



Riverwomen take three of four games

After taking only one of four games in the Grand Valley State Invitational, the Riverwomen swept the Drury College Invitational with three victories.

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INSIDE



The Nerd Table tackles elections and politicians

Every week, you can count on seeing The Nerd Table. This week, the dizzying worlds of fast food and politics collide. Can't get enough of The Nerd Table? Visit our website and check out our cartoon archive!

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BRIEFS

UMSL revokes approval for charter school

UMSL has revoked the charter of the African American Rite of Passage Institute.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill made the decision to revoke the charter last Wednesday, following the recommendation of a university panel.

UMSL had withdrawn its support of the charter school after it reorganized and changed management companies this year.

Lamar Beyah, the school's organizer, said he will appeal to the University of Missouri System or sue UMSL, if necessary.

Information for this brief came from the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch."

Sig Taus raise \$300 for family of Bel-Ridge officer

Last Friday, Sigma Tau Gamma held a party and raised almost \$300.

They used this money to set up a trust fund for the family of Officer Thomas Henry of the Bel-Ridge Police Department, who died recently.

When the members of the fraternity heard about it, they decided they wanted to help Henry's family. The fraternity has had a rocky relationship with police in the past. House manager Jason Collier said the fundraiser "was a gesture to say we appreciate all [the police department] puts up with."

Collier said that they have no immediate plans for future fund-raisers.

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Eccher sues University

Judge denies two of his requests, schedules hearing after elections

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

Rick Eccher, the chief justice of the Student Court, filed a lawsuit against the University of Missouri - St. Louis last Monday.

Eccher and his son Rick III are individually suing Chancellor Blanche Touhill, Vice Chancellor G. Gary Grace, former Student Activities Director Rick Blanton, and the Board of Curators over the Student Government Association elections scheduled for Sept. 26-27.

Eccher's lawsuit challenges the legality of the provisional SGA appointed by administrators this summer as well as some of the new election rules they have enacted. Some of these new rules include mandatory

background checks of all candidates for prior felony convictions and the changing of ballot box locations.

Eccher said he believes that all of these rules are unconstitutional and wants the provisional SGA that is now in place to comply with the election rules listed in the SGA election information manual.

According to Eccher, one of the rules stipulated in the manual forbids the student leadership conference to take place until after the SGA officers are elected. Student Activities held this year's conference last weekend.

The lawsuit also calls for a declara-



Eccher

tion that only those candidates who were on the spring ballot be allowed to run in the fall.

Initially, Eccher attempted to get a restraining order preventing UMSL administrators from destroying the ballots from the spring elections.

"Legally, those ballots can only be disposed of in the presence of the Student Court," Eccher said.

He also attempted to get a Writ of Mandamus, where a judge orders a certain party to perform a task which that party has previously refused to perform.

"I just want to know what happened

to those ballots," Eccher stated. "I just want the truth to come out."

On Friday, Sept. 15, a St. Louis judge denied both of Eccher's requests. Despite this, Eccher said he was still confident.

"We have been successful so far in the fact that the judge has not thrown the case out," Eccher said Saturday.

Dudley McCarter, of the Behr, McCarter, Potter law firm in downtown St. Louis, is handling the case on behalf of UMSL.

"I am going to pursue this vigorously, because I believe that Eccher's case lacks merit both factually and legally," McCarter said in a phone interview Friday.

The judge scheduled an expeditious hearing which will take place Sept. 28, the day after the SGA elections.

Chancellor touts UMSL's accomplishments

BY SARAH T. CLARK
staff editor

UMSL Chancellor Blanche Touhill gave the State of the University Address Wednesday afternoon in the J.C. Penney auditorium.

Touhill's speech highlighted the accomplishments of the University over the past year, and also addressed some of the criticism the administration has received.

With UMSL outreach programs such as offering courses at Mineral Area College in St. Francois County, and East Central Community College in Franklin County, came the criticism that UMSL was abandoning its urban mission.

"We graduate more African-American students than any other public university in Missouri. This, for me, is a point of pride," Touhill said.

She also said that since 1990, UMSL has more than tripled expenditures for support programs for minorities and quadrupled scholarship money for African-Americans.

Touhill also said that UMSL, in coordination with Harris-Stowe State College, will offer a master's degree program that will prepare administrators to deal with unique challenges of urban schools. The program will be called the Urban Leaders Project. But this is not the only new master's degree program in the works. This fall marks the beginning of master degree programs in philosophy, and communication.

The Millennium Student Center



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Student Keith Boyer (right) sings the UMSL alma mater, accompanied by members of the Arianna String Quartet. Doug Durand, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chancellor Blanche Touhill, and recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence stand onstage behind them.

and East Drive Parking Garage are slated to be open by Dec. 1, approximately one year behind schedule. The Performing Arts Center, currently under construction, is scheduled to open in fall 2002.

Last year, UMSL purchased the Daughters of Charity property near South Campus. For the 2000-2001

school year the property will be used as residential housing, but next year, it will house the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

UMSL is requesting a special increase in state funding to reduce the fees charged to optometry students. According to Touhill, UMSL optometry students pay the highest education-

al fees in the nation. If approved, the funding should reduce the debt of the average optometry student by 33 percent.

Touhill said that she wanted UMSL to move toward having more on-campus residents. Currently, there are 841 students living on-campus, a 10 percent increase over last year.

Reconfigured governing bodies make their debut

Senators question Chancellor Touhill in otherwise quiet first meeting of Faculty Senate

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

The Faculty Senate met Wednesday last week to discuss a number of changes and concerns since last year.

Though the greatest concern was the implementation of a new policy regarding the review of tenured educators, other issues kept this topic from being raised in the first part of the meeting.

After an acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting, on May 16, the Senate resolved unanimously to honor Edward Andalafte, who died earlier this year. The math department will host a tribute to Andalafte, on Nov. 16, in the Century Room of the new Millennium Student Center.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill's report followed the preliminary discussion. Touhill spoke with the Senate about the possibility of expansion at UM-Rolla — particularly in the schools of business and arts and sciences — in addition to explaining the union of the UM system in the areas of nanotechnology and bio-informatics. These two areas will utilize all available UM resources together, rather than being totally separate entities as most departments are now.

The reasoning, Touhill explained, "is to make all campuses more competitive for external funding."

Before asking the audience for questions, the Chancellor voiced a warning about escalating

library costs. Citing an estimated \$600,000 library deficit by the year 2003, Touhill explained that the library had not experienced cuts, and had actually had some resources relocated to it. The problem, she said, was the rising costs of journals.

Faculty members expressed concerns about the continued vacancy of permanent staff positions. In response, Touhill explained the status of the positions in need of replacements. There are currently openings in the areas of optometry, nursing, continuing education, university relations, academic affairs, and the office of equal opportunity.

When Touhill finished, new guidelines were proposed for the Thomas Jefferson Award, which was not given last year due to a lack of recommendations from the selection committee.

The current executive guideline for the review of faculty performance was discussed, and a new policy proposed. The current guidelines call for an annual evaluation process with written evaluations for untenured faculty, as well as members with concerns of performance shortcomings. The current process is in the hands of the department chair or dean, without significant faculty control. The proposed review policy would create a faculty committee to view a compilation of five separate annual evaluations, for tenured faculty members. The new

see SENATE, page 10

Students, faculty, administrators set to work together in new University Assembly

BY SARAH T. CLARK
staff editor

The new University Assembly had its first meeting last Wednesday, immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting in Room 222 of the J.C. Penney building.

The voting members of the University Assembly are 40 members of the Faculty Senate and 13 members of the Student Senate.

The University Assembly was created to allow faculty and students to more effectively deal with the problems on campus that affect both parties. It will deal with campus-wide issues such as budgets, planning, student affairs, and student publications.

The formation of the University Assembly solved many problems within the student/faculty governing systems. For many years the faculty had two bodies speaking for them, the University Senate, and the Faculty Council. The system failed because the University Senate held all of the power, and the Faculty Council could only make recommendations to the Senate. So last year the Faculty Council was disbanded.

Another problem was that the student senators were looking for more autonomy. They, like the Faculty Council, could only make requests to the University Senate. In the new University Assembly the students are still only regarded as a body of the University Assembly, but they now have more of a voice than they ever have.

The reason there is not mandatory student participation in the University Assembly is that there has not always been good participation. If there is mandatory student participation, and no students to participate, then nothing can get done.

Senator Joshua Stegeman had not planned to take a lead role in the University Assembly, but with only three returning Student Senators, he said felt that he had no choice.

Stegeman said at first the student senators had thought about pushing for mandatory participation, but he says he understands why he got strong indications from the Faculty Senate that if such a motion were to come before the Faculty Senate, it be voted down. Without mandatory participation, Stegeman feels that the students in the Assembly have more flexibility.

"I understand that they want us to justify ourselves before they make any formidable decision on student participation," said Stegeman, "I really do feel that the University Assembly is a better vehicle for student concerns."

"The faculty, students, and administration are all going to have to pull together if this thing is going to work," said Lawrence Barton, chair of both the Faculty Senate and the University Assembly.

"We are not looking for immediate results, but longevity," said Stegeman, "We want to make our presence in the University Assembly last."

SGA hopefuls discuss issues at forum

BY SARAH T. CLARK
staff editor

Nine of the 11 candidates for Student Government Association office participated in a forum before a small audience in the University Center Student Lounge Thursday afternoon.

The forum was co-sponsored by the SGA and The Current. Josh Renaud, editor-in-chief of The Current, and Brian Douglas, managing editor of The Current, moderated the forum.

Each candidate was allowed to give a rundown of their goals if elected to office. Although there was diversity in the age, race, and gender among the candidates, they said they were planning to tackle many of the same issues.

One issue that almost every candidate agreed on is that SGA needs to look to the future of UMSL, and start repairing the damage done to the reputation of the SGA.

"Everyone wants to be a part of a success. We need to take on issues we can win, and accomplish something," said Ellory Glenn. Glenn is one of two members of the provisional SGA, and he is running for vice president.

A constitution was written last year, but was never approved. All of the candidates stated that pushing the new constitution through the SGA Assembly would be first on their list of things to do if elected.

"We need to get a constitution and stick to it. We need to be able to follow a set of laws," said Ryan Connor, a candidate for president.

"I think this new constitution is very direct. The old constitution has been changed over time, not to help the student body, but for the benefit of private interest," said Ayobamidele Olson, the only candidate for comptroller.

Robert Miller, who is running for SGA president, said the constitution needs to be readily accessi-

see FORUM, page 10

Bulletin Board

Monday, Sept. 18

• **Sign-up Deadline for Katy Trail Bike Ride:** Register in the Student Activities Office, 267 University Center for the Saturday, Sept. 23 ride. Cosponsored by Rec Sports and Student Activities. It is free to students and includes shuttle transportation from UMSL and back, bicycle rental for all participants, and fully-supported ride on the Katy Trail.

• **18-Hole Golf Scramble & BBQ** will be at the Normandie Golf Course with a shotgun start and all foursomes teeing off at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

• **Freshman Getaway 2000**, sign up will be at the tables outside of the bookstore from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information call 385-3455.

• **Flag Football Leagues begin.** Intramural football games will be played every Tuesday afternoon at the Mark Twain Rec Field until Nov. 7.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

• **Ice Cream Social** will follow Mass at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

• **Soup and Soul Food**, a simple meal 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 314-409-3024 or Roger Jespersen at 385-3000.

• **Sign-up Deadline for Coed Kickball Tournament:** An intramural one-night indoor kickball tourney will be held Tuesday night, 7 to 10 p.m., Sept. 26 at the Mark Twain Rec Center. Open to students, faculty and staff. Each team should consist of 3 guys and 3 gals.

Thursday, Sept. 21

• **Graduate/Professional School Seminar** will be held in 222 J. C. Penney.

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.

Multicultural Relations invites students, faculty, and staff to come and learn about graduate and professional school preparation. For more information call 6807.

Friday, Sept. 22

• **Soup with Sister** will follow mass at the Catholic Newman Center at 12:05 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

• **Boogie Nights Party:** Come get in the swing of the '70s at the Sig Tau house, next to Popeyes. All UMSL students are welcome and girls must be 18 years of age or older.

Saturday, Sept. 23

• **Guaranteed 4.0:** All students are encouraged to take advantage of the seminar. Donna O. Johnson, president of the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning

System Co., will be speaking and there will be a special workshop for those who have already taken the 4.0 seminar. There is no fee and the seminar will be held in the J. C. Penney Auditorium from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information call 6807.

• **Sigma Pi Fraternity** invites you to show off those sexy legs of yours. Both guys and girls strut your stuff at the campus' longest running consecutive party. Cash prizes for the girl and guy with the sexiest, sultriest legs. There's a \$2 cover and no bottles please. Guys have their student ID and admission will be free for contestants.

Sunday, Sept. 24

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

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

September 7, 2000

A student reported that on Sept. 5 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. her Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from her vehicle, which had been parked on the South Campus Lot "V".

A student reported that between Sept. 6 at 9 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. her Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen from her automobile, while it was parked at the Honors College.

A student reported that sometime between 7 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. an unknown person took a duffel bag containing clothes, shoes, and keys from an unlocked locker in the women's locker room at Mark Twain. Mark Twain security

found the missing keys behind the locker room door at closing time.

September 8, 2000

A student reported that between 1 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. a blue pouch containing keys, identification, credit cards, and cash was stolen from atop a desk at 102 Marillac Hall. The room was not locked.

September 10, 2000

A person reported that while her car was parked on Lot "W", South Campus, between 11:30 a.m. and 2:50 p.m., the vehicle was broken into and \$25.00 in coins was stolen from the front seat.

September 11, 2000

A staff person reported that a Sears circu-

lar saw was stolen from his personal locker at Daughters of Charity. The theft occurred between Sept. 6 at 3:30 p.m. and Sept. 11 at 9 a.m. The padlock was pried off.

September 12, 2000

A student reported that a backpack and textbook were stolen from 425 Social Science Building between 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

September 13, 2000

A student reported that his Fall 2000 parking permit was stolen on Sept. 11, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. while his vehicle was parked on Lot "I".

A faculty member reported that his park-

ing permit was stolen from his windshield between 7:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. while his vehicle was parked on West Drive. The vehicle's top had been left down.

Updates:

An arrest was made of a former UM-St. Louis student suspected of making the harassing telephone calls (noted in last week's Crimeline). Arrest warrants will be sought at the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

A suspect has confessed to committing the vending machine break-ins. Arrest warrants were sought and issued by the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office

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

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Fresh beginning. Wide-open possibilities.
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- Please join us on Thursday, September 28 for the Andersen Consulting Information Session, held in Room 222, JC Penney Building from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please stop by to meet our representatives and learn about the career opportunities that we offer for college graduates. Andersen Consulting will also be attending the Career Fair on October 20.
- All majors are encouraged to apply and to attend these events. To interview with Andersen Consulting, please submit your resume, an unofficial copy of your transcript, and our Application Form to Career Services by September 13. First interviews begin on Friday, October 6.

In the electronic economy, sharing ideas can lead to new outlooks - and new opportunities to succeed. By joining Andersen Consulting, you'll help transform world-class organizations as they compete for leadership in the future.

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That's a winner

UMSL staff member receives award for book

BY MARCELLUS CHASE
staff writer

The Missouri Humanities Council has chosen to honor Doris Wesley with an award for her recent book, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Wesley is a reference specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at UMSL. She will receive her award during a ceremony to be held Oct. 18 at the Governor's Mansion.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a compilation of photographs, interviews, and insights regarding St. Louis African-Americans. Wesley began her project 10 years ago by tape recording oral history interviews. She said she felt there was a need for the St. Louis community to document its rich African-American history.

Julius Hunter, William Clay, Freeman Bosley Jr., and Pearlle Evans are some of the individuals Wesley interviewed for her book. When she began her research, Wesley revealed, it was difficult to get interviews, because people didn't

understand what she was doing or why. Eventually, people did realize the importance of Wesley's project and agreed not only to be interviewed, but also to be photographed by Wiley Price.

Price, a photographer for "The St. Louis American," agreed to photograph Wesley's partici-

pants. Price will join Wesley at the Governor's Mansion, along with one other collaborator for the project, Ann Morris. Morris recently retired as associate director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

"I really enjoyed interviewing the 'unsung heroes,'" Wesley said, "because they have a lot of great stories. [They're the] people who do not have titles. They're the ones that are not out in the limelight. [They are] just everyday people . . . telling their life stories."

Wesley emphasized that all the historical documentation used for her book can be found in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. Wesley said she was grateful for the help of Stephen W. Lehmkuhle, vice president for academic affairs, UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, and Malaika B. Horne, member of the UM

see WESLEY, page 8



Darren Brune/The Current

Doris Wesley holds her book "Lift Every Voice and Sing," for which she received an award. Wesley works in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection of the Thomas Jefferson Library.

"I really enjoyed interviewing the 'unsung heroes' because they have a lot of great stories."

-Doris Wesley
author, Lift Every Voice and Sing

PPRC displays exhibit of artist's waterway prints

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

Water consists of two hydrogen atoms ionically bonded to one oxygen atom. Such a simple molecule, yet it sustains life for not only humans, but all forms of life on earth.

"Elemental Waterways: Water As a Sustainer of Life," a collection of giclee prints by artist John Paul Caponigro, will be on display in the Public Policy Research Center, located on the third floor of the Social Sciences Building at UM-St. Louis.

Giclee translated means "fine spray" in French. Giclee prints combine the beauty of watercolors with the modern appeal of digital technology. The process, originally invented by the Iris Inc., involves four computer-controlled airbrushes that apply ink in a vapor form to any flexible surface.

Jean Tucker, a photographic historian in the Public Policy Research Center, plans the exhibits on display in PPRC.

"We've had over 150 shows and they all had to do with issues of public policy. It's not just about art. This center is basically public policy and research," Tucker said.

Tucker selected Caponigro because he presented water with such an aesthetic feel.

"He is about the best there is. There are very few subjects that you can think of, that haven't been photographed by artists. You can show the problems, or you can show the ideals," Tucker said.

"These surfaces were created by nature; a portion of them is beyond me and beckons me to expand my



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

A view of the "Elemental Waterways: Water As A Sustainer of Life" exhibit in the Public Policy Research Center.

sensibilities," Caponigro said in an artist's statement. "Yet the surfaces in these pictures are not untouched. I have altered them; by inclusion and exclusion with the device of the picture frame by further eliminations from and additions to what remains within the picture frame, by changing proportion, by creating rorschachs and placing their midpoints, by orchestrating hue, tint, value, and

saturation. I find this a most curious collaboration with the hand of nature."

"In all my work there is an obsession with looking at, through, and into surfaces. A fortune-teller might find a divine meaning of the world by reading tea leaves, bones, runes or entrails scattered across a surface. Similarly, I have been engaged in a process of self-discovery and revela-

tion. Looking at images offers a unique opportunity to see the world interpreted. Looking at the surfaces of nature yields similar opportunities. One asks the question, 'What do these lines, shapes, proportions, patterns and rhythms reveal about the world and their creator?' Reading the

see PPRC, page 8

Published prof gives poetry talk

BY SARA PORTER
special to the Current

Jefferson Smurfit Corporation's Professor in Irish Studies, Eamonn Wall read on "Poetry of Places: Ireland and America," Monday, Sept. 11 in Room 229, J.C. Penney Building.

Wall, had previously published two books of poetry as well as various novels and short stories. He read poems that described various places and experiences from his former home Ireland and his current home in the U.S.

"I wanted to read poems that explored the notion of place," said Wall, a graduate of City University of New York.

One of his poems, "Coming of the Tour de France," dealt with the bicycle ride, which was at the same time a celebration honoring the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

"It was odd to find those two events in conjunction with each other," Wall said.

Wall's poem "Election Day" was about three specific topics: the weather, politics, and beer.

"Those are the three subjects that come up the most in Irish conversation," Wall said.

The poem "Returning to Dublin" explored Wall's feelings about coming back to his native land for a brief visit.

"The train ride from County Wicklow to Dublin is one I took frequently when I was over there," Wall said. "When I took it again, I felt it was a new experience."

A few of Wall's poems were about

see POETRY, page 8

HEAVENLY BODIES

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QUOTES

"To believe in one's dreams is to spend all of one's life asleep."

-Chinese proverb
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

"He hasn't an enemy in the world but all his friends hate him."

-Eddie Cantor
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

"Whenever you have an efficient government you have a dictatorship."

-Harry S. Truman
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

Dating shows give night's entertainment



AND THE POINT IS...
ANNE PORTER

I stay up late and get up late. Since most stores are closed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., and most bars close around 1:30 a.m. (at least in the county), that leaves little to do for entertainment before I go to bed.

Others understand this predicament and that's why, I think, late-night television was invented. Since I usually go to bed about 2:30 or 3 a.m. and most nights watch TV, I believe that I am qualified to serve as a late-night television information professional.

First, one basic rule applies to alternative television: Monday through Friday schedules offer a greater variety

than those of Saturdays and Sundays. In general, Sundays offer nothing but twenty episodes of "The Brady Bunch."

Second, cable provides much more selection than the five broadcast stations that typically switch to infomercials after 1 a.m.

This basic knowledge makes picking your late-night line-up much easier.

I suggest these shows begin the journey into the land of infomercials and videos.

My first choice, "Blind Date," used to be on KPLR 11 Monday through Saturday nights about 1 a.m. Now, because so many people watched the

show, KPLR moved the time to 11 a.m. to counter "The Price is Right."

I grant the show my first-place nomination, because it is still aired on Saturday night about 11 p.m. The other reason is to pay homage to its very humorous, mindless and entertaining farce. Basically, a camera follows two guinea pigs around on their first date, a blind date at that, and adds little cartoon thoughts above their heads to show what they could be thinking.

In addition to the captions, other drawings are made to describe the participants. On one date, the guy turned out to be quite a lush and was trying to get the girl to drink, so the producers of

the show drew "Boozo the Clown" icons and made him look evil and funny as he attempted to seduce his date.

The guy, I should say, was also a clown for his profession, and he was very successful at enticing the girl to drink, but she still didn't give in to sleeping with him at the end. She did however, kiss him numerous times, very deep-throated ones at that, and called him often "a good friend."

A close second in my list is "Change of Heart." This show comes on at about 1:30 a.m. on KMOV Channel 4 after Craig Kilborn. Two people in a relationship go on a blind

date (by choice) to test their relationship.

Both always tell every little detail down to sexual preferences and nasty habits. On one episode the boyfriend said his girlfriend would turn her panties inside out, so that she could get another day's wearing. Speaking of underwear, one girlfriend said that he boyfriend wears her lingerie and was wearing it right then when they were on the show.

At the end of the show, after the audience listens to the summaries of

see PORTER, page 8

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Candidates should bring message to the students

Thursday afternoon it almost felt like a wind of sanity blew through the Student Government Association.

A full slate of SGA candidates assembled in the Student Lounge to discuss their stances on various issues. The tone of the forum was surprisingly pleasant. The candidates proposed several interesting ideas and seemed to build on what other people had to say.

For instance, there was a lot of discussion of the positive and negative points of the proposed SGA constitution. More importantly, there was discussion about how to get it passed. The candidates discussed the Assembly and ways to improve attendance. Several candidates sounded off the theme of unity - bridging the commuter and residential populations on campus.

If a campaign is going to be successful, then the first important ingredient is good candidates and the second is issues. It seems like we have them in abundance this fall.

The disappointing part of the forum was the low attendance. The Office of Student Activities sent notice to various fraternities, sororities, student organizations, hoping to

draw a crowd, but that didn't happen.

In fact, when the candidates arrived, nothing for the forum was set up. Many students were sitting in comfortable chairs watching a talk show on the big-screen TV. When it was time to begin the forum, the students were invited to stay and participate and hear what the candidates had to say.

They did. The message that should send to the candidates is that UMSL students are interested in student government. They do care about the beliefs and ideas espoused by the candidates who would be their leaders. But the candidates can't wait for students to come to them. The candidates have to take this campaign to the student body.

There's almost a week and a half of campaigning to go. Let's keep the campaign positive and focus on specific, concrete ideas and plans. But don't keep the ideas to yourself. Sell your message to the masses.

This campaign is the key to helping SGA rise from the ashes of last year. And the key to this campaign is the candidates. Don't waste this opportunity.

The issue:

This election already has two of the key ingredients it needs to be successful - good candidates and important issues. Now the key is getting the student body to take notice.

We suggest:

SGA candidates shouldn't wait for students to come to them. The impetus will be on them to take their message to the masses. Thursday's candidate forum proved that students will listen.

So what do you think?

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

Sometimes peace of mind means letting go

Ever had a horrible week? I thought I had experienced my fair share of tough weeks; that was before I tripped headlong into this week.

Things weren't going my way. Crises just kept piling themselves on top of each other, jumping into the inbox on my desk, and then screaming for attention.

Well, I had opportunities to get upset with everyone, from myself to my family to Current staffers, to particular student "leaders" to God Himself.

It all came to a head Thursday.

That day was supposed to be a cake-walk. Managing editor Brian Douglas and I were supposed to moderate a discussion forum with the SGA candidates. Seemed easy enough, and despite a few initial setbacks, the forum started off well.

You know, I don't get threatened very often. When I do, it's usually in jest or over something of little consequence. Until that Thursday, I had never been threatened with a lawsuit. But somebody decided to change that during the forum. It was exactly what I didn't need that day.

It rattled me, shook me hard, made my head pulse and throb in pain. It distracted me from what I needed to be doing. It made me very angry and uncertain of myself.

I finished out the day very frustrated and a little intimidated. When I came home, my family helped me out by listening to me speak my mind. And it was at home that I realized holding a grudge and thinking evil of this individual was poisoning

me more than anyone.

As a Christian, I find that one of the best places to find answers is the Bible. It was there that I read about God's promises for people who are persecuted. It was there I also read the tough command to love my enemies and to pray for those who curse me.

So that's what I set out to do. In only a day's time, I had received peace stronger than I've felt in a long time. I set aside my rights to revenge, I set aside my worries and concerns, and I received freedom.

This sort of experience isn't unique. I've read countless stories of others who have found the same joy and freedom through forgiveness and setting their burdens aside. It occurred to me that this sort of freedom is exactly what certain folks connected to the SGA might need to experience.

After all, it's easy to get upset at a University and an administration when you feel your rights have been violated. It's easy to decide to propagate a message of anger, hate, and fear. Heck, it's easy to be legalistic and pursue what you perceive to be justice. With a certain amount of luck, it might be possible to get what you want through court battles, intimidation, or aggression.

But in the end, is it really worth it? Will it actually benefit you or anyone else?

No. Wouldn't it be better to release it, start over, and find freedom?

Just let it go, my friend. Just let it go.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

LETTERS

Seize this opportunity to voice your ideas and opinions

UMSL will never be a true urban university until it finds more ways to bring its students together. Many UMSL students live farther than 10 miles from campus and rarely stay longer than their classes demand. Events like EXPO and Mirthday do little but provide free food and distractions as students walk to their classes. Even when people do hang out or get involved on campus, it's usually with the same circle of friends.

This is unfortunate, as UMSL boasts one of the most diverse student populations in St. Louis. Many foreign students attend classes here, as well as St. Louisans of all ages and races. A great opportunity exists for students to expand their view of the world, yet most seem content to spend their free time with people just like themselves.

What has UMSL done to encourage a more integrated student population? Student organizations help somewhat, but most are comprised of students with the same majors or political persuasions. The SGA is

looked upon by many to represent itself more than the students, especially when eight of 14 student candidates have been rejected by it. The Underground has had complete sections virtually taken over by various cliques. UMSL's fraternities and sororities operate as if they were in a world of their own.

What can be done? For one, the student organizations need to be more vocal with what they do. EXPO isn't enough to keep an organization thriving. For example, how many students are even aware that for the first time in years, UMSL has no Democratic Club? During a Presidential election year nonetheless? Unless the organizations band together, they run the risk of disappearing.

Secondly, a student chat room linked to UMSL's webpage might help. Many students use computers on campus as well as from home to access UMSL's pages. A chat room would be an ideal place to meet new people here without prejudice, to meet the mind before person.

And third, the SGA needs to seriously rethink their practices, and whose interests they represent.

But true change can only come from the students themselves. By being open-minded and involved on campus, your education will expand far past the limits of your classes. Sit next to people in your classes who are different from you, whether it be through race, background, age, etc. Get to know them and how they see the world. I've been doing it since day one, and now I am often stopped on campus by friends from Africa, Japan, China, friends who are African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic, and Asian - friends ranging in age from 20 to 60, friends ranging from punk rockers to nuns. And every time I talk with them, I walk away reviewing my own perspective of the world. Don't rob yourself of the same opportunity!

--Travis DeRousse
Treasurer, Mannheim Park Social Analysis Consortium

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

LETTERS

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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.

UMSL should grant debt relief to all burdened students

I love the analogy of the Jubilee in the Sept. 11 editorial. Why not take the analogy even further - I remember seeing in the "U.S. News & World Report" rankings of colleges last year that UMSL is in the top 50 in terms of "debt load upon graduation." Meanwhile, many international activists have been campaigning, under the rubric of "Jubilee 2000," for debt relief for many of the world's poorest developing nations. This means the United States and European countries would forgive the debt of much of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

So, here's my idea: UMSL Jubilee 2000. The ultimate goal would be to have debt relief, granted to all UMSL students and recent graduates with, say, at least \$2,000 of student loans incurred at UMSL. If it doesn't happen, the first step to take would be - strike! That's right - taking a cue from our brethren in sunny South Africa, where every other year most universities see widespread strikes and campus shutdowns, organized by students, protesting university fees they can't afford. Why not have a big old campus walkout to protest the outrageous parking fees? Or the delay in the con-

struction of the Millennium Student Center? Or the speed bumps in Bel-Nor?

Or instead, UMSL students could realize just how good they have it. If our biggest problem is the foolishness of administrators in their choice of parking sticker suppliers, I'd say UMSL is doing pretty well. So, enjoy it. Life is good.

-- Joe Frank
senior on exchange to the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

Students taking importance of education for granted

Twenty-four years is longer than some of you have been alive. That's how long I worked at a company before coming back to school. You say "big deal." It is a big deal, if you give up a lifestyle to better your mind and accomplish something that most of you take for granted.

School is important. Anything a person does to better their mind and put something between his or her ears

is important. Some of the students at UM-St. Louis may take their education for granted. Believe it or not, education is not a God-given right. It is an honor, it takes time and it is hard work.

Education is important. It not only may help you make money, but it should give you something to be proud of. That is, you should learn while you are in school. Going to class is not enough. You need to be excited

and prepared to go to class. Be as excited about going to class as you are about the Rams or Cardinals game.

That sounds like a lot of baloney, doesn't it? If you want to learn and be able to apply that knowledge to your life, you need to be excited and prepared.

-- Bobette Berger

Challenging yourself leads to great things

Something great happened to me over the summer. I was fortunate enough to have been awarded a graduate teaching assistantship in history from UMSL for fall semester 2000 and winter semester 2001.

While the pay wasn't very good, I still felt very good about myself. I was informed by the faculty that the competition was fierce for the three positions offered. This made me feel even better. The reason I was so elated was that I was finally going to get the chance to work at something I truly enjoyed. This was something that had meaning.

For several years, I worked at grocery stores in the produce department. Don't get me wrong. I did enjoy certain aspects of it. For instance, I made many friends. We had football pools and World Series pools. My manager was such a big Cardinal fan that when we were tying up grapes in the back room, he let us listen to the games on KMOX radio.

My friends and I would get a kick out of the way in which some people shopped. There was always the customer who would pull the bottom apple out of the perfectly stacked display, causing the rest to come crashing down. There were also some who would buy a gallon of milk and place it at the bottom of the cart, completely oblivious to the fact that it contained a small leak. They would proceed to go up and down every aisle and drip milk everywhere, causing the floor crew a great hassle.

So, it wasn't all bad. But it wasn't a challenge to me. I wanted something more out of life. That is why I am going to college.

So far, my teaching assistantship has been challenging, yet fun. The students seem to really enjoy history, and that leads to some great discussions. I am just glad that I am doing something that I love, and this can lead to great things in the future.



TIM THOMPSON
guest columnist

CORRECTION

In issue 994, the chief of UMSL police was misidentified. Robert Roeseler is the chief of police. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Under Current
by Mutsumi Igarashi
staff photographer

Which place do you like the best at UMSL?



Rachel Hercules
Sophomore/Chemistry

"Parking garage - because there are no parking spaces available."



Crystal Bennett
Sophomore/Biology

"Labs - because they have stools."



Todd Hicks
Graduate/Communications

"Library - it feels so much like a second home to me."

Riverwomen spike 3 of 4 games

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

After taking only one of four games in the Grand Valley State Invitational, the 2000 Riverwomen's volleyball squad finished tournament play on a high note, sweeping the Drury College Invitational with three victories.

At Grand Valley, the Riverwomen were defeated by Lake Superior College, Michigan State University at Mankato, and host school Grand Valley State in succession before clinching a win over Bryant College in the final game of the weekend.

"We rebounded from a rough weekend in Michigan and took Springfield, Missouri by storm," said

Head Coach Denise Silvester, whose squad now stands at 6-4 on the year heading into conference play.

The Riverwomen drew Texas Wesleyan in the opening round of the Springfield tournament. After taking the first game 15-10, UMSL fell behind Texas Wesleyan 7-15. But strong offense from Kathryn Freeman and Holly Zrout pulled the Riverwomen back into the game, and after a long third set, UMSL took the contest in four games. Freshman Melissa Frost led the team in attack percentage with a .471 mark.

"We had a slow start," said Silvester. "But we pushed through it to win the match in 4 games."

The following morning,

Silvester's team was pitted against host school Drury College. After winning the first game 15-10, the Riverwomen found themselves looking at a 2-1 deficit and facing a potential loss.

But in the fourth set, Michelle Hochstatter, who had 19 kills and an attack percentage of .515 in the game, lit up the Drury defense and led the Riverwomen's confident charge to victory. After a 150-minute battle royale, UMSL emerged victorious, winning the fifth and final set 16-14.

"Saturday morning we went to the gym to play a volleyball match versus Drury," said Silvester. "We found ourselves instead in a two-hour-33-minute marathon."

The final match of the tournament set the Riverwomen opposite Central Arkansas. This contest immediately followed the Drury marathon, and fatigue set in early. But Silvester rallied her troops, and after eeking out an 18-16 opening set victory, the team took the contest in stride, downing UCA 15-5 and 15-2 to sweep the tournament.

"I was surprised we had anything left after that [Drury] match," said Silvester. "But 30 minutes later we were back on the floor playing Central Arkansas. I was a little shaky at the start, but once we settled down, we handled them easily."

Silvester attributes the recent success of the team to poise and composure.

"We really made a team effort to cut down on unforced errors," said Silvester. "We have to learn we cannot take as many risks when it leads directly to a point for our opponents."

Zrout and Hochstatter were the key components for the Riverwomen offensively, combining for 69 kills for the weekend. Also, Kelby Saxwold and Michelle Pasioka kept many balls alive with their solid performances during the rally ball.

The Riverwomen continue on the road to face Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky before their 12-game road trip lands them back at home Sept. 22 to host Bellarmine.

Rivermen open tournament 1-0 over N. Kentucky

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

A hard week of practice for the men's soccer team including crossing drills paid off as the cross of senior captain Josh Fair across the goal mouth found the foot of sophomore Kirt Spencer with 3:52 remaining to clinch a 1-0 victory for the Rivermen against Northern Kentucky.

"I looked up and saw Dwight [De Leon] and Sanjeev [Katwaroo] going back post and Sanjeev can jump as high as anybody," Fair said. "It is the ball that we have been working on all season."

Head Coach Hannibal Najjar agreed that the previous weeks' worth of practice paid off for the Rivermen as they are now 1-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

"We have been working on switch plays and crosses all week non-stop," Najjar said. "When Josh came off the field after the game, he said 'Coach, that's the cross you wanted' and I said 'Yes, thank you.' It was a hard-earned goal. We know Sanjeev can get up there and causes problems and it dropped in our favor at the end."

With Northern Kentucky coming into the match at 5-0 overall, the game became a physical one. Sixty fouls between the two teams occurred during the 90-minute contest.

Goalkeeper Kevin McCarthy stood strong in the nets for the

Rivermen turning away 10 shots by Northern Kentucky including two spectacular saves with 29:24 remaining on a cross and with 19:00 left as he came out to punch away another goal-minded shot by Northern Kentucky.

"He's played solid all year," Fair said. "He has a great command of the defense back there."

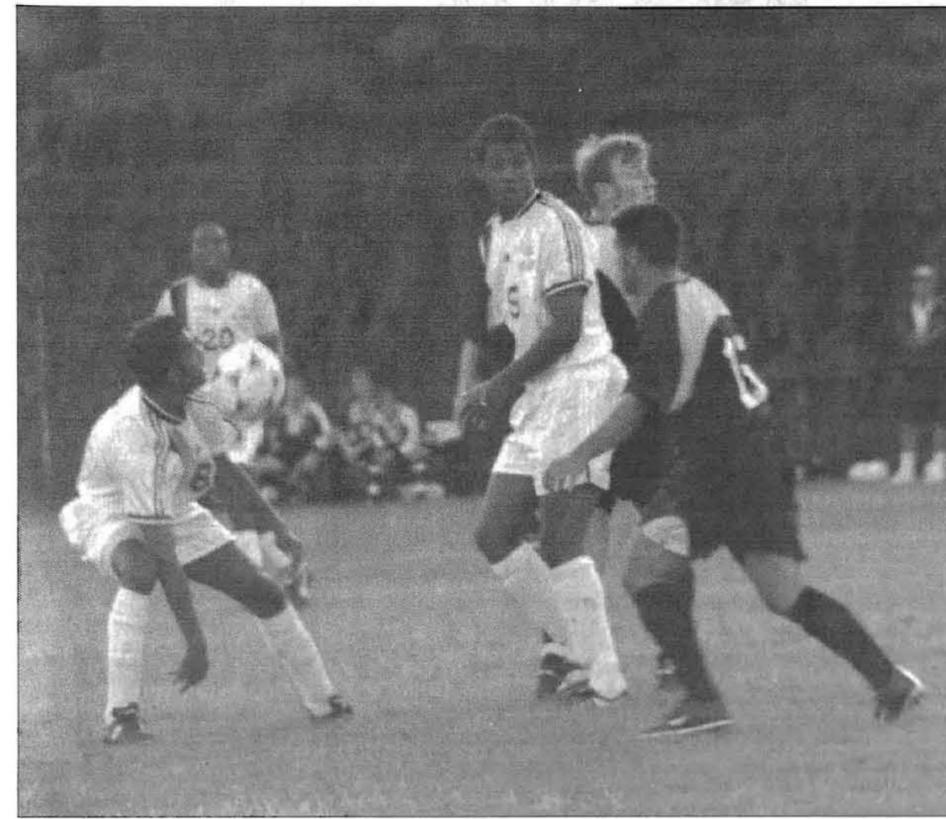
Previously, the men's soccer team split a pair as the Rivermen lost to Christian Brothers College 0-1 in a second-half goal with less than 20 minutes remaining in the contest. UMSL was also outshot 18-5.

The Rivermen rebounded and defeated Lincoln University 1-0 to put their overall record at 2-0 before the Northern Kentucky contest.

Dwight De Leon scored the lone goal for UMSL at 62:13 of the second half. It was the only shot of De Leon's four that were on goal and he made it count. Although the Rivermen were outshot 21-11, McCarthy kept their opponents from scoring.

With the victory also came a red card issued to Lyndon John at the 46:27 mark which will put him out of action for at least two games.

UMSL will now hit the road for the second and third contest in the Great Lakes Valley Conference as they will take on St. Joseph's and Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne this weekend.



Darren Brunel/The Current

Joshua Fair and Phillips Faulkner defend UMSL in this past Friday's game against Northern Kentucky.

No. 4 team defeats Riverwomen 2-0

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen's soccer squad played host to Northern Kentucky, the No. 4 ranked team in the country and competed well with the highly-ranked foe, but succumbed in the end 0-2.

Northern Kentucky's lone goal in the first half came off a throw when a communication error occurred in the penalty box and goaltender Kathleen Hertling bobbled the ball. Bessie Black of Northern Kentucky was there to pounce on the rebound, with 21:48 remaining, and take a 1-0 lead going into the second half.

The first half looked lopsided as the Riverwomen were outshot on goal by a margin of 10-0, but the team came out and played hard the remaining 45 minutes.

"I don't know if I think that they played harder in the second half than the first half," Head Coach Beth Goetz said. "We were definitely in the game and they knew they had the other team frustrated because they were worried about getting the other goal. We had them on their heels a couple of times in the first half. We just came

out in the second half and were ready to go."

Two UMSL chances came in the second half when sophomore Lindsay Jones crossed a ball to sophomore Lindsey Siemens and forced the Northern Kentucky goalkeeper to make a diving save with 39:00 remaining. The other chance came when junior Jill Wacker hit the cross bar on a shot with 12:15 remaining.

Northern Kentucky then took advantage and put the dagger in the Riverwomen's heart as they scored with 6:32 left on a cross from the far side.

Although the Riverwomen did lose the contest, the match itself proved that UMSL can play with any team in the nation.

"They need to keep it in perspective and it shows that hard work pays off," Goetz said. "It has been a tough week at practice and getting the momentum going and enthusiasm going and being able to play for 90 minutes — which is what we didn't do last week — and they did that tonight. They need to use that and realize that this is the type of game that we need to play regardless of our opponent."

Previously, the Riverwomen



Darren Brunel/The Current

Shelly Dixon charges past her opponent in this past Friday's game against Northern Kentucky.

lost a pair a pair of games in Kirksville, MO where Truman State hosted the tournament.

Truman State posted two first-half goals and that was enough to defeat UMSL 2-1. The lone goal for the Riverwomen, who were outshot 17-11, was posted by Lindsey Siemens.

UMSL then took on Central Missouri State University and went

into the second half tied with the Mules, but CMSU scored two goals to clinch the victory 2-0. In this contest, the Riverwomen outshot the Mules 18-14, but could not muster a goal.

The Riverwomen will now travel to Indiana to play St. Joseph's and Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne on the road this weekend.

Team Standings

Women's Volleyball

6-4

Men's Soccer

3-4-0

Women's Soccer

2-4-0

Great Lakes Valley Conference

Men's Soccer

1-0-0

Women's Soccer

0-1-1

Strange things are found in Olympics

Only in the Olympics would the Koreans, although still competing separately, march into the stadium under the same flag, while The East Timorese, who faced political oppression for the heavier side of the first millennium before gaining independence, march under the Olympic banner as "independent athletes."

Only in the Olympics could the newest edition of the U.S. "Dream Team," whose combined salaries in the National Basketball Association could pay for the entire Olympic festival, play teams that practice on dirt fields with peach baskets.

Only in the Olympics could Fidel Castro and his band of baseball players win yet another gold medal playing "America's pastime."

Only in the Olympics are 18-year-old girls considered "seasoned veterans."

Only in the Olympics could one find 20,000 spectators watching a hard core trampolinist bounce to glory.

Only in the Olympics do countries who can't even seem to feed their own residents pay for the room and board of that nation's athletes, who look far from famished.

Only in the Olympics do big-

name athletes pass up the chance to win a medal for their country because it "doesn't fit their busy schedule."

Only in the Olympics can a man with 17 vowels in his last name, a heavily broken accent, and no recollection of who Abraham Lincoln was, wear the red, white, and blue.

Only in the Olympics do men and women alike put four years of their life on hold to prove to the world that are the greatest amateur athletes in the world, only to be forgotten within six months.

Only in the Olympics do countries rescind military conflicts so that

their countrymen can concentrate on the feats of their brethren.

Only in the Olympics can one witness the Chinese dynasty in the sport of ping-pong.

Only in the Olympics would American networks deem the games so important that they would cover the games a total of zero hours "live and on location."

Only in the Olympics do fans buy T-shirts that say "I went to the synchronized swimming competition, and all I got was this crummy T-shirt."

Only in the Olympics...

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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GAMES

Women's Volleyball

- v. Bellarmine
7:00 pm, Fri., Sept. 22
- v. Kentucky Wesleyan
1:00 pm, Sat., Sept. 23
- at SIU-Edwardsville
7:00 pm, Fri., Sept. 29
- at Southern Indiana
1:00 pm, Sat., Sept. 30

Men's Soccer

- at St. Joseph's
5:00 pm, Fri., Sept. 22
- at Fort Wayne
12:30 pm, Sun., Sept. 24
- v. Wisconsin-Parkside
5:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 29
- v. Lewis
12:30 pm, Sun., Oct. 1

Women's Soccer

- at St. Joseph's
7:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 22
- v. Fort Wayne
3:00 pm, Sun., Sept. 24
- v. Wisconsin-Parkside
7:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 29
- v. Lewis
3:00 pm, Sun., Oct. 1



LATEST SCOOP

NICK BOWMAN



EDITOR

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MUSIC

September

18

Dave Matthews with Bela Fleck and the Flecktones
Riverport

Peter Green and the Splinter Group
Blueberry Hill's Duck Room

19

The Robert Cray Band
American Theater

21

Climber with Demi-Gods
Way Out Club

23

Joan Osborne
Firehouse

26

Suicidal Tendencies
Galaxy

29

Alice Cooper
American Theater

30

Dave Brubeck
Sheldon

Trip Daddys
Way Out Club

October

1

Santana with Everlast
Riverport

3

Moby
American Theater

There's nothing new in **'THE CREW'**



LEFT: Detectives Steve Menteer (Jeremy Piven) and Olivia Neal (Carrie-Anne Moss) investigate an apparent mob-related hit.

BELOW: With their old bravado reawakened after executing a brilliant scheme to keep from being evicted from their retirement hotel, former good fellas Tony Donato (Seymour Cassel), Mike Donatelli (Dan Hedaya), Joe Pistella (Burt Reynolds), and Bobby Bartellemeo (Richard Dreyfuss) are back feeling like the big shots they were long ago.



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

It isn't that "The Crew" is poorly done; far from it, it has all the glossy production values you could want. It has swooping crane shots (very expensive), pretty golden-light photography, carefully dressed sets where even the beach sand has every grain in place. The stars are familiar, likeable, capable performers, playing roles you would expect. The story takes a turn or a bang just where you'd expect, and you know everything works out in the end. Everything and everyone looks impeccably beautiful all the time; even the rundown old car looks cute rather than like a real rusty old car.

Oh sure, it's a comedy, and you don't expect realism in comedies, but the problem is both how familiar and how unreal all this overly groomed perfection is.

The story is much the same, every line in place, every expected character, every anticipated plot turn, all polished to the greatest perfection.

And why not? Hollywood's been making films exactly like this for many years, so they better have this formula down now. But unfortunately, we've been watching them do these movies for many years too, and we've all seen all of this before.

Everything is just as you would expect, just as you've seen in hundreds of movies before. And it's all so contrived. It's not that it's not a cute movie in a way. Four retired low-level Mafiosos are living in a small apartment on a Miami beach, but the problem is that property values are going up, so they are being squeezed out to

'The Crew'

Length: 100 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★★

make room for the young and trendy (and barely dressed, if possible). Desperate (of course they can't just move) they decide to fake a murder. They may have been hitmen in the old days, but now they're sweet but feisty old guys who wouldn't hurt a fly. How could it be otherwise?

Actually, considering how slick and obviously expensive this film is, it opens with a rather surprising error. Going back to the past to show these wise guys in their hitmen glory, the date that flashes up on screen isn't the one that suits all the images we're seeing - 1958 (you know 1958 - big cars with fins, Frank Sinatra on the radio, girls in tight dresses with teased hair) but 1968 (you know 1968 - Volkswagen Bugs, Rolling Stones on the stereo, hippie chicks). Apart from this aberration, there isn't anything else to surprise you in this movie. It's all very well done, of course, the acting, the photography, the story, the sets, just all very familiar. Although jokes and funny lines were delivered with fine emphasis and timing, no one in the audience laughed throughout the film, because they heard them all before. Midway through the film, one of the characters says something that sums all the characters in this movie; he says: "Do you know what I am? I'm a cliché." Actually, that works for the whole film too.

FILM REVIEW

Engrossing storyline, simple style make **'Shower'** refreshing

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'Shower'

Length: 100 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★★★★

"Shower" is a Chinese film that is one of the best developed stories I've seen this year - in addition to being a beautifully photographed film - with images that are not only a pleasure to see but full of meaning and information for the story.

This story about a successful urban Chinese man estranged from his father is as fresh and real as can be, with fully developed characters who have charm and life.

The film opens with a remarkable scene of a man taking a shower in a public facility. It is visually powerful and produces a sharp contrast with later scenes of the old-fashioned bathhouse. The father runs an old-fashioned bathhouse along with his other son, who is both sweet and hard-working but mentally slow.

When a misunderstanding brings the cell-phone-toting estranged son back to visit, the gap between their lives and worlds stands like a symbol of the differences between Chinese past and future. As a symbol of their differences, the son now prefers the quickness of a shower to the slow relaxing ritual of a bath in the bathhouse, much to his father's dismay.

The bathhouse is like many American bars or restaurants, a gathering place in the community. Here, men go to socialize away the day, talking, gambling or playing games, but this slower-paced traditional life is fading and most of the men coming to the bathhouse now are old regulars.

Against the backdrop of the story of this family, the director layers on

tales of the father's past and the regulars of the bathhouse. But like a skillful storyteller, the director entertains and engrosses with his story, leading us off into tales illustrating the importance of water in the lives of people and as a symbol for many things in life, while using imagery that is simply beautiful and epic at the same time.

The director makes surprisingly creative and appealing use of the material at hand for visuals, especially in the images with water. The story is both funny and dramatic, not pat or predictable. Although this film has subtitles, it, like many recent Chinese films, tells a lot of the story through what you see on the screen. The dialogue is less important than you might expect, making it easy to follow. The acting is subtle but very strong, with each character sharply drawn and appealing. The supporting roles of the bathhouse regulars add a bit of comic conflict, but always in a believable way, so many of the squabbles seem like something that could happen at any neighborhood gathering place.

This was an all around good film that worked in every way, with engrossing story, charming characters, and gorgeous but simple photography that depended on the ingenuity of its framing for its visual appeal. This film is sure to please anyone who just likes a good story, filmed in an elegant, simple style.

FILM REVIEW

Shakespearean comedy masquerades as parody of 1940s musicals

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

'Love's Labour's Lost'

Length: 93 min.
Rated: PG
Our opinion: ★★★★★

"Love's Labour's Lost?" Isn't that a Shakespearean comedy? Directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh, who has directed a fistful of Shakespearean films in recent years, and produced by the ever-respectable Martin Scorsese? What could be so weird about that?

That's what I thought.

The film starts out harmlessly. It's obviously been reset in 1940s England and stylistically looks much like a film of that time, specifically a Technicolor Hollywood comedy, with sets in carefully-coordinated color that look pretty rather than convincing. The dialogue is Shakespeare's, not 1940's slang, so I'm thinking that this is another one of those interpretations that have been common in recent years, where they just move the classic play to another time period. Suddenly, during a scene in a college library, Branagh and three other men in the scene start to sing and dance.

I sank down into my seat, and thought briefly about making a dash for the door.

For not only are they singing and dancing in the style of Fred Astaire, they're not particularly good at it, especially Branagh. Could it be that Branagh, who has taken on so many roles in the past, secretly wants to be a song-and-dance man, due to a childhood fascination with Astaire? Shuddering, I nonetheless suppressed the desire to bolt and remain seated, hoping that this is the limit of the

dancing and singing but steeling myself for more.

Thankfully, it soon becomes clear that this is a parody of the style of 1940s musicals, with their wildly inappropriate bursts of dance or song, their overdone coordination of color and costume, and that all this is being played for laughs. Giggles from the audience soon turned to roars of laughter as the film gets sillier and funnier, especially in the scene where they sing and dance while suspended from wires. Sounds weird, but it's funny.

Shakespeare's basic story remains in the film, which is a farce about a prince and three companions who swear off wine, women, and song for the three years they'll be at college. The biggest problem is the prohibition against women. Since he is a prince, he can ban all three from the premises of the school, which he does.

Unfortunately, he has forgotten that a princess is coming to pay a state visit as an emissary from her ailing father, the King of France. The prince is forced to make an exception for the princess and her three ladies-in-waiting, but keeps them in a camp outside the school, rather than break his edict and let them onto the school grounds. Of course, the prince and his friends fall in love, and so things get

complicated due to their previous oath.

You have to give Branagh and Scorsese credit for having the courage to try something completely new, even if it is a bit far out toward the edge. The parody is restrained and tongue-in-cheek, rather than broadly campy like Mel Brooks' parody of Westerns, "Blazing Saddles." Thankfully, some of the cast are good dancers and singers, so the musical numbers, which feature classic songs from the era by greats like Cole Porter, are enjoyable as well as funny.

Although Shakespeare's work is there, the film does kind of bury in its homage to musicals. For the film is as much homage to those old films as it is a parody of them, and they are treated with respect for what they did well, as well as teased for their sillier aspects. Although most of the bits are played "straight," a few are just so weird and some of the minor roles are just so eccentric, that they leave you gasping. The film requires some knowledge of the type of film being parodied, but if you've seen a handful of Fred Astaire movies, you'll get the joke.

If you have a soft spot for old movies, you'll have a lot of fun with this film. If you're more interested in Shakespeare, you might find this less enjoyable, but it's still funny. The key to how much you'll like this film is how much you're willing to go with its weird premise. I'm not a great fan of old musicals, but I still enjoyed this film. It isn't necessary to be a big fan of musicals, but it probably doesn't hurt.

Except when Branagh dances.

Weekend yields three films that couldn't be more different



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE

I went to see three movies this past weekend, and besides being dazed by too much movie popcorn, I was struck by the vast differences between these films. The title of that venerable Clint Eastwood spaghetti Western sprang to mind: "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." Actually, the third film wasn't so much ugly as weird; one of the strangest concepts I've seen in film, and the bad film isn't so much bad as just like so many other films before it. But you'll see that in the review. These

ent.

The Good: "Shower," a Chinese film that couldn't be described as anything else but good, was as refreshing as its title. Oh sure, it has subtitles, but the story is pure joy and is filled with beautiful images, many featuring the various roles water has in life. "Shower" is having a very successful run at Plaza Frontenac, as word-of-mouth is spreading about this lovely little film. This film was particularly invigorating because I saw it after I had seen "The Crew."

much bad, as doggedly ordinary. I was actually looking forward to seeing this comedy, since I like its star, Richard Dreyfus, but it was so predictable and slick at every turn, that I didn't get much enjoyment out of it. Unfortunately, it seemed that most of the audience felt the same way, as not a chuckle was heard through out. Not that the jokes were bad or poorly delivered, just too darn familiar. One of the characters, a South American drug lord, summed it up well when he says during the film: "Do you

and so are they all and a lot of the rest of the film.

And the Ugly, or in this case, the Weird: "Love's Labour's Lost." A Shakespearean play by Kenneth Branagh, what could be weird about that? Well, read my review and you'll see. Actually, once I and the rest of the audience got the idea behind the tongue-in-cheek film, it was very funny and people roared with laughter at some of the more absurd scenes. The film requires some familiarity with Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers-

some of the jokes, but if you love those kind of musicals, or love to laugh at them, you'll like this film.

I don't know that I recommend seeing three movies in one weekend as it's rather dizzying, but I do recommend "Shower," if you're brave enough to read subtitles. "Love's Labour's Lost" is funny, but it's just that the concept is so darn weird. I'd recommend "The Crew" only if you're likely to laugh at jokes you've already heard.

Riddle's offers music, leisurely pace, good food

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Riddle's Penultimate Café and Wine Bar
Address: 6307 Delmar
Phone: 725-6985
Website: www.riddles.com



Darren Brune / The Current

Riddle's Penultimate Café and Wine bar is located at 6307 Delmar, in the University City Loop.

Riddle's Penultimate Café and Wine Bar is located in the Delmar Loop, right across the street from the Tivoli Theater. The "penultimate" in the name means next to last, since owner Andy Ayers thinks he might have one more restaurant in him after this one - Riddle's is his second.

Riddle's serves both lunch and dinner, but I chose to visit for dinner.

Riddle's has a very relaxed, casual atmosphere. The décor is eclectic, with posters and original artwork on the walls in the old Delmar storefront. Riddle's is family-run, with Paula and Andy Ayers and their daughter Kate cooking and running the restaurant. "Riddle" is Paula's grandmother's last name. The clientele ranges from artsy types, students and professors to more conservatively-dressed business types.

Riddle's features music in the evenings, usually blues without a cover charge. If you hope to have a conversation with your dinner partner, though, it's best to ask to be seated in the larger back dining room, away from the band.

Silverware wrapped in cloth napkins and fresh flowers on the table hinted that the menu is more elaborate than the décor. Our server appeared immediately to take our drink order. Riddle's offers a nice selection of wines by the glass, along with an extensive list of specialty beers. I chose a California Cabernet Sauvignon from Ravenswood Winery (\$7.95), which was rich, dry, and smooth. My companion chose Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, an excellent beer from a California microbrewery.

The menu offered an array of eclectic

choices from French, Italian, and American cuisines. The main menu is supplemented by a large printed list of daily specials, a method I prefer over the waiter reciting the specials. The notes on the list reflect Riddle's commitment to fresh, high quality ingredients and to local growers, especially organic ones. Everything at Riddle's is prepared from scratch and cooked to order, so the pace of dinner is leisurely, but definitely worth the wait.

As an appetizer, I chose a special, Sautéed Missouri Shiitake Mushrooms (\$7.50), and my companion chose Shrimp Remoulade (\$7.50) from the regular menu. The mushrooms were a nice-sized plateful, with a wonderful buttery flavor that was faintly beefy. The Shrimp Remoulade had six very large shrimp with a tangy mustard-based sauce on the side, which was also very tasty.

As an entrée, I chose Shrimp Sara (\$17.95) from the regular menu, and my companion chose Veal Saltimbocca, a special. Dinners come with a choice of soup or salad and a choice of a vegetable dish, which are also listed on the specials menu. We ordered salads, a small Mayfair salad served with Mayfair dressing (\$4.75 if ordered alone, \$3.75 if ordered in place of the regular dinner salad) for me, and a small Eden salad with Ginger-Lemon dressing (\$4.75 if ordered alone, \$3.75 if ordered in place of the regular dinner salad) for my companion.

For our vegetables, I chose Homegrown Green Beans with Butter and Ham, and my companion chose Linguini with Fresh Homegrown Basil Pesto. The salads arrived with a basket of specialty breads that included a very nice dark pumpernickel. The salads had the right amount of dressing, and a varied selection of mixed greens. The Mayfair included a generous portion of sliced mushrooms, turkey, green pepper, and hard-boiled egg, with the anchovy-based creamy Mayfair dressing. The Eden salad included mixed greens, sliced mushrooms, cheddar cheese, carrot, red onion, tomato, green pepper, cucumber, ripe olives, and hard-boiled egg. The tomatoes were really ripe wedges, not a cherry tomato. The Ginger-Lemon dressing was tart and strong, but good.

Our entrees arrived after a reasonable wait. The Shrimp Sara was a large serving of jumbo shrimp, with plenty of artichoke hearts, chunks of fresh

tomato and sliced mushrooms, in a white wine, garlic, and cream sauce, accompanied by a side dish with the green beans. The green beans were just crisp enough to give a delightful texture, with the butter and ham adding well to the flavor. The Shrimp Sara

was a very savory mix, with just the right amount of garlic in a sauce that is not too heavy. The Veal Saltimbocca had slices of free-range (a more humane method) veal sautéed in wine and sage, topped with mozzarella cheese and prosciutto ham, a strong and very flavorful ham, which tastes rather bacon-like. The veal was tender and tasty, and well-complemented by the cheese and ham. The linguini side dish was the correct "a dente" texture, with lots of marvelous pesto sauce.

Our server came back several times to check on us, and the busboy was very prompt in refilling water glasses. When we finished our meal, the busboy was quick to clear the table, but did not attempt clear plates before we were done, as some restaurants do.

The desserts are a real specialty here. All the ice cream is made by hand the other deserts are the creative expression of owner Paula Ayers. We ordered the Kahlua-Cappuccino Ice Cream (\$5.95) and Homemade Homegrown Dutch Apple-Walnut Pie (\$4.50), with coffee. The desserts arrive quickly, with the coffee. The pie,

made with locally grown Golden Delicious apples, was rich and wonderful, with an excellent flaky crust and plenty of cinnamon but not so much as to bury the apple flavor. The ice cream was smooth and dense, with a very satisfying coffee flavor. The accompanying coffee was also very good, strong but not bitter.

Overall, Riddle's is an excellent restaurant with an unhurried pace, down-to-earth atmosphere, and friendly staff who make people feel so at home that this restaurant has many regulars. The food is excellent, with emphasis on high-quality, local and often organic ingredients and from-scratch preparation. It has a terrific selection of wine and beer, making it great place to come just to drink. It is more of a special night out than everyday dining spot, due to price, but is well worth a trip.

Reservations are not required, but are recommended for Friday and Saturday nights. They accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Diner's Club cards, as well as cash, but not personal checks.

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PPRC, from page 3

face of nature is an overwhelming process. It fills one with wonder," Caponigro said.

Pat Waterson, a member on the board of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, gave a lecture at the opening of Elemental Waterways.

"Water as a Sustainer of Life" is the theme of this show and by the way, there are a lot of artists now who are connecting up with natural themes, which, I think, is a natural circumstance, as we begin to rebuild some of the connection we have lost with the natural world," Waterston said.

In her lecture, Waterston explained why

usable water such as ground and fresh water are becoming in such short supply on earth. Waterston gave hope, though, when she suggested ways that are beginning to be applied to save water as a natural resource.

"It's the most valuable thing on earth, and it is the most consistently overlooked and used as a final resting place for our waste," Waterston said.

Elemental Waterways will be on exhibit through October 6 in room 362 of SSB. For more information call the Public Policy Research Center, call (314) 516-5273.

WESLEY, from page 3

Board of Curators. She said that all of them were instrumental in the publication of her book.

Wesley concluded, "This book should be in every school, library, and home . . . regardless of ethnic background."

POETRY, from page 3

the concerns faced by many immigrants. "Celebration of Junk Food" was about the minor misunderstandings of newcomers to American culture.

"Immigrants don't always get it right," Wall said. "Many times we understand and we don't understand things."

"Elegy for Singer" was a tribute to writer Isaac Bashevis Singer, who also wrote about immigration.

"I was interested in immigration when I moved to New York," Wall said. "Then, when I moved to Nebraska, I became interested in migration. It's about moving to a completely different place."

Diane Touliatos, Director of Humanities, enjoyed the reading.

"I'm interested in the Irish perspective of their epic in the U.S.A. and their poetry," said Toutalos. "I think [Wall] did a wonderful job."

Karen Lucas, associate director of the Center for the Humanities, said she enjoyed the reading. "It's a most auspicious start for the Monday Noon Series," Lucas said.

The Monday Noon Series is a cultural event sponsored by the Center for Humanities and held every Monday in Room 229, J.C. Penney Building, admission is free. For more information contact Karen Lucas at (314) 516-5698.

PORTER, from page 3

what happens on each person's date, both the boyfriend and the girlfriend choose to stay together, or have a change of heart.

The best and most entertaining part is when one says change and one says stay, or when both say change. Most times though, both opt to stay together, even though they made out or even had sex with their blind dates.

Hopefully, "Change of Heart" will stay on at night. Otherwise, I'll have to find some other late-night show to entertain myself before I go to bed.

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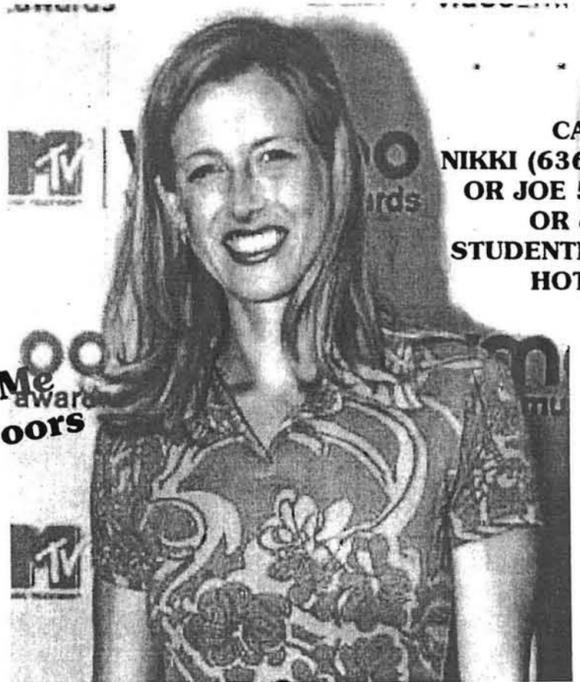


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THE NERD TABLE BY: MARTY JOHNSON



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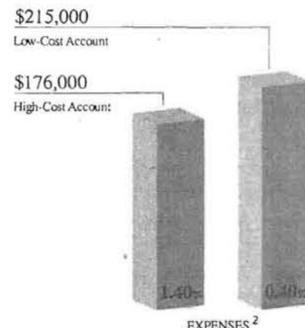
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FORUM, from page 1

le to the students. "I tried to get my hands on a copy of the new constitution and it was quite a job," Miller said. "We need to have a copy in the library and on our web site."

Steven Wolfe, running for vice-president, voiced concerns about the constitution. He questioned the necessity of requiring attendance for SGA representatives. He has already proposed 18 amendments to the new constitution.

Wolfe also raised questions about the legality of the provisional SGA that was set up over the summer. He said that because the provisional SGA was appointed by the administration without student input, it had no authority.

As a member of the provisional SGA, Glenn answered questions about the fairness of his running in the elections after helping to set up the election procedures. He said that there is absolutely no conflict of interest.

The provisional SGA did decide to add background checks to the election process. Glenn said, but the moment he decided to run for vice president, he distanced himself from the provisional SGA. Glenn said he had nothing to do with deciding what factors could disqualify a candidate.

The new constitution says that all SGA candidates would have to undergo background checks before running for an SGA office. Candidates could be automatically disqualified if they had been dismissed from another university, or committed a felony. Glenn, Olson, and vice-presidential candidate



Darren Brunel/The Current

Eight candidates for the SGA offices of president, vice president, and comptroller participate in the candidate forum Wednesday in the University Center Student Lounge.

Michael Rankins said they were in favor of background checks.

Miller, Wolfe, presidential candidate Christopher C. Taylor, and vice-presidential candidate Joshua Ryan said they were against background checks.

Connor and presidential candidate Julie Clifford said they thought the student body should know if someone had committed a crime, but that candidates should not be automatically disqualified for not disclosing background information.

"If the University thinks someone is good enough to go to school here, then who are we to say that they are not good enough to run for SGA office," Taylor asked in opposition of the background checks.

"These people have access to student numbers and students' GPA

records. I should know who these people are and what they have done," Rankins said in favor of the background checks.

The candidates said they would like to see UMSL change its reputation from that of a commuter campus, where people just come to class and leave immediately, to making UMSL a place where people not only go to school but stay to socialize.

The most ambitious plan for making UMSL a place for students to hang out was proposed by Rankins.

"This campus won't be a dry campus if I can help it," Rankins said. He said he plans to propose an all-ages pub to administrators. The pub would be located in the Millennium Student Center and would serve alcohol.

"I don't think all UMSL students are apathetic, I just think that they

don't feel welcomed here," said Taylor. Taylor proposed allocating funds to student organizations that attract and retain the most members.

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policy, if passed, would put control of dismissal in the hands of the faculty.

There were concerns raised by the audience about the draft of the new policy that had been distributed. These primarily consisted of problems with the wording of the document and concerns about potential future deans with personal agendas.

Following was a restricted voice vote to accept nominees for several interim positions across the campus. With one name for each available post, the voting was unanimously in favor of all nominees.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, in room 126 of the J.C. Penney building.

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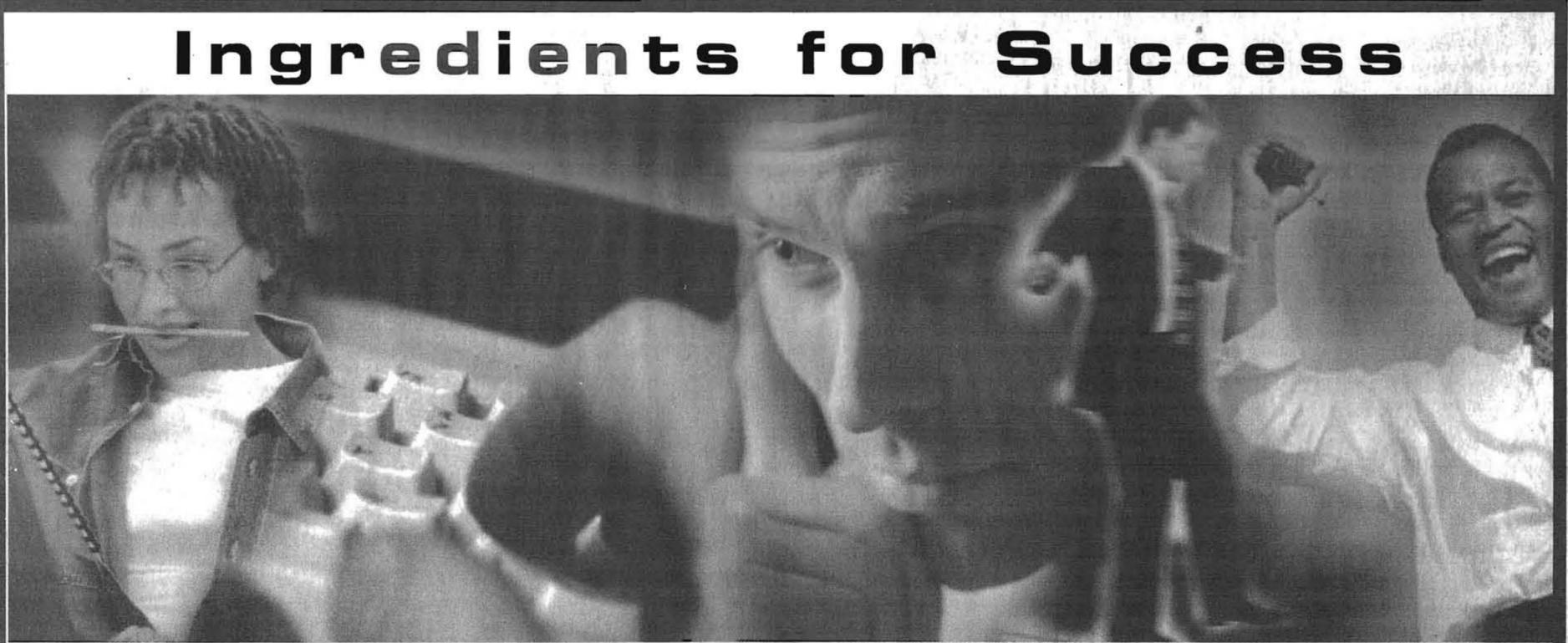
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