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Current, April 18, 2005

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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April 18,
2005

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THECURRENTONLINE.COM

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



'Venus Envy'
puts women
artists in
the spotlight

See page 6

SGA candidates vie for votes at debate

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Co-News Editor

Student involvement, inequity in the UM system, MOBIUS and *The Current* were all hot topics in the SGA debates Monday as three student candidates contended for the top student government office.

SGA presidential candidates David Dodd, junior, international business, Jen Staggenborg, senior, music and D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology and criminal justice, voiced their opinions and answered questions about campus issues. Kate Drolet, editor-in-chief of *The Current*, moderated the debate.

Dodd's priorities included promoting the campus, providing more opportunities and representing all students. Dodd said the most important

job as SGA president is "making sure the student point of view is represented in the University." Dodd believes the student voice has a unique viewpoint different from faculty and administrators.

Staggenborg said her campaign centered on promoting student involvement and mobilizing students on a state level to be effective on campus. The job of the president, she said, is to improve relationships between the community and University, as well as students and faculty.

Braddix, running on the Action Slate, hopes to increase involvement in student government since every student is part of the SGA. "The constitution requires the president to be the representative of the student body" at a local and systemwide level, he said.

The candidates addressed campus issues, such as the University's

unequal representation in the UM system. Braddix, who lobbied in Jefferson City, said, "I would like to talk with the Board of Curators and see exactly why it is that we receive less funding than the other universities."

Dodd considers the campus the greatest responsibility of the president. Dodd, a member of ASUM, showed that the organization is responsible for representing all campuses, not just UM-St. Louis.

Staggenborg sees the inequity problem as twofold, involving both equity funding and student curator association. She supports a grassroots campaign to raise interest for more student lobbyists.

Concerning the MOBIUS cuts, Staggenborg, who is against the cuts, believes MOBIUS is imperative to the University and said the proposed cuts



Kevin Ottley/ *The Current*

D'Andre Braddix addresses a question posed to him during the SGA Debate which was held Tuesday afternoon. Braddix, Jen Staggenborg (center) and David Dodd (left) are the candidates vying for the 2005-06 SGA Presidency.

will hurt graduate programs.

Braddix suggested that the SGA pass a resolution declaring that the University is not in favor of the cut. Showing a united front and working with a student curator would be beneficial, he said.

Dodd believes it is the president's responsibility and burden to fight for the interests of students, especially

relating to MOBIUS.

Candidates also discussed the proposed student fee for *The Current*. While Staggenborg supports the referendum and believes students will benefit from the student fee, Braddix believes *The Current's* case is not strong enough.

see SGA DEBATE, page 3

Golchert will stay on ballot

Student Court ruling overturns Elections Committee decision to disqualify candidate

BY PATRICIA LEE

Co-News Editor

On Friday, the Student Court reviewed Aaron Golchert's appeal against the Elections Committee and voted to reinstate his eligibility in this week's elections.

Golchert, the incumbent SGA comptroller, is running for a second term against SGA Chairman Brian Rails. The Election Committee disqualified him after he missed scheduled meetings with the committee reviewing the election rules.

Under election rules, candidates are required to meet with the Election Committee to ensure they understand the rules. An exception is allowed for those who have "due cause" for missing the meeting and need to meet at another time.

Golchert had notified the Election Committee beforehand that he would not be able to attend either of the scheduled meetings because of school and work conflicts. He offered to meet with them over the phone or at another time, but the committee said it did not have enough time to schedule another meeting.

Brandon Dempsey, chief justice of Student Court, said they decided to reinstate Golchert on the ballot because the election rules were ambiguous.

"We ruled in favor of Aaron because there isn't a strict timeline in the election rules that states when he should have let the election committee know that he wasn't going to be able to make the meeting," Dempsey said. "He did wait until the day before the second meeting to let the election committee know that he wasn't going to make it, but the court voted 5 to 1 to reinstate him back onto the ballot."

In his appeal letter, Golchert said that he realized that he should have informed the committee earlier, but felt that it was wrong to disqualify him.

"A complete disqualification of a candidate for missing one meeting for legitimate school and work-related reasons is not right," he said.

The Student Court's formal decision stated, "Aaron Golchert shall be allowed to run in the student elections, but he must still fulfill the requirements in the election rules... This must be fulfilled before the general student election."

After being disqualified, candidates are not allowed to campaign, so Golchert missed the debates last Monday and was not allowed to promote his candidacy. He said that missing a week of campaigning may have hurt his campaign, but he felt that he could overcome it and have a successful re-election bid.

"I have a whole fraternity out there with 30 people who are going to help me," he said. "Secondly, I am pretty well known with SGA as comptroller and third, I think I'm well-recognized on campus as homecoming king."



Golchert

Student wins \$125,000 for environmental work in Africa

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

After holding out through near confrontations in a war-torn African country to protect valuable environmental research, a UM-St. Louis graduate student is being honored for his bravery, determination and preservation efforts.

Corneille Ewango, graduate student, biology, received a Goldman Environmental Prize, often called the "environmental Nobel," Monday, April 18 at the annual Goldman awards ceremony in San Francisco, Calif.

The Goldman Prize annually honors grassroots environmental heroes from different regions of the world. This year, Ewango won the prize for Africa for his heroic dedication to his work at the Wildlife Conservation Society's research facility in the Ituri Forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ewango, who has attended UM-St. Louis since August 2003, worked as a botanist and herbarium curator at the Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Conservation Forestière research center, located near the Ituri Forest Reserve.

Ewango's first reaction upon hearing he had won the prestigious Goldman Prize was surprise. "They told me they had been looking for me for about a week to tell me I had won a prize," he said.

Ewango said the hardest part about winning the prize was keeping it secret for so long. "They told me I had won in December last year and told me I could only tell my supervisor, a few colleagues and my wife," he said.

Ewango's story demonstrates his extraordinary qualities, including his quick-witted resourcefulness, courage and sense of commitment to his work.

When civil war broke out in 1996 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ewango was one of the dedicated researchers who remained in the area to continue his research and work in cataloging the species of the forest and protecting the data, samples and collected species, including the rare Okapi, an odd-looking relative of the giraffe.



Ewango

see EWANGO, page 9

Calling cardboard 'home'



Kevin Ottley/ *The Current*

Students camp outside the MSC by the lakes in an effort to raise awareness of the homeless epidemic. The event was organized by UM-St. Louis' Catholic Newman Center.

Social Justice Week gives students insight about poverty

BY BEN SWOFFORD

Staff Writer

"More than one-fourth of the citizens of St. Louis city live in poverty," read a cardboard sign on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center Thursday.

The sign, along with an informational table filled with flyers and

stickers, was part of Social Justice Week at UM-St. Louis, sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center, Amnesty International and Pierre Laclède Honors College.

The week included speakers and information booths on the issues of the death penalty, homelessness, environmental awareness and fair trade, a shantytown to show solidarity with the homeless, all culminating on Friday in a total immersion

Urban Plunge Retreat.

"We just hope this week, if nothing else, got people to think about some of the social injustices in our society," Bobby Wassel, campus minister at the Catholic Newman Center said. "We are hoping it inspires people to work for social change."

see JUSTICE WEEK, page 7

Pilot program to return during voting week



Mike Sherwin/ *The Current*

SGA President Scott Bopp listens to the assembly debate on Friday about an extension of the readership pilot program.

BY MIKE SHERWIN

Staff Writer

USA Today, *The New York Times* and the *Post-Dispatch* will be once again available for free on campus — this time during the same week that students will vote whether or not to approve an additional student fee to fund the *USA Today* Collegiate Readership Program.

The Student Government Association voted on Friday to approve a four-day extension of the pilot program, which provided free newspapers at designated distribution points on campus for a four-week period between Jan. 10 and Feb. 4.

Students will vote online through

the MyGateway website on April 20-21 in a studentwide referendum on a proposed \$2 per student, per semester fee to fund the newspaper readership program.

If approved, the program would provide approximately 900 papers Monday through Friday during the fall and winter semesters. Students would have to swipe their UM-St. Louis student ID through a card-reader on a newspaper distribution box to gain access to the newspapers.

The newspaper program has been the subject of much debate in the SGA since it was first discussed last fall. The pilot program extension approved Friday was no exception.

see USA TODAY, page 7

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Bullet In Board

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

Mon. April 18
Graduate School Day
The Graduate School will hold its annual Graduate School Day on Monday, April 18 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center. 33 graduate students will present their research in poster, oral and power point format. Information will also be available to prospective students on our master's, doctoral and graduate certificates.

Mon. April 18
Arianna String Quartet
Arianna String Quartet with guest Gabriela Lena Frank, Latin American Composer. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities at 12:15 p.m. at 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. For more info call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

Tues. April 19
Career Workshop
Counseling Services will present a career workshop on Tuesday, April 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This free workshop will help you choose a major and gather information about careers. Participants must take the Strong

Interest Inventory prior to the workshop. You will have it interpreted at the workshop and do additional exercises there to help the career choice. To get information about how to access the Strong, register for the workshop at Counseling Services, 126 MSC. For more information call 516-5711.

Tues. April 19
Testing for 2005 Intensive French or Spanish Courses
Intensive courses offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the French or Spanish languages and cultures while completing 15 hours of course work in one semester. Students will learn basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at an accelerated pace. In order to be approved for registration in intensive courses 2115, students must pass a general language aptitude test. This test is administered by the department, and determines an individual's ability to recognize language sounds and forms and memorize them quickly. To register for the aptitude test, visit our website at www.umsi.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit, or call the

Foreign Languages and Literatures Office at 516-6240. You must register in order to take the test.

Wed. April 20
Job Search 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. Free. Held in Career Services, 278 MSC. Open to current UM-St. Louis student and alumni. Advance registration required. Call 516-5111 or enroll in person.

Wed. April 20
Web Design Seminar
UM-St. Louis' microcomputer program will offer a free web design seminar at the West County Computer Center (1715 Deer Tracks Trail, Suite 110, near I-270 and Manchester Road). Event will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Open to anyone interested in learning about the latest web design tools. Networking open house with light refreshments and a Q&A session. Seminars include "HTML, Dreamweaver, or FrontPage," "Add Impact with Flash," "Enhance Your

Pages with Photos and Artwork" and "The Alphabet Soup: ASP, PHP, XML."

Thurs. April 21
Irish movie lecture
This lecture featuring Joan Dean asks what is an Irish movie by considering some of the best known "Irish" films, including "The Quiet Man," "The Commitments" and "The Crying Game." The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in 331 SSB. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Smurfit-Stone Corporation Professorship in Irish Studies and the UM-St. Louis Center for International Studies. Call 516-7299 for more info.

April 21-23
St. Louis Jazz Festival
On April 21 at 7:30 p.m. the festival will kick off with a free concert by the UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble and guest performer Jay Daversa. On April 22 at 8 p.m., Marilyn Maye will perform "Tribute to Johnny Carson" with the University of Hawaii Jazz Ensemble. Tickets cost \$13-\$27. On April 23 at 8 p.m., the St. Louis Jazz Orchestra will perform with guest artists Chris Vadala, Mulgrew Miller, Jeff Jarvis, Jay

Daversa and others. Tickets cost \$9 - \$24. All events will be held in the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Call 516-4949 for more information.

Fri. April 22
Art exhibit through June 11
Gallery 210 will show selected paintings from Artist Bessie Lowenhaupt's private collections. Gallery 210 is located at 44 East Drive, adjacent to the UM-St. Louis police station. Call 516-5976 for more info.

Fri. April 22
Provost's forum on learning and technology
Join colleagues from across the campus to identify the questions and challenges before us, such as "Is there a role for technology in learning?", "What are the gaps between what we can deliver and what students want and need in their learning experiences?" and "How could technology applied to teaching and learning play a role in student recruitment, satisfaction and retention?" The event will be held from 9 a.m. until noon in the Hawthorne Room of the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Call 516-4508 for more information.

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department from April 3, 2005 to April 14, 2005. Please remember that crime prevention is a community effort. If anyone has information regarding any of these incidents, please contact the Campus Police Department at 516-5155.

April 4, 2005
Burglary - 1st degree
The victim stated that she woke to a loud noise early in the morning in her University Meadows Apartment. When she went to

investigate she saw a black male subject running out of the apartment. She reported that two purses and a digital camera were taken. One of the purses was recovered nearby, but the \$30 in it was missing.

April 4, 2005
Property damage
Marillac Hall
The incident occurred between 6:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. Person(s) unknown broke a window on the front of the building at the ground level.

April 4, 2005
Larceny
Marillac Hall
A larceny was reported from the Optometry Clinic. The incident occurred between April 1, 2005 at noon and April 4, 2005 at 7 a.m.. A personal computer and monitor were reported taken.

April 4, 2005
Larceny
Millennium Student Center
At 3:09 p.m. a larceny was reported at the C-Store in the Millennium Student Center. The clerk reported that she was distract-

ed by an unknown person who dropped coins near her register. She bent down to pick them up and the suspect took all the twenty dollar bills from the open cash register drawer. Suspect is described as a black male.

April 6, 2005
Stealing under \$500
Lot E
A Parking Permit was reported taken between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the victim's vehicle parked on Lot E.





April 7, 2005
Stealing under \$500
Lot E

A parking permit was removed from the victim's vehicle sometime between April 4, 2005 at 8 a.m. and April 7, 2005 at 8 a.m.

April 10, 2005
Larceny
University Meadows
On April 10, 2005 the victim reported a larceny involving her debit card. She stated that she apparently lost her debit card while in the laundry room at the University Meadows. She learned that on March 17, 2005 unknown person(s) used her card to make unauthorized purchases. Investigation is continuing.

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ANNETTE CRYMES

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Ron Edwards (staff)
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For additional information, please call the Office of Multicultural Relations 314.516.6807. All students, staff and faculty are welcome!



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Take I-70 E. or W. and head South on Lewis and Head
Follow Lewis and Head to Natural Bridge and turn right
Go past Missouri Rd. on Natural Bridge heading West
Go through construction
Make a left at right onto Adams
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9/11 commission's report is 'long and anything but boring'

BY KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Rather than state dry facts in political jargon, the recently published 9/11 report tells the story of an American tragedy from a human perspective.

Erin Smith, senior assistant to the president of the 9/11 public discourse project, visited UM-St. Louis Thursday to discuss the report, the commission and the state of America four years after terrorist attacks killed thousands of people.

"September 11 was a very real part of our life," she said. "September 11 changed the way we looked at the world."

The goals of the commission, she explained, include pushing the public to focus on the broader issues of international relations, national security and government policy.

The commission published its final report last summer. Smith described the book as "long and any-

thing but boring." To make it comprehensible and interesting to readers, the book was written as a narrative. Rather than boasting a wordy, academic abstract, the first chapter is titled, "We have some planes," the phrase that first indicated to officials that terrorists commandeered an aircraft.

She said before the tragic event, many people, government officials included, saw the United States as the world's one superpower. American officials thought they understood hijackings.

"Nineteen angry young men defeated every security measure. We failed to defend ourselves from 19 guys," she said.

Smith discussed a section of the report that described a skinny boy who played soccer. Readers later discover that the boy became Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind of a destructive terrorism faction.

According to the commission's research, the 9/11 terrorists spent approximately \$400,000 to complete the notorious plan, a miniscule

amount of money compared to the \$300 billion American security budget.

Smith explained that America's lack of forward thinking led to the 9/11 commission's creation. She said the organization dedicated extensive research to find out "what happened that day, what led up to that day and what the government is doing now."

Smith said the Bush Administration initially resisted creating the organization because the government believed the congressional joint inquiry was already looking into the relevant issues and that an independent 9/11 commission would distract the United States from the war on terrorism.

She explained that overwhelming public opinion changed the administration's stance, and the commission was born. "You and about one million

of your friends might be able to affect public policy," Smith said.

George W. Bush appointed Republican Henry Kissinger and Democrat George Mitchell to lead the organization. Both men accepted the positions but resigned soon after, stating they faced conflicts of interest.

Former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean and former Indiana Representative Lee Hamilton took the top positions, and according to Smith, they wanted to "present a unified front." They refused to appear in public unless both men were present.

"Instead of being a partisan blame-game...[they showed American people] here's what the commission is finding, here's what the facts are saying," she said.

By the time the commission finished researching, the members had

read through 2.5 million pieces of paper. Smith said none of the reports cited in the commission's book were edited.

While past committees, like the Warren Commission, which delved into John F. Kennedy's assassination, closed their meetings to the public and published their findings without public insight, "[The 9/11 commission] wanted their work to be transparent," she said. "All of the hearings were public."

Smith said the families of Sept. 11 victims played an instrumental role in inspiring change within American security policies and priorities. Families visiting Washington D.C. demonstrated a thorough understanding of the country's security policy.

"The 9/11 families educated themselves, and that made them an incredibly effective tool for getting things done," Smith said.

Smith also promoted public diplomacy or using international discourse to provide an alternative image of American people. "If we don't define

ourselves in the world, Osama Bin Laden will do it for us," she said.

When an audience member asked if the events of Sept. 11 could have been prevented, Smith said the ordeal is a battle terrorists would have continued to fight.

"Is it possible things could have been averted? If we had captured Osama Bin Laden in the 1990s, could we have prevented [9/11]? It's hard to say. Maybe. But it's a butterfly effect situation," she said.

She noted 1.25 billion Muslims live peacefully around the world, and that a small group of radical Islamist terrorists are responsible for the heinous events of Sept. 11.

Kelly Welch, junior, political science, attended the lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies

"[The program] was very interesting," she said. "It gives me insight on what the 9/11 commission is about. Before I didn't really understand. I'd be more willing to promote the 9/11 report [now]."



Erin Smith

SGA DEBATES, from page 1

Braddix supports the referendum going to a vote, but said he would vote against it. Dodd believes the change will not accomplish what the newspaper is looking for and will not save as much money as expected.

The three students ended the debate discussing how they differ from their opponents. Dodd said his experience, leadership roles and a passion for finding concerns set him apart from the other candidates. Staggenborg, besides being the only female, said she was different because "I'm used to being an executive." Braddix, who listed working on building relationships as his strong quality, said, "I'm just a people person."

Vice presidential candidates Tanzeena Hossain, psychology, junior, and Betsy Seabaugh, senior, music education, also debated.

Hossain, running on the Action

Slate, plans to increase student involvement by establishing advertising committees, increasing awareness about committee meetings and holding committee chairs responsible. She said her experience as service chair of Zeta Tau Alpha will assist her as vice president.

Seabaugh, running with Staggenborg, said her plans for vice president include more access to the Touhill and increasing student involvement in decision making. Seabaugh believes her experience in organizing events for her dance class will help her as vice president.

Brian Rails, junior, marketing, was the only candidate for comptroller to attend the debates, as his opponent, Aaron Golchert, junior, business administration, was involved with a Student Court hearing involving missing a required candidacy meeting.

Rails, running on the Action Slate, based his campaign on viewpoint neutrality and eliminating personal bias in the SABC. "You cannot discriminate against an organization. You cannot not allow them to have funding because they have a different viewpoint than what you have," he said.

Rails also suggested the comptroller should become more involved in the student fee committee. "[My] job is to make sure the students' money is spent wisely." Rails wants to hold student clubs responsible for their budgets. He hopes to be remembered for going "above and beyond [his] job."

Between April 20-21, students can vote online for SGA officers and representatives at large, student members of the University Assembly and referendums for *The Current* and the Collegiate Readership Program.

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OUR OPINION

The Current endorses voting

As the end of the winter semester approaches, UM-St. Louis students yet again have a chance to choose their student government leaders for the coming year.

The Current traditionally endorses a candidate for the top SGA positions each year, but this year the eight members of the editorial board could not come to a consensus on who to endorse for SGA president. We agreed that D'Andre Braddix, David Dodd and Jen Staggenborg have proven themselves to be qualified, capable campus leaders.

Instead of our traditional endorsement, The Current editorial board will present readers the strong and weak points of each presidential candidate and point out the differences in their leadership style and position on various issues. Based on this evaluation, students can choose the candidate who best fits their criteria and campus priorities.

D'Andre Braddix: Braddix has been involved with the SGA and other organizations on campus and looks out for the needs of the students. He also initiated and headed the committee to improve food service on campus. During last week's debates, Braddix described himself as a "people person," and we agree that he is approachable and easy to talk to, which is a crucial quality for someone who is representing the student body. Braddix also has experience working with University administrators through his roles on the Chancellor's Council on Athletics, the Student Advisory Committee with the Touhill Performing Arts Center and the Traditions and Programming Committee alongside Chancellor Emeritus Blanche Touhill.

On the other hand, Braddix could use extra confidence in his public speaking in order to be more powerfully present his views. As the student body's advocate to the University, he should be able to eloquently and confidently express students' concerns.

David Dodd: Between the three candidates, Dodd has the most experience with the SGA, having served as chairman and parliamentarian. He has worked extensively with UM-St. Louis administrators as a member of the SGA, ASUM executive board member and student senator. As president of the Speech and Debate club, he has become a strong, organized public speaker and can get his ideas across forcefully and articulately. Dodd displays a sincere desire to solicit input from students and a particular interest in making sure student services are available to those who attend evening classes.

Dodd's platform centers on reaching out to and representing the entire student

body. While it is admirable for a presidential candidate to approach the position with optimism and motivation, it is equally important to be realistic about the time constraints that go along with the top student government office. After watching the debate last week, some of us question his ability and intention to delegate responsibilities, as he seemed to think that the burden of most responsibilities fell on the president.

Jen Staggenborg: Leadership is one of Staggenborg's strong points, as she became the first person to serve as president of University Bands for two consecutive years. Staggenborg is an effective public speaker and she also has lobbying experience at the state level with ASUM. Staggenborg said she wants to motivate other students to organize grassroots efforts to influence legislators in Jefferson City on issues pertinent to students. As the position of SGA president requires extensive political skill to work with students and administrators, Staggenborg's initiative in the political arena would fit well with the SGA's top office.

While Staggenborg has many qualities of a good leader, during the debates she showed a lack of familiarity with certain important aspects of the UM-St. Louis campus. For example, she was unfamiliar with the University's Master Plan, which outlines long and short-term plans for UM-St. Louis. During the debates, Staggenborg also revealed that her platform may not have been fully developed, as she talked about helping international students with their problems, but she said she was unsure what specific problems they faced.

Each of the candidates is well qualified for the top SGA post. It will be in the nuances of each campaign that voters will find the person who most closely fits their idea of the ideal student government leader.

In the last few years, election turnout has been relatively low, with only about 10 percent of students voting. Considering that the Student Government Association and University Assembly play a large role at the University, students need to educate themselves about the candidates and issues and vote on April 20 and 21.

Watch for each candidate to campaign intensively next week. Nothing will give you a better sense of each candidate's character than actually meeting and talking to them.

Whichever candidate you support, you should exercise your right as a student to have your voice heard by casting your vote on Wednesday or Thursday. The students you choose will be your advocates to the University.

The Issue

The Current usually

endorses one

candidate for SGA

president. After

hearing the debates

this year, the

editorial board could

not reach a majority

consensus.

We suggest

Rather than

arbitrarily picking

one candidate, we

pinpointed some

of the major

strengths and

weaknesses of

each potential

president.

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

Urban plunge opened my eyes

Armed with a MapQuest printout, a bus schedule and a fellow directionally challenged friend, I set out on my first Urban Plunge last Friday.

I signed up for this daylong event sponsored by the Newman Center for two reasons. I figured it would give me real insight to urban poverty in St. Louis, and from a self-serving angle, it fulfilled a project requirement for my intercultural communications class. Twelve long hours after I nervously began a downtown adventure, my tired eyes had been permanently opened.

My co-plunger Angie and I managed to find Genesis II without taking any accidental detours. The small neighborhood operation served a relatively small community with a grocery, meal and spiritual service. The two men who run the organization explained that if you help a group of individuals, you will improve their neighborhood. The people I met did not all meet my image of 'homeless' or 'impoverished.' Those with bipolar or schizophrenic disorders sometimes find themselves in insecure financial positions, according to one of the organization's leaders.

Some people shared their problems, others acted as if their situations were nothing out of the ordinary, and everyone gratefully embraced their fledgling community. Frequent patrons of the faith-based organization shared their spirituality in sincere interactions, and the quality of their afternoon at Genesis II obviously gave them a sense of intangible wealth.

After a few hours of unloading donated groceries into the "free market" area, assembling boxes of non-perishables and interacting with visitors, Angie and I met up with the rest of the Urban Plunge group.

We assembled at the Salvation Army

on Washington Street, a service center far different than Genesis II. The enormous facility housed countless residents, transients and rehabilitation clients. According to the organization's website, the St. Louis branch served 351,955 meals and provided 34,971 overnight accommodations last year. The eight people in our group helped make dinner for over 100 people and got to enjoy our preparations after all the clients had eaten.

As fellow volunteers and I ate dinner, one of the head chefs joined us for conversation. Someone asked how he started working with the organization, and he explained that he is a client with a passion for food. Over the course of half an hour, this amiable young man shared his extremely inspiring, personal and painful life story. His account of a 25-year battle with addiction put a face to the struggle I've heard about but never truly encountered.

As a college student, I understand that we have busy schedules and limited time. If you can find a place in your life to volunteer at soup kitchens or donate money to food banks, please do. If you find your own wallet light and your calendar booked, you can still affect the situation. The next time someone asks you for money on the street, stop and talk for two minutes. Ask about their lives, because they are alive and deserve a moment of conversation. We cannot ignore these people. Whether their situation is a result of personal fault or otherwise, they still function as humans with physical needs, emotions and goals.

I met the homeless, impoverished, mentally ill, undesirables, addicted, neglected and lost individuals. My perception of them changed and I am now profoundly aware of one certain thing: they are people.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Pilot program shouldn't re-fly

Earlier in the semester a pilot program ran for the USA Today readership program. This pilot ran for about four weeks. The *New York Times*, *USA Today* and *St. Louis-Post Dispatch* were readily available to students at no cost during this time. The purpose was to show students what the program would be like before they had to vote on it in the upcoming elections. At the Student Government Association meeting on Friday the assembly voted to repeat this pilot program, conveniently during this week, the week of elections.

While there was much discussion on whether or not this should be allowed, the assembly okayed it. I think they should have done it last week or even earlier if they felt the program needed to be repeated. If you ask me, the pilot ran for a full month, which is plenty of time for students to realize whether or not they are in favor of paying a fee for it every semester. The fee would make those three newspapers available to students five days of the week.

I do not see why this pilot needed to reoccur in the first place. We already had a full month to try the program; students should have made up their minds in that amount of time. Since the program did run for a full month, it should not be something that "students might forget about," one of the reasons for re-piloting the program. There were big displays in the Millennium Student Center and throughout other buildings where the papers were available.

It does not seem right to repeat this during the week of voting. Hopefully, students realize that there will eventually be a fee attached to the program if it passes. There are no signs on the machines or displays that say that the newspapers are part of a trial program that involves a future fee. I think that if they are going to repeat the program this week, there should be some kind of signs saying what exactly the program entails.

The pilot newspaper machines were

out before the vote occurred in the SGA meeting on Friday. I know several students noticed this. The *USA Today* people should have waited until after the meeting when the program was voted on to put the displays out. I am sure there was a reason they did this, however, it seemed strange to me that they would just assume it would pass.

On the other hand, some students commented that a repeat of the program is almost like campaigning. I can see this reasoning because students who are running for offices in SGA are probably not going to assume that people remember them from seeing an article in *The Current* or attending the debates. The candidates will probably be campaigning all the way up until the time of elections. By rerunning the program, I guess it is figured that it will remind students of how the program would work if voted.

As far as the readership program goes, there were several praises and complaints that I heard about. A couple complaints were that the newspapers ran out and students were not able to get the publication they desired. If students are all paying a fee, they should all be able to get the paper they want. Also, some students complained that the machines were not always working correctly. Either they were not able to swipe their card to get the papers, or anyone was able to open the machine and grab a paper.

Obviously, the biggest praise about the program is that for those who do read these newspapers, it is a good deal. For a small fee, papers will be available everyday. On the other hand, many people who read papers such as the *St. Louis-Post Dispatch* everyday probably already have a subscription to it.

If you have a strong opinion on this program, be sure you vote via MyGateway on Wednesday and Thursday. You will also be able to vote for SGA officers and *The Current* direct student fee. These are issues that affect all students and their money, so be sure you take a few minutes to vote.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

Editorial Board

KATE DROLET
BECKY ROSNER
MELISSA MCCRARY
PAUL HACKBARTH
PATRICIA LEE
JAMES DAUGHERTY
CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
MIKE SHERWIN

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

LETTERS

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

What's your opinion?

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

- The Current endorses...voting
- Urban plunge opened my eyes
- Pilot program shouldn't re-fly

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

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photography Associate

What part of Spring do you most look forward to?



Jeff Pearson
Business Marketing
Senior

The warmth! I hate being cold. As long as it's warm I'm happy.



Carol Booher
Senior
French Education

The nice weather and flowers, especially tulips that grow at my house and in the parks.



Rachel Johnston
Senior
Business Administration

Cardinals Baseball! I usually average about 20 games a year, and I don't pick a favorite player anymore 'cus they get injured or traded.



Alyse Hutchinson
Senior
Finance

I like to travel and to go watch track meets and do other outdoor activities.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Ewango is environmental hero



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

When Corneille Ewango speaks about the natural world, his eyes shine with that passion for conservation.

Ewango, a UM-St. Louis biology graduate student, won the Goldman Environmental Prize on April 18, 2005. The prestigious prize is often called the "Environmental Nobel Prize" and is given only to those who have made a significant and sustained contribution regarding environmental issues.

As remarkable as this achievement is, it is even more noteworthy that Corneille Ewango is a scientist, as selection of the winners is weighted towards grassroots environmentalists, such as community organizers, activists, and journalists, rather than towards research scientists or government officials. What Ewango did to deserve this prize goes far beyond the ordinary work, no matter how significant, of field research.

Dr. Patrick Osborne, head of the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UM-St. Louis, describes Corneille as "an excellent scientist and dedicated con-

servationist."

Corneille Ewango showed more than mere dedication in 2002.

In 2002, Corneille Ewango had worked for ten years at Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Conservation Forestière (CEFRECOCF), a biological research center at the edge of the Ituri Forest, in his home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a central African country formerly called Zaire. A graduate of University of Kisangani in DRC, Corneille was one of the senior staff at the research center. He had already demonstrated both his commitment to his work and his own personal courage by staying on to continue his work when civil war broke out in 1996.

In 2002, the fighting renewed and many of the facility's scientists were leaving. When yet another colleague left, Corneille realized that if the fighting reached the research facility, he would be the only remaining senior staff member. More than that, he realized that if he left, the rest of the staff would abandon the facility and the approximately two thousand people in the neighboring village, who looked on the research center as a stabilizing presence, would also feel demoralized in the face of the advancing fighting. Corneille Ewango decided to stay on and do what he could to protect the facility, the data and specimens.

It was only a couple of days between when it appeared that the fighting was headed their way and the day the soldiers arrived at the research center. The other research staff had taken the facility's trucks but they had left Corneille a motorcycle to use if he needed to escape.

As the armies approached, Corneille sent some money to his family, who were living in a larger town 400 kilometers

away, far from the fighting, where his nine-year-old daughter could go to school, but he did not tell them about his intention to stay, as communications were becoming difficult.

Corneille hid the motorcycle, some of the facility's equipment, some research data and a laptop computer with a satellite linkup in the forest near the research center. Even after the battling armies arrived, Ewango was able to hide more data and equipment in the forest, under cover of darkness. He even tried to continue to do his research work. At great risk to his own safety, he would periodically sneak into the woods at night to send out reports on the situation at the facility using the laptop.

Already well known by people in the village, Ewango spoke to them about how to deal with the soldiers to avoid being killed, and to hide in the woods during the battles. The neighboring village also had a zoo with fourteen rare Okapi, a forest dwelling relative of the giraffe. Ewango advised them on what to feed the Okapi and helped them hide the animals from the soldiers. The soldiers were not only seizing all the food in the village but also slaughtering animals for food, even zoo animals. After they slaughtered 40 zoo animals in one night, Ewango went to the leaders of the army occupying the town to explain that the Okapi were a protected species.

Appealing to their pride in their natural heritage to save the Okapis, he also tried to convince them that the research facility was not opposing them and that the research was for their benefit too.

see SCIENCE COLUMN, page 12

INTERN DIARIES

Gary meets New York's 'characters'



GARY SOHN

New York Correspondent

Actor and rapper LL Cool J once said, "When you move past your fear and you go after your dreams wholeheartedly, you become free. Know what I mean? Move past the fear."

Time was running out. I had only two days left to get Cheese Stick's fax tray, and no one at Ricoh would return my phone calls. Frustrated, I decided to call back. This time there would be no more transfers. No more answering machines. No more Mr. Nice Guy.

As the phone started ringing, Cheese Stick wanted to see me.

"Hey man, I've got a beta [digital tape] of John McEnroe I need you to cue for me," he said. You can use the digital machine in Ariel's office."

The ever-vigilant boss walked into Ariel's office after I started working on his request.

"What are you doing?!" Cheese Stick yelled.

"I am doing what you told me to do and cueing the tape," I replied.

He poked me in the chest and said, "Look out little guy. This is not how you cue a tape."

Apparently the speed at which I was cueing the tape was not up to par with Cheese Stick's needs.

When he poked me in the chest and called me "little guy," I could feel the dent in my shirt and his annoying voice echo in my head, "Little guy...little guy...little guy." I did everything I could not to call him a name or poke him back. I could feel my blood rush to my face and veins pumping anger through my eyes. The transformation started to feel like what Bruce Banner would go through before turning into the Incredible Hulk. But before I turned into a green giant with purple shorts, smashing the digital beta machine and throwing Cheese Stick through the office wall, I remembered what my dad used to tell me before he passed away: Be the bigger man and walk away.

After the tape finished cueing, I left Ariel's office to cool down and finish that phone call to Ricoh. Before I stopped seeing red and started dealing with the fax problems, the phone rang again. Thankfully, it wasn't Cheese Stick this time. Instead, Actors' Rep was on the other end of the line.

My agent said he had a part for me on 'Third Watch.' He informed me that I needed to bring my own wardrobe. I would play two parts: a 'perp' and an 'orderly.' So I needed to bring some clothes that made me look like a criminal and some that made me look like a patient.

"Can you be on the set in four hours?" Mr. Brannan asked.

I told him that I could and hung up the

phone. I thought about calling Ricoh but decided that it could wait. Cheese Stick's attitude was really making me tired of this internship at NBC, and I decided that I would focus more on my acting, at least today.

I told Ariel that I was leaving for the day before heading home. As I rushed down Fifth Avenue, I tried to avoid walking through tourist photos. People are always photographing each other in Manhattan for their photo albums back home. Since I've moved to New York, I've probably gotten in about hundred or so family albums. I can see it now: grandma shows her pictures to her cronies, pointing out Time Square, the Statue of Liberty and the crazy guy in a black cap running past the family.

When I arrived at the train station I got stuck behind a lady with a cell phone. In New York everyone has wireless earpieces for talking on their cell phones. This particular woman was heading for the train station while cursing at someone on the other end of her earpiece. When I finally got a chance to pass her, I noticed that she didn't have any electronic devices around her ears. Technology, it seems, is making it harder and harder to tell the insane from the sane. Everyone appears to be talking to him or herself, so the crazies fit in. I quickly jogged past her and entered the station.

When I finally reached the train stop, I noticed something moving across the tracks: my first rat sighting. This thing was so large that it made that chihuahua from those Taco Bell commercials look like a bite-size chalupa.

see INTERN DIARIES, page 12

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader thanks Jeyes for opinion letter

How refreshing to read Ms. Jeyes' letter [in issue 1150]. I could not appreciate more the wit and honesty she brought to this important issue. In this day and age when feminist and liberal have become words almost synonymous with anti-American, we need people willing

to speak out in this manner more than ever. While the conservative right spouts more and more rhetoric about so-called values, Democrats and other liberals need to be willing, as Ms. Jeyes is, to speak out and demonstrate true values of equality and personal choice. Thank you,

Rebecca, for speaking out at a time when so many are remaining silent to our country's detriment.

Sincerely,

Anita Inman

advertisement



Right now *The Current* eats a big piece of the Student Activity Fee pie. If you vote for the \$1.25 direct fee, *The Current* won't eat from the same table, leaving more money for your student organization.

All for only \$1.25 per student per semester. Vote on April 20 and 21 through umsl.edu.

Vote for more pie. Vote for *The Current*.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Students can vote via the
UM-St. Louis
website with their
MyGateway login
and password.

Tsunami fundraiser to aid Sri Lankan school

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Just two months ago, UM-St. Louis Professor of criminology and criminal justice Bob Bursik took a plunge by cutting off his popular ponytail to raise money for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. Now, yet another criminology professor has organized a multi-year campaign for relief-fund donations.

Jody Miller, professor of criminology, has developed a long-term reconstruction project to rebuild a secondary school in Sri Lanka.

Michael Costello, international coordinator and adjunct professor for the Center for International Studies said that because of Miller's extensive research and frequent visits to Sri Lanka, she was inspired to

form this project.

"She has been going back and forth to Sri Lanka for over six years and has developed connections with other schools for this campaign," Costello said.

Miller said that she has been working since January trying to get permission for this project and that she has finally been able to get her fundraising campaign ideas established.

"The biggest concern is that most relief-aid agencies do not respond to immediate reconstruction issues," Miller said. "I wanted to focus on a school because the rebuilding of education at a working institution is important."

The school that the campaign will benefit is Thambilivul Maha Vidyalaya, a secondary school located on the east coast in Sri Lanka that suffered significant damage and devastation by the tsunami.

Thambilivul Maha Vidyalaya teaches over 1,400 students from grades six to 13.

Over 31,000 citizens of Sri Lanka were killed in this natural disaster, in which 163 schools in Sri Lanka were demolished or

destroyed.

Through this campaign, Miller will act as an on-site representative when visiting the area and will be able to report and document the project's progress.

"We are trying to make this a campus and community-wide effort through the help of students, faculty, staff, alumni and the university administration," Miller said. "I would also like to get student groups involved and establish stronger ties within the community."

Miller said they are setting up a fund through the Center for International Studies and are hoping to kickoff the campaign during International Week. They will have a booth at Mirthday for people to make donations.

If the campaign reaches the goal of \$15,000, the funds will fully assist with the rebuilding of the school's library, other building repairs and in purchasing new school furniture.

According to the project details document, the overall mission of

this project is "[to provide] UM-St. Louis students with an important educational opportunity, by raising their consciousness about another part of the world, and providing them with the hands-on opportunity to make a difference in addressing global problems and to develop a long term international exchange between UM-St. Louis and the educational community in Sri Lanka."

Miller said that she is also in the process of putting together a more detailed flier for the campus faculty.

"The more money we raise, the more we can help this school," Miller said.

To give a donation, stop by their booth at Mirthday on Wednesday, April 20, or make checks payable to UM-St. Louis and drop them off at the Center for International Studies. For more information about this relief fundraiser contact Jody Miller at 516-5426.

Tsunami fundraiser
Stop by the Mirthday booth on
Wednesday, April 20

For more information, contact
Criminology professor
Jodi Miller at 516-5426

Women artists shine at 'Venus Envy'

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Live music entertainment, visual art, dancing performances, food from local restaurants and area chefs, poetry readings and storytellers were only a few of the highlights of the 2005 St. Louis Venus Envy art exhibition held on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16.

Venus Envy, a St. Louis-based non-profit organization designed to promote the artistic capabilities of women in all forms of art, including visual, performance, talent and culinary, began hosting their public art festivities and celebrations in 1999.

Since the founding of this public cultural art event, Venus Envy has held major art exhibition shows each year in St. Louis, Memphis, Baton Rouge and in Davenport, Iowa.

This year's Venus Envy art attraction marked the seventh annual celebration.

Lauren Williams, Venus Envy volunteer, described the past St. Louis events.

"This is an event which brings the community together," Williams said. "In the past years, shows have been held at the St. Louis City Museum, on Cherokee Street and last year at the old bank building located on Gravois Road."

Williams said that planners of the event decided to extend the celebration for two days because of its overwhelming popularity.

"Last year we had 5,000 people attendance in only one night," Williams said.

The Venus Envy 2005 St. Louis event combined diversity, culture and talent to delight visitors from 7 p.m. until midnight.

Numerous St. Louis residents and artists came together at "The Grove" between Kentucky Avenue and Talmadge to take part in this event. Although the event was open

and free to the public, donations between \$4 to \$10 were encouraged.

Some of the artists who had work on display included Amy Ball, Deb Bush, Stacy Davis, Amy Harmon, Dianna Lucas, Sandy Miller and Lizzy Snider. The work ranged from installations, sculptures, oil paintings, clay pottery and photography.

Jenny Lineback, Venus Envy visitor, said that there was some art on display that she found fascinating.

"I liked the collection of the four photographs that capture different pictures, told a story about the abusive relationship that a girl is in and looks realistic," Lineback said. "I also liked the upside-down painted umbrellas display. Each umbrella was a different color, had different images and hidden messages on them."

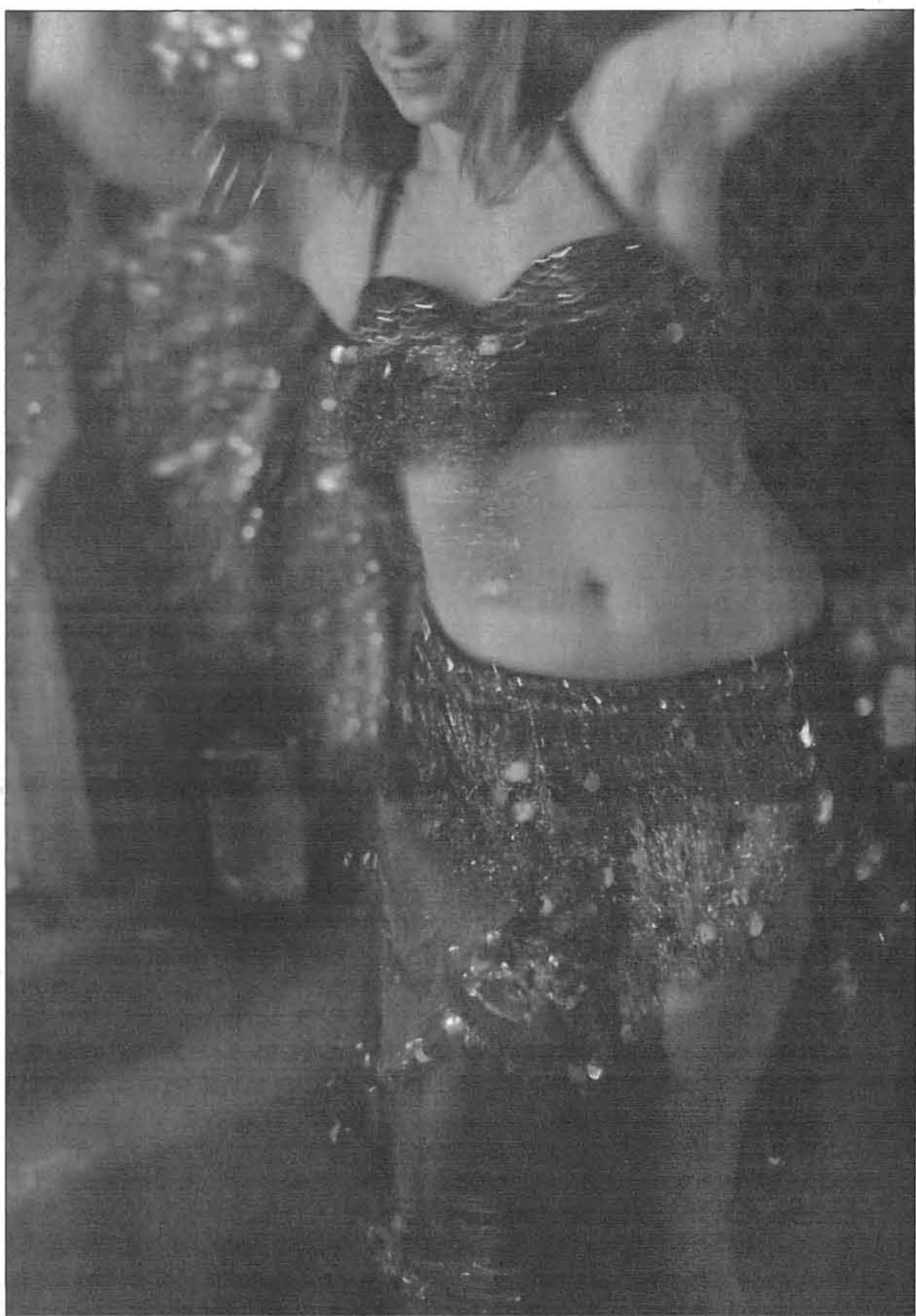
The productions put on by the performing artists were rock, pop, Indian music, theater drama monologues, poetry and short story readings, Middle Eastern dancers, Belly dancers and pole dancers.

Williams said food has always been an important part of the Venus Envy shows and that this year they had added more culinary artists.

Cindy Panian sold cookies and chocolate dipped strawberries to spectators. Thias House had mini quiches. Chickpeas Coffee House at The World Cafe had coffee drinks, smoothies, hummus and pitas. Other foods included a variety of desserts, cakes, sweet potato pies, chips and homemade dips.

Along with the food, bars were set up inside the main art exhibition building and outside near the Kentucky Stage and the G-Spot Stage. The bars gave people soda, beer, red wine or white wine for a donation.

To find out more information about Venus Envy's outreach and education programs, workshops, sponsors and the next upcoming event, visit www.venusenvy.org.



Erica Burrus/The Current

Belly dancer Penny Moskus performs for a large crowd outside in the streetlight at Venus Envy. Moskus belongs to the Belly Dance Mirage in St. Louis.

Retailer collects phones to fight abuse

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The Body Shop is helping fight against domestic violence and is assisting victims of abuse through their "Donate a Phone, Save a Life" program.

Leslie Danz, chairman of Weber Shandwick Public Relations Firm, said why this is a great way for people to get involved.

"This is a wonderful program to help support organizations working to rout out domestic violence," Danz said. "It is a great way for students to get involved with supporting a great cause."

Recently, The Body Shop, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Wireless Foundation and Lifetime Television conducted a research study which found that over 157 million Americans have known someone who has been in an abusive relationship.

The study also showed that 34 percent of women surveyed said that they would be embarrassed to tell others or ask for help if they were in a domestic violent relationship.

The "Donate a Phone, Save a Life" program hopes to collect used cell phones to be refurbished and distributed to female victims at women's shelters across the country. The phones will serve as a safety outlet for

those in need of help, during violent attacks, or for those who just need to talk.

Different national celebrities like hip-hop award winning singer Missy Elliot are supporting this campaign.

On the campaign's press release, Elliot was quoted, "I know from personal experience that this is a great cause that highlights an important and too often ignored issue. It is the easiest way to make a huge difference, and you might even save a life."

Joanne Calabrese, president of the Body Shop Americas Region said, "Millions of unused cell phones can be the difference between life and death for countless domestic violence victims."

The Body Shop's 300 nationwide retailers are participating in this campaign.

Some of the participating locations in the St. Louis area include: Crestwood Mall, downtown St. Louis, Union Station, the Galleria and West County Mall.

Deana Bolte, The Body Shop Galleria manager, said the campaign has been going great and described some of the other promotions and campaigns that the company has took part in.

"So far we have had at least 50 phones collected," Bolte said. "This campaign is part of the Women's Domestic Violence program and we



Cell Phone Drive to fight domestic violence

Drop off cellular phones at Body Shop stores, including stores at Crestwood Mall, Union Station, the Galleria and West County Mall

have had other campaigns and awareness programs like the AIDS bracelets, where 100 percent of the proceeds go towards Aids research and patients. During Christmas we have also helped raise and donate items and money for children suffering from cancer, which goes to area hospitals."

People who are interested in donating an old cell phone to aid abused women can do so at any of The Body Shop locations until August 31, 2005.

Women composers play tribute to baroque at PAC

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, April 13 the Blanche Touhill Performing Art Center featured women baroque composers in the Lee Theater. Five women composers were featured: Marie Bigot, Marianne Martines, Louise Reichardt, Jane Savage and Maria Szymanowska.

Patrick McKeon, events manger at the Touhill, said, "Many events like women baroque composers are open to everyone to come and enjoy a free event."

At center stage a black grand piano sat as Barbara Harbach introduced Marie Bigot to the audience. She was born in 1786, and caused a scandal when she was caught buggy-riding with Beethoven without a chaperone. She taught piano to Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn. Student Tzu-Hwa Ho played Bigot's Adagio - Allegro espressivo.

Born in 1744, Marianne Martines lived in the same house as Haydn and played 4-hand piano pieces with Mozart. She composed many songs and set the words in a classical manor. Some of her songs were "Se per tutti ordisce amore," "Per pieta bell' idol mio," and musical "Sinfonia."

Louis Reichardt was one of the first

women to support herself as a teacher, a composer and a choral conductor. She also was the first woman to open a public school for women. Reichardt was born in 1779 and wrote many folk songs, as well as 90 other songs. The pieces that were featured at the event included "Unruhiger Schlaf," "Des Schafers Kalage," "Herbstlied," "Der Spinnerin Nachtlid," "Se non piange un infelice," "Dem herrn" and "Morgenlied."

Maria Szymanowska was born in 1789 and composed over 100 pieces. She had three children and left her husband because he refused to allow her to pursue a professional musical career. Her piano playing was considered hugely innovative and Goethe fell madly in love with her. The pieces performed were "Peine et plaisir tout finira," "Romance du Saule," "Ballade," "Romance a la nuit," "Le connois-tu," and "Se spiegar."

UM-St. Louis Chamber Singers Lori Martin, Nita Reddy, Laura DeClue and Amanda Owens, performed along with Laura Medoendorp, Katharine Lawton Brown, Tzu-Hwa Ho and Barbara Harbach.

The evening ended with a performance like no other. The grand piano was moved and the stage was set up with an orchestra. Marianne Martines's piece "Sinfonia" closed the night.

ST. LOUIS POST-Dispatch

EDITOR

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the week's
best
bets

Wed. April 20

Web Design Seminar
West County Location

Those who attend this free seminar will have the opportunity to learn about the world of web design. Topics include HTML, Dreamweaver, Flash, and photo and artwork use. See Bulletin Board for additional information.

Wed. April 20

Mirthday

Mirthday will take place from noon to 10 p.m. April 20 near the lakes outside the MSC with games, carnival rides, face painting, performance artists, food and music. Z107.7 broadcasts live from noon to 2 p.m. DJ Charlie Chan will emcee the event from 2 to 6 p.m. Slu Cru, Logic and Aloha Mischeaux will perform starting at 6 p.m. Twista will headline the evening at 8 p.m.

Olympia Dukakis is highlight of conference



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Oscar Award-Winner Olympia Dukakis is greeted by Vassiliki Rapti, UM-St. Louis lecturer in Greek Studies, at the end of a day-long conference on Greek and Greek-American Women in the Arts. Rapti presented a paper on contemporary adaptations of women's roles in ancient Greek tragedies.

Visiting scholar discusses global food trade

BY MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

Students and faculty met in SSB 331 on Tuesday, April 12, to listen to Dr. Gabrielle Abels' lecture "Politicizing Food: European and American Responses to Biotechnology and Food Safety."

Joel Glassman, Director of the Center for International Studies, opened the event by welcoming and introducing Abels as a visiting assistant professor of science and technology studies at Bielefeld University in Bielefeld, Germany.

Abels began the lecture by describing the U.S. regulations and procedures for national and international trade of genetically modified food.

"In everyday life, we usually do not think about food as highly political issues, yet it is in many ways from

the national to the international level. Consumers have a legitimate interest in firstly, affordable, and secondly, safe food," Abels said. "Governments respond to this need by establishing regulatory agencies such as the FDA in the U.S. or by taxation policy on agricultural products."

When discussing food trade and food safety at the international level, Abels said food that is marketed in one country as safe for human consumption is also viewed under the same factors with the free trade policy. Although both countries have a policy of mutual recognition, she said that a plant or foodstuff regularly consumed in one country may not be considered as safe for human consumption in another country and that governments may impose national import bans or put special safety regulations in place.

Examples of these crops and food-

stuffs are genetically modified crops, biotechnology and genetically modified foods.

"This issue is furthermore complicated because in addition to trade and public health issues, environmental concerns come into play," she said. "The hypothesis that I want to put forward in my lecture is that two regulatory regimes for agro-food biotechnology have emerged since the 1990s: on the one hand a European EU-dominated regime which is based on so-called process-based regulation and which has in fact in recent years become even more stringent, and on the other hand a US-American, WTO-dominated regime that operates on the principle of product-based regulation."

Abels continued to explain how the United States has criticized the EU-dominated regime, saying that it

is too strict and restrictive. Because both countries have different views and attitudes directed towards the regulatory policies, Abels feels that the "EU policy is a response to economic globalization and an attempt to find meaningful social regulation and that the EU is also about countering a democratic deficit in the science/society relation as well as in the regulation of economic globalization."

Glassman asked Abels whether genetically modified food drives down the price of other produced foods, while others presented questions about the risk factors of GM foods.

Abels said that public opinion in Europe is not the same as in the United States and that it doesn't seem that Europe is becoming less-friendly; they are, however, very sensitive to political developments.

USA TODAY READERSHIP PROGRAM RETURNS FOR VOTING WEEK, from page 1

SGA Chairman Brian Rails said the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program wanted to renew a four-dayversion of the pilot program "to show the students what it is they're voting on."

"Some students are not going to remember the [earlier] pilot program," Rails said.

SGA Comptroller Aaron Golchert said that while he supported the readership program, he did not support a

short renewal of the pilot to coincide with the voting week.

"I like this program...but I feel this would be bribery," Golchert said. "I personally would like to get to read more newspapers for free, but it should be voted on in an ethical way."

SGA Treasurer Laurie Bainter countered that the extended pilot would be similar to reviewing information about candidates in any elec-

tion for political office. "When it comes time to vote, I'm going to review the candidates' biographies and look at all the information. This [pilot program] is a nice refresher to see what we're voting on."

Mary Paul, senior, social work, said that by distributing free papers during the week of voting, students could be misled to believe the program would be free. "It would only be accurate if we were charging [the

students]," Paul said. "And for them to assume we won't remember [the first pilot program], what an insult to our intelligence."

Zach Meyer, freshman, English, said the assembly was taking the issue too seriously.

"It's just advertising," Meyer said. "It isn't a malicious scheme to take over the world. It's selling newspapers. I mean, they're not trying to sell cyanide pills or anything."

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK, from page 1

This year marked the first Social Justice Week at UM-St. Louis, though the last two years the Catholic Newman Center had been sponsoring Homelessness Awareness Week. Social Justice Week evolved out of a wish to make the message of Homelessness Awareness Week more broad.

"We decided to broaden the message, not just to focus on homelessness but on other important issues in our society, though homelessness is obviously very important," Wassel said.

Social Justice Week began on Saturday, April 9 with a Day of Interfaith Service for Collegians from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

On Monday, an informational table was available in the Nosh from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and offered informational flyers, bumper stickers and fair trade chocolate bars for free.

On Tuesday, free food was on hand for Capital Punishment Day. At 7 p.m. Margaret Phillips, UM-St. Louis professor and member of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty, gave a talk on capital punishment followed by a screening of "Dead Man Walking" in the Pilot House.

"When executions first started again, it seemed to me to be barbaric and something to work against," Phillips said. "We believe when the state kills, it sends a message that killing is way to deal with problem people."

Phillips asked the crowd to get involved in projects that Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty are working on, specifically an execution scheduled for next week. For more information, go to www.moabolition.org.

Wednesday was Environmental

Day, which featured an informational table in the Nosh and campus cleanup from 2-4 p.m.

On Thursday, an informational booth in the Nosh from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. was provided concerning homelessness. At 7 p.m. in the SGA Chambers, a caseworker and a former homeless individual from the St. Patrick Center, a homeless shelter in downtown St. Louis, spoke on homelessness and poverty in St. Louis.

Following the speakers and food, everyone was invited to spend a night in a shantytown outside by the Millennium Center Lakes. The shantytown featured a bonfire and music as the attendees bonded. The highlight of the event was when everyone got in their sleeping bags and went to sleep in cardboard boxes. The event was meant to expose students to homeless conditions and show solidarity with the homeless.

On Friday morning, students gathered for the Urban Plunge, in which they visited the city and lived in poverty as much as possible in St. Louis for twelve hours.

"It is meant to get students out of their comfort zones a little bit and expose them to inner-city poverty in St. Louis," Wassel said. "Sometimes the college students here lead a sheltered life. They don't realize the poverty that is around them on campus. People don't know because they drive in and they drive out."

People participating in the Urban Plunge took public transportation to their three different worksites, the St. Patrick Center, Genesis II and Food Outreach, a food pantry that gives food to people with HIV and AIDS. Students then met at the Harbor Light Salvation Army soup kitchen to work and interact with St. Louis homeless.

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April 20, 2005

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SPORTS

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UPCOMING

Baseball

April 20

• vs. Quincy (DH)
Noon

April 26

• vs. S. Indiana(DH)
2 p.m.

May 7

• vs. St. Joseph's (DH)
Noon

Softball

April 26

• vs. Truman State
3:00 p.m.

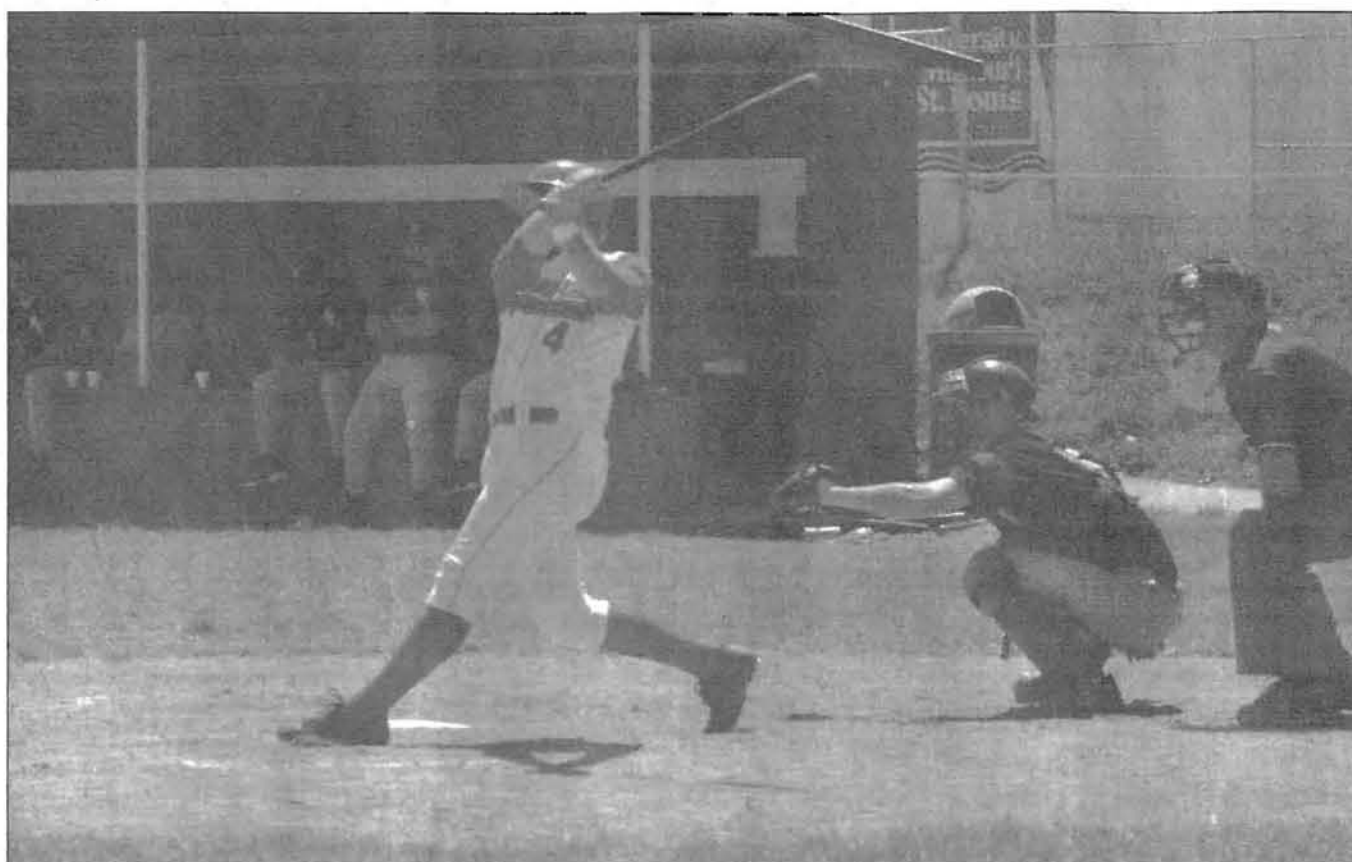
April 30

• vs. Kentucky Wesleyan
Noon

April 30

• vs. Northern Kentucky
Noon

• Admission to UM-St. Louis home games is free with a valid UMSL ID.



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

Tom Anderson takes a swing on Saturday afternoon, as the UM-St. Louis baseball team played Northern Kentucky University.

Baseball continues losing streak

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

After what began as a very promising start to this season for the baseball team, they have now lost an unbearable 14 of their last 16 games. This marks the first time under coach Brady's tenure that the team has unraveled so quickly.

This past weekend only added salt to the wound as the team lost four games in a row to conference rivals Northern Kentucky, a team which has never beaten the Rivermen in four straight until now.

In the opening game of the four-game weekend, Northern Kentucky got on the board early and often as they scored two runs in the third and one in the fifth for a quick 3-0 lead. After two more runs in the top of the sixth for the Norse, the Rivermen finally got on the board when Josh Morgan of the Rivermen had an RBI triple and Tom Anderson followed that effort with a home run to left field putting the score at 5-3 going into the seventh. Northern Kentucky would not succumb to the rally, as they would put up a rally of their own for three insurance runs in the top of the seventh for the 8-3 win.

Northern Kentucky struck quickly again in the second game, getting two runs in the first inning. The Rivermen managed to get

one run in the second inning, and two runs in the bottom of the third that tied the game at 3-3 going into the fourth. Just as things seemed to look up for the Rivermen, Northern Kentucky broke that tie as quickly as the Rivermen had earned it with three runs in the top half of the fourth inning and two more in the fifth to take an 8-3 lead. Northern would give up two more runs to the Rivermen before they added one final run in the ninth to hand the Rivermen another disappointing loss 9-5.

Head Coach Jim Brady commented on the games. "This season has been a roller coaster for us all, we have never experienced anything quite like this before. We have played well at times but our inconsistencies have shot us in the foot every time," said Brady.

After two tough losses the Rivermen tried to come out and salvage the rest of the weekend series as they played two more the next day. In the first game Northern Kentucky got two quick runs again in the top of the first inning for the lead. In a hole, the Rivermen were able to cut that lead in half in the second inning on an RBI single by Josh Thomas to make it 2-1. The game would stay close until the fourth inning when Northern Kentucky added a single run to cushion their lead to 3-1, and then scored four runs in the sixth inning to hand the Rivermen a 7-1 loss.

A hopeful Rivermen squad came out in the second game and grabbed an early lead getting an RBI single from Tom Anderson that scored Colby Hughes for a 1-0 lead. Northern Kentucky would eventually tie the game up with a single run in the second inning and then took a 3-1 lead with single runs in the top of the fourth and top of the fifth innings. In the bottom of the fifth, infielder Josh Thomas got a one-out single and Josh Morgan blasted a two-run homer to left center that tied the game at 3-3 and got the Rivermen back into the game. Northern Kentucky would respond once again in the eighth inning, getting a home run of their own for three more runs and another lead. They then added a run in the ninth to hang on for a 7-3 win.

Head coach Jim Brady commented again on the weekend. "We are having a lot of trouble generating offense. Ever since we came back from using the aluminum bats in Florida early on in the season we have not been able to get the same results with the wooden bats. We just need to hopefully win a few to gain back some of the momentum that we have already lost," said Brady.

The Rivermen are now 14-19 on the season and 6-16 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Rivermen will be at home again this week when they host Quincy for a doubleheader.

Riverwomen softball takes two of four

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

This season has been what one would call inconsistent for the UM-St. Louis softball team, as they have struggled all year to find a rhythm suitable to their game. Over this past week the softball team has started to find that rhythm little by little as they threw out a great effort in splitting two conference doubleheaders.

In the first pair of games the Riverwomen played visitor to conference rival Southern Indiana, and came to win from the get go. In the opener, the Riverwomen won a marathon game that went 16 innings. Southern Indiana got the first run of the game in the third inning before the Riverwomen came back to tie it up in the sixth inning with a run of their own, off of outfielder Kristin Economon's RBI single that scored teammate Shauna Wilson to knot the game at 1-1.

The game then went into extra innings, as neither team could score a run, inning after inning. It wasn't until the 16th inning that the Riverwomen finally broke through as Corie Jones led the inning off with a walk and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. Lisa Neukirch followed up the bunt with an RBI single to score Jones and give her team the 2-1 win.

Starting pitcher Jessica Coffey pitched the entire 16 innings, giving up just one run on 11 hits while striking out eight to pick up the unforgettable win.

Heading into the second game the Riverwomen were confident that they could keep the momentum going and grab another, but it was not to be as Southern Indiana bounced back to win the second game by the margin of 5-3. The Riverwomen managed to grab the lead with two runs in the fourth inning off of an RBI single by team member Kim Kulaitis. The Riverwomen got another run in the fifth on an RBI single by Jessica Keim for a 3-1 lead, but then Southern Indiana broke through and scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth to take the 5-3 win out from under the Riverwomen.

Sophomore Emily Wagoner commented on the games. "We played well in both games. It was good to see that we finally played close to our potential and that we showed that we are hard to beat, but we just couldn't get the win in the second game although we still played well," said Wagoner.

After a tough loss in the second game the team headed to play nationally ranked SIU-Edwardsville for their second conference double-header in as many days. In the first game, the Riverwomen came out and took the early

lead with a run in the second inning on a lead off double by Lisa Neukirch who later scored on an RBI single by teammate Megan Raney for a 1-0 lead. SIU-Edwardsville would come back to tie the game in the fourth with a single run and took the lead in the fifth with another run. The Cougars then added an insurance run in the sixth inning for the close 3-1 victory.

The second game proved to be a much different story as the Riverwomen came out strong, taking another early lead with a run in the third inning. Pitcher Emily Wagoner doubled and moved to third on a ground out before scoring on a fielding error by the Cougars to give the Riverwomen the 1-0 advantage. The Riverwomen then added a run in the fifth inning with a two-out rally. It was Wagoner who got it going again, by hitting a single through the left side of the infield. She would then move to second on another error by the cougars. Only two batters later senior third baseman Kim Kulaitis hit an RBI single to give the Riverwomen a 2-0 lead.

The Cougars would rally to score a run in the sixth, but the Riverwomen were not to be outdone this time as they held on for the 2-1 victory. In addition to scoring both runs in the game, sophomore Emily Wagoner also picked up the win, pitching 6.0 innings and allowing just one run on five hits.

Men's tennis finishes one spot short of Regionals

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team finished their season this weekend with a fourth place finish at the conference tournament. The finish is one position lower than the last three years. Coach Rick Gyllenberg was pleased with the effort, despite not reaching the Regional Tournament.

"I think we did well considering what we went through this year. We lost several players and had some injuries, but we played anyway. Next year our players are returning and we will have some new faces, so we hope to rebuild," Gyllenberg said.

On the first day of competition at the Conference Tournament the Rivermen defeated foe SIU-Edwardsville 5-3 in a closely contested match. Stephen Pobst and Mike Schaaf won at number one doubles 8-5, but the Rivermen dropped number two and three doubles by scores of 8-3 and 8-1, respectively.

Down 2-1 after doubles the Rivermen had to win four of the six singles matches to get the win - which they managed to do.

The Rivermen only dropped one match in singles, a 6-2, 6-3 loss by Schaaf at two. After Francis Lam, Stephen Pobst, and Max Bugner had all won, the match was 4-3 in the Rivermen's advantage with Raj Saini and Ryan Burgdorfer still playing. Burgdorfer proved to be the Rivermen's deciding match, winning 7-5, 7-5.

The win over SIU-Edwardsville sent the Rivermen into the semifinals against powerhouse University of Southern Indiana. USI proved to be too much for the Rivermen with a 5-0 shutout. Despite the total score, the Rivermen did not lack opportunities. At number one doubles Schaaf and Pobst were up 6-2 before losing 9-8, and Bugner and Burgdorfer were tied at 5-5 before falling 8-5. After getting out to a 3-0 lead after doubles, USI finished the Rivermen off by winning only one singles match, a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Burgdorfer. The fifth win came from a default by Raj Saini, who

was unable to play due to severe shin splints.

On April 16 the Rivermen played for third place against Northern Kentucky University. The match was closely contested throughout, and there were plenty of opportunities to win by both teams before NKU pulled out the 5-2 victory.

The Rivermen had an advantage after doubles. Pobst and Schaaf won 8-6 at one and Lam and Saini won 8-4 at three, giving the team a 2-1 lead going into singles. The positioning was perfect for the Rivermen, who won the top two singles matches after losing all three doubles in the two teams' earlier outing. The singles this time, however, were very different. Lam lost 6-4, 6-4 at number one and Schaaf lost 6-3, 6-4 at number two. The only bright spot in singles was Saini, who was up 6-4, 5-0 when the match was called.

Gyllenberg thought the Rivermen had a chance. "We feel like we could have won today, even considering the setbacks. Mike [Schaaf] and Francis [Lam] won those matches last time, they just couldn't do it today."

Varsity vs. club sports at UMSL: my perspective

In a recent letter to the editor a member of the UM-St. Louis In-line Hockey team censured *The Current* for not covering more of their games, seeing as how they win more than any of the varsity sports. The complaint is justified. Something that represents the University well should get some coverage. Our in-line hockey team is the best in their division and deserves credit.

But exactly what division is that? The letter to the editor gave me an idea of how necessary it is to explain the difference between the types of sports that we have here at UM-St. Louis. Being the best player in the Monday night volleyball league by no means is comparable to playing volleyball for the University, and comparing a varsity athlete to a recreational player would be ridiculous.

The highest level of organized sports here at UM-St. Louis is Division II Varsity Athletics. All sports connected to the Athletic Department, such as basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, etc., are considered to be NCAA sanctioned sports at the Division II level. The level of competition among such athletes is high enough to offer scholarships and be recognized by the University as a whole. There are many recruiting rules that govern NCAA Division II Athletics, and full-time coaches are hired to produce winning teams. NCAA Division II Athletics is a step down from Division I Athletics, which is dominated by big schools like the University of North Carolina or Duke University.

The next level of organized sport at UM-St. Louis is known as "Club" sports. Club sports are organized by either a benefactor or students interested in a particular sport. They may be supported by some affiliate of the University such as Student Life, but they are not considered part of the athletic program and do not represent the school in NCAA Division II Athletics. When a group of students does form an on-campus team, they may then start playing students from other schools who are doing the same thing. NCAA recruiting rules do not cover club sports, but at the same time students don't attend schools to play club sports like they do varsity sports. Our in-line hockey team is a club sport and competes against other Division II schools in an organized club league. Last year they were the champions of that nationwide league.



JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

see VARSITY VS. CLUB SPORTS, page 9

Women's golf takes third in two tournaments

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's golf team has been playing well of late, racking up two top-five finishes the past two weekends. The team placed third in both the St. Francis Invitational and the McKendree Invitational.

UM-St. Louis golfer Lauren Glenn, senior, was able to capture the individual crown at the St. Francis Invitational with a 77 on the second day of the tournament. Glenn shot a 41 on the front nine, and had a tournament best 36 on the back nine, shooting three strokes better than any other player in the field on the back nine. It was the second individual tournament win of the year for Glenn, having won the honor at UM-St. Louis Fall Invitational back in September. "As a senior it's important to me that we're playing so well as a team right now and it's exciting that I personally am playing well because it's important for me to end my career here on a good note," Glenn said.

As a team the Riverwomen shot a 346, which was 10 strokes back of the lead. Donna Lehmuth also had an impressive showing finishing in fourth place with an 82. Ashley Vincent and Nichole Voss shot a 93 and 94, respectively. Both Whitney Novack and Shannon Valowe finished with a 96. Melissa Mezel shot a 98.

The tournament that the team was able to put it all together, however, was this past weekend at the McKendree Invitational. As a team the Riverwomen shot a 329 on the first day of the tournament, besting their previous team low score of 342 by 13 strokes. The squad stayed hot on the second day of the tournament shooting a 335 and finishing third as a team just two strokes behind champion William Woods. "This was a great tournament and may prove to be a turning point in our season. Everyone stepped up and played well," head coach James Earle said.

Donna Lehmuth and Lauren Glenn were once again the stars for the team. Lehmuth shot a tournament best 76 on the first day and followed that up with an 82 in the second round, finishing the tournament tied for second place. Consistency paid off for Glenn as she shot 78's on both days and ended up tied for the lead, but ended up losing in a one hole playoff.

see WOMEN'S GOLF, page 9

Rivermen inline hockey makes it to Nationals

But UMSL, last year's national champions, fall during first round

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis Inline Hockey Team fell short at the National Tournament in Ft. Collins, Colorado on April 16. Sixteen of the nation's best teams were invited to compete. UM-St. Louis lost in the opening round to Hofstra University by a score of 7-6, despite leading 6-5 late in the third period. The loss was a surprise to the team, who may have

gone to the tournament a little bit too confident, according to goalie Thomas Ames. "It's hard to repeat as National Champions. Maybe we came in a bit too cocky. We should have taken our time and scouted the opponents more. National competition is much more difficult than Regionals, and we were still playing like it was Regionals," Ames said. Despite the loss, the inline hockey team has nothing to feel ashamed about. They finished the year with a 23-7-3 overall record, including a 9-2-1 record against opponents from the Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League - including Washington University, Saint Louis University, and Truman State. The

Regional Championship was a first for the team, according to team captain James Wetton. "We had a great season and we won the Regional Championship for the first time. Unfortunately at Nationals we didn't play well, but a lot of guys are coming back so we'll be here again next year. It was harder going into the tournament as National Champions; last year we entered kind of under the radar. We had a target on our back this year," Wetton said. The inline team also added several individual successes to their Regional Championship. Wetton, who scored 42 points on the year, ranked 6th in the nation offensively. Will Roestel, another offensive play-

er, also entered the National Rankings at 13th with 39 points. The two were joined by Ames who qualified as the seventh best goalie in the country. Ames had a goals-against average of 2.74 and notched 220 saves on the year (it should be mentioned that the number one, two, and four ranked goalies all played less than five games). While Wetton and Roestel ranked first and second in regionals, other UM-St. Louis players also ranked highly in Regional competition. Jon Girard scored 21 points on the year for an 11th place ranking and Zach Stacy and Doug Purk each scored 19 points to tie for 13th. Ames finished just behind Washington University's goalie Dave Garland for second.

VARSITY VS. CLUB SPORTS, from page 8

Intramurals is the lowest level of organized sport at UM-St. Louis. They are leagues organized by dividing the student body into different teams to play one another. There are often times very good intramural teams, and if a team has won the intramural title it may compete against other winning teams from different universities. In the past UM-St. Louis has sent intramural basketball teams to places like Houston and Atlanta to compete against the best teams from other schools.

To further illustrate the difference, I'll use an example. Every year Campus Recreation holds an intramural tennis tournament. The winners are decent tennis players. They defeated all of their UM-St. Louis competition, but does that make them the best tennis players at the University? Of course not. Some of the players that are better are former varsity tennis players that still attend. If they got together to form a club team and competed in a national tournament they would have a very

good chance at winning the national club championship (seeing as how several advanced to regionals while playing for varsity). But after winning that championship, would they have the right to claim that they were the only winning team on campus and berate the varsity team for not winning the NCAA Division II National Championship? Again, of course not. While their abilities are impressive against club athletes, they are far from capable of defeating the best varsity

athletes and therefore are in no position to judge others. The difference between intramurals and clubs is big, the difference between clubs and varsity is huge. I think my point is clear. We have athletes that train and work very hard at this University. They play the best, and sometimes lose more than they win. It's part of playing top-notch competition. If anyone can judge them it is people who have filled their shoes, not people who have never competed at their level.

EWANGO WINS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE, from page 1

Ewango was a senior staff member and leader of the botanical training team for employees, when the fighting resumed in 2002. When other senior staff members left for safety reasons or to attend academic conferences, Ewango was the only senior staff member that remained. "I saw that if all the senior staff left, it would be bad," Ewango said. "I decided to stay to do what I could and save what I could." He was concerned that if he left, the rest of the staff would abandon the research center, and valuable samples, data and equipment would be lost to looting. He also realized that the neighboring village looked to the senior staff for leadership and that the research center gave stability to the area, so he stayed.

When the soldiers reached the research center, he acted with bravery and determination, hiding some of the center's equipment, preserving specimens and data, working with local villagers to protect and feed the rare Okapi and attempting to continue his research. Ewango counseled frightened villagers on how to behave around the soldiers to avoid being killed. Meanwhile, he managed to keep in contact with colleagues by periodically sneaking into the forest to use a hidden laptop computer with a satellite link. The Goldman Prize is awarded for preserving the natural environment in different ways, by protecting endangered ecosystems and species, promoting sustainability or influencing

environmental policies. Recipients are also selected for their significant and sustained contributions for the environment. The emphasis is also on finding inspiring individuals who take personal risks to protect the environment and people from threats to environmental quality. Scientists, academics or government officials must go beyond what is expected as part of their work to qualify for consideration, which Ewango did in every respect. Ewango received \$125,000, which he wants to contribute toward a library for the research center and continue his own research. He hopes to put some money towards his family's future, recognizing the sacrifices they made when he stayed at the research center.

Ewango hopes to be accepted into the doctorate program at UM-St. Louis, as he likes the link between the University and the Missouri Botanical Garden, where he works as a research botanist. In the tropics, he said UM-St. Louis is known worldwide. In the future, he hopes to work with the government of his country to convince them of the value of conserving their forest area and create a plan for sustainable development. Ewango also hopes to teach others to have "a passion for conservation" and train more Congolese students as researchers. He hopes to encourage his fellow countrymen to appreciate their natural world and is optimistic about success. "Common sense is prevailing with the end of the war," he said.

Men's golf places ninth at GLVC

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's golf squad struggled to a 9th place finish at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament early last week. Standing out above the team's performance however, was the play of junior Michael Lueders, who finished the event tied for third in the individual standings.

Lueders' third place finish matched the best individual finish by a UM-St. Louis golfer since the Rivermen joined the GLVC, equaling the third place finish in the 2000 GLVC tournament by former UM-St. Louis golfer Dennis Lees. Lueders three-round score of 220 (74-76-70) was the best ever tournament score of any Rivermen golfer at the GLVC tournament.

After starting the tournament with an opening round 74, Lueders shot a 76 in the second round. He then finished strong with a tournament best round of 70 in his final round. That finish catapulted Lueders to a top-five finish and left him just four strokes off the top score of 216. "Going into that last round I just never gave up on myself or my team," Lueders said, "I was mostly just focusing on trying to make some putts and grind it out...and I'm pretty happy with how it turned

out." Rain was scattered throughout the three-day event at the Otter Creek Golf Course in Columbus, Indiana. According to Coach Dustin Ashby, the conditions did not seem to have a huge impact on Lueder's game. "The golf course was playing really tough, especially on day two," Coach Ashby said, "but Mike consistently hit the ball well and really did a great job to get back into contention like he did." Lueders was coming off two middle-of-the-pack finishes in the both the Rivermen Invitational and the Bellarmine Invitational. "Michael has had a good semester, but I think this was the tournament where he put it all together and had his breakthrough performance," Coach Ashby said. Of the other UM-St. Louis golfers in the tournament, Diego Jimenez tied for 32nd with a 237 (73-80-84) and David Archibald placed 43rd with a 250 (83-85-82). Marcus Deckert came in 47th after shooting a 272 (80-88-104) and Eric Fakes took 49th with a 277 (86-96-95). Overall, the Rivermen were doomed by shooting 329 and 331 in the second and third rounds, respectively. Those rounds were the two highest team scores of the tournament. The team finished the event by placing ninth out of the 10 competing teams with a three-round score of 970 (310-329-331).

WOMEN'S GOLF, from page 8

"Lauren Glenn keeps elevating her game and there really is no limit to what she can accomplish," Coach Earle said, "And Donna keeps improving and has shown that she can win any tournament at any time. Of the other golfers Ashley Vincent had a two-day total of 176. Nichole Voss shot a personal best 84

on the second day to go along with her first round 91. Shannon Wallowe and Melissa Mezel shot two-day totals of 190 and 183, respectively. Whitney Novack was also able to obtain a personal best score, shooting an 87 in the second round after shooting a 94 in the first round.

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the week's
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Wed. April 20
'Path to War' screening

Film screening and panel discussion of HBO film "Path to War," about how American became embroiled in Vietnam, starring Michael Gambon, Alec Baldwin, and Donald Sutherland. Panelists include the film's co-producer Howard Dratch, who also teaches at University of California's School of Cinema, Timothy Lomperis (SLU Political Science Dept.), Minsoo Kang (UMSL History Dept.) Kevin Fernlund and Gerda Ray. Sponsored by Center for the Humanities. For more information, call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

Thursday April 21
'What is an Irish Movie?'

Lecture by Dr. Joan Fitzpatrick Dean looks at some of best known Irish movies, including "The Quiet Man," "The Crying Game" and "The Commitments," and talks about the Irish movie industry, the 90s economic boom and changes in Irish culture. The lecture is at 12:30 p.m., in 331 SSB. Sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the campus Irish studies program. For more information, call 516-5753.

Thursday April 21 -
Saturday April 23
St. Louis Jazz Festival

Thurs April 21- Sat April 23
St. Louis Jazz Festival
The 2005 Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival will take place April 21-23, at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The UMSL Jazz Ensemble will perform April 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. and this performance is free. Marilyn Maye will perform on April 22. Maye, who appeared a record 77 times on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, will perform a "Tribute to Johnny." For more information, call Dawn at 636-397-5108 or the Touhill PAC at 516-4949.

MOVIE REVIEW

Action-comedy 'Sahara' entertains

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Twenty minutes into the action-packed "Sahara," a single word popped into my mind unbidden: MacGyver.

Maybe I have seen too much "The Simpsons," but I could not help thinking of the fictional TV character who excels in getting out of tight spots by making elaborate tools out of strings and tin foil when watching action hero Mathew McConaughey and comic sidekick Steve Zahn generally dodge certain death through a series of improvised tools, bombs and weapons assembled out of whatever is handy.

My expectations for this movie were low but I found it surprisingly entertaining. The action-comedy "Sahara" starts out improbable, with a pair of ex-military salvage divers looking for a Civil War ironclad boat, which might have a secret treasure, in the Sahara desert. And it gets more

far-fetched from there. However, director Breck Eisner's decision to play the action in "Sahara" with a comic bent, makes it surprisingly entertaining. Although it never reaches the level of "Indiana Jones," it is a fun movie, thanks mostly to the comic spin and Steve Zahn.

Based on a Dirk Pitt adventure by action novelist Clive Cussler, Mathew McConaughey plays the heroic romantic lead Dirk Pitt, with Steve Zahn as his handyman sidekick Al Giordino. These former military experts are now in the high-end marine salvage business with NUMA, a non-profit operation run by a retired Admiral (William H. Macy) and which gives the adventurers a high tech boat and deep pockets. Penelope Cruz plays the romantic interest, as World Health Organization doctor Eva Rojas, who is in Africa to track the source of a deadly, mysterious illness. Clues point both the doctor and the treasure hunters to the same neighboring country, which is embroiled in a civil war, as Toureg warriors struggle for

freedom from the country's corrupt dictator.

Any movie fan is likely to see there are enough stereotypical plot and characters to sink any action movie, so making a straightforward action movie would have been a challenge. Rather than trying to find a way to keep the audience from laughing at, or snoozing through, this creaky collection of conventions, the filmmakers went the opposite way by embracing its inner comedy and letting that carry the action along. Once comically disconnected from reality, the film was free to build new heights of the improbable.

Apparently, the film's story and characters differ greatly from the novel. Cussler reportedly tried to sue over the changes since he was supposed to have script approval, so if you are a fan of his books, be warned. While I found the movie amusing, I am generally opposed to the common Hollywood practice of taking a popular story or character and altering it into something unrecognizable, as this is unfair to the fans. There are

plenty of lesser-known works to adapt into something else.

Although it slants comic, "Sahara" keeps enough action movie flavor to also entertain with its wild rides, which often take place to a soundtrack of thumping, familiar old hits from the 60s and 70s.

There is also the expected romantic flirtation between Dr. Rojas and the dashing Dirk Pitt, the "buddy" patter between Dirk and sidekick Al, the crusty boss Admiral Sandecker, and a wealthy (French) industrialist (Lambert Wilson) who bankrolls the treasure-hunting salvage operations. Of course, there is a ruthless dictator, General Kazim (Lennie James) and a noble Toureg leader, Immam (Jude Akuwudike).

Steve Zahn turns in the best performance in this film as the weird Al, a wisecracking, disheveled oddball with a series of beaten-up favorite hats and a knack for doing the impossible to save their skins. Moviegoers might recognize Lambert Wilson, who played the Merovingian in the Matrix movies, or Lennie James who

played a less-than-successful criminal in "Snatch." Wilson is good as the elegant businessman and James is sometimes surprisingly chilling as the intelligent and immoral dictator. Both McConaughey and Cruz are adequate in their roles as the cocky, romantic hero and the serious, committed doctor, and they do have a little romantic chemistry. Interestingly, this project was originally dreamt up before 2001, with Hugh Jackman in the lead, which could have been a better choice, and was once rumored to be considering Tom Cruise for the part, which would not. Through many delays, McConaughey ended up with the part.

One of the problems I have with many "mindless entertainment" films is that they are not entertaining enough. "Sahara" gets around the familiar and predictable parts of the action movie by being so silly and comic that you are laughing too much not to be entertained. While it is no "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and certainly not high art, it delivers a surprising amount of entertainment and fun.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Webster's Boardwalk Cafe will delight springtime diners

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are ever roaming around Webster Groves and you get a little hungry, pop into the Boardwalk Cafe for delicious eating at your leisure.

The first thing customers notice when walking up to the restaurant is that the door stands open, inviting in the hungry. The restaurant is small, with indoor and outdoor seating. Inside, the walls are two colors-peach on top, blue on the bottom, maybe symbolizing the sand meeting the ocean. The restaurant was minimally decorated, but that did not take away from its charm. Black and white photos hung on the walls alongside big blue fish. The kitchen is open, surrounded on two sides by counter with a small blue and white awning hanging overhead. A small handful of tables and booths are scattered across the blue and white tiled floor.

My friend and I arrived at the restaurant on Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. The restaurant had several patrons but was not filled to capacity. We were seated at a high table near the window. We took several minutes to peruse the menu. Items offered include appetizers, salads, sandwiches, pasta and entrees. Breakfast is offered for the early birds, and those items include omelets, eggs, breakfast sandwiches, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles and more. My friend and I each opted for the pan-seared chicken breast (\$12.95). This entree is "topped with a light and creamy fresh herb sauce with tomatoes, garlic, and Portobello mushrooms." All entrees are served after 4 p.m., and come with sour cream and chive whipped potatoes and mixed vegetable stir fry. Side salads are extra. After a 30 minute wait, our



Erica Burrus/The Current

Big or small, every plate is served with the look of perfection at the Boardwalk Cafe.

food came out. The mound of mashed potatoes sat in the middle of the plate, surrounded by the chicken and vegetables. The food was hot and delicious. The meal was well worth the wait. Conversation consisted mainly of how good the food was.

While devouring our delicious food, we were able to meet the owner, who was also waiting tables and seat-

ing patrons. He introduced himself as Michael Oransky and told us the restaurant had been open for three years. Around mouthfuls of food, we were able to tell him how good his food was and he was appreciative.

The service at Boardwalk Cafe is good. The waitresses are friendly and make themselves available to the patrons, checking on them often. The

owner is personable, talking to the patrons and also making himself available.

The Boardwalk Cafe is a good restaurant to visit on a calm spring night. Dress is casual, and the atmosphere is relaxing. Beach music floats through the air, along with the soft hum of the outside and the other patrons. Hours are Tuesday to Friday,

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays. Oransky said Saturday and Sunday mornings are their busiest time.

Stop in and visit the Boardwalk Cafe, even if you are not in the Webster area. Talk with the owner, relax with your friends or enjoy a meal with yourself and a book.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

CuppaJo's is a quality find

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are looking for a place to relax after a long day, head over to CuppaJo's Coffee House and Roastery in Weldon Springs to have some time to yourself.

My friend and I arrived on a Sunday evening at around 5 p.m. There were a few patrons sitting at some of the tables. There were several lights overhead, but they gave off a soft glow. We approached the counter and looked over the menu above the counter. Items offered include smoothies, tea and chai, coffee, espresso drinks, Jo-wiches, Monte Cristo sandwich, quesadillas, Jo burritos, matted waffles, French toast and much more. My friend ordered a caramel machiatto and a bagel. I ordered a hot chocolate and a bagel. We sat on a couch in the back of the coffeehouse. There was a chair next to the couch, and a coffee table piled with different magazines rested in front of us. We sat down and stretched, taking in the cozy atmosphere and pushing everything out of our minds. I later went up for a slice of turtle cheesecake that was heavenly.

CuppaJo's opened in September

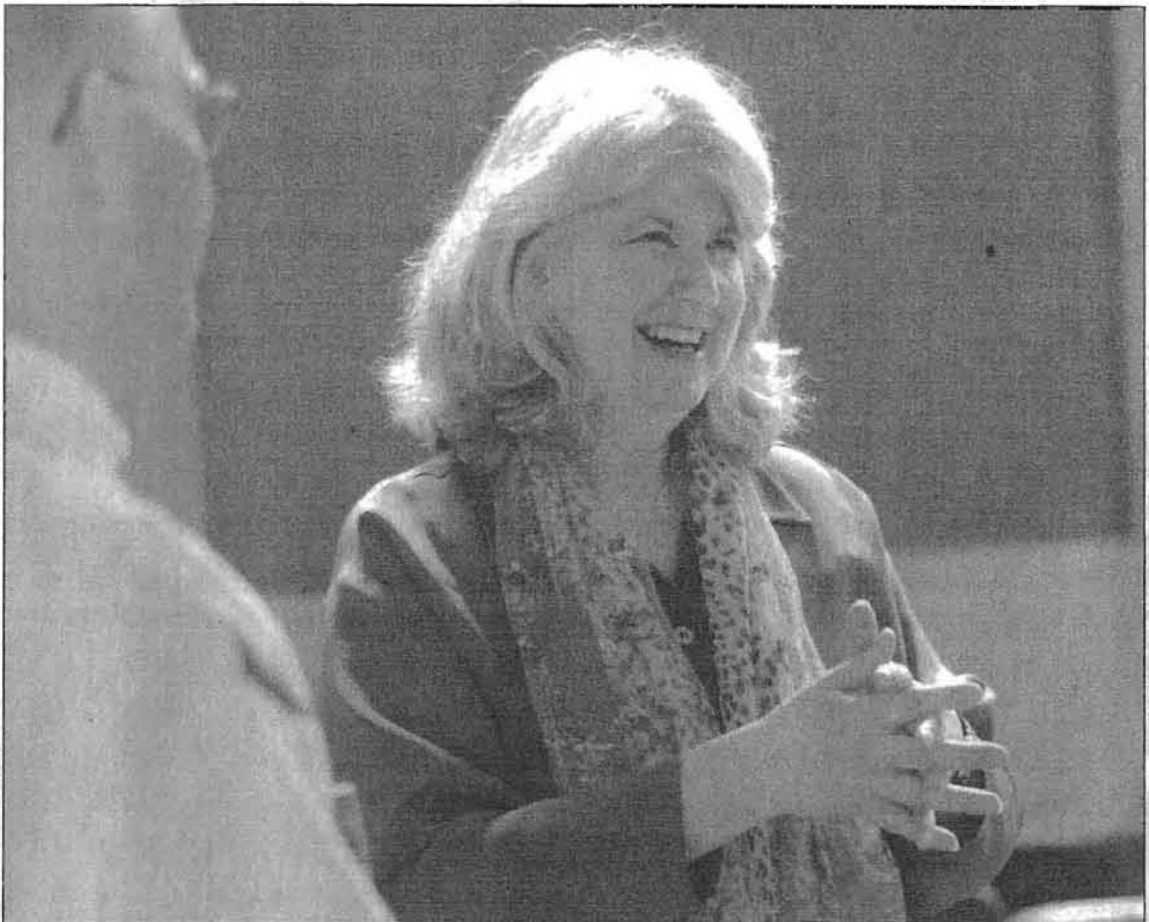
of 2002 by owners Steve Anderson and Kevin Monroe. They wanted to create a coffeehouse that emanated a sense of community, and it worked. Many different people flock to this little joint including artists, musicians, Bible groups.

Service is good at CuppaJo's. The man behind the counter was friendly, asking us how our day was, and checking to make sure our food and drinks were okay; he even took away our dirty dishes.

CuppaJo's has events on certain days of the week. On Mondays, it is double stamp day as well as open mike night. Tuesdays is the bean special. Buy one pound of beans, get a half a pound free. On Wednesdays, you can buy a dessert for half price for buying a \$3 drink. Thursdays has a buffet and live jazz. CuppaJo's also offers catering, unique fundraising items and they allow musicians to play the venue. Visit their website at www.icuppaJo.com for more upcoming events and details.

CuppaJo's is open seven days a week. Hours are: Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. They are located at 1009 Wolfrum Rd., just south of Mid Rivers Mall Drive.

On the other side of the camera...



Erica Burrus/The Current

Photographer Rosamond Purcell speaks with students and faculty after her lecture Wednesday evening. Purcell visited UM-St. Louis this week to critique student work and give a lecture at Gallery 210.

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Art teacher's classroom is behind bars

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Last Monday, author Phyllis Kornfield presented her book "Cellblock Vision: Prison Art in America" at UM-St. Louis and shared her experience working with artists in prison.

She said that her book portrays a great deal of respect for these inmates and that she has dedicated her time and energy to not only teaching them art, but to teaching society about the misfortunes that occur behind the walls of correctional facilities; she has chosen to do this through the art of these inmates.

"Prison is an industry and it puts a lot of money into some people's pockets," Kornfield said.

Kornfield has been an artist and art teacher to prisoners for over 17 years. The United States has over two million people incarcerated. Currently, 16 states have lower populations than the number of people incarcerated in the nation's correctional facilities. However, the prison system is supposed to be a place to hold people who have posed a threat to society and rehabilitate them, but very little rehabilitation is occurring.

"Stripped of freedom, beautiful sur-

roundings and supportive community, these convicts draw pictures of what their souls see. They sketch their way past their despair. They give us insight into what it means to be a thrown-away-one. Their pictures cry out - I, too, can see. I, too, can create. I too am a human being," expressed Sister Helen Prejean, author of the book "Dead Man Walking," in reference to the imprisoned population.

Kornfield described what it was like when she began working with inmates.

"The first day my new students brought me amazing pictures and objects they had already made without benefit of art class or real supplies," Kornfield said.

In a room with over 30 people, Kornfield showed a slide show of art from the inmates. The art showed the creativity, hostility and hope of the inmates. One of the inmates made a handbag out of 450 packs of Kool cigarettes. They also used toiletries such as soap, toilet paper, shampoo and toothpaste to make little chairs, a carving of a man lying in a prison bed who had overdosed on drugs, little inmate figurines and loads of other creative things such as a man in a jail cell praying.

Some of the artists gave explanations to their work on the slides.

"I passed a man's cell one day who was praying and it stayed on my mind. Here I'm showing a cage; a person isn't supposed to be like that. When people see it then they could learn not to get in trouble so they won't have to go through this," stated T.R., an inmate at Franklin County House of Correction.

Aside from the art created without the "proper art supplies," these men and women also created beautiful drawings that reflected their current state and the different realms of their imagination. Some of the prison artists have gone on to have their work represented in a gallery.

Despite the many negative aspects of today's correctional facility, Kornfield has given hope to many of the inmates through her art class.

"I don't allow the prisoners to speak personally or negatively in my class because I want transformation for them," Kornfield stated. "They're not the bad ones and we're the good ones."

For more information on the current conditions of the United States correctional facilities as told by inmates and workers and to look inside Cell Block Visions, log onto www.cellblockvisions.com.

SCIENCE COLUMN, from page 5

Although he convinced the leaders, the soldiers themselves were more difficult to control and most of the facility's equipment was eventually looted, including some he had hidden in the forest.

The armies fought three battles in the area. As the war wore on, the situation deteriorated. There were rumors of cannibalism, and there was no food and no medicines left in the area. One of the villagers betrayed Ewango by telling the soldiers that the research facility was connected to Americans, so there might be hidden money there. The soldiers came to interrogate Ewango and, despite his assurances that it was not true, they beat him. When they left, Ewango hid in the forest and decided the time to leave had come. He used the laptop computer to contact UNESCO and Gillman International Conservation and Wildlife Conservation Society, organizations connected to the research facility, to tell them he was leaving. He also received an email that told him he had been accepted into the graduate program at UM-St. Louis, where he had applied six months earlier, and they assured him they would help him if he could get out of the country.

The motorcycle had been looted, so he just walked out of the area. With no food or water, he walked 85 kilometers the first day, heading toward Beni, the town where his family was living 400 kilometers away. The next day he encountered a man with a bicycle who was willing to give him a lift if he could pay. With no money, Comeille had to persuade this fellow that his family would pay when he arrived.

The country had been divided by the war and communication across the divide was non-existent. When he reached the town, Comeille went straight to a friend's house to find out where his family was living. Everyone was shocked to see him, thinking he had died months ago when the fighting reached the research facility. He had a tearful reunion with his wife and children, especially his nine-year-old daughter, who at first refused to come out of her room because she thought they were lying about her father being still alive.

The country is now at peace but despite his ordeal, Comeille Ewango is still thinking about conservation in DRC.

Now that the war is over, he knows that the loggers will come into the cash-strapped country, and he is eager to talk to the government about preserving the forest. He wants to work closely with the government to show them how to do this. Unlike some African countries, DRC has a wealth of resources, including 50% of the continent's forests, gold, diamonds and mineral riches. Managing their resources by sustainable development could both preserve their natural environment and help the country grow.

When he returns to DRC, Comeille wants to train others, especially Congolese students, to have "a passion for conservation." But he has a message for students at UM-St. Louis as well: even if you are not a conservation biologist, show your commitment to conservation and the environment. Everyone needs to show support and speak up more if you value that. He also said that he thinks scientists too often only look to their work, but they need to be involved in the political and policy making area, too, and to be aware of the interdependence of that area with preservation of the natural world.

INTERN DIARIES, from page 5

I finally arrived home, grabbed my suitcase full of clothes and rushed to the bus stop.

I reached the Warner Brothers set and entered the building with catering trucks parked out front. I walked straight through the hallway lobby and turned around a corner and entered a dressing room filled with mirrors, white counters, make-up kits and severed mannequin heads sporting different colored wigs.

Shocked, I realized that I had accidentally walked into the main cast dressing room. Most of them sat half naked reading magazines while artists applied their make-up.

Instead of walking right out of the room before anyone noticed my presence, I spoke without thinking about it.

"Does anyone know where the extras go for wardrobe?" I asked. Everyone looked up, surprised.

"You mean 'background people'?" a make-up artist corrected. "Follow me. I'll show you."

He led me to a flight of stairs and gave me instructions on where to go. I followed his directions and entered a large room filled with tables, bookshelves, paintings and various props. Policemen, detectives, doctors and patients wandered around the room.

I gave a production assistant at the front desk my call number. He told me to have a seat with the others until being called for wardrobe.

Over at the table with the "background people," I found myself in another world.

I watched one guy dressed as a cop paint the end of his plastic gun with a black marker. Another guy was rolling his own cigarettes. Bob, who was playing a cop, talked the whole time about the Mets and how they have a promising future. A redhead who looked exactly like Nikki Cox from "Unhappily Ever After," entered the room.

"Watch out for her, she's crazy," Bob told me. He turned to her and said, "Hey Terry, you look good as a redhead."

I had to admit, Bob was right. Terry was crazy, but in a good way. She sat down with us and talked about how our birth signs determine our destiny.

After talking with me for a few minutes, she asked, "You're a Cancer aren't you?"

Surprised that she accurately stated my zodiac symbol, I asked how she knew.

"I can tell," she replied, as if she was some prophet or oracle. "You have all the signs of a Cancer: sensitive, imaginative, emotional, intuitive and caring. I bet you can be possessive, moody and

dependent as well."

"Sometimes," I admitted defensively.

"Yeah, I am a Gemini. We are lively, youthful, and witty. We don't like to stay with anyone for too long. And we get attached easily to people, but we can get unattached just as quickly," she said.

Terry went on to tell me more about myself. "You probably also get hurt a lot in your relationships because you don't like to let go."

"Well, I've never hit the 'eject button' in the relationship," I said.

"You better stay away from Gemini's then," she warned.

She informed me that she was a nymphomaniac and that she would cheat on her boyfriend in a heartbeat, even though she could never tell him, she said.

"I can't help it. I am a Gemini and sometimes I get so [heated up] that I can't control myself," she explained.

Before she could go any further, a production assistant called for us to line up for wardrobe.

Nervous and excited, I was ready to be on the "Third Watch" set. Everyone lined up and left for wardrobe.

Stay tuned next week when Gary meets Denzel Washington and has a final confrontation with Cheese Stick.

HIRING

All positions at *The Current* open up after the last day of Winter Semester. Apply for next year by submitting a resume and cover letter by 5:00p.m. May 9. Email: current@jinx.umsf.edu, or visit 388 MSC. Positions include:

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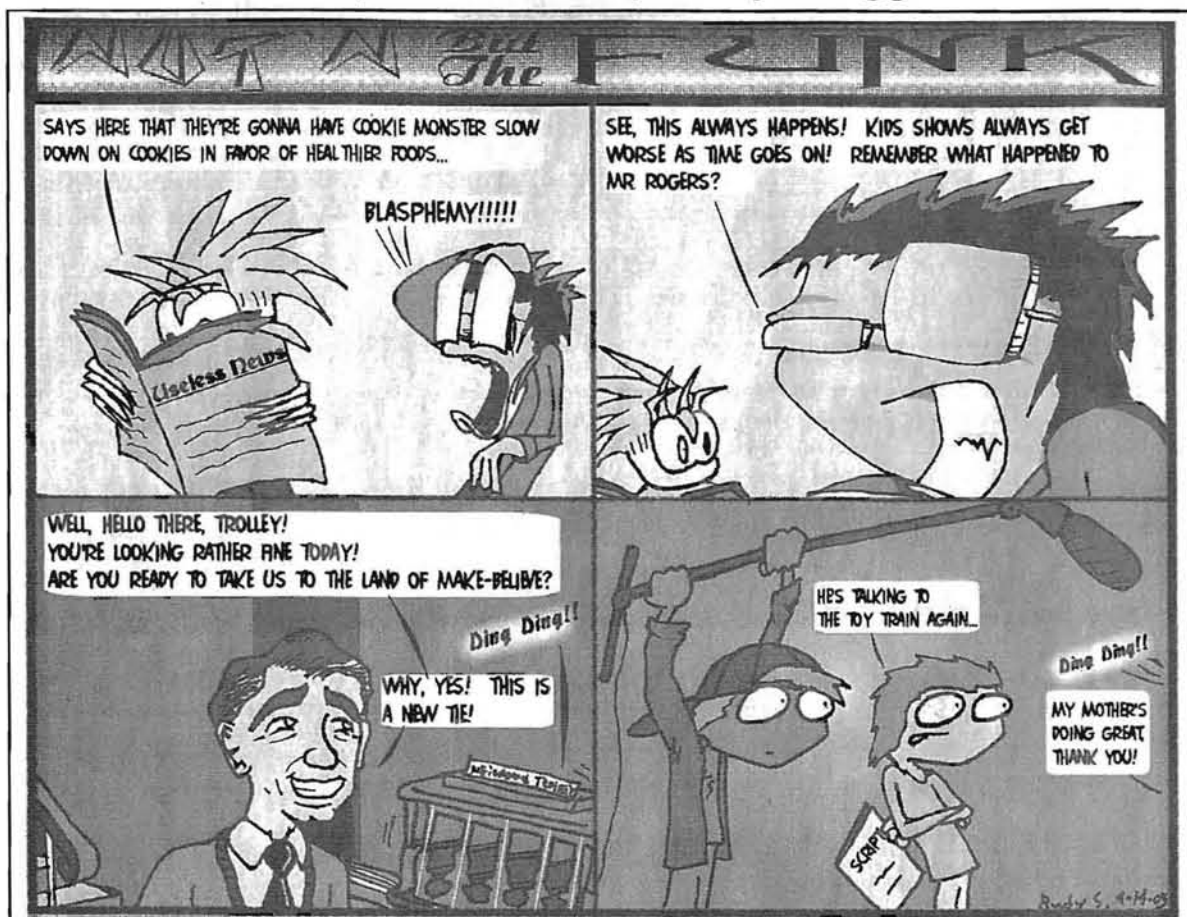
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