



See page 8

Riverwomen run into trouble

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## KWMU wins four Edward R. Murrow awards

BY ANNIINA VUORI  
Staff Writer

KWMU 90.7 has received top honors with four regional Edward R. Murrow Awards honoring excellence in electronic journalism, which is the most the station has ever received in one year.

The journalists who won the awards were news producer Tom Weber, news producer Hillary Wicai and director of interactive media Jason Ulrich. Weber won two awards, one of them in the "use of sound" category for his story, "Arts Funding in a Bad Economy." He received the other award for his writing style in the category of "news writing."



Tom Weber, KWMU News Director

He said he was not really expecting to win, but that he just sent out his tapes and wanted to see what was going to come of it.

"It's a great honor to win Murrow Awards," Weber said. "These are very prestigious awards, one of the top ones in broadcasting."

Instead, he said he expected Hillary Wicai to win. "I knew she had a good shot, and she won one last year too," Weber said.

KWMU director and general manager Patricia Wente, who received the YWCA Special Leader Award in 2003, said she has a stellar, professional team to work with. She took Weber and Ulrich to lunch to celebrate their awards.

Wicai was unable to attend, for she is now working in Washington, D.C. Each regional award winner is eligible for the National Edward R. Murrow Award competition.

"We will hold an awards ceremony if we win in a national award," Wente said.

Ulrich also received an award last year. He said he was optimistic about getting a national award, even though the station will be competing against the big markets of New York and Chicago. The national awards will be given in June 2004.

"It's special to win two years in a row; it reaffirms the first one," he said. Ulrich said he is very fortunate to be able to work with a product that he cares about, which is not the case with all webmasters.

"We update our website many times a day, and we have also national and international news along with local ones," he said. The KWMU website can be found at [www.kwmu.org](http://www.kwmu.org).

Tom Kovach, major gifts manager, said that the station's news department has won over 150 awards since it opened in 1972. He pointed out that the station is non-commercial, and that it receives half of its funding from its members.

"We educate the St. Louis community with in-depth news and intelligent talk, and let people choose their opinions themselves," Kovach said.

KWMU 90.7 has 181,000 listeners, of which 13,000 are members. The station's listener rates have steadily gone up since the station decided to go all talk news in 1996.

"You should become a member because you cannot find this type of radio station elsewhere in St. Louis," Kovach said. "Public radio remains very vibrant in St. Louis community."

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# SGA campaigning begins



Kenyatta Thacker



Charles Stadtlander



Scott Bopp



Melinda McNabb



Erin Abraham



Aaron Golchert

## Candidates to debate on Thursday; Elections will take place online April 20-21

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

Student Government Association candidates for president, vice president and comptroller have been announced and campaigning began last Monday.

Candidates for SGA president include Scott Bopp, Charles Stadtlander and Kenyatta Thacker.

Bopp is a junior majoring in international business and management. He served as president of SGA, as well as several other officer positions in student organizations at St. Louis Community College at Meramac. He was also in the military, serving as sergeant in the United States Army.

At UM-St. Louis, Bopp is involved with the debate team, the Big Event committee, an officer in the international business club and chief justice of student court. In addition, Bopp has lobbied in Washington, D.C. and Jefferson City for increased educational funding.

Bopp said that as president, he plans to seek better control costs to students through actions such as forming a committee specifically tasked with overseeing and reviewing budgets and fees that impact the students. He would also like to establish an online book exchange program.

Bopp said he would fight to protect student rights, for a stronger student voice and to better the quality of life on the UM-St. Louis campus. "I know



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Erin Abraham, candidate for vice president of the Student Government Association, chalks sidewalks for herself and other candidates of the "R.E.A.I." slate on Sunday morning outside the north entrance of the Millennium Student Center. Candidates will participate in a debate Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Voting will take place online April 20-21.

that I can make a difference on this campus and have a deep desire to serve the students of UM-St. Louis," Bopp said.

Another of Bopp's platform issues will be the openness of the SGA to students. "I will increase the accessibility of the student

government to the students of the campus through the web, town hall meetings, and working toward increasing the office hours of the student government office," Bopp said.

A junior majoring in public policy and administration, Charles

Stadtlander said that he has had an interest in politics since high school. He attended Bossier Parish Community College and Florida Community College at Jacksonville before coming to UM-St. Louis a year ago.

Stadtlander served as SGA vice

president and senator at Bossier. He was also on the chancellor student advisory board, serving as committee chair. In addition, Stadtlander was a candidate for city council in Bossier City and was also a charter member of the Bossier City Chamber of Commerce.

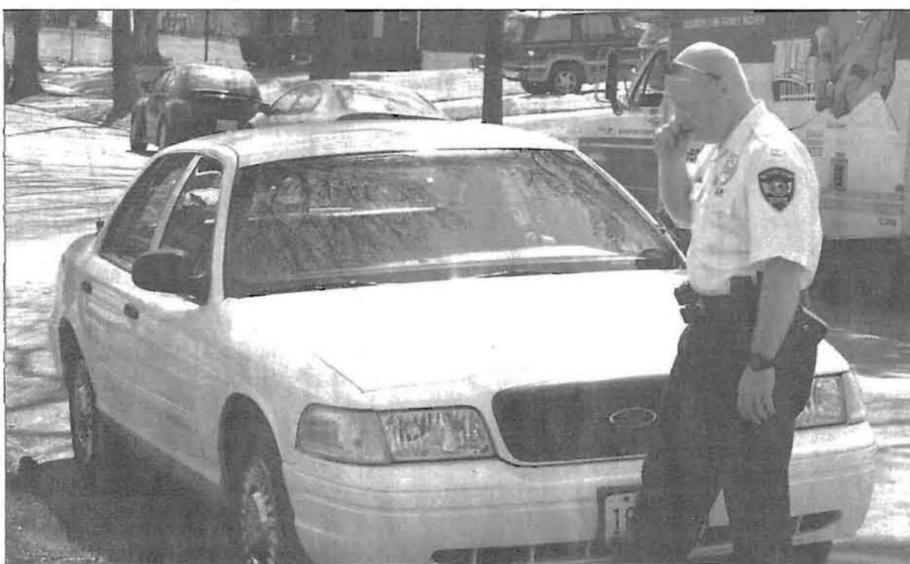
If elected as president, Stadtlander plans to tackle the parking issue with initiatives such as open parking or lower parking fees. He would also like to design and implement a campus crime prevention program and fight to decrease tuition prices. Another idea he has is to begin the construction of covered walkways on campus, so students do not have to walk to classes in the weather.

"I am running for president because I believe that there are many things on campus that need to be addressed, many things that need to be taken care of in the interests of the students," Stadtlander said.

Something that Stadtlander emphasized was that he would like to take a proactive approach with SGA rather than reactive. He does not think that SGA is currently proactive and would like to find solutions to problems, instead of just reacting to them, by working with the administration.

The last presidential candidate is Thacker. Thacker is a communication major with a minor in marketing. She is also working toward her writing certificate.

see CANDIDATES, page 3



Jason Granger/The Current

Capt. Greg Adams works an eviction last Friday. Adams has worked for the Bel-Nor police department since 1998.

## Policing Bel-Nor: no easy task

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

Captain Greg Adams of the Bel-Nor police department is a dedicated police officer. He also has a message to send to the students of UM-St. Louis. That message: The police are not out to get you.

Adams said students' long held belief that the officers of the municipalities surrounding UM-St. Louis target the students of the University is off base. He also said that there is a misconception surrounding police and their use of force.

"The last thing I want to do is fight with somebody," Adams said. "Yes I'm trained to do it and, ultimately, 99 percent of the time you



Capt. Greg Adams

are going to jail. But that's [fighting] the last thing we want to do."

Adams is passionate when he describes his job. He spoke in particular about the recent uproars

over people who are injured/killed in police chases. He said more often than not, those types of situations can be avoided if people use common sense and accept the consequences for their actions.

"People get hurt while the police chase them and people say 'well the police shouldn't have been chasing them,'" Adams said. "If they would have stopped, none of this would have happened if they had obeyed the law and stopped."

He said St. Louis County wide, police chases are becoming rare. Due to liability laws, police departments can be sued in wrongful death cases.

see BEL-NOR, page 12

## UM-St. Louis gets a change of address

### Stretch of Florissant Road will now be known as University Boulevard

Florissant Road from Interstate 70 to Bellerive Drive will now be known as University Boulevard, according to an announcement by university officials on Tuesday.

The moniker change was suggested by the UM-St. Louis 40th Anniversary Committee.

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas F. George says the change is symbolic, and intended to give the university a more recognizable

presence in the community.

"The name will help to clearly articulate our identity," said George in a university press release. "While the street name change is cosmetic, it helps set the future of this campus and clearly defines a main entrance."

The former postal address of UM-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., will now be known as One University Boulevard.



## Making Music

Music professor Robert Ray conducts the UM-St. Louis Concert Choir in performing "Psalms" at the Composers Seminar held Wednesday afternoon in the Music Building on South Campus. Professor Barbara Harbach and Paul Parthun were the other composers featured.

Casey Ulrich/The Current



## Professor speaks on gender equity in Latin America



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Mercedes Barquet Montane, professor at El Colegio De Mexico in Mexico City, has a laugh during her lecture "Democratic Governability and Gender Equity" Thursday in the Century Rooms of the MSC. Montane discussed the roles women play in the Mexican government and how the increasing involvement of women in national and local civic organizations could change the governmental approach of the democratic country. The event is part of the annual Rolando Lara Zavala Memorial Lecture in Mexican Studies, sponsored by the Center for International Studies. The annual lecture was founded by James and Mary Moog.

### CANDIDATES, from page 1

Thacker has earned numerous honors from organizations both on and off campus.

Thacker has worked at alumni relations and has held various marketing positions outside of campus. As president, she plans to unify the student body, offer more programs geared toward the entire campus and better the campus security. She would also like to work with the needs of the residents, work closely with other area universities and improve access to financial aid.

Running for SGA vice president are Erin Abraham and Melinda McNabb. Both women are involved with various organizations on campus.

Abraham is pursuing a BA/MA in sociology, along with a minor in economics and a women's studies certificate. She is employed in the admis-

sions office and is an activist. Abraham is president of Mosaics and vice president of S.H.O.T.S.

Committees that Abraham has been involved with at UM-St. Louis are the homecoming and special interests committees. She is also an elected member of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri board of directors. As vice president, Abraham plans to work toward the betterment of the campus.

McNabb is a business management and marketing major, with a minor in criminal justice. She has been involved with Zeta Tau Alpha sorority since she came to the University in 2000. She currently holds the position of president of the organization and was previously the coordinator of committees and scholastics chair.

As well as the sorority, McNabb

was an active member of the 2004 homecoming committee, where she held the position of head of spirit. Service projects both on and off campus, as well as leadership retreats, are also included in her involvement.

Aaron Golchert is the one candidate running for SGA comptroller. He is a 21-year-old junior. Golchert is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and was on the Student Activities Budget Committee this spring. He has been working at Vector Marketing Corporation for two years, and plans to run a branch office in Effingham, Ill. this summer.

A debate will be held for the candidates on Thursday. Voting will follow the next week on April 20 and 21. The voting will be online at <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/os/lection2004.html>.

# BALLOT 2004!!

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# APRIL 20 -21

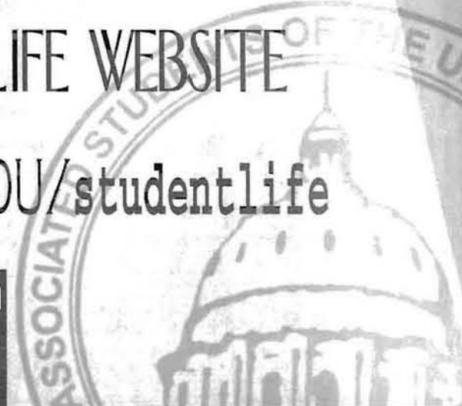
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# PRINTING

## OUR OPINION

### Rock the SGA vote

# All UMSL students have a duty to cast a ballot

Don't we all wish we had the privilege to decide how much money we would pay each year to go to college? Guess what? You do. Even though the power does not lie solely in our hands, as students we have the capability to influence those important decisions through the people we put into office.

The Student Government Association is currently in the midst of

running elections for the 2004-2005 officers. The only way for students to ensure a competent and productive board is if they cast their votes on election day.

SGA has long been influential in such important agendas as funding for organizations, tuition hikes, events on campus, weekend meal services, parking fees and amendments to University policy. We must harness our pertinent voting power and disperse our beliefs among the people we believe will be the most beneficial to us in order for our needs, wants and desires to be illustrated throughout the University.

SGA often goes overlooked by those students who simply wake up, drive to class and then head back home. These people fight traffic every day and struggle to put their \$350 parking pass to use as they peruse old parking garages or hike an extra two miles from the new garage across from the MSC. Students grumble under their breath about this University as they trek toward classrooms, carefully avoiding hundreds of flyers and posters encouraging campus involvement. They have nothing to do with the people whom they encounter every day, let alone worry about who is running for SGA and how those individuals affect their everyday lives.

"I can't believe I have to pay even more for classes next semester." "Parking passes are a ripoff." "This of this college experience. Sitting back and whining about things not being done while, at the same time, taking no interest in our student government is a picture-perfect oxymoron.

The upcoming debate, which will be held on Thursday, April 16, is an easy way to get to know each candidate. The event begins at 1:30 p.m. and students can bring questions or just sit back and listen. Either way, hearing each candidate will give students the opportunity and motivation to cast an educated vote.

We must take an active role, not the passive. If students continue on this path of ignorance, we might become like the mindless beings that have no control over their government and fall victim to a dictatorship rather than a democracy. In order to stand up and be heard, we must vote in the upcoming SGA election and take the role of responsible college citizen rather than that of a mindless drone under the command of the administration.

The elections will be held on April 20 and 21. Students can vote via MyGateway. What's three minutes out of your time? That exorbitant educational fee you pay every semester is worth something. The best way to help yourself is through a ballot.

If these apathetic students would only take a few extra minutes out of their day to find out what each candidate's vision for UMSL is, they might cast votes that count toward the betterment of our student body. We, as an entire school, need to take a step back and find out what we can do in order to get the most out

### UNCLE RIVERSAM WANTS YOU...



### TO VOTE!

## Editorial Board

- JASON GRANGER
- NICHOLE LECLAIR
- KATE DROLET
- BECKY ROSNER
- CASEY SHACHER
- GRETCHEN MOORE

ADENA JONES  
"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

## LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

# Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Staff Photographer

What should and/or should not be legal?



Leslie Kwon  
Junior  
English

"I think you should be able to drink when you are 18. I mean you can get married but you can't have a glass of champagne at your wedding?"



J R Bledsoe  
Junior  
Secondary Ed

"Marijuana should be legal. Politicians, Musicians, Athletes and everyday people use it anyway!"



Sarah Messmer  
Sophomore  
English w/ Education Cert.

"I think it's illegal for teachers to work for the little money they get. I also think it should be illegal to be an idiot. And people shouldn't be mean..."



Todd Carpenter  
Senior  
Criminology

"It should be illegal for people to ask me computer questions! Everyone should be computer literate."

## Where's the money?

# The wicked SABC strikes again

Petty attacks are dumb. It should be said right up front that petty attacks are weak and show a person who is not intelligent, someone weak-minded.

Petty attacks are unfortunately common in this business. Former staff members send e-mails telling me that I have no talent, that I am classless and, worse, that I have no sense of humor.

Then there are petty attacks veiled in what appears to be a logical move. Take for instance the Student Activities Budget Committee. Last year, the SABC cut *The Current's* budget to zero, zilch, nothing. I know the party line. I know they say, now, that the reasoning behind the cut was our ad director's salary. He made over \$30,000 in commission last year, and they said that was too much, and it was. I have since restructured said commission base. Did they ever come and ask us why he made that much money? No, they did not. The members of *The Current* had a different view. We held that it was due to content, and it originally was.

Now, the SABC letters went out last week and I got mine. *The Current* requested \$43,000, approximately. We were given \$18,000. The SABC has gotten smarter. They knew what would happen if we got cut completely: all hell would break loose. Instead, they cut us \$20,000. While this may not seem nearly as bad as cutting us to zero, it is still a fatal blow. Why? Because what that money does is ensure that the incoming staff can support itself until ad revenue kicks in. Usually, in late September or early October, ad revenue becomes high enough that we

can support ourselves. With \$18,000, the paper would not have even enough money to publish for half the year. Our options would be to publish every other week, which would make *The Current* not very current, or reduce the size of the paper, which would mean reducing content. This would destroy *The Current's* reputation and also lead to less respect.

One very important person in this process knows all this. Her name is Orinthia Montague. She heard our appeal last year. She knows full well what this cut means.

The cut still went through. I have my theories why, but I will not go into that here, however, I do not necessarily believe this is a matter of censorship.

What may not be understood is, the money they give us ensures that each of you who want a copy of *The Current* can get a copy of *The Current*. This year, our \$38,200 will end up covering all but \$300 of our printing bills. We will gladly pay for the rest in advertising funds.

So now I will state our case. This is the second straight year I have had to do this, but here goes. SABC has nine funding priorities. We meet them all. Some of the priorities include enhancing the reputation of the campus. In the last four years, *The Current* has placed no lower than honorable mention at the annual Missouri College Media Association awards ceremony. Not bad publicity from the official student newspaper of UMSL. SABC wants to know if we put on programs with other organizations.

see SABC, page 5



JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

### The Issue

The Student Government Association elections are coming up. Positions available include president, vice president and comptroller, all important positions at this school.

### We suggest

All students have an obligation to vote in the election.

Why? The results

affect every stu-

dent on campus.

The SGA speaks for

the students at UM-

St. Louis. Students

should care who is

representing them.

### So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

# The awkward authority figure

It seems that my Missouri-based cousins don't know what to make of me. As the oldest by 14 years, and new to the area, I am either an awkward playmate or an unconvincing authority figure. It's only on occasions like today—official kid-centric holidays—that I am accepted as an honorary munchkin. This determination appears based on the following: I have parents in attendance, no children, and I receive the same holiday gifts (i.e. Easter: a plastic egg with chocolate and a hidden dollar bill).

I do my best to accept the designation gracefully and not disappoint the discriminating society of child-kind. So, the chocolate bunny head I ate for breakfast, the search for baby farm animals as we drove through the country, and the jellybeans I helped slip to the dog (he prefers pineapple, generally) were all for the greater good, and proper in my role as ambassador. As none of them flinched in my presence today as they wrought havoc throughout the house, I assume I was convincing. Grown ups? Uh-oh, where??

So that's my personal excuse for Easter regression. As for the rest of my family.... Let's just say that there may have been a grandparent involved in a foam fight, a parent hogging the bubble wand and grass stains all around due to a highly competitive egg hunt. Meanwhile, back in Vermont, my stepmother was last seen in a full bunny suit.

Of course, I'm sure they all had equally legitimate reasons. For example: it's now obviously spring, the sun is shining, there are young people and confections everywhere you turn and, you know what, this grown-up thing can just be a real drag

sometimes. Hopefully, due to Easter, or just the weather, you found your own excuses to step away from end-of-semester preparations. Don't forget, it's not just plants that need sun and air for growth. As for me, I'd best get going. According to a small but thoughtful cousin, there are people waiting for me, and I "don't want to get in trouble".



NICHOLE LECLAIR  
Managing Editor

# The brain determines how you see cinema: Film and the persistence of vision – part 1



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Science Columnist

as moving pictures rather than as a series of short-duration images, if the projection rate was fast enough. Early film pioneers discovered that images at less than 10 frames per second were seen as separate images but at greater frame per second ratios, the audience saw motion, although they still noticed the flickering. Hence, early films were called "flickers" because of the flickering image on the screen.

As frames per second increased, flickering became less noticeable, but more film was required. In the silent film era, projector speeds were 16 to 18 frames per second and could even vary within a film. The development of synchronous sound meant projector speed had to be standardized at 24 frames per second, which is about the standard now for film or video.

Film historians and film scholars have long cited "persistence of vision" as the phenomenon at work that allows us to perceive the series of still pictures as something moving on screen. However, it appears that this concept is based on some early ideas about human visual perception that science has long since left behind. For some reason, neither the scientists nor the film scholars noted the discrepancy.

The original idea of "persistence of vision" was based on early observations by English-Swiss physician Peter Mark Roget. In 1824, he noted that moving wheel spokes observed between vertical slots blurred into a static image.

Another source of the "persistence of vision" idea may have been the 1894 (motion pictures were invented in 1895) observations by Belgian physicist Joseph Plateau, who was studying the illusions of apparent motion in which static images were perceived as moving. Plateau concluded that if several images that are slightly but progressively different were shown for short intervals and in rapid succession, that the impressions they made on the retina would be joined together. The eye saw a single object changing form or position, using an idea called "retinal fusion." Other ideas of the time about retinal afterimages, "fusion" to describe light and color mixing and "flicker fusion" to describe how sequence of blinking lights, give the illusion of movement. All these are fairly close to the

usual description of the phenomenon in film texts. However, after 1900, researchers studying perception abandoned the idea of retinal effects in favor of brain interpretation. Writings on cinema sometimes took note of new research up to the 1930s but afterward reverted to the "perception of vision" explanation for how we see motion in movies, sometimes crediting the eye as the source of the effect and other times referring to the brain. In either case, the idea of fusion of images remained.

But science moved on. Can current research answer why we see a series of still pictures as continuous moving image? The question has two parts: Why do we see it as continuous, and why does it move? Research is ongoing.

First, why do separate still images look continuous rather than like flashes of light? Flicker fusion is the term used in perception studies for the fusion for that flickering light.

Flicker fusion threshold is defined as the frequency at which all flicker of an intermittent light stimulus disappears. Like other neuropsychological thresholds, this threshold is not an absolute but is set as the point at which flicker sometimes will be seen and sometimes will not be seen in 50 percent of trials. The flicker fusion threshold is higher for brighter lights and since the rods in the retina have a faster response than the cones, flicker can be seen in peripheral vision at higher frequencies.

Flicker fusion is important in all technologies that present "moving images," since nearly all depend, like film, on presenting a rapid succession of static images. If the frame rate falls below the flicker fusion threshold for the given viewing conditions, flicker will be apparent and movements will appear jerky. Without being able to describe the physiological reasons why, early filmmakers were able to determine this threshold. The 24-frames-per-second rate is well over threshold, minimizing any perception of flicker.

Second, why do still pictures seem to move? This has to do with the phenomenon called apparent motion. Here the research is more complex. To give it sufficient space, this discussion will be continued in the next column next week.

Nearly any source on film will tell you that the visual phenomenon "persistence of vision" is why you see a series of still images as moving pictures. The curious thing is that the phenomenon "persistence of vision" apparently is not real.

Good thing early filmmakers did not know this, for according to most film histories, this principle is credited as the basis for motion pictures and it is this phenomenon that led early filmmakers to launch the art form called cinema.

Before we discuss what is real and what is illusion in the perception of motion in film, let us look at the idea behind "persistence of vision" and early film development.

According to film history, this principle was first used in flipbooks, where a series of slightly different images appear on successive pages and give the illusion of movement when the pages are fanned. Photographic experiments in recording movement that used trip wires to take a series of photographs were found to work the same way as a flipbook.

Early efforts that projected a series of similar photos in a continuous roll of film were seen only as blurred images. However, when experimenters projected discrete, slightly different images that were separated by a brief moment of darkness, audiences could see the flickering images

## SABC, from page 4

While we do not have the time to plan things like Mirth Day and Expo, we did co-sponsor the Issues of the Color Line race relations forum with Student Government Association and Associated Black Collegians. We have to show that the money is being used in an appropriate manner. We do not throw keg parties, we do not take

trips to Bermuda. We spend the money as it is needed. We spend it on printing the paper.

Those are just three of the nine. If I went into them all, this would be unbearably long, so I will begin to wrap this up. The SABC went about things better this year. I do not know why they did it. I do know they set a

precedent last year. I do not know if I offended Benny Suen, SABC chair and SGA comptroller. If I did, it was unintentional. I do know that Orinthia Montague should know better than to allow this. We have an appeal scheduled for this Friday. Until then, I guess we just wait and see. Here we go again.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Archey thanks students for support

First, I want to take the opportunity to thank the students who have spoken out in an effort to save my job and in a much larger way, stood up for what bell hooks calls "education for critical consciousness".

I have taught in the social work department for twelve years part time and four years full time. I feel I have provided a distinct, yet critical voice in my classroom by prioritizing issues such as racism, homophobia, and classism. Of course our "code of ethics" should give each faculty in my department the backing to do the same, but I also add a political perspective and years of activism to show students you have to "act on your principles" everyday in the real world. I thought that was what higher education was really for-preparing students to be leaders in the community and setting an example so they could see it in practice.

I know I don't have a Ph.D so I am not eligible to be a tenure-track faculty. I have not chosen that path. But I do have a Masters degree and 17 years post-masters experience to share with my students and I feel that is just as valuable. But the Chair, Lois Pierce-with the blessings of Dean Burkholder- have decided after twelve years of loyal service that these qualifications aren't enough to keep me. I have been told "changes in the depart-

ment's needs" and Ph.D's "asking for my classes" are the reasons for my departure. There has also been a question about our accreditation, but we were reaccredited for eight years recently and the major faculty requirement the team was concerned about was student-faculty ratio and two years post-masters experience to teach practice classes. There was no priority set on the number of Ph.D's we needed.

I bring this to your attention because I feel especially singled out in being terminated and I feel a greater issue is at stake for all students who value an education from faculty who have diverse backgrounds and experiences. I do value tenure and research and realize this is the priority to the university. But lecturers and adjunct faculty have always provided a valuable contribution that rounds out the needs of many departments. We are relied on to teach up to four classes a semester to support faculty who are teaching and doing research. But we have no security and no recourse whenever the administration wants to get rid of us. In addition, if our approach is controversial and we require our students to participate in the community in nontraditional organizations, we are easy targets and the first to go. There are four other

Masters level faculty (most who have less experience than me) in our department but I was the one terminated and I wasn't even offered a part time position (they have at least four people that teach adjunct right now and I have 12 years experience on them).

The students who have organized petitions, planned a protest, sent in letters, and met with administration to challenge this decision, have seen how it feels to go up against the "status quo". They have been frustrated that many of the faculty in our own department haven't said a word about what has happened, or believe the administration without question.

All I know is I am proud of the actions of the students who have stood up for what kind of education they want and demanded some answers to the issues I present here. They have this right and after all, this is what I have taught in my classroom for twelve years. If nothing else is learned, this will be the best lesson to bring to the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Janey Archey, MSW, LCSW  
Social Work  
Senior Lecturer

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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printing services. Any and all complaints, compliments, questions and concerns should be directed to the English department or the folks in charge at the Litmag.

The Current wishes Litmag the best of luck in the coming years.

Thank you,  
Jason Granger  
editor-in-chief, The Current

# The best album that you've never heard

## This week: The Very Best of Supertramp

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

When you think of the better songwriters out there, what names come to mind? I am not talking the crème de la crème (John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Noel Gallagher); I mean those folks out there who write a pretty damn good song. Do you think Dave Matthews? Do you think David Bowie? Do you think Stephen Stills? Probably. But what about Roger Hodgson?

Most of you do not even know who he is, but he was one of two principle songwriters for a group called Supertramp. Big in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Supertramp put out some great, at times incredible, songs. We will look at their greatest hits album this week.

First off, we will look at their biggest hit, "The Logical Song." From the mega-hit album "Breakfast in America," "The Logical Song" hit number one on the Billboard charts for four weeks. It is a great pop song that hides a message in it. That message is that conformity can be, and usually is, a bad thing. "Then they sent me away to teach me how to be sensible/Logical, responsible, practical/Then they showed me a world/Where I could be so dependable/And they showed me a world/Where I could be so dependable/Clinical, intellectual and cynical." Then they get mad and shout, "Won't you sign up your

name/We'd like to feel your acceptable/Respectable, presentable a vegetable." It may be pop, but it is angry pop, something sorely missing from Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears.

Next we will look at "Bloody Well Right." This is a heavy rocker with a great beat. "Bloody Well Right" examines the life of a spoiled

son about an actor who does not know who he is. His wife has left him and he does not know who he is as an actor. Great music supports the great lyrics. "So you think you're a Romeo/Playing a part in the picture show/Take the long way home." Hodgson goes on to sing, "Then your wife seems to think you're part of the furniture/Oh it's peculiar/She used to be so nice." Listen hard, and you may even learn a lesson or two about yourself.

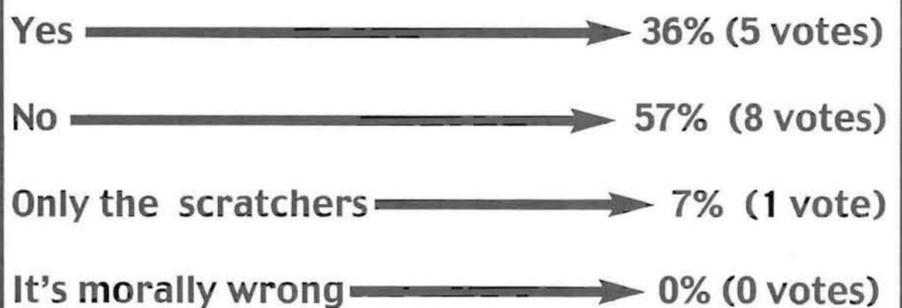
Finally, we will discuss "Hide in Your Shell." Put simply, this is Supertramp's best song. Emotionally rending, it swells and fades over six and a half minutes of musical genius. This story of a man trying to bring a person out of his shell tells the tale of a person so isolated he needs a "second hand movie star to tend you." The song goes on to say the cure for pain is love, a great message in and of itself. The best part of the song is the bridge in which Hodgson says, "I know exactly what you're feeling/All your troubles are within you/Please begin to see that I'm just bleeding/To Love me, Love you/Love is the way to help me help you/Why must we be so cool/Oh, so cool/We're such damn fools." Great stuff from a great band.

Next we will look at "Take the Long Way Home." This is a great

I love Supertramp. They can cheer you up or cheer you down, whatever you need. I wish they had included "Even in the Quietest Moments" from the album of the same name, but hey, this is still a great album. Go out and buy it. You won't regret it.

## What do the readers think: Results from the weekly web poll:

Do you play the lottery?



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\*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling, so really, we stack the deck. We are mean.

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# FEATURES

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## The man behind the oval office

**BY CARRIE LEWIS**

Staff Writer

As the 2004 presidential elections draw near, many voters have begun to consider the candidates. Over the last four years, George W. Bush, the current president and incumbent candidate for the election, has made serious decisions that have affected this nation.

How much do students actually know about this man, the forty-third president of the United States? Here is more information about the Republican candidate so that voters can cast an educated ballot in November.

George W. Bush was born on July 6, 1946 in New Haven, Conn. He lived in Houston and Midland, Texas, until he ventured back up north to attend college at Yale University. Upon graduation, Bush entered the Air National Guard and served as an F-102 fighter pilot.

Bush then opted to return to school and received his master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1975. Later he moved back to Midland and began a career in the energy business. He also worked on his father's presidential campaign and assembled a group of partners that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise.

see **PRESIDENT BUSH**, page 7

## Protest in reverse

# Stallings: A socio-poetic activist

**BY WILL MELTON**

Staff Writer

To some, it seems that our country values higher education as an institution geared toward generating a skilled workforce. Some students do not see college as a job-placement service and embrace the rich and diverse body of knowledge and culture open to them in a university environment. M.K. Stallings is one of those students.

Knowledge is more than equitable information to this young man who has not only taken part in but also initiated many endeavors beneficial to the UM-St. Louis campus and community. Besides serving as the parliamentarian of the Student Government Association and president of the Associated Black Collegians, Stallings is working toward establishing a Slam Poetry team for UM-St. Louis.

"It seems to me that UMSL has attempted to do many things. There's a wealth of student activities on campus," he said. "[However] poetry is underrepresented."

Even though some organizations host an occasional open mic night, Stallings said that UM-St. Louis needs a community that will foster the development of poets and poetry. "It all depends on whether or not you can find a nucleus of poets who want to do that."

Stallings began taking part in

poetry readings in 1997 when a Normandy High School teacher suggested he check out the Wednesday poetry nights at Divinity juice bar and deli. His first victory came a year later at a slam hosted by Afrocentric Books and Café, where he defeated a turnout of nearly 50 local poets.

"Doing the poetry slam led to an opportunity in 1999 to do a poetry night in North County," he said. "It was called the Urban Hang Suite."

While there, Stallings worked alongside such local artists as DJ Needles from Q95.5. The popularity of those events led to his founding and part-ownership of Legacy Books and Café in Delmar. Though he handed over his ownership in December 2003, Stallings continues to serve the store on a consultant basis.

Stallings also said that he does not "like art for the sake of art." Poetry, as all art, should be a way of dealing with and transcending the binds of reality. His love of the arts and for communities in need inspired the inception of the non-profit organization Urban Artist Alliance for Child Development, which he founded.

"Our mission is to enhance the social and cultural well-being of young people through arts-based programs," he said. This grassroots organization conducts an ongoing program at a juvenile detention center that stresses journalistic values.

"A lot of these young people have been told in their schools that they shouldn't question the teacher," he said. "Journalism teaches you to question authority. After all, where do you get your questions from if you don't critically analyze the situation before you?"

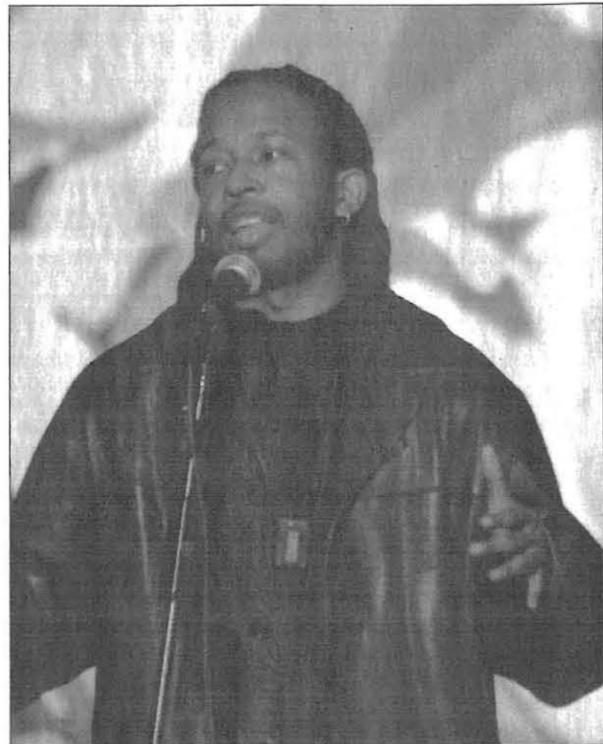
Stallings, a student so passionate about civic engagement, has dedicated his academic studies to sociology.

"It started with a good friend of mine who is now in J-school at UC-Berkeley," Stallings said. "He was telling me about a professor by the name of Teresa Guess and how fascinated he was by the subject."

Stallings first explored sociology as a student at Forest Park Community College before transferring to UM-St. Louis in 2002. He focuses on critical race studies but appreciates the wide variety of subjects that sociology can examine. W.E. Dubois rates as his favorite sociologist. He also respects the works of Cornell West and Emile Durkheim.

Stallings said that he has no specific job title in mind for after graduation. He enjoys civic engagement and working in the community, but realizes he needs the financial flexibility that will allow him to do that.

"I'm a renaissance man," he said. "Ultimately, I want to eat and I want to be fulfilled by the treasures of life. Wherever that leads me, I'll follow."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

M.K. Stallings, president of Associated Black Collegians, is pioneering an effort to start a poetry SLAM club at UM-St. Louis. Stallings is also involved with Student Government Association.

# The geese are back on campus

**BY GARY SOHN**

Staff Writer

They have webbed feet, honk or hiss depending on their mood, and leave green piles of soft droppings in walkways for unsuspecting passers-by. They are Canada geese, and they call UM-St. Louis home.

The geese can be seen as a nice addition to campus. Some may think that looking up and seeing a flock of geese flying in a "V" formation, grazing on grass, or moving in and out of Bugg Lake gives the campus a tranquil feeling. However, many students have found that walking near the geese can lead to an unpleasant encounter.

Dan Donahue, sophomore, public administration, said that he has experienced what can happen when a person ventures too close to one of these geese.

"I've been hissed at by geese, which almost sounds like a snake," Donahue said. "Most of the geese on campus are fine except the ones by Benton Hall. They seem angry."

The Canada goose was at one time endangered, but it has recently begun to overpopulate the community. Dave Brown, lead groundskeeper at UM-St. Louis, keeps the geese population in line and under control.

Brown says that because the geese are federally protected, grounds management is required to make sure that no goose or incubated egg is hurt.

"If they start to build a nest, then we destroy it," Brown said. "But if the nest has eggs, we can't touch it. We first have to have a permit from



Mike Sherwin/The Current

A goose wanders the North Campus quad on Saturday as students pass by.

the Conservation Department before removing the eggs."

The grounds keepers have to go through a weeklong procedure enforced by the Missouri Conservation Department before removing the eggs.

"First we find the nest and mark the eggs," Brown said. "Next we track the nest for a week. A goose can have up to nine eggs a week, so we have to check each egg, making sure

there are no new eggs. If there are new eggs then we have to track them as well."

After tracking a nest for a week, groundskeepers run the mother goose off the nest with an umbrella, and then begin terminating the laid eggs.

"We first feel the eggs to see whether they are hot or cold," Brown said. "If the eggs are cool, then that means that they haven't incubated yet. The cool egg is placed in a buck-

et of water. If the egg floats then we can't touch it. But if the egg sinks or floats vertically then we can begin oiling the egg."

The eggs are soaked in cooking oil, which stops them from reaching incubation, and then they are buried in a remote area away from the nest.

Brown says that the Conservation Department gives them brochures on how to keep track of each nest.

"We keep track of how many eggs

are in the nest. We also have to date each visit to the nest," Brown said.

Brown added that what grounds management does is "the most humane way of dealing with overpopulation of geese."

"Geesepeace, which is recognized with the conservation department, said that we are number one for geese control in the state for handling the most number of nests and eggs," Brown said. "Last year we had seventeen nests and eighty-nine eggs. Not one egg hatched."

However, eliminating the eggs before they hatch is only half the solution. Geese have already overpopulated campus. Plenty of these fowl still manage to leave their mark around UM-St. Louis.

"I've seen people slip on goose feces while walking to Benton Hall," Donahue said. "It's really bad."

Groundskeepers try to keep the sidewalks clean, but say that the mess can be somewhat overwhelming.

"They leave about seven pounds of feces per day," Brown said. "You wash the sidewalks off one day, but it's back the next day."

In order to keep geese away from sidewalks and other heavily populated areas visited by students, a Border Collie is brought in to herd the fowl.

Dorene Olson, owner of WyndSong Border Collies and Canada Goose Management, specializes in taking care of out-of-control geese populations.

see **GEESE**, page 7

# Put that cancer stick down

**BY STEFANIE TAYLOR**

Staff Writer

The American Heart Association warns that tobacco use and obesity are the number-one and number-two causes of preventable death in the United States. In an effort to prevent student risk associated with tobacco use, University Health Services offers a free Smoking Cessation program.

Michelle Schmidt, coordinator of University Health Services Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, administers the program.

"Being tobacco free is really like a cornerstone for wellness and disease prevention," said Schmidt, who also teaches community organizations how to lead smoking cessation programs.

Each stop-smoking session lasts from six to nine weeks, with one 90-minute class per week. Both group and individual assistance is provided.

"The group is primarily for support and encouragement," said Schmidt. Topics covered by the group include education regarding nicotine and health risks, managing cravings and withdrawal symptoms, stress relief techniques, avoiding weight gain and preventing relapse.

Each student who attends the group receives a "Journey of a Lifetime" CD-ROM. The interactive program educates students on the risks of smoking, helps them identify what triggers their cravings and under which category of smoker they fall. The program also helps students

record their smoking habits, and set, track and achieve goals for quitting.

Schmidt, who feels that tobacco companies focus on the 18-24 age target market, said she was disgusted to see a tobacco company handing out samples from a tent marked "Spring Break 2004" on her recent skiing vacation.

"We conducted a representative sample and discovered that 36.8 percent of UM-St. Louis students admitted to smoking in the last 30 days," she said. The sam-

ple also indicated that 26.9 percent of students smoke three times a week or more, which is comparable to the national average.

"If students have tried to quit before but didn't succeed, they shouldn't be discouraged," said Schmidt. "Usually it takes people about three attempts if they do it on their own."

Christopher Scrivner, junior, international business, admits to having an occasional cigarette, but does not consider himself a smoker.

"I think it's great that the school offers a program like that," said Scrivner. "I think people smoke because it's socially acceptable."

The Smoking Cessation Program advocates the use of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). The

most commonly recommended forms are transdermal nicotine patches or nicotine gum. The patch provides the user with a lower and steadier flow of nicotine, which allows the new non-smoker to practice non-smoking habits and skills while not being burdened by the withdrawal symptoms or intense cravings. The most common withdrawal symptoms are cravings, tension, irritability and difficulty sleeping or concentrating.

The cessation program attempts to train new non-smokers to deal with their own symptoms through problem solving. The elements of the withdrawal problem solving process are recognizing

tempting situations, determining coping strategies, utilizing stress management and preventing relapse. Smokers often use smoking as a relaxation technique and may find it necessary to identify potentially stressful situations and appropriate stress management techniques.

Because nicotine is an appetite suppressant, weight gain is common in quitters.

"Most people don't gain that much weight," said Schmidt. The average is usually about five to ten pounds, but can be dealt with by forging better eating habits or using exercise as a way to reduce stress.

# Garden exhibit ushers in spring at UM-St. Louis

**BY MELISSA MCCRARY**

Features Associate

Gallery 210 at UM-St. Louis is giving artist Sara Good the opportunity to show her unique and realistic exhibit, "If Anything's a Garden..." to art lovers, both of the student and public variety.

This exhibit focuses on intimate spaces in the external world by displaying many mixed media and a variety of sculptural works. The main theme of the exhibit shows the beauty of landscapes, including gardens, fields and woods.

In a gallery with low track lighting and bright colors surrounding the small area, these works of art and exhibits remind many people of country life.

Over fifty colorful paper decorated flower buds are attached to the left wall of the gallery, but the artist manages not to make the area resemble the inside of a flower shop.

The exhibit consists of variable installations and dimensions. Some examples of the sculptures that Good supplies in her exhibit include hanging pots, bricks, woodwork, gardening tools, garden clippers and shovels.

One of the important pieces of work in this exhibit is the designed cutout keyways made from scorched birch and scorched oak wood. Good created some of the other handmade works from false wall, different types of wood, plaster, brick molding and soil.

While many of her exhibits have

had long lives and have been modified from their original work, most of the sculptures in the Gallery have existed since 1999.

Sara Good is from Memphis, Tenn. and has held regular exhibits around the Southeast, including the cities of Memphis, Nashville and Little Rock.

On April 1, a reception was held at Gallery 210 to recognize the talents of this artist and to officially open the "If Anything's a Garden..." exhibit.

Director of Gallery 210 Terry Suhre described the reception as being well attended. Suhre said that many people were pleased with the gallery talk Good had presented.

Good said that her most important influences come from Middle Eastern art forms, issues of ritual, identity and mass cultures from around the world. She also said that the reception that many of her inspirations come from stories she creates about each piece of work, which give her the motivation to be an artist.

Good displays her exhibit not only to share her views and concerns, but also to show the problems of representing and recreating nature in domestic settings and to describe what a conceptual garden should look like.

Other people, such as author Brett M. Levine from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, described Good's ideas about the garden as not being domestic, not formal, historical or postmodern, but as formal and organic.

see **SMOKING**, page 7

see **GARDEN**, page 7

GEESE, from page 6

Olson said that she brings her highly trained Border Collie, Anna, on campus to herd the geese into areas that are safer for both students and the animals. "I might come on campus twenty times a year," Olson said.

Anna is a five-year-old Border Collie that follows sheep herding commands.

"Walk-up" means to approach the geese," Olson explained. "'Shhhh' means run faster. And the most important commands are 'go left' or 'go right,' which mean 'away to me' and 'come by.'"

Olson said that using Border Collies is the best solution to herding geese. This particular breed of dog does not bite the federally protected geese as other dogs do.

"Some people have attempted to use some of the sporting or retrieving breeds, such as Labrador Retrievers. These dogs possess absolutely no herding instincts, and have also been trained to use their mouths to retrieve, thus posing the same threat of biting damage to the birds," Olson said.

Geese that are chased off campus have managed find a nearby shelter: the Bellerive Country Club.

Tony Mancuso, golf course superintendent at Bellerive Country Club, said that he has tried many different methods in chasing off migrating geese that land on his golf course.

"I've tried decoys like plastic owls, but the geese figure out that it's not real after a while," he said. "I've used bars of soap, which gives off a scent that

scares them away, but that only worked for so long. I've also used grape extract, which is sprayed around ponds and eventually gets into grass. This puts a bad taste in their mouth. I've even tried putting string around the pond, which distracts them and keeps them from walking on land...but this too only worked for a short time."

Mancuso said that the best solution to his geese problem was using a Border Collie.

"The best way I know of for geese control," said Mancuso, "is harassment, especially with a dog. Most golf courses have a Border Collie to chase away geese. We don't have our own, but whenever we go out on the course we bring some dogs."

Mancuso said that scaring away the

geese is temporary because the animals can recognize patterns.

"We have an undefined schedule so that the geese don't find new places to migrate," Mancuso said.

Nevertheless, the geese themselves have seemed to develop a pattern of their own. After being chased from the Bellerive Country Club, they manage to find their way back to UM-St. Louis campus.

Brown said, "About 6:30 in the morning I see a flock of geese flying north from the Bellerive Country Club and coming over here."

Geese chased off by Border Collies have discovered another safe haven: doorway entrances. Students may have noticed a couple of nests above the entrances to Clark hall. Brown said that

the geese build their nests on these entrances because the roofs use rock material to hold down the plastic covering.

"Geese like to build their nests on river rock, and so they build their nests on the entrances that use rock material."

However, these wandering fowl will soon have to find another place to rest their feathers.

"Next year we're getting rid of the rock on top of the entrance doors," Brown said.

Josh Eaves, senior, philosophy, said that even though he has had a few run-ins with the geese, he understands their behavior.

"I was walking along the [Thomas Jefferson Library] and I was followed

by geese who were protecting their nest. I understand that they were just trying to protect their eggs...I like the geese and I think that they are a pleasant addition to the UMSL campus," Eaves said.

The Canada goose has an average life expectancy of twenty years, and the animals weigh about 20 to 25 pounds. Migratory geese fly 2,000 to 3,000 miles to return to their birth site, and baby geese are called "goslings."

Anyone with questions or concerns about the geese on campus can visit the Ground Maintenance headquarters, which is located in the lower level of the Millennium Garage, or call 516-6317. Grounds Maintenance also has a website, which can be reached through the UM-St. Louis homepage.

PRESIDENT BUSH, from page 6

On Nov. 8, 1994, Bush was elected governor of Texas and was re-elected again on Nov. 3, 1998.

In his 2000 presidential campaign, Bush proposed plans to reform America's public schools, transform our national defense, provide tax relief, update Social Security and Medicare and encourage faith-based community organizations.

Some will say that the President succeeded in accomplishing these goals, while others strongly disagree. Amy Kaiser, sophomore, psychology, feels that President Bush has only provided tax relief for the very wealthy and has compromised national security by sending troops into Iraq without the support of many of America's allies.

On the other hand, the official White House website expresses support for many of President Bush's actions. "He has signed tax relief that provided rebate checks and lower tax rates for everyone who pays income

taxes in America. He has increased pay and benefits for America's military," it stated. "He is also committed to ushering in a responsibility era in America."

Whether a person is a supporter or opponent of President Bush, many will admit that he has had a rough time in office. From the beginning, Bush has received criticism because although he won the Electoral College vote in 2000, the winner of the popular vote was Al Gore.

A little over a year after Bush's inauguration, the country faced the Sept. 11 attacks. President Bush pledged that "Our nation, this generation, will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future...We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

Although recent allegations have arisen as to whether Bush did all he could to prevent the attacks and if he was completely honest with American citizens, Han Jiang, junior, business,

feels that Bush did the best he could in a difficult situation.

"I don't know if I agree with many of the decisions Bush has made while he's been in office, but I do think that he is doing what he believes is good for the country," Jiang said.

Now that the time has come for Bush to persuade the American public to vote for him, he has a new, or at least reformed, set of issues he plans to tackle if he is re-elected. GeorgeWBush.com reports that the President wants to strengthen the economy, improve homeland security and preserve the quality of our environment, among other things.

Whether a person supports Bush or his Democratic opponent, John Kerry, the most important thing to do is vote. There are many websites online that can assist in the voter registration process, including Iwanttovote.com. Students have the power to make a difference in the government and America's future.

GARDEN, from page 6

"I think her exhibit does remind many people of a rural setting, the country or of their grandfather's old tool shed," Suhre said. "I like that all of her work mainly addresses

women's issues such as caring, nurturing, and recycling, and that it gives people a real authentic folk-art feel."

"If Anything's A Garden..." is scheduled to be on display at Gallery

210 until May 22. Gallery 210, located in Building 44 next to the UM-St. Louis police station, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Sara Good's installation "If Anything's a Garden..." is currently showing in Gallery 210.

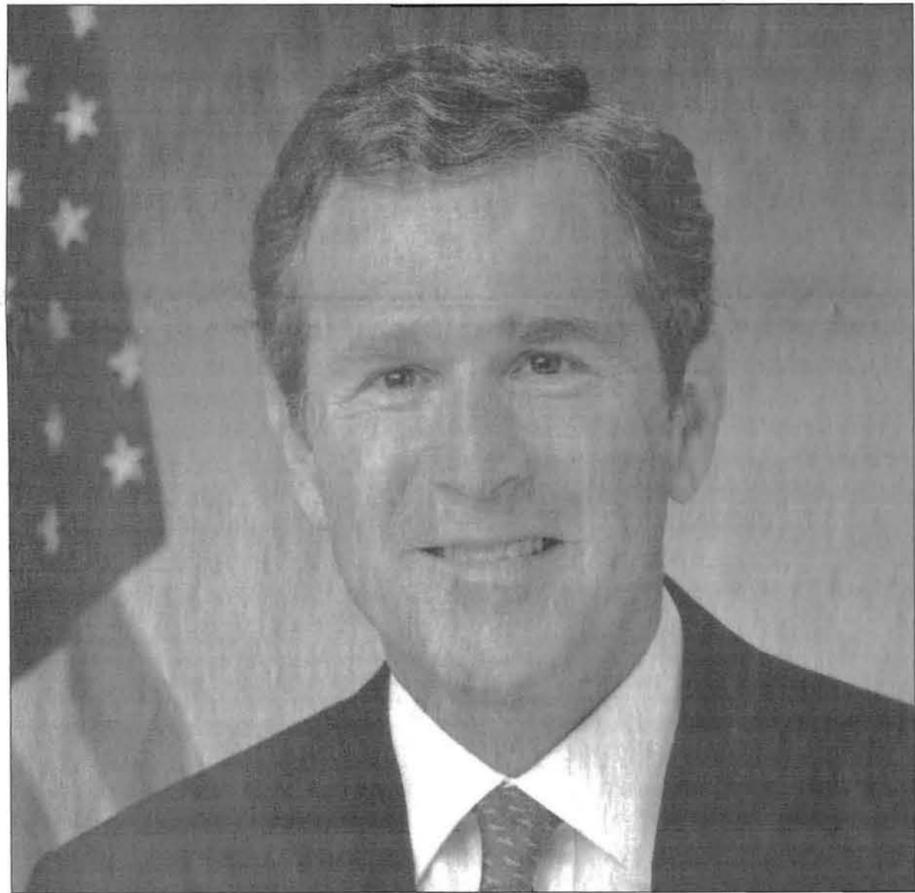


Photo courtesy google.com

President George W. Bush is the incumbent in the 2004 election. The Republican from Texas will square off against Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts. In 2000, Bush defeated former vice president Al Gore by claiming the electoral vote, while Gore won the popular vote.

LINDSAY LOHAN

MEAN GIRLS

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# Softball stumbles in conference play

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

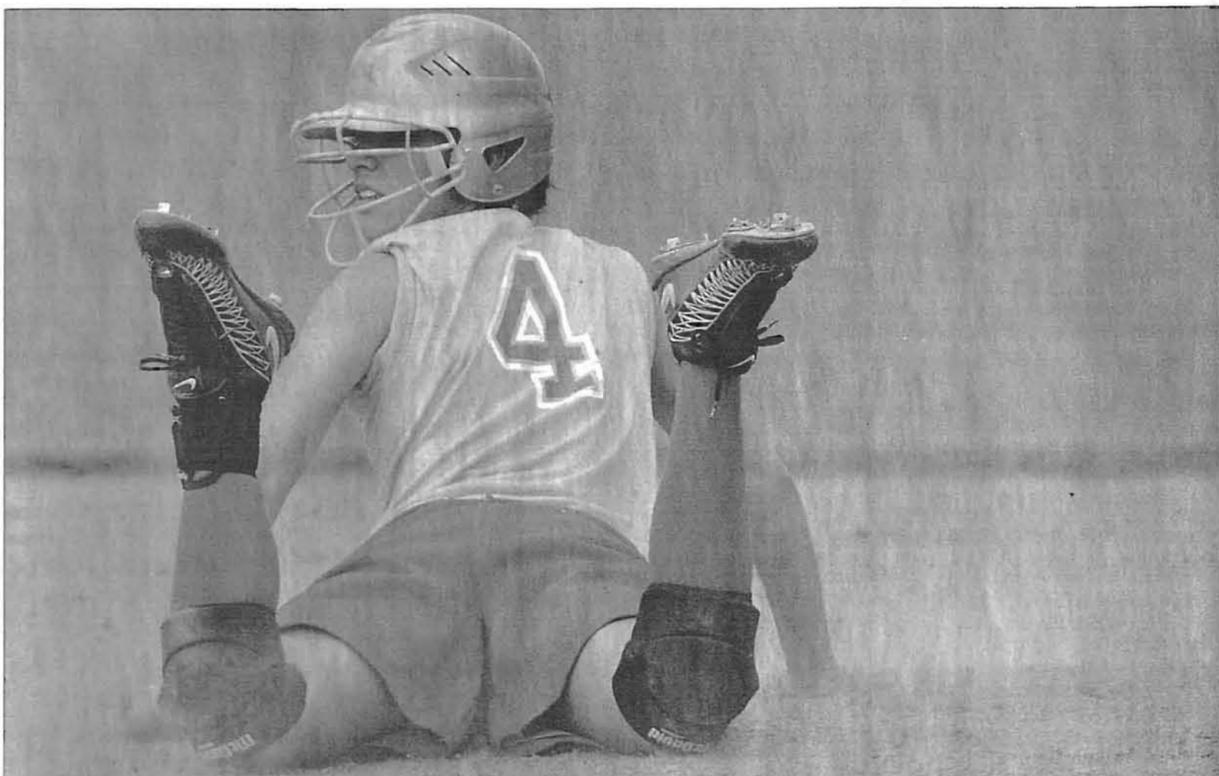
The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen played four different teams since April 1 and have not had much luck against any of them. Their best showing over the seven-day period was against UMRolla, which they played April 1.

Rolla won the opening game 3-1, but the Riverwomen came back in the second game to split with the Miners. The Lady Miners started the game where they left off, scoring a run in the first inning, but UM-St. Louis managed to score in the fourth inning thanks to Molly Buyat. The Riverwomen clinched the win in the sixth inning when pinch runner Courtney Carmody slid by home plate just as the catcher's foot slid off of the plate.

On April 3, the Riverwomen were shut out both games at Wisconsin-Parkside. In the opener, the Riverwomen were defeated 7-0 while only managing to get five hits. The second game was worse offensively for the Riverwomen, who had only four hits. Wisconsin-Parkside scored single runs in the second, fourth and fifth innings for the 3-0 victory.

On April 4, the softball team played better against Lewis, but still did not receive a victory. Lewis jumped out to a lead after scoring in the first inning, but UM-St. Louis retaliated with a run in the fourth inning. Buyat tied the game 1-1 with an RBI single. Lewis retook the lead with two runs in the fifth, and put the game away in the sixth with a run to win 4-2. The Riverwomen had 11 hits in the game, but could not convert as 10 runners were left on base.

The second game did not go as well for the Riverwomen, who lost 5-1. The only run scored came from Savannah Adams who made an RBI single in the fifth inning. The final two games were against regionally ranked SIU-Edwardsville. SIU-Edwardsville scored the first run of the game in the second inning. The Riverwomen tied the game in the third as Kristen Economon singled and then scored on an RBI double by Kim Kulaitis. The Riverwomen could not score again,



Riverwomen centerfielder Corie Jones looks for the call after sliding in to second during the 5th inning of the first game of a doubleheader at SIU-E.

though, and the Cougars came back in the fifth with a single run to win 2-1. In the second game, the Cougars again scored early in the first inning to take a 1-1 lead. UM-St. Louis took the lead in the fourth, with an RBI single from Jen Schatz and an RBI groundout from Lisa Neukirch. SIU-Edwardsville took the lead back in the fifth inning to go up 3-2, but UM-St. Louis tied it again in the sixth on a double steal by Jen Schatz and Corie Jones. Schatz stole second and Jones stole home to take the game into extra innings. The Riverwomen could not seem to top SIU-Edwardsville, though, as Jenny Esker of the Cougars hit a home run in the eighth to give the Cougars the 4-3 victory. The Riverwomen are now 15-18 on the season and 3-7 in the GLVC.



LEFT:

Corie Jones and Kristen Economon take a tumble after colliding while chasing a fly ball during Wednesday's doubleheader at SIU-E. The Riverwomen were defeated in both games; the first ended 2-1 and the second was 4-3.

## Men's tennis breaks down in weekend matches, rebounds vs. Quincy, Wash. U.

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team recently suffered two hard GLVC conference losses to Indianapolis 5-4 and losing Northern Kentucky 5-1.

The Rivermen first matched up against conference foe and rival Indianapolis. The Rivermen nearly came up with victory as they lost by just a single match. The Rivermen dropped two of their three doubles matches. Francis Lam and Raj Saini were the only doubles winners as they won 8-2 at the two doubles slot.

In their singles matches, the Rivermen got wins at two singles from Mike Schaaf, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, at four singles from Saini, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 and from Stephen Pobst who won 6-4, 7-5 at the five singles spot. Though the Rivermen gave a valiant effort during their singles matches, they came up just short as they lost 5-4 overall in the match.

After a tough loss in the morning to Indianapolis, the Rivermen tried to regroup as they faced an even tougher conference opponent in Northern Kentucky. UM-St. Louis only managed to grab one of the three doubles matches as Schaaf and Pobst picked up a close 8-6 win at the three doubles spot. The Rivermen lost the other two doubles matches in close matches, falling 8-6 at one doubles and 9-7 at two doubles.

Matt Valkhard, senior men's tennis player, tried to stay positive about the outcome of the matches.

"We got off to a rough start in both our one and two doubles and it came back to bite us. If we could have won our doubles matches we could have easily taken the matches from both of these teams today," Valkhard commented.

Northern Kentucky later won the remaining singles matches to finish strong and to claim the 5-1 win over the Rivermen.

The Rivermen now found themselves at 1-4 in the conference after the tough conference losses to Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky. They found their season had now been tied into a knot, hitting what the entire team called their "lowest point of the season."

The Rivermen needed quick answers to their problems and they came up huge as they bounced back to defeat Quincy 8-1 in their next GLVC conference match.

The Rivermen dominated all six singles matches after dropping only one of the three doubles matches. Valkhard battled out a tough 6-3, 6-3 win at one singles, Schaaf won a tough three-set match at two singles, 6-1, 2-6, 10-8, Lam won 6-0, 6-0 at three singles, Saini won 6-0, 6-2 at four singles, Pobst won 6-0, 6-2 in the five singles spot and James Daugherty finished the embarrassment off with a 6-0, 6-0 win at six singles.

It was only a day after demolishing

Quincy University that the Rivermen came up against an opponent that they have not seen victory against in quite some time. The Rivermen took on Washington University, who has had the Rivermen's number for the last few seasons.

Washington University is one of the top NCAA division 3 tennis programs in the nation and returned six out of eight starters to the court this season, which included the likes of the NCAA division 3 national champion at the one singles spot.

The Rivermen came out of the gates into a match in which they were largely the underdogs, and never looked back as they defeated Washington University for the first time in many years with the final score of 6-3.

The Rivermen won several key doubles matches to begin the day by taking the number 2 and number 3 matches.

"These were two huge points for

us," Valkhard said. "Without the two points at doubles, we would have never been able to win the match."

The Rivermen had a miraculous day in singles play as Valkhard battled out an incredible win at one singles over defending the national champion from only one year ago to start things out. Lam won a huge match at three singles, Saini pumped out a one set come from behind victory at the four singles spot, and Pobst won in dramatic fashion coming from a set and two breaks down to take the five singles spot.

"These types of wins can make or break your season. They really show the kind of heart your team has even when you think you aren't playing your best," Valkhard said.

The Rivermen are now 2-4 in the GLVC conference and are 7-7 overall as they enter the final leg of the season. The Rivermen are now playing to make it to their third consecutive trip to the NCAA regions later this spring.

SPORTS

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or  
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## Riverwomen golf team ends season on high note

BY WILL ROESTEL  
Staff Writer

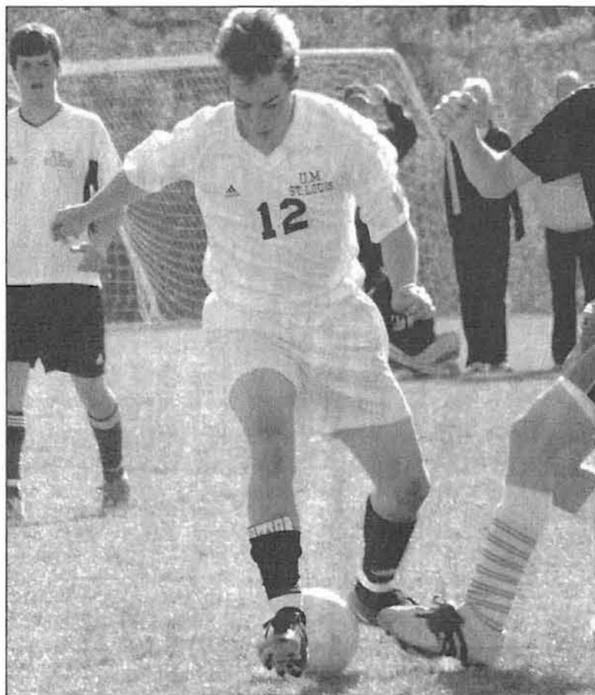
The UM-St. Louis women's golf team made a statement over the weekend, and that statement was all positive. Right on the heels of a second-place finish at the St. Francis Invitational April 3, the Riverwomen claimed their first tournament win of the season at the St. Joseph's Open. The title is the first under rookie women's golf coach James Earle.

The Riverwomen had an impressive outing at the St. Francis Invitational, held at the Broken Arrow Golf Course on Saturday, April 3. The Riverwomen fell a scant six strokes short of winner St. Ambrose, as our golfers stroked a team score of 381. Lauren Glenn led UM-St. Louis and the field with one round score of 86, tying her for individual first-place honors. Ashley Vincent found herself in fifth place after knocking around for a 93.

The next day would prove to contain greater excitement when UM-St. Louis made the trek to Rensselaer, Indiana and Curtis Creek Country Club for the St. Joseph's Open.

The Riverwomen's second best team score all season, 351, would net them their first tournament title of the season. Again, Glenn led UM-St. Louis on the leader board, striking an 83 for a second-place finish. Teammate Melissa Mezel also turned in an electric performance, finishing fourth, just two strokes back from Glenn. Mezel and Glenn's strong outings powered the Riverwomen's nine-stroke victory over Franklin College, and fifty-one stroke margin over last-place St. Joseph's.

With a strong finish to this season, the future looks bright for the UM-St. Louis women's golf team. With no seniors on the squad, the team should return in its entirety next season. A fantastic finish to this challenging season bodes well for the James Earle era of Riverwomen golf.



Sophomore midfielder John Doht dodges a McKendree opponent during a 7-on-7 soccer tournament, which was held April 3-4 as a fund raiser for the Riverwomen. A total of 34 teams participated in the men's and women's competitions.

## UM-St. Louis soccer programs hold 7-on-7 tourney, trivia night

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's soccer teams recently participated in a pair of fund raising events to help with travel and gear. The first fundraising event for the teams was a trivia night that was hosted by the men.

The night consisted of ten rounds of ten questions for a group of around 350 participants. Each table had eight people. After each round, the group would fill out an answer sheet and the UM-St. Louis men's and women's players would collect and then add up the score. The night was filled with multiple raffles, including a 50/50 raffle and attendance prizes, and a silent auction was conducted to finish the night off.

Adam Bimslager, junior forward, was surprised by the large turnout. "There was a surprisingly large amount of people. We even had to turn

people down a few days before the trivia night happened. It was a fun experience," Bimslager commented.

The trivia night drew just over the 350 mark in its inaugural beginning. The team hopes to continue the success down the road and eventually hopes to bring in more and more people to participate as each year goes by.

The second of the two events was a 7-on-7 tournament that was hosted by the women on April 3 and 4. The event drew eighteen teams for the women and sixteen for the men. Each team played three games within their own bracket during the first part of the day.

After each team had completed the three games, the top eight teams advanced to the quarterfinals. During the men's tournament, there were only enough teams to go straight to the semi-finals. The Riverwomen ended up in the quarterfinals, but could not find a remedy for the tough-playing Southern Illinois Cougars. The men made it all the way to the finals, but

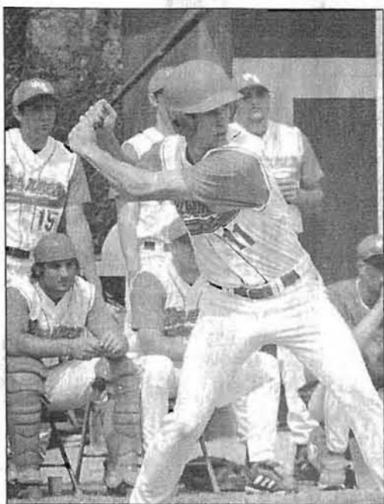
just like the women, could not pull out a hard-fought game against McKendree College.

Both the men's and women's teams ran concessions during the entire weekend with help from the parents of the players. The men refereed for all of the women's games on April 3 and the women refereed for the men the next day on April 4. The tournament had an attendance turnout of over 400 people at the same time and about 800 people for the weekend.

Jason Barclay, junior defenseman, enjoyed the weekend.

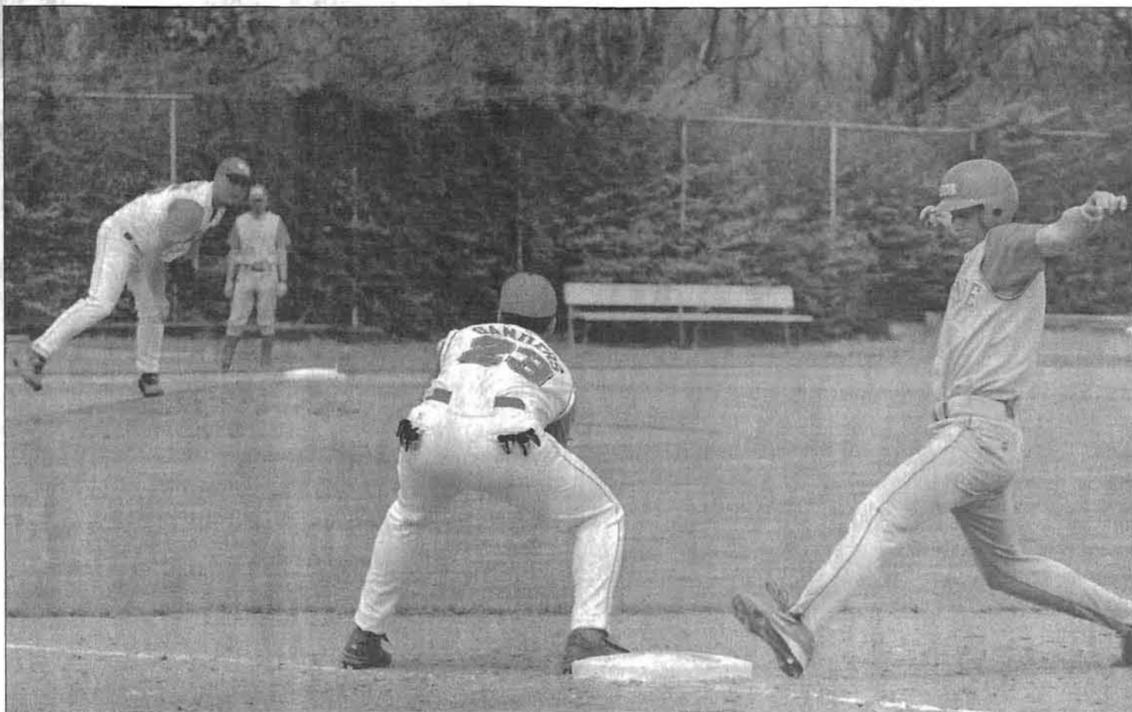
"It was fun to get out and play during the weekend. It is always fun to mix things up a bit. That is what this tournament is all about. We all came out and had a good time not just playing, but watching as well," Barclay said.

Both the UM-St. Louis men's and women's programs hope to keep up the good fund raising events and hope to see continued success both on and off the field in the future.



Jesse Gater/The Current

ABOVE: Josh Morgan stands at the plate during the Rivermen game against SIU-E on Wednesday.



Jesse Gater/The Current

RIGHT: Blake Burnside, junior pitcher, throws to Scott Sanders, senior first baseman, trying to pick off the SIU-E base runner during last Wednesday's victory.

# Rivermen victorious in 5 of 6 games

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis baseball team made a strong run this past week, winning five of their last six ballgames. In a four-game home series against the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers on April 3 and 4, the Rivermen were able to come away with three huge wins, including a 16-15 extra inning win in the last game of the series. UM-St. Louis was able to carry the momentum gained from their 13-inning win against the Panthers into a mid-week home doubleheader against SIU-Edwardsville, where they came away with the sweep.

The four-game series against Kentucky Wesleyan was a crucial match up for the Rivermen in terms of shaping their chances for a repeat Great Lakes Valley Conference championship. Heading into the match up with the Rivermen, the Panthers were first place in the conference and looking like the team to beat early in the season. UM-St. Louis would take full advantage of their opportunity to close ground on the conference leaders.

UM-St. Louis came out swinging in the opening series doubleheader on Saturday, April 3. The Rivermen's offense exploded, posting double-digit run totals in each of the first two games. They were able to comfortably win both games, taking the first contest 11-2 and the second 15-4.

In the first game on Saturday, the Rivermen showed they were serious by jumping out to a quick 7-0 lead in the first two innings of the game. After accumulating a quick lead, the UM-St. Louis pitching staff was able to lose some of the pressure and take control of the game. The Rivermen



Josh Morgan, sophomore pitcher and outfielder, slides into second during the Rivermen's victory over SIU-E on Wednesday.

Jesse Gater/The Current

would finish off the first game with ease, ending it with a convincing 11-2 win. Brad Drewes pushed his record to (3-0) on the year as he picked up the win at pitcher for the Rivermen.

The second match on Saturday would prove a bit more difficult for UM-St. Louis, who took longer to get their offensive engine started. Kentucky Wesleyan took an unstable 1-0 lead into the fifth inning when the Rivermen's bats started to come alive. They would pick up four runs in the bottom of the fifth and five runs in the bottom of the sixth on their way to a 15-4 route. Mike Lantzy picked up the win for the Rivermen, extending his season record to 2-0.

The opening game on Sunday would not go as well for the Rivermen as the previous doubleheader on Saturday. Kentucky Wesleyan would pick up their only win of the series in an uneventful 4-2 game. One run in the second inning and three more runs

in the third would be enough to clinch the win for the Panthers.

The second game on Sunday would prove to be the most exciting and most influential one in UM-St. Louis's season thus far. In a match up that flip-flopped back and forth, the Rivermen were able to pick up a 16-15 win after 13 innings of play.

The score was deadlocked at 11-11 after eight innings until Kentucky Wesleyan broke the tie with four runs in the top of the ninth. With a 15-11 score heading into the bottom of the ninth, it looked like the game was all but over for the Rivermen; however, UM-St. Louis was able to rally back to tie the score at 15-15. Four more innings of play would be required until the Rivermen were able to pull out the thriller, following a game-winning single from Scott Sanders in the bottom of the 13th inning. Junior pitcher Matt Kueny described the win as:

"The most exciting college game I've seen since I've been here."

The outstanding play of UM-St. Louis first baseman Sanders in the series against Kentucky Wesleyan and in a doubleheader against SIU-Edwardsville earlier in the week warranted a selection from the Great Lakes Valley Conference as their Player of the Week. Sanders led the

Rivermen with a .423 batting average with eight runs scored and six RBIs over the six-game span. He is the only Rivermen player awarded this honor so far this season.

In a home doubleheader against rival SIU-Edwardsville on April 7, the Rivermen were able to pull off a sweep, further extending their winning form. They were able to pull out a close 2-1 win in the first game of the series before cruising to a comfortable 12-2 win in the second contest. Solid starting pitching from Blake Burnside and Steven McCoy was enough to steer the Rivermen's ship to two clutch wins.

By virtue of winning five of their last six games against conference teams, UM-St. Louis has elevated their standing to third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with a conference record of 12-8. They sit only two games back of leaders Wisconsin-Parkside and are very much in the hunt to repeat as conference champions. The Rivermen were able to push their overall record to 17-16-1. They resume play next week with a single away game at Lincoln on April 12 and an away doubleheader against Quincy on April 14.

# Rivermen golf team places last

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

The UM-Saint Louis men's golf team placed seventh at the Wisconsin-Parkside Invitational on March 28, held at Otter Creek Golf Club in Columbus, Ind. The tournament was meant to acquaint the golfers with the course that will be used for the conference tournament, and as a preview, only 18 holes were played. The Rivermen shot a team score of 312, which landed them in seventh and last place, but the positive is that the team was only seven strokes away from second place. The tournament winner was Lewis, who shot a 292. Individuals who did particularly well in the tournament were Pat Murillo who tied for third with a score of 1-over 73, and Diego Jimenez who shot a 5-over 77 to tie for 15th place. The Rivermen played their next tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on March 30. They did not fare any better in this tournament than in the previous, as they shot a team score of 497 and again finished in last place. The tournament was shortened due to thunderstorms, so only 27 of the 36 holes were actually played. Player Jimenez said conditions were difficult to play in.

"Cold weather makes it difficult to focus and play 100%. Your body gets stiff, and your swing is affected. Rain makes the playing even worse."

The Rivermen have had a difficult year to date, but are remaining positive. They know what they have to do to get better: the time-tried formula of practice and experience, as Jimenez mentioned.

"We lack experience and practice. If we can practice more, it will help a lot because this game is so fickle. We still have the talent to finish first in the GLVC Championship [on] April 11-13." Weather should permit the Rivermen to practice more, and these two tournaments should serve them for some experience. If Murillo can continue to lead the team as he has done thus far, there remains hope for the GLVC, and then on to super regionals.

The Current is accepting applications for next year. All positions except editor-in-chief are available. Come by MSC 388 to tour The Current's offices, meet with existing staff and ask any questions you may have. Give us a call at 314-516-5174 if you are interest or shoot us an e-mail at current@jinx.umsu.edu. Come on in and say "Howdy!"

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Movie  
Calendar

Movies

\*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of  
April 12

Opening

Connie and Carla—After witnessing a mafia hit, two women disguise themselves as drag queens in Los Angeles. Comedy avails as the women must adjust to interacting with the world as women dressed as men dressed as women. Opens April 16.

Kill Bill Vol. 2—Uma Thurman returns as the vengeful assassin, The Bride, who has only one thing on her mind: killing her former employer, Bill, for murdering her wedding party on her special day. Opens April 16.

Ongoing

The Girl Next Door—In this must-see date movie, Elisha Cuthbert stars as Danielle, the sexy girl next door to over-achieving high school senior Matthew, and his typical suburban family. As the two are falling in love, Danielle reveals herself to be an ex-porn star looking for a new life.

## CONCERT REVIEW

## A sleepy night at the Pageant

Granddaddy, Saves the Day and Hey Mercedes turn out mediocre performances

BY LAURA HEPBURN  
Music Critic

Last Wednesday three bands played to somewhat responsive audiences. The evening began with the band Hey Mercedes, followed by Granddaddy and ended with Saves The Day. The musical talent increased with each new band, but the show never got better.

Hey Mercedes was the first band of the evening lineup. The band had enough rock and roll in it to keep me from falling asleep, but the emotional singing style of vocalist Bob Nanna came out like repetitive whines. There may have been one moderately interesting song, but for the most part, I was desperate for the set to be over. There was a little cheering and applause, probably from the polite rather than the appreciative.

Granddaddy came onstage amidst enough cheers to give me hope that this band would be good. There were a few keyboard lines that sounded promising until they repeated themselves over and over and over. The vocals were of the same variety as in Hey Mercedes, as were the generic guitars and drumbeats. Somehow, the second act did manage a more polished and refined version of the same product.

The band did have two distinct improvements over Hey Mercedes. One featured a backdrop on which different videos were played for each song, and the other was more personality. My favorite video was of a cat batting at a dog. I only mention the video because it was more memorable than the music. The only other memorable part of the set was when the Granddaddy guitarist preceded a slower song by inviting audience members to slow-dance to the song. At first, only one couple felt confident enough to take up



Jesse Gater/The Current

Members of the band Granddaddy include Jason Lytle, Jim Fairchild, Kevin Garcia, Tim Dryden and Aaron Burtch, here performing in front of their fans at the Pageant on the night of Wednesday, April 7.

the offer. Fortunately, two guys (one in a "Jesus is my Homeboy" trucker hat) decided to parody the couple, giving me my only genuine smile of the evening.

I give Granddaddy some credit for presentation and creativity in performance, but I see little chance of their music finding the fan base needed to make a successful band.

I was surprised to see so many people leave after Granddaddy finished. I feared this meant that Saves The Day would be unable to improve the evening. My fears were proved true when Saves The Day failed to do anything new.

While Saves The Day managed to have the best rendition of the same music we had heard from two other bands that night, they had less personality. I have always been of the opinion that concerts are a way for artists to show fans another dimension of the music. Unfortunately, many artists feel that a concert means they get on stage, play their music and leave. At least Granddaddy had some presentation to go with the show.

Saves The Day had minimal interaction with the audience, minimal interaction with each other and minimal visual stimulation. The only part of

the show that I have any clear memory of was when the band covered "I Will" by the Beatles. It was an interesting choice, especially since most of Saves The Day's target audience is of the pop-punk persuasion.

I have seen worse concerts, but I have never spent three hours of such intense monotony as on the night of April 7. If you like mild rock music with high-pitched vocals, check out Weezer or old-school Radiohead. If Hey Mercedes, Granddaddy or Saves The Day has somehow managed to capture you already, my advice is to save your money and skip the concert.

## EVENT REVIEW

## Massive traveling gamers event comes to Pop's

BY PAUL CRUTCHER  
Staff Writer

Hopefully, some of you out there in gamer-land caught a commercial on The Point, or a friend who heard the commercials phoned you. Either way, if you were lucky, you made your way across the river and pulled with anticipation into the expansive lot at Pop's in Sauget. The notes taped to the tinted doors at Pop's said enough: Closed for video game event. I anticipated elbowing my way through gamers, people thrilled to pack-out the club with itchy fingers for keyboards and controllers. I also wanted to find the owner of a trick, pristine Mitsu Evo that I parked next to and whip his or her behind at Project Gotham Racing 2. Notepad in hand, I opened the door to GameRiot—the "event."

After a wiry bouncer sized me up and banded me with a florescent ok-to-drink, I walked into the thunderous bass beating through a dark maze of game stations, sponsor's booths. Xbox provided 24 standing Playstations, all equipped with honking-sized TVs, extra speakers and ready for two-player jousting.

Gamers attached to PCs found a home too, thanks to rows of 28 networked, online PCs, ready to flaunt processors, graphics and games.

The DJ sat offstage, providing vibrations and awaiting requests or questions about his gear or business. Onstage, GameRiot MCs commanded competitions on a semi-circle of flat-screen monitors rivaling the width of my car and the clarity of the view out my front window.

I arrived during a blow-by-blow



Photo courtesy GameRiot

king-of-the-hill competition on Soul Calibur II. Ten or twelve fighters snapped off devastating combos in close victories. Swords crashed together in surround-sound and the fights ran from the stage and from various (and equally large) monitors around the dance floor of Pop's. The ultimate victor scored his choice of games from the MC.

Imagine being linked up in a room with 75 other people playing at killing each other and various Joes and Janes around the world at CounterStrike or Unreal Tournament, strapped into headphones for the action. Having experienced this gaming in cafes, I can say firsthand that GameRiot is

exhilarating. The experience over home play is something like watching the ballgame on your sofa with three friends, Cokes, chips and salsa versus watching the ballgame at a dark sports café with 200 fans cheering at 50 massive TVs, with people to wait on you, a jukebox in the background, beer and Coke, burgers and pizza and all the chips you want.

The latter, like GameRiot, has a tangible pulse. Also, as adrenaline-fueled as you can manage to get yourself when sitting around blasting armored aliens in Halo 2 in your PJs at home, a live DJ, a bona-fied club, throngs of clickers around you, dark-inducing tunnel vision and MC chatter

easily kick it up a notch. Hence, "event."

GameRiot featured a diversity of games. Highlights, of course, were those games yet to hit retailers' shelves, but all of the offerings were new. Ninja action/adventure could be dived two ways, for instance: Either the brilliant Ninja Gaiden or the updated version of the Tenchu series (previously exclusive to the Playstation). The much acclaimed Prince of Persia game resided next to the similarly agile ninjas. Both America's Army and Battlefield Vietnam brought realistic military running-and-gunning for gamers. Tony Hawk's Underground, MTX

and NFL Street held the extreme end of the dense and varied sports arena from ESPN's franchise. In addition, rally fans had two fantastic titles to enjoy or compete on: Colin McRae 04 and Rallisport Challenge 2. Every gamer could find a list of things to do at GameRiot.

Games, systems and discounts from retailers were up for grabs in the competitions I mentioned as well as in drawings. Everyone likes free stuff.

After racking up kudos and lap times for the community, trying my hand at a FPS or two, dying miserably at traditional fighting games, advancing a level for the Tenchu crowd and watching the DJ do his duty for a spell, I wandered around to encapsulate the feeling and take my scribbles down in my notebook. That is about when I noticed the empty pool tables. I wrote, "Who wants to play 9-ball when yet-unreleased copies of games like EA's Fight Night 2004 and Halo are waiting?" And the "event" signs at the doors about say it all.

Although I never did find that Evo driver...

Unfortunately for you, unlucky gamers who missed the show here in St. Louis on April 4, you also missed the shows in Columbia and Kansas City. But not all is lost for you. GameRiot continues. On April 13, GameRiot stops in Chicago. Cleveland is April 14. Visiting D.C.? Be there April 21. In May, you can find GameRiot touring along the south and out to California. If you do not like travel, there are whispers that GameRiot is planning a summer tour as well. For more information, including tour dates, game and sponsor information, visit [www.gameriot.com](http://www.gameriot.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

## Meet your new best friend: Leo, the Christian frog

Colorful creatures and Christianity paint vivid storybook of morals

BY PAUL CRUTCHER  
Staff Writer

Vivid pictures fill "The Adventures of Leo the Wide Mouth Frog," and they start it on a solid route for winning approval from

kids. Leo indeed makes adventure. He meets all sorts of creatures, each with its own problem—from nasty, bullying boys to pouting, depressed crows to thieving kangaroos. Together, Leo and his companions work through the problems, and Leo continues on his journey of self-discovery. Leo has his own problem and it sits wide and ready for discrimination on his face.

"Adventures" wiggles into part "Wizard of Oz" and part "Pilgrim's Progress." Kids will likely appreciate all elements of Leo's adventure, from the colorful depictions to the crea-

tures themselves to the rhyming scheme. "Leo" feels accessible on the most fundamental levels, and I gauge that any tyke able to read should run with "Leo" without hiccup. The hardest terms are of the "comfortable," "adjusting," "neighborhood," "encouragement" sort, meaning that, based on my experience, kids graduated from second grade should get through with comprehension, even if a little phonetic nudging is needed for reading.

However, "Adventures" attempts to do something more than just awaken kiddies to the maladies of the world and teach them acceptance,

kindness and ethical culpability—it wants more than just a turning on of tiny consciousnesses. Instead, as the first page states, "Adventures" is "A book of Christian rhyming stories for kids of all ages." Each of the ten adventures arranges itself with a brief narration/setup, a relevant verse from the book that bests all others and the rhyming action/dialogue.

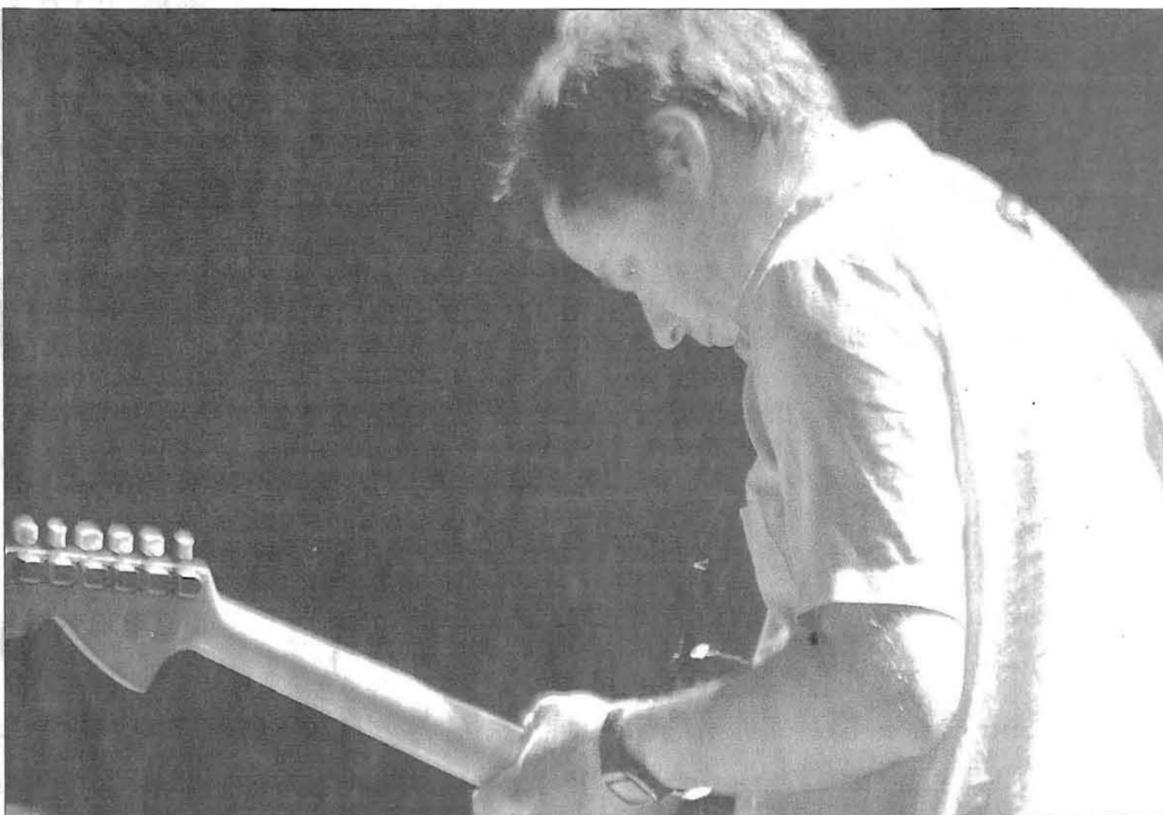
The messages in "Adventure" could be detached from the Christian references, but only at the expense of the book and the read. "Aunt Katie's Visit," a book that I reviewed a few weeks ago, conveyed similar messages without the explicit references,

and appealed undeniably to a wider audience.

"Leo" is a fun frog to accompany on his journey, and the scriptures are woven into the adventure thoughtfully. As a Christian book for kids, it makes the Bible relevant through common-sense experiences with a cast of bright animals and ruggats. Either way, "Leo" teaches valuable lessons and does it well.

Leo is cheaper, at \$10 plus shipping ("Aunt Katie" was \$23), thanks in large part to "Leo" being in soft cover. For orders, call the publisher at (954) 554-1921 or visit [www.LifeChangingMedia.net](http://www.LifeChangingMedia.net).

CONCERT REVIEW



Mike Sherwin/The Current

LEFT: Stereolab bassist Simon Johns is silhouetted during the band's performance at the Pageant Thursday night.

ABOVE: Tim Gane, guitarist and keyboard player for the French art-rock band Stereolab, performs Thursday at the Pageant.

# Stereolab doesn't disappoint fans

Bittersweet concert promotes first tour since tragic death of original lead vocalist Mary Hansen

BY LAURA HEPBURN  
Music Critic

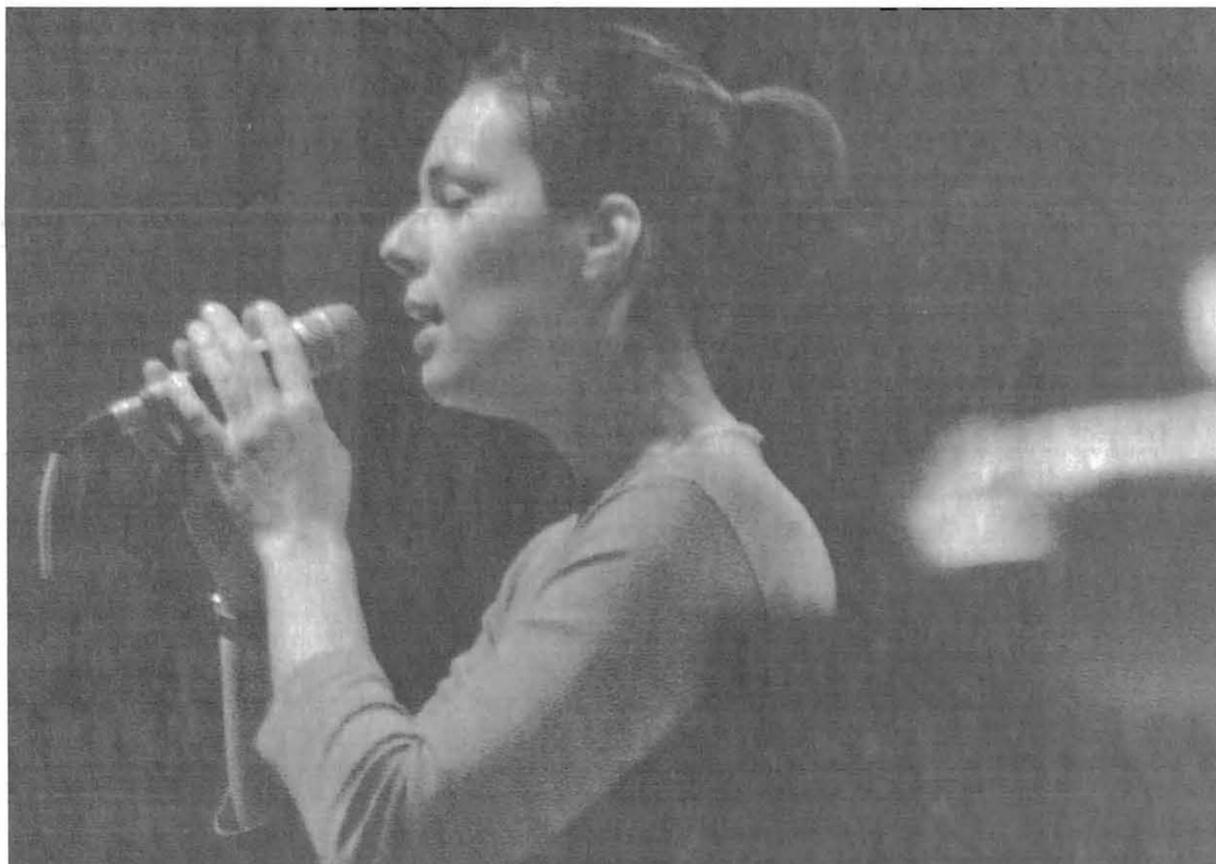
April 8th was a wonderful night for St. Louis Stereolab fans. Clearlake opened the evening with skinny, European-guy style paired with lots of audience interaction. The audience was diverse, the music was spectacular and the energy was palpable.

Last Thursday, Clearlake came onstage with an attitude ready to win over some fans. The inspiring lyrics, fast-paced drum-beats and fluid guitar lines intertwined to create music with ambience. The songs were delightfully varied with sweet songs as well as rock and roll songs. The style combined the light, poignant rock of the '70s with the fluid emotion of many modern bands.

Of course, decent music is not the only ingredient needed; Clearlake also had personality. The band complimented the Pageant and the ability of the sound technicians, asked the audience about St. Louis and spoke briefly about the touring experience.

After Clearlake came Stereolab, a band with a quality unlike any other band I have heard. Stereolab weaves together the psychedelic characteristics of Jefferson Airplane, the jam-band abilities of Phish and a Stereolab style that is beyond compare.

Original vocalist Mary Hansen was killed in December 2002 when she was hit by a car while riding her bicycle. Laetitia Sadier, who previously provided some vocals and several other instruments, now has the lead role as vocalist for the band. Though she had a lot to live up to, she carried the role with sophistication and class. Several of the musicians had multiple talents, ranging from the moog to the French horn to multiple kinds of synthesizers, keyboards and guitars.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Laetitia Sadier, lead vocalist, trombonist and moog keyboard player for Stereolab, performs during a concert Thursday night at the Pageant. Sadier stepped in on lead vocals after Stereolab's original vocalist Mary Hansen was killed in December 2002. At the Pageant, the band played old favorites and new selections from the group's latest release, "Margerine Eclipse" which came out in February 2004 on the Duophonic record label.

The set list was a festival of musical flavors all designed to appeal to the ranging palates of Stereolab fans. Some songs had the light bubbly sounds and cooing French lyrics that are classic Stereolab twists. All songs had the kind of energy and beat that gets the crowd moving. One song even

paired a classic techno beat with the sweet, effervescent '60s vibe for which the band is known.

Not only is the music presentational, but the show itself was amazing to watch. There were videos projected on a backdrop, a wide

array of colored lights and the largest number of instruments and equipment I have ever seen a stage set up with. The energy was amazing and the audience felt every note and every word.

This concert was the kind of concert that

is absorbed rather than watched. It was an experience of a kind that every music lover should get to see. Even if you missed this show, check out any Stereolab album and you will get some idea of what this band does.

NIGHTCLUB REVIEW

Clubgoers dance the night away at the Laclede's Landing nightclub Rum Jungle earlier this year. The original Rum Jungle is located in the Mandalay Hotel Casino in Las Vegas. The St. Louis version is not quite up to par.



Michael Palikant/The Current

## "Rum Jungle" falls short of Vegas version

BY CASEY SCHACHER  
A&E Editor

If you want to discover a bit of Las Vegas, you might as well take a road trip, because despite promises, Rum Jungle fails to bring the bright lights to our fair city.

The original Rum Jungle, located in the Mandalay Hotel Casino in Las Vegas, boasts glamour, wealth and a taste for elegance. The Rum Jungle recently unveiled in St. Louis, however, looks like a hovel in comparison. The supposedly tropical/Vegas-themed dance club has nothing on any other club in town.

The club, located on Laclede's Landing, is essentially a large, main room, with a small upstairs bar that admittedly does resemble a player's club. The main room, however, reminded me of being in an abandoned warehouse, with low lighting and unspectacular decorations. Wire cages draped with tropical foliage turned out to be awkward contraptions decorated with bits of material that at first appeared to be bits of ripped-up trash bags. The cages, meant to showcase hot girls, held nothing

of the sort. The women dancing in the trash cages, while physically attractive, moved like insecure strippers. I found my eyes wandering away from them to a 300-pound man doing the running man with amazing rhythm. And to think I paid five dollars to get into the place...

The layout of the club also left a lot to be desired, though it handled traffic well. With

“  
The Rum Jungle recently unveiled in St. Louis looks like a hovel in comparison.  
”

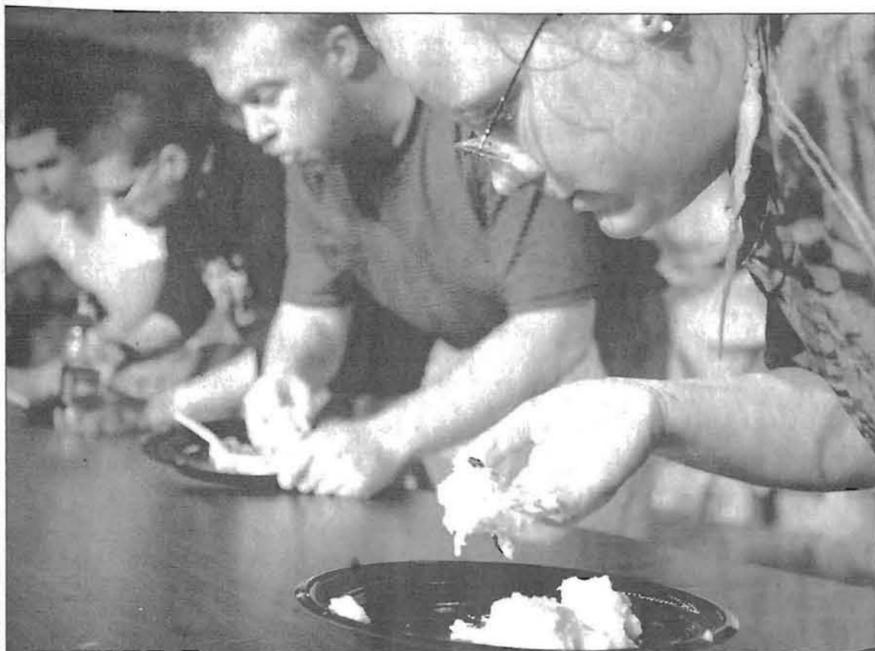
only one boxy dance floor, dancing was, well, boxed in. People danced, sure, but not with each other, especially on the outskirts. An unnerving amount of people sat on the many roomy couches provided. In other words, wallflowers would find this club rather comfortable. I looked about the antisocial club and was not surprised that I suddenly longed for the

sweaty, animalistic atmosphere of Club Buca.

The bored are always the boring, so I naturally searched for the good qualities of the lukewarm club. Like mentioned before, traffic moved smoothly through the club and I did not have to push and shove my way from one end of the room to the other. A breezy space at the far end of the club offered a relaxing and cool spot to have a smoke or to relax. Also, the upstairs bar was well-decorated, though it offered nothing but another place to get an over-priced drink. Perhaps the best feature of the club, however, was the DJ, who played an enjoyable and well-blended mix of house techno and hip-hop.

While Rum Jungle did have its attributes, if you're looking for a fun place to drink and dance, pick up a case of beer and invite some friends over. You will save money and will probably have a better time. Just remember to take keys away from those too intoxicated to drive. If you are looking for a bit of Vegas, however, skip the beer and save your money up for a vacation because you will not find anything similar here in St. Louis.

# Crickets and worms. Yum.

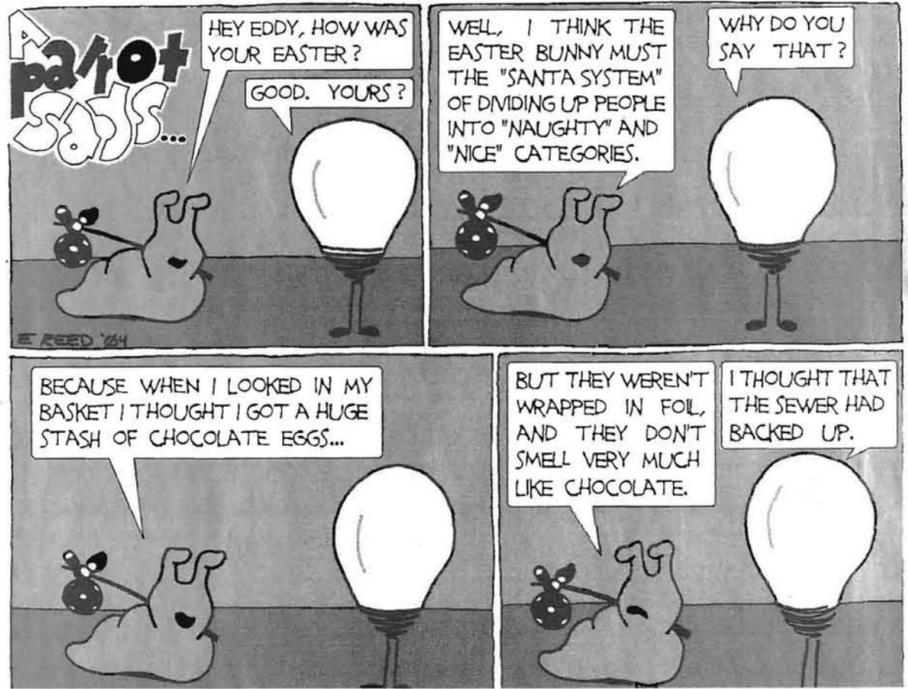


Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Daniell Kinder, senior, music education, prepares to bite into a melange of mashed potatoes and fried crickets during "Fear Factor," held by the University Program Board in the Pilot House on Thursday. Kinder and other contestants enjoyed eating pickled pigs' feet and differentiating by taste fettucine noodles and live worms. Kinder went on to win the contest, taking home a Gameboy Advanced, an X-Box, Cardinals baseball tickets, and tickets to Six Flags.



Audience members at the UM-St. Louis "Fear Factor" react to blindfolded contestants taking fettucine and live earthworms into their mouths and trying to separate out the most worms without sight or touch.



## BEL-NOR, from page 1

"There has to be a violent felony for us to give chase," Adams said. "Then, if the officer believes the chase is becoming too dangerous, the officer can call the chase off even then. In California and some other states, when an officer is chasing a felon, the officer nor the department can be sued because of injuries to the public or property damage...If they have someone who shoots and kills somebody, they're gonna get him."

Adams is realistic about the job he does. He knows that when he steps out the door in the morning, there is a chance he might not come back. More often than not, the day is fairly uneventful, according to Adams. It is when the day becomes eventful, that the job becomes something more serious.

"Police work is 95 percent boredom and five percent sheer hell," Adams said. "It can be intense."

Adams knows that oftentimes people have a negative view of the police because of the circumstances of their meetings. Be it getting pulled over for a traffic infraction, something happening at their home (burglary, injury, death) or being notified of bad news by the police, people can associate those events with the police and develop a

negative viewpoint, but, Adams stresses, they are only doing their job.

Adams saw more intense work at his last department where he worked at a general bureau as part of an undercover narcotics task force. With all his background in crime fighting, Adams may seem like a candidate to be a lifer, someone in the force until he or she retires. However, Adams has ambitions of his own.

"I want to go back to [college] and finish my degree," Adams said. "I want to switch my major over and teach."

Adams said he wants to teach social studies and coach baseball. Adams played college baseball before he blew out his shoulder and needed surgery. He does, however, continue to play softball in a recreational league. He said most officers have some sort of outlet that takes their mind off police work.

"Being a police officer is one of those jobs that defines you as a person," Adams said. "I am a police officer 24 hours a day, and if I see a crime while I am off duty, I have to respond. But I also have to have something to fall back on, something not related to police work."

Adams said the biggest problem the

Bel-Nor police department faces is traffic, and that is where most of their tickets come from.

"The first few weeks of school at UMSL are brutal," Adams said. "The traffic can line up all the way down to [Interstate] 170. Even the night school, traffic around 5:30 [in the evening] can be bad."

In the end, Adams said the police department's first priority is safety. That is perhaps where the misconception UM-St. Louis students have about the police comes into play, Adams said.

"We are concerned with safety, that is our priority," Adams said. "If I hit a kid going 20 miles an hour, there's only a 10 percent chance it's going to kill him. If I hit him going 30, there's a 40 percent chance it's going to kill him. That's the reason why we do traffic enforcement."

Adams, who came to Bel-Nor in 1998, said students need to remember that the police are just doing their jobs and to take it easy on the roads.

"I had a lady the other day...[she] said 'Shouldn't you be out catching a drug dealer or something?'" Adams said. "I said, 'That's part of my job, but traffic enforcement is part of my job also.' That's how I respond to that."

# There's always something to do on Saturday nights...

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## Prof. Services

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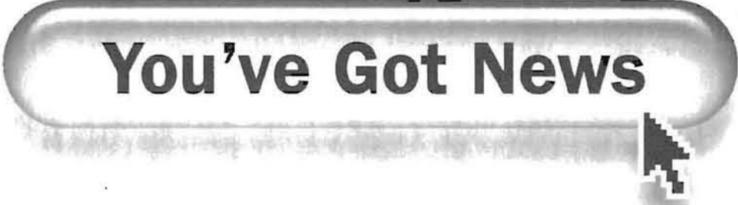
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