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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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April 4,
2005ISSUE
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The Current

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See page 8
Check in with softball

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Blunt seeks to eliminate funding for MOBIUS

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt proposed a \$239.2 million budget reduction on March 24, on top of more than a billion dollars already announced in proposed budget cuts. Tucked away in the new proposed budget cuts is the complete elimination of state monetary support of the Missouri Bibliographic Information User System, more commonly known as MOBIUS, a Common Library Platform.

At \$649,530, it is a complete cut of state appropriations for MOBIUS CLP, which will hamstring MOBIUS, the database of libraries, users and

catalogues with over 17 million items.

MOBIUS was founded in 1998 by 50 Missouri libraries and since has grown to 60 members. Its members include almost every college or university in the state and two non-academic libraries.

Funding for MOBIUS began at the university level with each charter member paying for itself to be in the program, including upgrades to computing and creation of the needed infrastructure.

For the cuts to become official they have to pass through the House Budget Committee, which began work on Tuesday March 29, and then the House and Senate. Even if the cuts do not pass the House or Senate, the

Governor can use the power of line item veto to enact the cuts.

In 2000, an official legislative letter of intent was issued by the Missouri House Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee specifying the state of Missouri would appropriate an amount to support half of the CLP budget. Funding never reached that high and today supports approximately 23 percent of the CLP budget.

Last year member libraries supported MOBIUS with over \$1.5 million in funds, \$650,000 of it coming from private colleges and universities.

If the cuts are approved, fees paid by the 60 member colleges and universities will increase by 40 percent.

For UM-St. Louis, which has a yearly appropriation of \$73,166 for MOBIUS, this would mean an increase of almost \$30,000. At UM-Columbia the extra appropriation would be around \$119,000.

"It's really robbing Peter to pay Paul. It would put pressure in other places," Amy Amott, UM-St. Louis Dean of Libraries, said.

Blunt's official press release announcing the cuts said, "The actions I am taking today were made with careful thought and analysis and complement the priorities of mainstream Missourians to increase funding for our classrooms."

see **MOBIUS**, page 9

What is MOBIUS?

- Stands for Missouri Bibliographic Information User System.
- Links fifty member colleges and universities in Missouri.
- Students can search the MOBIUS catalog of 14 million books and request items from any member library. Books are delivered at the student's university library.
- MOBIUS is funded by member libraries and state funding.
- If state funding is eliminated, members will have to pay 40 percent more. At UMSL, that would be an increase of almost \$30,000. UMSL currently pays \$73,166 each year.

Beautiful day for 'The Big Event'



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Pat Johnson, UM-St. Louis alumna and curator of Gallery Visio, bags leaves on Saturday morning at the St. Vincent Children's Home. Johnson was among 65 volunteers from UM-St. Louis who worked at the facility as part of 'The Big Event,' an annual one-day service project. With clear skies and a high of 59 degrees, the volunteers enjoyed perfect weather for maintenance work and spirited games of kickball with the young residents of St. Vincent's. **STORY ON PAGE 12.**

'Trailblazer' ceremony honors UMSL women

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

UM-St. Louis capped off Women's History Month with its tenth annual Women Trailblazers' ceremony on March 30, which honored several women for their contributions to society.

Chancellor Thomas George presented awards to Marie Casey, Rita Days, Barbara Harbach, Marcia Mellitz and Kristin Runde. They were nominated by UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff, and chosen by a review board.

The Office of Equal Opportunity has been coordinating the Women Trailblazers event since 1998. "The goal is to highlight the accomplishments and achievements of women who are connected with the campus in some way," Deborah Burris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, said.

"A trailblazer is symbolic, someone who's going down some uncharted place," Burris said. "We've expanded the program to recognize women who have excelled in their fields and are moving the University forward."

Besides recognizing women for their accomplishments, Burris hoped the event would motivate other women to pursue their chosen paths.

The women recognized at the



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

ceremony were well known in the community or on campus. "Each one is different and unique in their own right," Burris said.

"It's especially appropriate we can do this at UM-St. Louis because more than 60 percent of our student body is comprised of women," George said.

Marie Casey, who graduated summa cum laude from UM-St. Louis, went on to found Casey Communications and was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as one of the "Most Influential Business Women of

2004."

Rita Days became the first female African American State Senator elected from St. Louis County. She became involved in politics after one of her friends challenged her to do something instead of merely complaining about it.

Barbara Harbach, wife of Chancellor Tom George, was another Trailblazer award winner. She said that she believed she was chosen because of her work in launching Women in the Arts 2005 and as the founder of Vivace Press, which publishes work by female com-

posers.

"I'm very honored," Harbach said. "I feel very humbled to be classified with all those other women... our campus has many outstanding women."

Another winner, Marcia Mellitz, was also recognized as a "Most Influential Business Woman in 2004" by the St. Louis Business Journal. One of the reasons she was chosen was for successfully entering a male-dominated field in the biotechnology industry.

see **TRAILBLAZERS**, page 3

Plan calls for end of Evening College

Evening courses will still be offered, but will be administered by individual departments

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Beginning this summer semester, the Evening College will close as the responsibilities of its administrators and staff are reorganized and reassigned to other colleges after an evening program committee made recommendations to better serve evening students.

Chancellor Thomas George and Provost Glen Cope formed the committee, led by Honors College Dean Robert Bliss. Bliss said the group's goal was to reconsider the evening college program in the context of the University as a whole. Over several meetings, the committee discovered interesting issues that helped them recommend the appropriate changes.

"There have been a declining number of evening students, and there has been a tremendous increase in the number of students, both evening and day, that take courses," Bliss said.

Cope explained that "day" stu-

dents take night classes and "evening" students take day courses, so a defining line between them became unclear. This reorganization also would remove the confusion of comparing a student with a degree from the Evening College as compared to another college.

Evening College Dean Sheilah Clarke-Ekong explained other reasons for restructuring the colleges. "Given certain demographics, given certain trends in higher education and given some of our resource challenges, I think all of those things were factored in how to do this more efficiently," she said.

While the recommendations call for eliminating her position and closing the college, Clarke-Ekong said the most appropriate way to explain the change is as "a reorganization and a decentralization."

The committee's report suggested eliminating the positions of the Evening College and reassigning

see **EVENING COLLEGE**, page 12

Author says nuclear terrorism is possible, yet preventable

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 have been called the worst attack on American soil ever, but as one Harvard scholar believes, a bigger threat still lies within reach than what Americans experienced that faithful day.

Graham Allison, author of the book, "Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe," will visit UM-St. Louis Thursday, April 7 for a discussion called, "Can We Prevent Nuclear Terrorism?"

"To me, it's not a very big stretch going from a 9/11 to a nuclear 9/11," Allison said.



Graham Allison

Harvard professor, author will discuss "Can we prevent Nuclear Terrorism?" Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. on the MSC's 3rd floor.

A month after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., CIA intelligence intercepted a report claiming terrorists had hidden a nuclear bomb in New York City. While the report was fortunately false, Allison believes the threat of terrorists using a nuclear device in an American city is imminent.

see **ALLISON**, page 9

INDEX

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



Student revisits civil rights history in Alabama

See page 6

Bullet In Board

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

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

Tues. April 5

Mary Troy

Mary Troy, Associate Professor of English, will be reading from her latest book *Cookie Lily* at 12:15 in the J. C. Penney Bldg. Sponsored by Center for the Humanities.

Tues. April 5

Diversity Roundtable Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meeting will take place at 316 MSC at 1 p.m. Come find out what events are happening on campus.

Tues. April 5

Job Search Strategies Workshop

This workshop will teach job seekers about important techniques such as networking, utilizing Internet resources for your job search, and provide additional information about the general job search process. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services. This event will be held at 2 p.m. at Career Services, 278 Millennium Student Center.

Wed. April 6

Resume Writing Skills Workshop

Whether you are seeking an internship or a full-time position, a marketable resume is a necessity. This workshop discusses appropriate

resume formats and content and creating cover letters. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services. This event will be held at 2 p.m. at Career Services, 278 Millennium Student Center.

Wed. April 6

Feminism & Museums

Women in Art Lecture: Feminism and Museums by Susan Cahan & Jeanne Zarucchi at 3 p.m. in Gallery 210

Wed. April 6

"In the blink of eye"

What would you do if your life changed in the blink of an eye? Listen to speaker and author Marcus Engel's own story and learn how he found the courage to rebuild after a life-altering tragedy. This program is free for all UM-St. Louis faculty, staff and students at 7 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms A & B. Sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the UM-St. Louis Panhellenic Council, Partners in Prevention and Order of Omega. For more information please call Student Life at 516-5291.

Thurs. April 7

Irish Music Today

Tommy Peoples, Fiddler is the guest at in the Irish Music series. He will be playing at the music building, room 205, from 12:20-1:45 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

For more info call 516-299. Sponsored by Smurfit-Stone endowed professorship in Irish studies, the Center for International Studies, the Music Department, and Saint Louis Irish Arts.

Thurs. April 7

Closing Reception

Closing reception for Women on the Move art show and Emily Hahn exhibit. Gallery Visio MSC 4-7 p.m.

Thurs. April 7

Graham Allison- "Can We Prevent Nuclear Terrorism?"

Professor Graham Allison of Harvard University has agreed to be our guest speaker this year to deliver the Political Science Academy Annual Lecture on Public Affairs. His lecture, entitled "Can We Prevent Nuclear Terrorism?", which is free and open to the public, will be on Thursday, April 7, 2005 in Century Rooms B and C of the Millennium Student Center on the UM-St. Louis campus. There will be a reception at 7 p.m. followed by his talk at 7:30 p.m.

Sat. April 9 Social Justice Week Kick Off Event - Day of Interfaith Service for Collegians (DISC)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join students of all faiths from SLU, UMSL, WashU, Webster, Fontbonne and other colleges to help rebuild the City of Kinloch's Park...lunch will be provided. Contact

the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com for more info or to sign up.

Sat. April 9

Social Justice- Week

Fair Trade and Labor Day

Come stop by our table in the NOSH from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to learn more about fair trade and labor laws. Contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com for more info.

Sat. April 9

Music Festival

Zeta Tau sorority is co-sponsoring a music festival on April 9 in the Pilot House from 4-10 p.m. There is a \$5 cover charge to raise money to create a sober driving program on campus like stripes at MU. There will be 7 or 8 local bands playing.

Mon. April 11

Prison Art

Art Work of Men and Women in Prison presented by Phyllis Kornfeld at 12:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building. Sponsored by Center for the Humanities.

Tues. April 12

Social Justice Week Capital Punishment Day -

Join us and Amnesty International for a speaker on the death penalty at 7pm in the Pilot House, followed by a viewing of the movie "Dead Man Walking" - FREE food! Contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com for more info.

Tues. April 12

"Politicizing Food: European and American Responses to Biotechnology and Food Safety" lecture

Gabriele Abels, visiting professor in the Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis from the Institute for Science and Technology Studies at Bielefeld University in Germany. The lecture will take place from 2 to 3:15 p.m. April 12 at 331 Social Sciences & Business Building, UMSL. Sponsored by the Center for International Studies at UMSL. It is Free and open to the public for more info call 516-6495.

Wed. April 13

Social Justice Week Environmental Day

Campus Clean-Up: Help your fellow UMSL students as we work to clean up our campus from 2-4 p.m.! Contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com to sign up.

Thurs. April 14

Social Justice Week Homelessness and Poverty Day

Come listen to speakers from the St. Patrick Center at 7 p.m. in the SGA Chamber. Free food! At 8 p.m., sleep outside in cardboard boxes on the MSC lawn during our annual Shantytown to raise awareness for the homeless. Contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com for more info, or to sign up for the Shantytown.

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between March 20, 2005 and April 1, 2005. If readers have information that could assist the police department they are encouraged

to call 516-5155. The campus police provide this information as a public service. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort

March 21, Trespassing
Thomas Jefferson Library

A subject was found inside the Library by the custodians during the cleaning procedures around 4 a.m. The suspect was able to leave the library before the police were called and was not located.

March 21
Stealing Under \$500
Mark Twain Gym

The victim left his personal items unsecured on the side of the gymnasium floor while he was playing basketball and unknown person(s) took his property.

March 27
Attempted Suicide
South Florissant Rd.

A caller advised the Police Department that he received a message from his friend that he was going to take his life by overdosing, and further advised that he took a bottle of heart medicine and ran away from the area. After searching the area the Normandy Police Department located the victim near

Bermuda Rd. and had him transported to the Hospital for treatment.

March 29
Stealing Under \$500
West Drive Garage South

The victim reported that unknown person(s) stole his license plate tabs from his vehicle while it was parked in the Garage.

April 1
Property Damage
Lot X

The victim reported that his vehicle was apparently moved from a parking space in the lot to the driveway, and he discovered that the vehicle was somehow scratched in the process.

miscegenation

mirth (murth) *n.* [ME. *myrth* < OE. *myrgh*, pleasure, joy < base of *myrig*, pleasant (see MERRY)] 1. day of amusement SYN.--mirth implies gaiety, gladness, or great amusement, esp. as expressed by laughter; glee implies exultant and demonstrative joy or it may suggest malicious delight over another's misfortunes; jollity and merriment imply exuberant mirth or joy and usually suggest convivial merriment--ANT. sadness, melancholy

Mirth·day (murth'da) *n.* [ME. *myrthe* < OE. *myrgh*, pleasure, joy < base of *myrig*, pleasant (see MERRY)] 1. day of amusement SYN.--mirthday implies fun, free stuff, excitement, games, prizes, face painting, stilt walkers, balloon artists, students, faculty, welcome community, exuberance, esp. laughter, snow cones, cotton candy, carnival rides, loud noise 2. volleyball. UMSL tradition, funnel cakes, chaos 3. free live concert (see TWISTA 8PM), stimulation, outdoors, school spirit, gaiety 4. booths, clubs organizations, unity, campus-wide: see APRIL 20th FROM 12-8PM BY THE LAKES

mirth·ful (-fəl) *adj.* full of, expressing, or causing mirth; merry--mirth'ful·ly *adv.* --mirth'ful·ness *n.*

mirth·less (-lis) *adj.* without mirth; humorless; sad; melancholy--mirth'less·ly *adv.* --mirth'less·ness *n.*

mis·ad·ven·ture (mis·ə·ven·chər) *n.* misadventure, mishap

mis·al·lo·ca·tion (mis·ə·lə·kā·shən) *n.* faulty or improper allocation of

resources or other property, often due to poor planning or leadership

mis·an·thro·py (mis·ə·n·thrə·pē) *n.*

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Law Office of Louise R. Ryterski, P.C.

433 Jackson Street
@ Fifth Street
St. Charles, MO 63301

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Staff Writers
Carrie Lewis, Monica Martin, Chrystal Holmes, Alberto Patino, Tana Rogers, Dave Seckman, M.K. Stallings, Meliquea Meadows, Maeghen Brown, Ben Swofford, Bryan Boedecker, Shante Davis

Staff Photographers
Mike Sherwin, Jesse Gater, Tenaz Shirazian

Advertising Associate
Alex Kerford

Advertising Representative
Maria Caputa

Distribution Manager
Dave Seckman

388 Millennium Student Center
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

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

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

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Professors call for awareness about working conditions overseas

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

Many people do not think twice about checking where their clothing is manufactured, but according to some, this lack of awareness could hurt people throughout the world.

UM-St. Louis faculty members Deborah Cohen and Deborah Henry led a discussion Tuesday entitled "Wal-Mart, Women and Export Processing: Life in the Maquiladoras." The Institute for Women and Gender Studies sponsored the event as part of its Women's History Month speaker series.

Before the discussion, they showed a video that depicted life for workers in the maquilas, or assembly plants, in Honduras.

Some of the complaints from the women shown in the video were poor working conditions and low wages. Companies often set high production quotas which the workers must meet to get paid, and people often worked 10-12 hours a day trying to meet their quotas. Wages were often lower than the cost of living and workers often lived in poverty, barely able to pay for food.

Another issue in the maquilas was the lack of labor unions. According to some factory workers, those who tried organizing them were fired, demoted or sometimes killed. The workers did

not get to change their conditions because they were dependent on the jobs.

"It takes tremendous courage to try to improve the environment they're working in," Henry said.

Companies are reluctant to call the factories "sweatshops," but Cohen said there was really not much of a difference. "What constituted a sweatshop was a dingy factory, no ventilation, no light and locked doors," she said. "One of the things that's changed is the lights, but people are still locked in; people are paid based on meeting their quotas."

"In the maquilas, it's a piece of real estate that's set aside," Henry said. "There are no government regulations; they are left to do what they want."

According to the panelists, Wal-Mart is an important factor in the poor conditions in the maquilas. As a large corporation, Wal-Mart gets to set the prices for its supplies, and the suppliers cut their costs to stay profitable. Often, that means paying its workers less and failing to provide good working conditions or benefits for its employees.

Joyce Mushaben, director of the Institute for Women and Gender Studies, said that the purpose of the discussion was to build awareness about working conditions in many clothing factories. "Just because women are getting jobs does not mean

they are getting fair jobs," she said. "This is certainly not aiding the development of women."

"Our function is to educate people," Mushaben said. "We certainly hope next time someone gets a cheap pair of shoes, they realize it's at another woman's expense. If it's not you, it's someone else."

Cohen said that some of the things people can do are consider where things are made, the conditions under which items are made and how much workers are paid.

Mushaben also said that people should insist on more "accurate labeling." She cited the example of tuna and pressure from consumers, which led tuna producers to label their tuna "dolphin safe" because of people's concern about dolphins being captured with tuna.

Dan Hernandez, graduate student, biology, was one of approximately 25 people who attended the discussion. He said he was already aware of working conditions in the factories, but hoped others would realize how serious the problem was.

"I make purchases after looking at tags and looking up on the internet which companies have a good record," Hernandez said. "It may be difficult but it's really worth it. We're seeing the threat with people losing jobs and benefits; people need to be more aware of this and do something about it."

TRAILBLAZERS, from page 1

Recently, the awards were expanded to include a student. This year's award went to Kristy Runde, junior, accounting and finance. Last year, she became the fifth woman to serve as president of the Student Government Association and she was recognized for her leadership and involvement.

"I was surprised when I heard that I won the award because there's only one female student out of the whole campus who receives it," Runde said. She said that she enjoyed her tenure as



Kristy Runde
2005 Trailblazer winner was the fifth woman in UMSL history to be president of the Student Government Association. Runde held the post in 2003-2004.

SGA president and learned a lot about the campus and its students.

"It means a lot to win this award; it was such a rough year, and people noticed we worked hard," Runde said.

UM-St. Louis Provost and Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Glen Cope, was the guest speaker at the event. "We are here to honor women who changed America," she said. "We also need to think of all the men who have stood behind us. However we go forward, we owe a load of thanks and true appreciation to our trailblazers."

UMSL webpage gets a facelift

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

For the past few years UM-St. Louis looked the same online, but on March 24 it received a face-lift with the unveiling of the new UM-St. Louis webpage.

"It was time to move to a different look," I-Net Administrator David Gellman said.

The UM-St. Louis home page boasts many new links and improvements, yet many students have complained the improvements make the site harder to navigate.

Gellman, I-Net Administrator Holli Kubly and database programmer analyst Steve Wilmas were the creative and technical team behind most of the changes to the home page. The team worked for six months on the project with feedback from the UM-St. Louis marketing committee, administrators, students and the UM-St. Louis web committee comprised of faculty, students and staff.

"It went through committees where students looked at it, Gellman said. "Marketing and Web committees [also] looked at it."

Three years had gone by since the creation of the last UM-St. Louis homepage.

"The change was a good idea to keep things fresh," Kubly said. "The internet has changed in how people have used it in the last three years. People expect more."

"The site has grown so much we needed better ways to organize information," Wilmas said. "The site is unique since we have so many different visitors and we have to accommodate different audiences. We had to create a nice look which reflects a positive image and utilized all of the new technology."

The new webpage was designed to be more visually appealing not only to



The new UM-St. Louis webpage, designed by David Gellman, Holli Kubly and Steve Wilmas over the past six months, was unveiled March 24.

students, but also to parents and the community at large.

"This is now an audience-driven page, instead of being bombarded with a hundred different links on the page," Kubly said. "It went from a menu page to an audience-based page while utilizing useful links."

Kubly was referring to the way the old page was designed, which was essentially an index to all the web pages provided by UM-St. Louis. The new design is intended to look better while uncluttering the homepage. Students must now search a bit more instead of having everything right in front of them.

Kubly stressed that no links had been removed altogether. "The web page is more used as a marketing tool now," Kubly said. "The web is constantly evolving, it's never stagnant. In the end this audience-driven thing will work."

The new page has the old list of divisions on the left side of the page familiar to users of the old web site

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- Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Master's in Gerontology
- Master's in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences
- School of Social Welfare

6 P.M. - College of Optometry (BLANCHE M. TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER)

SUNDAY, MAY 15
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

2 P.M. - College of Education

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

Commencement Candidates Attend the Grad Fair April 5, 6, & 7, 2005 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. University Bookstore (MSC) (purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.) Web site: www.umsf.edu/commencement

UNION

OUR OPINION

Web overhaul

Students deserve notification of major changes

As any occasional web surfer has probably noticed by now, UM-St. Louis' website has taken on a whole new look. Many people have also noticed that the change occurred without warning or questioning of how effective the old site was. The change occurred overnight, and it modified the entire layout of the University's online info center.

First off, we had no warning. Students had no clue that this change was even being tossed around in casual administrative conversation, let alone at the top of the "To-Do" agenda. One morning during Spring Break, we looked on the site and wondered if we had typed in the wrong web address. Was something wrong with the old site? Had students, faculty or other visitors voiced complaints about navigating it? As students, our lives are in a constant state of change. It might sound odd or childish, but we take comfort in the regularity of small things and mental tasks.

Why was the change made in the first place? We've heard that the old site was outdated, but this reason does not make sense, as websites can be updated without a complete overhaul. Another rumor that we have heard is that the old site failed to represent the University as a whole. The new site is meant to be more up-to-date and representative of UM-St. Louis. It is also supposedly equipped with the newest technology, which the old site lacked.

We find the new site more difficult to navigate around than the old one. We admit that we are creatures of habit, but our preferences aside, we still have trouble locating resources in the new system. The fonts seem to be much smaller and topics are in different spots than they were before. To the University's credit, we are thankful that MyGateway was not changed in this "updating" process.

Despite the site's navigation issues, the new course schedule is more user-friendly than the old one. It provides more options for users than the previous scheduling system. Visitors now have the option of searching classes by major, course

number and keyword, which is an improvement over the previous system. Courses can also be searched based on a certain day or time. This option makes it easier to plan around work, sleep needs, social schedules and other commitments. For instance, some people may want to take biology courses, but want them to start after noon. Simply click on the biology tab in the course menu and then type the times into that slot. The new course schedule system accommodates traditional and non-traditional student needs.

As of right now, visitors are able to search for courses in both the summer and fall semesters. The only inconvenience we noticed is that every time we went back to the start page, the semester reset to a default. Be sure to click on the correct semester before searching for any course, because a person could easily plan an entire semester around the wrong time of year. Again, this function is merely an inconvenience, but it can waste some time.

Another benefit to this modification is that the web change was completed at no extra costs to students. We already pay an information technology fee, so this is another opportunity to see our money in action.

In the end, we think the University should have given students some kind of warning before revamping the website. The changes occurred overnight and without any kind of explanation or notice. Before they make this big of a change again, some consultation or form of communication would help students adapt better. While the change has both benefits and pitfalls, as students, we would like to be involved in the decisions to make future changes.

The Issue

The UM-St. Louis

website, umsl.edu,

literally changed

overnight. Students

had no prior

warning, and some

have experienced

difficulty navigating

the new site.

We suggest

The website does

offer both positive

and negative

changes. However,

students deserve

some sort of heads

up before such

major changes are

implemented.

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

Last words leave an invitation

"Amen."

On April 2, Karol Wojtyla, known to the world as Pope John Paul II, uttered this final word. This conclusion translates from Hebrew to mean, "Let it be so." In his last moments, the leader of Catholicism and significant world figure, accepted his mortality.

During his papacy, or time as Pope, John Paul II formed a deep connection with young people. Reporters who accompanied him during the last few days' physical battle noted that he valued this relationship to the end. His final "Amen" could also have been a call to let his message "be so."

His values and beliefs have guided not only the Catholic church for 26 years, but have also influenced a world that did not always share his point of view. The Pope lived his message of tolerance and respect by meeting with members of the Jewish religion in a synagogue, something that no other Pope in history has done. He played a role in the dismantling of communism in Eastern Europe, especially in his native Poland. He spoke against anti-semitism and visited over 100 nations during his term, and he gave his religion a face.

His respect for all human life remained strong as the world struggled through communism, apartheid, the AIDS epidemic, war, controversy over abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and countless other issues that burdened humanity. John Paul II placed an unshakeable value on life, and his "Amen" calls us to do the same in

his stead.

The Pope lived tolerance, and his work undeniably left a mark on the religious and secular worlds. His opinions did not waver when met with conflict, and his last words invite us to stand firm in our own beliefs, religious or not. A person cannot be a leader if his beliefs falter in the face of an opposing popular opinion. John Paul II showed us how to be effective leaders. It does not matter whether you agree or disagree with his doctrine; he set a standard for leadership from which every person can learn.

Some people see the role of Pope as an authoritative one. While John Paul II's job

included some administrative work, he lived and breathed humility. He acted as a leader and a servant simultaneously, and we can learn from this example as well. Any person in charge has the ability to sit on a throne high above his or her followers. Successful ones don't govern from above, though. Leaders who make a lasting impact do it from eye level, from ground level. The Pope impacted the world by living as part of it, not as someone privy to extra privileges at a throne. His last word invited us to lead at eye-level.

We lost an individual on Saturday who dedicated his entire life to strong leadership, tolerance and respect for life. Some feel orphaned by the Pope's death, but his final "Amen" reassures us that we have the ability to follow his example and immortalize his message of humility and strength.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Where have all the classrooms gone?

As a communication student I look for courses I can take to further my communication skills. I find this hard to do when about half of the courses offered for communication students are obtainable only online or in video courses. These courses provide no direct instructor-student interaction besides email and discussion board.

I recently went online to find courses for next semester. I was overwhelmed by the number of courses that are now offered solely online. Personally, I do not feel that I learn all that I could while participating in an online course. While some professors take just as much time and effort in their online courses, many do not.

Currently, I have an online course in which the professor interacts with all students at least a couple of times a week. He posts documents and assignments frequently and answers student's questions via email in a prompt manner. This is one of the few online courses I have felt like I got something out of. All of the other courses I have participated in did not require weekly assignments or interaction with other students and professors.

I do not mind taking one or two courses online in a semester, but when the numbers get higher than that in a semester I do not feel that I am getting all I could be getting out of a class. When taking a course in an actual classroom you get the student-instructor interaction that online courses lack. Students also get more of an opportunity to interact with each other in the classroom.

Out of all of the courses to offer online I would think that communication courses would be much more effective in the classroom. When I think of the word communication I think of interaction, direct interaction.

Online you may never meet your professor or any of your classmates. You are not getting the entire experience by taking these online courses.

One point I must add is that some online courses are beneficial to the University since this is primarily a commuter campus. It may be easier (and cheaper on gas) for some students to complete their courses from the comfort of their home. I feel like students who are taking all online courses are not getting the complete college experience. You are missing out on meeting new people and taking notes in classrooms. Some people may not want that, though.

Being in as much debt as I am and paying as much money as I do for my education, I feel I should get more choices of classes that provide instruction. Most online courses simply require you to read a book or watch educational videos (which a majority of students do not even do) and complete two or three examinations in a semester. I feel that for the money I am paying, I should at least get some instruction. By reading books or watching videos, I am basically teaching myself.

The main thing that I am concerned about is that too many courses will be moved to online instruction. Speaking as a communication student, I hope incoming students will have the appropriate opportunity to experience college life. Lecture halls and classrooms give you a completely different perspective than an online course. Especially for communication courses, I hope that this is just a semester thing and that more courses will be offered in classrooms in the spring. I just feel that to learn about communication, we must experience interface and learn effective methods with proper feedback.



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Managing Editor

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

LETTERS

MAIL

The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
1 University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX

314-516-6811

E-MAIL

current@jinx.umsl.edu

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

What's your opinion?

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

- Students need notice of change
- Pope last words leave invitation
- Where have the classrooms gone?

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

Was the Terry Schaivo final decision justified?



Lindsey Green
Doctoral Student
Criminology

"Nobody really answered the issue. I don't normally agree with Bush, but I think they should have opted for life until they were sure what to do. But I don't necessarily think she should have stayed alive either."



Josh Twilbeck
Junior
Education

"I don't think it's justified or unjustified. It's really a family matter and what they think should be done, not for the government to get involved."



Ben Stafford
Junior
History

"Personally, I wouldn't want the plug pulled on me 'cause I wanna be the guy that comes out of it. But unless I had that in writing, the decision rests with my spouse and family. It's hard to comment since I'm not in that situation, but perhaps Mike Schaivo could have respected the rest of the family's wishes more."



Monica Churchill
Junior
Spanish

"Considering the outcome, I think they should mandate everyone to make a living will when you go to vote or get your driver's license, especially with the high number of road accidents these days."

Smile from ear to floppy ear : Is your dog laughing at you?



Yet intriguingly there is a new report in the journal *Science* that speculates that "play sounds" in animals, like panting sounds in dogs and chimps that resemble human laughs, do indeed represent an animal equivalent of laughter. Chimps display the laughter-

The author of the report is Dr. Jaak Panksepp, of Bowling Green State University in Ohio, who studies the neuroanatomical and neurochemical mechanisms of emotional behaviors in the emerging field of affective neuroscience. Dr. Panksepp's work seeks to understand a variety of emotional responses including social bonding and social play, and how these affective responses are organized in the brain. In a recent issue of the journal *Science*, Dr. Panksepp cited the long observed panting "play noises" of chimpanzees, which sound like human laughter, and panting sounds of dogs at play.

Research shows that our laughter circuits are found in the more primitive parts of our brain, in structures that we share with many animals. This sug-

Human laughter is an emotional response that is not entirely in our control. It is surprisingly hard to fake a laugh and easy to detect a fake one. Yet they erupt spontaneously in the right circumstances. Although we often think of laughter in response to humor, research shows that it is a social response that is more likely linked to social bonding than to what is funny. People rarely laugh alone, and the laughter of others is likely to provoke

While many scientists are skeptical of the concept of animal laughter, the link between play sounds and ancient parts of the brain that we share with many animals raise an intriguing, even amusing, thought. If animals engage in play, why can't they laugh too?

Gary battles New York snowstorm, gets his first acting break



"That lady across the street is having trouble breathing," I said, gesturing towards Dorothy. "She has asthma and the cold wind is only making it worse. You can't make one more round?" I pleaded with him.

None of the buses were heading our way. Everyone was clocking off and heading home early. I feared that Dorothy and I would have to either survive at the bus stop in the freezing temperatures until morning or find a train

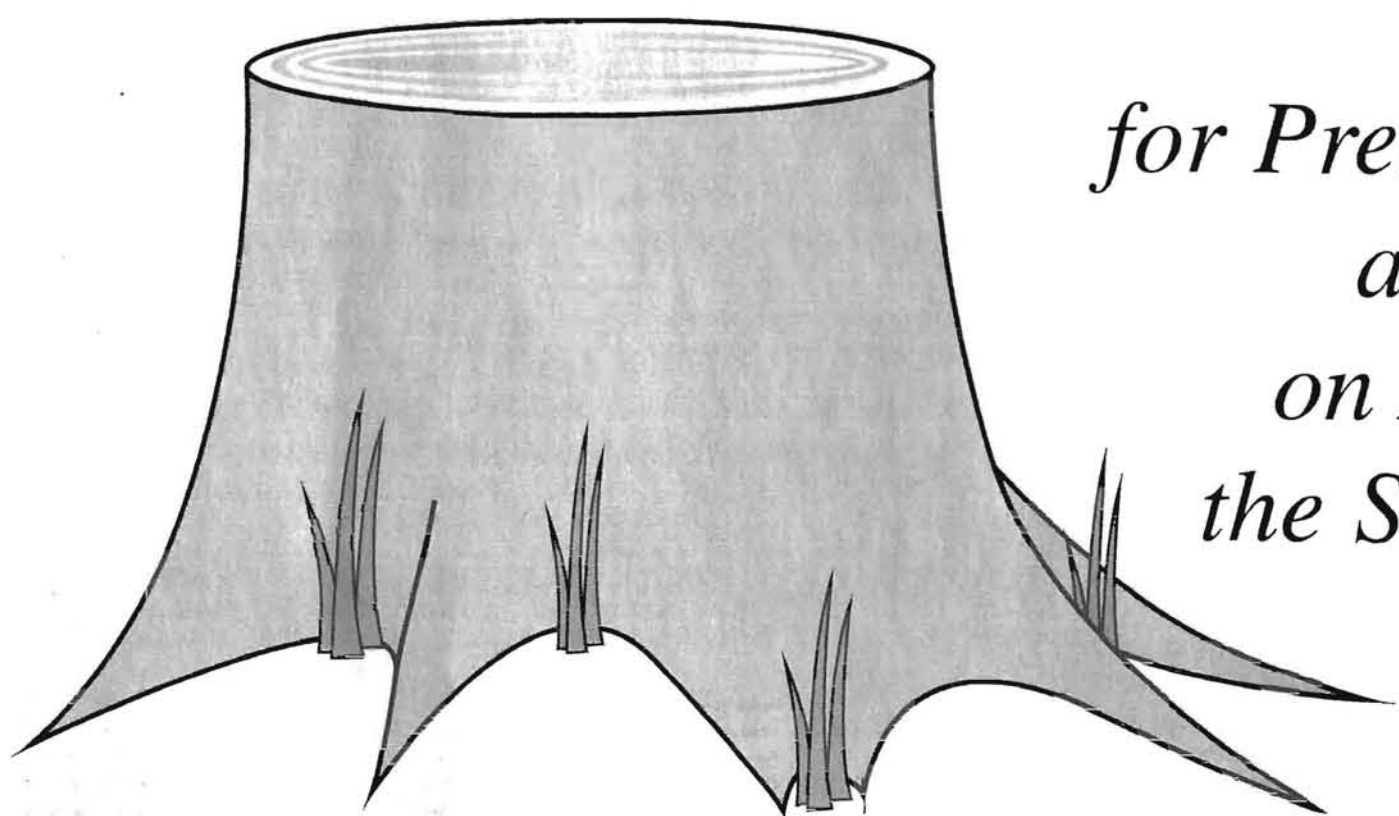
Outside the bus, the snow continued without slowing. The bus driver was having a hard time seeing out the win-

The fact that he knew who I was over the phone without me telling him, foreshadowed the answer I was looking for.

I began to really get irritated. I only had two days left to get a fax tray, and nobody would take my call. I decided to call back immediately and insist that I be connected to someone who could actually help. No more transfers. No more answering machine. No more Mr Nice Guy.

Stay tuned next week when Gary finds a dead body on the steps of a church in Queens.

Can you stump the SGA Candidates for next year?



Election Debate

*for President, Vice President
and Comptroller
on April 11 at 1 p.m. in
the Student Government
Association
Chamber*

FEATURES

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

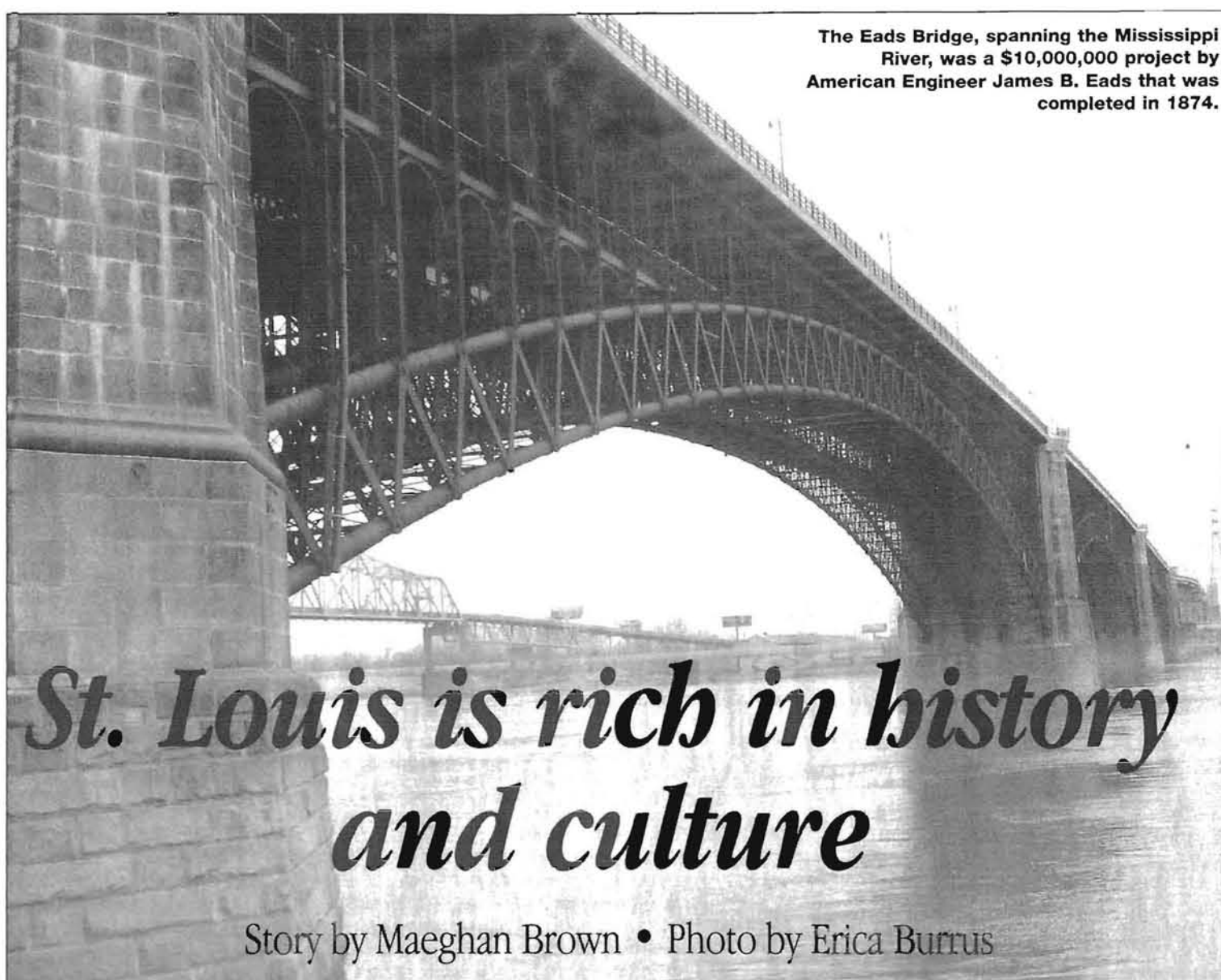
the week's
**best
bets**

Thurs. April 7
Graham Allison
Speaker

Harvard University
Professor Graham Allison will
speak at the Political Science
Academy Annual Lecture on
Public Affairs. Allison's lec-
ture, "Can we Prevent
Nuclear Terrorism?" is open to
the public. A reception begins
at 7 p.m., followed by the
discussion at 7:30 in Century
Rooms B and C.

Sat. April 9
Social Justice Week
Kick-Off Event

Interfaith students from UM-
St. Louis, Washington
University, St. Louis University,
Fontbonne University, Webster
University and other local col-
leges will help rebuild the City
of Kinloch's Park. Contact the
Newman Center at 385-3455 for
information.



The Eads Bridge, spanning the Mississippi River, was a \$10,000,000 project by American Engineer James B. Eads that was completed in 1874.

St. Louis is rich in history and culture

Story by Maeghan Brown • Photo by Erica Burrus

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

St. Louis is full of history, but many do not know how the city's name originated. Along with fairs and haunted houses there is much history behind this culturally diverse town.

Today, Laclede's Landing, located in downtown St. Louis, is the home to numerous nightclubs such as Club Buca, Fat Tuesday's, Morgan Street Brewery, Crazy Louie's and the Big Bang. This area, located along the Missouri River, has not always been a spot for night-life and entertainment. In 1764, a French fur trapper named Pierre Laclede came to the area to establish a trading post. He set up camp on the west bank of the Mississippi. In 1784, the site was cleared and cabins were built. Laclede named the settlement St. Louis, in honor of the patron saint of the king of France.

The original village of St. Louis contained three streets: La Grande Rue, now First Street; Rue d'Eglise, now Second Street; and Rue des Granges, now Third Street. The village became the center of commerce with furs as the main medium of exchange for goods.

Along with a variety of clubs and

bars, Laclede's Landing is now the home to many restaurants and retail shops.

St. Louis, which began merely as an industrial location for fur traders, eventually developed numerous historical sites throughout the city.

One of the locations that has a rich history and a strong cultural background is the Jefferson National Expansion that consists of the Gateway Arch, the Museum of Westward Expansion and the St. Louis Old Court House. The St. Louis Gateway Arch is located the banks of the Mississippi River and was created as a monument in recognition of the Westward Expansion. This 630-foot tall stainless steel structure stands over the St. Louis skyline.

Also located in St. Louis is the Eads Bridge, a National Historic Landmark. The construction of the bridge took seven years to complete and was officially finished in 1874. Designed by James Buchanan Eads, the purpose of the bridge was to make it easier and more convenient for travelers and traders to go across the Mississippi.

Union Station in downtown St. Louis is another place that plays a big part in the history of St. Louis. It was once the largest passenger rail terminal in the world and is now a market-

place and shopping mall. Union Station, designed by Theodore Link, a German architect who won a nationwide contest to design the station, was built in the 1890s at a cost of 6.5 million dollars.

The St. Louis Art Museum became the focal point in the 1904 World's Fair. It was the only building remaining after the fair. The Art Museum is located in Forest Park on Art Hill and overlooks the Grand Basin Lake. The exhibits are free for viewing except those that are a part of special events. The Art Museum is opened Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In 1910, the St. Louis Zoo began as a zoological park. However, the 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage was in St. Louis before the park opened. Since the opening, the zoo has been expanding and renovating to keep visitors happy. Like most of St. Louis's attractions, the St. Louis Zoo is free and open all year.

Anheuser-Busch opened as a brewery in 1876. Although the company did go bankrupt for a little while, it bounced back to grow into one of the largest brewery companies in the world. Though the company has 12 breweries in the United States, St. Louis has the distinction of not

only having Anheuser-Busch's oldest brewery, but also having the largest brewery in the United States. The brewery is off I-55 and Arsenal. To get more information and to take a tour call (314) 577-2626 or visit www.budweisertours.com

When most people think of ghosts in St. Louis, the Lemp Mansion is usually what comes to mind. With murders and suicides occurring years ago at The Lemp Mansion, it has been considered one of the most haunted houses in America. The house was built in 1868 for the family of William Lemp when his family brewery began to grow.

Chelsey Menos, junior, psychology, said, "I don't think I could ever stay there. I am afraid of ghosts."

The Lemp Mansion provides the public with tours, and has a bed and breakfast, murder mystery dinner theater and banquet facilities. For information visit www.lempmansion.com.

Some UM-St. Louis students said that they are proud to live in a city that has a wide variety of attractions and things to do.

"It is interesting to know St. Louis has a lot of history and culture," Lisa Veasert, junior, psychology, said.

Volunteer service day draws record crowd

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

"The Big Event" lived up to its name on Saturday as the annual volunteer service effort drew its biggest crowd since UM-St. Louis began the project in 1999.

Sixty-five students met at the Millennium Student Center at 9:30 a.m. and carpooled to the St. Vincent Children's Home, a few blocks southeast of campus. The facility houses 36 children between the ages of 6 and 16 who have been referred to the center by the Missouri Division of Family Services because of abuse or neglect.

Jessica Faltus, associate director of development for the center, said the facility helps approximately 150 children each year. "We provide structure, direction, love and a lot of therapy for the children who come here," Faltus said.

Faltus and other staff members divided the volunteers into two groups to work on separate projects inside and outside the home. One group was led upstairs to sort and clean a playroom while another was taken outside to remove leaves and debris from the center's playground.

The main attraction for each group, however, was the opportunity to meet and play with the young residents of the home.

Kyung-Mun Kwak, senior, management, attended with fellow members of the Campus Crusade for Christ. "This is the first time I have been able to help out young children in the U.S.," said Kwak, who noted that he had done similar



Tracy Randall (left), junior, communication, and Tori Gillespie, senior, mechanical engineering, work on cleaning around a playground on Saturday morning at the St. Vincent Children's Home. Randall and Gillespie are members of sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha, and were taking part in 'The Big Event,' a one-day volunteer service project.

volunteer work in his home country of Korea. "It was great to play together with the children, trying to make them happy. I think it is good for our lives and theirs."

After clearing the playground and sandbox of leaves and fallen tree limbs, the second group of volunteers gathered near the basketball court for a round of 'getting to know you' games with the children. After the introductions, the children and the volunteers divided into four groups for two matches of kickball.

Jess Kuenzel, senior, biology,

and member of the Catholic Newman Center, said, "Today was fun. We had a beautiful day for working outside, and it's been a long time since I've had the chance to play kickball."

"The Big Event" began as a day of service projects at Texas A&M University in 1983. Since then, it has spread to over 70 universities nationwide.

Jenny Heinz, senior, graphic design and co-chair of the event, said she was very excited with the turnout, which was up from 45 vol-

unteers when she chaired last year's "Big Event" held at St. Vincent County Park, but the large number of student volunteers produced its own challenges. "Actually, since there were so many people, I pretty much had to run around and pick up extra food for lunch," Heinz said.

Kuenzel echoed the sentiments of many of the volunteers as they finished up lunch and headed back to campus. "I loved working with the kids," Kuenzel said. "It's great to be able to say 'I'm making a difference in this kid's life.'"

Students get a taste of the investment world in SIT

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

For over twenty years the UM-St. Louis Student Investment Trust Organization has helped students prepare for their future financial investments and has committed itself to helping foster the community.

This student-based non-profit organization gives people hands-on experience with learning and understanding how the business world operates.

Anjum Ali, president of SIT, said that the purpose of the group is to educate business students about making good future investments, trade and stock market decisions.

"This is very beneficial to students because it gives people lots of experience with money management and organization skills," Ali said. "We deal with real money and this broadens people's horizons and makes a great reference to future employers."

Some ways that the organization has become involved within the community and has expanded its experiences are by participating in a variety of financial programs.

One of the programs that SIT has established is the Volunteer Money Management Program. In this program, members visit the houses of elderly and disabled people to assist them in paying their bills, check writing, bill organization, balancing their check books, reading bank statements and filling out financial paperwork.

Ali said that the organization also gets involved with other organizations like the Gateway to Financial Fitness.

"We take different classes that help educate us about different financial functions, assist different lawyers and attorneys within the community and meet professional leaders," Ali said.

According to SIT's website, www.umsu.edu/studentlife/sit/, the Gateway to Financial Fitness program provides numerous benefits to students such as helping participants get control over their monthly bills, helping people finally get out of debt and improve their credit. The participants attend workshops taught by some of the leading CPAs, bankers, attorneys and other top professionals.

see INVESTMENT GROUP, page 7

Spring Break's end is met with blues, apathy and sleepy students

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES
Staff Writer

The clock reads 9:30 a.m. the Monday after Spring break. Out of a class of 30 students, only ten find the energy to make it to class. As 9:45 rolls around, two more students reluctantly mosey their way into class. The students work very hard to sit in their seats in an upright position, but many fail in their efforts and fall victim to the first day back.

As the professor speaks, heads nod; however, the nods are not in acknowledgement of what is being said. Heads rock back and forth, left and right in a fight to stay awake. Nevertheless, some students finally give in to their fatigue and assume the head-on-the-desk position and doze off into dreamland.

March 21 through March 25 marked the long-awaited Spring break for UM-St. Louis students. On Monday, March 28, UM-St. Louis reopened its doors and students prepared to reopen their textbooks.

Brandon Moten, senior, communication, said, "Actually my first day back was better than any other day I had before because I had gotten so much rest."

As a result of the rest that Moten received, he said that he was able to get to his first class earlier than usual.

Moten said that parking was easy for him on that particular day.

see BACK TO SCHOOL, page 9

UMSL graduate student marches at ‘Bloody Sunday’ anniversary event

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

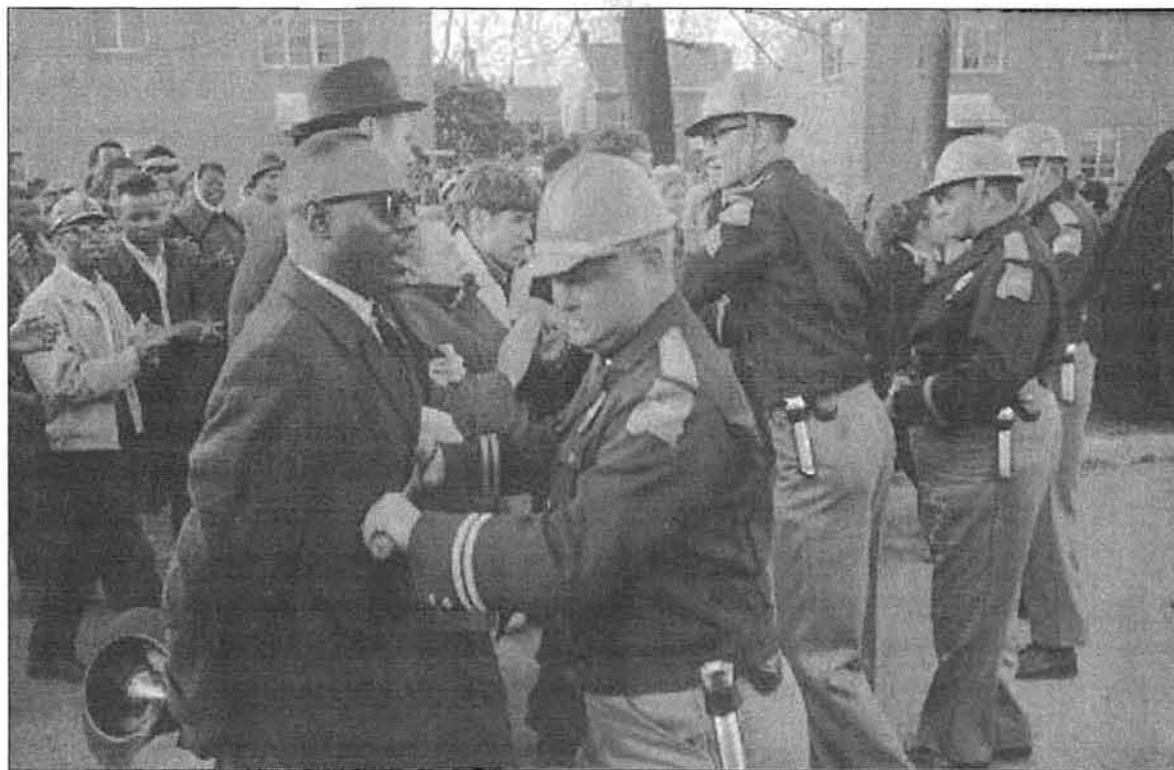
Blood, tears, fear and pain overwhelmed the concrete of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. on March 7, 1965 as over 600 civil rights marchers were brutally attacked by policemen.

The marchers, led by John Lewis and Hosea Williams, were headed out of Selma and into Montgomery to bring to light the discrimination that was preventing African-Americans from obtaining voting rights, even though they constituted half of the population. The march also commemorated the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a marcher who was shot to death by a state trooper three weeks earlier while trying to protect his mother at a civil rights demonstration.

When the marchers arrived at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, state troopers and local law enforcement, some mounted on horses, attacked them with billy clubs, tear gas and bull whips, eventually forcing them back into Selma. In the presence of the news media, marchers were brutally beaten. ABC Television interrupted its programming, a Nazi war crimes documentary entitled “Judgment in Nuremberg,” to show footage of what happened in Selma, Alabama.

The incident created uproar in the country and led to more marches. A second march was held on May 21, 1965 and was the most successful; it had a starting count of 3,200 marchers and this number had climbed to 25,000 by the time the marchers reached Montgomery. As a result of the marches, beatings, deaths and determination of the African American community and the many who assisted, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Forty years later, on March 7, 2005, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Coretta Scott King, Fredrick Douglass’s great grandson, Martin Luther King III and many more



Police restrain protestors at the historic 1965 “Bloody Sunday” march.

Photo courtesy www.ltu.edu

came to remember the tragic event known as Bloody Sunday. Among these people was Blondel Rall, a graduate student at UM- St. Louis.

Rall, who is working on her master’s in education, serves as a social studies teacher at Normandy Middle School. She was one out of the 24 teachers in the country who were chosen to participate in this memorable experience.

“This was such a profound experience for me. It was a pilgrimage,” Rall said.

Rall, along with the other teachers and guests, enjoyed a seven-day trip filled with history, dinners, speakers and authors, networking and humility.

Reflecting on her experience, she said, “That movement was real. This was reality...This event helped me emotionally, spiritually and mentally. My hope is to teach students and my colleagues the facts,” she said.

A documentary of the 24 teachers that attended the 40th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday was created and should be available to the public soon.



Tenaz Shirazian/ The Current

Blondel Rall, graduate student, education, and Social Studies Teacher at Normandy Junior High, keeps up the black history board regularly at Normandy school by collecting different books at putting them on show for students.

Taking summer classes has its ups and downs

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

For many students, summer is a time for vacation, relaxing and enjoying the long break before fall classes resume. For others, the warmer months are filled with full-time work. Still others choose to continue their education between May and August.

UM- St. Louis offers six summer sessions of classes: three four-week sessions, two eight-week sessions and one twelve-week session. Summer classes are designed for students who want to get ahead on their education or who do not want to take heavy class loads during the fall and spring semesters.

Summer classes begin in May and continue into June and July. Registration for summer classes begins on April 4. Students can go to the academic advising center, located in the MSC on the second floor, to sign up for summer classes. The advising center is open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Fridays. Students can also go to the UM- St. Louis website to register for classes.

The tuition fees for the summer sessions are \$216.50 per credit hour for Missouri residents and \$542.40 per credit hour for non-Missouri residents.

Many of the courses that are offered during the fall and spring semesters at UM-St. Louis are offered over the

summer.

Harrison Smith, senior, marketing, said, “I am planning on taking a few summer classes; I am graduating in Dec. of 2005.”

Other students choose not to take summer classes because of other commitments.

Theodore Miller, junior, business administration and president of Sigma Tau Gamma, said, “I don’t take any summer classes because I do army training during the summer.”

There are advantages as well as disadvantages regarding summer classes. Some advantages are that students can take a few sessions over the summer and finish their degree earlier, classes are over sooner than normal semester classes and with less students enrolled, students have a greater opportunity to receive one-on-one help from professors.

Despite the advantages, some disadvantages are that classes are intense and the courses must fit the entire lesson plan in the time allotted. Therefore, many of the courses are longer, taking a few hours, and some classes are Monday through Friday.

Students who want to take a class but hate the idea of being stuck in a classroom during the summer can take an online courses, as most departments have started to offer web classes. For more information about summer schedules and enrollment, visit www.ums.edu/curriculum/courses.

BACK TO SCHOOL, from page 6

“Parking in the morning was great because everyone was still asleep,” he said.

In contrast to Moten rising early for class and getting there on time, Azleena Najri, senior, communication, said that she was late for the first day back because she was so used to sleeping in over break.

“I was kind of excited to come back to school because I didn’t do much during Spring break,” Najri said.

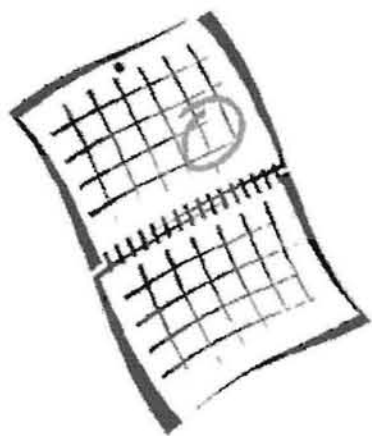
Najri also said returning to

classes after spring break was kind of a relief because she could then resume somewhat of a routine.

Yvan Roffel, UM-St. Louis employee, said that she would describe the overall atmosphere of where she works on campus as quiet and laid back since students have returned from spring break.

Whether some students were reluctant to return to UM-St. Louis after Spring break or not, there’s still summer break to look forward to.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!



Student Life Leadership Awards Banquet

Monday, April 25th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Nominations for Student Organization Awards
Online at: www.ums.edu/studentlife
(Due April 11th)

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EDITOR
JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

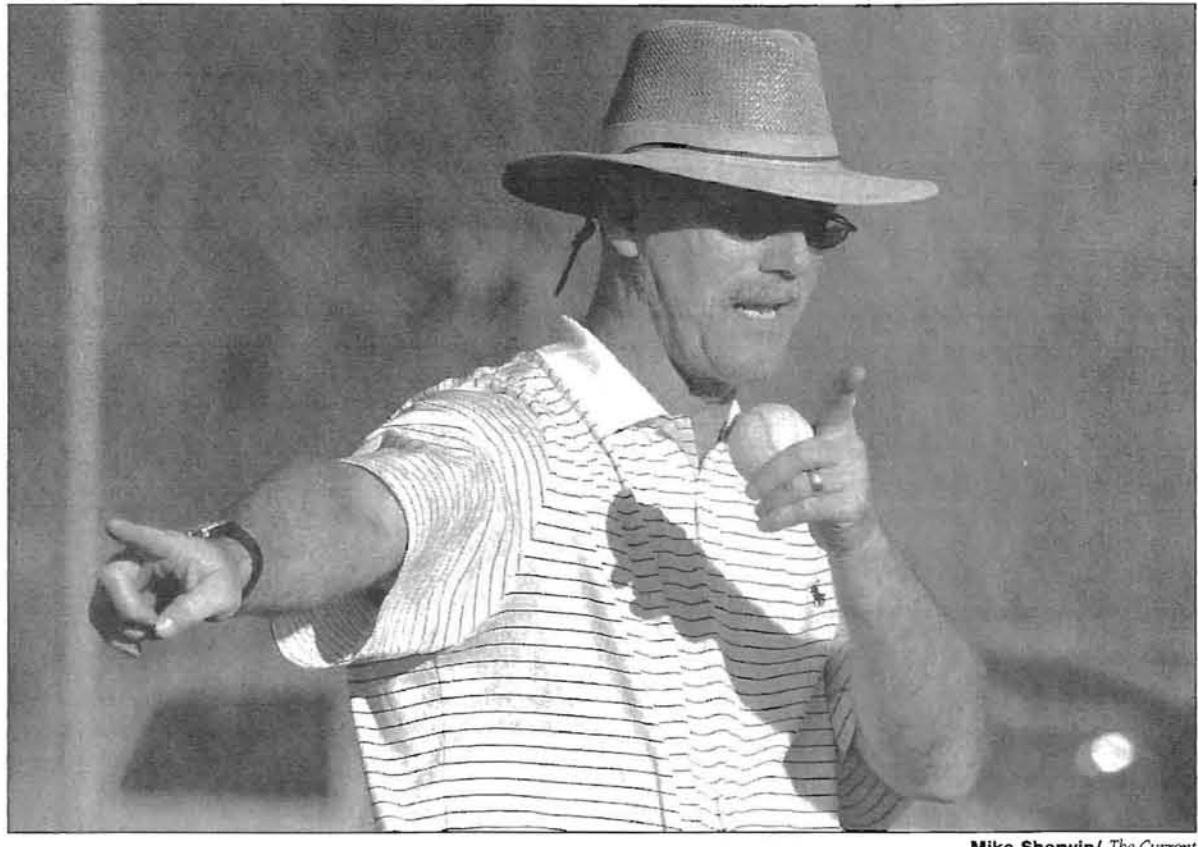
UMSL plays
host to Final
Four YES clinic
BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

As we are all aware, St. Louis is this year's host site for the men's final four basketball tournament, one which has already been filled with dramatic comebacks and upsets. This year has been one to remember; it is the first time that the city has hosted the event in over 25 years.

There are also a few things that have already taken place at the UM-St. Louis campus that have not taken place in awhile or ever before, including being one of the many possible designated NCAA final four team practice sites, as well as hosting the men's final four YES clinic.

The final four YES clinic came to the University this year for the first time and provided younger local basketball enthusiasts with the rare chance to be able to work one on one with NCAA basketball coaches and players. The clinic included a variety of opportunities for the young players to get involved by doing things such as drills, games and even getting individual tips from the players and coaches on how to improve their game to the next level.

UM-St. Louis' head men's basketball coach Chris Pilz spoke about the importance of the event for the young athletes. "When you are young you aren't usually given the type of opportunity that this camp provides.



Men's tennis coach Rick Gyllenborg advises team members during a doubles match against Vincennes on Thursday afternoon. Gyllenborg earned his 100th career win last Saturday in Rensselaer, Ind. as the Rivermen defeated St. Joseph's College 5-0.

100!

Men's tennis coach Rick Gyllenborg nets 100th career victory

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

In a highly anticipated conference match up versus St. Josephs the men's tennis team came through with a winning effort to give their head coach Rick Gyllenborg his 100th career coaching victory.

The Rivermen swept all three doubles matches in the historic win, winning quite easily at one and three doubles. Mike Schaaf and Stephen Pobst got the 8-1 victory at one doubles and Max Bugner and Ryan Burgdorfer won 8-3 at three doubles. Francis Lam and Rajan Saini had a tougher time at two doubles, but they would eventually pull out an 8-5 win. Francis Lam then registered an easy 6-2, 6-2 win at one singles and Pobst closed it out with a 6-3, 6-0 win at three singles as the team won the five points that they needed to close out the match.

Lam commented on the importance of the match. "We all wanted to win for him, it is a very special achievement for him and the program. He is a great coach who has brought the program to a high level after only a few seasons as coach here."

Like many coaches, over his career Coach Gyllenborg has not always been able to enjoy the success that often comes through time. Through his first four seasons as the head men's coach at UM-St. Louis, the team only managed to compile a 40-52 record, only reaching the .500 mark once in those years. Since the rocky start, Gyllenborg's teams in the last five seasons have gone on a rampage, having managed a winning record each season and combining for an outstanding 66-34 record.

Schaaf spoke about his coach's achievements. "It is a great thing for all of us. It is not very often you get to

be on a team that has a coach as talented as Rick, he is a great guy and has the ability to get the most out of everyone around him," he said.

During his nine-year tenure, Gyllenborg has coached a total of 14 all-conference players, including two freshmen of the year selections. He has coached a total of 20 academic all-conference selections as well as one GLVC Scholar Athlete of the Year.

In the 2002 season, Gyllenborg led the team to an 18-5 overall record and a 7-1 record and second-place finish in the GLVC regular season and in the conference tournament. That year the team qualified for the NCAA Regional tournament for the first time in the program's history. In 2003, Gyllenborg guided the men's team to its second consecutive bid to the NCAA Regionals. The team finished with a 16-7 record on the season and placed third at the GLVC Tournament.

Tennis team's winning streak halted by Vincennes

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

Since spring break the UM-St. Louis men's tennis team has played well. After a close loss to Division I Saint Louis University the team steamrolled Maryville University 8-0, St. Joseph's 5-0, Lewis University 6-0, and SIUE 8-1. Despite easily defeating the last four teams, the Rivermen suffered back to back losses to Vincennes and Northern Kentucky University, both by a score of 6-3. In the most recent match, on April 2, the team was defeated by Indianapolis University 8-1.

The Rivermen did not have any problem with Maryville. The only close match was an 8-6 victory at the number one doubles position, won by Mike Schaaf and Stephen Pobst. The rest of the team cruised; out of nine total matches seven sets were won by a score of 6-0.



Freshman tennis player Ryan Burgdorfer sends off a backhand return during a doubles match with teammate Max Bugner on Thursday against Vincennes.

The Rivermen's win against St. Josephs was short and sweet. With the closest match being an 8-5 victory at number two doubles, the Rivermen finished quickly to prepare for the afternoon match against Lewis University. After sweeping doubles, Francis Lam and Pobst got the two singles wins to end the match.

The second match of the double header, against Lewis University, was another easy win for the Rivermen. The team swept doubles and then got wins at three different singles positions to end the match. Lam won a hard fought 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) match at the number one position, Pobst won 6-2, 6-0 at number three and Ryan Burgdorfer pulled out a 6-2, 6-4 win at number six.

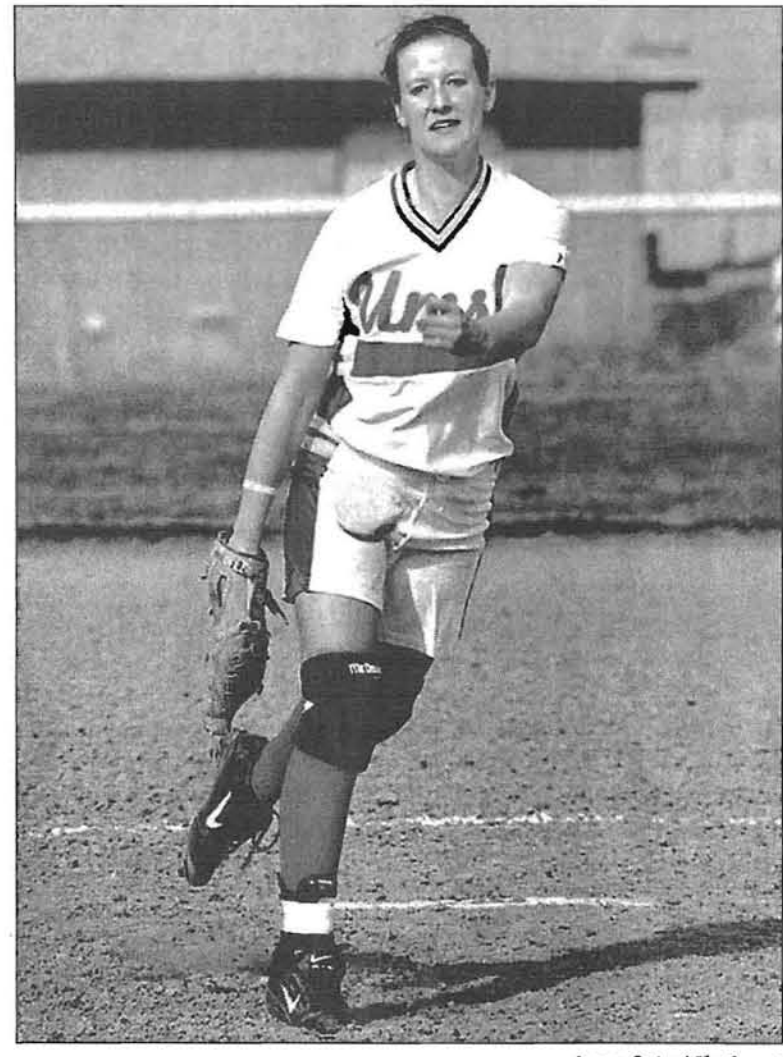
The Rivermen fully expected to defeat Maryville, St. Joseph's, and Lewis, but the win against SIUE was not as certain. If anything, the team was not expecting to win by such a large margin, and the match scores verify their surprise. The Rivermen swept the doubles matches, but only after considerable hardship. Schaaf and Pobst won their match at number one 9-8, Lam and Raj Saini won at number two 9-7, and Burgdorfer and Max Bugner won at number three 8-6.

Pobst won at three by the same score. Saini toughed out a very difficult 5-7, 6-4, 10-8 match at number four, and Bugner overcame anxiety in the second set to win 6-2, 7-6 (7-3). The only loss on the day came at the number six position, where freshman Burgdorfer fell to a seasoned veteran 6-2, 6-4. The 8-1 victory was a big one for the Rivermen, as SIUE is always a difficult match.

Vincennes Junior College finally ended the Rivermen's winning streak with a 6-3 victory. In the match the Rivermen got wins from numbers two and three doubles, and Saini at number four singles.

Northern Kentucky dealt the Rivermen yet another loss, and again the Rivermen only got three wins. Lam and Schaaf both won at one and two singles and Burgdorfer and Bugner won at number three doubles. Despite the loss, the wins at one and two against Northern Kentucky were huge for the Rivermen, who lost at both positions last year. Lam used his head to defeat his opponent. "It was an ugly match. He gave me no pace, so I gave him even less; if you can believe that, I even hit lots of slice drop shots to make him come to the net. It is a

see TENNIS, page 9



LEFT: Sophomore Emily Wagoner, delivers a strike in the Riverwomen's doubleheader loss to Central Missouri State Tuesday afternoon.

Riverwomen softball struggles to break even

The team is currently 9-13 after two losses against Lewis

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

Over spring break the UM-St. Louis Softball team played the Rebel Spring Games Tournament in Florida. The team went 5-4 over 9 games. On the first day of play the Riverwomen lost to Wayne State 5-1, but then rebounded to defeat St. Xavier 7-1 on the second day of play. The second game on March 19, Augustana defeated the Riverwomen 3-1. The team played two games on March 20, defeating Caldwell 2-0 and Pace 6-1. The Riverwomen finished by splitting their last four games, getting wins over Northwest Missouri State and

West Virginia Wesleyan.

The next games played by the Riverwomen were back-to-back losses to Central Missouri State University. In the first game neither team could get a hit until Central Missouri put a run on the board in the fifth inning. Central Missouri scored three more runs in the sixth inning, but the Riverwomen got three of their own on hits by Shauna Wilson, Kim Kulaitis, and Corie Jones. Central Missouri had chances to score in the seventh inning with bases loaded, but the Riverwomen played good defense to keep the score 4-3.

In the second game against Central Missouri the Riverwomen jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead on a two-run single by Lisa Neukirch in the bottom of the third. The Riverwomen led all the way until the top of the seventh, when Central Missouri scored a run to tie the game at two. The Riverwomen

were unable to answer, and in the top of the eighth Central Missouri tallied two runs to take the 4-2 win.

On April 2 the Riverwomen suffered two more losses, this time to Lewis University. The first game was complete domination by Lewis, a 9-0 routing. Lewis scored one run in the first inning and then scored three runs in the third and five in the fourth inning to grab the 9-0 victory.

In the second game the Riverwomen got on the board in the bottom of the third when Jessica Keim hit an RBI to bring in Jennifer Thomas. The Riverwomen led all the way until the seventh when Jessica Coffey walked five batters to give Lewis a 2-1 lead; then the Flyers scored four more runs to take a 6-1 lead. Keim recorded a triple to right field to give the Riverwomen one more run, but Lewis still came away with the 6-2 victory.

Men's golf finishes 5th in 2 recent tournaments

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's golf team recently played three tournaments, placing fifth twice and 19th once. David Archibald, Diego Jimenez and Michael Luedders each took turns leading the team in the three tournaments.

The first tournament was a fifth place finish at the Missouri Baptist Spring Invitational. The team shot a 304 in the second round of the tournament, earning their lowest score of the school year; through both rounds the team shot a 628, also a year's best. The team was led by Luedders, who shot a 79 in the first round and a 73 in the second, putting him in ninth

place. "Luedders has been a great addition to the team this year, and he has really helped us out," teammate Jimenez said. Jimenez himself shot an 85 the first round but then improved 13 strokes in the second round to finish with a score of 157 and 22nd place.

The second tournament for the Rivermen was the Northern Kentucky Spring Regional, where the Rivermen placed 19th. The team shot a tournament high 334 first round, but then improved the second round by shooting a 319. Jimenez, Archibald, and Marcus Deckert each shot a 160 to lead the team.

The most recent tournament for the Rivermen was at the Persimmon Ridge Golf Club, where they placed

fifth. The team shot a 314 in the one round tournament, just one stroke behind Dayton University and four behind Findlay University. The score is the second lowest for the Rivermen this year. Archibald led the team, shooting a 76 and getting ninth place. He was followed by Deckert who got 18th place on a 78, and Eric Fakes who shot a 79. Luedders and Jimenez brought up the rear shooting 81 and 82, respectively.

The team has been improving and looks forward to the conference tournament, according to Jimenez. "We are playing better with each tournament and our coach is really helping our games out a lot. Right now we are really focusing on working hard to do well in the conference tournament.

Stick it to 'em



Two students fool around with equipment before their game in the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Rec Sports Floor hockey began last Tuesday night and will continue for the rest of the month.

see FINAL FOUR, page 9

Baseball loses three heartbreakers; wins one

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The past few weekends have been all but easy for the Rivermen baseball team, as they have lost three of four all literally in heartbreak fashion.

In the first two of the four games the Rivermen squared off against their closest regional conference rival, the Quincy University Hawks. Both of the games ended in dramatic fashion, but unfortunately for the Rivermen they came out without a win both times.

During the first game of the doubleheader, Quincy got on the board first with a single run in the fourth inning before the Rivermen rallied and came back to tie it up at 1-1 in the fifth. Junior outfielder Josh Morgan doubled with two outs and then came around to score on a fielding error by the Hawks, something that would come to haunt the Rivermen later on in the day's other contest. Quincy broke the tie in the bottom of the seventh, with a one-out solo home run to lead the game 2-1. Although the game was close, it ended with the 2-1 Quincy win, sending the Rivermen to a close and bitter defeat.

The second game proved to be one to remember as it lasted nearly four hours, going to the 16th inning before a winner was decided. The Rivermen got the first lead of the game with two runs in the top of the third inning. Josh Morgan came up big again as he hit a one out, two-run home run to give the Rivermen the early lead in the contest. Quincy cut that in half with an unearned run on an error in their half of the fifth inning, and then tied the game with another run in the seventh inning to make it 2-2. Neither team could plate a run over the next eight innings as each team stepped up the defense in an effort to save the game



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Rivemen baseball player Tom Anderson fields a ball and motions a toss to first during a practice Thursday afternoon. The Rivermen have caught some bad luck, losing three achingly close games against Quincy and Kentucky Wesleyan, before the team finally defeated Kentucky Wesleyan in the second game of a double-header on Saturday, leaving the team 10-4 for the season.

and win. As the game extended to the 16th inning, neither team wanted to go out in defeat, but it was the Hawks that broke through first as they would score in the bottom of the 16th, getting a two-out run to win the game 3-2 in extra innings.

Junior catcher Derek Becker commented on the tough loses. "We were definitely the better team out there today, but we just couldn't get the runs when we truly needed them. Sometimes you can play better than the other team and not win and today was a great example of that exact scenario," said Becker.

After the tough loses to Quincy the team traveled to play yet another conference foe in Kentucky Wesleyan. With payback on their minds the Rivermen were determined not to be out done again and in the first game

they did everything that they needed to do, but win. The team would again capture an early lead in the top half of the fourth inning, but would give in to some bad infield errors that would eventually lead to their downfall. The team lost by the score of 3-2 as they gave up yet another one run loss.

For the third time in three games the Rivermen lost by one run in games that quite literally could have and should have given them the result that they wanted. It wouldn't be until the fourth and final game that they would break through and win a one run game of their own, as they would win by the score of 3-2 and finally get back to their winning ways. The Rivermen will play host to a slue a games in the next few weeks and they hope to get back to the top of the conference as the season wears on.

MOBIUS MAY LOSE STATE FUNDING, from page 1

The press release also says, "Blunt's proposed \$170.6 million funding increase for Missouri schools for FY 2006 remains unchanged as are budgeted appropriations this year for all Missouri colleges and universities."

The cuts do not affect money going directly to schools and instead targets the money going to libraries

at the schools. For many small colleges in the state, MOBIUS is important to their academics since it increases their library inventory dramatically.

"I think it would be most unfortunate if MOBIUS was cut since picking up extra assessment would be a pain for most of the libraries in the state," Arnott said.

For the fiscal year 2004-2005, almost 70,000 MOBIUS transactions were made at the UM-St. Louis libraries. Over 8,000 books and other material were requested and used by the students, faculty, staff and administration of UM-St. Louis through MOBIUS. All told, more than 3.5 million MOBIUS transactions occurred in the state of Missouri.

INVESTMENT GROUP, from page 6

Ali said that the organization has been very successful and active over the last two months in planning events and creating their new website.

Each semester SIT takes a trip to Chicago's Board of Trade to enhance their education. This semester, before spring break, 25 students visited the Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange. The students were given tours and took courses on commodities and trades.

Ali said that some of the future plans involve trying to get a monetary allocation for student members to go to

New York and visit Wall Street. SIT is also trying to organize various financial programs with Roosevelt High School, located near UM-St. Louis. They wish to act as a resource to high school students by supplying basic financial education, but their idea must be approved by the St. Louis Board of Education.

A future upcoming event for their organization is in connection with and sponsored by UMB Bank. On April 14, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the SGA Chambers of the MSC, top investors will discuss investment strategies and give advice. The organi-

zation plans to collect donations for investing and to generate revenue into a separate account for a future scholarship.

Ali said that this year SIT has been nominated for the most innovative and most sustained UM-St. Louis club of the year.

The organization currently has 30 active members and 200 participating alumnus, but hopes to gain even more members.

To find out more information on the organization or to become a member, email the group at sit@umsl.edu.

TENNIS, from page 8

net. It is a confidence booster to beat a player that beat our best player last year," Lam said.

Following the defeat at Northern Kentucky the Rivermen played Indianapolis University, where they suffered an 8-1 loss. Indianapolis swept all three doubles matches, and then won the singles matches in heartbreakers.

Schaaf, Pobst, and Burgdorfer all went to a deciding third set tie-breaker, with Burgdorfer getting the only win. Lam was defeated by #22 ranked Ross Johnson in straight sets, and Bugner was defeated 6-3, 6-3 at the five position. Saini, who was playing with shin splints in both legs, was forced to forfeit after winning the first set 6-4.

Coach Rick Gyllenborg is still enthusiastic about his team's performance. "We have now lost three straight matches, but they have been to very high quality teams. Our effort has been outstanding; we just need to win the big points and big games. All things considered the quality of tennis is very high," Gyllenborg said.

ALLISON TO SPEAK ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM, from page 1

Allison will discuss his book, which describes the challenges of who could plan an attack, what nuclear weapons terrorists can use, where they can obtain nuclear materials, when an attack could occur and how terrorists could deliver a nuclear device to the United States. He also proposes an agenda to follow to prevent a catastrophic nuclear attack on U.S. soil.

Allison said his talk about nuclear terrorism will be twofold. "The current course we are on is that a nuclear bomb will explode. That is inevitable. More important, though, is that this is a preventable catastrophe," he said.

His book lists possible actions for a "threat that is feasible, affordable and will reduce the likelihood [of a nuclear terrorist act] to nearly zero."

Allison proposes a world of three no's in his book, including "no loose nukes," "no new nascent nukes" and "no new nuclear weapons states."

The first no refers to the former Soviet Union's lack of safekeeping nuclear weapons from the Cold War. The second no refers to stopping nations from building nuclear facilities. The third no refers to preventing

nations like Iran and North Korea from becoming nuclear powers.

With possible nuclear nations like Iran and North Korea, Allison said, "The probability of nuclear terrorism will be hugely worse then, if we don't do something."

Allison's lecture is part of the political science academy and department's annual lecture on public affairs. Martin Rochester, political science professor, called Allison an expert in American foreign and defense policy and terrorist threats.

"The political science department, each year, invites a major speaker for its annual public policy lecture," Rochester said. "The idea behind these lectures is to engage campus community and the St. Louis community in a discussion of some of the great issues of the day."

Rochester said the topic of nuclear terrorism is timely and an interest to students and surrounding communities.

Allison is the Douglas Dillon Professor and director of the Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, and his research focuses on nuclear prolifera-

tion and how it links to international terrorism.

"Graham Allison is one of the leading scholars in this country and in the world," Rochester said. "In addition to being a scholar, he is a practitioner. He has served in the U.S. Defense Department in several different administrations, the Reagan administration, the administration of George Bush Sr. and the Clinton administration."

Allison also served as dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for over ten years and also wrote the book, "Essence of Decision," dealing with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Since his latest book was published in August, Allison has made presentations to congressional groups, think tanks and universities across the nation.

A reception at UM-St. Louis is scheduled for 7 p.m., followed by his book discussion at 7:30 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B of the Millennium Student Center. His book will be available to purchase for \$24, and Allison will sign copies afterwards.

Board Seat Elections

Friday, April 15 during SGA Meeting

ASUM 30 years

The Board of Directors is the governing body of ASUM. The board decides what issues the ASUM will advocate and oppose. Students from each of the four campuses of the UM system comprise the board. Members of the board are elected by each campus's student government. The board meets monthly to discuss various legislative issues facing the students of the state. The Board of Directors also works with the ASUM legislative staff to develop ASUM's national policy and track issues before Congress.

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A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

'Beekeeper' is a misstep for Tori Amos

BY EMILY LOGAN

Mustang Daily at California
Poly State University

(U-WIRE) SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. - Tori Amos is an anomaly in the music business. She somehow manages to continuously change her music and follow (or reject) trends while still retaining the spark that makes her recognizable. On her ninth album, "The Beekeeper," Amos continues to experiment with new styles of music — some of which work and some which don't.

The album begins with "Parasol," a song that could be placed on a compilation of quintessential Amos recordings. Her soft piano licks form the base of the song as drums, harmonies and guitars slowly enter as the song builds. But the beauty of this song is in the tender, almost gospel-like melody.

The second song on the album, "Sweet the Sting," is a work of original songwriting, but somehow doesn't feel like it will hold up among other Amos recordings. She experiments with a funky drum beat and a wah-pedal, and the song is smooth, but it lacks something — perhaps an emotion that she injects only into songs of her personal style.

Damien Rice, an Irish recording artist, is featured on the next song, "The Power of Orange Knickers." The two make a powerful vocal team. Even with the strange and esoteric lyrics, their voices intermingle to create a striking effect.

The centerpiece of the album, the six-minute "Witness" is perhaps the most experimental song on the album, with pipe organ and a choir. As it begins, it sounds a bit elevator-esque, and it inevitably slows down near the middle. It is definitely a clear representation of the album as a whole.

The next song is a stark contrast. "Original Sinsuality" is a short ballad that features (refreshingly) just Amos and her piano, like the old days. It seems this is all Amos needs, but her desire to change and play other styles is definitely taking precedence.

The title track, "The Beekeeper" is surprisingly different from the rest of the album. With a rich electronic beat and a low drone in the background, Amos' voice dominates and creates intensity unparalleled anywhere else on the album.

The only weak point of this song follows the other songs — there is no climax.

But, regardless of how well "The Beekeeper" does, Amos will continue to be a strong force for the female recording world and her next project promises to be different.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Downfall' may be one of the best WWII films ever

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Spring is off-season for movies, so expectations are low for what can be found on local movie screens right now. One hardly expects to find great drama, much less a film destined to be remembered as one of the best histories of its time.

Yet "Downfall" is such a film. The topic of the last days of Adolph Hitler, and even specifically final days inside his Berlin bunker, have been done before, yet director Oliver Hirschbiegel and screenwriter/producer Bernd Eichinger have wrested from this material something unique: one of the best war films ever made.

Actor Bruno Ganz offers a tour-de-force portrayal of Hitler and his performance is one of the things that makes this German-language film riveting to watch. More than Ganz' performance set this film apart, however, as "Downfall" is about not only the final days of the Nazi state but an exploration of Hitler's power over his country, an unflinching look at the reality of war and the inconceivable cruelty humans can inflict on their own kind.

The film's unblinking look at the chaos and gritty realities of war is the fitting backdrop for the Nazi world that "Downfall" presents. According to the press notes on the film, writer/producer Bernd Eichinger had long wanted to do a German film that explored the Nazis and how they gained such power over his country. When he read historian Jochim Fest's book "Der Untergang" (The Bunker), he realized that it distilled the Nazis' twelve-year rule into those last twelve days. That book and Trandl Junge's memoir about her experiences as Hitler's last secretary form the basis for this film.



Photo courtesy of www.thezreview.co.uk

Actor Bruno Ganz offers a captivating performance as Adolf Hitler in 'Downfall,' which tells the story of the last days of World War II in Europe.

Eichinger's previous film, "Somewhere in Africa" and director Oliver Hirschbiegel's "Das Experiment" gave only a hint of what was to come with "Downfall." The best films succeed as both pieces of filmmaking, with strong acting and story, and by saying something about the world or human nature. "Downfall" delivers both, with well-drawn characters, remarkable acting, and compelling storytelling that give us unprecedented insight into the unshakeable devotion of Hitler's followers. It is a story of the last days of

war that is hypnotically powerful, like a peek into history itself.

The film is both immersion in history and polished cinema. It works as an action-filled war film, evoking the fear and danger with remarkable cinematography. It transports us back in time, and you leave the theater shaken and filled with a sense of having been there. In "Downfall," the creators of the Third Reich and its horrors reap what they have sown.

Other films have been made about Hitler's last days in his Berlin bunker. Trandl Junge's story itself has been

told before, in the 2002 documentary "Blind Spot." But in past films, the focus has been on Hitler himself and we see only life in the bunker. The bunker itself often seems clean, strangely isolated and apart from the losing war. In "Downfall," Hitler is but one of the characters. The film is narrated by his young secretary Trandl Junge (Alexandra Maria Lara) but we see the crumbling world of the Nazis through many eyes, inside and out of the bunker, on the streets of besieged Berlin. The bunker itself rocks with bombs dropped nearby

and the walls are pockmarked with bullet holes. The effect is claustrophobic but the film also gives us insight on how human beings could convince themselves to follow a man and a belief into such a state.

Inside, the generals come and go with desperate reports about the already-lost war, reports which Hitler often rejects as too pessimistic while upbraiding the generals for cowardice and betrayal. His dedicated personal staff prepares to commit suicide along with the Führer, who rejects the idea of fleeing. Outside the bunker, chaos descends and the citizens of Berlin die in the streets, as the last line of defense, composed of the very old and young, pointlessly aim guns at tanks or are blown to bits by bombs. We see the generals struggle to fight a war they know is lost simply because that is their job and as a matter of patriotic principle, a doctor (Christian Berkel) who copes with mounting casualties and dwindling supplies, and the staff in the bunker discussing which method of suicide is best, debating pills versus a gun in the mouth. No effort is made to pretty up the carnage or squalor, making the scenes unfolding as horrifying and fascinating as a train wreck.

A great deal of "Downfall's" power and fascination comes from Bruno Ganz' remarkable performance as Adolph Hitler. While Ganz does not actually look like Hitler, he completely transforms himself for the role. Rather than the familiar one-dimensional monster, Ganz accomplishes the difficult task of creating a whole person. He studied Hitler's actual speaking voice, capturing his working class accent and learned to mimic his Parkinson's tremor and mannerisms.

Visit www.thecurrentonline.com to read the full article.

COMEDY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

No April Fools joke, Second City comedy comes to PAC

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Writer

How better to spend April Fool's Day than to go see the Second City comedy troupe, that long-running breeding ground for comedians and actors. But rather than travel to Second City's home town of Chicago, you could just go to the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

I am not kidding.

The Second City comedy troupe performed at the Touhill PAC's Lee Theater for two nights, April 1 to 2, presenting a total of four shows to sold-out audiences. The show was the 45th Anniversary Tour, a combination of classic material and new, topical comedy created fresh every show.

For those living under the proverbial rock, Second City is the comedy showcase that was the inspiration for the original "Saturday Night Live" and the

launching pad for those comedians. Second City has produced an amazing list of both comedians and actors, through its rigorous training combination of daring and original comedy that mixes sketches and improvisation on subjects to make you both think and laugh. Comic scenes, singing, a bit of dance and a lightning pace mark the Second City style. Second City has been around some forty-five years but really came to prominence in the sixties and seventies, when its irreverent humor took hold, and alumni Bill Murray, John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, and Gilda Radner launched "Saturday Night Live."

Second City alumni are a virtual who's who of comedy and comic actors and writers, including Harold Ramis, John Candy, Robert Klein, Fred Willard, Eugene Levy, Betty Thomas, Bonnie Hunt, Mike Myers, Chris Farley, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, George Wendt, Tim Meadows and Tina Fey.

Ordinarily, you would have to travel

to Chicago to see this legendary comedy troupe. Often the shows are sold out and you have to cram into a tight little bar that puts you elbow to elbow with other patrons to watch the sketches and improvised comedy on a tiny stage. This weekend, not only did you not have to travel to Chicago but the performance space at the PAC was far more comfortable for both audience and performers. The performers get a larger, more flexible stage on which to perform and the audience gets the comfortable and roomy Lee Theater plus the better sightlines of the Touhill performance space. Only waitresses bringing you tiny, overpriced drinks are missing from the evening's experience but the thirsty could still grab a drink in the lobby during intermission.

While the Lee Theater is a far more pleasant space for seeing Second City, the troupe still delivered the same laughs, offering the same first-rate night of comedy you would see in Chicago. The cast is always changing at Second

City and this troupe is composed of six performers, Anthony LeBlanc, Beth Melewski, Brad Morris, Allison Bills, Megan Grano and Mike Bradecich. Music was added by Mike Pryzgod and stage direction was provided by Dre Robinson.

Second City gave the audience everything they expected in the way of belly laughs, guffaws and giggles. The staging was simple, only a few chairs and props with simple costumes, keeping the focus on the comedians. The cast was a series of contrasts — three women and three men, a mix of short, tall, heavy, thin, black and white, to offer a kaleidoscope of characters and situations. Most of the program consisted of sketches, of various lengths and different mixes of the cast, creating quick characters and situations to provoke laughs. Some used visual humor but more were verbal or based on cognitive dissonance when our expectations are upended. An example was a sketch where a very talkative woman in

a laundry mat strikes up a conversation with a man who turns out to be a serial killer. This revelation leads to his scolding her for "prejudices" about serial killers and later her request for his autograph, a parody both political correctness and the cult of celebrity.

Never known to shy away from controversy, Second City tends to do social commentary more than mere fleeting topical humor, which would need continual updates. But broad political or social humor can be timely as well, and risk-taking is part of this. This kind of humor is intended to be thought-provoking rather than ridicule or mean-spirited. Where several years ago, lattes and self-absorbed business types might have been the center of jokes, this night featured more jokes about blinked world views, blind patriotism and religious conservatism. Some of this struck a comic chord with the audience but not all of it played as

see **SECOND CITY**, page 12

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Nacho Mama's' Tex Mex disappoints

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are on Manchester Rd. in Rock Hill and you are feeling that familiar pang of hunger, do not go to Nacho Mama's Tex Mex. Avoid it if you can.

My friend and I arrived at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. He had eaten there before and said it was good, so I chose it as an alternative to Taco Bell. When customers first walk in, they find the set-up is the same as other fast-food joints: counter to the right of the door, tables to the left. Mexican music filtered over the speakers. The menu was on a dark red background and not well-lit, making it difficult to read.

I ordered first, and chose three chicken fajitas and a root beer. My friend ordered nachos and a root beer. However, when our order number was called, he found himself face-to-face

Nacho Mama's

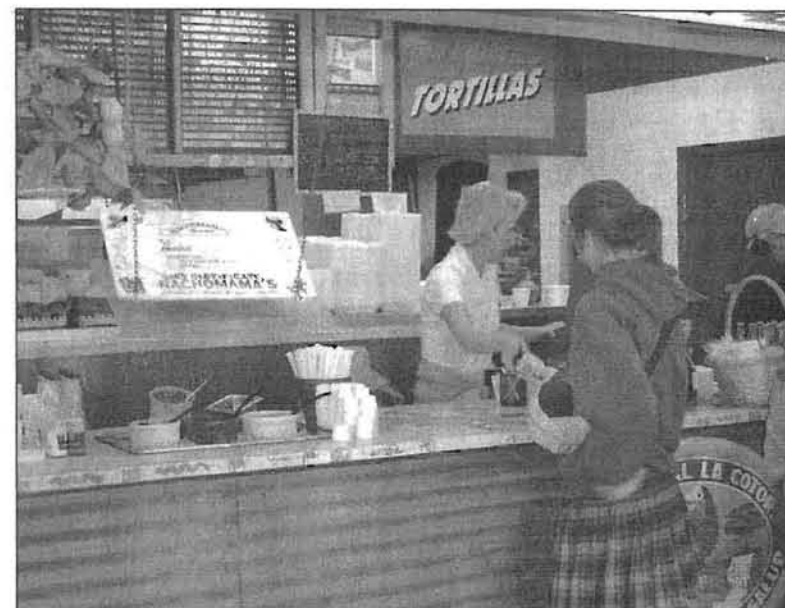


with a lone taco, rather than nachos. Rather than take it back and make a fuss, he chose to grin and bear it, and ate it anyway. My fajitas were warm but bland. The ingredients were the usual: chicken, lettuce, cheese, onions that looked like leeches (I pulled those off). There was a food item in my fajita that looked like what I thought was feta cheese, but my friend said it looked like "almost lettuce." We never did figure out what it was. The chicken had a teriyaki flavor, but since there were only three four pieces, the rest of the fajita was pretty tasteless. Even the tortilla shell was a little stale. My friend had one of my fajitas, and he

agreed that it tasted bland. Our total bill came to just over eleven dollars. It was worth less than that. Two hours after leaving, my stomach became angry with me, and stayed like that for well over twenty-four hours.

The restaurant looked the same as most other fast food places, but with its own flair. A mural advertising beer was painted on the ceiling. Posters hung on the walls and pictures were drawn on the tables. Our table was wobbly, but so were some other tables. One party tried to switch tables, only to find the next one wobbly. A woman said she thought all the tables were like that. Although the restaurant was clean, it looked dirty. Maybe it was for effect.

The only thing this restaurant has going for it is its service. Although we only saw three employees, the guy behind the counter was friendly and had a great sense of humor.



Erica Burrus/ The Current

The fast-paced restaurant Nachomama's draws a large lunch crowd during the week. The owner grew up at the Texas and Mexico border, brought authentic Mexican dishes to St. Louis.

Nacho Mama's has been open for ten years. They are located in downtown Rock Hill, surrounded by other small restaurants and stores.

So, if you are in downtown Rock Hill and you get hungry, do not stop at Nacho Mama's. You are better off going to Taco Bell.

Weekly Cartoon - by Rudy Scoggins



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www.thecurrentonline.com

New exhibit showcases baseball history, welcomes fans

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Baseball bats, gloves, original collector's cards, official uniforms and jerseys are just a few of the artifacts that are on display in the "Baseball as America" exhibit at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

The Baseball as America exhibit was organized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Touring numerous museums and galleries across America, the purpose of this exhibit is show people how America's culture has grown over the last hundred years with this sport and to bring forth memories for baseball lovers and fans.

St. Louis resident Bryan Humphrey shared his excitement about the exhibit.

"I think that it is great to bring a show about America's favorite pastime to St. Louis, especially with baseball season beginning," Humphrey said.

Ernst and Young sponsors the exhibit's National tour. St. Louis sponsors include Southwest Bank and U.S. Bank.

Inside the museum, one will find over 500 different objects that represent baseball. Some objects that can be viewed are album covers and sheet music to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," the record-breaking home run bat of Mark McGwire, trading cards of Mickey Mantle and Roberto Clemente, pictures and posters of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, bleachers from a variety of stadiums, original scorebooks and hot dog vending machines which date to the 1950s.

Other collectible and valuable items on display include the first baseball card, the uniform of legendary Babe

Ruth, the glove of Lou Brock from 1977, Stan Musial's bat from 1952, the bat used by professional basketball player Michael Jordan, an autographed ball from the 1904 World Series, uniforms from the St. Louis Browns team, Atlanta Braves Jersey worn by Hank Aaron when he hit his 715th home run, the shoes of "Shoeless Joe Jackson" (who was banned for gambling connections in the 1919 World Series) and the bat of Albert Pujols (the first major leaguer to hit 30 homers in each of his first four seasons).

Teams such as the St. Louis Cardinals, the St. Louis Browns, the Houston Astros, the Chicago Cubs, the Atlanta Braves, the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Mets are highlighted.

Minor League teams, Major League teams and the Negro National League of the 1940s make up the exhibit.

Baseball movie memorabilia can also be seen through the glass cases like the City Rockford Peaches uniform from the movie "A League of their Own," posters and souvenirs from "Field of Dreams," "Major League" and "Bull Durham."

Interactive screens, computer games and video clips allow visitors to test their own baseball knowledge and learn different interesting facts.

Viewers can touch the computer screen to find the names of city teams, rookies, MVPs, stats, coaches and what happened each year.

"I like watching the video and audio clips because they remind you of what the real games were like," History Museum volunteer Mike Smith said.

People can also read "Did you know?" facts, such as that baseball gloves were first made in the 1860s, on each wall of the exhibition room.

One plaque reads that in an 1886

game played in New York, women wore bodices and bustles, while men wore top hats and coats.

A few other facts include that the first-known wedding on a baseball field was held at Cincinnati's League Park in 1896, the Chicago Cubs were the first major league team to allow fans to keep the balls hit into the stands in 1916, people paid 50 cents to see a Cubs-Cardinals game in 1926 and original scoreboards were made out of wood and were hand-operated.

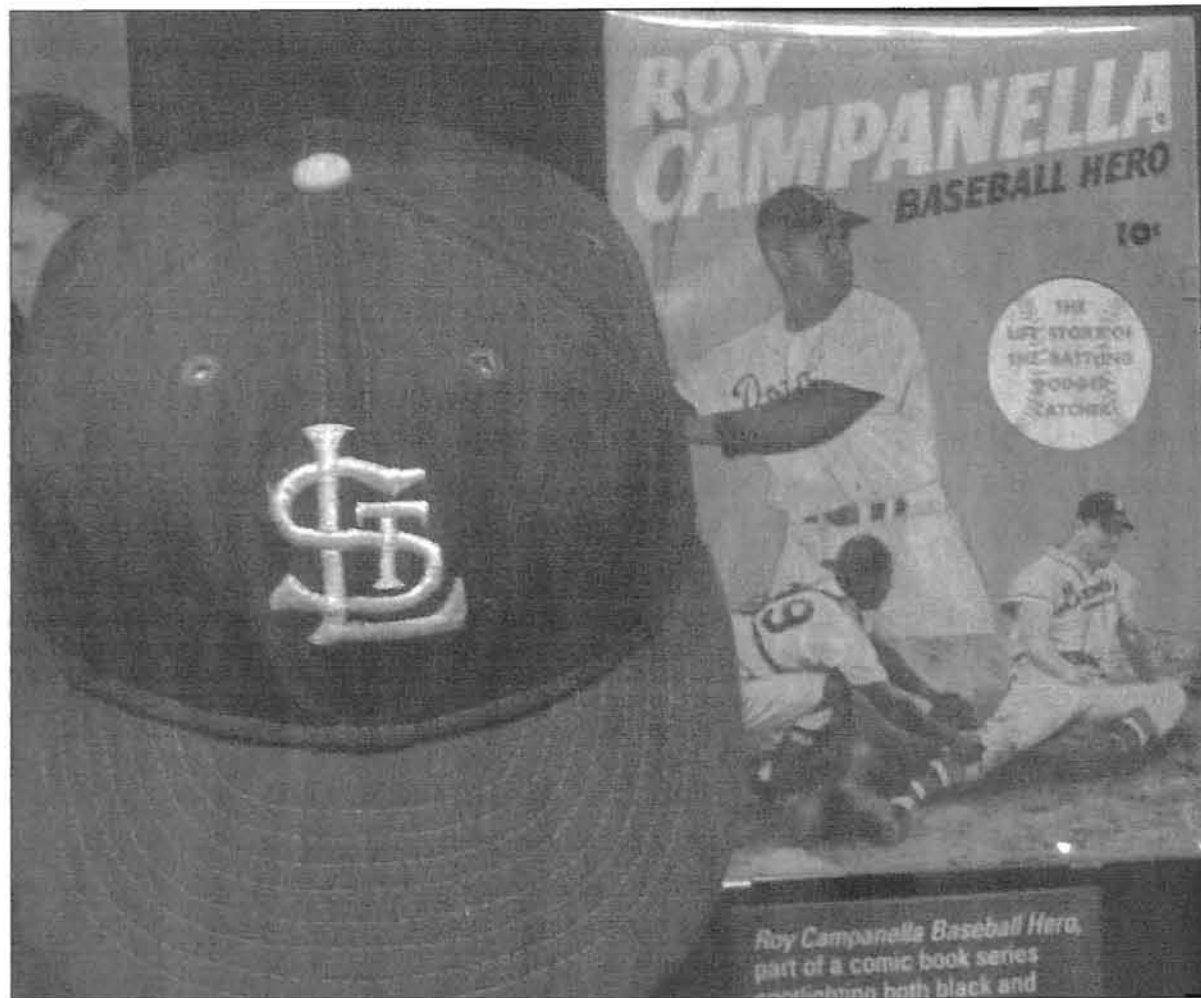
The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was founded in 1943. Photographs showcase the Rockford Peaches vs. Grand Rapids Chicks in 1947.

"I enjoy the women's baseball pieces; they bring back memories of all the players and when I was a little girl and saw them in magazines," History Museum Volunteer Chris Wollbrink said.

Along with the exhibit, throughout the month of March, the Missouri History Museum hosted a variety of other correlating events and guest speakers. On March 2, a lecture was held discussing the steroid controversy in baseball. On March 9, several ex-St. Louis Browns players spoke about "The Golden Era of Baseball" and on March 16, "The Road Back to the Series: The Cardinals' Upcoming Season" took place.

Film series were also organized on March 13, March 20 and March 27, featuring: "Eight Men Out" with guest speaker Dr. Eric J. Nuetzel, "The Natural" with speaker Dr. Nathan Simon and "Soul of the Game" with speaker Moisy Shopper.

People had the opportunity to meet three women: Barbara Hoffman, Audrey Kissel Lafser and Erna Bergmann, who were female baseball



Erica Burrus/The Current

The Missouri History Museum, located in Forest Park, recently opened "Baseball As America," which will show through April 24. This cap, worn by Satchel Paige of the St. Louis Browns in 1952, is one of the items on display at the exhibit.

players in the All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League.

There are also numerous upcoming events. On Saturday, April 9, there is the 10th Annual Vintage Baseball Association Conference and on Saturday, April 23, at 3 p.m., in the

Southwestern Bell Multipurpose Education Center, visitors can learn about the Negro League's St. Louis teams, the Giants and the Stars, in the St. Louis Shining Stars event.

"Baseball as America" will be open to the public until April 24, 2005.

Admission Fees are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$4 for students and children under six-years-old are free. Admission is free on Tuesdays and the gallery is open until 8 p.m. All other special baseball presentation events in April are free to the public.

EVENING COLLEGE WILL CLOSE UNDER NEW PLAN, from page 1

students to the college that relates most to their major. "The students always before had two deans. They had the Evening College dean and their major dean. Now they just have the major dean," Cope said.

This move will add more responsibilities to the other deans, but Cope said the deans were happy to take on the additional roles.

The committee also recommended that each degree program create a three-year schedule that shows students how they can plan ahead to complete their degree on time.

Another change will rename the Bachelor of General Studies degree to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree, which Bliss called a better designation. Students enrolled in the program will report to the Honors College. Students currently pursuing a Bachelor in General Studies degree can choose to stay in the program or enroll in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary

Studies program.

Despite changes, night classes will still be offered, and evening services are expected to be extended. Students will report to their new dean for signatures or concerns. University Advising will continue to advise "evening" students, and Financial Aid will take care of scholarships from the Evening College.

A chancellor's committee had considered closing the college before. "The Academic Advisory Committee... had recommended last summer that the Evening College be closed and that the activities of the Evening College be restructured, reorganized and decentralized," Cope said.

However, Cope believed the committee failed to review the consequences of closing the college. "I felt I didn't have enough information to make that decision. I didn't know what the implications were. I didn't know what the cost and benefits were," she said. "That's why the new committee

was formed to look into all the implications."

Clarke-Ekong became dean in the fall of 2002 and talked about the initial committee's involvement. "Their preliminary report gave some preliminary findings," she said. The chancellor wanted to "anticipate all of the possibilities and come up with the best outcome for our students," she said.

Bliss met with committee members between Nov. 2004 and Feb. 2005. The committee was comprised of faculty, administrators and students, including "evening" students.

Bliss said the change shows the St. Louis community that "we are a responsive institution. We will use our resources to accommodate students."

The changes will take place starting this summer. "The implementation of ideas is really going to be the test for all of us," Clarke-Ekong said. "We must commit to the process to get the outcome we want."

SECOND CITY, from page 10

well here in Bible Belt Missouri as it probably does in more progressive Chicago. But that is the nature of pushing the humor envelope.

The shortest sketches are called "blackouts," a quick comic bit or twist that flashes across the stage as a bridge between longer sketches. Sprinkled throughout the evening, they became a feature themselves when the troupe offered a string of these quick comedy tidbits, provoking shock and laughs.

In addition to the sketches, the troupe also offered improvisation, calling on the audience to suggest a

situation or even an object that was used to spark humor. Improv can be the most difficult of humor but also a rich source for the imagination. It is one of the strengths of Second City and it was amazing how quickly these talented folks could snatch something funny out of thin air. Of course, not every joke or bit worked but it was surprising how many did. The improv tended to be best when the full ensemble was involved in some way. One of best bits of the evening was the tag-team improv where two to three cast members created a tiny sketch that was then trans-

formed when another cast member called out freeze and another cast member tagged a performer and took their place. The difficulty was that the cast not participating in the mini sketch were facing away from the action and could not actually see what the other comedians were doing.

The challenge of mixing improv and sketch comedy in rapid-firing mix is the key to Second City's ability to grow new comedians, with flexibility as actors as well. The Second City revue brought just the right touch for April Fool's Day.

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