



Guess who?

Dr. Teresa Guess awarded teacher of the year

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THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Student E-mail to be integrated into MyGateway

BY NICK BOWMAN
Senior Editor

Effective Winter 2002 semester, all UM-St. Louis students will be provided with a new e-mail server that aims to streamline the current mailing process.

The addresses, which will be yourgatewayid@studentmail.ums.edu (with yourgatewayid being replaced with your personal Gateway ID), will eventually be the only means that the university will use to communicate with students. All students will be responsible for checking this e-mail account for university correspondence.

"Right now, we have a situation where the 'MyGateway' system is not integrated (with student e-mail) because of the different passwords that 'MyGateway' and (the current admiral server) use," said Jerrold Siegel, associate vice president for information technology.

The goal of this change, which was announced earlier in the semester, is to create a "one password interface" for all university-student communications, said Mark Fowler, director of information technology services.

Currently, the admiral and studentmail servers are shared, and the system handles about 13,500 incoming and outgoing e-mails per day. But many of these e-mails are forwarded to other accounts.

The ITS department, as well as the university, is wary to send out official announcements to these accounts, because there is no way to guarantee that students will receive the mailings. Also, in order to send mail via "MyGateway," students have to log on separately for each mailing.

With the new system, students will be able to access their e-mail from any web browser by entering http://studentmail.ums.edu into the address field.

Forwarding of e-mail will still be available, but students will have to register their address with ITS, similar to a change of address form.

"Not only will we still allow forwarding, we'll even set it up for the students," said Siegel. "Many students know how to already, but this way we can ensure that the messages still get out."

Older students who still utilize the admiral server, which houses 2,938 student web pages, will not lose their accounts. They will function the same as they do now, but new students will have to apply for an account.

"We hope to be fully integrated by the Fall (2002) semester," said Siegel.

"MyGateway" has had a very positive response from the UM-St. Louis community since its inception in the Fall 2001 semester. Four hundred and thirty-two instructors have registered with "MyGateway" and utilize it in some fashion, with course announcements being the most popular use of the system. Fowler is hoping to eventually get all faculty members trained on the system.

"Eventually we hope to offer class work and assessment tests over the system," said Fowler. This semester, 71 assessment tests were offered via MyGateway, while 9,253 students have logged onto the system.

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UMSL buys Normandy Hospital

Plans for the South campus site are still uncertain

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
Staff Editor

UM-St. Louis recently announced it purchased the site of what was once Normandy Hospital from a New Orleans-based investment firm for \$2.6 million. The deal was made official Oct. 31.

The firm, National Health Care Investments Inc., bought the hospital in March and had planned to reopen it to the elderly and people in need of orthopedic care. Though the hospital has remained closed.

The site of the hospital, 7840 Natural Bridge Road, includes the 173,000-square-foot building, two other buildings and 5.4 acres of land. Currently the University hasn't decided what it will do with the property, said Bob Samples, director of University Communications.

"There's been some suggestion that the College of Nursing and the School of Optometry would use it," Samples said.

But third year optometry student Angel Novel is not optimistic about those plans.

"That was the rumor last year that (the University) was going to buy the hospital for psychology, nursing and optometry," Novel said, adding that now optometry students are hearing differently.

Novel said the School of Optometry averages about 40 students per class and are at full capacity. The move to the old hospital site would

give the school more clinical space, she said.

"It would make us a little more competitive with other optometry schools," Novel said.

UM-St. Louis had tried to buy the hospital in the mid 1990s, Samples said, after a planning firm suggested the University purchase the site. But elected officials and local community leaders expressed interest in trying to reopen the hospital, he said.

"We backed away from that purchase to allow the community to see if they could make it a viable hospital," Samples said.

The University may demolish the hospital if enough money is not raised to renovate the building, he said. In that instance, the property would possibly be used for parking.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, said his department will complete studies to determine what to do with the site.

The hospital property could be used as a common University entrance, Samples said, by extending East Campus Drive to connect North and South campuses, which are divided by Natural Bridge Road. The 1993 Master Plan developed by Sasaki Associates, Inc., suggested the entrance to increase traffic flow between both campuses.

"(The purchase) brings that to a closer possibility," Samples said.

An announcement sent out by the University on Nov. 2 stated a decision regarding the site will be made in fiscal year 2004.



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

UM-St. Louis recently announced it purchased the site of what was once Normandy Hospital from a New Orleans-based investment firm for \$2.6 million. The deal was made official Oct. 31.

KWMU presents program on Jim Crow Era

Documentary Studies at Duke University in North Carolina, as well as the managing editor of American Radio Works, Stephen Smith. Smith also produced the program.

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

The on-campus radio station, 90.7 FM, will feature a program entitled "Remembering Jim Crow" on Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. The program is sponsored by American Radio Works on Minneapolis Public Radio.

The program will focus on the segregation laws known as the era of "Jim Crow." The program will feature interviews of people who lived during that time period and discuss how it affected their lives and how some people fought against segregation laws.

The program consists of interviews collected by the Center for

"Remembering Jim Crow" has been a project since the early 1990s, Smith said.

"They conducted research for a book entitled, 'Remembering Jim Crow,' Smith said.

"I came across a reference to of the book on Duke's web site and I became interested," Smith said.

Half of the program's research is from the original book, Smith said, while the other part is based on his updated research.

"The research is divided in three ways," Smith said. "The first part

were general interviews by African-Americans who lived through "Jim Crow" and who were familiar with it. The second part is I re-interviewed people who had been previously interviewed by Duke. I updated the information, asked a few follow-up questions.

things to survive," Smith said. "One story tells about a town in which the people tried to get food and a light-skinned African-American person had to pass for white to do the shopping for the entire town."

The "Jim Crow" laws were created in 1896 after Plessy vs. Ferguson, a

Supreme Court which declared separations in public schools unconstitutional. The "Jim Crow" laws were one factor that contributed to the Civil Rights movement. Smith feels that "Jim Crow" is a neglected time period in history.

"Most people usually think of slavery and the Civil Rights movement, but forget the years in between," Smith said. "I hope that the listeners will familiarize themselves with this history."

"If they don't know, they will come to realize contemporary race relations are based on hundreds of years of race relations and based on hundreds of years of segregation," Smith said. "History is very much alive in the present."

In conjunction with the radio program, The New Press will release a book and CD set entitled "Remembering Jim Crow." The CD set will include the radio program as well as edited versions of the original interviews.

"The program will focus on the segregation laws known as the era of Jim Crow."

"The third part involved interviewing whites who remembered 'Jim Crow,'" Smith said. "For that, I teamed up with an anthropologist, Katie Ellis, who did an extensive research on whites during the 'Jim Crow' laws in Louisiana."

Smith said that some of the more fascinating aspects of the research were on the stories of suffering in the "Jim Crow" period.

"It's remarkable the way that the black community did innovative

Costas leads discussion on life, works of Mark Twain

BY JOAN HENRY AND
DELYLE ROBBINS
Staff Writers

The life and writings of Mark Twain were the subject of a panel discussion held at UM-St. Louis Saturday afternoon.

The discussion, which was moderated by award-winning NBC broadcaster Bob Costas, drew a standing-room-only crowd to the J.C. Penney building, room 126.

The timing of the discussion coincides with the 2001 St. Louis International Film Festival, which features a new documentary by Ken Burns on Twain.

Costas said he was happy to get involved with the project.

"Ken Burns is a friend of mine," he said, "Also, it's a St. Louis event, and I've read a fair share of Twain."

The four-member panel included UM-St. Louis English professor David Carkeet, who is the author of several books, including "I Been There Before," in which Mark Twain

appears as a character. Carkeet said he was intrigued by Twain's use of dialect and shared many personal coincidences with him.

"I grew up in a little Gold Rush town just 15 miles from Calaveras County, where he spent three months and learned the jumping frog tale," said Carkeet. "That was the beginning of his national fame."

Carkeet said his wife is from Elmira, New York, as was Twain's. "It's very strange," he said. "I visited his study and his grave on my wedding day."

Also present were St. Louis University Professor Harold K. Bush, Professor of English Wayne Fields from Washington University, and Roy Blount, Jr., a writer and humorist who has recently completed a film on Mark Twain's world.

That film will also be featured in the Film Festival.

"Roy, in my mind, is the heir to Twain," said Film Festival Executive

see TWAIN, page 10



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Harold K. Bush, St. Louis University Prof. of English, David Carkeet, UM-St. Louis Prof. of English, Bob Costas, NBC broadcaster, and Roy Blount, Jr., writer and humorist were members of a panel discussion about Mark Twain. The event coincided with the 2001 St. Louis International Film Festival, which features a documentary by Ken Burns on Twain.

Bulletin Board

Monday 14

Mercantile Library

The Friends in Art exhibit chronicles the 40-year friendship between Thomas Hart Benton, a pre-eminent American regionalist, and Lyle Woodcock, Benton's friend and patron since the 1930s. It is free and open to the public. The exhibition will run from Oct. 30 to Jan. 15 during normal library hours. For more information call 516-7240.

Tuesday 15

Irish Poetry Reading

James Liddy and Daniel Tobin will read their poetry at 2 p.m. in the Museum Room of the Provential House. The reading is sponsored by Jefferson Smurfit Corporation Professorship in Irish Studies, Center for International Studies, Pierre Laclade Honors College, MFA Program, University of Missouri-St. Louis. R.S.V.P. at ext. 7299.

Hunger Banquet

Everyone is invited to attend the Oxfam Hunger Banquet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Century Room B on the third floor of the MSC. This free event is an experience for the unequal distribution of food and resources around the world. Sign-up at the information table on the second floor of the MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mon-Thurs., or call Amanda at 385-3455 to R.S.V.P.

PHAT

Puttin' Haters Away Totally is sponsoring a discussion titled "Who's Pimping Who?" which with the topic "being in a non-meaningful relationship for personal satisfaction" from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 316 of the MSC.

Karaoke Night

An Open Mic Night will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the MSC Century Hall A. Musicians, poets and comedians are invited to perform. Call ext. 4031.

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 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 postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Metropolitan Issues Forum

This Metropolitan Issues Forum will feature a conversation with Fances Moore Lappe, author of the 1971 best seller "Diet for a Small Planet" from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the MSC Century Room A. Lappe will discuss how citizens can become active in how decisions are made in their communities. For more information call ext. 5273.

Saturday 17

Indian Student Assoc.

Ekta will host Diwali Nite—an Indian Festival of Lights. Indian food and live performances will be provided for \$9 per person in the MSC Century Hall. For more information call 552-8722.

College Bowl Tournament

Teams from UM-St. Louis will compete for the biggest brains from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Century Room C. The questions will involve topics such as current events, science, literature, sports, the arts and general trivia. For more information call Shannon at ext. 5531.

Assoc. Black Collegians

"Come kick it with ABC" at Dave and Buster's at 1-70 and Earth City Expressway in Riverport at 6:30 p.m. For those under 21, call ext. 5731.

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THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

November 2, 2001

A student in Seton Hall reported that a Sony Play Station, Dell Laptop Computer and \$5.00 in U.S. coins was stolen from his room between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

November 5, 2001

A student reported that a set of keys to his vehicle and his vehicle were stolen

between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. The keys were stolen from a desk drawer at 203 Research Building. The vehicle was stolen from the first level of Parking Garage "P."

November 6, 2001

On 11-6-01 Chicago Illinois Police contacted the UM-St. Louis Police Department to advise that they had recovered the stolen

vehicle in their city and that they had four occupants under arrest. The investigation continues.

A resident at the Normandie Residential Hall responded that a building window, measuring 38" x 55", had been broken between 4:10 p.m. and 4:55 p.m. The University Maintenance Department was

contacted for "board-up."

A student residing at the Villa Resident Hall reported that the mirror on the drivers door of her vehicle had been broken off by some unknown person(s) on 11-5-01 between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. The student's vehicle had been parked on the South Campus in Lot "X."

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

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Hunger Banquet

Century Room B
Thursday, Nov 15th
12:30-1:30pm

An experience of our world's unequal distribution of food and other resources.

Information

Visit the information tables on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center from 10am-2pm on each day the entire week.

Donations

Donations will be accepted. Collection Cans will be located near most cash registers on campus.

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For More Information Contact Amanda at 385-3445 or cncums@aol.com

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Guess who?

Dr. Teresa Guess awarded teacher of the year

Teresa J. Guess, associate sociology professor, and the recipient of the Evening College Council Teacher of the Year Award fulfills her dream to teach at her alma mater as she challenges students to think critically about social issues.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

Wednesday evening, a few minutes after 5:30 p.m., students in Teresa Guess' Sociology Theory class chatted with their neighbors. Most students are non-traditional, as she herself was when studying for her master's and doctorate. She remarked that she understands the challenges of adult students and encourages them that it is never too late to further one's education.

Standing behind the podium, she reviewed a few items and began with her lecture. During a discussion of the theories of the "saints of sociology," referring to the founders of the discipline, she said, "As sociologists, we use uncommon sense."

"As sociologists, we use uncommon sense."

Lighthearted discussions to understand theoretical content were a trademark of the hour. Students offered examples to further explain ideas, and one adult female student, in a break from discourse, asked, "What is the point of all of this?"

The student had expected sociology to teach her how to help people. Guess replied by asking the students what a university is and then identified herself as a line worker at a factory that creates and expands ideas. She continued lecturing seven minutes over the class ending time, but her class showed respect by not moving an inch until she closed.

Teresa J. Guess, associate sociology professor, and the recipient of the

Evening College Council Teacher of the Year Award fulfills her dream to teach at her alma mater as she challenges students to think critically about social issues. She joined UM-St. Louis' faculty, on the tenure track, in the fall of 1998 and has already made her mark.

Jackie Brown, a general studies major said "she is a good teacher and very conscientious." Jokingly she added, "If she would eliminate the next essay, I would write a dissertation about her."

Prior to class Wednesday, Guess sat at her desk grading papers, listening to New Age music. Wearing a blazer with two buttons that read "Sociologists Work" and "We Love UMSL," she had an ease about her that reflected a woman who has lived, learned, and is prepared to give back. She said she does not take her students for granted and feels the ability she has to shape minds is a powerful position.

Her screen saver reads "We acquire too cheaply: We esteem too lightly," and she expects her students to work hard and think for themselves. When she grades papers, she wants to learn something from students, in addition to recognizing their understanding of core concepts. She hopes that they will learn to think "outside of the box."

Picture her in the '70s with a curly Afro and a resemblance to one of her heroes, Angela Davis, a political activist who fought racial oppression and remains an advocate of penal reform. It was then that she "was infected with the bug that once it bites you, you can never be the same." She is speaking of "the ability to see the unseen that came with learning about the blueprints of social structures."

see GUESS, page 8

BOOK REVIEW

Multiple Regrets by multiple Americans

BY JENNIFER DODD
Features Associate

In Frank Sinatra's song, "My Way," Sinatra croons about some of the mistakes he made in the past. He sings about his regrets and how there have been more than one. Well, this feeling of regret was such a widespread emotion that a book was written about it.

One of the reasons the book caught my eye, is because "DAMN!" is in boldface red lettering, and not many people put curse words in their title unless they are Andrew Dice Clay or George Carlin.

The book is written by Barry Cadish, and he explains in the prologue why he decided on such a gut-wrenching topic right before former President Clinton's impeachment trial, and when he was smack-dab in the whole Lewinsky fiasco. Cadish wondered if our former president had any regrets. Since Cadish had 20 years experience in the media business, he wrote a regret letter and sent it to various e-mail addresses.

Since he got such a huge response he decided to launch a website called RegretsOnly.com. The website made its debut on April 27, 1999, and by July 30, 1999, USA TODAY listed RegretsOnly.com as a very hot website.

RegretsOnly.com got exposure from everywhere, including India,



England and Greece.

"More important than the international appeal was the variety of responses from people in all walks of life," said Cadish.

This book is divided into chapters from missed chances to multiple choices, which means multiple regrets. There are the typical regrets in this book from the chapter "Teens: From Angst to Hell," in which young adults mourn the way they treated their parents.

Another predictable but heartfelt chapter is the "Lighter Side," where people discuss how they put off a trip by not buying a certain Paul Simon album, or the gentleman who retired to Miami, Florida, and hates Miami.

see REGRETS, page 8



The St. Louis Flamenco Society performed during the Spanish dinner presented by UMSL's Spanish Club on Nov. 4.

Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Souls welcomed at Spanish dinner

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

The Spanish Club hosted their first annual "Dia de los Muertos" dinner on Nov 4. "Dia de los Muertos" is Spanish for "Day of the Dead." It is a traditional celebration in Mexico welcoming the souls of the dead back to earth for a few days. The celebration is used to honor the lives of those souls who have departed this earth.

Century rooms A and B in the Millennium Student Center were deco-

rated with about 60 black balloons. The seven tables were covered with red, yellow and orange tablecloths sprinkled with glitter. The tables were lit with tea lights and skull candles surrounded by candy. Spanish music played in the background. An altar was set up in the corner honoring deceased relatives and saints. Dinner was served buffet style, featuring chicken or beef fajitas with various toppings such as cheese, sour cream and salsa. Dessert was flan.

After dinner the St. Louis Flamenco Society put on an hour-long dance for

the guests.

"As a Latina, I'm impressed to see UMSL recognize and celebrate this culturally significant event," said Rosalind Soliz, a Spanish major. "I hope to see other festivities throughout the year recognizing the area's growing Hispanic community."

Scott Francis, a photojournalism major, loved the Flamenco dancers. "An array of explosive, talented women dancing to intoxicating authentic music; a glimpse of an underappreciated and under-publicized culture."

The butt stops here: A woman on a mission to quit smoking

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT
Staff Editor

Writing about cigarettes makes me want to have one. In the past, without even thinking, I would have paused before I typed the next sentence to dig around my purse for my cigarettes and a lighter. But things changed once I committed myself to kicking the habit.

This personal decision just happened to coincide with a story idea that I thought I could handle. I have found, however, that this "great idea" has only complicated things because it is forcing me to dwell on my addiction.

I recently received a press release

announcing "The Great American Smokeout" sponsored by the American Cancer Society on Nov 15. It turns out that my personal "great idea" to quit smoking hit me just a week before this official date in which an expected ten million Americans put out the lights was announced.

My first inclination, like any procrastinating addict living in denial, was to put off my plans until the nation quit together. Then I realized my response was that of a classic addict: I was making an excuse. "But I'm not an addict," I thought, "I'm a writer and I have to write this story." With that firmly in my mind, I clicked on the Internet Explorer icon and began investigating the 25th anniversary of "The Great American

Smokeout."

The foundations of the "Great American Smokeout" began construction in 1971, when a Massachusetts resident asked people to quit smoking for a day and donate their cigarette money to a local high school. Three years later, the editor of Minnesota's 'Monticello Times' created the state's first "D-Day" or Don't Smoke Day. The idea became concrete in 1976, when the California Division of the American Cancer Society convinced one million people to put down their cigarettes for a day.

Since then, "The Great American Smokeout" has been a day for educating the public about the dangers and risks of smoking, as well as highlight-

ing some of the challenges future non-smokers face in stomping cigarettes out of their lives. It has also played a role in changing laws and public misconceptions. University Health Services at UM-St. Louis will also be participating in the event.

As a smoker, the neatest thing, I think, about "The Great American Smokeout" is the idea of support. Most of my friends smoke; most of the places I go to in my free time involve smoking; and it is very hard on my will to participate in normal activities without being preoccupied by this dumb little thing that smells really bad, makes me cough, and wastes my money. If people were to pay attention to "The Great American

Smokeout," it would unite smokers looking to extinguish their habit with non-smokers who don't understand why a smoker cannot simply quit.

Luckily for me, my decision coincided with Halloween, which means discounts on Dum-Dum lollipops available in bulk. It also coincided with the air getting colder, which means I don't have to bundle up to stand outside and kill myself slowly. This non-smoking thing has also forced me to be on time to class and enabled me to sit down and get things done without interruption—this story, for example.

Yes, there is no turning back, especially now that my declaration is in print. I suppose I will have to stick to my gum.

DAMN! REGRETS

EDITOR

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Features Editor

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Swing Society 'Swings' into UM-St. Louis

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Once a dance made popular in the 1920s, swing dancing has made a resurgence in popularity in the 1990s and has lasted into the 21st century. On Nov. 5, the Provincial House dining room was full as several people learned how to "Lindy Hop" and "Box Step" at the "Fat Cat Swing Dance."

Tracy Baliles and Jake Parks, UM-St. Louis students and co-presidents of the U.M. Swing Society, created The Fat Cat Swing Dance, an organization which promotes swing dance.

"Our goal is to have these dances bimonthly, every other Monday," Baliles said. "We really feel there is a strong need for a fun social atmosphere like this. Most of the swing dancing is in the city, so we thought we would bring it here to UMSL."

Most of the students who attended the dance were interested because of Baliles' and Parks' demonstration in the Millennium Center on Oct. 31.

"I saw them dancing in the Millennium Center and I wanted to support the organization," said

see SWING, page 10

PRINIONS

OUR OPINION

Censorship at UMSL needs to be addressed

Many people present at the UM-St. Louis open house on Sunday were deprived the opportunity of reading a copy of 'The Current.' The reason? The department of admissions chose to 'relocate' certain papers and stands, effectively censoring issue 1035 to the general public.

As many of you are aware, the front page of issue 1035 was a tragic one indeed. Unfortunately, the news waits for no man, and these stories had to be told. 'The Current' is by no means 'for' or 'against' any one department, but we are fervently against an infringement upon our 1st amendment rights, and feel that, regardless of who the audience is, no one, not even the Chancellor or President, has the right to pull an issue of 'The Current' from the newsstand because of its content.

We do understand why the admissions department would want to hide these issues. Open House is an event designed to open the doors of the University to the general public, specifically prospective students and their families. This is probably not the type of news that the University wants broadcast, but nonetheless, it is news.

To their defense, once confronted with the legal implications of their actions, they did stop and apologized for their actions. 'The Current' redistributed the paper, and Jerry Durham, the vice-chancellor of student affairs, asked that the newspapers be left alone. The admissions department complied. However, they were wrong to interfere with the media, and need to be aware of this.

Although 'The Current' is not an independent publication, we receive about 20% (or \$35,000) from the office of student activities, we have been given all rights and privileges of publishing by the Student Publication Board, effectively naming the editor-in-chief the publisher of 'The Current.'

As stated in the 'Our Opinion' in issue 1025, 'The Current' is not the friend nor enemy of the University. We are the news source for the students, faculty and staff of UM-St. Louis, and it is our right and job to report campus news and information to the UM-St. Louis community.

In our news coverage, we do not take a stand on either side; that right is reserved for our editorial board. If the admissions department would have taken the time to read these two

'controversial' pieces, they would have realized that there was no reason to hide these stories. They were unbiased and factual, and if nothing else, served in a positive manner, clearing up the speculation that had surrounded these two events.

These stories have been in the public forum, and the University was aware of this. Perhaps if the University would have taken a more proactive approach to these events i.e. prepared a statement, memorial service, announcement or official statement, then there would have been no reason to fear any 'negative' press coverage.

In fact, University Meadows did send a memorandum to its residents (although they did classify the case as a suicide, something that has not yet been determined. Even in our coverage, we did not use the term 'suicide,') the Meadows failed to take any proactive measures, and only stated that 'they were sorry for the family.'

Anyone who has ever taken a pub-

"...we are fervently against an infringement on our rights to publish...no one, not even the Chancellor or President, has the right to pull an issue of 'The Current' from the newsstand because of its content."

lic relations, journalism, or communication class is aware that you never ignore the media because you will always look bad. Again, we are not choosing sides, but if you won't talk about an issue, than how are we supposed to get information from you?

A common complaint from the public is a sense that the media holds some predispositions. Believe it or not, this is simply not true. We give the same respect that is given to us, and whenever a true reporter attempts to cover a story, his initial questions are of the research nature. One could equate a well-written news story to a research paper. The information is gathered, the pertinent facts are separated from the garbage, and from this a story is written and eventually pub-

The issue:

During a Open House on Sunday, several copies of 'The Current' issue 1035 were moved from their newsstands by the department of admissions and hidden around the Millennium Student Center. Also, two newsstands were reported missing. This was due to the 'controversial' content of the front page of last week's edition

We suggest:

The UM-St. Louis community needs to be aware that this action is illegal, and simply cannot take place. Censorship is a subject that has been debated for decades and consistently won by the collegiate press, as well as countless other publications.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC or online at: thecurrentonline.com

lished. We are not proud of the fact that we had to report a death and a rape to the students of this University. 'The Current' does not wish to 'brag' about this or linger upon it. However, these things happened at this University during this week, and these are news stories. In fact, 'The Current' is very disappointed in the University, as mentioned earlier, for its failure to communicate these events to us, as word on both had quickly spread throughout the campus.

We are disappointed that members of a department of this University made a blatantly illegal decision to censor the student press. This reflects very poorly upon not only that department, but on the values of this University as a whole. We praise Dr. Durham for having the proper foresight and knowledge of the media to order a stop to this censorship, but nonetheless feel that 'The Current,' as well as the hundred of students, faculty, staff and guests of the University, were done a great injustice; they were denied the right to knowledge of this institution.

The UM-St. Louis community needs to respect the position of the student press, just as we are required to respect the University. We are not activists, we are journalists.

Dowlat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan vs. US?

Over the past weeks, we have been extremely interested in the fate of the 647,000 square kilometer mass of land in Southern Asia, Afghanistan.

The country, which is slightly smaller than the state of Texas, is home to 25,824,882 men and women (a Jan. 1999 estimate), and over 43 percent of those are under the age of 14. The average Afghan woman gives birth to six children in her expected 46 years of life. And if she is among the 15 percent of the female population that has learned to read and write, her kids may enjoy the same privilege. If not, that's okay, because only 30 percent of the country is able to read anyway.

Finding resources can be difficult in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which is the Taliban-preferred name (since September 27, 1996, they have controlled about two-thirds of the land, including the capital city of Kabul), as there is no natural water in the country. The terrain is mostly rugged mountains, with some plains in the north and southwest, where about 12 percent of the land is suitable for growing crops. There are no recorded permanent crops that can grow in the country, largely in part to the sparse 30,000 total square kilometers of irrigated land. The country is landlocked.

Afghanistan is ruled by a 'transitional government,' meaning that one or all of the 12 political parties have claimed leadership. Of course, the Taliban, or Religious Students Movement, led by Mohammad Omar, displaced the ruling members of the Afghan government in 1996, sending the country into its current state of chaos. At this time, the Islamic State of Afghanistan (it's U.N.-recognized title) has no functioning government.

There is no constitution for the country. However, a legal system based on Shari'a, or Islamic law, has

been adopted by all factions within Afghanistan. Over 84 percent of Afghans are Sunni Muslims.

The United States presence in the war-torn country has been non-existent until recently. In January 1989 the U.S. Embassy in Kabul was closed for security reasons. The Taliban suspended Afghanistan relations with the U.S., temporarily closing all embassy operations on August 21, 1997. A consulate general from the country still resides in New York.

Afghanistan is an extremely poor nation, highly dependent on the raising of sheep and goats. The economy has taken a back seat to political and military actions during these past two decades of war, including the nearly 10-year Soviet military occupation.

During that time, nearly one-third of the population fled the country, with Pakistan and Iran housing nearly six million refugees. Many of the people have since returned, only to find insufficient food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Inflation remains a serious problem to the Afghan people, as reports of a nearly 240 percent rate increase in Kabul.

It takes about 17,000 afghani to equal one U.S. dollar on the free market, but the official mark has been set at 3,000 per. The Afghan fiscal year runs from March 21 to March 20.

Of the six AM stations in Afghanistan, one is active. There is one FM station registered, as well as three shortwaves. It is unknown if any television stations are in operation.

The biggest problem facing the Afghan people, besides the constant barrage of missiles and literature from the U.S., is how to weed out the nearly 1,350 metric tons of opium that is produced in the country. This opium is a large financial base of the Taliban's military budget.

So, now you know our 'opponent,' Pretty evil, huh?



NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL BOARD

- NICK BOWMAN
- STEVE VALKO
- EMILY UMBRIGHT
- DELYLE ROBBINS

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

LETTERS

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

What's your opinion?

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

- Censorship at UMSL
- State of Afghanistan
- Thankful for my mom

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at thecurrentonline.com

Thankful for my mom

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself with an abundance of blessings. I will graduate in January. I have an immensely motivated and creative staff here at 'The Current.' My immediate family and friends are in good health. But of all the blessings I have, the one that I am most thankful for is my mother. I think that I have the greatest and most loving mother ever to walk the face of this earth. There are several reasons why I feel this way.

My mother always gives the impression of welcome and happiness. Ever since I moved out a year ago, I've stopped by home a couple of times a week. My mother always greets me like a friend she hasn't seen since high school. She tries her best to make me feel at home when I'm there; ranging from cooking dinner to offering a sympathetic ear to problems.

Her warmth and compassion carries over to her nursing profession. A couple of years ago, I brought a sandwich and some Cheetos to her at work. My mother, while terribly hungry herself, shared the Cheetos with her patients. She also found an interesting way to calm upset patients. She runs her hands over someone's face with a warm, motherly touch. She noticed the trick to this technique is not the actual motion, but the love and

tenderness with which you touch the patient.

The thing that is most impressive to me, after all she's been through is she's still a joy to be around. Even when her ex-husband left her on Easter Sunday and filed a bunch of frivolous and obnoxious lawsuits against her. Without any support from her father, brothers, and sisters, she still finds joy in the little pleasures in life. Whether it be watering flowers, taking a walk, or just watching television from her Select Comfort bed, she always seems to be having fun and wants to share her joy.

The most impressive thing about my mother is that she leads by example. She lives a very straight and upright Catholic life and doesn't brag about it. Her simple actions speak volumes about how to live. While she does ask questions about how I'm living (for instance, going to church on Sunday), it's always done as a subtle reminder. She doesn't scream or yell if I do something wrong. She always comes across from a caring standpoint, and always has a "You know better" tone in her approach.

Every night before I go to bed, I get on my knees and pray for many people. I also give thanks to God for my mother, and hope that I can become as strong as she is as I grow in age.



STEVE VALKO
Managing Editor

Under Current

by Maggie Matthews
staff photographer



Hisashi Yamada
Sophomore / Business

" I might go to New Orleans. "



Rob Wilson
Student Services Coordinator

" My wonderful mother-in-law is flying in and I hope that my wife doesn't kill her. "



Kendra Ballard
Senior / Mass Communication

" Eating lots of soul food and working. "



Anne-Marie Luebbert
Sophomore / Elementary Education

" Every Thanksgiving my family has our dinner and we decorate the house for Christmas. "

What are your plans for Thanksgiving?

UMSL b-ball ready to roll

ST. LOUIS, MO — The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team finished up their exhibition season with a loss to Washington University on Saturday evening. Washington University, winner of four-straight NCAA Division III National Championships, won the extended game 83-79. The two teams played two 20-minute halves before playing an extra 10-minute third period in the exhibition.

UM-St. Louis was led by Christy Lane (Imperial, Mo./Seckman) who had 20 points on 8-of-15 shooting, including 4-of-7 from three-point

range, and also pulled down six rebounds. Lynette Wellen (Avison, Ill./Central) added 17 points, six rebounds and six assists and Sophia Ruffin (Chicago, Ill./Rend Lake CC) had 13 points and eight rebounds. Washington was led by Laura Crowley with 19 points and Jennifer Rudis had 11 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen will open up the regular season on Friday, November 16, with a home game against Ohio Dominican with tipoff scheduled for 5:30 pm

(information courtesy of Todd Addington, SID)

Men hoopsters down SEMO

BY DAVE KINWORTHY

Staff Editor

The UMSL men's basketball team won its first game of the season, a 75-72 exhibition match against Southeast Missouri State Missouri.

Southeast dominated the first half as they led the contest 47-27 at the halftime mark, hitting 60.7% of their shots from the field and 10 of 16 from the three-point arc. While Southeast was hitting their shots, the Rivermen were not as they only connected on just nine field goals the entire first half.

In the second half, UMSL outscored Southeast 48-25 en route to the victory. Southeast only shot 35.7% from the field in the second half, as the Rivermen's defense was displayed.

Four named all-GLVC

BY CHARLIE BAILEY

Staff Writer

As an impressive season ends for the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen, four players from the team have been honored with an All-Conference selection by the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Of the foursome selected from UM-St. Louis, two were picked for the first team and the other two were placed on the second team.

The two first team All-Conference players were the Riverwomen's leading goal scorer, forward Lindsey Siemens, and the team's amazing goalie, Rebecca Senn.

Siemens, a junior, besides leading the team in goals, also led the team in shots on goal with 76. She was 2-2 on penalty kicks, the only two attempts on the season.

Senn, who was the backbone of the team, was also honored because of her spectacular play defending the net. Senn's 10 shutouts were proof enough to the voters of the GLVC that she deserved being considered the best in the conference at her position. Along with her ten shutouts, Senn also compiled 88 saves on the year,

UMSL hit 62% from the field in the half, while going to the free throw line 18 times in the second half.

The victory marked the first since 1992 when the Rivermen had defeated a Division I team. The last time the Rivermen defeated in Division I programs was the Dayton Flyers. It was also the first time that Southeast lost an exhibition match in two seasons.

Mindaugas Adamonis led the Rivermen with 23 points in the contest, missing on only one of his eight shots. Daryn Carter also tallied 18 points, while Jim Schelich and Scott Kassel had 17 and 10 points respectively. Kassel led all players in the contest with 11 rebounds.

including a masterful 2-1 performance in the opening game of the GLVC tourney, which lasted 98 minutes.

These two picks join a plethora of players from the powerhouse Northern Kentucky, which had six players representing their program and their number one national ranking.

The second team All-Conference players who were named from UM-St. Louis are senior defender Sarah Kalish and junior mid-fielder Lindsay Jones.

Kalish, the only senior selected from UM-St. Louis, played a key role in all of the team's 10 shutouts, clearing would-be shots before they entered the attack zone. Kalish also showed some offensive production by taking ten shots on goal, a high tally for a defender.

The final second team All-Conference player named from UM-St. Louis was Lindsay Jones. Jones, the final junior player selected, was a key offensive player on the team. Her season tallies included five goals and two assists; she also was second on the team with 47 shots on goal.

V-ballers pounced by Cougars, season over

BY DAVE KINWORTHY AND

CHARLIE BAILEY

Staff Editor and Staff Writer

The UMSL Riverwomen's volleyball squad lost their final match of the season, a loss in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament to SIU-Edwardsville, thus ending UM-St. Louis season. The Rivermen came into the tournament as the no. 7 seed and played against the no. 2 seed in the tournament, SIU-Edwardsville, who came into the contest boasting a 20-12 record.

In the match, the Riverwomen lost the first, third and fourth games to allow SIU-Edwardsville to move on to the semifinals of the GLVC Tournament.

The Riverwomen did win the second game 30-26 and played well in the third game to force a tough 33-31 loss to become a crucial point in the match as SIU-Edwardsville won the fourth game with ease 30-13.

The Riverwomen were led by Maureen Monahan who recorded 13 kills, while senior Holly Zrout played her last game as a Riverwoman and added 12. On the defensive side, Zrout also shined as she tallied 11 defensive digs, while Kelby Saxwold led the Riverwomen with 12 digs.

With the loss, the Riverwomen fell to 14-17 for their final record of the season.

Prior to the season ending loss against SIU-Edwardsville, the

Riverwomen's volleyball team won two consecutive matches over Quincy this past weekend, ensuring a spot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament this week. With victories over Bellarmine University and Kentucky Wesleyan, the Riverwomen have claimed stake to the seventh seed in the tournament.

In the first victorious match, the Riverwomen defeated Bellarmine University in five games 30-32, 30-22, 30-16, 25-30 and 15-6.

Holly Zrout, who recorded 19 kills, while Nikki Pagels and Barb Drake recorded 15 and 13 respectively, led the team. Daria Sak led the team in defensive digs as she recorded 13, while Kelby Saxwold added 12 digs in the winning effort.

The Riverwomen then came back the next day and defeated Kentucky Wesleyan in four games 30-20, 24-30, 30-26 and 30-17.

It was the last match for two seniors, Zrout and Saxwold. Zrout did not disappoint as she recorded 15 kills, 12 defensive digs and five serving aces. Saxwold finished the game with eight defensive digs and two service aces. Liz Blair led all Riverwomen with 19 digs in the match.

With the two victories, the Riverwomen, with the no. 7 seed in the tournament, will face the no. 2 seed, SIU-Edwardsville in the first round of the GLVC Tournament Nov. 8.

Previously, the Riverwomen traveled to Quincy, Illinois this past Tuesday to face the tough Quincy Lady Hawks. In the first set it was all Quincy, as the Lady Hawks pounded the Riverwomen with an impressive 17 kills in 29 attempts. Most of the kills in the set were smoked by Jenny Gramer, one of the premier outside hitters in the GLVC, who led both teams with 20 kills.

This 1-0 lead for the Lady Hawks put added pressure on the Riverwomen, who desperately needed this victory for a chance at the post season. In the second set, the Riverwomen came back with 11 kills of their own. But the Lady Hawks once again had 17 kills on many more attempts, and it was enough to win the set 30-23.

In the third and final set the Riverwomen were against the ropes trying to salvage a set to stay in the contest. But fate would play no part in the game as the Lady Hawks once again lead the set in kills with 16 to the Riverwomen's 7. This overpowering offensive display that the Lady Hawks of Quincy put on was too much for the struggling Riverwomen of UM-St. Louis.

There were two bright spots in this bitter defeat. First, was the offensive play of Kathryn Freeman, who led the team with 8 kills. The second was the defensive play of Barb Drake and Melissa Frost, who both tallied 5 blocks each in the match.

Men end season with a win against Lincoln, finish on bottom of GLVC

BY CHARLIE BAILEY

Staff Writer

The Rivermen's soccer team finished its season off dropping four out of their last five games and ended the season with an overall record of 5-10-2 overall.

In UMSL's second last match, the Rivermen lost to Truman State 2-0. Truman State jumped on the board in the first half with a goal at the 21:55 mark on an unassisted goal from Matt Byers as he beat goalkeeper Adam Barnstead. The game would remain 1-0 in favor of Truman State until at the 78:18 mark of the second half when Byers would once again beat Barnstead on an unassisted goal to

move the final score of the game to 2-0.

The Rivermen then played again that same weekend in Truman against Lincoln University. The Rivermen got an early 1-0 lead when Kirt Spencer scored 3:46 into the contest off a feed from Pat Shelton.

The game headed into the second half with a 1-0 Rivermen's lead when Chris Stockmann scored the second goal of the game from Spencer to move the lead to 2-0. The Rivermen would then score 30 minutes later when reserve Dominic Bova tallied the last Rivermen's goal to push the lead to 3-0. Lincoln University would answer with a goal of their own roughly six minutes later, but it was not

enough as the Rivermen finished the season with a 3-1 victory over Lincoln University.

Although the Rivermen finished with a 1-7-2 Great Lakes Valley Conference record, the Rivermen have been lead all season by the hustle and play of Spencer, Adam Bimslager, Jeff Stegman, Dave Seckman and Nick Carron. Spencer led the team with 11 points on the season, tallying four goals and three assists. Kyende Bormentar led the team in assists with four for the season.

Mike Brockman and Barnstead held strong in the nets all season long as they posted a 2.03 goals against average, while Brockman, individually, averaged 1.74 a game.

Texas A&M bonfire safety firm chosen

BY SOMMER BUNCE

The Battalion

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION, Texas - New York-based Turner Construction agreed Thursday to provide safety services as part of the Texas A&M University Bonfire 2002 planning team.

The signed contracts are going through Texas A&M reviewing boards and should have final approval Monday, said Bonfire 2002 Steering Committee Facilitator Dr. Bryan Cole. Assuming the A&M reviewing board signs the contract, Turner representatives will meet with design firm CBM Engineers of Houston to review the 16 designs and present them to the steering committee, Cole said.

The steering committee will then choose six designs for the engineering and safety firms to concentrate on, and from those designs select three finalists for the student body to review.

When students can view the designs will depend on how long Turner reviews the safety aspects of each design, Cole said.

If the safety firm completes its work and meets with the steering committee before Thanksgiving, students will see the designs on the committee's Web site beginning Nov. 26, Cole said. If the firm takes any longer, the designs will not be posted until the second week of January.

"If they can get it done safely and correctly within that amount of time, then we can proceed this semester," Cole said.

Students will have two to three weeks to review the designs either way, Cole said. Once students have had ample time for feedback, the steering committee will chose the final design for Bonfire.

University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen is expected to consider the committee's recommended design and decide in January if Bonfire 2002 will become a reality. If it takes longer for the final design to be presented to Bowen, Cole said Bowen's decision and all the steps to implement the planning for Bonfire that would come after

"The longer this draws out...the greater the potential for Bonfire not to happen in 2002"

it would be delayed.

But Cole said he is optimistic now that a deal with Turner is pending. Negotiations with Turner have taken more than a month to come to fruition. The planning group had previously been turned down by two safety firms during the negotiation process this year.

Vallen Knowledge Systems Corp., selected in April, backed out in June after Cole said they asked for concessions that A&M could not provide. Marak Safety Services ended negotiations Oct. 1, citing lack of student involvement and money concerns.

Cole said the planning group con-

tacted Turner through CBM Engineers as soon as Marak ended its involvement. A deal was expected as soon as two weeks ago. Throughout the negotiation process, Cole expressed concern about the proceedings and the effect the slowdown would have on Bonfire 2002.

"The longer this draws out, of course the greater the potential for Bonfire not to happen in 2002," Cole said in October.

Last week, the planning group still had trouble contacting Turner, but Cole said Bonfire was not their only project.

Any estimates on how much Turner will be paid beyond its work for this semester would not be available until a design is chosen, Cole said. Turner will be paid on an hourly basis until the end of the semester, and then the terms of their contract would be re-evaluated, he said.

"We're concerned of the amount it might be. We're talking about significant one-time up-front costs to a point, like for blueprints and manuals," Cole said. "After that, how much a safety firm gets paid will change."

Bowen said the estimated \$1.5 million pricetag for Bonfire 2002 might force the University to reconsider plans for future Bonfires.

Turner, which has regional offices in Dallas and Houston, will be responsible for reviewing the safety aspects of each design option, creating safety, training and risk-management manuals for Bonfire workers, and working with student Bonfire leadership to ensure proper training.

Despite lofty expectations, Snyder says Missouri must improve

BY TOM WYRICK

The Maneater

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, Mo. - Despite the Missouri Tigers' high rankings in preseason polls, coach Quinn Snyder isn't impressed after the first two exhibition games.

"We're a young team, and we need to not listen to everybody else out there," he said.

The Tigers have only one senior on their roster, guard Clarence Gilbert. Kareem Rush is the only experienced junior — Ryan Kiemen gets minimal

playing time, and Uche Okafor has not been cleared to play by the NCAA, much less play a Division I-A game.

"They need to listen to their coaches and one another," Snyder said. "And when we do that, we're capable of playing good basketball. If we don't, we look very ordinary."

Rush said overconfidence is more of a problem than most players would admit.

"We won't say it is, but we have kind of big heads, like, 'We're No. 9,'" he said. "We're a young team.

That's something that we don't understand yet; that it doesn't matter where you're ranked; you have to go out there and play hard."

Gilbert said rankings are hard to ignore, but the team still has to work hard.

"When people are continuously saying things about you, you can't not comment on it," he said. "You have to say, 'People are saying this, and that's great, but we have to put that aside and concentrate on what we're working on.'"

Sophomore forward/center Travon

Bryant said preseason rankings mean nothing.

"We can't base it on that, we have to go out there and play basketball," he said. "The preseason rankings — we throw those out the window."

Snyder focused many of his complaints on defense, and he also said the Tigers' high-powered offense isn't up to his expectations.

"Offensively, we're still a long way away from understanding how the game is played," he said. "This team is working hard, but that is not an admission ticket to go out there and

just shoot jump shots."

But Snyder was quick to point out that the problem also lies in turnovers and missed opportunities.

"It's not just shots," he said. "It's decision-making."

And with possible games against Iowa and Memphis in the upcoming Guardians Classic, Snyder said the cavalier attitude he has seen will not fly.

"Every time we step on the floor, we make a statement of who we are," he said. "Everything has to be more precious; life's too good."

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

Sports Editor

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fax: 516-6811

THIS WEEK

Basketball

16

Ohio Dominican
Women 5:30 p.m.Reebok All-Stars
(Exhib.)
Men 7:45 p.m.UMSL's Skaggs
Named Freshman
of the YearFreshman Tennis
Player Earns All-
Conference Honors

ST. LOUIS, MO — Freshman Casie Skaggs (Paducah, Ky./Lone Oak) was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Women's Tennis Freshman of the Year as voted on by conference coaches. Skaggs was also voted to the GLVC All-Conference first team for her performance this past season.

Skaggs played at the number one singles spot for the Riverwomen this past season, helping guide the team to a 6-8 record and a sixth place finish in the GLVC Tournament. On the season, Skaggs went 10-2 in singles play, and lost just once during the conference season. She was equally effective in doubles competition where she finished with an 8-5 overall record

(information courtesy of Todd Addington, SID)

WEB

log onto

www.umsl.edu/
services/athleticsfor the latest sports news
and information



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

A&E Editor

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A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

November

12

Monday Noon Series. Nicholas Sammond, an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral fellow in the Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry Program at Washington University will give a lecture on "Pop Goe Freud: The Emergence of Freud in Mainstream Popular Culture in the 1950s" at noon in Room 229 of the J.C. Penny Building. The Monday Noon Series is free and sponsored by the Center for Humanities.

14

The Arianna String Quartet will perform a concert at noon in room 205 of the Music Building. The event is free and open to the public.

19

Monday Noon Series. Members of the Arianna String Quartet will perform and give a lecture "Music and Language" at noon in room 229 of the J.C. Penny Building. The Monday Noon Series is free and sponsored by the Center for

WEB

There's lots more A&E stories and reviews on recurtonline.com! Visit our site this week and get the scoop the St. Louis International Film festival.

Drink it up!

St. Louis International Film Festival is the film event for the week

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

The St. Louis International Film Festival started Nov. 8 and runs through next Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Tivoli, Hi Pointe and Webster University theaters, providing local film lovers with a rare yearly opportunity to see some unusual, out-of-the-mainstream films. This feast of films provides such a variety that there is something to please every taste, if only you are adventurous enough to sample the smorgasbord laid out before you.

Short films are like the appetizers among the selections. These tasty tidbits give you little bites of unusual, often surprising, samples of filmmaking, calculated to make you smile or take you by surprise, and sometimes to make you think. For both the documentaries and the short films, the film festival offers the chance to see excellent films in these categories, many of which are award-winners at other festivals. If you watch the Oscars and often wonder about the films nominated for best short films or best documentary, the film festival is often the only chance St. Louisans have to see these nominees, as the festival selections almost always include some of the films that are later nominated for Oscars.

On to the main course, the main dishes of the festival are the foreign language films and the documentaries. Documentaries always offer a chance to learn something in a pleasant way; from

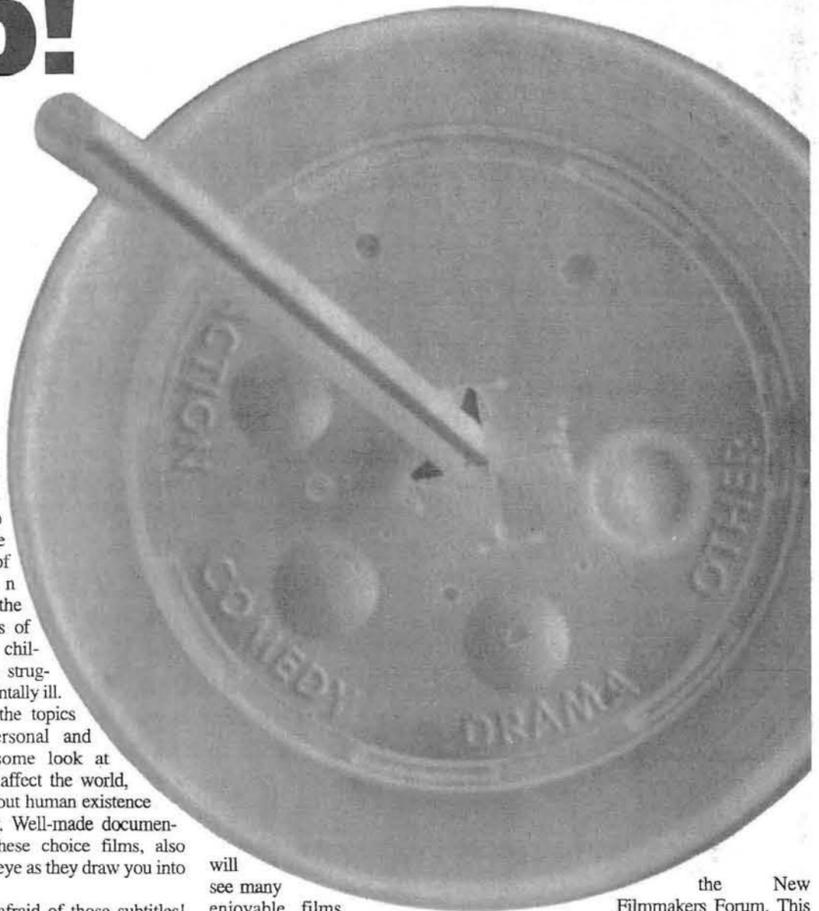
bits of history in the Mark Twain films being featured, to pop culture in the history of drive-in movies, to the darker themes of abandoned children and the struggles of the mentally ill.

Some of the topics are very personal and individual: some look at subjects that affect the world, but all are about human existence in some way. Well-made documentaries, like these choice films, also appeal to the eye as they draw you into the story.

Don't be afraid of those subtitles! Foreign language films are the other main dish of the festival and have more spice and variety than the usual offerings in theaters. A great many of these films are winners of other film festivals and many won't be back to this area for a longer run. Like a visit to a great ethnic restaurant, you can sample the best filmmaking of other nations, but here you can try the Thai and the French dishes back to back.

Many nations are represented in the selections, but Asian films are especially prominent this year. The festival picks films that have a high level of quality and appeal, so that both serious foreign film fans and the new viewer

"Well-made documentaries, like these choice films, also appeal to the eye as they draw you into the story."



will see many enjoyable films that cross-cultural divides. The main side dishes for this year's fest are films with a St. Louis connection. These films include older films either shot here or set here, or with stars, directors, or writers with a St. Louis tie. This diverse group includes just about any Hollywood film with a St. Louis tie to some newer indie films made here, including a selection of films shown at the film festival's St. Louis Filmmaker's Showcase this summer. The showcase sampler is a second chance to see what local filmmakers can do. Finally, we have dessert. The last weekend of the film festival includes the New Filmmakers Forum. This is a chance for first-time independent filmmakers to get their work on the big screen and compete for prizes as emerging filmmakers. The event also brings the directors here to talk about their films and to speak on independent filmmaking generally, in an always-intriguing series of seminars. If you have even a little interest in indie filmmaking, this event is one you don't want to miss. The Current will feature reviews on many of the films on our web page throughout the week. The festival venues have programs with descriptions of the films, or you can visit the festival website at www.sliff.org.

FILM REVIEWS

'Sixtynin9' is as surprising and unique at its title

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

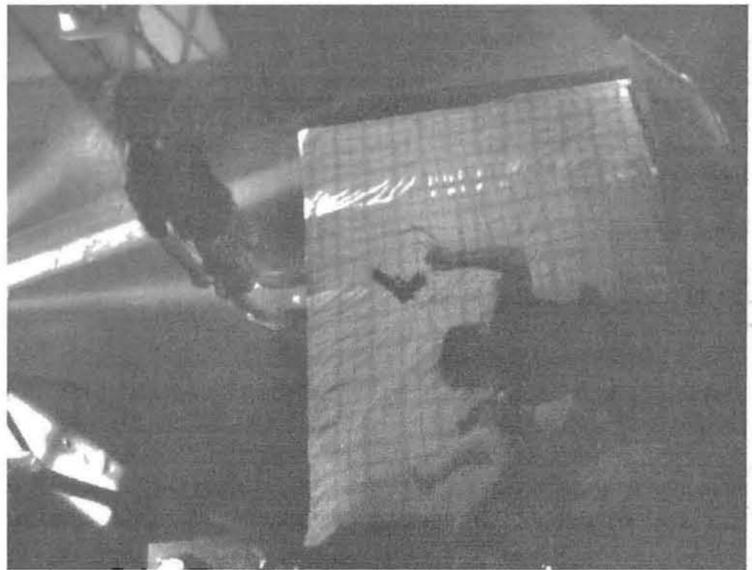
"Sixtynin9" is the very unusual title of a stylish Thai thriller, a tale that is started by the confusion of apartment numbers. This sometimes violent, fast-paced film has a big splash of dark humor and ironic twists with that hint of flavor of other 'Pulp Fiction'-inspired stylish thrillers.

A depressed young woman, newly unemployed, closes the door to her modest apartment and doesn't notice as she leaves that the metal number tacked to the door has slipped so that the six now looks like number nine. She returns to find a mysterious package by her door, a box that turns out to be filled with money.

The body count is high and the look of the film is noir, but the central character is surprisingly thoughtful and intelligent. Casting a woman in the part gives a unique touch to a Hitchcockian tale of an ordinary person pulled into extraordinary circumstances, a refresh-

ing twist. Nicely done photography and intriguing camera work add layers to the suspense as the deliverer of the box of money and the intended recipient warily try to determine who has the loot. The cast of characters is decidedly eccentric, adding to the underlying sarcastic humor behind the murderous shenanigans. Near misses, twists and misunderstandings abound in this suspenseful film.

What sets this film apart from other thrillers of this type is the larger philosophical view of the events, reflected through the intriguing central character, a kind of 'everywoman' caught in remarkable events and yet with an amazing ability to adapt to what is demanded of her. The film has a subtext of the nature of fate and chance, and of forces that lead to good or evil. This is a film that can be enjoyed as pure entertainment, but it gives you something to think about in the end. This film was an award winner at Berlin's and Toronto's film festivals, two of the world's most important festivals.



'Sixtynin9' is a sometimes violent, fast-paced film. It has a big splash of dark humor and ironic twists with that hint of flavor of other 'Pulp Fiction'-inspired stylish thrillers.

The film 'Drive-In Movie Memories' remembers a unique phenomenon

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

One of the delightful documentaries at the St. Louis Film festival is a film called "Drive-In Movie Memories." This is a wonderful film, and one of the things that makes it special is the charm of the visual dynamics that the filmmakers brought to their subject.

The documentary explores the history of drive-in movie theaters from their earliest beginnings, which actually goes back to the beginning of movie theaters themselves. In the early days of silent film, exhibitors would show films in almost any old storefront. A few exhibitors hit on the idea of showing films outdoors in the hot summer months, in the era before air-conditioning. Hence, the precursor to the drive-in was born.

But usually, when we think of drive-in movies, we almost always

think of the 1950s era, when anything involving your car was popular, from drive-in fast food restaurants to drive-in churches, a California fad of the time. Or you think of the later era of cheap slasher flicks (the quintessential drive-in movies) and teenage hangouts.

In a series of interviews with everyone from film historians to drive-in owners to the stars of those drive-in movies, this film mixes information and wonderful archival footage to weave a magical film. Instead of a straightforward linear history, "Drive-In Movie Memories" jumps around a bit in time, following individual aspects of the subject, weaving in the technical information such as how a drive-in is built with pop culture tidbits connected to the topic.

The film clips range from stills of the theaters, to film clips of old concession stand ads, to clips of drive-in movie fare, to shots of people at the theaters. A surprising amount of the

material used has a St. Louis connection, including shots of the old Ronnie's theater and the sign for the old Airway Theater that still stands on the spot of that now vanished drive-in.

The film has as much appeal to fans of local history as to fans of drive-ins. Also, the filmmakers use a variety of editing and photographic techniques, which gives the film so much visual appeal that it's just fun to watch, even if you don't care about drive-in theaters.

The filmmakers take a broad view of their subject, so the whole phenomenon is put in the context of American culture of those times. The approach is very lively and fun, and the balance of technical information, history, and just fun bits-and-pieces make this film a remarkably delightful experience. "Drive-In Movie Memories" will appeal to people who like stylish filmmaking as much as to those interested in the subject. For any viewer, this film is just plain fun.

'Fat Girl' tips the scales

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

The French title of the film "Fat Girl," "A Ma Soeur," means "to my sister" and seems more appropriate to me. "A Ma Soeur" is an intriguing, disturbing, beautiful French film about sibling rivalry and attractiveness, in a tale of two teenage sisters.

The film hits the love/hate relationship between two teenage sisters just right, with a realism not usually seen in any film about this age. The attractive older teen drags her overweight younger sister along on her outings, in part to allay the suspicions of their parents, as she goes in search of boys. Like many teens, the older sister pretends to know more about romance than she really does and she alternates between belittling her overweight sibling as unattrac-

tive to treating her as her confidant. The younger sister swings between adoration of her beautiful older sister, and resentment at the way she is treated, as she tags along on the outings.

The film paints a terrific portrait of their relationship that has the ring of truth and a universal resonance while also being very French. This is not a feel-good film, but it is a fascinating one. The photography is as stunning as the acting by the two remarkable young girls. It is a chilling, nuanced film, with an almost noir feel and a great twist.

It is a chilling, nuanced film, with an almost noir feel and a great twist.

This film has produced a great buzz in independent and international film circles and has garnered awards at the Berlin Film Festival. It is a beautiful looking film, with a very realistic look at the relationship of sisters, and a thought-provoking look at the nature of beauty.

Top films for the St. Louis International Film Festival

MacArthur Park - a winner at the Sundance film festival. An edgy, dark film about a group of drug-users in an urban park.

Teddy Bears Picnic - a dark comedy by a master of the type, Harry Shearer, with a deeper message. Also, getting a lot of attention for indie film magazines.

Business of Strangers - Another film with a lot of great buzz in the indie film world. A tale about two women, and power and ambition in the corporate world.

Mortal Transfer - Surreal French film, also getting a lot of attention in indie film circles.

Other films that look good:

"Aberdeen," "Betelnut Beauty," "World History of Poisoning" (not a documentary), "Nang Nak," and "Tape."

The festival films are all good and you can just walk into the theater and randomly pick any one and see something that is at least new and unusual and often great. But here are some really special picks among the feature length films that are running the rest of this week. Longer reviews of some of these films will be appearing on our website as well.

'Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine' offers a dream-like journey through Iran

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

The Iranian film "Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine" is described in the program notes of the St. Louis International Film festival as "touching yet comical." While it may be a stretch to find much that was comical, the film is moving and beautiful, in a bittersweet look at life and loss, that makes a wonderful film.

The film follows a middle-aged Iranian filmmaker as he prepares to make a documentary about Iranian burial customs for Japanese television. Indirectly, the viewer learns that the director was once a great filmmaker, now reduced to inferior work by the restrictions of censorship in his native land. The sense of loss he feels at not being able to express his talent without leaving his country behind hangs like a mist over him and infuses every action and encounter as he prepares for his documentary. Death is as much the theme of his present life as his upcoming film, as the filmmaker mourns for his long-dead wife as well as his lost artistic freedom.

Beautifully acted and exquisitely

shot, the film also has dialogue that even in translation has the magic and lushness of poetry. The filmmaker's dream-like journey through Iran as he prepares for his film is like a dark vignette of his country.

Along his way he encounters numerous references to death and loss, such as when he picks up a hitchhiking woman along a country road. The unemotional woman is carrying in her arms a stillborn baby and she is fleeing because she fears what her husband will do to her when he finds the baby is dead. This eerie encounter in the film is more moving and disturbing than depressing, one of many strange events in the film.

As the filmmaker continues on his journey, it seems more and more like he is preparing for his own death



'Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine' is moving and beautiful, in a bitter-sweet look at life and loss, that makes a wonderful film.

rather than making a documentary about rituals of death. Yet the central character is going on an inner journey as well as a physical one, and in the end he comes back to life. The two scents mentioned in the title tell something about the story of the film. Camphor is used in Iranian rituals in preparing the dead for burial while jasmine is a perfume the filmmaker associates with his beloved wife.

Despite the dark elements, the film finally comes back around to the light in a lyrical and moving way. This is an excellent serious film that is beautiful and moving as few films are. Everything about the film is polished and lush, a testament to the surprising strength of Iranian filmmaking. It's also worth noting that this film has won awards at many of the world's big film festivals, including Toronto and Berlin.

Documentaries and Shorts: spice of the festival

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

A special aspect of the film festival is that rare chance to taste the sampling of documentaries and short films that dot the week's film feast.

The documentaries chosen by the festival are often moving, always enlightening, and sometimes just enjoyable as films.

Among the documentaries running this week is an excellent film, "Drive-In Movie Memories," which will be shown Monday night at the Tivoli at 7 p.m. This documentary spanning the history of drive-ins is visually delightful as well as entertaining and infor-

mative. Other documentary topics for this week range from a look at the Linux open source programming community in a Microsoft world in "Revolution OS," to an examination of tattooing and body piercing as a way to connect with the human history of ritual and community in "Modern Tribalism." Documentaries run from a chilling glimpse into the lives of abandoned children living on the streets in Romania in "Children Underground," to the lighter world of showbiz in "The Road to Broadway," to the weird in a profile of Brazilian horror film director Jose Mojica Martins in "Coffin Joe."

Sampling the appetizers of short films is always worthwhile. The truth

is that you can go into any of the shorts programs and come out satisfied, as the four programs always have a mix of serious, funny, and surprising films. Since they are short, you get a quick taste and then move on to the next tidbit, so that if one doesn't appeal, there is always the next.

The short film programs group together brief films that are loosely related in topic or tone, in four different programs. These little gems range from humorous to startling, and are from four to 40 minutes in length. It is not uncommon for these films to surprise you or make you think about film or the world in a different way, even as they make you laugh or gasp.

Many of these films are in English, but a few are subtitled foreign films or are without dialogue at all. The short films are grouped as "Life Lessons" (#1), "Emotionally Challenged" (#2), "Turn Off Your Cell Phones, Pagers and Preconceptions" (#3) and "International Program" (#4). A few of the feature films also have short films showing with them.

The festival program or flyer, available at the Tivoli, Hi Pointe and Webster University theaters, lists the documentaries under the Leon and Mary Straus sidebar with a description of each film. The program also gives a description and length for each of the short films in the four Shorts Programs.

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MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

Science takes a fresh look at evolution: Part 2

The discovery of DNA by scientists in the 1930s started a major scientific revolution that transformed the studies of inheritance, cellular function, and evolution. The following decades saw the beginning of a new scientific revolution known as the "modern synthesis," when scientists attempted to combine the theory of evolution with the theory of genetics. This "synthesis" attempted to explain how DNA molecules relate to our inherited traits, and how they function on a cellular level to affect the evolution of life. Over the last three decades a controversial theory about DNA, called "karyotypic fission theory," has been creating a fissure between evolutionary biologists.

To understand what karyotypic fission theory is, we will have to understand a bit about DNA. Inside our body DNA is arranged into long string-like molecules called chromosomes. Every species has a specific number of chromosomes in its cells and this number is like a genetic fingerprint for the species. We have 46 different chromosomes in our cells, and other animals have from 12 to



Fig. 1
A Mediocentric Chromosome in Mitotic

depicts a chromosome in the mitotic metaphase state with a kinetochore connecting the duplicated chromosomes.

The position of the kinetochore along the arms of the chromosome can be used to divide chromosomes into several categories. Figure 1 depicts a chromosome that is called "mediocentric" because its kinetochore is in the middle. Figure 2 shows what is called an "acrocentric" chromosome, because the kinetochore is attached at the chromosome's ends.

In the early seventies, Neil Todd developed a theory called "karyotypic fissioning" to explain strange patterns in the numbers of chromosomes

from closely related species. Todd believes that chromosomes at the metaphase stage occasionally split or "fission" and two new chromosomes are formed. Many times this happens when one mediocentric chromosome splits into two acrocentric chromosomes, as depicted in figure 3.

Robin L. Kolnicki, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has added to Todd's fission theory by providing a cellular mechanism for these fission events. Kolnicki believes that occasionally the kinetochores reproduce by themselves before the cells divide during mitosis, and that this kinetochore reproduction is the mechanism that causes karyotypic fissioning to occur.

When Todd's karyotypic fission theory is applied to the evolution of mammals, scientists can



Fig. 2
An Acrocentric Chromosome in Mitotic Metaphase

find new meaning to the numbers of chromosomes that closely related mammals have. These chromosome numbers can be applied to groups of species and used to determine the order of developing species in evolutionary history.

One example of this trend is observed in canines, which have chromosome numbers that range from 34-78. Todd proposes that karyotypic fissioning events were responsible for these changes in chromosome numbers. Scientists studying

canines have found that the species that are considered to be the most primitive also have the lowest chromosome numbers. In contrast, the species that are considered to be the most recently evolved often have the highest chromosome numbers.

This trend should also apply to mammals as a whole, with the lowest chromosome numbers occurring in the most primitive mammals and the highest chromosome numbers occurring in the most recently evolved groups of mammals.

Karyotypic fissioning may occur on a single chromosome or it may occur on multiple chromosomes. In some situations, fissioning may occur in all chromosomes at the same time causing the chromosome number to double. Often within a single group of mammals some species have chromosome numbers that are

superfluous in the cell, because it needs only one of these chromosomes to perform its functions. At this point mutation can change one of these chromosomal duplicates without harming the cell. The second set of chromosomes allows mutation to work at a faster rate, because deleterious mutations (mutations that cause the cell to lose function) occur less frequently.

Karyotypic fissioning is more likely to cause major evolutionary changes than random mutation, which is usually considered to be the most common mode of evolutionary change. Todd has also shown how evolutionary change of this kind can

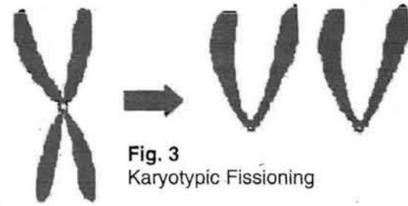


Fig. 3
Karyotypic Fissioning

number for related species.

Todd has shown how these types of changes may have been responsible for chromosome changes in artiodactyls, otherwise known as pigs, and our own relatives, apes. Todd believes that this was the type of mutation responsible for the development of our own species from our closest primate ancestors.

Once a chromosome has fissioned, the cell has two chromosomes that perform the same function. These two chromosomes are now basically

quickly lead to the formation of new species.

Once an animal's chromosomes have fissioned, the resulting mutant will have a different chromosome number than the rest of its species. This may make it impossible for the mutant to breed with an animal that has a normal chromosome number. Even if it can still breed, its offspring may be unable to breed with normal animals. These mutants may only be

able to breed with other mutants who have undergone the same change in chromosome number. In a few generations, an isolated breeding group might be formed. Once this group is effectively prevented from breeding with the main group, evolution and natural selection may push the two groups further apart, causing them to become very different species. Theoretically, this is what happened when the human species split from its most common ancestor.

There are many theories about how these mechanisms work, and a new theory like karyotypic fission may become lost unless there is something that sets it apart from the crowd. Todd's theory has gained new respect from the addition of Kolnicki's kinetochore reproduction hypothesis, and now scientists are reexamining the usefulness of Todd's ideas.

For years scientists all believed that evolution occurred slowly and gradually over long periods of time, just as Charles Darwin had first envisioned it.

Todd's theory predicts that evolution of new species may occur rapidly, in several rather than thousands of generations. This type of rapid change matches well with scientist's observations in nature, and scientists are finding that fission theory, in particular, makes many predictions that are verified by our observations of nature. In a few more years we may see this theory take its place alongside evolution in textbooks, helping to usher in a new "synthesis" in evolutionary thought.

REGRETS, from page 3

There are other chapters in the books, such as "Darker Side," and this is where people are sad about the decisions they made in the past. In this chapter, stories of alcohol addiction and drug addiction are often too familiar to the reader.

On the flip side is the older computer sales-consultant who didn't have the "emotional fortitude" to make it in college.

"The regret I have was lying and fabricating stories about where I was going to college when I was much younger. I did poorly my freshman year, because I was horribly homesick," according to the computer sales-consultant.

This book really helps the reader examine choices made in life, and puts them in perspective. The impact that these choices have is vital to emotion-

al and physical well-being.

Twenty-year-old Abby, the student, sums up her experience well. "Every day I pass several students on campus - some faces I recognize, some I don't and I always wonder about their lives. There are few people in life we get to know beyond their display layer, for reasons of time, prejudice, shyness, etc."

GUESS, from page 3

Guess describes sociology as a prospective, liberating discipline. The warning on her website reads, "Beware: Studies in sociology may result in an expansion of your consciousness."

Born in Indiana, she moved to St. Louis when she was in the 7th grade. Reflecting upon cobblestone streets, she remembers thinking her mom was crazy to have relocated here. She attended Catholic school and described herself as a 'late bloomer.'

Guess received her undergraduate in 1975 and her master's in 1993 at UM-St. Louis. She branched out to UM-Columbia to earn her Ph.D. She raised her son during the delay between degrees. She specialized in criminology and the sociology of organizations and professions. She is also a member of the American and Midwest Sociological Associations, as well as the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She has applied for a research grant to study the incidence of high blood pressure in relation to racial identity.

Firmly opposed to the death penalty, Guess has written a paper entitled "Prevailing Injustice in Missouri Executions and the Effects of Low Visibility Decision Making in Capital Sentencing," in collaboration with UM Professors David Keyes and Mike Lenza.

On Mondays and Wednesdays she is in her office preparing for her classes and doing various research until 7 p.m. Three times a week she plays Cupid for Earl Priestler, a senior citizen resident at a veteran's home in Missouri. She drives him to visit his girlfriend who is a resident at a nursing home across town, and attends church with him on Sundays.

She said she was blessed to have good teachers and a stubborn quality that helped her persevere. Her mentors include Harry Bash, associate professor emeritus, Sally Boggys, assistant professor emeritus, and K. Peter Etkorn, professor emeritus. During her undergraduate years students feared Bash, including Guess. A cartoon posted on his door read "It is

impossible to get through sociology unabashed." She avoided him, earned her bachelor's, and years later had to confront him the first semester of her graduate program. She smiled warmly as she told the story; Guess now tries to emulate him in her teaching.

Bash was aware of Guess' early apprehension to take his courses. In response to being regarded as her mentor he said, "I was less of a mentor to her as I was her tormenter."

He recalled that following her undergrad years, she sought out the best, which often meant the toughest, faculty. He was pleased to have her join the department and mentioned he eagerly hopes she receives tenure.

In reflection upon her life, "Everything is as it should be," she said. "Had I succumbed to the world's view of my potential, I would be in a housing project with two generations to care for."

Along the way, as life happened, she learned, "One is not competing against life or others, you have to compete with yourself."

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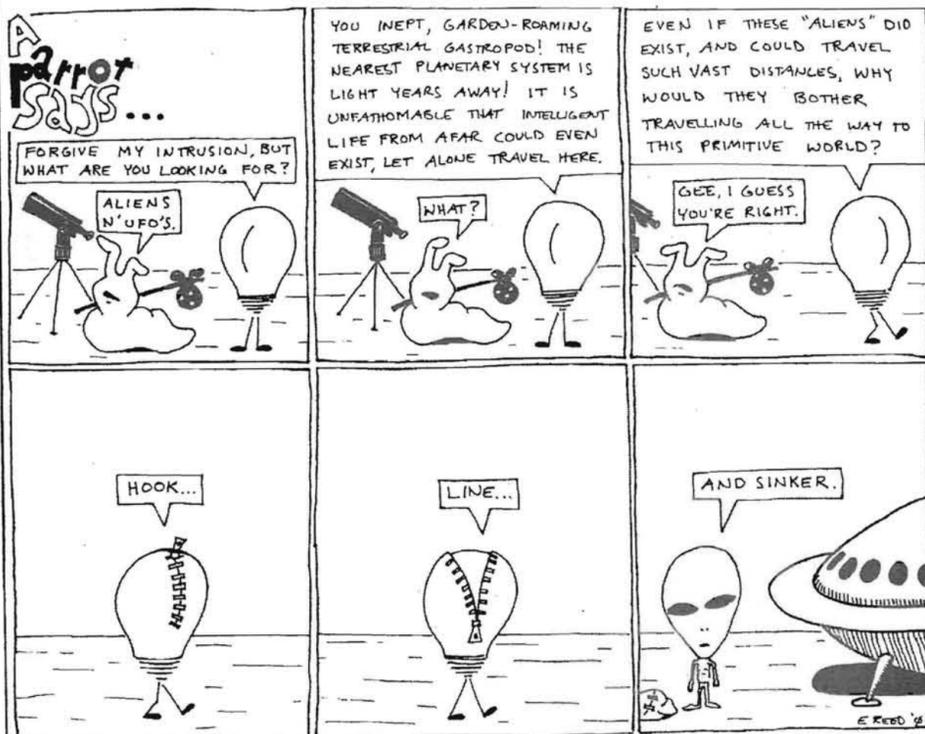
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Suicide addressed at faculty seminar

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
Staff Editor

Every year hundreds of stressed out students make their way to the fourth floor of the Social Science Building to see a counselor and talk about study skills, personal relationships, and sometimes even suicide.

Sharon Biegen, the director of Counseling Services since 1989, said roughly 7 percent of the estimated 400 yearly visitors admit that they have had suicidal thoughts. So far no one has acted on those thoughts, she said.

But the recent death of Mary Salomon raised questions of a possible suicide, which would be the first suicide on campus, University police said. On Oct. 20, the 21-year-old nursing student was found dead on the kitchen floor of her University Meadows apartment.

Police suspect she died from a possible drug overdose. Currently they are waiting for lab reports to confirm the cause of her death.

Ellen's death came just days before Biegen conducted a faculty seminar called "Recognizing Distress: Test Anxiety, Failing Grades, Suicide." The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence and included methods on detecting warn-

ing signs of suicide and what to do in those cases.

"We see people every year that are talking about or feeling like killing themselves," Biegen said.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds, she said. The Center for Disease Control

mit suicide have long-term problems and are depressed. Holidays are the worst time of year for people considering suicide, she said, especially Christmas.

"Those are the times when people feel they are supposed to be happy," she said.

It is important for people who notice warning signs in others to get help early, she said.

"You may have to say 'Have you been thinking about killing yourself?'" Biegen said. "Because what that does is open up communication. A lot of times people who are suicidal feel like they're all alone." Asking someone if they are considering suicide will not cause a person to kill themselves, Biegen said.

"It's okay and it's important to ask them," she said.

Anyone who knows someone with warning signs of committing suicide or have had suicidal thoughts can call the 24-hour Life Crisis Line at (314) 647-4357 to speak with a trained counselor, she said, or stop by Counseling Services in 427 SSB. Biegen's office can also be reached by calling 516-5711.

"There's a lot of good help available," Biegen said. "There's hope. Even for people feeling suicidal, there's hope for them to get better."

"There's hope. Even for people feeling suicidal, there's hope for them to get better."

reported that more people die from suicide than homicide.

Biegen said people who consider suicide usually give hints through conversation or their behavior. They may talk less, stay to themselves or stop grooming, she said.

Data compiled by the National Depression Screening Day office said 70 percent of suicide victims showed warning signs.

"Most people don't just come out and say 'Hey, I'm thinking about killing myself,'" Biegen said. "At that point they would usually get themselves to a counselor."

Biegen said most people who com-

Accounting majors hope scores add up

BY CHARLIE BAILEY
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday and Thursday accountants came to UM-St. Louis to take the exam to become Certified Public Accountants.

This set of exam dates is one of three that are available throughout the year, with last Wednesday and Thursday being the last of this year. The test, which is being held at four locations in Missouri, will determine who will become a CPA and who will have to retake the examination.

One of the main sites for the test and the St. Louis area is UM-St. Louis. The other sites are scattered throughout Missouri in major metropolitan areas.

For first-time test-takers, the horror stories on the amount of times many individuals have had to take the CPA examination can be overwhelming. Another impediment that plagues many people who are about to take the test is the quantity of material that must be studied.

Melissa Lumpkin, a tax consultant for the Anderson Company of St. Louis, was one of the many first-time applicants to take the crucial professional examination.

"Because this is my first time taking this exam, I am very nervous, yet anxious to finally take the test," Lumpkin said.

Lumpkin also discussed her preparation for the CPA exam. "I have been to two workshops that deal mainly with particular areas of the test," she said. "Both of the workshops were

very helpful, but hearing some of the other peoples accounts on how many attempts they have taken really pushed me to learn the material."

Even though Lumpkin has put countless hours into preparing for the examination, she still felt as if enough was not enough. On the day of the test, she still had self-doubt.

"Although I am very prepared, the amount of nervous energy that is flowing throughout my body is extreme," Lumpkin said. "This test will determine whether or not I begin my career as a CPA immediately, or if I have to retake the exam."

After the test, Lumpkin left the Mark Twain building with a look of exhaustion, but relief.

"The test covered many aspects of the business world, and many of the questions, yet similar to the ones I studied were still difficult," she said. "Although I don't know the results, I feel confident in my work."

To take the CPA exam in Missouri, a student must have taken 150 credit hours, have their bachelor's degree, be over 21 years of age, and be of good moral character. The 150-hour rule was last modified in June of 1999, when the requirement was only 120 hours.

The CPA exam is divided into four parts: Auditing, Financial Reporting, Business Law, and Taxation. A grade of 75 percent is needed to pass each part of the exam. If someone does not pass the exam, they can take only the sections they did not pass, as long as the sections they failed are above 50 percent.

TWAIN, from page 1

Director Cliff Froehlich. Ken Burns' documentary will be shown on PBS in January. It will feature techniques for which Burns has become famous: narration combined with first-person quotes and interviews with scholars and writers. It will also feature films of places associated with Mark Twain, as well as many photographs.

"Twain was subject to distractions and only spent about three months of the year actually writing."

Mark Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, was born in Florida, MO., but is most closely associated with Hannibal, where he moved when he was four years old. He wrote many novels about life on the Mississippi, featuring real people. His works are still read today, although Twain died over 90 years ago.

"One great thing about him is that he's still funny," said Blount.

"Huckleberry Finn" is Twain's most famous and most controversial work. Carkeet called Huck Finn an endlessly fascinating kid.

Fields, who has taught American literature at Washington University for 33 years, said "Huckleberry Finn" has got a lot of issues.

The controversial nature of the book centers around its portrayal of African-Americans. Bush, who is working on a book about Twain's spiritual life, said there are three main issues: the use of the "N" word, the depiction of Jim, and how to make sense of the carnival-like ending. But, Bush said, there is a bigger question. "What is the overall political and moral effect of this novel?" he said.

Twain's personal and literary weaknesses were also discussed by the panel. Bush again pointed to the troubling ending of "Huckleberry Finn" as an example of Twain's inconsistency. Carkeet agreed that inconsistency was Twain's biggest problem. Twain was subject to distractions and only spent about three months of the year actually writing.

Carkeet said Twain seemed to know he had a problem. "He had a composition practice of starting a book and then stopping," Carkeet said. "He would say he had to let the inspiration tank fill up again."

Blount said the inconsistencies in Twain's writings were reflected in his life.

"Twain had a double sense of himself that was even reflected in the fact that he had two names: Twain and Clemens," Blount said.

He said that Twain wrote important things in his later years, but he lost his sense of humor.

SWING, from page 3

Tracy Baliles and Jake Parks, UM-St. Louis students and co-presidents of the UM Swing Society, created The Fat Cat Swing Dance, an organization which promotes swing dance.



Mutsuni Igarashi/The Current

The next UM-St. Louis swing dance is at 9:00 p.m., on Nov. 19 at the Provincial House dining room. The cost is \$3 for students and seniors and \$4 for non-students.

Alyssa Bodeux, a psychology major. Others were drawn to the dance because of their interest in swing dancing.

"I took some swing dancing lessons in my freshmen year, four years ago," said Katie McKayn, a teacher at Incarnate Word Academy. "I heard about [the dance] on the Internet and I was interested. I collect vintage clothes, so Lord knows I have the clothes for it."

Others also have an interest in swing dancing. Campus police officer Tony Griemel and his wife Myra took swing dancing for 15 years.

The dance consisted first of a lesson taught by dance instructors Steve Costello and Ronny Creel, and then a dance. Costello and Creel, who moved to St. Louis from Daytona, Fla. last December, find St. Louis a city interested in Swing.

"It's a really nice city and there is a crowd that really likes to swing," Creel said.

Swing was created in the 1920s in Harlem, NY as a series of improvisational dancing with a partner. "It's America's first folk dance," Costello

said. The most famous Swing dance is the "Lindy Hop," created in 1928.

According to local Swing organizations, the Lindy Hop is credited to dancer George 'Shorty' Snowden. After Charles Lindbergh's flight, Snowden improvised a few steps based on Charleston and jazz dancing with his partner and someone asked him what he was doing. After quick thinking, Snowden said he was doing "The Lindy Hop."

"The Lindy Hop" is the granddaddy of Swing," said John Chen, president of the Lindy Hop Swing Society, an organization that both Creel and Costello are members of.

After the Lindy Hop, Swing moved on to other styles. "In the 1930s and '40s, there were all kinds of regional styles: East Coast, West Coast, Charleston, all with their own style," Chen said.

The different styles of Swing dancing can seem confusing for some dancers.

"[The Lindy Hop] does the 'Lindy' while we learned the 'East Coast Swing,'" Officer Griemel said.

"Sometimes it's easier learning a whole new type of dance than learning a different one than the one you are used to."

Despite the different styles, Costello says that Swing dancing can be addictive.

"I learned how to swing for the first time six months ago and now here I am teaching it," Costello said.

The next UM-St. Louis swing dance is at 9:00 p.m., on Nov. 19 at the Provincial House dining room. The cost is \$3 for students and seniors and \$4 for non-students. Door prizes will be presented including a \$10 gift certificate for Vintage Haberdashery and a six-week lesson package from the Lindy Hop Swing Society. UM-Swing Society is also hosting a fundraiser for people to buy Dominoes pizza cards for \$10 to receive 20 pizzas.

For information on the UM Swing Society, contact them at umswing@yahoo.com or www.geocities.com/umswing. For more information on the "Lindy Hop Swing Society," contact them at www.lindyhopswing.com or www.gatewaylindyhop.com

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