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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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April 5,
2004

ISSUE
1116

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



See page 10

Like a 2x4 to the head

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Curators approve 7.5% tuition increase

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

The Board of Curators voted unanimously on Thursday to increase tuition by 7.5 percent, effective in the summer sessions.

The BOC met on campus to hold their monthly meeting. Century Rooms A and B were packed solid with people who were awaiting the results of the vote, which came about two hours into the meeting.

The action item stated, "approve a 7.5 percent increase in resident undergraduate and graduate educational fees and a flat increase of \$14.60 and \$17.70 for undergraduate nonresident and graduate nonresident students effective 2004 summer session."

The item was discussed at the meeting by the BOC, as well as for a few months before the meeting.

After discussion, the item was approved with a vote of 6-1. "This means that the total base educational fee for fiscal year 2005 would be \$6,276 for a resident undergraduate, that compares to \$5,838 or \$448 per year increase for undergraduate students," Nikki Krawitz, vice president for finance and administration, said when describing the increase.

Revenue and expenditure assumptions to be used for fiscal year 2005 include no growth in state appropriations and a two percent increase in student enrollment system-wide. A .7 percent increase to the UM salary pool will also become effective.

Some of the board members commented that they do not want students to think that they did not take their concerns into consideration before making their decision. The increase is



University of Missouri Board of Curators member Anne Ream speaks to fellow Curators before a vote on a 7.5% tuition increase beginning with Summer 2004 classes. Ream said she felt lower income students would be most affected by the tuition increase. The BOC passed the increase 6-1. Ream abstained from the vote.

significantly lower than last year's increase.

"This board will undoubtedly be criticized, with some respect,

regarding this action," Sean McGinnis, BOC member said.

The main reason for the increase is that state appropriations are not

increasing. State appropriations are currently 13 percent lower than they were three years ago. In order to try and make up for this problem, the

main way to for the University to get more money is to increase tuition. One board member commented that the increase is really not enough, but all that they want to ask for.

Optometry students will have no change in their tuition. All out-of-state graduate students will have no more than a 3.2 percent increase. Some courses that charge supplemental fees, will also likely increase by 7.5 percent.

The BOC also mentioned that with the increasing tuition, it would be harder for low-income students to attend the University. Students continue to borrow more for their education every year. Fewer of the University's money has been used on undergraduate financial aid.

UM System President Elson Floyd spoke about the issue before it was voted on.

see CURATORS, page 3

Candidates announced for SGA elections

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

The candidates for Student Government Association president, vice president and comptroller for next year have been announced.

Applications were due on March 19. The date was moved by two weeks to allow more time for applicants. Elections will take place April 20 and 21. A debate sponsored by The Current will also take place within the next two weeks.

Running for president are: Kenyata Thacker, Charles Stadtlander and Scott Bopp. Kristy Runde is the current SGA president. She was put into office last summer after an executive committee decision.

Stadtlander is a junior majoring in public policy and administration. He has been involved in many activities at his former colleges including, Bossier Parish Community College and Florida Community College Jacksonville.

Bopp is a junior majoring in international business and management and plans to attend law school prior to graduation. Bopp served as SGA president at St. Louis Community College at Meramac. He is currently involved in the debate team, member of the Big Event committee, officer in the International Business Club and chief justice of the Student Court.

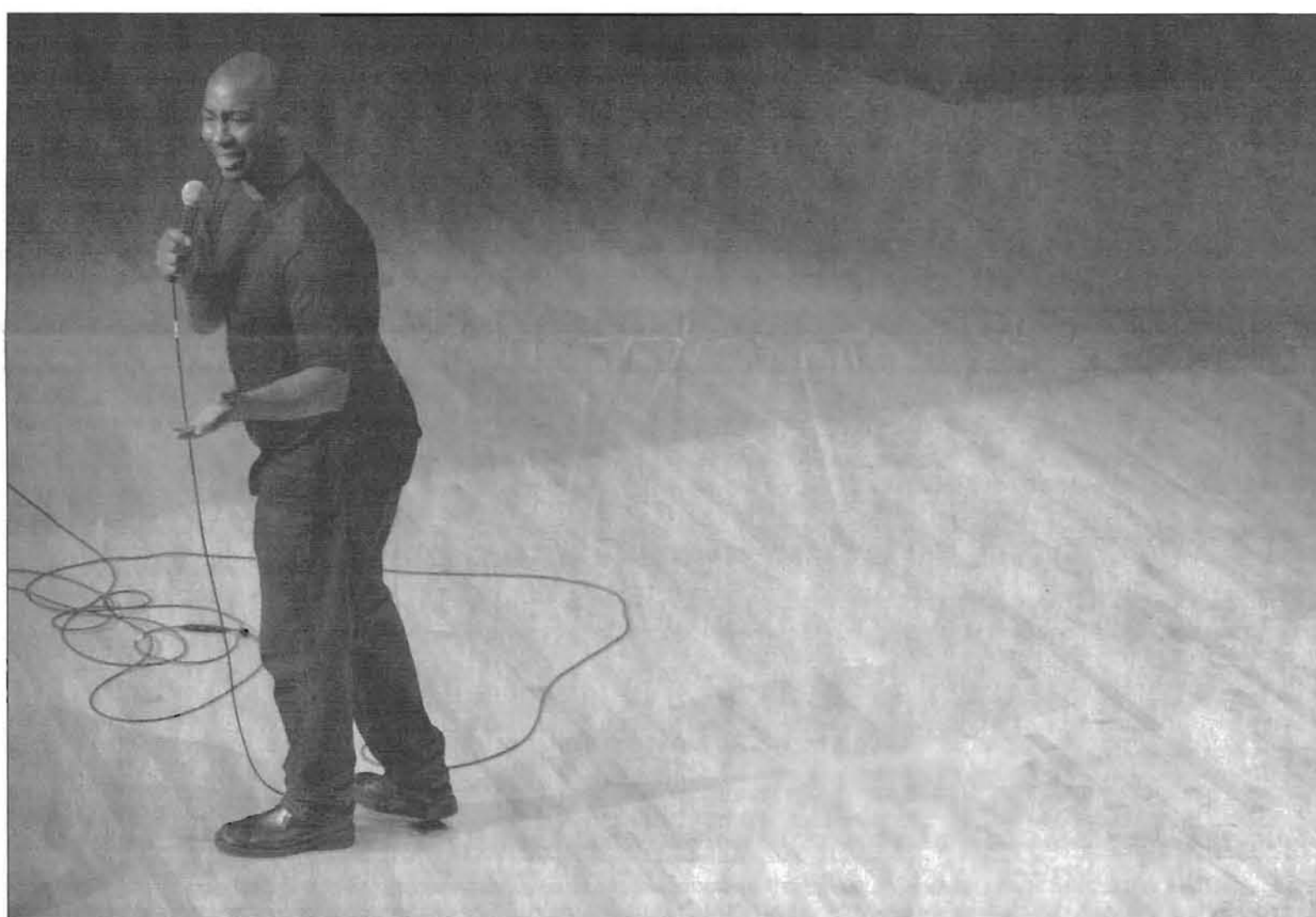
The candidates for vice president are: Erin Abraham and Melinda McNabb. Beth Grindstaff is serving as the current SGA vice president. Grindstaff was elected last September after the seat was vacant.

McNabb is a business management and marketing major, with a minor in criminal justice. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, where she is currently serving as president of the organization. McNabb was also a member of the 2004 homecoming committee.

There is one candidate running for comptroller: Aaron Golchert. Benny Suen is the current SGA comptroller. Golchert is a junior and 21 years old. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and was on the Student Activities Budget Committee in the spring of 2004. Golchert currently works at Vector Marketing, where he is a two-year veteran.

Further information on the candidates will follow in the next issue of The Current.

Comedy night lights up April Fool's Day



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Comedian Reggie McFadden performs at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Thursday during a "Comedy Showcase" which also featured Honest John and A.C. The event was emceed by Craig Black and D.J. Charlie Chanof Q95.5 FM. McFadden has appeared on Def Comedy Jam, and played guest roles on numerous television programs. The "Comedy Showcase," which was free for UM-St. Louis students, was sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians and the University Program Board.

New SGA election policies will be put to the test April 21-22

After a contested election last year, new policies prohibiting 'unethical conduct'

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

Jeff Griesemer, senior, biology, has overseen the retooling of the Student Government Association election rules and bylaws. The new guidelines, which had originally met some concern among students, were finally approved and set in motion by SGA. With elections around the corner, the rules will have their first real test.

There are some marked differences in comparison to the old election policy. For starters, all the candidates are now required to attend a meeting in which the rules will be fully explained.

"During that meeting, candidates

will have the opportunity to ask any questions they might have in order to ensure everyone is on the same page," Griesemer said.

The policy also sets out stringent rules concerning bribery. "Last year there were complaints and accusations of Adam Beumeler giving out cameras in exchange for support and votes," Griesemer said.

Additionally, the policy contains an open-ended rule against "unethical conduct" that will give the election committee more authority, in order to rebuke candidates who engage in any unethical campaign activities that do not break any rules on a technicality.

Though, there is some concern about the use of the word unethical. "How can it be fair unless there is

some standard definition of the term?" James Rawlings, senior, political science, said. "I don't think it should just be left up to the interpretation of each new election committee if there happens to be a complaint."

Now, candidates are not allowed to advertise endorsements unless an official form is filled out and signed by the endorser. For example, "Last year, flyers were seen with candidates claiming questionable endorsements from Chancellor Touhill, Nelly and George Bush," Griesemer said.

The new rules also lay out a well-defined procedure for hearing complaints. Students may remember from last year that Adam Schwadron, senior, political science, contested

the results from the SGA presidential elections. He claimed that Adam Beumeler, who won the vote, had done so by breaking the rules.

What followed was an extended period of confusion, as the challenge was passed around from person to person until the SGA executive

committee finally had to sort out the mess and render a final decision about the appeals.

This year there is a standing and active election committee for the first time in years.

The committee consists of: Martha DeBuhr, Mark Bacon, Jennifer Fowler and Travis Guzman. All decisions made by the election committee may be appealed to the Student Court.

“
Last year, flyers were seen with candidates claiming questionable endorsements from Chancellor Touhill, Nelly, and George Bush.
”

- Jeff Griesemer



Jeff Griesemer
SGA Elections committee

Residents of four Illinois counties pay in-state fees at UMSL

BY EUGENE CLARK
Staff Writer

In-state tuition helps many middle-class students attend college. With the outrageous prices of private colleges, state funded institutions make higher education more realistic for many families.

In-state tuition can often be cheaper than some of the private high schools in the St. Louis area. Unfortunately, in-state tuition only applies to the state in which one resides. This limits the college selection process for many families.

In order to be accepted for in-state tuition, many states require: a one-year residency in the state, completion of an application for in-state status and a student has to promise to make the state his or her permanent dwelling place. Some students can apply for this process by showing proof that they have received a driver's license or automobile registration from that state.

Some states, such as Virginia and North Carolina, give in-state tuition rates to military employees as long as they promise to stay in that state for an indefinite duration. UM-St. Louis showed that they are not a traditional university by breaking this chain and letting four Metro East counties pay in-state tuition to attend the University.

Students from St. Clair, Monroe, Jersey and Madison counties can sign up for classes and pay the same rates as any St. Louis area student. This helps students from Illinois who do not want to attend the University of Illinois or Illinois State University, have more choices when it comes to deciding on a university.

According to Brian Bange, admissions advisor at UM-St. Louis, a few other state funded universities are following this trend. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville also let's bordering states' students receive in-state fees. UM-Kansas City lets some students bordering Kansas receive in-state tuition.

This policy has nothing to do with test scores or grade point averages. Even less competitive Metro East students with average or slightly above average test scores will still receive in-state tuition.

"The University opens its doors to the Metro East counties because so many students come from that area anyway, and it helps to increase the student population," Bange said.

The policy of letting four Metro East counties pay in-state tuition helps UM-St. Louis increase their out-of-state student population and the amount of diversity at the school.

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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.umsi.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon 5 Scholar discusses dispute over Kashmir

Sumit Ganguly, Rabindranath Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures and Civilizations at Indiana University in Bloomington, will discuss "Conflict Unending: Indian-Pakistan Tensions Since 1947" at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C in the MSC. A reception will be held at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

5 Poetry group to read

The women's poetry workshop group, Loosely Identified, will read from and sign its new book, "Breathing Out: Poems by Loosely Identified" at 7:30 p.m. at Duff's Restaurant, 392 N. Euclid Ave. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$4 for group members, seniors, and UMSL students. The book is available for \$5 at the university bookstore and at <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/looselyidentified>. Call (314) 361-0522 for more information.

Tues 6 Lunch with Bosmans

The Bosman twins, Dwayne and Dwight, will perform a jazz concert along with Chancellor Thomas George in the Pilot House in the MSC from noon to 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to UMSL faculty, staff and students. Call 5291 for more information.

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsi.edu

Tues 6 (cont.) Open rehearsal for 'Cabaret'

An open rehearsal for "Cabaret" will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The rehearsal is free and open to the public. Following the rehearsal will be a short question-and-answer session with the director, production team, and cast. Call 4853 for more information.

Wed 7

UMSL Student, Alumni Dance Repertory

The Dept. of Theater, Dance and Media Arts at UMSL would like to announce and invite you to audition for the UMSL Student and Alumni Dance Repertory. The audition will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. All dancers are welcome. The audition will include across-the-floor progressions and a short movement combination. Dance attire is suggested. Shoes are not required. For more information, please contact Alicia Okouchi-Guy at 4852 or alicia@umsi.edu.

7 Musicians present free concert

A Composers' Concert will take place at noon in 205 Music Building. The composers are UMSL faculty members Barbara Harbach, Robert Ray and Paul Parthun. Performers include the

UMSL Concert Choir; Kurt Baldwin and Robert Meyer, members of the Arianna String Quartet; Katharine Lawton Brown, director of Premiere Performances at UMSL; Jeanine York-Garesche, lecturer in music at UMSL; Karen Parthun, assistant professor of music at UMSL; Ray; Harbach; and Vera Parkin. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 5980 for more information.

Thurs 8

"Rethinking Retention" Teleconference

The National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition will hold the national teleconference "Rethinking Retention" from noon to 3 p.m. in 222 J.C. Penney Building. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. Call 4508 for more information.

8

Graduate Research, Information Fair

The Graduate School will host the Graduate Research and Information Fair from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B and the third-floor rotunda of the MSC. Information will be available on doctoral and master's degrees and graduate certificates. Short sessions will be presented by the Office of Career Services. Century Room B will be dedicated to displays of current research by graduate students. RSVP to graduate@umsi.edu.

Fri 9

Sevenstar at Mississippi Nights

Sevenstar, a band made up of UMSL students, will play at Mississippi Nights with Happendings and Ghetto Prenup. Doors open at 7 p.m. and all ages are welcome. Admission is \$5. The first 50 people who arrive before 8:30 get in for \$3.

9

UMSL alumnus reads from his first novel

Novelist John Dalton will read from his first book, "Heaven Lake: A Novel," at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Gallery 210 in the Telecommunity Center. According to Publishers' Weekly, "Dalton revises conventional assumptions about contemporary China and collective cultural views of love and marriage." The reading is free and open to the public. Call 6845 for more info.

9

Lecture on capitalism in China

Hung-gay Fung, professor of business administration at UMSL, will discuss "A Rise of Capitalism in China" at 11 a.m. in 401 Social Sciences and Business Building. Fung will discuss the role of capitalism in China's economy, and how capitalism has changed the country's employment rate and market value. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 6374 for more info.

Sat 10

Foreign Language Aptitude Test

The Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures is now offering aptitude testing for those students interested in taking French or Spanish Intensive classes this Summer Semester 2004. Intensive Language offers students the opportunity to fulfill the foreign language requirement by completing 15 hours of course work. Students will learn basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at an accelerated pace. In order to be approved for registration in Intensive Language, students must pass a general language aptitude test that is administered by the department, and determines an individual's ability to recognize language sounds and forms and memorize them quickly. These skills are vital for success in the intensive languages courses. Courses tend to fill up quickly, so early testing is advised!

The next aptitude test is scheduled for today at 9:00 a.m. To register, call 6240 or stop by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Office located in 554 Clark Hall. You may also register via e-mail at <http://www.umsi.edu/divisions/artsci/ence/forlanglit>.

The Stagnant

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The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between March 27, 2004 and April 3, 2004. 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 preven-

tion is a community effort!

March 27-Property Damage-2800
Normandy Drive-Parking Lot PP
A windshield on a parked vehicle was broken.

March 30-Property
Damage/Theft-Benton Drive
Parking Lot
A window on a parked vehicle was

broken and a radar detector was stolen.

March 30-Attempted stealing-West
Drive near the Mark Twain
Building-Parking Lot N
A student discovered suspects inside of a friends vehicle trying to steal the stereo, and when the suspects saw him, the ran from the area.

March 31-Assault Third Degree-
Millennium Student Center

A student assaulted another student inside of the building and was subsequently caught and arrested by campus police. Charges of assault through the St. Louis County Prosecutor's office and possible further disciplinary action may follow.

NOTE

As a reminder, please keep your valuable secured, or in your possession at all times. Most of the thefts that occur on this campus are because the owners failed to properly safeguard their property. Please report all suspicious activity to the Police Department at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

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Urban education partnership works to improve education of today's youth

BY EUGENE CLARK
Staff Writer

At the Holmes Partnership Conference in San Diego, Calif., the St. Louis Regional Partnership for excellence in urban teacher preparation was recognized as one of the top three urban education partnerships in the United States.

This is quite an accomplishment, considering that over 85 partnerships nationwide were in consideration. The St. Louis Partnership received the "Kenneth Howey Award" for contributions to urban education.

Many educators in the St. Louis area represented the St. Louis Regional Partnership. Dean of the College of Education and a Holmes Partnership Charter member, Charles Shmitz, along with Lynn Beckwith, Kathleen Sullivan Brown, Carl Hoagland, Helen Sherman, Patricia Simmons, Sue Baber Turley, Cathy Vatterott and Don Driemeier represented UM-St. Louis.

The award stresses the importance of partnership in improving teachers and teacher education. The partnership calls for institutions of all ranks

including higher education, local school districts and local teacher organizations to come together and improve teacher recruitment and teacher retention in the urban school districts.

They also want to increase the amount of teachers certified in middle and secondary school math and science. The partnership also wants to promote diversity in local teachers.

For many years, Caucasian females have been teaching students about minority and color. With this partnership, more minorities will be teaching in urban school districts.

To do this, the Holmes Partnership, in conjunction with the St. Louis Regional Partnership, "really put their money where their mouth is," Kathleen Brown, College of Education professor, said.

This is shown by the "Teacher Workforce Replenishment" grant which provides \$1.8 million for three years. UM-St. Louis received two Urban Alliance Achievement awards totaling \$1.2 million. This grant will be used to extend technology in the K-12 schools of Metropolitan St. Louis.

At the conference, many voices are

represented; not only the deans of universities, but also teachers from middle and secondary schools. There is no rank according to education at these conferences; every voice has an equal say. Brown feels that the Holmes Partnership is "really committed to bringing under-represented minorities and placing them in leadership positions."

The St. Louis Regional Partnership includes many area teacher education schools, including Fontbonne University, Harris Stowe State College, Maryville University and St. Louis University. The partnership also extends across the river to include Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. With this collaboration, the partnership is trying to improve teacher and educational resources in the East St. Louis School District.

The Holmes Partnership and the St. Louis Regional Partnership for Excellence in Urban Education are very dedicated to improving urban schools. With financial support and many strong-willed leaders, the partnership is making a difference in the way today's youth learn and reflect on information.

SSI Committee examines student apathy, involvement on campus

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

A recent survey found that the My Gateway website and *The Current* are the most popular methods for students to learn about what is happening on campus. The study, conducted by the Student Special Interest Committee, set out to learn more about student involvement on campus.

The idea came about on last semester's leadership retreat. Aaron Costello, senior, marketing and management, struck up a conversation with Student Government Association Vice President Elizabeth Grindstaff and former SGA assembly Chair David Dodd.

"We were discussing the fact that the UMSL campus has a sense of apathy," Costello said.

The three agreed that it would be valuable to undertake research into why this is. After presenting the idea before SGA, a committee was formed to handle the task. Costello formed the committee and sought assistance from MOSAICS, a student organization from the sociology department. Their

president, Erin Abraham, junior, sociology, served as a liaison between the group and the committee.

A team effort ensued to devise a questionnaire that was distributed among students. The questions focused on what types of advertising for school events students noticed, as well as their level of campus involvement.

Surveys were distributed in random classrooms. Four hundred seventy-six were completed and turned in. From there, members of MOSAICS, notably Erin McLaughlin and Elizabeth Gavin, began the process of crunching all the numbers into data.

Results showed that about half of the students who completed the survey were not interested in being involved on campus outside of attending class. "They just want to get their education," Abraham said.

The information was also cross-listed to compare and contrast different trends in students who are not interested in more activities, with those who are already or seeking involvement.

The study found that students who are interested in extracurricular activities

spend most of their non-class time in the Millennium Student Center, whereas those who are not interested spend their time in the computer lab. This information will allow student organizations to get an idea of where and how they need to advertise their events.

The survey results were announced at an SGA meeting and can now be found online at the My Gateway website.

In addition, they discovered that "students felt the campus is not very inviting," Costello said. "They want easier ways to access information. They don't know about all the organizations."

SIC has now undertaken a project called "Rules of Student Engagement." Student organizations were asked to update their officer information and submit a 100-word-or-less description of their organization.

This information will be compiled and published in a booklet that will be distributed to incoming freshmen and transfer students during orientation tours. The group hopes it will spark a rise in student involvement.

Lankford named Missouri Higher Education Art Educator of the year

BY ANIINA VUORI
Staff Writer

Louis Lankford, Des Lee Foundation endowed professor for art education at UM-St. Louis, has been named Missouri Higher Education Art Educator of the Year. The award was presented on Feb. 28 during the Missouri Art Education Association's spring conference, which was held in St. Louis.

Lankford said he was astonished and delighted to receive the award, because he said that Missouri has a large number of dedicated art professors. A colleague at another Missouri university nominated Lankford for the award.

"The network is very active, and the association is one of [the] largest in art education in the country," he said.

The Missouri Art Education award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership, service and dedication to art education. Lankford also said he believes that the award was given to him partly because the art education he has been building up for a few years, finally started this academic year at our university, after a complicated approval process.

"We have about 10 art education majors at the moment, and I get up to six inquiries a week from interested students," Lankford said, and added that students who are interested in becoming art education majors can contact him either by calling 314-516-6752 or e-mailing lankford@umsl.edu.

Lankford said that he originally planned to become a commercial artist, but soon realized he would rather work with people, and complet-

ed an education certificate. He has been teaching for about 25 years, and says he would not change it for anything.

"I love working with art teachers; they are so dedicated in what they do," Lankford said. "To me, art teachers in public schools are the real heroes in art education; it's a very demanding job."

Lankford said he realizes he is only one man, and that is why he wants to be able to reach as many people as possible and teach them how to enrich other people's lives through art. Lankford gave an example from a workshop he had been teaching at the St. Louis Art Museum.

"We counted that the 40 art and music teachers there all together taught 10,000 students," Lankford said.

Lankford holds a joint appointment between UM-St. Louis' College of Education and department of art and art history. Lankford also serves on the educational staff of the St. Louis Art

Museum, and is the acting director of the Museum Studies Program at UM-St. Louis.

"I like my position at UMSL," Lankford said. "Working through the College of Education helps me touch people's lives, and the College of Fine Arts is equally interested in reaching to the community."

Adrienne Klapp is one of the new art education majors and Lankford's research assistant. "I'm very impressed by the art education program and specifically how Dr. Lankford has integrated the art aspects into the education program on the other side of the campus," Klapp said.

Lankford, who is from Arizona, plans to continue his work at UM-St. Louis.

"I find St. Louis a good place to live and work, and I still have many years to go before I retire," he said. Lankford said he hopes to enlarge the art education program to include master's studies in the future.

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CURATORS, from page 1



University of Missouri President Elson Floyd listens to comments from Board of Curators member Thomas E. Atkins during the Board of Curators' meeting at UM-St. Louis on Thursday afternoon. The Curators approved a 7.5% tuition increase which will begin with the Summer 2004 session.

Floyd's secretary also read off some resolutions that UM-Rolla submitted to the board regarding health care and tuition increases. UM-St. Louis also submitted a resolution against tuition hikes.

Much other information was discussed at the meeting. Chancellor Thomas George started off the meeting with some information about the

service mission. He had some people from the University speak on their experiences and programs that are offered on campus.

Lois Pierce, chair of the social work department, spoke, as well as Jeff Wherry, director of the Children's Advocacy Center. Two other people from the University also spoke on behalf of it.

An internal audit was also discussed. These occur all the time around the system. Recently, an audit was performed on the office of sponsored programs and research at UM-Kansas City and student fees of the UM System. More formal results will be released later.

The next BOC meeting will be on May 26 and 27 at UM-Kansas City.

Honoring trailblazers



Miriam Gutting, a board member with Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, was among the five women honored at the ninth annual Trailblazers awards ceremony held last month in the MSC. Stephanie Bell, Paula Perkins Bryant, Susan K. Feigenbaum, and Hazel L. Kohring were also honored. The annual event is held by the Office of Equal Opportunity.

2004
May
Commencement
at the MARK TWAIN
BUILDING



Commencement
Candidates
Attend the Grad Fair

April 6, 7, & 8, 2004
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

University Bookstore (MSC)
(purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.)

NO TICKETS REQUIRED

Web site: www.umsl.edu/commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- 10 A.M. - Evening College (BGS only)
 - Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies
 - UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
 - College of Fine Arts & Communication
 - UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
 - Gerontology Masters Program
 - Masters in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry (Held at the
Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center)

SUNDAY, MAY 16

2 P.M. - College of Education

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

Following each ceremony, there will be a reception for all graduates and their guests in the Grand Terrace Lobby of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

OUR OPINION

Not nap time yet

There are ways to avoid the dreaded spring slump

Congratulations! You've survived the first week following spring break. All those post-vacation assignments you put off for the duration have, by now, either been turned in or missed, so here's to the final push. We are here to offer you the support and sympathy you so rightly deserve.

First, a little advice: If this last week hasn't thoroughly roused you from your dreamy vacation state, snap out of it now. Oh, and stop whimpering. It's bringing the rest of us down as we survey our own frightful heaps of work-yet-to-be-done. This may sound a little harsh, as you are still mourning that extra hour lost to daylight savings time, but you haven't the luxury of delaying the inevitable any longer.

Here at *The Current*, we have explored a variety of tactics for conquering the post-spring break slump, all with a mind to your academic success, of course. Each has its own merits and pitfalls, and we thought you might benefit from our personal experience. For those of you considering your options (and no, rocking miserably to and fro beneath your desk does not qualify), here is a short list of our attempted approaches and the standard outcomes.

Return of the Rabid Student. Rather than being lulled into a lazy state, your vacation actually refreshed you. You have returned rejuvenated and with a desire to blaze through those unfinished assignments, catch up completely and make a stunning display of your final exams. To this end, you actually start taking legible notes again and attending your classes. You not only copy supplemental readings, but look at them. Your instructors finally realize that you are in still in their classes and did not, in fact, drop out at the beginning of the semester. This lasts about three weeks. You have to sleep and eat eventually. Though this approach may have worked at the start of the semester, when you were just keeping up, rather than catching up, the double work drains you. Once you have attained a level that ensures you won't actually fail, your efforts dwindle. Final outcome: You pass the class, but without fanfare, and though your instructors don't necessarily despise you, they give you that sad nod when they see you in

the halls.

The Juggling Firefighter. You return with a deep sense of dread and the awareness that assignments are coming due with frightening regularity. Like a child with a plump mallet, poised over that thump-the-gopher game at the fair, you do your best to focus on the next, most immediate crisis. You sort your course descriptions looking for final submission dates and scurry to finish the soonest first, ignoring others until you cannot any longer. In the case of

overlapping dates, you either work on them simultaneously, or sacrifice the least important. You become a perpetual motion machine, except for the times you finally pass out fitfully across your notes and dream of being avalanched and devoured by reams of term papers with one-inch margins and dense footnotes. Final outcome: You pass

most of your classes, except for that one that even an extension cannot save. Both you and your instructors are disgusted and exhausted by your spastic behavior.

The Crunch-Time Conqueror. Of course your break has left you refreshed, you have taken it easy all semester and don't intend to start panicking now. You take the confident stance that all will get done as it needs to, and you will wait until the end of April before entering a Zen-like cramming session that will allow you to pass your final exams. Keeping up with every class and assignment is for chumps who don't have more exciting activities to attend to in college. You coast along until just before finals, and then live off coffee and pizza, trying to stuff multiple subjects into your brain without them jumbling like a pot of spaghetti. A full-blown anxiety attack before your first exam leads to fervent pleadings with a higher power to get you through this week so that you may repent in following semesters. You try to remember that your answers for English classes are in words, while those for mathematics are supposed to be in numbers.

see STAFF ED, page 5



ERCEYD

The Issue

Almost every student can associate with post-spring break syndrome.

The effects: an overwhelming urge to slack off the last few weeks of the semester.

We suggest

There are many ways to avoid the funk of the post-spring break let-down. Return to your rabid student ways, get plenty of sleep, study (not cram, there is a difference) and, in general, do what you did before spring break.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website www.thecurrentonline.com

Current pride

Sometimes in this job, it is easier to feel like a father. Staff members do something wrong, they have to be "punished" or disciplined. Staff members flabbergast and impress. They are vital and can cause headaches. It is amazing how it works.

Like any father, though, there are moments of pride that cut through the clutter and bring on the smiles. That happened last Saturday night at the annual Missouri College Media Association awards banquet. While *The Current's* string of three straight number-one overall finishes in Division One ended (we picked up an honorable mention which is not too shabby, still better than Mizzou's *Maneater*), there were several moments of amazing accomplishments.

Our wonderful, intelligent advisor Judi Linville was named the 2004 MCMA advisor of the year. After guiding *The Current* staff through the Student Activities Budget Committee controversy last year, I felt she was more than deserving of the award. It is her second time winning the award, and I think she deserves it every year. Congratulations, Judi, we could not do this without you.

Right after that, our incredible photo director Mike Sherwin was chosen out of a field of seven as the photojournalist of the year. I have said it many times before: Mike is the single best photographer I have ever worked with, and I think the rest of the photo crew would agree with me. I am hugely proud of him, as is the rest of the staff. You are vital to the success of this newspaper, Mike. Oh yeah, Mike also won 4 awards Saturday. Not a bad night on the

whole. For those of you who have noticed an upgrade in our information graphics and layout in the last year and a half, there is one very important reason for that improvement. His name is Shannon Hoppe. This year, Shannon set a *Current* record by bringing home five individual awards. He received first, third and honorable mention in the information graphic category, third in the story illustration category and second in the special section category. Congrats, Shannon. I told you so.

Our illustrators also had big nights as well. Rudy Scoggins came in first in the entertainment cartoon division, and Elliott Reed finished second. Elliott also won second place for editorial cartoons. Well done, gentlemen. You add humor to our paper. Keep up the good work.

Catherine Marquis-Homeyer, our wonderful movie critic, placed third in the entertainment review category. I continue to believe that she is the best student movie reviewer in the state and she has yet another award to add to the eight billion she won last year.

Not to sound to egotistical, but I also won an award Saturday. I picked up an honorable mention for editorial writing.

I cannot express how proud I am of all the winners and of the entire *Current* staff. You guys are incredible. You do a huge amount of work for very little campus-wide recognition. You are true student leaders. You should be proud of yourselves. Nichole LeClair, Becky Rosner, Kate Drolet, Casey Schacher, Gretchen Moore, Mindaugas Adamonis, Rimante Ivoskate and so many others, be proud of the work you do.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Just a student

I haven't been a "joiner" since high school. Though, back then, I was involved with as many clubs, sports and activities as I could manage, since that time I haven't willingly joined anything—except for *The Current*, which could be reasonably placed under the heading "employment," if I cared to maintain my record.

It's not that I have willingly shunned extracurricular activities. I've just not had the luxury of time to pursue them. I have always squeezed in classes around regular employment. Now that I have finally attained a more flexible schedule, however, I find that I am not feeling any more inclined. I also find there is a certain amount of guilt involved, both from internal and external sources.

Our campus offers an amazing array of activities for those interested. And for those of us in graduate school, there is a near equal number of activities that we are "strongly encouraged" to attend. Overall, I believe this a good thing. Yet, personally, I have reached a point where my classes and other commitments are quite sufficiently challenging, thank you very much. This seems to shock more people than I would have expected.

In speaking with others, I have found some agreement. We appreciate the options, but are happy to remain, in effect, "just students." Our reasons vary. Some of us have family and work commitments, some find classes enough of a challenge, some are trying to simplify their lives, many just want to complete their degree without further impediments. Rather a lot of us identify with all of the above. We are okay with this, I promise. We do realize that our resumes will not be as

spiffy, our networking incomplete, our pod of college buddies less diverse. Yes, we are missing out on opportunities for personal growth. We have been informed, ad nauseam. Now, can everyone take their pom-poms, attend their pot-lunches and leave us be?

At some point this week, I found myself sweating over concocting yet another excuse for why I missed an activity. It seems I have plumb run out. Unless you have another activity on top of your usual academic responsibilities to plead, the idea that you just don't have time, or can't make time, rarely goes over well with some peers and advisors.

Against the wall as I was, I abruptly realized the ridiculousness of it all. I was making lame excuses, even to myself (specifically to that needling inner voice that kept telling me I wasn't being an active member of the "graduate community") when the truth was—I just didn't want to attend these events. Petulant-sounding, but true. I didn't want to go. Once acknowledged, this was followed by, why bother? After all, most of these events aren't mandatory...as long as you don't mind suffering the ire of people you see daily. Oh wait, that's why.

Now, don't misunderstand, there are events that shouldn't be missed regardless. I leave the deciding factor of which to individual conscience. Mine include all presentations given by people who have been kind enough to suffer my own, etc. Beyond that, I have personally decided to toughen my skin and let everyone else tsk-tsk away. I am here to offer my support to those of you who feel similarly. In fact, maybe we should start a club, attendance optional.



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Managing Editor

Editorial Board

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NICHOLE LECLAIR

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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference.

We edit letters for clarity 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). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What product would you most like to endorse?

What's your opinion?

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

- Avoiding the spring slump
- *Current* gets to gloat
- Just a student

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



Eric Guempel
Sophomore
Business Administration

Jaguar definitely, 'cus I love those German cars and I'll get a free one.



Katie Ward
Freshman
Undecided

I like Nike. Pretty much every single shoe I own is Nike anyway...



Cassidy Bloom
Freshman
Undecided

Adidas, because their shoes and apparel are really comfortable.



Brett Kaatman
Freshman
Physical Education

I'd have to say Viagra 'cus I have an ED problem and I'm only 19.

Gas prices reinforce need to find alternative fuels



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

With gas prices creeping and sometimes leaping up, maybe it is time to look at other energy sources. "Renewable energy" might conjure up images of solar panels of the 1970s and expectations of small returns of energy, yet a number of nations around the world have been working on these technologies since the oil crises of the '70s. There is more potential in diversifying energy than you might think. One can talk about conserving oil resources but looking for new sources of energy have to be part of the picture as well. New energy technologies have to evolve. Remember, the gasoline engine evolved to replace steam engines powered by timber or coal. Steam power competed with the new petroleum-based energy. There were steam engine cars but it was the newer gasoline engine that won out. But oil has always been a finite commodity and, no matter how you look at it, the end will have to come for oil.

STAFF ED, from page 4

Looking around for other energy sources now should be on everyone's mind. Great Britain, and other nations, are already moving forward to free themselves from ever scarcer and more expensive oil, even though Britain is already self-sufficient in oil. There are a number of options. Research continues on hydrogen power and other new technologies. However, a recently developed product might offer a cheap and easy solution to a portion of energy needs. Wind powered turbines are one source of unlimited, renewable energy, but a British company, SMD Hydrovision, has invented an under-sea turbine to harvest the power of the tides and convert it into electrical power. The technology has potential as a source for clean, environmentally friendly power. The turbines are simple, durable and fairly easy to install. In contrast to wind power, tides are much more reliable as energy sources since tides are always present and follow predictable patterns. Modern tidal turbines have been tried before but earlier models were large chains across estuaries that were visually unappealing. The new British Tidel system uses new smaller turbines chained to the seabed, turbines that flow with the tides, with no visual impact. The drifting underwater turbines move with the tides, flipping over when the direction of water flow changes so that their blades are constantly in the right direction for power generation. Tidal power, like wind power, is not a new concept but an old idea being revisited with new technology. Like Britain, Australia is also working on tidal power to supply needs for coastal areas. The predictability of tides, that twice-daily change in sea levels that occurs in response to the pull of the Moon's gravity on the Earth, makes them appealing as a limitless and dependable energy source. The only limit on tidal power is suitable coastline. Modern attempts to harness this power source have previously used methods similar to hydroelectric plants, except that the water flowed in two directions. The newer system avoids a big dam-like and permanent structure. The fixed structure faced a number of problems, including concerns about visually altered seascapes and resistance in coastal communities where the big structure would be placed. The chained water turbine offers a more flexible arrangement. A model of the system has been tested and the results were presented in March this year at the Oceanology International 2004 meeting in London. The research is being funded by the UK's Department of Trade and Industry, and is expected to combine with power from windmills. Britain is investing in new energy sources and is committed to energy independence, and is looking to supplement already planned banks of wind power turbines with the new tidal turbines. The company hopes to also obtain government funding for its development of full-scale models, which will eventually be marketed as commercial products. France, Great Britain, Australia and Canada are among the countries looking into tidal power to supply a portion of their energy needs. The greatest potential for this kind of power is for coastal areas, and the new power source could be particularly beneficial in remote areas.

You fall asleep in your last exam because the chest pains have left you delirious. Final outcome: You are put on academic probation and are glad for the second chance, and your college career becomes a semester longer than you would have liked. Slow and Steady Survivor. Please stop groaning. Yes, you knew we would wind up here, but the truth is often obvious and lacking in dramatic elements. No matter what your state and academic situation upon return from spring break, there is work to be done. Not letting yourself fall further behind is most important. Showing this effort may, in addition, facilitate your requests for further assistance from your instructors in the way of study hints and sessions, and extra credit assignments. If you are behind, find out what you need to catch up on, and add in this extra work in reasonable portions to your current work — mix well, and do not overcook the gray matter. Try not to completely neglect one project for another; at least do some ground work. You won't panic so readily later for having to start from scratch. And finally, get some rest and recreation. It leads to less weeping in the end. Final outcome: You may survive not only academically, but physically, mentally and emotionally. Let the end of semester countdown begin and the coffee flow.

The best album that you've never heard

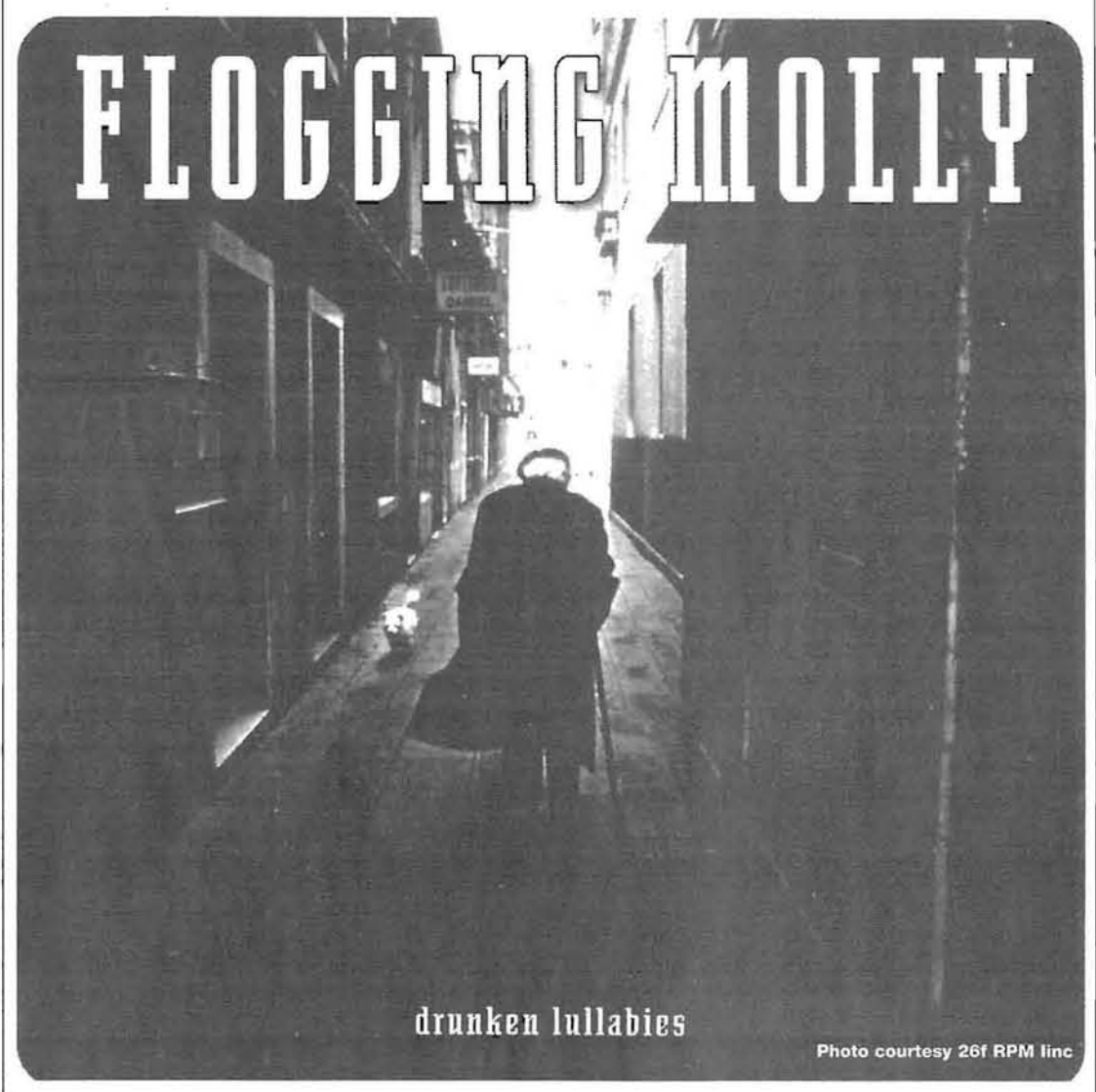
This week: Flogging Molly's 'Irish Lullabies'


BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Here is a phrase I never thought I would utter in my life: How about that Celtic punk music? Let me explain. Recently I purchased an incredible album with some incredible music: Flogging Molly's "Irish Lullabies." For the longest time, mostly from my buddy Pat Connelly, I had been hearing how great this band is. I'd heard that they were completely unorthodox, completely refreshing and something completely unique. I took the bait and man, was he right. This seven-piece band is somewhat misleading. They are equal parts folk, Celtic, alternative and punk. They combine into what I call alter-naceltifolunk. A mouthful, no doubt, but apt, I think. Flogging Molly combines banjos with electric guitars, violins with pounding drums, mandolins with driving bass. It all comes together with a collection of great songs. What is really amazing about Molly, as I will call them from here on, is they also swagger through their patriotism (they are Irish) with amazing lyrics, lyrics that are simultaneously touching and angry, heart-felt and inciting, powerful and timid. In short, they are very similar, lyrically, to the styling of another Irishman, U2's Bono. The entire album is fantastic, but

for the first time, this column will focus on one song. That song is "What's Left of the Flag." It starts deceptively. With a single fiddle playing in the beginning, lead singer Dave King starts the song off with, "His eyes they closed and his last breath spoke/He had seen all to be seen/A life once full/Now an empty vase/Wilt the blossoms on his early grave/Walk away me boy/Walk away me boy/And by morning you'll be free/Wipe away that golden tear/From your mother dear/And raise what's left of the flag for me." Then the song changes radically. King sings, "Then the rosary beads/Count them one, two, three..." and at each number, a bass drum is pounded and King quickens the pace. Also introduced is an electric guitar as a strum of Gibson reverberates through the track. Here the words also get truly amazing. "Then the rosary beads/Count them one, two, three/Fell apart as they hit the floor/In our garb of black/We must pay respect/To the color we're born to mourn." It sounds angry here, sure, but that is really just the beginning. Tip of the iceberg, as some might say. For, shortly after finishing the chorus ("raise what's left of the flag for me"), comes a line of such incredible and forceful anger that the listener is almost taken aback by the pure rage of the line. "In his place there grew/An angry festered wound/Filled with hatred and


remorse/Where I'd pick and scratch/Till the blood it matched/The silent rage now that fills my lungs/For there are many ways to kill a man they say/With bayonet, axe, or sword/But son a bullet fired from a shapeless guise/Leaves but the shell of a Thomson gun." Okay now, take a deep breath because that is a powerful line to read (in case you had not noticed, the members of Molly are not big fans of the Brits), because it gets ever more powerful. When listening to these lyrics, hearing the way the music is played, it is plainly clear that these are no line joiners, these are not followers. These are men and women who fought the cause on the front lines. These are the folks who watched people die. "But no angel flies with me tonight/Till freedom reigns on all/And curse the name for which we slaved our days/Till every man shall his kingdom come/But sure as night turns day/Ends the passion play/Oh my God what have they done/With mad-man's rage/Well they dug our graves/But the dead rise again you fools." Finally, after that whirlwind, the song slows down to match the pace of the beginning ("walk away me boys/walk away me boys"), and speeds up for the final line: "And raise what's left of the flag for me." All I can say is, if you have the means of acquiring this album, do so.




Hey 

Don't just sit there and do nothing.

GET OFF YOUR BUTT AND BE A



Work for The Current, you



What do the readers think: Results from the weekly web poll:

Does The Current suck in comparison to The Stagnant?

Hell yeah! 98% (980votes)

No, The Current rocks...ass 1% (10 votes)

No, but they should be punished .5% (5 votes)

Arthur .5% (5 votes)

Results via your ass or a hole in the ground.

*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling, so really, we stack the deck. We are mean.

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Cycling club takes riding to new level

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

UM-St. Louis is home to over 100 different clubs, student organizations and interest groups. All of the clubs focus on different skills and purposes such as writing, singing, community service, counseling and prayer. One of the newest clubs, the UM-St. Louis Cycling Club, focuses on a fast-growing sport.

The Cycling Club allows students, faculty and staff members who share a love for bicycle riding to expand their interest and participate in different bicycle events.

Coordinator for Recreational Riders Jenny Heinz, junior, graphic design, described some of the different activities that the group hosts.

"We do rides for fun and fitness in places around town, such as Forest Park, Creve Coeur Park and the Katy Trail in St. Charles," Heinz said.

The Cycling Club is broken down into four different sections, including the Mountain Bikers, Racers, Recreational Riders and Commuters. These categories give people a chance to take part in a variety of experiences and focus on the different techniques of bicycle riding.

Members of each section are able to plan their own events, trips and competitions. Some of the competitions that the mountain bikers and racers can compete in are the NCCA

and the NORBA, national cycling events.

Past Racer events include the Route 66 Ramble in Rolla, Mo., the Mesa Mojo Greensfelder Grind in Greensfelder Park, the Walt's Bike Shops Columbia Cruncher in Cosmo Park in Columbia, Mo. and the Maplewood Cycles Castlewood Series Final.

The UM-St. Louis Cycling Club also founded a group forum on Yahoo in April of 2003. The forum lets members post their comments and concerns, find out about last-minute rides and events and keep in touch with one another. The cycling club home page also gives people links to numerous bike stores around St. Louis.

The Cycling Club's online forum currently has 26 members.

"Since most people have busy schedules, we do not have regular meetings, but communicate through email to arrange riding times and dates," Heinz said.

Anyone can join this club. The main requirements to become a member include an interest in cycling and an energetic and sportsmanlike attitude. Members do not have to be the best bicycle athletes to have fun with the club.

Becoming a member is not a complicated process. A person can visit the Bike UMSL Homepage to view pictures and find out more information. The website gives a list of all the club coordinators. Those wishing to join can email coordinators or sign up for the "bikeums" Yahoo Group.



Photos courtesy Andres Puente

ABOVE and RIGHT:

Brian Fox, a UM-St. Louis student who is currently in Iraq, rides his mountain bike over rough terrain. The UM-St. Louis Cycling Club organizes riding trips for cycling enthusiasts. Member Jenny Heinz, junior, graphic design, said that rides are often organized for non-mountain-bikers on paved paths in places such as Forest Park or the Katy Trail in St. Charles.



Role playing...



Michael Pelikan/ The Current

Tyler Cross, a.k.a. "Siren" performs at the Ms. RHA Pageant held Friday night in the Pilot House. The annual pageant, held by RHA and the Anthropology Club, features men dressed as women. "Siren" was last year's Ms. RHA Pageant winner.

Students scramble to complete tax returns by April 15 deadline

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

As April 15 approaches quickly, many students scramble to complete their tax returns before the Internal Revenue Service's annual deadline. Some students choose to delay the conquest of the alphabet soup of acronyms and form numbers, while other students have already received their refunds just in time to spend on spring break vacations.

Andy Shelton, senior, criminal justice, had his taxes prepared by a certified public accountant. "It's not like I make a whole lot of money," said Shelton, who, like many students, considers college a full-time job. "I only got \$380 back."

A refund occurs when more taxes are removed from an employee's paycheck than required, assuming the employee is not claimed as a dependent on another income tax return. Typically, students will receive all of their paid taxes in the form of a refund.

Michele Pierson, junior, communication, works at Curves for Women. "I got more money back this year than ever before, but I don't know why," said Pierson. "My mom takes them to an accountant and he takes care of everything."

There are several ways a student can receive a larger-than-average refund. First, according to the IRS, the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit can be used to reimburse up to \$1,500 of

tuition and other expenses during the first two years of undergraduate education. A student may claim the tax credit if filing as an independent, or the parents or guardians may claim the credit if the student is a dependent.

Second, the IRS has instituted the Lifelong Learning Tax Credit to assist students beyond their second

“
There are several ways a student can receive a larger-than-average refund.
”

year of undergraduate education, refunding up to \$1,000 for educational expenses, not including books or housing. Similar to Hope, both students and families are eligible for the Lifelong Learning credit. Both tax credits require that individuals make no more than \$40,000 per year or \$80,000 per household.

Students may use a 1098-T to determine eligible tuition payments for tax credits. The 1098-T is a form provided by the University directly

to the student, regardless of whether the student is a dependent or independent taxpayer. An independent tax filer must be at least 18 years old and receive the majority of his or her income from a source other than parents. Parents may claim dependent students who live at home or at college, as long as the parents provide a majority of the student's income.

Several web sites provide advanced tax tutorials for students and even free do-it-yourself filing software. These websites, such as HRBlock.com and TaxActOnline.com, will even file returns electronically and save them for future reference. Students may find this easy access especially helpful when applying for financial aid, because students are required to prove their income.

Still other students opt to pay a friend or accountant to complete their tax refund, especially if the student has complicated tax issues, such as multiple W-2s, or many interest-bearing investments.

Delores Galati, office manager for H&R Block of St. Ann, said students are always welcome to bring their business to her.

"Normally, student tax returns aren't very complicated," said Galati. "We usually welcome students. Just make sure they bring their 1098s." Galati's office is located on 10517 St. Charles Rock Rd.

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Hidden gems among a fast-food frenzy

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

When searching for a nice meal out, many students head for the highway. Here are a few dining establishments in the neighborhood that UM-St. Louis students can visit without a long drive.

The first of several hidden restaurants is Spiro's, located at 8406 Natural Bridge, just before the University on the right-hand side. This quiet Greek restaurant offers a quality dining experience near campus.

"Spiro's looks appealing but I never have time to go in," said Tony Germanceri, senior, MIS.

Spiro's is known for its saganaki, or flaming cheese, and its reasonably priced entrees. Most nights Spiro himself is in the kitchen cooking, and the authentic Greek cuisine costs about \$15 per person. Spiro's has two other locations in Creve Coeur and Crestwood.

Just a few doors down from Spiro's is the Breakaway Café. This restaurant's unique architecture and friendly service makes diners feel like they are in a small southern town. The Breakaway Café offers American favorites such as pizza, sandwiches, pastas and homemade pies.

'Sex in Advertising' begins series of lectures by Savan

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

On March 17, Sid Savan delivered an hour-long presentation filled with humor, personal experiences and information as he delivered his first of a three-lecture series.

The lecture, titled "Sex in Advertising: Does it really sell? Is it worth it?" discussed methods used in ad campaigns, namely sex.

The lecture started out with Savan making the audience a little more comfortable by singing a song.

"I'm going to introduce my speech with a song," Savan said. "I have an award-winning singing voice. When I was three years old in Springfield, I sang in a contest and won first place. I was awarded the top prize, which was fifty cents."

Savan began his presentation by stating that from the advertising industry's beginning, but women were the target of sex ads, not men.

"Ads that carry the sexiest ads are in women's magazines," Savan said. "You would think that sex is most effective tool in advertising, but it actually is not."

He continued the discussion, touching on how sex in advertise-

ments has progressively gotten more revealing throughout the ages. In the 1800s, ads used heads of pretty women. Later on in the 1850s, some advertisers started using bodies of women. In the nineteenth century, circuses used women in tights in their posters. After World War I, ankles were being shown in advertisements, as the women pictured lifted their dresses just above the foot.

While Savan gave the historical background on how advertisements

have gotten more risqué, he showed slides that reflected the times he was talking about. His wife Barbara changed the slides in and out as Savan moved through his presentation, and the slides themselves showed pretty women's faces, women in sexy clothes, and women showing off bare parts of their bodies.

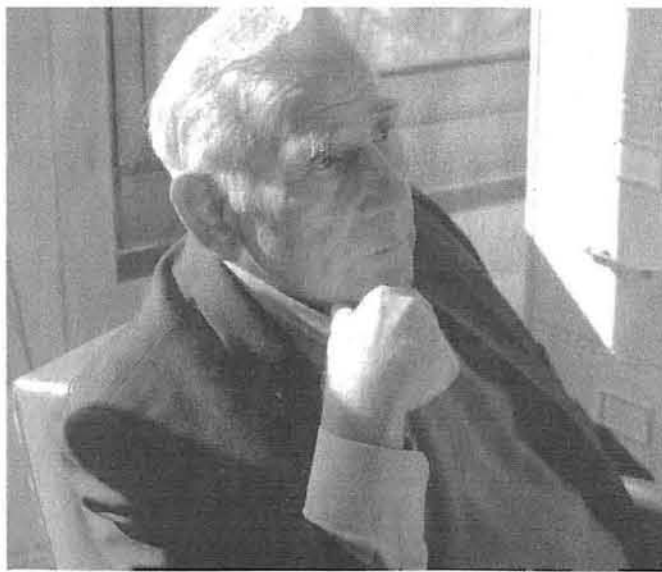
Ads did not show too much nudity, Savan said, because nobody in the advertising field is going to make ads sexier than they are already.

"Advertising is at least two steps behind every other art when it comes to sex," Savan said.

He explained that ads with revealing depictions do not work because men remember the nearly nude woman and forget about the product.

Savan concluded his lecture by emphasizing that ads are only truly successful if consumers remember the product.

Ken Kase, senior, communication, agreed with some of the things Savan



Sid Savan, lecturer in communication

lectured about, drawing from his own personal memory.

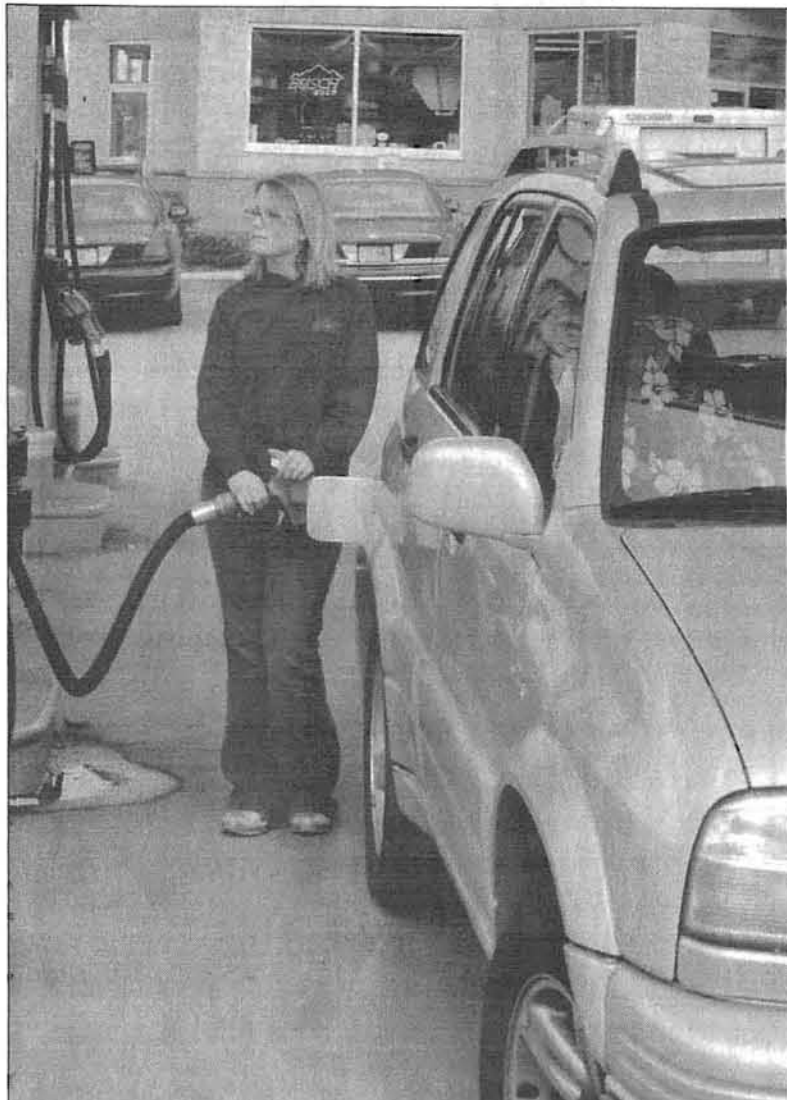
"I tend to agree with Sid," he said. "You remember the pretty girl, but you don't remember what their [ad] is selling...I remember seeing sex ads but I don't remember what they were selling."

Alice Hall, assistant professor of communication, also agreed with what Savan had to say about sex in advertisement.

"He made some good points. Although [sex] is a technique that has been used extensively [in advertising], there is no proof of it working," she said. Hall said that this lecture series is important to UM-St. Louis because "This allows us one more opportunity to get to hear about [Sid's] experiences. He taught about them for a long time."

Savan's next lecture, "Debunking Advertising Myths," will take place on Wednesday, April 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the SGA Chambers, located in the Millennium Student Center. The lecture answers questions about subliminal advertising, including: Does subliminal advertising make people more materialistic? Does it cause consumers to buy something they do not want? Does subliminal advertising work?

Gas prices have drivers scratching heads, opening wallets



Photos by Jesse Gater/ The Current
Tori Heinemann, senior, business, fills up her car with gasoline at the BP on New Florissant Road. Heinemann expressed the frustration of many drivers, saying, "Gas prices are an outrage."

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

"I'll tell you what, if gas prices keep going up like they are now, Dick Cheney and George Bush are going to have to carpool to work," said John Kerry, presidential candidate and Mass. senator.

According to CNN.com, the average gas price across the United States is \$1.77 per gallon, including mid- and high-grade fuels. All across St. Louis, the effects of high fuel prices can be seen, such as the popularity of the MetroLink.

Janiece Burden, junior, communication, lives on Scott Air Force Base and rides the MetroLink to campus daily.

"I would spend so much money on gas if I drove to campus, not to mention parking fees," said Burden. "I just don't understand what makes gas prices so high."

Like Burden, many students do not understand what factors cause skyrocketing gas prices. According to the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, Americans guzzle 115 billion gallons of fuel per day. At the current price average, that is \$203 billion per day spent on gasoline.

The United States Department of Energy says that the United States relies on about 40 percent of its crude oil from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The countries in the OPEC alliance include Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab



Even though the gas prices at the QuikTrip on New Halls Ferry Rd. are nearly \$2.00 per gallon for premium unleaded, it still remain full of patrons.

Emirates and Venezuela.

When OPEC reduces crude oil production, the prices are affected by a simple supply-and-demand economic principle. The cost per barrel and per gallon goes up, affecting refineries, individual gas stations and consumers.

The price tag on a gallon of gas can be broken down to pay for the different aspects of the gasoline process. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, only 43 percent of the gas price goes to pay for the actual product. The remaining 57 percent covers taxes (13 percent), refining costs and profit margins (31 percent) and marketing and distribution (13 percent).

A typical gas station's markup is anywhere from two to ten cents, but the federal government prohibits price gouging and protects the customer from paying unrealistic station markups. Competition also plays a factor in how much a gas station is willing to tack on to the cost of a gallon of gas.

Jay Kanterman, junior, marketing, said he is not happy about putting about \$30 worth of gas in his car every week. "I'm just really glad I don't live somewhere gas is really expensive," he said.

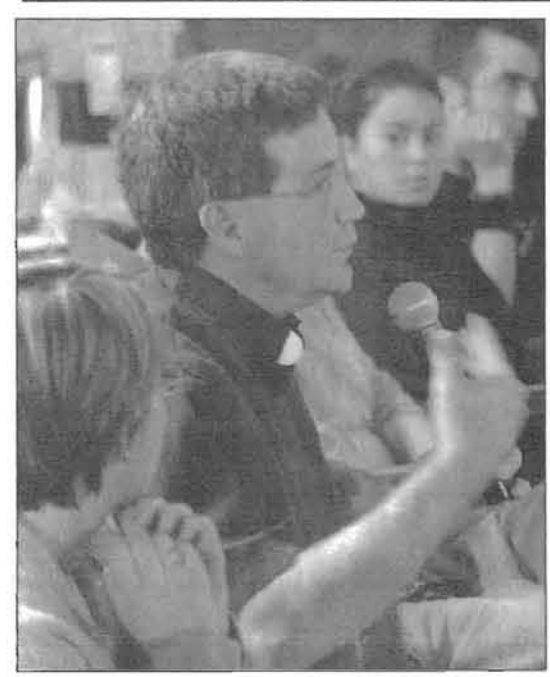
Countries like Great Britain, which suffer from enormously disproportionate taxes, have not seen a gallon of gas for fewer than \$2 in over a decade. In September of 2000, London drivers saw prices skyrocket to over \$5 per gallon.

Another factor that affects the price at the pump is location. The Midwest is notorious for its outrageous gas prices that cost far above the national average. One reason for this inconsis-

tency is the transportation cost for travel to Midwest from most refineries, which are located near the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, most Midwest states have legally incorporated as much as 10 percent of ethanol, an expensive corn by-product, into their gasoline.

Importing crude oil to refineries in the United States causes a huge price increase. Consumers in or near OPEC alliance countries enjoy significantly lower gas prices. However, those countries typically have fewer cars, which cause a decrease in the demand. While the United States has established oil reserves in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico, the federal government's policy has always been to save the reserves, which would last U.S. consumers about 60 days during a total oil crisis.

Discussing "The Passions..."



Photos by Casey Ulrich/ The Current

ABOVE:
A panel discussion on the movie, "The Passion Of Christ", was held in The Pilot House. The discussion was led by Rabbi Gershon Litt, director of outreach at Aish Hatorah, Dr. Jay Sklari, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary, and Dr. Mike McClymond, Professor of Theology at SLU. The panel discussed issues concerning the movie and answered questions from members of the audience. The event was sponsored by the Interfaith Campus Ministries.

LEFT:
Father Bill Kempf, Director of the Catholic Newman House, questions panelist Rabbi Gershon Litt, Dr. Jay Sklari, and Dr. Mike McClymond about their views of the movie "The Passion Of Christ". The discussion of the Passion was held in the Pilot House. Each member of the panel gave a brief opinion of the movie and then answered questions from the audience concerning the movie.

RESTAURANTS, from page 6

Most selections run between \$7 and \$11.

For a cheap, late-night meal with friends, head toward highway 70 to the Waffle House or Denny's. Both restaurants are open 24 hours a day and cater to a large number of cravings. Denny's has a longer menu and is slightly cleaner. What Waffle House lacks in aesthetics, it makes up for with quick and friendly servers.

About four miles past UM-St. Louis, on the left hand side, is Reynold's Hickory Smoked Barbecue. The building that houses this old-fashioned barbecue restaurant used to be a Steak 'n' Shake before the owner of Reynold's bought it in 1983. Their take-out menu claims Reynold's still slowly cooks all their meats using hickory wood and a smoker oven.

Finally, for a mix between a fast-food and sit-down restaurant, visit Big Chop Suey, located in the Bel-Acres shopping plaza. This rarely visited Chinese place may look run-down, but offers large quantities of Asian food at low prices. Most entrees cost from \$3 to \$7.

"Sometimes I think about going to one of the restaurants around school, but it always seems easier to grab some fast food," said Josh Pinkowski, senior, communication.

For a cheap night out without going near the highway, the area surrounding UM-St. Louis has a variety of choices.

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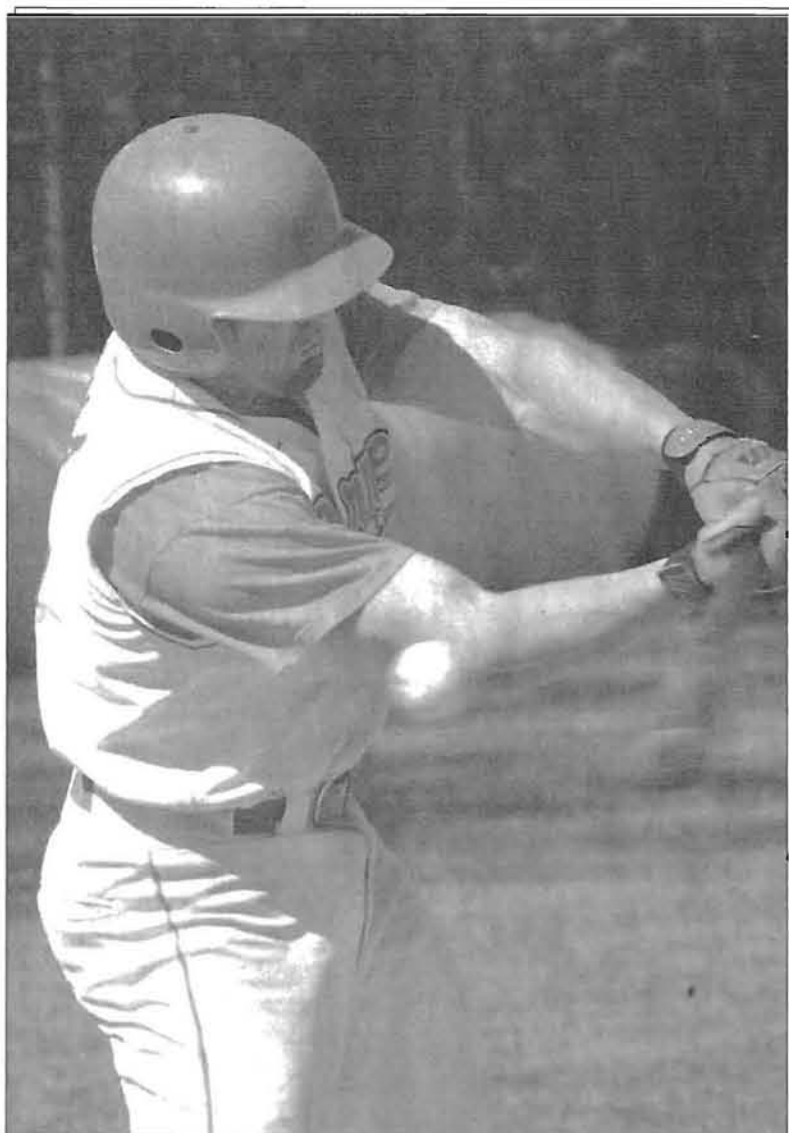
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R-men split another doubleheader at SIU-E

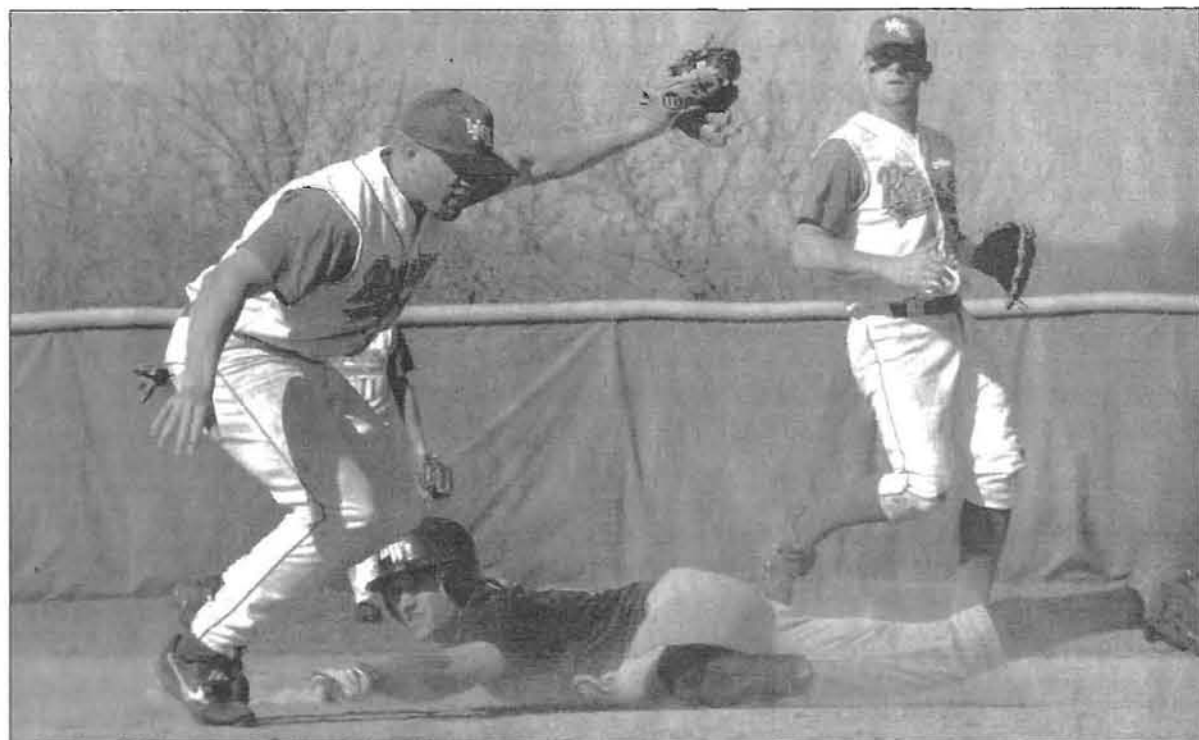
BY CAMPBELL MCLAURIN
Staff Writer



ABOVE: Tony Grana swings and misses for a strike-out during the second game of a double-header on Sunday. The Rivermen lost the first 4-2, and won the second 16-15 in thirteen innings.

RIGHT:

Rivermen second baseman Tony Grana tags out a Kentucky Wesleyan player during the sixth inning of the second game of a double-header Sunday afternoon.



two first-inning runs in the entire game.

UM-St. Louis would not get on the scoreboard until the fourth inning when an onslaught of offensive firepower would provide all four runs needed to win the game. RBI hits from Doug Wiles, Scott Miller and Colby Hughes were enough to finish the job for the Rivermen. Hughes would also later pick up his fourth save of the season, closing out the game at pitcher for UM-St. Louis.

The second game of the day would prove to fall right in line with the story of the Rivermen's season thus far. As has happened in five doubleheaders on the year, UM-St. Louis was only able to take one of two games from their opponent.

The Rivermen would again get some solid pitching from their staff, but it was their bats that let them down in this match-up. The game turned into a

defensive contest, marked by solid pitching and leaving little opportunities for either team to score runs. Starting pitcher Steven McCoy would receive the loss on the day for the Rivermen after allowing only two runs in a little over six innings of work.

UM-St. Louis's only run in the game came in the top of the first inning as Josh Morgan reached home plate on a fielder's choice. The Rivermen would not be able to step across the plate again in this tight pitcher's duel. SIU-Edwardsville was able to pick up a single run in the bottom of the third and fourth innings to win the game.

The split with SIU-Edwardsville leaves UM-St. Louis with a 12-15-1 overall record on the year and a 7-7 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Rivermen's next match-up will again come against SIU-Edwardsville at home on Thursday April 7.

R-women softball splits double-header against Indianapolis, including a shutout victory

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis softball team split a GLVC conference doubleheader with Indianapolis on Saturday, March 27, dropping the first game to the Greyhounds 2-1 and coming right back to win the second game 8-0.

In the first game, Indianapolis was on the board in the first inning when they got a two-out triple and later eventually scored on a wild pitch for the 1-0 lead. The Riverwomen would later tie the game in the bottom of the fourth on an RBI single by freshman infielder Corie Jones that scored junior outfielder Kristen Economon to make it a 1-1 game.

The Greyhounds hung tough and pushed to score the go-ahead run in the sixth inning on an RBI double for the 2-1 victory. Emily Wagoner, freshman pitcher, took the loss for UM-St. Louis, going 7 innings and giving up two runs on four hits while striking out six.

Molly Buyat, freshman, commented on the first of the two games.

"We started off the game slow and did not come out ready to play. If we would have done better to start the game, I am confident that we would have done a lot better," Buyat said.

A quick start was exactly what the Riverwomen put together in the second game as their scoring took a turn for the better and the Riverwomen easily won 8-0. The Riverwomen got one run in the first inning on a sacrifice fly by freshman catch Lisa Nuekirch. UM-St. Louis then got five more runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it 6-0.

In the sixth, the Riverwomen

added to that lead as junior Kim Kulaitis hit a shot down the left field line and came all the way around to score for a two-run inside the park homer, finishing off an offensive explosion that helped the Riverwomen cruise to an 8-0 win. Economon and Shauna Wilson each had three hits on the day for the Riverwomen.

“Our work finally paid off on Sunday and we came out with the sweep. Our coach was proud of us; hopefully we can carry the momentum into the next few games.”

— Molly Buyat, freshman, infielder

After a tough split on Saturday, the Riverwomen softball team came out of the gates sprinting and swept a GLVC conference doubleheader from Saint Joseph's on Sunday afternoon, winning the first game 2-0 and then cruising through the second game 7-1.

Freshman pitcher Wagoner led the Riverwomen to the win in the opener, pitching a complete game shutout to improve her record to 5-6 on the season. Wagoner held the Pumas hitless in the first four innings of the game, and struck out two in seven innings

for the win. The Riverwomen opened the game up in the third inning as freshman outfielder Megan Alberts blasted a triple to right center and later scored in the inning on an RBI single by junior infielder Wilson.

UM-St. Louis would later add an insurance run in the fourth inning for a 2-0 lead, which was more than they needed for the victory.

In the second game, Saint Joseph's jumped to the early lead as they scored a single run in the top of the first inning, but the Riverwomen proved that they were not to be defeated as they came right back with four runs of their own in the bottom half of the first inning. Savanna Adams, senior, infielder, scored the first run on a throwing error and Kulaitis brought home the next run with an RBI single. Kulaitis would later score on a triple by Jones. Jones then scored on a sacrifice bunt for the 4-1 lead after only one inning of play.

The Riverwomen would go on to add single runs in the second, third and fourth innings. Sophomore pitcher Casey Moran picked up her second straight win at home, improving her record to 4-4 on the season after going seven innings and giving up only one run on six hits.

Freshman infielder Buyat also commented on the series sweep.

"Our hard work finally paid off on Sunday and we came out with the sweep. Our coach was proud of us; hopefully we can carry the momentum into the next few games," Buyat said.

Come out and support the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen softball team as they take on Lindenwood University in a doubleheader on April 6. The first game starts at 6 p.m.

UMSL athletes offer their services to children's sports

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

Though their seasons may be over, though the athletes go home for break, and though it would be nice to take a rest, some of the UM-St. Louis sports teams remain busy over the summer. These teams run sports camps over the summer for area youth. These camps are offered for boys and girls basketball, volleyball and softball, and serve several purposes for the athletic teams. The primary goal is to raise money.

Being a Division II school and, as we have all noticed, in a bit of a budget crisis as tuition continues to rise, the athletic teams on campus have to find a way to raise money for uniforms, traveling and even scholarships. Most teams do fund raisers during the year to generate funds, such as hosting high school tournaments and setting up for gymnasium rentals. While the summer is break time for most of us students, running a sports camp for coaches is an opportunity to make money for their program doing what they enjoy.

Aside from the money, there are other benefits to having summer sports camps. One benefit is the opportunity to give the school positive exposure, and possibly become an athletic goal for young athletes. Women's basketball coach Lee Buchanan commented on the exposure.

"The first thing it does is gets kids on our campus. Some percentages of those kids are going to want to go to

college, and having a relationship with the campus here is important for us." Recruiting is never an easy process, so the more exposure a school can get with the upcoming athletes, the better. Another benefit, and an important one at that, is an opportunity to get more in touch with the community.

The university is in a community that could use some mentoring in all areas, and since sports are important to kids, there is a great opportunity to share. Ashley Richmond, a two-sport athlete here at UM-St. Louis, who participated in the volleyball camps last year, said this about the camps:

"I like seeing the same girls returning each year and watching them improve. Some parents come and see how to help their kids get better as well, because volleyball is very different now than it was when they played." For those students like Richmond who participate in the

camps, there is an opportunity to make easy money, but also to prepare for the upcoming year. Richmond commented the following on this aspect of the sports camps.

"Any chance to get some touches, I take. Camp is close to our start date, so it helps me get prepared, too." Coach Buchanan shares Richmond's love for teaching:

"I've been doing camps for 17 years now, and helping kids is the most important part. Basketball has done a lot for me, so I like to give back to the community something that I love to do." Specific information on the sports camps can be found on the UM-St. Louis website under the sports link.

“Any chance to get in some touches, I take. Camp is close to our start date, so it help me get prepared too.”

— Ashley Richmond, two sport athlete

GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

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UMSL athletics hall of fame inducts eight more members

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

In only its fourth year of existence, the UM-St. Louis sports hall of fame has introduced eight new members, which include the entire 1973 UM-St. Louis men's soccer team that won the NCAA national championship that season.

Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis Athletic Director, commented on the incoming class of inductees.

"Once again, we have an outstanding class of inductees. This is a great honor for them and they have all been chosen for their outstanding efforts not only on but off the field as well. I think that this is a great way to give tribute to our past successes," Dolan said.

Out of the eight inductees, there were six student-athletes, one team and one distinguished services member. Each member is looked at closely and must be voted into the hall of fame.

Joan Gettemeyer was the first of the six athletes to be inducted. She played on the first women's soccer team in school history. Over her career at UM-St. Louis, she finished with 121 points, which ranks her third on the all-time scoring list. Gettemeyer was a four-time All-Region selection and was a three-time All-American. In 1984, she was also named an academic All-American, and in 1982, she helped the team to a Final Four appearance in the NCAA tournament.

see HALL OF FAME, page 9

Rivermen golf trying to get into the swing

BY WILL ROESTEL
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's golf team seems slow to wake from its winter hibernation. The Rivermen have finished last as a team in all three spring tournaments, finishing 21st at the NCAA District 4 Tournament on March 23, and seventh at both the Bellarmine Intercollegiate Tournament on March 28 and Wisconsin-Parkside Invitational on March 30.

Poor weather and a very difficult course were the culprits at the District 4 Tournament. The Leitchfield, Kentucky course proved too difficult to negotiate for a quality team finish. Pat Murillo

provided the greatest boost for the Rivermen, stroking a plus-eight-over-par 80. Murillo ranked twenty-eighth individually, while no other UM-St. Louis player finished in the top 80. The team wound up with a final score of 349, 41 strokes behind winner Saginaw Valley State and 37 behind Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Northern Kentucky.

On March 28, the Rivermen got a preview of the GLVC Championship at the Wisconsin-Parkside Invitational Tournament. Unfortunately, the field was too strong for UM-St. Louis to match. Murillo, once again the bright spot for the Rivermen, finished third

individually with an impressive round

“Poor weather and a very difficult course were the culprits at the District 4 Tournament.”

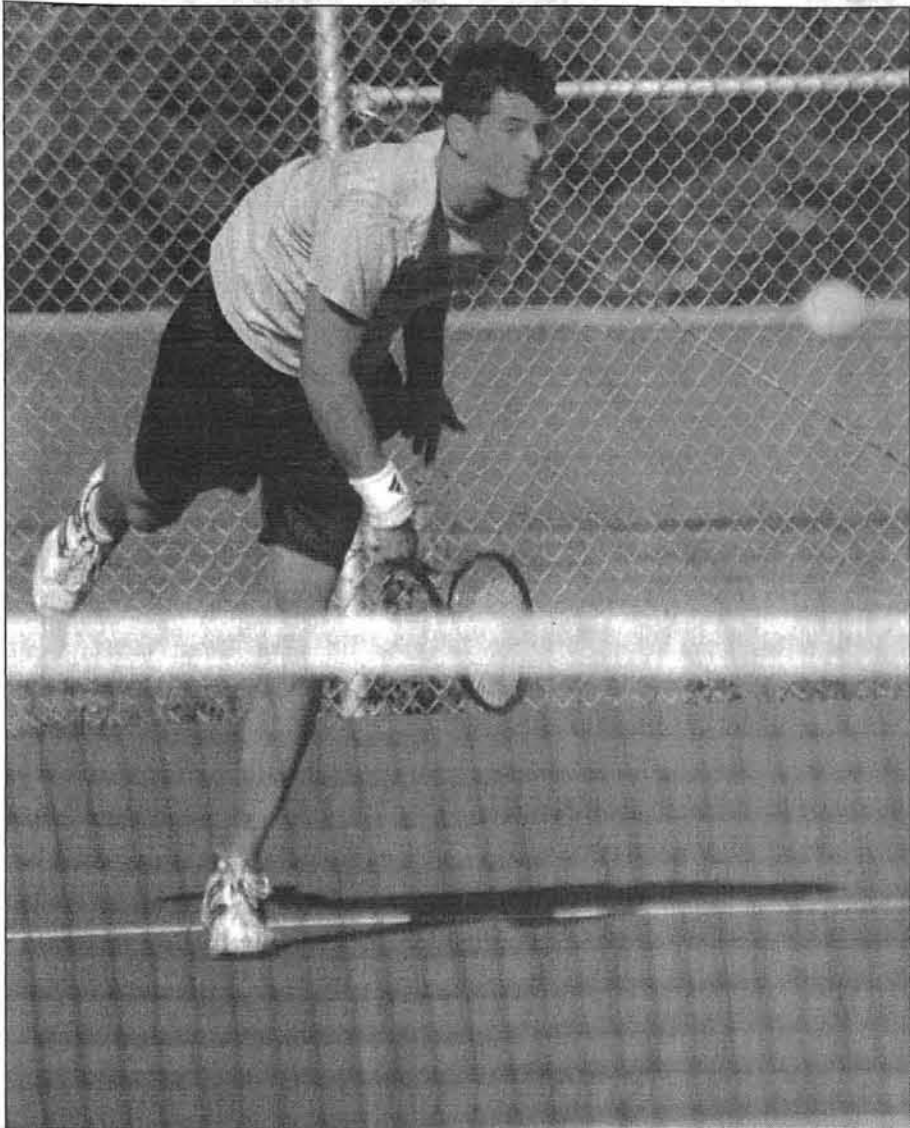
of 73, one over par. Other notables for the team included Diego Jimenez, with

a 77 for the tournament, and Jimmy Simon, who stroked a plus-seven, 79. Despite these improved performances, the Rivermen still finished last, taking seventh place, twenty strokes behind the leader, Lewis.

Most recently, the UM-St. Louis golf team found themselves in Louisville, Kentucky, at Persimmon Ridge Country Club. The Bellarmine Intercollegiate Tournament would prove to be nasty, with both the competition strong and the weather dismal. Due to the poor conditions, the tournament was shortened to twenty-seven holes from the planned thirty-six. Consistent like the tide, Murillo once

again led the Rivermen, striking an 81 in the first round and 39 in the second for a tournament total of 120 and an individual twenty-fourth place finish. The rest of the team bunched up on the scorecard, with Andrew Sullivan finishing with a 126, and Jimenez and Ryan Andrews knocking around for a 127 respectively. Fifty strokes off the lead, the Rivermen found themselves at the bottom of the leader board again.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship Tournament lies ahead for the men's golf team on April 11-13. On the road in Columbus, Indiana, Otter Creek Golf Course will test the Rivermen both physically and mentally.



LEFT:

Rivermen tennis player Matt Vaulkhard strikes a return during a Spring 2003 match. The Rivermen are now 5-7 for the season and 1-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Rivermen will take to the road next week with matches at Quincy and at Washington (Mo.) before hosting Vincennes on Thursday, April 8.

Kevin Ottley/The Current

HALL OF FAME, from page 8

The second inductee was Jeff Heveroh. He was a three-time All-American in swimming for UM-St. Louis. Heveroh swam the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke along with the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relay. Jeff went to nationals all three years he was a member of the swim team, and placed as high as second and third in his respective events. Heveroh holds the school record in both the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley. He was also a member of the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relay teams that hold the school record.

The third inductee was Sharon Kampwerth, who became the first volleyball player ever to be inducted into the hall of fame. Kampwerth was an All-Conference selection in 1991 and 1992; she also was an All-Region selection in 1992. Kampwerth helped lead the volleyball team to its first ever appearance in the NCAA tournament in 1991. She holds the school record for best career hitting percent-

age as well as many single season records, which include most kills in a season, most service aces, most blocks, best hitting percentage and most matches with 20 or more kills.

Dave Roither was the fourth inductee. Roither was a two-time All-American in men's swimming and qualified for nationals in both 1991 and 1992. He was a member of both relay teams that set school records in the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay. As a student-athlete, Roither participated in numerous activities aside from athletics, serving for two years as the Vice President of the UM-St. Louis Student Government Association.

Stuart Vogt was a two-time All-American for the men's swimming team in both 1988 and 1989. Vogt qualified for nationals in both years and finished second in both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle along with a seventh place finish in the 100-yard butterfly in 1988, and finished third in the 100-yard freestyle, fourth in the 50-yard freestyle and 13th in the 100-

yard butterfly at the 1989 nationals. Vogt holds three school records, in the 50-yard, 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle events.

The final student-athlete to be inducted was Kris Wilmesher. She is the third all-time leading scorer in UM-St. Louis women's basketball history with 1,506 points; she is second in school history with 369 career assists, and fourth with 136 career steals. Wilmesher was selected two times as an honorable mention All-MIAA selection before being named a first team All-

Conference selection her senior year. Kris was a three-time All-American, and was named a freshman All-American by the American Women's Sports Federation in 1985. In 1988 she was named a second team All-American by the National Women's Sports Federation and in 1989 she was selected as a fourth-team All-American her senior year.

The 1973 soccer team will bring a lot to the hall of fame. They had experience unlike any other team here has ever had, and that is special.

- Pat Dolan, Athletics Director

Stephen Pobst won their singles matches, but were unable to spur the team to a win, as UM-St. Louis

The Rivermen's fortune changed drastically when they returned to St. Louis and their home court

dropped two of three doubles matches, giving the Knights a 5-3 victory. Things didn't get much better against the Southern Indiana Screaming

Eagles, as the Rivermen's doubles teams dropped all three tough matches, two by a harrowing 8-6 margin. Southern Indiana rolled on for the 5-0 team victory.

The Rivermen's fortune changed drastically when they returned to St. Louis and their home court. SIU-Edwardsville gave UM-St. Louis all they could handle in doubles play. Matt Vaulkhard and James Daugherty edged their opponents 9-7, while Saini and Francis Lam closed out their match with a difficult 9-8 win. Once past those obstacles, however, the Rivermen took control and handily gained the team victory 8-1. Lam, Saini, and Vaulkhard all won their singles matches easily in straight sets and propelled the Rivermen's triumph.

The tennis team needs to finish a busy April schedule strong to shore up their GLVC standing. With only four conference match-ups remaining, the Rivermen must make the most of their April 3 matches against Northern Kentucky and Indianapolis.

UMSL Hall Of Fame:

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EVENT REVIEW

GCW wrestlers show fans the love

BY MONICA MARTEN

Staff Writer

Tired of waiting for the WWE to come to town to see live professional wrestling? Tired of paying ridiculous ticket prices? Then check out GCW, an independent professional wrestling organization based right here in St. Louis.

On March 12, I walked into a stark white gymnasium, anxious for the show to start. A fighting ring was in the middle of the gym, surrounded by a guardrail. Two rows of chairs were arranged outside the guardrail, and bleachers were against the back wall. Merchandise and food tables were set up next to the bleachers.

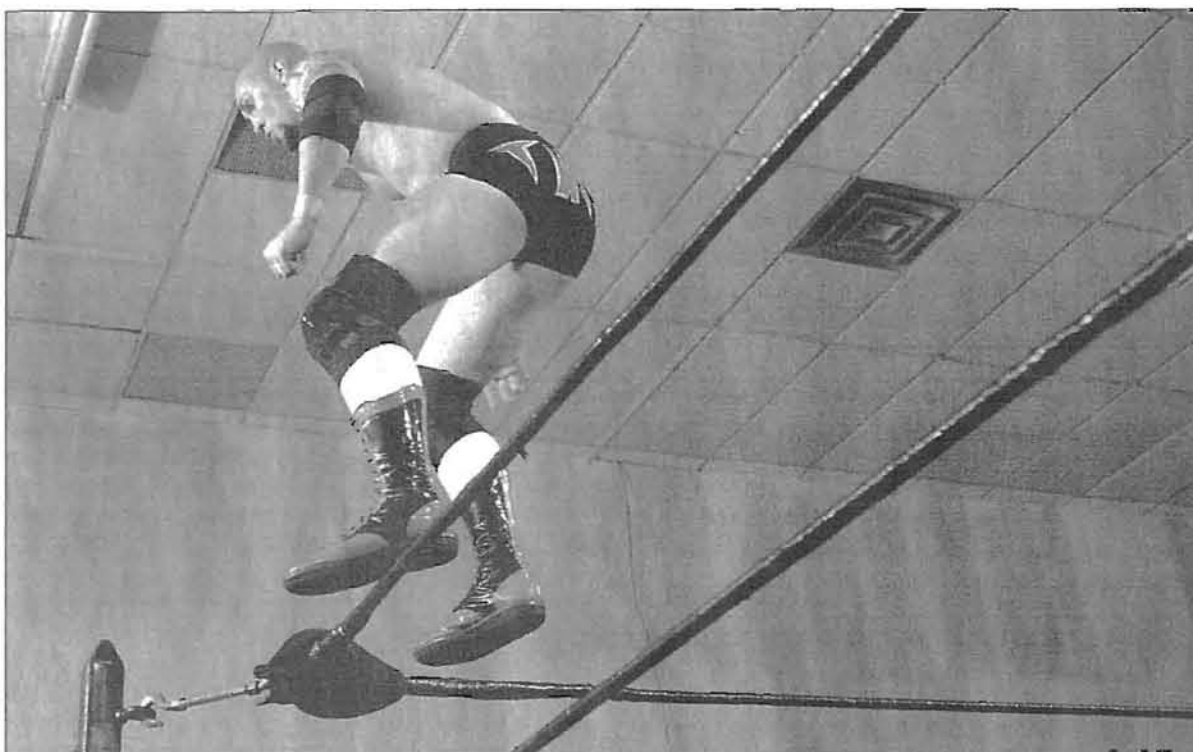
The best part about GCW is not the show itself, but the adoration, recognition and appreciation of its fans. The audience really got into the show, often yelling out jeers and obscenities. Because the audience of about 50 was relatively small, I could hear just about everything said.

There was a lot of audience participation. Audience members who made a lot of noise got to pick the weapon to be used next. The hardcore arsenal included a bat wrapped with barbed wire, thumbtacks, a wooden ladder, a staple gun, mouse traps, tables, steel chairs and a 30-second lumberjack beat-down. I am breathless just writing about it.

"These shows are Andrew Dice Clay meets wrestling," Ben Oliver, owner of GCW, said. This means language and blood. No nudity, though.

The doors opened at 7 p.m., and the show started at 8:30 p.m. The night was kicked off with a tag-team match. Two trainees, Trainee 11 and Trainee 14, were pitted against Ms.Chif and Jackal. The trainees were faces, or good guys. Ms.Chif and Jackal were heels, or bad guys. Ms.Chif had long black hair streaked with green, and she was a screamer. Bring your earplugs.

Jackal, well, he was just angry. Jackal started the match off by taking a beating by Trainee 14 before she got double-teamed. The trainees dominated the first part of the match, but Ms.Chif and Jackal soon took over the



ABOVE: Gateway Championship Wrestling champion Kory Twist prepares to make a backflip off the ropes on to his opponent, Jeremy Lightfoot, during a match March 12 near downtown. GCW is an independent professional wrestling organization based in St. Louis, which holds local matches each month.

RIGHT:



Photos by: Mike Sherwin/The Current

match and won by pin fall. Ms.Chif and Jackal continued to beat and berate the trainees after the match.

Probably the best and most brutal match of the entire night was the hardcore match between The Human Wrecking Ball Pete Madden and Outkast. (Not to be confused with the rap duo.) That is right, I said hardcore match. No rules. Anything goes. Lots of blood. Weapons literally included

everything but the kitchen sink. The match started with Outkast breaking a crutch over Madden's head, a gesture that Madden eagerly returned.

In the middle of the match, a wrestler named Pondo came out and hit both men with a stop sign. Several times the lumberjack beat-down was chosen. This is where every wrestler from the back comes out to beat both wrestlers with leather straps.

Outkast was soon busted open and Madden had thumbtacks in his forehead. The best part of the match for me was when I got to pick a weapon. I chose a table. Madden tossed Outkast into a wooden ladder twice, causing the ladder to split in half. Outkast put the table to use next, covering it with thumbtacks and throwing Madden onto it from the top rope. Outkast eventually won by pin fall, and then

poured a bag full of thumbtacks onto Madden.

The intermission came next, allowing fans to socialize with wrestlers. It also gave security time to mop the blood off the floor and to clean up the ring. The match that followed was made up of two teams, Kevin Sharp and Shawn Almighty versus Diamondback Dingo and Nikki Strychnine. The latter was a pair of so-called Nazis whom everyone loved to hate. Dingo's evil credibility was not helped with the audience screaming "Outback Steakhouse!" I even got into a verbal spat with Dingo. I will not reveal what was said, but if I see him again I will want to smack him.

Although this particularly exciting match ended with a time limit draw, the match was taken outside the ring, out of the gym and back through the audience before everyone was finally separated.

The last match of the night was the title match. GCW champion Kory Twist faced off against Jeremy Lightfoot. It was a fast-paced match, often going into the audience. Twist retained his belt by pin fall. Other matches included Super Castaldis versus Heart Attack Jack and Bo Jangles in a tag-team match-up, a three-way match between Richard Head, Jynx and David Cox, Icon Chris Hargis versus Iam Storm, Chaz Wesson versus Pondo and Chaz Wesson versus Sean Vincent, the manager for Richard Head.

Six GCW wrestlers have gone to the next big step in professional wrestling, an organization known as NWA-TNA. Guest wrestlers have included Rob Van Dam, Sandman, Nova, New Jack and Balls Mahoney. Oliver, although an indy wrestler, is not a fan of backyard wrestling.

"It is too dangerous," he explained. GCW puts on five to six shows a month, and most of their money comes from merchandise. GCW wrestlers are known as "weekend warriors," meaning they kept their day jobs.

see WRESTLING, page 11

BOOK REVIEW

'Boy Meets Girl' is a fast, laugh-out-loud read

BY PAUL CRUTCHER

Staff Writer

Last week, a company my high school hired to produce an alumni directory/school history called me to get my current bio information. As with many reps who conduct such recon, she had never met me and had no clue where I was.

"How is the weather in Ohio?" she asked. "Warm, but they say rain is coming," I answered. Once the recon ended, she hit me with the sales pitch. "We are only printing based on sales," she explained. Good luck with that, I thought. "How much is it?" I wondered. "Four payments of \$19.99. Plus shipping and handling." I declined five times before she resigned to let me be.

As a student, I could not fathom paying more than \$80 for a book about my high school and the people who graduated. Especially given the fact that "Boy Meets Girl," the novel I was reading at the same time, cost me less than a fourth of that alum deal including shipping and handling, and it allowed me all the reflection about high school I needed. "Boy Meets Girl" is Meg Cabot's latest offering, arriving in bookstores sometime in January 2004.

"Girl" from the title is Kate Mackenzie, a HR rep for *The New York Journal*, "New York City's Leading Photo-Newspaper." She grew up in Kentucky and graduated from the university with a bachelor's in social work. Idolizing the professor with whom she completed her intro-

ductory courses (but the same professor, Mackenzie's best friend, found irresponsibly boring), she lives this quest for "making a difference" and "helping people."

"Boy" from the title is Mitch Hertzog, partner in the *Journal*'s outside legal firm. He started his career as a public defender, ahem, helping the people who could not afford it. Then, after his father (founder of the family firm) had extensive heart surgery and took a major golf-sabbatical to Arizona, Hertzog joined the firm in place of his father. While the Hertzog family is understandably loaded, they are also exceedingly dysfunctional.

The novel opens over a conflict about the dessert lady, Ida Lopez, who makes the most delicious treats on the planet but refuses to serve all of the members of the newspaper's senior staff. When she snubs Stuart Hertzog, Mitch's older brother and senior partner, her employment is quickly axed by Amy Jenkins, Stuart's fiancée and Mackenzie's boss. The same boss that Mackenzie and her best friend Jen have named the "TOD" for "Tyrannical Office Despot."

Problems begin when Lopez and her union lawyer threaten the paper with wrongful termination. In addition, countless editors and management-types adored Ida-the-dessert-lady, and Jenkins comes under fire. Because Stuart is personally involved, Mitch takes the case and proceeds to wriggle his way into the sneaky inner-office happenings in HR between the TOD and Mackenzie and Jen.

The novel then runs away from that basic premise, and Cabot intro-

duces us along the way to some interesting characters. For example, there is Tim Grabowski, a flamboyant gay IT person who hosts a "Farscape" club. Dolly Vargas, the paper's fashion editor, is dating both the owner of the *Journal* and shellacking a studly German she refers to only as "Ski-boy" (no one ever bothers to ask his name).

Janice Hertzog is Mitch's younger sibling, yanked from Berkeley when her mother discovered that she had died her hair green and "become" a lesbian. Throughout the novel, Janice reminds everyone that her new name is Sean. The icing is Dale Carter, Mackenzie's absent-minded ex-boyfriend, also lead for his band, called I'm Not Making Any More Sandwiches.

In terms of readability, "Boy Meets Girl" flies by. Cabot created the entire novel from various correspondence—emails, notes, journals, IMs and messages from the answering machine—and does it phenomenally. I laughed aloud more than once, and that is a testament in itself. My favorites must be the times when Cabot captures the sensation of talking to yourself while reading a menu by designing the page with text intermingled with things like "Egg rolls (3)...\$4.50."

Part of the reason it is easy to read, though, is because the story is transparent. This is a chick-flick, or chick-lit, in that respect. Telling you that the "Girl" gets the "Boy" does not spoil the story in any way.

see BOY AND GIRL, page 11

BOOK REVIEW

'Kissing the Witch' reworks old fairy tales for new audience

BY PAUL CRUTCHER

Staff Writer

People appreciate things sometimes solely because of originality. "Memento," for example, drew praise at least in large part due to its inverted storyline. In addition, Infiniti put together a massive ad campaign designed to redefine its vehicle line, filled with black-and-white commercials where cameras followed elusive silvery speedsters on serpentine wooded roads to the background of a strong symphonic tune. Powerful stuff that

insiders loved but that confused viewers and translated ambiguously to sales charts. Yet another example could be made of the music group Outkast, who, with their psychedelic wardrobe, stupid names, outrageous videos and genre-breaking or genre-creating music (roses do not, actually, smell like "poo-oo-oh"), thrive on being different.

"Kissing the Witch" fits nicely with that lineup. Written by Emma Donoghue, a prolific Irish writer, thinker and editor, "Witch" reworks our notions of many classic fairy tales. Hansel and Gretel, Rumpelstiltsken

and Cinderella all show up in new forms and with new missions. Each rewritten tale connects to another in the book, forming a progression that no one except Donoghue has ever imagined. Sure, someone may have questioned how Prince Charming made it into so many tales, but how many times have you heard that Cinderella was also Rapunzel?

Part of what sticks "Witch" into the category of unique literature is this inter-relation among the tales. Providing 13 tales in all, Donoghue pulls you through her playhouse,

mucking up what you thought you knew. As in "Memento," the book is not chronological—the end is actually the beginning. The tales themselves are renamed, of course, and they range from the pervasive Disney-type tales to more obscure Grimm brothers stuff. The Cinderella tale, for instance, is the "Tale of the Shoe." In this version, Cinderella has no menacing stepmother or vicious stepsisters. She operates her recently deceased mother's estate independently. When the fairy godmother appears, we discard the roly-poly, jolly grandmother image for that

of a woman who is old, beautiful, funny and insightful. Cinderella goes to the ball three times, just like in the originals, and she wants the prince to propose, but the prince is timidity embodied. When she rushes off the third night and loses her shoe, there is no supplemental search for the fair maiden by the dashing prince. Instead, Cinderella chucks the remaining shoe into the woods and runs off with the fairy godmother.

see FAIRY TALES, page 12

A&E
EDITOR

CASEY SHACHER

A&E Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

Movie
Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of
April 5

Johnson Family Vacation- Cedric the Entertainer stars in this comedy about an ill-fated and hilarious road trip to a family union in Missouri. Other stars include Bow Wow and Vanessa Williams. Opens April 7

The Alamo- Violence and war claim victory in this historical retelling of the famous battle of The Alamo. Stars Billy Bob Thornton and Dennis Quaid. Opens April 9.

Ongoing

Hellboy- In 1942, a sadistic Nazi experiment in the paranormal brings the son of Satan, Hellboy, to Earth. Raise by Americans to deny his evil roots, adult Hellboy must still confront the man who abducted him from hell so many years ago. Stars Ron Perlman and Selma Blair.

Hyper's CD a winner

hyper
WIRED

C01

Photo courtesy DJ Hyper

Another interesting element on this album is the flawless transition from song to song. One can literally listen to one of the two discs from start to finish and not hear a moment of thought-disturbing silence. The musical space between "Shock Proof" and the following track "We've Been Waiting" (a combined effort of Hyper and General Midi) is literally nonexistent. "We've Been Waiting,"

WWW.STUDENTSFORACADEMICFREEDOM.ORG

A black and white photograph of a wrestler in a ring. The wrestler is wearing a dark singlet with a yin-yang symbol on the chest. He has a bloody forehead and is shouting with his arms outstretched. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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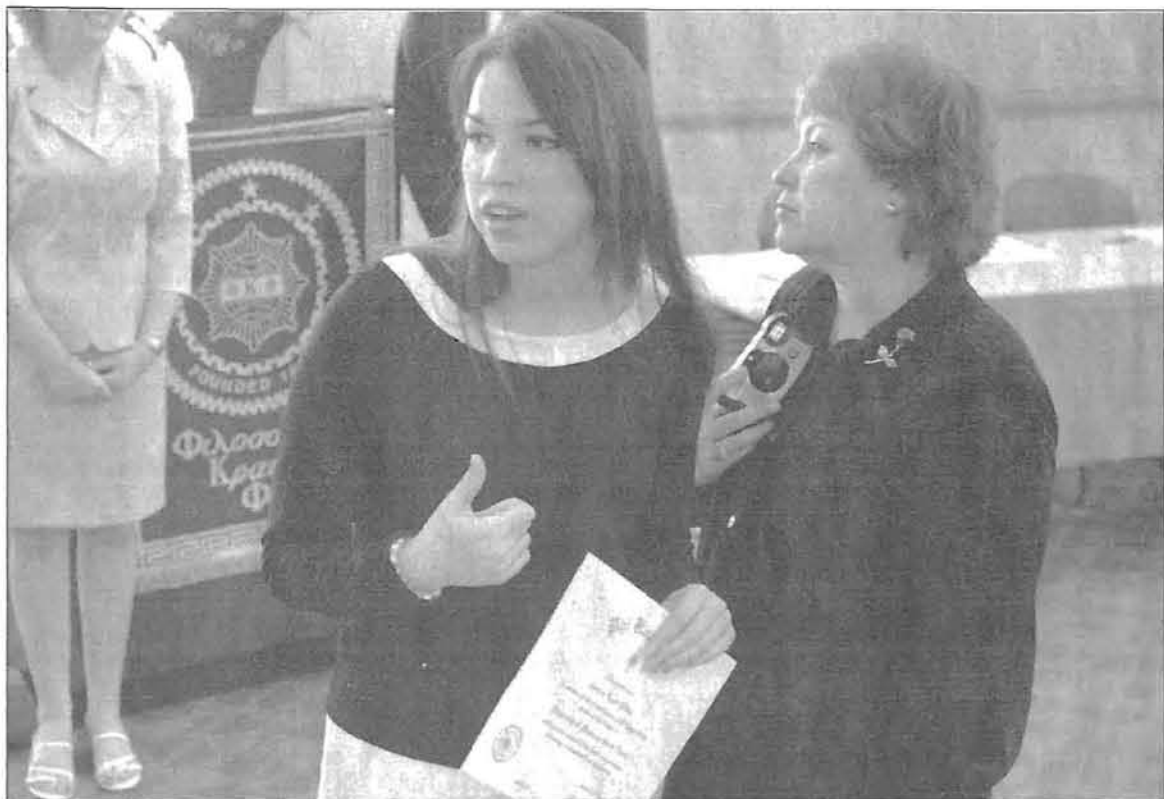
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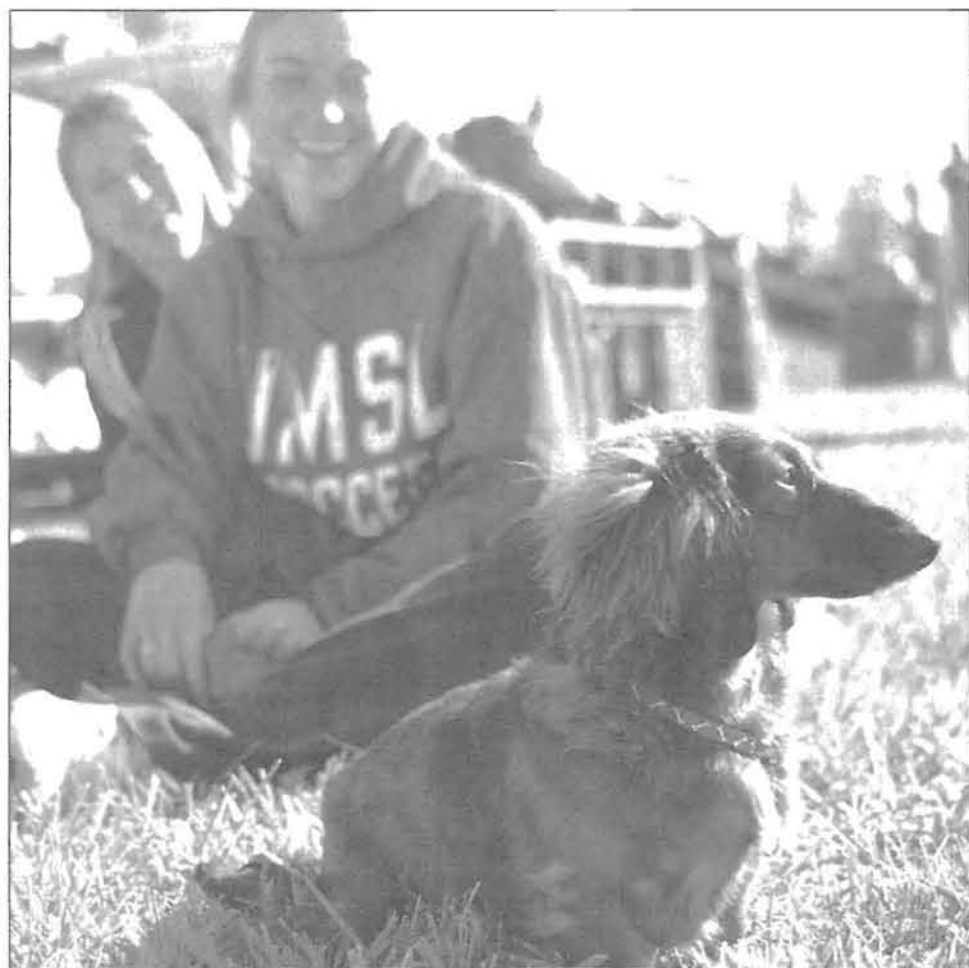
Going Greek...



Tammy Lynn Davis waits with her mother Sandra for the opportunity to take a photograph with Chancellor Thomas George in front of a Phi Kappa Phi banner on Sunday afternoon. Davis has just been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, an interdisciplinary Honor Society.

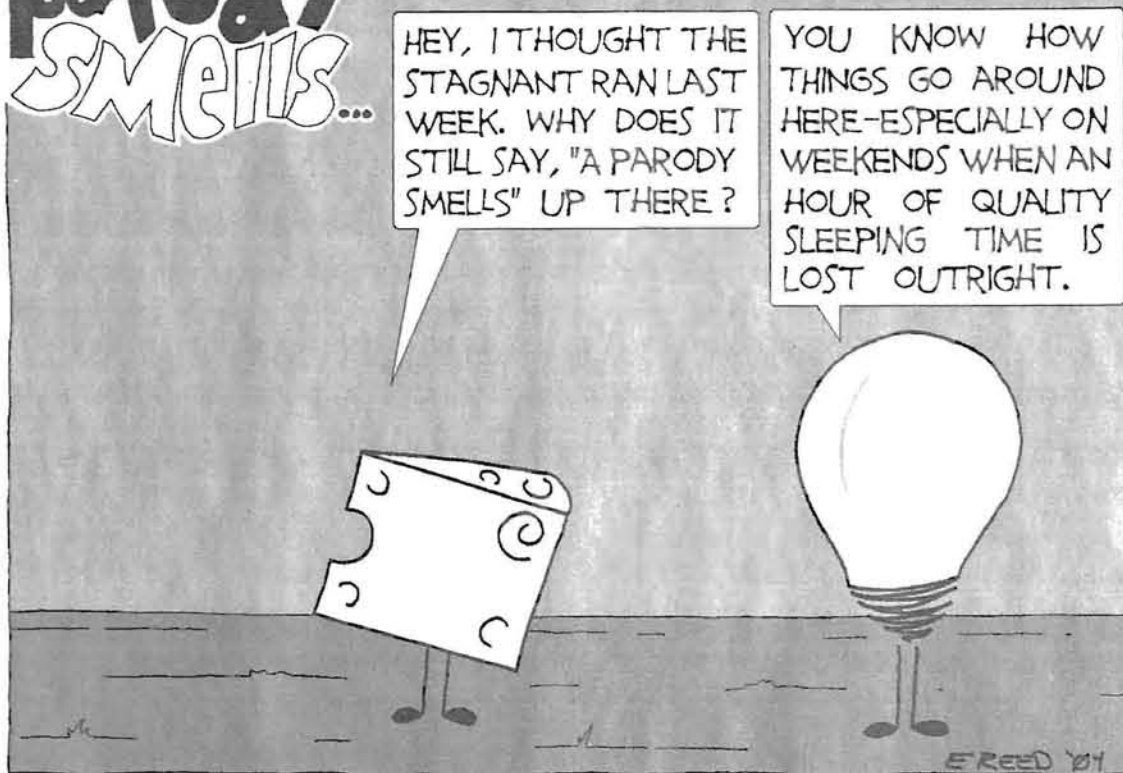
Mike Sherwin/ The Current

A new mascot for UMSL?

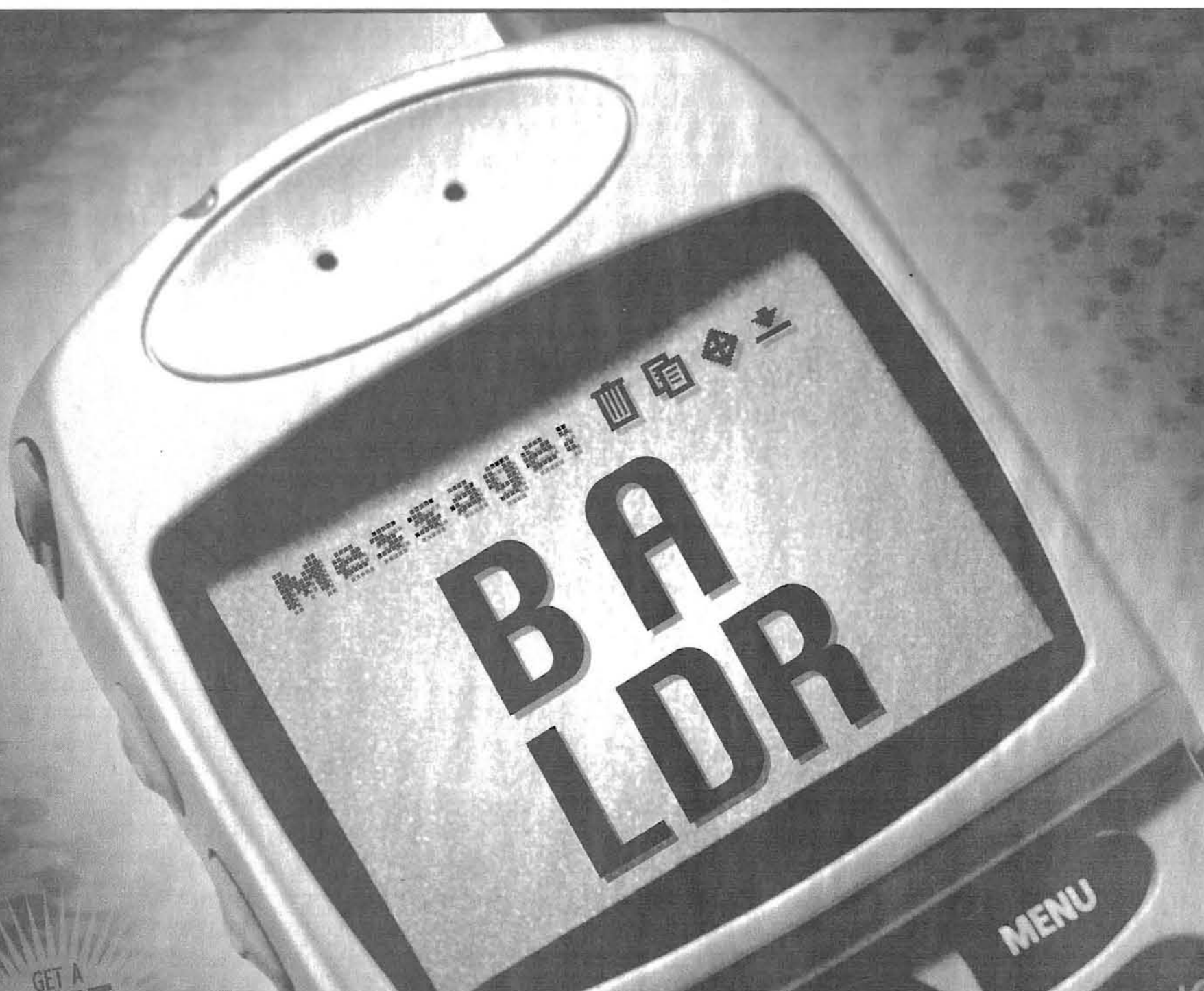


Lindsay Shockley and Jaime Drabek enjoy the company of Drabek's dachshund, Francis, on Sunday afternoon at the Don Dallas Athletic Fields behind the Mark Twain Building on Sunday afternoon. Drabek and Shockley, both members of the Riverwomen soccer team, were watching a soccer tournament/fundraiser for their team.

parody smells...

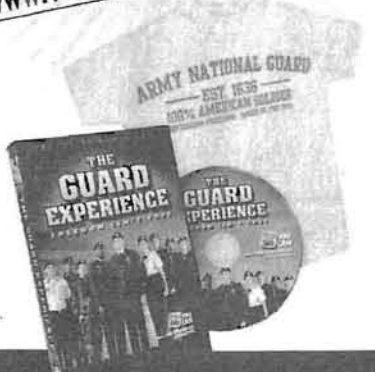


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