

1-24-2005

Current, January 24, 2005

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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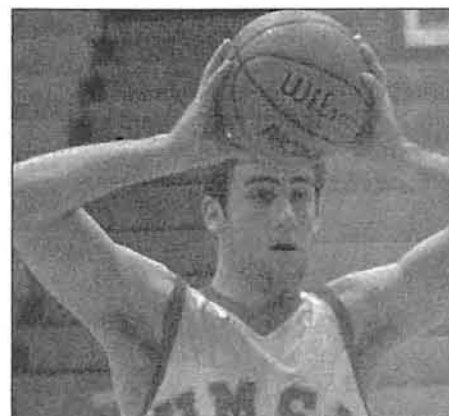
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January 24,
2005ISSUE
1140

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



See page 8 & 9

The latest in sports

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory performs a piece choreographed by Alicia Okouchi-Guy at Monday morning's Touhill celebration for Martin Luther King Jr.

Photos by Erica Burrus/The Current

Event celebrates civil rights leader's legacy

Essence magazine editor is featured speaker at annual Office of Equal Opportunity event

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Martin Luther King Jr. told a crowd of over 250,000 in 1963 of a dream he hoped to realize. However, last Monday, when UM-St. Louis celebrated his birthday, guest speakers asked the audience, are we deferring his dream?

The annual Martin Luther King Holiday Observance was held on Monday, Jan. 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

This year, Susan Taylor, editorial director of *Essence* magazine, was invited to be the guest speaker. Taylor shared her thoughts on keeping King's dream alive today.

"I ask you to look at your life and ...to really think about what those things might be that are standing in the way of us realizing the dream,

because the dream that Dr. King had for this nation is the dream that we have for the nation, the dream we have for ourselves," Taylor said.

Taylor spoke to audience members about what they must do to remove the real and perceived barriers of racial inequality. She worries that affluent people refuse to accept their charge of improving standards of living in every community.

"I am inspired rather than depressed by critical needs in the communities around us," she said. "The needless pain and suffering inspires me to make more of myself."

She named asking questions, thinking critically and taking a passion for justice as major steps toward achieving true equality. She also emphasized the importance of "linking arms and aims" to accomplish social justice.



Essence Magazine Editorial Director, Susan Taylor, speaks to an eager audience for the MLK celebration. She said that we, as people, should "embrace ourselves" and accept our unique differences.

Students at UM-St. Louis received the chance to express their own views about deferring King's dream in the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest. Nineteen students submitted essays this year, the most entries received

in the contest ever.

Charles Pillar, member of the Martin Luther King Jr. planning committee, announced the top three winners of the 2005 Martin Luther

see **MLK**, page 12

Snow closings rare at UMSL

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

While it may be inconvenient for UM-St. Louis students and faculty to get around in the snow, the University strives to keep the campus open when possible.

"I've been here four years and I believe there's been one time when the University partially closed," Eric Tyhurst, senior, math, said. While he believes that UM-St. Louis tries to make the best decision, he had mixed thoughts.

"I commute in from St. Peters and usually the highways are good," Tyhurst said. "It will be inconvenient for some people, like those who live in rural areas, but I believe the University tries to make the best decision," he said.

Last year, the campus was closed only once due to expected bad weather. "In the last four or five years, we've had very mild winter weather," Bob Samples, director of Media, Marketing and Printing Services at UM-St. Louis, said.

Although the campus usually stays open, sometimes professors will cancel classes due to snow or ice.

"It's been my experience, I've

SNOW DAYS

• The Chancellor ultimately decides whether to call off school due to inclement weather

• Campus police, the Dept. of Public Safety and Groundskeeping also are in the decision-making process

• To check for school cancellations, students can call 516-INFO or check the UMSL website: www.umsl.edu

been to a couple other colleges, a lot of colleges are like that. You have to have a lot of snow to close the campus," Daniel Hopper, graduate student, physics, said. "I've had a lot of professors who have cancelled classes," he said.

When the University does close due to weather, several factors influence that decision.

see **SNOW DAYS**, page 3

Bush inauguration gets mixed reactions

BY DAN BAUER
Staff Writer

This past Thursday, America saw George W. Bush sworn in as United States president for another four years.

After a close presidential contest, Bush begins his second term with many legislative goals in mind. Until there is a decrease in the violence in Iraq, however, that issue will most likely continue to take center stage.

President Bush seems to want to start off his next four years with goals such as Social Security reform. Despite criticism by some elderly Americans and Congressional Democrats, Bush is setting the stage to forge ahead with a partial privatization plan.

The plan would allow younger workers to invest some of their payroll taxes in private accounts. This would yield a higher rate of return for taxpayers who wanted to participate.

Another goal involves medical liability reform. Bush had campaigned on curbing frivolous lawsuits. The President argued throughout the course of his campaign that these so-

called junk lawsuits drive good doctors out of work because of high liability insurance.

Another issue that Bush is pushing is federal funding for faith-based organizations. Although this legislation grinded to a halt in his first term, there is talk that it could be invigorated.

In addition to the preceding topics, a major part of Bush's second term could be his filling of vacancies on the United States Supreme Court.

The President could soon be in the position of nominating as many as three justices to the Court. Whoever the President picks will be intensely scrutinized by members of Congress.

While not as close as the 2000 election, Bush won by a fairly narrow margin. Many citizens were obviously disappointed by his re-election. They had expected a change in the chief executive and had worked hard to produce one.

"We worked really hard last year and early on it seemed like things were going our way," Alison Riley, a St. Louis Democratic volunteer, said.

see **BUSH**, page 3

ITS changes allow students to personalize their UMSL email addresses

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

The days of memorizing student e-mail names are becoming a thing of the past. Instead of the six-digit or letter combination used for student e-mail addresses, UM-St. Louis is now offering students natural name e-mails or student friendly e-mail names.

This change in student e-mails occurred at other campuses in the University of Missouri system, including Rolla, Kansas City and Columbia.

"Over the summer, there was a considerable amount of progress at the system level," Scott Bopp, senior,

international business, and president of the Student Government Association, said. "We just got on board in January, falling in line with the rest of the UM system."

The change, Bopp explained, is not really a change in e-mail accounts but a change in aliases. An alias refers to the first part of a student's e-mail address. Students have the option of choosing an alias out of the six to eight choices available for their name, but will still use the same account system.

"It's a way of increasing the communication network for classes and University network, so more students would start using their student mail accounts," Bopp said.

A student's MyGateway ID and password will not change either, and other people can still send messages to a student's e-mail using the six-digit or letter combination.

"It does not change your current e-mail account. This is just an additional way mail can be sent to your current account," Bopp said.

Bopp said that this change would make students' e-mails easier to use. He hopes students will use their e-mail more if the past six-digit or letter combination prevented them from doing so. One student said that was exactly the reason for not using her school e-mail address.

Melissa Mansker, senior, biology,

said the new e-mail alias would be more convenient. "I've never given my student e-mail address to anyone because I can't remember it. I use my Hotmail account," she said.

Mary Fowler, director of User Services for Information Technology Services, said that the current e-mail aliases have no meaning.

"I think it really spun from the student interest in having a more student friendly e-mail," Bopp said. "There are many reasons that people may not use their student mail accounts. What we thought would be one of the most easily resolved.

see **E-MAIL CHANGES**, page 3

Changing your email address:

- Go to the website: <https://mailtools.um.umsystem.edu/>
- Login with your UMSL Gateway ID (SSO ID)
- Accept the certificate, if asked
- The web page should display your name at top
- Click on the 'find eligible addresses' button
- Click on the e-mail you like best and choose 'personalize my mailbox'; Click 'OK' to confirm.

Source: www.umsl.edu/technology/personalized.html

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A&E:
Audrey Tautou
shines in 'A
Very Long
Engagement'

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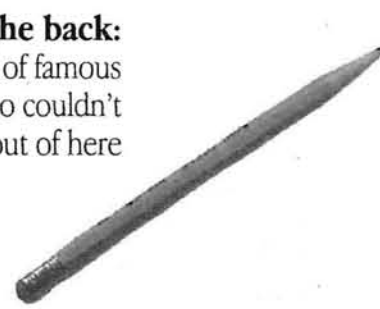
Sports:
High Impact
Squad packs
in the crowd

See page 8



On the back:
St. Louis is full of famous
writers - who couldn't
wait to get out of here

See page 14



Bulletin Board

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

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. Jan. 24

Interviewing Basics Workshop

The Interviewing Basics Workshop is designed for job seekers who do not possess extensive interviewing experience or want a "refresher" on general interviewing skills. Topics covered include interview formats and questions, employer research, appropriate interview attire, and post-interview follow up. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Mon. and Tues. Jan. 24 - 25

Golden Key Honor Society Information Table

What is Golden Key? Find out at the Golden Key information table located in the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the MSC today from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Need more information on Golden Key? Check out www.goldenkey.org.

Tues. Jan. 25

Teaching and Technology

The Conversations about Teaching and Technology series resumes with "Helping Improve Students' Writing" from noon to 1 p.m. in 316 Millennium Student Center. Bill Klein, director of composition and senior lecturer in English at UMSL, will offer guides for developing writing assignments, evaluating them, and encouraging students to develop and communicate ideas clearly and honestly. Participants may bring their lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. This series is sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning and Information Technology Services. For more information, call 4508 or visit <http://www.umsi.edu/ctl>.

Tues. Jan. 25

Thesis and Dissertation Info. for Grad. Students

Elizabeth Sampson, coordinator of Academic Programs and Records in the Graduate School will discuss the "Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Initiative" at 4 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B of the Millennium Student Center. Faculty advisors, students planning to complete theses and dissertations, and staff who work with graduate students are encouraged to attend. For more information, please call the Graduate School at 5900 or e-mail graduate@umsi.edu.

Wed. Jan. 26

Blizzard of Bucks!

Come have fun with the Blizzard of Bucks game-show. Winner goes into a money chamber and grabs as much money as he or she can! At noon in The Nosh. Sponsored by

University Program Board.

Wed. Jan. 26

Advanced Interviewing Workshop

Workshop examines key interviewing techniques in greater detail. Topics covered include behavioral interviewing, "trick" questions, case interviews, and salary negotiation. Role-playing exercises will be conducted to enhance participants' familiarity with the interview process. This free workshop is held at 2 p.m. in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Wed. Jan. 26

Golden Key Open House/Information session

Are you a junior or senior with at least 25 credit hours from UMSL and a GPA of 3.6 or above? The Golden Key International Honour Society is inviting the top 15% (3.6 GPA or above) of juniors and seniors to join. Come to this open house from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Century Room C of the MSC to learn more about Golden Key and meet some of the current members. For more information contact Joe Garavaglia at JMGaravaglia@umsi.edu or visit www.goldenkey.org.

Thurs. Jan. 27

Study Abroad Infossession

Come learn about UMSL's 80+ study abroad opportunities. Learn about summer, semester, and year-long programs; financial aid and scholarships for study abroad; applying credit towards your degree; and the application process. Application deadline for Summer and Fall 2005 programs is February 25, so attend an information session to learn more. 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 331 SSB. For more info: call Study Abroad Office at 516-649.

Thurs. Jan. 27

UMSL Poets read from work at Gallery Visio

From 12-1 p.m., six UMSL women will be reading poetry in Gallery Visio, located on the first floor of the MSC. Andie Jackson, the Pushcart Prize nominated fiction writer, playwright, and poet; Allison Creighton, an English tutor who won the Graduate Poetry Prize at UMSL; Alison Carrick, the talented poet, fiction writer, and witty librarian; Seema Mukhi, an English instructor and fiction writer; Carol Niederlander, a poet involved with River Styx, and Colleen McKee.

Thurs. Jan. 27

PPRC Seminar: Creating Livable Communities

"Collaboration by Design: Case Studies in Intergovernmental Cooperation," a panel discussion on the proliferation of governments in

the St. Louis metropolitan area, will be presented from 3 to 5 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Panelists are E. Terrence Jones, professor of political science at UMSL; Jacqueline Wellington of the St. Louis County Economic Council; Michael Schoedel, city manager for the city of Clayton; and Tim Fischesser, director of the St. Louis County Municipal League. The discussion will be moderated by Miranda Duncan, community development specialist with University of Missouri Extension. The seminar is free and open to the public, and part of the Creating Livable Communities Seminar Series sponsored by the Public Policy Research Center. Call 5276 or visit http://www.umsi.edu/~conted/centers/pprc_clcs1.htm for more information.

Thurs. Jan. 27

Darts Tournament at Golden Greeks

The Campus Recreation "High Score" doubles darts tournament will be held today at The Golden Greeks, 500 S. Florissant Road. On-site registration will begin at 9:30 p.m. The tournament is free and open to all UMSL students, faculty and staff. Call 5326 for more information.

Fri. Jan. 28

UPB's Nerd Fest

UPB holds Nerd Fest from 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m./Century Rooms A & B. Events: 7pm: Costume Contest - Dress like your favorite nerd. Winner receives an i-pod. At 7:30 p.m.: Chess Mini Tournament: Winner receives \$50 gift certificate from the bookstore. At 9 p.m.: Simpsons Trivia Game. Winner receives \$50 gift certificate from the bookstore. At 10 p.m.: Halo Mini Tournament-Winner receives an X-Box. Sign-up in the Office of Student Life or call (314)-516-5291

Fri. Jan. 28

Sig Tau 'Animal House' party

The men at Sigma Tau Gamma are hosting an Animal House themed party Friday night. The party will start at 10 p.m. and be held at the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity house at 8660 Natural Bridge Rd. located next to Popeye's. All UMSL students are welcome. For information call Joe at 314-428-5431.

Fri. Jan. 28

Gal. 210's 'Needle Art'

"Needle Art: Postmodern Sewing Circle," an exhibit that pays homage to the centuries-old art and craft of needlework, opens today and will remain on display through March 12 in Exhibition Room A at Gallery 210 at the Telecommunity Center. The exhibit features 53 works by 45 artists who use traditional tools and techniques to create new forms. By representing a diverse group of artists who have discovered the full potential of needlework as an artistic medium, the

exhibit debunks the notion of needlework as a traditional household craft practiced solely by women. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and it's sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History, The Center for the Humanities, Exhibits USA, Missouri Arts Council and The Regional Arts Commission. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 5976 or visit <http://www.umsi.edu/~gallery> for more information.

Fri. Jan. 28

Technology Friday workshops

"Getting to know your Desktop/PC," a Technology Fridays workshop, will be offered from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in 134 Social Sciences & Business Building. The workshop will feature a review of Windows functions and tasks to optimize one's PC in the UMSL Desktop Plan.

Also, "MyGateway 6: Users' Workshop" will be presented from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in 003 Computer Center Building. This workshop is a hands-on overview of the update course management system that powers MyGateway 6, which provides instructors with a variety of new features and enhancements to allow more flexibility in course content delivery and management.

Both workshops are open to faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants, and sponsored by Information Technology Services. Register at <http://www.umsi.edu/training>. Call 6558 for more information.

Fri. Jan. 28

Visiting scholar to discuss optical effects

Renat Letfullin, visiting assistant professor of Physics and Optical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind., will discuss "Optical Effects and Electrodynamics of Photon-Branched Chain Processes" at 3 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 2:30 p.m. in 516 Benton Hall. The colloquium is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Call 5931 for more information.

Fri. Jan. 28

Catholic Newman Center Awakening Retreat

Join the Newman Center for its largest retreat of the year. Awakening is a retreat planned BY students FOR students. Different types of people aged 18-30 go on Awakening: students with various majors, non-students, and people with varying levels of faith. During the retreat, there are inspiring talks given by students, chances to share with others in small groups, time for prayer and personal reflection. Some of your present ideas about God may be challenged, and don't be surprised if you end up feeling loved by and closer to a few more people by the end of the weekend. Invite your friends - and be ready to

make new friends. The retreat begins Friday, January 28 at 5 p.m. at the Newman Center. We will return to the Newman Center on Sunday, January 30 at 4 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person (scholarships are available). Registration required by Monday, January 24. For any questions or more information, please contact Tracy, Bobby, or Fr. Bill at 314-385-3455 or ncumsl@aol.com. For Info: Tracy Van de Riet at 314-385-3455

Sat. Jan. 29

Fiction-writing workshop

"Research How-To" will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. This workshop provides strategies for writers of fiction or creative nonfiction on collecting, organizing and using information, including interviews and the Web. Fee for the workshop is \$39. This workshop is part of The Write Stuff Chancellor's Certificate Program, which is sponsored by the Master of Fine Arts Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Continuing Education and Outreach. Call 5974 or visit www.umsi.edu/~conted/arts-sciences/noncredit/english_fiction.html for more information or to register.

Sat. Jan. 29

Prep. for LPC Exam

"Licensed Professional Counselor Exam Review" will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, today through March 19, in G08 Marillac Hall. This review course is designed for persons who plan to take the National Counselor Exam on April 16. The course includes simulated exam sessions to allow participants to practice answering exam questions. Fee for the course is \$295. This review is sponsored by the College of Education, Continuing Education and Outreach. Call 5655 for more information or to register.

Mon., Jan. 31

Monday Noon Series: Women in Song

Barbara Harbach, professor of music, and Katharine Lawton Brown, director of Premiere Performances, will present "Women in Song" at 12:15 p.m. in 205 Music Building. They will perform music by composers Anne Boleyn, Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, as well as Harbach's own composition, and discuss the settings of the compositions. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsi.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Mon., Jan. 31

Engineering lecture

G. Ali Mansoori, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Illinois-Chicago, will discuss "Organic Nanostructures Derived from Petroleum" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Free and open.

The Current

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MCMA



ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Jan. 17, 2005 and Jan. 22, 2005. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort!

Jan. 18
Rape
Provincial House

At about 4 p.m. a female victim had a male friend over in her apartment. After they talked for about an hour, the male subject forced the pants off of the female and pushed her onto her bed, forcibly held her down and had vaginal intercourse with the victim. The victim indicated that she continually told him to stop, and to get off of her. After about two minutes the suspect did get up and eventually left the area. The victim

responded to the hospital for treatment. The suspect was later identified and arrested. The male suspect indicated that the sexual encounter was consensual. This matter is being referred to the St. Louis County Prosecutors office for possible charges relating to this assault.

Jan. 19
Stealing Over \$500
Millennium Garage North-Facilities Services Building

A commercial size ice maker was stolen from the maintenance storage area sometime between Jan. 4 and Jan. 18.

Jan. 19
Stealing Over \$500
Lucas Hall

Between 2:45 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Jan. 18, 2005 a faculty member left her office unattended and unlocked, and suspect(s) unknown stole her wallet with credit cards from her purse.

Police: 516-5155



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the passion?

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the experience?

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the truth.

Bring a resume and cover letter to 388 MSC



New computer lab offers space, wireless Internet

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

Workers spent much of the summer remodeling the library and creating a computer lab. Tables from the middle of the library were taken out to provide space.

"In response to the fact that the computer lab over at the Thomas Jefferson Library is so full that half the time there's people waiting in line, Instructional Computing was looking for a place to put a new lab," Ted Ficklen, circulation manager of the Ward E. Barnes Library, said.

The Barnes Research Commons follows the model of the computer lab in the Thomas Jefferson library.

One of the most popular reasons students used the Thomas Jefferson lab was because they liked having a place where they could do research,

use computers, get help from lab consultants and do homework all in the same building.

"What we hear from students through the feedback from the surveys we conduct each semester, is that they like the space and the fact that it's a multipurpose location," Chris Sheetz, Instructional Computing supervisor, said.

One notable feature of the computer lab is the space between and around workstations. That was designed so that people with laptops could also work in the area and utilize printing resources.

A unique feature of the library is the fact that all four walls are transparent. "Where else are you going to find a place where all the walls are

made of glass?" Sheetz said. "You can just take a break from writing your paper and look out one of the windows."

The open house is scheduled for Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. People can drop in at any time, and there will be a ribbon cutting and special guest speakers at 3 p.m.

Some of the notable speakers scheduled for the program are the University's chancellor Thomas George, dean of the libraries Amy Arnott, and associate vice chancellor for Information Technology Services Jim Tom.

Throughout the day, Instructional Computing lab consultants will be on hand to help with computer questions and demonstrate library resources.

Refreshments will be available. Attendees will also be eligible for door prizes donated by the library and Instructional Computing's suppliers.

For more information about the open house, people can call 516-4322 or 516-5576.

Ficklen said that one purpose of having an open house is to get the word out about their new lab. "We haven't really had days yet where it's packed," Ficklen said. "It's usually half full."

While it is usually not as full as some of the other computer labs, the Barnes lab may be attractive to a different crowd.

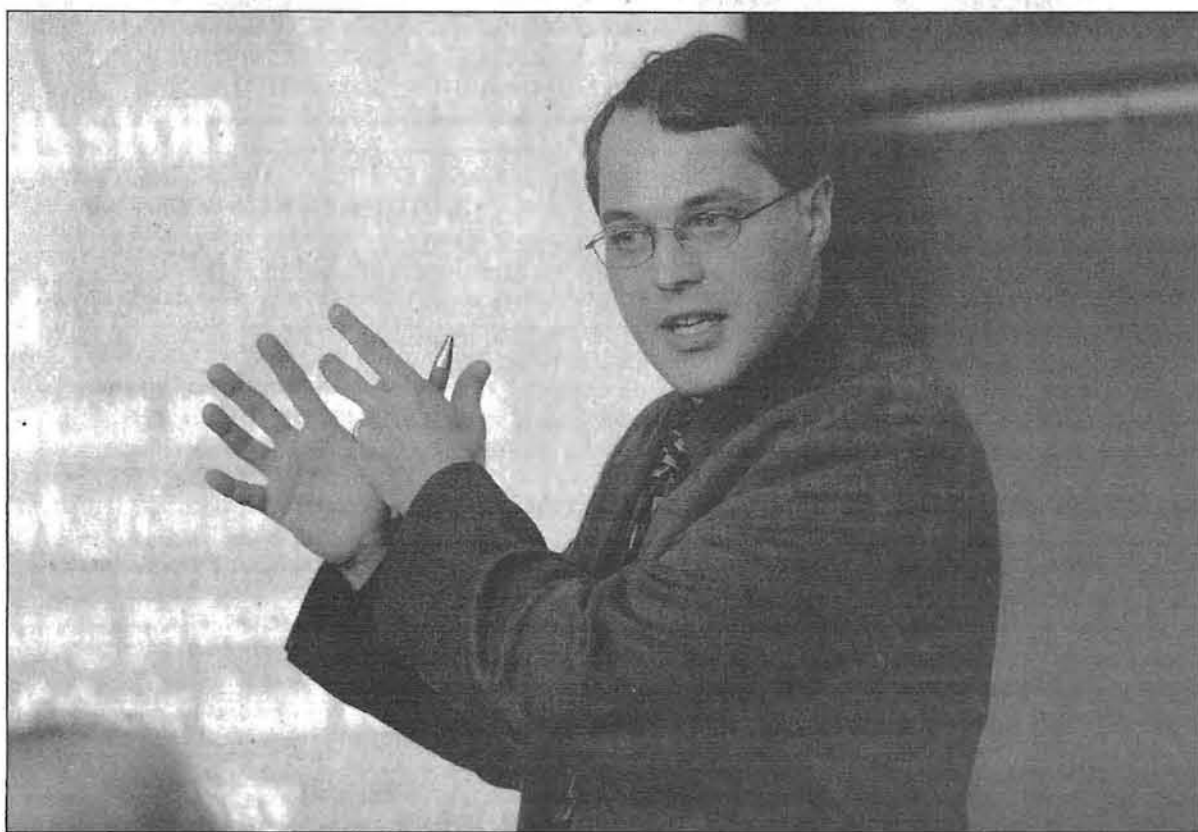
"It seems to me there's quite a bit of traffic on this campus at night, with the education courses. It would be

nice for those people to have a place to work on a computer without trekking back to North Campus," Sheetz said.

Traffic is also expected to pick up from the dorms when the weather warms up. "I think it offers a valuable amenity to someone who may not have a computer in their dorm room," Sheetz said.

"People don't think of the south campus as a place where there's stuff. We just want to get the word out on all the cool stuff that's here," Ficklen said.

Ficklen also said that the open house would be something fun for students to do, for a change, between classes. "We just like to have parties," he said.



Matthew J. Grawitch, doctoral candidate in the industrial/organizational psychology program at Saint Louis University, discusses "Unlocking Self-Regulation in the Workplace" in Clark Hall on Wednesday.

Self-regulation is vital for healthy workplace, says SLU psychologist

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Matthew Grawitch, assistant professor of research in the psychology department at St. Louis University, has worked with companies to create a healthier and more manageable workplace. When he compared two hypothetical organizations, one where management did not listen to employees' input and the other being more participative, he found that the first one failed, while the second one prospered.

The reason for this difference may be addressed by Grawitch's newest research on "Unlocking Self-Regulation in the Workplace." This psychology colloquium took place on Jan. 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in 411 Clark Hall. The psychology department invited Grawitch to speak to graduate students majoring in psychology.

"A lot of work I've done centers around the idea of healthy workplace practices, more specifically, psychologically healthy workplace practices," he said.

Grawitch named employee involvement, work-life balance, employee growth and development, recognition and health and safety as healthy workplace practices in his research.

"These different sorts of practices set the stage for self-regulation of individuals and groups," he said.

Grawitch views self-regulation as an important link from interventions to performance and well being out-

comes. He defined self-regulation as the ability of groups or individuals to monitor their progress in terms of goals. Self-regulation also refers to workers distributing their resources to maximize their progress towards positive outcomes and avoid negative ones.

His research took place at the organizational, group and individual levels. At the organizational level, he published a literature review that revealed new evidence.

"This qualitative literature review was able to show that there is a direct link between interventions and outcomes, particularly types of well being and performance outcomes," Grawitch said.

Before Grawitch's study, no strong evidence supported this link.

Grawitch explained the importance of self-regulation in the workplace. "When you give them this participation, this increased level of autonomy, that should allow them to more effectively regulate themselves in the workplace."

At the group level, Grawitch looked at the benefits of positive mood on well-being and performance. In one study, he found positive mood increases creative performance and creativity of ideas while negative mood had no effect.

Grawitch also performed an exploratory study with 52 employees who work in groups. These employees answered questionnaires about their positive and negative experiences including questions about the intensity, cause and relationship of the experience to the group. He found that

the intensity of the experience was related to making progress towards a goal, not actually achieving a goal.

"It was the very first study of its kind," Grawitch said. "There has been very little research that has tried to apply self-regulation to work groups in terms of the appraisals and evaluations that people make."

On the individual level, Grawitch found a link between self-regulation appraisals and employees' moods. Two hundred and four undergraduate students participated in a study on how appraisals of work tasks influence their moods. Grawitch found a stronger link of primary appraisals to an avoidance mood than a link from secondary appraisals to an approach mood.

The next steps in his research include how workplace practices influence self-regulation, how self-regulation influences other outcomes besides mood, how self-regulation differs in individuals and groups and how larger organizational content affects employee self-regulation capabilities.

Therese Macan, director of the industrial and organizational program in the psychology department, assisted in inviting Grawitch. "We invited Grawitch because he is a candidate for the industrial/organization psychologist position here."

Students attended the colloquium to give feedback to Grawitch. "We're the ones who affect who gets hired," September Singh, graduate student, psychology, said. "It's a good idea to give our two cents to professors who will work with us."

E-MAIL CHANGES, from page 1

solutions is to have a student friendly e-mail name."

However, not all students may be eligible. Students asserted under the Family Educated Rights and Privacy Act and employees of UM-St. Louis may not be able to change their aliases.

"There's a possibility that if you're a worker, categorized as an employee of the University, you may not have immediate access to this," Bopp said.

Fowler and Bopp also are worried

that students with common names would have limited choices.

"There is the danger and will be some concern that some people like John Smith will be left with no options after so many configurations," Bopp said. "There still may be some limited availability to people that have more common names because it's shared on a system level."

Currently, a student's six-digit or letter combination will still be dis-

played on MyGateway, but ITS staff members are working on having a student's new alias show up on MyGateway.

The new e-mail aliases are available now. MyGateway will post an announcement and a studentwide e-mail will be sent out in the next few weeks. Students can create their new e-mail alias by following the directions online at <http://www.umsl.edu/technology/personalized.html>.

NEWS BRIEFS

KWMU radio host found dead at home

Mike Sampson, radio host for KWMU, was found dead in his home on Thursday, Jan. 20. Police do not know the cause of death. Sampson was 53.

Sampson was born in Philadelphia, but moved to St. Louis in 1983. He worked for KWMU for over 10 years and was the host of the radio programs "St. Louis on the Air" and "Cityscape." He became host of "Cityscape" in March 2002 and took over for Gregory Freeman, former host of "St. Louis on the Air," in December 2002.

Sampson also hosted news and classical music programs and local broadcasts of "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

On Friday Jan. 21, KWMU broadcasted a tribute and memorial to Sampson on "St. Louis on the Air." KWMU plans to keep airing the program, "St. Louis on the Air," which can be heard Monday through Thursday at 11 a.m. "Cityscape" will also continue to air every Friday at 11 a.m.

Mary Edwards, producer of "St.



Sampson

Host of KWMU's "St. Louis on the Air" and "Cityscape" was found dead on at his home on Thursday

Louis on the Air" and "Cityscape," called Sampson "an extremely talented host." The staff of KWMU will dearly miss Sampson.

St. Louis police enlist UMSL criminologists for help

The St. Louis City Police Department enlisted the help of criminologists at UM-St. Louis to sort out the confusion over discrepancies in crime statistics for St. Louis city. St. Louis police reported that crime statistics were down in the city compared to the national average.

Richard Rosenfeld, criminology and criminal justice professor at UM-St. Louis, analyzed statistics on rape and sex offenses for the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Rosenfeld found that statistics for rape should have been higher than what the police department reported.

Police Chief Joe Mokwa read Rosenfeld's report and asked criminologists at UM-St. Louis to help analyze more statistics. Mokwa formed a seven-member panel, including Scott Decker, Curator's professor for CCJ at UM-St. Louis, to analyze crime statistics.

While the committee said the police should have written formal incident reports for cases instead of memos, Decker said that even if formal reports were used in place of memos, the crime rate for rapes would only increase by a fraction of one percent.

Rosenfeld and Decker will continue to study statistics on rape and sexual assault from the police department. They will look for discrepancies in the statistics and try to

understand how sex offenses are reported and classified.

UMSL program offers women 'Pipeline to Local Office'

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UM-St. Louis will offer a workshop for women who are interested in running for municipal offices and volunteering on a campaign. The workshop, called "Pipeline to Local Office," will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 24 and 26 in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. The program cost \$30 per participant.

"Pipeline to Local Office" will feature women who have held local offices in the past or have worked on successful local campaigns. These women will provide instruction on how to create a campaign plan and budget for a local race, how to target voters, how to raise money and how to encourage voters to go to the polls. Participants will also learn communication skills and practice public speaking.

Over 50 percent of past participants in this workshop have gone on to become mayors, councilwomen and school board members. Among the successful candidates in last year's class were Katherine Jepsen, Brentwood alderman, Camille Greenwald, Richmond Heights councilwoman and Karen Webster, a member of the Ladue school board. Call 4727 for more information or to register for the program.

BUSH, from page 1

Some UM-St. Louis students had the same sentiments. Abigail Sheisha, senior, computer programming, said, "I desperately wish we could have brought this one home for John Kerry. Although you have to admit that George W. Bush has more adept political skills than we gave him credit for," Sheisha said.

In the St. Louis area there were alternative inauguration events downtown.

Around 9 a.m., protestors gathered at the Old Courthouse to begin activities. They marched carrying signs against the war in Iraq and with nega-

tive attitudes toward the president in general. Organizers billed the event as a time to celebrate the fight for peace and social justice.

Lakeisha Johnson brought her own unique impression of Bush administration policies to the alternative inauguration. Johnson works at a local mental hospital and voiced her concern about funding cuts that occurred during the Bush administration.

"Our funding has been deeply cut by the Republican administration. I am grateful that my job wasn't eliminated, though," Johnson said.

The alternative inauguration events

ended with a three hour party at St. Louis City Hall. A large turnout engaged in "dances of dissent" and while they obviously discussed politics, it was mostly a time for people to celebrate with other voices opposed to Bush.

Some people, however, were not impressed by the alternative festivities.

"What the heck are dances of dissent?" Josh Stevens, senior, math, said. "I guess some people have a lot of free time. All it makes me want to do is join the UM-St. Louis College Republicans."

SNOW DAYS, from page 1

"The campus tends to look at long-term weather trends," Samples said. "When we're looking at weather, we're looking at the night forecast and the rush hour traffic to determine if that's going to impact people trying to get to campus," Samples said.

Ideally, campus officials try to make the decision at least a couple hours before the earliest classes. "Usually we try to have a determination by 6 a.m. if they're going to close daytime classes. If we're going to close evening classes, we're typically going to make that determination by 3 p.m.," Samples

said.

The chancellor gets to make the ultimate decision on whether or not to close the campus. Campus police and the Department of Public Safety and Grounds are also involved in the decision.

"The goal is to keep the campus open if we can keep the campus open," Samples said.

"You're paying to get an education, but it would be difficult to get that education if we closed the campus every time it snowed," Samples said. "Sometimes you make the right judgment, sometimes you don't," he said.

If the campus closes, there are several ways that faculty, staff and students are notified. If the University makes the decision in the morning, it sends the information to local television and radio stations so they can pass on the information to their audiences.

If they decide to close the campus in the middle of the day, however, campus-wide email would alert faculty, staff, and students that the campus was closed.

The University's website would also carry the information, as would its telephone hotline, 516-INFO.

OUR OPINION

University should close for snow



A foot of snow covers the ground outside, and giant flakes continue to fall. All of the schools around the area are closed, in fact it takes about 20 minutes just to read through all of the school closings. Don't bother watching the list, though. St. Louis would have to be totally buried under the white stuff before UM-St. Louis closed.

Faced with getting ready and leaving a half hour earlier than planned so you are not late to class, you should stop watching television and make sure your car has not fallen victim to the weather. It can take half an hour to clean off and warm up your car before you get to join the morning traffic. Despite the fact that UM-St. Louis is considered a commuter school, inclement weather rarely affects the school schedule.

One would think that being a commuter school where the vast majority of students either drive or ride the MetroLink, the campus would close when the temperature drops and blizzard-conditions develop. Some students drive an hour or more to get here, and it takes twice as long in bad weather. Even students who live on campus are forced to brave the frigid conditions, either driving to class, walking or riding the shuttle. During a snowy day last year, a shuttle bus lost control and skidded into a bus station shelter on south campus.

The University needs to take into consideration all the students, staff and faculty that have to find their way to school.

Some people have complained that the walkways and stairs around campus facilities are not always salted. Some of the stairways are icy and dangerous to travel on because salt is not placed on them to prevent people from falling. The last thing anyone needs is to fall while trying to get to class on time. All walkways should be properly salted if the University expects everyone to attend classes during snowy weather.

The top floors of the parking garages are not always snow-plowed

after winter skies have precipitated and parking is severely limited. Is this an assumption that students will opt to stay home rather than face driving conditions?

To the University's credit, the walkways on campus are usually cleared appropriately. Lately, the sidewalks have been heavily salted, making walking to classes significantly easier. The grounds crews do try hard to get things cleared off for students, staff and faculty so they have safe walks when traveling around on campus.

Since UM-St. Louis serves so many commuting students, faculty and staff, the University should have the same snow day requirements as local schools.

In the currently unlikely event that the University closes because of weather, an announcement will be available at 516-4636. The University's name will also appear on the snow closings on the local television and radio stations. They generally, but not always, try to announce the closure of campus by 6 a.m. for day classes or 3 p.m. for evening classes. Some professors may also place an announcement or send out an email via MyGateway.

Professors have the option of cancelling class, but many seem to think that if they are on campus, students in their classes must be as well. If the University has not closed for snow, professors should consider it. Teachers know their students and probably have a better idea of who has to commute. Assign readings via MyGateway or post a few lecture notes. This way, professors can adhere to their plans and students do not have to risk dangerous driving conditions.

The University needs to remember that is a commuter campus when deciding whether or not to close the site. It is not a matter of students wanting a day off, but a matter of them making it to campus safely and in a reasonably timely manner. It often takes more time than it is worth for students to make it to campus when the weather is bad.

The Issue

St. Louis is home to wildy unpredictable weather. University officials have not declared any snow days this year and only called for one last year, despite several bouts of blizzard-like weather.

We suggest

The University should adopt the same standards as local primary and secondary schools. Commuting students should not have to face dangerous driving conditions.

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

UMSL: Teach me about money

When I began college as a barely out of high school 18-year-old, I knew how to do a load of laundry, I could make toast and I understood the basics behind balancing a checkbook. The only reason my socks have not all turned pink, though, is that my mom insisted that my brothers and I learn how to do our own wash.

A surprising number of incoming students have not learned some of the basic necessities for living. Burning toast has less of an impact on a person's future than bouncing checks or falling into credit card debt. The University should require that all students take a personal finance class so that graduates understand the importance of responsible budgeting and the dangers of "free money" in the form of credit cards. Even with my parents' lesson on balancing a checkbook, I was still unsure about the procedure when I opened my own account. Students who have not been taught how to handle their personal funds may avoid balancing because they are not aware that they need to do it.

If University graduation requirements include classes that cover cultural diversity, politics and composition, they should also require a personal finance course.

I am majoring in mass communication and I frequently wonder how three credits of college algebra are going to enrich my career. Biology, anthropology, graphic design and tropical ecology students probably do not opt to take business classes for fun. Students majoring in business are currently the only ones required to gain knowledge about the real world of finance.

Those who have taken classes outside of their own departments can testify to the fact that some teachers

assume that all students are relatively familiar with the course topic. A required personal finance class geared toward non-business majors would teach students how to understand money without ten prerequisite classes and extensive background knowledge.

The thought of walking into a business class right now has a nightmarish haze surrounding it. Like the proverbial walking into class naked dream, I can imagine all of the smart, business kids waving their investment reports and laughing at me. A class for non-business savvy people would relieve this anxiety.

How is our education "complete" if we graduate without learning about money, the most immediate concept we will face as adults? Students often leave college with thousands of dollars of loan debt. If Joe Blow takes out \$40,000 in loans to pay for school, shouldn't the University teach him how to handle this debt?

Current University requirements are in place to make sure that we exit college as well-rounded, open-minded adults. Our awareness of politics and readiness to tackle world issues are moot if the repo guys are banging down the door. As an institution of higher education, the University owes us a lesson in personal finance.

As relevant as it is to my degree, interpersonal communication will not teach me how to invest my money or avoid bankruptcy. A personal finance requirement is absolutely necessary at this and all universities.

We will all buy a car someday, and lessons in haggling would help. Many of us will mortgage a house, and the process is currently unfamiliar. We will all have a credit history, and someone needs to teach us how to keep it clean.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Designated drivers save lives

Every day we hear stories about drinking and driving. I found a recent local story involving two police officers surprising. A Bridgeton police officer was killed by a University City police officer who was driving intoxicated. This story reminds me of the dangers people often overlook.

The incident occurred on Jan. 12. Both officers were killed immediately upon impact. The University City officer was driving intoxicated and ran head-on into the Bridgeton officer on the highway. This story has been all over the news and newspapers, shocking people everywhere.

This is something that no one wants to hear. The police force is out to keep our city safe, and when one of them disobeys the law so blatantly, it is a disappointment to many. The officer was nearly double the legal alcohol limit, according to a story published on stl-today.com.

Ever since high school we have all been preached to about the threats of drinking and driving. It is something that really bothers me. When going out knowing that people will be drinking, my friends and I always pick the designated drivers first. This is the safest and best way to do things, otherwise you could get stuck somewhere without a sober driver.

Everywhere you look you see stories about drunk driving. Picking up a copy of Cosmopolitan magazine, I found a story about a girl who killed some of her friends while driving intoxicated. When I was in high school a group of women were in an

accident and were nearly killed because the driver was under the influence.

I just hope that everyone learns lessons from the people around them. According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving website, three in every 10 Americans will be involved

in an alcohol-related accident at some time in their life. The site also said that in 2002, an estimated 17,419 people died in alcohol-related traffic accidents, which averages out to about one person every 30 minutes.

I found that Missouri has fairly high statistics when it comes to drinking and driving. The MADD website revealed that in 2003, there were 1,232 total traffic-related deaths. This number was one of

larger numbers compared to some of the other states listed. There were also 504 alcohol-related deaths. MADD also states, "Alcohol is also the nation's most frequently committed violent crime, killing someone every 30 minutes."

The next time that you or one of your friends tries to drive while intoxicated, remember these statistics. You do not want to be become a part of these figures, so do all you can to keep yourself and your friends safe.

One last shocking statistic to leave you with: 1.5 million drivers were arrested in 2002 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. The MADD website (www.madd.org) is helpful if you are interested in statistics or are trying to find more information on alcohol and abuse.



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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.

What's your opinion?

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

- UMSL should close for snow
- School should teach finance
- Designated drivers save lives

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

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photography Associate

What's your most reliable piece of winter wear?



Shannon Moran
Sophomore
Film Direction

Any hooded sweatshirt or jacket does the trick for me.



Chris Walker
Senior
Finance and Marketing

My yellow Northface jacket. It's about five years old, I got it at AlpineShop. I wear it all the time.



Veronica Raynor
Freshman
Marketing

I like to wear my grey UMSL beanie hat. I got it around the end of the fall semester last year.



Scott Kuneffe
Junior
Electronics with Theatre Minor

I have an Air Force arctic parka that I bought in an antique shop. The white fringe on the hood looks strange over my head, but it's so warm!

SCIENCE COLUMN

Night of the living flu

Viruses are the zombies of infection



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Last week this column discussed the flu vaccine shortage and a bit about why flu is such a threat. Let's continue that discussion with a little more about flu and the 1918 flu epidemic.

Epidemic or not, flu is caused by a virus. Viruses are curious things: some viruses cause that mild but ubiquitous malady, the common cold, but others cause things like the current fatal scourge, AIDS. Outside of a cell, a virus is essentially a non-living thing. It has no metabolism and does not meet the general criteria we use to decide if something is alive or not.

Inside of a cell, it is completely different, as the virus's DNA or RNA takes over the metabolic machinery of the host cell. It seems very much alive as it makes all those copies of itself, the new virus particles. Viruses are called "particles" because they are not cells but a bit of DNA or RNA, depending on the variety, wrapped in a protein envelope. The term "envelope" seems particularly apt, as it delivers its genetic message to the next cell, a message that is unleashed when that envelope is opened to reveal the genetic material in the cell.

The lack of a metabolism is the basic reason that antibiotics are useless against viruses. Antibiotics interfere with the metabolism of microorganisms, which are cells. Researchers are now looking for ways to interfere with the workings of viruses.

The simplicity of viruses is one reason why they can be so genetically variable. In cells, a change in its genetic code, a mutation, can hamper or destroy the metabolism of the cell. Changes that can kill or weaken the cell create a barrier to hold down the genetic changes any cell can tolerate, favoring only certain changes that create a neutral or positive effect. In the "dead" virus, lots of changes can be a very good thing, allowing it to evade recognition by the immune system of its victim.

Influenza is a disease caused by a member of the Orthomyxoviridae family of viruses. The virus infects cells by attaching to receptors on the cell's surface which causes the cell to take the virus in by the process of endocytosis. Once the virus's genetic material has taken over the cell and directed it to make new copies of itself, the new virus particles are released by budding of packets full of virus particles.

The cell is not killed by this process, at least at first. The influenza virus is among the most changeable of viruses, which is one of its dangers. It has its genetic material in eight segments that can recombine with other strains when two or more strains infect the same cell.

The flu virus that causes most concern is the Influenza A variety, originally a bird flu that jumped into humans. When the 1918 Influenza A virus hit, the virus was so different that it seemed almost no one's immune system was prepared to recognize and respond to it. For the usual influenza virus, major health threats come from pneumonia caused

by the flu virus itself or by secondary infections, usually in the very old or young or those already ill.

A description of the 1918 flu epidemic notes not only that it seemed to target the young and healthy, but the rapid and enormous effects the infection had in producing pneumonia. A September 1918 letter of an American doctor working in an Army hospital during the epidemic, uncovered in 1959 and published in 1979, gives a chilling account. The doctor describes how the soldiers rapidly developed a pneumonia, within days of showing early, ordinary flu symptoms, describing it as "the most viscous type of pneumonia that has ever been seen" and later, observed that for patients "it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate," a tragic outcome the doctors were powerless to stop. The infection circled the globe and there were tales of people sickening on the way to work and dropping dead in the streets.

The curious thing is that, according to the letter, the autopsies showed the infection was not yet well advanced but it would kill by its power to create an overabundance of mucous. Some experts have noted that the pneumonia sounds strikingly like SARS, an infection that was initially thought to be influenza. No one knows for sure why the 1918 flu, designated H1N1, was so deadly, since the epidemic occurred before medical science had reached modern levels of understanding about viruses or disease-causing germs.

In 1976, a variety with the same H1N1 flu, called Swine flu, cropped up but there was no pandemic. So the mystery remains. Some studies have looked at the antibodies of remaining survivors of the epidemic and recently an effort to sequence the virus was launched, using virus found preserved in the body of a victim in a northern climate.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader invites all to WITA event

Thank you for the article on the Women in the Arts: Visual Poem series. Many women have put a lot of hard work into the art exhibit and reading series, and I think many members of the campus community would find the beautiful paintings and installations soothing, shocking and beautiful.

The article did, however, neglect to mention one more free Women in the Arts: Visual Poem event. On Thursday, Jan. 27, from noon to 1 p.m., six more UM-St. Louis women will be reading poetry in the gallery. These writers are Andie Jackson, the Pushcart Prize nominated fiction writer, playwright and poet; Allison Creighton, an English tutor who won the Graduate Poetry Prize at UM-St. Louis; Alison Carrick, the talented poet, fiction writer and witty librarian; Seema Mukhi, an English instructor and fiction writer; Carol Niederlander, a poet involved with River Styx, and (yes) myself.

Hope to see you there!

Colleen McKee
Poetry teacher

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student questions election proposals

I consider myself a dissent of the Constitution and by-laws committee because I served on the committee when the proposal for the election rules were drafted and I oppose the rules. I served on the committee hoping to come up with solutions for problems of last election.

Last election, the election committee, then the student court had to determine whether to disqualify a candidate for campaigning too close to the polling site, campaigning in the residential halls and unethical behavior.

The solution given by the committee is take out the requirement for ethical behavior, allow candidate campaigning closer to the polling place, and impose campaign limits on donations. These solutions are wrong. Under the current rules, campaigning must be 25 feet away from the polling site and ten feet from three computers of more. Under the proposed rules, it is just ten feet. If anything, any proposed rules should require 15 more feet, not 15 less. No proposal should change the definition of a polling site to make it easier to campaign closer to it.

Moreover, we should not allow candidates to be unethical. There is no mention of ethics in the proposal. The proposal has restrictions on free speech and loopholes in it.

The proposal put a \$1,000 cap on campaign donations and \$1,200 on slate. The loophole that is provided is the consideration of seeking endorsements is not considered campaigning. What is seeking endorsements?

Overall, this proposal does not solve the problems, but causes more problems. What will solve the problems is putting judges on student court who will not tolerate abuse to the student court and the election committee ignoring frivolous complaints.

Damien Johnson
Junior, Criminology

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student offended by Seckman's commentary

[In response to Dave Seckman's "Where are all the hecklers?" editorial in the Nov. 29 issue of The Current]

As a former student athlete in high school and a hopeful future teacher, it is hard for me to express how disappointed and saddened I was by Mr. Seckman's article.

I am disappointed that Mr. Seckman bemoans the lack in UM-St. Louis sports fans of what was at one time considered rude, unacceptable behavior. Apparently this rude behavior is now widespread at athletic contests, and our student athletes even crave such inconsiderate activities by their fans. I am saddened because Mr. Seckman is also a student athlete for UM-St. Louis and therefore represents the school I attend. I am saddened that Mr. Seckman has so completely lost sight of the concept of "good sportsmanship" in his athletic career.

In "Spotlight on Youth Sports," a publication of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at Michigan State University which researches the benefits and detriments of participation in youth sports, they write "Sportsmanship involves a striving for success, while maintaining a commitment to being fair, honest, and respectful [and] to following the rules-all of which is synonymous with being ethical or moral. In fact, young athletes [10-18 years] identified five dimensions to sportsmanship: A full commitment to sport participation, respect for the rules and officials, respect for opponents and avoidance of the 'winning at all costs' mentality."

When Mr. Seckman asks, "Where are our drunken college faithfuls filling the stands and making fun of the other team...?" and he states "Having fans in the stands...can make the visitors break," it is obvious he has lost sight of the quest for good sportsmanship and is no longer familiar with its definition. Mr. Seckman queries, "Where are the your mom jokes and in your face yelling?" Unfortunately my mother has passed away; do you think it's possible some of your opponents' mothers have passed away, Mr. Seckman? How would you feel about a "your mom" joke if your mother were dead Mr. Seckman?

Mr. Seckman believes that the home field advantage comprises of "home fans having the ability to knowingly make fun of the opposition and have no consequences for their actions." But there are consequences; fans that act this way make sports and the world a cruder, ruder place. They also set a poor example for others, especially for any youngsters in the audience.

Mr. Seckman also relates, "One time a fan spit right into one of our players faces. Do you think any player likes to have this happen?" No, I don't think any athlete would like to have this happen. I don't think Mr. Seckman would like to have this happen to him, yet he seems to want UM-St. Louis fans to spit in visiting athletes' faces. Another definition of sportsmanship is "The Golden Rule." In good sportsmanship you treat your opponent as you would wish to be treated. Mr. Seckman is obviously not familiar with this definition of good sportsmanship either.

I stated above that I am disappointed and saddened. I am disappointed and saddened by Mr. Seckman, but also by his coaches and the sports programs they run. A sports program is a reflection of the values and ethics of the coaches and sports directors who run them. This reflection would break a mirror. In quoting again from "Spotlight on Youth Sports," "Research suggests that the goals emphasized by an individual or a program may impact moral development/sportsmanlike behavior. Athletes who focus on self-mastery and personal improvement (i.e., task-oriented) are more likely to perceive the purpose of sports as teaching values such as working hard, cooperating with others, and becoming good citizens.

Further, those athletes did not endorse cheating and expressed approval for sportsmanlike behaviors in contrast to individuals who placed an emphasis on beating others (e.g., ego-oriented). Individuals who focused on beating others more often viewed intentional, injurious acts as legitimate, and were more tempted to violate sportsmanship attitudes and behaviors." It would seem that the sports program Mr. Seckman is involved in is sadly, one of the latter types.

If I were Mr. Seckman's coach, we would be having a long talk, with his continued participation on the team decided by the outcome. But I'm not the coach, and our athletes at all levels become spoiled pedantic brats who would rather win at all costs and "break" the opponent than join with them in a respectful relationship to better themselves and realize their potential. Without opponents, how would athletes measure their progress and their successes? In a healthy sports atmosphere, the athlete should be aware that just like their teammates and themselves, their opponents are on the same journey to explore their limits and to better themselves. To better themselves not just in their athletic endeavors, but also as people. Sports can teach the value of hard work, cooperation, to persevere, to deal with adversity and with success. To me, learning these things can make sports a worthwhile activity.

Finally, I am saddened that The Current would print Mr. Seckman's article. By doing so you tacitly endorse his attitude and...you legitimize him in the eyes of your readers. In a sportsworld of steroid-induced baseball records, Sharpie carrying football players and riot-strewn basketball courts, legitimizing Mr. Seckman's attitudes is the last thing it needs.

Charles J. Niemoeller
UM-St. Louis student

Interested in a job at The Current?

Becky

Bring your resume and cover letter to Becky.

What do the readers think?

Results from the web poll:

Have you ever been to the Touhill PAC?

Yes 45%

No 24%

The who? 32%

Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person, and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

SCREEN GEMS

Current

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO A SPECIAL SCREENING

Thursday, February 3, 2005
7:30PM
AMC West Olive
12657 Olive St. • St. Louis, MO 63141

Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary pass (admit two) to see

BOOGEYMAN

You thought it was just a story.

No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This film is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of horror and terror/violence, and some partial nudity.

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4

FEATURES

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MELISSA McCrARY
Features Editor

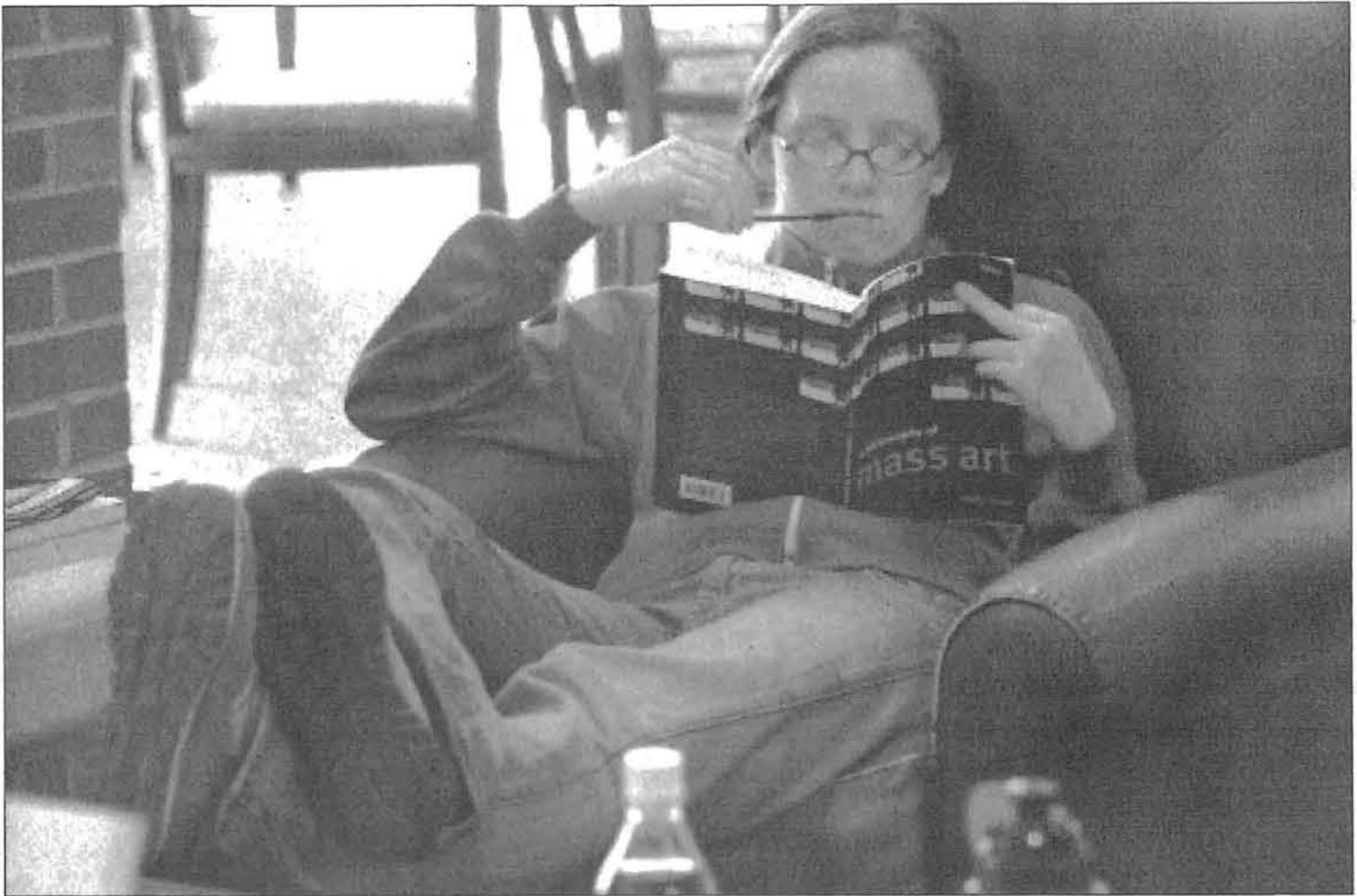
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

the week's
**best
bets**

Fri. Jan. 28
Nerdfest

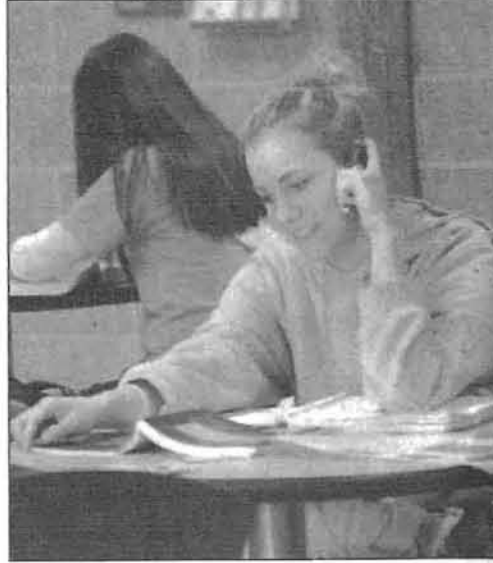
LARPerS, gamers, chess aficionados and trivia whizzes, pack up your nerd stuff and head to Nerdfest in the Pilot House, sponsored by the University Program Board. The event will include a costume contest, a chess mini-tournament, a game of Simpsons trivia and a Halo mini-tournament. Prizes include gift certificates, an I-Pod and an X-Box. For more information, call the Office of Student Life at 516-5291.

Mon. Jan. 31
Monday Noon Series
Women in Song
Barbara Harbach, professor of music, and Katharine Lawton Brown, director of Premiere Performances, will perform music by several female composers, including Harbach. The event will take place at 12:15 in the Music Building. Call 516-5699 for more information.



LEFT:
Rebecca Lewis, senior, philosophy, stretches out as she studies in the Fireside Lounge on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center on Wednesday afternoon.

BELOW:
Catie Blume, senior, exercise science, chats on her phone in the Research Building lobby. This spot is an optimal place to grab a snack and cup of coffee.



Where do you Study Sleep or Relax on campus

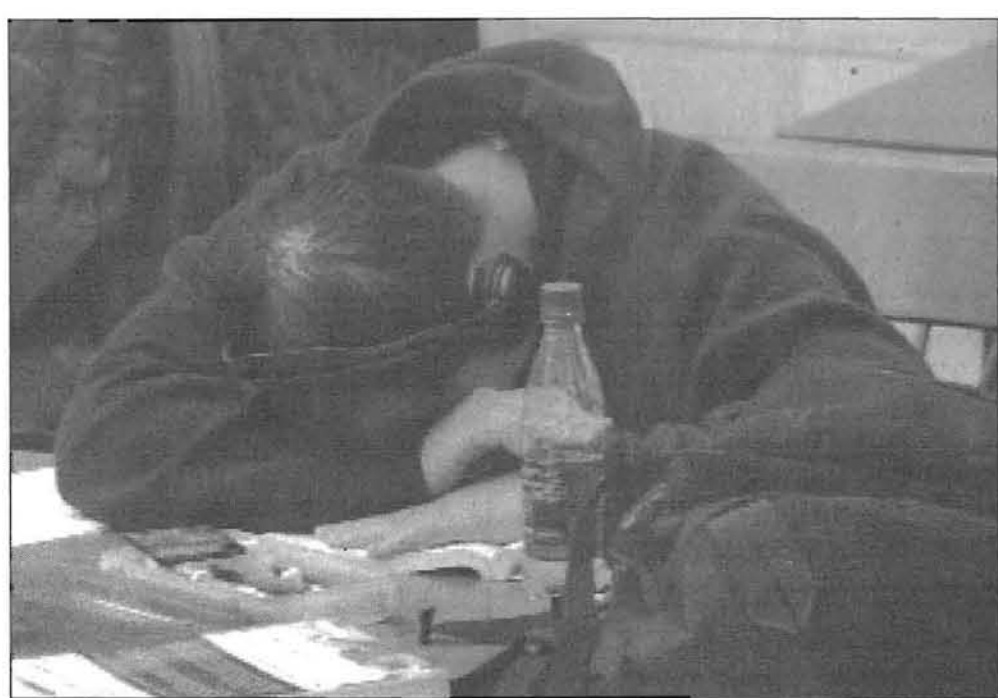
Whether it's the MSC or the library, students are always on the prowl for the coziest spots on campus

Story by Carrie Lewis • Photographs by Erica Burrus

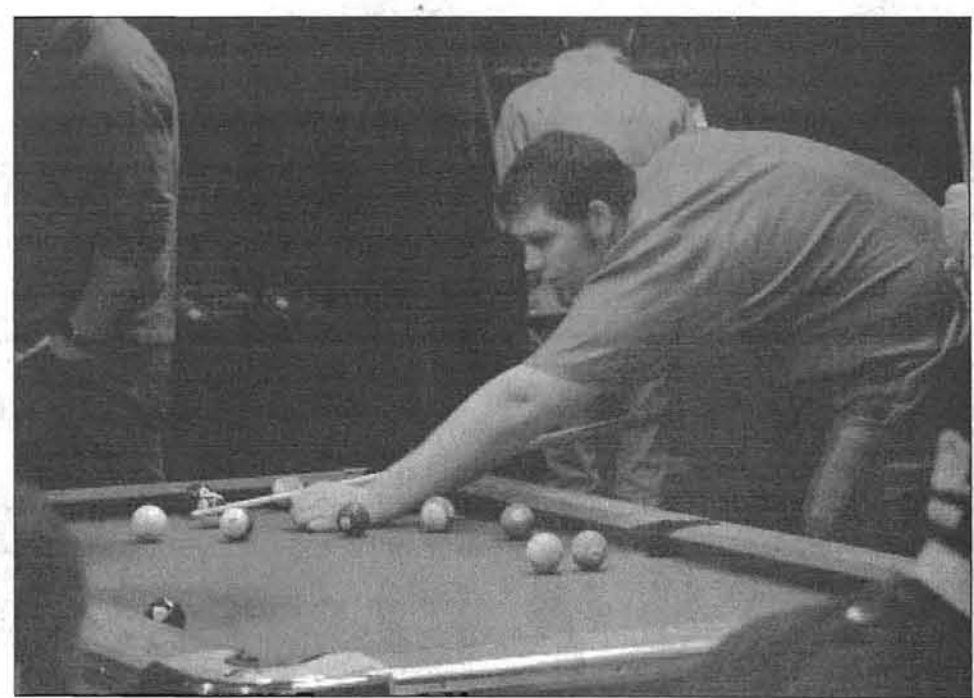
Stress is known to cause high blood pressure, insomnia and poor memory. Luckily, UM-St. Louis has several areas for students to take a break from their studies and relax. There are five popular stress-free zones that many students visit during their free time between classes. The "Quiet Lounge," located on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center, is one destination where students can take a break. Some consider this small lounge to be the quietest place on campus. Students can relax in its peaceful atmosphere and finish their homework during any spare time. The quiet lounge provides oversized chairs facing a windowed wall and several other tables that allow student to work or just take a minute for themselves. Another place that some might consider site of relaxation is in the Thomas Jefferson Library. Charlie Bright, English, graduate student, prefers to relax in the Thomas Jefferson Library whenever he gets the

opportunity. Not only is the library guaranteed to be quiet, it is also a place where readers can find numerous books and magazines to help fill their free time. For those seeking a relaxation place that serves more as a coffee house and provides a variety of beverages and snacks, the Pony Express, located between Stadler and Benton Halls, might be another destination to frequent. Compared to the other campus coffee stands, this one seems to be popular because of its convenient location and seating. There are many scattered tables where students can sit and enjoy a hot beverage or catch up with friends during the few minutes before or after classes. The Fireside Lounge on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center also offers a spot for students to study quietly or relax after a hard day of work. The large fireplace and abundance of comfortable chairs makes this campus

see FAVORITE SPOTS, page 12



The St. Louis Mercantile Library, on the first and second floor of Thomas Jefferson Library, is a quiet place to research, study, or catch a few winks.



One of many students attending the American College Theater Festival this week plays a game of pool downstairs in the MSC. The student, from Bismarck State College, remarked, "This campus has a lot better scenery than my school. The game area is nicer and bigger but our pool is free."

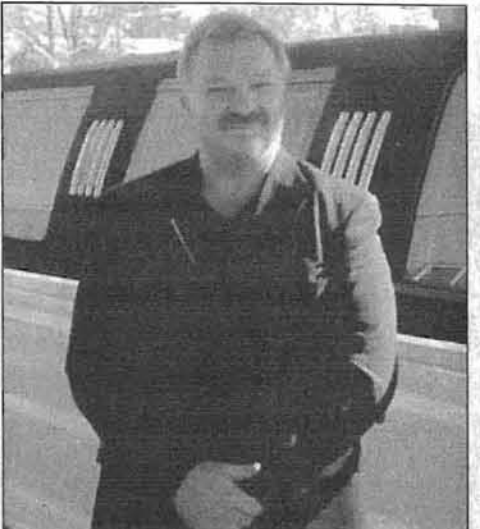
Once a student, now an entrepreneur: Alum shares success story

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

Starting out with an associate's degree at Meramec Community College was not enough for Ray Bixler. He needed more and made a conscious decision to further his education by enrolling at UM-St. Louis. Bixler, sought a degree in marketing and received it from UM-St. Louis, on Aug. 7, 1977. Bixler still keeps in touch with his old mentor and marketing professor, Fred Hale. Even after 28 years, Bixler still communicates with some of his former professors who had a strong impact on his life. "Last time I talked to Fred, he was doing the same thing all good entrepreneurs do, floating a new biz," Bixler said. "This of course after finishing up a stint as St. Louis harbormaster." Even though Bixler graduated with a GPA

in the low 2.0 range, he said his desire to succeed was much more important. Some might say that success is the American dream. Many Americans do not get the opportunity to work, make money and love what they do all at the same time. However, Bixler accomplished his dream of being successful when he came to run his own business. After graduating, Bixler jumped head first into DJ business. In the early '80s Ray created Rent-A-Jock. "Maybe you remember; I did the commercials for 822-DJDI," Ray said. "I even went to the point of nationally trademarking 'DJDI'." He had 75 people working for him out of four different cities and his business began to prosper. He owned two of the largest DJ businesses in the St. Louis and Kansas City area. He also ran his business successfully in Chicago and Indianapolis. Building Rent-A-

Jock soon burned him out and he decided to recreate the business. Ray served out his last clients and in 2000 remade Rent-A-Jock into Presidential Limousine. Now he owns an eight vehicle fleet. A lot of money is invested in those vehicles and with that comes a lot of responsibility. He rents out his vehicles all the time. He promotes as much as he can, generally with advertisement and word of mouth. Timmy Strader, employee at Presidential Limousine, has worked for Bixler for over a year. "Ray is an excellent boss, he is responsible, reasonable, and fair," Strader said. Strader said that he also knows that he is a very flexible manager. As of right now, Ray said that he does not really know what his future holds. He knows whatever it is it will be full of success and on his own terms. Contact Ray Bixler at (636) 451-3600 to rent a Presidential Limousine.



Alumnus Ray Bixler poses in front of a limousine from his business.

Exhibit focuses on text and images

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

"Sentences," a new exhibit at UM-St. Louis's Gallery 210, displays the unique artistic talents of well-known Chicago photographer Jane Calvin.

This exhibit, which features 24 different photomontages, opened on Jan. 13.

Some might wonder what makes these photos so distinctive.

To create her work, Calvin begins by assembling and arranging a variety of materials and antique pieces to design the background of her photos. Once she selects the items that she will use, she forms layers with multiple slide projections of writing and images. She uses straight photography as the last step to capture her installations.

This long process results in photos that capture many things and tell different stories all at once.

Viewers might have different interpretations of each piece. With the assortment of shapes, bright colors and sentences, the photos attract the attention of their audience. The layering of images creates a 3-D look for viewers.

The press release distributed at the gallery reports that although her work may appear to be the result of masking and manipulating negatives in the darkroom or the application of digital

technology in selecting and constructing images on a computer screen, there is no darkroom or digital trickery to these pieces of art.

Terry Suhre, Director of Gallery 210, said it was difficult to find just one photomontage that he likes the best.

"Her use of rich color and the evocative and sensual aspect of her work is very appealing. I like the sculptural approach she takes to making her photographs," Suhre said. "Her photographs are an additive process rather than the more conventional selective approach used by most photographers."

Calvin's photos make viewers look deeper into the vertical and horizontal spaces to realize how place, time and text overlap in the real world.

By combining the text and penlight drawings, Calvin is able to address social and political conditions which are not always visible to the naked eye.

"A major strength of her art, I feel, is her themes regarding gender and how women are presented in a contemporary society," Suhre said. "This idea is consistently well-stated giving the exhibition a strong sense of unity and purpose."

Some of the pieces include "Shadow of the Blues," "Divergences," "Language into Silence," "It Is As If" and "Transformations."

Butterflies, cartoon characters,

sirens, puppets, tarot card readers, city signs, women, angels, and sentences give a fresh outlook to her work.

When most people visit the exhibition, they are immediately drawn the master display piece, "Harmonious."

This piece consists of text projection, mixed media, variable sizes, black/neon light, clothes, wires, chain-saw blades and words.

Katie Anderson, senior, psychology,

explained why she likes "Harmonious."

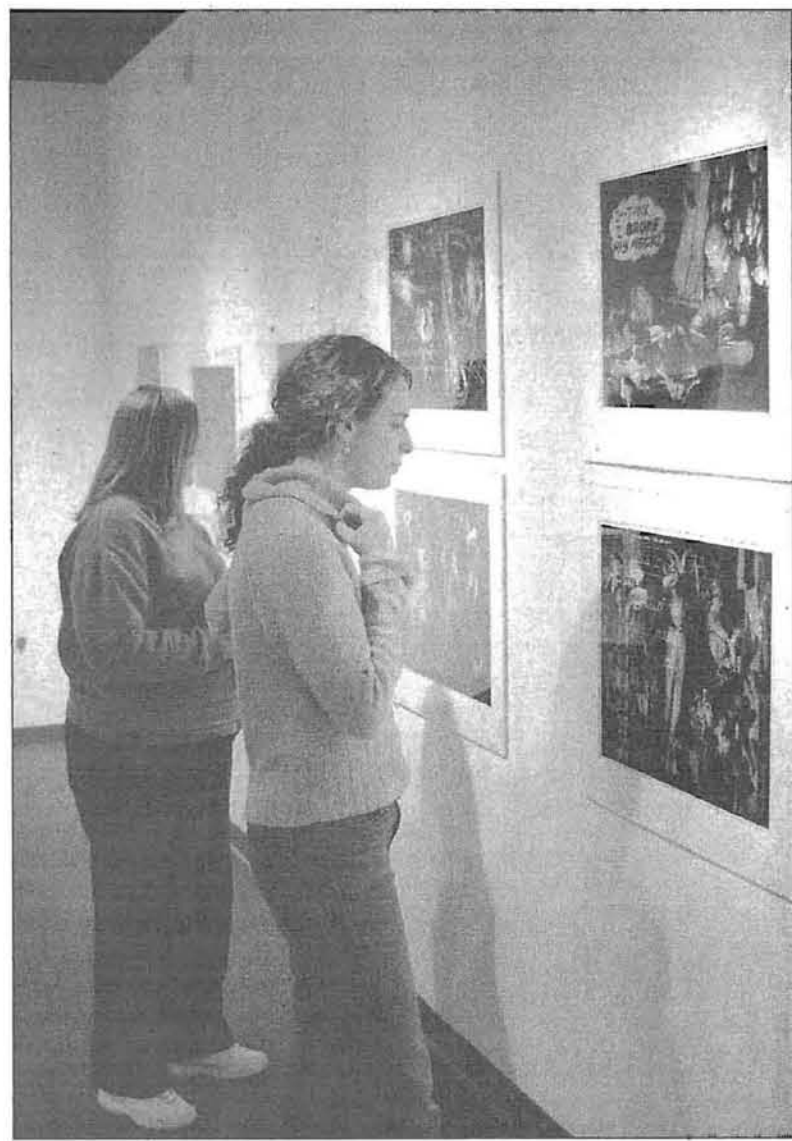
"I like it because it is the process. It is amazing. It shows how she puts all of the elements and images together to create her work," Anderson said.

"Sentences" will run until Feb. 12, and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Gallery 210, which is located next to the UM-St. Louis Police Station.



Katherine Rodway, senior, art history, scrutinizes an interesting piece from Jane Calvin's exhibition "Sentences," which is displayed at the Gallery 210, located next to the campus police station.

RIGHT: Junior anthropology major, Stacey Beckenholdt, junior, anthropology (far left), and Rodway examine the latest Gallery 210 exhibit.



Photos by Kevin Ottley/ The Current

STAT supports athletics, encourages involvement

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

After graduation, the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association invites students to take post-degree involvement with the University. One student organization is on a mission to bridge the gap between students and graduates.

Students Today Alumni Tomorrow, founded in 2002, was designed to keep students connected and involved with the Alumni Association and the UM-St. Louis community.

Amanda LaPlante, STAT and AlumNet Mentoring advisor, described the purpose of the organization.

"STAT was established to cultivate an appreciation and life-long affiliation for UM-St. Louis by building traditions and increasing morale among the student body," she said. "We work to enhance student involvement with the Alumni Association and the UMSL community through networking opportunities, volunteer service and alumni-to-student mentoring."

With the Alum-Net mentoring, students can receive help in finding jobs or careers after they graduate.

Along with participating in community service projects and staying connected with the Alumni Association, members act as ambassadors to direct guests at special events on campus, assist University Relations and help plan certain events.

STAT created the Red and Gold Zone at campus athletic events, which awards students who wear red and gold with prizes at home games.

LaPlante said that this organization gives student members opportunities to build their resumes through service and make connections in their fields of interest.

STAT currently has around 60 members, and the organization is continuing to grow.

"We need leadership from our members to create new campus traditions and STAT sponsored social events, to find creative ways to boost attendance at athletic events and to build stronger alliances with alumni leaders in this area," LaPlante said.

"You also receive letters of recommendation for being an active member, a free gift pack and a student membership with the Alumni Association."

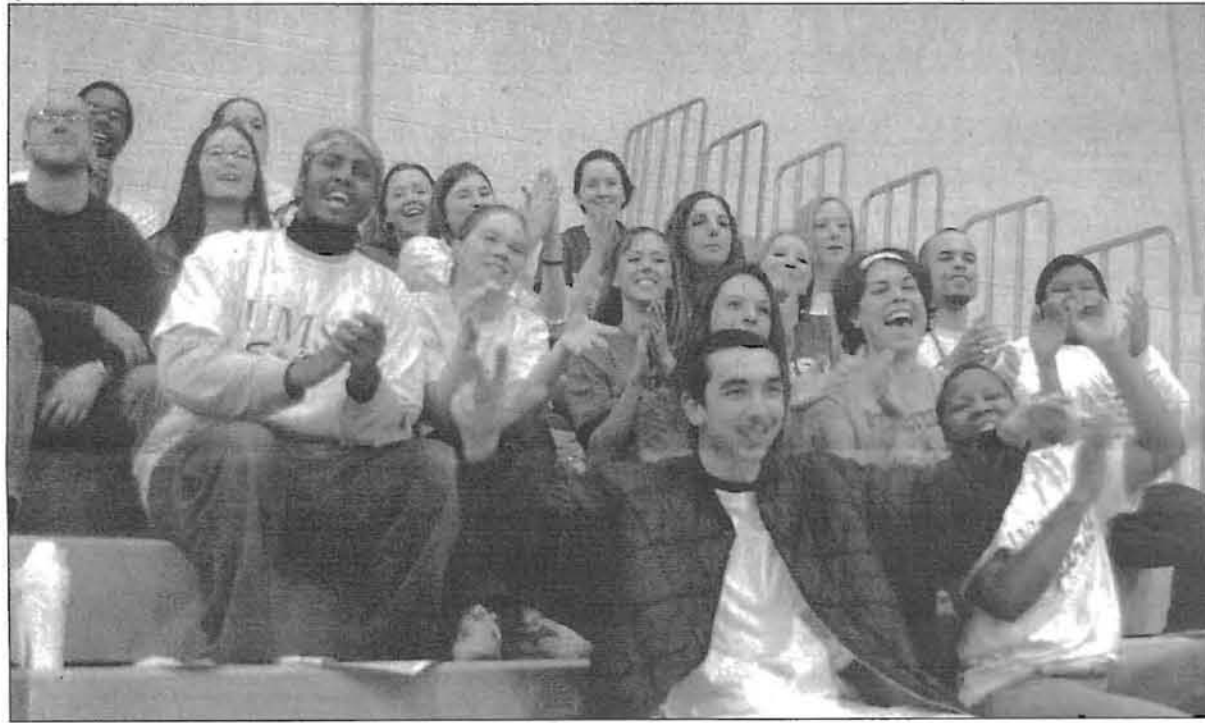
Members of STAT also receive the Alumni newsletter and have the chance to be featured as a student profile within the newsletter.

This organization has planned several upcoming events, including tailgating, Red and Gold Zone at the men's basketball games, Homecoming activities and Alumni Day on Feb. 12.

D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology, and president of STAT, said that this organization has numerous benefits for its members.

"There are great networking possibilities and opportunities and the group helps to give the school more spirit," Braddix said.

STAT welcomes new students throughout the year. To become a member, interested students can stop by the STAT cubicle in the Office of Student Life, fill out an application and set up an interview with LaPlante.



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

Members of the Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) organization cheer the Rivermen on during UM-St. Louis' game against Quincy on Thursday night. STAT gave out a number of UM-St. Louis memorabilia and t-shirts during the game in an effort to raise school spirit. The organization currently has about 60 members and hopes to recruit more this year.

Enhancing the exterior

Plastic surgery popularity grows among Americans

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

Like a payment on a car, the average person can make a payment on new breasts or a new nose. However, unlike a car which can be repossessed after the lack of payment, plastic surgeons are not able to knock on a front door and demand that the goods be returned.

America is becoming more attractive, and not necessarily through genetics. Medical advancements in plastic surgery have given patients a world of new options.

Numerous forms of plastic surgery exist, including arm lifts, buttock lifts, chin augmentations, breast reductions, tummy tucks, lip enhancements and forehead lifts. Botox injections, cellulite treatments, chemical peels, laser hair removal, laser skin resurfacing, microdermabrasion, laceration repairs and microsurgery are a few other procedures intended to enhance physical appearance.

According to plasticsurgery.org, 254,140 women received breast augmentations in 2003, 12,112 people received cheek implants, 128,667 received facelifts and 320,022 received liposuction.

Sarah Denson, former UM-St. Louis student, now a nurse at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, described why most people undergo plastic surgery.

"Many people get plastic surgery for medical reasons, like a breast reduction or reconstruction on an arm from a car accident," Denson said. "A person can benefit from plastic surgery emotionally and physically."

According to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, patients who undergo a breast reduc-

tion seek relief from the pain caused by large breasts. Sometimes insurance companies will cover the surgery since it is not necessarily cosmetic.

For the most part, insurance companies do not consider breast enhancement as a medical improvement, since the surgery does not help the patient physically.

With plastic surgery comes possible health risks and dangers. A report from the National Research Center for Women and Families indicated that some government studies have raised new concerns about the safety of silicone and saline breast implants. The report states that women with leaking silicone breast implants are more likely to have several painful and potentially fatal autoimmune diseases or related illnesses.

Many new television shows promote plastic surgery to American viewers. Shows such as "I want a Famous Face" and "Extreme Makeover" encourage Americans to change the way they look. Beauty pageants also encourage interest in cosmetic surgery. "The Swan," another reality television show, takes average women and changes their appearance to make them into "bomb shells."

Physical enhancement surgery comes with risks. The patient is put under anesthetic and is also advised to follow doctor's orders during recovery. Complications can arise with any surgery. Breast, chin and cheek implants can fall or cause the body to reject the implant itself. Bruising and swelling usually occur after the surgery.

see PLASTIC SURGERY, page 12

The price of beauty

Breast Augmentation	\$3,375
Buttock Lift	\$3,354
Cheek Implant	\$2,083
Facelift	\$5,283
Liposuction	\$2,224
Nose Reshaping	\$3,188
Tummy Tuck	\$4,641
Botox Injection	\$376
Laser Hair Removal	\$429
Collagen Injection	\$373
Breast Lift	\$3,857

2003 National Total
\$8,366,085,999

Information from plasticsurgery.org

Audible art at Visio

LEFT: Ruth Ellen Kocher reads poetry from her published collection, 'When the Moon Knows You're Wandering' last Thursday afternoon. The event, called 'Visual Poetry: Celebrating Women in the Arts,' took place in Gallery Visio and featured members of UM-St. Louis staff.

BELOW: Associate Professor in the English Department, Mary Troy, reads from her collection of poems called 'Cookie Lily.' 'Visual Poetry' was part of UM-St. Louis' 'Women in the Arts' series.



Photos by Kevin Ottley/ The Current

SPORTS



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Riverwomen point guard Courtney Watts drives the base line in an attempt to get to the ring and score again for her team. Unfortunately, Watts' game high 15 points were not enough for UMSL to claim victory.

Riverwomen struggle through conference losses

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team suffered three consecutive losses recently. The first two came in a grueling road trip to Wisconsin and Illinois on Jan. 13 and 15, and the third came here at home against Quincy University on Jan. 18. In each game the Riverwomen had at least five more turnovers than their opponents. Coach Lee Buchanan remarked on the team's weaknesses. "We're having trouble putting the ball in the hole right now. That would sum up all three losses. Since we aren't scoring we are playing twice as hard on defense, which in turn hurts our offense because we get tired and sluggish," he said.

The first game was a 69-43 loss

to Wisconsin-Parkside. The Rangers made a couple of runs to start the game and get a quick lead. The first was a 13-2 lead, in which the Riverwomen amassed eight turnovers on 10 possessions. Afterwards the team settled down some and cut the lead to eight, 20-12, with 11 minutes left to play in the half. The comeback was short-lived. The Rangers went on a 25-5 run to close the half and take a 43-19 lead.

In the second half the Rangers never looked back. They extended their lead to 29 before the Riverwomen made a small 12-3 run to bring the lead back into the teens. The Riverwomen stayed within 18 points until nine minutes remained in the game, then the Rangers blew the lead back open and led by as many as 28 before it was all said and

done. The Riverwomen were led by Kali Birkey with 11 points.

On Jan. 15 the Riverwomen traveled from Wisconsin to Romeoville, Ill. to play the Lewis Flyers. The game started out closely contested, tied at 7-7. Lewis grabbed a 12-11 lead with 10 minutes to play in the first half, then went on a 9-2 run to go up 21-13. The Riverwomen got a three-pointer from Courtney Watts and a jumper by Leslie Ricker to cut the lead to three, and entered half-time trailing 32-28.

The Riverwomen got the lead on a short 5-0 run to start the second half, but then the dry spells that often haunt the Riverwomen returned. Lewis went on a 13-0 run over the next five minutes, as the Riverwomen missed 11 consecutive attempts.

see R-WOMEN B-BALL, page 9



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UMSL shooting guard Crystal Lambert drains another field goal despite close defense from Quincy's Jenny Wisser (20).

Wankers United forced to change team name; student files complaint



Photo courtesy Rec sports

Rec Sports soccer team 'Wankers United' had to find a new name after officials found out that the word 'wanker' is a derogatory Scottish slang term. The team's name was to 'XXX United' after members did not choose to provide an alternate one.

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

In a recent domestic dispute, issues concerning the team name of one of the Campus Recreation sports champions became a problem. Complaints have been filing into the Rec sports department over the name of the Rec sports indoor soccer champions, "Wankers United."

A few faculty members and students' complaints have forced a sudden change in the team's name. According to the complaints, the name refers to a derogatory Scottish slang term that the stu-

dents and faculty members found offensive and felt was inappropriate in a clean University setting.

Frustrated Wankers United team member and captain Francis Lam, who has led the team to consecutive undefeated seasons, gave his thoughts on the dispute. "This is an outrage; to think that you can't even name your own Rec sports team these days is unbelievable," Lam said. "We have a right as Rec sports participants to be able to name our team as we want, just as anyone else does."

This is the first time in Campus Recreation sports history that this has been a problem and it is also the first time in the short history of the University that the students and faculty have simultaneously

complained about a Campus Recreation intramural team name.

Campus Recreation sports coordinator Pam Steinmetz commented on the situation. "We were totally unprepared for this situation. I have heard of things like this, but it really caught us by surprise," Steinmetz said. "It was something that I thought I would never have to see while I was here, but when it came down to it, we decided that a change had to be made."

Officially the ruling required the team name to be changed. The official Campus Recreation sports web site now has the team listed as XXX United, due to the team's disregard of the issue and choice not to come up with another name.

Lauer appointed v-ball head coach

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The Riverwomen volleyball team has finally gotten the coach they wanted. Interim coach Josh Lauer was named as the official head coach just this past semester. Lauer is the type of coach that any team would want, but he is especially valuable to the Riverwomen because he brings the kind of enthusiasm and intensity they need right now.

Freshman Heather Nichols commented on the team's new coach. "I think he is an incredible coach. He has a great background in coaching, and with that he should be able to build a very good program for us in the near future," she said.

Just this past season, Lauer was hired as the interim head coach for the Riverwomen less than one week before the start of practice. With so little time to work with his team Lauer made the best of it as he guided the team to a 9-17 record on the year and a ninth-place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. This was the team's best finish since the 2002 season. Lauer also had one player earn all-conference honors this past year, as freshman Claudia Medina was named a second team all-conference selection.

Senior Daria Sak spoke highly about coach Lauer. "He is going to be great for this program. Coach Lauer will be able to bring in a lot of local talent to help the team, which is something that has been absent from the program for quite

some time now. With his good attitude, he should be able to bring the team to where they need to be," Sak said.

Lauer's background is one that shows his true talent and mentality. Lauer has been the head coach for the St. Louis CYC Volleyball Club since 1999 and has helped it become one of the top volleyball clubs in the country. He served as a coach primarily with high school aged athletes in the past. He served as the head coach for the 16 and under level teams.

During his tenure as coach, his teams have finished in the top five regionally every year and attended the USAV Nationals in both Open and Club divisions. Lauer has coached numerous players who have gone on to play college volleyball at the NCAA Division I, Division II and Division III levels.

As a student Lauer graduated from Washington University - St. Louis with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and a minor in religious studies. He also currently works as a senior research technician at Washington University - St. Louis in the School of Medicine Department. Lauer is a certified volleyball official, having worked at the high school and collegiate levels, and for the USAV Junior Nationals. Look for the Riverwomen to make vast improvements over the next few seasons.



Josh Lauer
Volleyball Head Coach

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Upcoming

Men's Basketball

Jan. 27

♦ vs. Kentucky Wesleyan
7:30 p.m.

Jan. 29

♦ vs. Bellarmine
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 3

♦ vs. Indianapolis
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Jan. 24

♦ at Oakland City
7:00 p.m.

Jan. 27

♦ vs. Kentucky Wesleyan
5:30pm

Feb 8

♦ vs. Bellarmine
1:00 p.m.

Rivermen's three-game winning streak is broken

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team recently had a string of three wins, including two conference victories on the road, snapped at home by Quincy University. Despite the recent loss, the Rivermen were able to move up into the ninth spot in GLVC standings, just one shy of the conference tournament. Coach Chris Pilz has been excited about the team's success: "We are playing a lot better. We had a good road swing and a good home game on Tuesday. The game Thursday was against a good team, they made less mistakes than us. The really positive thing though is that we had a really nice crowd, they helped us make a couple of comebacks. They were energetic and loud, and we appreciate them." The games left the team's record at 5-11 on the year.

On Jan. 15 the Rivermen followed their win against Wisonin-Parkside with a 76-74 win over Lewis University. Forwards Jonathan Griffin and Aaron Green got the team off to a quick start. Each hit two three-pointers a piece to start the team off to a 20-8 lead in the first eight minutes of the game. After Lewis closed the gap to 22-17, Griffin struck yet again from behind the arc, hitting consecutive three-pointers to give the Rivermen an 11 point lead. The Flyers mounted an 8-2 run to cut the lead to 32-27, but the Rivermen managed to keep the five-point lead, 40-35, going into the half.

Lewis started the second half on a 7-2 run to tie the game at 46, and then grabbed their first lead of the game, 50-48. Three-pointers again dug the Rivermen out of a hole. Tim Guerin and Joey Paul both knocked down three-pointers to give the Rivermen a 55-51 lead. The Rivermen did not lose the lead again. They pushed it to as much as eight with 4:25 remaining, then made sure to hit their free-throws to keep the lead. The team made 25-26 free-throws and held off a late Lewis charge for the 46-44 win. The team was led by Griffin, who had 20 points including 4-7 from three-point range. Green added 20 and shot an incredible 75% from the field.

The Lewis win was followed with a home victory on Jan. 18 against Robert Morris College. If nothing else, this game was simply a



Kevin Ottley/ The Current
Freshman forward David Ward lays up the basketball to add two more points to the Rivermen's overall score. The Rivermen were defeated Thursday night by the Hawks of Quincy.

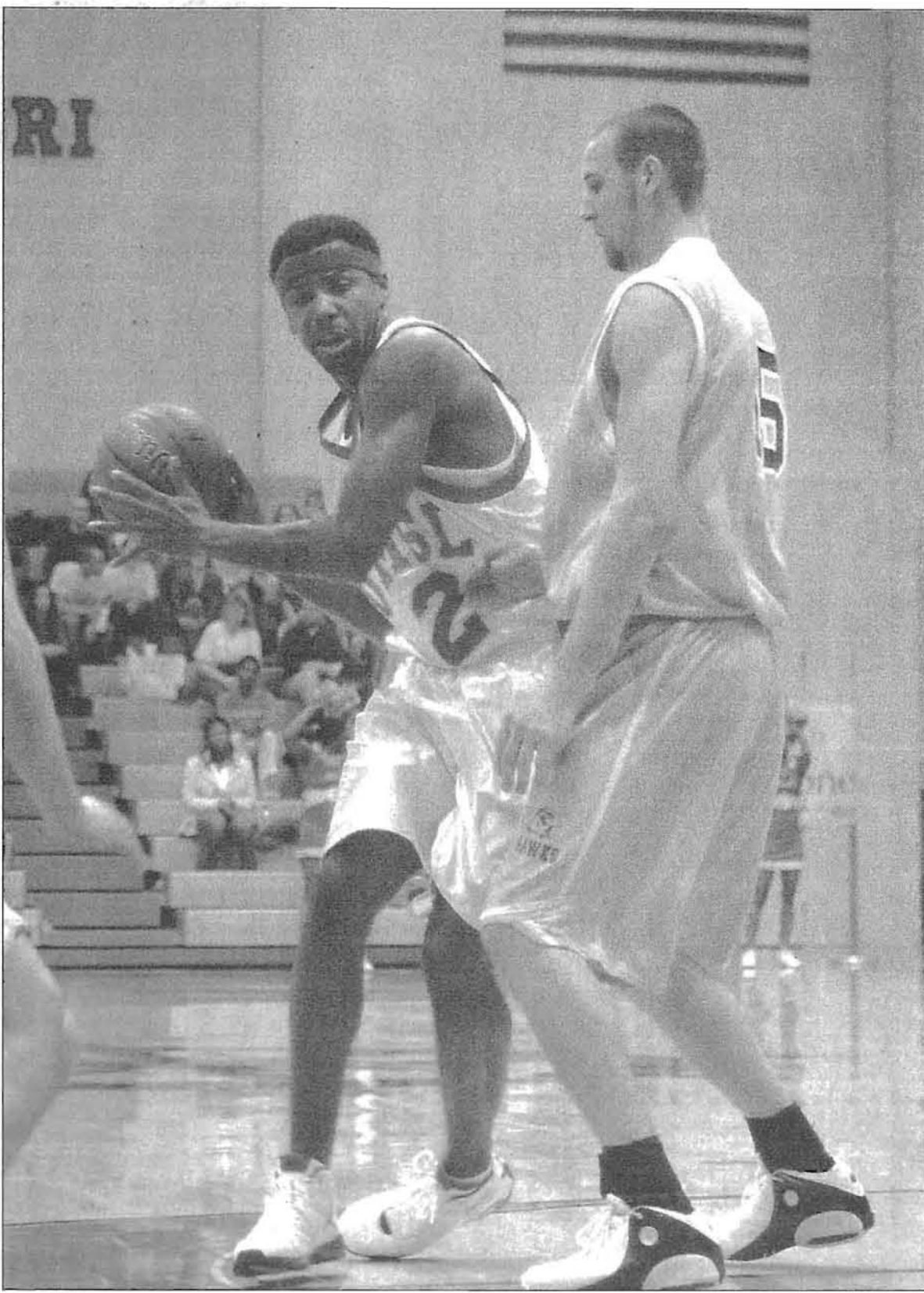
blowout, as the Rivermen won it 90-65. The first half, however, started out fairly even. Robert Morris was only behind 17-15 after trading baskets and leads for the first 14 minutes of the game. Then the Rivermen went on a tear. An offensive rebound and subsequent jumper by David Ward ignited a 13-2 run over the next four minutes for the Rivermen. With just two minutes to play in the half Robert Morris was only able to cut the lead to ten.

The second half was much the same as the first. The Rivermen kept at least a 10 point lead for the first 10 minutes of the half, then went on another big run. With the score 48-36 the Rivermen managed to dominate in the paint with Green, Ward, Ike Attah, and Darrell Minner, to make a 10-2 run and extend the lead to 20 points. Robert Morris did not cut the deficit any lower than 16 the rest of the way. The Rivermen were led by Green with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

The next home game for the Rivermen did not go nearly as well, even though they were playing in front of the largest crowd of the season. On Jan. 20 the Rivermen lost a fiercely contested game to Quincy University, 87-76. The game started out all Quincy. The Hawks seemed all but invincible the first five minutes of the game. They opened with a missed three-point attempt, only to have their center, 6'9", 265 lb. Phil Gettinger, pull down the rebound and give them a second chance—which they made. Gettinger had an assist

the next trip down the floor, then another offensive rebound after his team drained another three-pointer. The center was giving the Rivermen fits in the beginning of the game as the Hawks grabbed a 15-6 lead. Rivermen center David Ward commented on the difficulties of the game, "They played a little bit harder, set good screens, and got their shooters open," he said. Although Quincy was playing almost flawlessly the Rivermen held their composure until they could make their own run. Ward and Minner combined for six points in the paint and Sherome Cole hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 15 for the Rivermen. The Hawks then went on their own 9-0 run to reestablish their lead 24-15. Minner kept the Rivermen chipping away at the lead with an assortment of lay-ups and offensive rebounds, and with 3:26 left in the half another three-pointer by Cole cut the lead to five, 36-31. Quincy went into half-time with a 42-36 lead.

If the first half was up and down, then the second half was a roller coaster ride. Seven minutes in the Hawks pushed their lead all the way to 16. Over the next four minutes the Rivermen went on a 15-2 run, sparked by an assist and then lay-up by Griffin and ended with a lay-up by Griffin, cutting the lead to 61-58. The lead stayed at three until there was just seven minutes left in the game, and then it all fell apart. Quincy went on a 13-1 run over the next four minutes to all but capture the game. The Rivermen would not get within nine



Kevin Ottley/ The Current
Forward Aaron Green protects the ball from any possible turnover during action in the UMSL-Quincy game last Thursday night.

the rest of the way. Griffin led the team with 18 points followed by Minner who totaled 15 points and 11 rebounds.

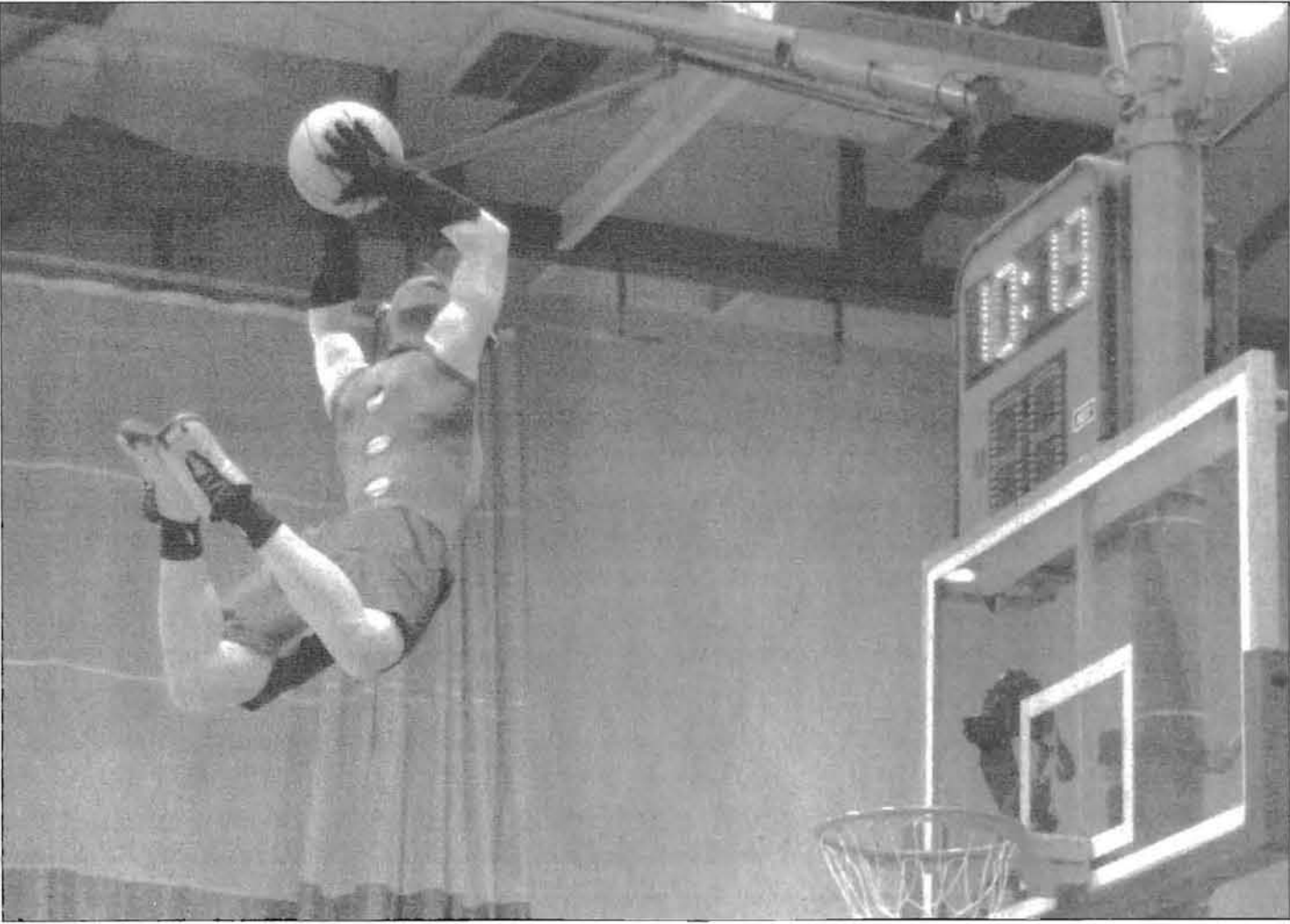
Griffin commented on the losing effort. "We are playing the best bas-

ketball of the whole season. We are starting to gel together, to connect. We will just try to win the next game and get back on top again. Everyone is trying to make the right play, looking for the open man. Guys aren't

afraid to shoot the ball because the know the whole team is behind them," he said.

The Rivermen will be in action a home on Jan. 27 against Kentucky Wesleyan.

Members of the High Impact Squad rile up the crowd as one member goes airborne to perform another impressive dunk. The performance took place during halftime of the men's basketball game last Thursday night and was well-received.



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

High Impact Squad lures big crowd

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team played their Jan.18 game against Quincy in front of the largest crowd the university has seen this season. According to Todd Addington, Sports Information Director for UM-St. Louis, the turnout was approximately 720. He felt there were several factors for the higher numbers: "I think the turnout was higher this time because the team was on a three game winning streak going in. Another reason could be that we were playing Quincy and we always draw bigger

numbers in every sport because of the rivalry. The third reason is that the High Impact Squad performed. That seemed to bring out more students, especially from the STAT [Students Today Alumni Tomorrow] group," Addington said.

While a crowd of 720 is not a huge turnout in college sports, it is much larger than the typical UM-St. Louis crowd of 150-200. The previous record for the season was 428, set on Nov. 23 against Harris-Stowe College, an intra-city rival. Jerry Burrell, captain of the High Impact Squad that performed their "acrodunks" at halftime, enjoyed the crowd. "We've been all over the world doing this. I've been to four different continents and recently

went on a trip to China...You know what? I can tell you that these crowds like you have here are so much more fun than NBA crowds. I'll take a crowd like this any day over an NBA crowd. It was electrifying to perform for everyone here," Burrell said.

The larger numbers are what current men's basketball Coach Chris Pilz has been asking for. Pilz has often mentions the days when he played in front of crowds of 2,000 people and more, right here on campus in the Mark Twain Athletic Center. "If we can get crowds of just 400 or 500 a night here you'll see a big change. The crowd is like the sixth man, and with it we will be able to win those close games that

can go either way," Pilz said.

The Athletic Department aims to bring back the old days of 2,000 fans at a game; Business Director Doug Boyer had a goal for that many at the Quincy game. Like the High Impact Squad, Boyer has another plan in mind to bring the community to see the basketball games. On Jan. 29 the gym is going to be filled with mascots from different sports teams all over the area. Professional mascots from a variety of sports will be featured, including the NCAA's mascot, J.J. Jumper. The goal is to attract as many students and members of the community as possible to the school to see the upcoming game. If all goes well, the record of 720 will be broken.

Golf prepares for Spring

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

As the spring months are now right around the corner, the men's golf team looks to swing into action. This season looks to be promising for the young team. They are going to be returning all five players from last season as well as making three new key additions to the team.

New to the team this season are three freshman recruits. Jacob Paul, Bryan Goers and Marcus Deckert will each look to add to the team this season in hopes of returning the Rivermen to the NCAA championships once again.

Sophomore Diego Jimenez commented on the upcoming season. "We are committed to trying to do well, but we still are a very young team and I think with the help of the coach we will be able to improve our game and mostly our scores. Hopefully our scores will be more consistent and that we can place higher in conference play this season," he said.

The Rivermen have been out of form the past two seasons as they have fallen off of the charts from their suc-

cesses in the 2001 and 2002 seasons. During those years the team went to the NCAA championships both years and placed in the top six in the conference. They also had an individual finisher in the top ten at every tournament in which they participated, which is something they have not been able to do consistently since then.

In the last two seasons the Rivermen have had trouble closing the deal on each tournament in which they have participated. Just last fall the team finished 19th out of a total of 20 teams at the NCAA regional qualifier, and only managed to finish 14th out of 17 at the Drury Classic. In 2003 the team managed no better, with their best team finish coming at the Missouri Southern Invitational where they finished 3rd and their top individual finisher on the season only managed to finish 9th.

This season's team looks to abolish last season's team record, and with new help coming the team is looking better with every swing. Look for the Rivermen to come out firing at the start of the season and to carry the momentum throughout.

R-WOMEN B-BALL, from page 8

With 10 minutes left in the game the Riverwomen were down by 16. The Riverwomen finally got another run, this time outscoring Lewis 10-2 and cutting the lead to eight, but in the end it did little good. The Flyers extended the lead to 14 points with just under two minutes left in the game. The Riverwomen were led by Crystal Lambert with 11 points.

The third game of the 0-3 stretch came against the Quincy Hawks. The game was ugly from the get-go, as the Hawks applied merciless defensive pressure on the Riverwomen and capitalized on their turnovers to take a 79-57 victory. The contest included 51 fouls and a total of 59 free throws between the two teams. Quincy got the first run of the game while trailing 8-6. The Flyers outscored the Riverwomen 13-2 over a five minute span to take a 19-10 lead, then extended it to 28-14 with just

two minutes to play in the half. The Riverwomen made a late rally to cut the lead to ten, but Quincy hit a last second shot to go into half-time up 34-22.

The second half was never close. The Hawks went on an 8-2 run to take a 21 point lead after the first seven minutes, and then clung tightly to it the rest of the way. In the second half the teams combined for 47 free throw attempts, but in the end the Hawks kept their 22 point lead in the 79-57 victory. Player Leslie Allrich saw scoring as the main problem, "We couldn't get it together on defense and we couldn't score. But there are a lot more games left and we're hoping to win most of those," she said. The Riverwomen were led by Watts with 15 points and Lambert with 14.

The team will play next on Jan. 27 at home against Kentucky Wesleyan.

A&E

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Upscale
'Pepper
Lounge'
makes killer
martinis

BY TANA ROGERS
Staff Writer

Even with a bar immediately to the right, people entering The Pepper Lounge will undoubtedly notice its lush décor. Lamps shine green and red, alternately, near the ceiling and above the selection of top-shelf liquors.

The Lounge opens at 9 p.m. nightly Wednesday through Sunday. Sunday is "Industry Night" with drink and shot specials.

On a Saturday, there may not be cheap drinks, but the atmosphere is well worth the additional couple bucks for drinks. Many young professionals visit

this comfortable, well-decorated bar. The dress is not formal, but there are definitely no sneakers,

sweatshirts, dollar drinks or chugging which would immediately indicate "college bar." The Pepper Lounge bartenders make excellent martinis, and an eavesdropper would hear a number of people discussing careers or see them exchanging business cards.

Upon entering, to the left, there are tables and an empty space that some customers use as a dance area when the back section becomes crowded. A long hall leads to the back section of this restaurant by day, bar/club by night. Along the hallway, some patrons check their coats or duck into the bathrooms. Others warm the walls and/or socialize. Beyond this hall, the large back section beckons the majority of the crowd.

The bar is along the left and some cozy U-shaped booths to the right. The booths are raised above floor level. Some people relax and sip their drinks. On the other hand, standing in a booth provides the perfect height to have a look at the entire group that has gathered. Against the back wall, there is a VIP section, which is also raised. It is enclosed by a wooden railing where some dancers rest their drinks because the dance floor is right in front of the VIP section.

Beside the busy dance floor is the DJ booth and a small stage. The stage is not tall enough to

see PEPPER LOUNGE, page 11

PERFORMANCE REVIEW



Photos by Kevin Ottley/ The Current
Musician Tommy Martin enchants his audience with the music from his Irish Uilleann Pipes. During his performance Martin described his instrument and the difference between it and the more renowned Highland bagpipes of Scotland.

RIGHT:
This young lad is hoisted by his mother in order to get a better look at the musician playing the wonderful music. Tommy Martin was a feature Irish music performer in the music building last Thursday.



PLAY REVIEW

Less is more in the Rep's 'Stones in His Pockets'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

In "Stones in His Pockets," the award-winning British comedy now playing at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, a small rural Irish town copes with an army of Hollywood types who have descended on their spot of Ireland to make a movie. The central focus of this culture-clash comedy about Hollywood dreams is the friendship that develops between a pair of Irishmen hired as extras on the film. There is also a temperamental starlet who can't master the accent, a demanding assistant director and his California-girl assistant, the director, a town of people as starry-eyed extras and "the last surviving Irish extra" from the John Wayne movie, "The Quiet Man."

There is something else that makes this play different. All these characters are played by just two actors, Joe Hickey and Timothy McCracken, with a minimum of props and essentially no costume changes. They work on a stage that is bare except for a wardrobe trunk and a pair of folding stools. The semicircular stage is surrounded by pairs of shoes, of various types, all neatly lined up with toes pointed outward to the audience. There is a painted backdrop of the Irish countryside and a pair of rolling wardrobe racks filled with costumes is suspended over one side of the stage.

That's it. The two actors create their characters with the taking off or addition of jackets or caps - the same

ones, not an endless variety, and with the use of the three simple props. Mostly they create the characters through changes in posture, voice, and manner, and turn the props into a bar, a desk, and a variety of locations.

Yet, each character is clearly drawn and distinct, and once introduced, you recognize the re-appearance of each. The antics of the actors to create the entire cast of characters are part of the humor of this delicious and biting satire of Hollywood dreams in a distant land.

The actors are always in motion in this energetic, highly entertaining play. Their boundless energy as they spin around to transform themselves into one character after another is sure to inspire admiration for their stamina as much as their acting skill. At first, the star-struck locals in rural Irish County Kerry; most of whom have been drafted as extras, bounce excitedly between the catering wagon, wardrobe tent and shooting location of the big Hollywood historic drama "The Quiet Valley," gleefully adopting the jargon of the movie people and delighted to have the extra paychecks. The local characters include old Mickey (McCracken), "the last surviving Irish extra" from the John Wayne movie "The Quiet Man," as he

proudly informs the other extras. On the Hollywood side, there are a director, an assistant director, and of course, the star, Caroline Giovanni (Hickey) who struggles to imitate an Irish accent. The comedic tone of the first half gives way to more dramatic



Photo by Jerry Nuhnheim, Jr.
Timothy McCracken (left) and Joe Hickey star in the Repertory Theater performance of the play "Stones in His Pockets" through Feb. 5.

shades, as dramatic events in the Irish village overshadow the fictional drama of the movie.

Jake (McCracken) and Charlie (Hickey) are two extras who are the main characters, whose developing friendship is the basic frame of the

Master Irish piper entertains and educates at concert

BY ALBERTO PATINO
Staff Writer

For the European folk music layman, it would be rather difficult to make the distinction between the bagpipes of Scotland and the Uilleann pipes of Ireland. It would be equally difficult for him to tell the difference musically between a 'reel', 'air', or a 'lament'. Thankfully experts and the uninitiated alike were treated to a lively and informative free concert by Dublin uilleann player Tommy Martin in the Music Building on January 20.

The charismatic Martin indulged his audience, giving a thorough explanation of the pipes, as well as their individual parts and functions.

The Uilleann pipes (pronounced "ILL en" in Gaelic) typically consist of a chanter, a set of drones, regulators, and a bag. The piper rhythmically compresses the bag, pushing fixed drone notes through the pipes, and using the chanter and regulators to play melodic lines. The melodies are played simultaneously with the drones, making an alluring and hypnotic juxtaposition of sound.

Martin explained that Uilleann pipes originated in 1700s Ireland, and that their songs were passed on through strong oral tradition, often lending themselves to unique renditions. They often marked Ireland's tragic past (in laments), but also joy and jocosity (in airs and jigs). Often a vital element at celebrations, pipes players would be instructed to play until the dancers were exhausted.

Brief questions were answered,

then Martin quickly stirred the audience with beautifully syncopated tunes, including "Leg of the Duck", "Four Knots", "Maple Leaf" and "Blackbird". Certain red-haired ladies in the audience could hardly control the tapping of their feet in unison with Martin's time-keeping heel stomp, marking the pulse for his lively, though sometimes hauntingly medieval-sounding songs.

There were certain moments of contemplation over the sad-yet-oh-so-pretty ululating of his drones, but all were certainly consoled by the alternately fun, flitting, scattening notes of the chanter.

As an added treat, Martin played a couple of short tunes with the Irish penny-whistle. The sweetly high pitched songs he played were a welcome addition to the set of pipes classics.

Martin closed with "The Fox Chase". This was a prime example of involved Irish folk music, sonically suggesting a hunter family's heated pursuit of a "red dog." Martin portrayed this vividly, as with closed eyes you could hear the progression from the initial trumpet call, to frenzied horses and dogs, to the chaotic chase through fields and forest, finally the riotous cornering of the fox.

Martin truly gave a lovely musical performance, and there will be more great Irish music to come.

This concert was presented as part of the Center for International Studies' 'Irish Music Today' program.

The next Irish music concert will feature inventive acoustic group Lunasa, who will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 18 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

UPCOMING IRISH CONCERTS

- Friday, March 18, 12:30 p.m. at the PAC, Lee Theater. Lunasa - Internationally-acclaimed Irish Folk Music Ensemble as part of the International Performing Arts concert series. \$15/\$7 with UMSL ID.
- Thursday, April 7, 2005, 12:30 p.m. in 205 Music Bldg. Tommy Peoples, Irish Folk Composer Concert of Donegal Fiddle Music. Free concert.

MOVIE REVIEW

War is hell, but love is all in 'A Very Long Engagement'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-
HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"A Very Long Engagement" is one of those oh-so-rare films that smoothly combines all the elements of an exceptional film. It features a compelling story with deeper meaning skillfully told in a visually dynamic matter, complete with memorable and moving acting performances. It is the kind of film that sticks in your mind. By turns, it is a mystery, a big romantic drama, a bit of charmingly quirky comedy, and a comment on both the horror of war and the power of the human spirit to overcome all obstacles.

Five French soldiers, weary of the ghastly trenches of World War I, are court-martialed under suspicious circumstances, after they are accused of injuring themselves to earn release from the Army. They are transported to a muddy trench at the front and tossed into the no man's land between the armies. But then no one knows exactly what becomes of them and they are declared dead officially.

With the war over, Mathilde (Audrey Tautou), a determined 19 year old young woman, sets out to find one of these men, Manech (Gaspard Ulliel), her fiancé and childhood sweetheart, refusing to just accept the official story. Neither the concern of her aunt and uncle (Chantal Neuwirth and Dominique Pinon) who have raised her since her parents' deaths, nor the polio that affects her legs dampen her spirit and determination to



Photo by Bruno Calvo

Audrey Tautou, who became familiar to American audiences in 'Amelie,' stars in 'A Very Long Engagement.' The film is set during World War I and combines elements of mystery, a big romantic drama, a bit of charmingly quirky comedy, and a comment on both the horror of war and the power of the human spirit to overcome all obstacles.

find Manech, as she unravels the story to find the clues to a mystery.

In "Amelie," French actress Audrey Tautou and director Jean-Pierre Jeunet delivered candy-colored romantic comedy with quirky humor and a magical twist. They work magic again with the film, a darker mystery/romance but with the same visual lushness and even a dash of Jeunet's signature quirky humor.

"A Very Long Engagement," in French with English subtitles, is based on a bestselling book, but director Jean Pierre Jeunet has transformed it into a

wholly cinematic creation. Like the director and star's previous collaboration, "Amelie," it is a sumptuously visual film but the bright colors of the earlier film are banished in favor of a grim and austere beauty. The film also does not shy away from sequences that show the devastation of war, sometimes in gut-wrenching realism. Some battle scenes might be too disturbing for some viewers but the ugliness of muddy trenches and the sudden violence are essential to the dramatic arc of the story.

It is in the war sequences that the

film has its most powerful visual impact. Scenes of a dirigible exploding in a fireball in a hangar being used as a hospital, or of a soldier tossing a grenade directly up in the air to hit a low-flying plane give the film a jaw-dropping punch, as the scenes are both horrific and cinemagraphically stunning. World War I was the first modern war, a horrific ordeal with enormous casualties and chemical warfare. The unimaginable excesses of that war lead to the formation of the Geneva Convention rules that ban chemical weapons and other unconscionable

practices.

As Mathilde conducts her investigation, we periodically get visually dynamic flashbacks to the war. The cinematography is breathtaking, as the war is presented in an unblinking graphic style, but with a grave, photographic beauty, like Mathew Brady's Civil War photographs. The film is also filled with wonderful shots of graceful 1920s period beauty as we follow Mathilde on her quest. It is a film of powerful drama, yet retains an underlying thread of the odd humor that is Jeunet's signature style.

Tautou is heroic and inspiring as the resourceful young woman, who relentlessly follows the meager clues because she can not imagine her life without her love. The puzzle box plot is full of surprises and twists. We never know what may happen around the bends of this looping tale, as nothing, and no one, is what they appear to be at first glance. The mystery's puzzles are as intriguing as the heroine is uplifting. The fragments of the puzzle create a whole that is both a condemnation of the horrors of war and the power of love.

It is so refreshingly delightful to watch a film that works on some many different levels. We are continually surprised by each plot twist and admire the determined character who will not rest until she knows what happened after that one day.

Audrey Tautou proves that her past riveting performances in "Amelie" and in "Dirty Pretty Things" were no flukes, and that a clever mind works behind her beautiful face. This film is much darker than the lovely "Amelie" so that might limit its appeal for those who only want a repeat of "Amelie's" frothy magic. This is magic of somewhat different kind, a sleight-of-hand film to warm the hearts of appreciators of well-made cinema art. The hard look at the costs of war is a powerful subtext that deepens this tribute to endless love. This film has earned a top spot on many Top Ten lists of the best films of 2004, including mine, and may be the best foreign language film of the year.

Author's reading shares a lesson in Greek, Armenian history

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

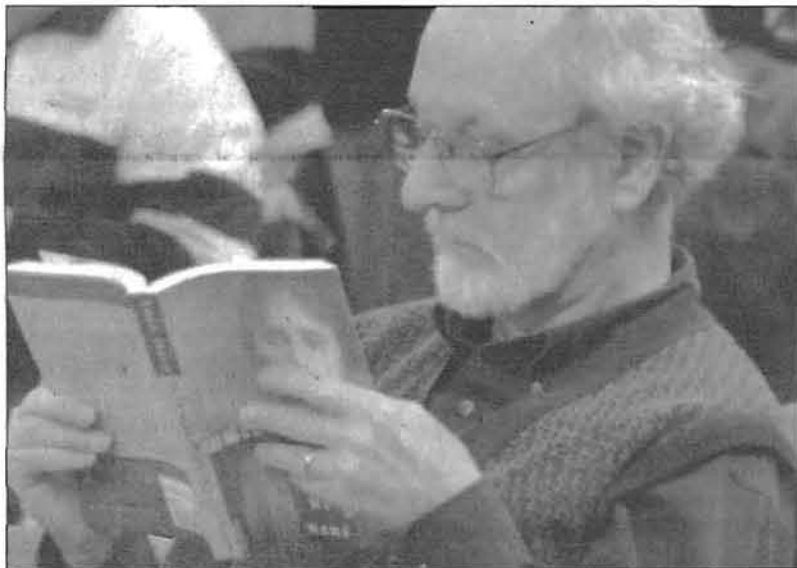
Thea Halo, author of "Not Even My Name," presented a lecture discussing the meaning of her book and signed copies of her publication on Friday, Jan. 14 in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center.

Halo discussed how her book recounts the march of two million Pontic Greeks and Armenians in Turkey after World War II. Halo said that she was inspired to write this book because of the tragedies in the life of her own mother, Sano Halo. The story shares how her mother was a survivor of the death march.

"I was inspired to write 'Not Even My Name' when I took my mother back to find her home in Turkey, 70 years after her exile. When I stood on that land, for the first time I could almost see the people she had spoke to me about my entire life. For the first time her family and people and heritage became my family, people and heritage. That made me want to know all the details of how they lived and died. I realized what an important, poignant, inspiring story her life really was," Halo said.

The death march began after Turkish soldiers demanded Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians to leave their homes in the spring of 1920. While marching, the bodies of victims laid in the streets, while others were slowly dying.

The title of Halo's book, "Not Even My Name", refers to how her mother was sold into marriage at the age of 15 and was forced to change



Erica Burrus/The Current

Frequent UM-St. Louis visitor, Mr. Michaelides reads intently before author, Thea Halo, begins her presentation.

her name.

"It took about seven years from the beginning of the writing to the published book. During those seven years I interviewed my mother and questioned her about her life and those of the other villagers. The experience was a catharsis for both of us, and I believe for many who read it. I'm told by many readers that 'Not Even My Name' helped them understand the scope of what took place in Turkey between 1914 and 1923 because so often their own parents and grandparents were too traumatized to speak of their experiences. I'm grateful my mother wanted to share her story. She wanted everyone to know," Halo said.

Michael Cosmopoulos, professor of Greek Studies and Hellenic Government-Karakas Family, said

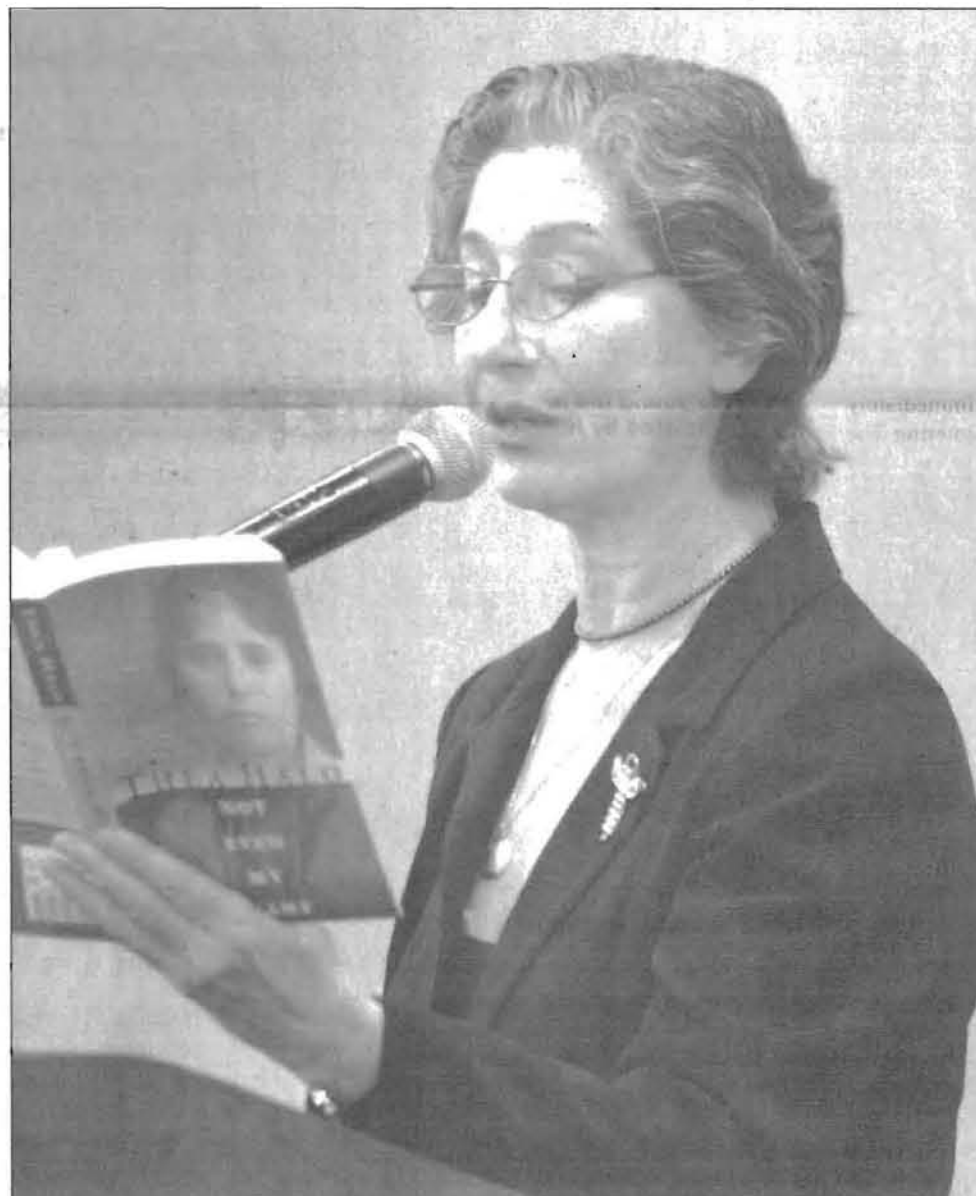
Halo's mother, along with 3,000 other Greeks, were forced to relocate from where they lived and many died from disease, malnutrition and loss of energy.

"Her mother was only nine-years-old when she survived and escaped, but the rest of her family died. She came to the United States, married and had ten children, which one of them is the author of this book," Cosmopoulos said.

The story of her mother and the other victims serves as an explanation of how violence affected her life.

Cosmopoulos said the personal and touching story makes people realize how good they have it here and how blessed they are to live in a time and place with peace.

This author's book-signing



LEFT:

Author and Painter, Thea Halo, reads from her book, "Not Even My Name". The Friday night reading took place in MSC Century Room. Halo's book recounts the march of two million Pontic Greeks and Armenians in Turkey after World War II.

Erica Burrus/The Current

event was free and open to the public.

Terry Williams, coordinator of the Center for International Studies, who also helped organize and plan this event, said there was a tremendous turnout.

"Because so many people came, we had to open the next Century Room and set up more chairs for seating," Williams said. "Also, we had copies of her book for sale, which ended up selling out."

Over 150 people including students, professors, faculty, staff, Chancellor Thomas George and leaders of the Greek community attended this event.

Since the publication of her book and the beginning of her writing career, Halo has won numerous and prestigious awards like the James Emanuel Poetry Prize, the Ester Unger Poetry Prize, the Weinberg Excellence in Writing Award, the Reyne Prize in Creative Writing, the

Alice B. Sellers Fund Prize, the Bennett Essay Prize and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association 2002 Homer Award. Sano Halo also won the New York Governor's Award for Excellence.

Halo's book signing and discussion were sponsored by the Karakas Family Foundation Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies and the Center for International Studies.

REPERTORY THEATER, from page 10

with a script and Hollywood ambitions. Charlie has stars in his eyes about the America he has never seen but Jake has recently returned from a couple years in New York and knows it is not as easy as Charlie thinks.

The story is engrossing and enter-

taining but just watching these two actors create well-drawn characters and whole crowds of characters in the minds of the audience with seemingly equal ease is impressive in itself. Marie Jones' bittersweet, satirist comedy was a long-running hit in London and elsewhere, and garnered

London's Oliver Award for Best Comedy. The play runs through February 4 at the Rep, on the main stage of the Loretto-Hilton center on the Webster University campus, at 130 Edgar Rd. in Webster Groves. Call 314 968-4925 or visit the website www.repstl.org for more infor-

mation. The play is fresh and clever, with real thought-provoking observations about people, ambitions, and what is really important in life, underlying the comedy. "Stones in His Pockets" is delightful entertainment with plenty of sly, real life ideas to spark discussions afterwards.

PEPPER LOUNGE, from page 10

encourage any "Girls Gone Wild" displays; it only reaches a few inches above the ground. Nevertheless, the DJ keeps the dance floor packed all night with his spins of house and techno dance music.

When the patrons get thirsty,

there are two bars that serve them. The front bar, although shorter, has quicker service. Up front, two women and one man handle the rush of customers quickly and efficiently. In the back, however, the four or five women serve drinks rather slowly, at

least to the female clientele.

Pepper Lounge guests also have the option of entering with a drink in hand. A server sells tall Red Bull and vodkas with a smile in the indoor porch area directly outside the entrance.

The Pepper Lounge serves food Wednesdays through Sunday and serves late on Friday and Saturday. The Lounge is downtown at 2005 Locust Ave. Call them at (314) 241-2005 for information.

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UMSL celebrates life of Dr. King at PAC

Variety of performances, speakers pay fitting tribute to King

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

The 2005 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance brought UM-St. Louis students and faculty together to celebrate the life of a man who changed the world. Monday's program was a fitting tribute to someone who worked tirelessly for the equality of all people.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was KTIV Fox 2 Anchor and Reporter Rob Desir and featured special performances by the UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory, the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra and the String Orchestra from the Webster University Community Music School.

After a powerful invocation by the Director of the Catholic Newman Center, Father Bill Kempf, Tiara Rooks, senior, music took the stage with Professor Robert Ray to perform two fitting selections. First was "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is known as the Negro National Anthem and was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1899 with his brother, composer John R. Johnson. Next, Rooks sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The audience stood during the performance of both numbers.

A brief welcome from UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George was followed by the first performance of the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra. The MLK essay contest winners were announced next and

first place winner Julia Gant read her essay to the audience.

The Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra performed another musical tribute to King. Under the direction of Donnie Jones, the orchestra performed "Amazing Grace" along with the String Orchestra from the Community Music School of Webster University. Mary Lou Gotman directed the combined orchestras.



The mission of the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra is to train and develop African American youth in the art of classical music performance and to foster an appreciation for classical music within the African American community. Founded in 1993 by the late Kem Williams, teens between the ages of 13 and 18 from various St. Louis schools participate. Donnie Jones is currently serving as the interim director of the orchestra.

A moving and inspirational speech from keynote speaker Susan L.

Taylor, editorial director of Essence magazine was followed by a performance of the UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory.

The UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory performed two dances. The first was "The Crossing" in which several dancers dressed in flowing white depicted the spiritual transition from this world to the next. The second piece, "Free at Last" mirrored the passion and hope of those, like King, who struggled and continue to strive for the equality of all people. Both pieces were choreographed by Alicia Okouchi-Guy.

The UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory is open to all current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Auditions are held each semester. For more information about the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra visit www.cameron.8m.net.

The 2005 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity, UM-St. Louis African American Alumni Chapter, English Department, Office of Multicultural Relations, Office of Student Life, Student Government Association and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

RIGHT:
Young musicians from the Community Music School of Webster University play at the tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. held on Monday at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.



Erica Burrus/The Current

Faculty authors get warm reception



Author Howard Schwartz and family listen to other speakers Friday night. During his reading, Schwartz directed his son to stand when he announced the dedication of his book to him (left) at a faculty reading on Friday evening in the lobby of the Thomas Jefferson Library.

Erica Burrus/The Current

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., from page 1

King Jr. essay contest last Monday.

Julia Gant, senior, education, was the first place winner, with her essay, entitled, "We Can No Longer Defer the Dream." Elizabeth LaFave, senior, English and communications, was second place while Tobias Shorts, senior, anthropology, received third place.

As Gant read her essay at the event, she said while federal laws prohibit segregation and minorities now hold top government positions, "Dr. King, who was a man of great passion and concern for even the least of us,

would look past these few gains and not be satisfied." Gant won \$500 for her essay.

Rob Desir, weekend sports anchor and reporter for FOX 2 News, was also invited to the event. Desir was master of ceremonies for King's birthday celebration and spoke about King's life accomplishments.

"He led the struggle to end prejudice, discrimination, and segregation against African Americans and others. Dr. King was an advocate of peace, dignity and justice for all," Desir said.

Chancellor Thomas George spoke

at the event as well. "We're here to celebrate the life, the goals, the dreams, the accomplishments, the values of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.," he said.

Father William Kemp of the Catholic Newman Center held the invocation, and Tiara Rooks, a soloist, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The String Orchestra from the Community Music School at Webster University, the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra and UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory Theater also performed.

FAVORITE SPOTS, from page 6

location a prime place to study, read or even take a quick power nap. When most people visit this lounge, one of the first things that they notice is the large fireplace, located in the center of the room. The fireplace was installed to help students and faculty feel more at home and warm up when the weather is very cold.

One of the main spots to rest on campus is on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center. The entire first floor of the Millennium Student Center is dedicated to recre-

ation and relaxation for students. Nicole Williams, junior, secondary education, said that this is one of her favorite places to take a break from school work. "It is convenient, comfortable and has so many choices," she said.

The Nosh, the biggest attraction, lures hungry students with its variety of food. The chat room allows students to browse the Internet or check their email without having to walk to a computer lab. In the Quarters Game Room students can play pool, pinball

or use one of several video games. The twin television lounges include big screen televisions that stay on throughout regular Student Center hours and leather couches for seating. Finally, the student-oriented Pilot House provides more seating and is where many speeches, concerts and other campus events are held.

With all these options of resting spots on campus, there are many places where people can kill time or ease their hectic days.

PLASTIC SURGERY, from page 7

People thinking about plastic surgery have several factors to consider before making the decision, including cost, physical side effects, the emotional impact and risk of infection.

Mariann Koedding, St. Louis resident, said, "I work out everyday, eat right, but I still cannot get rid of my cellulite, so liposuction can help me achieve what I think is my perfect body."

Even though Koedding knows the risks she is taking when she goes into surgery, she said surgery is worth the risk because the results will make her feel better about herself.

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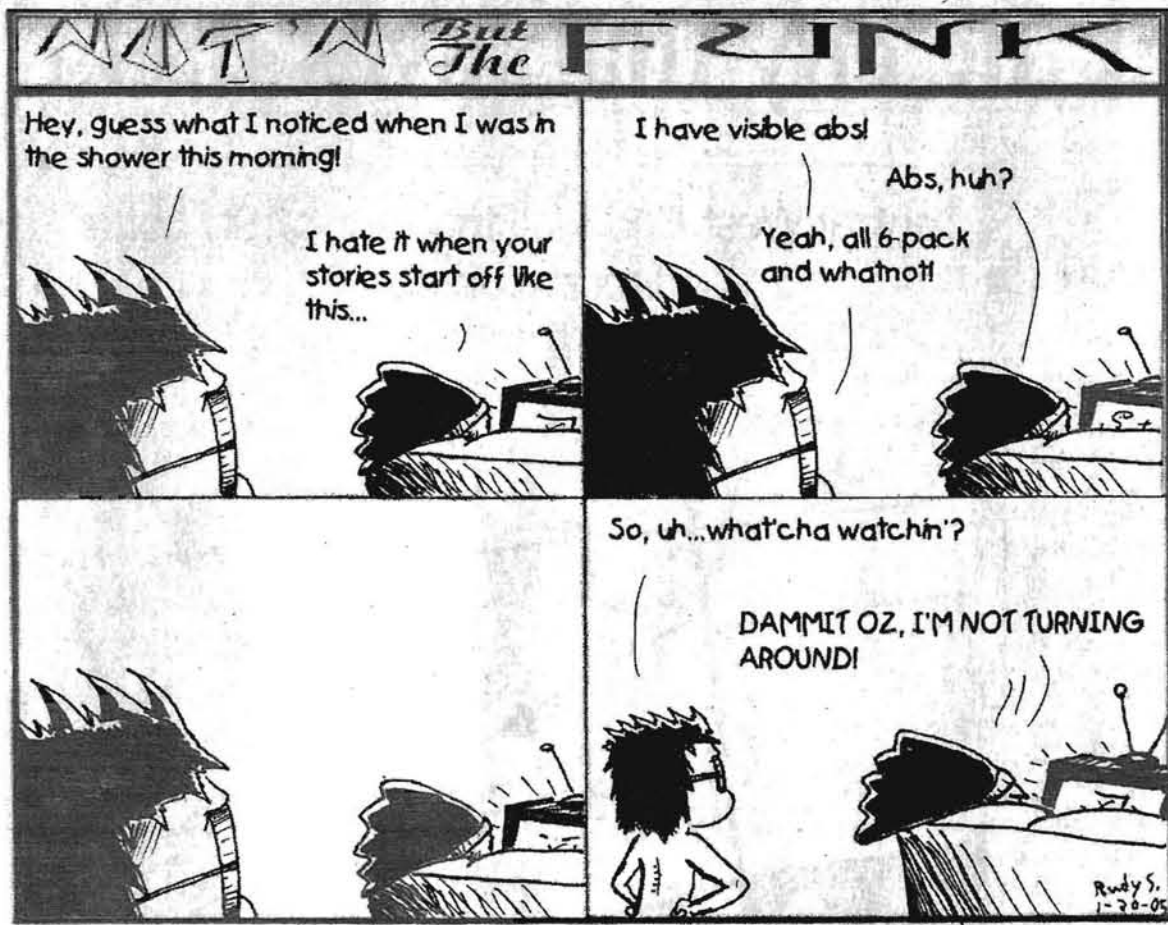


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"I love my car. It makes me feel like I'm in 2Fast 2Furious. That's what my friends call me."

"I wish St. Louis weather would make up its mind. This whole warm-cold-warm-freezing thing

is making my lungs hate me."

"The Martin Luther King celebration at the PAC was profoundly inspiring. Susan Taylor spoke with amazing confidence and grace. Glad I could be there."

"Why do people feel the need to stand and socialize while riding the escalator? At least move out of the way so people in a hurry can get by."

"My heater is so loud that it keeps me awake at night. Why? The refrigerator and microwave combined don't make as much noise. Fighter jets are drowned out by the sound of it. Maybe I'll go live in an igloo."

"Last week I saw people playing frisbee out on the lawn. At first, I thought they had eaten too much Nosh food and gone crazy, but then I realized that they were actually the theater people from different schools."

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Greek Life A-Z

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity is holding a Boogie Nights Party on January 22, 2005 at the Pike house on Natural Bridge across from the MOBIL station. Take 70 east to 170 south, exit at Natural Bridge. Party starts at 10 p.m. Go to Pikes.net for more info.

Sigma Tau Gamma Animal House Party Friday January 28

The men at Sigma Tau Gamma are hosting an Animal House themed party Friday night. The party will start at 10PM and be held at the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity house at 8660 Natural Bridge Rd. located next to Popeye's. All UMSL students are welcome. For information call Joe at 314-428-5431.

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St. Louis writers who fled, and the city that loves them

Kate Chopin, Tennessee Williams, William Burroughs and T.S. Eliot all had St. Louis ties - and all from the same neighborhood

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

The history of St. Louis' writers tends to be a good book in itself, with elements of angst, murder, self-destruction and, on the part of the city, unconditional love for the literary greats who spent their formative years here before their inevitable "adieu."

Revolving around each other in space and time, Kate Chopin, TS Eliot, Tennessee Williams and William S. Burroughs were not just a few of the most acclaimed writers of the 20th century but they were neighbors as well, living within blocks and decades of each other in St. Louis' Central West End.

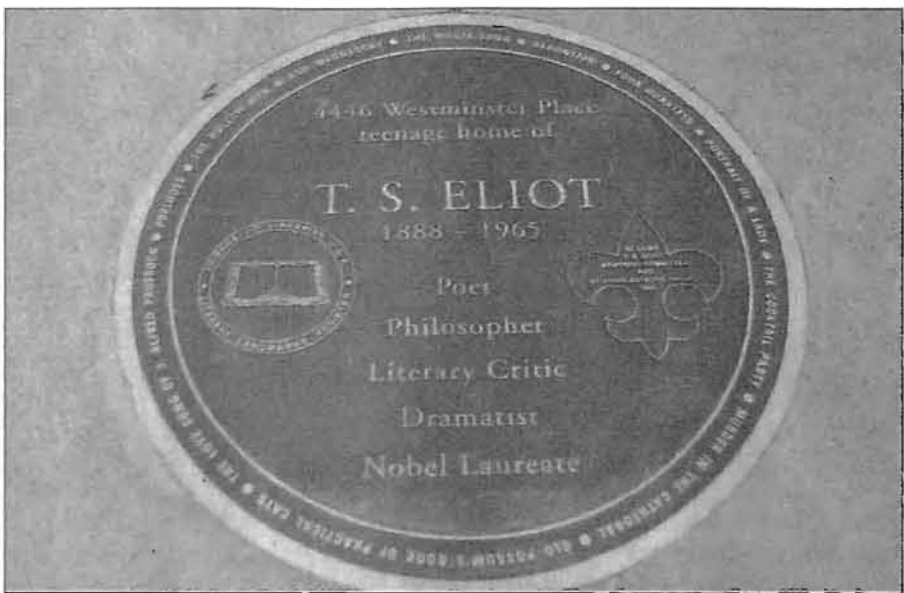


Tennessee Williams' apartment building
4633 Westminster Place

Tennessee Williams was born in Mississippi in 1911 but his family moved to this apartment building at the corner of Walton Avenue when he was eight-years-old. In addition to his many successes (including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Williams was also well known for the depression and drug and alcohol addictions that dogged him throughout his adult life. In 1983, at the age of 72, he was found in a New York City hotel room having apparently choked to death on a bottle cap.

Also well documented was Williams' life-long hatred for St. Louis, or as he referred to it, "St. Pollution." His despair during his time here is not a surprise: among other contributing factors, Williams was the original transfer student. Yanked by his father from the University of Missouri in 1931 to work as a clerk in a shoe factory, he also took classes at Washington University before finally graduating from the University of Iowa in 1938.

His first hit play, *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), continues to immortalize St. Louis in theaters across the country as the drab, industrial setting for his grim recollection of a dysfunctional family and a desire to leave town for good. References in the work to Washington University, Forest Park and Famous-Barr will thrill the hometown heart and his troubled genius is forgiven every year with various events and festivals held in his honor.



A plaque marks the sidewalk in front of T.S. Eliot's boyhood home at 4446 Westminster Place.

T.S. Eliot's home
4446 Westminster Place

On the sidewalk in front of this stately brick home is a plaque commemorating the many works of Thomas Stearns Eliot. On the front stoop, a small ceramic cat is a possible tribute to his children's story "Old Possums' Book of Practical Cats" which was later adapted by Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Broadway blockbuster *Cats*. Considered to be one of the best and most influential poets of the past century, TS Eliot spent his first 16 years in St. Louis but completely disavowed himself of the experience by becoming a British subject in 1927.

When asked once why he didn't settle here and marry a nice girl, his response was, "I didn't like being dead that much." The woman that he did marry was wrought with poor mental health, treated with opiate-based cures and eventually institutionalized. For all of his success, Eliot later said that he was only happy during two periods of his life: in his childhood and in his second marriage to Valerie Eliot, who was 38 years his junior.

References to St. Louis in Eliot's works are speculative at best, though in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," he did lionize the city's notorious factory smoke as a "yellow fog" that "rubs its back upon the window panes" and "curled once about the house and fell asleep." It is also frequently recited in these parts that Prufrock was the name of a local furniture dealer located downtown on Olive Street. His grandfather, William Greensleaf Eliot co-founded Washington

Kate Chopin
4232 McPherson

University in 1853.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Kate Chopin did escape to New Orleans for a while, only to be forced home again by the untimely

death of her husband. Faced with the obligation of supporting herself and her six children, Chopin took up writing at the age of 39.

A prolific writer who should have struck pay dirt in 1899 with her now classic novel *Awakenings*, she received only critical condemnation for what was considered the well-written but shockingly amoral plot. Centered on a married woman's angst-ridden love for two men, the dilemma ended with Edna Pontellier's watery suicide.

Chopin died of a brain hemorrhage in 1904, bitter and unappreciated, in the same week that the introduction of peanut butter and ice cream cones was blowing everyone's mind at the World's Fair. It has been said that she was too far ahead of her time.

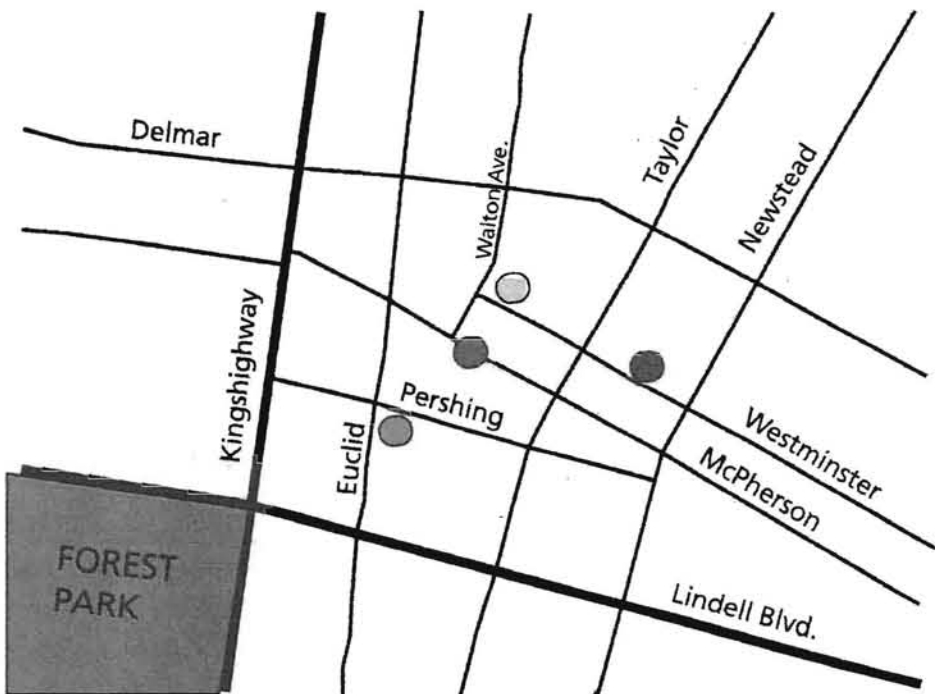
William S. Burroughs
4664 Pershing

Just a shade east of the Central West End's main drag, Euclid Avenue, is William S. Burroughs' boyhood home. Long considered to be the primary agent of the Beat Movement, Burroughs lived in St. Louis from the time of his birth in 1914 until 1932 when he left for Harvard. His most famous works, *Junkie*, *Naked Lunch* and *Queer*, brought him both acclaim and condemnation but did not bring him back to St. Louis very often.

In his early teen-aged years Burroughs was arrested for breaking and entering, not to steal as he later said, but to observe how people lived in what he called the "malignant matriarchal society" of his upper middle-class surroundings. A hero-in-user for most of his adult life and a prolific traveler, Burroughs often rolled the details of his "seedy" adventures into the low life portraits that he created with high brow style. In his writings he also preserved a bygone era of St. Louis' downtown days, with drug dealers and their varied clientele intermingling with freak show hawkers on Market Street.

He also offered the world a cautionary

Central West End walking tour of St. Louis' literary greats



- Kate Chopin, 4232 McPherson
- William S. Burroughs, 4664 Pershing
- Tennessee Williams, 4633 Westminster Pl.
- T.S. Eliot, 4446 Westminster Place

Source: Mapquest

Mike Sherwin/The Current

sensation when he shot his second wife dead in a drug and alcohol induced game of "William Tell" in 1951. Burroughs spent his final years in Lawrence, Kansas where he died at the age of 83.

Like its two mighty rivers, St. Louis' vast confluence of literary history can overwhelm anything but the widest banks and boundaries. And for every writer who made this city a resource of literature, there is a writer drawn here from elsewhere, attracted to the former stomping grounds of the late and the great.

UM-St. Louis playwriting instructor Douglas Soderberg was raised in Oregon and received a B.A. from Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburg and a MFA from Yale University. He is a published playwright whose work has also been featured in *Best Short Plays* of 1986. Soderberg said that it was his romantic notions of Tennessee Williams that originally drew him to St. Louis.

"All I could think of was Tennessee Williams sitting in a wing-backed rattan chair and sipping mint juleps," said Soderberg. "I was sorely disappointed—I didn't think that it got cold here."

Soderberg also said that he ignored the facts of Williams' dislike for the city. "It's obvious in his plays that he hated St.

Louis. But I still wanted to experience it. There is some kind of pull here," said Soderberg.

He compared his experiences here to the "exhaustion" he underwent when living in New York City. "St. Louis is one of the easiest places I've ever lived. And if you're creative and life doesn't have to get in the way of your creation, you can take advantage of that. When life is easier, you can deal with your interior life or honest life more easily."

At the Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis, Curator Gregg Ames said that he is a fan of St. Louis writers, especially those featured in UM-St. Louis' literary magazine, *Natural Bridge*, but that he would have to go to France to be closer to his favorite writers. Still, he knows first hand about literary-fueled distances. His daughter chose to go to Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. because her favorite writer, F. Scott Fitzgerald, grew up blocks from the campus. He said he was impressed with her dedication to live in "such a cold place."

"She wears several sweaters at a time and she has a major collection of blankets," said Ames. "But she graduated and still lives up there. She just needed to be where he was."

Drama Queen

Molly McLain, from the University of Minnesota - Duluth, performs the song "No Good Deed" from the musical "Wicked" during the final round of the Region Five Irene Ryan Audition competition, which was held at the PAC on Tuesday night.

Sixteen contestants competed in the competition, which required participants to perform two scenes with a partner and one song or monologue, all in six minutes. The winners advanced to the national competition in Washington D.C. The competition was part of the week-long Kennedy Center American Theater Festival, held on campus at the PAC, the MSC and the J.C. Penney Building. About 1,200 theater students from six midwestern states participated in the festival.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Quiz Yourself

How well do you know St. Louis' literary history?

- William Wells Brown was the first African-American _____.
a. novelist
b. playwright
c. travel guide writer
d. all of the above
- A.E. Hotchner did not write which of the following?
a. King of the Hill
b. Papa Hemingway
c. Single White Female
d. A cook-book with Paul Newman
- Oprah Winfrey's book club made Jonathan Franzen's "The Corrections" a best-seller, despite his protests. Where did Franzen go to high school?
a. Lutheran South
b. Webster Groves
c. Parkway South
d. Lutheran North
- Which of the following poems for children was written by Eugene Field?
a. Humpty Dumpty
b. Little Miss Muffit
c. Little Boy Blue
d. London Bridge is Falling Down
- In 1917, poet Sara Teasdale won the Columbia University Poetry Society award, the fore-runner to which prestigious award?
a. Nobel Prize
b. National Book Award
c. Pulitzer Prize
d. Walt Whitman Award
- References from TS Eliot's poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" are found in which television show theme song?
a. Hill Street Blues
b. The Facts of Life
c. The Fall Guy
d. The Gilmore Girls
- When Maya Angelou wrote "Georgia, Georgia," she became the first female African-American _____.
a. playwright
b. novelist
c. speech writer
d. screenwriter
- Which play by William Inge was awarded a Pulitzer Prize?
a. Picnic (1952)
b. Bus Stop (1955)
c. The Dark at the Top of the Stairs (1957)
d. Splendor in the Grass (1961)
- Dick Gregory was a head-lining comedian, a civil rights activist and a best-selling author. Where did he go to high school?
a. Beaumont
b. Soldan
c. Sumner
d. Vashon
- Glenn Savan's popular book "White Palace" was made into a movie in 1990 starring which celebrities?
a. Angelica Huston and John Cusack
b. Geena Davis and Andrew McCarthy
c. Kate Capshaw and John Goodman
d. Susan Sarandon and James Spader