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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Welcome to  
UM-St. Louis

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE SHERWIN



# THE MAN — with the — THE PLAN

## Chancellor Thomas George announces goals for '04 - '05

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
News Editor

UM-St. Louis' Chancellor Tom George has announced his plans for the University during the 2004-2005 academic year.

"We want to enhance the quality of our education," said George. His plans for the upcoming academic year come directly from the Action Plan for 2004-2008. The Plan was unanimously endorsed at the full faculty meeting on May 6 and is also supported by the Faculty Senate Assembly, the Chancellors Council, and the Alumni Association.

The Action Plan details the steps that the University will take to ensure its five main priorities:

- Enhance the quality and delivery of undergraduate and graduate education.
- Recruit and retain an outstanding and diverse student body.
- Build the quality of research, scholarship, artistic activity and graduate programs.
- Enhance civic engagement for economic and social benefit of the region.
- Increase financial base and improve stewardship of resources.

To enhance the quality of education, George stressed the importance of increasing tenure-track faculty. "This will add to the body of the faculty and give us more hiring power," George said. Currently, tenure-track faculty number 285, but the Action Plan calls for 330 by 2008.

George said he would also like to nurture academic partnerships with community colleges and other edu-

ational and cultural institutions. "More students transfer here than anywhere else in the state," George said. "We have students enrolled at outreach community centers and high school students taking advanced placement courses."

To recruit and retain a diverse student body, the University plans to increase retention of first-time, full-time freshman from 74 percent to 80 percent by 2008. This goal will assist in the larger priority of increasing on-campus enrollment. The Action Plan calls for an overall increase from 15,600 to 18,000. "Retention is critical. We've got room to grow - room to stretch," said George.



**John Kundel**  
Appointed Associate Vice Provost for student affairs and enrollment management.

In an effort to increase enrollment retention, UM-St. Louis has appointed John A. Kundel to Associate Vice Provost for student affairs and enrollment management. Kundel served as Director of the Office of Admissions at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and previously worked as Director of Student Financial Aid at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

"This is a great opportunity for me to help the University pull in an

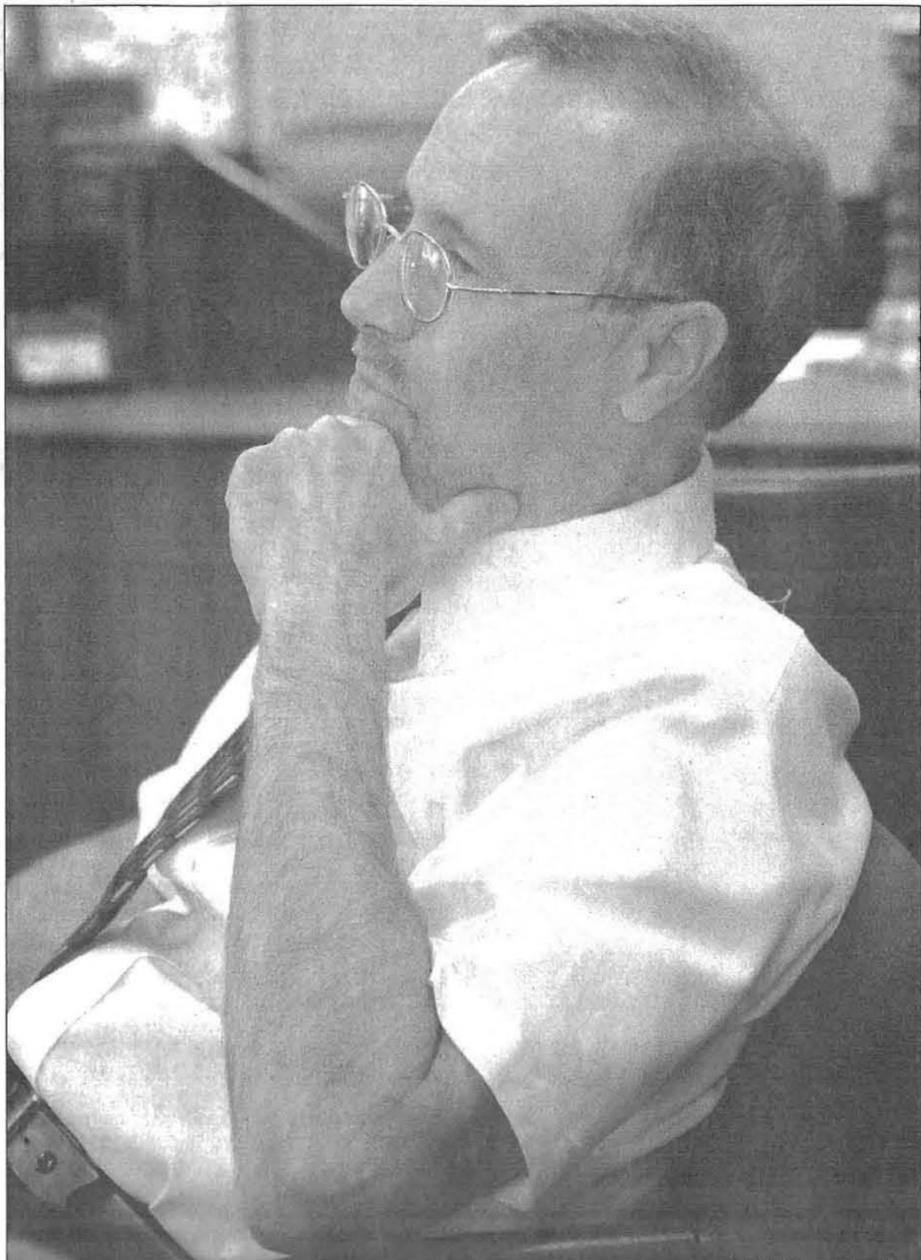
academically talented and diverse student body," Kundel told Media Services. "We're looking to make UM-St. Louis as financially accessible to its students as possible."

The University also plans to increase enrollment of black students from 14.5 percent to 16 percent and enrollment of all ethnic minority students from 23 percent to 26 percent. "We are a major metropolitan university," said George. "It shows on our campus. We have a lot of diversity in all kinds of ways."

George highlighted a priority to increase on-campus living from 1,000 students to 2,500 students. "This means that we will have to develop a food service facility on South Campus," said George. "We want to mimic a private university for those who want that environment." New student housing is already being build on South Campus.

To build the quality of research, George plans to encourage a raise in external funding from \$25 million to \$50 million. This money would come from grants, corporate donations, and federal earmarked money to develop appropriate research infrastructure, facilities, space and technology. The University will also begin selectively adding doctoral programs. Currently, UM-St. Louis offers 13 doctoral programs including Missouri's only accredited optometry school. UM-St. Louis offers 46 undergraduate degree programs and 30 master's degree programs.

A large part of the Plan calls for partnerships with local communities such as Bel-Ridge, Bel-Nor,



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Chancellor Thomas George speaks with a reporter earlier this month. George has outlined his goals for campus improvement in the University's "Action Plan." Goals include increasing enrollment and alumni donations, and expanding on-campus housing.

Normandy, Ferguson and Cool Valley to develop community amenities to attract students and businesses to the area. "We want to make this campus a resource for ourselves and our community," said George, who cited the Touhill Performing Arts Center as an example of an asset to the University and the surrounding communities.

"We'd like to get our alumni donations up," said George, who is excited about UM-St. Louis's recent equity adjustment. The adjustment allowed the University to receive more state funds. "We owe a large thank you to Senator Wayne Good," said George. "All of the stars just kind of fell in the right place."

The equity adjustment and the alumni donations are part of a large plan to increase the overall financial base. The plan also includes increasing private gifts from \$9.5 million to \$25 million. "We know our tuition is high, but we don't like passing on the cost to the students," said George, who maintains that UM-St. Louis is still the most affordable university in the area.

## Glen Cope to serve as provost

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
News Editor

Glen Cope has been named provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UM-St. Louis and will begin Aug. 16. As provost, Cope will work directly with Chancellor Tom George to implement strategic policy regarding academic affairs.

"She's the number two person on campus," said George. "She's kind of like a first among equals among the provosts."

The Provost Search Committee underwent a national search this summer to hire a new provost before the fall semester began.

"We really covered our bases in the search committee," George said. Several dozen applications were filed, but only two applicants were interviewed on campus. Forums were held to allow faculty, staff and students to question the applicants. "I'm very pleased that she's on board," said George.

The Provost Search Committee included faculty from several different departments, a member of the Student Government Association, a member of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, and representatives from the Staff Association, Alumni Association, Evening

College, Academic Affairs and Council of Deans.

Cope comes to UM-St. Louis from the University of Illinois at Springfield where she serves as Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Administration and professor of public administration. Before Springfield, Cope served as a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin.



**Glen Cope**  
Comes to UMSL from the University of Illinois at Springfield

"We were looking for someone with strong academic credentials, strong administrative credentials, and someone that subscribes to what we are all about," said George. "We got lots of feedback from students, faculty, and staff. This truly was a university hire."

Cope, who said she is ready to learn all about UM-St. Louis, earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

"I taught budgeting and fiscal control," said Cope. "It's very important to me."

Cope said she feels like the student bodies at U of I - Springfield and UM-St. Louis are very comparable.

"We had a lot of commuter students, older students, and traditional four-year students," said Cope. "The average age of the students is about the same too."

Cope also said she has a pretty good view of what needs to be done as provost.

"I've been a dean at U of I and now I will be over the deans," said Cope, who also served as associate dean at U of T - Austin.

"I really want the campus to grow in size and in stature," said Cope, who will be working directly with faculty to ensure academic quality through research and other aspects. "I want to work with the academic faculty in a way that will best serve the students."

Cope said that she looks forward to working closely with Chancellor George. "I think that we'll make a great team," she said. "I'm very impressed with his energy and enthusiasm. It's inspiring."

"I'd just like to say 'welcome' or 'welcome back' to all the students both new and old," said Cope. "I look forward to getting to know the students. I want them to know that I really care about their needs and their academic goals."

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# RECRUITING

## EDITOR

MELISSA McCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## Career Services connects students with employers

BY GARY SOHN  
Features Associate

Students and alumni having trouble with job searches should check out Career Services, located in 278 MSC. They have career coaches, web-base software and other various types of job placement tools which allow students to become more marketable in their job search.

Career Services works with current students and recent alumni seeking for job placement. They have maintained a strong connection with St. Louis businesses for over 40 years. A one-time fee of \$35 is required to use their job search database; however the office receives no percentage of student fees for their services.

"You're not paying to use our service in general or career coaching. There is no charge for that. The only thing we have to charge is for activation into our web-based system called E-Recruiting. This allows them to interface with employers," Teresa Balestrieri, director of Career Services said.

E-Recruit is a web-based product designed to assist students and employers in connecting with each other. This product has several different benefits for users.

see CAREER SERVICES, page 5

# Golden Key opens the door to success

BY GARY SOHN  
Features Associate

Golden Key offers exceptional students lifetime recognition and scholarly reward. This association invites only the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors to join. Members pay a once-only entrance fee in order to become Golden Key International Honor Society lifetime members.

Joe Garavaglia, junior and current member of the UM-St. Louis chapter of Golden Key, believes Golden Key offers its members many opportunities.

"We recognize academic excellence, promote community service, provide scholarship and networking opportunities for our members," Garavaglia said.

Garavaglia is involved in several campus academic organizations. In addition to being Golden Key chapter president, he is also president of the accounting club, a chair in the student senate and a SGA representative (and recording secretary) of Beta Alpha Psi.

Golden Key members are not required to be involved in any activities or other campus organizations.



Photo courtesy Daniel Hollander

Golden Key members organize the "Teddy Bear Safari" for children at the Kathy J. Weinman Children's Advocacy Centre, located on the UM-St. Louis south campus. Thanks to area sponsors, the children spent the day reading books, making crafts, eating, and playing games.

"Participation is optional. You can just pay dues and you're in. We have members who participate but we also have a lot more who don't. I would like to see more of our

members be participating members," Garavaglia said.

Andie Ward, senior, elementary education and special education, has also noticed the lack of participation

by some Golden Key members.

"I was shocked, when I worked the last graduation, at the amount of people listed as Golden Key members—and we don't even know

them. It would be nice if [those] people just didn't want it on their resume," Ward said.

Having Golden Key listed on a resume may not be enough for potential employers. Ward suggested employers ask applicants what activities they participated in as Golden Key members.

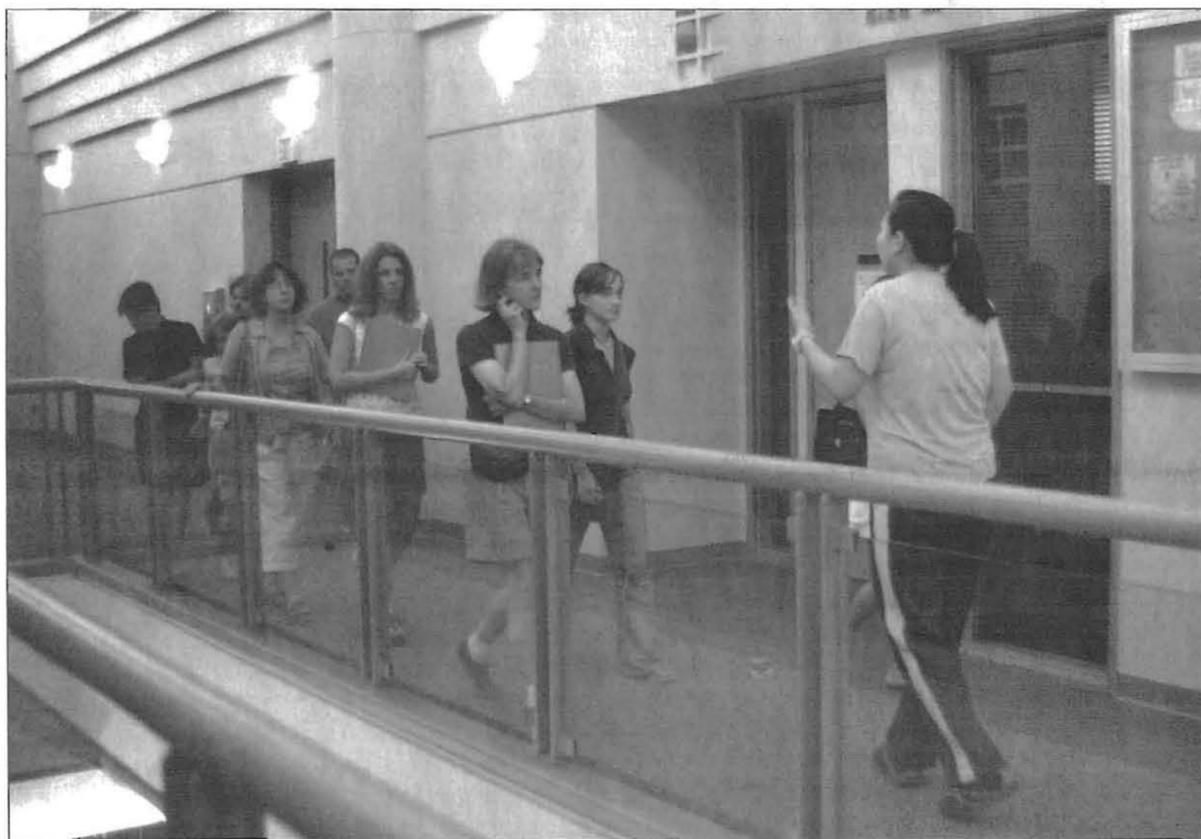
Ward, Vice President of Golden Key Activities, is also involved in several other campus organizations. She is a mentor for new students on campus and a member of Alpha Phi Omega and Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Golden Key sends members to national and regional conventions. They also participate in World AIDS Day activities, conduct fundraisers, host the Undergraduate Research Symposium, remodel homes for low income families and organize the Teddy Bear Safari.

The Teddy Bear Safari is an event held in the Kathy J. Weinman Center where abused children get a day to have fun. It gives these children who were sexually abused a chance to trust people once again. Ward was in charge of running this event.

see GOLDEN KEY, page 16

## Getting Oriented



Casey Ulrich/The Current

### Upcoming New Student Orientations

#### August 13

- Multicultural Relations Freshman and Parent Orientation, 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Contact Linda Sharp at 314-516-6807.

- College of Education Orientation, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Contact Debbie Ballard, 314-516-6710.

- Move-In Day for new Students, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Res. Life at 314-516-6877.

#### August 14

- New Student Orientation for all new students, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Move-In Day for transfer and returning students, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Res. Life at 314-516-6877.

#### August 15

- Express Orientation, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

LEFT: Yimei Chi, junior, international business, leads a group of prospective UMSL students on a tour of the campus.

## Meet me at the fair

# Fair St. Louis marches on despite weather

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Features Editor

The rides were up, the food stands were open and the game booths were anticipating another great Fair Saint Louis. Friday, July 2 marked the opening of the 2004 Fair St. Louis. The opening of this year's fair commenced as scheduled, except for rainy weather and severe thunderstorms throughout the day on Friday. As a result, the Kenny Rogers performance concluded early Friday night and the fireworks display was canceled that evening.

Rain caused a loss of revenue for Fair St. Louis, both this year and in some years past, according to Fair St. Louis Executive Director Rich Meyers.

"One day of bad weather can cause many negative effects with the fair," Meyers said. "Rain cannot only cause a low attendance rate, but can also cause concert performances to be delayed, the fireworks display to be canceled, vendors to close and low ticket sales."

On Saturday, the rain continued just as the annual Veiled Prophet Parade ended. The parade began at 10 a.m. on Fourth St. at Washington Ave. in downtown St. Louis. By 1 p.m. it was raining again. The parade showcased more than 20 floats from St. Louis area organizations and also featured clowns and area high school marching bands.

Safety was a key priority for both fair organizers and St. Louis area police officers this year. All visitors entering the fairgrounds had to clear

security checks and those carrying purses or backpacks were searched for glass containers, alcohol or weapons. Fair St. Louis organizers have attempted to make the fair as safe as possible, especially since the attack of the World Trade Towers in 2001.

Not only were police officers patrolling the fairgrounds, but also there were booths that provided safety services to families. One was the Energizer Bunny stand, which served as a Lost and Found destination in the park. There was also a Child Identification booth, where parents could create identification bracelets and obtain their children's fingerprints. Emergency First Aid stands and rest stations were set up for those who felt sick, became overheated or were injured.

2004 Fair St. Louis provided games, food, music and entertainment to amuse participants of all ages. The theme for this year's fair was "Meet Me at the Fair" and commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the 1904 World's Fair.

"One of the attractions I enjoyed seeing was the giant sand castles in front of the Old Court House," St. Louis resident Deborah Smith said.

The Adams Mark, along with other downtown hotels such as the Drury Inn and The Millennium also took safety precautions during the fair this year. The hotels gave their guests wristbands to wear, making it easier to identify people who were not guests of the hotel. Those guests without wristbands were not allowed entrance. Also, alcohol was not permitted in those hotels, except by purchase at the



Mike Sherwin/The Current

hotel bar. Bellhops, lobby employees and valet parkers were at entrances to assist people.

Musical performances included acts by the Charlie Daniels Band, Isaac Hayes and Al Green. All shows took place on the Bud Light Main Stage. Concluding the three-day festival, rock groups Saliva and The Wallflowers gave concerts on Sunday.

"Organizers and music planners wanted to take an alternative approach to appeal to its younger audience members," Meyers said.

Independence Day weekend, which coincides with Fair St. Louis each year, is one of the busiest times for the Adams Mark Hotel. Some Adams Mark guests came for the Air

Show, sponsored by Enterprise Rent-A-Car or Sunday's Cardinal game, but the majority of visitors came to experience the firework display put on by Fair St. Louis.

"On Saturday and Sunday we had over 700 guests, including Missouri residents and outside tourists checked into rooms," Sheila Johnson, Adams Mark hotel employee said.

Admission to the fair was free. However, rides, food and parking were not. Books of nine tickets, sold at ticket booths for \$5, were used to purchase food, beverages or rides. Each cost an average of three to five tickets, or under \$5. To save cash, some fairgoers brought picnic baskets or coolers. To beat the heat, traffic congest-

Passengers struggle to squeeze aboard the MetroLink train at the Eighth and Pine station after the end of the fireworks display on the last day of Fair St. Louis.

tion and parking fees, many fairgoers rode MetroLink.

The conclusion of Fair St. Louis on Sunday, July 4 was a success despite the early wet weather. Friday's rainout was forgotten as fairgoers watched the U.S. Bank sponsored Firework Finale, beginning at 9:45 p.m. on Sunday. Audience cheers became deafening as the grand finale was discharged, releasing dozens of rockets high above the Mississippi River. "God Bless America" played in the background as the sky was lit with colorful displays.

The Grand Finale concluded fair festivities and honored the 1904 World's Fair.

# Clinic practices preventative medicine

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Editor

The University Health Services (U.H.S.) Clinic at UM-St. Louis is starting the school year off by providing more services to students.

New programs include Wellness Profiles, screenings, support groups, dietary consultations, cardiovascular education, evening college programs and health education.

The Wellness Profile is a physical check-up, with vital signs taken and any discovered health risks discussed.

Cholesterol, blood pressure, mammograms, sexually transmitted diseases, depression and alcohol abuse are a few of the available screenings.

There is also a new support group to assist students who are diabetic.

"We will offer more education and awareness about topics like heart problems, cancer prevention, breast awareness, sleep, headaches, osteoporosis and skin disorders," U.H.S. Clinic medical assistant and health educator Kathy Castulik said.

There are four certified nurse practitioners, a medical assistant and a drug and alcohol coordinator who work at the clinic.

The awareness and informational booths are free and student health fees cover most services. There are minimal charges for medications and lab tests. Students can pay for these services by charging fees to their student account; the clinic also accepts cash or personal check.

One benefit to using campus health services is no health insurance is required.

Nurse practitioner Amy Lim described several service prices. "All office visits are free of

charge; however, it is \$5 for allergy vaccinations, \$20 for pap smears, \$15 for strep tests, \$15 for cholesterol checks and \$15 for physicals," Lim said.

Emergency contraception, hearing screenings, pregnancy testing, referrals, drug screening and weight checks are just a few of the other services given through the clinic.

Health Services will offer Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid lessons to students for a small charge. Certain medications are sold at discounted

prices. "Birth control pills are sold in packs of 3 for \$15, where as at drug stores it would normally run about \$60," Castulik said.

Another addition to Health Services is the availability of meningitis vaccinations. A law was passed this year requiring all new students to receive this injection. Although there are no current outbreaks of this illness at UM-St. Louis, meningitis can be deadly or fatal if contracted. Health Services target mostly freshmen to receive this vaccination.

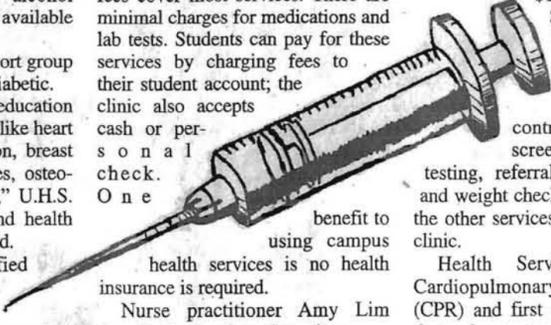
The Meningitis vaccination cost \$65 and students must make an appointment.

On Sept. 16, there will be a blood

drive sponsored by Health Services and Red Cross, starting at noon and collecting until 5 p.m. During the last two weeks of October, notices will be sent out to students, faculty and staff about mammography screenings. These weeks will focus on breast awareness and the importance of doing self-breast checks. Another event will take place in November. They will be providing influenza shots to fight the flu season.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday until 7 p.m.

For a list of all services given, go to the health page at [www.umsl.edu](http://www.umsl.edu) or call the office at 516-5671. Walk-ins are welcomed, but for faster service, appointments are necessary.



## CAREER SERVICES from page 4

Students can use E-Recruit to search for internships or full-time jobs, post their resume to web resume books, sign up for interviews with on-campus recruiters, view employer contact information and websites, view upcoming career events and access other career resources.

Career Services not only assists students and alumni in job quests, but they also help obtain and secure positions in the area of employment students want. Career Services has Career Specialists who can guide job seekers in all aspects of their search. They assist job hunters with resumes, interview and follow up skills, salary negotiation and other job search survival skills.

There are also several different programs which aid in developing, implementing and evaluating job ascertainment strategies. They offer job fairs, weekly workshops, etiquette courses and resume critiques. Career Services holds four job fairs, annually. The next upcoming job fairs will be in August and September.

The UM-St. Louis August Teacher Job Fair will be held August 6 in the Mark Twain Building. This fair gives education majors an opportunity to meet and interview with different school districts' representatives at one location. Admission is free for those who pre-register by July 30. To pre-register, go to [www.umsl.edu](http://www.umsl.edu)

[www.umsl.edu/depts/career/activities](http://www.umsl.edu/depts/career/activities). Those who do not pre-register will be charged \$5 at the door.

Career Days will be held September 14 and 15, in the MSC Century Room. This event is free to all UM-St. Louis students and alumni.

For another opportunity to seek employment, each week Career Services offer workshops to assist students in becoming more marketable. The workshops are free and require advanced registration with Career Services.

On October 19, Career services will host an etiquette banquet. This luncheon is a chance to polish up etiquette skills, with guidance from a professional etiquette consultant. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Career Services. According to Balestreri, this event sells out fast; those wishing to attend should buy their tickets soon.

Another event, 'Resume Mania Week,' will begin on August 30. Students and alumni can submit their resumes online at [resumemania@umsl.edu](mailto:resumemania@umsl.edu). Career specialists will be available to critique them. Resumes will be e-mailed back within 24 hours of submission.

So how successful are programs offered by Career Services?

"We do an online survey, and for 2003, we had a 40 percent response

rate. Out of those responses, 89.62 percent said they were employed or attending graduate school," Balestreri said.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) also reported that career services help many students land great jobs.

"As has been the case in every survey since NACE first posed the question in 1995, Career Services staff scores highest when students are asked to rate who has been most helpful to them with their job search. Using a 5-point rating system (1 is not helpful and 5 is very helpful), career services received an average rating of 3.5, topping all others by at least a half percentage point. Interestingly, more than half of students responding (51.7 percent) gave career services ratings of either 4 or 5, very high ratings. Rounding out the top 3 in terms of happiness were friends, rated at 3 and faculty, rated at 2.9," NACE reported.

Eric Jefferson, who received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from UM-Rolla, said that Career Services helped him obtain a position at Saint Louis University High School as a chemistry teacher.

"I appreciate Career Services for helping me secure a job in my field of study," Jefferson said.

Students and alumni are encour-

aged to plan ahead for future careers. Balestreri warned whether a freshman or recent graduate, it is imperative to register with Career Services.

"A job search takes anywhere from three to six months which is an average statistic. Students should register in advance...and I encourage even freshman to attend our Career

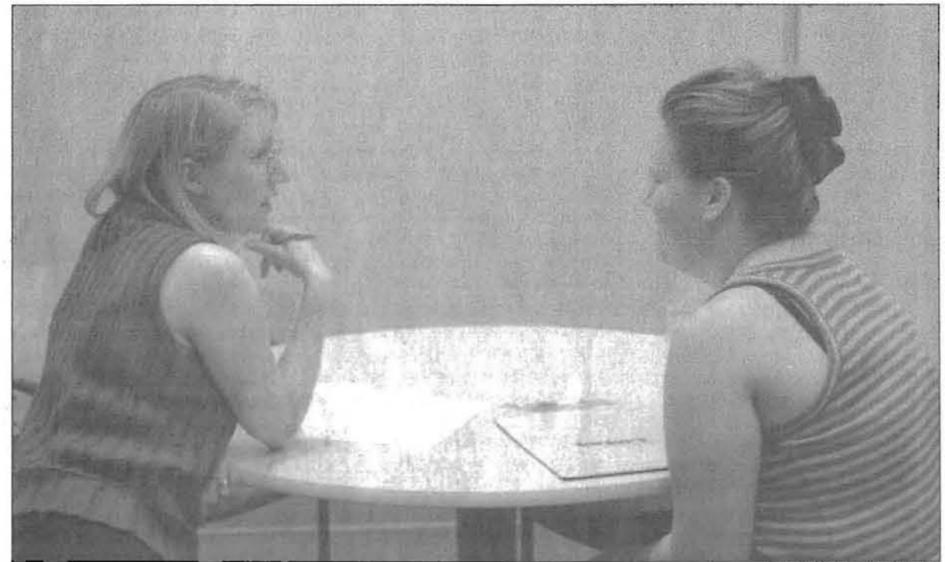
Days in the Century Hall, September 14th and 15th, because this gives them a chance to get out and talk to people in different professions," Balestreri said.

Balestreri also stressed that meeting with employers can be empowering.

"Employers want to see you at the

freshman level so that they can mold future workers. This empowers you to think about what career path you want to follow," Balestreri explained.

Career Services provide students with numerous services other than simple guidance. For more information, call 516-5111 or visit [www.umsl.edu/depts/career](http://www.umsl.edu/depts/career).



Cynthia Foht, of the Career Services office, meets with Gina Bowland, junior, mass communications, to discuss career options.

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## Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Fall 2004 Career Services Events

### UMSL August Teacher Job Fair

Friday, August 6, 2004

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mark Twain Building, UM-St. Louis campus

Meet and interview with school district representatives just before school starts. Admission is FREE for pre-registered job seekers. pre-register on line at [www.umsl.edu/career/activities.html](http://www.umsl.edu/career/activities.html). Pre-registration deadline is 7/30/2004. Admission is \$5 at the door.

### ResumeMania Week

Monday, August 30, 2004 - Friday, September 3, 2004

Career Services invites you to submit your resume on-line at [resumemania@umsl.edu](mailto:resumemania@umsl.edu) so that one of our Career Specialists can critique it. Your resume will be critiqued and mailed back to you within 24 hours.

### Career Days 2004

Tuesday, September 14 & Wednesday, September 15, 2004

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center

Meet with many employers to discuss employment opportunities. This event is FREE and open to UMSL students and alumni ONLY.

### On-Campus Interviews - Fall 2004

September 27, 2004 to November 19, 2004

All interviews will take place in Career Services, 278 MSC. You must be registered with Career Services and have your resume in our database to participate. Visit our web page for a list of companies scheduled to interview on campus.

### Etiquette Banquet

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

12:30 p.m.

Lunch session with guidance from a professional etiquette consultant. Tickets may be purchased in Career Services - \$10 for Career Services registrants - \$20 for all other students.

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

**Career Services**  
278 Millennium Student Center  
314-516-5111  
[career\\_services@umsl.edu](mailto:career_services@umsl.edu)  
[www.umsl.edu/career](http://www.umsl.edu/career)

# OPINION

## OUR OPINION

# Involvement equals success

How often do you hear "College is all about going to class?" While class is vital to success, campus involvement also plays a pivotal role in the college experience.

It's that time of the year again; time for students to prepare for another fall semester at UM-St. Louis. Planning for a new school year includes registering for classes, buying supplies and books and should include signing up for campus clubs or organizations.

Students hear it from their parents, advisors or teachers; the importance of getting involved on campus and getting the most of their educations. There are a few more important reasons to participate in organizations.

There are numerous benefits to becoming involved on campus. Campus participation allows students to familiarize themselves with the campus and have opportunities to meet other students. Another advantage of becoming involved in campus is that experience with organizations will impress future employers and looks great on a resume. Many groups host exciting events, take part in community service programs and hold social events.

New students have the same basic worries: finding their classes, adjusting to a more independent lifestyle and making new friends. Involvement in campus activities is a simple way to meet people with similar interests.

Not only will joining a club set the stage for finding friends, it can connect new students with more experienced ones who can serve as mentors in navigating the college environment.

With over 200 different organizations registered and recognized at UM-St. Louis, there are groups that reflect almost any student interest. Other nearby universities such as Lindenwood only list approximately 100 campus organizations, and St. Louis University claims only 40.

Some organizations focus on political issues, community development, leadership, subject enhancement and encourage involvement. Students are given the chance to develop organizational, interpersonal and effective communication skills in various programs. Organizations invite guest speakers, participate in education outreach programs, attend public events and take part in competitions.

Many organizations attend recognition banquets, seminars and conventions. The American Optometric Student Association has received an Ambassador Award and certification for "Outstanding Student Organization." The Delta Sigma Pi fraternity has won awards such as "The Distinguished Alumni Service Award" and "National Collegian of the Year." These are just a few of the outstanding achievement awards that some UM-St. Louis organizations have received.

Some of the different organizations

offered include the Accounting Club, Anthropology Club, Biological Society, The Current Newspaper, Gallery Visio, Gospel Choir, Mock Trial Team, Student Government Association and Television Production Club.

Greek life is another way students can become involved. There are currently nine sororities and fraternities at UM-St. Louis. The sororities include Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, Zeta Tau Alpha, and fraternities include Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Pi and Phi Sigma Phi.

Students can visit the Student Life page on the UM-St. Louis website and view a list of all extracurricular activities and organizations. The web page allows students to read organization descriptions and lists contact information for each club. Many organizations hold information booths at new student orientations. Welcome Week, the Chancellor's Picnic and the Expo are other main campus events where clubs recruit new members.

According to the online Registration Statistics web page, UM-St. Louis had 12,694 students enrolled during the winter 2004 semester. The students enrolled were graduates, undergraduates, international students, transfer and new students. 89 percent of these were Missouri residents and the majority of them commuted to campus.

With a large student population consisting primarily of commuters, joining an organization is one way for students to feel more connected.

"This is just a commuter school" is not a valid excuse for remaining uninvolved. Traditional and non-traditional students alike can benefit from interaction and activities provided by campus involvement. Whether a student lives on or off campus, many student activities are designed to fit around busy schedules.

If joining a campus club or organization isn't appealing, seven intramural sports programs are offered on campus, including volleyball, softball, tennis, football, golf, bowling and soccer. The Recreational Sports Department also provides wellness and fitness programs such as aerobics, step classes, cardiovascular programs, yoga, Pilates and martial arts. There are endless possibilities to how students can become involved on campus.

Participation in organizations or sports can also help students feel like they are gaining a true college experience. Students pay to attend UM-St. Louis and should take every opportunity to become a part of the institution. Students are here to learn and getting involved can do just that. Invest some time at UM-St. Louis and live your own college experience.



## Editorial Board

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

## LETTERS

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

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

## Under Current

by Casey Ulrich  
Photography Director

Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen?

# False reality

Last week, I encountered fifty beautiful men who all wanted to feed me grapes as we hiked to tropical waterfalls located on a remote, exotic island in the South Pacific. I met them, of course, after my week with the plastic surgeon, who transformed my body into a stunning reproduction of Heidi Klum's.

Sound normal? According to prime time's new experiment called "reality television," these situations are typical reflections of everyday life. A world of cosmetic surgery, instant love and fabulous wealth has crept into our TV lineup. These programs often center on money and beauty. How does half an hour of Paris Hilton prancing through mid-America making fun of farmers benefit any of the viewing public? The antics of Gucci-clad goddess are hardly entertaining, and she gets paid to poke fun at those without the luxury of a family fortune.

Not only do reality shows present a skewed perception of normal life, they also make a mockery of marriage and monogamous relationships.

"The Bachelor" is a televised contest wherein a group of eligible singles vie for the attention and marriage proposal of an attractive and charming individual. The season follows contestants' race to win the bachelor's "heart." After a few short weeks of evaluation and "testing out" of candidates, the bachelor picks the lucky winner and the couple is wed.

The brief "Temptation Island" split couples up and enticed the individuals to cheat on their partners with a number of bronzed beauties in a tropical setting.

How are infidelity and deceit entertaining? Why do we continue to watch

shows that undermine true reality with sex and money?

Beauty is a common theme in reality television. Even characters on "The Real World," MTV's popular reality show that has captivated the teen masses for years, have gone from average twenty-somethings to beautiful people with promiscuous sex lives.

"The Swan" is another monster brought to life by the reality television boom. The whole concept of the program cries, "Do you think you're fat and ugly? Well so do we!" Over the course of the season, contestants undergo serious plastic surgery, and ultimately are left with an entirely new appearance. The broadcast of these extreme makeovers teaches women that physical imperfections should be fixed rather than embraced, and that we should strive to look like Stepford Wives. "The Swan" breeds low self-esteem and puts a

high value on physical perfection. We should appreciate our flaws. They make us human, not plastic androids.

Not all reality television is mindless or immoral. Programs such as "The Amazing Race" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" use trivia and competition to entertain. However, these shows are easily lost in the whirlwind of reckless sexuality and greed that has taken over primetime.

High ratings fuel the success of the reality-TV fad. What can ordinary viewers do to avoid being sucked in by a false reality? The answer is simple. Know when to turn off the television.

The tube is great for killing time or unwinding, but turn on the Discovery Channel or TLC. After all, I'd much rather watch the Crocodile Hunter feed alligators than watch Paris Hilton feed her ego.



KATE DROLET  
Editor-in-Chief

### The Issue

Some students think that waking up and going to class is the only way to have a successful college career. Since UM-St. Louis is a commuter campus, people avoid involvement.

### We suggest

Students should take part in campus activities to further enrich their educational experience and help enhance their resumes. College life consists of more than just attending class.

### So what do you think?

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

# Finding happiness through education

I thought that I would use this opportunity to tell a little bit about myself. First off, I am a junior, 20 years old and majoring in mass communication. I have enjoyed all of the classes I have taken up to this point, so I'm sure that I have chosen a major worthwhile for me.

In high school I worked on the student newspaper for one semester as a staff writer until I decided I wanted to move up to a higher position. The next semester I was appointed editor-in-chief of the paper. I also served as the clubs editor on the yearbook staff. Throughout these classes I decided that journalism is what I want to do with my life.

When I came to UM-St. Louis in 2002 I began working at The Current as a staff writer. The next year I felt like I was ready for more responsibility and was appointed news editor. That job was one of the most challenging positions I have held up to this point, but at the same time was the greatest learning experience.

During the course of the news editor position I covered such events as higher education cuts, Student Government Association elections and the bathroom videotaping incident that occurred last fall. Covering such events helped me to learn a lot about what I am capable of. It also provided me with the opportunity to meet administrators and students, as well as learning more about the struc-

ture of the University.

This May I applied for the position that I am sitting in today. Being managing editor is just another step forward in my experiences. I think that this job is already teaching me a lot. Speaking with applicants and managing over the staff is helping me in working more with people.

I have already learned that as a journalist, people unconsciously develop perceptions of you before becoming acquainted with you. Many people think that we print what we think people want to hear. In the media, we print the truth; we do not misconstrue what people say or mindlessly print stories.

I have also learned that many people do not like to talk to the media. When introducing myself as news editor, I heard all too many times that they would not care to talk to me. Responses such as, "I do not know enough about that subject," and "I do not have anything to say on the subject," became ordinary. It is these responses that made me stronger in the end.

However, learning is the most valuable part of your education. Take advantage of the obstacles that you encounter. Do things that you enjoy and gain all of the experience that you can. Learn from your mistakes, as well as others. Basically, find something that you enjoy and pursue it because happiness is the key to success.



BECKY ROSNER  
Managing Editor

# What's your opinion?

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

- Involvement equals success
- Reality check
- Finding happiness

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](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)



Katie Gierse  
Junior  
Nursing

Go to class!



Lyndah Atienoo  
Junior  
Music with Business Electives

College is more serious than high school. Come to work hard.



Claire Uding  
Sophomore  
Art History

Stay focused. Don't get stuck in the Nosh all day.



Kristen Hoffner  
Graduate Student  
Nursing Education

You can never study too much.

# Can movies lead to love, not war?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Science Columnist

before the film, immediately after and 45 minutes afterwards. Each group was shown 30 minutes of film.

The hormones progesterone and testosterone are found in both men and women but in differing levels. Progesterone is associated with feelings of affiliation and reduced anxiety. It also may be linked to parenting in both men and women, according to a Northwestern University study published in the February 24, 2003 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It is also possible that higher levels of progesterone make people more attentive and can prime them for opening up more and being more romantic while decreasing libido.

Testosterone, on the other hand, is associated with aggression and reduced affiliation. A 1997 Georgia State University study found that higher testosterone levels are related to criminal violence and aggressive dominance among women in prison. Although men and women differ in normal levels for these two hormones, there are both high and low testosterone males and females, with higher levels in both cases associated with more aggressive behavior and greater social dominance. Higher testosterone levels can help muscle growth, enhance libido and prime people for more assertive, dominant behavior including aggression, according to the researchers.

The romantic movie had the same effect on progesterone levels for men and women, increasing levels up to 10 percent. It also reduced testosterone in men, although it had no effect on testosterone in women. The action/adventure film choice increased testosterone for high-testosterone men, up to 30 percent, while power motivations increased and need affiliation dropped. Testosterone levels in high testosterone women were reduced. Both low-testosterone men and women reported feelings of discomfort.

The rainforest group saw no change in hormonal levels.

This study looked at short-term effects but the effect of violent media can be long term as well as short term, and can have lasting effects for children.

Oliver Schultheiss, a University of Michigan psychology professor involved in the hormone study, voiced another conclusion from the new

study.

"This also helps explain why certain people like to go to certain types of movies," said Schultheiss. "Affiliation-motivated people like to see romantic flicks. But power-motivated people prefer movies with more action and violence. "If you want to learn about someone's personality, look at their video collection or look at what's on their bookshelves."

Movies have been blamed for violence and other socially undesirable behaviors since the silent movie era but research indicates that movies are not the only media linked to increased aggression or even the most to blame.

A 1999 study by James B. Weaver III, head of the Department of Communications Studies at Virginia Tech, and Dolf Zillmann of the University of Alabama found that prolonged exposure to gratuitous violence in the media can escalate subsequent hostile behaviors and, among some viewers, foster greater acceptance of violence as a means of conflict resolution. Subjects were shown either violent or non-violent films over several days and then participated in another task that was seemingly not part of the study. During this task, they were either treated neutrally or abusively by the lab assistant. When the subjects were then put in a position to harm this assistant, both women and men showed markedly increased the expression of hostile behavior toward the research assistant if they had either been provoked or if they had exposure to violent films, even if unprovoked.

The association between violent media and aggressive behavior is not limited to movies. In fact researchers at Iowa State University believe that violent video games pose a greater hazard.

"Violent video games provide a forum for learning and practicing aggressive solutions to conflict situations," said psychologists Craig A. Anderson, Ph.D. "One study reveals that young men who are habitually aggressive may be especially vulnerable to the aggression-enhancing effects of repeated exposure to violent games," said Dr. Anderson and fellow researcher Karen E. Dill, Ph.D. Their April 2000 study found a correlation between hours spent playing video games and reported high school aggressive behavior (delinquency).

see SCIENCE COLUMN, page 16

Several studies have been published in recent years linking violence in movies and other media to increased aggression. But now, researchers at University of Michigan have released a study that movies can also lead people towards making love, not war.

It is all about the content.

University of Michigan psychology researchers found that watching a romantic movie or watching an action movie have opposite effects on hormone levels in both men and women. Watching a romantic movie raises progesterone levels in both genders, increasing the need for affiliation and bringing couples closer. Watching a violent film increased testosterone levels in men, making them more aggressive but with a decreased need for affiliation.

The researchers divided their subjects into three groups. One group of men and women watched a portion of a romantic film, "Bridges of Madison County," another group watched a portion of "Godfather, Part II," as the action film. The portion of "Godfather, Part II" chosen showed a scene where a young Vito Corleone acquired and consolidated power after killing a hated foe and the portion of "Bridges of Madison County" chosen was a romantic scene. Third group, the test control group, watched a documentary on the Amazon rainforest.

The new study looked at levels of two hormones, progesterone and testosterone, in the three groups. Hormone levels were measured

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Reader defends Reagan

Dear Editor:

The article that appeared in the current issue of The Current after former President Ronald Reagan's death was a little appalling. The insinuation that the deficit was inherently bad for the country seems to be out of place. It was necessary to go into deficit spending to rebuild the American economy. Also, many historians will tell that the increase in defense spending during the Reagan Administration is one of the reasons the Soviet Union fell. So Reagan did have a hand in bringing

down the Soviet Union. Despite the fact the USSR was weak at the time it was still a super power and could always rebuild. President Reagan knew that they could not compete in an arms race that he created.

The real issue I have is the insinuation that the President was a criminal for "his" role in the Iran Contra scandal. But I urge you to check the facts. One the President was never indicted on criminal charges. Two he was not impeached by the Congress for his actions. Also actually many experts believe if he had a role it was minimal

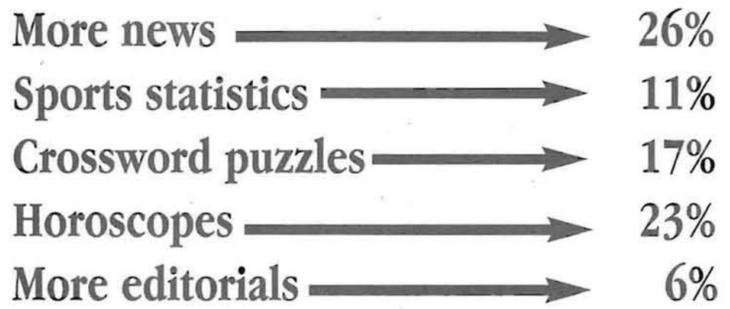
and was not criminal. In fact the President that would of had more trouble with this scandal was President George H.W. Bush. It is widely assumed that he had a greater role in the scandal than the President at time, and he was only the Vice President.

In the time after his death we should remember his greatness. Not tear him down after the man has died. This article is a disgrace to all students of the University of Missouri St. Louis.

James Rawlings  
SR-Political Science

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

### What would you like to see in The Current?



Results via [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

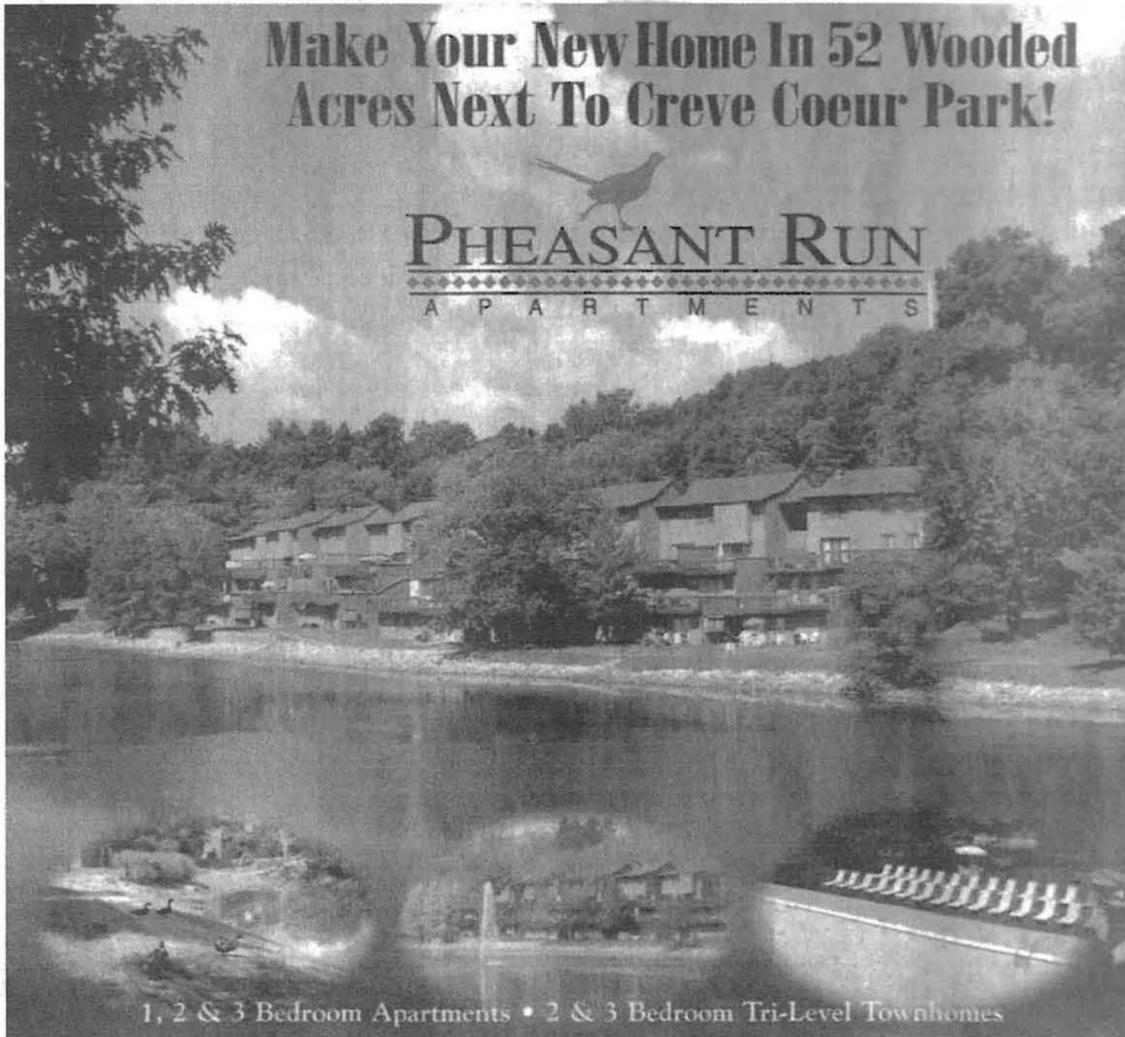
\*[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

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# SPORTS

## Rec sports offers more than just games

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

Teamwork can almost certainly be found at most universities. Universities offer a large variety of wellness programs to help build and progress social well being. Recreational Sports are some of the best ways to interact in healthy, challenging environments and also help relieve daily classroom stress.

Tai Chi is one recreational sport that UM-St. Louis offers, which was solely created to encourage physical and mental well being.

"Tai Chi is good for everybody, young and old. It is a type of Kung Fu and is based on animal movements," said Professor Shuhan Lin, Tai Chi instructor. "The objective is to combine a physical workout with an inner or more spiritual workout."

Recreational sports are often a favorite choice to spend some free time with new friends and companions. They can often help students who struggle with the constraint of a busy schedule to find time to get out and enjoy life and to meet new people.

Rec Sports offers flexible programs that have the ability to fit each student's personal taste. Wellness programs are offered for those who are looking to get into better physical shape by something other than basketball. Program levels start at a beginners pace and range through an optimum training level. Rec Sports offers Spinning, Step Jam, Body Challenge, Body Toning and Yoga



Shuhan "Sam" Lin teaches a Tai Chi class at the Mark Twain Athletic Building in April of 2003. Lin is also a research investigator for the physics and astronomy department.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

for those who are looking for various types of aerobic and anaerobic workouts.

Rec sports programs run consistently throughout the year. Team sports such as flag football, soccer, basketball and volleyball are offered to the students along with many individual sports such as tennis, racquet-

ball or golf. Martial arts such as Tai Chi and Aikido are also offered.

"I really liked the Aikido class because the instructor was very composed. He helped me understand the concepts behind the art, something that isn't easy for everyone to do," said Hannah Klautke, a participant of the Aikido class.

Rec Sports uses all of the university's facilities. This includes the basketball gymnasium with eight basketball goals and three volleyball courts, the fitness center equipped with brand new Nautilus fitness equipment, treadmills, Stairmasters and a weight room with free weights. Programs have access to the

University's eight-lane swimming pool, racquetball/handball courts, indoor track and men's and women's locker rooms equipped with saunas.

Recreational sports programs are present opportunities for students to get out and meet new groups of people and get involved on competitive teams in various sports.

## UMSL sports teams look for strong start in fall season

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

With the summer coming soon to a close it can mean only one thing for UM-St. Louis athletics, another athletic season is about to begin. This year may prove to be one of the most productive years the university has seen in the past decade. Both the men's and women's soccer teams have high hopes on runs at conference championships. Also, the Riverwomen volleyball and golf teams look to make their mark on the conference and jump towards the top, once again.

The Rivermen's soccer team has had a slew of events take the team on a rollercoaster ride over the past four seasons. New coaches, a new field and a complete team makeover have given the team hope renewed as they look to make it to the conference tournament for the third consecutive season. This will be the team's fourth year headed by Coach Dan King. With the season on the horizon, the Rivermen look towards their team members' experience to help lead the way. The team claims eight returning seniors and eight returning juniors.

"This season should be good. We are definitely looking to finish with a winning record, plus we have our entire team returning except for one player, so things are looking pretty good for us this fall," Brian Reitz, senior defender said, about the upcoming season.

In the past two seasons, only four teams have held a better conference record than the Rivermen.

The fall 2004 season already looks promising for the Riverwomen's soc-



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Rivermen Mark Meyer and Jeff Facchin fight for the ball at the October 8 game against the Rockhurst Hawks. The Riverman ended up finishing the 2003 season with a 6-13-1 record.

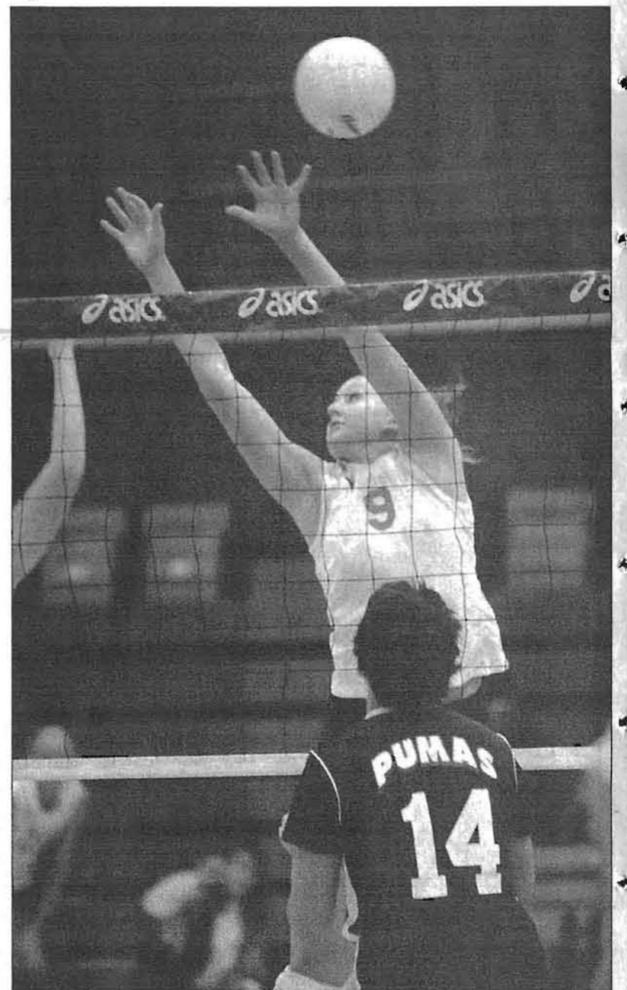
cer team. With a core group of returning players, they hope to make a serious run at an NCAA tournament birth. The team returns five seniors including NCAA all-region selection, Sonya Huan and six juniors. This creates one of the strongest upper-class groups that the program has ever seen.

"I am really excited to see what our team is capable of this year. I think that we can do really well, and I look forward to starting the season off on the right page," senior defender, Jaime Drabek said about the upcoming season.

In the past three seasons the Riverwomen have made it to the semifinals or finals of the conference tournament and look to push towards a conference championship this season.

In the past four seasons, there have only been two other teams with better conference records than the Riverwomen.

The Riverwomen's volleyball team just ended a season when they barely missed the conference tournament. Although the team has lost several players from last year's team, they believe confidence and hard work will lead the new group throughout the fall season. The Riverwomen used the tough spring season to begin conditioning for this fall, including morning workouts four days a week and have had a rigorous off-season workout schedule. As this year approaches, quickly the team means to forget the past and start a new page. The volleyball team has added five new faces to



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen middle hitter Nikki Pagels goes up for a block during a game against St. Joseph's last October. The Riverwomen start the 2004 season on Aug. 27 at a tournament in Quincy, Ill.

the lineup and has three returning seniors, which include first team all-conference player, Daria Sak.

Come out and support all fall sports, in what appears to be another

wonderful season for UM-St. Louis athletics. Contact UM-St. Louis athletics at 314-516-5661 for any ticket orders or event time inquiries.

JAMES DAUGHERTY

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

Questions  
or  
Comments?

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

### Sports Briefs

#### Kristen Economon receives academic all-district honors

Economon was a starting outfielder for UM-St. Louis softball, appearing in 48 games in left field and six games in centerfield. She batted third in the order 24 times and fourth on 30 occasions. She was second on the team with a .325 batting average with 51 hits in 157



Economon

at bats. Economon led the Riverwomen with a .427 slugging percentage and a .411 on base percentage. She helped led the Riverwomen to the GLVC Conference Tournament and finish the season with a 27-27 overall record and a 9-9 conference record. Last season Economon was a GLVC Academic All-Conference selection. Economon is a nursing major and carries a 3.95 GPA.

#### Former Riverman signed on to coach

The UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Pat Dolan has announced the hiring of Dustin Ashby as the new men's golf head coach. Ashby has been the assistant men's golf coach at UM-St. Louis for the past two years, assisting with recruiting and scheduling as well as practice instruction.

Ashby returns to his alma mater, where he was a member of the UM-St. Louis men's golf team. He played for the Rivermen under UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame coach Jim Niederkorn. While at UM-St. Louis, Ashby was named an MIAA Academic All-Conference selection in 1994-95 while being the top player for the Rivermen.

## Staying power of last year's rec sports champs is put to the test

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy Recreational Sports

Members of the "Wankers United" recreational sports indoor soccer team pose for the camera. "Wankers United" were the Spring 2004 Men's League champions.

Summer session has come to a close and another fall semester is under way. Classes are not the only things occupying students' minds, in part, because of recreational sports' arrival. It's time for the returning recreational sports champions to step up to the plate and defend their titles. Intramural teams will battle it out to claim a piece of the university championship.

This fall, new competition and old foes will battle it out for the rugged Recreational Sports' Championship, held on campus at the Mark Twain Building intramural fields. Some champions have retained their titles for a few years

in a row and are serious contenders, again, in the upcoming championship. Teams such as Evil Empire, co-ed softball and the Hard Rollers, bowling doubles teams have legitimate shots at repeat performances this autumn.

"It is always a fun time. Almost everyone I know loves to play at least one intramural sport a year, because the competition is great and everyone has a good time playing," senior Craig Lenord said.

Team Higher Level is the early soccer favorite, having completed an undefeated fall 2003 campaign. Let that be repeated - undefeated. In St. Louis, where soccer is big, it is unlikely a team could go undefeated, but Higher Level has. Unless superior competition presents itself this year, they will again. Flag football season is about to start. Since team Picture Perfect

knocked Sig Tau Gamma off the podium last fall, this year could present a fight to the finish.

"They are great fun to participate in. Most people have never even played some of the sports that they are competing in, but they do it just to have fun," Stephen Pobst, a member of the indoor soccer team, Wankers United, said. "[Recreational sports] is a good atmosphere to be around and everyone has great sportsmanship."

Many other competitions such as the 40-yard-dash, golf tournaments, tennis tournaments, indoor soccer, floor hockey and racquetball are available as the fall season starts.

To join any of the recreational sports tournaments or to sign up a team, contact the Recreational Sports Office at 314-516-5326.

**UM-St. Louis athletes selected for the GLVC Academic All-Conference teams:**

<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Men's Golf</b>	Jennifer Gaughran Lauren Gutting Mandy Meendering Laura Fredrickson Emily Worley	<b>Women's Tennis</b>
Tony Grana Logan Hughes Mike Lantzy Josh Thomas	Diego Jimenez		Neringa Bandzeviciute Lauren Daugherty Krissy Howard
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	<b>Women's Golf</b>	<b>Softball</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>
Tim Blankenship Jonathan Griffin Scott Wittenborn	Lauren Glenn	Savanna Adams Megan Alberts Kristen Economon Shauna Wilson	Gillian Falknor Kathryn Freeman Melissa Frost Stacy Pearl Ashley Richmond
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	<b>Men's Soccer</b>	<b>Men's Tennis</b>	
Megan Alberts Ashley Richmond Simone Verhulst	Jason Barclay Adam Bimslager Campbell McLaurin Kevin Ottley Scott Wittenborn	James Daugherty Stephen Pobst Rajan Saini Matt Vaulkhard	
	<b>Women's Soccer</b>		
	Cassidy Bloom Jaime Drabek		

# 40 UMSL student athletes named to all-conference academic teams

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, which has said student athletes do not attend UM-St. Louis for any other reason except to play their selected sport, most student athletes work very hard, at their sport and at their scholastics. This past year, 30 percent of all UM-St. Louis athletes made a 3.2 grade point average, and the University has had five student athletes who were Academic All-Americans over the last 20 years. This year there were 40 student athletes who have received academic honors. Each of the University's 11 different varsity sports teams have at least one member who have been given honors, several teams had at

least 4 and some teams have as many as 7.

"We are just like any other student on campus. We all have to work just as hard for good grade point averages. It is always good to show people that we are just as serious when it comes to academics. Getting honored is always a good thing," UM-St. Louis student athlete Jason Barclay said.

UM-St. Louis also had three student athletes who received Academic All-Conference in multiple sports. Freshman Megan Alberts played for the women's basketball and softball teams, junior Ashley Richmond played on Riverwomen's volleyball and basketball teams and sophomore, Scott Wittenborn, played on the Rivermen's soccer team and is a new addition to men's basketball this sea-

son. All three students met the academic requirements while playing their sports, during both academic semesters.

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team led the way with seven academic honorees. They were closely followed by the men's soccer team and the Riverwomen's volleyball team. Each team had five honorees, respectively. The men's tennis team had the highest percentage of its roster receive academic recognition; four of the seven roster players were named Academic All-Conference. Women's volleyball had five of its nine players receive academic honors.

As the next academic year quickly approaches, each team plans to add more academic honorees to their already growing lists.

# The state of sports: We have national champions at UMSL?

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

UM-St. Louis has a very mediocre varsity sports program. Not mediocre as in 'some are great and others are horrible,' but mediocre as not one sport stands out. Everything about the place is mediocre, with no team good enough to make it out of regional play and most not good enough to make it out of conference. This could be due to any number of factors, no talent, poor coaching or poor funding and in some cases a combination of all three. The men's basketball team was in the process of being rebuilt last year and many on campus believe the former coach caused the 2002 season problems. This year's women's basketball team was out-sized by most of their opponents, at most positions, because some physical talent was missing. UM-St. Louis does not have the funding of other

schools, and only a handful of sports teams can offer any full scholarships, while sports like tennis cannot offer any. Despite drawbacks, the University's fall teams have had some success in the past, such as volleyball and women's soccer. The volleyball team lost in the quarter finals of last year's conference tournament and the soccer team finished last season 13-6-1 but lost the conference tournament to Northern Kentucky. Wins and losses will wax and wane over time with any team. It remains to be seen if UM-St. Louis teams will be waxing or waning this year.

Something that does not have to wax or wane however is school spirit. School spirit can stay high whether the team is winning or losing, or just mediocre. This school lacks spirit. It would be shameful to count the number of fans at any given athletic event and divide them into UM-St. Louis and team X. Average UM-St. Louis

fan attendance at a game is around 500. Most of the time, team X has two to three times as many fans supporting their athletes as UM-St. Louis. If it weren't for team X fans, the stands would be empty.

A good example of spirit and grit can be found in another section of our University's athletics. This section is not sponsored by UM-St. Louis as a varsity sport, but as a club. The University has a sports section dubbed "club" sports. They are more

serious than intramurals, but not funded like a varsity athletics team.

“  
If students and varsity athletes could demonstrate a little more grit and pride, excellent things could happen.  
”

Varsity athletes get their funding through the athletic department; however the club sports get their funding through Student Life. Diverse teams compete in club sports, most notably hockey and roller hockey. Both of these teams play against other club teams from rival universities. Practices are tough and the reason for playing is the love of the sport, not winning or losing, certainly not

scholarships. For those who participate in roller hockey, we have the NCRHA (National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association) Div II National Champions right here at UM-St. Louis. UM-St. Louis' roller hockey team is a part of the Great Plains Region, which includes teams such as Kansas State and Truman State. The team began the year undefeated, but dropped to a ranking of four due to a semifinal loss in the regional tournament against Saint Louis University. However, the record was good enough to get into the national tournament in Anaheim, California, which admits the top 16 teams in the nation. Once in Anaheim, the team regrouped and defeated three tough teams, including the University of Vermont, University of Maine and Newman University in the finals. At nationals, two players, Dory Williams and Tony Ames, received Most Valuable Player and Most

Valuable Goalie honors, respectively.

"We have open tryouts at Queeny Park in Manchester the first or second week of September. Every spot is available and some of our players aren't returning next year," Coach Tom Shneider said.

Students audition for club sports as in varsity sports. Coach Shneider invited students to tryout and can be reached by email at NHLorbust1@aol.com, for students interested.

If students and varsity athletes could demonstrate a little bit more grit and pride, excellent things could happen. The sports section wants to know, from the student body, why they think varsity athletics are failing. Are the teams horrible or is it too far to drive, or do students just have better things to do with their time? Let us know. Send your responses to James Daugherty, Sports Editor, at current@jinx.umsll.edu.

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MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Fahrenheit 9/11' aims to light fuse

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Movie Critic

"Fahrenheit 9/11" gives us a wide-ranging tour of Bush presidency and events of the last four years. Michael Moore, who directed the documentary, discusses the 2000 election, Bush's business background, his early-term vacations, the 9/11 attacks, the Bush family's ties to oil, Bush's military service, secrecy, homeland security, domestic surveillance, the war in Iraq, war profiteering and the findings of the 9/11 commission.

"9/11" clearly intends on sparking debate about the Bush presidency and the events of the last four years, but it also begins debate about classifying this film and Moore. Despite the arguments of pundits on the right and the left, audiences are flocking to see the film, whether intent on calling it political satire or documentary. Whatever film viewers name it, "9/11" is a powerful piece of filmmaking. As was "Bowling for Columbine," "9/11" is funny, moving, sometimes heart-breaking and likely to evoke anger.

"9/11" starts with the 2000 election and the tag line, "Was it all a dream," as it recounts the events of the disputed election, the unprecedented actions of the Supreme Court

and the astonishing complacency of the Democrats. While the Democrats were cooperative, many Americans were outraged and Moore shows footage of the protests at the Bush presidential inauguration, which launched Bush's policy of keeping protestors far away from his appearances. Moore then highlights Bush's early term propensity for vacations.

Moore's powerful manipulation of sound and heartbreaking footage of those witnessing the attack carries moviegoers into the events of 9/11. Footage of Bush reading a book with children after he is informed of the tragedy, flashes as the backdrop, while Moore informs his audience, among other things, that the 9/11 Commission revealed most of the attackers were Saudis. Moore examines the strong financial ties between the Bush family and Saudis, Bush's business failures and links to Saudi investors.

When Moore gets to the Patriot Act, which passed without Congress members reading it, he belatedly updates them via ice cream truck loudspeaker. Bush himself gives Moore plenty of ammunition for jokes at his expense. Moore shows footage of Bush fooling around and making faces at cameras before announcing the invasion of Iraq, serious pronouncements about terrorism while

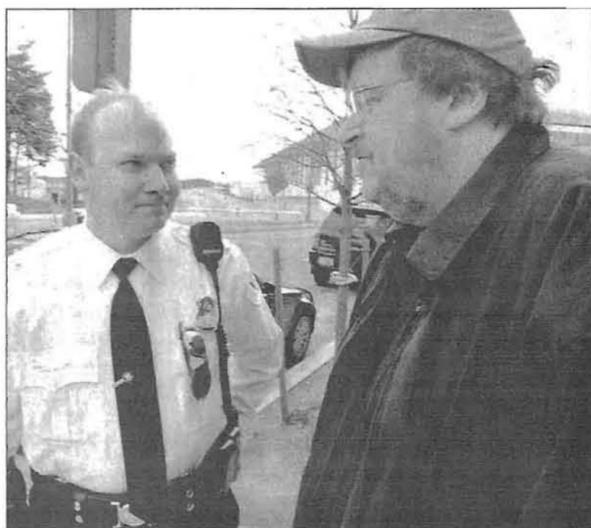


Photo courtesy RottenTomatoes.com

Michael Moore's recent documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" has created controversy and sparked debate across the nation. "Fahrenheit" takes a look at the Bush administration, homeland security and the last four years of political issues.

making golf swings, jokes Bush made about the "haves and have-mores" and his cowboy terminology for "smoking out" Al Qaeda.

The film's heartbreak is most power-

fully digested when Moore turns to the troops serving in Iraq. War footage deemed too graphic for US television may have earned the film its R rating, but may also have been handed down

over footage of Marine recruiters attempting to reach their quotas and tracking down working-class kids to enlist. Moore's attempts to encourage Congress members to send their children to fight in Iraq are met with disbelieving stares, evasive answers and hurried dodges. Moore's poignant reminder that it is often the poorest and most powerless that willingly bear the burden of defending this country is hard to counter.

There seems to be an endless stream of people that are shocked over Moore's political satire poking fun at Bush. The problem is in separating facts from satire for those unfamiliar with the details. The film has facts, but Moore has fun with Bush along the way. Fact slides into farce and the dividing line may be challenging for some viewers to find. Moore makes innuendos about what Bush may have been thinking and why Bush did certain things or even if he did certain things.

With attacks being leveled from both political camps, the pervasive impact "9/11" has is both testament to Michael Moore's strength as a filmmaker and his ultimately unconcealed political bias. However, like all films which share the popularity and controversy of "9/11," the best advice is to see it yourself.

CONCERT REVIEW

# Letter Kills rocks the Hi-Pointe

BY GARY SOHN  
Features Associate

Local St. Louis bands Signature and Hell in the Canon and The F-Ups opened up for Letter Kills, Friday, July 16 at the Hi-Pointe in St. Louis. The first two aforementioned bands played heavy funk, more so than Letter Kills eventually played. They cursed, spat at and mocked the audience. But they did get the audience warmed up with the occasional mosh pit and body surfer.

Letter Kills finally took the stage and began to warm up. The crowd had been waiting for them all night. When the band entered stage and began to play, the crowd quickly migrated forward. Cell phones heard through the first two sets were quickly put away. The crowd was comprised mostly of young women and teenage girls who were screaming, "Matt...Where's Matt," when they noticed the lead singer was not on stage.

The music began to pick up pace and finally someone appeared at the mic. It was Matt Shelton, lead singer, obviously, as those girls screaming, "Where's Matt," started screaming, "It's him, it's Matt." After it settled down, Shelton grabbed the mike and sang 'Lights out.' Paul Redmund accompanied him on drums, and Timothy Cordova and Dustin Lovelis played guitar. Kyle

Duckworth played bass.

Letter Kills looked like a cross between rock of the 80's and punk of 2000. The drummer resembled a young Tommy Lee, with slim, dark hair and no shirt. Cordova on guitar looked like a rebel. However, his thick black glasses and soft smile were definitely punk; Lovelis and Duckworth have long hair and Shelton is reminiscent of Bon Jovi. Shelton swung the microphone around, tossing it into the air and catching it right before he had to hit key notes. Luckily, unlike Bon Jovi, Shelton brought energy all over the room—not just to the stage. He jumped into the audience, grabbed them, kissed them. He climbed on beams and hung from the ceiling. He ran through the audience, testing out the length of the microphone cord.

Letter Kills played a short set; only thirty minutes long. They played a few songs from their new album which came out July 27, titled 'The Bridge.' They also performed 'Lights Out,' 'Brand New Man' and 'Radio Up.' Their rock anthems had audience members singing along to the choruses and throwing up their hands.

Letter Kills recently signed with Island records and they are currently touring in the 2004 Vans Warped Tour. Their debut album, "The Bridge," comes out July 27. For more information on Letter Kills, look them up online at [www.letterkills.com](http://www.letterkills.com).



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Matt Shelton, vocalist for Letter Kills, performs at a concert at the Hi-Pointe June 16. Letter Kills is currently playing on the Warped Tour through August.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Seamus McDaniel's serves Irish welcome, hearty fare

BY MONICA MARTIN  
Staff Writer

Tucked in Dogtown on Tamm Ave. sits Seamus McDaniel's, one of the most authentic Irish pubs in St. Louis.

Inside the door, choices extend to ESPN at the intimate bar or one of two dining rooms. While waiting to

be seated, which was only five minutes, white walls, hardwood floors and the hum of a full house, surrounded us. Primetime for dinner is 7:30 p.m. and we found ourselves surrounded by people of all ages including, families, groups of friends, and couples. Seamus McDaniel's also offers seating outside on the patio, but due to the unpredictability of St. Louis weather, that seating was unavailable.

The decor consisted of pictures, framed newspaper articles and other local memorabilia. McDaniel's does not display a lot of Cardinals/Rams/Blues items like other places, instead they focus on people, events and items of a particular Dogtown nature. Flip over the menu (typical with appetizers, entrées, sandwiches and burger fare) after ordering to learn some of the Dogtown history. Even though it is

an Irish pub it has some influence from "The Hill" neighborhood; there are similarities in the people and attitudes. It has a nice, neighborhood feel to it; plenty of regulars, lots of families, crowds of people coming and going. The bartenders and wait staff address customers by first names.

A favorite sandwich is the fried pork loin. Salads are huge and served in large plastic bowls accompanied by a basket of mixed, single-serving cracker pairs. Their pastas in white sauce, especially the pasta and broccoli are also favorites. Other favorites include the chicken and broccoli.

Seamus McDaniel's is a great place for a business lunch, or any lunch. It is good, fast and inexpensive. A few other popular features are eating at the bar and playing the Golden Tee arcade game, which sits in the corner. Weekend nights are crowded from early afternoon until closing, going from happy hour to family dinner, late casual dates and then drinking into the wee hours. There were no bad surprises, which shows how smoothly operations run there.

Take it all in. Seamus McDaniel's feels like the sort of neighborhood bar that sponsors at least one softball team and probably has at least one washers tournament in the summer. It is a great place to stop for community, culture and a sandwich or two.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Seamus McDaniel's, located at 1208 Tamm Ave. in Dogtown, serves food and drinks to the lunch crowd while they relax and watch the baseball game.

Inside Letter Kills

# Shelton on the road, the stage, the studio

Matt Shelton, lead vocalist of the five-member band, Letter Kills, has been busy on the road, conducting interviews, hanging out with fans and performing in intimate venues across the country while promoting Letter Kills freshmen album, "The Bridge," which comes out July 27.

Letter Kills celebrity has been on the rise, thanks to a huge tour and an even bigger force of nature—a major record label behind them. They are booked to play with several other bands including Story of the Year and Adair, in the 2004 Vans Warped Tour, scheduled June 25 in Houston, Texas. Letter Kills will be a showcase for the tour since they recently signed with Island Records, which features artists Andrew W.K., Hoobastank, CKY and Saliva.

Shelton spoke about life on the road, on the stage and in the studio with The Current a few hours before performing at The Hi-Pointe on June 16.

I have heard that you guys like to refer to your fans as 'poops.' Why poops?

I don't know. That's actually probably more Kyle's deal than mine. He's fascinated with poop. He likes poop. I think it's just funny, probably because it's just one of those words you do when you're little and it's funny all the time. Even up until you're dead, it's funny.

The BBC [British Broadcast Channel] just recently reported that Britain is considering cloning human embryos. Who would you clone and why?

Who would I clone and why. Staring off with a good question, I probably would clone Jimmy Stewart.

Jimmy Stewart?

Because he's awesome and there needs to be another Jimmy Stewart. You know what I mean?

Like another Wonderful Life?

Yeah. He's just an awesome guy.

We have 19,000 broke college students who are exposed to The Current. Why should they read about another punk band and buy another one of their records?

I would say, for our particular record, that it is a stretch of boundaries from all the music going on right now, reminding people what music is about—what rock and roll is about, just giving people an escape. Which is what music was originally for, like, everybody used it as an escape. But now there are so many different politics about it that people kind of forget that music is fun.

INTERVIEW, from page 10

So those college students who work their butts off at school trying to get stuff done need something to help them relax and get away from that. Maybe there are kids who can't take off from school every weekend and something like this gives them something they can relate to that's not at school.

I notice, for one thing, that a lot of students get caught up in school, so much that they are almost separated from the rest of the world while they are at school. You know what I mean? So this gives them something to relate to outside of school, something they can be a part of and feel like a part of something outside of school.

**'The Bridge,' your freshmen album, comes out July 27. How did you come up with the name of your album?**

We were in a bar next door to the Urban Plaza in New York, hanging out after a show and our manager, who had a few drinks, kind of just started going off. He gets really sentimental, telling us about how much he really loves us and really likes our music and how he really cares about us. He's a fatherly figure to us. He's a really awesome guy. He was just spouting off about that and he just went on about how he really loved the record.

He thinks it's going to connect a lot of different people that need to be connected right now. There are a lot of different kinds of genres that are out. He thinks it's going to kind of refocus everything, so he told us; at that point, the only way to describe it is by calling it 'The Bridge.' So, we kind of just took that and ran with it.

The point of the record is to reunite people and kind of take them back from the little genres that they've been forced into for the past ten years, since Nirvana. Like everyone's kind of split off and tried to form their own cool little groups. We're just trying to reunite them.

**Some people would say that all songs are inspired by love. What inspires your lyrics?**

You can say love. It's more for me, because I write all the lyrics, based on life in general and the things that I've faced, the things I've come to know, the things that bring me hope, the things that upset me. Things like that. It's more focused on how I relate to life and how I deal with it.

I also try to give people something to sing. Words they can put into their mouth, which can mean the same thing to them. They can feel like they wrote it.

**Where did you come up with the name 'Letter Kills'?**

When the band first formed, we all lived in California for a year to get everything going and stuff. Three of us went to the same church down in Southern California and our pastor was speaking on the New Testament and this passage. We were listening and all of the sudden he said, "letter kills." And it seemed weird and so we were

caught off guard and it caught our attention. One of the things just clicked and it sounded awesome. We thought it sounded different. We'd never really heard anything like that before.

**I noticed on your band's logo that the 'S' in Letter Kills is lying down while the rest of the letters are standing up. Is there some special meaning behind this detail?**

A lot of people think it has to do with something referring to being dead; an end of an era where something is dead. People have said that. It could be that. We won't limit it to anything. But for us it is a logo. Something people can recognize us by.

**Where did you guys record 'The Bridge'?**

We recorded the drums and bass in South City, L.A., and then we did guitars, vocals and all the rest of the record at Santa Monica.

**How has California influenced this album?**

For me, since I'm not from California, it was different. Damien Rice says in one of his songs, "You give me the mountains and I ask for the ocean, but give the ocean and I ask for the mountains." People from California don't really recognize it because they're around the ocean all the time. But I'm from Texas. Being at the ocean is a peaceful thing for me. It kind of slows everything down. So I think, in the studio, it really helps me to relax and kick back, which helps make everything move more smoothly and to not worry about the busy streets or cars flying by.

**Have people changed now that you're a rock star?**

The people who are friends—not like best friends—change. Because you haven't hung out enough to really know if you're really close or if you're just acquaintances, so I think it's kind of awkward for them, because they don't know how to react to you having success and things like that.

But as far as family and close friends go—nothing changes. They get really excited. I mean it's just like anything else. If you were into baseball and you did really well in baseball, then they would be really excited and really eager even if no one cares. They're just really excited for you.

**Soon you will be playing the Warped Tour, which has larger audiences than the one you will be playing for tonight. What excites you most about playing at a smaller venue like The Hi-Pointe?**

It's just more personal. Like, I can reach out and touch the kids. At a place like this there's not a barricade. There are not kids, 250 ft. away, who can't see anything. They're all right there and a part of the show. Our show is about bringing

those kids back together based on unity, and in a small place like this you can get a whole group of 250 kids and get them to have the same mindset for that half hour, like all together, which is cool.

**Some artists have special requests for every show. Like a bowl of only brown M&Ms, 15 blonde groupies, 12 dozen white roses. Do you have any special requests when playing venues?**

We're pretty simple. We like peanut butter and jelly. Stuff you can't go out and buy, as far, as like in a restaurant. We're use to eating out all the time. So we like stuff you get at home, like sandwich meat, fruits and vegetables, things like that.

We really like to get socks because if you get a new pair of socks every night, you don't have to really worry about it.

**A new pair of socks? I guess no one ever thinks about that luxury if they're not touring on the road all the time.**

Yeah.

**Being on the road, night after night, probably takes its toll on you guys. Britney Spears just canceled her summer tour due to a knee injury. What part of the body would you have to injure before canceling a show?**

Pain is one thing but, it's like, I have a hard time canceling shows, just because it's pointless to me, because I'm a singer and I don't play an instrument. So if I break my arm, who cares? You know you can still sing.

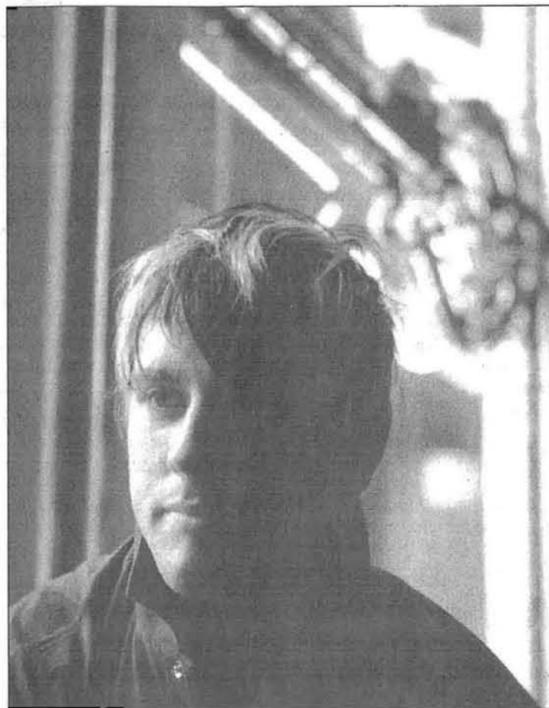
A couple of weeks ago, or like months ago, I lost my voice for, like, a day. Nothing would come out. So we had to end up canceling our show. That's probably the only thing that would cancel our show. It's very rare.

**What groups are you most excited to see or play along with at the 2004 Warped Tour?**

I would have to say International Mudd Conspiracy. I haven't got to really see them so I'm really excited about seeing them. I'm not really into a whole lot of them, but I have a lot of respect for them, musically. It's kind of cool that a lot of our friends are going to be on Warped Tour, so it's going to be cool to just hang out with them. Like Toy Story, Story of the Year, Sugar Cult will be there, Match for Romance.

**I've read that you guys like to play video games on the road. What is your favorite Playstation game?**

Tony Hawk is probably the biggest, but I have to tell you that we've got Xbox and Red Dead Revolver is our favorite. It's like a western version of Halo. It's my favorite game of all time.



Matt Shelton, vocalist for Letter Kills, is interviewed by a reporter at the Hi-Pointe June 16. The band's first album 'The Bridge' recently debuted.

Mike Sherman/The Current

**Where is your favorite place to eat when you are on the road?**

Probably our most frequented one is Taco Bell, because it's cheap, easy, fast and good.

**Is being a rock star everything you expected it to be? Or is it much more?**

It's nothing what I had expected to be. It's very normal if that makes sense.

**Rock stars are normal people?**

For me, it seems very normal, because growing up you picture rock stars, even bands that were signed on a label, like a small label, you think so highly of them, like, they're signed. When you pass all that and see it all around you, it seems really normal. Their business is the same as the business that has been around you the whole time. It's just different names. You know what I mean? Like a different avenue they take to do things. I guess the things that I didn't expect were a lot of people doing things for [me]. That's stuff I'm still getting use to. Like, someone was going to do our laundry the other day and I was like, I can do my own laundry, like, it's no big deal, just the little stuff like that.

**But the rock star lifestyle isn't about sex, drugs and rock & roll?**

To me, that's all fake. I don't know. To me,

that's people trying to play a character. I think there are people, like, that you know, but I would say almost 95 percent of all people like that, are playing a role. I could be totally wrong for saying that, but that is one thing I have noticed, is that most people are just normal—like people in bands who would do normal things if they weren't in a band. Because they're in a band they think that they have to fill certain shoes because of the past bands who they looked up to and I think things like that are in and out. I think that's more individual bands and based on the bands as to whether or not it's true or not.

**What can fans expect to hear from you tonight? It has been said by several different people that you guys are known for your live shows. How would you describe your shows?**

The best way to come to it, is with a beautiful train wreck.

**A beautiful train wreck?**

We just have a good time and we get really tired of bands trying to be cool. There are a lot of people who go to watch a show, where they just sit back and cross their arms and nod their head, even if they like the band. And I'm like whatever happened to 40-year-old men being, like, "Yeah," jumping up and down, hitting their beers together, you know? We just try to bring that back. We try to let people come to our show and have fun. If you want to listen to records, go home and listen to records.

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# College Democrats support Kerry's VP pick

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
News Editor

As the 2004 Election draws closer, the UM-St. Louis College Democrats are doing their part to campaign for both the local, state and national candidates. Founded in fall 2003, the campus organization is a loose alliance of students with Democratic ideals.

"Membership is open to anyone who considers themselves a Democrat," said Jimmy Lappe, senior, political science. Lappe serves as Vice President of the College Dems under President Ben DeClue.

Lappe admits that the College Dems are rebuilding, but their officers remain active. Both Lappe and DeClue are serving on campaign boards for political candidates in the upcoming election. Lappe assists Missouri House of Representatives Incumbent Clint

Zweifel, who represents the 78th District. Zweifel is also an alumnus of UM-St. Louis' political science department. DeClue is working with Steve Stoll, a Missouri Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress from the 3rd Congressional District.

"We haven't formally campaigned as an organization," said Lappe. "We made some endorsements in the primary."

Lappe said that he thinks that Edwards is a good choice for Senator Kerry's running mate.

"I think that he's proven himself to be a real charismatic," Lappe said. "I think he's very well qualified to be vice-president." Lappe also said he feels Edwards may have more foreign policy experience than President Bush.

Lappe, who is Catholic, said he believes that voters should not be persuaded by single issues, such as abortion.

"Abortion is something that has been decided by the Supreme Court and no state-wide or national official can change that by themselves," said Lappe. "It really should be a non-issue."

Against accusations that Kerry is the most liberal senator, Lappe stood with the Democratic Party and said that he does not believe that Kerry or Edwards have a really far-left voting record.

"They both were supportive of military action in Iraq," said Lappe as an example. "Their views are not out of line with the mainstream people."

Terry Jones, political science professor, serves as faculty advisor to the College Dems. Jones agreed with Lappe about Kerry's voting record.

"Senator Kerry's voting record over time would certainly qualify him as a mainstream Democrat," said Jones, who also feels that this election is going

to impact young voters more than any previous election.

While some Republicans say that the media is adding an unfair bias to their news coverage, Lappe insists that President Bush is portrayed accurately.

"I think that the President has a great deal of media exposure," he said. "I don't think that the coverage coming from the mainstream media is too critical of the current administration." Jones maintains that the media plays an important role in every election and this will be no exception.

"Everyone is making a big deal about 'Fahrenheit 9/11,'" said Lappe, who thinks the movie is obviously one-sided and biased. "It's a political film and I don't think it's going to have a big affect on the election in the end."

Both Lappe and Jones agreed that this election is not about winning undecided votes, but about mobilizing the voters. "Anytime you have a chal-

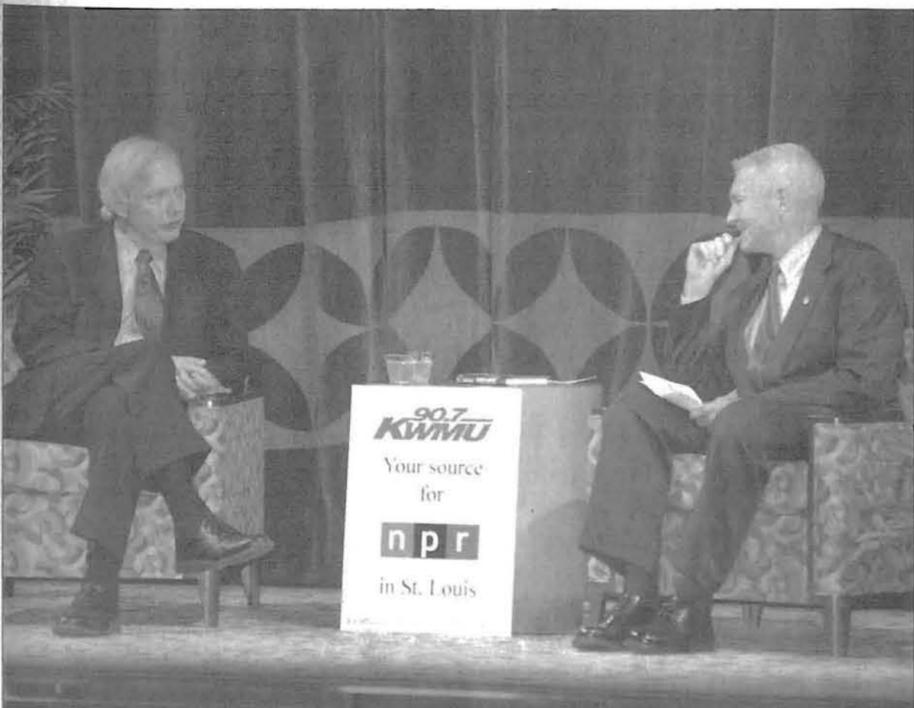
lenger, the people that do shift back and forth are asking themselves what kind of job the incumbent is doing," said Jones. "There are relatively fewer undecided voters in this election than in previous years."

Although the College Dems are experiencing ebbs and flows in their activity, Lappe ensures that all incoming freshman and current students would make great candidates for members. The UM-St. Louis College Democrats are affiliated nationally with the College Democrats of America and with the Young Democrats of Missouri. For further information, contact Lappe at [jjlpm4@umsl.edu](mailto:jjlpm4@umsl.edu).

RIGHT: Jimmy Lappe, senior, political science, is the vice-president of the UMSL College Democrats.



Casey Ulrich/The Current



Bob Edwards, retired National Public Radio newscaster, discusses his new book, "Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism" with local NPR host Steve Potter on June 30, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

## NPR's Bob Edwards visits UMSL

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
News Editor

Bob Edwards, popular National Public Radio (NPR) newscaster, visited UM-St. Louis on June 30 to discuss and sign his newest book, "Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism." Left Bank Books and local NPR station, KWMU, sponsored the program. Steve Potter, KWMU afternoon host, moderated the discussion, which was held in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall of the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Edwards discussed his book in detail, which describes the broadcast life of Edward R. Murrow, late host of "Hear It Now and See It Now." Both programs were revolutionary in bringing World War II into the homes of listeners and viewers.

However, the audience seemed more interested in Edwards' recent departure from Morning Edition, an early drive-time favorite in talk radio. "Modern radio has been focus-grouped, marketed and demographic-ed," said Edwards. "Now, it is just garbage."

"But I hate to leave the smartest, brightest, and most desirable audience in radio," said Edwards, who

bragged to the sentimental crowd about wearing blue jeans to the station and owning only a single suit.

He reviewed his career and told exciting stories about interviews with celebrities.

"I really like interviewing Dolly Parton," said Edwards. "She just interviews herself with one-liners like 'It takes a lot of money to look this cheap.'" He also discussed his interviews with Johnny Cash and Red Barber.

Edwards said that he wants to make his latest book accessible to young people. "I want young people to know that news hasn't always been this way."

When moderator Potter asked how it feels to have what some people call "the voice of talk radio," Edwards seemed modestly flattered, but explained that he had always wanted to go into radio. "When I was in school, they used to ask me to read aloud in class a lot," he said.

Edwards also detailed his research for his latest book. "I liked researching and writing about Murrow's career during World War II," he said, describing Murrow as courageous. "It is amazing that [Murrow] never died with the risks that he took."

Edwards discussed in detail Murrow's contribution to the end of

McCarthyism. Edwards said that Murrow saw the lack of due process during Joseph McCarthy's hunt for communists, and that Murrow attempted to show the American people that McCarthy's Senate Committee was acting unconstitutionally. "Murrow showed people McCarthy," said Edwards.

After the discussion, the audience asked questions about Edwards' experience on September 11, 2001.

"Our NPR station in New York had their tower on one of the Trade Center buildings," said Edwards, who was stationed in Washington D.C. "Their reporters fixed me up with civilians who would call me on their cell phones and tell me what they saw."

"It was a new kind of experience. We weren't used to people deliberately flying airplanes into buildings to use as weapons."

Edwards visited KWMU before the reading and book-signing program and made an appearance on St. Louis on the Air, hosted by Mike Sampson.

"He's fun," said Sampson. "We made a day out of it."

Edwards, who joked about not getting into UM-Columbia's Journalism School, said that he was glad to be in St. Louis.

"You have style here," he said.

## MyGateway gets face lift, new tools

The system now allows access to email accounts without re-entering a password

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
News Editor

MyGateway, the online interface for students and faculty, has been given a face-lift and some new tools. The upgrade was available beginning summer semester. Among other noticeable changes, the Blackboard course management system now offers a direct link to student e-mail and online group meetings.

Robert Keel, Information Technology Services (ITS) specialist, said that the feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

"We tried to make sure that as many bugs as possible were gone before we sprung it on the folks here," he said.

According to Keel, the new MyGateway system has been in the works for about a year. The online interface was first introduced to the University of Missouri system in Fall 2000. "UM-St. Louis has always been a leader in technology," he said.

While the most noticeable change is the single sign-in for all functions, students and faculty may notice a variety of different modules available on their MyGateway Front Page. These

new modules include a direct link to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and New York Times News headlines and links.

"From the administrative side, this MyGateway is more open to the individual campuses," said Keel. He also said that in the near future, campus organizations will be able to post announcements directly onto MyGateway for their members. "It will become a critical resource that students and faculty can use."

In addition, student e-mail addresses will no longer feature the "student-mail," but are now shortened to [login@umsl.edu](mailto:login@umsl.edu). Students will also be able to access their Degree Audit Reports (DARS) directly from MyGateway.

According to the Fall 2003 MyGateway student survey, students who used MyGateway regularly were more likely to communicate with their instructors and actively participate in their courses.

"Some professors think that if they use MyGateway too much that their students won't come to class," said Keel, who thinks that instructors need to use MyGateway as a resource rather than a classroom.

The 2003 Survey states, "A few

students consider class attendance 'optional' with the availability of back-up class materials on MyGateway. We would expect this trend to continue as instructors offer key resources online. This signals the beginning of a shift in what students and faculty perceive to be the relevance of face-to-face interaction, and offers an opportunity for instructors to rethink the structure of classroom interaction."

Jason Cox, senior, computer science, works as a senior consultant for ITS in the computer labs. "I think MyGateway is really beneficial," said Cox. "It's great to have quizzes and grades online. I love the immediate feedback."

Cox also said that his favorite change is the single sign-in option to student mail. "To be honest, I don't think I'll use the dictionary or the news modules," he said.

"The whole thing is a lot more streamlined," Cox said. "They got rid of a lot of the clunky graphics that slowed down the loading time."

The 2003 survey listed the most frequent problems with MyGateway as log on difficulties and downloading large files. Cox said, "It's definitely more user friendly."

## Kennedy resigns as head of PAC

Information from University Relations and outside sources

John Dale Kennedy, director of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the UM-St. Louis, announced on his resignation on June 16, effective July 1. After working at five universities for 36 years, he will join McQueen & Associates, a consulting firm for the performing arts industry.

Kennedy, 58, was hired by UMSL in January 2003 to open and program its new \$52 million Touhill Center. The facility opened in September and was named for former UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill. Kennedy had performed a similar role in 1980, when he became director of the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield. "The opportunity to open, staff and

program a new building doesn't get to happen very often in this business," Kennedy said when first hired. "To be able to do it a second time is what drew me here. Blanche Touhill also was very persuasive."

Kennedy said he remains thankful to UM-St. Louis for providing him this unique opportunity.

"The Touhill Center is an incredible facility, and I'm pleased that we were able to put together an outstanding staff and present a successful first season in a really quick time frame," Kennedy said. "I will cherish the memories of this first season and leave confident that the Touhill Center will be even more successful in its second year with the current staff in place and our first subscription series season booked."

Donald Driemeier, deputy to the chancellor at UM-St. Louis spoke about Kennedy's efforts at the Touhill

Center. "I think what John did was remarkable," said Driemeier. "He oversaw final construction details, hired and trained a staff, and booked a diverse and successful season of performances in less than nine months. He exceeded our expectations."

Dixie Kohn, vice chancellor for university relations at UM-St. Louis, began overseeing Touhill Center operations July 1. Kohn has been involved in the performing arts for years and serves on numerous arts boards, including the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Citizens for the Arts and Friends of the Sheldon.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported in June that Contemporary Productions will advise the university on marketing for the P.A.C. The company is led by UM-St. Louis alumnus and member of the Chancellor's Council Steve Schankman.



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# Sting doesn't disappoint rain-soaked fans

BY GARY SOHN  
Features Associate

Despite cool winds and rainy weather, a sold out crowd stayed to watch Sting, with Annie Lennox as the opening act, perform at the UMB Bank Pavilion July 24. The concert started at 7:30 p.m. and did not end until 11:30 p.m. A conservative looking audience of all ages endured the rain to see two rock legends perform some of their most memorable hits on a high-tech visual stage.

Annie Lennox opened the concert with some of her most well-known hits as both an ex-Eurythmics and solo artist. She performed "Here Comes the Rain Again," "Walking on Broken Glass," "Missionary Man," "Sweet Dreams (Are made of This)," and "Bare."

On "Here Comes the Rain Again," Lennox played a baby grand piano alone on stage. The experience of this moment was both intimate and mesmerizing for the audience, as if being the only one she was singing to. One of the lines in the song that she sang sums up the emotional experience when she caressed the piano keys and sang: "So baby talk to me, like lovers do. Walk with me, like lovers do. Talk with me, like lovers do..."

The stage had synchronized lights that moved up and down, changing colors with the mood of the songs. The long curtain in the background reflected the color of these light changes in its appearance like that of a chameleon. These added effects gave a strong presence to Lennox's songs when she sang her soft melodic songs like "Here Comes the Rain Again," to her high-octave rocking songs like "Missionary Man."

Lennox got the crowd energized with her encore song "Missionary Man" when she belted out in a bluesy voice: "Don't mess with a missionary man. Don't mess with a missionary man." This song got the crowd up out of their seats swinging and moving to Lennox voice which showed that she could sing with soul.

Overall, Lennox put on a strong opening show for Sting. She had strong stage presence as she commanded the stage singing and playing for an audience who were anxiously awaiting for the headliner of the show. Lennox's act finished when her and her five band members stood in a vertical line and gave a theatrical bow.

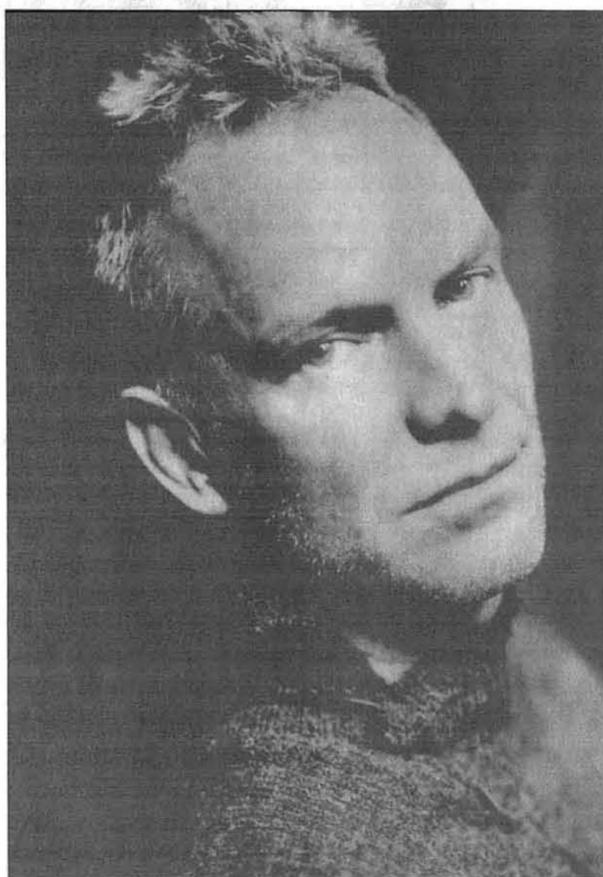


Photo by Paolo Roversi - courtesy A&M records

Several staff members quickly took to the stage and started disassembling the equipment. Audience members stretched their legs, got food and refreshments, and went to the restroom. Two long black curtains lowered in front of the stage. Roadies strummed on guitars and tapped on drums, testing the equipment. Meanwhile rain was still coming down yet no one was leaving. The lawn seats looked like a sea of people. There was not one empty space that revealed a patch of grass. After about a forty-five minute set change, the lights in the pavilion went dim, the curtains went up, and musicians began taking the stage.

Sting's band started playing the beat to "A Thousand Years." Sting finally entered the stage after this one-minute tease. He appeared on stage looking like a spiritual guru in a black outfit, not leather, with a white collar that was hidden under his black shirt. "A Thousand Years," quickly turned into another one

of Sting's songs when he took to the microphone and sang: "Send your love." The crowd went crazy getting out of their seats cheering and moving to the fast-paced new-aged song in which he sang: "Send your love into the future. Send your precious love into some distant time. And fix that wounded planet with the love of your healing. Send your love. Send you love."

Stage gave the audience a 3-D visual effect that matched the power and energy of "Send Your Love." Three Huge digital screens that stood three feet apart were hung up against the curtain that covered the back of the stage. In between the three huge digital screens were two smaller but still considerably big screens that moved up and down like two larger-than-life "Pong" balls. Lights, some fixed while others moved up and down and moved all around in different directions, made one feel like they were part of something bigger than life. And smoke would slowly, but

almost unnoticeably, come out on the stage giving the concert a mystic feeling. Put all these visual elements together, synchronized with some fast-past new age music, and add one rock star/spiritual guru, and it is hard not to believe that this place is somewhere other than the ordinary world of work, bills, and deadlines.

A roadie comes out on the next song and brings Sting his bass. Sting asked, "How's St. Louis doing," and then started playing his bass into the next song Synchronicity II.

After a couple of songs Sting showed that he took notice of his fans and appreciated their attendance.

Sting said, "How nice to be in St. Louis. I want to thank all the people in the lawn who are getting wet."

Sting then went on to play other songs from his long career as an ex-member of The Police and as a solo artist. He played "Seven Days," "Fields of Gold," "Englishman in New York," and "Desert Rose."

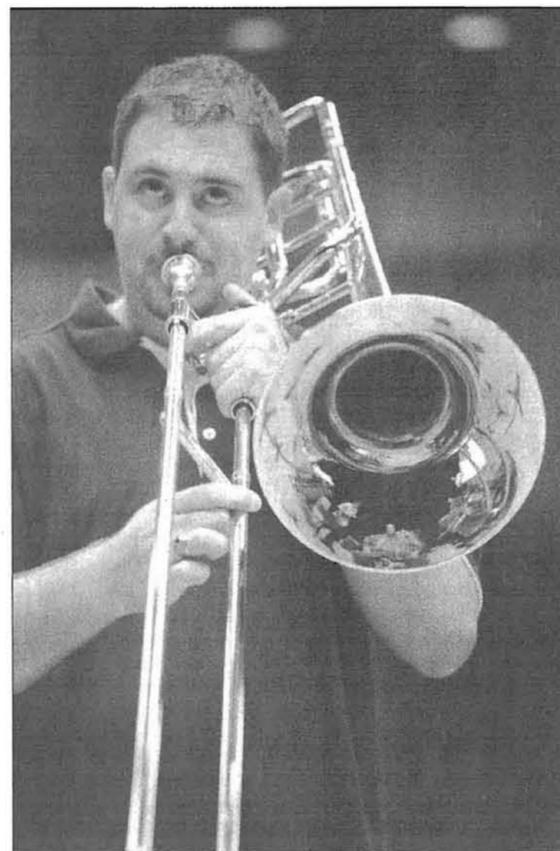
On "Whenever I say Your Name," Sting sang a duet with Joy Rose, one of his back-up singers, who replaces Mary J. Blige voice which can be heard on Sting's "Sacred Love" CD. Joy Rose sang with such power and conviction that one could wonder why she did not sing on the album instead of Blige. She knocked the audience dead and got a standing ovation.

Sting sang another duet, this time with Annie Lennox who came out to sing with him "We'll be Together." This was one of the highlights of the night, seeing the two superstars singing one of Sting's more popular songs.

Sting replaced his bass guitar for a six string guitar on "Fragile." He played the lead chords flawlessly even while he sang vocals. The huge digital screens were off for this song as well as some of the big lights. This was Sting's moment to get intimate with the audience like Lennox did with her "Here comes the Rain Again."

The special effects went back up and had a strong message on "This War." The screen showed comic book like colors and characters. There was a montage of images that showed factories pumping smoke, planes dropping bombs, flags waving, soldier killing, and oil pumps pumping. At the end of the song, the words, "Don't Do Nothing" went across all the screens. Was this a message or just part of the show? No one in the audience seemed not to notice.

## All that Jazz...



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jacob Johnson belts out 'Blues in B-flat' at the UM-St. Louis Jazz Camp on Friday. Johnson and his classmates were rehearsing for a final concert to cap off the weeklong program. The jazz camp was taught by master musicians, including Jim Widner, coordinator of jazz studies and leader of the Jim Widner Big Band.

The Huge screens played some other interesting images in the background that did get some attention. On "Sacred Love" three different dancers on the screens did seductive dances while removing garments of clothing, doing a 'soft' striptease. The song was very sexy and there was not any nudity. But, on "Whenever I Say Your Name," an angelic like woman covered in pixie make-up running through a forest is topless, and dances around in a circle holding a magical circle that looks like a hoola-hoop.

Towards the end of the show Sting performs the song that launched his career, "Roxanne." This song gets everyone out of their seats singing along. The song goes on for some 15 minutes and weaves lyrics into this song

with another popular Police song "King of Pain." Sting has said in various interviews that he likes to watch his songs evolve and change over time so that they do not lose their excitement. "Roxanne" had obviously evolved into a jam session when Sting and his world band played it fast and slow while Sting mutters, sometimes incoherently, versus that keep the audiences excited with attention.

Sting and the band walk off stage, but eventually came back on for an encore performance. He played "Every Breathe You Take" and "If I ever Lose Myself."

He finished the concert by picking up where his first song "A Thousand Years" was cut off at the beginning of the show.

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Now Showing

by Catherine Marquis-Homeyer

## Culture Vulture's Art House Pick and HOLLYWOOD'S SUMMER POPCORN PARADE

Movies or films? Some people like art house and serious films. Some people like entertaining or escapist Hollywood movies. The two groups rarely agree on what constitutes a good movie (or film). Not surprising, I, like many film critics, often prefer those more original and challenging films, outside the standard Hollywood offerings, but I also enjoy an entertaining, mainstream film. Whether you like your film fare escapist or enlightening, there are summer movies for you.

Let's divvy up the summer offer-

ings into two groups: "Culture Vulture's Art House Picks" and "Hollywood's Summer Popcorn Parade." In the first category, we will throw in all the documentary and foreign films, the Indie films or limited release films for the art house circuit, and special film series. Not everything in this category is serious drama, for it includes the Tivoli's Midnight Show series of cult films, old favorites and other midnight show fare. Generally, the "Culture Vulture" films play on fewer screens, at the Tivoli, Hi Pointe, Chase and Plaza

Frontenac and at film series run by Webster University, Cinema St. Louis (who bring us the annual St. Louis International Film Festival) and other cultural institutions. In the second category, there are familiar, mainstream Hollywood fares available everywhere. The second list includes summer blockbuster wanna-bees, wide-release comedies, thrillers, romances, family films and kid flicks.

Why divide them, because they are two very different things. Typically mainstream movies switch to a summer mode, with blockbuster

action topping the list and sillier comedies and lighter romantic comedies, and a few entertaining scary movies. Nothing heavy, just the escapist stuff in the hot months, as if to clear people's heads before bringing out the fall and winter Oscar contenders. There are a few movies that are released that don't follow the trend, but few. Unlike the art house films, these summer movies open on many screens all at once and seek to capitalize on students out of school and families on vacation with time and money to spend. Art house films,

foreign, documentary or Indie do not change gears for summer or veer to lighter stuff, there are more film series, especially midnight showings. For some films, whether grouped Indie or mainstream will depend on the kind of theater they open in, an indication of the segment of the film-going public to whom the movie appeals. Hence, "Saved," a teen comedy with a well-known cast, is with the "culture vulture" films, since it opened at the Tivoli, a hint that its subversive comedy might not be for everyone. Likewise, "Two Brothers,"

a French Canadian fictional nature film about two tigers was released in mainstream theaters because it is in English and aims to appeal to families (which it very successfully does), so it goes with the Hollywood movies, even though strictly speaking it is not a Hollywood film.

So, pick your favorite flavor of film or check out both lists. Remember, all release dates are subject to change - sometimes they move up, move back or disappear from the lineup and a new one appears instead.

# Inside the Indie Reel

Recommended Indie and documentary films now at theaters include Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." Like all controversial films, the best recommendation is to see it for yourself and then judge. Moore's political satire on George Bush has got people talking, which is certainly better than apathy in an election year. Whether you love Moore or hate him, his is a compelling and entertaining film. Other recommended films are heavy documentaries, as this seems to be the year of the doc. "The Control Room" is a completely fascinating look inside the news service Al-Jazeera during the Iraq war, made by an American woman of Egyptian descent who was struck by how news reporting is different yet similar in the Arab world. "Educational and engrossing" describes that film, as well as two other highly recommended docs. "The Corporation" is a look at the dominant legal entity of our world and "The Story of the Weeping Camel" is a lyrical, lovely film about a traditional rural Mongolian family.

Other recently opened films in this category recommended include "The Clearing," part psychological thriller and part family character study, a thoughtful and well-acted film far more real than the typical action thriller. The film has a great cast, with stars Helen Mirren, Willem Dafoe and Robert Redford. Mirren and Dafoe are familiar in Indie films, unfailingly turning in good performances and it is nice to see Redford in a more serious film. Good characters and good dialog make Richard Linklater's "Before Sunset" sparkle. The film is a sequel to his "Before Sunrise," about a chance meeting and romance that lasts only to sunrise, but it is not essential to have seen the first film. In this film, the couple meets again for the first time in ten years and talk about why they did not get together again, where their lives have gone, and about life and love as they wander around Paris before sunset. All

character and dialog, the film's restless camera work, plot twists and surprises are far more entertaining for the thinking filmgoer than predictable action and car chases. Also very good is the dark, subversive comedy "Saved," about two girls at a Christian high school.

Some Indie films coming in July and August include "Door in the Floor," an adaptation of John Irving's novel "A Widow for One Year." Parts of "Door" work better than others. However, Jeff Bridges' performance as a heavy-drinking, unconventional, philandering author of children's books is compelling, as is Kim Basinger's performance as his newly-estranged wife. "Maria Full of Grace," a film about a Columbian woman taking big risks to reach the US, should be out by August. "Maria" is especially noteworthy for the performance of the lead actress, who was vying for best actress awards at film festivals, challenging Charlize Theron for "Monster." "Seducing Dr. Lewis" is a French Canadian comedy about a little town trying to persuade a visiting doctor to stay, so they can qualify as a site for a new factory. The film is being compared to the funny Irish comedy "Waking Ned Devine." "Zhou Yu's Train" is a Chinese-language drama starring Gong Li, familiar to foreign film fans as the star of "Raise the Red Lantern," and directed by the acclaimed Zhou Sun, about a woman romantically torn between two men. "Facing Windows" is an Italian film about a young woman whose husband takes in a Holocaust survivor he finds wandering the streets.

Release dates for Indie films are harder to predict than mainstream movies and it is even hard to guess which of the films on the art house circuit will make it to our area. One that looks likely for August is director/writer/star Zack Braff's "Garden State," an ensemble drama that stars Natalie Portman. Written by, directed by and starring the guy from

TV's "Scrubs," this film made a splash at Sundance. Spike Lee's latest film, "She Hate Me," with an intriguing premise about a fired biotech executive who starts a new career impregnating wealthy lesbians for money, may get to our area late, although it is opening on the coasts in August. Maybe this summer, maybe later, maybe never for us, "Stander," a tale with Thomas Jane about a South African policeman gone outlaw after taking part in a killing during a riot and "Bright Young Things,"



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com

"The Corporation" opened on July 23. The film presents a view of a dominating legal entity.

Stephen Fry's adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel "Vile Bodies." More likely we'll see "We Don't Live Here Any More," a drama starring Naomi Watts about marriage and infidelity. "Danny Deckchair," an Australian comedy that looks like it was inspired by the "Darwin Award" guy who launched himself into the stratosphere with helium balloons tied to his lawn chair, stars comic actor Rhys Ifans. "Mean Creek" is a Sundance entry, coming-of-age

one-week intervals. Sometimes the bigger hits stay around longer, often moving to the Hi-Pointe and Plaza Frontenac, as did "The Control Room" or the touching and beautiful Japanese film "Twilight Samurai." However, these one-week runs are typically the only chance to catch these films. Many of them are documentaries or foreign films, but not all. The next film is "The Story of the Weeping Camel," a beautifully filmed, charming, mythic look at a

traditional Mongolian herding family's efforts to get a mother camel to accept her albino offspring. Despite the exotic location, the warm, appealing family is very much like farm or ranch families anywhere, struggling to maintain their lives and traditions against the onslaught of the modern world, while it is also a look at a vanishing past. The photography is stunning, the tale is hypnotic and hopefully "Camel" will stay around.

"The Corporation" starts on July 23 and will offer up a terrific overview of a legal entity that dominates our lives. From its beginnings as an obscure legal convention of the nineteenth century to its present dominance on the world stage, the film examines what a corporation is and how they operate, looking in from both stockholder short-range and humanity's long-range interests. Get literary with a look at author, Charles Bukowski, in "Bukowski: Born Into This." Author of such works as "Notes of a Dirty Old Man" and "Love is a Dog from Hell," Bukowski's bare-bones, hard-nosed writing creates a mythical and monstrous mask that film seeks to explore and peel away, while making a case to raise the writer from cult status to wide recognition, as a major figure of the twentieth century. "Bukowski" co-stars Bono, Sean Penn and Harry Dean Stanton. The documentary film "The Lost Boys of Sudan," which starts August 6, looks at a pair of boys who were among those who, as small orphaned children, fled the fighting in Sudan on their own, surviving a harrowing cross-country march to a refugee camp in Kenya. As teens, this pair of orphans is selected to live with families in the U.S., thrusting them into a world profoundly different from the strife and hardship of their childhood. First release of the original Japanese version of "Godzilla," is scheduled for the week of August 13. The film released in America, under that title, was significantly different in tone and content from

the original Japanese version, which had no American actors, no voice-overs and a more coherent story. While the American version was one of many stand-ins for Cold War fears, the much darker Japanese film was more about the devastation of the atomic bomb and fears of ecological disaster, warranting a "must-see" for history buffs and serious film fans. The Tivoli rounds out August with the lighter "Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi," winner of 12 Israeli Academy Awards, about a teen boy who maintains delicate family peace with excellent cooking.

The Tivoli's Midnight Show series continues for summer insomniacs, offering two films Friday and Saturday at 12 midnight, each film running two weekends on a staggered schedule. The series breaks July 17, but resumes on August 6 with "The Dark Crystal." Find the complete show schedule at the Tivoli or online at [www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com). Some upcoming highlights are "Zatoichi #5: On the Road," part of the longtime series of successful Japanese action films about a blind swordsman, the first of which is set to open here in August. August 13 is "Otaku Night," with free sushi and DVDs, courtesy of "Star Clipper Comics." Unlike years past, "Otaku Night" shuns Japanese anime for campy pornography films, a trend I would rather not see. Then, see Johnny Depp in Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands," starting August 20.

Besides the year round film series at Webster University, always a good choice to see old and new films outside the mainstream, the Webster Film Series also shows a once a month series of cult favorites, "Strange Brew," at the Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood. Unfortunately, the August calendar was not yet available as this was written, so check with the Webster film series (<http://www.webster.edu/filmseries.swf>) for dates and this month's selection.

# Popcorn, anyone?

Before we plunge into what Hollywood has to offer in late July and August, let us take a quick peek at good films already in theaters. Recommended are "Spider Man 2," a sequel that is better than the first one and probably the biggest blockbuster of the summer, as well as "Shrek 2" and the third Harry Potter movie. "Shrek 2" is every bit as entertaining as the first, but "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" is better than the first two. The director this time is Alfonso Cuarón, who directed the definitely adult-fare, coming-of-age Mexican hit "Y Tu Mama Tambien." This Harry Potter film is darker, more adult, less about special effects and more about story and character, which works much better. The cast is the same, but the attention to nice little details, like the animated credits at

the end, and a scarier approach makes this one much more worthwhile for adults than the previous two, without losing the pre-teen fans. I would also pick "The Day After Tomorrow" as the best big-effects film so far. Although it had some flaws, "The Notebook" is the best romance so far, for its photographic beauty and nice acting and "Two Brothers" as best family film this summer, even if certain parts are too intense for the littlest ones, because it is entertaining for adults also, something all too rare in family films. "Chronicles of Riddick" is better than expected and more entertaining in its genre than "Van Helsing." "The Terminal" starts well and has a nice performance by Tom Hanks, but fades out when it trades realistic dilemmas for Hollywood clichés. The historical

"King Arthur" is nowhere near as appealing as the myth; who knows what they were thinking with Jackie Chan's remake of "Around the World in 80 Days."

Mid to late July openings include "A Cinderella Story," starring Hilary Duff in her first post-Disney film, unmistakably Disney anyway; Kevin Klein in the Cole Porter bio-pic musical "De-Lovely," and Will Smith in the sci-fi action film "I Robot." Although it bears the name of a famous Isaac Asimov science fiction anthology, it has little to do with the original inspiration. Whether it is an entertaining film anyway is another matter, but don't expect very much Asimov. Matt Damon returns as Jason Bourne in "Bourne Supremacy" to continue that series without director Doug Limon, who did a great job making the origi-

nal stand out in the action film crowd. "Catwoman" has Halle Berry in the film version of the comic.

Also in late July, "Manchurian Candidate," an updated remake of the classic, chilling Cold War era political thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Liev Shreiber, and Merle Streeep is scheduled for release. Rent the great original first to get the best comparison, it's a gripping film. "The Village" is M. Night Shyamalan's latest spooky film, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Sigourney Weaver, in a tale about an odd nineteenth century town in rural Pennsylvania. For the fans of kitsch and big cheese, there is the live-action film version of the 1960s British sci-fi TV show that reportedly falls into the so-bad-it's-good category. My pick for best comedy of the summer is

"Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle," from the director of "Dude, Where's My Car."

In August, Tom Cruise dons a strange blonde mop for "Collateral," Michael Mann's movie about a contract killer and "Little Black Book," a sex comedy starring Brittany Murphy will also be out. Whether "Open Water" will go to the art house theaters or multiplexes is not yet clear, but the film is a shot-on-video survival thriller based on a true story about two divers stranded in mid-ocean and is described as "Blair Witch" meets "Jaws." Another art house or multiplex question is "Code 46," a futuristic genetics-themed shocker on the film fest circuit, but with Tim Robbins and Samantha Morton in cast.

"Alien vs. Predator," directed by

Paul W. S. Anderson and starring Lance Henriksen, arrives August 14 for fans of the two monsters and promises of lots-o-action. On the other side of the coin is "Princess Diaries 2," back for another attack on curly-haired girls as the princess faces an arranged marriage. Kiddies get a "Yu-Gi-Oh!" movie. "Exorcist: The Beginning" delivers Father Merrin's early encounters with the demon featured in the original "Exorcist." Mathew Lillard and Seth Green team up for a "Deliverance" themed comedy in "Without a Paddle." Monster fans also get "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," with Morris Chestnut, on August 27. Thriller fans should await "Suspect Zero," starring Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley and Carrie-Anne Moss in a serial-killer tale.

# 'De-Lovely' is filled with de-lightful music

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Film Critic

composer Cole Porter, which starred Kevin Klein as Porter. The title derives from one of Porter's hits, "It's De-Lovely." The film's story was little more than a lovely Hollywood setting for its music. The story was more accurate than the previous Hollywood biopic, "Night and Day," starring Cary Grant. "De-Lovely" takes a glossy and romantic look at the lasting relationship between homosexual Cole Porter and his wife Linda, played by Ashley Judd, rather than depicting Porter's entire life or detailing his world and times during the glitterati of the '20s.

Those unfamiliar with Cole Porter's music should hurry and see "De-Lovely." Elvis Costello, Alanis Morissette, Natalie Cole and a host of others put a contemporary face on Porter's irresistible and timeless tunes.

Musical numbers dominate "De-Lovely," a musical biography of the Broadway and Hollywood legend,

None of that matters: "De-Lovely" is about Cole Porter's music, which is the reason for his fame and the thing most overlooked in films about composers. As entertaining as a film about Cole Porter, the man, may be, it is alright to put those ideas aside for now and embrace the music. The music was integrated into the movie in a number of ways and the varied approach was delightful. Some of the tunes were performed by the lead characters as part of the story, sometimes people just burst into song as in movie and stage musicals and some were presented by way of entertainment at social events or as part of a theatrical or movie performance. The varied approach allowed the filmmakers to pack in many more wonderful songs than one technique would permit and stuff the film with music. Klein is not a great singer, just as Porter was not, but his performances were lively when he was called on to sing, and he better inhabited Porter's character when doing so.

It is the musical portions of the film that are truly inspired. Rather than showing film clips of the many excellent interpretations by icons of Porter's era, like Fred Astaire, the filmmakers treated their viewers to lively and fresh versions by contemporary musicians, including Elvis Costello, Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, Diana Krall, Natalie Cole and others. In one show-

stopping performance after another, the performances pulled out the energy and creativity of the melodies and the cleverness and playfully risqué nature of the lyrics. Cole Porter's word play, especially in relation to love and sex, was evident in many of his hits. Elvis Costello's version of "Let's Misbehave" captures the mix of fun and sexiness that permeated most of Porter's hits. Alanis Morissette, singing "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love," playfully illustrates Cole Porter's ability to scandalize while closely skirting the censors. When Vivian Greene sang "Love For Sale," there was a sense of how the song's bold references to prostitution were too much for censors of the time. It was this tongue-in-cheek winking at the listener about what was literal and what was stylized that made Porter's songs both bold and unique.

The film uses a flashback framing device, which is vaguely reminiscent of "It's a Wonderful Life," in which an elderly Porter watches a rehearsal of a play about his life, although it could be a dream. Not all of this approach works and some of the film felt either a too much like a real 1940s Hollywood biopic or too staged as a result.

Cole Porter was talented, gay, charismatic and unfocused on his career when he met Linda Lee, a wealthy young divorcee fresh out of an abusive marriage. Porter was eager to socialize



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com

Kevin Klein portrays musician Cole Porter in "De-Lovely."

with the theatrical leading lights and had talent, but no connections in the theatrical world and his wealthy family who disapproved of his lifestyle kept him on a limited stipend. Linda was already a part of the world Porter wanted to enter, with both the wealth and connections to launch Porter's career. Together they made the perfect pair as a gay man and a woman sexually traumatized by her marriage. Most of these details are only vaguely alluded to in the film and other facts, like Linda was several years Porter's senior, were left unrevealed. Kevin Klein often seemed a bit too still and staid for the lively Porter

and was far more convincing when he turned cartwheels or danced over a chair. Klein's best scene was when he performed "Be a Clown," singing and dancing with MGM mogul Louis B. Mayer (played by Peter Polycarpou). Ashley Judd did well as Linda, but got to play little more than sweet and noble. Many of the other characters are bare wisps. Pale as the story is, it does not diminish the powerful musical performances.

At any rate, the music and the film framed around it, is great fun and first rate. It is hard to imagine a better introduction to the music of Cole Porter.



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com

Cole Porter (Kevin Klein) and wife Linda (Ashley Judd) take a stroll in 'De-Lovely.'

## BOOK REVIEW

# Haddon delivers originality with 'Curious Incident'

BY PAUL CRUTCHER  
AGE Editor

Authors have led readers totally by the inner-workings of a thirteen-year-old boy before, and surely that sort of protagonist elicits the love/hate responses most people have to the general attitudes and behaviors of boys in their early teens. Author Mark Haddon, however, gives us a dose of something more to grapple with.

Mentally handicapped, Christopher trades normal understanding of social context and inter-

action, personality, and common sense for a phenomenal understanding of physics and mathematics. Yellow and brown things are loathsome, but red things are signs of the positive. He adores dogs, but has a pet rat, which he must continue to remind people, does not have the bubonic plague.

Christopher drives the action, of course, which consequently or not comes out just as curious as his character. The introductory chapter, for instance, follows his discovery of the neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled in its yard by a pitchfork.

Then, Christopher decides to take it upon himself to not only employ himself as detective to solve

Wellington's murder, but also to write a book about it.

Most of his decisions defy basic logic in a similar way to asking a physicist why gravity exists. Her answer will no doubt be reasonable, but also probably unnecessarily complex. Daily activities are related in the most profoundly straightforward manner, as is dialogue, and often

reads like the journal of a first-grader. I did, I ate, I saw, etc.

**The introductory chapter...follows his discovery of the neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled in its yard by a pitchfork.**

Character and action only fit into the overall form of the novel—one in which the chap-

ters alternate between mathematics lessons and the actual action-driven story. Chapters, in one of the most quirky and fitting pieces of "Curious Incident," are not numbered in traditional chronological order, but prime-numbered. That is, instead of 1, 2, and 3, Christopher reasons that his novel should run 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, and so on.

Rather than explaining one of the complex math problems he does in his head while trying to relax, he refers readers to the index, where for four pages he explains it. He did things that way because his psychiatrist told him that people would not want to read such explanations inter-

mingled with the action and observa-

tion in his book. Funny that half the book turns out to be odd math, that he didn't cram that 150-or-so pages into the index as well.

With all that said, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" is curious in just about every way possible. Originality counts for something in and of itself, and if the bright orange cover with a cutout doggie upside down and the pervasive curiosity fail to assert that exact point, nothing does.

If following Christopher around England on his detective hunt sounds intriguing to you, his adventure and his mathematics are available for around \$12 at a bookstore or \$9 online.

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## Go speed racer, go...



Photos by Casey Ulrich/The Current

ABOVE:

Area high school students have fun driving at the Mark Twain rec sports field on Friday, while learning about the science, math, economics, and new technologies of the internal combustion engine. "Kids will come for more hours than they normally go to school to participate in the program," said program director Ray Cummings. The students are enrolled in a summer enrichment program at UMSL that is in association with the St. Louis Bridge program.



RIGHT:

Alyssia Quinn, a 10th grade student at North Tech High School, participates in summer enrichment classes that are in association with the St. Louis Bridge Program.

## SCIENCE COLUMN, from page 7

"We found that students who reported playing more violent video games in junior and high school engaged in more aggressive behavior," said lead author Anderson, of Iowa State University. Think about that the next time a guy tells you he plays "Grand Theft Auto" to "relax."

"One major concern is the active nature of the learning environment of the video game," said Anderson. "This medium is potentially more dangerous than exposure to violent television and movies, which are known to have substantial effects on aggression and violence."

Violent lyrics of songs also take some blame, according to a May 2003 study. According to the American Psychological Association study, songs with violent lyrics increase aggressive thoughts and emotions and this effect is directly related to the violence in the lyrics. Previously, the popular assumption had been that such violent lyrics allowed the venting of angry or violent thoughts and feeling, and a diffusing of their power.

"One major conclusion from this and other research on violent entertainment media is that content matters," said lead researcher Craig A. Anderson, Ph.D. of Iowa State University. "This message is important for all consumers, but especially for parents of children and adolescents."

The strong association between exposure to violence and the use of violence by young adolescents illustrates that violence is a learned behavior, according to a November 2000 study, published by researchers at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in the Journal of Pediatrics.

"This study has tremendous implications," Robert H. DuRant, vice chair of pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and an author of the study. "Even if children and adolescents are exposed to other risk factors that have traditionally been linked to youth violence and weapon carrying, adolescents are not likely to engage in violence if social learning from exposure to violence does not occur."

While this study looked at children personally and directly exposed to violence, it also commented on the role of media in reinforcing aggression. "Children learn violent behaviors in primary social groups, such as the family and peer groups, as well as observe it in their neighborhoods and in the community at large," DuRant added. "These behaviors are reinforced by what children and adolescents see on television, on the internet and in video games and movies, observe in music videos and hear in their music."

TV violence can have an effect, even from an unexpected source. One May 2001 study found a link between watching TV wrestling and date fighting. Robert H. DuRant, professor and vice chair of pediatrics at Wake Forest and an author of the study said.

"It shows that exposure to this type of

“  
**Children learn violent behaviors in primary social groups...as well as...neighborhoods and in the community at large.**

— Robert H. DuRant, vice chair of pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine

violence on television during this crucial period of time when a teen's cognitive, social and physical development is still being cemented, probably affects adolescents in a negative way."

No matter how unrealistic it looks to adults, this staged violence has an effect on youth due to the implied acceptance. "The level of vulgar language, verbal abuse and physical abuse modeled, with unrealistic outcomes, is astonishing," DuRant said. "For example, during one wrestling match a man dangled a woman upside down and then dropped her on her head, knocking her unconscious. In reality, I know this act would have broken her neck and probably would have killed her. In addition, the announcer of the program, speculating on what the wrestler was going to do with the woman, stated that she 'deserved it' because she had cheated on this wrestler earlier. This teaches an adolescent that it is okay to use violence to resolve conflicts and that women deserve abusive treatment."

A December 2003 study from Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York indicates that even where the result is not violence, exposure to violence increases behavior problems in children ages 9-12.

There is an indication that the kind of media violence shown makes a difference. In another study, study groups were shown movies with three different kinds of movie violence: "old style" violence (for example "Glory"), gratuitous violence ("Death Warrant"), and horror

("Howling VI"). A control group saw a non-violent movie. Interestingly, only the realistic, gratuitous violence was associated with increased aggression. Men who perceived themselves as socially deviant and egocentric were more likely to accept violence as a means of conflict resolution after watching four movies of the gratuitous violence type and they also more strongly endorsed the death penalty after watching the films. The other film types did not have this effect.

As you can see, there is a great deal of research looking at the effects of violence in media. But let us move away from the negative side of the media content question and return to the "love" side of the love or war equation.

Some movie content puts couples in the mood for love, not war. How about the best date movie? Dr. Oliver Schultheiss, one of the authors of the new study, recommends the romantic movie.

"They should definitely see the romantic movie," he said. "And if the guy is high-testosterone, he should just clench his teeth and in exchange, it will help promote the relationship."

Other research points to another date movie option: the scary movie. In this case, the picture is more complicated, according to James B. Weaver of Virginia Tech's Laboratory for the Study of Human Thought and Action and fellow researchers from other universities who analyzed their previous studies of the social implication of watching horror movies in 1999.

These researchers found the most positive perception by both genders when the guy was unaffected and not scared by the movie but the girl was scared. Intriguingly the attractiveness of the people involved made a difference in how their date perceived them based on their reaction to the film. Good-looking men and women were not rated down whether they reacted fearfully or not to the movie but it was a different story for the less perfect.

Average looking guys lost points with their date if they seemed scared but she would see him as more attractive if he were not scared.

"Playing macho while watching horror movies, then, appears to be most beneficial to the appeal, sexual and otherwise, of men not equipped with an irresistible physique," the researchers wrote. So-so looking girls were more appealing to dates if they showed fearful behavior but lost appeal if they were skeptical or unfazed by the frights.

Of course, men are more likely to enjoy horror movies and women are more likely to enjoy romantic movies, so maybe the best dating strategy for both genders is to see some of both on your dates.

## GOLDEN KEY, from page 4

Children who participated in Teddy Bear Safari were divided into three groups, zebras, tigers and monkeys. Golden Key members read books related to each group that went along with the safari expedition. Children bobbed for apples, created snakes out of bubble wrap and created Toucan birds out of construction paper and cans.

Ward asked several organizations for donations.

"This gave me the opportunity to learn fundraising," Ward said.

Ward was able to get several stores to donate supplies for the Teddy Bear Safari. Denny's donated cups and gift certificates, KFC donated 90 pieces of chicken and Build-A-Bear donated CDs and stuffed bears.

Much of the success of the Teddy Bear Safari is due to Golden Key members' participation, according to Regina Walton, office supervisor at the Kathy J. Weinman Center.

"The event wouldn't be such a success without their input," Walton said. "They go beyond providing refreshments. They talk with the children, creating a bond. They give 100 percent effort. I think Golden Key is one of the best organizations on campus. They dedicate most of their time and patience with our children asking for donations...the kids look forward to the Teddy Bear Safari each year."

Involvement can be much more rewarding than a title on a resume, according to Daniel Hollander, Golden Key representative and Webmaster.

"The biggest thing for me was," Hollander recalled, "seeing the smiles on those kids at the Teddy Bear Safari where the kids get some attention and have a day for them which makes them

feel like they can trust people again. A lot of these kids have had a hard time and don't get a lot of fun activities."

Hollander, like Garavaglia and Ward, has been involved in several campus organizations. He is president of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Alumni chapter, Treasurer-Elect of Student Senate, and chairman of Elections Committee. Hollander believes that it was through Golden Key he became so heavily involved with campus activities.

“  
**The biggest thing for me was seeing the smiles on those kids at the Teddy Bear Safari...A lot of these kids have had a hard time and don't get a lot of fun activities.**

—Daniel Hollander, Golden Key member



Last April, U.S. gave oral presentations in the fields of anthropology, biology, music, psychology and sociology. There were also poster presentations in the fields of aerospace and mechanical engineering, anthropology, chemistry and bio-chemistry, history, nursing, physics, astronomy and psychology.

Those who presented research at the U.S. had to meet an application deadline and submit summaries of their work. Golden Key members kept the event running.

"I helped facilitate some of the rooms. I had let a group know what's happening, kept their time for them and handed out programs," Ward said.

Even though Golden Key members work hard to keep campus activities alive, they gain some tangible rewards for their hard work. Golden Key offers many scholarships to their members.

Golden Key has awarded more than \$500,000 to its members in undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

The scholarships range in various amounts and can be used to obtain a broad range of degrees.

Golden Key members are part of a prestigious group. Honorary members of Golden Key include Former U.S. President William J. Clinton, entertainer Bill Cosby, U. S. Secretary of War Colin L. Powell (R.E.T.) and Nobel Laureate and author, Elie Wiesel.

Juniors or seniors currently enrolled in at least 12 credit hours at UM-St. Louis, who have at least a 3.6 grade point average, are encouraged to join Golden Key. Members reap the benefits of this association, with opportunities to receive scholarships, become involved in community activities like the Teddy Bear Safari and be among other Golden Key members within their professions.

## APPRENTICE, from page 10

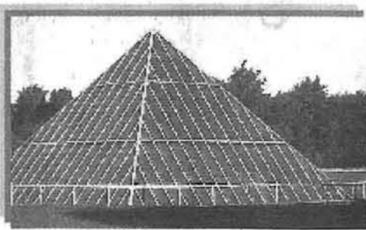
The logic which was lost on me—how reciting poetry during sex helped orgasm, what exactly being a guardian of someone's psychic space meant or why Professor Elizabeth Bovardine was called "Z,"

may be obvious to someone else. The general reader will probably agree that its little wonder Annabelle sees a psychiatrist. Or that Weinstein was a poet (an Annabelle perhaps) before becoming a novelist.

"Apprentice to the Flower Poet Z" is 242 pages and \$24, but poking around online a bit will get you a new copy for considerably less.

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# St. Louis 'Hot Spots' attract many

From Six Flags to the Art Museum, St. Louisans can find culture and entertainment

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Editor

There are a variety of attractions for visitors to St. Louis, regardless of unpredictable Missouri weather.

One popular destination is Six Flags-St. Louis, located in Eureka, Mo. It is more than an ordinary theme park, featuring live entertainment shows, special events, new rides, games and a new water park.

Regular entertainment at Six Flags include "Finders Keepers" at Miss Kitty's Saloon, "Sounds of Broadway" at the Palace Theater, "Kachunga and the Alligator Show" at the Sherwood Forest Theater, "Merlin's Magicadamy" and the "Semi-Great Train Robbery." Shows allow guests to experience the wild-west, watch live musical revues and interact with actors and actresses.

There are also summer concerts taking place at the Old Glory Amphitheater at Six Flags.

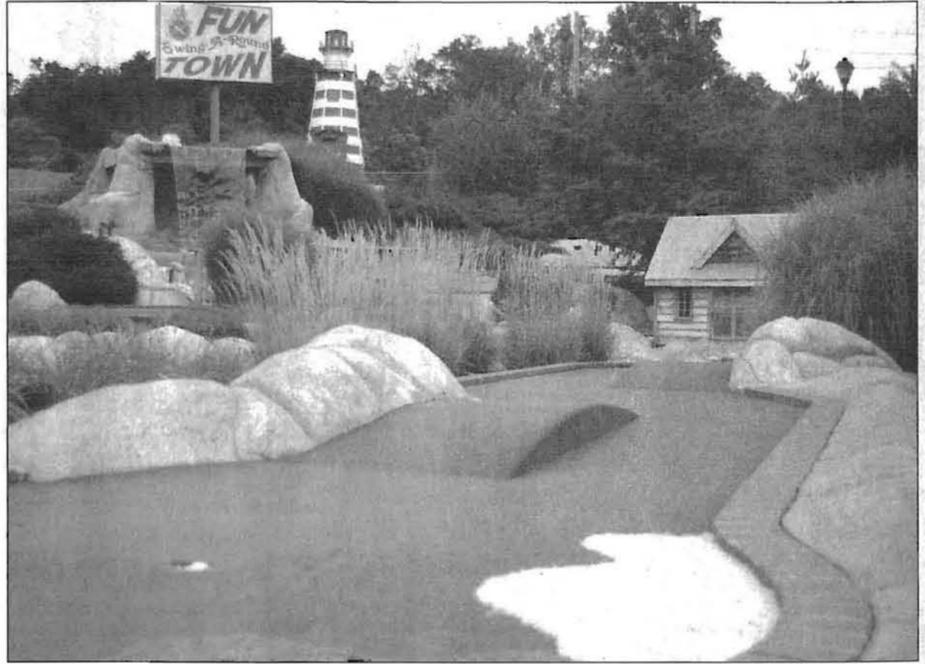
On Saturday, July 17, Six Flags hosted the bands, The Ataris and Bowling for Soup. On Sunday, July 18, rap and hip-hop performers Young Gunz and Squad Five-O took stage. Other upcoming musical acts include pop-rock group, Third Day, August 14 and "Weird Al" Yankovic, August 21.

According to Six Flags ticket sales employee Scott Powell, the most popular month to visit Six Flags is July.

"You might have noticed the population counters on the bars, entering each ride or at the front gate. On some days we get anywhere from 4 to 8,000 visitors," Powell said.

June 4 through August 26, the St. Louis Science Center's Omnimax Theater will present the digitally remastered film, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Audiences view movies on a 4-story tall theater screen, putting them in the center of the action. Ticket prices for "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" start at \$10. The Science Center is also hosting a space exhibition, "A Journey to Our Future," through November 28.

"The space journey describes the beginning voyages to current space



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Swing-A-Round Fun Town, located at 141 & Gravois (Hwy 30) in Fenton, Mo., is a popular St. Louis attraction, offering miniature golf, go-karts, batting cages and more.

expeditions." Science Center switchboard operator, Jenelle Lovings said. "There is also an interactive ride called the 'G-Force' which helps people learn how astronauts survive."

Located within the Science Center, in the James S. McDonnell Planetarium, visitors can view an international space station and experience different space environments.

"This is an excellent place to visit in the summer because it is air-conditioned, family fun, educational and most of all free," Lovings said.

For more information about upcoming exhibitions and presentations at the Science Center, visit [www.slsc.org](http://www.slsc.org).

The St. Louis Zoo offers a new exhibit, Cypress Swamp, this summer. Visitors can observe 16 North American birds in a model of the 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage.

"The zoo is a great place for peo-

ple to visit because there are many wild animals, exotic animals and endangered species from all over the world," Public Relations and Media Assistant Christy Childs said.

Interested in art and sculptures? View over 30,000 pieces at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Collections there represent the Renaissance, American European culture, Asian and Egyptian art.

Swing Around Fun Town, located at Highway 141 and Gravois Rd., in Fenton, Mo., is another place for summer hi-jinks, featuring go-karts, bumper boats, batting cages, miniature golf and a huge arcade. Recently, a new endurance and rock-climbing skill wall was added. Swing Around Fun Town features 9-hole, 18-hole and 27-hole miniature golf courses, all surrounded by waterfalls, obstacles and fountains.

"I enjoy going to go-kart places

during the summer," St. Louis resident Michelle Thomas said. "I like Swing Around Fun Town because it has go-karts and bumper boats, just like many tourists places do in Branson and at the Lake of the Ozarks."

For a high flying adventure, take a 630 ft. journey to the top of the St. Louis Arch. The Arch has marked the "Gateway to the West" since its construction in 1965. Films of the Arch construction and the Lewis and Clark expedition are also available in the Arch Visitor Center.

After a day of fun, cool off with a stop at Ted Drewe's Frozen Custard. The ice cream shop has been a St. Louis tradition since its opening in 1929. Ted Drewe's main location is on Chippewa St. (Historic Route 66). Employees serve specialty ice-cream such as the "Terramizzou," named for UM-Columbia.

RIGHT: Liz Miller, of Hillsboro, Mo. checks out the ancient art collection at the St. Louis Art Museum. Admission is free for the museum's regular exhibits



Mike Sherwin/ The Current



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

The Boathouse in Forest Park is a popular St. Louis attraction. The Boathouse features a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, and offers visitors a chance to rent a paddleboat or rowboat and explore the park's Post-Dispatch Lake and the Grand Basin.

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# Proposed 'Wellness Center' provokes mixed reactions

Facility would provide more space for fitness and rec sports; would require more student fees

BY GARY SOHN  
Features Associate

Athletic training camps, high school graduations, and other events held in the Mark Twain Building have limited the center's hours for UM-St. Louis students, employees, and alumni.

According to the June 2004 Rec Sports News, the official newsletter of the UM-St. Louis Recreational Sports Department, the gymnasium in the Mark Twain Building was only open five days in June.

Larry Hoffman, Rec Sports Manager, said that Rec Sports offers few intramural sports for UM-St. Louis students because the gymnasium is frequently reserved for other events not related to UM-St. Louis.

"Sometimes we only get the gym for one hour a day," Hoffman said. "Students should be able to play on a wooden floor anytime they want."

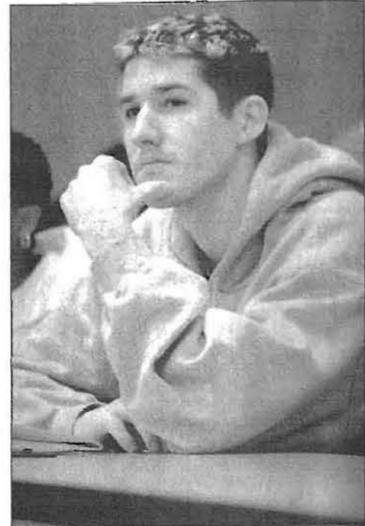
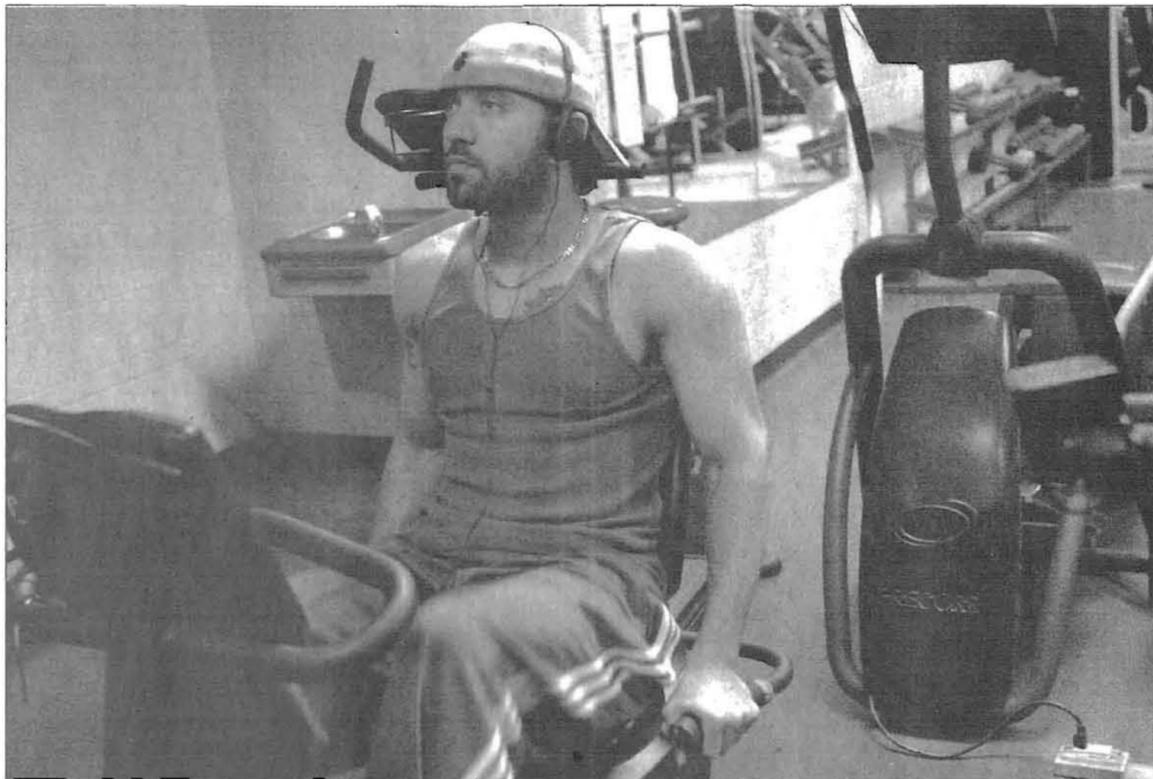
The limited access has caused concern among students and alumni, since they pay a fee that supports the facility.

The University has already looked into building a "Wellness Center" solely for UM-St. Louis use.

Brailsford & Dunlavey, a facilities planning firm from Washington, D.C., was hired by the University to research UM-St. Louis' need for a Wellness Center.

Last March the firm sent out surveys via MyGateway, asking students and employees for feedback. The "University of Missouri-St. Louis Recreation and Wellness Survey" recorded 1,007 responses from students and 345 responses from employees.

The survey asked questions that ranged from what fitness clubs students and faculty belong to, if any, to



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE: Rivermen point guard Justin Foust listens in on a focus group held by the facilities planning firm Brailsford & Dunlavey for a proposed Wellness Center last Spring.

LEFT: Shawn Stevenson, senior, finance, works out at the Mark Twain Fitness Center on Friday.

other demographic questions regarding age and ACT scores.

Using results from all the surveys conducted, Brailsford & Dunlavey put together a "Recreation & Wellness Center Feasibility Assessment." In their summary report, they present three different options for a new Wellness Center: Option A, Option B, and Option C.

Option A focuses on fitness and wellness. Under this option, the new building is estimated to be 60,000 square feet and is designed for weight and fitness, group exercise, track, racquetball, wellness, and a juice bar. The total projected cost is \$15.6 million. The student fee for this facility, depending on interest rates, would cost between \$52 and \$56.50 per semester. The Mark Twain gymnasium and pool would be the only place to hold intramurals and aquatics, since Option A would not support those activities.

Option B focuses on recreation and

wellness. This building is estimated to be 89,000 square feet and would have everything Option A offered, plus a two-court gymnasium and an eight-lane lap pool. The total projected cost is \$23.8 million. The student fee for this facility, depending on interest rates, would cost students anywhere between \$82 and \$85.50 per semester. The Mark Twain Building would only be used for intramurals under Option B.

Option C focuses on comprehensive resources (intramurals, recreation and wellness). This building is estimated to be 127,000 square feet and would have everything Option A offers, along with an additional four-court gymnasium with seating, a six-lane lap pool, an indoor leisure pool, and a multi-activity court. The student fee, depending on interest rates, would cost students anywhere between \$116 and \$125 per semester. The Mark Twain Building would no longer be a

shared space.

Brailsford & Dunlavey reported that there was "a significant overall interest in the initiative [Wellness Center], across the entire UM-St. Louis community. Based solely on the information given as part of the survey, there is clearly weak support for Option C. There is clearly strong support for a facility with at least the features of Option A. Support for Option B hovers just around the majority."

According to Brailsford and Dunlavey's finding, 71 percent of those who filled out the survey favored Option A, 49 percent favored Option B, and 23 percent favored Option C.

The survey also showed Option A to be favorable among employees, as 62 percent favored Option A, 39 percent favored Option B, and 16 percent favored Option C.

Brailsford and Dunlavey also left a space for student and employee comments in the survey. Based on all

returned surveys with comments, students shared mixed feeling about a Wellness Center, while comments suggested that faculty is in favor of a new facility.

"I think the current facilities are fine, but they can be too full to really use," said one student.

Another student stated, "I think [the Wellness Center] could fill an important missing space, both physically and socially in this campus."

An employee commented, "I am very concerned that UM-St. Louis would even consider this as an option when there are so many budget problems; that basic services to students have been diminished and that academic programs are in jeopardy. I am not at all in favor of such a center at this time."

"I love the fitness center being free and available to faculty/staff," said another employee, "It is definitely a perk of working at UM-St. Louis."

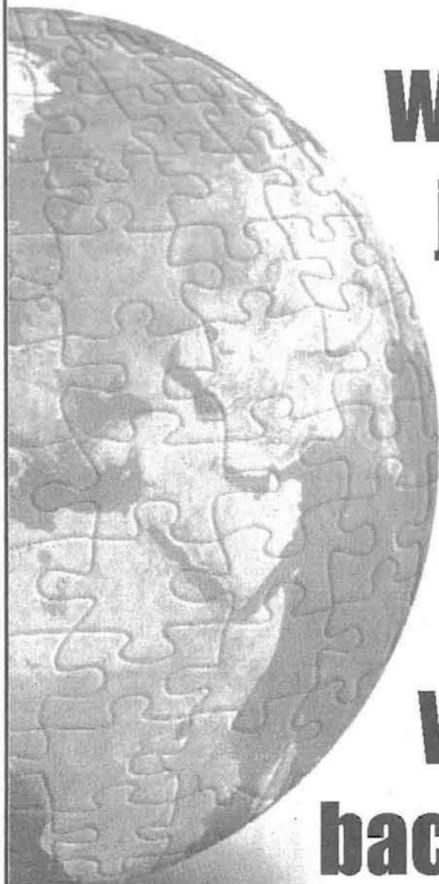
Another employee commented, "I support the Rec Sports program now; it is an important perk to me personally and an improvement to the program would be very welcome."

Sam Darandari, who works in the facilities planning department, said that he is currently putting together a presentation for SGA regarding the construction of a new Wellness Center at UM-St. Louis.

"If they [students] don't want it [Wellness Center]," he said "then we will present it to campus administration and leave it at that."

If students do decide against a Wellness Center, Darandari plans to make another presentation to campus administrations.

"We still feel that it is important that students have a complete understanding of the project and the cost...it is going to be the students themselves that will pay for the services," said Darandari.



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Photo courtesy Rec Sports

Students in bumper cars play "Demolition Ball" during a Rec Trek trip last year. Rec Treks are sponsored by Recreational Sports, the Office of Student Life, and the Residence Hall Association. The first two events for the 2004-5 year will be horseback riding on Sept. 25 and a Demolition Ball trip on October 21.

## Rec Treks: good, cheap fun

Rec Sports gets students skiing, shooting paintball, riding horses

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

Recreational sports at UM-St. Louis are typically associated with intramurals and health classes, such as yoga or spinning. While both of these do occur, Rec Sports offers much more to the student body, such as 'Rec Treks,' which involve large outings in variety of activities.

The department began last year with a trip to Meramec Caverns in October, and went horseback riding and participated in a paintball war in November. It hosted a ski trip in January and finished off the year with Demolition Ball in February.

"It was good because it was very cheap. Dividing into smaller groups made it more fun (forty students attended) and shooting others

was great, like playing counter-strike," said Ruby Niwarlana, international student from Indonesia who took part in the paintball excursion said.

This year, the order is slightly different, but the first two events are free. Rec Sports will host horseback riding on Sept. 25 at 10:00 a.m. at Horseback Trail Ride, A Stables. They will hold another Demolition Ball day on Oct. 21. Demolition Ball is fairly simple. A team of bumper car drivers have to throw a small ball into a hoop with a modified racquet, while the other team tries to intercept it and then do the same. The team with the most points wins. Games, pizza, soda and shuttle transportation will be provided, and the event is open to all students. The rest of the schedule has been decided and includes another paintball outing on Nov. 6. The cost is \$10 and the event will

last most of the day. These events offered by Rec Sports have often been ignored in the past, most likely due to lack of advertising or interest.

"This year we are going to work much more closely with Residential Life and will get the opinions of the RA's [resident hall assistants]," said Pam Steinmetz, assistant director of the Rec Sports department.

The Rec Sports department is flexible with programming as well. "If students have a novel idea that we don't have on the schedule or that we haven't thought of, we are happy to receive suggestions and incorporate new things," Steinmetz said.

For more information, contact the Recreational Sports Department by phone at 516-5236 or visit the UM-St. Louis web site and select the Recreational Athletics link.

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Somewhere in this issue, we  
randomly placed the word

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# WELCOME 20 BACK 04

Sunday, August 15, 2004:

Welcome Back BBQ, 4:30-6:30pm, Nosh

Students, parents, families, friends, faculty and staff are all welcome to celebrate the beginning of another school year at the Welcome Back Picnic. The theme this year is the "Red & Gold Round Up." Gather your posse and come for some good ol' fashioned food and family fun.

Thursday, August 19, 2004:

Clearly You Crystals, 12-6pm, MSC

Clearly You Crystals is a 3-D scan of your face that is miraculously laser etched in sparkling clear crystal. A one-of-a-kind treasure that you get to take home with you! And it is only \$1!

Thursday, August 19, 2004:

Comedy Showcase featuring Honest John  
7:00 pm, Pilot House, MSC

Start the school year off right and come join us to see the hysterically funny Honest John, who has been featured on Comedy Central and the Def Jam Comedy Tour. There will be a DJ and other comedians to make the evening a complete Comedy Showcase.

Friday, August 20, 2004:

MTV Beach Party, 8pm-Midnight  
University Meadows Clubhouse & Pool

Theo Gantt from MTV's Real World Chicago and Amaya from MTV's Real World Hawaii will be making guest appearances at our annual weekend bash. FREE food, prizes, and giveaways, as well as a DJ! Don't forget about the Mechanical Bull Riding Contest, the Limbo Contest and the Aloha Sack Races for even more great prizes!

Saturday, August 21, 2004:

"Spoken Word" Contest, Pilot House

A DJ from KPNT Radio (The Point) will act as the MC throughout the night as a number of people get up to read and perform their poetry. Sponsored by Building Operations, the UMSL Bookstore and Student Life.

Monday, August 23, 2004:

Snow Cones, 11am-1pm MSC Bridge

Come meet the Campus Administrators, the Student Life staff and enjoy a refreshing FREE snow cone before or after class!

Tuesday, August 24, 2004:

Rec Sports Day, 11am-1pm, MSC Patio

Take a break and join Rec Sports for fun and games including a Free-Throw Basketball Contest and a Hole-in-One Golf Contest. There will be prizes for participants and the winners will also receive Rec Sports t-shirts!

Wednesday, August 25, 2004:

Karaoke, 10am-2pm, Pilot House, MSC

Come Karaoke with the University Program Board and the Office of Student Life! Free refreshments!

Wednesday, September 1, 2004:

Hump Day Hoopla, 11am-1pm, MSC

Come test your jousting skills and take a break from your classes! Check us out in front of the MSC, as all students are welcome to try out their skills for FREE! Also, look for other Hump Day Hoopla events such as Sumo Wrestling and Laser Tag every other Wednesday throughout the school year!

UNIVERSITY BOARD  
PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

For more info about any of these events, call (314)516-5531 or (314)516-5555, or stop by Student Life in 366 Millennium Student Center!  
<http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife>