



Richmond spikes UMSL
V-ball to success ▲ See page 5

Alcohol Awareness Week takes on binge drinking

UM-St. Louis had a 41.5 percent binge drinking rate last year

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis's binge drinking rate for last year was 41.5 percent. Michelle S. Russell, coordinator for the alcohol and drug prevention program with Health Services, spearheaded last week's Alcohol Awareness Week on campus to inform students about the negative effects alcohol can have on their lives. Russell had an information table with free pamphlets set up in the MSC and was available for questions.

The biggest problem college students face with alcohol is binge drinking. According to Russell, "Binge drinking is how many drinks you have in one setting. For men, binge drinking would be five or more drinks in one setting; for females, it would be four or more. Men have a higher percentage of body water. When men drink, less alcohol is absorbed because it's obviously diluted with more water. [With] females...a little bit more alcohol is absorbed because they have less water.

"Obviously we want to lower the binge drinking rate," Russell said. "When you start binge drinking, that's where you get into making bad decisions."

Irresponsible drinking can impair a person's ability to reason properly. This can lead to drinking and driving, reckless sexual behavior or miscommunication between the sexes. "Students are more at risk of not using protection or making good decisions about sexuality if they're under the influence," Russell said. "When two people are intoxicated, guys usually interpret female's body language as being very flirty and kind of a come on, and girls, sometimes when they're drinking, just think that they're being friendly. Women have to set good boundaries when they're drinking with the opposite sex."

Alcohol Awareness Week also let students know that not everyone is binge drinking. A majority of students make healthy decisions. "The purpose of Alcohol Awareness Week is to promote awareness," Russell said. "Yes, of course college students are going to drink, and that's not what alcohol awareness is. It's not saying 'don't drink.' It says if you're going to drink, drink responsibly."

Students have mixed opinions about binge drinking on the UM-St. Louis campus. Holly Meiselman, freshman, sees it as a big problem.

see ALCOHOL, page 9

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Building safe crossing system 'cost prohibitive'

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Safe crossing at the intersection of Arlmont Road and Natural Bridge Road has become an important issue for the students of UM-St. Louis who cross there each day for class. In light of the recent incident involving student Jakob Parks, questions are being raised about the lack of some form of safe crossing.

According to Robert Samples, director of University Communications, plans for a new crossing have been discussed since the announcement of the 1993 Campus Master Plan.

"We've been trying to get the land for a new crossing since 1993," Samples said. "The original plan was to connect the North and South campuses a little farther down past the entrance, but we cannot purchase the property." When asked why the University has not purchased the property yet, Samples responded, "We are still trying to purchase that property."

Samples went on to say, "Most everything boils down to money."

Samples said the new entrance would be built at the property line of UM-St. Louis and Normandy High School.

This renewed interest in student safety came after Parks was struck by a vehicle by the main entrance to North Campus on Oct. 8. Parks suffered facial lacerations and dental problems. He was taken to St. Mary's hospital and was released two days later after doctors were sure there was



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Jakob Parks, UM-St. Louis student, crosses at the intersection of Arlmont and Natural Bridge Oct. 24. Parks was struck by a vehicle at the same intersection Oct. 8. He was treated and released from St. Mary's Hospital. Since his accident, concerns have been raised about the safety of the intersection. UM-St. Louis

administrators have looked at building a safe-crossing system at the intersection in the past, but nothing has ever materialized from those early planning stages. Administrators looked at the possibility of either a tunnel or a bridge, along with the idea of moving the entrance to the Normandy Middle School boarder.

“We've been trying to get the land for a new crossing since 1993... Most everything boils down to money.”

-Bob Samples
University Communications

no danger of internal bleeding.

There are a few options for UM-St. Louis to explore in finding a solution to creating a new, safe crossing. First, there is the original idea that was set in the master plan.

The plan calls for the campus to "develop a new East Entrance Drive onto Natural Bridge near the east property line that abuts Normandy Junior High School, such that it will align with, and provide direct access to, a new entrance into the South Campus.... Most vehicular traffic will

be removed from the drive between Woods Hall and the J.C. Penney Building, reducing pedestrian/vehicular conflicts. With development of the new East Campus Entrance, left turns into and out of the existing Main Campus entrance should be eliminated, but right turns through this intersection could continue at least through completion of West Campus Drive."

Also available to the campus is the option of a bridge spanning Natural Bridge. There is some disagreement

about this idea however, as the intersection would make for an inconvenient location for bridge construction. There is the option of building one further down the road to avoid the intersection, but that has yet to be discussed.

The other option for student safety is a tunnel. A tunnel could run underneath Natural Bridge without interfering with the layout of the intersection.

One of the biggest problems the campus would run into with any

construction plans is the interference the construction would have on the flow of traffic on Natural Bridge, one of the busiest streets in the area.

UM-St. Louis would need to receive approval from the State to begin construction on Natural Bridge, because the road is a state highway. A tunnel system would be the biggest obstacle because traffic would need to be rerouted around the school.

see SAFE CROSSING, page 8

Coonrod named campus' newest vice chancellor

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Student Services now has a permanent vice chancellor after a 15-month search. Curtis C. Coonrod was appointed to the position after serving as interim vice chancellor for 15 months.

"There was a national search by a committee on campus headed by Jerry Durham," Coonrod said. "The search committee consisted of a dozen people from Student Affairs and Campus Affairs. The committee narrowed the field from the application field."

Coonrod is taking over as vice chancellor of Student Affairs, a department that includes Student Life, Admissions, Student Financial Aid, Degree Audit and Reporting System, Career Services, the Women's Center, Disability Access Services, Counseling Services, the Registrar's Office and University Health Services.

Coonrod came to UM-St. Louis in 1983 as an admissions counselor and was named Associate Director of Admissions shortly thereafter.

see COONROD, page 9



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Curtis C. Coonrod listens to a colleague on the 3rd floor of the MSC Friday. Coonrod has been named vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He had been filling the position on an interim basis since August 2001.

Nursing enrollment up by 44 students

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Undergraduate enrollment has increased by more than 10 percent at the Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies at UM-St. Louis. There are currently 432 undergraduate students, compared to 388 last fall. The increase is significant, especially in light of the nursing shortage across the country, a shortage that is expected to continue.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that there will be about 1 million new job openings for registered nurses by 2010. Kathy Canda, director of Student Services at the college, said the demand for nurses will likely remain strong until at least 2020. The demand is partly because the baby boomers are aging and in need of greater health care. Also, people in general live longer lives today than ever before.

The college has an above average track record for preparing students who enter the field; 94.5 percent of its graduates pass the National Councils Learning Extension for Registered

Nurses (NCLEX-RN) examination, as opposed to the state average of 87 percent and the national average of 86 percent, according to the Missouri

“The [enrollment] increase is significant, especially in light of the nursing shortage across the country, a shortage that is expected to continue.”

Department of Economic Development. The standardized nursing examination is authorized by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

see NURSING, page 8

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, or fax 516-6811.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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October

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

Thru Nov 1

Alpha Phi Omega

Alpha Phi Omega is sponsoring a clothing drive until Nov. 1. All donations will go to St. Vincent DePaul. All items can be brought to the APO workstation in the Student Government Affairs and Activities Office on the 3rd floor of the MSC.

Mon 28

Anthropology Club

There will be an Anthropology Club Fundraiser in the MSC all week long. There will be a table set up at various times throughout the week and the club will be selling Entertainment 2002 Coupon books.

Mon 28 (cont.)

Monday Noon Series

"Women Artists of Saint Louis: Past and Present" will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229.

28

Career Services

There will be an Interviewing Techniques Workshop from 11 a.m. to noon in room 327 of the MSC. Advanced registration is required. Call Career Services at 516-5111 or register in person at 327 MSC.

Wed 30

University Meadows

University Meadows Apartments will host its annual Just for Kids Halloween Party from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be games, food, prizes, movies, costumes and fun for all.

Put it on the Board!

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

Wed 30

Campus Ministry

The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will be having a free Bible Study from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The study is held every Wednesday. The ministry is located at 8000 Natural Bridge Road. Those attending, enter through the double glass doors on the Natural Bridge side of Normandy UMC. Call Roger Jespersen at 385-3000 for more information.

30

Student Life

Experience St. Louis: Great Skates will be held today. A bus will leave the MSC gravel lot at 8:45 p.m. and return around 11:15 p.m. A fee of \$5 will include transportation and skates. Come out for Roller Disco at Great Skates. Sign up in the MSC, room 366.

Thur 31 & Nov 1

Spanish Club

Come join the Spanish Club to celebrate El Dia de Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). The event will be held both days, all day, in the Nosh (1st floor of the MSC). Enjoy free Mexican food and candy.

Thur 31

Zeta Phi Beta

Zeta Phi Beta sorority, the Zeta Rho Chapter, will host a Halloween Skating Party from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Saint Olivette's Skating Center. Admission is \$3.

31

Student Life

There will be a jack-o-lantern contest from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. There will be prizes for best costumes, and for the campus organization with the best jack-o-lantern.

November

Fri 1

Zeta Phi Beta

The Get to Know Zeta Rho social will be held by Zeta Phi Beta at 6 p.m. in Century Room A on the 3rd floor of the MSC. Refreshments will be served.

Fri 1 (cont.)

Newman Center

All Saints' Day Mass will be held at 12:05 p.m. in Century Room C of the MSC. Please contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455 or encumsl@aol.com for more information.

Sat 2

Student Life

African Nite will be held at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House. A fee of \$6 will include dinner and entertainment. Come catch a glimpse of the rich diversity of the African continent. For more information contact Kanana at kkspace2@hotmail.com

Mon 4

Monday Noon Series

"Election 2002" will be the topic of the Monday Noon Cultural 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. E. Terrence Jones, veteran political consultant and professor of political science at UM-St. Louis will speak. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

The Campus Crimeline

October 18

A staff member of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) reported that someone stole money from her wallet that was in her book bag, which was sitting in the corner of room 376 of the MSC building.

October 20

Two students reported that their money was

stolen while they were in the TV section located on the first floor of the MSC. One student reported that money was missing from her purse, and the other said that money was stolen from the pocket of her jacket, which was on one of the chairs.

October 21

The first floor window of the Fine Arts

Building was discovered broken by an unknown means.

October 22

The second instance of an unknown person lighting posters on fire on the third floor of the Villa residence hall was reported. The posters were damaged, some causing an extreme fire hazard.

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Professor unlocks "Mysteries of New Orleans"

BY SARA PORTER
Features Associate

Many people probably think the term "trash literature" is a contradiction in terms, but UM-St. Louis History Professor Steven Rowan believes that that isn't so, particularly for his translated edition of Ludwig Von Reizenstein's 1854 novel, "Mysteries of New Orleans."

"Trash literature is closer to the way people really thought back then," Rowan said. "Many authors wrote around issues and tried to cover them up with flowery words."

"Mysteries of New Orleans" shows what could have been thought of at the time by an admittedly perverse guy."

"Mysteries of New Orleans" was published in serial form in two German newspapers, but was quickly banned for many reasons.

"It was an anti-slavery novel, before the Civil War," Rowan said. "It was the first book in American literature to feature a major lesbian love scene; plus it takes place in the ambience of brothels and prostitutes."

"Mysteries of New Orleans" is an allegorical apocalyptic novel set during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1853. It is about a wizard named Hiram that seeks to punish the city for slavery by heralding the birth of a "black Messiah."

"Hiram controls the harvest and blooming of the plant that causes Yellow Fever," Rowan said. "He also says that the Messiah would create a war by 1871. Of course, in reality, it was ten years too late."

Rowan considers "Mysteries of New Orleans" to be of the Gothic Horror genre, particularly because of the character of Hiram, who sets himself up as a god-like figure that follows a philosophical belief of God being very

irrational.

"If Hiram is God, then we're all in trouble," Rowan said. "There is a chapter called 'Hiram's Night' in which Hiram appears to the characters and projects a series of frightening images. Many people are killed; it's like a death

"It was believed she had a lesbian affair," Rowan said.

Von Reizenstein himself was caught in a romantic involvement with an Italian count and was sent by his father to America. Von Reizenstein worked in New Orleans in an oyster cannery and

of some characters that hit a bit too close to home for many New Orleans natives.

"Von Reizenstein used a lot of real characters in his book," Rowan said. "Some were thinly disguised portrayals that people quickly guessed who they were based on."

project. In 1991, Rowan met Von Reizenstein's descendant Konrad Von Reizenstein, who invited Rowan to stay at his mansion in Hof, Germany.

Rowan said of his 1991 trip, "I got off the train, and there was this frail old man in a long green cloak. I knew it was him."

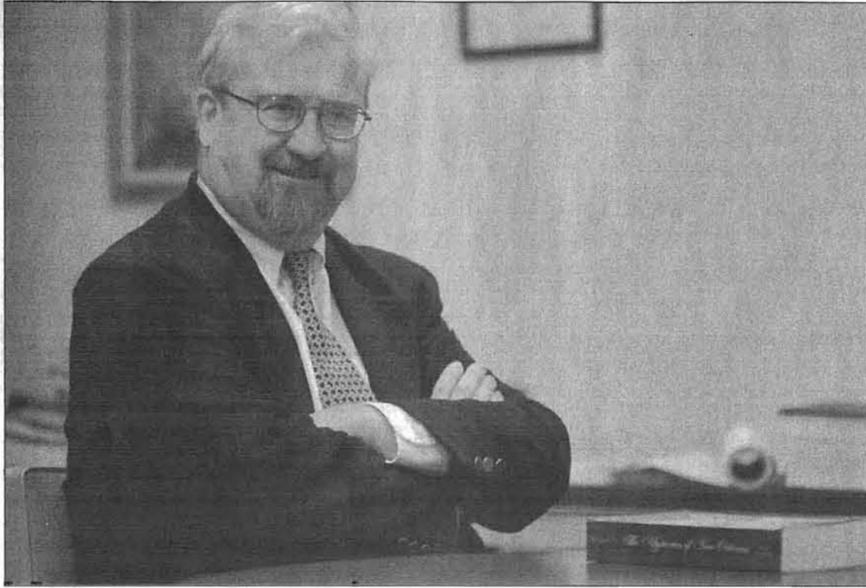
Rowan was fascinated with the Von Reizenstein family and their mansion. "The mansion was filled with trophies, weapons, and paintings," he said. "When I first entered I saw the portrait of a soldier who was a family ancestor that fought on the British side during the War for Independence."

Konrad Von Reizenstein told Rowan more details about Von Reizenstein's life, and Rowan discovered that copies of "Mysteries of New Orleans" existed in four parts in Tulane University and in all five parts in the Historic New Orleans Collection. "At first they denied me access, but there comes a time when you have to say 'Look, I know you have this book,'" Rowan said.

Rowan translated the book from its original German text to English, a task that he said was daunting, particularly in updating some of the text's nineteenth-century writing style.

"I left all of the content in," Rowan said. "But sometimes it was difficult putting some of the more nineteenth-century words into a more contemporary twentieth-century phrasing." "Mysteries of New Orleans" was published in June.

Rowan hopes that when they read "Mysteries of New Orleans," readers will get a look at the city that they never had before. "You get a real sense of the town of New Orleans that you don't have anywhere else," Rowan said. "You have a description that you don't have from any other source."



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Steven Rowan, professor of history, has translated the obscure German novel, "The Mysteries of New Orleans." The translation was released in August.

in slow motion.

As controversial and scandalous as "Mysteries of New Orleans" was, the life of its author, Von Reizenstein, was equally so. Von Reizenstein was born in Germany to an aristocratic family. His mother was institutionalized for "undisclosed reasons."

also sold birdcages. He moved up to St. Louis and then Pekin, Ill, where he wrote "Mysteries." He returned to New Orleans as a surveyor, architect, and editor. He sent "Mysteries of New Orleans" to the German newspapers in five-part serials. It was banned not just for its content, but also for its portrayal

Von Reizenstein remained in New Orleans until his death in 1890.

Rowan, who translated two other novels, "Mysteries of St. Louis" and "Cincinnati or Mysteries of the West River," first heard about the book, "Mysteries of New Orleans" in 1990 while working on research for another

Lip Sync raises money for breast cancer awareness

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Last year 192,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer. 40,200 of those women are expected to die. Breast cancer accounts for one out of every three cancers found in women.

“

'The only thing that would get me dancing and making a fool out of myself is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.'

— Jeff Griesemer
SGA Comptroller

”

To help with the fight against this disease, the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority has been collecting donations and educating students about the importance of self examination and awareness of breast cancer.

In accordance with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority hosted their second annual "Think Pink Lip Sync." This event was open to students, faculty, staff and stu-

dent organizations. Registration was \$10 and participants were judged by a panel. Between each performance, the audience was informed about breast cancer.

"We're raising money for the Susan G. Korman Breast Cancer Fund," ZTA president Sharon Kelly said. "Our goal is \$300, and we've raised about \$200 so far."

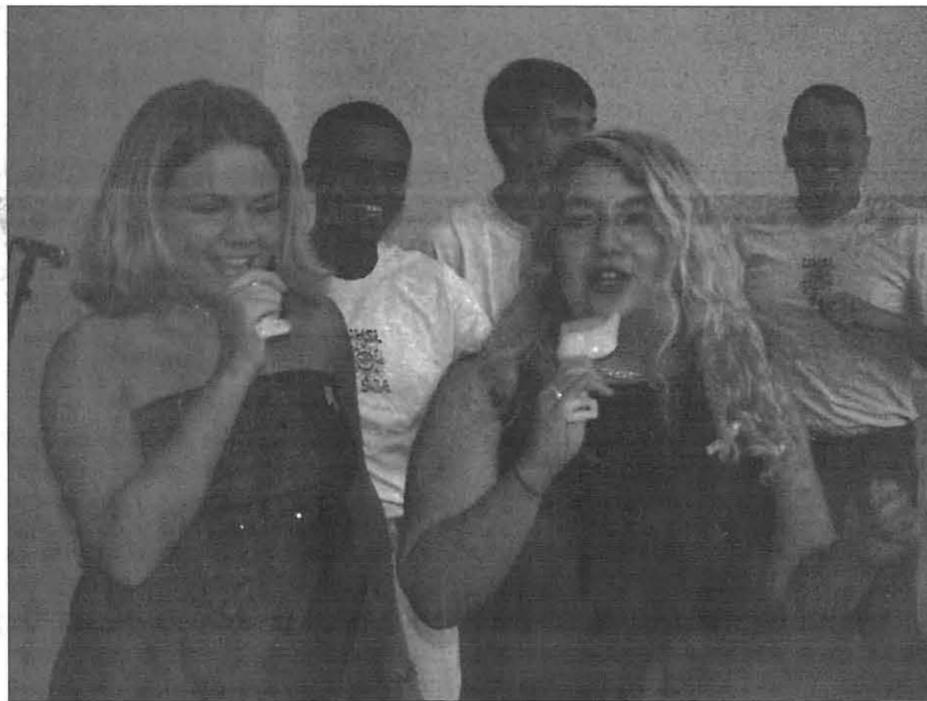
A large crowd of students gathered as the executive committee of the Student Government Association began the event with Aretha Franklin's "Respect." SGA's routine included original choreography, plastic shovel microphones and an air-saxophone.

SGA Comptroller Jeff Griesemer commented, "The only thing that would get me dancing and making a fool out of myself is Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

Alpha Xi Delta sorority followed with Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back." The girls wore matching t-shirts and their routine included dancing, magazines as props, and stuffed pants to illustrate the theme of the song.

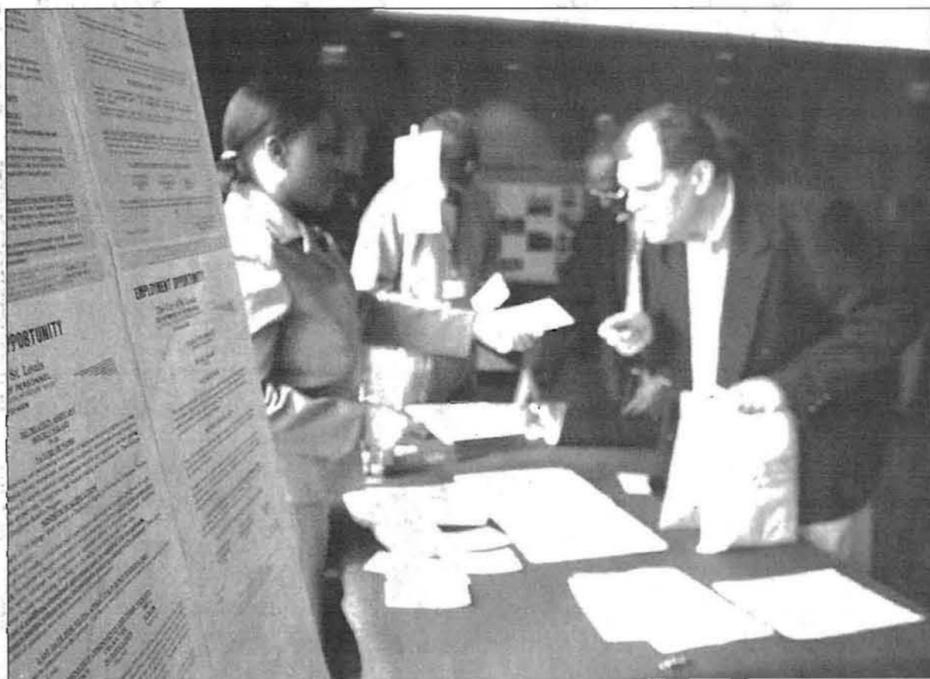
Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma ended the fundraiser with a dramatic performance of "Summer Nights" from "Grease."

Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma won third place, Student Government took second, and Alpha Xi Delta won first.



Emily Fishman/The Current

SGA Chairperson Courtney Stirrat "sings" Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Think Pink Lip Sync contest that was held on the first floor of the MSC.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Probation officers organize job fair

Tracy Steed, of the City of St. Louis Office of Personnel talks to potential applicants at the Partnership for Success Job Fair on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 23. The fair, held in the Century Room of MSC, was organized by state and federal probation officers, and specifically catered to convicted felons. Employers accepting resumes included the Washington University Medical School, the Carpenters' Union, Shop n' Save Supermarkets, and the Navy.

Toy exhibit brings out kid in visitors

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

The Missouri History Museum is offering an exciting new exhibition from October 5 through January 21. The exhibit is called "Our World in Miniature."

"Our World in Miniature" features over 50 trains, doll houses and other collectible toys. "This is a place of fantasy and of reality for everyone, with toys for every age," said Visitors Service Representative Rebecca Brantley.

The toys are displayed in glass cases; however, there are two dollhouses and a Thomas the Tank Engine train set on the floor for children to play with.

With toys as old as 60 years or more, adults are given the chance to remember and reflect on their childhood while observing the collectibles. Children can also gain knowledge from the miniatures on display.

"The purpose of the exhibit is to show the collections that people from St. Louis have kept over time and the items that the museum members have preserved," Brantley said.

Playtime for children is a fundamental part of their development because children are able to take on roles of adulthood and develop strong imaginations. Kids take on adult roles when they pretend to be parents, teachers,

doctors or grocers.

This is the first year for the "Our World in Miniature" display, which is only temporary. After the last day of the exhibition, the toys will be placed in either the Research Library or the History Museum's vault, located on Skinker Road.

Featured toy items include the first St. Louis Cardinals Cabbage Patch Doll (1987), vintage railroad stations and trains (1945), "Tiny Tears" (1957), "Baby's First Step" (1965), model airplanes, the first Legos and the original game of Life (1965).

In addition to the toys on display, there are also old pictures on the walls of children with their toys. Other displays include a video of how railroad train sets were created, a picture of the Wabash Streamliner passing through Forest Park in 1946, pictures of Union Station (1940) and magazine toy ads from Sears from the 1950's.

Stories from many collectors are shared. The exhibit offers historical information on such collectors as Rosie Lee Davis (born in 1915), Clara Artemesia Drefs (born in 1892) and C.C. Johnson Spink, who owned a large amount of collection artifacts.

The Missouri History Museum is located in Forest Park at Lindell and De Baliviere. "Our World in Miniature" can be seen daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibition is free.

TEACHERS

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Center offers resources for student, staff

BY MICHELLE ELKINS
Staff Writer

Helping teachers to help kids learn by using their imaginations is what the Educational Materials and Resource Center is all about. Established in 1999 with two \$80,000 grants and quite a list of financial supporters, the center carries educational resources, recyclable materials for art projects, a lending library and laminating and die-cut machines all to help make creative lessons and activities. Open to the student body, faculty, staff and community at large, the Resource Center has users that come as far as Arnold, Fenton and Festus and as close as Normandy and local daycare centers.

There are two ways to have access to the resource materials: either by paid membership, which is the best deal, or you can come in at your leisure. Visits allow you to make a \$1 per pound purchase of materials or for a \$5 eight-week registration, you can receive 5 pounds of recycled materials and use the other services like the laminating and die-cut machines and the lending library that is stocked with math, science and reading books for school-age children.

Clinical Manager Diane Prescott, who has been a part of UM-St. Louis for 17 years and a part of the resource center since last January, mentioned that the center gets a lot of student teachers, daycare teachers and faculty.

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Administration owes students a refund... or at least an apology

Parking is a topic that just keeps coming back to haunt UM-St. Louis. It seems as though students are forever griping about the lack of parking at this school. Whether or not they have a legitimate argument on a normal school day is undecided. What is unquestionable, however, is that last Wednesday there was a definite lack of parking for UM-St. Louis students.

It seems as though the school decided to host a career fair in the Millennium Student Center without alerting the students that this event would be taking place. What they also forgot to mention was that the Millennium Student Center Garage would be closed to student use; that is, students were not allowed to park in a parking garage bearing their name. When students arrived on campus and proceeded to their usual parking garage, they found campus police waiting at the entrance to turn them away. The garage was full of career fair patrons. Apparently it was too much to ask for the career fair participants to walk very far, but students who pay fees to park on campus had to park far away from their classes. Students were forced to park in the Continuing Education lot, only to find they had received tickets for parking in that lot without proper passes. Other students had no choice but to park in the Mark Twain lot, which is a good distance away from the buildings that hold classes.

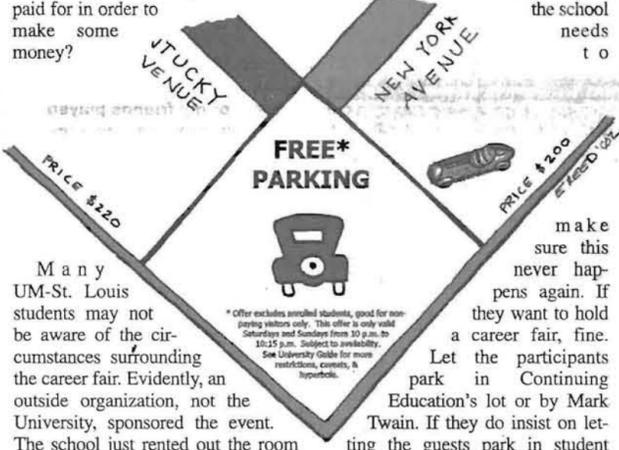
Is the administration this hard up for money? Have the budget cuts led to such dire straights that the campus has decided students need to sacrifice the parking they paid for in order to make some money?

difficult question, except it really isn't. The administration has a duty to let students know when these types of events are going to occur. Students were late to classes last Wednesday because of this parking fiasco. Students have set routines and adhere to them almost religiously. They had no way of knowing these problems would arise.

In the future, if campus administrators wish to have events like these on campus, perhaps they should give up their parking spaces. If the faculty and administration arrived last Wednesday only to find their parking spaces were used by someone else, there would be something akin to a military coup in response. When students get upset over losing their parking garage, they are being unreasonable. After all, it was only one day. However, it was a big deal. Students who got upset were not being unreasonable. They had a legitimate gripe. Students are forever bearing the brunt of the campus's problems and mistakes. The purpose of this institution is to educate students, not to allow felons to find a new job (again, no disrespect to the felons). What the administration needs to realize is that without the students, there is no school. That is a lesson they evidently have yet to learn.

All this fiasco does is make students' previous complaints legitimate. Administrators have unwittingly given voice to the students' complaints—hopefully, not something they intended to do.

Now, what can the campus do to make up for this debacle? First and foremost, the school needs to



Many UM-St. Louis students may not be aware of the circumstances surrounding the career fair. Evidently, an outside organization, not the University, sponsored the event. The school just rented out the room for the fair's use. What they also neglected to mention was the fair was held for convicted felons. Now, this is not to say that felons do not deserve another chance at a good, well-paying job. However, should students really have to give up their parking to felons? Why couldn't the felons park farther away, letting the students get to class on time?

Let the participants park in Continuing Education's lot or by Mark Twain. If they do insist on letting the guests park in student parking, they need to alert students in advance to the impending situation so they can plan accordingly. Finally, the school needs to drop the charges against students who received tickets last Wednesday. Either that, or the school could always issue refunds to every UM-St. Louis student. After all, the students paid for a service they didn't receive, and in the real world, that's worth a refund.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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LETTERS

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

Voting keeps you turned on

If you've turned on the TV or radio lately, you know it's voting season again. We're constantly being bombarded by these campaign ads that tell us nothing. Ad A says that Candidate B lied. Ad B says that Candidate A lied about Candidate B in Ad A. It's all a game to these political candidates. These advertisements simply waste citizens' time. They don't even bother to inform us of what the candidates' platforms are.

commercials that actually contain information useful in deciding whom to vote for, more eligible voters would vote. Politicians can't have it both ways: Either their advertisements are informative, and they want citizens to vote; or their commercials are confusing, and they do not want citizens to vote.

The former political science major in me screams that this is because the U.S. really only has one political party: the moderates. The rights have moved left while the lefts have moved right, all in an effort to appeal to the greatest majority of voters. Apparently, most politicians believe that taking a stand is a way to scare off voters. What frightens me is that the U.S. citizens elect representatives who refuse to declare their platform. It all becomes a popularity contest; that is, our local, state and national governmental elections are similar to elections for the prom king and queen.

I suppose the naïve Pollyanna in me might say that it's not the politicians' faults. They don't control their own advertisements. While that might be true in the technical aspects of the commercials, the content is largely up to the candidates and their campaign staff. Candidates are not going to let advertisements run that they do not approve. So, as usual, Polly can wave good-bye. That is unless, of course, the politicians are just getting so stupid they fail to actually realize what is in their commercials. But that is a stretch of fiction even this English major can't understand.



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

The essayist in me wants to know we have so few open debates. Would actually weighing out the pros and cons of certain important issues on national television really scare off that many voters? I argue that such debate would in fact increase the percentage of voters. It's open dialogue from those who want to represent me that I want, not some polished 30-second TV slot that leaves me more confused than I was before its airing.

Since I've now convinced everyone that I have Multiple Personality Disorder, let me switch gears. Even if you are confused, it is your duty as an American to vote. One really cannot claim to be patriotic unless he or she has fulfilled this duty and voted. While it has become a cliché, "if you don't vote, don't complain" is still true. Democracy only works when a majority of those eligible to vote actually take the next step and do vote. In general, Americans love to boast how we have the best country and how wonderful democracy is. The problem, however, is that voting is a way to better the country, but since so few vote, we really have something closer to an oligarchy (rule by a small percent of the population).

The cynic in me believes that the confusion from these commercials is the entire point of them. Assuming that confused voters typically do not vote, political candidates can control and, thus, skew voting by actively and purposefully confusing the voters. Also, if a candidate lies about another candidate, that confuses voters. If candidates would present com-

mercially that actually contain information useful in deciding whom to vote for, more eligible voters would vote. Politicians can't have it both ways: Either their advertisements are informative, and they want citizens to vote; or their commercials are confusing, and they do not want citizens to vote.

Conversations that are out of style

As a journalist, one of my jobs and instincts is to keep my eyes and ears open to what is going on around me. I'm not trying to be nosy, but I do listen. Even in class discussions, I don't participate that much because I'd rather observe. In doing this, not only do I pay close attention to what instructors say, but also what students sitting around me have to say about topics being addressed in class. This helps me to brainstorm ideas for interesting stories. It also helps me to understand my student audience.

about things that could maybe, oh, I don't know, matter. Why do they care so much about what someone else is wearing?

When listening to classroom discussions, students' conversations are often about subjects related to the lecture given that day or topics in the news, but every once in a while there are some conversations that really catch my attention. These conversations are interesting to me not because they are insightful or all that exciting, but because they are out of the ordinary for a college setting. To clarify "by out of the ordinary for a college setting," I mean immature.

A great thing about college is that there aren't those cliques like there were in high school. Sure, every student has his or her group of friends that they hang around with on a regular basis, but there are no more invisible lines that seem to separate one type of person from another or one group from another.



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

One of the most recent conversations that caught my attention was that of two girls in a class of mine. The subject was the clothes and hairstyles of other girls in the class. The reason I found this conversation so interesting was because after graduating from high school, I had hoped to be surrounded by more intelligent conversations

As always, there are clothes that are considered by the general public to be "in style" or "out of style." Fashion trends will always be there, but contrary to the belief of these particular girls, "being in fashion is not everyone's top priority. Hey, I like to look nice sometimes, too, but when I am attending class, it is often the least of my worries."

What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've written about?
 - Parking spaces given to felons
 - Immature college students
- You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!
 - Submit a Letter to the Editor
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 - Visit the Online Forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current
by Mike Sherwin
Photography Director

How will you vote in the upcoming national Senate election?



Andy Burkemper
Sophomore
Criminology

I haven't registered [to vote] yet.



Nancy Uebel
Senior
Psychology

I would vote for Talent. I just don't think Carnahan has the credentials.



Tim Lee
Library Patron

I am not a citizen, so voting isn't an option.



Catherine Schwegmann
Campus Visitor

Are you kidding? Jean Carnahan, of course! I would never vote for Newt Gingrich's right-hand man, Jim Talent.

Seniors rule as UMSL claims victory

The Riverwomen squad swept Kentucky Wesleyan 30-19, 30-12 and 30-20 on Senior Day

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Volleyball

BY JOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Coming off three losses in a row since defeating first-place SIUE on Oct. 9, the UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team was in dire need of a victory. On Senior Day, against Kentucky Wesleyan Saturday afternoon, the Riverwomen ended their losing streak. The team dominated the net and completed a three-game sweep of the under-sized Pumas.

The Senior Day victory was extra special to the lone senior of the squad, setter Janae Paas. "Janae has had a great career here and is an outstanding student. She always has a great work ethic and is a good positive role model for all the younger players that have come through here. I think that will carry her a long way in her life," Riverwomen Head Coach Denise Silvester said.

Game one went back and forth with the two teams trading points early. UM-St. Louis took the lead midway through the game with strong blocking and began to pull away toward the end of the first game. The Riverwomen rallied for eight straight points against the Pumas' defense, taking a 20-13 lead. The front line proved to be too strong

for the ladies of Kentucky Wesleyan as they suffered a 30-19 loss.

The second game showed characteristics of the first, with the Riverwomen pulling away early in the game. Going on two 10-3 runs opened up a big lead for the Riverwomen as they continued to lay on the points. The team showed great teamwork and execution in the second game, eventually winning 30-12.

In game three, the Riverwomen stumbled out of the gate, committing six errors and allowing Kentucky Wesleyan to jump out to a 7-4 lead. The ladies of St. Louis did not continue the trend of errors later in the match, but continued their strong play at the net, winning the game in convincing form, 30-20.

This win comes just one night after the Riverwomen lost three out of four games to the University of Southern Indiana. A major blow to the team, the injury of outside hitter Liz Blair, left Silvester little time to devise a game plan against Southern Indiana.

"It's been a very tough stretch," Silvester said. "We're down to about 7 and a half players, so we had to use a brand new lineup last night against Southern Indiana, and we didn't get to practice it much. But, this game against Kentucky Wesleyan was important for the girls' confidence," said Silvester.

Convincing play at the net was the defining point of victory for UM-St. Louis. Middle hitter Nikki Pagels led the team with 15 kills, outside hitter Kathryn Freeman had a productive

game with 12 kills, while MH Melissa Frost used the other team's height disadvantage with 11 kills and no errors.

Stacy Pearl passed out 46 assists in the three-game sweep and also had 5 service aces in an all-around solid game for the junior setter.

The victory brings the Riverwomen's record to 3-6 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and 12-10 overall. There are five matches remaining on the ladies schedule, and making it to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament will take solid play and a little help from other teams in the conference.

"We have to win out all of our matches and hope that someone else loses theirs to get in the tournament," Silvester said.

UMSL setter Ashley Richmond goes from hoops to spikes

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Volleyball

BY JOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Shooting lay-ups and building pyramids began Ashley Richmond's career in athletics. But, shifting her talents to volleyball gave Richmond the opportunity to assist her teammates on the UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team.

"I began playing volleyball my freshman year in high school. Before my freshman year, I was a cheerleader and played basketball," Richmond, a sophomore, said. "Most of my friends played volleyball, so I decided to tryout, and I grew to love the game."

Learning the game came naturally to Richmond and eventually earned her a

spot on the UM-St. Louis squad. But, coming to UM-St. Louis was somewhat nerve-racking to the setter, coming out of high school.

"I was very nervous at first to play against college teams. I was 18 and playing against girls that were 22, and to me that was a big difference," the setter said.

Although her opponents were older, Richmond responded like a veteran during her first year of playing college volleyball. In her freshman year of 2001, Richmond played in all of her team's 31 matches and led the team with 686 assists and 6.07 assists per game average. Showing consistency,

she had 11 matches with 30 or more assists.

What is even more amazing is that the setter position was not Richmond's normal spot before arriving at UM-St. Louis.

"Sometimes in high school I played the setter position, but my main position was middle hitter when I was in the front row, and sometimes I played setter when I was in the back," Richmond said.

Gaining experience at the setter spot her freshman year has led Richmond to have an exceptional 2002 season. Richmond leads the team with 467 assists through 20 matches played and

has improved on her assists per game average, bringing it to 7.92.

Richmond was quick to give her teammates credit for her improvements on the court.

"I've learned a lot from Stacy Pearl and Janae Paas, the other setters on the team. Their experience and knowledge has helped me develop my setting game," Richmond said.

Richmond said that she admires Pearl and Pass for their great work ethics on and off the court.

On the court, Richmond finds herself caught in moments where she realizes how fun the game of volleyball is to play.

"I enjoy the moments of play where our team fights through a long rally with incredible digs, hard hits, and scrappy defense. It is hard to describe, but after certain points, I am reminded of how great the game is, how much I love to play volleyball," the sophomore said.

Off the court, this student athlete somehow finds the time to be the Vice President of The National Broadcasting Society, Treasurer of the Television Production Club, a pledge in the Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity and to work in the Communications Department through the Federal Work Study Program.

"I like to keep busy, and I figure that while I'm here, I'd better make the most out of college," Richmond said.

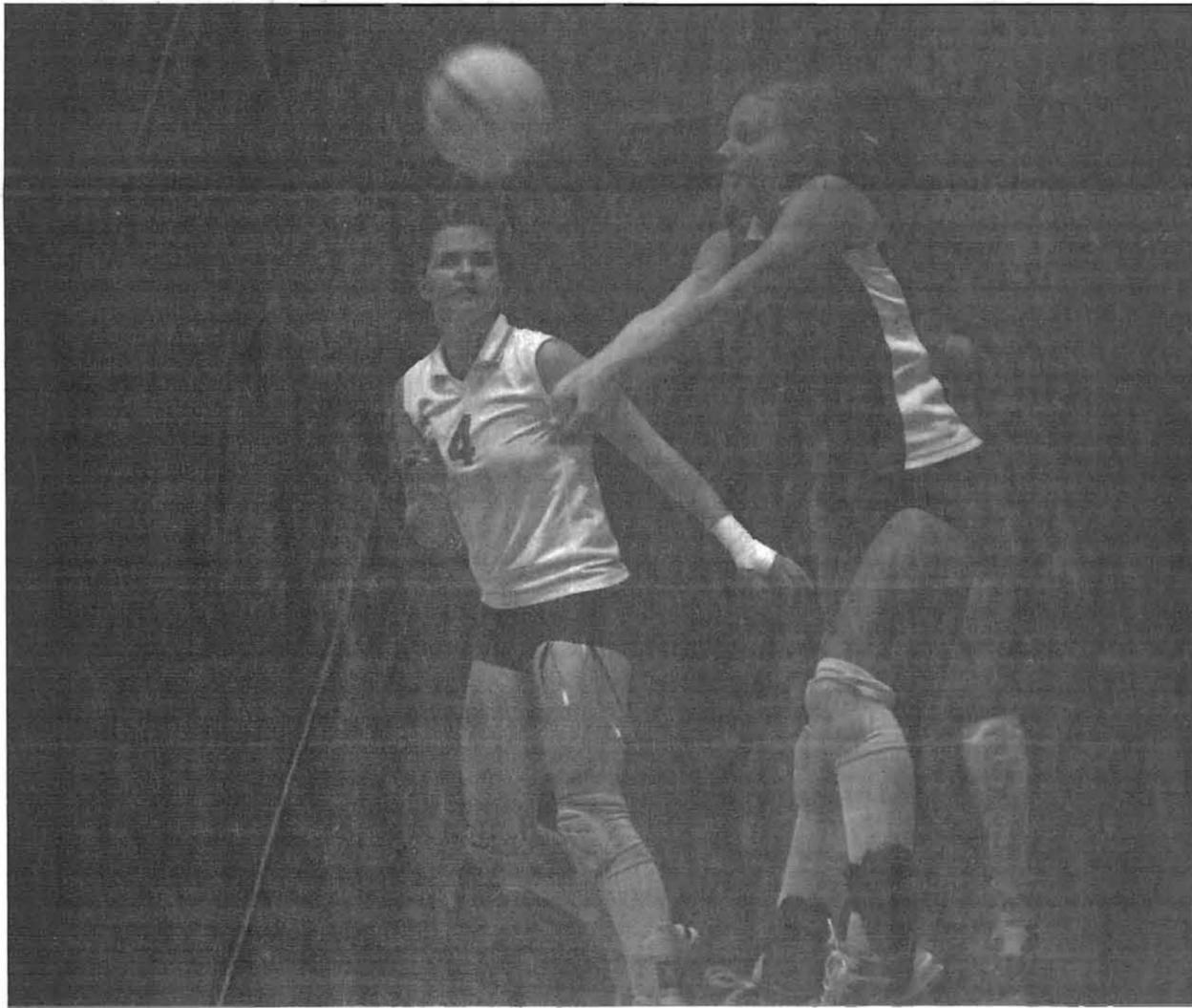
Majoring in Mass Communications, Richmond also wants to double major in Spanish. Currently, Richmond is working toward a minor in Marketing and is also trying to obtain a Writing Certificate.

Some people may think this type of workload would be impossible, but the sophomore thinks it will pay off in the end with a job in television broadcasting.

"Right now, I have aspirations of being a national news anchor, but I wouldn't mind working in major cities as a local anchor. I have many interests though, and I look forward to exploring more possibilities," Richmond said.



Ashley Richmond
UM-St. Louis setter



Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis setter Ashley Richmond in action during a match this past weekend. "I think we can make it to the conference

tournament and even make it to the next round," Richmond said of her team's chances this season. "All we need is confidence."

Sports have what it takes to help UMSL make the grade



The ABCs of Sports

HANK BURNS

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

Several weeks ago, I wrote about the importance of athletics to a university and said that football itself had the power to change the way people look at a university. I remembered those words as I watched the Mizzou Tigers football team defeat their archrival Kansas 36-12 in the Saturday, Oct. 26, homecoming game. The game, as well as the weekend surrounding it, is the biggest event of the year on the Mizzou campus and one of the bigger events of the year throughout college sports.

Using the Mizzou homecoming as a case study, I can see that it is possible to use athletics to propel a university to new heights. It is possible to use the sports that we have at UM-St. Louis to greatly improve the image of this university. However, there are more factors involved than just the athletes, coaches and athletic staff. The follow-

ing is a look at what could make a successful athletic department, one that could give this university a better name.

1. Promotion - Getting the word out is definitely key to a successful event or activity. Granted, Mizzou may receive quite a bit more funding in this area; they certainly do a great job of promotion. Billboards touting the Mizzou Tigers' athletic program are abundant on the stretch of Highway 70 leading to and from Columbia. Other billboards using Mizzou themes are also prevalent along that same stretch.

Although I am mainly using Mizzou as an example, Lindenwood University also has billboards on Highway 70 that promote the university and using its mascot. In the case of both Lindenwood and Mizzou, promo-

tion using billboards to hype programs has worked.

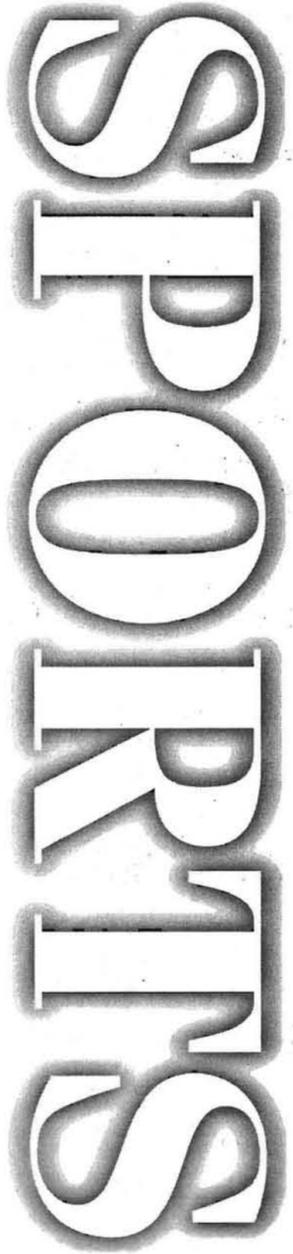
2. Student Organizations - Although this does go hand-in-hand with promotion, getting the involvement of student organizations is also necessary to a thriving program. At Mizzou, nearly every student organization is involved in the homecoming activities before, during and after the game. Clubs, fraternities, sororities and other organizations make their presence known and help to get others involved on the Mizzou campus during the homecoming weekend and nearly all of the other athletic events.

On the UM-St. Louis campus, there are many opportunities to do the same thing. Clubs and organizations make a huge presence on this campus. The Greek system is also prominent on this campus, although to a much smaller

degree than at Mizzou. So, it is possible to use the resources of the various student groups on this campus to drum up support for UM-St. Louis Athletics and the University as a whole.

3. Alumni - Probably one of the biggest factors to the success of Mizzou and its athletic programs has been the alumni. It is the alumni who continue to donate funds to the programs. It is the alumni who continue to bring in many of the people who fill the seats at the Mizzou athletic facilities when game time comes. The alumni at Mizzou are key to the school's success.

On this campus, a movement is beginning that will hopefully gain support from UM-St. Louis grads. If this movement grows, that could be a major factor in propelling UM-St. Louis to new heights.



EDITOR

HANK BURNS

Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Soccer
Oct. 29

• Men - 7 p.m.
vs. Missouri Valley

Nov. 2

• Men - 7 p.m.
at Missouri Southern

6

• Men and women
at GLVC Tournament

9-10

• Men and women
at GLVC Semifinals/Finals

Volleyball

Nov. 1

• 7 p.m.
vs. Lewis

2

• 1 p.m.
vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

6

• 7 p.m.
at SIUE

8

• 7 p.m.
at Kentucky Wesleyan

9

• 2 p.m.
at Southern Indiana

14-16

• at GLVC Tournament
Time to be announced

WEB

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

CONCERT REVIEW

OK Go lights up Blueberry Hill

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Music Editor

It sounds like the old cliché of a grandfather lamenting about the outrageous cost-of-living these days: "When I was your age, we could see Benny Goodman for all of a dollar and a nickel..." Well, maybe Benny's days are long gone, but thanks to KPNT's \$1.05 concerts, gramps can still rock out to new millennium rockers at Roosevelt-era prices. Case in point: Monday, October 14, the Point held its latest "dollar five show," bringing to town Chicago's pop-rock quartet OK Go for a rousing set at Blueberry Hill.

OK Go is touring in support of their recent self-titled debut, but to say they are a new band is not quite correct. Actually, the band has been together since 1999, gaining a strong fan base in Chicago and on the touring circuit with their buoyant pop-rock and self-deprecating, unpretentious style. OK Go evades easy classification, however, as their musical style is not like most other bands out there on pop-rock radio. Perhaps the best way to describe the band's sound is to use the painter's palette approach: here a daub of '70s stadium rock, there a smear of '80s new-wave, maybe a smattering of They Might Be Giants' quirkiness, and just a bit of the wry lyricism of Weezer. The result is

refreshing—at once nostalgic and progressive, with an endearing willingness to take pop clichés and turn them on their heads.

OK Go was in fine form Monday night during their set at Blueberry Hill's Duck Room, playing a tight set drawn mostly from their new album. After a brief introduction from ever-present scenester Beate Bob, the boys of OK Go started the night with the fast and catchy "You're So Damn Hot," an ode to a wandering love interest: "Now you're headed to your car/ You say it's dinner with your sister, sweetie/ But darling, look at how you're dressed/ Your best suggests another kind of guest... You don't love me at all... But you're so damn hot."

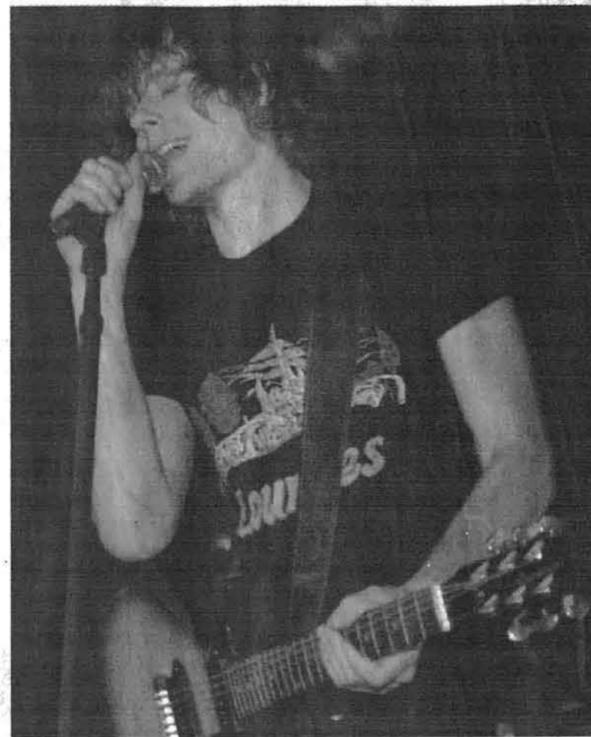
After several upbeat pop tracks, OK Go's frontman, Damian Kulash, thanked the crowd for showing up on "a night so important to your sporting event history" (i.e. the Cardinals' last National League Playoff game) and asked for a volunteer to check the score every so often and report back to the stage. Crowd participation seemed high on the band's list of priorities. At one point, Kulash presented the crowd with a few options of possible covers, "Since this is a democratic country, if not a democratic band, you tell us what you want to hear... Let's see. How about Toto, Rick Springfield, or 'Crimson and Clover.'"

One thing the band definitely does

not lack is a sense of humor (or of irony). The band had the crowd in stitches when it banged out Whitesnake's big-hair-metal classic "Here I Go Again," in a sped-up pop-rock version, with just a hint of tender mockery. In case you were wondering, a big-hair band OK Go is not. Decked in skinny blue jeans, second-hand T-shirts and low-top Converse sneakers, OK Go obviously isn't letting success change their frugal wardrobe. These guys are unassuming to the nth degree, which makes it all the more surprising that the music they spin is so pop-radio friendly.

By the time OK Go got around to playing its alternative radio and MTV2 hit "Get Over It," the crowd was primed to explode. When the last notes rang out and the members left their instruments and walked off stage, the audience applauded - and applauded some more - and then screamed - and then...well, you get the point. The response was enough that OK Go returned to the stage and performed a three tune encore, including the emotive and sweetly melancholy "Return," and a rousing cover of the Specials' classic "Nite Club."

OK Go's concert Monday proved they have what it takes for big-time success, which unfortunately may mean that next time OK Go comes to town, gramps may have to pay quite a lot more than \$1.05.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Damian Kulash, guitarist and lead singer for OK Go, performs Monday night at Blueberry Hill.

THEATER REVIEW

'Ah, Wilderness' delightful Americana

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor



Sandy Underwood

First love blossoms for Murial (Winslow Corbett, left) and Richard (Daniel Talbot) in the Rep's production of "Ah, Wilderness!"

If you need a refreshing break from the world's current troubles, I have just the thing. "Ah Wilderness," the current production at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, is a delightful comic and nostalgic romp about a middle-class America of a more peaceful and idyllic era.

Taking place on July 4, 1906, this slice of Americana and humor, the only comedy by the great American playwright Eugene O'Neill, is about an American family that O'Neill described as the family in which he wished he had grown up. Despite being set in 1906 and being written in the 1930s, the play is surprisingly timeless, touching on issues of adolescence and growing up with humor and sweetness. This family is recognizable and familiar to us today because the story is about American values in small-town middle-class America. The domestic ideals and dreams still look familiar, even if the world has changed.

For those who idealize the 1950s, here is a look at another time idealized by earlier generations, the turn of the twentieth century. In 1906, the American dream was still intact, the World Wars were still ahead, and there was a sense of hopefulness about the

future as the world was poised just on the edge of the modern world. New inventions are around every corner and optimism is everywhere. Cars are new, electricity is new, while movies, recorded music, radio, and TV are all still in the future. Books, newspapers, the theater, and social discourse are the sources of information and entertainment.

The Miller family presents a loving and traditional image in an age of innocence. Father Nat (Joneal Joplin) is the publisher of their small city newspaper and the firm but wise and loving head of the family. Mother Essie (Lynn Milgrim) is a charmingly distractible worrier, maternally concerned about the happiness of all around her. There is the active and energetic youngest son, Tommy (Patrick Probst), a teasing and curious preteen daughter, a college-aged older son who thinks he knows everything already, and the poetically preoccupied, rebellious middle son. The play gently and humorously explores issues of family dynamics and, in particular, adolescents eager to explore the world, rebelling against parental controls and curious about love. The parents' wishes, fears and worries for their children are generally still the same as those in the present. The play is funny, playful, sentimental and deeply charming.

Always one of the treats of a trip to the Rep is the fine acting. Audience favorite Joneal Joplin was strong but

jovial as the family's patriarch. Much of the action of the later part of the play was carried by Daniel Talbot as the moody and poetic middle son, Richard, and Talbot turned in a fine and funny performance, capturing the part-child, part-adult nature of adolescence perfectly. Lynn Milgrim was charming as Essie, as was Carol Schultz as Nat's unmarried sister Lily. The story of Lily's on-off relationship with Nat's comic never-do-well friend, Sid, adds a touch of poignancy to the story, and was touchingly and skillfully presented by both her and Robert Elliott. Elliott was excellent as the funny but hard-drinking Sid, who provides much of the comedy in several scenes.

The Rep used a simple, mostly white set to convey this not-quite-real world of the past and silvery lighting to highlight the beauty of their world. Costumes were appealingly crisp and also mostly light in color, giving either a black and white sense to scenes that mirrored the photography of the era or an ice cream social look to the world on stage.

With delightful humor and sweet nostalgia, "Ah Wilderness" will transport you to another time, and place you in an America with people who are both familiar and idealized. "Ah Wilderness" is playing at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis in Webster Groves through November 15.

MOVIE REVIEW

'White Oleander' is chilling tale

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

prison, the daughter is plunged into the cold waters of the foster care system.

And what a nightmarish world it is. This film is a coming-of-age story like no other. The daughter is buffeted

Plants can be poisonous, and sometimes so can relationships.

Several words spring to mind in regards to the new film White Oleander: Chilling. Riveting. Tour-de-force. This unrelenting tale of a young teenage girl (Alison Lohman) and her bizarre relationship with her mother (Michelle Pfeiffer) begins where many films end.

At the beginning of the film, the mother is sent to jail for the murder of her boyfriend, although the circumstances surrounding the murder are not clear at first. What is strikingly crystalline clear from the start is the close, possessive relationship between the mother and daughter, and the insular, superior attitude that the mother has created around their lives. She tells her daughter that they are above the ordinary because they are artists and are not bound by the normal rules as they move through life on a higher plane.

They look nearly identical, a pair of lithe, blonde goddesses, and the daughter tries to emulate her mother. She is also completely dependent on and submits to the complete control of her beautiful and powerful mother. The mother's apparently all-consuming purpose is to insulate them from the ordinary and mundane, a world they needn't concern themselves with. This cocoon of power is shattered by the murder. As the mother is sent to

about like a person thrown from a boat into the frigid and stormy waters of the sea. While her strong-willed and unshakable mother adapts to the harshness of prison with an alarming alacrity, the daughter is devastated by the loss of her mother and their way of life. She clings to whoever comes close: the trailer-trash woman who takes her in, other lost kids in the foster home, a surrogate father. So used to bending to her mother's will, the girl adopts whatever posture someone wants her to take. But visits to her beloved mother in prison bring a shock as her mother seeks to regain control from her distant cell. And even imprisoned, she is a force to be reckoned with.

This film is frightening and dra-

matically powerful stuff, not only because of the story of the travails and transformations that the teen suffers, but also for the tour-de-force acting. Michelle Pfeiffer is perfect in this role. Unassailably beautiful, cold and intelligent, she is a danger to all around her. Renee Zellweger as one of the foster moms is touchingly vulnerable and good-heartedly simple. And then there is the riveting performance of the young lead, Alison Lohman, who goes from childishly dependent to cynical to finally free. This is a powerful and dangerous path to adulthood.

This kind of actor's picture is compelling when the performers on screen have the talent to pull it off. This is Michelle Pfeiffer as you have never seen her, terrifying in her evil and beauty, like a Siberian tigress in a cage. No matter how lovely, you had best keep your distance, lest she devour you. It's fascinating to watch from the comfort of your seat as you are moved by horror and pity at the fate of the young protagonist.

The film will be called a drama, although it could almost be called a horror film despite its bloodless nature. Regardless of the label, this is one of the best films of the year so far and a must-see for most serious filmgoers. The excellent story and outstanding acting are the gems of this harrowing movie. It's not for those who only want light, escapist films, but it's something that will likely make you think. Or give you pause next time you hear about a child put into foster care.



Warner Bros.

Michelle Pfeiffer in "White Oleander."

MOVIE REVIEW

Transporter carries action, little plot

BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Luc Besson, the French action filmmaker probably best known to American audiences for his film "Le Femme Nikita" really knows how to do action. "The Transporter," which Besson wrote and Corey Yuen directed, has great action sequences, often done with a tongue-in-cheek style of humor reminiscent of the British film "Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," which was like "Pulp Fiction" played for laughs. "The Transporter" even stars Jason Stratham from that film.

The transporter for whom the movie is named is a British ex-special forces operative (Jason Stratham) living quietly in France and specializing in "transport," which means he drives anything anywhere for a fee, whether that means driving the getaway car for bank robbers or delivering a car loaded with unknown cargo to a remote location. He has three rules for his work: 1) no names 2) once set, the plan cannot be changed and 3) never look in the package. When he breaks Rule 3 on a delivery, everything starts to change.

This film has plenty of action almost from the first moments on screen. If "things blowing up" is your idea of fun, there is a lot to like here. Beside lots of pyrotechnics, we get

Hong Kong-style action non-stop, with doses of humor tossed in. The tongue-in-cheek approach and the over-the-top nature of the explosions make the entertainment factor quite high. Besides things blowing up, the film has some spectacular car chase scenes, once again executed with a humorous touch. There is a climactic chase scene with cars and trucks on a highway that is both reminiscent of the Road Warrior and exciting to watch. Of course, there is a beautiful girl, a wisecracking protagonist, and plenty of bad guys, fast cars, guns, and car chases. If that alone is sufficient, you'll have a good time with this movie.

But check your brain at the door. What this movie lacks is a reasonable plot. Maybe Besson didn't finish writing his screenplay, or maybe the director decided just to use the first half. Either way, the action and events are set up well, but not enough of the story or the characters' motivations are resolved or explained in a satisfactory way by the end of the movie. While the action is fast, overblown, and spectacular, and many of the exchanges are humorous, the plot ultimately falls flat. While one doesn't really expect a lot of originality in the plot of an action film, a complete story is always nice.

see TRANSPORTER, page 10



EDITOR

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E
Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change

Nov. 1

Comedian - behind-the-scenes-look comedy, with Jerry Seinfeld

Autofocus - indie drama about the secret life and mysterious death of TV star and amateur pornographer Bob Crane

Spy - action/comedy based on the '60s TV show, with Eddie Murphy and Owen Wilson

Frida - Salma Hayek's fantasy-like bio film about Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, directed by Julie Taymor who did 'The Lion King' on Broadway and the film 'Titus'

Far From Heaven - an amazing recreation of 1950s Hollywood drama, but dealing with the forbidden subjects only the 'B' films would touch, with Julianne Moore

The Santa Clause 2 - comedy sequel with Tim Allen

Specials:
In Praise of Love - from legendary French director Jean-Luc Goddard, stunning black and white film photography and garish color digital video combine in a nightmarish and angry French-language art film, one week only at the Tivoli

Nov. 3

Living in Missouri - comedy of manners about three people whose Midwestern lives are coming apart; part of the Webster Film Series, at Webster University's Moore Auditorium at 7 p.m., one night only

Nov. 6

Broken Lullaby - the 'Cine in the City' offering this month at the City Museum; the classic 1932 anti-war film directed by Ernst Lubitsch, starring Lionel Barrymore, at the City Museum's Beatnik Bob's Café at 7:30 p.m., one night only

Nov. 8

The Grey Zone - based on a true story of Auschwitz, stars Harvey Keitel and Mira Sorvino, directed by Tim Blake Nelson (director of 'O', co-star of 'O Brother Where Art Thou')

8 Mile - drama starring rapper Eminem

Specials:
Sordid Lives - campy and touching comedy about a gay man in the South, one week only at the Tivoli

MOVIE REVIEW

'Heaven' is haunting tale of love and loss

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor



Sergio Strizzi/ Miramax Films

Giovanni Ribisi and Cate Blanchett in Tom Tykwer's "Heaven." Blanchett plays a British teacher living in Turin, Italy, who takes action against a drug lord.

It is so rare to find a film like this. Sometimes a film has great acting, a moving story, intriguing characters, or beautiful photography. Rarer are films that both entertain and say something real and human. Anytime you find a film that combines some of these elements, you have a worthy film but the film that has them all is the most elusive.

With elements of both a suspense film and a love story, "Heaven" weaves an ethereal and ultimately moving tale of love against a backdrop of moral choices and the modern world. After years of watching people around her fall victim to drugs while the authorities do nothing, a British teacher (Cate Blanchette) living in Turin, Italy takes action against the drug lord at the center of the destruction. The young woman is quickly captured and brought in for interrogation. The prisoner demands to be interrogated in her own language and a young policeman (Giovanni Ribisi) is pressed into the job of translator. As the interrogation progresses, elements of government corruption, greed, and personal betrayal are revealed. Soon, this tale is spiraling down a path of unexpected twists.

The multilayered film deals with universal questions about the power of love to change one's life and whether the actions of one person really matter. With all that said, this film may not be for every audience. Although the film is poignantly beautiful and emotionally universal, it is not always a simple film and not everything is spelled out or explained, as Hollywood films are apt to do. The film is refreshingly intelligent, however. If you hate films that require you to think, you may not enjoy "Heaven."

The mixture of intrigue, thrill, romance, and introspection makes this film both haunting and achingly beautiful. The unusual spice of self-evaluation and reflection on the modern world makes you anticipate the new

revelations of the characters and their histories as much as each twist of the plot. Giovanni Ribisi and Cate Blanchette glow in this tantalizing tale of the fragility of life and happiness. Beyond that, the visual quality of the film is breathtaking, as haunting as the story and the characters.

The film is directed by Tom Tykwer, the filmmaker who made the original, German-language hit "Run, Lola, Run." This script is the last by the great director Krzysztof Kieslowski and was to be one of a trilogy of films called Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell. Rather than leave the script to languish or have it made by another

director in the late author's style, a choice was made to go with a director whose style was entirely different. The result is this wonderful, lyrical film of love and loss.

Beyond the sensitive acting and the bittersweet story, the look of the film is breathtaking. Certain shots will make you gasp with their beauty, and the masterful camera-work heightens the emotion of every scene, whether it is suspense, terror, or

tenderness. The film opens with a beautiful, dreamlike sequence before starting to tell its tale, setting a tone of other-worldliness and raising our curiosity. Even without the poignant story, the gorgeous photography alone

would make the film worthwhile.

This compelling story of people caught in a vise is told primarily by an astonishing pair of actors. Cate Blanchette seems to have no bounds on her talent, turning in yet another powerful and touching performance as another distinctive character. Her young widow is so touching and real that no one could fail to sympathize with her untenable dilemma. The less well-known Giovanni Ribisi matches her scene for scene as a character who is young and naive yet surprisingly resourceful and unrelenting.

This is a wonderful thinking person's film. "Heaven" will appeal more to those who prefer a film that is more than escapist entertainment, for it does make some demands on the viewer. But for those who like an intelligent and meaningful film with absorbing drama and emotion and luminous visual appeal, "Heaven" is heavenly indeed.

“
The multilayered film deals with universal questions about the power of love to change one's life and whether the actions of one person really matter.
”

Halloween arrives early with Archon

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

The alcohol was free, bras seemingly hadn't been invented yet, and the Klingons were, once again, forcing innocent people to sing "I'm a Little Teapot." It was a dab of Medieval atmosphere, a little of the future, and a sprinkling of neo-Goth vampires shunning the sun but not each other. Archon 26, held earlier this month at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, in short, rocked.

Archon is an annual convention of people who love fantasy, whether hobbit-huggers or Jedi, all the sides of fantasy and horror were well-represented. The week-end included marathon role-playing sessions, Live Action Role-Playing (LARPing), collectible card games (like Magic) and other obsessions that left conventioners wide-eyed from sleepless nights. In the middle of everything were the celebrities, from authors like the unique, parrot-shouldered Mickey Zucker Reichert to Dirk Benedict, better known as "Face" from "The A-Team."

Almost everyone was dressed like something. The costumes ranged from a six-foot SpongeBob (for which my friend Kelly won a "Best Media Recreation" award) to a girl wearing six centimeters of electrical tape. Several of my friends wanted to give tape-girl an award, but her seven-foot, kilted boyfriend and his long-sword scared them away.

In my ideal world, the U.N. would be modeled after Archon. I can see it now: Kofi Annan saying, "Have a jello shot, Saddam, it's all good," and Saddam jumps because somebody said "shot." But after a while, the funky costumes and mellow atmosphere, combined with the remixed techno-eighties music blaring through the halls would avert all thoughts of war

and strife. "It's decadent," one religious fundamentalist would admit, while holding up a cup, "but I love it! Can somebody give tape-girl some of this stuff?" But alas, all this may never be, and for now only a few thousand close friends gather every year for the glory and wildness of Archon.

And sooth, good friends, there was much revelry at that conclave of mischievous sprites. Swords of PVC pipe and duct tape rang on iron armor in the bloodless field before the Holiday Inn. Maidens in distress found new ways of luring hearty young men into their hotel rooms for a long night of rescuing. More than



Ruth Thompson

Archon is an annual convention of people who love fantasy, whether hobbit-huggers or Jedi, all the sides of fantasy and horror were well represented.

12,000 gallons of alcohol were consumed (that's my estimate), three lights were broken, two police cars were called, and one ambulance strained under the weight of a 400-pound man who over-exhausted himself trying to do a Jabba the Hutt impression. All in all, it was the party of a lifetime—at least until next year.

For more info on these events, contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291 (MSC 366) or the University Program Board at 516-5531 (MSC 381)



Student Life

Your Guide to Cultural, Athletic, Recreational, and Social Activities on the UM-St. Louis Campus

November

African Nite
Saturday, November 2
The Pilot House
6 p.m.

\$6 includes dinner and entertainment! Come catch a glimpse of the rich diversity of the African continent. There will be authentic African food, performers from Ghana, Kenya and the Ivory Coast, and displays of African artifacts and flags. For more information, contact Kanana at kkspice2@hotmail.com.

Wednesday Noon Live
Wednesday, November 6
The Pilot House

This week: Come kick it with Jasper, aka B/Box Boy. Truly unique entertainment.

Subs and Soul Food
Normandy United Methodist Church, across Natural Bridge from UMSL.
Every Wed. from 11:30 to 1:00

Please contact Miriam Bick, peer minister, at Liquidlov4@aol.com or Rev. Roger Jespersen @583-3000. Join us for food, conversation, and prayer.

ABC General Meeting
Wednesday, November 6
3rd floor MSC
2 p.m.

Find out about ABC's projects for the rest of the semester. For more info contact ABC: 516-5731

China Night 2002
Saturday, November 9
The Pilot House
6 pm

Tickets are available in the International Student Office for \$5. For more info call the International Student Office: 516-5229.

College Bowl Tournament
Wednesday, November 13
The Pilot House
6 p.m.

Got Brains? College Bowl is a trivia competition held at schools all over the U.S. Our winners will receive fabulous prizes and the chance to represent UMSL at the Regional College Bowl. Teams can include 4-6 people; individuals can sign up as well. Get more info and sign up in the Student Life Office, or e-mail UPB at UMSL_UPB@hotmail.com.

All Greek- All Student Party
The Pilot House
Thursday, November 14
7- 11 p.m.

Join all the UMSL Greeks for free food, giveaways, and music all night long!

Wacky Warriors Paintball
Saturday, November 23

Wacky Warriors
Bus leaves Alumni circle at 8:30 a.m.
Bus will return around 3 p.m.
*35 seats available on shuttle- first come, first serve! \$10 fee includes 6-8 games and 1250 rounds of ammo. Sign up in MSC 366. Come one, come all! Military types are not the only ones who will enjoy this fast-paced game.

Second City
Saturday, November 23rd
J.C. Penney Auditorium
7 p.m.

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 UMSL! You don't want to miss this show!

Garage undergoes repairs, structure too old for use

BY BECKY ROSNER
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis have also been worked on recently. Across from the Police Station, on East Campus Drive right

Gardner said. "It should be completed in about a year."

Most of the parking garages around campus are completely full during the day. Garage D held a total of 684 cars, which means that approximately 120 cars parked on each level every day. The two middle levels are closed at this time, but the top and bottom levels remain open and full.

The two new garages are expected to replace Garages D and N. It is not certain yet when they will be closed, but they will last for at least another year or so. Garage D will definitely close, but they are still unsure about N. "They [the garages] have been left until we decided to build the new ones," said James Krueger, vice-chancellor of managerial and technological services.

The structures have already lasted longer than they should have, in that they have withstood over 30 years of aging. "It was less expensive to repair them than to replace them," said Krueger.

“
Garage D was built in the late 1960s and was intended to be a temporary parking structure. The facility however, has been in place for over 30 years.
”

at the MetroLink overpass, a phase-two garage is being built. "The garage will be similar to the Millennium Student Center Garage,"

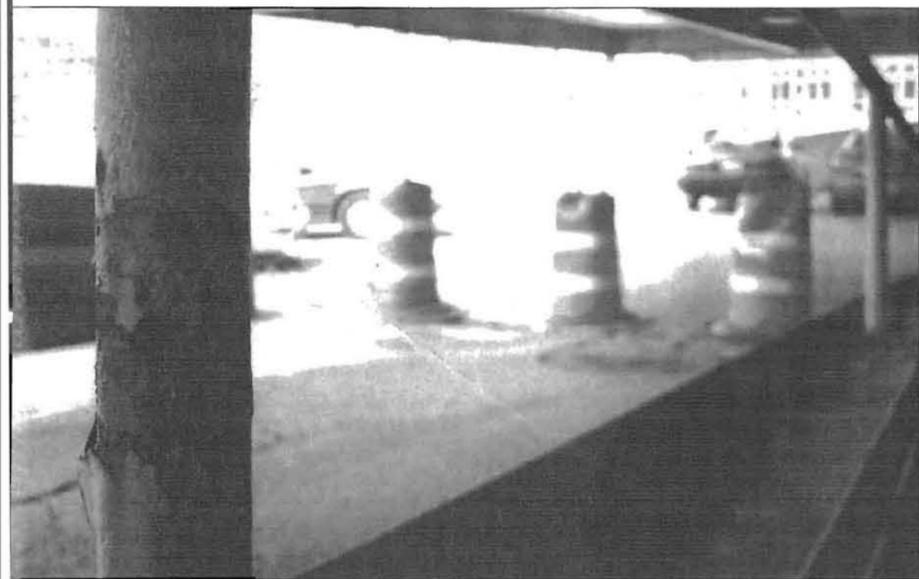
Many parking facilities around the campus have recently undergone repairs. One of the parking garages, Garage D, was inspected and found to have problems that required immediate repairs.

"Facilities requested that we close the garage (D)," Sgt. Bruce Gardiner of the UM-St. Louis Campus Police Department said.

"The inspections showed that there are problems in the garage and they needed to close the two levels so that they could make the repairs."

Garage D was built in the late 1960s and was intended to be a temporary parking structure. It is thought that the problem with the garage is possibly structural.

It is not certain yet how long the structure will be closed. After the renovations are complete and the inspections are all approved, the entire garage is expected to reopen. Other parking facilities around



Mike Sherwin/The Current

On Friday, Oct. 11, levels two and three of Garage D were closed in order to make repairs. Levels one and four are still accessible for parking. A date for completion of the repairs is not known at this time.

NURSING, from page 1



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Christy Rogers and Tiffany Owens, both juniors at the Barnes College of Nursing and Health Services, practice new techniques with the help of a stethoscope during a skill-building lab at the Nursing College Wednesday afternoon.

The higher exam scores of Barnes students is attributed to the rigidly enforced admission standards, the guidance of students through their clinicals and the testing of students after they have taken their theory and clinical courses to ensure their understanding of the subjects.

Barnes Jewish Hospital is among the top ten hospitals in the country and is the hospital where most of the clinicals are performed. Another reason the graduates have been so successful is

the college's new admissions standards. In the past, people have taken nursing courses for reasons other than the desire to become a nurse. With stricter admissions policies and probation, the college has managed to sift those people out and focus solely on those who are committed to the nursing profession. "These are people that really do want to be a nurse and are very committed to that," Canda said.

Despite the increasing enrollment, Barnes College of Nursing and Health

Studies maintains a student-to-teacher ratio of about 8:1 for clinical courses. The college is very concerned with individual progress and offers numerous ways to help students that truly want to do this type of work. "If they want to work, they have a job," Canda said.

"The program is successful due to our outstanding faculty, the reputation of the university, the reputation of Barnes College and the personalized service offered," Canda said.

SAFE CROSSING, from page 1

Sgt. Gardiner believes the bridge and tunnel ideas both have positive and negative parts, and that a true solution may be some time off.

"Bridges are restricting in that you can't have handicap accessibility," Gardner said. "Tunnels present the problem of having someone hanging around who shouldn't be there."

Gardiner went on to say he feels there are adequate safety measures in place with the crossing lights and traffic signals.

"I don't know that it'd be feasible to build anything there," Gardner said. "I'm sure cost is an issue."

According to Samples, planners for the campus looked at both options and came to two conclusions: a bridge would more than likely go unused, and a tunnel would be cost prohibitive.

There are other considerations that the campus has to consider as well. In light of Gov. Bob Holden's budget cuts over the previous year and the threat of cuts in the future, money for such undertakings is not readily available.

Parks was the first pedestrian to be struck by a vehicle at the intersection, but it is a danger the school feels has

always been prevalent. There have been numerous vehicular accidents at the intersection.

According to Samples, the University is meeting with the Missouri Department of Transportation to see if the lights at the main entrance can be improved so drivers can see signals better. Samples went on to say there is no way to ensure that pedestrians will follow crossing laws.

"We are interested in this project but currently lack the necessary land," Samples said. "We are working on it."

Get out those costumes!

ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31 @ THE PILOT HOUSE



Great Prizes!!!

✓ VOTE 2002 NOV 5TH

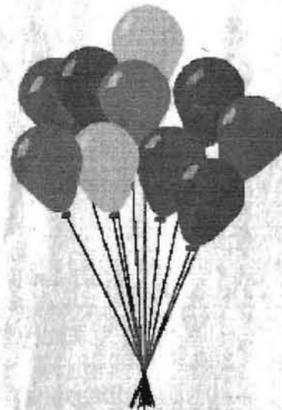
Vote on...

- Control of the U.S. Senate
- Control of the Missouri General Assembly
- 55 cent tobacco tax increase
- "Home Rule" for St. Louis City
- Legislators to support higher education

For any questions, come to the ASUM office at 377 MSC.

ELECTION DAY PARTY

7 - 11 p.m.
Pilot House
Free Food
Cash Bar



Sponsored by Associated Students of the University of Missouri & Political Science Academy

THE VILLAGE IDIOTS



Jason Granger



Adam Bodendieck

Hey there all of you out there in UMSL land. We'd like to take this time to introduce ourselves. We are Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger, AKA, the Village Idiots. For some unknown reason, the powers that be on this paper saw fit to give us our own advice column. Send us your questions, we'll answer 'em as best we can, but we make no guarantees to the accuracy of logic of our responses.

well to remember the words of Aristotle (We think it was Aristotle, maybe it was Plato...): "Anything that comes from a man who owns an attack dog and a handgun and lives in a trailer park can't possibly be good!" (Loosely translated from Ancient Greek.)

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots, I still have my chocolate Easter Bunny from last year. I know I should have eaten it by now; that is what it's for. But, well, I just can't. You see, it's the ears. I just can't bring myself to snap off the ears and eat them. Yet, for some reason I still pull the tasty little bunny out every day and stroke him; that was until one day he scared me when his creamy center started coming out. He's a little smaller now and kind of sticky, but I feel that I should, no I must, swallow him.

Dear Bunny Lover - Umm... We may be a little goofy, but you're just plain screwed up. Maybe you should write to that Abby chick or something...

Anyway, it seems that your bunny has performance anxiety issues. Don't worry, it happens to everyone (except us). There are creams and stuff you can buy that will help with that. Trust us, the bunny is just as uncomfortable and embarrassed as you are. As far as swallowing the cream center goes, that's completely up to you.

Next year, maybe you should ask the Easter Bunny to just bring you those little marshmallow chicken things.

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots, what happened

to all of UMSL's geese?

Dear reader— This is actually a very sad situation, and we hate to have to be the ones to break it to you. Apparently, the geese were not exempt from having to pay for parking on campus, and since geese aren't exactly rolling in cash, they soon found themselves flat-out broke. Not being able to support themselves, they had no choice but to beg for food. Unfortunately, since well-meaning students were the only benefactors to be found, those noble geese were subjected to a diet of nothing but food from the NOSH. Not surprisingly, they were found dead two days later. Authorities believe it was the fried cheese sticks that ultimately did them in.

Of course, they also might have just, I don't know, FLOWN SOUTH FOR THE WINTER!

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots, Everyone talks about making a difference and stuff, but what can a poor college kid do to change the world?

-Lost Revolutionary

Dear Revolutionary, There are many things a young rabble-rouser such as yourself can do. It all depends on scope. Are you looking big or small? If you are looking to change little things, you can start by kicking random people in the shins. There is nothing quite as life-altering as a swift kick to the leg. You can also flick the person in front of you in the ear repeatedly. That is always a good time.

If you are aiming big, we suggest spreading your propaganda around.

ALCOHOL, from page 1

"Yes, I see a very large amount of students binge drinking, and it stops them from going to class," Meiselman said. "They lead unhealthy lifestyles. People drink in the dorms and fraternity houses in excessive amounts."

Jhanah Haynes-Mark, sophomore, has a different view. "I wouldn't say it's a problem. In my experience most students don't engage in binge drinking. A few do, but not enough to make it a big issue on this campus."

A pamphlet published by the Bacchus & Gamma Peer Education Network offers tips on how to drink responsibly. First, getting drunk should not be the primary focus of your social event. "Plan an event, and if you have a couple of drinks when you're there, that's great, but don't plan your socializing event to go out and get drunk," Russell said.

Second, do not use alcohol to deal with depression, anxiety or stress. It can wind up making those problems worse. Be sure to remember that people "have the right to abstain from drinking," according to Bacchus & Gamma. Students should take campus policies and drinking laws seriously. Most importantly, people should always avoid drinking and driving.

"It's not always how you drink,

but why you drink," Russell said. "Some people can't function socially without getting drunk." Although alcoholism is not a major problem among college students, binge drinking can lead to more serious problems. "Number one is alcohol poisoning. Obviously, it doesn't happen all the time, but it is very definitely possible, and it can be deadly," Russell said.

Warning signs that someone's drinking has become a problem include withdrawal, drinking alone, falling behind academically or socially, becoming irritable when asked about their drinking habits, hiding their drinking habits or lying about them.

If someone suspects that he or she, or a friend, have a drinking problem, they can go to Campus Counseling Services or schedule an appointment with Michelle S. Russell in Health Services for an assessment. In addition there are informative websites that can help people looking for answers or treatment. People can visit Bacchus & Gamma on the web at www.bacchusgamma.org, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at www.niaaa.nih.gov or Alcoholics Anonymous World Services at www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.

COONROD, from page 1

After leaving UM-St. Louis to take over as director of university admissions at the University of Texas-Galveston (1992-1997), Coonrod returned to UM-St. Louis to become director of admissions here.

"I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to serve in a permanent capacity after working for 15, almost 16 months, as interim vice chancellor," Coonrod said. "Certainly in this position it is very important to work with all campus administration to ensure a smooth transition. Most importantly, we have to work for the students."

Coonrod takes over as vice chancellor at a time of transition for UM-St. Louis. In December, both Chancellor Blanche Touhill and System President Manuel Pacheco will be retiring after accepting the UM-System's offer of early retirement. No replacement has been announced for either retiree, interim or otherwise.

"Both of these searches, the campus is very interested in," Coonrod

Certainly in this position it is very important to work with all campus administration to ensure a smooth transition.
-Curtis Coonrod, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

said. "Students, staff, faculty and alumni all have a say in these searches. These are decisions that will affect the entire school."

Coonrod also said that students have shown a great interest in who is going to replace Touhill.

"What we need to understand is, What is the process going to be, now and in the future?" Coonrod said.

Coonrod has been named vice chancellor in the midst of UM-St. Louis's worst financial crisis in its history. At the Student Government Assembly meeting October 18, Chancellor Touhill and Vice-Chancellor Jim Krueger told the student assembly that the school is in serious financial trouble. According to Touhill, pretty much anyone who works with the budget and budget predictions has lost any optimism for the coming fiscal year. She went on to say the school "doesn't want to start down the road of cutting [itself] to ribbons."

Coonrod said he understands the difficulties these budget cuts present and believes they can be worked with. "The budget cuts we've had and anticipate down the road are always on our minds," Coonrod said. "The question is, How can we come up with ways to cut costs while still supporting our students?"

According to Coonrod, what the campus needs to do now is figure out ways to share resources.

"Maintaining service to our students is our main focus."

Dear Village Idiots,

I need your advice. The other day I spent \$150 on an "O" sack from my dealer. It felt light at the time, and when I got back to my trailer, sure enough, it was an eighth short. This is REALLY good stuff, red hairs EVERYWHERE; there aren't any seeds or shake, just nice long buds. But he still shorted me an eighth. What's the best way to bring this up with my dealer? He has a trained Rottweiler and keeps a 9mm automatic on him at all times, but I'd like to get what I paid for. Can I report him to the Better Business Bureau? What should I do?

-Been High and Dry

Dear High and Dry-

Are you serious? Do you realize that there are poor kids in Ethiopia who can't afford to get stoned? Be happy with what you've got, you selfish jerk.

As far as approaching your dealer goes, we consulted with our dear friend Miss Manners (who LOVES us, even if she won't admit it in public), and she told us that, unfortunately, there's no way for you to broach the subject without either hurting your dealer's feelings or getting your legs broken. Sorry. In the future, you'd do



3 ASUM Board of Director Seats are Open.

Run for election at the next SGA meeting.

November 15, 2002

1 p.m. • SGA Chambers

3rd floor Millennium Student Center

Call 516-5835 for more information.

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"Amazing."

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AMC WEST OLIVE 16 Olive & Whispering Pines 542-4AMC

Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement. For Additional Information, Call Theaters Or Check Directories.

TEACHERS, from page 3

"We try and help them get whatever they need for a particular project. The math and science departments come down a lot," Diane said. The main objective of the center is to help teachers do a better job teaching.

"Teachers are not the highest paid profession, and most of the teachers that I know will get very savvy about getting things very cheaply or for free, so this is a resource to help them," Dr. Allison Hoewisch said.

"We like to say we recycle for art teachers in our community and because its fun," Diane said.

The center also accepts donations of material and collects all types of things like bottles, tape, tennis balls, shoes, wallpaper books, golf balls, tubes, paper and toilet paper rolls, ribbon and yarn, fabric samples, buttons and even plastic trays from TV dinners—anything that is reusable and that will not be hazardous to school children.

Many art and music teachers come in and get creative as well.

"Just when we think we've seen it all, a teacher will come in and create an object in a unique and different way," said Dr. Hoewisch. Musical instruments are made from the materials. A popular project, making rain

sticks, is easy to make with a tube and beans or buttons inside in an activity that kids really enjoy.

Gerry White, a teacher at UM-St. Louis Child Development Center praises the resource center. "The materials are so open-ended, and we can use them to make games and dolls. Right now, the kids are interested in building, and we came down to get some building tools. It's really an imagination stretcher; instead of having something that already looks like something, they can use their imaginations and really think about how to make something," said Gerry. "It really helps them to problem-solve and learn to count and sort"

Sue Blandford, who oversees six other recycle centers in the community, is in charge of keeping the centers stocked and rotates materials between them so there is always something new and fresh. Each center finds 10 businesses to donate materials and Sue picks up the big items and organizes pick-ups from campus departments. Anyone can donate materials by bringing items to the center, located in B23, below the Ward E. Barnes Library on South Campus.

Financial supporters include the UM-St. Louis College of Education;

Louis Lankford, E. Desmond Lee endowed professor of art and art his-

"It's really an imagination-stretcher; instead of having something that already looks like something, they can use their imaginations and really think about how to make something."

- Gerry White
UM-St. Louis Child Development Center

tory; Carl Hoagland, technology and learning affiliate; Professor Phillip Ferguson, Disabilities Education professor; Patricia Simmons, a Life-Long Learning in Science professor; Bill Kyle, Science Education I professor; Jim Shymansky, Science Education II professor; and Sue Blandford. For more information about the Educational Materials and Resource Center, contact Diane Prescott at 516-6826.

TRANSPORTER, from page 6

"The Transporter" sets up the situation to get the action rolling and develops a bit of interest in its characters, who have plenty of on-screen appeal, but it doesn't follow through. The three rules bit (no names, the plan can't be changed, and never open the package) is used well for comic effect as the transporter violates his own rules and gets himself into and out of trouble at the same time

But where the story promises

explanations of the characters' motivations and of a larger framework for the action, the movie reneges on its promise. The end looks tacked on and doesn't answer questions that the first part of the movie raises, which are fairly central to the story. We're left with a story that makes no sense. The assumption seems to be that we only came for the action anyway. But even the most hardcore action fans like to have a story that makes sense, too, no matter how familiar it might be. They

don't get that here, which is a shame. Sure, the action is fun, and the characters are interesting, but without a more complete plot, the film sinks by the end. The complete, if implausible, story of "Le Femme Nikita" is part of what made it an action film classic. That the story here looks incomplete rather than just ludicrous leaves a bigger gap and raises more questions that it should. The action is entertaining, but it takes a little more to make a good movie.

The Village Idiots are still looking for questions for their new advice column. Let's introduce you to them.

This is Jason. He gets hit in the head a lot.

To contact Jason and Adam, send e-mails to VillageIdiotsJA@yahoo.com. They just love getting stuff; it makes their day. We'll be honest; they aren't very bright, so humor them, okay? It shuts them up for a little while so we can work.

This is Adam. He drinks a lot, so he has few brain cells.



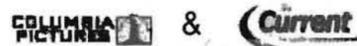
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CONCERT REVIEW

Redman, Jazz at the Bistro

BY KIM SILVER
Staff Writer



Joshua Redman

If musical notes possess the power of speech, Joshua Redman has discovered how to persuade his tenor saxophone into telling stories that could fill an entire book. The Berkeley, California native appeared with his Elastic Band for Jazz at the Bistro last week.

The savvy downtown listening room was filled with an enthusiastic audience. The mixed crowd sat around classy dinner tables and tapped their toes, snapped their fingers and nodded their heads to the smooth sounds of Joshua Redman and his band.

The concert featured music from Redman's latest Warner Brothers release, *Elastic*, which contains a combination of electric and acoustic instruments. In concert, the band finds balance between the two techniques and establishes a very distinctive style of music. Sam Yabel (keyboard), Brian Blade (drums), and Redman (saxophone), explore the depths of jazz together.

Redman made no hesitations shar-

ing the spotlight with other members of the trio. During "Molten Soul," an upbeat melody, Redman noticed Blade was really feeling the song. He ceased playing his sax, turned to his drummer and let him shine. Blade sat at his drums and played beats like they were as essential as his very heartbeat. With his eyes fixed on some imaginary point out in space, his head bobbed to the beat as he played his drums and hyped up the crowd.

Later in the show, Blade played

with so much energy that one of his sticks flew behind him and landed on the floor. He simply continued to play by doubling his beats with one stick on one drum and sustained the soulful bass line by playing with the palm of his hand on the other. Then in one swift move, he spun around, picked up the stick and kept playing without missing a beat.

Redman has performed for more than 10 years and has earned the nickname "the crown prince of the saxophone."

Redman is a well-rounded individual. As a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard College, he has a history of demonstrating his excellence as an intellectual and musical genius. He began playing at the age of 10, and over the years his repertoire has grown exponentially. He has played with some of the most influential jazz musicians of our time including tenor saxophonist Dewey Redman (his father), Aaron Goldberg, Elvin Jones, Red Rodney, Paul Motian and Pat Metheny. Today, his records have proven to be very popular in both the United States and overseas.

Park brings Halloween spirit

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

The month of October is filled with spooky events happening around St. Louis. Halloween is mostly known for scary costumes, pumpkin-carving traditions and ghost tales. Jefferson Barracks and the Bissell House Mansion come together to make this holiday even more exciting.

The Jefferson Barracks Museum and Park is known for being a significant historical site in St. Louis County. Since its establishment in 1826, it has served many purposes and has been through many events. It was mainly used as a meeting place for armies and troops during the Civil War, World War I and World War II. The main building

housed many soldiers and their war supplies.

For many years visitors have come to take guided tours, join an education program or review their exhibits. Now visitors can come to hear storytellers read spooky stories with a twist involving history. Jefferson Barracks has held this suspenseful event for the last five years. This year is the first year they have cooperated with the Bissell House Mansion. Last year over 75 guests attended the event, and with more advertisement this year, they expect at least 200 people to participate.

On Oct. 25, Jefferson Barracks hosted the event and on Oct. 26, the Bissell House followed. Each night the frightening tales began at 7 p.m.

and lasted until about 9 p.m. Each story was approximately 20 minutes long.

The parks history staff revealed a variety of chilling stories, including some based on true history episodes like those during the Civil War. Throughout the evening, many stations were set up with different story tellers. Lantern bearing, costumed guides led people through each story station. "Each evening was filled with family fun and offered something different from the normal Halloween activities," Museum Educator Ken Smith said.

Directions to Jefferson Barracks: take the Telegraph Road exit off of I-270 to Kingston. Take Kingston to South Broadway. Jefferson Barracks is located on South Broadway.

Mysterious monsters



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Senior Writer

At the fringes of science, far from the latest research in genetics or bio-engineering, a small but passionate number of researchers have dedicated their lives to the search for strange and hidden animals. The field, called "cryptozoology," is defined by its practitioners as the scientific study of hidden animals.

The general public is already very much aware of cryptozoology. Some of the most famous hidden animals, or "cryptids," like the Loch Ness monster and Sasquatch, have become internationally recognized figures of mystery and lore.

Many scientists feel that cryptozoologists are little more than science fiction fans, even though some have obtained university degrees and are now attempting to apply the latest scientific principles and techniques to their work. Despite their questionable reputation, cryptozoologists are a passionate and dedicated subgroup of researchers who continue to attract new followers each year.

In addition to the most famous members of the cryptid bestiary—

Nessie, Bigfoot and the yeti—every continent has at least one mystery creature whose alleged existence continues to puzzle both natives and explorers. Over the years researchers have built case files on dozens of cryptids from remote corners and recesses of the world. There have been reports of sea serpents in Canada, giant birds with 20-foot wingspans in the southwestern United States and reports of Giant Sloth that live in the Amazon jungles.

Africa has many ancient cryptid legends. One of the most famous is the Nandi bear, whose existence has been a legend in eastern Africa for centuries. The last sighting of the Nandi came from an expedition in the 1920s. The creature is described as dark-colored and roughly bear-shaped, with short ears and a short, almost unnoticeable tail. Many African tribes tell stories of this bear-like animal that prowls on dark nights and has been known to kill children and aged people.

Cryptozoologists have several theories about the possible taxonomic status of this legendary beast. Some believe that the Nandi "bear" is actually a rare species of hyena that has remained hidden because of its scarcity and cryptic behavior. Others believe it may be a prehistoric bear-like carnivore that evaded extinction in the forests of eastern Africa and occasionally emerges to hunt among the fringe communities. Fossilized skeletons of bear-like creatures have been found throughout Africa, lending some credence to the theory that some of these creatures could have escaped detection in the thick jungles.

Australia has always been host to a bizarre array of creatures. In prehistoric times, Australia was inhabited

not only by giant birds and carnivorous kangaroos, but a giant lizard called megalania which could reach up to 30 feet in length! Since the earliest days of Australian colonization, there have been scattered reports of huge lizards like the prehistoric megalania still living in remote areas of the outback.

Reports of this creature have been rare, and the last notable sighting came in 1979 from herpetologist Frank Gordon, who was conducting field research on Australian reptiles. Gordon reported seeing what he thought was a log burst into movement as he approached in his vehicle. He estimated the size of the creature to be around 20 to 25 feet in length. It moved quickly into the rocks, and he was unable to follow it.

Since Gordon's sighting, several teams have searched the outback for signs of megalania. The only evidence collected so far has been a plaster cast of a footprint. Some researchers are skeptical about the footprint's authenticity, but the large plaster cast, if genuine, would provide evidence for the continued existence of a large reptilian predator hiding in the Australian desert.

Surprisingly, some large animals have remained cryptically hidden until fairly recently in history. The okapi, a giraffe-like animal from the African Congo, was not seen by Western explorers until the 1940s, despite its large size. Stories like this teasingly flaunt the possibility of other undiscovered creatures, just waiting for a diligent explorer. The intrigue of the cryptid mystique will keep cryptozoologists searching until they have exhausted either their money or any possibility of success.

Even after hundreds of expeditions and the expenditure of huge sums of money, cryptozoologists have largely failed to accumulate convincing evidence for the majority of cryptids' existence. After years of searching and coming back with little more than anecdotal stories of sightings or over-exposed pictures of something in a lake, it becomes doubtful that most of these cryptids will ever be found, if they exist at all.

The idea that nature still contains large, unknown, and possibly dangerous animals may reflect the romantic yearning for unpredictable wilderness in an age when most of the "wild frontiers" have been transformed into farming pastures. Still, it's tempting to believe that some remote areas contain unknown quarry. After all, if I ever found myself walking along the edges of Loch Ness, I'd spend more than a passing moment panning the loch with my binoculars and looking for signs of a serpentine beast.

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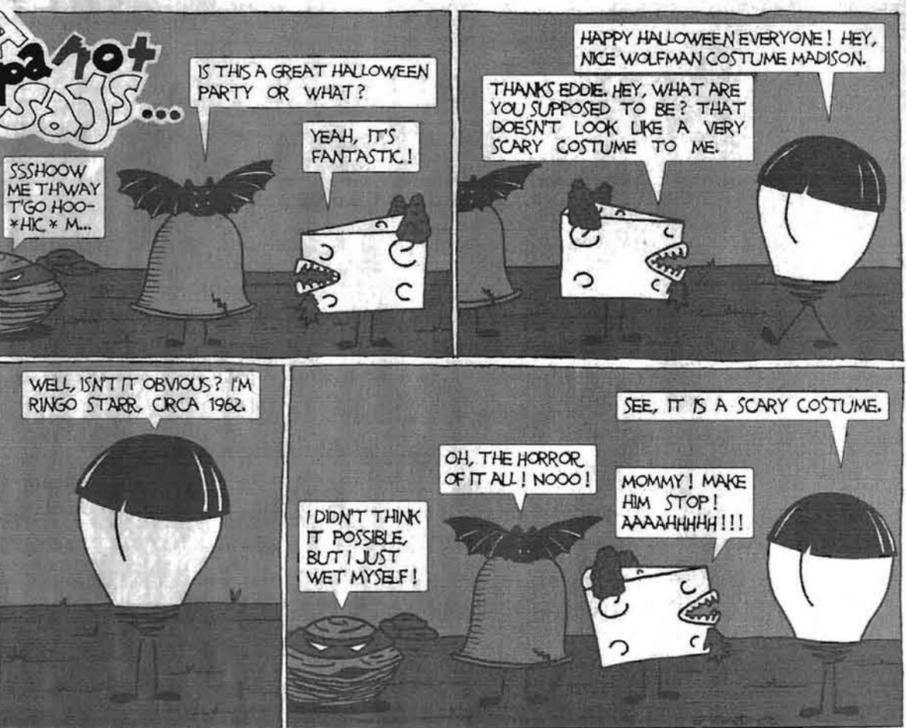
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