, Guster managed to turn even things that might have worked against them to their advantage.

The Guster live-concert traditions of bubble blowing and ping-pong balls were there, as well as the obligatory guy with a DAT recorder, making bootleg tapes to trade around the Guster community.

They put on a first-rate show whether playing songs from their hit CD *Lost and Gone Forever*, or something from their early days on the album *Parachute* (which Brian told me "some people swear by"). And it wasn't just the fantastic music that made the concert an unforgettable event; it was the band's sensitivity to the needs of the audience as well. In a conversation with the conguero, I mentioned that my favorite Guster's song is "Two Points for Honesty," which they played in the middle of their set. After the concert, Brian told me that it was the first time in months they'd played it, but he knew how much I liked it, so he told the guys to give it a shot.

Guster never misses their mark. This concert was another example of why this band is on its way into the mainstream of pop culture. Ryan, Adam and Brian are making music in a unique and powerful way that will catapult them to the heights of fame.

As I mentioned earlier, the best news you'll see today is that they'll be back. Sure, Guster haven't even finished touring the East Coast yet, but when they do, be on the lookout, because they put on a show you won't want to miss.

INTERVIEW

Brian Rosenworcel on music, life and *Guster*

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

The credits on his band's latest album credit Brian Rosenworcel as a "legendary conguero." A "conguero" is a drummer with a touch of insanity. Rather than using sticks or mallets to play percussion, Brian plays with his hands. He plays hard, he plays well and he is one of the driving forces behind the success of the band Guster.

Fortunately, Brian tapes his hands before concerts, because with the enthusiasm he exudes on stage smacking around bongos and cymbals, he would probably not have any hands left otherwise. His penchant for hurting himself in the name of magnificent music has earned Brian the nickname "the insane one."

In an interview before their concert at The Pageant on April 12, Brian explained the advantage of being a conguero over being a traditional drummer.

"It makes you more creative," he said. "You have to find something creative to back up the guitars. You can't just rely on some preconceived drumbeat."

Guster's music has been described as easy to hear but impossible to classify. With soft harmonious ballads, Brian (along with cohorts Adam Gardner and Ryan Miller) has taken the country by storm in a series of national tours promoting their unique sound.

"The goal with the last album was to capture the live sound," Brian said of their latest CD *Lost and Gone Forever*.

While on tour, Guster has been hard at work on music for its forthcoming album.

"Creatively, we want to experiment. I don't think we're gonna have any limitations. When we get around and jam, we play any instrument but what we usually play."

Brian confessed that he was solely a conguero, and that he had no aspirations as a singer.

"If I try to sing along, I usually get the words wrong. But I'm not

really a words kind of guy."

Ryan Miller is the band's "words kind of guy," writing lyrics to songs like "Fa Fa" and "Barrel of a Gun." Miller and Gardner play guitar and sing harmonies that can't help but evoke powerful and often depressing imagery.

"They all sound like break up songs," Brian said with a chuckle. "Ryan writes the lyrics, and I've lived with him for ten years. He hasn't broken up with anyone."

Their most recent pass through St. Louis was on their own tour, though they came to the Savvis Center a few months earlier, opening for Barenaked Ladies.

"We became friends with those guys [Steve Page and Ed Robertson of BNL] back in '98 on the Hordefest tour. From a guy who likes to criticize other people, I still have only great things to say about them," Brian said.

While touring with larger name bands, Guster members often encountered a problem with security at their own concerts.

"We're breaking down the barriers between performer and audience," Brian said. "A lot of our fans are college students. There are so many times when if I don't have my laminate [identification] on, [concert security] won't let me past. We look like college students."

Of their songs, Brian cites "All the Way Up to Heaven" and "I Spy" as his favorites, but says that the other band members disagree. "Everybody has their own favorite," he explained, "and I think that's a really good indicator of the strength of the album."

Guster will be touring the East Coast for the next month before recording their next album. With the sharp character of their music and fervent dedication of their fans, it is only a matter of time before they return to St. Louis.

The multitude of fans isn't the only attraction the Gateway to the West has for the band, Brian admitted.

"The Arch is our Achilles' heel," he said. "We can't get enough of it."

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Plunge into big city atmosphere at Eau Bistro

BY STEFANIE ELLIS
staff writer

I used to be jealous of big cities. Places like L.A. and Chicago are teeming with the best bistros, trattorias, tapas and sushi bars. If you live there, you only need to walk out your door and with each step, pass an establishment better than the one before. While St. Louis has some great places to eat, you usually have to hop in your car to reach them. Unless you happen to be near The Loop or The Central West End, you're pretty much relegated to IHOP and Hardee's. But if you're willing to drive a little, you may find a place you never knew it existed.

While Eau Bistro's marbled floors and ornate tapestry certainly make your jaw drop, don't be deterred by its elegant atmosphere. You're more than welcome here. Whether you are heir to the Rockefeller fortune, or a college student gleaning your sustenance from Spaghettis, don't fret. The Eau Bistro at the Chase Park Plaza will make you remember just how lucky you are to live in St. Louis. Being rich and snobby isn't a prerequisite.

While a name like Eau connotes something ritzy, the Eau Bistro isn't just that. It's actually quite unique. It does well to capture both elegance and funkiness. The place is packed tighter than a sardine can on almost every night, and it's always loud enough to flaunt its popularity, yet quiet enough to hear the person sitting across from you.

As my companion and I perused our menus, our server brought us a plate of olive oil and portabella-dusted butter, served with warm French bread. The butter was incredibly unique and was paired well with the fresh, soft bread. My companion and I shared a frisee and mixed green salad with alma bacon, sunflower nuts, cheddar cheese and avocado, tossed in a dried tomato-buttermilk dressing (\$7). It sounded elaborate, but really tasted like a regular salad with Ranch

Eau Bistro
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dressing. It was a slight disappointment.

For dinner, I had the wood-roasted Chilean Sea Bass on peppery mustard greens with hot-mustard Tamari dressing (\$23). It was to die for. The fish was tender and mild, and the mustard dressing was the perfect blend of sweetness with a slight hint of tartness. The meal was accompanied by a ball of sticky rice, which helped to blend together all of the flavors. There wasn't a single drop left on my plate. My companion ordered a large salad as a meal—the spinach and spicy greens with crispy potatoes, Maytag blue cheese, mango-red wine vinaigrette and cumin almonds (\$6). He enjoyed it very much, while I found that it also sounded more elaborate than it tasted.

For dessert, we shared a banana, pineapple and coconut custard, encased in a butter pecan shell, which was dipped in chocolate (\$7). The custard wasn't too sweet or too plain, and it delivered a subtle tropical flavor. It was absolutely delicious.

All in all, the evening was a true delight. The menu is filled with interesting and original dishes, and I hope one day to try each of them. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, and you never feel like you're out of place. One might expect that from a posh restaurant at a luxury hotel, but instead, you feel quite the opposite. You may even feel for a moment that you've just stepped out of your door in a big city and walked five minutes to get here.

You took in all the glamour, the fine taste and the trendy feeling that one gets in an L.A. bistro or a Chicago tapas bar. You feel like you just went someplace incredible. Then you look around and realize you're in St. Louis, and know that you're right.

BLOW, from page 6

everyone's constantly growing salaries, plentiful jobs, and easily available credit fueled the inflation that contributed to the crash of the early '80s with the subsequent recession and double-digit unemployment.

The movie takes on a comic tone at this point, resembling the drug humor of the era, as seen in old "Cheech and Chong" movies. As the drug culture of the '70s peaked, cocaine became so mainstream that it was laid out in bowls like caviar by hosts of Hollywood parties.

"Blow" has a few glitches here—the dark-complex character of Johnny Depp never looks very convincing as a blond-haired surfer dude; the movie gets some of the details wrong as well—wealthy drug lords of the mid '70s probably never wore bright-red, leisure suits with red-and-white checked shirts (attention K-mart shoppers!), as Depp does in one scene.

But what's strangely missing in this story is the inherent violence of the drug trade, as dealers struggle for turf and settle disputes with competitors, as

well as the destructiveness of drug addictions on people's personal lives.

George's high-maintenance, drug-addicted Colombian wife Mirtha (Penelope Cruz) seems to move through pregnancy unscathed. The small amount of violence we see centers on the truly scary drug lord Escobar and George's betrayal by his friend and partner Diego (Jordi Molla).

These matters are only lightly touched on and seem to have less meaning to George than the fact that his business is illegal. The illegality of

his business is the looming threat in George's life and the reason why he tries repeatedly to leave. But he is always drawn back, because it's the only business he's ever known and he's so successful at it. Since this film is told from the point of view of its central character, its lack of concern about the destructiveness of addiction and the drug trade in society may hint that George is not really just the nice guy who messed up his own life as the film portrays him.

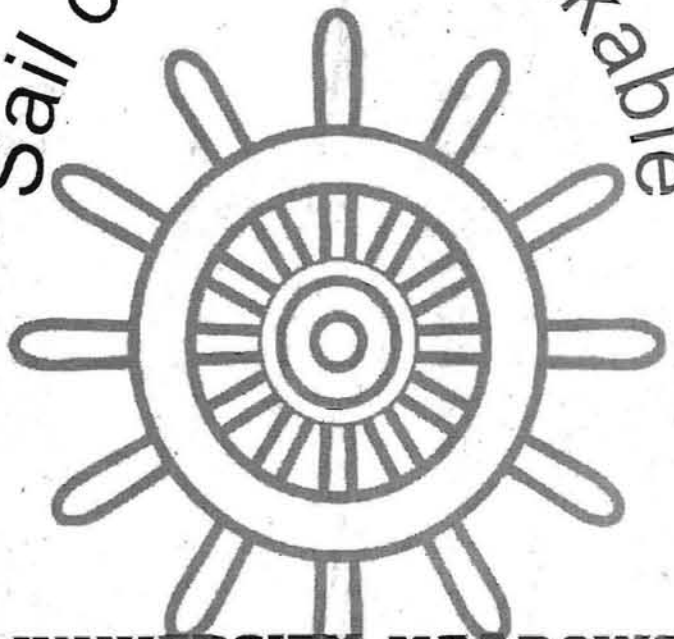
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LEGISLATOR, from page 1

can be done to receive more funding for things other than "pet projects," which must be specifically applied for. The current program to distribute funds in the UM System has been in place for over 50 years, and he said he doesn't see it changing anytime soon.

Green also spoke about the issue of term limits. An eight-year term limit passed last election. He said he hopes enough support arises to change that and get a 12-year term limit on the November ballot.

"It is probably the right thing to do, but it is a tough sale," Green said. Many of his supporters said they voted for term limits to get a specific candidate out of office, though they supported many others. Green's response to that was that though you got that person out, "you voted me out too."

Green who has spent 13 years in public office says that one of the key things in his job is to rely on people he has built trust in. That is why he said it is "very scary" in dealing with budget priorities now that term limits have been enacted.

He also spoke briefly on how the budget is made. The fiscal year runs from July 1 until June 30. The budget is approximately \$18.5 billion. Green said that there is a requirement in the constitution on what order the money is distributed. The first requirement is public debt, the second is elementary and secondary education and the final is higher education. All of the sub-committees report to him, and then all 38 of them meet and pass a budget.

The "Brunch With a Legislator" event was a huge success, said ASUM member Sam Andemariam, and the group plans to hold several similar events in the coming semesters.

Unravelling the mysteries of UMSL's vending machines

BY STEVE VALKO
staff writer

The vending machines found throughout campus have many interesting stories behind them. According to a vending operations report obtained by *The Current*, total revenues for vending operations have fallen off 12.7 percent to \$109,907 for the first three months of 2001, compared to 2000. There could be several reasons for this change according to Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary Services, although she couldn't pinpoint an exact one.

"People pass by [Arora's]. People also get a coffee at [Pony Express]. The hours for food service are also extended," said Schultz.

The prices for the food and beverages from the machines on North Campus have been fairly consistent, despite a few price discrepancies. For example, the price for gum is 40 cents

in the CCB building and 45 cents in the Millennium Student Center. The prices for a 20-oz. Coca-Cola is 90 cents on the North Campus and \$1.00 in the Student Center. There doesn't seem to be a clear reason for the price difference.

"I'll need to call Coca-Cola about [the price difference]," said Schultz.

Some items are consistent, though. Candy bars are 65 cents throughout North Campus, and larger-sized snack bags are priced at 80 cents.

Student reaction tended to sway to apathy.

"I don't really care, it's only 10 cents," said Becky Marshall, a senior majoring in communication.

"I don't think it's that big of a difference," said Elizabeth Frei, a senior majoring in education.

UMSL receives a percentage of sales from the machines. The University gets about 21 percent of the sales from the food vending machines run by the company Chartwell, and 55 percent from the Coca-Cola's vending machines. Schultz says the percentage is higher from Coca-Cola because of an exclusive agreement between the University and the company.

UMSL's expenses associated with vending machines are also down compared to last year from \$1,680 to \$356.

"We upgraded the floor tiles under the machines, purchased a microwave and paid to help clean up the messes by the machines," said Schultz. Schultz also notes that expenses are very minimal, less than 1 percent of the total revenues.

Schultz said that she is in charge of running the vending machine operations, including handling any comments or questions involving Chartwell and Coca-Cola. "It's just one of my job duties," said Schultz.

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Congratulations to the following staff members of *The Current* who won awards at the 2001 MCMA Newspaper & Yearbook Contests:

Dave Baugher	Feature page Feature writing	3rd place Honorable mention
Cory Blackwood	Regular column	1st place
Benjamin Israel	In-depth news reporting	1st place
Josh Renaud	Page one Feature page Photo page Information graphic Regular column	1st, 2nd place 2nd place 2nd place 3rd place 3rd place
Tom Wombacher	Advertising	2nd, 3rd place

The *Current* staff also won 2nd place for Special Section and 3rd place for Best Overall Newspaper.

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Effective with the 2001-02 academic year, students cannot carry account balances into a future semester. Students who have an account balance for Fall on October 16, 2001 will have a hold placed on future registrations.



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Meeting of two men marked end of America's worst war

From a historical standpoint, the month of April has produced numerous defining moments. Perhaps the most prodigious of these took place near the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia on April 23, 1865. It was the scene of a meeting between two of the greatest tactical minds in military history—Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Since that time, this meeting has come to symbolize the ceremonial end to the most devastating war in U.S. history.

By the spring of 1865, the Civil War had been raging for nearly four years. It tore the nation apart, dividing families and pitting brother against brother. 618,000 Americans were killed in the conflict, accounting for more American casualties than all other wars combined.

During the struggle, the North mobilized 2.5 million soldiers, while the South countered with about 850,000.

Battles were waged on land, at sea and in numerous inland waterways,

such as the Mississippi River. There were countless acts of incredible courage, like the stunning defense of Little Round Top by Col. Lawrence Chamberlain's 20th Maine Regiment; heartbreaking assaults such as Pickett's Charge; and gut-wrenching onslaughts like the siege of Vicksburg, just to name a few.

The struggle also produced many heroes. None were greater than Union commander Grant and Confederate commander Lee. Throughout the summer of 1864, these two generals locked horns in some of the bloodiest engagements in military history, culminating with the capture of the Confederate capitol of Richmond, Va., by the Union Army of the Potomac on April 5, 1865.

Realizing the war was hopelessly lost, Lee sent a message to Grant stating: "I request an interview at such time and place as you may designate to discuss the terms of the surrender of this army."

A few hours later, the two generals met in the sitting room of Wilmer McLean's home near the Appomattox courthouse. They chatted for awhile about their adventures in Mexico, mutual Army friends and even the weather.

Then, after an awkward silence, a small table was brought over and placed between the two men. After offering the immaculately arrayed Lee a seat, Grant reached into his pocket and pulled out a field-order book that contained the surrender terms.

The Confederates would have to lay down all their arms and hand over all military equipment. Officers would be allowed to retain their sidearms, and all men who owned a horse would be able to take it home to help them work their farms. These were extremely generous surrender terms indeed.

A copy of the document was quickly made and placed in front of Lee, who put on his glasses and read it thoroughly. Without much hesitation, he put his signature to it. Lee then stood up straight, bowed and left the room. Four years of bloody turmoil had finally come to an end.



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ASUM Elections

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri will be holding elections for two new board members at the next Student Government Association meeting.

If you are interested in being a board member for ASUM please attend the May 1st SGA meeting.

ASUM 25 years 1975-2000

For more information, please call the ASUM office at 516-5835.

Internationals try to bridge culture gap

International Week activities expose campus to cultures from all over

BY DALILA WAHEED
special to The Current

UMSL's international community collaborated to produce an informative and eventful spree of cultural events during International Week last week.

International Week began with a fashion show on Monday, which showed off traditional clothing from many different cultures.

Yoko Yasunaga, president of the Japanese Student Association, modeled in this fashion show. Yasunaga said she wears traditional clothes more often here than in Japan. She wanted to remind Japanese students not to forget their traditions.

"I love kimonos," said Yasunaga. "It's easy to love these things more since I've come here. It's just my thing, my country's thing."

At Mirthday on Wednesday, at least eight international student organizations hosted booths loaded with brochures, games, crafts and activities.

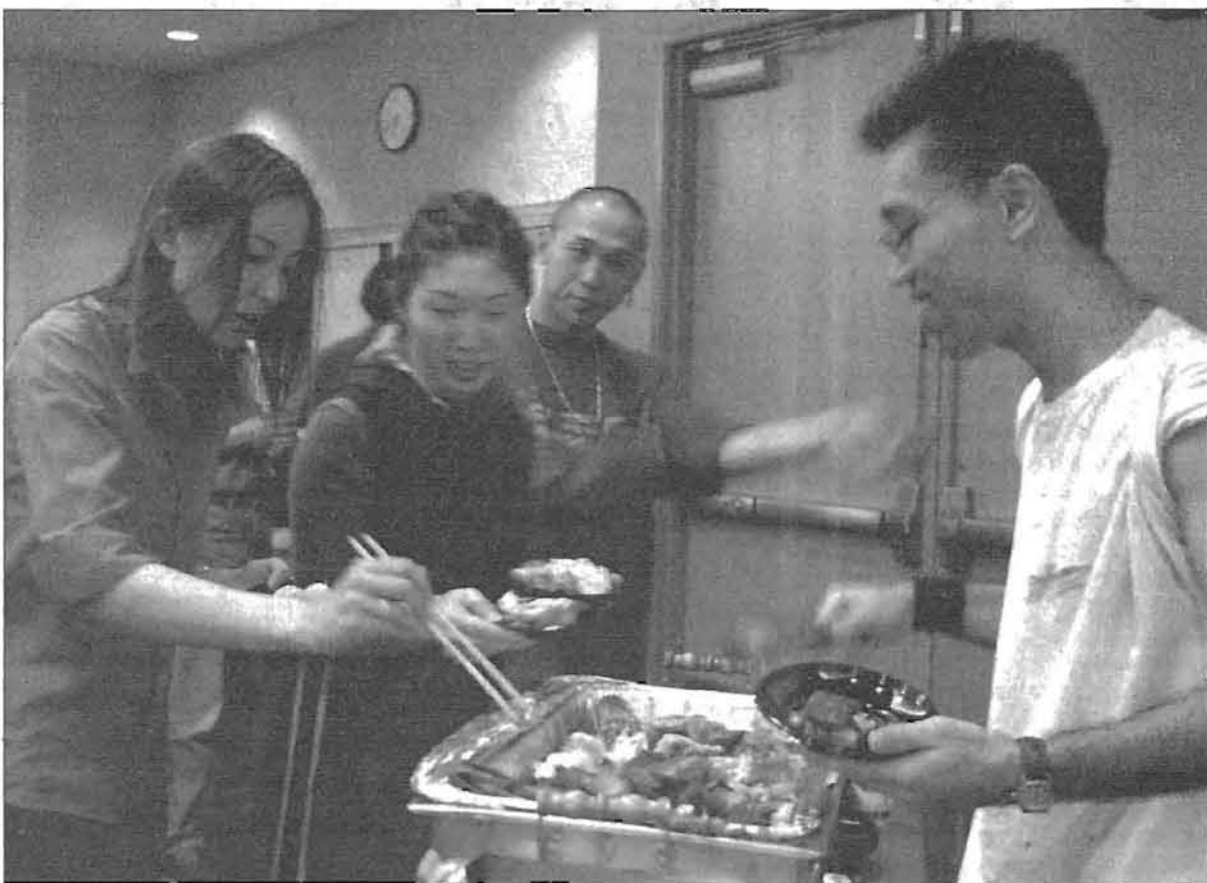
One student participating in some international events at Mirthday was supportive of International Week.

"I like it," said Kayvan Lavasani, junior Computer Science student. "You get exposed to other cultures...and get to see how other people operate from other parts of the world."

An international soccer game was played Friday. But the 'grande finale' for the week was the international dinner, held Saturday in Century rooms B and C at the Millennium Student Center. Chris Sullivan, international student adviser, called the dinner, "the biggest event."

"Even more people participate in this [than do in Mirthday]," said Sullivan. "There will probably be food from close to 20 countries."

The purpose of International Week is to educate and expose American students to foreign cultures. But, each organization has a different barrier to cross.



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Sachiko Fujimoto, a senior majoring in anthropology, and Aya Nemoto, a junior majoring in communication, try some Hong Kong cuisine. Lui Wan Ship (back), a junior majoring in MIS, and Cell Chow, a junior majoring in MIS, served the food.

"Our purpose is to broaden the scope of what Africa is," said Kwabena Boaten, president of the Pan-African Student Association. "To break down the thinking that Africa is just one country and also to help show more of the diversity of Africa."

Members of the Thai Student Association, a fairly new organization, take pride in their nation's respect for elders, ancestry and Buddhist religion, said Attanan Chantanavicharn, a graduate economics student.

Suwattana Kumsuk, a Thai graduate nursing student, emphasized, "our country is Thailand. But some people mistake our country. They call it Taiwan."

Chien-Chih Wang, president of Chinese Student Association-Taiwan agreed some people get cultures mixed up.

"Most people are confused with China and Taiwan," said Wang. "But they are two different countries."

The Taiwanese try to be unique and want to exhibit different aspects of Chinese culture, Wang said.

"We like baseball," said Wang. "Baseball is the biggest sport in our country. In China, I think it's soccer."

The social atmosphere in Taiwan is different from China, said Wang. The political differences between the two often make things difficult, said Wang, but at UMSL, peace is maintained regardless.

"We try to be friendly to everybody," said Wang. "I'm glad people here don't really care about [those politics]."

The Hong Kong Student Association, in its first year on campus, wanted to introduce students to the big city of travel, shopping and food, said Lui Wan Ship, president of the organization.

"Hong Kong is a beautiful city," he said.

There is a great sense of loyalty and community among many international students.

Afshan Ahsan, president of Pakistan Student Association, said there are not many original Pakistanis here, but the 10 to 20 Pakistani students that she does know are in her organization.

Through community efforts, a small group of Indonesian students was able to host a booth at Mirthday. The crafts and brochures that these students presented came from the Indonesian Society in St. Louis, said Whinsky Harijadi, an Indonesian student pursuing an M.B.A.

Harijadi said Indonesia is rich in culture.

"I want American people to think Indonesia is multicultural," said Harijadi. "[It's a] multicultural country with multicultural nations."

Sullivan said students have become more active over the past five years.

"It's a big interesting world out there," said Sullivan. "We're taking advantage of the little corner that we're able to host here on campus."

More internationals are coming to UMSL to experience American culture

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

The foreign experience at UMSL is becoming more significant due to the dramatic increase in the international student population during the past five years.

Joel Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies, says that UMSL has about 450 foreign students and an additional 200-250 that live here in the United States. Students have been recruited from over 70 countries, including Afghanistan, Botswana, Brazil, Ghana and Nepal, he said.

"There's a little bit of resistance between American students and international students," Glassman said, "but we keep working at it."

Saleha Al-Sabahi, an on-campus resident from the Middle Eastern country Oman, said that she's experienced acts of prejudice from a few students in her three years at UMSL.

"When they hear the word 'Muslim,' they sort of get freaked out and immediately think terrorist," Al-Sabahi said. "They ask me all these sorts of questions. But once they get to know me, it's okay."

Glassman said that the University is trying to encourage American students to interact with international students and vice versa.

"We've made progress, but it's slow coming," Glassman said. "Partly because our St. Louis students aren't [on-campus] residents."

UMSL started working "systematically" at increasing the number of foreign students on campus about five years ago, he said, when the International Student Services division of the Center for International Studies was formed.

"That really was the beginning of the rapid expansion of international students on campus," Glassman said.

Once the Student Services division was formed, UMSL started sending representatives to foreign educational fairs and began forming partnerships

with foreign institutions that would direct students their way. Before UMSL started focusing on recruitment, Glassman said that foreign students existed at UMSL but at a far lower total, which didn't exceed 100 students.

Lui Wan Ship, 23, a Management Information Systems major from Hong Kong, has been at UMSL for about two years.

He came to the United States in the summer of 1999 and enrolled at UMSL the following fall semester, after taking English as a Second Language with other foreign students. Most of his friends are from other countries, he says, mainly in Asia.

After almost two years in the United States, he reflects and says that he's enjoyed his experience away from Hong Kong, but it has been very expensive.

Foreign students at UMSL pay out-of-state fees at \$409.10 per credit hour, which is approximately three times more than what students from Missouri pay per credit hour.

Although his family pays for his education, Wan Ship said that he takes classes at Forest Park Community College to help cut the cost of studying abroad.

"For us it's very difficult," he said, adding that he seldom heard of international students having scholarships.

Yet, despite the high cost, Wan Ship said that the educational system in the United States was "more useful, more open, and active."

"Asian education is more traditional, tougher, harder, [and] stubborn," he said. "The students just keep quiet and listen to the professor. [There's] not a lot of interaction between students and teachers."

Preethi Nallu, a computer science major from India, came to the United States with her family in the summer of 1999. She's made many friends, she said.

As far as the instructors, Nallu says, "they're alright, but a lot of them are indifferent. A lot of them just want to teach and go home. There's not a lot of one-on-one interaction with the students, especially in huge lectures."

Overall, her educational experience has gone beyond the classroom, she said.

"I learned more about individuality and being independent," she said, "through work and just by looking at others' lives."

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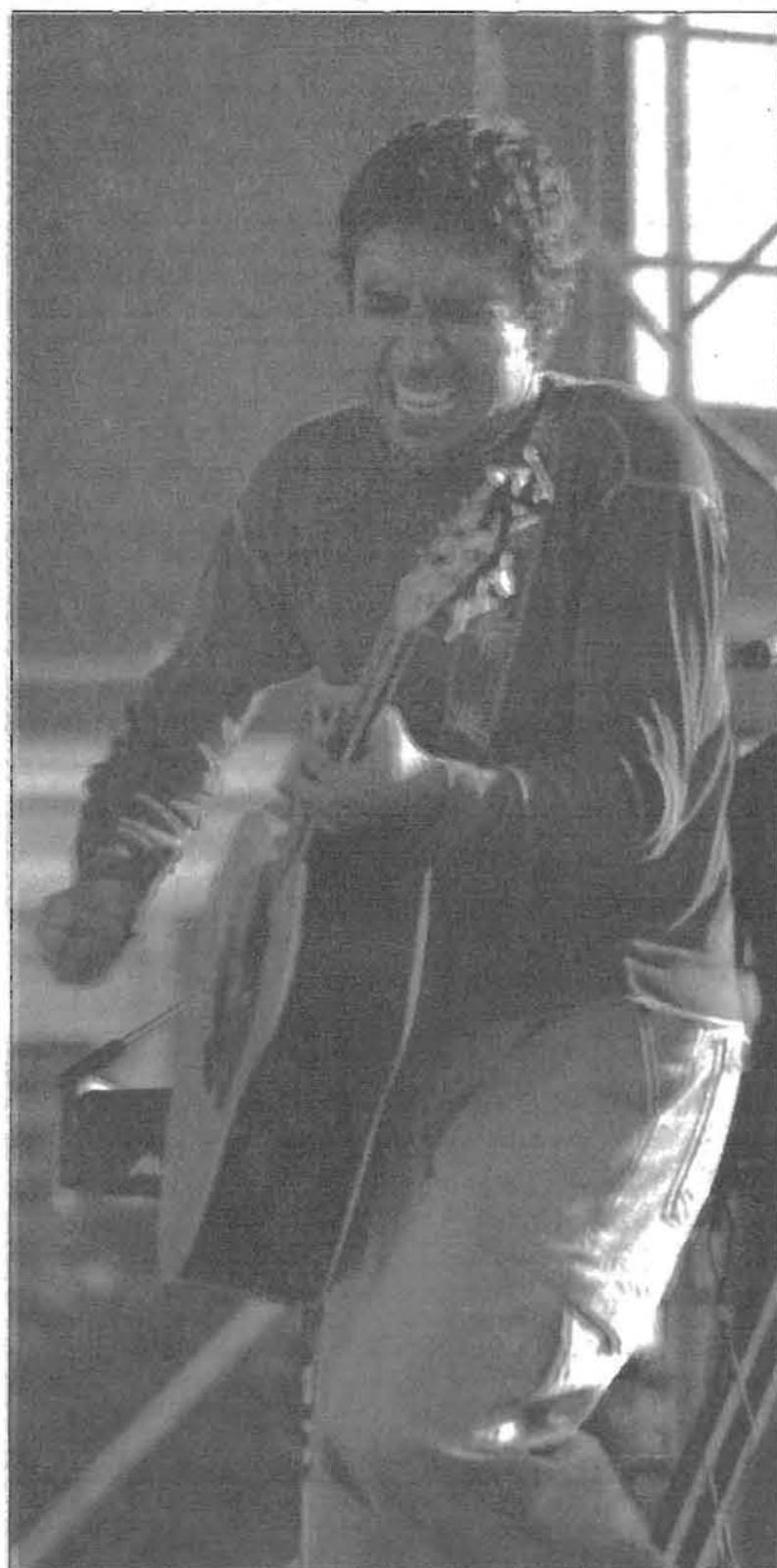
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Mirthday 2001



Darren Brand/The Current

The spring annual event at UMSL, known as Mirthday, is an excellent way to meet student groups on campus and to have a little fun in between classes. Mirthday held concerts, contests, student group activities and a variety of amusement rides for student entertainment. A number of students took advantage of the activities at the Mirthday celebration, while enjoying the prior to summer vacation.



Elizabeth Wilson/special to The Current



ONLINE COURSES, from page 1

summer of 1999, the College of Nursing set forth an agenda on the development of an R.N.-to-B.S.N. completion program. On the agenda were also course selections and program length. In addition, plans were discussed for student targeting and marketing. Information was gathered on other successful online programs to help with the marketing approach, which was then unleashed early this semester.

The criteria used in selecting the education faculty members was based upon the following: the content needs for a possible online degree (early childhood education and adult education), a reputation as a "good instructor," and willingness to be critiqued by colleagues.

Hoagland, director of the Technology and Learning Center and organizer of the Education team, stated that each member received a course buyout before participating. This means that another teacher was sponsored to take over regular course instruction, giving each new team member the opportunity to focus more of his or her time on the online program.

The aforementioned nursing faculty members were all convened at a meeting shortly after the start of the

winter 2001 semester, where each received special training in the various aspects of teaching online. These included use of the web-based blackboard by instructional designer Cheryl Bielema, uploading course requirements, identifying online resources, developing online activities for the course, participating as students in the course websites, and collaborating on the proposal for online master's programs.

Bielema, who also serves as an instructional development specialist with Informational Technology Services, believes that the new online program will benefit students all over the state of Missouri.

"It will open up many possibilities for working professionals by allowing them to take graduate courses when they would otherwise not have the time to do so," Bielema said. "It should also lead to an increase in enrollment at UMSL."

Hoagland said he was impressed with the accomplishments of the faculty members who made up this pilot effort. In fact, he said, he believes they actually exceeded expectations. As a result, Hoagland plans to bring together even more faculty members for an increased number of online courses in the future.

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