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Student Newspapers

1-22-2007

Current, January 22, 2007

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

January 22,
2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1204

INSIDE



Catching up with UMSL students from last year

See page 6



Will 'Pan's Labyrinth' leave you feeling lost?

See page 8

ON THE BACK



Students spend winter break painting the town

A group of art students took classes for winter intersession painting a mural at the Contemporary Art Museum.

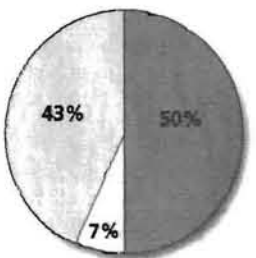
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ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results:

What do you think the UMSL nickname should be for the Identity Project?



The Ninjas

The Awesome-o 4000

The Identity what...?

This week's question:
What type of music do you like?

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Who are we at UMSL?

Identity Project hopes to answer question as UMSL begins search for new nickname to possibly replace 'Rivermen'

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN

News Editor

UM-St. Louis has announced it is launching a multi-stage effort to possibly rid the campus of the "Rivermen" once and for all. Not the sports teams themselves, but the campus' nickname, "Rivermen" and also "Riverwomen."

For this "Identity Project," students, faculty, staff, alumni and others are invited to submit a nickname that they think would best represent UM-St. Louis. Submissions can be made at www.nickname.umsi.edu.

In addition to the suggested nickname, participants must tell why they feel their name stands out above the rest in 200 words or less.

The project is being carried out by a committee that includes Curt Coonrod, vice provost of student affairs, Pat Dolan, director of the Athletics Department, and Colleen Watermon, director of Alumni Relations. The committee has also selected an outside company, 501 Creative, to assist with the nickname search.

Coonrod said at least two other committees have tried and failed to come up with a new identity for the campus, so the outside company was brought in to help.

D'Andre Braddix, student representative to the Identity Project committee, estimated 501 Creative's help will cost approximately \$17,000.

The company started the Web site for the project and it is currently collecting the submitted data. Braddix said the company has

Quick Read

UM-St. Louis has hired 501 Creative, a creative consulting firm, to help with the Identity Project, which will gauge the campus's reactions to changing the "Rivermen" nickname and how to better promote the new identity if one is chosen.

all of the suggested new nicknames and the committee will not see them until its next meeting on Feb. 5.

Braddix said 501 Creative will market whatever new nickname is found or "their job will be to jazz up" the nicknames "Rivermen" and "Riverwomen." Even the campus' mascot, the Riverpup, would get revamped.

"Either way, it will be something different," Braddix said.

According to Braddix, the Athletics Department says the story of how the Riverpup came to be, is "the river man and the river woman were walking around the riverbank and they found a river pup. So, they brought the river pup back to the gym to play."

Braddix said one of the failed committees did come up with a new mascot and nickname after being put to a student-wide decision. The name "Hellbenders," coming from the name of an aquatic species of salamander that can be found in Missouri won, but it did not win the approval of the chancellor.

"The athletes weren't pleased with it either," Braddix said, and the search for a new nickname was put on hold.

Braddix said a couple of months after the end of his Student Government Association presidency, he approached Coonrod about revisiting the committee.

"[Coonrod] totally put the wheels in motion for it," Braddix said.

"Right now, you're asking students to rally around something that they don't know what it is," Braddix said. "There's no clear definition."

"From the student athletes' view, we can't really identify with ['Rivermen' or 'Riverwomen'], it's something we can't really take pride in," said Bryan Goers, student-athlete representative to the committee.

See **IDENTITY PROJECT**, page 12

To submit your idea for UMSL's identity, log on to www.nickname.umsi.edu

First men's basketball coach honored at court dedication

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN & TOM SCHNABLE

News Editor & Staff Writer

Quick Read

Chuck Smith, who is noted for starting the athletics department at UM-St. Louis in 1966 and oversaw the construction of the Mark Twain Building in 1971 and 1972, was honored Thursday as the basketball court was dedicated in his name. The court will now be called the Chuck Smith Basketball Court.

"We needed a new floor and it is the right time to honor Chuck," said Don Driemeier, dean emeritus of the College of Business Administration.

He said he did not hear anyone say it was a bad idea to honor Smith in this way.

"I have a lot of respect for him beginning the [athletics program]," Driemeier said.

Tom Meyer, a season ticket holder for UM-St. Louis and local "big fan of basketball," said the dedication to Smith was long overdue. "There's not enough of this kind of stuff done anymore," he said.

During the dedication, Rich Meckfessel, Smith's assistant coach for five years and head coach of men's basketball for 17 years until he retired in 1999, said Smith had a vision when he came to UM-St. Louis. Meckfessel said the gym itself was a result of Smith's vision and his "integrity."

Meckfessel said Smith is "so respected by people" in Missouri. "It's wonderful that the University of Missouri-St. Louis is doing this," he said.

Chancellor Thomas George congratulated Smith on the dedication and thanked him for all he has done for UM-St. Louis' athletics. George said Smith "is athletics" for UM-St. Louis because he started the program.

During that beginning, Smith said he only had two months to make the first schedule and it was not easy to get the first schedule together, but "we got started."

Smith said he remembered his players fondly from his coaching years, and he said almost all of them graduated college.

He said they were some "bright guys" and it was important to him that they did not let sports take up all of their time.

Smith said he tries to make it to every game in his spare time. "I usually do see all of the men's teams [games]," he said.

"I always see him at all of the ball games. I suspect there's very few he misses," said Dixie Kohn, vice chancellor of University Relations.

See **CHUCK SMITH**, page 12

Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Chuck Smith, UM-St. Louis' first men's basketball coach, shakes hands with Chancellor Thomas F. George, who presented Smith with a plaque commemorating the floor dedication at the Mark Twain Building last Thursday evening.

Students can now file parking appeals online at Student Court's Web site

BY JASON GRANGER

Assistant News Editor

After numerous complaints about parking ticket appeals, Student Court decided to do something about it.

According to Brian Goers, Student Court chief justice, the appeals process is now easier thanks to online appeals. The form can be found on the Student Court's Web site, <http://www.umsi.edu/studentlife/studentcourt/appeals/start.html>.

Goers said people were upset about having to go to the Department of

Parking and Transportation to get the appeals forms, so the court took action.

"A lot of people were complaining about it," Goers said. "I definitely think this will make things easier on the students, which is what we were trying to do."

When students fill out the online appeal, they will be required to provide information, including address, student number, phone number, citation number and license plate number.

Established rules for the Student Court will remain in effect, Goers said, and current guidelines will apply as well.

Quick Read

The Student Court's Web site now allows students to fill out parking appeals online. Previously, students had to file appeals by visiting the Office of Parking and Transportation.

Guidelines for filing an online appeal, as stated on the Student Court's Web site:

1. Students must fill out the form completely, including needed information. Students must show proof that the offense doesn't merit citation due to

the parking and transportation regulations and guidelines. Students must provide grounds for appeal with proof, descriptions, pictures, doctor's notes, etc.

2. Students must provide a legible, valid UM-St. Louis email address for reply to be sent.

3. Students agree to accept final decision rendered by the Student Court.

4. Appeals must be submitted to the parking and transportation office/online no later than two weeks after written citation and must be presented with original copy of citation.

Goers believes with the new online system, students will find the student court more accessible, and added the Student Court was not trying to make things difficult.

"We want things to be as easy as possible," Goers said. "After we got permission from Leo [Gutierrez, director of parking and transportation], we went ahead and put that up."

For more information on the online appeals, students may visit the Student Court offices in the Millennium Student Center, call 314-516-4036, or send them an email at sgastudent-court@umsi.edu.

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

PROPERTY DAMAGE-737 UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

The victim reported that a rear window on her vehicle was found partially broken out. It is undetermined how this happened; however, it is possible that this was caused by the weather and not criminal activity. Nothing else was damaged and no entry to the vehicle was noted.

STEALING OVER \$500-UNIVERSITY MEADOWS CLUBHOUSE

The victim was in the clubhouse area at the University Meadows when she left her purse and went outside for a while. She later discovered her wallet containing over \$19,000 in traveler's checks and cash was stolen. There are no suspects at this time. The traveler's checks were cancelled by the issuing agency.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

BURGLARY/STEALING UNDER \$500-OAK HALL ROOM 315

Sometime between Dec. 14, 2006 and Jan. 11, 2007 person(s) unknown stole a 27-inch television, a DVD player, a computer printer and one University key. The victim advised that she was away from the University during the holiday break when the theft occurred. There are no suspects at this time; however, the investigation is ongoing.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

STEALING OVER \$500/INTERNET FRAUD

The victim reported that he ordered a computer system via the Internet from an online company. The victim advised that he sent in the money, however, never received the purchased items. It is believed that the company was a scam. The investigation is ongoing.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

STEALING UNDER \$500-CLASSROOM 102 SOUTH CAMPUS

The instructional computing department reported that person(s) unknown stole a computer keyboard and mouse from the lab area.

PEACE DISTURBANCE-418 UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

Two international students were having a disagreement. Because of the language barrier, information as to exactly what happened was not readily known. After an interpreter was called, it was learned that the two subjects were arguing over roommates and one subject was pounding his fists on the door of the other. The information for the report was gathered and will be submitted to the courts for review of possible charges.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

STEALING UNDER \$500-227 SETON HALL

The victim reported that sometime between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. while he and his girlfriend were away from the dormitory, person(s) unknown stole his laptop computer and I-Pod. The laptop computer (which has a broken screen) was found in the nearby stairwell and returned to the owner by another student. The investigation is on-going.

STEALING OVER \$500-208 SETON HALL

A student said that he fell asleep in his dorm room with the door open. When he awoke, he discovered his wallet with credit cards and cash was stolen from his desk.

STEALING UNDER \$500-SETON HALL

A master set of keys were stolen from a lock box. These keys opened the Residential Life areas and stairwells. In order to provide security for the residents, the locksmiths were called in to rekey and recore the most sensitive doors.

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

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 516-5174 or at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

OPERA AT THE TOUHILL



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Lucia, played by Larissa Yudina, sings as she is forced to sign a marriage agreement in the opera 'Lucia Di Lammermoor.' The opera was performed at The Touhill on Saturday, January 20.

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.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Psychology Colloquium

Steven S. Russell, research scientist with Personnel Decisions Research Institutes Inc. in Arlington, Va., will present "Assessing and Training Personnel for Dynamic Decision Making Environments" at 2:30 p.m. in room 101 Benton Hall.

The event is free and open to the public. Call 5393 or e-mail mayoj@umsl.edu for more information.

Chemistry Colloquium

Viktor Zhdankin, professor of chemistry visiting from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, will discuss "Chemistry of Hypervalent Iodine Heterocycles and Pseudoheterocycles" at 4 p.m. in room 451 Benton Hall. The discussion is free and open to the public. For more information, call 5311.

Community Jazz Ensemble Auditions to be held

The UM-St. Louis Community Jazz Ensemble will start its fall season with a rehearsal at 7 p.m. in room 150 of the Villa Wing. Auditions are required, and the fee to join is \$10. If you are interested in arranging an audition or for more information, call (314) 427-4453.

Psychology Speaker to Visit

Heather Littleton, assistant professor of psychology and philosophy at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, will discuss "Coping and Trauma Recovery: A Review of a Program of Research" at 4 p.m. in room 240 of Benton Hall. For more information, call 5393 or e-mail mayoj@umsl.edu.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Basketball Home Games

The UM-St. Louis basketball men's and women's teams will play home games at the Mark Twain gym. The Riverwomen will play Oakland City University at 5:30 p.m. The Rivermen will play St. Louis College of Pharmacy at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for UM-St. Louis students with I.D. Call 5661 for more information.

Evening Mass at Catholic Newman Center

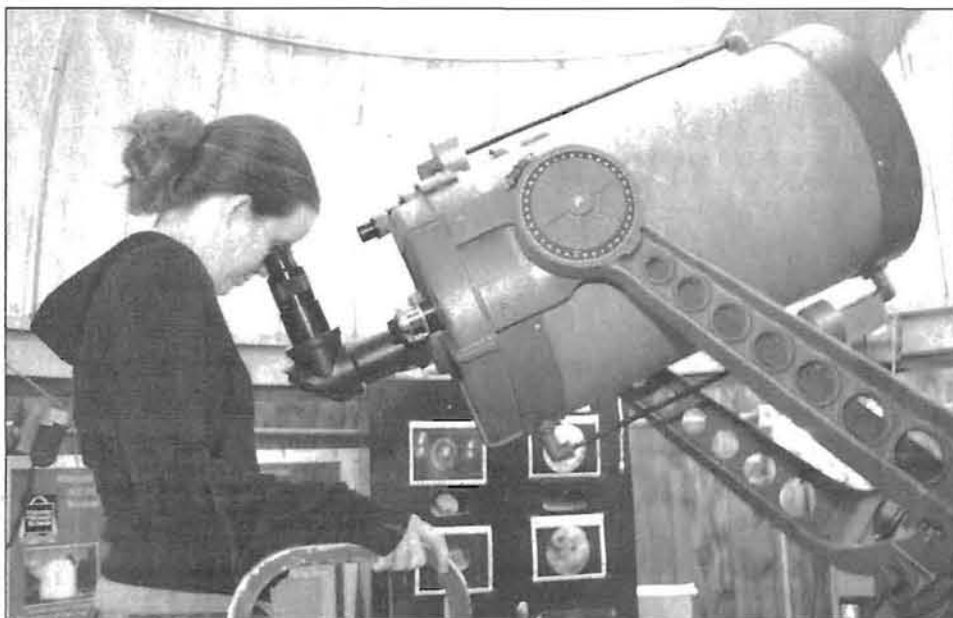
The Catholic Newman Center located at 8200 Natural Bridge Road will hold Mass at 5:30 p.m. at the center. A simple dinner of soup and bread will follow. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Study Abroad Info Session

The Center for International Studies will hold a Study Abroad Information Session at 10 a.m. in the Nosh. Sessions will cover the types of programs available, scholarships and financial aid, earning academic credit, application procedures and more.

Any students considering studying abroad for a semester or academic year should attend this information session. For more information, call 5229.



File Photo

"Lattices, Strong Dynamics, and Warped Extra Dimensions at the Frontier" will be discussed at the Physics and Astronomy Colloquium this Friday at 3pm in room 328 of Benton Hall.

Psychology Discussion

The Department of Psychology welcomes Susan Stoner, research scientist in psychology at the University of Washington in Seattle, to discuss "Alcohol Intoxication and Sexual Risk-Taking: Moderating and Mediating Variables" at 3:30 p.m. in room 242 Benton Hall. Call 5393 or e-mail mayoj@umsl.edu for more information.

Catholic Newman Center Hosts Welcome Back Dinner

The Catholic Newman Center, at 8200 Natural Bridge Road, will serve a Welcome Dinner at 6 p.m. at the center. The dinner is free and open to students, faculty and staff. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call (314) 385-3455.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Young Alumni Academy Speaker Series

The Young Alumni Club is hosting a free event called "Evaluating Job Offers and Benefits" from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Alumni Center.

Students will have the chance to ask questions about salaries and insurance options from former alumni speakers. Call 6460 or email alumni@umsl.edu to R.S.V.P. or for any questions.

'Creative Spirits' Opens at Visio

"Creative Spirits," an exhibit featuring work by UM-St. Louis and St. Louis Community College faculty and students at UMSL and St. Louis will open today and run through Feb. 28 in Gallery Visio at 190 Millennium Student Center.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Call 7922 or e-mail galvisio@umsl.edu for more information.

Gallery 210 Unveils 'Spring' exhibit

Gallery 210 will exhibit "Spring," the work of Bill Smith, an artist from O'Fallon, Ill., today through March 24. The exhibit is free and open to the public. A joint reception for Smith and Cynthia Pachikara, another artist exhibiting at Gallery 210, will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the gallery.

Call 5976 or e-mail gallery@jinx.umsl.edu for more information.

Scholar to Discuss 21st Century Women Writers

Sally Barr Ebest, professor of English at UM-St. Louis, will discuss her presentation, titled, "Where have All the Feminists Gone? 21st Century Irish-American Women Writers" at 3:30 p.m. in room 211 Clark Hall. For more information, call 5581.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Physics, Astronomy Colloquium

Joel Giedt, postdoctoral research associate in the Fine Theoretical Physics Institute at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, will discuss "Lattices, Strong Dynamics, and Warped Extra Dimensions at the Frontier" at 3 p.m. in room 328 of Benton Hall. Call 4145 for more information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

'Guaranteed 4.0' Seminar

"Guaranteed 4.0," a free seminar and workshop for UM-St. Louis students, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 118 of the Social Sciences & Business Building.

The seminar will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Participants must attend the seminar before being allowed to attend the workshop. Call 6807 for more information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Scholar to Discuss 'Murder on Black Mountain'

Thomas W. Gallant, chair of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation and professor of Greek history at York University in Toronto, will discuss "Murder on Black Mountain: Love and Death on a Nineteenth Century Greek Island" at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center.

A reception will begin at 7 p.m. Call 7299 for more information.

The Current

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

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AFFILIATIONS



Raising student awareness is top priority for SGA this spring

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
News Editor

The Student Government Association focused its attention on campus communication and ways of circulating information to students in faster, more effective ways.

At last Friday's noon meeting in the SGA Chambers, located on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center, two ideas for this information flow were discussed. The first was a poster naming "who is who" on campus, and the second was a more high-tech approach to a program called "Mobile Campus."

Mobile Campus, a Texas-based company, is looking to get a contract with the University to provide a text-messaging service to students who choose to sign up. The messages would include discount, coupon messages and campus alerts of emergencies or closing, as well as promotions of on-campus events.

Clayton Stewart, university market manager for Mobile Campus, said the service itself would be provided free of charge, but text messaging fees would be the same as user's regular charges based on their individual contract with their phone service provider.

Stewart said students would not have a binding contract and they are under no obligation to sign up to receive the messages. The University, however, would have to accept a contract with the company.

Since a contract has not been drawn up with the university, Stewart said he had no way of telling how long the university would have

to keep a contract with the company. "A contract is typically about a five-year contract," he said.

The University would also receive \$1 from the company for the first year of the program for every member it would get signed up. That money, he said, would be the campus' to decide what it would like to do with it.

According to Stewart, there would not be a fee for the University, either, because the company makes its money through the vendors that pay to have them send the "coupon" message. He said students could also opt out of receiving coupons if they set up their plan to receive "zero number of coupons."

He said the company is looking to arrange a way to provide access for students to the Blackboard Academic Suite system, so grades and class information could be obtained through the student's phone.

"Personally, I think it's going to be an awesome program, if you guys approve it," SGA Vice President Thomas Helton said.

During the meeting, SGA President Nick Koechig said that he was not looking for a formal vote on



Nick Koechig
SGA President

whether or not the program would be implemented, but he wanted to know if the assembly had any interest in pursuing this program further.

He said if there was an interest, SGA would discuss the program with campus administration and the assembly's formal acceptance or rejection of the service would take place later in the process.

The poster project was also put to an informal interest-based approval vote. Koechig said it was not ready for any kind of implementation because he has yet to find a way to fund the project. He said he did not think the cost for the project would cost very much. He said it would only take about 10 or 12 posters to accomplish SGA's goal.

The posters would have photos of student activity members of "importance," such as the members of the SGA itself. The member's name, title and some information about their organization would be included under their photograph.

Koechig said the SGA assembly's opinion would help determine who was on the poster, unless the group funding the project wanted to do so. As far as the selections process, he said, "we'll set up some kind of application process."

"It could be a really good potential tool for getting people involved in your organization," SGA Vice Chair Michele Landau said.

As far as the idea, Koechig said he "stole it" from UM-Columbia. "I'm not a big fan of Columbia because they get more money than us, but they finally came up with a good idea," he said.



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Students wait in line at the new US Bank in the Millennium Student Center on Thursday, Jan. 18.

US Bank opens doors to students

New branch replaces UMB Bank in old location, ATM machines in MSC

BY SARAH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

U.S. Bank replaced UMB Bank as UM-St. Louis' banking vendor when U.S. Bank moved into the former bank's previous campus location on Dec. 29.

The UMB Bank occupied a space on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center, which is now home to U.S. Bank's new location.

The branch opened Jan. 16 and is currently operating Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"I'm glad UMB is gone, and I've heard many good things about U.S. Bank," said Matthew Cunningham, senior, interdisciplinary studies.

Ernie Marten, manager of the bank, said the new branch is offering students better banking plans. He said

the response to the bank switch has been positive.

"Many students are switching over, both for the convenience of having their bank at their school, as well as a better overall package being offered," Marten said.

He said things in packages include a free checking account with no minimum balance, no fees, free online banking and bill pay and four free non-US Bank transactions per month.

"It's nice to see a bank with more tolerance," Casey Brennan, freshman, undeclared, said. "Normally there are fees left and right, and I can't afford those."

The University does not currently have a physical form of the contract between itself and U.S. Bank.

"U.S. Bank is still putting the contract through their legal process," said Gloria Leonard, director of Business

Services. "The processing began in the end of December and has yet to be finalized."

Gloria Schultz, director of Business Management Services of the MSC, said she talked to representatives from U.S. Bank's headquarters who said the bank was not interested in making that information public.

Most business contracts at UM-St. Louis are available for public view at Business Services, located in room 209 in Woods Hall.

The business contract between U.S. Bank and UM-St. Louis has yet to be situated, but the bank has completed its first week of operation on campus.

A U.S. Bank ATM has also replaced the UMB Bank machine that was located on the second floor of the MSC across from the bookstore.



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

The new Express Scripts building will feature a terrace above its main entrance over looking a lake so that future employees may enjoy lunch outside.

Express Scripts construction progressing

BY AMY RECKTENWALD
Staff Writer

While students felt the biting cold of winter the first week of classes, spring is only two months away and so is the projected opening date for Express Scripts' new corporate headquarters at UM-St. Louis.

Express Scripts broke ground on Nov. 2, 2005 for what will be the first corporate business building on the UM-St. Louis campus.

Chancellor Thomas George said Express Scripts' original move-in date was expected to be in March, but now "we're thinking it will be in April."

George said planning for a business and technology industrial park has been going on for about 10 years and despite obstacles, Express Scripts will be the first resident of the park.

"They gave us what we needed and jump started the park," George

said.

The Express Scripts building is on 16 acres of the land set aside for the park and it includes a parking lot. The company, George said, will have first option to build a second building on seven more acres.

The option is available to the company for a limited time of approximately five years.

Construction workers found waste material while digging the site. The project received tax credits from the state to clear the material and create access to the site with a road.

George said the property looks nothing like it did before the construction began.

George said students will also benefit from having Express Scripts on campus because it will be a "direct pipeline for internships and permanent jobs."

George said "employee exchanges

are viable" and Express Scripts hires employees from many different fields including nursing, accounting, information systems and research.

Express Scripts will also provide guest lectures in classrooms, along with internship and employment opportunities.

The bulk of the internships currently available are in business administration and George said students interested in internship possibilities at Express Scripts should call Keith Womer, dean of the College of Business Administration.

A joint committee between Express Scripts and the University has also been formed to explore possibilities of other benefits to the University and the students. The committee is co-chaired by Dean Womer and Steve Littlejohn, vice president of Public Affairs at Express Scripts.

UMSL asks for rehearing in Brady case

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

After a Missouri appellate judge ruled against the University's appeal last November in baseball coach Jim Brady's age discrimination and retaliation lawsuit, UM-St. Louis is trying again.

"Not a lot has happened since the decision came down on Nov. 28, but on Dec. 13, the University filed for a rehearing," Jerome Dobson, Brady's lawyer, said. He added that a rehearing involving the three-appellate-judge panel is "seldom granted."

The University also applied for a transfer from the Court of Appeals to the Missouri Supreme Court. No timetable has been set for when the judges will decide if they want to rehear the case.

Appellate Judge Nanette Baker ruled against the University's five arguments in last year's appeal, which questioned whether Brady could sue for punitive damages from the state and whether enough evidence was present to award punitive damages.

"Now, four different judges, one at the circuit level and three at the appellate level have said an emphatic no to their arguments," Brady said. "How many times do you get your nose bloodied and face disfigured before you realize it's too late for boxing lessons?"

Dobson said the appeal process has been frustrating for Brady. "He's won at every level and he wishes they'd pay the judgment," he said.

"At this point, it's pretty self-evident they're in total denial, and they're desperate, desperately using any legal maneuver to delay the inevitable," Brady said.

With interest adding on to Brady's settlement of \$1.275 million, Dobson said the extended appeals would cost the University and ultimately, taxpayers more.

A 9 percent annual interest rate multiplied by \$1.275 million equals \$114,750 for one year's interest total. That amount divided by 12 months is costing the University "a little under \$10,000 a month," Dobson said.

"As I personally reflect on this and with each passing day, I just roll

my eyes and think tick,tick,tick as the interest continues to accrue," Brady said.

The University was ordered to pay \$700,000 plus court costs out of the \$1.275 million settlement.

The University utilized the assistance of the law firm McCarthy, Leonard, Kaemmerer, Owen, McGovern, Striler & Menghini L.C., based out of Chesterfield, Mo. Attorney Michael Kaemmerer did not respond back as of Friday evening.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services and Patricia Dolan, athletics director, are also named defendants in the case. Schuster could not be reached for comment, but Betty Covington, executive staff assistant II, to Schuster referred questions to Bob Samples, director of Media, Marketing and Printing Services.

Dolan declined comment and also referred questions to Samples, who referred questions to Scott Charton, public relations director for the UM system. Charton has not replied as of Friday.

NEWS BRIEFS

BOC chooses executive firm for president search

Last Friday the University of Missouri completed negotiations and confirmed the global executive search firm Baker-Parker, Inc. would conduct the university system's search for a new president.

The company, that will have a \$125,000 fee, plus expenses, for the search, was chosen by the Board of Curators and through a vote that took place on Jan. 11, university officials were authorized to negotiate an agreement with the firm.

The agreement was signed by Don Walsworth, chair of the BOC, last Friday Jan. 19.

The Georgia-based company will work with the BOC to recruit candidates to succeed President Elson Floyd. Floyd was selected in December to become the next president of Washington State University.

The BOC, along with the student representative to the board, currently Maria Kerford, will serve as the presidential search committee.

The committee will meet this week during the BOC's scheduled meeting that will take place at UM-St. Louis on Jan. 24 and 25.

"We have the circus coming to town next week, by circus I mean the Board of Curator's meeting," SGA President Nick Koechig said at the SGA meeting held last Friday at its new time, 12 p.m.

Metro passes on sale now

Metro passes are available for \$45 in the Cashier's Office on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center.

The pass program will continue this semester, but the outlook for its continuation this summer or fall semester is uncertain.

"Depending on how many we sell will determine if we continue the program," SGA President Nick Koechig said.

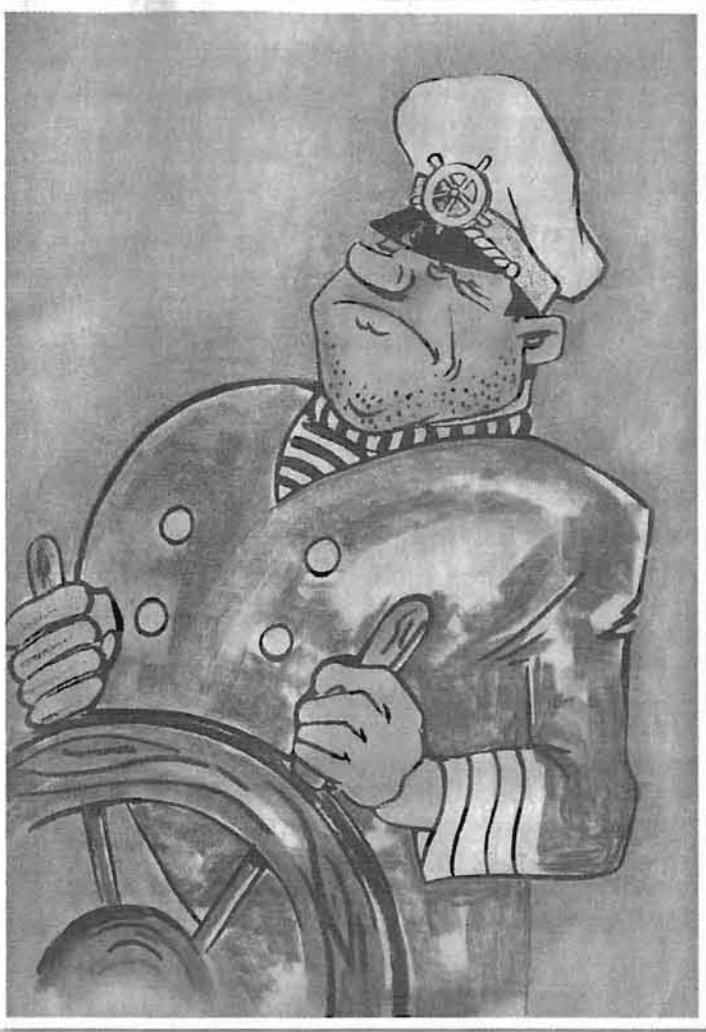
A 30-day pass costs \$60 regularly and the University's current discounted pass program saves students approximately \$195 per semester.

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OPINION

OUR OPINION



Goodbye Mr. Riverman?

UM-St. Louis is looking for a new identity, but student apathy could derail the school's plan

As this semester gets under way, the debate about UM- St. Louis' identity continues. The strongest push, thus far, for a new identity is going on now.

In 1966, UM-St. Louis named its identity the Rivermen. The original logo was a man dressed in a blue riverboat captain's outfit and a white hat, and he held a riverboat steering wheel. This logo was only used for a short time, and spotting one a is a rare sight for a student today.

The original idea has come under fire in the past because of its exclusion of women. So, as used currently, the men's sports teams kept the nickname Rivermen and Riverwomen was con-jured up for the women's teams.

UM-St. Louis tried to spice up the Rivermen by adding a mascot, the Riverpup. The mascot idea was an attempt to drum up excitement for UM-St. Louis sports and was thought to have solved the problem. However, the Riverpup is barely present at games; most students and faculty have never even seen it.

So what is the problem? The problem is that no one in this campus' com-

munity seems to want the nickname Rivermen or to have a Riverpup mascot.

The University, as a whole, has not embraced the Rivermen as part of the university's identity. This has been proven by the actions of administration, faculty and students alike and the start of the Identity Project this year.

A look at the other UM system school's Web sites, they show what it is like having a true identity.

UM-Columbia has the Tiger. UM-Rolla has the Miner, and UM-Kansas City has the Kangaroo. All of these mascots and nicknames have histories and presences that tie them closely to the campus they embody.

When visiting these school's athletics sites, there are logos that represent the identity and their respective names (tigers, miners, kangaroos) everywhere.

What do we have? A riverboat steering wheel.

When reading the UM-St. Louis Athletics Web site, there is no mention of what Rivermen or Riverwomen are. There are seldom-used wheel logos, and the Riverpup is no where to be

found.

This means one thing, the Rivermen and Riverwomen mean nothing to this campus, in a sense, they are dead. The Riverpup has just landed itself a permanent cage in the Humane Society's local animal shelter.

The UM-St. Louis community must find a suitable identity. This college's involvement depends on it.

The search for a new identity is critical for this community, and everyone needs to be involved. Yes, EVERY-ONE needs to be involved!

The apathy that plagues this campus is a real threat to the future of programming at this school. It must not endanger the Identity Project.

The project needs to transcend itself from the boundaries of apathetic responses to involvement that are typical from the UM-St. Louis community. Do not allow the regular practices of some administration, faculty and students to stop the momentum.

Let us all be supportive of this process, and be involved. We at *The Current* cannot wait for the naming of a new identity.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

What does the future hold for the world?

I was asked the question last week, "What do you think the world will be like in the year 2076?" We've all seen the sci-fi movies that show us the future through a writer's or director's eyes. We have all read books that put images in our heads of what cities will be like, what kind of vehicles we will be driving, what our clothes will look



By ADAM D. WISEMAN
Editor-in-Chief

like. To me, the most important thing and the thing that is not always discussed is how we, as humans, will be treating each other. In this facet, will the world be better off than it is today, or worse? In my view the world will be much worse in 69 years.

Sure there are great advancements in technology going on all around us, more cures to more diseases, more money than there has ever been and new helpful inventions being brought into our daily lives, but what about the advancement of human nature?

How can I be positive about the future and what it will bring when all I see today is history repeating itself? In particular, how can I be positive when genocide is still happening today?

Do we not learn from the past? While in Israel this past break, I visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

It was heart wrenching to say the least, and it made me sick to think that

something like the Holocaust could and did occur. People were torturing and killing people because they were different. I realized that the reason I felt sick was because I am human, and humans did these things to other humans.

After touring the memorial, a speaker talked about how the world vowed to never let something like that happen again. The world said that it would stop genocide of any kind, and bring the people who committed it to justice.

UN Resolution 260 A (III) of December 9, 1948 states in Article One: "The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish."

What happened to our promise to each other as humans? What happened to looking past all the other rights to the most primitive and most important — the right to live free of harm?

When I think past myself and past this university and past this country and past this year into years to come I must answer the question about 2076 honestly. If we are not succeeding as humans now in protecting our own species, we cannot and will not have a successful future.

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

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STAFF VIEWPOINT

The dilemma of giving

I am a giver who will give something to someone in need, if my means allow me. Like other givers, I make an insurmountable leap to forge a lifestyle where giving represents my way of being.

For now, I am in the 80 percentile range, and on a good day I will usually make all of my shots. And these are the days, of course, where I truly feel fulfilled.



By MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

I cannot help but recognize that giving (whether it is to charity, people, organizations or whomever) can become a one-sided deal, especially if the balance is off. If one side is constantly giving and not receiving, it can make this person feel really overwhelmed and abused. There is an anthropological concept for this, but I cannot remember the name. However, you get my drift.

Like many of my comrades and those attempting to turn over a new leaf for 2007, I circulate plans to give more in my head. Confusion, however, can set in.

Here is the scenario: A friend of mine has been dying to give to a certain organization. This organization garners much attention because its correspondents are wealthy and it promotes wealth and the helping of others. The organization that solicited his help also regularly broadcasts its fundraisers on television.

He felt the need to give, pledged and received a letter for payment. This time, however, the letter came with a surprise gift — a one-dollar bill! For the first time in history, a fundraising organization gave him something. This had to be too good to be true.

This gift sent a riff of inspiration up and down his spine, and he was ready to empty out his pocket. After reading the letter, however, he realized that the dollar bill was to be part of his payment, and a sure shot way of boosting him to give. This was the organization's way of helping the giver give. Can you say emotional deflation?

This is not how every organization, fundraiser or charity operates, and the situation just explained does not represent everyone who gives or those who wish to receive help. Truth be told, this is not about fundraising or its methods.

This is about giving and the dilemma that can be attached to it. There is a problem when a little leaf of inspiration flies in to inspire the hopeful giver and it is really a tool to get more.

I think he should join the 80 percentile ranks with me. I have come to realize that doing one's best does not always equate to a 100 percent mark of distinction or perfection. Doing one's best in the realm of "giving" means giving as much as possible without overextending oneself.

It is sad that pleas often go unheard and unfulfilled. Many solicitors are honest, but one must realize as a giver that giving can become a way of life. It is harmful for someone with a giving mentality to give to someone who does not believe in gratitude.

Give to those who will give to you. And do not expect to receive something from people who are not likely to give back, even if you give them something out of the kindness of your heart.

What's your opinion?

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

- The UM-St. Louis identity
- The future of the world
- Giving

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

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

UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What do you usually order from the Nosh?



Joe Paule
Freshman
Music Education

"Soup and salad, my favorite is clam chowder."



Jennifer Steff
Sophomore
Secondary Education

"Hamburger and french fries."



Tim Paschedag
Sophomore
Electrical Engineering

"I usually eat breakfast and order an omelette."



Katarina Panarina
Graduate Student
Education

"I usually order from The Market Place. I don't like American food."



Jason Boyer
Senior
Marketing

"Spicy chicken sandwich combo."

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.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Why wait? Students tackle alternative energy

Nothing beats a contest and prize money to get people thinking about creative solutions to problems. Massachusetts Institute of Technology students want to build a solar-powered machine to convert used cooking oil into biodiesel. University of Massachusetts came up with the UMass Human Power Plant, a machine to convert the mechanical energy of stationary bicycles and rowing machines in the fitness center into electricity to be used by students to recharge laptops and other devices. Connecticut College plans a solar-powered composting program for its cafeteria, and a compost-for-food swap program with local growers to reduce the distance food travels to reach cafeteria plates. One of the big problems facing all of us is our environmental footprint, whether it is CO2 emissions or trash piling up. The above student-generated, environmentally-friendly campus projects are among the top 10 entries in a contest to spur alternative energy projects on campus. The prize is a \$25,000 grant to implement the project. The contest,

called the Ecomagination Challenge, is being sponsored by mtvU and General Electric. The winner also gets to be featured on mtvU and the campus gets an Earth Day concert by Angels and Airwaves. Over a hundred student teams submitted entries, which were judged based on innovation and feasibility. Projects on sustainability, energy conservation, wildlife conservation, water and waste issues were among the entries. The final winner will be chosen by the mtvU, GE and their team of environmental experts and input from other students. Details on the top 10 entries are available at www.ecocollegechallenge.com, where you can also vote for your pick as the project with the greatest potential for the environment through March 2. Here are some more of the projects:

1. Northeastern University proposed a green building idea to reduce pollution urban run-off, with the installation of green roofs, re-grading of walkways and introduction of vegetated swales.

2. At University of Maryland, solar powered trash and recycling compactors in trash containers around campus aim to reduce the volume of trash in the landfill and reduce the number of times trash cans need to be emptied, saving energy and money.

3. University of Michigan students want to add a modular "green-roof" to their Outdoor Activities Center. The green roof will conserve energy, add to storm water retention and reduce water and air pollution to aid wildlife.

4. Students at University of Southern California suggested the Sustainacafe, a testing and demonstration center for campus sustainability and technology innovation projects. Reducing water and energy consumption and waste on campus are among the goals.

5. University of Virginia students are going directly for reducing electricity consumption, through the installation of low energy lights, motion sensors for lighting and the elimination of some unneeded lights in hallways. They aim to adapt old build designs for energy efficiency.

6. University of Wisconsin students named their project Happy MicroOrganism Compost Train, a large quality composting process that uses minimal effort and energy to turn food waste into useable compost. The idea is to create a useful product - compost - while reducing energy used sending the waste to the landfill.

7. Students at Vanderbilt University also went the biodiesel route, with a plan to fuel campus vehicles with the campus-generated alternative energy source. The system will operate independently, without public electricity and water.



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

READER COMMENTS FROM OUR ONLINE FORUMS

Electricity

[The following comment is regarding the scienc column, 'Do-it-yourself electricity' which ran in the Jan. 16 issue.]

We can generate our own electricity, but in order for this to have the mass appeal of a significant solution, it needs to be both easy and accessible to consumers. Now it's possible with solar power. In the past, consumers who wanted solar power had to purchase costly systems and maintain them

themselves. Thanks to an innovative new approach to connecting homeowners with solar power, that's not necessary anymore. Solar energy companies are now renting systems, with consumers essentially paying what they used to pay to the utility to the solar company. Initially, the cost is roughly the same as what they have been paying. Over the course of the rental contract period, though, the rate stays locked in and the savings begins. This is an elegant win-win solution that will appeal to those who have never before considered going solar.

Israel Photos

[The following comment is regarding the article, 'Exploring the Holy Land' which ran in the Jan. 16 issue.]

As expected, your pictures are awesome... but your photo of the Hasidic Jewish man is an AMAZING portrait. There's so much personality and life and feeling in that image!! The Current is lucky to have such a thoughtful eye behind one of its cameras.

The Current

The Current's Web site 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/messagesboard

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Stereotypes being perpetuated by TV

Views brought to light by foreign visitor to United States

Have you ever wondered what people from other countries think about people in America?

Have you ever thought that the only impression they may get is from what they see on TV or hear in music? Well if you haven't maybe you should start.

My older cousin is engaged to a man from Ghana, Africa. I did not know he was from Ghana when I first started talking to him and that was because he didn't want me to know. He wanted to see where I thought he was from by his accent.

I can never really distinguish between accents so I couldn't guess his.

He also wanted to know what I thought about people from his country. Sadly, I couldn't tell him one thing about Ghana.

I was very interested in finding out what he thought about people in the U.S. before coming to this country.

I wasn't really too surprised to see that most of his ideas about people in this country, especially about African Americans, was based on what he learned from watching TV.

Some TV stereotypes are funny because they push the limits and some aren't funny because they are walking down that thin line between comedy and racism.

Either way the image that people see on TV plays a very important role in what they might think about people in other countries.

I am not too happy about the fact that some TV shows that stereotype



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

Americans are sometimes true.

During the conversation with my cousin's fiancé and a few of their friends who were all born outside of the U.S., I heard someone say that they see all of the violence on the news and are afraid to be St. Louis.

They think that everyone here is like Nelly or that everyone will have a grill in their mouth, and when they see a few people who actually confirm their stereotypes, they believe that most people are going to be like that.

I try not to judge an entire race or culture by what I see on TV, in fact I try not to judge anyone.

I really believe that each individual is unique and stereotyping someone usually makes it difficult to find out who the person really is.

Once I started thinking about how TV made people in other countries stereotype Americans, I started to think about how TV shows help Americans stereotype people in our own country.

Too many people base their opinions about others from what they get from a little box, or maybe a large high definition box.

Maybe one day everyone will learn that you must actually learn about other cultures instead of judging other cultures.

Until then, actors and producers will inform us about the world's cultures.

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FEATURE

TOP 10

Worst nicknames for UMSL's identity

1. The Nosh-kateers. Although it would definitely strike fear and terror into the hearts of all opponents, we just don't like it.
2. Tiger Cubs. An association with UM-Columbia's Tigers, we don't want no stinkin' association with UM-Columbia.
3. Flaming Ninja-like Bunny-Eating Turtles That Lay Dinosaur Eggs While Doing Cartwheels. 'Nuff said.
4. Hellbenders. Despite winning the approval of students in 2004, the Chancellor had the final say and did not approve it.
5. The Fly-Over's. The loud engine noise of passing jets is not cool.
6. The River Persons of Varying Genders. Let's be as politically correct as possible folks.
7. The Current. Ok, wait, we like this one, but you can't have it. It is ours, all ours.
8. The Scruffy Looking Nerf Herders. Star Wars geeks would love it, though. We love it.
9. The Bogeys. There was a golf course here, and planes are sometimes called bogeys. Yes?
10. The Commuters. We are trying to get away from that, so nevermind.

If you have an idea for the next top ten list, send your idea to us:
thecurrent@umsl.edu

Where are they now?

The Current caught up with five UMSL students who we wrote about during this past year and updated what's happened since we last talked to them

COMPILED BY PAUL HACKBARTH • DESIGN EDITOR

AUGUST ANDREAS DIMKE

Last time *The Current* talked with Andreas Dimke, freshman, international business, he was looking for an international phone card or cell phone plan to call home in Germany. "I made the first call [home] on my second day here," he said.

Dimke, an international exchange student, made it through the fall semester at UM-St. Louis.

"My first semester went very well. Adjusting was no problem," he said. Dimke went back to Germany during winter break to spend time with his family, friends and girlfriend, Ksenija.

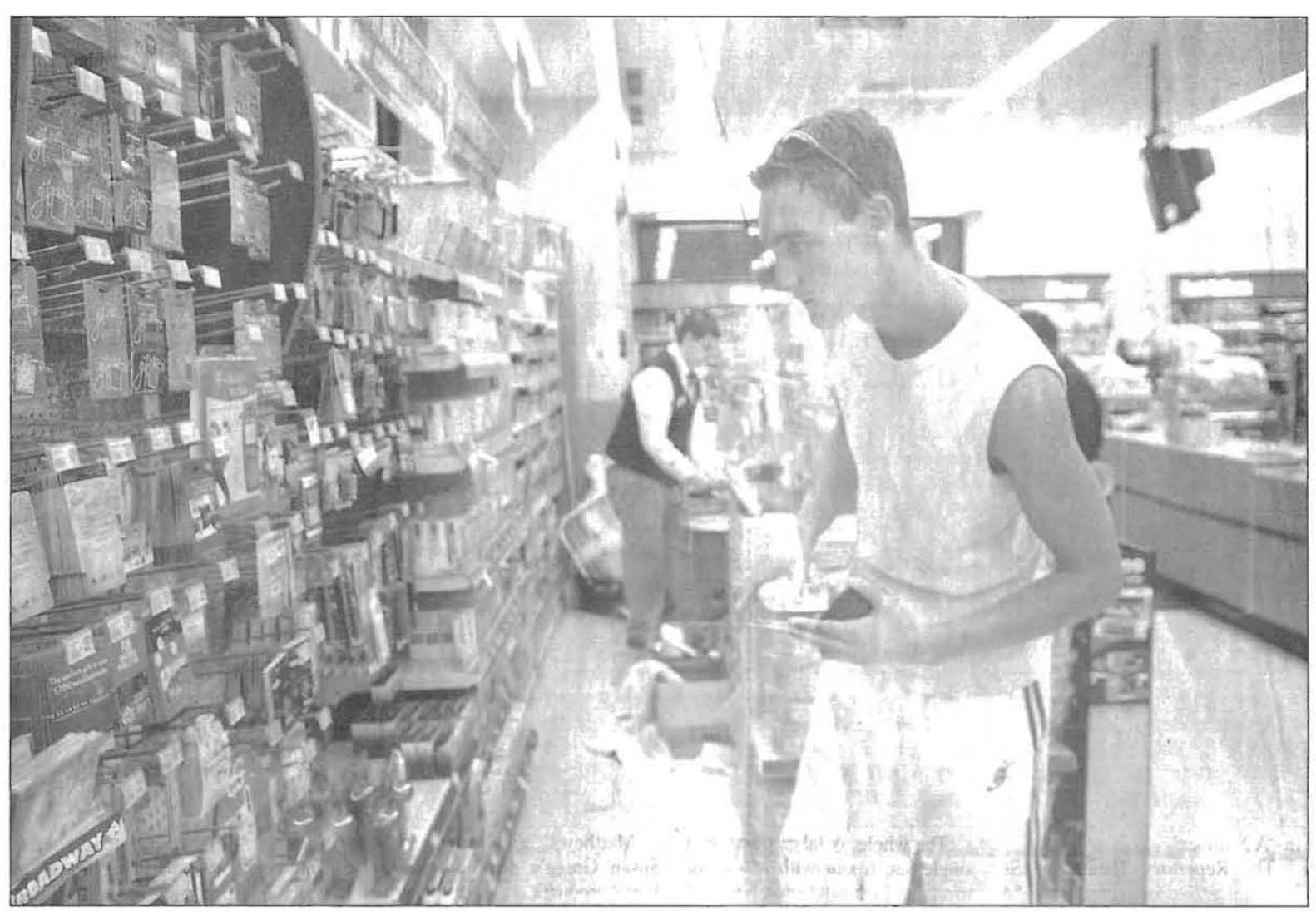
"We went skiing in Austria for one week," he said.

Compared to classes in Germany, he said so far, school in America is easier.

"In Germany, we do not test via multiple choice that often," he said. Dimke also got the chance to play tennis for the UM-St. Louis men's team. "So far I beat everyone from the team."

(RIGHT) Andreas Dimke, freshman, international business, searched for an international phone card in his first week as an international exchange student at UM-St. Louis.

File Photo



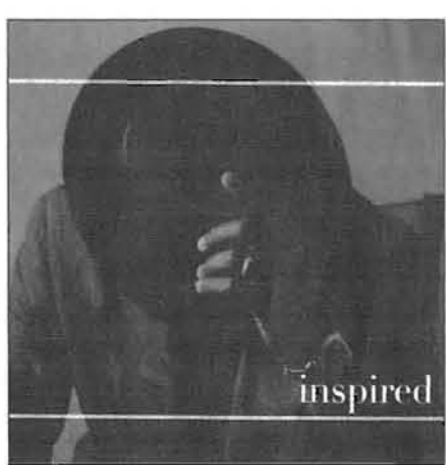
MARCH BRIAN OWENS

The last mention of Brian Owens, senior, music, that appeared in *The Current* was when he released "B-Natural," his first recorded album. "A lot's happened since then," he said. He played at Carnegie Hall in April and the Alamodome in July.

His music career moved forward when he released his second album, "Inspired," in August. "I'm taking a fairly nontraditional approach to a music career."

"Basically, the first album was done so I could do a second album. The first album was sort of a financial thing to get myself out there. This second album is more of a representation of what I actually do. Now I can use this as a means to start getting work," he said.

As for Commonwealth, Owens said keeping the band together was not a priority for now. "It's funny, after not doing anything for two years, we got calls to do a show," he said.



Brian Owens has released two albums. The first, 'B-Natural,' was released in January 2006. The second album named 'Inspired,' shown above, is a live recording.

Owens hopes to work with the band in a performance at the Touhill Feb. 25. "It's basically a focus on traditional African-American folk music," Owens said.

After one more semester, Owens can graduate and then focus on setting up tours to start the fall of 2008.

SEPTEMBER ADRIAN WALKER

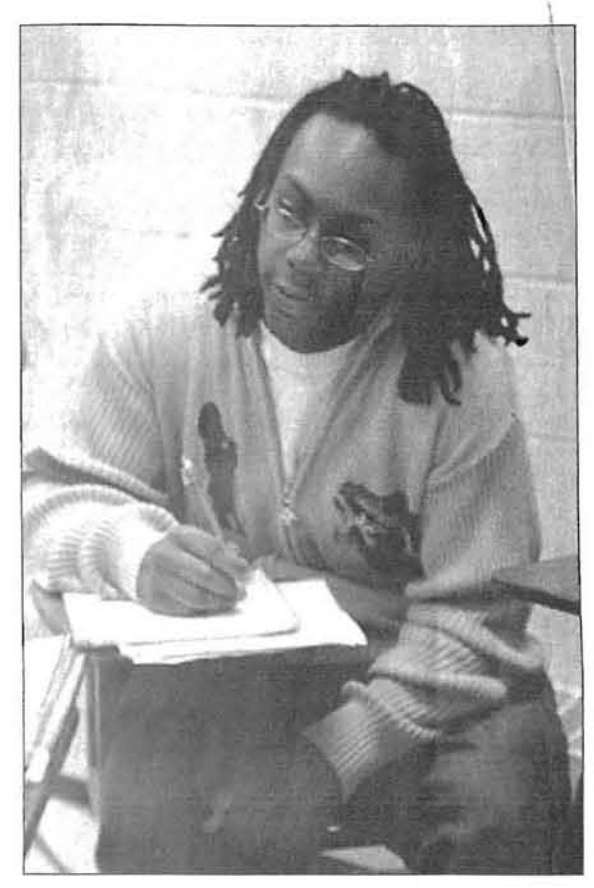
For Adrian Walker, one of seven Vashon High School graduates that came to UM-St. Louis last fall, the semester went by fast.

"I've had a lot of opportunities last semester, with [Associated Black Collegians], Helping Hands and Student Life," Walker said. "I'm living in Oak Hall. I was moving in last Sunday [Jan. 7]. It's better for me to live on campus and getting around. I also got hired in the computer labs."

Walker said the hardest part of the transition going from a Vashon high school student to a college student is that "everything is on a timed schedule and you have to get things done under pressure, but I'm meeting a lot of new people and it's real fun for me," he said.

(RIGHT) Adrian Walker, freshman, studio art, graduated from Vashon High School and enrolled in UM-St. Louis after taking college-level classes on campus as a high school student.

File Photo



JANUARY CARLETTA WASHINGTON

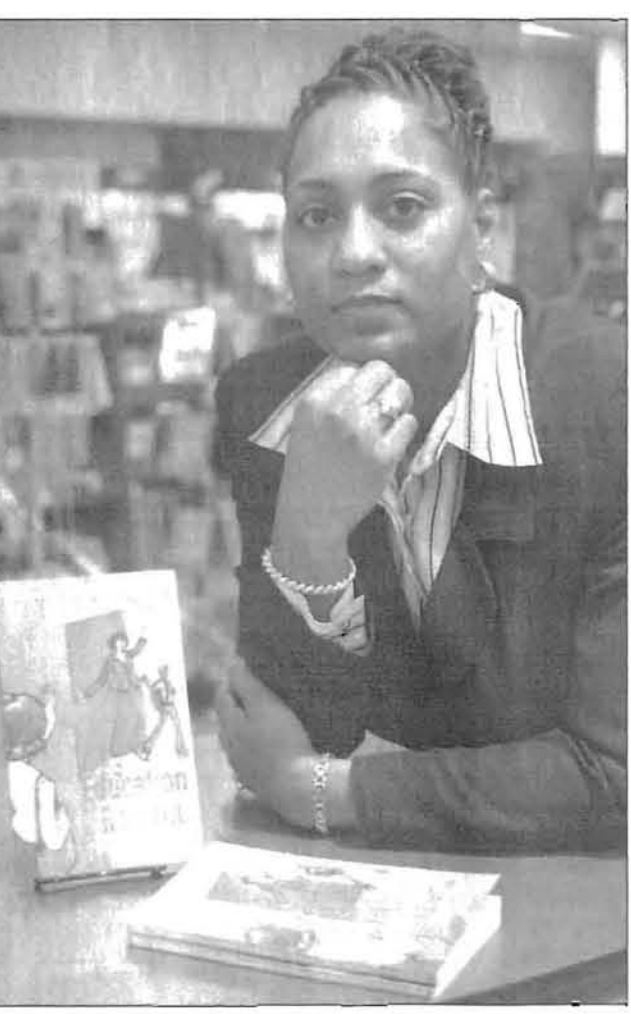
Student author Carletta Washington was signing copies of her first book in the Millennium Student Center bookstore in January 2006 when *The Current* last spoke with her.

At that time, Washington had plans to finish her second book by December, but "I'm closer to finishing my dissertation. Any other books are on hold," she said.

She still plans to write another book, possibly spinning off her dissertation "dealing with high school academic scheduling and its impact on student achievement, their attendance and their behavior," she explained.

Washington still works at the Ferguson-Florissant School District "and that's keeping me busy." She has worked there for seven years and as a teacher for 13 years overall.

She wants to sign up for another book signing with her book, "Education Reform: The Role and Responsibility of Schools, Parents, Students and Communities," before she graduates with a doctoral degree in education leadership this August.



File Photo

Carletta Washington, teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant School District and doctoral student in education leadership wrote a book on education in January 2006.



File Photo

Brian Owens, senior, music, hopes to start touring in the fall 2008 after he graduates.



(LEFT) Ann Chisholm, center, stands in between research partner JaVonda Palmer, left, and Rep. John Bowman at Undergraduate Research Day held at the Missouri state capitol.

Courtesy: www.umsl.edu

MAY ANN CHISHOLM

Ann Chisholm, graduate student, social work, had returned from a trip to the Missouri state capitol with fellow student researcher JaVonda Palmer, senior, social work, after testifying at a legislative hearing based on their research project last May.

After presenting their research project titled "The Effects of Problem Debt on Low-Income Families" at Undergraduate Research Day in Jefferson City April 4, "on April 19, Representative John L. Bowman from the

70th [district] requested that JaVonda and I appear before a House committee to testify on our research findings in relationship to House Bill 1433, which proposed raising the minimum wage," Chisholm said.

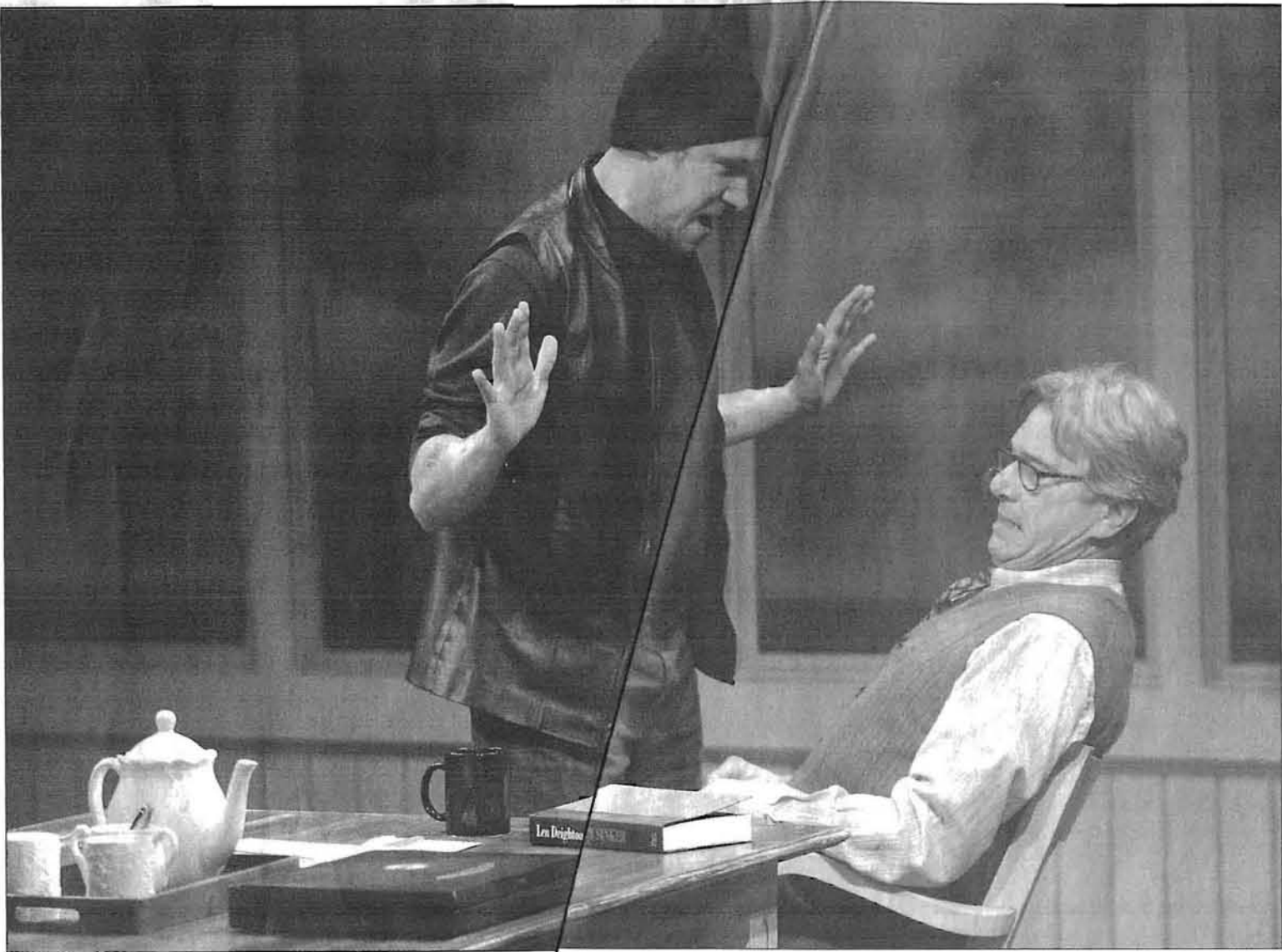
HB 1433 did not make it out of committee, but Missouri voters approved a minimum wage increase in November's ballot.

Since then, "each of us has been awarded a personal resolution, which was read and passed by the House in appreciation of our hard work and dedication to being a responsible citizen," Chisholm said.

Chisholm and Palmer were recently asked to display their project at the Board of Curators meeting Jan. 25.

"We have submitted our work but have not heard if our project has been chosen," she said.

THEATRE REVIEW



In a guilty effort to correct his horrific parenting years ago, a father has his son cloned. Now there are 20--or more--of them, all genetically identical, and he must face the consequence of his actions.

Photo Courtesy: St. Louis Repertory Theatre

Cloning the subject of drama ‘A Number’ at Rep

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

“There are a number of them,” the young man says to his father, referring to his recent shocking discovery of cloned people, in this futuristic play. Specifically, these are clones of himself, or more accurately, clones like himself. Whether Bernard is the original or a copy and whether that matters are among the questions explored in “A Number.”

The Repertory Theater of St. Louis’ new Studio series play, “A Number,” opens with a scene in which a son confronts his father after learning that a number of cloned men share his exact DNA. What appears to start out as an examination of cloning issues instead becomes much more an exploration of fathers and sons, with a dip into the nature versus nurture debate. The relationship of the first young man to clones and why they exist, as well as the details of the father’s and sons’ characters, are unfolded in five short acts during the 55-minute play. The whole play takes place on a single set, a room with a wall of windows looking out on a blue sky of puffy white clouds.

The set resembles an elegant, old-fashioned beach house or a conservatory. From scene to scene, the sky changes through sunset to darkness, as the action unfolds. At first, Anderson Matthews’ character appears to be a loving and straightforward father but gradually a more complex person emerges. The heavier acting burden falls on young Jim Butz, the only other actor in the play, who portrays three identical looking individuals. Changes of costume aid his transformation into the characters. Matthews’ and Butz’ acting, in Susan Gregg’s direction, and the Rep’s production cannot be faulted, but the play itself is a bit unsatisfying.

The cloning theme is not explored in depth and serves more to set up the confrontations, rather than being the topic itself in this play. This seems like a missed opportunity, to say nothing of a bit of a tease, and the nature versus nurture aspect of the play is decidedly a one-sided argument. “A Number” is presented Tuesdays through Sundays, through Feb. 4, at the Repertory Theater’s Studio space in the Loretto-Hilton Theater, 130 Edgar Road, in Webster Groves. Rush tickets are available for full-time students with I.D.

AT THE TOUHILL

Wayne Brady, St. Louis Symphony retell rarely seen ‘A Soldier’s Tale’

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

Igor Stravinsky’s “A Soldier’s Tale” got a rare performance on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The rarely-seen dramatic and musical piece was another offering of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra’s innovative Fusion Series at the Touhill. “A Soldier’s Tale” was enthusiastically received by a near full house. Stravinsky’s World War I era “A Soldier’s Tale” is a combination of spoken word performance, inspired by the Faust legend, and musical ensemble performance. Actor/comedian Wayne Brady handled the challenging narrative portion while conductor David Robertson led seven members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in presenting the musical portion. The musicians were violinist Alison Harney, bassist Erik Harris, and clarinetist Diane Haskell, plus Thomas Drake on trumpet, Timothy Myers on trombone and John Kasica on percussion. Stravinsky’s piece alternates between a spoken word portion and the music, rather than combining them concurrently, as in a musical or opera. The drama is a tale of a returning soldier who is distracted and enticed from home by the Devil, trading a violin that represents his soul for a book with the secrets of wealth that is also a window into the future. The composer originally envisioned his piece for a small traveling troupe of actors and musicians, a piece which could be quickly and easily presented in a tour of various European cities during the latter days of WWI. The 1918 flu pandemic, which swept the world in the last year of the war, made the planned tour impossible. The spoken word portion was originally designed for a group of pantomime actors, with a narrator reading the spoken lines. In the version presented at the Touhill on Wednesday, actor Wayne Brady took on the chal-

lenging role of all the dramatic portions himself. Brady carried off both the narrator role and the creation of the other characters, with real style. Working without props, Brady used gestures, and changes to his voice and posture, to suggest the various characters and their actions, while reading from a podium. Brady handled it all with ease and style, even when his head-set microphone began to fail mid-performance, which forced the actor to improvise, and inject a little unexpected humor, as a stagehand crept on stage with a new mike. The spoken portion alternated with wonderful musical interludes, conducted by SLSO maestro David Robertson, which were the real highlight of the evening. It should be no surprise that Stravinsky’s music was the true star but Robertson and the orchestra members’ lively performance enhanced the experience. At times, Robertson’s energetic conducting made it seem like he was dancing to the music, adding another layer to the presentation. Violinist Alison Harney carried a heavy load, as the violin was symbol of the soldier’s soul, often soaring above the musical ensemble in emotional solos. The musicians’ performances were sometimes so moving that it was all the audience could do to hold their applause, and not cover the spoke parts that followed. While Brady handled the spoken portion with aplomb, it was inevitable that the music overshadowed to dramatic action. This was probably the unavoidable result of combining all dramatic elements into a one-actor role, rather than Stravinsky’s original concept of roles for a narrator and a troupe of pantomime performers. “A Soldier’s Tale” was another of the Symphony’s intriguing Fusion Series, which aim to combine serious or classical music with other art forms, presented at the Touhill. The Fusion Series will continue on March 20 with “Explosions,” when Robertson and members of the SLSO return with the Nuclear Percussion Ensemble.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Fairy tale ‘Pan’s Labyrinth’ is panning for Oscar gold

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

In the waning days of rebel resistance to the fascist Franco regime in Spain, an imaginative eleven 11-year-old girl travels with her pregnant mother to a remote military outpost, where her step father is an officer in Franco’s army. Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) prefers the fantasy world of her books to the harsh world around her, until she encounters a fairy-like creature that leads her to an ancient labyrinth hidden in the woods outside the army compound.

Pan’s Labyrinth

★★★★☆

Director: Guillermo del Toro

Stars: Sergi Lopez and Ariadna Gil

If you remember the real Grimm’s Fairy Tales, you know that folk tales were often disturbingly dark or nightmarish. This is the case here and despite the fairy-tale creatures, “Pan’s Labyrinth” is not for children.

The visually-striking, emotionally-powerful, Spanish-language film was written and directed by Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, the director of “Hell Boy.” This gripping action drama about rebel resistance at the end of the Spanish Civil War is blended with a fairy-tale fantasy centering on a young girl with a vivid imagination.



Photo Courtesy: www.rottentomatoes.com

Sergi Lopez and Ariadna Gil star in ‘Pan’s Labyrinth,’ directed by Guillermo del Toro, who also directed ‘Hellboy,’

See LABYRINTH, page 12

THEATRE REVIEW

‘Heartbreak House’ shows Britain on war’s doorstep

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

George Bernard Shaw’s play “Heartbreak House” is one of his most serious, about wealthy, self-absorbed people in Britain on the verge of war. Although that war in the play is WWI, the point about war changing one’s viewpoint is still valid.

“Heartbreak House” is playing now through Jan. 28 on the Mainstage at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis in Webster Groves. Shaw’s multilayered play is simply a delight, while the actors and the Rep’s presentation is first rate. Sparkling dialog, unforgettable characters, and humor, even when the topic is serious, are fused to make the play both entertaining and thought-provoking. It is arguably the Rep’s best Mainstage presentation this season.

“Heartbreak House” appears at first to be a comedy of manners. Set in an English country manor in 1914, the first two acts of the play are lively, often comic, with an ensemble of people who are all absorbed with their own concerns and struggles.

The first act gathers the cast of characters in the home of Captain Shotover (Thomas Carson), a forgetful, crusty, crazed retired sea captain, a preoccupied old salt who stock piles dynamite and tinkers with ways to blow up the

world should it become too unruly, while also seeking to achieve a higher plane of thinking through meditations. Sharing his sea-faring themed mansion is his cheerful, flamboyant daughter Hesione (Carole Healey) and her flirtatious, playboy husband Hector Hushabye (Paul DeBoy).

They are joined for the weekend by a young woman befriended by Hesione, Ellie Dunn (Ruth Eglsaer). Ellie is the doting daughter of poor but honorable Mazzini Dunn (Frank Lowe), a man who has devoted himself more to good causes than to making a living. Now, Ellie is considering a marriage of convenience to her father’s wealthy industrialist benefactor, the middle-aged “Boss” Mangan (Curt Karibalis).

Heartbreak House

★★★★☆

Where: The Mainstage of the Repertory Theater of St. Louis

When: Runs Tuesdays through Sundays until Jan. 28

Yet, no sooner does Ellie arrive for her visit than the Captain’s other long-absent daughter Lady Addie Utterword returns. Gone twenty-three years, she married young against her father’s wishes, to escape her “bohemian” family. Bragging to everyone about her husband’s success as a colonial gover-

nor in the British Empire, Lady Utterword is as stiff and imperious as her sister is informal and lively. Motherly servant Nurse Guinness (Donna Weinsting) and Lady Utterword’s idle-rich brother-in-law Randall (Matt Bradford Sullivan) round out the cast.

The characters represent a cross section of British society at the time. Love and money are central themes. Broken hearts and true love crop up among the flirtatious interplay and shifting alliances.

There is more contrast on money matters, with the middle class worried about the practical concerns of money, the wealthy elite free to amuse themselves and dismiss its importance, the industrialist obsessing about gathering wealth and the idealist who ignores it.

Having set up this cast of rather stock characters, Shaw then proceeds, in the second act, to turn them, and our expectations, inside out. In a series of brilliant interactions, studded with his signature sparkling dialog, he peels away their layers and reshuffles their relationships, destroying all our assumptions while maintaining perfect internal logic. It is not until the third act that we learn the country is already at war, putting all their selfish concerns and philosophical musings into a larger perspective.

See HEARTBREAK, page 9



Photo Courtesy: St. Louis Repertory Theatre

Paul DeBoy stars as Hector Hushabye in George Bernard Shaw’s play about misdirection and seduction.

Catching up with the latest in movies

By Cate Marquis
A&E Editor

The Hitcher - An unnecessary remake. This pointless, gruesome movie is the latest in the torture-as-entertainment genre of horror films. There is a creepy element of pornography in this trend to torture in this genre.

Besides the gore, “The Hitcher” rehashes a variety of horror films, from old drive-in teen fare to Hitchcock. Lest anyone think that this derivative mishmash of other horror films is itself a clever idea, please note that this has been done before, and better, too, including the homage to other films, gallows humor and underlying nihilism.

Nothing surprising here. Rather than see this film, if you want to be scared, rent “Evil Dead 2,” any Hitchcock, “Straw Dogs,” or even the British horror comedy “Shawn of the Dead.” But if you really want to see a new scary movie with a high-gore fac-

tor, see the superior, much scarier “The Proposition,” on my best action films list.

Children of Men - This dark futuristic thriller is a much better film than it looks in ads.

A perfect blend of action thrills and thoughtful concept, the fast-paced story takes place in a nightmarish future world where everyone has become infertile and the death of a young man, one of the last babies born, triggers worldwide mourning.

Set in a crowded and dirty Britain, refugees from other nations are banned and illegals are rounded up and held in pens like animals. Into this sad world comes the unexpected - a pregnant woman.

The race to get her to safety and the struggle over the future of humanity blend to make a pulse-pounding thrill ride with a brain, starring Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, Michael Caine and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Arthur and the Invisibles - Far be

it from me to give a good review to a film featuring Madonna but Madonna’s voice work as an egotistical but brave minx princess is one of the things that makes this children’s film fun.

A charmingly erasing live action and animation fantasy, Freddie Hightower and Mia Farrow also star in this entertaining children’s film that will amuse adults as well.

To save his family farm from a greedy developer, ten-year-old Arthur (Freddie Hightower) must decipher his grandfather’s notes to enter the tiny world of the Minimoys, if-like creatures who live underground, to retrieve a treasure.

The live action portion of the movie actually has more charm than the wild chases and slapstick in the animated miniature world will keep the kids happiest. David Bowie is as fun as the animated, egoistical villain.

See RECENT FILMS, page 9

A&E ON CAMPUS

Jan. 16 - May 4: “Point-Of-View: CASA” a photograph exhibit featuring work by children involved in the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program at Public Policy Research Center gallery.



Chris Botti

Jan. 26: Jazz trumpeter Chris Botti at the Touhill PAC.

Jan. 25 - Feb. 28: “Creative Spirits” a joint exhibition of select works by faculty and students from UM-St. Louis and St. Louis Community College at Gallery Visio.

Jan. 25 - March 24: Spring exhibit of sculptural installations by Bill Smith at Gallery 210.

Jan. 26 - May 26: Shadow Work, an exhibit by artist Cynthia Pachikara, at Gallery 210.

Feb. 2 - Feb. 4: The MADCO 30th Anniversary concert will be held at the Touhill PAC.

TOP ITUNES
DOWNLOADS

1. This Ain’t a Scene, it’s... - Fall Out Boy

2. Say It Right - Nelly Furtado

3. It’s Not Over - Daughtry

4. Irreplaceable - Beyonce

5. Push it to the Limit - Corbin Bleu



6. Suddenly I See - KT Tunstall

7. How to Save a Life - The Fray

8. It Ends Tonight - The All-American Rejects

9. Keep Holding On - Avril Lavigne

10. Welcome to the Black Parade - My Chemical Romance

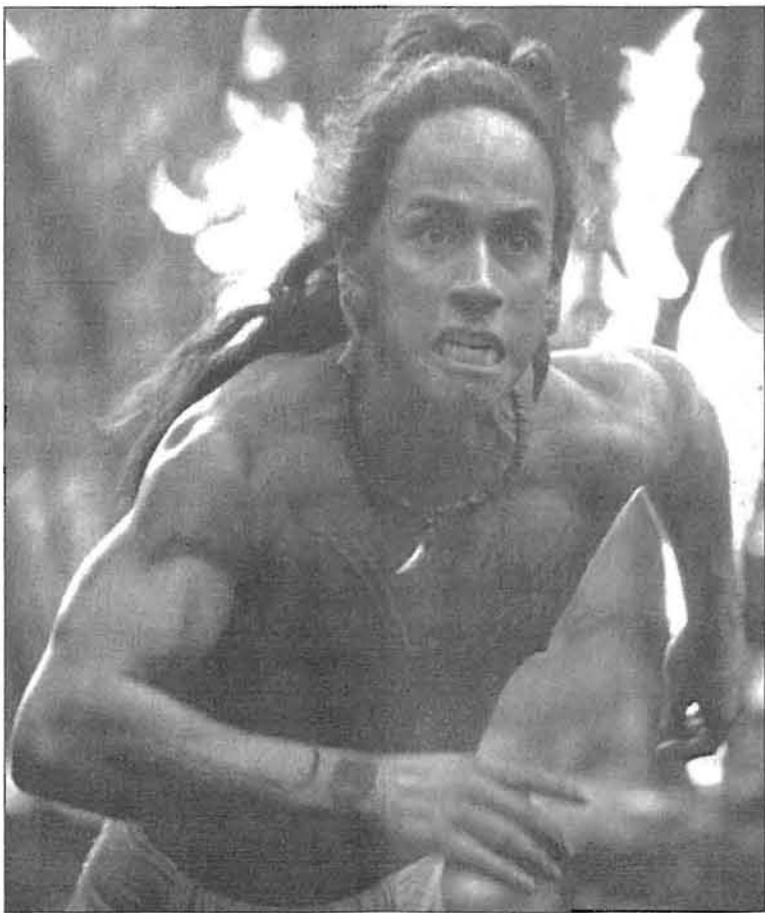


Photo Courtesy: www.rottentomatoes.com

Dalia Hernandez stars in Mel Gibson’s ‘Apocalypto.’

RECENT FILMS, from page 8

More film lists for 2006:

2006 was such a good film year, that it warrants some more lists. Look for these on DVD if they have vanished from theaters.

Best Action Films:

Apocalypto - Even though it is in Mayan with subtitles and has a pompous opening title, it is really just a great action-chase movie, drenched in blood but with pulse-pounding action and a charismatic if unknown cast.

Too bad director Mel Gibson decided to shoot in Digital Video, which produces smeary images with movement, instead of actual film, which is visually deep and realistic.

As good as those well-composed shots and fabulous locations looked, they would have been all the more jaw-dropping on film, and probably would have made it visually one of the year's best films.

However, on DVD, you will never notice the difference; it only shows on the big screen.

The Proposition - One of they year's scariest movies, this bloody, violent Australian "Western," set in the late 19th century Outback and based on real events, is packed with plot twists, powerful acting and moral complexity, reminiscent of both "Straw Dogs" and those '60s spaghetti Westerns. Suspenseful, terrifying but not for the squeamish.

District B13 - A futuristic French film, with both gripping chases and great martial arts action, has a story about terrorists in an urban quarter so violent that the police don't dare enter, but with a deeper layer as well. It has subtitles, but the emphasis is on action, so there is little reading.

Casino Royale - Daniel Craig's James Bond back story movie turns the tired franchise into an action-packed thriller, the equal of anything Tom Cruise has done.

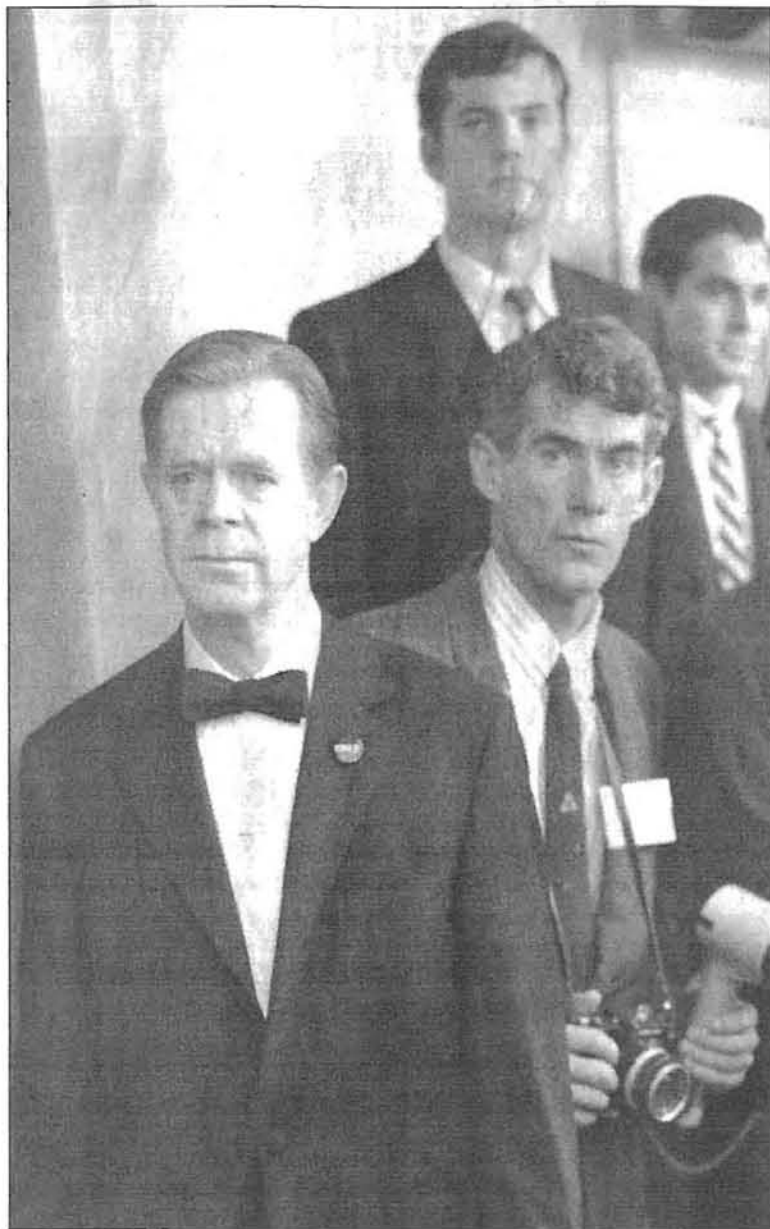
Déjà Vu - What looks like a standard police thriller is transformed by a science fiction twist and Denzel Washington's riveting performance. An overlooked gem of the year.

Renaissance - This animated futuristic thriller uses the same live capture animation as *Waking Life* and *A Scanner Darkly*, but with a twist. It uses black and white imagery like a Hitchcock classic, with a relentless action film energy and twisting plot that will keep you riveted.

Best Movies for Kids:

Happy Feet - Great animation, irresistible singing and dancing, with tap dancing by Savion Glover and terrific voice work and comedy by Robin Williams, Elijah Wood. Sure, it eventually makes a little plea about overfishing by the end but remember, Bambi had a message about forest fires. Get over it, and enjoy the movie.

Other recommendations: Cars, Night At The Museum, Charlotte's Web.



William H. Macy, front, and Joshua Jackson, top, star in 'Bobby,' a movie recreating events leading to Robert Kennedy's assassination.

Mostly overlooked gems:

Bobby - Audiences mostly did not get this film but future historians will love it.

Less about Bobby Kennedy and more an astonishingly accurate snapshot of 1968 America, a pivotal point in history, after the assassination of Martin Luther King, on the eve of Bobby Kennedy's assassination and before the violence at the Chicago Democratic convention, the turning point after which came the massive, sometimes violent anti-Vietnam war protests that became the image of the 1960s.

With fabulous ensemble acting, the film's fictional story touches on the many issues of the day with an accuracy that is astounding. Bobby Kennedy himself appears only in archival footage but it captures the time and his appeal like no other film about the 1960s.

Sweet Land - A multiple time-period little indie film about a man remembering his late grandmother, and the grandmother in later life, remembering her young life as a German mail order bride on the Minnesota prairie in 1920.

Touches on issues of cultural differences, prejudice, personal loyalties and values, it is also surprisingly funny and timely. First-time director Ali Selim, a native-born Minnesotan who looks more like his mother's German side of the family than his father's Egyptian side, knows something about cross-cultural issues and pre-conceived

notions.

This little film is worth seeing if only for the charming performances by Alex Kingston and Alan Cumming as a fun and loving couple with a houseful of kids.

Driving Lessons - Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter films) stars as a teenager with an overbearing mother who winds up chauffeuring a crazy retired actress, in a story that is a nod to '60s cult-classic Harold and Maude. Fun, and thought-provoking, in a gentle way.

Keeping Up With The Steins - Refreshing subject, and a warm, funny family film, about affluent families caught up in a competition of who can throw the most lavish bar mitzvah on the block. Stars Jeremy Piven.

Expiration Date - A surprising change from the kind of indie film one expects from Native American filmmaking, a sweet, light, romantic comedy that centers on an overly-responsible, shy young man who thinks fate has decreed he must die on his birthday, ironically killed by a milk truck, whose plans for an orderly exit are upset by a flaky but beautiful young woman shopping for a coffin.

Friends With Money - A mostly overlooked film, a kind of "Friends" extension with echoes of "The Big Chill," about a group of middle-aged friends, all now prosperous except for a single woman. Darkly, ironically

comic, with sparkling acting.

Best Innovative or Creative Films:

Fast Food Nation - An overlooking gem, this film took a non-fiction book, an expose on the meat industry and fast food chains, and turned it into an engrossing, mystery-like narrative film.

It follows overlapping stories about a fast food executive (the amazing Greg Kinnear) and his visit to a meat-packing plant, the lives of the plant's illegal immigrant workers and lives of those growing up in a small town, and all about how those hamburgers are really made.

A compelling film, this modern "Cannery Row," like the documentary "Super Size Me," might make you rethink your next trip to Mickey D's.

CSA: Confederate States Of America - Biting satire but with something to offend everyone, this is a love it or hate it film. If you think 'politically incorrect' must mean right-wing, this Spike Lee produced parody documentary will change that.

Done in the style of a TV documentary, complete with commercial breaks, this film exists in a 'what-if' world where the Confederacy actually won the Civil War. Eye-popping, by turns fascinating, offensive or squirm-inducing. Be sure to watch the source material at the end, to see where the film's stranger ideas originated.

When Do We Eat? - A very visually inventive, funny, outlandish, dysfunctional family ensemble comedy about one wild Passover dinner. Besides the refreshing subject, this film about a family's seemingly endless Seder meal also has a message about family along with a great deal of entertainment, even if it makes a few missteps.

Lonesome Jim - A dark comic twist on those sincere, indie films with a tortured, misunderstood soul of an anti-hero at its center. It is funnier if you have seen a lot of these films, but Casey Affleck adds to his resume of fine performances.

Three Burials Of Melquiades - A worn-looking Tommy Lee Jones stars in an odd, dry-wit and darkly comic film about a man trying to do right by his friend but confronted by the unexpected at every turn, in a story full of surprises.

A Scanner Darkly - Using the live-action based rotoscope animation, this is the best adaptation of a Philip K. Dick story since "Blade Runner", but this one is more faithful to the original. Great story, great acting, with Robert Downey Jr., Woody Harrel and Keanu Reeves. A must-see for science fiction fans and fans of the under-appreciated, highly-original author.

10 Items Or Less - An unexpected little film with a reality twist about actor Morgan Freeman (playing himself) researching a role for a low budget indie film set in a little grocery, with the clerk from the "ten items or less" lane. Refreshing, surprisingly insightful, amusing.



Photo Courtesy St. Louis Repertory Theatre

Thomas Carson and Ruth Eglsaer star in George Bernard Shaw's comic masterpiece, 'Heartbreak House.'

HEARTBREAK, from page 8

"Heartbreak House" is often described as Shaw's anti-war play. Despite being set in 1914, the war theme has some current echoes, voicing concerns about the disconnect between the sacrifice of troops at war and a home front busily distracting itself with amusements and preoccupations with ordinary life.

The title echoes a line in the play about the characters' various personal heartbreaks but Shaw may have had other meanings as well.

Shaw was a pacifist, a popular writer who found himself falling out of favor as war fever gripped Britain, a sense of war as a grand adventure that was wiped away by the reality of the first modern war.

Shaw started work on the play before the war but finished it afterwards, which may have influenced its structure.

The play also was inspired somewhat by Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard," which opened in London shortly before Shaw began work on this play.

Like Chekhov's play, in which the privileged class is absorbed in its own concerns, engaging in pointless actions while the nation is poised on the brink of revolution, this is a play about ineffective, self-absorbed people who are focused on personal worries but oblivious to the larger looming events.

John Going's direction is perfection and the actors do a wonderful job of bringing these fascinating characters to life. Though Shaw is criticizing their counterparts in British society, the play's inhabitants are still intriguing and even personable.

While they amuse or appall us, they are fully-rounded personalities. The playwright entertains with his sharp-witted and witty patter, while he builds his underlying points.

It is hard to single out performers in this splendid performance but among the best is Thomas Carson as the blustering, white-haired Captain. The interchanges between Ruth Eglsaer as Ellie and Carole Healey as Hesione are terrific as well, as the sparks sometimes fly between them.

Paul DeBoy's Hector shifts con-

vincingly from the light-hearted, charming playboy to a more brooding persona, and Frank Lowe is excellent, uncovering the depth behind Mazzini Dunn's apparent simplicity.

Andrea Cirie's Lady Utterword is a delight, whether we laugh at her pomposity or marvel at her verbal skewering of her adversaries in barbed exchanges.

The darkening tone of the play is reflected in the lighting of the play, as it moves from afternoon to evening. As always, the Rep's staging is striking, with a slanted, ship-like set, reflecting an off-kilter ship of state as well as the out-of-whack inhabitants of the house.

The costumes likewise are brilliant, from the free-spirited Hesione's flowing robes and Hector's movie sheik get-up, reflecting their self-described bohemian bent, to her sister Lady Utterword's corseted, buttoned-down, prim and proper attire, reflected her conservative bent.

Likewise, the Captain's nautical attire mirrors his choice to live in his colorful past and Boss Mangan's white-tie tuxedo bravado reflects his strutting image as a captain of industry.

The play drips with irony and, while grappling with serious topics, Shaw's approach is so clever that we find ourselves laughing, even if the subject is not very funny. In the third act, the bombs of the unmentioned war come to light up the sky.

Only the servant reacts with realistic concern, while the others treat it almost as if it were fireworks instead of warfare exploding around them. Shaw found the disregard by the British ruling classes for the loss of life particularly appalling during the Great War, as WWI was called.

"Heartbreak House" combines elements of heartbreak and humor in a brilliantly multifaceted work of the theater. It is must-see theater, both for its layers of entertainment and meaning.

The play runs daily, except Mondays, through Jan. 28. Rush tickets are available to students with I. D. For details, see the Rep's website at www.repstl.org.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Troy Slaten

Slaten is a senior guard for the Rivermen basketball team.

He led the Rivermen out of the team's six-game losing streak with a career high of 30 points in last Saturday's win against University of Wisconsin-Parkside by a score of 77-74.

Slaten also accounted for 11 points of the first 21 points of the game for the Rivermen.

Slaten has an average 15.7 points per game this season overall up from his average of 12.8 during last season.

In the game against Parkside, Slaten was 10-for-14 from the field and 4-for-6 from three-point range and 6-for-7 from the free throw line.

Slaten has been with the Rivermen since 2004. He played for Southwestern Illinois College for one season and played for Marquette High School for four years.

The Rivermen's next home game is against St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Basketball

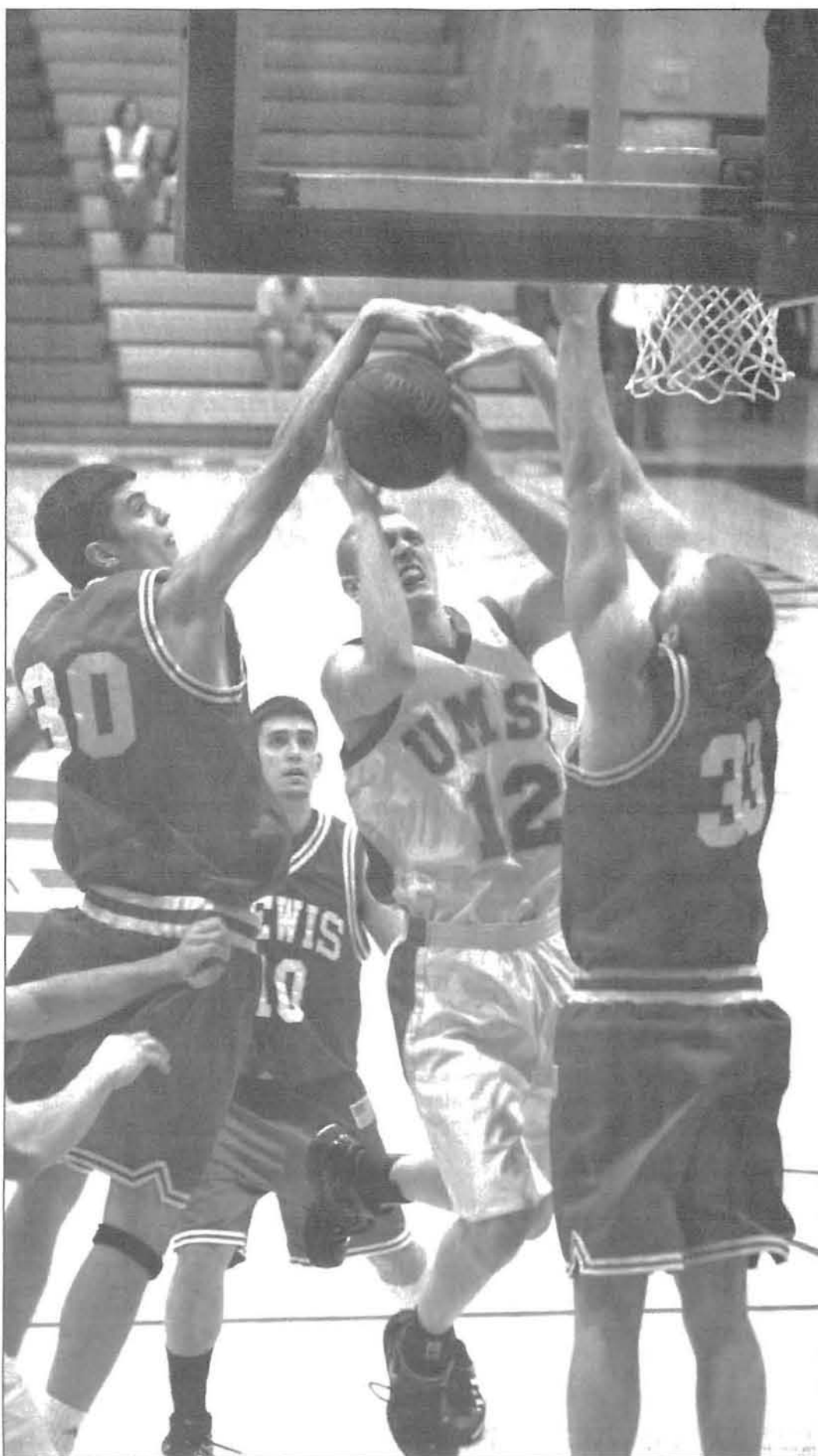
Jan. 23
vs. St. Louis College
of Pharmacy
7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27
at UM-Rolla
3 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Jan. 23
vs. Oakland City
5:30 p.m.

Jan. 27
at UM-Rolla
1 p.m.



Photos by: Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Brett Ledbetter, senior, forward, gets a shot blocked during the Thursday night game against Lewis. Ledbetter had a game-high 25 points and five rebounds against Lewis. The Rivermen lost the game by a score of 63-74. The team is now 6-10 on the season.

Men's basketball snaps six-game losing streak

Troy Slaten led team over UW-Parkside with career-high 30 points in victory

By LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

Troy Slaten scored a career high 30 points as he led UM-St. Louis to a 77-74 win against Wisconsin-Parkside on Jan. 20. The Rivermen snapped a six-game losing streak and won their first home conference game of the season.

"We're excited to bring any kind of losing streak to an end," Slaten said. "We never thought we would lose six games at any point in the season, but sometimes it happens in basketball. We're just happy to come out on the other side."

UM-St. Louis went into the half leading 35-27. During the first half, the Rivermen shot 46 percent while holding Wisconsin-Parkside to 37 percent.

The Rivermen finished the game shooting 50 percent from the field and 53 percent from behind the arc. Wisconsin-Parkside ended the game shooting 42 percent.

"Overall we shot pretty good tonight, we defended pretty good tonight and we took care of the ball better than we have been," said Head Coach Chris Pilz. "I think the difference tonight is that we got to the free throw line."

The Rivermen were able to get to the line more in this game than in some of the past home games. The team shot 24-28 and was led by Ledbetter, who went to the line 13 times, only missing one shot.

UM-St. Louis was able to out rebound Wisconsin-Parkside during the game. The Rivermen grabbed 34 boards while holding the Rangers to 25.

"I think this win is a good chance to hopefully progress," Ledbetter said. "We've struggled and lost in close games and with the win, it could be the foundation of success."

Ledbetter scored 23 points against the Rangers and shot 50 percent from the field.

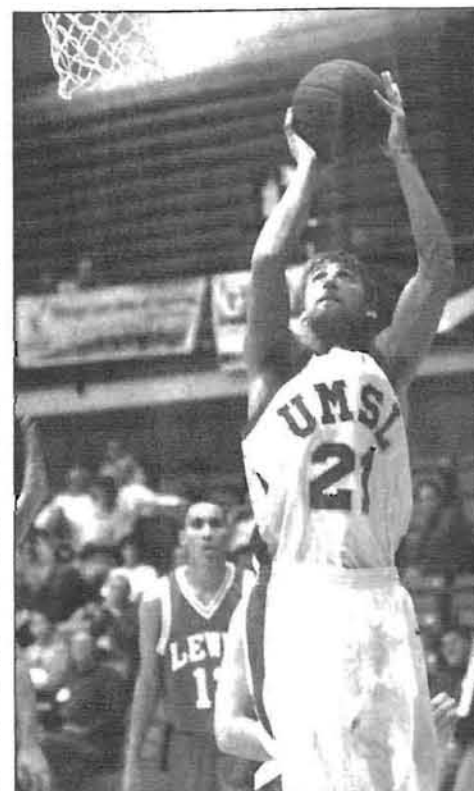
Slaten shot 10-14 from the field and 4-6 from behind the arc. Slaten grabbed three rebounds and shot 6-7 from the line.

Paul DeChellis led the Rivermen with eight rebounds and finished the game with six points.

"We've noticed that we can beat any team," DeChellis said. "We've just got to get our heads in it."

"I think this win will set us off on the road so we can start getting back into the conference race," said Stanley Boateng, Rivermen guard.

UM-St. Louis' bench was a big factor in the



Nathan Whittaker, sophomore, guard, takes a shot from under the basket against Lewis.

win, scoring 42 points while Wisconsin-Parkside's bench scored eight.

"It was a good game against two good teams and we really dug ourselves a hole in the conference race, but hopefully this one will go a long way with us," Pilz said.

UM-St. Louis faced Lewis on Thursday night and lost the game 74-63. Ledbetter led the team with 25 points and shot 8-14 from the field.

UM-St. Louis shot 44 percent in the game while Lewis shot 40 percent. The Rivermen, however, gave up 19 points off of turnovers.

The Rivermen were only able to get to the line 13 times while the Flyers made 26 out of 35 free throws.

Slaten scored 18 points and shot 50 percent from the field.

The Rivermen's record improves to 6-10 (2-7 GLVC). The next home game for the Rivermen will be Tuesday against St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

Riverwomen still have hopes for GLVC tournament

Consecutive conference losses at home drop women's team to 4-11 record

By LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team has fallen to 4-11 (1-8 GLVC) after two home conference losses. UM-St. Louis lost to Lewis on Jan. 18, 56-45 and then lost to Wisconsin-Parkside on January 20, 67-60.

Jennifer Dewell led the Riverwomen with 11 points in the loss against Lewis on Jan. 18. Jennifer Martin led the team with 11 rebounds and three blocks. Martin currently leads the GLVC with 46 blocks.

"I don't like people scoring on me," Martin said.

Both teams shot 28 percent in the game. The Riverwomen were able to get 44 rebounds in the game while holding the Flyers to 41.

UM-St. Louis gave up 25 turnovers in the game and they sent the Flyers to the line 34 times. The Flyers scored 25 points off turnovers and made 21 out of 34 free throws.

Before Saturday's game against Wisconsin-Parkside, Interim Head Coach Shelia Hering said the team needed to improve on shooting. During the game against Wisconsin-Parkside, the Riverwomen shot 39 percent while the Rangers shot 38 percent.

"I feel like this we played better as a basketball team," Hering said. "We're shooting better, we're going in the right direction. We faltered tonight in rebounding. They out rebounded us and that's what won them the game."

Wisconsin-Parkside dominated the boards during the game, grabbing a game-total 45 rebounds. During the game, UM-St. Louis was able to pull down only 29 rebounds, seven offensive and 22 defensive.

"When we improve with one thing, we can't fall off with other things," Martin said. "We're getting there, we just have to be patient and just keep doing the things that we do well and that will come out of it."

The Riverwomen have 10 conference games left in the season.

The team believes each win is vital in its pursuit of gaining a spot in the GLVC conference tournament in March.

"We need to get all of them," Hering said. "There's no doubt about it we need to win every game. And the great thing about this conference is that we can win every game."

"Last year we lost 10 conference games and still made it to the tournament," said Courtney



Courtney Watts, junior, guard, brings the ball down the floor during Thursday night's contest against Lewis. The Riverwomen lost 45-56 against the Flyers.

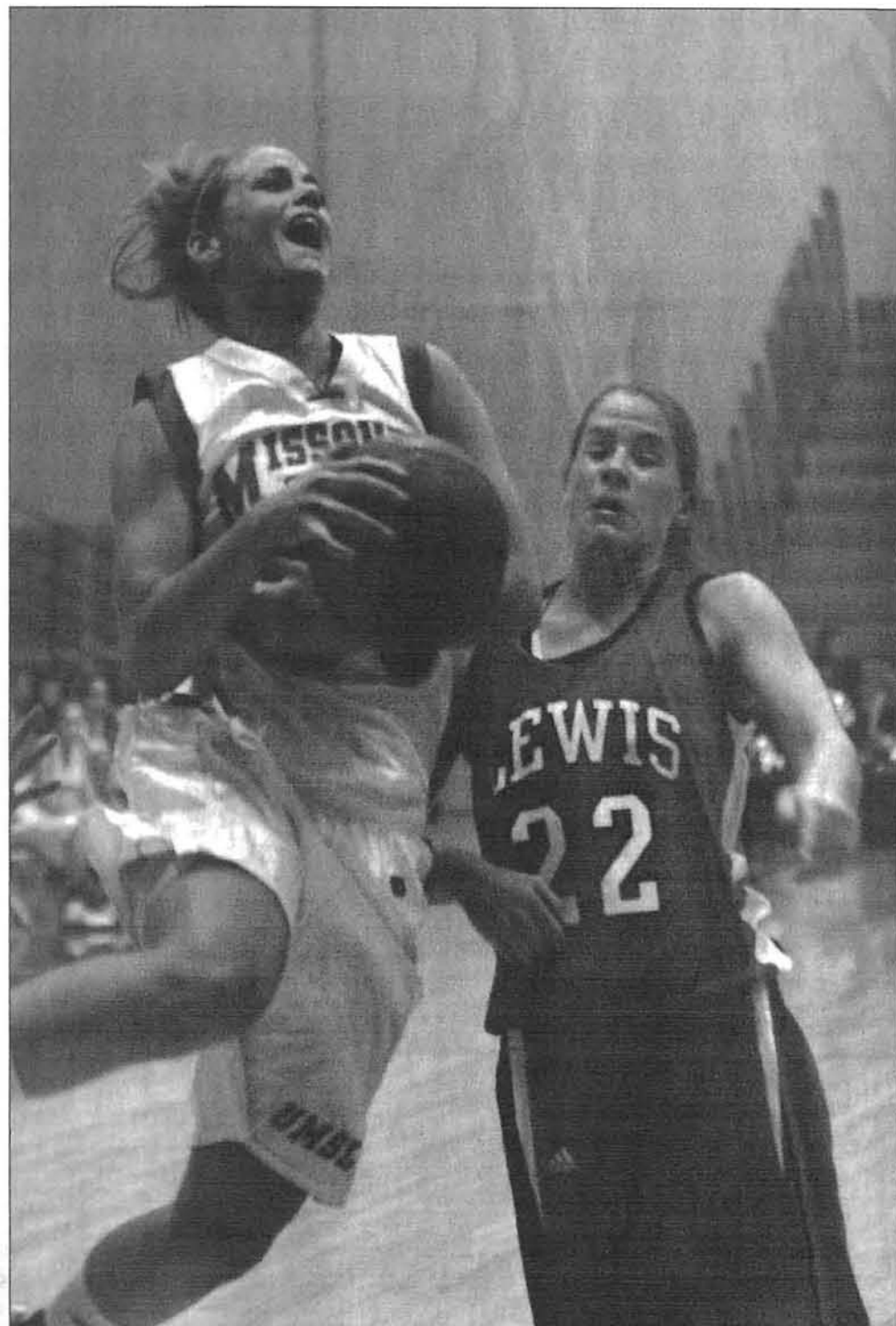
Watts, Riverwoman guard. "Hopefully we can still make it to the conference tournament and make a showing there."

The Riverwomen will face off against Oakland City in a non-conference night game on Jan. 23 in the Mark Twain building.

After that game UM-St. Louis will play three straight road games against the University of Missouri-Rolla, Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan.

"I don't even erase my strategy on the board," Hering said. "It stays the same because we play UMSL basketball. If we can just put together a complete game together with what we have on the board already, we'd beat anybody."

"We've got to just keep fighting," said Megan Alberts, Riverwoman forward. "It's sort of the same old thing. Our defense is okay we just can't find a way to put the ball in the whole at crucial times."



Photos by: Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Leslie Ricker, junior, guard, holds her side after getting fouled by a Lewis player while going to the basket Thursday night at the Mark Twain gymnasium.

Q&A

Athletic director gives her two cents on UMSL, professional sports.

STORY BY LAGUAN FUSE • SPORTS EDITOR

The Current: What sports do you play?

Pat Dolan: In college I played basketball and volleyball. Currently, I play golf recreationally. And I played softball. I like athletics, I like to watch kids compete.

The Current: If UMSL were able to add another sport and the final decision were left to you, which sport would you choose?

Dolan: I think we would be hard pressed to add men's and women's track and men's and women's cross country. The city of St. Louis has great track and field and great cross country.

The Current: Do you follow professional basketball?

Dolan: Not so much anymore, mostly because I don't know most of the kids anymore. I used to watch it because I used to like to see how the college kids did at the next level. But then they started bringing in the foreigners and high school kids, I didn't know anybody.

The Current: Do you think that



Kobe Bryant is at the level or above the level of Michael Jordan?

Dolan: He's certainly good enough, I don't think he has the talent around him like Michael Jordan had.

The Current: Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?

Dolan: My two favorite teams are going to play each other and that

would be the Saints and the Bears. So whoever wins, that will be my winner.

The Current: Would you vote for Mark McGwire for the Hall of Fame?

Dolan: Currently, no. I think things are tainted and it's an unknown. Over time history will say if his accomplishments were legal or not.

The Current: If we had a mascot what would it be?

Dolan: Something pirate like, some crafty old creature that pirates the seas or the Mississippi River.

The Current: Do you think professional soccer will ever take off in the United States?

Dolan: No I really don't. I just don't think the American public is soccer friendly on a large scale like it is internationally because there's so much football and so much baseball. And I don't think America can do another big sport.

The Current: What is your best memory of your time at UMSL?

Dolan: The year the baseball team won the GLVC.

SHORT FUSE

Faith takes on new meaning on the court

What is faith? I do not mean faith in terms of religion, but having faith in a team? To me, having faith in a team means no matter how many games they have lost, you do not stop believing that they can win the championship.

Both of UM-St. Louis basketball teams have been on somewhat of a losing streak lately, but I had faith that one day the streak, or season, would end. The Rivermen were able to break their losing streak after dropping six straight conference games. The Riverwomen have lost six straight conference games, and now my faith in this team says that they too will end their losing streak at six.

Coach Shelia Hering has said that the team will continue to play UM-St. Louis basketball. OK, well after dropping six straight games, maybe a little change of gameplan is in order. But that does not change the fact that the Riverwomen put their all into every game.

I love to see the intensity that the team puts into trying to come back in the second half. Now if they can just turn that into fighting to hold the lead in the second half, more wins will flow.

I know the players and coaches really cannot say it but I think I can. The referees in the home games for



BY LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

the men's and women's games do not really like blowing their whistles unless it is against a UM-St. Louis player. I can say that it makes the conversations in the crowd a little more interesting.

Speaking of the crowd, where exactly is our crowd? Yeah, we did have people pour into the gym for the Chuck Smith floor dedication, but where were the fans for the women's games?

We had a lot of fans running on the court in Saturday's games. Too bad most of them were less than five feet and only came to see the mascots. Not the mysterious Riverman or Riverwoman who delights all of our fans at home games, he or she was far too busy celebrating with the

football team after another undefeated season. We had mascots from other teams around St. Louis come entertain our fans.

I still believe. Both soccer teams and the volleyball team made it into the GLVC tournament and I think the basketball teams can make it too. I just really think both teams need a major win streak starting now.

I talked to a few people around campus and most of them have said that they have yet to attend a game. Some people have said that they did not know that we had sports teams, others said they work and do not have time, but the most interesting was when someone told me they would start coming if the teams started winning.

What kind of crap is that? Where is the school spirit? Where is the love for the game? Oh yeah, it is on Playstation (1, 2 or 3) and X Box (original or 360). Take a break from the games and watch a real game. Maybe a little support will help the teams get on that winning streak.

I do not want to say it is guaranteed that the basketball teams will make it into the GLVC tournament, and I do not want to say that they cannot. I just hope that they go out there and find whatever rhythm is missing and string together some wins.

MAKING THE SAVE



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Thomas Ames saves a shot during the Rivermen's game against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale on Sunday afternoon. The Rivermen improved their season to 9-0-1 with another undefeated weekend of play.

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL				WOMEN'S BASKETBALL				MEN'S BASKETBALL			
GLVC standings:				GLVC standings:				Box Scores:			
Team	Overall	W	L	Team	W	L		January 18	1	2	F
West Division				West Division				Lewis (W)	31	43	74
Southern Indiana	18	2		SIUE	13			UM-St. Louis	33	30	63
Quincy	14	4		Drury	12	4		January 20	1	2	F
Drury	11	6		Southern Indiana	11	5		UW-Parkside	27	47	74
Rockhurst	11	6		Quincy	11	6		UM-St. Louis (W)	35	42	77
SIUE	10	7		UM-Rolla	9	6		WOMEN'S BASKETBALL			
UM-Rolla	7	10		Rockhurst	8	8		Box Scores:			
UM-St. Louis	6	10		UM-St. Louis	4	9		January 18	1	2	F
East Division				East Division				Lewis (W)	33	23	56
Northern Kentucky	12	5		Lewis	15	2		UM-St. Louis	26	19	45
UW-Parkside	13	7		Kentucky Wesleyan	13	4		January 20	1	2	F
Indianapolis	10	6		Bellarmine	12	5		UW-Parkside (W)	32	35	67
Saint Joseph's	10	6		UW-Parkside	12	5		UM-St. Louis	27	33	60
Lewis	10	7		Northern Kentucky	11	5					
Kentucky Wesleyan	8	7		Indianapolis	11	5					
Bellarmine	8	8		Saint Joseph's	4	12					

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IDENTITY PROJECT, from page 1

Braddix said it did not matter to him if the nickname remained the same or changed, as long as he got to see something different.

Goers said he thought it was time for a change to "something you can identify with."

Sierra Ellis, junior, elementary education, agreed with Goers. As a member of the women's soccer team, she said it was frustrating telling people about what the team's name represents.

"When people ask what our name is, we say 'Riverwomen' and nobody knows what that is," Ellis said.

"I think when you're an athlete, you want to have pride in what your [identity] is. There's pride for playing at UMSL, but our mascot is a wheel," she said.

Ellis said the teams were looking into submitting names and a name she has heard being suggested is the Archers.

"Some people want it to be an animal," she said, but she said she would be content with whatever it was "as long as it's something everyone can identify with."

SGA President Nick Koechig said he would be participating in the project. Although he would not reveal his nickname, he said he thought the process of selection using a survey like this is a great idea.

"Hopefully by the end of the semester there will be [a nickname] that the majority of the students can support," Koechig said.

"May is the set date we want to have something decided," Braddix said. He said that would get the nickname promoted to students coming in over summer orientation and students coming back over the fall will "have something totally new."

Coonrod said this committee would finally decide whether the name will change or if we are going to keep it and have that matter settled.

"Ultimately, the chancellor will make the decision," Coonrod said.

CHUCK SMITH, from page 1

Kelcy Siddall, senior, economics, said he tries to not miss any games as well, but he was not familiar with Smith before the dedication.

"After tonight I have more of an appreciation of what he's done for the campus," Siddall said. "I think it's good to honor someone that meant so much to the sports program here at UMSL."

Ryan Davis, junior, physical education said he knew about Smith prior to the rededication ceremony.

"I just knew he was a coach, and one of the best coaches around," he said.

A pre-dedication reception was also held that night during the women's game, which began at 5:30 p.m.

Sierra Ellis, junior, elementary education, greeted attendants to the reception, which she said approximately 200 people attended.

Ellis said she thought the dedication of the court was a "neat" way to honor Smith.

She also said she liked the countdown to the minute of the dedication that was up on Web site for UM-St. Louis Athletics, at www.ums-lsports.com, prior to the event.

"I thought that was pretty cool," Ellis said.

Both the men and women's basketball teams lost the games that night, Rivermen, 74-63, and Riverwomen, 56-45.

Despite the losses, the floor dedication was carried out with much applause and smiling faces.

Smith said he was proud to accept the dedication and he said he appreciated the crowd's cheers.

He commended those responsible for the new court and said it was "beautiful."

LABYRINTH, from page 8

It blurs the lines between the two worlds until you are not sure which is real.

Ofelia's beautiful mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil) is ill and often confined to bed. Her new stepfather Capitan Vidal (Sergi Lopez) is coldly indifferent. Ofelia is befriended by a kindly servant, Mercedes (Maribel Verdu), who is secretly aiding the rebels. But at night or when she is alone, Ofelia is visited by a fantastic creature, a tall, goat-like pan or Faun (Doug Jones) who tells her she maybe the long lost princess of the underworld hidden under the forested labyrinth.

The film proceeds on two parallel courses until they finally meet towards the end. We are never sure if the fantasy creatures and the world of the Labyrinth real or imaginary. Ofelia travels into the underworld, where she faces strange creatures such as the Pale Man (Doug Jones again), with eyes in his hands but none in his head, and a series of trials and dangers she must face to reclaim her heritage.

fantasy creatures, a marvelous blend of makeup, prosthetics and animation, and their world are a lush, visual delight, with a richness and beauty the ordinary world above lacks.

In the world of her stepfather Capitan Vidal, the pursuit of the last remnants of rebels proceeds with the ruthlessness and precision that is the signature of Fascists. Franco's was the only Fascist regime to survive World War II but our knowledge that the rebels' cause is doomed only adds poignancy to their struggle.

Despite this, we never know what plot twists lie around the next curve, and the film is as much terrific thriller as fantasy.

The film proceeds on two parallel courses until they finally meet towards the end. We are never sure if the fantasy creatures and the world of the Labyrinth real or imaginary. Ofelia travels into the underworld, where she faces strange creatures such as the Pale Man (Doug Jones again), with eyes in his hands but none in his head,

and a series of trials and dangers she must face to reclaim her heritage.

The fantasy creatures, a marvelous blend of makeup, prosthetics and animation, and their world are a lush, visual delight, with a richness and beauty the ordinary world above lacks. This Spanish-language film was written and directed by Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, the director of "Hell Boy."

The acting is as remarkable as the well-written story. Ivana Baquero as young Ofelia is marvelous as young Ophelia, as is Doug Jones as the somewhat sinister Faun. Sergi Lopez as Capitan Vidal slowly reveals his true nature in chilling, convincing fashion. Other actors led strong support, especially Maribel Verdu as Mercedes.

The plot and blending of fantasy and real-world horror makes this Mexican-Spanish collaboration one of the best films of 2006. This beautiful, heartrending, moving film is well worth reading subtitles.

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

www.thecurrentonline.com

CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

Rudy Scoggins

"Slow Class"

Rudy Scoggins 1/18/07

Oz, I gotta say, your dad's car is totally boombastic!

Told ya! This chariot's got everything! They even built in a sensor so you can see the current forecast on the dashboard.

Woah, hold the hell on. You're telling me this car can show you what's the weather's like.

Yeah

Even though, being in a car, your surrounded by ultra-thin windows that you can roll down at anytime

Yup

Now that's class

So these people would rather turn your car into Fox-Flippin'-2 Meteorologist Dave Murray before they devise a way to keep the bumper falling off through winter

Looks that way

Do you wanna know if it's raining right now?

"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart

MAN, I USED TO BE GREAT AT PLAYING PIANO. WHAT HAPPENED?

THIS IS AN ATARI. YOU CAN PLAY GAMES ON IT.

OOOHH.

ELIZABETH, SHOULDN'T YOU PRACTICE YOUR PIANO?

I GOTTA BEAT THIS LEVEL!

DAMN IT.

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "What A Spill"

What are you trying to do Sparkle?

Since we don't have any tools Shakeia, I'm trying to see what I can use to fix this lock.

Well you better get this excess water off the floor before someone slips and falls

Oh Tiffany!

WOOWAH!

"Shakeia's Hair Salon" is drawn by Current cartoonist Sherry Holman

SYNDICATED CARTOON

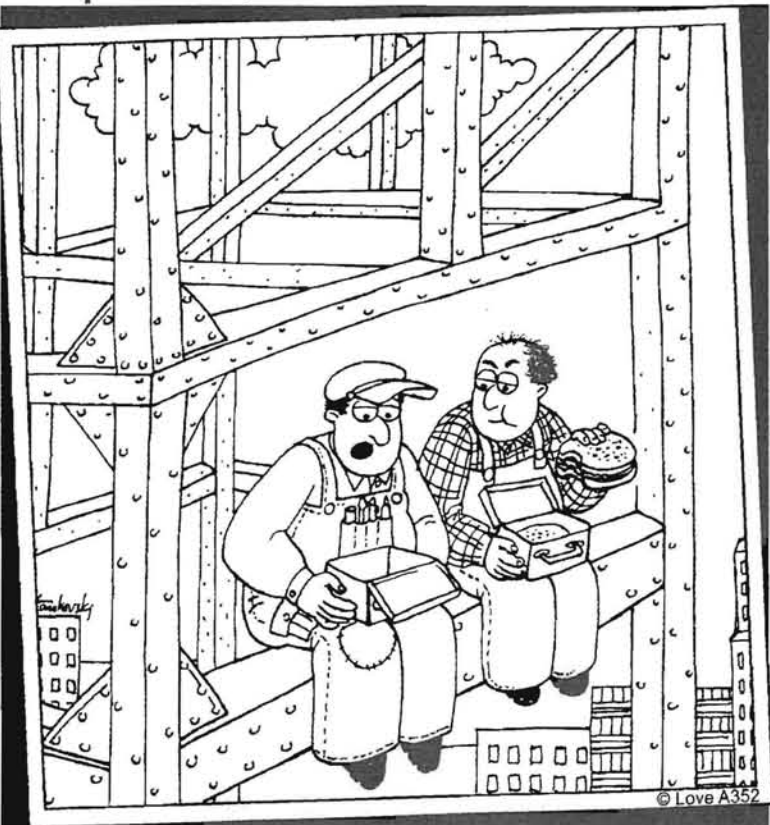
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"Ah, man, empty again. Ever since my wife left me..."

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Highlander's hat

4 Strikebreaker

8 Moistens

12 Epoch

13 Ice-cream holder

14 Idle or Ambler

15 Tenet

17 Wee bit

18 Horseshoe site

19 Bad lighting?

20 Gather greedily

22 Hourglass fill

24 Sea eagle

25 "Ragtime" author

29 Island souvenir

30 Nasal passage

31 Biblical verb ending

32 Paper

34 London gallery

35 "You Go - Head"

36 Archer's missile

37 Gesturer's "dunno"

40 What some men are made of

41 Go

42 Sightseeing

43 Shipbuilders'

46 Neat as -

47 October gem

48 Carnival city

49 Desires

50 Set

51 Insecticide

6 Nut

9 Piccadilly statue

10 One of the Jackson 5

11 Read bar codes

16 Moved quickly

19 Picnic invaders

20 Maintained

21 Sandwich treat

22 Chastity's dad

23 - above the rest

25 "Carpe -"

26 Aft

27 Preminger of Hollywood

28 "It's hot in here!"

30 Urban blight

33 180's

34 Helen's home

36 Bracelet site

37 Remain

38 Bill Clinton's hometown

39 Destruction

40 Con job

42 Mutt

43 - Locka, Fla.

44 Disencumber

45 Morse E

DOWN

1 Slight bit

2 Past

3 Grease monkey

4 Seafood selection

5 Hairdo

6 Landers or Coulter

7 Spelling

8 Nut

9 Piccadilly statue

10 One of the Jackson 5

11 Read bar codes

16 Moved quickly

19 Picnic invaders

20 Maintained

21 Sandwich treat

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37 Remain

38 Bill Clinton's hometown

39 Destruction

40 Con job

42 Mutt

43 - Locka, Fla.

44 Disencumber

45 Morse E

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Jan. 22 - Jan. 28

Aries

March 21-April 19

Wow, that baby is really making you fat, you should see if you're having more than one. Or you should make sure you are not having one box of doughnuts every few minutes, you fatty, fatty cake.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You'll have a wonderful day at work when you get to delight at the fact that you just asked someone if they "want fries with that shake" and you weren't using a lame pickup line. Although, you'll find it not so delightful when you remember you work at a fast food joint and you will for the rest of your life.

Gemini

May 21-June 21

I'm glad you came back this semester, it is always good to have someone who will drop the grade curve in my classes.

Cancer

June 22-July 22

I know you thought those commercials were a hoot, but it just isn't the same when you tell people if they ring your doorbell they can sniff your toilet. You never clean yours.

Leo

July 23-Aug. 22

How does one know if you're telling the truth when you're always lion?

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Don't look now, but that stupid guy in the corner of your Spanish class is checking you out. I guess he is multi-talented, stupid and creepy.

Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Sure, you can have my digits. Not that I want you to call me, it is just that it would be best to not have to look at your face when I have to listen to you.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are going to be so jealous I didn't use a word I used in the next horoscope in yours.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You really are so dumb, you don't even eat spaghetti with a spoon, you try to eat it with a gummy bear and a discombobulated pencil eraser. Told you so, Scorpio.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

I've got a bad feeling about this. *Wookie noise, R2-D2 beeping ominously, Jar-Jar Binks opening his mouth to speak.*

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

I left your mom ... for your grandma.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

I really do Think you're NeAt.

DISCLAIMER:

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Hands on learning

Intercession class learns the basics of art museum life

STORY BY MABEL SUEN • ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

PHOTOS BY MATT JOHNSON • PHOTO EDITOR

Words such as "teamwork," "attitude" and "safety" seldom appear in course syllabi as the basis for grading. But one UM-St. Louis course strayed far from the norm by providing students the opportunity to work together behind the scenes at a local art museum.

"Art Museum and Gallery Management," instructed by Susan Cahan, Des Lee Endowed Professor of Contemporary Art, took place at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis from Jan. 4 - Jan. 26.

"I started working at UMSL in 2003, and the purpose of my position is to develop collaborative programs that link the school to the cultural institutions in St. Louis that have contemporary art programs," Cahan said.

The main objective for the students involved is painting a mural onto a 22 foot by 34 foot wall of the museum under the direction of commissioned New York artist Louise Hunnicutt.

The mural, a work by renowned artist Jim Hodges, will be featured in "I Remember Heaven" along with other works by Hodges and Andy Warhol.

"It's the first time we've offered a course in which the students are actually involved in mounting the exhibition," Cahan said.

Melissa Yearian, senior, English, said that the process involved putting a projection of the mural on the wall, tracing it with vine charcoal in order to separate sections and then painting it.

"I've really enjoyed painting the mural,"

Aaron Happe, junior, drawing, said. "At first, it was intimidating, but then the painting became fluid. We get to watch an area finished in front of us. You step back and see the whole teamwork process as one, which is really neat."

Cahan said students observed the inner workings of the museum firsthand by being a part of the installation process and meeting with different staff members of the museum who talked about their roles and how they fit into the larger picture.

"I was wondering what was behind the scenes at the Contemporary Art Museum, what the people do and how a show unfolds," Lebecca Peterson, senior, painting, said. "It's more than I could ever imagine. This is the real world of art, and its amazing being together doing this as a group."

Jennifer Shasserre, senior, art history, said she wants to be a curator someday and the interviews with the staff were extremely informative.

"It's an honor being part of the show, and I hope that UMSL students will come see it," Shasserre said. "Jim Hodges does really beautiful, poetic, simple, powerful stuff. I think Hodges and Warhol are very different but work together well."

The opening reception for "I Remember Heaven," featuring the art of Hodges and Warhol, is from 7 - 9 p.m. on Jan. 26 at the Contemporary Art Museum. For more information, visit www.contemporaryartstl.com.

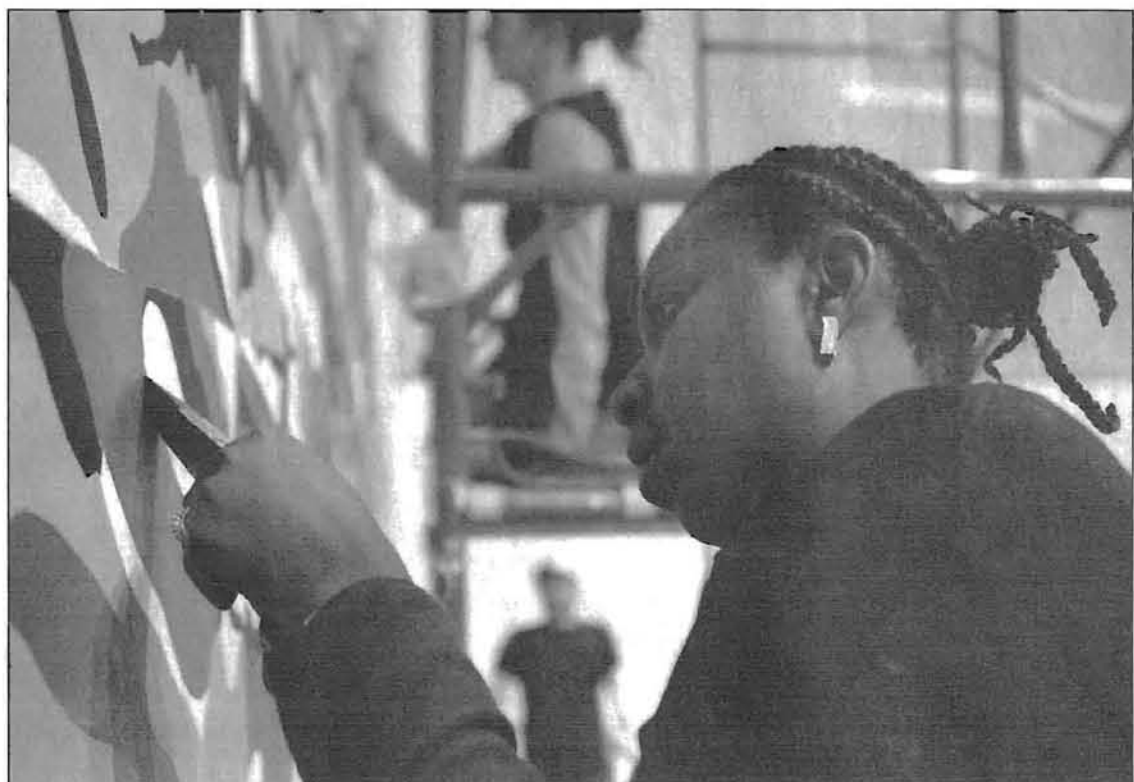


(ABOVE) The finished product of the students mural. The painting measures 22 feet tall by 34 feet wide.

(LEFT) Students from the art museum and gallery management class admire the mural they just painted.



(ABOVE) Rick Briscoe, senior, studio art, places a bucket full of painting supplies on the third level of the scaffolding.



(LEFT) Joyce Ogbevoen, senior, studio art, concentrates on making the perfect paint stroke.



Progress continues on the student mural at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis.