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4-21-2003

Current, April 21, 2003

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Nappy Roots rock Mirthday

See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

SABC cuts *Current's* funding to \$0

Last year's
newspaper
received
\$38,200

BY NICHOLE LECLAIR
Features Editor

The *Current* will receive \$0 from the Student Activities Fee Budget and \$0 from the Student Services Fee Budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. According to a letter signed by Orinthia Montague, acting director of the Office of Student Life, the decision was based on "SABC funding priorities."

— “ —
I think there's been
a substantial
misunderstanding
of the law, but not
of the [budget]
request.

— Stanford Griffith,
Editor-in-Chief
The Current

The Student Activities Budget Committee has nine funding priorities. These give funding preference to organizations that enhance UM-St. Louis's reputation, encourage student leadership and interaction, contribute to the quality of the student experience and show responsible use of past funds and demonstrate involvement in student government meetings and training.

When asked how *The Current* failed to meet these criteria, Montague refused to comment. Nor was she willing to discuss the letter she had sent to Stanford Griffith, editor-in-chief of *The Current*, which reads, "Please carefully consider the decision to appeal. Much consideration has already been given to the original request, therefore, if there has not been a substantial misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the original request, the original allocation will be upheld."

"I think that there has been a substantial misunderstanding of the law, but not of the request," said Griffith, who believes that *The Current's* funding was cut because of the content of the paper.

"Furthermore, I am sure the SABC realizes the effects such a cut will have on *The Current*," Griffith said. "But it may not understand how such a decision can affect the group and the University as a whole. Ignorance, however, is no excuse."

see CURRENT, page 3

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Schwadron

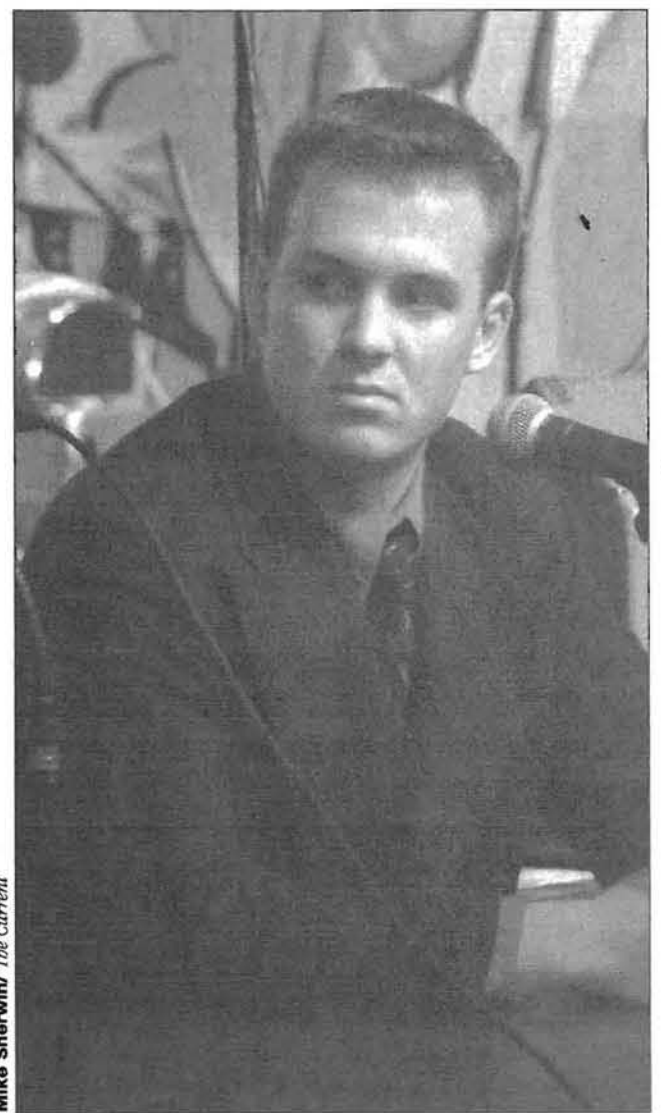


Mike Sherwin/The Current

Adam Schwadron (left) has filed a complaint against Adam Beumeler (right) for violations of Election Committee rules. Schwadron drafted a letter pointing out Beumeler's alleged violations and sent it to the Committee members. He is asking to have Beumeler immediately removed from contention for the position of Student Government Association president.

VS.

Beumeler



Mike Sherwin/The Current

SGA election contested

Schwadron files complaint against Beumeler

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

The results of the Student Government Association elections are in, but as of now, nothing is set in stone.

According to figures released by the Student Activities Office, Adam Beumeler defeated Adam Schwadron by 13 votes, 212-199. If Schwadron has his way, however, Beumeler will be disqualified from the elections completely, opening the way for Schwadron to assume the position of SGA president.

Schwadron said Beumeler violated numerous SGA campaign rules, which should lead to his immediate expulsion from the race.

In a letter to the members of the SGA election committee, Schwadron outlined four alleged violations of the committee's rules.

"A few people have written letters about [Adam] Beumeler and his actions," Schwadron said. "He used the words felon and felony to associate with me. He told people that he had info. on the other two candidates to discredit us."

The election committee rules outline what is acceptable while campaigning and what is worthy of disqualification:

- "Individuals running for President and Vice-President, Comptroller or representative may post flyers or other printed materials upon receiving approval from the Office of Student Life. Printed materials may not be placed on cars or campus walls. Check with Student Life for allowable posting sites. Campaigning may not take place within a twenty-five foot distance of the polls. All printed campaign materials relating to any students' candidacy must have information regarding who paid for the printing of the literature. Any campaigning material found to be slanderous or in disregard for the truth shall make the responsible candidates ineligible for office.

- "Individuals seeking elective office may begin campaigning as soon as the period officially opens. They may continue their campaign until the last day of elections. The campaigning period will be determined by the Committee.

- "The student newspaper *The Current* is the most practical way to notify the entire campus community of upcoming and recent events. It should be used in conjunction with all phases of election activities, whether as a form of advertising or to announce election results."

In Schwadron's letter, he outlined four points that Beumeler violated:

- "The section Rules, subsection A states 'Any campaigning material found to be slanderous or in disregard

— “ —
A few people have
written letters about
[Adam] Beumeler and
his actions. He used
the words felon and
felony to associate
with me.

— Adam Schwadron, SGA
presidential candidate

— ” —
for the truth shall make the responsible candidate ineligible for office." According to witnesses, Adam Beumeler said that my past infraction was a felony offense and that as such he was the ethically superior candidate. The infraction in question in fact was

merely a 'municipal infraction,' not a misdemeanor or even a felony. As it was pointed out in the debate of April 10, there is no offense on my record. By making these accusations he has been slanderous and in total disregard for the truth when explaining to people why they should not vote for me. Individuals who heard these accusations either directly from Adam Beumeler, or from those he told, would not be making an informed decision based on facts, rather on falsehoods and accusations that he spread.

- "Further, Adam Beumeler used flyers that had images of famous people expressing support for the "Change" slate. These images were of former president George H.W. Bush, rap artist and St. Louis native Nelly and Chancellor Emeritus Blanche [M.] Touhill. Each flyer had a quote supposedly given by each person in favor of the slate. These campaign materials were misleading in disregard for the truth, by using persons well known to the general public without their consent.

- "Additionally, the rules state 'Campaigning may not take place within a twenty-five foot distance of the polls.' The rules also state that there would be terminals designated in the MSC as the official polls. These polls

were clearly marked in the Chatroom. Adam Beumeler was seen campaigning inside the Chatroom by William Melton and Benny Suen. This is a clear violation of Subsection A under the campaign rules.

- "Finally, as volunteers were passing out flyers for the 'Change' slate, they were telling voters that if they voted for Beumeler they would receive a free sample of Tommy Hilfiger cologne and a card redeemable for a free Tommy Hilfiger camera from a local department store. This bribery is solicitation of votes and is highly improper in any election."

Schwadron also said he saw Frederick Eccher III, presidential candidate, campaigning inside the Chatroom. Schwadron is moving to have Beumeler completely disqualified from the elections.

Beumeler was unavailable for comment.

Schwadron also said some students had problems accessing the MyGateway website in order to vote. He cited two unnamed students who either could not log on when desired or could not vote at all.

In other election news, Kristin Runde was elected vice president and Benny Suen was elected comptroller. Runde received 398 votes but was unopposed, and Suen received 243.

President Floyd comes to UMSL

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor



Lishu Qu/The Current

UM System President Elson Floyd came to UM-St. Louis last Monday to discuss the possible merger of the UM System and Northwest Missouri State University.

UM System President Elson Floyd came to UM-St. Louis last Monday to address the questions and concerns of faculty and staff over the proposed merger between the UM System and Northwest Missouri State University.

He also updated the chancellor search, saying they are narrowing the list.

Floyd began by telling the audience the merger between the two institutions would be the first of its kind in the country. Floyd said no state university and university system have voluntarily merged. He said the only other time it happens is when state legislatures force a merger in order to save one of the institutions.

"We will be the first public

university to voluntarily come together without a legislative mandate, without a gubernatorial mandate or a mandate by the federal government," Floyd said. "That says a lot about the University of Missouri System. That says a lot about Missourians, and it says a whole lot about the state of higher education in the country right now."

Floyd said he spent time with Northwest Missouri State President Dean L. Hubbard and his senior leadership to discuss the possibility of the merger. He said they agreed on several items to finalize the merger.

"There are a number of steps we must pursue in order to finalize the arrangement," Floyd said. "First of all, it has to have the endorsement of a Board of Regents at Northwest Missouri State University...."

see PRESIDENT FLOYD, page 3

Bullet In 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.

Mon 21 Monday Noon Series

"Butterflies and Butterfly Farming (Slide Talk)" will be the topic of the Monday Noon Series. The series is held in 229 JC Penney Conference Center from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. and is sponsored by The Center for the Humanities. The event is open to all audiences. For more information, call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

21 Chemistry Colloquia

The topic of the chemistry colloquia is "From Cluster Glycosides to Metal Chelates: Is More Really Better?" The colloquia begins at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The visiting speaker is Eric J. Toone, Duke University, Durham, NC. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Alexei Demchenko at 516-7995.

Mon 21 (cont.) Career Services

A workshop on "How to Utilize Career Services," will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in 278 MSC. The workshop is free, though registration is required. Call 516-5111 or visit Career Services in 278 MSC to register. For more information, call 516-5111.

Tues 22 Center for Teaching and Learning

As part of the GA/TA Brown Bag Seminar Series, "Career Strategies for the 21st Century Academic" will be presented from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the McDonnell Conference Room, 331 SSB. Students can find out what they need to know to get a tenure-track position. The event is free and open to all students. For more information, contact Debbie Lewis at 516-4508.

Wed 23 Career Services

A resume writing workshop will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in 278 MSC. The workshop is free, though registration is required. Call 516-5111 or visit Career Services in 278 MSC to register. For more information, call 516-5111.

Thur 24 Student Life

From 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Pilot House on the 1st floor of the MSC is Casino Night. Casino Night provides the opportunity to gamble with a bank roll or \$15,000 at any game. Five dollars gets a bank roll, t-shirt and food. At the end of the night, participants can use their winnings to bid on great prizes including a DVD player, a TV, baseball tickets and a whole lot more.

24 University Band

The Wind Ensemble Spring Concert is from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel. For more information, call 516-5980 or 516-2263.

Fri 25 University Band

The Percussion Ensemble Concert with Inter-Dist. E. Desmond Lee Ens. will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lutheran Church of Living Christ. The event is free. For more information, call 516-5980 or 516-2263.

25 Chemistry colloquia

"Controlling Gene Expression in Transgenic Plants: Factors, Domains, and a Cis Element That Work Together" is the title of the chemistry colloquia. The colloquia will begin at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The colloquia is being sponsored by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. For more information, contact Alexei Demchenko at 516-7995.

Put it on the Board!

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

Mon 28 Monday Noon Series

"Water Highways to the Hinterland" is the title of this week's Monday Noon Series. The series is held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in 229 JC Penney Conference Center. Fred Fausz, associate professor of history, UM-St. Louis, explains how, prior to the Louisiana Purchase, the Missouri and Illinois rivers proved to be vital waterways for the success of a multi-natural fur trade department upon rural areas. The series is sponsored by The Center for the Humanities. For more information, contact Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

Wed 30 Student Life

The Student Leadership Awards Banquet is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the MSC. UM-St. Louis will be taking this time to honor exceptional students and programs.

The Current

Stanford Griffith • Editor-in-Chief
Anne Bauer • Managing Editor
Darren Woods • Ad Director
Mindaugas Adamonis • Business Manager
Judi Linville • Faculty Adviser

Jason Granger • News Editor/
Prod. Associate
Mike Sherwin • Photo Director
Catherine Marquis-Homeyer • A&E Editor
Hank Burns • Sports Editor/
Prod. Associate
Nichole LeClair • Features Editor
Elliott Reed • Cartoonist
Sara Porter • Features Associate
Adam Bodendieck • Copy Editor
Jamie Kerry • Proofreader
Shannon Hoppe • Prod. Manager
Rudy Scoggins • Cartoonist
Amy Gonwa • Music critic

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Charlie Bright,
Kate Drolet, Rob Huesgen,
Micah Issitt, Melissa McCrary,
Becky Rosner, Ashley Richmond

Staff Photographers
Kevin Ottley,
Sara Quiroz, Lishu Qu

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388 Millennium Student Center
email
current@jinx.ums.edu
website
<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department between April 11 and April 17. If readers have information that could assist police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police provides this information as a public service to promote awareness. Remember: crime prevention is a community effort.

April 11 - Vandalism
A parked vehicle was "keyed" by an unknown person in Garage N.

April 11 - Counterfeit parking permit
A counterfeit permit was found in Lot E.

April 11 - Destruction of property
Campus police received a delayed report of a vehicle's tires being "slashed" at the University Meadows.

April 13 - Verbal Harassment
At Seton Hall, one resident was complaining about another resident.

April 16 - Theft over \$500
In Parking Lot JJ, a student vehicle was broken into and various items were stolen.

April 16 - Theft under \$500
License plate "tabs" were stolen from a vehicle parked in Lot E.

April 16 - Counterfeit parking permit
A forget parking permit was found in Garage P.

April 17 - Theft under \$500
A student reported a stolen parking permit.

Note: During this same time period, two vehicles on campus were "booted" for displaying a counterfeit parking permit. The owner of each vehicle had to pay \$25 to have the boot removed. Both vehicles were given a parking ticket in the amount of \$250. Students caught using a counterfeit parking permit are referred to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs for disciplinary action. All vehicles that are parked on campus need to display some kind of valid parking permit.

See a mistake?

Call
The Current
about
corrections that
need to be
made.
516-6810

www.thecurrentonline.comwww.thecurrentonline.comwww.thecurrentonline.com

Homelessness Awareness Week

Monday 4/21 - Friday 4/25

Monday 4/21

7 p.m.: Awareness Speakers Dan Buck and Greg Vogelwhite, St. Patrick Center Pilot House

Tuesday 4/22

**8 p.m.: Awareness Speaker Jay Swoboda Editor-in-Chief, Whats Up Magazine Century Room B
Cardboard Shantytown Simulation Experience MSC lawn**

Friday 4/25

Habitat For Humanity

Visit the Information Booth

**2nd floor MSC
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daily**

Donations can be made at various on-campus locations!

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CURRENT, from page 1

"We believe that this severe and possibly fatal cut in our funding from the SABC is based on issues a few students have had with the content of *The Current*," Griffith said. "The Current has never been notified of any misappropriation of monies or violations of UM-St. Louis policy. Therefore, the SABC, which is legally a part of the state of Missouri because it is acting as a subset of SGA, has illegally withdrawn funding based on opinions and not facts." Previous court cases have held that public universities are part of the state government, rather than private publishers.

Although the paper earns approximately 75 percent of its annual budget from advertisements, it is still dependent on the financial support granted by the SABC, largely for the annual services fees for the telephones, computer network and Internet. The money from SABC, however, mostly

ensures that every student has a free subscription to *The Current* at a cost of approximately 10 cents per copy.

This is the first time that *The Current* has been denied funding. Last year's funding was \$38,200. In past years, the amount has been similar. *The Current* was initially awarded \$40,000 for the upcoming year, but this was changed to \$0 when the SABC reconvened on April 11. *The Current's* requests for an explanation have been denied.

"I think we definitely deserve an explanation, which we are expecting to hear this week at the appeal," said Anne Bauer, managing editor of *The Current*. "I don't understand how they went from allocating us \$40,000 to nothing." The newspaper plans to appeal the SABC's decision on Friday, April 25, though decisions are rarely overturned.

The Current has contacted the Student Press Law Center, an organi-

zation based in Washington, D.C. that works to protect the rights of student journalists. Griffith said, "*The Current* would prefer not to have to take legal action but is fully prepared to proceed, with the assistance of the SPLC."

Jason Granger, editor-in-chief elect, agreed with Griffith. Though he hopes the decision will be overturned at the appeal, he is willing to take legal action if the decision stands.

Asked what he would do in the worst-case scenario, if funding were not reinstated, Granger said, "If we don't have the funding, then I, as editor-in-chief, will be forced to close the paper. *The Current* will leave this school and take every asset owned by *The Current*, including the name, with it. If they want a school newspaper here, they won't be able to use *The Current's* name, flag or legacy."

Final SABC funding results will be made public after the appeals process on April 25 has been completed.

PRESIDENT FLOYD, from page 1

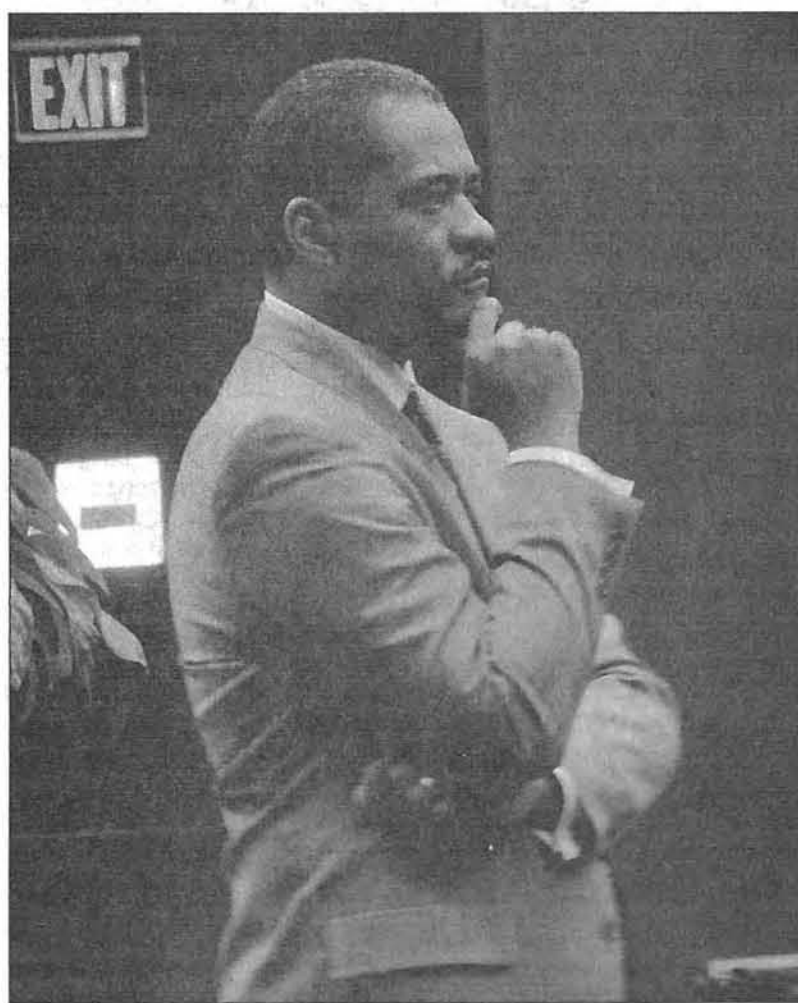
"Number two, it must have the approval of the Board of Curators, and we will be meeting to discuss the same question that the Board of Regents discussed earlier. It has to have the endorsement of the general assembly."

Floyd also said he and Hubbard are facing time constraints because the end of the legislative session is approaching. Floyd called their schedule "highly ambitious." They are still proceeding under the assumption that the merger will be completed by July 1, 2003.

When asked why none of the state schools in southern Missouri, including Southeast Missouri State University and Southwest Missouri State University, have been approached about merging with the UM System, Floyd said the school has to approach the System before considerations are made. In Northwest Missouri State's case, the president of the school approached Floyd, and that's how the process got underway.

"This is not a hostile takeover," Floyd said. "This is responding to what we believe to be the needs of Missourians."

Floyd also said there would be an integration of research programs into the Northwest Missouri State campus with the help of UM-Kansas City. He said that they have already been on the cutting edge of alternative fuel research, and he expects that to continue.



Lishu Qiu / The Current

"We will be the first public university to voluntarily come together without a legislative mandate," Floyd explained in his speech at UM-St. Louis in the J.C. Penny auditorium on April 21.

Division of Student Affairs
Office of Student Activities
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4499
Telephone: 314-516-5291
Fax: 314-516-6747
E-mail: stuactv@umsl.edu

April 11, 2003

Stanford Alan Griffith, *The Current*
St. Louis, MO 63146

Dear Stanford:

The Student Activities/Student Service Fee Committee has completed deliberations on requests for allocations for fiscal year 2003-2004. The recommendations for allocations were based on the SABC funding priorities discussed in the workshops your organization attended in October of 2002.

The Student Activities Budget Committee has approved a total allocation of \$0.00 from the Student Activities Fee Budget for 2003-2004. The funds will be available for use after July 1, 2003. Your allocation has been awarded to support the following programs, services, or activities:

Your organization has been allocated \$0.00 from Student Services Fee Budget for the purchase of:

If your organization wishes to appeal this decision an appeal form must be picked up and returned to Chris Telker-Harris in the Office of Student Life, room 366 Millennium Student Center by 5:00 p.m. on April 24th. An appeal hearing will be scheduled for your organization at the time the form is submitted. Appeals will be heard on Friday, April 25th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Government Chamber.

Please carefully consider the decision to appeal. Much consideration has already been given to the original request, therefore, if there has not been a substantial misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the original request, the original allocation will be upheld.

PLEASE NOTE POLICY CHANGE

The Committee has implemented a new policy for fiscal year 2003-2004 Student Activity Fee Budgets. Organizations can no longer reallocate funds for a new program, however, funds may still be transferred to an existing program within their budget.

Sincerely,

Orinthia Montague, Acting Director
Jeff Griesemer, Comptroller SGA, Chair SABC

CC: Judi Linville

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<http://www.umsl.edu/services/stuactv/>
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The above letter is the official letter from the Office of Student Life informing Stanford Griffith, editor-in-chief of *The Current*, of the Student Activities Budget Committee's decision to give *The Current* no funding for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Signed by Orinthia Montague, acting director of the Office of Student Life, the letter is considered final until appeal. *The Current* plans to appeal the \$0 allocation on April 25. With the help of the Student Press Law Center, an organization based in Washington, D.C. that works to protect the rights of student journalists, the student newspaper plans to proceed with legal action if necessary. As editor-in-chief elect, Jason Granger was recently interviewed by the SPLC for an article for their media law review. Granger said that he intends to fight as long as he needs to.

International students strut their stuff



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Students in the MSC Monday were treated to a panoply of activities thanks to the International Students Organization. Here, a student from Azerbaijan performs a traditional dance routine. In addition to dance, the audience was treated to music and a demonstration of international fashions.

"A FUNNY SEXY SCARY POWERHOUSE! Better Luck Tomorrow is what Sundance is all about!"
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"TWO BIG THUMBS UP! A BRILLIANT FILM!"
-Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER

"STYLISH and very well-acted!"
-David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"★★★★! A tour de force."
-C.W. Nevius, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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DRAMATIC COMPETITION

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BETTER LUCK TOMORROW
A FILM BY JUSTIN LIN

HUDSON RIVER ENTERTAINMENT CHERRY SKY FILMS DAY D PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
A TRAILING JOHNSON PRODUCTION "BETTER LUCK TOMORROW" PARRY SHEN JASON TOBIN
SUNG KANG ROGER FAN JOHN CHOI AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KARIN ANNA CHEUNG COSTUME DESIGNER TINA CHARLES
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL J. GONZALES PRODUCED BY SANDI LIEU EDITOR YOUNG HAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PATRICK LUCIEN COCHET
PRODUCED BY JULIE ASATO ERNESTO M. FORONDA AND JUSTIN LIN WRITTEN BY ERNESTO M. FORONDA JUSTIN LIN
DIRECTED BY JUSTIN LIN

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LETTERS

MAIL
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388 Millennium Student Center
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St. Louis, MO 63121
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(314) 516-6811
E-MAIL
info@thecurrentonline.com

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

Under Current
by **Sara Quiroz**
Staff Photographer

What color best describes your personality and why?

OUR OPINION

SABC want you to pay to pick us up

PREFACE
If you haven't heard by now that the Student Activities Budget Committee has cut all of *The Current's* funding for next year, please read the front-page article about it so you can have that background before continuing.

FOR OUR HATERS
The Current staff is fully aware that some people do not like the content of the newspaper and several staff members themselves. If you are one of those, admit it. You actually enjoy picking up the newest issue of *The Current* to make fun of it, to ridicule the editor-in-chief, even to line a birdcage with it. But you pick it up, right? It's free.

That is for now.
The reason it's free is because SABC has paid for your subscription. It figures out to be about 10 cents per copy, and your student fees go to pay for that the same as they go to the College Democrats, the Greeks, PRIZM, Student Government, University Program Board, etc. The point is, if SABC did not pay for that subscription, you could not pick up a copy of *The Current* for free and then use it to make paper hats.

FOR OUR LOVERS
The Current recognizes your support. We appreciate you, but we do wish you would come out more, especially with supporting letters to the editor. You like picking up the freshest

taking that away, the newspaper may no longer be free or may no longer exist.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?
Your collected student fees comprise the money SABC gets to dole out. Therefore, what happens to your student fees should be your choice. If you want to keep *The Current* free for all students to enjoy, to hate, to read, let the top members of SABC, Student Life, and Student Affairs know. While *The Current* does not want to cause them any unnecessary problems, the SABC has created its own problems and, thus, has in turn caused many issues within *The Current*.

Below are the suggested methods of contacting such individuals:

Jeff Greisemer
SGA Comptroller
Chairman of SABC
Selected the members of the SABC
314-516-5105
http://www.umsl.edu/~sga/contact_sga.html
375 Millennium Student Center

Orinthia Montague
Acting Director of Student Life
montague@umsl.edu
366 Millennium Student Center

Curt Coonrod
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Recommends the final SABC to the chancellor
314-516-5211
curt_coonrod@umsl.edu
301 Woods Hall

The very best way to express your thoughts is to write us an email (current@jinx.umsl.edu) explaining how you feel about *The Current's* getting cut off from SABC funding when we have done everything requested and required by the committee to meet the funding priorities.

issue of *The Current*. You appreciate that it's full of factual information you can count on. You even like that it is free to you.

How would you feel if it were taken away or you had to pay for it?

If SABC has its way, you might have to. The SABC funding promises that everyone can have a free subscription to pick up a copy of *The Current* on campus. Since they are

The issue
SABC has decided not to give any funding *The Current* for the 2003-2004 fiscal year and, thus, has elected not to pay for every student's free subscription to the newspaper. If the SABC does not fund *The Current*, everyone who wants a copy of the latest issue will have to pay in advance for a subscription.

We suggest
Write to those in charge of SABC, Student Affairs and Student Life. Tell them what you think. Then, write *The Current* and let us know.
So what do you think?
Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our Web site www.thecurrentonline.com.

Fix SABC

The current setup of the Student Activities Budget Committee lends itself to many problems because the selection of the group's members is controlled entirely by one person, the comptroller of Student Government Association. As such, SGA exerts a tremendous amount of unnecessary control over the other student organizations. SGA, however, is a student organization too. So that creates a shaky hierarchy of student groups when all are supposed to be equal at their base and then demonstrate their worth throughout the year with projects and programs.

While I do not want to assert that any comptrollers run with the idea in mind that they will "get" any student groups, it is hard to believe that a human will not stack the SABC subconsciously or perhaps consciously. It may be wholly unintentional, but it still happens and is, according to our lawyers, illegal if SABC has any control over any student media's funding.

Such stacking, of course, is likely to occur when any one person is in charge of creating any group of people, especially when that assembly is entrusted with the responsibility of disbursing a staggering amount of money to many diverse groups.

Therefore, several people need to be involved in the selection of the committee members. The group and its decisions are only as representative and as unbiased as its members are. Perhaps even individuals from the academic side should be considered since they are likely to be more unbiased against many student organizations and student fee spending.

Additionally, in the past, student organizations have been allowed to

address the SABC in order to articulate their budget and explain why they need the requested money. This died out last year. I can understand listening to organization's pleas takes more time and energy. So does being accurate and fair. Certain student groups with large, complex budgets need such oral interpretations of their proposed budgets. *The Current* alone conducts 30 to 50 financial transactions per week. Surely the SABC had some questions about our spending that could have been cleared up with in 10 minutes of oral discussion.

Okay, so maybe *The Current* is a bad example since the SABC clearly decided on *The Current's* funding based on the content of the newspaper, which is illegal, but there's more about that throughout this issue and even more will likely come out later—I do have two more columns before retirement.

The group interviews, however, should be reinstated, at least for any organization with a certain budget.

SABC meetings should be open to the public and the press. (Okay, if they are open to one, they must be open to both.) After this year, the committee itself, not the members, is obviously a flawed organization at its core. With meetings held in open sight, hopefully such problems can be avoided in the future. It is not that the audience should be allowed to speak, but simply watching and listening would be enough to ensure quality of the SABC's decisions.

Whatever happens, though, the SABC needs some serious and careful revision and critique. Changes must occur within its structure to make sure that student fees are used in their proper and intended ways.



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Making the time to help others in need

As we get older, many of us tend to become more and more self-involved. We don't necessarily become self-involved because we are not thinking about others; sometimes our busy schedules become so hectic that we forget about others' needs and that we have the ability and, often, the resources to help others.

This week, April 21 to April 25, is Homelessness Awareness Week at UM-St. Louis. During the day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day this week there will be an informational booth on the 2nd floor of the Millennium Student Center.

A few years ago, as part of a sociology course, I volunteered for service projects through the United Way Cares program. In order to receive an "A" in that part of the course, students were required to fulfill a certain amount of hours. Projects ran from a few hours in the evening to a full day of work. I figured it would be easy enough to get an "A"; I just had to put in the time.

When I showed up to the service project to offer my services, and more importantly at the time, accumulate hours towards my course, I always felt a little ashamed in the back of my mind. I had the ashamed feeling lingering in my head because the other individuals in the group had wholeheartedly devoted their time to the cause. I, on the other hand, was there for a class. I don't believe the other volunteers were judging me, but I was definitely judging myself. I felt like I should have volunteered

my time previously, before I had to in order to make the grade I wanted.

The volunteer projects that I experienced were painting the basement and the bathroom of a women's shelter in St. Charles with another group of people and sorting clothes at the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis. Both of these projects were great experiences, and I met some very caring people.

After finishing my service project I signed up to receive the monthly United Way Cares newsletter that listed numerous volunteer projects that individuals could participate in. The first couple months that I received the newsletter I carefully looked it over to see what caught my attention as something I would like to help with, though I had a hard time finding projects that would "fit" into my schedule. After a couple months, I just stopped

looking for projects.

Looking back, I know that I could have worked one or more of those service projects into my schedule, just like I manage to work other things into my day and week.

On a normal day I would hurry past any and all booths set up in the MSC on my way to class, but at least one day this week I am going to make sure I have time to stop by and get some information about homelessness awareness. I know I can lend a hand to others, whether it is through a service project or donating items or money. And this time it won't be for a grade.



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

- SABC's refusal to fund *The Current*
- Organization of SABC
- Helping others

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



Raleigh Muns
Reference Librarian

It'd be green so I could sing the song that Kermit sings, "It's not easy being green."



Katrina Matsch
Senior German

Purple. I guess because it's a mixture of other colors, and it's pretty. I think of it as a fun color.



Matt Doughty
Graduate Student Business

Blue because it's my favorite and because it's a color that I can see.



Tom Schellhase
Sophomore Psychology

Maybe a light blue because I'm a soft-spoken and shy person.

Part II

Attack of the clones

Cloning has become big news in the scientific world. If you have not heard of the first cloned sheep, Dolly, then you probably haven't watched TV or read a newspaper for at least the last five years. The recent controversy over scientists claiming to have successfully cloned the first human was front-page news from the U.S. to North Korea.



BY MICAH L. ISSITT

Science Columnist

In addition to the remaining questions about scientific and biological effects, the advent of cloning technology and the possibility of human cloning have raised complicated issues surrounding ethics and morality. The debate has spilled out over the edges of the scientific journals onto the TV, into the pulpits and over the floor of the oval office.

Individuals from the scientific, religious, political and philosophical communities have begun to ask questions: "Is cloning moral?" "What is the legal status of a cloned person?" "Are cloned humans individuals?" Obviously, these questions are beyond the scope of simple, objective answers. Individuals from many sectors of society have spoken out, bringing these issues onto the soapbox of public consciousness.

Some religious authorities are saying that cloning animals, especially humans, is akin to "playing god." Some religions are more opposed to cloning than others, but many in the religious community seem to feel that the process of creation should be left to god or nature, not the petri dishes or syringes of the laboratory.

Many religious organizations have made a clear moral distinction between human and non-human cloning. Most religious authorities seem to feel that human cloning is by far the most inappropriate use of our technological advancements. The Roman Catholic Church has stated that "Every act of human cloning is intrinsically evil" and should never be attempted. The statements of the Catholic Church and other religious organizations ring true for many in the public environment.

Arguments from religious authorities have been criticized by some in

the academic communities, however, who point out that many advances in medicine, especially recent developments in genetic therapy, seem equally vulnerable to the same "playing god" argument. Yet religious authorities have not raised serious objections to the development of such technologies.

Some scientists have defended cloning research with arguments about "research for its own sake." Many seem to feel that scientific investigation should not be motivated by morals or ethics but rather by a pure desire to objectively investigate the world and that the political and moral connotations of research are better left to the realm of philosophy and political theory.

Perhaps the feelings of many scientists are mirrored in the statements of John Robert Oppenheimer, who was once quoted as saying, "There must be no barriers for freedom of inquiry." It is notable that Oppenheimer, who is most famous for his role in the development of the atomic bomb, seemed to take a different philosophical position regarding his role in the unfolding of history after he witnessed the first nuclear explosion. Taking a quote from the Bhagavad Gita, Oppenheimer said of his experience watching his bomb decimate Nagasaki, "I have become death, the destroyer of worlds."

At times in the history of science, researchers have become so focused on attainment of a goal that they failed to critically examine the political, social and ethical consequences of their research. Oppenheimer provides a prime example. During the quest to achieve atomic technology, many in Oppenheimer's team were solely focused on the question of whether or not they could achieve their goal. After the atomic bomb was completed and ultimately used, many, including Oppenheimer, were suddenly faced with the horrible consequences of their research.

Many fear that human cloning will be a flesh-and-blood reality long before the "international community" has had a chance to come to a consensus on the many issues that have been wedded to cloning technology from its inception.

For instance, it has been suggested that it may be possible to clone a human body without a brain. This would allow scientists to use the body as an "organ bank" for transplantation purposes. This technology could solve many common problems in transplantation, such as the frequency of host rejection, which often leads to medical complications or death of the recipient.

Whatever the benefits, the morality and ethical nature of creating a human being without a brain, as a sort of pool of body parts, is not clear. Many feel

that this would violate some intrinsic morality. Others suggest that any human, created or otherwise, should be given some degree of legal protection.

Unfortunately, debates over cloning technology have been fraught with pervasive misconceptions that tend to cloud more important issues. For instance, some have raised the question of whether a cloned person is an individual or simply another version of the "host," sort of like a fleshy photocopy. This question brings back reflections of the old nature vs. nurture debate. In other words, to what degree is our individuality inherently present in our "genes" or derived from our history and environment?

Anyone familiar with the science behind cloning should be aware that a clone is biologically not much different from an identical (monozygotic) twin. Technically speaking, a clone would actually be even more similar to the host than an identical twin at the moment of his/her creation, but the history of the clone's life would necessarily shape his/her personality and physical structure, so that within a short time the clone would be an individual, rather than another version of the host. It has been well established in scientific research that an individual is not simply a representation of his/her genes but a combination of genes and environmental influences.

Some opponents of cloning have used, as justification for their position, ideas taken from science fiction. People have said that cloning technology is leading to a realization of the horrifying visions created in Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" or Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World." Some scientists have characterized this position as "alarmist." There may be interesting comparisons to be made and issues to be raised by looking at the history of science fiction for clues to the possibilities of the future, but the writings of Huxley or Shelley are, as the saying goes, "for entertainment purposes only" and should not be taken literally. Many would say that there is not much benefit to consulting the pages of C. S. Lewis for insights into public policy.

The famous sheep, Dolly, who died last year, has recently been stuffed and installed at the Royal Museum of Edinburgh as a testament to this moment in scientific history. In the years to come, it is possible that the entirety of cloning will take its place alongside Dolly, as little more than an interesting scientific experiment that was found to be ultimately more dangerous than beneficial. Conversely, the ongoing public debate could eventually lead to some level of acceptance and incorporation, which will see cloning as an important part of the next century of scientific research.

Fare Thoughts

I like bread and butter

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH

Editor-in-Chief

Although high in saturated fat, butter has become a staple of American cuisine. We spread it on our warm toast. Popcorn just isn't complete without melted butter coating each white pillow. Butter binds the dry ingredients of cookies and browns the onions for a hamburger. Even our gooey butter cakes are topped with butter.

But what exactly is butter? We all know it comes in cardboard boxes cut into four sticks wrapped in paper or foil and must be refrigerated. It comes salted or unsalted and melts sitting on the counter. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, butter is a semisolid dairy product containing at least 80 percent milk fat made by churning cream.

HOMEMADE BUTTER

In "The Boxcar Children," Jessie, the oldest daughter, kept their butter wrapped in a cloth and submerged in a cold stream. Unlike the "Little House on the Prairie" days, a butter churn and paddle are no longer necessary. While homemade butter tastes very different from store-bought butter, the sweeter and creamier spread is often more desirable than the sticks or even the whipped varieties but is seldom made because of the time involved in the process of turning heavy cream into butter.

1 pt. heavy cream, very cold
Pinch salt, optional

Refrigerate a quart jar for at least 1 hour. Pour the cream into the cold jar. Tightly secure the lid and shake as hard as possible until chunks of butter start to form, 15 to 30 minutes. Pour into a strainer set over a bowl. The chunks in the strainer are butter, and the liquid in the bowl is buttermilk.

Pour the buttermilk into a clean container, cover, refrigerate, and reserve for another use. Turn the butter into a clean bowl and cover with very cold water. Pour into a strainer, discarding the liquid. Continue rinsing the butter with cold water until the water runs clear. (The cloudy water is buttermilk, which will make the butter

turn sour.) When the butter is clean, work with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula to press out any remaining liquid. Discard this liquid. If desired, add salt to the butter. (Salted butter will keep longer.)

Transfer the butter to a clean container for keeping, pressing with a wooden spoon or spatula to dispel any air bubbles. Refrigerate until ready to use.

GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

A St. Louis favorite is the gooey butter cake. As a non-native to this area, when I heard the name of this sweet dessert for the first time, I thought someone was joking. After trying a piece, I discovered why this sticky treat deserves a place in the hearts and stomachs of St. Louisans.

1 lb. store-bought yeast-raised coffee cake
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
1 3/4 c. plus 2 TBSP sugar
Pinch salt
1 egg
3 TBSP light corn syrup
3 TBSP water
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 3/4 c. flour
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Generously butter a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

Cut the coffee cake into 2-inch pieces and press them in the baking pan to form a snug single layer. In a bowl with an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat the butter, sugar and salt until very smooth. Add the egg. Beat in the corn syrup until smooth. Add the water and vanilla and, when incorporated, decrease the speed to low and add the flour, mixing until just combined.

Using a fork, pierce the coffee cake all over. Pour the gooey butter batter over the top of the cake pieces, using the back of a spoon or a spatula to spread evenly. Let stand for 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Bake until the butter is bubbly and golden brown, about 20 to 25 minutes, being careful not to over bake, as the cake will not be gooey.

Cool to room temperature, cut into squares, and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar to serve.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Old editor congratulates The Current for its awards

Dear The Current Staff:

As a former editor-in-chief of *The Current*, I'd like to extend my most sincere accolades to this year's staff for their "Best Overall Newspaper" award for 2003, the second consecutive year that *The Current* has won this award.

I know that this year's staff has been criticized my many on campus for their coverage of and editorials about the campus. I myself have even had some vocal and not-so-vocal criticism about the newspaper. However,

I have always respected the work and dedication that go into a student-run publication, especially in a hostile environment.

The Missouri College Media Association is a consortium of the 54 collegiate newspapers in the state of Missouri, from the Mizzou Maneater to the Cottey Spectrum. Although the competition is not direct (newspapers don't openly compete with each other during the year) each paper selects its best stuff to be judged by professional

journalists from the Missouri Press Association.

It is an honor for any individual or publication to win a MCMA award, and for that I congratulate *The Current*.

I guess there's more than one way to peel an orange.

Respectfully,

Nick Bowman
ASUM lobbyist
EIC 2001-2002

The
Current
Your source for campus news and information

is hiring for next year.

Think you can make your mark in
the fast-paced world of journalism?

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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- Sports Editor
- A & E Editor
- Photo Director
- Production Manager

- Web Editor
- Distribution Manager
- Copy Editor
- Proofreader
- Staff Writers
- Photographers
- Production Associates
- Cartoonists
- Everything else

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- In good standing with the University
- Deadline for applying for Managing Editor and Business Manager is May 2 at 5 p.m.
- Please have applications in *The Current* office addressed to Jason Granger, editor-in-chief-elect
- Jason Granger will contact applicants about interview times

STUDENT

Despite the weather... Students enjoy Mirthday

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

April 16 began with a forecast calling for rain. However, clouds did not stop UM-St. Louis students from participating in Mirthday, the University's annual spring carnival. Students joined in the festivities from noon until 6 p.m., despite dark clouds and occasional raindrops. Chartwells closed the Nosh and took grills outside. Students had a choice of hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, bratwursts, pasta salad, chips, soda, water and lemonade. Snow cones and popcorn were also for sale. Concession benefits went to Delaney Belle Chenoweth, the granddaughter of a UM-St. Louis faculty member, who has leukemia. The smell of funnel cake and cotton candy also hung in the air, completing the carnival atmosphere. Fifty student organizations were represented by a line of booths. Some, such as the Residence Hall Association and the Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association, offered prizes and held drawings. Mirthday-goers had the chance to win candy, DVD players and other treasures.



James Young, freshman, music education, laughs as Edita Vitkute, and a friend who wished to remain unidentified lost a game of "musical simon," where Young would play a tune on the xylophone, and the other player would attempt to play the same notes.

see MIRTHDAY, page 14

Writing helps student's recovery

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

Jonnesse Triggs, junior, accounting, takes great pride in remembering the events of her day, the classes that she goes to and her friends' names. She takes pride because only two years ago she could not remember the events of what she considered one of the worst moments of her life: Feb. 9, 2001, when she and three friends were in a car accident. Triggs injured the left front lobe of her brain, the section that affects memory. She was injured so badly that doctors suggested that she would not be able to continue with school. "I love to read, so I made that part of my therapy," Triggs said. "I would make myself remember what I had read. For example, I would read a book, put it down after a few pages, then try to recall what had happened." Triggs was also able to write for her therapy. This included writing a novel of her accident. "I wanted to put the book together for other people to learn from my experience," she said. Triggs was a college student in Nashville, Tenn., at the time of her accident. She had gone to visit friends on Feb. 8, 2001, but says the meeting turned into a serious argument. Not wanting to escalate the situation further, she decided to leave. "I decided that either I was going to leave early the next day or be in jail for attempted homicide if I stayed with them a minute longer," said Triggs. The next morning she and her friends drove (coincidentally) to Triggs County, Mo., and into a severe storm. They drove into a wind pocket

from an approaching vehicle. It was enough to roll the car. "The car flipped over at least six times," Triggs said. "The windows were broken; the top looked like it had been peeled open." Two of the passengers suffered serious injuries and had to be hospitalized, while the other was hardly injured at all. Triggs' injuries were the most severe. "I had landed on my head and broke my neck in three places," she said. Triggs had severe memory loss, a symptom that frightened her because she could not remember why she was in the hospital or even the events of the previous days. "I woke up, and I didn't know why I was there," she said. "I wasn't thinking straight. I seriously thought I had been kidnapped." While Triggs slowly began to regain her physical abilities, her memory lagged behind. "I asked, 'Why am I here?' 'What happened?' 'Who was I with?'" The more I asked, the more I began to remember," she said. Triggs said that the struggle to regain her memory was complicated by her mother's desire to protect her. "She wouldn't tell me [details of the accident], no matter how many times I asked, because she didn't want to hurt me," Triggs said. "She had good intentions, but she also didn't allow me to recover by keeping things from me." Another painful fact that Triggs' mother kept from her was the death of her grandfather. He had died while Triggs was still in the hospital. "He died in one of the rooms upstairs from me," she said. "I wasn't able to hold his hand or say goodbye. But he was a good man, so I know I will see him again in Heaven." Triggs recovered slowly from her

accident. However, she regained enough of her memory and physical abilities to attend Florissant Valley in the fall of 2001, with some assistance. "I had to take a lot of notes and use a tape recorder to recall what my instructors said," Triggs said. "By mid-semester, I didn't need them anymore. I got more out of the lessons by reading. But for a long time, I still had problems. Like, a year ago, if you had told me your name, about ten minutes later I would say, 'What's your name again?'" Triggs is happy to say that she is now fully recovered, with her memory intact. The only remaining sign of the accident is the slight tilt of her neck. "I had a cone around my neck while I was in the hospital, so I adjusted my neck to it," she explained. "Now, people come up to me and say 'Your neck is funny.'" Triggs is now seeking a publisher for the book she wrote during her recovery. "I found it cost \$500 to publish it myself, so I'll take it to a professional," she said. Determined to see the project through, she is encouraged by a dream she had. It is the same dream that inspired her through her recovery. "I dreamt that I was a little girl and I was looking outside of these woods," Triggs said. "Suddenly, this man said 'I'll help you,' and as we walked we came to different things. We came to a bridge, and I asked him if I could walk across it; we came to water and I asked if I could play in it. He didn't say anything. But I sort of felt his answers, so I was able to do those things. I know now that little girl was me, and the man who helped me was God, and that I can do anything."



(LEFT) Jonnesse Triggs, junior, accounting, has written a novel inspired by her experience recovering from a serious injury in a car accident in February 2001. (BELOW) This photo shows the severe damage of the automobile Triggs was riding in during the accident.

Lianu Qu/The Current



Photo courtesy Jonnesse Triggs

UM-St.Louis learns which fork to use

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

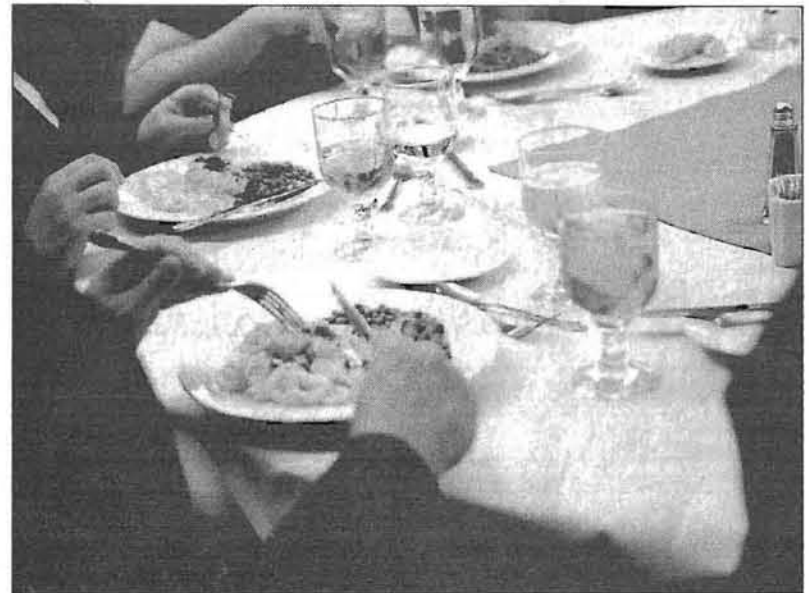
"Unless you're waiting for a kidney, turn off your cell phone." Maria Everding offered this etiquette advice to UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff on Tuesday, April 15. Close to 90 people gathered

in Century Room B at 12:30 p.m., waiting for lunch and a lesson in proper business etiquette. Teresa Balestreri, provisional director for Career Services, began the luncheon with a few opening remarks and a welcome to those in attendance. Dana Rogers, president of the Black Business Student Association spoke next. Rogers introduced Maria Everding, a well-renowned etiquette

consultant. The etiquette luncheon was co-sponsored by Career Services, the Student Alumni Association and the Black Business Student Association. Everding is a native of St. Louis. Her first book on manners, "Pretty as a Picture: A Guide to Manners, Poise and Style," was published in 1982. Since then, the Pretty as a Picture etiquette program has been taught in more than 125 cities around the country. Everding received the Outstanding Alumna Award from Patricia Stevens College in 1987. Since the publication of her first book, Everding has written "The Ritz Kids Etiquette for Today" and the nationally recognized "Panache that Pays." The latter is an etiquette guide directed towards college seniors and young businesspeople. Everding also founded The Etiquette Institute, which trains etiquette instructors. She has appeared in numerous St. Louis newspapers and journals and on the Today Show and Good Morning America. She began the UM-St. Louis seminar by inviting attendees to "relax and enjoy a dining tutorial." "Since I'm an etiquette instructor, people like to watch me eat," Everding said. "I'm normal. I spill and drop things too." Everding explained the origin of

the word etiquette. This French word meaning 'ticket' originated in the eighteenth century where manners were a matter of life and death. Those dining in the court would be banished if they lacked proper behavior, she explained. Those eating with royalty would be given tickets reminding them of the important manners to use. "Common courtesies will get you where you need to go, along with good people skills and manners," Everding said as the first course of the luncheon was served. The first course was a chilled Spanish soup. The Gazpacho soup was garnished with a bagel chip and parsley. "Soup is eaten away from you, like a ship going out to sea," she said. "And you never put the whole spoon in your mouth." While everyone ate, Everding explained how to remember which place settings go to a person. She instructed attendees to make a lower case 'b' shape with their left hands and a 'd' shape with their right hands. "Now you can remember that your bread is on the left and your drink is on the right. Also, [the words] 'fork' and 'left' both have four letters and 'spoon,' 'knife' and 'right' all have five letters," she said. The next course consisted of radicchio and butter lettuce with walnuts,

feta cheese and raspberry vinaigrette dressing. Everding assured the audience that cutting salad is perfectly acceptable. Next the attendees received the main course. They were served chicken piccata, fettuccini with lemon white wine sauce and peas with mushrooms. Everding demonstrated the proper way to cut meat. She spoke on a variety of topics concerning etiquette and answered questions while everyone ate. Everding discussed the art of socializing, networking, maintaining a professional image, recovering from embarrassing situations, facilitating introductions, tipping, proper utensil use, excusing oneself, writing thank-you notes and other corporate behaviors and expectations. She also gave some examples of meaningful conversation starters. Curt Coonrod, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, attended the luncheon. He found the lesson in etiquette helpful. "I didn't know that you were supposed to pass the salt and pepper together," he said. "[Learning] the conversation starters helped too." The last course was tiramisu. Everding concluded the luncheon with her favorite quote by George Bernard Shaw: "There is nothing so easy to accomplish as politeness, and nothing more profitable."



Lishu Qu/The Current

Guests to the "Etiquette Banquet" Tuesday learned proper manners from Maria Everding, a nationally recognized etiquette consultant.

Will work for school

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

School. Food. Clothes. Books. Deodorant. Caffeine. College students require all or most of these necessities. The problem? All of these things cost money. While some students are fortunate enough to have financially supportive families, many have to pay their own way to make it. According to Brockport.edu, the number of college students from the ages of 16 to 24 in the work force has increased from 49 to 57 percent since 1984. UM-St. Louis students are part of this young, working class of citizens. Kelly Stokes, junior, electrical engineering, works part-time at White Castle and attends school full-time. "I work on weekends. I don't have any Friday classes, so that [gives me extra time]. I study during the week," Stokes said. Time management is a crucial part of balancing work and school. Brandt Ryder, graduate student, biology, earns money working for the University as a teaching assistant. "As a T.A., it's hard to balance work and school. I always have students asking questions and sending me emails. I try to allocate time to grade papers and prepare labs. Once I hit that threshold, I don't work anymore. That strategy has worked so far," he said.

see WORK, page 7

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Around 7 p.m., 200 people wandered around the Pilot House munching on chicken wings and listening to the smooth sounds of the Dave Matthews Band. All of them were there to answer, "What is so good about Good Friday?"

Jubilee Church from Webster Groves, through the church's UM-St. Louis student population, hosted their fourth TGIF event on April 17. People of all ages mingled, enjoying the snacks and comfortable atmosphere at the Pilot House.

Three guys and a girl took the stage, assembled their band equipment and began the evening with Sheryl Crow's "Every Day is a Winding Road." This was followed by "Why Does it Always Rain on Me?"

Brian Mallory, member of Jubilee Church and leader of their youth group program, stepped onstage after they finished. "This is our fourth TGIF event," he said. "[TGIF] began from the idea that we all have something to share." He explained the evening's components—a mix of dramas, testimonials, movie clips and music—and called UM-St. Louis's Alex Kerford onstage.

Kerford, sophomore, engineering, welcomed all in attendance and invited everyone to relax and enjoy the evening.

Several people walked onstage and prepared for the first drama. The story was about a young man holding his breath. He had a bet with a woman that he could hold his breath for two minutes. With two minutes nearing, the

woman regretted her bet, while friends cheered on the young man. He reached the two minute mark and died.

After the short piece, the room went dark and a movie screen read, "Can past events affect the future?" Next, an old episode of the Simpsons played. During the short clip, Homer managed to fix a broken toaster, only to find out that he had invented a time machine. As he was zapped back to the time of the dinosaurs, Homer remem-

“
Everybody knows that Jesus died on Good Friday. But is it relevant to anyone?

— Brian Mallory
Jubilee Church Youth Leader

bered the words of his father, "If you should ever go back to the time of the dinosaurs, don't touch anything! The smallest change can affect the future in ways you can't imagine!"

Homer proceeded to kill a mosquito. When the toast popped, he found himself back at home, where his children were giants trying to kill him. For the rest of the episode, he spent his time trying to get his regular life back.

The audience laughed at the show, but also began to ponder the question posed beforehand.

Students performed another drama after the video. A young man sat in the

park, marveling at the perfection of the day, when a bum approached him and demanded all of his money. The young man refused, and the bum attacked, pricking him in the arm with an unknown object.

Later that evening, the young man's girlfriend discovered that he was bleeding quite a bit. He went to the hospital. There he found out that he could have contracted a number of harmful, and even fatal, diseases. Faced with the notion of death, the young man began to worry. Meanwhile, his best friend called to lament that his wife had just left him and say how he longed for stability in life.

The young man, through a series of conversations and thoughts, decided to dump his girlfriend. When the hospital received the test results, he called his best friend.

In the waiting room, the young man had a revelation. The prick, he decided, was not a prick of death. It was intended to wake him up to life and all of its possibilities. He leaves before finding the results.

The band played another number called "Good Souls" after the drama. Going along with the "Can past events affect the future?" thought, a clip from the movie "Back to the Future" played.

Rob Jearles, member of Jubilee Church, took the stage next. He gave a testimonial of his life and the changes he made. He talked about high school and hanging out with his buddies and drinking. But, he explained, he never could find out what his purpose really was.

Once in college, Jearles ended up going to a friend's church. He found

that he liked the atmosphere, and it changed his life.

The next drama showed a man and woman waiting at the pearly gates and remembering special moments in their lives. The woman fondly recalled her charitable acts, while the man bragged about his days as a corporate lawyer. When the man talked about being nice to his elderly neighbor, she wondered why someone who had spent his whole life taking care of number one had waited so long to be kind.

After a short clip from the movie "Braveheart," Mallory spoke about the importance of Good Friday. "Everybody knows that Jesus died on Good Friday. But is it relevant to anyone?" he asked. "Jesus was a person like you and I were. He had to eat and sleep. He had a hangout too. Me and my friends had a hangout. It was McDonald's. Jesus had a hangout too. The Sea of Galilee was his hangout. It was his McDonald's."

Mallory then discussed the impact of the death of Jesus on our lives today. "He did that to be your friend, not just for your Get Out of Hell Free card," he said. "Tonight is not about religion. You can get baptized in every church in St. Louis. You'll use a lot of gas, but that won't show you what's so good about Good Friday."

Maria Curtis, sophomore, English, is a member of Jubilee Church and also leads the Christian Life group at UM-St. Louis, along with Alex Kerford. "I think the night went well," she said. "I've been involved with previous TGIFs. Friends have told me that it made them stop and think for a minute about the meaning of life and why they're here. [Tonight] was a very thought-provoking experience."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

With food, music, multimedia presentations and drama skits, the TGIF event held Thursday night in the Pilot House was part coffeehouse, part revival, and very well attended.

After discussing Good Friday in more detail, Mallory handed the mic over to Karl Scott, a member of the Year Team at Jubilee. Scott performed the song "I am Empathy" to conclude the evening.

Work, from page 6

Studies have shown that working part-time can actually benefit students. Rather than watching television or sitting around, students challenge themselves while earning money. For those who are employed by the University, jobs can further their educational experience. Working in their field of interest provides students a chance to gain experience and build a field-specific resume.

Full-time employment can have a negative affect on schoolwork. A job can limit a student's options when it

comes to scheduling classes. Students who work full-time may also be inclined to take on a lighter class load and decrease the number of courses they take. Students who work full-time are more likely to drop out of school than those who work part-time or not at all.

Maintaining a job can decrease or eliminate procrastination. Many students who work understand that "if it doesn't get done now, it won't get done."

With the rush of everyday life that

college provides, students need a break every now and then. Working can take a large chunk out of that much-needed free time.

"I find [balancing work and school] very difficult because whenever I need to be studying, I have to work. I have to make time to relax so I don't go insane. Things can get pretty hectic," said Justin Stein, freshman, history.

Virginia's George Mason University offers some tips at gmu.edu to students about managing

time, such as:

1. Put together a personal time chart. This survey should include sleep time, time spent on personal hygiene and grooming, time spent on eating, travel time, time spent on planned activities and number of hours spent in class and work.

2. Figure out your study needs. Plan on two hours of studying for easy classes, three for somewhat challenging classes and four for hard classes.

3. Plan out your daily schedule. Schedule in the unavoidable activities

such as classes, work and eating. Fill in the spaces with extracurricular activities and your allotted study time.

4. Don't be a perfectionist. Accept the fact that you cannot be absolutely perfect in all that you do. Instead, set achievable goals for yourself.

5. Learn to say no. Donating your time to everyone is a mistake that will inevitably lead to a burnout. Limit your commitments to what you can handle without risking a mental breakdown.

6. Prioritize. Make a list of activi-

ties in your life and categorize them into most important, somewhat important and least important.

7. Combine activities. Review notes while eating lunch. Make mental lists of important activities while folding laundry.

Working, whether out of necessity or preference, can be a great way to enrich the overall college experience. However, a job should not take precedence over education. After all, college is much of what we're working to pay for.

Homelessness Awareness Week

Monday 4/21- Friday 4/25

Monday 4/21

7PM: Awareness Speakers Dan Buck and Greg Vogelwhite, St. Patrick Center Pilot House

Tuesday 4/22

8PM: Awareness Speaker Jay Swoboda, Editor-in-Chief, Whats Up Magazine Century Room B

Tuesday 4/22

Cardboard Shantytown Simulation Experience, MSC lawn

Friday 4/25

Habitat For Humanity

Visit the Information Booth
2nd floor MSC 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. daily
Donations can be made at various on-campus locations!

Twizzlers Week

~~Buy anything~~
Yes, anything worth \$5 and use this coupon for Free Twizzlers

Free Twizzlers With \$5 purchase @ C-Store/Umart With coupon—expires 4/28/03

Chartwells®

Menu: April 21-25

Monday

Herb Roasted Chicken

Tuesday

Pasta Buffet

Wednesday

Strip Steak Lunch

Thursday

Dijon Crusted Pork Loin

Friday

Grilled Salmon

Where are they now?

Former SGA President

Jim Avery

Now Rep. Jim Avery, R-95, has an interesting story to tell. So instead of letting his political history speak for him, let his personality shine thru on Friday, April 25, 11 a.m. for "Lunch with a Legislator" in the Pilot House

SPORTS

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball

The Rivermen baseball team got game number 16 of the season from its pitching staff, notching an 8-4 win over Indianapolis on Saturday afternoon in a conference game. Bobby Tiefenauer went the distance for UM-St. Louis, going 9.0 innings and giving up four runs on just six hits, while striking out seven and walking none. In the second game of the double header, UM-St. Louis fell 1-0 to the Indianapolis Greyhounds in a non-conference game.

In the opener, each team scored single runs in the first inning. The Rivermen got their run with a leadoff triple by Tony Grana, followed by a sacrifice fly from Jim Reiter. With the score tied at 1-1, the Rivermen then tacked on single runs again in the fourth and fifth innings. In the fourth, UM-St. Louis got a two-out rally going with a base hit by Scott Davis, followed by a fielding error and a hit by pitch to load the bases. Davis then scored on a wild pitch. The Rivermen again got a two-out rally going in the fifth inning, this time started by a base hit by Jason Barron, who would later score on a double by Aaron Brown for a 3-1 UM-St. Louis lead after five.

The Rivermen then exploded in the sixth with four big runs to put the game out of reach. Doug Wiles led off the inning with a base hit and scored on an RBI single by Jim Reiter. A base hit by Bryan Weiss moved Reiter to third, and he then scored on a sacrifice fly by Logan Hughes. Jason Barron followed with a two-run home run, his team-best fifth of the season. UM-St. Louis would increase their lead again in the eighth on an RBI double by Logan Hughes to lead 8-1. Indianapolis would try a late-inning comeback, scoring one run in the eighth and two more in the bottom of the ninth before falling 8-4.

Jason Barron went 3-for-5 on the day with two runs scored and two RBIs in the game. Scott Davis went 2-for-5 with one run scored, and Logan Hughes went 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Bobby Tiefenauer picked up the complete game win and improved his record to 5-0 on the season.

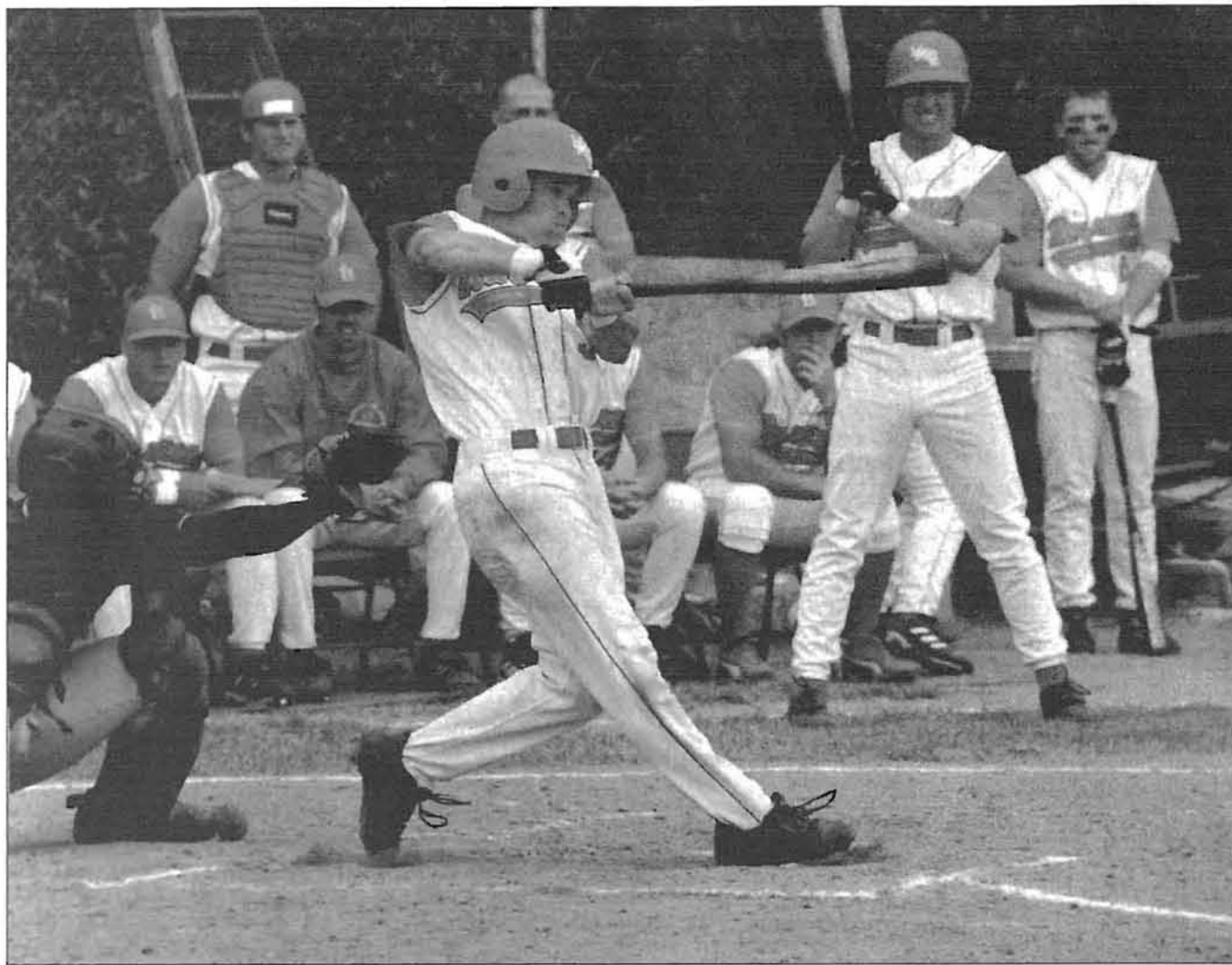
In the second game, which counted as a non-conference game in the records, Indianapolis pitcher Nolan Bastien pitched a complete-game one-

hitter, getting the shutout in a 1-0 win. UM-St. Louis's lone hit of the game was off the bat of Colby Hughes to lead off the top of the third inning, but that was all the Rivermen offense could produce. The only run of the game came in the bottom half of the last inning, as Indianapolis scored on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly for the 1-0 victory. Matt Kueny suffered the loss, going 6.1 innings and giving up one run on eight hits, striking out three and walking three as he suffered his first loss of the year and dropped to 6-1 on the season.

UM-St. Louis improved to 28-10 and is in first place in the conference with a 16-4 record. With the win, the Rivermen lead the second place team by five games in the loss column.

R-men split with Indy

UMSL wins first game, drops the second



Outfielder Jim Reiter takes a swing during the Rivermen's game Thursday afternoon versus the Lincoln Blue Tigers.

Kevin O'Leary/The Current



CONFERENCE NOTES

LATEST RESULTS

WED., APRIL 16
- @ Bellarmine 4-2, Ky. Wesleyan 1-10
- @ Miami (Ohio) 9, Northern Kentucky 5
- Lincoln 6 @ UM-St. Louis 5
- @ Brescia 6 Southern Indiana 4

FRI., APRIL 18
- Kentucky Wesleyan 3-8,

UPCOMING GAMES

MON., APR. 21
- 1 p.m. - Bellarmine
@ Southern Indiana (DH)
- 3 p.m. - Truman State
@ UM-St. Louis

@ Northern Kentucky 2-4
- @ Indianapolis 2-4,
UM-St. Louis 1-7
- @ Wisconsin-Parkside 2-3,
Bellarmine 0-1
- @ Quincy 2(8)-1
Southern Indiana 1-8
- SIU-Edwardsville 2,
@ Saint Joseph's 1
- Lewis 7, @ Oakland City 2

SAT., APR. 19

- 4 p.m. - SIUE @ Kentucky Wesleyan

Tue., Apr. 22
- 1 p.m. - Indianapolis
@ N. Kentucky (DH)
- 3 p.m. - S. Indiana
@ Indiana Southeast
- 1 p.m. - SIUE @ Oakland City

- Kentucky Wesleyan 4,
@ Northern Kentucky 3
- @ Quincy 3, Southern Indiana 2
- @ Saint Joseph's 8-12(10) SIU-Edwardsville 0-15
- @ Wisconsin-Parkside 5 Bellarmine 3
- @ UW-Parkside 4 Bellarmine 1, non-GLVC
- UM-St. Louis 8, @ Indianapolis 4
- @ Indianapolis 1, UM-St. Louis 0,
- @ Oakland City 8-4 Lewis 3-7, non-GLVC

EDITOR

HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

COMING UP

Baseball

April 21

• 3 p.m. vs. Truman State

23

• 3 p.m. @ SIUE

26

• Noon @ Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, Wis.

27

• Noon @ Wisconsin-Parkside

30

• Noon vs. S. Indiana [DH]

May 3

• Noon vs. St. Joseph's [DH]

4

• Noon vs. St. Joseph's [DH]

5

• Noon vs. St. Joseph's [DH]

Softball

April 22

• 4 p.m. vs. Quincy [DH]

24

• 3:30 p.m. @ Quincy [DH]

26

• Noon @ St. Joseph's [DH] in Rensselaer, Ind.

27

• Noon @ Indianapolis [DH]

30

• 5 p.m. vs. McKendree [DH]

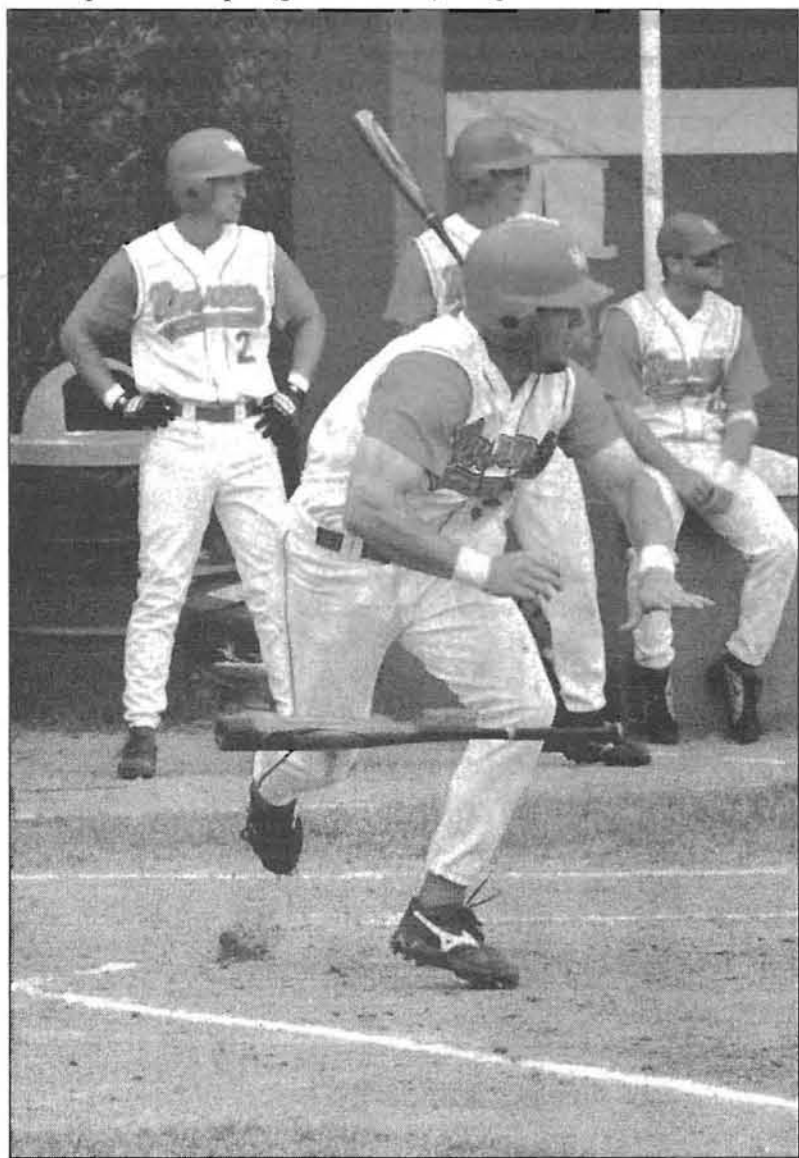
Tennis

April 25

• 3 p.m. vs. Illinois-Springfield

WEB

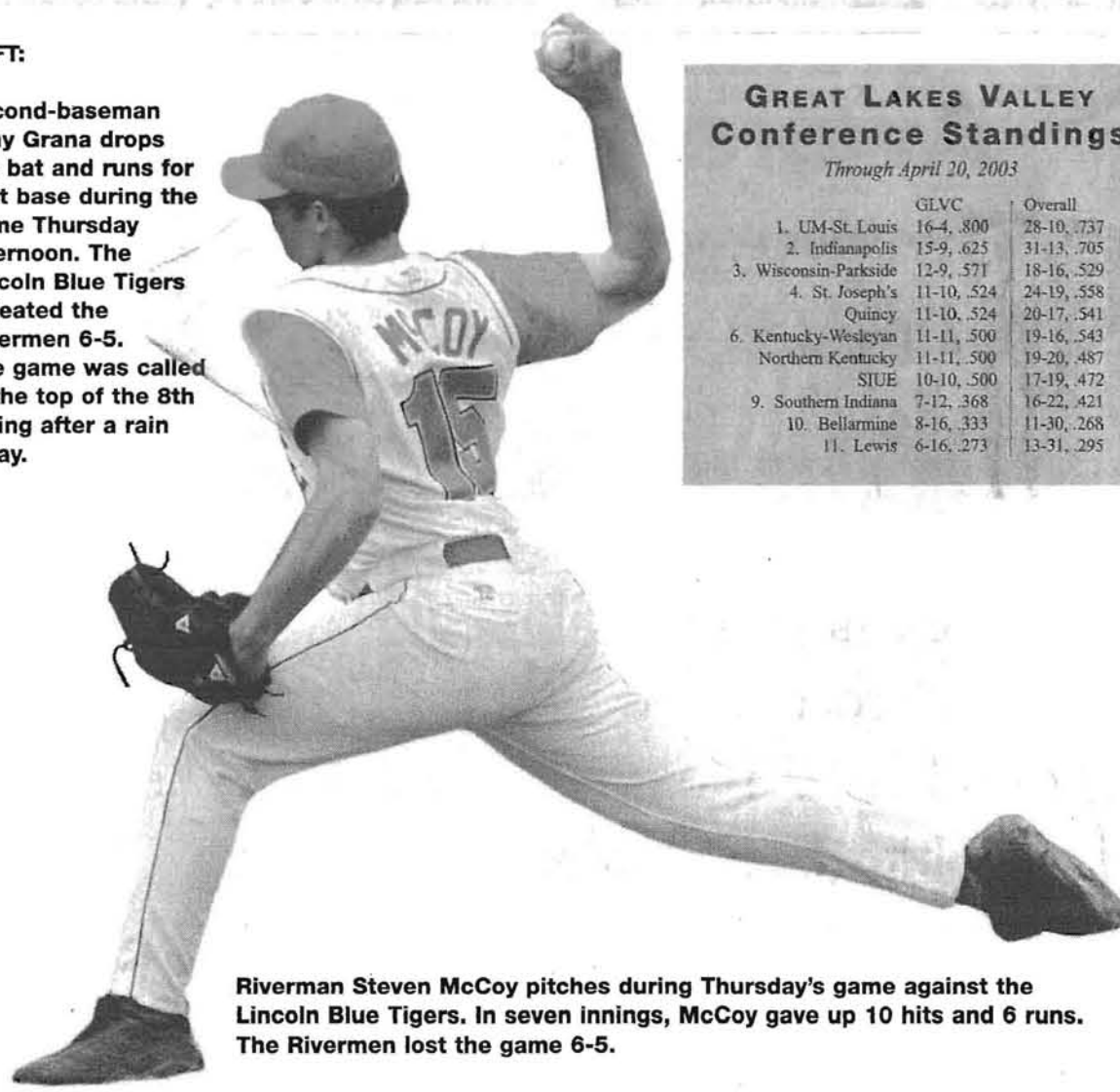
Check out the R-men and R-women sports at www.ums-l-sports.com



Photos by Kevin O'Leary/The Current

LEFT:

Second-baseman Tony Grana drops the bat and runs for first base during the game Thursday afternoon. The Lincoln Blue Tigers defeated the Rivermen 6-5. The game was called in the top of the 8th inning after a rain delay.



Riverman Steven McCoy pitches during Thursday's game against the Lincoln Blue Tigers. In seven innings, McCoy gave up 10 hits and 6 runs. The Rivermen lost the game 6-5.

GREAT LAKES VALLEY Conference Standings

Through April 20, 2003

	GLVC	Overall
1. UM-St. Louis	16-4, .800	28-10, .737
2. Indianapolis	15-9, .625	31-13, .705
3. Wisconsin-Parkside	12-9, .571	18-16, .529
4. St. Joseph's	11-10, .524	24-19, .558
Quincy	11-10, .524	20-17, .541
6. Kentucky-Wesleyan	11-11, .500	19-16, .543
Northern Kentucky	11-11, .500	19-20, .487
SIUE	10-10, .500	17-19, .472
9. Southern Indiana	7-12, .368	16-22, .421
10. Bellarmine	8-16, .333	11-30, .268
11. Lewis	6-16, .273	13-31, .295

Title IX is beneficial but has caused problems

Legislation has created a new brand of inequity among different sports



THE ABCS OF SPORTS

HANK BURNS

Got a comment?
HFLB4@juno.com

If you have been living under a rock and have not had access to a calendar, we are now in a new century. That's right. It's 2003 and, as athletes and sports personalities, we have made much progress. However, despite the progress toward improved gender equities, new problems have arisen. And these problems go hand in hand with that of Title IX legislation.

Passed in 1972, Title IX stands as a monument to diversity and a pillar to gender equity. However, in a noble attempt to level the playing field, it has created new inequities, undermining the importance of all sports.

When creating gender equity, sports such as football, basketball and soccer have been left unscathed, while sports such as softball, volleyball, baseball, track and field and cross country have suffered at many institutions. Wrestling, swimming and diving, looked upon by many as third-rate

sports completely vanished at many schools during the period when cuts were made.

Regardless of the success of the aforementioned sports, each was funded in a sometimes arbitrary manner. The decisions were based upon popularity of the sport, rather than year-by-year success, a sad commentary in collegiate sports.

Do such things happen here at UM-St. Louis? Well, for the most part, no. If they do happen, they happen for different reasons or to a lesser extent. Recently, the softball, baseball and volleyball programs each saw their coaching positions downsized to part-time. The thinking was either cut from the historically-tied soccer and basketball programs or cut from the other programs, which were not only more successful but also very popular.

Cutting out the less-popular sports, ones that aren't as popular as football

or basketball, doesn't just hurt that program. It hurts the sports world. Every time funding is given to a new sport, that sport gets validated and is welcomed as a new sport. For many years, soccer was not played in colleges or anywhere in the United States. However, once funding was given to it on the collegiate level, its popularity grew. The same can be said for another sport, lacrosse, which may continue to grow as a new sport if it is respected as a true sport.

In the battle for funding are new sports and old sports. For example, one of the more progressive of the older sports not receiving the funding it should is track and field. Another example is wrestling. And, oddly enough, each has grown in popularity over the years.

So, basically, there are some problems that have been created because of Title IX. While it is debatable, Title IX

has both directly and indirectly affected the equality between different sports.

PROPS AND POTSHOTS

- The elections here have already been held, and I know its a little late and somewhat annoying, but Adam Schwadron is the man for SGA President. He's the Babe Ruth of politics—very large and gets angered easily.

- Who is this Dick Burns character from The Stagnant that has been impersonating me? He really needs to do something about that ugly (but strangely familiar) face.

- I apologize for the tone of my column this week. It rivals that of the Village Idiots. How idiotic of me, you say? Well, don't worry. This little subsection, if you will, may appear and vanish at any time. So enjoy it (or hate it) while it lasts.

HANG TIME



Caption here

Kevin Ottley/The Current

Three Rivermen earn GLVC honors, including All-Conference

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team had three players receive special honors as announced by the conference. Matt Vaulkhard, Martin Kardos and Mike Schaaf were all named to the GLVC All-Conference team, and Schaaf was further honored by being named the GLVC Freshman of the Year.

Matt Vaulkhard earned All-Conference honors for the second time in his career, earning that honor back in the 2001 season when he was also named GLVC Freshman of the Year. Vaulkhard split time between one and two singles this year. He finished with an 11-5 record in singles play, going 5-3 at one singles and 6-2 at two singles. In addition,

Vaulkhard was 6-1 in conference competition on the season. He was equally tough in doubles play, finishing with a 13-3 record and went 5-2 in conference doubles matches.

Martin Kardos is a repeat on the GLVC All-Conference team, earning those same honors last season. Kardos also split time between one and two singles on the season. Kardos went 4-4 at one singles and was a perfect 7-0 at the two singles spot, for a combined singles record of 11-4. Kardos went 11-3 in doubles matches, including a record of 7-0 at one doubles when he was teamed up with Vaulkhard, and was 5-3 in conference doubles

matches.

Mike Schaaf was the third UM-St. Louis player to be named All-Conference and was also named the GLVC Freshman of the Year. He is the second UMSL player in the last three years to earn that honor. Matt Vaulkhard was named Freshman of the Year in the 2001 season. Schaaf was 12-3 overall in singles play, with most of his action coming at the number three singles spot, where he was 8-3 on the season. He was also a perfect 3-0 at four singles and 1-0 at two singles. Schaaf went 5-1 in conference singles matches and finished at 7-9 on the season in doubles play.

R-men finish in third place in GLVC tourney

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis teams finished in third place at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament with a 5-1 victory over Indianapolis on Saturday afternoon.

UM-St. Louis took two of the three doubles matches and then won three singles matches to put the Greyhounds away. The Rivermen dropped an 8-3 win at one doubles but took easy wins at two and three doubles. Mario Gruden and Rajan Saini won 8-2 at two doubles, and Martin Damm and Martin Kardos won 8-1 at three doubles. GLVC Freshman of the Year Mike Schaaf then won a 6-2, 6-4 match at three singles for UM-St. Louis. Gruden picked up another team point with a 6-2, 6-4 win at four singles, and Martin Damm won at six sin-

gles 6-2, 6-2 for the 5-1 win.

The Rivermen entered the tournament as the fifth seed and faced fourth-seeded Bellarmine in the quarterfinals. UM-St. Louis beat the Knights easily, winning 5-0 to advance to the semifinals to face top-seeded Northern Kentucky. UM-St. Louis lost a close doubles match in that one and was down 2-1 after the three doubles matches. The Rivermen could not pull out enough wins in singles play, losing 5-2.

UM-St. Louis will now wait until next week to find out if the team earned a bid to the NCAA Regionals. It would mark the second straight year for the Rivermen to reach the regionals. They accomplished that feat for the first time in school history last year.

RECAP

THIRD PLACE MATCH: MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS 5, INDIANAPOLIS 2

Doubles:

1. Ross Johnson/Marko Saulovic (UI) def. Matt Vaulkhard/Mike Schaaf (UMSL) 8-3
2. Rajan Saini/Mario Gruden (UMSL) def. Justin Linder/Chris Symmes (UI) 8-2
3. Martin Damm/Martin Kardos (UMSL) def. Brandon Cook/Dustin Guthrie (UI) 8-1

Singles:

3. Mike Schaaf (UMSL) def. Chris Symmes (UI) 6-2, 6-4
4. Mario Gruden (UMSL) def. Justin Linder (UI) 6-2, 6-4
6. Martin Damm (UMSL) def. Dustin Guthrie (UI) 6-2, 6-2

Riverwomen fall to UWP Rangers in double header

The Wisconsin-Parkside softball team defeated UM-St. Louis twice in a double header Saturday afternoon. The Riverwomen fell 7-6 in the first game, and the second game was called with three outs left in the bottom of the seventh to make the final score 3-0. UM-St. Louis is now 12-24-1 overall and 3-11 in conference action.

In the first game, UM-St. Louis jumped out in front, scoring two runs in the bottom of the second on an RBI single by Savanna Adams. The second run came on a walk with the bases loaded, which sent Heather Burr home and gave the Riverwomen a 2-0 lead. The Rangers got within one run after scoring in the top of the third, but UM-St. Louis added to their lead when Kim Kulaitis crossed the plate on a wild pitch to make the score 3-1 in the bottom of the third. Wisconsin-

Parkside's bats exploded in the top of the fifth, scoring sixth runs to give the Rangers a 7-3 lead. The Riverwomen scored in the bottom of the fifth on an RBI single by Kulaitis, but would only score two more runs in the bottom of the seventh to make the final score 7-6. Danielle Moore picked up the loss, moving her record to 3-8 on the season.

The Rangers took the lead on an RBI single by Emily Strobusch in the top of the second inning in the second game. Wisconsin-Parkside held the Riverwomen to zero runs in the game and added to their lead on a two-run RBI single by Sara Anderson. With no outs in the bottom of the seventh and one UM-St. Louis player on second, the game was called because of rain. The Rangers clinched the 3-0 victory.

Research Study on Dating Couples

- **Who is eligible?** Females (ages 18+) in heterosexual dating relationships of a least 3 months duration may be eligible for participation.

- **How long will the study take?** Estimated 1-1.5 hours.

- **What will I receive for my participation?** Upon completion of the study, each member of the couple will receive \$15 (total of \$30)

If you are interested in participating, contact our research office at (314) 516-5411 to determine if you are eligible for the study.



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CONCERT REVIEW

Mature tones

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

From the moment Feel began playing their calm, steady rock ballads, the band was beaming with joy.

To kick off their set, the quartet began with their most recently composed song, "Down on Me." This song became the constant for the group's mellow rock set to follow. The beats remained steady from drummer Dave Shaffer, covered in a blanket of resonating vocals by Scott Sax. Mark Getten and Billy Alexander kept the rhythm section in check with their alternating bass and guitar licks.

Feel's set was one of mixed emotions for the crowd. At the initial rise of the music, the crowd sat calmly, kind of swaying their heads. I'm not sure if they were "feeling" the tunes that the group was so gleefully displaying. By the end, there was more of a response and excitement from a few members of the crowd, and some even flocked to the stage to shake

along with the beat. Maybe this slow response was due to the fact that the group is a new and unheard of name, or that their style is not consistent with the regulars of Mississippi Nights.

The April 9, 2003 show was Feel's attempt to promote their self-titled debut release. The charmingly playful lyrics of singer/songwriter Scott Sax were evident in each song from the album. The ideas are simple and uplifting but at times repetitive, forcing a monotonous tone into the music.

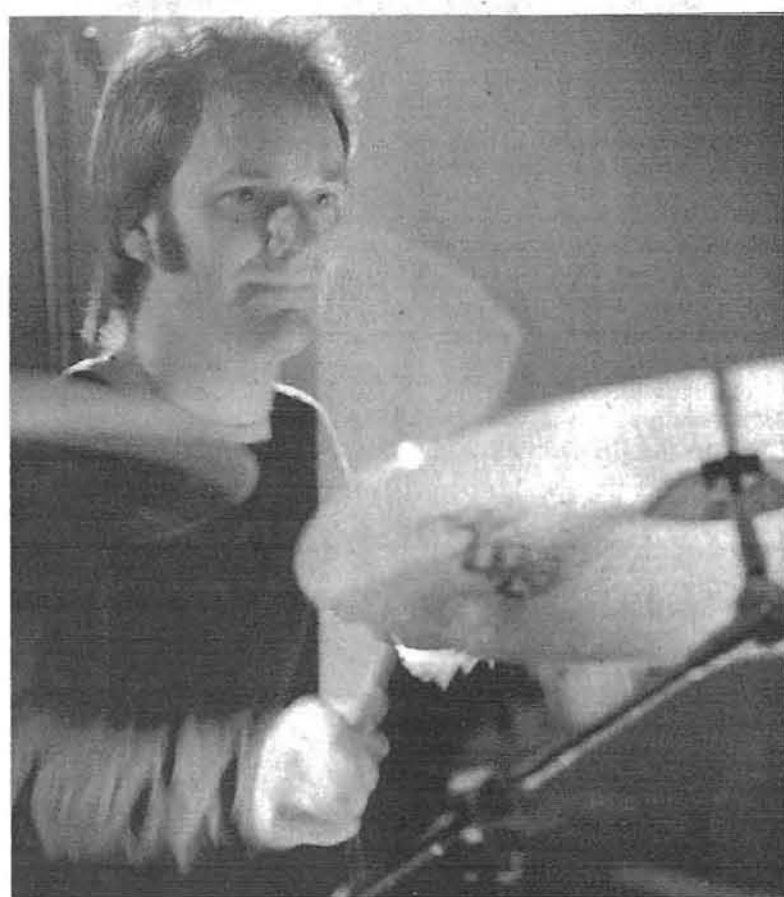
"You can't tour with the name Feel and just go through the motions," said Scott Sax when I inquired about their experience on their first official tour. You can see that the band does truly believe in what they are doing and find a great joy in the art of making and performing their own music. The sound of the band that developed throughout their set was that of soft, eighties-influenced rock; and if you enjoy easy listening, then this may be the band for you.

But just as I thought we were drift-

ing into the world of adult contemporary, Feel turned up the volume and shocked the room with rhythm. The ending was much more alive and full of dedication. One eager fan jumped on stage and helped the band close down the show with their version of an old Rolling Stones favorite "Can't Always Get What You Want." "The audience truly makes the whole show; they are the show," said Sax. This statement proved itself to be true during Feel's performance.

Feel's debut tour has only just begun; St. Louis was the group's third stop on the cross-country ride. Feel is accompanied on their tour by two extremely talented bands, headlining Luce and the Duce Project. The Duce Project is a dual effort in renovating acoustic rock. Josh and Noah, two young men from Austin, Tx., proved that they possess the capacity to move an entire room of people with one song.

see FEEL, page 11



Dave Shaffer, percussionist for Feel, keeps the beat steady during the band's April 9th gig at Mississippi Nights.

MOVIE REVIEW

Film romances supernatural

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

The title is from a poem, which is fitting, for this little independent film aspires to be a poetic tale of supernatural-tinged romance.

"Til Human Voices Wake Us" is such a puzzling title that it was hard to imagine what the film might about, but clearly, the cast was irresistible for indie film fans; Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham-Carter play the main roles. While the quote from T.S. Elliot's "The Love Song of Alfred J. Prufrock" in the title hints at a sinister aspect, the film that unfolded was more romantic and less straightforward than the tone set by the opening few minutes would lead the viewers to believe.

"Til Human Voices Wake Us" is a puzzling supernatural tale that starts out with a grounding in the ordinary world. The film opens with Australian psychiatrist Dr. Samuel Frank (Guy Pearce) lecturing on two kinds of forgetting: the accidental forgot-where-you-put-your-keys kind of forgetting and the suppression of painful memories. The introduction sets us up to think about memory and the tricks it can play. Shortly, we see the stoic Dr. Frank reluctantly returning by train to the small outback town of his childhood after his father's death because his father's final request was to be buried there. Dr. Frank is a tightly controlled, unemotional man, but the death and his trip home rekindle unbidden memories. On the train, he dozes in his compartment and is awakened by a young woman named Ruby (Helena Bonham-Carter), who quizzes the reserved doctor. When the doctor leaves the compartment briefly, he returns to find her vanished. However, the mysterious woman suddenly reappears in his hometown late one night, standing on a bridge above a river. Dr. Frank rescues her from the water after she falls, in what may be a suicide



Helena Bonham-Carter as Ruby and Guy Pearce as Dr. Sam Franks in the Paramount Classics supernatural romance "Til Human Voices Wake Us," directed by Michael Petroni.

attempt, but now Ruby can no longer remember who she is. As Dr. Frank tries to help her to regain her memory, the film takes a surreal turn and a larger mystery draws them together.

Thus starts a series of coincidences and eerie events that mix in with flashback sequences of Dr. Frank's childhood memories. As the childhood memories build up a story of young love and tragedy, questions are raised about the enigmatic Ruby: Who is she and why is she there? Soon we are questioning if she is mad, a ghost, a dream or a fantasy summoned by Dr. Frank's longings and regrets from long ago. "Til Human Voices Wake Us" gives us plenty of puzzles but no real solution.

This dream-like tale is all flavor and atmosphere and, hence, leans

heavily on the two stars, Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham-Carter. One could hardly ask for a better combination for a romantic tale, with Pearce, so marvelous as the star of the unforgettable "Memento," paired with Bonham-Carter, who cut her teeth on "Merchant-Ivory" costume films before switching to edgier, modern stuff like "Fight Club." Undeniably, Pearce and Bonham-Carter bring the right appearance and qualities to the screen for these roles. Pearce, who appears in a beard that conceals his boyish looks and gives him a bit more gravitas, plays the character as a cold, restrained professional, or at least until the mysterious Ruby reappears and sparks long-buried romantic longings. Bonham-Carter's Ruby is outgoing and refuses to be ignored, while

remaining elusive and evasive about who she is or why she's there. Bonham-Carter, so good at being both romantically appealing and maddeningly rebellious and indirect, works her usual magic in the part. Pearce's performance is moving and poignant, as the doctor's professional demeanor with Ruby melts away and his barriers against painful memories erode.

There is a certain art-film-as-gothic-romance flavor to the film. With the mysteries, eerie coincidences and ghostly references, the film is more feeling than substance. The many references to the tragic poem and to literature and Shakespeare make the film seem as an almost studied attempt to be poetic, an attempt not completely successful. However, it is visually beautiful, with some nice atmospheric

camera work to support the emotional acting. In some ways, the flashback to the childhood tragedy is the more compelling story, with very nice acting by the teen performers, Lindley Joyner as 15-year-old Sam and Brooke Harman as Silvy, the beautiful 14-year-old girl tragically bound in leg braces.

There are a few ways to view the story's events, but perhaps the easiest way to interpret them is to consider most of the story as a dream prompted by a mix of memories and regrets brought out by the journey home. The memory flashbacks are easy to follow, since Dr. Frank's thoughts always return to the same summer, but in the modern part of the tale, fantasy verses reality is harder to separate, if it separates at all. Is Ruby real? Are coincidences supernatural? How much is fantasy? As the film progresses, the doctor's memory of loss increasingly drives what happens, like the unconscious wishes of dreams. The script helps us little with solving the mystery and lingers in the realm of questions and poetic metaphor, rather than returning us to the rational world in which we started the story.

Some film aficionados detest the movie convention where surreal things happen and in the end the character awakens and we discover it was all a dream. This film doesn't quite take that far-too-easy cinematic way out of non-rational events, but it seems hard to come to another view of the story, especially with the doctor's remark that he never dreams. The device might be acceptable if the film created a larger metaphor for life or the human condition. This story seems a touch too vague and formless to give us much beyond its own mystery to think about after the lights come up. While the atmospheric photography and talented actors are winning, a bit more universal substance and a bit less cinematic smoke and mirrors would have made a stronger, more memorable film.

BOOK REVIEW

How to be decker than thou guide

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

Admit it, you know what a hipster is. A hipster is the type of person who will only see independent art films and

considers fans of "Star Wars" and "Lord of the Rings" as lower than the dirt beneath their fingernails. A hipster is someone who likes music bands from independent labels and then complains that they "sell out" when more than five people like them. A hipster is someone who thinks that he is above comparing clothing and hairstyles, but then turns his nose up at anyone who gets their clothes from places like Wal-Mart or the malls. A hipster is someone who claims to be an individual, when all they are doing is recycling trends from the last thirty years and repackaging them under a new name. A hip-



Illustration courtesy Anchor Books

ster is someone that is impossible to hold a conversation with unless, of course, the other person is a hipster.

Author Robert Lanham and illustrators Bret Nicely and Jeff Bechtel capture the so-called "hipster trend" with "The Hipster Handbook," a funny, witty and satirical book that pokes fun at those who think of themselves as "decker than thou." Of course, hipsters never use the words "cool" and "uncool." It's always "deck" for good and "fin" for bad. While on the surface level, the book appears to be showing all that is supposedly wonderful with this trend, it really takes some great jibes at these people for their masked conceit and pretentiousness.

Lanham gives the official dictionary definition of a hipster as "one who possesses tastes, social attitudes, and opinions deemed cool by the cool. The hipster walks among the masses of daily life but is not a part of them and shuns or reduces to kitsch anything held dear by the mainstream. A hipster ideally possesses no more than 2%

body fat."

Latham refers to all of the things that a Hipster needs to know, including what bars that true Hipsters go to ("only those with monosyllabic names like Bob, Shine, or Plant"), what are some of the best Hipster universities, such as NYU ("Throw a copy of Film Cut Pro and you will hit a film student on this campus, throw a hash pipe and watch them wrestle one another to grab it first"), jobs and how to act at job interviews ("avoid places that say we are looking for a 'straight shooter'"), hipster terms and the specific movies, music and books that hipsters must have to be considered hipsters (The Residents' Eskimos, the film "Buffalo '66" and J.D. Salinger's "Franny and Zoey" are musts).

"Handbook" also includes detailed descriptions of common hipster types, such as Bipsters ("Blue collar hipsters who want nothing to do with the leisure class Hipsters"), Maxwells, Carpets, and CK-1's (gays, lesbians, and bisexuals respectively) and Neo-Crunches (hippie Hipsters who swear they are not hippies because they don't listen to Jerry Garcia).

"The Hipster Handbook" does have some deck qualities. It is a bitingly savage satire at the hipsters themselves, showing how pretentious

and shallow this culture can be when it is pretending not to be. There is a fine balance between promoting a culture and using it to display its flaws, and Lanham offers, for the most part, the latter. Many people who know hipsters in their lives may get a good chuckle out of this book, since they can probably see friends or even themselves in it.

On the fin side, this book has some serious flaws as well. It runs on far too long. Because it appears to be written by hipsters for hipsters, it gets really old after awhile, particularly for non-hipsters. Reading it is like having a conversation with a Hipster. After a while, you either want to get as far away from them as possible or need to restrain yourself from doing physical harm. The satire makes good points but really puts non-hipster readers at a disadvantage because they may feel that they are being set up for ridicule as well.

And if I ever see another book with the word "deck" in it, it will be too soon.

Ironically, the people who may enjoy this book the least are hipsters themselves, unless they have a good sense of humor. But non-hipsters may close this book and be grateful that they are not.

A&E

EDITOR

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A&E Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change.

April 24

A Man - another Warhol film; this is the one with a brief appearance by the woman who shot him. Free, one night only, Webster's Moore Auditorium

Andy Warhol Film Fest - Webster Film Series' program of films by the '60s pop art icon continues with I, A Man, the film in which the woman who shot him makes a brief appearance. The final film in the series, Lonesome Cowboys, will be shown on May 1. Free and one night only at Webster's Moore Auditorium

April 25

Identity - John Cusack stars in a thriller about people trapped together in a hotel with a murderer in their midst; directed by James Mangold (Girl, Interrupted).

It Runs in the Family - Michael Douglas, Kirk Douglas and more Douglas family, plus Rory Culkin, star in this comedy/drama about coming to terms with one's family

Movern Caller - indie film about Scottish girl whose aimless life takes on a new direction when she finds an unpublished manuscript

Raising Victor Vargas - comedy with appealing young stars about a quirky family; coming-of-age tale about self-styled young teen heart-breaker who sets out to win local beauty Juicy Judy in NY's Lower East Side

Confidence - things get complicated when con artists unknowingly con a local mob boss; stars Ed Burns, Dustin Hoffman

Power and Terror: Noam Chomsky In Our Times - film about MIT linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky, who was called "the most important intellectual alive" by the NY Times. Through April 27 only at Webster's Moore Auditorium

CD REVIEW

Just a hint of grey and worth every penny

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

"Will you join me in this dance of misery, cradled in impossibility," is an avid invitation from AFI's anarchist ballad "Dancing Through Sunday." AFI's newest release, "Sing the Sorrow" takes the listener on a pleasant stroll through a raging fire. The CD cannot be placed in any category, but you may find this uncharted territory quite inviting.

The sonic sounds bursting from AFI's sixth overall release and first major record label contract are a morbid collision between heavy metal and punk rock sounds. The unpredictable pace and frightening rhythm of each song could cause such side effects as excessive head banging and an armful of tattoos. But, nonetheless, there is something for everyone in between the lines of "Sing the Sorrow," from the well-constructed poetry that drives the tracks to the rigid pulse from

Adam Carson's drums skills. AFI, which stands for A Fire Inside, is pulling the carpet out from under the less-conscious rock groups' feet. There is an air of revolutionary, deeply seated, raw human emotion spilling from "Sing the Sorrow." "These waves of plastic fame are drying up and I smile / because you're dying to become forever unknown," from AFI's "Paper Airplanes" demonstrates the defiance the group is breeding in their album. Though chilling

and blunt, the group's unique sound will send them into crowds of all kinds. They are not all about rough sounds and screaming lyrics, as AFI proves in their track "Silver and Cold." The song begins with a soft, romantic piano interlude, which is eventually confronted by a melodic guitar rhythm. This break from loudness is a grave addition to "Sing the Sorrow" and screams that AFI is both flexible and versatile in their songwriting.

You can't go wrong buying the album, but your more monotonous CDs may suffer a lack of playing time with your new addition. The lyrical ideas are not dark and dismal enough to stunt your mood, but there is a sense of tragedy in "Sing the Sorrow." This tragedy is not one that leaves you crying, but one that makes you move. AFI has done it, and it's quite an accomplishment for a group that was formed twelve years prior to the release of

"Sing the Sorrow." Patience, perseverance and a refusal to give in to any modern music mold have proven successful for this Bay Area band. AFI's new CD will bring a new meaning to your definition of hardcore punk rock. The revolutionary approach to punk is one that will be setting new standards in today's alternative music scene. "Sing the Sorrow" is heavy, dynamic and packed with a sonic sound that will make any ear happy.



Using alternative modes of expression, these four men have redefined punk rock. AFI is the next band to look out for in 2003. They are not stopping until they are a household name.

FEEL, from page 10

Luce, which closed the night, is a blend of funky jazz, ska brass and rock and roll that electrified the small St. Louis venue.

To go to a Feel concert is to swing on the porch of mature-aged rock and

roll. The sound is mellow and not extremely different than what has been done for so many years in rock and roll. The group's self-titled album, "Feel," will probably be a frequent flyer of the soft rock 102.5 airwaves,

to say the least. But each individual does truly encompass a great deal of emotion musically, and they do believe in what they are producing. If you can settle for just another rock band, then Feel is for you.



Feel band members Mark Getten, bass, drummer Dave Shaffer, and vocalist/rhythm guitarist Scott Sax play April 9 at Mississippi Nights. The group is supporting its debut, self-titled album.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOTS



Jason GrangerAdam Bodendieck

Well, time is almost up for us here Village Idiot Land. That's right, the clock is slowly ticking down to the end of our reign at the top. So sad see us go. Please, please don't cry. There are always back issues of The Current you can read. Of course, if the Student Activities Budget Committee has their way, there won't be any for you to read next year. Until that time, we will remain ever vigilant in bringing you all the fun...err...fun money can buy. Anyway, some people out there actually need our help. So, on to the questions.

Dear Village Idiots,
I have a question that students have been pondering since the dawn of time. Why is it, oh wise ones, that professors feel the need to pile on so much damn homework all at one time, all at the end of the year? It makes no sense to me. I mean, are they all total sadists with nothing better to do with their time than to make all suffer? Do they hate us? Do we really need bad? What is it?

-Signed, Totally Pissed Off

Dear Pissed Off,
This is something we know a lot about. We have been in college long enough to know that college professors are indeed, sadists. However, it is not why they make you suffer at the end of the year. No, the reason they give you all that homework is, quite simply, you (and by this we mean all students) are still as ignorant and stupid as you were at the beginning of the year. Yep, professors pretty much look at it like, "Well hell, they've been in school for damn long, they aren't gonna learn anything new. Might as well make their lives a living hell."

Sorry to spring this on you now, but the truth must be told. Professors hate us. Can't stand us to be honest. Now, we are sure some of you are wondering how we know this. Believe it or not, Adam can read minds. It's kinda freaky sometimes, and it makes Jason feel very uncomfortable. [Adam's note: Jason, stop talking about porn please, you dirty bastard.] [Jason's note: DUDE! Get outta my head, ass.] [Adam's note: I know you hate me, Jason. Stop thinking it.] Of course, it does have one ethical advantage. Adam can always tell when the chicks want to get him in the sack. It's something he always points out to Jason when they are out.

Jason's note: He's usually in a drunken stupor at the time.]

Whoa...bit of a tangent there. Sorry guy. What we recommend is quite simple. Drop out of school. If you do that, then you'll never have to deal with those mean professors again. (Please do not write us and complain that we advocate dropping out of college. And please don't write us telling us this isn't the proper forum for condoning dropping out.)

-Love, Jason and Adam

Dear Adam and Jason,
I recently realized I am a worthless waste of space. I serve no purpose and have no direction in life. When I wake up in the morning, I don't even put on pants. Seriously, I have no reason to be alive. Now, I am not saying I'm going to off myself, but I am confused about what to do with the rest of my life. Please help me.

-Sincerely, Just Wasting Time

Dear Waste of Space,
What we have to say to you is: ENJOY IT! Seriously man, you have it made. We wish we could be worthless wastes of space, but we have this noble endeavor here, and we unfortunately serve a purpose. Sucks don't it? We will say that we recommend wearing pants. There are certain legal constraints that go along with this that you don't want to get involved with. Besides, you don't want to be known in prison as the guy who likes to drop trou. That could be bad, if you catch our drift.

Really though, if you can go through life without giving a crap about the rest of the society, or even yourself, then you got it made. Think of all the muffins you can spend your life eating. [Adam's note: We still have yet to receive any muffins from our fans. We're beginning to think you don't love us anymore.] [Jason's note: Never mind him, folks. He's very needy and is aching for your approval. You may not know it, but every time we get hate mail, I have to hold him while he cries on my shoulder. It gets down right annoying at times.] [Adam's note: Jason! You swore you'd never tell!] [Jason's note: Shut up Adam, you whiny baby.]

So, enjoy your life being worthless. If that's what brings you pleasure, then have at it. Who are we to criticize? Let he who is without sin throw the first stone...or something like that. To be honest, for ordained ministers, we know very little about the Bible. God bless the Internet. Think about it. There is so much great stuff on the Internet. Besides all the porn [Adam's note: We could really stop here.] [Jason's note: Adam, you are one sick puppy.], which is great, where else could a couple of schmoe like us become ordained ministers? Oh yeah, that reminds us, we are legally able to do weddings and funerals [Adam's note: Aren't those one in the same?], and we have very reasonable rates. And just think of how could it would be to say you had your wedding done by a Village Idiot? We'll show up in tattered jeans and t-shirts and hit on all the hot brides maids then exhaust the liquor at your open bar. Doesn't that sound great? We thought so. See our e-mail address below if you are interested.

Jason and Adam,
Okay, so I have somewhat of a problem. My girlfriend and I recently discovered we have genital herpes. What's really weird is, neither of us fool around on the side, so we have no idea where this could have come from. I kind of want to break up with her, but on the flip side, this presents strategic dating problems. So, my questions are two fold. 1) How could we get herpes if we don't screw around on each other? 2) What should I do about my girlfriend? Breakup or not?

-Signed, Fire Down Below

Dearest Burner,
Yikes! Please let us know when you are going to use one of the campus bathrooms so we can not ever use that one again. You crazy kid and your crazy STDs. When will you ever learn? And what's with this two questions for the price of one stuff? Who do you think we are? We're gonna have to charge you extra for this. But since you asked, we will

answer your questions.
Your first question is simple. You gotta watch where you go to the bathroom, man. We strongly advocate bringing industrial strength sanitizer wherever you go. Wipe down the rim, and you should be good to go. Not that it matters to you anymore; you've already got cauliflower growing on your little buddy (don't pick at it).

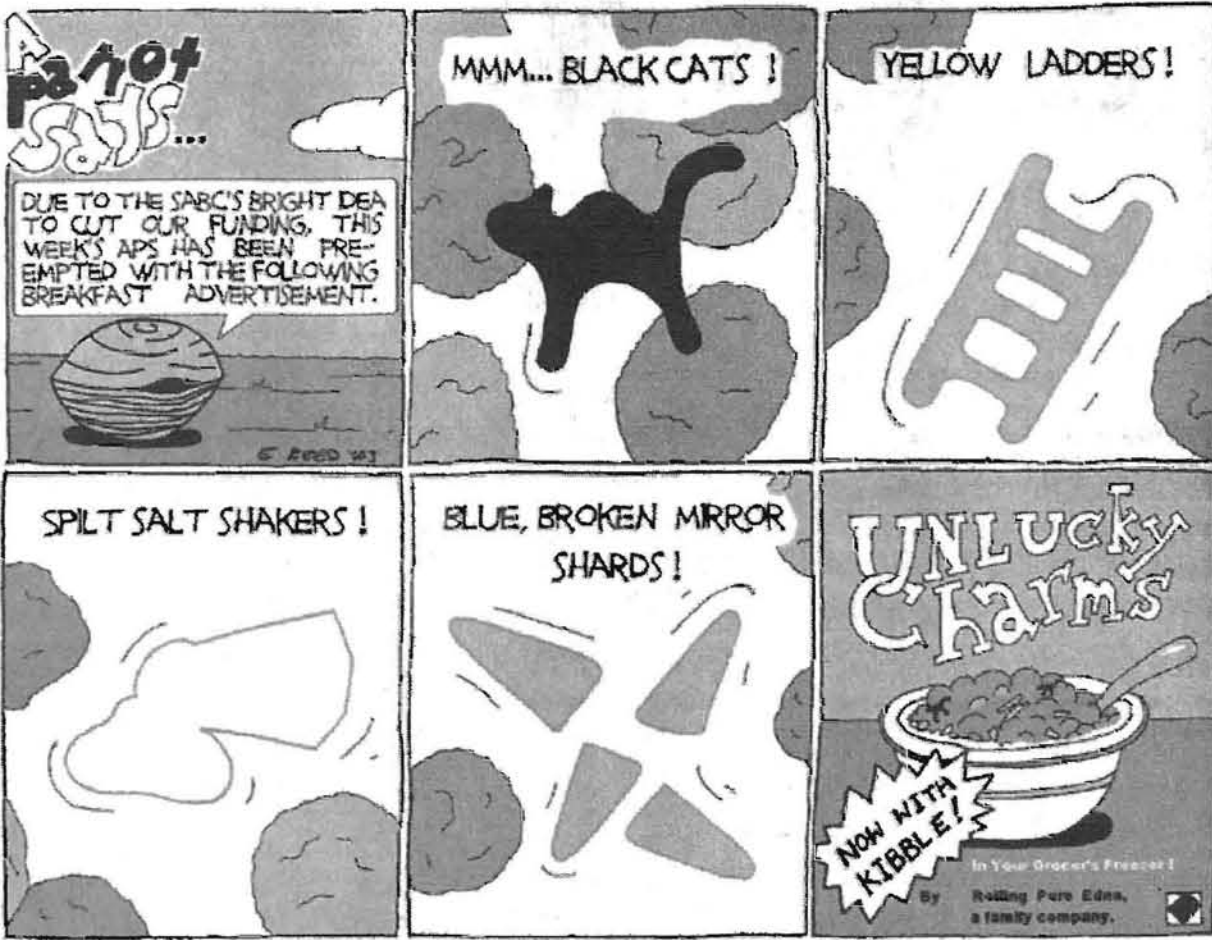
You second question was a little trickier. However, after agonizing and pouring over this question, we have an answer for you (Truth be told, we took about 30 seconds thinking of this answer then went and watched "Charles in Charge" reruns.) [Jason's note: I want, I want Charles in charge of me...DAMMIT! When will I learn to stop doing that?] [Adam's note: Jason, are you gay?] [Jason's note: I hate you, Adam.] Stay together with your woman. You were right when you said this could present a "strategic dating problem." You don't want to be known as the herpes guy. Think of the taunts: "Here comes herpes guy." "Look out, here comes little herpes man." "Did you know he has cauliflower growing on his little Jimmy?" At least with your girlfriend, you'll never have to have that uncomfortable conversation explaining why you have a sharecropping farm below the belt or why you are forever scratching your crotch. Jason can attest to this as he used to play hockey and one of his teammates thought it'd be great to put IcyHot in his jockstrap before a game. [Jason's note: That really sucked.] In the long run, you'll be thankful. Plus, you won't have to worry about if your little problem is flaring up when you want to get to making the sweet, sweet luv'n'. She's already got it, so she can't very well get it again (Or can she? We're not really sure on this one.) So stay with your lady friend. Trust us. (By the way, we were serious about the bathroom thing. We don't want to share your funky disease with you.)

-Love, Adam and Jason

So, another week has come and gone. We're spent after all the hard work we put in on this column. But at the end of the day, we rest comfortably knowing we've helped you, our lovely readers, with their problems. We hope you all learned a valuable lesson. First: You are all stupid, according to your professors. Second: If you are a worthless waste of space, enjoy it. Third: Avoid the burners. They can haunt you for the rest of your natural life. Fourth: "Charles in Charge" has a catchy theme song. Fifth: Jason really hates Adam. Thank you for playing and have a nice day.

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: VillageldiotsJA@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 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. So there.
-The Management



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Springfield Police Department

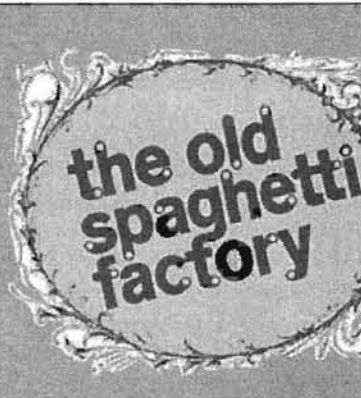
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Seeking babysitter

Looking for some extra cash without the burden of a set schedule? I am looking for a dependable female who thinks that the occasional evening spent watching "Spongebob Squarepants" qualifies as a good time. If you have any previous babysitting experience and like kids, please call Angie at 314-374-3692.

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Housing

1-bedroom apartment

One-bedroom apartment available in June for a lease takeover. Located in the Central West End. If you are interested or know anyone who is, please call me at 314-454-3836.

Seeking roommate

UM-St. Louis student, black female, early 20s, smoker, quiet, studious, keeps 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.

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Subletter Wanted

Graduating student seeks subletter for this summer for an apartment in the University Meadows. Call Jon at 314-516-7836.

Housing

Summer roommate wanted

UMSL student seeking roommate from mid May - mid August to share a 2-bedroom apartment. Apartment has dishwasher, laundry facilities on grounds, pool, AC, cable, fully furnished. Mansion Hills Apartments, super close to campus (near the ball fields), 10 min. walk to the MetroLink. \$260/month plus phone and electric. If you are interested, call Nicole at 314-521-5328 or 636-922-8206.

Seeking roommate

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

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2 bdrm. apt in the U. City Loop with additional sunroom, big dining & living rooms, and off-street parking. Very nice condition with newer carpet and paint. Wonderful location just a block from the Delmar Loop in a very safe neighborhood. Cheap for this area at \$625/month, includes water & trash. Available for sublease May 1st. Call 314-726-1544 for more info.

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Roommate wanted for two-story St. Ann home. You get upstairs-two private bedrooms and bathroom. I am a teacher and grad student. All utilities included. Prefer grad student or professional. \$400 per month. Please call Scot at 314-733-0948.

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'96 Navy blue camaro, V6

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advertisement Attention Graduating Students

Did you know that you can reduce the interest rate on your student loans and save thousands of dollars by consolidating your student loans after graduation?

The Higher Education Act, established by Congress, allows any graduate (or parent with PLUS loans) to consolidate their student loans by combining all their eligible student loans into a single loan issued by a new lender. Graduates who do this immediately after graduation (while they are still in their non-repayment period) are able to reduce the interest rate on all their eligible loans by 0.60% - potentially saving themselves thousands of dollars.

There are several other benefits associated with Student Loan Consolidation and these include:

- The ability to reduce your monthly interest repayments by up to 54% by extending your repayment period. This may help you in matching your income level to your repayment obligations.
- Fixing the interest rate on your loans to take advantage of the historically low interest rates that are currently available for the life of your loans. Your existing loans are variable and could rise over time as interest rates rise. Consolidation can ensure that this doesn't happen.
- Dealing with only one monthly loan repayment from one lender can make your life easier.
- Save even more on your repayments by taking advantage of 'borrower benefits' that can reduce your interest rate by up to an additional 1.25% by making electronic and on-time repayments.

Does it Matter When You Choose to Consolidate?

Yes. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated) timing is critical to maximizing the amount that you can save with consolidation. If you wait too long to apply for consolidation, you might miss out on the opportunity to reduce the interest rate on all your loans by 0.60%.

What Does it Cost to Consolidate?

There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

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STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

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MIRTHDAY, from page 6

Students also had the opportunity to go on carnival rides. 'Dizzy Dragons,' 'The Hurricane' and an out-of-control ferris wheel promised an afternoon of lightheaded, nauseous fun, while bumper cars and a giant

'Fun Slide' offered slightly tamer entertainment for those who had already stuffed themselves with funnel cake. Radio station 105.7 The Point joined in the day of mirth, giving out

promotional CDs and other information. At 2 p.m., students filled the Pilot House in eager anticipation. The excitement rose as a DJ stepped onto stage and said, "I'd like to welcome everybody to Nappy Hour!"

Terry Marbry, freshman, secondary education, sat close to the stage. "[My favorite part of Mirthday] is enjoying the concert with friends and hanging out. I'm a huge fan of Nappy Roots," she said while waiting for the show to begin.

Finally, popular rap group Nappy Roots took the stage and began the Mirthday concert. They performed for an hour, singing various songs off of their February 2002 album, "Watermelon, Chicken and Gritz." The Kentucky-based outfit fired up the crowd, and before long people were dancing and singing along with the music.

"This is like a house party! Nappy Roots is at your house party!" they said.

One band member pulled off his bandana and tossed it into the crowd. Later, he emptied a bottle of water on the crowd. Halfway through the show, Nappy Roots honored victims of September 11, those fighting in the war and musicians that have died in recent years.

"Who in here misses Tupac Shakur?" they asked the crowd. "What about B.I.G.? Big Pun? Aaliyah? Lisa Left-Eye Lopez?" In order to pay tribute to those fighting and those who have died, the group told the audience to hold two fingers up as a symbol of respect and remembrance.

After the concert, band members signed autographs, gave hugs, answered questions and took pictures with fans.

"My favorite part of performing for a college audience is that it's one big party. When the crowd is reciting your lyrics—that's connection," said "Clutch" (Ron Wilson).

"Scales" (Melvin Adams) enjoys performing at colleges because of the diversity. "What you learn at college is not so much out of a book. You meet so many cultures," he said.

Other Mirthday events included volleyball, candle making, a talent competition to see who would be named the UMSL Idol, games and booths representing a variety of campus organizations.

Mirthday was sponsored by the University Program Board and the Office of Student Life.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE: Students enjoy the massive slide set up Wednesday. BELOW: Amy Asinger, senior, psychology, and Brian Kennedy, junior, history try out the "Bungee Run," where students tether themselves to a bungee cord, run forward, and are quickly snapped backward.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

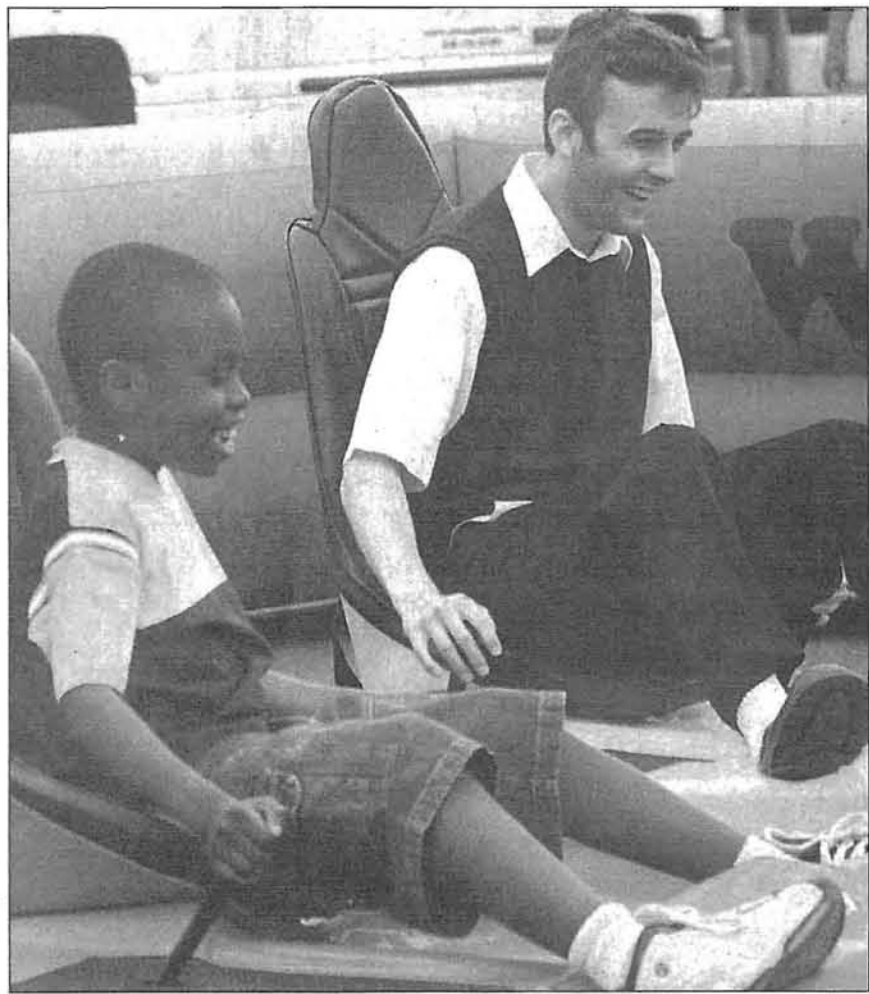


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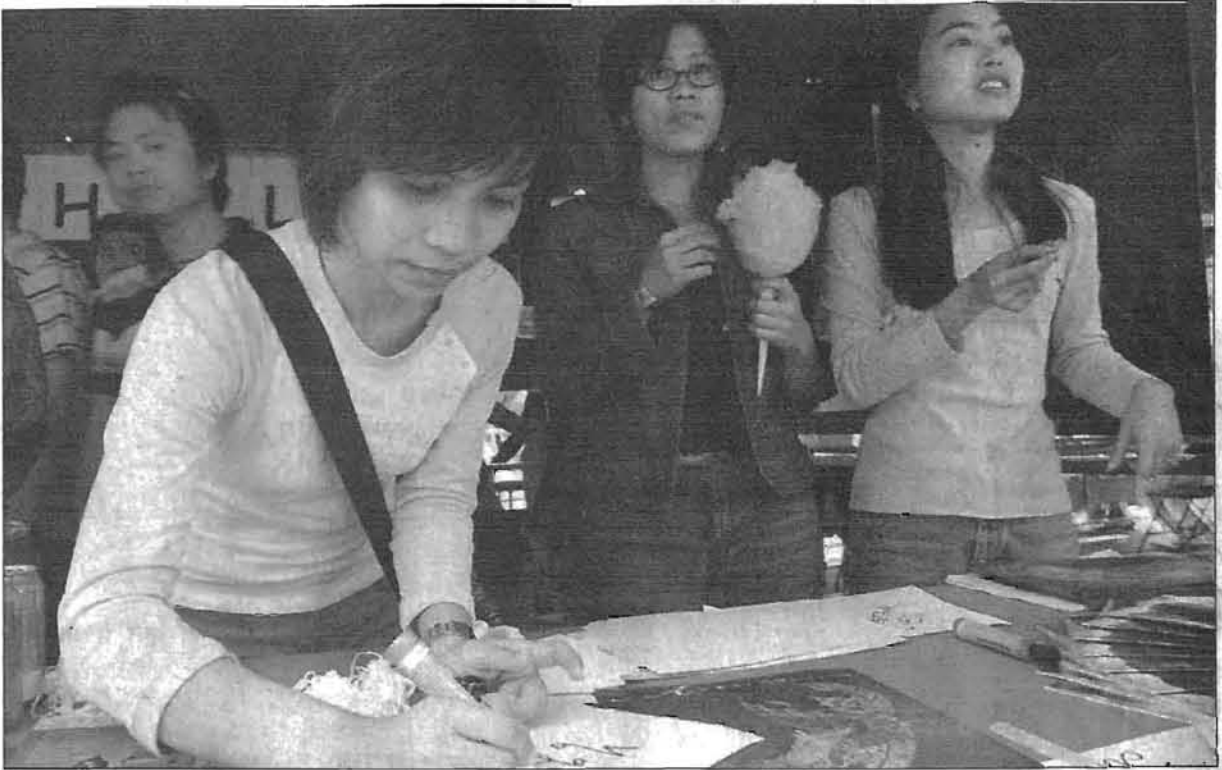
ABOVE: Veloney Jack (in glasses), senior, psychology, sports a festive look during the Mirthday celebration Wednesday.

RIGHT: Nappy Roots performed Wednesday for a large crowd of students in the Pilot House.

BELOW: Nick Baker, junior, secondary education, takes a ride on the bumper cars.

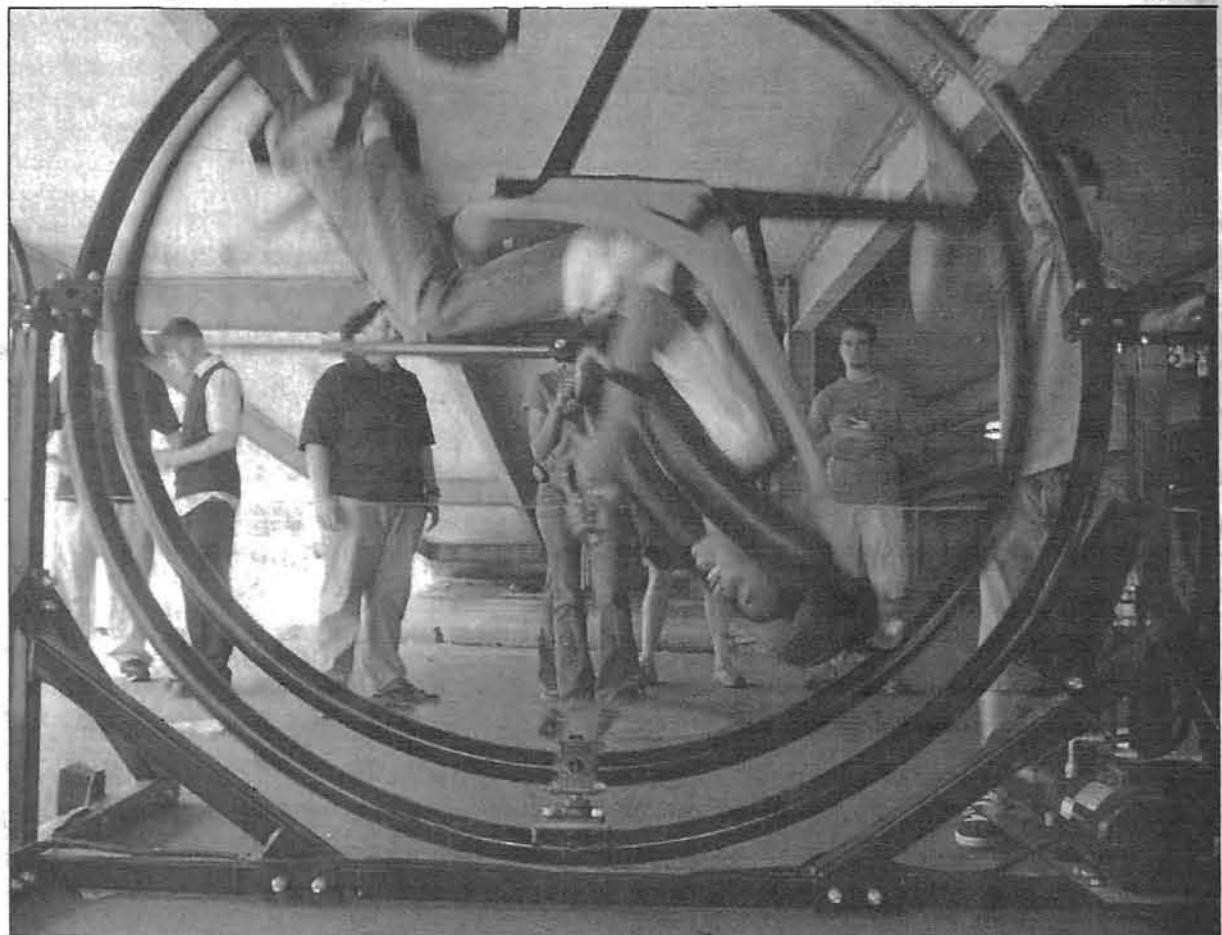


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ABOVE: Awika Visavachaipan, graduate student, business, writes out students' names in Thai while manning the Thai Student Association booth during the Mirthday celebration.

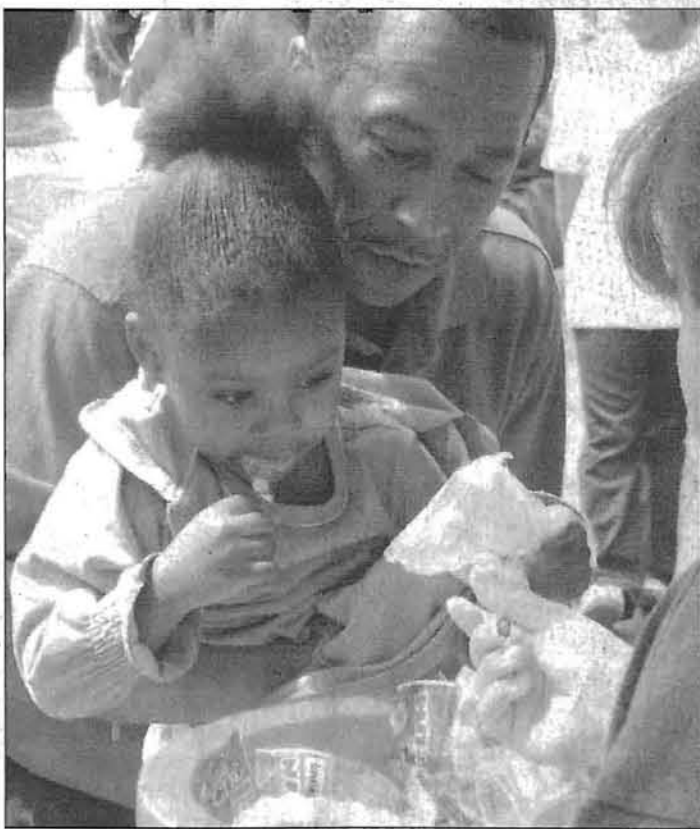


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ABOVE: A gyro-tron was set up on the first floor of Garage D. Students line up for their turn to twist and spin.



Sara Quiroz/The Current



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ABOVE: Willard Malone, MSC staffer, helps this youngster with a piece of candy from the Student Life booth at Mirthday.

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