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## Current, August 18, 2003

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Open mic night at the Red Sea

See page 10

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## UMSL's newest chancellor selected

**Thomas George comes to UM-St. Louis from UW-Stevens Point**

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

On Monday, July 28 Dr. Thomas F. George was announced as the new chancellor of UM-St. Louis. George will assume his duties on Sept. 1.

Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier has been serving as chancellor since the announcement of retirement by Blanche M. Touhill on December 31, 2002. President Elson Floyd was at UM-St. Louis to introduce the new chancellor.

George is joining the University from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he also served as chancellor. The search took nearly seven months for the 19-member campus search committee to end.

At the public announcement of the new chancellor, President Floyd said that "there is no more exciting time than the choice of a chancellor." Search committee members were present at the event, including three members of the Board of Curators.

Joining George will be his wife, Dr. Barbara Harbach. Harbach is an associate professor of mathematics and computing at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and former professor of music at Washington State University.

The first words of George as he stepped to the UM-St. Louis podium for the first time were, "I can't describe the excitement that I am feeling right now." It was just last month when he met with the search committee, and a month later, he was chosen.

His reason for leaving Wisconsin is the recruitment. George has known President Floyd for some time and both are excited about the new opportunities.

High on the chancellor's agenda is economic development. A more educated work force, and social and cultural higher education are what he means by this.

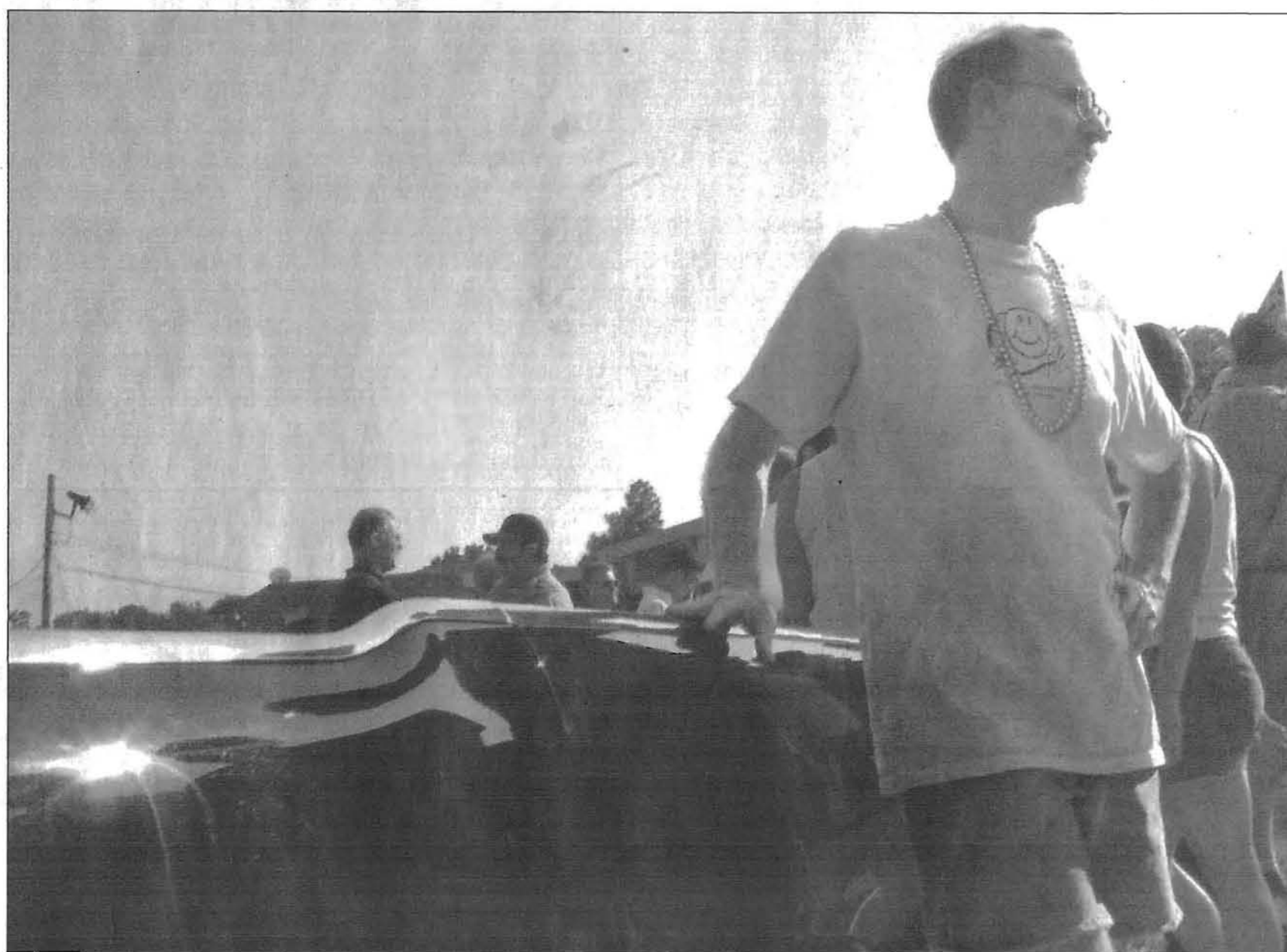
Some of the goals that the chancellor talked about were strengthening educational programs, reaching out to the community in new ways and increasing work force development. He also stated that he wants to further develop outreach programs, find ways to get high up on prominent lists and enhancing financing.

One of the biggest subjects that the incoming chancellor will face is the budget crisis. He stated that he thinks that funding is lower than it should be and is concerned about the way that the economy is right now. George also faced budget problems at the University of Wisconsin.

see CHANCELLOR, page 3

## INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
News	3
Opinions	4 & 5
Science Column	5
Features	6 & 7
Sports	8 & 9
Arts & Entertainment	10 & 11
A Parrot Says	12
Classifieds	13



LEFT:

Thomas George, the recently-appointed chancellor of UM-St. Louis, leans against the "UMSLmobile" at the Welcome Back Picnic held Sunday evening at the Millennium Student Center. George, who previously served as chancellor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will succeed Interim Chancellor Donald Driemeier and assume duties as chancellor Sept. 1.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

# Chancellor George is in UMSL's new chancellor takes part in festivities

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

UM-St. Louis officially welcomed new Chancellor Thomas George this weekend with a series of anniversary-themed events.

George comes to UM-St. Louis from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. George said while UW-Stevens Point serves a large campus, the true comparison between campuses would be between UM-St. Louis and UW-Milwaukee.

"Stevens Point is a small town of about 30,000 to 35,000 people," George said. "We're both part of state systems...and we're both fighting state budgets. I think one big difference is right now, I'm sweating."

George also pointed out that UW-Stevens Point is a division III athletic program, whereas UM-St. Louis is division II.

George has already begun planning for the coming school year, but he said he wants to focus on curriculum development.

"We've got a great infrastructure here physically, with the fine arts center and the MSC," George said. "I think what we want to do now is put as much focus on curriculum that fits in with these facilities."

George also plans on engaging in proactive fund raising from the private sector. He said he wants to counteract the state budget cuts through private dollars, while at the same time try to fight the state budget cuts to the best of his abilities.

"I've been doing that (fighting budget cuts) at the University of Wisconsin for the last three or four years," George said. "While I don't like it, I am experienced at it."

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Curt Coonrod said he is excited about the new chancellor and the energy he brings.

"I think he is going to be very proactive and be very involved with the students," Coonrod said. "I think he is going to be very good for the campus...he is going to build on the momentum we already have established."

George said he had the opportunity to see the new Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, and was impressed with the new facility.

"I'm looking forward to next month and the weeklong set of ceremonies that are associated with it," George said.

When George was introduced to the students at the welcome back picnic, he praised the work of Interim Chancellor Donald Driemeier, saying Driemeier did a fantastic job and that he "couldn't think of a better person to follow coming into this position."

George also said he will be arriving on campus next week to permanently take over the position and begin working.

Adam Schwadron, senior and former Student Government Assembly presidential candidate, said he is excited that the decision has been made and is anxious to see what the new chancellor has in mind.

"I haven't had the chance to meet him (Chancellor George) yet," Schwadron said. "But reading his credentials and his past history, he looks like he is going to be the perfect fit here at UMSL. I'm also looking forward to one of his jazz concerts, hopefully in the Pilot House, here in the next couple of months."

George came to UM-St. Louis specifically for last weekend's events and he said everything he has seen of the University has confirmed his previous opinions.

"So far it's (UM-St. Louis) has been absolutely outstanding," George said. "Having spent two and a half days here, I have met a lot of students. It is an outstanding University that is poised to become even better."

# Runde named Student Government president SGA constitution mandates promotion

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

The Student Government Association Executive Committee voted to put vice-president elect Kristin Runde in the president's seat. The seat has been vacant since the allocations from Adam Schwadron and Adam Beumeler.

This year's SGA presidential election has lasted a lot longer than anticipated. The executive committee finally decided that because of Beumeler admitting to breaking some of the election rules, and leaving the president's seat vacant, the vice-president should take office.

It is stated in the SGA constitution that in the event that the office of president is vacated, the succession to the office is the vice-president of the Association, the chairperson of the assembly, then the vice-chairperson of the assembly. The decision was made final in the beginning of July. "We took the appeal and we went through everything that was in the appeals," Runde said. "The person next in line is the vice-president, which moved me up."

The decision was passed around to several people on campus before it returned to the executive committee. There was never an official election

committee formed to hear the appeals made by Schwadron and Beumeler. "It was actually the executive committee who should have made the decision in the first place," Runde said.

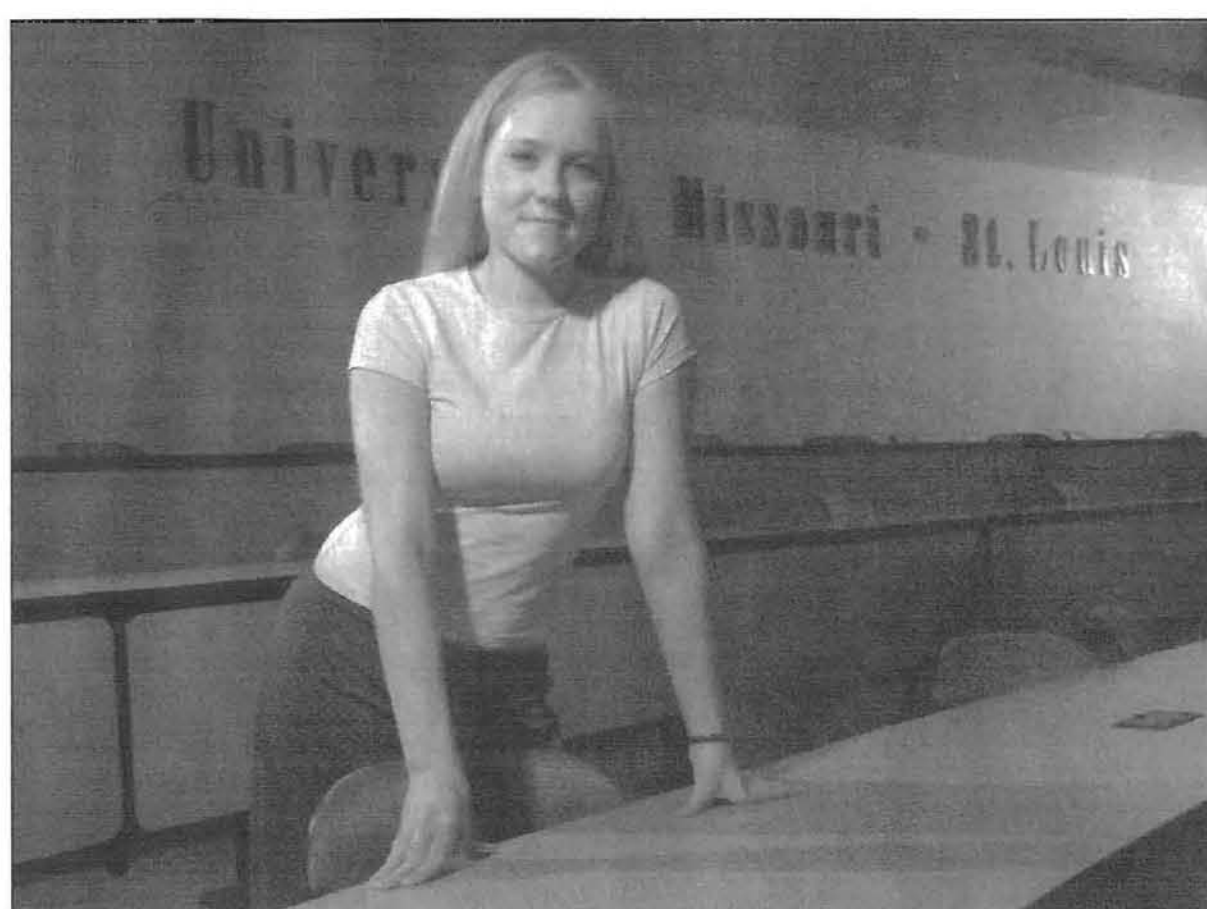
The person who was supposed to

**“It was actually the executive committee who should have made the decision....”**  
— Kristin Runde, SGA president

move up into the vice-president's seat was the chair; however, she graduated. Next in line is the vice-chair and that person declined the position, so the vice-president spot is now open. "We are going to have elections in September for that position," Runde said.

Making sure that there will be an official election committee set in stone is one of Runde's main priorities. She hopes that a situation of this sort will not come up again; however, she wants the group to be prepared just in case. It is the job of the vice-president to make sure that the election committee is formed accordingly.

see KRISTIN RUNDE, page 3



Kristin Runde will preside over the Student Government Association during the 2003-2004 year. Runde was originally elected SGA Vice-President last spring.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current



# Bullet In Board

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

## Tues 19 Bible study

A Christ Christian Center Bible study begins at 7:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel (Interstate 70 and Lindbergh), 11237 Lone Eagle Drive St. Louis, MO 63044 (314) 739-8929.

## Wed 20 Welcome week

Hump Day Hoopla is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSC. Start the first day off right by testing your jousting skills. Check us out in front of the Millennium Student Center. All students are welcome to try their skills for free while listening to the music of 101.1 The River.

## Thur 21 Welcome week

A Psychic Fair & Handwriting Analysis is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in The Nosh and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Quad. Entertain yourself with fortune tellers, tarot card readers, a handwriting analysis (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. only) and even a caricature artist. All for free.

## Fri 22 Welcome week

An MTV party is from 8 p.m. to midnight at University Meadows Pool and Pavilion. Theo Gantt from MTV's Real World Chicago and Veronica Portillo from MTV's Road Rules Semester at Sea will make guest appearances. Free food, prizes, giveaways, as well as a DJ and Karaoke will be provided.

## Sat 23 Colleges of Arts & Sciences

"Women in the Arts," is in the J.C. Penney Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The event is free and open to all audiences. For more information, contact Susan Fitzsimmons at 516-5974.

## Sun 24 Church service

A Sunday service beginning at 9 a.m. is in the Provincial House Chapel on South Campus. The service is held by Christ Christian Center.

## Put it on the Board!

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

## Mon 25 Welcome week

A climbing wall is at the MSC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Test your skills on the climbing wall sponsored by the Army, while listening to a local radio station.

## 25 Chemistry & Biochemistry colloquia

A chemistry and biochemistry colloquia begins at 4 p.m. in room 451 of Benton Hall. Visiting professor Wilfred T. Mabuse, from the University of Western Cape, South Africa, presents a seminar titled "Synthetic Studies Towards A Diamine Sugar-Containing Disaccharide." The program begins at 4 p.m. and coffee is served at 3:45 p.m. The colloquia is free and open to all audiences. For more information, contact Lawrence Barton at 516-5334.

## Tues 26 Welcome week

Rec Sports Day is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSC. Celebrate Welcome Week with Recreation Sports fun and games. Also look for the free cotton candy and popcorn during lunch.

## Wed 27 Welcome week

EXPO is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. outside the MSC. Make sure to stop by the EXPO where students can meet representatives from many of the student organizations at UM-St. Louis as well as enjoy a free lunch. The UM-St. Louis administrators will be serving snow cones to students throughout the picnic as well.

## The Current

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# The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department during the summer between June 14 and August 14. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort.

## June 16 - Stealing under \$500

There was a delayed report of \$33 cash being stolen from 469 Marillac Hall.

## June 16 - Criminal non support

A report of Criminal Non support for the past year was made at 4426 A Normandy Trace Ct.

## June 19 - Property damage

A window was broken at 7700 South Florissant Rd.

## June 20 - Property damage

A window was broken at 7700 South Florissant.

## June 22 - Burglary

The mechanical doors to room 110 Benton Hall were found broken into, however nothing was taken.

## June 23 - Burglary/stealing under \$500

In the phase two parking garage on East Drive, a concrete density tool was stolen from a construction trailer.

## June 24 - Sexual misconduct 1st degree

In the Social Science Building, a subject grabbed a female in the buttocks.

## June 27 - Property damage

A window was broken at 7700 South Florissant Rd.

## June 30 - Stealing under \$500

In the University Meadows parking lot, license plate tabs were stolen from a vehicle.

## July 1 - Stealing under \$500

In a South Campus Classroom Building, a wallet and contents were stolen from an insecure office.

## July 9 - Stealing under \$500

In parking lot N, license plate tabs were stolen from vehicle.

## July 10 - Stealing under \$500

In 210 computer Center Building, a fax machine was stolen from an insecure office.

## July 17 - Harassment

A report of harassing telephone calls was made at 8205 Q Normandy Trace Court.

## July 28 - Stealing under \$500

In the Nosh at the Millennium Student Center, money was stolen from an insecure purse.

## July 31 - Stealing over \$500

In parking lot Z, a stereo and speakers were taken from a vehicle.

## August 1 - Stealing under \$500

In 208 Marillac Hall, money was stolen from a purse that was left insecure in an office.

## August 2 - Stealing under \$500

In the University Meadows parking lot, license plate tabs were stolen from a vehicle.

## August 5 - Disturbance

At 8233 F Mansion Hills Apartments, a confrontation took place between a boyfriend and girlfriend.

## August 5 - Attempt stolen vehicle/property damage

In parking lot V, in an attempt to steal a vehicle, the steering column of the vehicle was damaged.

## August 8 - Stolen vehicle

At Everts and Florissant Rd., a vehicle was stolen. The victim had left the keys inside the vehicle.

## August 8 - Property damage

In Marillac Hall, a water pipe valve, that led to the fountain, was broken.

## August 12 - Sexual misconduct

A delayed report of a minor having consensual sex with an older subject.

## August 14 - Stealing under \$500

In the University Meadows parking lot, license plate tabs were stolen from a vehicle.

The UM-St. Louis Police Department would like to remind everyone to lock your valuables (purses, wallets, and even textbooks) somewhere secure. If you choose to carry items with you during the course of the day, **DO NOT** leave them unattended for any length of time. Most of our thefts occur when the victim leaves their personal property in an insecure office or common area of the campus. This includes dorm rooms, classrooms, lunch areas, libraries and computer labs. Be safe and think smart.

[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

# Got questions?

How do I register for classes?

Can you help me understand this degree audit?

What is a minor and do I need one?

Can I retake a class to improve my GPA?

How do I decide which math course to take for my degree?

What classes are required for my major?

You mean I have to apply for graduation? How do I do that?

# We've got answers.



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Patricia Wentle, director and general manager of KWMU, has led the station to its highest spring Arbitron ratings ever. Wentle attributes the increased listenership to the radio station's programming and the marketplace's demand for news.



# KWMU reaches highest spring ratings in its history

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

It was recently announced that 90.7 KWMU has hit their highest spring ratings ever. The station specializes in both national and local in-depth news talk.

KWMU's weekly listening audience was up 4 percent from Spring 2002, for Metro Persons 12+, Monday-Sunday 6 a.m.-midnight, reaching 170,500 as said by Arbitron's Spring 2003 survey.

A 35 percent increase was attributed to the station's metro share. The number of people listening during any 15-minute period is up 21 percent, reaching 10,700. Up 19 percent was the Time Spent Listening at 7.9 hours. "This is the second highest Arbitron book that we have ever had," Mike

Schrand, program director, said.

Patricia Wentle, Director and General Manager, said that the outstanding listenership is attributed to two specific reasons: outstanding programming, both nationally and locally; and the marketplace. "The marketplace desires news," Wentle said. "The marketplace has alienated news junkies and people that really want to know what's going on today."

The station is known for their in-depth news coverage locally, nationally and even internationally. One program on the air Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. entitled Car Talk is rated 3rd in the market. Each hourly program takes on a specific subject and takes calls from all around the country.

The high ratings mean that they are becoming well renowned. "It means that we are providing a com-

munity service that people really value," Wentle said. "The more people that listen, the more companies are going to want to sponsor our station on the airwaves."

Fifty percent of the station's budget comes from members of the station, so more listeners equate to more members of the station. They also have three on-air fund drives a year that try to raise money to support station costs. The University provides 10 percent of the budget, so they raise about \$9 for every \$1 that the University provides.

The station has been around since 1972 and the person who helped to write the original construction of the station was Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier. There are now 30 full-time employees at KWMU and 11 part-time. They also have 4-6 interns a

semester, coming from UM-St. Louis as well as many other universities.

On July 1, 1996 the station went all news. They formed focus groups and performed research to figure out that the market really wanted news. The station was then programmed to be solely news.

At the top of every hour the station mentions the fact that they are licensed with the University. "The University really feels like this is an important educational outreach arm for the institution," Wentle said. "It compliments its current programming."

People are able to get their local and national news from the station on their way to work, when they might not have time to read the paper or watch the news. Listeners are often of high authority and thoroughly educat-

ed. "Our average listener is 35-65 years old, they have a college education of a master's degree or higher, they make about \$75,000 a year and own their own home," Schrand said. "They are generally leaders, people that are bosses or CEO's."

The news pieces on the station are usually 4-6 minutes long, as opposed to other stations that only spend a few seconds on the subjects. KWMU is also the only FM news talk station; all others are located on the AM dial.

Many prestigious awards have come into the station. They have earned three Edward R. Murrow Regional Awards for excellence in electronic journalism and many people on staff have won high awards. The Associated Press, Missouri Broadcaster's Association and the Religion News Writer's Association

are just a few associations that have presented awards to KWMU.

"It's been a really successful year for the reporters," Bill Raack, news director, said. "These are on a variety of the stories that they have done and are usually the longer, in-depth pieces."

On October 11, the station will host a national broadcast at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center entitled Whad' Ya Know by Michael Felman. This will be KWMU's first live broadcast nationally.

A \$7 million project is in the works to construct a new building for the station. It will be located at the beginning of North Campus and will put KWMU at the front of the University for people to see as they drive onto the campus.

CHANCELLOR, from page 1

"The customer is the state," George said. "We're here to serve the entire state."

One of George's loves is meeting with students and people in the community. Commenting on the Millennium Student Center, he said that it is one of the nicest that he has seen yet.

Professor of chemistry and physics and an active researcher, George maintains active partnerships with scientists around the world. He has written 600 articles, co-authored 2 textbooks and co-edited 14 books. In return for his scientific achievements, George has earned many prestigious

awards.

George has been on several editorial boards for many scientific journals as well as performing as an editor on one. He has been on many civic boards in Wisconsin including president of the Samoset Council of the Boy Scouts of America and vice-president of the Stevens Point YMCA.

Also a musician, George is an accomplished jazz pianist. He has performed both solo and with many ensembles, especially at university and community events. Along with a trumpet, George has recorded a compact disk with the Hester Park label.

With a double major in chemistry

and mathematics, George received his B.A. degree from Gettysburg College in 1967. In 1968 he earned his M.S. degree and in 1970 earned a PhD degree in theoretical chemistry from Yale University. Postdoctoral appointments also followed at MIT and at the University of California at Berkeley.

Globalization and diversity are keys to George. He also would like to align with K-12 and communicate more with the community to obtain the high UM-St. Louis quality.

George and his wife will be residing in the chancellor's residence on campus sometime before Sept. 1, when he officially takes office.

KRISTIN RUNDE, from page 1

Runde was ready to take on the task of president. She said that she is going to take on the position and do the best that she can to fulfill the seat. "I'm comfortable right now with everything that is going on," Runde said. "I'm glad that everything is finally settled and we don't have all this chaos going on."

She also hopes that people can forget about what happened with the election and move on to bigger and better things. There is much in store for the year. Looking forward to working with the new chancellor, Runde is excited about new opportu-

nities.

Working with the students is among Chancellor George's top priorities. Runde said that she met with him and is looking forward to working with him throughout the year.

One issue that Runde said was very unique to the University was that UM-St. Louis has actual teachers teaching entry-level courses. However, just recently graduate students began teaching the classes. She hopes that the University can return to having teachers in the classrooms because it is very exclusive from other schools in the area.

Getting food service on South campus is another issue of concern. Working with the parking committee, she also hopes to do something about the problems that many students have with parking. "I want to bridge that gap that there is between the parking and the students," Runde said. "I know that a lot of students are upset about the parking and the fees."

She is looking forward to working with everyone this year and seeing SGA grow. Getting people to forget about what happened with the election and moving on is the biggest concern for the year.

## Summer Commencement 2003 Another batch moves on



UM System president Elson Floyd shakes hands with a graduate at the UM-St. Louis Summer Commencement, as UM Curator Connie Silverstein looks on. The ceremony took place at the Mark Twain Athletic Building, on Sunday, Aug. 10. President Floyd was the keynote speaker for the audience of almost 300 graduates, family members and faculty.

Help us clean up this mess!

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH  
YADDA YADDA YADDA YADDA  
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH  
YADDA YADDA YADDA YADDA  
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We need a production manager!  
Call 516-6810 if you are interested!



OPINION

OUR OPINION

UMSL beckons

Students come back as classes commence

Are you one of those roommates? How would you know? As a public service, we have compiled a short list of offenses for those of you co-habiting. After all, as much as we enjoy the occasional guffaw behind your back, it's just not so funny if you end up as one of our roommates.

If you recognize yourself under any of the following headings, initiate roommate appeasement measures immediately (our personal faves involve pricey gifts and groveling, but feel free to improvise):

**The Claim Jumper:** As the first, and therefore smartest, to get to your new dorm room, you took the best of everything—bed, desk, etc. Your delayed roomie arrived to find all of the electrical outlets taken, two square feet of open floor left, and a bare box spring.

**The Bathing Beastie:** Guerilla grooming tactics are never appreciated. Not only do you leave globs of various colors, textures and tackiness all over the bathroom, mirrors and floors—but you have appropriated all available surface areas for your “products,” loofahs, and various implements of hair abuse. (Use of the word “product” in place of the usual “soap” and/or “hairspray” in your vocabulary is a sure sign of affliction.)

**The Traitor:** A unified front is one of the few perks of having roommates. However, you just don't understand the nuances of fabrication and sub-

terfuge. You never fail to tell parents about drunken escapades, your roomie's dates about particularly unflattering personal habits, or professors the unvarnished truth about late papers and any mysterious illnesses that pop up around test times.

**The Terminal Tag-Along:** If your roommate never mentions his plans anymore, claims to be going to the library every time he leaves, or has ever climbed out the bathroom window rather than using the front door—you probably fall under this category.

**The King/Queen of Small Horrors:** Okay, so none of the following will elicit excessive sympathy from your new roommate's friends—until taken in combination. Just keep in mind that, when grouped, these are the small things that eat at your roommate's soul and nearly assure that your toothbrush will be used to creative ends while you are elsewhere. These include: snooze-slammings for an hour or more; excessive morning/evening perkiness in the face of someone with the opposite tendency; leaving large, ankle-wrenching puddles around tubs, sinks, and of utmost nastiness—toilets; and creating trash/laundry/various-repugnant-item stalagmites in high traffic areas, etc. Again, if you recognize yourself in any of the above, take action immediately. For your own sake, remember it's us against those, and those tend to have toothbrushes that never smell quite right.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Counseling Services welcomes new students

Dear Editor:

Counseling Services would like to welcome all UM-St. Louis students to the start of a new academic year, and to introduce the services we provide.

Listed are just a few examples of the ways we can be of service to students:

**Academic Counseling**—We offer a computerized inventory of study skills, self-help materials, individual counseling, and workshops to help students manage test anxiety, study smarter, and improve their performance.

**Career Counseling**—Did you know that nearly 80% of college students change their major at least once? At Counseling Services, we have several computerized inventories and a Career Resource Library to help students learn

more about their career interests. This can make the process of choosing a major and exploring career options much easier.

**Individual and Couples Counseling**—Our professional staff is trained and experienced in working with the kinds of difficulties commonly faced by college students, such as feeling depressed or anxious, grieving a loss or break up of a relationship, enhancing self-esteem, or trying to change a behavior. Individual counseling can also benefit those who are dealing with everyday problems in living, who would like help thinking through options and making decisions.

**Consultation**—Have you ever noticed a friend in distress, and wondered, “What can I do to help?” Our

staff is available to consult with those who want to learn more about helping a friend.

**Crisis Intervention**—In the case of a psychological emergency, or other crisis situations, our counselors can usually schedule same-day appointments to provide prompt assistance.

To schedule an appointment, or to find out more about our services, call, stop by, or check us out on the web at <http://www.umsu.edu/services/counselor>. Initial appointments are always free of charge, with a nominal fee for any additional sessions. We're located at 126 MSC, just to the left of the Nosh. We wish all students the best for the 2003-2004 school year!

Counseling Services

What's your opinion?

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

- Welcome to UM-St. Louis
- Pleasing everyone all the time
- The problem with perfection

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

Do not attempt to please everyone

It is kind of funny, really, working in the media. You come to understand people and their nuances much better than you'd expect.

One of the quirky nuances of the readership I have come to understand is, no matter what, everyone else knows more about a given topic than you do. This is especially true of opinion pieces. It does not matter what you say, your opinion is wrong, and someone knows more than you do.

Case in point: My last column spoke on Gov. Bob Holden and the budget cuts to higher education. Now, I said that the governor's slash-and-burn tactics to higher education were unfair in relation to the cuts the rest of the state faced, in particular, primary and secondary education.

According to a letter submitted to *The Current's* website, I had absolutely no idea what I was talking about. According to this person, whose name will be held out of respect, my column was “an irresponsible piece of journalism.” The writer also went on to ask me whether or not I had spoken to Holden as to why he made the cuts he made. As a point of fact, I have. Last time he was on campus, I found out that the bulk of the cuts were his idea and not the result of an “overzealous” republican state congress.

Another point this writer made was it does not really matter that colleges and universities were cut in the fiscal crisis, after all, the money could be made up via tuition and fee hikes. Try telling that to the thousands of students in Missouri who are now desperately searching for ways to afford a college education after Holden has had his say.

Now, I know some of you out there are thinking this sounds like a petty diatribe against someone who complained about the paper. Not so. No, I am just taking the time to point out that there is no way to please everyone all the time. In fact, you can't please half the people 25 percent of the time, so there is no point in trying to do so. This is a lesson that can be applied throughout life. You cannot please your parents, teachers, friends, significant other, etc., all the time, so don't even try to do so.

I wrote that editorial because it was something I believed. I wrote it to make a point I felt was valid. It is something I'll stand behind, no matter what people say.

I was, in fact, thrilled to get that letter from unnamed; it meant someone was reading my column, which is kind of the point. So to those of you who think I am stupid or insane, or both, please let me know. At least that way, I'll know that you are reading the newspaper.



JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

The problem with perfect

Once, faced with a fresh semester, I would have said—with straight face and utter conviction—this time I'm going to do everything right. I will take precise and detailed notes, read my assignments in advance, never miss class, hunt down those supplemental readings, and study for at least 3.2 hours a night. It will be a perfect semester.

Now I know better, because there is a problem with perfect.

Perfect does not allow for the essential coffee stain, the occasional meltdown, or most importantly, much creativity.

I can personally attest to the effectiveness of defiled notes. The cruetier the better, really. You cannot underestimate the highlighting effects of a good coffee mug stain or pizza smudge. Happy marching lines of symmetrical text may make a nice reference three years from now, but they are near worthless in those essential moments. (Such as an hour or so into your final exam, after two days of cramming and six liters of Mountain Dew.) What comes to mind more readily—the pretty outline you transcribed in the computer lab, or the diagram half-obscured by mozzarella? I've learned to type less, sleep more, and to view my notes as a means to understanding content, rather than preserving it for posterity.

The idea that you will keep to the perfect schedule, those spaces you've filled in your planner for study time, classes, meetings and various other activities is noble. No, really. It's just that you're forgetting that inevitable string of days when you can barely think past tying your

shoes. Lectures and readings just aren't sticking and you have an overwhelming desire to throttle any classmate who causes your professor to run overtime.

This mid-semester meltdown is common and calls for aimless wandering and deep breathing beyond school walls. A minute-to-minute schedule will never accommodate something so trivial. About then, it is necessary to remind yourself that this is a learning experience, not a survival exercise.

I've found that compartmentalizing my life so rigidly saps all of my creativity. The lack of variety and spontaneity makes even the classes I enjoy a chore. It's the daily surprises and hiccups in my plans that generate new ideas and opportunities.

I still believe in studying hard and completing assignments, but I try to leave room for the unexpected. “All or nothing” just isn't an effective way to view an education. In fact, “all and nothing” may be a more accurate view of a student's life.

There is a particular flow and energy that accompanies a small amount of chaos. I've come to embrace the idea that it takes more courage, but a lot less time, to lead an essentially unpredictable life. You need not do everything perfectly to have a successful semester. Maybe if I can just remember that, this time I will do everything right.

Feel free to e-mail *The Current* on any of the topics we have written about at [current@jinx.umsu.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsu.edu). We love to get feedback, comments and concerns from readers.



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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity 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 Mike Sherwin  
Photography Director

What's your most memorable excuse for skipping a class?



Danielle Binion  
Biology  
Music

I once told my professor that my grandmother was sick. I felt pretty bad about that one.



Lance Trudell  
Junior  
Economics

I told a teacher that I had been in an accident, and that my car had hit a tree and rolled over - when that actually happened a few months before.



Michael Smith  
Financial Aid Office

My most memorable excuse was true. I once busted my tooth before a class while trying to open the hood of my car.



Kim Brown  
Junior  
Music

I have only skipped class once in college, but it isn't teachers I have to make excuses to - it's my family. They always call me to check and see I've gone to class.



# August weather trades places

St. Louisans did not need to leave town to go on vacation this year: resort weather came here. But while we were enjoying balmy temperatures in the mid to low 80s, St. Louis weather took its own vacation ... to Europe.

Actually you can't say that our weather directly went to Europe, and you can't even directly say that it is caused by global warming, although it seems a likely suspect. But we are going to talk about another aspect of this weather emergency. In St. Louis, we are used to coping with temps into the 90s every summer; and while it is unpleasant, relatively few people actually perish from the St. Louis heat. In



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Science Columnist

Europe, particularly France, this has been a different story. News stories on August 14 set estimates on heat-related deaths as high as 3000 in France. Three thousand. Here, even 30 deaths would have been surprising. Why so many more?

There are a couple of factors at work. Part of it has to do with a fact I discovered on a recent trip overseas: Europe is a more open-air place. While Americans live in climate-controlled environments year round, where it is always 70 degrees inside whether it is January or June, things are different across the Big Pond. Europeans let the temperatures inside vary like the temps outside. If you are a bit warm, open the window. In cool weather, they close the windows and bundle up a bit. This natural approach looks hardy and adaptable to American visitors, unused to a need to dress for the weather, but the recent heat wave revealed the fatal flaw in the European approach. There is virtually no air conditioning anywhere.

Londoners think it is miserably hot if it hits 80 degrees, a temperature considered mildly warm in the AC-filled St. Louis. Opening the windows and wearing lighter, or less, clothing to cope with a heat wave only gets you so far, due to simple human physiology. Part of this picture is acclimatization. If you have lived for a long time with hot or cold weather, your body adapts to deal with it more efficiently. Populations of people even adapt to temperatures over time, so those who live in the tropics are less devastated by heat and those who live in the Arctic cope with cold much better. If a Canadian who thinks 50 degrees is fine weather for swimming and shorts has ever visited you, you've seen this effect.

However, warmer temperatures pose a tougher problem than chilly climates do for warm-blooded creatures like us striving to adapt. Your body works with an assumption that the exterior environment is cooler than your internal temperature of about 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Simply put, your body has more ways to deal with cold than heat. Cold weather makes you shiver, and you can keep adding layers of clothes and even build a fire or add another external heat source. Ramping up your metabolism by exercise or other means causes the body to generate more heat. You give off the excess heat to your environment. But as the temperature approaches that 100-degree mark outside, the heat that normal metabolism creates and the excess heat your body is designed to radiate to the surrounding air becomes a problem.

Reducing activity and shedding insulating clothes only does so much. Your body sweats in hopes that a breeze will evaporate the water and then drop skin temperature. All St. Louisans know that humidity inhibits this effect since, as the air approaches moisture saturation, it can't accept more water. The blood vessels near the surface of your skin dilate to release more heat but if the air temperature around you is very high, little heat moves away into the surrounding air. When the external temperature exceeds your internal temperature, physics dictates that the heat transfer will go to you. Suddenly, you have a situation where the external temperature is higher than your internal temperature.

What happens if you don't take steps to deal with the heat? When proteins, those substances that make up many structures in your body and mediate metabolism, get too hot, they denature. This means they change shape and become irreversibly damaged and nonfunctional. That is, they cook just like a meatloaf in the oven. Protein function is dependant on how the polypeptides, the long chains of amino acids that make up proteins, are folded up. When they denature, they lose their functional shape and cooling usually does not restore the shape. Your body has internal heat regulation mechanisms that work to prevent this. However, as the environmental temperature goes up, you reach the upper limits of this capacity.

You can start to see the effects of heat exhaustion, a state of collapse caused by an overtaxing of your body's heat-coping mechanisms. The dilation of blood vessels near the skin's surface, in an effort to release more heat to the air, plus the loss of fluids due to sweating, which reduces the volume of the plasma component of the blood, creates a drop in blood pressure. The drop in blood pressure leads to insufficient blood to the brain and fainting. If the body is not cooled down, this can progress to heat stroke, the complete breakdown of the body's thermoregulatory mechanism. In the elderly, this thermoregulatory system is slower and less responsive, so they can progress to heat stroke more quickly. In heat stroke, the thermoreg-

ulatory control centers in the hypothalamus, the part of the brain that regulates temperature, stops functioning properly. Heat regulatory mechanisms like sweating cease and body temperature rises rapidly. Rates of metabolism rise with the body temp, since higher temps increase the rates of reaction, generating more heat. Even with intervention, this positive feedback loop makes the damage hard to reverse. Thermoregulatory failure can lead to irreversible damage. Your goose is cooked indeed.

After you have done all you can to lower your internal temperature, it is the external one that has to come down. You can do this several ways: Plunge yourself into water that is cooler than the air, such as a spring-fed stream or shady indoor pool or the cool ocean, or find a cool, cave-like experience, like an air-conditioned room. The more natural solutions here might not be practical at all locations, even if staying in a cool stream up to your neck all day might sound refreshing. Usually, AC is the practical urban answer.

But with its usual milder weather, there is very little air-conditioning in London or Paris. What little exists is there for specialized purposes (computers, health care) and a little for American tourists. No air-conditioned theaters. No air-conditioned pubs. Not even AC in many cars. The temperature crisis is worse in France than Britain, not because Britain has more air-conditioning, but mostly because

“  
**You can start to see the effects of heat exhaustion, a state of collapse caused by an overtaxing of your body's heat-coping mechanisms.**  
”

France is a bit further south. France has crossed well over that 100-degree mark while the southern part of Britain, where you find London, is hovering just below the mark. Spain and Italy have dealt with hot weather historically and are a bit more adapted to the heat. It is in mid and northern France where the biggest effect is being seen.

Like it or not, the growing body of evidence shows global warming is happening. A rise in overall global temperature means climatic change and instability rather than everywhere getting warm at once. Pinning this weather-related crisis on global temperature rise is a bit less certain because tracking specific changes and tying weather shifts to direct global causes is a bit trickier. We don't understand every thing about weather yet. Nonetheless, this event might be the wake-up call that makes people in other developed nations start to think about air-conditioning the way they think about home heating; that is, as an essential buffer against unforgiving

# The best album you've never heard

## This week: Oasis' 'Be Here Now'

Recently, I went to a college editor's management seminar in Athens, Ga. At this seminar, I met an editor named Ethan who said, "Oasis' 'Be Here Now' is Zen in CD form."

While I will not go so far as to say that, I will say "Be Here Now" is one of the two or three best albums of the last fifteen or twenty years. I know it may seem weird to see a high-profile act in this column like Oasis, but "Be Here Now" has been somewhat lost in the shuffle behind Oasis' first two albums, "Definitely Maybe" and "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?" (Also great albums.) However, I think "Be Here Now" is by far the best album Oasis has released to date.

At this point, you might be asking yourself, "What makes this such a great album?" Well, I'll tell you: This is one of those rare albums that you can

listen to all the way through without skipping a song. That is a rare occurrence in these days of pre-packaged pop-rock and bubble gum, teeny-bopper garbage (Justin Timberlake, I'm talking to you).

Indeed, Oasis' primary songwriter and lead guitarist Noel Gallagher allows all of his considerable talents out into the open on "Be Here Now," more so than on any album Oasis recorded previously or since.

Oasis has the ability to combine loud rockers with tender ballads on an

album and not have it look contrived or pre-packaged. On "Be Here Now," they really let that show through. Rollicking tunes like "D'ya Know What I Mean?," "Magic Pie," the title track,

"Wonderwall," has ever been.

If I had to say there was one track that everyone needs to hear from this album, I would definitely say it has to be "All Around the World." In my own personal (and, granted, biased) opinion, this is the best song of the 1990s (sorry, Nirvana and Pearl Jam).

Noel Gallagher wrote a fantastic song when he sat down with his pen and guitar to create this one, and Liam Gallagher, who is probably the best vocalist of his generation, sings it with authority. To give you an idea, just a little taste, of how great this song is, here is a sampling from one of the verses: "It's a bit early in the midnight hour for me / To go through all the things that I want to be / I don't believe in everything I see / You know I'm blind so why do you disagree?" That is just the first few lines of the song. It only gets better from



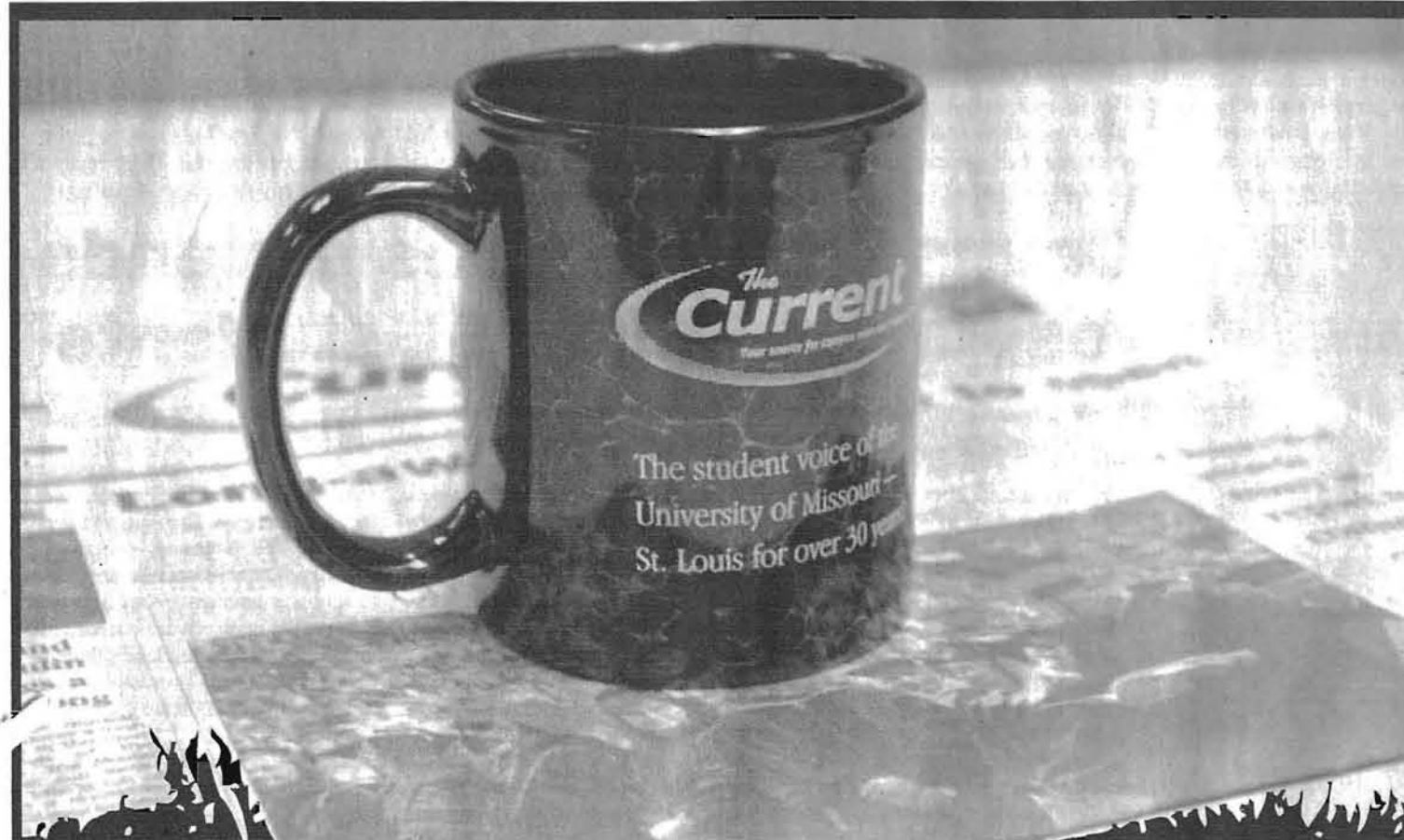
Oasis' third album is by far their best. It was released in 1997 on Epic Records, Oasis' American distributor.

and "It's Getting Better Man!!" show Oasis can rock with the best of them. (Noel Gallagher has said there are more than 80 guitars layered on "It's Getting Better Man!!" You better turn your stereo down on this one or you'll blow out your front door.) But they can counter that loud, raucous sound with sentimentality in "Stand By Me" (not the Ben E. King classic) and "Don't go Away." In fact, "Don't go Away" is about ten times better than their most popular and well-known track,

there. Like any great anthem ("Hey Jude," "You Can't Always Get What You Want," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Free Bird," et al), "All Around the World" ends with a wholly new and different approach. Indeed, it is just as explosive and magical as any of the above. This track is just flat out amazing.

It's funny, but looking back on it, Ethan may have been right. "Be Here Now" might just be Zen in CD form.

Check out The Current online at:  
[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com).



Come by MSC 388 or call 516-6810 if you are interested. Ask for Nichole LeClair, managing editor of The Current. She will contact you about interview times and dates.

\*The Current is an equal opportunity employer

# The Current, get caught up.

The Current is still hiring for the new year. We are looking for:

- Staff Writers
- A & E Editor
- Staff Photographers
- Business Associates
- Distribution Associates



# PAC shows off for local media

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

On Tuesday, August 12 members of the media were provided with an ample opportunity to see the brand new Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. It was also an excellent opportunity for the University to show off its world-class building.

The day began at 10 a.m. with many members of the press and several contributors to the building.

“  
We are really excited to have a performance just for the students. They are helping to fund the program here.

— John Kennedy, director of Blanche M. Touhill PAC

Former chancellor Blanche M. Touhill was present, as well as Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier.

Director John Kennedy led a tour through the building, allowing the press to see inside all of the stages and backstages. The E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater was the first major stop. This theatre has seating for 300, including a balcony and a deep seating pit.

The theatre is also very flexible in that the seating can be retracted and the flat floor can be used for receptions, banquets or rehearsals. The floor is entirely maple and is sprung for dancers. This hall can be used for plays, musicians and dancers. The Lee Theatre also has performance lighting and sound for the optimum performance hall. It is already almost entirely booked for the year.

Traveling throughout the PAC the media viewed all of the beautiful and unique architecture that is spread throughout the building. High ceilings and sound-resistant walls make the building exceptional. Visitors will never hear a plane fly over, no matter where they are in the facility.

“When people come in for the first time and are always surprised and I hear what they have to say, it gives me more encouragement about all of the chores that we still have to get the building open,” Kennedy said. “It’s really nice to talk to people who are seeing it for the first time.”

The Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall is the largest theatre in the building. It has seating for 1,625 and is a modern version of a classic opera house. Panels of important people to the PAC were on the stage to answer questions from the press as well as putting in their personal opinion of why the center is important to them.

Touhill started out the panel and let the audience know how her vision became a reality. She stated that the two main reasons for producing the building were to serve the campus community and the general commu-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center Media Day began at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12. John Dale Kennedy, director of the new center, lead a tour through the building. Local media in attendance included KSDK television and WKMU radio.

nity. Driemeier elaborated on what Touhill said, as did the rest of the panel.

The Arianna String Quartet performed a couple of numbers in the large performance hall. This was a demonstration of just how versatile the theatre really is.

The press learned about many of the acts that will be coming to the center. After questioning the panel, people were free to visit as they

pleased.

The performer that was scheduled to start out the year was Gregory Hines. Recently, Hines passed away, so in his place will be his protégé, Savion Glover. Glover will pay tribute to Hines as the headliner and comedian George Wallace will perform as scheduled. The kick-off event will be on September 27.

An exclusive performance will be open to students only. Tickets will be

onsale starting on August 25 and students may purchase two tickets per student ID.

“We are really excited to have a special performance just for the students,” Kennedy said. “They are helping to fund the programs here.”

Students will receive a 10 percent discount on all performances in the PAC. Most tickets will go on sale starting August 18.

## Free email: options for students abound

BY ELLIOTT REED  
Staff Writer

One of the most common between-class activities for students is to head to a campus computer lab to check email; the Millennium Student Center has a room exclusively for that purpose, adjacent to the games room and dining area.

Some students are aware of and actually use the free account given to them by the University; it’s useful for campus-related bulletins that don’t make it into The Current. At semester’s end, the MyGateway system is the only way to check your final grades, outside of camping on your professors’ lawns or using the telephone-based TRAIN.

But free email accounts are handy whether you use Mygateway, or if you already have an address from your Internet Service Provider. They can help you to avoid junk mail, aka “spam,” in your main account if you use them for sign ups for other Internet services, such as eBay or chat rooms.

While many students have already noted the benefits of having a separate email account, the world of free, web-based email has grown and changed over the years. There are literally thousands of different services, all with different options, benefits and caveats.

Of course they’re free, so there’s no commitment on your part should you tire of an account you created, but here are some things you should know and look for if you’re in the market for a new, free email account.

If you like the professional look of an email address that carries your real name, lots of luck with Hotmail or

Yahoo, unless you put a few digits in there afterwards. Hotmail and Yahoo have been the staples of free email since Al Gore allegedly invented the Internet, and coming up with an unused name can often lead to strenuous mental exercises in jabberwocky.

Hotmail and Yahoo remain worthwhile choices if you use their respective instant messenger programs, as they integrate your account into the IM service.

As these accounts are the most widely used, however, they are also the most prone to spam. Unless you set the filters to reject everyone not on your contact list, you can someday anticipate the tedious task of having to delete ten or more unwanted messages daily, if you don’t already.

The four megabytes of storage space offered by Yahoo is adequate, but the two offered by Hotmail is miserly by today’s standards, especially if you

frequently share photos or large documents. Hotmail wastes no time in telling you if you’re close to your limit; and should you go over your limit, it freezes your account until you’ve deleted

your interests or occupation. Mail.com also boasts 10MB of account space, one of the largest amounts available. The pitfalls of Mail.com include a clunky, ad-riddled screen, along with

more pop-ups than a bag of Orville Redenbacher’s Kettle Corn. If you don’t mind the advertising bombardment and need the space, it’s worth looking into.

\*Note: there’s a rumor prior to this publishing that Mail.com became a fee-based service on Aug. 15.

What might turn out to be the hands-down choice of a

new Net generation are the services provided by OutBlaze and Instant Portal. These upstarts have been managing email systems for numerous clients since 1999 but have kept out of the email limelight.

While OutBlaze and its co-branded partner Instant Portal don’t directly offer free email, they run hundreds of

such services and do so capably. Enter “OutBlaze” into a Google search, and you’ll see what I mean. Each service is different as it caters to a different audience, but in most ways they’re more alike than different.

These accounts typically give you 5MB of storage and your choice of language.

The interfaces sport a clean, tabbed menu allowing for easy access to different options such as addresses and preferences. There may be a banner ad at the top of the screen, but it’s usually unobtrusive, and I have yet to see one of those annoying, neon or animated security warning or “winner” ads. For a better idea, you may want to look at t6.com, 1mailblvd.com or (and I’m not making this up) whipjangle.i-p.com.

The only real quirk with OutBlaze is that you may notice some irregular line breaks when receiving email from friends or family who use different services; and they’ll notice the line breaks when receiving your messages, an issue relating to OutBlaze’s standard character count of a given text line.

For a better, broader scope of your emailing options, emailaddresses.com has an exceptional and thorough list. Many services have differing privacy policies or restrict the size of attachments you can send or receive—important things to keep in mind when looking for an address that contours to your individual needs.

But with a little time and research you can quickly find an address that better suits your requirements and makes your time online more productive and less stressful. That’s really all we want anyway. Happy emailing!

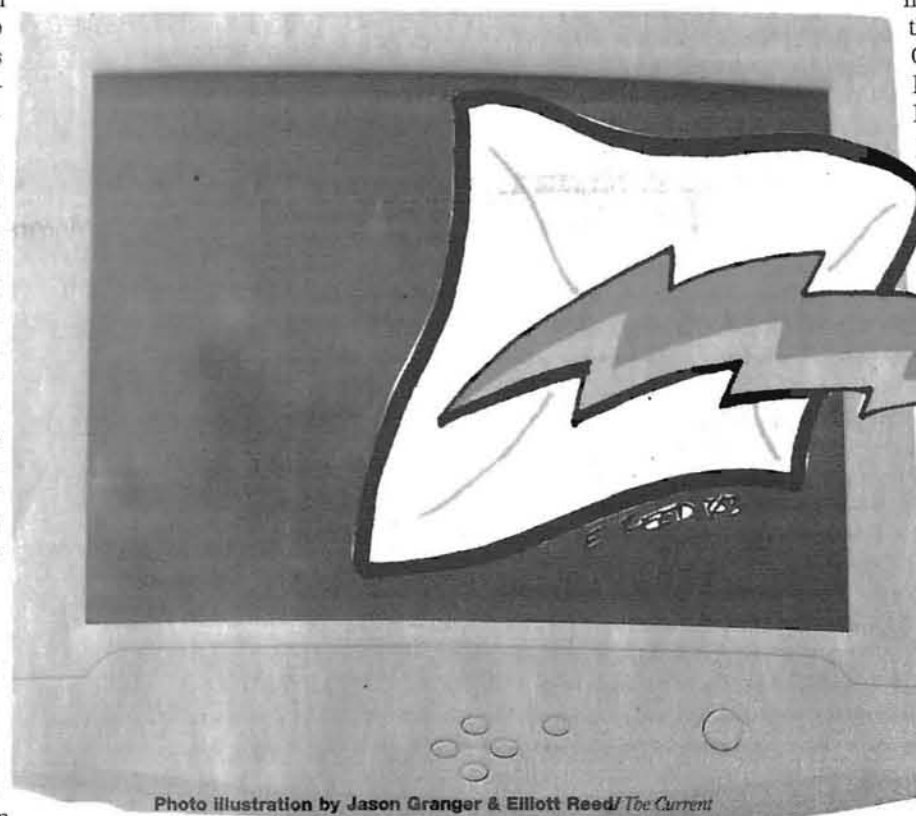


Photo illustration by Jason Granger & Elliott Reed/The Current

enough messages. Microsoft may have the computer market edge, but in the world of free email it’s lagging behind.

Mail.com offers numerous addresses from cheerful.com to umpire.com. The additional host addresses increase the chance that you can get the name you want and can also help to match

## Counseling Services expands resources for UMSL students

BY SAMARA HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

When one gets stuck in life, sometimes the best thing to do is go against one’s ego’s need to keep problems a secret. Sometimes, one needs to get some guidance.

Counseling Services offers many solutions for faculty, staff and students. It is located at 126 MSC and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This semester, Counseling Services has added evening hours twice a week. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, students can make appointments with a counselor from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The expanded hours start Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Gloria Lubowitz, senior counseling psychologist at Counseling Services, stresses that there are many resources available besides personal counseling.

“We offer several different kinds of services,” Lubowitz said. She notes that counselors can help students “decide what their majors are going to be, based on testing of interests, personality and values.”

Counseling Services’ career library houses “books that focus on specific careers and files that give information on requirements of various majors,” she said.

Academic counseling allows students to “perfect study skills, manage time, take notes appropriately,” Lubowitz says. Students can get personal academic counseling or learn these skills via their on site computer program.

Personal counseling involves working with clients on “anxiety, depression and ... interpersonal relationships,” said Lubowitz. Those who want to get in-depth help on a regular basis can choose this option.

Screening is an important part of determining what help one needs. For example, free screening for depression is offered through Counseling Services. Either access the Counseling Services website (<http://umsl.edu/services/counselor>) or make an appointment at Counseling Services.

In addition to the regular staff counselors, three undergraduate interns are available to administer tests and screenings. The interns actively learn counseling techniques with the counselors as part of their education at UM-St. Louis.

Lubowitz explained that one test, the Strong Interest Inventory (SIG-PLUS), is a “system of interactive guidance.” As the name suggests, it focuses on an individual’s interests.

Students can also take tests that measure questions such as: “How important is it in a career that you have

a high salary (or) leisure time?” Lubowitz said.

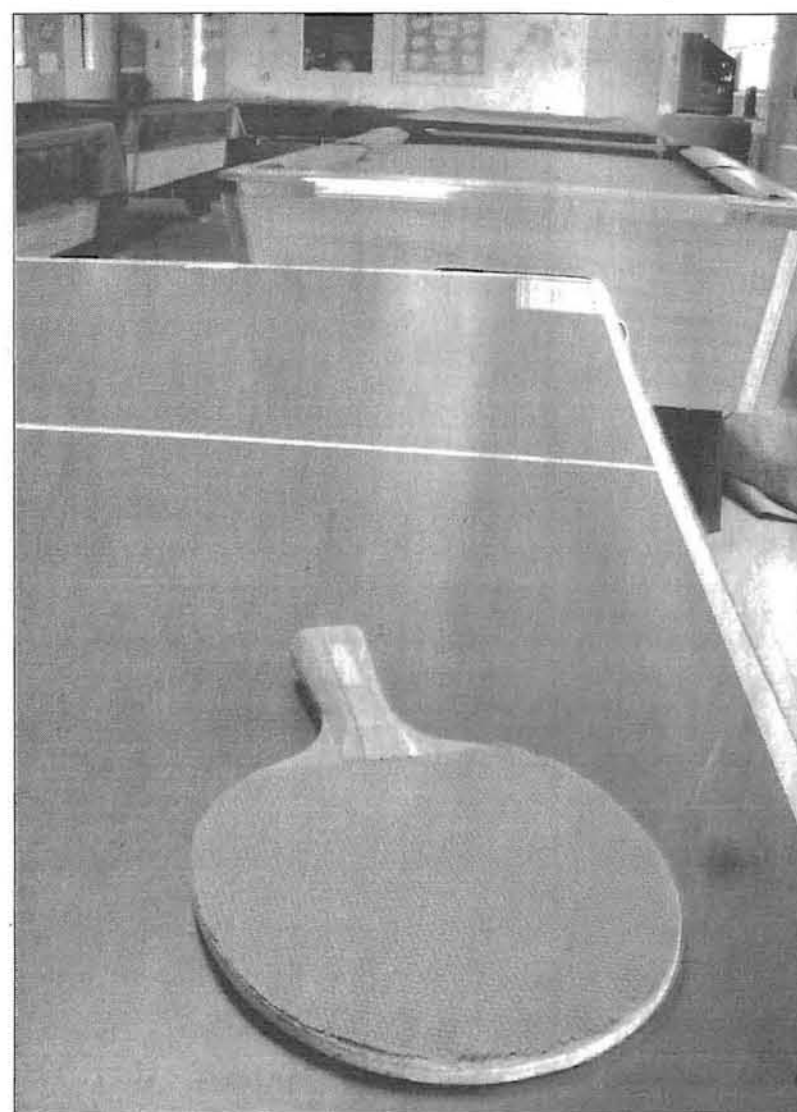
Seton Hall now houses a satellite office for Counseling Services, under the direction of Dr. Jamie Linsin. Horizons Peer Educators is a group of undergraduate students who are trained to spot any problems. They also refer peers to the main office as needed and assist with information tables throughout the school year. Peer educators are supervised by one of the regular staff members.

Hours for the peer-counseling program are tentatively Mondays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The hours may expand with student interest.

Counseling costs are geared to the student’s budget. Initial sessions are free. Each personal counseling session is \$10. Tests are \$15, and most include an evaluation session in the fee. Peer education is a free service.

Various workshops will also be offered throughout the year, and they will be listed on the Counseling Services website.

Students may set up appointments for screenings or counseling appointments either by visiting the office directly or calling (314) 516-5711. Counselors will also hold a special Depression Screening Day on October 9.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ping Pong, pool tables...and psychologists? This fall, Counseling Services is opening a satellite office on the first floor lounge of Seton Hall.

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### MyGateway is outlet for information

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Associate

With the new school year and classes beginning, more people are starting to log onto UM-St. Louis’s online data system MyGateway.

MyGateway was created before the Fall 2000 semester to be more beneficial to students and faculty.

Each student is assigned a Gateway ID once they have registered for classes. Once a person has an ID, they must enter in a specifically designed password. The password consists of the last numbers of the person’s year of birth, day of birth and the last four digits of their social security.

My Gateway offers numerous resources for students and teachers. These resources include: Announcements, Calendar, Tasks, My Grades, My courses, Web e-mail and an address book.

On the Announcements page, professors are able to post upcoming important class events. This is beneficial for students to be reminded about future exams.

People can record their own important dates on the Calendar page. The Calendar page acts as an online agenda.

If a student would like to know where they stand in a certain course, they can be informed through the My Grades section.



# "Seniors" take the stage

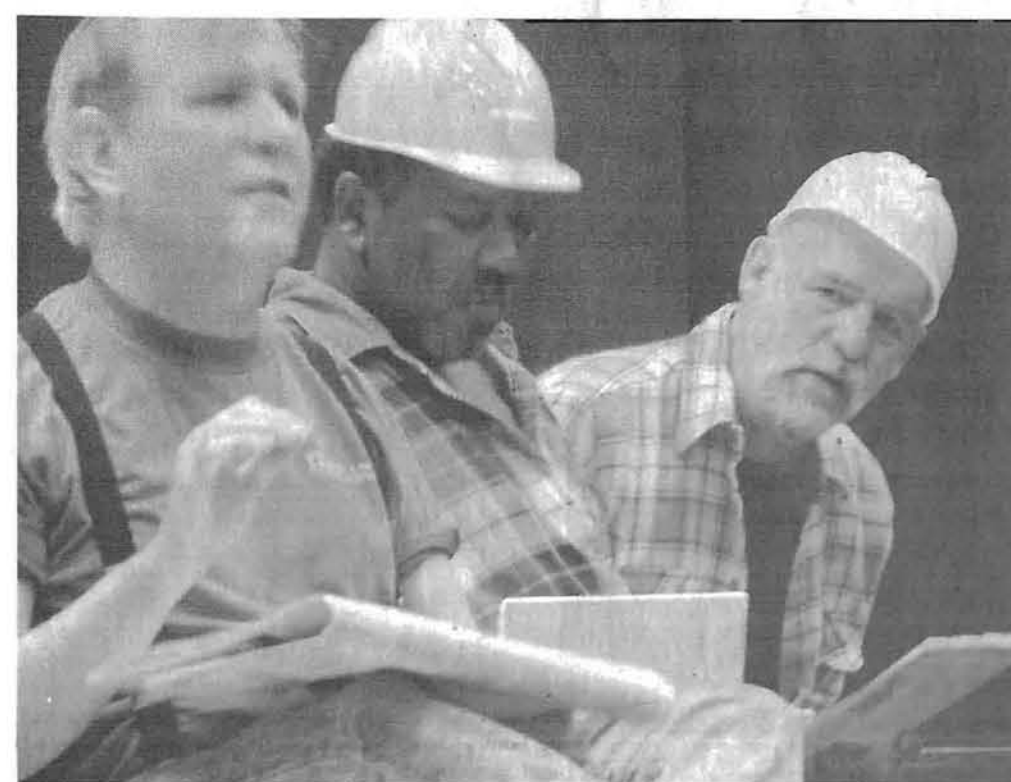
**RIGHT:** Bill Kester and Monica Roach perform in "The Spelling of Coyne," in which a widow outlives the machinations of a younger couple's plot to gain her riches.

The one-act play was a part of "Senior Stage Directions - a Summer Sampler" held at the J.C. Penney auditorium July 31.

Senior Theater is a noncredit program sponsored by the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and Continuing Ed. with workshops continuing in the Fall. Workshops meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in 119 Benton Hall, but require registration. For more information about workshops and registration, contact Nichelle at 516-5974; for information about Senior Theater, contact Dolores Kane at 314-352-7980.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

**LEFT:** From left, KWMU broadcaster Bob McCabe, John LaGrone, and Bob Beck perform in "Mere Mortals," during "Senior Stage Directions - A Summer Sampler." "Mere Mortals" depicts three construction workers having a spirited conversation during their lunch break.

**MYGATEWAY, from page 6**

One of the most important links is the MyCourses. On this site, course documents, course information, assignments, communication, tools and an electronic blackboard are displayed. The course information page might include class-related material such as notes, whereas the assignment page might include online quizzes.

Kenyette Glen, accounting, junior, explains some of the web site's advantages.

"I frequently use this provided service and I like how you can get access from anywhere," Glen said.

With UM-St. Louis being a large commuter school, the MyGateway system is very convenient for those who are not always on campus. Another advantage is that it is easy to use.

"Some of my classes this semester require a student to post messages on My Gateway," Charles Troupe, psychology, sophomore, said. "I think that this is a great system for students and teachers to communicate."

Not every course demands students to use this service. Although some teachers prefer not to use MyGateway, more instructors are beginning to become a part of this system. Many professors who teach large lecture courses provide their students with online notes. Most Internet courses are operated through this system.

Over the past three years since MyGateway was first introduced, more people have become familiar with how the system operates.

Jerry Siegel, associate vice chancellor for Information Technology Services, describes how the system is updated on a regular basis.

"My Gateway is continually being updated depending on the school's schedules, activities and when teachers submit their course information," Siegel said.

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new season, new coach

# Lee Buchanan named coach of Riverwomen Basketball

BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

UM-St. Louis ended their search for a head women's basketball coach recently, as athletic director Pat Dolan hired veteran coach Lee Buchanan to run the program. The position became available in June when then-coach Shelly Ethridge resigned to pursue other career opportunities.

Buchanan comes to UMSL from Division I program Southern Mississippi. Last year, Buchanan served as an assistant coach, while the Golden Eagles finished 14-15.

"I'm real excited about the opportunity to come to the University of Missouri-St. Louis and build the women's basketball program into something that the athletic department and the University can be proud of," said Buchanan. "It's going to take a little bit of time, but with a lot of hard work I think we can have some good success. I know a lot of the coaches in the Great Lakes Valley Conference who do a great job, and have a lot of respect for those coaches, and I'm excited to help be a part of building a successful program in such a tough conference."

"Having grown up in Southern Illinois, I'm excited to get back to the Midwest area and getting to work in a great city like St. Louis is like a homecoming for myself and my family. This is just a quality situation, to get the chance to build a strong basketball program in a great city and I'm just really excited to get things going at the University of Missouri-St. Louis."

Buchanan began his collegiate coaching career at Brescia University, a small NAIA school in Owensboro, Kentucky. He spent 13 years there; one as an assistant and the last 12 as head coach. During that stint, Buchanan had a string of eight consecutive 20-win seasons, which began

in 1989, right on the heels of a dismal 1-20 record the year before.

During his 12 years as head coach, Buchanan compiled a 230-118 record while guiding the team to multiple NAIA tournaments, including an elite eight trip in 1997.

From Brescia, Lee went to Francis Marion in South Carolina. In his four seasons there, Buchanan compiled a 92-29 record en route to becoming the second winningest coach in the school's history. He also led the Patriots to three sweet sixteen appearances, and won a Peach Belt Conference title. During his run as head coach, Francis Marion finished with no less than 16 wins.

Buchanan has won many awards during his almost two decades of coaching. Three times he has won the Coach of the Year award in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Conference at Brescia. In 1995 he was named the NAIA mid-south region Coach of the Year, and in 1989 was the District 32 Coach of the Year.

UMSL athletic director Pat Dolan is also excited over Buchanan's hiring. "We're extremely happy to be able to hire someone with Lee's coaching experience and past success," Dolan said. "He has great basketball knowledge and is familiar with the GLVC having spent some time coaching in Owensboro, and has a proven track record of guiding winning programs. We look forward to Lee being able to continue the building of the program and take it to that next level. I feel confident that Lee will be able to come in and work with the campus and local community and help to continue the building of our women's basketball program."

Buchanan takes over a program that finished just under .500 last year. This season, the team will look to the veteran leadership of their five seniors to help turn things around. The women's basketball season tips off November 21.



Coach Lee Buchanan has been hired as Women's Basketball Coach. He replaces Shelly Ethridge, who resigned in June.

## Tennis teams win academic honors

BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

It's one thing to be a great student. But to be a great student while enduring the rigors of daily practices, games, and the like takes very hard work.

Just ask the members of UMSL's women's tennis team. They were one of just 29 division II squads to receive national academic honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for this past school year. In addition, there were six players between the men's and women's squad that earned individual recognition.

Last year, the women's tennis team had a combined grade point average of 3.32, well over the 3.20 needed to earn these honors. UMSL was one of three teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference to garner this award.

The members of this fall's squad are Neringa Bandzeviciute, Stephanie Bladen, Chrissy Duffy, Katie Duffy, Devin Foy, Krissy Howard, Lauren Spangler, and Lauren Wiele.

Of those eight women, three earned individual honors. As a freshman, Krissy Howard went 6-6 in singles play, including a 5-4 record at the two spot. She finished at 8-7 in doubles competition, was the former high school state champion, and was also named to the Great Lakes Valley Conference all-academic team.

Devin Foy led the way for the women's squad, playing mostly at the one spot. She was 2-9 in singles competition, while going 8-7 in doubles. She was also a GLVC all-academic selection.

Neringa Bandzeviciute finished the year with a 5-8 doubles record. She also played in five singles matches, winning three, including an undefeated record at the six spot. She also won honors as a conference all-academic selection.

Not to be outdone, three members

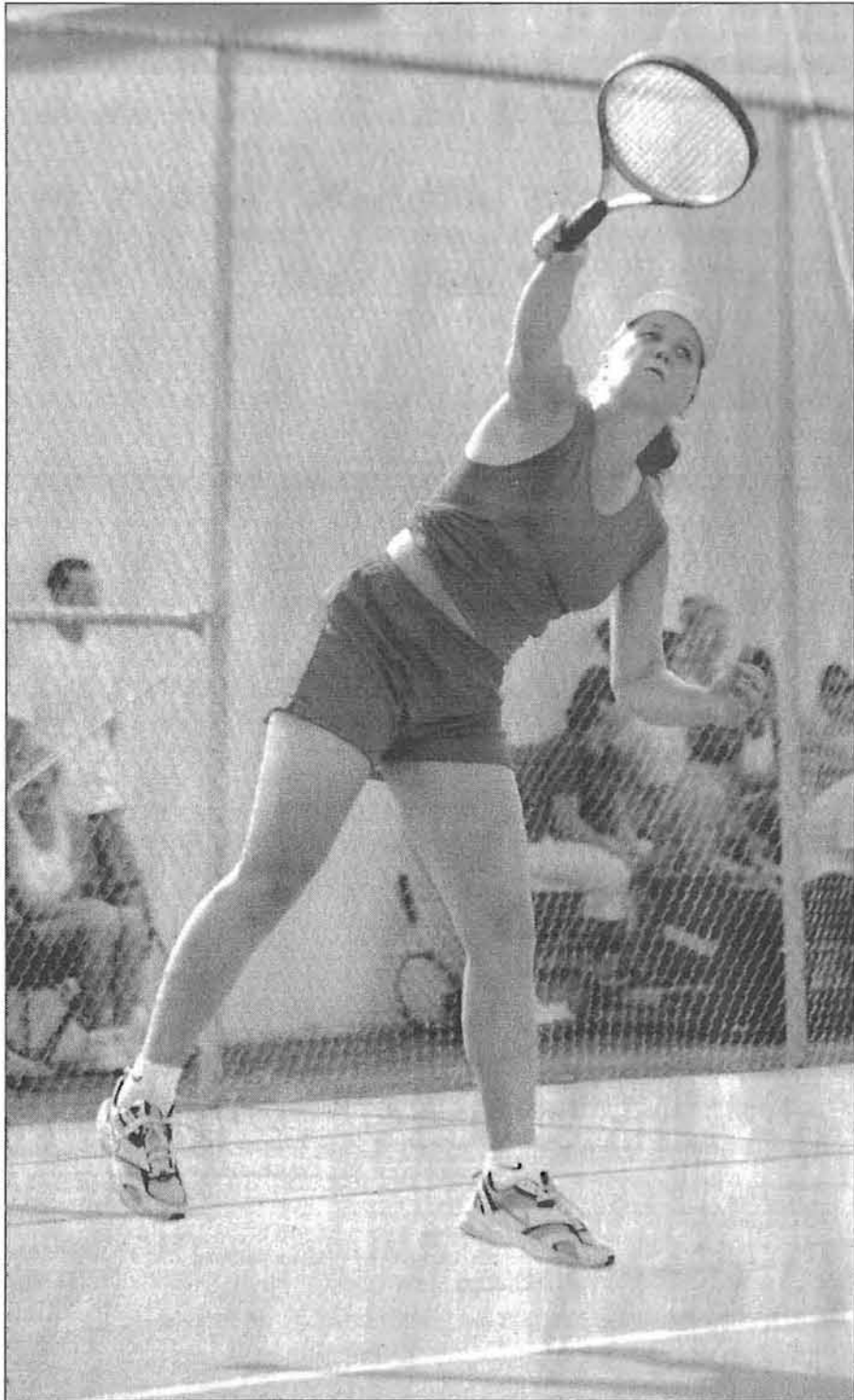
of the men's squad earned honors from the ITA. Senior Martin Kardos finished the year at 11-6 in singles matches, including a perfect 7-0 at the two spot. Kardos went 14-3 in doubles matches, and was a member of the GLVC's all-conference team for both academics and his on-court play.

Matt Vaulkhard, who will be the

matches, including a flawless 4-0 outside the one spot.

Rajan Saini finished last season at 10-4 in singles matches, including a 3-1 mark in conference. Saini also went 12-6 in doubles, and earned a spot on the all-conference academics team.

The ITA all-academics team award is given to a team with a 3.2 GPA or



File Photo: Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Riverwomen tennis team was one of just 29 division II squads to receive national academic honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for this past school year.

lone senior on this year's team, was also an all-conference selection for his work both on and off the courts. Matt finished 13-5 in singles matches while splitting time between the one and two spot, not to mention a 6-1 record in conference. He went 14-6 in doubles

higher. To earn individual recognition, student athletes must post at least a 3.5 GPA, while winning a letter.

The men's squad has an exhibition match at Lindenwood on September 3, while the women open their regular season September 2 at Quincy.

## R-Women Golf tees up with new coach

BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

When the Riverwomen begin their season this fall, they'll be doing so with a new head coach. James Earle will be the new head coach, and he brings lots of experience from the St. Louis area golf scene.

Earle is a graduate of Hazelwood Central and a Lewis and Clark Community College and SIUE-Edwardsville alum. He is currently working at Emerald Greens Golf Course in St. Louis as an assistant golf professional, a spot he has held for three years now. His duties there include the management of daily operations of the course, as well as teaching and instruction. Earle has also worked as the assistant golf pro at The Players Club in Cressant, Missouri and Eagle Springs Golf Course in St. Louis.

This fall, the Riverwomen will enter into action with three competitors: Sophomore Amy Schoenherr and Juniors Shelby Cloyd and Ashley Vincent. Schoenherr averaged a 97.00 last year, and had a low round of 90. Her best finish was 33rd, at the Lady Volunteer Tournament. At that tournament, she shot a pair of 93's. Her other tournaments include a total of 211 at the SIUE Cougar Classic, and a 185 at the USI Screaming Eagles Golf Classic, good enough for 45th.

Shelby Cloyd finished the year with a 99.67 average, including a low round of 91. Shelby shot a 102-106 at the Lady Volunteer Tournament, for a finish of 43rd, her best of the year. Her

best two round total was at the USI Screaming Eagles Golf Classic, where she shot a combined 187. During the SIUE Cougar Classic, Cloyd shot a 203.

Ashley Vincent finished 2002 with a 95.67 average, best among returning players. She had a low round of 90 and never shot any higher than 99. Her best finish was 36th at the Lady Volunteer Tournament where she shot a 191. Vincent shot a 186 at the USI Screaming Eagle Classic and a 197 at the SIUE Cougar Classic.

One player that the Riverwomen will miss is Amy Parmley. Parmley led last year's squad in every major statistical category, which was highlighted by her 84.67 average. Parmley had a low round of 80 and a high round of 90, both of which she shot at the Lady Volunteer Tournament, giving her a 12th place finish. Her highest finish was 10th, at the SIUE Cougar Classic. There she shot a two day total of 174. At the USI Screaming Eagles Classic, she shot a 164, good enough for 13th place.

As a team, last year's squad finished 8th (out of 10) at the SIUE Cougar Classic, 8th out of nine at the Lady Volunteer Tournament, and 10th out of 12 at the USI Screaming Eagles Classic. There the team shot their two lowest rounds of the season, a 367 and a 365.

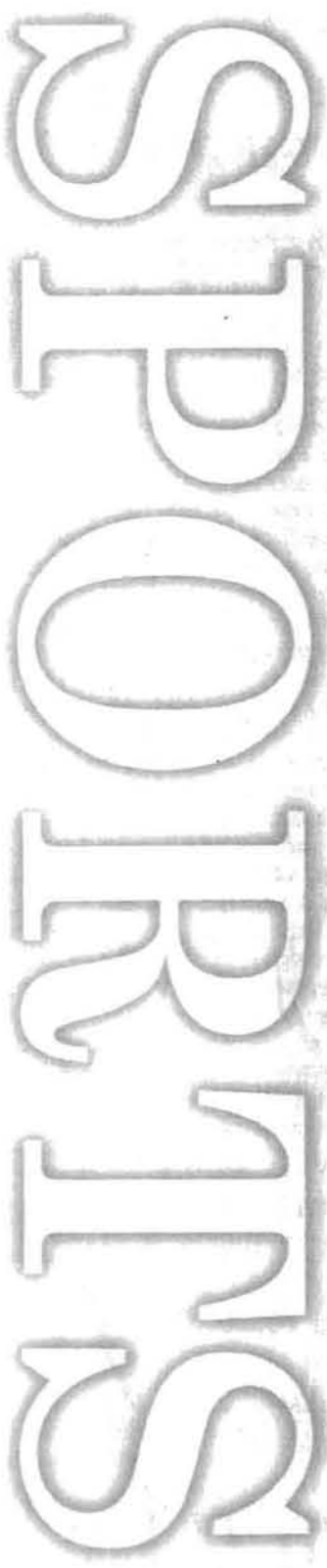
This year, the Riverwomen are slated to play in five tournaments. Their first tourney is the Cougar Classic at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville at the Sunset Hills Golf Course. The women tee it up September 6-8.

## Riverwomen prepare for new season



LEFT:

Jaime Drabek, a defender for the Riverwomen, fields the ball during an exhibition game Thursday evening. The Riverwomen will play their first official game at home on Aug. 29 against Ashland.



STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor  
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fax: 516-6811

Questions or Comments?  
Send me an e-mail:  
invincible\_44@hotmail.com

WEB  
Check out the R-men and R-women sports at  
www.umsi-sports.com

## Men's B-ball to introduce new coach

The UM-St. Louis Athletic Department will announce the new men's basketball coach, Chris Pilz, to the university community and local media at a press conference at noon on Monday, Aug. 18 in room 218 of the Mark Twain Building.

The Rivermen had been without a coach since Mark Bernsen announced his resignation in late June.

In his four seasons at UMSL, Bernsen finished with a 41-67 overall record and a 29-58 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Bernsen was just the fourth head coach in UMSL history and he is third on that list for most career wins.

Bernsen played for the Rivermen, and was a three-year starter for the Rivermen and co-captain of the team that finished with a 21-6 record a earned bid to the 1971-72 NCAA Tournament team.



# 41 athletes earn acclaim for academe

BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

Forty-one UM-St. Louis students earned spots on the Great Lakes Valley Conference all-academic team this year, representing ten different sports and nearly one-third of all student athletes.

The men's soccer and women's volleyball teams topped the list, each sending seven players to the team. The men's and women's tennis teams were also impressive, with 10 of a total 16 players garnering this award.

In order to be placed on the academic all-conference team, first year students must have a 3.40 grade point average. Students with more than two semesters completed must either meet academic All-American qualifications, have a cumulative 3.20 GPA, or have earned a 3.40 GPA in the previous two semesters.

Below is the list of UM-St. Louis students who made the GLVC's all-academic team:

## Baseball:

Tony Grana  
Logan Hughes  
Josh Thomas

## Men's Basketball

Mindaugas Adamonis  
Jonathan Griffin

## Women's Basketball

Sarah Hyslop  
Megan Mauck  
Alicia Ordner

## Women's Golf

Shelby Cloyd  
Amy Parmley

## Men's Soccer

Adam Barnstead  
Adam Bimslager  
Nick Carron  
Campbell McLaurin  
Tim Mosby  
Kevin Uttley  
Scott Wittenborn

## Women's Soccer

Jaime Drabek  
Sonya Hauan  
Lauren Gutting  
Mandy Meendering

## Softball

Savanna Adams  
Tiffany DeWald  
Kristen Economon

## Men's Tennis

Martin Damm  
Martin Kardos  
Stephen Pobst  
Rajan Saini  
Matt Vaulkhard

## Women's Tennis

Neringa Bandzeviciute  
Chrissy Duffy  
Devin Foy  
Krissy Howard  
Lauren Spangler

## Volleyball

Gillian Falknor  
Kira Fraser  
Kathryn Freeman  
Melissa Frost  
Janae Paas  
Stacy Pearl  
Ashley Richmond

## Sporting around town

# St. Louis boasts rich sports history

BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

Everybody needs to get away from the rigors of their studies now and again, and one good way to take your mind off of your schoolwork is through athletics. While UM-St. Louis fields 11 varsity teams, all of which can be very entertaining, sometimes you want to see the big boys play. Well, fear not; the city of St. Louis has plenty of options for the sports-minded person.

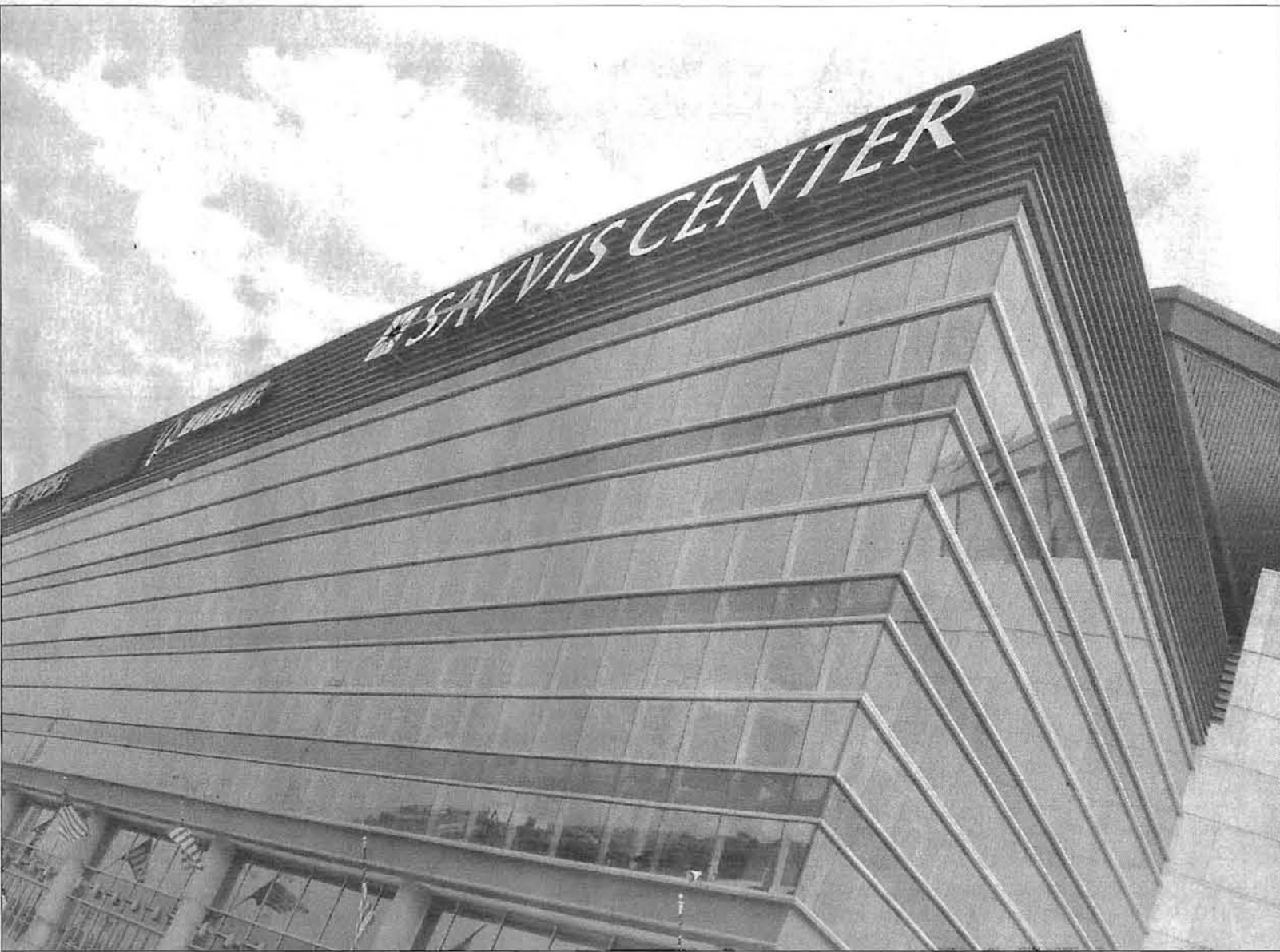
One can't-miss spot, if you've never been, is legendary Busch Stadium. Serving as the home of the St. Louis Cardinals since 1966, Busch Stadium is the fifth oldest park in Major League Baseball, behind Fenway Park, Wrigley Field, Yankee Stadium and Dodger Stadium. Busch Stadium has been witness to a lot of baseball history. The stadium hosted the All-Star Game in 1966, its first year of existence. It didn't take long to see the Redbirds win a World Championship, either. St. Louis won the World Series 4-3 over the Boston Red Sox in 1967. The following year saw current Hall of Famer Bob Gibson post a modern day record with a 1.12 ERA.

In 1970, Busch Stadium opened the season with AstroTurf in place of grass. The turf lasted 26 seasons before the Cardinals reverted back to natural grass.

One of the all-time Cardinal greats, Lou Brock, spent most of his 19 seasons playing at Busch. During his final year (1979), Brock collected his 3,000 hit in August and stole his 938th base a month later, making him the all-time stolen base king.

In the summer of 1998, slugger Mark McGwire captivated audiences night in and night out at Busch, en route to blasting a record 70 home runs. Big Mac hit numbers 61, 62 and 70 all in front of home crowds.

Busch Stadium has seen many



The Savvis Center is one of the popular sports venues in St. Louis. It has seen many famous hockey players skate through, including Brett Hull, Wayne Gretzky, Brendan Shanahan, Curtis Joseph, Steve Duchesne and Phil Housley.

other baseball legends come and go in its 38-year history, players such as Ozzie Smith, Ted Simmons and Bruce Sutter. However, you'd better catch a game while you still can; original plans had a new stadium slated to open in 2005.

The St. Louis Blues provide a great escape during the winter months,

while playing an exciting brand of hockey at the Kiel/Savvis Center downtown near Union Station.

Prior to the 1994-95 season, the rink replaced The Arena as the home of the Blues. The Savvis Center had a tough act to follow, replacing the Checkerdome/St. Louis Arena, but the new building met the hype as it opened

its doors to the public. The Savvis Center is yet to see the Blues reach the Stanley Cup Finals, but it has played host to many legendary players in its short history. Former Blues such as Brett Hull and Wayne Gretzky skated there while wearing the Bluenote, and current Blues such as Al MacInnis and Chris Pronger should join them in the

Hall of Fame one day.

Of course the most infamous Blue of the last decade didn't wear a jersey, but a suit. The much-maligned Mike Keenan got rid of crowd favorite Brendan Shanahan (among others) and quickly earned the hatred of the entire city.

see ST. LOUIS SPORTS, page 12

# Football at last: predictions for the AFC



BY STEVE HARRELL  
Sports Editor

wagon.

Seeing as how I could talk about this for days on end, I've decided to make my NFL prediction/preview column a TWO PART special; that's right, boys and girls, it's the journalistic equivalent of a mini-series. This week I'll look at the American Football Conference, and we'll save the NFC for next week's issue.

Now it's time to break out the tarot cards and look into the crystal ball, and we'll see what we can find!

**AFC East Prediction**  
Miami-New York-Buffalo-New England

Miami did some work in the off-season and bulked up an already solid team. Junior Seau joins one of the best defenses in the league, which will make it nearly impossible to score on the Dolphins. Ray Lucas, a.k.a the reason Miami missed the play-offs last year, is gone. There should be a healthy quarterback battle between incumbent Jay Fiedler and free agent Brian Griese, with Sage Rosenfels being a solid number three. Ricky Williams finally put himself on the short list of top NFL running backs, and Olindo Mare has an unbelievable leg. Watch out for this team.

The Jets lost about half their team

to Washington, but management made a couple late moves and brought in some talent. Chad Pennington is poised for a breakout season, and Herm Edwards always seems to sneak his team into the play-offs. Look for the J-E-T-S to earn a wildcard spot.

The Patsies folded last year, and this season probably won't be any different. Buffalo will probably hold Willis McGahee out all year. In 2004 the Bills could dominate, but not this year.

**AFC South Prediction**  
Tennessee-Indianapolis-Jacksonville-Houston

The Titans were just one win away from the Super Bowl last year, and yet they still don't seem to get any respect. Steve McNair seems to be the toughest S.O.B. this side of Dick Butkis. If he can stay healthy, he's very hard to beat. If he's injured, he's still very hard to beat. If Tennessee doesn't win this division, it's because Air McNair is in traction-literally. Throw in Eddie George (who should touch the ball 25 times a game for this team to be a contender) and you've got the best one-two punch in the game.

Marvin Harrison is the most over-rated player in the NFL. He is a descent wideout in an ideal situation.

Take him out of the Colts offense and insert a second or third tier player, and the team wouldn't miss a beat. Serious contenders they're not but they may sneak into the play-offs (but don't count on it).

Jacksonville is getting better, but they still aren't a .500 team. The Texans still don't have an offensive line, which is bad news for David Carr, who was on ground last year more than he was on his feet.

**AFC North Prediction**  
Pittsburgh-Cleveland-Baltimore-Cincinnati

Pittsburgh almost wins this division by default. Granted, Cleveland won a wildcard last year, and nearly beat Pittsburgh, but they'll be facing a much tougher schedule this year. Also, Kordell Stewart is gone, which is great news for Steeler fans. Baltimore might top .500, but don't bet on it, considering their current quarterback situation. The Bungles are finally headed in the right direction, and they have a superstar running back, but I think we all know their fate this year.

I've wasted enough time on this lousy division. Let's move on to...

**AFC West Prediction**

Oakland-Denver-San Diego-Kansas City

This division is unbelievable. Oakland will come out on top, but Denver won't be far behind. They upgraded at quarterback (so Plummer's no John Elway, but he'll work), and someone always seems to come out of nowhere and rush for 1500 yards. Oakland is getting old, but I think they can hold on for one more year.

Kansas City is a much-improved team from a couple years ago, but there's no way they'll overtake these two juggernauts. Look for them in 2004, though. San Diego is becoming infamous for their second half collapses, but they won't need to this year. They're not as good as last year's team, but Brees is getting better and this is another wait-till-next-year squad.

## Play-off Predictions

You've seen the division winners, and I'm taking the Broncos and Jets for the Wildcard slots. Air McNair will have another good season, but in the long run I don't see anybody beating Miami (at least not in the AFC). So we're going with the Fish to win the AFC; stay tuned for next week's NFC preview.

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## "Up-coming Events"

**"Mark" Your UMSL Calendars**  
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**"Fall" On-Campus Interviews**  
begin on Monday, September 29

**Etiquette Banquet**  
Tuesday, October 21 - Century Room "A"  
for details, contact  
**Career Services**  
278 Millennium Student Center  
516-5111 -- career\_services@umsl.edu



## A&amp;E

## EDITOR

STANFORD GRIFFITH

A&amp;E Editor

phone: 516-4886  
fax: 516-6811A&E  
Calendar

## Movies

\*Film openings are subject to change.

Aug. 22

The Medallion - Jackie Chan action/comedy

Marci X- cross-cultural comedy of a different sort, stars Lisa Kudrow, Damon Wayans

My Boss' Daughter - Ashton Kutcher comedy

Specials:  
Yojimbo - Kurosawa's samurai classic, mid-night at the Tivoli, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 22-23

The Evil Dead - horror cult film favorite, mid-night at the Tivoli, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 22-23 &amp; 29-31

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - Sergio Leone's original spaghetti Western; one week only at the Tivoli

Aug. 29

American Splendor - Award-winning adaptation of Harvey Pekar's poetic, autobiographical underground comic, stars Paul Giamatti, Hope Davis

Nola - indie film about woman's search for father and self

Magdalene Sisters - gripping, harrowing true story about Irish home for girls

Buffalo Soldiers - 'Catch 22'-like dark comedy set in 1989 Germany, stars Joachim Phoenix

Mondays in the Sun - Spanish tragicomic tale about laid-off workers, stars Javier Bardem

Secret Lives of Dentists - indie film dark comedy about unraveling marriage of two dentists, stars Hope Davis

## CONCERT REVIEW

## Open your mics up and sing

BY AMY GONWA  
Music Critic

You begin your night with a short saunter down a flight of ancient stairs, feeling the history rise up from under

your shoes. Next, you plunge into a small underground fantasy painted on all sides with the stripes of the Jamaican flag. The choices you face at the Red Sea's open mic night is which concrete slab to park yourself next to

and what piece you will contribute to the night's puzzle.

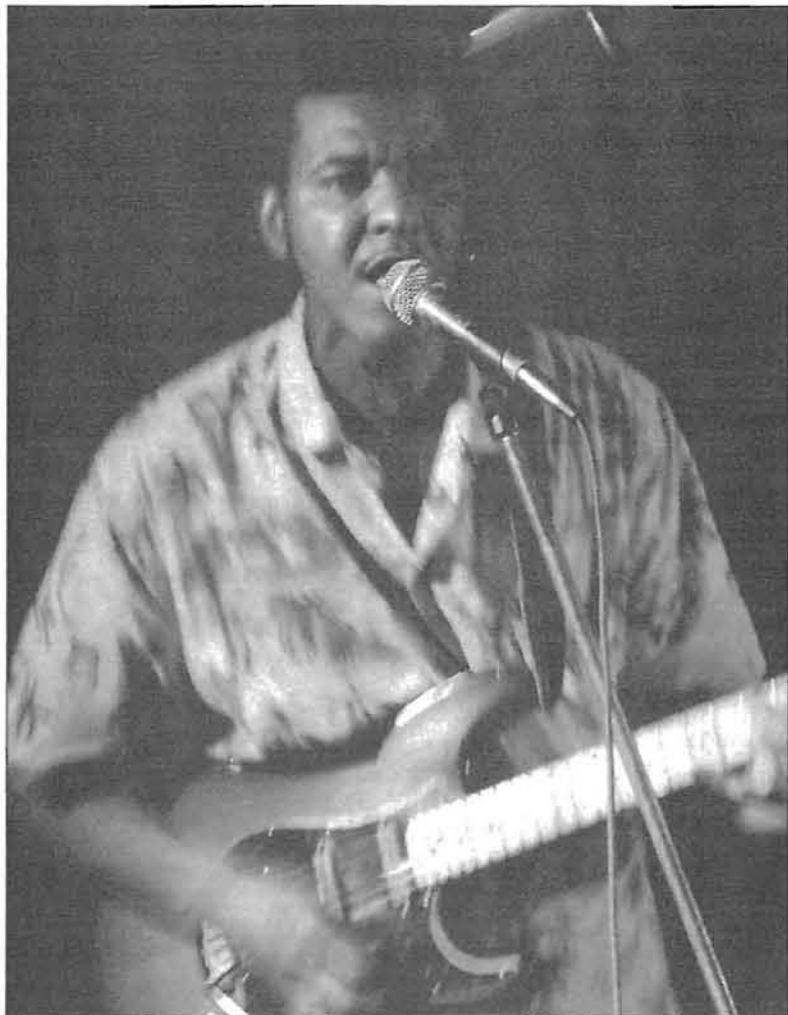
Check 1, 2, check 1, 2, and the Red Sea builds with anticipation of an evening filled with diverse sound. It is the weekly open mic night at St. Louis' finest reggae bar. Since the early nineties, the Red Sea has hosted their Monday evening affair for local artists to showcase their talents.

"It's a comfortable environment to stretch my musical skills, where nobody is going to be judgmental," said Jody Carter, member of Non-Stop Reggae. Carter's band kicked off the evening of Aug. 11, with their neo-jazz vocal free jam music. What followed were roughly twenty artists sharing their raw talent in a capella vocals, hip-hop, original rock and pure rhythmic style.

One-man band, J. Booze, dazzled the crowd with this combined guitar and drum beating skills. Female vocalist Puffy filled the room with her smoky alto tones. And, UM-St. Louis' own Aja Corrigan dazzled the crowd with her angelic vocal range. Not every act was as refined, but the crowd supported and respected anyone who took the stage.

You have got to love open mic nights in all of their idiosyncrasies. There is always a surprise around the corner and an introduction to a new sound you have not yet experienced. The atmosphere is full of warm, welcoming air and open-minded listeners. The artists are not up on stage to sell you records or fish from your paycheck, but they are only to share their music with whoever will listen.

Another refreshing open mic night attribute is the short-lived duration of each act. If you are not digging one artist's exhibition, then a five-minute wait will bring a fresh act to the stage.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

"J.C." strums and sings an original composition at the Red Sea's open mic Monday night. The show begins around 9:30 p.m. and the cover is two dollars.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

"Krystal" performs at the Red Sea's open mic night on Monday. The Red Sea, a U. City Loop mainstay, has been holding an open mic every Monday night for almost 30 years.

This builds a unique platform for your night of listening enjoyment.

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The small Delmar Loop attraction has kept itself fairly underground, which is part of its' beauty. So, put an inspiring twist on your Monday blues and discover a well-kept secret of your own city. Whether you are an amateur musician, or just an avid music fan, you are sure to find something that suits you at the Red Sea. Their legendary open mic night is a melodic treat for your ears that you must be a part of.

## FILM REVIEW

## 'Dirty Pretty Things' is terrific thriller

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Film Critic

Filmgoers tiring of the endless rounds of no-thinking-required summer sequels and action films can find a break in the excellent Stephen Frears film "Dirty Pretty Things." Despite its puzzling name, "Dirty Pretty Things" is one heck of an atmospheric mystery thriller.

This English-language story is set among the subculture of immigrants in London, but it is no melodramatic tale of the plight of the underclass, nor is it an art film. Instead, "Dirty Pretty Things" is a fully accessible thriller, full of unexpected twists and turns, the kind of story to keep you guessing up to the end. It is a tale of secrets and of the hidden things that go on beneath the surface, as well as a story about ethical dilemmas and even a touch of romance.

The tale starts with Nigerian-born Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor), an immigrant who seems to have a past he wants to conceal. Okwe works two jobs, as a cabbie during the day and as a night clerk at a hotel. He rents space on a couch from a young Turkish woman, Senay (Audrey Tautou, from "Amelie"), who works the opposite shift at the hotel. During his few off

hours, Okwe seems loathe to sleep and seeks out a chess game with a friend (Benedict Wong) who works in a morgue or just prowls the streets. The night manager at the hotel (Sergi Lopez) is a smirking opportunist obsessed with money. This smiling cynic describes the hotel's work by saying that people come to the hotel to do dirty things, and then it is the hotel worker's job to make everything look pretty again in the morning, hence the film's odd title. It soon becomes clear that something secret, maybe even ghastly, is going on at the hotel. The ingenious plot with sharply drawn characters draws you into the hidden activities of the hotel and weaves an unpredictable tale that is a bit like gothic horror.

Excellent acting and a plot that keeps you guessing make this film a standout. "Dirty Pretty Things" has already taken a stack of awards in Europe, particularly for the screenplay and Chiwetel Ejiofor's performance. In an era of formulaic filmmaking, this kind of original screenwriting is more than refreshing. Stephen Frears, whose past films include "High Fidelity" and "The Grifters," returns to his native London and the atmospheric, film noir type of storytelling in fine form, pulling his audience along at just the right pace in this mysterious world.

While the film is not about the plight of immigrants, the characters' marginal place in society drives part of the plot. Frears uses the universality of under classes in all societies to make indirect comments about personal ethics and society in a much stronger way than any head-on approach could. This film is further proof that Frears well deserves his reputation as a top director.

The roles are well cast throughout. Audrey Tautou, so charming in "Amelie" a couple of years ago, now gets to show off her dramatic range as a young woman weighing awful choices to achieve her dreams. But the really riveting performance is Ejiofor, who is by turns mysterious, sympathetic, vulnerable and threatening as the immigrant who may have been a doctor and is fleeing from something. The range of emotion he expresses and the subtlety of his work are amazing to watch. The audience can feel his internal struggles along with him but also be aware that he wasn't revealing everything about himself.

The plot is full of surprises, and you have to stay alert to follow along. This story is no obscure puzzle but a far cry from the usual effortless entertainment of summer. For anyone who loves a good thriller, "Dirty Pretty Things" is the ride to take.



Laurie Sparham/ Miramax Films

Audrey Tautou in Stephen Frears' DIRTY PRETTY THINGS.

## BOOK REVIEW

## Murder mystery at the beach

BY PAUL CRUTCHER  
Staff Writer

Think Nicholas Cage's "8mm" with more likable characters. Take away a good portion of the darkness in that movie and add a small dose of legal talk. James Patterson offers

lionaire Barry Neubauer's annual shindig. Those behind the murder have the means to buy the cops, an army of lawyers and a forensically untenable drowning story for Rabbit. For the people who want to discover the truth, Neubauer &amp; Co. also employ at least one mean problem-solver called the "Fixer" to,

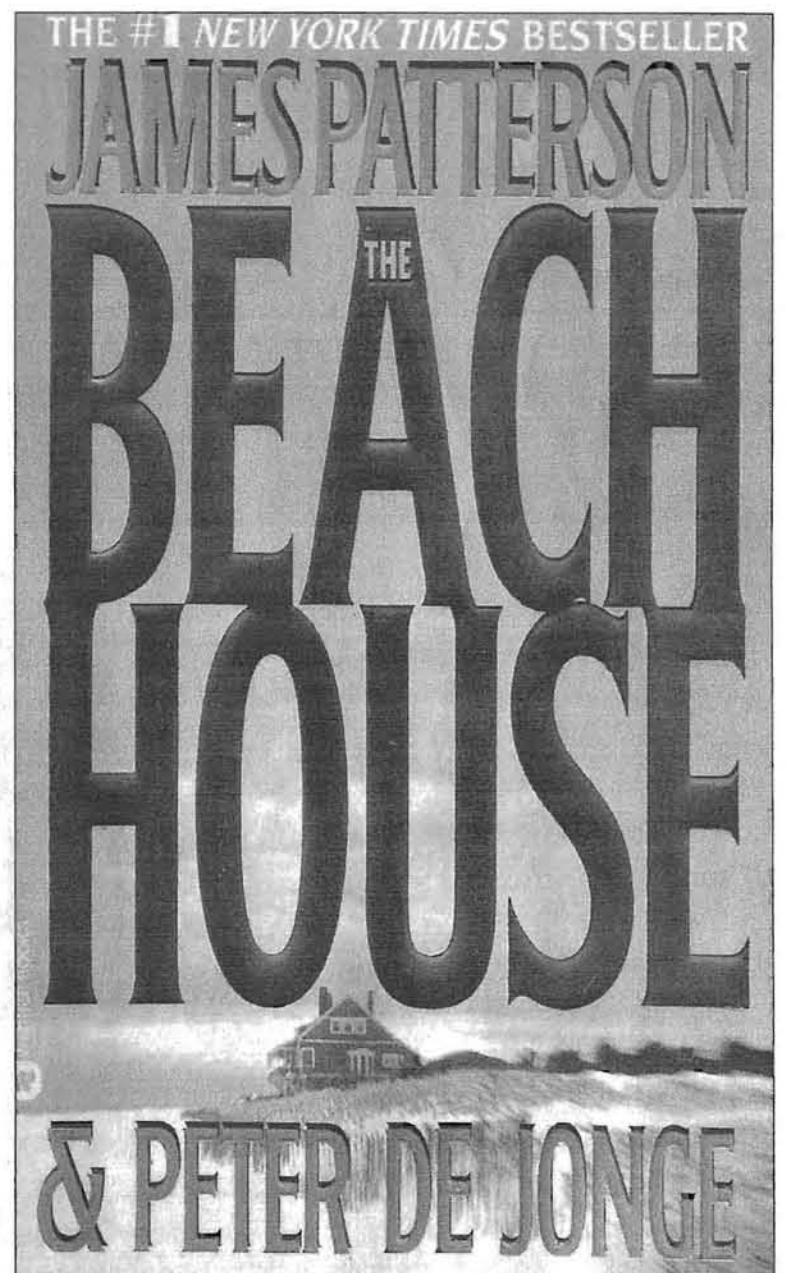


Photo courtesy Warner Books

the storyline with the help of Peter de Jonge in "The Beach House," a 2002 New York Times bestseller. Much like the aforementioned "8mm," "Beach House" takes us into a world where there are the exceedingly rich and those who cater to them. Peter "Rabbit" Mullen falls squarely into the latter group, filling odd jobs like valet parking and nourishing the much more seedy desires of the elite.

The main story begins after Rabbit is beaten to death outside his

well, make people change their minds about certain things. Jack Mullen, Rabbit's older law student brother, leads the crusade against the Neubauers with a hodgepodge crew of friends (including a feisty gay hairdresser and a private detective with the Sears Tower tattooed on her upper arm) and his animated and extremely likable Irish grandfather, "Mack."

see MURDER



## FILM REVIEW

# "Northfork" is comic and bittersweet bit of fantasy

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-  
HOMEYER

Film Critic

"Northfork" has been described as a film in the style of "magical realism," the literary form created by Latin American books like "One Hundred Years of Solitude." This literary style blends fantasy and reality to tell a story that is more magic and poetic feeling than conventional plot. Like magical realism, "Northfork" has one foot in history and the other in the spiritual realm of fantasy creatures and a very unconventional structure.

If all that sounds confusing or perfectly dreadful to you, "Northfork" is not your film. This fable from filmmaking brothers Mark and Michael Polish isn't the kind of film that those who prefer stories firmly rooted in the real world will like. "Northfork" is more of a Gothic fairytale, a dreamlike tale set in the very concrete time and place of 1955 Montana, in a town about to be flooded after the construction of a large dam. Although the ensemble cast includes a number of recognizable actors—James Woods, Nick Nolte, Daryl Hannah, Anthony Edwards, Claire Forlani, Peter Coyote, and Kyle MacLachlan—this charming little fantasy is unconventional art film all the way. That is not to say it is not enjoyable, if you just let yourself be carried along with its nonlinear flow.

That the town is being "dammed"

is one of the many sly comic and spiritual references in this odd and charming little film. Before the waters can cover Northfork, the state sends out pairs of black suited agents to gather up Northfork's last remaining residents. The stragglers include Father Harlan (Nick Nolte) who takes in a sick orphan (Duel Farnes) when his adoptive parents decide to return him when they flee the flood, a man who has built an ark and has two of everything, including two wives. There is also a house with four odd people who may or may not really exist. These oddly dressed characters call themselves angels, and include the Joan of Arc-like Flower Hercules (Daryl Hannah) and the handless, nearly blind Happy (Anthony Edwards).

Walter (James Woods) and Willis O'Brien (co-writer/producer Mark Polish) are a father and son team in the Evacuation Committee, set on persuading the residents to leave by any means and motivated by the State's promise of lakefront property as their reward. As the agents go about their work, the feverish boy's dreaming encounters with the angels in the old house alternating with Father Harlan's selfless care and last minute efforts to find him an adoptive family provide a touching and hopeful fantasy-to-reality pendulum that sets the rhythm of the film.

Not surprisingly, the acting is both restrained and first rate all around.

Nolte is especially touching as the rugged but caring Father Harlan and, of course, James Woods turns in his usual good work. Daryl Hannah and Anthony Edwards are noteworthy and striking as the odd angels Flower Hercules and Happy.

That the film is shot with a stark beauty that makes the most of the minimalist Montana landscape fits both its otherworldliness and its poignancy. It is not just the living who are being evacuated: Gamilies are digging up loved ones from the town cemetery as well rather than leave them to the flood, and the image we see of the old frontier cemetery peppered with headstones and gaping graves couldn't be more haunting. The story is both sad and comic, as much dream as waking, and it seems every name and image evokes a reference to resurrection, death, rebirth, loss or human indecision. Everything is a metaphor for something, although the references are as likely as not to be absurdist.

"Northfork" is more dream and fairytale than profound myth, but it has its moments of depth and meaning. The comparison to the literary form of magical realism is most apt; it has the same tantalizing beauty and circus-like appeal. To see such a film at all is rare; in the summer, it is magical. The film's unconventional nature will mean this one if not for everyone but for those who relish a good art film, this is just the ticket.



Daryl Hannah as an angel named Flower Hercules in Paramount Classics' NORTHFORK.

## MURDER, from page 10

Action comes along quickly, thanks to Patterson's chapter designations. Each four-page or so chapter focuses on a single advancement of the plot, which makes you feel like you are feverishly devouring the book while allowing you great freedom for interruption or stopping.

That said, the 356 pages are relatively delightful for a casual read. The characters are round enough to illicit reader involvement in the outcome of the plot, while Patterson keeps Neubauer & Co. flat enough for the vast majority of his readers (like you and I) to find them and their actions foreign and detestable.

This character development becomes important near the end of the book, because the Mullen crew takes a somewhat drastic (and not altogether plausible) course to bring the untouchable elite to justice. A milk truck becomes a key component in the kidnapping strategy, but if you're like me, and haven't ever seen an actual milk truck delivering milk, the presence of one rolling slowly down the block might be suspicious. The final chapters take place in a secret and makeshift courtroom, where the accused are held by force and the Mullens extract the

truth. Patterson throws a nice little twist in at the end of the trial that I doubt most readers would have anticipated. Indeed, Neubauer & Co. were criminal, loathsome, and perverted to an extreme degree, but apparently they

“  
The prose is almost entirely action-based, and the chapter arrangement makes it so there is little time or reason to get bored.  
”

weren't all as excited about the exploits with a then-underage Rabbit as the Fitzhardings and Barry Neubauer.

If you're concerned about graphic accounts, none can be found here. Unlike "8mm," which enjoys mirroring the despair and secrecy of bizarre sexual fantasy to a similarly dark and

rainy physical environment, Patterson does a nice job of keeping such a dark topic in a non-offensive light.

Oh, and to keep it perfectly human, Patterson adds a love struggle into the mix for the protagonist hero Jack Mullen. Anyone who can relate to cheating, being cheated on or not understanding a relationship will surely appreciate Jack's tumultuous relationship with Dana Neubauer (yes, that's right—Barry's daughter) and the legal detective with the Sears Tower tattoo and an confident attitude to match, Pauline Grabowski.

"The Beach House" has a lot going for it and little in the way of drawbacks. It is an entertaining ride, albeit not one to provoke much greater speculation or intellectual stimulation. Patterson and DeJonge's plot feels original when reading, but the basic outlines of privileged vs. the others has been played many times previously. The prose is almost entirely action-based, and the chapter arrangement makes it so there is little time or reason to get bored. While "Beach House" may not be the best short novel you've read, it won't make you regret picking up a copy. If interested, I recommend you give it a try.

## CD REVIEW

# Timeless Tones A New Leap for Bluegrass

BY AMY GONWA  
Music Critic

Bluegrass is one of the undying and timeless styles of American music. It has retained strength and fans over decades of musical reformations. Few artists opt to invest much time and energy into this sound, but those who do are proving that bluegrass will never die. Kat Maslich and Peter Adams have harnessed a modern country twang in their debut album east mountain south.

With an old-fashioned air, self-titled east mountain south (They do not use capital letters.) brings together generations of musical and lyrical movements. What I find most intriguing about the album is the high regard for poetics. Each track writes a different story of loss and hope while paying close attention to lyrical form and structure.

The ballads of east mountain south

speak of every day life in a compassionate and conversational way. Tracks such as "all the stars" and "hard times" paint pictures of people we all have known, making them easy to relate to. "Hard Times" is actually a simplified version of a work of the nineteenth century American composer, Stephen Foster. This respect for the roots of American music shines through in east mountain's sound.

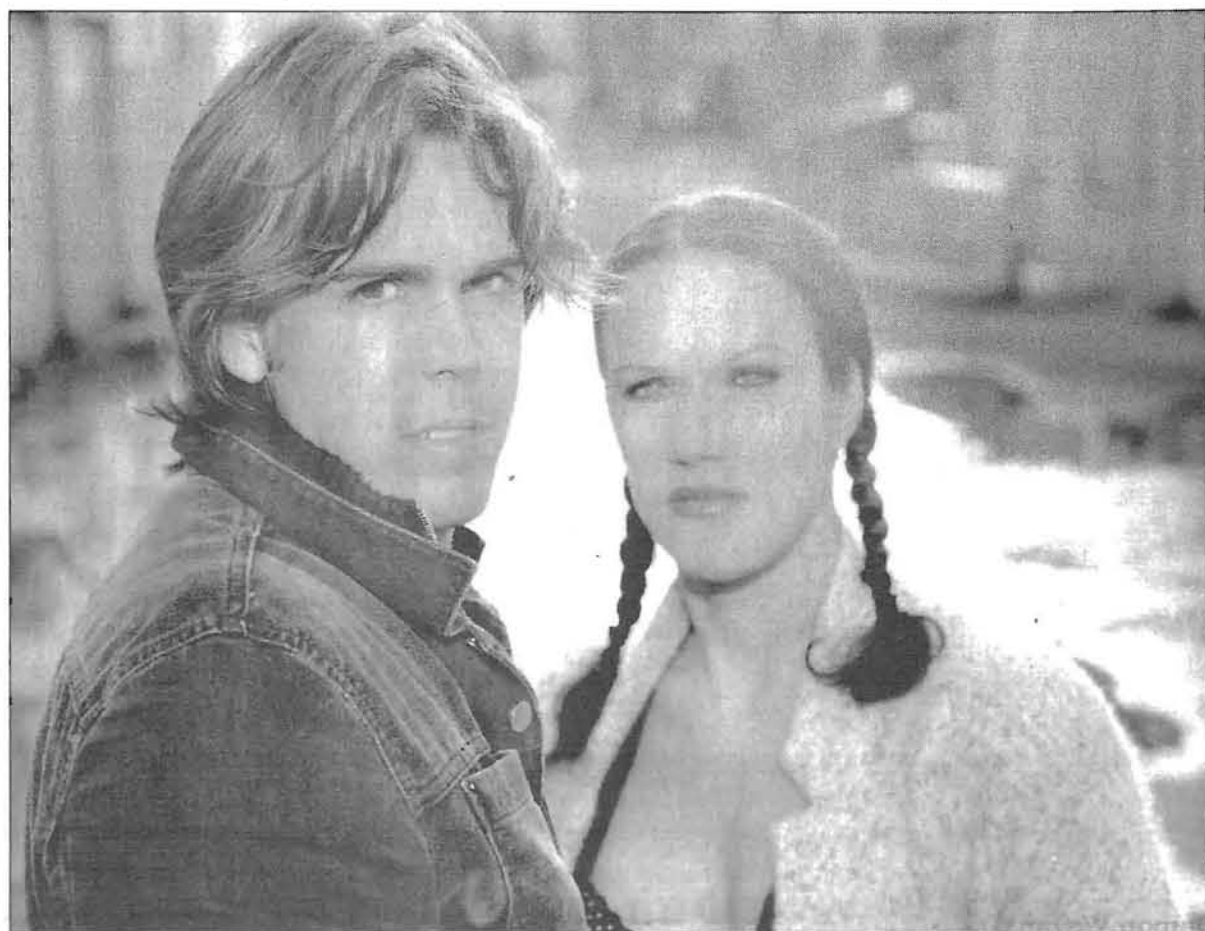
The duo is still wandering through their commencing stages but has already gained the attention of several big names in the business. This summer of '03, east mountain south traveled across the nation, opening for the soulful female artist Tracy Chapman. This only marks the beginning of what Maslich and Adams will form into a lasting career.

The essence of east mountain south's sound is reached only through the combined use of an upright piano, Indian banjos, fiddles and the classic sound of twelve-string acoustics. I would like to see the tracks last much

longer than their three to four minute duration, as the music seems to cut off after the last verse of words. The two are fair vocalists, but oddly enough travel along the same harmonic range. The combination of a male tenor and female alto would be more powerful with an opposition in tone.

A line that east mountain south is balancing on is one of a soft pop sound. Not to say that theirs is the sound of Celine but more comparable to the calming spirit of Sarah McLaughlin. What makes them teeter on the edge of something pop is the length of their songs in conjunction with their simplicity.

East mountain south's debut album is worth checking into. It holds quite immense sound, especially for a group still in its initial stages of production. The album has a laid-back feeling to it, along with an old-fashioned appeal. East mountain south has blended generations of American composition and created one Appalachian album with some great potential.



Kat Maslich and Peter Adams are setting out into the music industry with a unique sound.



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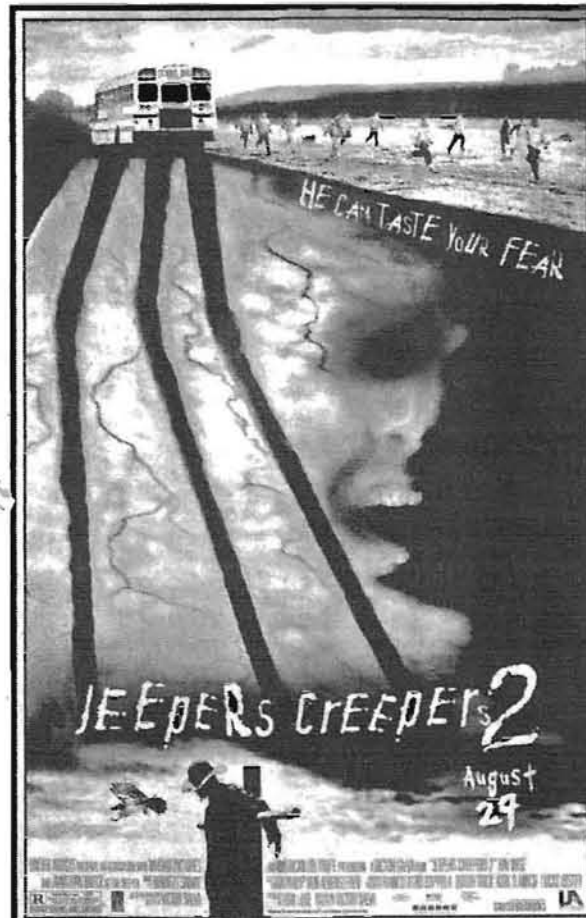
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# Students meet new men's b-ball coach, chancellor at Welcome Picnic



LEFT: Newly-hired men's basketball coach Chris Pilz introduces the players of his Rivermen squad. Pilz, a former basketball coach at Hazelwood high school, will fill the vacancy left by Mark Bernsen, who resigned in June.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

RIGHT: The Riverette Cheerleading squad performs before the students, faculty members and visitors in attendance at the Welcome Back Picnic.



Mike Sherwin/The Current



ABOVE: Incoming chancellor Thomas George came to take part in the Welcome Back Picnic, which kicks off Welcome Week events.

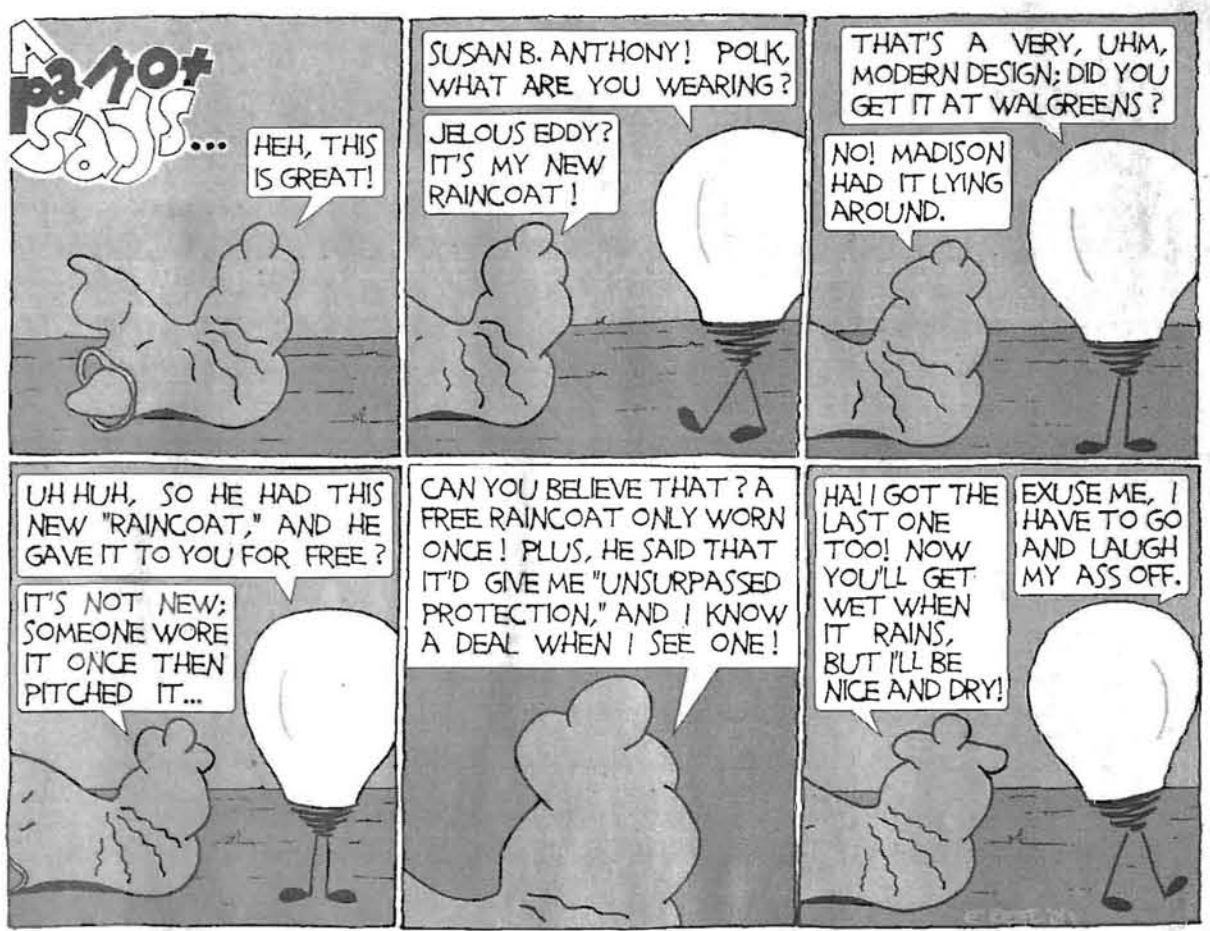
## ST. LOUIS SPORTS, from page 9

The Kiel Center also plays host to other teams and events, namely the St. Louis University Billikins basketball team. The Billikins play out of Conference USA, and annually host perennial powerhouses such as Cincinnati and Louisville. The Kiel Center also hosts other basketball events, such as the annual Missouri-Illinois border war and the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. On an almost yearly basis, the Kiel Center hosts two rounds of the NCAA basketball tournament.

The Edward Jones Dome, also in downtown St. Louis, is the home to "The Greatest Show On Turf," otherwise known as the high-flying St. Louis Rams. The Dome has hosted every Rams football game since Nov. 12, 1995, the day it opened its doors. The Dome has already gone through two name changes (starting out as the Trans World Dome, later renamed The Dome at America's Center before Edward Jones bought the naming rights) and has seen the Rams transform from a sub-.500 team to

Super Bowl Champions. After a down year in 2002, you can bet that the Rams will be ready to regain their place amongst the NFL's elite this season, making this the hottest ticket in town.

With all these options (and more), St. Louis is highly regarded as one of the nation's best sports cities, and is considered to have the best fans in the country. So whenever you need a break from studying, cruise on down to any one of these structures and forget your worries for a few hours.



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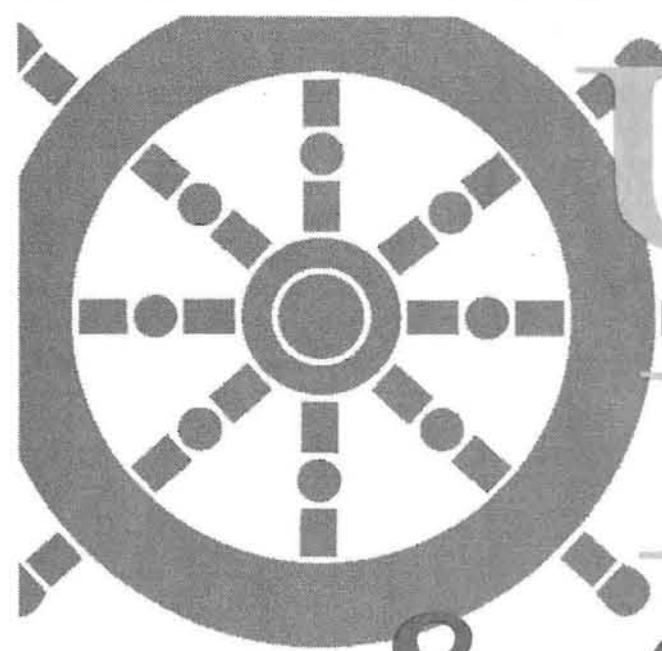
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