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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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February 7,
2005ISSUE
1142

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

The Current

Your source for campus news and information

See page 12
Get Ready for Valentine's Day

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Forum focuses on student retention

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

Students had the chance to comment and complain about their experience with the University academic advising system on Monday, Jan. 31.

The Office of Student Affairs at UM-St. Louis sponsored a series of discussions in the Millennium Student Center on retention and advising.

David Crockett, from the consulting firm Noel-Levitz, moderated the discussion.

"I am after your perceptions and impressions, both personally and anecdotally, on advising here at the university or lack thereof," Crockett said at the beginning of the focus discussion.

The discussions were part of a larger University-funded study on student retention conducted by the Arizona-based firm Noel-Levitz. The study includes class surveys, small focus groups and hands-on observation by consultants, all in an attempt to quantify retention problems at the University. Noel-Levitz will then provide UM-St. Louis with recommendations to improve retention.

"Retaining students is one of our highest priorities, and we need your feedback. In other words, what can we

do to make UMSL better," wrote Student Services Coordinator Joe Flees, in an email to prospective student focus group attendees.

The discussion focused on student experiences with academic advising on campus, at the advising center, at the individual colleges and within majors.

"There are four types of advising," Crockett said during the discussion. "You have got a new University-wide advising center. There are advisors in the colleges out there full-time who also advise. There is departmental advising. Then there is informal or supplemental advising that teachers and other students give."

Several problematic trends in the advising system became apparent as the discussion unfolded. Students complained about not knowing where to find adequate advising, not getting proper major specific advising and the lack of communication between general advising and departmental advising.

Crockett outlined students' concerns and talked about how the University could address it by "helping students clarify how the advising system works at the University."

see RETENTION, page 5

The art of kissing...in public



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Danielle Proulx, senior, business, cracks up as she and Brian Rails, junior, marketing, take part in "The Art of Kissing" on Thursday night. Bestselling author Michael Christian enlisted two actual couples and four volunteers for a frank and funny discussion and demonstration based on his book, "The Art of Kissing." The event was sponsored by UPB.

Activist challenges men to find manhood

■ Kevin Powell heads discussion on "The State of Black Men"

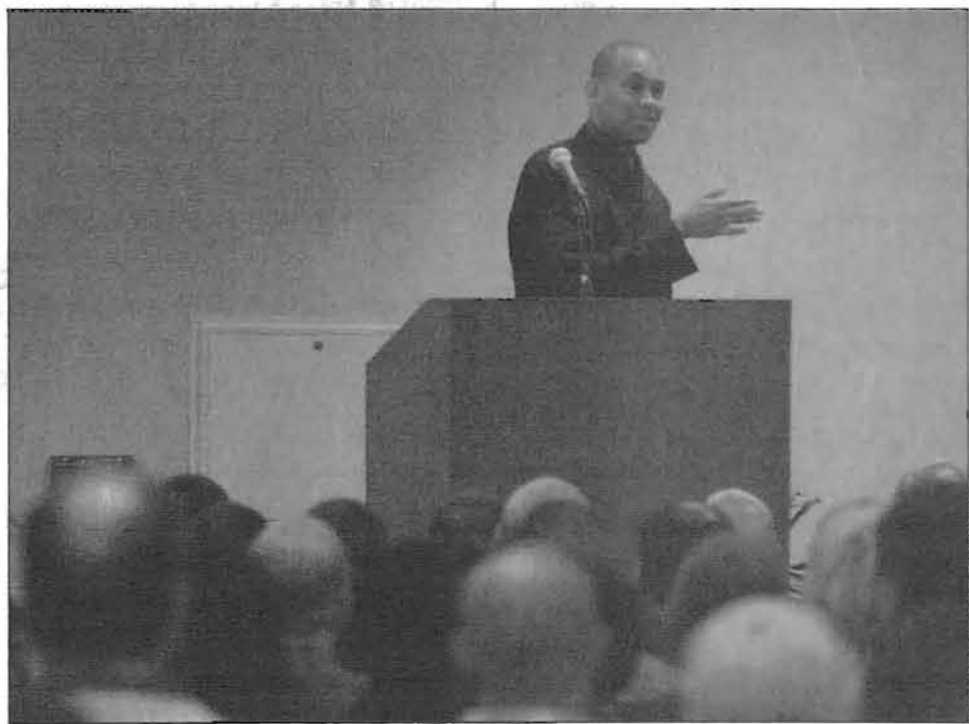
BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

Kevin Powell, activist and author, challenged African-American men to take control of their lives and break the cycle of violence and poverty.

Approximately 250 people filled the Century Rooms on Feb. 1 to discuss "The State of Black Men." A deejay played hip-hop music to warm up the room before Powell started speaking shortly after 7 p.m.

Powell told the men in his audience to improve in six areas: politics, economics, spirituality, culture, physical fitness and mental wellness.

Powell felt that "blacks aren't being represented [in society]," but he said that it was important to be a registered voter so that there would be more African-Americans on juries. He also said that they needed to change their values about money, saying, "Most of us don't know anything about money; it's a trap."



Kevin Powell speaks before a crowd of close to 300 people. On Tuesday night at a town hall discussion, Powell talked about "The State of Black Men." The event was sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians, UPB, Student Life, and First Civilizations.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

One thing that Powell noticed was that many people would spend money beyond their means, particularly on name brands. He said that the desire for status was a result of another problem: a lack of self-esteem.

"If you don't have self-esteem, you do name brands," he said.

Powell pointed out that there were many problems within the African-American community, particularly with males. Some of the problems he cited were high unemployment, the lack of education, violence, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual irresponsibility and depression.

The Brooklyn resident also talked about his own experience and the problems he encountered throughout his life. He said that the problems he had were a result of his upbringing and the society he grew up in.

see KEVIN POWELL, page 3

Visiting nanotechnology researcher partners with Chancellor George

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

G. Ali Mansoori, visiting professor from the University of Illinois-Chicago, not only shared his latest research with UM-St. Louis, but also discussed future research in a partnership that includes Chancellor Thomas George.

Mansoori and George will partner with two other professors from other universities to research intermolecular interactions of organic nanostructures.

"We're in the process of doing a lot more collaborative work with other collaborators at other laboratories and universities," George said.

Mansoori stressed the importance of researching nanostructures. "Organic nanostructures derived from petroleum have applications in nanotechnology," he said. "If we understand the structure, we can understand the interactions."

However, before Mansoori continues future research, he shared his presentation on other research involving nanotechnology in a chemistry colloquium called "Organic Nanostructures Derived from Petroleum."

Mansoori spoke to chemistry professors and graduate students on Monday, Jan. 31. The chemical engineering professor took part in the visiting speaker seminar series sponsored by the chemistry and biochemistry departments.

"I've collaborated with George, and we have meetings. During one of our meetings, he asked me to take part in the seminar to tell the professors what I learned," he said.

Lawrence Barton, chemistry professor at UM-St. Louis, invited Mansoori after George suggested he be a speaker.

see RESEARCHER, page 5

Ribbon-cutting officially unveils newest computer lab

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

The research commons at the Ward E. Barnes library has been open in various states of preparedness since the beginning of the fall semester, but its grand unveiling was on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

A small crowd of librarians, staff, faculty and students showed up on the UM-St. Louis South Campus to celebrate the unveiling and partake in door prizes and sugar-free cookies.

"We opened the library research commons at Thomas Jefferson Library with 70 workstations, and

since then we haven't had an empty seat. Today we are opening the research commons here at the Barnes Library," Amy Arnett, Dean of Libraries, said at the beginning of the official opening ceremony.

Arnett, along with Jim Tom, Vice-Chancellor for Information Technology Services, and UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George gave public remarks at the event.

"I think it is a very exciting and also important day for the libraries," Tom said during his speech, "I couldn't be more pleased that we are here to dedicate the research commons. It would not be possible

without all the hard work of the people in the libraries. It's a tangible symbol of cooperation between library and ITS."

The research commons features 57 individual computer work stations with monotone and color printers, wireless internet accessibility, scanning stations and several couches.

Chris Scheetz, supervisor of Instructional Computing Services, explained the evolution of the new research commons.

"We have the library research commons in the Thomas Jefferson Library. Students liked that so much

that ITS and the library got together and wanted to do the same thing [at Barnes]."

The research commons is the result of more than a year's work of cooperation between the Ward E. Barnes Library and ITS.

"As far as the library research commons goes we had been toying with the idea for a number of years," Cheryle Cann, director of the Ward E. Barnes Library, said. "We saw a need for it and the students wanted more access to the computers without having to wait to get on."

see NEW COMPUTER LAB, page 5



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

In ceremony, Chancellor Thomas George cuts the ribbon and officially opens the Barnes Library new research commons. The event, held last Wednesday, was relatively well-attended.

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Opinions	4 & 5
Features	6 & 7
Sports	10
A & E	8 & 9
Classifieds	11

Sports:
After court
battle, Coach
Brady is
back to
work

See page 10



A&E:
Hotel
Rwanda is
powerful
film

See page 9



On the
web:
Gallery of
"The Art of
Kissing"

www.thecurrentonline.com



Bulletin Board

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

Mon. Feb. 7

Resumania Week
Through Feb. 11. Participants can have their resumes professionally critiqued by e-mailing them to resumania@umsl.edu. Free, open to UMSL students and alumni, and sponsored by the Office of Career Services. Call 5111 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 7

Arianna String Quartet at The Sheldon
The Arianna String Quartet will perform "Russian Splendor" at 8 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and free for UMSL students, faculty and staff and children 17 and under. Visit www.ariannaquartet.com for more information. Call 5818 for tickets.

Mon. Feb. 7

Homecoming Banner War, Blood Drive
Held at the MSC. Banners will be hung on the MSC rotunda and bridge. The blood drive is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B at the MSC. The first 50 donors will receive free Homecoming T-shirts. Call 5291 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 7

Lecture on PTSD, alcohol
David S. Riggs, assistant professor of psychology at the Univ. of Penn., will discuss "Treating Comorbid Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Alcohol Dependence" at 4 p.m. in R120 Research Building. Free. Sponsored by the Psychology Dept. Call 5391 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 7

Chemistry seminar
UMSL Professor James S. Chickos, will discuss "Hypothetical Thermodynamic Properties" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Call 5311 for more information.

Tues. Feb. 8

Homecoming Parade
At noon, the Homecoming 2005 Parade will go past Marillac Hall and proceed to Natural Bridge and then to just south of the MSC near the new lakes where there will be refreshments and a bonfire. Participants are to assemble at 11:30 a.m. at parking lot U on South Campus. Call 5291 for more info.

Tues. Feb. 8

Ebony editor speaks
Ebony Editor Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor of Ebony magazine, will discuss "Historical Insights into Black America" at 7 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Free. Sponsored by the Multicultural Relations and the Office of Equal Opportunity. Call 6807 for more information.

Tues. Feb. 8

Study abroad info
The Center for International Studies is holding informational session on study abroad and exchange programs at 2 p.m. in 331 Social Sciences & Business Building. Study abroad application deadline for Summer and Fall 2005 is Feb. 25. For more info call 6497 or visit www.umsl.edu/studyabroad.

Tues. Feb. 8

Music Festival
The E. Desmond Lee High School Music Festival will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. About 700 students from 14 school districts will participate. The concert is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaboration.

Wed. Feb. 9

Film series features music by Harbach
A screening of short films directed by Alice Guy Blaché will begin at 3 p.m. in the auditorium in Gallery 210 at the Telecommunity Center. One film has an original score written by Barbara Harbach, professor of music, directed by James Richards, professor of music. Part of the "Women in Film" series, as part of the "Women in the Arts" program. Free. Call 7776 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~wia> for more information.

Wed. Feb. 9

American authority and int'l law lecture
Mark Stein, postdoctoral research fellow, will discuss "American Hegemony and International Law" at 2 p.m. in 331 Social Sciences & Business Building. Free. Sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Lentz Peace Research Association. For info, call 6495.

Wed. Feb. 9

Ash Wednesday Mass
Catholic Newman Center will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:15 p.m. in Century Room C at the MSC. Open to the public. Call 385-3455 for more information.

Wed. Feb. 9

NY Artist lecture
New York artist Jim Hodges will discuss his life and work during an "Artist Talk" at 7 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the PAC. In 2006, he will create a site-specific piece for Laumeier Sculpture Park. Free. Call 7194 for more information.

Wed. Feb. 9

Info session on studying in Spain, Mexico
Session will be held in Room 527, Clark Hall, 3 p.m. Information on program types, financial aid and scholarships, earning academic credit and application procedures. Visit www.umsl.edu/studyabroad or call 6497 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 10

PPRC forum
Professor David Laslo, presents the forum "The Ins and Outs of St. Louis Population Migration: An Update" at noon in 427 Social Sciences & Business Building. Free. Reservations required. Call 5273 to reserve a spot. Visit <http://pprc.umsl.edu> for info.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Dance workshop
"Dance Improvisation: A Means for Invention," a dance workshop, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the Touhill PAC. St. Louis free-lance improvisation artist Dawn Karlovsky will perform an improvisation piece with cellist Mitsu Saito and dancer Summer Beasley, and then conduct a short workshop. Free. Sponsored by the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies. Call 4852 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Homecoming events
The Homecoming 2005 Powder Puff Games, Bonfire and Tailgating Party will be held at 1 p.m. at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The Bonfire and Tailgating Party will begin at 4:30 p.m. Free. Call 5291 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Irish-American poets
Irish-American Poets Natalie F. Anderson and Peggy O'Brien will give poetry readings at 12:30 p.m. in 331 SSB. Free. Sponsored by the Smurfit-Stone Endowed Professorship in Irish Studies and Center for International Studies. Call 6495 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Mercantile Library exhibit opens
"R.H. Dick: The Western Works" opens today and runs until April 17 in the St. Louis Mercantile Library. Free. Call 6740 for more info.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Psychology lecture
Matthew J. Taylor, professor at U-Wisconsin, will discuss "Delinquent Behavior and Sports Participation Among Rural Minority Adolescent Girls: Implications for Community-Level Research" at 3:30 p.m. in 101 Benton Hall. Free. Sponsored by the Dept. of Psychology. Call 5391 for more info.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Free study skills workshop
Counseling Services is holding a workshop on learning study and testing habits, managing procrastination, and improving your memory skills. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. in 126 MSC. Free. Registration requested. Call 5711 to register or for info. Also, Stop by the Counseling Services table today in the Nosh from 11-2 and place your nomination for this slightly offbeat and fun contest! Everyone who submits a pick-up line will receive free chocolate and information on healthy relationship skills.

Thurs. Feb. 10

Knitty-Gritty in the Nosh
Every Thursday in February the Knitty Gritty knitting club will be meeting at the Nosh around 3:30 - 5 p.m. Novices or experts welcome, with or without supplies.

Fri. Feb. 11

Homecoming Dance
The Homecoming 2005 Dance, "A Night on the Town," will be held at 7 p.m. at the St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road. Tickets are \$20 for individuals, \$30 per couple and \$150 for a table of 10. Call 5291 for more info.

Fri. Feb. 11

Lecture on hackers
Tom Holt, doctoral candidate in criminology at UMSL, will discuss "Being 1337: Examining the Hacker Subculture with Multiple Data Sources" at 11 a.m. in 401 Social Sciences & Business Building. Free. Part of the College of Business Administration's Seminar Series in Business and Economics. Call 6142 for more info.

Fri. Feb. 11

Astronomy lecture
Rachel Osten, Jansky research fellow at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Va.,

will discuss "The Hot Side of Cool Stars" at 3 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall. Coffee at 2:30 p.m. in 516 Benton Hall. Free. Sponsored by the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy. Call 5030 for more information.

Fri. Feb. 11

Scholar discusses Byzantine women
Angeliki E. Laiou, professor of history at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., will discuss "Women and Marriage in the Byzantine Empire" at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C at the MSC. Call 6241 for more info.

Fri. Feb. 11

Workshop on Outlook 03
"Outlook 2003: Making it Work For You" a free, hands-on workshop, will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in 107 South Campus Computer Building. Registration is available at www.umsl.edu/training. Call 6016 for more information.

Fri. Feb. 11

MyGateway6 workshop
"MyGateway 6: Users' Workshop," a Technology Fridays workshop, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in 003 Computer Center Building. Open to faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants, and sponsored by ITS. Call 6538

Sat. Feb. 12

Arianna String Quartet
Arianna String Quartet, performs "Music Beyond Words" at 2 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill PAC. Admission is \$10 for adults, free for UMSL students, faculty and staff and children 17 and under. Call 4949.

Sun. Feb. 13

Senior theater show
Etc., the UMSL senior theater company, will present "Love Letters" at 2 p.m. in the J.C. Penney auditorium. Free. Call 5974 for more info.

Sat. Feb. 12

Trojan war lecture
UMSL Professor of Anthropology Michael Cosmopoulos talks on "Searching for the Kings of the Trojan War: Myths, Archaeology and the UMSL Dig in Greece" at 3 p.m. at the Missouri Historical Society, Lindell Boulevard and DeBaliviere. Free. Call 6241 for more info.

Mon. Feb. 14

Monday Noon Series
Barbara Kachur, associate professor of English at UMSL, will introduce her new book on Restoration dramatists, "Etherege and Wycherley," at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Free. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more information.

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Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Jan. 29 and Feb. 3, 2005. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155.

Jan. 29, 2005 - Assault 3rd Degree. 12:45 p.m. University Meadows. Victim was visiting a University Meadows resident when he was assaulted by two others persons at the apartment. Suspects fled, investigation to identify the suspects is ongoing.

Feb. 1, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500. Occurred between Jan. 1, 2005 and Feb. 2, 2005 in the Social Science and Business Building. Victim stated that person(s) unknown took two software CDs from a bookcase in his office.

Feb. 1, 2005 - Destruction of Property. Marillac Hall. Damage was discovered to the office door. The incident occurred between 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2005 and 8:50 a.m., Feb. 1, 2005.

Feb. 1, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500. The incident occurred between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Plaza Garage. Victim discovered parking permit taken from vehicle.

Feb. 3, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500. Incident occurred between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the Plaza Garage. Victim discovered parking permit taken from vehicle.

Feb. 3, 2005 - Attempt Stealing Under \$500. Incident occurred on Feb 2, 2005 at 5:45 p.m. in Woods Hall. Victim discovered an unknown suspect in his office who had attempted to steal two checks belonging to the victim. Suspect fled, partial description was obtained. Suspect has been seen on campus in the past.

Police: 516-5155

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Legislators credit Chisholm for start in politics

‘Statehouse Sisters’ gives Senator, Representatives chance to reflect on legislative predecessor

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Four Missouri state legislators believe they owe their start in politics to the late Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress in 1968.

On Friday, Feb. 4, UM-St. Louis held a discussion panel in Century Room C of the Millennium Student

Center to celebrate Chisholm, who died this January. Chisholm served seven terms in Congress and ran for president in 1972, but failed to win the nomination.

The panelists, Sen. Maida Coleman, Rep. Juanita Head Walton, Rep. Robin Wright-Jones and Rep. Esther Haywood, took part in “Statehouse Sisters,” a forum to discuss how they became involved in politics and how to continue welcoming women into political offices.

Coleman became the first female Democratic Minority Leader in the Missouri Senate. While she talked about changes in legislation, Coleman also shared a memory of when she interviewed Chisholm and President Gerald Ford on the same day.

She said, “Chisholm’s only ambition in life was to bring her voice to represent the women and the minorities that were not being heard.”

Walton, who represents North St. Louis County, got involved in politics after working on different candidates’ campaigns. Her grandfather, who was the first black mayor in Missouri, inspired her to run for office. Walton said women must vote for other women in offices, and women legislators should reach out and bring women in to fill other positions in politics.

Wright-Jones is an example of this, as she took the place of former Rep. Coleman. Wright-Jones attended UM-St. Louis and represents eastern St. Louis City and downtown. She said, “To have Shirley Chisholm do what

she did was just a phenomenal thing.”

Wright-Jones told audience members, “Make your voice known. We go to the Capitol to serve you, and you can serve us by speaking up and calling all of the representatives.”

Haywood represents the district including UM-St. Louis. “Women are tough,” she said. “Any woman can accomplish anything.”

Haywood said if Coleman had listened to people who told her women cannot, she would not be in the Senate today.

Shirley Chisholm is an inspiration to these current legislators. Chisholm had once said, “You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines...you make progress by implanting ideas.”

These four legislators continue to implant ideas in younger women interested in joining local politics.

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life reported that six of the 34 state senators and 36 of the 163 state representatives from Missouri are women.

“We’re excited to have role models of wonderful work that can be done and can help the public, and it’s being done by some remarkable African-American women,” Vivian Eveloff, director and founder of the Sue Shear Institute, said.

This forum was unique because it is the only African American History Month event involving blacks and women.

“We’ve held this event for many

years, and we invite a different mix of officer holders who are women each year,” Eveloff said. “We run these programs to make them accessible to recruit women to run for offices and teach women the skills they need to run in the legislation.”

Along with the Sue Shear Institute, the Institute for Women’s and Gender Studies, Office of Multicultural Relations, Office of Equal Opportunity, the Evening College, the African American Chapter of the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association, Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity, Office of Student Life and ASUM sponsored the discussion forum.

New SGA committee will examine student fees

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

A newly formed student government committee is trying to get its homework done early by getting a head start on evaluating next year’s student fee proposals.

A handful of students showed up Thursday afternoon for the inaugural meeting of the Student Fee Review Committee. Co-chair David Dodd said the group will serve primarily as a research committee, preparing for the discussion on whether to approve or reject student fee proposals which come before the Student Government Association each fall.

“Administration and the faculty always try to take into consideration the student’s perspective, but it’s difficult because they’re not paying the

bill,” Dodd, junior, international business, said. “We’re just trying to make sure that the real students’ perspective gets through.”

SGA Chairman Brian Rails, junior, marketing, said students are concerned that student fees are not going where they are supposed to, particularly with the infrastructure, athletics and Performing Arts Center fees.

Rails also said that many students have a misunderstanding about the importance of certain student fees. “People are asking what would happen if the



David Dodd
Co-Chair of Student
Fee Review
Committee

infrastructure fee just didn’t go through. A lot of people would be without transportation on this campus [without the fee].”

So far, four members have divided up to research each student fee request. Dodd said each student will look at the historical data of their assigned fees, examining the services offered to students, expenditures, costs and the fee increases to date.

Elizabeth Jones, junior, business administration, was assigned to look at the Performing Arts Center fee, currently at \$10 per student per semester. Jones said Rails convinced her to join the committee.

“He had a point,” Jones said. “People always complain about student fees, but nobody wants to do anything about it. So I figured I

might as well.”

UM-St. Louis student fees are the highest in the UM system. A UM-St. Louis undergraduate taking 12 credit hours currently pays \$392.20 in student fees. A comparable student at Mizzou pays \$169.79 in student fees; at UM-Rolla, \$357.40; and at UM-Kansas City, \$298.90.

Dodd said he hopes the committee will provide a more circumspect background to voting on any future student fee increases. “Often the assembly will have a lot of questions [during discussions of fee increases], but if we don’t have the facts to back it up, we’re voting on more of an instinct. This committee will give us a more responsible direction.”

The committee’s next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. in the Student Life conference room.

NEWS BRIEFS

Construction on South Campus will close roads, parking lots

UMSL, local hospitals get nursing education grant

Starting Monday, Feb. 14, certain roads and parking lots will be closed to traffic on the South Campus for construction of a new residential hall next to Seton Hall and the Nursing Administration Building.

East Drive will allow two-way traffic instead of one-way from South Drive to the Nursing Administration Building. Parking on East Drive is prohibited because construction crews will use the road. South Drive will also allow two-way traffic from the Child Development Center to East Drive.

Parking lots Z, ZZ, YY and MM will close permanently. Students, faculty and staff are asked to park in parking lots U, T and Y in front of Marillac Hall. Lot XX will also be temporarily closed due to road repair and construction on the Villa Building.

Individuals who normally park in these lots will be notified when they are allowed to park in them again. Stops for the shuttle bus will also be changed to pick up students, faculty and staff who park in the new lots.

The new residential halls are scheduled to be completed in July 2006.

The College of Nursing at UM-St. Louis, along with St. Louis area hospitals and a health care company, received a \$259,486 grant to expand professional nursing education. The Missouri Hospital Association sponsored the two-year grant.

“The College of Nursing developed a collaborative education partnership with Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Children’s Hospital, St. Luke’s Hospital and SSM Health Care which will allow the College to increase enrollment by 75 percent,” Teri Murray, director of the undergraduate nursing program at UM-St. Louis, said.

MHA hopes to increase the number of registered nursing students accepted into nursing education programs. Although the number of nursing students enrolling and graduating from courses is increasing, there remains a shortage of nurses in hospitals and health care centers, and potential registered nursing students are being turned away, MHA reported.

This grant allows the College of Nursing to hire expert clinicians as adjunct faculty and expand the Nursing Arts Laboratory, which will provide simulated patient modules and better equipment and supplies.

KEVIN POWELL DISCUSSES ‘THE STATE OF BLACK MEN’ from page 1

Powell was open about his tumultuous life. “If we’re going to talk about black manhood, we’ve got to be brutally honest about it,” he said.

Raised by a single mother, Powell grew up in poverty and said that he did not have a father figure to look up to. He had run-ins with the police and was expelled from college for pulling a knife on a female.

Powell said that the reason many other African-American men were not involved in the lives of their children was because they were not taught to be responsible. “I was raised believing

black women were there to take care of us black men,” he said.

Another reason Powell gave for the problems in African-American communities was what he called “institutionalized racism.” He said that the school system is unfair to African-Americans and he challenged his audience to work together to change it.

“At a certain point, you got to take control of your situation.”

Powell acknowledged that some African-American men do not fit the model he talked about, but he said, “We got to struggle to find black men who

care.”

The talk was aimed primarily at African-American men, but women and children made up a significant part of the audience.

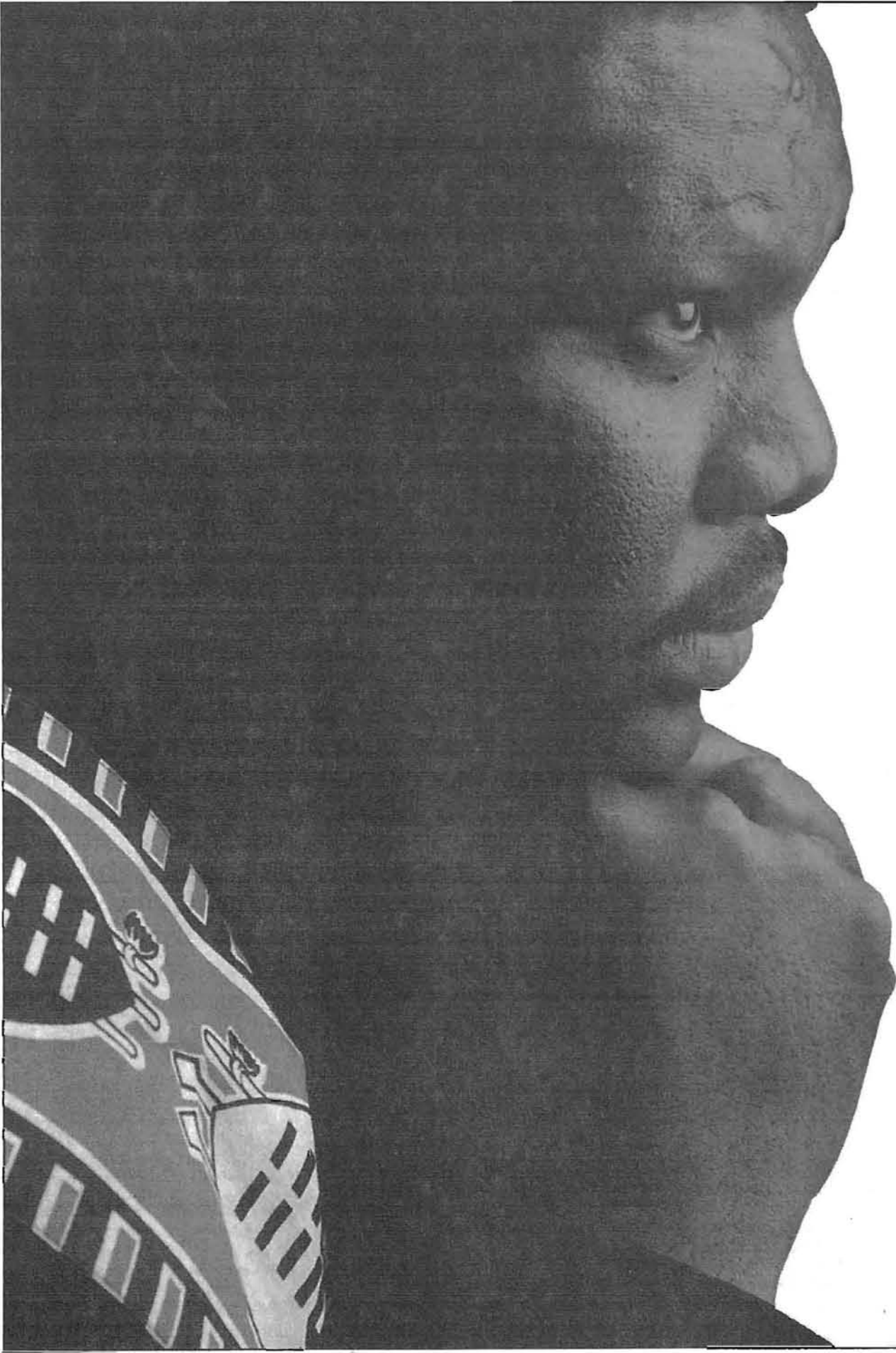
“I’m interested in learning more about the struggles of black men and African-American relationships between black men and black women,” Datre Bolar, UM-St. Louis alumni, said. “Others can learn through [Powell’s] experience.”

“We need to know more about what’s troubling men so we can sincerely, genuinely help them,” Rev.

Thomas Hood Jr., minister of Friendship Baptist Church, said.

After speaking, Powell took questions from the audience, town-hall meeting style. One of the event organizers, MK Stallings, graduate student, sociology, moderated the discussion. Powell signed copies of his latest book, “Who’s Gonna Take the Weight?” after the discussion.

The Office of Student Life, Associated Black Collegians, UPB and First Civilizations sponsored the discussion. It was part of the University’s Black History Month events.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH VUSI MAHLASELA “THE VOICE”

“He was the voice during the revolution, a voice of hope, sort of like a Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan of South Africa, and he still is.”
Dave Matthews

“Vusi Mahlasela sings as a songbird does; in total response to being alive. Music was at the heart of the struggle for freedom; Vusi was there. Music is at the heart of reconstruction; Vusi’s music is here to stir and delight us. He is a national treasure.”
Nadine Gordimer, 1991 Nobel Prize Winner

VUSI’S MUSIC SKIMS FOLK, ROCK, TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AND EVEN A TOUCH OF REGGAE, OFFERING MASTERPIECES FOR RECONCILIATION IN THE POST-APARTHEID ERA, AND WELCOMING HOME THE PRISONERS AND EXILES EAGER TO REMAKE THE WORLD.

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OPINION

OUR OPINION

Homecoming week: quick, painless and committment free

The population at UM-St. Louis includes about 16,000 students. A scant few thousand students are actually involved in student organizations on campus, and that's stretching the numbers.

Student organizations provide a way for students to become more involved on campus and meet new people, but many do not have time to commit regularly. This week, Homecoming will provide an easy outlet for all students to get involved.

UM-St. Louis has been working on ways to increase and retain student life on campus because currently, the campus lacks activity. While we have a Student Life office, it often feels like our school lacks actual student life.

Homecoming can change that with different events offered all week long. With several reasonably short events, the "spirit week" is a chance for those with busy schedules to get a taste of campus life without months of commitment.

This year, the Homecoming committee is bringing back old favorites in terms of activities, adding some new ones, and is centered around the theme, "A Night on the Town."

During spring semester of last year, the Student Government Association voted to move Homecoming from the spring semester in February to the fall semester during October. This year, students will get a chance to go to two Homecomings. Student Life has booked the Airport Marriott to host Homecoming in October, also.

Homecoming is not just one of those one-night events where everyone gets gussied up, nor is it just your average rival basketball game between UM-St. Louis and SIUE. It is a week-long event that caters to the schedules and interests of a larger population. Plenty of activities exist for students, and everyone should take part, even if it is as simple as casting a vote for Homecoming king and queen or tossing some pennies into the Penny War jars.

New activities this year include the

Texas Hold 'Em tournament and the car parade that has been brought back for a second consecutive year. Old favorites, such as the Penny Wars, the Big Man on Campus competition, powder puff football and tailgating, will still be a part of Homecoming.

Each event is a contest among student organizations at UM-St. Louis. Student Life is providing prizes as incentives for organizations to get involved. If you belong to an organization within the University, you can earn points for your group and win prizes by participating.

School spirit, though not high on the priority agenda for many students here, is one reason to get involved in Homecoming. By enrolling at UM-St. Louis, we connect ourselves to several enormous communities. We establish ties with fellow adults seeking knowledge. We join the ranks of educated individuals. We make up both athletic and academic teams that compete in different arenas with other local and distant schools. All of these connections should conjure some sense of pride and belonging, and Homecoming is the time to celebrate.

Involvement never hurts on a résumé. Scholarship and job applications ask you to list the organizations and activities with which you are or have been involved. Homecoming can serve as a springboard for student involvement. Try it out, and if you do not like it, there is no pressure to continue.

We pay close to \$400 in student fees, and some of that money goes to Homecoming. Demand a tangible reason for the cost: participate in this week's events.

Some people would rather stay at home or go out elsewhere next Friday. Consider going to the dance, but if you really do not enjoy that sort of event, don't go. But consider spending a little bit of time at one of the other events this week, and pay tribute to your connection to this University.

Y'see, this is exactly what happens when you don't prepare for homecoming!



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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.

The Issue

Students at UM-St.

Louis are not

normally enthused

by the thought of

gathering together

and celebrating.

Homecoming is a

chance for

everyone to pay

tribute to the con-

nections we hold at

the University.

We suggest

Participate in one

or all of the

Homecoming

events. It doesn't

matter if you toss

a few pennies into

a Penny War jar or

buy an entire table

at the dance, just

break the

apathetic mold.

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

Elections in Iraq

Cause for celebration

Dear Naysayer,

You voted against George W. Bush in the 2004 election, and I am completely fine with that. I will not disclose for whom I cast my ballot, but suffice it to say that I agreed and disagreed with points made by both candidates and my choice was not automatic. My reaction to the final vote count was mixed.

Naysayer, please understand that I completely support every angle of your first amendment rights. In fact, I encourage you to voice your opinion, peaceably assemble, protest when you feel the urge, utilize printed word and enjoy all the freedoms available to you here in America.

I would like to ask you a favor, though:

please stop whining all the time about how much our President sucks. By all means, voice your opinion, but would you mind giving some recognition when something good happens as a direct or indirect result of his actions?

For the first time in decades, the people of Iraq had the chance to cast a real democratic ballot. Regardless of who made it possible for them to do so, the ability to exercise freedom is an event to marvel. Some compared last Sunday to Nov. 9, 1989, the day the Berlin Wall fell, symbolizing the fall of dictatorial control and oppression in Europe. On Jan. 31, 2004, people experienced freedom. So why do you have to trivialize this monumental occasion by calling it something unimportant that will have no effect on Iraq or its people?

Did you watch television that day? Did you surf the Internet or look at a

newspaper? Did you miss the tears of joy pictured as oppressed men and women broke free from the hand that squeezed the life out of their nation? Thousands of people proudly displayed blue-inked fingers, defying the dictatorship that imprisoned them for so long.

Naysayer, you disagree with the war in Iraq and many of Bush's other foreign policy decisions. I disagree with some of them too, but if nothing else, the entire situation has been lined with the silver of a long-suffering people now justified.

My dad met an Iraqi man last week that voted freely for the first time. Under Saddam Hussein, the man said, ballots read 'yes' and 'no.' If a person voted 'no,' as the man did, poll officials arrested him.

This disgusting election system enslaved a country under the dictatorship of a man who raped, tortured and murdered his people.

Don't stop exercising your freedoms, Naysayer, but give credit where it's due. Situations improve when freedom exists. I am not denying the fact that terrorism is still rife in the Middle East, but now citizens can fight it by electing their own officials.

Our country helped do that. The United States takes the blame for everything that goes wrong over there, so shouldn't we celebrate when our combined efforts lead to success?

Whether or not America should have gone to Iraq is one issue, and the importance of the recent Middle Eastern election is another. I encourage you to hate on the President all you want. Just stop insulting the people of Iraq by insisting their freedom is worth nothing.



KATE DROLET
 Editor-in-Chief

Internships boost your resume

One of the most stressful times of an academic career is the job application process. Perfecting your resume, writing the best cover letter and preparing writing clips or other things the company asks for can be a long, stressful and difficult project. Even looking for the right internship can be hard.

Once again, I resorted to the internet to find tips on what the best clips are, how I can make my resume stand out and what exactly to write on my cover letter. Many good sites exist out there that provide this information for you; just put a few words into a search engine and you are bound to get a few useful sites. Also, a class that I took last semester provided me with helpful information on applying for jobs.

I do not think the professor would mind being mentioned, but I am just going to refer to him as a professor. He was very knowledgeable about the application process because it was his job for a number of years. He hired interns, so his advice to the class was retained with no hesitation. One of the suggestions he made that stood out to me was to list three strengths at the top of your resume instead of having an objective. Your cover letter should address your objectives.

One problem many of us may encounter is the issue of salary in an internship. The pay for this educational requirement is usually zero. Very seldom do students find an internship that pays; after all, I guess it is all about the experience. Internships can help you decide whether or not you like the path you have chosen. One benefit of many internships is getting in with the company. Make yourself stand out so the company remembers you when you go back to apply for a full-time job.

A speaker that came into one of my classes said the biggest mistake interns

make is simply going to the internship and doing their job. You have to express interest in what you do and let the bosses know you are interested in being there. Make yourself stand out by doing things above and beyond your duties, and make yourself available for other tasks besides your normal duties. You never know when they may need someone and end up considering you for the position or duty.

Another benefit of an internship is meeting people. You may meet someone who has connections at a company where you are most interested in working. A good deal of people in a particular industry know others all over the board. If you get in good with them, they may be willing to help you out when you decide to look for a full-time job.

Looking for that job or internship can be challenging. Today, many companies allow you to apply online. Some even

let you search for job openings through the company website. The process may be much different for internships, though. I have noticed that most do not post internships online.

The best advice I would give anyone is to take advantage of the resources you have on campus. Career Services offers many beneficial services. This week they are sponsoring Resume Mania, where you are able to email your resume to Career Services and someone will critique it and send it back to you. They also offer an e-recruiting service. Contact them at 516-5111 for more information on this and other services available to students. The internet also provides some good search sites. For example, on monster.com, you are able to post your resume and then employers are able to view it and contact you for a job. Overall, it is not an easy process, but be excited about it; you do have the resources to help you along the way.



BECKY ROSNER
 Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

- Homecoming: quick, easy, fun
- Celebrate the Iraq election
- Internships help job hunt

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

Can you comment on the election in Iraq?



Cecilia Lucido
 Freshman Business

I don't think there will be any positive short-term effects. Democracy will eventually work but we'll have to oversee its operation for awhile.



Katie Jones
 Junior Marketing

I don't know much about it really, but I think it's good that the people get to choose the government now.



Dale Chambers
 Graduate Student
 Masters in Public Administration

I haven't been following it since Saturday (Jan 29) but I don't think it will accomplish what the Bush Administration thinks it will. I do hope that the Iraqi people get what they want, but then again, in our elections some people didn't get what they wanted.



Jodi Kriebaum
 Senior Middle School Science Education

I believe the impact of the elections will be minimal. In fact, it may encourage terrorism through people believing that their government is America-appointed.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Science finds vision can improve with age



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Everyone knows that vision declines as we age. Yet some scientists have recently found an exception to this rule. For one kind of vision, the old see better than the young.

I am not talking about a philosophical kind of vision but the ordinary old eyeball kind. Last year, I wrote a column in which I described how most of our vision is really in our brains and has less to do with the eye and retina than people assume. The new study's discovery concerned a part of the brain that processes visual input. Older adults are better at detecting some movement in a large field than young adults.

According to a Canadian study, subjects 60 years old and over have neurological changes to the areas involved with vision that allow them to better spot small motions in a larger high contrast field.

After age 40, most people have some decline in vision. Visual sharpness declines as the eyeball loses flexibility.

Focusing on near objects becomes more difficult. There is also a decrease in the ability to detect differences in shades of color because the lens of the eye yellows and makes it harder to detect light at the blue end of the spectrum. Aging eyes also require more light, as the eye is not as able to take in light and glare also becomes a problem. Because of the many problems with vision in aging, the researchers expected to find that the older subject performed worst than the young adults in the study that measured the speed at which subjects could detect motion in a large repetitive fields.

What the researchers found was the opposite of their expectation.

Motion vision is a complex thing, depending on the brain's processing of the visual signals. Part of this process depends on the brain's ability to decide what part of the visual field to ignore and what parts are significant. As the brain decides what is important in a visual field, there is a complex interaction in which some neural cells suppress the signal of other cells, filtering out unimportant details to better focus on the significant parts of the picture. Hence some neural cells are stimulated while others are inhibited.

Researchers at McMaster University in Ontario tested two groups of subjects, one 18 to 31 years of age and the other 60 years and older. The subjects were shown computer screens with vertical, moving black and white lines. The subjects' ability to detect which direction the lines were moving in was measured as the number of lines was increased.

Previous studies indicated that people were better at detecting direction of movement if the lines were low-contrast grey lines, but if the lines were high con-

trast black and white, they had increasing difficulty as the number of lines increased. Researchers hypothesized that the contrast plays a role in triggering the signal suppression involved in motion detection.

Previous studies had also shown that for young adults, increasing the number of lines decreased the speed at which the person could detect motion. When the researchers included older test subjects, they expected their performance to be even slower. Instead, they found that when most of the screen was covered by the moving lines, older subjects' ability to detect the direction of movement leveled off at 70 milliseconds, whereas 18 to 31 year-olds took 100 milliseconds, or even longer if the movements were in a small area.

Patrick Bennett of McMaster University speculated that this improvement with age in this kind of visual task might allow older people to see the big picture better. They could perhaps better follow a big field of motion and detect small changes in that field sooner because their brains might not be filtering out as much information. Scientists thought that perhaps the inhibition of some neurons declined with age, letting the older subjects see changes that the younger ones missed.

The study results also raise questions about whether older people share this advantage with the very young, whose still-developing brains may not be as good at filtering out signals as the young adult brains.

The results of this study indicate that this signal suppression may decline with age, but that allows the older people to detect small movements more quickly in a complex field.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student angered by police treatment

As a UM-St. Louis student of five years, I have become well acquainted with the "parking situation" of our campus. I too grumbled at the more-than-half-my-rent costs associated with that new sticker every four months.

However, after a thousand dollars or so I caved into the idea that perhaps the check-writers of the University did need the revenue generated from student parking fees in order to provide an expanding learning environment, and that by undermining this source of income I would only be hurting myself and fellow collegians.

I simply could not afford a sticker this semester. I have slowly paid the price with a couple of \$25 and \$50 tickets so far this semester. However, since the tickets have all promptly been paid and none are outstanding, I was rather surprised to find my car booted Tuesday night.

I immediately called the Cashier's Office to be reassured that I carried a \$0 balance, then proceeded to call the police station. The man answering the phone informed me that the policy for booting cars was to "identify repeat offenders." To clarify, I was told that "repeat offender" describes one who has multiple unpaid tickets. Once a student receives \$240 in unpaid tickets, the car is booted in order to charge and receive a \$25 fee.

Besides the fact that charging this fee seems counter-intuitive to obtaining money from people who already aren't paying and does not go toward any outstanding balance, the fact remains that I had neither a single unpaid ticket nor hit the \$240 cap.

I, however, remained calm in feeling that this was just a misunderstanding that

would soon be cleared. The man who answered the phone, after listening to my story, seemed relaxed and invited me to talk to an officer to figure things out. After receiving a hitch from a friend and upon entering the police station I began to feel somewhat edgy as I listened to the dispatcher's rude and condescending tone to the various callers needing assistance.

I had a seat as directed and was soon "greeted" by an officer who asked if I was ready to get my car. Assuming my story had been explained, I was surprised to hear him ask me for \$25. I again explained my predicament and was immediately cut off with "I'd like to give you your vehicle back, but I can't unless you pay the fine."

Thinking he did not understand me, I tried again to explain that there should have never been a boot or fee. His tone turned from cordial to downright snotty as he refused to offer any other explanation other than to pay the fine and take it up with someone else later.

His only other response was that it wasn't his problem and that he didn't have access to information concerning whether I had paid the tickets or not. Before the police department decides to do something as drastic as hosting your car, doesn't it seem prudent to be sure the action is warranted?

I asked if I was expected to walk home and he told me yes, I would not get my car back until I paid the fine. I was informed that it was after 4:30 p.m. and everyone had gone home. I asked for the supervisor's name and number (since he was not "qualified" to take any action), which he at first refused to give to me

because he didn't want me to "call her at home."

Had my friend not been kind enough to stay there with me and lend me money, I would have been stranded 45 miles from home.

This does not seem legal or ethical to me. To be honest this is not about \$25 for me; it is more about the complete disconnection our UM-St. Louis police department seems to have from both University administration and its students.

This officer had the audacity to blatantly inspect my money for counterfeit solely for the purpose of flaunting the uphanded he had in this situation and further frustrate me. His entire demeanor was rude and patronizing.

I was never spoken to as condescendingly as that as a child; I refuse to be treated like that as an educated adult. I sincerely hope that this old man's bullying attitude made him sleep better that night. This professional campus security officer went as far to purposefully frustrate me by making me pick up the money from directly in front of him and hand it to him for payment.

This 20-minute experience has forever ruined my opinion of the UM-St. Louis police department and tarnished my feelings for this school in general. I feel that I was bullied and extorted. I left there feeling swindled. I can't help but feel that the banner in the MSC that has so proudly boasted "UMSL Cares About Its Students..." should end in "...Money."

Nicole Dumonceaux
Ph.D Student, Psychology

INTERN DIARIES

Gary moves to Queens, meets Killer and Coolio



GARY SOHN
New York Correspondent

Author John A. Shedd once said, "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

Moving across the Queensboro Bridge into Manhattan, I told the taxi driver to drop me off at the Manhattan Comfort Inn, which is located on West 35th Street and 5th Avenue. It was the cheapest place in New York that I could find in my large stack of brochures from the airport. For \$99 a night I was in the heart of New York City. Around the corner from my hotel stood the Empire State Building, and Time Square was only a few blocks away.

The taxi dropped me off at the hotel, and I checked in at around 11:30 p.m. I wanted to check out the city but it was too cold and windy to walk anywhere. I decided to stay inside for the night. After going through my room, checking out the bathroom and seeing how many channels my television had (only six), I started going through a newspaper that I had bought earlier; Looking for affordable places to rent nearby.

Before getting to the real estate section, I began to have doubts about moving to New York City.

As I flipped through the newspaper I read headlines that said, "Family of four slaughtered," "Dead newborn at Bx. church" and "Man shot sis and pal in W'chester."

Continuing through the pages, I found some more disturbing things. I read briefly about some people being shot by random gunfire, a group of gang members going around hitting people with bats and stealing their money, a story about the police catching the "Sunday School Slasher." The slasher, for fun, was going around slashing people with a blade (Boy am I glad they caught this creep before I got here).

"This is just great," I thought. "I am going to die. I just survived a possible plane crash -caused by turbulence- just so that I can land on the ground and get either stabbed, shot or beaten to death. Wouldn't that be 'ironic.'"

Just then, sirens started blaring and horns were beeping. I looked out the window and saw cop cars, ambulances and fire trucks speeding down the street. My face shined bright blue and red from the lights coming off the emergency vehicles as they passed by.

I quickly went to my door and placed the "do not disturb" sign on the outside knob. Then I dashed to the curtains, closed them and turned out all the lights except the lamp by the bed. After securing the fort, I laid on the bed and went back to apartment hunting. I finally reached the real estate section. No deaths on this page (some good news for a change) and circled a couple of places to call in the morning.

As the sirens continued screaming outside, I put the paper away and turned out the light. I pulled the cover over my head and prayed that I would live to see

my second day in New York.

The next day, I woke up early and began searching for an apartment. After calling several different places, I finally found a room to rent. Room Finders, a company who specializes in finding cheap rooms to rent for people on a limited budget, said that they had a room within my price range.

I traveled to their office in Jamaica Queens, filled out an application form and paid the \$85 service fee.

Janet, an elderly lady in her fifties with a huge cast on her left arm, handled my account. She treated me like one of her grandsons. She told me which buses I needed to take in order to reach my new room on Maspeth Avenue in Queens. I thanked her and went to shake her hand. I suddenly felt embarrassed, realizing that I reached for the broken hand.

She looked at me and said, "Good luck. You're going to need it," as I gently released my grip from the thick plastered hand.

Before catching a bus to Queens, I called my new landlord Frank and told him I was coming over.

I reached the house, knocked on the door and heard a voice say, "Enter." As I opened the door, a giant German Shepard jumped up and hit me in the

I paid Frank \$200 (first and last weeks' deposit) and he left. I took off my coat and laid it on the floor. I had been running around all day looking for an apartment and decided to take a nap before checking out of the hotel.

I slowly drifted to sleep.

A couple of hours into my slumber I was awoken by gun fire and bombs exploding.

I heard "Da-Da-Da-Da" as bullets shot through the next room. Then the sound of fire followed. "Whoosh."

"Oh no," I thought, "not again. I don't want to die."

A wild and crazy scream followed the destructive chaos.

"Ha-Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee."

"Da-Da-Da." Another explosion.

"Woohooooo!" Another scream.

I heard some footsteps in the kitchen, along with the sound of glass bottles clanking together. I cracked open the door and saw a man with a dark tan and long brown hair opening up a Corona bottle. He took a big gulp from his drink and yelled, "Ha-Heeeee!"

I opened the door some more, and he turned around as it began to creak open.

He stared at me from his beet red eyes. Large crow's-feet ran down from his eyes and to his cheek bones. With a Latin accent, he asked without hesitation, "Hello, How are you?"

"Fine," I replied, "and yourself?"

"I'm doing good. My name is Coolio. I live here."

"Me too. My name is Gary. I'm your new roommate."

"I did not wake you with sound from TV?" he asked.

"No," I lied.

Coolio and I sat down in the kitchen table and had a couple of Coronas together. We talked about where we were from and what we thought of New York City. He had moved to New York five years ago from Argentina.

I explained that I was new here and that I didn't know where all the cool places were.

"Nephew (he called me), not to worry. I know places you can go and have fun...and be safe," Coolio said.

After polishing off my beer bottle I went down to catch the bus that went back to Manhattan. I would move into my stuff from the hotel tomorrow after my first day at NBC. Coolio told me about some bars that I will probably check out tomorrow. I think things will turn out alright.

Just before my hands began to turn numb from the extremely cold temperatures, the bus finally pulled up and stopped in front of me. As the bus doors opened up, something strange happened. People started pouring out of it coughing and choking. Some had their hands and scarves covering their faces. I stood watching on the sidewalk until an aggravated voice called, "Are you getting on or what?"

It was the bus driver who had yelled at me. He did not look happy either. He had one of his gloves off of his hands and was using it to cover his nose and mouth.

I entered the bus and swiped my bus card. Just then something hit me in the face.

I pushed Killer away from my mid-section and said, as calmly as I could while "Killer" was lounging at my genitalia, "Whoaaa, Dooooowwn boy."

"Killer is a she," Frank told me.

Oops. Sorry about that.

"Killer gets excited when she meets new people. Don't worry though, she is just doing her job. She's a drug sniffing dog. She's my partner," he said. "Are you Gary?"

The fact that Frank is a D.E.A. (Drug Enforcement Agent) made me feel better knowing that there would be police protection in the house.

He told me to follow him upstairs to my new room. Entering through a door upstairs and walking down a hallway I took notice of my new habitat. We passed by a poster in the hall picturing Al Pacino in the movie "Scarface." A line below the picture of him read, "Say hello to my little friend." We passed the bathroom to the kitchen where several empty Corona and Heineken beer bottles stood. Eventually we reached my room. It is about the same size as two normal size dorm rooms combined. The floor is hard wood and the walls are plain white. My new home has as small closet for clothes and a bare window without a curtain or blinds.

He told me that the room came unfurnished, and I told him that would do for now.

Stay tuned next week when Gary meets celebrities, meets his new bosses, one who turns out to be a "Cheese Stick," and goes on a wild night with Coolio.

RETENTION, from page 1

Other suggestions he had were "telling students who their advisor of record is, improving the accuracy of information and getting with major or departmental advisor at appropriate time."

Not all students complained, however. Several said the advising helped them with education and career choices, in addition to picking classes. "They really take the time to sit down and talk to you,"

Alex Kerford, senior, engineering, said.

"I think there is a mixed reaction to the advising and students' experience with it," Crockett said. "We'll get a better overall perception of that once all the information is in."

Tanzeena Hosin, junior, psychology, attended the event so that she could have a say in how to improve the University.

"I was going to transfer [from UM-St. Louis] but ended up staying," Hosin

said.

Noel-Levitz is a consulting firm that works exclusively with colleges and universities on enrollment management issues. It is the largest firm in the nation to focus on the topic and has offices around the country, though none are in St. Louis. The company will provide a written report to the university containing their observations and recommendations.

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The library funded the furniture in the commons while ITS funded the computers. One estimate was that each work station cost more than \$2000.

"It's your student computing fees at work," Ficklen said. "A big impetus for computing is making sure student computing fees are spent responsibly and yet conspicuously. It's nice to have something big and new on the south campus."

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RESEARCHER, from page 1

"Traditionally, the research department brings in researchers to talk about their research, including post-doctoral candidates, graduate students and researchers from the community," Barton said.

"Undergraduates and graduate students attend the seminar class twice a week, once at the colloquium and once to the professor to talk about their own research," he said.

Students and faculty learned about Mansoori's work through the seminar. Mansoori has worked with petroleum companies since 1983 but is now working with them looking from a different perspective.

"The reason I started working on this subject is because I've had a long career of working on the production side of petroleum before I started working on nanotechnology," Mansoori said. "I'd solve their everyday technical problems and [get] interested on the heavy ends of petroleum and found out those same things are useful for nanotechnology."

In his discussion, Mansoori

talked about asphaltines and diamondoids, nanostructures found in petroleum. Asphaltines, he said, can cause problems in petroleum production when they clog pipelines. His research showed that resins, another nanostructure, prevent the asphaltine from sticking to the walls of pipes.

He also found that asphaltine when mixed with aromatics, products in petroleum, produces micelles, which are important because they demonstrate the ability of self-assembly, a major principle of nanotechnology. Mansoori said if scientists can control the self-assembly of micelles into bigger structures, the future holds promising applications.

When discussing diamondoids, the other structure he focused on, Mansoori quoted Eric Drexler, a pioneer who coined the term "nanotechnology." Drexler claimed diamondoids were the "building blocks for nanotechnology."

Mansoori said the company ChevronTexaco invested funds towards diamondoid manufacturing.

"ChevronTexaco recognized the importance of these, and there is no question about other companies doing the same. If they see an opportunity, they will go for it," Mansoori said.

Mansoori listed applications of diamondoids such as uses in antiviral drugs, drug targeting and delivery and designing artificial red blood cells called respirocyles. He also named nanobots, molecular machines, molecular probes and nanomodules as uses for diamondoids.

"Nanotechnology has been called the next industrial revolution," Mansoori said.

He compared his research to inventing the wheel. "Nobody knew we would make cars after inventing the wheel. In this research, we're building elements to put together to make different things. It's just the beginning of the field."

Mansoori recently wrote a book called "Principles of Nanotechnology," which will be released in Spring or Summer 2005.

NEW COMPUTER LAB AT WARD E. BARNES LIBRARY, from page 1

"We finally decided that, in partnership with ITS, we would open a library research commons over here," Cann said. "It had worked so well at Thomas Jefferson that it was just a good thing to do for our students. I must say that all of our students have been extremely happy with it."

One of the project managers from the library, Ted Ficklen, explained the timeline of construction.

"The planning for [the research commons] started Christmas 2003.

We had our first meeting then," Ficklen said. "Then construction took place summer of 2004. We had preliminary opening fall semester 2004 but there have been details we have been ironing out."

Cann said the opening had been postponed until winter semester 2005 for minor reasons. "We actually had it ready and open first day of fall semester but there were little things here and there. The lounge furniture hadn't arrived yet and it just wasn't

ready."

The library funded the furniture in the commons while ITS funded the computers. One estimate was that each work station cost more than \$2000.

"It's your student computing fees at work," Ficklen said. "A big impetus for computing is making sure student computing fees are spent responsibly and yet conspicuously. It's nice to have something big and new on the south campus."

FEATURES

BY KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Several weeks ago, a student reported to campus police that she had been raped. The incident, still under investigation, was allegedly perpetrated by an acquaintance.

UM-St. Louis has programs in place that deal with prevention and post-incident action, but student awareness plays a part in deterring violent sexual crime.

John Klein, director of Residential Life at the University, said that students can increase their overall safety by maintaining communication among members of their personal communities.

"Let your friends know what you're doing, who you're going with," he said. "You may feel like you're sharing your personal [life], but you're really helping

them help protect you, because at least if something happens someone knows where you're going and where you've been."

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes. The 2003 UM-St. Louis crime report showed that two forcible rapes were reported in 2001, and one was reported in 2002. Rape happens.

Popular rape myths diminish the dangerous odds of sexually violent crimes. Victims, perpetrators and society may think that previous intimacy between two people negates the possibility of rape. If one person denies sexual intimacy, the is legally required to heed their demand.

A common misconception is that the crime only occurs when provocatively dressed women put themselves in dangerous situations, like dark alleys or

Facts about rape

- 98 percent of victims are female.
- 75 percent of men and 55 percent of women in rape situations are under the influence of alcohol.
- 84 percent of rape victims know their attackers.

unlit areas at night. In fact, according to Lori Tagger, psychologist for University Counseling Services, 84 percent of rapes are attempted or completed by people that victims know personally.

Tagger said that women, who constitute 98 percent of victims in rape cases, can protect themselves by taking

precautions and watching out for "the little things."

"Pay attention to the character of a man," she said. "[Potential rapists may display] little signs you can notice."

She named belittling or controlling behavior as a warning sign, as well as physical boundary violations.

"He might be in your space a little more than you're comfortable with; he might be a little too affectionate," she said.

Rapists are not always identifiable under normal circumstances. However, according to "Sexual Violence," a pamphlet provided by Horizons peer educators, many potential rapists do not respect women, view women as sex objects, touch women despite protests, consider violent behavior "normal," drink, do drugs and encourage female companions to drink or use drugs.

Women can also protect themselves

by limiting the amount of personal information they share during an acquaintance period. Tagger advised only giving out a first name and providing a cell phone number instead of a home number.

"Let someone know where you're going [on a date] and when you're coming back, and let the man know that your friend is waiting," she said. "If a man doesn't respect your desires to be careful, that's a red flag...if they don't respect you, turn and run."

According to Tagger, three-quarters of men and slightly more than half of women involved in rape situations were under the influence of alcohol. Limiting consumption and using a buddy situation in, for example, party situations, can reduce the chance of acquaintance rape.

see RAPE AWARENESS, page 9

Thailand study trip seeks a few adventurous souls

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The UM-St. Louis Center for International Studies is giving students and people within the community a chance to participate in the Thailand Study Tour 2005 which will begin May 11 and end May 31.

The Thailand Study Tour is in conjunction with the BA 3198: Thai Business and Society course and counts for three UM-St. Louis credit hours. This class can be used to fulfill the Global Awareness requirement or can be used as an elective course for International Business students. All students and non-students are welcomed to participate.

The cost of this program is \$2,000 and includes round-trip airfare, lodging, all in-country program related travel and program materials. A class tuition fee of \$657 is required for those who want credits towards their degree. People who do not seek the extra credits can pay a non-credit fee of \$300.

The trip to Thailand will serve to help people become familiar with other traditional and modern cultures while they learn about world economics and international business trade. Some trip activities include lectures and language studies, company and government visits, daily cultural experiences and trips to historical sites.

Participants will stay for 10 days in Bangkok, where they will visit Grand Palace, Wat Po, Wat Arun, Chatuchak Market and undergo a Klong Tour. After Bangkok, they will spend five days in Chiang Mai and participate in Hill Tribe visits, elephant trekking, visit a night market and explore some craft factories. The last four days of the Tour will be spent in Krabi and entertainment will include scuba diving, snorkeling and aquatic activities.

Allan Bird, professor of Japanese

Studies, said that the group has also decided to go and visit the coast where the tsunami hit and do volunteer relief.

Elizabeth Eckelkamp, Foreign Languages and Literature lecturer, said that they decided to have this trip because last May she and Bird took a group of 24 students on a successful Japan Study Tour.

During the Japan Study Tour 2004, students received a briefing from the United States Embassy, learned about Japanese culture through lectures, visited Tokyo and historical sites and went on factory tours of major manufacturers like Canon, Sony and Nissan.

Nick Henke, senior, accounting, now a student at University of San

Thailand Study Tour

May 11 - 31

Registration deadline: Feb. 25

Francisco, participated in the Japan Study Tour and is planning to go on this year's Thailand Study Tour.

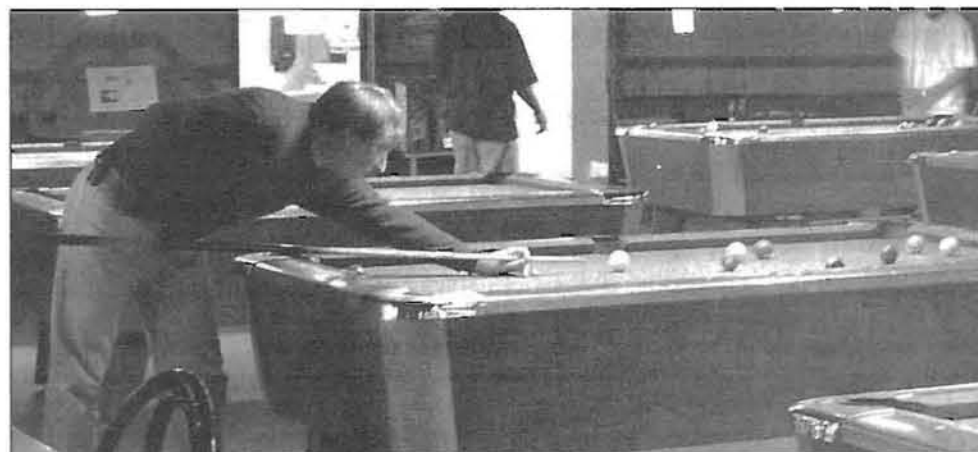
"I love to see other parts of the world and it is great learning about other cultures and their differences," Henke said. "It is also a very beneficial and rewarding experience that looks good on resumes."

Eckelkamp said that these tours student study abroad trips.

"The trip last about three weeks and give students who are unable, for a variety of reasons, to do a full semester or year abroad, to have the study abroad experience and to expand their horizons," he said.

Bird said that another reason that they are going is because they believe people need to have international experiences within a global community and that the tour will primarily be geared towards business students, but others can participate.

The trip is limited to only 33 students, so early applicants have the best chance. The original registration and application deadline was set for Feb. 7, but they have extended the deadline until Feb. 25. Those who are interested can receive applications by calling Eckelkamp at 516-6517 or Bird at 516-6286.



Fortel's Pizza Den and Teachers Pool Hall share a large space together in St. Peters. Teachers offers billiards, darts and Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments every Sunday.

Cueless about what to do in St. Louis?

• Check out a local pool hall

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

While some students stick to the tried and true St. Louis nightlife districts like the Landing, the Loop, the Central West End, virtually every neighborhood has a local bar with good old-fashioned, green felt-covered entertainment.

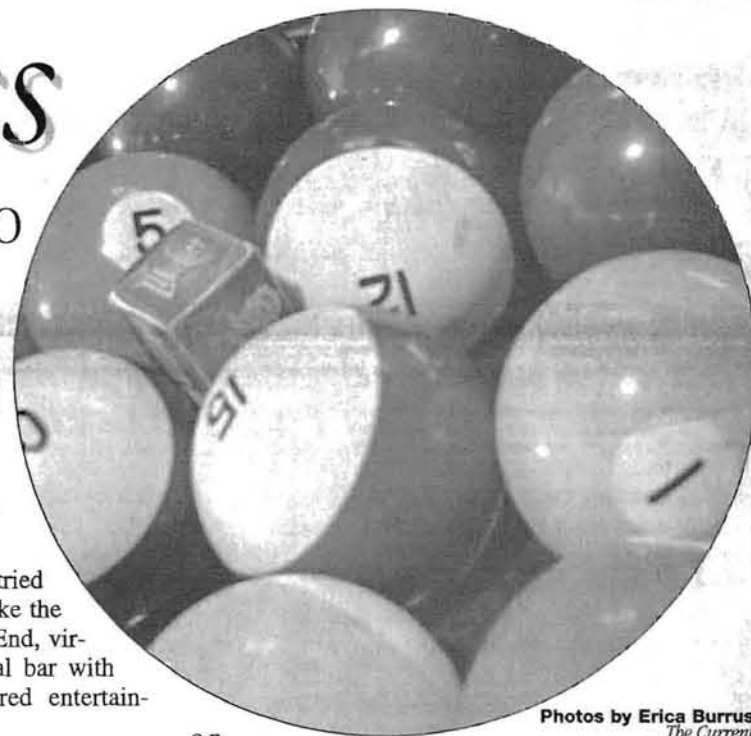
Pool tables are an invitation to people who want to just play a game or for those who want to make it a little more competitive.

Hot Shots is just one of the numerous bars that attracts dozens of college students looking to have a good time. Besides drinking and getting to know people around the bar, playing pool can serve as an ice-breaker. Hot Shots has many different locations to tailor to the needs of their customers.

Ryan Johnson, a Webster Groves resident, said, "I am just starting to get into playing pool. I like to come to Hot Shots because there are a lot of tables, though I also like to go to the Pink Galleon too."

The Pink Galleon is known for their pink felted pool tables. With four locations in South County, Creve Coeur, Crestwood and Hazelwood, this establishment is convenient to the community. While Hot Shots has darts and pool tables, the Pink Galleon has several kinds of entertainment. Their web site, www.pinkgalleon.com, shows what the tables look like and also other games that they offer.

Action Cafe and Billiards, located in Hazelwood



Photos by Erica Burrus/The Current

on Lindbergh, has a fully stocked bar, kitchen, big screen televisions and is open on weekends until 3 a.m.

Teachers Billiards and Sports in St. Peters is another well-known pool hall because of its 30 tables and weekly leagues and tournaments.

Due to the ever increasing popularity of this sport, UM-St. Louis also installed some pool tables in the Nosh for students seeking enjoyment between classes.

Susan Saders, senior, anthropology said, "I used to play when I was younger, at Tropicana Lanes on Clayton Road, but now I just play down in the Nosh now and again."

Some other locations that pool lovers might want to try are Ride the Rail (Telegraph Road), Shoot A Rack (South Big Bend), The Sports Center (Gravois Road), Planet 8 Ball (N. Outer Road by Mid Rivers Mall), Billiards on Broadway (N. Broadway), Airport Billiards (Woodson Road), Affton Sports Center (Gravois Road), Cue and Cushio (Woodson Road) and Chesterfield Billiards (Clarkson Road).

Getting the most out of grad school with GSA

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
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BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

UM-St. Louis Criminology Graduate Students participate in hands-on experience and learn professional and social development within their field by getting involved with the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association.

The Graduate Student Association is a University organization run by graduate students within the department.

Students at UM-St. Louis can earn minors, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in criminal justice.

GSA helps to foster the studies of graduate students and continues to improve the reputation of the department.

Regan Gustafson, President of GSA, described some of the activities and events that the Association participates in.

"We bring in several guest speakers and researchers within the field, help to coordinate brown bag lunch series and attend two main conferences within the discipline," Gustafson said.

see GSA, page 7

African captives buried below Manhattan tell fascinating tale

Black History Month lecture recounts discovery of National Historic Landmark

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES
Staff Writer

On a wet dreary day engulfed with grey skies, pallbearers both young and old draped in brilliant white flowing garments and head wraps carry the remains of African slaves to their resting place in hand-carved Ghanaian coffins.

The bones rest inside of the kente cloth lined coffins in anatomical position facing toward home-Africa. The tagged coffins are arranged into crypts. From far away, the tastefully designed wooden coffins, each with

their own unique symbols, look like assorted chocolates in a box.

One of the coffins has a symbol meticulously made out of brass nails that forms a shape that resembles a heart. It is the Ashanti symbol "sankofa" that represents the importance of returning to the past to build the future.

Keisha M. Hurst, a physical anthropologist in the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, and Branch Chief Chris Pulliam work with the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management Center of Archaeological Collections to bring the essence of sankofa to life. Hurst and Pulliam do so through their efforts with The New York African Burial Ground Project.

During a lecture held at the Missouri History Museum on Feb. 1, Pulliam outlined the historical data of this project.

This lecture was part of the guest speaker series during Black History Month and was co-sponsored by the

UM-St. Louis Department of Anthropology.

Pulliam said that in May 1991 human remains of seventeenth and eighteenth century African captives were found 30-feet deep in Lower Manhattan during the construction of the Foley Square Project federal building.

In September 1991, full scale excavations began. By October 1992, 390 remains had been recovered. The earliest burial is said to have occurred in 1712 and the last dates back to 1794. There are an estimated 20,000 burials in this particular area of Lower Manhattan; however, only 408 were salvageable for reburial of which 49 to 50 percent were children.

Hurst, who has been active in the project since its beginning stages at Howard University, a historically black university, has been heavily involved in the project's research which focuses on the social and economic background of the remains.

Cleaning, reconstruction and

inventory of the remnants was performed to gain a better understanding of the skeletal measurements and elements.

Hurst's lecture included an analysis of age determination of the remains.

"Age is determined through the sequence of tooth eruption, which enables the composite age at the time of death to be determined," Hurst said.

Hurst said that in younger remains, age can be determined by observing bone fusion, which occurs in both males and females. For older remains, degenerative changes in bones in the pelvic area and suture closures in the cranium help to determine age at death.

"In the beginning stages of the project," Hurst said, "the gender ratio was unclear and as a result of the labor demanded by slavery, many women developed a male-like, musculoskeletal structure and were thought to be males at the time the

remains were recovered."

Hurst said that analysis of the pelvis was used during research as the determinant of gender with females having broader hips than males.

Following the research was a process of reconciliation which took place at Howard University. Hurst explained that the purpose of the reconciliation was to resolve any differences between Howard University's research and what was present during July of 2003 when the reconciliation took place. The site is now a national historic landmark open to the public.

Hurst said that the last days of the reburial were very emotional for her.

"Seeing the crypts lowered into the ground symbolized closure," Hurst said.

The ceremonies have ceased, but the soul of sankofa lives on. The mahogany wooden door deeply engraved with adinkra symbols has sealed the crypts that now preserve three centuries of African-American history.

Professor separates fact and fiction surrounding Trojan War

Troy, UMSL course in Greece are focus of Cosmopoulos lecture

BY MONICA MARTIN

Staff Writer

By now, a relatively large part of the population has heard of the movie "Troy" with Brad Pitt, but did Troy, and all of the personalities involved, actually exist?

UM-St. Louis Professor Michael Cosmopoulos discussed this issue in "Searching for the Kings of Trojan War," a lecture held on Saturday at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters.

Cosmopoulos is Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professor in Greek

Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the University.

The lecture was accompanied by slides, opening with the movie poster for "Troy" featuring Brad Pitt.

Cosmopoulos began with a joke for the audience, saying "Helen of Troy is the reason for Brad Pitt."

Cosmopoulos moved on to the archaeology of the Trojan War. He mentioned Heinrich Schliemann, giving the crowd a brief bio of the "Father of Bronze Age Archaeology." There was also mention of St. Louisian George E. Mylonas, a professor at Washington University, who excavated the ancient Greek city of Mycenae for years.

In getting into details of Greek mythology, Cosmopoulos started with Troy. He said that Troy was actually a very small city, and that the story of the famous Trojan Horse was actually a myth. He said that Troy was probably destroyed by an earthquake.

Poseidon, god of earthquakes, was symbolized by the horse, leading to the connection of the Trojan Horse.

The city of Mycenae was mentioned as the city that produced most of the Greek myths and heroes. Cosmopoulos brought up the idea that the mask of Agamemnon was actually the mask of Perseus, who slayed Medusa.

After thirty-five minutes of lecture, Cosmopoulos spoke about the UM-St. Louis summer course on archaeology in Greece, which can be taken for academic credit. During past trips, 45,000 artifacts have been uncovered. Cosmopoulos said the trip is not just hands-on field work, as it also involves working in museums and attending lectures on Greek art, archaeology, literature, culture and history.

Information can be found at www.greekstudies.org, or at www.iklaina.org.

Rep. Parker reveals legislative agenda

BY DAN BAUER

Staff Writer

Rep. Sherman Parker visited UM-St. Louis on Thursday, Feb. 3 to shed light on the changes in the legislative process this year.

The St. Charles Representative explained some of the legislative priorities that he is working on this session. He explained that this year, the Missouri House has changed its rules to become more regimented. In other words, a member has to have a co-signature on a bill to be heard on the floor.

Parker is sponsoring several programs this session. The first involves domestic violence laws. He explained that these laws, in their current state, are providing for continued dangerous conditions in family situations.

For example, police are often not allowed to confiscate weapons during domestic violence calls. If an arrest does not take place, these weapons can be used for violence against domestic partners later in time. This new legislation would make it so individuals convicted of domestic violence would not be able to own guns.

Parker is also sponsoring a commission on urban conservation this year. The state of Missouri and the

St. Louis area, in particular, have a large amount of blighted land that could be reinvigorated. The commission will decide on problem areas that lack funding for demolishing old worn down structures.

Parker wants to restore these lands so the state can utilize more of its workforce. Part of this overall idea also involves making sure that Brownfield credits are used efficiently.

Parker tried to convince rural House members about the importance of St. Louis urban areas.

"Without St. Louis and Kansas City, we would be Arkansas," Parker said, jokingly.

Parker also stated that he was against the budget cuts to Medicaid. This is an issue that affects urban residents.

"I don't want to balance the budget on the backs of the disabled, elderly and kids," he said.

Another idea for revitalizing St. Louis City is to invest in more funding for MetroLink. Parker is on the Transportation Committee



Rep. Sherman Parker

for Economic Development and is interested in trying to acquire more funding for city transportation.

Another major issue this legislative session is tort reform. Tort reform involves changes in the legal system that puts a cap on damages awarded by juries. Parker said he is opposed to the House tort reform legislation in its current form because it sets awards too low and is an ideologically driven piece of legislation.

Parker believes that tort reform is largely being pushed through Congress to punish Democrats and the trial lawyers that support them. He pointed out that under the bill, if someone were to become disabled and not be able to work, their damages would be capped at two hundred thousand dollars, in certain instances, for the remainder of their lives. Parker pointed out that unless insurance companies are given the same kind of scrutiny, he will not support tort reform this year.

Parker attended the University of Vermont where he received a bachelor's degree in political science. He also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has worked for Senator Kit Bond and Senator Jim Talent.

The Associated Student of the University of Missouri sponsored the Luncheon with a Legislator.

GSA, from page 6

Each year, GSA members select a faculty member that they are interested in learning about and invite that person to answer questions.

Some of the conferences that students have gone on include the Academy of Criminology Sciences in March and the annual American Society of Criminology Meetings. Students are also able to go on tours

of major criminal justice agencies.

Students who go to these conferences must present research projects to a set panel and other criminologists in their field. With hard work and dedicated research, students also have the opportunity for possible journal publication.

Gustafson said that becoming involved or by being an active member allows students the chance

to receive exposure in this field and meet other top professionals.

Whether they hope to work with federal and local law enforcement agencies, investigation, corrections and the criminal justice administration, those interested in criminology and criminal justice can visit the department office, located in 324 Lucas Hall or call 516-5031.

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor:

current@jinx.umsi.edu

BROWN-BAG GRAMMAR

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A Service of the Center for Academic Development

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 7:

Blood Drive
MSC Third Floor from 1-7 pm

BMO Penny Wars
Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

Tuesday, February 8:

Homecoming Parade
Begins at South Campus Parking Lot U at 12:30 pm

BMO Penny Wars
Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

Thursday, February 10:

Powder Puff Football
Mark Twain Field at 1 pm

Tailgating
Mark Twain at 4:30 pm

Basketball Game

Women's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm

Men's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm

Friday, February 11:

Homecoming Dance
Airport Marriott at 7 pm

Saturday, February 12:

Basketball Game

Women's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm

Men's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm

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'Women Impressionist Artists' stop at Gallery 210

* Exhibit highlights female struggles

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Women have been artists for a long time. However, being women, they have often had a harder fight to be recognized for their work. They had to negotiate the prevailing stereotypes of femininity as they established artistic careers. These were the issues discussed in the lecture of "Women Impressionist Artists."

"Women Impressionist Artists" was brought to Gallery 210 by Susan Waller. The presentation is another chapter in the ongoing "Women in the Arts" showcase presented by UM-St. Louis. Slides and a lecture took the audience through an exploration of female artists as they struggled to become artists. Slides included actual artwork by the artists, as well as portraits of the artists themselves. Artists mentioned included Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot and Eva Gonzalez.

The audience was small, about 30 people, and was predominantly female. Dr. Barbara Harbach is a professor of music at UM-St. Louis and the coordinator of "Women in the Arts." She introduced the speaker, Waller, assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art History at UM-St. Louis. Waller specializes in European art in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her research deals specifically with issues of gender and artistic production. The same research has been featured in such publications as Women's Art Journal, Oxford Art Journal and History of Photography.

The lecture focused on the artists, their personal lives, their struggles, their triumphs, all while creating beautiful art.

The "Women in the Arts" celebration of women showcase is a year-long event at the University, and consists of lectures, film screenings, poetry readings, and art exhibits. More than fifty UM-St. Louis organizations participate, as well as outside groups. These groups include the St. Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis University, and Young Audiences of St. Louis. A schedule of events can be found at www.umsl.edu/~wia. Those who are interested can also call (314) 516- 7776.

Film series highlight African-Americans and women

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Although most film directors now are men, women are making inroads into this once male-dominated field. The irony is that the earliest era of filmmaking had several women directors, who were squeezed out when it became clear that there was money to be made in the nascent film business. One of the very first film directors, whom might even have directed the first fiction film, was actually a woman named Alice Guy Blache.

Two film series are gracing the UM-St. Louis campus this February. One of these is the first part of a year-long series featuring "Women in Film," part of the multi-venue "Women in the Arts" program. The other is a month-long series to highlight African American History Month.

The campus chapter of Associated Black Collegians is hosting a series of films in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center during

African American History Month. ABC launched the series with "Eve's Bayou" on Feb. 1, and will follow up on Tuesday, Feb. 15 with "Barbershop 2." The series finishes up with a screening of the Oscar-nominated film "Ray" on Feb. 22.

Patrina Gay, president of the campus chapter of the Association of Black Collegians, said that the organization was hosting the events both to highlight African American History month with a fun event and to shine a spot light on the national organization, which has existed since 1960. The screenings take place at 11 a.m. and are free and open to all. For the Feb. 22 screening, the organization plans to have refreshments, and an artist who will display African art and jewelry for sale. For more details, call the Associated Black Collegians at 516-5731.

On Feb. 9, the "Women in Arts" program launches a "Women in Film" series with a program of short films by Silent Movie Director Alice Guy Blache. The screening will take place in the Gallery 210 auditorium at 3 p.m. The program will include the 1912 film "Making an American Citizen" with an original score

composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. The recorded score was performed by Quartet Seraphin, under the direction of James Richards, who is also a professor of music at the University. The film was also presented at the St. Louis International Film Festival last fall.

The "Women in Film" series will highlight the work of women directors with monthly screenings during this semester and in the fall. The first in this film series focuses on the work of Blache, a Frenchwoman who was not only the first female director but one of the earliest directors working at the birth of the medium. After moving to the U.S., she was also the first woman to own a film production studio and directed more than a thousand short and feature length films. The program is being curated by Rita Csapo-Sweet, associate professor of media studies at the University.

The program will continue next month with "Panama Deception," a documentary film about the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama. The film, which was directed by Barbara Trent and is narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery, won the 1993

Oscar for Best Documentary.

On April 13, the film is Director Julie Dash's "Daughters of the Dust," a drama set in 1902 about the Gullah culture that exists in the islands of the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. Isolation allowed the Gullah culture to retain African folkways even into the twentieth century. The film won a Cinematography Award at the 1991 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for preservation by the National Film Preservation Board.

Next, the film series finishes the semester on May 11 with a double bill of director Mira Nair films, "Mississippi Marsala" and "Salaam Bombay." "Mississippi Marsala," a dramatic romance about an Indian woman whose family is transplanted to the American South, stars Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury. Mira Nair is also the director of the hit "Monsoon Wedding" and the recent "Vanity Fair."

The series will resume in the Fall with programs that focus on the work of Directors Lina Wertmuller, Sophia Coppola and Barbara Kopple. For more details, visit the Women in the Arts website at <http://www.umsl.edu/~wia>.

Film Events

* Feb. 9
'Making an American Citizen'
 Dir. Alice Guy Blache

* Feb. 15
'Barbershop 2'
 Pilot House

* Feb. 22
'Ray'
 Pilot House

* Upcoming
'Panama Deception'
 Dir. Barbara Trent

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

York shines at Touhill's Shakespeare performance

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" Many people are familiar with this romantic Shakespeare sonnet. It was this sonnet that actress Susannah York used to open her act called "The Loves of Shakespeare's Women."

The performance was a presentation of the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Susannah York is a seasoned actress who studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, London and in the U.S. Her many movies include "Tunes of Glory" (1960), "Freud" (1962), "Tom Jones" (1963), "Images" (1972), among many others. She is tall, slender, with salt and pepper pixie hair.

Susannah York's act takes the different women of Shakespeare's plays, and creates a performance in which York recites different scenes from those plays. Soliloquies and conversations from the tragedies, comedies and romances took center stage. It is a one-woman show, with York doing all seventeen pieces. Three sonnets were recited; the rest were play excerpts. The show ran eighty minutes, with an interval in between the plays with younger women, and the plays with women who have "gained more wisdom."

When York's act started, she came to the stage wearing white velvet pants, a baggy white blouse, and silver slippers. She lit a candelabra, and recited Sonnet XVIII. Between the recitations, York told humorous anecdotes about her journey as an actress. She also explained the scenes and the acts she was about to re-enact. The first character was Juliet, from

"Romeo and Juliet." She was followed by Hermia, Viola, Portia, Rosalind, Cressida, and Beatrice, the young women from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Twelfth Night," "Merchant of Venice," "As You Like It," "Troilus and Cressida," and "Much Ado About Nothing," respectively. York would transform her facial expressions as well as her body language to beautifully match the mood of her chosen character.

After a brief intermission, York came on stage again, wearing red velvet pants, a red blouse, and the same silver slippers. She recited a scene from "Antony and Cleopatra," as Cleopatra. She then portrayed Lady Macbeth, Gertrude, Emilia, Mistresses Page and Ford, Queen Margaret and Constance. These women can be found in the plays "Macbeth," "Hamlet," "Othello," "The Merry

Wives of Windsor," "Henry VI," and "King John." The exchange in sonnet CXVI was recited between Emilia and the Mistresses Page and Ford. After her performance as Queen Margaret, York shared a personal tidbit: when her son saw her portrayal, he thought "Mom was mean and (he) did not want to meet her in a dark alley." Her daughter, on the other hand, was not amazed. Perhaps the most heart-wrenching performance was when York portrayed Constance, a woman lamenting the loss of her son Arthur. York said, "Right now, in Iraq, in Israel, in Palestine, at this moment, at this very moment, a woman, a mother, is weeping over the loss of her child." She then gave Constance's soliloquy and died a dramatic death. Sonnet CIX closed out the show, and York received a standing ovation.

Susannah York played to a full house on Saturday, Feb. 5. She made the audience laugh, and tugged at heartstrings. She has the ability to give Dame Judy Dench a run for her money.

'The Loves of Shakespeare's Women'

GRADE
A

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Erica Burrus/The Current

For the adventurous beer drinker, Growlers Pub offers a wide range of beers from around the globe.

Growler's has good food and beer

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Charles Cotton once said, "A night of good drinking is worth a year's thinking." If you are looking for a good place to drink beer and eat a hearty dinner with it, look no further than Growler's Pub.

Growler's Pub is a casual bar and restaurant that is a good place to relax and catch up with friends. Three TVs hang in different corners and above the bar. The staff is dressed and jeans and t-shirts. Booths line the walls and tables are scattered in the middle of the floor. Top 40 tunes can be heard over the speakers, just barely above the din of the diners. Dim lights hang above the tables and the bar.

My friend and I arrived on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. to a packed house. We waited only a few minutes before the hostess seated us in the non-smoking section not far from the door. Menu items include appetizers, sandwiches, soups and salads. The beer menu

is separate, listing the different beers, as well as the states and the countries from which they hail. One section describes the process of brewing beer. The menu also describes the difference between beer, lager and ale. There is also a section in the beer menu on cigar etiquette. A good read while waiting for your food.

Growler's Pub
 763 Old Ballas,
 3811 S. Lindbergh

GRADE
B+

I ordered a salad and half a sandwich (\$6.95). My friend ordered the French Dip, a roast beef sandwich that comes with dipping juice and French fries (\$7.25) His Bud Light was \$3.35. The portions were medium-sized and we were able to eat it all without having to haul leftovers home.

There are two Growler's Pub locations: one in Creve Coeur and one at Sunset Inn. The one in Creve

Coeur was the first to open in March 1996. The Pub has won several awards, including St. Louis' Best Beer Selection in Sauce Magazine in 2003 and 2004, as well as the Riverfront Times from 1998-2004. There is also a beer club for all patrons who are of age. It is called the "Royal Order of Tasters." Ask a server or bartender for details.

Growler's Pub can be found worldwide on the web at www.growlerspub.com. The website lists the different awards the restaurant has won, as well as special events, programs and coming events. A menu is available as well.

Growler's Pub is a good restaurant for getting together with friends and watching the big game. The TVs play sports, as well different trivia games played by the patrons. Stop in at 763 Old Ballas in Creve Coeur or at 3811 S. Lindbergh at Sunset Inn. Hours are 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 12 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday. Dinner is served from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

'Over the Rainbow' takes over the PAC stage

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

If he were still alive, composer Harold Arlen, born Hyman Arluck, would be 100 years old on Feb. 15.

Even though he is not here to witness it, his 100th birthday will be celebrated with a live concert performed at Carnegie Hall. Those at the PAC Sunday night had the opportunity to get a sneak peak at the musical tribute before the show heads to the Big Apple.

Broadway performers Tom Wopat and Faith Prince performed tunes spanning Arlen's career along with singers Loston Harris and Barbara Morrison. To open the show, Prince and Wopat performed the duet "Let's Fall In Love." Next, Wopat sang "My Shining Hour," before introducing the band members: Red Halloway on saxophone, Mark Whitfield on guitar, Steve LaSpina on bass and Steve

Johns on drums. Halloway's saxophone solo was featured on "Black Magic" which Wopat sang next.

Prince sang two solos "Get Happy," which is probably best known to the younger generation as the song featured in television advertisements for Clinique and to others as a Judy Garland hit. Prince also sang "Down With Love," which is about the "dark side of love," she said. She then introduced Loston Harris.

Harris sang "Only a Paper Moon," which became famous after it was recorded by Nat King Cole and his trio. After the number, Harris introduced the last singer, Barbara Morrison who sang "Buds Won't Bud," an upbeat tale of unrequited love.

During his career, Arlen co-wrote eight shows for the famed Cotton Club in New York which featured such legendary African American performers as Lena Horne, Duke Ellington and the Nicholas Brothers.

'Over the Rainbow'

Sunday, Jan. 30
 Touhill PAC

GRADE
B+

Wopat sang one of the more famous songs from those Cotton Club shows, "I Got the World on a String," which has been widely recorded by such contemporary jazz artists like Diana Krall.

Next Morrison sang "Stormy Weather," which was made famous when it was performed by Lena Horne in the movie "Cabin in the Sky." It became Horne's signature song and is the most famous of the Cotton Club tunes.

Arlen also wrote Broadway plays throughout his illustrious career. "House of Flowers" was co-written with writer Truman Capote, who had also written a book of the same name.

The Broadway musical starred actress Pearl Bailey. Bailey starred in "St. Louis Woman," which Arlen also wrote.

Prince and Morrison next sang a duet, "A Woman's Prerogative," made famous by Ethel Waters when she performed the song in both the Broadway musical and film version of "A Cabin in the Sky." Prince then sang a solo, "Happiness is a Thing Called Joe."

An on-stage drop screen showed behind-the-scenes archival footage of the filming of "The Wizard of Oz," for which Arlen provided the score. As the scenes of Arlen dancing on the MGM set with Judy Garland and other stars of the film played in the screen in the background, Harris began to play piano and sing "If I Only Had a Brain" from the 1939 film. Wopat joined Harris for the second half of the tune followed by Prince and Morrison, who sang a medley of songs from the film's score

ending with "Over the Rainbow."

After a 15-minute intermission, the on-stage drop screen showed photos of Arlen hard at work in the studio and seated at his piano with musical and literary stars such as Tony Bennett, W.C. Handy, Truman Capote and fellow composer Irving Berlin.

The second set featured more Arlen hits like "Last Night When We Were Young," "This Time the Dream is on Me" and "One for my Baby." Wopat and Prince sang two songs from the Broadway musical "St. Louis Woman," "Any Place I Hang My Hat" and "Come Rain or Come Shine."

All four singers took a final bow to a rousing applause and then led the audience in singing a verse from "Over the Rainbow" before exiting the stage.

For more information, pictures and a detailed biography of Harold Arlen and his life and work visit his official website at www.haroldarlen.com.

'Hotel Rwanda' offers message for current times

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Three Oscar nominations and a listful of other awards should be enough to recommend "Hotel Rwanda" to filmgoers. The film is nominated for best script, lead actor Don Cheadle garnered a best actor nomination and a best supporting actress nod went to Sophie Okonedo for her role as his wife. But "Hotel Rwanda" is more: it is a powerful and important film for the world now.

Like Oskar Schindler in World War II, Paul Rusesabagina did not set out to save people. His own basic decency drove him to do it, and his own intelligence and resourcefulness made it possible. Unlike Nazi Germany, where the world had only rumors, there was much more awareness of what was happening in Rwanda in 1994, although the facts that came out afterwards were much worse than anyone thought.

With racial or religious hatreds fueling terrorism and hate speech filling the airwaves, along comes a film about the power of human decency to overcome inhumanity. There is an old saying: All that is needed for the triumph of evil is that men of good will do nothing. "Hotel Rwanda" is a true-life story of a man of good will who did something.

With three Oscar nominations, "Hotel Rwanda" is a film of artistry, but it is also a film for our times.

"Hotel Rwanda" tells the story of a

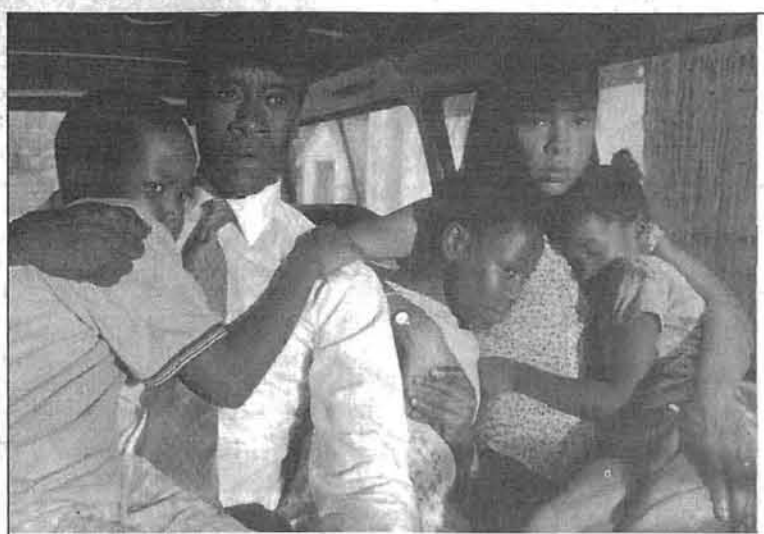
hotel manager who ends up sheltering more than a thousand people in his hotel and saving their lives. The backdrop is one of the more horrific events of the late twentieth century, yet "Hotel Rwanda" is an uplifting, powerful film of inspiration, of simple humanity, that largely spares us the graphic details of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle) is the manager of the top hotel in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Paul is a success story, climbing the corporate ladder from modest beginnings to education in hotel management in Europe, and working his way up to run the Hotel Mille Collines, the flagship hotel in the capital. He is good at his job and proud of his skills.

When the president of the country is assassinated, simmering hatred by the ruling Hutus for the Tutsis, who were in charge when the country was a Belgian colony, erupts into violence. The chaos is egged on by hate radio announcers who blame the Tutsis for the assassination and urge their listeners to kill them all in retaliation.

Paul, a Hutu, is married to Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo), a Tutsi, and brings his family to his European-owned hotel to hide them from the killers. At first, the hotel, which caters to wealthy foreigners, seems like a safe haven, an island of sanity where journalists like Jack (Joaquin Phoenix), the head of the U.N. peacekeeping force, Col. Oliver (Nick Nolte), and other Westerners. But soon

that changes, as the U.N. pulls out. Col. Oliver fights to keep a presence, to stop the violence, but is told that the U.N. is a peace keeping, not a peace making, force. As the country deteriorates into madness, the foreigners flee the country and fleeing Rwandans come to the hotel



Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle) huddles with refugees in 'Hotel Rwanda,' a film based on the genocidal atrocities of 1994.

seeking shelter. Abandoned by the outside world, Paul is forced to do things he never imagined to keep his family and those in the hotel alive.

A member of the Hutus, Paul set out only to save his Tutsi wife and their family, but found he could not turn others away, first neighbors and extended family, then more. He saved more than

1,200 people during the 100 days of the Rwandan genocide in 1994. When his appeal to people's humanity failed, he appealed to their self interest, to turn their goals into his. The film is a powerful, uplifting drama and also a chilling indictment of modern morals which say

history should teach us but focus on the human aspect of the events. "Hotel Rwanda" succeeds beautifully in this aim. While the film avoids the graphic approach, it does remind us that neither genocide nor human bravery have vanished.

When the Rwandan genocide began, the world was already focused on the ethnic violence in Eastern Europe between the Serbs and the Bosnians. While the Bosnians cried genocide and demanded the world's attention, a more gruesome manifestation of that inhumanity rose up in Africa, almost unnoticed by the rest of the world. Encouraged by hate radio following the assassination of their president, Hutus began to kill Tutsis or Hutus who tried to stop the killing, a slaughter of the innocents with machetes and fire. An estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in those 100 days.

What are we to make of a world that wrings its hands over ethnic war in Europe but hardly seems to respond to the horrific ethnic slaughter in Africa? Sadly, we can not stop war everywhere but seeming to value some peoples over some others just is wrong. This tale of individual courage and cleverness is the tale of humanity that the world needs to hear right now.

Beyond the powerful and meaningful story, "Hotel Rwanda" is a glorious film. It handles the violence with remarkable dignity and cinematic style. The film also focuses on simple human

love story between Paul and Tatiana and the traumatic effects on their family.

Don Cheadle is a revelation in the role of a lifetime. His performance as Paul is the strength and fulcrum of the story, and he handles the role with grace and power. Paul's pride in his work and his hotel give way to a new world view, as he realizes the company's view of its African operations. Paul's unassuming, nice guy persona fits well with his role as decent family man but it is his pride in his work, intelligence and leadership skills that allow him to transcend his ordinary life to do what was needed. His deep love for his wife shines in his scenes with Sophie Okonedo. The performance is riveting and astoundingly nuanced. If this role does not bring good things to actor Don Cheadle, there is no justice.

The director, Terry George, uses other roles as counter point to Cheadle's central role and to tell us about the larger frame of the story. Joachim Phoenix's reporter character helps the audience understand the nature of the Hutu and Tutsi conflict.

One of the most chilling aspects of the film is the drumbeat of the hate radio broadcasts whipping up their listeners into "righteous anger," reminding us of the power of such talk.

Rarely do films combine the elements of meaning and artistry as well as "Hotel Rwanda" does. It is a glorious, thought provoking film that should simply be on everyone's must-see list.

RAPE AWARENESS IS KEY FOR PREVENTION, from page 6

Rohypnol, commonly known as "roofies," "roaches" or "larocha," as well as Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, or "G," are drugs used to inhibit sleep and amnesia, and commonly used in date rape situations. Refusing to accept drinks from others and avoiding leaving drinks unattended can significantly reduce the possibility of date rape.

Though taking precautions can limit a woman's chances of rape, one in four women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. What happens if a person is raped?

Women who have experienced this crime firsthand may feel a general sense of not being safe, Tagger said. This paranoia can spread to all areas of a person's life, including areas both public and private.

A woman's defense mechanism after being raped may lead her to dissociate from her body and fail to take care of herself. Relationships may also be affected, and victims often develop distrust in people, including themselves.

"Women may feel dirty [after being raped], like nobody will ever want them because they're tainted," Tagger said.

"I Never Called it Rape," a book that reported rape research conducted by Ms. Magazine, described different victim reactions before, during and after sexually violent crimes. Reactions can include denial, dissociation, self-blame, ignoring the "little voice," not fighting back, not reporting the attack and becoming a victim again.

Rape often impacts more than just the victim.

"Sometimes violent crimes...can cause a detriment to the community for people not feeling like they're safe and secure," Klein said. "It could bring up issues for someone who experienced that type of event in their life."

What can friends do if a victim discloses that she has been raped?

"Believe them," Tagger said. "Don't question, just believe them and be there with them."

Overwhelming statistics show that

most women who are raped by acquaintances will not report the incident.

"There's a lot of pressure not to disrupt things. [A victim might think] 'I don't want to ruin his life,'" Tagger said.

Victims unsure of the legal process can place an anonymous call to the police station or rape support hotline to find out what the consequences of reporting might entail.

The entire male population, Tagger said, is not inherently bad. She advised men to maintain open communication with their female acquaintances, friends and partners to avoid confusion.

She suggested that men ask women, "Is this okay?" in potentially intimate situations. This conversation might ruin the mood, "but not as much as waking up to charges of rape," she said.

For more information about rape, contact Counseling Services at 516-5711, Health Services at 516-5671 or the University Police at 516-5155.

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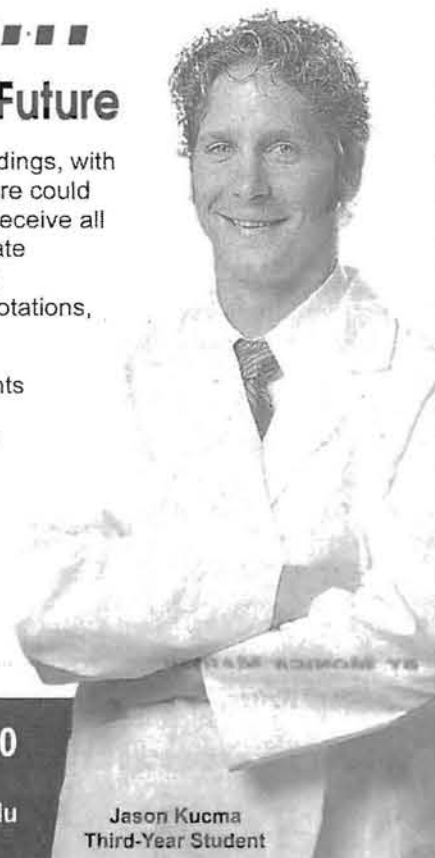
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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student

A Night on the Town



UMSL Homecoming

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 7:

Blood Drive

MSC Third Floor from 1-7 pm

BMOC Penny Wars

Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

Tuesday, February 8:

Homecoming Parade

Begins at South Campus Parking Lot U at 12:30 pm

BMOC Penny Wars

Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

Wednesday, February 9:

Big Man On Campus

Pilot House at 1 pm

Thursday, February 10:

Powder Puff Football

Mark Twain Field at 1 pm

Tailgating

Mark Twain at 4:30 pm

Basketball Game

Women's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm

Men's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm

Friday, February 11:

Homecoming Dance

Airport Marriott at 7 pm

Saturday, February 12:

Basketball Game

Women's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm

Men's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm

Alumni Family Day

SPORTS

EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming

Men's Basketball

Feb. 10
♦ vs. Lewis
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 12
♦ vs. SIU-E
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16
♦ vs. Lincoln
7:30 p.m.

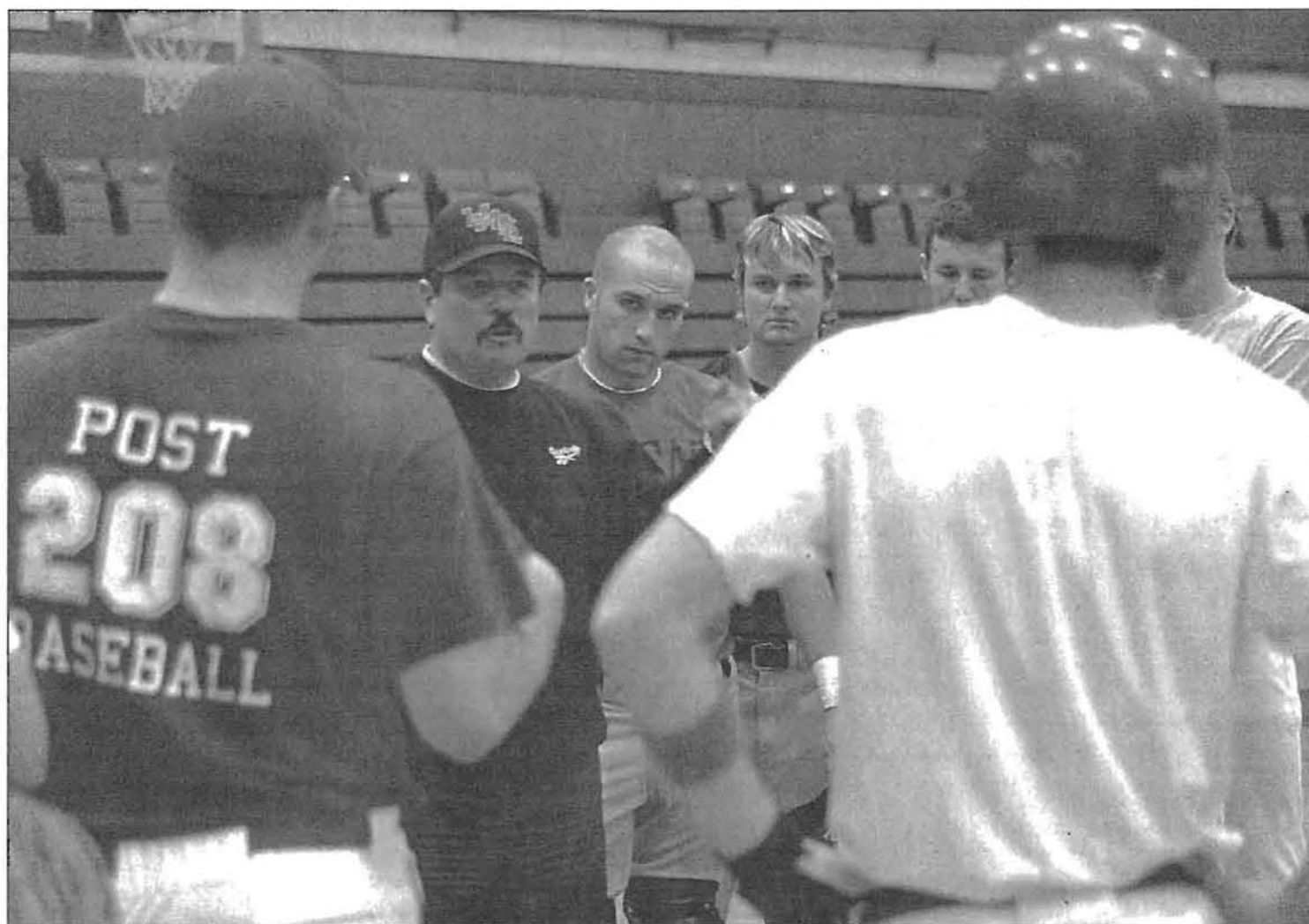
Women's Basketball

Feb. 10
♦ vs. Lewis
5:00 p.m.

Feb. 12
♦ vs. SIU-E
5:30pm

Feb 16
♦ vs. Lincoln
5:30 p.m.

* All games listed above are at the Mark Twain Athletic Building, and are free to students with UMSL ID.



Coach Brady leads a practice on Friday at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. The baseball team practices three hours a day to warm up for the season. "You play the way you practice," Brady said. This season he plans on having the team prepared to take advantage of scoring opportunities.

Photos by Erica Burrus/The Current

After court victory, Coach Brady is back to preseason preparation

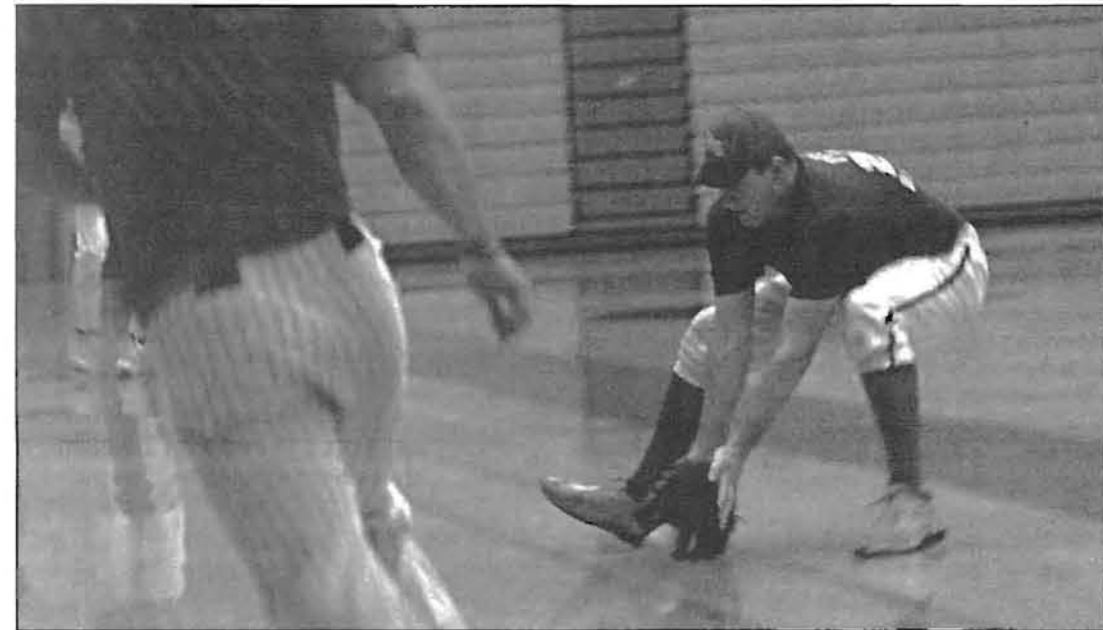
Team practices continue, coach keeps coaching

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Only weeks after one of the biggest lawsuits in the history of the UM-St. Louis was decided in his favor, the University's head men's baseball coach Jim Brady is still in the game. Some people criticize him for who he is and say at times he can be very quiet and others seemingly outspoken, but it is through the eyes of his own team that the real coach and person comes to light.

As a coach, Brady has as a relatively impressive resume. The Rivermen have had a winning season every year Brady has been the head coach. Coach Brady's teams have had 30 or more wins in 11 of the last 13 seasons, including a school-record of 39-15 record in 2003. In the 2003 season, Brady coached the Rivermen to a first place regular season finish in the GLVC conference and also won the GLVC conference tournament, the Rivermen's first ever conference title since joining the GLVC. The Rivermen also earned a bid to the NCAA regionals, the first trip to the NCAA regional tournament since the 1998 season.

Also, in the 1998 season the



Baseball training is in full swing for UM-St. Louis. Because of the damp weather, the players practice in the Mark Twain Building on Friday afternoon.

team finished with a 32-15 record and eventually received a bid to the NCAA regional competition. In 1996, Brady guided the Rivermen to a then 37-9 school record, a first-place conference regular season finish, an NCAA regional title and a berth in the Division II College World Series. In addition, Brady also led the Rivermen to back-to-back NCAA Regional appearances in 1992 and 1993. In 1993, the coach helped guide the team to its first appearance in the Division II College World Series since the 1977 season, and its first during his tenure.

Brady has coached nine players into All-Americans, and he has also developed 37 all-regional players and 68 all-conference players combined from the years of the MIAA as well as in the

GLVC. Brady has been awarded with the Central Region Coach of the Year Award twice, in 1993 and again in 1996.

Athletes and athletic fans are aware of the fact that Coach Brady has a decorated coaching career, but to his players he is more than just a coach. He has been described as light-hearted off the field and intense on it.

Sophomore Outfielder Mark Sanders talked about Coach Brady.

"Lately I think he [Brady] has had to go through a lot. Anyone of us would have a tough time going through what he had to go through, but it says a lot about him as a person to come back and coach everyday with the same enthusiasm and intensity that he has always had. I think it will bring us more together as a

team in the long run," Sanders said.

The team backed up Sanders' statement as they got ready in the team locker room before a day's practice. They all showed strong support for their coach and they not only supported his decisions on the field, but they were all behind him off the field as well.

Senior Pitcher Blake Burnside commented about his coach.

"He has always been a very intense and motivating coach on the field, some people would even be intimidated by his coaching style, but he has always gotten the best out of his teams. Off the field he has always been a good guy, not just as a coach but as a person as well," Burnside said.

Examining UMSL's perspective on the Brady suit

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER
Staff Writer

Up to this point, nothing has been written in The Current from the perspective of the UM-St. Louis Athletic Department in regards to the Coach Brady lawsuit. In relation to that not many outside observers are aware of what the University's position was in the recent trial.

By now the readers of The Current know that UM-St. Louis head baseball coach Jim Brady recently won a lawsuit against the university. Brady was awarded \$1.275 million on the grounds of age discrimination.

The case was based on the fact that baseball was relegated to "second tier" level which meant a demotion for Coach Brady to part-time status along with cutting his \$40,000 salary in half. Brady sued the University in response to this, citing age discrimination as the motive behind the demotion.

Now what most people do not know is the University's stance on why Brady was demoted. According to information obtained from Bob Samples, director of Media, Marketing and Printing Services at UM-St. Louis, the University was simply responding to successive budget cuts from the state of Missouri.

According to these documents the state of Missouri withheld \$8.3 million from the UM-St. Louis budget fiscal year 2002 and another \$5 million in fiscal year 2003. In response to this, Athletic Director Pat Dolan and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Reinhard Schuster decided to implement a "tiering" system instead of seeking a significant fee increase to cover the costs passed along to cover athletics. Both Dolan and Schuster declined to comment for this article.

Avoiding a rise in tuition costs was made a priority because of the already large increase of mandatory athletic fees in the past 10 years. In Fiscal Year 1994, all students paid \$104 per credit for tuition and mandatory fees. The mandatory fees included a \$1.25 per credit hour fee to support the athletics department. This year students are paying \$190 per credit hour with \$8.80 of it going towards the athletic department. The goal of the Dolan-Schuster plan was to cover the expense of the budget cuts without having to once again raise the mandatory athletic fee.

Now the "tiering" system itself can be simply explained, according to the university. Dolan and Schuster determined that men's and women's basketball and soccer programs involved the most students - both as players and spectators - and therefore were made Tier One programs. This means that the university will invest most of its athletic resources in these teams to keep them competitive.

Other programs were made Tier Two or Tier Three programs and were budgeted accordingly. This means that receive less funding and the coaches of these programs, like Brady, were downgraded.

One thing to consider is that no scholarship funds were reduced in the Dolan-Schuster plan and tuition did not rise as a result of this particular plan. "The University took the approach of handling this situation [budget cuts] in a manner that would hurt the students the least," Samples said.

Therefore, at least according to UM-St. Louis, the demotion of Coach Brady had nothing to do with his age and everything to do with avoiding another rise in the tuition of every student on this campus.

Rec. Sports adapts offerings based on student interests

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER
Staff Writer

Every year the Campus Recreational Sports Department tries to come up with different intramurals for students. So how do they come up with these types of events?

"We try to come up with something new every year," said Pam Steinmetz, the Assistant Coordinator of Intramural and Recreation at UM-St. Louis. "We also are very open to suggestions. If anybody comes in my office with an idea for a rec sport I tell them if they can round up at least one team we'll be able to put a league together."

That is exactly how arena football was started on campus. A student walked into the Recreation Sports office searching for a way to continue the

intramural football season inside the gym through the winter. It has been one of the more popular team competitions ever since.

Sometimes though, a new and interesting idea does not have quite the staying power of arena football. "A few years back a student got wiffleball started on campus. It worked out great with him organizing it but when he left school the interest faded away without him spearheading it," Steinmetz said.

According to Steinmetz, lack of interest is really the only roadblock that can prevent a sport from thriving as an intramural. The only exception may be rugby, which has never really been considered, but Steinmetz feels may be a little to rough to be included in the intramural team sports schedule.

To prevent lack of interest in an activity, the Recreational Sports Department tries very

hard to make sure people are aware of their upcoming events. They post master schedules around campus and set up table tents in the Millennium Student Center all in an attempt to make sure students are aware of the events and ultimately to get them involved.

"The number one reason [students compete in rec sports] is because it's fun. "And they offer good competition in sports that students enjoy," Steinmetz said.

So if you have ever complained that the UM-St. Louis Recreational Sports Department does not provide the activity or sport that you want to participate in, then simply head to the Recreation Sports office and you will be able to single-handedly change the face of intramural activities. Or at the very least you will have a chance to compete in the sport that you always wanted.

Volleyball, arena football are a hit for Recreational Sports

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Over the past few years the Rec Sports Department at UM-St. Louis has seen its numbers rise for almost every sport and activity. The department offers a wide variety of activities, which includes tournaments in volleyball, arena football, flag football and basketball.

This year's volleyball and arena football leagues have stood out above the others as they have gained in popularity and in competitiveness. Both of these leagues have seen a rise in participation from the students who are living in on-campus facilities and homes. For the first time in a few years, the volleyball league has over 12 teams in the league along with the arena football league signing up to six teams as well.

Both of these sports offer a well-balanced workout during the school year, and often meet two times a week for students who are looking to get into an ordinary routine with fitness and competition.

Recreational Sports Director and Coordinator Pam Steinmetz spoke about this year's turnout.

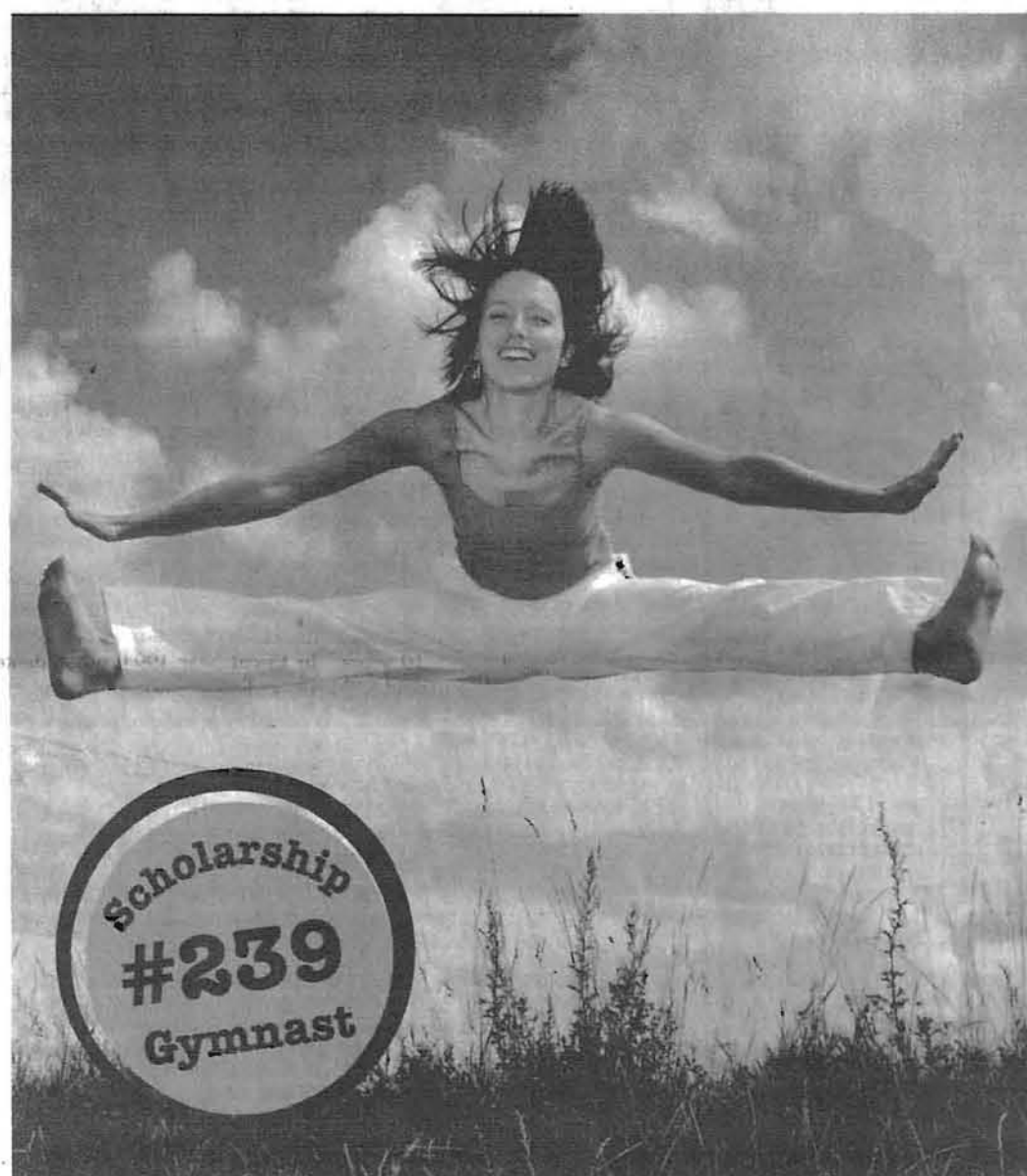
"We are definitely excited to see students signing up for our leagues. One of our main goals at the beginning of the year was to get more of the students who live on campus to get involved with at least one or maybe two programs," she said. "Most of the time when new students join into the leagues they don't realize how competitive they can become, and I think the level of competition surprises them. Most of the time after realizing it is so competitive they join other programs as well."

During the school year there are currently two leagues for volleyball offered in the fall and one in the spring, as well as one football league in the fall and spring. The Rec Sports Department offers leagues in many other sports such as basketball, floor hockey, racquetball and many others. Any student can sign up at the Rec Sports office located in the Mark Twain building located on campus next to the soccer stadium.

Weekly Cartoon - by Rudy Scoggins



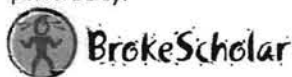
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Tempt your Valentine with seductive treats

Opinions are mixed on whether aphrodisiacs really work

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Ever wonder if suggestive food aromas, herbs and spices or mouth-watering treats could have a sexual influence on a person?

Chrissie Wildwood, author of "The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Aromatherapy and Sensual Aromatherapy: Essential Oil for Lovers," believes that there are a variety of foods that can boost a person's sexual drive because of their aromatic associations with sex and the male and female bodies.

People might wonder, "So what is it that makes certain foods become 'mood foods' or edible aphrodisiacs?" A candlelit dinner with a vase of freshly picked roses and classical slow songs playing in the background might be one seductive way for a romantic evening, but for thousands of years some have believed that dif-

ferent types of natural foods can boost a person's libido and sexual chemistry.

Even in mythical and ancient times, philosophers and various cultures have thought that chemicals in foods and medicines can influence a person's mind, body and senses.

The Chinese once believed that warm snake's blood could prolong the sexual stamina in men. The Aztecs thought that avocado was linked to arousal, while many Romans felt that the key to arousal and fertility was eating more garlic.

Seasonings and foods such as chocolate, raw oysters, honey, black pepper, garlic, chestnuts, olives, wines, ginkgo, celery, carrots and bananas have been reported to be aphrodisiacs. Some have said that these kinds of foods have a stimulating effect because they can get the heart pumping more rapidly and cause a person's blood to circulate more.

Because no scientific studies have

proved that foods can improve libido factors, skeptics feel that these statements are untrue.

Nichole Richardson, senior, mass communication, said she is also a non-believer.

"Personally, I've never known of any foods that could be aphrodisiacs," Richardson said.

In 1989, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that aphrodisiac foods have no effect on a person's sex drive.

Although the FDA declared that foods do not cause people to become turned on, some UM-St. Louis students feel otherwise.

"I've heard that both pasta and pumpkins are aphrodisiacs from other people," Carrie McDowell, junior, English, said.

Whether you are a believer or a naysayer about these so-called aphrodisiacs, it does not hurt to test out these theories. Put your taste buds to work this Valentine's Day.

The history of Valentine's Day begins with a tragedy

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is well known in today's society as a holiday for lovers to show their appreciation for each other, but many are unaware that it is also the anniversary of the death of a man.

St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop, was sentenced to death around 270 AD by Emperor Claudius II for his disobedience. He secretly married couples despite the fact that the emperor canceled all marriage ceremonies after having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military. The emperor believed that the reason the men did not want to join his military was because they didn't want to leave their lovers and their families.

Many young people went to visit the bishop while he awaited his day of death. One of the young people that visited him frequently was the daughter of the jailer. She was allowed to sit and talk to the

bishop and sometimes they would talk for hours. The bishop and the young girl became quite close and, as a result, a strong bond was formed. On the day he was expected to die, he left her a note thanking her for her friendship and her loyalty and signed the note, "Love your Valentine."

As a result of the note that was left for the young girl, it became a tradition for people to exchange notes in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Prior to the mid-eighteenth century, valentines that were not handmade were often imported from abroad. Before these cards became mainstream and were mass-produced in the United States, they were highly creative and personal.

Esther Howland is the credited with creating this Valentine's tradition in the United States. She is considered to be the pioneer in the American Valentines manufacturing business. In 1847, she received her first American Valentine and became fascinated with the idea of making similar cards.

She imported the necessary paper lace and floral decorations from England and began taking orders for valentines. She was surprised to discover a demand for more than she could make by herself. She then recruited friends to assist her and issued her first advertisement in a Worcester paper, "The Daily Spy," on Feb. 5, 1850.

The assembly line operation that began in her home eventually grew into a thriving business that grossed over \$100,000 annually. She retired in 1881, selling her business to the George C. Whitney Company.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion Valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second-largest card sending holiday of the year next to Christmas.

As for Cupid, which is another symbol of the holiday, he simply became associated with the holiday because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid is often seen on many Valentine's cards.

Chocolates or gym memberships?

What sweethearts really want this Valentine's Day

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

As Valentine's Day nears, rather than adding some extra love pounds this year by giving the typical box of chocolates, how about giving a couple's gym membership as a Valentine's gift? Obesity has been said to be a major problem in America, so now is the time to fight against this problem.

Valentine's Day can be the start of mini-holiday "spring" season. After Valentine's Day the stores are flooded with Easter items. When retailers are not stocking their shelves with chocolate covered strawberries or fudge-

filled hearts, they are selling chocolate rabbits and caramel eggs.

Karen Tanksley, junior, history said, "I would be hopping mad if my husband didn't give me chocolates."

Although Tanksley feels that chocolates play a major tradition with Valentine's Day, she said that a fitness club or spa membership would be an acceptable gift to receive. Some might feel that an exercise ball could be offensive if received from a significant other; however, this piece of exercise equipment has a variety of benefits.

A pair of new walking shoes might also be a way to say "I love you." For those into romantic gifts, try ballroom

dancing. If neither partner knows how, sign up for classes.

Latoya Braxton, junior, accounting, said, "I would love to have an all day spa treatment."

Rather than sharing Russell Stover chocolates together, sweat together by joining a gym. Exercising releases stress, gives energy and keeps people healthy. Valentine's Day no longer has to be just about chocolate and flowers. Valentine's is about how much partners care about one another. Caring about your significant other's health shows how much others appreciate each other. Living a healthy life means that partners will be together longer.

Dinner and a movie: four classic pairings for Valentine's

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Dinner and a movie is a dating tradition. If you are planning to have a cozy evening at home for Valentine's Day, you can cook a romantic dinner or get gourmet carry-out and check out our list of suggested romantic rental films. If it is just dinner out, check out our list of romantic restaurants. But for the whole package for valentines, here are four perfectly matched pairs for a dinner and a movie date. Each movie is an Oscar nominee and

each restaurant is first rate (so check for reservations). Together they are the perfect combination:

The movie: Sideways
The restaurant: Riddle's Penultimate Café and Wine Bar, 6307 Delmar

"Sideways" is the Oscar-nominated comedy about two buddies on a tour through California wine country. So, of course, the perfect match for dinner is the restaurant with the best wine list in town, Riddle's Penultimate Café and Wine Bar. The staff is quite knowledgeable about wine and can fit both the wine and the food to suit your tastes and budget. You can even have your own little wine tasting. Riddle's also has gourmet, fresh, made-from-scratch dishes which feature locally grown and often organic ingredients. It is a

local, family run business that uses only the very best ingredients and strives for perfection. Save room for dessert: they make their own delicious ice cream. Do call for reservations; this place is a Valentine's Day favorite.

The movie: Phantom of the Opera
The restaurant: Melting Pot, 6683 Delmar, U. City or 294 Lamp and Lantern Village, Chesterfield

This operatic, opulent, extravagant Andrew Lloyd-Weber pop opera calls for a restaurant with over-the-top grand flourishes. A place that specializes in fancy dessert would fit the bill. So I nominate the sinfully rich "Melting Pot." This kind of restaurant is not for everyday experiences but for the grand gesture. Cooking the food at your table makes it an out-of-the-ordinary experience.

The movie: House of Flying Daggers
The restaurant: P.F.Chang's China Bistro, 1295 Chesterfield Parkway East, Chesterfield

This one is operatic too - Chinese opera style. The film is gorgeous, and combines martial arts action with romance in an exotic setting. It calls for a splendid Chinese restaurant to match. P. F. Chang's delivers Chinese food in high style, going for more modern décor than the usual Chinese eatery, a change that suits this modern special effects movie. And the food is superb. If you want a place less grand but still with fabulous food, try Pho Grand, 3194 Grand. The menu is Vietnamese, rather than Chinese, but it is very authentic and very tasty for a modest price.

The movie: The Aviator
The restaurant: K.C. Masterpiece Barbecue & Grill, 16123 Chesterfield Parkway, Chesterfield

This film is less romantic than the others but it offers a big, bold American epic that is sure to please both her and him, avoiding the chick-flick route. If you are not a Leonardo Di Caprio fan - I was not - this film will change your mind about the actor. It is a quintessential great American story and is also an epic masterpiece for Martin Scorsese, one of the giants of American filmmaking. Such an all American epic calls for an all American restaurant, and what is more American than barbecue? Since Howard Hughes was a Texan, another center of great barbecue, it is particularly fitting.

Seeking The Perfect Romance Rental?

We asked our Movie Critic and Features Editor to come up with their top romantic rentals. Here's what they picked:

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

If you cannot act out your romantic fantasy from your favorite love movie, why not spend Valentine's Day cuddling up with the one you love...or make it a girl's night by renting and watching a romance or chick flick.

A very handsome man trying to win over the heart of a woman is what comes to my mind when thinking about typical romance films.

Although there have been thousands of love movies created in the last 50 years, including classic Hollywood romances, many of my favorites were produced and directed in the last two decades.

When searching for the right Valentine's movie, people might ask themselves, "Do I want an ordinary romance movie, a romantic comedy, a romantic drama or an artistic or foreign romance film?" Here are some of my favorites.

Ghost - This movie supplies a love story with a twist of drama added. Not only does this film display some very romantic and promiscuous scenes, such as Moore spinning pottery while

connecting sexually with her dead husband, but it is also filled with many slow love songs. This romantic and dramatic tale has the idea of rekindling love and bringing it back to life. It won Academy Awards for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Best Screenplay, Best Music and Best Picture.

City of Angels - Another movie about the powers of faith, love and death. Imagine a fantasy romance film in which love questions a person's faith. In this tale a skeptical heart surgeon (Meg Ryan) is confused about life and death until she receives a visit from an angel. The angel, Seth (Nicholas Cage), explains to her how everything in life happens for a reason and gives the meaning behind her unanswered questions. While coming to terms with reality and understanding death, Ryan becomes infatuated with Cage. This film takes different turns, but throughout all of the circumstances that the two face, they are brought closer together.

Armageddon - I would categorize this film as a romance, but I also think that it could fall under the science fiction or thriller category. The movie displays powerful acts of bravery and the strong love between a father and

daughter and between a boyfriend and a girlfriend. In 1999, "Armageddon" received Oscar awards for Best Effects, Music and Sound.

Dirty Dancing - "Nobody Puts Baby in the Corner," is one of my favorite love lines in this movie. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey light up the screens after their summer vacation turns into a romantic fling. Baby, played by Grey, is a shy teenager who has never really experienced love and thinks that everyone is more attracted to her sister. Grey becomes fascinated with the resort's top dance entertainer and instructor, played by Swayze. This young and charming man begins to offer Grey dance lessons and a little more.

Sleepless in Seattle - Everyone has probably dreamed of meeting their prince charming on Valentine's Day on the top of the Empire State Building. Tom Hanks' meddling son gets him to New York to meet a new, mysterious lover (Meg Ryan).

Whatever you are in the mood to watch on that day, my suggestion is to rent it a day early so that you are not desperately searching the movie aisles at the video store or left out in the cold as an unlucky last minute renter.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

So many films, so little space! How can I pick just five great romantic films to rent for Valentine's Day? Here is a different set of choices for a Valentine's Day rental, for those willing to look beyond the ordinary. There are some real gems in the genre of romantic films, especially if you remember to include classics. Once upon a time, the best comedies were the romantic comedies, so that makes classic films a great place to look for a romantic movie.

However, in order to hold this list to five films, we will skip the most obvious romantic classic choices: Casablanca, Breakfast at Tiffany's and Shakespeare in Love. They are sure things from three different time periods: Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in WWII Casablanca, Audrey Hepburn in 50s chic in Tiffany's and Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes in Shakespeare's world.

Whether you are cuddling up with your honey or sharing a bowl of popcorn or some chocolate (hey, I just

thought of another great romantic rental - Chocolat!), there are plenty of films to choose from. Here are some other romantic or romantic comedy delights:

Wings of Desire (1987) - "Wings of Desire" is the hit German film on which "City of Angels" is based. Directed by Wim Wenders, it stars Bruno Ganz in a film of haunting beauty about a pair of angels who wander around above Berlin, invisible to the mortals below but trying to help or comfort the sad and lonely on earth. It is about the balance between the spiritual and the physical worlds; it is thought-provoking but also a bitter-sweet story that is also a very romantic, sexy tale. Set in Berlin before the wall fell, this is one of the most beautiful and haunting stories of forbidden love.

Philadelphia Story (1940) - Madcap comedy from Hollywood's big studio golden era. It starts with a divorce but ends up with love. The question is who? This is the madcap romantic comedy gold standard, and it stars Katherine Hepburn, James Stewart and Cary Grant. It gives you three romantic comedy masters in one film, plus a great script with terrific dialog.

Amelie (2001) - French director Jean Pierre Jeunet cast lovely Audrey Tautou in this tale of a sheltered young woman who comes to Paris to discover the wider world and unexpectedly finds love when she isn't looking. This is the reverse of the usual romantic chase, with Amelie trying to find her elusive, mysterious admirer. Gloriously beautiful and charmingly quirky.

Etternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004) - This Oscar nominated weird romantic tale is a delight from Charlie Kaufman, who brought us "Being John Malkovich." It is the best romantic comedy in years, even if it is also a hilarious and bizarrely surreal tale. Mismatched lovers uptight Jim Carrey and free-spirit Kate Winslet have a spat and decide to have their memories of each other erased. As they forget, they remember why they fell in love. Sounds weird but it really, really works.

The Gold Rush (1925) - Charlie Chaplin's silent comedy masterpiece. Be sure to get the original ending with the kiss, not the re-edited one or the issue with a voice over. Funny and heartbreakingly romantic.

Okay, that's more than five films. There are just too many good ones!