



See page 10

R-women, R-men pick up wins

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Debate over Iraq resolution to continue

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

Debate continued, once again, concerning a proposed resolution to support the troops serving in Iraq at the Student Government Association meeting on Friday.

The controversy surrounds the final paragraph of the resolution that singles out former SGA assembly chair David Dodd. Numerous students feel that although Dodd has been dedicated to this campus, it would not be right to leave out the names of all the UM-St. Louis students currently stationed in Iraq. SGA treasurer Laurie Bainter agreed with this position.

"If we are going to recognize people, let's recognize everybody."

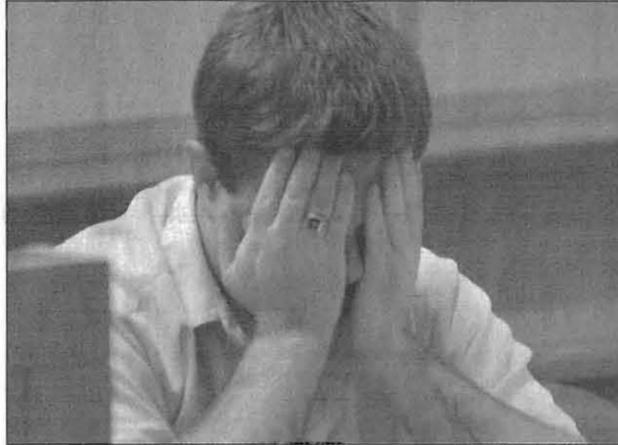
Other students argued that Dodd is a familiar face on campus and formally recognizing him will allow the assembly to make this resolution

more personal. The item was floored for further discussion when no agreement could be reached.

Elections were held for a vacant seat on the Associated Students of the University of Missouri's Board of Directors. Scott Bopp, junior, international business, and Jeanne Patrick, freshman, secondary education, ran for the position.

The assembly came to the consensus that Patrick represented a new voice, whereas Bopp already serves as chief justice of the student court. In stressing the benefits of having a diverse body of student representatives, the assembly elected Patrick to the post.

Following the meeting, Patrick said she loves being involved on



Mike Sherwin/The Current

campus and is excited about being elected.

"I know that ASUM makes a lot of decisions that affect the campus for better or for worse. I want to let the

students come to me with their opinions and problems," Patrick said.

SGA President Kristy Runde announced that April 1 and 2 will be the next meeting of the Board of

Curators. It will take place here at UM-St. Louis. In addition, March marks the official inauguration of Chancellor Thomas George.

Interested students are welcome to attend the ceremony to be held at 4 p.m. in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be obtained at 440 Woods Hall, the bookstore, Thomas Jefferson library, Ward Barnes library or the Honors College office; they are free, but first come first served.

M.K. Stallings, SGA parliamentarian, announced a forum to discuss race relations that will be taking place on campus March 19. Students interested in participating can contact the SGA for more information.

Stallings also introduced the idea of forming a UM-St. Louis SLAM

poetry team to compete against other schools. There will be an event on March 18 for aspiring poets to compete for a slot on the team.

Jeff Griesemer, chairman of the election committee, informed the assembly that a special meeting of the SGA executive committee has approved the new election rules. Applications for SGA positions and Student Senate elections were scheduled to be released later that day.

The Student Senate will be hosting a "Meet The Senators" night on Feb. 19 in the Pilot House. It is primarily a social event featuring foosball, food, door prizes and a cash bar. However, George will be on hand to speak about the University's Action Plan.

Additionally, Beth Grindstaff, SGA Vice President, informed the assembly that there are still many tickets available for the homecoming dance on Feb. 27. Organizations can use their budgets to purchase tables for the event.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Gov. Bob Holden talks with students Phyllis Jourdan, senior, social work, and Monica Durrwachter, senior, political science, after a press conference the governor held in the MSC.

Holden visits campus, proposes new program

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Missouri Governor Bob Holden (D) came to UM-St. Louis last Thursday, Feb. 12 to announce a new student loan amnesty program.

Holden announced the new plan created jointly by his office and the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority in Century Room A of the Millennium Student Center. The program is meant to encourage students to major in life sciences in Missouri. Life sciences at UM-St. Louis fall under the umbrellas of mathematics and physical sciences like chemistry, biology and physics.

"I'm pleased to be in St. Louis today to announce an innovative new plan to open the door to college students to step to Missouri's jobs of the future," Holden said. "This plan will offer Missouri college students who pursue math and science degrees with loans, forgiveness if they work for life science related companies in Missouri."

Holden went on to say students who adhere to those standards may qualify for \$2,500 in loan forgiveness for up to four years, or a maximum of \$10,000 over four years. The loan forgiveness is available to any students from qualifying four year, public or private university in the state. He also said some students with associates degrees may qualify as well.

Holden said Missouri has over 2000 companies related to life sciences and those companies employ over 170,000

citizens in the state. He said life sciences is a high growth field that pays 24 percent more than the average wage in the state.

"This new loan repayment incentive is a key component of my 'Jobs Now' package I unveiled two months ago to continue to aggressively create new jobs in Missouri," Holden said. Holden said he wants to keep Missouri's economic momentum going, and the loan repayment is a vital part of that.

"Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis," Holden said. "Until we meet a cap of \$3 million."

In order to qualify for the loan, students must be a resident of Missouri as well as being United States citizens. They must have outstanding student loans issued by MOHELA or loans guaranteed by the Missouri Department of Higher Education loan program.

Director of Campus Communication Bob Samples said the decision was made to offer the program to life science majors first because of the heavy competition for jobs.

"It's a state wide priority, the life sciences, right now," Samples said.

Holden said the flexibility of the program came from a bond issued by the federal government, and had to be used in this fashion. Holden said the funds were mandated to be used in a specific way and could not be used in any fashion the state desires.

Holden said "We will constantly look for ways to encourage more young people to go onto higher education, because that is the key to this state's

Falling Apart Garage D starts to crumble and is closed off to cars and pedestrians

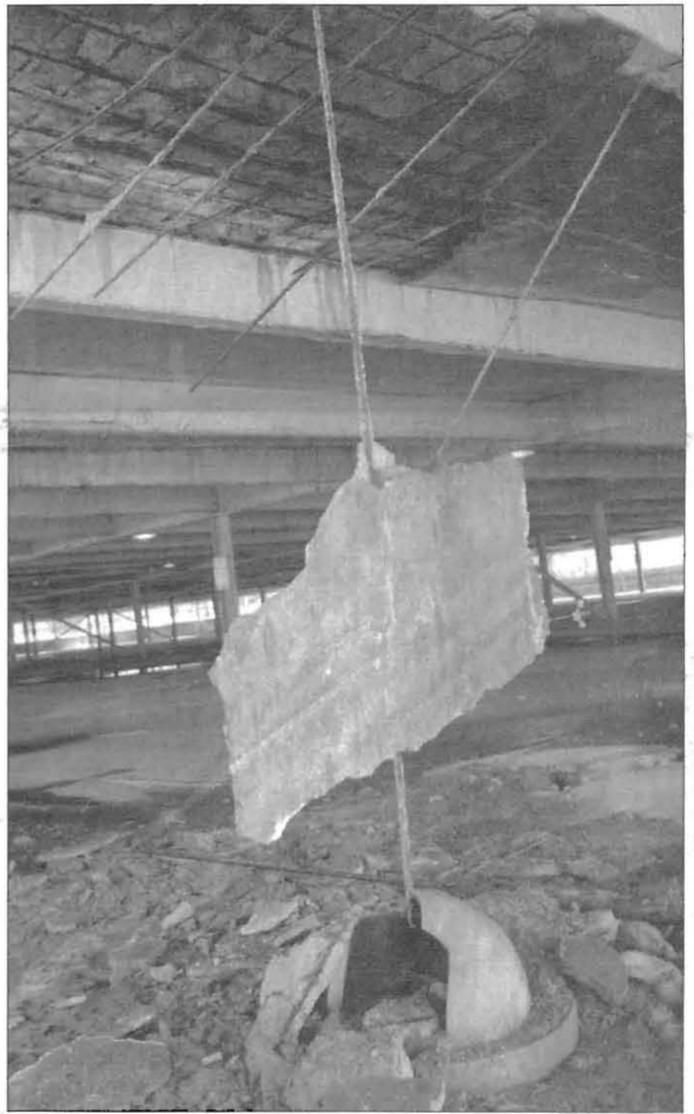
RIGHT:

A chunk of concrete hangs by a fallen piece of rebar on the third floor of Garage D, under a spot where part of the garage's ceiling fell. The garage, immediately south of the Millennium Student Center, was closed to traffic on Monday. It is scheduled for demolition in March. For students unable to find parking, two floors of the new MSC parking structure have been opened to students.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

A makeshift plywood barrier stands at the northwest staircase of Garage D on Monday. All floors were closed to students after part of the ceiling on the third floor collapsed. No injuries were reported.



Mayor Slay joins campus for ASUM's 'lunch'

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

Mayor Francis Slay joined the campus for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri Lunch with a Legislator on Thursday in the Millennium Student Center.

The Century Room was filled with students, staff and faculty to join the mayor for lunch. Free food and drinks were provided to all who attended. Slay spoke for about 30 minutes after lunch was served buffet-style.

A short introduction stated some of the facts about the mayor. Slay is the 45th mayor of St. Louis and in his third year of his first term. He does plan to go for re-election next year. He began the speech by stating how he feels about the University.

"I understand the importance of this university to the entire St. Louis region and the city of St. Louis," Slay said.

In the speech that Slay presented, he talked about the challenges that he deals with as mayor. Some of the major issues facing the city were addressed, such as education, the airport and crime. Slay said that he did not have enough time to talk

about all of the issues surrounding his position and the city.

One of the things that Slay said is important in a city is for the people to feel safe. St. Louis is at a 41-year low in homicide and there has been a 55 percent drop in homicides in the last two years. Statistics have not been this low since 1962.

"We have done a wonderful job in the last couple of years reducing violent crime in the city of St. Louis," Slay said. "In every major crime category in the city of St. Louis, crime is down."

New technologies, using strategies to go after the bad guys and giving opportunities to kids when out

of school have all been major factors in the reduction of crime. Slay said just about every aspect can be linked back to the quality of education. Children who are more educated are also thought to live a healthier life without crime.

see MAYOR SLAY, page 3



St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, Jr. talks with students, faculty, and staff at ASUM's "Lunch with a Legislator" program on Thursday in the Century Rooms of the MSC.

Amanda Schneidmeyer/The Current

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Bulletin Board

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

Thru March Woodcock Museum

"Image and Imagination: Art of the American West" virtual exhibit is open online at <http://woodcockmuseum.umsl.edu>. Featured is paintings and sculptures from the permanent collections of the Woodcock Museum and the Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis.

Winter months Free refreshments

Counseling services is serving free hot drinks and cookies at the Compass resource room in Seton Hall during the winter months. Coffee, tea, hot cider and hot chocolate will be available along with four different types of cookies. The drinks and cookies are served between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Students, faculty and staff are all welcome to drop by. The Compass is located on the ground floor of Seton Hall, in the lounge with the pool tables.

Through May MyGateway help

Information Technology Services will be holding workshops on MyGateway. They are free and open to faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants. For more information, call 6538 or e-mail rok@umsl.edu.

To March 12 IC Labs Short Courses

Instructional Computing Labs will be holding Short Courses over the next few weeks. These are free courses offered to any UMSL student, staff or faculty on the following topics: MSWord Basics, MSeExcel Basics, MS PowerPoint Basics, UNIX/Mac Basics, C D Writing/FTP/HTML/Studentmail/Samba. For a schedule or for more information, please visit www.umsl.edu/technology/instructionalcomputing/labs/shortcourses.html or call 6061.

Annual contests

UM-St. Louis students can participate in United Nations Day: World Holiday contests. The Center for International Studies is sponsoring three contests for student artwork, essays and web sites. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded to the first place winner in each category. For more information, call 5753 or e-mail gorrellj@umsl.edu.

Mon 16 Acoustic guitar show

As part of the Monday Noon Series, acclaimed acoustic guitarist Dave Black will perform at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. He will also discuss his music and career. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Tues 17 Urban planning scholar lectures in MSC

David Perry, professor of urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will discuss "Engaged Research at an Urban Research Institution" at 4:30 p.m. in Century Room B in the Millennium Student Center. The discussion is free and open to the public. For more information, call 5372.

Wed 18 Urban planning scholar lectures in MSC

David Perry, professor of urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will discuss "Engaged Research at an Urban Research Institution" at 9:30 a.m. in Century Room B in the Millennium Student Center. The discussion is free and open to the public. For more information, call 5372.

Thurs 19 PPRC holds Metropolitan Issues Forum

Charles V. Willie, professor emeritus of education at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., will discuss "Brown v. the Board 50th Anniversary: The Legacy of Desegregation" from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in 427 Social Sciences and Business Bldg. A community dialogue will follow the lecture at 7 p.m. at the Missouri History Museum, at Lindell

Boulevard and DeBaliviere Avenue in Forest Park in St. Louis. Both the lecture and dialogue are free and open to the public. For more information, call 5273 or visit <http://pprc.umsl.edu>.

Thurs 19 "Richard III" at Touhill

Under the direction of The Juilliard School's master director Eve Shapiro, The Acting Company, a touring theater production company, will present Shakespeare's "Richard III" at 7:30 p.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$16 to \$32, and UMSL students receive a 10% discount. Students can reserve tickets by telephone, and tickets must be picked up by 7:10 p.m. at the center's ticket office. A valid UMSL student ID must be presented when tickets are picked up. Call 4949 for tickets, and visit <http://www.touhill.org> for more information.

19 Student Senators at the Pilot House

Been looking for something fun to do after FRIENDS? Well, join your Student Senators for some pool, foosball, and music. Snacks will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Come hang out with us tonight from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. Good music, fun games, free food, awesome company...what's better than that? See ya there! Call 4208 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~sso/> for more information.

Thurs 19 (cont.) "The Really Big Show" opens at FAB

Tonight from 5:30-9 p.m. at Gallery FAB in the Fine Arts Bldg. (Florissant Rd. and Rosedale Dr. in Normandy, Mo.) is the opening reception for "The Really Big Show." It includes works by UMSL students scheduled to graduate this year with a B.A. in fine arts with a concentration in graphic design. The show runs through March 19. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and noon to 5 p.m. Sat. and Sun. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Call 6967 for more information.

Sat 21 Language/identity in Japan, China

The Joint Center for East Asian Studies presents "Language and Identity in Japan and China" at Washington University. The symposium in the Women's Bldg. at 1 p.m. is followed by the reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Whittemore House, 6440 Forsyth Blvd. Admission is free. Call (314) 935-4448 to RSVP.

Sun 22 French Film Festival at Gallery 210

"Le Cercle Rouge" will screen at 1 p.m. at Gallery 210, in the TeleCommunity Center. At-the-door admission is \$1, and free parking is available on Lot E off East Drive. Call 6546 for more information.

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsl.edu

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department during the winter between January 31, 2004 and February 8, 2004. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort.

February 3 - Burglary second degree/Stealing over \$500 - Barnes Library

Two VCRs and 4 video cameras were stolen from the basement area study rooms.

February 5 - Warrant arrest- University Conference Center
A subject was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Pagedale and St. Louis City.

February 5 - Attempted larceny/Destruction of property- Lucas hall first floor
Sometimes between 2-2-2004 and 2-5-2004 someone cut off the lock hasp from the vending machine, however, nothing was stolen.

February 6 - Three reports of attempted larceny/Destruction of property - Computer Science Building, Social Sciences Building, General Services Building
Sometimes between 2-2-2004 and 2-5-2004, someone cut off the lock hasp from the vending machines, however, nothing was stolen from any machines.

February 7 - Destruction of property-Villa North
Sometime in the last month, unknown person(s)

pried a lock off the second floor breezeway door of the Villa Building.

February 7 - Attempted suicide - 8205 A Normandy Terrace Drive
A former student took some over the counter pain pills along with some Tylenol and was transported to DePaul Hospital for treatment.

February 8 - Property damage to vehicle - Parking lot X
A student reported that someone apparently shot at his vehicle with a BB gun while it was parked

overnight at Parking Lot X, causing damage to the vehicle's windshield.

NOTE: Items will be stolen from your backpack, purse, wallet etc. if it is left unattended! Even if it is only for a minute or two. Please help prevent crime by always keeping your possessions with you at all times. It is also noted that just because a classroom, office, lounge, library, computer lab, lunch area etc. is occupied by many people doesn't mean your property is safeguarded.

!!WANTED!!

A FEW GOOD MEN...AND WOMEN TO WRITE SPORTS AND NEWS. COME BY THE OFFICE, 388 MSC AND DROP OFF A COVER LETTER AND RESUME. NICHOLE LECLAIR, THE MANAGING EDITOR, WILL CONTACT YOU ABOUT AN INTERVIEW TIME.

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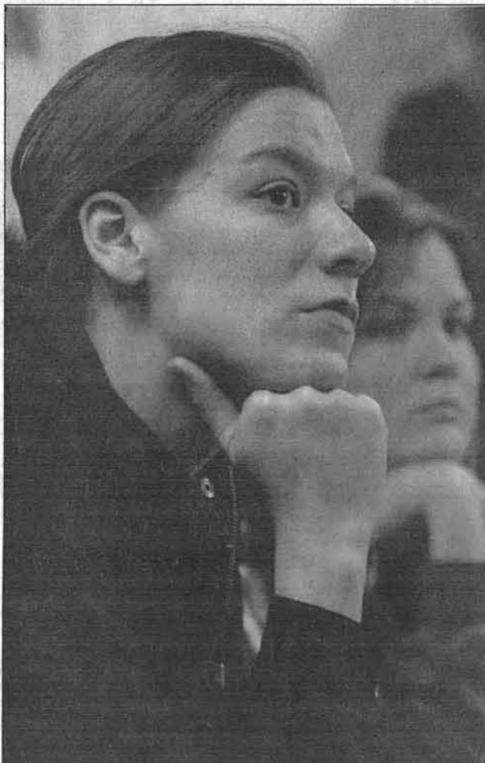


IWGS hosts forum on race

RIGHT: Lecturer Jacqueline Lewis-Harris talks about her experiences living in Papua New Guinea at "Talking About RACE: Beyond Black and White," a forum held on Thursday by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Amy Gonwa, junior, anthropology, looks on.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

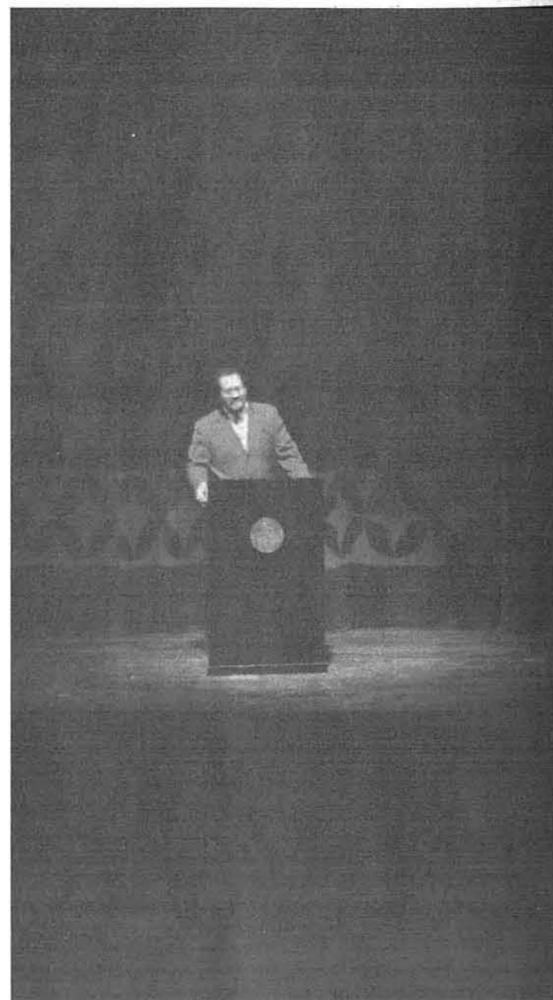


Mike Sherwin/ The Current

ABOVE: Uninterested in the paneled discussion on racial identity, Adelaide Koziol, daughter of adjunct anthropology professor Catherine Koziol, tends to her toys on Monday in the IWGS lounge

LEFT: Catherine Barnes, senior, anthropology, listens to the panel discussion during the forum "Talking About RACE: Beyond Black and White," on Thursday. Panelists included Susan Brownell, associate professor of anthropology; Teresa Guess, assistant professor of sociology; and Deborah Henry, lecturer with the Honors College.

Acclaimed author speaks at the PAC



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Michael Eric Dyson, author of national bestseller and National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples' Image Award-nominated "I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.," the recently released "The Michael Eric Dyson Reader," and "Holler If You Hear Me: Searching for Tupac Shakur," speaks at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Monday evening. Dyson's lecture focused on issues facing African-Americans and was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations.

MAYOR SLAY, from page 1

Trying to create jobs to bring businesses in is also very important to the mayor. Slay said that we need a good workforce to create better jobs. He also said that the more educated people are, the better the jobs that will be available to them. Economic development leads to better schools.

Slay explained that he has people working from his office with the school board, board of education and community making sure that there are capable people making good decisions.

"In the end we had a dysfunctional board and we had an administration that was not willing to make tough decisions regarding education," Slay said. "The student administration and board got left with a budget that had about a \$73 million shortfall which caused layoffs and elimination of a lot of jobs; it closed a lot of schools."

The mayor thinks that they are doing what needs to be done to solve these problems. The issue at hand is to bring more revenue to the school system. Slay said all of the schools around the nation are trying to do this. There is a lot being done with the issue, as well as some controversy.

The best first day and week occurred this year in the St. Louis public schools. Slay said there were more children and permanent teachers in classrooms this year than he can remember. Helping them to provide the best possible education is at the top of the mayor's list.

"It shows you that this group, that is in there now, is totally about kids and what is best for the kids," Slay said.

Next, Slay said they are also trying to improve the business environment. Downtown is really coming alive and is the second largest employment district in the Midwest, next to Chicago. About 100,000 people work in the downtown proper, with different jobs, at different levels available to people.

As well as providing jobs to people, downtown is also an important entertainment and shopping venue. The downtown region perceives tax revenues, tax space and the image of St. Louis.

"What your downtown looks like has a lot to do with how you perceive the whole region," Slay said.

Slay also spoke about many of the aspects of St. Louis that make it unique. Forest Park, The Muny, Zoo,



Amanda Schneldermeyer/ The Current

Mayor Francis Slay, Jr. talks with faculty, staff, and students during the Associated Students of the University of Missouri's Lunch with the Mayor, held Thursday afternoon in the Century Rooms of the MSC.

Science Center and Botanical Gardens are all interesting aspects. Slay also said there are over 105 parks in St. Louis, with Forest Park being one of the largest and oldest in the nation.

According to Slay, there is also a renewed interest in building and construction. A new river bridge may be in the works of being built and the airport is also being rejuvenated. A new runway is being added to Lambert International Airport. Lambert places high in many performance factors.

"We have a new challenge in the administration to help rebuild this air-

port because it is important in everything we do," Slay said.

People were able to ask questions after the mayor was through speaking. A couple of questions were asked by people ranging from international relations to the advice that the mayor would give to students pursuing a job in politics. Slay had much to say on each issue that was brought up.

Ending the session, Slay said there is always a need for leadership. He encouraged everyone to get involved with these kinds of programs. His last bit of advice was to "encourage you to take on leadership roles."

3 CONTESTS 3 \$2,000 PRIZES



The CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES at University of Missouri-St. Louis is sponsoring three annual contests for the best student artwork, essay and website on:

UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24: A WORLD HOLIDAY



These contests were established by DOROTHY SCHNEIDER, former Red Cross overseas worker, college faculty member (English Department) in San Diego, and St. Charles, Missouri, and author of the UN Resolution to create United Nations Day as an international holiday.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS students interested in competing for the \$2,000 ART prize must submit a personal art representation; for the ESSAY prize must submit two or three pages, typed, double spaced, on standard 8.5" X 11" white paper; and for the WEBSITE prize must submit a website design on CD.

To be eligible, the submissions must include the words "UNITED NATIONS DAY (OCTOBER 24)", "ANNUAL WORLD HOLIDAY" and include the following ideas:

**Visualize United nations Day as a world holiday.
How would the United Nations Day World Holiday benefit the world?
What can I do to make United nations a world holiday?**

Three panels of judges from the University of Missouri-St. Louis will judge the contests. Essays and Websites will be judged on content and style, Art will be judged on content and design. All entries must avoid plagiarism and partisan politics. All entries become the property of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Participation is voluntary and previous winners are ineligible. Only one winner per contest will be selected. The winners will be announced in late April at a reception in honor of United Nations Day.

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY MARCH 29, 2004

For more information, contact: **JOYCE GORRELL**

Center for International Studies

ROOM 366, Social Sciences and Business Building

516-5753 - gorrellj@umsl.edu

Look for printable fliers: www.ctis-umsl.edu

OPINION

OUR OPINION

George needs to go outside UMSL for provost

Recently, UMSL-Chancellor Thomas George announced he was consolidating the positions of vice chancellor of academic affairs and vice chancellor of student affairs into one position, the provost, positions held by Jerry Durham and Curt Coonrod respectively.

It is about time George took a step like this. That is not a personal slight against Durham or Coonrod, but the University is moving in new directions and it is time for some new blood. It is time for fresh ideas and fresh motivation; neither of those men really seems to fit that description. They are both from the old regime of Blanche M. Touhill, which is the

good conscience, go forward without having to worry about stepping on toes and bruising egos by excluding one man or the other. This would be good for UMSL not just from a public relations standpoint, but also from a cohesion standpoint. Many of the faculty, students and staff of this school are tired of having to wait to hear who the next person who will impact their life at school will be. It took what seemed like years to find out who the new chancellor would be. It took many months to sort out the Student Government Association debacle of last year. Folks around here are just tired of it.

Of course, the odds of either one stepping aside are slim to none. Both men appear to have a legitimate claim to the position. Both have served the UMSL System and UMSL for a long time. Both have advanced degrees and both have positions that would fall under the purview of the provost. However, just like last year's

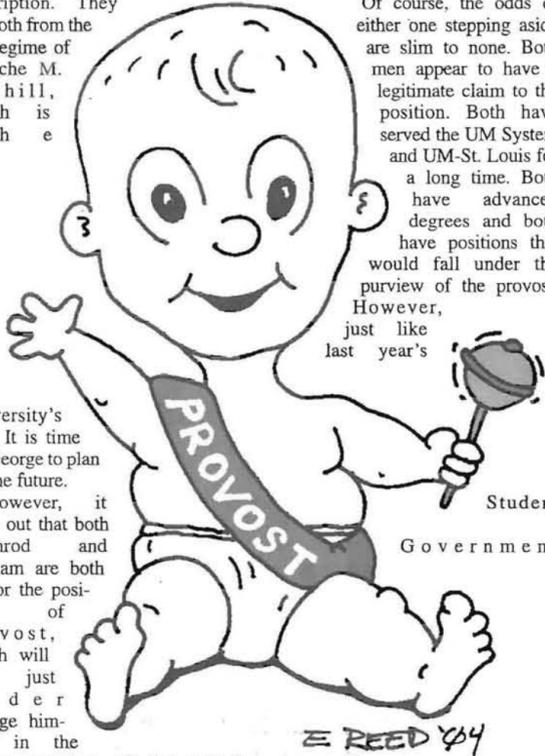
University's past. It is time for George to plan for the future.

However, it turns out that both Coonrod and Durham are both up for the position of provost, which will sit just under George himself in the power structure of the school. George really needs to consider not hiring either of these men. Again, this is not a personal slight against Coonrod or Durham. It is just time for a new generation to lead this University. It is now the 21 century, and UMSL needs men and women with 21 century ideas. Times change and so do teaching style, administration styles and enforcement styles. It is time for UMSL to catch up with those styles instead of dwelling in the past.

Of course, both of these men could make things much easier and step aside to let in new faces. It is not as if either of them is unemployable. Indeed, they would both probably be able to find a job fairly quickly after leaving the University. If they stepped aside, then George could, in

Association elections, the debate between the two of them (Like Adam Schwadron and Adam Beumeller) could open the door for another contender (like Kristy Runde) to slip in a take over the position. And that would be the best for the University.

The old ways of UMSL are over, and it is time to embrace someone with fresh ideas, someone who can compliment the sense of youth, renewal and energy that Chancellor George has instilled in this University. It would seem only natural that he would try to select someone for the position that fits that mold as well, which means, Durham and Coonrod more than likely are seeing the end of their days at UMSL. Louis.



Student Government

'Passion' is just movie, not an anti-jewish manifesto

Good ol' Mel Gibson. As if the actor responsible for such classics as "Lethal Weapon," "Lethal Weapon 2," "Lethal Weapon 3" as well as "Lethal Weapon 4" had not accomplished enough, he had to go and direct the most controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ," since Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers." I say good for him.

The movie is not even in theatres yet, but it is already receiving criticism from many corners. Leading the charge are Jewish leaders who feel the movie places the blame of Christ's crucifixion solely on the Jews, rather than the Romans. They feel the slant of the movie is distinctly anti-semitic. Now, I am not anti-semitic, far from it in fact. I have never had any problems with Jews, and I never will. But, I do think that Jewish leaders are overreacting a little bit here. Why? Because all this is an interpretation of the Bible, perhaps the most widely interpreted book in human history. I seriously doubt Gibson set out to alienate the Jews, to attack them or otherwise. Of course, I cannot say this with complete confidence as I do not know Gibson, nor have I seen this movie yet. But I am forced to believe that Gibson was out to make an honest translation of Bible to screen. The Anti-Defamation League has their panties in a bunch because they believe this movie is going to lead to an anti-semitic backlash. On their website, they list a num-

ber of quotes from Gibson himself, and they put a spin on the whole thing. I just think they are overreacting. If they do not like it, do not go see the movie.

Adding yet more controversy is the large amount of violent content. From what I have heard so far, this is perhaps the most realistic, and thus gruesome, representation of the crucifixion ever put on celluloid. Along with this is the explicit flogging of Jesus ordered by Pontius Pilate. So my question is, why is there controversy over this? Do people really believe Jesus was beaten with a wet noodle? Do they think his hands were just tied at the wrists wrather than staked with a wooden nail? That is naive.

I am not a biblical scholar, not a theologian. What I do not know about the Bible outweighs what I do know by about a ton, but in the readings I have done, it seems to me, what Gibson is doing here is keeping with the story. From what I understand, the last 48 odd hours of Jesus' life were not happy ones. He even asked the cup be taken away from him (understandable considering crucifixion is probably the most painful way to die, after fire). So Mel Gibson is trying to make a faithful depiction of the event, one of the most important, just from a historical standpoint, in human history. So people need to back off him and just watch the movie. Because that is all it really is, a movie.



JASON GRANGER Editor-in-Chief

The issue
UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George is creating a provost position, one the effectively ends Curt Coonrod and Jerry Durham's jobs at the University. Both men are up for the provost position.

We suggest
It is time for some more new blood at this University. Chancellor George needs to seriously consider not hiring either men. Rather, he should look outside UMSL. Louis' walls and bring in younger, fresher blood and ideas.

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

Everyday romance

My favorite gifts this Valentine's Day included: patience, laughter and an array of selfless gestures. The dinner and flowers, though much appreciated, came in a distant second.

Forget chocolate - a true expression of love is an uncomplaining smile when your bad hair day, or missing shoe, derails the evening's plans.

Though I am not impressed by the overt commercialism of this holiday, I do appreciate the premise of celebrating love - romantic or otherwise. Obligatory gestures aside, it's a great opportunity to be open and creative in our affections. Yet, it's a shame that the most inspiring offers are those that don't feature in grand romantic tales. It's these everyday considerations that I most admire, and which carry couples from one confection-laden holiday to the next.

Examples abound if you are so inclined to look. And as I get older, I find myself watching the most successful couples in my life more closely, hoping to learn their secrets. What I have found has little to do with the gifts and stimulations so touted by our culture as the necessary ingredients for romance.

My mother and stepfather rarely engage in elaborate plans or surprises. Their Valentine's Days are decidedly low key and without fanfare. But then, he has made her her morning coffee nearly every day for fourteen years and rubs her feet at night. She, in turn, keeps track of all his appointments, papers and medications, so that he has time to pursue woodworking in his free hours.

Recently, I learned that my great-uncle, thoroughly gruff and countrified in comparison to my cultured great-aunt, is the reason her hair stays perfectly coiffed, despite her severe arthritis. He often styles her hair for her when she cannot.

My great-grandparents are also a joy to observe. On many occasions, in the midst of family gatherings and engaged in separate activities, they catch each others' eye and smile, make sure the other has taken time to eat, and squeeze a hand or shoulder in passing.

Another couple I know, married for many years, often introduce each other as "my very good friend". Though this occasionally confuses newcomers about the status of their relationship, it is more accurate and telling than the simple designation of spouse.

My own prized moments from this past holiday may sound equally mundane, but the memories will remain long after my flowers have wilted.

The calm, humor and perspective graciously given by my boyfriend, in the face of multiple "perfect holiday" inspired calamities, including hairstyles gone awry,

missing or forgotten personal items, lost reservations and cooking disasters, will remain an endearing memory. The late-night food fight in lieu of the intended, and considerably more subdued Valentine's dinner, reminded me that romance need not be such a serious affair. And tackling both breakfast dishes and the mouse that has evidently made a cozy and messy home of my car's trunk, while allowing me this time to write, is more eloquent than any store-bought card.

Valentine's Day, though potentially inspiring, cannot possibly speak to the heart like such everyday romance. Love cannot be defined by the activities of one brief day. And when we write our own great romances, we will hopefully find the greatest poignancy in the daily details and humor, rather than the brief passions - for those are the greatest, and most sincere evidence of true love.



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LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference.

We edit letters for clarity 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.

What's your opinion?

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

- New provost position
- "Passion" controversy
- Simple romance

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

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

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What do you envision as the perfect Valentine's day?



Monica Witherspoon
Freshman
Social Work

My boyfriend gets me a whole bunch of roses, balloons and a big teddy bear! Then we go to dinner and he spends the rest of the night with me.



Andrae Dobbins
Senior
Social Work

First, we'd ride to the airport in a limo. We'd fly to the Florida Keys and stay in our own bungalow on the coast... We have a nice dinner then spend the evening on the beach next to a bonfire.



Leon Perry Jr
Senior
Psychology

I would take my woman to the Caribbean. Servants greet us as we come off the plane and enter the Palace.... I'd put her mind and body at ease and make her feel like the queen that she is.



Diedre Chatman
Junior
Studio Art

A trip to Hawaii, a day at the beach, dinner, dancing and the rest of the night together.

Dolphin-free tuna? Why not give sharks a chance?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Surely you have seen the cans of tuna in the store labeled "dolphin safe." A new study shows that we may have to do the same for sharks.

Well, okay, they are sharks. They are not very cuddly, they sometimes eat people and they are the scary guys of the seas. Sharks may be the top predators of the oceans, but a new study reveals evidence of a startling decline in sharks worldwide. Like them or not, predators have their place.

Oceanic whitetip sharks, once the most common in the oceans, are now on the verge of extinction, with numbers having dwindled 99 percent since 1950, according to a study conducted in the Gulf of Mexico. It seems that sharks are vulnerable to being inadvertently caught in tuna nets, just as dolphins are. Similarly, silky sharks, also in the Gulf of Mexico, have suffered a 90-percent decline during the same period and hammerhead sharks have declined even faster in the Atlantic, losing 89 percent in the past 15 years.

Ransom Myers of Dalhousie

University in Halifax, Canada, commented on the crisis.

"Sharks are in a global extinction crisis," Myers said, who is also one of the researchers who conducted the study. "Wherever you look around the world the story is the same."

Tuna nets are not the only factor leading to the decline; the harvesting of shark fins has also risen. In Hong Kong, a kilogram of shark fin is worth hundreds of dollars, making them a tempting target for fishermen, especially in developing nations. Although several developed nations have banned the harvesting of shark fins, the practice is not banned in all nations and it continues to rise in frequency.

How could we have not noticed declining shark populations? While reports of shark attacks are widely circulated, it seems that no one had been tracking overall shark numbers. This kind of lack of awareness in oceanic decline does not just affect sharks.

Many oceanographers report a decline in ocean life and diversity in general.

Los Angeles-based filmmaker Randy Olson, who is the leader of a joint campaign between ocean cinematographers and the Ocean Conservancy, a conservation group in Washington, D.C., that wants to draw public attention to the declines in sea life, commented on the condition of the coral reefs.

"More than a quarter of all coral reefs are now dead and the majority of the world's fisheries are in severe decline," Olson said.

It has become increasingly difficult to find beautiful underwater scenes that people expect to see, say the filmmakers, instead of footage of dead coral.

This organization is also encouraging the establishment of marine reserves. Without such protection

and with continued fishing pressures, their concern is that large ocean species will be wiped out, leaving only small species such as plankton.

"There will be an increase in the areas called dead zones and collapse of coral reefs and fisheries," Jeremy Jackson, a marine ecologist at the Scripps Institution, said.

Coral reefs have been compared to rainforests in species diversity. They are essential for maintaining fisheries because, even while occupying less than 0.2 percent of the oceans, they supply 25 percent of the fish catch for some nations.

"There is growing awareness – and some alarm – that, worldwide, coral reefs are being seriously degraded by human activities," Peter F. Sale of the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, said, also citing such threats as overfishing, pollution and even global warming.

It is not only tropical reefs but the deep-sea, cold-water reefs of the Atlantic that contribute to ocean species diversity. The floor of the Atlantic is largely featureless, so corals provide cover for young fish, acting as crucial nurseries to sustain fish populations. Corals are where the fish are.

"That's why fishermen trawl them," said Jason Hall-Spencer from the University Marine Biological Station, referring to a damaging activity that ocean ecologists are seeking to outlaw.

Not enough is known about the ecology of oceans nor about the role oceans play in climate. The precipitous drop in shark populations is a shocking reminder of how easy it is to miss what is happening beneath the waves. The loss of significant numbers of top predators like sharks will surely have an effect on the ecological balance of ocean populations. We just do not know what that effect may be.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: Jesus Christ Superstar

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

In light of the controversy surrounding Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," I decided for this week's column, I would look at another piece of work that was based on the last days of Jesus Christ: "Jesus Christ Superstar." There are many different recordings, but my favorite is the original done in 1970 featuring, among others, Ian Gillan (Jesus Christ) of Deep Purple and Murray Head (Judas Iscariot).

Written by Andrew Lloyd Weber

derful job as Jesus, and his voice is in choice form on this album.

It starts out with "Overture/Heaven On Their Minds." "Overture" is an instrumental, but "Heaven On Their Minds" is a passionate and, indeed, angry plea by Judas Iscariot to Jesus to "listen to me." Judas, as one of the two prime characters in the storyline, is intuiting that the worship of Christ can only end poorly for Christ's followers. "Listen Jesus do you care for your race?/Don't you see we must keep in our place?/We are occupied-have you forgotten how put down we are?/I am frightened by the crowd/For they are

thieves," when Jesus (Gillan) flat out screams "My temple should be a house of prayer/But you have made it a den of thieves/Get out!/Get out!" In the movie version, you see Jesus overturning tables, smashing mirrors and other destructive acts. He was angry.

Next up is Judas breaking out "Damned For All Time/Blood Money." This portrays Judas' betrayal of Christ, telling Caiaphas the High Priest where they can find Christ to apprehend him and take him into custody. But he feels immense guilt over the whole thing, begging Caiaphas for his aid, Annas, "Just don't say I'm/Damned for all time."

Now we'll look at disk two which starts with the anthem "The Last Supper." This is exactly as it sounds: The 12 apostles and Jesus have supper for the last time, with a twist on the immortal words of the communion supper "For all you care/This wine could be my blood/For all you care/This bread could be my body." Christ then loses his temper with the apostles, saying, "I must be mad thinking/I'll be remembered yes/I must be out of my head/Look at your blank faces/My name will mean nothing/Ten minutes after I'm dead/One of you denies me/One of you betrays me!" Judas and Christ then have a heated argument in which Judas screams a Jesus, "Christ, you deserve it!"

Next up is one of the truly amazing tracks on this album "Gethsemane (I Only Want To Say)." Anyone with even a cursory knowledge of Christ's story knows that while in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ asked God to take the cup away from him. This song delves a little deeper into

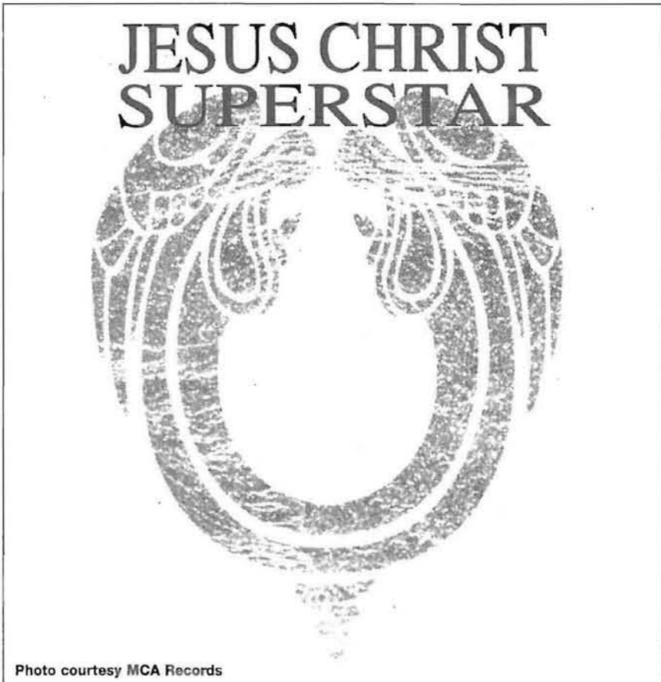


Photo courtesy MCA Records

getting much too loud/And they'll crush us if we go to far." Judas then goes on the accuse Jesus' followers, including his fellow apostles, of being blind and having "too much Heaven on their minds."

Next on disk one is "What's The Buzz/Strange Thing Mystifying." This song starts out with Christ's followers asking him what the plans are and when "do we ride into Jerusalem?" Jesus replies curtly "Why should you want to know?/Why are you obsessed with fighting times and fates you can't defy?" This is followed by Judas confronting Jesus and Mary Magdalene, yelling at the both of them that Magdalene's expensive ointments and perfumes should have been spent on the poor.

Next, we will examine "The Temple," track nine. It is here that we see Jesus' anger swell to the surface. The temple has become a "den of

and Tim Rice, this rock opera was very controversial in its time for a couple different reasons. First, the connotations of the word "superstar" are not always positive. Example: Michael Jackson, O.J. Simpson, Kobe Bryant, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and Mick Jagger are all superstars. There also have a LOT of skeletons in their closets. Second, this piece of music portrayed Christ in very human ways. Self-pity, anger, confusion, doubt and hubris all come into play in the portrayal of Jesus. Which, personally, I think is a good thing. After all, he did assume human form; he was human and, thus, subject to human emotion, something people tend to forget.

However, the important thing here is the music and this piece of music is one of the finest I've ever heard. First of all, it is flat-out rock and roll, (hence, a rock opera). Ian Gillan does a won-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student disagrees with College Republican's views of Kerry

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter by Stephanie Bell in the February 2 issue of the Current. Reading her letter proved to be difficult due to the fact that its content was absolutely ridiculous. However, it was not her opinions that I found so hard to stomach (Hey, it is, after all, a free country). Rather, what I found to be so troubling was that she seemed to believe that her letter was an honest reflection of the truth concerning the political comments made in the previous Current. In reality the letter proceeded to blatantly ignore the facts and logic surrounding all of the issues discussed within. Ms. Bell should try researching her claims the next time she decides to "inform" the students at UMSL. So let me take this opportunity to inject some accurate information into the discussion.

1.) The decision to go to war WAS against the will of MOST of the world. Bush's "Coalition of the Willing" totaled around 36 countries who were willing to support the U.S. led invasion of Iraq. A large majority of those countries were too small or poor to send any significant aid to Iraq (Palau, Eritrea, Micronesia, Latvia). More importantly the majority of the citizens of these countries were rabidly against the war (hence the largest anti-war demonstrations in history). In reality there were 137 countries who opposed the war. A little lopsided don't ya think?

2.) In his testimony David Kay did state that nobody lied, that the intelligence was simply not accurate. However, that is not the important issue. The issue that should be under scrutiny is the Bush administration's doctrine of pre-emptive war. Whether someone lied or not is irrelevant. The Bush administration has still made a huge mistake in its handling of foreign policy. If it is our intelligence that decides whether or not we will invade

another hostile country, it is only logical that our intelligence should be absolutely accurate. The fact that almost every reason Bush used to sell the war to the American people proved false invalidates his entire administration's notions concerning the war. You can not invade another country, kill 9,000+ civilians and 500+ American troops, and then shift your reasons for going to war in the first place.

3.) Concerning tax cuts Ms. Bell is once again mistaken. While one can argue that tax cuts can be a good thing for an economy, reckless cutting of taxes can prove disastrous. Bush has continued to push for tax cuts even though we are spending billions of dollars in a war. No economist believes cutting taxes during a hugely expensive war is logical. It is totally irresponsible. Ms. Bell also claims that tax cuts under Reagan worked. Of course the issue is more complicated than she lets on. If you look at Reagan's America you will find that the cuts did work, for some. For others, Reagan's fiscal policies were devastating. This group of society was mostly made up of millions of poor elderly and minority Americans. Ms. Bell failed to include this important fact in her letter. Then again she is not an eighty year old retiree who is being evicted from her government subsidized nursing home while waiting for the effects of tax relief to "trickle down".

4.) At the end of her letter Bell attempts to smear candidate John Kerry with some very confusing logic. At first she claims that Kerry's post-Vietnam protesting will get him in trouble with voters. I would agree, if we were living in the year 1970. Yes Kerry did protest the Vietnam War, but statistics show that TODAY an overwhelming majority of Americans, including veterans, believe that the war in Vietnam was a mistake. Grasping at

straws, Bell contends that Kerry can not relate to the middle class. Well, he is from a wealthy background, yet based on this logic you would have to contend that the majority of our elected officials relate poorly to the middle class since a large amount of them are from wealthy families and backgrounds. What I believe that logical Americans will notice most about Kerry is that he did not use his parents' money or influence to keep him from being drafted into the armed forces. FACT: Bush used his father's connections to gain a coveted position in the Texas Air National Guard for the entirety of the war in Vietnam. FACT: While he was supposed to be training out of state, Bush did not show up for one single exercise. He went completely missing. His own superior officers when interviewed did not even realize that Bush was supposed to be in their unit because he never showed for duty. FACT: If a regular middle class American had tried this stunt, you bet they would have faced serious consequences. Was Bush ever held responsible for his actions? NO! A little bit of advice for Ms. Bell, don't try and claim that Kerry can't relate to the middle class when the man you support has a documented history of using his own class status to obtain preferential treatment over middle class Americans. The Bush family dynasty is one of the most infamous in modern political and economic memory.

Americans are not stupid. They don't like being lied to. I guess that is why most major polls show that if the election was held today Kerry would tie or defeat George W. Bush.

Paul Stanley
Graduate Student,
Department of History

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is time for the students of UM-St. Louis to embrace the men's basketball team's success

The UMSL Men's Basketball team is on a winning streak which is as stunning as thrilling.

Early last week the basketball team was a bunch of underachievers. By Thursday, they appeared and felt different. Their appearance was mean and they felt "hungry". It was high time for them to earn their scholarships and honor the uniform they wore; the UMSL uniform.

So, who steps into UMSL's back yard, our home court? A team which ranked 25th on the AP and had double digits wins.

I was fortunate to have a front row \$75.00 seat. I could see the action at both ends of the court. What I witnessed a really "hungry" team fighting, biting, scratching, kicking, diving, jumping, screaming at every opportunity to get to the ball.

Never in my entire life, be in New York watching the Knickerbockers or the old Boston Celtics, or any other NBA or College team; division I and all, had I witnessed such a hard battle; a total dedication. The culmination of this battle

led to a spectacular, most satisfying

win for UMSL. It upended Indianapolis.

Well, this was only the beginning. These UMSL basketballers were not really "hungry". They were starving. So, after such a delicious taste

of victory, here comes Northern Kentucky. A Kentucky team that was also in double digit victories, ranked fourth in the Conference and according to some experts they were favored to beat us by 25 points.

Prior to the game the UMSL team felt their stomachs growling. They were VERY "hungry" again! They took the

floor determined to not just show up. They appeared anxious to get the act going.

Coach Chris Pilz, a rookie (freshman) coach, showed confidence in himself and his team. We fans were apprehensive. We felt that if our team is not going to win, we will chase the referees.

Again, I was fortunate and had my usual \$75.00 front row seat. The game started and within the first ten minutes our team became invincible. We won by 20 some points.

Oh yea, at half time we had a banner reading: "we love the referees". With

our team's performance on all eight cylinders, who needed the referees?

For an UMSL team to overcome adversity after adversity and defeat back to back top notch teams was incredible. It was phenomenal. Yet, it was real. Our team performed like Goliaths and the JELL was all over among the players, coaches and fans. They call it CHEMISTRY.

It is unfortunate that UMSL provides for its students, faculty, staff and general public such a sport. The few of us who were there felt gratified, proud and received a part of the EXCEL-

LENCE UMSL provides; mind and body, or academia and sports.

Needless to say that the student body ought to make every effort and bring the students out to the remaining games. These activities are primarily provided for the students.

My friends, make the most of your path through the UMSL academia. You will never again see this part of life and carry it as an eternal memory into the depository of your life.

Gus Miles

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

What flu precautions have you taken?



Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

FEATURES

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UPB works for UMSL

Program board seeks to add 'spark' to campus life

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

They set up a carnival every year on campus, chauffeur rap stars around town, and host unusual programs. From athletics to academics, the University Program Board works to put a spark in an ordinary day at school.

UPB, like all the other 82 funded organizations on campus, is paid for and operated by students. However, when it comes to programming events for students, UPB and other organizations differ, said Shanna Carpenter, junior, communication and President of UPB.

"We are the largest student programming body at the University," Carpenter said. "We try to provide a wide range of programming that includes athletic, cultural, social and educational...UPB does programming for everyone on campus, whereas other organizations like Anthropology and Mathematics put on programs in their own respected fields."

see UPB, page 8

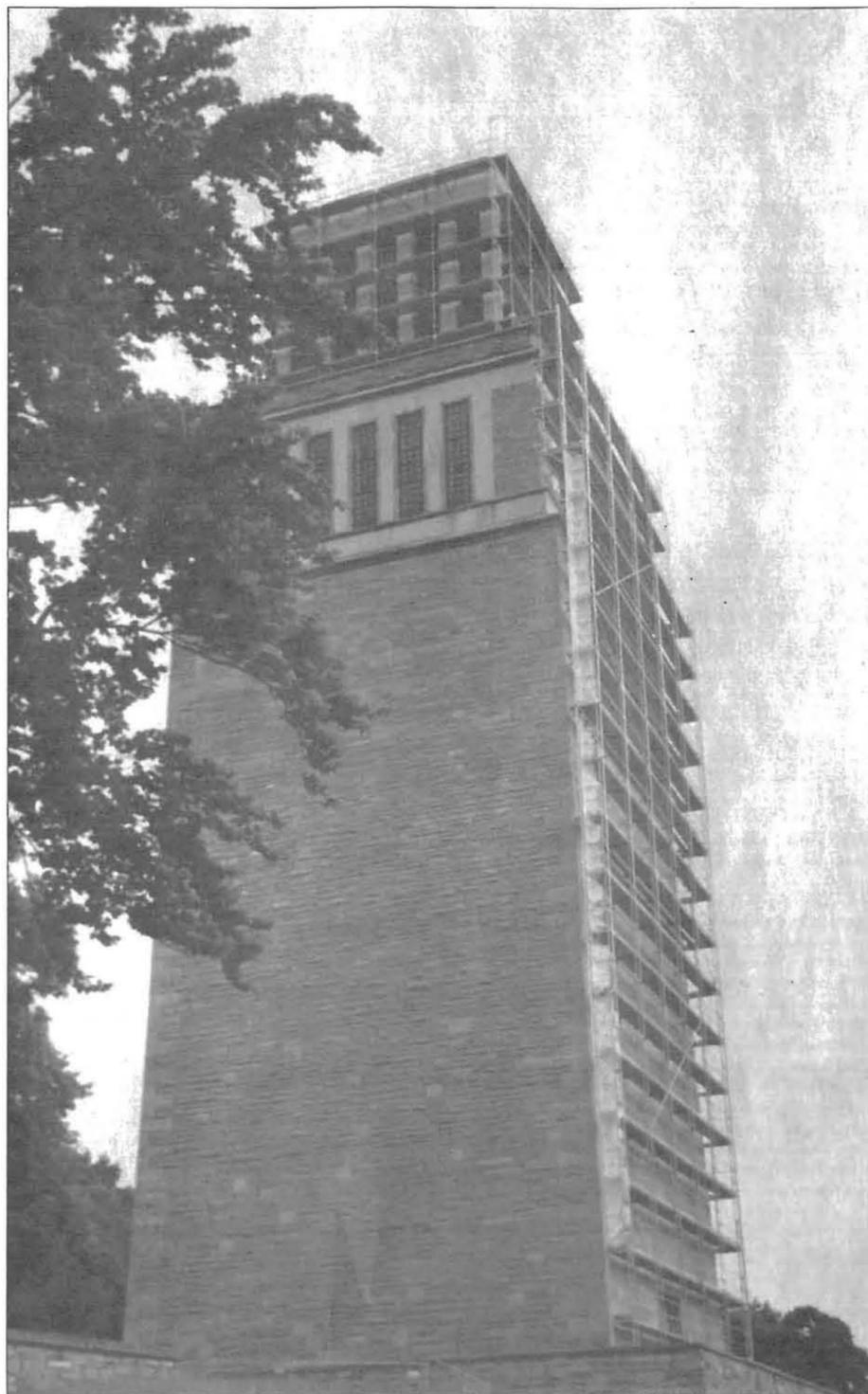


Photo courtesy Stanford Griffith

The guard tower above served a two-fold purpose: 1) To keep watch over the Jews interred in the camp, and 2) Guards and officers could kill Jews at will and these types of structures provided good vantage points for snipers to pick Jews off as they walked through the camps.



Photo courtesy Stanford Griffith

The guard post of Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

New film shows Nazi eugenics

BY ANGELA ASHLEY
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Feb. 8, several students gathered in one of the Century rooms in the Millennium Student Center to view "Liebe Perla," a film that exposed the history of the persecution of disabled persons during the Holocaust.

"Liebe Perla" is a documentary, made in 1999, by Shahar Rozen, which circles the friendship of Hannelore Witkofsky and Perla Ovitz. Both are women of short stature, and Perla is the survivor of a family who was incarcerated in Auschwitz. Dr. Josef Mengele conducted experiments on Perla's family, a group of Hungarian Jewish actors and musicians, all of short stature. Fifty years later, Hannelore goes on a search to find a film that Mengele made of Perla's family. In her search for the film, Hannelore learns much about the brutality and murder of disabled persons during the Holocaust.

Before the movie began, Dr. Simi Linton, author of "Calming Disability: Knowledge and Identity" and president of a group called Disability/Arts, spoke about some of the horrors of eugenics. According to the American Bioethics Advisory

Commission, eugenics is the study of methods to improve the human race by controlling reproduction (<http://www.all.org/abac/eugenics.htm>). Linton discussed the laws that several states once had in effect that banned disabled persons from reproducing, and, in fact, ordered them to be sterilized.

After the movie was presented, there was a question-and-answer session with a panel that included Linton, as well as Sara van den Berg, an English professor at St. Louis University and Dan Reich, curator and director of education for the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. Before the question-and-answer session, Reich spoke about the history of eugenics in association with the Holocaust. He also talked about the ideas of what happened to Dr. Mengele after his escape to Latin America.

Several people in the audience had reactions both to the emotional aspects of the movie and the persecution of the disabled people.

Linton has been touring campuses across the nation with the film and admits that no matter how many times she sees it, it never loses any of its impact.

see EUGENICS, page 7

Let the games begin

Battle of the Sexes crowns women

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The Battle of the Sexes almost ended in a peace treaty. The annual event, sponsored by the University Program Board and University Meadows, suffered from a discouraging turnout on Wednesday, forcing UPB women to play UPB men.

"This is at least the sixth year we've put this together," said Shanna Carpenter, president of UPB. Carpenter, junior, communication, explained the history of the duel of gender wits.

"Historically, it's always been for the Greeks. This year we tried to get more residents involved."

The four-on-four tournament was

a spin-off from the popular board game "Battle of the Sexes," where men and women are awarded points for correctly answering questions that are typically easier for the opposite gender. The UPB teams played until the first team reached 10 points, with one point awarded for each correct answer.

Each team spent time internally debating before giving their final answer to the gender role-reinforcing questions. The men were asked questions about laundry, fashion, hair, cooking, ballet, flowers and furniture. The women were quizzed on liquor, sports, weapons, automobiles and tools.

The atmosphere was light and entertaining. The men's star player

was the four-year-old son of one of the female team members. He answered every question with the word "rhinoceros." The women failed to know where The Superdome is located (New Orleans), and the men were puzzled by how many teaspoons filled a cup of sugar (16).

At halftime, the men led 4-3 on their quest to continue their victory from last year. Team effort seemed to be the key element missing as the males shouted their answers quickly.

The women surprised the men by knowing that players "run the option" in a sport called football, and the men startled the women with their knowledge of Cyndi Lauper hits. The men struggled when trying

“
Historically, it's always been for the Greeks. This year we tried to get the residents involved..

- Shanna Carpenter, UPB president

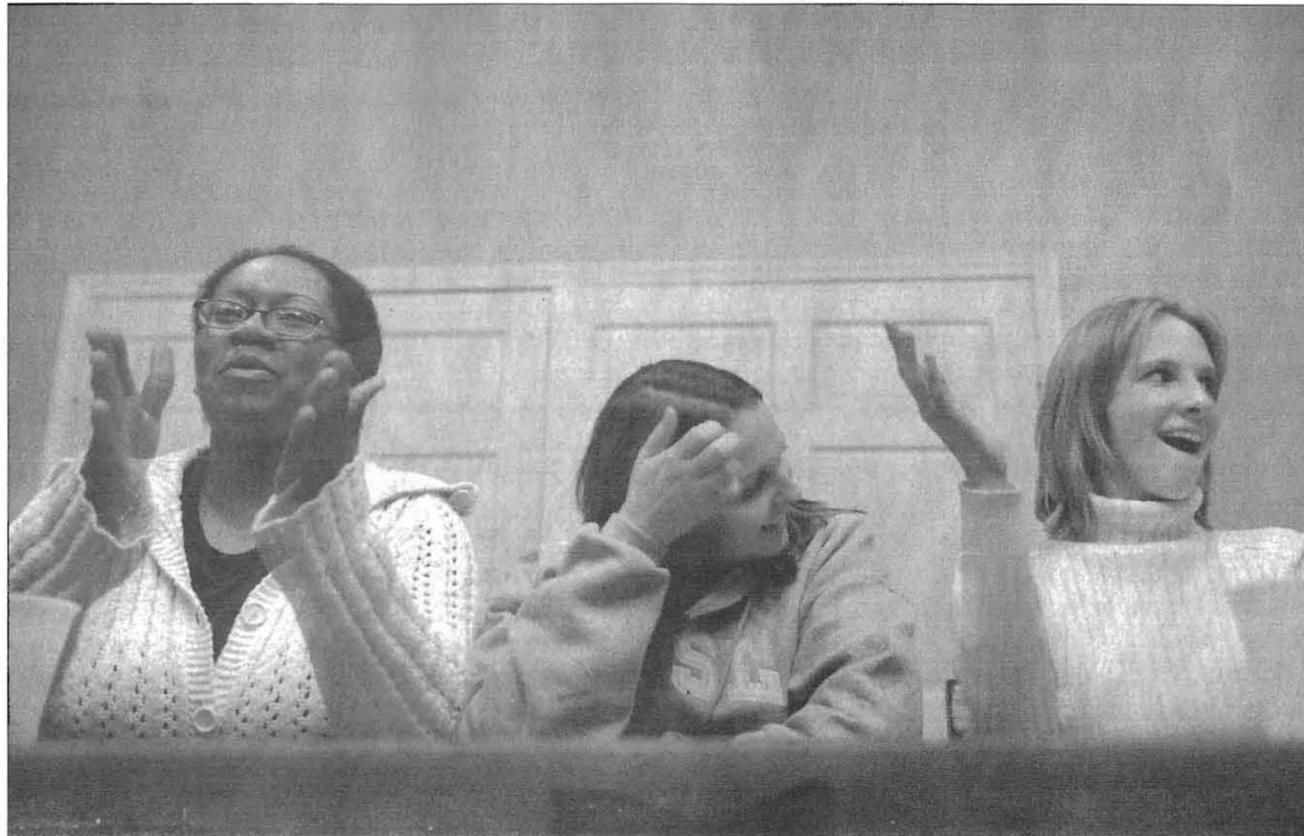
”
to team-decide the traditional gift for

a 50th wedding anniversary, which is gold, not paper as they suggested.

The women won in an upset, answering the question, "What are the ingredients in concrete?" They answered correctly with, "Sand, water, and gravel." The final score was 10-9.

Even though the men playfully demanded a rematch, the women were awarded their victory with a large trophy, and each team member received a \$25 gift certificate to the St. Louis Mills Mall. Refreshments were served to calm the gender angst.

"We're a little disappointed with turn out, but it wasn't a bad night," said Carpenter. "Sometimes you just have nights like this. We had fun. We just hope for a better turnout at our next event."



Angela Johnson (left), senior, pre-med, Toni Jakes (center), senior, communication, and Tina Porzukowiak, graduate student, optometry, react to winning the Battle of the Sexes on Wednesday night in the University Meadows Clubhouse. Battle of the Sexes pitted men against women in a trivia contest, which required teams to answer questions generally considered easier for the opposite sex. The event was held by the University Program Board.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

New lecture series brings in revered musician and conductor

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

The College of Fine Arts and Communication has decided to launch a lecture series. Each month, departments will invite distinguished speakers from around the country and the world to discuss pertinent issues with students, faculty and staff.

James Richards, chairman of the music department and Professor of Orchestral Studies at UM-St. Louis, said that every month each department of Fine Arts and Communication would have a guest lecturer.

"This is the music department's month to have a guest speaker," he said.

The Music Department's guest lecturer for February was Colonel Arnold D. Gabriel. Col. Gabriel is a former Commander/Conductor of the United States Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants. He served in the military for 36 years and was awarded several honors that include the third Legion of Merit for his service to the Air Force and to music education throughout the country. Col. Gabriel also served on the music faculty of George Mason University for ten years.

Col. Gabriel spent two days at UM-St. Louis giving a lecture, holding a roundtable discussion with Q&A and conducting an orchestra composed of



Chancellor Thomas George listens in on the Monday Noon lecture with Arnold D. Gabriel, former conductor for the US Air Force Band.

high school students who are part of the E. Desmond Lee participating school districts.

Col. Gabriel gave a lecture Monday afternoon about "The Role of Music in the Military" at the J.C. Penney Building. Later that afternoon, he held a roundtable discussion with a distinguished panel of active and retired Air Force Band members. The group discussed professional musicmaking in the military.

The event was open to students, a group of high school teachers, and part of the E. Desmond Lee Participating school districts music program also attended.

Harriet E. Evans-Golden, music coordinator for Riverview Gardens High School, said that Riverview Gardens would be one of many schools that will be part of the concert conduct-

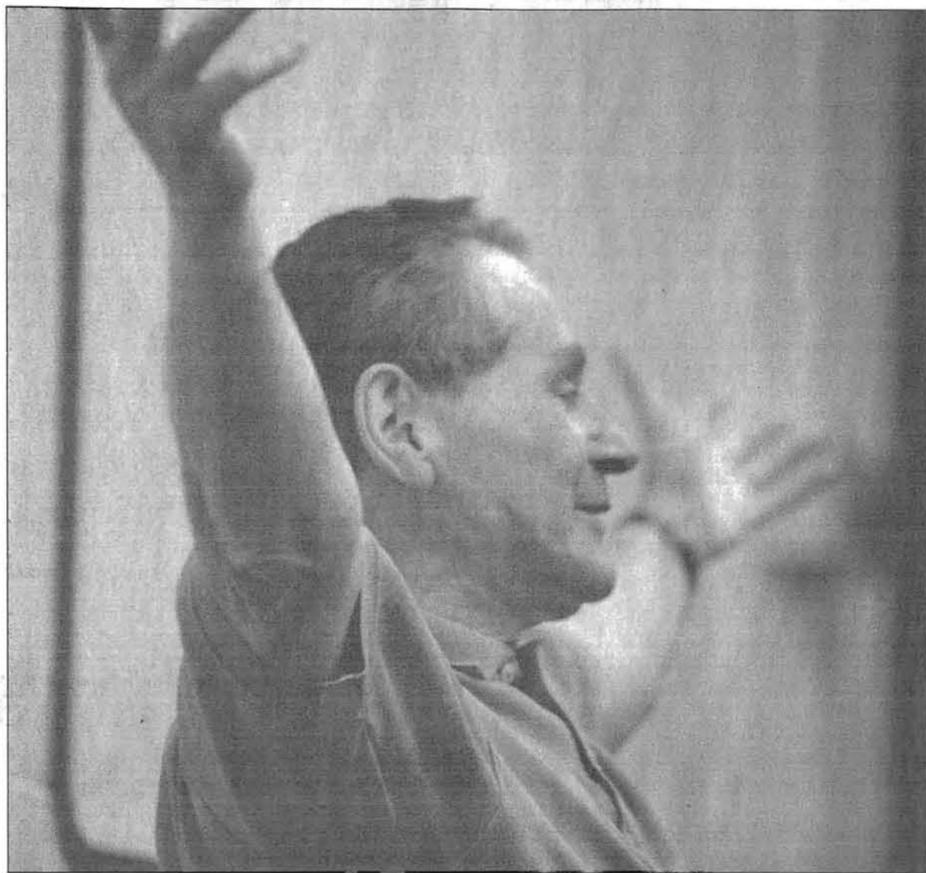
ed by Col. Gabriel on Tuesday.

"We are here," said Evans-Golden, "because Desmond Lee is a philanthropist who gives millions of dollars for fine art education and opportunities."

At the round-table discussion, Lieutenant John Arata said that the Air National Guard is an option for music students at UM-St. Louis to consider. Student can earn money and remain in St. Louis through this branch of service.

"The Air National Guard is uniquely possible for college students to go to school because they only have to see me part-time," he said.

Anyone interested in positions in the Air Force Band, Air National Guard, or other branches of service can go to www.af.mil/band/ for additional information.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Colonel Arnold D. Gabriel, a former Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants, speaks in the J.C. Penney Building as part of the Monday Noon Series lectures on Feb. 9.

UPB, from page 6

Our programs are more socially oriented."

"With a budget of approximately \$200,000, UPB is also the most funded student organization on campus. While that may sound like a hefty price tag, the cost of bringing big-name bands to UM-St. Louis is not cheap," Carpenter said.

"A large portion of our funding goes to Mirth Day because the bands cost a bit," she explained. "Students seem to enjoy having a band play that is well-known. We've had Ludacris and The Urge play at Mirth Day. Last year we had Nappy Roots."

Mirth Day is an expensive event in itself, considering the effort that UM-St. Louis puts into a carnival.

"Renting Ferris Wheels are not cheap," Carpenter said.

However, UPB does more than just put on social events, said Jonathan Lidgus, co-advisor to UPB.

"Events like Mirth Day attract student involvement and promote school spirit. We provide a booth for every organization on campus during Mirth Day to show the University what they do," Lidgus said.

Aside from giving student organizations a chance to advertise on Mirth Day, UPB also helps co-sponsor events with other organizations, such as Student Life, who otherwise would not be able to pay for the

events without assistance.

Parker Denny, advisor to UPB, a staff member of Student Affairs and a representative for Student Life, said that because UPB and Student Life are able to co-sponsor events, they have ability to host lecture series by prominent speakers.

"We've hosted Dr. Cornell West, who is one of the most prominent and most popular African-American writers in our day," Denny said. "We also had John Stossel, an ABC anchor man for 20/20, who came to school to talk about the media coverage that is going on right now in Iraq."

The organization also does more than promoting events on campus, Denny said. UPB offers students a chance to get to know St. Louis in a convenient and affordable way.

"We buy theater tickets for the Fox, hockey tickets, and other tickets to other St. Louis events so that students get the chance to experience St. Louis, which is part of our 'Experience St. Louis' program. Tickets that cost \$60 dollars at the Fox are resold to students for \$20," Denny said.

Since UPB hosts such a variety of student-oriented events, the organization still needs students to get involved to help with the process.

Carpenter said that there is no

requirement for joining UPB, and that they welcome anyone who is interested in participating in student activities or looking for internship opportunities.

"If you want to learn about programming, advertising and budgeting, then you should join UPB," she said. "Or if you just want to do some fun activities on campus, then you should consider joining as well."

Lidgus said that one of his most memorable UPB work experiences dealt with a member of Nappy Roots.

"I had to get a cowboy hat for one of the members because that is one of his trademarks," Lidgus said. "We didn't pay for it but we had to take him [to a store] to get it."

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the University Program Board can visit the Student Life Office and ask for an application at the front desk.

"We have paid positions because it takes so much time to keep the program board running," Carpenter said. "As president I work twenty hours a week, and the vice-president, Jill Henke, works ten hours a week."

Anyone interested in finding out about future events and discount tickets can go to the Student Life office for a monthly calendar or look up scheduled UPB events on the campus calendar at www.umsl.edu.

EUGENICS, from page 6

"Ultimately, I hope to create more consciousness of the current status of disabled people and to promote ableism," Linton said. "This is an important part of history that has not been acknowledged or taught, and it needs to be."

Linton was enthusiastic about those who attended the lecture. "I think it was a wonderful audience that was very engaged and perceptive," she said.

Linton was not the only person who was pleased with those who attended. Dr. Phil Ferguson, E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor

in Education for Children with Disabilities, was also impressed.

"It was great to see people from several parts of the community, including students, members of the Jewish community and members of the disabled community, all here comparing histories and learning similarities," he said. Ferguson has been friends with Linton, learned of the film through her, and wanted it her to show it at UM-St. Louis.

For more information on the Holocaust or eugenics, students can visit <http://www.hmlc.org>, which is the website for the St.

Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. The website has hours of operation in addition to other information.

Both Linton and Ferguson spoke of an upcoming conference to be held in St. Louis for the Society of Disability Studies. The conference will run from June 3 through 6, and will include "papers, presentations, history, anthropology, literature, education, arts, and a great dance," Linton said. For more information on the conference, students can visit <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/sds>.

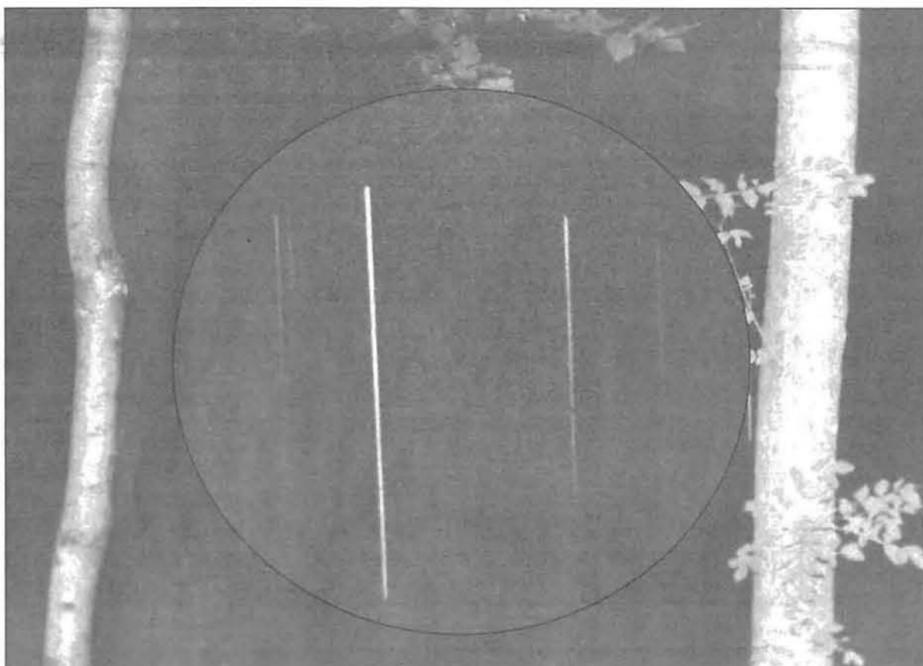


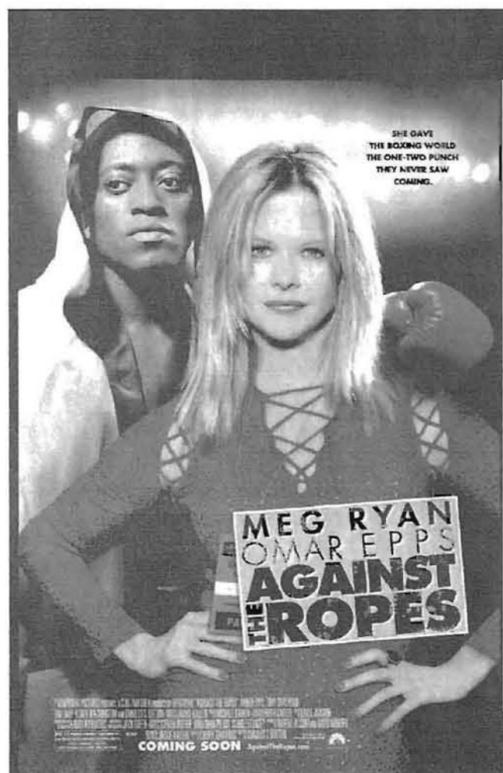
Photo courtesy Stanford Griffith

Each of the poles in the enhanced photo above represent 20 dead Jews in the forest outside Buchenwald, a Jewish concentration camp in Germany. Many of the Polish Jews who were put to death during the Holocaust died at Buchenwald and the infamous Auschwitz in Poland. On the whole, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis murdered over 5,000,000 Jews. Buchenwald was liberated by American and Canadian forces.

Let us know how we're doing...
write a letter to the editor.

e-mail: current@jinx.umsl.edu

THE COUNTDOWN IS NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE ANNUALS PARODY/SATIRE ISSUE OF THE CURRENT; THE STAGNANT. THIS ISSUE WILL DELIVER LAUGHS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ISSUING MUCH NEEDED PUBLIC COMMENTARY.... HOORAY FOR US, EH? WE'RE KINDA ARROGANT, AREN'T WE?



Paramount Pictures Current invite you and a guest to a special screening. Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary screening pass for two to see **AGAINST THE ROPES** 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AMC Esquire 6706 Clayton Rd St. Louis, Mo 63117 No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are available. This movie is rated PG-13 for crude language, violence, brief sexuality and some drug material. **IN THEATERS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**

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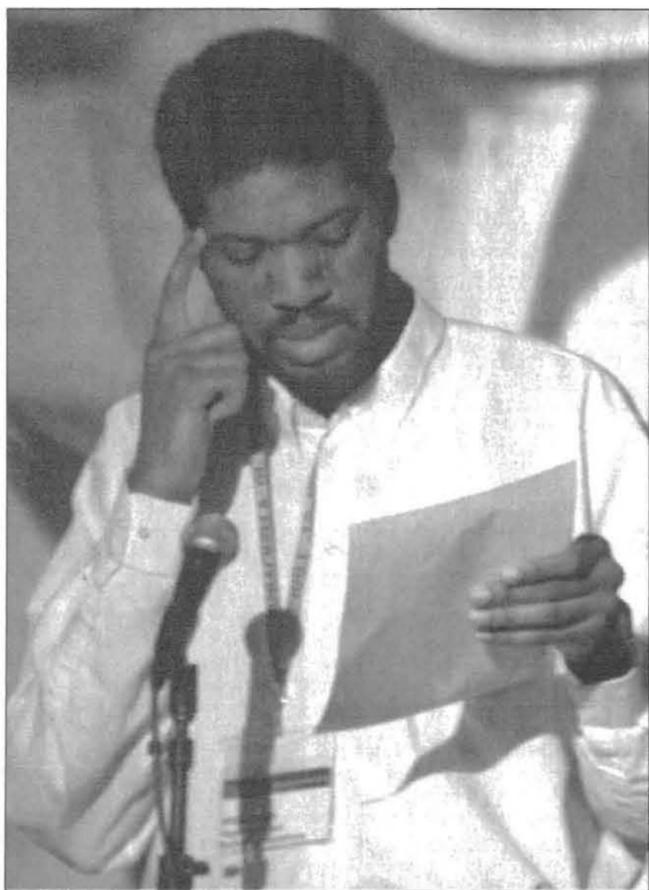
Looking for a few good slammers

Associated Black Collegians host open mic night, and some hope to form an UMSL Poetry Slam team



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jonel Coleman performs during an open-mic night in the Pilot House on Thursday night. Coleman also emceed the event, sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians. About 25 students attended the event. ABC is planning another open-mic event on March 18.



Willie Smith, with MSC Building Operations, performs during the open-mic night sponsored by Associated Black Collegians on Thursday night.



Student M.K. Stallings performs during the open-mic night in the Pilot House on Thursday night. Stallings is co-owner of Legacy Books and Cafe in the University City Loop. Stallings is a regular on the Poetry Slam scene, and would like to recruit 5-7 people to represent UM-St. Louis as a slam team to compete with other area colleges.

Like to Write

Currently seeking News Writers

Come see us at 388 MSC or call 516-6810

Coffee with Curt

(a forum for students)

Questions, concerns, opinions?

Come and share them with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs "Curt Coonrod"

Wednesday, February 18

1:30pm- 2:30pm

313 MSC

Call Student Life @ 5291 to register



Back to the Future Homecoming

2004

Monday, February 23rd

Banner Wars - Rotunda and Bridge
 BMOC penny wars - Nosh 10 am - 2 pm
 Blood Drive - 1 pm to 7 pm, 3rd floor MSC

Tuesday, February 24th

Parade - Gravel Lot outside of MSC, 1 pm
 BMOC penny wars - Nosh 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, February 25th

BMOC - Pilot House 1 pm
 Bonfire - Gravel Lot outside of MSC 7 pm
 - Present BMOC
 - Present basketball team
 Log presentation - at the bonfire
 Rec. Sports Day

Thursday, February 26th

Powder Puff - Mark Twain Field 3 pm
 Basketball Game - Women's game 5:30 against Parkside
 - Men's Game - 7:45 against Parkside

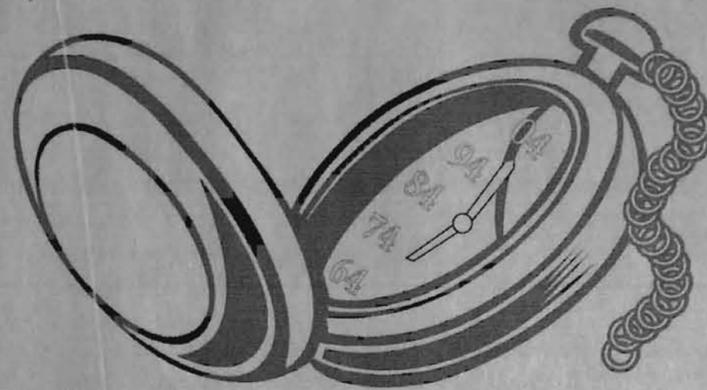
Friday, February 27th

Dance - 7 pm Westport Sheraton
 - Announce Court

Saturday, February 28th

Basketball Game - Women's game 1 pm against St. Joseph
 - Men's game 3:15 pm against St. Joseph
 - Announcing Spirit winners at men's game half time
 - Present Court at Men's game half time

Alumni Family Day



Purchase your tickets for the dance now in the Office of Student Life - 366 MSC
 \$20 single, \$30 couple and \$150 table (10 seats) tickets include catered dinners

R-women win in thriller vs. NKU

With six seconds to spare, Kali Birkey's shot propelled the team to a 59-57 win

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Women's basketball team had a tough time putting two halves together versus Indianapolis in the first of two games on the weekend.

The game started with a very quick and intelligent play by the Riverwomen as they traded baskets with the Greyhounds of Indianapolis for the first eight minutes of the game. Junior Kali Birkey, Riverwomen forward, had eight points in a ten-minute span to help the team stay close throughout the entire first half of play.

Both teams traded baskets until the end of the half when Indianapolis quickly scored two three-point shots to end the half with confidence and a 29-23 lead going into the locker room. The Riverwomen shot only 37% from the field in the first half compared to Indianapolis's 42%. However, down by six going into the half, Riverwomen head coach Lee Buchanan was not displeased with his team's efforts.

"We played Indy close earlier in the year and it was at their home court. It is hard to come out and play a team well at home, especially when you did so well at their place. It just gets them even more fired up to play you again," Buchanan said.

The second half was much of the same for the first five minutes. Both teams traded hoops periodically and were battling to take the lead and to catch the other short-handed. Indianapolis then went on a 14-6 run to break open the second half and to widen their lead to 56-34 with only ten minutes to play. For the rest of the half



Mike Sherwin/The Current

In a post-winning game huddle, the Riverwomen's Megan Albers looks up at the scoreboard. The Riverwomen defeated the NKU Norse 59-57.

the Riverwomen played catch-up and never got within a fifteen-point deficit and eventually fell to the Greyhounds by the score of 77-53.

"We played close for a while in the beginning of the half, but they just wore us down in the last fifteen minutes of the game. When you are playing only 8 deep on your roster compared to fourteen for Indy it is no wonder we got tired," Buchanan said.

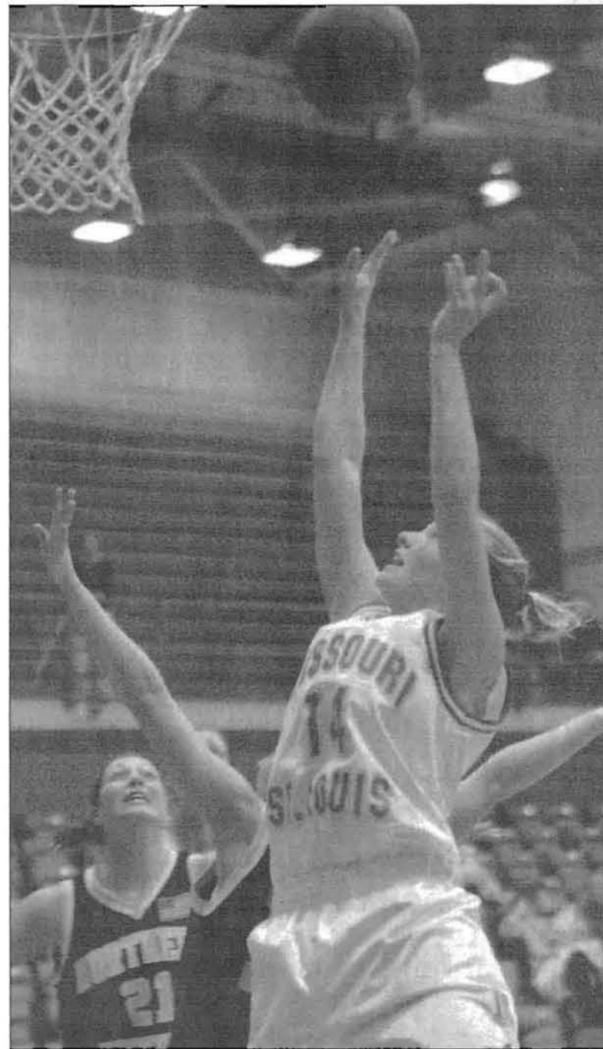
After a disheartening loss against Indianapolis, the Riverwomen were looking to get back at somebody, and that somebody just happened to be the University of Northern Kentucky. Northern Kentucky is a very well known program and has had success in recent years by going to the final four last year and winning the national title in 2000. It had been a while since the Riverwomen had a big versus such a quality opponent and overall the season had very few highlights to it up until this game.

The Riverwomen came out in the first ten minutes with intense defense and tough play. Although they found

themselves in a familiar role of being down by a few points, the team kept fighting and traded baskets with the Norse for the first ten minutes. For the next ten minutes, the Riverwomen would keep up the intensity on the defensive side, but had some trouble finding the net on the offensive side of the ball.

The Norse took advantage of this and went on a little run to end the first half, grabbing the lead 34-25 going into half. The Riverwomen played tough defense and still were left with a 9-point deficit going into the half. The Norse shot an amazing 50% from the field to end the first half of play on a very high note.

"We wanted to hold them under 30 points in the first half and we missed our mark, so going into the half we were a little disappointed with that, but we knew that we could win if we kept up the intensity," Buchanan said.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen guard Ashley Richmond drives toward the basket during the Feb. 7 game at Mark Twain. Richmond scored nine points during the game, helping lift the Riverwomen to a 59-57 win.

see RIVERWOMEN, page 14

Try something new with Recreational Sports

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

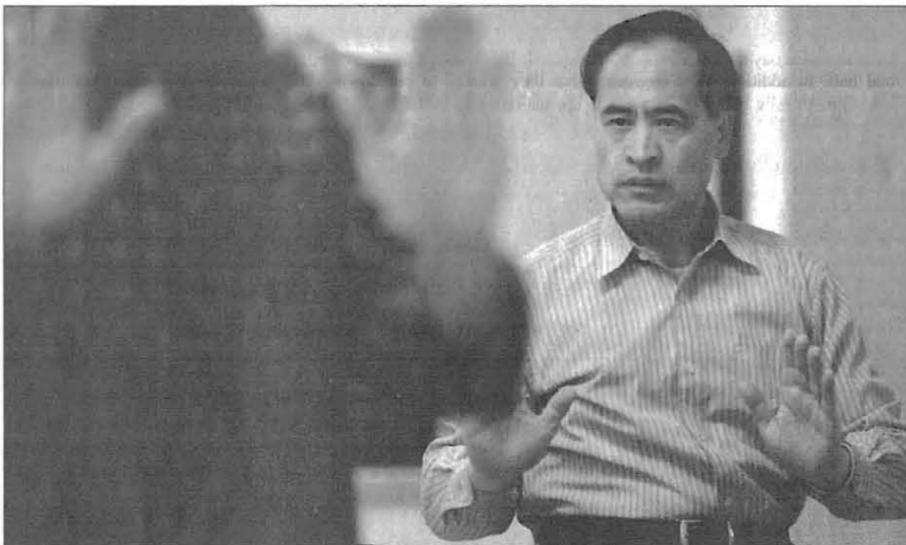
What do you think of when you think of recreational sports: basketball leagues, flag football games or even ping-pong tournaments? Well, starting this week the recreational sports center will start two of its most creative additions to its program: demolition ball and martial arts.

Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m., Recreational Sports and the University Program Board will sponsor Demolition Ball. It will be played at St. Charles Demolition Ball Palace across from St. Charles 18 Cinemas. The game is played in a supercharged bumper car with two five-player teams. The object is to shoot a whiffle ball through a 16" circular goal using a track ball scoop.

The bus will leave from UM-St. Louis at 5:45 and there will be pizza, soda, pool, video games, air hockey and more available.

According to demolitionball.com, "Demolition Ball is taking the St. Louis region by storm! Demolition Ball creates a unique opportunity for people of various ages (12yrs & older) and athletic abilities to face off in some fast-paced fun while bonding with friends and associates."

Starting Feb. 18 from 6-7:30 p.m., Aikido classes will begin at the Mark Twain Building. Aikido seeks to improve the ability of individuals to



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Sam Lin, from the department of physics and astronomy, instructs a Tai Chi class at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Tai Chi is one of many activities offered by Recreational Sports.

respond to stress and conflict positively and creatively, with calmness and relaxation. It brings people together to study mind and body unification through training in Ki-Aikido and Japanese yoga.

Students, faculty and alumni will learn from the Senior Instructor for the Saint Louis Ki Society, Mark Rubbert. He has practiced Aikido and

Mind and Body Unification since 1980 and has taught regularly for over 17 years. He holds the ranks of Yondan (fourth-degree black belt) in Aikido and Chuden (second-degree black belt) in Ki Development.

Mr. Rubbert is certified to teach by Ki Society International as an Associate Ki Lecturer. He continues his studies under various teachers,

especially Koichi Kashiwaya, Chief Instructor of the United States. Mr. Rubbert has attended classes with Koichi Tohei in the United States and Japan. Regular classes are taught by the Senior Instructor and other instructors under his direction and certification.

Classes will take place every Wednesday and fees will be

\$10/\$25/\$35 for faculty, staff, alumni and others who are interested in the class.

Participants can alternate their martial arts study with Tai Chi classes offered every Tuesday and Thursday starting February 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sam Lin, from the UM-St. Louis department of physics and astronomy, will be instructing the course. "Tai Chi is one of the ancient Chinese exercises, and it is now the most popular martial arts Qigong style in China and all over the world. Tai Chi helps people to calm down the mind and relax the body, which are becoming survival skills in today's hectic and stress-filled world."

According to Lin, Tai Chi helps with hypertension, balance and stability, heart problems, lung-related illnesses, stomach problems and many others. There are many styles of Tai Chi. Even in one particular style, there are various forms. The style, which Lin will be teaching, is the Traditional Yang Style, including beginning level (24 forms) and advanced level (108 forms). "Yang style and Chen style are the two main styles of Tai Chi. Yang style is softer and smoother."

So, forget about those basketball trophies and flag football championships. If you are ready for some new and exciting programs, then give Demolition Ball and martial arts a chance this week.

Fitness center outfitted with new workout equipment

BY CAMPBELL MCLAURIN
Staff Writer

The Mark Twain Fitness Center recently received new weight lifting equipment that gave the facility a fresh, new outlook. The modern and improved equipment replaced the outdated machinery that had characterized the workout center for years. The athletic department decided that an imminent change of equipment was needed and decided to appropriate the necessary funds for the project.

The inspired commitment to remodel the weight room came at a necessary time, when the weight room was in dire need of new equipment. It seems that the major problem with placing any new equipment in the Mark Twain Center is coordinating the massive amount of funds needed to complete such a project.

Athletic Director Pat Dolan said, "We've wanted new equipment for years, we've been building up money for years, and we recently decided it was the right time." The money required for the improvements was taken from the Athletics Recreations

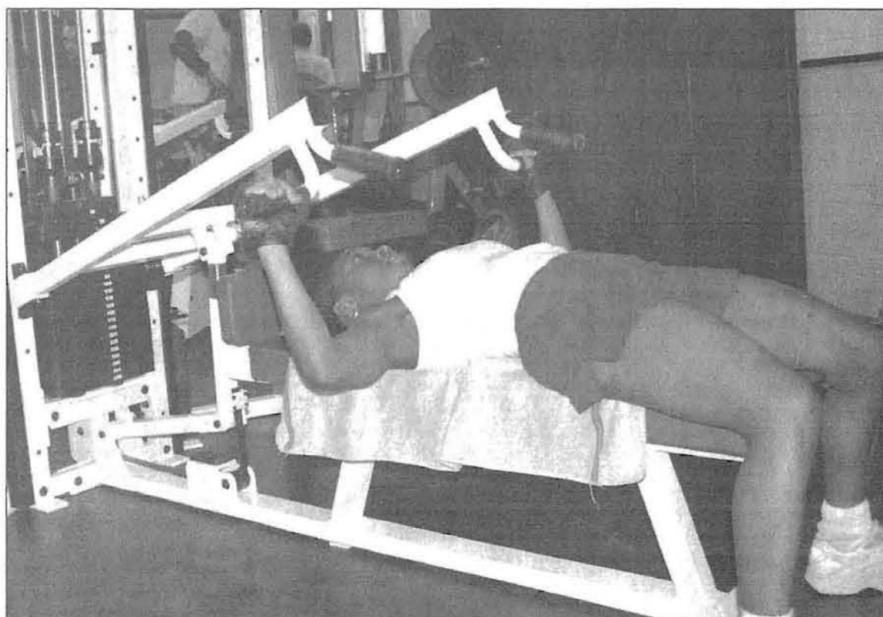
Fund.

The state of the art Magnum Series equipment that was implemented facilitates an easier, more efficient workout. The new equipment was implemented in all physical areas so that a total workout can be achieved with modern technology.

Courtney Carmody, freshman, physical education major, said that the new machinery was a pleasant surprise for her.

"I had gotten used to the old equipment that was here, but, since the new equipment has come, I prefer it much more, and I feel like I get a better workout."

The addition of new weight room equipment has developed a variety of aesthetic improvements around the Mark Twain facilities. Recently, many of the walls were painted for the first time in nearly ten years. Pat Dolan and the rest of the athletic department are excited about the enhancements that decorate the renovated workout center. Now that all the repairs are done, Pat Dolan urges all UM-St. Louis students to come take advantage of the increased opportunities that the new equipment provides.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UMSL Junior Leah Stewart makes use of Mark Twain's new workout equipment in the weight room last Friday afternoon.

GRETCHEN MOORE

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Questions
or
Comments?

Send me an e-mail:
current@jinx.umsl.edu

WEB

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

UPCOMING

**Men's
Basketball**
Feb. 19

• at Quincy
7:45 p.m.

Feb. 21

• at SIU-Edwardsville
3:15 p.m.

Feb. 26

• vs. Wisconsin-Parkside at
Mark Twain Athletic Bldg.
7:45 p.m.

**Women's
Basketball**

Feb. 19

• at Quincy
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 21

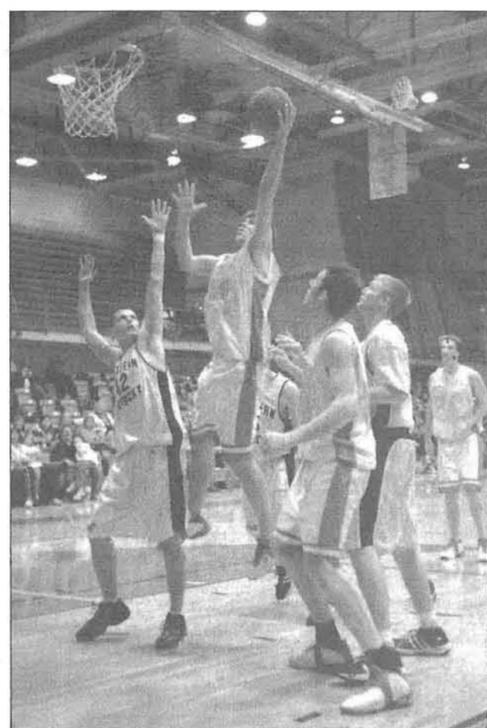
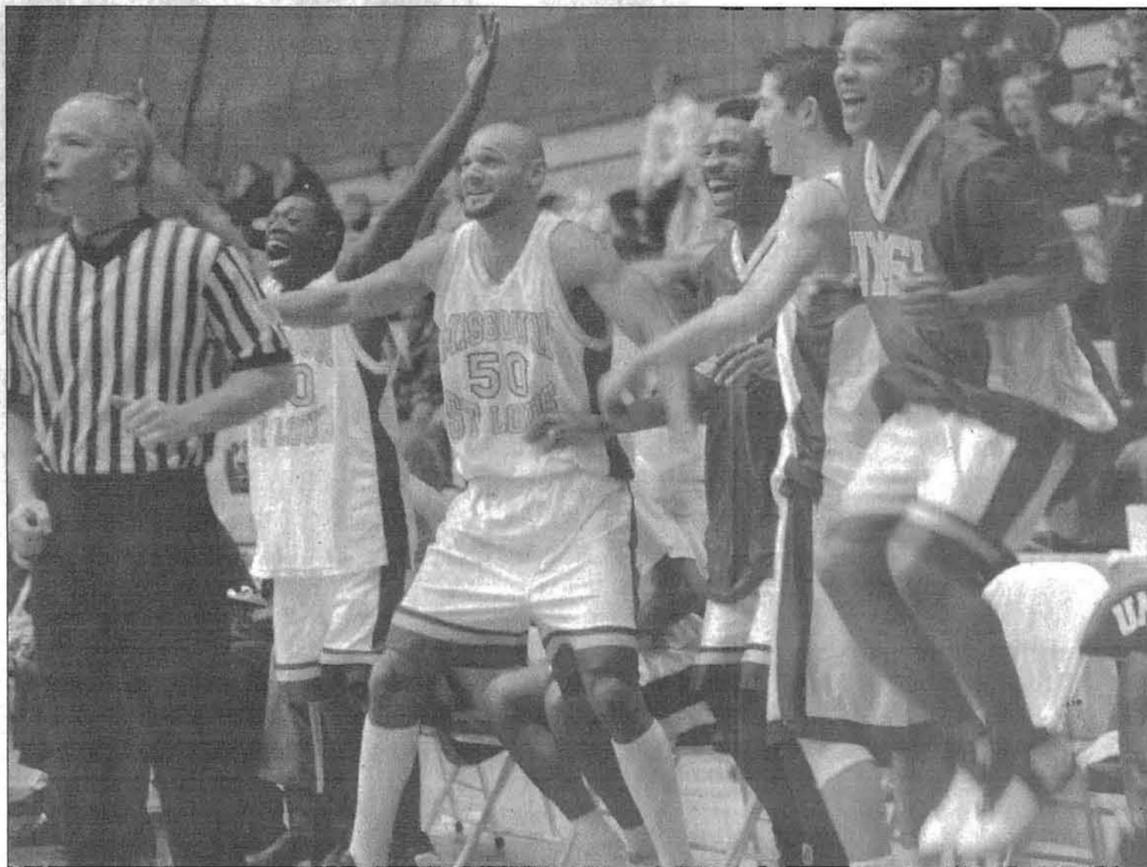
• at SIU-Edwardsville
1:00

Feb. 26

• vs. Wisconsin-Parkside at
Mark Twain Athletic Bldg.
5:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Riverman Ike Attah (#50) holds back his jubilant teammates as the final seconds are counted down and the Rivermen's victory against the Northern Kentucky Norse on Feb. 7 was virtually assured. The Rivermen ended the first half fifteen points ahead of the Norse, and then continued to outscore NKU in the second half. The team won the game 82-62, which left them with a 5-9 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Rivermen guard David Watkins leaps for a two-point basket during the Rivermen's game Feb. 7 against the Northern Kentucky University Norse at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Watkins scored eight points during the game.

Rivermen roll through three victories

BY CAMPBELL MCLAURIN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team's last three conference games have resulted in three important conference wins. In the last week and a half, the Rivermen have caught fire, beating Wisconsin-Parkside, Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky.

The 59-52 victory against the Indianapolis Greyhounds on Feb. 5 marked a monumental point in their season, as they were able to defeat a top-25 opponent. The game was an up-and-down contest, marked by intense defense and poor shooting from both sides. Indy shot 32% from the field while the Rivermen shot 31% on the night.

Indianapolis darted out to a 12-5 lead midway through the first half, but the Rivermen were quick to close the gap to 15-14 with five minutes to go before the break. UM-St. Louis held up the pressure and after a key three-

pointer by Justin Foust, three seconds before the half-time buzzer, the Rivermen took a 25-21 lead into the locker room.

In the second half, a three-point shot right out of the gate let the fans know that it would be tough to beat UM-St. Louis on this night. However, the Greyhounds were able to chisel away and eventually overtake the seven point Rivermen lead at the 7:11 mark. After Indianapolis took a 45-43 lead, the game became a battle of determination going down the stretch. In the end, the character and tenacity of the Rivermen proved stronger than that of the Greyhounds, and UM-St. Louis was able to pull out a hard-fought 59-52 win.

A strong defensive night from the UM-St. Louis low post, particularly from Ike Attah, helped hold Indianapolis at bay during the late second half. In addition, the Rivermen were able to rally behind a 25-point, seven-rebound performance from

Ronnie Banks, and some key shooting from Foust to secure the victory.

Coach Chris Pilz was enthusiastic about the positive implications that beating a top-25 team could have for his ball club.

"The win against Indianapolis gives us a good solid foundation as we are trying to rebuild our program. It gives us instant recognition around town and has helped inspire players for upcoming games this season."

After the tough win against Indianapolis, UM-St. Louis had to refocus their efforts once more against the Northern Kentucky Norse just two days later. The Rivermen felt confident in the home contest against the Norse, since they had defeated Northern Kentucky in an away game earlier in the season.

The Rivermen came out firing against the Norse, clearly showing that they wanted to put down their opposition early in the contest. After taking a 13-10 lead at the twelve-

minute mark in the first half, UM-St. Louis never looked back. They closed out the first half with a 44-29 lead after a dunk from Kevin Nordmann and went into the locker room shooting 43% from the field in the first half.

The second half proved more of the same for the Rivermen as they continued to trample the Norse, stretching their lead to 24 points around the 12-minute mark. UM-St. Louis was able to keep up defensive pressure and continue making shots to close out the game. At the final buzzer, the Rivermen came away with a resounding 82-62 victory. Banks again led UM-St. Louis with a 17-point, seven-rebound performance.

In the last three games, the Rivermen have been able to combine an ability to hit key shots at pivotal points in ballgames with a stingy defense that forces teams to score tough baskets. This combination has made the Rivermen a tough opponent. Coach Pilz is optimistic about his

team's winning form of late.

"The guys are playing harder, believing in each other and trusting more in each other. They are bringing more energy and enthusiasm to the court."

Currently, UM-St. Louis is sitting eighth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The top seven teams at the end of regular season play receive bids to the post-season conference tournament. The Rivermen's main goal now is to improve their record so they can take the seventh spot. The Rivermen are currently 9-12 overall and 5-9 in the GLVC.

Coach Pilz feels that the team needs to get to eight wins in the conference to secure a spot in the tournament. He noted the Quincy game as being a decisive upcoming match up that could have major impacts on their post-season chances. The Rivermen have six conference games remaining in their quest to reach post-season play.



Rivermen head coach Chris Pilz rallies the team during a second-half time-out.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

The UM-St. Louis pep band performs at a recent Rivermen Basketball home game. The pep band often spices up games with versions of familiar pop music songs, such as "Hey Ya" by OutKast or "Fly Away," by Lenny Kravitz.

Pep squads make up for disappointing attendance

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

If you have attended a basketball game here on campus, you have probably heard the following from the pep squads: "Go Rivermen, go," "Defense, defense," and the more entertaining: "Drop it!" "Miss it!" "Brick!" and of course the great "Sit down, coach!"

It is no secret that we do not get the amount of attendance at basketball games that most schools get, so we have to make up for it with our pep squads. In the course of a game, you will see the UM-St. Louis cheerleaders, "The Flames," our dance team, the Riverpup and the always-exciting pep band.

These pep squads were brought in primarily to help with the lack of energy in the crowd, but due to the lack of the crowd altogether, they have become very active making up for its absence.

The lack of attendance is a little bit more difficult for the cheerleaders than for anyone else: "When the crowd is enthusiastic it keeps us motivated and obviously motivates the team. But you can't really lead a cheer if there is no crowd to lead," Kellia Hicks, a squad member, said.

Even so, they do a good job of

keeping high spirits and making their voices heard. Bass player James Young gave a good analogy.

"If you are a musical performer and the audience is giving you dead cold stares, it makes it hard to perform. But if you have the crowd cheering for you it really gets you going."

Having attended a few of the games myself, I have to say that watching the pep band is almost as much fun as watching the actual game. They all play their parts very well.

James Young the bass player has a particular role to play when the opposing team misses free throws.

"My favorite thing is heckling the other team and playing the wa wa wa sound when they miss."

Others are just as enthusiastic about their job. Angela the saxophone player leads the band in the "free throw shout." Everyone is very still and quiet until the moment the opposing player is going to release the ball, then the band erupts with shouts of encouragement like "brick" and "miss it."

The band and cheerleaders also work together to get the "defense cheer" as loud as possible when our Rivermen and Riverwomen need to get a defensive stop. When there is fair attendance at the games, the energy these pep squads generate can be very exciting.

The UM-St. Louis Riverpup com-

mented on this energy.

"Crowd interaction and attendance is really important. This last week is a case in point: there were a lot of fans at those two games and both teams played awesome."

Those two days the Rivermen upset the number two and four teams in the conference, and the Riverwomen upset Northern Kentucky, another top team in the conference. University of Indianapolis. The fans cheering to the pep squad's lead made a visible difference in the intensity of the players. They have more spring, more desire.

Conversely, the other team tends to dread the taunts and negative crowd. The pep squads do an excellent job of keeping the energy up, but you do not have to be in a pep squad to support the team. The best example is the UM-St. Louis baseball team, the bench hecklers. Nothing rattles another team like the jeer, and the baseball team does a fantastic job of disgruntling everyone from their worst player to their coach.

"Sit down, coach," the jeer directed toward the opposing coach, is one of the most entertaining parts of the game. Thanks to the UM-St. Louis pep squads, our basketball teams can play with enthusiasm...now just imagine if they got support from a decent crowd.

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A&E

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A&E Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of Feb. 16

Against the Ropes- A true story about a female manager (Meg Ryan) who challenges the male dominated world of boxing by managing a street punk turned professional fighter, Luther Shaw (Omar Epps). Rated PG-13. Opens Feb. 20th.

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen- Two teenage girls battle for lead in the school play in this comedy about high-school, fashion and popularity. Rated PG. Opens Feb. 20th.

Eurotrip- High-school student, Scott Thomas (Scott Mechlowicz), plans to finally meet his internet pen-pal from Germany, whom he has never seen and fears the worse. The secret pen-pal, however, turns out to be a cute girl. After graduation, Thomas sets off on a wild trip across Europe to meet her. Rated R. Opens Feb. 20th.

'50 First Dates' surprisingly gentle

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Adam Sandler's latest romantic comedy, "50 First Dates" is a cotton-candy confection just made for Valentine's Day.

Sandler's films often have a mean streak to them along with their odd-ball comedic characters, but "50 First Dates" is surprisingly gentle, making this bit of popcorn-munching entertainment easier to consume. In fact, this movie is surprisingly sweet and an appealing mix of light romance and silly comedy. However, "50 First Dates" yields a hard-to-swallow premise that is a cross between "Groundhog Day" and "Memento," where a man falls for a woman with short-term memory loss whom he has to win over every day, making it more than a little contrived.

Sandler plays Henry Roth, a commitment-phobic Hawaiian Romeo who woos vacationing tourists by night and works as a vet at a "Sea World" type park by day. Already we have a rather steep reality curve, but then Henry meets Lucy (Drew Barrymore), a local art teacher, at an off-the-beaten-path diner. Smitten by Lucy, Henry agrees to meet her again the next morning for breakfast, despite his long-standing rule never to get involved with local women. Of course, Henry gets a rude shock the next day when Lucy does not recognize him and calls on the diner's burly tattooed cook Nick (Pomaika'i Brown) to defend her against the persistent stranger. Eventually Henry learns that Lucy lost her short-term memory due to a car accident the previous year and must start each day with no memory of the previous one.

Henry, supposedly phobic of commitment, comes back repeatedly to try to charm this time-looped miss. This seems a bit of a stretch. The film does have considerable humor with the repeat encounters and Henry's quest to figure out a way for Lucy to remember him.

The film also has typical Sandler offbeat characters, such as a comic walrus co-star, against which Sandler holds his own. Henry also has comic sidekick and co-worker Ula (Rob Schneider), a wisecracking, blind-in-one-eye, shark-bite-prone native Hawaiian who is shadowed by his passel of athletic, giggling little kids. Lucy's father proves a formidable obstacle to Henry's intentions, but not her bodybuilding but uncoordinated little brother (Sean Austin). Throw in protective Donna (Lynn Collins) at the dinner, a cleaver-wielding Nick the cook, Lucy's doctor (Dan Aykroyd), Ten-Second Tom (Allen Covert), a man caught in an even shorter memory loop, and an old Hawaiian man (Joe Nakashima), who gets to say all the rude, mean stuff, and you have the Sandler usual suspects.

Although the comic elements are strong, and Austin and Schneider are surprisingly funny, the film manages to keep the focus on the couple and the romance, mostly due to charming, funny Lucy.

The film is as sweet and enjoyable as it is unbelievable. It succeeds better than most of Sandler's attempts at romantic comedy, because the comedy and the absurdity do not overwhelm the romance and sweetness. Make no mistake; this is pure entertainment, not classic filmmaking. It will not win anyone over to this genre. For a Valentine's treat, however, it is an enjoyable bonbon.



Photo Courtesy Columbia Pictures

Drew Barrymore stars in the new Columbia Pictures feature film 50 FIRST DATES with Adam Sandler. This is the second movie they have worked on together.

'Fog of War' is timely, essential viewing

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

The documentary "Fog of War" is a must-see for everyone, especially all politicians, who should be tied to a chair and forced to see it, for its lessons in how, despite any good intentions or clear thinking, single events can, step by step, draw a nation into the unthinkable.

In "Fog of War," a riveting, visually dynamic film, director Errol Morris uses his considerable filmmaking skills to combine creative effects, archival footage, newly released presidential recordings and a terrific score by composer Philip Glass to frame an extended interview with Robert Strange McNamara, Secretary of Defense under Kennedy and Johnson. McNamara was present during the Cuban missile crisis and was a major architect of the Vietnam War. As that war escalated, McNamara became convinced that the war was both wrong and unwinnable but continued to say the opposite in public, even after Johnson eventually dismissed him due to their differences.

Before becoming Secretary of Defense, McNamara was one of the whiz kids of WWII, set to analyzing the effectiveness of bombing campaigns on Japan. A "machine with

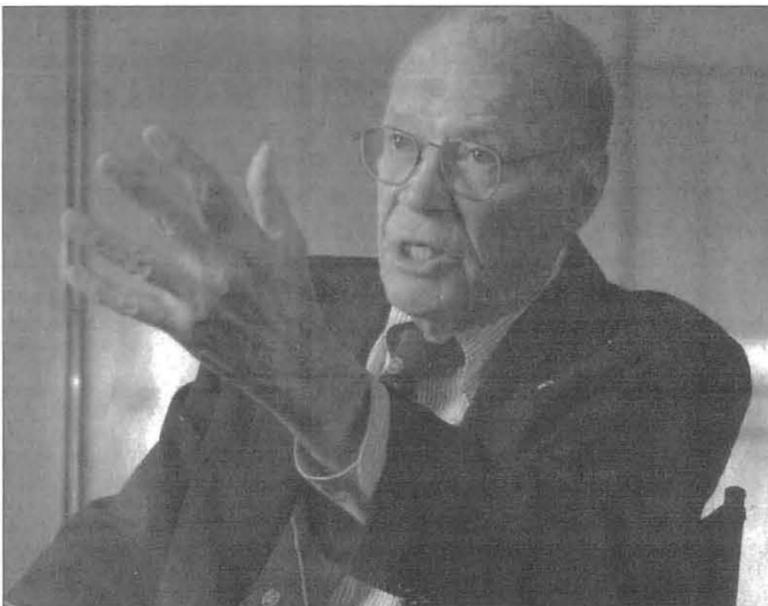


Photo courtesy Capital Records

legs" has been one of the descriptions of the calculating intellect of this man who recommended firebombing of Japanese cities and then decried the loss of civilian life. McNamara went on to work for and finally head the Ford Motor Company and was head

of the World Bank later in his life, a life led in the center of power.

Mostly, director Errol Morris just lets McNamara talk, which has led to attacks from both ends of the political spectrum. From the right, Morris was criticized as being too hard on

McNamara for the few times he confronts him and for the elements of the film that undercut McNamara's version of the facts, and from the left, for not taking McNamara to task for his lack of forthrightness or veracity. Morris had expected the reclusive

"The Fog of War" is a must see for everyone, especially politicians who lead nations to war.

McNamara to speak to him only briefly during their scheduled interview but instead McNamara seemed to almost want to confess to past sins. The few times Morris calls him on facts leads McNamara to sidestep and eventually evade the topic altogether, indicating that if Morris had been more hard-hitting, the interview would have ended much sooner.

By letting McNamara talk and using other materials to either contradict or support his comments, Morris creates a film that stimulates thought about the man and how government policies evolve. More than once, we are reminded of McNamara's reputation as a cunning, intelligent politician, as arrogant and even as a liar. McNamara seems to passionately regret the loss of life to which his strategic analysis led, yet seems to assign responsibility to others.

This is not a "talking head" documentary. Morris is noted for the visually intense and creative look of his documentaries, which include "A Brief History of Time," "Thin Blue Line" and "Mr. Death." The film's visual creativity makes the documentary enthralling to watch, to the dismay of some journalists who dismiss some of these breathtaking montages as too entertaining.

see FOG OF WAR, page 13

Brenda Weiler captures audiences

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

With her sweet and smooth voice, Brenda Weiler has a unique ability to capture audiences. There have been many female singer/songwriters in our recent past, but I am inclined to believe that Weiler is one of the few who has what it takes to rise above the average and shine. She has a voice more crystal-clear and melodious than Jewel's, lyrics more innocent and poetic than any pop princess's and a slight touch of the electric and synthetic sounds that are reminiscent of Tori Amos.

"Cold Weather," Weiler's album that was released nationally in November of 2003, proves Brenda Weiler capable and talented within a diversity of sounds. I tend to roll my eyes and get impatient with mainstream female singer/songwriters such as Sarah McLachlan. However, Weiler's voice is so captivating I actually found myself enjoying the kinds of songs that usually send me into convulsions (an allergic reaction that I tend to have in response to cheesy, feminine "poor me" songs). One of the reasons I was so able to pay attention and remain open-minded about "Cold

Weather" was that the very first track, "Faucet," had just enough underlying electric bass for me to wonder where it would go. My patience paid off. After one minute and 50 seconds of smooth vocals with a synthetic undercurrent, the song comes booming out with thundering bass and electric guitars.

Though this surprising and impressive streak of edginess is really only found in two of the tracks on the CD, the other tracks somehow manage to be as mesmerizing by utilizing Weiler's vocals. Anyone who enjoys beautiful female vocals would greatly appreciate the talent of Brenda Weiler, who, besides choir in school, waited until graduating from high school to pursue singing as a means of profession. Her voice is smooth and clear over a range of low to high notes, and she has the ability to imply huskiness without ruining her natural tone. Though she also plays the guitar on her album, it mainly consists of simple strumming which only enhances the vocals as the main attraction. Personally, I think highlighting her voice is the right move.

The lyrics of Weiler's music are also beautifully written. For the most part, the songs on "Cold Weather" speak to issues of love, depression and

personal experiences. I find her lyrics to be more poetic than many other songwriters' works because of an exaggerated emphasis on poetry.

The last track of the album, "Ruin," is completely comprised of five simple lines: "I knew when we returned that I'd mess it up/ I knew when we returned that I'd f*** everything up/ cause I ruin everything I touch/ you turn me down when I ask/ so I drink to myself." I choose this example because I thought the wording and idea of a five-line song was a good example of Weiler's poetic style. I also, however, feel that I should note this is the only song with profanity in it (for those readers who care one way or the other).

Brenda Weiler originated in Fargo, North Dakota and is now based in Portland, Oregon. Before the release of "Cold Weather" last November, she concentrated her music regionally. Lucky for St. Louis, she will be celebrating this release with a performance at Off Broadway on March 3. I highly recommend anyone who is slightly interested in her music to mark his or her calendars and attend this event. With her inspiring voice and relatable lyrics, I doubt you will be disappointed.



Brenda Weiler, Virt Records, recording artist.

Webster Records: A 50-year-old musical tradition

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

Independently owned music stores are not always cheaper than the big ones, but they can make the cost of music easier to swallow. Such is the case of Webster Records, a 50-year-old music store in downtown Webster Groves. From the outside, one expects a small room crammed with various classics. Once inside, one finds a decent-sized shop with tons of well-organized merchandise. The environment is very friendly, with people immediately available to help you locate something specific or to recommend something previously unknown.

It also boasts a unique range of genres. One whole wall of the store is dedicated to Classical music ranging from Mozart to soloists. It also offers smaller sections of Ragtime, Irish, Celtic, Folk and Bluegrass. This diversity of sound is the most intriguing feature, considering the store has stayed in business so long without offering much in the way of Rock or Pop. Instead, Webster Records has one of the best selections of Jazz and Blues I have seen. This is a big plus in my opinion, seeing as how Blues were once a large part of St. Louis culture.

There are also numerous soundtracks to shows—not movies—shows. This includes not only classic shows like "Camelot," but also soundtracks to more modern shows such as



Webster Records, St. Louis's oldest records store, is located in Old Webster at 117 West Lockwood.

"Mamma Mia!" Next to the "Soundtrack/Show," section is the vocals section. What exactly is meant by "vocals" is still something of a mystery to me. I tried to understand better by looking through the featured artists and found Sinatra, Streisand and Doris Day. Just when I thought I understood "vocals" to mean music that was focused on the talents of a singer, I found The Temptations and

Simon and Garfunkle. I gave up and decided to let *The Current* readers decide for themselves how to define "vocals" as a genre. The point is that there is a decent-sized "vocals" section—if that is what you like.

Most small music stores cater to high school and college kids who want modern music but are unable to spend much money. Webster Records, however, seems to cater to those with less

mainstream tastes and the pocketbook to back them. Webster Records offers many new CDs at prices comparable to Best Buy (from \$14.99-\$17.99). There are some used CDs but not as many as I was expecting to find. Of the used CDs, most were \$9.99, some

were \$7.99 and hardly any were \$5.99. Chances are that if you find what you want, it will not have the "cheap" price usually pursued by shoppers at small record stores.

Webster Records has a small section of international and folk music,

DVDs and cheap prices. Where it really shines is in the history, service and unusually large selections of Jazz, Blues, "vocal" and Classical music. If these make you happy, go spend your dough on the 50-year-old tradition, Webster Records.



Photos by Michael Pelikan/ The Current

Customers peruse the racks of new and used CDs. Repeat customers like these have kept Webster Records in business for 50 years.

True Crime won't disappoint fans of action

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

The commercial for "True Crime: Streets of LA" looks like the trailer for any number of summer action blockbusters: slow-motion yellow sports cars careening sideways, in the air, spinning, flying off of other, boring cars. We get a hero cool-cop dude, diving into a shabby warehouse with dual hand-cannons blasting lead into everything in his way, perfectly good things that explode and elicit oohs and ahhs and wows and smiles and the requisite bullet-time martial arts sequence where two people dance around recklessly, intent on smacking the other dancer into bruised submission. Perform Judo flip—wham and cue fiery explosion.

That means, ladies and gentlemen, that if you are less than fond of these action elements, "True Crime" will not deliver anything for you. But, if violence-before-negotiation thrills you, "True Crime" will do.

You play a strapping young cop, known to everyone via his father's reputation and (get ready) mysterious disappearance. Pop's snatching bothers you and motivates you to hop into a special unit in the police force to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Your adventure follows three potential strands and variants within each strand, like the "Choose Your Own Adventure" book series around when twenty-somethings were kiddies. While playing the game, you are given options that influence how

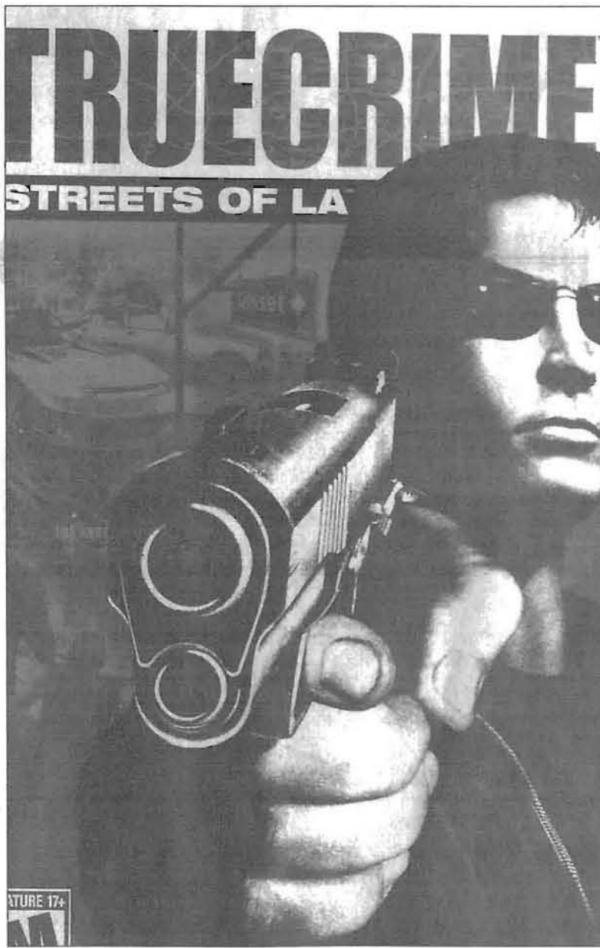
you continue.

The cut-scenes throughout the game are also determined in part by a Good Cop/Bad Cop, Yin/Yang chi meter that monitors how you play levels and interact with characters. If, for instance, on that chase sequence you decided to run down a few pedestrians along the way, your chi goes south, and you face civil unrest and other undesirable situations. Be bad, and while you are busy trying to do something legit, a random woman clad in a gray business suit might decide to kick your butt. Or, while tailing someone, thugs may pull up in fattie Escalades and pump your Ferrari full of friendly gunfire. That, folks, is how chi in LA seems to work.

Action is also divided in three ways. Levels make use of a monster map of LA, asking you to grab wheels and drive somewhere. Sometimes you race a clock, others times you chase and shoot at jerks. There is plenty of surveillance for you. Different levels pit you against any number of mean-spirited people and your task is simply to use your physical prowess to overcome them.

Especially interesting levels include Asian chefs who rush you with butcher knives and a sword or two. There are a few of these fighting levels that really test your chi. In them, you sneak stealthily up to unsuspecting guards and choose to either incapacitate them or incapacitate them permanently.

see TRUE CRIME page 14



FOG OF WAR, from page 12

Yet, "Fog of War" is a film, not a news report, and audiences and film critics alike have embraced the

film's creative elements for their powerful, non-verbal message and hailed it as great filmmaking. It is one of the best, perhaps the best documentary film of the year, in a year of great documentaries.

The title refers to the way people tend to lose track of the big picture during the heat of war events. Time after time, McNamara illustrates how reasonable, thinking men could reach decisions that, with the perspective of time, seem horrible and unthinkable, due at least in part to what was not known or consequences that could not be seen. It is the opposite of the theories that see a grand plan to lead us to war, and are therefore the more horrifying, for the picture of best intentions leading us stumbling into quagmire.

McNamara speaks movingly of General Curtis LeMay ordering the firebombing of several Japanese cities and then following that up with the two nuclear bombs, an awesome loss of civilian life. McNamara confides that had the Allies not won the war, both he and LeMay would surely have been considered war criminals for their actions. Yet, at the time of the war,

it seems the right thing to do. McNamara frets at length about the unforgiving nature of nuclear

weapons, where a single mistake can wipe out nations. He speaks of how close the world came to nuclear war in the Cuban missile crisis, when the same General LeMay was ready to bomb Cuba and be done with it. Years later, McNamara met Castro personally and discovered that, unknown to the U.S. at that earlier time, nuclear missiles were already in place on Cuba and would have been fired had the U.S. attacked. The horror of this revelation caused McNamara to cut short his conversation with Castro and flee the room.

Because Morris chose to let McNamara's dialogue speak for itself, counterbalanced with archival footage and his recorded conversations with the two presidents he served, the film offers a starting point for further exploration of McNamara's times and a unique insight on how governments justify the drive to war.

At this time in history, "Fog of War" is essential viewing for all and especially for policy makers, who may peer through the mists of the present while all our fates hang on their decisions.

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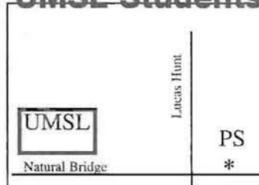
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SUPERSTAR, from page 5

The next track we'll look at is "Trial Before Pilate (Including The 39 Lashes)." This song is the last confrontation between Christ and Pilate when Pilate orders Jesus flogged to satisfy the crowd. Pilate at first greets Jesus with a sarcastic sneer, but that sarcasm soon vanishes when he realizes the crowd wants Jesus crucified, and he begins to plead with Jesus to see reason, or he could be dead soon/Could well be/Why do you not speak when I have your life in my hands/How can you stay quiet/I don't believe you

understand." Jesus then tells Pilate "You have nothing in your hands/Any power you have comes to you from far beyond/Everything is fixed/And you can't change it." Pilate then orders Jesus crucified, saying, "Don't let me stop your great self-destruction/Die if you want to you misguided-martyr/I wash my hands of your demolition/Die if you want to/You innocent puppet."

The listener is then launched into "Superstar," sung by the voice of Judas. This rocker sums up Judas' feelings for Christ, his love, his envy,

his awe, and yes, his hate. One great line from this song is "Buddha was he where it's at/Is he where you are/Could Mahomet move a mountain/Or was that just PR/Did you mean to die like that/Was that a mistake or/Did you know your messy death would be a record breaker?"

This is, hands-down, the best rock opera recorded. Now, don't you get me wrong, "Tommy" is great, but this is simply amazing, the culmination of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Weber collaboration. It is worth the \$35 price tag, trust me.

TRUE CRIME, from page 13

The third type of level has you running around aforementioned abandoned warehouses. Goal: Use your firearms with deadly and indiscriminate force against all the occupants hiding for you with uzis behind crates and on balconies. Each of these level skills are upgradeable during game-play.

As you run around doing all of this action, a whole host of things increases the fun of playing "True Crime." The graphics run smoothly, breaking up only occasionally on the PS2, but the details are great. Cockroaches scurry around in restaurants. Most fighting environments are filled with interactivity: boxes, tables and walls break. Weapons that bad guys drop are there for you to pick up and use, and coolers, stoves, cars and barrels explode when abused. Along with the graphic elements, you should enjoy driving around the expanse of LA. The map is truly huge.

Game-play shines in several areas. When cruising in between levels, the game provides an endless stream of police calls for you to respond to if you would like. The

calls range everywhere from marital disputes to armed robbers, and the diversity keeps things interesting. When walking down the sidewalk, you have the option to spot-search anyone you want—a neat detail. Sometimes you find drugs, guns, whatever.

Driving is twitchy at first, but when acclimated, "True Crime" offers a great deal of car types, not licensed, but scarcely hiding their models. That purple thing you just blew the tires off of is clearly a Dodge Viper. That yellow box that can catapult unsuspecting, unyielding vehicles into the air is undoubtedly a Hummer H2.

And, as any action/adventure gamer will attest, the worst possible levels are those asking you to protect/escort. More controllers have been destroyed when the AI walks the person you are protecting right around the corner into a barrage of enemy hostility.

Thankfully, "True Crime" does not require protecting anything except your own skin. But, to be fair, the tailing levels (of which there are many) get hugely bothersome.

Tailing starts the short list of negatives about "True Crime." For whatever reason, developers cannot seem to create an action/adventure game where the camera sticks in logical places. The targeting system is solid, even allowing you to fire at two enemies, but shooting requires that you are pointed in the right direction and the camera can really botch that if it wants. Sometimes in "True Crime," it does.

The story is simple in any of the three strands, but it degenerates into the supernatural: You will be shooting at demons, and fighting disappearing zombie women. Somehow, the phrase "true crime" cannot seriously work with 400-year-old wizards.

After you have plundered the streets of LA of these otherworldly minions, you will have probably played no more than 15 or 20 hours. That translates into a short game or an easy game. "True Crime" meets both descriptions. By comparison, "Grand Theft Auto" and "GTA: Vice City," where you are free of chi meters, are much more deep and challenging games.

RIVERWOMEN, from page 13

The Riverwomen not only came out with intensity, they came out with an attitude. They shot their way back into the game and erased the 9-point deficit in the first ten minutes of the second half. Northern Kentucky was stifled by the run and had trouble trying to open things back up as the Riverwomen eventually got their first leads of the second half. Both teams fought hard and did not want to give up any space to one another. The last ten minutes would see nine lead

changes and a tie ball game with only 20 seconds left on the clock.

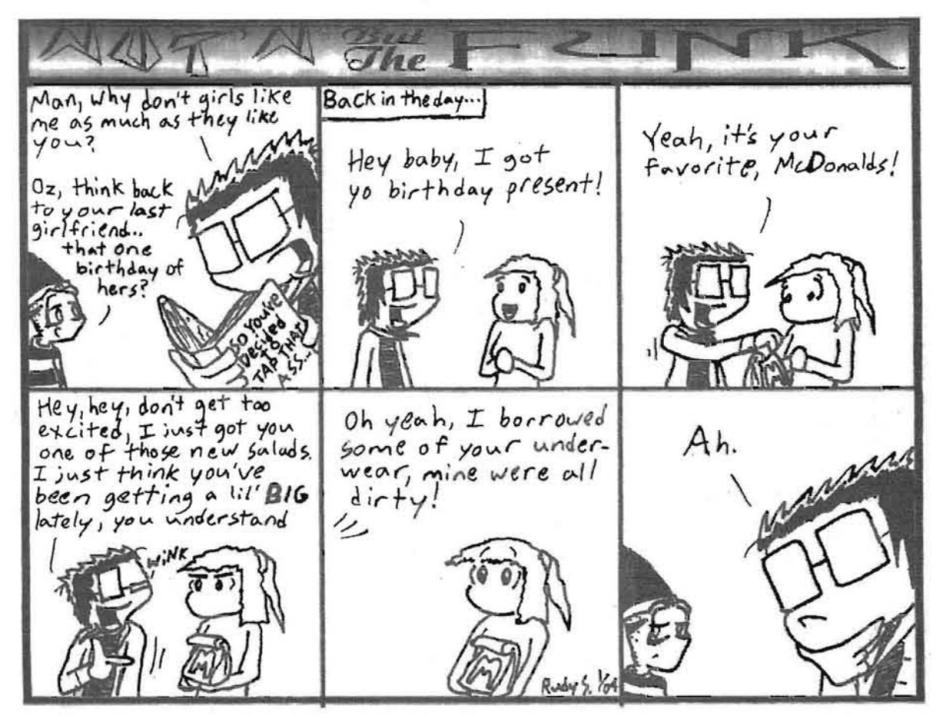
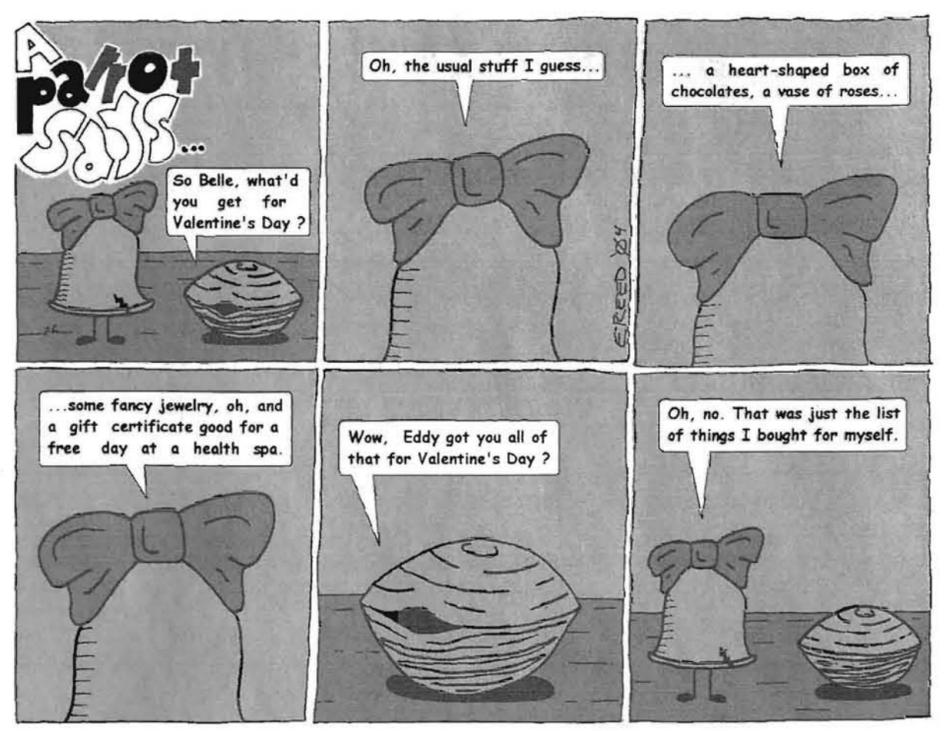
The Riverwomen ran the last play and prevailed on a last second shot by Birkey to win the game 59-57. The Riverwomen outscored the Norse by 11 points, shot an amazing 64% and held the Norse to only 24 points during the second half of the game.

Buchanan was very pumped about the win.

"It was a great game. It was a big win not only for this year, but also for

the program in general. When you can beat a quality program like that, it makes it even more special. Our defense was phenomenal in the second half; now we just need to take it in, move on, and try our best to go out there and win another one," Buchanan said.

Come and support the Riverwomen on their last home stand of the season as they take on the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Feb. 26 and St. Joseph's Feb. 28.



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Look for the annual April Fools issue in April (or March 32!)

This annual satire issue is one of our most popular issues of the year. Last year's leaves some pretty big shoes to fill be we feel we are up to the task.... Just thought we'd give you a heads up.

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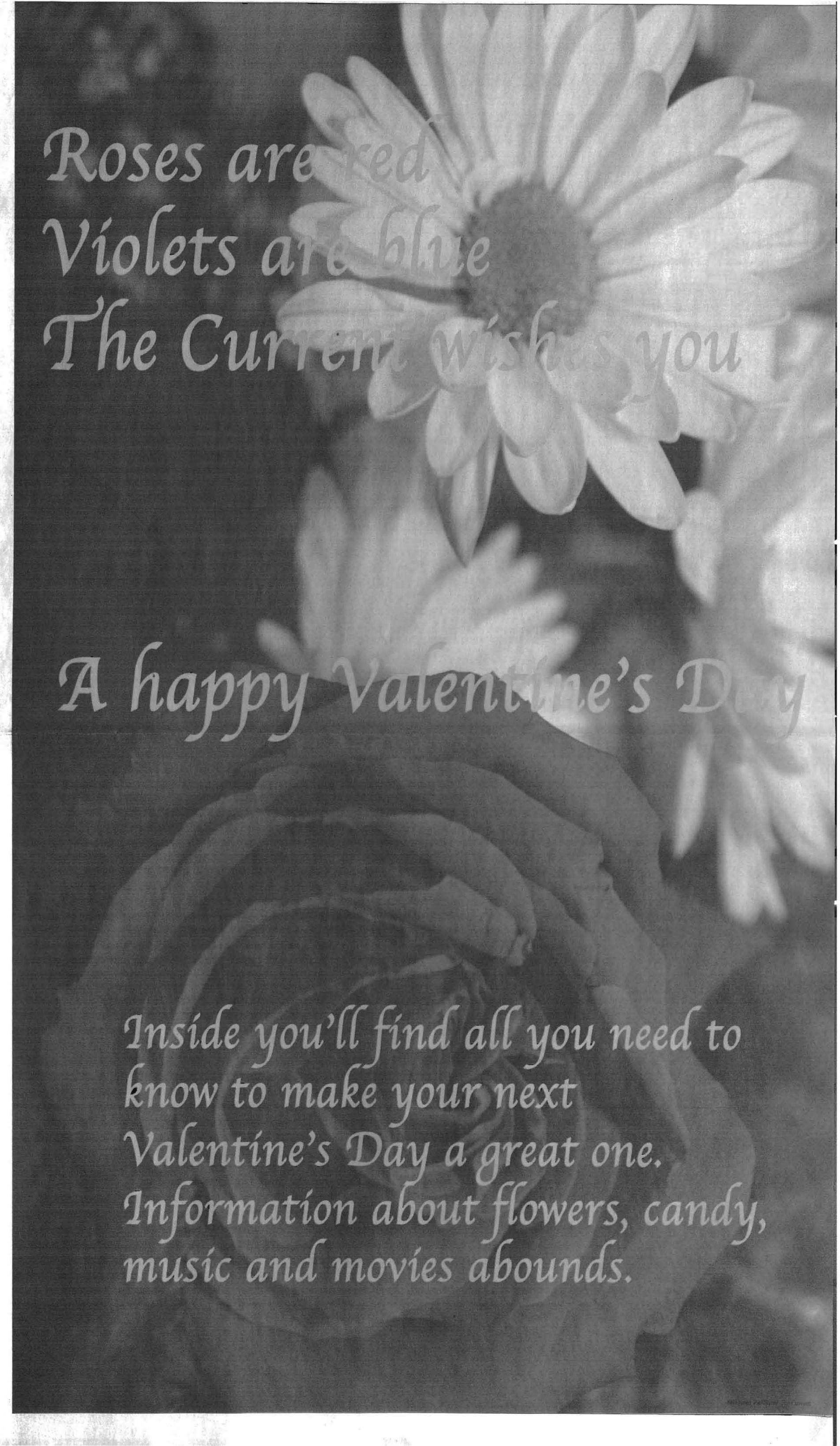
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Roses are red
Violets are blue
The Current wishes you

A happy Valentine's Day

Inside you'll find all you need to
know to make your next
Valentine's Day a great one.
Information about flowers, candy,
music and movies abounds.

A girl's best friend

Valentine's Day presents perfect diamond-giving occasion

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day presents the perfect occasion for diamond-giving, whether in a heart-shaped pendant, simple earrings, a diamond solitaire engagement ring or some other sparkling item.

A diamond may be a girl's best friend, but diamond-purchasing may not be a pleasant task. Unfortunately, consumers are often intimidated by jewelry stores because of the complex world of gem lingo and fast-talking jewelers.

Michael Daniels, senior, mass communication, purchased a 1.5 carat diamond solitaire engagement ring from Zales for his now wife for Valentine's Day six years ago.

"There was a lot of information," he said. "The jewelers went over all the factors that affect a diamond's price. We really got an education. They even brought out charts."

The factors that affect the price of a diamond are complex. The typical buyer can use guidelines called the four Cs to determine the quality of stone that fits into their price range. The four Cs are cut, clarity, color and carat weight.

Cut refers to the diamond's reflective qualities. How a jewelry diamond is cut from a rough diamond (particularly regarding depth) determines the amount of brilliance a diamond will have. Brilliance is the way light is reflected back into the eye, giving a diamond the unique shiny affect. There are six ranges when referring to cut: ideal, premium, very good, good, fair and poor. Usually fair and poor stones are grouped together.

Clarity is a reference to the blemishes or inclusions that a stone has. Diamonds with no or few inclusions and blemishes are more highly valued than those with less clarity, not just because they are more pleasing to the eye, but also because they are rare. Because of the enormous pressure that it takes to form a diamond, and the difficult task of mining and refining diamonds, diamonds with inclusions and blemishes are much more common than diamonds with perfect clarity.

A stone's clarity is measured under a 10X jeweler's microscope. The stone may range from internally flawless, having no blemishes or inclusions, to

imperfect, having blemishes or inclusions that are visible to the naked eye. In a professional jewelry store, a consumer can expect to find diamonds with blemishes that can only be seen under a microscope.

Color refers to the shade of white or yellow that a diamond possesses. While diamonds may appear white to the layman, jewelers consider the most valuable diamonds to be colorless. The

Carat weight is usually the most determining factor in price. A unit of carat weight for precious stones is equal to 200 milligrams. Because the density for diamonds is always the same, weight translates into the size of a stone. While many women say that "size doesn't matter," the size of a stone will be the only thing truly visible to the naked eye.

When deciding what size is appro-

stores may carry diamonds that have been cut on the edge of technology. Newer shapes, such as the trillion and the kite, have more edges than the traditional cut, making the stone more brilliant but also more expensive.

The biggest factor that will affect a purchase is budget. Generally, the rule of thumb for an engagement ring is "two months' salary." Because most people could not do without two months' salary, financing has become an easy solution for large purchases.

Daniels, who financed his entire wedding set, recommends rethinking finance options.

"We paid so much for so long on those rings," he said. "It just seems like a waste. We should have tried lay-away instead."

Pricing guides may also assist in making an economic decision. The Internet provides a variety of charts for how much a consumer should expect to pay for stones in a variety of weights, colors, clarities and cuts.

Brandon Dempsey, sophomore, communication, has never purchased a diamond.

"I wouldn't be intimidated. I would just go to different places," said Dempsey, who recommends competitive and comparison shopping.

Comparison shopping is often a difficult task when searching around for the best diamond deal. Because the ticket price is usually marked up anywhere from 40% to 80%, consumers may be surprised to find several stores offering the same piece of jewelry for drastically different prices. However, a true bargain can often be reached after some verbal negotiation.

"I would make the stores compete for my business," said Dempsey. "They all want to make a sale."

The Internet is a vast resource for the entire jewelry market. Several sites now offer "create-your-ring" programs which allow a customer to try any virtual combination of stones, bands, settings and side-stones. These sites are very helpful for first-time buyers, especially if the stone will be used for a gift.

Daniels, who has been married for six years, offers some advice.

"Take your time and make a selection that you really like," he said. "If you're not comfortable with a piece then don't try even trying it on. You'll probably just end up not wearing it."



Photo courtesy gemworld.com

Valentine's Day is the perfect chance to give the one you love a diamond like the princess-cut, 1.2-carat diamond engagement ring above.

range progresses through the alphabet from D to X, with D being the most colorless and most highly valued diamonds and X being the yellowest and least expensive. Because a colorless diamond, like a clear window, allows more light to pass through it than a tinted diamond, colorless diamonds give off more sparkle.

One factor that can affect color is fluorescence. Fluorescence is a process that gems undergo beneath an ultra-violet light. While this may cause a diamond to appear more colorless beneath most natural and artificial lights, the effect can often look synthetic. Also, if a diamond is set in yellow gold, the diamond may appear more colorless against the setting. If a diamond is set against white gold or platinum, the metal may cause the stone to appear to have more color.

consider the setting and accompanying stones. Buying several smaller stones and placing them together is an economic solution for a tight budget. Because smaller stones are not as rare as large stones, the cost for large stones is exponentially more expensive than the same weight in small stones.

If purchasing a diamond ring, consider the size of the wearer's fingers. The smaller the fingers, the larger the stone will appear, and the larger the fingers, the smaller the stone will appear. Adjusting the width and diameter of a band can help compensate for the size of fingers and the effect they will have on a stone's appearance.

Another simple factor in stones is style, often referred to as shape. The traditional choices are round, emerald, triangle, princess, marquise, radiant, pear, oval and heart. Some jewelry

private, con-

Some movies to put you in the mood

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

When searching for a movie to watch on a quiet night alone with your significant other, try some of the movies that I compiled. Some are romantic comedies, others are classics and there are even a few thrillers to jump the mood.

"Cruel Intentions" is the perfect movie for putting you and your special someone in the mood. Starring Ryan Phillippe, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Reese Witherspoon, these three come together to make quite a sexy fiasco. Gellar challenges her step-brother, Phillippe, to try and have sex with Witherspoon before the end of the summer. The prize for Phillippe, if he succeeds, is Gellar. He takes the dare and ends up with more than meets the eye.

Another great romantic movie is

"Eyes Wide Shut." This movie stars Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in one of their best romantic movies yet. The film features a psychosexual voyage, a lingering dreamscape and a tale of suspense. This one is sure to put you in the mood.

For a new movie to see in theaters, try "50 First Dates." This romantic comedy just went into theaters over the weekend. Drew Barrymore, Adam Sandler and Rob Schneider star in this film. Barrymore loses her short-term memory after she is in a car accident. She is not able to remember Sandler each morning and he tries to make her fall for him every day. This love affair is perfect for just about anyone.

Another great romantic comedy is "Just Married." Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy are hilarious in this film. The two decide to get married after love at first sight. The only problem is that they are from two com-

pletely different backgrounds. While on their honeymoon, they realize how different they really are and have a very interesting excursion. Perfect for anyone who loves a laugh, along with some romance, it is open for just about any age.

For a few laughs, as well as some romance, try "40 Days and 40 Nights." Josh Hartnett and Shannyn Sossamon star in this romantic comedy. Hartnett decides to take on a bet to go 40 days without having sex, after his girlfriend breaks up with him. He never thought that he would meet someone like Sossamon, who would challenge his inhibitions. None of his friends believed that he could do it and bets are placed on how long it will take him to give in.

"Unfaithful" is another great movie to get you in the mood. This thriller stars Diane Lane, Richard Gere and Olivier Martinez. Lane and Gere are married and live together

with their children. When their marriage goes sour, Lane runs into a book collector, Martinez, and falls for him. Gere soon becomes suspicious of the affair and the thrills continue throughout the whole movie.

An old favorite that is super-sexy is "Dirty Dancing." Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey are superb in this romantic movie. Swayze never thought that he would end up falling for Grey, until they began dancing together. After Swayze's dance partner is unable to perform, Grey jumps in and takes her place. Plenty of romance fills up this movie. Grey just has to overcome her overprotective father. This film is perfect for a dance lover, or anyone who likes romance.

There are many different types of movies to put you in the mood. Any of these choices are perfect for a great night in front of the television. So, cuddle up with your loved one and pop one of these in.



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Flowers are an endearing sign of affection, especially around Valentine's Day.

Flowers: the perfect way to say 'I love you'

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

When shopping for Valentine's Day flowers, you may have been clueless to the real meaning of what you were buying. Giving a man or woman the wrong impression could have been detrimental to the holiday.

The most popular form of flowers for Valentine's Day is the rose. Although the prices skyrocketed for the holiday, many men (and some women) still emptied their pockets to buy roses. A dozen roses ran you around \$40 and a single rose ran around \$4. The all-so-common single rose symbolizes simplicity.

A red rose stands for love, respect and courage. This is the most common flower for men who are trying to tell their interest that the relationship is more than just friends. Another common rose is the yellow rose. This color symbolizes joy, gladness and freedom. Yellow is often a color that you would give to a friend.

Pink or peach roses mean gratitude, appreciation, admiration or sympathy. This flower can be given to just about anyone for any occasion. Another popular rose color is white. This rose symbolizes reverence, purity or secrecy. This color is also very universal and given to just about anyone for any reason.

For a more exotic rose try the color orange. The color is out of the ordinary and symbolizes enthusiasm and desire. Either way, you cannot go wrong with this color because the meaning is unanimous.

If you like to go out of the ordinary and give flowers besides roses, you could try tulips. They are in season this time of the year and are inexpensive. A bouquet will normally cost you around \$5. The tulip denotes perfect love and luck. This bouquet is perfect for anyone from your grandmother to your wife.

Another great inexpensive flower is the daisy. The daisy is a symbol of loyal love and innocence. A bouquet is cheap and very cute when mixed with other flowers or by itself. Another nice flower is the chrysanthemum. They are also cheap and symbolize that you are a wonderful friend.

A popular flower year-round is the carnation. They are probably the most inexpensive flower to buy alone. As the flower of fascination, the carnation is great for anyone and comes in many colors. The pink carnation means you are always on someone's mind. Red stands for passion.

White carnations signify sweet, lovely and good luck. They are great mixed with other colors or by themselves. Another carnation is the striped, which means refusal. They are very pretty, if you are looking to give the striped for another reason.

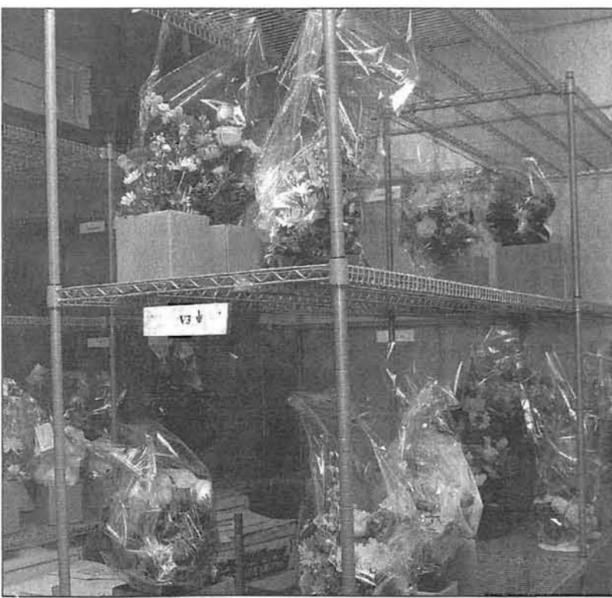
Irises are very pretty flowers. They look great mixed with daisies or tulips. Standing for wisdom, faith and hope, their symbol is perfect for anyone on your gift list. Also great flowers are lilies. The white lily symbolizes purity and sweetness. Representing falsehood and flirtation is the yellow lily.

Mixed bouquets also make great gifts for Valentine's Day or any day. They are usually inexpensive and colored to match with the season. Various combinations of flowers are included in these bouquets and are nice for anyone.

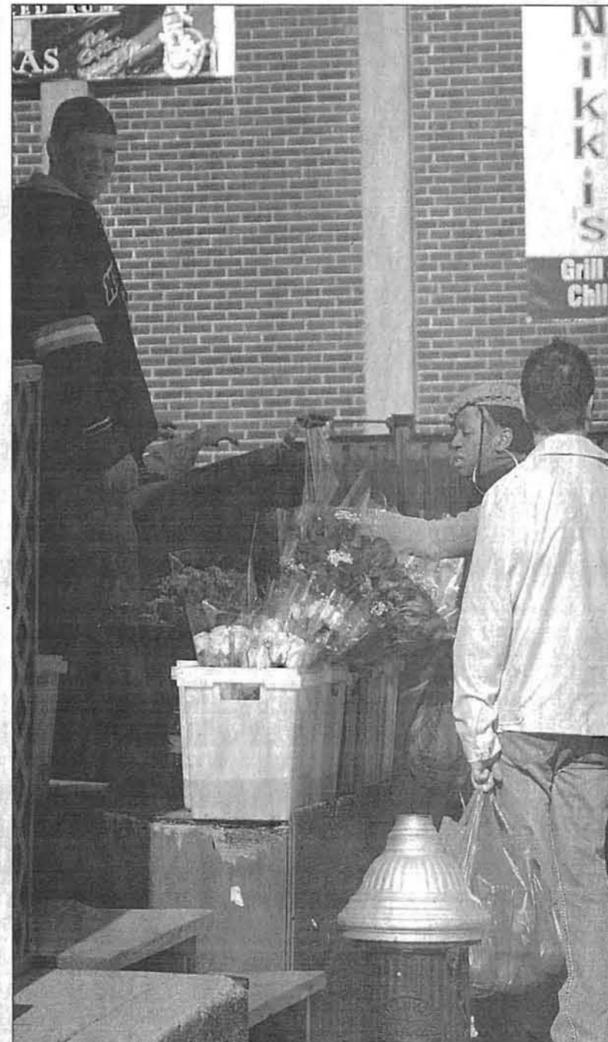
To add something extra to your flowers, try a balloon. Helium-filled Mylar balloons go with any flowers. They are available for almost any holiday and occasion. Balloons are also good for both men and women.

When shopping for V-Day flowers or flowers for any occasion, look at the meaning and let your special someone know what you were thinking when you picked a particular flower. They are great for all occasions and even men do not mind receiving a rose every once in a while.

Flowers galore



Walter Knoll florists is one of St. Louis' most popular flower shops. Here, Karen Conner creates a flower arrangement at Walter Knoll Florist located at 2765 LaSalle St. in the "Flower Row," St. Louis City.



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Flower vendors, like the Soulard Market, do booming business around this time of year. Roses, carnations, daisies and orchids are all very popular Valentine's Day flowers.

All you need is love... all around the world

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

In America, Feb. 14 has evolved into a combination of good intentions and a Hallmark ploy for sales. This holiday of love has not completely dissolved into a commercial affair. People around the globe celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways.

Americans traditionally celebrate the holiday with the exchange of cards, candy and overpriced flowers. Children bring cards to school, decorate bags and hand out sweets. The "anti-Valentine" trend has also gained popularity.

"When I was an RA, all the girls on my floor without dates would make reservations at a really nice restaurant," said Amber Monroe, assistant director of Residential Life. "We'd all dress in black. It was great."

During the Australian gold rush, successful miners were willing to pay large sums of money for lavish Valentine gifts. It was considered special to receive a token of love complete with a taxidermed hummingbird or bird of paradise attached.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in Denmark with the exchange of poems and candy snowdrops. People often send gag-gift cards, called "gaekkebreve."

Romans call Feb. 14 "Lupercalia" (www.stvalentines.net).

Scottish people celebrate Valentine's Day with a festival. An equal number of single men and women write their names on paper. Participants draw a name of the opposite sex and the name on the paper is their valentine. Scottish valentines are also exchanged in as a love-token or true-love-knot.

Maartje van Lakerveld, freshman, undecided, is from Holland. "We celebrate Valentine's Day, but we don't do as much as the United States," she said.

In the past, Italians would celebrate the festival of Wolves on Valentine's Day. The men would playfully "whip"

music (www.romanceclass.com).

Here are a few ways to say "I love you" around the world.

Albanians say "Te dua," "Te dashuroj" and "Ti je zemra ime."

People who speak Arabic express love in different ways. Women say "Ana behibak" to men. Men say "Ana Behibek" to their special women.

Brazilians say, "Eu te amo," pronounced "eu chee amu."

Cambodian lovers say "Kh_nhaum soro_lahn nhee_ah."

The Czech words for "I love you" are "Miluji te."

The Danish say "Jeg elsker dig."

Ethiopian men say "Ewedishalew" to women. Women say "Ewedihalew."

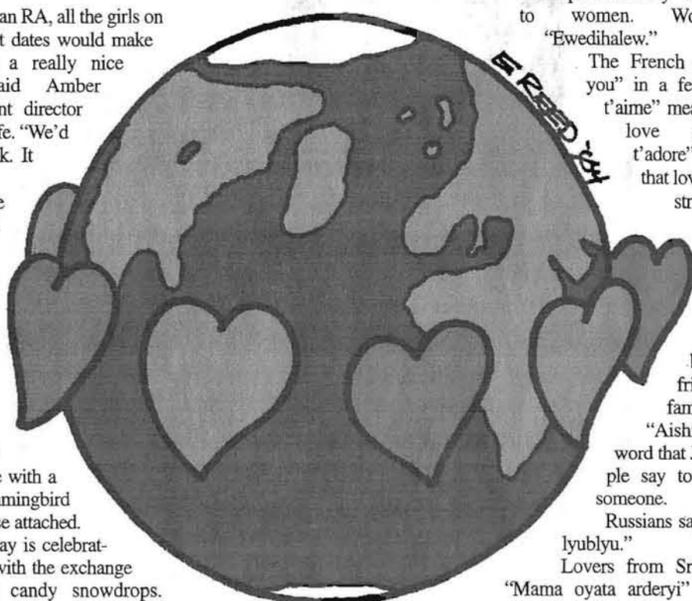
The French say "I love you" in a few ways. "Je t'aime" means simply "I love you." "Je t'adore" is the phrase that lovers say. It is a stronger way of expressing love. "Je t'aime bien" are the words exchanged between friends and family members.

"Aishiteru" is the word that Japanese people say to that special someone.

Russians say "Ya tyebya lyublyu."

Lovers from Sri Lanka say "Mama oyata arderiyi" (www.elect-press.com).

Add a little spice to Valentine's Day by saying "I love you" to that special someone in another language.



Today, couples enjoy quiet togetherness, reading poetry or listening to

Valentine's Day: Not just a Hallmark holiday

BY ANGELA ASHLEY
Staff Writer

On Feb. 14, millions of people around the globe will celebrate Valentine's Day with candy, flowers and other tokens of love. The history behind the holiday has been overrun with sweet confections, and many people are not aware of how Valentine's Day came to be.

First of all, who was Saint Valentine? There are several different legends, but according to the History Channel, Valentine was a priest who lived in Rome during the third century. The ruler at that time, Emperor Claudius II, outlawed marriage for young men. He believed that if the men were single rather than having families, they would make better soldiers. Valentine defied this ruling by continuing to marry couples in secret. Claudius was furious when he found out that Valentine was still performing marriage rites and sentenced him to death.

Who decided to celebrate Valentine's Day in the middle of February? Feb. 14 was officially declared Valentine's Day around the end of the fifth century by Pope Gelasius.

Much like the history of Valentine himself, there are several different legends. One such legend is that the holiday commemorates the death of St. Valentine himself, who was rumored to have

died in the year 270 A.D. According to another legend, for hundreds of years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the ancient Romans celebrated a Pagan holiday that commemorated men's rite of passage. The celebration took place every year on Feb. 15 with a lottery during which

men would draw the names of women who would then be their companions for

chances of fertility. Yet another legend suggests that Feb. 14 was the beginning of mating season for birds, thus enhancing the idea that the day should be one of romance.

Now that the history of the day is clear, where did valentines themselves begin? Before his death, rumor has it that Valentine himself sent the first gesture of love.

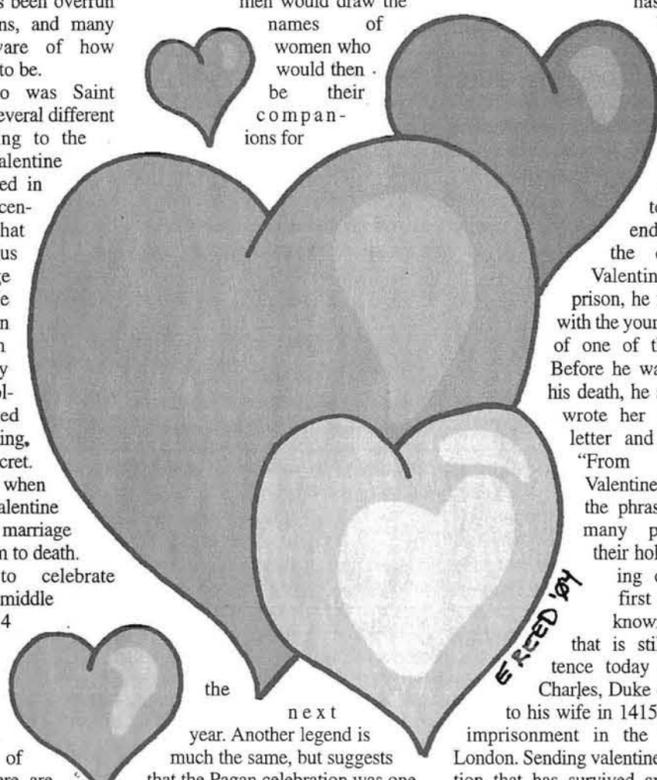
According to the legend, during the days that Valentine was in prison, he fell in love with the young daughter of one of the guards.

Before he was taken to his death, he supposedly wrote her a farewell letter and signed it "From Your Valentine," which is the phrase used by many people on their holiday greeting cards.

The first valentine known to be sent that is still in existence today was from Charles, Duke of Orleans,

to his wife in 1415 during his imprisonment in the Tower of London. Sending valentines is a tradition that has survived and evolved over the years.

According to the Greeting Card Association, more than one billion valentine cards are sent each year.



Valentine's Day: The best day to buy a greeting card

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

February 14 is the day of expressing love, friendship, kindness and even gratitude. To convey these feelings, we do not write letters, we send Valentine cards. Valentine cards are sent so extensively that they come second only to Christmas cards in yearly bulk.

But why? Like most traditions, the Valentine card is another act that we do without even realizing why, or where the tradition came from. Most traditions are informative, but seldom are they as interesting as the history behind the valentine card, and the holiday itself, because to understand the history of the valentine card requires understanding a history of the holiday itself.

At the height of the Roman Empire, there was a festival celebrating Feb. 14 and 15, called the Lupercian Festival that celebrated fer-

soning was that he did not want an army full of soldiers who did not want to leave their wives to go to war. This of course did not stop young couples' desire to get married, so they would go and get married secretly by Bishop Valentine.

When Claudius found out that Bishop Valentine was disobeying his law, he had him arrested and ordered him to be put to death. The origin of the Valentine card stems from this time in jail and may come from several different occurrences. The first and most common origin for the card is that, while in jail, the jailer's daughter visited Bishop Valentine regularly, and they fell in love.

They often wrote love notes to one another, and the final note, on the day of his beheading, the Bishop signed "From Your Valentine". The second origin story is from the same experience, while Valentine was in jail children would stuff notes and flower through his cell window, a practice

England, and it was the love poems sent in February that made the impact on the holiday. Perhaps all of the stories contribute to popularity of the card itself. Regardless of how Valentine's Day cards came about, they have ancient origins, and become particularly popular since the 1700s with the addition of satin and ribbon.

Commercialization of the card appeared in the 1800s, and some of the cards were so intricate they had moving parts and cost more than ten dollars, a great deal of money in that time period. Today Valentine's Day Cards have been sent and received all over the world.

Ericson Harijadi, an Indonesian MBA student here at UM-St. Louis says, "In Indonesia Valentine's Day is important primarily for couples. I have sent Valentine's Cards before, but only to my girlfriends."

Here in the states, the sending of Valentine's Day cards has become a little bit more liberal, and we can all remember giving out cards in elementary school.

"When I was in elementary school we would make Valentine's Day boxes and pass out Valentine's Day cards to everyone in class, then celebrate with a class party,"

Robyn Forster, UM-St. Louis student majoring in



Photo illustration by Rudy Scroggins/The Current

tility. During this festival, a young man would draw the name of a young woman, and the two would pair off as mates.

Then in 270 A.D. the Roman Emperor Claudius, a warrior and psychopath, outlawed marriage. His rea-

that continued even after his death. The third possibility is altogether unrelated.

A series of letters and love poems were sent from a French Count to his wife while he was imprisoned in

International Business said.

The great thing about the Valentine's Day card is that it does not matter whether or not you live across the country or even across the world; the symbol of love is the same.

Valentine's Day can bring out the best and worst in love

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day has been widely stereotyped as the one special day to express your true feelings to someone else. It is the lone day on our calendars that we have set aside out of the year to express our utmost passions and desires to one another. Many people get to experience this joy and excitement, but for some people it can also be seen as the one day that you are only wishing you had someone to whom you could tell your feelings. Either way you want to look at it, Valentine's Day can bring out the best and the worst in relationships.

Most times when you think of Valentine's Day, you tend to think of romance and special memories. People often associate roses, hearts, weddings and true love to Valentine's Day. We have also always been led to believe that this is the happiest day of the year for people who are involved with a significant other, but in all reality, most of the time the romances might not be as clear as we think.

Unbelievably there are still a lot of bad things that happen to people on the day of love. If you do not believe it, here are some of the examples that I have gotten from students around campus.

Katie Long is a freshman here at UM-St. Louis and she had an interesting story:

"My friend's boyfriend came to her and told her on the night before Valentine's Day that he was going to

have a baby with somebody else."

Another case involved someone whom UM-St. Louis student Shae Williams knew.

"One of my friends got ditched at the last minute by a lame excuse from her ex-boyfriend. Well, later on that night when we were all out

“
My friend's boyfriend came to her and told her on the night before Valentine's Day that he was going to have a baby with someone else.
”

- Katie Long, freshman, UM-St. Louis

together we saw him on a date with another girl. How's that for irony?"

Along with these stories there are several other bad-case scenarios that can happen on Valentine's Day such as: having no date, getting bad chocolate, being stood up, being the third wheel on a date with your friend and their significant other, going out on a date where the other person talks about himself or herself all night, having a blind date on

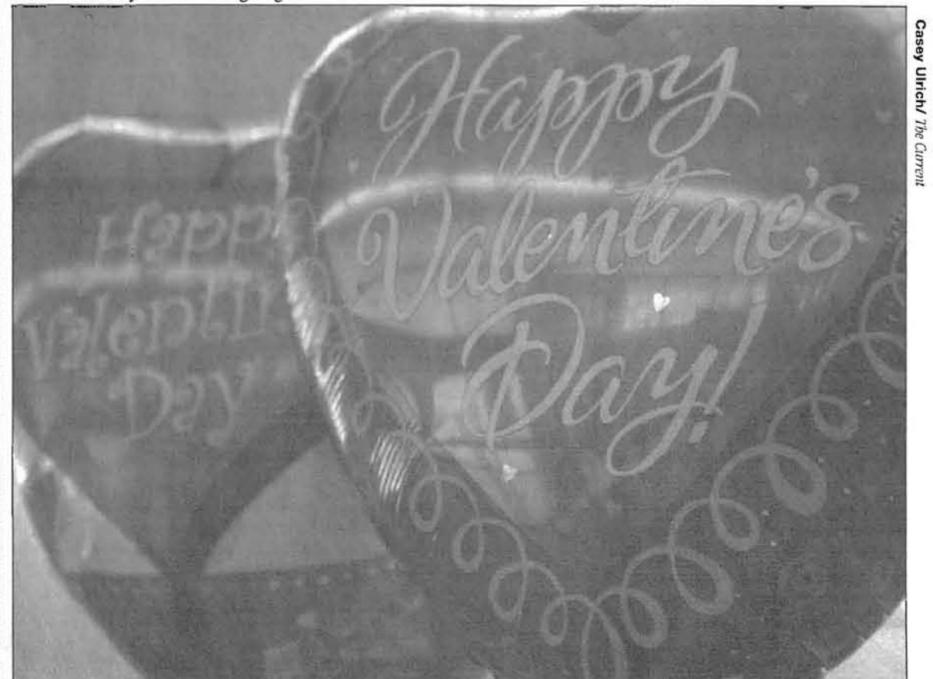
Valentine's night, and then there is the person who says absolutely nothing to you on your night out.

So you see, it is not always true that Valentine's Day is the day of love. In most cases, it is exactly the opposite of what we all perceive it to be. Many things are going wrong and we do not even know it. They could even happen to you. So until next Valentine's Day, try to be sure to let whoever you are with know how you feel about them on a daily basis. You do not have to say it aloud. Show your true feelings creatively and thoughtfully in other ways. This will help you to avoid some of these bad situations on Valentine's Day.



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity for men and women to buy gifts for their sweethearts.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Happy Valentines Day from The Current
To read the above message, please go get a magnifying glass.

Current greeting cards

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Happy Valentine's Day!