

## INSIDE



## Campus invaded by gargantuan mutant goose

Where did this monstrous genetic freak of nature come from? How will the campus survive? Find out the answers to these and other questions in *The Stagnant*, our annual April Fool's Day parody tabloid!

▲ Tabloid insert

## BRIEFS

## Nelson accepts position at UWT

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

Jack Nelson has accepted the position of vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Washington-Tacoma. His duties will commence with the 2001-2002 academic year.

Nelson held the same position at UMSL for three years before resigning in the summer of 2000. He had continued working here as a professor in the philosophy department.

UWT differs from UMSL in a variety of ways. First of all, it is a new campus, having existed for just over a decade. Second, it currently serves only juniors and seniors. Third, UWT is relatively small with a modest array of graduate programs.

UMSL and UWT are similar in one way, though. They are both experiencing rapid growth and expansion. In fact, UWT is increasing at an annual rate of nearly 15 percent.

When asked how he felt about leaving, Nelson said, "I enjoyed working at UM-St. Louis, but feel that I accomplished as much as I could accomplish in St. Louis."

Nelson also described his future goals.

"I look forward to working with other administrators and the faculty of UWT to build a vibrant new institution that will serve the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students," Nelson said. "The population of Washington state generally, and the Tacoma area in particular, is growing steadily and there is strong support for higher public education within the state, and within the area surrounding Tacoma."

Nelson said he wanted to emphasize that he wishes UMSL and its students, faculty, and staff the best in the years to come.

## INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	13
The Nerd Table	13

# The Current

Your source for campus news and information



## 'El Capitan' performed at UMSL

John Phillip Sousa's operetta has a confusing plot, overwrought characters, silly songs, and a climax that arbitrarily ends. But that didn't keep our reviewer from having a great time watching it.

▲ See page 3

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## Board approves notification policy

BY JOSH RENAUD  
senior editor

After spirited discussion, the University of Missouri Board of Curators voted 6-3 to approve a parental notification policy at its meeting March 22.

The idea of parental notification has met with some student opposition on all four UM campuses. The UMSL SGA Assembly recently passed a resolution urging administrators to consider other alternatives.

The policy was developed by a committee of administrators and students, headed by Stephen Lehmkulhe, UM System vice president for Academic Affairs. It allows the UM campuses to notify parents of underage students after their child commits a "severe" initial violation of the student conduct code concerning alcohol and controlled substances, or after subsequent violations.

Students will be given a 48-hour period to notify their parents on their own, if they wish, before the

University notifies them with a letter. The policy prevents the University from discussing with parents details of an incident without the student's consent.

Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said the Board encouraged administrators not to use the policy as a punitive measure, but as a way to encourage good communication.

"They wanted us to encourage these issues before [students] come to college," he said.

To accomplish that, campuses will send materials to parents of students aged 18-21 and encourage them to discuss the consequences of drinking and drug use with their children. Parents will be presented with the conditions of parental notification and given a choice not to participate in the program.

The policy also includes provisions to exempt students who are married or can demonstrate financial independence from their parents. The University can also choose to exempt

students if it receives written recommendation from a health care provider that notification wouldn't be in the students' interest.

"The final version is about as good a compromise as the students are going to get, at least those of us who are against it," said Joe Flees, an UMSL student and member of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri. "Some of the [exemptions] were things that we had suggested."

see PARENTS, page 9

## Barnes College battles nursing shortage

BY DALILA WAHEED  
special to The Current

Barnes College of Nursing is fighting in a battle against the nationwide nursing staff shortage, which poses a threat to general health care.

The College of Nursing has experienced a 50 percent decline in enrollment since 1994, said Jerry Durham, dean of Barnes College of Nursing.

While nurses are the number one providers of healthcare in the country, said Durham, the need for them is not being met. Last year, in St. Louis alone, there were 1400 nursing openings, according to the Missouri Hospital Association, said Durham.

"[It is] both a curse and a blessing," said Durham.

Students are aware of the shortage, said Peggy Ellis, director of the MSN Program.

"They are thrilled of course, because it means that they can get a job easily, quickly, and most of them have a choice," said Ellis.

"It's good for us," said Lisa Koob, also an accelerated BSN senior. "But, at the same time, I don't know. When we get out there we're going to be overworked and underpaid."

The College of Nursing has implemented programs that will attract more students to the nursing field.

The Accelerated Baccalaureate Degree Program was created particularly for people who want to change careers. It allows anyone with the proper course work and prerequisites to obtain a degree in 15 months.

An on-line degree is offered to working nurses, who obtain an associate degree, or to anyone who has completed the proper course work.

The College of Nursing has been busy recruiting high school students.

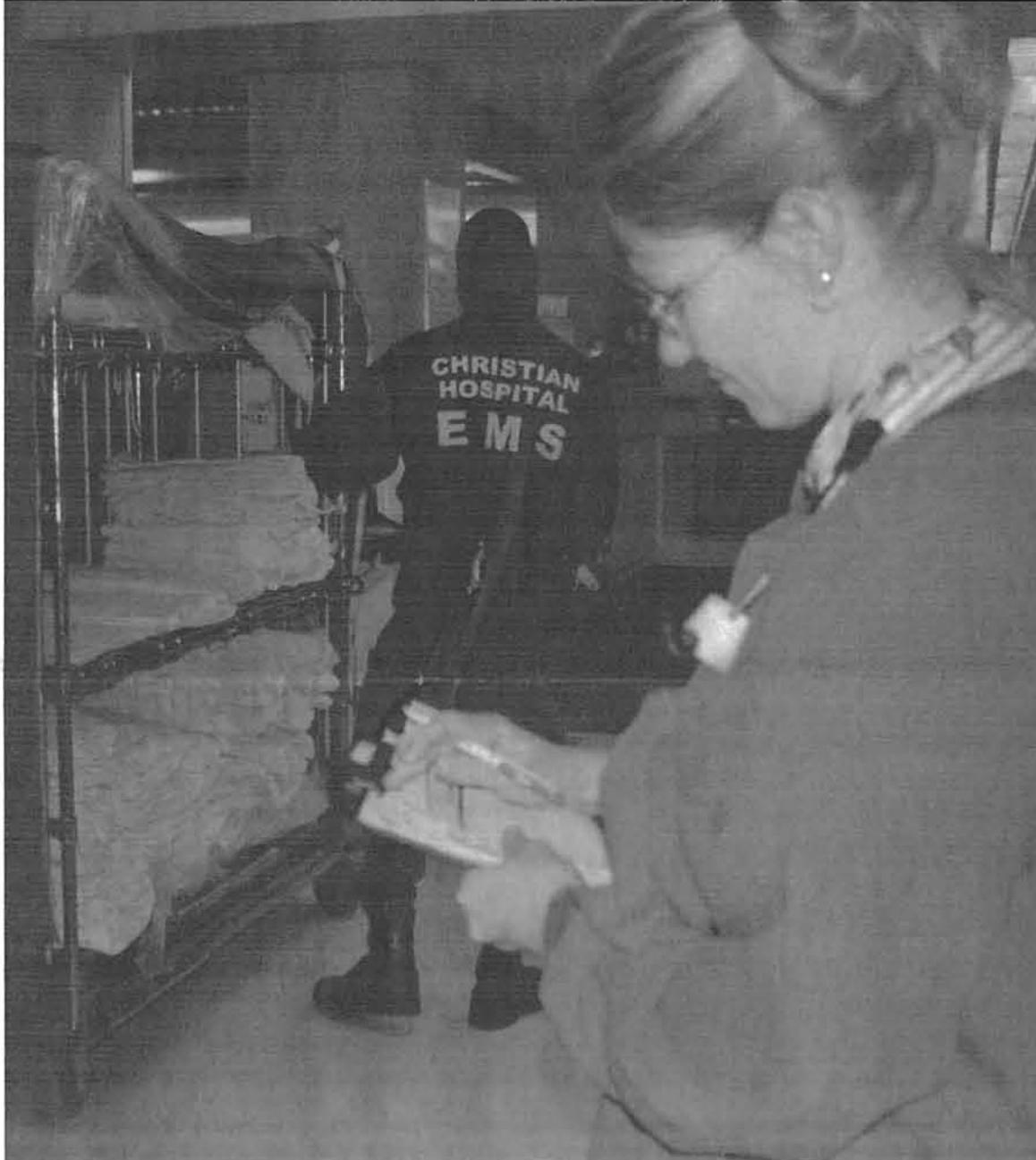
"If you come straight out of high school you can finish in a little over three years, with two semesters and summers," said Durham.

"We have lots of things to offer," said Durham. "All we need is students."

This nursing shortage is caused by many variables and is predicted to only worsen if conditions are not changed.

Women want to get out of the business, the workforce is aging, salaries are too low and the increased healthcare need has lead to a staff of overworked nurses.

Women have moved into fields



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Jennifer Hites, a registered nurse, fills out a patient's chart in the emergency room at Christian Northeast Hospital while Sylvester Turnipseed, an emergency medical technician, prepares for another call. Last year there were 1400 nursing openings in St. Louis, according to the Missouri Hospital Association. The Barnes College of Nursing is working to alleviate this nursing shortage.

that were once for men only, but men have not moved to traditionally women-only fields, said Durham. In the field of nursing, where 94 percent of nurses are women, that prospect is frightening to general healthcare.

"The women's movement has moved women to work outside of the home in fields other than teaching, nursing and library sciences," said Durham.

But, in an era when "women's work" is being ousted, some women still find the field attractive.

"I went into it because I have a

passion for medicine and science," said Bethany Metz, an accelerated BSN senior. "I just love it and I like people, and helping people."

"There's so many things you can do with a nursing degree," said Koob. "I mean you can work in a hospital, you can work in an office, you can work in sales, you can go into business...it's just a diverse degree."

With many younger women staying from the field, the work force is aging.

"Forty-four is the average age of nurses," said Durham. "Only 10 per-

cent are under 30."

Health care will soon face nurses who want to slow down, if not retire, so there is more shortage projected, said Durham.

Nursing salaries have been flat for the last five years, said Durham.

"Caring doesn't pay as much as healing or some other jobs," said Durham.

The starting salary for nursing is good, said Ellis. But there is a cap on salary increase.

see NURSING, page 9

## Violations prompt internal audit at two charter schools

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff writer

A charter school official said that an "internal audit" of two UMSL-sponsored charter schools is being conducted after the recent discovery of enrollment violations at Thurgood Marshall Academy.

Doug Thaman is vice president of operations at Beacon Educational Management, an education firm that oversees the Academy as well as St. Louis Charter School. He said that some students who live in the county are attending the city school, which is a violation of state law. So far, about four students at the Academy have been found ineligible, he said.

"The board of that school would have to make a decision on whether they will let the child finish the school year," he said.

Thaman said the enrollment issue came about because some city residents felt that certain parents of students living in the county were providing "fictitious addresses" to send their kids to the Academy, a charter school located at 4300 Goodfellow Blvd. in the city.

"There were some city parents who were aware of county parents sending their child to charter schools," he said. "A lot of it came about because a parent didn't care for another parent. Regardless of how it came about, it brought out issues that needed to be addressed and resolved."

Under state law, to be eligible to attend charter schools—which are privately run schools supported by state money—students have to live in the city or live in a county school district that participates in a voluntary transfer program, Thaman said.

The voluntary transfer program allows city students to go to schools in the county and vice versa, he said.

Thaman said that he didn't think most of the parents whose kids were ineligible had "malicious intent."

"Some of this is really clerical

see CHARTER, page 9

## Bill would allow Bel-Nor to search homes that violate health codes

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

For those students and faculty who live in the Village of Bel-Nor, maintaining a dirty home may spell trouble. If village attorney Kevin O'Keefe has his way, a bill approving an administrative search warrant may allow local police and inspectors to enter properties thought to be in violation of public health and safety codes.

"This proposition will help us enforce public health and safety codes, identify the violations and abate the situation," said O'Keefe at the Bel-Nor town hall meeting on March 20.

Currently, residents are protected under the Fourth Amendment against entry onto their properties without a proper warrant, regardless of any violations.

"This would serve as a vehicle to obtain these warrants," O'Keefe said. "Currently we have no way of obtaining a warrant to enforce these codes."

The primary goal for these search warrants is to keep properties within public health and safety guidelines, as well as to protect neighbors from declining property values.

In a previous case in St. Louis, city officials removed a derelict vehicle from a resident's lawn. The man protested, saying that the vehicle was not derelict and the city had no right to ask him to remove it. An administrative hearing was held, and the courts held that the city indeed had no right to remove the derelict vehicle. If the city had an administrative search warrant, the man's car could be removed by the city, given that the city provided proper notification.

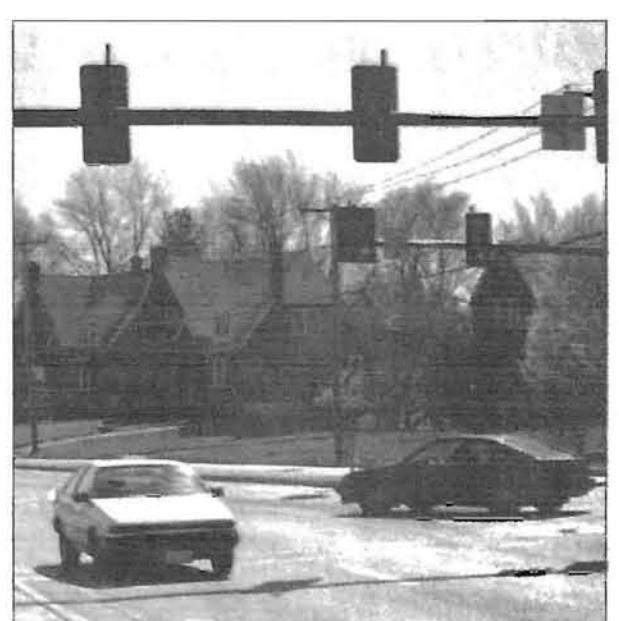
This law is questionable because

many residents feel that this is an invasion into their private property.

"These warrants will be handled the same way that any criminal search warrant would be," said O'Keefe. "We have to have a probable cause before we can obtain a warrant. This ordinance is only for extreme cases of public safety and health violations."

Sections of UMSL that lay in the village of Bel-Nor, such as the Honors Hall and other buildings, are exempt from this ordinance.

"The University is a higher government than our city, and none of our ordinances pertain to University property," said Walt Nelson, a Bel-Nor trustee.



This intersection divides UMSL from homes in the village of Bel-Nor. Officials in Bel-Nor are pushing for a bill to allow inspectors into homes suspected of violating health and safety codes.

File Photo/The Current

# Bulletin Board

## Tuesday, April 3

### On-Campus Interviews

Career Services at UMSL organizes this free all-day event at 327 Millennium Student Center. Students must be registered with the Career Services in order to participate. For details, call 516-5111.

### Looking for a Bible Study

Non-denominational Bible Study meets in Room 313 of the Millennium Student Center, from 11 a.m. to noon. There is also a meeting on Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your lunch. For details, call 516-6901.

**Catholic 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, April 4

- Forum—"Knowledge, Ideology and Power: Science Education Challenges in an Era of Conservative Restoration" will be presented by Dr. William C. Kyle, Jr., at the Millennium Student Center, Century Room B, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 516-5767.

- Meeting for OUT—UMSL's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Alliance—in Room 385 at the Millennium Center, Student Organization, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call Mathew at 516-5013 or at 636-230-7483.

- Diversity in America: Cultural Differences will be held at 211 Clark Hall, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 516-6807 for more information.

## Thursday, April 5

- "The City"—Digital Photographic Works by Thomas E. Patton is an

### 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: Violeta Dimitrova, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax: 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

be presented by UM police officers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 126 Millennium Student Center. There is a fee of \$13.30 to cover the costs of take-home materials. For details, call 516-5380.

## Sunday, April 8

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

## Friday, April 6

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

## Saturday, April 7

- Self-Defense Seminar for Women will

## Monday, April 9

- Monday Noon Series "Simone de Beauvoir's Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter" will be presented by Linda Kick, senior lecturer of English at UMSL. The lecture is from noon to 1 p.m. at 229 J.C. Penney Building. Free and open to the public. Please call 516-5699 for more information.

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**MCMA**



## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### March 15, 2001

A vending machine at the Kathy J. Weinman Building on the South Campus was found to have minor damage to a trim piece. The exact time the damage was done is undetermined.

At 2:40 p.m., a vehicle parked at Honors College was found to have a counterfeit parking permit for student

parking. The permit was confiscated. The incident is being referred to the Student Affairs Office.

A staff person reported that her vehicle was damaged while it was parked at Seton Hall on 3/14/01 between midnight and 9 a.m. In addition to the broken right-side mirror, numerous scratches were found on the hood,

roof, and doors.

### March 16, 2001

A burglary was reported to have occurred at a University Meadows apartment between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Ten dollars worth of coins was taken.

### March 18, 2001

A student at the South Campus Residence

Hall reported receiving numerous harassing telephone calls and pages from another UMSL student.

### March 19, 2001

A staff person reported that a computer zip drive was stolen from 106 Computer Center Building between 3/16/01 at 2 p.m. and 3/19/01 at 9 a.m.

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

## WANT SOME EASY MONEY?

The Current has an opening for a **Distribution Manager**. If you are free on **Monday afternoons** and you have a **truck**, this could be the perfect job for you. For more details, call **The Current** at 516-5174.

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### TEACHER HIRING FAIR

2001-2002 school year

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, 2001

Gateway Educational Complex

1200 N. Jefferson Avenue

St. Louis, MO

Candidates should bring transcripts and proof of certification to the fair. Counselors, psychological examiners, speech therapists, librarians and substitute teachers are also needed. Tentative job offers, pending record checks, will be made to the most promising candidates. If qualified, candidates will be hired for the 2001 – 2002 school year. (If the candidate is available, intent to hire offers can be made to finish the current school year.)

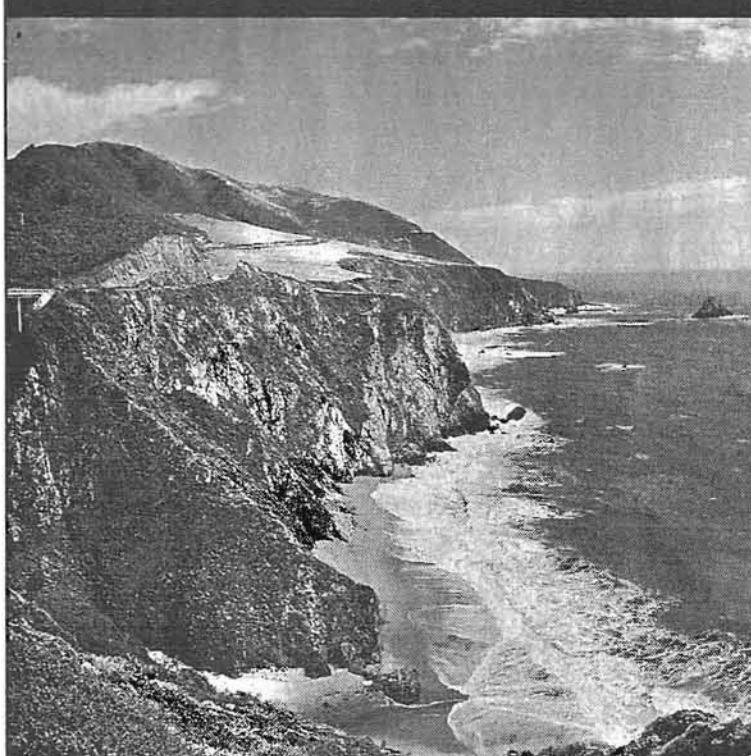
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See you at the fair!



Left Coast.

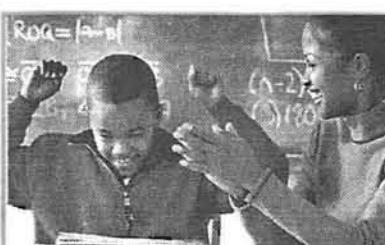
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# 'El Capitan' is a hilarious farcical production

BY SARA PORTER  
staff writer

John Phillip Sousa's operetta "El Capitan," which was performed by the UMSL Opera Workshop, has a confusing plot, overwrought characters, silly songs, a climax that arbitrarily ends, and I haven't had a better time watching a play in a long time.

The plot takes place in nineteenth-century, Spanish-occupied Peru and revolves around Don Medigua (Justin Osbourne), a cowardly eccentric viceroy who just replaced the former viceroy, Don Cazarro (Chris Weller). Bent on taking back his title, Cazarro brings rebel forces together, including his daughter Estrelita (Robin Mik) and her fiancee, Scaramba (Paul Robinson), while awaiting help from a legendary soldier, "El Capitan." When Medigua receives word that "El Capitan," in reality an ally of his, has been killed, Medigua himself assumes the role of the soldier. Other problems abound as Medigua's cowardly servant Pozzo (Joseph R. Mosier) assumes his role and gets arrested, and Medigua gets involved in a love triangle with the amorous Estrelita and his nagging wife Princess Morghanza (Terree Rowbottom). Meanwhile, there is another love story between Medigua's daughter, Isabel (Christina Rios), and a nobleman named Verrada (Keith Boyer).

With so many subplots and songs to the story, the operetta moved along at a fast pace, so fast



Darren Brune/The Current

**John Phillip Sousa's exciting operetta "El Capitan" was performed by the UMSL Opera Workshop in the J.C. Penney Auditorium on March 22-24.**

that the first act seemed over before it began, and the performers helped further the story with their acting and their hilarious facial expressions, such as in a touching song from Isabel to her imprisoned "father," made hilarious by the rebel's crocodile tears at her expense.

Osbourne's Medigua, "El Capitan," was a hilarious center to the piece, always acting as the brave hero to the rebels, but confiding to the audience his true motives in a one-liner. Part of the humor of the character involved his costume, with an Einstein-like fright wig and a Fu Manchu-like mustache, Osbourne looked every bit a smooth con artist and coward as he manipulated the rebels.

Two favorites of the audience were Rowbottom's Morghanza and Mosier's Pozzo. Rowbottom gave a commanding performance as Medigua's domineering wife, especially at the beginning where she does her best Queen of Hearts impression by commanding the rebels to be gone. The biggest scene stealer, though, was Mosier as the thoroughly confused neurotic Pozzo. His best song was one in which he had to act as Medigua while Morghanza and Isabel are singing to him as a wife and daughter. The expressions on his face while acting the devoted lord were charming.

The one thing that doesn't fit is the love story between Isabela and Verrada. Their one duet is beautiful, and Rios and Boyer had two of the best singing voices in the production. However, their love story was given such short shrift

*see EL CAPITAN, page 8*

## UMSL Gospel Choir a spring musical success

BY KIMBERLY SILVER  
special to The Current

Marcellous T., Rose Hill Baptist Church Youth Choir and the adorable Minter Boys.

The choirs performed several selections that immediately had the audience dancing and clapping their hands to the music.

Many people sang along to familiar tunes. It was quite an experience. Some might call it a genuine praise party right on UMSL's campus.

At one point, I had walked outside to make a phone call. I could barely hear a dialtone because it was as loud as Cicero's on a Saturday night. Needless to say, I gave up trying to make that call and went back to inside to the musical.

Marcellous T., an upcoming gospel rap artist, performed a controversial piece, a song entitled "Might Not Mean Much," which dealt with the touchy subject of premarital sex. This song raised eyebrows and spirits because sexuality usually is not openly discussed in the church. Marcellous T attacked the issue by reminding us how dangerous and painful promis-

cuity can be. He used his rap to minister to the audience.

The entire evening was a success. The Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Linda Mitchell of Union Vine Missionary Baptist Church, was full of energy. Throughout the program she repeated the familiar adage, "When praises go up," and the entire audience shouted in unison, "blessings come down!" UMSL students, parents, staff and friends of the UMSL community all came together to enjoy the positively powerful event.

Lena Thomas, President of G-PHI says, "It was a blessing to see God being expressed on UMSL's campus." UMSL Gospel Choir is an organization that accepts all faiths and ethnicities. Shasta Ellis, the president of UMSL Gospel Choir, comments, "We make music our ministry and would like for anyone who is interested to join our choir." If you would like to find more information about how to join the choir, you should call 516-4024.



Darren Brune/The Current  
**The UMSL Gospel Choir performed with the Rutgers Choir in UMSL's spring musical in Century Hall at the Millennium Student Center.**

## EDITOR

**WE NEED ONE!**  
features editor

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## EVENTS

**April**  
30

The Sheldon Art Galleries presents "Amade: the Cultural History of Sports 1929-2000," a tribute to sport's illustrator, Amade. Tickets are available by calling Metrotix at (314) 534-1111. For more information, call the Sheldon at (314) 533-9900, or check out the website at [www.sheldon.concert.hall.org](http://www.sheldon.concert.hall.org).

The Honorable Michael Harcourt, former premier of British Columbia, will give a lecture at UMSL regarding metropolitan issues at 7:00 p.m., as part of the University's Public Policy Research Center. The Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call Katherine Kornfeld at (314) 727-0600 or email her at [kornfeld@moenvi.com](mailto:kornfeld@moenvi.com).

**2-30**

The Fox Theatre presents "Copacabana," Tuesday-Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$22-\$58.00. Tickets are on sale now and are available at the Fox Theaters box office and all Metrotix locations. They can also be purchased by calling Metrotix at (314) 534-1111 or visiting their website at [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com).

## Gallery 210 exposes hidden time warp

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

Maybe this has happened to you. You walk into the second floor of Lucas Hall with an agenda: to get to class on time. With two minutes remaining, the hallway is a madhouse filled with students engaged in conversation blocking your path. Other students line the walls waiting for their professors to arrive and unlock the classrooms. You make it to your class at the end of the hall by the drinking fountain, only to discover a sign hanging on the doorway reading, "Professor X's 10:30 class canceled." Sighing, you turn around and begin the trek back down the hall.

You glance at your watch. It reads 10:29. It's too early to eat lunch, and you actually came to school prepared today, so you

have no more studying to do. What do you do? You walk towards the doors and notice a sign hanging from one of the classroom doorways. "Gallery 210," you muse, "I've always wondered what was in there..."

Catch the exhibit at Gallery 210 before it closes on April 4. The gallery is excavating "Archeology," a three-dimensional interactive exhibit by local sculptor and Washington University professor Ron Fondaw.

Walking into Gallery 210, you find that many of Fondaw's sculptures swallow up the room. The essence of the first room is contained in smaller sculptures like "Aunt Verna's Lamp" and "Aladdin." The earthy looking masses of clay resemble what would be found at an archeological dig. In "Aunt Verna's Lamp," a porcelain teacup sitting on a stack of saucers, and an old vase, slightly shattered, are somewhat

exposed from the chunk of spot-gloss, textured wrap of clay. The clay has a look of freshly dug rock. The dishes look worn but conjure nostalgic images in your mind. This exhibit is not only a representation of an archeological excavation, but also an excavation into the individual's mind.

To the right of the entrance stand three large, layered rectangular glasses. This is "The Wasteland," a collection of mixed media preserved in glass. The idea of a forgotten, or even doomed, world lingers in the memory between the layers of glass. Especially the piece entitled "If Given Another Chance," which sits on a burned sewing cabinet that looks as if it were pulled from a house neighboring Chernobyl during the explosion. Melted-down glass jars border the glass windows looking into what appears to be a swarm of worldly items. Wooden block letters,

slides of Jupiter, and sketches of wildlife are scattered between the layers of glass giving the impression of an explosion of a world with many great accomplishments. This leads back to the memory idea that was explored in the smaller sculptures.

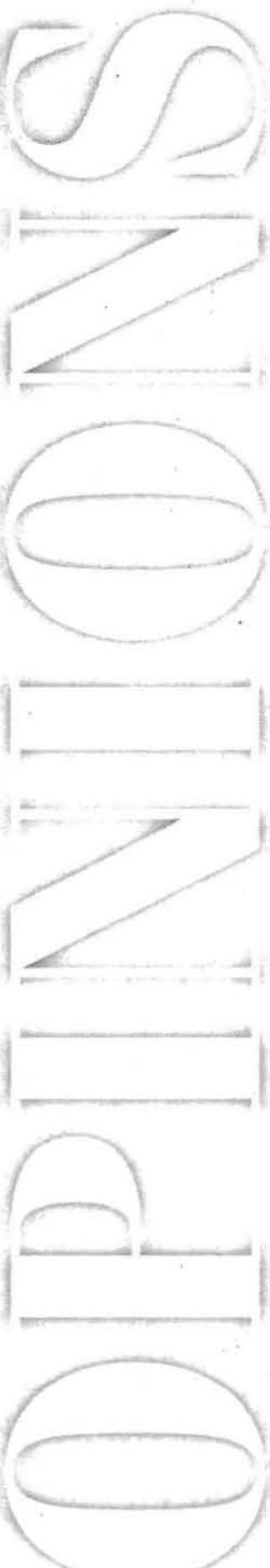
One mural not to be overlooked is the "Potato Patch." Your eyes will be immediately drawn to the concentric movement of rocks resembling potatoes. The potatoes spin downward into a black hole. You will move closer to the whole to see what it is made of. You will even reach out to touch it, only to find yourself being sucked into a vortex.

When you come out, you find yourself in another room, cooler, darker, and with the hum of the air conditioner, you feel as if you are in a cerebral "no place," where the memories originate. The walls have a greenish glow. The room is rawer, stripped down with sculp-

tures made of glass, and stone. The memories of the former room echo into waves that form the art. You are in another world.

The center of the room's energy lies in "Allooma," a tall cylinder-like sculpture emitting a green hue. A mirror hangs above it, exposing the scientific-looking top composed of green and blue circles. It looks like a sort of futuristic plant. Just one thing, is this room the future, or is it the past?

You'll have time to ponder that as you walk to your next class. Unfortunately, you are not in a time warp, but rather in a small gallery inside Lucas Hall. Due to the escapist quality Fondaw's sculptures bring, you have been sucked into the past, and have lost track of time. You hurry out of the quiet room, facing the body of students head on. Don't worry though, you can return. The Gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday till Saturday.



## OUR OPINION

## School violence won't stop until parents get involved

Students in schools today are having to learn more than just the basic subjects—now they need to know what to do in the case of a school shooting.

Isolated incidents occurred before the 1990s.

On May 1, 1992, the first in a growing epidemic of school rampages began in Olivehurst, Calif., when Eric Houston, 20, returned to his former high school and killed four and wounded ten in retribution for a failing grade.

The most recent happened March 23 in El Cajon, Calif., when an 18-year old came to school with a 12-gauge shotgun and attempted to gun down the vice principal. No fatalities resulted, however six people—including the gunman—were wounded.

The following day, a significant number of schools reported the usual incidents of threats called, e-mailed, mailed, or sent by other means, resulting in some closings.

These shootings are only the major events in this string of violence in schools.

Many other students have made hit lists, planned shooting sprees, brought guns to schools, as well as threatened faculty and students.

Administrators, authorities, students, parents, faculty and media all debate what exactly should be done to eliminate this rash of violence.

Some suggest increasing metal detectors and police presence. Others offer advice on how to tell the signs of

troubled youths before they explode. Some even think that the media is partially responsible for giving these shooters attention for their actions.

One thing for certain: the problem has to be addressed and it's probably not just one particular trend, but a combination of all of them.

It is our opinion that parents should step in and take a greater role in their children's lives. Children learn their first lessons from their parents, as well as the most important lessons from interactions in the home.

When parents take the time to talk with their children and are aware of their daily activities, many of the issues that have caused previous shootings may be dealt with in a more positive manner.

Granite Hills High School, where the March 23 incident took place, has taken the initiative to help both parents and their children to become more involved in each others' lives. They are encouraging parents to attend school with their children on Monday when the school reopens.

Parents who spend quality time and activities (not sitting down and watching television together) will build family bonds and be able to support their children through their problems.

The children of America are its greatest resource and its foundation and hope for the future. Without the love and support of parents for these kids, the future does not appear bright for anyone.

## The issue:

The public is debating what should be done to stop the recent rash of school violence. There are many suggestions: increasing metal detectors and police presence, cutting down media coverage, offering advice on dealing with troubled youth, and more.

## We suggest:

Children learn their most important lessons at home, from their parents. Parents need to be more involved and break out of the "send them to daycare" mentality.

## So what do you think?

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

## Spring break flies by, much the way life does

Since I started going to college, Spring Break usually hasn't been too exciting. But just as this year's week-long vacation had all but slipped through my fingers, I was reminded that it wasn't always this way.

I remember in high school going to Taylor University each year for a Christian youth conference. The conferences happened close to spring break on a weekend. My friend Doug invited me to go during my freshman year even though he attended a different school. At first I wasn't so sure, but Doug was a persistent fellow, and one of my favorite bands was going to be doing a concert that weekend.

And so we went. I had never experienced anything like it. We stayed in college dorms with college kids. More than 1000 high schoolers invaded Taylor that year. We were divided into small groups. Each group had a number and two college leaders took pride in decorating elaborate signs, each one playing off the number they'd been assigned.

The conferences were great because we talked about all different sorts of life issues, and we also got a taste of college life. During our free time, we could pretty much go anywhere and do anything we wanted on campus. We got to talk with the college kids and find out what it was like. We got to eat college food. I

wasn't particularly fond of the showers in the dorm we stayed in the first year, but it was something different.

The second year, I transferred to the same high school Doug was at. Before long, he had gotten me involved in the Young Life group on campus. Our circle of friends from YL grew, and we all began going on the youth conference trips together. Each year we took more people than the year before.

As I was pondering how I let spring break this year whiz by so quickly, it occurred to me how long ago those trips were. I'm in my third year of college. I could easily now be one of those student leaders.

And in a way, I guess I am. In a couple months, one of my staff members—Nick Bowman—will be replacing me as the big chief of The Current. You can read his story in this issue. I got a kick out of seeing that story, because Nick talks about how I will be his teacher for the rest of the year.

Time sure does fly. It wasn't so long ago that I was in Nick's shoes, trying to soak up what I could from Joe Harris, my predecessor.

I suppose it won't be long before I'll be in his shoes again, gunning for a "real" job, doing my best to learn the nuances. I can't go back to the past. But that's okay. There's plenty of future ahead of me.



**JOSH RENAUD**  
editor-in-chief

## Slavery reparations ad raises free speech issue

**F**reedom: the meaning of the word is the basis on which the founding fathers built this country.

With freedom comes responsibility, and the obligations to defend and understand it.

Many people, although they may not realize it, have spoken against the First Amendment. This happens when they attempt to censor various groups holding opposite views.

For example, I do not in any way defend the views of the Ku Klux Klan. But I do defend their right to free speech.

If they want to air a television program (and if they can find a station that will air it), that is their right under the First Amendment to the Constitution. Because this show is on, that does not mean that I have to watch it, and that is my right, also protected by the Constitution.

This ordinarily would not be such a headline issue because it is so acceptable to censor ideas that the majority of the population does not endorse.

Because of a man by the name of David Horowitz, a political conservative, the meaning of freedom has become highly publicized in papers such as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and San Francisco Chronicle.

Horowitz created an advertisement called "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Is a Bad Idea—and Racist, Too."

This advertisement, because of the low budget (Horowitz claims) was submitted to be run in 100 college papers. We have not received it at The Current. The other reason Horowitz offers is the pure atmos-

sphere of colleges as centers of learning, debate and educational experimentation.

Most of the papers declined to run the ad because of its controversial nature. Four agreed to publish it and of those, three ran apologies.

With February as the month to run the ad, Horowitz chose an impeccable time—Black History Month.

AND THE POINT IS...



**ANNE PORTER**  
managing editor

This is my opinion of protests, addressed to those who complained: Look at the advertisement and find its faults. Write letters to the editor and present your side. Don't steal papers or burn them, and don't protest the paper itself.

The paper does not hold the views reflected in its ads. The paper has it right not to print an ad it considers controversial. That paper has the same right to run that ad, if it chooses.

If at The Current we have an ad the said a particular jeweler was the best, that does not mean the staff feels that way. Remember that it is an advertisement. Because you read it that, does not mean you have believe it or even like it.

And this represents the true definition of freedom of speech—to be able to support and defend what you believe without harming others or censoring their views.

This is why America was created and still survives today.

## LETTERS

## UMSL roads need major repair work

I know everyone is frustrated with the parking situation on campus and so am I. For the past two semesters I have been driving out to UMSL from St. Charles for classes toward a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. Since I am an education major, all my classes are on South Campus. I would just like to draw some attention to the horrible road

conditions on South Campus.

It's like driving through a mine field! Everytime I get to school I dread driving on campus for fear my car is going to be swallowed by one of the gigantic holes in the road. I am sure that others who go to South Campus for classes can understand my frustration! I know that right now, the big issue is parking fees for

new garages, but let's try and get these roads in better shape! I mean give me a break—I-70 is in better shape than the roads on campus! In my opinion, if we are going to have to pay outrageous fees to park on this campus, we deserve at least to have decent roads to drive on.

—Melissa Jacobs

## What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about this week?

- Ways to reduce school violence
- Controversial slavery reparations advertisement
- Road conditions on campus

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit our forums on [thecurrentonline.com](http://thecurrentonline.com)

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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.

## Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi  
staff photographer

What is the funniest April Fool's story that you know?



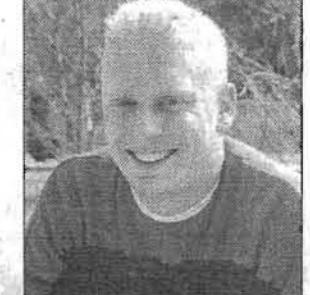
**Colleen Kelley**  
Junior / Business Admin.



**Jimm Haney**  
Junior / Psychology



**Joseph Litsch**  
Senior / Anthro., Geography



**Paul D. Puricelli**  
Senior / MIS

One year I told my boyfriend I broke up with him. He hadn't realized it was April Fool's yet, so he believed me.

I phone my boss and told him I was with the IRS and he was going to be audited.

I called my sister at school and told her she forgot to turn in a term paper. She actually believed I was her professor!

Swap out a shampoo from a bottle with hair.



# Epic duel captivates audiences in 'Enemy at the Gates'

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

Military history buffs and moviegoers enticed by drama and adventure alike, will have a sense of fulfillment after viewing "Enemy at the Gates."

Starring Jude Law, Ed Harris, Joseph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz and Bob Hoskins, "Enemy At The Gates" keeps the audience mystified at the incredible courage of two snipers determined to eliminate one another in the midst of a ferocious battle that is deciding the course of world history.

The setting is the autumn of 1942, when Hitler's Nazi Germany is at the apex of its power. German forces dominate most of Europe, and Russia is on the verge of collapse.

The Nazis have struck repeated massive blows at the Russians, forcing them back to a small industrial city on the Volga River named Stalingrad.

The movie opens with spectacular series of dramatic scenes depicting the ignorance of Russian commanders

who hurl their troops at the Germans like pigs being led to the slaughter.

The film also accurately portrays the chaotic situation at the Stalingrad docks, where soldiers trying to defend the city become hopelessly entangled with civilians desperate to leave.

One of the most riveting scenes takes place on the boat trip across the Volga, when makeshift Russian troop ships are strafed by Stuka Dive Bombers from the Luftwaffe's Third Airfleet. In order to avoid the German planes, some Russian soldiers leap into the river and are promptly shot by their own sadistic officers.

These initial episodes leave the audience mesmerized. The authenticity is grand and the camera work is astonishing.

The setting of Stalingrad itself is also brilliantly recreated. In the real battle, the city was leveled by thousands of Luftwaffe aircraft, and by the autumn of 1942, had been reduced to

see ENEMY, page 7



Joseph Fiennes as Danilov and Jude Law as Vassili in "Enemy at the Gates"

## THEATER REVIEW

### Sally's folly: the crack in 'Talley's Folly'

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

Theatre-goers of the Repertory Theatre escaped into the World War II home-front in Lanford Wilson's "Talley's Folly," directed by Steve Woolf, on Friday March 16. The play runs through April 13.

What began as a slice of American life in a time of war kept alive with victory gardens, war bonds, and women joining the work force, ended with the audience's total engrossment in the psychology of two separate individuals who attract and repel each other into states of confusion.

The dimming of the house lights blurs the distinction between the audience's reality and the actors' reality. Matt Friedman, played by Geoffrey Cantor, delivers his opening monologue in an engagingly comical manner, giving the audience the grand tour of the set. He confronts the audience head on, laying out the center of Lebanon, Mo., in relation to the boathouse where the play takes place. He illustrates the artificiality of the play by explaining how reflections of the moon are created with stage lights. However, he also says that he is not a romantic, which as the play proves is not all together true. Matt's opening monologue extends his reali-



Geoffrey Cantor as Matt Friedman and Kelly McAndrew as Sally Talley

ty to include his audience, who in turn thin their suspension of disbelief.

Matt's awareness of the audience seems to dissolve with the appearance of his romantic interest, Sally Talley, played by Kelly McAndrew. Crickets chirp in the background, an occasional frog croaks, the moon rises, giving the illusion of time passing by. The audience is still with Matt but he forgets. The moment the couple engages in conversation, the audience becomes mere spectators in Matt's attempt to "waltz" with Sally while she clings to her identity.

The set, designed like a horseshoe, is perfect for staging conversational interaction between the two characters, who at times stand on opposite sides of the set with a creek running between them. Matt refers to the evening as a waltz because when he advances to her mentally, she pulls away. He brings up a valid point about human nature, in that each individual is a metaphoric egg who, at times, bumps into another egg but desperately protects the shell from being cracked. What Matt does not know is that while he protects his yoke from being splattered onto the dock, Sally is doing the same.

The audience can see that the two characters are perfect for each other. Matt, the book-smart Jewish account-

ant from St. Louis who plays off the stereotypes but cannot bring himself to enlist in the war, desires the rural simplicity that Sally represents. Sally, the street-smart farm girl, dreams of living in a place with less ignorance and wants out. Despite the roles they play, Matt is really the dreamer, and Sally is really the pragmatic one. Matt makes reference to his love for puzzles repeatedly, and these two fit in each other's gaps perfectly. There is one problem, however. If they are such a good match, why does she continue to push him away?

Throughout the evening, the emotions swing from expressions of love to alienation. They dance taking turns moving two steps forward and a step back, with Matt getting closer to his goal of cracking Sally's shell and hoping to obtain her to acceptance of his marriage proposal. She demands that he leave her boathouse, which he does, but not without attacking her lack of nostalgia first. At this moment, a band in the distance begins playing which causes her to follow him with her eyes. Just her look prevents him from leaving, and again, the dance begins.

Skeletons are exposed and the audience finds their characters vic-

see FOLLY, page 7

## THEATER REVIEW

### Reynolds returns in 'Be Careful What You Pray For'

BY KIMBERLY SILVER  
special to the current

Lisa G. Reynolds returned to the Gateway City last weekend with her own original play, "Be Careful What You Pray For," at the Fox Theatre. Her play combines comedy, drama and music to minister to the audience. The play is about Samantha Stuart, a teenage girl with an amazing voice who discovers what she believes to be love and prosperity outside of her Christian home. She ends up marrying 29-year-old Bobby Wallace. This man is sexy, rich and powerful. Everything a girl prays for right? Wrong! It turns out that her new husband does not have Christ in his life. Deep inside, he is full of rage and truly miserable. Young Samantha suffers because her husband makes her just as miserable.

Jackson's performance is as excellent as always, as his central character carries the artful movie and its well-written script to the heights of upper-class New York society and back down to the common folk and the lower-class world. Somewhere in between, danger permeates throughout both worlds, combining them into a hellish, colorful ride through the mind of Romulus.

Jackson plays the part as well as anyone could. He takes it to its limit,

but doesn't go any further than his usual trademark dramatic roller-coaster persona. I like his style, the calm warning of his rising voice to a thun-

dering mental battles with a powerful character in his mind called Stuyvesant. The hunt ultimately leads to a well-known photographer, David Leppenraub (played by Colm Feore), who takes photos of people who are in pain and have been suffering from it for years.

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# Three bands make more noise

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
staff writer

Jamie wasn't in any of the three bands that rocked the Savvis Center on March 21, but she was a perfect example of what is right with today's music. The fans who came to see Lifehouse, Everclear, and Matchbox Twenty spanned from groupies to screaming girls, but everyone had a blast.

Jamie was a groupie, a whistling, screaming fan with aspirations to get backstage. She knew where the band was sleeping, what their bus looked like, and everything else she needed to get her own personal experience from the concert. She wasn't alone.

Thousands of people came to the concert, and when Lifehouse opened the show, there was a level of excitement and anticipation that usually precedes only the biggest acts. Performing songs from their album, *No Name Face*, Lifehouse rocked the audience, even though a large number of Matchbox Twenty fans wouldn't show up for an hour or more.

Lifehouse had a short set, but one that showed its strong roots as a jam band in California. Jason Wade, the band's twenty-year-old lead singer, gave a spectacular performance

despite ill health that would leave him recuperating for days.

After a brief interlude, Everclear took the stage behind by storm. Art Alexakis, the band's highly recognizable frontman, rocked the stage with a large group of St. Louisans. Crowding Alexakis, one large fan came up to the microphone and jumped around until escorted from the stage.

Afterward, Everclear's lead singer told the audience, "Man! I thought that guy was gonna grab me and have his way with me!"

The audience hungrily devoured Everclear's tunes, joining in for popular classics like "Santa Monica" and "Father of Mine." Alexakis has recently been lauded for his socially conscious image, attending a congressional hearing on the abandonment of children. At the hearing, he explained the message behind "Father of Mine," which is the story of his own youth. Enthusiasm for Everclear and the band's message was clearly in abundance with the crowd that had now grown to fill the entire Savvis Center.

Matchbox Twenty rose to meet the challenge of high expectations built by the two fantastic opening acts. Performing hits from their first Atlantic album, *Yourself Or Someone Like You*, the band continued the crowd involvement Everclear began.

With a slightly softer sound, Matchbox Twenty let the audience listen and sing quietly to the music, rather than shouting over the pandemonium as it had been forced to do only minutes earlier.

The band changed its name for their newer album, making *Mad Season* the second album produced by the band, but the first after changing the numeric "20" to "Twenty." The change didn't seem to affect the fans, who were every bit as excited by songs from the new album as the band's classics. The applause for the recent "If You're Gone" was probably louder, and certainly more sustained, than any single Blues goal the Savvis Center has seen. That's not a knock against hockey fans, just the crowd's honest reaction to great live music.

Truly shining were the encores, in which Matchbox Twenty's Rob Thomas played an acoustic guitar and serenaded the audience into a hushed respectful silence. A shared and awesome stage presence brought the concert together, and made all three bands look great. Jamie thought so, and so did thousands of other shrieking happy fans. Lifehouse, Everclear, or Matchbox Twenty would each be a great stand-alone act, but combining them made for a single night of absolute entertainment.

## ENEMY, from page 6

a heap of rubble, a fact that is vividly displayed by director Jean-Jacques Annaud.

The producers of this film also went to great lengths acquiring exact replicas of German tanks, trucks, half-tracks, guns, and uniforms, something which augments the historical flare of any war flick.

About 40 minutes into "Enemy At The Gates," the film begins to focus on the legendary duel between snipers Vassili Zaitsev, played by Jude Law, and Walther Koenig, played by Ed Harris.

Zaitsev, the Russian sharpshooter, is sending chills up and down the spine of every German soldier in Stalingrad. He runs up an incredible kill total and is made into a national hero by Sergei Danilov, a young political officer who convinces Nikita Khrushchev, played by Bob Hoskins, to publish stories of Zaitsev's heroics.

Hoskins does a credible job with his portrayal of Khrushchev, showing how ruthless and crude the future Soviet Premier could be.

The film takes an eventful turn when the Germans send the head of their sniper school, Walther Koenig, played by Ed Harris, to find Zaitsev and kill him.

One of the best lines of the film takes place at German Sixth Army Headquarters when a thoroughly demoralized Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus asks Koenig how he will go about finding Zaitsev. Koenig's reply was short and to the point. "I will fix it so he is the one who finds me." The statement elicits both arrogance and confidence, thoroughly adding to the drama.

The only criticism I have with the film is the love story that develops between Zaitsev and Tania, played by Rachel Weisz. Although romantic, it tends to get in the way of the epic duel and the significance of the Battle of Stalingrad to world history. Otherwise, I strongly recommend the film.

Now playing at Des Peres, Jamestown 14 Cinemas, and other theaters.

## JACKSON, from page 6

derous yelling of damning words, but it's getting old. He doesn't transcend the role and make me forget that he's Ledbetter and not Jackson. He sparks some good laughs, then becomes very serious and loud, and is always intriguing. But that's nothing new from his other movies.

Although I know that at times his dramatic spectrum of actions is necessary—and that they are part of his trademark style—I would like for Jackson to surprise me a little bit. He's starting to get predictable.

## PRAY, from page 6

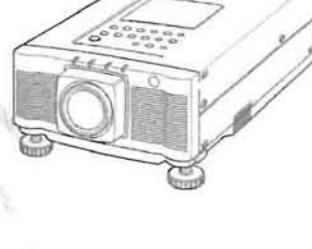
Joe Garrett Productions, saying she was "hoping to uplift and entertain the African-American community through the art of theatre." "Be Careful What You Pray For" has successfully been on tour for over three years. Reynolds modestly accepted her award and commented, "You can do anything you set your mind to."

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# 'Violence, Cinema, and American Culture': What more could you want?

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

The effect of violence in films on society has been a subject of debate since the movies began. "Violence, Cinema, and American Culture" takes a scholarly look at the role movie violence plays in the evolution of American society. The discussions are sure to be fascinating and thought-provoking.

In a bewildering array to discussions covering everything from "Fight Club" to horror films to film noir to "Birth of a Nation," UMSL's Center for the Humanities will explore the topic of violence in film, in a series of seminars on campus entitled "Violence, Cinema, and American Culture" on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7.

This could be the treat of the year for serious film fans, as well as those interested in popular culture from an intellectual view, or those interested in violence in society. And maybe those who are just curious about the topic.

This seminar seems to offer something for every film fan. Topics range from the psychological and philosophical to the technological

and historical as the seminars cover the role of violence in film, film genres that use violence, and ideology in filmmaking. More than 30 speakers, including film scholars from a variety of universities, as well as scholars from other fields and other experts will discuss a wide range of topics that span the history of film, with discussions including "Before 'Blood and Holes': Violence in Hollywood, 1896-1960," "Postmodern Cinema and Death of the Hero," "Empire of the Gun: The Ideology of 'Good Violence' in 'Saving Private Ryan,'" and "'Mission Impossible 2,' or Alice in Cruiseland," covering a kaleidoscope of films and genres that employ movie violence of various forms.

The conference is filled with discussions over two days, often giving attendees a choice of topics to be covered in a series of talks. Each day's program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a break for lunch. Those attending can choose as many lectures as they would like to hear.

The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. Friday with several discussions scheduled under the heading "History and Typography of Violence in the Cinema," followed

by dual discussions grouped under the headings "Why There is No Such Thing As Gratuitous Violence" and "Serial Killers as Symbols" at 11:00 a.m. The conference then moves on to a series of talks on "Postmodern Perspectives on Cinematic Violence" and "Violence and Satire" at 1:45 p.m. At 3:45, the day's events conclude with a conference-wide lecture "Seeing Dying," by Carol Clover of University of California-Berkeley.

The conference resumes on Saturday with two groups of talks under the headings "Gender and Cinematic Violence" and "Aesthetics of Violence in Cinematic Horror" at 9:00 a.m. There will be a lecture by William Miller, University of Michigan School of Law for the whole conference at 11:15 a.m., entitled "How Would You Like Your Vengeance Served?" The two afternoon groups of discussions are listed under the headlines "Spectacle and Ideology" and "Violent Auteurs" at 1:45 p.m. The entire conference wraps up at 3:30 p.m. with a lecture by Noel Carroll of the University of Wisconsin-Madison titled "On the Grotesque."

More details on the conference are available through brochures distributed on campus and from the UMSL Continuing Education and Outreach office. The seminars take place at the J. C. Penney Auditorium and are free, but require registration. A lunch for each of the days of the conference is also available for a \$10.00 fee per day. Register by calling 516-5974, or pick up one of the brochures on campus to register by mail or fax.

As a serious film fan, I'm planning on attending both days, and the only problem will be to decide which lectures to attend in this feast of intellect, culture, and horror.

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# 'A Heartbreaking Work' lives up to its name

BY SARA PORTER  
staff writer

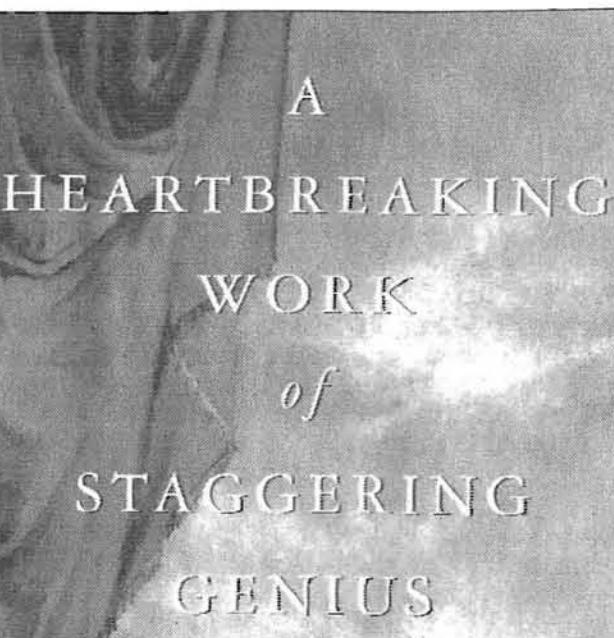
I have to admit that when I first heard the title of "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," I thought one of three things a) the author is really conceited b) it's a parody making fun of what critics would say about the book or c) he's hopeful that critics will say that about the book. Having read the novel, I can say it's d) none of the above. Instead, author Dave Eggers gives a humorous and, yes, sometimes heartbreaking account of a young man suddenly orphaned.

When Eggers was twenty-one, he lost both of his parents to cancer in the course of five weeks. The novel mostly deals with his later years, moving to San Francisco, founding a satire magazine, "Might," and raising his younger brother, Toph, who was seven at the time of their parents' death.

The novel is hilarious in many places, such as his work on "Might," which he conceded was a "staff of five in a broom closet." It also deals with the everyday annoyances that first time parents encounter, such as fighting with his little brother over chores and his constant fear when the boy is out of his sight.

It's also very moving in many chapters. Egger's real emotions show when describing the deaths of his parents, especially his mother's, and his strong affections for Toph, and the near deaths of two of his friends, one in a car accident and one by attempted suicide. Despite the heavy handedness of the plot, Eggers never gives any mawkish narration, instead appearing ironic and slightly satirical in his narration but displaying the emotions underneath.

There are times when Egger's nar-



This is a beautifully rugged, laugh-out-loud funny and utterly unforgettable book.

—San Francisco Chronicle

**DAVE EGGERS**

ration gets in the way, such as when he shifts tenses from present to past and when he devotes whole paragraphs to random stream-of-consciousness musings. It's a little jarring at first, but his writing displays his confusion and makes his narration more real, as

though one could hear it spoken aloud. It has a strange effect, but it works.

Egger's novel is a sad and often funny story that shifts the reader from tears to laughter and back again. It truly is genius.

**EL CAPITAN, from page 3**

that there should have been more added to it. A better love story was the love triangle between Estrelada, Medigua and Estrelada's

jealous suitor, particularly in the bawdy song "Ballad of Zanzibar," where El Capitan's sword was used for, ahem, obvious sexual symbolism.

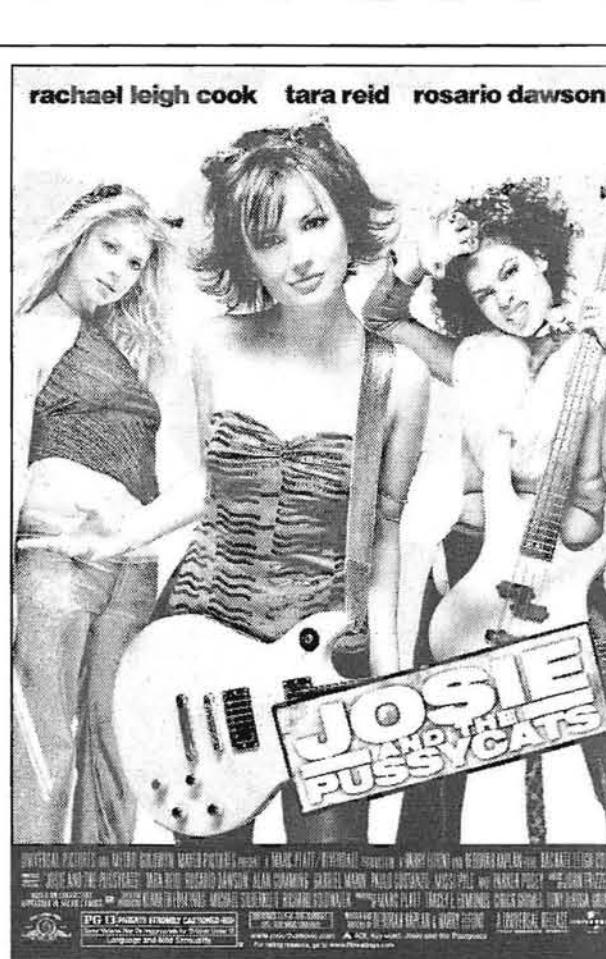
"El Capitan" was a delightful, funny production. It is a perfect musical for the spring.

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# Mock trial team comes out on top after year of struggles

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff writer

After a year of frustrating times with team members quitting, a lack of funding for expenses, and numerous other hassles, UMSL's mock trial team triumphed their trials by competing in the American Mock Trial Association's (AMTA) national competition this March in St. Paul, Minn., in only their second year of existence.

"That's a very impressive feat," said Mike Johnson, publicity chairperson of AMTA's Board of Directors. "We don't have many teams to do that. The last one I can remember that did it was Harvard."

And even though UMSL's team didn't make it to the national championship in Des Moines, Iowa, they've developed experience and skills that will last a lifetime.

In all his 16 years as an educator and 20 years as an attorney, Johnson says that he's never found a program that has so many benefits for students, such as "teaching students the ability to think quickly, adaptability,...and teamwork," he said.

"It's probably the single most beneficial educational opportunity that they will participate in," Johnson said.

For future lawyers, "You can't beat it for preparation to go to law school," he added.

This year's UMSL's mock trial team consisted of team president Matthew La Martina, treasurer Danielle Smith, Lakisha Dowd, Jennifer Suedmeyer, Charlie Rosene, Homecoming Queen April Cline, Michael White, and Gina Mitten.

With endless hours of preparation behind them, the eight-member team competed in a real-life trial format against teams from all over the country, first at Washington University earlier in the year at a regional tournament, then at the national level in the chilly, northern city of St. Paul.

## PARENTS, from page 1

ed and that they worked on. So there was some compromise."

The policy will take effect August 6, and already UMSL is preparing for it, though it isn't expected to be used much on this campus.

"That's just the nature of having an older student body," Grace said. "We went ahead and started to order some of the material [March 23] because we have to get it ready for the

## NURSING, from page 1

"Health care is so expensive in the United States," said Ellis. "They're trying to keep the cost down."

Unlike doctors, nurses are paid out of the very hospital bill that the government is trying to keep down.

Ellis and Durham both think that legislators will be forced to do something about this insufficient salary.

"I think they are going to have to

On the last day of the tournament at the awards banquet, one surprised team member stood in complete astonishment with her eyebrows raised and her mouth wide open when her name was called.

Mitten, one of four first-year members, came home with All-American status for her role as an attorney in the competition. It was the only award UMSL received.

"Once they got to the higher-rank categories I thought my chances were shot," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe it."

As a whole, the team was successful just to qualify at such a high level so quickly.

In the midst of their jubilant journey, the Cinderella team was fortunate to have a coach that brought championship experience with him.

Steve Caliendo, a Political Science Professor, coached the Purdue University mock trial team to the championship competition in Des Moines in the 1997-1998 school year.

His experience was essential in the national competition, where UMSL and about 46 other colleges and universities went at it like the powerhouses at the NCAA basketball tournament that was simultaneously underway. Ironically, the mock trial national championship competition in Des Moines would feature the top 64 teams nationwide, like the NCAA basketball tournament does.

Seasoned teams with strong mock-trial traditions like Yale University, Syracuse University, and University of California-Berkeley were competing. Local schools such as Saint Louis University and University of Illinois were also in the tournament.

Most of UMSL's competitors had major advantages over the home team like school funding that provided roundtrip airfare for the team, and money set aside to pay local attorneys for their insight and coaching. UMSL

primarily raised most of their own money through alumni and local judges and attorneys. Their local attorney coaches, Chuck Caisely and Matt Devoti, volunteered their time. The University did provide hotel expenses and a rented van for the trip at practically last-minute notice.

Either way, the whole experience was something they'll probably never forget, even through those treacherous years of law school. Just being able to meet and receive pointers from people like Edward Toussaint Jr., a classy judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and Andrea George, an insightful federal criminal defense attorney, was worth the struggle.

"I've seen a lot of sterling arguments," Toussaint said, reflecting on his years of judging collegiate mock trial competitions. "The competition is pretty high."

"There are some students that I'm absolutely amazed are students," George said, adding that some of the students she witnessed had "the presence of a professional" and were, at times, even more prepared.

The entire competition consisted of four rounds for each team, which was basically a trial each round that lasted about three hours. The trial was based on a case concerning the death of a man who was trying to summit Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world at over 29,000 feet. The man's spouse later sued the tour service that led the summit, claiming their negligence caused her husband's death. It was a harder case for the plaintiff than for the defense, most agreed.

UMSL faced off against Texas A&M, Loras College in Iowa, Ohio Northern University, and Holy Cross College.

Looking back on the tournament during their 10-hour drive back home, the majority of the team members agreed that Holy Cross was their toughest competitor, mostly because

of their lead attorney, who had been participating in mock trial competitions since the sixth grade. He would later be named an All-American attorney.

The judges that presided over each round based their score on every aspect of the trial: the opening and closing statements, the direct and cross examinations, and the witnesses' performances. UMSL won their first round, against Texas A&M, but lost their next three.

One of UMSL's plaintiff attorneys, Suedmeyer, who recently graduated with plans of attending Baylor University's law school, is content with her team's performance.

"Since this is our second year, I think we did pretty well," Suedmeyer said.

"Success depends on team chemistry," she added. "We have to be able to mesh at all times in all situations."

Dowd, a prosecuting attorney and witness on the team, says that as a witness facing drilling, unexpected questions, it was all about "mindset."

"I only had to know one thing," she said, "know my part inside and out."

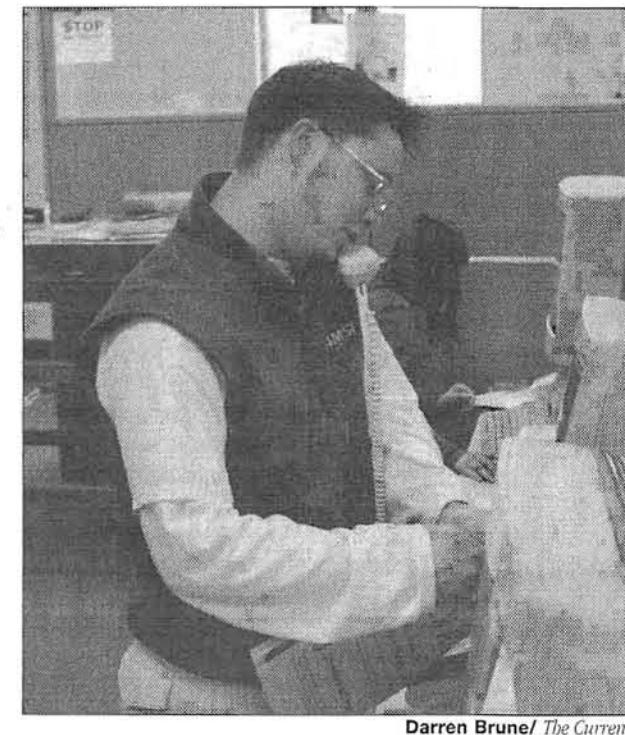
As both an attorney and witness, Dowd stressed how important it was not to get the facts of the case mixed up.

"That could be devastating for your side," she said.

Michael White, a Political Science major like many of his teammates, said that he thought the team did well, especially with such little support from the University.

"We shouldn't have to fight our own people to do well," White said. "The school is constantly complaining about students not coming together...but when we do they don't want to support it."

"It just felt like everything was a struggle," Mitten added.



Darren Brunel/The Current

**Nick Bowman** will take over as editor in chief of The Current on the first day of intersession. Bowman is a sophomore double-majoring in communication theory and English rhetoric.

## New Current editor to emphasize personnel

BY DAN GALLI

special to The Current

Joe Harris, a former editor in chief of The Current, told Nick Bowman shortly after he was hired that he would one day be an editor. On March 19, these words proved prophetic as Bowman was officially approved by the University Assembly Student Affairs and Student Publications Committee to be the next editor in chief of the paper.

Bowman is a sophomore double-majoring in communication theory and English rhetoric.

He has been working in the sports department of The Current for two years. He became an associate editor in spring 2000, and has also covered high school sports for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Bowman's main goal is to fill all four positions for section editors, which will be vacant when the school year ends.

"That is my toughest challenge in the next few weeks, filling the holes in the staff," Bowman said.

He hopes to institute a ladder system to make it easier to replace staff members in the future.

"[Staff members] will work their

way through the ropes. When people leave, someone will take their spot," Bowman said. "This will cut a lot of holes and the paper will run a lot smoother."

Bowman's other main goal is to increase distribution of the paper. He wants off-campus distribution to other campuses in the area and also to the community. His goal is to be able to deliver the paper throughout the surrounding area.

"We can then tell advertisers we advertise in the community. We hope to be able to raise ad rates by 10 percent. These rates have not been raised in 10 years. The Current can then come out on top as far as revenue goes," Bowman said.

He hopes to continue the current success of the paper and will be working closely with present editor in chief Josh Renaud. Bowman, who said he views the paper as "another classroom," plans on being a student to Renaud the rest of the semester.

"If I don't try to learn as much as I can now, I will set myself up to fail," Bowman said. "As solid as the paper is now, as when I came on to the staff, I can only see it getting better."

Bowman will officially begin his duties on the first day of intersession.

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# Alcatraz occupies unique place in history of U.S. prisons



**TIM THOMPSON**  
history columnist

Twenty-eight years ago, this month marked the end of an era in the U.S. prison system. For on March 21, 1963, the final group of prisoners embarked from "The Rock."

Alcatraz was one of the most famous correctional facilities in the world. Cold, mysterious, and isolated, it housed some of the most notorious villains in U.S. history and

touted a myth of invincibility.

Alcatraz is a 12-acre island lying in the southwestern portion of San Francisco Bay, just one mile from the famed Fisherman's Wharf. Little or no vegetation can be found on the island because of the numerous interlocking boulder formations, from which its nickname, "The Rock," originates.

The Rock's career as a government-run facility commenced during the early 1850s, when president Fillmore issued an executive order transforming the island into a military fortress.

This action was undertaken in response to the explosive growth of San Francisco resulting from the California Gold Rush. Fillmore

wanted the city defended against potential foreign invasions.

As a result, U.S. Army engineers constructed an impressive citadel at the highest point on the island, and surrounded it with more than 100 cannon. By the late 1950s, Alcatraz became the most fortified military site on the western coast of the United States, and stood poised to defend the entrance into San Francisco Bay against any intruder.

It was all for naught. There weren't any invasions, and by 1909, the island was home to no more than a few dozen military prisoners.

Then, in 1933, the U.S. Army transferred ownership of Alcatraz to the Justice Department for direct use by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. A gigantic cell house, capable of holding more than 500 inmates, was constructed where the citadel had been, and the first law-breakers were transferred there that autumn.

The federal government decided to build a maximum-security facility on the island of Alcatraz in a determined attempt to combat the soaring crime rate that was engulfing America during the late '20s and early '30s.

Extraordinary crime figures such as Al Capone, George "Machine Gun" Kelly, Alvin Karpis, and Arthur "Doc" Barker were all eventually transferred to The Rock.

Perhaps the most famous of all inmates was Robert Stroud, nicknamed the "Birdman of Alcatraz." Unfortunately, he has become somewhat of a folk hero, and a Hollywood film starring Bert Lancaster even depicted him as such. In reality, he was a deranged fanatic who struck women and had committed double homicide.

Alcatraz was designed to keep all of the rotten eggs in one basket. There were a precious few privileges. Prisoners were kept isolated in cells barely six feet wide. There were 17 counts each day, and periodic shakedowns. There were also 100 guards stationed on the island. This usually averaged out to one officer for every three convicts, the highest ratio in the history of the U.S. prison system.

Most of these guards actually lived on the island with their families in specially constructed apartments. There was a baseball diamond, two-lane bowling alley, dance floor and snack bar for the families and their

children. These families quickly formed tightly-knit communities that provided support for one another. In addition, the warden and assistant wardens also resided on the island.

In its 20 years of operation as a Federal Prison, The Rock was witness to 14 escape attempts. The most violent of these took place on May 2-4, 1946, when six inmates jumped an unarmed guard, lifted his keys and gained access to several reserve weapons. They managed to temporarily gain control of the cell house, waging a ferocious gun battle with numerous correctional officers. The six men were eventually overwhelmed by a company of marines who were transported from the mainland.

The most famous escape attempt from Alcatraz culminated on the night of June 11, 1962, when Frank Morris and brothers John and Clarence Anglin dug out the rear of their cells, climbed up the utility corridor of the cell house, and using a raft made out of stolen raincoats, managed to reach the frigid waters of San Francisco Bay.

The dummy heads they had constructed to fool the nighttime guards were discovered in their beds early the next morning, at which time the greatest manhunt in United States history was immediately undertaken.

To this day, none of their bodies have been recovered. The question of whether or not they actually beat The Rock is still hotly contested.

Escalating operational costs led Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to officially close Alcatraz less than a year later.

Today, Alcatraz Island is part of the National Park Service, attracting slightly over one million visitors each year.

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### UM-ST. LOUIS 21ST ANNUAL AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 2-6, 2001

<b>April 2 Monday</b>	• Movie Marathon: Free "Meet the Parents" "Silver Bullet" "Autumn in New York" "Bone Collector"	MSC Television Room 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 2:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. (Women's Center)
<b>April 3 Tuesday</b>	• Movie Marathon: Free "Bone Collector" "Autumn in New York" "Meet the Parents" "Silver Bullet"	MSC Television Room 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. (Women's Center)
<b>April 4 Wednesday</b>	• Disability Awareness Day disABILITY SIMULATIONS • "SHOOT FROM THE HIP CONTEST" Sign Up on 2nd Floor MSC	2nd Floor-MSC Lobby 9:00 - 12:00 noon 12:15 p.m. 1st Floor-MSC
	• Movie Marathon: Free "Silver Bullet" "Autumn in New York" "Bone Collector" "Meet the Parents"	MSC Television Room 10:00 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. (Women's Center)
<b>April 5 Thursday</b>	• Movie Marathon: Free "Meet the Parents" "Bone Collector" "Silver Bullet" "Autumn in New York"	MSC Television Room 9:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. (Women's Center)
<b>April 6 Friday</b>	• Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony	MSC Century Room 12:15 p.m.

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For more **information** on how you can **join** for the 2001-2002 school year, call **516-5291**.

# Tennis team serves defeat to opponents

Rivermen take one win and loss over break, bringing overall record to 6-2

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

The UMSL men's tennis squad hit a high point this season when they extended their winning streak to five matches with a 7-2 victory over Lindenwood University, improving their overall record to 5-1, 2-0 in the

Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Rivermen swept all six of the singles matches with Matt Vaulkhard, Josh Heape, Eric Schrumpf, Mario Gruden, Minh Phan, and Ryan Trela all claiming victories, while two of the three doubles teams were defeated by Lindenwood.

Four of the six singles matches went three sets, with all four favoring the Rivermen in the end at the No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 positions.

Unfortunately for the Rivermen, their five-match winning streak came to an abrupt end over spring break as UMSL fell to a dominant conference foe in Southern Indiana

7-2. With the loss, the Rivermen fell to 2-1 in conference play. Phan at the No. 3 singles spot and Trela and Schrumpf at the No. 3 doubles spot were the only victories for the Rivermen.

The Rivermen then rebounded against Jefferson College, winning 7-2. The Rivermen won all three

doubles matches with the No. 1 doubles match, featuring Vaulkhard and Gruden, getting close at 8-6. The other two matches were decisively won 8-1 and 8-0.

In singles, UMSL won four of six matches, only dropping the No. 1 and No. 3 spots as Vaulkhard and Schrumpf were defeated by

Jefferson College.

The Rivermen move on to play at SIU-Edwardsville on April 4, before hosting Washington University on April 5. The Rivermen then hit the road for two conference games against Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne and headed for Indianapolis on April 7 and 8.

## BASEBALL, from page 5

much better showing in Florida, and in these first games, and I'm not going to make any excuses. We've squandered a lot of opportunities."

As a team, the Rivermen are batting only .277, while opponents are at the .307 mark.

"We have to swing a better bat," said Brady. "We've been inconsis-

tent, and we need to eliminate that. We're only hitting at the .200 level with an aluminum bat. We've got to do a better job and put teams away when we can."

With only four seniors on the squad, chemistry is something that will have to be learned. With a trip to Bellarmine two weekends ago, the Rivermen have officially

kicked off Great Lakes Valley Conference play, and are beginning to take form.

"This team is beginning to take shape," said Brady. "I've seen more positives than negatives on the field and I see the potential for us to improve."

## BASKETBALL, from page 5

achievements and improve, it will make everything go along better."

For the six departing seniors, this season was bittersweet. For Ross and Coleman, this marked the end of a long stay. Ross has been a Riverman for four years, while Coleman has donned the red and gold for three, sitting through multiple losing seasons under former Head Coach Rich Meckfessel before ending their college careers not on a loss to Northern Kentucky, but on a winning season. Brian Markus, Luke Harms, Anthony Love and Michael Hamilton cap off the list of departing Rivermen.

"Those guys really started this program heading in the right direc-

tion," said Bernsen. "We had Ross and Coleman before I came here and a couple other guys who have been here a couple of years and now it's time for the couple of juniors that are coming back and [the new recruits] to build on that."

Bernsen does stress, however, that those six are not done at UMSL.

"Now they've got to focus on the more important goal, and that is to graduate," Bernsen said. "Many of them are on track to graduate in the spring and I'm very proud of what they've accomplished both on and off the court."

Looking at next season, Bernsen is aware of the holes that he will need to fill. Heading into the 2001-

2002 campaign, only four letter-winners will return.

"We're aware of the holes that those six guys will leave for next season," said Bernsen. "We want to establish a competitive practice setting where everybody is competing every day. That is the only way that a team can get better."

With the addition of Craig Harbaugh as an assistant coach, recruitment should be very solid.

"Coach Harbaugh has a great knowledge of the area and knows who to go for in the midwest. He has a great ability to recruit, and when you need six to seven quality guys, he can get them for us."



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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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OR

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by marty johnson

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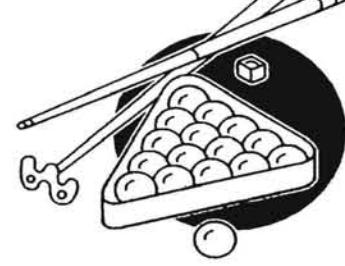
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