



See page 10

The latest in Riverwomen Basketball

Feelings run high over SGA Iraq bill

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

At the Student Government Association meeting on Feb. 13, a decision was still not made regarding the proposed Iraq resolution. Instead, the proposition was once again tabled.

A month ago, at the January SGA meeting, a resolution was proposed to the assembly pertaining to the troops in Iraq. In the resolution, former SGA chairman David Dodd's name is mentioned. Many people have contemplated whether a specific name should be included in the resolution.

"The bottom part about David is stating what group he is from and his accomplishment as being a recognized member of SGA. That is the part where all of the controversy is coming from," Kristy Runde, SGA president, said.

Dodd was shipped off to Iraq in December. Although he did a lot for the campus, many people argue that it just would not be fair to point out a certain name in the resolution. The reason being that there are many other people from the University who have also been called to active duty.

Part of the problem with singling out Dodd is that not everyone on campus was familiar with him. People who are involved with SGA and come to the meetings know his face, while the majority of the campus may not be familiar with him.

"We have 16,000 people and only like, 100 people come to those SGA meetings, and people are starting to realize that we have 16,000 people here and how many actually know David?" Runde said.

The main thing that the resolution is trying to accomplish is recognizing all of the people from the University who have gone to war. The resolution does not go into great detail, but just recognizes the soldiers. Runde said she does not think that any other universities in the UM System have proposed anything of this sort.

Names are usually not included in resolutions for several reasons. Members of SGA at other campuses have also agreed with this. They usually leave names out of resolutions, unless it solely targets one person.

"When you put someone's name in a resolution, that is giving that person recognition above everyone else," Runde said.

After a resolution is passed, it will stay in the SGA of UM-St. Louis. If it concerns the other campuses enough, they may pass something similar. When all four of the campuses in the UM System pass the same resolution, SGA usually takes it to the Board of Curators to try and pass the resolution system-wide. This is how the sexual orientation clause was added last year.

The decree was initially written up in December by Beth Grindstaff, SGA vice president, and first brought to the assembly in January.

see IRAQ RESOLUTION, page 7

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Student Senators come out of the shadows for meet and greet

SSO holds informal social to let students meet the University Assembly's student representatives

BY AMANDA JENNINGS
Staff Writer

Many students on campus do not know much about the Student Senate Organization. Last Thursday, a gathering was held in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center to allow students to meet the senators and find out more about what SSO is.

The event allowed for members of SSO to meet and mingle with people. They were able to inform the student body of what exactly they do around campus.

"The Student Senate is an organization building itself back up," Kristin Williams, senate chair, said. "We want people to know about us and what we do. We are also trying to recruit members. We plan to hold a



Mike Sherwin/The Current

lot more informal social events next year."

The evening started with music and games, and there was an impromptu piano performance by Chancellor Thomas George after his

short speech. Many students showed up, including Laurie Bainter, sophomore, international business.

"I thought it would be fun to come and mingle," Bainter said. "I know many of the senators, but not in that

capacity."

Around 30 students drifted in and out of socializing with the senators, playing foosball, talking and playing pool.

see STUDENT SENATORS, page 3

Student senators Maria Curtis (center) and Kit Blanke hang out with students and staff during "Meet the Senators" on Friday night. The Student Senate Organization has 13 members, who represent the student body in the Student Assembly.

It's 'Back to the Future' for Homecoming

Week of events to include Fat Tuesday Parade in front of the MSC, Big Man on Campus contest

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

On Friday, Feb. 27, UM-St. Louis students will dress up to go "Back to the Future." The 2004 Homecoming theme deals with going back in time, and for a week, students, faculty, staff and alumni will participate in a variety of spirit activities.

"We chose 'Back to the Future' because it's UM-SL's fortieth anniversary. We wanted to do something with the decades to celebrate 40 years," said Martha DeBuhr, member of the Homecoming Committee.

The week will begin on Monday, Feb. 23 with Banner Wars, a blood drive and Big Man on Campus penny wars. Each participating student organization will create a banner to hang in the Millennium Student Center rotunda and bridge. Penny wars will take place in The Nosh from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Each Big Man candidate will have a jar, and students can cast votes by filling it with pennies. Those against a candidate can deposit silver change, which will count negatively toward their total penny score. The blood drive will take place from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m., and will be held on the third floor of the MSC. Voting for Homecoming King and Queen will also begin on Monday. Students can vote at http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/osl/homecoming.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 will be marked with a parade in the MSC gravel lot at 1 p.m. Student organizations will compete for first place by showing off their respective floats. Penny wars will continue again in The Nosh from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Wednesday is Recreational Sports day. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., students can participate in a basketball free-throw contest and a football passing challenge. These events will take place in The Nosh. Big Man on Campus will also be elected on Wednesday. The competition will take place in the Pilot House at 1 p.m. Scores from the penny wars will be announced, and candidates will answer questions and perform talents. At 7 p.m., students can gather around a bonfire in the MSC gravel lot.

see HOMECOMING, page 7

China Night lights up the Pilot House



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Performers from the St. Louis Modern Chinese School entertain the crowd at China Night on Saturday in the Pilot House. China Night, held by the Chinese Students Association - Mainland, featured two dance performances, a Tai Chi demonstration by UM-St. Louis staff member Sam Lin, several activities with audience participation, and a massive buffet table with almost 20 Chinese entrees and appetizers. Approximately 150 people attended the annual event.

National teleconference held on campus

"The New Student Politics" teleconference linked universities across the country, looking at civic engagement

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, students and faculty gathered in the J.C. Penney Center to take part in a national teleconference. It aired from Michigan State University where a panel of professionals, faculty, staff and students met to discuss student civic engagement.

Specifically, it focused on "The New Student Politics" and a university's responsibility to graduate students who understand what it means to live in a democracy.

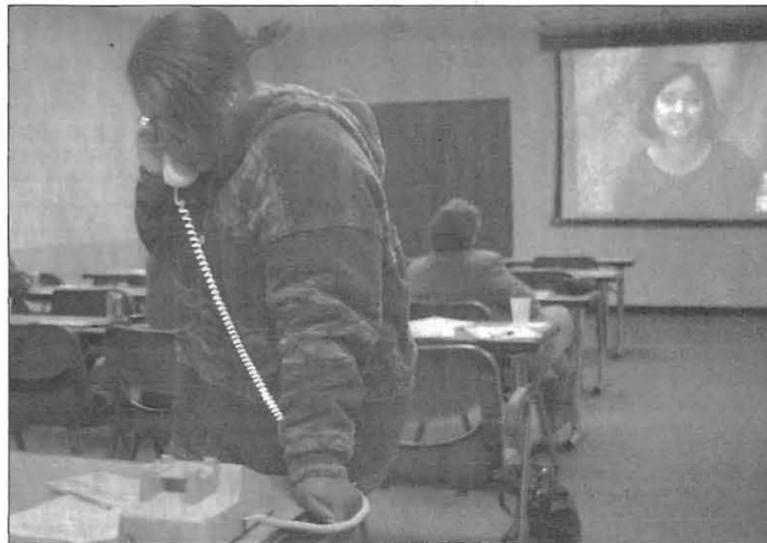
In March 2001, a group of students from 27 universities nationwide assembled at the Johnson Foundation in Racine, Wis. The event was the Wingspread Summit on Student Civic Engagement.

Students responded to the notion that young people are not politically and civically involved. What they came up with was "The New Student Politics: The Wingspread Statement on Student Civic Engagement."

The students who wrote the statement claimed that young people are in fact involved in politics, just in a new form. Their politics are centered on civic engagement. They focus on a service-oriented, non-hierarchical form of politics motivated by individual interests. It is more so a case concerning the social responsibility of the individual than a broad notion of civic obligation.

The statement claims that they view themselves as misunderstood by people who measure student involvement in conventional standards that do not necessarily coalesce with the student's conception of democratic participation.

Panel member Sarah Long, who participated in the Wingspread Summit and authored the statement, related a story about her early work in the health field. She was involved



Mike Sherwin/The Current

in teaching people about healthcare techniques for lead poisoning from paint chips. Yet, she still wound up seeing the same people on a regular basis.

Long's involvement soon

branched out into larger problems, such as dealing with regulations concerning the landlords, building standards and so on.

By exposing themselves to these communities, students wind up

exposing themselves to more global issues.

see TELECONFERENCE, page 3

Phyllis Jourdan, senior, social work, calls in a question for the panelists of "The New Student Politics" teleconference. The conference was broadcast in real time from Michigan State University to schools around the United States. The UM-St. Louis group met in the J.C. Penney Building.

Bullet In Board

Put it on the Board:
 The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least 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, MSExcel Basics, MS PowerPoint Basics, UNIX/Mac Basics, C 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. Works are due in the Center for Int'l Studies, SSB 366, by Monday, March 29.

Thru Feb 27 Nat'l Eating Disorders Awareness Week

February 22-27 is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. The theme this year is "Get Real," intended to highlight the importance of getting real expectations, real role models, real information, real help. Stop by our info table in the MSC from 11-2 or our office in 126 MSC and ask questions, pick up info, or take a quick screening if you think you might need help.

Thru Feb 28 Homecoming Week

The UMSL Chapter of the National Honorary Broadcasting Society (NBS), Alpha Epsilon Rho, will sponsor a panel on "Women in Communication" today from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in MSC 315. Homecoming Week begins today and runs through Feb. 28. Many activities are planned, including a parade, bonfire, and dance. For a complete list of activities, visit <http://fusion.umsl.edu/studentactivities/homecoming>.

Mon 23 "Women in Communication" panel

The UMSL chapter of the National Honorary Broadcasting Society (NBS), Alpha Epsilon Rho, will sponsor a panel on "Women in Communication" today from 7:30-9 p.m. in MSC 315.

23 "Lewis and Clark Meet Dred Scott" discussion

Monday Noon Series presents Kenneth Winn, state archivist of Missouri and deputy secretary of state for records services, who will discuss "Lewis and Clark Meet Dred Scott: The St. Louis Circuit Court Project" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Mon 23 (cont.) Professor discusses adolescent disorders

Elaine F. Walker, the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Emory University in Atlanta, will discuss "Adolescent Neurodevelopment and Risk for Schizophrenia" at 12:30 p.m. in 121 Research Bldg. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5393 for more information.

23 Chemistry/biochemistry visiting speaker

Sonya Franklin, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, will discuss "Chimeric Metallopeptide Nucleases: The HTH as a Scaffold for De Novo Design" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5311 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/chemistry> for more information.

Tues 24 Scholar discusses human rights

Jamie Metz, adjunct professor of law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and former senior advisor for information technology at the U.S. Dept. of State, will discuss "From Cambodia to Kosovo and Iraq: How Can We Enforce Human Rights Law?" at 7 p.m. in Century Room C in the MSC. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more info, call 7299.

Wed 25 UMSL prof. discusses changes in S. Africa

Andre Odendaal, visiting professor of history at UMSL, will discuss "Robben Island and Public History in a Changing South Africa" at 12:30 p.m. in Century Room C in the MSC. The event is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

Thurs 26 Middle school students perform at PAC

The E. Desmond Lee Middle School Music Festival will take place at 7 p.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. About 300 students from more than 15 St. Louis-area middle schools will participate. The concert is free and open to the public. For more info, call 5365.

Sun 29 French Film Festival at Gallery 210

"L'Homme du Train" will screen at 1 p.m. in the auditorium 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 16 - Stolen Auto - Mark Twain Dr.
 A student parked his car in Parking Lot M at the Mark Twain Gym around 12:30 p.m. and when returned at 1:15 p.m. he noticed that his car was gone. He stated that he apparently left his keys in the ignition and his car doors unlocked.

February 17 - Harassment - Millennium Student Center
 A student reported three male subjects were harassing him because he was talking to a female.

February 5 - Stealing under \$500 - Unknown location

A male student reported that some time between February 9 and February 18, some unknown person(s) had cut the tabs from both of his license plates. He is unsure of where this occurred because he has been all over the St. Louis area.

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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Corrections

In issue 1110 of The Current, the "Our Opinion" section of Op/Ed mistakenly referred to vice chancellor of student affairs Curt Coonrod as a candidate for the Provost position. The Current apologizes for this oversight.

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STUDENT SENATORS, from page 1

There was food and a cash bar for those over 21, which was open through most of the night. "This is a better turnout than we expected," Williams said.

George went over the University's Action Plan, which has five goals, most aimed to be met by 2008: "Enhancing the quality of undergraduate and graduate education, recruiting and retaining an outstanding and diverse undergraduate student body, building the quality of research, artistic and creative activities and graduate programs, enhancing civic engagements for economic and social benefit of the region, and increasing the financial base and improving the stewardship of resources."

The Action Plan also includes a vision and mission. More information on the University's Action Plan can be found at <http://www.umsl.edu/chancellor/plan/index.html>.

SSO normally meets on the second Friday of each month. They are the students' voice in the main governing body of the University, the University Assembly.

"The Student Senate is the student members of the University Assembly which meets once a month," Joe Garavaglia, junior, accounting, said. "There are 13 students, elected each spring."

The purpose of the Student Senators Organization is to "provide a cohesive platform from which to advocate the interests and concerns of the Student Senators in the activities and affairs of the University Senate." Those interested can feel free to contact SSO for further information.



ABOVE: Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Student Senate Organization members John Kyukendall (left) and Ross North play a game of pool with Derek Fitch, freshman, engineering, on Friday night at the "Meet the Senators" event in the Pilot House. All three are Pi Kappa Alpha members.

RIGHT:

After giving a brief summary of the University's Action Plan, chancellor Thomas George plays a quick number for students on the piano.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

TELECONFERENCE, from page 1



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Students at the national teleconference "The New Student Politics" on Thursday are silhouetted by the projector screen, which featured student panelist Emily Yee from the University of California - San Diego. Yee said that she finds most students feel detached from the political system, and that universities should offer more chances for students to become civically engaged.

As universities support and encourage student participation in service learning, they wind up exposing them to these broader issues and giving them a better understanding of what it means to be a democratic citizen. Everyone agreed that people should not just stand by and do nothing.

"We have to play the hand we're dealt; dropping out isn't an option," Fabricio Rodriguez, executive director of Philadelphia Jobs with Justice, said.

John Keiser, President of Southwest Missouri State University, argued that in order to get young people voting, you have to put something

at stake. If they stand to lose something by not voting, there is a much greater possibility that they will participate.

This notion of civic involvement is receiving attention nationwide as universities ask what their role and responsibility is. Peggy Cohen, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, said that they are "concluding that civic education is a value of living in a democracy and a responsibility of its educational institutions."

Cohen, who hosted the event on campus, hopes that this will become an ongoing endeavor here. She is

excited about the things UM-St. Louis students do to be involved, as well as the many projects planned and would like to see that service acknowledged and encouraged among the rest of the student body.

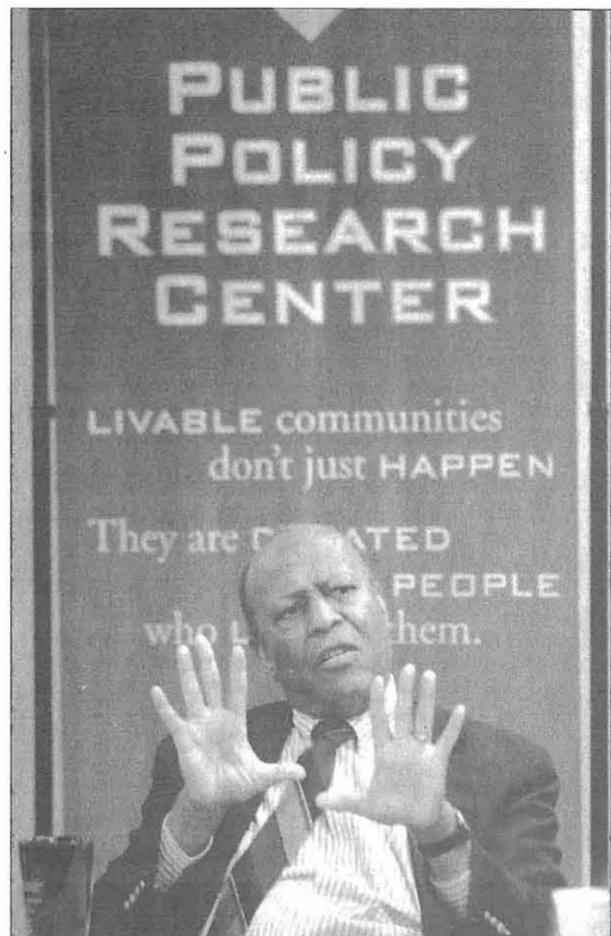
"It's a huge responsibility because we are a public institution and our society needs the help of educated students," Cohen said.

As the statement on student civic engagement reads: "We view democracy as richly participatory rather than procedural; we see the work of negotiating difference as the work of democracy."

PPRC hosts Harvard Scholar

Charles V. Willie discusses the Brown v. Board decision on its 50th anniversary

RIGHT: Charles V. Willie, Professor Emeritus of education at Harvard University, speaks on "Brown v. the Board 50th Anniversary: The Legacy of Desegregation" in SSB on Thursday afternoon. Willie said that since the Brown decision, high school graduation rates have increased threefold among African-Americans.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current



LEFT:

About 25 people attended the lecture "Brown v. the Board 50th Anniversary: The Legacy of Desegregation" given by Harvard professor Charles V. Willie in SSB on Thursday afternoon. The Public Policy Research Center sponsored Willie's visit to campus.

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Monday, Feb. 23 --- Friday, Feb. 27

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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 27TH!

OPINION

OUR OPINION

Enough bickering already... let David Dodd's name stay in resolution

To support the troops or not to support the troops, that is the question. Or is it? Debate continues, once again, concerning a proposed resolution to support the troops serving in Iraq at the Student Government Association meeting.

The final paragraph of the resolution is the root of the problem as it singles out former SGA assembly chair David Dodd. While Dodd has been a dedicated student on campus, numerous students feel it would be unfair to leave out the names of all the UM-St. Louis students currently stationed in Iraq.

Although many students and relatives of students currently serve overseas, connecting Dodd's face with the need for

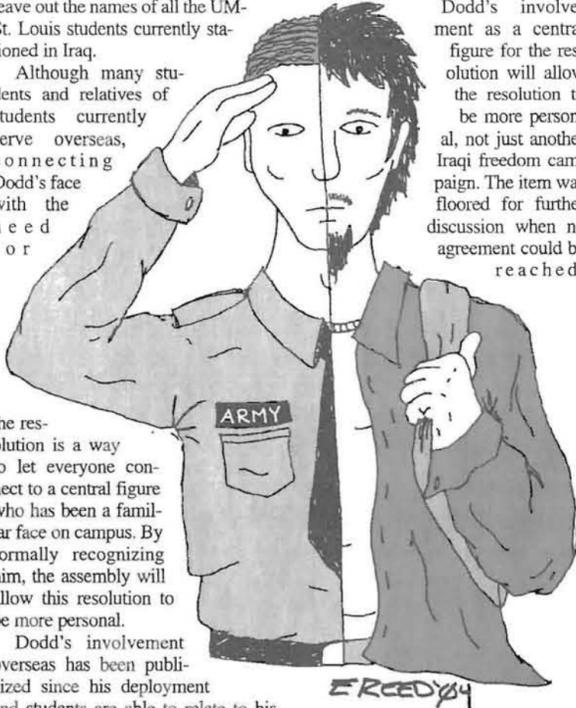
the resolution is a way to let everyone connect to a central figure who has been a familiar face on campus. By formally recognizing him, the assembly will allow this resolution to be more personal.

Dodd's involvement overseas has been publicized since his deployment and students are able to relate to his situation whether they agree with the war in Iraq or not. His connection with the campus has allowed awareness to spread of the intensity of the battle. Everyone knows of or is related to someone who is overseas fighting in

Iraq. By including Dodd's name in the resolution, students can connect with the impact the war has on his life. Many students and members of SGA feel that everyone involved in the war should be recognized. However, those whom are affected by the war range from the person you sit next to in class who hasn't been there the past month to the teacher who hasn't received a phone call from her son overseas recently.

Dodd's involvement as a central figure for the resolution will allow the resolution to be more personal, not just another Iraqi freedom campaign. The item was floored for further discussion when no agreement could be reached.

Although many people involved in the war are connected to UM-St. Louis, Dodd's affiliation as a central figure will connect those overseas directly to the students through one soldier's struggle.



Reliving the past

St. Louis could be great again

This past week, I went to New York City for an American Democracy Project convention at the New York Times. I was only there for about 30 hours, but I was a half block away from Times Square, so I got to see quite a bit. What I saw made me sad. Not for New York. New York is the new Rome and has nothing to complain about. It made me sad for St. Louis.



JASON GRANGER Editor-in-Chief

St. Louis was once one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the country, even the world. It was supposed to be the New York west of the Mississippi. In 1904, it was the center of attention with the World's Fair and the Olympics. Now, St. Louis is an also ran. Its population dropped about 300,000 people in 30 years. Its infrastructure collapsed and it developed a reputation of being a city fraught with crime.

I looked around New York and saw what St. Louis was supposed to be. I saw the culture (I was in the heart of "Theatre Row"), I saw the night life, I saw the people having fun all around me. Even the street vendors were nice (I got my mother, sister and fiancé very nice gifts for a combined total of \$17). I saw the skyscrapers and the landmarks. I drove through Central Park and went past the Dakota Apartment Building (where John Lennon was shot and killed).

Now I am back in St. Louis and I cannot help but think about what this city should have been, and, even more amazingly, still could be. What do I

mean by that? St. Louis has incredible potential to become a major force once again. First of all, St. Louis has three major sports teams, the baseball Cardinals, the hockey Blues and the football Rams. Two of those teams (Rams and Blues) have state-of-the-art facilities and the Cardinals are in the process of constructing one. That should help revitalize downtown, but it needs more than just that. St. Louis could develop a downtown area very similar to that of Washington, D.C. The lofts there are incredible, as could lofts be in St. Louis, with some effort. The city needs to offer tax incentives to builders and revitalizers to come into the city and start making the city beautiful again.

St. Louis boasts a few areas that could be used to focus nightlife as well. Soulard, The Loop and LaClede's Landing all boast vigorous nightlife, but nowhere else in the city is like those places. When you think that New York has Times Square, the West Village, the Upper West Side, the Lower East Side and much more, you can see how St. Louis has work to do. Now, I understand that New York has 8 million people in residence, but when you stop to think that St. Louis was supposed to be like that, then you can understand why there is so much work that needs to be done. Revitalizing St. Louis will lead to more income for the city, more jobs for the residents and an increase of pride in residents. So, it is time to get to work. Where is my hammer?

The issue

The Student Government Association has dragged its feet long enough on the troop support resolution. Let David Dodd's name stay. There is no harm in it one way or the other.

We suggest

Get over it and allow David Dodd's name to be in the resolution. He puts a public face to the soldiers from UM-St. Louis.

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.

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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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Granger shouldn't proselytize

Jason,

I am very disturbed to see you taking on a proselytizing tone in your editorials. I realize you are trying to provoke interest, and [sic], but I question your judgement this week. You write that the controversy surrounding Mel Gibson's film *The Passion* is due to a bunch of Jewish namby-pambys with "their panties in a bunch." That is more than a horridly simplistic exaggeration, it is a crude and offensive tropism which in seeking to demean (Jewish) others, serves

only to reflect badly on yourself. The controversy of Gibson's film is not saying he has no right to interpret the Bible cinematically - though this is of course exactly what his film's defenders have said of previous films, such as

Martin Scorsese's beautiful epic *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Gibson belongs to a fringe Catholic congregation that disputes, among other things, the modern Catholic Church's public atonements for its previous anti-Semitism. Whether you

hate Jews or not is really not the issue. The issue is that people who have seen the film, and have gone public with their views that it presents fuel for the fire of Jew-hatred, are ridiculed by your ignorant editorial. You tell us that the film is nothing to worry about; it's just a movie, and an interpretation of the most interpreted book in our hemisphere. However, you haven't seen the film!

see LETTER, page 5

What's your opinion?

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

- Iraq resolution
- St. Louis's potential
- Peeved pedestrian

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

Ping-pong balls or suction darts? I've ruled out the squirt gun as both ineffectual and potentially alarming. Take your pick, demon-drivers of West Drive Parking Structure South, and consider this your final warning.

I have driven in rush-hour traffic in Phoenix, Boston, Montreal, St. Louis and other major metropolitan areas. I can confidently declare that I am not the type to give in to road rage. However, each day that I face the harrowing game of pin-the-car-on-the-pedestrian in this garage, I feel a growing potential for pedestrian rage.

The level of precaution I now exhibit when scurrying for the stairwell must be amusing. I don't care. It's all that has stood between me and smashed toes on a number of occasions. I can't tell you why this garage seems worse than the others; maybe it's due to location. There are few other parking options out by the science buildings. Or maybe this is yet another manifestation of my notoriously bad timing. The reason no longer concerns me. I am tired of facing potential maiming on a daily basis.

Too many times has my heart skipped when a car has passed within six inches of me, or continued toward me without the slightest reduction in speed as I've crossed before it. And no, I'm not one of those annoying people who steps in front of a rapidly enclosing vehicle, brandishing my right-of-

way. I'm referring to initiating my crossing without a car in sight, only to find one bearing down on me before I've reached halfway. I occasionally shudder to think what would happen should I ever trip. I wonder if the distracted, generally cell phone-dialing driver would pause to notice the insignificant speed bump.

I confess that I have often been tempted to wield my backpack like a mace, kick a bumper or let out a torrent of screeched expletives. But I'm not a violent person really, and I don't think any of those

options would be especially productive. I am, however, in need of some outlet, and I think this can be combined with a little consciousness-raising.

Enter my hunt for the perfect expression of pedestrian ire. I am personally partial to the suction darts, but ping-pong balls do make a satisfying noise without inflicting damage. If only I could find something non-damaging to paint, yet with adhesive qualities, I would be especially pleased. Something akin to a pudding gun, maybe? Crazy String? I've got some research yet to do.

Offending parties, you know who you are, and I hope you will rethink treating foot traffic like road cones. Until then, I'll be watching, dodging and developing my pedestrian arsenal. Take note that I may just pudding you, before you make pudding of me.



NICHOLE LECLAIR Managing Editor

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

Where and how did Mardi Gras originate?



Marqueta Pippens
Freshman
Business Marketing

I don't know, but I'm sure it wasn't just a bunch of people getting drunk and flashing each other.



Christy Rudloff
Senior
Studio Art

A bunch of horny French-Americans decided they needed a holiday and called it Mardi Gras. Beer and t****s, last call before Lent!



Todd Taylor
Admissions Counselor
Pierre LaClede Honors College

Mardi Gras is Catholic and French, so it had to be from a french province...Haiti! It was Haiti's export to the world. And long live the Haitian people!



Rayna Swanson
Junior
Secondary Education

It started out as a fertility festival and doesn't it have something to do with Lent?

Scientists unite to fight troubling U.S. policies



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

posed changes in advisory commissions, peer review panels and the power of health and safety agencies. The UCS report did not address the issue of proposed delays and oversight of emergency warnings to the public, but it did cite the reliance of the public on the accuracy of government-issued scientific reports on the economy, energy, disease and other topics.

Signatories included scientists from a broad range of fields. One of the signers of the report, Dr. Kurt Gottfried, a Cornell University emeritus professor of physics, said the administration had a "cavalier attitude to science" that could present a risk to the basis of the nation's long-term prosperity, health and even military prowess. If scientific reports cannot be relied on to be accurate and unbiased, the underpinnings of a functioning society could be in jeopardy.

Here is another interesting quote: "Science, like any field of endeavor, relies on freedom of inquiry; and one of the hallmarks of that freedom is objectivity. Now, more than ever, on issues ranging from climate change to AIDS research to genetic engineering to food additives, government relies on the impartial perspective of science for guidance." This April 23, 1990 statement by President George H.W. Bush is included in the UCS introductory remarks for their assessment of science under the present Bush administration. Note the important word "impartial."

Science depends on the scientific method, the approach of forming a hypothesis and then impartially testing the hypothesis to reach the facts. Observations have to be evaluated without a preconceived bias or the results are not valid or useful. Letting the bare facts dictate the results is the power of scientific study.

Remarks from the present administration about this report have been dismissive, while acknowledging the credentials of the signers. The UCS prepared their report, in response to many scientists' complaints about administrative interference and suppressed results, by investigating specific instances of government abuse or misuse of information. Among the specific areas where the Bush Administration had distorted scientific results or conclusions for apparently political ends were the misrep-

resentation of scientific consensus on global warming, the censoring of at least one report on climate change, the manipulation of scientific findings on the emissions of mercury from power plants and the suppression of information on condom use.

John Marburger, science adviser to President George Bush and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House, dismissed the report by saying that the cited examples were too disconnected to make a good case for saying that the administration was ignoring scientific information.

At about the same time, another group of scientists, the National Research Council, issued a report that, while praising the administration's release of a revised climate-change research plan, expressed concern about the amount of funding the research would receive. The NRC, a branch of the National Academies of Science, also expressed concern about the presence of political appointees who might cause the plan to be "influenced by political considerations." In an article in the *Washington Post*, Anthony C. Janetos, an NRC committee member, was quoted as saying, "Having high-level administration officials in management is a double-edged sword. It's positive because scientists are talking to people that make decisions and create funding, but it creates a challenge in maintaining scientific independence and credibility."

The UCS report asserted that such influences had already taken place in other government scientific agencies and research. "Across a broad range of issues, the administration has undermined the quality of the scientific advisory system and the morale of the government's outstanding scientific personnel," said Dr. Gottfried. "Whether the issue is lead paint, clean air or climate change, this behavior has serious consequences for all Americans."

These are strong words from distinguished scientists and it is hard to see how these concerns will be easily dismissed. You can read the report for yourself at www.ucsusa.org and draw your own conclusions. Governmental science, from air quality and weather reports to the Center for Disease Control and the FDA, touches all of our lives everyday, so you better be informed.

Recently I wrote about troubling changes in U.S. policy concerning several government agencies connected to science and public health and safety. These were changes with the potential to undermine the reliability of government information and delay public warnings of potential hazards. I also decried the tendency of scientists to sit back and wait for a public outcry with the assumption that the public is aware of the dangers. Well, I was wrong; the scientists are speaking up in defense of science.

Over 60 prominent scientists, including 20 Nobel Laureates and 12 National Science Medalists, along with leading medical experts, former federal agency directors and university chairs and presidents, are among the signers of a statement released by the Union of Concerned Scientists on February 18, 2004. The report asserts that the present U.S. administration is distorting or ignoring scientific information for political purposes.

The Union of Concerned Scientists is an independent organization of scientists that focuses on technical and scientific issues that concern the world. The organization recently issued a 38-page report that it had been preparing over the past year. The report asserted that the present U.S. administration had censored scientific reports and engaged in bureaucratic interference in scientific information for political purposes. These were much the same concerns of the scientists who had commented a few weeks ago about pro-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Much ado about nothing: Reader agrees with editor's view on 'Passion'

Dear Editor,
I don't always agree with the viewpoints expressed by the Editor but I must congratulate him for his February 16th editorial on Mel Gibson's "The Passion." Like the Editor, I am not a Bible scholar. However I do read the Bible frequently and I agree with the Editor's perspective. But ultimately, it was neither Jew nor Roman who was responsible for Christ's death. Jesus told this to Pilate explicitly when he said "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." Earlier, Jesus had told his disciples the same thing, saying "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have

authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." In this sense, Jesus was responsible for his own death.
But we humans love to lay blame on others, and after all, nobody's perfect, right? I know I'm not. Fortunately, God understands this, and he loves us so much that Jesus took the punishment which each one of us deserves for not being perfect. Isaiah, who foretold the Messiah's death centuries before it happened, says "he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." We are all responsible for his death.
And as for the film's violent con-

tent? Well, Isaiah also tells us that "there were many who were appalled at him -- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness." It was his passionate love for you and me that allowed him to endure it all, not Jewish leaders or Roman soldiers. His crucifixion is not a great tragedy to blame others for; it is (along with the subsequent resurrection) the greatest possible Valentine's Day gift -- the triumph of God's love over all evil. That's why it's called "The Passion."

Thanks,
Caleb Hines

LETTER, from page 4

How can you say whether the criticism has merit or not until you've seen it? Is it simply because the vocal protests over the tone and content of the film are coming from Jews (or people who look like Jews) that you know it's nothing to worry about?
You ignore the fact that Mel Gibson, or his associates, have been pushing the film as the closest thing to actually witnessing the crucifixion of Christ, to the extent that someone from the production
MADE UP a quote from the Pope that the film "is as it was." This falsely attributed remark has been redacted, but not before it was released to promote the film widely. In the past Gibson has issued strange remarks about Jews and the Nazi holocaust,

and Gibson's father - also part of the fringe Catholic movement - has publicly denied the holocaust.
It is gravely offensive that you would even begin to portray the work of the ADL in that way. You and your readers should be aware of the work that the Anti-Defamation League does, year in and year out, is not for the benefit of a small Jewish cabal, but for the benefit of all Americans. You should also know that Gibson, in response to criticism, has altered his film after determining that there was something to the charges made by critics. Their "panties" must have been "bunched up" over a real issue - wish you'd thought to talk more about that, whatever it was!
The list of films with strong or weak themes of anti-Semitism is

long and not riddles with obscurities. It does not begin or end with "Triumph of the Will" - which would also fall under your "it's just a movie, so relax" rubric. If you really need to see a list, please ask.

For all the years I have read the Current, the only consistently great feature has been Catherine Marquis-Homeyer's film reviews. I look forward to her take on Gibson's film. I wouldn't even mind hearing yours. But please, don't tell me what you think of the film until after you've seen it.

Daniel Crocker
Reference Librarian
Ward E. Barnes Library

The best album that you've never heard

This week: The Beatles: The ten best Beatles songs you haven't heard

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

The Beatles. They are the world's most famous, and greatest, musical entity. They are the band that topped the popularity of Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and Nirvana. To this day, they consistently outsell many of today's pop stars. Their popularity has not waned since their 1970 breakup; in fact, it continues to grow. Like producer George Martin has said many times, each new generation finds the Beatles and falls in love with their music. John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney truly changed the world.

There are some songs, however, that are not as well known as hits like "Help!," "Hey Jude," "Something" and "She Loves You." We will explore ten of those songs this week.

10) "For No One" - Revolver

This is a gut-wrenching track from the legendary "Revolver." Sung by Paul McCartney, it features plaintive music and pleading vocals. This song is probably the single greatest breakup song ever written.

9) "I Need You" - Help!

This George Harrison tune is featured in the movie version of "Help!" This was one of the first indications that George Harrison was maturing as a songwriter. He would eventually mature to the point that he could hold his own with Paul McCartney and John Lennon.

8) "Sexy Sadie" - The Beatles (also known as "The White Album")

Written by John Lennon about the Maharishi, it is a satire filled with venom. Lennon's temper has now become the stuff of legend, and pissing him off was never a good idea. The Maharishi did so, and Lennon went after him full guns. In fact, the song was originally titled "Maharishi," but George Harrison convinced Lennon to change the title.

7) "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window" - Abbey Road

This short little song is one of the

finest of the second half of Abbey Road. Covered by Joe Cocker and Ray Charles among others, it is an interesting song about a man with a love he cannot control. Take this, for instance: "And though she tried her best to help me/She could steal but she could not rob."

6) "I've Got a Feeling" - Let It Be

This duet between John Lennon and Paul McCartney is a bluesy homage to the black artists who influenced The Beatles, most especially Chuck Berry and Fats Domino. McCartney starts the song off with a vocal chord-shredding verse. Lennon then takes over and sings a mellow "everybody's the same" verse. Look for

Asher was also fading (she would not stay in the kitchen). Their writing in this period greatly reflects this. This is a song that flat-out threatens murder if the woman leaves. "I'd rather see you dead little girl/Than to be with another man/You better keep your head little girl/Or you won't know where I am."

3) "Baby It's You" - Please Please Me

This is the only Beatles cover you will see on this list. I think it is just a phenomenal demonstration of the Beatles' (especially Harrison, McCartney and Lennon) harmonic skills. Lennon sings the lead with McCartney and Harrison backing him up. Lennon shreds his way through this great song.

2) "Don't Bother Me" - With The Beatles

This Harrison song was the first to talk about what a drag it could be being a Beatle. Harrison was an intensely private man his whole life, and when the Beatles hit it big, all of a sudden, that was all gone. He understood the pressures of celebrity, and knew he would have to deal with it his whole life, but it didn't make him all that happy.

1) "I'm So Tired" - The Beatles (AKA "The White Album")

This emotional song is about a man who is so emotionally distressed he cannot sleep, sung by Lennon. He tries drinking and smoking but nothing works. In the end he is just "so tired, I don't know what to do." The chorus is an amazing piece of writing with McCartney chiming in with well-placed harmonies. "You'd say/I'm putting you on/But it's no joke/It's doing me harm/You know I can't sleep/I can't stop my brain/You know it's three weeks/I'm goin' insane/You know I'd give you everything I've got for a little peace of mind."

There you go. Ten of The Beatles' best songs, but songs not everyone knows. Do yourself a favor; if you have the means to listen to these songs, do so. Let the Beatles legend continue to grow, and enjoy the aural mastery.



great 12-bar blues playing by George Harrison.

5) "And Your Bird Can Sing" - Revolver

This is just a good old-fashioned rock-and-roll song. Sung in harmony by Lennon and McCartney, this song shows the fantastic ability of both men to play with words. "You tell me that you got everything you want/And your bird can swing/But you don't get me/You don't get-me."

4) "Run For Your Life" - Rubber Soul

At the time of Rubber Soul, both Lennon and McCartney were experiencing woman problems. Lennon's marriage was deteriorating and McCartney's relationship with Jane

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MBA student backs Coonrod, Durham

Dear Current Editorial Board,
I found the February 16th "Our Opinion" lacking in both logic and substance. Furthermore, whoever wrote the editorial seems to lack a clear command of written English.
In the sidebar alone, I found at least four errors. That was just the sidebar, the editorial itself is riddled with errors, both grammatical and logical. There are way too many for me to list here.
I strongly object to your use of the word 'regime' in describing members of Chancellor Touhill's administration. Chancellor Touhill is one of the best things to ever happen to this University. It is Chancellor Touhill's vision and wisdom that brought the University the success that it enjoys today.
Your frequent attacks on members of the administration are unwarranted, have little basis in reality, and are offensive to those of us who take pride in the University and all that it has achieved. They are an insult to the University and a disservice to the proud history of The Current.
Vice Chancellors Coonrod and Durham have served this University with honor and distinction. Your mean

spirited comments about them are offensive to the many students who have benefited from their contributions to this institution.
You wrote that Vice Chancellors Coonrod and Durham "should step aside...It is not as if either of them is unemployable." As has been the case so many times before, your own words demonstrate your poor understanding of reality.
Every member of the University administration would most certainly find great success in the private sector. They have chosen instead to dedicate their lives to education. They have chosen to serve the University and the community, while earning a fraction of what they would earn in the private sector. We should all be grateful for their service.
In the past, The Current criticized Chancellor Touhill for her commitment to improving the infrastructure of the campus. However, I don't recall hearing any complaints from The Current about their plush offices in the MSC.
In your editorial, you claim to be interested in cohesion. What does your constant griping do for cohesion? You also claim to speak for the "folks

around here". Which folks are those? Be assured that you do not speak for me, or the many students that I know.
You write, "the old ways of UMSL are over". What ways do you mean? Do you mean the way The Current used to be a respected voice of the campus community?
The "way of UMSL" has been a path of continuous growth and improvement. This University started out in the clubhouse of the country club that formerly occupied this ground. It was only through the vision and wisdom of the University administration, including Chancellor Touhill and her predecessors, that the University was able to achieve the place of prominence that it now enjoys in the community.
Perhaps if the Editorial Board spent less time trying to run the University and instead focused on running The Current, your efforts would produce something more worthwhile.
Sincerely,
Daniel Terre Hollander
BSMIS 2003
MBA Student
College of Business

Free computer tutorials offered to students

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

Enduring hours of monotonous instruction in a packed classroom can be a painfully tedious experience. The Instructional Computing Center is now offering free short courses in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and other operating systems, such as UNIX/Macintosh and CD writing.

Students in basic technology classes possess a wide range of computer knowledge. Some are computer information system majors who are fulfilling a major requirement, while others are non-traditional students trying to gain a working knowledge of technology. Short courses are now being offered to assist students who are unfamiliar with today's programs and want an overview of the key features and commands.

Jason Cox, senior, computer science, is an instructor for the course on Macintosh and UNIX.

"I work for [Internet and Technology Services], and every year we have consultants and senior consultants," he said. "All senior consultants teach. I like the new Macs, and since I'm a computer science major, I use UNIX a lot. It's interesting to me, so it's interesting to teach."

Cox's short course detailed the main screen of new Macintosh computers, some of which are located in various University labs. He explained that UM-St. Louis recently upgraded from the classic Macintosh system, OS9, to a newer version called OSX. The new version is faster, more stable and more secure for users. Cox also



Joana Balaseviciute, senior, mechanical engineering, takes part in an Instructional Computing Short Course on Mac/UNIX Wednesday afternoon in the Computer Center Building. The short courses are offered for free on various beginning and intermediate computing topics.

explained the UNIX system, demonstrated commands and described the system paths.

"I'm new to this, and I've never heard of [Macintosh]," said Carmen Blanchard, junior, computer information systems. "I'm doing computer information systems and I want to gain more knowledge of it."

Upcoming courses include the UNIX/Mac program and a CD writing/Samba/FTP/Studentmail/HTML workshop. Scanning tutors are avail-

able Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in SSB 103. These tutors require scheduled appointments. Students can sign up for the short courses in a staffed computer lab.

Computer labs are present on both the North and South Campuses, and are available to students, faculty and staff. Locations with staff include SSB 103, SSB 452, the E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center, Benton Hall 232 and the Thomas

Jefferson Library (316). Open labs without staff are located in the Fine Arts Building (220), Honors College 308 and SSB 227. The lab in SSB 227 has recently been upgraded, and is now equipped with dual-monitor computers, which are used for video editing.

Users need a MyGateway login and password to access computers. Those utilizing campus computers should always remember to log out after finishing. This is to ensure that their files are protected and that other people do

IC Short Courses

Using Studentmail:
available anytime in
any of the student labs

Mac/Unix (OS 10.2):
Friday March 5 & 12, 1
p.m. CCB 107

HTML, FTP, K-drive,
Samba:
Friday March 5 & 7, 9
a.m.
in CCB 107

Using CD writers:
Friday March 5 & 7, 9
a.m.
in CCB 107

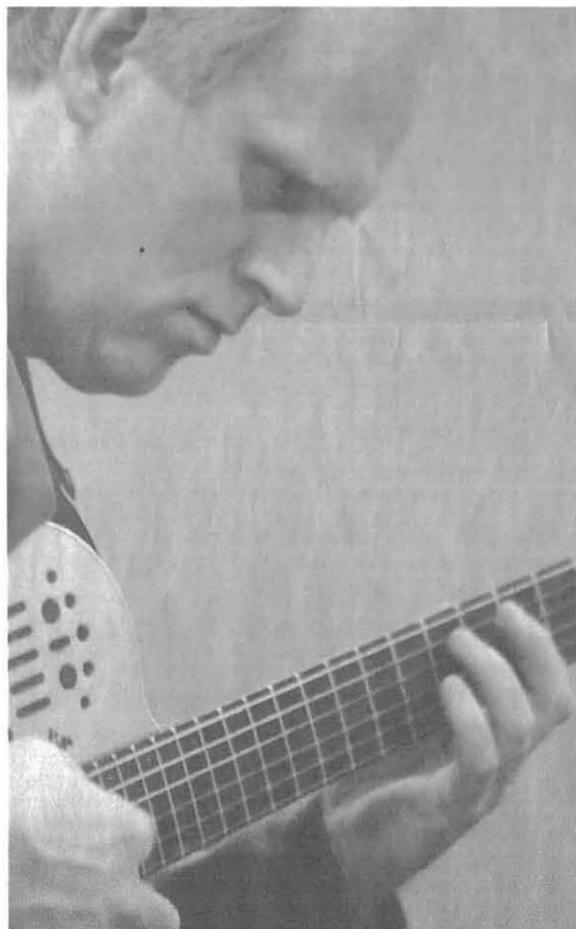
Using scanners:
M-Th 8-10 a.m. and 6:
30-7:30p.m. in TJ 316
and
SSB 103

*Many of the above courses have
online tutorials

not access an account that does not belong to them. Users should also know that once they log out, all files would be deleted off the desktop. The University provides all students with 20 megabytes of storage space, located under each individual's admiral file.

Between the seven locations, labs are open seven days a week from 7:45 a.m. until midnight during the weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends. Visit www.umsl.edu/tech for a complete schedule.

Monday Noon Series gets plucky with local guitarist



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Local musician Dave Black performs the Beatles tune "She's Leaving Home" on his amplified acoustic guitar as part of the Monday Noon Series. The Monday Noon Series, sponsored by the Center for the Humanities, takes place every Monday at 12:15 in 229 J.C. Penney Building.

Center for Trauma Recovery furthers exploration of PTSD

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The CTR treats victims of crime and abuse, and those who witness violence

Campus outreach takes on new meaning to the staff at the Center for Trauma Recovery, located on South Campus. The CTR provides outpatient treatment, research facilities and community learning programs. Five independent grants fund the center aimed to assist homicide survivors, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) victims, and adult, children, and adolescent victims of sexual and physical assault.

Tara Galovski, assistant research professor at CTR, said:

"I deal mostly with adult survivors of physical and sexual abuse." She explained that the center allows patients to participate and be paid for their help in furthering treatment outcome research regarding PTSD. Victims receive free program sessions for six to twelve weeks, depending on the recovery program.

Over the past 20 years, the center has developed a cognitive processing therapy program that differs from other traditional trauma recovery methods. Instead of forcing a patient to revisit a traumatic event, the CTR deals with how patients feel about their role in a traumatic event, such as rape, assault, homicide, domestic violence, disaster and severe motor vehicle crashes.

"Each research patient undergoes a full assessment and is treated according to their needs," Galovski said. "The assessment includes a psychophysical evaluation that deter-

mines what effects trauma has on the body. We discover that often patients have other mental needs related to their trauma, such as panic anxiety or depression."

"We discover that often patients have other mental needs related to their trauma, such as panic anxiety or depression."

- Tara Gavloski, assistant research professor

The CTR also offers a walk-in clinic with consultation prices starting at \$5. The clinic is open to anyone, including research candidates who may have been ineligible because of drug or alcohol use. The clinic serves as a training ground for doctoral and master's level clinicians, but a clinical professional supervises each case.

Dr. Ally Burr-Harris, assistant clinical professor, said she tends to be the contact person for children suffering from traumatic situations.

"We get referrals about children from emergency rooms, doctors, police and shelters," she said. A grant

from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Act funds the treatment of children and adolescents.

"Because we are such a small shop, we rely on the training of outside sources," Burr-Harris said. Her department is part of a larger resource for traumatized children and adolescents called the Greater St. Louis Child Traumatic Stress Program (GSCTSP). The GSCTSP provides training to educators, mental-health workers, medical professionals and day care workers in the St. Louis community. The CTR presents workshops to help identify and treat trauma-related symptoms.

The CTR is currently involved in a 10-week project that addresses child victims of neighborhood violence. The program teaches school social workers to treat victims of group violence, such as shootings.

"It's amazing how many kids have seen a parent get shot," Burr-Harris said. The CTR also offers short-term counseling to help cope with emotional distress resulting from a homicide. This service is free to family members, relatives, friends or neighbors of homicide victims.

"I've had other jobs where I saw patients every hour on the hour," Burr-Harris said. "This job can be a lot more rewarding and less draining because we often find that children are the most resilient. Your toughest cases are often your most rewarding ones."

Even commonplace addictions are tough to defeat

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Many UM-St. Louis smokers will be heading outside in the upcoming spring months to light up in between classes. These same smokers may head to a party later in the evening to enjoy a few beers with friends. The next day before work, these smokers/drinkers are sure to need a couple cups of coffee to get a start on the day.

A good deal of students do not consider nicotine, alcohol and caffeine to be drugs. These substances are considered drugs, and chronic use can lead to addictions.

Han Jiang, junior, business, knows the dangers of cigarettes.

"I started smoking when I was in junior high," he said. "I'm trying to quit now but the stresses of school don't make that easy."

An article on the Center for the Advancement of Health website stated:

"Many young smokers think they are at least as healthy as non-smokers and other smokers their age... according to a new survey of community college students."

Crystal Lambert, sophomore, biochemistry, feels that binge drinking is too widely accepted in college. College life is often correlated with drinking and partying. An article at CNN.com explained that researchers define binge drinking as four or five drinks in one sitting, but "frequent binge drinkers defined binge alcohol use as eight drinks for men and six for women." The article concluded that this is an attempt by heavy drinkers to convince themselves and others that their drinking patterns are normal. However, with over two million people attending recovery groups for alcoholism, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, students might want to step back and look at where their "social" drinking may take them.

Caffeine is one of the most widely accepted and used drugs at college. A website about test-taking tips from a UM-St. Louis class called Drugs, Alcohol and Society even recommends ingesting a little caffeine before an exam. Cheryl Hughes, senior, social work, says that she drinks soda and coffee for the taste and thinks the same

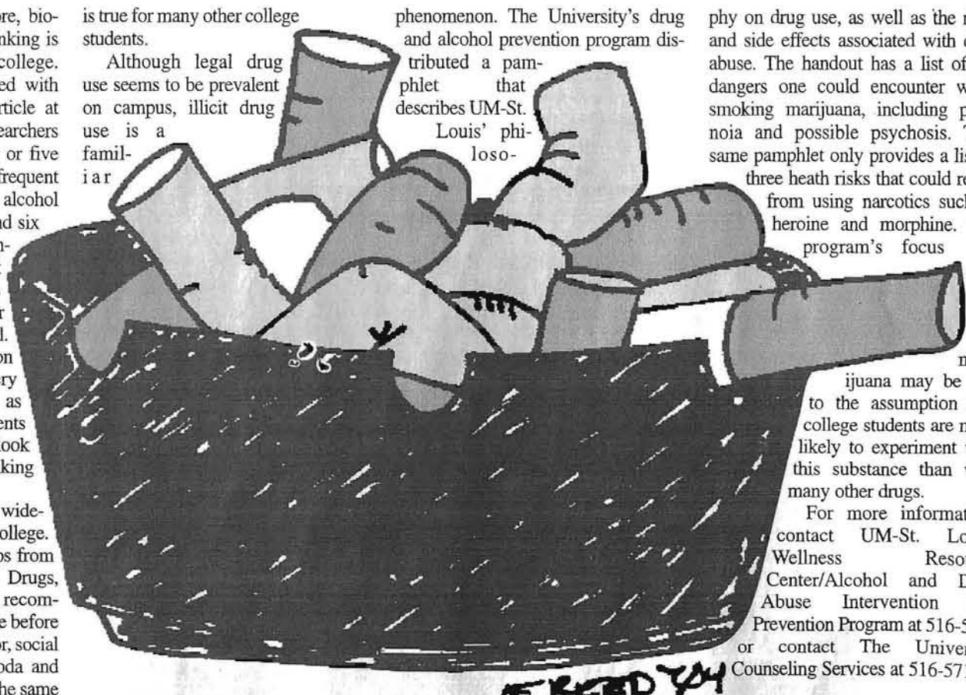
is true for many other college students.

Although legal drug use seems to be prevalent on campus, illicit drug use is a familiar

phenomenon. The University's drug and alcohol prevention program distributed a pamphlet that describes UM-St. Louis' philosophy on

phy on drug use, as well as the risks and side effects associated with drug abuse. The handout has a list of ten dangers one could encounter while smoking marijuana, including paranoia and possible psychosis. This same pamphlet only provides a list of three health risks that could result from using narcotics such as heroine and morphine. The program's focus

on marijuana may be due to the assumption that college students are more likely to experiment with this substance than with many other drugs. For more information, contact UM-St. Louis' Wellness Resource Center/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Intervention and Prevention Program at 516-5380 or contact The University Counseling Services at 516-5711.



EDITOR

KATE DROLET
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

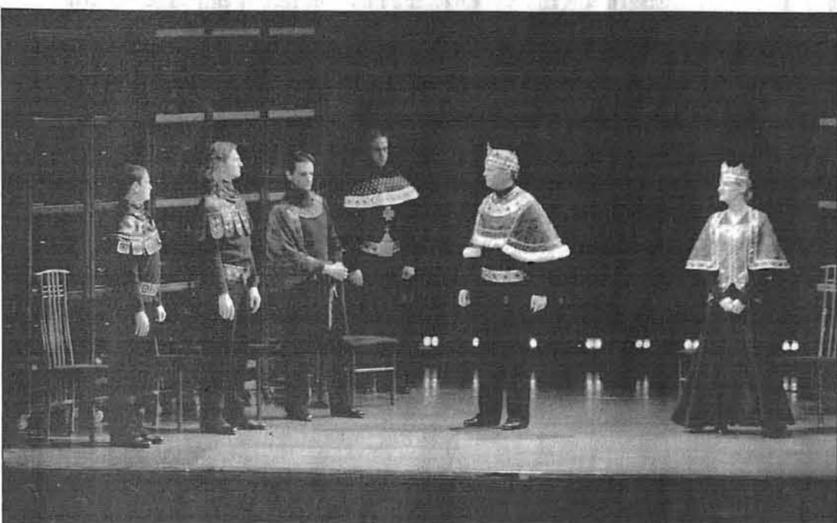
Scholarship opportunity for U.N. Day

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

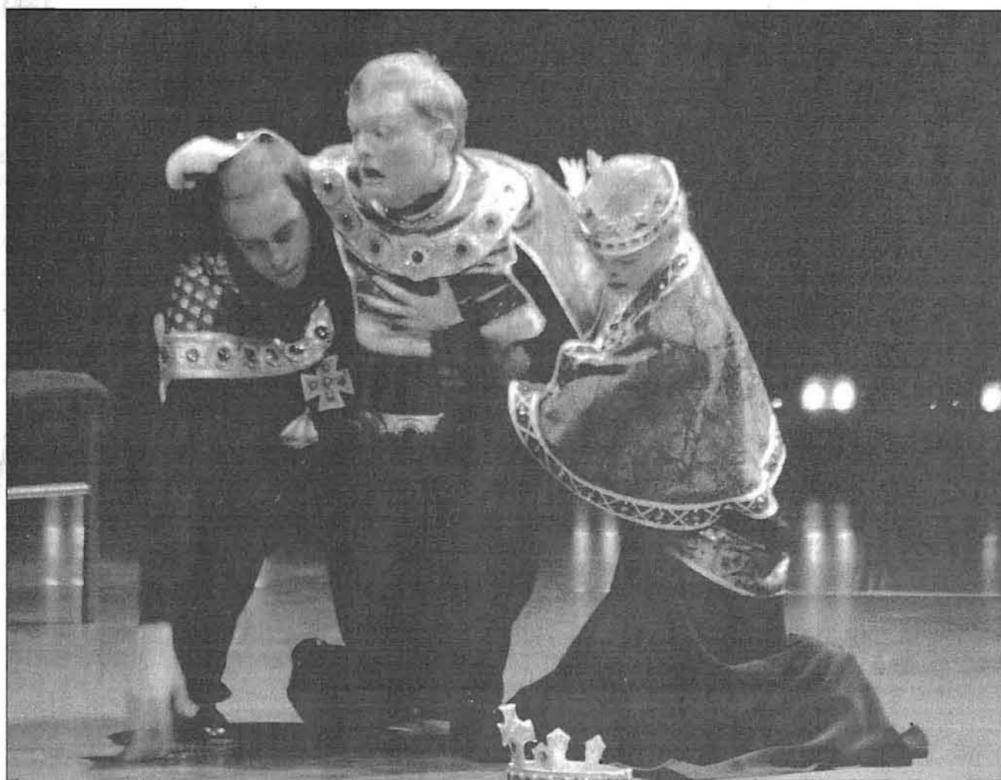
The most creative student who turns in the best art piece, original essay or designs a unique website could win a \$2,000 cash prize. The Center for International Studies at UM-St. Louis is sponsoring three annual contests in recognition of United Nations Day, which is celebrated Oct. 24.

Dorothy Schneider, a former Red Cross overseas worker during World War II and past English department faculty member at UM-St. Louis, established these contests. Her experience as a dedicated war volunteer strengthened her resolve to bring peace to the world.

Schneider wanted to end fighting around the world and unite people globally. She strived to give the United Nations an international holiday. In 1971, she sent letters and endorsements expressing her ideas to many strong world leaders, including the UN General Assembly. The UN General Assembly adopted her ideas; however, President George Bush, Sr. declined her resolution to make United Nations Day a holiday in the United States.



ABOVE: Under the direction of the Juilliard master director Eve Shapiro, The Acting Company, a New York City-based acting troupe, performed Shakespeare's "Richard III" on Thursday evening at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. "Richard III" depicts the late-15th-century feud between the Houses of Lancaster and York for the throne of England.



RIGHT: King Edward (portrayed by Glenn Peters) learns of Clarence's death and is helped up by Hastings (Jeff Cribbs) and Queen Elizabeth (Jenn Miller Cribbs).



LEFT:

Richard III, Duke of Gloucester (portrayed by Spencer Aste) speaks to Anne Neville (Erin Moon): "Teach not thy lip such scorn; for it was made for kissing, lady, not for such contempt. If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive, lo, here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword, which if thou please to hide in this true breast and let the soul forth that adareth thee, I lay it naked to the deadly stroke and humbly beg the death upon my knee."

PAC hosts lavish production of Shakespeare's 'Richard III'

Photographs by Michael Pelikan

UNITED NATIONS, from page 6

Despite the rejection of creating a new holiday in the United States, Schneider received a Certificate of Distinguished Global Service from past mayor Freeman Bosley, and she created the "Change the World" Contest at UM-St. Louis.

Schneider wanted young people to get involved, become interested and have knowledge of United Nations Day. She created the contest to help the community realize its importance.

Administrative Secretary of the Center for International Studies Joyce Gorrell described the main purpose of the contest.

"The UN contests give students

the opportunity to be creative while describing the importance of the holiday, the benefits it has around the world, and how they could make United Nations Day an annual world holiday," Gorrell said. "The contest probably first began over 15 years ago."

Brenda McPhail, associate director of Development for University Relations, ran the contest in the past.

"When I worked, there was about 20-35 submissions for each category, with about 75 entries all together," McPhail said.

For the website contest, students must submit a website design on a

CD. The art contest is open to all types of art, including posters, photography, bumper stickers and collages. Each essay submitted must be two or three pages, typed, double-spaced and include cover page. All entries must focus around United Nations Day, displaying a title or describing why it should be a holiday. Each submission should also include a 3x5 card with the student's name, address, phone number and student ID number.

"There are not many rigid boundaries or limitations that students can't do for the artwork contest," Gorrell said.

A panelist of three university faculty members will judge the entries and choose a winner from each category. All submissions turned in become the property of UM-St. Louis.

The winners will be notified in late April at an award reception.

Students must submit their works to the Center for International Studies, located in room 366 SSB by Monday, March 29, 2004.

For more information about deadlines or contest rules, visit the Center for International Studies on the UM-St. Louis homepage or call the center at 516-5753.

IRAQ RESOLUTION, from page 1

So much debate was aroused from the proposition that it was tabled for further discussion at the February meeting. Then, at that meeting, even more controversy occurred, so the resolution was tabled once again until the March meeting.

A positive aspect of the resolution is how it has opened up the eyes of the campus to the people who have been transported over to Iraq. More people have begun to recognize how many people have left for the war and how it has affected people on campus. Grindstaff stated at the January SGA meeting that she wrote the resolution to "show the troops that we care."

The hope is that the assembly will unanimously agree on something at the next meeting. After three months of debate, members of the assembly should come to the meeting with an idea of what they would like to do.

The conclusion that appears to be unanimous is to take Dodd's name out and replace it with the names of all of the people from the University who have gone over to Iraq. Runde said she thinks this is the best solution.

"It's a really good resolution, but something that doesn't need to have so much debate about it," Runde said. "I think that the assembly needs to come to a common conclusion of what they want on there."

HOMECOMING, from page 1

The Big Man on Campus will be presented, along with the UM-St. Louis basketball teams. Skits will also be performed at the bonfire.

Women will face off in a Powder Puff football battle as men cheer from the sidelines. The game will be held at 3 p.m. at the Mark Twain field. That evening, the women's basketball team will face UW-Parkside at 5:30. The men's game will begin at 7:45.

Joe Flees currently serves as the Coordinator for Student Life and University Relations. He is also a UM-St. Louis alum.

"I think the best reason to get involved with Homecoming is that there aren't a lot of times when the student body can really get together and show some school spirit," he said. "Homecoming is a good time to pull together, get out of that winter funk and have some fun."

The 2004 Homecoming dance will take place on Friday, Feb. 27 at the Westport Sheraton hotel. Guests will be served dinner, and the Homecoming King and Queen will be announced. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and end at midnight.

The candidates for Homecoming King are Justin Kimble, junior, criminal justice; James Craig Leonard, junior, electrical engineering; Kevin Otley, senior, computer science and Benny Suen, senior, management information systems and finance.

The Student Government Association sponsors Kimble. He is involved as a member of the Student Alumni Association, a member of the Residence Hall Association, a member of Recreational Sports, a resident assistant for Residential Life and the Sergeant at Arms for the Student Government Association.

Sigma Tau Gamma sponsors Leonard, who is the SGA representative and secretary of the Society of Future Engineers, on the Dean's List and was the 2003 president of Sigma Tau Gamma.

The Residence Hall Association

sponsors Otley. He is a member of the Varsity soccer team and the Catholic Newman Center.

Pi Kappa Alpha is sponsoring Suen. He serves as the Comptroller for SGA, the external vice president for Pi Kappa Alpha and as a student senator.

Queen candidates include Tyler "Siren" Cross, sophomore, graphic design; Stacia Hallin, sophomore, elementary education; Jan Mayer, junior, communications; Sylvia Nijhoff, junior, international business; Nichole Pagels, junior, psychology and Shanna Stotler, junior, English.

Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association is sponsoring Cross, who is involved with the Residence Hall Association and was crowned "Miss RHA 2002-2003."

Delta Zeta is sponsoring Hallin. The Residence Hall Association is also sponsoring Mayer. She is a member of the Catholic Newman Center. Delta Sigma Pi is sponsoring Nijhoff. Alpha Xi Delta is sponsoring Pagels. She is a member of the women's volleyball team, a recipient of the National Access Scholarship and the Coach's Honor Roll and volunteers as a coach with Rec Sports. Zeta Tau Alpha is sponsoring Stotler.

Chiropractic... The Choice For Me

Jason Kucma is a Third-year student from Medford, NJ. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic so I could truly help people."

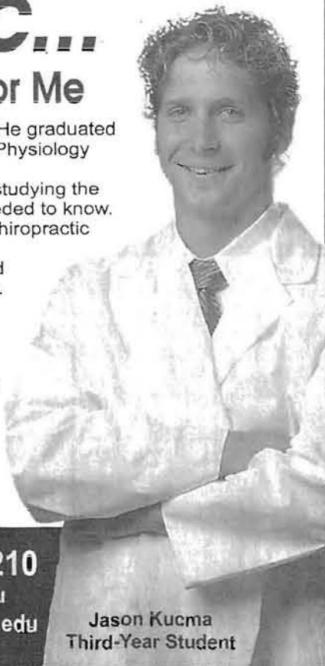
Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the chiropractic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent."

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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student



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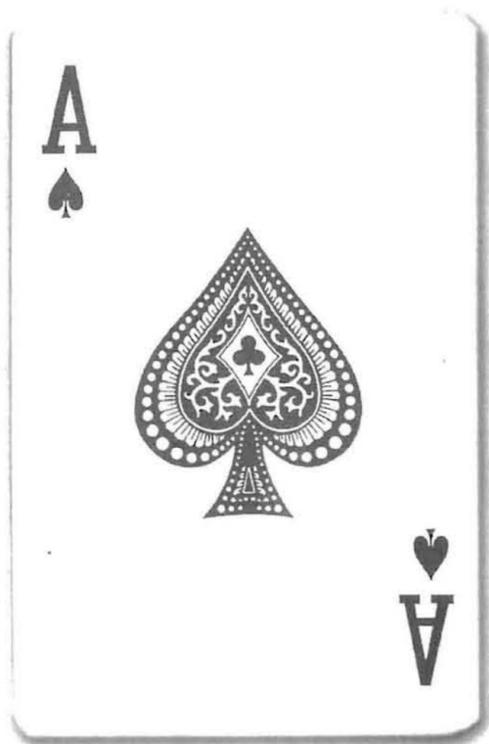
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Back to the Future 2004 Homecoming

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

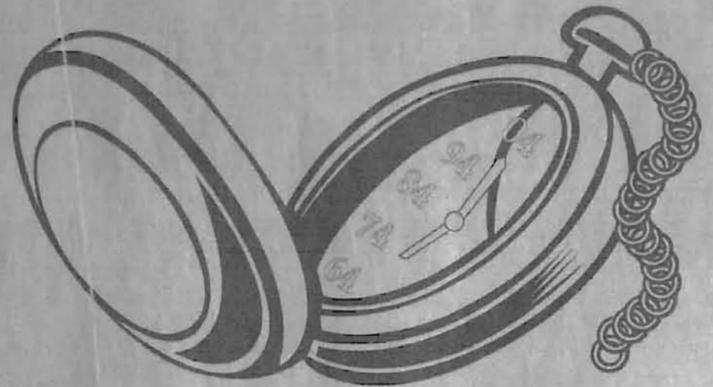
Friday, February 27th

Dance - 7 pm Westport Sheraton
 - Announce Court

Saturday, February 28th

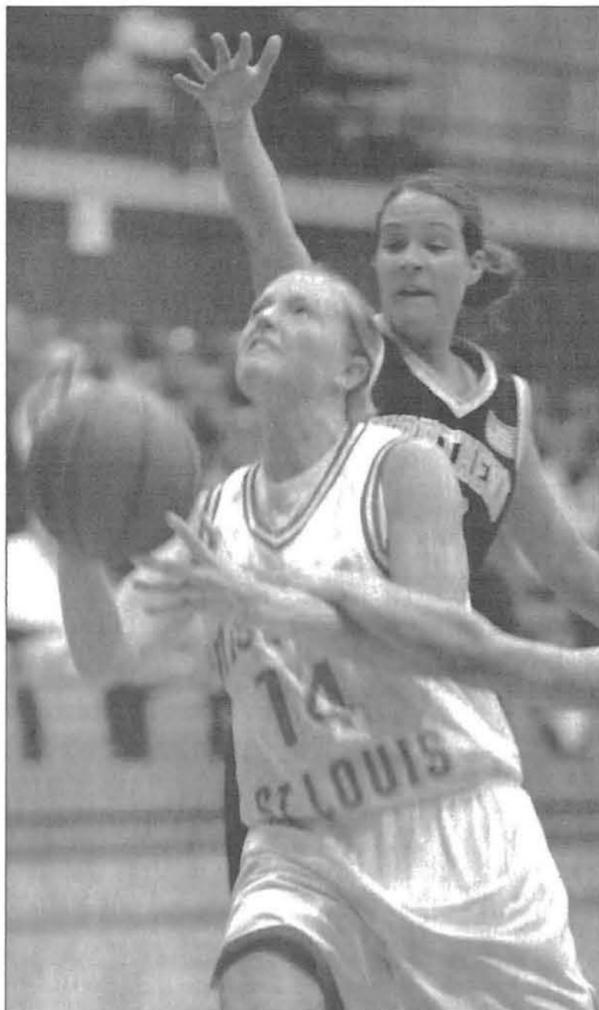
Basketball Game - Women's game 1 pm against St. Joseph
 - Men's game 3:15 pm against St. Joseph
 - Announcing Spirit winners at men's game half time
 - Present Court at Men's game half time

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

Riverwomen go .500 last week



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ashley Richmond drives to the basket past the defense of a Northern Kentucky player during the Feb. 7 game at the Mark Twain Athletic Building.

BY CAMPBELL McLAURIN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen basketball team went .500 over the last week in games against Kentucky Wesleyan and Southern Indiana. The Riverwomen picked up a vital road win at Kentucky Wesleyan before suffering an away defeat at the hands of Southern Indiana.

The 46-45 road victory at Kentucky Wesleyan proved to be a colossal contributor in keeping the Riverwomen's post-season hopes alive. Head coach Lee Buchanan commented on the importance of the win.

"Every win on the road in this league is huge; every win is sweet. We've lost some close games coming back from the winter break, and this win gives the team confidence going into the last games of the season."

The Riverwomen came out hot in the contest against Kentucky Wesleyan on Feb. 12. After the game was tied 6-6 in the early going, UM-St. Louis went on a powerful 16-4 run, pushing their lead to 22-10 after a three-pointer from Simone Verhulst. The Riverwomen kept up the first half pressure and continued to extend their lead. With 2:53 remaining in the first half, UM-St. Louis pushed their lead to 14 points after a jump shot from Debi Dibella. The scoring momentum would carry the team into the locker room with a 30-17 lead over the Kentucky Wesleyan Lady Panthers at the sound of the first half buzzer.

The game then appeared to move into a tale of two halves as the Riverwomen would watch their thirteen-point half-time lead dwindle during the action of the second half. The Lady Panthers slowly chiseled away at the comfortable lead of the

Riverwomen and, at the 5:13 mark, cut the lead to one point at a 40-39 score line. The determination from Kentucky Wesleyan paved the way for an exciting finish to the game.

The Riverwomen had to pull together to fight off the threatening run from the Lady Panthers. Kentucky Wesleyan actually took the lead 45-44 with 2:23 seconds left in the game. However, a jump shot from Iesha Billups at 2:03 proved that the Riverwomen were not to be denied. Tough defense from this point denied any further scoring in the game, and the Riverwomen came back to St. Louis with a thrilling 46-45 win.

Coach Buchanan feels this win proves that luck is on the team's side going into the final stages of the season. The Riverwomen had lost some close games earlier in the season, and he feels that this road win is symbolic of a turnaround for his ball club.

"They say that if you have had luck early in the season, then you'll have good luck late in the year. This close win hopefully proves things are turning around for us late in the season."

Unfortunately, the momentum from the road win at Kentucky Wesleyan did not carry over to the Riverwomen's contest at Southern Indiana on Feb. 14. UM-St. Louis suffered a tough 88-61 loss at the hands of the Screaming Eagles. Southern Indiana jumped out to an 11-4 at the 15:40 point in the first half and never looked back. They continued their hot scoring run throughout the remainder of the half and finished with a 44-24 lead at the sound of the first half whistle.

The second half did not prove much different for the Riverwomen, who were unable to cut substantially into the twenty-point deficit. Southern Indiana kept up heavy pres-

sure and pushed their lead to 29 points midway through the first half. The game ended on an 88-61 score line and a conference loss for the Riverwomen.

Coach Buchanan was not overly discouraged by the loss at Southern Indiana and maintained that his club is staying positive heading into the last three games of the season. He emphasized that this was a rebuilding year for the team in his first year as head coach, and he is proud of the hard work that the women are contributing in light of all the changes.

The Riverwomen are still in the post-season hunt to qualify for the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament. With an overall record of 6-17 and GLVC record of 3-14, UM-St. Louis currently sits ninth in the conference, only one spot from the eighth and final bid to the tournament. The future looks bright for the Riverwomen's remaining schedule as two of the remaining three teams on the schedule sit comparably to them on the conference table. If the Riverwomen win out, they secure a bid to the tournament. If they win two of their remaining three games, including a win against SIU-Edwardsville, they will most likely make the tournament through a tiebreaker.

Coach Buchanan asserts that the team is optimistic about its chances.

"Our psyche is real good right now. The team's positive and looking upward." UM-St. Louis' last two games come on their home floor, against Wisconsin-Parkside on Feb. 26 and their Homecoming game against St. Joseph's on Feb. 28. Both of these games will play a vital role in shaping their post-season chances. The Riverwomen would love nothing more to win out on their home floor and usher themselves into the GLVC tournament.

Ouch!

Rivermen thumped by Kentucky Wesleyan

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team got off to a very slow start last Thursday night against Kentucky Wesleyan. The team's performance at the beginning carried on throughout the remainder of the night.

It was all Kentucky Wesleyan from the beginning of the game. Rivermen forward Ike Attah felt devastated about the start to the game.

"It seemed as if the floodgates were wide open; they were hitting [anything] and everything against us," Attah said. Even he could not give the words necessary to describe what happened in the first nine minutes of the game as the Rivermen found themselves down by a score of 27-2 to start off.

The Rivermen overcame the slow start and finished the half on a good note by outscoring the Panthers by a 25-17 margin. The Rivermen were sparked by some key shooting in the last eleven minutes by sophomore guard Jonathan Griffin to bounce back only a little as they still found themselves down by a 44-27 deficit going

into the locker rooms.

Just as the Rivermen found some momentum, they lost it just as quickly as the Panthers would start the second half of the game on a 9-2 run to quickly stop any chance at a comeback. The Rivermen only managed to get as close as 15 points the rest of the way and could not stop the potent Kentucky Wesleyan offense as they fell by a score of 93-72 in a game that could have gotten the Rivermen as high as sixth in the conference. The Rivermen only managed to shoot 43% for the game compared to Wesleyan's 56% shooting from the field.

After a tough game on Thursday the Rivermen found themselves entering an uphill battle as they came into a game with the Screaming Eagles of Southern Indiana, nationally ranked 16. Hoping to erase from their memories an early-season 15-point loss to Southern Indiana, the Rivermen came into the game fired up.

On this night getting fired up was the only thing that the Rivermen could do from getting blown out of the stadium as Southern Indiana went on a complete game tear. Although the game started out to be a close one the

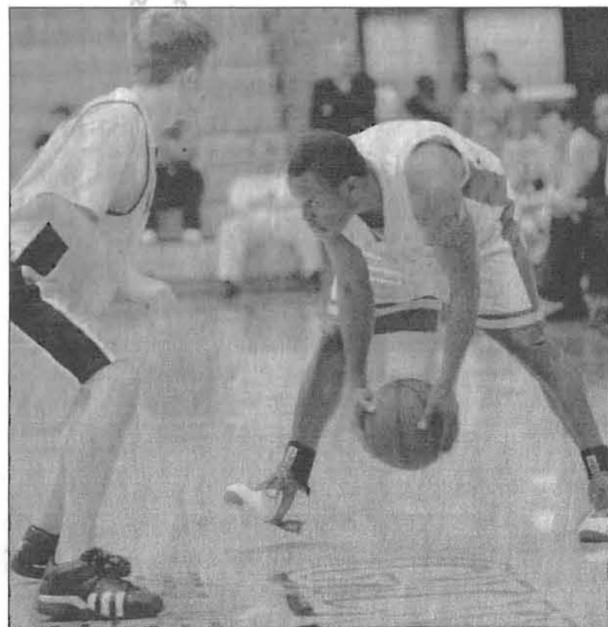
Rivermen could not get any early deficit erased. The Screaming Eagles would be up by as many as 17 points during the first ten minutes of the game and would outscore the Rivermen 57-34 going into halftime.

Junior guard Justin Foust was brief in sharing his feelings on the first half of the game.

"Every time we came back and got to within ten or fifteen they came right back with everything they had. They played really well and made it very tough for us to produce out on the court," Foust said.

The second half once again was all Southern Indiana as they came out on another tear, which helped them to outscore the Rivermen 60-44 in the second half and to close out the game with a 117-78 win. Although it was a rough game, the Rivermen did have a few bright spots as sophomore guard Griffin produced a game high 24 points and sophomore guard Sherome Cole added 13, but it was not enough to overcome the Screaming Eagles.

Come see the Rivermen play in their last home stand as they prepare to take on Wisconsin-Parkside and St. Joseph's College on Feb. 26 and 28.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen guard Ronnie Banks contemplates his next move against an NKU opponent Feb. 7.

Attah and Billups follow long roads to UMSL

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

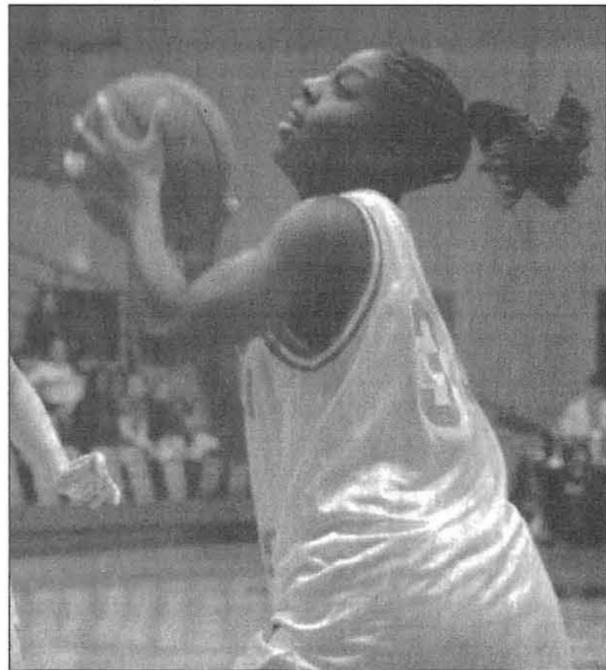
Ike Attah and Iesha Billups have made an instant impact on both the men and women's basketball programs here at UM-St. Louis. One of many things that they share in common is that they are both transfers from Kaskaskia Community College in Illinois where they recently played for two seasons. Although both of them have taken very different roads to get here, they both find themselves sharing a similar amount of success not only on the courts, but also in the classroom and with people around them.

Attah is currently in his first year here at UM-St. Louis. His road to St. Louis has taken quite some time and has taken him all over the world. Attah was born in the country of Nigeria. He attended grade school and most of high school there and, about halfway through high school, he moved to Scotland. His mother lived in Scotland while his father lived in Nigeria, so the choice to go to Scotland was made a little easier in those regards.

While in Scotland, he got his first taste of basketball at the late age of 18.

"I didn't feel very athletic when I was younger. I was never picked first on any teams at school and the only other sport that I was involved with was track and field," Attah said.

He eventually grew into basketball over the next six years and landed him-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen center Iesha Billups goes up for a basket during the Feb. 7 game at Mark Twain Athletic Building.

self in the United States playing at the junior college level. After two years at

his former school, Attah then moved here to play here this year under first-year head coach Chris Pilz.

"Ike is a quality, quality person. He is never light on effort on or off the court, which makes him a great student-athlete. He always works hard and has the special ability to be able to make all the guys around him play harder even on their worst days," Pilz said of Attah.

Attah is currently studying at UM-St. Louis to be an elementary school teacher.

"I plan to teach once I leave here. Ideally I would like to teach in England so that I would maybe also have the opportunity to coach basketball as well. It has been a nice experience for me. I like the big city and I think that the people here are very friendly," Attah said. He will graduate within the next two years and eventually looks to return to his home in Nigeria to settle down for good.

Although Billups' road to UM-St. Louis may not have taken quite as long as Attah's, her story is still an interesting one to tell. She grew up in the city of Indianapolis. Similar to Attah, Billups did not originally plan to be a basketball player. She did not start playing the game of basketball until the eighth grade, when most kids start around the age of eight.

"I really did not expect to play basketball when I was younger," she said.

"I started basically because one of my friends asked me to play instead of going out for cheerleading. I was also naturally taller than most of the other girls at that age so I noticed that I had a distinct advantage from the start."

Her hard work and determination to improve her game eventually landed her in the same junior college as Attah.

"I think I owe a lot of my growth and development as a player to the good coaching that I have had over the years. They were always there and gave me every chance that I ever needed on the court," Billups said. "Also, for me, my mother has been a huge inspiration. Everything I do I owe to her. She is a great person." After two years at the junior college level, Billups found herself here at UM-St. Louis along with Attah.

She now is playing under another first-year coach, Lee Buchanan, who, along with many others, had many good things to say about her.

"Iesha is a good person, a hard worker and has improved every day since I first met her. She has worked very hard to get the results that she is looking for and that is not something you find every day in players. I think Iesha sets a great example with her ethic and serves as a great leader on and off the court," Coach Buchanan said.

SPORTS

GRETCHEN MOORE

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Questions
or
Comments?

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WEB

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

UPCOMING

Men's Basketball

Feb. 26

• vs. Wisconsin-Parkside at
Mark Twain Athletic Bldg.

Feb. 26

• vs. St. Joseph's at Mark
Twain Athletic Bldg.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 26

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

Feb. 26

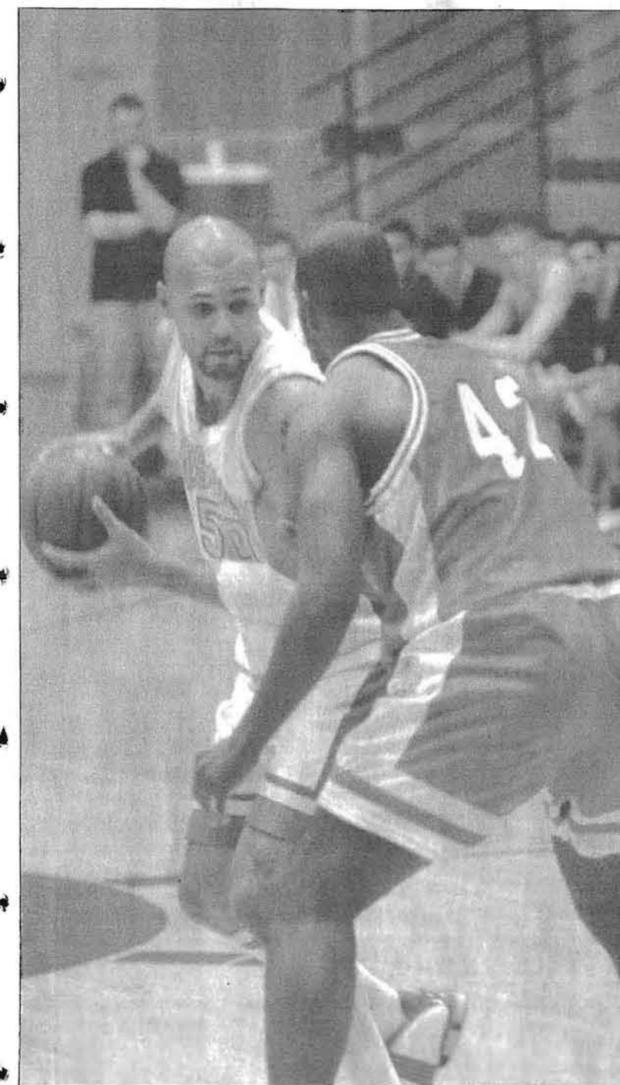
• vs. St. Joseph's at Mark
Twain Athletic Bldg.

BASKETBALL, from page 10

She looks eventually to teach at the elementary level, preferably grade three.

"I love kids. They are great and although I don't know if I want to

have them any time soon, I definitely look forward to teaching them," Billups said. Her plans involve going on a cruise sometime and getting married to her fiancé after she graduates.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ike Attah, Rivermen center, stares down an opponent during a game last month at Mark Twain.

UMSL inline hockey dominates Division II

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

With a record of 17-0-1, the UM-St. Louis Inline Hockey Team has the best record out of all of athletic teams competing on the Division II level. However, they are not recognized as a sport; they are a club at UM-St. Louis that brings in the best players from around the area as well as winning records and championships.

The Rivermen officially started their season on Oct. 4 after having try-outs the second week of September.

After a two-day tryout full of skating, drills, and scrimmages, all of the players were allocated onto the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Division II and Division III teams.

"I think we have some great teams," head coach Tom Schneider said. "We have all the components to win Regionals and Nationals."

They practice once a week at Queeny Park from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. This grueling two-hour practice prepares the Rivermen to compete against such schools as SLU, Wash U, Truman State, SEMO, Western Illinois, SIU-E, SIU-C, SMS, SEMO

and many other tough competitors. However, they are the only school in their Conference B to have an undefeated record. Teams are put into conferences based on their school enrollment and budget. They are currently ranked three in the entire Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League.

This weekend on Feb. 28 and 29, the UM-St. Louis Inline Hockey Team will be participating in the regional tournament at Matteson Square Garden Triplex in St. Peters, Mo. They have already been accepted to attend the national tournament in Anaheim, Calif. from April 14-18.

With all of the club's achievements in the rink, they feel like they should be officially recognized by the athletic department as a sport. Thomas Ames, student representative and starting goalkeeper for the A team, feels the same.

"It really hurts that we are not considered a sport. Being just a club, no one really knows about us or cares about us. We already bring in quality players who come here to play roller hockey so if UMSL recognized us as a sport, it would be even more rewarding and we would have more relationships fostered."

Athletes get community spirit

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis athletic teams have always been looking to get more involved with the community, not only to give the University a better name but also to get local members of the community to come out and be more involved with athletics in return for the service. All of the athletic teams at UM-St. Louis participate in numerous community service projects throughout the year in an effort to give back to the St. Louis community for their support of UM-St. Louis athletics.

Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis athletic director, fully supports the presence of athletics in the community.

"It creates a bigger presence for the athletes in the surrounding communities. I also think that it really helps the athletes to see themselves as role models and to enhance their overall experi-

ence at the university by being able to give something back. It helps to show people that the student-athletes aren't just here for games and books."

The UM-St. Louis softball team was involved with many organizations during their recent off season. One of their afternoons was spent assisting the "Beyond Housing" organization. "Beyond Housing" travels to lower-income housing communities to help assist residents with maintenance and remodeling of the houses as well as providing assistance with general purpose supplies for those residents. The softball team helped out with cleaning out and organizing the main warehouse for "Beyond Housing." The activities they assisted in ranged from throwing out old equipment to cleaning and organizing the warehouse to make it more accessible for workers.

UM-St. Louis baseball players are also involved with several events dur-

ing the year. During the fall semester the players get involved with local ele-

“

I think that it is good for the team...to give back to someone, and they give the children at the school someone who they can look up to.

- Deron Spinks, assistant baseball coach

”

mentary students from Jefferson Elementary School. They will do certain activities such as reading and play-

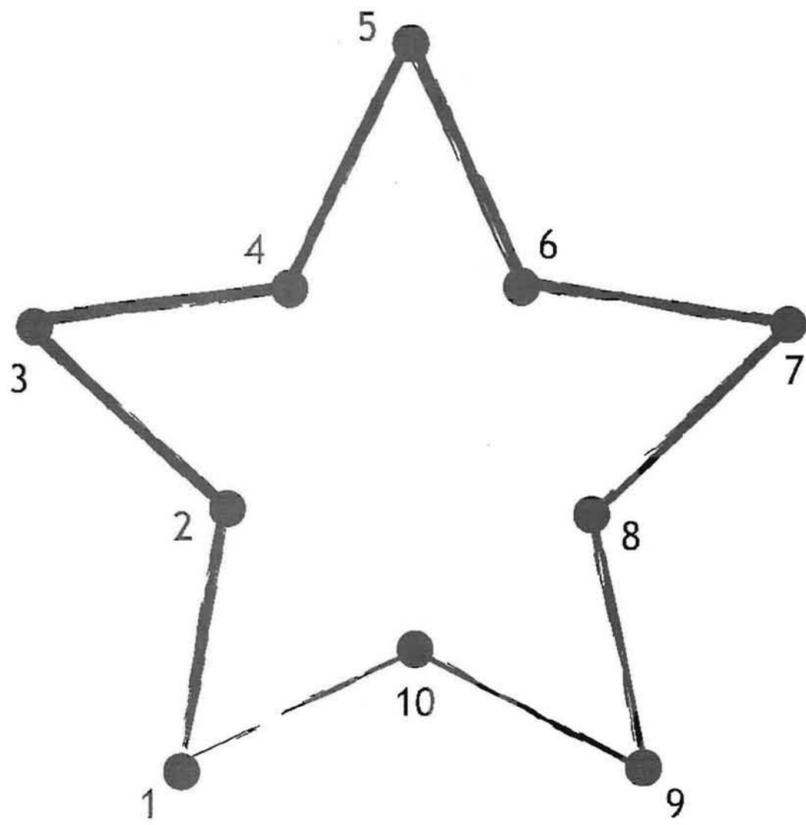
ing games to help the students learn. The team is also involved in the "Light up the Night" ceremony to help support cancer research. The event takes place every fall in Forest Park and the team helps to set up the event and to run it.

UM-St. Louis assistant baseball coach Deron Spink helps to organize the events for the team during the year.

"I think that it is good for the team because they get a chance to give back to someone, and they give the children at the school someone who they can look up to. It works both ways and is a good thing for the university," Spink said.

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball, soccer, golf and tennis teams, along with the women's volleyball team, are also involved in various community service deeds including local day camps and clinics for young athletes to come and enjoy.

THE CURRENT needs you to write sports! Come by MSC 388 for more information or to apply. You can also call Nichole at 314-516-6810.



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- Charles Caisley, *Chief of Staff-Missouri Representative Catherine Hanaway*
- Mika Schrimpf, *Missouri Republican Party*

Wednesday, February 25th
4:30 PM
Century Rooms A & B

For more information:
UM-St. Louis College Republicans umsl_crs@yahoo.com

A&E

EDITOR

CASEY SCHACHER

A&E Editor

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A&E Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of Feb. 23

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.

The Passion of the Christ- Jim Caviezel stars in this Mel Gibson directed film about the last hours of Jesus Christ. The pre-release controversy surrounding this movie ensures that it will be a massive hit, but will the controversy (surrounding violence and possible anti-semitic sentiments) have been swirling around the film for weeks.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Touching the Void' is true reality adventure

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Forget reality TV. "Touching the Void" is a real drama.

The synopsis tells all about the fascination of this film. In the 1980s, two young, fit, experienced mountain climbers, Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, set out to climb the western face of an Andean peak, Siula Grande. All attempts on the west face of this mountain had failed, which made for a tantalizing challenge. Along the way, disaster struck and Joe Simpson broke his leg. While trying to lower his friend down the mountain in the approaching darkness and growing storm, Simon Yates inadvertently lowered Joe over a precipice and into a crevasse. Unable to see or hear Joe, Simon was slowly being pulled down the nearly vertical slope. Faced with the choice of letting them both be pulled over the ledge to their deaths, Simon cut the rope. "Touching the Void" tells the story of how the man who was cut loose survived the fall and made his way back to base camp, a remarkable tale of will and survival.

Like "The Endurance," that powerful documentary about Shackleton's voyage to the South Pole, "Touching the Void" uses the amazing real-life feats and breathtaking natural vistas to drive its dramatic arc. The film combines on-camera retelling of the events by the climbers involved with footage of mountain climbers recreating the ordeal, to weave considerable magic and a gripping narrative. Although

you know up front that Joe Simpson survived, it is the how that brings gasps of amazement and nail-biting suspense.

This 1985 disaster is famous in the climbing world, as a wake-up call to climbers about the dangers of peaks beyond their own experience. Although they were fit and experienced climbers, Joe and Simon had never even traveled to the Andes before attempting this remote Andean peak. In this isolated area, Joe and Simon realized there would be no possibility of rescue if something happened on the mountain. Yet, at ages 21 and 25 respectively, Simon and Joe were supremely confident of their own abilities.

The climbers had met another young man hiking through Peru, a non-climber who agreed to watch their tent and gear at base camp. Joe and Simon had done considerable climbing in the Alps and used the alpine technique of scaling a peak in a single push. This meant they would begin the ascent without first laying out supplies and smaller camps where they could take shelter, and so the pair committed to a climb without options for a stepwise ascent. The technique contributed to the ordeal they faced and brought home to many climbers a new awareness of the costs of using the wrong approach for a challenging peak. The climbers were well equipped for the Alps, but not for the steeper Andes.

These men had climbed together for some time and when they were faced with this mountain, they realized that it was unlike any they had climbed. They pressed on regardless, with the confidence in their individ-



Photo courtesy www.rottentomatoes.com

TOUCHING THE VOID depicts the harrowing ascent of climbers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates up the Andean peak Siula Grande.

ual prowess but also acutely aware that an injury on this peak would likely be fatal. Yet they felt like they were better than all climbers who had tried it before, and the fact that the west approach they were taking had been attempted but never successfully conquered was part of its appeal.

When the unthinkable happened,

the pair was very near the mountain's peak. The injured man's first thought was that he was dead. He expected his partner to do the safest thing and leave him on the slope, since they had an unspoken agreement that bringing down an injured man would be suicide for them both. Instead, he was shocked when Simon did not

abandon him but devised a way to lower him down the mountain. Only a quick descent would save both their lives, yet the descent was dangerous for both and painful for Joe.

see **INTO THE VOID**, page 13

BOOK REVIEW

'Holiday' is definitely not 'Wuthering Heights'

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

What a delightful rarity when you manage to find a class that includes books that are fun to read. Yes, classes like that do exist. Yes, I am sorry if you have not been introduced to one yet. Believe it or not, neither had I, until this semester. When I picked up the book list from the syllabus, sitting at my computer with Amazon waiting patiently on me, I noted that the list included two or three books that were not stuffy theory or dead literature. Shh. I looked around. Keep the secret.

Some of you might say that I am cheating. After all, "Rachel's Holiday" is required reading for my class. However, you forget that "Rachel's Holiday" is not "Beowulf," "Wuthering Heights" or your sociology textbook. Instead, complete with its flashy pink cover and dancing, cartoonish heroine, "Rachel's Holiday" is the sort of book that normal people pay money for at bookstores for entertainment.

Marian Keyes is not a new author, and if you are associated with the "New Paperbacks" section of your local bookstore, you have doubtlessly seen her stuff. "Rachel's Holiday" parallels Keyes's life in several ways, but it urges to ferret out those connections and dig in biography but does not become more important than following her characters. And that is a good thing.

The woman we follow in "Rachel's Holiday" is (anyone under suspense?) Rachel Walsh, a middle-rung New Yorker trying to get ahead, trying to fit

in and chalking up trendy new things to be snobbish about. We would hate her for all that because we all actually want to be making something big of ourselves in New York, but she is desperately human and funny while she is knocked around in her own life. Rachel rooms with Bridgit, and they are charmingly neurotic together. Both are Irish, and they happen to fall in with a group of Irish boys called the "Real Men," which is absolutely booming with irony since these men are trapped in a time warp, garbed in late-'80s metal styling. Nevertheless, Rachel dives for Luke, one of the "Men," and everything is peachy until she turns up in the hospital after swallowing a bottle of sleeping pills to get down from her coke high. Oh, did I mention that Rachel is addicted to cocaine?

In swoops a regalia of people who care about Rachel, who have been watching her deteriorate and who whisk her back to her homeland of Ireland start her on rehabilitation at a clinic called the Cloisters. Rachel, in her NY delusional cloud, believes the Cloisters to be a snazzy spa where she expects to get facials with movie stars and sit in the sauna with TV personalities. She is horribly mistaken, and we cringe with her as she enters into the old and somewhat dilapidated asylum of sorts.

The bulk of "Holiday" transitions between Rachel at the Cloisters and Rachel flashing back (so kindly, for us) to her pre-breakdown time in New York. The clients at the Cloisters are hardly celebs, but farmers and regular Joes. Men far outnumber women and alcoholics outnumber the clients with

other addictions.

Nevertheless, that fact does not keep the population from having wild times during which eating-addicts steal the toast from breakfast, people compete outright for flirting rights and rendezvous in the laundry room and drug fiends try desperately to smuggle in their fixes. You know, the usual business. In between these antics, and Rachel's sobering and overcoming denial, we learn more about her life in New York, how petty she was and how she gradually fell into a troubling addiction.

Rachel's family is an absolute hoot and comes close to the reason in and of itself to buy the book. However, "Holiday" is ultimately about Rachel tackling her addiction, a serious issue. In her life, as in all our lives, there are layers wrapped up in each other. In addressing her drug problem, Rachel must confront her personal faults, her issues with her family and, most dramatically and importantly, her love life. She tangles with Luke directly and indirectly, in tandem often with cravings or withdrawals for the blow.

Rachel's story is compelling, funny and sad right through the last page. If you want that maintained, stop there. That, I should say, reflects real life. Remember that Ms. Keyes, however, is in the business of selling books. She sells out in the three-page epilogue.

Rachel (in pink), her addictions, and her funny family (which, no, does not remind me of my own) are available anywhere you get books for \$13.95. Yes, also much cheaper than your sociology textbook. Sorry about that.

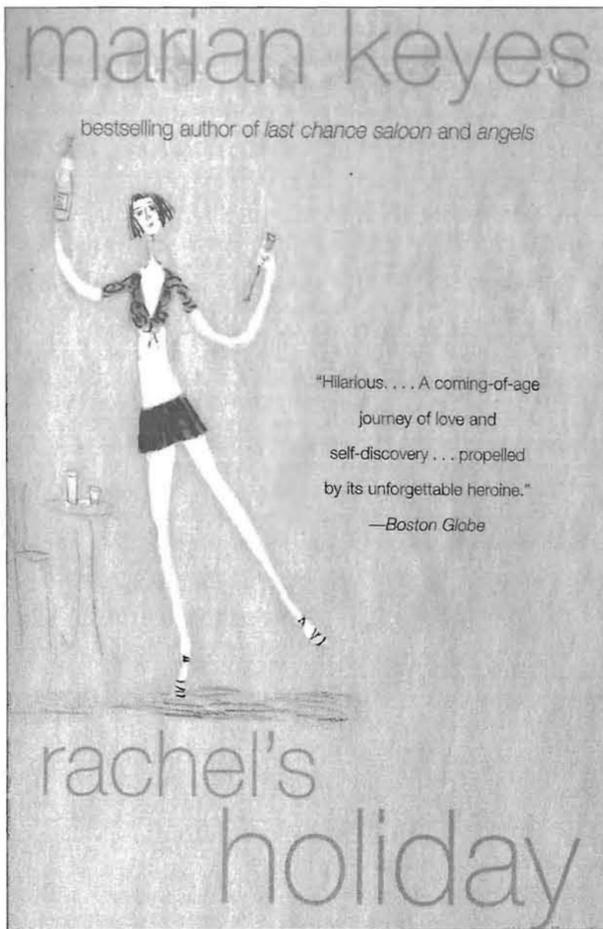


Photo courtesy HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

"Rachel's Holiday" is about a woman who falls prey to drug addiction while trying to get ahead in New York.

CD REVIEW

Air's album takes listeners to another dimension

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

If you have ever enjoyed a moment where the drab everydayness of life melts away, then you have some notion of what it is like to listen to an Air album. Air has captured enrapturing moments and put them onto a CD. Through gently whispered lyrics, synthetic beats and unusual composition of sound, "Talkie Walkie" aids the listener in a surreal experience.

This album blends the simple beauty and message of Nick Drake with the meditative sound composition of Boards of Canada.

Air was also very fortunate to have the assistance of two huge talents in the music business for this album. String arranger Michel Colombier,

whose previous employers include Madonna, The Beach Boys and Prince, made valuable decisions within the composition aspects. Nigel Godrich, Radiohead producer, is credited with fine-tuning and extracting the essence of Air for "Talkie Walkie."

Though Air's esoteric vibe has yet to capture mainstream audiences, it has managed to trickle into many branches of modern culture. Last year, while working in their Paris studio, Air wrote almost 40 songs. Of those, 19 were used as background for the reading of Alessandro Baricco's "City" novel (at the request of the author). Another 18 electronic mood pieces were used to score the contemporary ballet, Near Life Experience, which is currently touring Europe.

Mainstream audiences will likely

recognize Air's contribution to the motion picture soundtrack of 2000's "The Virgin Suicides" as well as "Talkie Walkie's" closing track, "Alone In Kyoto," which is featured in the much acclaimed film, "Lost in Translation." Both films were made by recent award-winner Sofia Coppola.

Chances are that if you enjoyed one or both of these films, something from "Talkie Walkie" will speak to you. The instrumental tracks "Mike Mills" and "Alone In Kyoto" speak to lovers of composition. The opening track "Venus" is a tender appeal to humanity and love, introducing listeners to the minimalism and sweetness that could be used to define the album.

see **AIR'S ALBUM**, page 13



Air's new album has string arrangement by Michel Colombier who has worked with the Beach Boys and Madonna. The Album was also produced by Nigel Godrich who worked on albums with Radiohead.

Photo by Claude Gassian

Due to technical error,
page 13 of this week's
Current will not be
seen. Please tune in
next week for the
exciting conclusion of
Arts and Entertainment.
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channel.

Annual black expo at Gallery Visio



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Patrina Gay, junior, criminology, listens to UM-St. Louis graduate Kareema Ahmad talk about her photographs, which are featured in the Gallery Visio show "4th Annual Black Arts Expo," running through Feb. 27. Gay is secretary of the Associated Black Collegians, who co-sponsored the exhibit. Gallery Visio is located on the first floor of the MSC, next to the Pilot House.

ARCHITECT, from page 13

The filmmaker's journey of growing to know his father parallels our growing knowledge and appreciation of the man's work throughout the film.

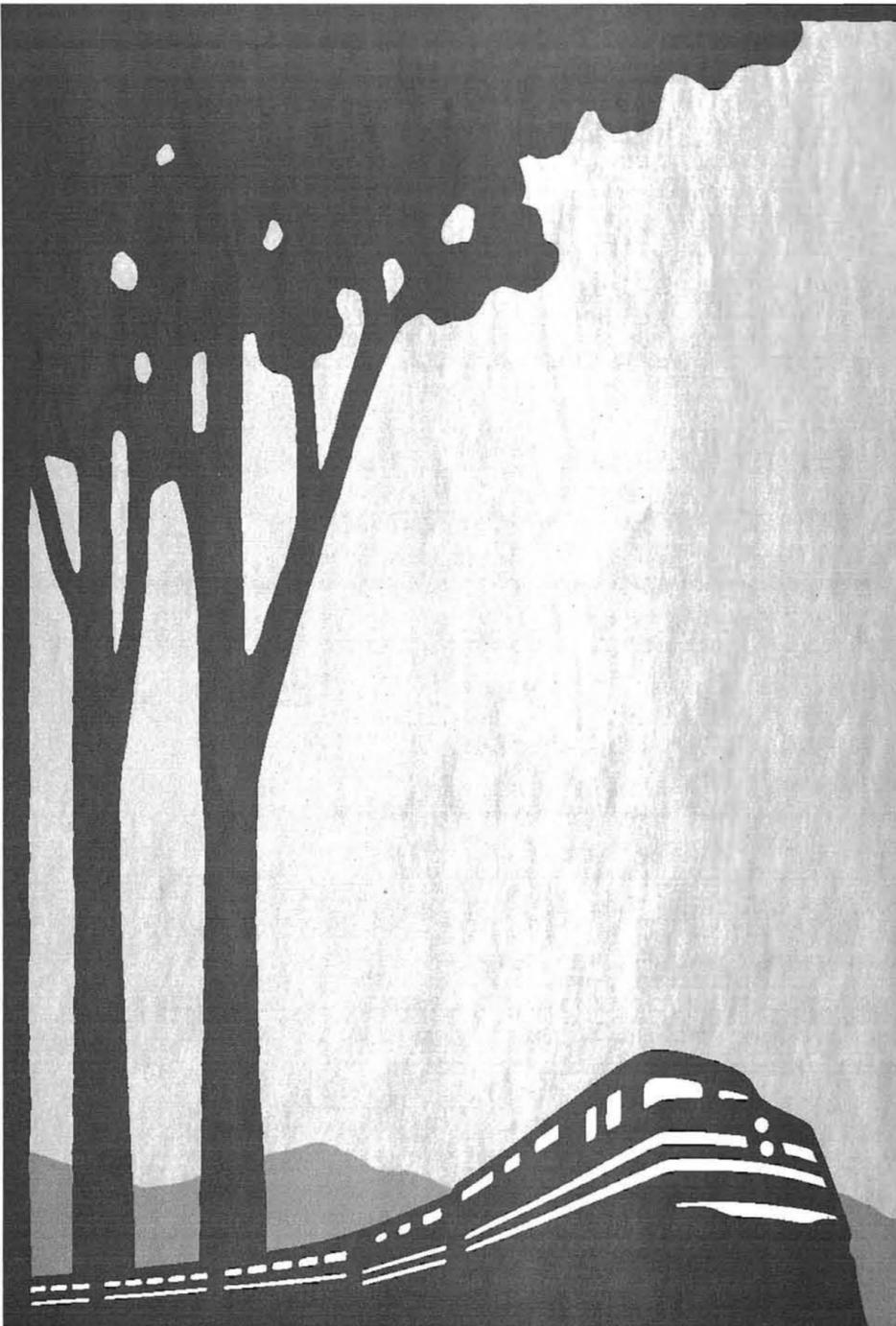
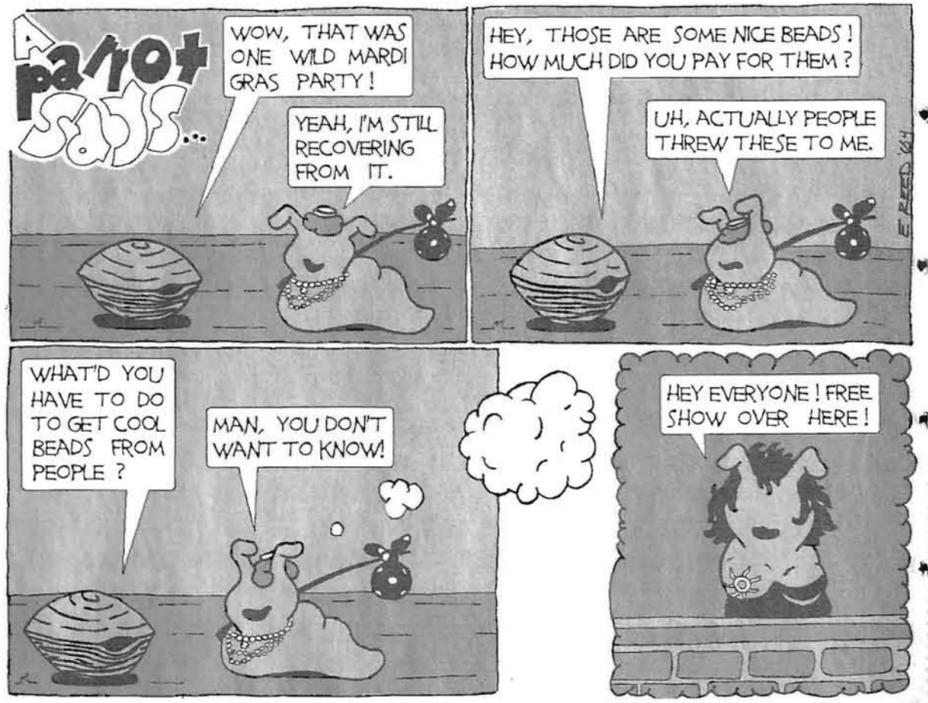
The only thing missing in this journey is a little more knowledge about the filmmaker himself. Writer/director Nathaniel Kahn appears in many scenes, yet we never learn why it took him so long to explore his own family history or make the search for whom his father

was. We learn much about the father but less about how the son feels about what he uncovered. Somehow, this seems to leave a gap in so personal a film.

Still, from a visual standpoint, the film is a glorious accomplishment that will likely draw gasps from even those least enamored of late-twentieth-century architecture. The credit has to go to the filmmaker in how he leads up to Kahn's greatest buildings and the photographic skill and emo-

tion of how they are presented. So far, the St. Louis area has had a chance to see four of the five nominated documentary films: "Capturing the Friedmans," "Weather Underground," "Fog of War" and now "My Architect." Only "Balseiros" has not appeared on a local screen. Odds are in our favor that we got the chance to see this year's Oscar winner for best documentary; certainly, we have been treated to some amazing documentary film.

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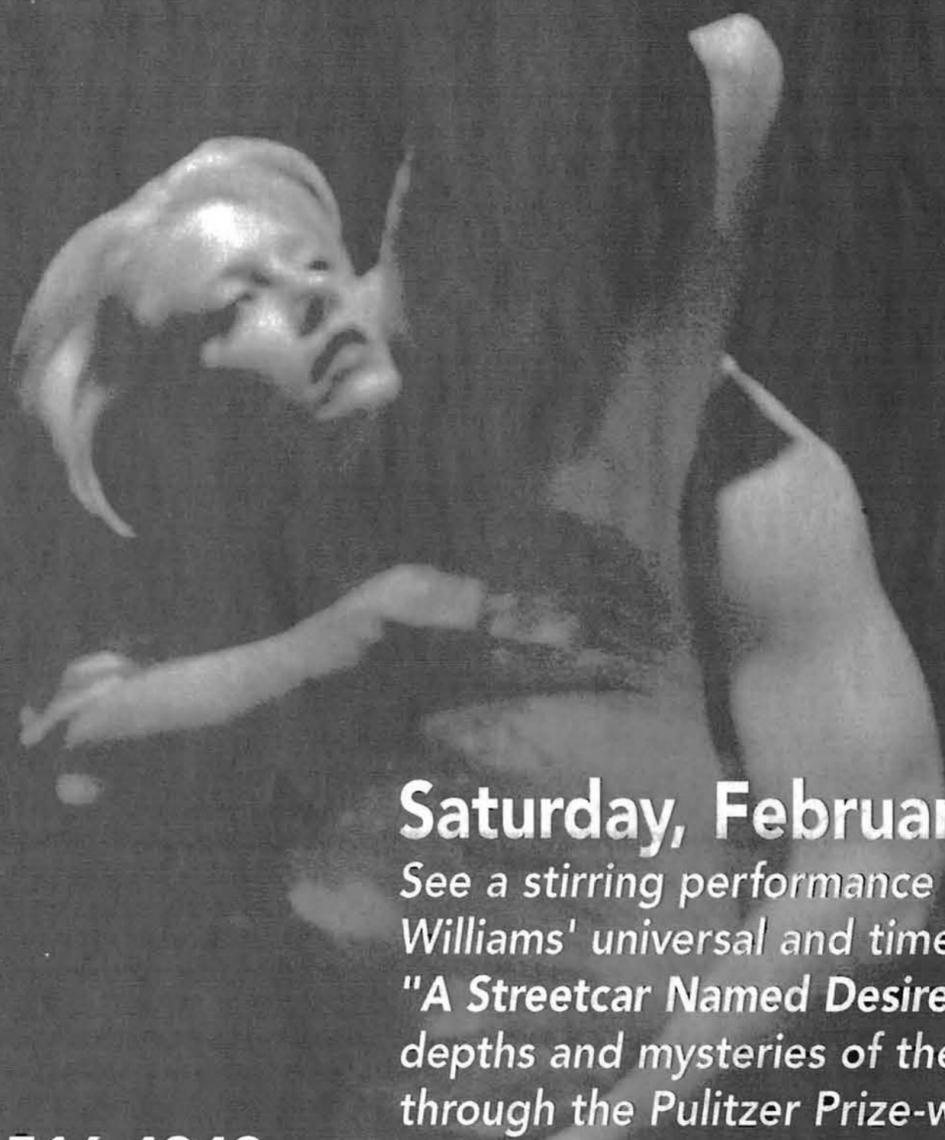
Look for the annual April Fools issue in April (or March 32!)

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.

A Streetcar Named

DESIRE

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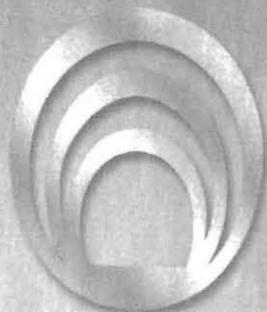
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