

11-28-2005

Current, November 28, 2005

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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See page 8

Jarhead tells one soldier's story

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

New off-campus bookstore opens

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

News Editor

A "buy-for-more and sell-for-less" off-campus bookstore is scheduled to open near the UM-St. Louis campus Wednesday, Nov. 30 to provide an alternative for students to buy and sell textbooks.

The off-campus bookstore, called Beat the Bookstore, is part of a nationwide franchise with about eight stores open currently and more planned. The St. Louis store is located at 8947 Natural Bridge Road near the I-170 overpass.

The Beat the Bookstore franchise promises to "offer to buy used textbooks from students at a higher price than the on-campus bookstore and sell used textbooks to students for a lower price than the on-campus bookstore."

"It's a low cost alternative for college textbooks," said Debbie Runyon, president of the St. Louis store. Runyon and her husband will own and operate the off-campus bookstore.

The couple opened the store near the UM-St. Louis campus because of

convenience and lack of alternate options available to students.

"We live in the Glen Carbon [Ill.] area and realized UMSL doesn't have competition for a bookstore," she said.

"Being a college graduate, I've been through it at SIU-Carbondale, and there we had an alternative," Runyon said. She planned to open the store in time for buyback week at the end of the semester at UM-St. Louis.

The opening of Beat the Bookstore marks the first time in about seven years that an off-campus bookstore has opened adjacent to the UM-St. Louis campus.

Gloria Schultz, UM-St. Louis campus bookstore manager, said the last off-campus bookstore opened and closed within one semester.

"It was owned by a man with many years of experience," she said. Schultz explained competition from the campus bookstore caused his bookstore to go out of business.

"It's a difficult business," Schultz said about running a bookstore.

see **NEW BOOKSTORE**, page 3

Fan-tastic start to the basketball season



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Cadence Rippetto and Bryan Goers cheer on the UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team during the game against Central Bible College on Nov. 17. The Rivermen are now 4-0 on the season, marking the first time since 1966-1967 that the team started with four straight wins.

Longtime UMSL arts contributor Edwards dies

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

News Editor

Virginia Edwards, best known for bringing the arts, music and dance to the UM-St. Louis campus, died Thursday, Nov. 10 of complications resulting from Alzheimer's disease.

Edwards was most famous for founding the organization Premiere Performances at UM-St. Louis.

"Edwards was quite interested in the arts and quite influential in the development of the arts on campus," said John Hylton, dean of College of Fine Arts and Communication. "She established a concert series associated with UMSL."

During Edwards' 10 years of work with Premiere Performances, she worked with the production of concerts, brought concerts to campus, helped schedule events and "brought in a wide range of artists," Hylton said.

Edwards began with Premiere Performance almost 20 years ago and "served with no pay," Hylton said.

Gloria Kohn, production associate for Premiere Performances, had the chance to work with Edwards during her affiliation with the University. Kohn explained that Edwards was only a volunteer with the concert series.

"She had an office, but did not get paid. It was a labor of love," Kohn said.

Kohn described Edwards as "a very elegant lady and a talented musician, playing both violin and piano."

Because the Touhill Performing Arts Center had not been built during Edwards' time, Premiere Performances either held concerts at the J.C. Penney Auditorium or off campus at other venues in St. Louis, such as the Sheldon Concert Hall.

Kohn has worked with Premiere Performances for 16 years and said, "The chamber music community will remember [Edwards] for holding concerts at UM-St. Louis, one of the only outlets in St. Louis at the time."

Since the PAC's opening, Premiere Performances has been able to hold more chamber music concerts on campus, averaging about nine to 10 concerts each year. The organization still continues to co-produce concerts and shows with Dance St. Louis, which Edwards also supported.

Hylton called Edwards a remarkable woman. "She even donated money for a music scholarship for students," he said.

Edwards stepped down from her position with Premiere Performances in 1997 because of her growing health problems with Alzheimer's, Kohn explained.

Edwards received many honors from the University. In 1997, the University of Missouri Board of Curators gave her the Curators' Award for Outstanding Service. On Oct. 7 this year, Premiere Performances honored Edwards at the first concert of the season.

In addition to her volunteer work at Premiere Performances, Edwards started working at the University in 1975 at the campus radio station KWMU-FM and also served as adviser to Chancellor Arnold Grobman's office of cultural affairs and chair and member of the concert and lectures committee.

INDEX

Op/Ed	4
Features	6
Arts & Entertainment	8
Crossword Puzzle	11
'Life In Hell'	11

'Iraq is not your father's war,' says UPB speaker

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN

Staff Writer

How safe are U.S. troops in Iraq? Is normalcy possible in a war zone? How long will the war last?

Rusty Wilson, a former Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton) employee working on soldier Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) at Camp Speicher, Iraq, provided his answers to those questions for UM-St. Louis students.

The event, sponsored by the University Program Board, began with a reception followed by Wilson's lecture, "Iraq: The Story You'll Never Get from the Media," on Wednesday, Nov. 16 in the Millennium Student Center.

"Every single horrible thing you hear on the news is true, every hideous thing you read about in the newspaper is true, but the reporting is terribly, terribly incomplete and therefore seriously flawed," Wilson said. "In spite of what you see on the news every single night, the entire country of Iraq is not in flames."

Wilson asked those present at the event to consider the death rate by firearms among U.S. troops in Iraq, which is 60:100,000, a contrast to 80.6:100,000 in Washington D.C.

"You as a civilian are more likely to be shot and killed in our nation's capitol than a soldier is in Iraq," he said. "The obvious conclusion: we should immediately pull out of Washington, D.C."

Wilson emphasized the fact that the soldiers work hard 12 hours a day in extreme conditions and are willing to give their lives defending the Iraqi people, the U.S. contractors and other soldiers.

Wilson said he was surprised at the normalcy of life in Iraq. "It is not all fun and games by a long shot, but it is so much more than what you see on TV," he said.



Grad student interns with Hillary Clinton

BY MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

Pearlina Boyd, a UM-St. Louis graduate student who has been passionate about pursuing a career in politics, was given a chance to further her previous political involvement by completing a internship with Senator Hillary Clinton.

Having a extensive interest in political science, public policy and education, Boyd began completing various political and paralegal internships in 1998. By serving as a public policy advisor, paralegal investigator and holding different legislative internships, she has had the opportunity to meet many significant political figures from around the country.



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Graduate student Pearlina Boyd interned with Hillary Clinton's office in June.

"Having an early start in politics teaches you the game early on so you know how to deal with people and what to expect from people. It teaches you all the bad things of what it's like to be used while being young," Boyd said. "The good thing about politics is that it advances you beyond where most young people are. You are exposed to a lot very quickly at an early age."

Some of her past jobs have included interning in Jefferson City for Rep. Betty L. Thompson of University City, working with U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan and Attorney General Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon. In addition to these internships, Boyd

graduated from the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women Leadership Institute in New Jersey.

Boyd graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Socio-Political Science-Communications from Southwest Missouri State University in 2001. After receiving her degree, she decided to carry on her education at UM-St. Louis and expects to receive a Master's of Public Policy Administration next semester.

see **CLINTON INTERN**, page 7

New Greek culture center opens in Gallery 210's former Lucas Hall space

BY JAVIER NADAL

Staff Writer



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Professor Diane Touliatos speaks with Chancellor Emeritus Blanche Touhill at the opening reception for the Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center in 210 Lucas Hall.

The Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center, the new Greek center at UM-St. Louis, was inaugurated Nov. 18 during a reception called "Exploring the Greek Cultural History of St. Louis and Beyond."

This new center is intended to be a point of reunion for those who want to dip into Greek culture through discussion, art, history books or films. The Center, located at 210 Lucas Hall, is a comfortable place, well-designed and divided into two parts.

The first part is bigger, and includes a library and a collection of Greek art. Nicholas Karakas, chairman of the advisory board of Greek Studies at UM-St. Louis, donated the library, which contains numerous pieces about Greek history, art and

tradition. This part also serves as a meeting room for discussions and other events. The second part will serve as a movie theater for films and documentaries related to Greek culture.

Nicholas Matsakis lectured at the inauguration about the Greek culture and his efforts to spread his knowledge about Greeks during his life. Matsakis received an award from Karakas during the inauguration in recognition of his entire career.

Chancellor Thomas George attended to speak about how proud he was of this new Center and to announce that this was only the beginning, as plans have been made to expand the Center.

Theodora Matsakis and her sons and daughter talked with emotion and even told jokes about their experiences as Greeks in the United States.

see **GREEK CENTER**, page 3see **IRAQ SPEAKER**, page 3

Bulletin Board

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

Monday, Nov. 28

Chemistry Colloquium
Hunter College professor speaks on "Carbohydrates: Templates for the discovery of new synthetic methodologies" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Free. Call 5311 for information.

Symposium on teaching
Sharroky Hollie, assistant professor of teacher education at California State University, speaks on culturally responsive teaching from 7:15 to 9 p.m. in the J.C. Penney auditorium. Free. Call 4889 for information.

Thursday, Dec. 1

Honors College Pool Tournament
The Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association hosts their annual pool tournament, Get Felt, on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. The event will be held in Seton Lounge in South Campus Provincial House. Open to all. Admission is \$5 for a t-shirt and

food, and there are beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of play. For more information call 7733.

Rec. Sports darts tourney
Campus Recreation holds "High Score" doubles darts tournament from 10 p.m. to midnight at Mimi's Subway Bar & Grill, 46 N. Florissant Rd. Sign-up begins at 9:45 p.m. Free for students, faculty, staff and alumni. Call 5326 for info.

Friday, Dec. 2

Service Day at Operation Food Search
Get into the community and do service work with the Catholic Newman Center and the Delta Zetas at Operation Food Search on Friday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please register in advance by e-mailing the center at cnccums@aol.com, or calling 385-3455. We will meet at the Newman Center at 8 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will

be provided.
Reception for Art Exhibit
A reception for the multi-media art exhibit, "Post-Ironic Lull," begins at 7 p.m. at the UMSL Galaxy, located at 1227 Washington Ave. Features art by campus faculty and other artists. Free. Exhibit runs through Dec. 10. Hours are 2 to 7 p.m. Saturdays. Call 6967 for more info.

MFA student readings
Seth Raab, Reggie Poche, Jim Mense and Trysh Brown, fiction writers in the MFA program, will read from their works at 7:30 p.m. in Gallery 210. Free. Refreshments and cash bar available following the readings. Call 5590 for more info.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Arianna String Quartet at PAC
The Arianna String Quartet performs "The Power of Imagination" at 4 p.m. in the

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

Lee Theater of the Touhill PAC. Free for students, staff and faculty. Call 5818 for more info.

Discussion on UMSL exhibit
Assistant professor of history Minsoo Kang leads a panel discussion at noon at the UMSL Galaxy, 1227 Washington Ave. The talk is in connection with the exhibit "Post-Ironic Lull."

Sunday, Dec. 4

Arianna String Quartet at PAC
The Arianna String Quartet performs "Serious Passion" at 4 p.m. in the Lee Theater of the Touhill PAC. Free for students, staff and faculty. Call 4949 for tickets.

Monday, Dec. 5

UMSL Symphonic Band at PAC
The University Symphonic Band performs at the Touhill PAC at 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Robert W. Nordman, visiting professor

of music. Sponsored by the department of music. Free. Call 7970 for more info.

Panel discussion of 'Gender in the Classroom'
"Teaching Gender in the Classroom," a panel discussion and workshop, will be held at 4 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. Sponsored by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Free. Call 5581 for more info.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Reception for Gallery Visio AIDS fundraiser/exhibit
"Art for AIDS," an exhibit of artwork by UM-St. Louis students opens with a reception at Gallery Visio, on the first floor of the MSC, from 4 to 7 p.m. Artwork on display will be on sale, with 10 percent of proceeds going to St. Louis Effort for AIDS. Exhibit runs through Dec. 22 and is co-sponsored by PRIZM. Call 7922 for more info.

Campus Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between Nov. 13, 2005 and Nov. 25, 2005. Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the Campus Police.

Nov. 13, 2005 Property Damage by Intentional Burning-University Meadows
The UMSL Police Department and the Normandy Fire Department responded to a dumpster fire in the complex around 5 a.m. The fire was determined to have been intentionally set, damaged was contained to the dumpster. There was a witness, with a description of the possible suspect(s) and the investigation is ongoing.

Nov. 13, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-

Parking Lot E
The victim reported that between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., a DVD movie belonging to Blockbuster Video was stolen from his parked vehicle.

Nov. 15, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-Parking Lot NN
The victim reported that subject(s) unknown had removed his car stereo CD player from his parked vehicle. The theft occurred around 11 p.m., suspicious people were observed in the area just prior to the theft.

Nov. 17, 2005 Stealing Over \$500.00-
The victim reported that on Nov. 14 between 11 a.m. and noon someone stole items (including various credit cards) from her purse. The victim did not discover the theft until Nov. 15.

Nov. 17, 2005 Tampering 2nd Degree-Parking Lot K
Officers working on patrol observed a suspicious subject (later identified as a juvenile) walking in Parking Lot K looking into cars. The suspect did open a car door, and was then confronted by police. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Juvenile Courts Building in Clayton, where the matter is being referred for charges of tampering with an automobile.

Nov. 19, 2005 Property Damage 2nd Degree-University Meadows
The victim reported that sometime in the last 2 days person(s) unknown threw eggs onto his vehicle while it was parked.

Nov. 19, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-Millennium Student Center

The victim reported that while she was at the Millennium Student Center Pilot House for an all night game festival. Sometime between 2:15 am and 6 am she fell asleep and her cell phone was stolen.

Nov. 21, 2005 Property Damage/Attempt Stealing-Lucas Hall 1st floor
Between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. suspect(s) unknown damaged the front of a vending machine with a large rock in an attempt to open it. The machine did sustain some damage to the lock area, however remained secured and was not entered.

Nov. 23, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-8218 Natural Bridge Road
The victim reported that a bicycle was stolen from a carport sometime in the past

few days.
NOTE: There have been recent reports of car break-ins on the campus. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

Please take the extra precautions during this holiday season to secure your personal possessions. Please keep all valuables with you at all times. Do not leave items in your vehicle in plain view; secure them at home or in the trunk if possible. Do not leave any item unattended while on this campus. Most of our thefts occur when the victim leaves them for only a minute. Faculty and Staff members are asked to lock your office door, work area, or desk everytime you leave it for any reason.

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Staff Writers

Monica Martin, Tiffany Golatt, NaKenya Shumate, Francis Lam, Brian Salmo, Zach Meyer, Benjamin Israel, Alberto Patino, Gary Sohn, Laura Ayers, Genelle Jones, Suzanne Roussin, Melissa S. Hayden, Mabel Suen, Brian Oliver, Javier Nadal, LaGuan Fuse, Bronwen Voss, Erin Boyle, Sean Michael, Jason Wendleton

Staff Photographers

Brian Fagnani, Stacey Turner, Valerie Breshears

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

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-5811
Email • current@jinx.umsi.edu

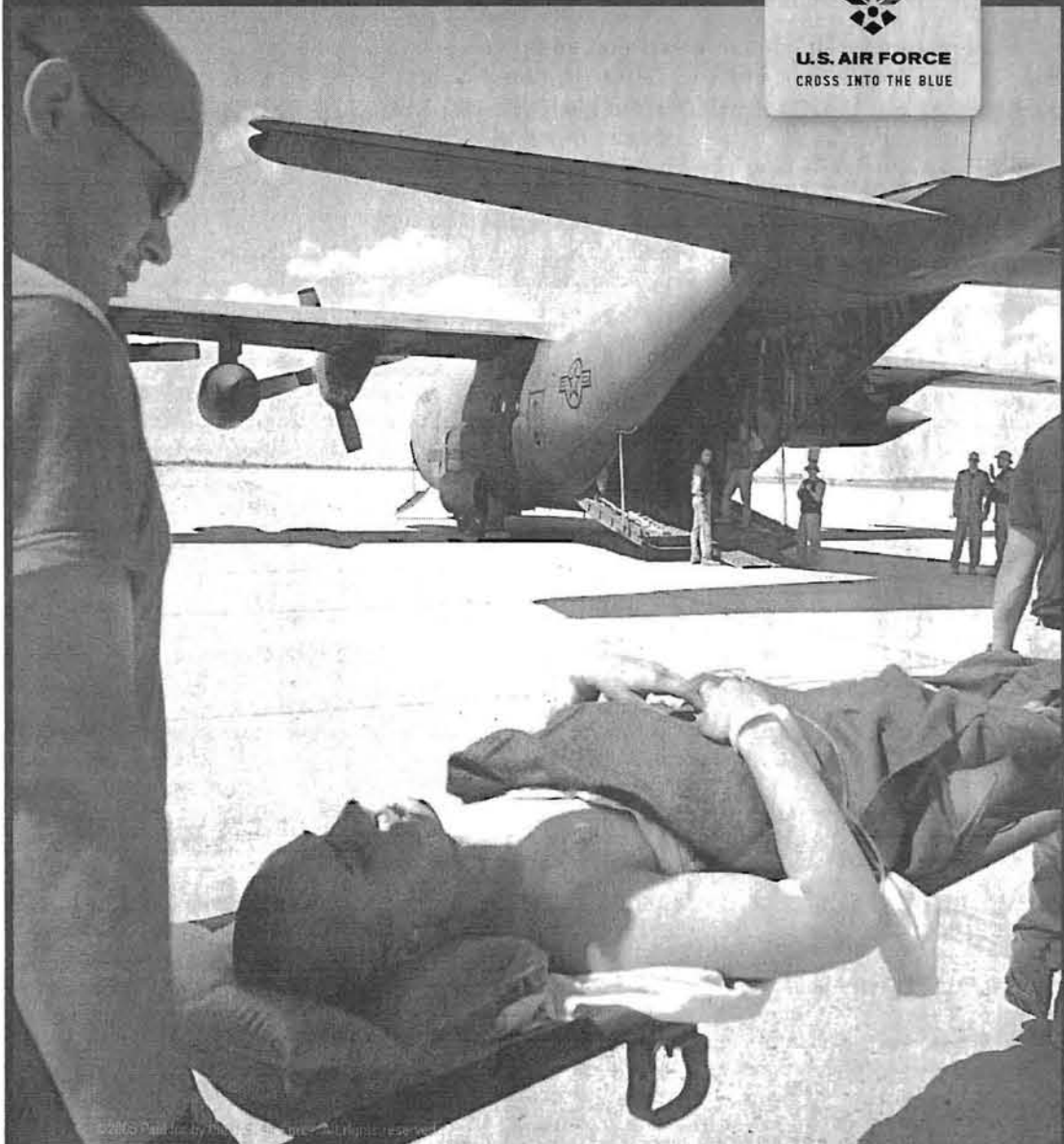
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SGA hears student concerns at 'Whine and Dine'

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

The Student Government Association held a "Whine and Dine" forum for students to address campus matters with student leaders Tuesday, Nov. 15 outside the SGA chambers in the Millennium Student Center.

After the first few minutes of the forum, SGA President D'Andre Braddix, junior, criminology and criminal justice, said, "I don't hear any whining yet."

Students eventually talked to Braddix or wrote down comments and placed them in a suggestion box provided.

One student, Danielle Binion, senior, biology, recommended that SGA help organize more multicultural activities on campus to benefit minorities.

Binion also suggested more organizations for minorities at UM-St.

Louis. "How come there aren't any other African-American sororities on campus?" she asked.

Another student, Mark St. George, junior, theater, dance and media studies, voiced his opinion about his student group. St. George is the president of the Film Production Society, a new student organization founded this semester. "I'm trying to represent my new organization and get some funding," he said.

St. George came to the "Whine and Dine" to ask SGA for money to fund film festivals. "We want to get some big name directors out here to give lectures," he said.

Besides student organization questions, Braddix said most concerns regarded parking and transportation, student club budgets and involvement in the food service committee.

To encourage more suggestions, Braddix, along with SGA Comptroller Brian Rails, senior, marketing, talked about placing more suggestion boxes

around campus, especially on South Campus.

Since the SGA chambers are located in the MSC on North Campus, Rails said, "I think sometimes they feel disconnected and neglected, and we want to make sure they know that we're there to represent them as well."

Braddix added that he plans to create more programs for South Campus. "The [issues for people on South Campus] are a lot different than ours," Braddix said.

In addition to SGA, representatives from Student Court, Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Student Senate and Student Curator Maria Curtis were on hand for the event.

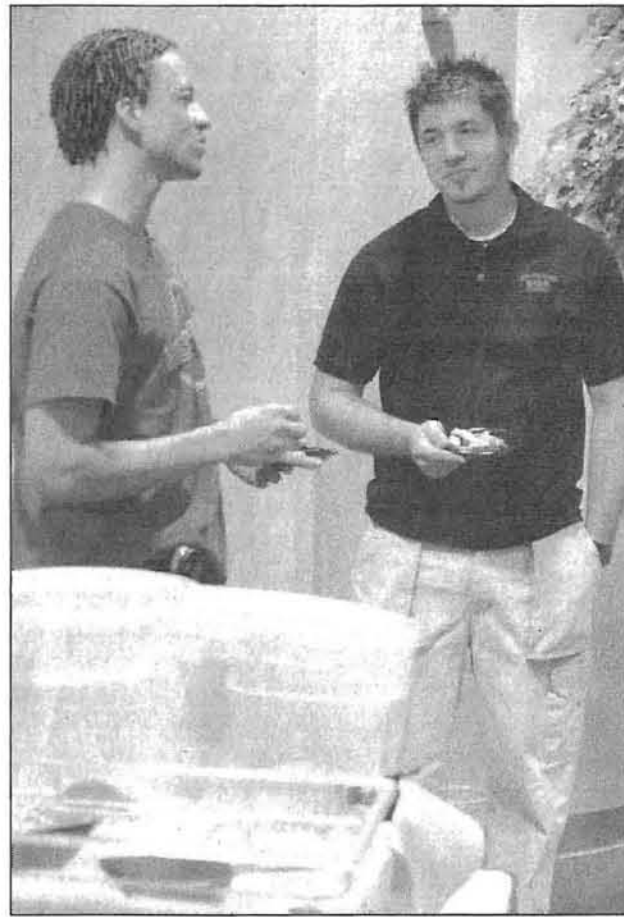
Student Court Justices Bryan Goers, sophomore, secondary education in history, and Mandy Altman, senior, political science, held an informal dialogue with students about how the parking appeals process works.

Altman liked the idea of not only talking with students but also meeting with other student leaders on campus. "It's great networking with other UMSL representatives since we deal with parallel issues," she said.

The Student Senate also handed out updates of their involvement on campus. Student Senate Chair Joe Garavaglia, senior, business administration, said the Student Senate was looking into see if demand exists to reopen a 24-hour computer lab on campus.

"We're trying to get the word out about that. I think a lot of people didn't know about it," he said. The computer lab located in 227 SSB was often locked, and a low percentage of students used it during the spring 2005 semester.

SGA plans to have another "Whine and Dine" next semester. Until then, Braddix said students can voice their opinions through e-mail at the SGA website, <http://www.ums.edu/~sga/>.



Alex Kerford speaks with Student Government Association chairman Aaron Golchert during "Whine and Dine" on Nov. 15 in the MSC.

Kevin Otley/The Current

UMSL professor researches counselor burnout rates

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

Sylvester Kent Butler, assistant professor of counseling and family therapy, discovered in a study he conducted that urban school professional counselors are more likely to experience burnout than those in rural or suburban schools.

The study looked at how counselors who work with students from kindergarten through 12th grade see themselves and their collective self-esteem, Butler explained.

Collective self-esteem is measured by the counselor's feeling of personal accomplishment. The higher the CSE scores were, the higher the counselors' feelings of personal accomplishment in their fields were.

According to Butler's article, 538 school counselors, mainly females ranging in age from 25 to 66, chose to participate in this study. They were selected from a mailing list of American School Counselor Association members.

The counselors have roles to fulfill, Butler said at a presentation to the American Counseling Association. The roles, he claimed, are individual and group counseling, educational

testing, academic advising, supervision and administrative tasks.

Butler said by causing counselors to look at themselves, "we'll cause them to be more attuned with the student's needs."

The primary purpose of the study, according to Butler's article, was to explore the relationship between dimensions of self-esteem and components of burnout. Butler noted four dimensions of self-esteem: private, public, membership and importance to identity, and three components of burnout: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and feelings of personal accomplishment.

The secondary purpose was to determine whether differences among the respondents in dimensions of burnout were attributed to sex, location of the work setting and number of years employed as a school counselor.

The study showed that burnout increases when a person has been employed in the same field for numerous years. Counselors employed for 10 years will not experience the same degree of burnout as a counselor who has been in the same field for 30 years, the study showed.

Butler also noted that counselors exhibit different symptoms of

burnout, varying from emotional fatigue and disengagement to irritability and apathy.

Butler questioned the causes of burnout for counselors in urban versus rural settings. Urban schools have to cope with different cultural backgrounds of students. Children living in urban environments deal with overcrowding, poverty and crime on a day-to-day basis, Butler's article noted. As a result, they may be encountering greater levels of stress and severe mental health problems than suburban or rural youths.

In urban schools, students are required to take the Missouri Assessment Program test. "Because of the MAP test, teachers won't allow students out of the classrooms so that counselors can help them with their emotional problems," Butler said.

"Here at UM-St. Louis, we did a series of projects for the St. Louis counselors through the Office of Multicultural Relations, like workshops that let school counselors know about trends and gave them the opportunity to tell us what their needs were," he said.

Butler hopes to involve counselors in the Missouri School Counselors Association and American School Counselors Association.

"We're trying to get these counselors to join these associations to talk with people experiencing some of the same issues or concern with their school environment," Butler said.

Affiliate Assistant Professor Jan Munro read Butler's article and said she was really impressed with the statistical work. "They did a nice job of showing trends and correlations with self-esteem in the field," she said.

The economy is poor and there are fewer counselors, Munro said. She believes students cannot learn if they are emotionally troubled and that counselors can give them emotional help.

Munro believes counselors should be supported in their fields. "We need to help society and governments see the need for support mechanisms," she said. "We need more support groups and more workshops."

The ultimate goal, according to Butler, is to find a way for counselors to feel better about themselves in their profession. He said they must have networking opportunities with other school counselors who have similar backgrounds and who work in similar school environments.

Butler's article was printed in the journal, "Professional School Counseling."

NEW BOOKSTORE, from page 1

Beat the Bookstore will sell and buy the same textbooks that UM-St. Louis students use. Using a Freedom of Information Act request, "[Beat the Bookstore] ordered the textbooks that professors at UMSL did and asked for the books from their headquarters," Schultz explained.

Schultz noted certain advantages to using the on campus bookstore. While the campus bookstore sells candy, sweatshirts, trinkets and bumper stickers, the off-campus bookstore does not. She also reminded students, "Any profits the bookstore makes goes to the MSC." Students can also use their student I.D.s on campus.

Schultz said the campus bookstore will continue to cooperate with Beat the Bookstore, but she warned students, "Be careful with their return policy."

UM-St. Louis students had good

things to say about an off-campus bookstore alternative.

Becky Thompson, senior, liberal studies, said Beat the Bookstore is a good idea. Although she likes using her UM-St. Louis I.D. card at the campus bookstore, she said, "If I can get more money out of them than the campus bookstore, I'd definitely use it."

Rachel Bock, freshman, criminology and criminal justice, said she liked the idea of having another option to buy books. "It's convenient and if it will save money, I'm for it because the [campus] bookstore is expensive," she said.

The local St. Louis Beat the Bookstore will also serve certain local community colleges and other St. Louis universities, provided they use textbooks similar to those used by UM-St. Louis.

GREEK CENTER OPENS, from page 1

She also spoke about how Nicholas Matsakis always tried to teach his family Greek home culture even though they were far away from Greece.

Michael Cosmopoulos, Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation professor of Greek Studies and professor of archaeology, gave technical information about the Center, describing its facilities and visions for

new projects in the future.

Although the new Greek Center is not large, it was full of people during the inauguration. Greek food was served at the end of the presentation, providing a moment for people to meet and talk with the Matsakis family.

Greek and English could be heard in the new center as two different cultures now have a new place to meet.

IRAQ SPEAKER, from page 1

At Camp Speicher, military personnel and contractors took part in activities such as aerobics and Pilates classes and games including basketball and football. In addition, Wilson discovered something he was not expecting to find in Iraq: a food court complete with Burger King, Subway and Pizza Hut.

"My job was to make sure these soldiers' morale was boosted, but there is hardly anything I ever did that helped like this," he said referring to the food court. "Those burgers tasted awful and that pizza was crap, but if you close your eyes and bit into that bad burger, all of a sudden you're not in Iraq for just a split second, and it's really good for your morale."

Jessica Brake, sophomore, history, has a brother overseas and asked Wilson what kind of things she could send him. He suggested an MP3 player and antibacterial wipes, but told her not to send clothes because soldiers already have all the clothing they can wear.

Marcel Scaife, freshman, political science, suggested, "Write a lot. Write letters a lot and send Gatorade. To have your own personal stash of Gatorade is great."

Scaife, SPC in the 245th Maint CO of the Army Reserves, served at Log Base Seitz in Baghdad, Iraq. He said, "We didn't like being there, but we made the best of it."

Wilson believes troops will not be leaving Iraq any time soon. He bases this theory on not only the five-year contract KBR has to stay there, but also the number of structures built in Iraq—not for the Iraqi people, but for U.S. contractors and the military.

"The only reasonable conclusion I can come to is someone is planning on our being there for a long, long time, and I hope I'm wrong," Wilson said. Scaife said, "[The lecture] brought back memories. It kind of put me back there. And I want everyone to continue to pray for our soldiers, even if you don't agree with the war, still support them."

News Briefs

Newman Center poker tourney raises over \$500

The Catholic Newman Center held the "Hold 'Em for Hunger Tournament" on Nov. 17 as part of Hunger Awareness Week and the Month of Service.

Fifty-four players participated. Marco Kramer of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity took home first place, winning a poker set valued at over \$100. Other prizes given away were an I-Pod Shuffle, a QT gas Card, Gift Certificates to St. Louis Bread Co., and video games. Over \$500 was raised to help fight hunger. Bobby Wassel, campus minister with the Newman Center said the event raised enough money to feed 250 starving African children

dinner every day for a month. The tournament was sponsored by the Newman Center, Student Life, SGA and UPB.

KWMU names Steve Potter host of 'Cityscape'

9 0 . 7 K W M U - F M announced on Monday that it has named Steve Potter as host of "Cityscape," a weekly show focusing on arts and culture in St. Louis.

Potter has



Steve Potter 'Cityscape' host

been the afternoon host of "All Things Considered" on KWMU since 2002 and has worked in radio since 1984. "Cityscape" airs on Fridays at 11 a.m.

Floyd says tuition could jump 12 percent if legislature cuts higher ed

UM President Elson Floyd said the UM System could be forced to hike tuition by as much as 12.5 percent and cut as many as 568 jobs if the Missouri Legislature cuts the state appropriation to the University. The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that Greg Fitch, commis-

sioner of higher education, requested that all public universities submit a report detailing how they might be affected by a cut in state funding of approximately \$100 million.

That could translate to a cut of \$38.9 million to \$46.7 million for the UM System, according to the newspaper.

In a written response to Fitch's request, Floyd wrote, "Reductions of this magnitude would irreversibly alter the very essence of public higher education in Missouri."



Elson Floyd UM System President says further cuts to higher education would devastate public universities.



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The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
1 University Blvd.
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E-MAIL
current@jinx.ums1.edu

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

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photo Associate

Can you put the words 'pilgrims,' 'turkey,' 'football' and 'shopping' into the same sentence

Guest Commentary

Rep. Bearden's bill would hurt public universities

JEREMY LOSCHIEDER
UMSL Graduate Student in Economics

UMSL students should be deeply concerned about a proposal by state Rep. Carl Bearden (R-St. Charles) that would divert some of the taxes from state colleges and universities to individual students.

According to the Columbia Daily Tribune ("Plan would shift funds to students," 11/15/05), state schools would still receive a basic level of funding somewhere between what they currently receive and what they received in 2002.

The rest would go directly to Missouri students to help cover undergraduate tuition in public and private universities in Missouri. This system may substantially reallocate funding to private schools at the expense of public institutions.

Currently, the tax money that is allocated to state schools goes directly into the operating funds of these schools, which figure out tuition based on expected enrollment and the amount of income required to cover remaining costs and capitalizations.

Under the new plan, the allocation to state schools would be limited to some basic level (the article estimated around \$900 million), with the remainder transferred to students to use toward their respective tuition bills.

Because costs continue to increase (blame inflation and the fallout from this year's judgment), the amount of funding that schools require will also increase. If increases in enrollment and

donations do not cover increases in costs, tuition hikes will likely cover the shortfall.

Those tuition hikes do not pose a problem for students so long as the proposed state allocation per student increases sufficiently. However, the state allocation per student will only increase if the portion of the budget earmarked for higher education increases, or if tax revenues increase.

Since this bill is the antithesis of education funding, it is unlikely that the portion of the budget allocated to education will increase. Likewise, the Republican leadership is notoriously against raising taxes. Barring a massive expansion of the tax base in Missouri, it looks like we public university students will be caught making up the difference.

Higher education in Missouri already ranks low in affordability – something the state schools were intended to improve. Any argument that this bill will help people to afford college follows a perverse logic.

The U.S. News & World Report annual survey of colleges and universities includes 18 private and 9 public bachelor-degree granting institutions in Missouri (not all replied to the survey). There were 57,013 undergraduates enrolled in private schools, compared with 90,887 in the public schools.

The bill will thus be a net transfer of funds from the many to the few. The few are the well-off few at that. US News & World Report also posts each institution's endowment – a base of

cash and securities that can be used for construction, research, or can be invested to provide a flow of income to offset future costs.

UMSL's \$439 million endowment looks tiny compared to SLU's \$706 million and Wash U's \$4.01 billion endowments. That translates to an endowment of \$35,000 per UMSL undergraduate student, but nearly \$100,000 per SLU student and more than \$550,000 per Wash U student. Lindenwood University in St. Charles is the exception.

Its \$27 million endowment averages just short of \$5,000 for each of the 5,512 students. Maybe that's why Rep. Bearden is pushing this bill – his private job is to pursue funding for the school.

His phone is not listed on the school's website, but his office number is (636) 949-4903. Regardless of the size of a school's endowment, taxpayer funds for public education should be used for the purpose of providing affordable, quality education.

The market does a poor job of delivering affordable education, in general, as evidenced by private college and university price tags that double or triple state tuition.

While it is permissible and appropriate for Missouri to subsidize research at universities, public or private, Rep. Bearden's plan will not accomplish that. Rather, his proposal amounts to a state subsidy of private education, paid out of the pockets of students at public colleges and universities.

Letters to the Editor

Saddam was threat that wasn't going away

[In response to "Bush bears burden of proof for Iraq war" in the Nov. 14, 2005 issue]

I am astonished that staff member Benjamin Israel believes that Saddam Hussein was truly going to resign and voluntarily go into exile.

This is a man who lived in palaces while his people lived in squalor, who had professional rapists as part of his secret police force, whose sons would snatch girls off the street to use for their own sexual pleasures and who continuously violated the UN parameters that he had agreed to.

As a member of the Arab League, Saddam would have been aware that the league could have never taken over the nation of Iraq. Does Saddam have any credibility given the aforementioned acts?

Saddam also released murderers,

rapists and thieves during his prison release propaganda. There is no way of accurately telling which a political prisoner was and which was a rightfully incarcerated deviant. Then U.S. troops worked diligently to recapture these criminals and to incarcerate insurgents and their leaders bent on the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure, U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians.

While I was in Iraq as a member of the U.S. led coalition in 2003, American troops were greeted as liberators. We were often times thanked and adorned with flowers. After major combat operations ended, U.S. troops proudly went to work rebuilding a devastated nation. Devastated not by war time activities, but predominantly by Saddam's regime and war time looters.

Even this University has turned to a cruise ship director to obtain second

hand accounts of the war in Iraq. This is particularly offensive to me and other Iraqi war veterans who are members of UM-St. Louis' own student body.

Certainly our first hand accounts are more valuable than stories overheard by a tour director. Here are some positive facts about the war not usually reported by the media. Most Iraqi civilians are like any other person of the world. They want to go to work, support their families and live in a safe and secure environment, something Saddam's regime never provided. Finally, after decades of tyrannical rule, Iraqis have a chance for a safe free nation.

Adam Koeneman
Staff Sergeant, US Army Reserve
UM-St. Louis junior

UMSL libraries, food service need longer hours

For those of you who are unaware, the library closes at 5 p.m. on both Fridays and Saturdays, and does not open until 1 p.m. on Sundays and closes at 9 p.m. During the school week, the library closes at 10:30 p.m. Furthermore, while the Millennium Building is open everyday, there are no food services after 2 p.m. from Friday until the next Monday.

Apparently, if you would like to have energy (i.e., calories) during that time period, you better bring food from home or have a motor vehicle to take you to one of the area's fine fast-food providers.

Leaving the food issue aside, let us compare the operating hours of our

library to other public, state universities. The University of Georgia library stays open until midnight during the school week and is open for 6.5 more hours during the weekend than is our own library. The University of Maine library stays open until midnight during the school week, closes at 10 p.m. on Fridays, and is open for 6 more hours than our own on the weekend.

The University of North Dakota's library is open until 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, closes at 9 p.m. on Fridays, and compared to UM-St. Louis' library, is open for an additional 7 hours on the weekend.

Here is my point: the objective of

a university is to provide the means for students to gain an education. A library is a major part of the means.

At the minimum, our university should hold itself up to the standards of other public, state universities. The Universities of Georgia, Maine, and North Dakota do not strike me as ones that are not fair for a comparison. I would be unsurprised to find that of all comparable universities, UM-St. Louis has the fewest library hours and worst food service. I believe UM-St. Louis would be served if these issues were addressed.

Scott Jacques
Ph.D student, criminology

Editor's Opinion

For the love of fuzz: Police deserve respect

Drugs, theft, prostitution, intoxication and high-speed chases earn the show 'Cops' high television ratings. In ordinary encounters, though, police officers don't receive such a warm welcome from regular citizens.

Americans respect and revere the military soldiers who, despite potentially perilous job hazards, join the service to protect complete strangers. We rally around our troops, but we riot against our police.

Despite the fact that police officers share core values and duties with military soldiers, we stigmatize cops with negative nicknames and a general loathing.

Without meaning to perpetuate stereotypes, I used to share the wariness of law enforcement officials. I'd never had a negative experience with them, but I conformed to the popular suspicion regarding cops. Then my fiancé enrolled in a police academy, and I learned about the men and women who choose to enter this often-thankless profession.

In my experience, most of them don't do it for a power trip or the access to weaponry. Police academy is far too grueling for those with shallow interests. My fiancé's class endured 17 weeks of intense physical exercise, self-defense instruction and role-play scenarios. They memorized state and national laws, learned about subjects like domestic violence and child abuse, saw graphic depictions of accidents, discussed community policing and learned how to serve citizens through crime prevention, educa-

tion and law enforcement.

All this because they have a passion for justice, a genuine desire to help people they might or might not know.

On more than one occasion, I've seen officers out doing their jobs and heard my friends randomly say, "Ugh, I hate cops."

None of those people drive by the VFW and say, "Ugh, I hate veterans."

But they might as well.

From pursuing dangerous criminals to breaking up bar fights, cops deal with the darker side of humanity so we don't have to. These 'pigs' we dislike so much work on weekends and holidays, risk their lives to ensure public safety, and devote their entire careers to civil service. Sounds kind of like the military personnel we loyally honor. So why do we despise the police instead of celebrating their dedication?

A common response: "Cops are jerks."

Of course some cops are jerks, but so are some teachers and accountants and waitresses and flight attendants and grocery store cashiers. Stupid people work in every profession. We shouldn't ostracize all police officers because we happen to get ticketed by an unsympathetic highway patrolman or run into a cop having a bad day.

Appreciate a police officer this week. Whether you smile, wave or stop to thank them for their service, give 'em some love. They, like our soldiers, deserve thanks for their willingness to risk their lives for the sake of ours.



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Staff Viewpoint

College porn courses mock higher education

Just the other day, I was shocked when my boyfriend told me what he had heard on the Howard Stern morning radio show.

He told me Stern was talking about colleges and universities across the United States who are now implementing and offering new courses on pornography. At first I could not believe that schools would teach and promote porn in classrooms. Being skeptical, I decided to do some of my own investigating and found out it's true.

After surfing the Internet, I found that colleges such as Wesleyan University in Connecticut and the University of Iowa were teaching classes like "Pornography: Writing of Prostitutes" and "Pornography in Popular Culture." Similar courses were also available at Kansas University, New York University, U-Mass-Amherst, Penn State, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, San Francisco State, University of California-Los Angeles, and UC Berkeley. University of California-Santa Barbara and Arizona State University offer "Topics in film analysis: Pornography."

According to Scott Rothschild's

article "Lawmakers attack sex class at KU," on www.LJworld.com, the "Human Sexuality in Everyday Life" course taught by Professor Dennis Dailey at Kansas University has attracted national attention from the state senate, taxpayers within the community and some students' parents. They have questioned whether the lessons are inappropriate and obscene.

Besides holding regular in-class group discussions and viewings of X-rated films, some classes require students to complete their own pornographic videos, short stories, or submit sex-related photographs as their final projects.

Some students at Wesleyan University turned in films of other students masturbating and having oral sex as their final projects.

It is bad enough that regular cable television programs are advertising more sexual activity rather than abstinence and that people cannot escape the trashy sex web sites on the Internet; now students cannot even avoid sex in the classroom.

see PORN, page 12



BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor



Hunter Raihau
Freshman, Media Studies



Laura Schuster
Freshman, Electrical Engineering



Chelsea Howell
Junior, Biochemistry and Biotech



Kelly Borgers
Junior, Education

Four pilgrims eating turkey went to a football store to do some shopping.

After I ate dinner with the pilgrims on turkey day, I went shopping and watched football.

On the day the pilgrims came, they went shopping for a greasy turkey so they could play football.

After I played football with the pilgrims, we ate turkey and went shopping.

Guest Commentary

Grieving Marlin Gray

■ UMSL Amnesty member reflects on execution-night vigil outside of prison

MARELLA KEITH
Guest Commentator

I have always been one of those people that felt for the proverbial underdog. Give me a worthy cause, and I am there. My dream has always been to change something, to make a difference to someone somewhere, to right somebody's wrong. But I have the busy single mom attention deficit syndrome: I get interested in something and work on it for awhile and it eventually ends up falling through the cracks.

But the one cause that I have always felt strongly about is the death penalty. The older I get, the stronger my feelings become because I have witnessed more of the social injustice in America.

We all hear it on the news: racial profiling, health care crisis, violence

against women and I could go on and on.

But no one ever hears about an execution until the day of – hours before that fated midnight. Most people tsk, tsk ... and I would safely say a majority of them assume that person is guilty.

But what if they aren't? Just a few weeks ago, the state of Missouri put Marlin Gray of St. Louis to death (Oct. 26, 2005) at the Bonne Terre Prison in an execution chamber that our illustrious penny pinching Governor had built (by the way, Gov. Blunt claims to be Pro-Life). Missouri, under the control of Matt Blunt, cannot afford to make sure the elderly, disabled and poor have health care, but hey, we have a brand spanking new death chamber.

Whenever I hear of an execution, I always spend that evening in a quiet prayer vigil of my own. But I had never publicly experienced a vigil or

gone to protest an execution until just recently.

For those of you who do not know, Marlin Gray was a native St. Louisan that was convicted of raping and murdering two young girls in 1991 at the Chain of Rocks Bridge in North St. Louis County.

I have never personally met Mr. Gray. However, I feel like I have.

I have a quite a few close friends that grew up with Marlin and proclaim his innocence.

Now, neither my friends nor I were on that bridge that evening, and it is human nature to want to believe in someone that you have called a friend.

I couldn't tell you exactly what happened on the Chain of Rocks Bridge in 1991 but I do know that until his last breath, Marlin said he was innocent.

I have read some transcripts of the case and found quite a few discrepan-

cies and I am not even a law student. For example, how are you charged with rape if there wasn't a DNA test done?

Even better, how are you charged with murdering two people when only one body was ever recovered?

Don't get me wrong, I do not condone violence, and I am not trying to say that if you break the law you should not be punished, but I do believe in human rights. I also believe that Gov. Blunt was wrong when he did not grant this man a stay until the case could be further examined.

I remember talking to Marlin on the telephone shortly after he had been found guilty and then incarcerated. He was upbeat.

I remember thinking to myself, "How can he sound so happy when such a thing has happened to him?"

see DEATH PENALTY, page 12

Science Column

Domesticating plants as a way to save diversity

It is not usually the case that domestication of a plant saves genetic diversity.

Often, people domesticate a plant species because they like a particular trait. Because we want the sweeter fruits or the bigger ones, domestication usually means just selection the individual plants with that characteristic, a narrower range of the species.

Most people know the rule that you should not take wild plants from the forest, lest you risk reducing the forest's diversity. But researchers at Washington University recently uncovered an instance in which taking a wild plant home actually is saving genetic diversity.

In genetics, diversity means keeping options open. Having a wider number of variations of a gene (alleles) is an important issue in both forest conservation and in domesticating species. Generally, when a rare plant is removed from its habitat or if a great number of individual plants of a more common species are removed, you run

the risk of reducing the genetic pool the species can draw on. In this case, removing a variety of examples of this species in a situation in which the habitat is being lost, became like researchers taking samples to preserve diversity. In this case, however, the species was cultivated as a domesticated crop.

Conservationists are concerned about the preservation of genetic diversity both in the variety of species in ecosystems and within a species. Species that have gone through evolutionary bottlenecks, near-extinction events that have reduced genetic variety within the species as in the case of cheetahs, are more vulnerable to extinct through a single disease because of their genetic similarity. In domesticated plants, there are also concerns about lack of



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

variation, making whole species vulnerable to a single disease, plus the loss of potentially useful traits that are not being used in current cultivars. For this reason, worldwide seeds banks have been established to preserve domestic plant genes that could be lost in monoculture techniques of agriculture.

In this case, researchers found that farmers and families in Central America were taking samples of a small tree, jocote (*Spondias purpurea*), from the forests to cultivate at home for its small mango-like fruit. However, since people were taking different varieties of the plant from forests, they therefore were saving the species' diversity as the forests dwindled along with the plant's wild varieties.

The researchers uncovered that the

diversity of jocote was being preserved by multiple samplings because of the great variations seen in cultivated varieties of the fruit.

In a paper published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science this August, Dr. Allison Miller, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Colorado, and professor of biology at Washington University Dr. Barbara Schaal, along with Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, have found that local people were taking a variety of samples of the species out of the forest in an area of large-scale deforestation. These actions have actually preserved some of the species' diversity as the forests were lost.

Often domestication of species focuses on a narrow range of desirable traits, and so results in a loss of diversity for a species. In this case, the cultivated species were known by a variety of common names.

see SCIENCE COLUMN, page 12

Staff Viewpoint

Even patriots can dissent

I saw a bumper sticker on the way home from school last week that read "Anti-War = Pro-Terrorism."

Now, on a normal day, I probably would have laughed and gone on with my life. For some reason, I got extremely upset thinking about its meaning: If you are against the War in Iraq, then you must be in partnership with the al-Qaida network.

Maybe, if you are against the war, then you have weapons of mass destruction. Or maybe it simply means that since you are Anti-War, then you are not patriotic. What?

Because I question the government and the way it handles certain things, then I am not patriotic? Well, that's interesting, since this is the United States, and it was founded on questioning authority. Instead of the United States of America, we could be the United States of Great Britain. Also, our government didn't get it right in the first draft, the constitution has been amended over 20 times since the birth of this great nation.

In fact, if no one ever questioned our government, women would not be



BY ADAM WISEMAN
Photo Director

able to vote, and there would still be slavery.

Sit back and think, "What if the Continental Congress never met, what if Abraham Lincoln never wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, and what if Martin Luther King never told us about his dreams?"

This country was not built just by the Founding Fathers and the soldiers that fight in wars, this country was built by every person that, was, is, and will be an American.

I Support the American people, and I question the government. Where is Osama Bin Laden? Why are your top officials in ethics classes? Why did I spend so much money for gasoline the last three months, to hear that gas companies had record profits? Why are you worried about steroid use, when we are at war? Why do you want to cut into my student loans? I will continue to question the government about going to war with Iraq and I am no less patriotic in the fight to protect our freedom than a man or woman that chooses to go into the military.

I just use a different weapon.

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The Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association will host its annual pool tournament, Get Felt, in Seton Lounge in South Campus Provincial House. Admission is \$5. For more info call 516-7733.

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Dec. 1 @ 7:30 p.m.
Lee Theater - PAC

Various UM-St. Louis student chamber string groups will perform a concert. Admission is free. Contact Betsy Seabaugh at 516-4421.

Cooking on a budget in college can be difficult, especially when most students find their wallets more empty than full. Finding a meal for oneself might seem hard, but some students have to prepare meals for their significant others, spouses or children.

Of course students cannot always rely on fast-food for healthy and cheap meals and most students can only eat Easy-Mac or Ramen noodles for so long, before they experience additional cravings.

"Sometimes eating out can be just as costly as cooking a great meal," Laura Haywood, junior, education, said. "I would cook more if I had more time and could save money."

So how far can \$10 go when planning a meal? Here are some cheap and easy dinner recipes:

Chicken offers numerous recipes for people on a budget. Chicken parmesan, lemon grilled chicken, easy-bake chicken, barbecue grilled chicken and chicken cordon bleu, are just a few examples of typical chicken entrees. For students looking for a chicken meal that is sure to please, try Easy Bake Chicken and Rice.

First, begin with these ingredients: 1 can of cream of chicken soup, 1 cup of water, 3/4 cup uncooked rice, 1/2 teaspoon paprika (optional), 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper and boneless chicken breasts.

In an average sized baking pan, mix all of the ingredients except for the chicken. After everything is combined together in the pan, place the chicken breasts on top of the mixture and bake for 45 minutes. The total cost for this meal is about \$9.

Another inexpensive meal to try is tuna casserole. Begin by bringing 3/4 cups of water to a boil. Add in 1 1/2 cups of elbow macaroni. In a casserole dish, combine 1 can of flaked tuna, 1 can of condensed mushroom soup, 1/4 cup of milk and 1 tablespoon of butter.

Place the soft cooked noodles on top of the ingredients and sprinkle cheddar cheese on top. Bake in the oven at 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes. When the cheese is completely melted, the meal is ready to be served. The cost for this meal is

10 meals under \$10

Cooking on a college budget

Story by: Melissa McCrary

Easy Bake Chicken & Rice

- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup of water
- 3/4 cup uncooked rice
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika(optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- boneless chicken breasts

Fruit Pizza Dessert

- 1 package of refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 1 package of cream cheese
- 1 container of frozen whipped topping
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- Sliced fruit of choice.

For seafood lovers, shrimp and green bean stir fry can satisfy two tastes in one. Mix 1 tablespoon of cornstarch and 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce. Combine 12 ounces of fresh green beans with 1 pound of frozen peeled shrimp in a skillet or medium-sized wok.

Cook on low temperature until it is fully heated. Then add in the sauce, cooking for about two more minutes. Give time to let the dish cool, then another fast and cheap meal is finished. This meal costs approximately \$9.

In the mood for Mexican? How about burritos? Brown 1/4 pound of ground beef and add a 16 ounce can of drained pinto beans. Then stir in taco seasoning, until the combined ingredients thicken. The final step is to sprinkle shredded cheese on top, with the ingredients on flour tortillas. The total ingredients for this meal cost about \$8.

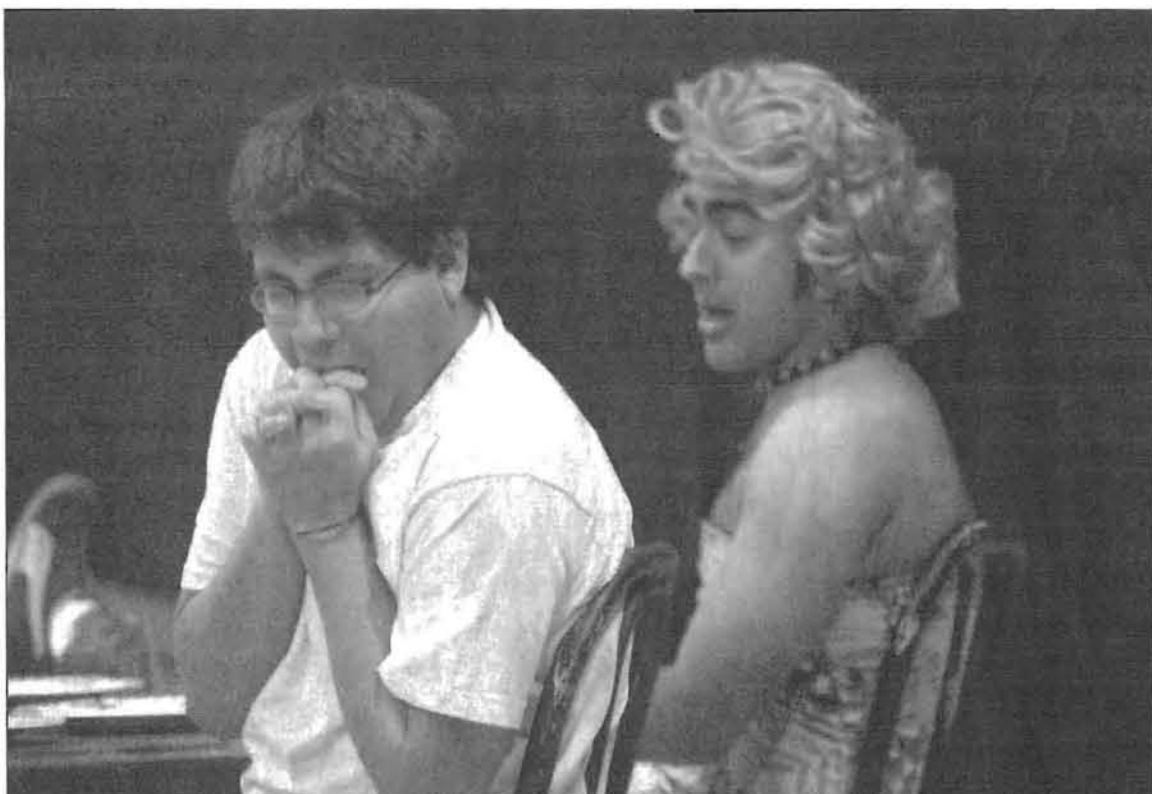
Instead of having a pizza delivered, students can create their own homemade supreme pizzas. Ingredients include: Pillsbury Pizza Crust, that can be found by the canned biscuits and croissants at a local grocer, tomato sauce, 1 package of pepperoni, 1 package of mozzarella cheese, 1 red and green bell pepper and 1 jar of black olives.

Flatten the pizza crust on a stone or pizza pan, spread the sauce on crust and add toppings. Bake on 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes or until crust is golden. Slice and enjoy this \$8 meal.

Those looking for a large meal that will supply plenty of leftovers can try tomato, garlic and mushroom pasta. First, buy 1 box of spaghetti noodles, whatever kind of spaghetti sauce, 1 tomato, 1 package of chopped garlic and a package of mushrooms from the produce department. Boil noodles in pot of water until they are soft and drain. Stir in sauce, garlic and mushrooms and the meal is complete. This meal typically serves about four people and costs under \$2 per serving.

see 10 UNDER \$10, page 7

Nail-biting show ...



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Alex Feldhaus and Brijul Bhakta perform in Christopher Durang's irreverent comedy "Titanic" on Tuesday, Nov. 15 in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The production, by the University Players, was one of two free performances during a free open house event at the PAC.

Study abroad panel talks about campus life in a foreign country

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

For students who have wondered what foreign cultures are like, the study abroad program might be something to consider.

According to Traci Faschingbauer, study abroad coordinator at UM-St. Louis, the study abroad program is ideal for students wishing to expand their horizons. Studying abroad can also be quite affordable.

"You pay UMSL tuition for the classes you take," Faschingbauer said. "The credit you earn is in-resident credit. It is possible to go in your senior year."

On Nov. 16, the Center for International Studies and the Office of Multicultural Relations co-sponsored a study abroad panel which featured four current UM-St. Louis students and one recent UM-St. Louis graduate who had participated in the study abroad program.

Marylynn Turner, senior, anthropology, spent the 2005 winter semester in Ireland and was quite pleased with the experience.

"I've seen the study abroad folks a

couple years back and found it was rather easy to go," she said. She added that the Irish "are very relaxed people - very, very laid back."

Bethel Malugeta, who earned her bachelor's degree in international business last year, decided to spend her last semester in Guadalajara, Mexico and is glad she went.

"It was a great experience," she said. "Plus the credit counted even though they were in the last semester."

Malugeta admitted that it was initially a bit overwhelming, but that she was able to adjust thanks to the culture shock orientation she had gone through before leaving and the help of the people in the program who had done it before and who walked her through it. Another thing that helped was "the international language of smiles."

NaKenya Shumate, senior, communication, spent two weeks over the summer in Vienna, Austria. While there she was able to visit the vineyards, Schönbrunn Palace and Belvedere Palace in Vienna and also went hiking in the Alps. She also enjoyed her trip abroad.

"There are things there that you would never see here," Shumate said.

Crystal McZeal, senior, business administration, had always wanted to visit China, but had not given thought to the possibility of actually taking a trip until she ran into Faschingbauer.

When McZeal arrived in China, she first stayed with a friend who had studied abroad in the United States for a week and a half. Then she moved into a private dorm for the remainder of the Winter 2005 semester.

She added that she was not really scared to be in China but found out that "in China, you have to be careful how you say things" because if you say something wrong, people will think you are a bit strange. She added that it helped being a foreigner in China because "since you're a foreigner, most people will be polite."

While on her trip, McZeal got to see the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Warriors, which she described as "absolutely gorgeous."

Terra Parnell, junior, anthropology, had always wanted to study abroad and got her chance during the winter of 2005 when she spent a semester abroad in Germany.

Hand washing is key to avoid flu season

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as much as 20 percent of the U.S. population each year gets the flu. Often, it starts with a friend or roommate getting sick before it spreads to those they have been in close contact with. While the flu is contagious, there are several ways to stay healthy and reduce the risk of getting the flu.

"Most of why we get sick is from the lack of washing hands," said Kathy Castulik, health educator for Health Services. "Everything has bacteria and bacteria is transferred through our membranes such as our eyes, our nose and our mouth."

With improper hand washing and touching the membranes, the body is exposed to bacteria, including those that cause the flu.

"If you have a low immune system to begin with or you're not feeling well to begin with, are over-tired or over-stressed, that weakens your immune system and makes your risk factors higher for getting sick," Castulik said.

Castulik recommends washing hands thoroughly several times a day with antibacterial soap. When soap and water are not available, a hand sanitizer with alcohol is also effective at killing germs.

"I would sanitize everything," Castulik said. Two of the most common places that bacteria live on are on computer keyboards and money. "I would say that 90 percent of the things we get sick from are from lack of proper hygiene," Castulik said.

Another way to reduce the risk of getting the flu is to get vaccinated. The vaccine can reduce the risk of catching influenza, but does not always prevent it.

"It depends on their health history and their past whether or not they should get [the vaccine]," Castulik said. "If you see that you're around a lot of people and you have a risk of getting colds and getting sick easily, then I do recommend it. If you have diabetes or asthma then I would recommend it."

Health Services offers the flu vaccine to students for about \$20-\$25. It has not yet received the vaccine, but when it is available, Health Services will notify students by E-mail. It will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

"I got vaccinated once before but I still got the flu so I don't get it anymore," said Justin "Jojo" Bello, sophomore, nursing. Bello said he rarely gets sick and attributed it to staying warm and eating spicy foods.

"I'd say you definitely want to layer yourself, with a scarf, gloves, coat," Bello said as he demonstrated his six layers of clothing. "Drink lots of fluids and don't go out with wet hair. It's about wearing the appropriate clothing—you see kids wearing shorts and a hoodie with sandals. They just don't want to let go of summer."

Castulik said that many people are prone to getting sick in the winter, but can reduce their chances by

living a healthy lifestyle year-round.

"When you're out in the cold and you don't dress appropriately, that makes your risk factors higher for bronchitis, flu-like symptoms, body aches, chills, so it's just about dressing accordingly and eating right," said Castulik.

Castulik recommends following the basic food groups, taking a multi-vitamin, exercising regularly and staying hydrated.

"I drink a lot of orange juice," said Chelsea Moll, junior, liberal studies. "I haven't gotten the flu in about three years and I'm usually pretty healthy."

Drinking enough fluids can boost the immune system by washing out toxins and keeping the body hydrated. Likewise, exercising boosts the immune system when the body's toxins escape through sweat. Reducing stress levels and getting enough sleep are other ways to reduce the risk factors for getting sick.

"It's just about living healthy year-round and the bottom line is just proper hygiene," Castulik said.



Illustration by Rudy Scoggins/ The Current

see STUDY ABROAD, see page 7

10 UNDER \$10, from page 6

Looking for a meal to warm up a cold day? The website www.betterbudgeting.com offers the recipe for cheap chili cheese cornbread. The ingredients include: 2 cans of chili with beans, shredded cheese, 1 box of Jiffy cornbread mix, 1 egg and 1/3 cup of milk. The directions say to spread the chili in a greased dish, sprinkle the cheese across the chili, stir the milk and egg into the cornbread mix and spread on top. Bake until cornbread is completely cooked. Cost for meal is \$6.

A fresh recipe for vegetarian lovers is apple, walnut, raspberry salad. Toss in a head of lettuce, sliced apples, crushed walnuts and raspberry vinaigrette dressing into a salad bowl. This meal is refreshing on hot days. Meal cost is \$6.

For a cheap delicious desert, fruit pizza is an option. The ingredients needed are 1 package of refrigerated sugar cookie dough, 1 package of cream cheese, 1 container of frozen whipped topping, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and sliced fruit of choice. Bake cookie dough for 10 to 12

minutes. Spread cream cheese and whipped cream on dough. Add lemon juice over cream mixture and arrange the fruit. Let the desert chill for one to two hours in refrigerator and then serve. Cost is \$7.

Not in the mood for a huge meal and looking for a snack? Pigs in a blanket are cheap and easy. Lay croissants on baking pan and use a knife to insert a hole in the middle. Place little smokies between croissants and bake for about 12 to 15 minutes. This finger-food snack costs about \$5.

When shopping and planning a dinner, many students look for the most reasonable and practical ways to save money. Jennifer Oberholz, graduate student, education, does many things to save money on groceries.

"I try to look for things on sale, buy generic store-brand products and usually go to Sam's Wholesale," she said.

With these tips in mind, students can be on their way to cooking more affordable meals.

STUDY ABROAD, from page 6

She really liked the experience and added, "I was lucky. I took a cheaper room. I went for a single dorm room where I shared a kitchen. I lived with Russians, Bulgarians, and Portuguese. There was a bubble of languages. I met a whole lot more people than I would have met had I lived in a full room."

Faschingbauer added that the international mixture of the study abroad program made the experience especially rewarding for many students.

"You learn not only about the country you're going to, but about cultures from all over the world. Some people may go to China and find their best friend is from Mexico," Faschingbauer said.

While students involved in the study abroad program usually do not work while in a foreign country, there is financial assistance available. Faschingbauer pointed out that "The same grants and loans for which students are currently eligible in their financial aid package can apply towards an approved study abroad program."

McZeal added that she also got additional scholarships and only had to

spend \$1,500 of her own money for the semester she spent in China.

Study abroad programs planned for this summer include a Japan Study Tour from May 15 to May 31, an Archaeological Adventure in Greece from June 1 to June 19 and a

Strasbourg French Language Program from July 2 to July 22. Study abroad programs for the regular school year have included trips to over 30 countries from North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Generally, students must have at least a 2.75 GPA to participate.

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CLINTON INTERN,
from page 1

While working on her master's at UM-St. Louis, Boyd has been a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., the National Association of Female Executives, the American Society for Public Administration and currently serves as an advisor on the Statewide Public Policy Committee for Citizens for Missouri's Children.

"I have worked many internships and three jobs to put myself through undergrad, while attending school full-time. Involvement in my sorority, prestigious organizations and work helped prepare me for the real world," she said.

In 2001, Boyd was presented in "The Source," Springfield, Mo., as "The first African-American Women's History Month Honoree." During the same year, Boyd was acknowledged in The Springfield News-Leader's "Awards and Achievers." In 2002, she was a recipient of the "Resolution Award," given by the Missouri House of Representatives.

Last year, Boyd was a recognized scholar to Kid's Chance Inc. of Missouri website and founded and became the president for Professionals Responding on Minority Issues and Social Engagement. This year Boyd was pleased to be recognized in New York State's Empire's "Who's Who Among Empowering Executives and Professionals."

She has been a volunteer mentor and motivational speaker to numerous high school and college students.

Before working as an intern in Clinton's office in June, Boyd was employed in 2004 with the John Kerry for President, Inc. Presidential Campaign based in Washington.

Arzu Karimova, a UM-St. Louis alum, met Boyd through school and by working with her on the John Kerry Campaign.

"She was a volunteer coordinator for the campaign when I worked with her," Karimova said. "She is very passionate and believes in what she is doing. She wants to help low-income families and be a strong leader in politics."

Boyd said that she had learned about the internship with Senator Clinton's HILPAC, in Washington, D.C., after she had attended a job fair while working on the Kerry Campaign.

"I went through with the internship because it was a great opportunity and I knew that I would be exposed to one of the best by working for Hillary," she said. "It was an honor to work with Hillary, especially as an African-American from St. Louis. There aren't too many black students in the country that have access to this opportunity. I was the only black student from the Midwest to intern for her."

With working for Clinton, some of her job responsibilities included managing the political contact base, assisting with political and policy news briefings for her website, organizing fundraisers in Washington and being involved in political outreach initiatives.

"Hillary is very demanding. She has a very strong presence, yet she's down to earth, gracious and has a sense of humor," she said. "She is very knowledgeable and intelligent about many issues."

Terry Jones, professor of political science and coordinator of the internship program at UM-St. Louis, supplied her with forms to get academic credit for her internship.

"She was very active in the John Kerry campaign," Jones said. "I never had her in class, so I don't know her too well, but from what I can see I think she is a very capable person and is a go-getter."

Boyd said that students who want to get involved in politics should work on a campaign as a field organizer or intern in Jefferson City or Washington, D.C. first.

"Students should build a connection base and observe how people are treated and how deals are made. Ask a lot of questions," she said. "Reach out to the older people and try to obtain mentors. Be willing to pay your dues and work long hours for little or nothing. It will pay off and the connections will be useful in the future when looking for other jobs and key internships."

She said that one of the most important pieces of advice for political students is to learn how to network.

Right now, Boyd works as a District Liaison Coordinator for the Black Leadership Roundtable, but she has many future plans regarding where her life is heading.

"I want to attend law school soon, after I complete my master's degree. I want to be involved in many organizations' practice, perhaps start my own business and run for office," she said. "I want to run for President of the United States when I am older. Perhaps then America will be ready for a black woman president."

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A&E

EDITOR
CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Stephen Lynch
brings acoustic
comedy to
Pageant show

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

It has been said that secretly, all comedians want to be rock stars. Deep down, the class clown wants to be the coolest guy in school. Consider comedian/actor Jack Black who started the mock rock group Tenacious D. Need more proof? How about Adam Sandler, whose classic "Hanukkah song" was so beloved it was made into a feature film. Add comedian Stephen Lynch to the list of funny men who wish they were rockers. A staple of Comedy Central and VH1's hit series "I Love the '80s," Lynch has a growing (and devoted) fan base. Lynch brought his unique, acoustic comedy to St. Louis on Nov. 15 at The Pageant.

The show was a strange mixture of rock show and comedy. Upon initially seeing and hearing Lynch, it's easy to dismiss him as a novelty act. The guy has some serious talent, though. Throughout the show Lynch was able to think quickly on his feet, hastily shooting down several hecklers with his sharp wit.

Musically, Lynch may not be the next Clapton, but after a few songs it became clear that the man knows his way around the guitar. The ability to strum, sing, and contort one's face all at the same time cannot be easy-but Lynch makes it look like mere child's play.

Lynch's humor has been described as sick, twisted, and juvenile. I agree with all three. That said, I found Lynch to be as funny as he is disgusting. As basic and banal as his fart jokes are, he has many more songs that feature biting social commentary and brilliant word play.

Beyond just his craft, Lynch is a seasoned stage performer. My favorite part of the show was how he talked to the audience. Rather than ignore the sea of people, or create an illusion of equality, Lynch lets his fans know who is in charge. Like most live performances I have been to, there were several people who insisted on shouting song titles at the stage. This is perhaps the most annoying concert fan (with the possible exception of the guy who goes around spilling his beer everywhere). Lynch would smile and cheerfully refused to play any song that was shouted at him saying, "I'm not a jukebox."

The majority of the show centered on Lynch's new album, "The Craig Machine," which came out last month. Some of the night's best moments came from this album.

Concert attendee Leah Gossage had not heard the entire new album prior to the show, but left wanting to pick up a copy.

"The new songs were awesome," Gossage said. "Stephen Lynch was just as funny live as he is on TV." The rest of the audience seemed to agree. At the end of his two hour set (plus one encore) it was clear that Stephen Lynch isn't quite a rock star ... but he is one funny guy.

Movie Review

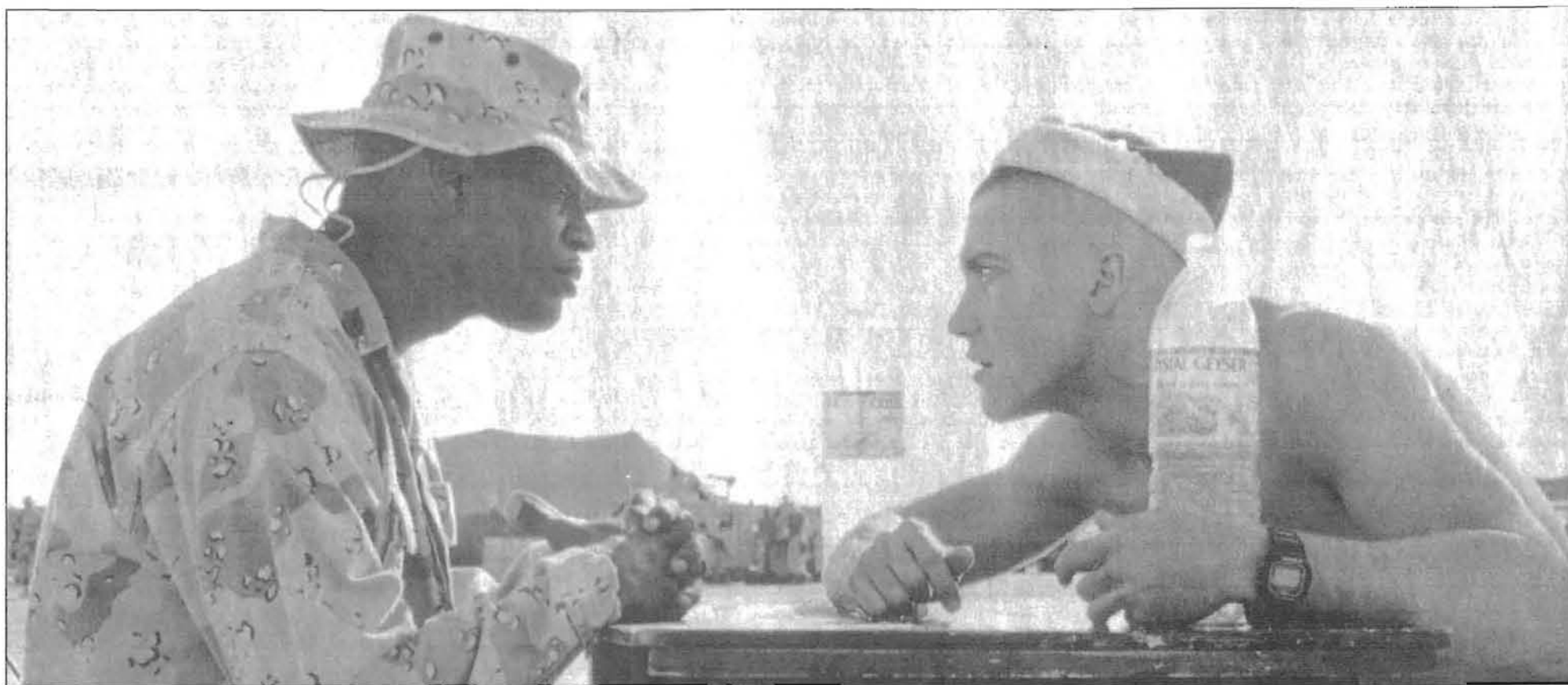


Photo courtesy www.image.net

Jamie Foxx (left) plays a sarcastic and comedic drill sergeant named Sgt. Sykes, who molds Jake Gyllenhaal (right) as Swoff, a young Marine in the movie, "Jarhead."

'Jarhead' is one soldier's story in unusual war

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Gulf War I, our first war with Iraq, was a most unusual war. Our troops spent a long time in the desert waiting to attack, to free Kuwait from invading Iraqi forces, but when the war started in was over almost immediately. It beat the Israeli's Six Day War for brevity.

The concern with Sam Mendes' film "Jarhead" was whether this film about one soldier's experience in that conflict might seem like either an

anti-war message or a pro-war one. If fact, it walks a line between them by focusing on the personal experience, both positive and negative, of military service in wartime.

"Jarhead" is not a typical war film. For one thing, it is very slow moving, with surprisingly little action, but perhaps the same could be said for the unusual war that serves as this personal story's backdrop. For another thing, it is surprisingly thoughtful and introspective. What the film lacks in conventional action, it makes up for in its bawdy energy,

finely drawn characters and insight on the lives of young men in remarkable circumstances. As has been observed before, the lives of soldiers in wartime is often long periods of boredom punctuated by briefer periods of absolute terror.

Based on a memoir by Anthony Swofford and directed by Sam Mendes, "Jarhead" stars Jake Gyllenhaal as a young Marine who comes from a family with a tradition with the Marines. But it is not sentiment that leads Swoff (Gyllenhaal) to the Marines but a family situation

so contentious that he joins up to escape. No sooner has he joined than he wants out. "On the way to college, I accidentally joined the Marines," Swoff's character laments early in the film. His status as reluctant soldier actually makes his story a more universal one, harkening back to generations of draftees and the accidental soldier's experience of countless generations.

Jamie Foxx plays their sardonic drill sergeant, Sergeant Sykes, who molds Swoff and the others into soldiers, while maintaining his biting

running commentary. Swoff is befriended and mentored by another more experienced Marine, Troy (Peter Sarsgaard) whose level-headedness and spit-and-polish devotion to the corps, helps keep the more explosive Swoff out of trouble.

Although "Jarhead" is a one man's story, and a very personal film, it has its universal side. Jarhead, of course, is the Marines' nickname for themselves, inspired by the recruits' short, flat-top haircut.

see JARHEAD, page 9

Concert Review

OKGO energizes show at Mississippi Nights

BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

Last Friday night, OKGO graciously presented themselves at Mississippi Nights to hundreds of fans ranging from ages 15 to 50.

Young admirers, dressed for the occasion in paisley shirts and pin-striped shirts and pants, crowded the stage while the older crowd preferred to stay in the jam-packed 21+ area, sitting at the bar in anticipation while they waited for the show to begin.

The wide age spectrum was actually quite refreshing. Not very often do you see parents taking their children to a rock concert that they both enjoy, and even less do you see both parent and child giddy at seeing their favorite rock stars live. The aura of Mississippi Nights was one that occurs very infrequently.

The lights soon dimmed and OKGO, dressed in full suits, stormed the stage blasting out "Don't Ask Me" from their self titled debut album. The band members clearly enjoyed being onstage despite the apparent heavy partying they had partaken in the previous night.

Lead singer and front man, Damian Kulash, spouted out afterwards, "It's really kind of terrible.



Photo courtesy www.okgo.net

Members of the band, OKGO include Damian Kulash, lead singer and guitar; Tim Nordwind, bass; Dan Konopka, drums; and Andy Ross, vocals and keyboards.

First they make you drink, a lot, and there's really nothing you can do about it. And then you find yourself quite sick, quite ill, making it really difficult to sing. And then your helpful pharmaceutical aid comes to your side. And then they say, "You know Damien, for the next two weeks you're going to be really hopped up on methopolicoids."

However, the two highlights of

the night involved a cover of The Violent Femmes' "Kiss Off" and an intricate dance number to their single "A Million Ways."

During the Violent Femmes cover, Kulash dropped his guitar and jumped off stage and into the pit, making sure everyone was having a good time. He then proceeded to dash onto the bar tables and scream the lyrics as loud as he could as the

crowd held him up and joined in.

After playing a heated version of "You're So Damn Hot," the band quickly left the stage which the sound crew immediately started to clear off. Fans, most of who knew what was about to happen, packed the front of the stage. Soon after, the band appeared once more.

"We don't do encores. Tons of bands play encores every night, and you know what?" asked Kulash, "They play the same encores night after night. That's lame. We play everything we can without all of that crap!"

So instead of playing an encore, the band took their positions, and as "A Million Ways" blasted through the speakers, the OKGO performed the dance routine straight from their music video. Young or old, male or female, fans went wild.

All-in-all, OKGO put on a great energized show but perhaps the best part of the concert was after the set. Every one of the band members came out to sign autographs, take pictures, and to just hang out. Before leaving, I asked Kulash what he thought of St. Louis. His reply was, "I think St. Louis is a beautiful town and I wonder why there is nobody in the streets in the middle of the day but other than that, it's a great city."

'Shopgirl' marks best Steve Martin film in years

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

Based on Steve Martin's best-selling book, "Shopgirl" is a small, almost introspective tale of romance and heartbreak, which is both intelligent and accessible. It is one of the best films about adult love.

The film has a magical quality, and it is both funny and sweetly sad. The film's smooth and dreamy surface of a young woman drifting through life, looking for some human connection, flows over a perhaps a deeper current of meaning in life.

Mirabelle (Claire Danes) left her small town behind to travel to glittering Hollywood but now she finds herself working at the glove counter of an upscale Beverly Hills department store. The kind of gloves she sells at her counter are not the warm and practical kinds, but the long, slim evening wear that looks beautiful but which she doesn't really wear.

Most of the time, Mirabelle herself is like elegant window dressing, standing behind a counter next to the haute couture dress section just in case her wares might be called for.

Despite her prettiness, Mirabelle thinks of herself as plain, unremarkable, unnoticed. She feels as ignored in life as she is at the glove counter.

Into this one shopgirl's world come two very different men. On one level, "Shopgirl" starts out with a kind of do and don't dating guide for young men, a dating version of "what not to wear," with Jason Schwartzman's character Jeremy providing examples of all the wrong things to do. Steve Martin's Ray provides the counter illustration of dating etiquette. The difference between the two men vying for her attention is not just in their ages or their income, but in how they treat her on that first date.



Photo courtesy www.rottentomatoes.com

Steve Martin plays one of two men vying for Mirabelle, played by Claire Danes, in "Shopgirl." The movie, based on Martin's best-selling book, follows Danes' character during her move to Hollywood, where she works in a Beverly Hills department store.

Rushmore Academy talks pop in St. Louis

BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

Rushmore Academy, a much-buzzed about band from St. Louis, is letting the world know that it is out to play pop rock and although the members of the band accept their current underground status, they are not willing to settle for anything less than fame. Playing through their shows at a blistering rate, with an array of colored lights that highlight the stage, and incorporating antics such as performing in high school gym class uniforms, Steve Neske on lead vocals, Craig Jenkins on keyboards, Steve Fee on lead guitar, Jason Kramer on bass, and Matt Effinger on drums, are going for the spot light.

I interviewed the band before their show at Mississippi Nights, Nov. 23. Sitting pow-wow style, the members of Rushmore Academy discussed their personal philosophies on music, the St. Louis rock scene, and Wes Anderson films.

"If there's a band that I've loved from the beginning gets on the top 40 radio, I'm going to be proud of them," said Neske, front man and band leader, on the topic of fame.

"I wouldn't be afraid to have a single on the radio, or a music video. Basically, we're trying to get to the point where we can do this for a job and we don't have to do anything else," said Fee, a burly human ball of energy.

Although St. Louis has spawned famous acts, such as Chuck Berry, and infamous bands like Local H, it still does not have the same rock scene as Seattle or Detroit. Yet, this minor fact does not keep the eyes of Rushmore Academy from aiming high. When asked how they planned on coping with this, the band members had plethora of answers.

"It's [St. Louis] definitely growing, if you look at all of the bands that are coming out now it's drastically more than three to five years prior," said Neske, "Record labels don't necessarily look to the Midwest for their talents, they look to the coast."

Movie Review

'Ushpizin' tells fable set among ultra-Orthodox Israelis

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

"Ushpizin" is loosely translated as "The Guests" or "Holy Guest" and refers to the spiritual guests that visit the temporary shelters used by observant Jews during Succoth, the fall holiday that commemorates the time after the Exodus from Egypt. The film "Ushpizin" is a sweet, gently comic fable about an ultra-Orthodox Israeli couple whose uninvited guests make their holiday something to remember.

"Ushpizin" is a delightful, funny and warm film that is full of humanity. The story is like a fable but also accurately provides a look within this little-seen Breslau Chassidim community. The film has comic touches but it is also a movie of spiritual uplift, which the filmmaker compared to a cross between Isaac Bashevis Singer and "It's A Wonderful Life."

As the festive Succoth holiday approaches, shopkeepers are hurrying to stock supplies needed to celebrate. This includes the "four species" needed to make blessings: date palm branches (lulav), myrtle (hadas), willow (avaros), and especially the citron (esrog). While some shop owners are discussing the price of a particularly perfect citron, dubbed "the Diamond," Moshe Bellanga (writer/star Shuli Rand), a very poor but devoted and well-liked member of the Breslau Chassidim, cannot help but overhear their discussion. When they agree to set its price at a breath-taking 1,000 shekels, Moshe's curiosity gets the better of him and he cannot help but ask to see the beautiful lemon-like fruit.

But this item is far out of Moshe's reach, a fact that both he and the shopkeepers know. In fact, Moshe is so poor, he may not be able to pay the rent, much less buy the holiday supplies for him and his wife Malli (Rand's real-life wife Michal Bat

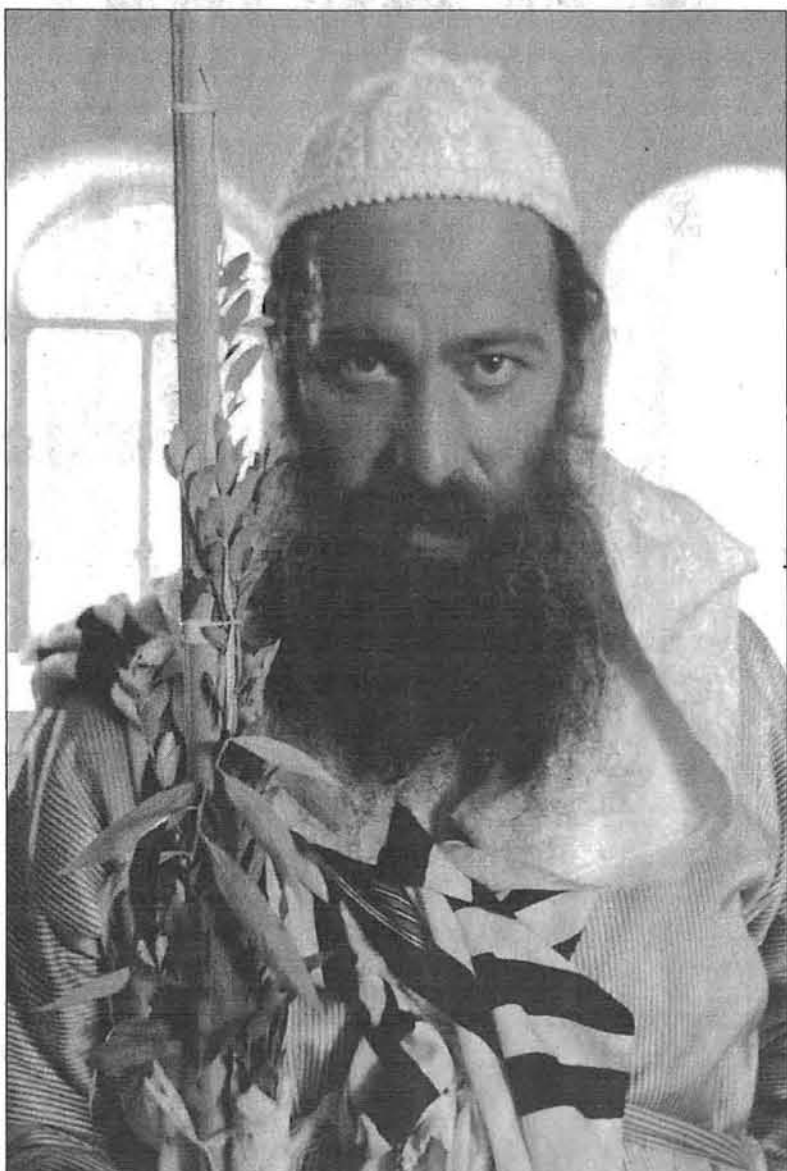


Photo courtesy PictureHouse Films
Moshe (Shuli Rand) stars in "Ushpizin," which looks into the life of the ultra-Orthodox Israeli Breslau Chassidim community.

Sheva Rand). Moshe needs to buy not only the "four species" but also a succah, the temporary shelter that the religious need to occupy in the holiday to remind them about the time after the Exodus and about the temporary nature of life. He and his wife have been married five years but, sadly, are still childless, so Moshe is especially

concerned about the citron, which is considered a blessing for having a son.

Desperate, Moshe tries everything he can think of to find the money to prepare for the holiday, but without success. Finally, his strong-willed wife Malli suggest prayer. After a day of fervent prayer, the couple is visited by what looks like a miracle, a sudden

gift of \$1,000 from a charitable group. Malli rejoices that they can now pay their bills, instead, Moshe runs out to buy the four species they need, including "the Diamond." Malli is aghast at his purchase but Moshe is confident he has done the right thing.

Moshe is encouraged in his confidence when, immediately, another apparent miracle follows. Moshe's friend Ben Baruch (Avraham Abutbul) tells him about an abandoned succah he can use for the holiday.

Yet another miracle appears, when guests come to stay in their succah, but these guests are anything but holy; they are escaped convicts, Elijah Scorpio (Shaul Mizrahi) and Yossef (Ilan Ganan), looking for a place to hide out. Rke guests are rude and abuse their hosts' hospitality shamelessly. The longer these guests stay, the worse they get.

"Ushpizin" is not only about the little-seen world of Israel's ultra-Orthodox Breslau Chassidim but is the first film made entirely within that community, with Breslau Chassidic actors and authentic locations, all under the supervision of their rabbi. The film's director Gidi Dar, a secular Israeli, used former actors who had joined this conservative religious community and followed the rules of the community in the making of the film.

Both director Dar and actor/writer Rand hoped to offer a respectful glimpse inside the Breslau Chassidic world through a charmingly entertaining story.

The film's story was inspired by a true story, told to director Gidi Dar by Shuli Rand, who wrote and stars in "Ushpizin." Dar and Rand had worked together on Dar's first film and Rand had been hailed as one of Israel's best actors, before Rand became ultra-Orthodox.

see USHPIZIN, page 12

JARHEAD, from page 8



Photo courtesy www.image.net

Jake Gyllenhaal plays Swoff, a young man who joins the Marines and trains to be a sniper in "Jarhead." The movie is based on a memoir of Anthony Swofford and directed by Sam Mendes.

But Swoff also likens the haircut and the Marine's head to the mouth of a jar, as if the head of the recruit is an empty vessel waiting to be filled.

Veterans often have tales about the absurdities of military life, of "hurry up and wait," equipment snafus and officer idiocy but they almost always speak fondly about their buddies and friendships forged. "Jarhead" captures this comradeship of misery perfectly, showing the reality of close friendships without glamorizing war itself.

One of the things that makes "Jarhead" unlike other war films is the non-typical war that is at its center, the brief and nearly bloodless Desert Storm that drove the Iraqis out of Kuwait. U.S. military personnel spent weeks stationed in the desert of neighboring Saudi Arabia, waiting to go to war. When war finally came, it was over almost as soon as it started. Like the fictional "Three Kings," perhaps the only other film set in this conflict, the film's troops are left keyed up by a battle that never happens but they still are exposed to the horrors, emotions and surreal visions of warfare.

The film keeps a darkly comedic and jaded eye trained on events as we watch the recruits driven through the endless boot camp drills. Swoff only wants the cushiest berth to wait out his enlistment but when he is selected to train as a sniper, he finds an unexpected joy in a skill he did not know he possessed. Sergeant Jamie Foxx has a tough, sardonic tone and seems to revel in the world of combat. "Where else could you see this?" he asks Swoff, as they stand alone looking at a horizon filled with burning oil wells. Back home, he tells the enlisted man, he is just a clerk in a hardware store. But Swoff is horrified, not exhilarated, by the massive destruction.

As much as Swoff regrets his decision to join, other buddies love the military life. War brings out different responses in people. Some see a chance for adventure, some embrace the discipline and in a few, a taste for the sadistic emerges. In the film's early 1990s time period, the military was moving away from the old recruiting technique where young offenders might be offered the choice of jail or the military but

military life still draws people for different reasons.

Sniper Swoff and his buddy (Peter Sarsgaard) long for a chance to use their training, the way fighter pilots long for a perfect hit, yet get an entirely unexpected experience.

The cast is very strong for this film, with Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, and Jamie Foxx all excelling in their roles. Foxx especially continues to amaze with his skills as an actor. His ability to wring every drop of irony and slyness from his lines as the sergeant, gives the dark elements needed to balance the more tragic drama carried by Sarsgaard and Gyllenhaal.

Gyllenhaal presents a young everyman, at times out of control, hormone drenched and conflicted. The role took a little nerve, and probably time at the gym, for young Gyllenhaal, who spends considerable time with few clothes on, including a drunken Christmas dance in which he gyrates his bare posterior for the camera, nude except for a strategically, and comically, placed Santa cap. Sarsgaard, who gets to wear more clothes, turns in a fine, nuanced performance as a seemingly rock steady guy who helps keep the more changeable Swoff on track but whose own past comes back to haunt him.

Director Sam Mendes, who also directed "American Beauty," finds some images of unexpected beauty in the horrific events of war. When Swoff is separated from his buddies as darkness falls, he finds himself wandering in a desert half-lit by a backdrop of burning oil wells. As a black mist of oil rains down from the skies, covering everything in an eerie sheen, a graceful, oil-soaked horse trots out of the darkness up to the lost Marine to nuzzle him and then move on. The image is both haunting and layered with symbolism.

In the end, the film is more a trial by fire for Swoff than a gung-ho recruiting film but it also leaves those lasting bonds of shared experience. The military likes to describe Gulf War I as the "perfect war" because so much of it was fought from the air and by technology, with minimal loss of troops. If only that were always the case but war, like life, is more unpredictable.

SHOPGIRL, from page 8

In the long term of romance, things are not so simple. Jeremy is cute and close to Mirabelle's age, but his poor social skills and self-absorbed behavior confuse more than they attract her. In a low point of loneliness, she goes on a disastrous date with him. Despite this, she continues seeing him, in a fog of loneliness, until a much older man comes into her life. Fifty-something Ray is handsome and wealthy but more importantly, he is considerate, socially graceful and respectfully attentive. His lavish attention is irresistible but they match in interests and personality as well, and he soon sweeps her off her feet. Despite his considerate behavior and their person-

al chemistry, he tells her that he cannot commit to her. She says she understands the arrangement.

What unfolds after this is a romance for adults, with adults doing what they do in relationships, a far more realistic romance than one usually sees in films. The three of them eventually form a different sort of romantic triangle.

The film is based on Steve Martin's bestselling book, and is a wonderful screen adaptation. The characters are all well drawn and the drama unfolds through subtle gestures and glances. It is also one of the best roles for Steve Martin of his career, with the smooth but emotionally blocked character

struggling to keep his motional walls intact, while playing the role of solicitous lover. Claire Danes is luminous as the fragile and sweet Mirabelle, as striking a character as you are likely to see on screen this year. Schwartzman is delightfully comic as the clueless and ego-centric Jeremy, whose fascination with Mirabelle drives him to transform himself and his life.

Director Anand Tucker often uses a lyrical touch in the images and photography in "Shopgirl." Particularly beautiful are shots that bracket the story, in which the camera pulls up from an overheard shot of Mirabelle looking up through a skylight at the night sky; moving ever upward until her skylight

is reduced to a speck of light like star.

Despite their understanding, Mirabelle is smitten by the kinds of things that Ray can do for her, and she opens her heart to the experience. As he showers her with gifts and gestures of sweetness and affections, the lines blur between playing a role and real feeling. Meanwhile, Schwartzman's character Jeremy embarks on a personal journey that opens his eyes to both his behavior and what he really wants to be and to have in life.

The film is at times funny but also has an element of bittersweetness, particularly in its ending. It is a far cry from the standard Hollywood romance.

RUSHMORE ACADEMY, from page 8

More importantly, Rushmore Academy is not going to be a band that dies out with the music trends. With this generation of rock and roll almost half way over, Rushmore Academy is still not worried about its future or the direction of the music scene.

Eager to put his word in, Kramer added his thoughts on the subject saying, "I just think we fit in wherever we can. I don't want people to put a spe-

cific label on us, like a specific genre. Wherever we can fit into that scene would be amazing, whether we make it or not, whether we're known as a punk rock band or a synth band, it doesn't matter. Just to be in the scene is an honor enough."

On the matter of the band's name, Rushmore Academy and, quite potentially, copy right infringement due to Wes Anderson's film, "Rushmore", the band explained its name.

"First I saw the name The Academy and I loved that but it was taken, then I was just flipping through a bunch of names and I saw "Rushmore" and I thought, 'that's cool.' So then, we just kind of put the two together. We all love the movie Rushmore, but there's no direct relation to the Wes Anderson film, but if someone asks us and we don't feel like explaining it, we just say, 'yeah,'" said Neske.

In the end, the boys behind Rushmore Academy love what they do, and that's play pop-rock. And someday, they might just make it to the top.

"Pop has been around forever, since the dinosaurs really. It doesn't really matter if it's pop-rock, pop-punk or pop-whatever. I just want to keep evolving and keep doing the best thing that I believe we can do," concluded Neske.

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The Clinical Research Center is enrolling adults and children in a research study investigating an inhaled medication for asthma. Participants must be between 12-65 years of age and a non-smoker. This study includes 5 visits over 19-22 days. Reimbursement for time and travel is provided. Conveniently located on the campus of Barnes Jewish West County Hospital.

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SPORTS

EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Inline hockey ends season undefeated; team prepares for invitational

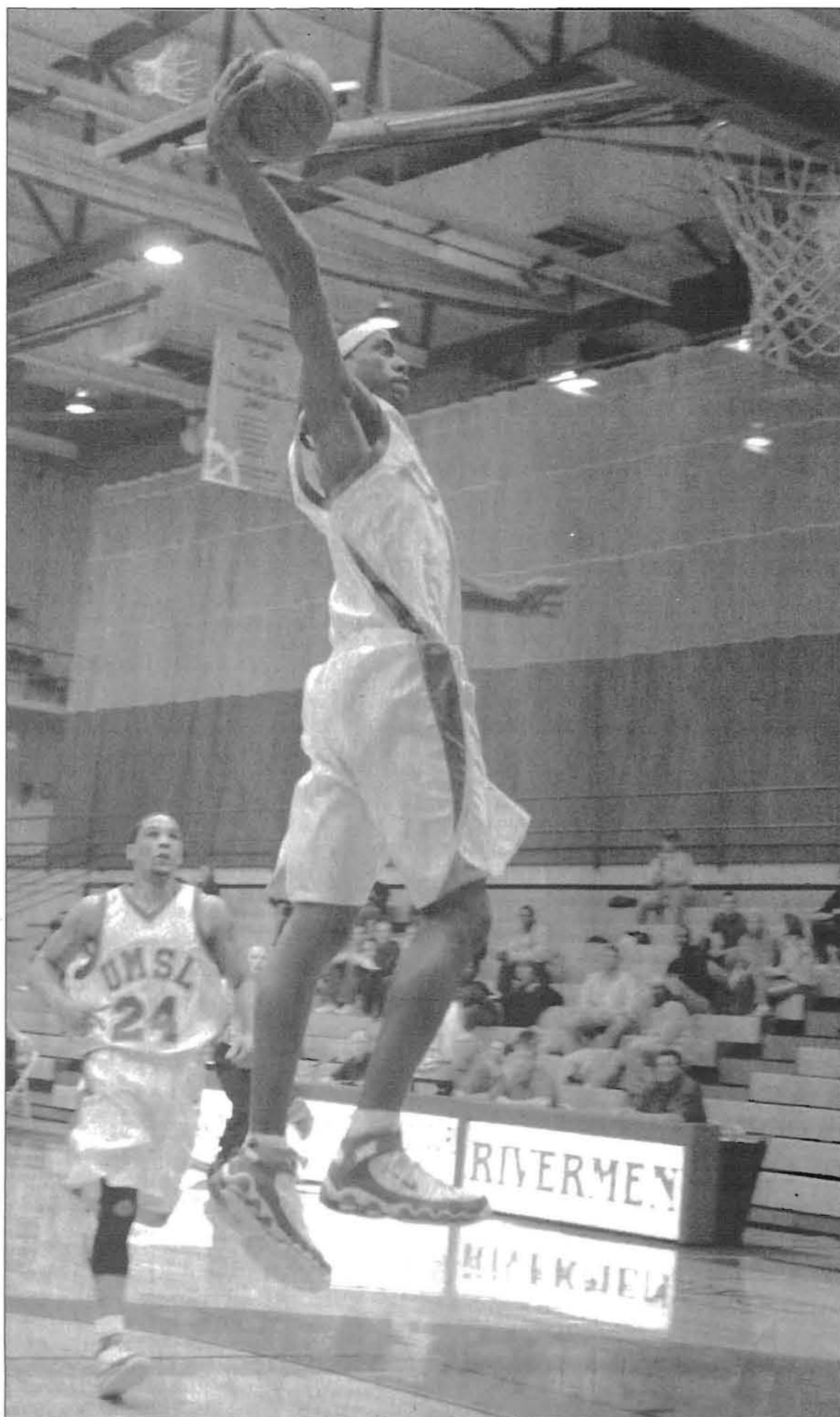
BY BRONWEN VOSS
Staff Writer

When it comes to UM-St. Louis students who are interested in hockey one thing is true—that opportunity is plentiful. The Rivermen Inline Hockey Team is one of the best ways for students to play or watch in a competitive atmosphere for hockey at UM-St. Louis.

The Rivermen play in a competitive intercollegiate league at the Division II level. They also have two teams—the Division II team and a B team. The team practices in the area at the Matteson's Square Garden in St. Charles. The team has around 25 members and are looking for more talented individuals to better their team for the division.

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen are on the right track. In 2004, the Division II team won the National D-II intercollegiate championships. Though the team's season has ended for the semester, they had an excellent record, ending undefeated 6-0. They are ranked second in the Great Plains conference, which consists of UM-St. Louis, Truman State, Washington University, SEMO, Missouri State, SLU, SIU-Carbondale, and Kansas State. After Truman State, it is the only undefeated team in the conference.

Players looking to see some great competition should come down to the NCRHA Winter Invitational that will be played Jan. 6-8, 2006 at Matteson's Square Garden and will feature inline hockey teams from Divisions I, II and III. Not only will local St. Louis teams be there, but teams from the East and West coasts will play at the Invitational.



Derrell Minner wows the crowd with a dunk on Nov. 17 at the Mark Twain Building.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

Griffin's double double keeps perfect season alive

BY ROBBIE STONE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team head into two crucial conference games this week with a burst of steam after four straight victories to open the season. This season's impressive start marks the first time since the 1966-67 season that the Rivermen have won four straight games to open the season. The Rivermen notched impressive back-to-back win on consecutive nights cruising past Brescia University on Friday and narrowly defeating the Wonderboys of Arkansas Tech in the weekend finale Saturday night.

The contest was a close one at the Mark Twain Center in front of a good size crowd against Arkansas Tech University. The teams traded leads early on with both offenses in high gear. Guards Troy Slaten, Chris Mroz, and Jonathan Griffin all had the hot hand in the first half, draining shots with high frequency. Jonathan Griffin capped the first half with an exclamation point by fighting on the offensive glass and laying in two of his 23 points just as the buzzer sounded to increase the Rivermen's lead to 14 points at the half.

The game really opened up in the second half. Arkansas Tech, needing to find a way to get back into the game, employed the full court press. The Wonderboys, led by a series of

UM-St. Louis turnovers, transition baskets, and deadly three point shooting, went on a 16-3 run to close the deficit to one point at 52-51 midway through the second period.

"The turnovers from the full court press hurt us in the second half. But we did beat the press many times we just couldn't knock down the shots," said Head Coach Chris Pilz. "Tech scored many of their points off fast breaks from turnovers. We're really going to work on improving our transition defense next week in practice."

The Rivermen held their lead and extended it to six points at 63-67. Arkansas Tech responded with seven straight points and took a one-point lead at 64-63 with just over three minutes remaining. Free throw woes by the Rivermen kept the game close during the last five minutes. However, Chris Mroz and Troy Slaten hit clutch shots down the stretch that would prove to be the difference in the end, with a final score of 72-69.

"Things got really towards the end, I'm just happy to get the 'W,'" Pilz said.

Jonathan Griffin led the Rivermen to victory, recording his first double double of the season. Griffin scored a game high 23 points as well as adding 12 rebounds and four assists. UM-St. Louis also received solid performances off the bench from Chris Mroz, who scored 11 points, as well as Sherome Cole, who added nine points. "Our bench contributions have

really been the key to our success so far. We have a strong deep bench and we're able to keep guys fresh," Pilz said.

On Friday night against Brescia, the Rivermen jumped out to a quick lead and never looked back. UM-St. Louis cruised to a 70-57 win. Brescia worked hard all game and kept digging at the Rivermen's lead but came up short in the end.

Troy Slaten led the attack for UM-St. Louis with 18 points and six rebounds. Big man David Ward dominated in the paint, tallying 16 points while matching his career high with nine rebounds. Jonathan Griffin, Joey Paul, Aaron Jackson, and several others chipped in solid offensive performances for the win.

"I'm very pleased with the team has played so far this season. But, I don't think we will hit our potential until around February or March," Pilz said.

The team will be at home for a pair of conference games this week hosting Kentucky Wesleyan on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Southern Indiana on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

Pilz said, "I'd love to see a packed house for our two games next week!"

RIGHT:

Jonathan Griffin goes up for a shot during a game against SLU. On Saturday, Griffin earned his first double double against Arkansas Tech.

4-0

Rivermen basketball has stunning start with four straight wins

BY LAQUAN FUSE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team starts the season 4-0 for only the second time in the program's history. The last time the Rivermen posted a 4-0 record was during the inaugural 1966-67 season, under Head Coach Chuck Smith.

UM-St. Louis secured the 4-0 start with a win over Arkansas Tech on Saturday. Guard Jonathan Griffin scored the first basket of the game as he lead the Rivermen to a 72-69 win against the Wonder Boys. Griffin would end the game with his first double-double of the season, scoring 23 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Griffin made 10 out of 14 field goals and also led the team with four assists.

Forward Troy Slaten scored 12 points for the Rivermen and had three assists in the game. Guard Chris Mroz came into the game and scored 11 points. Mroz went three for six from behind the three-point line and had three assists.

The first half of the game was close with the lead changing five times. The Rivermen started to pull away with the lead after a 16-5 run. They shot 18 for 34 from the field while Arkansas Tech shot 14 for 24. Slaten scored a last second basket that would give UM-St. Louis a 14 point lead at the end of the first half.

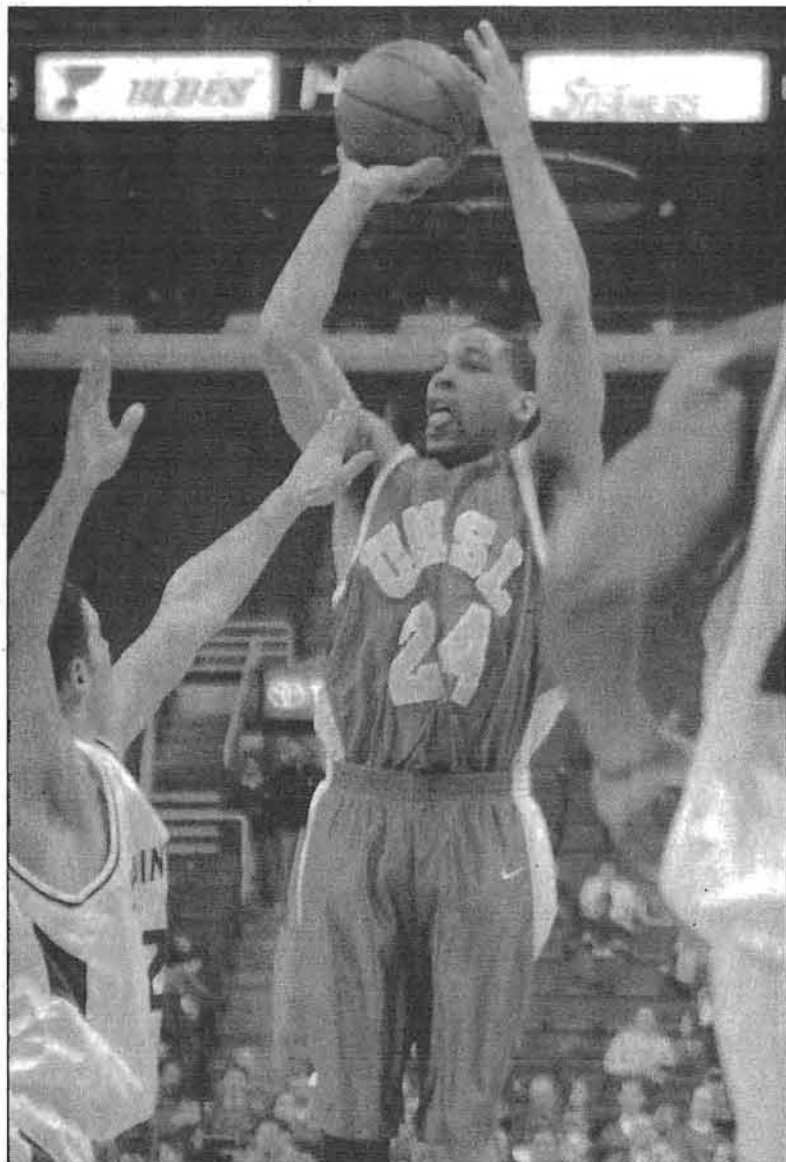
The Wonder Boys came into the

second half determined to cut into the lead. The team went on a 16-3 run making the score 52-51 with less than 12 minutes in the game. The lead changed for the first time during the second half with only 3:03 left in the game after Andrew Stanek knocked down his third three-pointer of the game, giving Arkansas the lead 64-63. Mroz answered right back with a three-pointer making the score 66-64.

With only seven seconds left in the game, the Rivermen called their final timeout with the lead 70-69. Marcus Lyons of the Wonder Boys fouled Mroz setting up two free throw shots with six seconds left on the game clock. Mroz hit both shots securing the Rivermen's win over the Wonder Boys 72-69.

The men's basketball team will play their first conference game of the season as they host Kentucky Wesleyan on Thursday. "We need a solid crowd to come out to the game to have good home-field advantage and send a message," said Head Coach Chris Pilz. If the Rivermen win the game, it will be the first 5-0 start in school history.

UM-St. Louis will also host Southern Indiana (6-0) on Saturday. The Rivermen will have their work cut out for them as they face off against the Screaming Eagles. The Rivermen will have to defend against GLVC Player of the Week, Chris Thompson, who has been GLVC Player of the Week for two consecutive weeks.



College athletics: thorns and roses



BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

I have always liked this time of the year; the weather changes and the holidays come and go. Thanksgiving comes and goes but it never is as relaxing as I plan it to be. I thought with having a week and a half off from school, I would be able to get caught up on schoolwork and do things productive. It was the opposite.

Last Monday came and went, so did Tuesday and then Wednesday and before I knew it, I was eating turkey and dressing. Then it went downhill and I have not been able to redeem myself.

The week was filled with too many games, college and profes-

sional, that I could not find enough time to watch. The one game I have been looking forward to since last November was Saturday. Unfortunately, the game did not go the way I wished it would. Florida, once again, has bragging rights over Florida State. The Gators crushed my Seminoles in a disappointing 34-7 season ender for the Noles. That was Bobby Bowden's first third straight loss since 1983. Unbelievable.

Not only was there that game to watch, LSU and Arkansas played an impressive game but the Tigers came out on top. Before that game, the highly anticipated Texas and

Texas A&M was on. The teams battled it out but the Longhorns took the game in a very low scoring game.

College Football was just the tip of the iceberg. College Basketball is in full swing in Division I and II. Being from Memphis, I am fond of the Memphis Tigers. They battled Duke Friday night. Duke is ranked #1 but the Tigers are ranked not too far behind after beating three top 20 schools since the season began.

But more on the home front, the Rivermen have been unstoppable. The team is young and the coach is still in the fresh stage. Coach Pilz was not joking around when he said the GLVC is like the ACC or Sec of

Division II basketball. He also said this was their season and so far, he is proving us right.

It is hard to get adjusted to Division II athletics but this year, I have enjoyed myself. UMSL has had winning teams since school started and now that basketball has begun, I know I will enjoy it more. The men's basketball program is now 6-0 when the odds were highly stacked against them. The players are doing what they love—playing their hearts out—and it is proving to pay off. To be honest, it is always good to cheer for a winning team but when it is your school, it always feels a little better.

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

Oh, hell no! I did not come all this way to try out the new Xbox 360 just to watch these kids turn it into Chuck E-freaking Cheese!

Now, hold on Oz...

S-Mart
"Shop Smart!"

These kids are experiencing the same bliss we were. Do you really want to take that away from them, Oz?

Ozzie...?

Get lost, you little punks, before I stomp your asses! The grown-ups have work to do!

Swat!

Remember when we were kids and we got so excited when the Super Nintendo came out? We got up every day and went straight to Toys R Us to play it.

To us, it was the greatest thing in the world.

So cool!

Nov 24-25

LIFE IN HELL

I AM SAD FOR SO MANY REASONS.

I AM SAD THAT MY LIFE HAS NOT WORKED OUT AS I HAD PLANNED.

I AM SAD THAT I HAVE ACHIEVED LESS THAN I HAD HOPED.

I AM SAD THAT I HAVE NEVER FELT TRULY LOVED.

I AM SAD THAT I CANNOT SHARE MY FEELINGS.

I AM SAD THAT LIFE HAS NO MEANING.

I AM SAD THAT NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE.

I AM SAD THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE SAD.

WHY THE GOOFY SMILE, BUTTERCUP?

©2005 BY MATT GROENING

Nov 24-25

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't feel sheepish about looking to spend more time with that special person during the upcoming holidays. Do it because it's the right thing to do.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Never mind letting misunderstandings repair themselves. Consider speaking up while the healing process can be shorter and sweeter and leave fewer scars.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Romance is easily awakened in the Gemini heart, especially around the happy holiday season. So go ahead and make those plans with that special someone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Moon Children can glow with their own inner light as the holiday season magic takes hold. It's a very special time for Cancers and Libras together. Enjoy.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a good time for you fabulous Felines to take pleasure in your special gift for, well, taking pleasure! Look for this holiday season to give you every reason to purr.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to let others who are in your life get a little closer to you. You'll both find out what you've been missing for far too long.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Open up your eyes and see some welcome surprises you've missed or overlooked for too long. What you find can lead to other favorable changes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) What you expect to be potentially troublesome might simply be especially challenging and well worth your efforts to check out. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friendship might not seem as trustworthy as you'd like. OK. Ask your questions, get your answers and settle the matter once and for all.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A family situation moves into a new area because of (or, maybe, thanks to) some decisions you might have felt you could not avoid making.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You could be cutting it very close if you hope to make those holiday plan changes in time to avoid problems. Get a friend or family member to help.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Friends show how important you are to them. Keep these precious relationships thriving. They affect much that will happen to the fabulous Fish in the new year.

BORN THIS WEEK: Time spent at home alone nurtures your mystic self. Spending your time with others nurtures them.

(c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword NO CONTEST

ACROSS

1 Spasm

4 Honshu metropolis

9 Pinza or Challapin

13 Alice's restaurant?

18 Aroma

20 Jeopardy

21 Vivacity

22 Writer Rogers St. Johns

23 Start of a remark by

24 Across

25 Panisian pronoun

26 Raj address

27 "Gladiator" extra

28 Stick

30 "Glad All—" ("64 hit)

32 Lowe or Morrow

33 Valuable

35 Part 2 of remark

38 Barren area

43 "Under the Yum Yum"

44 Mail event

45 Kinono cum-mund

46 Plunder

47 They may be personal

49 Donizetti ditties

53 Male kangaroo

55 More minute

59 With decorum

62 Abound (with)

84 Actor Ryan

85 Mongrel

86 Roger Rabbit, for one

67 "Foot" singer, Chris

69 Sailed through

71 "Lucky Jim" author

73 Compass pt.

74 Go-getter

77 Part 3 of remark

78 "The French Connection"

81 Comic Charloise

82 Kovacs and komondor

84 Protected

85 Veto

86 Fruit-tree spray

88 "pro nobis"

89 Adult tadpoles

92 Canvass cover

95 Forsaken

97 Mobile homes?

99 Dissolve poem

101 — Grigio

102 Maestro de Weart

104 Dior's "Run-around" girl

107 Plug

110 Rohmer or Roberts

113 Shameless

115 End of remark

119 Goblet part

120 Mohammed

121 "72 Harry Chapin

122 Buckwheat dish

126 Defor

129 Shinbone

132 Temporary calm

134 Speaker of remark

136 Happening figure

137 Unmarried Mme.

138 Macabre

139 Man the bar

140 Brew!

141 Address Anne

142 Man of Malmo

143 John — Passos

1 Some turkeys

2 Pastoral poem

3 Cold feet

4 Unlock, in poetry

5 Circus Barker?

6 New Yorker cartoonist

7 Last name in piracy

8 Dismount

9 Hum bug?

10 Let composer

11 Fusillade

12 Looks like Hook?

13 Lohar's "Land des Lachels"

14 Neighbor of Mont

15 Jawaharlal's jacket

16 "Middle-march" author

17 Synagogue figure

19 Comediot

20 Unlamed

29 Cereal spike

31 Multinational abbr.

34 Baseball's Cabell

36 Beloved

37 Blow for a bounce

38 Tours

39 Peggae's Marley

40 Border on

41 Major —

42 Kenton or Getz

48 Adoption agcy.

50 Incongruous state

51 Isolated

52 Last word of the year?

54 "Show Boat"

56 Rely (on)

57 Shoestrings

58 Promote

60 Type of rosal

61 Heavenly hunter

63 Knight's quat

68 "There's — Out Tonight!" ("61 hit)

70 "Moi Flanders" author

72 Rotisserie part

74 — Lama

75 Wish and joy

76 Fairy-lake fiend

78 Swing a sickle

80 Student's ordeal

81 Airport feature

83 Meant Marquis

87 Perch

90 Submarine base?

91 Line of clothing?

93 Looked like

94 Asset

96 Palindromic name

97 Amos or Spelling

98 Jazzman

100 Asian holiday

103 Epic name in epics

105 Terra —

108 Absent

109 Old Testament book

111 It may be inevitable

112 Breaks off ("61 hit)

114 Worked in Vegas

115 Postcard and portculis

116 Martini gamish

117 Yak's turf

118 Jump for joy

123 Prepare prunes

124 Present

125 Enthusiastic

127 Jocular Jay

128 Extremities

130 Part of UPI

131 From — Z

133 Fond of football

135 Shoe width

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Nov 24-25

PORN, from page 4

Discussing how pornography has affected the society, relating the topic to feminist issues, evaluating the economic factors and studying the impact of this within the film industry might hold an educational value, but watching the films in class, searching the Internet for porn and performing live acts, in my opinion, holds no educational merit.

Numerous colleges offer human sexuality courses that educate students about contraception use, STDs, abortion issues and sexual behaviors, but I have never heard of classes that condone acting in porn or that consider porn to be a suitable career option.

In addition to offering these controversial courses, colleges have also held sex-oriented campus events.

The website www.academia.com reported that Penn State is just one of the universities that has brought in guest speakers such as top porn star Larry Flint of Hustler Magazine and hosted events titled "CuntFest" and "Sex Faire" that included activities like "Pin the Clitoris on the Vulva," Orgasm Bingo and a Tent of Consent.

Whatever happened to bringing in motivational speakers and organizing career fairs?

Some colleges are taking the motto "Sex Sells" a little too seri-

ously. The State University of New York at New Paltz, for example, has held a sex-sale event where vendors sold sex toys and other erotic materials.

Is this where our educational dollars are going? Almost half of the federal and state taxes go toward health and education. Billions of dollars fund the U.S. Department of Education, state universities and Federal Student Aid. Americans are wasting their hard earned money on useless college courses such as these.

To get a real education, students should stay focused on books and not in pornographic films.

USHPIZIN, from page 9

Over the years, the secular Dar and religious Rand remained friends but Rand's strict faith kept him from making films. Director Gidi Dar eventually hit on the idea of making a film entirely within Rand's Breslau Chassidim community and adhering to his beliefs, as a way to introduce the community to a general audience. Rand agreed, provided the film could be made without violating any of his beliefs.

Because of the restrictions of his faith, Rand would only act opposite his real wife, Michal Bat Sheva Rand, who had never acted. The

warmth between them on screen and her feisty personality shine through, despite the fact that they never touch on screen.

Rather than focusing on restrictions and rules of their life, the film focuses on their humanity, and the close relationship between the couple.

Shuli Rand turns in a stellar, nuanced performance of a man under pressure, whose past makes an unwelcome return. Shaul Mizrahi as Elijah Scorpio and comic Ilan Ganani as Yossef, the two obnoxious guests, are excellent as well. Michal

Rand, Rand's musically-trained, non-actor wife, makes a good debut as the surprisingly strong Malli. The couple effectively conveys their affection for each other without ever touching on screen.

The strength of the acting and the respectful but light approach are what lift this film and make it worth watching. The outside intruders challenge them but also show the strength of their love and their faith. When prayers are answered, you might not get the answer you expect. This unexpected film is light and amusing but also filled with warmth and faith.

DEATH PENALTY, from page 5

He told me that day that he had all types of organizations behind him and he would get his appeal and win.

He did get his appeal, but he didn't win.

So on the cold, dark night of Oct. 25, I drove the 75 miles to Bonne Terre to hope and to pray that Gov. Blunt would change his mind. When I arrived, there were quite a few people there. There were also a lot of police monitoring us. I stepped out into the grass and someone handed me a candle and we prayed, and I cried.

I cried for Marlin, I cried for the Kerry sisters and for their families.

I cried for Marlin's niece that I had listened to on the radio earlier that day. I cried for all of the injustice in the world today.

It was a good, cleansing cry. But

my tears and the tears of everyone involved went unnoticed.

At about 11:45 p.m., over the sound of people talking and praying quietly, I heard something.

I was unsure at what it was at first, but I soon realized it was the other inmates beating on the doors, walls, and floors, all in unison. The sound was deafening to me.

Marlin was taking his last walk, and even 500 yards away from the front of the prison, I could hear it and then I cried for all of them.

All of the inmates then knew their end was not far away. All of the inmates that hadn't seen their families in years, for all of the victims of the crimes and the criminals themselves.

Marlin died at approximately 12:07 a.m. — his daughter called

shortly after to thank us all for coming to show our support of Marlin.

We all stood around and some shared thoughts and experiences that they had with Marlin. The group slowly began to dismantle. People started toward their cars, and I drove the 75 miles back to St. Louis, disappointed, hurt and angry.

Three human lives have been taken in vain. And the truth, the real truth, was never told.

And I am sure it never will be.

This was one of the most emotional and humbling experiences that I have ever had, but I am ever so thankful that I took that drive that night.

Through my tears, I could see the love of mankind among the other people at the vigil. And that in itself gave me hope and I smiled through those tears.

SCIENCE COLUMN, from page 5

The fruits of cultivated species ranged in color from green, yellow, red, orange or violet, could vary in size and texture, and in taste from sweet to acidic. The cultivated varieties could be found in living fences (rows of plants that serve as a fence), orchards and backyard trees. By contrast, wild varieties were usually red, small and more acidic than the domesticated ones. Domesticated varieties are cultivated through cuttings but the wild varieties reproduce through seeds, indicating one trait that domestication has changed.

The researchers collected more than 96 samples from 11 regions in Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador,

Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Both wild and cultivated varieties were sampled in each region. They used a common genetic marker used in plant studies, the chloroplast spacer, in determining genetic variation in the plants' DNA.

Some 98 percent of the dry tropical forests in which wild jocotes are found have disappeared. As the forests were vanishing, people taking a variety of types of the same plant species out of forests, for fence rows and orchards, allowed that diversity to survive.

Human beings have been doing this kind of sampling of wild plants and animals for domestic use for a

long time. Of course, someone taking a single useful wild plant out of its natural setting and transplanting it to grow near their home for their own use and convenience is how domestication of plants begins. Once, people believed that the domestication of plants or animals were one-time occurrences, with the domesticated variety passed along to others. While that is true later in the domestication process, it has been shown that repeated domestication of a useful species was often done early on, with a different set of genes potentially joining the genetic pool each time. In this case, the great variety of cultivated strains reflects that history.

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