

4-28-2003

Current, April 28, 2003

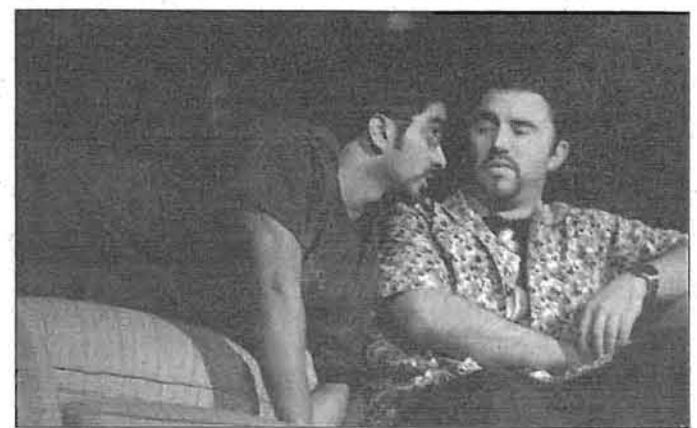
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University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, April 28, 2003" (2003). *Current (2000s)*. 151.
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University Players take to the stage See page 10

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Current appeals SABC decision

Newspaper outlines reasons its funding should be restored

BY NICHOLE LeCLAIR
Features Editor

UM—St. Louis will become the only university in the nation without a student-run media source if *The Current's* funding is not reinstated.

On April 25, *The Current* appealed the Student Activities and Budget Committee's \$0 allocation for next year. This is the first time in the paper's 39-year history that funding has been cut by the SABC, and without that backing the newspaper will have to close. Although *The Current* usually becomes self-supporting via advertising by mid-October, the money allocated by SABC is required as seed money for printing and business costs.

The main reason for the loss of funding, according to the SABC, was the salary structure of *The Current*.

"The majority of the salaries since the 1997 to 1998 school year have not changed," said Editor-in-Chief Stanford Griffith. "It wasn't too much then. Some salaries have actually decreased." He agrees that the commission for advertising sales should be lowered but said that this decision was made before the funding decisions of the SABC. No changes can be made until the close of the fiscal year. Jason Granger, editor-in-chief elect, assured the SABC that he would carry through with this change in the following year.

"That is very encouraging," said Jeff Griesemer, comptroller of the Student Government Association and chairman of SABC.

Members of the SABC also questioned whether *The Current* was spending more than necessary on printing.

"I always see papers on the racks at the end of the week," said SABC member Marc Jerrolds. "Are you printing too many? Could you cut down on that?"

"We print about 6,000 copies a week," said Managing Editor Anne Bauer. "We refill the racks throughout the week, which is why you usually see them full. There is also a base rate for printing; after a certain number of copies, extras cost very little. If we were to cut a thousand or so, it would hardly make a difference [in price]."

see APPEAL, page 3

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Higher ed cut again

State universities take 10.8 percent hit

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Students of the UM System received more bad news from the state legislature last week as they announced a 10.8 percent cut in higher education.

Fears are now on the rise about a tuition hike as high as 19 percent to try to cover the most recent cut. This would be on top of the 3.2 percent tuition hike announced by System President Elson Floyd. Floyd's plan is based on inflation rates, and he said he was hoping to keep tuition increases pegged at an inflationary rate. When Floyd made the announcement, he was banking on no new budget cuts from the state level.

According to the Department of

Missouri State University, Harris-Stowe State College, the University of Missouri and Linn State Technical College. Southwest Missouri State University took a 6.6 percent cut, Missouri Western State College took a 4.5 percent cut and Missouri Southern State College received no cuts to their funding. In fact, Missouri Southern State College would receive an increase. Approximately \$74,445,922 has been cut in this newest round of withholdings, bringing the two-year total to nearly \$500 million.

With the massive cuts of last year and this newest round of cuts officials in the UM System are saying they cannot absorb any more layoffs or firings without affecting the goals of the University, including teaching, research and public service.

Gov. Bob Holden spoke to a class of first-graders last Thursday where he said proposed cuts of \$337 million to secondary education were

unacceptable. These cuts would force university tuition to rise if the state Senate does not go along with his proposed tax increases. According to Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president for finance and

administration, student fees at the four UM campuses (St. Louis, Rolla, Kansas City and Columbia) would have to go up 19 percent. The legislature's budget proposal for fiscal year 2003-2004, which begins July 1, would cut almost \$44 million dollars from the UM System alone. The proposed cut is not finalized, however; the plan still has to be approved by both chambers of the legislature.

The House has passed its own budget for the Department of Higher Education, indicating a \$16 million cut would suffice.

House Budget Committee Chairman Carl Bearden has said in the past that budget proposals from either the House or the Senate are not set in stone. The cut will be somewhere between the \$16 million proposed by the House and the \$89 million proposed by the Senate.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate are trying to balance a projected \$1 billion budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year. The severity of the shortfall has led lawmakers to recommend reductions in budgets to every state agency and to propose new taxes in an attempt to bail out the state.

Nick Bowman, Associated Students of the University of Missouri lobbyist, said that while he is upset higher education is receiving yet another cut, it could have been worse. "It was the smallest cut we

anticipated; so we're pretty happy," Bowman said. "The bottom line is we're going to lose money. We can only hope that it's the 10.8 percent cut and not something higher."

Bowman said his biggest fear right now is Holden vetoing the proposal and going with a higher cut to the higher education system.

"Everybody in the Capitol is expecting him to veto the plan," Bowman said. "This is a partisan issue. Neither side will admit the state has a problem and try to fix that problem."

According to Marty Oetting, UM System official, this issue is far from over.

"I predict the House and Senate will approve a plan that resembles the GOP proposal, the Governor will veto it, and we will be back in special session in early June," Oetting said in a press release. "Whether any better agreement for higher education could be reached at that time is hard to predict."

In other legislative news, the proposed merger between the UM System and Northwest Missouri State University has been put on hold because of the budget crisis and the approaching end of the legislative session. Bowman said, however, that he believes the merger will pass the legislature as soon as the next session begins in July.

"[UM System President Elson] Floyd wants it to happen, and [Northwest Missouri State University President Dean L.] Hubbard wants it to happen; so the legislature will pass it," Bowman said.

Campus implements anti-terrorism system

New setup mirrors national precautionary guides

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

There have always been emergency plans for natural disasters and terrorist attacks at UM-St. Louis, but since September 11 and the recent war with Iraq the anti-terrorism policy has been modified.

According to Al Wurt, UM-St. Louis police lieutenant and emergency management coordinator, this proactive security program is a workable and flexible plan that will provide for the basic needs of the University.

The police feel that the most important thing is to provide safety and security to the campus and to be ready to protect against any possible incident, Wurt said.

This plan includes access to computer-tracked calls that the FBI or state send immediate notices about when there might be a threat of terrorism. Every call or dispatch takes place in each station's control room. While people may be able to purchase or buy police scanners, only law enforcement agencies have access to the emergency response computer systems.

"This plan would not be implemented if it wasn't considered to be good," University Spokesman Bob Samples said.

The plan is very simple and aims to respond to any type of emergency within the metropolitan area. Because the system at UM-St. Louis has integrated operations with other county and state stations and fire departments, a higher level of security exists.

With the computer system, UM-St. Louis Police can automatically call for more assistance with a touch of a button.

The location of UM-St. Louis is right in the center of where a possible attack could occur. Within a mile-and-a-half from the University is Lambert airport, where recently a high level of security has been enforced, and about 15 minutes from campus is the Arch, which has been barricaded for the last couple of months.

The levels of security have been determined by color codes. Red is the highest alert, followed in descending order by orange, yellow and finally green. A week ago, Lambert International Airport was considered to be under a Yellow Alert, and the highest level it has reached since the war with Iraq began has been Orange.

While a terrorist attack is but a remote possibility, the school is located close to other areas that might be considered targets. Wurt went on to say, "With the intelligence info. given, UMSt. Louis has not been singled out as a next possible target, but we still want to be prepared for anything that may happen."

The anti-terrorism policy is also known as the police department's "Code 1000." The Code 1000 is tested on an annual basis to make sure that its operations are efficient.

"The Code 1000 is a generalized plan for all regional areas but will be enacted at UMSt. Louis if needed," Chief of Police Bob Roeseler said.

This plan exists solely for the purpose of response, not prevention.

Green
Low Condition

Blue
Guarded condition

Yellow
Elevated condition

Red
Severe condition

UMSL's terrorism warning system

Low risk of terrorist attack. The following measures may be applied:

- Refining and exercising preplanned protective measures
- Ensuring that personnel receive training on HSAS-, department- or agency-specific protective measures
- Regularly assessing facilities for vulnerabilities and taking measures to reduce them

General risk of attack. In addition to the previously outlined protective measures, the following may be applied:

- Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations
- Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures
- Providing the public with necessary information

Significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined protective measures, the following may be applied:

- Increasing surveillance of critical locations
- Coordinating emergency plans with nearby jurisdictions
- Assessing further refinement of protective measures within the context of the current threat information
- Implementing, as appropriate, contingency- and emergency-response plans

High risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outline protective measures, the following may be applied:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with armed forces or law-enforcement agencies
- Taking additional precautions at public events
- Preparing to work at an alternate site or with a dispersed workforce
- Restricting access to essential personnel only

Severe risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outline protective measures, the following may be applied:

- Assigning emergency response persons and pre-positioning specialty trained teams
- Monitoring, redirecting or constraining transportation systems
- Closing public and government facilities
- Increasing the redirection of personnel to address emergency needs

Bulletin Board

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

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
Amey Gonyea • Music critic

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

Staff Photographers
Kevin Ottley,
Sara Quiroz, Lishu Qu

388 Millennium Student Center
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-6811

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

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Mon 28 Monday Noon Series

"Water Highways to the Hinterland: Three Rivers Vital to Colonial St. Louis" will be the topic of this week's 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. Fred Fausz, associate professor of history at 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 multinational fur trade dependent upon rural areas.

28 Chemistry Colloquia

The topic of the chemistry colloquia is "Cross Reactivity of Pneumococcal Antibodies." The colloquia begins at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The visiting speaker is Dr. Moon H. Nahm from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Mon 28 (cont.) Continuing education

"Capturing your legacy" is a noncredit program that provides an opportunity for participants to create a "legacy workbook" in which they will leave information for loved ones to use upon their death. The program will begin at 6 p.m. in 126 of the JC Penney Conference Center. This event is open. The fee is \$59 per person or \$79 per couple. The program is sponsored by the UM-St. Louis College of Arts & Sciences, Continuing Education & Outreach. For more information, contact Noel Koranda at 516-6793.

Tues 29 Career Services

An Interviewing Techniques Workshop is from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 278 MSC. Learn how to effectively answer interview questions. Registration required; call 516-5111 or visit Career Services in 278 MSC.

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.

Thur 1 Storytelling festival

The St. Louis Storytelling Festival will be hosting a special on-campus session entitled "Walking the Choctaw Road, From the Past to Present." The festival begins at noon in Clark Hall room 119. Featured storyteller Tim Tingle, a member of the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation, presents a concert of Native American stories and music celebrating the survival of the Choctaw Nation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Billie Hume at 516-6677.

Put it on the Board!

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

Thur 1 Memorial Lecture

The 16th Homer Jones Memorial Lecture will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms on the 3rd floor of the MSC. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Department of Economics. For more information, call Cindy Vantine at 516-5442.

Fri 2 Rec Sports

Rec Sports' Golf Tournament is today. Play 9 holes (for \$10) or 18 holes (for \$18) in our Intramural Medal Tourney held at St. Charles Golf Course located at 500 Friedens Road. Tee-off anytime on Friday & turn scorecards in at course. Student and fac/staff categories with t-shirts awarded to net and gross men's & women's winners of each division. What a great way to close out the semester! For more information, call the Rec Sports Office at 203 Mark Twain.

Mon 5 Endowed Professor Lecture Series

As part of the Endowed Professor Lecture Series, Finn Esbensen, will be speaking on "Theory and Practice of Fire" from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the MSC. A reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Steffanie Rockette at 516-5267. The event is free and open to the public.

Tues 6 Endowed Professor Lecture Series

As part of the Endowed Professor Lecture Series, Jim Wilson will be speaking on "Theory and Practice of Fire" from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the MSC. A reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Steffanie Rockette at 516-5267. The event is free and open to the public.

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department between April 18 and April 24. If readers have information that could assist the 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 20 - Property Damage

In Benton Hall an unknown object made a crack in the window.

April 20 - Disturbance/Property Damage

At 7850 Florissant Rd. there was a domestic dispute. A girlfriend put her fist through the apartment window.

April 22 - Theft under \$500

A student's parking permit was stolen. The location of where it was stolen from is unknown.

April 23 - Theft under \$500

A bookbag was stolen from the 2nd floor restroom of the Millennium Student Center.

April 24 - Property damage

In parking lot JJ, a vehicle's window was broken out.

April 24 - Theft under \$500

A student's parking permit was stolen. The location of where it was stolen from is unknown.

During this same time period, seven vehicles on campus were "booted" for either displaying a counterfeit parking permit or being a frequent violator. All of the owners had to pay \$25 to have the boots removed from their vehicles. The vehicles which displayed a counterfeit permit were given a parking ticket in the amount of \$250. Also, 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

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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Campus-owned property burns

Investigators are pursuing the situation as suspected arson

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

One of the University-owned duplexes in Normandy caught fire last Saturday, causing billowing smoke visible from campus.

The property, which is located at 8101 Everts St., is situated just off Florissant Road in the Hollywood Park area. Fire departments from Normandy, Ferguson and Mid-County were on hand to control the fire. Normandy and UM-St. Louis police were on hand for crowd control. Firemen and police would not speculate as to the cause of the fire nor the extent of the damage. However, the houses in that area are uninhabited, and the only people with approved access are University officials and maintenance workers. The houses, which all have boarded-up windows, have been uninhabited for a while.

The flames of the fire were seen shooting up through a hole in the roof, and bits and pieces of shingling could be seen falling into the house through the roof. One of the Normandy firemen had to be hosed down after he was covered in debris falling off the ceiling. At one point, part of the roof collapsed and a massive amount of smoke billowed out, obscuring vision. Firemen repeatedly came out of the house for new oxygen tanks.

UM-St. Louis police are handling the investigation of the fire, which occurred at approximately 4:00 p.m.

The University bought out the property as part of the Performing Arts Center expansion project. The houses are due for demolition off

ramp can be built in the area for easy

“
The St. Louis County Arson Squad is investigating this as an arson.

— Bob Samples, director of University Communications

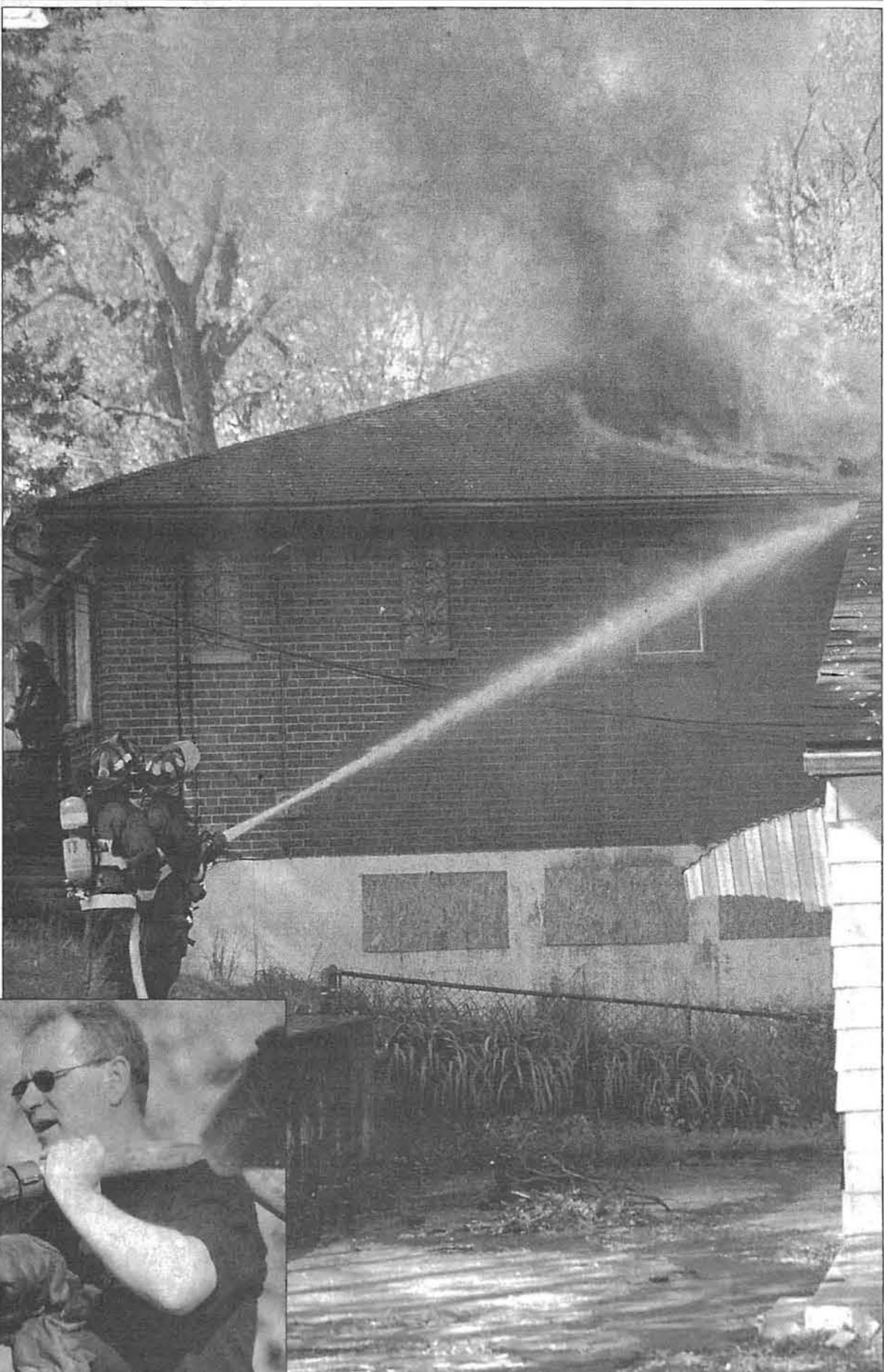
access to the PAC.

Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said the

property has been vacant for two years and is due for destruction shortly. He also said the case is being investigated as a crime.

“The St. Louis County arson squad is investigating this as an arson,” Samples said. “The Normandy fire department responded to the call and put out the fire. There was damage done to the building.”

BELOW: One of the Normandy firefighters is hosed off after he was covered in smoldering debris from the fire at 8101 Everts St., a University owned property. The St. Louis County Arson Squad is investigating the fire as an arson.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

ABOVE: Firefighters work to put out a fire at 8101 Everts St. in Normandy. The duplex is owned by UM-St. Louis. It was purchased as part of the Performing Arts Center expansion project. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



APPEAL, from page 1

If *The Current* did choose to cut circulation, it could do itself more harm than good. “The rates we charge for advertising are based on circulation,” explained Advertising Director Darren Woods. “We’d lose more than we saved.”

The Current should have an answer to their appeal this week. The SABC said they would be notified by mail.

Following the appeal, the senior staff of *The Current* were hopeful but surprised by what they felt were basic business questions.

“I’m concerned that a committee of students that know little about running a business, especially a newspaper business, is allocating our budget,” said Bauer. “One question in particular made me aware that the members did not have a clear understanding of how print media is financed. They do not seem to understand production costs, how advertising is managed, etc. They wouldn’t have asked the questions they did if they had an understanding of our business.”

“I feel that *The Current* presented its case well, but I wonder if it fell on deaf ears,” said Griffith. “I think that the body language told more about the reception of our appeal than their words. I’m anxious to hear the final decision of the committee. And while I hold out hope, I won’t believe anything until I see it in writing. I was a little disappointed with questions that the SABC asked us during the meeting. They could have been asked

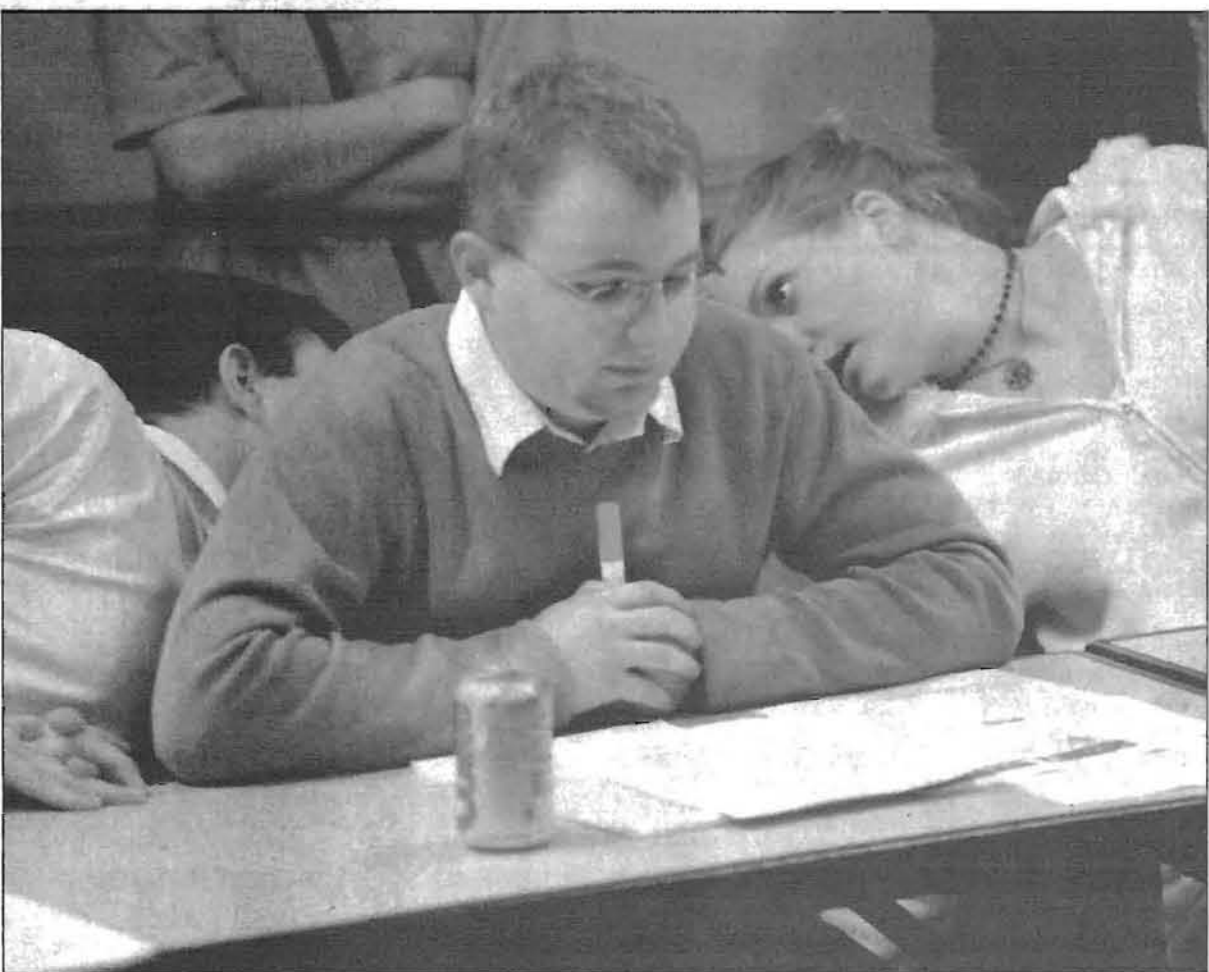
before they awarded us \$0.”

When asked whether he had reconsidered his previous claim that the SABC’s decision was based on content, Griffith added, “I still think it is the job of the publications committee to deal with content, not that of those involved with funding. The SABC failed to dispel my previous understanding that the funding decision was based on content. In fact, the only response they made was, ‘No, that is not the case.’”

“What I’ve found the most interesting about this entire circus is the way that Jeff Griesmer, Orinthia Montague and Curt Coonrod have all been floundering to try to explain why this has happened,” Griffith continued. “Every time I speak to one of them, they contradict the other and often contradict themselves. It’s as if they know they have really messed up and are trying to hide it. The problem is, however, they never consulted with each other for what version of the quote-unquote truth they were going to give us.”

According to Granger, the appeal served two purposes: it gave *The Current* the opportunity to state its case in front of the entire committee, and it let the SABC know *The Current* “would not go down without a fight.” Granger was especially pleased with what he felt was professional behavior on both sides.

“I think we’ll get our money back,” Granger said. “I am encouraged by what I heard at the appeal. I



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Jason Granger, editor-in-chief elect, and Anne Bauer, managing editor, confer as Stanford Griffith, editor-in-chief, presents *The Current's* case to the SABC committee. Granger, Bauer and Griffith presented *The Current's* appeal to the SABC committee.

temper that with a realistic sense of what SABC has already done, but I think there were definitely some positive signs that can be taken from the appeal. We’ll just have to wait and see if they come to their senses.”

!WANTED!
Your hot tips. New tips that is. Got something going on? Do you know something you think other students should know? Give us an e-mail at current@jinx.umsledu or call us at **516-5174.**

Salaries for *The Current* for the 2002–2003 Fiscal Year

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		EDITORIAL		PHOTOGRAPHY	
Editor-in-Chief	\$250 per week	Section Editors	\$50 per week	Photo Director	\$70 per week
Managing Editor	\$175 per week	Staff Writers	\$25 per article printed	Under Current	\$50 per week
Business Manager	\$175 per week	Columnists	\$25 per column printed	Staff Photographer	\$15 per assignment printed
Advertising Director	\$50 per week + commission				
Advisor	\$20 per hour				
ADVERTISING		PRODUCTION		WEBSITE	
Advertising Associate	\$25 per week + commission	Production Manager	\$150 per week	Web Editor	\$50 per week
Advertising Assistant	\$10 per week + commission	Production Associate	\$50 per week		
		Production Assistant	\$25 per week		
				DISTRIBUTION	
				Distribution Manager	\$25 per week

The Current's salaries are public record. All hired staff members are paid for their work as the above table details. *The Current* is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OUR OPINION

And the election results are...not in

UM-St. Louis is starting to resemble Dade County, Fla. We all remember the debacle that was the 2000 Presidential Election. Now, it seems, the same scenario is going to play out at UM-St. Louis for the Student Government Association presidency. Who is going to be the president? Adam Schwadron? Adam Beumeler? Frederick Eccher III?

No offense to Eccher, but he is officially out of the running, having received far less votes than Schwadron and Beumeler. No, the real intrigue lies with those two individuals. Much like Al Gore and George W. Bush, arguments have arisen as to who holds true claim to the "throne."

The vote was clear, Beumeler had 13 more votes than Schwadron, with the final tally coming out to 212-199. However, the debate does not lie in the numbers, but in the methods used to get those votes.

Schwadron has filed a claim against Beumeler stating that Beumeler bribed voters, entered the polling location and generally violated all the campaigning regulations set forth by SGA.

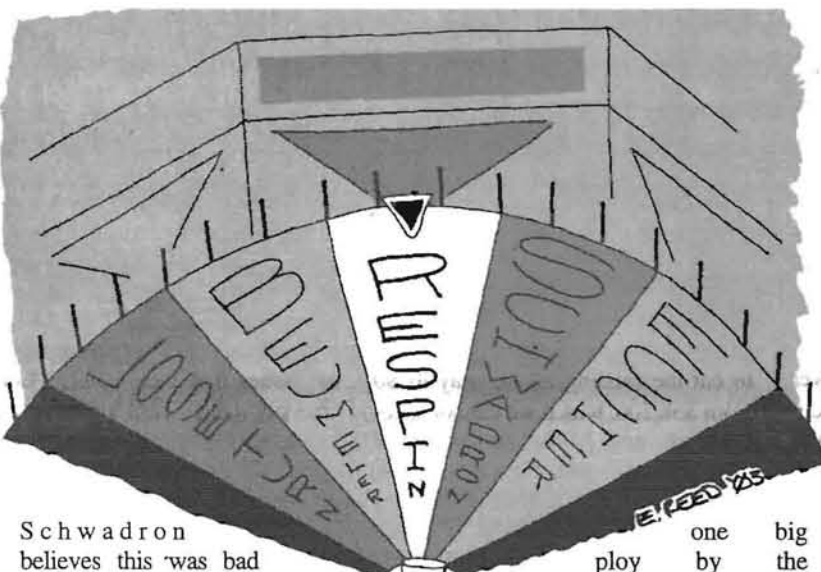
According to Schwadron, Beumeler gave out free samples of Tommy Hilfiger cologne to try to entice voters and promised anyone who voted for him a free Tommy Hilfiger camera, redeemable at a local department store.

Benny Suen. Melton helped campaign for Schwadron, and Suen was on Schwadron's ticket (as well as Kristin Runde as vice president, which she won, as she was the only person running) as comptroller, a position he was elected to. So this throws a kink into Schwadron's claim. This is not to say that Schwadron coerced Melton and Suen to make these allegations, but it does take his claim into a somewhat gray area.

So if the gray area interferes with Schwadron's claim, does that mean Beumeler is entitled to the position? After all, he did receive more votes than Schwadron; but again, not so fast. The allegations levied against Beumeler must be taken into account. If he is indeed guilty of these infractions, then these are serious problems. SGA does not need a dishonest president. SGA has tried hard to rebuild its reputation in light of past fiascos, and having a president who gained the presidency via illegal means would damage the still-reeling reputation of the office. Something has to be done.

So this belabors the question: Where do we go from here? Does the Supreme Court have to step in to decide this election like they did in 2000? The answer is simple. If Beumeler did indeed campaign illegally and buy votes, then he should graciously step aside and give Schwadron the position. If this is all

WHEEL OF PRESIDENTS



Schwadron believes this was bad form and, as such, Beumeler should immediately be disqualified. Schwadron also alleges that Beumeler walked voters to Chat Room in the Millennium Student Center, the designated polling place for this year's online elections. Once again, this is a clear violation of SGA campaigning regulations, grounds for immediate dismissal from the election.

So the question must now be asked: Who is the president for next year? Good question. At first, it would seem that Schwadron has a strong claim to have Beumeler disqualified; but not so fast. In his letter, Schwadron named two people who witnessed Beumeler's actions, Will Melton and

one big ploy by the Schwadron camp, then they need to drop it and let Beumeler ascend to the presidency. If one of these men do not make a rational decision, then the whole of UM-St. Louis will have to watch and wait, like the country did in 2000 as Tom Brokaw told the country that Gore, no Bush, no Gore, no Bush won Florida.

Perhaps UM-St. Louis could have Al Gore come on campus and make the decision; after all, he has free time (we'd recommend bringing in President Bush, but he has his hands full at the moment, what with a war and a recession and all.) Maybe that will be the only way to solve this case of musical presidents.

The issue

The SGA's president-elect still has not been decided because the methods used by one candidate to win votes have been called into question and because so few students actually voted in the SGA elections. This is beginning to feel like the 2000 US presidential elections have come again, and UM-St. Louis isn't even in Florida.

We suggest

Perhaps the two Adams-Beumeler and Schwadron- should just pair off and box to see who wins with Eccher as referee.

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.

Test me not

I can tell it's nearly finals time again without even looking at my syllabi: My neck hurts. I'm getting migraines. My personal appearance has slipped. I'm mentally exhausted. I've been filling out teacher evaluation forms until my fingers hurt. My demeanor is growing dim. And I have lots of papers due within a few days. Yep, it's nearly time to sharpen my pencils and buy blue books.

Personally, I hate exams. Yes, they do prove how well my short-term memory works and how quickly I can scribble a semi-thought-out essay on the poetry of Emily Dickinson. But do they prove anything about what I've taken away from the class, what I've learned? No. Instead, I would prefer to have take-home exams or some sort of in-class group project as the final.

But there are two things worse than just exams: departmental exams and heavily weighted finals. Of course, those are their absolute worst when they are combined.

Several academic departments have the instructors compile the finals exam for one class with several sections as a team. While I realize this is an effort to take some of the pressure and work off the professors and lecturers, such tests are unfair to the students. For example, if section one of a Spanish class focuses on the modern cultures of Latin America while another section focuses on the history of Latin America and the final exam asks about the history of Panama, section

one is at an unfair advantage. Only the instructor of a class knows what he or she told the class and what the students covered. So when someone other than the instructor tests the students, it is only too obvious that the students will not do as well as if their instructor had prepared their exam.

Everyone creates different exams; it's part of academic freedom. Some make harder tests; others easier. Some are long with complicated directions; others are short with easy to follow instructions. One professor may like multiple-choice questions while another prefers matching. If students get used to one test and then have to switch (either for the finals or at another time), the students can be thrown completely off.

Most of my classes have been in the English Department and have had the ultimate goal of teaching the students to think critically while reading. Critical thinking, I believe, is the goal of most college courses. Therefore, the true grade of any class should be based on a student's progress in his or her analytical development during the period of the course.

Basing a student's grade primarily on one test is ridiculous. Students are human; they get sick, have bad days, lose their glasses, etc. Life is not built upon one test but is, instead, a succession of tests.

Hmmm. Maybe this year all of my professor will suddenly decide not to give finals. *hint hint*



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Do group projects teach people skills?

As children, we learn the basics of interpersonal communication by being taught by our parents to work with others, either through sharing our belongings, getting along with people or even things as simple as saying "please" and "thank you." Oddly enough, it seems that as we get older we often digress and forget the basics of simple etiquette when dealing with life situations.

Professionals in the workforce have realized that once individuals become older and are ready to go into an occupation, they are often unaware, or have forgotten, how to work with others to complete a task. This is one of the reasons group projects are often assigned during educational settings, both in high school and post-secondary education.

Most students have, at one time or another, worked with a group to complete an assignment for a course. In fact, many of us are currently working on group assignments for classes, though, there are usually one or two members in the group that do not pull their weight in completing the task. Therefore, the question may be asked whether students are actually learning to work with others during these group projects. Or, are students becoming even more independent in their studies because they don't trust others in the group to complete their portion of the assignment?

I think that often when group projects are assigned to teach students to diligently work as a group, the intentions of the instructor, though good, often backfire. The majority of the group projects that I have worked on almost always reinforce my independence in completing course work. In group assignments, I tend to choose parts of the assignment that I want to do and complete them with little help from other group members. In fact, often in group exercises, it is only one individual doing the majority of the

work for the others. We have all been in situations like this before.

These projects are a good attempt at teaching students how to work together for life after college, but there are major differences between course work and work that needs to be completed at a real job. It is difficult for one situation to prepare a student for the other.

For instance, in a work place, employees are expected to be there at specific times, which allows for easy communication and the individuals spending more time together to get to know each other. Also, in the work place, if individuals in the group are not working, they are reprimanded.

In a college setting, the students in the group have very different schedules, different levels of responsibility outside of class and different study and work habits. One of the most widely known examples of a bad habit for a student is procrastination. Also, if one student is not working as hard as the others, he or she may receive a lower grade, but unfortunately, that does not seem to faze some students.

After factoring in many characteristics, it is easy to see that the students in group work are often working independently rather than as a group, unless playing phone tag is considered working as a group.

When a group works together on a project, in order to complete the final assignment, students simply need to realize what good communication is and practice etiquette when dealing with others. At the higher education level, it is a shame that students need to be taught this through group work. How to work with others is something that every student should have already had a long history of practicing. Group projects do not reinforce working with others. Instead, they reinforce individuals having to pick up the slack while others do very little and students receiving unfair grades.



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

- Lack of SGA Election Results
- Group Projects

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STANFORD GRIFFITH

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MAIL

The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX

(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, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers.

Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What's your favorite thing to do during the summer?



Jennifer Cronin
Sophomore
Secondary Education

Swim!



Ricardo Lima
Freshman
Business Administration

Go to the beach and hang out with my friends back home in Chile.



Melissa Holley
Sophomore
Nursing

Play tennis and be lazy!



John Russo
Freshman
Undecided

I just enjoy hanging out with my friends.

Unlocking the Genome Project's history Start to finish in 50 years

Fifty years ago, James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA and began unlocking the secrets of the molecule through which we inherit the blueprint for life. Now fifty years later, another milestone has been passed with the completion of the Human Genome Project, the cooperative public project to sequence the complete human genetic material.



BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Fill-in Science Columnist

It seems like an appropriate closure to the intervening fifty years of DNA. Both the discovery of the structure of DNA (not the discovery of DNA, which had been found earlier in the twentieth century, although its significance wasn't known at that time) and the complete sequencing of human DNA were marked by a competitive race for the goal, scientific innovations, human drama and even tragedy. Both stories could be the stuff of fiction.

The element of tragedy in the discovery of DNA's double helix is the story of Rosalind Franklin. Franklin was the crystallographer whose X-ray photographs helped the American James Watson and the British Francis Crick determine the correct structure for their model of the molecule. Watson's reputation for being goal-oriented and taking whatever steps are necessary was confirmed by his own admission that they couldn't have done it without Franklin's work, work they had access to without Franklin's permission or knowledge. They were wrong to conceal her role in the discovery and not include her name on the paper, but maybe Franklin's single-minded focus on her own work and technique caused her to miss the clues about DNA and about Watson and Crick right in front of her. The real tragedy is that even if they had done the right thing and her name had appeared as co-discoverer, she still wouldn't have received the Nobel Prize along with them. Rosalind Franklin died of cancer, probably caused by X-ray exposure, before the prize was awarded, and the Nobel Prize is restricted to only living honorees. Fate cheated her as well as Watson's and Crick's omis-

sions did.

To his credit, Watson could have concealed his surreptitious use of Franklin's findings instead of eventually writing about it in his book, and Franklin could have continued to be a little-known scientist, at least in genetics. Sometimes the public image of academic research is all about cooperation and the open sharing of knowledge, but those who have worked in academic research know there is much more competition and subterfuge at work in the labs of academia. Additionally, science has a long history of diminishing the contributions of women, often disguised as a "women inherently don't have what it takes for science" mindset and a fostering of a "good ole boys club" aspect like the one that contributed to Franklin's exclusion. Ironically, biology is the science in which women have won more open recognition, and the increasing numbers of women in biology helps dissolve those barriers further.

Long after the fact, Rosalind Franklin is getting some recognition for her contributions. Her name is becoming better known to the general public, with new books about her too-brief life and documentary films about her sudden appearance. Franklin's name appears again and again at the Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University, which contributed a significant portion to the Human Genome Project sequence as the second largest sequencing center in the world and which uses the names of scientists involved in the discovery of DNA for many of their divisions and projects.

The St. Louis Genome Sequencing Center illustrates the ongoing effect of jockeying for the public eye in science accomplishments. A few years back, a private firm that had announced its plan to beat the publicly funded effort to sequence the human genome, announced it had finished and had won the race. Newspapers gleefully picked up the story as the triumph of sleek private enterprise over cumbersome government but failed to look at what had actually happened. The private company, having gained publicity and profitable contracts for sequencing other genomes, freed itself from the now time-consuming and unprofitable task by announcing it was finished. Since the project had already served its purpose for them by vaulting their name into the public eye, there really was no reason to continue, but obviously they couldn't just stop, so they said they "were finished." Their finished sequence depended on the genetic map constructed by the public project, a time consuming step that they had dismissed as unneeded and hadn't done.

As it turned out, they needed the map to make sense of their own data, and since it is public information, it was readily available to all, along with additional sequences of DNA in the public database. Both this company and the publicly funded project knew what had really been done, but it didn't matter because the public relations impression left by press coverage was all the success that was really needed.

Apart from the illusions about the public/private sequencing race, the Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University seems to be the Rodney Dangerfield of sequencing. Despite having contributed about half of the sequence, played a key role in developing techniques and being the second largest sequencing center in the world, the GSC is overshadowed by its larger sister center. That sister center, the Sanger Center, is located at Cambridge University in England, the site of Watson and Crick's discovery, continuing the American-British collaboration after James Watson came to Washington University. But surprisingly, the GSC is often also overlooked in favor of smaller efforts at more prestigious universities in bigger cities. It is a shame that St. Louis doesn't get more recognition for the biological sciences, despite local press touting of biotech start-up potential.

Of course, the biggest illusion is that the completed DNA sequence means we know everything about human genes. It means no such thing. The sequence is a huge accomplishment, but it is like the construction of an exhaustive dictionary, an essential step to deciphering the meaning of human genes but not the endpoint itself. The dictionary is an indispensable tool to the translation, but we must now do the translation and figure out the "grammar" of gene expression and regulation too. This step may be more challenging and more key than was originally believed before we discovered far fewer than the expected number of genes in the sequence. Even with some revision of estimates of the number of genes found in the human genome, that foundation of genetics, the Central Dogma of "one gene, one protein" has fallen. If there are fewer genes than seem to be needed, there must be greater importance in how the genes work.

When you read about coverage of the anniversary of the discovery of DNA's structure, think about Rosalind Franklin, the Genome Sequencing Center, and what may lie behind the public face of scientific press coverage.

Fare Thoughts Fast, healthful foods for finals

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

If you're like me, when it's finals time, your life and your diet almost die. I typically switch from snacking on raw carrots at home (the office is another story) to trying to stay awake by eating, well, almost anything. It's not a good habit, I know. But it's only for a short while. And it's really because of my lack of time, which is especially bad since cooking and baking are my escapes from life's stress.

This year, however, I've determined to try to eat more healthfully during finals.

I've discovered that the amount of time I spend hacking up an entire pound of cheese while catching up on some long-over-due reading equals the time I would spend making a fresh salad. With the prepackaged salad mixes, I can toss together a salad in only 3 minutes. Just be sure to wash the mixes first; they are pre-washed, but bacteria still grow on the vegetables. Rinsing them with cold water will cleanse them of any bacteria that have accumulated and will revive them, making them crisper.

Although chips may be easy, so are those pre-sliced carrots. Toss them with a little garlic salt or seasoned salt, and you probably won't even notice the difference. In fact, one of my favorite snacks from childhood was the carrot sticks Mom would drizzle with Wishbone Italian dressing and then sprinkle lightly with garlic salt. They don't have to marinate; just let them sit for 5 minutes before crunching.

Not to preach, but finals time is no time to get sick. Eating fruits will help with that. Now, I'm not much of one to just bite into an apple or spend time peeling an orange to just nibble on it. I do, however, like smoothies. So, I buy some of those packages of frozen berries, some sorbet and some orange juice. I just dump those ingredients into my blender (about 2 parts liquid, 1 part frozen fruit, depending

on how thick I want my smoothies) and have an instant delicious cold drink that's actually good for me. If I'm tired and need a boost, I'll throw in a can of an energy drink too. (Red Bull and QT's Donkey Kick seem to work best with the berry flavors.)

Since carbohydrates give the body energy, eating starchy foods can help sustain you during your long hours "ponder[ing]; weak and weary, over many a quaint and curious volumn of forgotten lore." Pastas, potatoes (no French fries) and breads are all good sources of complex carbohydrates, which will give you a longer term energy boost instead of sugars (simple carbohydrates) that will give you a quick burst of energy and then actually make you tired. So if you feel the need to eat some cookies or candy bar before a test, just remember that the sugar will help drain you just as much as the exam questions will.

While the stimulant caffeine in coffee and soda may help you to stay awake, it also works as a diuretic, which can cause dehydration. Drinking water is important every day, but during times of extreme stress and increased caffeine intake, hydrating with water is vital. Many times when people feel exhausted to the point of confusion, it's because they are actually dehydrated. When seconds matter on an exam, battling the dizzying effects of dehydration can cost many points.

Being relaxed during a test is nearly as helpful as knowing all the answers. Thus, certain comfort foods can also be good to include in your diet in moderation. Some dishes may simply be connected with happy times in your childhood, such as creamed potatoes or macaroni and tomato sauce. Others contain chemical relaxants—chocolate, foods high in vitamin B-12, chamomile tea, etc.

While alcohol does relax most people, it also drains their energy and nutrients, so it is best to stay away from liquor during finals. You'll have plenty of time to party after you've aced your exams, thanks, in part, to your healthful eating habits.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Current's \$0 funding questioned

Dear Editor,

With the recent decision to cut the University of Missouri's newspaper funding to \$0 by Orinthia Montague, acting director of Student Life, via the Student Activities Budget Committee, the survival of the University's voice is in jeopardy. Obviously, our acting director of the Office of Student Life has a personal dislike for our newspaper for some reason or another to allow the SABC to cut the funding all the way to \$0 from \$38,200, which we cannot speculate on any further because she would not give a reason nor comment for doing so. I believe and know that we deserve an explanation for her decision because the newspaper does encourage student leadership, increase UM-St. Louis's reputation, contribute to the quality of student experience, can show responsible past use of funds, and does encourage stu-

dent and faculty interaction.

As we live a democracy, our administrators and students alike should allow freedom of speech, unanimous voting, and diversity awareness. This does not appear to be democracy in place here at University of Missouri-St. Louis. It is more of a dictatorship, if you will. How will this effect the University's reputation or the quality of life of all members, or be conducive to the necessary open environment of communication about the issues that face UM-St. Louis's diversity today? Well, one could only guess that this decision carries many negative effects in the short and long run.

The letter to Stanford states that care should be taken in appealing, as much consideration has already been given to the original request, possibly to instill fear of appealing and contacting our acting director, Orinthia Montague, on the issue. Again, this

implies a dictatorship that could manifest itself based on students' desire to graduate from the University of Missouri as historically it has a great reputation.

A few more questions that should be looked into, but which I cannot answer here as we do not have answers yet, include:

Why did the Office of Student Life's committee cut the newspaper funding to \$0 with no explanation, as they are supposed to be here for the quality of the student experience?

What funding, structure and policies do the other UM campus's newspapers operate under?

Does the University promote awareness of University related issues and unanimous voting standards here at UMSL?

Andrea Bixler
Junior
College of Business

Read more letters to the editor on page 12.



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LEADERS

EDITOR
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Features Editor

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Once a leader,
still a leader

BY MELISSA McCrARY
Staff Writer

"College was a great experience, and being the managing editor for the Current newspaper and the vice president of Student Government had taught me many

Learning how to present yourself to others is a very important skill.
- Clint Zweifel

ewarding things," said Clint Zweifel, 1996 alumni, political science, reflecting on how his experiences at UM-St. Louis have helped with his current career. Zweifel worked at The Current for two and a half years, and was also active in student government. He received his MBA in 2001. Being involved in some of UM-St. Louis's activities and organizations helped him meet many of his friends, whom he still keeps in touch with. Also, having high positions in those activities taught him basic leadership skills, which he uses on a regular basis.

see LEADERS, page 7

High rollers at Pilot House

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

College students threw around thousands of dollars on April 24, tossing big bills onto blackjack tables and placing large bets on roulette.

"Play big or go home" was the mindset of many people who attended Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association's (PLHCSA) annual Casino Night. Approximately 80 people meandered through the Pilot House-turned-1920s-style-speakeasy. Dealers (PLHCSA members) sat at each table, wearing white shirts and green visors. Daron Dierkes, Matt Trost, Sonia Hacker, Sally Truong, Warren Wei, Jhanah Haynes-Mark, Ana Alberz, Mary Brickey, Jeff Griesemer, Susan Qu and the Newman Center's Father Bill Kempf donned the dealer garb and ran the tables.

Gamblers had a choice of several games. Many tried their luck at blackjack; some risked their money on roulette, and some tried their hands at craps. Five dollars got each person a roll of \$15,000 in play money and a free t-shirt at the door. The bills pictured esteemed members of PLHCSA.

Laurie Bainter, freshman, international business, placed her bets on blackjack but knew when to take a break. "I was on a winning streak, but then I started on a losing streak; so I decided to walk around for awhile," she said.

Shouts of victory and groans of

defeat echoed through the room from 7 p.m. until 9:30. During this time, door prizes were also given away. Winners had a variety of items to choose from, including gift certificates to local restaurants, UM-St. Louis clothing and tickets to see St. Louis's comedy group, the City Improv.

For those who did not want to try their hand at games of luck, a silent auction also took place. Gamblers bid on items such as certificates to Ted Drewes, Shop 'n' Save, Candicci's restaurant, CJ Muggs, Rich Andrews' and Norton's Café, passes to the Magic House, autographed pictures of Marshall Faulk, Jay Leno and other famous figures, posters, UM—St. Louis garb and an assortment of DVDs.

Chartwell's catered the event, so those in attendance munched on egg rolls, baked ravioli, fruit, cookies and bottled soda.

The live auction began at 9:30 p.m. Lucky players counted their cash and bid on the big prizes. Live auction items included a DVD player; a television; an Xbox game system; Killamey's bar mirrors; tickets to Cardinal games; art museum special passes; botanical garden special passes; Valvoline oil changes; Raging Rivers tickets; Butterfly House tickets; gift certificates to J. Bucks, Bar Italia, Jake's Steaks and Ruiz Mexican; Sheldon Concert Hall tickets, St. Louis Zoo special passes; tickets to "My Fair Lady"; one month of free tanning and New Lady Fitness memberships.



Sara Quirrol/The Current

Father Bill Kempf, of the Catholic Newman Center handles the poker table at the Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association's "Casino Night," Thursday. For five dollars, participants could gamble at a number of table games, including blackjack, craps, slot machines, and roulette.

Travis Guzman, sophomore, philosophy and psychology, came out on top after an evening of gambling. "My favorite part was the free t-shirt," he said. "I won a Soprano's calendar, even though I've never seen the show. I also won special tickets to the botan-

ical gardens and the art museum."

Bidding went extremely high. Some gamblers, finding that their own winnings were not enough to contend with the lucky players, combined money with friends and bid on items. Randy Sommers, graduate student,

education administration, experienced this problem.

"My friends and I had \$129,000 combined, and we still couldn't compete," he said.

All items were donated by local retailers.

Horizons recruits

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

Horizons Peer Educators is currently recruiting new applicants for the 2003-2004 school year. This year the Educators hope to continue doing what they have always done, which is helping new students with their problems, said Jaime Linsin, Horizons Advisor.

"Horizons Peer Educators provides helpful information and resources to students on a variety of issues, such as healthy relationships, study skills, [and] coping with stress," Linsin said.

Linsin said that many people have misconceptions about the Peer Educators. For example, some believe that they offer one-on-one counseling. This is not correct.

"[The students] provide information for questions, and they can make referrals for counseling," Linsin said. "If a student says that they are under a great deal of stress, for example, then a Horizons Peer Educator can suggest they see a counselor."

The Horizons Peer Educators work on three main levels. They stock information on the racks outside Counseling Services in the Millennium Center. They also stock information on the tables around the Nosh and give presentations on various subjects throughout the semester.

"Right now we are doing a presentation on multicultural awareness," said Christy McElroy, sophomore, marketing, and student director of Horizons Peer Educators. "We are putting different facts about our home countries on poster board to show different cultures."

The next topic that McElroy's group will be addressing is stress, said Peer Educator Adia Harris, senior, MIS

and finance. "We will be doing a display called 'Beating the Crap out of Stress,'" Harris said. "We will have a display with those clown punching bags for people to punch, and we will have stress balls and pamphlets to explain what stress is and how to deal with it."

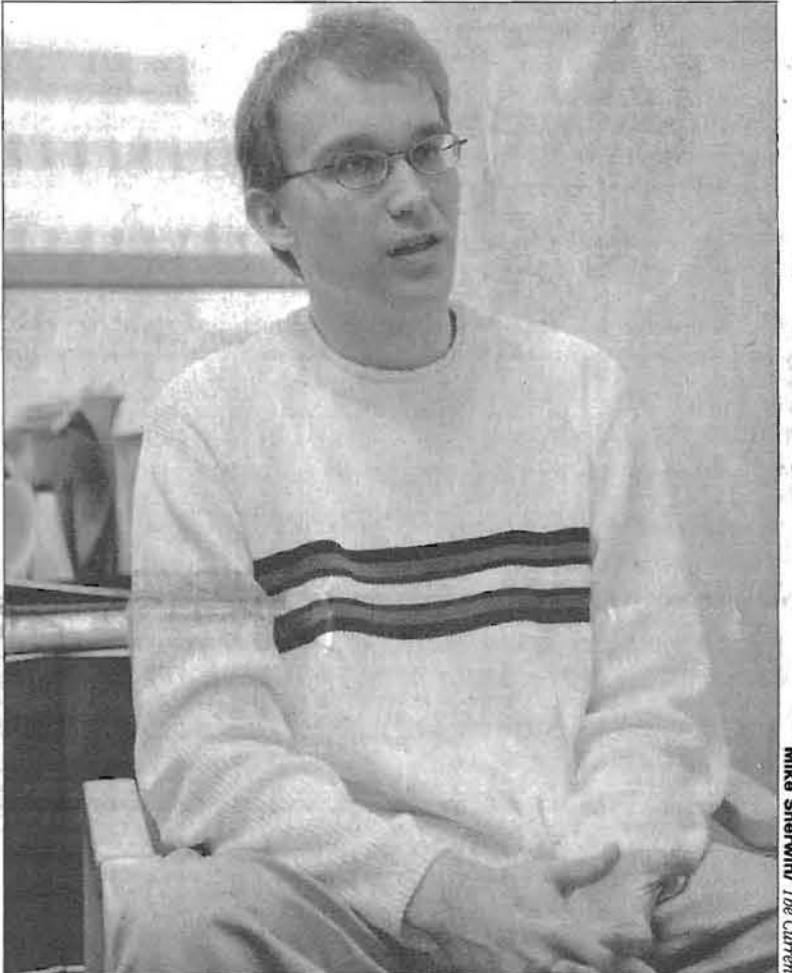
Linsin says that the approach of peer counseling can be challenging for both parties. "Students respond better to other students," she said. "I can explain something and they might listen; but the students might be more receptive with the information coming from their fellow students that are in the same boat."

Their main difficulty with the approach is that sometimes Peer Educators have problems of their own. "I will often assist the Peers with their presentations," Linsin said. "If students are in over their head, all they have to do is say they don't think they would be able to do it."

After a student is accepted to be a Horizons Peer Educator, they go for a two- to three-day recruitment training sessions where they learn to teach certain skills. "We learned how to be good listeners and how to work as a team," McElroy said. "We also discussed what projects we would be interested in doing for the year."

In previous years, Horizons Peer Educators were paid \$6.00 an hour. This year, due to budget constraints, Linsin said the pay is going to be lower. "We are going over our assets and our status to figure out how much we will be paying," she said.

Despite the challenges, Peer Educators say that they have been given an opportunity to learn as well as teach. "I learned a lot about organization and listening skills," said Vanessa Munsch, senior, German. "I also learned how to be more independent and creative [in] ways of doing things."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

James Linsin, advisor for Horizons Peer Educators, talks Monday about the organization's current recruitment effort for the 2003-2004 school year. "The thing we most look for are students who are interested in helping other students."

Gender bending in the 21st century

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

While the woman's place is not necessarily doing laundry and washing dishes anymore, our society still faces gender-related issues. The Institute for Women and Gender Studies (IWGS) seeks to provide students with insight and confront these problems.

IWGS is approaching its 25th anniversary at UM-St. Louis. Susan Hartmann and Marsha Dalby founded the institute in 1977 and 1978. Hartmann was a history professor at the time, and Dalby served as chairwoman of the English department.

"They told me there was a point where they remember, around 1973 or 1974, sitting in a conspiratorial fashion in the cafeteria, talking about, 'Maybe we should start to bring more stuff about women into our classes,'" said Joyce Mushaben, current chairwoman of IWGS.

Mushaben joined the Institute in 1980, along with Suzanna Rose and Victoria Sork. In the early years of IWGS, one woman-related course was offered in each of the following: English, history, politics, psychology and biology.

"[The grandmothers of this program] put together a community. We didn't have a place to meet; we certainly didn't have any kind of bona fide office.... Now we're about to start on our third generation," Mushaben said.

The founding mothers of IWGS have all gone on to other positions. Sork, Rose, Fran Hoffman, Kimberly Kempf and Gale Radcliffe have all left UM-St. Louis in the last two years. Sork is now special assistant to the vice chancellor at UCLA.

"These women did extremely well [and] were very successful, not in spite of their connections to women's stud-



Lishu Qu/The Current

Joyce Mushaben, professor of political science, is the director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

ies but because of them. They found a lot of community here, a lot of intellectual reinforcement," Mushaben said. "We all kind of grew up together. We babysat each other's kids; we went through tenure processes together; we went through promotional processes together. I think having that core of people who were personally connected was really important for the program."

UM-St. Louis's student population is 60 percent female, marking the significant changes in the last several decades.

"Now we're in a position to assert more leadership on campus. To me, it's devastating that [the founding women]

all left. Now I'm trying to reshape the program to cross that bridge into the 21st century. That means expanding curriculum and making it clear not only to women, but also men, on this campus that all these gender issues are now part of everyday legal life," Mushaben said.

Sexual harassment has become a major issue in recent years. Laws have been enacted to protect citizens from sexual harassment, and people are expected to show respect to both men and women in regards to sexual references.

Currently, IWGS requires 18 hours of coursework to earn a Women and

Gender Studies certificate. Courses are offered in anthropology, biology, history, music, philosophy, political science, sociology, art, economics, English, psychology, communications, criminology, nursing and social work. The Pierre Laclede Honors College also offers women- and gender-related courses. Students pursuing a certificate are required to take an interdisciplinary course called Women, Gender and Diversity. The Institute hopes to change the name of that course to Introduction to Women and Gender Studies in order to clarify the requirements.

Travis DeRousse, senior, sociology

and criminology and criminal justice, is currently pursuing a Women and Gender Studies certificate. "I took Sex and Gender across Cultures because it sounded interesting. What [the professor] spoke of rang true and adhered to what I saw. [IWGS offers] a lot of enlightening and underrated classes. I've gone from thinking, 'Yeah, women have a bum deal,' to considering myself as much of a feminist as a man can be. [Seeking a Women and Gender Studies certificate] has changed me for the better. I'm going to grad. school, and I plan on applying gender studies to my work. It's a woefully under-researched area," DeRousse said.

"Finding out about the institution is a different problem all together," Mushaben said.

In the course description book for 2002-2003, the Women and Gender Studies program was listed as a minor rather than a certificate. It was not listed under 'women,' 'gender,' or 'institute.' The program was found in a list between tropical ecology and writing certificates. Since its inception 25 years ago, the Institute has grown significantly. Continuing participation is hindered because of the Institute's lack of recognition and discrepancies in information concerning the program.

"Women Studies is an interdisciplinary program. That means that you can come in here and learn something about gender roles, not just women's roles, [because] men get forced into roles too. You study how women and men are trained and educated to take on the roles they have to perform. Why can't we rethink these roles? Why can't we create more opportunities?" Mushaben said.

see GENDER, page 7

New season, new ride Xcalibur unveiled

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

Thrill-ride enthusiasts take note: Six Flags has created a medieval beast of a machine that is just waiting to unsettle a few stomachs.

With the start of the 2003 season, Six Flags has unveiled their newest addition to the theme park's topography: Xcalibur. As part of Six Flags' Britannia section and in keeping with the area's Old English style, the ride looks like an enormous faux-wood catapult with a giant wheel at one end holding sixteen gondolas (carrying four passengers each). As the catapult's arm swings 360 degrees, the wheel spins at 16 rotations per minute. At the height of the catapult's reach, riders are held upside-down 113 feet in the air for several seconds before the arm begins its descent.

On opening day, April 18, Six Flags invited journalists and student

journalists to experience Xcalibur, a ride touted in press releases with a predictable effusion of, "x" words (x-treme, x-citing, x-perience, etc.) and with tenuous connections to folk lore: "Xcalibur recreates the rustic, rebellious days of King Arthur and his Roundtable." Public relations pretense aside, Xcalibur does command attention, if only due to its size.

"Looking up at the ride from the ground, I admit I was a little scared," said Moses Raputsoe, 22, a student at Forest Park Community College.

Dave Roemer, general manager of Six Flags, admitted that he was a bit out of the ride's target demographic. "This is for the 12- to 24-year-olds. Me, I'm 50, and I will only take this kind of ride if no one is around. That way, if I scream no one will hear me."

To help inaugurate Xcalibur's first public demonstration, Six Flags brought in bagpipers and fully suited knights. "It was scary," said Lauren Sweet, a student at Pattonville High

School and one of the initial 64 riders. "I heard the bagpipers playing, and I was thinking, 'What have I done? They play bagpipes at funerals.'"

After the first public trial, patrons seemed generally pleased, if a bit woozy. "I thought it was really incredible," said Farica Chang, 16, a student at Washington High School. "It only lasts about a minute, but you feel like you're up there for a lot longer. You can see the whole park, and you get a whole different perspective because you're upside-down."

Joanna Cameron, 24, was pleasantly surprised—and not a little relieved. "I was expecting worse, but it was great," she said. "[Being] upside-down was the best part."

When asked about the public's initial reaction, General Manager Roemer smiled and said, "I'm happy because they're happy. Anytime, it's not the biggest, tallest, fastest ride; the important thing is the quality of the ride experience."



Sara Quiroz/ The Current

With the start of the 2003 season, Six Flags has introduced a new ride: Xcalibur.

GENDER, from page 6

She credits Dean Mark Burkholder from the College of Arts and Sciences as being extremely supportive of the Institute and its goals.

"Feminism is all about self-determination. It's not saying that we want to dictate to you that you have to go out and become a chief executive officer. We just want you to be able to choose that role for yourself. We want you to be able to pick for yourself

ways to combine career and family. We want your partner to be able to make those same kind of choices as well," Mushaben said.

"There will always be a place for one discipline looking at how men and women differ. There should also be an academic and intellectual space for seeing how men and women differ across many fields at the same time. The University can only win with this

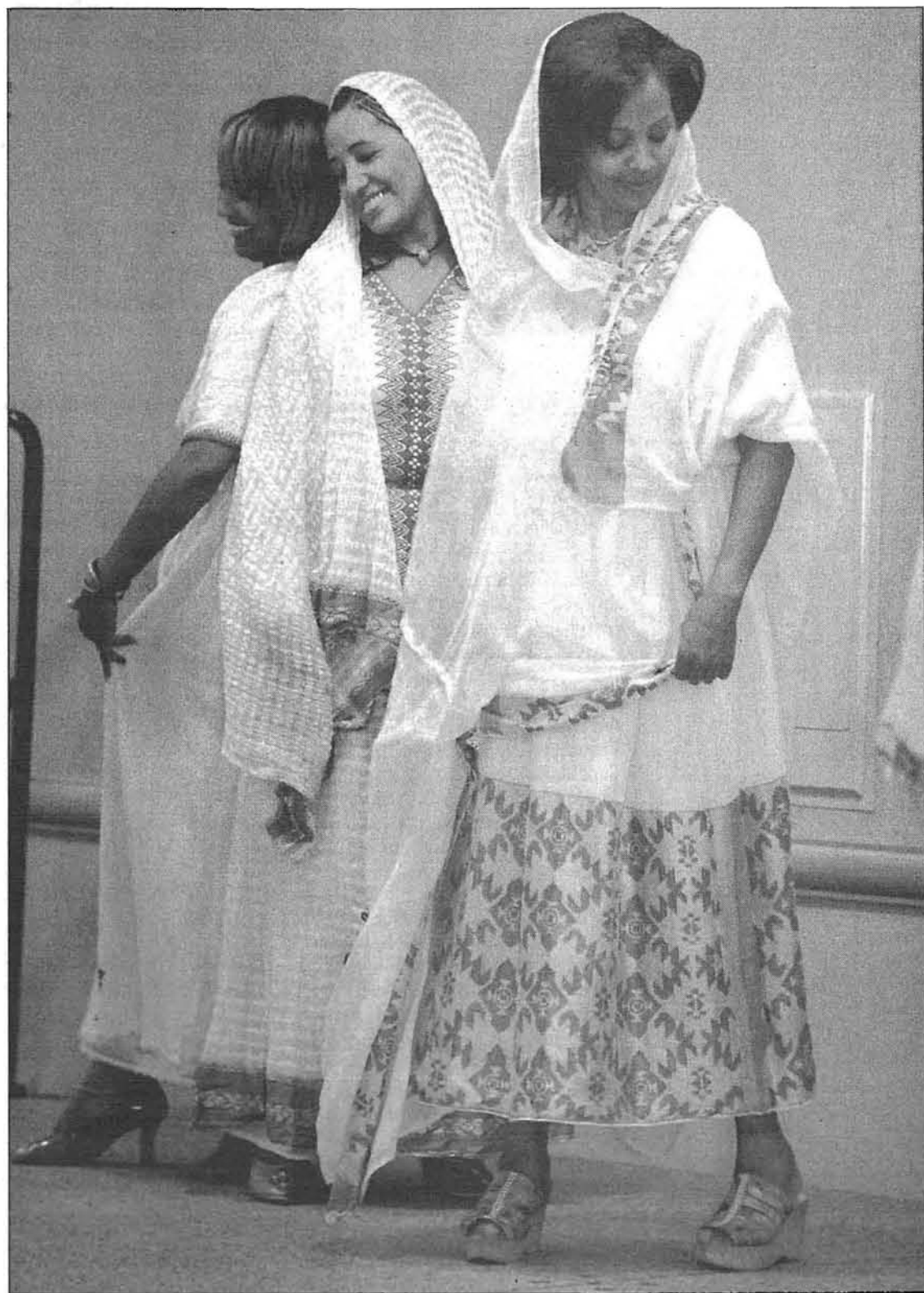
program being strengthened."

Using archives, Mushaben and her IWGS co-workers plan to write a book of the Institute's history for its 25th anniversary.

For more information about the Institute of Women and Gender Studies and its certificate program, students can call 516-5581 or visit their Tower offices, rooms 607 and 608.

Diversity on display

at sixth annual Multicultural Awareness Day



Lishu Qu/ The Current

ABOVE:

The Eritrean Women Dancers perform during Multicultural Awareness Day Friday in the Century Rooms of the MSC. The event featured a variety of booths, demonstrations and performances. Included were a Tai Chi demonstration by Sam Lin, UM-St. Louis research specialist in the department of physics and astronomy, and a spoken word performance by student Amber Tabares, senior, biology.

RIGHT:

The East Indian Sisters play the harmonium and finger cymbals while chanting the Hare Krishna mantra, with its familiar refrain of "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna, Hare Krishna, Hare Hare."

The Multicultural Awareness Day was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations, the Division of Academic Affairs, the Office of Student Life and the Office of Equal Opportunity.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

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LEADERS, from page 6

Zweifel has gone from being a student leader to a Missouri State Representative for District 178, which represents part of North County. He is also a research director for the Teamsters.

"The hands-on help at UMSL has helped the most," Zweifel said. "Learning how to present yourself to others is a very important skill."

Zweifel has only positive things to say about the professors and the programs offered at this university.

Joe Flees, coordinator for Student Affairs and Relations, said of Zweifel, "He is a very dedicated person who displayed his effort while a student and still continues to stay in contact with many people from UMSL."

Though he is not currently an active member of the Alumni Association, Zweifel looks forward to participating more once he finds some time.

"College gives people the opportunity for solving problems and for working through difficulties," said Zweifel. "Take many challenges, and don't be afraid of failing sometimes."

SPORTS

EDITOR

HANK BURNS

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

RESULTS

Softball

April 24

• @ Northern Kentucky 5-4
Mount Saint Joseph 2-2

• Wisconsin-Parkside 7-2 @
St. Xavier 1-7

26

• @ Lewis 3-3,
Bellarmine 2-0

• @ Quincy 7-3,
Kentucky-Wesleyan 2-0

• @ Wisconsin-Parkside 3-1,
Northern Kentucky 2-2

• @ Saint Joseph's 5-1,
UM-St. Louis 1-0

• SIU-Edwardsville 3-4 @
Indianapolis 0-0

Baseball

April 24

• Southern Indiana 10,
@ Oakland City 3

• @ UW-Parkside 9-6,
UW-Milwaukee 2-7

26

• @ SIU-Edwardsville 5-0,
Indianapolis 4-3

• @ Kentucky-Wesleyan 2-0,
Lewis 1-5

• UM-St. Louis 6-0,
@ UW-Parkside 0-2

• Southern Indiana 6-1,
@ Saint Joseph's 4-3

• @ Quincy 4-9,
Northern Kentucky 0-3

WEB

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



Propelled by a double by Kim Kulaitis, Ashley Compton slides into third base as Wisconsin-Parkside third-basewoman Jenny Koeser loses control of the ball during the first game Saturday.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

UMSL eliminated from GLVC tourney

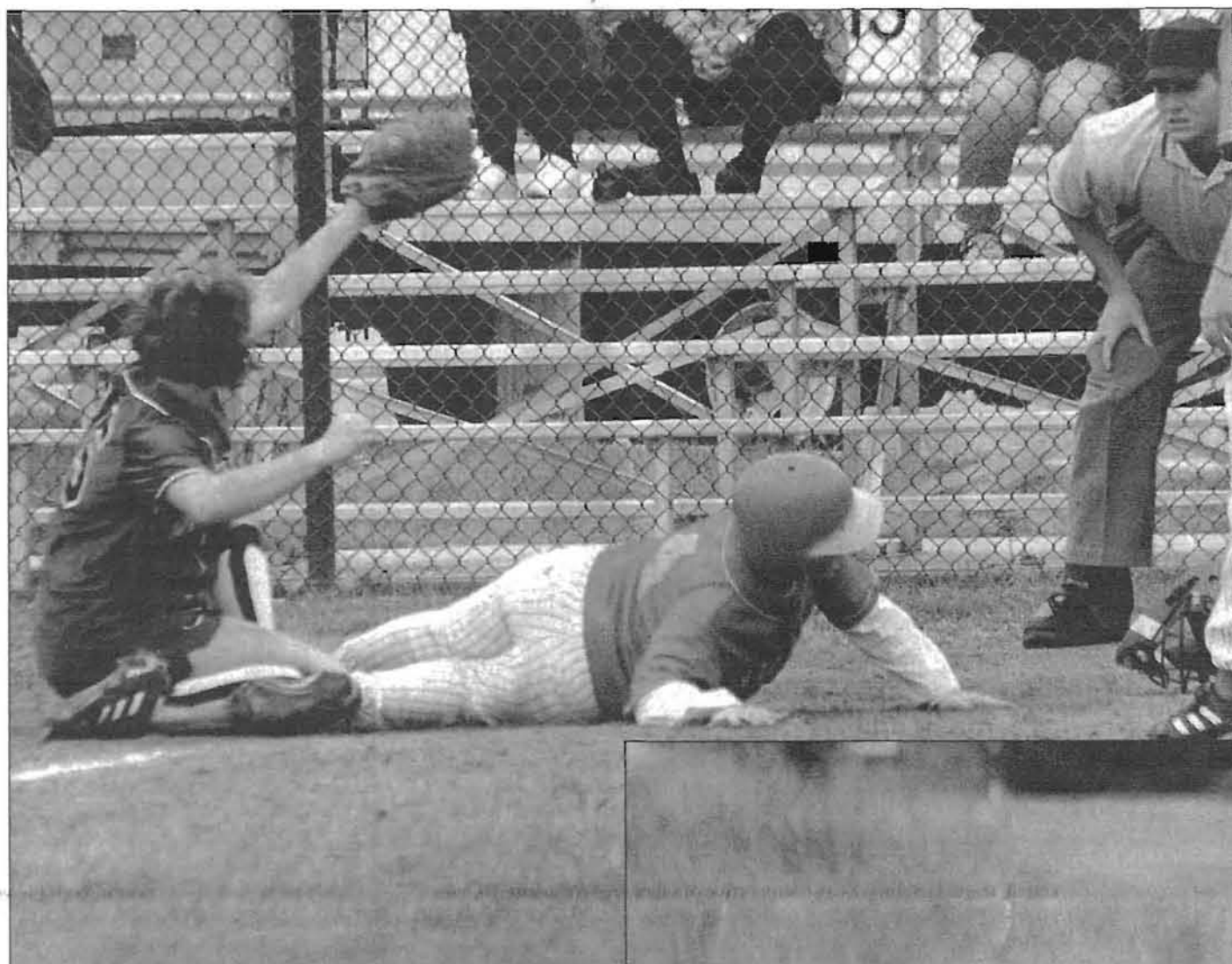
The UM-St. Louis softball team dropped a doubleheader to Saint Joseph's on Saturday afternoon, losing the first game 5-1 and dropping the second game 1-0 in 11 innings. With the losses, the team is eliminated from the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

UM-St. Louis got on the board first in the opener, getting an RBI double from Kim Kulaitis for a 1-0 lead in the first. Saint Joseph's then grabbed the lead in the second, scoring four runs in the bottom half of the inning, all coming on a grand slam homerun by Jill Kaptain. The Pumas would add a single run in the sixth inning for the 5-1 final score.

The second game was an extra-inning thriller as the two teams battled for 11 innings before deciding a winner. UM-St. Louis pitcher Jamie Beucke suffered the tough loss but pitched the complete game, going 10.1 innings. Beucke gave up one run on just five hits and struck out three. She held the Pumas to just two base-runners in the first six innings of the game, both coming in the fourth inning, and pitched five perfect innings in those first six. UM-St. Louis could get no more than one runner on base at a time in any inning of the game, and left a runner stranded on third three times in the game. However, they could not bring home the winning run. Saint Joseph's scored the game winner in the 11th after a leadoff double and an RBI single for the 1-0 win.

The Riverwomen are now 13-27-1 overall on the season and fall to 3-13 in the GLVC.

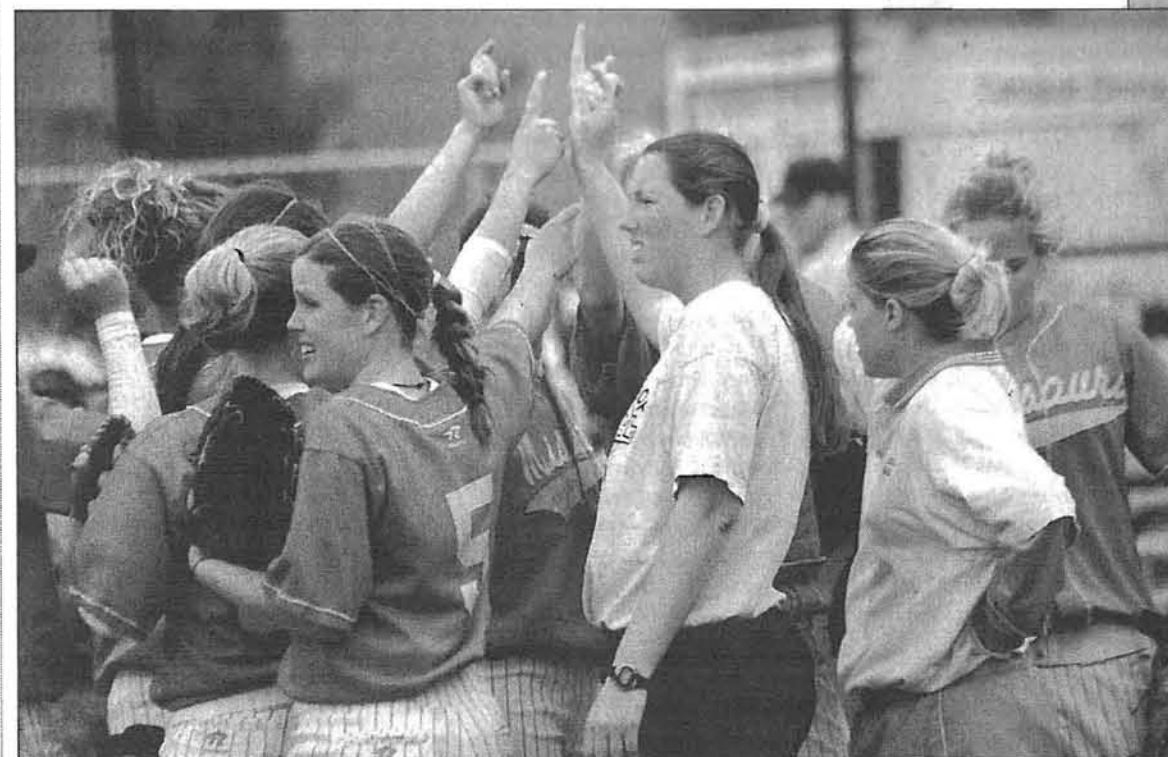
With the losses on Saturday, UM-St. Louis was mathematically eliminated from the conference tournament. The Riverwomen close out the season on Wednesday, April 30, with the games at Quincy that were suspended due to rain.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

RIGHT:
1B Casey Moran prepares to receive a throw from pitcher Danielle Moore.

BELOW:
"One more to go, one more to go." Kim Kulaitis (left) and coach Nicky Durnin (center) and the Riverwomen rally before the start of the last inning of the first of a doubleheader Saturday afternoon, in hopes of overcoming their 7-4 deficit.



Athletes seem to wear out their welcome

Some sports figures stay for love of the game; fans, media aren't amused



THE ABCs OF SPORTS

HANK BURNS

Got a comment?

HFLB4@juno.com

Those who are directly involved in sports, as well as the media and the fans, find it hard to believe when an athlete comes out of retirement. Some are also stunned when an aging athlete continues to perform. As for me, I'm not surprised when either scenario plays out. Athletes, for the most part, love the game that they play. Sometimes, on a pathetic note, they love it even more than family or friends.

Michael Jordan, in his first stint in the NBA, had the best of everything. While he most certainly cared deeply for his loved ones, basketball was his life, and he lived it very happily with the Chicago Bulls. There he was a team leader; he put up huge numbers, was paid an enormous amount of money to play and to endorse products, and he won championships. That, in itself, is a career. Following one last championship, MJ called it

quits. What a finish.

Of course, after trying his hand at baseball and doing miserably, Jordan came back for what everyone thought would be the last time. Again, he won one last championship and retired. MJ couldn't stay away from the game, though, so he purchased the dismal Washington Wizards franchise. And, after seeing it fail so wretchedly, Jordan had to put on his sneakers and show the young team how it's done.

So far, the team hasn't done too well at all, even with Jordan. There are times when he's been marred by injuries and, well, it hasn't seemed to be that different with or without MJ in the starting five. And it hasn't seemed to be the proper circumstances under which Jordan would want to end his magical career. However, the time has come, and Jordan is now ready to leave for the

final time.

Although many are wondering why it has taken Jordan another comeback to realize that he should've stayed away after the first one, I'm not at all confused. There are many people like him in sports who would've retired and made comebacks instead of playing for so long.

Former major-leaguer Eddie Murray had some great years in the 1980s and in the early '90s while playing with several different clubs. He could have easily called it quits in the early '90s and felt proud of his great career. However, he stayed and bounced around between several clubs, as a designated hitter in the American League and even at times as a pinch hitter and a utility outfielder in the National League. Despite the unsavory turn his career took, he reached career milestones in hits, homeruns, runs and RBIs. He defi-

nately wouldn't have such outstanding numbers had he retired earlier on.

NHL great Wayne Gretzky, in the eyes of many, had seen better days when he finally decided to call it quits. Gretzky, who also hopped along to a few different cities near the end of his career, did not notch the same outstanding numbers then as he did earlier in his career. However, like Murray, Gretzky's stretched out career led to more milestones and more success.

Another baseball great who many in the St. Louis area are familiar with, Mark McGwire, was mired by injuries several years before he broke the single-season homerun record set by Roger Maris in 1961. McGwire's back, at one point, may as well have been broken.

see HANGING AROUND, page 9

UMSL makes NCAA Regional Tourney

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team earned a bid to the NCAA Regionals for the second straight season after earning the school's first ever bid last year. The NCAA Regionals will take place May 2-3, with UM-St. Louis playing at Ferris State in Big Rapids, Mich.

UM-St. Louis received the sixth seed in the region and will travel to play third-seeded Wayne State in the first round. The Rivermen finished the year with a 16-7 record on the season and placed third at last weekend's Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. UM-St. Louis was one of four GLVC teams to make the regionals but will be the only GLVC team at the Ferris State location. Second-seeded Ferris State will face Shepherd in a first-round match, with the winner of that facing the winner of the match between UM-St. Louis and Wayne State.

The Rivermen tennis program earned its first ever appearance in the NCAA Regionals last year and will be making their second straight appearance this season. UM-St. Louis had three players earn GLVC All-Conference honors this year. Martin Kardos, Mike Schaaf and Matt Vaulkhard. Schaaf was also named GLVC Freshman of the Year this season.

UM-St. Louis players on this year's team include: Kyle Aulabaugh (Alton, Ill./Alton), Martin Damm (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Mario Gruden (St. Louis, Mo./Mehlville), Martin Kardos (Bratislava, Slovakia), Stephen Pobst (Sikeston, Mo./Sikeston), Rajan Saini (Victoria, British Columbia), Mike Schaaf (St. Louis, Mo./Francis Howell) and Matt Vaulkhard (Victoria, British Columbia).

NCAA TOURNEY

Tennis

May 1-2
• @ Midland, Mich.

First Round
Northern Kentucky (21-4), vs. Southern Indiana (10-9)

Indianapolis (13-16), @ Northwood (18-2)

2-3
• @ Big Rapids, Mich.

UM-St. Louis (16-7), vs. Wayne State (24-8)

Shepherd (20-2), @ Ferris State (17-7)



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R-men movin' on up...the standings

UM-St. Louis baseball team splits a doubleheader and moves to 29-19 overall

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

With a doubleheader split at Wisconsin-Parkside on April 26, the Rivermen are now 29-12 overall and are first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, with a 17-6 record. The Rivermen recorded a 6-0 shutout in the first game and suffered a 2-0 loss.

The following is a look at a few key games and series played throughout the season that have led to a number 13 ranking in the Collegiate Baseball Newspapers Poll and a number 14 ranking in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Poll.

Feb. 27 - The Rivermen started the season off on the road in Florida. For their first match-up the team faced Salem International and played them in a close game. UM-St. Louis starter Greg Bierling threw for five

innings, allowing six runs on eight hits and was relieved by Kevin Sahrman and later by Colby Hughes. Neither Bierling nor Sahrman were credited with the win as the final run was scored in the eighth inning, a homerun by Logan Hughes. Colby was credited with the 7-6 victory.

March 13 - In an 11-2 blowout win at Crane Stadium at Central Missouri State, the Rivermen claimed their third victory since returning from their Florida road trip. With the victory, Head Coach Jim Brady reached career win number 500. Brady, who has coached the Rivermen for 18 years, has never had a losing season.

"I hold the utmost respect for the majority of those guys that have come through these doors," Brady said of his players, following the milestone. "I'm a pretty tough taskmaster, and at times I don't even like me; but my job is to get these guys to reach deep into their inner selves to find that formula for success."

"That successful UMSL formula, coupled with experience, allowed them to see that success and achievement is based on an uncompromising

mindset of commitment," Brady continued. "I believe we succeeded since the majority has gone on to a multitude of successful careers. So, it says a lot about what we've done and what we've achieved."

March 16 - Several days after Brady recorded a milestone, the Rivermen completed a series sweep of conference rival Lewis, winning 5-4. The game, not at all high-scoring, was a departure from the three others played that weekend at UM-St. Louis. Rivermen starter Bobby Tiefenauer allowed four runs on six hits in just over six innings pitched.

Colby Hughes, who kept Lewis quiet while the Rivermen scored the winning run in the ninth inning, relieved him and was credited with the victory. Scott Davis drove in Bryan Weiss on a base hit to win the game.

"It's important that we establish ourselves early so that we can have that great foundation," Brady said, during the series. "At the end, as we play more and more, we'll be able to determine that if somebody beats us, it's because they were better, not because on that day we weren't quite as prepared as we should be."

March 23 - In their first away series against a conference team, the Rivermen shined over Bellarmine. They swept Bellarmine in a doubleheader, winning 17-6 and 14-4, one day after the teams took a split in another doubleheader. In the second game, Tiefenauer notched his second victory on the season, allowing four runs on nine hits in five innings of play. Shortstop Bryan Weiss got two hits in the game and scored three runs in four at-bats.

April 5 and 6 - The Rivermen took on conference foe Kentucky-Wesleyan in Owensboro and dominated the series. On the first day of play, UM-St. Louis recorded 7-0 and 9-0 shutouts. The Rivermen followed that up with a 7-1 victory over their conference rivals.

April 10 - Revenge is sweet, and it could not have been sweeter for the Rivermen as they swept their series with conference rival Northern Kentucky, who knocked the Rivermen out of the postseason in 2002. The team completed the sweep with a 15-2 victory, credited to Tiefenauer, who pitched eight innings and allowed two runs on seven hits.

April 19 - UM-St. Louis continued to dominate its conference, with series win at Indianapolis. With an 8-4 victory, the Rivermen took the series and took more of a hold on the conference.

"They are a perennial power," Brady said of Indianapolis, earlier this season. "I think our teams compare very favorably. I think I'd give us a slight edge, but keep in mind we've got to go there to play. Once again, if this team plays up to our capabilities, I truly feel that we are the best team in this league. Indy's close but they're not as good as we are."

Tiefenauer put on another strong performance for UM-St. Louis in the victory, pitching nine innings and allowing four runs on six hits. He also struck out four batters in the complete game victory.

"Bobby Tiefenauer has looked exceptional now that he's become more of a starter, where he kind of knows what to expect," Brady said earlier this season.

"If he just lets everything fly and shows that belief in himself," Brady continued, "he's another one that can be a dominant pitcher for me. He's got great stuff, and all he has to do is trust himself."

Hendin among '03 UMSL Hall of Fame class

The UM-St. Louis Athletic Department announced the 2003 UMSL Sports Hall of Fame class last month. The following is a comprehensive look at the new members.

Distinguished Services

Marty Hendin is being inducted in the category of distinguished services for his work and dedication to the UM-St. Louis Athletic Department throughout the years. Hendin began his services to the athletic department as a student when he served as the statistician and public relations person for the men's basketball team.

In addition, Hendin was the first sportswriter on the staff of the UM-St. Louis student newspaper, *The Current*, where he later served as the Sports Editor. Hendin was the founder and president of the school's first pep club, *The Steamers*, organizing road trips for fans to support the basketball team. Hendin was also supportive of other UM-St. Louis sports, having been in attendance at both the first baseball game and the first men's soccer game for the UM-St. Louis programs.

Hendin has also served as president of the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association Board of Directors, where he helped explain the benefits of athletics to the future of the university and its long-term promotion. He has also served on the executive committee as vice president and chair of the Red and Gold Club and played a significant role in re-introducing Homecoming activities, including the Alumni Family Day, and creating the Tip-Off Luncheon and the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame.

Coaches

Arnold Copeland was the first ever baseball coach at UM-St. Louis, starting the program in the 1967 season and coaching the team for six seasons. During his final four years (1969-1972), he compiled a record of 63-42-1. He led UM-St.

Louis to its first ever 20-win season, going 23-6 during the 1972 season, and guided the Rivermen to the Midwest Regional title and the program first ever bid to the College World Series.

Jim Niederkorn was the men's golf coach for 18 years, from 1980-81 season through the 1997-98 season. He guided UMSL to back-to-back MIAA Conference championships in 1992 and 1993, leading UM-St. Louis to the NCAA Division II national tournament each of those years. Niederkorn coached UM-St. Louis's first golf All-American, fellow inductee David Rhoads, and also coached two all-district players and six all-conference golfers. His 18 years as head coach is the second longest tenure of any head coach, in any sport for UM-St. Louis athletics, surpassed only by previous inductee Don Dallas.

Student Athletes

Craig Frederking was a member of the men's soccer team from 1989-1992 and is currently the Rivermen's all-time leading scorer with 99 points. He holds the school record for most career goals, with 39, and is second all-time in career assists, with 21. In 1991, he recorded 15 goals, a number that stands as the second best single-season mark in UM-St. Louis history, and his 10 assists in 1989 are the fourth highest total in UM-St. Louis history.

During his career, the UM-St. Louis soccer team had a combined record of 55-17-4 and in 1991 advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament. Frederking was a three-time All-region selection, earning those honors in 1990, 1991 and 1992. He was also named a two-time All-American player in both 1991 and 1992.

Tom January was a four-year member of the UM-St. Louis tennis team as the first singles player and was instrumental in turning the team into a successful and winning program. Prior to

his arrival at UM-St. Louis, the tennis program went 6-32 in four years, but it turned around quickly and went 43-27 for the next four years with January on the team. In 1971, he went 13-2 in singles play and was voted MVP of the team as a freshman. In that season, he led the team to its first ever winning season, with a 10-6 team record.

January went 10-5 in his sophomore year and 13-3 during his junior year while leading the team to a 12-7 record, its most wins in a season up to that point in the program's history. He finished his career by going 14-6 during his senior season, finishing up his career with an overall singles record of 50-16.

James Munden played two seasons for the Rivermen baseball team and ranks seventh in the all-time records, with a career batting average of .380. Munden was a first team all-region selection in both his years at UMSL, 1972 and 1973, and he helped lead the Rivermen to back-to-back appearances in the NCAA College World Series. He was also the first UM-St. Louis baseball player to receive NCAA All-American honors, earning that distinction in the 1972 season.

David Rhoads made a quick impact to the men's golf team, earning All-American honors in his freshman season when he placed first at four tournaments during the year and finished sixth individually at the 1992 NCAA Championships. He helped lead the Rivermen to the MIAA Championship that season while earning all-conference honors.

In his sophomore year, he again led the Rivermen to the NCAA tournament where the team finished 12th and Rhoads finished 22nd individually. He again led UM-St. Louis to the MIAA Championship his sophomore year and was an all-conference selection in his sophomore and junior seasons. He also earned all-district honors his junior year as well. Rhoads was just as

successful in the classroom, earning Academic All-American honors in both his junior and senior seasons and was named to the Go Association of America Division II All-American Scholars Team.

Monica Steinhoff played four years for UM-St. Louis, and is the all-time scoring leader in women's basketball history with 2,023 career points. She also ranks 15th in career rebound with 389, fifth in career assists with 315 and fifth in career steals with 135. Steinhoff was named to the MIAA All-Freshman team and earned Freshman All-American honors from the American Women's Sports Foundation in her first year at UM-St. Louis.

During her sophomore year, Steinhoff set the school record with 660 points in a single season for a scoring average of 24.4 points per game of the year, also a school record. She earned MIAA All-Conference honors each of her four years at UM-St. Louis, and is the only women's basketball player to score 40 points in a game, accomplishing that feat three times, including a school record 44 points in one game.

Grayling Tobias was a two-sport athlete at UM-St. Louis, playing both basketball and baseball for the Rivermen. He played in 85 games during his four seasons for the basketball team and scored 911 career points, which ranks 20th on the all-time UM-St. Louis scoring list. As baseball player, Tobias was a member of three NCAA Regional teams from 1976-1978 while helping the team average 27 wins per year during that stretch.

In 1977, he was a member of the team that finished third in the country at the NCAA College World Series. Tobias was an honorable mention All-American selection as an outfielder in 1977. He ranks 10th all-time in the UM-St. Louis record books with 154 career hits and is second for most career steals with 78.

HANGING AROUND, from page 8

However, through a new workout routine and a new attitude, Big Mac returned and set the Major League scoreboards on fire. While the back problems he had were recurring, and eventually led him to retire, McGwire was still able to set records and attain many of the lofty goals that he set for himself.

Really, an athlete is out there for satisfaction. As a whole, athletes have goals that they are striving for. A big league pitcher may want to win 20 games at least one season in his career. A distance runner may try to run the 800 in 1:45. Or, a boxer may go for a knockout in the first round. Whatever the goal, long-term or short-term, athletes are out there playing past their

prime for various reasons and many of them very noble. So, while we all watch a big, mean and nasty 40-year old linebacker with bad knees hold down the line, we must remember that he, too, may have a goal that has yet to be achieved. For that, let's all admire the big lug and others like him.

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Ames	515-233-8100	
Debuque	815-747-3897	
Cedar Rapids	319-369-5000	IOWA
Davenport	563-322-0004	

THEATER REVIEW

University Players take the stage

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Where can you go to see a three-way relationship, girls eating chicken wings with whipped cream and a Russian terrorist trying to kill a queen? The One-Act Festival presented by The University Players, UMSL-St. Louis's drama club.

Brijul Bhakta, sophomore, business and theater, is president of the University Players. "We're doing the one-act play festival because we

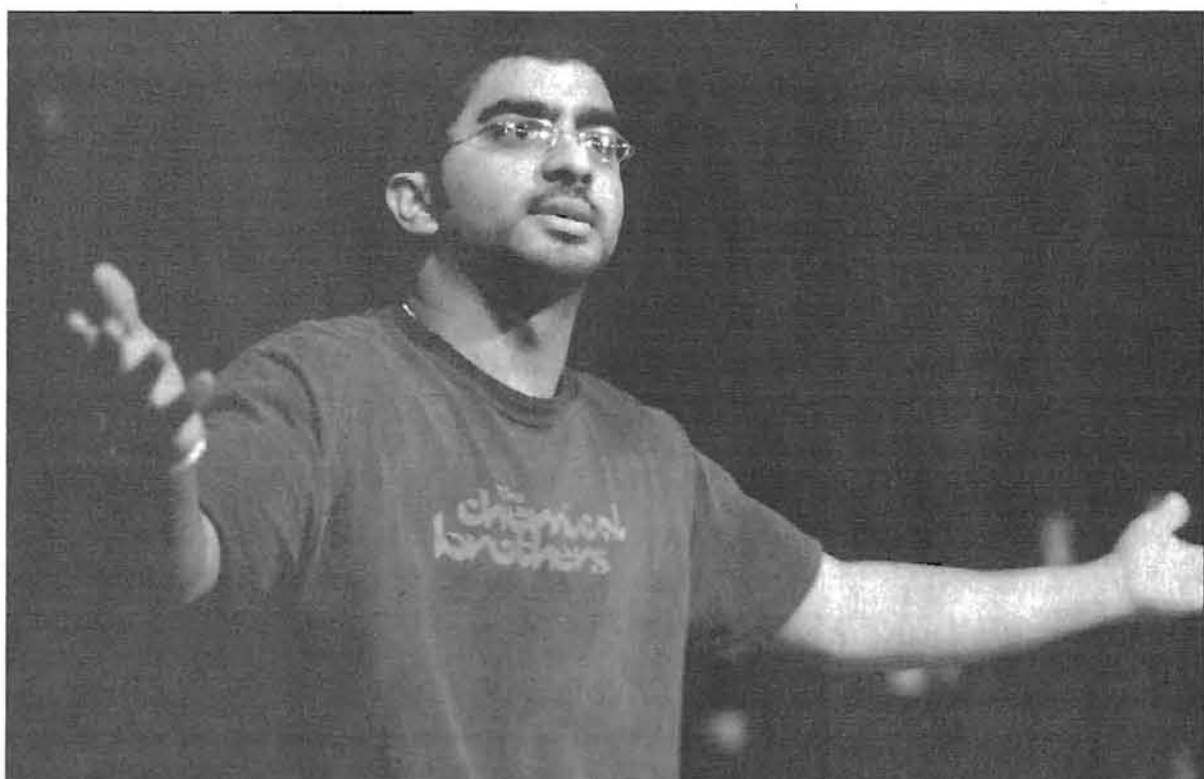
want people to come out and have a good time. This is one last chance for us to goof around onstage before the end of the year," he said. The University Players hope to make the one-act festival an annual event.

The show ran on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26. The evening began with "The Soprano's Dinner" from the play "Dream of a Common Language" by Heather McDonald. Three women, played by Judy Anderson, Bethany Cross and Kristyn Borus, reminisce about their childhoods and take the audience

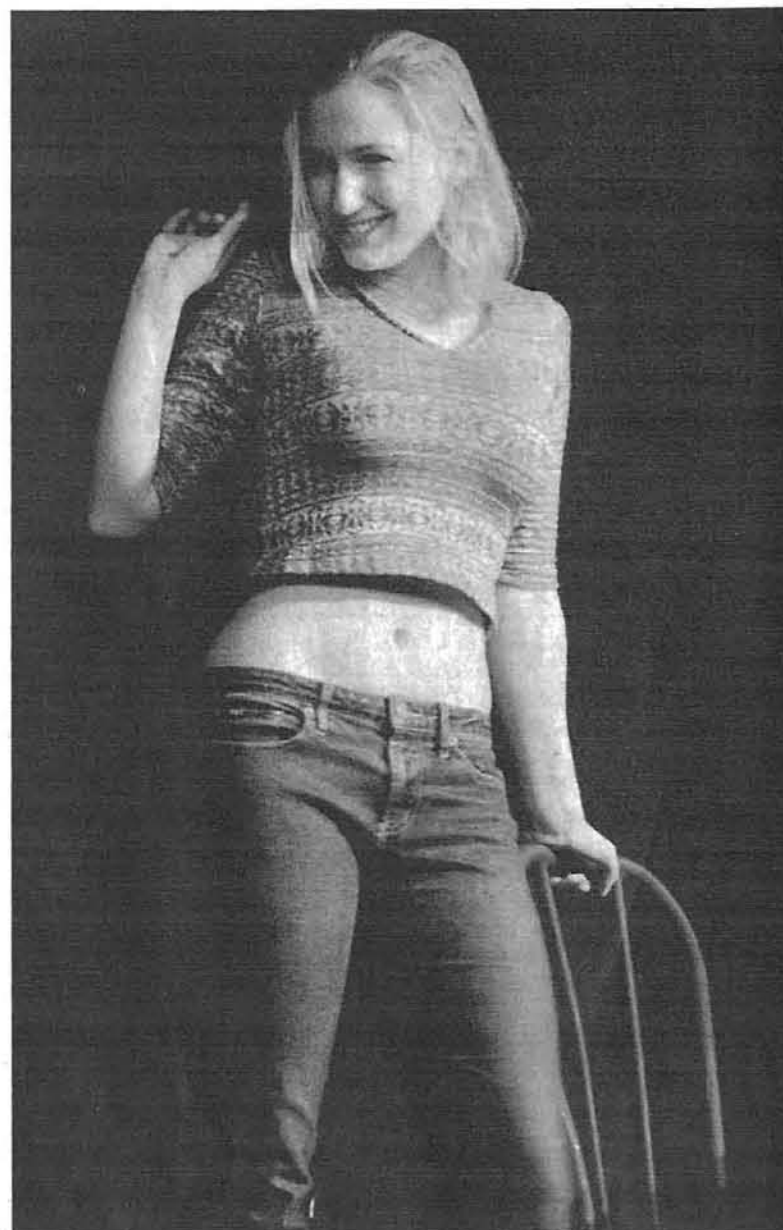
back to those moments. Belinda Quimby directed the first show.

"A Game of Chess" followed "The Soprano's Dinner." Set in Russia, this intense piece involves a revolutionary terrorist, a suave queen and a cunning game of life and death. Jaqueline Walker, Charlotte Bergstrom, Melissa Weldele, and Quimby perform this show. Bergstrom directed "A Game of Chess."

see PLAYERS, page 11



Brijul Bhakta stars in "Monkey in the Middle," a play he also wrote and directed during the "First Annual Charity One-Act Festival," Friday evening. The festival was held by the UMSL University Players.



Charlotte Bergstrom performs in "Monkey in the Middle," during the One-Act Play Festival held on Friday night.

MOVIE INTERVIEW

'Confidence' suits Ed Burns

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Sometimes when you meet someone you've seen on a movie screen, they look different in person than you'd expect. They may be shorter, thinner, better looking or even odd looking - they just have to look good on film. Ed Burns' distinctive gravelly voice sounds

world. But maybe audiences weren't ready for a clever sex comedy so soon after the tragedy of 9-11. Whatever the reason, the film didn't do as well as it should have or as Burns hoped. When his next project with twice the budget, "Ash Wednesday," didn't even get national distribution, Burns started to reevaluate his career direction.

Jake Vig, the character Burns plays in the new thriller "Confidence," was a



Photo courtesy Lions Gate Films

Ed Burns burst onto the indie film scene with 1995's Sundance hit "The Brothers McMullin," this talented son of a policeman has produced, written, directed and starred in a string of character centered films set in his beloved New York.

the same as in his movies, and he is as tall as he appears on screen, but in person he looks almost unremarkable. You wouldn't give him a second look on the street.

But Burns is anything but unremarkable. While indie filmmakers are often writers/directors, Burns is a film factory all in himself. Ever since he first burst on the indie film scene with 1995's Sundance hit "The Brothers McMullin," this talented son of a policeman has produced, written, directed and starred in a string of character-centered films set in his beloved New York. Not only does Burns handle all these tasks with skill, but his films are a marvel of low-budget efficiency.

Burns stars in the new caper film "Confidence," but this time he is only an actor and didn't write or direct. I have to confess I was disappointed to find that "Confidence" is not really an "Ed Burns film," since I like Burns' work. His 2001 romantic comedy "Sideways of New York" is an intelligent, charming, sexy comedy—a valentine to his city. The knowing and amusing film is a tale of the overlapping love lives of six New Yorkers. Surprisingly, this daisy-chain tale was shot in an amazing seventeen days for one million dollars—very low-budget in the film

very different role for Burns. That difference caught his eye. "It was a big part of why I took the role," said Burns. "In the past, in pretty much every part I've played prior to this, I've been able to draw from my own personality, to play some variation of myself. This guy, Jake Vig, is the first time I had nothing in common with the character. So it was a lot of fun to slip into the skin of a character, to be that cocky, that cool."

It wasn't just the character that was different for Ed Burns. "In every other film I've worked on as an actor, I've always been writing a screenplay concurrently with that. I'd go back to my trailer and work on my script during the breaks. This is the first time I've been the lead; so I figured I'd better approach this one with the same single-mindedness I have when I'm writing and directing."

This is where Burns got a surprise. "I found that I liked acting. It was the first time I wasn't also working on a script while shooting, and that freed me to concentrate on acting. When I look at the film, I can tell. The reason my work is better is that I was there one-hundred percent of the time."

see INTERVIEW, page 11

MOVIE REVIEW

Fun and con games 'Confidence' a winner

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Lots of films have used the device of starting with a guy in a fatal fix and then flashing back to tell us how he got there. Even if you know where this is all going, the trick is to give you a good enough ride along the way as he spins his tale of how he got into that tight spot.

"Confidence" gives you that ride you are looking for. This part caper film, part thriller is reminiscent of "The Sting" with a dash of "Pulp Fiction," and the ensemble cast is a bit "Ocean's Eleven," but borrowing from past films is an old tradition in the movie world. The trick is to make the combination into something fresh. "Confidence" does, with a story that keeps you alert and guessing with twists, surprises and terrific characters.

"Confidence" stars Ed Burns as Jake Vig, a grifter who has just pulled off an elaborate con with his close-knit team. As they are all set to celebrate, a problem comes up—the guy they fleeced is a money runner for a local mob boss known, ominously, as just King (Dustin Hoffman), and the money wasn't his but belonged to the psychotic King. The assassination of one of their team and King's well-established reputation for long memo-

ry, long reach and bloody vengeance, persuade Jake, the team's leader, to go to King to try to strike a compromise. The suspicious and possibly mentally unbalanced King is reluctantly convinced to let Vig and his crew try another con to recoup his loss and then some. The plan requires a woman to set up and they recruit a pickpocket, Lily (Rachel Weisz) to help, although her arrival unbalances the group's boys' club dynamic. On top of the pressure from King, there is Gunther Butan (Andy Garcia), a government agent closing in on the con men. The story rolls out like flushing a flock of pigeons; everything's in motion, but you can't tell where any single one is headed.

The cast is first rate, and the story entertainingly clever, even if you figure out the end. Dark comic elements pepper the film, giving a bit of tongue-in-cheek, Pulp Fiction flavor to the scenes. Burns doesn't play his usual blue-collar character but instead does a very cool, tightly controlled, unreadable con artist whose deadpan reactions are part of how he keeps everything under control during a con.

But the real scene-stealer is Dustin Hoffman as the weirdly sex-obsessed King, coming on to Vig like a pick-up artist in a bar while threatening to dismember him. It isn't just Vig he works this approach on. When introduced to Weisz's Lily, Hoffman is so leering

that he looks as if he's going to lick her and, if she moves, devour her on the spot. The discomfort this creates in the actors opposite Hoffman is almost palpable and heightens the tension of every scene he's in. Although Hoffman has only a few scenes, it is his character that dominates the film because you can't get the creepy performance out of your mind. We are never sure if this is King's coldly planned technique for getting what he wants or if he really is unbalanced. We should see more of this guy (Hoffman, not King).

Other performances are equally pithy, and a great deal of the fun is the ensemble cast and the wonderfully drawn characters. Rachel Weisz as Lily is wonderfully vampish, and it is hard to tell where her loyalties might lie, except with herself. Andy Garcia's rumpled and oddly named Gunther Butan is another cunning wild-card menace as he closes in on the action while the con is already in motion.

Along the way, we get all the fun stuff you hope for in a caper film—fast cars, nice clothes, beautiful people, clever lines and plot twists. All the pieces start to fall together by the film's end, and we get a satisfying conclusion. It's just stylish entertainment, not high art, but "Confidence" gives you your money's worth and doesn't leave you feeling like you have been conned.



Photo courtesy Lions Gate Films

"Confidence" stars Ed Burns as Jake Vig, a grifter who has just pulled off an elaborate con with his close-knit team.

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E
Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change.

April 25

Confidence - Ed Burns, Dustin Hoffman and Rachel Weisz star in a well-built, enjoyable caper film tale about a con man whose life gets complicated when he unknowingly robs a local mob boss

Identity - John Cusack stars in a thriller/horror film about people trapped together in a hotel with a murderer in their midst; directed by James Mangold (Girl, Interrupted); part thriller, part mystery, part supernatural, it is also a send-up of horror films and a tongue-in-cheek homage at Agatha Christy's Ten Little Indians.

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

Raising Victor Vargas - good comedy, appealing young stars, quirky family, and real warm-heartedness in a coming-of-age tale about a self-styled young teen heart-breaker who sets out to win local beauty Juicy Judy in NY's Lower East Side. Drawing a lot of attention for the terrific, charismatic cast of unknowns.

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

Russian Ark - a remarkable film that is all one continuous shot and a tour through history and the beautiful Hermitage palace in St. Petersburg. One week only at Tivoli.

May 2

Chi-hwa-seoh - South Korean film about a famous painter from a famous director. The name means 'painted fire,' and director Im Kwon-Taek won best director for it at Cannes. One week only at the Tivoli.

A Mighty Wind - parody film in the style of 'Best in Show' and 'This Is Spinal Tap,' about folk music stars

MOVIE REVIEW

No blueprint for behavior

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

A tale of Asian-American teens coming of age in suburban Orange County in Southern California hardly sounds like the stuff of a controversial film, but "Better Luck Tomorrow" prompted cries of outrage from the audience and accusations of promoting negative values and a bad image for Asians when it was shown at the Sundance film festival. What could draw such a reaction to a very polished, very entertaining film by a talented young Asian-American filmmaker?

Part of the concern comes from the fact that "Better Luck Tomorrow" is such a well-made, entertaining film, and hence can't just be ignored. The problem is that while the press notes describe it as a "morality tale," it is really more of an immorality tale and seems to be saying some very disturbing things by the film's end, implying that the characters may get away with their crime. The film is so clever, the characters so likeable and suburban, the tone so light and even comic at times, that it leaves an unsettling sense that the crime is less important than it really is. That the film is so entertaining makes you wonder about that ending, where horrific things or maybe injustice are just around the corner.

But let's back up and tell you something about the film. "Better Luck Tomorrow" introduces us to Ben (Parry Shen), his best friend Virgil (Jason Tobin) and a bunch of other suburban kids (Sung Kang, Roger Fan, John Cho, and Karin Anna Cheung) who fit the Asian stereotype: straight-A high school seniors concerned about maintaining that lock on Ivy League college admissions. Continually honing their college applications by adding another club or sport, they are almost bored with how easy it all is. The boredom lets them dwell on a nagging, painful irony. Despite all their accomplishments, they are always the minority kids, the outsiders, and none of their accomplishments earn them respect or



Photo courtesy Trailing Johnson Productions
"Better Luck Tomorrow" is a tale of Asian-American teens coming of age in suburban Orange County in Southern California.

popularity with non-Asian peers. Pride in their braininess and self-discipline, along with their marginalization by the social cliques of mostly white kids, lead them to both disdain the partying jocks and long to attain some All-American bad-boy cool for themselves. By slow, small steps, the boredom and dissatisfaction leads them to dabbling in petty crimes and drugs, and the excitement and allure of gangsta chic draws them down a dark path. But don't assume you know where this film ends up.

"Better Luck Tomorrow" is entertaining, with an interesting, nonlinear structure and a balance of comic and serious elements. There is just something weirdly comic about a kid keeping a log of his practice of the perfect jump-shot and drilling vocabulary words for the ACT while contemplating robbery and selling dope. The photography is extremely clever, with unusual angles and shots covering up the fact that this project had a shoe-string budget. The strong photographic

elements, thanks to French cinematographer Patrice Lucien Cochet, are a big part of why the film is so enjoyable and give it a wonderful energy and flavor. And despite the grim sounding premise, "Better Luck Tomorrow" is both fun and thought provoking.

Writer/director Justin Lin, a recent film school graduate poured everything into getting this film made, including his credit cards and life savings. The filmmaker recruited talented young actors frustrated by the limited roles offered to Asian Americans, took advantage of locations available for shots, re-used extras in shots and brought in lots of volunteer help in his drive to get his film made. The point was to show a fuller, rounder view of Asian-American youth, not just the stereotypes of perfect students or urban toughs.

Lin succeeds in "Better Luck Tomorrow," and that is part of the problem. Complaints about the film include numerous comments about putting Asians in a bad light, but Lin

replies that the idea is to show a broader image. The young actors in the film were clearly enthusiastic about the opportunity to play something more than a waiter or the straight-arrow overachiever. High quality acting and a script full of well-rounded characters of depth who engage in surprisingly believable and universal internal struggles of growing up make the film a joy to watch. The problem comes late in the film, where there is a sense that the filmmaker is forgiving, or maybe even condoning, some clearly immoral actions. It may be unintentional on the filmmaker's part, but it is disturbing regardless.

The best thing to do with any intriguingly controversial film, like with any other controversial work of art, is to see it for yourself. Fortunately, the high quality of the thought-provoking and surprisingly entertaining "Better Luck Tomorrow" makes this an easy assignment. You may be amused or you may be horrified, but you won't be bored.

BOOK REVIEW

Romantic book difficult to get over

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

We all had secret crushes when we were younger. Perhaps it was on that good-looking teen idol that played the sarcastic oldest son in an 80's sitcom. Or maybe it was that bouncy female singer who dressed in fabulous pre-Brittany costumes and sang in that girlish voice. Or maybe it was the slightly older film star that we lined up to see in what hindsight tells us was a really lousy movie, just to get a glimpse of that hundred-watt smile. We have fantasized about our early crushes and imagined for a while what it would be like to meet them, and maybe early dating was hampered because we inadvertently compared the people around us to the object of our secret affections, knowing that the ordinary people just weren't as attractive, glamorous or just plain cool as that crush.

Elise Junka's hilarious and heart-breaking novel "Getting Over Jack Wagner" is about a person like that, but instead of being a star-struck pre-teen who is discovering boys by way of her teen magazines, the protagonist is a 26-year-old copywriter who still carries an obsession with soap opera actor/one-hit-wonder Jack Wagner.

Eliza is obsessed with rock stars. She wants to date them and has fantasies about them being wild, tortured souls with dangerous behavior, dressed in



Photo courtesy Downtown Press
Elise Junka's hilarious and heartbreaking novel "Getting Over Jack Wagner" is about a star-struck 26-year-old copywriter.

black with body piercings and the whole bit. What she usually gets are musicians who perform in low-rate, talentless bands and who have nagging mothers that are obsessed with their little boys' grooming skills. So far, Eliza has not been able to shake the fantasies that have eluded her from childhood, although she tries.

When her best friends announce their engagement and her sister announces she's pregnant, Eliza forces herself to let go of her rock star fantasy

and go on a blind date with a co-worker's grandson. After that too proves to be a disaster, Eliza does some soul searching to find out what is wrong with her life.

The book is very well written with a memorable protagonist. Even though many readers may laugh at Eliza's rock star obsession, some may recall their early crushes fondly. Some may even still be in the same situation as her, trying to find the ideal mate that has been conjured up in film, television, music or

romantic literature but is somehow lacking in real life.

Junka writes about a woman who has made music her whole life, not because of her talent but because of the romantic fantasies it brings—exemplified by the titles of songs from Eliza's mix tapes, which appear at the beginning of each chapter to show the mood and subjects within. Eliza has spent her whole life so lost in her daydreams of rock star fantasies that she can only be herself when she takes a critical look at them.

Because the book is told through Eliza's first person point of view, the reader isn't given much to go on with the supporting characters. Eliza's mother is a hysterical bitch, her father is absent and her best friends, Andrew and Hannah, are supportive but aggravating. Her co-workers are helpful but nosy, and her dates are handsome but irritating. But because we see the book through Eliza's eyes, we can see why she would prefer to shut herself up in her fantasies and her disappointment as her hopes are always dashed.

Because Eliza is set up as a character that tries to change but fails each time, the endingx of "Getting Over Jack Wagner" is ambiguous. Eliza seems to be starting to accept herself and her real situation, but the reader knows better. As she leaves her mix tape collection and her Jack Wagner t-shirt, the readers gird themselves for what will probably be another blow.

GAME REVIEW

One sexy coaster

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

"Kingdom Under Fire: A War of Heroes" is a pyromaniac's dream. No, it's not because the game has awesome flamethrowers or gasoline bombs. "Kingdom Under Fire" does have, however, an extremely thick

cult too. Don't get me wrong, this isn't praise for the game's AI, it's just that the interface is so clunky and the graphics so archaic that it's virtually impossible to play. The hero units are uninspired repeats from Blizzard's "Warcraft," and the seemingly wide variety of army units is actually nothing more than a bunch of clunky guys with dif-

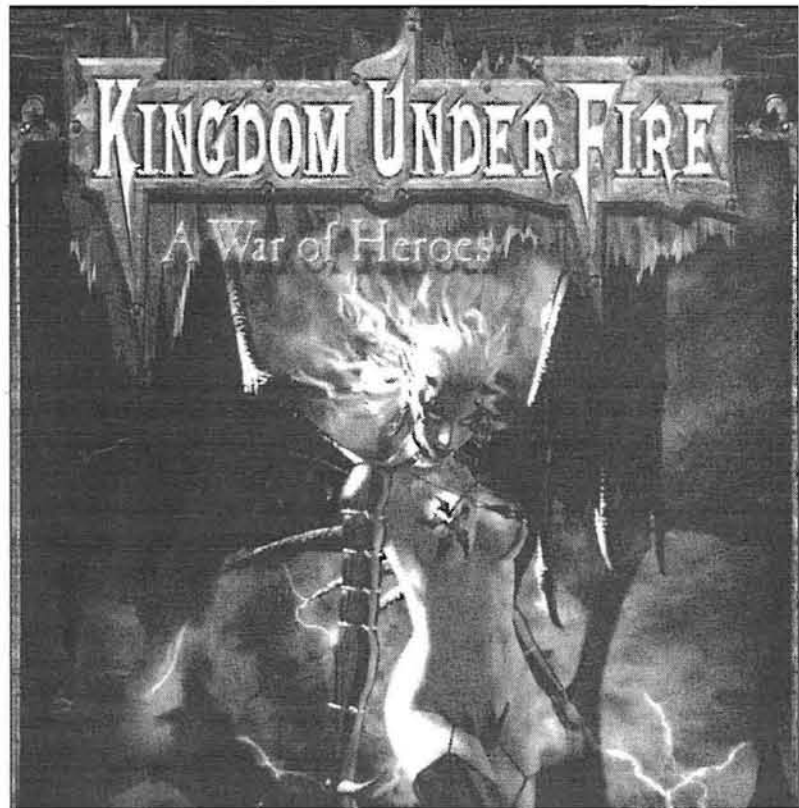


Photo courtesy Phantagram Games
"Kingdom Under Fire: A War of Heroes" is a pyromaniac's dream.

instruction manual and solid cardboard packaging, both of which burn a pretty green color when set alight (trust me).

Imagine, if you can, the days of "Warcraft" and "Diablo" in their original incarnations. Now remove all of their cleverness and innovation, replace them with graphics worthy of a Commodore 64 and dialogue crafted by Korean sweatshop workers. Voila, you've got "KUF," or as I prefer to call it, "FU, K!"

The storyline is not too shabby, and the graphics on the box should appeal to prepubescent males with a lust for blood and top-heavy dark elves. Here ends my praise, now for the fun part.

Why can't I save? Why, oh God and Phantagram (the developer), did you make such a damnably boring game which I cannot save in mid-level to resume later? This really becomes a problem since the game assigns hero units that must survive through up to two hours of extremely difficult and dull hack-'n-slash combat. And then, the game is really diffi-

ferent poorly-sketched abilities, none of which you'll enjoy playing. I had once dreamed that controlling demon-dudes and hot, scantily clad elf girls would always be entertaining. It was a dream that this game has destroyed.

"KUF" comes programmed on a finely crafted plastic CD, much like those of more sophisticated software titles. This disc serves well as a drink coaster or (if the edges are sharpened) a combat throwing disc, like the one seen on "Xena." Alternate uses include Frisbee, creating shocks of blue lightning in the microwave and placing over the eye as a ridiculously oversized novelty monocle.

If your dream is to become an arm-chair general (or even armchair sergeant major), then this game is not for you. The people who do enjoy this game are the same people who think Michael Jackson is normal. Those of you who have read this may consider yourselves forewarned against the tauntingly sexy dark elves winking at you from the bargain bin. Beware that gaze, it leads down the path to evil and a wasted 15 bucks.

INTERVIEW, from page 10

"Confidence" provided him with a great teacher. Burns' co-star is Dustin Hoffman, a legendary actor noted for his immersion in roles and creative performances. Hoffman plays the threatening and disturbing kingpin that Burns' confident team mistakenly cons. Hoffman's character was significantly different than that of the original script. "The original character, in the version I read, the story was set in New York and Dustin's character was a 300-lb Mafioso type, former boxing champ. He was a physically ominous character; so he intimidated my character physically. Then the story got moved to L.A., and Jamie [Foley, the director] started to think about it—What 300-lb actors are out there? Who are we going to get to play this part?" said Burns.

Director Foley came up with an unusual solution. "He came up with the idea of casting Dustin because he's one of those actors who can do anything. So then Dustin came on board, and he started to develop the incarnation it became," said Burns.

Foley gave Hoffman free rein to mold the character. "It wasn't until the rehearsal period (before actual shooting started) that he figured out how he would physically intimidate me. And that was when he came up with the 'Let me read your palm; come sit next to me,' sexual come-on approach. That was all Dustin's creation—I think there was a hint of it in the script, but Dustin really embraced that and made it as creepy as possible. There was more of it that got cut; Dustin fought to get some of it put back in. Dustin was really having fun watching me squirm," said Burns.

Since Burns has appeared in more films that he wrote, produced, and directed himself than not, you might think he'd have trouble giving up control of the film process. "No, it

was pretty easy to just show up on the set and not have to worry about all the details you have to think about as a filmmaker," said Burns, when asked about not being in charge of the film. "It frees you up as an actor to focus on just that role. The first film that I acted in that wasn't my own was "Private Ryan," so I knew I wasn't going to be offering any suggestions to Spielberg about camera angles and so forth."

The few filmmakers who do it all, as Burns does, often have an aspect of filmmaking that so captures their heart that they take on the rest to protect and control that part. When asked if there was one aspect of filmmaking that really had his heart, Burns didn't hesitate. "By far, it's the writing. It's the hardest part but also the most satisfying because it is the one part of filmmaking that is not collaborative."

I started directing to maintain control and the acting is kind of an extension of that as well.

— Ed Burns
Writer and Director

It's the only thing in the filmmaking process where you are the sole creator," said Burns. "I started directing to maintain control, and the acting is kind of an extension of that as well. But the thing that has been the most fun is the writing."

Burns has had no formal training as an actor. "I fell in love with movies; theater just isn't my thing," said Burns. Now that Burns has a new interest in acting, will he be returning to writing and directing his own films? "I'd say about every six weeks now I change my mind. I've given up trying to come up with a real five-year plan or whatever because it's such a weird business. A thing like 'Confidence,' when I got the script, I didn't even think I'd be working. I met with Jamie Foley, and two weeks later, we're shooting. I can't really make plans. I may write something this summer unless a great acting job comes along."

Hopefully, this talented filmmaker will continue to do both.

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MARK WAHLBERG
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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, MAY 30th!

PLAYERS, from page 10

The final performance, "Monkey in the Middle," gives the audience a good laugh. Bhatka wrote and directed the piece himself and also acts in it. "Monkey" deals with stupid relationships and their inevitable twists and turns. This cast of six will take the audience on a familiar ride through the memory lane of bad relationships. "Monkey" stars Brijul Bhatka, Gary Sohn, Nicole Cusimano, Levi Locke, Kate Drolet and Kristyn Borus.

Gary Sohn, senior, mass communications, performs as one of the male leads in "Monkey."

"I think this is a chance for people to see more of the University Players," he said.

The entire event was completely student run. Each play was chosen or written, directed and performed by students. The set was also designed by the University Players.

The festival was free, but donations were accepted. All proceeds went to the U.S.O.

The University Players were formed in 1963 and were known as the Drama Group until 1965.

Letters to the editor continued from page 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Photographer receives undue criticism at campus event

Dear Current Staff:

I just participated in a campus event with several of my fellow students where a photographer from *The Current* was present. I am very embarrassed at the comments of some of the students there. More than a few negative remarks about *The Current* were batted around during the evening, with the photographer well within earshot. Some of the

comments were downright rude.

I think that what I heard was something that *The Current* staff deals with day in and day out: constant criticism of something that they work very hard on and put a lot of time into. This photographer was on campus very late, in the cold, doing his job and was greeted by little else than disrespectful comments.

I regret that I did nothing that evening to voice my thoughts, but I

would like to say here that I appreciate *The Current* and am thankful for all those who dedicate their time and energy to it. I, like many other readers, am indeed frustrated by ever-present typos and grammatical errors, and I don't like every article or column I read. I admit that I have muttered many criticisms of *The Current* in my years at UMSL. However, I still read it every week and I do get excited at the sight of a new issue

every Monday.

I challenge readers of *The Current* to appreciate the generous contribution this staff makes to our campus life. I also challenge the staff of *The Current* to keep bringing us a better and better paper. I anxiously await the next issue.

Sincerely,
Heather Casper
Student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reporter practices what he learned at paper

Dear Editor:

When I first walked into *The Current* office 25 years ago, I had never worked at a newspaper. Then, housed in the aptly named Blue Metal Office Building, the paper had an all-volunteer staff, save the editor who was paid something like \$12 an issue.

It was an educational experience for all of us. In fact, most of what I learned at UMSL I learned in that office. This isn't the type of career

that can come solely from textbooks. Journalists become better by interviewing and writing and being edited. And by making mistakes.

One memorable example: A rookie reporter came back from an Academic Senate meeting with a story filled with quotes from someone named Roland Scope who had a plan for the future of the University. Only after questioning by editors did we realize that the reporter had misunderstood. The Senate discussion was

actually about the University's Role and Scope plan.

Embarrassing? Yes. But that's how a student journalist learns the trade. Taking away the student newspaper would be like removing the Bunsen burners from the chemistry labs.

I am dismayed to hear that the student government and administration are considering defunding the paper. I'm 2,000 miles and a quarter century removed from UMSL, but I put into practice practically every day what I

learned there.

I hope that Blue Metal Building has been sent to the scrap heap by now, but University and student leaders should never kill off the newspaper that has served as such an important training ground for journalists.

Richard Jackoway
City editor, San Luis Obispo
(Calif.) Tribune
Editor-in-chief, 1980-81
UMSL The Current

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student involvement will suffer if newspaper does not receive funding

To the UM-St. Louis community,

The French philosopher Voltaire once wrote: "I may not agree with a thing you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." It is with a similar mindset that I write this letter in defense of *The Current*.

Throughout my years at UM-St. Louis, *The Current* has informed, entertained, angered, embarrassed and enlightened me. It has made me laugh out loud, provoked intelligent conversations with my friends and professors and sometimes made me shake my head in disbelief. Though I have never been a member of *The Current's* staff, I read it each week and have used this forum to voice my thoughts in the past. Unfortunately, it seems that the end is drawing near for this publication. By deciding to forgo any funding for *The Current*, the SABC is not only doing a great disservice to the paper but to the students, faculty and University as well.

UMSL is a commuter campus, and as such many students have little opportunity to stay informed on school issues. *The Current* often acts as a window into aspects of University life that otherwise would remain unknown. *The Current* is the one publication to which all students have access to for information

regarding a wide array of issues.

The Current supplies students with more information regarding the SGA than any other publication or organization on campus. It has done much towards mending the wounds between the SGA and student body and provides reports on meetings, decisions, elections and debates. None of this would be readily available without the diligent reporting of *The Current's* staff. Without *The Current*, students will inevitably become more removed from the SGA and elections will be won primarily on the basis of who can buy the most chalk or make the prettiest flyer.

Funding issues are often reported in *The Current*, from student fees to office rehabs to construction projects. As students, we help to pay for all of these. Therefore, we deserve to remain informed in such matters. Without *The Current*, many of the changes in funding for various projects would remain unknown to a vast majority of students.

The Current is one of the few places where students can get regular updates about our University's sports teams. The Rivermen and Riverwomen receive a mere fraction of the attention they deserve at UMSL. Silencing *The Current* removes their voice as well and strikes another blow to our already

faltering athletics program.

The Current also exists as a place for all student organizations to announce their upcoming events, receive coverage of those events and bring attention to issues they feel represent who they are and what they believe in. As the SABC is charged with promoting student activities on campus, removing funding for *The Current* affects all student organizations. Communication with students will become much more difficult for all organizations if *The Current* ceases to exist.

I admit that at times the content of *The Current* can seem a bit trite and offensive (see the Village Idiots). But *The Current* affects students in more ways than the SABC seems to realize. Student involvement, access to information and group participation all will suffer if funding for *The Current* is no longer granted. Why would a university that claims to "Love its Students" attempt to take such an important aspect of student life away from them?

Travis DeRousse
Former President, Mannheim Park
Member, College of Arts and
Sciences Student Advisory
Council

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Current is a valuable resource at UM-St. Louis

Dear Editor:

As a former student leader at UMSL, I feel that a valuable asset will be lost if *The Current* is forced to shut its doors due to the lack of funding from the SABC.

The Current meets many of the SABC funding priorities. It enhances the reputation of UM-St. Louis through the many awards it has won over the years in the Missouri College Media Association as well as by holding offices in that organization.

The Current teaches leadership and provides an excellent learning environment for students going into professional journalism. UMSL is a small city and its journalists are given ample opportunity to learn their craft by getting plenty of experience; journalism students from other schools would die to get that much experience. Without *The Current*, communications students as well as students from other majors would not gain the valuable experience they gain from its weekly publication.

I have dealt with *The Current* over

the years as a student leader. Even when they disagreed with me in editorials, they have always treated me with respect.

The Current cannot play a leadership role in SGA because they would lose their objectivity. However, they have sent a representative to represent the organization as well as a reporter to cover the meeting. They have co-sponsored a number of events at times with other student organizations.

The Current, as stated in the SGA Election Guidelines, is the most prac-

tical way to notify the entire campus community of upcoming and recent events. The newspaper has almost always sponsored a candidates' debate before spring SGA elections.

While I took a lot of heat from *The Current* over the years, I still respect it as a valuable resource on this campus. SABC needs to reconsider its decision and continue to provide funding for *The Current*.

Steven M. Wolfe
SGA Interim Vice President 1999-2000

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Year after year paper improves

Dear Editor:

The Student Activities Budget Committee made a foolish decision when it denied *The Current* its allocation of student fees.

The Current is one of the top student papers in the state. This spring, *The Current* won "Best Overall Newspaper" from the Missouri College Media Association for the second year in a row.

If *The Current* had demonstrated it was fiscally irresponsible, or if *The Current* had withdrawn from participating in the campus community, perhaps the SABC decision would be justified.

But year after year, *The Current* has grown and improved. It handles its finances well and is less dependent on student fees than most other student newspapers in the St. Louis area.

The Current also makes enormous contributions to the UMSL community by participating in and promoting almost all of UMSL's student activities. It informs and entertains the cam-

pus community with insightful stories every week.

And unlike other student organizations, which provide leadership opportunities for just a few students, *The Current* has a staff of 25-30 students who get practical experience in a variety of fields. No other organization on campus provides so many students such great training.

The SABC decision was clearly based on dissatisfaction with *The Current's* content, or perhaps some personal vendettas. But the SABC isn't allowed to make its financial allocations based on such things.

If the students on SABC can't come to their senses, then UMSL administrators should pressure them to do the right thing: allocate a fair amount of money to *The Current*. The paper's staff has more than earned it.

Josh Renaud
Former editor-in-chief
The Current
(2000-01)
Hazelwood, MO

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader supports student newspaper

Dear Editor:

I read in the Dispatch today that there is some question about the future of *The Current*, so I would like to go on record as fully supporting *The Current*. I like it and find it interesting and useful. It would be a real loss to UMSL to not have *The Current*.

I was particularly impressed with your April Fools issue. It was the best

April Fools issue I have ever seen. Congratulations on an excellent job.

Sincerely,

Dr. David A. Ricks
Curators' Professor of
Management and International
Business and Director of
International Business Programs
UMSL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

First Amendment freedoms need protection at UMSL

Dear Editor:

"Prior restraint" is the attempt by a government agency to prevent the dissemination of information by censorship.

The SABC's proposal to extinguish *The Current's* budget is a blatant act of censorship.

As a former student and *Current* staff member, I cannot express deeply enough my disappointment at the

University's attempt to remove a free speech forum from campus.

An American university campus should be a place where the First Amendment's freedoms are protected, not censored.

Sincerely,

Ashley M. Cook
Former UM-St. Louis student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Prospective student reconsiders a transfer to UM-St. Louis

Dear Editor:

As a prospective transfer student to the University of Missouri-St. Louis and president of the Missouri College Media Association, I was extremely disappointed to learn of the recent loss of funding to your student publication, *The Current*.

In attending UMSL, I looked forward to working for *The Current*. As current president of the MCMA, our constitution states that I must attend a member institution in Missouri and be

employed by their student publication. Unfortunately, if *The Current's* student funding isn't reinstated I will be forced to seek other options, such as the University of Missouri-Columbia. This sudden upheaval reflects very poorly on the student representation and student government at UMSL.

Respectfully,

William D. Huber
President - Missouri College
Media Association

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SABC says The Current pays employees too much

Dear Editor:

Following the publication of the last issue of *The Current*, there has been a lot of misunderstanding about SABC as well as the initial funding suggestion it made. The Comptroller is the non-voting committee chair for SABC.

The students elected me to the position of Comptroller last April. I interviewed candidates for SABC members in October and made suggestions for 9 members and 2 alter-

nates. My suggestions were then approved by Orinthia Montague and Curt Coonrod.

Any suggestion that I stacked the committee to cut funding from *The Current* is absurd. *The Current* failed to mention that I used to write for that newspaper as well as The Brain Stew (Honors College newsletter). I am completely in favor of free press, as are the members of the committee who made the decision.

The Current's funding was cut due to substantial evidence that the newspaper did not need an SABC subsidy

to operate. Many college newspapers are efficient enough to run without subsidy, and evidence indicated that the *Current* could also operate as such. After analyzing salaries of *The Current* employees, the committee discovered a number of exorbitantly large salaries for part time student workers. The highest paid part time employee had earned over \$34,000 and counting. The current also made statements earlier in the year indicating that it was operating completely on advertising revenue. Primarily for these two reasons, *The Current's* funding

was cut with an understanding that they could appeal if they could prove that the money was needed. If the *Current* provides a convincing argument, the committee over which I preside will restore some of *The Current's* initial funding request.

Jeff Griesemer
Comptroller of the Student Government Association
Chairman of Student Activities Budget Committee

Send your letter to the editor to current@jinx.umsf.edu

For more information, see page 4.



Kevin Born, campus minister for the Catholic Newman Center, talks to students preparing to set up camp on the MSC's south lawn Tuesday night. "Spending one night in a cardboard box will not tell us what it is to be homeless, but we can attempt to see, even if just a little bit, what it's like. More importantly, though, we need to just try to raise awareness."

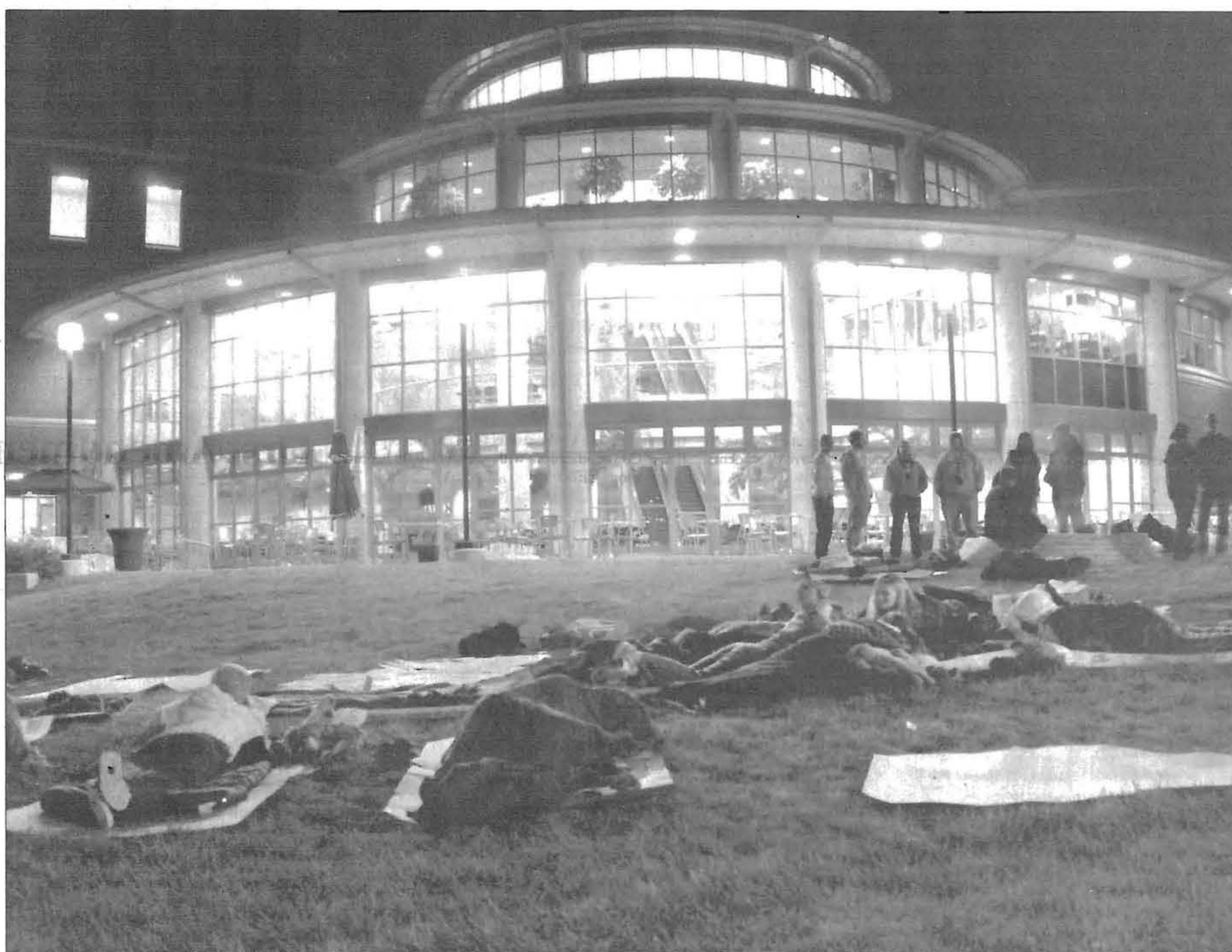


Robert Barron (left), senior, chemistry, tends the campfire in front of the Millennium Student Center last Tuesday night while Glen Frei, junior, biology; David Palmer, junior, nursing, and Jessica Kuenze, junior, biology, look on.

SPENDING THE NIGHT OUT

Students camp out in front of the MSC to raise awareness on homelessness

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE SHERWIN



Students set out cardboard boxes Tuesday night, creating a "Shantytown Simulation," to bring attention to the plight of the homeless. About 20 students braved the chilly temperatures and spent the night in front of the MSC. The next morning, the cardboard "shantytown" was left for students to see. The event was part of "Homelessness Awareness Week," sponsored and organized by the Catholic Newman Center, the RHA and Amnesty International.



Jennifer Haines, senior, communication, and president of the CNC, gets cozy on her cardboard box with the help of a few comforts from home.



Heather Casper, senior, psychology, gets her bedding out while Robert Barron settles in with a book.



Soraya Faramarzi, senior, philosophy, and member of Amnesty International, works on the large "Homelessness Awareness Week" signs for students to see in the morning.

If you want to help, contact a local service provider for the homeless

The Salvation Army
Phone: (314) 646-3000

Peter & Paul Community Services
Phone: (314) 588-7111

St. Patrick Center
Phone: (314) 802-0700

Habitat for Humanity
Phone: (314) 371-0400



THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Jason GrangerAdam Bodendieck

[Adam's Note: First and foremost, I would like to offer a formal apology to all of our readers for the content of "The Village Idiots" over the past couple of weeks. Quite frankly, it hasn't really been all that funny. See, I've been overoccupied, and as a result Jason had to pick up the slack. And while he's a nice guy and all, let's face it: He really isn't all that funny. Truth be told, I only kept him around because he promised to type this damn thing for me every week...Come to think of it, being a nice guy is about all he's got going for him. Does anyone think it's a coincidence that the speech-stifling, fascist powers-that-be decided to essentially shut down The Current after it was announced that Jason would be taking over as the big man? Yeah, me neither...I almost wish I could be around just so I could see Jason's "newspaper," which I figure is going to rely heavily on napkins and crayons. The Current might literally be THE Current, as it looks like Jason's only going to be able to afford to print one issue and will have to make students pass it around...Anyway, I'm sorry for neglecting my duties as your paragon of virtue and source of better living, and I swear that I love each and every one of you and will never let it happen again (I can say this rather assuredly seeing as I only have one issue left!).

[Jason's Note: I know I've said this before, Adam, but I just might hate you more right now than I've ever hated you in the past].

Dear Idiots,

I recently moved in with a new roommate. The thing is, he's a guy and I'm a girl. Although I've never lived with a member of the opposite sex that haven't been romantically involved with before, I really didn't think there were going to be any problems; he genuinely seemed like a pretty good guy. Actually, he is a pretty good guy, but there is one small issue that I'm having problems with. My boyfriend comes over to visit a lot, and he and my roommate get along really well - maybe a little too well. I don't doubt my boyfriend's sexuality (he's most definitely all man), but my roommate is a little more, shall I say, ambiguous. Plus, he's always making jokes and hinting around at wanting to get it on with me and my boyfriend, and sometimes even with my boyfriend. If I thought he was just joking I'd be okay, but I'm starting to think that he's really serious. What's even worse is the fact that I've always kind of fantasized about having a threesome and think that this might actually be a good thing. Any advice?

Sincerely,
I Got the 'Everybody Wants my Boyfriend' Blues (and I just might like you)

Dear Boyfriend Blues,

First, we need to express our deepest condolences to your boyfriend. We now know how hard it can be going through life as nothing more than an object of sexual desire. Well, at least one of us knows...[Jason's Note: see above regarding my feelings for Adam. Jerk].

Now, at this moment everyone is probably expecting us to recommend that you engage in wild, kinky threesomes with your boyfriend and roommate. Furthermore, everyone is probably expecting us to request an invitation to the freaky festivities. But that's not what we're going to do [Jason's Note: We're not?]

No, we're going to do the complete opposite. We're going to advise that you avoid a threesome at all costs. Why, you may ask? We'll tell you why: Participating in threesomes is nowhere near as good as fantasizing about threesomes. The real can never compete with the imagined ideal in situations like this, and the only thing having a threesome will do for you is completely ruin the idea of threesomes forever. And as any male who's ever been relegated to masturbating with just the aid of his own imagination will tell you, that's one of the worst things that could ever happen.

Threesomes contain lots of logistical problems that most people never consider. For one, they're almost always extremely awkward affairs. Take the most awkward scenario you can contrive, multiply it by about one-hundred, and you have a level of awkwardness that can only be described as "threesome awkward." You know how awkward it is when, for example, you meet your significant other's parents for the first time? Take that situation and imagine that you're in your underwear and have something green stuck in your teeth and can't remember your own name. That's how awkward we're talking.

Let's say you make it past the awkward beginning stage and start getting down to the nitty-gritty: Do you have any idea how hard it is to maintain a sense of rhythm when there's more than two people involved? A one-armed, blind drummer with vertigo stands more of a chance. What's more, you have the added pressure of being the minority sex. This means that you'll be too busy worrying about paying equal attention to both guys and not hurting anyone's feelings. In light of this awkwardness [Jason's note: Is that a word? The program just put a red squiggly line underneath it, so I guess not. Oh well, screw it!]

[Adam's Note: That's because you spelled it "awkwardness." Don't worry, I fixed it], we recommend that you avoid having a threesome with your boyfriend and male roommate like you'd avoid the Syphil-Gonoretic plague.

[Jason's Note: Personally, I feel that the logistics change when you go for the girl, guy scenario. I'd be loath to not bring this up. I highly advocate AND condone these types of threesomes. And seriously, if you have a friend who is willing to get down, go for it].

Ahem...trust us, threesomes are far more trouble than they're worth. No matter what, that's one pony that you really, really don't want to ride.

[Jason's Note: But if you do, can I come? Just asking...]

Dear Village Idiots,

I work for a campus organization that recently had its entire budget slashed to \$0 by the SABC. We consider ourselves a vital aspect of the UMSL community; yet those jerks still saw fit to take all of our money. What would you recommend we do?

Sincerely,
Bankrupted by SABC

Dear Bankrupted,

We know all about those SABC guys. They seem to have been on a fairly heavy power trip this year. That combined with what we figure must be a lack of sex has led to their abuse of poor, hapless, helpless organizations such as yours. Bastards.

There are a few courses of action you can take. Unfortunately, only one doesn't lead to jail time (They include an enraged African buffalo, a canister of homemade napalm and a bag of doo-die on fire), so we highly recommend you take the high road. Besides, have you ever tried to find an African buffalo at this time of year? They're as scarce as students who actually vote in SGA elections. So here's what we recommend: Start a petition. If you need help getting one of these going, we know someone who shall remain nameless (For a clue, see an issue of The Stagnant) in the ASUM office who has plenty of experience when it comes to petitions. Some might even say she's a master. [Adam's Note: It's really hard for us not to make a naughty joke here. Especially given her propensity towards debating. See, that makes her not only a master petitioner, but also a master debater. Say it really fast...]

Aside from the whole petition thing, any other options you are looking at involve ending up with your new girlfriend Bubba telling you that you've got puffy lips. Anyhow, good luck with all that. We can certainly sympathize.

-Love, Jason and Adam

Well, one more down and only one more to go. Anyone who's been saving up particularly juicy questions should get them to us sometime this week. We will also gladly accept any final hate mail, love mail or quick and easy recips. Until next time, dear readers...

[Adam's Note: The best part about writing this column every week is that I can exploit it whenever I feel like it. With that being said, I have a few personal messages to send out. But first, be warned: If you're not a big fan of tacky sentimentality you should probably stop reading now.

Heather - You have always been a wonderful mother, and I have no doubt in my mind that that's not going to change anytime soon. Dylan and Blake are truly lucky to have you.

Dylan - Not only are you the best big brother ever, but you'll always be the real "Boss." Blake and Mommy are lucky to have you around, and your Daddy loves you with all of his heart.

Blake - The world you've been born into is a hard one, but you've already made it just a little bit better. Your Daddy loves you, little monster man.

[Wow, that kind of killed the image I've worked so hard at cultivating over the past year, huh?]

[Jason's note: Now look what you went and made me do. I'm all weepy and stuff. Adam is just the sweetest thing under the sun. Can I be the godfather?]

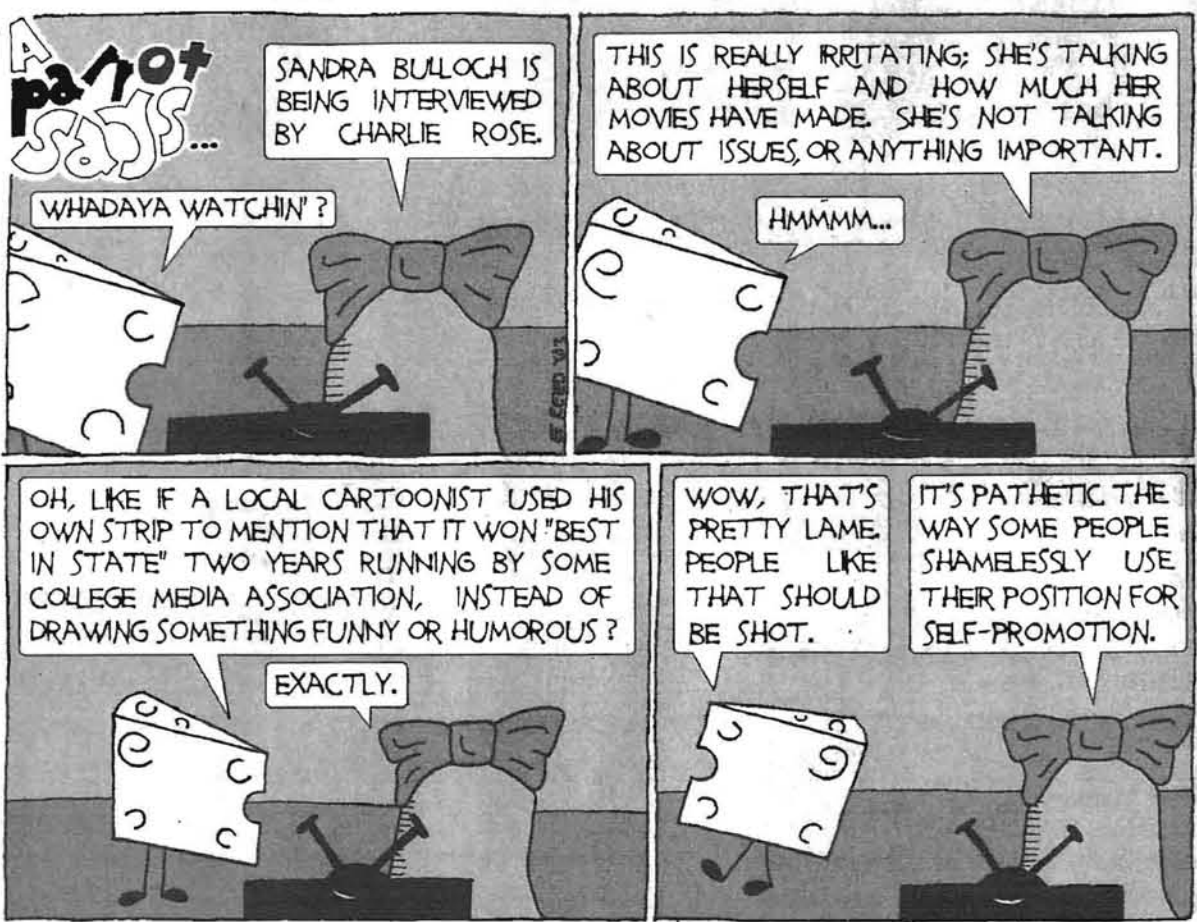
[Stanford's aside: I'm going to go vomit in the corner now. Congrats, Adam and Heather.]

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



Police Officer

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The current application deadline is May 16, 2003, for June 1, 2003 testing. Successful applicants will begin their Academy training in June 2004. For qualified applicants, the Springfield Police Department will offer optional early hire dates beginning in December 2003.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens; 21 years of age at time of commission; possess 60 semester hours from an accredited college **or** 2 years full-time experience as a civilian or military police officer with arrest powers **or** possess a Missouri Class A or B certification plus two years reserve or part-time law enforcement experience **or** possess 30 semester hours from an accredited college or university plus 3 years of experience as a Springfield Police Cadet. Additional requirements include: no criminal record, excellent physical condition and no visible tattoos; other standards apply.

To apply, call (417) 864-1607 and request an application or drop by 840 Boonville, Room 324, Springfield, MO 65802. For more detailed information, visit our website: www.springfield-mogov.org. We are committed to diversity and a drug-free workplace. Pre-employment drug testing. We comply with ADA. EOE/AA M/F/V/D



Are you an energetic hard working person?

How would you like to work for the busiest restaurant in town?

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We are currently hiring for all positions: Some of the great employee benefits include:

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- *Greeter
- *Kitchen
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- *Free meals each shift
- *Metro Link Access
- *Fun, exciting atmosphere
- *Set schedules available

No experience is necessary!
You must be 16 to work here, 18 to wait tables

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with 40 words or fewer
are free to
students, faculty and staff

All classifieds are due via email by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the publication date. In addition to the name(s) of the advertiser, each classified submitted must contain a student number or faculty/staff department and title(s) prior to publication.

<http://www.TheCurrentOnline.com> current@jinx.umsi.edu

Help Wanted

Need money?

Work as a telemarketer. Earn \$8 per hour plus commissions and get your own schedule. Call Carl at 786-4444.

Student Assistant Needed

The Faculty Resource Center is seeking a student assistant who has working knowledge of PC and Macintosh computers. MIS or computer science background is preferred. Stop by the Faculty Resource Center in CCB 105 or call 516-7191 for more information.

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.

Help wanted

The Center for Trauma Recovery is in search of a reliable work-study student to assist in the afternoon hours between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. The student should have good people skills. Contact Tenesha Davenport at 516-7230.

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.

Room for rent

Room for rent - nice home in Ferguson, females only, safe neighborhood, convenient to University/stores, french doors, lots of windows, nice yard, storage space, kitch./LR shared, cable tv, laundry, phone and utilities included. \$380.00/month, deposit required (314) 229-7641.

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 through 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.

Great apartment available

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.

Housing

Seeking roommate

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.

For sale

'96 Navy blue camaro, V6 3.8 Liter, Aut., Rear Wheel Drive, Air Cond., Power Steering, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc system, CD Changer/Stacker, Dual Front Airbags, ABS (4-whl), inside black leather, power seat, t-bar roof. Inside & outside excellent condition, four new tires, excellent mechanical and clean engine. \$8,500. Call 603-1545.

1993 Pontiac Grand Am

Cranberry, 2-door automatic with new brakes and rotors all the way around, great body, AM/FM radio and tape deck. Runs great, very reliable; asking \$2100 or best offer.

FINCHES

Zebra & Bengalese Finches @ 5 dollars each. Excellent pets, cages also available. Please contact Juan Martinez at 516-6256 or mimodes@jinx.umsi.edu.

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

Bearded Dragons for sale

Pre-adult, tri-colored. Clean, quiet and excellent pets. Priced substantially lower than pet stores. Call 314-428-0501.

For sale

4 speakers for sale

AIWA STEREO RECEIVER Model AX-100 VU
2 - 200 Watt Technics Speakers
2 - 100 Watt Sony Speakers
The asking price for the entire package is \$70.
Call Azlan at (314) 283-2190.

'90 Honda Civic

automatic, 4-door, power windows, AM/FM, disc stereo, good body, runs great. \$1000. Call 636-346-8466.

Pontiac Grand Am

1994 Gray Metallic, 4 drs., AM/FM, a lot of new parts. Professional maintenance, runs great. Need to sell. Your best offer - call 314-727-0786, cell 314-713-4549.

Notebook computer

HP model ze5170, Intel P4-2.0 GHz, 512 MB DDR SDRAM, 40 GB ATA100 HD, DVD-Rom + CD-RW combo, ATI 32 MB video, 15" XGA-TFT screen, 10/100 NIC, 56K modem, Windows XP Home + tons of bundled software, 3 yr. ext. warranty, only 4 months old, \$1,700 firm. 516-6941.

For sale

Apple iMac Computer

Apple iMac 333MHz with 320mb RAM, 6gb HD, CD-ROM, USB, ethernet, modem, keyboard, and stock mouse. EXTRAS: MacOS X 10.1, Imation SuperDisk Drive, and Apple Pro Mouse, custom CD w/ MacOS updates (9.2 & 10.1.5) & shareware apps. \$425. Email josh@joshrenaud.com or call (314) 895-1302.

1995 Chevy S-10

White, 190,000 miles, manual 5-speed, new engine w/warranty, new cat. converter & muffler. Body & interior in good condition. ProNet on back. Asking \$5000. Call 495-2293 Dusty or Shautel.

Like-New Bedroom Set

Only a few years old. Excellent condition. Black and gold with black Marble tops; five-piece bedroom set. Set includes full-size headboard with mattress and box spring, large six-drawer dresser with mirror, a hutch/chest, and a nightstand. Paid \$1500, selling for \$750 o.b.c. If interested, please call Dionne at 314-494-2635 or 314-839-2041.

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note: only graduating students are eligible

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.

Are you about to Graduate?

Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). It is free and involves no obligation. SLCP will simply provide you with information on what consolidation is all about and contact you after graduation to remind you of the opportunity to reduce your interest rate by consolidating early.

For more information, call a loan counselor at 1-866-311-8076 or click on our ad at www.thecurrentonline.com to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

www.thecurrentonline.com

www.slcp.com

TEXTBOOK BUYBACK UNIVERSITY *University of Missouri—St. Louis* BOOKSTORE

MAY 2 - MAY 15

Mon – Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sun: Closed

MAY 16 & 17

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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- You paid \$64 for a **new** textbook. We will pay you up to \$23 or 50%.
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- For books having a national demand, the wholesale company will pay 15% to 40% of the new price.
- Discounted books are shipped to a wholesaler who recycles them to other colleges and universities where they are needed.
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Our goal is to buy back as many of your books as possible.

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