



'Hart's War' is on target

▲ See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

The fight for a cold one

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

With the opening of the Pilot House on Feb. 20, students can once again drink alcoholic beverages at UM-St. Louis. However, the right to drink on campus has been ongoing since the University's beginnings.

In the 1960s possession and consumption of alcohol was strictly prohibited on campus by state law, yet that knowledge did not stop students from drinking.

'In 1962, the campus adopted a four-point policy to curb campus drinking.'

In 1962, the campus adopted a four-point policy to curb campus drinking after 11 students were caught drinking on the night of the Halloween dance. The policy stated that students possessing or drinking alcohol would be turned over to the police for prosecution, placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of their stay at UM-St. Louis, restrained from participation in student government and other extra-curricular activities. Finally the incident would be recorded on the students permanent records.

In 1964, the provision was modified to allow suspension or dismissal from the University for these incidents. The next year, two students were caught drinking at a Student Association sponsored event. One student was suspended for the remaining of the semester, and the other student was unconditionally expelled.

In 1966, an off-campus beer party raid apprehended 33 UM-St. Louis students. It was even alleged that the president of the Student Government Association was involved in the raid. He resigned his post two weeks later because of the controversy.

In 1982, the University slightly altered its alcohol policy to the following: No one under 21 may consume alcohol; no liquor may be sold, and all alcohol services must be restricted to one-time events and recurring single events in the University Center, JC Penney Building and Marrillac Hall. This prompted the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity to petition for the right to serve alcohol at a campus event in 1984. They got permission and the event proceeded without incident.

The 1990s saw many arguments about whether UM-St. Louis should begin selling alcohol on campus. Many people were worried the issue of underage drinking might arise. Others were concerned about students driving under the influence. These arguments did not go far. The Cove, an upscale restaurant housed above the former Underground, began to serve beer and wine with its meals in 1997. The Cove closed in 2000 when the Millennium Student Center opened.

After the Cove closed, there has been a two-year gap where the University did not serve alcohol. With the Pilot House opening, UM-St. Louis students once again are able to drink alcohol on campus.

Fee increase is eminent

BY DAN WIEGERT
Staff Writer

A UM system deficit may have to be bridged with an eight percent increase in student fees, SGA President Ryan Connor told members in a meeting Feb. 19.

This year it is anticipated that the University's Budget and Planning Committee will recommend that student fees be raised eight percent. The proposed rise in student fees is in addition to the two to three percent yearly raise.

This will be a system-wide raise and will not only affect UM-St. Louis. The proposal may be finalized at the UB meeting on March 22 at UM-St. Louis.

UM-St. Louis Communication Director Bob Samples said there would be numerous negative affect if student fees are raised.

"Students fees will be higher than inflation. There could be some cuts in course offerings and in faculty, especially adjunct faculty," Samples said. "There might be some empty positions that go unfilled. Financial aid and scholarships could also be impacted."

Samples noted that a cut from funding from the State would have serious repercussions on the UM system.

"If these budget cuts are as drastic as the governor stated, the UM system would go back to 1997 funding levels," Samples said.

"This is a drastic change from the previous few years, where we got progressive raises in funding and just had to reallocate funds."

The possible rise in student fees has led the SGA to continue to press the issue of funding equity.

"All of the University of Missouri's campuses will be affected by these cuts, but the issue still remains that with these cuts, UM-St. Louis will be getting an even smaller piece of the budgeted pie. We need to keep this issue alive," SGA Vice President Joe Flees said.

In addition to raising student fees, the UM system is not allowing any faculty raises and has put a hiring freeze into effect.

Other SGA news:

The SGA passed a resolution to repeal the Higher Education Act of 1965, which was amended in 1998 by the United States Congress. This amendment prohibited giving convicted drug offenders student loans.

The Student Senate Organization has grown from having only two members to having seven new members and five unconfirmed members. There is one seat needing to be filled.

Audio Visual Supervisor Ron Edwards discussed what technology the Pilot House has and how to book the facility after hours. Students can only book the room. There is a minimal fee to cover management supervision.

Jones challenges black leadership in speech

BY STEVE VALKO
Senior Editor

Reginald Jones challenged the black leaders in a speech, "Betrayal: Sold Out by the Civil Rights Movement," in the Millennium Student Center on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Jones, a member of Young America's Foundation, related the black leadership to the Pentagon.

"Both need enemies to keep constituents in line," Jones said.

Jones, whose speech was sponsored by the UM-St. Louis College Republicans, said that black leadership associates their race with voting for Democrats.

"Our ethnicity is not based on blood or heritage, but voter registration," Jones said.

Jones notes that many Democratic leaders have taken stands on issues that are contrary to what black leaders believe, but no black leaders speak up about it.

Jones talked about the Confederate Flag being displayed in South Carolina. Jones mentioned that it was a Democrat, Ernest Hollings, who put the Confederate Flag up in 1964. Jones noted that then Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton declared Confederate Flag

Day in 1987.

Jones also touched on the death penalty, by talking about Bill Clinton suspending his 1992 presidential campaign to be a witness to the execution of Ricky Ray Rechter, a 40-year-old black man.

"Not one leader in the civil rights movement spoke up," Jones said.

Jones noted in the vice presidential search during 2000, George W. Bush had more than three blacks on his list, while Al Gore was lacking.

"Not one brother or sister was on [Gore's] list," Jones said.

Jones disagreed with black leaders supporting abortion as well. Jones said that while blacks make up 12 percent of the population, a third of all abortions are done on blacks.

"[There] could've been another Malcolm [X], you never know," Jones said.

Jones also criticized the war on drugs, saying that while whites use more drugs, more blacks are in prison because of drugs.

"Look in prisons. Seventy percent of [drug offenders] are black," Jones said.

Jones said that instead of a "recital of victim hood," black leaders should talk more about self-sufficiency.

"[It's] racial justice; wealth equals

power," Jones said.

Jones told the story of his son who was able to fix his own broken video game console. After hearing about his new skill, other neighborhood kids took their broken consoles to him. While Jones was proud of his son, his teacher had other thoughts.

"The teacher was concerned that he was preoccupied," Jones said.

Jones thinks there should be more emphasis placed on the accomplishments of blacks, especially on the airwaves. Jones said that during Black History Month, MTV aired two topics.

"[They were] Jim Crow and slavery. That's all [MTV] had," Jones said.

Jones mentioned that blacks made many inventions, including the iron and lawnmower.

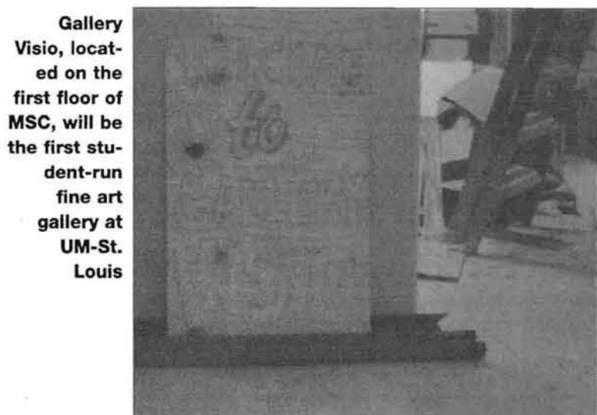
Because of his criticism of the black leadership, he has drawn protests on other campuses. The latest was a white student protesting Jones speaking during Black History Month at Ithaca University in New York.

Jones first rose to national prominence as a speaker after appearing on "The Rush Limbaugh Show," in 1997.

Jones was able to land his own radio show in 1998, called "Generation Now". Jones has also appeared on CNBC, Fox News Channel and America's Black Forum.



Reginald Jones, member of Young America's Foundation, challenged the black leaders in a speech, "Betrayal: Sold Out by the Civil Rights Movement," in the Millennium Student Center on Wednesday Feb. 20.



Gallery Visio, located on the first floor of MSC, will be the first student-run fine art gallery at UM-St. Louis

Gallery Visio will show in March

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

Gallery VISIO, opening this March, will become the first student-run fine arts gallery at UM-St. Louis.

The studio plans on showcasing both student and faculty pieces and those by local community artists. The mission of the Gallery VISIO is to give members hands-on experience organizing art exhibits and shows in a real world setting.

The first show "First Look - A Student Exhibition," has already been juried and is ready to hang. The second show of the semester will be a "Show by Proposal." This means that any student in good standing with the UM-St. Louis can submit a proposal for future exhibits.

"This could entail someone submitting a proposal to show only their own work or a student knowing of

another artist in the community that has a series that could be displayed," President of Gallery VISIO Student Association Jamie McNall said. "A group of students can propose a 'group show' with a common theme. We are hoping to have the call for this proposed show out later this month."

The gallery also plans on holding a fine art auction in the rotunda of the MSC on April 24 to raise funds for the coming year.

McNall said that construction is almost finished on the Gallery.

"We are just waiting on the four walls and a door," McNall said. "We are hoping to be operational by the second week of March."

The gallery is located next to the Pilot House on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center.

For more information about Gallery VISIO or to become a member contact Jamie McNall at 516-4775.

Pilot House opens

BY DAN WIEGERT
Staff Editor

Last Wednesday night the newly completed Pilot House opened its semi-painted gates to the UM-St. Louis public.

It was a celebration of paint. Not necessarily paint itself, but what paint could do if it is used in the right way. The Pilot House is home to a fully painted back wall, a floor mural and painted tables. The tables were painted by different student organizations, all the rest was painted by two fine arts students: Luke Schulte and Abril Borrego.

The opening began at 5:30 p.m. Students and staff were treated to refreshments and a snack bar. The ceremony began at 6 p.m. Student Government Association President Ryan Connor said a few words of thanks, with a special round of thanks going to the artists, Shulte and Borrego.

Connor also presented a plaque to the artists in recognition for all of their hard work. The plaques will be hung in the Pilot House, not to be removed.

After saying a few words of thanks, Schulte and Borrego gave the stage to Chancellor Touhill, who officially opened the Pilot House.

When asked about how the Pilot House mural was conceived and what they hoped the future held for the Pilot House, Schulte said:

"When it all started, different organizations wanted to have their own separate banners. It was our job [Schulte and Borrego] to find a way to make a cohesive painting out of it. We had over 52 proposals from student organizations and even building ops. We decided that we were not

going to reject anything, as long as it was not obscene. You can see the end result. As for the future [of the Pilot House], I would like to do a fundraiser where each semester or so, we auction off the tables [in the Pilot House]. That way we could get new artwork in here once a year."

Connor was also enthusiastic about the future of the Pilot House.

"This is the culmination of two years dreaming, students pouring their hearts into it, and making something totally unique in the middle of a hall. The administration gave us

"This is the culmination of two years dreaming, students pouring their hearts into it, and making something totally unique."

- Ryan Connor
SGA President

free reign on this project, and they were very agreeable. They threw out suggestions that we liked, and that we would not have thought of otherwise. They were keeping with the theme that we liked, and if we came to a question, they let us answer it," Connor said. "The future of this place is endless. This room is the key to changing UM-St. Louis from a commuter campus to a residential campus that we are seeking so desperately. The dorm students have a place, the rest of students on campus have a place, it's open to everybody, but I want residential life to use this. Thank you to everybody that poured their soul into this."

Chancellor Touhill also had praises for the finished Pilot House.

"When the proposal was brought to me I thought it was great because we did not have the money to finish the project. We actually did not know what we were going to do with the shell space in the beginning, then we got the students proposal, and it got started," Touhill said. "The students knew what they were doing and with the help of building faculty such as Gloria Schultz got everything in order. It is terrific seeing UM-St. Louis students take a project from nothing to completion. This project shows just how hard working UM-St. Louis students can be. I am pleased."

According to Touhill, the Pilot House is a direct representation of what UM-St. Louis students are all about: hard work and dedication.

The Pilot House will be open every day of the week, and hours will be posted at the information desk on the second floor of the Millennium Center.

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Bulletin Board

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-serve 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.

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Mon 25

Monday Noon Series

Lex Willford is the Visiting Writer in the UM-St. Louis English Department MFA Program and Guest Editor of Natural Bridge. He is the author of "Macaulay's Thumb", which won the Iowa Short Fiction Award, and co-editor of "The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction."

25

Premiere Performances

Imani Winds, a New York-based woodwind quintet, will perform at 8 p.m. at The Sheldon Concert Hall, located at 3648 Washington Ave. in St. Louis. The concert is sponsored by Premiere Performances at UM-St. Louis. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call x5818 for more information.

Tue 26

Center for International Studies

The Center for International Studies presents "South Africa: Before and After Apartheid," featuring Cecil Abrahams. The presentation will be held today at 3 p.m. in SSB, room 331.

26 (cont.)

Interfaith Campus Ministry

Taize Prayer will be held from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. every Tuesday through March 19. Prayer will be held in the Interfaith Campus Ministry Office, MSC 254. For more information call Roger Jespersen at 385-3000. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation and the Catholic Campus Ministry.

26

Rec sports

Mayor Francis Slay will be speaking at the home of Professor Lana Stein today at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the Political Science Academy and is open to all members of the UM-St. Louis community. Directions are available in the political science office, room 347 SSB. Food and drink will be served. For more information call Dave Bonebrahe at 361-4109.

26

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club will be having a sack lunch learning today from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Nosh, first floor of the MSC. This is a casual way to practice and refine conversational spanish skills. All are invited.

Wed 27

University Program Board

The University Program Board presents Silvercloud & Edwards, "A Story in Blues," today from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Pilot House. Bring your lunch and be entertained.

27

Sigma Pi/ Delta Sigma Pi Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive today from noon - 4 p.m. in the MSC Century Room C. Give the gift of life. One donation can save three lives.

Thur 28

Center for International Studies

"Israel at 54, Crisis in the Middle East: An Analysis," will be presented today by David Makovsky. The lecture will be in the Student Government Chamber on the third floor of the MSC. A reception will begin at 7 p.m. with a lecture to follow at 7:30 p.m. Makovsky is a senior fellow at the Washington Institute and Director of the Project America, Israel and the Peace Process. Admission is free. R. S. V. P. at 314-516-7299.

28(cont.)

Single Mothers Support Group

The Single Mothers Support Group will meet today from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Lucas Hall, room 592.

28

Career Services

An Interviewing Techniques workshop will be held today from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the MSC, room 327. The workshop is free. Polish your interviewing skills to impress employers in this one-hour workshop. Advanced registration is required. Call Career Services at 314-516-5113 or register in person in the MSC, room 327.

28

College of Business Administration

There will be a seminar in Breakthrough Leadership today in room 78 of the JCPenney Building. The session will be held from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. There is a fee to register. For more information call Buddy Poe at 314-516-5971.

Fri 1

Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

Visiting Scholar Daphne Scholinski will be in the MSC from 1-3 p.m. today. Scholinski is the author of "The Last Time I Wore a Dress," and the Transgender Educational Program.

1

Rec Sports

Today is the registration deadline for the Team Trivia Tournament. The trivia contest will be held Saturday, March 9 from 7 - 11 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Center. The competition is with 8 players per team. Bring your own food and drink. Lots of prizes! Entry fee - \$80 per team. Register your team in the Rec Sports Office, Room 203 in MT or call 516-5326.

Mon 4

Monday Noon Series

Eric Wiland, UM-St. Louis assistant professor of Philosophy, will present "Defining and Criticizing Terrorism." Wiland will talk about different ways to characterize terrorism, and considers whether terrorist activity could ever be justified.

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The Current is now accepting applications for the Editor-in-Chief position for 2002-2003.

To qualify, students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- have completed a minimum of nine academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

To apply, students must submit a cover letter, resume and three letters of reference.

Please submit all application materials to the Editor-in-Chief by 5 p.m. on Mar. 1 in 388 MSC.

Applicants must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand. Experience in journalism and management is strongly recommended, but not required.

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on Tuesday, Feb. 26
and Wednesday, Feb. 27
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No purchase necessary while supplies last. One pass per person. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This movie is rated R for sustained sequences of graphic war violence and language.

TEAM TRIVIA

NIGHT 2002

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Fundraiser to Benefit
John Perry Staff Association Scholarship Fund

Date: Saturday, March 9
Time: 7 p.m. Start (Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.)
Place: St. Ann's Parish Center
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\$80 per Team (Individuals also welcome - \$10 each)
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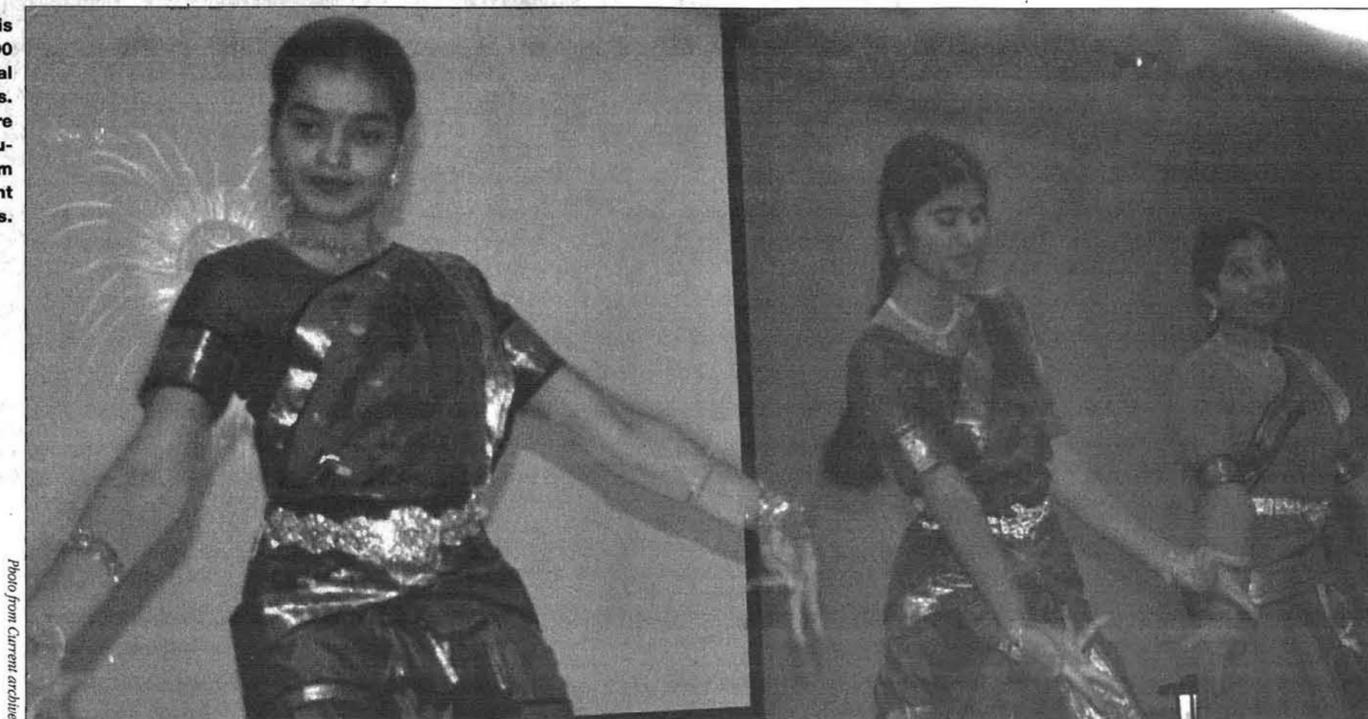
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UM-St. Louis has almost 500 international students. Students are exposed to students from many different cultures.



Conversations on diversity

“One of the differences between western culture and eastern culture is how we communicate with each other.”

- Zackry Hamid
President of International Student Organization

BY KELLI SOLT & FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

Since UM-St. Louis has almost 500 international students, diversity is a part of our campus. Globalized society is affecting institutions and individuals. UM-St. Louis students are exposed to students from many different cultures.

“I noticed that [the] UM-St. Louis campus is more integrated and my classes have a more diverse population in contrast to Mizzou [where] students of various ethnic groups tended to be isolated,” Judy Anderson, a transfer student from Mizzou said.

Lyndah Atieno and Virginia Tengetta, music majors from Kenya, consider the campus to be diverse and feel that everyone is friendly.

Marie Cheneval, a student from France, admits that she makes more American friends than other French students. Cheneval thinks that speaking different languages is not a big prob-

lem. Sunita Treechairumee, a student from Thailand, disagrees, saying that she does not have many American friends except for classmates and colleagues.

“One of the differences between western culture and eastern culture is how we communicate with each other,” Zackry Hamid, president of International Student Organization said. “Americans do not want to get too close when they talk; they want space and they have freedom of speech.”

Joe Ogolin, an American, has traveled to Japan and lived in a traditional home. He noticed segregation between Americans and Japanese in Tokyo. Ogolin is a computer lab consultant on-campus and works with a diverse group of international students. The computer labs staff 31 people from 22 different countries, according to Ogolin.

“I don’t have a problem communicating with our international staff. Even if they are new to the states you can

find a way to communicate,” Ogolin said. “Ninety-nine percent of Americans are ignorant [of] other cultures.” Ogolin feels this is based on a lack of sensitivity and education of other cultures.

Qiang Dotzel, a math professor from China, thinks that adaptation depends on the personality.

“When I got here for the first time, I needed at least one year to adapt. I was lucky that I stayed with an American couple who helped me a lot in language and understanding American culture,” Dotzel said.

International students also face problems with professors’ teaching methods, the lack of public transportation and how their parents respond to their relationships.

Karen Bacon, an American, has been dating David Shih, who is Chinese, for two years. Because of their nationalities, Shih had trouble telling his parents about their relationship.

“The biggest problem was his parents not accepting our relationship, especially his father. But my sisters and brother were okay with him,” Bacon said.

However, other international relationships have worked. Qiang Dotzel and her American husband, Ronald Dotzel, who is also a math professor, are among those who succeeded.

“My parents were against it at the beginning, especially my mom. She was afraid she couldn’t communicate with my husband. She asked me why I did not find [someone of] my own kind,” Dotzel said. “But later on they accepted it because my husband did not make many mistakes while we were visiting my parents.”

Communicating and forming relationships can be difficult when oceans and land have separated cultures and peoples from interaction. As the world moves toward a global society, UM-St. Louis provides a place for a generation of diversity to learn from each other.

Professors discuss diversity of music

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

There has been a great push in the past few years to promote diversity in music in America. Female performers are now as highly regarded as their male counterparts. Internationally based musicians are being recognized outside of their home borders. Over the past few decades, singers of different races have tried different types of music bringing more diversity to music.

The diversity issue has created interest in music that wouldn’t normally be found on the American Top 40 charts. The UM-St. Louis campus itself has sponsored international music with such events as the Center for International Studies’ Performing Arts Series and the Center for Humanities’ Monday Noon Series.

Terry Williams, coordinator for the Center for International Studies, said that the issue of diversity in music is very important.

“I think it’s critical that we have as many cultural perspectives as possible so we don’t end up in a cultural vacuum,” Williams said. “We can not survive without a more full more dynamic culture.”

Diane Touliatos, professor of music and director for the Center for Humanities agrees.

“The world is becoming smaller over the Internet, and we are more involved with the culture,” Touliatos

said. “A lot of the culture tends to be tied with the country. Americans tend to believe that nothing exists outside of our borders, but we need to be more respectful of other peoples’ music and cultures.”

Williams says that Americans are drawn to diverse music because of their taste and it’s history.

“People listen to it because it’s good; some of these musicians are really first rate,” Williams said. “People like it because they can listen to different types of instruments, like the Chinese violin, arhu.”

Williams said the music is in our history as well. “Modern tap dancing gets its roots from Irish music,” he said. “Also much of what we know as modern music was rooted from the African tradition.”

Touliatos says that diversity in music was always a presence; history just never recorded it.

“Diversity goes back to antiquity; it’s only that the early history books were written by white Caucasian males,” Touliatos said. “Women performed in ancient Greece at such events as the Olympics.”

Touliatos has referred to many other female musicians that have made their mark in musical history including Kassie, the earliest female composer with surviving musical compositions, and Lil’ Hardin, an African-American woman who was Louis Armstrong’s second wife and composed many of his hits.

Williams and Touliatos disagree about how much influence diverse music and musicians have had influences America.

“Modern music has gotten their influence from international music, pop for example,” Williams said. “I remember when the Beatles incorporated Indian sitar music. Madonna has songs that are influenced by Indian music. Musicians have incorporated different styles.”

Touliatos says that though there are more acceptances in the 21st Century with diverse music are people attending international festivals and buying international music off the Internet, more can be done.

“Americans tend to be very isolated,” Touliatos said. “We don’t know many different languages. But, Americans are making progress. There is much more than what is in our backyard.”

Williams says that two of the main objectives of the Center for International Studies’ Performing Arts Series is to explore the various cultures that are displayed around campus.

“We have professorships in Irish, Greek, Japanese, African and Chinese and we wish to show the best singers, dancers and musicians from these studies.”

Another way Touliatos suggests is to make a study in world music mandatory.

“It’s important that we become aware,” Touliatos said.



Diane Touliatos, professor of music and director for the Center for Humanities.

“We need to be more respectful of other peoples’ music and cultures.”

- Diane Touliatos professor of music

Information overdose cured by ignorance

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

Something happened to me over the course of the past year. I became a media hound. It had escalated to the point that I would listen to NPR in my car every day, ignoring my once prized music collection. I check Yahoo News, the Drudge Report and the British online newspaper, The Independent, everyday before checking my email. I now realize I completely lost sight of the things that were important to me.

When “Current” writer Kelli Solt came to me last week wanting to do an article about cultural diversity, I excitedly scrambled around talking to other staffers about ways we could tackle the issue of diversity. I idealistically thought people would read these articles and want to expand their horizons and seek ways they, as individuals, could become aware of the world outside of them. Now, I know people are

busy, get caught up in their daily lives and find it easier not to think about what’s happening on the other side of the world that they can do nothing about. I used to think people wouldn’t seek this information out because they liked how their immediate life was-ignorance is bliss. But this desire to make people aware was a result of a media overdose.

An epiphany moment came to me a few nights ago while I tried to write a justification and promotion for an educated worldview. After staring at the blank screen on my computer for 40 minutes, I walked into my living room, where I happened to glance at a literary anthology from my sophomore year. I began leafing through the book until I realized I had to meet a friend and it was too late to go back to my computer. Driving in my car, I tried to mental-

ly write this justification for diversity, but came to realize it was hogwash.

We are all aware of diversity and realize it is an important feature to daily life, but what is it really? It’s just a concept. I can turn on my computer and read about ideas and issues beyond my world; I can talk with people about global interaction on economic, cultural and political levels, but do I, or anyone else that is concerned with diversity, really let it become an integral part in my life? Sure, I buy couscous at the grocery store, but do I think about the culture that it came from?

The word “adapt” is key, I think, to understanding diversity. We can mentally accept differences but it is only over time that we effortlessly adapt to them.

In terms of becoming aware of the world outside our own, I used it think it

was a necessary component to understanding diversity. It took an hour of flipping through an anthology full of British writers from four centuries ago to make me realize that understanding diversity is not something that can be accomplished objectively through studying groups of people and different areas of the world.

The concept of diversity is much more individualized, and while accepting the “idea” of different people is part of knowing what it means to be diverse, looking at the ways diversity impacts our daily life provides for deeper understanding because it is experienced on a personal level. Diversity, as a whole, will always become integrated into daily life-unless, of course, the human mind forgets its individuality.

PERFORMING ARTS

EDITOR

EMILY UMBRIGHT

Features Editor

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Things you can do around campus to share in the diversity

1. Go to the international dinners.
2. Listen to the speakers brought to the campus by the Center for International Studies.
3. Visit foreign sites on the Web.
4. Read other news besides the national news.
5. Try new foods.
6. Look at art and listen to music to notice the influences of other cultures.
7. Watch a foreign film or listen to foreign music.
8. Talk to someone from a different area of the world.
9. Take a class in a culture you know nothing about.
10. Add to your wardrobe by incorporating different styles from around the world.
11. Learn about your own cultural heritage.

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Choose one: K-12 or universities?

As the school year ends, and the new fiscal year approaches, Missouri State Governor Bob Holden will soon be announcing budget adjustments.

If the speculation is true, higher education will take another blow.

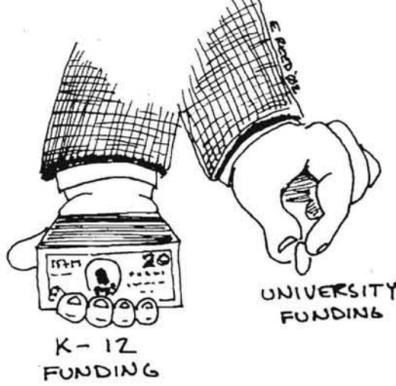
Two weeks ago, *The Current* ran an editorial about the proposed gam-

through that first semester, and possibly farther.

What the politicians and the voters, who look at the budget don't realize is that when the children do get to the college level they start paying and paying.

In Missouri, the average college student fronts about 36 percent of his

MISSOURI'S EDUCATION VALUES?



bling tax increase. Unfortunately, if we would have taken more time to delve into the issue, we would have discovered that, if that resolution does go through, the money is slated for K-12 education.

Now, we ask the state of Missouri a very challenging question: What's more important, education now or later?

On the surface, it almost seems natural to shower the K-12 children with money so that they will have the greatest chance to succeed in society. Also, since less than half of high school graduates make it through one semester of college, the theory is that if they are better educated and prepared at the start, they will make it

education, where as in high school education is fully paid for. For lower-income families, this is more than just a bill, it is a lifestyle adjustment.

Granted, there are plenty of scholarships, grants, loans, tax breaks and other incentives to give everyone a fair shake at collegiate life, but if there were enough money in the budget, then there wouldn't have to be.

Thirty-six percent is just entirely too high. And that's just the average. At UM-St. Louis, we pay over 50 percent of our educational fees, about \$1.15 on the states dollar investment.

Now, understand that Missouri is a largely agricultural state and has only one legitimately big University, UM-Columbia. Perhaps the reason

The issue:

The average Missouri college student pays about 36 percent of his college education, well above the national average. We think that this reflects the general education philosophy shown by Gov. Holden's office that higher education simply isn't that important.

We suggest:

Holden severely think again. With 14 major public universities, including four doctoral universities, Missouri could easily become an education hotbed. Also, as St. Louis has shown, major cities thrive from both the presence of a University and it's graduates.

So what do you think?

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

for this is the budget philosophy. St. Louis, which is currently one of the largest economic areas in the United States, has in it's workforce over 60,000 alumni from UM-St. Louis alone. The metropolitan area accounts for over 50 percent of the total tax revenues for the state. Try explaining to them that higher education simply just isn't priority. How do you think the city has managed to stay on top? Heck, St. Louis is what keeps Missouri on the map.

And if the state of Missouri doesn't recognize this, and recognize why, then we are in a bit of trouble. Missouri can't afford to get an education, but like many of it's residents are forced to, it needs to find a way.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Hail to King Quincy...

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I am writing in response to the column you wrote in last week's Current regarding my presence at the Homecoming Game. Had you simply asked me (or the three homecoming chairs) where I was during the game you would have found that I was in class. Of course anyone could ask why I had not skipped the class to attend a special homecoming event, but this course is an honors course, which meets only six days throughout the semester, one of those

days being Saturday.

I realize that the homecoming game is a crucial part of homecoming week. However, school is an important part of my life. You might recall that I made it to all of the pre-homecoming activities and I stayed the entire time during the dance, despite the fact that I had a class at 8 a.m. the next morning. Also, I was an active part of the homecoming committee. It is unfortunate that you can criticize me for missing one event when I have clearly proven myself to be an active member of the campus

community. Your column claims that because I was not present at the game, I am a poor leader. I find it very ironic that the honors course in which I am enrolled in is a class on leadership. In addition, please note that my class was from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, but the homecoming events concluded by 3:15 p.m. that day.

Sincerely
Dawn Gettinger
Homecoming Queen 2002

What's your opinion?

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

- State funding for education
- Tuition increase of eight percent
- Gallery VISIO

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

Do you have what it takes to be the EIC?

For those of you who read *The Current* with any regularity (you know who you are) you're probably aware that my regime as the most influential student at UM-St. Louis is coming to a close.

Applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief of *The Current* have been open for just a shade under two weeks and will officially close at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1.

It may sadden you all to know that I am not returning for another year of hijinks, but the rumors are true. My salary just won't cover the projected 300 percent tuition increase, and I'd like to graduate on the five year plan, since this year has already knocked me out of contention for the four year plan.

So far, we've received zero applications. Now that means a few things:

a) I've screwed this place up so horribly that no sane person would dare step in the office

b) All of my 'favorite people' - the everyday critics, the English students with their red pen in hand, the Brain Stew momos without direction - really don't want to run the paper from the driver's seat, rather they'll just wait until Monday and use their 20/20 hindsight to rip it apart.

c) There's an underground that is placing bugs in everyone's ear, secretly working to dissolve *The Current* and all that work there (little do they know that no-one listens to the Big Chief anyhow).

d) I've written one to many racy, provocative columns about campus leaders (some that, in that famed 20/20 hindsight, may or may not have been too harsh) that students know something that I don't.

In any event, the opportunity of a lifetime awaits one of you.

The opportunity to take charge of one of the finest publications in collegiate journalism - a great feat in itself as there is no journalism program at UM-St. Louis - and bring it back to where it once stood.

Sure, the seat can get pretty hot (you may want to consider a change of address or a false identity if you really want to tell it like it is) but who doesn't enjoy a nice, warm bum? Besides, the satisfaction and personal reward that comes with being the University's top informant is in itself worth the job.

There is no greater feeling than being able to look in the mirror and know that you've told it like it is, no gimmicks, no tricks.

What I would recommend that potential applicants do is - in priority order - read up on media law (at *The Current*, the EIC is the primary defendant in any case), learn how to manage a staff of students, come by the office an meet the staff, and most of all, call me at x5183. I'll give you the run-down, flower-free, if you're interested.

Most importantly, never forget your audience. They will make or break you.



NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

Heavy metal, heavy power

Over the past few months, I have lived with a problem. My tape deck in my car does not work. In the meantime, I have subjected myself to St. Louis radio stations.

I can only listen to radio stations for so long before flipping the dial. This station is too pop; this station plays too much rap and this station plays songs where I can't understand the lyrics.

While flipping around, I found a station that was playing a Motley Crue song "Shout at the Devil."

After listening to the song, I smiled and thought of my rebellious days of listening to heavy metal.

I started listening to heavy metal when I was a freshman in high school. As a 14-year-old, it wasn't too hard to like heavy metal. They always had an indestructible attitude. They did and said what they wanted, and their lifestyle didn't affect them. What didn't kill these guys only made them stronger.

My favorite musician was Glenn Danzig. Danzig sang about werewolves, demons and death. Danzig was built like a tank and talked about his study of ancient martial arts. Danzig dressed all in black. Danzig spoke his mind about other bands and basically said how everyone else is bad and why. Danzig always talked about the FBI keeping tabs on him. Danzig never smiled in pictures; instead he always gave a mean, angry stare. Danzig was the man I wanted to be.

After listening to his records enough, I started to turn into Danzig

himself. My wardrobe turned into dark colors, especially black. I tried not to smile too often. I got angry over the smallest things. And why not? I was mad as hell, and Danzig told me not to take it any more.

Years ago when I started college, I was still listening to heavy metal. I remember I went to class once with a Danzig shirt on. People weren't staring at me, but I felt extremely weird wearing the shirt to class. It felt like I never left high school.

Shortly thereafter, I did the inevitable. I got rid of all my heavy metal shirts and tapes. I knew this day would be coming and thought it was going to be a dramatic affair. I thought that I would have a bonfire and all my merchandise would go up in a blaze of glory.

Instead, I tossed everything into a pale gray trashcan. I wheeled the can out to the street and closed that portion of my life.

I then started to listen to classic rock (especially after finding my mother's old Rolling Stones records).

And something weird happened. I didn't seem upset all the time. I started to look at the bright side a little bit more. The world seemed to have less doom and gloom.

After having my fill of classic rock, I made a new discovery: smooth jazz. The music is nice and easy to listen to and seems to ease stress away.

Did heavy metal music make me do bad things? No. But I found out the hard way that listening to heavy metal over and over again could influence your immediate actions.



STEVE VALKO
Managing Editor

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- NICK BOWMAN
- STEVE VALKO
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"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

LETTERS

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info@thecurrentonline.com

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.

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi
Photography Director

What is your dream car?



Carmen A. Douglas
Senior / MIS

Mercedes Benz SUV.



Kim Kohne
Sophomore / Optometry

One that runs.



Jennifer Rueter
Sophomore / Accounting

Grand Prix GTP.



Gina Johnson
Graduate / Optometry

Limo, with a driver.

UMSL begins year at .500

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

BY HANK BURNS
Interim Sports Editor

Sweeping victories and sweeping defeats put the Riverwomen softball team at 2-2 on the season. The Riverwomen dropped a doubleheader on Friday, Feb. 23 against Central Missouri State and swept a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 24 against Missouri Baptist.

UM - St. Louis Head Coach Lisa Bonée was pleased with her team's performance.

"We hit the ball hard," Bonée said. "We hit the ball solid and in the hole. We had very aggressive baserunning and behind that good defense."

"Cassie Attebury threw a very good ballgame the first game and Tiffany Dewald did very well the second game. So they had good defense behind them, but the offense, hitting

the ball hard and the defense made the difference."

The Riverwomen won the first game of the doubleheader 11-3 and the second game 11-3. The offense, as Bonée said, seemed key as it came early and was spread throughout the first and second games.

In the first inning of the second game, Kelly Jackson doubled in Christine Langenbacher to put the Riverwomen on the board. Later in the inning, Kim Kulitis and Jackson were on first and third when Attebury walked to put the bases loaded. Brandy Winters hit a single that scored Jackson. That put the Riverwomen up 2-0.

Then, Jill Huwe came up with the bases loaded and hit a triple, driving in 14 and 19 and making the score 4-0. The Riverwomen would score in the second, third and fourth innings.

"We gave up a couple of runs here and there," Bonée said. "That first game they scored three that they shouldn't have and then three in the second game and I think two of those were earned. That's not bad."

Bonée feels that improvement is



UMSL pitcher Chrissy Greife gets ready to unleash her next pitch, while third baseman Kim Kulitis and first baseman Kelly Jackson wait for the grounder.

Kevin Orlley/The Current

"For the first game of the season we didn't look bad and when we came out today, we looked better."

- Lisa Bonée
Head Coach
UMSL Softball

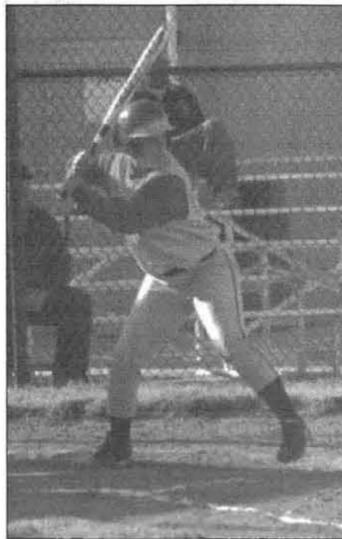
the important thing to remember.

"We opened last night and dropped two to Central Missouri, but it wasn't bad ball," Bonée said. "For the first game of the season we didn't look bad and when we came out today, we looked better. So that's what you want to do, get better every game."

Following the game, Kelly Jackson has been listed as injured. She has sustained unrelated back and shoulder injuries.

"She threw that back out a little bit in the fall and the shoulder is an injury from the past," Bonée said. "She's great with her rehab and does it all the time with Jeff and is getting stronger, but we still have to treat it a little gingerly."

The Riverwomen dropped their Feb. 22 doubleheader to Central Missouri State 7-4 in the first game and 5-4 in the second game.



Riverwomen pitcher Cassey Atteberry stands in mid-swing during their Feb. 23 doubleheader against Missouri Baptist. Atteberry was also credited with the 11-3 victory in the first game of the doubleheader.

Kevin Orlley/The Current

Rivermen start the season with confidence and skill

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball

BY HANK BURNS
Interim Sports Editor

UM-St. Louis baseball squad opened up their first weekend of regular season play on Saturday, Feb. 23 against Southwest Baptist and on Sunday, Feb. 24 against Northwest Missouri State.

Head Coach Mike Brady felt the competition level would be evenly matched.

"I remember, in years past, they would give us fits," Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady said. "It's just one of those teams that for some reason they stacked up well against us."

Brady feels that a high level of performance early may be due to more than just talent.

"With it being the first game of the year, guys will sometimes play at a higher level than what their ability actually is," Brady said. "You gotta go in there and try to set the tone early."

Brady said while their team is young and somewhat inexperienced, Southwest Baptist does bring something to the table.

"They weren't very good, but they were also very young," Brady said. "Now those guys are a year older. Sam Berger does a good job with the talent he has."

"We have to come out and swing the bats and kind of establish ourselves and let their inexperience start to shine through and we could take advantage of our opportunities."

The Rivermen came into their first weekend of play without the services of junior outfielder Buddy Simon, who led the 2001 team with eight homeruns and 96 total bases.

Simon was deemed academically ineligible following the Fall 2001

semester.

"It was one of those things maybe where he bit off more than he could chew and just couldn't quite get over the hump," Brady said. "He took some difficult classes and just couldn't quite get over the hurdle."

According to Brady, Simon will return with the club next season. Tabbed to fill the holes for the Rivermen are newcomers Logan Hughes and Jimmy Reiter, senior Jason Meyer and junior Nat Jakul. In order to play for the Rivermen, Hughes had to make an appeal to the

"With it being the first game of the year, guys will sometimes play at a higher level than what their ability actually is."

- Jim Brady
Head Coach
UMSL Baseball

NCAA on the eligibility transfer residence requirement.

"It's somewhat complicated, but we feel that they'll come down and rule in his favor," Brady said. "If he's eligible, he will definitely pick up a lot of the slack left by Buddy's departure."

According to Brady, Hughes and Reiter are two top candidates to fill the two open outfield slots.

"We feel that Logan will definitely be one of the guys that we can count on to be in the middle of the

order and provide some power for us," Brady said. "...Jimmy's gonna play somewhere. He'll be the catalyst for us, offensively. He's just an outstanding talent."

Brady also feels confident in his pitching and the defensive presence the Rivermen will bring to the field.

Right-hander Keith Wallace is returning to the field for this year.

"The guy just goes out there and he just finds a way to get it done," Brady said. "The tighter the situation, the more pressure, the more he thrives on it. He epitomizes everything you look for in a pitcher. When he assumes that closer role, game, set, match. He's that good."

According to Brady, second baseman Dave Simokaitis and shortstop Bryan Weiss are the heart of the defense.

"Bryan has the tools to play at the next level. Our strength of this team is up the middle. With Simokaitis and even sometimes Kurt Grimmer could step in and we don't lose much at all. He's solid."

For scores and statistics from the Rivermen's Feb. 23 and Feb. 24 games, visit the UM-St. Louis athletics home page at www.umsl.edu/services/athletics.

Rivermen Baseball '01 Team Statistics

	For	Against
Runs	304	265
Hits	426	469
Batting	.266	.281

Rivermen ice hockey players make the U.S. rollerhockey squad

BY HANK BURNS
Interim Sports Editor

Team USA's men's roller hockey team will have a strong St. Louis contingent at the Pan-American Games. The United States World Junior roller hockey team will play in the games with the majority of its players from St. Louis.

"They had the biggest turnout from here," Team USA Member Joe Keune said. "They picked a lot of guys from St. Louis. We had a lot of guys go to Lake Placid to tryout but it came down to the top 15 and there were five or six guys from out of town that made it on the World Cup team, but didn't make it on the USA that's going to the Pan-American Games."

Among those players on Team USA are UM-St. Louis ice hockey standouts Joe Keune and Steve Hewkin.

The two have been members of the team since the World Cup games in Florida. "We went to a tryout in St. Louis and they selected the top so many," Keune said. "The two went to tryouts in New York and Lake Placid. They picked 15 players to Florida to the World Cup."

The team, which played Brazil, Australia, Mexico and Great Britain picked eight skaters and two goalies for its roster.

"It was a lot of fun," Keune said. "They took us down to Florida and we had to pay for our flights, that was

it. We got vouchers for meals. It was really fun down there. It was a blast to represent our country in the World Cup."

Keune and Hewkin each have many years of experience in the game.

"I started roller hockey when I was 14 in a recreation league and I got on a travel team," Keune said. "From there, I met the coach that coaches UM-St. Louis right now and then by the time I knew him I was friends with him until I got on the team. I started high school ice hockey as a senior."

Hewkin, who averaged just over one goal per game in the 2001-02 ice hockey season, has a bit more experience in the game than Keune.

"I was nine years old and I played in-house leagues just like [Keune] did," Hewkin said. "I made a couple travel teams and I met the coach that coaches here."

Keune scored 32 goals and 19 assists last season and scored 19 goals and 28 assists for the UM-St. Louis ice hockey team. He has enjoyed his experiences as a Riverman.

"It's been really good," Keune said. "It's been a lot of fun. We all became good friends over the couple of

years. A lot of the guys are friends. We had known each other through high school ice hockey games and previous roller hockey experiences."

"We got on the same UM-St. Louis team and we all kind of knew each other and were good friends with the coaches and we had fun. We had fun both years that I played."



Steve Hewkin



Joe Keune

Riverwomen have high hopes for their '02 softball season

The 2002 Riverwomen softball team has started off the season okay. They dropped a doubleheader and picked another one up the next day to even things out. That's great. But what else should be expected of this team? Are they going to rise above the water level and be the team that they are supposed to be? Of course they will.

Last season, the Riverwomen posted a 29-24 overall record. They also posted a 12-10 record that gave them third place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Though it is sometimes difficult to judge the outcome of a team by what its coach has to say, UM-St. Louis skipper Lisa Bonée seems pretty confident in this year's squad.

"The last two seasons we've averaged 30 wins and that's obviously a goal," Bonée said. "We finished third in that conference tournament and we want to take that thing this year. We've got strong senior leadership. I think this is our year if the kids can just stay together."

"We gotta stay healthy and get our jobs done, execute when we have to and maintain good composure. I think this team is very capable of doing it."

This year, with senior Kelly Jackson injured, the pitching staff for the Riverwomen consists of sophomores Tiffany Dewald and Chrissy Greife and senior Cassey Atteberry. In nine appearances and 35 innings pitched last season, Atteberry had a 3-

4 record, 23 strikeouts and a 1.37 earned run average. She saved one game.

Chrissy Greife posted a 3-2 record with a 1.91 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 40 innings pitched and 11 appearances last spring. She also saved two games. Jackson, who will return a little later in the season, posted a 4-5 mark, had a 2.87 ERA, and struck out a team-high 50 batters in 106 innings pitched and 12 appearances.

While Jackson is out of the picture for a short while, seniors Christine Langenbacher, Katie Meyer and Brandy Winters should be able to ignite the offense. Last season, Langenbacher had a team-high .366 average, scored a team-high 32 runs

and was third on the team with 72 total bases. She also stole 13 bases in 17 attempts.

Meyer did not have great offensive season last year by any means, but was and is a threat on the base paths. She also has great fielding talent, posting a .978 fielding percentage in 2001. Winters had a respectable season, batting .252, scoring 19 runs, driving in 22 runs and collecting 36 hits in 143 at-bats.

Well, there it is. Judging by stats and on-field performance, the Riverwomen look to have an excellent season and should make a run at the GLVC title. If they claim the title, the team and its coach should be happier than they are surprised.

SPORTS

EDITOR

HANK BURNS
Interim Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
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COMING UP

- Basketball**
Men
Feb. 28
• 8:30 p.m. at Kentucky Wesleyan in Evansville, Ind.
- Baseball**
March 2
• Noon at Pittsburg State in Pittsburg, Kan.
- 3
• Noon at Pittsburg State
- Tennis**
1
• 1 p.m. vs. Wayne State at the Sunset Tennis Center in St. Louis, Mo.
- 6
• 3:30 p.m. at Southwest Illinois in Belleville, Ill.

RESULTS

- Basketball**
Men
Feb. 21
• N. Kentucky 85, UM-St. Louis 78.
Rivermen qualify for GLVC Tournament.
- 23
• Bellarmine 81, UM-St. Louis 74
- Women
21
• N. Kentucky 82, UM-St. Louis 72
- 23
• Bellarmine 61, UM-St. Louis 76

WEB
www.umsl.edu/services/athletics

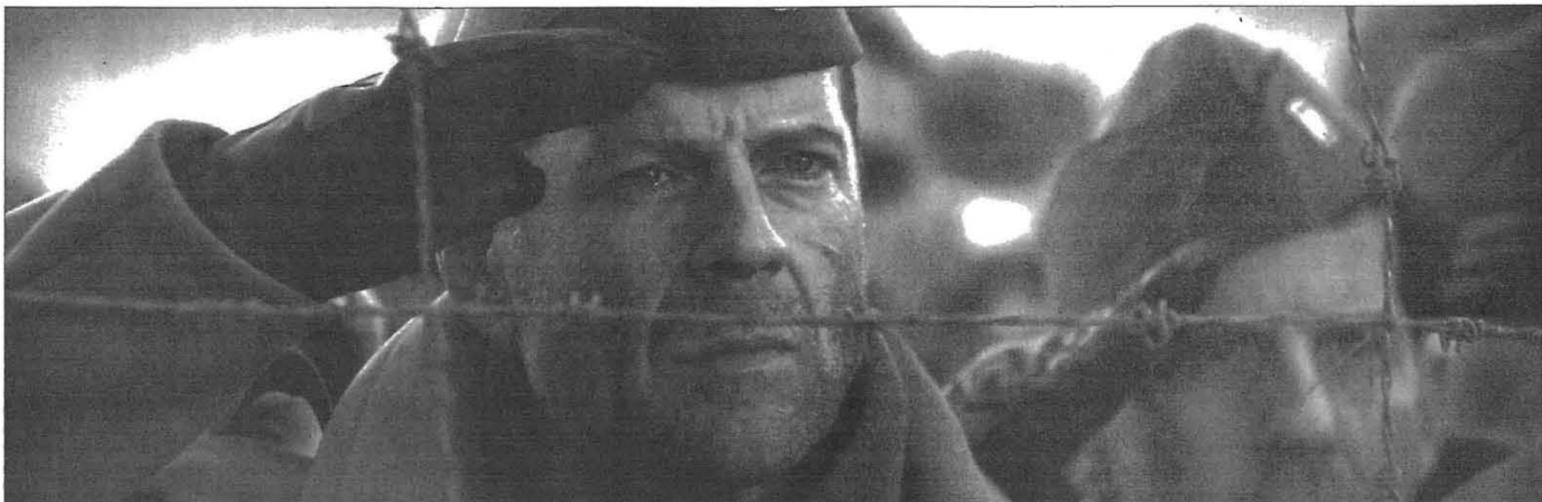
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THE ABCS OF SPORTS

HANK BURNS

MOVIE REVIEWS



Bruce Willis stars in 'Hart's War.'

'Hart's War' is on target

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

"Hart's War" is a wonderful return to the type of movie making that in the past made big Hollywood movies the most popular in the world.

In this tale of intrigue, set in Germany near the end of World War II, Colin Farrell plays Lt. Thomas Hart, the son of a U.S. Senator assigned to an intelligence center, who is, by a stroke of bad luck, captured by the Germans. The Nazis were bent on grabbing the spy who is riding in the same Jeep as

Hart on their way to another intelligence center. After interrogation, Hart is sent to a prisoner of war camp where he is met by the top ranking Air Force Officer, Col. William McNamara (Bruce Willis), a man from a proud line of career military men who is now boiling with frustration about being sidelined from the war. McNamara seems suspicious of how quickly Hart was released from Nazi interrogation. He doesn't say anything to the young officer, but assigns him to bunk with the enlisted men rather than the other officers. The prisoner of war camp is ruled by crafty and cruel Col. Visser

(Romanian stage actor Marcel Iures), who obviously relishes his successes in undermining prisoner morale and thwarting escapes, and who seems locked in a contest of wills with McNamara. The mysterious murder of a prisoner raises questions that both McNamara and Visser hope to exploit in their own ways.

Although it has its share of action early in the movie, the taut tale is primarily a thriller that will keep you off-balance and guessing up to the end. Everyone in this story has hidden motives or secrets, as we gradually see. The story by best-selling author John

Katzenbach was drawn in part from his father's experiences of in a German prisoner of war camp; tales which the author saw could be turned into a suspense story. The movie also has an undercurrent of bravery, honor and self-sacrifice, as the chess game between the characters plays out. Every detail of the movie is carefully polished to support the intrigue and tension, from the tight-lipped acting by Bruce Willis to the uncertainty projected by Colin Farrell to Marcel Iures's portrayal of the cunning Visser. The Irish Farrell was little known before this film, but his excellent performance

may make this the breakout role for him. The atmospheric, half-lit look of the scenes gives both an air of mystery and despair to the snowy, wintertime camp. Overall, the precision of the filmmaking and the well-crafted story combine to form an entertaining and intriguing film well above the standard of some recent big studio productions.

Once Hollywood was unparalleled for great entertainment movies, with audience-pleasing stories well told with beautifully stylish looks and big name stars. "Hart's War" returns to the type, with an engrossing tale of that is inspiring and intriguing.

'Storytelling' is two terrific tales

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

Do you like fiction or non-fiction?

"Storytelling" demonstrates why Director Todd Solondz is one of the top indie filmmakers around. This clever little film is really two separate stories, one titled "Fiction" and the other titled "Non-fiction," little gems that are joined only in the sense that two selections in a collection of short stories are joined

pokes merciless fun at politically correctness, pretentious writing, the confused, the shallow and the self-destructive. The audience alternated between laughing out loud and squirming in their seats, as the filmmaker took his swipes. Dead-on and deadpan acting add to the humor as the actors play their parts oh-so-sincerely.

The next tale, "Non-fiction," can stand up to a little more description. The segment opens with a thirty-something character (Paul Giamatti) in his cramped, messy apartment, paging through his high school yearbook and then calling a girl from his high school days. It soon unfolds that this pathetic guy, apparently rather a loser with a history of several false starts and failures, is now trying to launch himself as a documentary filmmaker. His project is a film about his old high school. While he starts out with a plan for a nostalgic "then and now" story, his documentary film evolves into a tale of a particular unambitious kid and his affluent family. As the film progresses, a darker side emerges as the filmmaker starts to feel superior to his subject and perhaps begins making fun of them. While the effect is very funny, there is an underlying sinister quality that looms larger as the story reaches its conclusion.

by a common world view or underlying theme. They are totally unrelated stories that share the same sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, politically incorrect, black humor that only indie filmmakers, alternative musicians and some novelists do well. Despite its undercurrent of sad truth, the film is howlingly funny stuff for the thinking audience.

Of course, a great script is the key to the success of this film. Unfortunately, too much detail about each story would spoil the fun, as the absurd things that unfold in each are part of the humor and the point of the tales. Twists and surprises are part of the structure. In the first tale, "Fiction," a college student (Selma Blair) struggles with what she really wants from her fiction writing class and how to achieve it. The absurd, sometimes graphic tale

Splendid acting enlarges the polished script and is further enhanced by judiciously chosen shots. The biggest name in the film is John Goodman, as the high schooler's father, a man of bluster who does not comprehend his slacker son, and he does a wonderful job, playing the part straight enough to maximize the comedy. The director is very exacting in the framing of his shots, so you need to watch the backgrounds where volumes about the characters or story are sometimes taking place. The mock seriousness of some shots is also part of the humor.

Both tales are thinking person's comedy: side-splittingly funny, then darkly thought provoking. Be prepared to laugh out loud and to be disturbed by what you see. Entertaining but not escapist, this film is a delight for indie film fans and thinking audiences.

'The audience alternated between laughing out loud and squirming in their seats.'

'John Q' cuts deep

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

Oh struck a nerve, did we?

This must be what the makers of the new film "John Q" are thinking in the wake of the response to this film. Interestingly, there has been more coverage and attention given to this film on the business pages and on news shows, due to its subject matter, rather than on the arts and entertainment pages for the artistic merits of the film.

Denzel Washington plays John Q. Archibald, a working class man struggling to support his family on a reduced paycheck, since his factory job was cut to part-time hours. When his son Michael (Daniel E. Smith) collapses while playing baseball, John and his wife Denise (Kimberly Elise) discover that their child has a congenitally deformed heart and needs a transplant to survive. They are shocked when they find that his employer has changed their healthcare policy and the transplant is not covered. Their wealthy heart surgeon Dr. Turner (James Woods), who had been friendly and supportive, suddenly turns them over to a hospital administrator, Rebecca Payne, played chillingly by Anne Heche. She informs them that the family must raise the \$250,000 for the transplant or they will send their son home to die. John is unable to raise the minimum demanded by the hospital and, in frustration, takes over the emergency room in an effort to force the hospital to put his son on the list for a heart transplant.

The film deals with the issues of healthcare limits by HMOs and other health insurance plans and the growing healthcare gap, through the eyes of a father facing the loss of his son.

Artistically, the film is nothing special—the situation in the movie might be a bit exaggerated; the story might remind some film fans of "Dog Day Afternoon," and there are elements of the classic movie wish fulfillment also. However, it's clear from the work of the numerous respected actors in the movie (the cast also includes Robert Duvall and Ray Liotta) that the topic has meaning for them. Clearly, insurance companies that act to maximize profits by restricting care and hospitals more interested in money than people are the villains of this film, rather than those involved in patient care.



Denzel Washington stars in 'John Q.'

James Woods' portrayal of the surgeon pulled in both directions by his need to help the sick and by his desire not to upset the system that gives him wealth, and by the other characterizations of nurses and doctors, makes this clear. Washington's John Q is a good-guy-everyman driven to extremes, trying to find a solution to his dilemma. Indeed, it appears that part of the film's inspiration may

come from Director Nick Cassavetes, whose teenaged daughter has a congenital heart defect, and he may be venting some of his frustration with the health insurance industry.

The film is worth seeing primarily for Washington's performance as the honorable, peaceful man pushed to the brink and for its exploration of this topic of growing interest and importance.

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

February

25

David Carkeet, visiting writer in UM-St. Louis English Department MFA Program and Guest Editor of the *Natural Bridge* literary magazine, will give a lecture on "The Process of Writing Fiction," in Room 229 of the J.C. Penney Building. The lecture is part of the Center for Humanities' Monday Noon Series and is free and open to the public.

27

The group, Silvercloud and Edwards will perform "A Story of Blues" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center. The concert is part of Student Activities' Wednesday Noon Series and is free.

28

A fashion show detailing the history of African-American fashion will be held from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center. The show is free and open to the public.

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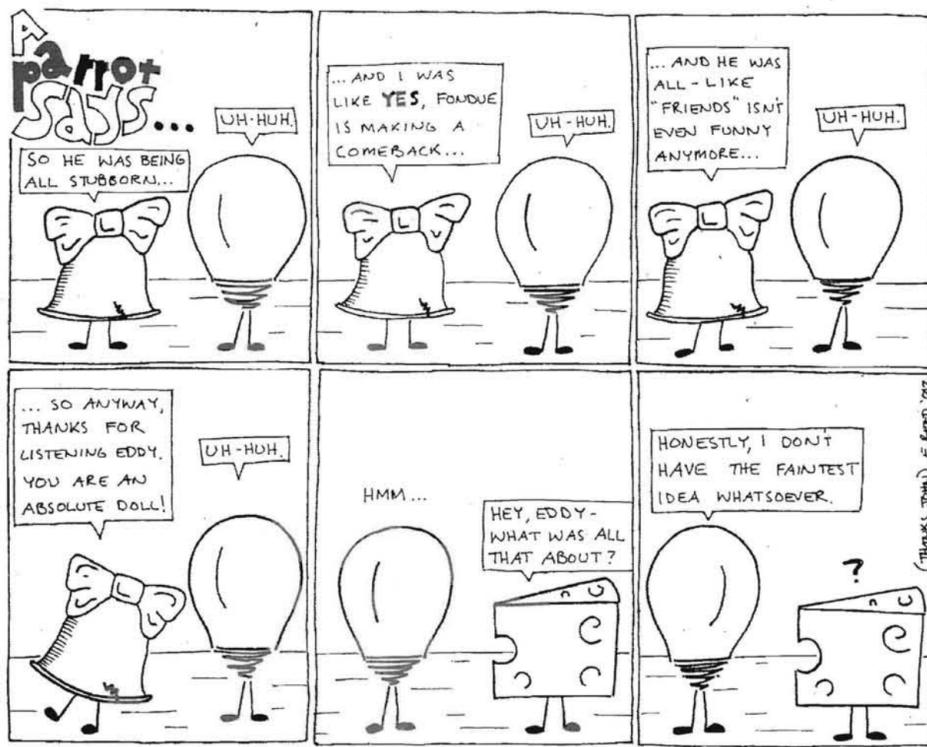
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The Genome as an ecosystem

BY MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

The head of the Human Genome project, Francis Collins, called the project "the first glimpses of our instruction book, previously known only to God." But what are we really looking at when we examine the genome? Recent estimates say that the human genome contains roughly 40,000 genes, but this accounts for only around two percent of the genome. This means that 98 percent of the genome consists of non-gene material. When scientists first discovered this "extra" genomic material they termed it "junk DNA." What is the purpose of all of this extra material, and if this is the biological version of our "soul" then why does our soul contain so much junk?

Scientists don't have a good understanding of junk DNA. Some of this material is what scientists call pseudogenes, which are the mutated relics of old genes. These genes once coded for proteins, but some time in the past a mutation caused them to lose their function. Pseudogenes are now simply taking up space in the genome, like nucleotide ghosts telling a story of the past.

Much of the rest of this junk DNA consists of a peculiar kind of nucleotide

sequence called a "transposable element." Research has shown that these DNA segments seem to have a life of their own, causing some scientists to question whether the genome represents an individual or a community.

Every time our cells divide, a small army of proteins works together to replicate our genes. Transposable elements use these same proteins to replicate themselves, but they do not contribute positively to the function of our genome.

Some scientists are starting to envision transposable elements as a kind of genomic parasite, existing within our genome and using our genetic machinery to reproduce.

Transposable elements can "jump" out of our chromosomes and then reproduce and re-integrate themselves into a different location of the chromosome. Sometimes when these transposable elements insert into a chromosome, they destroy a functional gene by jumping into the middle of its sequence. The next time the cell is ready to divide, it cannot copy the gene because the transposable element has turned the normal gene sequence into gibberish. Recently scientists have been finding that the unfortunate jumping of transposable elements may be the root of many cellular diseases.

Transposable elements are occa-

sionally able to leap from species to species. Certain mutations may turn a transposable element into a virus that is then able to move to a new host and bury itself comfortably into the new host's genome. Perhaps some viruses have transposable elements as ancestors. Through rapid breeding and genome jumping, transposable elements have remained successful for millions of years.

Our cells have methods of resisting the negative effects of these genomic parasites. DNA sequences sometimes have special molecular sequences on their ends called "methyl caps." These caps are made of hydrocarbons and prevent proteins from copying the sequence. Since transposable elements use the same machinery to copy themselves, methyl caps can be used to prevent transposable elements from reproducing.

Even without methyl caps, transposable elements do not live forever. Over millions of years, random mutation causes them to lose their ability to reproduce. Between mutation and methylation, scientists believe that the vast majority of transposable elements in the genome are already "dead" or are close to death.

It is believed that between active and inactive forms, transposable elements make up some 40 percent of the

human genome.

Some research, however, indicates that transposable elements aren't all bad. Sometimes when a transposable element jumps within the genome, it drags a piece of one gene with it and attaches it to a different gene in another location. In this way, transposable elements can bring about major changes in the genome, some of which may be beneficial for the organism.

Scientists now believe that a transposable element was responsible for the gene that enables our immune system to rapidly create the thousands of proteins needed to stave off infections. This example is only one of dozens that researchers have uncovered in recent years.

When scientists first began examining the genome, it was tempting to imagine that they were close to finding the key to our biological essence or soul; but as we peer into the tangled chemical make-up of our cells, it seems that our genome is more a representation of an ecosystem than an individual.

Our own genes are evolving side-by-side with thousands of parasitic molecules that can either cause us harm or drive our evolution in positive directions. As scientists uncover more of this mysterious ecosystem, it becomes harder and harder to tell where they end and we begin.

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