



## 'The Mexican' mixes movie styles

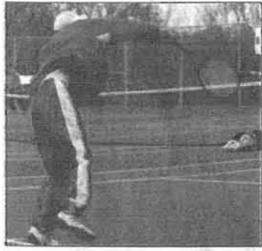
This movie is entertaining if you are not fixed on the idea that a movie must be either a comedy or serious and can just go along with its various transformations.

▲ See page 6

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## INSIDE



### Saints' prayer for victory denied by tennis Rivermen

The UMSL men's tennis team won six singles matches and three doubles bouts en route to a 9-0 victory over Maryville University. It was the team's second consecutive victory and its first shut-out of the year.

▲ See page 5

## BRIEFS

### UMSL to run South Campus U-Mart

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

Residence hall students are now able to use their meal plans at the U-Mart on South Campus, thanks to UMSL administrators.

On March 1, UMSL purchased the U-Mart from Campus-C-Stores, a nation-wide retailer based in San Diego, Calif. The chain suffered some serious cash-flow problems, forcing them to back out of their contract. The store will now be operated in conjunction with Food Service Consultants, a private vending firm on campus.

Jill Fletcher, the U-Mart store manager, believes that the new set-up provides an excellent opportunity for the students living on campus.

"The store is now fully stocked and has a variety of food items including hot dogs, nachos, soup, chili, salads, pretzels, and sandwiches," Fletcher said. "We also make fresh sandwiches for the students."

This is only scratching the surface, though. According to Fletcher, students can also purchase health and beauty products as well.

The U-Mart is not new to UMSL. Located at the end of Marillac Hall in the Optometry building on South Campus, it has served UMSL students for more than five years.

"The whole concept was formulated by Reinhard Schuster [vice chancellor for Administrative Services]. He thought it would be a good idea to have a little market near the [University] Meadows and the dorms," said Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary Services.

For those students interested in checking out what the U-Mart has to offer, its hours of operation are: Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## "Know you're right..."



Maggie Matthews/The Current

"To those who say women can't do it all, I say women have always done it all," said Sen. Jean Carnahan. Carnahan spoke about the perseverance and determination of women in the pursuit of women's equality at an event held by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life on Saturday. Read the whole story on page 3.

## MoDOT tears up Florissant Rd. to improve campus entrance

BY STEVE VALKO  
staff writer

On Florissant Rd., construction workers are increasing road safety and giving UMSL an aesthetic makeover.

The project to realign I-70 and Florissant Rd. has inconvenienced some drivers, but MoDOT is working to keep things on schedule.

The agreement with the contracted firm, Fred Weber Inc., states that the three lanes in either direction of I-70 will be open by the end of 2002, and all construction will be completed by the middle of 2003, said Lee Hillner, MoDOT project manager of the I-70 construction jobs.

"The reason for [the deadlines] is so we can start work on other areas, specifically Highway 40," said Hillner.

MoDOT is working on Florissant Rd. to correct the problem areas that exist through the Cool Valley section, according to Hillner.

"It has a pretty sharp curve, a pretty good hill, and it's pretty windy through there. We're going to straighten and flatten [Florissant Rd.]," said Hillner.

Until that time, traffic will continue to be difficult for UMSL students on I-70 coming from I-270, noted



Rafael Macias/The Current

A roller sits idle near Florissant Rd. Construction equipment has become a common sight to student drivers recently since MoDOT began its massive I-70 realignment project.

Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction.

"We encourage commuters to use Natural Bridge Rd. and [interstate] 170 access," said Darandari.

Darandari also noted that once the project is finished, students would have direct access to UMSL from I-70.

In its effort to reconfigure the Florissant Rd., I-70 interchange,

MoDOT discovered that its plans would require the use of UMSL property. While negotiating with the University to acquire the land, MoDOT found out about a goal that UMSL would like to accomplish with the land.

"[UMSL] really wanted to enhance [the interchange] and make

see WORK, page 10

## Officials try to increase MSC accessibility

BY DALILA WAHEAD  
special to The Current

The Millennium Student Center accessible to disabled students over the next few weeks and in the future, as Building Operations considers improvements requested by Disability Access Services.

Braille restroom signs will be installed in the Student Center this week, said Bernard Diggs, manager of Building Operations.

Marilyn Ditto, director of Disability Access Services and Student Support Services, collaborated with a few counselors from Students Taking Advantage of

Resources Services and together they created a proposal for clearer pathways in the Nosh and striping on escalator stairs to assist visually impaired students. Ditto sent the proposal to Building Operations three weeks ago.

"It is difficult for blind and deaf people to wind through the tables in The Nosh," said student Chris Tisdal. Tisdal proxied for Arts and Sciences representative Bob Miller at the March 6 SGA meeting and spoke of the inaccessibility on campus.

"Seeing-eye dogs are trained. There needs to be a consistent path of travel for them," said Patricia Hall, counselor with S.T.A.R.S. "The same thing for people with mobility

devices."

"I can understand where that would be a problem," said Diggs. "One of the problems is there is a definite floor plan for The Nosh...but students move tables."

"Marilyn Ditto proposed that we come up with some different floor textures and pathways," said Diggs. "We would totally have to alter the floor [and] pull off sections of carpet and put vinyl tile in there, and that way people would know that tables are not supposed to be in those areas."

Building designers have gotten bids on the cost of the improvements, said Diggs.

"We need to sit down and look at

the estimates [this week]," said Diggs.

There are many other accessibility issues that need to be addressed on campus.

"I think I've noticed for myself, I use a scooter," said Hall. "I've noticed that some of the doors to some of the offices are not always open. So that necessitates having to open the door. That's something each department can look at—getting a door opener or being available to open the door."

There do not seem to be any electric doors by the Bookstore or Aroma's Bakery, said Tisdal.

Tisdal said that one day he was standing at the door near Aroma's and had to assist a disabled gentleman into

being offered in the Bulletin. And although each department updates the Bulletin yearly, most unavailable courses remain listed, he said.

Usually a faculty member leaves or retires from the University which causes a class to be left by the wayside because that instructor was the only one to teach it, Young said. Unless they return or the University finds someone else to replace them, the course usually remains unavailable for students, he added.

Currently, the Office of Academic Affairs is doing a "complete revision" of the Bulletin to make it more informative, Young pointed out. But once again, he reiterated, course offerings are left up to each department.

"Departments are reluctant to take a course off the books unless they don't think they're going to ever offer it again. It's so hard to put them back on."

The whole procedure of removing courses from the bulletin is a fairly long process that could take up to a year, Young said, because it has to be approved at so many levels.

First, the department has to agree on which courses should be removed and approve them, he said. Then the college and University have to approve the removals as well.

"It's a fairly elaborate process," Young said, adding that even so, some courses are removed each year.

## Too many courses in Bulletin are rarely offered, students say

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff writer

As an UMSL senior who's been here all four years, Kendra Ballard, a communications major, has some concerns regarding course scheduling that may affect current and in-coming students.

Ballard thinks that students who aren't familiar with the difference in the number of courses offered versus the number of classes in the University's bulletin may be in for a quite a surprise.

"When they get here, it's not what they think if they look at the bulletin compared to the class schedule," she said.

In the 2000/2001 UMSL Bulletin, 67 undergraduate communications courses, including practicums, internships, and seminars, are listed, yet only 47 of those have been offered during this past fall, current winter, and upcoming summer sessions. Other departments face the same circumstance. For instance, 32 criminology and criminal justice courses are listed in this year's Bulletin, but only 23 are offered for the entire school year.

"The bulletin needs to be updated and edited seriously," says David Young, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Young says that it is up to each department to decide what courses are

the building.

"If it wouldn't have been for me standing there, a handicapped gentleman wouldn't have gotten in," said Tisdal.

Tisdal spoke to Diggs about the lack of braille signs on the bathrooms. "That should have been a part of the original plan," said Diggs.

Miller is organizing a student committee to address accessibility problems. This committee will present such issues to the University, said Tisdal.

It is important that students become informed about these issues, Hall said, in order to be more conscious of accessibility.

# Bulletin Board

## Tuesday, March 20

- On-Campus Interviews will be held at 327 Millennium Student Center. It is a free all-day event. Students must be registered with Career Services. Please call 516-5111 for more information.
- 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.
- A Festival of German Music is organized from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Florissant Civic Center Theatre. Free. Call Larry Marsch at 516-6620 for details.

## Wednesday, March 21

- Forum—"Enhancing St. Louis: What Is Philanthropy's Policy?" presented at the Millennium Student Center, Century Room C (3rd floor), from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For details, call 516-5273.
- Meeting for OUT—UMSL's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Alliance—in Room 385 at the Millennium Student Center, Student Organization, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call Mathew at 516-5013 or at 636-230-7483.
- Rec Sports Registration Deadline  
Floor Hockey Leagues are now forming—men's and coed teams. All equipment is provided. Games are played Wednesday evenings at the Mark Twain Gym beginning April 4. Sign up today in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain.
- Lecture: "Black Aesthetics and

### 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.

Politics of Representation" will be held at 200 F. Elliot Hall, Washington University, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free. For more information, call 516-5801.

## Thursday, March 22

- Pre-Performance Sousa Concert will be held at the J. C. Penney Lobby from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event continues on Friday and Saturday at the same time and place. Free. For details, call 516-5980.
- "El Captain" Musical will be performed from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the J. C. Penney Auditorium. The event continues on Friday and Saturday at the same time and place. Free. For information, call 516-5818.

## Friday, March 23

•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.

## Sunday, March 25

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

## April 2, 2001

•Monday Noon Series  
"Archeology: A Study in Self Discovery—An Artist's Slide Talk" will be presented by Ron Fondaw, an art teacher at Washington University. His work is exhibited in Gallery 210 from March 8 to April 6. The event is held at 229 J. C. Penney Building, from noon to 1 p.m. Call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### March 9, 2001

Optometry staff reported that on 3/1/01 an employee was terminated and refused to surrender a University key and identification.

### March 10, 2001

The terminated Optometry employee surrendered the University key and identification.

### March 12, 2001

At 10:40 a.m., a vehicle parked on the third level of Garage "P" was found to have a counterfeit student parking permit on the rear window. The student surrendered the parking permit. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs Office.

### March 13, 2001

At 10:35 a.m., a vehicle parked on the lot "E" was found to have a counterfeit student parking permit on the rear window. The student surrendered the parking permit. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs.

### March 14, 2001

A student reported that his Winter 2001 parking permit was stolen from his vehicle, while parked on Lot "E" between 1/22/01 at 10 a.m. and 1/31/01 at 6 p.m.

At 10:35 a.m., a vehicle parked on the lot "E" was found to have a counterfeit student parking permit on the rear window. The student surrendered the parking permit. The incident will be referred to the Student Affairs.

### March 15, 2001

A student reported that her Winter 2001 parking permit was stolen from her vehicle on 3/14/01 between 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At the time of the theft, the student's vehicle was parked on the fourth floor of Parking Garage "P."

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis 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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# Carnahan motivating UMSL

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

Sen. Jean Carnahan delivered an inspiring speech in behalf of all women at UMSL on Saturday, March 17, in an event sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Carnahan opened by paying homage to the late Shear's involvement with public life. Depicting Shear as a "modest role model," she said that Shear made the leap from homemaker to politician after seeing too much injustice, inhumanity, and discrimination in the world. At age 54, Shear was elected into the General Assembly as a fighter for the people, and continued to hold that position for 26 years. Shear poses as a role model for every-day women who struggle to overcome barriers that may prevent them from putting forward an active voice in official decisions that affect them.

Carnahan pointed out that women from the beginning have always had to maintain their traditional roles in addition to organizing their freedom.

"To those who say women can't do it all," Carnahan said, "I say women have always done it all."

Drawing on the likes of Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Stanton, Carnahan exposed the dual faces that leaders of the women's rights movement were forced to put on. Whether it was transporting slaves across the Underground Railroad, or chanting



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Blanche Touhill, UMSL's second female chancellor, poses for a picture with Sen. Jean Carnahan after Carnahan's speech Saturday.

"Votes for Women," these women fought for the rights of humanity around kitchen tables with babies in their arms. They were, as Carnahan declared, "women in the battle for freedom and justice—they got out and fought our battles."

To preserve their spirit and carry their fight forward, Carnahan urges people to get out and "know you're right." While her message pertains to women, because many do not realize the power of their voice, it can apply to anyone motivated to fight for equality and justice.

"There's strength in knowing what you're doing is right," she said.

She advises women preparing to enter the workforce "to have some sort of a goal, something you always reach for."

Upon taking office in Washington, Carnahan says that all of the women in the Senate stick together and look out for each other. However, she says the most difficult part about her job is dealing with the many people who want her to fight for their causes.

"The mental shifting of goals," Carnahan said, "is the most challenging, but also makes the job interesting."

The concern was evident in her eyes as she talked of the importance of representing the people. She receives hundreds of letters from people who want their causes to be known. Admiring them for speaking out and working in the interest of the people, she said "If there seems to be a sort of trend, I want to know

see CARNAHAN, page 8

## Schwarz wins National Jewish Book Award

BY SARA PORTER  
staff writer

Howard Schwartz, professor of English at UMSL, won the National Jewish Book Award for his collection of folktales "The Day the Rabbi Disappeared."

"They told me a week before I found out that mine was one of five books nominated for the award," Schwartz said. "I was later contacted by the Jewish Book Council, and they told me I won. I felt very good about it."

"The Day the Rabbi Disappeared" is a collection of Jewish folktales geared for children, but dealing with very specific themes. "These are stories that are primarily about magic and they focus on each individual Jewish Holiday," Schwartz said, citing such holidays as Hanukah and Passover.

For Schwartz, this book took quite a bit of research. "I spent five years finding and translating stories, even searched for them at the Israel Folktale Archives at the University of Haiza in Israel, and found a total of

twenty-five that I narrowed down to twelve," Schwartz said. "My wife, who is a native Israeli, made several trips to visit her family and conducted research for me."

No stranger to winning, "Rabbi" also won the Aesop Award for children's folklore and a Jewish Library Association Award. Schwartz also won the National Jewish Book Award previously for his children's book "Next Year in Jerusalem" and was nominated last year for a collection of essays. "Now that I have been a finalist, I know the difference between being a finalist and a winner," Schwartz said.

Currently Schwartz is taking a leave of absence from UMSL to conduct research on a book of Jewish mythology to be published by Oxford Press. "The content will be five hundred Jewish mythologies dealing in ten categories such as God, Heaven, Hell, Creation, and the Promise of Messiah."

Schwartz will be presented the National Jewish Book Award for "Rabbi" on March 29 in New York City.

## Music Department performs 'El Capitan' for spring opera

BY SARA PORTER  
staff writer

Last year, the UMSL music department performed the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance."

This year they are going to perform another operetta for their audience, John Phillip Sousa's "El Capitan" from March 22-24 at 7:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney building auditorium. Most people, who think of Sousa as a songwriter of only marching band songs, are in for a surprise, promises Kathryn Haggans, director of the Opera Theatre Workshop of UMSL.

"Sousa aspired to be the American equivalent of Gilbert and Sullivan, popular operetta composers," said Haggans. "This piece is based on Sousa's 'El Capitan' march."

The play was chosen according to many criteria, Haggans said. "It was chosen because of the size of the theatre, the amount of time we had to rehearse, in this case ten weeks, and because we had a wonderful Gilbert and Sullivan production last year with Penzance and we wanted to do something similar."

The story, which Haggans calls "a tangled tale," involves two noblemen, Don Medigua and Don Cazarro, who are each vying for the title of Viceroy of Spain-occupied Peru, while a mysterious war hero, El Capitan, appears on the scene. In the meantime, there are various love stories and disguises.

The cast consists of UMSL students Justin Osbourne as Medigua, Keith Boyer as Verrada, Terree Rowbottom as Princess Marghanza, Christine Rios as Isabel, Paul Robinson as Scaramba, Robin Mik as Estrelida, Joe Mosier as Pozzo, UMSL alum Chris Weller as Cazarro, and a chorus line of students who play soldiers and ladies.

For the cast, this presents an opportunity to play comedic roles. "I play Pozzo, a Spanish aristocrat who gets involved in a love triangle," Mosier said. "He's a very cowardly, whiny neurotic, but a very funny man."

Rowbottom describes her character, Princess Morghanza, as a woman who is "used to getting her own way." "She loves her husband, Don Medigua, very much," Rowbottom said. "Of course she loves him better when he does what she wants."

Performing an operetta such as

"El Capitan" is an experience for those involved. "The students will gain an awareness about how to move on stage, working with makeup, costumes, and an orchestra," Haggans said. "They are learning about performance."

For Mosier and Rowbottom, they hope this performance will lead to experience in future music careers. "I have wanted to sing country music since I was twelve," Mosier said. "I hope this will lead to my fame as a country singer."

"I'm trying for a B.A. in music, possibly going into vocal education," Rowbottom said. "I hope this will lead to my experience careerwise."

Haggans, Rowbottom, and Mosier hope the audience will enjoy the musical. "I hope they will have a fine time listening to the tunes," Haggans said. "I hope they enjoy the colors and the silliness of the plot."

Before Friday night's performance at 7:00 p.m., there will also be an outdoor concert of Sousa's music as performed by the UMSL orchestra.

Tickets for "El Capitan" are \$5.00 for UMSL students and \$8.00 for non-students and can be paid at the door the nights of the performances.

The box office's number is (314) 516-5818.

## Is the date rape drug affecting you?

BY JAY ROMERO  
special to The Current

"You can't smell it, you can't feel it, but it could be affecting you." That is the theme of the seminar on the date rape drug that took place last week at the Millennium Center Century Hall B. Guest speakers, nurse Amy Schoenberger and Bob Roeseler, director of Institutional Safety and UMSL police, talked about the dangers of date rape drugs. In a pamphlet written by Skill Builder, rape by definition is a coercive forceful act of a male against a female. When a man uses force, coercion or manipulation to have sex with a woman against her will, then it is rape. There are two kinds of drugs that could incapacitate a victim, called G.H.B. and Rohypnol. G.H.B.'s street names are Liquid X and Liquid E, "the forget pill," and rib. This type of drug dissolves quickly into liquids and is often used in beer

and sodas of victims. G.H.B. can cause intoxication and memory loss. Nurse Amy Schoenberger said if a person is raped, the best thing to do is not to take a shower, preserve clothing and most important of all is to go to counseling, because not talking about it could result in future relationship problems. Bob Roeseler said that the best thing to do after being raped is to put your clothing in a brown paper bag where air circulates, because putting your clothing in a plastic bag could cause mold to grow and eventually destroy skin cells and fluids of the rapist.

There are precautions that a person should take when going out with a friend or a date. First, keep an eye out for the drink that you are having.

Second, only take a beverage from the bartender or waiter and, lastly, guys should listen to and respect their date's wishes. Most importantly, guys should remember "no" means no and

yes means yes. Everybody should know the distinction between "no" and "yes"—"yes" for go and "no" for no. In addition to following these instructions, go to the clinic right away if you think you were drugged.

Skill Builder, a pamphlet distributed by Nurse Amy from the University Health Services has a list of things that a person—either a man or a woman—should do when he or she has been raped. Tell a friend, call the police and then go to the hospital to get tested for STDs and the date rape drug. Do not shower, douche, or change your clothes before seeing the doctor.

Lastly, consider what other evidence might be useful if you decide to press charges.

This presentation on date rape drugs was held as an interactive discussion for men and women, sponsored by Residential Life and the fraternities and sororities of our campus.



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Bob Roeseler, Chief of Police at UM-St. Louis and Nurse Amy Schoenberger, Health Educator, held an interactive discussion about date rape last Wednesday.



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EVENTS

March

22-24

On campus at UMSL, "El Capitan," the comic opera by John Philip Sousa, will be performed in the J.C. Penney Auditorium, sponsored by the Music Department of University of Missouri-St. Louis.

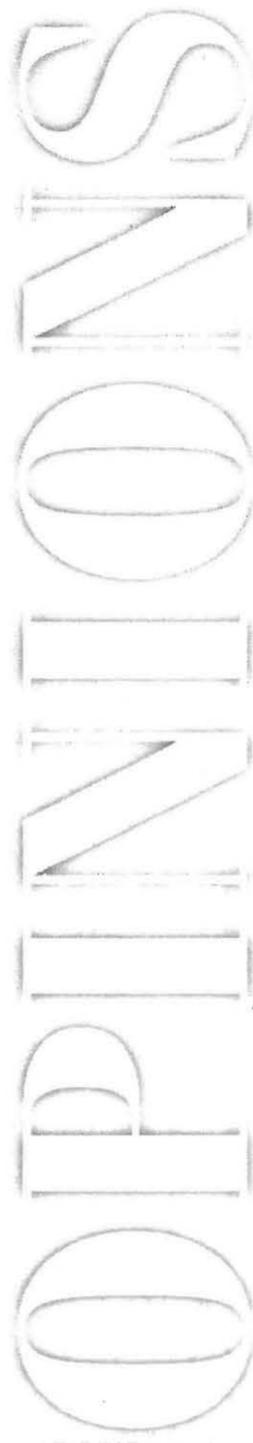
April

1

The Fox Theatre will present Peter, Paul, and Mary in concert at 7:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$27.50 to \$37.50 and are available at the Fox Theatre by calling Metrotix or all Metrotix locations. To charge by phone, call Metrotix at (314) 534-1111 or order online at www.metrotix.com.

22

The Fox Theatre will present a showing of the 1925 film "Ben-Hur" with organ accompaniment at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door, and are available either at the Fox Theatre, or by calling Metrotix and all Metrotix locations. To charge by phone, call Metrotix at (314) 534-1111, or order online at www.metrotix.com.



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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.

**Under Current**  
by Mutsumi Igarashi  
staff photographer

*What is your plan for Spring Break?*

**OUR OPINION**

**Campus community can help get funding for UMSL**

It's no secret to anyone that UMSL is the bastard child of the University of Missouri System. Despite being an "urban university" in the largest metropolitan area in the state, UMSL faces a problem getting the funding it needs.

When one compares the number of students enrolled at UMSL with the number of students enrolled at, say, Rolla or UMKC with the amount of funding those campuses receive, it quickly becomes obvious that UMSL's share is not what it should be.

This shortage of funds is partly to blame for UMSL's annual reallocations, a sort of budget cannibalism. Without more funds, it's difficult for departments here to add the programs they want to add. And sometimes counterparts at other UM institutions do their best to keep UMSL from developing programs, like a doctoral degree in history, for example.

This isn't a new problem. In fact, UMSL has been getting the short end of the stick since it became part of the UM System in the 1960s.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill has been trying to make the "equity argument"—that our portion of UM's total budget should be equal to our portion of UM's total student headcount—to the powers that be in Columbia. She has met with little success, as she's said during several recent Faculty Senate meetings. Touhill has been talking lately about using a new approach that highlights UMSL's "workforce development" to area business leaders, in an effort to get them on our side and secure more programs for UMSL.

Lawrence Barton, chair of the Faculty Senate, recently spoke with

UM System President Manuel Pacheco, making many of the same equity arguments others have made. Barton said those arguments didn't do much to sway Pacheco or Steven Lehmkuhle, UM System vice president for Academic Affairs. Barton did research that makes the equity argument clear as day and sent it to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, hoping it would be run as an op-ed piece.

While Barton, Touhill, and others continue to push, more is needed. Enter the UMSL community of students, faculty and staff. We encourage everybody on this campus to do their part and assist in the appeal to fund our University.

Increased funding could allow us to have more academic programs, and retain more faculty instead of asking them to retire early. The more faculty we have, the more classes in the Bulletin can actually be offered during each semester.

Within the walls of the Missouri State Legislature exists a committee assigned to allocate the state budget. Its chair, Timothy P. Green, and its vice-chair, Yvonne S. Wilson, head 26 other committee members in determining where state funding goes.

Why not give them and other Missouri state legislators a call? We elect them to represent our interests, and if you are involved with UMSL, then you have an interest in seeing it supported better.

Green's phone number is 573-751-6845, his fax number is 573-751-2654 and his email address is tgreen@services.state.mo.us. Wilson's phone number is 573-751-9758, her fax number is 573-522-4626 and her email address is ywilson@services.state.mo.us.

**LETTERS**

**Bush's tax plan good for America**

I disagree with last week's editorial. First, you cite that the recent fluctuations in tech stocks and the dot.com failures are evidence of a failing economy. In reality, the dot.com failures are based out of "irrational exuberance," when investors seized a potential profit opportunity based on a hot technology. Investors based their entire portfolios around hot tech commodities such as toenailclippers.com, fueling an explosion unequalled in American history. The contracting value of the Nasdaq is merely the self-correcting mechanism taking effect, establishing a new equilibrium.

You further insinuated that the current economic climate is the equivalent of the late 1920s, just before the Great Depression. It is implied that we could be on the verge of a depression-level economic funk. This is laughable. The Great Depression stemmed largely out of World War I, and the reparations that stemmed out of that conflict.

An analogy used describes a situation where all of an expected \$5000 tax cut is spent, when only \$500 is returned. First, this analogy views the Bush budget (and more precisely, the Bush tax cut. After all, that is the core

of the opposition against the budget) as an expenditures function. The Bush tax plan calls to reduce to marginal tax rates on all five income tax brackets. In other words, the Bush tax plan calls for reducing the revenues side of the federal government's budget as opposed to the expenditures side. The reduction of the revenues side, in this case, carries positive connotations for the economy at large.

Economic indicators are also cited as evidence of a faltering economy. The proper way to view the current economic climate is one of "deceleration," that is, the economy is still expanding, just at a decreasing pace. Real Gross Domestic Product (total value of all goods and services) and personal consumption were both on the rise in the final quarter of 2000. GDP grew out of increases in domestic demand, indicative of Americans' continued preference towards consumption.

It is true that business investment is down, while the Consumer Price Index (measuring inflation) has risen, resulting in lower net exports. It seems that the most equitable way of reducing the probability of recession is to give a predicted, permanent tax cut.

Even if no tax cut is given, the chances of recession are slim. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan appears to be willing to fluctuate interest rates to ward off any potential threat to the United States' economy. Certainly, if a tax cut did threaten economic stability, Chairman Greenspan would be a vocal opponent. In fact, he is on the record supporting a cut.

While I'm on the subject, allow me to delve a little further into the taxation topic. It seems that every Democrat in the country has appeared on a talk show expounding something similar to: "90 percent of the proposed \$1.6 trillion tax cut will benefit the wealthiest 1 percent." Our tax system is based upon income, and the higher the income, the higher the tax rate. In fact, the rich pay a vast majority of the taxes. For any tax cut proposed, the rich will automatically receive the lion's share of the cuts. Does the Democratic opposition actually believe that J. Snobb IV is actually sitting around in luxury estate, lobbying congressional Republicans to give him an extra few bucks a year in tax cuts?

--Jeremy D. Bixby

**Strong demand for web design good for students**

Conventional wisdom can be pretty fickle sometimes. It was about this time last year that the web and tech companies were booming and could do no wrong. Now, one year later, most of the dot-coms are out of business and the Nasdaq is plummeting. The same folks in the press singing the praises of the web now shake their heads and talk as if they had warned the public of the disaster potential all along.

Conventional wisdom may be fickle, but that doesn't change the need. It's come to my attention lately that there are still a lot of folks who need or want websites and are willing to pay someone to create them. The big web companies may have bottomed out, but for students, there are some amazing opportunities.

Some of those opportunities can be found on campus. At the Faculty Senate meeting this week, several senators complained about the primordial look of some UMSL department websites.

I have to agree. The UMSL front page is decent, but as you begin to explore deeper, some of these sites are downright ugly and totally out of date. A few blessed departments have been able to pay professionals to

design their sites or had talented MIS, CS, or Communications students assemble one. But by and large, most of the UMSL pages are nasty.

Later this week I listened to some members of the Alumni Association make similar laments. The site they wanted to build was probably too complex for a student, but it reinforced the idea that there is still a big market for web design.

And most of the people who need web design aren't looking for anything particularly fancy. Usually a site with a simple, clean and professional design will suffice. Often, these individuals don't know much about the internet or the web. All they know is that they want to get the word out about a product, a service, or an organization, and the web seems like an inexpensive way to do it. They're looking for people who can explain web sites in simple terms and put together something nice.

So students, don't be scared away by the headlines. There's a high demand for quality web work right here on campus and in the St. Louis community. If you've got the skills, this is definitely something that can help pay the bills.



**JOSH RENAUD**  
editor-in-chief

**The issue:**

Despite the fact that UMSL serves the largest metropolitan area in Missouri, it is consistently near the bottom in its share of the University of Missouri funding. UM System administrators have turned a deaf ear to UMSL's plight for more than 30 years.

**We suggest:**

Students, faculty and staff can voice their concerns directly to state legislators. The more people who speak up, the better our chances of getting more funding.

**So what do you think?**

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

More information regarding this important committee can be found at [www.house.state.mo.us/bills01/commit01/com011.htm](http://www.house.state.mo.us/bills01/commit01/com011.htm). We urge you to contact them and voice your concerns. Ask them to explain why the University that serves the largest metropolitan area in the state is so poorly funded and then ask them to do something about it.

**Be responsible every day, even on special holidays**

New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras may not seem to have a lot in common, except the obvious fact that they are holidays.

The original reason these festivities began was to celebrate a particular heritage, such as Creole or Irish, or to bring in a New Year and wish it to be the best. Just like what we did with Christmas and Easter, our society has changed their meanings and traditions to fit our ideas for them.

With Christmas and Easter, we have turned what was a spirit of giving and new life into a "buy me this, buy me that, or you don't love me" motif.

Instead of the commercialization associated with the previous two holidays, I see St. Patrick's, Mardi Gras and New Year's as the new excuse to act indulgently.

With all of the holidays, there's a "mob mentality" that says hey it's this day, let's go out and get plastered. With most of the members of the group, their real life consists of working and a few other activities. They may have a few drinks on the weekend or at happy hour. What they don't do is get drunk just because it happens to be Tuesday. They need a reason justified by others.

When the parades roll around and big gala parties kick off, most of those regular people attempt to turn into true partying professionals and can suddenly handle drinking steadily for

10 hours.

After the party is over, the memorable Murphy's Law cartoon of the guy sitting on the couch trying to remember what happened eight hours before and not recalling he was dancing with a lampshade in his head applies. Not only do they not remember, but also they hurt and ache all over from the massive liquor shock their body just absorbed.

I compare these people to those who just attend church on Easter Sunday and Christmas, but not the rest of the year. They try to act the part but can't quite memorize the lines.

On Mardi Gras, this drinking is combined with flashing for beads. Beads, just made of just plastic, in the everyday world not be an equal exchange for showing off one's chest or other wares. But I suppose alcohol lowers people's inhibitions. This whole mob action on Mardi Gras is part of the reason that the Fat Tuesday parade was cancelled.

The main point to understand is that people have to act responsibly all the time. Just because it happens to be a holiday or a Monday afternoon doesn't mean that it's okay to go out and flash to collect plastic or get uncontrollably drunk. If such behavior that's committed on some holidays was accepted all the time, then most of us would be not be able to respect ourselves or others on any day.



**ANNE PORTER**  
managing editor

AND THE POINT IS...

**Wanna see your name in print?**

The Current wants your opinions! That's right.. Our Opinions page is all about you. Feel strongly about something? Write a short letter to the editor! If you're feeling ambitious, write a guest commentary. After all, they're your opinions... why not make them count? For more details, call us at 516-5174.



**Jamie Carter**  
Junior / Marketing

I plan to work and study over spring break.



**Roy Muenks**  
Sophomore / Computer Science

I plan on hanging with my friends and partying it up while I can!



**Salvo Parenti**  
Junior / Business

I play like I'm going out of town so I don't have to go to work.



**Suzana Kozul**  
Freshman / Computer Science

I have to work over spring break.

# Saints pray for victory, denied



Darren Brune/The Current

Riverman T. J. Schaefer follows through on a serve at one of last week's matches against Maryville University. The Rivermen won 9-0.

## UMSL tennis team shuts out Maryville University 9-0

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

The UMSL men's tennis team won six singles matches and three doubles bouts en route to a 9-0 victory over Maryville University on Friday. It was the team's second consecutive victory and its first shut-out of the year.

Eric Schrupf, the No. 4 player, raised his match record to 5-0 with a defeat over Jason Rubel in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0. Schrupf also teamed with Josh Heape in doubles action as their No. 2 squad won 8-0 for that duo's first victory.

In other singles action, four Rivermen defeated their opponents in straight 6-0, 6-0 sets. Along with Schrupf, Mihn Phan, Mario Gruden, and Ryan Trela won the No. 3, No. 5, and No. 6 matches unscathed.

In the No. 1 pairing, Matthew Valkhard, a transfer from British Columbia, downed Mike Trulaske of Maryville 6-2, 6-1 as the Rivermen rolled to a victory.

Contests scheduled against the University of Illinois-Springfield and UM-Rolla were canceled due to inclement weather.

The Rivermen will enter conference play on March 17 at home against St. Joseph's (0-1,0-0), the start of a two-game homestead that

will also feature Lewis University (0-6, 0-0). St. Joseph's finished at the bottom of the Great Lakes Valley Conference last year with a conference mark of 0-9, while this season, currently they are 0-1 overall. Lewis University finished just in front of St. Joseph's with a record within the conference of 1-8, good for ninth place overall and has a current record in the 2001 campaign of 0-6.

After the first home conference matchups of the season, UMSL will hit the road for a four-game stretch against Truman State, Lindenwood, Southern Indiana and Grand Valley State before coming home for a non-conference match against Jefferson College.

UMSL is looking to improve on their No. 3 final ranking in the GLVC last year. The past years, UMSL and head coach Rick Gyllenberg have seen the program evolve from the basement of the GLVC to an annual conference qualifier.

This year's tournament will be held at Indianapolis North Central High School, with Bellarmine playing the host. Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne, who currently stands at 2-0 in non-conference play, will not be eligible for the tournament as they have asked to leave the GLVC and advance to NCAA Division I status.

# Baseball team picks up three wins on road

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

The Rivermen's baseball team has won three of their last five games while traveling to the Central Missouri State Tournament entitled the Holiday Inn Classic and to Florida, boosting their overall record to 6-4.

In the tournament, the Rivermen opened against Augustana (South Dakota) with a sound victory of 9-2.

Senior pitcher and Oakville graduate Tim Stringer struck out 11 batters in seven innings for UMSL.

After the second inning, Stringer retired the next 11 consecutive batters, enabling the Rivermen's offense to go to work. The offense was led by two runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings while in the seventh inning the Rivermen scored another three runs to clinch the victory.

Nick Post and Brett Katz both had two hits in the Rivermen's victory, while Katz also recorded three runs batted in.

The following matchup featured UMSL taking on Nebraska-Kearney. The Rivermen took the lead early as

UMSL held a 3-2 advantage going into the bottom of the seventh inning. But Nebraska-Kearney scored three runs in the seventh on Scott Johnson to defeat the Rivermen 5-3. Shortstop Bryan Beckmann led the Rivermen with two runs and two hits.

In the final game of the Holiday Inn Classic, the Rivermen were pitted against the 21st ranked team in Division II baseball: Central Missouri State University.

UMSL jumped ahead early, tallying a run in the first inning off of a Brody Jackson inside-the-park home

run, but Central Missouri State came back in the third inning to record four runs on sophomore pitcher Greg Bierling and added two others in the fourth and sixth innings to defeat the Rivermen 8-3. Chas Wigger went two for four on the day and Jackson finished the day with two runs and one run batted in.

After The Holiday Inn Classic the Rivermen returned home for an exhibition match against Fontbonne. UMSL soundly defeated Fontbonne 17-9 before heading on their trip to Florida for six games.

In Florida, the Rivermen won two

straight as UMSL defeated Canisius 11-7 and Alderson-Broadus 10-3 to push their overall record to 6-4.

The Rivermen return home March 21 to host Lindenwood University before hitting the road again to play three consecutive Great Lakes Valley Conference games against Bellarmine University, Bellarmine comes into the contest with a record of 3-3 overall.

UMSL is currently undefeated at home this season with a record of 2-0, while the Rivermen are 6-4 in non-conference play.

# Riverwomen split with William Woods University, now 6-4

BY TOM WEATHERSBY  
special to The Current

The UMSL women's softball team split another double-header with William Woods University. The Riverwomen lost the first game 1-0, giving up a run in the last inning, but the Riverwomen bounced back to win the second game 4-1.

The Riverwomen could not get their offense going in the first game.

Neither team had any offense nor did they score in the first six innings. In the seventh,



UMSL got a lead-off double from Andrea Wirkus, but could not get the runner to score. In the bottom of the seventh, William Woods loaded the bases when Jessica Hruby singled to score the winning run and defeat UMSL 1-0. The Riverwomen could only muster three hits in the game.

In the second game, Allison Maurer gave up a run to William Woods for a 1-0 lead. UMSL then, in the fifth inning, scored twice. Kelly Jackson, who has been hot at the plate, singled to knocking in a run to tie the game at 1-1. Then Andrea Wirkus doubled in Jackson to give UMSL the lead, 2-1.

In the seventh inning, with runners at first and third, Wirkus stole second and a throwing error by the catcher allowed Winters

to score from third and Wirkus moved to third on the error, giving the Riverwomen the lead, 3-1. Two batters later, Wirkus came in to score on a fielding error by the shortstop, bringing the tally to 4-1.

Jackson and Wirkus each put up two hits in the game for UMSL and both scored a run and produced a run batted in. Allison Maurer picked up her third win of the season. Maurer pitched all seven innings, giving up just one run on four hits while ringing up two strikeouts.

The Riverwomen will play at Truman State on March 21, then will return home with back-to-back double-headers against Lewis University, March 24 and Wisconsin-Parkside March 25.

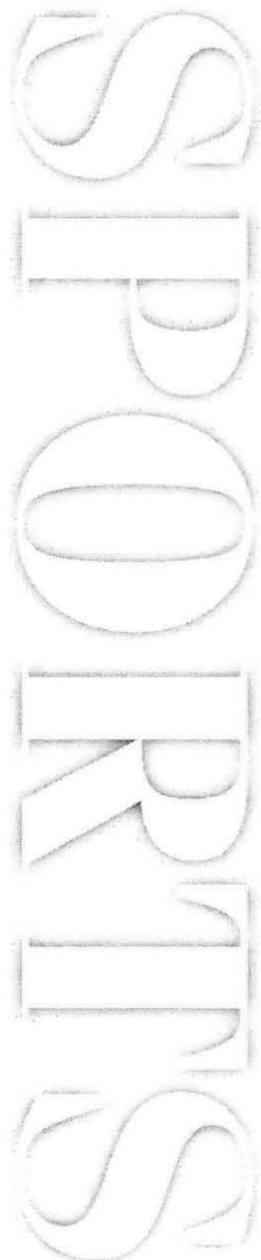
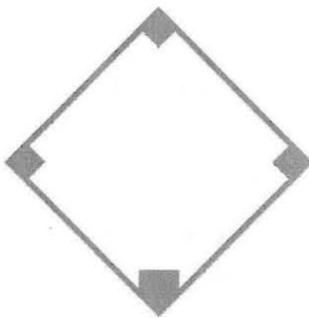
## Meet your 2001 Riverwomen

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Yr.
1	Katie Meyer	OF	5-6	B/R	JR
5	Andrea Wirkus	OF/C	5-4	L/L	SR
7	Christine Langenbacher	OF	5-6	L/R	JR
8	Kim Abbott	C/OF	5-4	R/R	FR
10	Megan Kuebler	P/3B	5-6	R/R	SR
13	Lindsay Brefeld	Util.	5-8	R/R	JR
14	Cassey Attebery	IF/P	5-9	R/R	JR
16	Allison Maurer	Util.	5-9	R/R	SR
18	Andrea Sczurko	2B/3B	5-7	R/R	SR
19	Brandy Winters	SS	5-6	R/R	JR
20	Chrissy Griefe	P/OF	5-5	L/R	FR
33	Kelly Jackson	1B/P	5-10	R/R	JR

Head Coach:  
Lesia M. Boneé

Assistant Coach:  
Nicole Christ

Student Assistant:  
Kathleen Rogoz



## EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

sports editor

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## GAMES

### Baseball

v. Lindenwood  
2:30 pm, Wed., Mar. 21

at Bellarmine (3 games)  
12:00 pm EST, Sat-Sun., Mar. 24-25

### Softball

at Truman State  
1:00 pm, Wed., Mar. 21

v. Lewis  
1:00 pm, Sat., Mar. 24

### Tennis

at Lindenwood  
3:00 pm, Wed., Mar. 21

at Southern Indiana  
3:00 pm, Fri., Mar. 23

Visit the UMSL athletics website at

[www.ums.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html](http://www.ums.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html)

# March Madness: time for underdogs to rise up



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

With March Madness in full swing, the basketball junkies can finally come out of their closets again and lounge in front of the television, while the world passes us by one more time.

The collegiate basketball regular season is great, but this is just too big to miss. This year I have even seen people who despise basketball watch a game with me. That just shows that this is bigger than I once thought.

Everyone has a pool going on at work, showing how dumb they can honestly be when it comes to picking the four teams to make it to the Final

Four and then determining the outcome of the championship game. I do not know if it is even possible to pick every game and that team be the winner. I have never seen it done and nobody, even Dick Vitale, is perfect in this day and age.

Look at some of the teams that have lost already. Iowa State, the team with the best record in the Big 12 this season, although they lost to Oklahoma in the conference tournament, was ousted as a No. 2 seed in the first round this season. I even had the Cyclones under the cap tab, so I was hoping to win that great

Gatorade hat with the Iowa State victory. Jamaal Tinsley is one of the two best point guards in the nation, but at this game he looked horrible. That just shows that sometimes even a star cannot play under the pressure and the watchful eye of March Madness.

Gonzaga is proving that they are one of the more fun teams to watch in the nation. The Zags already have one upset this postseason and hopefully more to come. But the only question I have is what is a Zag? Does it come off of the phrase "zig-zag?"

What truly is mad about March

besides the crappy weather that we had these past two weeks, is how a team that has so much national attention such as an Iowa State or even Duke and North Carolina, can come to play as the No. 1-ranked team in the nation one day, but in this tournament if they are not on top of their game each and every game, they can get knocked out. The teams like Pepperdine of a year ago and even Georgia State of this season do not get the national attention that some of the major Division I schools do, but they are getting exposure during this tournament and it truly shows

that even if they are not nationally known, they will be when they leave the tournament.

Even if a team loses in the first round of the tournament, memories and the precedent that team has set for the future of its program cannot be replaced.

So, basketball fans all around, sit back and relax for a while because basketball at the collegiate level is on right now. While typing this, I am currently watching the University of Missouri Tigers play against Duke University. What a great time of year.

# In 'The Mexican,' things are seldom what they seem

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

With stars Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt, I really didn't know what to expect from "The Mexican." Brad Pitt seems to alternate purely commercial films like "Meet Joe Black" with more challenging roles like in the recent film "Snatch." Julia Roberts always plays a Julia Roberts character, but in films of various levels of originality ranging from the very predictable to better fare such as Erin Brockovich. The promotional trailers first presented this movie as a comedy, then as a more serious romance. So which was it anyway? Well, it's neither and it's both, and it's something more besides.

"The Mexican" is a surprisingly entertaining movie that starts out strongly comic, but then veers off in other directions. Just when you think you have it figured out, it takes another path. The director, Gore Verbinski ("Mouse Hunt"), describes his film as a romantic comedy with a bit of Sam Peckinpah. Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt play Samantha and Jerry, a couple who are having some problems, even going so far as to attend group counseling sessions together. Jerry is apparently trying to part company with his gangster employers but is ordered to take one last assignment, a trip to Mexico to retrieve a valuable antique pistol. Now he is forced to tell Samantha he can't go on a very important trip to Las Vegas with her. In a classically funny scene, the volatile Samantha explodes in a torrent of pop-psychology babble, tossing Jerry's clothes down on him from their second story balcony and vowing to go to Las Vegas without him.

They part ways, each muttering about the other, Jerry heading for Mexico and Samantha for Las Vegas. In Mexico, Jerry declines the car rental employee's offer of a Chrysler, requesting something "more Mexican." The clerk rolls his eyes and rents him an El Camino, that weird-looking cross between a car and a pick-up truck from the sixties, muttering in Spanish, as this clueless American leaves, "you're going to get in a lot of trouble down here, Senor." And indeed he does, as he is the ultimate American idiot bumbling

through a foreign country. But just as it seems we're set on a familiar path, everything in the film changes.

The movie takes a turn that moves it towards a thriller, as the mob types have sent someone to kidnap Samantha and hold her to ensure that Jerry retrieves and returns the valuable gun. When she is grabbed while on the road to Las Vegas, the tone of the film becomes darker. Samantha announces to her kidnapper (James Gandolfini, of TV's "The Sopranos") that she and Jerry broke up and so she no longer has anything to do with

him. This presents the kidnapper with a dilemma but this business-like hit man decides to hold her anyway. With the introduction of this new character, the movie goes down a completely different path, even taking a philosophical turn, as we get to know the kidnapper and Roberts' character as well. Then there's the antique gun, the center of all the fuss. It seems that this film's not done changing yet, as there is also a story connected with the antique gun, a tale of a curse and of a family. This tale carries the movie off in even another, almost mystical,

direction, infusing the story with a little of the "magical realism" of a South American novel. The various parts of the movie move along parallel tracks and eventually all is brought back together, in ways that both change the characters involved and reveal who they really are.

At each turn, we find that things, and people, are not necessarily what they seemed. Some viewers might find this difficulty in categorizing the movie irritating, but I found it refresh-

see MEXICAN, page 7



Brad Pitt stars as Jerry and Julia Roberts stars as Samantha in "The Mexican."

## EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
a&e editor

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## MUSIC

### March

26

J. Mascis and the Fog with Bright Eyes  
Blueberry Hill  
9 p.m.

27

Jerry Cantrell  
Galaxy  
7 p.m.

30

KLOU Blast from the Past with The Grass Roots, The Byrds, and Ozark Mountain Daredevils  
Family Arena

Trans-Lux with Shun  
Creepy Crawl

31

Abilene with Let Sleepers Lie  
Rocket Bar  
8:30

5 Block Shot with EM Grueve  
Ciceróis

SR-71 with Dexter Freebish and Diffuser  
Mississippi Nights  
8:30

### April

4

Nickel Creek  
Ciceróis

6

Funky Meters  
The Pageant

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### C. Whittaker's Bistro gives a winning performance

BY STEPHANIE ELLIS  
staff writer

It was almost like a scene from a movie. The lights were dimmed, and a table was waiting in the back. A starched, white tablecloth adorned the top, and black chairs accented its simple elegance. A single candle subtly set the mood, and I was half expecting Audrey Hepburn to emerge from the powder room and ask me for a cigarillo. I was snapped out of my trance when I heard the waitress dropping words like confit and beurre blanc into my ears. I wanted to tell her to go on, not to stop, but like all good roles, even a listing of the night's specials must come to an end. But it was not a sad ending. The film had only begun.

After making our selections, my companion and I smiled at one another, eagerly awaiting the first course. There was an excellent view from our seats—a perfect people-watching location. We were tucked away in the corner, shrouded by greenery and the thickness of the conversation from our fellow diners. The neighboring table was discussing the Special School District and Lynch Street Bistro. An interesting combination. It seems they were a group of teachers with a taste for dining out in style. We were unaffected, however. They were only minor obtrusions, easily erased by the sight of the spinach salad that was placed before us (\$5 for a full portion, \$2 ordered with a meal). It was a smaller-sized salad, yet was hardly skimping on anything. Crisp greens were lavishly coated in a sweet, lightly vinegary dressing, topped with walnuts and golden raisins. In a unique twist, there was a crouton-

like corner of bread, a piece of apple and a deliciously creamy brie cheese slice accompanying it. It was one of the best salads I've ever had.

After having just enough time to catch our breaths following the inhalation of our salad, we were ready for the main course. My companion ordered the grilled salmon (\$15.95), which sat atop a bed of pesto and came accompanied with wilted spinach and sticky rice. The pesto was blended with just the right amount of basil, parmesan and pine nuts. The salmon was lightly basted with a sweet glaze and the sticky rice was a nice, neutral balance for the various flavors found in this dish. I had one of the specials of the evening: seafood linguine (\$19). The noodles were unlike any I've seen before. They were long and wide—about half the width of lasagna noodles. They were soft and tender, and came in a pool of pesto cream sauce. In the pasta were jumbo shrimp and scallops, fresh mussels, red peppers, snow peas, mushrooms and fresh tomatoes. Remember those "Looney Toons" cartoons where the characters' eyes bug out of their heads? I never knew humans could actually do that. There was no word to describe this pasta - it was just an "eye-popping" experience. Though the sauce needed a teensy bit of help in the salt department, there was absolutely nothing I would've changed about this excellent dish.

C. Whittaker's is on the pricey side. It's not a place where you can expect to get out for under \$20. The bill was well over \$40, but there was no complaining on my part. They

see BISTRO, page 7

## ALBUM REVIEW

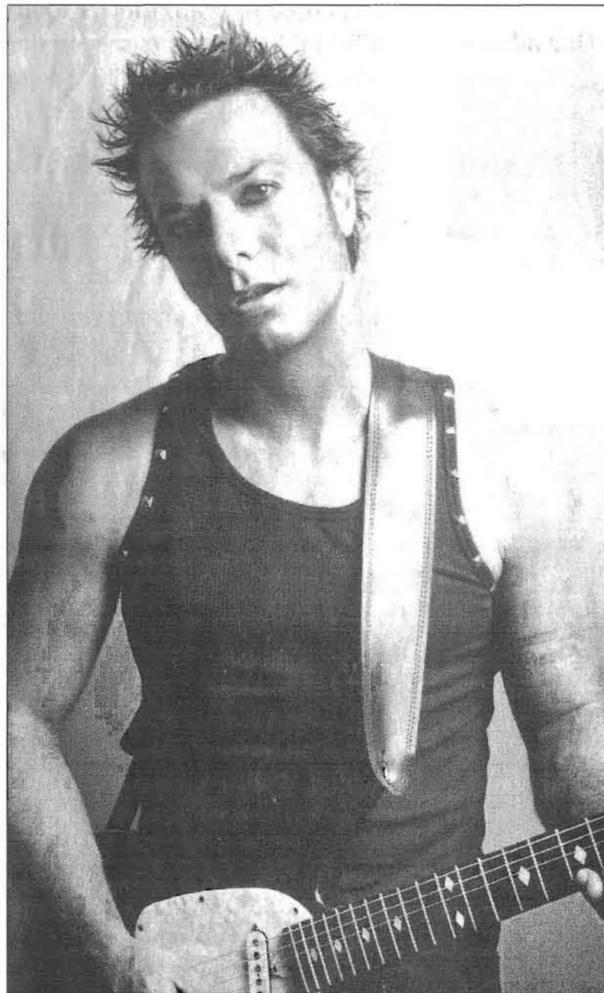
### Venice Underground hits halfway up

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

Venice Beach, Calif.—a tight-knit community located in southern California, known for its beachside bike paths, surfers, and freaks. Being on the edge of Los Angeles, the area has always been a bohemian mecca for poets, artists, and musicians. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that Peter DiStefano could pool a handful of local musicians together to form Venice Underground, and produce an electronic rock album that borders on the cutting edge of innovation.

Hardcore break beats blast off as the first song "Back Seat" spins over the CD player's laser. However, this is not electronica. DiStefano's goal was to blend the old media used to make rock music, as he did in "Porno for Pyros," with the developments in digital music production to further advance music as an art form. As a byproduct of his formula, his sound stands out from other artists who try to do the same thing but are labeled rap-rock, electronica, or neo-metal.

Incorporating crystallized female vocals by Kacy Crowley, Beca Starr, and Little Green Girl, programming by Big Green Boy, Kevin Haskins, bass grooves by Eric Avery of Jane's Addiction, and additional guitar work by David Baerwald, DiStefano, who plays the various forms of guitar on the album, manages to bridge techno with familiar rock territory. One of the innovations DiStefano has put forth in this CD is that he recorded the entire thing on his Macintosh laptop computer. He is also modernizing the music



Peter DiStefano of Venice Underground.

see VENICE, page 7

# Second-guessing the Oscar nominations

Maybe I have a love-hate thing with the Oscars. When I was little, I'd stay up to watch the whole show, no matter how dull. Whether you're interested in the winners of the Academy Awards or not, there is no denying that the show is usually dull, but devotees will wait through it anyway just to see who takes home the little gold statue, and maybe to see who gives the goofiest acceptance speech.

But the Oscars are a maddening thing: there is no doubt that they give a big boost to the films and performances that win, resulting in renewed box-office revenue, prestige, and ultimately more power in their profession for the people associated with them. But to knowledgeable film fans, the winners are often, well, bizarre. While the Academy that

picks the winners seem to like particularly kinds of films—especially sweeping epics and costume dramas, movies with serious social themes (but not too daring or controversial), and especially films that made a lot of money, and has a bias against other films, such as comedies and musicals and films that are too controversial or artsy, they are also surprisingly unpredictable. Yet every year, critics and film fans try to guess the eventual winners.

OK, so I'm going to follow the tradition and try to guess the winners of some of this year's Oscars. But I'm going to do a little more: every year when the nominees are announced, there are some worthy films that are not even nominated. This year, the oversight includes two of the best of last year, both come-

dies: the Coen brothers' "O Brother Where Art Thou?" and David Mamet's "State and Main." Both films should have been among the nominees for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Script, but "O Brother Where Art Thou?" only received a nomination for best script, and "State and Main" received nothing. I'm not alone in this opinion; most film critics agree that these were terrific films.

I would list all the nominees for all the top categories, you can find them yourself on the Oscars website, www.oscars.com, but I'll give my picks for who should win and who will win for Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, Supporting Actress, Supporting Actor. For Best Picture, the easy choice is "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which should win

and I predict will win. If it had been nominated, "O Brother Where Art Thou?" would have been a close second. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" will win because it's a box-office hit, despite its being in Chinese, and a costume epic to boot. Logic would lead one to expect that he, director of the Best picture, would be the Best Director, but it's often not true for Oscar, so Steven Soderbergh, who is nominated for both "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic" will win, instead of Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") or the equally worthy Joel and Ethan Coen. Best Actor will probably go to the perennial favorite, Tom Hanks, although many found his film "Cast Away" disappointing, but should go to Ed Harris for his role as artist Jackson Pollack in the film "Pollack." I could

be wrong on this though, and it might actually go to Ed Harris. Best Supporting Actor will go to another perennial favorite, Albert Finney, for "Erin Brockovich" or to Benicio Del Toro for the classic Hollywood message movie, "Traffic," but really should go to Willem Dafoe for his remarkable performance in "Shadow of the Vampire." For Best Actress, it may go to Joan Allen for the political film "The Contender," that film Hollywood insiders seem to like, but it might go to, and should go to, Ellen Burstyn for "Requiem for a Dream." Finally, Best Supporting Actress probably should go to Judi Dench in "Chocolat," and probably will, but Frances McDormand in "Almost Famous" has a good shot as well.

On March 25, 2001, Oscar night, we will find out who really wins those little gold statues



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS  
CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

**THEATER REVIEW**

**Music and drama move  
'Les Miserables' at the Fox**

**BY TOM WOMBACHER**  
*special to the current*

Imagine this for a moment. You live in France in the year 1815. Nineteen years ago, you stole a loaf of bread to keep your sister's starving daughter alive and were arrested and jailed. Now you've finally been released, but you are labeled a thief wherever you go.

That's what happened to Jean Valjean (Ivan Rutherford), prisoner 24601, in "Les Miserables," which was performed at The Fox Theatre March 6-11. In this popular Broadway musical based on the novel of the same name, the kind Bishop of Digne (Seth Bowling) took pity on Valjean, giving him food and shelter. But prison life had corrupted Valjean and at the first chance he took the bishop's silver and fled, only to be caught by the police. The good bishop saved Valjean, claiming they were gifts, and instructed Valjean to use the silver to become a better man.

Eight years have passed and Valjean, having broken his parole by changing his name, has become a factory owner and mayor. Word gets out in the factory that a worker named Fantine (Thursday Farrar) has a five-year-old child with no father and the foreman demands she leave. Fantine, desperate for money, turns to prostitution but Valjean rescues her and takes her weak body to the hospital. Before she dies, Valjean swears to look after Fantine's daughter, Cosette (Emma Hunton and Stephanie Waters). Several years pass and Valjean has

raised Cosette well, but they are constantly hiding from Inspector Javert (Stephen Bishop), who is determined to find prisoner 24601 and return him to the chain gang for breaking his parole.

One of the great things about Les Miserables is the stage design. Everything occurs on top of a giant on-stage turntable. When Valjean walks the streets looking for a place to stay, his legs move but he doesn't go anywhere. People standing still pass him by. Members of the audience are given the impression they're walking alongside him, which adds to the drama. There's something almost sinister about much of the music of Les Miserables. It's fascinating. Rutherford, while unable to sustain long notes in tune, has the powerful voice necessary for the role of Valjean. He and Bishop complement each other perfectly.

Waters, on the other hand, has a vibrato too wide for her to play the leading lady. Diana Kaarina, who played as Eponine, had a much more controlled vibrato and a beautiful voice which made her character more appealing. Ironically, both women's characters were after the same man. Eponine dies in the second act and Cosette gets the guy, which is unfortunate. Had the two exchanged roles, the performance would have been much better. But despite the flaws found in the actual performance, the music itself is brilliant. If you want to hear it, go buy the recording. Napster doesn't

**ALBUM REVIEW**

**The Post Wave crashes**

**BY CHARLIE BRIGHT**  
*staff writer*

I had hoped this CD would be tied to the Beatles somehow since the band, Blue Meanies, was titled after characters in a Beatles movie. *The Post Wave* is the name of their new album, which has roots in punk and pop rather than classic rock. The album itself is not spectacularly good or bad, instead falling somewhere in the zone of mediocrity that pervades modern music.

Blue Meanies, as a band, should be called Depressed and Brutal, as this is a more apt title and doesn't allude to classic rock. There is a definite eighties feel to this album, which may attract people who can recall a Flock of Seagulls haircut with any fondness. The Blue Meanies seem to be lost in an era that isn't far enough gone to have earned nostalgic value, but isn't recent enough to have many purple-mohawked hangers on. "I thought they put on a good show, even if I did seem to be one of only about ten people who were enjoying it," a fan said of a Blue Meanies concert in Atlanta last month. This seems very plausible, though I've never seen them in concert myself. This band fits a niche that very few other bands fill (or would want to fill), but that doesn't mean they will find appreciation for their niche, even if they fill it well. The album's first six songs are similar, and filled with yelling. There isn't much in the way of vocal melody anywhere on the

album, though the instrumentals are highly respectable. "Camaro Man" is an example of the eighties feel this band broadcasts, though it is a parody of eighties music in general. When writing parodies, the Blue Meanies would be well advised to watch out that they don't make fun of themselves. The twelfth track, "Creepy," is an ideal example of what is wrong with "The Post Wave" in general. In "Creepy," there is a strange narrator with a curious sense of rhythm, who talks about odd things to the beat. A fantastic trumpet solo is behind the voice, and takes the focus during the song's best parts.

Some of the band's fans seem to think that the lyrics to these songs are dazzling, but their topics seemed overdone and uninspired. There is a jazzy feel to their yelling reminiscent of The Urge, though if you're looking for that type of music, I would strongly suggest you to stick with good ska and bands like The Urge.

One last gripe about the album, it's too short. Even if I had liked the tracks, and they did seem to improve closer to the end, there was a total of less than forty minutes of music on the CD. The Blue Meanies have some talent, but don't display it well on this album, and you would probably be better off waiting and trying "The Post-Post Wave," to see if they can fix their problems in the future.

**MEXICAN, from page 6**

ing and a bit intriguing. Part of the key to this film is the performance of Gandolfini as the kidnapper, who is infused with such soul and such underlying contrasts of danger and vulnerability that he nearly steals the film. Julia Roberts is an actress people either love or hate, but she is perfect in this role as the emotional, confused, but good-hearted girlfriend. Pitt is also wonderful, as a character who seems alternately dumb or resourceful but whose real nature is revealed in the end.

"The Mexican" is certainly entertaining if you are not fixed on the idea that a movie should be either a comedy or serious, and can just go along with its various transformations. It may not be a great film, but it's refreshingly better than most of mainstream Hollywood's recent offerings. At the very least, it will just keep surprising you, and that can be fun in itself.

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**VENICE, from page 6**

by producing a DVD version of the CD, which contains music videos of all the songs in the way that a virtual reality concert would. While the album begins with typical electronica crunch, it changes into something more dynamic. The smooth vocals, groovy bass and complex programming in "Little Green Men" highlight the beginning of the change into something more than expected. "Insane Toy Story" creates a moody, uncovered ambience that flows into mellow guitar soloing. While the shortest track on the album, it is also the most experimental.

The instrumental "Punk Rock Guitar" is a prime example of DiStefano succeeding in creating his vision of bringing technology to rock music. The song begins with him playing a few chords until old school break beats enter into it. This skews the entire picture. While the song rocks, it is also danceable. The actual wah-wahs form a beat the way a drum machine would and the lines of the guitar rise and fall with energy like a DJ flipping a crossfader.

The song is followed by a slightly

eastern goa trance/rock tune called "Take Me Down." The lyrics—half sung, half poetically—recited by Kacy Crowley add to its impression of gliding through a futuristic desert. DiStefano continues demonstrating his guitar technique in "Venice by the Sea." It starts off with ambient organ pipe sounds, but cuts loose with dominating vocals and stand-up-and-do-something guitar choruses. With the song's catchy chaos it could definitely be a radio song.

If DiStefano continues creating music in this light, he may be on to something big. While artists have been trying to create music in this vainsince the mid 1990's, DiStefano succeeds in blending two genres. With the help of his team, it shows that new ideas can be developed by working with artists that have a diverse musical background. Venice Underground effectively portrays a future where a fusion of rock melody and techno sound can come together. This well-done production deserves a listen by anyone who enjoys rock or techno music.

**BISTRO, from page 6**

earned every penny. We found ourselves in the middle of a film noir. While Audrey Hepburn never did ask for that cigarillo, the scent of days gone by lingered in the air. It seems as though a modern-day establishment has succeeded in capturing a part of the past, a simple elegance, an untarnished savoir-faire in dining. And while most films these days are predictable and overdone, this was one in which the audience was indeed surprised. I'm looking forward to the sequel.

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# Opening eyes to the night sky

BY KATIE STUCKENSCHNEIDER  
special to The Current

In 1992, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Physics and Astronomy Department started a program that has opened up local fifth graders' eyes to the night sky.

Richard Schuler, a UMSL graduate student, has been the instructor of the program for four years. The base of the one-hour program consists of a discussion on what it takes to make a comet, a hands-on demonstration on how to make a comet, a slide show, and a planetarium show.

The program is located at the University of Missouri-St. Louis' planetarium in the Research Building. The planetarium's projector just underwent a complete overhaul, totaling up to \$10,000 in expenses. Schuler said, "The images are so much better, so much clearer. And the transparencies are much better, too."

The NASA Missouri Space Grant Consortium funds the class. The children are eager about the program, and

Schuler doesn't discourage it. "The level of interest and the level of excitement and enthusiasm is completely dependent on the level of excitement and enthusiasm of the teacher. I don't speak down to them," said Schuler.

Schuler took over the program in 1997 because he wanted to increase the public awareness of astronomy.

"Living in a big city we have kind of lost that [clear sky] because we've lost the night sky to pollution," said Schuler.

The planetarium seats no more than 36 people. Up to 72 people are welcome to attend the program because it can be divided into two groups. One group stays in the planetarium, while the other group works on hands-on activities in another room. The planetarium is also used for astronomy labs.

Schuler has had a lot of experience with astronomy in the past years. He is a volunteer at the St. Louis Science Center and the St. Louis Academy of Science, teaching

elementary groups about the mechanics of and career opportunities in astronomy. Schuler knows what is entertaining, yet stimulating to fifth-grade students.

"I remember when I was that age," Schuler said. "Astronomy and dinosaurs were my top things, and that hasn't seemed to change much."

One can tell while attending the program that the fifth-grade students are mesmerized by his presentation. A student from Duschene in Ferguson, Florissant School Districts that attended the program was fascinated by it.

Denai Higgins, 11, said, "I liked the moon and the stars rotating, and how he [Schuler] showed all kinds of planets."

It runs this spring season from February 12-April 27. The course is offered three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Currently there "are a lot of openings," Schuler said. For more information, call Rich Schuler at: (314)516-5010.

# Arianna String Quartet presents 'The Business of Making Music'

BY KIMBERLY SILVER  
special to The Current

The Arianna String Quartet, quartet-in-residence at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, were the featured guests of the College of Business Administration's Distinguished Speaker Series on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 in Century Room A of the Millennium Student Center. The audience turnout was pitiful. There were plenty of open seats because less than 20 students showed up for the event. Nevertheless, the impact that the quartet made was tremendous. Those who did attend enjoyed a stimulating discussion by talented musicians. I have to admit, when I arrived I was somewhat skeptical. Walking through the door, I thought that I would be sitting through another a seminar lead by a fast-talking speaker that would try to inform musicians about the ins and outs of the music business. After the first five minutes, I realized that I was completely wrong because the members of the quartet were focused on serving a much greater purpose. The members of the Arianna String Quartet presented "The Business of Making Music," which essentially explained the direct correlation between music and other disciplines. They addressed team decision-making, delegation, conflict resolution, and the psychology of working closely with others to achieve desired results. John McGrosso, violinist, strongly emphasized the importance of compromis-

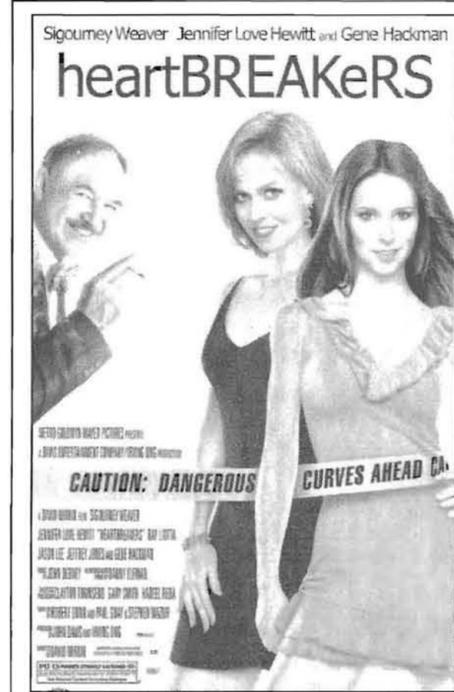
ing. The stanza upon a sheet of music is transformed into their "meeting table." Because this group does not have one particular leader, it is essential that they sit down together during rehearsal to discuss exactly how each piece will be presented. This group clearly does not let their differences elevate into conflicts that could adversely affect the quality of their performances. Instead, they share their interpretations and reach a peaceful compromise. The Arianna String Quartet genuinely expressed that compromise is an important virtue that can be applied to any field of work. In addition, the quartet feels that it is absolutely crucial that you are observant and responsive to others. This is true in any field of work. If you go to a business meeting and your co-worker walks in the door, releases a loud sigh, and slumps into his chair, there is obviously a problem. The quartet explains that they are very careful not to give off negative body language towards others during rehearsals because it can discourage others from verbalizing their ideas. The quality of an entire group can be lessened by the negative vibes radiated from one individual.

The quartet offered two selections by Schubert and Quartettsatz. With sheer eloquence they sat upon a stage and played their instruments with an intense passion that filled the room with harmonious music. Their performance was clearly a demonstration of how powerful a group can be when they effectively work together. Charles

Kuehl, Associate Professor and Director of Continuing Education and Outreach adamantly comments, "Members of the group are not only wonderful musicians, they have clear insight as to communication, coordination and productivity within leadership groups."

The series was followed with a brief question-and-answer section. Business students directed the their questions on planning, organization and problem solving. One general concern that students had was how to excel when a member of the group is not particularly up to par. Because all groups at some point in time are confronted with this problem, positivity is offered as a solution. If a member of a group is lacking in any kind of way it automatically becomes your responsibility to stand behind him, assist him and encourage him to reach excellence. After all, you are only as great as your weakest person. This methodology is important because it can be applied to situations in school, at home or in the office.

The Arianna Quartet originated in 1992 and is composed of Kurt Baldwin on cello, Mahoko Euguchi, viola, John McGrosso, violin, and Rebecca Rhee on violin. If you missed "The Business of Making Music" and you would like to see them perform, they will be appearing at The Sheldon Concert Hall & Ballroom located at 3648 Washington Boulevard in Saint Louis, Mo, 63108 on March 19, 2001, at 8:00 p.m.



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## CARNAHAN, from page 3

about that because that's what seems to be on the people's minds."

Both Carnahan and Shear share in the limelight as key women who take action and work for the people.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill opened the lecture with thoughts in

regards to the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, saying that Shear embodied the need for "fair and caring public policy championed by women."

Also speaking at the event was assistant to the Chancellor for Public

Affairs Betty Van Uum, and Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life Vivian Eveloff.

Of Sen. Carnahan, Eveloff said, "She has transcended the boundary from where she was to where she is with grace and ease."

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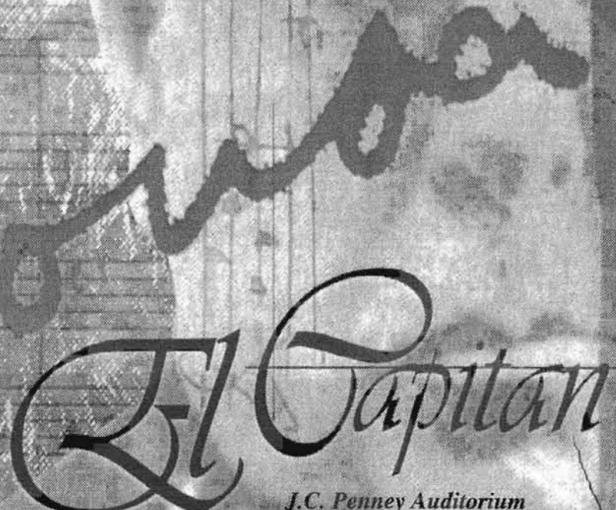


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# Robbing drug dealers

## Professors study thieves' new trend

BY LAURA BROWN  
special to The Current

Decreasing crime in St. Louis may be an illusion, according to Bruce Jacobs, author of the recently published book "Robbing Drug Dealers: Violence Beyond the Law."

Jacobs is an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice and Public Policy Research Center fellow at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Jacobs, along with Richard Wright, professor of criminology and criminal justice, and Volkan Topalli, a post-doctoral fellow of criminology and criminal justice at the time of the research, formed the team which studied a growing occupation among criminals: robbing drug dealers.

In their research they interviewed only active offenders from the streets of St. Louis. An active offender, according to the study, was someone who has robbed a drug dealer at least once in the past three months and at least three times in the past year. They all ranged in age from 18-46 years old.

In many ways, drug dealers make the perfect candidate for criminals to rob, Jacobs said. Drug dealers do business with cash only and have large amounts of it. They also carry drugs with them and are highly visible to the professional crook. Since drug dealers are offenders of the law themselves, they will not call the police and do not have access to official means of filing a complaint, according to Jacobs. Finally, the study found that most dealers are not armed due to aggressive policing, making the risk of being caught with a gun too great. Most dealers are more afraid of being arrested than robbed.

Jacobs, Wright and Topalli also asked the criminals why they rob. They found that in some cases the robberies are unplanned. They occur just because paths cross. The crooks need little motivation.

"These guys are always ready to rob," said Jacobs.

In other cases the robberies act as a form of retaliation. According to Jacobs this is a way for them to put drug dealers who made it big on the streets back in their place. This crime also deals as a sort of

social control.

"They think of themselves as sort of Robin Hood characters doing a service for the police," said Jacobs.

The research also found that robbers steal from the dealers to right a bad transaction in the past, correct a personal wrong or even for being talked down to on the streets.

Police in St. Louis are showing little concern for dealers that are being robbed, Jacobs said, figuring that the robbers and drug dealers will eliminate themselves.

A few of the criminals interviewed did admit that drug robbery was not a life-long occupation. On the other hand, most insisted they would continue committing these crimes indefinitely, until they die.

Policy makers will have difficulties developing effective strategies for dealing with such professed criminals. This research team believes that what policy makers are really up against is a lifestyle. The lifestyle consists of low self-control, desperation and cultural imperative. Ultimately, according to Jacobs, society must

address the underlying cultural and structural forces that fuel street offenders, producing future generations of unstoppable criminals.

There may be something positive to come from this research.

"Normal" people in society might actually be safer in an ironic way," said Jacobs.

If thieves are busy robbing drug dealers on the streets, then the rest of the population in St. Louis can relax, thinking they are less likely to be held up themselves. Jacobs said that these robbers are making big money and don't want to waste their time on small-time jobs. There is also the rising use of debit cards and credit cards. Cash is being replaced by plastic, offering a robber less payoff in a hold-up.

Jacobs, Wright and Topalli researched this topic for 18 months. The team also published an article called "Managing Retaliation; Drug Robbery and Informal Sanction Threats" in the Journal of Criminology based on their research. Jacobs has been at UMSL since 1994. He is waiting for approval of a grant to continue research on this topic. Wright also assisted Jacobs in the writing of

### SENATE, from page 1

frustration of dealing with the UM System president and central administration on budget issues and new program issues.

"President Pacheco was not very sympathetic and he correctly pointed out that he'd agreed to support a proposal for a joint doctoral degree in...urban affairs," Barton said. "He noted that the program is languishing here and he's a bit concerned that we complain about a lack of programs, but don't establish them when he lets us do that."

One senator said he objected to Pacheco's comment.

"Did you call to [Pacheco's] attention how disingenuous it was to deny the requests for programs that we want, that are needed, that would be high-quality with our refusal to take a program that is not needed, not wanted, and not funded?" he asked.

"Not in so many words," Barton responded, eliciting hearty laughter from those present.

Barton then displayed data he assembled with the help of two other colleagues that depicts UMSL's budgetary plight. The data compared different public universities in Missouri. In each set of data he presented, UMSL was clearly near the bottom in terms of funding, while being near the top in the number of degrees, credit hours, and students. Barton said he

had sent this information along with a letter to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in hopes it would be run as an op-ed piece.

#### In other business:

• Barton said at the next meeting of the University Assembly and Faculty Senate, the Assembly would meet first to encourage better attendance. On previous dates, the reverse had been done.

• In her report to the Senate, Touhill said a Strategic Plan is being developed for the campus and it will probably be presented to the Board of Curators in the fall.

• Joe Martinich, representative to the IFC, said the IFC discussed state funding. Their conclusion was that it will be difficult to get a 4 percent salary increase since the state won't be increasing funding.

• Touhill said the Budget and Planning Committee had suggested a smaller 3 percent salary increase to Pacheco, but that he was firm it had to be 4 percent.

• The Senate voted to approve a proposed calendar for 2002-2003. The academic year would begin on a Wednesday. Also, UMSL will have six different summer sessions in 2003, which should allow campus departments more flexibility in course offerings.

### WORK, from page 1

it their front door to their University, and make it consistent with their 'grand scale' University plan," said Hillner.

Hillner said that MoDOT and the University agreed to a deal where MoDOT got the land in exchange for making visually appealing improvements around the interchange.

"There are a lot of architectural enhancements to the bridge, including the [interchange]. There's a lot of landscaping enhancements to Florissant Road," said Hillner.

Hillner said that federal money is used to pay for the I-70 projects, with state matching funds. However, Hillner also said that the majority of the money is federal funds.

Hillner likened the final project to the similar projects done in Boone's Crossing and at the Highway 141 and 100 intersection.

"There will be stonework on the bridge. There will be decorative lighting. There will be decorative walkways. There will be lots of trees and lots of landscaping that will make [the entrance] look much more attractive," said Hillner.

"[The construction] will be compatible with campus architecture and present a regional statement that identifies the campus location. And it's going to look nice," said Darandari.

Hillner said that the "land-swap" deal was a unique agreement for MoDOT. MoDOT and UMSL have a very good working relationship, he said, especially on the tight schedule MoDOT was under. Hillner said the project should turn out terrific when finished.

"I think both MoDOT and [UMSL] will have something the community can be proud of," said Hillner.

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### CORRECTIONS

The writer of the men's tennis story in issue 1015 was misidentified. The story was written by Tom Weathersby.

A story in issue 1015 about the charter school lawsuit incorrectly explained the law regarding not-for-profit organizations that use for-profit management companies. The story should have read "According to Beyah, a not-for-profit organization that enters into an agreement with a for-profit entity must not give up too much control over the management decisions."

We regret any confusion these errors may have caused.

## UNIVERSITY OF MO-ST. LOUIS 21ST ANNUAL AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 2-6, 2001

April 2  
Monday

- Movie Marathon — Free with Refreshments  
"Autumn in New York"  
"Meet the Parents"  
"Bone Collector"

MSC Tele #1

April 3  
Tuesday

- Movie Marathon — Free with Refreshments  
"Meet the Parents"  
"Bone Collector"  
"Autumn in New York"  
"Silver Bullet"

MSC Tele #1

Women's Center

April 4  
Wednesday

- Disability Awareness Day  
disABILITY SIMULATIONS  
• "SHOOT FROM THE HIP CONTEST"

MSC Lobby  
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
12:15 p.m.

- Movie Marathon — Free with Refreshments  
"Bone Collector"  
"Meet the Parents"  
"Silver Bullet"

MSC Tele #1

April 5  
Thursday

- Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony
- Movie Marathon — Free with Refreshments  
"Meet the Parents"  
"Bone Collector"  
"Autumn in New York"  
"Silver Bullet"

Century Room  
12:15 p.m.

MSC Tele #1



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# NEWS FROM ALL OVER

## Bradley U. holds student elections over internet

BY CHRISTINE BYERS  
The Bradley Scout

(U-WIRE) PEORIA, Ill.— Bradley University students will cast their ballots with the click of a button in this year's all-school officer elections April 9 and 10.

"Online voting is the best thing since sliced bread for this campus," said senior Amber Lyons, an off-campus senator. "Now you can sit in your underwear and vote."

Fellow senators agreed that Internet ballots will make voting much simpler for students.

"I think this is a step in the right direction for the elections of the all-school officers because it is an easier way for Bradley students to vote," said Todd Mason, who chairs the election committee.

Online voting will make the process more accessible to students, Mason said. Instead of hunting for a designated polling place, students only will have to find a computer.

The website address was not available as of Thursday, but the opening page of the website will contain pictures and biographies of all

the candidates.

The site will allow students to click on the names of the candidates for whom they want to vote.

Students will be required to submit their student identification numbers along with the last six digits of their social security numbers before they cast their votes.

Students will be logged off the site automatically if a repeat of their identification number or social security number is detected.

This makes the site secure, Mason said.

"Other Illinois schools have online voting, and they are successful," Mason said.

The site will be open at about 8 a.m. April 9. The closing time has not been determined.

Mason said he is expecting a bigger turnout in this year's elections because students studying abroad or who can't make it to the voting places for other reasons can participate.

"It's all about convenience this year, and this is more convenient than abiding by strict hours," Mason said.

## Cancun cracks down on partying

BY ANDREA DENHAM  
The Diamondback

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md.— Students headed to Cancun, Mexico for spring break may be in for a big surprise when they find out the city is not as happy to see them. Although tourism is the primary economic source of Cancun, officials at the spring break haven have new measures to curb rampant drunken and indecent behavior.

The city sees more than 2 million visitors per year, according to its official Web site, about 100,000 of them in the six weeks of the spring break season alone. The city features more than 23,000 hotel rooms between the mainland and the resort island. A variety of travel agencies offer student spring break packages for travel to Cancun. According to one such agency, the Baltimore-based Student Travel Services, it is sending about 9,000 students to Cancun in a single weekend.

The Office of Tourism in Cancun is implementing a campaign to help minimize the rowdy celebrations. As students land at the airport in Cancun, they are asked to sign a code of conduct, said a representative from Cancun's Ocean Club hotel. These rules include: No public sex or nudity, no drinking or urinating in the street, no free rides on public transportation and no rudeness or disruptions of public order.

In addition to a passport or other identification, visitors must also carry a Mexican Tourist Permit, issued free of charge after proof of citizenship upon arrival. This permit must be presented upon departure, and if lost, visitors must obtain a copy or permission to leave the country from the Immigration office.

Also, hotels, discos and bars are putting up posters and placards asking students to "Be cool while in Cancun," reminding them to follow the rules of the city and not to party too much. The Ocean Club, which

charges visitors a typical \$50 damage deposit per person, is one of many hotels to implement a fee to cover the cost of potential property damage.

Cancun bars must also now stop serving alcohol at 4 a.m. and shut down by 5 a.m., according to an employee at the Ocean Club. Spring break celebrations at bars in Cancun have sometimes lasted until 8 a.m. in previous years.

Some University of Maryland students headed to Cancun this year for spring break are angered by the changes.

"They are not being fair to those students who want to go down to Cancun and have a good, clean time," said Doug Parker, a sophomore letters and sciences major.

Other students doubt Mexican officials will be able to enforce the new restrictions. Aubryn Thompson, a freshman letters and sciences major, has been to Cancun on previous spring breaks and knows firsthand the kind of celebration that goes on there.

"There is no way (Mexican police) can control a bunch of crazy, screaming college kids," she said.

But some students said the new restrictions will improve Cancun's reputation.

"They are just trying to make Cancun sound safe," said Ralph Sobolone, a senior finance major, another veteran Cancun spring-breaker. "So they can attract families ... and clean up Cancun's image."

However, other campus students said Cancun should remain a spring-break haven as long as students are willing to pay for the trip.

"College students are paying all this money to get away. They should be able to have a good time," said Allison Samson, a freshman letters and sciences major who will be heading to Cancun Sunday. "As long as no one is getting hurt, (partying) should be OK."

Diamondback staff writer Heather Lloyd contributed to this report.

## Passions over race ignite at author's speech at UC-Berkeley

BY STEVEN SEXTON  
Daily Californian

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif.— A forum featuring conservative writer David Horowitz ended abruptly Thursday night when debate between the author and audience members at the University of California-Berkeley escalated and the microphones were suddenly shut off.

The question-and-answer session had just begun, when Horowitz and another man began yelling at each other. Ben Carrasco, the emcee of the event and editor of the California Patriot, a conservative publication, pulled the plug on both microphones after the crowd became raucous, yelling and cheering on both sides of the aisle.

Horowitz was quickly ushered out of the building by his body guards, who flanked him the entire time.

The crowd booed as Carrasco and other members of the Patriot and Berkeley College Republicans tried to figure out what to do next.

"It was getting out of hand, and they told me to pull the plug," Carrasco said. "Obviously from a PR standpoint, that wasn't the right thing to do. I wasn't expecting Horowitz to leave like that."

People began filing out of the Valley Life Sciences Building and the forum ended early.

"It went fine until the end there," said Robb McFadden, chair of the Berkeley College Republicans. "It shows there is the desire from both

sides to start to talk."

The forum began with Horowitz addressing the "firestorm of controversy" that has bombarded college campuses since The Daily Californian published his advertisement, "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery is a Bad Idea—and Racist Too," on Feb. 28, followed by a front-page apology the next day.

Several other college papers, including the University of California at Davis Aggie and the University of Wisconsin Badger Herald also ran the advertisement, but many more rejected it. The Aggie also apologized for running it, while the Herald denounced the apologies as stifling free speech.

"Apparently on this campus, some ideas are too dangerous for the campus community to hear," Horowitz said, calling the political atmosphere one of "racial McCarthyism." "If you can't have a rational discussion on college campuses, where do you think you can?"

Horowitz, a UC-Berkeley alum, called on students to demonstrate that free speech is still alive and well in Berkeley.

Since his years as a student, when he was an active member of the liberal community, editor of the liberal Rampart magazine and a member of the Black Panthers, Horowitz has become a vocal conservative and bestselling author.

"In my view, what the left is about is a species of civil war," Horowitz said.

He said there is an "intellectual terror" on campus that prevents conservative views from being heard.

Conservative organizations on campus began planning to bring Horowitz to Berkeley a year ago to "inspire conservative thought." The effort was revived last month when controversy over the advertisement erupted.

The event, which drew more than 300 people, was touted as a celebration of free speech.

As the crowds filed into the auditorium at 8 p.m., they had to pass through metal detectors and police inspections. The organizers consulted UC police before the event and devised a comprehensive security plan to prevent any violence.

Kelly Thomas, a member of the Patriot's editorial board, said event organizers had initially hoped to sponsor a debate between Horowitz and a liberal member of the campus community. She said the Cal Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union, and several professors denied their request.

"A university is for the free exchange of ideas," Thomas said. "I don't agree with everything Horowitz has to say, but I agree he should be able to say it."

Dipti Barot, who was among the few who were able to ask Horowitz a question before he left, said she regretted that she had not agreed to debate him, saying he is making free speech "his bandwagon." She said she was frustrated he did not address the advertisement more thoroughly.

"What is his purpose for bringing this all up?" she asked. "It's not as if there is a reparations wave sweeping the country. He's just using this as a vehicle for hate."

Barot said she was frustrated that the organizers had not structured the question-and-answer session better. There should have been limits placed on the time each member of the audience had to ask a question, she said.

John Cummins, the assistant chancellor, attended the event and said it exemplified the problematic state of free speech on campus.

"The event, in a sense, symbolized the argument that [Horowitz] was putting forward about the 'PC' nature of Berkeley and the difficulty of free speech on this campus," he said. "I completely disagree with his argument, and the event itself illustrated that our students do not need someone like David Horowitz to tell them to speak freely—they do it all the time."

Protesters gathered outside the building, both in favor of the forum and against it.

Members of organizations, including the Spartacus League, spoke out against the forum. Thirty protesters, holding signs, calling for "Black liberation through socialist revolution," chanted that Horowitz is "a racist ideologue."

"We are not here to stop him from speaking," said Amy Rath, a member of the league. "We are here to expose his politics."

**HEATHER GRAHAM** **CHRIS KLEIN**

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# 'Roaring Twenties' gave way to economic disaster

"First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

These words came from the first inaugural address of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on March 4, 1933. Though brief, they went a long way toward restoring confidence in American institutions during one of the darkest times in our nation's history.

Nearly seven decades ago, the United States found itself embroiled in the greatest economic catastrophe ever imagined. It would come to be known as the Great Depression, and it signified the worst national crisis since the Civil War.

The seeds of the Great Depression

were actually planted during the so-called "Roaring Twenties." Many people believe that the 1920s were a prosperous decade. This is not entirely accurate.



**TIM THOMPSON**  
history columnist

Granted, heavy industry became much more efficient through technological advances and labor productivity skyrocketed. However, there were many negative signals that seemed to foretell disaster.

For instance, real working wages simply did not keep pace with output. In fact, during the last half of the '20s, productivity increased a whopping 32 percent, but wages rose just 8 percent.

This incredible jump in productivity led to—and sometimes encour-

aged—colossal overproduction in many sectors of the U.S. economy. This was especially true of the agricultural industry.

Farmers expanded at a breakneck pace during World War I, borrowing huge amounts of money to buy expensive state-of-the-art equipment. They were attempting to meet the massive demand for crops from Europe. However, soon after the war had concluded, this demand plummeted. Then, adding insult to injury, market prices in the United States declined rapidly, leaving numerous farmers with considerable debts and no way to repay the debts they had incurred. This is just scratching the surface, though. There were many other weaknesses in the U.S. economy which signaled catastrophe on the horizon.

The most important of these dealt with the massive unequal distribution

of income and wealth. For instance, by the end of the 1920s, the top 5 percent of American families controlled nearly 1/3 of our nation's wealth.

Moreover, 8 out of every 10 American families did not have savings of any kind. This amounted to a staggering 22 million households without any money in reserve.

As the 1920s wore on, there was more disturbing news. By 1927, new housing sales began to decline sharply. Hot on the heels of this decline was a substantial drop in automotive sales. These were unmistakable signs that the U.S. economy was in significant trouble.

All these indicators began to take a heavy toll on business and consumer confidence as the 1920s drew to a close.

This uncertainty was vividly displayed in the U.S. stockmarket as well. Throughout the summer of

1929, stock prices began a downward spiral. Then, on Monday, Oct. 28, 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost more than 13 percent of its value. It was an unprecedented economic event. People held their breath. Many contemplated whether or not the market could bounce back. They would not have to wait long for their answer. For, it would come the very next day.

"Black Tuesday," as it was called, saw the United States stockmarket lose half its value.

This was just the beginning, however. By mid-November, \$30 billion of wealth had been wiped out of the market. American confidence was no longer shaken. It was shattered.

Manufacturers panicked. They decreased production rapidly, and began laying off thousands of workers. Consumers panicked as well. They reduced their spending dramati-

cally. This, in turn, caused yet another wave of production cuts and even more layoffs. People hurried to the bank to withdraw their money, causing many financial institutions to fail, leading to widespread misery and despair. The United States economy had passed the point of no return. For many, the awful hardships would not end until United States' entry into WWII.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was an unprecedented economic disaster in U.S. history. It shook American confidence in democracy, and presented government officials with challenges they never dreamed of facing, and forced them to make decisions they never thought they would have to make.

For those who scraped and clawed their way through it, the Great Depression was a time they would never forget.



**KICK-OFF RALLY**  
Monday, April 2 12:15pm to 1pm  
The Nosh

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Wednesday, April 4 8am to 5pm  
Join us in this National Day of Silence. Our silence echoes the voices of those lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people whose lives have been silenced by oppression and prejudice.  
*Hate affects all of us.  
How can you end the silence?*

**REFLECTIONS:**  
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Refreshments provided

For more information, please contact:  
LaShonda Harvey @ 314.616.3981 or [lshonda75@hotmail.com](mailto:lshonda75@hotmail.com) or  
Matthew O'Brien @ 636.230.7483 or [orbmata@yahoo.com](mailto:orbmata@yahoo.com).

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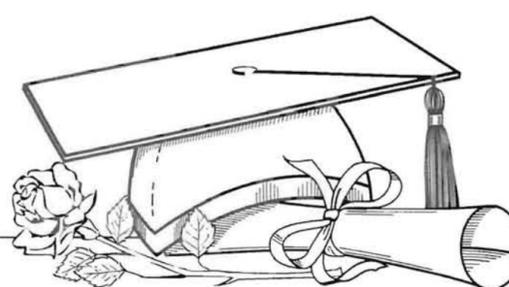
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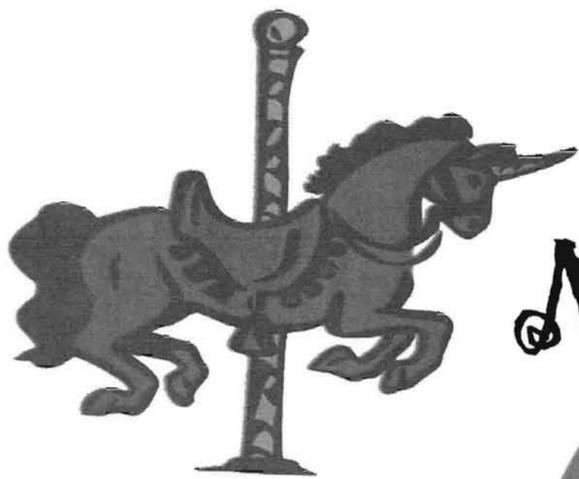
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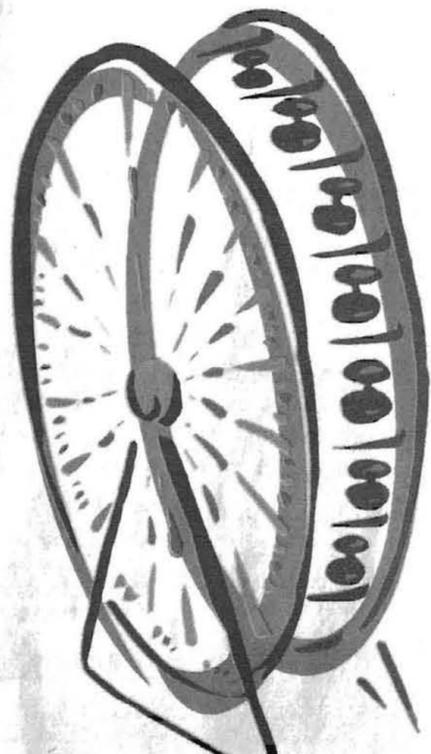
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