

12-5-2006

Current, December 05, 2006

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

December 5,
2006

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1202

A CAMPUS TRAGEDY



Firefighters work on the scene of the fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house that killed student Brian Schlittler early Wednesday morning. Two other students escaped the fire on Nov. 29.

Student dies in late-night blaze

BY ADAM D. WISEMAN
& MIKE SHERWIN

Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor

Last week's early-morning fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house left one student dead and an entire campus reeling from the loss.

Brian Schlittler, 25, died in the fire after being trapped on the second floor of the house during the fire that started around 3:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Two other students escaped the fire, which one of the students discovered when he came home from work around 3:45 a.m. on Wednesday, according to Michael Mudd, deputy chief of the Normandy Fire Protection District.

Mudd said firefighters arrived at the house, located at 8826 Natural Bridge Road, at 4 a.m.

"As the trucks arrived, the house was already fully involved," said Captain Ron Fritz of the Normandy Fire Protection District. "There were flames shooting out of every window of the house."

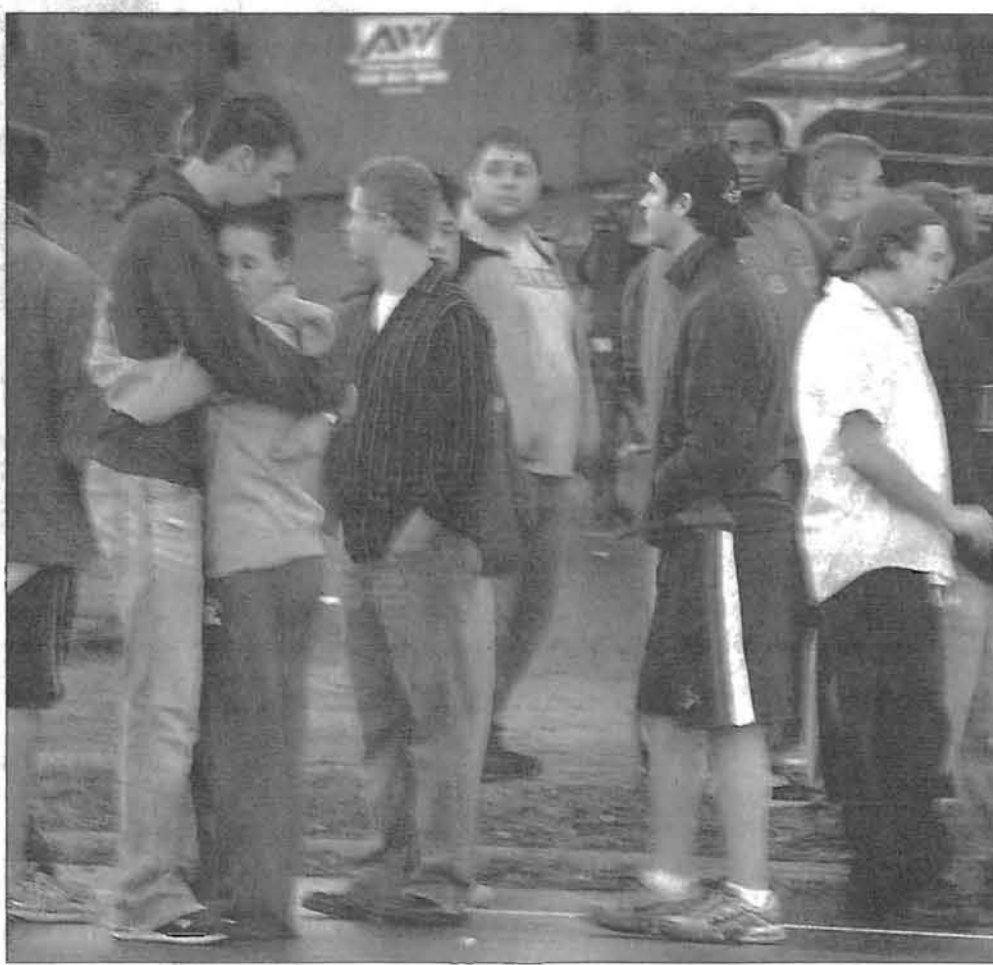
The student who came home was able to wake up one of the students living in the house, and they both escaped safely.

However, Schlittler was upstairs and unable to escape because the stairwell to the top floor had collapsed, Mudd said.

Firefighters attempted to rescue the student through the second-floor windows, but were unable to reach him in time, he said.

The St. Louis County Bomb and Arson Squad investigated the fire and ruled it accidental with an unknown cause, according to Fritz.

See **FIRE**, page 11



Photos by Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Students gather a half block away from the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house on Natural Bridge Road on Wednesday morning. Students mourned the loss of Brian Schlittler, who died in the fire.

BRIAN SCHLITTLER: 1981-2006

Family, friends grieve over loss

BY ADAM D. WISEMAN
& MIKE SHERWIN

Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor

Nearly one week later, snow has fallen on the burned wreckage of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house. On the lawn out front, wreaths and photographs are a reminder of the tragic fire that killed fraternity member Brian Schlittler.

Big-hearted. Loving. Teddy bear. Generous, selfless and caring. These were all words that were heard over and over in the voices of friends and family when asked to describe Schlittler, who died in the fire Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Schlittler, 25, was a native of St. Louis. He graduated from Parkway South high school in 1999 was in his senior year at UM-St. Louis, studying secondary education.

"He was just a teddy bear,"



Brian Schlittler

said Brian's sister, Erin Schlittler, senior, special education.

"You'd think he was a big scary guy. But you'd approach him and he was just a nice and loving guy."

She said Brian was always excited when it got close to the holidays.

See **SCHLITTLER**, page 11

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Winter storm strikes UMSL

Last Thursday evening's winter storm that swept through St. Louis caused campus to close Friday, cancelling classes and several events. Tree limbs fell all over campus and certain buildings lost power over the weekend.

See page 3



UMSL loses appeal in age discrimination case

The Missouri Court of Appeals ruled against the University in an age discrimination case involving baseball coach Jim Brady.

See page 4

MetroLink pass program will return, but for how long?

MetroLink passes will be available to students for \$45 next semester, but if sales stay low, the program may be cut for good for following semesters.

See page 3

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

MONDAY, NOV. 27

STEALING OVER \$500 • WEST DRIVE GARAGE

The victim reported that sometime between 9:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. person(s) unknown entered a parked vehicle and stole some change from inside the console area.

The victim reported that the entry was gained by creating a small hole in the driver's side door near the lock assembly.

STEALING OVER \$500 • MILLENNIUM GARAGE SOUTH

Another victim reported that sometime between 10:20 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. person(s) unknown entered a parked vehicle and stole a laptop computer from inside.

The victim reported that the entry was gained by creating a small hole in the driver's side door near the lock assembly.

STEALING OVER \$500 • EXPRESS-SCRIPTS PARKING LOT

A car stereo CD/DVD player and TV antenna, along with the victim's wallet and credit cards were stolen from a parked vehicle between 12:20 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

The investigation revealed that the entry to the vehicle was gained in the same way, by creating a small hole in the driver's side door near the lock assembly.

STEALING OVER \$500 • PARKING LOT D

The victim reported that sometime between 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. person(s) unknown entered a parked vehicle and stole a purse with checkbook and credit card.

The victim reported that the entry was gained in the same way, by creating a small hole in the driver's side door near the lock assembly.

STEALING OVER \$500 • WEST DRIVE GARAGE

The victim reported that sometime between 11:00 a.m. and 6:50 p.m. person(s) unknown entered a parked vehicle and stole a CD radio, amplifier, speakers and an MP3 player along with approximately 40 CDs from inside.

The victim reported that the entry was gained in the same way, by creating a small hole in the driver's side door near the lock assembly.

TUESDAY, NOV. 28

PROPERTY DAMAGE • PROVENCIAL HOUSE CIRCLE AREA

The decorative fountain was damaged sometime between midnight and 7:45 a.m. It was reported that the top two large pieces of the concrete fountain were dislodged and fell to the ground and broke.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

STEALING OVER \$500 • TJ LIBRARY

The victim reported that her wallet containing credit cards, cash and personal affects was stolen sometime between 2 and 2:20 p.m.

The victim advised that she was on the fifth floor of the library and left her purse and belongings on a table to go use the restroom, and when she returned, she discovered the theft.

Note: All of the vehicles that were entered had dark tinted windows. It is believed that the perpetrators enter the vehicles very quickly, and then once inside the vehicle, their actions were concealed by the tinted glass making the thefts unnoticeable.

It is recommended that if possible the owners of all cars remove valuables from their vehicle, and do not leave items in the car in plain sight.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 27 issue of The Current, the following correction needs to be made:

In the article titled, 'Oak Hall renovations proceeding slowly,' Mark Simpson was misidentified as the press manager for Kozeny-Wagner.

Simpson is actually the project manager for Kozeny-Wagner.

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes.

Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made, and we will print them in next week's issue.

To report a correction, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

COMIC PAGES



Mike Sherwin • Managing Editor

Sherry Holman, senior, graphic design, signs a copy of a comic book Wednesday afternoon in the MSC Bookstore. Last spring, art students at UM-St. Louis created the comic book, which is on sale at the bookstore for \$3 a copy.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the 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. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Book Reading, Signing

Minsoo Kang, assistant professor of history at UM-St. Louis, will read from and sign copies of his new book, "Of Tales and Enigmas," at 4 p.m. in the University Bookstore in the Millennium Student Center. Call 5800 for more information.

UMSL Music Groups Perform Holiday Concert

The University Chorus, University Singers, University Orchestra and Vocal Point will perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill.

The concert will include a number of classical holiday pieces and some holiday favorites.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 5980.

Weekly Lunch Shuttle

The Ferguson Citywalk lunch shuttle offers free weekly rides from UM-St. Louis to more than 20 local restaurants, with pickups every 15 minutes at Marillac Hall, the Millennium Student Center and the science complex.

The shuttle runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. E-mail fsbd@swbell.net for more information.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Final Exam Tips Workshop

"FINALS! How to not freak out about them," will be held from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in 225 Millennium Student Center. Does taking a test or performing in front of a group of people freak you out? It may be your anxiety that is causing you problems.

This workshop will show how thoughts affect behaviors and how to change those thoughts to help you achieve your goals.

For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 5014.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Chevy's Fundraiser Event

Today from 3 to 10 p.m. there will be a fundraiser event to support the Catholic Newman Center at Chevy's, 9119 Olive Blvd., just west of 170. Bring in the flyer you can print from their website (www.umsl.edu/~newman/) and 15% of your total bill will be donated to the Catholic Newman Center.

For more information contact Tracy Van de Riet at 385-3455.

'Speed Mentoring'

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. there will be "Speed Mentoring" at Grace's Place Computer Museum, 2nd Floor CCB Lobby. This program is similar to "speed dating" in that you will get five to 10 minutes to speak with a variety of different people on topics of inter-



File Photo

Fall commencement ceremonies will take place in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Dec. 15 and Sunday, Dec. 16.

This may help you get a variety of perspectives on a topic of interest, and will certainly help you get to know the mentors better.

Food and beverages will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Dena Martin at 6267 for more information.

Christmas Movie Night

Come to the Catholic Newman Center with your favorite classic Christmas movies at 8:30 p.m. to help get in the holiday spirit. We'll decide which movie to watch that evening. For more information contact Tracy Van de Reit at 314-3455.

University Symphonic Band's 'Salute to America's Finest'

The University Symphonic Band will be performing "Salute to America's Finest" in recognition of veterans and remembrance of Pearl Harbor at 7:30 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill.

This event is free and open to the public. Call 5980 for more information.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

MyGateway Workshop

There will be a workshop "Making MyGateway Work for You" from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in 103 CCB.

This workshop will be helpful for anyone who is new to MyGateway or for those students who could use a refresher. Topics to be discussed include: uploading files, posting announcements, user management and more.

Holy Day Mass

There will be a Holy Day Mass in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center from 12:20 to 1:00 p.m. to celebrate the Immaculate Conception. This event is open to anyone that would like to attend. Contact Tracy Van de Riet at 385-3455 for more information.

'Sounds of the Season'

The St. Charles-based Ambassadors of Harmony and Vocal Spectrum will perform "Sounds of the Season" at 8 p.m. this evening in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill.

There will also be performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 as well as 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Tickets are priced at \$28, \$23 and \$20. For more information contact 4949.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar

Join us for the 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Century Room A of the Millennium Student Center.

There will be gift baskets, specialty gift items, crafts, home baked treats and much more. Heroes & Legends Sports Memorabilia will be on hand as well.

Proceeds benefit the John Perry Scholarship.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Fall Commencement

Commencement ceremonies will take place in the Touhill PAC starting at 10 a.m. for the College of Nursing, UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program, College of Fine Arts & Communication, School of Social Work, Bachelors of General Studies & Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Gerontology Masters Program and the Masters in Public Policy Administration. The commencement for students graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences will take place at 2 p.m. at the PAC.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Fall Commencement

The graduation ceremony for students in the College of Education at 2 p.m. and the ceremony for College of Business Administration will take place at 6 p.m. at the Touhill PAC.

The Current

The University of Missouri—St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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Staff Photographers

Cadence Rippetto

Ad & Business Associates

Adriana Hughey, Marcela Lucena

CONTACT US

Got a tip for a story or photo opportunity? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Are you interested in working at *The Current*? Please contact us:

Newsroom | 314-516-5174

Advertising | 314-516-5316

Business | 314-516-5175

Employment | 314-516-6810

Fax | 314-516-6811

Email | thecurrent@umsl.edu

Mail | 388 MSC
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

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AFFILIATIONS





Mike Sherwin • Managing Editor

Fallen tree limbs in front of the Kathy J. Weinman Center on South Campus show the destruction left over from the winter storm that rolled through campus last Thursday. Parts of UM-St. Louis, including Mansion Hills, the police department and the Fine Arts Building, lost power during the snow and ice storm, but power was mostly restored by Monday.

Storm leaves parts of UMSL in the dark

BY PAUL HACKBARTH &
KRISTI WILLIAMS
Design Editor and Staff Writer

After a swift winter storm left many St. Louis area residents in the dark late last Thursday evening, including some UM-St. Louis students, power has been restored to nearly all of the campus with the exception of the Alumni Center as of Monday evening.

According to Ameren UE Web site, more than 5,000 customers reported no power in the 63121 zip code where UM-St. Louis is located, as of Monday night.

While brief power failures occurred in some dorms on South Campus, parts

of North Campus near Florissant Road including two buildings in the Mansion Hills apartments were without power for longer periods of time, leaving residents wondering when the lights will come back on.

Mansion Hills

Two apartment buildings in Mansion Hills lost power, cable and Internet Friday. Resident Assistant Randy Sommers said a few were moved to dorm rooms in Villa Proper Hall and Villa North Hall, but most students stayed with friends.

The storm impacted fewer apartments this winter than last summer's storms, Sommers said. "Last July, all apartments were out for six days. This

time, it affected limited buildings," he said.

As of Sunday evening, Scott Stewart, senior, French, and roommate Matt Cook, senior, psychology, have been without power in their Mansion Hills apartment since around 9 a.m. Friday morning. They passed the time with fast food and board games.

Cook had no luck getting an estimate from Ameren UE as to when power would be restored to his residence. "Getting a live person to speak to is nearly impossible," he said.

Stewart joked about doing "homework by candlelight" but said no power has put him and Matt in a bind in terms of getting final papers finished that are due this week.

"It was tough knowing what was

going on Friday because we had no Internet access or other means of knowing if classes were going to be cancelled or not," Stewart said. Since the phones in his apartment are cordless handsets, he could not call the school's information hotline.

Both Stewart and Cook did not have another place to stay, so they went to their friends' places during the day and came back to their apartment at night. "Then it's not so bad," Cook said.

Will Conley, senior, biochemistry and biotechnology, was fortunate enough to have power in his Mansion Hills condo, but his cable and Internet services were not working.

See WINTER STORM, page 12

Metro pass program will continue, for now

But the program will probably be cut the following semester if sales stay low

BY JASON GRANGER

Staff Writer

It appears as though the MetroLink student passes will return for at least another semester, despite questions as to whether the program is beneficial to the University and its students.

The program costs approximately \$441,000 per year. This semester's goal of 3,300 passes to be sold fell short; approximately 2,000 of the Metro passes were sold.

Thomas Helton, Student Government Association vice president, said to the best of his knowledge, the program will go on as planned next semester. Any further than that is anyone's guess, he said.

"From what I understand, the passes will be back at the same price as this semester, which was \$45," he said.

There are some issues with funding, Helton said, issues that may spell the end of the Metro pass program.

Specifically, if the program does not surpass projections for the spring semester, the program may be discontinued.

"Right now, it's projected that it's (the Metro pass program) going to lose money," Helton said. "If that's the case, the program most likely will be cut. We in SGA will do what we can to keep it around. Personally, I would like the program to continue. I think it's a great program."

There are steps in place to help the program remain in place, Helton said. Aside from SGA's efforts to keep the program in place, Helton said there will be more proactive advertising designed to accentuate the positives of having and using a

Metro pass.

"Many different options are going to be looked at," Helton said. "The university is negotiating on several issues with Metro."

SGA was scheduled to discuss the Metro pass last Friday, however, due to the recent winter storm, the meeting was cancelled. As of print time, it had not been rescheduled.

Jonathan Yordy, coordinator of public relations for the University, said negotiations with Metro are complicated, as both entities are looking out for their best interests while at the same time trying to strike fair agreements.

"We seem to be moving into a new era in the relationship," Yordy said. "There are some complicated funding mechanisms in place. Each side has a perspective."

Yordy said both entities have the students' best interest at heart, which is why compromises have been made on both sides.


In relation to the Metro pass, Yordy does not envision a quick and easy solution to the question.

"The student pass is one issue that will continue to evolve," Yordy said. "Do we look at something with the student fees or go some other road?"

Other subjects arise with Metro as well, Yordy said, subjects such as questions surrounding property and easement issues.

"Let me give you an example," Yordy said. "East Drive has that steep hill. That road is not really built for heavy bus traffic. From a broad perspective, it's not really appropriate to have heavy bus traffic there. On a smaller scale, of course we need those buses. So how do the two organizations work together to get students to campus?"

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UMSL loses appeal in Coach Brady case

Baseball coach receives \$1.275 million plus legal fees in age discrimination case

By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

Last Tuesday, the Missouri Court of Appeals struck down all five points in an appeal filed by UM-St. Louis to a \$1.275 million age discrimination judgment awarded to Head Baseball Coach Jim Brady in January 2005.

Judge Nannette Baker rejected all of the University's arguments and she approved a counterappeal by Brady, who claimed UM-St. Louis should pay for his legal fees.

"I'm very pleased with the decision, and that's probably an understatement," Brady said. "I was run through an emotional gamut."

Brady initially filed a charge of age discrimination with the Missouri Commission of Human Rights in May 1998. According to Jerome Dobson, Brady's lawyer, Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, who at the time oversaw the athletics department, asked the coaches who were more than 40 years old, including Brady, to sign employment contracts.

In the contracts, provisions existed where the coaches were asked to work 12 months instead of 9 months and they were required to have a .500 record or better in the next season or they would have to resign.

In June 1999, UM-St. Louis terminated Brady, but he was later reinstated September 1999 as full-time head coach after retaining counsel. Previously, he was employed by UM-St. Louis part-time.

In April 2000, Brady filed a second charge of discrimination, which was settled in November 2001.

In 2002, Schuster and Patricia Dolan, athletics director, notified Brady that the baseball team and three other sports teams at UM-St. Louis would be relegated to 'second tier,' meaning Brady would go back



File Photo: Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

Baseball Head Coach Jim Brady was awarded \$1.275 million plus legal fees in a decision by the Missouri Court of Appeals last Tuesday. Brady sued the University, Vice Chancellor Reinhard Schuster and Athletics Director Patricia Dolan for age discrimination.

to part-time status.

The University cited state funding reductions as the reason for the tier system.

Brady claimed age discrimination as the reason for the decision to cut his pay in more than half from \$40,000 a year to \$19,000 a year and his insurance was cut, despite the fact that Brady is a surviving cancer patient.

Brady filed a complaint with the MCHR in December 2002, and he received a right to sue for the discrimination charge.

A St. Louis County jury awarded

Brady a total of \$1.275 million in January 2005. Of that, \$225,000 was awarded in actual damages, \$750,000 from the University, \$200,000 from Schuster and \$100,000 from Dolan.

For Schuster and Dolan's amounts, the jury awarded twice what Dobson and Brady asked for.

Since then, the University appealed Brady's judgment, citing that certain errors were made. "The biggest issue was a question, can you sue for punitive damages from the state? In the court appeal, the language is very clear that punitive

damages be available from any other employer," Dobson said. Baker held up the decision that the state can be liable for punitive damages.

"It's a critically important decision because discrimination by public companies, such as the state, is not uncommon. It has broad implications. This does not just apply to Jim Brady," Dobson said.

The University also claimed not enough evidence existed to justify the awarding of punitive damages.

While Dobson did not make the argument in court, he said, "I would argue that intentionally discrimination of age, race, whatever, warrants punitive damages."

Baker agreed with Dobson's argument, as she did in Brady's cross-appeal.

"Brady claims that the trial erred in denying his motion for attorneys' fees because attorneys' fees normally are awarded to the prevailing party in a civil rights case," Baker said. Brady claimed he was the prevailing party since the court ruled in favor of all of his claims.

"I think it was a terrific opinion," Dobson said. "The judge really laid out the facts of what we believe UMSL did to Jim Brady. Jim has suffered tremendously and UMSL made him suffer, but he has received further vindication and it takes guts to do what he did. Despite being the most winning coach in the school's history, he has suffered greatly, his salary was cut in half, he lost his insurance."

"It's important to stand up for what's right, to practice what you preach no matter what the obstacle may be," Brady said.

While Schuster could not be reached for comment, Dolan declined to comment and preferred questions be directed to Bob Samples, director of Media, Marketing and Printing Services. Samples said, the ruling is being sent to the General Counsel Office of the UM system. "The legal staff will decide what future actions to take," he said.

As of now, UM-St. Louis can ask the entire Missouri Court of Appeals to rehear the case or ask for it to be transferred to the Missouri Supreme Court.

RHA president Richter receives special honor

Named Midwest RHA president of the year

By SARAH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Residential Hall Association President Adam Richter beat out 5 other RHA presidents to win the inaugural President of the Year award from the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls.

Richter, junior, education and graphic design, was named the winner at MACURH's annual conference held Friday Nov. 10 through Sunday Nov. 13 at South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. The conference is where members of residential associations from colleges in places such as Missouri, Kansas, and North Dakota gather to share program ideas, invent new programs and nominate the President of the Year.

Richter, who has been UM-St. Louis' RHA President for two years in a row and a Residential Assistant for two years prior to that, won the title from a nomination bid written by National Communications Coordinator Ben White.

White, sophomore, music business, represents UM-St. Louis' RHA at conferences such as the MACURH meeting this month. In the bid for Richter, White mentioned

the programs Adam has planned, his "infinite-creativity" and his "willingness to befriend all of the residents" as reasons he felt Richter deserved the award.

"Adam is so amazing at his job that it was hard to put it into words," White said. "So, I wrote stories about him, and short little anecdotes in order to show the board how great he is at his job and why he deserved to win."

Richter said he was unable to attend the conference, but he received a phone call from UM-St. Louis representatives attending the event. "They called me on Saturday night, but I didn't know what they were yelling about so I told them to call me back," he said.

This year there are more students living on campus than ever before and Richter said he is not about to let that plateau. Over the summer Richter said he worked hard with Chartwells to get food that was healthy as well as better tasting than the years past, as a means to increase resident's overall happiness with UM-St. Louis' Residential Life program.

"Next semester we'll have a round table discussion with target residents and Chartwells in order to continue to make the meals better," Richter said. "We're also planning on having more themed dinners," which he said are a favorite of many residents.

Not only were UM-St. Louis' representatives happy with Richter's win, but White said representatives from other schools such as UMColumbia and Saint Louis University were also excited. "This has put UMSL back on the Map as a good school," White said.



Adam Richter

Residential Hall Association president named President of the Year by the Midwest Affiliate College and University Residence Halls

NEWS BRIEFS

Zeta Tau Alpha sorority must move by Jan. 13

Members of UM-St. Louis' Zeta Tau Alpha sorority residing in the sorority's house must be moved out by Jan. 13, 2007.

The house located at 7804 Natural Bridge Road, according to John Klein, director of Residential Life, administrative services told himself and Orinthia Montague-McGhee, assistant vice-provost of Student Affairs, the sorority house needed to vacate.

"I'm a little disturbed. I wish the notice would have come sooner," Montague-McGhee said. "It's very hard for [the sorority members] to have planned out their year."

Klein said the house needed to be cleared because of its close proximity to the old Normandy Hospital. The hospital is being torn down in order to begin construction of UM-St. Louis' new baseball field.

Vice Provost of Student Affairs Curt Coonrod said Student Affairs is working to "ensure that whatever decision are made, they are done with respect and fairness to the sororities." He also ensured the safety of the sorority members in the house until they have to move.

According to Klein and Montague-McGhee, the current plan is to move the former residents of the house to the fifth floor of Oak Hall.

Klein said he would potentially need two suites to accommodate those living in the Zeta house. He said if two suites can be ready, they would be moving into Oak Hall, "if not, I've got to find some other place to go with them."

"We are exploring options for the sororities now and hope to have a plan in place very soon," Coonrod said. He said he was not aware if there were any plans to build a new house.

UMKC student missing in Chicago

Jesse Ross, 20, UM-Kansas City student, has been reported missing after failing to meet his group to depart from Chicago.

Ross, who is originally from Belton, Mo., was last seen at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. His parents have flown to the city to meet with police. Ross went to Chicago for a student United Nations conference.

UM-Rolla Student Government cuts newspaper's funding

Funding for the UM-Rolla *Miner*, the student newspaper for that school, has been cut \$10,000, or about 17 percent.

According to Jerel Bernasek, chair of the Student Activities Finance Board, the cut was made in response to what she says are staff salaries that are too high.

Bernasek went on to say *The Miner's* salaries are the highest of any the SAGB researched.

The Miner's editor-in-chief Michele Martin said she believes the cuts are in response to grammatical errors and controversial content.

A decision by the United States Supreme Court in 2000 said universities cannot cut funding to student newspapers based on content.

More than half of *The Miner's* \$56,000 budget comes from student activity fees.

Martin said without paying writers well, the quality of the newspaper would suffer, as some of their writers only right for the paper to get extra money.

ASUM attempts to expel Dodd from board

By JASON GRANGER
Staff Writer

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri voted to remove David Dodd from the organization this weekend, or so it would seem.

The move came after Tara Banaszek, Rolla representative, called for Dodd's removal.

There is debate as to whether Dodd has officially been removed from the post, as the vote requires a two-thirds majority of the board. According to a recording provided. The Current, seven people voted in favor of removing Dodd, three voted against, and three abstained.

In the recording, Warren said Dodd had been removed from the position by a majority, however, three of the four members of the St. Louis chapter refused to accept the results.

The Current attempted to contact Warren and Banaszek, but its request for comment went unanswered.

Additionally, a recount was held over the weekend, showing a swing in votes favoring removal of Dodd, however, Dodd said those results are suspect.

Dodd said the recount showed 11 people in favor of removing him from the position, yet the recording

clearly shows only seven people voted in favor of removing Dodd.

ASUM members are appointed by their respective school Student Government Associations, however, ASUM's constitution has a provision that allows for the board to remove members at its discretion.

Dan Flees, one of UM-St. Louis' other board members, said the vote seemed like a foregone conclusion before the members were really aware of what was happening. Additionally, he said he does not trust the recount figures.

"The recount was more like a re-vote," Flees said. "Something's not adding up. I think it's a joke because David has done so much not only for this campus, but the system as well."

Flees also said it appeared that Warren had tried to sway votes in the recount.

"She made it clear that people who abstain are actually voting no," Flees said. "I see this as an insult or a slap in the face. It's a shame to have it happen. To hear some of the rea-

sons we've heard, it's really a shame."

Flees and Carlos Manaois, one of UM-St. Louis' other board members, were so angered by the move, they asked to be removed as well.

"You might as well remove us, too," Manaois said on the recording. "We've voted with David a lot, and if you have problems with him, you probably have problems with us as well."

Manaois also said in an interview that he was caught off guard by the decision.

"I don't think they removed him in the best interest of the organization," Manaois said. "There was a lot of politics involved. I felt it was really underhanded."

According to Dodd, removing a member is usually saved for people whose transgressions are either egregious, or the person is just not involved.

Banaszek said in the meeting the move was not personal, but she felt removal was merited.

"This organization needs an immense amount of collaboration, and that is something David has not shown," she said. "He's continuously prolonged discussion about the constitution. I feel that he is holding back the board and its mission. I don't feel he is representing the students, he is



David Dodd

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First theatre graduate overcame odds as Katrina student

Kelly Henton transferred to UMSL after Hurricane Katrina displaced him

By **TOBIAS KNOLL**

Proofreader

Despite tough odds at times, Kelly Henton, senior, theatre, has persevered on his path to success.

"He didn't drown and neither did his career," said Sharon Clark, associate dean for undergraduate student affairs.

After Hurricane Katrina displaced Henton from New Orleans' Dillard University to UM-St. Louis in 2005, he has not let the tragedy slow him down.

This December, Henton is scheduled to graduate as one of the first students to complete the newly created Theatre, Dance and Media Studies program.

This graduation is not the only big event for Henton. His teacher, director and friend Adeniyi Coker Jr., professor of African/African-American Studies, said Henton "has just been accepted into the MFA Theatre program at

UCLA on a full scholarship."

Henton came to UM-St. Louis late last year, after the Katrina disaster flooded Dillard University and caused three fires on the campus.

"Kelly was from here, so he didn't feel so displaced," Clark said. He arrived at UM-St. Louis four weeks into the semester, around mid-September.

"Nothing ever gets him down, he keeps right on trucking," Clark said. "He was determined to make the best of it. He just buckled down."

Upon arriving at UM-St. Louis, Henton took on a full class load in the fall, a full load for the winter semester and also attended summer school. He also quickly completed his prerequisites, including a residency and Spanish for the language requirement.

"Kelly is a student with a lot of talent, discipline and tenacity," Coker said.

See **HENTON**, page 11



File Photo: Mike Sherwin • Managing Editor

Kelly Henton, senior, theatre, seen here in last spring's production of 'TopDog/Underdog,' performed at the Touhill PAC, will graduate this December as one of the first graduates of the new theatre, dance and media studies program at UM-St. Louis.

ART FOR AIDS



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Mary Gray, (left) participating artist in the 'Art for AIDS' exhibit, and Jeanne Zarucchi, chair of the art department, discuss an untitled sculpture by Dail Chambers last Tuesday at the Gallery Visio's opening reception of 'Art for AIDS.'

Alumna creates CDs that teach kids how to make 'Happy Choices'

By **MABEL SUEN**

Features Editor

From a young age, people are taught the importance of family values as well as personal standards like hygiene and good manners. Making happy choices is something that a UM-St. Louis alumnus hopes to promote early on through the power of song.

Teondra Lyles, graduate, social work, found her passion for educating children through music and the arts while teaching at King Learning Center in University City.

For nine years, she has been designing her own curriculum for children, which consists of vocals on Mondays, songs with related art projects on Wednesdays and aerobics on Fridays.

It was this passion for education that led her to create interactive "Happy Choices" compact discs as a teaching tool and learning enhancer.

"Basically, 'Happy Choices' are CDs that teach children to make happy, wise decisions so that as they grow, it basically becomes a habit to make happy choices," Lyles said.

A year ago, Lyles put out the first volume of "Happy Choices." The second, entitled "Happy Choices: I Can Be," was released last summer. All of the music and lyrics were composed by Lyles and sung by children.

With tracks like "I Say Please," "Veggies," and "My Senses," the CDs teach children to make choices in the areas of personal hygiene, good manners, diet, family, social skills, character development, listening skills, colors and relationships with family, Lyles said.

To promote her CDs, Lyles speaks with directors at learning centers inde-

pendently. After presenting her portfolio and products, she offers a certificate for a hands-on demonstration.

"I get to work with the children one-on-one. I bring my keyboard, I play my music and bring a couple of big pictures showing children their teeth or washing up," Lyles said. "That's my main goal - teaching them the health aspect."

After passing out stickers and quizzing them to see what they have learned, Lyles said, "I just pray that they apply it to their daily life."

Recently married and with two children, Lyles said, "I believe success is a goal that you make. I know people that label success based on how much money they make, and that's not my theology."

"I believe that if you have things prioritized right away, then everything you need as far as money and everything else will just come naturally," Lyles said. "Just seeing children change in a positive way has brought me a lot of joy."

Lyles plans to put out a third volume of "Happy Choices" that tackles the topic of safety and a fourth that she plans on recording with her family that will be inspirational.

Volumes 1 and 2 of "Happy Choices" can be purchased at Bradburn's, Transformation Christian Bookstore and Music Central.

"If you have a special child in your life between the ages of six months to nine years of age, make a happy choice for the Christmas season and the new year to come. It's rated G for good," Lyles said.

For more information, e-mail Lyles at lylesp@sbcglobal.net or call (314)517-1938.

TOP 10

All-time best childrens'

TV shows

1. Sesame Street: even if you weren't around for Mr. Roper, you can't help but admire the show that brought you Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch and Bert and Ernie.

2. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood: a sweater, a pair of slippers and a soft, soothing voice.

3. Fraggle Rock: what can best be described as an acid trip, happy puppet friends to viewers delight

4. Captain Kangaroo: the suit, the shoes, the hair, there is nothing like being with Captain Kangaroo on a Sunday morning

5. Take a look, it's in a book, Reading Rainbow.

6. Despite being the worst childrens' show ever made, the Teletubbies makes the cut simply because Jerry Falwell outted Tinky-Winky.

7. The Letter People: ABCDFGHJKLMNPQRSTU-VWXYZ

8. From Conjunction, Junction, What's Your Function to How a Bill Becomes a Law, what's not to like about Schoolhouse Rock?

9. How many times did you annoy your friends with "This is the song that never ends" from Lamb Chop's Play-Along?

10. The Muppet Show: How can you forget Jim Henson and Kermit the Frog? They will forever be legends.

Send your top ten idea idea to us: thecurrent@umsl.edu

'Stylishly Hot' models of Ebony Fashion Fair hit the PAC runway

By **MYRON MCNEILL**

Opinions Editor

If you can not attend fashion premieres in Milan or Paris or go to one of New York's Fashion Weeks, try the Ebony Fashion Fair.

To experience the Ebony Fashion Fair is to witness the eventful, inspiring fashion mixed with the imagination of the 60-70 designers like Anna Sui, Roberto Cavalli, Marengo, Missoni, Rufus, Issey Miyake, Christian Lacroix et al in towns usually overlooked.

The fair tours between September and May, where it will go to 180 cities. This is the world's premier traveling fashion show.

The show is also a way for one to experience the personality of models who enter into a contest and are selected by a panel. Thirteen models were part of the show, 11 females and two males. The host and emcee, Jada Collins, commented on the fashion designs while introducing each model.

She (Collins), along with her husband Ernest Collins (Music Director) kicked off the show shortly after 8 p.m. in front of a fairly large audience on Dec. 2 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The show was divided into two acts. Each act had four themes conducive to the clothing. Themes were presented as scenes. Some of the scenes were Paisley Pepper, Streetwear, Night-Life Fever and Winter Warmth. The most memorable scenes were Hot Chocolate, Bling Bling Blaze, The Fire Ball and Global Sizzle.

The Hot Chocolate scene produced hordes of fashion created with chocolate tones. Brown blazers, women's cocoa two-piece sets made of silk and lace, furs, hats and knee length boots that were coffee colored and sunburned sleeved and sleeveless blouses were seen in this set. The male models wore cardigans with coffee hues; tan trousers, brown loafers and shirt and tie ensembles that resembled the elegant feel, tonality and richness of chocolate.

Bling Bling Blaze was a scene with shiny ensembles for women. Dresses

sparkling with rhinestones were covered under reversible jackets. Diamond studded sweaters were worn by models.

Clothes were worn in layers as models would walk the length of the stage. Models would then remove a layer and reveal the sparkle of glittery diamonds, or rhinestone-studded blouses. This would draw the audience's attention to the detailing in the fashion.

Global Sizzle showcased the fashion from designers that was inspired by other countries' ways of life. Countries like China, Russia, Brazil, France and Egypt are a few that designers created pieces for. The music and fashion of models would change according to each announced location.

For instance, Chinese fashion was inspired by the robe-like look of camisoles and the music played sounded like ancient Chinese music. The Egyptian segment produced fashion that was much more revealing. Women wore short shorts with safari jackets and hats.

Fireball stole the show. In this scene the audiences stayed in shock as furs of all col-

ors were modeled. Some were cherry red, purple, crème, animal inspired and black.

Most of the furs were accompanied by leisure suits that were fitted and others were baggy around the legs, while the blouse was fitted. Some of the furs were worn on top of dresses that were strapless. The color, tones and ensembles were intense, eventful and extreme.

Overall, the show was revealing of high-designer fashion. Most fashion enthusiasts were able to recognize and appreciate fashion at its best. The models used skits and tons of personality to keep the show invigorating. Yet, in a tasteful manner they did not step on or create the illusion that they were bigger than the fashion displayed.

The audience was able to view a plethora of color schemes, clothing cuts and fittings, diversity of fabrics, ensembles and designs. The night wrapped up to the models being re-introduced and bowing to the audience, representing the elegance and stature of Ebony ideals and the designers showcased.



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As a forum for public expression on campus, *The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

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 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.

Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact *The Current's* editor-in-chief.

CONTACT US

Mail:
One University Blvd.
Room 388 MSC
St. Louis, MO 63121

Email:
thecurrent@umsl.edu

OUR OPINION

When tragedy does its absolute worst, UMSL does its best

Campus community pulls together to remember the loss of four of its members during this past year

Since July, the UM-St. Louis campus has had to deal with the loss of four members of its community.

Dennis Bohnenkamp, a professor in the honors college, Rufki Dullovi, a custodial worker, and students Heather Brandow and Brian Schlittler all passed away this semester, rocking the university and leaving many people asking "why?"

Schlittler died in a fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha house on Natural Bridge Wednesday, Nov. 29. As a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, Schlittler had many friends who remembered him fondly. At his memorial, his sister, Erin, remembered him as a "big man with a big heart." She also called him a "big teddy bear." Schlittler was 25.

Brandow was killed in a car crash Thursday, Oct. 26 in St. Charles. Originally from Mexico, Mo., Brandow was a popular member of the Delta Zeta sorority who, by accounts, was friends with many people, both inside and outside the Greek Life program.

Tanzeena Hossain, a senior at UM-

St. Louis and friend of Brandow said she had a "really vibrant" personality and "was a lot of fun to be around, even when she was stressed, she was fun." Brandow was 22.

Bohnenkamp died of complications from heart surgery Thursday, June 1. His son Max spoke at his funeral and said his father was a "man whose enthusiasms were imparted to me as to become my enthusiasms and the man whose annoyances were imparted to me as to become my annoyances." Bohnenkamp was 60.

Dullovi was killed in an early morning car crash Tuesday, Sept. 29. Dullovi had worked for UM-St. Louis since 2004, and was described by his friend and co-worker Eunice Dent as a "very nice man." He also "gave of himself to help others," Dent said. Dullovi was 49.

Death can seem so senseless and leaves friends and families struggling to fill the hole left by those who have passed. Unfortunately, there is nothing we or anyone else can say to help lessen these losses. With the approach

of the holiday season, the hurt caused by death will seem fresh once again as people are forced to face these losses all over again. That is the tragic aspect of death, it always has the habit of rearing its head again, reminding those close to the dead of their friends and family.

In the wake of these deaths, UM-St. Louis showed its true colors by pulling together and helping those dealing with these great losses. With memorial services, condolence letters and prayers, the campus did what it could to help ease some of the pain.

It is important to remember UM-St. Louis does offer grief counseling for those students struggling with these passings.

It is well and good for people to say the hurt will lessen in time, but that hole is never filled. *The Current* is the University and this newspaper honor the memories of those lost in the UM-St. Louis community and extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and families of those who have passed away this year.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Holidays are meant for shared memories, not material items

So, now that the Thanksgiving break is over, hopefully two things have occurred: we have awakened from our weeklong, food-induced sleep and are ready to put in for a good run to finish this semester on high marks. Holiday season is kicking in.

Never mind that we are told by radio and TV ads that we are supposed to spend money on gifts for the holidays, and drive (and in some cases catch a plane) to untold distances to be at our families' homes for the holidays.

There is also societal pressure for us to spend New Year's Eve with "that someone special." Our options are before us: make the holiday season something worthwhile and joyful, or do it on commercialism's terms.

I'd much rather spend New Year's Eve with my nieces and nephews. They are much more fun than most adults I know, anyway.

I am grateful for at least one thing this year: I don't have to fly to St. Louis and try to jam-pack each and every conversation with my family members and friends before rushing back to Washington, D.C. That has been my holiday milieu for the past 15 years.

The last four months that I've been home have offered moments that were indeed gifts: I have gotten to know my family more.

I have been able to see the Cardinals win the Series, pick apples in Alton with my Mom and participate in a Midwestern tradition known as "Deer Camp."



By MARK MCHUGH

Staff Writer

However, it may be with great sadness that I (and the student body at UM-St. Louis) approach this holiday season, and for our own personal reasons.

My aunt died tragically and unexpectedly last week, just three weeks after the death of her husband, my wonderful and kind uncle (I've omitted their names out of respect for them and my family).

Yesterday I stood by Mom as my family attended the last of two memorial services in my Aunt's honor.

And today at UM-St. Louis, we learned of the tragic death of one of our own students in the house fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at UM-St. Louis.

Both of these tragedies inspire me to pause and really look at how lucky I am, and give thanks for people and the fortunate circumstances in my life.

So, with that sense of reflection, I

am in no rush to speed down the highways this month, grabbing gifts for my family.

I don't want to go to crowded malls and get the latest fad or toy that my niece or nephew doesn't really need, or for that matter — want. I don't want to hear "Jingle Bell Rock" by Burl Ives on the local radio station, although an instrumental version of "Greensleeves" would make me happy.

I want to live in the present and let my family and friends know how much they mean to me. I want my actions to show how grateful I am for this opportunity to live right here, right now.

I have no idea how I will feel at the family dinner this Christmas holiday after the recent deaths in my family. But I will probably spend a moment of thought to acknowledge that this autumn has been a sort of homecoming (with apologies to U2) for me.

I know I've been fortunate enough to see the sun set over Fayette, Mo. from my brother's deerstand last month, and I know that my brother and I are friends once again. I know that I still love to pick apples in Illinois with Mom and then have turtle soup to eat at the Fin Inn, or fried chicken at Pere Marquette State Park.

And I know there will be two empty places at the dinner table this Christmas for my aunt and uncle.

But what I will remember is how much I loved them and how much they loved all of us. That is the only gift that truly matters to me this year.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Students deserve to be notified earlier

Ice storms are very disturbing. Like the one we experienced on Thursday, Nov. 30 and Friday Dec. 1, some people were able to plan ahead and others were not. Some people were aware of the storm, while others weren't. Also, if you ride the Metrolink, you are aware of the delays, shifts in schedules and route changes, due to the ice and snow accumulation.



By MYRON MCNEILL

Opinions Editor

Some of the stops throughout the city and downtown are unattainable. Some of the routes that normally take 15 to 20 minutes now take an hour or an hour and a half to finish. Trust that I know this all too well. My daily ride from Union Station to UM-St. Louis North is normally 20 minutes, but due to the storm it is now an hour and 15 minutes.

More importantly, I am trying to show the power of decisions and how they affect the adjustments we may or may not have to make. As a student at UM-St. Louis, I've noticed that many decisions are made without notification prior to the change. Many rights and privileges are threatened, discussed, analyzed and considered for adjustments without our knowing.

For instance, the new idea or possibility of the Metrolink pass dissemination. Notice the word new in the sentence. It was new to me on Monday. However, I, like many others, am finding out about its possible destruction while it is on its "deathbed." There is no time to respond, react or vie for it's change.

However, I am forced to wonder how long the Metrolink passes have

been up for execution. As a first year UM-St. Louis student in the fall of 2005 I remember the passes were free up until the end of spring 2006. Then we found out the passes would cost us the next year, which is the current year we are in. Now, only one semester deep we are hearing about its possible death.

Once again, who is discussing the existence and non-existence of things affecting us behind our backs? What else is on the plate to be done away with that we don't know about? Is there a hidden costs being discussed for something in the future being talked about as we speak?

Since it affects us students, can we see the drawing board were these "great" ideas are being thought about? There is a pun on "great," especially if you ride the Metrolink like me.

Let's try this...since we are a community. If something dramatic is to affect the student body...can we learn of it while it is in its "drawing board" stages? Can we learn of it while it is a possibility and not an effect already set to take place?

I know it is impossible for everyone to know everything. However, if 1,300 students use passes, and I'm sure more did last year when it was free, that means a significant part of the student body will be affected.

That way if a change comes like a storm, some of us will be able to weather it before it lands. Some of us will be able to remedy the situation while it is a possibility, and not a problem.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

What does UMSL want for Christmas this year?

Now that Black Friday, which marks the start of the holiday season shopping frenzy for many bargain hunters, has come and gone, there are officially 21 days of shopping left until Christmas as of Monday, Dec. 4.

With three weeks left to finish shopping for everybody included on your

'nice' list this year, there may be some people at UM-St. Louis that you forgot to include while shopping for presents.

To make things easier on shoppers, I have compiled a list of what the UM-St. Louis community is wishing that Santa Claus will bring them this year.

The number one item that **Head Baseball Coach Jim Brady** wants is a check made out to him for the amount of \$1.275 million plus legal fees. Last Tuesday, the Missouri Court of Appeals rejected all of the University's arguments in an age discrimination case that Brady filed against UMSL. Speaking of which, Athletics Director Patricia Dolan needs to borrow \$100,000 for Christmas and Vice Chancellor Reinhard Schuster needs a loan of \$200,000.

John Klein, director of Residential Life, already got what he wants: a working sprinkler system and



By PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

new carpeting for Oak Hall. Now what he needs is a way to figure out how to lock the doors and prayers from residents that nothing else goes wrong.

What can you get **Chancellor Thomas George** this year? What do you even get a chancellor for Christmas? This was a tough one, but what he needs is a miracle this holiday season to help him make a decision whether or not to approve and send a \$2 per credit hour increase in the Student Activity Fee to the Board of Curators.

The **Touhill PAC** has wanted a "Get Out of Debt Free" card for the past two years and their wish may finally be granted this year if they break even. Perhaps someone nice could ask Nick Lachey if he would like to come back for an encore performance, after what's left of him.

MetroLink riders are asking Santa for Metro passes for next semester. Who cares if they cost \$45 per semester? Watching that one passenger on other riders out of money using the old ball and three cups trick is well worth the ride to and from campus.

See **SHOPPING LIST**, page 11

UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What is the hardest final to study for?

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu. The person who submits the best response each week wins a free T-shirt.



Sang Lee
Sophomore
Graphic Design

"English because it is a crazy language."



Dominek Parrish
Junior
Marketing

"My Management Organizational Behavior class because it's a lot of material to cover."



Mike Kuehnel
Junior
Civil Engineering

"Thermodynamics because the class makes no sense."



Ronika Moody
Sophomore
Finance and Marketing

"Work, Family and Public Study class because it's an all essay comprehensive final."



Mark Epstein
Senior
Art History

"Calculus because of all the functions you need to remember."

SCIENCE COLUMN

Eye on the future



School of Optometry celebrates 25-year milestone

The campus' School of Optometry celebrated a milestone this year, when it marked its 25th year.

Students who have taken advantage of the Optometry School's eye care may be aware of that but what they may not know about is its struggle before the school opened its doors in 1980.

Several of those who helped start the school or were there at its start are still associated with the school. Gerald Franzel, now the associate dean, and the late Robert Mobley were instrumental in getting the school opened at UM-St. Louis.

The school is one of only 17 in the nation and Franzel and Mobley helped establish the need for optometrists in Missouri.

The Missouri legislature approved a bill to establish the school in 1975 but it was vetoed by then Gov. Christopher "Kit" Bond. After several years of struggling to get the school opened, the legislature finally approved it and it was signed by Gov. Jim Teasdale in 1980.

The school got off to a fast start on South Campus, moving into a former convent that became Marillac Hall, with four professors and 35 students. Four years later, 32 of this first class graduated. One hundred percent of the class of 1984 passed the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination, the first time in the



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

nation that an entire class had passed the exam.

The school of Optometry's first dean was Jerry Christensen, who also taught classes that first year while managing the conversion of Marillac Hall into a proper school of optometry. Today, Christensen is still a professor of optometry.

The first class faced shortages of equipment, construction and 25 hour course loads, which brought it close together. Among these first graduates is Dr. Anne Ream, who now has three optometric offices in southern Missouri and is a member of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

The current dean is Larry Davis, and the school now includes 21 full-time and 17 part-time faculty members. Faculty also engages in research

besides teaching.

Like medical or law, optometry is a professional school program that leads to a doctor of optometry degree. The program starts with basic foundation courses in the first year and ends with clinical experience in the final year. The school also offers graduate degrees in physiologic optics and post-graduate residencies.

Optometry was described as one of the best careers in an article in U.S. News and World Report on the best and worst careers.

The article used statistics about income and working conditions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, along with interviews that focused on job satisfaction, future potential and other factors. Optometry came up second on its list of excellent careers, behind audiologist and ahead of veterinarian, and far ahead of physician or lawyer.

Even if you are not thinking of a career in optometry, there is a good reason for students to take note of this South Campus school. The School of Optometry operates a full-service eye clinic on South Campus, the University Eye Center, which is open to the public.

Next time you are on South Campus, stop by the School of Optometry and take a look around. But be sure to wish them "Happy Anniversary" when you are there.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Professor remembers Brian Schlittler

BY LAURA WESTHOFF

Guest Commentator

I was at the computer in my office when Chancellor George's email popped up at the bottom of my screen.

Earlier that morning I had been saddened to hear that a UMSL student had died in the burned out Pike house I passed on my way to campus.

But nothing prepared me for the shock of reading the chancellor's email and learning that student was Brian Schlittler. Brian was in one of my history classes last semester. Seeing his name connected to this tragedy raised many memories from the brief time I had to know Brian and observe him with his friends and peers in my class.

While most professors don't usually get to learn too much about their students and their personal lives, they do from time to time notice certain

qualities about some of the men and women sitting in front of them week after week.

Brian was one of those students who stood out—not only because he was dubbed "Faux Hawk" for the hairstyle he sported on the first day of class. He stood out because his good-nature and light-heartedness seemed to rub off on everyone around him. I noticed that the classroom energy felt different when Brian was there, a little more easy-going and relaxed, perhaps.

Not in a way that detracted from the business at hand, but in a way that seemed to open people up, make them more receptive to the classroom conversation and more comfortable in talking with each other. Brian was clearly a people person, one who made others feel happier when he was around.

Hearing his friends and family speak at his memorial, describing memories of him, I was glad to know

that my impressions of Brian were right on the mark, but even more deeply saddened at the loss of such a genuinely friendly and likable young man.

In his short life he certainly gave us some significant lessons to hold onto: the importance of friendship; the value of not taking ourselves too seriously; the importance of enjoying and appreciating the present moment, whether in the classroom or hanging out with friends.

Brian was clearly well-loved because he gave so much of himself. While his death is a terrible tragedy, I am comforted in knowing that Brian will long be remembered for his generous spirit and the gift his life was to so many—even to those who knew him only from the front of the classroom.

Dr. Laura Westhoff is a professor in the history department and Division of Teaching and Learning

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coach Brady lawsuit

Will our fine upstanding MU officials and Chancellor George please show Vice Chancellor Reinhard Schuster and Athletic Director Patricia Dolan the access to Highway 70 so they can vacate their positions at UMSL for their criminal actions against UMSL Baseball Coach Jim Brady?

MU officials and administrative types were well aware of how Coach Brady was treated and they just sat on their asses!

I salute you Coach Brady for your tenacity and making these people eat crow for the way you were treated. Keep up the efforts in molding the young Rivermen players as they pass through the university for their education and grow into manhood.

Pat Williams
Alumnus

Library Courtesy

The student behavior displayed at the various UM-St. Louis libraries has become wildly inappropriate. Such behavior is often rude, callow and inconsiderate. What happened to library etiquette?

Student visitors must realize that while inside a library, adult courtesy requires that they not conduct cell phone conversations, as though they are lounging around in the middle of their living rooms.

Nor should students use a library to congregate in large cliques and engage in loud gum-popping giggle sessions. UM-St. Louis is a place of higher learning – not a middle-school playground.

Also, students should refrain from yelling at their computer monitors during fits of self-indulgent rage. If you lost your paycheck as a result of internet gambling, keep it to yourself.

Finally, it is a good idea for students to remain outside the library if they intend to belt out a song. After all, a library is not an audition house for "American Idol" wannabes. If any student feels compelled to sing while inside a library, please go home immediately, jump into your shower and sing to your heart's content.

While in a library, students should keep their books open; their mouths shut, and demonstrate at least a modicum of consideration for the other students who are actually trying to study.

Larry Blandino
Graduate Student
Elementary Education

We encourage you to write a letter to the editor. Please include your name and your major and year if you are a student, or your title and department if you are faculty or staff. Email letters to: thecurrent@umsl.edu

READER COMMENTS FROM OUR ONLINE FORUMS

MetroLink passes

[Regarding the 'Our Opinion' column, "Is it the end of the line for the MetroLink pass?" in the Nov. 27 issue. One clarification to note: The editorial board did not claim the Metro pass program would actually end, but that the program might end.]

Comment one:

This is definitely of concern. Personally, I love the Metrolink. But I think students are far too attached to their vehicles.

What makes little sense is the number of students who live in South and West Counties, and pay more than \$250 per semester to drive and park on campus, rather than pay \$45 for a pass, park in one of the FREE Park & Ride spots (Delmar, Clayton, North Hanley), and take the train in. Nevermind the cost of gas, depreciation, and congestion.

Unfortunately, Metrolink allows no discount for students - it's \$60 a month, or \$300 to cover the full semester.

The result? The only students who will continue to ride Metrolink are those who live far enough away that gas costs will make parking on campus effectively more expensive than riding the Link.

More students will buy parking passes, the lots will be more congested, and the University will reap more in parking fees.

Let me pose an alternative: double the cost of the student pass rather than discontinuing the program altogether. I'd still much rather pay \$90 a semester than \$288 (16 credit hours in Spring at \$18 per credit hour), especially given the volatile price of gas and my ancient vehicle.

Comment two:

While I think it is unfortunate for some that this program may be ending, I think a few questions should be asked.

1) Was the land that the metrolink is on purchased by bi-state from the University? Does the University still own the land? If so shouldn't the Metrolink compensate the University for use of the land?

2) Another question to ask is should the entire student body be responsible for helping a few thousand students with their transportation arrangements? Metrolink offers a student pass for \$125/semester. Let's take a conservative estimate of what a student driver might pay.

15 hours of parking pass = \$270/semester
4 days of gas @ \$5/day = \$80/semester
4 car payments @ \$150/month = \$600/semester
4 months worth of insurance @ 75/month = \$300/semester

That adds up to \$1250/semester to drive to UMSL. When you put things into perspective \$125/semester for a metro student pass is not outrageously expensive. Why force students who already pay a high price to drive to school to pay for someone else who only pays a fraction of the cost to get to school.

I think the decision to not raise student fees is the only logical and fair solution.

Comment three:

Even though I was looking forward to getting a free metro pass this semester I still feel that paying \$45 a semester was fair.

To cut the program all together will cause more of a problem than solve a problem.

Parking will suck even more than it already does

People that depend on the metrolink and can't afford to pay the extra \$80 a semester for a pass through metrolink will be at a crossroads (should I or should I not take less hours or even go to school at all)

yeah it seems like a stretch but that's reality for a lot of people struggling to make ends meet and trying to better themselves.

All in all cutting the program all together is going to affect many people directly as well as indirectly.

The Current

Starting this semester, *The Current's* Web site now allows readers to post comments about our articles that will appear along with the story.

Since the online submission process provides no way to verify the author, all posts will be printed anonymously.

To post a comment, log on to www.thecurrentonline.com/messageboard

Comment four:

I think it's unfortunate that they're eliminating the passes. It is unreasonable to pay Metro's price of \$60 per month for an unlimited pass. I will probably purchase a parking pass, which in the end will cost about the same without a discounted price.

Comment five:

Eliminating the student bus passes would be a bad decision because a great deal of students such as myself have to catch the bus because we don't have cars. I see a number of students on bi-state everyday and if this program is stopped it could drop a lot of students from attending college.

These passes are convenient because we could purchase them from our school and charge them to our account. Whereas if we purchased the student or monthly passes we would have to come out of pocket with the full amount at the moment which could cause a problem if you don't have the money at the time. I've spoken to some faculty/staff members who have noted that they would buy the pass if you offered it to them. So why don't we offer this to them and maybe charge a little more because they are faculty/staff. How come everytime there is a good program offered it gets cut out of the schools budget. Even though the passes are 45 dollars a lot of students didn't buy them because they are used to them being free but that doesn't mean you should cut them out after having one bad semester. That is not the solution to the problem neither.

Comment six:

If student activities fees are justifiably paid by those that do not use those services, a metro pass should be no different.

Comment seven:

I am disappointed that we will not be able to purchase a metro pass for \$45 next semester. I am hoping that something changes, so we don't see the end of this valuable service.

The n-word

[Regarding the staff viewpoint, "Take a lesson from Kramer: just say no to the n-word" in the Nov. 27 issue.]

Comment one:

I completely agree with LaGuan Fuse. Although I am not African American (I am Asian American female), I was so offended when I heard Richards' comments.

"That's what happens when you interrupt the white man, don't you know". This comment is extremely offensive to people of color.

Michael Richards is worse than trash!

People of color, united we stand!

Comment two:

I am an African American female, and I agree that it is a difference when someone of another race using the N-Word. I try not to use the word, but we use the word in our daily conversations with other African Americans, the meaning is totally different when we use it then when Ricahrd used it. I do not say the N-word in public because it does cause confusion, and others may think it is ok to use it too.

It is not okay for any other race to use the N-Word, and truthfully I wish we as African Americans would stop using the word as well. Our ancestors have suffered enough of humiliation and disrespect, and unfortunately we still experience racism in our generation. During my time at college I have learned that no matter how much we accomplish and excellence we achieve, we are still undermined by others.

Democrats win

[Regarding the staff viewpoint, "The Democrats were given a chance, but will they take it?" in the Nov. 27 issue.]

Comment one:

YAWN. The big evil Bush is taking away our freedoms and only the Democrats can save us!

As is typical with many anti-Bush screeds, it's heavy on the rhetoric and light on the reality...and completely lacking in details. Of course everyone knows that Bush's policies are destroying the country and are absolutely disastrous! No need to name what those policies are, or why they're hurting our country, or what the obvious solution is.

Of course tax cuts for the rich are bad...no, no, don't ask me WHY, you already know I'm sure. You know, it's not like they actually do anything with their money...like hire employees to work in their companies, or maids and butlers and cleaners to work in their homes.

Bush cut taxes for EVERYONE, not just the rich. This isn't a secret. It's not some heavily guarded bit of information that only a select view know. And, Bush expanded the upper limits of each tax bracket, redefining what rich is. If there's a plan that helps the middle class more than Bush's tax plan, no one has proposed it yet. And under his tax cuts, the percentage of the poor who don't pay taxes at all has increased, and they can even get back money they didn't pay in...in the form of earned income credits. So is the author ignorant of all this (thereby making it very hard to take him seriously)? Or is he just purposefully misrepresenting facts to make the hated enemy seem all the more vile.

And the Iraq war is, GASP, a war. People die in war. It's sad, but that's what happens in war. Perhaps Mr. Granger has been living under a rock for the past three years, or maybe he only found out about politics when the Democrats won...but they've been calling for phased withdrawal, immediate withdrawal, or anything with the word withdrawal in it, since approximately a month after the war began. It's been on the news every night for years, kinda hard to miss, but whatever. Ignore the fact that no one in an important military position thinks we should withdraw, we need to do it anyways! I've always wondered why those who claim to want the best for our soldiers, ignore what our soldiers want.

Oak Hall renovations

[Regarding the article, "Oak Hall renovations proceeding slowly" in the Nov. 27 issue.]

Comment one:

I would like to correct a few discrepancies in the Oak Hall article. Mark Simpson is the "project manager". The pipe replacement did take a week to do but we first had an independent testing lab perform testing to confirm this was the source of the problem to make sure we had found and could finally solve the problem. There was a lot of re-work to correct anything that was damaged by the flooding, that is what is taking time to do. We expect to be complete by end of this year, provided we do not run into any unforeseen issues. The carpet is still available, it is a special order and the manufacturer makes 2 similar patterns, which when we received the replacement carpet the first time, discovered that they had made the wrong pattern. The correct carpet is expected by 11/30/06.



TOUHILL
HOLIDAY PREVIEW

Dec. 5: Genesis Jazz Concert in the Lee Theater at 7:30 p.m. Event is free.

Dec. 7: UMSL Symphonic Band will perform in the Lee Theater at 7:30 p.m. Event is free.

Dec. 8 to Dec. 10: Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus will perform Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Seats are \$20-28.

Dec. 12: Soul of the Season R&B and Gospel holiday music will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7-12.

Dec. 13: The Manhattan Transfer vocal ensemble will perform in the Anheuser Busch auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are still to be determined.

Jan. 14: The Harlem Gospel Choir will perform in the Anheuser Busch auditorium at 2 p.m. Tickets cost between \$18-30.

TOP iTUNES
DOWNLOADS

1. Irreplaceable - Beyoncé
2. Wind It Up - Gwen Stefani
3. Fergalicious - Fergie
4. I Wanna Love You - Akon featuring Snoop Dogg
5. Say It Right - Nelly Furtado
6. Keep Holding On - Avril Lavigne
7. Smack That (Dirty) - Akon
8. My Love (Single Version) - Justin Timberlake featuring T.I.



9. It Ends Tonight - The All-American Rejects
10. All I Want for Christmas Is You - Mariah Carey

MOVIE REVIEW

‘The Nativity Story’ dazzles holiday movie-goers

By Michael Branch
Staff Writer

Awww, the Holiday Season. It is a time for Hollywood to give something back to massive audiences that made it what it is today, that is, crappy Christmas comedies. Year after year, we are guaranteed at least two of two of these would-be masterpieces but only a few actually succeed in becoming a holiday tradition. Movies like “A Christmas Story” and “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” break the mold with the former being played on TBS nonstop for 24 hours every Christmas Eve. This year’s volley of holiday cash-ins includes “The Santa Clause 3” and “Deck the Halls.”

But there is a light in the darkness, so to speak. There is one seasonal film that strays from this comedy mold: “The Nativity Story.” As the name suggests, this film goes the religious route and it is hard to make a religious comedy. The two genres just don’t blend well together, except for in the case of “Jesus Christ Superstar” and I believe that was purely unintentional.

“The Nativity Story” is a G-rated account of what happened leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ before all the guilt laden blood and sacrifice of Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ.” The story begins in Jerusalem where we see a visibly distraught King Harod (Ciaran Hinds) and his men rampaging through the town upsetting the peasants. The camera shots over a towering Jerusalem at night are breathtaking. Then the movie shifts back to one year earlier and we learn the cause of his vicious mood.

However, anyone familiar with the Bible will obviously know what is bothering him. In fact, even those who have never read the Bible firsthand will most likely have heard the famous story involving Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men and others. Thankfully the movie tells this classic story in a visually entertaining manner so even though we know how it will end, it does not get boring.

The movie is filmed with a filter that dulls many of the colors, making them void of any vibrancy. The achieved effect makes the movie hard to date, thanks in part to the lack of special effects. The grainy visuals naturally work well with the desert setting of much of the movie and successfully avoided any chance of the film looking too flaky in its message.

Unfortunately the stereotypical dry portrayal of the villains in this movie left much to be desired. They both spend most of the movie dressed in all black attire and they present dialogue in a slow conning monotone. They are the quintessential bad guys, both sporting flashy



Photos courtesy of www.rottentomatoes.com

Oscar Isaac (Joseph) and Keisha Castle-Hughes (Mary) star in ‘The Nativity Story,’ a new movie about the birth of Jesus Christ.

perms in an effort to show off their cultured evil. Damn that’s smooth.

The Three Wise Men (Nadim Sawalha, Eriq Ebouaney, and Stefan Kalipha) of the film play out like a wiser aged version of the Three Stooges. There is no slapstick of which the latter are known for to be found here but they are used as the only source of humor in the otherwise serious film. Every scene involving the three includes a humorous quip or action usually with one wise man belittling another (all very lighthearted, of course).

Teenaged Keisha Castle-Hughes, the young star of “Whale Rider,” plays Mary, and did really well with her pivotal role as the mother of Christ. She reeked with the very essence of innocence in every scene in which she was featured. Her hopeful and partially naïve eagerness while on her journey to Bethlehem with husband Joseph (Oscar Isaac) kept the movie encouraging without seeming too flowery. Mary and Joseph did not seem too unbelievably joyful that they would be parenting the son of God but rather slightly confused and scared.

“The Nativity Story” offers itself as a story of hope and perseverance for those who are getting sick of the average holiday comedy. Viewers who do not consider themselves religious can enjoy this captivating film without being threatened too hard with a message of faith or hell.



Sixteen-year-old Keisha Castle-Hughes stars as Mary, the mother of Jesus, in this month’s ‘The Nativity Story.’ Castle-Hughes first captivated audiences in 2001 with her breakthrough performance in the much-acclaimed, ‘Whale Rider.’ In 2005, she played the Queen of Naboo in ‘Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith.’

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Breakaway Café offers good break from the Nosh

Local Bel-Nor café has new choices for hungry college students bored with the UMSL cafeteria

By Sarah O’Brien
Staff Writer

It is Wednesday and you have had a Nosh-burger three days in a row for at least one meal. You are craving some, well, better eating. Luckily, on your way to the highway, you spot a colorful sign. “Breakaway Café” it reads, in bright letters on the left-hand side of the road from campus. So, you turn in.

The Breakaway Café is a cozy old building, snug up next to the Bel-Nor police station. The café offers great food at a price which matches a meal

at the Nosh. With bottomless iced-tea and huge servings of pasta, as well as other food, the Breakaway Café is the perfect vacation from the UM-St. Louis cafeteria.

To die for are the Spicy Chicken Strips, \$6.25 plus tax, but make sure you have a glass of your preferred beverage, for the spice will catch you off guard.

All of you red-hot buffalo wing eaters out there may scoff but these wings are not what you are used to. The sauce is dark and more of a jerk spice than the typical buffalo sauce, allowing for the actual flavor of the

meat to reach your palate, as opposed to a numb burn.

In the mood for St. Louis style pizza? Breakaway has got you covered, and for less than a call to Imo’s. For \$6.50 you can enjoy a small, personal pan, one topping pizza, no delivery charge. The pizza is delicious and

grease-free, another glory of St. Louis style pizza.

Breakaway also has salads, appetizers, sandwiches and pasta on the menu, as well as a dessert menu.

Some students have already discovered the Breakaway.

“I liked the environment, it was very small and the waiters and waitresses were very personable with the customers, often calling them by name,” said Mike Gibson, freshman, sociology.

Breakaway is not the place for a fancy dinner, but perfect for the UM-St. Louis student looking for some-

thing close and hearty.

The one drawback to this fantastic restaurant is that the hours of operation are limited and not what you might normally expect. However, this restaurant offers a great escape for friends who are looking for a meal, and some conversation, perhaps over drinks.

I would recommend stopping by Breakaway Café. The great comfort food and comforting atmosphere makes your one-minute commute to this restaurant worthwhile. So, put away your Nosh tray and walk, bike, or drive up Natural Bridge Road to Breakaway Café.

CD REVIEW

Jay-Z misses the beat on his new album, ‘Kingdom Come’

By Myron McNeill
Opinions Editor

Have you ever noticed how fashion designers can put out a line and people buy it just because it is from that particular designer? The shirt could have a butterfly collar, torn fabric, wrinkles under the arm pits and as long as that designer logo is on the front somewhere, people will buy it.

Get my drift? Sometimes this is how I feel about hip-hop. This is also how I feel about

Jay-Z’s new album. “Mr. I Don’t Write Anything Down” needs to start writing his lyrics down. One take is simply not enough.

His latest release (after the retirement that many of us knew was phonier than a three dollar bill) is titled “Kingdom Come.” This album has 14 tracks and it features John Legend, Kanye West, Just Blaze and Pharrell Williams.

At times, Jay shows glimpses of lyrical superiority. At other times, his lyrics seem misplaced from the beats. The feel and flow just are not there. A

good example is “Do You Wanna Ride” featuring John Legend. The beat is from Kanye and Legend has the hook while Jay’s verses do not fit with flow of the music.

On “Kingdom Come,” Jay blazes us with sharp story telling and lyrics. He raps “Now I’m so enlightened I might glow in the dark/I been up in the office you might know him as Clark/Just when you thought the whole world fell apart, I/Take off the blazer loosen up the tie/Step inside the booth Superman is alive.” Now that is classic J. No more can be said.

On “30 Something,” Jay exclaims that “30’s the new 20.” On this song he is typical Jay, the man who extends his vowels and consonants to create a rhythmic melody. He raps “Better broad, better automobile/Bet a yard (Naw) Bet a hundred mil/ Then by the songs end, I’ll probably start another trend.”

He talks about adult themes on this song. And from his fashion, job and lifestyle switch we can see the changes.



Jay-Z
“Kingdom Come”

★★★★☆

See JAY-Z, page 10

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Bobby’ is brilliant snapshot of pivotal time

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

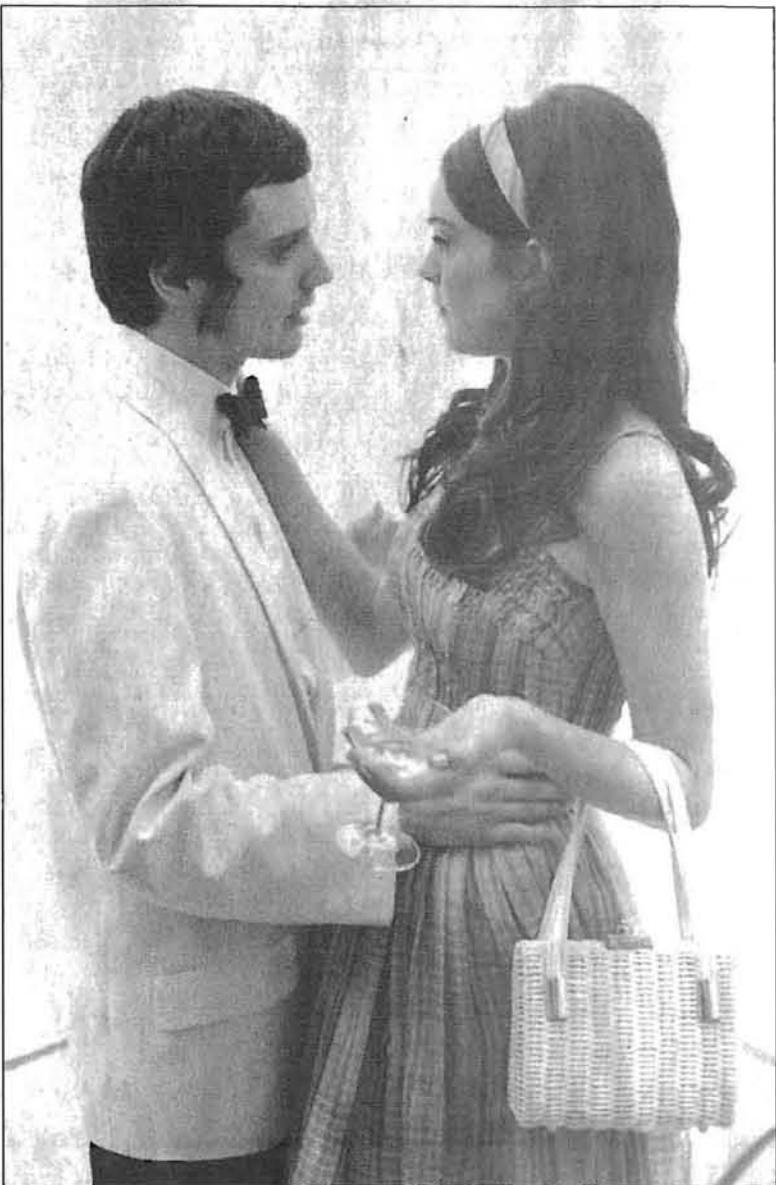
Rather than creating a film about the life of Robert Kennedy or an Oliver Stone style conspiracy theory tale exploring his assassination, director Emilio Estevez’s “Bobby” is a brilliant snapshot of a pivotal time in American history. “Bobby” follows an ensemble cast at the Ambassador Hotel on a single day in 1968 on the day that Bobby Kennedy was assassinated, and creates an astonishing microcosm of that time. Anyone who has a genuine interest in history should see this film.

RFK is almost a forgotten figure today but once he was the hope of those who embraced Martin Luther King’s vision for civil rights and those who sought to end the war in Vietnam and make our country a better, more democratic place.

This idealism and hopefulness was the quintessential timber of the sixties, and what was wiped away in 1968 by the back to back assassinations of MLK and RFK, and the police brutality at the Chicago Democratic convention that followed.

It was the opening of the cynicism of the darker 1970s, and set the country on a more radical and more violent path, turning from hope to disillusionment and anger. The Sixties and Seventies are now often confused as a pre-Reagan jumble, so it is nice to see the history presented with such crystal clarity.

The focus of “Bobby” is an ensemble cast of fictional characters whose lives overlap at the Ambassador Hotel on the day when the assassination occurs. Kennedy appears in the film only in archival footage, and occa-



Elijah Wood stars as William Avary and Lindsay Lohan stars as Diane in ‘Bobby,’ a historical account of the days leading up to the assassination of Robert Kennedy in 1968.

sional bits of his speeches pepper the film. Each character is also a brilliantly crafted personality but also represents something about 1968 America.

“Bobby” features an all-star cast that includes Ashton Kutcher, Demi Moore, and many others. Anthony Hopkins plays the retired doorman who still hangs out in the lobby, regaling everyone with tales of the

Ambassador Hotel’s glory days, between chess games with a fellow retiree played by Harry Belafonte. The hotel’s likeable manager (William H. Macy) is liberal enough to be outraged that the racist kitchen manager, played well by Christian Slater, who refuses to give the kitchen staff time off to vote, complaining that “they can’t vote because most of them are illegal

anyway.” Yet he cheats on his wife (Sharon Stone), who works as a hairdresser in the hotel, with a switchboard operator named Angela (Heather Graham) in this pre-feminist time. Laurence Fishburne plays the hotel’s chef, a former civil rights activist who is sagely unimpressed by the bluster of some of the hotel’s Hispanic kitchen staff.

Cesar Chavez is just organizing farm workers but thoughts of equality take a back seat to interest in the night’s baseball showdown, to which Jose (Freddie Rodriguez) has tickets.

A number of characters touch on this pre-feminist theme, including the long married couple with a wife, played by Helen Hunt whose self esteem is so wrapped up in her appearance.

A young woman, in a surprisingly restrained, touching turn by Lindsay Lohan, is planning a quick wedding to a friend (Elijah Wood) to keep him from being drafted and sent to Vietnam. Shia LeBeouf is one of two campaign workers whose experiments with drugs go a bit awry, leading comic elements and foreshadowing the recreational drug culture of the ‘70s.

Estevez shifts the film seamlessly from story line to story line, crafting a rich tapestry until all the characters gather together to hear Kennedy speak after winning the California primary. Archival footage is blended with the actors, as we witness the murder and its ensuing chaos, and a large portion of one of RFK’s most moving speeches becomes the theme of the later part of the film.

“Bobby” is a stunningly good film, accurately evocative of its time and a skillfully constructed piece of cinema. Who knew Emilio Estevez had this marvelous historic film in him.

While it should be required viewing for any student of history for its ability to capture this pivotal point in time, it is essential, engrossing, compelling filmmaking as well, the kind of film that warrants repeated viewings.

CD REVIEW

Carey Ott’s ‘Lucid Dream’ caters to romantics at heart

By Michael Branch
Staff Writer

Suppose you want to write the perfect love letter that will lead a new flame to a new flame that will leave him or her in a state of absolute breathlessness or perhaps you plan to make a long car trip to rekindle a failing relationship.

In both these situations, it might be helpful to have a copy of Carey Ott’s debut “Lucid Dream” on hand. You may even feel tempted to steal a few quaint lines from Ott’s lovesick ballads for your own flattering attempt.

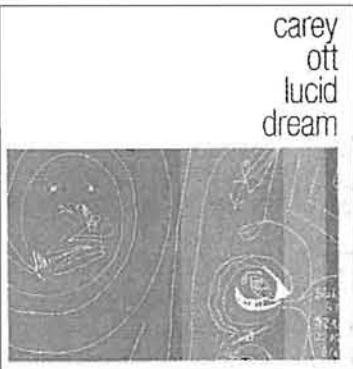
The music on the album reflects its title as it is based heavily around an acoustic guitar with a lightly toned electric guitar floating melodically above. However this is not your life altering epiphany of a dream but rather your run-of-the-mill everyday dream, which while enjoyable, is hardly worth delving into too deeply.

The chord patterns bear a slight resemblance to something the boys from Everclear would write and Carey Ott can not help but bust out into a sing along burst of generic sugarciness in every chorus.

Carey Ott’s vocals are the real distinguishing factor on the album. He often employs a romantic falsetto that sounds like a cross between Thom Yorke and Tom Petty.

Poor Ott has a hard time getting through any of the songs on the album without mentioning “love.” What is more, he more often sings of love lost rather than gained, which tends to wear thin after a while. As hard as it is to believe, there is a world that exists outside of romantic love, but Carey wants nothing of it.

At least Ott finds some time to come down from the clouds as he sings later in the album, “Don’t be too hard on yourself/ Don’t look too far ahead/ Don’t be alarmed or appalled when you fall/ It’s only love.”



Light and dark is another motif used heavy-handedly on “Lucid Dreams,” generally to describe the singer’s various moods, which range from slightly sad to slightly sad but halfway hopeful.

Despite being an all around radio safe album of seemingly duplicated tracks, a few stand out on their own. “Daylight” includes interesting percussion tracks incorporating weird static bleeps as part of the backing beat. On “Shelf Life,” Ott uses several vocal takes of his soothing vocal for a relaxed effect as he sings, “All of the great ones asleep with the warm guns/ Love is a dog bite/ You’re losing your shelf life.” The following track “Virginia” is a slow number that one would expect to hear in a smoky bar room setting. Once again Ott displays his soothing vocal ability as he hums a backing track accompanied by his crooning, “I’m feeling so outside.”

Carey Ott’s first outing is a light-hearted affair full of songs for the loveless. The lyrical content will almost instantly be relatable by everyone as most have experienced the familiar “to have loved and lost scenario” while the music gently underscores Ott’s unique vocal style.

This is music that does not force you to think too hard, composed merely to be enjoyed at surface level. If you are a hopeless romantic at heart, Carey Ott has custom-crafted this with you and millions of others in mind.

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

CONCERT PREVIEW

OTEP's 'The Ascension' promises to explode heavy metal genre

By Sarah O'Brien
Staff Writer

Musicians truly have a plethora of things they can write about. Johnny Cash wrote about Ghost Riders in the Sky and we worshipped him. Britney Spears wrote about having to grow up too fast in the pop industry and we felt bad for her — well, maybe not. However OTEP, a fusion metal, rap, jazz band from the West Coast believes that as makers of media, its job is to write about something important.

After pretty much being founded by Sharon Osbourne (queen of the rock 'n'roll world), early in its career, OTEP landed a stage at Ozzfest. Since it has been mass producing thrashing, deep-voiced music with a strong punch at the music industry.

Sound like every other "metal" band you listen to? It is not, and when I say "it" is not, I mean she is not. Otep Shamaya is the lead singer of OTEP, and she expresses strong beliefs about gaining respect as a woman in the rock industry, as well as the media's job and what they (the media) owe to the peo-

ple.

These inspirations are what helped write OTEP's first and second albums. However, be prepared for the third to be a little different, according to Otep.

"You can definitely tell on this one who its parents are," she said in a recent phone interview. The new album, titled "Ascension" launches in March 2007. If you cannot wait until March of next year to hear the new album, OTEP is playing at local night spot Pop's, 1403 Mississippi, on Dec. 11 to promote the album.

Otep is prepared for complaints from the fans about how different the new album and songs are. Even now with its singular video launch on YouTube, fans write comments like this one: "im a HUGE otep fan, but does anyone else think that the vocals are incredibly annoying? sounds [a] bit

too screamo for me. i wish this track sounded harder."

Otep quips that the band has always been a fusion band, citing the Doors as its main inspiration. In fact, the musicians all come from differing musical backgrounds. The drummer Brian Wolff even came from such a musical extremity as Latin and tribal music.

"We all come from such different backgrounds," Otep said, "that makes it hard to stay inside one genre."

Otep believes, and I strangely agree, that the band has grown out of the "heavy metal" genre and it can no longer hold it down. With a cover of a Nirvana favorite on the new CD, OTEP is crossing genre borders and making a name for fusion bands across the board.

OTEP's music may sound as if it is progressing, and it is. However, the inspiration and message is still the same. Otep continuously speaks of journalistic integrity and the need for the media to "do its job."

"We have an epidemic in Africa," Otep said, "a genocide in Darfur, yet what do we see on the cover of papers?

Lindsay Lohan's crotch as she exits a car — newflash, women have vaginas!"

While it may seem that Otep would shy away from such lolli-pop princesses like Lohan and Britney Spears, as well as disagree with their behavior, she sends the message to let them do what they want.

"Britney just got out of a marriage, and she has a kid. I'd want to party too, leave her alone and pay attention to what is really important," she said. "What's really important is writing your own music, and making it sound good."

This is what Otep believes she is doing right. "'The Ascension' is probably our best album yet," she said.

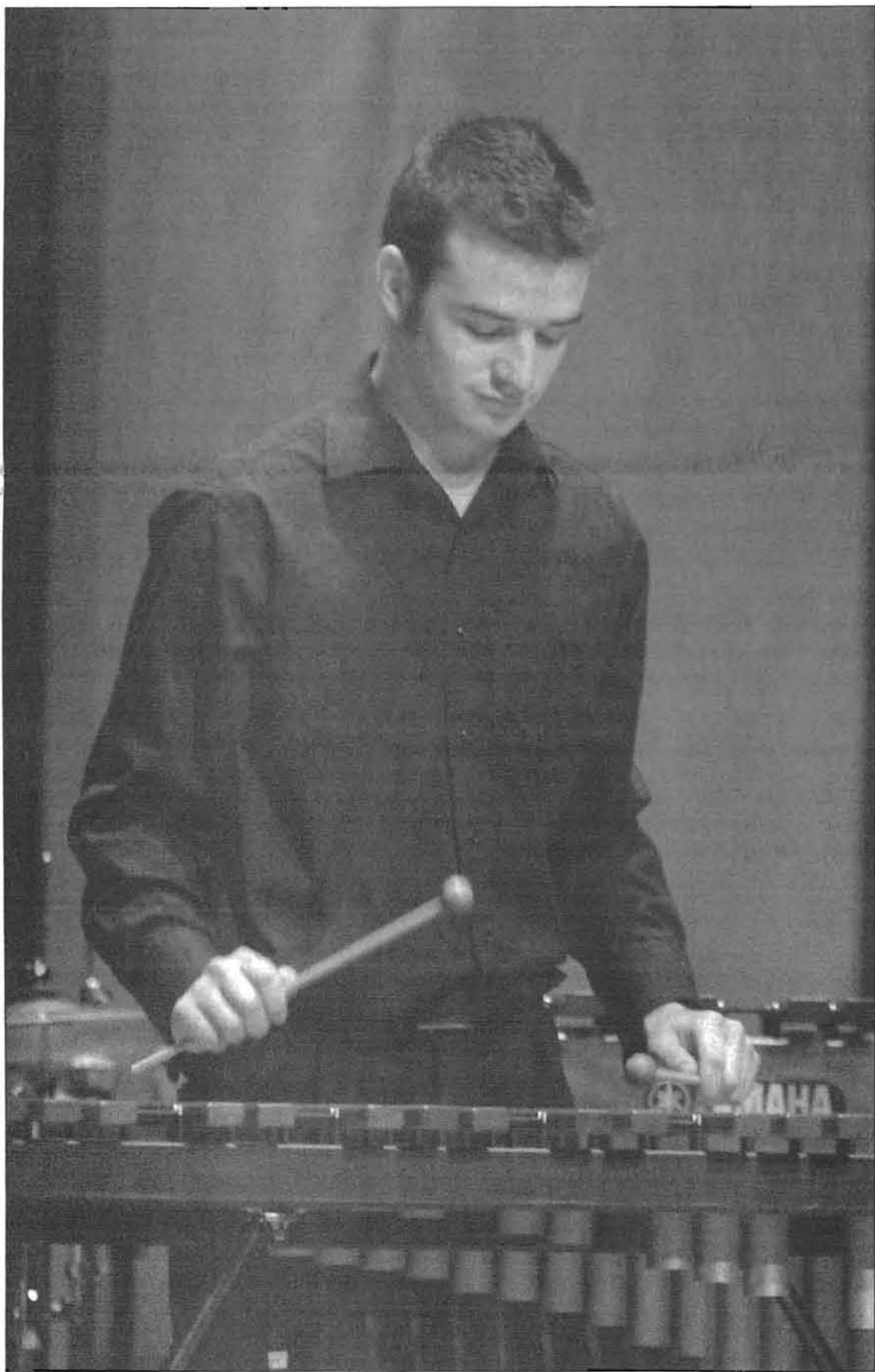
You can hear OTEP at Pop's on Dec. 11, where they will be playing to promote "The Ascension."

All out of cash from the Christmas-consumer binge? You can also hit up its Myspace page to check out clips of a few songs from the new album, as well as a segment from a new video—the full-monty is available on www.youtube.com.



Hailing from the West Coast, OTEP with its unique fusion of metal, rap and jazz, will be releasing their newest album, 'The Ascension' in March 2007. To promote their new CD, OTEP will perform at Pop's in Sauget Wednesday, Dec. 11. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Hitting the right note



Cadence Rippetto • Staff Photographer

Josh Daly, sophomore, music performance, performs as the soloist of the piece "Xylophonia" during the Percussion Ensemble Performance on Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

JAY-Z, from page 8

He raps "I don't got the bright watch, I got the right watch/ I don't buy out the bar, I bought the nightspot."

It is the same braggadocio. It sounds good at times then, at others, it seems redundant. We already know he has millions of dollars. We know that he used to be a hustler. We know

that he has a popular and beautiful girlfriend. How? Because, he has already rapped about this on his other six or so albums.

• This is what makes "Kingdom Come" a sub par effort. Similar themes. Similar concepts. And music that has no direction.

It was good to hear from HOVA

out of retirement. However, maybe his new position at Def Jam suits him better. Sometimes it is not good thing to come out of retirement. Just ask Jordan about the second attempt, not the first one.

Although he shows his lyrical abilities at times, the album is not Classic Jay.

A&E ON CAMPUS

Great Russian Nutcracker is traditional holiday treat

By Sarah O'Brien
Staff Writer

Long ago, before Biological Anthropology seminars and eighty page readings every night we enjoyed stories—simple ones. It was not hard to imagine yourself as a princess or a nutcracker on the night before Christmas, or to believe in a fat elf squeezing through your chimney and dropping off tons of presents.

Likewise, as adults, there are times we can shoulder disbelief and once again enjoy fantastical things, and "The Great Russian Nutcracker" is the perfect opportunity to lose yourself once again in childhood fantasy.

That is not to say that the Nutcracker is only for children. This performance speaks loudly to all ages, intriguing even the most rigid viewers into a juvenile awe.

With the beautifully colored hand-painted sets, and dazzling vivid costumes, the ballet catches your eye at first leap, and leaves you lock-eyed on nothing but the stage and performers.

For those unfamiliar with the story of the Nutcracker, it goes something like this: On Christmas eve the family and friends of the Stahlbaums are all visiting the Stahlbaum estate.

The Stahlbaum children, Fritz and Masha (that is the name in the

Moscow ballet; we call her Clara) are eagerly awaiting their presents when a masked man walks into the house. The mysterious man teases the children, and then unmasks himself revealing that he is Uncle Drosselmeyer, the toymaker, and also the mysterious narrator-like character in the ballet.

Drosselmeyer gives all of the children hand-made toys, the most extravagant being a nutcracker given to Clara. While playing, as children will do, Clara's brother Fritz breaks the nutcracker, leaving Clara upset right before bedtime.

While Clara is in a fitful sleep, the Nutcracker comes to life and fights an army of mice, then defeats the Rat King. Next, he transforms into a prince and whisks Clara away into a land full of foreign dancers and animals, snow fairies and angels.

After a final battle where the Nutcracker kills the Rat King, the dancers flourish and Clara awakes to a restored Nutcracker.

The dances in the ballet however perform a much more elegant version of the story along one of Tchaikovsky's masterpieces, titled "The Nutcracker" (see the pattern?). "The Nutcracker" was composed between 1891 and 1892 by a very unwilling Tchaikovsky. He would often call it his "worst" piece.

Tchaikovsky's "worst" ballet has won a place in the hearts of many, and is a popular ballet which many children dream of performing in. Many St. Louis children became very lucky when their school of dance was cast into the Moscow Ballet's performance.

The leading cast of "Nutcracker" was performed by the Moscow Ballet, while the performance cast St. Louis' own Alexandra Ballet for the children's cast. The children played parts often on the same stage as the Moscow ballerinas and dancers.

The performance, like most ballets, has no dialog and therefore was silent besides the Nutcracker's music. However, the dancers created a world in which the audience too was left speechless.

The international dancers, including representatives from Russia, France, Spain, and Arabia are crowd favorites.

In this part of the ballet, the famous suites associated with "The Nutcracker" are heard, and performed beautifully to the music truly creating an alternate world for viewers.

"The Great Russian Nutcracker" was a performance that offered a lively holiday experience for students, as well as parents and children. For more information on the Moscow Ballet, visit www.nutcracker.com.

A&E ON CAMPUS

East Winds Ensemble blows fresh sounds from Asia at the Touhill PAC

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

A musical wind from Asia stirred hearts at the Touhill Performing Arts Center last Wednesday when the East Winds Ensemble graced the Lee Auditorium stage.

East Winds Ensemble is a group of five musicians who play traditional Asian instruments, but who perform a mixture of traditional and modern compositions, sometimes with a distinctive modern flavor. On November 29, 2006, only four of the five ensemble members were present, which meant that there were some changes to the prepared program.

The evening started with a lovely traditional melody, played by Masayo Ishigure on horizontal stringed instrument called a koto, also known as Japanese zither. She was accompanied by Marco Lienhard on the shakuhachi, a five-hole flute. Ishigure also sang in traditional Japanese style, the only piece in the evening's performance that was not entirely instrumental.

Ishigure wore a striking yellow

kimono with a grey flowered print and a dark pink sash, while the rest of the ensemble wore black tights with short Japanese style jackets marked with asymmetric red stripes with an orange "rising sun" on the back. The rest of the members of the ensemble were Barbara Merjan, who played a variety of percussion instruments and taiko, traditional Japanese drums, and Charles Tang, who played koto and a 17 string bass koto. Mr. Lienhard also played Japanese taiko drums. Missing that evening was Min Xiao Fen, who usually plays a four-stringed instrument called a pipa and provides vocals.

The rest of the evening's performance alternated between traditional Chinese, Japanese and Okinawan melodies and more modern pieces. Some of modern pieces sounded distinctly Western, with jazz inspired tunes and other pieces sounded more improvised. The ensemble played in various combinations and alternated slow pieces. Lyrical flute or stringed pieces with livelier ones on drums.

Marco Lienhard composed or arranged three of the compositions

according to the program notes but because the pieces were played in a different order than the program and were not introduced, it was often difficult to determine which piece was being played.

Besides alternating between modern and traditional pieces, some pieces for just koto and shakuhachi were performed. One of the most beautiful pieces was a duet with the koto and 17 string bass koto, performed by Masayo Ishigure and Charles Tang. There were a couple of solos, including a particularly beautiful one by Ishigure.

Lienhard alternated between playing the flutelike shakuhachi and the taiko drums. Lienhard and Merjan delighted the audience with a couple of energetic percussion pieces, with both of the playing the taiko drums.

Although it would have been nice to have the pieces introduced, since they were being played out of sequence, it in no way diminished the audience's enjoyment of the evening's music. The audience was long and loud after the last piece was finished.

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SHOPPING LIST, from page 6

The men and women's basketball teams would like a visit from the ghost of last season, but not the ghost from previous seasons past. Last year, both teams recorded winning seasons and made the GLVC tournament, but the previous three seasons between 2002 and 2005 resulted in both teams ending with an overall record under .500.

All SGA wants for Christmas is a little more feedback from the students. And all *The Current* wants in return is for SGA to offer a little more time for feedback.

HENTON, from page 5

"He very quickly fit into the student body and emerged as a student leader in the theatre program."

Coker directed Henton in the spring production of *TopDog* at UM-St. Louis and can attest to Henton's acting skills.

"He is a fine actor, with a lot of respect and inquisitiveness for his craft," said Coker. "He has a charismatic personality, and is well-suited

Last but certainly not least, on a more serious note, the one group on campus that needs a certain gift from everybody on campus is the **Pi Kappa Alpha** fraternity. Don't worry about the costs; this gift is free. They need support from all students, faculty, administrators and staff at UM-St. Louis for the loss of their brother Brian Schlittler and the loss of their house.

If nobody else on this list receives what they want, I at least hope the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity finds everything under the tree this year that they wanted.

for a future in the performing arts."

Clark said his primary interests are in film. "When he wins his first Academy Award, we expect to be invited," Clark said.

"This is a fine example for our currently enrolled student," said Coker. "We are proud of him and we are certain that he'll do UMSL proud in the future."

FIRE AT FRATERNITY HOUSE, from page 1

Fritz said the fire started near a couch on the first floor. "No one knows for sure what started the fire, but there were no accelerants and the wiring was intact," he said. "Cigarettes are the biggest suspicion."

Fritz said the house received its last fire inspection in April, and the house was cited for violations including a lack of fire extinguishers and having smoke detectors without batteries. He said it was impossible to tell if the smoke detectors were working during the fire on Wednesday, but he suspected they were not.

"I'm swayed to think they weren't because the guys inside didn't get up," he said. "Those detectors go off within minutes of a fire's start, especially with something like a couch, which gives off a lot of smoke."

As many students became aware of the fire, they converged on the scene.

Chris Mabie, senior, criminology, and a fellow Pi Kappa Alpha member, lives in another house owned by the fraternity.

"I got a knock at my door from my roommate and he said the Pike house is on fire," Mabie said. "I ran over there, and sure enough it was on fire. They said that they think Brian was still inside and you just kept hoping and praying that he had gone from where he was, and wasn't inside," Mabie said.

Nick Koechig, senior, political science, and a fellow Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity member, said he got a call early that morning and went down to a parking lot near the house, where over 50 students, administrators and onlookers gathered.

"I saw all of my guys in the parking lot, huddled around, just crying," Koechig said.

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, the University held a memorial service at the Provincial House chapel on South Campus.

An overflow crowd listened as Brian's sister, Erin Schlittler (a UM-St. Louis senior studying special education) spoke at the service, calling

SCHLITTLER, from page 1

"My brother was a very giving person and he used to absolutely love Christmas. He would give anybody anything," she said.

When they were kids, "he would always wake me up so we could get everything ready so when my parents got up, we could open the presents right away," she said.

"He was the best brother you could ask for," Erin said. "And I'm going to miss him."

Clayton Zoellner, senior, secondary education, recruited Brian into the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

"We were both secondary education majors with an emphasis in history. I had a class with him and that's where I met him and recruited him," Zoellner said.

"He was the one guy I always bragged about recruiting," he said. "He was the most selfless person I know."



Mike Sherwin • Managing Editor

Kevin Bowen, senior, business administration, looks at the memorial for Brian Schlittler set up on Wednesday morning after the fatal fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house. Bowen and Schlittler were fraternity brothers.

her brother "a big teddy bear."

Curt Coonrod, vice provost for student affairs, and several fraternity members and students shared their thoughts and memories of Schlittler at the service.

Other administrators worked to ensure that the other two students who survived the fire would have a place to stay, and that counselors would be available to students. John Klein, director of Residential Life, and Greek Life coordinator, said the two students who survived the fire

were offered dormitories on campus, but they opted to stay with friends or family.

Klein said national officials from the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will be on campus this week to help the UM-St. Louis chapter plan for the future. The house was privately owned by the fraternity, so Klein said the choice to rebuild or relocate would be up the fraternity's housing corporation.

Overall, Klein said, "it's just a sad, sad loss for the Greek system and the campus. They're really a tight-knit

bunch."

Fire chief Fritz said he hopes that the tragedy can serve as a lesson for the campus and the community about the importance of fire inspections and fire prevention.

"When we come in to inspect a building, it's not because we want to be mean," Fritz said. "Everything we tell them to do is for their safety. This just demonstrates the point that if the one guy hadn't walked in and found the fire, we could have been dealing with two deaths rather than one."

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Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

Maria Curtis, graduate student, public policy, walks to her car during Thursday's winter storm.

WINTER STORM, from page 3

Conley used computer labs in the Social Sciences Building to finish his homework.

Power was restored to Mansion Hills Monday at about 1:30 p.m.

Mark Twain Gym

Basketball games were cancelled at the Mark Twain complex last week as was the gym floor dedication ceremony Nov. 30, which will honor Chuck Smith, UM-St. Louis' first athletic director and men's basketball coach. Power has since been restored, but the ceremony and games have not been rescheduled yet.

Todd Addington, sports information director, said since the men's and women's games against Indianapolis and Saint Joseph's are conference games, they will have to be rescheduled and played later in the season.

"The biggest effect that it's having is with the practices for the men's and women's basketball teams," Addington said. "Both teams are having to find alternative locations for practices to prepare for those games until power is restored."

Jennifer Dewell, forward for the women's basketball team said the cancellation of the games "gets everyone off their routine. Last week, we were sitting around waiting for phone calls about the games."

The men's and women's basketball will play on the road this weekend at Drury University this Thursday and at Rockhurst University on Saturday.

"The power outage is something that is out of our control and is one of those situations you just have to deal with and work the best you can," Addington said.

Power outage at the Mark Twain also affected Campus Recreation events and workout facilities for students and faculty who use the gym.

South Campus

Dorms on South Campus, including Oak Hall and the Provincial House had brief power outages Thursday evening.

Elizabeth Swoboda, junior, music education, said the lights went out, but the backup generators kicked on with-

in about three minutes. The major concern students had was not the power going out but water leaking from the ice and snow.

"Students were afraid to walk around outside the dorms," Swoboda said.

Telecommunity Center/Fine Arts Building

The police station was also without power since Thursday evening. "We have emergency generators that come on for the radios, computers, but we had no heat in the building. Other than those inconvenience, everything went fine," Lt. Al Wirt said. "It was actually one of the quietest."

Visitors at Gallery 210 and the Fine Arts Building were greeted by signs telling them that the buildings were closed because there was no electricity. Classes in the Fine Arts Building were cancelled Monday, but normal class hours will resume Tuesday.

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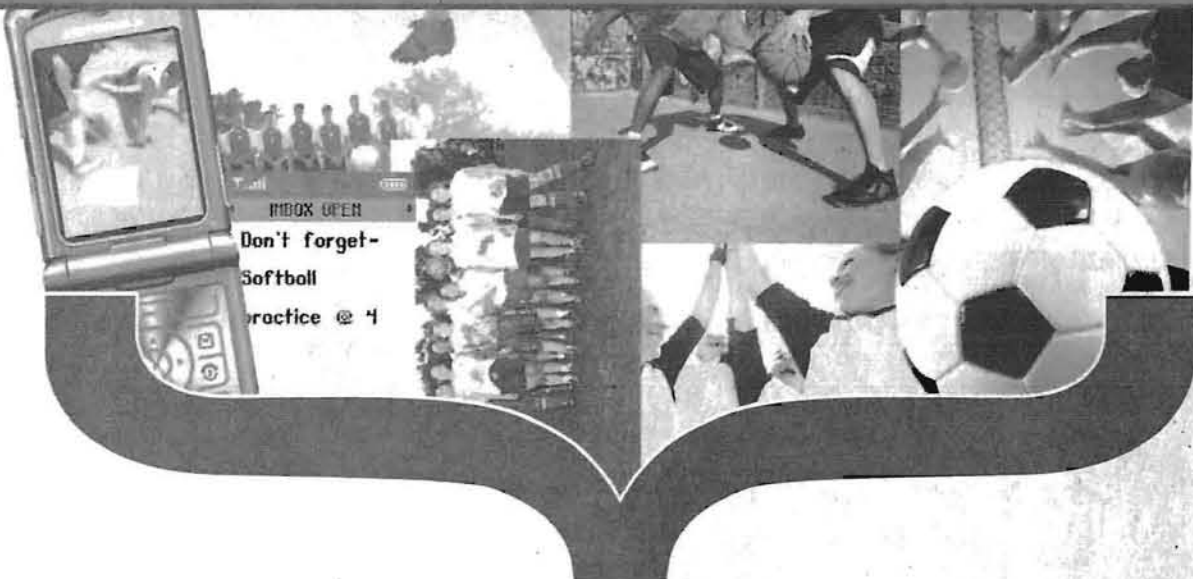
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Indoor Men Soccer

Date: 12/6
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: MT Gym
Sign up: 12/5
Division: M

Darts

Date: 11/30
Time: Thurs 10p-12p
Place: TBD
Sign up: Anytime
Division: CoEd

Indoor Coed Soccer

Date: 11/29
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: MT Gym
Sign up: 11/29
Division: Coed

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ACROSS

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- 5 Beavers' construction
- 8 Despot
- 12 Frobe who played Goldfinger
- 13 401(k) alter native
- 14 Enormous
- 15 Egg
- 16 Spinal-column part
- 18 Male escort
- 20 Dental buildup
- 21 Reddish-brown quartz
- 23 Apiece
- 24 Upright
- 28 Obi
- 31 Rage
- 32 Mephistopheles
- 34 Prompt
- 35 Bridge position
- 37 Amused
- 39 A billion years
- 41 Lucy's hubby
- 42 Musket accessory
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 One who's sometimes outgoing, sometimes shy
- 51 Bart's sister
- 52 "Unforget-

DOWN

- 1 Quite eager
- 2 Jeans-maker Strauss
- 3 1960s dance
- 4 Maximally
- 5 Wed no more
- 6 Exist
- 7 Shopping venue
- 8 "a.S. Small Hotel"
- 9 Take away
- 10 Taj Mahal city
- 11 Caboose's place
- 17 Spigot
- 19 --back (mellow)
- 22 Michelangelo sculpture
- 24 Compete
- 25 Historic time
- 26 Look like
- 27 Party hearty
- 29 Seek
- 30 Common contraction
- 33 For fear that
- 36 Colonial loyalists
- 38 Theater district
- 40 Thanksgiving abbr.
- 42 "The Amazing -"
- 43 Uncontrollable
- 44 Sandwich shop
- 46 Cowardly Oz critter
- 47 Gilligan's home
- 48 Two-timers
- 50 Sleep phenom

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3				9	1		4	
8	2				6	5		
			1	2				7
		8			7		3	
1		4	5			7		
	5				8		2	9
4			9					1
		7		6		8		
	3			2	7		5	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at

The Current

online.com



MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

Aries
March 21-April 19

You thought that I was gone? Yeah right, you obviously are not too smart. Good luck on your finals! Shut up.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Since the holiday season is upon us, lets make sure we are all in the spirit. Go to your favorite conglomerate store and buy some crap for your friends and family. They will return the favor by giving you some stupid crap from most likely the same store you went to.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

If you think about Star Wars more the 3 times a day, you need a life. If you think about Star Wars more than 7 times a day, you are just like me, really cool.

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Love the new pants. You look really hot. If I thought my mom was hot.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

You are absolutely totally undeniably the most coolest most beautiful person in the world. Be with me. I Love You.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Why are there always excuses. You dont love me back? But why can we not just be together. I dont care if you love Jake more than me.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Do not go to Aunty Annies for dinner next week. She is not going to feed you grilled cheese. Plus she has mice. sick. :-)

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Take the long way home.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Just make sure that if you cheered for the Rams when they won the Super Bowl, you better cheer for them when they suck really bad. I hate Bill Bidwell and I am not even sure of who he is.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Does a tree make a noise when it falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it? In fact did even say that right? Well who cares, I still stumped you!!

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Your mom said "that she is really tired of this joke, and is going to beat your face in," last night. In bed.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

Hope you can cut a whole in the ice to breath. You slimy fish you.

DISCLAIMER:
Maximo Predicts will now pretend to say something really cool like, "I Maximo, the great predictor of future events, am a ruthless liar. I can not possibly be real, and I am nothing but a joke. I do not mean to hurt anyone's feelings, and I only say the things I say because of some sick twisted feeling I get. Reality prove to me, that I am only rude to you because I actually hate myself." Have a great break and see you next semester. Its in a book, take a look, Reading Rainbow. Is that really Jordie LaForge?

CASH FOR YOUR BOOKS

Bring Your Books To:
University Bookstore
& Computer Shop

Buyback Hours:

Monday December 4, 7:30-7:00
Tuesday December 5, 7:30-5:00
Wednesday December 6, 7:30-7:00
Thursday December 7, 7:30-7:00

Monday December 11, 7:30-7:00
Tuesday December 12, 7:30-7:00
Wednesday December 13, 7:00-7:00
Thursday December 14, 7:30-7:00
Friday December 15, 7:30-5:00

www.umsibookstore.com
314-516-5763

RETAIL: THE BEST OFFER

The University Bookstore will pay 50% of the NEW book price providing the textbook:

- Will be required for the next semester
- Is needed to fill next semester enrollment
- Is in reuseable condition

EXAMPLE:

• You paid \$64 for a new textbook. We will pay you up to \$32 or 50% of the new book price.

* You paid 34.50 for a used textbook. We will pay you up to \$32 or 50% of the new book price.

WHOLESALE: THE NEXT BEST OFFER

- For books having national demand, the wholesale company will pay 15% to 40% of the new price.
- Discounted books are shipped to a wholesaler who recycles them to other colleges where they are needed.
- Old editions have no national value.

REMEMBER

Our goal is to buy back as many of your books as possible.

- Recycling books is good for the environment and lowers the price of textbooks.
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- Copies in poor condition will be deducted appropriately.
- Old editions have no value and cannot be purchased.