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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

February 5,
2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1206

INSIDE

Problems and infighting continue to plague ASUM

Operations at the central office for the student advocacy group were suspended after troubles continued.

See page 3



'The Painted Veil' is perfect movie for Valentine's Day

Edward Norton and Naomi Watts star in a period drama set in 1920s China, a time when England still had colonies in that country.

See page 6



Women's basketball continues to struggle

The Riverwomen's record fell to 5-13 after a loss to Kentucky Wesleyan College. The Riverwomen lost 68-52.

See page 7

'Spring' exhibit opens at Gallery 210

See page 6

Metro pass program still not catching on

By JASON GRANGER

News Editor

The Metro pass program is still not gaining the traction it needs to stay on campus, and could be discontinued unless sales increase.

In the past, UM-St. Louis students could get free Metro passes, allowing them to go downtown, The Loop, Lambert International Airport and other locations for free. But during the winter semester of 2006, an announcement was made that students would have to pay \$45 for a pass.

At the time, Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, said the move was a compromise

Quick Read

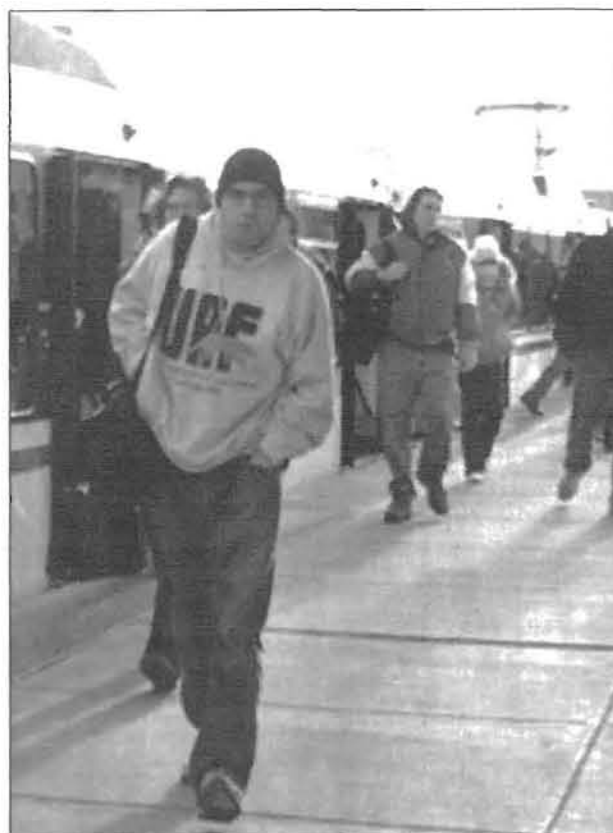
So far this semester, only 1,530 Metro passes have been sold. This time last year, 1,702 passes had been sold.

between Metro and the University.

According to Tammy Fortner, administrative assistant for the cashier's office, 1,530 Metro passes have been sold so far this semester, behind the 1,702 figure of last semester.

Amy Wibbenmeyer, senior clerk, said the pass is not that expensive and students should take advantage of it.

see METRO PASS, page 8



UM-St. Louis students and other passengers depart MetroLink at the University's North Campus stop. Actual Metro pass sales so far this semester have been lower than at this time last year.

Angela Crouse • Staff Photographer

Student with disabilities files discrimination complaint against UMSL

By JASON GRANGER

News Editor

UM-St. Louis student John McGahan has filed a formal complaint with the United States Department of Education and the Americans with Disabilities Act enforcement over alleged discrimination.

McGahan, a senior studying secondary education, said the University's department of disability access services refused to contact his professors to let them know that in case of winter weather, he may not be able to attend class. McGahan is a double amputee.

According to McGahan, he was told he had to have a doctor's note saying that he was, in fact, a disabled person.

"I think it's just ridiculous," McGahan said. "I already have a handicapped parking sticker from UMSL, so this should be a non-issue."

Marilyn Ditto-Pernell, director of disability access services, confirmed McGahan's complaint and said all students going through disability access services must have a letter from a medical professional.

"It's true," Ditto-Pernell said. "If a student is requesting we notify their professors, we have to have a doctor's note for the file. Ditto-Pernell said it does not matter what type of disability a student has, they must have a doctor's note for the file. "If a student says they have depression, is a quadriplegic, it doesn't matter, we have to have something for their file," she said. "He's not being asked to do anything we'd ask of any other student."

Consistency is important for the department, Ditto-Pernell said. They cannot ask one student to get documentation and not another.

"That's where discrimination happens," she said. "One thing we have to be consistent about is asking everybody to do the same thing."

McGahan said his frustration grows from the fact that his disability is in the open. McGahan said he even went so far as to offer to show Ditto-Pernell his prosthetic leg. His discrimination complaint, he said, was an effort to get the system changed.

"That was the last thing I could think of to convince her," McGahan said. "I just want to see this fixed. Ordinarily, I am not a hard ass about things, but this was frustrating."

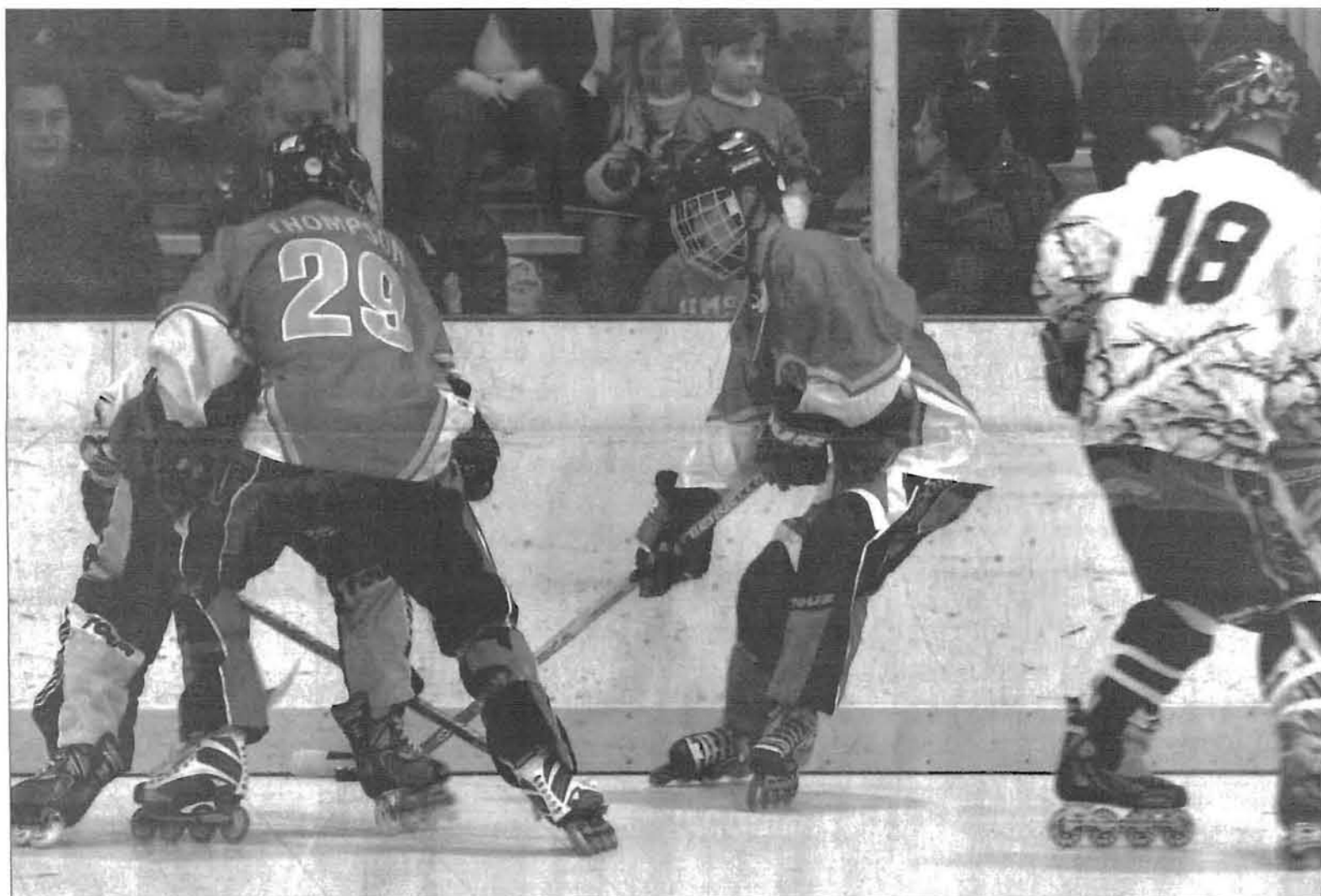
Ditto-Pernell said another issue with the complaint was she did not think it would even be necessary to let professors know that a student would not be in class due to inclement winter weather, such as snow and ice storms.

"It's not necessary for me to send a letter on that," she said. "He evidently has a different agenda."

McGahan said he has been in contact with the directors of the ADA in Washington D.C., and they are going to look into the complaint. This information was provided to The Current after the ADA offices in Washington D.C. were closed for the weekend.

See DISCRIMINATION, page 3

BLAZIN' BLADES



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Eric Thompson and Jeremy Scott battle for the puck against Truman State on Saturday morning. The Rivermen recorded their first loss of the season to Truman State. The Rivermen's record is 12-1-1 with one weekend of games left in the regular season.

Old Normandy Hospital demolition to begin soon

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

Old Normandy Hospital, adjacent to South Campus, is set to be demolished some time soon to make way for the expansion of UM-St. Louis campus.

A definite timeframe for the demolition has not yet been decided, but bidding will begin in the near future. Future plans call for the connection of the North and South Campus buildings.

The hospital was purchased in 2001 for \$2.6 million, in accordance with the 1992 Master Plan.

"Essentially, the campuses were landlocked," said Bob Samples, director of marketing services. "So we ended up buying a lot of property, a lot of Catholic property like Normandy Hall, and [the] Provincial House."

"The connection included goals of purchasing as much land around the campuses as possible," Samples said. "Since then the campus has gained over 100 acres."

An outspoken desire from the community to keep the hospital as it was kept the University from acquiring the property in the early 1990s.

The hospital was originally closed in 1993. It was then purchased in 1995 by local doctors and a Texas based company, which ran the hospital as the Normandy Community Hospital from 1997 to 2000. The hospital closed its doors for good shortly thereafter.

UM-St. Louis' original plan for the hospital was to create a clinic for

Quick Read

The Old Normandy Hospital, located on Natural Bridge across from Woods Hall, is expected to be torn down in the near future to make way for a new baseball field and possibly new athletic complexes on the South Campus location. The demolition is expected to cost \$2 million and bids will be open to the public.

optometry and nursing students.

"The hospital's location on Natural Bridge would have opened the nursing and optometry services to the public," Samples said.

However, the state of the building is in severe disrepair, according to Samples. Problems include insulation issues, asbestos, and "hodge podge construction." Other safety problems that have persisted, even before UM-St. Louis acquired the Old Normandy hospital, include vagrants living in the building.

In October 2006, the office of Residential Life's annual "Haunted Hall" event was cancelled due to safety concerns.

"Residential Life's annual 'Haunted Hall' was held in an area of the hospital where asbestos was not present," Toby Shorts, student services coordinator, said. "However this year, the student's general safety was a concern."

The demolition is estimated to cost approximately \$2 million, and bids will be open to the public.

See HOSPITAL, page 3



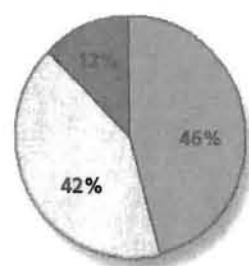
Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Crumbled bricks are all that is left of a wall at one of the back entrances to Normandy Hospital. The hospital contains hazardous materials including asbestos and is being prepped for demolition.

ON THE WEB

The Current
online.com

Web poll results:
Who is going to win the Super Bowl?



- ☐ Indianapolis Colts
- ☐ Chicago Bears
- ☐ ...Superbowl?

This week's question
What is your favorite type of movie to watch?

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CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
515 UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

The victim reported textbooks were stolen from inside the apartment. The victim suspects the roommate's friend. The investigation is ongoing.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
515 UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

The other victim in this apartment filed a report of stealing money. This investigation is ongoing and is believed to be related to the first report.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

PROPERTY DAMAGE -
CLARK HALL AND POLICE STATION

The campus police received a call for an incident in room 208 Clark Hall involving a student and some sort of substance on a desk. The caller, a UM-St. Louis student was standing outside of Clark Hall when officers arrived.

The officers noticed the exterior door on the south side of the building was recently broke out, and the subject was acting rather unusual. The subject told officers he got mad and kicked the door breaking the glass. The subject was arrested for property damage and transported to the station.

While at the police station and inside one of the holding cells, the subjected slammed his body into the cell door in an apparent attempt to escape. The cell door was bent and damaged, however, the door and cell remained secured. The subject is being charged with two counts of property damage with warrants to be applied for through St. Louis County prosecuting attorneys office.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

PROPERTY DAMAGE (2ND DEGREE) -
COMPUTER CENTER BUILDING

A property damage report was taken on damage to the toilets and paper roll dispensers in the men's restroom on the third floor. There are no suspects in this incident at this time.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

PROPERTY DAMAGE/STEALING UNDER \$500 -
BELLERIVE RESIDENCE HALL PARKING LOT

The victim reported that his vehicle had the window broken out and part of his stereo was stolen. His vehicle was parked in the parking lot outside of the building under the carport area. The vehicle was processed for fingerprints and the evidence collected will be sent to the crime lab for analysis.

STEALING UNDER \$500 - TJ LIBRARY

Sometime during the day, person(s) unknown stole the victim's purse from the library.

TRESPASSING/RESISTING ARREST- TJ LIBRARY

The security guard at the library approached several juveniles who were playing on the computers on the third floor in the library. Two individuals refused to talk to the security guard and refused to leave the area when requested.

The campus police responded and tried to get some information as to what was happening. Two girls who were on the computers refused to talk to the officers and did not respond when they told the girls that they would be arrested for trespassing.

One of the girls who was later identified as an adult refused to get up and began flailing her arms when the officers attempted to take control of her to place her under arrest. She was eventually escorted out of the library, arrested and brought to the station.

The other girl ran into the library and got her mother and met the officers outside. This juvenile was also arrested and brought to the police station where both subjects were processed and the juvenile was released on a charge of trespassing back to her mother.

The juvenile will be referred to the St. Louis County Family Court. The adult was processed for trespassing and resisting arrest, and released pending the application of warrants.

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.

ANN RUBIN VISITS CAMPUS



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

News Channel 5 reporter Ann Rubin shows a clip from one of her stories on KSDK last Thursday to a Broadcast Writing and Reporting class. Rubin was invited to speak about her experience as a TV reporter.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Monday Noon Series

Poet Martha Collins will read from her book, "Blue Front," at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. "Blue Front," a book-length poem, focuses on a lynching that Collins' father witness as a child in Cairo, Ill.

She will also discuss the process of researching the tragedy. Light refreshments will be served. Monday Noon Series events are all free and open to the public. Call 5699 for more information.

Chemistry Colloquium

Ram S. Mohan, associate professor of chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, will discuss "Environmentally Friendly Organic Synthesis Using Bismuth Compounds" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Please call 5311 for more information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Hidden Valley Ski Rec Trek

Today is the deadline to sign up for Campus Recreation's "Ski Hidden Valley Rec Trek," scheduled for 5 p.m. to midnight Feb. 9. The fee is \$20 and includes lift tickets, ski or snowboard rental, one-hour skiing lesson and transportation.

Registration is available at the Campus Recreation office, 203 Mark Twain/Athletics & Fitness Center. Call 5326 for more information.

Basketball vs. UM-Rolla

The men's and women's basketball teams will face the Miners of UM-Rolla in a doubleheader at the Mark Twain/Athletic & Fitness Center. The women's game will start at 5:30 p.m., and the men's game will begin at 7:30 p.m. UM-St. Louis students are admitted free with identification. Call 5661 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Difficult Dialogues: An Interactive Workshop

"Parts of Speech," a play embedded in a workshop, will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the J.C. Penny Conference Center-Summit Room.

This event will be presented by the UM-Columbia Interactive Theatre troupe and is free and open to the public. Pizza will be served at noon to those who register in advance.

Register at the Center for Teaching and Learning home page.

"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.



Puccini's opera 'Turandot' will be performed at the Touhill PAC Sunday, Feb. 11

Study Abroad Information

The Center for International Studies will host a Study Abroad Information Session at 2 p.m. in the Nosh at the Millennium Student Center. This session will cover programs, scholarships, earning credit, and how to apply. Call 5229 for more information.

Film Series Focus on Diversity

"The Difference BetweenUs," will be screened at 4 p.m. in the SGA Chambers in the Millennium Student Center. This hour-long film is from a three-part series called "Race: The Power of an Illusion." This event is free and open to students, faculty, and staff. A discussion will follow. Call 5270 for more information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

New Student Information Kick Off

The kick-off celebration for MyView, the new student information system, will be held at 2 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B at the Millennium Student Center. Powered by PeopleSoft, this new system will replace STAR UMSL, CICS/SIS. This event is free and open to faculty, staff, and students. Attendee prizes and refreshments will be available. For more information call 6016.

'Shadow Work' at Gallery 210

Gallery 210 will present "Shadow Work," an exhibit by artist Cynthia Pachikara in Exhibition room A at Gallery 210 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday beginning February 8 and running through May 26.

Pachikara is an associate professor of art and design in the Taubman College at the University of Michigan. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Call 5976 for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Physics & Astronomy Colloquium

Eric Majzoub, senior technical staff member at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, Calif., will discuss "Estimating the enthalpy of formation of complex hydrides using first-principles and global optimization techniques" at 3 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 2:45 p.m. in 516 Benton Hall. This event is free and open to the public. Please call 4145 for more information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

UMSL basketball vs. Saint Joseph's at Washington University

The men's and women's basketball teams take on the Pumas of Saint Joseph's College of Rensselaer, Ind. The doubleheader will take place at Washington University. The women are scheduled to play at 7 p.m. and the men will play at 9 p.m. Call 5661 for more information.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

'Turandot' at the Touhill

Valentine's Day entertainment at the Touhill will include "Turandot," Puccini's final operatic masterpiece. The opera will be presented in Italian with English supertitles at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50, \$40, and \$35. Call 4949 to reserve tickets.

The Current

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Student Newspaper Since 1966

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AFFILIATIONS



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The Current

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes.

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

In the Jan. 29 issue of *The Current*, the following corrections need to be made:

The article titled "Curators approve \$13 fee increase, new media degree," named wrong dates for when the Board of Curators meeting was held. The correct dates were Jan. 25 and Jan. 26.

Also, the article incorrectly stated the

\$13.08 fee increase was a per credit hour fee. The fee is for 12 credit hours.

The article also states that students will be paying \$417.96 per credit hour, up from \$404.88 per credit hour, which is wrong.

These numbers were misinterpreted, and we apologize for any confusion.

The Current



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

A piece of insulation is exposed on the south end of Normandy Hospital which is being prepared for demolition. The preparations are moving slowly because of hazardous materials such as asbestos. Insulating materials produced before 1975 are common sources of asbestos.

HOSPITAL, from page 1

“Money is always an issue,” said Sam Darandari, director of construction and planning.

The Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house will also be destroyed to empty six acres for construction.

The sorority members living in the house moved out earlier in the school year, after the national chap-

ter suggested it might be easier to move before the demolition began.

The current plan for the area, which has not been set in stone, is to create a new athletic and recreation facility.

Ellen Witte, junior, music, has a different idea.

“We already have the Mark

DISCRIMINATION, from page 1

“What I was told was, they (the ADA) are going to start a preliminary investigation, and after 30 days, decide if they want to pursue a formal investigation,” he said. “They thought the policy was ridiculous.”

McGahan said the rest of the school’s administration has been

understanding of his complaint and helpful as well.

“I just want to get this resolved,” he said. “Something really needs to change, because this is just ridiculous. For someone to tell me it wouldn’t matter if I was a quad, that is just ridiculous.”

Ditto-Pernell is confident that

Twain Building,” Witte said. “They should consolidate the fine arts buildings because it’s a growing major, and we’re all over the place when it comes to classes.”

The demolition and construction is not expected to have any significant effect on South Campus traffic.

any investigation, if one is even performed, will not turn up anything discriminatory.

“It boils down to, if he files a complaint with the office of civil rights, they look at consistency,” she said.

“That is one thing we focus on, staying consistent,” she said.

Operations suspended at central ASUM office

By Jason Granger
News Editor

Troubles continue for the embattled Associated Students of the University of Missouri, as operations are now suspended at the central office for the student advocacy group.

The problems within ASUM have gotten so severe that Curt Coonrod, vice provost for student affairs, has called for a summit to discuss the issues facing the group. The meeting is scheduled to convene Feb. 24 at UM-Columbia.

Coonrod said he has become frustrated with the group for a while, but the last straw was ASUM’s attempt to expel board member and UM-St. Louis student David Dodd from the board.

The board attempted to remove Dodd from the board in early December.

The rationale behind the decision, according to a recording Dodd provided *The Current*, was Dodd’s lack of cooperation. The motion was made by UM-Rolla board member Tara Banaszek.

“For me, it was the straw that broke the camel’s back,” Coonrod said. “It just illustrated the point that something needed to be done.”

Coonrod said his counterparts at the other University of Missouri schools — Rolla, Columbia and Kansas City, were all aware of his concerns and in large part, shared them.

Coonrod said the summit concept was greeted with approval by the other schools.

“Whenever I met with my coun-

terparts, ASUM always came up,” Coonrod said. “There are problems.”

In the past, Coonrod has said if the problems plaguing ASUM are not rapidly cleared up, he will recommend that UM-St. Louis no longer participate in the organization. His preference, however, would be to have the university continue to be an active participant.

“I am a big supporter of ASUM,” Coonrod said. “I think it provides good opportunities to not just UMSL students, but system wide. That’s why I want to get this straightened out.”

Operations at the central office were suspended after Coonrod said he had seen enough. His counterparts at the other universities agreed with Coonrod that suspending operation was necessary, he said. As far as he knows, Coonrod said the move was not met with animosity and their only option was to get the problems resolved at the five-hour meeting.

“I will insist significant changes be made [at the meeting],” Coonrod said. “I think there will be a lot of pressure put on the organization to get things right. We’ll know more after the meeting.”

Dodd said the four local chapters of ASUM continue their operations, as do ASUM’s lobbying attempts in Jefferson City.



David Dodd
ASUM board member

Dodd, who has faced issues in the past with ASUM, said he is looking forward to getting back to work.

During the 2003-2004 school year, Dodd was dismissed from his position on the board.

Additionally, then-chair Sarah Jackson attempted to bar UM-St. Louis’ ASUM members from access to the office in the Millennium Student Center.

Dodd said he is anxious to get back to working for every student in the UM System, despite those past issues.

“Students and administrators are going to be at this meeting,” Dodd said. “Basically, we are going to work through our problems and get back on track.”

“We need a fix that’s going to work,” Dodd said. “You can put a Band-Aid over anything, we need to fix problems. If you make changes without thinking about repercussions, you can get in trouble.”

If and when ASUM can get back to work, Dodd said the time has come to look at the powers granted the board and whether or not they can arbitrarily remove a member. Board members are selected by each school’s student governing body.

“We need to amend the constitution to say the board can’t just remove a member,” Dodd said. “Wherever we go from here, there needs to be provisions in place.”

Since the vote to remove Dodd, which was met at the time with skepticism by Coonrod and Dodd, as well as UM-St. Louis board members Dan Flees and Carlos Manaois, the UM-St. Louis chapter has continued work as though the vote had not taken place, Dodd said.

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“Pack the Stands Night”

Thursday, February 8

as UMSL Basketball takes on Southern Indiana

4:30 pm - Registration Begins

5:30 pm - Women’s Game

5:30 pm - FREE Dinner

7:30 pm - Men’s Game

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OUR OPINION

There is no 'I' in LEAD

Differences between SGA president, vice president and their lack of unity on agenda items hurt the student body in the long run

During the Board of Curators meeting last month, *The Current* noticed a disagreement between the Student Government Association's president and vice president over the Board of Curators' approval of a fee increase for UM-St. Louis students.

SGA President Nick Koechig said he saw the increase as positive because students would be motivated to become involved in organizations on campus because they are paying for the fee.

On the flip side, SGA Vice President Thomas Helton said he does not like to see students paying more than they have to and wants more attention to be paid to where the money from the fees go.

This may seem nothing more than a mere squabble over a \$1 fee increase in the student activity fee, but over the course of the SGA executive board's term in charge, these little differences are adding up to a point where students are not only paying fee increases, but they are paying the price for an un-unified group of student leaders calling the shots.

The current administration, president Nick Koechig, vice president Thomas Helton and comptroller Shanna Carpenter, ran together on the LEAD slate during the SGA elections last spring, despite their different backgrounds.

In an article from April 10 featured in *The Current* titled 'SGA candidates prepare for April 13 debate,' Helton was quoted as saying, "We realized that each of us represent a different aspect, a different point-of-view, and at the same time, each of us wants what is best for the students."

Now each of them seem focused on different agenda items and their lack of unity working toward a common goal is not allowing any of their individual goals to be accomplished in full.

Back in October 2006, before the

card readers for *USA Today's* Readership Program arrived on campus, Koechig initially expressed concern about people other than students taking papers.

When the card readers came in, they allowed faculty IDs to be accepted as well as students', which Koechig said he disliked because student fees, not faculty, paid for the program.

Now, four months later, faculty IDs still work and when a student opens the newspaper machine to take a New York Times, more hands reach in along with theirs to take papers as well. And many times, these hands do not belong to students.

In October, Helton announced SGA's plan to make shuttle routes "friendlier" in terms of getting students to classes quicker. Four months later, the routes have changed back to how they were before.

During the changes, some shuttle drivers still did not follow the routes. SGA's implementation of the routes was met with some roadblocks from Parking and Transportation, but without a unified front, what else was left for the fate of the routes other than failure?

Looking back further at when the current student administration was running for their offices, do their campaign promises live up to their agendas over halfway through their terms?

Koechig placed partnerships with Express Scripts at the top of his list last April. He also named MetroLink, Chartwells food service and funding renovations for Benton and Stadler Halls (from the MOHELA sale) as top agenda items.

So far this year, at SGA meetings they have: 1.) made plans for the Relay for Life event in April 2.) held a discussion about allowing an extra skip day for representatives 3.) a resolution regarding Curator David

Wasinger's comments on 'Queer Theory' classes 4.) given black binders out to representatives so they can be more organized.

The meeting on Jan. 19 of this year focused on using 'Mobile Campus' and posters highlighting student leaders to improve communication among the student body.

Where is the push to keep MetroLink passes available to students next year? Where is SGA's effort in making sure the money promised from the MOHELA sale is going to renovations in the science labs?

Have potential partnerships with Express Scripts been made or has the focus on them been too slight?

A bigger question adding flame to the fire of confusion is why aren't these agenda items readily available to all students?

Whether a representative or not, a look at SGA's Web site over the weekend shows poor records of meeting minutes and no mention of what our SGA is currently working on.

Clicking on the legislation tab on the Web site, the most recent minutes posted are from April 15, 2005.

Almost two years ago.

If we believe the current administration has the student body's best interest in mind, they need to follow through with what they say, have more unified goals, work together and let all students know what is going on.

With the SGA president having one agenda in mind while the SGA vice president is working on another project, coordination between the two, as well as their executive board, would allow them to get a lot more accomplished.

SGA still has time to turn things around before the end of the semester or the next SGA exec board's agenda will be to clean up all the unfinished projects this SGA board left behind.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

The conundrum of history, even if it is black history



By MYRON MCNEILL

Opinions Editor

Dates, facts, concepts, meanings and tests plague the minds of many when they think of history. Oddly, many people remember ... that they couldn't remember dates, facts, years, concepts, meanings on tests they received while studying this thing called history. But is this the essential

meaning of history? Is this a wicked, twisted way of programming people to not like history?

For those who do not like history at all or at least not prefer its presence in their mind, this can be a problem. You remember the old saying, "those who don't know their history, are doomed to repeat it."

Yep, seventh grade social studies class, or was it American History by then. Who knows, but what happens when it's the history tied to one's heritage or supposed "core being" for existence? Is history then promoted to being relevant?

This is the problem that many face as we ease into the month of February, also known as Black History Month. It seems that many are forced to switch hats and become fans of history 12 months later from the preceding February, to show some type of respect to ancestors of African-American heritage. Some people even carry on with the mentality of "oh well, another day, another month."

Why? Well when I think of textbooks from the classes that I've taken since elementary school's Social Studies to American History in high

school and college. I remember that Black History was confined to slavery, Nat Turner and Martin Luther King. The rest was well, history. You know, a story neither I nor anyone of my age group or descent was involved in. So you know what happens next, history gets subjected to

dates, facts, times, names, concepts and memorized answers for tests.

And then, that one month appeared called February and I was supposed to be in love with this thing or concept called "Black History." This "Black History" that had been subjected to bell-bottom-like status, in my closet full of new styles and trends. That was, and is, the problem.

The Conundrum. The Solution. Show me and others outside of this entity called history, how we are involved. Better yet, show African-Americans how failing to know it, equates to repeating it. Guess what, many do not want to do this because then we would have to talk about that four letter word, love, nope RACE.

It is easier to find relevancy in subjects like math, history, Black History or English literature, when people can see themselves inside of it. This goes for any race. Here is another solution, show parallels.

Finally, for Black History to define itself as relevant, it needs more than a month and a couple of pages in a text book.

See **HISTORY**, page 5

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

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

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

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What's your opinion?

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

- SGA
- House Bill 213
- History

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UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What is your best excuse for missing class?



Dani Palmer
Freshman
Biology



Muhammed Lamotte
Junior
Pre-Social Work



Caitlin Shin
Junior
Special Education



David Yan
Senior
Economics



Sharia Sultana
Sophomore
Biology

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.

"Studying for a test during that class so you can take it another day."

"I was writing a paper for another class' is the latest excuse I've used."

Last semester I flipped my car on 70 and shut the whole highway down."

"My best excuse is sleep."

"Whenever I think the teacher will be covering things that aren't going to be on a test."

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Scared of global warming?

Save the Earth, buy a Metro pass



By SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

The MetroLink pass is one of the greatest amenities that UM-St. Louis has offered students in the past 20 years. Until this year, the pass has been free, and most students took advantage of free transportation, in wake of \$3 per gallon gasoline.

This year, the price of the pass jumped to \$45, shocking UM-St. Louis students. Regardless of this price increase, \$45 a semester is a deal which not enough students are taking advantage of.

The MetroLink offers transportation to almost everywhere, and I'm sure numerous students depend on

this cheap mode of transportation to get to class or their jobs. With the prices of cars and gasoline sky-rocketing, the MetroLink pass, even at \$45, has been great for students seeking an alternate form of transportation.

However, with an almost \$10,000 drop in sales since last semester, we might lose it entirely. The loss of such a deal would be tragic, and would be at the hands of students who may simply be rebelling against the instated price. This silent rebellion also has a destructive effect on those students who depend on the MetroLink.

The price of a full tank of gas probably averages about \$30. Depending on how much and where you drive, you could spend anywhere from \$60 per week to \$120—more than double the cost of five months of unlimited rides on the MetroLink.

Even if you only use the pass a few times a month, or if your use of the pass does not make up for the price of Metro tickets, you are saving money on gas and aiding Metro-

dependent students achieve their education.

Additionally, you can't walk by any television, newspaper or magazine without hearing about the caustic effects of fossil fuels on the atmosphere, and global warming. Environmental experts are all pushing the use of public transportation, and carpooling as a means of slowing down this process, and ending reliance on fossil fuels. Just think, for \$45, you can help save the environment!

We've been spoiled by the free access to the MetroLink, and while we do have to pay, the price is more than worth what you are giving to yourself, your community, and your environment. Forty-five dollars is a steal, as non-student riders pay upwards of \$60 per month for their passes.

I can't stress this more: Please, for the sake of your fellow students, and the environment, run, don't walk, and purchase a Metro pass. If sales do not increase, this great service will surely be lost, and the price of public transportation will rise for us students who are counting every penny.



STAFF VIEWPOINT

E-mail has become the dominant way to communicate despite taking more time

Some people might say that I am crazy but I really don't like e-mails. E-mails are a great leap in conversational technology but I still like telephones. I would much rather call someone and spend two minutes telling them what I need to say instead of taking the time to send an e-mail.

I might be really lazy, but I think it is much easier to dial seven digits (10 if you dial an area code) than to turn on a computer and wait for it to load, login to your e-mail, type the message and then wait for a response.

If I have to tell someone something, I call them and when people need to tell me something in a timely manner, they call me. But on the other hand, e-mails are perfect for people with whom you don't want to hold an actual conversation.

I'm sure that I am not the only person who has had a conversation that was way too long. I like getting those through e-mail because I can print out what they said and read it at my earliest convenience.

Whose idea was it to start sending electronic chain letters? I received a message last week which said, "First I want you to know that I love you to



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

death and you are amazing. If I don't get this back I understand. But ... I have a game for you. Once you read this letter you must send it to 14 people that you really care about including the person that sent it to you. If you receive at least seven back then you are loved."

Come on, seriously? Am I really supposed to base my love life on how many people respond to my e-mail? If so, I'm really sorry I didn't finish reading the e-mail. I am not sure what will happen since I didn't send it. If I am forced to live the rest of my life

never knowing true love, I will know that it was because of an e-mail.

My favorite e-mails are the ones in my bulk mail folder. I only open messages in that folder if I think it was sent there by mistake, but I still love seeing senders I've never heard of and subjects about things I do not care about. Somebody named Reyna wanted to sell me a watch and on Monday, Laverne told me it was "high time for Christmas gifts" which were, of course, on sale now.

It is really weird to think about the people who sit at home and send the bulk messages out to millions around the world. Maybe it is not people, maybe it is just one individual with an obsession for pissing off people.

It does not really matter who does it. It does not matter if Cash Advance wants to give me \$1,500 or if I can claim my Grey's Anatomy DVD set. It does not matter if my friends continue to send me forwarded messages, because one day I know e-mails will be obsolete. One day a new medium will take over our daily communication. Until then, e-mails will dominate our communication, forwarded messages and all.

HISTORY, from page 4

If all that is discussed of American History's segment of Black History is slavery and maybe Martin Luther King Jr., African-Americans are excluded and once again subjected to one month hopefulness. Look around, sometimes February appears to be just another month.

This isn't Black History's fault, nor history's fault. This problem deals with approach and its solution deals with the fact of courage and change. We all are to blame.

For those who keep the perpetuation of the monotonous fact, idea,

concept, time and exam "mentality," this is the aftermath. For those that think history is segmented, with certain parts being relevant and other parts being not so relevant, this is the aftermath.

Finally, I must say that I do not believe that the promotion of more Black history leads to more history textbooks being read. I do not believe that. I do feel that as generations get further and further away from certain time zones of history, relevance of certain aspects of history can and will fade.

History should be the updated

and interactive archive of keeping the past somewhat acquainted with the present.

In order for people to derive a keen appreciation for history of any kind, it must become more than facts, exams, people, concepts, February, one-sided ideas about cultures and concepts focused on worshipping past events of grandeur.

We need to update our files and remember if an event worth historical credibility took or takes place in America, it needs equal inclusion in the idea or concept called history, no matter what color.



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BILLY BOB THORNTON
VIRGINIA MADSEN

"IF WE DON'T HAVE OUR DREAMS, WE HAVE NOTHING."

THE ASTRONAUT FARMER

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The Current

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This film has been rated PG by the MPAA for Thematic Material, Peril and Language.

OPENS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

‘Spring’ arrives early at new Gallery 210 exhibit

BY SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

The art exhibit “Spring” at UM-St. Louis’ Gallery 210 is a perfect example of nature and machine in a harmonious relationship.

“Spring,” an exhibit by artist Bill Smith, opened on Jan. 25, and will run until March 24, with new pieces and changes being made frequently.

The display presents dead natural matter such as mouse skeletons, insect exoskeletons, and dried shrubbery in-synch with lights and electrical currents. The exhibit is interactive, and is started by lifting a “gumball” seed which is suspended on fishing wire.

The gumball, decorated with opulent beads, then catches the light, seemingly triggering a stereo which plays songs and poetry.

The lighting in the room casts shadows off of the bushes, and an octopus-like mobile begins to spin. All the while, the music is playing.

The project comes alive as different sculptures begin moving and making noise, and as light is cast across different objects, making glorious shadows on the walls.

“Spring” is an art exhibit for people who have lost their wonder for art. Bill Smith successfully portrays the mechanical nature of, well, nature.

His use of natural objects and dead things may seem choleric. However, this exhibit is specifically about life,

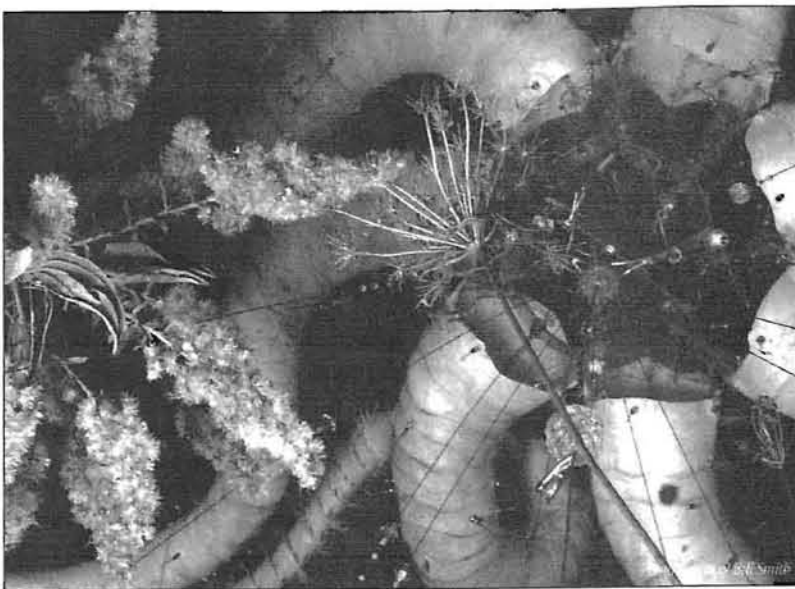
as Smith says in his brochure.

The artist brings his world to life through the use of electricity and machines. “The interactions of the parts that make up all ‘life’ systems are in essence mechanical,” as it says at the exhibit.

The exhibit is very fragile, since it is made of dried plants, so you may be asked to leave your things at the counter. It is well worth the effort. Gallery 210 is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Even if you are not an art-buff, you will still be capable of appreciating this artist’s message and his hard work.

If you’re interested in meeting the artist, a reception will be held on Feb. 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.



A&E ON CAMPUS

Feb. 6: High School Music Festival free concert at 6:30 p.m. in Anheuser-Busch Hall at Touhill PAC. Free. Call 516-5365 for information.

Feb. 7: ‘Parts Of Speech’ play, in ‘Difficult Dialog’ workshop on diversity at 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Summit Lounge at the University Center. Free.

Feb. 7: Part one of three series, ‘Race: The Power of an Illusion’ film series on diversity issues “The Difference Between Us,” with discussion at 4 p.m. in the Student Government Association Chambers of the MSC. Free. Call 516-5270 for information.

Feb. 8: Gallery 210 reception for artists Bill Smith and Cynthia Pachikara exhibiting at Gallery 210, will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the gallery. Pachikara also will give an artist’s lecture at 6:30 p.m. in the gallery. For information, call 516-5976

Feb. 9-10: Hungarian State Folk Ensemble at Touhill - Gypsy and authentic folk costumes, music and dance from Budapest dance troupe, presented by Dance St. Louis. Tickets are \$30-43.

Feb. 11: ‘Turandot’ opera at Touhill - Puccini’s final operatic masterpiece (in Italian with English supertitles), at 7 p.m. at Touhill. PAC Tickets are between \$35 - \$50.

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS



1. **This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race** - Fall Out Boy
2. **It's Not Over** - Daughtry
3. **Say It Right** - Nelly Furtado
4. **The Sweet Escape** - Gwen Stefani
5. **Irreplaceable** - Beyonce
6. **Here (In Your Arms)** - HelloGoddbye
7. **Suddenly I See** - KT Tunstall
8. **Fergalicious** - Fergie
9. **Push it to the Limit** - Corbin Bleu
10. **How to Save a Life** - The Fray

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Painted Veil’ is lush, romantic and good drama

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Looking for a movie for Valentine’s Day, one that is more than a silly romantic comedy?

Your best bet may be the fine drama “The Painted Veil,” starring Edward Norton and Naomi Watts as a young British couple in colonial 1920s China.

“The Painted Veil” is the thinking couple’s perfect date movie for the holiday and a good choice for anyone who likes good drama, fine acting and lovely photography.

Based on a story by W. Somerset Maugham, this lushly beautiful film unravels the lives of a young couple who married in haste but find themselves regretting in leisure.

A bored, vain and selfish Kitty marries shy scientist Walter Fane, mainly to escape her mother’s scolding about her failure to marry well.

Walter, a government bacteriologist stationed in China but visiting London, is smitten with her beauty when he catches sight of her at a party and, giving just as little thought to the future, proposes marriage almost as soon as he meets her.

As they relocate to China just after marrying, they find just how little they know each other, until Kitty meets Charlie Townsend (Live Schrieber), a smoothly elegant local government official who seems to be the opposite of dull Walter.



Edward Norton and Naomi Watts star in the period drama, “The Painted Veil,” set in 1920s China. The pair play a young, British married couple living during England’s colonial period in China.

see **PAINTED VEIL**, page 10

UMSL, St. Louis Community College team up in Visio’s ‘Creative Spirits’ exhibit

BY MABEL SUEN
Assistant Copy Editor

A meeting of artistic minds from area colleges formed “Creative Spirits,” a joint exhibition of visual art between UM-St. Louis and the St. Louis Community Colleges of Florissant Valley, Forest Park and Meramec.

The artwork consists of mixed media including everything from oil paintings and photographs to hand-bound books and sculptures. The art exhibit’s organizers at the Office of Transfer Services and Gallery Visio invited a guest curator from each campus, who in turn selected the faculty and student pieces for the exhibit.

The exhibit’s opening on Jan. 25 drew over 140 people, the gallery’s highest turnout for a reception throughout its existence, said Melissa Hattman, director of transfer services and articulation at UM-St. Louis.

Hattman said that UM-St. Louis collaborated with St. Louis Community Colleges on the exhibit as fulfillment for an agreement that was made between the two college systems.

“The goal was actually to showcase the work of community college students who are very often the transfer students who come to our campus to continue in our fine arts program,” Hattman said.

“It was a way of creating a visual bridge, if you will, between the two programs,” she said.

Rennie Behrend, professor of art at Meramec Community College and UM-St. Louis alum, said that it was exciting to come back full circle and have his work included in the show.

“I was in school back here in the ‘70s, and they were trying to get the art program started back then. It kind of fell through the cracks and was rejuvenated over the years. Now, it’s a great program,” Behrend said.

Richard Jennings, a student artist from Forest Park Community College, said that the best part of the show was seeing the overlapping of ideas between the professors at different universities.

“Everyone’s working towards a common goal. It’s nice to see artists from a different area in one show,” Jennings said.

“The goal was actually to showcase the work of community college students who are very often the transfer students who come to our campus to continue in our fine arts program.”

— Melissa Hattman
Director of Transfer Services

See **CREATIVE SPIRITS**, page 10

Former 5th Dimension members to star in Valentine’s Day concert

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Romance appears to be in the air for the campus. Five Valentine-themed events are planned for the days around Feb. 14. Here is the list.

On Friday, Feb. 9 through Saturday, Feb. 10, Dance St. Louis presents the romantic Hungarian State Folk Ensemble at the Touhill.

Gypsy and authentic folk costumes, music and dance from Budapest dance troupe, presented by Dance St. Louis. Tickets are \$30-43. Info: Touhill Web site www.touhill.org, click on events.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, “Turandot,” Puccini’s final operatic masterpiece (in Italian with English supertitles), is presented at 7 p.m. at Touhill. Tickets are \$50 - \$35. Info: Touhill Web site www.touhill.org, click on events.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day concert by Grammy Award-winning husband-and-wife duo Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill. Tickets are \$45, \$40 and \$35.

Valentine’s Events at the PAC

- Feb. 9-10** - Dance St. Louis presents Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
- Feb. 11** - Puccini’s “Turandot” opera will take place at 7 p.m.
- Feb. 14** - Grammy winners Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. from the 5th Dimension will perform
- Feb. 15** - Cafe Europa brings European flavor to Touhill with songs, stories and desserts
- Feb. 17** - Tenor Michael Amante performs at 8 p.m.

ning husband-and-wife duo Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill. Tickets are \$45, \$40 and \$35.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, ‘Café Europa’ brings an evening of European flavor to the Touhill, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Lee Theater at the Touhill.

European desserts and wine, plus songs and stories by internationally acclaimed vocalist Thomas Meglioranza. Tickets are \$40. Info: 314-516-4949.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, American tenor Michael Amante performs at the Touhill, showcasing his four-octave range with a concert featuring classic, romantic and Broadway songs, at 8 p.m.

Concert and post-show champagne reception with the artist available for \$50.

Concert tickets are \$30, \$25 and \$20. UMSL students receive a 25 percent discount. Info: 314-516-4949.

So this Valentine’s Day, you can plan a romantic evening out without even leaving campus.

Professor asks, has feminism lost its voice in Ireland?

BY RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

Dr. Sally Barr Ebest, professor of English at UM-St. Louis, discussed her views on the shift in the writings of some of Ireland’s most famous feminist authors.

The Institute for Women and Gender Studies held a colloquium on Feb. 1 in room 211 of Clark Hall. The talk, titled “Where Have All the Feminists Gone?: 21st Century Irish Women’s Novels,” was a brief but informative discussion.

Dr. Barr Ebest gave a brief background on the history of Irish Feminist authors, highlighting the major ones.

The major Irish authors covered were Edna O’Brien, Clare Boylan, Jennifer Johnston and Emma Donoghue.

The focus of the session was on the apparent shift away from feminism in Irish Literature since the early 1980s. Recent publications by the authors mentioned above have ventured away from the strong feministic characters and themes of their earlier writings.

The consensus seems to be that the feminist has not disappeared, but the focus has possibly turned to wider issues and ideas, so that the feminist novel is not as common.

It was a very interesting discussion, and Dr. Barr Ebest’s knowledge on the subject is extensive and her appreciation and affection for the topic was obvious.

It was, however, difficult at times to completely grasp the gravity of the variances between the authors’ early works and their recent work if the listener had not read the novels or was not familiar with the author.

The topic and the writers discussed were so interesting and inviting that if a person left there feeling like something had been missed, the tools were given to help them inform themselves.

A “works cited” page was available to help guide any would-be readers to the important people and texts concerning Irish Feminist works.

If any readers are interested in the subject, they can look up information on the authors listed earlier or contact Dr. Barr Ebest, the lecture’s speaker on Irish Feminist authors.

UMSL falls on the road to Southern Indiana

Riverwomen handed defeat in conference game vs. USI

By LaGuan Fuse
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen lost their 10th conference game of the season 68-52, against the University of Southern Indiana on Feb. 1. The loss drops the team's record to 5-13 and 1-10 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Riverwomen scored the first points of the game, thanks to a layup by Jennifer Martin. Katie Thiesenhusen answered right back with a three pointer for the Screaming Eagles. USI started the first half strong and took control of the game early going on a 19-6 scoring run.

The first half ended with UM-St. Louis trailing USI 39-21. The Riverwomen shot 32 percent from the field and made only one out of four attempted 3-pointers. USI ended the first half shooting 45 percent from the field and 50 percent from behind the arc.

The second half of the game started the same way the first half ended. The Screaming Eagles went on a 5-0 run but Martin scored a lay-up and then made two free throws.

UM-St. Louis was not able to battle back and regain the lead during the second half, even though it outscored USI



Jennifer Dewell, senior, forward, drives between two Oakland City defenders in an earlier game this season. Dewell recorded 12 points during the game against Southern Indiana.

31-29. Shooting improved during the second half for the Riverwomen, as they shot 40 percent from the field. USI's shooting percentage dropped as they went from shooting 45 percent in the first half to 31 percent in the second half. The Riverwomen finished the game shooting 36.5 percent while the Screaming Eagles finished with 39.6 percent.

The Screaming Eagles scored 19 points off the Riverwomen's 26 turnovers in the game. The Riverwomen scored 12 points off the 16 turnovers given up by the Screaming Eagles.

UM-St. Louis out rebounded USI during the game. The Riverwomen finished with 39 rebounds, 10 offensive and 29 defensive, while holding USI to

35 total rebounds.

Jennifer Dewell ended the game with 12 points and six defensive rebounds. Dewell shot 6-6 from the free throw line and was 2-5 from behind the arc.

Martin ended the game with 12 points and three defensive rebounds. Martin gave up five turnovers in the game and shot 4-6 from the field.

Nichole Helfrich shot 5-14 from the field and missed both 3-point attempts. Helfrich ended the game with five rebounds and one block.

Taylor Gagliano finished the game with eight points and six rebounds.

The next home game for the Riverwomen will be against UM-Rolla on Feb. 6. These two teams faced off on Jan. 27 and the Riverwomen lost 66-51.

Rivermen drop to 8-11 after losing by 22 points

By Tom Schnable
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team fell in a big way on Feb. 1, on the road at 12th ranked Southern Indiana.

The Rivermen's 83-61 loss marked the 15th consecutive season that the Screaming Eagles of USI recorded at least 20 wins in a season.

The Rivermen had problems getting out of the gate, as Southern Indiana opened up a 13-0 lead before UM-St. Louis got its first basket.

A big part of this was the holding of Great Lakes Valley Conference leading scorer Brett Ledbetter to only one shot attempt in the first half.

What offense was scored in the first half was supplied by junior Octavious Hawkins, who scored 12 of his 15 total points before the half.

At the half, UM-St. Louis was able to bring what was at some times a 16-point lead down to nine points. Unfortunately for the Rivermen, Southern Indiana

opened the lead back up to 21 points hardly five minutes into the second half.

The game was all but won with the Screaming Eagles' 13-0 start, but USI's 35-22 control of the glass also contributed to their victory.

The free throw line made a big difference in the game as well. UM-St. Louis only got to the charity stripe seven times and converted only three attempts, whereas Southern Indiana made all 19 of their 19 attempts from behind the line.

Alongside Hawkins, double digit points were put up by junior David Ward and senior Troy Slaten.

Ward finished with 10 and Slaten a game-high 17, including five of nine from the 3-point line. Ledbetter finished the game with six points on only four attempts.

Leading the Southern Indiana attack was center Rashard Sullivan, who had 26 points, and guard Melvin Hall, who had 14 of his own, combining for nearly half of the team's 83 points.

With the loss, UM-St. Louis falls to 3-8 in GLVC play and 8-11 overall, and is in serious risk of not qualifying for the conference tournament.

The men will open up a five game home stand on Tuesday as they welcome in the Miners of UM-Rolla at 7:30 p.m. at the Mark Twain Building.



Octavious Hawkins

SHORT FUSE

Basketball running out of time as finals near



By LaGuan Fuse
Sports Editor

Time is running out and the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament is getting closer, but for UM-St. Louis' basketball teams, the tournament may be slipping away.

A few weeks remain in the regular season and it is still possible to make it into the tournament. The one thing the teams need to stop doing is losing. The men's basketball team had a nice three-game winning streak, but that does not cancel out the six-game losing streak they were on before beating Wisconsin-Parkside.

There is no "I" in team, but there is in "winner" and it may be a coincidence that Troy Slaten hit a career-high 30 points in the win against Wisconsin-Parkside or maybe the Rivermen need a few more "Is." If Slaten, or anyone else for that matter, starts putting up 30 points a game, the defense will have to work harder to shut one person down, allowing other Rivermen to make shots.

I love watching these guys play, but all season I've been seeing and hearing the same thing. Something is missing. I am not sure what that something is, but with only a few games left in the season, I hope they find it before the end of the month.

When I watch the Rivermen play, I see a team trying hard to work together. I'm sure the team chemistry is great, but at times the team looks like role players instead of basketball players.

If someone is shooting from behind the arc, it's probably Slaten or Brett Ledbetter. Nothing wrong with that, they both are in the GLVC top 20 in scoring and in the top 10 for 3-pointers made. Octavious Hawkins is a great at rebounding and usually kicks it back out when he has the ball.

UMSL ROLLERHOCKEY FINISHES IN FIRST PLACE



Zach Stacy scores a goal against Washington University last Saturday. The Rivermen recorded their first loss of the season to Truman State earlier in the day. The Rivermen remained in first place as of Saturday night.

Softball looks to improve over last season's disappointments

By Molly Buyat
Staff Writer

The softball season is just around the corner for the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen and their head coach has nothing but a positive outlook on the 2007 season.

Looking back at the 2006 season and an overall 13-33 record that earned them 12th place out of 13 teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, the Riverwomen have significant room for improvement.

"We have nine returning players and eight new ones this season. It's a great feeling to actually have players who want to be here to just play ball," said Chuck Sosnowski, Riverwomen head coach.

The Riverwomen only had two pitchers in full rotation last season.

Senior Emily Wagoner was one of getting too overly confident.

"We have a lot of extra bodies on our team this year," Wagner said. "So we won't have to worry about injuries or not having any substitutes."

The Riverwomen are also getting some help on the mound this season from surrounding junior colleges.

"We have two new pitchers this year, Dana Essner and Alex Ogle, who were both All-American," Sosnowski said. "So we are all pretty excited about that."

The Riverwomen finally have strength in numbers, but they are not

getting too overly confident.

They face a tough schedule this year that includes more regional opponents and more travel, which can be tough on any player.

"We do have a very tough schedule but I wouldn't have it any other way," Sosnowski said.

"The future for this program looks absolutely outstanding so in the long run it will only make us better. We'll find out within the first two weeks how strong of a team we will be. But I am confident that we will find our place."

Wagoner has high hopes for the team as well.

"Obviously we want to make it to the tournament again, but ultimately we just want to improve from last year which really shouldn't be too difficult," Wagoner said. "We have a hard working team and we're all ready to start playing games."

The Riverwomen's first tournament is the North Alabama Tournament, on Feb. 9-10 in Florence, Ala.

With the cold temperatures that have settled into the area, it has been hard for the Riverwomen to have a good workout on an actual field.

"We have only had a workout outside for about an hour and a half, so we've had a pretty rough start as far as working out our game plan and practicing together as a team," Sosnowski said.

The Riverwomen's first home game is Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. against Olivette Nazarene.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Brett Ledbetter

Number 12 set a career-best scoring mark by dropping 42 points against Kentucky Wesleyan College. The Rivermen lost the game, 97-90.

The 6'3" senior forward also had three rebounds and two assists. He was 12-18 from the floor, and 14-17 from the charity stripe.

Ledbetter began his college career at the University of Idaho. He played high school basketball at Warrenton High School.

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Basketball

Feb. 6
vs. UM-Rolla
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 8
vs. Southern Indiana
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 10
vs. St. Joseph's (at Washington University)
9 p.m.

Feb. 15
vs. Drury
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 6
vs. UM-Rolla
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 8
vs. Southern Indiana
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 10
vs. St. Joseph's (at Washington University)
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 15
vs. Drury
5:30 p.m.

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BASKETBALL, from page 7

I really think a change in gameplan might throw off the other teams.

I think Coach Pilz should have the team mix up the shot selection and see where that takes them. What the worse that could happen, they might lose?

The Riverwomen's biggest rival this season has been consistency. Whenever they trail, they always battle back. They continue to play what Coach Hering calls "UMSL basketball."

Maybe they should try to play "SIUE or Drury basketball" because those are the top two teams in the GLVC West. I'm just saying, if a gameplan doesn't work, change it. Once again, what is the worst that could happen?

The Riverwomen have lost eight of their last nine games and the only win was against non-conference Oakland City. The win broke the six-game losing streak, but unfortunately, it was not a conference game.

From this point on, each game is a must-win for the Riverwomen. They are currently in last place in the GLVC West.

They will need to win at least five games and UM-Rolla, Rockhurst and Quincy will all need to lose a few games.

UM-St. Louis will play against Rolla on Feb. 6, Rockhurst on Feb. 17, and Quincy on Feb. 22. Winning these games is a necessity if the Riverwomen want a shot at the tournament in March.

I know that these teams can pull it together, I'm just patiently waiting.

Time is running out and now each missed shot may be the one that makes the team miss the tournament.

They need to just go out there and play one game at a time.

So much for no-pressure situations.

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL

GLVC standings:

Team Overall W L

West Division

Southern Indiana	21	3
Quincy	17	4
Drury	14	7
Rockhurst	12	9
SIUE	12	9
UM-St. Louis	8	12
UM-Rolla	7	14

East Division

Northern Kentucky	15	6
UW-Parkside	16	8
Indianapolis	11	9
Saint Joseph's	12	8
Lewis	12	9
Bellarmine	10	11
Kentucky Wesleyan	10	10

Box Scores:

February 1	1	2	F
UM-St. Louis	30	31	61
Southern Indiana(W)	39	44	83

February 3	1	2	F
UM-St. Louis	39	51	90
KY-Wesleyan (W)	48	49	97

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GLVC standings:

Team W L

West Division

SIUE	16	5
Drury	15	6
Southern Indiana	13	8
Quincy	13	8
UM-Rolla	12	9
Rockhurst	8	13
UM-St. Louis	5	14

East Division

Lewis	19	2
Northern Kentucky	15	5
Bellarmine	15	6
Kentucky Wesleyan	15	6
UW-Parkside	14	7
Indianapolis	12	8
Saint Joseph's	4	16

Box Scores:

February 1	1	2	F
UM-St. Louis	21	31	52
Southern Indiana(W)	39	29	68

February 3	1	2	F
UM-St. Louis	32	25	57
KY-Wesleyan (W)	38	46	84

ROLLER HOCKEY

GPCIHL standings:

Team W L T Pts

Division II

UM-St. Louis	10	1	1	21
Truman State	10	1	0	20
SLU	7	2	1	15
Washington	7	4	0	14
Missouri State	6	5	0	12
SIU-Carbondale	5	7	0	10
SEMO	4	6	0	8
Kansas State	1	7	1	3
Western Illinois	1	9	0	2
Western Kentucky	0	9	1	1

Box Scores:

February 3	1	2	2	F
UM-St. Louis	1	1	1	3
Truman State(W)	2	2	0	4

February 3	1	2	2	F
UM-St. Louis	1	3	3	7
Wash U	1	1	0	2

Team Leaders: Points

Player	G	A	Pts.
Adam Clarke	11	16	27
James Wetton	9	13	22

METRO PASS, from page 1

"It's a good deal, so why not?"

Wibbenmeyer said. "There were even some grad students who got a better deal where their department covered half the cost, so \$22.50 is an even better deal. It's pretty much free money."

The question now becomes whether or not funding exists to continue offering the passes. Nick Koechig, student government association president, said he hopes something can be worked out to keep the pass program in place.

"I think it's a great program," Koechig said. "We need to find ways to fund it so it can stick around."

The University has said this semester constitutes a trial period for the program, Koechig said. If the program continues to flounder, the program could be discontinued altogether.

Koechig believes some students are not aware of the program and the value it represents.

"I think it's a combination of both students not being aware and it not being publicized," Koechig said. "It's a good deal. UMSL offers the pass for \$45. Metro charges \$125. That's a good savings."

Phil Strangman, senior, music education, said he stopped using the pass when students started getting charged for them.

"I used to have one when it was free," Strangman said. "Once they started charging, I didn't go get one." Part of the problem is that students do not know much about the program, and that it actually is a pretty good value, according to Strangman.

"I honestly don't know how much students know," Strangman said. "I think if more students found out that \$45 is a lot cheaper [than what Metro charges], they'd take advantage of it. I don't know, maybe they just don't like walking."

Strangman also said that since so many students drive to UM-St. Louis, they do not even think about the pass.

"My situation was, I needed to be able to drive, instead of walking," he said.

Strangman said student apathy towards the situation even dovetails into parking permits.


"I think students are content paying \$50 for a ticket," he said. "If they get four or five tickets a semester, they still aren't paying for a \$300 parking pass."

Koechig said at this point, there is no way to change the system to a surcharge on a student's tuition. He also said there is no way to make it an added fee.

"It's so in flux," Koechig said. "We wouldn't know what would be charged."

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CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

Rudy Scoggins

"The Beauty of Nature"

I don't get vegetarians

Why's that?

They don't understand that eating animals is part of nature. Circle of Life an' sht. Animals don't care! Shoot, I think they even **LIKE** getting eaten!

I dunno...those elk run pretty damn fast on those nature shows

That's because it's a sport to them! You know, like a game

A game? Are you serious?! They look like Tim Robbins during those rape scenes in The Shawshank Redemption

...it's a very competitive game

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

SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart

SO WHAT KIND OF STORY WERE YOU GUYS WRITING?

OH, YOU KNOW. BOY MEETS BOY. BOYS MEET BOYS. DO THEY ALL DRESS IN DRAG AND GO ON ROAD TRIPS?

...MAYBE.

DUDE, YOU AND JAIME NEED TO LAY OFF THE GAY.

YOU NEED TO LAY OFF THE GAY.

YEAH! YOU HANG OUT WITH NICKY ALL THE TIME.

HOW IS THAT--

FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA LOSE MY MIND! YOU JUST KEEP ON PUSHING! MY LOVE OVER THE BORDERLINE!

BORDERLINE

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Guess Who"

Another day, another dollar huh Sparkle.

Tiffany I was not ready to come back to work after that long weekend off.

Who you tellin'.

I should play sick so I could go home early.

You ain't going anywhere Sparkle until this shop closes.

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

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IPHONE IS SO LAST WEEK

iThought

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Hopelessly behind in the score, Jack decides to soak the judges.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Diamond

Head locale

5 Taxi

8 Pub refreshments

12 Press agent?

13 Dos Passos trilogy

14 Stick in the mud

15 Languid

17 Largest of the seven

18 Pianist-com poser Erik

19 Tea Party figure

21 One-on-one battle

24 Conk out

25 Cheat on a test

28 Faction

30 Thanksgiving abbr.

33 Monokini's lack

34 Argonauts' skipper

35 Cain's mother

36 D.C. VIP

37 Anise-fla vored liqueur

38 Boast

39 Comic-strip squeal

41 Small combo

43 Topped

46 Seedy bars

50 Pelvic bones

51 Believer in perfection

11 member

10 Pennsylvania port

11 Burn

16 Romanian money

20 Mideast gulf

22 Birthright

23 "Mephisto Waltz" composer

25 "60 Minutes" home

26 Raw rock

27 "Meet the Press" partic ipant

29 Entrance

31 Eggs

32 What couch potatoes do

34 Monologue component

38 Prepared lobster

40 Cheer up

42 Mrs. McKinley

43 Movie barterer

44 Lotion additive

45 Almost here

47 Contemptible

48 Being, to Brutus

49 Dance lesson

52 A female deer

53 A billion years

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Feb. 5 - Feb. 11

Aries
March 21-April 19

If I beat you up and steal your lunch money I'll also need to borrow your car so I can drive to get real food and not eat that crap they serve in the Nosh again.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Speaking of cars ... you are seriously the worst excuse for an automobile, Taurus. My grandma drives you and she's old. Old and smelly, like moth balls and old cheese. REALLY OLD cheese.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

There's a piece of toilet paper on your shoe, haha, made you look. There is actually a bit of dog doo on your shoe, but it isn't a piece of toilet paper. I can't believe you thought there was toilet paper on your shoe.

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Your hips don't lie. They say I eat lots of doughnuts and cookies. You can practically hear them echoing like thunder when they clap together when you walk.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

I love the way your face looks all ugly and makes mine look better.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Really though, what is up with the bizarre shape of your weird head? It kind of reminds me of a walrus trying to eat a cow jumping on a trampoline. Or maybe just a tramp.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

You have truly been blessed with powers to make others tremble and cower. How do you make such odors, it isn't human?

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

I hope you're trapped in an elevator with a Libran after he or she consumes a giant beef burrito with extra beans, extra onions and a can of sauerkraut all lovingly wrapped in a flour tortilla.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

If only I could hate you as much as you hate yourself.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

That is also what happened to your dog, Mr. Fluffers, your hermit crab, Mr. Pinches, your cat, Muffin and your Paw-paw Winkleton. Murderer. If it helps any granny Winkleton died of natural causes when she was hit by a bus. It was natural because naturally that's what happens when you stand in front of a bus.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Awesome, your grandma put me in her will, she even said I was better than your grandpa ever was. At playing cards that is.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

Are you still talking, I thought you'd be fin-ished by now.

DISCLAIMER:
Maximo Predicts is funny. NOT! Maximo looks pretty in a dress. NOT! Maximo uses outdated, stupid and non-funny phrases once found amusing in conversations. Well that one is true. But dude, seriously, gag me with a spoon Maximo is so UN!

PAINTED VEIL, from page 6

As the unhappy couple struggles through their feelings, a love story unfolds against a backdrop of looming political upheaval in the midst of a deadly cholera epidemic, in a 1920s China restless under British colonial rule.

Director John Curran deserves our admiration for his excellent adaptation of unlikely material, a romantic tale set among British colonialists in 1920s China. Shooting on location in China was an inspired idea, as the visual romance of the film and the classically lovely music performed by celebrated pianist Lang Lang.

Unlike the typical Hollywood romance, this complex, multilayered story explores issues of identity, values and forgiveness, set in a then-exotic land with now-exotic social rules, where the peace of the beautiful countryside contrasts with political unrest, fear and clashing personalities and cultures. Subtext about the role of women, culture, colonialism and even spirituality color this drama where the story often goes in unexpected directions, while still keeping the characters' feelings a focus of the tale. Maugham's striking dialog, finely drawn characters and exploration of the social rules and mores of the 1920s is more modern than you expect, and make this a film to savor for lovers of drama. The intelligent dialog is completely natural, sometimes surprisingly funny, often heartbreakingly poignant or bristling with tensions, lifting the story out of its historic origins and making the couple's struggles to get to know each other and themselves a universal tale for any time.

The drama has the perfect setting with the lush photography, by cinematographer Stuart Dryburgh, of the Chinese locations. The 1920s costumes are gorgeous, as are the landscapes and colonial hotels and drawing rooms. The beauty of the surroundings underscores the layers of



"The Painted Veil," is directed by John Curran and can be seen at Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

conflict, between the couple, between the Chinese and the British, and between the villagers and the government authorities as they try to quell an epidemic. The stunning photography, shot on location in China, and lovely sets and costumes are aided admirably by a hauntingly romantic musical score by Alexander Desplat and especially by a featured piano solo of Erik Satie's Gnossienne No. 1 performed by Lang Lang.

Edward Norton and Naomi Watts are marvelous as the young couple, a brusque but dedicated doctor and his beautiful but spoiled wife. Norton is distant and cruel, vulnerable and sensitive, often kinder in his dealings with the Chinese in the midst of

cholera than with his wayward wife. Likewise, Watts is both a shallow, cold-hearted brat and a confused, scared young woman. By turns, they are appealing or repulsive to us, as they are to each other, but the actors always make us care about what happens to them. Their scenes together crackle with tension, sexual or otherwise, as they work through their hurt, anger, and miscommunications.

Their excellent, nuanced work is supported by equally wonderful performances by the other actors. Liev Schreiber oozes sexiness as smooth Charlie, while showing us this elegant, ambitious colonial official's unpleasant side. Toby Jones, who portrayed Truman Capote in last year's "Infamous," as Waddington, a

kindly but decaying rural civil servant settling into an eccentric isolation as the self-described "last white man" in the remote village. The surprising Diane Rigg, as a wise Mother Superior who runs the local orphanage, rounds out an excellent cast that director John Curran puts to good use in this well-balanced drama.

"The Painted Veil" was one of the best films of 2006, although it arrived here in January, and has garnered nominations for the upcoming Oscars. Locally, it won the St. Louis Gateway Film Critics award for Best Photography, but the appeal of the film is more than its surface. It is the perfect drama for any intelligent couple. "The Painted Veil" is now playing at Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

CREATIVE SPIRITS, from page 6

Joe Chesla, art professor at Meramec Community College, said that by having art from the faculty and students, the exhibit displayed the relationship between mentor and protégé, exploring the students' interpretations of teachings and allowing them to evaluate themselves among their peers.

"The peer group of these artists is not just inside a little classroom. It not only goes across the campus; it also goes from campus to campus," Chesla said.

"I want [my students] to understand that it adds a lot of validity. It adds a lot of confidence to what they want to do by seeing what their peers are doing. They're all questioning the same things," Chesla

said. "Students and visitors will get an opportunity to see the wide variety and scope of the work that students and faculty are doing in the programs," Haatman said. "You can expect to see many more of these collaborations down in Gallery Visio in years to come."

"Creative Spirits" will be on display at Gallery Visio in room 170 of the Millennium Student Center until Feb. 28.

The gallery's operating hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, call (314) 516-7922.

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Well, there is something akin to that in the form of "institutional liberalism."

It consists in the fact that (1) most job candidates in the humanities and social sciences and schools of education and social work tend already to come with a liberal paradigm in their orientation to their discipline based on their training; (2) any job candidate in these areas who presents a conservative point of view in a dissertation talk is more likely to offend the faculty than those presenting a liberal point of view; and (3) the nature of the speakers these units bring to campus tend to expose students to liberal ideas more than conservative ones. This is not blatant, only systemic.

The bias also manifests itself in university climates — through speech codes that, for example, ban "affirmative action bake sales" sponsored by conservative student groups seeking to protest race-based college admissions while permitting "white privilege" conferences sponsored by liberal groups — and in curricula — through

non-academic requirements in degree programs that mandate, for example, "social justice dispositions" in schools of education and social work.

One can only imagine the uproar that would occur in UMSL's Senate and elsewhere on campus if the College of Business Administration tried to mandate a "capitalist disposition" requirement in its B.S. programs!

4. I agree it is crazy to waste money on hiring another administrator to serve as an "intellectual diversity" czar, but why do we not raise similar concerns about possible overstaffing in the Office of Multicultural Relations and related "diversity" offices? Could it be too politically incorrect to do so?

I should note that I consider myself a middle-of-the-roader, someone liberal enough for the local chapter of the United Nations Association to have named me (on the 50th anniversary of the UN in 1995) "one of 50 St. Louisans who had devoted their lives to global peace and justice," yet conservative enough to have been praised by many conservative groups for my book on education.

The bottom line is that I support diversity (racial, gender, etc.) and consider it an important part of the university, but there is nothing more important than "intellectual diversity" — a diversity of ideas.

Therefore, I am inclined to give HB 213 a fair hearing before dismissing it. The law may or may not be a good idea — again, I share some of the criticisms and concerns expressed in The Current — but in any event, it does not hurt to insure students are exposed to a full range of viewpoints. UMSL strikes me as less guilty of liberal bias than many other campuses, so it would seem we should be less fearful of more scrutiny, as long as proper safeguards are put in place that assure academic freedom.

J. Martin Rochester is a Curators Professor of Political Science

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