

2-6-2006

Current, February 06, 2006

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: <http://irl.umsel.edu/current2000s>

Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, February 06, 2006" (2006). *Current (2000s)*. 279.
<http://irl.umsel.edu/current2000s/279>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Current (2000s) by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact marvinh@umsel.edu.

Student files discrimination case against Grad School

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

When Colon Moore, a 48-year-old disabled Vietnam-era veteran from Steelville, Mo., enrolled in the graduate history program at UM-Rolla, he got more than he bargained for.

Moore registered in the co-op master's program in history between the UM-Rolla and UM-St. Louis campuses. He started classes at Rolla, but when he tried to enroll at UM-St. Louis, he was met with what he claims was discrimination.

Now, Moore is filing a grievance case against UM-St. Louis for age discrimination.

Moore claimed in an e-mail interview that the dean of the Graduate School, Judith Walker de Félix and two history faculty members discriminated against him in the application process for the graduate history program.

After applying at UM-St. Louis, Moore said, "They would not even give me the dignity of evaluating my credentials."

Moore received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College's Rolla campus through the Veterans Affairs Voc-Rehab program. He said he followed all of the requirements for the program, including a GPA of 3.9 in history and 3.4 overall. He also sent in three recommendation letters and a writing sample from his undergraduate years that he received 100 percent on.

In his e-mail, Moore claims that an adviser from the history department refused to admit him to the graduate program because he started at UM-Rolla first. Moore said he was unaware of any rule that exists regarding where to start the program.

According to the UM-Rolla Web site, "through our cooperative program with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, students may initiate graduate work at UMR. Students may take up to 12 of the required hours for an M.A. degree before transferring to UMSL."

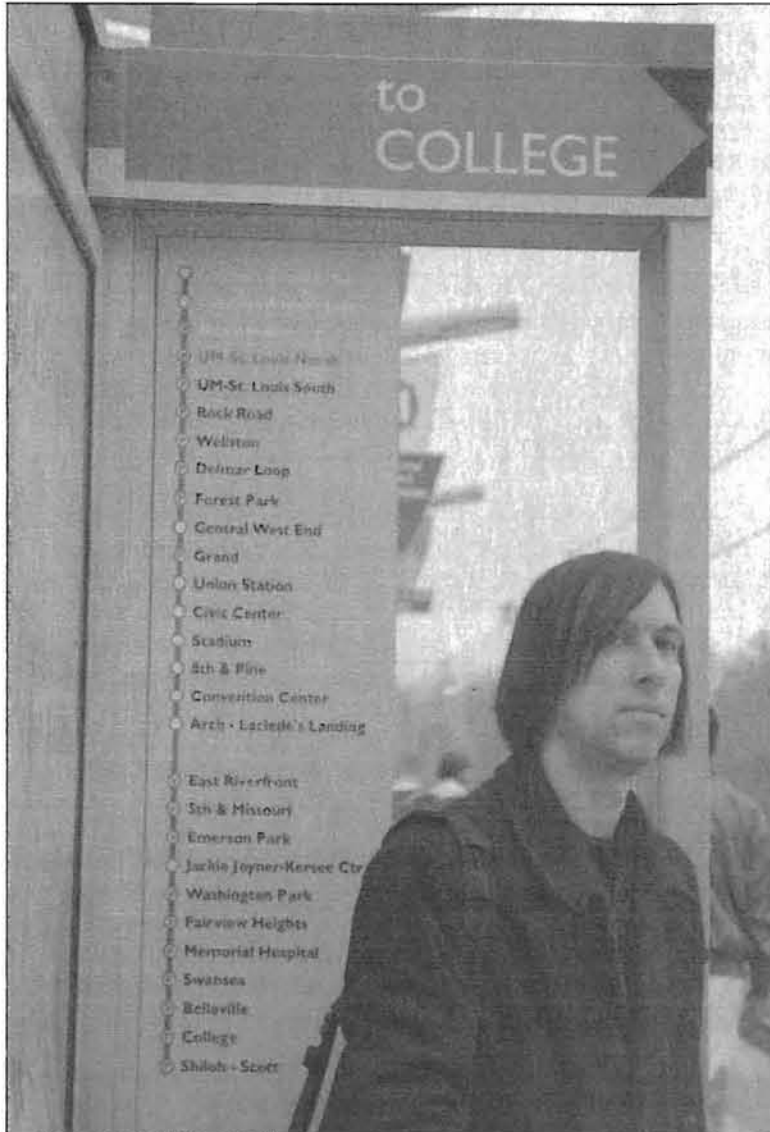
"They didn't like my age. They didn't want a Vietnam era disabled veteran there. They didn't want me," he said.

Judith Walker de Félix, dean of the Graduate School, said she could not comment on the case until it was finished. The Buckley Amendment prohibits school officials from releasing student academic records that could violate a student's right to privacy.

"I can say that the Graduate School doesn't discriminate against any applicant," Walker de Félix said.

She added that the Graduate School has a "safeguard of having more than one person make the decision whether or not to admit each applicant."

Moore contacted UM President Elson Floyd and Chancellor Thomas George, and both told him to file a grievance. After Moore filed one with Student Affairs, he said the department argued that his case was not a "grievable issue." After Moore contacted the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Missouri Commission of Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Education, Student Affairs met with him.



Kevin Schneider, senior, business administration, waits for the MetroLink Thursday afternoon on North Campus.

Future of Metro pass program uncertain

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

With the current contract for Metro passes ending by August 2006, a new proposal is needed, but none of the suggested plans from Metro work for the University.

Metro, University officials and the Student Government Association met Friday, Jan. 20 to discuss the future of Metrolink passes for students.

SGA President D'Andre Braddix said Metro offered suggestions, none of which would work well for the University. Currently, the budget provides for about \$155,000 for Metro passes.

The first plan, which is similar to the fixed price system that students pay now, would allow Metro to issue 26,000 permits a year at the rate of \$16.99 per permit. This translates to students paying a total of \$441,700 for passes, almost doubling what students pay currently.

Students pay for the Metro pass-

Comparison of Current and Proposed Metro Student Pass Plans

Current Plan: Students pay 75 cents per credit hour into the infrastructure fee for a semester-long Metro pass. Cost: \$155,000

Plan I - Fixed Price Plan	Plan II - Variable Price Plan	Plan III - Semester Plan
UM-St. Louis would issue 26,000 Metro passes per year at \$16.99 per pass.	UM-St. Louis would pay \$1 each time a student boards a train.	Full-time students age 22 and under would pay \$125 for semester long pass
Total Cost: \$441,700	Total Cost: \$475,000	Total Cost: \$3,250,000

es through the infrastructure fee, which is \$2.75 per credit hour. Schuster estimated that the Metro passes cost each student about 75 cents per credit hour. The new fixed price plan would cause the fee to jump to a \$1.95 fee per credit hour.

Under the second plan, students would not be charged per pass but would pay \$1 per boarding. Based on Metro's records, about 450,000

students ride Metrolink every year. In addition to the \$1 boarding charge, Metro would charge \$25,000 for surveys to accurately record the number of boardings.

With the third plan, full-time students ages 22 and under would receive a semester-long pass for \$125.

see **METRO PASSES**, page 10

No bones about it ... Anthropology department offers new forensics class

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

If you were out walking and came across a bone, would you be able to tell if it might be from a homicide?

Would you even be able to tell if it was human?

Pamela Ashmore, assistant professor of anthropology, examines this issue in a new class the Department of Anthropology has begun offering this semester on forensic anthropology.

"In the class, what we work on is the ability to observe and critical thinking," Ashmore said. "Students need to differentiate bones of different species."

Ashmore said the bones of different species have distinct characteristics and that students with backgrounds in both anthropology and criminology and criminal justice need to understand these differences.

Although the class has no published prerequisites, Ashmore said it is important for students to have some background in biology and also recommended that students first take an introductory biology class.

An advantage of the class is that it has a lab component, which helps give students hands on experience working with and examining bones. A key exercise students in the class go through is look at a collection of bones and

determine what type of animals the bones came from.

The class also features a series of forensic scientists as guest speakers who hope to give students a better understanding of what professionals working in forensics do daily. This semester, Ashmore's list of guest speakers includes a medicolegal investigator and forensic anthropologist, a criminalist and DNA analyst, a retired homicide detective and two college professors.

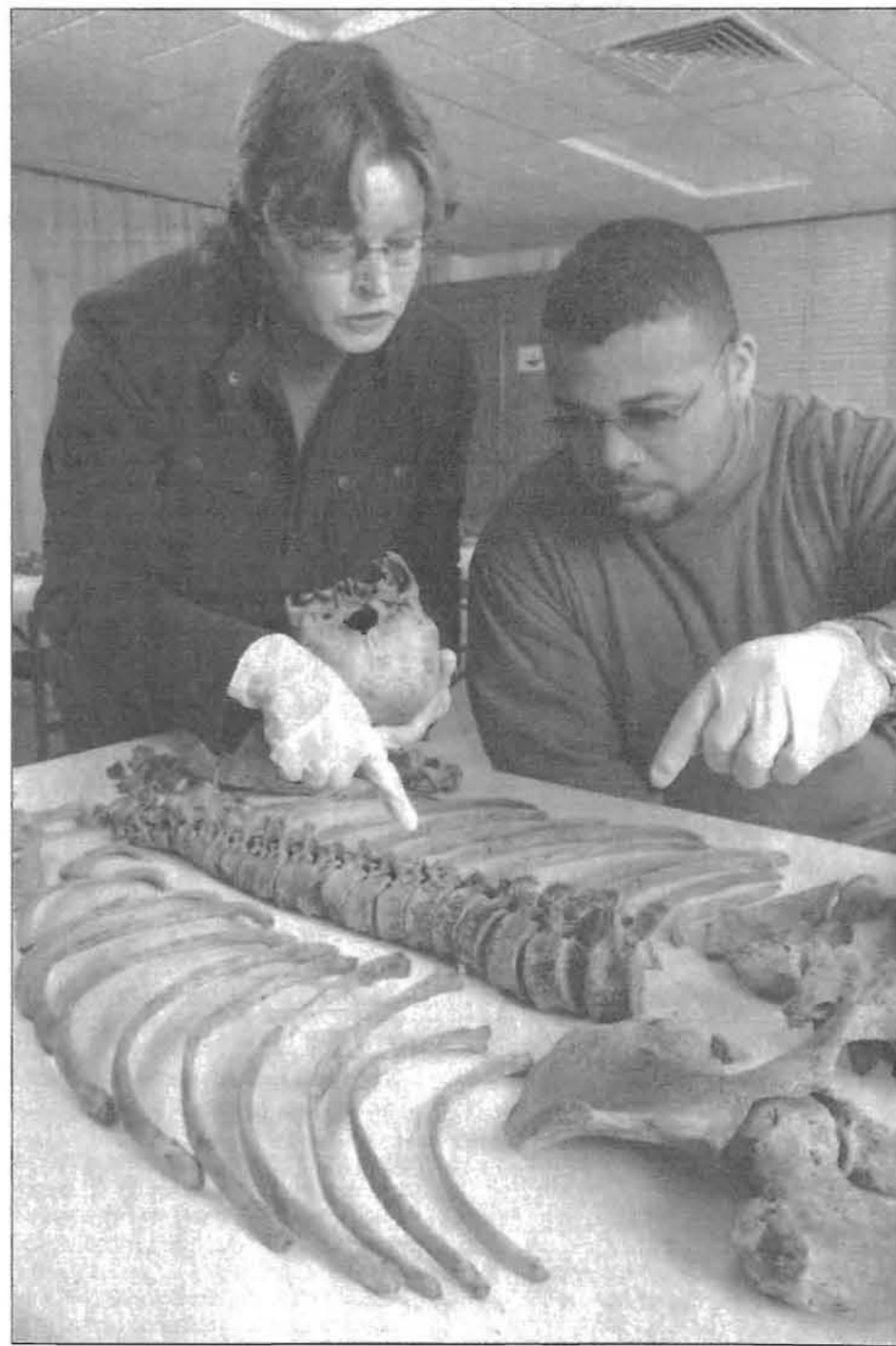
Jennifer Coffin is a medicolegal investigator and forensic anthropologist for the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office. She spoke to Ashmore's class on Jan. 30.

Coffin said her background in forensics was necessary because part of her job involves looking at bones brought to her by police and determining if they are human or non-human. She also said it is possible to determine gender, race and age within a certain amount of accuracy by looking at specific recovered human bones.

see **FORENSICS**, page 7

RIGHT: Pamela Ashmore, assistant professor of anthropology, and student Aaron Moore look over Moore's research display, which involves cataloging human skeletal remains.

Photo courtesy Jack Crosby



Curators oppose student curator receiving a vote

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

While the Missouri House of Representatives passed legislation to grant a vote to the student representative to the UM Board of Curators last year, how far the bill will get this year is unclear.

Last May, the Missouri House approved HB 440 by a vote of 117-32. However, the Senate adjourned in mid-May, delaying the bill.

This year, three bills related to granting the student curator a vote (HB 1229, HB 1308 and SB 673) are waiting to be heard in the Capitol.

Thomas Helton, ASUM board member, said interns are continuing to working with legislators on the student curator bills. Students began lob-

bying for similar bills three years ago.

Helton explained interns "talk to legislators one on one. They go to their offices, talk to them about the vote and try to convince them that this is something that's good for the University of Missouri system." Helton added that interns testify at the vote, too.

However, the three bills ran into a roadblock during the Board of Curators meeting in Columbia on Friday, Jan. 27.

Curator David Wasinger proposed a resolution to oppose the three bills that would give the student curator a vote on the board.

Curator Marion Cairns supported Wasinger's resolution. According to a transcript from the meeting, she stated, "My own feeling is that we have had wonderful input from the student

representatives, and I know they want the vote, but I feel satisfied that we are hearing from the students with a good

“
I think the student
curator receiving a
vote is inevitable.

- Maria Curtis,
student curator

”

strong student representative as the system works now."

The curators approved the resolution 8-0 with one abstention from

Curator Anne Ream. Ream said she abstained because "I think there are more solutions than what are outlined in these two bills. I don't think we have really put any thought into what we can do to give the students more of a satisfying voice," she stated. Ream said she did not feel comfortable voting on Missouri legislators' initiative.

Student Curator Maria Curtis was surprised about the resolution since it was not on the meeting agenda.

Helton named two factors that may have played a role in the curators' disapproval of the bills. He said the legislation would take away another curator's vote and replace it with the student curator's vote. He also said, "Some of the curators are concerned that the student may vote in matters of faculty," which would cause a conflict of interest if a student

voted on matters of his or her professor.

Curtis said both of those reasons are inaccurate.

"There is a misconception that one of the individuals on the board would lose a vote, and that is not the case," Curtis said.

If the bills pass, Curtis said the governor would appoint two individuals to be curators next round, instead of the usual three appointments.

She also said having a vote would not be a conflict of interest. "I have never seen any situation where the board voted on any faculty member individually," Curtis said. The board does not vote on tenure, promotions or salary of individual professors.

see **CURATOR VOTE**, page 3

see **DISCRIMINATION**, page 10

INDEX

Op/Ed	4
Features	6
A&E	8
Crossword Puzzle	11
'Life In Hell'	11

Bulletin Board

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

Monday, Feb. 6

KWMU to air Senate Surveillance Hearings

Today at 8:30 a.m. KWMU will air National Public Radio's coverage of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's hearing on "Wartime Executive Power and the NSA's surveillance Authority." Call 5968 for more information.

Monday Noon Series: The Lawrence Lithography Workshop

Master printer Mike Sims will describe his work at 12:15 p.m. in the Gallery 210 auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public and is part of the Monday Noon Series, sponsored by The Center for the Humanities. An exhibit of Smith's work will continue through March 11 in Exhibition Room B of Gallery 210. Call 5699 for more information.

Healthy Aging Colloquium

Jessica Logan, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at Washington University, will discuss "Age-Related Changes in Memory and Language: Attentional Control and Strategy Use in Healthy Aging." This event begins at 3:15 p.m. and will be held in room 120 of the Research Building. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5393 for more information.

Short Course Classes

Instructional Computing Labs will again be teaching 1 hour classes through March 3. These classes are FREE to UM-St. Louis students, staff, and faculty. Topics include Word Basics, PowerPoint Basics, Excel Basics, Web Page building/HTML, Photoshop, and more. To sign up and view a list of complete course offerings, visit umsl.edu/training.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Study Abroad

An information session will be held in front of the University Advising Center in the MSC at 2 p.m. Session will cover programs offered, academic credit, scholarships, financial aid, and application procedures. This is the last session before the Feb. 24 application deadline. Call 6497

for information.

Wed., Feb. 8

"The Diversity Ball"

The dance will be held at 7 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the MSC. The event will feature a lecture by UM-St. Louis alumnus Mike Jones. A \$10 donation will be collected at the door. Call 4833 for more information.

Thurs., Feb. 9

"Homage to the Family" exhibition

"Gallery Visio is hosting an exhibition for Alfonso Fernandez of Santiago, Chile from Feb. 9-March 2, 2006. A reception for the artist will be held today from 4 to 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For more information call 7922.

Friday, Feb. 10

Awakening 2006

The Catholic Newman Center is hosting its annual awakening retreat on Feb. 10-12. All college-aged students are welcome. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

Business/Economics Lecture

Dennis Lopez, doctoral candidate in business at the University of Arkansas, will discuss "The Effect of Workload Compression on Audit Quality" at 11 a.m. in the Baird, Kurtz & Dobson Conference Room on the 12th floor of the Social Science & Business Building Tower. Free. Call 6142 for more information.

Sat., Feb. 10

Basketball Senior Night

The Rivermen and Riverwomen teams will wrap up their home schedule with a doubleheader against the Quincy University Hawks. The graduating seniors from each UM-St. Louis team will be honored. The women's game will start at 5:30 p.m. and the men's will start at 7:30 p.m. Games will be held at the Mark Twain/Athletics & Fitness Center. UM-St. Louis students are admitted free with UMSL ID. For more information call 5661.

Sunday, Feb. 12

Sorority Open House

Delta Zeta Sorority will hold an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Delta Zeta House, located near the East Drive entrance to South Campus. The open house will include tours, refreshments and discussions of sorority life. Call (314) 803-2588 or e-mail egg2@umsl.edu for more information.

Mon., Feb. 13

Tau Sigma Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held with the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the MSC.

Monday Noon Series

Susan Brownell, associate professor of anthropology, will explore differences between Western and Oriental attitudes toward sports at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. She also discusses Western opposition to China's eastern international sports, and China's promotion of Chinese culture through the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Free. Call 5699 for more information.

Artemis String Quartet

Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. at The Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$18 for students. For more information call 5818.

Rec Sports Two-Ball Soccer Tourney Deadline

Registration deadline for Campus Recreation's 2-ball soccer tournament that will be held from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Mark Twain Building. This is a one-night soccer tourney in which six players per side use two balls on the field instead of one. Participation is free to all UM-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and alumni. Team and individual entries are accepted. Register at the Campus Recreation office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport> for more info.

Chemistry Colloquium

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-served 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.umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Raven Huang, assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will discuss "Molecular Recognition and Mechanisms of RNA Modifications that Require Breakage of Glycosidic Bonds" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. Free. Call 5311 for more information.

Tues., Feb. 14

Valentine's Auction

The second annual auction will be in the Pilot House from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be two digital cameras given away as door prizes and you will be able to bid on fellow students for a chance to win a date. Also, stop by the International Business Club table in the MSC to purchase serenades and gifts for your Valentine. The event is sponsored by Students Today Alumni Tomorrow, The office of Student Life and IBC.

Wed., Feb. 15

Trivia Contest

An African-American History Month contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pilot House. The event is sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians. Call 5731 for details.

Friday, Feb. 17

Bellerive

The Pierre LaCade Honors College publication will debut from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Provincial House Common Room on South Campus. At 11:30 a.m., an award-winning author and UM-St. Louis professor will speak. Refreshments will be served.

Announcements

Short Story Contest

The UM-St. Louis Wednesday Club and the English Department are seeking entrants for a short story writing competition. Open to undergraduate UM-St. Louis students. Stories should be typed, double-spaced with a detachable cover page, which should include the student's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a title for

the story.

Put the story in a large envelope and hand it to an English dept. secretary. Deadline is Feb. 16. Winner receives a \$200 prize at an alumni party and awards ceremony in May.

'Litmag' seeks submissions

Litmag, the UMSL Literary Magazine, seeks poetry, prose, dramatic works and art. All submissions should be sent to the Department of English, 484 Lucas Hall, or e-mailed to psm2m5@umsl.edu. Prose must be 3,000 words or less, and each individual work must be submitted on a separate page. All submissions will be kept confidential, and authors and artists will be contacted directly by the Litmag staff concerning inclusion in the magazine. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15.

CIS Photo Contest

The Center for International Studies is holding its first International Photo Contest for students, faculty and staff. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third-place winners. Entries must be original work, taken outside the U.S. Deadline is March 15, 2006. For more information, e-mail: ellpr@umsl.edu or call 7299.

Undergrad Research Symposium deadline nears

Undergrads preparing a thesis paper or participating in a research project are encouraged to participate in the Golden Key Undergraduate Research Symposium, scheduled for April 28. Research conducted through UM-St. Louis by current or graduated student between WS 2005 and WS 2006 may be submitted. Visit umsl.edu/services/academic/urs/index.html for information and applications for the URS. The deadline for filing an Intent to Participate is Feb. 17. Deadline for applications is March 17. Email URS@umsl.edu for more information.

Study Abroad Deadline

The study abroad application deadline for summer, fall semester and academic year programs is Feb. 24. The Japan Study Tour has a deadline of Feb. 10. Call 6497 or visit umsl.edu/studyabroad for more information.

Put your event on the Bulletin Board by emailing information to current@jinx.umsl.edu

The Current

Mike Sherwin • Editor-in-Chief
Kate Drolet • Managing Editor
Michael Pelikan • Business Manager
Rob Borkin • Advertising Director
Judi Linville • Adviser

Paul Hackbarth • News Editor
Melissa McCrary • Features Editor
Cate Marquis • A & E Editor
Lindsey Barringer • Sports Editor
Adam D. Wiseman • Photo Director
Christine Eccleston • Copy Editor
Ben Swafford • News Associate
Patricia Lee • Features Associate
Kevin Ottley • Photo Associate
Rudy Scoggins • Cartoonist
Elizabeth Gearhart • Cartoonist
Miata Lewis-Harris • Page Designer

Staff Writers

NaKenya Shumate, Francis Lam, Brian Salmo, Zach Meyer, Benjamin Israel, Alberto Parino, Laura Ayers, Genelle Jones, Melissa S. Hayden, Mabel Suen, Brian E. Oliver, Javier Nodal, LaQuan Fuse, Brownen Voss, Erin Boyle, Sean Michael, Jason Wendleton, Jeff Anderson

Staff Photographers

Carla Calmese, T.G. Weaver, Margaret Clarke

Ad & Business Associates

Kashif Ali, Mark Sanders, Tim Peters

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

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174

Advertising • (314) 516-5316

Business • (314) 516-5175

Fax • (314) 516-6811

Email • current@jinx.umsl.edu

Website

<http://www.tbcurrentonline.com>

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff members or the University. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current. First copy is free; all subsequent copies are 25 cents and are available at the offices of The Current.



The Current

Now hiring:

- Sports Writers
- Feature Writers

516-5174

current@jinx.umsl.edu

Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department between January 29, 2006 and February 4, 2006.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the Campus Police at 5155 or 911.

January 30, 2006 Stealing Over \$500.00-University Meadows Apts.

The victim reported some items stolen from her apartment. The victim indicated that she had a lap-top computer, cell phone charger and a Nintendo game system stolen. The victim further advised that after her roommate moved out, the items were discovered missing. It is possible that the items were taken during the move by mistake. The Police are continuing the investigation.

February 1, 2006 Stealing

Under \$500.00-315 Clark Hall

The Instructional Computing Site Supervisor reported that sometime between Friday 1-27-06 and Wednesday 2-1-06 a VCR was stolen from a classroom in room 315 of Clark Hall. This VCR was secured with a steel cable to a cart that also had a TV on it. It appears that the cable was pulled from the back of the VCR, allowing the theft. The classroom is left unlocked at all times.

Get your fix. Every Monday.

The Current. Your campus newspaper.

Are You Sensitive to Lights?

The College of Optometry is currently enrolling patients for a study of a supplement to determine whether it can lessen sensitivity to light.

Please call (314) 516-6885 to find out if you are eligible to participate and to schedule an appointment.



THE SUBWAY
A SANDWICH SHOULD BE.

Good Only At This Location

137 N. Oaks Plaza - Intersection at Lucas Hunt/Natural Bridge
(314) 389-0029

Open Seven Days a week: 10:00 a.m. - Midnight

You Can Call In Your Order(s)!

We Cater for Parties & Special Events!

\$1 off any Footlong

10% Off with UMSL ID

\$.50 off any 6 inch

FRESH BAKED BREAD

Student discount available. Coupon good only for one of three discounts listed above.

ACCEPTED HERE.

NOTHING FRESH, NOTHING GREASY

American Red Cross

Blood Drive

The Valentine Equation

February 13
10 AM - 2 PM
Century Rooms

Sponsored by **Tau Sigma**

1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543)
for an appointment / Walk-ins welcome.

Board of curators discusses PRIZM drag show drama

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

Should student fees be used to support events such as a drag show on campus?

This issue came under scrutiny at the University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting Friday, Jan. 27 in Columbia, Mo., regarding the controversy surrounding PRIZM's drag show, which took place on the UM-St. Louis campus last October.

PRIZM is the student organization of homosexual, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

According to Student Curator Maria Curtis, the question of whether or not student organizations should be given student fees to spend on events they choose was raised.

"There was a Supreme Court case called Wisconsin Board of Regents v. Southworth, which is strikingly similar to what is going on now," Curtis said. "It was decided that student fees must be made available to organizations regardless of religious, political or ideological lifestyles."

According to Chancellor Thomas George, a lot of dissension in the gay community exists concerning the content of the drag show. He men-

tioned that Charles Stadtlander, senior, public policy, and president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis, wrote a correspondence letter last October about the drag show. Stadtlander attended the event and voiced his objections in the letter.

George apologized for the conduct at the drag show. "We don't see this controversy happening again, but it did occur," he said.

Curator David Wasinger felt differently about the program. "If you don't like this type of event, you can just walk out; it's freedom of expression," Wasinger said, according to a

transcript from the Board of Curators meeting.

Curtis felt the students should be allowed to give their opinions on the issue. "If this topic is of true concern, then students with differing opinions on the drag show should be contacted," she said.

According to Curtis, some students felt the letter did not accurately describe the event.

Students want to feel their campus is safe and George said he wants to ensure the safety of the students. "It's their space to do with as they want, but someone signed off on this event to occur," he said.

Wasinger was concerned about some of the activities at the drag show. He felt that some of the audience members might have found the material offensive. Wasinger said the host, a drag queen, told some obscene jokes and concluded the performance by giving one of the audience members a lap dance.

"I don't think of coming to the University to see a homosexual drag show with lap dances," Wasinger stated in the transcript. He said he was unsure how approval is granted to events like this drag show.

"I would like to know the different types of programs that go on at

UM-St. Louis and other universities, and I'd also like to know whether or not any programs have been declined or not signed off on," Wasinger said.

Curtis felt that despite the controversial content at the drag show, it would be a violation of the First Amendment if the board did not allow differing opinions to be heard.

"There are other students out there who would be more than happy to speak on this subject who were at the event," Curtis said.

The topic of student fees will be one of the issues raised when the Board of Curators meets again in March at UM-Rolla.

Center opens its doors to public, future research

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

"Fifty to 70 percent of people have experienced a traumatic event in their lifetime," according to Steven Bruce, director of the Center for Trauma Recovery.

The center focuses its research on the recovery of people who have suffered traumatic experiences and are dealing with the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

An open house was held at the facility last Wednesday, located in the lower level of the Kathy J. Weinman Building on South Campus. The center, which is usually securely locked and can only be opened with a key card access, was open to the public.

Tristan Robinson, graduate student, clinical psychology, said the building is kept secure for the safety of patients and research participants.

"One study we did involved women who were affected by domestic violence," Robinson said.

At the event, she and other employees of the facility conducted tours of the rooms and helped clarify the purpose of the center.

"We started the trauma clinic for people who wanted treatment but didn't fit our studies. We didn't want to just turn those people away," she said.

The center opened its doors in 1997 and operates on research grants and community service funding. The entire building was conceived for the assessment of therapy for both children and adults. The upper part of the building is used for studying sexually abused children and conducting employee forensic research.

Unlike the upper levels of the building, Robinson said the center's work is "strictly therapeutic." A display of quilts donated to the center is something she feels enforces the "cozy environment" it offers to patients.

The center's new director, Steven Bruce, discussed the center itself and its ongoing research on PTSD. Bruce has been with the center for approxi-

mately six months.

His goals as director are to expand the understanding of trauma and PTSD through clinical research and to increase the collaboration between the center and university programs.

He said PTSD has serious ramifications, including that it can lead to pain, stress, suicide attempts and suicide itself.

"This disorder really needs to be treated effectively and efficiently," he said.

The center uses a treatment called Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD. Patricia Resick, who holds a doctoral degree and is a licensed clinical psychologist and professor of psychology, developed the therapy.

"It's a little different than other methods. It's primarily focused on how the victim of the trauma is perceiving their event, things like dealing with self-esteem, pain and control," said Tara Galovski, assistant research professor of psychology.

According to Galovski, CPT is a

12-session therapy specifically designed for the treatment of PTSD. Two main components of the therapy are exposure and cognitive restructuring.

"Right now we're looking at the variables we've been testing, deconstructing the therapy to see if it is all of the components or just one part that is having the desired effect," she said.

Recent studies conducted at the center tested reactions of the brain to trauma and treatment. Another examined reasons why or why not female victims of domestic violence reported the incidents to the police and what was the outcome if they did or did not report. Bruce hopes the data collected at the center can be used to shift and modify public policy.

"New technologies are really coming together nicely. We have a broad range of research interests here at the center," Bruce said. "We hope that we get funding for all of these things and we'll go from there."

CURATOR VOTE, from page 1

ASUM Board Member David Dodd said, "It's unfortunate that they [Board of Curators] have taken a negative stance on the issue. I know that they disagree with how the board would be reorganized in order for the student to get a vote. The fact remains

that the student curator deserves a vote."

Helton said the resolution might have some impact on the legislators.

"Since it deals directly with them [Board of Curators], there's going to be a lot of legislators that are on the

fence and this might push them to say ... we don't want to do anything that they're uncomfortable with because it's their board," Helton said.

If the legislation passes, a student curator would receive a vote by as early as August 2007, which means

the next student curator chosen from UM-St. Louis may have a vote.

"I think the student curator receiving a vote is inevitable," Curtis said. "I do not see them [students] giving up even if it takes 10 more years. It will happen."

News Briefs

Call Center to open in Woods Hall

UM-St. Louis recently hired the telemarketing company Ruffalo Cody to help open and manage a calling center on the second floor lounge of Woods Hall. The calling center will hire students to work as staff to call University alumni and ask for donations. According to Tom Eschen, vice chancellor of development, "Other than personally visiting our alumni and friends, having our students talk to them on the phone is the most effective way of contacting them and asking for financial support."

Eschen said four students and an onsite manager were already hired, and according to Career Services, 20 total positions will be filled. Students must work at least 12 hours per week and will get paid \$6.75 per hour plus bonuses. Donations will go to scholarships and building repair and maintenance on campus. The call center is scheduled to open Monday, Feb. 6. For more information or to apply for a position, call 516-4755.

ASUM now called SIA

The local chapter of ASUM is now called Student Legislators Association. Thomas Helton, St. Louis board member, said, "Our campus decided to adopt the chapter name of ASUM, SLA, just in an effort to launch new programs and a new visibility campaign, something that didn't seem as professional and something that could relate to the students a little bit more."

In addition, Helton said a group of students from Kansas City and Columbia are trying to create a statewide organization similar to ASUM for the 14 public universities in Missouri. "The reason they wanted to form that is because they feel that ASUM doesn't represent their views appropriately," Helton said.

Some AADA alumni...

AADA alumni have been nominated for 72 Oscars, 205 Emmys and 58 Tonys.

Audition in St. Louis, April 1

- College Degree Conservatory Program
- Six-Week Summer Program
- Scholarships & Student Housing
- NAST & Regional Accreditations
- International Student Body

ACT NOW!
NEW YORK 800 463 8990
LOS ANGELES 800 222 2867

The American Academy of Dramatic Arts

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT
IT ON YOUR RESUME.

AN ARMY OF ONE.

The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER

©2003. Paid for by Army ROTC. All rights reserved.

FACE CHALLENGES.

HELP OTHERS.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY.

BUILDING TEAMS IN:

- Sales, Lot, Cashiers, Specialty Sales and Freight

BENEFITS:

- Full and Part-time Benefits
- Tuition Reimbursement
- FutureBuilder 401(K)
- Bonus Opportunities
- A Career with Growth Opportunity

You can do it. We can help.

Ready to join our team?
Full, part-time and seasonal opportunities available. Apply online today.

careers.homedepot.com

The Home Depot is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply.
Available positions may vary by store.

For more information please call the Army ROTC Department at 314-935-5521, 5537 or 5546.
You may also visit our web-site at rotc.wustl.edu

OPINION

Editorial Board

MIKE SHERWIN
KATE DROLET
MELISSA MCCRARY
PAUL HACKBARTH
PATRICIA LEE
CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
ADAM D. WISEMAN
MABEL SUEN
LINDSEY BARRINGER
MELISSA S. HAYDEN

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

LETTERS

MAIL
 388 Millennium Student Center
 One University Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63121
FAX
 314-516-6811
E-MAIL
 current@jinx.umsu.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.

Our Opinion



Save our Metro passes!

Since the North and South campus station construction, UM-St. Louis and Metro have informally agreed to provide public transit passes to the University's students.

That is, they agreed until about 18 months ago. Metro has proposed formal agreements, and its newest goal involves making the pass distribution fair to all college campuses near Metro stops.

According to Metro, "fair" means offering UM-St. Louis three new plans. All of them will cost more than current prices. One will cost a laughable \$3,095,000 more.

Plan I is similar, costs aside, to the one in place now. This fixed price plan allows the University to distribute passes to students on a first come, first serve basis. We would fund this program with a flat rate paid through the infrastructure fee.

The similarities to our current situation end there. This plan cannot work for the University because students would have to pay a higher rate, and the budget currently does not allow enough funding for the rate increase.

Plan II, the variable price plan, would base distribution on the number

of boardings per year by UM-St. Louis students. Each boarding would cost \$1, which is \$0.75 less than the standard adult one-ride fare.

This plan would not fit into the current budget either. According to Metro, UM-St. Louis transit users board around 450,000 times per year. The biggest drawback to this plan is that it would add \$25,000 to the price of the plan in order for accurate surveys to be conducted to determine the number of boardings.

Plan III, the semester plan, would provide only full-time students less than 22 years of age with a Metro pass. The semester plan would cost a ridiculous \$3,250,000.

This plan would not allow the majority of UM-St. Louis' students to even receive a pass, since the average age of students is 27. Additionally, the plan does not consider the many part-time students enrolled at UM-St. Louis.

We also have the option to cut the program altogether. Losing our transit privileges would have serious consequences for our commuter students, faculty and staff. A monthly Metro pass costs \$55. For this price, local commuters might find it cheaper to drive.

Our growing University population would inevitably require more parking facilities.

And what about the environmental consequences? If half of our 450,000 riders decide to drive rather than use the Metro, then 225,000 more vehicles would contribute to local air pollution.

We certainly understand that Metro needs money to operate, especially with the construction of another MetroLink line. Rather than burden UM-St. Louis students with such an extreme price spike, could the company offer some kind of five-year plan?

The Student Government Association voted not to recommend an increase in the University's infrastructure fee this year, partly because members did not have specific financial information regarding the cost hike. If Metro suggested a five-year plan to raise the cost, the SGA would have a justifiable reason to vote in favor of future infrastructure fee increases.

The current situation calls for collaborative efforts, and both University and Metro officials should conduct intensive cost-benefit analyses to find a solution that benefits both parties.

Staff Viewpoint

Laws apply to everyone, even Bush

When a hijacked airliner crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, I worried about Khalid, my nephew, who worked there. I did not know until the next day that he was all right.

Khalid was lucky: he was late for work that day. My family is as opposed to Al Qaeda as anyone. They almost murdered Khalid.

But President Bush's illegal wiretapping plan does not make us feel safer.

In his State of the Union address, President Bush said, "This terrorist surveillance program has helped prevent terrorist attacks. It remains essential to the security of America. If there are people inside our country who are talking with al-Qaida, we want to know about it - because we will not sit back and wait to be hit again."

What Bush did not say is why he refuses to obey the law.

The president can legally wiretap suspected Al Qaeda members, their associates and other terrorists. Under the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act, however, he must ask a special secret court set up under the act for a warrant.

The FISA court is a secret court. Asking that court for a warrant would



BENJAMIN ISRAEL
 Columnist

not alert terrorists of the wiretap.

If there is not time for the warrant, the president can authorize the tap and apply for a warrant in three days. So time is not a question.

The court has authorized thousands of wiretaps, and according to press reports only turned down five in its lifetime. It's not like following the law would hamper the legitimate use of surveillance against potential terrorists.

So we must ask, "Why does President Bush insist on breaking the law?"

I can only conclude that his defiance stand covers up surveillance that

the court would not approve.

Who is he monitoring? Opponents to the Iraq War? People giving Dick Cheney's former corporation Halliburton sweetheart contracts? Critics of his response to Hurricane Katrina? Democrats?

Two weeks ago, I wrote about the harassment I faced from the FBI during the Vietnam War.

In the weeks following the September 11 attacks, hundreds of people, most of them foreign nationals, were rounded up and held in prisons here, sometimes without their families knowing what happened to them. No courts in this country have charged them with any crimes of terrorism.

One reason this is a great country is our Bill of Rights. The Fourth Amendment guarantees all people's right "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures." We can only be searched with a warrant backed by an oath.

There are no exceptions.

Not even for the president. The whole point of the Bill of Rights is that no one in this country has unchecked absolute power.

Editor Viewpoints

Can you major in a little bit of everything?

When I grow up, I want to be a marketing professional, journalist, yoga master, teacher, mother, stage actress, musician, fighter pilot, page designer, travel writer, small business owner, charitable benefactor, butcher, baker and candlestick maker.

That list sure made it easy to choose a major.

For the last three years, I embraced my mass communications field of study as a broad program that would give me flexible job opportunities. Last semester, though, the force behind two words hit me between the eyeballs: real job. I needed to find one. Soon.

Suddenly my degree's flexibility looked more like a curse than a blessing. People started asking me what I wanted to do after graduation. My list of life aspirations would flash through my head, and I'd shrug. "Get a fun job that pays the bills," I'd respond, secretly wishing I had a brown bag into which I could hyperventilate.

Degree requirements completed, I enrolled in a few random classes last semester, including graphic design I. My initial interest quickly turned into unabashed love. I had discovered my academic soul mate.

While some brave intellect-lovers have the courage to change majors one semester before graduating, the idea of abandoning my communications degree at the last minute didn't fit into my plans for the next year. At 21 years old, I felt tied down and doomed to walk an eternal career path without my beloved design. I, the moon-eyed Juliet, would have to live with the loss of graphic arts, my ill-fated Romeo.



KATE DROLET
 Managing Editor

Okay, that's a little extreme.

Seriously though, I always imagined I would end up with one career, a perfect job I'd find right out of college. After all, my dad joined the Army after college and will celebrate 23 years soon. To my knowledge, job security was never an issue. Growing up in the military community made me self-impose those

lifestyle expectations, so I needed a reality check.

Do civilians start their careers the day after graduation?

Thankfully, the answer is mostly 'no.' Not alone in my professional anxieties, I've discussed this perception with other soon-to-be graduates. We're all freaked out. The existence of this mutual distress calmed me, and I started thinking about my own career possibilities.

A whole group of UM-St. Louis students has refused to get stuck in an unsatisfying professional grind. Whether they're in college for the first time or seeking another degree, our non-traditional students serve as a reality check for the nervous career novices.

If your schedule allows, don't be afraid to change majors. If you discover another passion late in the academic game, take a page from the non-traditional book and consider going back to school later in life.

For seniors without a job lined up, anxiety can mount and graduation can loom like an execution day. Let's get real. We'll get jobs. If we hate them, we'll quit. We can go back to school, we can find different jobs and, as long as we're willing, we will live up to our childhood aspirations.

Bizarre buys abound for bidders on Ebay

The Internet has become more than a research tool. The web is a place where people can kill time, chat with others and shop without leaving home.

While the Internet provides numerous retail websites where people can buy virtually anything they want, millions of shoppers and sellers auction items daily on Ebay.

Ebay has become a popular destination for those in search of antiques, collectibles, memorabilia and hard to find items. Like thousands of people, I have bought some unique items through Ebay, like a Led Zeppelin-signed poster for my dad and an autographed baseball for my boyfriend's Christmas present.

I am definitely not against Ebay, but I have seen some items up for bid that have made me wonder about the people who actually buy and sell such bizarre things.

In the past five years, some weird items listed for sale on Ebay have made national news headlines.

In 1999, for example, a maximum donation of \$2.5 million was being asked for a fully

functional human kidney. Many such listings have turned out to be pranks or practical jokes, but several people have actually tried to sell their



MELISSA MCCRARY
 Features Editor

own organs. Because of the controversy and wide uproar that bids like these have caused, Ebay initiated a "no body parts for sale" policy.

Despite this rule, people still tried to sell human parts. Jeff Nelson, Seattle Mariners player, put his own bone chips up for sale, after having elbow surgery in 2002.

Although Nelson's bone chips reached a bid of over \$20,000, Ebay pulled his listing.

I can only imagine if this listing hadn't been banned. What the winner of these bone chips be thinking? I can picture Nelson's bone chips sitting on top of someone's fireplace mantle for everyone to see. I imagine the owner thinking, "Don't these bone chips make great décor?"

Another interesting sell made world news recently. Andrew Fischer made over \$50,000 by selling his forehead for advertising space in January 2005. Fischer's forehead was listed under the temporary tattoo section, which is why it was able to surpass Ebay's regulation.

When surfing through Ebay's odd listings, I came across a few items that made me wonder and some that made me laugh out loud.

see **EBAY**, page 9

Under Current

by **Adam Wiseman**
 Photo Director

If you had a radio show, what would it be about?



Sai Vamsy Palakollu, Computer Science, Graduate Student

Not appropriate to serve alcohol on campus.



Nicole Wolf, Criminology, Graduate Student

Age permitting, why not. Gotta be better than the coffee.



Rob Budach, Coordinator, Office of Student Life

My job is on the line, so I'll take the fifth for now, but it would sure change how lunch goes.



Jamin Palmer, Criminology, Graduate Student

Ya, if they are old enough, serve it up! It would be great to relax between classes with a beer.

Science Column

Chocolate shows your love for Valentine's Day

Roses and chocolates are traditional gifts for Valentine's Day. But you might want to buy a single rose and splurge a bit more on the chocolate to really show your love.

Chocolate tastes good, makes us feel good and is good for us, too. No joke. Chocolate is known to increase feelings of well-being, but studies show that it has health benefits as well.

Brown tops red and green: Chocolate has more cancer-preventing compounds than red wine or green tea, according to a 2003 Cornell University study. Specifically, the researchers compared drinking hot cocoa to red wine and green tea, in a study that looked at the anti-cancer chemical activity of drinks that were known to contain antioxidants. They were surprised to find that hot cocoa had double the level of antioxidants compared to red wine and three times the level in green tea.

Cocoa tops these other beverages because of its levels of phenolic phytochemicals, known as flavonoids. Flavonoids have beneficial effects against heart disease and other diseases, as well as against cancer. The study found a serving of cocoa contains 564 milligrams of the flavonoid epicatechin and 611 milligrams of the phenolic compound gallic acid. A January 2006 study from University of California found that epicatechin is the compound linked to the heart benefits of chocolate.

No drug-store sampler box chocolate: It is well worth it to spend a bit more and get a high-quality, dark chocolate, like from Bissingers or another chocolate shop. Chocolate is a mix of cocoa, sugar and fats but it is the cocoa solids you want. There are more of them in dark chocolate and in higher-quality chocolates. Cheap chocolates have much less health benefits (in cases, maybe none, due to the fats and sugar).

Go for the dark: Dark chocolate has more flavonoids, because it has more cocoa solids. A small Jan. 2006 study showed heart benefits, by preventing artery hardening, for smokers from eating even small amounts of dark chocolate, with 74% cocoa solids. There were no health benefits from white chocolate, which lack these solids. Other studies support the health benefits of dark chocolate specifically.

Chocoholics: Women who are very fond of chocolate might call themselves chocoholics but craving for chocolate might have more in common with craving for drugs than you might think. Chocolate craving overlaps with drug craving in the brain. In a 2001 study at Northwestern University Medical School, researchers used positron emission tomography (PET) scans to measure brain activity and compare that activity to people's ratings of enjoyment as they ate chocolate. They found a correlation between reported levels of pleasure and increased blood flow in the brain in the areas of the orbital frontal cortex and midbrain.

Other studies have found that



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

these same areas are activated by addictive drugs like cocaine.

However, if you have eaten too much chocolate and are no longer enjoying it, this is no longer true. The researcher found that other areas of the brain are activated when you are over-full of chocolate. Food scientists have reported that chocolate may be the most craved food. Some of these scientists have suggested that chocolate can be addictive.

Chocolate love: A 2004 study from researchers at University of Pennsylvania used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study food cravings, like for chocolate. They found that those cravings activate parts of the brain associated with emotion, memory and reward. This is also true for drug cravings, and the researchers suggested that all cravings share this effect and the food cravings may be the evolutionary basis for other cravings.

Some tastes are acquired but not for chocolate: A taste for chocolate may be hard-wired in the brain. In a Jan. 2006 study published in the journal *Neuron*, researchers looked at the genetic basis for instant positive response to sweets, like chocolate, at first taste by looking at taste genes in fruit flies.

Researchers had postulated that our immediate liking for the sweet taste of chocolate was too complex a behavior to be learned and likely had a genetic basis. Their study confirmed the link between behavior and preference for sweet taste by genetically engineering fruit flies whose taste neurons for sweet were activated by a compound that fruit flies do not naturally have the ability to taste. They found that the engineered flies spent as much time tasting this new substance as they had real sweet ones, indicating that the preference behavior was genetically determined.

Chocolate overcomes other genetics: Previous research has indicated that an extreme sensitivity to bitter tastes may be an inherited trait and a 2001 University of Washington study expanded on this. Even women who had the trait for sensitivity to bitterness enjoyed bitter chocolate when a little sugar or a lot of fat was added. So while they did not enjoy bitter, bitter-sweet or white chocolate, all women with the trait liked chocolate's classic combination of bitter, sweet and fat flavors. They just might prefer sweeter chocolates.

A final thought: surprise her with those chocolates: Brain research shows we love surprises. A 2001 Emory University study showed that previously identified pleasure centers of the brain did not respond equally under all circumstances to enjoyable stimuli. Instead, pleasure centers, particularly the nucleus accumbens, responded more strongly to unexpected pleasures, even in people who had not expressed preference for surprises. Just make sure it is a pleasant surprise, like really good chocolates.

Staff Viewpoint

Remembering Coretta Scott King

The world should never forget King's legacy, apart from that of her husband



MYRON MCNEILL
Staff Writer

In remembering Coretta Scott King, who died on Jan. 30, we should take the time to remember her greatness.

We should pay tribute to King and say thanks for her contributions to the civil rights movement.

We should remember the legacy she leaves behind: a legacy separate from her contributions as the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coretta Scott King pushed for the commemoration of her husband's legacy by demanding his birthday become a national holiday.

King designed and produced the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for

Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. She also raised funds for and managed the center.

One of the last qualities we must remember about Coretta is her courage.

It took courage to marry a man of Martin Luther King's caliber.

It took courage to support him and the Civil Rights movement in the face of turmoil and death threats. It also took courage to raise a family in these circumstances.

King marched with her husband on several occasions, traveled abroad with him and she also gave speeches in his place when he was unable to

appear for speaking engagements.

It took courage to accept the tragic death of her husband and four days later, lead a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, to further the cause of civil rights.

In the years following the tragic death of her husband, she continued to speak out against racism and social injustice.

Although, we lost Coretta Scott King in the physical form, we have her work and her legacy to remind us of her greatness. She was, is and forever will be a great woman of courage and justice.

The Rogue Librarian

What do librarians want most for Christmas?

RALEIGH MUNS
UMSL Reference Librarian

So, what DO librarians receive as gifts from friends and family at Christmas time? I had been pining all year for the "Nancy Pearl Librarian Action Figure with amazing shushing action" and was not disappointed to find it in my stocking on Christmas morn. I had to take her out (she's modeled on a real librarian from Seattle) and run around the room using the "amazing shushing action" on the kids. I even shushed the Baby Jesus in our diorama on top of the fireplace. (1) Lock left arm in lowered position; (2) push button in Nancy's back and watch the extended index finger flash up to her pursed

lips; (3) Shush, Baby Jesus, Shush!

I was especially touched when I realized that I had not been given the pedestrian common Nancy Pearl action figure. My sister-in-law sent me the DELUXE version! The divine Ms. Pearl's dress has been upgraded from the earlier version's frumpy black dress to a frumpy burgundy one; this new, improved version also now comes with a tiny book cart, reference desk, and desk-top computer. At five inches tall, you can get your very own Nancy Pearl action figure at the Archie McPhee web site (www.mcphee.com). If you're uncomfortable playing with a librarian doll, McPhee also offers the "Deluxe Jesus Action Figure" which comes with "five loaves of bread, two fish and a jug for turning water into

wine (not guaranteed to work for real). Also features 'glow-in-the-dark miracle hands!' "I may get that for my birthday so I can have 'Godzilla vs. Mothra' kind of battles with Jesus vs. Nancy Pearl. I know that wouldn't be a fair fight - the powers of Jesus vs. mere shushing?"

No surprise, but I also get books as presents. This season I was given another copy of "The Von Hoffman Bros.' Big Damn Book of Sheer Manliness" (1998 and out of print) which I can't recommend highly enough if you can find a copy. With this book in hand you can learn how to build potato cannons, find out about the histories of WD-40 and McIlhenny Tabasco Sauce, and discover that "Spartacus" is deemed the manliest movie of all time. I consider

myself a manly librarian, ignoring the fact that you might catch me playing with my "Nancy Pearl Librarian Action Figure" now and then at the reference desk. And if you don't like that, I will just shush you.

What does a librarian give as gifts you may ask? I gave my teenage son duck-down filled slippers; my 8 year old daughter a gift certificate to Build-a-Bear; and my wife a copy of "The Beatles - Complete Scores." It was each what they wanted. And then I shushed them all a Merry Christmas and Happy 2005-2006 Holiday Season!

Raleigh Muns' column, "The Rogue Librarian" appears every other week in The Current.

Letter to the Editor

Solicitors at MSC entrance are a nuisance

I know that this issue was brought up last semester, but it isn't getting any better and in fact it is getting worse. The problem I am referring to is the solicitation that is conducted in the walkway of the bridge of the Millennium Center. I have no problem with people trying to get students to support their cause or business, but do we need all of them there at once?

One day last week there was a petition drive, a representative from a school for chiropractors, and fraternity members handing out invites to their "exclusive" party for Friday night making my commute to class rather

difficult. All that these solicitors were doing was slowing down the walk from the MSC to the rest of the campus. It is just down right annoying. I just don't want to have to snap at the lady who asks me if I'm a Missouri voter one more time, basically I'm sick of lying to her and telling her I'm from another state. Wouldn't it make sense if the school limited these solicitors to say only one a day, or do I have to keep telling people I'm from Nebraska?

Chuck Murphy, Junior, Political Science

LUNCH
MON-FRI
DINNER
TUES-SAT

DINE IN
OR CARRY-OUT

(COCKTAILS, WINE &
BEER AVAILABLE)

314-381-3554
8418 NATURAL BRIDGE
A BLOCK WEST FROM
U.M.S.L.
AND
THE BLANCH TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS
THEATER

February 14, 2005
Bring your Valentine to The Breakaway Cafe

BREAKAWAY
Cafe

Come on in ...
FRIENDS & LUVERS
Where Adults PREFER to Shop!
www.friends-luvvers.com

Party Gifts Adult Toys
Jokes & Gags Massage Oils
Leather Lingerie Novelties

DVD DISCS
VHS TAPES
FOR SALE
FOR RENT

DON'T GET PUT IN DA DOGHOUSE!

RISQUE & FUN VALENTINE CARDS
"TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT" SUPPLIES
ROMANTIC COUPLE GIFTS
EROTIC GET-A-WAY KITS

Multi Years
Best of St. Louis
Awards Winner

(314) 771-9405 24hour
info line

3550 Gravois (at Grand) St. Louis, MO 63118
Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm Sun. Noon-7pm
Credit Cards, Layaway, Checks & Cash

ATTENTION:
Healthy Adult Men and Women
Looking for Tuition Assistance?
Would You Like to Study
and Get Paid for it?
Earn \$400 - \$2500

You May Qualify if:

- You are a healthy adult, male or female (18 or older)
- Take no medications on a regular basis
- Have no current health problems
- Available for 24 - 48 hour stays at our facility

You can earn hundreds of dollars and help generic drugs obtain FDA approval. Gateway Medical Research, Inc. has been conducting research for pharmaceutical companies for years and thousands of people have participated. Find out how easy it can be to earn \$\$\$, call our recruiters at (636) 946-2110, or visit our website at www.gatewaymedical.com

Gateway Medical Research, Inc.
Clinic Office located at
400 Fountain Lakes Blvd. • St. Charles, MO 63301

STUDENT

EDITOR
MELISSA McCrary
Features Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

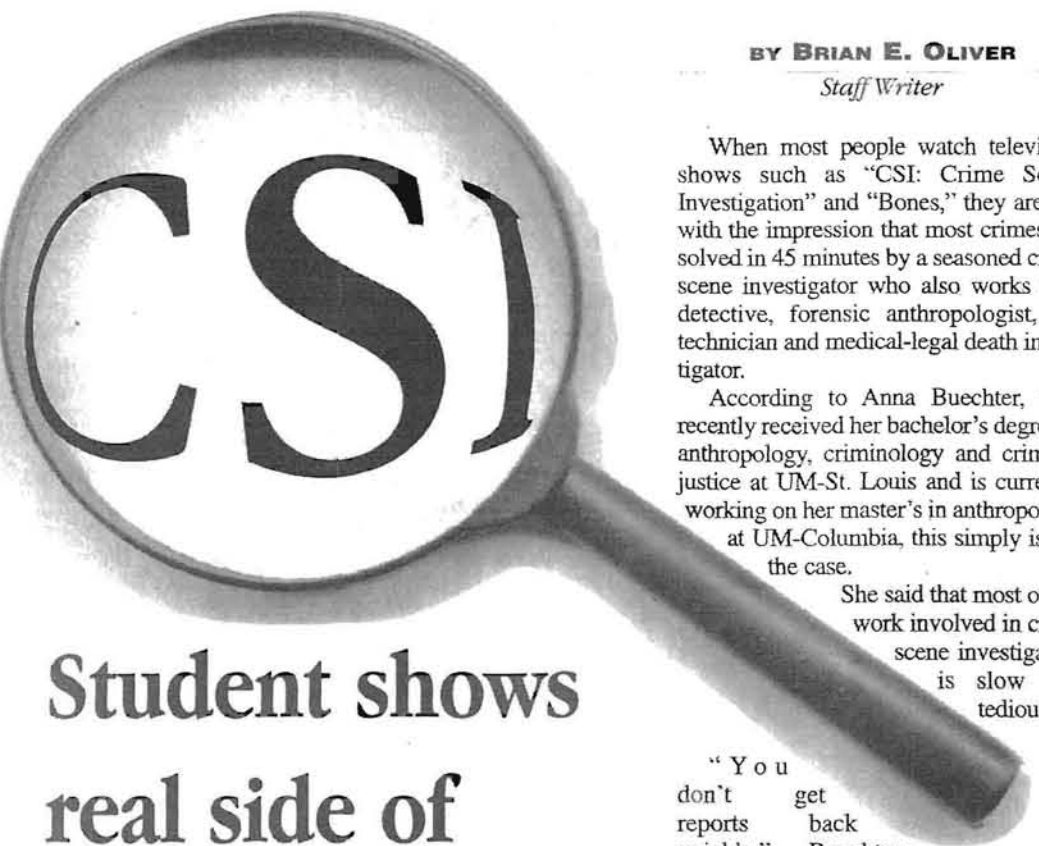
the week's
best
bets

Last Rivermen and
Riverwomen Basketball
Teams' Home Games

Support the UM-St. Louis bas-
ketball teams by attending the
games on Thursday, Feb. 9 and
Saturday, Feb. 11. The women's
games start at 5:30 p.m. and
the men's games start at 7:30.
Games are free for students
with UMSL identification.

Delta Zeta Open
House

You've probably always won-
dered what Greek life at UMSL
is all about, and now is your
chance to find out. The Delta
Zetas are hosting an open house
on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 1 to 4
p.m. at the Delta Zeta House,
near the East Drive entrance to
South Campus.



Student shows real side of crime solving

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

When most people watch television shows such as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "Bones," they are left with the impression that most crimes are solved in 45 minutes by a seasoned crime scene investigator who also works as a detective, forensic anthropologist, lab technician and medical-legal death investigator.

According to Anna Buechter, who recently received her bachelor's degree in anthropology, criminology and criminal justice at UM-St. Louis and is currently working on her master's in anthropology at UM-Columbia, this simply is not the case.

She said that most of the work involved in crime scene investigation is slow and tedious.

"You don't get reports back quickly," Buechter said. "Sometimes one has to wait weeks to get a DNA report back. The job's not as glamorous as it looks. Plus, half of the equipment seen on TV doesn't even exist."

She also said that in real world police departments, crime scene investigators do not do police work — such as interrogating subjects — and police officers do not do crime scene investigation work — such as DNA or blood spatter analysis.

Buechter said the job of a crime scene investigator involves recording the position of the body, taking the temperature to help determine the exact time of death and working with a lot of people.

"It's very tedious work. You have to be in charge of the crime scene. It's extremely detail oriented," she said.

Buechter's interest in working with the dead began during her childhood in Russia.

"I was always fascinated with anything dead. I dissected animals since age six. As a teen I came across a book about infamous crimes and was fascinated," she said.

As a young woman, she started medical school in Russia and spent seven years in the country, although she never practiced medicine. Instead, after a few years, she spent a week studying forensic pathology and instantly knew that was what she wanted to do.

She graduated from medical school in June 1989, and then came to the United States for a vacation a few months later.

The vacation became more than a vacation, however, and she ended up staying. She later met her husband here; they got married and currently have three sons and a daughter.

The idea to become involved in crime scene investigation came when she enrolled in an undergraduate anthropology class taught by Pam Ashmore, assistant professor of anthropology at UM-St. Louis. The summer following the class, she worked as an intern in the homicide processing unit of the St. Louis City Police Department. Her duties as an intern included helping an examiner organize a case before examination; because of her medical background, she also helped interpret medical records.

see CSI STUDENT, page 7

Winter is no excuse to stop working out, getting in shape

BY CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
Copy Editor

It is not as easy to go for a run in the park when there are two inches of snow or go mountain biking when the trail is covered in ice. With the temperature less than sizzling, exercise can lose appeal. However, there are ways around the cold.

The obvious way to avoid the cold is to work out indoors. Those not on a budget could purchase exercise equipment for their home. Those not willing to spend a lot of money will have to be more creative. Some free or inexpensive ideas: grab a friend or two and head to the mall to power walk; get up and walk to the television to change the channel; use a lunch break at work or a gap between classes to walk up and down a few flights of stairs.

A more conventional option, of course, is a gym or fitness center. For students, staff, faculty, and alumni who live close to UM-St. Louis, The Mark Twain Center, located on-campus, is a valuable option. It has a gymnasium, pool, and fitness area with cardiovascular equipment and weight machines. There are also four racquetball courts, a free-weight room, and full-sized men's and women's locker rooms that feature dry saunas.

For those who enjoy working out in a group, Campus Recreation offers numerous Wellness classes, such as Abs, Buns & Cardio, Interval Training, Spinning, and Yoga. All classes except Spinning cost \$25 per session for students, \$35 per session for faculty, staff and alumni and \$45 for others. Spinning, however, can be purchased per spin, for \$5, \$6 or \$8 or a 10 Spin Series card (which does not expire) can be purchased for \$30, \$40 or \$70 for students, faculty, staff and alumni, and others, respectively.

For a fee, Campus Recreation also offers Complete Fitness Consultations and Body Fat Analysis and Personal Training/Fitness Instruction. To set up an appointment with a Personal Fitness Specialist, call either Heather Bell at 314-831-0294 or Melissa Baumgartner at 618-566-9418.

Students who have time restrictions or do not live close to campus or an independent gym

or fitness center may choose to use at-home exercise videos. Recently, 8 Minute Abs, Billy Blanks' Tae Bo tapes and Carmen Electra's Aerobic Striptease have been popular. However, Paula Z, an exercise video advocate and ACE-certified personal trainer, warns that video descriptions are not always accurate. Finding the right video requires trial and error, and she warns that even after finding a helpful video, "You may need to make adjustments based on your fitness level and your fitness goals."

For those whose schedules make it difficult to find time to work out, or those who do not like to set aside a certain amount of time to exercise, there are easy ways to implement exercise into daily life. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator, for instance, helps burn calories and works your heart.

If you do plan on exercising outdoors during the winter, be sure to dress properly. The first layer of clothing should be synthetic in order to draw moisture away from your body. Cotton holds sweat close to your body and can chill your muscles, increasing the risk of injury or frostbite. The second layer provides insulation and, if necessary, a third layer protects your body from wind, rain or snow.

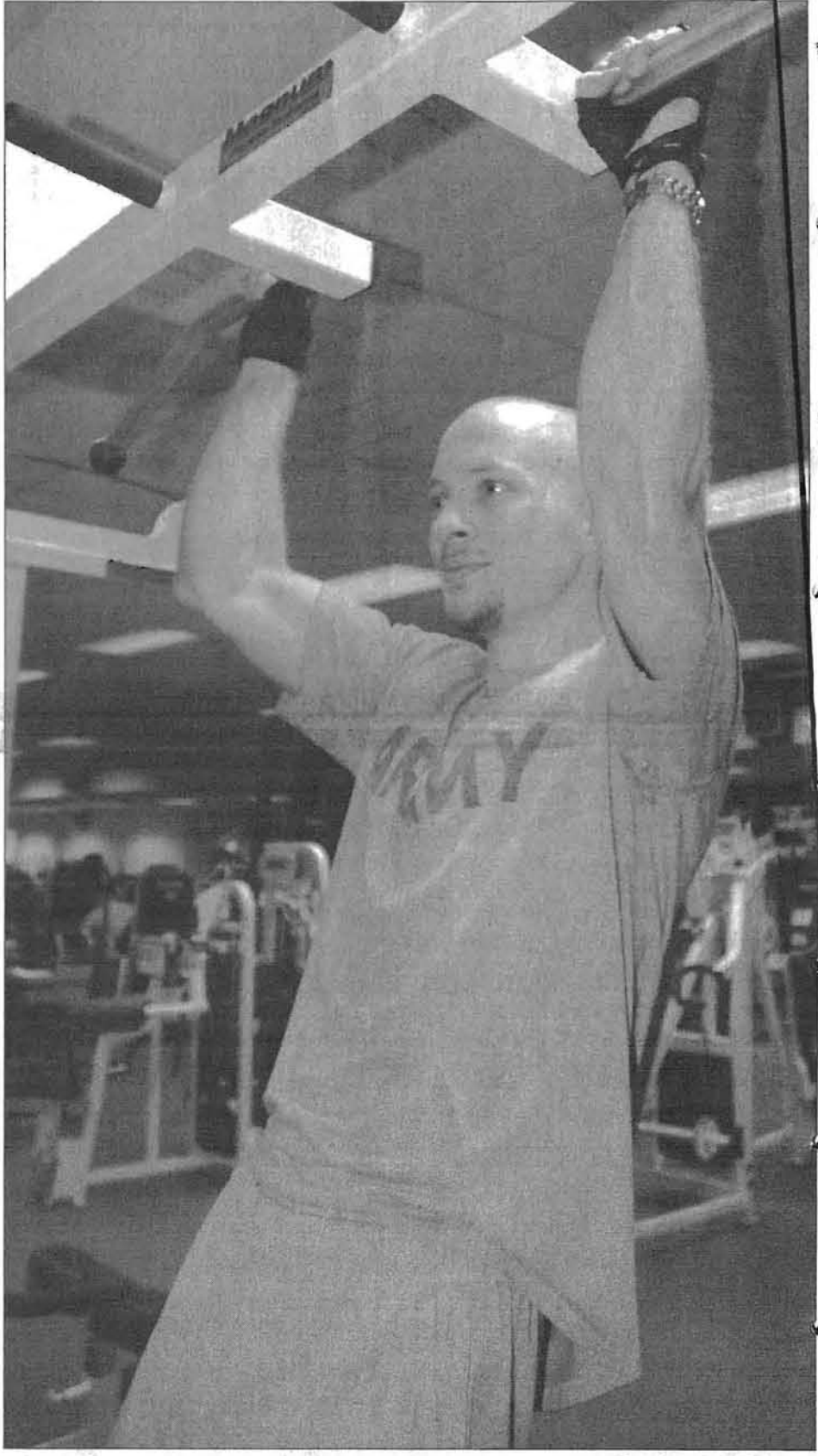
Susan Kunz, senior, general studies, said she feels like many people use the winter as an excuse not to exercise.

"I know the cold wind makes a difference, but if you get out there and start exercising, you'll warm up," she said. "Besides, if you layer you won't even feel the cold."

During cold weather, it is especially essential to protect your hands, feet and head. The hands and feet are the most vulnerable to frostbite and should be covered. The head should also be covered because it lets off a great deal of body heat.

Though there are ways to avoid the cold, there are times when it is too cold to exercise outside. Just as it is dangerous to exert yourself physically in extreme heat, it is also dangerous to exert yourself in extreme cold. Experts advise people not to exercise outdoors if the wind chill is more than 15 degrees below zero.

For more information about exercise facilities or programs on campus, contact Larry Coffin at 516-5326.



Matt Johnson/ The Current
Noah Poeling, UM-St. Louis alumnus, finds time to work out during the winter months in the Mark Twain Center.

Two new offices supply assistance for student success

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

When they register at UM-St. Louis for the winter 2006 semester with an academic advisor, most students probably noticed how the main advising center in the Millennium Student Center has undergone extensive remodeling and how the basic advising process has changed.

While the office still assists those who would like to drop a course, students who wish to add courses, speak to an advisor about course selections or need assistance with degree preparation must now meet with an academic advisor in their particular college or department.

Greg McCalley, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs and Student Success, said these changes were implemented after a group of consultants from Noel-Levitz recommended that advising responsibilities be transferred to the individual faculty departments and academic units.



Margaret Clarke/ The Current
Melissa Hattman, director of Transfer Services and Articulation, prepares information for students on Feb. 3 in the new combined offices of the Center for Student Success and Transfer Services.

Although the decision of the move was suggested after Noel-Levitz made a campus consultation visit during the spring of 2005, McCalley said that many factors,

including student surveys on campus retention, influenced the move.

"We were listening to a lot of voices from students on what they thought would be better for campus improvements," McCalley said.

The main Academic Advising Center recently has been transformed into the Center for Student Success. Advising, Career Services and Disability Access Services are the trio program that makes up the new Center for Student Success.

"The purpose of the Center for Student Success is to advise and help all undecided students, transition students and those who are dismissed from a program," McCalley said. "Our focus is to help students who encounter academic difficulties and to assist those on academic probation to get on the right path and to succeed."

Some of the current projects of the Center for Student Success include: "Path 2 Success," seminar series, residential outposts, career counseling, probationary processes, athletics and the Vashon partnership.

McCalley said that the "Path 2 Success" program is designed to address the needs of freshman who are having academic problems.

Those students who are having problems and who have a GPA below a 2.0 will be advised and

mandated to participate in this program. This program consists of a 16 week seminar with eight to 10 meeting sessions conducted by the trained and specialized counselors at the Center for Student Success office.

"We will be partnering with students who live on campus in residential halls, students involved on campus and with student athletes, to provide them any needed academic assistance," McCalley said. "The office will be absolutely beneficial for students. Students who have been on probation and just float out there, can now get on the right path for success."

In addition to the evolution of the Center for Student Success, the Office of Transfer Services and Articulation has been established.

According to OTSA's mission statement, "The office was created and is driven by the University's goal to improve the quality of student life and learning and foster student success, thereby increasing retention and graduation rates."

see NEW CENTERS, page 7

PPRC showcases photos from Bosnian students

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

"From Bosnia to Buerkle Middle School," a photo exhibition on display in the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC), at UM-St. Louis, exposes the Bosnian heritage and photography skills of eight students.

Each photograph was taken by a student from Margaret Buerkle Middle School in Mehlville. All of the photographers are sixth and seventh grade girls between the ages of 12 and 15.

This exhibition is a part of the PPRC's Point-of-View series and was completed as a photography project. The Point-of-View photography project is organized by volunteers from

three community groups, teaching students how to take quality photographs to make St. Louis a "more livable community." The photographs within the series are taken by people who live and work in urban areas around St. Louis.

Mel Watkin, director of PPRC Gallery and Photography Project, said that some of the students who participated in this project were born in Germany, while the others were born in Bosnia.

"All of the students have memories of the war and share admiration for their country," Watkin said. "Their pictures not only show daily life and the beauty of nature, but how they enjoy being American teenagers."

Watkin said that when she began

this project, her main goal was to train the children and teach them how to take pictures of their lives, family and community from their own perspective.

"I enjoyed working with the children the best. They are very serious and mature children," she said.

Throughout the project, the students became familiar with how to operate different cameras, studied composition and lighting techniques and learned the basics of fashion photography, Renaissance portraiture, self-portraits and formal portraits.

The various photographs hanging on the main wall in the PPRC Gallery demonstrate the results.

Some of the pictures range from family portraits, self-portraits and pic-

tures with floral backdrops. "Beautiful Nature" and "The Older One" are two of the photographs that show the girls' talents.

Scott Hayes, Buerkle Middle School Principal, said that the exhibition and project was a wonderful experience for the children.

"We try to take on any situation that we can," Hayes said. "It's a great start to showcase what our kids can do. It provides a window for this culture and opened the door for awesome opportunities."

Hayes said that Buerkle Middle School has had a rich history with welcoming immigrant students from across the world.

"Out of the 700 students, 125 students are immigrants. Thirteen differ-

ent nationalities make up the student body, where Yugoslavian is the largest sub-group," he said.

Watkin said that the next project she plans to work on with children will be the "2Read+2Write=Music4Music" program that will be finished in May.

"This program will focus on music composition. Students will write songs, visit a professional studio and will perform them at the Blanche Touhill Performing Arts Center," she said. "We will also be taking pictures of the entire process."

The Point-of-View: "From Bosnia to Buerkle Middle School," will be on display at the PPRC and at Grbic Restaurant in St. Louis until April 26. The PPRC is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

NEW CENTERS,
from page 6

This office will provide assistance to prospective, new and current transfer students, returning students and non-traditional students who need help with campus resources, referrals and uncertainties.

Melissa Hattman, director of Transfer Services and Articulation, said that the office will serve as the "home" for transfer students.

"If students are having problems, want to know what is going on around campus or need questions answered, we want to be where they come first," Hattman said. "Our purposes are to promote the University, support recruitment, bring new students to campus and to provide support and resources. Students can use the office anytime. This will be a one-stop place for students."

Both the Center for Student Success and OTSA should be positive additions to a growing UM-St. Louis campus.

Students hope to bring ballroom dancing back with new club

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Although there are three student organizations at UM-St. Louis that focus on and promote dancing, one student hopes to form a ballroom dancing club in the future.

J.B. Bello, sophomore, nursing, and four other students have been holding weekly ballroom dance practices, usually on Wednesdays, in the aerobics rooms in the Mark Twain Building.

The UMSL Flames Dance Team, the UMSL Cheerleading Squad and the JETE- UMSL Student Dance group are recognized student organi-

zations that dance for social events and in competitions.

Bello hopes to recruit more interested students and would like for his own group to expand and become more advanced this semester.

"Students are constantly stopping by and watching our practices and some have asked us if we could teach them some of our routines," Bello said. "Students who are interested can come to our practices."

Bello said that there have been numerous instructors who have encouraged them to start their own organization and perform in public competitions. Despite the fact that they are beginners, they are already planning to enter competitions within this year.

"Nobody really does ballroom dancing anymore, but many retro things are coming back and we want to bring back this type of dancing," he said.

Monique Weber, sophomore, nursing, has been dancing her whole life and after meeting Bello in a class, she discussed her plans to him and they started holding practices together.

"I have done line dancing, couple dancing and ballet throughout my life," Weber said. "I have thought about bringing ballroom dancing back for a long time."

Growing up, Bello practiced folk dancing, but it was not until November that he started focusing on ballroom techniques. Bello began to learn this form of dancing after he joined the St.

Louis Ballroom Dancers Organization and began practicing with Weber.

The St. Louis Ballroom Dancers Organization is a non-profit organization with over 350 members that have been dancing in the greater St. Louis area for over 15 years. This organization holds special dance events, group classes and workshops for beginners and intermediate levels at the Kirkwood Community Center and in Creve Coeur.

Bello said that ballroom dancing is magnificent to watch and is a different form from most typical dancing styles.

Ballroom dancing began before the 1800s and was performed to entertain European royal courts and also used in classical plays and ballet productions.

The Viennese Waltz, Modern

Waltz, Tango, Fox-trot and Quickstep are some of the different kinds of dance styles that have been combined to create ballroom dancing.

"Ballroom dancing is a mix of everything together. Certain parts of Maranga, Cha Cha and Fox-trot are used," he said. "This form of dancing is more formal, whereas Hip Hop that you see on television is more modern."

Weber said that this type of dancing is not only a great form of exercise, but is also extremely fun.

"I think a lot of other college students would find it fun and I think that it would make a great comeback, since it is kind of lost," Weber said.

Bello hopes the group will continue to have fun and improve their dance skills.

CSI STUDENT,
from page 6

Those who have worked with Buechter have praised her and have said how greatly impressed they are with her abilities.

Harold Messler, manager and criminalist of the St. Louis City Police Department, worked with Buechter while she was an intern.

"She was dedicated. Always professional. She was looking to expand her knowledge of the field. She was pleasure to work with and very helpful," Messler said.

Ashmore agreed with Messler's assessment.

"Her work as a student was exceptional. She always went above and beyond my expectations," Ashmore said. "She was amazingly thorough. She was really excited and enthusiastic in the field. She has a passion for this."

In addition to schoolwork, Buechter also worked with Ashmore to develop a St. Louis Science Center program called, "You Solve It," which had adults go through a series of steps to solve a crime. These steps included DNA, fingerprint, ballistics and skeletal analyses and helped show adults how detailed crime scene investigation work was.

Although Buechter loves the work involved in crime scene investigation, her long-term career goals involve getting a doctorate and going into teaching and research. She wants to be able to pass the experience and training she has on to other students who wish to become crime scene investigators.

Specific courses she would like to teach include forensic pathology and forensic course with a biological aspect.

Along with these goals, she may also do consultation work with police prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys and also has a long-term ambition of developing an exchange program in Russia, where she would spend time training and teaching at universities and institutions in Russia.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis
Office of Student Life
cordially invites you to attend

diversity
BALL 2006

A celebration of the
achievements of UMSL's
multicultural students,
faculty staff, and alumni

Wednesday, February 8
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Millennium Student Center, 3rd Level
Century Rooms A & B

Special Guest Speaker:
Mike Jones (BS.Ed '76),
Executive Assistant to the County
Executive, Founder of the Associated
Black Collegians, 1968

Please RSVP by February 6, 2006
Attire: Business Casual


Co-Sponsors: UMSL Alumni Association
African American Chapter, Office of Equal
Opportunity, Associated Black Collegians,
Helping Hands, and The Current.

Please do not forget to support our African
American Chapter Scholarship fund

For more information, call MK Stallings, Office of Student Life, at 516.4833
To RSVP, please call Kathy Kinney, Alumni & Constituent Relations, at 516.5833

GOT YOUR
PASSPORT
READY?

PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL
SPRING BREAK 2006



The Place to Plan and Book Spring Break...

- Review travel, hotels & events based on what you want!
- Register for a chance to WIN a Spring Break for four!
- Login to PCB06.com to plan your trip today!

Sponsored by
Holiday Inn
Hilton
U
PCB06.com
SPRING BREAK at PANAMA CITY BEACH

**WANTED:
BABYSITTER**

For 2 well-behaved children.
Good pay.
KILLER Location.
Call
877-467-7674
(TOLL FREE)
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 3RD

PG-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
INTENSE TERROR, VIOLENCE AND SOME LANGUAGE

HaveYouCheckedTheChildren.com



FORENSICS, *from page 1*

In her speech to Ashmore's class, Coffin said, "I talked about the different levels of investigation, what we look for, the process. We spent the last third of the class examining bones and determining what type of animal bones they were."

Coffin also said they talked about skull trepidation and looked at some charred remains.

"The students seemed to enjoy examining the bones."

While Coffin said the work she does is at times gruesome, she added that the work fascinated her and that she felt it was her calling "because so many people can't do this."

Samantha Webb, who works for the St. Louis Metropolitan Crime Lab as a criminalist II and DNA analyst, will be a guest speaker for Ashmore's class in April.

Webb said that when she talks to Ashmore's class, she will help give students insight into what she does at the crime lab, which involves gathering profiles from evidence gathered at crime scenes. She will also give examples from specific cases she has worked on and will help show how DNA analysis can be used to pinpoint a perpetrator in rape and homicide cases.

Webb agreed with Coffin's assessment that the work she does is not for everyone and said, "the main advice I'd give to students is to be an intern before you go into the field."

While the forensic anthropology class has already started this semester, Ashmore stated that it will be offered annually, in the winter semester.

Get your fix. Every Monday.

The Current. Your campus newspaper.



EDITOR

CATE MARQUIS

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

The top hip-hop singles of 2005

BY MYRON MCNEILL

Staff Writer

2005 was a year of great hip-hop music. A lot of rap albums were released by top artists, but most albums were not complete. So, rather than hype up incomplete albums, let's take a look at some of the top singles that were constantly on the radio and music video stations. In hip-hop, there exists the strong need for catchy hooks and memorable beats and the songs selected for this list possess these qualities.

Gold Digga-By Kanye West and Jamie Foxx. This is one of the most memorable hooks (chorus) in 2005. The hook, performed by Jamie Foxx goes like this, "She gives me money/ When I'm in need," based off of Ray Charles' original song "I Got A Woman." Kanye West is in the background saying "Now I ain't saying she a gold digga..." This song was fun and catchy. It talked about the many ways people manipulate relationships to get the upper hand financially.

Just a Lil' Bit-By 50 Cent. This is one of those songs that possessed a great beat and memorable sounds. The song begins with a flute that is enchanting and then during the breakdown of the chorus the beat utilizes an Arabian sample or sound that is very exotic. While 50 exclaims "We can head to crib in a lil' bit/ I can show how to live in a lil' bit."

Dreams-By The Game. The West Coast landed smack dead on the map with this track by Game. This song has a nice hook and views life as a dream that one can make a reality. The drums are hard and the beat is typical of Dr. Dre, who has established himself as a master in the design of music. Game displays his lyrical ability by saying that "They say sleep is the cousin of death/ So my eyes is wide open cuz a dream is kin to ya last breath."

I'm a Hustla-By Cassidy. Philadelphia-born Cassidy hit us with this head-banger over the summer. This is truly a hustler's anthem. Cassidy sampled Jay-Z's voice for the hook and the song begins with a snare that reaches out and grabs you. Throughout the song, Cassidy reinforces his idea of an uncanny ability to make money through several ways in the record industry. Cassidy says "I can sell raid to a bug/ I'm a hustler, I can sell salt to a slug."

Back Then-By Mike Jones. Of course, H-Town has to be included. Mike Jones, a newcomer to the limelight but not the industry, expresses the age-old adage of what fame brings to people. One listen to the hook and everyone thinks of this common saying. The hook simply states "Back then they didn't want me/ Now I'm hot they be all on me." It is similar to Biz Markie's 80s hit song titled "The Vapors." Mike helps us remember that fame and fortune brings a lot of attention, even from those who did not value us before we had it.

This wraps up the top five singles for 2005. There were a lot of great songs by artists not mentioned. However, most hip-hop heads know that 2005 was a year of great music and songs with hooks and memorable beats.

Elephant art auction supports conservation

BY JASON WENDLETON

Staff Writer

What is art? What kind of power do artists have? These timeless questions have haunted human kind since people first started creating art. Perhaps the answers can be found in the least likely place of all—among elephants. Recently, the University of Missouri-St. Louis hosted an art exhibit of paintings done by elephants, Asian elephants, to be precise. The Gallery Viso, located on the bottom floor of the Millennium Student Center, displayed the artwork from Jan. 19 to Feb. 2. The exhibit was a labor of love for Fine Arts Adjunct Lecturer Scott Tjaden, who helped bring the pachyderm art to the University's gallery.

The exhibit featured several paintings by over 10 different elephant artists. Styles ranged from frenetic, messy works to those that seemed very controlled and stylistically advanced. One artist, Dunapen (which is pronounced Juon Pen) is regarded by many to be the very first elephant to paint utilizing a technique known as pointillism. Using a brush and a few colors, Dunapen has created several paintings of carefully arranged dots. Looking at her work, it's hard to believe it was created by an animal so large and clumsy looking. Critics of the elephant art will no doubt scoff and say animals cannot create works of art. Others will quickly point out that all of the elephants were specifically trained by human artists. While the artistic merits of the animals art is

debatable, Tjaden says those who question to merits of elephant art miss the point of his exhibit.

"It's not about elephants painting," Tjaden said. "The exhibit is really about art as a way of making change in society. I hope that's what students get out of this." Co-sponsored by the Asian Elephant Art & Conservation Project, all of the paintings sold directly help improve the living conditions of elephants living in Asia. Money raised by the exhibit and others like it across the globe help contribute to this goal. Many of these poor creatures are abused, and exhibits like the one at the Gallery Viso are trying to bring this problem to people's attention. At the same time, the exhibit is touted by Tjaden as a good example of performance art with a message. Tjaden stressed that exhibits like the elephant art were especially important for art students. "Their voice is important, and can instill change," Tjaden said. "It's not about elephants painting."

Besides helping raise the profile of the plight of Asian elephants, the exhibit has also raised awareness of the Gallery itself. Gallery Manager Pat Johnson was very pleased that the elephant art has been so popular. "We've had 30 to 40 people a day visit the exhibit," Johnson said. This type of activity is unusual for the gallery, which is tucked away on the bottom floor of the Student Center, near the Nosh cafeteria. According to Johnson, people as far away as Kansas City came to the gallery to view the exhibit. So despite the seemingly flippant notion of elephants painting, this art show was extremely important for both the Gallery Viso and the



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Provost Glen Cope browses the art made by Elephants on display in Gallery Viso.

University in general.

As the exhibit drew to a close on Thursday, Feb. 2, a painting, done by an elephant named Ramona was auctioned. The work, which featured reserved curving lines, fetched \$240 for the cause. After this rather informal auction, there was a small reception attended by a handful of art (and animal) lovers.

Anyone who missed seeing the exhibit while it was at the Gallery Viso

can view some of the artwork at the Asian Elephant Art & Conservation Project's website at www.elephantart.com. Visitors to the site can learn more about the group's mission, as well as purchase some of the artwork. Besides purchasing existing artwork, patrons of elephant art can also commission the elephants to paint something on large canvases. Prices for the art start at \$100 and run upwards of several thousand dollars. For those

with smaller budgets, the group also sells a coffee table book of the elephant's art for a more reasonable price. Those wishing to make a donation to the not for profit group can also do so on the site via the internet payment service Paypal.

So while humans may forever debate the exact nature and power of art and artists, the noble elephant will continue to paint—and change the world.

Behold the beauty of 'The New World'

BY CATE MARQUIS

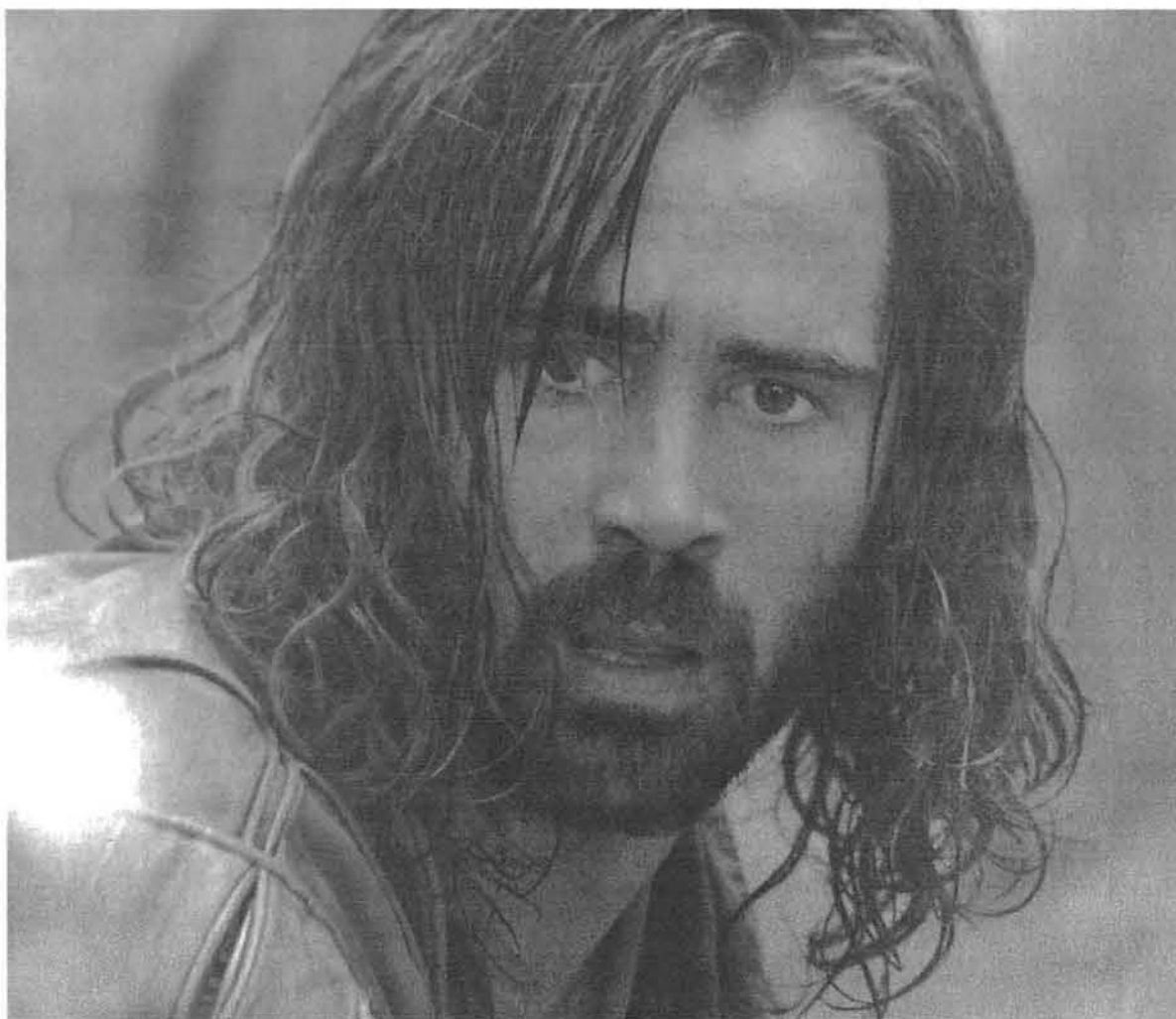
A&E Editor

If only I could write as beautifully as this film looks.

Terrence Malick's new visual cinema masterpiece about the founding of Jamestown in 1607 is a lyrically beautiful meditation on the clash of cultures, contrasts of the natural world and man's civilization, natural man and society, with a heartbreaking romance.

Written and directed by legendary filmmaker Terrence Malick, "The New World" is breathtakingly beautiful, languid, romantic and thought-provoking. Malick's film is a retelling of the founding of the Jamestown colony that focuses on a romance between John Smith (Colin Farrell) and the Native American princess (then 14-year-old Q'orianka Kilcher). There is no real historical basis for the romance but director Malick uses it, and the founding of the colony, as a metaphor for the loss of innocence, the clash of cultures and the impact of human civilizations on the natural world. The name Pocahontas is never used in the film. Malick takes a topic that has been overdone and made sappy, and turns it into a fresh and astonishing film. The film is simply gorgeous to look at, like a moving work of art. It is filled with lush images of the natural world and the Native Americans' lives, contrasted again the power, squalor and weaponry of the invading Westerners.

Malick, who also directed "The Thin Red Line" and "Days of Heaven," is a renowned filmmaker but not a prolific one. The New World is his fourth film in three decades. Like all his films, this is visually lush, with a dreamlike beauty that embraces the natural world. The film combines its beautiful images with a soundtrack mix of stately, stirring classical music, nature sounds, and poetic narration to create a mood and



give a sense of the different views of the two people and two cultures. The British accents and whispery, meditative narration, which often serves more as poetic back drop, might mean that you miss a few words, but it is not necessary to catch every word to follow the story.

The film is full of contrasts and heartbreaks. The English settlers see the New World as a clean slate on which they can create a more perfect society that corrects the flaws of their homeland. While the colonists see this new place as Eden and talk about making a new start in a new world, they recreate a squalid and class-dri-

ven mirror of their homeland within their compound. By contrast, the Naturals, as the colonists call them, live in a peaceful, clean, more egalitarian world better integrated with the natural one. They are drawn, in a mix of fascination and repulsion, to the exotic, dirty invaders and their amazing tools, but are torn between that and a precedent foreboding of a coming invasion and the price they will pay if the invaders stay. However, they do not yet know how large the price will be. Their simpler, near-idyllic lives and the natural world are the counterpoint to the colonists' violence and jealousies.

Malick speaks through his images, often presenting contrasting pairs of images. In pair, the first shot shows us the view through the gate of the colonists' fort into its muddy and grey interior, while in the next shot, we see the reverse view, looking out at the natural beauty of the grass and field beyond the gate.

Discovery and loss, the meeting of old and new worlds, Western civilization's ideas and native culture, even man versus the natural world are running themes.

see NEW WORLD, page 9

Musical celebration kicks off Black History Month

BY MYRON MCNEILL

Staff Writer

The annual celebration of African American History Month at UM-St. Louis began with "An Elegant Evening of Music" at the Desmond Lee Theatre on Feb. 1. Gwendolyn Packnett, director of Multicultural Relations, emceed this event that featured several forms of musical expression.

Those in attendance were able to experience the traditional sounds of African music by way of UM-St. Louis' Percussion Ensemble. The sounds of the drums of the UM-St. Louis Afro Cuban Ensemble, a group

that included Coordinator of Percussion Studies Matthew Henry, were also enticing, moving and eclectic. Next, Dr. Adeniyi Niya Coker explained the meaning of Nkosi Sikelel' 'Afrika (God Bless Africa), "which is South Africa's National Anthem. Both the African-American and South African national anthems were sung on this night.

The celebration also featured acts from the St. Louis metropolitan area. Matthew 18:20, a Mime ministry group from St. Louis, mimed to music by Kurt Carr. Mining is an expression that makes messages of God more vivid through action. Their act drew a standing ovation and was one

of the night's highlights.

The St. Louis Youth Chamber Ensemble also performed a few selections. Chancellor Thomas George, Brian Owens and Angela Keely performed a few jazz pieces in memory of Duke Ellington and George Gershwin. Keith Miller (string bass) and James Young (guitar) presented an original composition called "Meditation for Guitar and Bass."

The event concluded with a presentation of the "History of Gospel" by Rosalyn Robinson and the performance of music by Robert Ray. Members of the University Singers, including Professor of Music and Coordinator of Choral Studies James

Henry, and Members of Saint Louis Symphony In Unison sang "Try Jesus," "Land of God from Gospel Mass" and "He Never Failed Me Yet."

The night was entertaining and educational. Several forms of musical expression were exhibited. Musical forms that span through years of culture were presented to the audience, from African tribal music to 20th century gospel and jazz music. All of these expressions were on display by local artists. Most of all, this night was a tribute to the artists and the art forms created by Africans and African-Americans to celebrate the rich heritage and culture in the arts.

Samite lets UMSL see Uganda's musical heritage

BY JASON WENDLETON

Staff Writer

Ugandan musician Samite brought his culture's unique musical style to the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theatre. Now living in Ithaca, New York, Samite is a man familiar with two different worlds. Samite and his musicians tour the world bringing music to people, trying to "raise their spirits." I wasn't exactly sure what I was getting into when I walked into the Touhill Performing Arts Center. All I knew was I'd be hearing African music. What I didn't realize was how exciting, touching and powerful this music would be.

The show began at 8 p.m. as Samite and two drummers took the stage. Playing a wooden flute called an endere, Samite transported the audience to a strange, far away land—Africa. Using gourds and shakers, as well as a few items I didn't recognize, Samite's drummers recreated a jungle atmosphere. After finishing the song, Samite told us a story about when he first arrived in New York. Expecting to see a clean, peaceful city, Samite said he was shocked to see so many dirty, homeless people. Warned by his friends to stay away from the homeless, Samite told the audience he wrote a song called "My Name is not Homeless, My Mother Calls Me Baby." This song, which he then played for us, was both joyful and sad. The song's title best describes the music—simple but powerful songs that celebrate all people.

In between songs, Samite's humanity and sincere love of all people warmed the audience's hearts. A few of the songs performed were traditional numbers with messages or lessons. One song was about a shape changing creature that assumes the form of a musician to lure children to their deaths. Morbid material, but in Samite's hands, the song took on a lighthearted poignancy. The moral of this song was, of course, for children to be wary of strangers. After the first song ended, a fourth musician, a guitarist, also joined Samite on stage. After putting away his endere, Samite removed a strange looking handheld device called a kalimba. This became Samite's instrument of choice for the rest of the program.

see SAMITE, page 9

Rolling Stones turn in rocking performance at Savvis

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

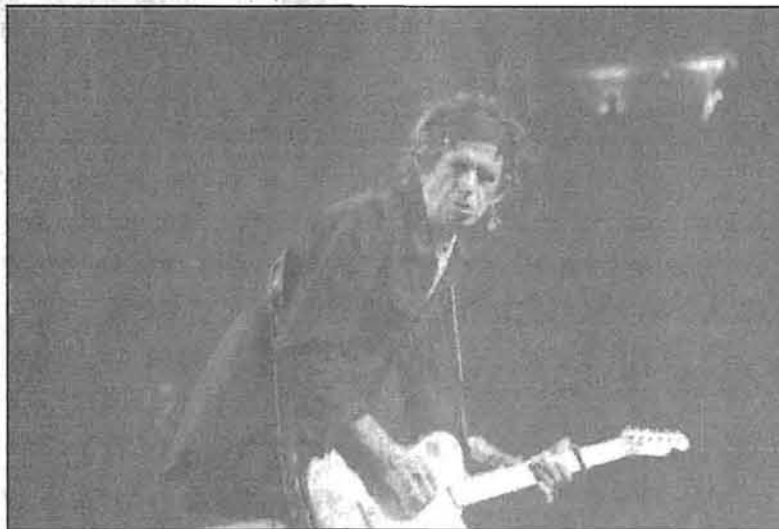
On Jan. 27, the Rolling Stones played a sold out show at the Savvis Center. Over 15,000 fans packed the arena to witness the spectacle that will not die—the Rolling Stones. Shortly after 9 p.m., the band took the stage and immediately began playing their classic, “Jumpin’ Jack Flash.” As a rock ‘n’ roll connoisseur, there will never be a moment greater in my life than seeing this legendary band live and in person. What makes the Stones so special? They certainly are not the most innovative band ever (The Beatles). Nor are they the heaviest (Led Zeppelin) or the loudest (The Who). No, what makes the Stones so great is their perseverance and longevity. When the world ends all that will remain are cockroaches and the Rolling Stones.

When one thinks of a senior citizen, one does not think of Mick Jagger. At 62 years old, Jagger is easily old enough to be most college students’ grandparent. Yet this man, who has fronted a rock band for 44 years, could not have had more energy or enthusiasm as he sprinted back and forth

across the stage. Equally in good health were Keith Richards and Ron Wood, who effortlessly kept pace with Jagger. Beginning the show with a glittery black jacket and bright pink shirt, Jagger looked the part of the glamorous rock star. Jagger’s voice was as strong and powerful as it is in the band’s extensive recordings.

After finishing “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” the band kept the show going full steam with “You Got Me Rocking.” From there, the concert went exactly as you would imagine it would go. The band played a couple of songs from their new album, “A Bigger Bang,” but for the most part, stuck with the classics. About halfway through the show, stage hands brought out a keyboard for Jagger. The first song he played, “Midnight Rambler,” featured his famous falsetto (which sounds even stranger live). More interestingly, however, was the second song he played, which was the night’s only cover song, “Night Time is the Right Time.” As Jagger began the song, black and white photos of Ray Charles appeared on the screen behind the band. The song was nicely done and was a fitting tribute to a fallen comrade.

Once the roadies had hauled the



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Keith Richards performs at the Savvis Center on Jan. 27.

keyboards off stage, Richards stepped up to the microphone and sang two of his own songs. I love Richards; the man is a total genius when it comes to playing guitar. His riffs are some of the most memorable and catchy ever recorded by man. That said, the man cannot sing. Warbling through “This Place Is Empty” and “Happy,” I was almost embarrassed for Richards (who desperately needs to give up smoking). The up-tempo “Happy” was much bet-

ter than the painfully slow “This Place is Empty.” Both songs, however, were probably the worst part of the show (sorry, Keith).

Right after his little set, the band began the song “Miss You,” at which point something interesting happened. A large piece of the stage was slowly pulled to the opposite end of the arena, giving fans sitting far away an up-front view of the band. There they stayed, on a little island for four songs (which

included the classics “Start Me Up” and “Honky Tonk Woman”). While some people may dismiss such gimmicks, I happen to think it was a wonderful gesture. The tickets for this concert were extremely expensive. Playing both ends of the arena gave pretty much all the people in the audience their money’s worth. So say what you will, the Stones are considerate of their fans.

Once the stage was reassembled, the final act of the show began. Jagger led the crowd in an extended sing-along of “Sympathy for the Devil.” Augmented with demonic red lighting, the song was both creepy and fun. “Paint It Black” and “Brown Sugar” followed and then the show was over.

Then, one of the oldest rock traditions ever began - the audience plea for an encore. No matter how many times I go to a show, I am still amazed by this phenomenon. Everyone in the stands knows the band is not really done when it says, “Thank you and good night!” They know they are coming back, we know they are coming back ... the whole thing always strikes me as a bit silly. And yet, the one time the encore was denied me (The Strokes back in Kansas City), I was angry and felt cheated. The Stones said good-

night, then waited for what seemed like an eternity before swaggering back on stage for two final songs.

What would a Rolling Stones concert be without “You Can’t Always Get What You Want?” Despite the lack of a choir (for the opening), this song was reproduced perfectly (thanks in part to back up musicians playing horns). It was not until that very moment that I realized that this is my all time favorite Stones song. For its final song, the band played the one it is most famous for: “Satisfaction.” Everybody went nuts for this one, and the Stones were right to save it for the end. The anticipation of “will they or won’t they play it” kept us on our collective toes all night.

Two hours after they began playing, the Rolling Stones took a bow and were gone. I am a young man and I know I will go to a lot more concerts in my lifetime, but I do not think I will ever experience anything like I did at this concert. The Stones are more than a rock band; they are historical (perhaps even mythic) figures infused into our popular culture like few bands are or ever will be. It was a privilege and an honor to see them. And if you missed the show, do not worry, they will be back.

THE NEW WORLD, from page 8

Malick uses the romance between Smith and the princess to explore his themes. The princess is torn between loyalty to her people and her father’s concerns about the newcomers’ intentions and her fascination with Smith. Likewise, Smith seems torn between his attraction to both the princess, the lives of her people, and the attractive countryside, and his own guilt and fears about the damage he might inflict on her and them, and his own ambitions as an explorer.

The real center of the story is not Colin Farrell’s Captain Smith but the princess herself, who embarks on a journey of self-discovery and loss that reflects both her experience and her peoples’. Near the end of the film, she travels to England where she is presented to the King, along with wildlife from the New World. As she walks the streets, people bow to her as royalty but they also gawk at her as exotic. Dressed in Jacobean garb and with the

regal, relaxed carriage of a princess, she is greeted with respect by the King and Queen, but she is clearly as foreign and unusual as the America eagle also on display, an irony that does not seem to escape her.

The film is filled with such ironies, such as why the colonists recreate the flaws of their old world after recognizing their opportunity to carve a new path.

The film is as filled with good performances as it is with beautiful photography. Colin Farrell plays the conflicted, ambitious Smith well but the really acting surprise is young Kilcher, whose portrayal is deep and compelling. The young Hawaiian-born actress, reportedly a cousin of singer Jewel, has a long resume of acting roles but this is her first film. Good supporting work comes from the mostly British cast. Christian Bale as John Rolfe, is warm and open, the right counter balance to Farrell’s Smith.

Other good performances of note are Christopher Plummer as the captain of the colonists’ ship, who continually evokes the image of a new start, Wes Studi as warrior Opechancanough who is far more wary about the colonists’ intentions, August Schellenberg as the princess’ father and tribe leader Powhatan, and David Thewlis as the corrupt and brutal Captain Wingfield. The film also features Ben Chaplin, Jonathan Pryce and Noah Taylor.

“The New World” is a multilayered, nuanced film but it moves at its own dreamlike, lingering pace. The film is gorgeous, poetic and moving but has a stately pace that mirrors its classical music and natural sounds soundtrack like a quiet float down a natural stream. This is the best choice for art lovers and serious film aficionados, both for its heart-stopping beauty and because it is a masterpiece of filmmaking.

SAMITE, from page 8

Halfway through the show, I happened to notice a familiar figure in the audience...none other than the St. Louis legend Beatle Bob (who was soon dancing right along with the music). For those not familiar with Beatle Bob, he’s a really enthusiastic St. Louis concert fan whose trademark is crazy dancing. If you go to a concert and see Beatle Bob, you know you’re at a good show. Seeing Bob, Samite said jokingly, “Music is only Western if no one dances.” Encouraging anyone who

felt the urge to get up and dance, Samite and his band began playing another song. Two songs later, nearly half of the theater was up and dancing in the aisles. After failing to get the crowd to sing along (in an African language no less), Samite had everyone get up and dance. At this point everyone was smiling, clapping, and dancing. The crowd ran the gambit in both age and ethnicity—yet as the music played the audience was united in a way words cannot communicate.

Samite is a remarkable musical talent and a gifted singer. He’s also a charming, disarming story teller. The thing I’ll remember the most about him was what a good teacher he is. I can honestly say I learned a lot from his performance. I learned that music really is a universal language, one that speaks to the hearts of all people. Anyone interested in Samite or his charity, Musicians for World Harmony, should visit their website at www.musiciansforworldharmony.com.

EBAY, from page 4

Listings included drug-free urine, penis bones from a dog, a jar of dirt from Woodstock, a dozen of used toothbrushes, a backspace key off of a keyboard, a “make your own dentures” set, three real human bone vertebrae, a hot dog from the Super Bowl in Atlanta, a vintage art print toilet seat, a handle that hold handles, a broken flashlight and a lot of 500 packages of Q-Tips.

Why in the world would a person

need a 500 package supply of Q-Tips or an old stale hot dog?

The weird listings don’t stop there. I also came across a 17-year-old boy who posted his virginity for sale. Someone else listed a signed document to sell their soul.

In my opinion, Ebay has become a great marketing tool for people and future entrepreneurs trying to make a buck. In this day and age, everyone is trying to make a dollar. Obviously

people actually buy this hideous stuff.

It is those people, the one who are actually purchasing the stuff, who worry me. Either these bidders have a serious auctioning problem, or they are just simply crazy for feeling the need to have these items.

Ebay might have some valuable products at reasonable prices, but look closely and you will find the super-center surplus of flea market junk.

SPANKYS
Valentine's Day Gift Headquarters!

VOTED 2005
BEST OF ST LOUIS
BEST ADULT VIDEO STORES
BEST ADULT TOY STORES
READERS CHOICE

Sexy Valentine Lingerie - Kama Sutra Massage Oils - Valentine Novelty Gifts
Spankys Gift Cards - Liberator Bedroom Gear - Sue Johanson Products!

Spankys Video
3419 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
(1 mile south of I-70)
Bridgeton, Mo 636-344-0016
Open 24/7

Spankys Video & Gifts
1123 Gravois Rd.
(May 30 at Valley Dell Dr.)
Fenton, Mo 636-326-7566
10:00 am to 1:30 am everyday.

Spankys Gifts
3405 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
Bridgeton, Mo 314-209-7779
10:00 am to 1:30 am everyday.

www.spankysonline.com

COLUMBIA PICTURES **REVOLUTION STUDIOS**

Current

invite you to stop by The Current's table
on the Millennium Student Center Bridge
on Thursday, February 9th from
12:00-12:30 PM
to pick up a pass to see

FREEDOMLAND

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. One admit two pass per person. This film is rated R for language and some violent content.

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

FREEDOMLAND
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
JULIANNE MOORE
THE TRUTH IS HIDING WHERE NO ONE DARES TO LOOK.
FEBRUARY 17

The Current...

Now hiring sports and features writers.

Call or email our Managing Editor, Kate Drolet for more information:
516-5174 or current@jinx.umsi.edu



Q & A

With The Rivermen's star guard, Jonathan Griffin

BY JEFF ANDERSON
Staff Writer

He is a senior shooting guard and a team captain. He leads the Rivermen in points per game with 18.6. He is a competitor and a leader but who is the real Jonathan Griffin?

Who influenced you the most growing up?

My parents, definitely. They paved the way for me the most. Growing up was kind of hard but they helped me the most and I'm really grateful for them.

How many times a day do you practice?

About two or three times a day. Usually, if I have time I'll practice before I practice with the team and then again after. I usually try to work on dribbling, shooting and stuff like that.

Any pre-game rituals or superstitions?

Well, I always take a shower before the game! I don't know; I just always have to take a shower before every game. But I'm also a very spiritual person and I try to read the Bible too before games.

Who is your favorite NBA player, past or present?

I think right now it would have to be Allen Iverson because he always plays with passion. He's got good size and great ability and he always plays with heart every time he steps on the court.

Do you think UMSL can compete this year and/or in future years for the DII title?

At this point this year, we feel like we have a solid chance. We didn't start off the season well but we know that we have to work hard to make it into the tournament. And once we qualify for the tournament, then anything can happen. We feel like we can do some damage.

As for future years, I know we have a good recruiting class coming in and that will definitely help out the basketball program a lot. We only had one freshman this year but we had a lot of sophomores, too. And they're getting a lot of game experience this year so that in two or three more years, they'll definitely be improved and able to compete.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on playing pro ball somewhere but I know I can always fall back on teaching. I would like to teach high school but I could also do elementary school. I've done a lot of basketball camps and worked with little kids so I know I can always do that.

Last question. There's 10 seconds left, you're down by one and you've got the ball. What do you do?

If I have a good look at the basket then I'll take the shot. This happened in a game recently but instead of being one-on-one, they sent two men at me to pressure the ball. And I just stepped back and found the open man and he drained the shot. A lot of teams will do that because they know I'll take that shot. So I have to find that open man and get the quick shot.

Griffin was recently named UM-St. Louis' Student-Athlete of the Month by the Athletics Department. He and the Rivermen will be in action this week to face SIU-Edwardsville on Thursday and Quincy on Saturday. Both games will be at home and will start at 7:30 p.m.

Men's, women's basketball teams split their games on the road

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

The Rivermen traveled to Indiana and took one GLVC win and one loss. On Thursday, the men visited St. Joseph's and were defeated 107-85.

UM-St. Louis only had the lead in the first six minutes of the game. Troy Slaten started the game off with a three pointer that was followed by a shot from Nathan Whittaker.

At the half, St. Joseph's had a 14 point advantage and the Rivermen could not recover. The January Athlete of the Month had 20 points on the game.

The Rivermen quickly recovered and took a win from Indianapolis. With an attendance of over 600, the men stomped on the home team and gave the home team fans another reason to go home upset. The Rivermen took the lead early with the game starting shot by Whittaker for three points followed by a layup from Joey Paul. UM-St. Louis held the lead throughout the game. Indianapolis tied the game at 43 in the second but another three pointer from Whittaker put the Rivermen back on top. Paul scored 20 points on the game with three assists

Upcoming home games:

Women's Basketball:

Feb. 9
vs. SIUE
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 11
vs. Quincy
5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball:

Feb. 9
vs. SIUE
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 11
vs. Quincy
7:30 p.m.

and Griffin scored 19 with four assists.

The win and loss brings the Rivermen's record to 13-8 and 6-7 in the GLVC, the hardest Division II conference. UM-St. Louis takes on SIU-Edwardsville at home on Thursday and Quincy on Saturday. All students are invited to attend a rally before the Rivermen take their next win from SIUE.

The Riverwomen also took one win

and one loss in Indiana. On Thursday, the Riverwomen were defeated by St. Joseph's College 74-67. Taylor Gagliano started UM-St. Louis' lead with a layup. The Riverwomen dominated the first half. Going into the second, the Riverwomen had the lead 24-27 after a foul shot by Megan Alberts. In the second, after a foul by Jennifer Martin, the Riverwomen lost their momentum and could not regain the lead. Crystal Lambert had the team high of 17 points and three assists.

On Saturday at Indianapolis, the Riverwomen took the first of the two UM-St. Louis wins. At the half, the Riverwomen had the lead of 33-35. The second half started with a three pointer by Courtney Watts.

With less than 16 seconds left in the game, Indianapolis fouled Watts and Lambert giving them an opportunity to score four points. After securing the final four points, the Riverwomen took the "W" 69-61. Lambert, again, had the team high of 15 points. Martin and Watts each had 14 points and Watts had eight assists.

Along with the men, the Riverwomen will host SIU-Edwardsville on Thursday and Quincy on Saturday. The Riverwomen are now 12-9 overall and 5-8 in the GLVC.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UM-St. Louis guard Nathan Whittaker protects the basketball from his opponent while looking for a passing option from his teammates during a game against Drury University in January.

DISCRIMINATION, from page 1

Student Affairs Vice Chancellor Curt Coonrod said, "In all cases, we follow the prescribed process to give everyone a fair hearing of their complaint." He could not discuss the case further to "protect the integrity of the process and respect the confidential nature of such matter."

Walker de Félix outlined the process for filing a grievance. All grievance cases are filed with Student Affairs and follow the Student Discrimination Procedure.

"Students that believe that they've been discriminated against also have the resources of the Office of Equal Opportunity," she said.

In a typical grievance, an informal discussion between the student and administrators takes place. If that does not resolve the situation, students fill out a grievance form.

"If a committee finds evidence of

METRO, from page 1

While this is cheaper than buying a \$55 monthly pass, 26,000 passes at \$125 per pass, this option would cost \$3,250,000.

The reason for the change stems from previous contracts going all the way back to 1993, when Metrolink first came to the campus.

In the past, the contract between Metro and UM-St. Louis was informal, said Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services. "It was more of a handshake. There really was an informal contract to start with."

When the Metro pass program began at the University, Metro gave UM-St. Louis students a discounted rate compared to other colleges near the Metrolink. Starting in 2000, Metro gave the University 11,000 passes for the fall and winter semesters each and 4,000 for the summer.

When Southwestern Illinois College, Washington University and St. Louis University joined the pass

program, Schuster said, "It became a negotiating difficulty for them...it became difficult for them to give them as low a rate as UMSL."

Todd Plesko, chief of planning and system development at Metro, said, "Over the past few years, we've been trying to get the pricing of these consistent and more reflective of the value." He said with the extension of Metrolink into South St. Louis, more students will take the train. "We think there's more value now," he said.

Plesko said Metro must move from the model of giving discounted rates to certain universities to providing the same basic pricing and plan to all. "These [rates] are still favorable, but they're more in line with what everybody else is paying," he said.

Leah Gossage, junior, psychology, relies heavily on Metrolink. "I ride it two times every day," she said. "I don't think it's fair they're

Whom do you most enjoy to watch play in UMSL basketball?

by Kevin Ottley
Photography Associate



Marisha Griffin-Essex

You might say I'm biased 'cus im Jonathan (Griffin's) sister, but he always puts out 100% in every game he plays and you can see that commitment in his performance.



Bob Reid

Jonathan Griffin is great to watch when he's one-on-one, David Ward has some quick moves under the basket and I like the newcomer (Nathan) Whittaker too.



Tammy Hamilton

I love to watch Sherome (Cole), he always has a great time on the court no matter what.



Tom Wilcher

I like to watch Andrew (Cagle) #22 when he comes on.



Michael Riggins

#32 Troy Slaten. He's solid.

The Current...

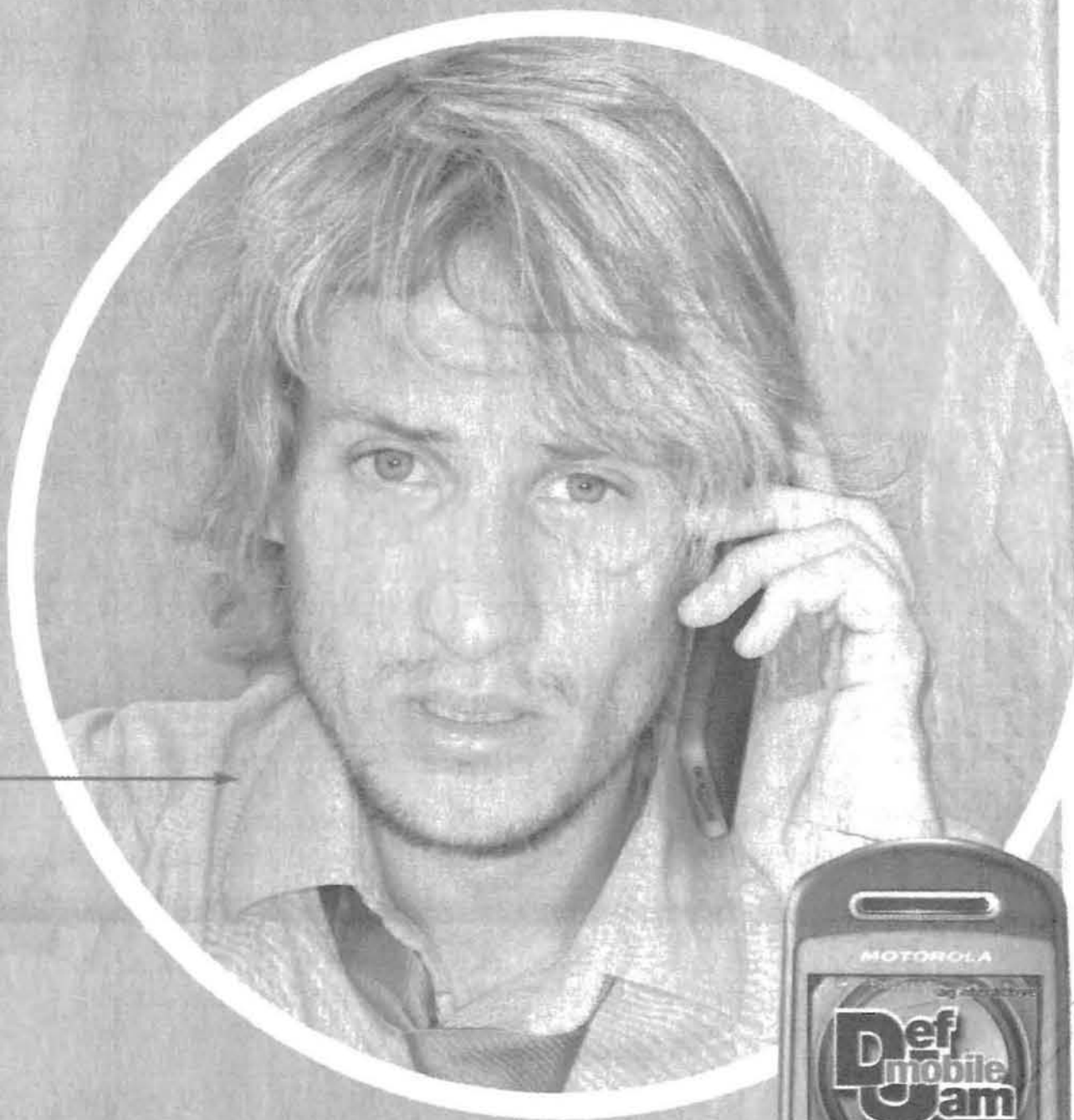
Now hiring sports and features writers.

Call or email our Managing Editor, Kate Drolet for more information: 314-516-5174 or current@jinx.umsu.edu



Now, all your
incoming calls
can be **free.**

(Even the 5 calls
from your girlfriend
in the last 20 minutes.)



Now,

when people are wasting your time, they're not wasting your money.

Free CALL MESM Minutes

(in your local calling area)

\$20
per month

for the first 6 months,
\$39.95 thereafter

- 1000 Anytime Minutes
- FREE Incoming Text Messages
- FREE Incoming Picture Messages

Plus, ask about:

- Unlimited Nights & Weekends starting at 7 p.m.



Motorola V710
Camera Phone



GETUSC.COM
1-888-BUY-USCC

 **U.S. Cellular**
We connect with you.

Offer valid on two-year service agreement on local and regional plans of \$39.95 or higher. All service agreements subject to an early termination fee. Monthly Access Discount: \$20 access discount valid for the first six months of a two-year agreement on plans \$39.95 and up. Credit approval required. \$30 activation fee. \$15 equipment change fee. Planning charges, fees, surcharges, coverage charges and taxes apply. \$0.36 Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applied. This is not a tax or government-required charge. Local network coverage and reliability may vary. Usage rounded up to the next full minute. Use of service constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions. Unlimited Night and Weekend Minutes valid Monday through Friday 7:00 p.m. to 6:59 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday. Night and Weekend minutes are available in local calling area only. Free CALL MESM Minutes are not deducted from package minutes and are only available when receiving calls in your local calling area. Local calling area differs from optional calling area. Use of the AOL[®] Instant Messenger[™] service mobile application requires coverage[™] data services. 30-Day Guarantee: Customer is responsible for any charges incurred prior to return. ©2005 Def Jam Mobile and AG Interactive are trademarks and service marks of their respective owners. All rights reserved. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. Limited time offer. ©2005 U.S. Cellular Corporation.