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Garrison Starr cd review

See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Chancellor gets go ahead for College of Social Work and Public Policy

New College will offer two masters programs

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

UM-System president Elson Floyd has given UM-St. Louis's chancellor permission to open the new College of Social Welfare and Public Policy.

The College of Social Work consists of two masters degree programs: public policy administration and gerontology.

The purpose of the College is to serve the public and help the community.

"The previous chancellor thought that the new college would be more comparable to the other existing programs in St. Louis," Department Chair of Social Work Lois Pierce said.

Currently, the College of Social Welfare is located in the Graduate School and is staffed by faculty from various departments. The degree is considered part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There are approximately 350 to 400 students in social work, between bachelors and masters degrees," Pierce said.

Despite the fact that the social work program will not undergo any changes, the new college will provide students the chance to obtain more prestigious degrees and gain recognition.

Students will also be able to work more efficiently with staff members.

"The transition team, including three faculty members, administrators and I, are in the process of reorganizing this program and trying to plan its budget economically," Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jerry Durham said.

Part of the College's budget will go toward finding a new dean.

"If the budget is not done economically or the school's budget cannot afford it, then the opening date for this college to begin may be delayed; but the program will continue," Durham said.

The College plans to open on July 1, 2003.

It is possible, given proper enrollment, that the new college will develop a doctoral program to complement the masters programs.

Right now, this academic program, which consists of only a few hundred students, is expected to be a stronger basis for future growth once the new college is established.

For more information on the College of Social Welfare and Public Policy, contact Pierce at (314) 516-6384.

Bombs over Baghdad: Iraq conflict takes stage

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

The looming thought of war in Iraq is grabbing headlines everywhere and last week drew concerned students to "Perspectives on the Iraqi Conflict," a forum discussion featuring three speakers on the topic. It took place Monday night in Century Room B of the Millennium Student Center.

Joyce Mushaben, the first speaker, walked to the podium in a red, white and blue stars-and-stripes sweater. She draped an American flag over the front of the podium. When she spoke, her first words were about being an American. "Leading up to previous wars, the pro-war forces took over the symbols of patriotism. This time, you can't say either side has a corner on patriotism but different views of the issue. I want to be clear about this. I am a patriot. I also think Saddam Hussein is a horrible man, a tyrant who has done terrible things. I just think we need to use all diplomatic means before resorting to war," she said.

Thus started a lively discussion of differing viewpoints on the possible Iraqi conflict. The speakers at the event included Mushaben, political science professor of international studies and director of women's studies at UM-St. Louis; Capt. Michael Nolan, U.S. Naval Reserves, retired, and past president of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States; and Chrissy Kirchhoefer, co-coordinator for organizing and outreach of the Peace Economy Project and a recent visitor to Iraq.

The forum was attended by a small but concerned group of UM-St. Louis students who raised many questions reflecting both sides of this increasingly prominent issue. The forum speakers gave their views and then took questions from the audience.

All three speakers tried to put the issues surrounding Iraq into a historical perspective. Mushaben offered an international view of the region and the situation. Kirchhoefer spoke of meeting the Iraqi people

themselves and of the country's historical significance as the site of ancient Mesopotamia and of the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, widely believed to be the location of the Biblical Garden of Eden. Nolan spoke from the viewpoint of the military about the situation in Iraq and the historic view of past conflicts.

Mushaben spoke about the effects on the region of the Treaty of Versailles, which set up artificial borders to countries, crossing ethnic, religious and cultural lines. The other speakers agreed when she asserted that these artificially determined borders set the stage for conflict in the region, exacerbating long historical hostilities that had already existed for hundreds of years.

The region's extended history of conflict makes it an area in which many people in Europe are hesitant to become involved. "I lived in Germany for many years, which gave me a different viewpoint. I have also visited nearly every country in Europe, so I can give a bit of an outsider's view, where the perspective is different from the common U.S. public policy," Mushaben stated. In her point-by-point presentation, she described some of the biggest problems with U.S. policy in the region.

"We have had smart presidents who have made mistakes in the past in foreign policy, but that is not the case with George W.," Mushaben said, referring to President Bush. Describing the U.S. policy of backing certain countries in areas of conflict around the world, she said "Give them a gun" has been the idea of the past and then hoping they would do the right thing. Often, they don't. We gave weapons to Saddam Hussein (to fight Iran) and to the Taliban (to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan). It's a dumb policy," she concluded. "If we had not armed them, Iran and Iraq would have been reduced to throwing rocks at each other, and that conflict would have been over in eight months," she said. "Because we armed them both, the war lasted eight years."

see IRAQ SPEAKERS, page 3



Photos by Lishu Qu/The Current

Joyce Mushaben, Professor of Political Science, was the first of three speakers at a lecture Monday night titled, "Perspectives on the Iraqi Conflict." Mushaben, decked in red, white and blue, presented a global viewpoint on the conflict and a history of U.S. involvement with Iraq. She stressed that the world overall does not support U.S. action in Iraq and ended by saying, "War is never inevitable."

Retired Navy Capt. Michael Nolan presented a military viewpoint on the Iraq situation during the lecture. He noted that, although he no longer has access to privileged information since his retirement, he still considers Saddam Hussein to be a danger.



Retired Navy Capt. Michael Nolan, Chrissy Kirchhoefer, co-coordinator of the Peace Economy Project, and Political Science Professor Joyce Mushaben presented a diverse range of views on the conflict in Iraq, during the forum "Perspectives on the Iraqi Conflict" held Monday.

Board of Curators approve new fees

Students face higher fees next semester

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BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

At the January Board of Curators meeting, student activity fees increased, and there is a proposed idea for enrollment fees to increase also.

The General Officers and Administration are delaying their recommendations and final decisions about the change of enrollment fees until the March meeting.

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved increases in student activity, facility and health service fees as well as room and board charges Jan. 24, in Columbia, said Joe Moore, university manager of media relations.

The fees that will be raised will affect all students enrolled at every college in the University of Missouri System. The increased fees will concern student activities, facility and health service fees and room and board charges.

"The activity and facility fees are recommended by the campuses, either by the full student body or the Student Government Association. The board simply approves what is recommended by the campuses," Moore said.

"Every program's income and costs must be considered before approved. The costs are all across the board," said John Mathes, board of curators member.

The housing and health fees are inflationary increases required to maintain service to the students. These changes take place annually.

Tuition costs will rise after the proposed percentage increase. The University of Missouri-Columbia will have an increase of 7.9 percent, the University of Missouri-Kansas City 43 percent, the University of Missouri-Rolla 46.45 percent and the University of Missouri-St. Louis 12 percent.

see FEE INCREASE, page 3

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Bulletin Board

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

February

Thru March 3 Gallery Visio

A Black Arts Expo (Visual Exhibits) will be held through March 3 in Gallery Visio on the 1st floor of the MSC. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291.

Thru Sat 22 Student Life

Homecoming: A Journey Through Time will be Monday, Feb. 17 through Saturday, Feb. 22. Homecoming features a whole week of activities, including Banner Wars, Greeks vs. Romans Powder Puff Football, Big Man on Campus, the Homecoming dance, and the Homecoming games vs. SIU - Edwardsville.

Put it on the Board!

Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.

Mon 17 Chemistry colloquia

"Computer Use and Chemistry Student Learning" is the title of this week's chemistry colloquia. The seminar will take place at 4 p.m. in room 451 of Benton Hall. For more information, contact Hal Harris at 516-5344.

Tues 18 Phi Alpha Theta

The Phi Alpha Theta History Society is hosting a book sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, Wednesday, Feb. 19 and Thursday, Feb. 20 in Lucas Hall at the 3rd floor entrance. Great books at cheap prices - wide selection of subjects, both hardcovers and paperbacks. All proceeds donated to the Arthur Shaffer Scholarship Fund. Anyone with books to donate should email FredFausz@aol.com.

Wed 19 (cont.) Student Life

The Hump Day Hoopla will be every Wednesday during lunch hour. It is a series of events which student organizations can sponsor. Organizations must provide volunteers at the event they sign up for. Organizations can sign up for an event free of charge at the Office of Student Life. Call 516-5291 for more information.

19 Golden Key

The Golden Key International Honour Society's meeting is at 4 p.m. in the Golden Key cubicle on the 3rd floor of the MSC in the Student Organization office.

Thur 20 Gallery 210

A fiction reading by Phyllis Moore will take place at 5 p.m. on the 2nd floor of Lucas Hall in Gallery 210. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 516-6845.

Thur 20 (cont.) Center for Teaching and Learning

"PBS Videoconference: Copyright Issues Online" is from 1:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 117 Lucas Hall.

Sat 22 Multicultural Relations/ Academic Affairs

A Graduate School Information Session: Master's Level Program is from 10 a.m. to noon in the Student Government Chambers on the 3rd floor of the MSC. For more information, call Linda Sharp at 516-6807.

Sun 23 Student Life

Tickets are available for the performance of "Les Miserables" at 8 p.m. at the Fox Theatre. The tickets are available at a reduced rate for students at the Office of Student Life on the 3rd floor of the MSC. For more information, call 516-5291.

Sun 23 (cont.) Foreign Languages and Literatures

A screening of "Rivieres Pourpres" (Crimson Rivers), a French thriller in the American vein starring Jean Reno and Vincent Cassel will take place at 1 p.m. in the Lucas Hall Auditorium, room 200. The event is free of charge and being sponsored by the Department of Foreign Language and Literature, as well as the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture.

Mon 24 Chemistry colloquia

"Chemistry and Photochemistry of Iron Sulfur Tetrahedranes" is the title of this week's chemistry colloquia. The seminar will be at 4 p.m. in room 451 of Benton Hall. For more information, contact Lawrence Barton at 516-5334.

The Campus Crimeline

The following crimes were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department between Feb. 7 and Feb. 13.

Feb. 11 - Theft under \$500

At the University Meadows, a student

reported that their University Meadows parking permit was stolen.

Feb. 12 - Attempted arson

On the 2nd floor of the Provincial House/Villa unknown person(s) set fire to

papers on the walls and a curtain was set on fire.

Feb. 13 - Theft under \$500

At the Daughters of Charity, a cell phone was reported stolen.

Feb. 13 - Theft under \$500

A student reported that his parking permit was stolen while parked on Lot E.

Feb. 13 - Theft under \$500

In the Villa Music Building, a University key was stolen.

Correction

In issue 1076 of *The Current*, the article entitled "UMSL athletics tailgating to draw support for its teams" erroneously left out that the Student Alumni Association also sponsored the event. Two more tailgating events will be held this week. They will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.

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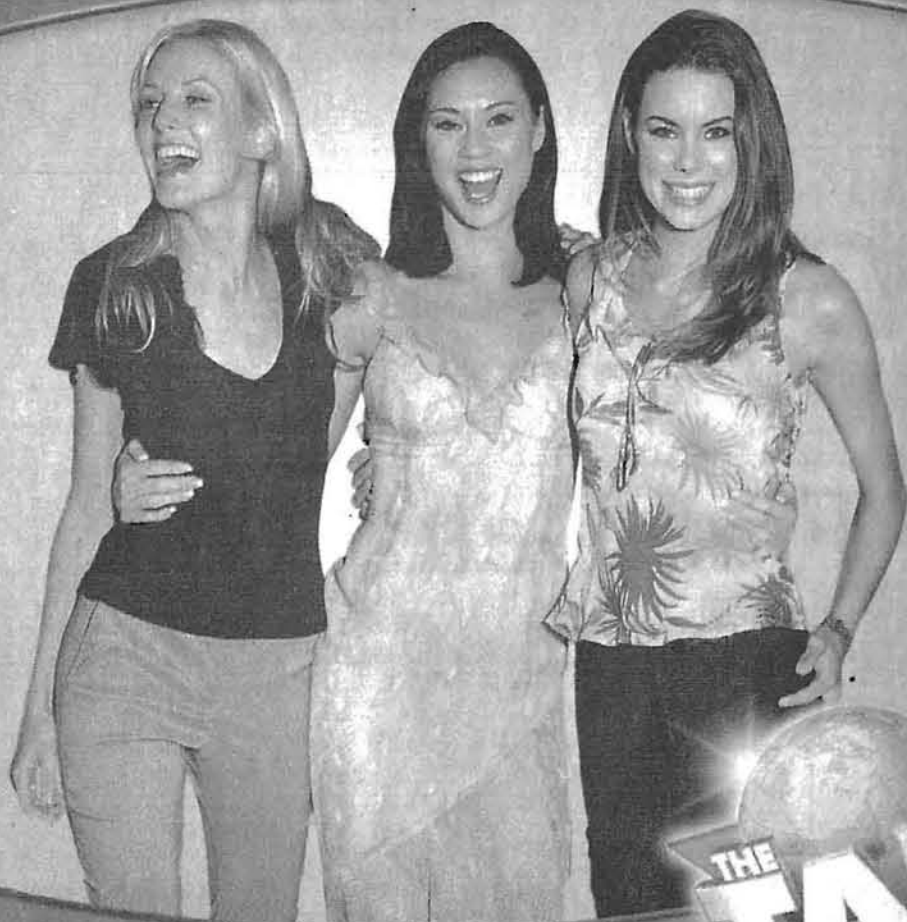
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Fire set in Legras Hall

Investigation viewed as arson

BY JASON GRANGER

News Editor

Students in LeGras Hall awoke last Wednesday to fire alarms and evacuation plans

“

According to an UM-St. Louis police spokesman, the case is under investigation as an arson. Arson is a first-degree felony in the state of Missouri.

”

Around two in the morning, an unidentified student set fire to some papers and fliers in the residence hall, singeing the papers and spilling the students outdoors from their dorms.

According to Kimberly Allen, Director of residential life, there was no “fire” but there was enough done to set off the smoke alarms.

Allen said that the incident, while not major, is being taken very seriously.

“There was a fire in the residence halls once and people died,” Allen said. “We are having a safety seminar to let students know the real dangers pranks like these create.”

Allen went on to say that no damage to the building was reported and no one was hurt in the incident.

According to an UM-St. Louis police spokesman, the case is under investigation as arson. Arson is a first-degree felony in the state of Missouri punishable by 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$20,000. While the arson is viewed as a serious matter by the University, it is unlikely that the person or persons responsible for the arson will receive the maximum penalties under Missouri law.

According to Bob Samples, director of University Communications, the case is being taken very seriously by the University.

“This is not taken lightly,” Samples said. Samples also said the University intends to allow detectives as much time as needed to find the culprit behind the fire.

The fire alarm was particularly unwelcome by the students as the temperatures dipped below 25 degrees Wednesday morning, with wind chills falling below 15 degrees.

According to Samples, the event took place in short period of time.

“Around two in the morning, someone set fire to some promotional material in Legras Hall,” Samples said. “The fire alarms went off and students were forced to evacuate the hall.”

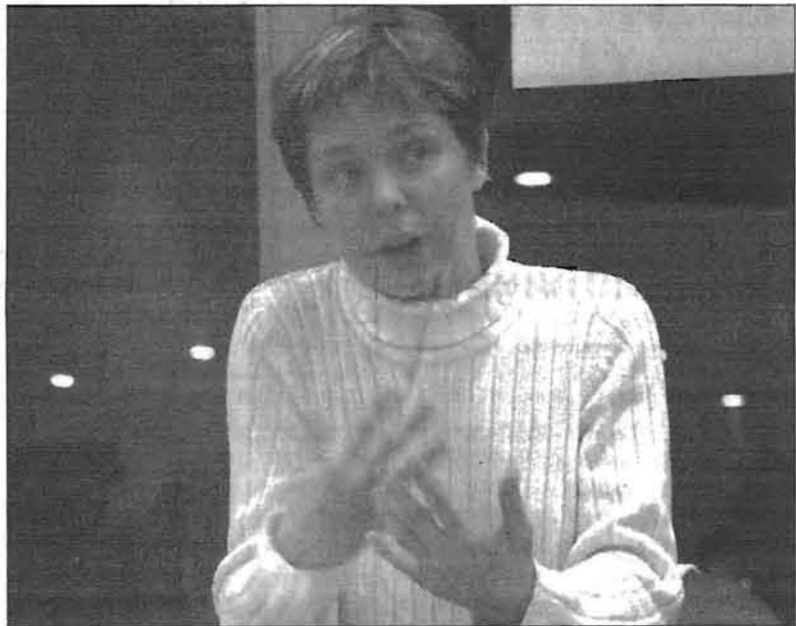
Statehouse Sisters relate experiences



Representative Esther Haywood (left) currently serves on the Nomandy School Board of Directors and has been recognized by UMSL for outstanding community service. Her appearance was part of the “Statehouse Sisters” event held Friday by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Two senators and two representatives spoke on their experience in the House and Senate.



IRAQ SPEAKERS, from page 1



Lishu Qiu/The Current

Chissy Kirchhoefer, co-coordinator of the Peace Economy Project, answers questions from the audience Monday evening. Kirchhoefer presented a slide show from a recent trip to Iraq. She described the lives of ordinary Iraqis under Saddam Hussein and under U.N. sanctions.

In her discussion, she made several points about guns, the geography and demographics of the region, the presence of oil, lack of human rights in the area and the European perspective on the Middle East. Among her points was that the area in question is actually very small. “The hostile nature of the region and Saddam’s isolation make it likely that if we strike at Iraq, he will retaliate by striking at all his neighbors, including Israel, starting a region-wide conflict,” she said. “But we are too far away to be hit directly by Iraq.”

In his portion of the forum, Nolan offered the viewpoint of the military on the situation.

“We have to have a military, because we do face threats from the world,” Nolan said. “And we have to decide how to use the military. We can’t just sit back and wait for someone to come after us.” Nolan stated that there were some important points to remember about the situation. “Nothing happens in NATO without us,” he said, emphasizing the key role of the U.S. in this treaty. “Saddam has a history of aggression against neighbors, has done things to his people and in war, which are contrary to the rules of war.” Nolan emphasized the importance of looking ahead and heading off a problem before it grows into a larger threat.

“There is a parallel to Hitler’s rise to power. After the Gulf War, Saddam agreed to disarm and agreed to no-fly zones to prevent invasions of other nations,” he said. “There are north and south no-fly zones, where U.S. and British planes fly and where Saddam shoots at them.” He continued, “He has not complied, has not destroyed weapons. The UN resolves but doesn’t take action. Now Iraq had a final opportunity to comply.” Nolan and President Bush are in agreement on this point — twelve years is enough time. “Yet some in the UN have asked for more time,” Nolan concluded. Regarding the arming of the region by the US, Nolan conceded that this is true but pointed out that European countries that now oppose the United States’ action against Iraq have also sold Iraq weapons.

Yet despite this stress, Kirchhoefer found the Iraqis to be very warm and welcoming.

Prior to the Gulf War, Iraq was unique in that it was a secular society, and was more democratic and the most European-like country in the Middle East,” Kirchhoefer said, even under Saddam Hussein, despite his international threats and ruthless power struggles within his country. Since the imposition of sanctions, the economy of the country has collapsed and infrastructure has decayed.

Concerns about the role of oil in the United States’ motivations for a war are also in international thoughts. “Iraq invaded Kuwait because they wanted Kuwaiti oil,” Mushaben said. “We don’t have a large hold on oil rights in the Middle East right now. We would

like one.” Furthermore, she pointed out the nature of international stances on the Iraqi issue. “Opposing us are Germany, France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, all the most populous and more powerful countries in Europe,” Mushaben said. “Supporting us are Great Britain, which has always seen itself as separate from Europe, New Zealand and Australia, which are half a world away, and some less populated and less powerful smaller countries, which we strong-armed into supporting us.” In the question and answer period that followed the talks, one student asked how Mushaben knew countries had been strong-armed into supporting the US position. “I was in Europe. It was in all the papers; it was common knowledge there.”

The issue of growing religious fundamentalism and ethnic nationalism around the world is part of this issue too. “Europeans saw clearly the effects of religious and ethnic war in Yugoslavia,” Mushaben said. “The situation in the Middle East is much worse.”

Both Kirchhoefer and Mushaben observed that while Hussein is the source of the problem with Iraq, working through the Iraqi people is the solution. Nolan observed that if the United States invaded Iraq, it would replace Hussein and hopefully help the Iraqis pick a new leader. Kirchhoefer commented that while the Iraqi people might have supported the US in that action after the Gulf War, the situation has now changed. The Iraqis see the sanctions as the source of their misery. “Besides, it’s hard to rise up if you are weak from starvation,” Kirchhoefer said.

FEE INCREASE, from page 1

At UM-St. Louis, students currently pay \$27.22 per credit hour for student facility, activity and health fees. With a 12 percent increase, students can add an extra \$3.26 per credit hour. This is just one required tuition fee and does not include the instructional computing fee,

Samples said.

The rise in cost per semester is said to be partially due to the building of new centers and offices along with expansions and repairs at all four colleges.

“It is a sad situation when the state of Missouri runs low on tax dollars and then forces the students to continue to pay more, but they still have enough to try to build things like a new stadium. It shows how much clout the students really have,” said Paul Hibbard, international political science, junior.

Currently, UM-Kansas City is in the process of renovating their University Center. UM-Rolla is planning to open a new facility called the Havener Center. UM-Columbia will be fixing minor construction problems on campus. UM-St. Louis is repairing garages, shuttle services, sidewalks and exterior telephones and is finalizing the new Performing Arts Center.

Other fees that have been discussed at past board meetings with the finance committee have been the \$9 credit hour educational fee surcharge and room and board charges for all campuses.

The enrollment fee increase that will be reviewed in March is meant to prevent the University’s budget from falling further in debt. At the end of the fiscal year 2002, the UM-System was faced with a \$34 million drawback.

Not only are students hurt by the increase in fees, but tax payers will be forced to pay more to the state towards the high expenses of educational institutions.

“State support for education has been dramatically decreased. Both fees were approved by the students,” Mathes said. “They may be going into effect July 1 for fall semester.”

“
The enrollment fee increase...is meant to prevent the University’s budget from falling further in debt.
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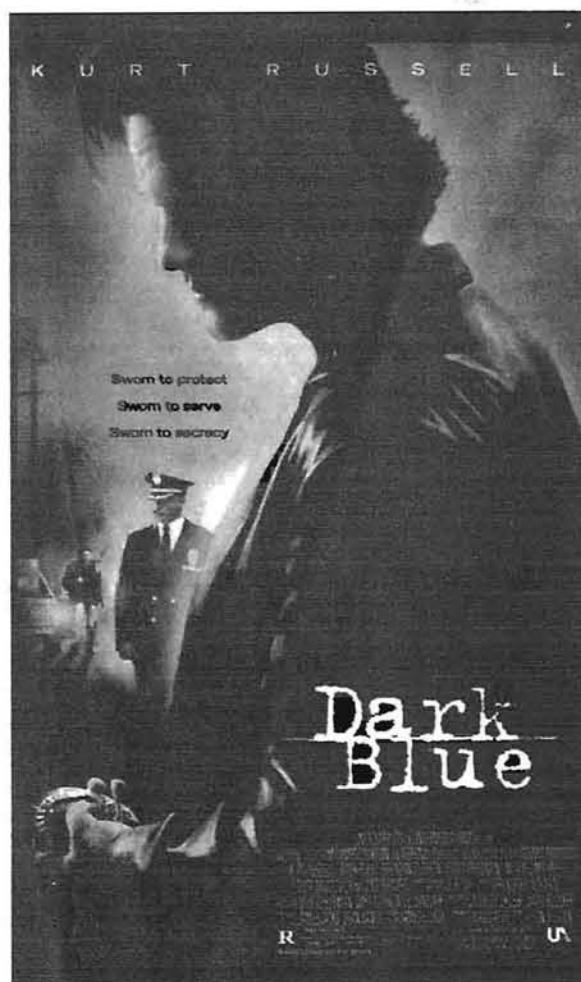
educational fees, surcharges, parking fees and the \$10 per semester for the Performing Arts Center.

“I don’t think that students who take online and video courses should have to pay an extraneous amount for activity fees and parking fees, especially when they are not on campus all of the time,” said Cliff Holland, business, sophomore.

Looking at the chart from the board meeting, people can see that UM-St. Louis’ activity fee is more expensive compared to the other schools. The present rate at UM-St. Louis is almost double the cost at UM-Columbia.

According to UM-St. Louis University Spokesman Bob Samples, there are numerous reasons why the fees vary in costs, and it all depends on what services each campus provides.

“Students at UMSL pay more in that category because there is less support from the state, which puts more burden on the students to run the campus,”



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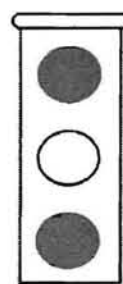
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Under Current
by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

Are you attending any homecoming events

OUR OPINION

Getting your money's worth?

Here's an interesting question: If you live on campus, where do you go for food on the weekends? McDonalds? Taco Bell? Imo's? More than likely since The Nosh is closed on the weekends.

Now, suppose the University could have provided an option to its residence hall students but chose instead to build a parking lot?

Well, this just so happens to be the case.

When the University started buying land for the new Performing Arts Center, they purchased land that included a fully functional gas station, one that could easily have been left open to the students, but they chose to tear it down instead.

Why would they do this? Wouldn't a gas station/convenience store make more money than a parking lot? One would think so, but apparently the University was more interested in having worthless land than accommodating the needs of its students.

This sort of neglect is shameful. Students who live in the residence halls have no means to eat during the weekend, short of eating junk food from fast food restaurants and vending machines. Granted, whatever a convenience store sells is not going to be too much better; however, it could provide a nice break from the humdrum of Big-Macs and Whoppers. It doesn't take much to get tired of greasy burgers and bean burritos.

There is another issue involved in this as well. Not only are students not able to use such a facility, the University is squandering good land by letting it just sit there unused. The land, which rests on South Campus, is not being used for any purpose. Plans for hotels to be constructed on the land have not turned into action. In the midst of a massive financial crisis, the University should be doing everything it can to raise some

money to offset said crisis.

Okay, so, the gas station is already torn down.

What can the University do now to rectify the situation?

That land is going to waste. There is plenty of room for the University to build a cafeteria for its students. There is no reason for the University to neglect the needs of the students, basic needs like food. With that much land going unused, there is no reason to not build a structure like that.

The University also needs to truly explore the idea of building the hotels in that area. UM-St. Louis is very close to Lambert International Airport. With that much air traffic going in and out of St. Louis, people are always in the market for a viable space to sleep, especially in the winter months when delays are common due to inclement weather. This would be a legitimate money making option for the University. Whether they run the hotels or simply rent the land out, the school could very easily begin to supplement the budget difficulties with the hotel idea.

University officials also need to look at whether or not that land in front of the Performing Arts Center and Mark Twain Recreation Center could be put to better use. Perhaps a better walkway system that is less dangerous to students would be an option, or perhaps building to buildings for the art students would work as well.

In the end, the University has been negligent with that land. By ignoring the needs of its students and wasting perspective funds, they are fairly well announcing to the public that they really don't care one way or the other. If students make their voice's heard, if they flood the offices of upper-echelon administration officials, then perhaps they point will get across that they are tired of not receiving the services they pay for.



What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- Performing Arts Center
- Snow days
- The UM-St. Louis mascot

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at TheCurrentOnline.com



Thorlan Buchanan
Senior
Communication

I'm not into the Homecoming thing because we don't have enough school spirit.



Arshad Mohabbat
Senior
MIS/Accounting

I won't be attending any events because I don't find the parties very exciting. They're redundant.

'Life over classes,' his dying breath

Last semester right before finals, the roads were icy and snow-laden.

During my drive to class on that blustery morning, cars were sliding on the slick pavement. My car was one of those, and I got into a small accident. While I got to class, almost on time because I had left an extra hour early, I began to wonder why we were actually having class that day when every elementary, middle and high school in the area was closed because of the dangerous conditions that could prove to be fatal.

At the time, I kept my mouth shut. Well, no more.

Although it is Sunday night, I am already sure that we will have classes tomorrow—that is today, Monday, when this issue comes out. The time shift is a little difficult, so please bear with me.

When the roads are as dangerous as they often are after a snowfall in St. Louis, UM—St. Louis administrators (or whoever makes such decisions) have a chance to clearly demonstrate their feelings and attitudes toward human life.

Having classes on days when driving conditions are exponentially more dangerous than normal is not only unwise, but also fatal. Thus, whoever makes the decisions to hold classes or not holds the lives of students, faculty, staff and administrators who must make the treacherous journey to campus. If someone dies on the way to campus, the administrator who made the final decision to hold classes certainly shares a

large part of the blame for the loss of life.

Since UM—St. Louis students are typically commuters, the road conditions of the routes to the University should be considered as well as the conditions of the campus itself.

Highway 64/40 and interstates 270, 70 and 170 are often not safe after a snowfall; nor are the majority of the exits that lead drivers closer to campus. Natural Bridge is not well kept anyway, but when it's covered with snow and ice,

it becomes Natural Death Trap. The intersection of Arlmont and Natural Bridge provides the perfect area for fishtailing.

As of midnight on Sunday, the parking lots on campus were not only slick, but also covered with a couple of inches of snow. That cannot be safe. And while this University does

spread salt out all over the place, that can only help so much. After the salt melts the snow and ice, the winter winds just freeze it back into slippery ice.

I pay for my classes and want the most out of them I can get. It's not that I want a "snow day," so I can miss my British Literature exam, but certain natural conditions, however, preclude that. What happened to what the Office of Admissions told my parents about this being a commuter campus and how classes were called off to save lives?

If we do have classes, I hope the professors will be understanding of the students who did not come to class for fear of dying on the way.

Is a new mascot really needed?

The power has now been turned over partially to the students. No. Not the power of changing academic fees or building more parking, but to decide what the Universities image is going to be. The administration is going to let the University community decide whether or not the Riverman mascot fits the bill at UM-St. Louis.

According to Athletics Director Pat Dolan, last spring Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill received a few "inquiries" about changing the mascot. Dolan stressed that these inquiries were not complaints, but mere inquiries. This may be true, but are committees often formed over inquiries? But I would think that most often it is hard to get a group, much less an entire university, to look into changing their image over only a few inquiries. So, what is wrong with the Riverman mascot? Nothing.

The only concern about the Riverman that I have heard is that it is not inclusive for female sports. Lets take a look, using the plural form of the name. In relation to a sports team or a group of people, when a person takes away the men part in Rivermen it can easily be replaced with the word women as in the term Riverwomen. Female sports teams at UM-St. Louis are referred to in this way. See, that wasn't so hard. Sounds good to me. In fact, I think that it fits perfectly.

So, inquiries into changing the Riverman mascot have been made and a committee is being formed. Plus, UM-St. Louis students and faculty are at the edge of their seats awaiting a verdict, right? Wrong. Reading this far into this article, more than likely there are several readers feeling a little confused. They are probably confused because many students at UM-St. Louis were

probably not aware that UM-St. Louis' mascot was the Riverman, or that there was a University mascot at all. This may seem sad, but I would guess that 50 percent of the student at UM-St. Louis did not know the Riverman was the University's mascot.

A committee is in the works concerning the UM-St. Louis mascot. The objective of this committee is to evaluate the UM-St. Louis community to see if it is content with its current image as the Rivermen. The committee plans to do this by discussing the Riverman mascot with different campus groups and organizations including faculty and staff, athletic teams, those in the Student Government Association, residence hall students and more. From this evaluation the committee plans to decide whether the current Riverman mascot should remain as is, should remain a Riverman with an "upgrade" or should be nixed and another mascot should be sought. Once the evaluation process is completed,

the committee will compile a report and present it to the Chancellor's Cabinet. At the moment, Dolan has asked some key members of the UM-St. Louis community to help her find faculty, students and alumni to be on the committee though at the moment no one is formally a member.

The question must now be asked, is it really worth all this trouble? If the sports teams are content, if the students are happy (if not happily oblivious), then what's the problem? It's not exactly like Rivermen/Riverwomen is politically incorrect. We aren't called the Indians or the Blackhawks or the Nazis. Nope, we are the River...people. And while we may not wear our mascot with pride, sometimes change is a bad thing.



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor



Brittany Johnson
Freshman
Elementary Education

I'm going to the dance, I'm going the basketball game and I'm playing Powderpuff football!



Justin Nguyen
Junior
MIS

I am not sure if I will attend any events. My work schedule is pretty full.

Aging galaxies

NASA released on Feb. 11 the most detailed picture ever taken of our “baby universe.” These new images, taken by the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP), a satellite currently surfing the cosmos about a million miles from earth, reveal a detailed image of the cosmic microwave background, which is basically the afterglow of the big bang.



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

From this data, says Charles L. Bennett of the Goddard Space Flight Center, “We are now able to describe the universe with unprecedented accuracy.” Data from WMAP has

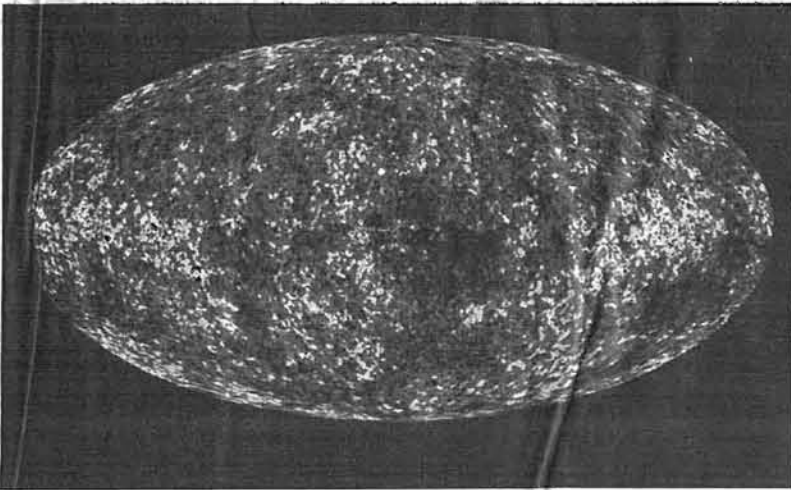


photo courtesy Goddard Space Flight Center

allowed scientists to describe the composition and history of our universe in great detail.

Prior to receiving new data from WMAP, scientists believed that our universe was somewhere between 11-20 billion years old. This new data precisely targets the age of the universe at 13.7 billion years old, with an amazing 1% margin of error.

In addition, new data reveals that ordinary matter (atoms, electrons, quarks, etc.) makes up only 4% of the universe. The rest of the universe is filled by so called “dark matter” (23 percent) and “dark energy” (73 percent). The nature of dark matter and energy are still poorly understood, but this new research indicates that dark energy may function as a sort of anti-gravity counteracting the gravitational effects of matter in our universe. Dark energy is the substance responsible for the continuous expansion of the universe.

Perhaps most surprisingly, the

amount of dark energy in the universe indicates that our universe will continue to expand indefinitely and will never, as some scientists have long believed, begin to shrink again into what has been called the “big crunch.”

WMAP functions by measuring minute temperature differences in the microwave radiation that was laid down shortly after the big bang. Theories about the evolution of the universe make specific predictions about the extent of these temperature variations. Data from WMAP has resolved debate about variation and has matched patterns of temperature with a model that allows precise prediction about the evolution of our universe.

In addition to temperature variations, WMAP measures the amounts of polarization in the universe, which gives insight into such things as the birth of stars and the types of matter present in the universe.

Scientists are very excited about this new data and many feel this new data is the most important discovery in cosmology for the last hundred years. “This is a true turning point for cosmology,” said Anne Kinney, director of physics and astronomy for

could provide the answer to some of the oldest problems in theoretical physics.

Magueijo claims that light traveled faster when the universe was born and that the speed of light is actually still slowing down. In his book Magueijo shows how a variable speed of light could have important implications for the possibilities of space travel and for our ideas about black holes and the popular string theory.

Although many cosmologists agree that a variable speed of light would provide the answer for some problems, it also creates problems because many of the oldest theories in astrophysics are based on the idea that the speed of light is always constant. Magueijo admits that a great deal of experimental evidence is needed to give his ideas credence, but he is enthusiastic about the possible future of his theory.

Ironically, Magueijo’s own style of explication may be one of the greatest impediments to the acceptance of his ideas. Magueijo pulls no punches in his harsh criticisms of science in general, and specifically of theoretical physics. In his book, he scathingly criticizes the string theorists, referring to their “strings” as “cosmic pubes,” and suggesting that the “M” value built into string theory equations stands for “masturbation.”

Magueijo also sharply criticizes science as a whole for its reliance on peer-reviewed journal publications. He feels that peer-review has no meaning and that the system has been degrading for years. In Magueijo’s opinion the future of science lies in publishing ideas through web-based archives. Magueijo believes that eliminating the peer-review system will not affect our ability to judge what is “good science.” In his own words: “You read the abstract and you know immediately...whether its worth reading or not. You don’t need a referee to tell you. In most cases you just get some really conservative person who eliminates everything.”

As our ideas about the universe change, we are enticed to enter into new avenues of experimentation, which then lead to further changes in our ideas. Ultimately the process is not so much a straight line to some sort of ultimate understanding but more like a dance where we move forward, led by new ground-breaking experiments, and then we take a step back, urged to rethink some of our most basic ideas in the light of what we now know. It may be comforting to some to recognize that no matter what the current state of politics, finance and international affairs may be, the dance of understanding continues, interested only in understanding the world and universe that encompasses us all and in stimulating the imagination of anyone who wants to listen.

Fare Thoughts

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Marshmallows float in our hot chocolate, melt for our s’mores and coat our rice crispy treats.

But, what are marshmallows? We pronounce them differently than they are spelled. They just seem to melt when touched to anything wet. Although sweet, the pale pillows have no distinct flavor. The white puffs collapse under the slightest bit of pressure.

With a little heat from the microwave, they swell and look ready to explode.

The sponges brown and caramelize nicely over a campfire, if they don’t catch fire first.

Unlike most food products, marshmallows’ ingredients seem elusive.

Originally, the Egyptians made this confection from the sap of the marsh mallow plant (althaea officinalis). It has a jelly-like consistency and was used to stabilize the candy.

In the mid-1800s, marshmallows, however, were not made by candy makers. Instead, doctors gave them to sick children as medicine. The flowering marsh mallow, which grows about 5 feet in marshes and bogs, is known for its healing properties, including healing wounds, increasing immunity, calming coughs and quieting irritable bowel syndrome.

Today, unflavored gelatin has replaced the marsh mallow sap in the confectionaries. The sugary puffs have lost their medicinal values, but the name and spelling of the plant have been retained.

The cylindrical puffs we are used to date back to 1949 when Alex Doumak, a marshmallow maker, began making the candy by extrusion. Thus, more candies could be made in less time.

Making your own marshmallows requires very little cooking time, some waiting time and a minimal amount of common ingredients:

MARSHMALLOWS

- 1/4 c. cornstarch
- 1/3 c. powdered sugar
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/3 c. water
- 2/3 c. granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. light corn syrup
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Sift the cornstarch and confectioners sugar into a bowl. Lightly grease an 8x8-inch baking pan, and sprinkle 1 TBSP of the cornstarch-and-sugar mixture into it. Tilt the pan to coat the sides and the bottom. Leave any excess in the pan.

Sprinkle the gelatin into the water in a small saucepan and let it bloom (soak) for five minutes. Add the granulated sugar and stir over low heat until the gelatin and sugar dissolve.

In the large bowl, combine the gelatin mixture, corn syrup, salt and vanilla and beat with an electric mixer for 15 minutes on high speed, until peaks form.

Spread the fluffy mixture in the prepared pan and smooth the top. Leave for two hours or until set. Do not refrigerate or the gelatin will form tough, fibrous ribbons.

With a wet knife, cut the marshmallow mixture into quarters and loosen around the edges. Sprinkle the remaining cornstarch-and-sugar mixture on a baking sheet and invert the marshmallow blocks onto it. Cut each quarter into nine pieces and roll each one in the starch and sugar.

Place the marshmallows on a cake rack covered with paper towels and let them stand over night to dry the surface slightly. Store airtight; the marshmallows will keep for a month.

Food coloring and other flavors can be added when mixing if desired.

Yields 36 marshmallows.

And what is better than homemade marshmallows? Homemade marshmallows with homemade chocolate fondue, of course.

CHOCOLATE SWIRL FONDUE

- 16 oz. chocolate morsels (milk or dark)
- 1/2 pt. whipping cream
- 1/2 c. ice cream topping (such as caramel, butterscotch, or dulce de leche)
- 3 TBSP hazelnut or almond syrup for milk chocolate or 4 TBSP for dark
- 4 oz. white vanilla morsels, melted

Mix first four ingredients in a fondue pot or a heavy saucepan. Melt over low heat until smooth, stirring constantly. Do not allow the mixture to bubble or it will scorch.

Lightly swirl in the melted white vanilla.

Arrange your marshmallows around the pot along with other dipping foods such as apple slices, pineapple chunks, whole cherries and cake cubes. Spear several pieces with wooden skewers for easy dipping.

Serves 5 to 7. Do not double. If more is needed, make several pots of different types.

Just a reminder. . .

Editor-in-Chief applications

are due

Friday, Feb. 28, 5 p.m.

in

388 MSC

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fighting for reasons

Having paid close attention to the voices against war, I'd like to provide answers to a number of questions and charges that have come up.

To start, this is not a war for oil. It sounds plausible enough, but had this ever been a goal, Bush Sr. would have marched in during the first conflict and taken the oil fields at that time. It will be a spoil of war, but not for the US and its Allies. It will provide great wealth to the citizens of Iraq as they set up a new democratic form of government.

Another question is why don't the French support the U.S. position as many other European nations do. Simple—they have economic interests in Iraq, namely lucrative oil deals. If any country is being blinded by oil it is France.

A few have said that a majority of Americans are against this war. The last few nationwide polls since the State of the Union address and Powell's U.N. speech show that an astounding 70% of U.S. citizens are on board with the President. That seems to mean that the overwhelming majority is pro war.

Some voices have said that Bush's reason for war is to hide a failing economy. Bush has given Congress a budget to stimulate the economy and given a small period of time should be able to repair that damage. Bush is dealing with the economy, not ignoring it.

It has been asked why the focus has not changed to North Korea. The reason is that we know North Korea has a few weapons, they are not hiding the fact, which means they may be able to be reasoned with. Iraq is hiding theirs against regulations. The only excuse to hide something is to keep it for eventual use in one form or another.

The final concern I have is that some say that Bush is just using the name of human rights violations to sell

his war. Not one soul is refuting that humans ARE being killed by Saddam, that he HAS committed genocide in the past and that he continues to rule Iraq with the fear of death as his main motivator. Just because you don't trust the President's intentions does not mean that humans are not suffering and are not in need of help.

It's easy to simplify the events to a logical conclusion. Saddam invaded Kuwait. The U.N. went in and defeated him in a military campaign. As a result he was subject to regulations and sanctions, including disarmament and the discontinuation of human rights violations. He proceeds to ignore these rules, and does the U.N., effectively letting a wished child disregard his punishment. The U.S. is attacked by terrorists, proving that even life inside the US is not safe from worldly danger. A new mindset evolves in the leadership and in most of the citizens that threats in the civilized world can no longer be ignored and left unchecked. The War on Terror begins, but not just focused on rogue cells around the world.

Focus is also on dictatorial and imperialistic countries that threaten their regions. With that focus America asks the U.N. to begin enforcement of the regulations it had been ignoring. The U.N. agrees, citing serious repercussions should Iraq attempt noncompliance, thus resting the fate of him and his nation solely on Saddam's shoulders. All he has to do in good faith is come forward and reveal everything about his arsenal and disarm, thereby avoiding war easily. He chooses not to comply. Now, the U.N. should and the U.S. will enforce the rules. It's that simple.

Ryan C. Johnston,
English major

Point / Counterpoint

From the left

By The College Democrats

In 1996, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act was dubbed the “end of welfare as we know it.” It was designed to put an end to those who were making a living while collecting welfare and to offer a “second chance” to people who get hit with hard times. The bill outlines three major points: work requirements, block grants to states and a lifetime limit of five years that a family can spend on welfare.

On paper, the bill may look like the wonderful solution to the welfare woes of the 80s and 90s that its creators intended, but when it is applied to actual people actually trying to survive within this system, it barely makes an improvement. The wonderful white men in Washington are so far removed from the poverty line that they can't see how detrimental all the bureaucratic red tape is to those who desperately need government assistance, those who they say they are offering a “second chance.”

It is rather easy to look at a problem like, welfare mothers and decide that the remedy is simply to place time limits on welfare use. That approach forgets how difficult it is to succeed in finding a job that puts you above the poverty line, especially without formal education. It also forgets about the increasing number of employed people who still qualify for welfare. In New York City, the number rose from 2% to 14% in 2001. These people are under the same five year lifetime limit as the supposed “welfare moms,” yet they continue to work, never stopping, with jobs that fail to pay enough to

keep them above the poverty line. If welfare is supposed to be a “boost to lift yourself out of a bad situation,” then what happens to those people who are still working but need the assistance of welfare to afford life's basic necessities like food and shelter? When the five years are up, is that it? Under Welfare Reform it is. Five years are all they wrote.

The welfare system is in danger of being tweaked again. I understand the thought process that led to the five-year limit, but when applied to real people, it only creates more problems. Perhaps a system with some compassion would fare a little better. Rather than treating everyone like they're worthless, like they're a number in a line, we could try treating them with respect, actually trying to help them succeed at finding a permanent paying job. The work requirements are little more than a joke. People do not gain personal employment, but rather jobs set up to keep people busy while they are on welfare, and all that does is perpetuate the problem. The typical welfare positions (street cleaning or sanitation work) are only there for those on welfare. They do not generate enough income to get people off welfare and they leave NO time to look for a permanent job. How does that help anyone? It is simply a red herring set up to make the average Joe think that something is finally being done to make those “lazy welfare recipients” actually earn your tax dollars. It is also there to trap those people who are at rock bottom into signing on to a five year program that will only have them chasing their tails.

From the right

By The College Republicans

I spent the majority of last year employed by the department of social services. I was an assistant for a visually impaired man whom we will call Kevin. He received welfare benefits. Those benefits paid my salary. He was a graduate student working on a M.A. in counseling. I read texts to him, wrote down what he told me and typed his papers. It wasn't a lot of money either. I earned close to three thousand dollars for 8 months of work. But I like to help people, especially those who help themselves.

Kevin always impressed me. He has been without eyesight since he was a young child. It never stopped him. He went to a special school for people with disabilities and then attended a local university. He was even on the wrestling team during his undergraduate years. He is married and supports himself by working with people who have disabilities. He's giving back to the community. The only help he receives is a check to pay someone like me who gives him the little boost he needs. This man had the best sense of humor I'd ever heard and taught me a lot about life.

I was amazed at how much he did and accomplished. I didn't even wrestle in college because I didn't want to do the physical training. He taught me that you could accomplish anything with hard-work, desire and a little help. That's the key to this welfare thing—a little help. Compassion is a part of the welfare system. However, the measurement of compassion should not be the

number of people on welfare assistance, but rather should be the number of people who no longer need the assistance. True compassion is enabling a person to escape the clutches of poverty while becoming financially independent.

By assisting Kevin to earn his Masters degree he will be able to obtain a good job while enjoying the pride of being self-sufficient. He is also able to give back to other people and help them achieve the same independence. Meanwhile the government played a very small role in the process. They agreed to pay someone on his behalf to help him overcome an obstacle that made studying in a normal academic environment difficult. That's it. The rest is all about people helping people.

That is exactly what we are saying. Not all welfare is bad. There are some people who no matter how hard they try or because of limited abilities simply cannot completely support themselves. Then it is our responsibility to assist those people in need who cannot truly help themselves. No matter how hard Kevin tried, he wouldn't be able to read textbooks that weren't available in brail. However, people that are able to work for a paycheck but continue to live off of our tax dollars should not be doing so. It is wrong—they know it is wrong and they still do not care.

That is why we must reexamine the current welfare structure and make sure that only those people who are truly in need are receiving tax funded assistance.

Schwadron for president

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Many kids dream of being president when they grow up. For senior Adam Schwadron, a political science major, this dream is more than a childhood fantasy.

"My most realistic shot is as a congressman or senator," said Schwadron, who is currently serving as a legislative assistant for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri. Along with UM-St. Louis' other intern lobbyist, Nick Bowman, he works in Jefferson City. Monday through Friday they lobby for student issues.

Legislators are now concerned with Missouri's \$1 billion deficit. Two options have been proposed in response: increasing state taxes and cutting the state budget.

"We've really got the bullseye on our back right now. [If the budget is cut] education is the prime target," Schwadron said.

Schwadron is a former president of the College Republicans. He chose to resign the position when he was selected as a student lobbyist.

One of Schwadron's greatest influences was his tenth grade social studies teacher, David Matter.

"We had many discussions on politics that reaffirmed my conservative beliefs and made me more politically active," said Schwadron. "Our class also went on a field trip to Washington D.C. for the re-inauguration of Clinton."

Schwadron believes that George Washington was the best president to serve our country.

"He was burdened with being the first leader and he had to set the example. He didn't seek a third term and he

was extremely humble with the title he held. [Washington] guided our nation from its birth."

Most of Schwadron's spare time is spent researching issues for his lobbyist position and "catching up on all of the classics" in literature. He also enjoys reading biographies on past presidents. "I want to understand them and their presidencies and what they thought and did during their terms," he said.

Besides politics and studies, Schwadron is a football, baseball and hockey enthusiast.

"I actually lost my job at the Creve Coeur Theater because I went to the Cardinal's playoff game instead of work," he said, laughing.

Schwadron's next political venture involves the 2004 congressional election. He will serve as campaign manager for a friend who is running for Missouri State Representative.

Participating in congressional elections is not new to Schwadron. His father ran for congress in the 2002 election against William Lacy Clay. "I still have the bumper sticker on my car," he said.

After the 2004 election, Schwadron plans to "play it by ear" because of the inconsistent nature of politics. "I'm also considering teaching American history or political science at the high school level. I'd like to educate kids right at the beginning of the time that they decide what they want to do, just like David Matter did for me," he said.

Schwadron encourages people to ask him questions regarding politics and otherwise. "There's this stigma that all Republicans are evil creatures," he said. "However, we can relate on a non-political level. Besides, when it comes down to it, I'm still a person, not a party."



Kate Drolet/The Current

Political Science major Adam Schwadron, currently a legislative assistant for ASUM, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri has ambitions of running for a national office. Schwadron is a former president of the College Republicans. He resigned to become a student lobbyist.

Focus on diversity

Task force examines race rela-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Deborah Burris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, led a meeting Friday afternoon for the campus diversity task force. Faculty, staff and students were welcomed to discuss the state of campus diversity, race relations, and strategies for improvement. Some topics discussed included student involvement in campus events and activity groups, perceived racial discrimination by campus staff, and the inclusion of minority issues in classrooms.

One attendee, Rochelle DeClue Walker, assistant director of Multicultural Relations, saw much room for improvement. Walker related, "I was [a student] here in 1975 and what is disturbing to me is that I see the same kind of segregation I saw back then."

Norman Seay, coordinator in human resources, was more optimistic, saying, "I've been in the field for a long time, and we have made progress. We used to be at extreme poles. I think one of the keys is to pull together people based on their interests, and then we can begin to make inroads."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Stanford Griffith, senior, English, and editor-in-chief of *The Current* newspaper, spoke at the meeting for the diversity task force Friday. Griffith suggested that a "Cultural Day" celebration be held, with various student groups preparing posters about a variety of culture, as a way to spark cultural understanding on campus. He also fielded concerns about the lack of many African-American students on the *Current* staff. He noted that only very seldom does the *Current* receive interest from African-American students about staff positions.

Graduation blues strike again?

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Graduation is supposed to be an exciting time for students, faculty, family and friends. Yet, many seniors panic once they realize what awaits them.

Seniors tend to feel a bit shaken about graduating because, for one, they believe that their experience is insufficient. In other cases, students might be more interested in some time off rather than facing corporate America head-on.

"I don't have a job lined up. I'm waitressing right now, and I think I'll

start looking [for a job] a few months after graduation, just to take a little break," said Kara Jordan, a senior business administration and marketing major.

What to do after graduation is on the minds of most seniors. Some say there are only two options available: start your career or continue your education. Yet there are still even more options within these two choices.

Some students have signed up with Career Services to gain work experience. According to a Career Services advisor, 80 percent of students enrolled with Career Services find full time employment within a year of graduation.

Even as a graduate, it is not too late for students to get experience in their field. They can still make themselves more marketable. Some options include post graduate internships, part-time and volunteer positions in their field and temporary positions. All of these might be easier to get into than a full time position. They also let students shop around without losing credibility or making a poor impression on employers.

"Graduation is a beautiful thing and it is up to us to define our own realities and not run away from the challenges of the real world," said Charles Robinson, a senior mass communication major.

What's in a major?

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

"What's your major?" is probably the most commonly asked question among college students.

Sometimes we are given the short answer, such as "chemistry," "communications," "biology" or "English." Still we wonder, why did they choose that major? What are the prospects after graduation?

Some people choose a major to make a mark on society.

"I have always been interested in the government and politics," said Annette Trotter, senior criminology major. "I

vice president of marketing and artistic development in the music industry. "I also interned at 95.5, a rap station. It was hard, but I liked working with the people. I want to be the person to decide how each artist is portrayed, which music goes on the CDs, which songs to release as singles and which posters to distribute to radio stations," Thacker said.

In recent years, certain majors have been in high demand. According to the Collegiate Resurgence in Career Recruitment Trends in 2002-2003, the majors for which demand has increased the most include: transportation (except airlines), with a 53 percent increase;



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Lorraine Simeone, senior academic advisor counsels a student in the University Advising Center earlier this month. Simeone says students should see the advisors as a referral service that can help steer students towards courses that might help them choose their major.

want to go into intelligence in the Air Force, then train in the FBI. There is a feeling that a lot of government agencies are corrupt; some of them are. I want to make my opinions heard. I want to be the type of person who tends to the needs for the average person, not just the wealthy. Every voice should be heard and every class should be represented."

Some people choose their major because it presents a challenge.

One such student is Andrew Stephan, who is working on his masters in Mathematics. "I chose mathematics because it seemed like the hardest major and it seemed a greater challenge," said Stephan. He is planning on earning a doctorate so that he can teach college mathematics.

Some people choose a major that reflects the fields they grew up around. It seems only natural that they study it as well.

"My father was a deejay and my brother is a deejay," said Kenyatta Thacker, sophomore and communications major, who hopes to become a

construction, with 42 percent; food and lodging, with 22 percent; retail, with 8 percent; business, with 6 percent and computer science, with 5 percent.

The majors that students are pursuing reflect this trend. According to Tresa Balasteari, provisional director of Career Services, "The majors that are the most requested are often accounting, sales and secondary education in science and math."

Senior Advisor Lora Simeone also sees an upsurge of interest in these majors. Off the top of my head, I see a lot of requests for computer science, business administration, criminology and communications," she said. She hopes that students' decisions are not based solely on the market but are also a result of classes taken, a true interest in their chosen field and speaking with faculty.

Trotter, Stephan, Hardin and Thacker agree with Simeone's assessment and clearly enjoy their majors. They also feel that the classes they have taken are very pertinent to their future careers.

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Students uninsured

BY SARA KNIFFEN
Staff Writer

Roughly 30 percent of college students do not have health insurance, according to the Chickering Group (an insurance provider) and Heinz Family Philanthropies. In 2002, there were approximately 14.5 million college students in the United States.

Some students lose coverage through their parents after a certain age; others are not able to find employment offering both the coverage and the flexibility needed to attend classes. Still others cannot afford insurance in addition to educational expenses.

Luckily, students often have access to campus health services, where treatment is free or low-cost.

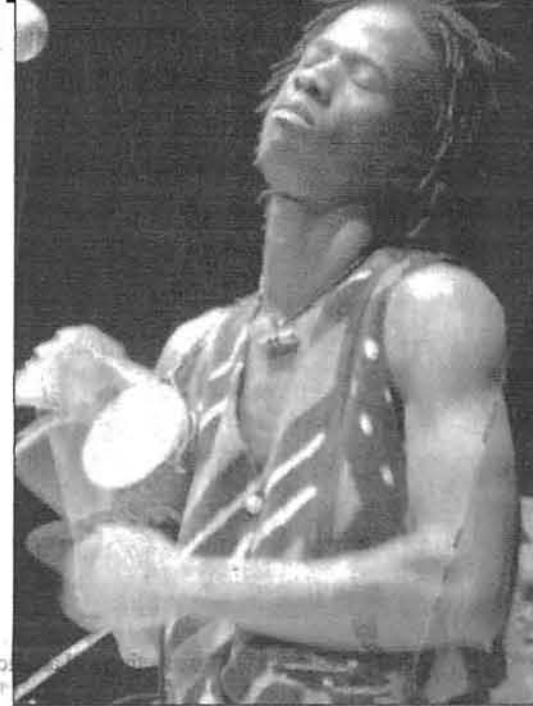
Students attending the UM - St. Louis are offered basic health care. University Health Services, an ambulatory care clinic, is located in room 131 of the Millennium Student Center. Care is provided under the direction of a nurse practitioner, who holds a doctoral degree.

Services offered at University Health include treatment of minor injury and illness, screening exams, immunizations, strep throat testing, pregnancy testing, urinalysis and allergy injections. There is also a limited supply of prescription drugs available and offered at a discounted rate. Prescriptions do require an exam.

From Mali to Missouri: Habib Koite



Acclaimed Malian Musician Habib Koite and his band Bamada performed an inspired set to a diverse audience Thursday evening at the J.C. Penney auditorium. Performing on guitar, vocals, and a variety of percussive and woodwind instruments, Koite roused the crowd with his intimate and soulful tunes. Koite and Bamada are on tour to support his latest album *Baro*, which features Kélétigui Diabaté, a virtuoso of the balafon, a West African wooden-keyed Xylophone.



Mike Sherwin and Lishu Qul The Current

Makeover Madness



Photos by Sara Quiroz

Shayla Turner, freshman, political science, receives a wash and cut Valentine's Day at Regis Salon in the Galleria. Turner says "I signed up as a joke. I didn't think that they would actually pick me." To celebrate Valentine's Day, the office of Student Life held a makeover contest. Winners were treated to a full makeover at the Galleria. Winners included Shayla Turner, Lauren Re and Melissa Stack.

UNINSURED, from page 1

Most services are offered at no charge. However, selected screenings, tests and services may be offered on a fee-for-service basis.

Another option for students is the Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan. This is a major medical policy that offers coverage for specific inpatient and outpatient procedures. It does not cover dental. Coverage can be purchased each semester or on an annual basis. To qualify for this plan, you must be a student taking courses for credit and on campus. This plan is especially helpful for international students who are required to have health insurance.

Students without health insurance are less likely to finish their studies, according to the Heinz Family Philanthropies. By utilizing these low-cost, on-campus options, many students can avoid this pitfall.



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Health Educator Kathy Castulik recommends to every student to budget for health insurance while in college.

Staff Association Trivia Night

saturday, march 15th

play begin at 7:00pm
at st. ann's parish
register by friday, march 7, 2003
in rec sports office (203 mark twain 516-5326),
accounting services (204 woods 516-5090), and
student life (366 MSC 516-5291).

Trivia competition will consist of 10 rounds of 10 questions each. Each round will feature a different category such as History, Sports, Geography, Entertainment, etc. Teams will answer the questions within a given time and correct answers will be tallied for each round. The team with the highest point score at the end of the evening will win the tourney. Teams consist of eight (8) people (student, faculty, staff, and/or community members). This event is co-sponsored by UM-St. Louis Staff Association and Rec Sports and Office of Student Life to benefit the John Perry Staff Association Scholarship Fund.

\$80.00 per team (individuals also welcome ...\$10.00 in advance; \$15.00 at the door)



Thank you to all those who participated in BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Julie Clifford
Kristen Adrian
Nicole Kaiser
Shanna Stotler
Riannon Grimsbo
Ellen Schulte
Nicole Unger
Katie Dalton
Dony Ross
Katie Gierse
Ashley Chambers
Jon Rickey
Levi Locke
Carlos Madrid
Lauren Wiele

Emily Burger
Taish Faulkner
Mataji Muhammad
Brenda Ali
Tannia Jacobs
Sarah Beavette
Amanda Cain
Ashley Teter
Angie Relerford
Robert Clarke
Brent Mathney
Brian Rails
Paul Owens
Dan Walsh

Brought to you by University Program Board

R-men ready for playoffs

UMSL roller hockey squad will skate for possible championship bid

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Roller Hockey

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

With the final weekend of regular-season play behind them, the UM-St. Louis Roller Hockey team is standing tall. The team has a 13-1-1 record, along with two overtime losses, and is in third place in Division II of the Great Plains Region of the Collegiate Roller Hockey League.

According to Matt Hirschfeld, the team's student representative, the Rivermen's current success is due, in part, to having a coach.

"When this team started, after the first six games we were 3-3," Hirschfeld said. "Since we got our coach, we've been on a tear. We've

won eight games, one tie. For anyone who thinks they can beat the league and not have a coach, this shows that it definitely helps."

The Rivermen will now look forward to the Great Plains Region playoffs, which are scheduled to begin this weekend. The team is slated to face Central Missouri State [8-8-0-1] in the first round of the D-II playoffs at the All-American Sports Complex at 2:50 p.m. on Feb. 22.

"Depending on how good we do at regionals, we may actually be able to go to nationals," Team President Kevin Wesner said. "That's something else to look forward to."

The Rivermen will also be looking forward to a full schedule on Feb. 22. Aside from the game against Central Missouri State, the UM-St. Louis squad will face Southwest Missouri State at 6:10 p.m. and St. Louis University at 8:40 p.m. Central

Missouri State is in fifth place in the division, while St. Louis University currently sits atop the D-II standings at 16-2-0-0.

UM-St. Louis had another full booking during their final weekend of play. The team faced Southeast Missouri State [13-3-1-0] on Feb. 8 and Central Missouri State and Western Illinois University [15-3-0-0] on Feb. 9.

The squad fell behind early in their game against Central Missouri State and the game remained close throughout. Ben Lambert and Will Roestel each had two goals in the game to bring the Rivermen a 7-6 win. Roestel, who also notched an assist, scored the game-winning goal.

"I think our team plays down to the other team's level," Wesner said. "We can go and beat a team like Western Illinois and then go play Central and give them a shot at beat-

ing us, and that's not a good way to play. We didn't really bring our best game against Central, but we ended up bringing out a win."

Goalie Tommy Ames, who was sitting out the game, received a one-game suspension for throwing a helmet at an opposing player. As a result, back-up goalie Tim Whitmyre will start for the Rivermen in his place in the first round of the regional playoffs.

UM-St. Louis notched a 4-3 victory over second-place Western Illinois. The Western Illinois squad is led, offensively, by Tom Kotek. Kotek, who leads the league in scoring with 71 points in 17 games, has 46 goals on the season.

"Western Illinois is considered to be the best offensive team because they've got the leading point and goal scorer in league," Hirschfeld said. "We knew that, in order to win the

game, we had to make sure that he didn't score anymore. Fortunately for us, he didn't."

In the game, John Girard scored a late goal in the first half to tie the game for the Rivermen at 3-3. Lambert scored the game winner. Kotek was held to one goal in the game.

While Ames put on a nice showing behind the net for the Rivermen, stopping 26 of 27 shots, UM-St. Louis skated to a 1-1 tie against Southeast Missouri State. The Rivermen had two power plays while Southeast Missouri State had five, including one in overtime.

Hirschfeld stressed the importance of the power play.

"We had four or five penalty kills we had to face in the whole game," Hirschfeld said. "One of those came in the overtime, so we had no chance to finish off the game."

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...



Rivermen Coach Mark Bernsen, Assistant Coach Deryn Carter and Jared Pratt react to the tough game on Feb. 8 vs. Bellarmine. The Rivermen suffered a 78-67

Mike Sherwin/The Current

UMSL drops fifteenth straight game

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team got off to a slow start at Saint Joseph's and had to play from behind the rest of the game before eventually falling 87-78 to the Pumas.

The Rivermen failed to get a field goal until the 15:50 mark as the Pumas quickly jumped out to a 19-5 lead in the first ten minutes of the game. Saint Joseph's would then lead by 15 points, at 29-14, before UM-St. Louis would start to chip away at that lead. The Rivermen used a 9-2 run, including a three-point play from Sherome Cole, to cut the lead to eight points, at 29-21.

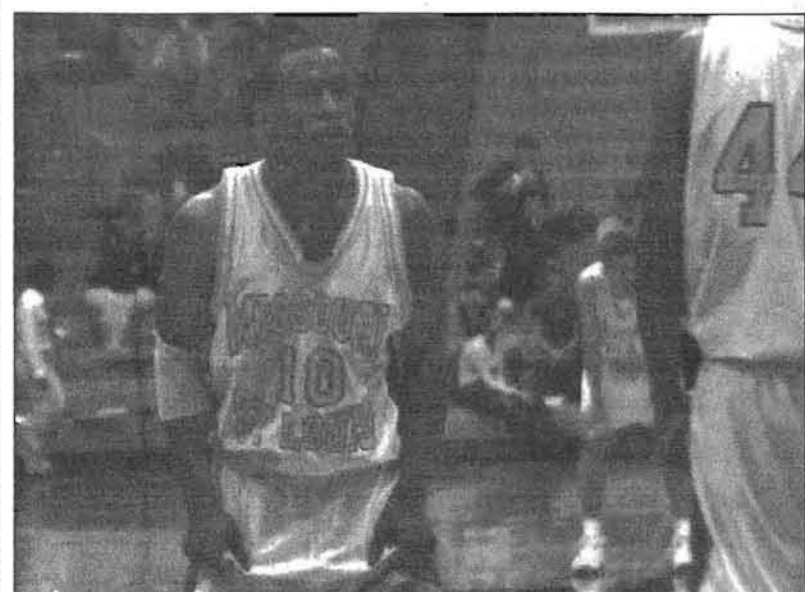
The Pumas would slowly get the lead back to 12 points, at 35-23, before Ronnie Banks would connect on back-to-back three-pointers in a 20-second span and cut the lead in half at 35-29. Saint Joseph's then got a baseline jumper from Hodges Smith to lead by eight points, 37-29, at half-time.

The Pumas came out and scored the first two buckets of the second half, pushing their lead out to 12

points, at 43-31, in the opening minutes of the second half. The Rivermen then chipped away at the Puma lead, knocking it down to just seven points at 54-47, with just under ten minutes remaining. UM-St. Louis then got six straight points to cut the lead to just one point, at 54-53.

The Rivermen stayed close the next couple of minutes, answering each St. Joseph's basket with one of their own. Ronnie Banks got a three-point play to cut the lead back to one point at 65-64. On the next possession, Banks got two free throws to give UM-St. Louis its first lead of the game at 66-65, with seven minutes to play. The game would be tied at 68-68 when Saint Joseph's would get control of the game with an 8-2 run to lead 76-70 with 3:38 left on the clock and would go on from there to win the game 87-78.

UM-St. Louis was led by Ronnie Banks, with a game-high 35 points on the night, marking a new career high for him, and Sherome Cole added a career high as well, with 14 points. Hodges Smith scored 19 points for Saint Joseph's in the Pumas' win. The Rivermen are now 5-17 on the season and 2-15 in the GLVC.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

ABOVE: Riverman Ronnie Banks



Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE: Rivermen center Jared Pratt leaps for a successful layup during play vs. Bellarmine.

SPORTS

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HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Basketball

Feb. 20

• Women - 5:30 p.m.
vs. Lewis

• Men - 7:45 p.m.
vs. Lewis

22

• Women - 5:30 p.m.
vs. SIU-Edwardsville

• Men - 7:45 p.m.
vs. SIU-Edwardsville

26

• Women - 5:30 p.m.
vs. Lincoln

• Men - 7:45 p.m.
vs. Lincoln

March 1

• Women - 1 p.m.
vs. S. Indiana

• Men - 3:15 p.m.
vs. S. Indiana

GLVC tourney

• Women - March 4-8
in Evansville, Ind.

• Men - March 5-8
in Evansville, Ind.

Tennis

March 1

• Men - 4:30 p.m.
vs. Truman State
at Frontenac Rec Center

9

• Men - noon
vs. Central College

WEB

Check out the R-men
and R-women sports at
www.ums-l-sports.com

**UM-St. Louis
Riverwomen
Basketball**

The first half was a back-and-forth battle of scoring runs. The Riverwomen started off the game holding Saint Joseph's without a field until the 13:46 mark as the Pumas could only manage some free throws during that time. UM-St. Louis used that slow start by SJC to jump out to an early seven-point lead, 12-5, in the opening minutes of the game. With UM-St. Louis up 15-8, the Pumas sprinted out with an 11-0 run to take their first lead of the game, at 19-15, with just over ten minutes left in the half. Saint Joseph's would push that lead out to as many as seven points at 28-21 before the Riverwomen came charging back. UM-St. Louis used a 14-0 run, including five points each from Ebonie Halliburton and Christy Lane, to turn that seven-point deficit into a seven-point lead at 35-28. UM-St. Louis would extend that lead

UM-St. Louis was led by Ebonie Halliburton with a game-high 27 points, and Sarah Hyslop and Christy Lane with 12 points each. Saint Joseph's had three players over 20 points, led by Michelle Wegner and Courtney Rosenbaum with 22 points each. Both teams were hitting the long ball, as UM-St. Louis hit 13 three-pointers as a team, and Saint Joseph's hit 10 three-pointers in the game.

The Riverwomen are now 9-13 on the season and 4-13 in the GLVC. UM-St. Louis will return home next weekend when they host Lewis University on Thursday, February 20, at 5:30 p.m. and SIU-Edwardsville on Saturday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m.

UM-St. Louis will return home next weekend when they host SIU-Edwardsville on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the annual Homecoming Game.

40. Sarah Hyslop came off the bench to help spark the UM-St. Louis run early in the half, scoring ten points during that stretch. The Riverwomen would then push that lead up to as many as 15 points, at 69-54, after a

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has scheduled a number of activities and events for some of the upcoming men's and women's basketball home games. Following is a schedule of those events:

THURSDAY, FEB. 20 -
vs. Lewis
Women: 5:30 p.m.
Men: 7:45 p.m.
Homecoming Court Night
Spirit Competition Night

SATURDAY, FEB. 22-
vs. SIU-Edwardsville
Women: 1:00 p.m.
Men: 3:15 p.m.
Homecoming Game
Alumni Family Day

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or
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there are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's MasterCard®



No purchase necessary. 50 essay entrants win a summer study program. 12 of the 50 win a 2-week internship. Contest open to undergraduate students, 18-25, who are U.S. residents. Ends 4/11/03. Restrictions apply. Go to mastercard.com for Official Rules and complete details. Major League Baseball trademarks and copyrights are used with permission of Major League Baseball Properties.

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A&E

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CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

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A&E

Calendar

Movies

FEB. 14

Intacto - Spanish thriller about a group of people who have a special touch of luck and their ruthless struggle to cash in on the gift; stars Christopher Plummer.

Love Liza - touching drama about a man coping after his wife commits suicide; stars Philip Seymour Hoffman and Kathy Bates.

Special:

Seven Samurai - a new, restored copy of the glorious classic from legendary director Akira Kurosawa, a film on nearly everyone's lists of greatest movies of all times (except of course, the clueless AFI). The ultimate Japanese samurai movie and a great epic film; starring Toshiro Mifume. One week only at the Tivoli.

FEB. 21

Life of David Gale - drama about a death penalty opponent framed for murder and sentenced to death; stars Kevin Spacey and Kate Winslett.

Dark Blue - action/thriller about LAPD Special Investigations squad; stars Kurt Russell and Ving Rhames.

Gods and Generals - historical drama; a companion piece to the Civil War film "Gettysburg."

Ararat - excellent indie film told through three stories and centering on a film about the early twentieth-century Armenian genocide.

Max - an indie what-if film about a Jewish art teacher instructing an aspiring young artist named Hitler; stars John Cusack.

Special:

Lost in La Mancha - documentary film about Terry Gilliam's failed attempt to make a film out of "Man of La Mancha." A filmmaker's worst nightmare come true; stars Johnny Depp. One week only at the Tivoli.

CD REVIEW

Sons of a preacher man

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

These four family musicians are stepping out and reinventing classic rock as we know it. The Kings of Leon have produced an album that blends their own history with that of generations of rock in America. Barely a year ago, the Followill brothers – Jared, Caleb, and Nathan – joined forces with their cousin Matthew to test their luck on the modern music circuits. So far, they have proved to be making their mark on the business. Rolling Stone magazine has named The Kings of Leon one of the ten bands to watch in 2003.

By the looks of these guys you would not jump to the conclusion that they are the new American Idols, and that's exactly what they are going for. These thrift-clothes laden lads have a style that combines seventies grunge with the laid back modern day retro wave. I gotta tell you, I dig their look, especially their long, careless rock star ready hair. These rebels of modern rock are successfully battling the stereotypes that accompany their background as the family of a United Pentecostal pastor.

Yet, it is this background that has given the quartet the musical inspiration behind their tunes. Between their time spent in the church music scene and their upbringing in the musically extravagant city of Memphis, the Kings of Leon have salvaged a widely diverse history to build upon. Carrying the name of their grandfather, Leon, these southern boys have compiled some songs that will blow the Partridge Family right out of their neon bus.

Holy Roller Novocaine is an attempt to capture classic southern-style rock and garage-band grunge into a five-track exposition. Their hard and steady chord progressions have roots in Neil Young hits like "Heart of Gold," along with motivation from his softer tunes like "Damage Done." The four men are expressing their imagination with words that put real-life experiences into melody. Songs such as "Molly's Chambers" taps into the male mindset on love and relationships with a story about taking a chance on a dangerous yet captivating girl. The lyrics filling the songs on their first album demonstrate the passions and emotions of real-life guys having typical experiences in this world. The album hits the stores on Feb. 18, so grab a copy and check out this thesis on classic rock and roll assembled by people just like you!

The CD reminds me of something that the Violent Femmes would have compiled during their rise to fame, with catchy lyrics and hard rock undertones. The Kings of Leon set themselves apart from the other uprising rock groups by wailing out some powerful vocal harmonies. These voice-blending masterpieces are something that are atypical to garage bands, and I feel this respect to harmonic technicalities has been lost throughout the years of rock and roll's



Kings of Leon are a young rock band from Tennessee and consist of three brothers and a cousin. Photo courtesy of RCA Records

tumble into the new millennium.

The Kings of Leon are an inspiration to all of those musicians that are trying to make it in a world of music that frequently forces artists to fit into

a mold. They are a prime example of how a few teenagers with a dream and sparkling talent can rise in an industry with a low survival rate. So, if you're a musician who wants your face on the cover of "Rolling Stone," don't give up and don't change a thing about your image—be yourself in all of your expression and dedication for music, and you can also find fame!

BOOK REVIEW

Surviving the twenties

Developmental years in review

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

The 20s are a rough age for most people. They involve coming out of college, starting a career and finally living in the so-called real world. In their book "Regeneration," Jennifer Karlin and Amelia Borofsky capture those feelings in the poems, short stories, artwork and photographs of various artists and writers.

Like most anthologies, "Regeneration" has some stellar entries and some not-so-stellar entries, but the good outweighs the bad as each writer describes their hopes, fears, insecurities and uncertainties about their lives. Karlin and Borofsky divide the stories into four separate categories, each dealing with certain issues. The first section, "Navigating," deals with stories in which characters travel from one place to another searching for the answers to certain questions. The second (mostly hilarious) section "Working," shows many characters stuck in jobs they hate and shows the jobs they wish they had. The third, "Relating," deals with characters and their interactions with family, friends and romantic interests. The final section, "Dreaming," is a bit more ambiguous as it deals with many sub-

jects, perhaps all with the common theme of characters who wish their lives were different.

Many of the stories are told with vibrancy and energy, and it seems a shame that most of the stories are

visits her family's country to deal with her nagging parents, her homosexuality and questions about herself. It is only in Taiwan that she remembers what she loved about America so much.

Another story is the satirical "Take Back the Siesta.com" by Andy Isaacson, which is written as an email proposal, sort of an updated version of Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal" in which Isaacson, like Swift, uses humor to point out some of society's flaws. In the proposal, Isaacson suggests that the United States initiate the Spanish and Mexican custom of taking a siesta, or short nap, in the afternoon. Using this laughable idea, Isaacson expertly points out how rushed he believes society is and how harried we have become.

Some selections don't work quite as well. Many of the poems are pretentious and rarely seem to get to the point. Some short stories are problems too, such as "The Schrodinger's Treatment" by Lee Konstantinou, which is one of the longest stories in the anthology and practically requires a degree in psychology to understand.

Yet despite the flaws, "Regeneration" is a wonderful book that captures the lives of many young people. It shows us our lives in a few simple pages.

“Dreaming,” is a bit more ambiguous as it deals with many subjects, perhaps all with the common theme of characters who wish their lives were different.

only three to ten pages, almost as if Karlin and Borofsky told them, "This is how long we want these stories to be. Tell the story, come to a climax and wrap it up as quickly as possible." As a result, many of the better stories seem a little rushed but are still wonderfully written. One story, "Beautiful Country" by Emmeline Chang, is a very strong and beautiful story about a young Taiwanese-American who

CD REVIEW

Starr is born

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

Garrison Starr, a fresh new 27-year-old pop-rock and country voice, has left many people from her hometown in Hernando, Mississippi, proud of her for succeeding with her ambitions. Garrison Starr began singing at a young age and started cultivating thoughts of becoming famous in high

major turnabout after it hit store shelves in 2002.

She began to perform at larger venues, not like the old coffee houses where she struggled to make a career. In the mid '90s, much of her success came from her playing at the popular summer concert tour Lilith Fair. She has also been given the chance to open concerts for singers like Melissa Etheridge, Steve Earle and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

SONGS FROM TAKE-OFF TO LANDING

Photo courtesy of Black Porch Records

For more information on Garrison Starr, visit Black Porch Records at www.blackporchrecords.com.

school. She began performing at coffee houses and clubs around Memphis.

While singing and putting on shows at the many places near her hometown, she became pretty popular within her community. Still a teenager, she became friends with the regulars who would come to watch her perform.

Growing up with a dream, practicing her vocals and strumming on her guitar, she was influenced by the Indigo Girls, Bonnie Raitt and Tom Petty.

In 1997, Starr released her mainstream debut, "Eighteen Over Me." The album did not receive as much notice as she thought it would. Fears of failure and unpopularity gave her little hope and she wondered whether or not she should continue.

Unsure about where her singing career was going to take her, she struggled to keep her music alive. Frustrated, she put her career on a temporary hold.

After two years, her life-long friend Clay encouraged her not to give up on her musical abilities. Despite the long break, Starr came back stronger than ever. Clay got her ready to produce another CD by helping her write lyrics and rehearse.

Starr received a record label deal at the age of 20. The album "Songs From Take-Off to Landing" was recorded by Milwaukee based Narada Records and took two years to complete. The album is a part of the many Backporch/Virgin releases. "Songs From Take-Off to Landing" had a

Her sounds are not just like the regular country or pop-rock artists, who write lyrics about the troubles of love and life. Her words are inspiring and come straight from her heart about how she feels.

The hit song "Big Sky" has been said to sound similar to the tunes of Sheryl Crow. The lyrics "to take off to landing" seem to suggest Starr's finally accomplishing what she had planned. "Big Sky" can likewise be related to her wish to become big in the industry.

Track 4, "Madness," has an edgy beat, with her expressive voice shining throughout, and the song demonstrates her great guitar ability.

One of my favorite songs on the disc, "Silent Night," is a wonderful song to relax to. The harmony is slow and sweet. This song is comparable to those of singers Dido and Jewel.

Though she has played for fans in Memphis, Nashville, Milwaukee and Mississippi, St. Louis got a taste of her voice when she performed February 8 at the Pageant. She is set to make more appearances in St. Louis in the near future.

Starr does not have to work very hard to capture her fan base. Most people who listen to her music are easily able to connect with the sounds.

She may be older than today's average female singer, but to her and to many of her fans the long wait has paid off. This shining Starr will continue to be recognized and will continue to work hard to bring her fame to bigger heights.



ReGeneration

Telling Stories from Our Twenties

GAME REVIEW

'Two Towers' gets four stars

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

In "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," you get to play as Aragorn, Gimli or Legolas, which is great because who wants to be Frodo anyway? What's that, you can't wait for the Two Towers DVD to come out? Nerd. You need to buy this game; it's got half the movie in DVD quality already, and you get to actually play through the rest of it. I'd warn people not to play the game if they haven't seen the movie, but I can't imagine that the warning would still apply to anyone.

If you like to kill ugly things, this game is for you. Carnage was the buzzword floating around EA Games when they crafted this gem, but despite the rivers of orc-blood you're about to spill, they didn't ignore their cinematic responsibilities. "The Two Towers" moves seamlessly from movie to game and back and begins all the way at the prologue of the first Jackson/Tolkien movie, "Fellowship of the Ring," in which you play as Isildur. From there you take the role of Aragorn fighting off the ringwraiths at Weathertop (where one of them stabs an invisible Frodo) and then move into the heart of the game. It's not just fun to play; it's so damn beautiful that it's worth just watching.

The three primary characters have skills (like in an RPG, but don't mistake this killfest for something more complicated) that are purchased with experience earned in battle. The trick is that there are easy ways to kill the bad guys, and then there are cool, stylistic ways.

As Legolas, you can pump any orc full of arrows, but it's more satisfying (and experience-yielding) to whip out your twin swords and sink them into his collarbone. Now add to this the devastatingly cool fact that your swords get stuck in his chest and Legolas has to kick against the orc-corpse to pull them

back out. Both Aragorn and Gimli also have similarly cool moves that yield first-rate experience bonuses. (Aragorn's Orc-Bane throat-slit is the bomb.)

The fancy moves involve button combos that remind me of the old-school "Mortal Kombat," but with less trash talk and gore.

The gameplay is rudimentary and uncomplicated, and all of the unlockable moves are optional. In fact, without any finesse at all, most players will be able to play through the game once in just a few hours. Of course, each of the thirteen levels is playable by all three characters, lending some replay value, but their primary

differences lie in appearance. Gimli walks loudly and carries a big axe, while Legolas is the god of archery, and Aragorn is a fair mix of melee and missile combat.

The big secret in the game is that you can play as Isildur the whole way through if you beat it with another character first. Isildur is the guy who didn't throw the ring in the volcano at the beginning of the first movie, which was the cause of all the trouble in the first place. He's badass, with all the moves of Aragorn unlocked and retro-Middle Earth armor. Essentially, the addition of Isildur makes it worth playing through the game four times, but it's a great way to relieve stress any day, even if you just play part of the way through the game or the wacky bonus round where Saruman decides it would be cool to throw a crapload of cave trolls at you and see what happens.

Mostly you just kill a number of goblins, orcs and uruk-hai with a vague timer like "before Frodo dies" or "before Helm's Deep falls" counting down in the background. And yet, for all its simplicity (break the water barrels to save the villagers from the fire!), "The Two Towers" is still highly satisfying and worth the fifty bucks it costs, if just so you can whet your appetite for the uber-hyper DVD set coming later this year.

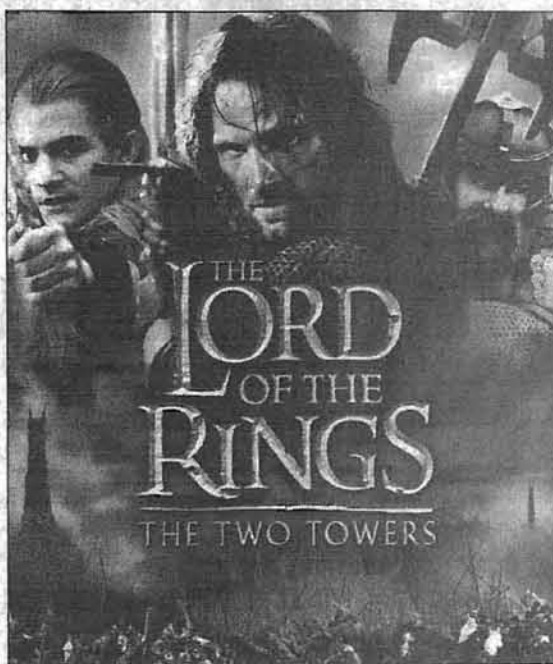


Photo courtesy of EA Games

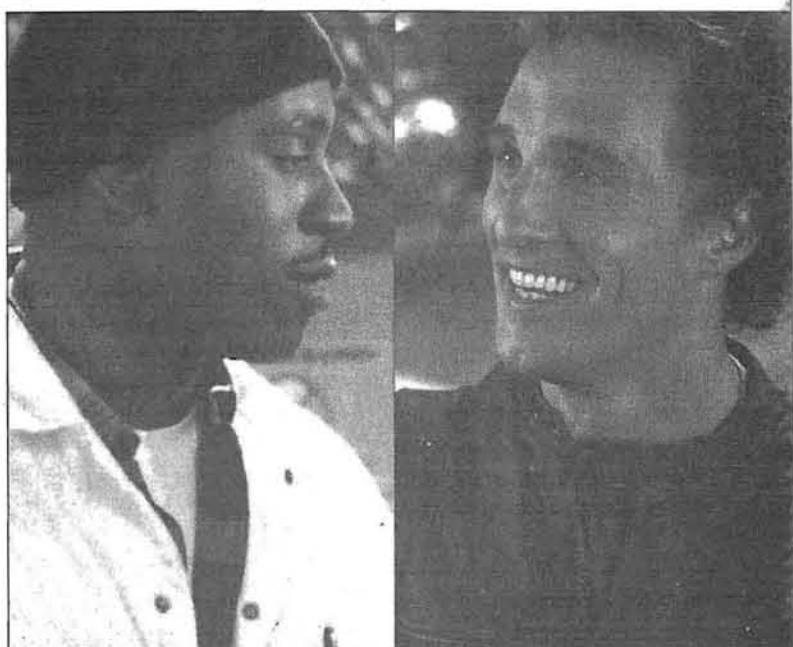
MOVIE REVIEW

Talking with the casts

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Guess what! I got to interview the casts and directors of the dueling romantic comedies, "Deliver Us From Eva" and "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," during a press junket to L.A. Want to find out how big and scary-

looking LL Cool J really is in person (not very; he's a sweetie) or what Matthew ("don't call me Matt, it's Matthew") McConaughey sounds like once he relaxes a bit (the Texas drawl gets really strong), and other bits, trivial or intriguing? If so, check out *The Current's* interviews with both casts on our website at www.thecurrentonline.com. And, yeah, the weather was great in L.A.



Photos courtesy of Focus Features and Paramount Pictures

LL Cool J in "Deliver us from Eva." Matthew McConaughey in "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days'.

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Body Image & Women's Health
12-1 p.m. 315 MSC

March 4
Sexual Aggression 101
1-2 p.m. Pilot House

March 10
Women's Rights are Human Rights
12-1 p.m. 315 MSC

March 15
Streetwise Survival
1-5 p.m. Century "B"

March 17
Gender, Crime & Justice
12-1 p.m. 315 MSC

March 17 & 18
Women's Expo
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2nd Floor MSC

March 19
"With a Song in My Heart"
2-4 p.m. 375 MSC

March 31
Women, Science & Culture
12-1 p.m. 315 MSC

For more information on these programs, contact Student Life at 516-5291!

HISTORY

THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Jason Granger Adam Bodendieck

Fret not, faithful readers! We're back with a vengeance, and we promise never to leave you again—which is a nice change of pace for us, because usually we're the ones begging someone to come back [Jason: I promise baby, I ain't going to hit you no more. I love you, baby! Please come home...]

But seriously, we want to thank Pamela and Chris for doing such a fan-damn-tastic job last week, even if their views pertaining to Valentine's Day were slightly skewed. Let us know what you thought about the ladies and maybe we'll bring them back for another run sometime... If for no other reason than it makes for a really easy week for us.

Speaking of really easy weeks, you probably noticed that the column prior to last week's was a repeat of the column that ran the previous week (Got all that? Good). We won't go into the sordid details of how such a travesty might have occurred, and we certainly won't lay the blame at any one person's feet [Adam's note: I don't want to name any names, but I'll give you all a hint: the initials of the idiot who screwed up are "J.Granger"; wait, that's too obvious... how about "Jason G."]? Yeah, that's better... [Jason's note: Adam, I hate you.]

So this week, just to get everything straightened out, we're going to run the column that should have run two week's ago. Enjoy. [Jason's note: My bad.]

Ok, let's be perfectly honest: We're kind of half-assing it this week (Don't look at us like that — you know everybody does it sometimes). But don't worry, gentle reader — chances are you won't even be able to tell a difference; we usually only give about 3/4 percent anyway, so in reality you're only getting about 1/4 percent less ass than usual (assuming that our math is correct...) With that being said, let's roll!

Dear Village Idiots,
Lately I have been having very bizarre fantasies. They all involve a clown and a tricycle; sometimes there are even multiple clowns and a very small car. I don't know what has caused this, but now whenever I see Ronald McDonald, I have to excuse myself for a little "alone time." I love McDonald's cheeseburgers, but I avoid going there because of this. I don't feel like I can discuss this with anyone because I don't want to be known as the girl with a sick fetish. I also fear that this will interfere with my sex life. I don't understand why it has to be clowns. Ever since Stephen King's "It," I have been terrified of clowns. Why can't I have normal fantasies involving being tied down or blindfolded or smacked on the ass? Please help me! Them clowns is creepy!
-Love, Seriously In Need of a Different Fantasy

Dear In Need,
[Note: This is an example of the type of letter that always gets us into trouble. We can practically guarantee that no matter how we respond to this, we're going to get some sort of hate mail over the course of the week chiding us for something ridiculous like condoning clown molestation or sexual deviancy...or date rape (for those who remember from last semester, that was our all time favorite hate mail; unfortunately, our detractors just don't write 'em like they used to...) However, we didn't become the #1 rated advice columnists in "The Current" (do the math) by selectively picking and choos-

ing which letters we respond to and which we ignore, so we're going to suck it up and answer as best we can, come what may...]

First of all, In Need, you have no idea how difficult it is for Jason to even answer this question — He has a crippling fear of clowns [Note: We're not kidding; he really, truly does]. But seeing as he is so dedicated to his loyal readers, he has decided to participate in this discussion (either that, or he's hoping to get in on this blindfolding and ass-smacking action...)

We agree with you, clowns are mighty creepy. All that makeup and crazy frilly outfits and stuff...you'd think they'd just go ahead and be hookers and be done with it. At least then we wouldn't be quite so apprehensive about going "under the big top." [Note: In retrospect, the preceding joke not only isn't all that funny, but hardly even makes sense. Sorry.] As for your problem, we really can't relate all that much. While we've received a lot of letters (approx. 2) about weird sexual fantasies, this is by far the most FUBAR-ed thing we have ever read. And thanks to you, it's going to be a long time before either of us will be able to order a tasty Big Mac; between the clown thing and the mention of being tied up, we're now picturing Ronald McDonald in bondage gear a la the basement scene in "Pulp Fiction." The less we say on that, the better...

So this is what you need to do: Sometimes the only way to get things like this get out of your system is through experience. So go find yourself the sexiest damn clown you can, tie him (or her, whatever) up, spank his (or her) ass and generally do whatever you want, or vice versa. [Jason's note: I think you should try to contact Stephen King and let him smack the crap out of you with a copy of "It" because, damn, you got problems. And I'm very angry with you for dragging me into your twisted little world of depraved debauchery. Seriously, clowns really creep me out...]

Anyway, that's our advice. And just to ensure that our detractors have plenty to work with, we also recommend that you meet us at a hotel where we can get you drunk and have sex with you (What do you mean this isn't the proper forum to condone date rape?)
-Love, Adam and Jason

Hey Adam and Jason,

How come this frozen tundra of a campus doesn't have an elaborate multimillion dollar system of skywalks, tunnels and people movers like at the airport?

Frigidly, Tiddy Bit Nippy

Dear Nippy,

Get real, man! The top brass at UM-St. Louis is way too responsible to undertake such a costly and frivolous project during these financially trying times, which is unfortunate since it's been so damn cold lately. Personally, we were okay with the weather until it started hindering our smoking enjoyment (yeah, we're those guys you see huddled up outside of any given building frantically puffing away on our cigarettes while our extremities freeze). We have often wondered why the school doesn't invest in a smoking lounge. After all, if we die of pneumonia before we graduate, they don't get our tuition (or "educational fees," as the case may be). But we digress...

Like we said, those in charge of UM-St. Louis' finances aren't about to

just throw money away on something that, while nice, is hardly a necessity...ahem...cough*Performing Arts Center*cough...Sorry, just had a little something in our throats there.

So we guess the moral of the story is that although you'll have to suffer through the cold while walking to classes, you can always stop for a brief spell in, say, the PAC (for instance) and warm up—assuming the center actually opens, that is. Good luck staying warm!

-Love, Jason and Adam

SPECIAL BONUS JOKE:

A man is sitting on a plane when a very attractive woman sits down in the seat next to him. Seeing as they'll be sitting next to each other for a few hours, the man decides to strike up a conversation. It goes a little something like this:

Man: Hello. Are you traveling to Florida for business or pleasure?

Woman: Business. I have a convention to attend.

Man: Really? What kind of convention?

Woman (hesitatingly): Well...it's a nymphomaniac convention. I'm the president of "Nymphomaniacs Anonymous."

The man thinks this is great. They keep talking and the subject soon turns to, of course, sex...

Man: I assume that you know a lot about sex, being a nymphomaniac and all, right?

Woman: Sure. It's what I do.

Man: Let me ask you a question: Is it true that the French are the best lovers?

Woman: Actually, no. Few people know this, but it's really Native Americans.

Man: Really! Go figure...Is it true then that the French are the best lovers?

Woman: Hardly. Believe it or not, it's Jewish men.

Man: Well I'll be...

At this point the plane lands and the man and woman prepare to embark...

Woman: Well, it's been nice talking to you. By the way, I never caught your name.

Man: Oh, I'm sorry, how rude of me...It's Tonto. Tonto Goldstein.

BA DUM BUM!

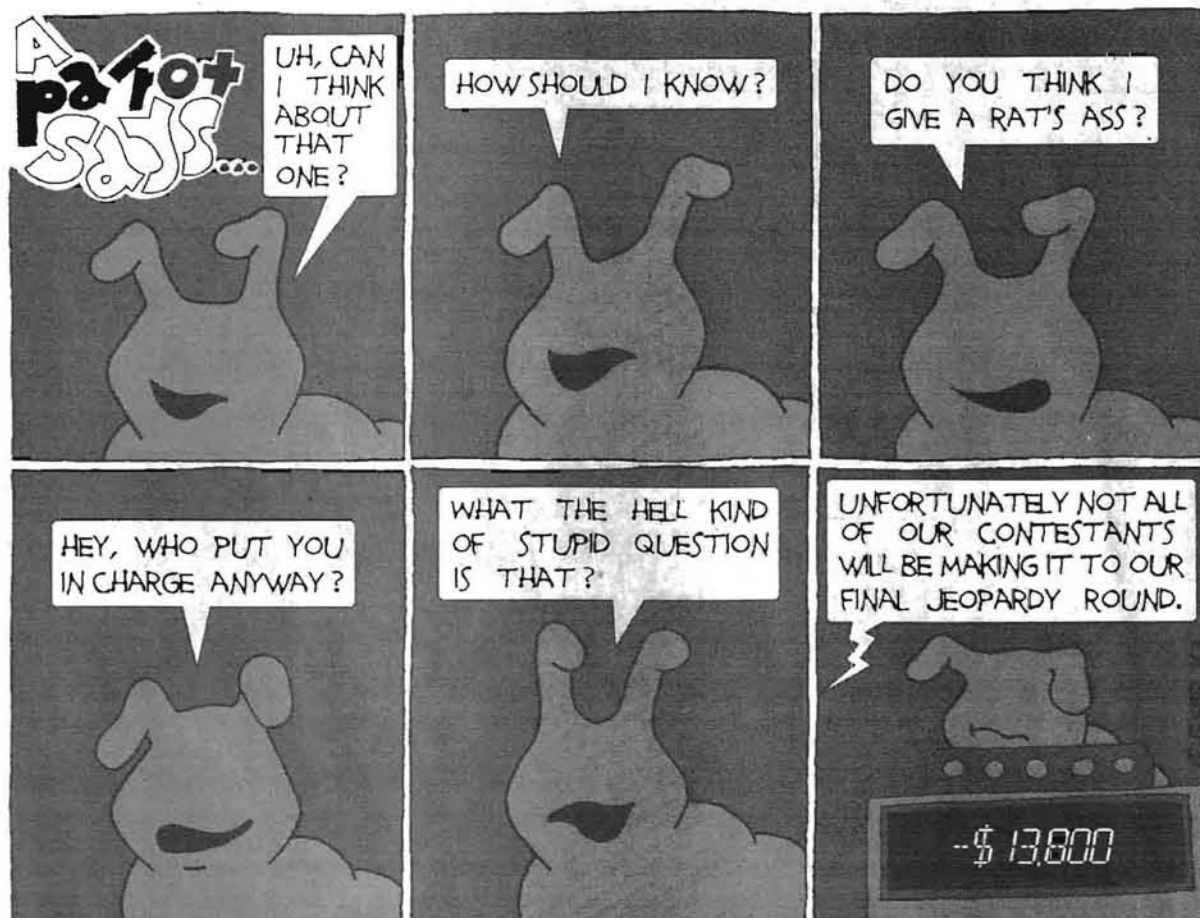
Well, that wasn't as bad as it could've been...hell, maybe it was; we kind of stopped paying attention about halfway through...

But remember, we're here to help you (Yes, you); if you have any questions, comments or inane ramblings, send them to villagedidiotsja@yahoo.com; you'll be better for it, we promise.

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: VillagedidiotsJA@yahoo.com. If you don't like e-mail, you can bring a question to us on the third floor of the MSC, room 388.

!!!DISCLAIMER!!!

Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger (and Pamela Harris and Chris Pearson) are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody.
-The Management



One of these people is a rapist...



can you guess which one?

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tuesday, march 4, 2003 -1:00pm in the pilot house

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<http://thecurrentonline.com> current@jinx.umsu.edu

Help Wanted

Table Tennis Anyone?

Rec Sports' annual Homecoming Ping-Pong Tournament is Monday, Feb. 17 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Building. Men's & Women's SINGLES with A & B Divisions. Fun for everyone! Register in the Rec Office 203 MT by Feb. 13.

Help Wanted

Dental Assistant needed for Florissant office. Experience not necessary but preferred. Office open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Flexible hours; will train. Call 921-4414.

Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs is seeking energetic, friendly, and highly motivated students to serve as mentors for New Student Orientation 2003. This is a paid position that requires participation in mentor development and all orientation dates. Applications are now being accepted with a deadline of Friday, March 14. Pick up an application packet from Student Life (366 MSC), the Bookstore, or online at www.umsu.edu/services/orientation. If you have questions or would like more information, call Rachel at 516-6551 or email rachel@umsu.edu.

95 Dodge Neon Sport

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Hunter green sofa bed, one year old, in excellent new condition; perfect for dorm or apartment. \$200. Please contact Shane or Holli @ (314) 805-6571.

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Seeking roommate

Seeking roommate to share large 4 bedroom house 2 miles from campus. \$300/month includes everything. DirectTV, DSL, and voicemail box. Call Tripp at 521-7330.

Seeking roommate

UM-St. Louis student, black female, early 20s, smoker, quiet, studious, keep to self, serious minded. Seeking female roommate to share two bdrm. apartment, expenses approximately \$400 monthly max. Must have the finance to pay own share. If you are interested, please call and/or leave a message at 348-8109. The apartment is Kensington Square Apartments, 2100 N. New Florissant, Florissant, MO 63033.

Misc.

PMS or Menopause got you down?

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Phi Sigma Phi Fraternity

The Epsilon Theta Colony of Phi Sigma Phi Fraternity is looking for new members. (314) 706-8890

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Monday, February 17th

Philanthropy (blood drive/can food)
8am to 5pm
Banner Wars
Table Tennis 6pm to 9pm
Online elections start
<http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/osl/homecoming>

Tuesday, February 18th

Powder Puff Football
3pm to 4pm
Penny Wars
Election for Court
11am to 1pm; 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, February 19th

Rec Sports 11am to 1pm
Big Man on Campus
1pm to 3pm
Bonfire/Pep Rally 6pm
Elections for Court
11am to 1pm; 6pm to 8pm

Thursday, February 20th

Mini Parade 12pm to 1pm
Basketball Game
Women's vs Lewis at 5:30
Men's vs. Lewis at 7:45
Court Introductions -
intermission of men's game
Ping-Pong Championships -
intermission of women's game
Online elections end

Friday, February 21st

Dance
Cocktails with Alumni at 6:30pm
Dance at Windows Off Washington at 7pm
King and Queen Crowned

Saturday, February 22nd

Homecoming Basketball Game
Women's vs. SIUE at 5:30pm
Men's vs. SIUE at 7:45
Spirit Competition Winners
Announced men's intermission
Alumni Family Day