



Meet UMSL student Abdul Bah, who came to the United States with only \$200 and a desire to succeed.

See page 3

INSIDE

SGA gets large turnout for first 'real' meeting

BY JOSH RENAUD
senior editor

It only took two tries. In its second, but first "official" meeting, the Student Government Association had more than enough Assembly members present to elect its executive officers and discuss several important issues.

Jeff Lewis was elected Assembly chair, Michelle Roth was elected treasurer, Michelle Senkeric was elected secretary, and Shaun O'Hara was elected parliamentarian.

At the previous meeting, there weren't enough representatives present to achieve a quorum, so SGA President Ryan Connor decided to keep it "informal."

Connor distributed copies of the proposed SGA constitution and asked for representatives to serve on a committee to make final revisions to the document.

"We can't vote on [the constitution] at this meeting, so we'll have to form a committee," he said. "Make no mistake, this committee will move very rapidly. It will be two weeks or less before we have it ready."

Several representatives asked if it would be necessary to change the Student Court section of the proposed constitution. Earlier this spring, administrators stripped the court of its responsibility to handle student traffic ticket appeals—a duty which is spelled out in the current constitution.

Connor said he intended to try to

convince the administration to return that responsibility to the students.

"I don't know exactly how long a road that is to go down," he said after the meeting. "That's something we need back, something students need to have control over, I feel."

Comptroller Ayo Olson added that while the traffic ticket appeals responsibility was important, there were other more pressing matters.

"There's so much other stuff that is more of a priority right now, like the constitution, which is right here in our face," she said. "That's something we need to get done now."

Administrators indicated after the meeting that they were open to at least discussing the subject.

"I'm not at all for stepping in and taking over, but sometimes things happen to get things back on track with students," said Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs. "I'd be open to revisiting the issue with students. I don't know how Administrative Services or the higher-level administration feels. For myself, I'd be open to discussion."

The SGA officers also announced at the meeting that the Student Court justices appointed this spring had been relieved of their duties. Connor explained after the meeting that he had sent letters to each of the justices thanking them for their service and notifying them that their terms had ended effective the first day of classes

see SGA, page 12

Riverwomen set to host GLVC tourney game

Behind a great month of October, the Riverwomen's soccer team has secured the third seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament and plays host to either St. Joseph's or Indianapolis at Don Dallas Stadium this Wednesday.

See page 5

BRIEFS

An open invitation

In celebration of the grand opening of the newly redecorated Alumni Center, the entire campus community is invited to attend a reception from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to tour the center, preview upcoming events, and talk with the staff of Alumni Relations over coffee and pastries. For more information, call Donna Carothers at 516-6453.

The hallowed in Halloween

A Catholic Mass for the Holy Day Feast of All Saints will be celebrated Wednesday at noon in room 126 of the J.C. Penney Building. Attendance is open to anyone. Call Reverend Bill Kempf at 385-3455 for more information.

In the mood for something a bit more civilized?

Take in an evening of fine music when the University Orchestra plays Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Marillac Provincial House on South Campus.

If you're looking for something a bit livelier, the University Jazz Ensemble will play Thursday evening starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Wing of the Marillac Provincial House.

Exploring the undiscovered country...



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Robert J. Dyckman lifts his sword during a memorable scene in 'Hamlet.' Dyckman played the title character. The show was performed by the National Shakespeare Company and put on by the University Program Board. You can read more about the play on page 6.

Curators hope to improve classroom communication with new policy

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

On Oct. 19, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri met in Columbia to discuss the Language Proficiency Exam. The LPE focuses upon a professor's ability to communicate effectively with his or her students in the English language. This issue was brought to the forefront in 1999, when a campus-wide survey was conducted on teacher-student relations. The feedback received showed that many students were having difficulty understanding their professors. In some cases, the problem was said to be augmented by foreign-born professors who apparently had a difficult time expressing themselves properly in English.

When the meeting in Columbia had concluded, a new Instructional Communication Policy was implemented to combat this growing problem, called the Employee Conduct Instructional Communication Policy #330.090 (see sidebar).

Doug Durand, interim vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, believes that proper communication in the English language is important, and supports it. However, he also feels that the entire matter is far more complicated than just proficiency in

English. "This whole matter might very well be beyond the scope of being able to communicate in English properly," Durand said in a telephone interview. "Students may have trouble understanding a particular professor because the subject matter may be very complex, or they (the student) have not properly prepared themselves for class."

Durand said he is not entirely convinced that all the problems of communication can be squarely laid at the feet of foreign-born professors.

"On one of the surveys, a student wrote that they had a foreign-born professor, and after a couple of weeks they became used to it, and everything was fine after that," Durand said. "In addition to this, some of the professors and teaching assistants who had complaints filed against them were born and raised in the United States. Some were even natives of Missouri." Durand concluded by saying that the issue was going to be looked at very carefully because of its complexity.

One group that is pleased with the new policy is the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, or ASUM for short. Josh Stegeman, a member of the four-person board here

see LANGUAGE, page 12

WHAT THE POLICY SAYS

In order to promote effective communication between students and academic personnel involved in instruction, the Chancellor's of each campus shall oversee the implementation and continued observation of the following:

1. All department chairs working with their academic deans must certify that the English proficiency of regular faculty is sufficient to communicate understandably with students, prior to a regular faculty member, being assigned to teach an undergraduate course, except for foreign language, elective, or special arrangement courses such as individualized instruction or independent study courses. The department chair may certify English proficiency based on individual interviews, the assessment of other members of the department, or feedback from students.
2. All non-regular faculty, including but not limited to instructors, lecturers, adjunct and visiting faculty, must provide evidence of English proficiency, prior to teaching an undergraduate course, with the same exceptions as above.
3. All department chairs working with their academic deans will develop appropriate programs or activities to improve faculty communication, including English proficiency, in response to unsatisfactory ratings in student evaluations and student complaints.
4. Students will be notified each semester on their enrolled courses statement who to contact to report communication problems with a faculty instructor. It is recommended that this information also be provided on other means of written communication, such as course syllabi.
5. Chancellors, at the request of the President, shall forward their current campus policies, procedures, and programs regarding faculty communication, including English proficiency, developed to implement this regulation.

Assessment Center helps test-takers

BY STEVE VALKO
special to The Current

Whether UMSL students know it or not, a great service is offered to them to help with the special needs of test taking - the Assessment Center.

"We've been open for three years now," says Helen McDonnell, director of the Assessment Center. "And it has taken a while for students to know that we're here."

The services "are for students who need extended time [on exams]. Or for students who have missed

make-up exams from professors," continued McDonnell.

To get the process started, a student must initiate communication with the professor. After getting the make-up test set up, the student must also make an appointment with the Assessment Center. This service is free of charge.

The Assessment Center gives specialized exams as well. "We give such tests as the Academic Profile, Math Placement, or SCAT, which students can take as a group. But if they want a quiet, secluded setting, they can take it [at the Assessment

Center] for a small fee."

For Math Placement Tests, SCAT, Academic Profile, and Major Field tests, the fee will be \$5; ACT Residual and CBASE tests are \$10. It should also be noted that these payments need to be made ahead of time at the cashier's office in the Millennium Student Center. Students need to bring the receipt in order to test in the Assessment Center.

When a student takes a test at the Assessment Center, he or she should also bring along two pencils with them. All other testing materials, such as calculators, are provided by

the Assessment Center. However, students taking the ACT Residual and CBASE should call for a list of what specific calculators are permissible for the test.

The Assessment Center is located at room 412 SSB. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Friday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The phone number to contact the Assessment Center is 516-6396. For the most up-to-date information about testing, students may visit its website at www.umsl.edu/services/cad/aclink.htm.

Touhill remains lowest-paid UM chancellor

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

Chancellor Blanche Touhill remains the lowest-paid chancellor in the UM system, even though her salary has been increased by 3.7%, which brings her pay to \$172,660.

Touhill "is very comfortable with the compensation," said Bob Samples, director of University Communications. "It's consistent with the average raise given to faculty on the campus."

The increase became effective Sept. 1, months after Manuel Pacheco, UM System president, issued a schedule of salary adjustments for the vice presidents, chancellors, and staff members of his administration to the Board of Curators.

Both Touhill and Pacheco were out of their offices and unavailable for comment at the time this story was written.

UM-Columbia Chancellor Richard Wallace's pay was increased to \$204,540 plus an additional \$25,000 for housing. Recently appointed UMKansas City Chancellor Martha Gilliland's pay was increased to \$175,000, plus \$21,000 deferred. Newly appointed chancellor of UMRolla. Gary Thomas, starting pay was \$190,000, which also became effective Sept. 1.

In a July meeting, the Board of Curators voted unanimously to increase Pacheco's salary 24 percent, after evaluating his performance. The jump in pay increased Pacheco's salary from \$201,400 to \$250,000.

"Overall we felt that President Pacheco was doing a fantastic job," said Hugh Stephenson, president of the Board of Curators.

Stephenson said that Pacheco was hired at a salary that was lower than the average pay of Big 10 and Big 12 universities. Pacheco's salary is still in the lower third, he said.

Marvin Wright, Board of Curators attorney, also received a pay increase, from \$165,400 to \$200,000.

Wright "was also at the low range

see PAY, page 12

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	11
The Nerd Table	11

Bulletin Board

Monday, Oct. 30

Inherit the Wind-Reflections on the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis Production. The Rep's director of Education, Marsha Coplon, and other Rep staff and members of the cast explore the personalities, atmosphere, and surprising facts about the Tennessee trial the play is based on. It will run from 12 to 1 p.m. in Room 229 J. C. Penney. For more information call 5699.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Anima, a Brazilian music group, will perform in a free concert from 12 to 1 p.m. in the New Millennium Student Center. The group combines the exuberance and richness of the Brazilian culture with the traditions of African, Aboriginal and European music. The concert is sponsored by Premiere Performances, the Center for the Humanities and the Student Activities office. For more information call Premiere Performances at 5818.

All Saints Day Vigil Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge Road, located across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Women's Health, sponsored by the Women's Center. Clinical Assistant Professor, Susan Kendig, of the UMSL Nursing School presents the latest information on the health issues concerning women frp, 12 to 1 p.m. in Room 126 Millennium Center. For more information call 5380.

Campus Crusade for Christ will hold their weekly Metro meeting so that students can come together for worship, teaching and fellowship. The meetings will run from 8 to 9:15 p.m. at Covenant Seminary. If you need directions to Covenant, check their website for more information at www.cccstlouis.com or call Julie at 6901.

All Saints Day Mass will be held at 12 p.m. in Room 126 J. C. Penney. Call the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 for more information.

Chamber Orchestra will perform from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Marillac Provincial House Chapel on South Campus. Call 5980 for more information.

Soup and Soul Food, a simple meal

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Erin Stremmel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

and time for prayer, meditation and reflection, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church, 8000 Natural Bridge Rd. Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. All are welcome and for more information call Chris Snyder at 409-3024 or Roger Jespersen at 385-3000.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo Concert will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 150 Villa Wing of the Marillac Provincial House. For more information call 5980.

Depression Screening Day, presented by Counseling Services. Free and confidential depression screenings will be offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Millennium Center Lobby, at Counseling Services, 247 SSB and between 4 and 5 p.m. in the Marillac Hall Lobby.

Friday, Nov. 3

Physics Colloquium presents "Eurtwo and Three Terminal High Power Deviceseur." Professor Dimitris Pavlidis, University of Michigan, Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will speak. Sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the colloquium will run from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 328 Benton Hall. Call Alice Canavan at 5933.

Soup with Sister will follow Mass at 12:05 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center. Call 385-3455 for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 4

Catholic Mass will be held at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

October 22, 2000

A person trespassing into Lucas Hall was arrested as a wanted fugitive from the City of Moline Acres.

October 23, 2000

Staff at 154 University Center reported that between Oct. 20, 2000 at 5 p.m. and Oct. 23, 2000 at 9 a.m. an IBM laptop computer was stolen.

At 5 p.m. an act of vandalism was discovered at university-

owned property at 8505 Geiger Rd. The residence had graffiti sprayed on the outside walls.

A student reported that sometime between 6:15 and 9:15 p.m. unknown persons attempted to steal his auto which had been parked on the South Campus Lot "W". Entry was gained into the auto by breaking out a door window. The ignition switch was also damaged.

October 25, 2000

A student reported that a window on her car was broken out, while the car was parked on the second level of Garage "N". Nothing was taken from the car.

Staff at 154 University Center reported that a Hewlett Packard scanner was stolen between Oct. 23, 2000 and Oct. 25, 2000.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UMSL Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

Look What's Brewin' In Ferguson!

The Corner Coffee House

- Cafe & Bakery Goods
 - Soups, Salads, Sandwiches & Pastries
- Daily Coffee Blends
- Espresso Bar
- Exotic Espresso Flavors
- Specialty Drinks



Free Internet Access! Ask about our Conference Room for Business Meetings & Small Gatherings!



Stop by for a quick morning caffeine fix or relax on the patio with an espresso night cap. The Corner Coffee House is the place to meet friends, family and business associates or just the perfect end to any day!

100 North Florissant Rd.

(314) 521-4600

30-40K First Year

Account Executive

The Riverfront Times, part of the New Times, Inc. family of metropolitan newsweeklies, seeks career oriented, college grads for high potential positions in advertising sales. Average earnings after three years is \$65,000+. Top performers can earn \$100,000+.

Management opportunity for high achievers in this growing national publishing firm with operations in ten major markets. College graduates seeking a career in sales and management are encouraged to respond. Compensation package includes salary/commission, medical/dental/disability/life insurance, 401K, plus more.

Please fax your resume to: (314) 615-6720.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE HORSE WHISPERER" AND "A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT"

WILL SMITH MATT DAMON CHARLIZE THERON

A ROBERT REDFORD FILM

THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE

SOME THINGS CAN'T BE LEARNED. THEY MUST BE REMEMBERED.

DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENT A WILDLWOOD/ALLIED PRODUCTION A ROBERT REDFORD FILM WILL SMITH MATT DAMON CHARLIZE THERON "THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE" WRITTEN BY RACHEL PORTMAN COSTUME DESIGNER JUDIANNA MAKOVSKY EDITOR HANK CORWIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER STUART CRAIG DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL BALLHAUS, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS BRIGHAM JOSEPH REIDY PRODUCED BY KAREN TENKHOFF EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN PRESSFIELD PRODUCED BY ROBERT REDFORD MICHAEL NOZIK JAKE EBERTS SCREENPLAY BY JEREMY LEVEN DIRECTED BY ROBERT REDFORD

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com

Official The Legend of Bagger Vance website at amazon.com www.amazon.com/baggervance

OPENS NOVEMBER 3 EVERYWHERE

The Current

- Josh Renaud • Editor-in-Chief
- Brian Douglas • Managing Editor
- Inshirah • Business Manager
- Al Bawazeer
- Judi Linville • Faculty Adviser
- Tom Wombacher • Advertising Dir.
- Prod. Associate

- Darren Brune • Photo Director
- Anne Porter • Features Editor
- Dave Kinworthy • Sports Editor
- Catherine • A&E Editor
- Marquis-Homeyer
- Erik Buschardt • Web Editor
- Dana Cojocar • Business Associate
- Marcelus Chase • Ad Representative
- Mutsumi Igarashi • Photo Associate
- David Baugher • Prod. Associate
- Erin Strommel • Prod. Associate
- Violeta Dimitrova • Copy Editor
- Theresa Autry • Proofreader

Staff Writers:

- Nick Bowman, Charlie Bright, Sarah T. Clark, Tony Pellegrino, Rhashad Pittman, Tim Thompson

8001 Natural Bridge Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63121

- Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
- Advertising • (314) 516-5316
- Business • (314) 516-5175
- Fax • (314) 516-6811

campus: 388 Millennium Student Center
 email: current@jinx.ums.edu
 website: <http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates available upon request. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the editorial board. All material contained in each issue is property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the expressed, written consent of The Current. First copy free; all subsequent copies, 25 cents, available at the offices of The Current.



Come On Down Come On Down Come On Down

UMSL student wins on 'Price Is Right'

BY SARA MUELLER
staff writer

"Rebecca Ambrose, come on down. You're the next contestant on 'The Price is Right.'"

This is exactly what Rebecca Ambrose heard when she attended the game show "The Price is Right" this past July.

After being a devout fan for years, Ambrose decided last March to go to California for the chance to be on the show. Along with Janis, a friend from work, she flew to Los Angeles, where she stayed with another friend, Nick.

Before going to Los Angeles, Ambrose spent two marathon weeks preparing for the game.

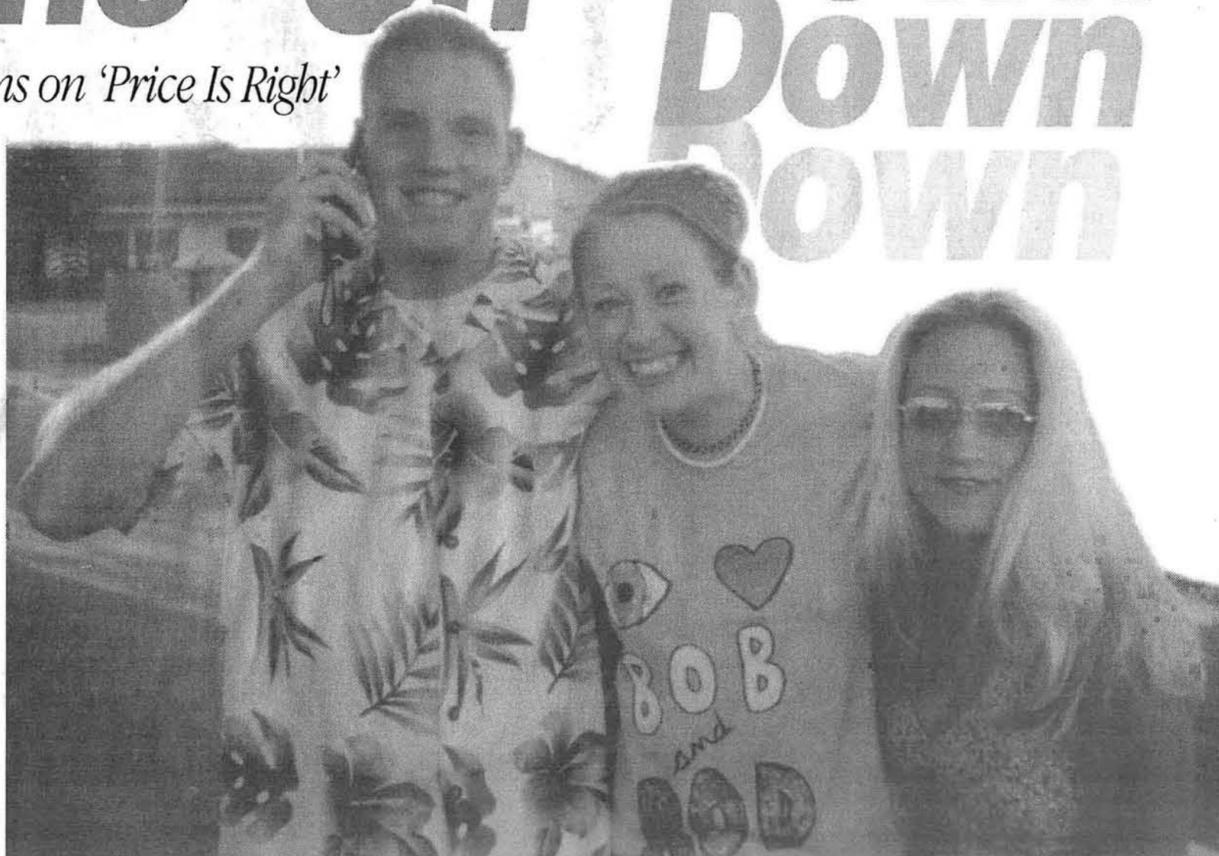
"They have a lot of the same prizes. I also knew how to play all the games," Ambrose said.

While they were there, they did some sightseeing and went to a Dodgers game. The highlight of the trip, though, was on July 19 when she attended the game show.

They arrived at the show at 6:30 a.m. Although they had reserved tickets, the show only takes the first 325 people to arrive. Once they got their seats, they were able to leave for a break.

At 10:30 a.m. they had to return to fill out paperwork and go over the rules of the show. Then they left again. The last time they came back it was 2:30 p.m. for the actual show.

Before the show, each person was interviewed. They wanted to know where the possible contestants were from, why they were there, and any other unique background information. This is how they really pick the contestants. The most energetic and excited people make it on the show. They also prefer younger people, or people in uniforms or special shirts.



Rebecca Ambrose, center, poses for a picture with two friends outside the studio where "The Price Is Right" is filmed.

Ambrose was more than excited, and her personality won over the judge. She even came equipped with a shirt that said, "I (eye) love (heart) Bob and Rod."

Ambrose was the first contestant to be chosen after the initial four. When her name was called, her friends did not realize it was her and they did not get out of her way.

"Halfway down the aisle I thought 'I hope they called my name.' I was so excited that I wasn't even sure if they called my name," Ambrose said.

She bid too low in the first round for a picture, but she won on the second round when she bid on a vibrating sound speaker chair.

Next Ambrose played a game called "Ten Chances." In this game she had to guess the prices of three different items using ten different numbers. She correctly matched all the numbers with the correct items and won a cutlery set, a gentlemen's chess, and a silver 2001 Chevy Tracker.

"Bob was trying to distract me

while Rob was describing the items. I tried to check everything out, but the lights were causing a glare and I couldn't see very well," Ambrose said.

After winning her game, Ambrose spun 75 cents on the wheel and advanced to the final round. In the final round, both contestants over bid though, and no one won.

"This guy really hooked me up: I was supposed to get a 2000 Tracker, but he gave me a 2001, and let me pick the color," Ambrose said.

Now that some of the excitement is dying down, Ambrose plans to sell the Tracker at a dealership and buy another car with the money. With the leftover money she plans on taking her brother and sister on a cruise. She did get recognized a few days after the airing of Oct. 17.

"I was at a Blues game helping the Sigma Pi Fraternity and these guys called me over. They had recognized me from the show and they wanted my autograph. That was really weird," Ambrose said.



Abdul Bah

Darren Brune / The Current

Student Profile

Student escapes chaos, civil war

Liberian comes to U.S. after harrowing journey

BY DAVID BAUGHER
staff writer

Abdul Bah knew he was in trouble when the young man with the gun asked for six feet.

"This is a kid, like 14 years old, who ordered me out of line and demanded to know what's my tribe, and I had to tell him 'No, I am not what you think I am,'" Bah said.

It was then he was asked to step backward.

"The kid was like 'Gimme six feet. You are lying,'" Bah said. "You make sure you are close to the gun, close to him, because he doesn't want to shoot you until you give him six feet. You don't want to die, so you say 'No, I don't want to do that.'"

Bah, now a senior majoring in MIS at UMSL, can relive the experiences of the civil war in his native Liberia as though it were yesterday, especially the day a decade ago, when he was separated from his family, while pleading for his life on a desolate highway outside the west African nation's capital of

Monrovia.

"In 1990, the rebels entered the city," Bah said. "They took us out of our homes and told us to walk about ten miles on this highway . . . walk westward . . . you just go . . . no possessions . . . nothing, because they strip you of everything you have in this world."

Along the way, people with certain tribal affiliations were pulled from the line by gun-toting teens.

"If you're not lucky, they shoot you," Bah said. "They killed people that were in front of me."

Tribal affiliation was one excuse for roadside murder, but not the only one.

"If they see that you are kind of hefty or healthy, then they say that you were part of the government, making all the money," Bah said. "If you speak good English, then it's 'Oh yeah, you know too much. You're the one who was going to school when we were suffering in the villages.'"

When Bah was pulled out of line, his family could do nothing but keep walking.

“

You make sure you are close to the gun, close to him, because he doesn't want to shoot you until you give him six feet.

-Abdul Bah
UMSL student

”

"Your family does not stop to talk to you," Bah said. "They move on because if you stop, you wind up being killed."

He would not see them again until after the war.

Bah grew up in a close-knit family, in which education was important. His mother was illiterate but still had ways

see BAH, page 9

NEWSLETTERS

EDITOR

ANNE PORTER

features editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

QUOTES

"I have seen the future and it's like the present only longer."

-Dan Quisenberry

Credit: www.quotequotes.net

"Ambition is a poor excuse for not having sense enough to be lazy."

-Charlie McCarthy

Credit: www.quotequotes.net

"Those who flee temptation generally leave a forwarding address."

-Lane Olinghouse

Credit: www.quotequotes.net

Beginning to look a lot like Xmas . . . now?



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

Halloween may be next week, but Christmas decorations have already been on sale since August.

My general attitude toward preparing for the holidays is not to think about them until after Thanksgiving. The rest of the world, at least the retail portion, does not seem to agree with my idea of proper Christmas shopping madness time.

The time span during which Christmas decorations do have a special section in a store seems to become shorter and shorter. Actually, I think that one day, there will no

longer be an off-Christmas shopping season.

People will say things like, "Yeah, we know that Easter is tomorrow, but hey, Christmas is just 267 days away. I better start wrapping gifts tonight."

At one time, a cycle existed. This cycle began with the time around Thanksgiving, maybe a week or two before. Stores such as Target, Famous Barr, and Walgreens usually begin to sell Christmas novelties at that time. Then, the items would be on sale until just after Christmas, when everything not sold would be on clearance.

One thing to keep in mind - I am

24. This means I can remember about 20 or so years back with some detail and accuracy.

Then, it seemed that the time to begin Christmas indulgences kept getting earlier and earlier. At first, about six years ago, all the cookie tins and snowman candy jars came out just around Halloween. I know this, because I stocked them on the shelves when I worked for Schnucks.

Then stores began to play the various renditions of "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls" just after Halloween, but at least they waited until Halloween was over. This hap-

pened about four years ago.

One holiday season I decided to work for Famous Barr. I had the suspicion that this may not be such a wise idea. And I was right, because they gave me a discount. With this discount, I could buy gifts at a sale price, decreased even further.

I spent far more than I made. So, even before the holidays were over, I quit and paid off my credit card.

Now, as I discovered when I was fall-clothes shopping in August, the stores have already built and stocked entire Christmas sections.

The really disturbing part about

this is that people are beginning to accept this as normal.

My brother has already started Christmas shopping.

About three weeks ago, my mom asked me if I wanted to make Christmas candy to give to people as inexpensive, but elegant and thoughtful gifts.

Do I think anything will change about this in the near future?

No, but at least, when I am doing the last-minute-five-seconds-to-closing-time shopping, no one else will be there, standing in line in front of me.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL BOARD

JOSH RENAUD
BRIAN DOUGLAS

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

LETTERS

MAIL
The Current
8001 Natural Bridge
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX
(314) 516-6811

EMAIL
current@jinx.umsl.edu

Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

OUR OPINION

SGA President upholds dignity of student court

There is something to be said for playing by the rules. Freedom is glorious, but boundaries define, and in adverse times, those boundaries help us maintain some idea of who we are.

SGA certainly knows adverse times, and one of the last things it needs to do right now is throw the constitution out the window and start making up the rules as it goes along. But if the unexamined life is said unworthy of living, an unexamined constitution is not worthy to be followed, and those who are quick to cry that SGA needs to play by the rules ought to give a second thought to what a patchwork mess they are holding up to us as a basis of authority.

Last week, in a very bold move, SGA President Ryan Connor released the current slate of student court justices in preparation for the appointment of a new court. Some were quick to cry foul, saying that the term of the court as set forth by the constitution was one year. And strictly speaking, this is true. But if you read on, the constitution also mentions the appointment of justices throughout the year to fill vacancies,

which is exactly what happened in the spring. Some have argued those justices should then serve a one year term until next spring. The constitution does not make a specific reference to how the terms of mid year appointees should be handled, but it is our opinion, after reviewing the document, that the intent was for the court to be appointed once and operate for a uniform term length. Any mid term appointees would be serving on a kind of interim basis for the remainder of the year, at which time a new court would be appointed for another year.

Some of the folks protesting this are wolves in sheep's clothing; anyone with an objective memory of what happened in the spring can tell you it was some of the dirtiest politics this campus has ever seen, and we are not impressed when those same wolves in their muddled sheep hides want to hold up that whole process like some kind of golden model of justice. We commend Connor for having the courage to follow the spirit of the law and do what was best for student government on this campus.

The issue:

SGA President Ryan Connor released current slate of student court justices causing a minor stir of protests.

We suggest:

Connor is acting in the best interest of the SGA and the student body by discharging the student court's members. He should be commended for his actions.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind.

LETTER

Positives found in second look at age limits

Yep, the attitude towards alcohol in the United States of America seems utterly silly to me. Consider, after all, that the drinking age in most Canadian provinces is 19. And, for that matter, until maybe twenty-five years ago (maybe less than that?), 18 was the prevailing drinking age in the USA. Only because of Federal laws for highway funding did most states move up to 21.

Consider the practical implications of setting the drinking age at 18: *Eliminating the stigma of that portion of what is now 'under-age' drinking, which occurs between 18 and 21; *Largely mooted the current concerns about FERPA regulations on the UM campuses, since very few students are under 18;

*Possibly relaxing regulations on the serving of alcohol at campus events; and *Increasing the prospect for a pub on campus, which would certainly be good for student life on a campus like UMSL's.

On this last point, my experiences at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, might be instructive. The drinking age throughout South Africa is 18. On campus, there is a bar, called The Barn. Admittedly, UWC has a larger residential student body than UMSL (about 3,000 residents out of 9,300 students at UWC). Still, it is a majority commuter campus, serving a mostly working-class black population. The Barn is a natural meeting place

for students, throughout the day in fact. It helps, of course, that the beers served at the Barn are quite inexpensive, even by South African standards.

Yes, there is alcoholism, and people do stupid things like drinking-and-driving. Even now, those occur among the UNDER 18 population in the U.S. with disturbing frequency. But if 18-year-olds may serve in the military AND have the right to vote, why not let them have a beer too? Why is 21 such a magical figure?

-Joe Frank

Student offers more advice for new SGA officers

The Student Government Association administration is supposed to follow democratic principles in its operations. That includes following its constitution and bylaws until they are changed. However, telling the Student Court its term is over before having a replacement court is clearly a violation of the SGA Constitution and its bylaws.

The Student Court, as stated in the SGA Bylaws serve a term of one year, "consisting of the fall, winter, and summer semesters", once approved by the Assembly. Last school year, the Student Court was not approved by the Assembly until

the Jan 20, 2000 meeting. Therefore, unless a justice vacates his or her office, he or she is supposed to have a term that last until the January 2001 SGA meeting. However, SGA President Ryan Connor is accepting applications for all court positions, telling the old justices that their term expired in August.

This is not what the Constitution and Bylaws says on the subject. Normally, at the start of each academic school year, a new court is approved by the Assembly. However, the Assembly only approved an interim court at the September 1999 SGA meeting. A real court was not approved until

January 2000. Therefore, those justices have the right to serve until January 2001.

The SGA administration needs to read the present constitution and bylaws in order to operate the organization. Those rules have to be followed until a new constitution is approved by the Assembly, the students and the administration.

-Steven M. Wolfe

What's your opinion?

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Campus Issues forum on thecurrentonline.com

Halloween cancelled in favor of "Josh day?"

The end of October is always a little weird for me.

There are two big events at the end of October, two events that people everywhere await with baited breath: Halloween and International Josh Day.

I've never participated in Halloween. I was raised in a Christian family, and my parents didn't like the way the holiday celebrated all things dark and demonic. So, we never celebrated it. It was one of those things that make you stick out as a kid.

But I'm not a kid anymore. I'm now passing from childhood and adolescence to full-fledged adulthood, or so they tell me. Oct. 29 is my birthday, which I call "International Josh Day" for no particular reason.

I suppose at this point in life, many people choose to shed the traditions, religions, and rules they were raised under. I know many folks do that during adolescence.

Me? I don't intend to change much. I've enjoyed the traditions of my family. We're quite unusual in a lot of ways. For instance, before every meal we pray and then together we all say "I love you" in three long, drawn-out syllables.

Growing up, my friends and even

some of my more distant family members didn't know what to make of that ritual. But I can't remember ever eating dinner without doing it, and I like the message. It's important for family members to affirm their love for each other.

So I'll keep doing it.

What about the Halloween thing? I'll keep doing that, too, because I agree with my parents. I believe there are better things that we as humans could be celebrating. I like the holidays that make us think about valor and sacrifice (Veteran's Day), love (Valentine's Day), God's blessings (Thanksgiving), and so on.

But for now, I've got bigger and better things to think about. "International Josh Day" is coming soon, although festivities will have ended by the time you read this. This is one tradition that definitely won't die—every member of my family gets to choose their favorite birthday meal and birthday cake.

If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that you can't beat chicken-fried cube steak with roast potatoes, white gravy, green beans, and coffee cake.

Maybe it's not so weird a time of year, after all.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Direct outburst deposits irate feeling

You know, I really haven't had much occasion to write a really scathing column this year. I get the idea that people expect journalists to be a bunch of angry activists intent on going after the faculty and administration, but it's been fairly quiet around here so far, and with the exception of a few controversial pieces, most of my columns have been pretty tame. Frankly, I was beginning to worry that people would think I'd gotten soft. But no need to fear; a few days ago someone did something incredibly ignorant, so now I've got something to sound off about.

Last week a friend and I went to pick up our checks. Once again we were reminded to take care of the paperwork for the change-over to direct deposit. Now I don't really like the new system, but it is projected to save a lot of money, and there are other individuals out there who feel very strongly about it, so I will leave that issue to them. What really incensed me was the way the secretary acted when my friend asked what would happen if one did not have the appropriate paperwork completed by the deadline. Instead of giving some reasonable answer, the secretary became INCREDIBLY rude and spouted a lot of vague, hateful statements at us, as if it was inconceivable that we, who are obviously some scum-like algae which the University benevolently tolerates, could POSSIBLY have the gall to question anything the University did.

Now for journalists being nosy is not a fault or a privilege; it's a responsibility. So I dutifully pressed the question. The secretary remained evasive, never answering us, but

instead saying the University hoped it would not have to address such a problem.

I guess it's time for a little reality check. To all of those sincere student advocates out there in the ranks of faculty, staff, and administration (and there are more of them than one might think), cover your ears; this is not directed at you. To the rest of you, let's get one thing straight. The University exists because of students. It is here to serve us, and we

pay you for that service. And since the people of this country have made education one of their priorities, taxpayers, both local and nationwide, also pay to keep this place in existence. UM-St. Louis is not some ivory tower which miraculously appeared and we are privileged to attend. It grew over the years, and that growth is tied to its student base.

I really don't enjoy saying this. Students trot out the old line "I pay your salary", way too often, and I do realize that other groups on campus have their peevish, too. The staff are utterly vital, and don't get anywhere near enough credit. The faculty bear the burden of maintaining academic excellence in both teaching and research, meanwhile the administrators have the headache of dealing with all the rest of us. The University would not function if any of those elements were removed, and I don't want to belittle anyone's position. But once in a while the campus needs to stop and remember that without students, there would be no University. New buildings are great, but a little courtesy will do more to make this place look good than all the aesthetically pleasing new buildings that money can buy.



BRIAN DOUGLAS
managing editor



Angie Tarkington
Department Assistant/Study Acts

I really don't pay attention when its on the news. It doesn't really interest me!



Maryana Mondzeleuska
International Student from Ukraine

I really don't pay attention when its on the news. It doesn't really interest me!



Svetlana Podolshik
Senior/Psychology

I am sick of hearing about the problems in the Middle-East. They have been fighting for a long time and the fighting needs to stop. Cease fire!



Zechariah McCain
Junior/Marketing

I think such conflicts are becoming more and more common in todays living. We boast about economic prosperity and domestic stabilization, but little is ever said of the constant political neglect on the part of our elected officials concerning foreign disputes and issues.

Under Current

by **Mutsumi Igarashi**
staff photographer

What do you think about the conflict in the Middle-East?

Hosting their first-ever tournament game at UMSL, the Riverwomen should feel

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

RIGHT AT HOME

Behind a great month of October, the Riverwomen's soccer team has secured the third seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament and plays host to either St. Joseph's or Indianapolis at Don Dallas Stadium this Wednesday.

This marks the first time since the Riverwomen entered the GLVC that the UM-St. Louis women's soccer program has hosted a game.

"You definitely always want to play on your home field," Goetz said. "It is less travel and you hopefully get some fans depending upon what time the game is. It is tough right now because in our preparation, we don't know who we are facing and neither does anybody else. We are just trying to focus on some things that we need to improve upon. Until we find out for sure who we are playing, we are just going to get together and improve production and work on putting some balls in the net so we don't have to have these quite so close of games."

When it came down to either facing St. Joseph's or Indianapolis, Goetz and the Riverwomen have no preference come tournament time.

"They are both good teams," Goetz said. "I am not quite really sure if we

have a preference. St. Joe will definitely be a tough match for sure because we played very well against them. They will definitely be putting up a fight. They are both good teams and Indianapolis was a tight game for us last time."

With facing a good team in either St. Joseph's or Indianapolis, the Riverwomen will rely heavily upon the blossoming goaltending abilities of senior Meghan Kenney.

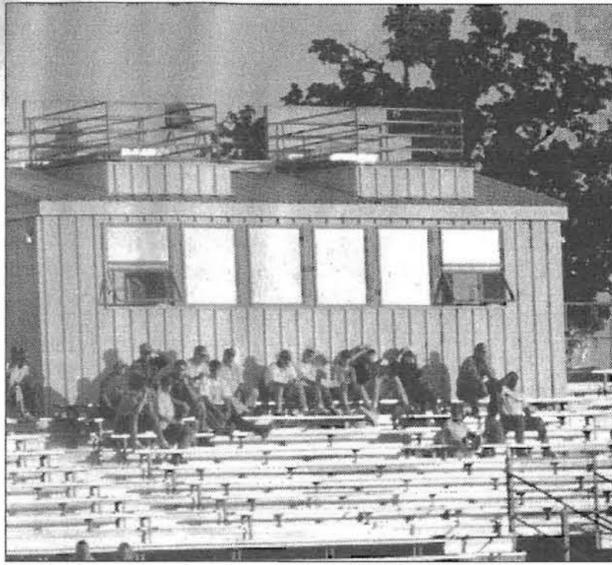
Kenney, who shut out both Southern Indiana and Quincy in two key conference matches two weeks ago, was named the GLVC Women's Player of the Week. During the two games, Kenney recorded 16 saves for the week. In her six appearances in goal this season, she has compiled a record of 3-1-1 and has only allowed five goals in those six appearances.

"She has stepped in and has done a great job," Goetz said. "The team really plays strong in front of her. Her work ethic has been tremendous and she has come up big for us a few times. She is good with her feet, which they use her a lot as a kind of a support

player, and she just keeps getting stronger and stronger. She is doing well in the air and well in the corners. We are going to go the distance with her."

In the month of October, UM-St. Louis was undefeated in conference play with a stellar record of 5-0-2. With the strong surge in the last month of regular season play, the Riverwomen seem to be coming together in time for the conference tournament.

"The team has really gelled and come together all at the same time," Goetz said. "They work really hard and I think that sometimes, you know we have more talent this year than we have in the past, but it also comes down to a mixture of personalities, and this team has got a lot of character and they have worked hard. They are enjoying winning the past few games and winning tight games. We are all anxious and excited about finishing third, and definitely hoping that we will definitely do some stuff in the next few weeks."



Darren Burne/The Current

A group of UMSL fans watches a soccer game earlier this fall at Don Dallas Stadium. The Riverwomen will host a game in the GLVC tournament this Wednesday.

Soccer R-men break through goal drought, hope to break loss streak

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

For the first time since Sept. 15, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen's soccer squad has broken its drought. No, they didn't win, but at the 15:09 mark of the first half, Riverman Tim Besmer scored his first goal of the season and the first UM-St. Louis goal since the victory against Northern Kentucky.

Coming into the game, the Rivermen were looking to take advantage of the Quincy defense. The Eagles backfield has been ranked among the lowest in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, while UM-St. Louis has been in the top five.

"We feel that we may be able to finally break the ice now," said first-year Head Coach Hannibal Najjar. "We've been in the middle of two big droughts—we haven't been able to score and as a consequence haven't been winning."

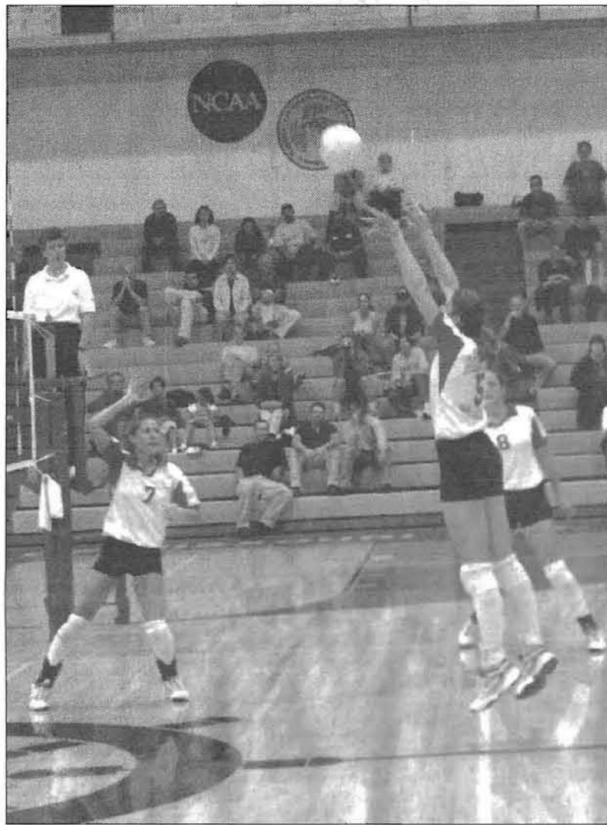
Quincy would strike first when Dave Musso put a ball past Rivermen goalkeeper Kevin McCarthy at the 4:00 mark. McCarthy would end up letting five of seven shots hit the back of the net. Besmer's goal, which was fed by Paul McKee, was the lone UM-St. Louis goal of the night.

Quincy star Matt Vollink would score the first of his three goals towards the end of the half to end scoring at 2-1.

Musso would strike again in the second half, directing a shot from Rory O'Donnell past McCarthy at 66:32 and Vollink would nail the coffin shut with two goals in the final minutes of the game to defeat the Rivermen 5-1.

In the game previous to the Quincy matchup, the Rivermen dropped a 3-0 decision to Southern Indiana University. McCarthy faced 9 shots on goal and 29 on the night, while the UM-St. Louis offense could only fire off four shots to their credit.

After the loss, the Rivermen finished Great Lakes Valley Conference play with a 1-8-1 record and will not qualify for the conference tournament. Their final match of the season was against Lindenwood University.



Darren Burne/The Current

Michelle Hochstatter tosses the ball over the net in the win last Friday over St. Joseph's.

Riverwomen push past St. Joseph's, fall to top seed

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

The Riverwomen split a pair of games in their latest homestand, steadying their overall record at 11-11 overall and 5-6 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The first match of the stand, against 1-9 St. Joseph's, was much closer than expected, with the Riverwomen dropping the first set 15-7. After the initial shock, the Riverwomen, guided by the double-figure kill performances by Melissa Frost, Holly Zrout, Gretchen Duffner and Michelle Hochstatter, rebounded to push St. Joseph's to rally point in the third set and eventually snatch the win in the fourth set 15-6. Duffner also contributed on the defensive side of the ball racking up 10 digs.

The final contest pitted UM-St. Louis against top-seeded IUPUI-Ft. Wayne, who incidentally is not eligible for this year's GLVC tournament, despite their standing.

In the opening set, the Riverwomen played IUPUI close,

dropping a hard-played match 10-15.

The second game was not so close, with UM-St. Louis falling quickly 15-5. The Riverwomen would attempt a rally, but could only muster 12 points in the third and final game to lose the contest in straight games.

Offensive struggles seemed to keep the Riverwomen out of this one with the team unable to have success with less than 20 percent of their attacks and only one player, Duffner, hitting double digits in the kill category.

The Riverwomen will take their show to the road for their next three contests, with matches against Kentucky Wesleyan, Bellarmine and at Quincy to wrap up their final road contest. UM-St. Louis then returns home to finish the season at home Nov. 3 and 4 against Southern Indiana, the top seed in the Green division and SIU-Edwardsville. Southern Indiana is also ranked in the top 10 in the region while UM-St. Louis stands at 7-7.

Schaub expects great year for hockey

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

When Head Coach Derek Schaub first came to UM-St. Louis, he was not at his current position of the head coach for the ice hockey team. The year was 1992, and Schaub was a scrappy skater for a fairly young program.

"I had a great time when I played here," said Schaub. "I played alongside Gregg, (Gevers, the current assistant coach at UM-St. Louis) who was at the time the no. 1 player in the St. Louis area."

After that season as a Riverman and a short stay in 1993, Schaub left college to pursue a career.

"I left school after that season to make a living, doing the thing that I loved—playing hockey," said Schaub.

His first stint was with the Tampa Bay Tritons of Roller Hockey International. After the team folded in 1994, the 23-year-old from McCluer High School moved to Victorville,

California, where he enjoyed two successful seasons as a player-coach for the Rattlers on the Pacific Coast. After that, Schaub hopped around Arizona, playing semi-pro in Tucson and Phoenix before wrapping up his career as a player in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Around that time, Schaub began to realize that there was more to life than the sport he loved. Players in the leagues were younger, stronger and faster every year. Also, he had found a new love.

"My wife Kelley was from St. Louis," said Schaub. "I realized that if we wanted to raise a family, we needed more stability in our lives."

So, Schaub moved back to the "Gateway to the West," where he took up a job as a league director and eventually became rink manager at Hockeytown, USA. He never could get hockey out of his blood.

His long time friend Gevers had been coaching the Rivermen for a few years. He and Schaub had played

hockey together since their youth, and during a roller hockey game, Gevers asked him a favor.

"Gregg had been coaching the Rivermen for a couple of years, but needed some help on the defensive side of the puck," said Schaub. "We talked about it and before too long, I found myself behind the bench."

After the '98 season, Gevers had to take a leave to raise a family and Schaub found himself in the driver's seat the following year.

"I kind of inherited Gregg's team and immediately got to work," said Schaub. "The biggest adjustment was recruiting, something that I soon learned was not nearly as easy as it looked."

At UM-St. Louis, the school only fronted a portion of the bill for the team. The rest is paid for out of fundraisers and from players pockets. Landing top-notch recruits we turning Schaub down due to the lack of perks. Also, three of his players were academically ineligible for the second half

of the season.

But guys like Craig Duffy, Ben Gilbertson and Ryan Craig stayed. Fresh faces like Jeff Wear and Steve Hewken came and before long, the team had a stronger attack than most NCAA teams.

"The guys that come here, I have a lot of respect for," said Schaub. "They truly come here for the love of the game."

In his first year, Schaub's team qualified for the national tournament, but had to decline the invitation due to a lack of healthy players.

This season, however, has the potential to be one of the best in UM-St. Louis history. The team has yet to lose a game this year, and again is averaging more than five goals a game, while allowing few shots on goal.

"This is without a doubt the most talented team to wear the Rivermen jersey," said Schaub. "This should be a great year."

Double-dose of New York kills interest in Series



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

With the World Series of New Yorks finally over, the world can now finally rest, sarcastically speaking of course.

The Yankees and Mets series was one of the all-time worst matchups in Major League Baseball history. The teams attracted no interest at all from the outside world. When I speak of the "outside world," I am talking about all of the things that go on outside the city and state of New York.

With two teams from the same city in the World Series, it limited the amount of viewers right off the bat. This series could be compared to if

the Cardinals and the Kansas City Royals went to the World Series in the same year. People from Missouri and maybe Kansas would care, but nobody else would have any desire to actually sit down in front of their television and watch a boring nine-inning game with two teams from the same geographical region.

It is not that the Mets and the Yankees did not deserve to go to the World Series, it just would have been preferred if they did not go in the same year. The Yankees have been to the World Series and won too many times and their budget that they spend

on players shows that other teams cannot compete with the likes of the pin-stripes.

Maybe the World Series was even more boring than just the two teams in the match itself. It could be the result of what I call the "I hate the Atlanta Braves" syndrome. When I say this, it means that I am so bored with watching your team play that I will instantly turn the channel and even watch the Juicemaster on television rather than the pathetic game that you are playing. When you see the same team lose in the Braves' case or the same team win in the Yankees'

case, it just plain and simply gets old.

I want to see a new team in the World Series and the Mets were that this year in baseball. Now if only the Seattle Mariners could have defeated the Yankees, then the series would be viewed in a totally different respect. The Mariners are not a team that the media and baseball viewers are used to seeing in the World Series and it would draw even more attention with the offseason trade of Ken Griffey, Jr.

The Mariners are not one of the best teams in baseball, but the uniqueness of the team would at least draw some attention that the Yankees and

Mets did not draw in the past 2000 World Series. A little twist here and some new faces there would be all that was needed to ensure that the rating at least stayed somewhat favorable for baseball.

Instead, you have the same Yankees squad winning another championship, while their city does not celebrate like the fans would have say in Seattle or even in St. Louis. The fans in New York and Atlanta are spoiled and it is time for their dynasties to end now.

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

sports editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

GAMES

Women's Volleyball

v. Southern Indiana

7:00 pm, Fri., Nov. 3

at SIU Edwardsville

1:00 pm, Sat., Nov. 4

Men's Soccer Season Wrapup

Overall 3-14-1

GLVC Conference 1-9-1

Women's Soccer Season Wrapup

Overall 10-7-1

GLVC Conference 8-2-1

Basketball

Watch for Men's and Women's season schedules coming soon.

A&S

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
a&e editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

MOVIES

November

3

"Billy Elliot"
"Red Planet"

Charlie's Angels
The Legend of Bagger Vance

St. Louis International Film Festival Nov.3-12
(at the Tivoli, Hi-Pointe, and St. Louis Art Museum)

10

Men of Honor

17

Bounce

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Rugrats in Paris
Original Sin
The Golden Bowl
The 6th Day
Requiem for a Dream
You Can Count on Me

18-19

Rashomon (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
400 Blows (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

22

Unbreakable
102 Dalmations

25-26

400 Blows (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
M (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

December

2-3

M (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)
Viridiana (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

8

Vertical Limit



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

THEATER REVIEW

Hamlet repertoire visits campus



ABOVE: Laertes (Ryan Quinn) confronts Hamlet (Robert J. Dyckman) about the death of Polonius.



TOP: The skull of Yorik left on stage by the gravedigger. BOTTOM: Hamlet, center, with friends, Guildenstern (Ryan Quinn) and Rosencrantz (Jennifer Lee Dudek).

Comedy delivers light to Hamlet tragedy

BY DEREK SPENCER EVANS
special to The Current

The National Shakespeare Company presented a rather different production of Hamlet at the J.C. Penny Auditorium on October 27, sponsored by University Program Board and the Office of Student Activities.

"Hamlet" is a tragic tale of murder, lies, incest and the demise of a family as written by William Shakespeare about five hundred years ago.

Shakespeare's plays are subject to different interpretations. Directors take the dialogue, stage directions and scene descriptions, and fit them into their own vision of the play. Different productions have shown different interpretations through the years. In the National Shakespeare company's production of Hamlet the characters' portrayals were comical, making light of the tragedy.

Robert J. Dyckman's portrayal of Prince Hamlet stood out because of the humor he maintained while showing the prince's slow decent into madness by his facial expressions, gestures and the delivery of his dialogue.

Another standout performance was Jason Guy as a foolish Polonius, counselor to King Claudius. Guy played his part with broad gestures, deep bows and facial expressions that made Polonius come off as baffoonish. His performance was very good and made him an audience favorite.

Guy performed multiple parts, among them the cheerful gravedigger, where the comedy of his lines was made more amusing by his hairstyle: a ponytail that stood straight up.

Other actors in the company also played multiple roles, including Tom Evans as King Claudius and the Ghost of King Hamlet; Jesse Hawkes as Horatio and an actor for Prince Hamlet's play exposing his uncle's and mother's plot to kill his father; and Jessica Bates as Ophelia and Prince Fortinbras of Norway.

The setting was a bare stage with a black curtain as the backdrop, keeping the focus on the actors' performances. This was good and bad because it showed both the strengths and weaknesses of the actors, and at times some of the performances seemed forced, as if they were trying to hard to get a point across. There

were a few other problems. The costumes had a few rough moments. There were phony-looking beards and mustaches sported by different actors several times during the play. In some places throughout the production, the incidental music ended too abruptly. Elsewhere, the music didn't seem to fit the scene or add to the drama.

There was also a thematic inconsistency. Dyckman's early performance was highly comical, but after the intermission the mood waxed tragic, with the only humor coming from Guy as Polonius and the gravedigger.

"Hamlet" is revived regularly in the theater throughout the U.S., and a film remake appears about every ten to twenty years—so comparisons to previous versions are easy, which is the inherent danger of performing any Shakespeare play, not just "Hamlet."

Traditionalists could find fault with the National Shakespeare Company's comic interpretation. But performance flaws and interpretive differences aside, the production was entertaining because of the good performances of actors like Dyckman, Guy, Evans and Bates.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Delmar Lounge offers poor service, food temperatures

BY DEREK SPENCER EVANS
special to The Current

The Delmar Restaurant and Lounge is where one of my best friends and I went for my birthday. Since the establishment is relatively new, I thought it would be a nice place with good food and service. Wrong. We were there for more than two hours, not by choice. The service was rather questionable because we were consistently ignored by our server, but when we did have service, our servers were friendly. We sat in the first booth by the door but our server stayed toward the back of the dining room and the host served our food instead of our server. Tables were set up on the outside, and there

were people who were waited on, served and left in the time it took for us to order, get our food and pay to leave. The same happened inside toward the back of the dining room; we almost left without paying before we got our food. Later, we were told they were short handed and the chef had not arrived. It sounded like an excuse to me. The interior was black and dark red, not soothing colors for a dining room, and the lights were so low that we really couldn't see our food clearly when it arrived. I like to see what I'm eating, but at the Delmar Restaurant and Lounge, I couldn't. We were given water immediately, which is a rarity in restaurants nowadays, it seems. Our drinks were coffee and a bottle of beer. I got a refill of

tidily warm coffee until almost an hour later. My friend got a beer and then wasn't asked if she would like another drink of anything. The appetizers we ordered were roasted vegetable cakes with curry sauce (\$4.95), and ribs (\$4.95). The seasoning on the ribs was flavorful as was the curry sauce, but after waiting for a long time, they were served at room temperature on luke warm plates. Our dinners were Hoison Salmon (\$14.95) served over a bed of vegetables and spaghetti, and a pan-seared Pork Chop (\$14.95) that was not pan seared with a mushroom sauce and garlic mashed potatoes. Although the food was flavorful, the presentation

SEE DELMAR LOUNGE, page 7

BY SARA MUELLER
special to The Current

On Friday October 27, 2000 the National Shakespeare Company visited UMSL and put on a production of Hamlet. The company, which is in its 38th season, is a traveling group that goes from city to city putting on Shakespeare productions at universities and community centers. Some may remember the group from last year when they performed Romeo and Juliet at UMSL.

Traveling and performing may sound like it's all fun and games, but there is also a lot of strenuous behind the scenes work involved.

The process starts in August when the company holds auditions for the parts. Each season it puts on two plays simultaneously. This year they are doing Hamlet and Twelfth Night. The actors then have five weeks to learn the two plays. Many of the actors also have several parts in each play.

"Playing different roles adds an interesting touch. Each specific character is unique, so it is easy to keep them separated," said Tom Evans. Evans is the only company veteran this season.

After the five weeks, the actors begin traveling city to city. On average they perform five to eight shows per week. Their first break will be until Thanksgiving. They will also have a long break for Christmas, but will resume in February and continue until May.

For each show the cast must unload the props, set up, and after they perform they must load the

props up again. The director does not travel with them, so the Production Manager is in charge.

"Shows are the fun part. Loading in and loading out everyday becomes very tedious. I like being a part of this company because it is really an actor vehicle, we have a lot of say in the productions," said actor Ryan Quinn.

The production itself is a masterpiece of the director, according to Robert Dyckman, who plays the lead, Hamlet. The director did extensive research of all the different versions, and then made his own well documented version of the play.

"The play may seem a little unusual for people who have not experienced one of this type. It is a stylist structure, meaning that during the entire play actors are moving throughout the stage. When actors move to different boxes they 'come to life.' It is a neat way of doing the play because the audience can experience everything and they always know what is going on with the other actors," said Production Manager Katherine West.

While traveling, the company also puts on workshops for different groups. The three workshops are Stage Combat, Voice and Movement, and Page to Stage, which teaches students how to perform Shakespearean plays.

"So far this has been a great experience. The actors are wonderful, and the director is amazing," said Dyckman.

More information about the company is available at www.national-shakespeareco.com.

Halloween, scary movies just go together

Here it is Halloween, and in between the parties, you might be thinking about scary movies. Since Halloween is all about dressing up and pretending, and movies and theater are all about dressing up and pretending, it's natural they would go together. And movies certainly have a long history of scaring audiences.

When you think about Halloween movies, everyone has favorites that spring to mind. For many people, the classic slasher horror films like "Halloween," or "Nightmare on Elm Street" come to mind first; for others,

it's the drive-in fare of 50s horror films like "The Creature from the Black Lagoon" (which now is a campy comedy). I like the most classic of scary movies, the originals of "Frankenstein," "The Bride of Frankenstein," "The Mummy," and "Dracula." If you're feeling adventurous, you might look at some other old films with a Halloween or scary theme, like the silent classics "Nosferatu" (the original vampire film), or the weird "Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," or "Metropolis" (actually more like science fiction, but eerie). In old sound films, besides the ones

already mentioned, "M," which is going to be at the Tivoli later this fall, is a good choice, or "The Beast with Five Fingers." These classics can often be found at your local library (or the main branch on Lindberg), if you don't find them at your local Hollywood Video or Blockbuster. Other good old scary films include "The Haunting" (the original, not the remake) or any number of Alfred Hitchcock films, especially "The Birds" or "Psycho." More recent films that would make a good Halloween choice include last year's "Sleepy Hollow," or the more mind-

bending "Existenz," or that film with the kid who "sees dead people." And there's always "The Shining," about as scary as they come. If you're going out to the movies for the night, current movies with Halloween themes include "Bedazzled," a comedy with a devilish theme, re-releases of "The Exorcist" (which looks a little dated now), "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Hollow Man," a version of "The Invisible Man," that focuses more on the moral decay themes of the book with some distasteful results, and "Lost Souls," a combination of elements from "The Exorcist" and

"The Omen," which is well-acted but is not as scary as the originals, as well as the drive-in style fare of "Urban Legends: The Final Cut" and the too-scary-for-some "What Lie Beneath." Also (and this sounds more like fun to me), there is a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the Westport Cine at midnight on Halloween, with live actors, audience participation, and a costume contest.

But you might want to stay away from "The Blair Witch" (and her evil sequel too) - that shaky camera might make you queasy, after you eat all that Halloween candy.

FILM REVIEWS

Stiller, DeNiro excel in 'Bedazzled' misses plot fortifiable opportunities

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

This is the funniest American movie I've seen this year. "Meet the Parents" is primarily a vehicle for the humor of Ben Stiller, who had a hand in its development, and it's the second foray into comedy for Robert De Niro, whose work in "Analyze This" was the best part of that comedy. The premise of "Meet the Parents" isn't terribly original, and I had some reservation about a comedy that was covering what looked like some well-plowed ground. However, while the basic idea is familiar, what Ben Stiller does with the comic potential is not resulting in some excellent very visual comedy.

The outline of the story is a familiar concept: Ben Stiller is very much in love with his girlfriend, and they go to spend a weekend with her parents as his introduction to her family. Stiller is determined to do everything right and make a good impression on the parents he hopes will become his in-laws, especially on his girlfriend's exacting father (Robert De Niro). The girlfriend's description of her sister's recent engagement, including the fiance's asking her father for her hand in marriage before actually proposing and how favorably this impressed her father, gives Stiller the idea of delaying his own proposal until after he meets her father too. Of course, this decision contributes to what turns out to be a weekend of surprises.

This is a funny film, but less so, because we're very surprised at how the humor is handled—the weekend is one disaster after another, and the father is more eccentric than anyone would have guessed. Of course, absurd things happen, but the almost straightforward approach to the visually absurd things you're seeing contrasts hilariously with Stiller's deadpan reactions. What's more, absurdities build nicely onto each other, so that a scene that starts out as rather funny becomes absurdly hilarious by



the end. This results in some very funny stuff. I don't want to give too much away, but there is a small excellent scene in which Stiller waits to board a midnight plane in a nearly deserted airport. The woman at the boarding area bureaucratically goes through her regular routine of calling the various rows for passenger seating, although we clearly see that Stiller is the only person waiting to get on the plane. It isn't so much the joke, but the way it's visually presented that makes it so funny. The very visual nature of the humor means it's much funnier to see than to describe.

Besides Ben Stiller's excellent work, Robert de Niro is showing a real flair for comedy. He wisely plays his part with a straightforward sincerity which helps sharpen the ridiculous nature of his character. Other supporting parts are also well done, especially Owen Wilson as the too perfect ex-

boyfriend. The timing of the humor and the underplayed reactions are just perfect; they raised my opinion of Ben Stiller as a comedian. While this is absurdist, slapstick humor for the most part rather than sophisticated verbal comedy, the execution shows a level of intelligence and a respect for the intelligence of the audience that is rare in current American films.

While I liked this film a great deal, others might be less impressed by it because of its familiar premise. However, I thought it was the funniest Hollywood comedy I've seen this year, due to its use of timing in its humor and its very visual and deadpan approach to absurdity humor. While I won't spoil them for you, it contains several classically comic scenes, that no fan of well-constructed humor should miss.

(Now playing at the Hi Pointe and other area theaters)

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"Bedazzled" is a comedy about a man selling his soul to the devil in exchange for seven wishes. While he might think this is a straightforward transaction, he quickly finds that nothing involving the devil is simple, because the devil is, well, devilish.

Brendan Frazer and Elizabeth Hurley star in this remake of a 1960s British comedy. The original, starring Dudley Moore and Peter Cook (and with Raquel Welsh as one of the incarnations of the devil, clearly the inspiration for Elizabeth Hurley as the devil in the new version) is much more esoteric and does a whole lot more with the idea of the absurdity and the implications of selling one's soul than this movie does, but the present movie is funny in what it does, which is mainly throw Brendan Frazer into a series of absurd situations, springing out of his seven wishes.

Brendan Frazer plays a socially inept man, who is a perpetual victim of his coworkers. This nerdy guy is clearly his own worst enemy, as his insensitivity to others does nothing to help his social standing. This clueless guy is also infatuated with a beautiful coworker, who doesn't even know he exists. When the devil (Elizabeth Hurley) hones in on this potential victim, it takes more time for her to convince him that she is really the devil

than to talk him into selling his soul to win the girl of his dreams.

While Frazer thinks he's on to the perfect life, the wildly disastrous first wish wakes him up to the fact that dealing with the devil is no easy task. For the devil is in the details, and whatever he doesn't explicitly spell out, she feels like she's free to play with. So when he wishes to be rich and married to his would-be love, he suddenly finds he has become a South American drug lord, married to a woman who despises him, and with other problems as well. This is some funny stuff, starting with Frazer's discovery that he speaks Spanish, when he tells the drug lord's servant that he doesn't speak Spanish - in Spanish. If you saw the preview for this film that is playing on TV and in theaters, you saw a piece of this hilarious bit. The devil doesn't just put him into other situations, but he becomes other people, jumping into the middle of a life in progress with some very funny results.

Frazer and Hurley are very cute together in their scenes, and Frazer is very funny in his various incarnations. The preview to the film that has been showing in theaters gives a very good idea of the kind of humor you'll see. Hurley makes a wonderful devil, sassy and intimidating by turns. If you are a fan of these performers, you'll enjoy their work here, as they are both charming and capable, and are very appealing together.

But the film misses some chances

to be funnier and a better film by largely ignoring the basic idea of the movie. Since things go wrong in this transaction for both the devil and the victim, you would expect to see more tension between them at some point, but this never happens. The devil is mischievous and shows a little temper, but overall their relationship is much too nice. The story briefly touches on the philosophical and moral implications, but it is such a brief brush that it does nothing to sharpen the comedy the way it did in the original film. Blame for this missed opportunity belongs to director Harold Ramis (who did "Ghostbusters") for this 'Ghostbuster' approach to evil -- actually, that film handled the subject much more seriously and to a greater extent than this one does. The lack of this dimension is rather glaring because, after all, the guy IS selling his soul to the devil.

This is a funny, enjoyable comedy, especially if you are a fan of the two stars. The film uses some interesting visual effects with fast motion and pop-up balloons over the characters' heads, but its single-dimensional approach leaves some comedy possibilities unexplored, although it succeeds at the humor it attempts. If you've seen the original film, you're likely to be somewhat disappointed; but if you haven't seen it, you'll enjoy this light comedy. I recommend you rent the original after you see this one.

DELMAR LOUNGE, from page 6

definitely left something to be desired. The Hoison Salmon and the pork chop were luke warm. The vegetables and the spaghetti under the salmon was cold, as were the garlic mashed potatoes. We were going to order desserts but because of the more than questionable service and food, chose not to get anything else there. We had trouble paying for our food because our server consistently ignored us.

The prices that were charged for the food didn't fit the quality of the food or service that we received, and by no means was it the fine dining experience it was masquerading itself to be. There are plenty of good restaurants in the Loop to patronize. Even the fast food restaurants served better quality food at considerably less expensive prices. The Delmar Restaurant and Lounge has a bar and a front and back

dining room, but they need to decide if they want to be a lounge or restaurant, because the part of the operation wasn't very good the day my friend and I were there for dinner. I suspect it would be better as a lounge, not a restaurant.

GET SOME ACTION

drew
barrymore



cameron
diaz

bill
murray



lucy
liu



CHARLIE'S ANGELS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS
LEONARDO SOLOBERG/TOWER TOWNS/TALE TREES PRODUCTION CHARLIE'S ANGELS SAM ROCKWELL TIM CURRY KELLY LYNGA SUPERVISOR JOHN HOULIHAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BETTY THOMAS & LEONARD SOLOBERG PRODUCED BY JOSEPH M. CARACULINO WRITTEN BY RYAN ROWE & ED SOLOMON AND JOHN AUGUSTI DIRECTED BY LEONARDO SOLOBERG DREW BARRYMORE AND NANCY JUWONEN
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
get-some-action.com
NOVEMBER

Mandatory Budget Request Workshops

Workshops for recognized student organizations are scheduled for November 13th thru 17th. All recognized student organizations must have a representative to attend one of these workshops. A student attending a workshop may represent only one organization. Attendance will be taken and an organization will not be able to request funding if they are not represented.

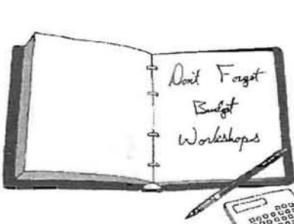
Your organization must sign up in room 373 Millennium Student Center by November 10th in order to attend a workshop. Each workshop is limited to 25 attendees.

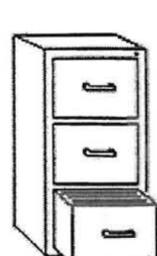


When

Where?

	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Student Government Chamber
	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Student Government Chamber
	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Student Government Chamber
	10:00 am - 12 noon	Student Government Chamber
	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Student Government Chamber





Cooper says best change at UMSL is diversification of campus

Due to time constraints, we weren't able to run all the material we had prepared for the 1000th issue. For the next few weeks we will print some of what didn't make it in.

By **TIM THOMPSON**
staff writer

Jerry Cooper is a Professor of History at the University of Missouri St. Louis.

Cooper completed his undergraduate work at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo. From there, he completed his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, which his colleague Louis Gerteis also attended. His major emphasis area was American Military History.

Though they shared the same school, Cooper and Gerteis did not meet until years later. "In those days, there were literally hundreds of Ph.D.s at Madison," Cooper said. "If two graduate students had different emphasis areas, it was not at all unlikely that they would never meet."

Cooper graduated with a Ph.D. from Madison quite deliberately. That is to say, he took his time.

"I did this because of the job market at the time," Cooper said. "The late 1960s were the ultimate era of the huge university. There was a significant surplus of Ph.D.s. It was just simply difficult to find a job."

Cooper arrived at UMSL in 1971. "I was very lucky to come here. It was the only job available at the time, because of the crunch that was going on in the job market."

At first, Cooper was not offered a full time teaching position. "I was hired to teach only one year," Cooper said. "I was replacing a professor who went on leave to test the job market. He ended up never coming back, and then, I received a full time position."

Cooper said he is very glad things worked out the way they did. "So many other graduates of Madison were

unable to fulfill their dreams and aspirations; I was," Cooper said.

Cooper has seen many changes on campus since his arrival in 1971. Like his colleagues, Gerteis and Arthur Shaffer, he too can recall the time when an Olympic-size swimming pool occupied the spot where the Thomas Jefferson Library now stands.

However, the most important change at UMSL over the years, according to Cooper, is the diversification of the student body on campus with regard to ethnicity.

"The campus is much more diversi-

fied now than when I first arrived," Cooper said. "I believe that's such a wonderful thing, and makes for some intriguing discussions. Teaching is always learning, and I think that diversification helps the process."

In 1977, Cooper achieved tenure at UMSL. "This is one of my best memories because the job market was worse in the mid-1970s than it was even in the late 1970s," Cooper said. "It gave me security toward my future, and I was very grateful."

Cooper wants the History Department at UMSL to get a Ph.D.

program. He, along with many of his colleagues, have pushed for this for many years.

"We were very close just a couple of years ago, but now it is mired in bureaucracy, and that is so frustrating," Cooper said. "We have recently went through many retirements and need something to attract both students and faculty back."

"We have professors from some of the most prestigious universities in the nation, institutions such as Duke, Harvard, Wisconsin, and Northwestern just to name a few,"

Cooper said. "We have the foundation for a great program, but if we don't get it, the future may be very difficult."

Cooper is currently doing research at the Missouri Historical Society on St. Louis' response to the Spanish-American War. He is focusing on the National Guard units in particular. In the past, he has taught American Civilization. Since 1865, 20th Century American History, and two courses at the graduate level, U.S. 1940 to the Present, and American Military History which is subdivided into 1600-1900, and 1900 to the present.



give each other a heads up without saying a word.

Introducing 2-way text messaging. Free and unlimited through February 2001.

Just because you can't talk out loud, doesn't mean you can't keep talking. Add 2-way text messaging to any qualifying calling plan and receive, reply to and send short messages between compatible wireless phones and Internet e-mail addresses.

For a limited time, get a \$50 mail-in rebate with the purchase of the featured Nokia 8260 wireless phone.

\$50
MAIL-IN REBATE

1 800-IMAGINE
att.com/getconnected
PHONES BY **NOKIA**
CONNECTING PEOPLE

WIRELESS FROM AT&T.

YOUR WORLD. CLOSE AT HAND.




Get Your Head Out Of The Ground

What are you waiting for?
Visit us today!

thecurrentonline.com

SPRING BREAK
CANCUN • JAMAICA
FLORIDA • S. PADRE
GUARANTEED BEST PRICES, HOTELS, & PARTIES!
EARN CASH & FREE TRIPS!
CAMPUS REP. POSITIONS AVAILABLE!
CALL 1-800-327-6013

NOBODY DOES BREAKS BETTER!

January 2-15, 2001
WINTER SKI TRIPS
Steamboat CO
Breckenridge CO
Vail CO
Aspen CO
Winter Park CO

Feb 24-Mar 31, 2001
Panama City FL
South Padre TX
Daytona Beach FL
Destin FL
Hilton Head SC
SPRING BEACH TRIPS
Best Prices \$

Feb 23-Apr 1, 2001
Steamboat CO
Breckenridge CO
SPRING SKI TRIPS

www.sunchase.com
1-800-SUNCHASE

Important Information ©2000 AT&T. Must have a qualifying AT&T Wireless Services calling plan to subscribe to AT&T Text Messaging service. Calling plans require a credit check, activation fee, an annual contract and a Digital multi-network phone. Two-way messaging-enabled Digital multi-network phone required to send messages. Not available for purchase in all areas. You can only send messages when using the AT&T network and then only in select geographic areas. Maximum message length is 150 characters, which includes the e-mail address. Billing will automatically begin on March 1, 2001, based on the AT&T Text Messaging plan you choose. Subject to terms of wireless service agreement and calling plan brochures. Nokia mail in rebate: One rebate per purchase of a Nokia 8260 Digital multi-network phone and wireless service activation with AT&T. Must remain on service from AT&T for 30 days to be eligible. Nokia provides rebate in the form of an ATM Rebate Card. See Nokia mail-in coupon for full terms and conditions. Void where prohibited. Nokia mail-in rebate expires 11/12/00.



UMSL mentors may assist at-risk kids

BY JENNIFER DODD
staff writer

UM-St. Louis student-athletes have a lot on their plate. They have school, homework, athletics, a social life and add mentoring to the already full buffet-style plate. "The Family Court of St. Louis County Mentor Program is collaborating with UM-St. Louis to establish a mentoring site. This unique concept will enable UM-St. Louis athletes to serve as mentors, providing academic as well as athletic guidance, for the over 30 youths on the Court's waiting list," said Barbara Ann Hughes,

community service coordinator. The kids that the athletes will be helping are from all over St. Louis County. "These kids received some type of referral to the family court system due to their delinquent behavior. The kids' violations range from curfew violations to runaways," said Kim Moeckel, project manager. The UM-St. Louis athletes do have a game plan when it comes to mentoring these kids. "The athletes will be trained by our mentor specialists Elizabeth Embree and Derick Simms. The ath-

letes are going to be helping the students with their homework and if the kids say they don't have any homework, there will be tutoring materials," Moeckel said. This mentoring program also goes beyond the educational realm and teaches the kids about real-life experiences and problem-solving. "There will also be materials for social skill groups. The kids will learn how to communicate, and to work on their overall relationship-building skills. They will also learn not to be physically aggressive and to take personal attacks with a grain of

salt," Moeckel said. Besides making these kids more education-oriented and more level-headed, the mentoring program offers a lot to the UM-St. Louis community and surrounding areas. "This is St. Louis County's opportunity to become involved in assisting the family courts. This is a responsibility to families and citizens in the community. They are part of a team and it also cuts down on expenses. If these kids were going to be placed in a group home setting, it costs \$75 a day and with this mentoring program the kids are not being

placed in a group home," Moeckel said. There are two main people who spearheaded this mentoring program for UM-St. Louis. One was Beth Gettis, who was working on her practicum for her degree with the courts system and saw a need for some kind of mentoring program. The other leader was Tom Redman, a former athletics coach at UM-St. Louis and a deputy juvenile officer. Redman really organized and pulled the mentoring program together because he saw the need for the community.

Thanks to Gettis and Redman this program has really made a difference in the lives of the kids. "The kids gain an adult role model and that student-athlete is just for them. The athlete is someone they can count on and look up to," Moeckel said. There are benefits as well to the mentors. "The student-athletes have the satisfaction that they are doing a good job. Also, they are impacting the community's future. Also, I am thrilled that UM-St. Louis is participating in this program. I can't do it without you guys," Moeckel said.

BAH, from page 3

of making sure her children were reading their schoolbooks and not comic books. "She couldn't read, but she would try to memorize the pictures," Bah said. "Imagine that for five kids. That's remarkable . . . I really love her for that." Bah was in college when the civil war erupted and the country fell into chaos. "There is no law," Bah said. "You have 14- or 15-year olds that decide whether you live or die, based on just a whim." After being separated from his family and saved from gunpoint by a passing officer, Bah wound up in a resettlement camp without running water or electricity. "There was no food," Bah said. "We would eat leaves in the jungle." Yet more trying was the constant threat of arrest, detention, or worse. "At night, [the rebels] come in, open the door and say, 'We understand there is a suspect here,'" Bah said. "Someone would get dragged [away] and never come back." This created an atmosphere rife with distrust and fear in the camp. "You have that situation constantly. You could be the next to get dragged,"

Bah said. "You don't argue with anybody, because maybe someone doesn't like you, they might tell someone 'You know, this guy's an informant for the other side,' and you wind up being killed." Bah spent over three months enduring the uncertainty and unbearable monotony of camp life. "You get up in the morning. You can't go anywhere," Bah said. "You just sit outside there and look at the sun, and hope that nobody gets killed at the end of the day." He also heard rumors that his own family was dead. "I knew that it wasn't true, but it wasn't until years later [that I saw them]," Bah said. "You go through the grieving, the accepting that you are the only one that survived." Bah eventually left the camp and took a ship to the neighboring nation of Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, political instability there forced him back to his homeland. "The Sierra Leone government started rounding up Liberians who they thought might be traitors or rebels," Bah said. "I mean, that's how bad it was. I decided to go back to Monrovia, because it was safer." By this time relative peace had

descended on the city as a coalition of Nigerian-led forces established a buffer zone for the capital. Bah obtained work as an accountant at a local clinic, which, ironically, treated fighters from all sides of the worsening conflict. "I would send bills to the factional leaders," he said. Did they pay? "No," he laughed. Bah said he enjoyed the clinic work. "It didn't pay much, but at least I had a semblance of security and peace," he said. It was a peace that wouldn't last. A new faction from Bah's own Mandingo tribe joined the war, putting him under a cloud of suspicion and in renewed danger. In 1995, he contacted the U.S. embassy and soon found himself in New York City armed with only \$200, no official clearance to work, and a little idea where to go from there. He was certain of one thing however. "I'm not going back," he said. "That's out of the question." Unfortunately, he still had no notion of exactly how to proceed. "Someone . . . suggested 'Why not go to Texas? Why not go South? It's easy to make it in the South,'" Bah shrugged with a smile. "And I believe it."

Spending his last remaining cash on another plane ticket, Bah went to Houston. Eventually, he obtained his working papers . . . even if the jobs he was offered were less than desirable, including a graveyard stint at a local gas station. "I worked from 11-7 in downtown Houston. I was the most frightened I've ever been in my life," Bah laughed. "I've survived the war in Liberia and now I'm going to die here." Finally, Bah moved again, this time to St. Louis, where he began attending classes at UMSL. But more importantly, for the first time since that experience on a Liberian highway years before, he received information on his family. One of his brothers had made it to neighboring Guinea and found work as an engineer. "When I found out that he was alive, I had to get him here," Bah said. True to his word, he paid for his brother to come to the United States where he now attends college, which Bah has also helped fund. He has since located and arranged for another brother's transfer here. Meanwhile, a third brother arrived on his own. His mother and sister are alive as well and still living in Monrovia. Bah says that he would love to have his

mother in the United States but he will probably not attempt it unless war returns to the capital. His father was less lucky after Liberia's disintegration. "We lost everything we had and everything he'd worked for, and he didn't make it," Bah said. Since learning of his family's fate, he has made a life for himself here. After a failed business venture as a gas station owner, Bah is now a budget analyst for St. Louis County. He has recently purchased a house and plans to graduate soon. He credits his success in part to his new environment. "I was given a chance," Bah said. "I made it here, but society was hospitable enough to give me the opportunity to make it." He also feels that a higher power played a role. "Frankly, I'm thankful to God," Bah said. "We survived the war for a reason, and God got us here for a reason." Despite his success, Bah said the most important thing for him is the stability his adoptive nation provides. "To me, freedom is not voting for somebody every four years," Bah said. "To me, freedom is peace of mind. It's knowing that I can get up in the morning and turn the lights on, and there is

light. Someone didn't cut the cable line because the government was overthrown last week and the president was shot in the head." Bah said that, while he has no desire to return to Liberia at present, he still hopes he can someday assist his homeland. "In the long run, I want to make life better not only for my family but for my country," Bah said. "If I could just help one person, that person could make a difference."

“
In the long run, I want to make life better not only for my family but for my country. If I could just help one person, that person could make a difference.
”
-Abdul Bah
UMSL student

The Current

ONLINE

It's your connection to the campus community and to the world.

Top Stories - Issue 992 August 21, 2000
The Current Online

Strike snags Arts Center

Construction of the University of Missouri - St. Louis' \$50 million Performing Arts Center has been delayed several months because of a strike by Teamster concrete drivers.

The strike was centered around a dispute over wages between the Teamsters and the Material Dealers Association. The Teamsters wanted a \$1.05 an hour raise. Last Thursday, the eight-week strike came to an end when the Teamsters ratified a new contract that included a \$1 an hour raise.

[Read this story >>>](#)
[Read other stories >>>](#)

FEATURES

Dormitory or disaster area?

Dorm rooms have the reputation of not being really a room, but in reality a closet. Unfortunately, this reputation has proven to be

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

CARTOONS

The Current has been fortunate to have such talented artists grace its pages with their work. Below are just a few of the many different cartoons that have run over the past 1000 issues. Enjoy.

BIRDBRAINS INC.

1986

By Tim Levene



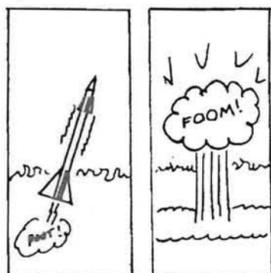
THE ELF SQUAD

1975

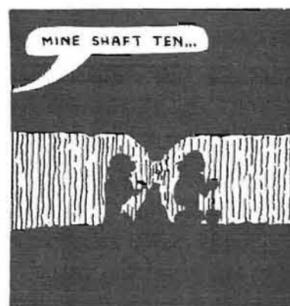


1977

MURPH 'N' TURF



by KEVIN MCGRANE



1981



1981



1982



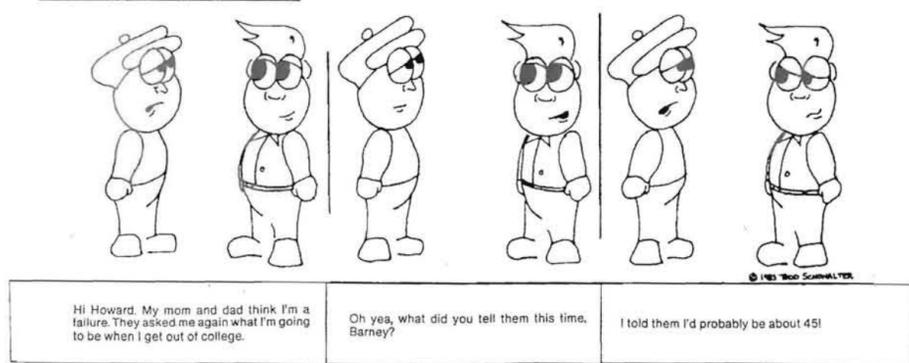
COLLEGIALITY

1978



Howard

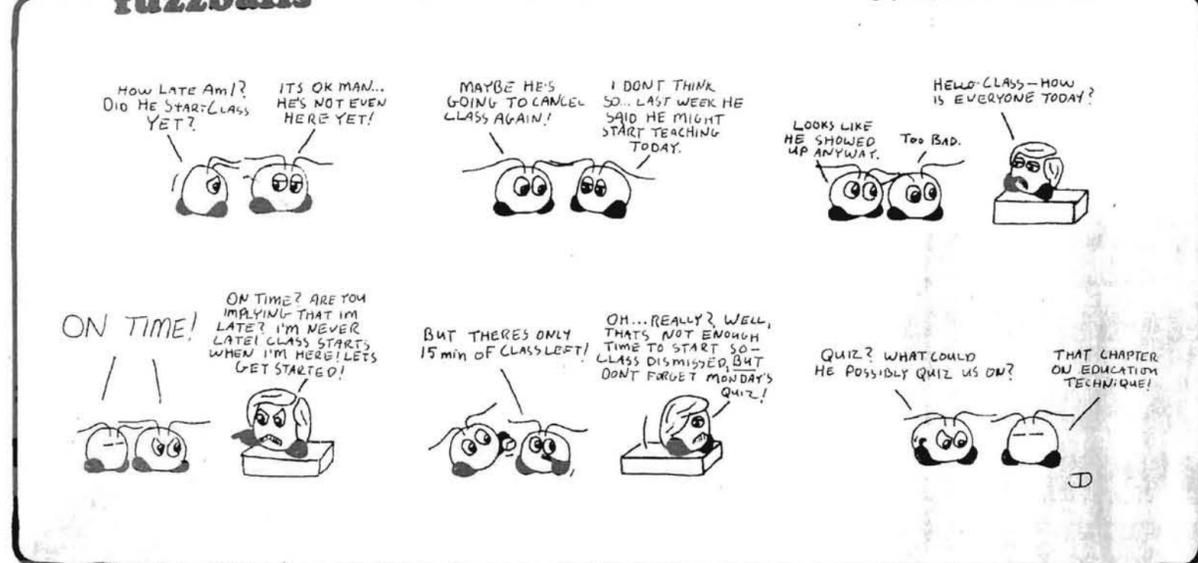
1983



1979

fuzzballs

Jonathan Davis



1983

Chuck's Yuks

by Chuck



**UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff:
Classifieds are FREE!!**

**CLASSIFIED
RATES**



**(314)
516-5316**

Otherwise, classified advertising is \$10 for 40 words or less in straight text format. Bold and CAPS letters are free. All classifieds must be prepaid by check, money order or credit card. Deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m. prior to publication.

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com/ads> ads@thecurrentonline.com

Help Wanted

SPRING BREAK 2001

Hiring On-Campus Reps
SELL TRIPS, EARN CASH,
GO FREE!!!

Student Travel Services
America's #1 Student tour
Operator, Jamaica, Mexico,
Bahamas, Europe, Florida
1-800-648-4849
www.gospringbreak.com

**Readers/Writers/Test
Assistants**

for students with disabilities
These paid positions are avail-
able for the Fall Semester
2000, on a limited basis, for
qualified students to assist
students with disabilities dur-
ing scheduled exams:
Duties include: research
materials, textbooks, making
tapes, writing for an exam,
reading and writing for an
exam, reading for an exam.
Interested? Please contact
Marilyn Ditto at 516-5228 or
come to 301 Woods Hall.

**Internet - Marketing/Web
Page Design**

International company
expanding. Looking for highly
motivated business-minded
students. Part time and full
time positions available.
Some experience required.
Call (314) 983-9634 for more
information.

Spring Break!

Deluxe Hotels, Reliable Air,
Free Food, Drinks and Parties!
Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas,
Mazatlan & Florida. TRAVEL
FREE and EARN CASH! Do it on
the web! Go to
StudentCity.com or call 800-
293-1443 for info

**Wanted! Spring
Breakers!**

Cancun, Bahamas, Florida,
Jamaica & Mazatlan. Call
Sunbreak Student Vacations
for a free brochure and ask
how you can organize a small
group & EAT, DRINK, TRAVEL
FREE & EARN CASH!
Call 1-800-777-4642 or e-mail
sales@sunbreaks.com

**Local Branch of
International Firm**

needs part-time positions
filled. \$12.50 Base-appt.
Customer Svc Retail Sales.
Flex-time scheduling, 10-35
Hours per week available.
100 Corporate Scholarships.
All majors may apply.
Call 822-0009.
www.workforstudents.com

**Employment & Financial
Opportunities**

Strategy.com offers individu-
als with integrity and ambi-
tion a Global Solution to
address greater wealth
and privacy:
Highly rewarding Referral
Compensation Program
Offshore Banking,
Offshore Trust Fund
www.iStrategy.com

**If you like to write we
may have the job for you**

The Current is presently look-
ing for students interested in
the following positions: news
editor, news writers, distribu-
tors, production assistant,
and web assistant. Call
516-6810 for more information

Advertising salesperson

Do you have an interest in
business and/or graphic
design? If so, you can gain
valuable work-experience on
campus and get paid for it. If
you're interested or know
someone who is, please call
Tom at 516-5316.

For Sale

Two bedroom

oak floors and millwork.
Screened in porch, carport
and garage. All appliances.
Backs to park. Walkout base-
ment. Immaculate condition.
All in "friendly Ferguson."
Call 314-496-6960.

'89 Cavalier

Black with gray interior.
AM/FM Cassette, air cond,
cruise, fold-down back seat,
front-wheel drive. Tires,
alternator, battery 2 yrs old.
NEW catalytic converter, muf-
fler, fuel filter, EGR valve.
Maintenance records. Perfect
for college or high school stu-
dent. Leave message at
(217) 496-2482

**Good Quality Cat
Furniture**

Custom made to order.
Much cheaper than retail.
Made from the finest
materials. Your cat will love
you. Call (314) 841-0785.

'92 GEO STORM GSI

4-Cyl. 1.6 Liter, 5 Spd,
100,500 Miles, A/C, AM/FM
Stereo Cassette, Driver's Air
Bag, ps/pb, alloy wheels, rear
spoiler, white exterior with
unique body customizing.
Excellent condition. Looks
sharp. Clean interior.
New tires. Ask for \$2500/best
offer (314) 426-5963
Hurry up, don't miss this
great deal.

1988 Grand Am 2 dr

cold air, 4 cyl, 5 speed, runs
and looks great, blue with
blue int., state safety inspec-
tion, \$1200 obo, 427-7548

Adobe Photoshop 4.0

for Windows. Greatest design
software ever made. Brand
new. Opened once to check
for contents. \$90 OBO.
Call Tom @ 739-0711

1992 Ford F-150 XLT

V8, 5.8 Liter, Automatic
Trans., 2 wheel drive,
52,xxx miles, Optional fuel
tank, A/C, Cruise Control,
AM/FM Cassette Stereo,
Running Boards. \$9,500. Call
Shauna (314) 324-7137

Autos for Sale

Buy police impounds
Cars from \$500. All makes
& models available.
For listings call 800-719-3001
ext. C213.

For Rent

Looking for Roommate

Apartment close to UMSL.
*HUGE *CLEAN *CHEAP
*\$290/month *utilities not
included. 1 bedroom +.
Call Shannon Bouma 725-8842

Wanted: Roommate

to share three bedroom house
located only five miles from
campus \$300 monthly plus
half utilities, serious people
only please, write to
valgame79@hotmail.com

Services

**Typing Done
Excellent Work**

\$3-\$7 per page depending on
length, style, etc.
Leave message
314-841-0785
or 841-8712

**Raise \$1600-\$7000 + Get
Free Caps, T-Shirts &
Phone Cards!**

This one-week fundraiser
requires no investment and a
small amount of time from
you or your club. Qualified
callers receive a free gift
just for calling. Call today at
1-800-808-7442 x. 80.

**Campus Bookstore has
moved**

It is now located on the sec-
ond floor of the new
Millennium Student Center.
Come check it out.

**Pre Law Honor
Fraternity**

Phi Alpha Delta will hold an
informational meeting on 8
November at 11:00 a.m. in
room 331 SSB. All students
interested in Law School are
invited to attend. Voting for
chair positions will be held at
a later meeting on 14
November at 3:30 p.m.

Personals

**Can't find that girl/guy
you ran into at The
Underground?**

Take out a personal. It's a
free resource to students,
faculty and staff. As in, not
costing anything. As in, not
kicking yourself in the head
for the rest of the semester
for not being able to remem-
ber the phone number of that
girl. Call 516-5316 to find
your destiny.

Sorry Mango

I wasn't able to go to your
party because I had to go out
of town to house-sit. Sorry.
-Mr. Ato

Happy B-Day Josh

**Check
It Out**

It's something
different

every
frickin'
week!

the
current
online
com

THE NERD TABLE BY: MARTY JOHNSON



• FREE TEST, with immediate results,
detects pregnancy 10 days after it begins.
• PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING & ASSISTANCE.
All services are free and confidential.

You Are Not Alone.

Pregnant?

Brentwood... (314) 962-5300 St. Charles..... (636)724-1200
Ballwin..... (636) 227-2266 South City (314)962-3653
Bridgeton..... (636) 227-8775 Midtown (636)946-4900

All Toll Free Numbers (After Hours: 1-800-550-4900)

www.birthright.org

**Think our writing
SUX?**

Give us your opinion.
Put it down on paper.
Just let it all out.
We want to hear it.

**There are several
ways to do this:**

- via e-mail at current@jinx.ums1.edu
- via campus mail at 388 Millennium Student Center
- via fax at (314) 516-6811

Write a letter to the editor and get your name in the paper.

Pulliam

2 0 0 1

GANNETT

The Pulliam Journalism Fellowship

Jump-start your newspaper journalism career with a solid program that boasts four Pulitzer Prize winners among its alumni - the Pulliam Journalism Fellowship. The Fellowship offers myriad career opportunities; in fact, a Pulliam Fellow from our first class of 1974, Barbara Henry, now serves as president and publisher of *The Indianapolis Star*. Moreover, a new graduate of our year 2000 class has just been hired as a full-time staff reporter at *The Indianapolis Star*.

Now entering its 28th year, the 2001 Pulliam Journalism Fellowship helps build a bridge from the classroom to the newsroom. Fellows are assigned to *The Indianapolis Star* or *The Arizona Republic* in Phoenix for 10 weeks each summer as staff reporters. We award 20 fellowships annually. The stipend is \$5,775.

Traditionally, our fellowships have been open only to graduating college seniors. In 2001, we will be expanding eligibility to include college sophomores and juniors as well as seniors pursuing a career in newspaper journalism. We will be accepting applications for our Summer 2001 program in September 2000.

Visit our Web site at <http://www.starnews.com/pjf> or e-mail Fellowship director Russell B. Pulliam at russell.pulliam@starnews.com for an application packet. You also may request a packet by writing:

Russell B. Pulliam, Director, The Pulliam Fellowship, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

**MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL
JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS NEEDED --
WEEKEND AND EVENING HOURS**

Have some time after classes are over and want to earn some extra money?? Manpower at MasterCard International has needs for Customer Service Agents to work in the Global Customer Service Center located in Westport. Qualified candidates will have:

- * Previous customer service or call center experience preferred but not required
- * Windows 95/ PC skills
- * Data entry/ keyboarding skills
- * Desire to work for a first class International company
- * Availability to work evening and weekend shifts

DO YOU SPEAK A SECOND LANGUAGE??
WE CAN USE YOUR SKILLS TOO IN THE CALL CENTER
JUST CONTACT US!

Interested candidates should call Daphne at 523 - 7512 or Melonie at 542 - 3848 as soon as possible to schedule an interview.

After taming Mississippi River, Eads Bridge still stands strong

The time was precisely high-noon. The date was July 2, 1874. The place was our own St. Louis, Missouri. Down by the banks of the mighty Mississippi River on what is now called Laclede's Landing, an enormous crowd of people gathered. Rising 55 feet above the crowd was a sturdy and handsome structure, measuring nearly 2000 feet in length. The structure had four piers supporting three enormous arches. The center arch was 520 feet long, with the other two being 502 feet. This masterpiece of engineering was called the Eads Bridge, after James Buchanan Eads, one of the greatest engineers of all time, and he had invited nearly all of St. Louis to its official dedication.



TIM THOMPSON
history columnist

At this moment, the Eads Bridge is being renovated and might be reopened to automobile traffic in the near future. With this in mind, I want to dedicate this week's column to how the great bridge was constructed and a little bit of the history behind it. For decades and decades, the mighty Mississippi River stood as a great impediment to trade between the Eastern and Western portions of the United States. Its shifting bottom, whirlpools, ferocious currents, deadly undertows, treacherous snags, and enormous floods constantly played havoc with bridging attempts. In fact, throughout the first half of the 19th Century, nearly 40 bridges collapsed under the constant strain and pressure of the mighty river that the Iroquois called the "Father of Water." Businesses were constantly complaining about having to drop trainloads of goods off on the Illinois side of the river, and then having to pay extra money to have them ferried

across to the St. Louis side just to be reloaded onto another train. The ferries themselves were far from fool-proof. For instance, when the river was low, they could not run because the heavy cargo caused their draft to be too great. Also, when the weather was stormy, the ferry service was canceled to prevent wrecks and the complete loss of all the precious cargo. In addition to this, the Mississippi River had a tendency to freeze over during December and January, which put an end to ferry service during those months.

The cry went out for someone to step in and build a railroad bridge across the mighty Mississippi River and connect East with West once and for all. Numerous engineering companies placed bids, but in 1867, James B. Eads, a legend in St. Louis as a result of his successful salvaging and mapping of the river's bottom, was given the go-ahead.

Work commenced in the summer of that year, but it proved to be even more difficult than Eads had imagined. To begin with, the Mississippi River has an enormous amount of mud in it. American poet Walt Whitman called it "a strong brown God." He wasn't exaggerating. In fact, there is nearly 200 feet of mud on the Illinois half across from Laclede's Landing alone! Eads engineers were having difficulty in reaching bedrock. They were also running into the sunken wrecks of steamboats and barges which had to be removed.

There was so much mud, it took Eads's engineers over four months to reach bedrock for each of the 3 piers. In addition to this, the Mississippi wasn't about to be tamed without a fight. In the spring of 1869, and once again in 1870, the mighty river did what it does best. It flooded. When

the floods receded, the engineers had to pump out all of the water from the internal structures of each pier. This was dangerous work and took several weeks to complete.

Workers sickness was also becoming a major problem. As they escalated deeper and deeper, the lack of oxygen caused many of them to develop tremendous abdominal pains. Nowadays, such an ailment is referred to as the "bends."

Eads reacted promptly to the crisis, however. He hired a doctor to watch the workers carefully, changed their diet to beef tea, instructed his chief engineer to shorten the work periods, and instituted rest periods.

Slowly but surely, the bridge began to take shape. By March 1, 1872, it was more than half way completed.

Then, on May 24, 1874, the side-walks on the top level were opened to pedestrians. Ten days later, the first horse-drawn carriages drove across.

There was only one thing left to test—railroad traffic. There were many pessimists. Few people believed that the Eads Bridge could withstand the immense weight of fully laden locomotives. In fact, half the people who showed up for the official dedication fully expected to see the bridge collapse just as soon as the first locomotives began churning across. Eads was confident that his bridge could stand the test. He was proven right, and when 14 locomotives, weighing 50 tons each and carrying some daredevil passengers, all reached the Illinois side, the crowd erupted in a deafening cheer. It was truly a great moment for engineering.

The Eads Bridge not only stood up to the test that day, it has also stood the test of time. It stood up to the mighty Mississippi during countless floods, even the catastrophic flood of 1993, and survived. It is still carrying passengers back and forth to Illinois and Missouri to this day. If you ever get a chance to go to the St. Louis riverfront, take a look at the Eads

SGA, from page 1



Darren Brune/ The Current

Representatives keep busy during the SGA meeting last Tuesday in the Student Government Chamber of the Millennium Student Center.

of the fall semester, citing Article VII, Section 1 of the current SGA constitution.

"There's been a lot of debate about that," Connor said in an interview after the meeting. "I've received emails from certain students saying 'Read your constitution.' I received some backlash, but I expected that."

Other business:

Ellory Glenn, SGA vice president, announced he had spoken with several administrators about extending the hours of all UMSL libraries, perhaps to match the hours of the Student Center. Glenn said the administrators were supportive of the idea.

The SGA officers asked the Assembly members to find out what students wanted to do with the empty

"shell space" on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center. A pub, a small gymnasium, and a mail room were among the ideas tossed out at the meeting.

SGA representatives elected Joe Flees and Sam Andemariam to the Associated Students of the University of Missouri Board of Directors.

LANGUAGE, from page 1

at UMSL, was especially pleased. "Students are trying to learn and paying a lot of money for their classes; they need to be able to understand what the professors are saying," Stegeman said. "How are they supposed to get a good quality education and move on to the next level academically, if their professor has a difficult time communicating in English?"

Stegeman pushed for an amendment to the new policy, which would require each campus to conduct a survey every year for the next five years to see if the communication was improving. His plan was considered but not directly adopted.

This new policy will be implemented on each UM campus, and will take effect at the start of the Winter Semester 2001.

PAY, from page 1

of what we thought he should be making as legal counsel of the Board," Stephenson said.

UM System spokesperson Joe Moore said that it is not a typical policy to send out a press release or other notification when administrative salary changes are made.

"We don't tend to do it, because the information is always available for the public," he said.

thecurrentonline.com

We need a news editor!

If you're qualified and interested in helping us out, please call 516-5174 and ask for Brian!

UPB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 OCTOBER	30 OCTOBER	31 OCTOBER	1 "Wednesday Noon Live" 11:00 - 1:00 Millennium Student Center	2 "Marijuana Debate" NORML vs. Debate 8:00 p.m. JC Penney Aud. (FREE)	3 OCTOBER	4 OCTOBER
5 NOVEMBER	6 NOVEMBER	7 Election Day	8 "Wednesday Noon Live" 11:00 - 1:00 Millennium Student Center	9 NOVEMBER	10 NOVEMBER	11 Paintball (FREE) Sign up in Student Activities or Rec Sports
12 NOVEMBER	13 NOVEMBER	14 Foreign Film Series 11 am & 7 pm Millennium Student Center	15 Who's Who Banquet 6:00 p.m. Millennium Student Center	16 NOVEMBER	17 "Death of a Salesman" @ the Fox Theater 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 limit 2 w/ valid ID	18 NOVEMBER
19 NOVEMBER	20 NOVEMBER	21 Foreign Film Series 11 am & 7 pm Millennium Student Center	22 NOVEMBER	23 Thanksgiving NO CLASSES	24 NOVEMBER	25 NOVEMBER
26 NOVEMBER	27 "Holiday Fest Week"	28 Mystery Dinner Theater (Free w/ 5 canned goods) 6:00 p.m. in Millennium Center	29 Holiday Reception 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 a.m. - 6 p.m.	30 NOVEMBER	1 DECEMBER	2 DECEMBER

For more information contact
University Program Board

516-5531