**Parents, administrators meet about Child Center**

**Traffic, safety issues prompt gathering**

**By Ashley Cook**

Parents of children from the South Campus Child Development Center met with university officials Nov. 12 to discuss safety and parking concerns.

**Fire safety**

Robert Schuster, vice chancellor for Administrative Services, said that two new electrical fire signs on South Campus might be due to old equipment which couldn’t handle strong electric surges.

"The electrical service to this part of the campus is very old and antiquated," as this property is developed, there will be more of a demand for power," Schuster said.

As one report, a fire last month, located in the basement under the Child Center, caused an excursion of the children to the kitchen and Waterman Center.

Robert Roeseler, director of institutional safety, said the report had been turned in to the library of additional fires such as the one last month which caused a power surge that caused a minor cut to the student and was in investigation.

"We put a fuse in this occurring," Roeseler said. "I'm not sure you’re aware of, it even in your own home, even in your own home.

**Parking Problems**

People also talked about putting space for future events, when the university might be able to offer better housing for students who would draw a crowd too large for current buildings.

"I go to universities where they have buses where the students come to lecture series because "the auditoriums" are outstanding," Touhill said.

Touhill also talked about providing space for future events, when the university would like to provide more space for current students.

"I think that one never knows what's going to come, but I do have some idea how to backstop budgets so that deficits can be prevented," Touhill said. "That's something that I would like to discuss with the Board and Planning committee."

The chancellor and the University were working to minimize the theater program sometime next year, possibly in the spring.

The program was "phased out" a few years ago in a budget cut. Touhill said that there just isn’t space large enough to accommodate the present needs of the University.

Last year, I went to several events in the J.C. Penney auditoriums that were over-subscribed. You could not get into the auditoriums," Touhill said.

Touhill also talked about providing space for future events, when the university might be able to offer better housing for students who would draw a crowd too large for current buildings.

"I go to universities where they have buses where the students come to lecture series because "the auditoriums" are outstanding," Touhill said.

"There is an organization that has been founded, called the Hunger Banquet on Thursday. They took a 30-day supply of food not knowing what to expect.

**Right now, they are as a shark with no training, running waist. They have lots of beans and rice and they have rice and beans to eat." Schuster said.**

"We can't draw the tactics that we use to investigate," Schuster said. "If everybody knows what we are doing coming up with a way around it. But we are investigating."
Monday, Nov. 16
- Hunger Awareness Week Clothing and Food Drive at the U. Meadows. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- IWWS Governing Board Meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact: IWWS, 385-5511 or 6383.
- Library Research Assistance Clinic runs Monday through Friday from November 9 to November 30. Sign up at the TJ Library Reference Desk for help with research papers or projects. Contact: 5060.
- Monday Noon Series: "A Choice Model of Self-Control: Is and Ego's "Figue"", Leonard Green, professor of psychology, Washington University, presents some of his research on the choice pigeons make at 12:00 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.
- "Impact of the New York Times: Its Agenda Setting Role and Influence", a discussion with Howard French, reporter, The New York Times from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.
- Spanish Club Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in 542 Clark Hall.
- Institute of Women's and Gender Studies Governing Board meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact: IWWS, 385-5511 or 5387.
- Introduction to Weight Training, learn how to use the fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Contact: Rec Sports, 5328.
- Tuesday, Nov. 17
- Hunger Awareness Week Clothing and Food Drive at the U. Meadows. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- Life in the Spirit Seminar from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Newman house at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Contact: Betty or Dennis, 385-3455.
- Hunger Awareness Week Soup Line in the Undergraduate from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with table and T-shirt sales at U. Center Lobby. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- Poetry reading by Irish poet Ciaran Carson, poet and musician, Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the Undergraduate from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact: 5753.
- Wednesday, Nov. 18
- Hunger Awareness Week Clothing and Food Drive at the U. Meadows. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- Weight Training Programming, learn advanced training techniques to make your program work for you. Learn to use different exercise lifts and reps schemes for better results. Experienced weightlifters only. The class meets from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact: 6202.
- Hunger Awareness Week Soup Line in the Undergraduate from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with table and T-shirt sales at U. Center Lobby. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- Film: "Women Get the Vote" from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Women's Center 311 Clark Hall. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.
- Thursday, Nov. 19
- Hunger Awareness Week Clothing and Food Drive at the U. Meadows. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- "Formula Last Therapists" (This PBS special) will be shown in 229 J.C. Penney from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sponsoring the Film Club Contact: 6936.
- Friday, Nov. 20
- Hunger Awareness Week Clothing and Food Drive at the U. Meadows. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- Mr. Martin McKeon, translator of Modern Greek Literature: Reading translations from Tassos Vassilis and Nikos Engonopoulos. The reading will be in 78 J.C. Penney. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.
- Monday, Nov. 23
- Introduction to Weight Training, learn how to use the fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Contact: Rec Sports, 5328.
- Tuesday, Nov. 24
- Student Social Work Association Meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Evening College Conference Room on the third floor of Lucas Hall. Contact: 3455-3855.
- Life in the Spirit Seminar from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Newman house at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Contact: Betty or Dennis, 385-3455.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25
- Monday Noon Series: A Provocation of a Crossroads Meeting at 12:00 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney. Contact: Betty Chitwood, 385-3455.
- "What Will You Choose?" is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the sign-ups are limited. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

HUNGER A Wake for Hunger at UM-St. Louis

"Every 2.5 seconds, a child dies from hunger related causes."

March 16 - 20, 1998

Mon. - Thurs., Nov. 16th, 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Tues. & Wed., Nov. 17th & 18th, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Thur., Nov. 19th, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Look for "Fast for Hunger" canisters located in The Underground & in U. Center Lobby to donate money for "Oxfam" and "Farm of the Children" in Honduras

* Meal Plan Deductions
* Clothing and Food Drive at University Meadows

Contact
Betty Chitwood - 385-3455 (FULFILL)

This advertisement paid for by UBP, Student Activities, and The Current at UM-St. Louis
Poetic Justice

By Anne Porter

Night of Poetry" showcases UM-St. Louis talent

What is your best excuse for being late?

"I had to run from South Campus.

-Scott Horne

Jr./EE/Comp Sci

"My best excuse for being late is

that my car ran away and I had to go catch it.

-James T. Hellmich
Financial Aid/Music Education

"I was down for a short time at a

parking lot and when I got back,

my car wouldn't start.

-Stephanie Crawford
5th year/Communication

"I got caught in traffic.

-Stephenie Dooley
Financial Aid/Accounting

"I missed the shuttle bus and had to walk from South Campus.

-Lauren Kurt
Freshman/int. Business

Campus Color

stories of cure-all approach to life. The inner selves. Like most good goals, hidden qualities, opportu-

nities, challenges, cycles of life, career, romance and mortality.

A faculty member begins to tell a story or to explain something about a certain topic. The first few sentences are called preface or introduction. The main body of the essay is divided into several paragraphs. Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence, which states the main idea of the sentence. The supporting details are then presented in the body of the essay. The conclusion is the final paragraph of the essay, which summarizes the main points and draws a conclusion.

In poetry, the rhythm and rhyme schemes are important. The structure of a poem is different from the structure of an essay. Poems have a fixed number of lines and follow a rhyme scheme. The rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhymes at the end of each line. For example, the rhyme scheme of a poem might be ABAB or AABB.

In writing poetry, it is important to use figurative language such as metaphor, simile, and personification. Metaphors compare two things that are similar in some way. Similes compare two things that are alike in some way. Personification is when a non-human object is given human qualities.

Poetry can also be divided into genres such as sonnet, haiku, free verse, and haiku. Sonnets have a strict rhyme scheme and a fixed number of lines. Haikus have a fixed number of lines and a strict syllable count. Free verse is poetry that does not follow a strict rhyme scheme or syllable count.

In conclusion, poetry is an important form of artistic expression that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Poetry can be written about a wide range of topics such as love, nature, history, and politics. Poetry can also be used as a tool for social change and as a way to express difficult emotions.

In this essay, I have discussed the different types of poetry and the basic elements of poetry. I have also discussed the importance of figurative language in poetry. Finally, I have provided an overview of the history of poetry and its influence on contemporary culture.

Overall, poetry is a powerful form of art that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Poetry can be used as a tool for social change and as a way to express difficult emotions. Poetry can be written about a wide range of topics such as love, nature, history, and politics. Poetry is an important form of artistic expression that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds.
Open discussion about the Performing Arts Center focuses on financial concerns

The Issue:

Can UM-St. Louis and the surrounding community realistically support the Performing Arts Center?

We suggest:

The Performing Arts Center will have a better chance of surviving if it can fit into the already established campus and nearby cultural community and be made to work.

So what do you think?

Let us hear from you. Contact us at this or any other issue in a letter to the editor.

Guest Commentary

Time to Think Again

When a classmate told me she had studied for three hours the previous night—uninterrrupted—I was more than a little envious. It seems that the study routine she had started working on the previous day and I had adopted a few years ago—though it was a good routine—had become dull over time.

I enjoy studying, but I have a hard time staying focused for more than two hours. I often find myself losing interest in the material and becoming distracted. I have also noticed that my classmates and I tend to drift away from the assigned reading and lose focus. I have considered changing the study routine I have been using, but I am not sure how to proceed. I am concerned about the impact this may have on my academic performance and overall well-being.

I believe that it is important to have a routine for studying, but I am not sure if my current routine is working well. I want to continue studying, but I also want to ensure that I am staying focused and engaged. I am considering making some changes to my study routine, but I am not sure where to start. I would appreciate any advice or insights on how to improve my study routine.

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Applying excuses

Excuses, excuses. Many students have had the experience:

There was no one in the room. I had to wait for the next classmate to finish. The teacher was not interested in what I had to say. I was too tired to continue. My mind was elsewhere. I didn't have enough time.

I don't have a lot of free time. I have a lot of other responsibilities. I really need to get this done, but I don't have the time.

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Women's b-ball to face tougher conference play

By Joe Markas
At the Commerce

The Riverwomen basketball team is looking to take another step forward in the NSIC playoffs and to impress upon last year's 54-12 overall record. Getting over 500 lost was the first step in Head Coach Kelly Eldridge's rebuilding process. This year the expectations are much higher, said. "We definitely have a better squad, but since we moved to a conference game schedule it may not reflect how much better we are," Eldridge said.

Though the tougher competition may not be the Riverwomen with an overwhelming win-loss record, Eldridge believes that the tougher competition will help the team in the long run. "You don't want to go to war and not play very competitive teams," Eldridge said. "You start to get complacent when you don't know what it is you're playing against and when you start being lackluster." The Riverwomen have a simple team goal - to get into the conference tournament, preferably in the top-four slot.

Assuming this goal will be tough achieving for the Riverwomen only have four returning letterwinners from last year's squad. The four returning letterwinners are Melodie Mary, Kristin Logan, Lindsey Belford, and Angela Stewart.

Mary was the Riverwomen's leading rebounder and shot blocker last year. Logan was close behind Mary in rebounds and had improved her overall game. With more consistent shooting from Belford and Stewart, the Riverwomen should have a solid nucleus of players familiar with Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

The Riverwomen should also contribute heavily. Two freshmen should contribute considerably at point guard and when Tawanda Daniels gets into physical condition she will be looking to take the place of Annesha Beatty. Beatty was one of the key players from last year's squad. She did return this season. Eldridge feels though that the team has what it takes to replace the players that left the program.

"I could easily go on about every player on this team," Eldridge said. "We have depth at every position, but there are a few things we need to get past. We won't lose anything if we go out there and hang in."

In the benefits of the team depth is that Eldridge said "We have more than six at every position."

"I've always had a problem getting height. This year we have four six-foot forwards."

The Riverwomen also feature the talented player in the GLVC, 4' 9" Jennifer Lithander, a senior, comes from Minerva, Ohio.

With the addition of Eldridge will get just the defensive battle to give the team in the team's game plan. "Definitely in whatever we do," Eldridge said. "It's not necessarily what we do, but we do have, but it's certainly something we try to take pride in."
The oldest library west of the Mississippi is now housed on the UM-St. Louis campus in our very own Thomas Jefferson Library

by Anne Porter

Staff supports

The Mercantile Library was located at 510 Louisa Street in downtown St. Louis, but because of a decline in usage the library moved to the UM-St. Louis campus. The Mercantile Library is now located directly below the Thomas Jefferson Library on the North Campus.

John N. Hoover, a director at the Mercantile Library, explained the decision to a shift in the way students, teachers, and cultural center patrons have come in and out of one area. Many of these cultural centers have been located near colleges and universities in the St. Louis area to allow greater accessibility for the people. One example of this is the Art Museum. According to Hoover the "overall reason was to channel rich research collections."

Many proposals were considered, but UM-St. Louis was the most enthusiastic and showed the most potential for future developments with abilities such as Internet access. By moving, the Mercantile has been allowed more room to expand the collections more access and security, and the combination of a shared location with the Thomas Jefferson Library.

The growth occurs in two ways: archival and donations in fields and strengths. Hoover said, "donations—many things—from the greatest collections come that way." He described this in more detail by adding that donations allow "greater definition of subject strengths."

Hoover has also met with many faculty and staff members and has discovered that there is an interest to develop some of the lesser collections. The "interest of faculty and students" it seems enough to grow for the future. Two professorships have been created through Hoover of the Thomas Jefferson Library in addition to the amount of endowment.

In order to provide modern and faculty with a place to study, the Mercantile has matched the heart of the general library and may in the future possibly look at adding a staff to help the library areas.

One of the most interesting areas of the Mercantile Library is the rare book room reading room. One book that can be located there is the New England Primer that was printed in Worcester, Mass. It is one of the oldest textbooks printed in America. The first textbook with arithmetic, worn of the Mississippi, was printed in 1820 St. Louis, and this book can also be located in the rare book reading room.

In addition to very old books, the Mercantile also has general sections of literature including an in-depth collection of New York born authors. According to Hoover there is a "very old" tradition with older books as well as new. Some of those older documents are included in the Wayman collection which is compiled of early St. Louis City Documents from maps to memorabilia from the 1904 World's Fair. This type of collection is just a part of one of the main themes of the collection which is travel and depth of this region. Many early American periodicals and early 19th-century American poetry are also included in this theme. By Charles E. Brown, a reference librarian at the Mercantile, to the community to come and use the facilities to [their] heart's content. "The Mercantile is the oldest library west of Mississippi and because of this they do have quite a massive collection of open stacks. These open stacks are much more accessible to the general public. Inclusively, the Mercantile collection is a cross section of books people from cities other than St. Louis.

This same collection was looked at by U.S. Grant when he was president many years ago, who also attended the Mercantile. Sherman's descendant even decided to write his book about the Civil War and many artifacts to the collections. The Mercantile includes in its collection a bust of Henry Shaw, who was the owner of Shaw's Garden. The collection also possesses a bust of Henry Shaw, who was the owner of Shaw's Garden. The collection also possesses a bust of Henry Shaw, who was the owner of Shaw's Garden.

TOP RIGHT: The West Wind Statue by Thomas R. Gould in 1872. It was a gift to the library.

TOP LEFT: A railroad signal from the John W. Bartler III Railroad Collection.

BOTTOM LEFT: Library Clerk Elizabeth Baron reshelves books in the rare book vault.

MIDDLE: A first edition of The Glass Menagerie on display in the Cultural Cornerstone Exhibit on level 1.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Reference Librarian Charles E. Brown displays an original photo of an early Cardinals player from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat collection.

Photos by Stephanie Platt of the Current staff
UM-St. Louisan loses bid for state representative seat

In October 1997, Kuban began running for the state representative seat while attending UM-St. Louis and working for the Missouri Federation for Fair Campaigning. In August of this year, upon his graduation, he took a leave of absence from the campaign and began his campaign full-time.

Both candidates seemed surprised by the level of hostility and blame each other for the loss of the campaign.

This year was too manyname camps on both sides, Kuban said. "I suppose I should have been more active, but I don't think I should have been any more active."

Kuban's supporters wanted to see more activity, but he thought it was too much for him to do. He thought it was better to focus on his campaign instead of trying to do everything at once.

In the future, Kuban plans to run for a different office. He is considering running for a state senate seat or a state house seat.

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TOUHILL, FROM KUBAN
"Out was the closest race between an incumbent and a challenger."

Kuban, 24, lost his bid for the South County council that his father holds. "I'm disappointed because we've got the students to do on music, theater, art, and math."

Kuban said that the campaign was an incredible learning experience for him and that he honestly doesn't know what he will do next. He is considering running for a different office in the future.

Kuban said that in the future the athletic program would be built up to improve the draw of students to this campus, but that "under her watch" she would change to be more successful. For music, theater, art, and communications, Touhill said that she wouldn't look to simply meet the amount of students needed for space, but that she was looking to the future.

Kuban said that she was going to give a vision of a building that our students can come to, where they can listen to music, watch a play, and they can listen to the symphony.

Touhill said.

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The Current

November 16, 1998

Movie Review

Tired stereotypes ruin promising ‘Shadrach’

Shadrach

Open: Oct. 5 at Plaza Promenade; Running Time: 80 min

Based on a short story by William Styron, Shadrach is directed by Susannah York from a screenplay that she co-wrote. The story sounds like a thoughtful drama about prejudice, family and humanity.

The story is told through the eyes of 10-year-old Paul, whose pleasant but busy life is well-ordered, well-behaved only child of a respectable upper-middle class couple in the 1930s. South is darkened by his mother's illness.

Through the eyes of 10-year-old Shadrach, a 90-year-old farmer, who comes to live with the request that he be buried on the Dabney’s plantation, where he was born. The old man is gentle, feebly, and childlike, with a supreme confidence that his request will be granted, especially after he assure’s that he’s Dabney, too.

What happens after this requires a great suspension of disbelief. The Dabney’s retain certain stereotypical stencils, but the story is told without much discernable comedy or charm.

The behavior of the Dabney’s and Paul’s parents seems accurate for this time and place, and no explanation is given for their targeting actions.

Amazingly, Paul’s parents decide to leave him in the Dabney’s care while they attend to some out-of-town family business, concentrating only that the Dabney’s have fallen on hard times.

Clearly, there was a kernel of a good story in this film, and there are even some poignant scenes centering on Shadrach, but the film is squashed in large part by the insistence on these stereotypical characters and their lack of believability.

-Catherine Marquis-Honeycutt

Music Review

Lynyrd Skynyrd is a welcome blast from music’s past

Lynyrd Skynyrd’s Finest

Rock/MCA-Records

It would be a major understatement to say that Lynyrd Skynyrd played a role in ‘70s music. Tomcozy was one of the top bands of the time.

On the recently-reissued debut album Skynyrd fans can hear what made them one of the top groups for over a decade.

This isn’t one of those reissues that makes a quick buck, but fans are there to enjoy enhanced sound and several early recordings of the group’s greatest hits including “Freebird.”

-Dan Dunlap

IN MANY COMPANIES IT TAKES YEARS TO PROVE YOU CAN LEAD...

We’ll Give You 10 Weeks.

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‘Life is Beautiful’ is well worth the subtitles

Robertino Benigni (left) and Giogio Cantarini in ‘Life is Beautiful (La Vita e Bella)’

The Italian work Life is Beautiful is the film that will win the Oscar for best foreign film. It has been a long time since anything so moving, so well written, and so powerful has been shown in a movie theater. It is by far the best film of the year. It would stand long in time. It is words paying half its price. It is well worth seeing multiple times.

The film tells the story of an Italian Jew, Guido (Robertino Benigni), and his method of normal during one of man’s bleak periods, the Holocaust. Yes, this is not a depressing documentary. Nor is it disrespectful to those now and forever, the concentration camps. It is rather a story about a desire to live only for yourself but also for the ones you love.

The beginning of the movie is quite different from the second half. It is light and luminous. It follows Guido to the Tuscan town of Arezzo where he attempts to open a bookshop. In the meantime he works as a waiter for his uncle. On the way into town he meets his ‘princess’ Dora (Nicoletta Braschi). He wins her over with his dancer moust and charming words. The hour is as good as written and acted, and it is impossible to do justice to it by summarizing it.

Guido is very similar to Charlie Chaplin. He is a clown with a soft heart that is capable of milking the audience. He finds true love from her fascist dance at their engagement party. He rides in on a white horse. The deed was vandalized by a bloodstained hoodlum, but a suitable forebode of the events to come at Guido and Dora ride off at the end of the concentration camp. It is really a story about a desire to live only for yourself but also for the ones you love.

The music is so rich and televisi o n. (F latle y show. ) But the show is also a wonder­ DS, but the show is also a won­...

December 17-20, Loews St. Louis can be reached for information about upcoming per­...

The Thyme Table Cafe in Ferguson For All Your Holiday Catering Needs. 

The Thyme Table Cafe in Ferguson For All Your Holiday Catering Needs. Stop by the Thyme Table Cafe while you’re out doing your Holiday shopping and while you’re there talk to Chef Paul Savage about catering your next Holiday party. From small intimate gatherings to office parties to banquets up to 100 people, the Thyme Table Cafe will give you the excellent food and service you need to make your party special.

The Thyme Table Cafe 108 Church St. $21-0440 (In the heart of downtown Ferguson.)

The Way of Light & Wonderland Tour Thursday, December 3rd, 3:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Christmas Lights in Alton’s Rock Springs Park)

The movie is as good as written and acted, and it is impossible to do justice to it by summarizing it.

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The City of Ferguson’s Parks and Recreation Department offers the following holiday events:

THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT JUBILEE Saturday, Dec. 5th, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at January Wabash Park

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Simple lifestyle changes can prevent stress-related illnesses in students

BY COURTNEY JASON

special to the Current

With the fall semester drawing to a close, college students are more likely to suffer from stress-related illnesses in greater numbers. This is true in large part because of the added academic and extracurricular activities. In order to combat such ailments and keep one’s health in balance, the UM-St. Louis Health Services is offering tips for students to stay well and survive final exam week.

University Health Services Administrator Nancy Magnuson described how higher levels of anxiety affect students’ health. “When you’re under more stress than usual, it takes its toll on your body. The overall illness might not appear right away, but it eventually catches up with you.”

Magnuson also said that freshmen are more likely to respond to illness because of the adjustment to a new environment. “Coming to college is a total change and freshmen aren’t necessarily used to their new freedoms. They’re still trying to establish a routine and don’t always take care of themselves properly,” she said.

Many UM-St. Louis students complaining of illnesses are suffering from fatigue, anxiety, loss of sleep, and digestive complications. Magnuson suggests that students make lifestyle changes to prepare their bodies for coming stressors. Some tactics such as avoiding caffeine, walking outside for ten minutes, and taking deep breaths can be easy ways to reduce one’s chances of becoming sick. Magnuson encourages students to engage in activities such as theater, playing music, and dancing.

“Tackling a break from your responsibilities and having fun is a good way to relieve tension,” she said.

Health Services is offering dental clinics on how to deal with ongoing stress. Counseling is also available for those who are feeling extremely overwhelmed. Magnuson emphasized that people should take preliminary steps when dealing with stress so that it will not have negative effects on their bodies.

— Staff Column

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Department of Music

presents a performance by

Christopher Slater

Cameron Diaz

Very Bad Things

The University of Missouri-St. Louis

Department of Music

presents a performance by

UM-St. Louis student participates in ‘Opera for Youth’

By Amy Lombard

Staff Writer

Every year the Opera Theatre of St. Louis partners together as Onstage for Young People at the Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA). This year, one UM-St. Louis junior was able to be a part of it.

Robert McNichols, a junior at UMSL, is majoring in music performing arts and is also a part of the on stage crew. McNichols began playing the cello nine years ago, the year before he started the sixth grade. At Normandy High School, he played in the St. Louis Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Missouri All-State Orchestra.

"I didn't even imagine when I was 10 years old that I'd be doing what I'm doing right now," McNichols said.

As a part of the Missouri All-State Orchestra Festival, McNichols was offered tips for the upcoming season at COCA. COCA is geared towards children and is rare that a high school orchestra would participate in an opera.

McNichols began to speak about the upcoming opera "Joshua's Boots" and how the program was put together. "[It] is set in the year 1857," McNichols said. "It follows a young man from Tennessee to St. Louis to join his brother. He is also looking for adventure and begins to speak about how he became interested in opera."

"The opera 'Joshua's Boots' was the first opera commissioned for young people," said Allison Felter, the director of education at COCA. "We've been offering tips for the upcoming season at COCA, and this is the first time that we've had an opera specifically for the young audience."

Joshua's Boots takes place 15 years after the end of the Civil War. Joshua, played by McNichols, is a young man forced to flee from his home in Tennessee to Kansas. "I love to have to find a life for myself, and it turns out to be the life of a cowboy, thus, 'Joshua's Boots,'" McNichols explained.

The productions are set up as a test-run for the general public, Felter said.

"Based on what we learned this fall, we'll make a few adjustments and present it to the UM-St. Louis Residential Life Office. He is also working hard on his major, vocal and instrumental education and performance. McNichols does have some problems, though. He would like to have more performance and that's why he's here. He hasn't been able to focus on or watch any recordings of the productions."

"What you sound like on the stage is what you actually sound like on the stage. There are two totally different things, and that's scary because I don't have a clue," McNichols said. "On the inside of my head I hear that I'm singing the right pitch, and that's it."

When McNichols was asked about the upcoming season at COCA, Felter said, "On average, we find our-works, but it wasn't impossible not to notice his deep, distinctive voice the moment he began to speak.

"It's a big thing, a big break for me," McNichols said. "I'm only 20 years old and singing in the lead role in an opera with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis."

"I'm coming to UM-St. Louis to study music performance as a major, and that's what I've always wanted to do," McNichols said.

"I'm coming because of the musical programs here at COCA. It was my singing ability. "There would not surprise most people who have met McNichols. It's almost impossible not to notice his deep, distinctive voice the moment he began to speak.

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Post-Dispatch investigative reporter speaks to UM-St. Louis students

**Movie Review**

*I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*

RATED: R  
RUNNING TIME: 96 minutes

For those of you who are fans of the hit movie *Scream*, you are aware of "The Rules" that were established and define the reasoning behind what happens in horror movies. *Scream* said it as the sounds come and the bodies drop. This idea is at the core of the original. *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer* does an excellent job of proving this point.

Julie James (Jennifer Love Hewitt) returns in *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer* now as a college student still haunted by what had happened to her and her friends two summers ago. Julie is struggling to get on with her life but her friends refuse to let her go. She allows them to relax with the girls as they pretend to be a trip to the beach. However, they come to realize the killer Bill (Wesley Jonathan) is on the island. This makes their vacation anything but relaxing.

**Spring Break schedule**

Wrong in student guide

The correspondence is as follows:

- *Spring Break 1999* officially began at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 21 and classes resume again at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 29.

Beeler is assured that no similar problems will arise because the next student guide is "the only date that is incorrect."