



Find out the skinny on tattoos.

▲ See page 3

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Some campus Elevators lack proper safety measures

Elevators missing features designed to ensure safety of riders

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

There has been some concern recently regarding the condition of the elevators at UM-St. Louis.

Most elevators in the campus buildings display only minimal information. All of the elevators display "In case of fire use the stairs" signs and note that the maximum capacity is 3,500 pounds or 21 persons.

Not only does the fact that so many elevators offer so little information concern students, but also there is no proof of inspections or certificates from the state posted in the elevators saying they have passed the codes of operation.

In 1994, The Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Division of Fire Safety took a step to ensure that elevators operate under sufficient codes.

The Department of Public Safety and Building Division of Missouri says that there are no requirements that a certificate must be posted inside of the car. However, there are minimum standards that require a sign to be posted in the elevator's machine room, and if there is no indication of this, the building should be written-up for breaking a code violation.

"Some elevators on campus say that all certificates are kept in a central file in the Facility Service Building, room 243. The main reason why the inspection codes are not displayed is because of campus vandalism," Frank Kochin, director of facility services, said.

A low-pitched squeaking noise might be heard while riding in the Millennium Student Center's elevators, the newest on campus, that were installed in 1998.

Some of the elevators on campus are relatively new, some are moderately old, and some were installed in the 1950's, when many current regulations were not in effect.

Kochin goes on to describe that there have been service, mechanical and electrical problems with the elevators. The main problem with some is that there are no ground fault plugs. Ground fault plugs are a part of the circuit and decrease a person's risk of getting an electric shock.

The last elevator inspection was conducted in March by Thomas McGrath. McGrath is licensed in the state of Missouri by the NESAs (National Elevator Safety Association).

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Floyd named president

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

After months of speculation and secrecy, the University of Missouri System has a new president. The appointment of Elson S. Floyd was announced Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Floyd comes to the University of Missouri as the Board of Curators' unanimous choice for the position. The secrecy of the vote and the overall process provided controversy for the selection process. There was some criticism from the media, including the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, that information was not provided about candidates and finalists. Floyd will be replacing President Manuel T. Pacheco, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Pacheco is due to step down on Dec. 31. Floyd will assume the position of president Jan. 6 of 2003.

Unlike Pacheco, however, Floyd will be making substantially more than the \$260,000 Pacheco made in his last year as president. Floyd's annual compensation will be \$350,000, with the possibility of \$50,000 per year in deferred compensation based on successful annual performance reviews. He will receive none of the deferred money if he does not remain president of the University of Missouri System for a full five years. Like Pacheco, Floyd will live in a University-provided house and will be given a University automobile.

Before coming to the University of Missouri, Floyd was president of Western Michigan University. He was popular during his tenure at that institution, so much so that in the days prior to his hiring by the University of Missouri, faculty and students held rallies and sent him e-mails asking him to stay. Floyd also worked as executive vice chancellor and clinical professor of education at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Floyd was introduced to UM-St. Louis Thursday at a reception held in his honor in the Mercantile Library. He was accompanied by his wife, Carmento, at the press conference.

His name has been talked about in several media outlets in the last few weeks, including the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, as the Board of Curators' primary choice for the position.

"The University commands great



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Newly hired UM President Elson Floyd greets members of the press, faculty members and students after his speech at the Mercantile Library Thursday morning. Floyd was named UM President after meeting with the UM System Board of Curators,

which unanimously chose Floyd as their recommendation for System President. He will take over for President Manuel T. Pacheco, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Floyd is the first African-American president in UM history.

respect from the outside community," Floyd said. "The real strength a great university enjoys is in its people."

Floyd gave a speech to assembled students and members of the media, faculty, and staff in which he outlined his plan for the UM System. According to Floyd, one of his biggest priorities will be to focus on the budget problems currently facing the University of Missouri. He also said he wants to try to effectively demonstrate to Gov. Bob Holden and the Missouri State

Legislature the importance of higher education and its overall effect on the state.

"Quality and excellence are what we need to focus on as an institution," Floyd said. "We must be appropriate stewards of a public trust that has been invested in us. I pledge we will do everything we can to reward the trust of the people and government of Missouri. If the schools are having classroom difficulties, we need to respond to those issues as a university."

While Floyd hopes to persuade Gov. Holden to avoid further cuts to the higher education budget, he also made clear the importance the private sector plays in the funding process and his ambition to bring more private dollars to the UM System.

"It is those private dollars that will determine the excellence of our institution," Floyd said. "I don't want to step on the toes of the individual schools and their chancellors, but I am a very aggressive person, a very

tenacious person, and I plan on doing whatever I can to get that funding in here."

Floyd went on to say that it is imperative for the University of Missouri to form partnerships with the outside community to promote the school. According to Floyd, this includes fundraising tours and a tenacious public relations campaign to promote the school.

see PRESIDENT, page 9

Students face higher fees

SGA approves increases; new fees

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

Two student fee increases and two new student fees, none of which will be optional for students, have been given approval by the Student Government Assembly for the 2004 fiscal year. Though the fees that were proposed have been approved by the Assembly, they have not been made official by the University at this time.

The new fees, if passed, will be for the Performing Arts Center and the campus's infrastructure budget. Reinhard Schuster, vice-chancellor of administrative services, attended the SGA's monthly meeting this past Friday to explain the fees and answer any questions the Assembly had.

The proposed new Performing Arts Center fee would be \$10 per semester for fall and winter semesters and \$5 for the summer sessions. Included in the proposed fee is a 10 percent discount for students when purchasing tickets for events at the center at a limit of two tickets. The discount will only be available to students during the semesters in which they are enrolled. This means if a student is enrolled during the fall and winter semesters, but not the summer, and would like to attend an event at the center over the summer, they will not be eligible for the discount at that time.

"There are two sides to the performance hall: one is the facility

side, and the other is what they call the 'programming side,' which brings in the events. I believe this money will go to the programming side," Schuster said.

Schuster believes that this fee will help get students into the center.

"I think this is going to be an exciting place and there are going to be a lot of events that [students] are going to want to see," Schuster said. "It is probably one of the few centers in the Midwest of this quality."

The second fee that has been proposed is a \$2 per credit hour fee that will go towards the campus infrastructure budget. The infrastructure budget pays for such things as Bi-State passes for students and the on-campus shuttle. Though this is a new fee, those who already pay for parking would not notice this increase. If the University approves this fee, parking per credit hour, which increased this summer to \$20 per credit hour from \$18 per credit hour, will drop back to \$18 per credit hour. The remaining \$2 per credit hour will still be billed to students, only labeled as an infrastructure fee. The reason for this is that charging the \$2 per credit hour to all students, not only those who drive, will guarantee that every student is paying for services such as the shuttle and Bi-State pass.

"The question is, Is it right, or is it equitable, to charge the shuttle, which may be used by commuter students



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Vice-Chancellor of Technical Services Jim Krueger looks over figures at the Student Government Assembly meeting last Friday.

and non-commuter students, to only those who drive?" Schuster said.

The two fee increases the Assembly approved could affect the existing athletics fee and health services fee. The proposed increase in the athletic fee would be 20 cents per credit hour, making the current fee of \$8.80 per credit hour \$9 per credit hour.

According to Schuster, one reason for the increase is to help offset the rising membership fees the University has to pay to the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which all UM-St. Louis sports teams are a member of.

The proposed fee increase for health services of 22 cents per credit hour would make the fee \$2 per credit

hour opposed to the current \$1.78 students pay for health services. Other business at the meeting included the election of a new Student Government Association vice-chairperson.

see STUDENT FEES, page 12

Bullet In 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 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.

November

Zeta Phi Beta

Zeta Phi Beta will be hosting the Boogie Nights Talent Showcase in the Pilot House on Dec. 13. Prizes will be awarded. For more information or to sign up, call 370-5233 or email questions to zeta_rho@finer-woman.zzn.com

Mon 18

Pre-Med Society

The UM-St. Louis Blood Drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the MSC in conference rooms 314 and 315. E-mail premed@admiral.umsl.edu to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome! The drive is being sponsored by the Pre-Med Society.

Put it on the Board!

Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.

Mon 18 (cont.)

Monday Noon Series

This week, Don Phares, professor of economics and public policy, will present "Cuba's Future, Marx or Wal-Mart? - A Slide Talk." Phares has visited Cuba twice during the past three years. The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229.

Mon 18 & Wed 20

Nurses Association

The next meetings for the Student Nurses Association will be Monday, Nov. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to noon and Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Student Lounge at Seton Center. There will be recruiters from BJC Healthcare System and employment opportunities and information about BJC. There will be food, fun, and a prize.

Tues 19

Golden Key

The next and final Golden Key meeting of the fall 2002 semester will be held at 3 p.m. in the Golden Key cubicle on the 3rd floor of the MSC in the Student Organization Offices.

19

Rec Sports

Coed Wallyball Triples tournament will be held Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts. Teams must consist of three players and contain at least one male and one female. Register in the Rec Office, 203 MT by Nov. 19.

There will be a Paintball Rec Trek - Saturday, Nov. 23. Only \$10 for students and includes shuttle, gear and a fun day of paintball games. This is an off-campus Rec Trek sponsored by Rec Sports and Student Activities. Register in the Student Activities Office, 366 MSC by Nov. 19.

Wed 20

Campus Ministry

The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will be having a free Bible Study from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The study is held every Wednesday. The ministry is located at 8000 Natural Bridge Road. Call 385-3000 for more information.

Thur 21

Health Services

The Great American Smokeout will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSC on the 2nd floor. A booth will be set up handing out information on how to quit smoking and getting support. Goody bags will be given away for those attempting to quit. There will be a raffle for a "cold turkey" to be given away the following week. Also, this will be an opportunity to sign up for an on-campus smoking cessation group sponsored by University Health Services. For more information, call Michelle Russell at 515-5414.

Sat 23

Student Life

Second City will perform at 7 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. The world-renowned comedy troupe, which has fostered numerous comedy legends, including Saturday Night Live alumni Gilda Radner, Chevy Chase and Dan Akroyd, is coming to UM-St. Louis.

Mon 25

Monday Noon Series

"Putting Mosaics Back Together: Undoing Nineteenth-Century Restorations of The Last Judgment at Torcello" will be the topic of this week's Monday Noon Series. The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229. For more information, contact Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

The Campus Crimeline

November 8

A University employee reported that unknown person(s) broke out the vent window of his van while it was parked on Lot C.

November 9

A student who resides at Bellerive Residential Hall reported that unknown person(s) slashed both tires on his bicycle.

November 10

A burglary was discovered during routine patrol of the Bell Electric Construction trailer located in the rear of the Performing Arts Center.

November 12

University personnel reported that unknown person(s) broke into the trailer located in the rear of the General Services Building and stole a laptop computer.

November 12

Personnel from the Conti Electric Company reported that unknown person(s) broke into their construction trailer located in the Phase II construction site and stole miscellaneous items from the trailer.

November 14

A student reported that unknown person(s) broke

the window to her auto and stole the stereo from the auto while it was parked on Lot RR.

November 15

Property damage was discovered at the old Normandy Hospital. Apparently, an unknown person had broken out some glass to the building by throwing an object through it.

November 15

University Officers arrested a juvenile subject at the corner of West Drive and Mark Twain Drive for driving a stolen vehicle after the vehicle was involved in an auto accident.

Corrections

In issue 1069 of *The Current*, in the article "Vice chancellor's office renovated: New 'improvements' over \$100,000" Director of Business Services Gloria Leonard's name was incorrectly attributed to information in the story. It was Gloria Collins, manager of campus procurement, who provided information for the story.

In issue 1069 of *The Current*, the photo caption that accompanied the photo for the article "Vice chancellor's office renovated: New 'improvements' over \$100,000" failed to recognize the man working on renovations to Woods Hall. The worker's name is Jim Kelly.

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University of Missouri - St. Louis DR. KING ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Requirements

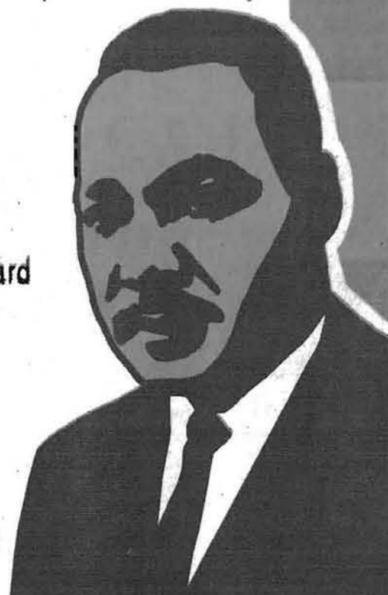
- *Limited to 500 words (double spaced typed)
- *Must speak to the philosophy of Dr. King
- *Neat and grammatically correct
- *Must be currently enrolled UMSL students (fs 02 & ws 03)

Submissions must be received in the Office of Student Life by
 Friday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m.

- 1st Place \$500
- 2nd Place \$300
- 3rd Place \$200

Winners will be presented with their award on Monday, January 20th at the annual MLK Holiday Observance

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African culture workshop emphasizes importance

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

The Office of Multicultural Relations Academic Affairs sponsored an interactive workshop on Thursday, November 14, focusing on the history and culture of Africa, which was presented by Adell Patton, Jr. Over 55 students attended the presentation of "De-Tarzanizing Africa." "The main purpose of the presentation was to help students understand just how modern Africa's culture is and how movies have depicted and described its culture," said Gwendolyn Packnett, director of multicultural relations.

Not only did Patton get the audience laughing and involved at the very beginning of the lecture, but he also guaranteed that every person in the room would walk away having learned something new. While gathering the attention of the crowd, he explained how in books, movies and stories, Tarzan is perceived as being a white man swinging from trees in Africa. He

went on to say how most Elementary and Middle Schools have been teaching children misconceptions that don't show real respect to African history.

"Aw-oo-aw," yelled Patton, imitating the call of Tarzan. Not only is African art forsaken, says Patton, but many people are misled by the appearance and language used by Africans.

"Art and religion are closely interwoven into the life of its people, and Africa is the cradle of humankind," Patton protests.

According to him, to de-Tarzanize means to take the Tarzan notion out of history and to take a step closer to the reality of the culture and bring African Americans together. To do that, Patton presented slides, maps and information about West African art.

The overhead slides took the crowd on a virtual journey through Africa, including places like Nigeria, Bantu and the Congo. The main importance of the history of art is reflected in how it is made and its symbolic meaning.

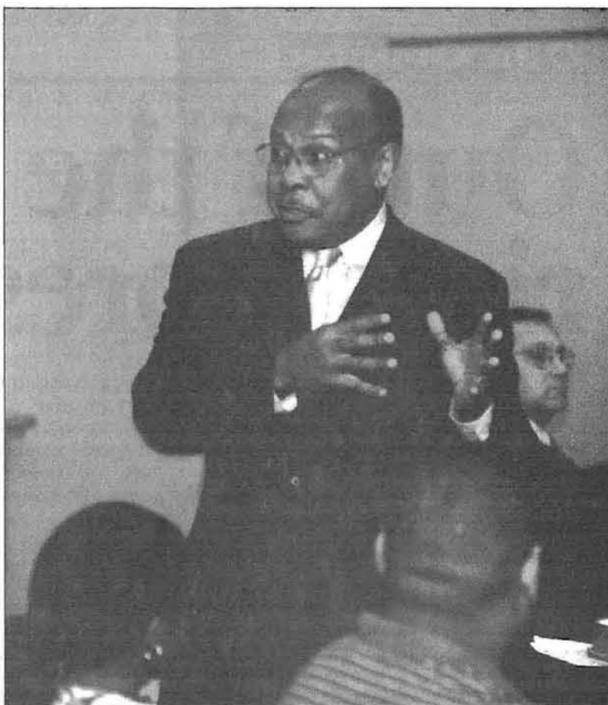
One example in his lecture was ter-

racotta art, which dates back to 900 B.C. and is made from baking clay and mud to create its form. Some art can tell the status of people, such as whether they are from a patrilineal or matrilineal society. Most African art displays the beauty and power of women.

The value and worth of some African art was mentioned. One slide showed an ivory sculpture that costs approximately \$500,000.

"Buy and invest in African art," advised Patton. Over the last century, the art has had such a dynamic impact on people that it has emerged in Europe and other countries. Along with key ideas and major points about African culture, Patton used his own personal photos, stories and experiences of his previous trips to Africa.

"In my opinion, the workshop reinforced the idea that Africa is a complex continent and that there are many similarities to other cultures around the world," graduate student Susan Manuel said.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Visiting professor Adell Patton spoke Thursday on "De-Tarzanizing Africa." According to Patton, old and false Western stereotypes persist, skewing the public's view of African culture as one of a primitive nature.

Pricking the skin with semi-permanent ink

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, most people thought that people with tattoos were either bikers or rednecks. Since then, the tattoo trend has undergone many cultural changes.

Tattoos have not only been a trend for young adults but also for movie stars, professional athletes, songwriters and models, who all make cultural statements by sporting this form of art.

Sarah Michelle Gellar, the actress from "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," has three tattoos: a Chinese symbol on her back, a Celtic symbol on her hip and a heart with a dagger on her ankle. Actress Drew Barrymore has been known for having a variety of tattoos on her body. R&B singer Usher's tattoo of his name with a sword through it on his left arm is famous.

The tattooing industry has become one of the fastest growing businesses in the United States.

Many UM-St. Louis students have shared their own experiences in getting tattoos. "I was more worried before getting my tattoo," said Dustin Martinez, sophomore. "Then afterwards, I realized that it wasn't so painful after all."

Recently, the most popular

areas of the body to get tattooed have been the lower backs for girls and around the biceps for guys.

Tattoo parlors and studios are helpful when

picking out designs. Many places have wall displays or portfolios of pictures that can help a person make their final decision.

From butter-

flies to barb wire, everyone is sure to find a design to fit their own personality. Popular picks include Chinese signs, Celtic symbols and Zodiac signs.

It is good to select a tattoo parlor where the employees are licensed and that has certified artists that understand what a person wants. "We have two artists who are both licensed through the St. Charles Health Department," an employee of Threshold Body Art of St. Charles said. Missouri state regulations require that a person be 18 years old to get a tattoo. Prices can range anywhere from \$40 up, depending on the size, colors and time involved.

There are still many factors that one should consider before getting stuck with the needle. People need to take precautions or they might be faced with problems down the road.

"The number one thing that people should remember before coming into the booth, is to make sure that it's what

they want because tattoos are permanent," said artist Gary Glatstein from Goldenlands Tattoo shop on St. Charles Rock Road.

Celebrities such as Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp have gotten themselves in trouble by putting their ex-lovers, Billy Bob Thornton and Winona Ryder, respectively, on their bodies.



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

Top - UM-St. Louis student and Villa resident Wade Brown displays the impressive tattoo on his back. Bottom left - Oriental characters are a popular choice of tattoo as the one on Jane Lewis's belly clearly shows. Bottom Right - UM-St. Louis student Emily Pack's lower back flaunts a tattoo of a Celtic knot.

see TATTOO, page 9

PPRC hosts photographic river ride

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

From November to January, students visiting the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) can take a riverboat cruise down the Chicago River--by photos, that is.

The photo exhibit "Chicago From the River" will be on display, featuring photographs by Joan V. Lindsey.

The exhibit was inspired by a trip that PPRC Director Jean Tucker took last summer in Chicago on a tour of architectural landscapes.

"Chicago is the second greatest city in the United States, under New York," Tucker said. "But it wouldn't have existed without the river, just like St. Louis wouldn't have existed without the Mississippi River."

Tucker said that she was very impressed by the urban landscape and the architecture of Chicago. "One of the great urban experiences was to be in Chicago and take a trip by some of the world's best architecture," Tucker said.

It was on this trip in the summer that Tucker met Lindsey, who was a docent, or volunteer tour guide, on the river trip and who also had written a book on Chicago. "She is not a professional photographer," Tucker said. "This photo exhibit is the closest we can get to a trip on dry land."



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

The PPRC opened a new show Monday, titled "Chicago From the River," which features photographs by Joan V. Lindsey, a tour docent. The exhibit, which runs until Jan. 31, is accompanied by a video, "Chicago by Boat - The Chicago River Tour."

The exhibit includes buildings such as the Wrigley Building, the Jewelers Building, the Montgomery Ward Building and River City, all of which Tucker said are impressive,

night and day.

"I stayed in a hotel near the river where you can see a large part of the city in the daylight," Tucker said. "By day it's wonderful, but by night it's

beautiful. It's one of the best urban ways of life."

Besides the modern photos, the exhibit also presents a history of Chicago, including an etching of the

landscape in 1892. It's not commonly known that Chicago actually began life with a very detrimental name.

"Chicago came from the Indian word 'Chicagou,' which meant 'the stink of wild onion and garlic,'" Lindsey writes that it was hardly a garden spot," Tucker said.

Originally, Chicago was populated by fur traders in 1830 but then grew exponentially in less than one hundred years.

"The city grew from 100 fur traders in 1830 to more than one million by 1890," Tucker said.

Tucker hopes that the exhibit will bring people who watch it a sense of pride in their city. "Churchill said that man shapes their environment and then the environment shapes man," Tucker said. "UMSL students will be among those who will be shaping the city to their future."

The next exhibit for the Public Policy Research Center will be "Clothesline," starting on February 10, and running through March. Tucker finds a strong correlation between this exhibit and the Chicago exhibit.

"Clothesline" was an exhibit from a schoolteacher in Michigan who sent his students to take pictures of clothes that hung on clotheslines," Tucker said. "You can tell a lot about the families from the clothes in the photos, just like you can tell a lot about a city from its buildings and architecture."

SECOND CITY

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Second City brings laughs to University

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

On Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium, the University Programming Board will welcome the Second City Comedy Group. Second City has performed hundreds of shows nationwide and has fulfilled its goal of bringing laughs to every crowd.

In 1963, Second City consisted of a group of actors that toured the country, providing theatrical skits on stage. In 1976, producers signed a contract with the group to be aired on television in Toronto, Canada. The show was satirical and featured actors such as John Candy, Joe Flaherty, Eugene Levy, and Catherine O'Hara.

After running its seven-year series and getting 13 Emmy Award Nominations, the television show was broadcasted in the United States. Television stations such as Showtime, CBS and NBC aired the group. Their biggest hit was landing a job in connection with Saturday Night Live.

Later, many other big name actors like Martin Short and Mike Meyers joined the crew. It seemed as though the actors instantly became television stars.

Despite remaining busy on the tube, Second City never abandoned its stage roots.

see SECOND CITY, page 12

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Out of the mists, rises a president

Every university in the state has something that makes it stand out. For the UM System, it is several things, including size. Another factor separates us as well—the secrecy of the selection of the new president and new chancellor of UM-St. Louis. Other public higher education institutions in the state make a conscious effort to include the public in the selection process by making the candidates and interviews public and accessible to the public. The UM System, however, has demonstrated that it wants to only include people in the “inner circle” in decisions such as these that state tax payers pay for. It has closed its doors meetings and information the public and the press deserve to be privy to.

The UM System finally has a new president to replace outgoing president Manuel T. Pacheco. Dr. Elson Floyd of Western Michigan University has been named to the position and is set to take over the office Jan. 6 of next year.

Now the question must be asked yet again, and hopefully answered, why was the public kept in the dark on the selection process?

It started back when President Pacheco announced he would retire early, accepting the System’s offer of early retirement. With this announcement, the UM Board of Curators started their search for replacing Pacheco. This was fine; everybody knew they would have to make their decision fairly quickly, as there was a time restraint in play. What was not known was the Board of Curators would keep the public completely in the dark about the selection process. The Board never released a list of prospective presidential candidates. When they had the list narrowed down to the finalists, they refused to release those names as well.

Now, why is this a problem? The most obvious problem is that the University of Missouri is a public insti-

tution funded by public dollars. If the people of Missouri are going to be expected to pay for a new System president, they should at least know whom the person/people the Board of Curators is/are considering for the position. This would give the people of Missouri a chance to research the candidates. Board President John Mathes in particular, was negligent in his duties. Never should he have allowed the controversy to get as far as it did.

Media outlets such as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and your own UM-St. Louis The Current have questioned why these names were not released. How is the media supposed to keep tabs on things and perform their “duty” of informing the public of what is happening and how it affects the populous?

This was a severe misuse of power by the Board of Directors. By not keeping the public informed, they were neglecting the duty of which they were selected to perform. How is the public supposed to trust a public Board of Curators that won’t even let them know who they are going to hire?

So what can be done to rectify this situation? Well, nothing now, at least in the presidential search. However, UM-St. Louis is still in need of a replacement for Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, who is also retiring the end of this December. So, how about this: Names for the chancellor position need to be released to not only to the media, but the public as well.

President Floyd will not be with the UM System forever. For future reference, the Board of Curators needs to make the selection a public one. The people of Missouri have a right to know who is going to be leading their children in their educations, and they have the right to express their opinions about candidates, something they were not given an opportunity to do this time around.

The issue

The UM System is hid the names of applicants for the president’s position. Now they are doing the same for the Chancellor.

We suggest

The hiding game ceases now. Knowing who the candidates are for a publicly paid job is important.

So what do you think?

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

Suggestions to new president

Since the UM System has a new president, and, thus, one man has a lot of power, I thought I would use my column this week as a forum to post my ideas of what I would like to see him do.

1.) Approximately 25 percent of the total UM System students attend UM-St. Louis. UM-St. Louis, however, only receives 12 percent of the UM System budget. This funding inequality must terminate. It is detrimental to UM-St. Louis because we lose funding that we should receive. Also, it is harmful to the UM System because media outside of The Current also pick up on this discrimination against UM-St. Louis and publish it to the public. Even if the inequality cannot be completely solved, I, for one, would like to at least be given a real reason why it exists.

Is UM-St. Louis actually considered the redheaded stepchild of the system? Do we just not deserve an equal portion of the budget? The System needs to quit playing favorites, especially when the arbitrary criteria for favorite goes back so many years.

2.) The University is losing valuable programs and faculty and staff members who better the entire UM System, while self-serving improvements, such as hardwood floors, are wasting the shrinking funds the University does have. If things must

be cut, why not cut out such misuse of funds and maybe even those who misuse them?

3.) The UM System tries to hide far too many things. For example, the candidates for president were not even announced officially while similar schools in Missouri encourage the public to attend interviews. The System needs to realize that this privacy shield it has erected only hurts its image in the public’s eye. Hence, new programs to comply with Missouri’s

open books laws need to be implemented.

4.) All the campuses of the UM System need to feel a common bond beside the letters “UM.” PeopleSoft and being in the same state. We need a community feeling of some sort. Columbia needs to quit playing God.

The state legislature needs to hear “UM” instead of “Columbia,” “Rolla,” “UMKC” and “UMSL.” Being fractured only hurts the entire system and its parts. Until word from on high (the president’s office) comes down, we will be stuck with these division problems.

I sincerely hope that President Floyd will take these as suggestions of ways to improve the entire UM System from a student who carefully watches what goes on and why we have these problems.



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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 must include their student ID number. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).



ALRIGHT CONTESTANT #2, IF THE UNIVERSITY WAS A TWINKIE, WHAT WOULD YOU FILL IT WITH?

What’s your opinion?

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

- New UM president
- Goals for new president
- Student fees

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

Under Current

by Mike Sherwin
Photography Director

In the bio-pic of your life, who would play you



Ted Gatlin
Junior
Secondary Education

Cedric the Entertainer. I don’t see it, but a lot of my friends say there is a resemblance.



Lindsay Nickrent
Junior
Psychology

Probably Janeane Garofalo, because she holds sarcasm like I do. I really identify with her in “The Truth About Cats and Dogs.”



Kit Blankey
Junior
Undecided

I think the typical character Richard Gere plays is pretty similar to myself. Pretty quirky, but intellectual and thoughtful - but still suave, too.



John Mixon
Optometry
Computer Science

I would pick Robin Williams, because his personality and mine seem to be the same. It seems like we’re both funny with a good outlook on life.

UMSL reluctant to take due credit

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Soccer

BY JOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Surprising the Great Lakes Conference with seven wins this year and taking second place in the GLVC, the UM-St. Louis Men's Soccer team might have been the only ones who were not surprised by their run to the top this season.

Coming only one year after winning one game in the GLVC, Coach Dan King expected this year to be different. "I knew with the players I had coming in and coming back we would have a successful year," said King.

King admitted that he knew his team was going to be good, but he says he was pleasantly shocked by his players in their second place finish and their 7-2-1 record in the GLVC.

Last year's one-win season provided a chip on the team's shoulder because of the majority of losses coming at expense of one goal. "I think they just got mad. They didn't enjoy losing last year, and I didn't either. Some of the games were really close last year, and this year the players made it a point to be on the winning side of close games," said King.

The Rivermen found themselves in many tight games this year and responded by winning six games that were decided by one goal.

The turnaround season earned

Coach King the GLVC Coach of the Year Award, and King was quick to give the credit to all of his players. "When I look at the date on that trophy way down the line, I will think of this year's seniors. It's a team thing. I didn't make one assist this year or one good pass. Yeah, I'll harp on them and train them, but when it comes down to it, it's the players that make you good."

One of those players who stepped forward to lead the Rivermen to a turnaround year was senior forward Jeff Stegman. Stegman had a team-leading 10 goals and 24 points and also passed out four assists. The senior earned First Team All-GLVC honors in his final season for the Rivermen. "Jeff really stepped up and got goals when we really needed them the most," said King.

Stegman provided solid play throughout the season, but King also said many other players filled roles that helped the team succeed this year. "Every senior on the team came forward this year, even some guys that came off the bench like Anthony Rivituso and Tim Mosby. But Pat Shelton and Nick Carron were the leaders of this team; they never missed a practice; they weren't cheerleaders; they would just look you in the eyes and say it's time to train."

Senior defender Shelton was named Second Team All-Conference in the GLVC, anchoring the strong Rivermen defense and helping the team to a 1.60 goals against average.

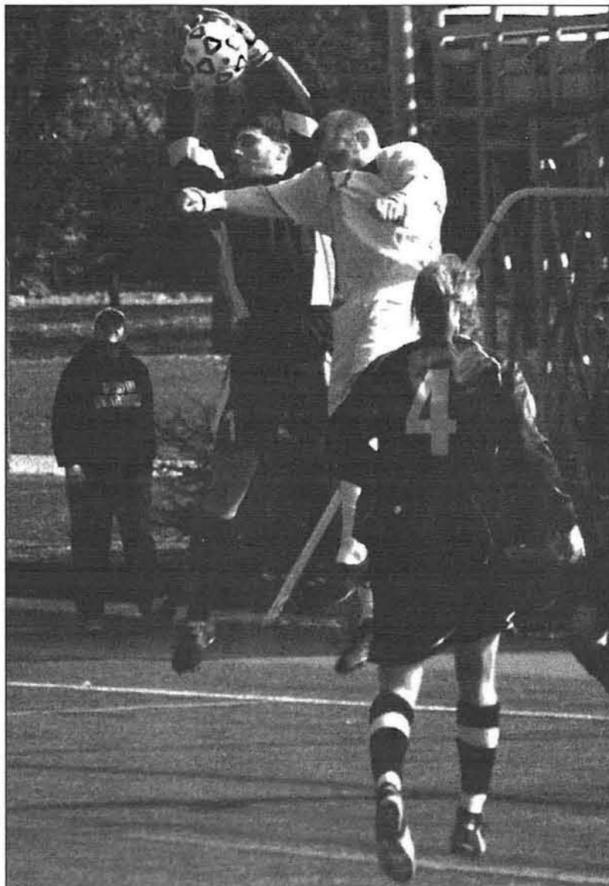
A player that surprised King was freshman forward Jeff Menke, who wasn't even recruited to play soccer for UM-St. Louis. "Jeff was a walk-on and had a big goal against SIU-

Edwardsville to help us win. When a player walks on and says they can play here, you have some speculation, but he backed up everything he said and really surprised me." Menke finished his freshman year with 4 goals and 2 assists.

A game that King feels will be remembered forever in his and his players' minds was a close game against Southern Indiana, which they won 4-3 in overtime on October 4. "We were up late in the game, and we let them get back in it and tie it up. Then our freshman goalkeeper makes a stop late in the game on a penalty kick with 16 seconds to go in the game. Then our senior Stegman comes through and scores for us to win it. Those are memories that this team will always have with them; no one will ever forget it. That game represents why these guys play college soccer."

King hopes that next year's team will also be able to create some life-long memories by making this year a building block for the future. "The best thing we can take from this year is the experience of getting to the top of the GLVC and the experience of having a playoff game at home. The freshman and sophomores will take that experience and build on it. The seniors of this year set a bar for these kids to reach and aim at winning the GLVC."

King can only find one source for the outcome of this year's great season. "I appreciate their dedication this year, and the outgoing seniors have set a standard for years to come. We're a family that has a dedication to training hard," he said.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen forward Jeff Stegman earned all-conference honors in the GLVC. Stegman led the Rivermen in goals scored this season.

COACH'S CORNER

R-men look to end all uncertainty in '02-'03 year

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Last season, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball squad was an embattled one. Head Coach Mark Bernsen, who was witness to several injuries to his key players, would be one to testify to that. His team finished with a 6-14 Great Lakes Valley Conference record for eighth place in the conference. The team also had a 10-17 overall mark.

Now with the team in good health, the mission for Bernsen and his squad will be to gain the necessary experience to go along with the basic skills the team possesses. According to Bernsen, that is quite possibly the biggest challenge the Rivermen have ahead of them for the 2002-03 season. The following is a look at the coming basketball season through the eyes of Bernsen.

Strengths and weaknesses

"Well, at the start of the season, going into an exhibition game down at SEMO and beating Southeast Missouri State and coming home and winning a couple games and beating Southern Indiana by 16, we thought we had some depth, and we thought we had some maturity and experience at almost every spot," Bernsen said. "And then, all of a sudden, injuries just devastated us. So injuries kept us on edge the whole year."

"We never got back to the situation that we felt we were going to start with," Bernsen said. "That and losing some close games; it was a tough year. We went out in this year in the summer and then tried to shore up everything. We got all the guys back that were injured. We added some more depth, and we're back to where we were last year, I think."

Differences between this year and last

"At this point, we're basically injury-free," Bernsen said. "Our big concern this year, unlike last year, is

we don't have any experience. I think we have the same amount of depth and the same potential that we had at the beginning of last year this year, but what we do lack is proven experience. So there's a lot of question marks."

"We've got a good point guard. We've got a good forward. We've got good centers," Bernsen continued. "This is very similar to what we had last year, but how good and how they will respond in games, we don't have any track record yet. Depth is about the same. We lack experience and hopefully, how fast we become consistent will determine how well we are."

The team

"We've got some guys back who were here last year," Bernsen said, "and then the new guys. Even though they didn't play, they were around the program. What we're trying to do more than anything right now is become consistent and get a little chemistry because not only do we have inexperience, we have inexperience of playing together."

"We've got a nice group," Bernsen said. "They're working very, very hard. Potentially, they have a great opportunity, but I really believe that we'll know a little more in a couple of weeks after we play some games, obviously."

Season Outcome

"We always come in every year, and if recruiting is good and things are in place, you hope to be able to get to the conference tournament, win some games [and] finish in the upper division," Bernsen said. "But with as many new guys as we have, it's hard to project. We don't have anybody where we can say, 'Oh he'll get us 10 and 15' or 'He'll get us 20 points' or 'One thing for sure is he'll be a leader for us on the floor.' We have potential, and we have ideas about that happening, but as far as proven record, we don't have that yet."

"Until we get out and really put on the silks and get under the bright lights, we got a lot of question marks," Bernsen continued. "Not only are we new, but even the guys that were injured last year with ACLs, their abil-

ity to respond and come back from injury is a question mark in itself. So far, everything's been okay, but it remains to be seen."

Key match-ups

"Opening the season up against Rockhurst is kind of neat because that's an old rivalry for UM-St. Louis, and we open up with them on Nov. 23," Bernsen said. "They'll be fun. A week later, we'll be back in conference play at Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky, so it's a typical year for the Rivermen. Conference starts early. We've got good non-conference opponents in Rockhurst and Missouri-Rolla and Lincoln University. So those kind of games all make you better, and hopefully in March, you're playing your best basketball."

"We've got a couple of freshmen, but it's one of those years where the future is now," Bernsen said. "So, we're looking to step right in it. We've got a good preseason conditioning, and we have a good preseason practice, so this is one of those years where we hopefully jump right in it, no rebuilding at all."

SPORTS SHORTS

Dolan, AD, calls for university support with UMSL's Red Pride Dayz

With the UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball seasons about to begin, Athletic Director Pat Dolan is calling for the support of students, faculty and staff. During Red Pride Dayz, all UM-St. Louis home games and Fridays before Saturday home games, all students, faculty and staff will be asked to wear red. Clothing that is not red but has a UM-St. Louis logo on it

is also acceptable.

Additionally, anyone who wishes to purchase UM-St. Louis attire in the University Bookstore and mentions the basketball team will receive a 25 percent discount on that purchase.

Wearing red or UM-St. Louis attire during the days of home basketball games is one way to join the University community together and develop University pride. Game schedules can be found on the athletics website at www.umsl-sports.com.

UMSL suffers a season-ending, 3-1 defeat to Southern Indiana

UM-St. Louis's volleyball team lost 3-1 at Southern Indiana on Nov. 9, ending their season one game short of qualifying for the GLVC Tournament.

Southern Indiana took each of the first two games by scores of 30-15, and 30-21, but the Riverwomen were not going to give up easily. UM-St. Louis fought back and won the third

game 31-29 before eventually falling 30-20 in the fourth game.

Nikki Pagels led UMSL with 11 kills on the day, and Kathryn Freeman and Melissa Frost each had 10 kills. Frost added five total blocks in the game as well.

UM-St. Louis ends their season with a 13-14 overall record and a 4-10 mark in the Great Lakes Valley Conference as UM-St. Louis fell one spot short of a bid to the GLVC tournament.

Goodwill Ambassadors International Exchange under way

The Sports For Youth Foundation is now accepting high school teams, club teams and individual players for the 2003 Goodwill Ambassadors International Volleyball exchange. Applications are now being accepted for the Goodwill Ambassadors Volleyball exchange to Europe, scheduled for July of 2003. Call (425) 255-8102 for more information.

Fall sports season was UMSL's opportunity to shine



The ABCs of Sports

HANK BURNS

Got a comment?
E-mail it to
HFLB4@juno.com

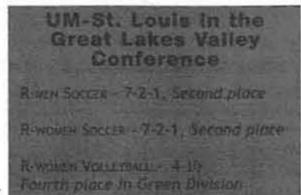
This year's fall sports season will be remembered for many things. It will be remembered as a year for comebacks, a year for perennial dominance and even as a year for heartbreak. But, through it all, the season was definitely a chance for the Rivermen and Riverwomen to take the center stage in their respective conferences.

While opinions may vary, UM-St. Louis proved that it could have overall success in the area of athletics. The following is a review of some of the major dates and turning points of the fall season.

Sept. 11

Through the course of this sports season, there are many events that have occurred that filled witnesses with pride. The women's soccer team defi-

nately contributed some of those proud moments. For the home opener on Sept. 11, the team faced rival UM-Rolla and dominated the game on what was a national day of memorial for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.



The team showed both a defensive and offensive prowess in the game and set a model for the majority of its future victories. The team defeated UM-Rolla

that day 4-1.

Sept. 13

By defeating Mississippi 3-0, the UM-St. Louis volleyball team was able to continue on with a seven-game winning streak. Although the team was shut out 3-0 by Harding that same day, the victory was an important one for the streaky squad. Winning five of those seven games on the road is quite a feat for the Riverwomen.

Oct. 4

The UM-St. Louis men's soccer team was just above the high water mark with a 4-3 overall record and needed another win to solidify a winning record coming into its Oct. 4 match-up with Southern Indiana. The game went into overtime and forward

Jeff Stegman received the ball with seconds left in the game.

Stegman, who was named GLVC Player of the Week just prior to the game, scored the game-winning goal and led UM-St. Louis to a 4-3 victory. From that point on, the men's soccer team has been on an uphill progression.

Oct. 25

In what was quite an eventful day, two great, important things happened. Number one, the women's soccer team was able to tie with Wisconsin-Parkside, 1-1 in double overtime. Obviously, a tie is better than a loss. Number two, the men's soccer team defeated Wisconsin-Parkside 1-0, also in double overtime. That set the stage for the good luck the teams would have in the next several games of the season.

SPORTS

EDITOR

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Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Basketball

Nov. 22-23

• Women - at the Saginaw Valley State Tournament in University Center, Mich.

23

• Men - 3:15 p.m. vs. Rockhurst

25

• Men - 7 p.m. at Harris Stowe

27

• Women - 5:30 p.m. vs. Illinois-Springfield

• Men - 7:45 p.m. vs. Illinois-Springfield

30

• Women - 1 p.m. at Bellarmine

• Men - 3:15 p.m. at Bellarmine

Dec. 2

• Women - 5:30 p.m. at Northern Kentucky

• Men - 7:45 p.m. at Northern Kentucky

5

• Women - 5:30 p.m. vs. Saint Joseph's

• Men - 7:45 p.m. vs. Saint Joseph's

7

• Women - 1 p.m. vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

• Men - 3:15 p.m. vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at www.umsl-sports.com

SLIFF

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

A&E Editor

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A&E Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change.

Nov. 22

Far From Heaven - an amazingly accurate recreation of the overblown Technicolor dramas of the 1950s but dealing with forbidden issues that never appeared in '50s films (except for in rare movies like "Imitation of Life").

The Emperor's Club - drama about an inspiring teacher; with Kevin Kline.

Die Another Day - James Bond flick with Halle Berry and Pierce Brosnan.

Friday After Next - the "Friday" series does a holiday movie. With Ice Cube.

Talk to Her - director Pedro Almodovar ("All About My Mother") has a potential art house hit in this film about two men whose girlfriends are both in comas.

Quiet American - adaptation of the Graham Greene novel with Oscar possibilities. With Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser; directed by Philip Noyce

Personal Velocity - a Sundance-winning drama about the separate stories of three women. With Parker Posey and Kyra Sedgwick.

Nov. 24

Safety Last - the famous silent Harold Lloyd classic film with that shot of him hanging off the hands of a clock, with live accompaniment and a short feature, at Webster University's Moore Auditorium at 7 p.m. One night only.

Nov. 26

Down from the Mountain - documentary about the music and musicians of the Coen Brothers' film "O Brother Where Art Thou?" One night only.

Nov. 27

Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights - animated holiday musical comedy

Treasure Planet - Disney animated comedy with voices by Emma Thompson and David Hyde Pierce

Solaris - Science fiction/mystery starring George Clooney and directed by Steven Soderbergh.

MOVIE REVIEW

More Feature Films sparkle the Film Fest

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

As we move into the second half of the ten-day St. Louis International Film Festival, there are more terrific films to draw you out to the festival. The festival runs through Sunday, Nov. 24, at three venues: the Tivoli and Hi Pointe Theaters and Webster University's Moore Auditorium. Here is a sampling of some of the fiction film highlights, but you should pick up a copy of the schedule to look over the whole list. Schedules are available at the festival venues or you can see the list online at www.sliff.org.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Director of the St. Louis International Film Festival, Chris Clark, stands outside the Cinema St. Louis office in the Central West End. The annual film fest features international, domestic, indie and non-commercial releases.

Some of these are from renowned filmmakers, have big-named stars, or have been popular hits at other film festivals. Others are startling or original, cutting-edge films, often prizewinners at other film fests. Some of the higher profile films will return for a run at local theaters, but for many of these films, this is your only chance to sample them. Check The Current's website for more detailed reviews of some festival films.

"Spider" is David Cronenberg's new film starring Ralph Fiennes (Quiz Show, Schindler's List) about

a man living in a London home for the mentally ill. This moving and gripping drama about a man damaged by his childhood experiences has won high praise from critics and won for Best Canadian Feature Film at the big Toronto film fest, as well as being nominated for the top award at the Cannes film fest.

"Safety Last" is the big classic film shown in the festival's program. If you've not familiar with this American silent comedy classic, see the accompanying article. It's a must-see for serious fans of cinema or comedy.

"Hi! Dharm!" is an overwhelmingly popular hit in its native South Korea and is due to be remade as an American film (the way the hit hor-

ror film, "The Ring," was). In this action/comedy, five gangsters on the run hide out at a Buddhist monastery. It was described by Variety as "a well-drawn comedy of manners" and "an acting field day." You can see the original version of this top entertainment film at the festival before the Hollywood version comes out.

full of intelligent dialog and surprising twists. "Autumn Spring" opens with a retired classical musician touring a grand villa he is considering buying. After the musician and his assistant part company with the real estate salesman, we discover it was all an elaborate prank by this pair of mischievous old jokers. This tragic comedy follows one of this incorrigible pair, a 75-year-old man stubbornly determined to be impractical about his inevitable death, and his practical-minded but beloved wife. A clever, well-acted Czech film that includes the last performance of legendary actor Vlastimil Brodsky, "Autumn Spring" was nominated for and won several awards, including best actor, at several film festivals.

"Flowers of Shanghai" takes us into the hidden world of Shanghai's elegant 19th Century brothels, where beautiful "flower girls" either beguiled and kept wealthy clients or perished. Directed by the critically acclaimed director Hsiao-hsien Hou, this film was one of the contenders for Sight and Sound's recent "10 greatest films of all time" list, the prestigious British cinema magazine's poll of filmmakers and critics compiled every ten years. This is the first time that a work by this renowned filmmaker has been shown in St. Louis.

On the lighter side, we have "Karmen Gei," a Senegalese/French/Canadian film that is an African interpretation of Bizet's "Carmen." This version has been described as beguiling, berserkly picturesque, absurd and enormously likeable. It reinterprets the classic opera with African beats and a bisexual Carmen in a graceful and colorful film that won the audience award at L.A.'s Outfest, the gay and lesbian film festival.

In another clever reinterpretation, "G" redoes the 1920s "The Great Gatsby" into a modern conflict concerning the hip-hop invasion of the African-American elite in the upscale Hamptons. This film has star Blair Underwood and was an entry at the film fest in Toronto and New York's Tribeca.

On the serious side, "Anita Takes A Chance" is from one of Spain's most important modern filmmakers, Ventura Pons. Much of this director's work is challenging stuff, but

"Anita Takes a Chance" is one of his most accessible works, a touching, entertaining film about a middle-aged woman whose life is turned upside down when the theater she has worked in for 30 years is destroyed. This film is a must-see for serious cinephiles.

The Italian film "Way We Laughed" is a period tale about two brothers in the 1950s. The film is beautifully photographed and atmospheric, with a sweeping, epic style to its story of the conflict and relationship between the brothers. It was the top winner at the Venice Film Festival three years ago and a top pick for fans of lush filmmaking.

"Whole Wide World" is an intriguing story, set in 1930s Texas, about a young schoolteacher/aspiring author (Renee Zellweger, in her first screen role) who meets the handsome but eccentric creator of "Conan the Barbarian," Robert E. Howard (played by Vincent D'Onofrio). Both humorous and sad, the plot traces the relationship that develops between them. The film appeared in the 1996 St. Louis International Film Festival, and the director returns to present a director's cut version at this year's fest.

If you are a fan of the quirky "Dogme 95" films, you have two picks at this year's film festival. "Strass" is an unusual mockumentary about a tyrannical teacher who torments his students at a self-imposed drama school. Satire and dark humor are the themes in this film, which has been described as one of the more polished films of the Dogme style. "Kira's Reason: A Love Story" is a film that focuses on a couple whose peaceful world is disturbed when the woman suddenly develops a mental illness. "Realism" and "deeply affecting" are terms often applied to this film.

Really, there are even more special films at the festival, including some likely to return to big screens here. "The Emperor's Club," the Kevin Klein drama about a teacher and a student, is one of the films scheduled for a theatrical run. At the festival, you'll get a chance to see this film before its release, introduced by Klein himself.

Since there are so many films to choose from, you should check out the festival listings to zoom in on the selections that appeal most to you.

MOVIE REVIEW

Top Docs rise in second half of film fest

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

One of the unique treats of the annual St. Louis International Film Festival is the chance to see so many excellent documentaries. The festival runs through Sunday, Nov. 24, at three venues, the Tivoli and Hi Pointe theaters and Webster University's Moore Auditorium. Here are some additional suggestions for docs to catch in the second half of the ten-day film fest. Some of these films deal with weighty, important subjects, and some are just intriguing or fun.

"Gigantic: A Tale of Two Johns" is probably a top pick for pop and alternative music fans. "They Might Be Giants" set the musical world on a new path in the '80s and '90s, and this documentary is a revealing look at two of the band's founding members. A portrait of

two sharp-witted, wisecracking guys, the film has running jokes, goofy humor and avant-garde touches, while still remaining completely accessible.

"Partners of the Heart" is a surprising documentary about the close professional bond between a white cardiac surgeon and an African American carpenter with a gift for cardiac surgery. Morgan Freeman provides the narration for this film about these pioneers pitted against the prejudices of segregated, mid-twentieth century America.

"Daughter From Danang" follows the story of a woman who was one of the half-Asian children airlifted out of Vietnam at the end of the war to be adopted into US families. In the film, she returns to visit the land of her birth. This moving documentary won the Documentary Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance film festival.

"Amanda: A Revolution in 4-Part Harmony" looks at how music

played a role in the end of apartheid in South Africa. The power of music to move or communicate is the focus of this film, which blends interviews, historic footage and filmed performances in its inspiring tale. The film was this year's Sundance winner of the Freedom of Expression Award and the Audience Award for Documentary.

One of photography's legendary talents was Dorothea Lange. "Photos to Send" retraces her 1950s trip to rural Ireland for Life magazine. Lange's photos were noted for their moving beauty and emotional power, and this Irish film uses interviews with Lange's subjects and archival footage to evoke the photographer and her art.

"Playing for Real" is St. Louisan Josh Aronson's close-up look at the stresses that befall young musicians hoping to make a career in classical music. The competition is fierce and the standards for talent are daunting in this arena where

you must have a childhood of training to even be considered. The documentary examines one particular competition on this grueling path.

"Rudyland" is a peek at the other side of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani. While his actions in the tragedy of September 11, 2001, brought him national attention and respect, not everything he did in his tenure as mayor was popular. This documentary puts a biting and humorous spin on a different side of the Rudy years, with narration by Susan Sarandon. This film gives a glimpse into why Giuliani was considered a controversial guy in his years as NY's top man.

These are only some of the highlights of the documentaries at this year's festival, so it is recommended that you check SLIFF's listings for yourself to see the whole line up. A variety of topics are explored, and the offerings range from the profound to the silly, with all flavors in between.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Safety Last' should be first on your list

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

You might not recognize the title "Safety Last," but you know this silent comedy film. It's the one with that famous shot of the comedian in glasses dangling from the hands of a clock.

You can see this famous comedy on the big screen with live musical accompaniment at the St. Louis International Film Festival. The guy hanging so precariously from the clock hands is Harold Lloyd, although sometimes people mistakenly believe that the fellow in the picture is another silent comedy great, Buster Keaton. "Safety Last" was one of Lloyd's biggest hits and the first of his series of "thrill comedies." This classic will be shown on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. at Webster University's Moore Auditorium. Along with the feature film, there will be a screening of a Harold Lloyd short comedy, "An Eastern Westerner," in which Harold plays an East Coast dandy out of place in the West.

In "Safety Last," Harold plays an unassuming shop clerk who arranges for his store to stage a publicity stunt, offering \$1000 to anyone who would climb the town's tallest building. Although Harold arranges for a friend, a "human fly," to scale the building, when the stunt man doesn't show, Harold is forced to make the climb himself.

Although Harold Lloyd is less well known today, in the 1920s Lloyd was second in popularity only to Charlie Chaplin. Buster Keaton, recognized as a comic genius today, was a distant third. While Keaton and Chaplin are hailed as geniuses today, Harold Lloyd



Comical genius Harold Lloyd. Lloyd is also the grandfather of comic actor Christopher Lloyd.

has remained undeservedly unrecognized. Lloyd's films were noted for his character's positive, all-American attitude, which was enormously appealing to audiences of his day. Lloyd's films are funny, thrilling, cleverly made, and well acted, with great physical comedy. As a note for trivia buffs, Harold Lloyd was the grandfather of comic actor Christopher Lloyd.

Like many big stars of the silent movie era, Lloyd acting as his own producer, was the head of his own studio, and the creative force behind his films, even if he didn't write or direct them. Like all the great physical comedians of that time, Lloyd was athletic, but one of the remarkable things about "Safety Last" is its use of camera trickery. Lloyd discovered that he could create the illusion of stunts he was not actually able to perform, a technique mined by all action films today. Due to

S.L.I.F.F.

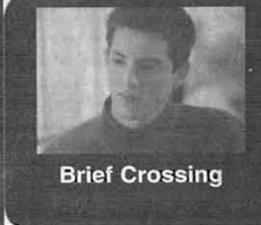
Nov. 15 - 24



Absolute Hundred



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Partners of the Heart



The Emperor's Club



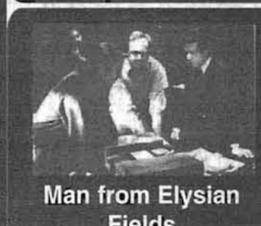
Gigantic: The Tale of Two Johns



Safety of Objects



Love in the Time of Money



Man from Elysian Fields

an accident, Lloyd had lost part of one hand (which he disguised with a special glove) and couldn't actually cling to the clock hands the way it appears that he does. Yet Lloyd's solution, which depends on camera placement and what is not seen, is completely and thrillingly convincing.

While Harold Lloyd's films are less well known today, they are still great comedy.

Everything about these early comedies is geared to the big screen, so seeing "Safety Last" as a video on your TV is not nearly as satisfying. Better yet, you get live accompaniment, which heightens the action even more. Don't miss this chance to see a cinema great in one of the best settings possible.

BOOK REVIEW

'Human Pool' swims with thrills

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

In the movie "The Third Man," the character Harry Lime (Orson Welles), explains his view of world events by saying "In Italy for 30 years under the Borgias, they had murder, terror and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love and peace for 500 years and what did that produce? The cuckoo clock."

The novel "The Human Pool," by Chris Petit, is about people who think along those lines, who are more willing to live for themselves and for their own reputations no matter how sinister they are or were. It tells a story similar to "The Third Man" in which there is a search for a missing person, who becomes more and more a legend the more missing he is. It's a decent espionage book, rich in char-

acterization but extremely flawed.

Joe Hoover, a German immigrant and retired courier for U.S. Intelligence, receives some surprising information from an old friend. The friend has informed him that Willi Schmidt, a former S.S. Officer who may have also helped lead Jews out of Europe and who was reported dead in 1945, may still be alive. The recently widowed Hoover is lured back to Germany with the promise of reuniting with Schmidt. Along the way, he meets Robert Vaughn, a hot-headed British journalist posing as a Neo-Nazi and looking for answers of his own. The two strike up an uneasy alliance, encountering former Nazis and American soldiers who are both willing and unwilling to cooperate with them, leading them to a genocidal operation in Turkey.

The book is, for the most part, well written with brilliant characterization. Willi Schmidt is a very enigmatic

character that becomes more and more of a surprise as the story goes on. Each person gives a different view of him, making him more of a figure of legend than a real person. His reputation is so built up that by the end of the book, when he finally is revealed, he is something of a disappointment.

The two protagonists, Hoover and Vaughn, are quite engaging characters, almost doppelgangers for each other. Hoover is very memorable as a man who is recovering from the death of his wife and suffering from boredom with his whiny daughter and bratty grandkids. He misses his old life of excitement, even though he was forced to leave it because of some secrets involving an unscrupulous boss. Though he clearly enjoys the chase for Schmidt, he also feels old age coming on.

see 'HUMAN POOL' page 12



CD REVIEW



Photo courtesy Capital Records

"Brainwashed," the posthumously released album by former Beatle George Harrison, is his first album in 15 years. It blends his spirituality with his musical talent to create his most musically complete album since 1970's "All Things Must Pass."

Harrison's swan song a fitting goodbye

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Few musicians have the clout to take 15 years off between albums and still generate excitement about an impending release. One such musician was the late George Harrison.

For those of you who do not know, Harrison died last year of brain cancer in Los Angeles. He struggled for years with his health before succumbing to the illness but still found the strength to work on a final album. A final goodbye of sorts.

Unfortunately, Harrison died before he could finish the album, so the job fell to his son Dhani and Jeff Lynne. Lynne had been in the Traveling Willburys super-group with Harrison, along with Roy Orbison, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan.

Enough about the history of the album, let's talk music. Harrison was fortunate to have 15 years to accumulate music for this album. What comes out is the best music that Harrison has produced since his landmark album "All Things Must Pass." While it doesn't touch the three record scope of "Pass," "Brainwashed" does match it for relevance and passion.

As with any release, this album does have tracks that are better than

the rest, but on the whole, there are no weak tracks, a testament to Harrison's skill as a songwriter. Long buried behind the "two headed monster" that was John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Harrison developed into one of the best songwriters of his generation by observing Lennon and McCartney. That is evidenced in songs such as "Stuck Inside a Cloud," "Never Get Over You," "Any Road" and the best track on this album, "Rising Sun."

"Rising Sun" alludes to his time with the Beatles and his solo career. Harrison tells the listener "On the avenue of sinners I have been employed/Working there 'til I was near destroyed." This track not only features excellent lyrics, but also beautiful music. The orchestration, which sounds as though Jeff Lynne had his hands all over it, was actually arranged by Harrison. Lynne was quick to point out the fact that Harrison laid down instructions for each track before he died, letting Lynne and Dhani know what he wanted done with each track.

Dhani took it upon himself to arrange the tracks for the album, and he purposely placed "Stuck Inside a Cloud" at track seven.

see HARRISON, page 12

GAME REVIEW

Fellowship of the damned

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

It practically rose from the shelf and into my hand. As much as I wanted the smooth golden ring, it seemed to want me; and, of course, that seductive power is its nature. My precious, my precious!

I'm something of a Tolkien addict, so when I saw the commercials on television for a beautifully crafted game with sharp graphics and actors from the Peter Jackson films, I ran to the store and bought it. The problem is, this ain't that game.

"The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" looks like the right game, and it's got the hefty \$50 price tag the Tolkien/Jackson license should carry, but if you look very closely at the box art, you'll notice it is based on Tolkien's books rather than Jackson's movie. This could be fine, even great, if the game didn't have you running around looking for Bob McHobbit's missing handkerchief instead of trying to save the world.

The voice acting isn't just clunky—it's atrocious, and for those people who thought Jackson's films were missing vital parts of the books,

the opening sequence will be physically painful. For example, Gandalf: "Throw the ring in the fire, Frodo."

Frodo: "Bite me."

Gandalf: (throws the ring in the fire) "Aha!"

Frodo: "Great, now I have to save the world."

Sam: "I din't see nuthin'! I like elves!"

And so forth. The game came on two CDs, thin golden rings infused with much dark power. I can still hear them calling in my mind, "Exchange us for another game!" Unfortunately, due to Best Buy's no-returns policy, I face Frodo's dilemma and now understand that getting rid of this particular burden will prove difficult.

Part of Frodo's trouble is that he's so poorly animated. His jumps are laughably pathetic, he's always trying to throw small rocks at ringwraiths and he spends two-thirds of his time picking up health mushrooms. Perhaps the developers at Black Label Games should have spent more time in development and less time taking Gandalf and Bilbo's special pipe weed.

The action-packed game this should have been is for PS2, "Lord of

the Rings: The Two Towers," which has Peter Jackson characters featured prominently on the box. The Towers game has all of the action from Fellowship and also has twice the storyline. Sadly, Towers is not available for PC (though, strangely, you can get it for Game Boy Advance).

Among my many complaints about Black Label's Fellowship: There is no autosave feature; the soundtrack is lusterless; the combat is either excruciatingly boring or impossibly unwieldy. Gandalf is a wuss; Aragorn is a hatless wuss; the camera keeps getting stuck on walls, and every once in a while the game will lock up the entire computer. Combining the last problem with the lack of autosaving was clever for the development team since it means that their slow but easy-to-beat game lasts ten hours, rather than three.

Perhaps the best thing you can do with this game is break it into pieces and cut yourself with the shards. It feels better than playing it. In all, I felt



Photo courtesy Black Label Game.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" does not live up to the standards set by the classic book.

Fellowship followed more closely the recent scary movie, "The Ring," except that the tagline should be "Before you die OF BOREDOM, you see the ring."



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More painful than steel chair to head

BY ADAM BODENDIECK
Copy Editor

know. (Yes, the outcomes of matches are predetermined; no, these guys aren't really trying to kill each other, etc.)

Hogan also discusses his relationships with various other celebrities, wrestling-related and otherwise. He talks about his history

he avoids making himself look like anything other than an unshakable paragon of virtue.

Perhaps the most annoying aspect of the book is the style in which it's written. I doubt that anyone is expecting Shakespeare, but even those with low expectations are going to feel let down. Anyone who has ever heard Hogan speak, particularly while cutting a promo on an

same way. For example, "let me tell you something, brother" is a common phrase that shows up repeatedly in the book (I lost track of the number of times he addresses his

readers as "brother" at about the 106 mark).

On a side note, when I saw that the book was written by Hogan "with" Friedman, I naturally assumed that Hogan had sat down in front of a microphone, told his life story and let Friedman handle the actual writing. However, after reading the book, I'm not so sure. The book reads very much like it was written by a professional wrestler and not a professional author (which is not a dig against all professional wrestlers; hardcore grappler Mick Foley wrote an absolutely stunning autobiography by himself that reached number one on the New York Times' Best Seller List).

Wrestling fans wanting to get a glimpse into the inner workings of the business and a look at the dark side of Hogan are not going to find it in this book. In actuality, the book is little more than Hogan fellingating himself and trying to convince the reading public that somehow, between finding a cure for cancer and walking on water, he managed to find time to become the biggest and brightest superstar that the wrestling business, Hollywood and the world at large will ever see.

Hollywood Hulk Hogan is God. Or at least that's what he'd have you believe in his new autobiography, the aptly titled Hollywood Hulk Hogan. The book, co-authored by Michael Jan Friedman and consisting mostly of one to two page chapters and lots of pictures, is a painful read that will leave all but the most faithful "Hulkamaniacs" with a

bitter taste in their mouths.

Hogan is without a doubt the most recognizable of all professional wrestlers. His mainstream popularity in the 80s was phenomenal, a fact that he astutely points out on approximately two-hundred occasions in the book. His charisma and impressive physique helped catapult him from various regional wrestling organizations to the World Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE) to Hollywood. He is the only professional wrestler to ever appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated and has a slew of film credits to his name, including minor roles in "Rocky III" and "Gremlins 2" and starring roles in "No Holds Barred," "Suburban Commando," "Mr. Nanny" and a plethora of other low-budget films that only Hogan could rationalize as being anything other than embarrassing. Somewhere along the way, Hulkamania turned into megalomania.

In his autobiography, Hogan gives readers little more than a list of his accomplishments and self-congratulatory statements. The professional wrestling business is considered by many to be one of the most cutthroat and political businesses around, yet Hogan only briefly touches on the scandalous backstage shenanigans he has witnessed throughout his 25-plus years in the business. And when he does, he doesn't reveal anything that a casual wrestling fan doesn't already

with Sylvester Stallone, Jesse Ventura, Mr. T, Dennis Rodman, Vince McMahon and a crop of other colorful characters. And if Hogan's to be believed, they all either love him and think he's the greatest thing that ever lived, able to "spit lightning and crap thunder" and whatnot, or they hate him because he's so much more talented than they are.

Hogan was involved in a slightly infamous steroid trial in the early 90s, one in which he testified against McMahon as a supplier of steroids to WWF wrestlers. This could have made for a good chapter in his autobiography, but Hogan merely mentions the whole incident in passing, choosing not to shed any light on the details of the situation. Amazingly, he actually confesses to using steroids in the book (was there really any doubt?) but makes it perfectly clear that he gave them up cold turkey when they became illegal. Again,

While Hollywood Hulk Hogan is widely considered to be wrestling's most popular icon, his book was lacking in anything that could be considered intelligence.

PRESIDENT, from page 1

Floyd is the UM System's first African-American president, something he tried to play down.

"I am a president who is African-American," Floyd said when asked about being the University of Missouri's first African-American president. "We must stress the need for diversity of the student body. Students need to look around and see faces like theirs to make them feel more at ease, in particular the freshmen who are away from home for the first time."

According to Floyd, the choice to leave Western Michigan University was not an easy one, but he was eventually convinced by the UM Board of Curators.

"The Board of Curators was very aggressive and very persuasive," Floyd said. "Western Michigan was a world class university, and I am sad to leave. However, the University of Missouri is another world class university, one that I can't wait to start work for."

In a statement given at the event, University of Missouri Board President John Mathes said, "Dr. Floyd is a strong leader who inspires the people around him. The selection committee found that he is highly regarded by all who come in contact

with him, from faculty, staff and students to officials at the highest levels of state government and higher education."

Floyd also said his experience in competing with, as one participant stated, "the two titans of Michigan" (Michigan State and the University of Michigan), aided his abilities as an administrator.

"As a public and land grant institution, we must be particularly attuned to the will of the people," Floyd said. "If we are to grow and prosper as a state, we must work as hard as we can to ensure the public's feeling of goodwill towards our University." To ensure this strength, Floyd wants to promote and increase the prominence of the college of arts and sciences at each of the four campuses of the University of Missouri.

"Within the arts and sciences, we are teaching students to learn and advance themselves, which is something highly sought after in the business world," Floyd said. "The strength of any great university really lies in the department of arts and sciences."

Floyd is the 21st president in the System's history, a system which has more than 60,000 students and an annual operating budget of \$1.8 billion.



Mike Sherwin/The Current
New UM President, Elson Floyd, gave a short speech introducing himself to the media and outlining his plans for the System. Floyd visited all four UM campuses the same day.

TATTOO, from page 3

Sometimes tattoo parlors can do removals if the person received their design from them. In other cases, a person may have to seek a dermatologist for help. Tattoo removals can cost up to \$700. The procedure for removal can be more painful than actually getting a tattoo. The equipment used is a high tech laser with a beam of light that breaks up the ink into tiny fragments.

Another consideration that many people worry about is sterilization and the safety of the needles. There have been documented cases of people catching HIV from infected needles. However, there have been more reported cases of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, blood poisoning and skin diseases. Some symptoms of problems can include continued swelling, bleeding, pain, hot sensations or a puss-like discharge. If a person has any of these



UM-St. Louis student Pam Harrison, English major, shows her stylish tattoo off.

symptoms after getting a tattoo, he or she should consult a health care

provider immediately.

One of the things that people need

to be aware of when visiting a tattoo parlor is clients' rights. Other things to note are whether gloves are being worn, whether sterile needles are being used, whether new containers of ink are being used, whether hands are being washed and whether disinfectants are being utilized.

A last consideration that people need to acknowledge is the fading of tattoos. Color ink tends to fade sooner than regular black ink. Caring for tattoos is important in making the art last. Large amounts of sun exposure can lead to fading. Almost every tattoo shop offers touchups.

Some people may condemn tattoos, whereas others admire them. Either way, tattoos have become a big fashion "in." One final thing to keep in mind when considering getting a tattoo is how long the trend will continue. Fashion changes; tattoos don't.

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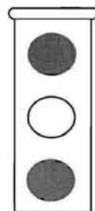
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THE VILLAGE IDIOTS



Jason Granger



Adam Bodendieck

Mail call! Let's see what awaits us in this week's column-opening hate mail, shall we?

Dear Village Idiots,
Since reading your last column, I have been greatly distressed by a remark you made in said column. I certainly understand that your sophomoric humor is a result of the breakdown of manners in postmodern society. What bothers me, though, is that you both are paid to write such obvious tripe. Because The Current is an extension of the University, that means in some minor way students contribute to your salary. In an age of budget cuts and tuition increases, this seems less than fiscally responsible. I would rather have money used to help build a new parking garage.

Sincerely, Students For Less Idiots and More Parking (SF LIMP)

Dear SF Limp,
To insinuate that we are not also concerned with the use (or misuse, as the case may be) of college funds is nothing short of reprehensible. We, too, are concerned with the current state of UM-St. Louis's finances. Therefore, we did what we thought was the responsible and respectable thing to do: we contacted several local construction companies and took bids on building a new parking garage. In doing so, we were told that our paltry salaries combined would pay for exactly ONE SCREW in the construction of a new garage. That's right, one screw. No beams, no concrete, no yellow paint, just one screw. The moral of the story, then, is that while you might not like us, you

can't argue with the fact that at the very least we're always good for a screw. (HAHAHA! C'mon, somebody had to think that was funny!)
-Love Adam and Jason

And now for some good ol' fashioned advice dispensing!

Dear Village Idiots:
Recently, while out with my girlfriends, one of them made a comment about a smell. Everyone started sniffing around, myself included. It was like rancid onions. Then I realized it was me. I smelled repulsive! And it won't go away. I've tried everything, including multiple showers. I can't go out anymore in fear of everyone smelling my offensive odor. It's been a week, and I need to attend my classes or my grades will slip. Please help.
-Sincerely Onion Girl

Dear Onion Girl,
Believe it or not, we can empathize with you. The smell of gin has been clinging to Adam for the past five years. And Jason—well, let's just say his boycott of Right Guard is still going strong. Anyway, for us to help you, we need you to help yourself. You need to be strong enough to brave the cruel taunts and barbs of the world for just one day. Don't worry, we have your entire itinerary planned out for you. The first thing you need to do is come to campus and drop your classes. Then you need to find a pet store and buy cats—lots and lots of cats. So far, so good? Great. Now you need to get your stinky self home, lock the door behind you and stay there. Forever. No one wants to smell a stinky onion girl, and we can't for the life of us

come up with a better solution. Don't worry, though. We're sure that you and your cats are going to get along just fine. Enjoy your isolation.
-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots,
I have a problem... ever since I saw the Stephen King movie "Cat's Eye," I've had constant nightmares to the point where I wake up with almost anxiety attacks. The part that scared me the most was when the midget was hiding in the house and in the closet, where all you could see were his little brown boots blending in with the other shoes. Every night for the past ten years, I have to make sure my closet door is shut before I get in bed. Could this possibly be an OCD or just a traumatizing experience of monster midgets?
-Can't sleep

Dear Can't Sleep,
We can completely sympathize. Them midgets is creepy (No offense, little fellas).
As for your anxiety issues, we are just curious as to how you can "wake up with almost anxiety attacks"? This is kinda like partial circumcision, either go all the way or forget it!
None the less, your fears are all for naught. Just buy a pair of sturdy shinguards and knee-pads and you'll be A-OK. Chances are, the midget in your closet is more afraid of you than you are of him. Just leave him alone - don't feed or try to pet him and he shouldn't bother you. (Note: Astute and loyal readers with long attention spans are probably surprised that we didn't make an "in the closet" joke here... We thought about it, but seeing as disre-

tion is the better part of valor, we decided to just let it go. Maybe next time...)
Just be glad the movie wasn't about trees.
-Love Jason and Adam

And now for something completely different -
As much as we love getting hate mail, we've decided that next week we want to open the column with a nice letter. So if anyone out there actually likes us, or if we've somehow touched you in a special way, let us know at villageidiotsja@yahoo.com. (Truth is, our editor is about this close to canning us... Save your Village Idiots!)

!!!DISCLAIMER!!!
Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please, PLEASE do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody.
It is a very real possibility that Adam and Jason were dropped on their heads as children, ate paint chips or lived under powerlines. Either that, or they are perpetually drunk. To reiterate: This column is meant for humor. Please, do not listen to them for advice. Thank you.

ELEVATORS, from page 1

UM-St. Louis receives state inspections on an annual basis. "There were violations to a few elevator locations," Larry Watson, deputy chief of Missouri state elevator inspections, said. Watson continued by summarizing the main violations of the elevators in Benton Hall:

According to the Department of Public Safety, an elevator violation must be fixed within 12 months of the inspection.

1. The light in the car needs new installation.
2. The top emergency exit is unsecured.
3. There needs to be a door closure on the machine door.
4. There needs to be a cover on the junction boxes to ensure the safety of the wiring.
5. There is not a disconnect

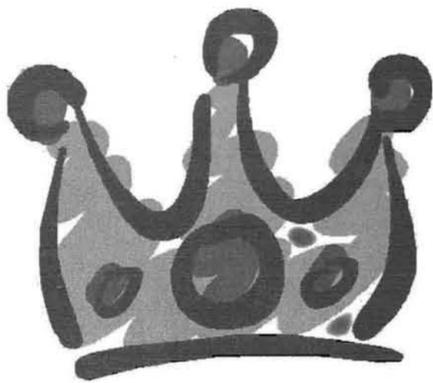
switch.
6. The emergency light circuit was not working at the time.
The reason for some of the code violations is that most of the campus elevators were installed according to the criteria of an older code; many additional requirements have been added to the inspection guidelines.
If a person checks out the elevators in the SSB tower, he or she might notice some minor signs of damage. The lighting is dim, there are scratch marks on the floors and the wall's fabric is ripped.
"UMSL is continuing to work hard with fixing the current problems and to resolve these matters. For the minor violations we can use the grandfather clause, which documents that when a building is built they are to build it by the current code," Kochin said.
According to the Department of Public Safety, an elevator violation must be fixed within 12 months of the inspection. Also, no elevator in Missouri can operate without obtaining a state operating certificate.
In addition to the violations, UM-St. Louis's elevators lack safety features that more advanced elevators have. Today many elevators are equipped with Braille signs for the blind, fire extinguishers and emergency phones.

Benton Hall elevator violations

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1: The elevator car is in need of a new light bulb. | 4: There is no cover on the junction boxes. |
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Information provided by Larry Watson

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Science of the small - Part 1

A strange thing happened when scientists, such as Max Planck, Erwin Schrodinger and Albert Einstein, began examining the behavior of subatomic particles. The tiniest particles of our universe, things like protons, neutrons, electrons, and quarks, inhabit what scientists call the "quantum universe," which in many ways is a world totally alien to the one we observe with our senses.

most famously demonstrated in a thought experiment first introduced by physicist Erwin Schroedinger that has come to be known as "Schroedinger's cat."

In this experiment we imagine that there is a cat inside a box, along with a device that shoots a photon at a target. If the photon misses the target, nothing happens, but if the photon hits the target, the cat is shot with a shotgun and the unfortunate feline is killed. There is a 50/50 chance that the photon will hit the target, and so when you open the box, there is a 50/50 chance that the cat will jump out.

The question that interested Schroedinger was, What is happening inside the box after the photon measurement was made but before we lift the lid? Schroedinger imagined that a human observation was needed to constitute a measurement, so before a measurement was taken, what happened to the cat? In other words, if a cat is shot, and no one sees it, does it die?

If the cat was a quantum particle like an electron or a photon, the answer would be that the cat exists in a half live, half dead state until a measurement is taken that solidifies its quantum state. But in the macroscopic world of our senses, we know that things like cats and humans are never half dead; they are either dead or alive.

Physicist Neils Bohr, one of the pioneers of quantum physics, said that there are "quantum objects," such as photons, that can exist in uncertain quantum states, such as being half dead and half alive. These quantum objects are contrasted with "classical objects," such as cats and humans, that can only exist in one state at a time.

The problem here is that cats and humans are composed of quantum objects - photons, neutrons and electrons. So, if all the little pieces that

make up a cat can be in uncertain states, why can't a cat be in an uncertain state?

The answer to these questions provides a bizarre look at the existence of matter in our universe. A living cat is composed of quantum particles that are in a "live cat" state, whereas a dead cat is made of particles in a "dead cat" state. Physicists now believe that all of the quantum particles that make up a classical object are continually flipping between states. This means that the particles in a cat are constantly alternating between what amounts to live and dead states.

Why then are classical objects always in one state or another? The particles that make up an object are constantly interacting with one another. These interactions constitute a constant and instantaneous form of "self-measurement." It is as if every particle is constantly asking its neighbors about their states, saying "Are you alive or dead?" This constant measurement assures that the whole object remains locked in a certain state, even as its constituent particles are flipping between states.

When the cat actually dies, the majority of quantum particles in the cat will make a uniform transition to the "dead cat" state, thereby ensuring that the cat will appear to anyone who sees (or smells) it to be dead.

So, to revisit our question, if a cat is shot and no one observes it, does it die? Apparently it does. Unfortunately for our imaginary cat, even if no one else is around, our cat will "observe" its own death, thereby realizing its own lack of life. The same could probably be said of the famous fallen tree—as its branches hit the ground, regardless of a lack of ears, it will hear itself fall.

Next week's topic: Parallel Universes.



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

These scientists found that, in the quantum universe, measurements make things happen. Before a measurement is taken, the world of subatomic particles exists in an indeterminate fog of possibilities. When a measurement is taken, it forces the system of particles into one definite state.

This is like the well-known question about whether a felled tree produces a sound if no one hears it. The theory says that before a measurement is made, a quantum particle, like a proton, exists in an indeterminate state, halfway between existence and non-existence. But when someone measures it, it solidifies its state so that it either exists or does not.

This principle is sometimes called "quantum indeterminance," and it was



John Skelton and Professor of Irish Studies Gearoid O'hAllmhairain pair together to close off Skelton's presentation with a musical rendition on Thursday, Nov. 14.

Kevin Ottey/The Current

Skelton demonstrates flutes at Irish Performing Arts Series

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Many Irish musicians learn their music from their home and their families. Flutist John Skelton is an exception.

"My grandfather was a musician, but he died before I was born, so I didn't learn anything from him, and my parents weren't musical," Skelton said. "I had an uncle who was a musician, but he was the type of man that whenever he would visit, my mum would say 'He's coming, hide.' So I taught myself."

Skelton was raised in London, and it was there that he learned how to play both Irish and Breton flutes, a skill he demonstrated in room 205 of the Music Building on Thursday, Nov. 14, as part of the Irish Performing Arts Series.

Skelton displayed the many different flutes and wind instruments that are used in Ireland and Brittany, a province in western France with connections to the ancient Celts.

"The first instrument I ever learned how to play was the tin whistle," Skelton said. "I got it for Christmas and drove my parents to distraction while they were making Christmas dinner."

The tin whistle is a small whistle that plays very high notes. It is sometimes known as the penny whistle, though Skelton said that many musi-

cians often frown upon this term.

"It brings to mind a toy; so, the correct word is tin whistle," Skelton said.

Despite the title, Skelton said that penny whistles did not get their name because they cost a penny, but instead received their name because they were the instrument of choice for street performers, or "buskers." "Many people would pay a penny to hear these buskers, and that's how the whistle received its name," Skelton said.

The next whistle that Skelton demonstrated was the low whistle, which is often used as an accompaniment because of its large size and low, quiet sound. "If you were playing a low whistle, you could be drowned out by the accordions and drums," he said.

The wind instruments have had a long history in most continents except one, according to Skelton, and that is North America. Besides the Native American flute, he says, there has never been a flute invented in the United States, and he believes that there is a reason for this.

"When many immigrants came to the U.S. from their countries, they wanted to leave everything behind, including their music," Skelton said. "So, they adapted to the new world by adopting its instruments." Eventually, many types of wind instruments arrived in North America from other countries.

Skelton then demonstrated the five and the three-quarter flute while

explaining the emergence of the flute in Irish music. The flute didn't arrive in Ireland until the mid 1800's, though there had been pipes before then, Skelton said. "We do know that the military had used pipes," he said.

There was a common belief that the reason that the wooden flutes came to Ireland was because after Europe adopted the silver flute, they put all of the wooden flutes in shops where Irish immigrants bought them. Skelton said that this was untrue, and that rather, there were three reasons for the wood flute coming to Ireland. One was the Temperance Movement, during which women would host concerts and sometimes invite flutists.

Another reason was the emergence of military orders, which ironically weren't established for military purposes. "Many of them were simply Gentleman's Clubs," Skelton said, "and they would entertain their guests with pipes."

The third reason was when immigrants came to America from Ireland, they sent family members flutes from America. "I know many older people who have flutes that came from America," Skelton said.

Skelton also played two instruments from Brittany: the bombli, an oboe-like instrument, and the Breton bagpipes. "If you aren't ready for them, you could be shocked," Skelton said. "They are very shrill and startling."

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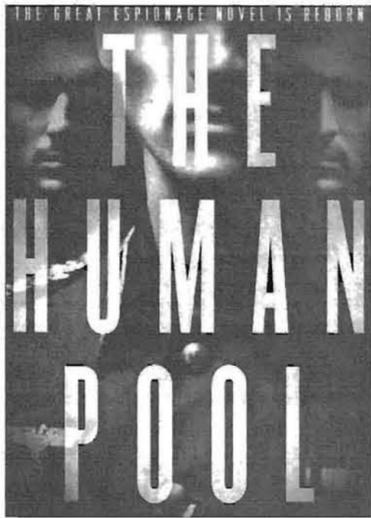
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'HUMAN POOL,' from page 7

Vaughn is equally interesting. Often sardonically called "nephew" by Hoover, he too is recovering from a painful past, particularly a forbidden romance and a testy relationship with his employer. He goes into the assignment with a self-assured attitude as he kisses up to the Neo-Nazis and then insults them in his narration, but he also gains a lot more respect and maturity through his adventure with Hoover.

There are many other characters that bring mystery to the story, such as Beate Von Heimendorf, a German woman whose mother shares a painful past with Willi and Hoover; Karl-Heinze Strasse, a former ally of Hoover's who leads him to Schmidt only to get killed in the process; and both Hoover's and Vaughn's manipulative employers, Allen Dulles and Dominic Carswell. They add a lot of suspense to the tale.

While the novel shines in characterization, "The Human Pool" falters slightly in plot and storytelling. Having both the first person narrations of Hoover and Vaughn is fine because it gives the book two perspective through two sets of eyes, one that has "been there, done that" and one that is experiencing it for the first time. But it falters by giving other characters' narration, making it more confusing as each character gives dif-



ferent memories, and making the story hard to follow at times.

Though it is a very suspenseful plot with many twists and turns, it nearly comes to a screeching halt in the middle with an extended flashback scene to the 1940s. While this is important to understanding the characters, particularly Willi and Hoover, to place it in the middle of the story is kind of distracting for the reader. It may have fared better if it had been placed at the beginning of the book as a prologue.

To paraphrase Harry Lime, "The Human Pool" has just enough merit to be considered a Michelangelo of espionage novels, but also has just enough flaws to be considered a cuckoo clock.

HARRISON, from page 7

According to Dhani, seven was George's favorite number, and Dhani felt "Stuck Inside a Cloud" was the strongest track on the album. Dhani said he could give no track a higher honor than to set it at track seven. It is easy to see why Dhani was positive about "Cloud." Harrison revisits his love-song past with "Cloud," following in the footsteps of "Something," "What is Life?" "Here Comes the Sun" and "I Need You." His voice is strong and passionate, talking about the heartache he feels when his love isn't with him. "Talking to myself/crying as we part/Knowing as you leave me/I also lose my heart."

So, all those George Harrison fans out there, you really need to run out and get this album. I know that consumers are told that all the time. "This is a must-buy!" We are constantly bombarded by this statement. But this one is truly a great album. It is exactly what you'd expect from one of the Beatles, but on top of that, this is the best of George Harrison: spiritual, impassioned, lyrically strong and musically impressive. It's sad that we'll never see any more music from him. As it is, this is a great swan song. One Harrison is undoubtedly proud of, watching down on his son and good friend from above, strumming his guitar with John Lennon and the rest of rocks dead royalty.

SECOND CITY, from page 3

They have toured theaters, bars and nightclubs in New York City and Chicago. The excitement will continue when the group comes to UM-St. Louis.

"The show is open to all students and the community for free," said Sarah Clark, university programming board member.

In the past, when the group has toured Chicago, Detroit, Las Vegas, Cleveland and other cities, tickets are sold for \$8 or more per person. Audiences have walked away describing the performances as well worth the money.

Free admission is one of the advantages of Second City coming to the UM-St. Louis campus. Second City has put on a hilarious show at UM-St. Louis in the past. Clark goes on to say, "This year, we hope that we can pack the house!"

STUDENT FEES, from page 1

Mike White, the former vice-chairman for the committee who was elected on August 30, was relieved of his duties after not attending the last three consecutive SGA meetings of the four in this semester. Tyler Cross, freshman, psychology, was elected to take over as vice-chairperson of the committee. Duties of the vice-chairperson include assuming the duties of the

“
Though the fees that were proposed have been approved by the Assembly, they have not been made official by the University at this time.
 ”

chairperson of the assembly (currently Courtney Stirrat) in the event of her absence and serving as a member of the SGA Assembly Executive Committee.

Also, three new ASUM board members were elected. There are four seats total on the board, one of which will remain filled by Courtney Stirrat, who is also the SGA Chairwoman. The three board members elected by the Assembly were David Dodd, sophomore, international business; Will Melton, junior, psychology and Veronica Shead, senior, psychology.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The SGA Chambers was packed with representatives and visitors at the monthly meeting this past Friday. Shown is Rivermen baseball coach Jim Brady. In the background, SGA re[representatives vote on student fee increases.

PROPOSED STUDENT FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004					
FEE INCREASES (on already existing fees)	current		2004		NEW FEES
	current	2004	current	2004	
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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

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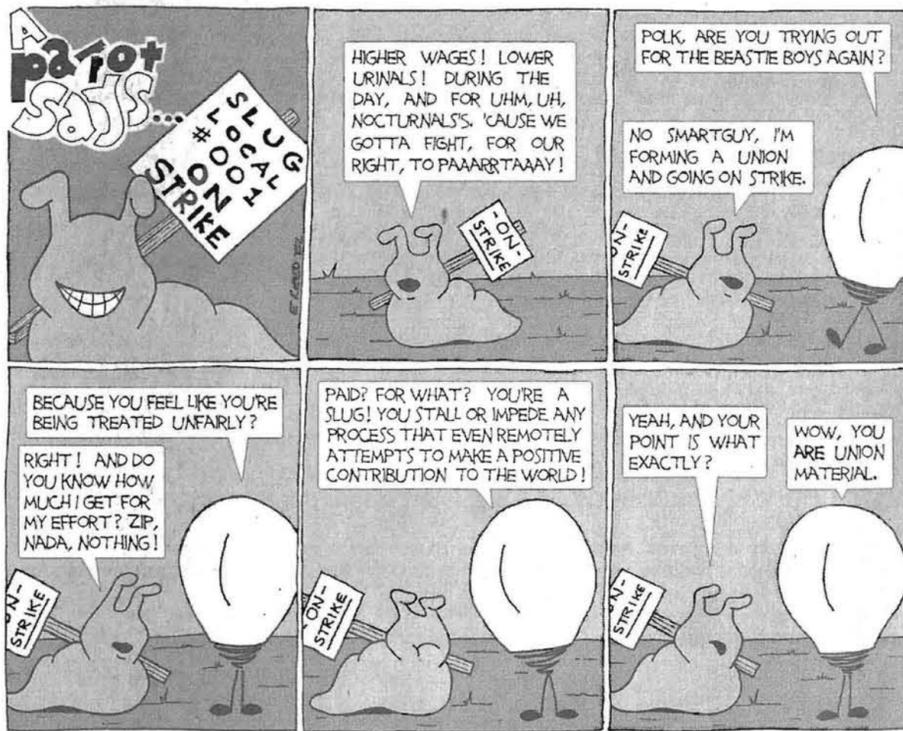
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New Shanghai Circus is quite magical

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Last Wednesday night a group of young people dressed in flashy costumes danced to loud music, did dangerous stunts, threw glass, bowls, pottery and candles around and shifted their bodies into unusual positions. And they did all of this to the delight of a captivated audience.

The Incredible Acrobats of China of the New Shanghai Circus performed on Nov. 13, in the J.C. Penney Building in the second performance of the Center for International Studies' 2002 Performing Arts Series. They presented a delightful spectacle with a dizzying array of gymnastics, acrobatics, juggling and "lion dancing" in what was only the second sold-out performance in the Performing Arts Series' history. In each number, the acrobats displayed their many versatile talents to the "oohs," "ahs," and applause of the audience.

The first major event was a group acrobatic contortion in which six limber women twisted their bodies back-

wards and in such ways that it was almost painful to watch; it was a relief to see them untangle and come back up again. Another gymnast, Zhu Jing, also performed a similar contortion later that required her to fit into a 12-inch wide barrel. The feat was most impressive.

These acrobats are particularly talented in their abilities to balance household items as if they weighed little more than a piece of paper. Zhang Bihuann was particularly impressive as he balanced a 34-pound ceramic jar on his head while dancing.

Another amazing feat was performed by Xu Jun, who balanced a total of 32 benches on the crown of his head. Another performer, Hong Yijia, balanced five plates worth of glassware and candles on the tip of her nose. Watching it was amazing and left one wondering how the group was able to accomplish these feats.

Besides balancing and contortion, the New Shanghai Circus also performed many beautiful dance numbers harkening back to China's history. Twelve dancers performed a

nice fan dance, waving red fans in the air. In an evening of thrills, it was nice to see a calming change of pace that produced such a lovely contrast to the rest of the evening's events.

Another lovely dance number was an aerial ballet performed by Olympic gymnast Gao Shengsheng. Shengsheng danced on top of a small post, performing a ballet number that was a beautiful sight for the eyes.

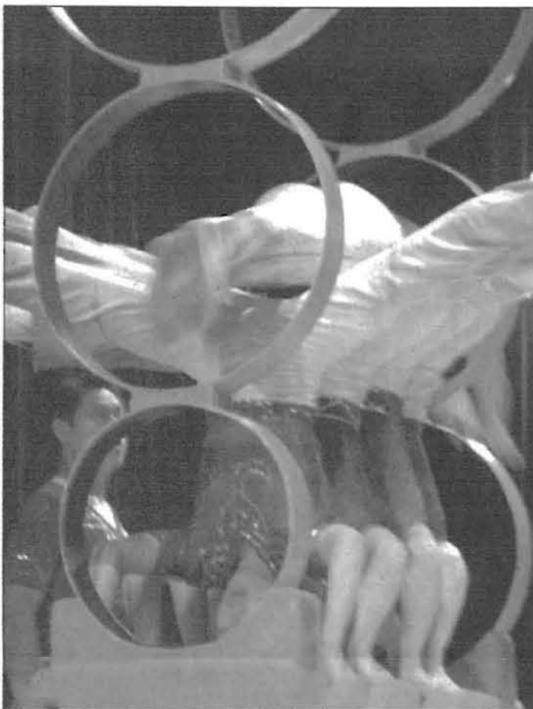
Of course, no Chinese acrobatic performance is complete without a "lion dance," and this one was no exception. Two "lion trainers" humorously and energetically pretended to tame two brightly colored "lions" (in reality, four men in disguise). The lions gave a spectacle that was both exhilarating to watch and cute in some ways, as the lions looked at the audience with blinking eyes and demanded to be petted by their trainers, acting more like gigantic dogs than ferocious lions.

The New Shanghai Circus was a marvelous way to spend an evening, and it offered a nice contrast to the circuses that most of us are familiar with.



Photos by Sara Quiroz/The Current

The Center for International Studies welcomed the New Shanghai Circus to the J.C. Penney Building Wednesday evening. The circus, which featured acrobats, contortionists and dancers, performed to a sold-out crowd.




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