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'Action Plan' outlines long-term campus goals

BY AMANDA JENNINGS
Staff Writer

The Action Plan is the newest plan announced by the University to improve the campus and the quality of education that students receive.

The plan includes five main goals: enhancing the quality of education, admitting and maintaining a diverse student body, improving the quality of research and graduate programs, enhancing civic engagement and increasing the financial base of the University.

"The chancellor's Action Plan brings a vision of continuous improvement to the University," Dan Keegan, junior, secondary education, said. "Its five-point outline is thorough, detailed and on target. This expression of the University's vision, mission and goals provides the roadmap to ensure its intended place among the region's renowned academic institutions."

In the first goal, enhancing the quality of education, the Action Plan outlines many changes. The first is to increase the number of regular faculty positions. The first goal also calls for strengthening of the academic programs, enhancing the relationships with the community colleges and developing a more comprehensive IT program.

The second goal, admitting and maintaining a diverse student body, aims to increase the overall enrollment, yet becoming a more selective University. Goal two specifically recommends raising the enrollment by 600 a year, while also increasing the average ACT score of incoming freshmen from 23 to 24.

The third goal is to improve the quality of research and graduate programs. The first item suggested that external funding for faculty research be increased from \$25 million to \$50 million. This goal also aims to increase the number of doctoral programs, master's degrees and the number of doctoral degrees given each year. It also allows for "increased funding" for teaching assistants and research assistants.

Students also have an opinion on what programs should be offered in the future.

"I hope they decide to put a graduate program in for the anthropology majors," Becky Bahn, senior, anthropology, said.

Enhancing civic engagement aims to include the community around UM-St. Louis, as well as to improve the campus through community involvement. The Action Plan outlines specific ways to do this such as: improving the use of MetroLink, improving the campus grounds and redeveloping the businesses around the campus.

The final goal of the Action Plan is to increase the financial base of the University. This goal aims to increase the amount of money given by alumni and the community.

Some students have reservations about the Action Plan.

"All of the items proposed looks really good on paper," Bahn said. "However, to see them put into effect is a different story."

The Action Plan in its entirety can be viewed online at <http://www.umsl.edu/chancellor/pla/index.htm>, including a letter from Chancellor George, a vision and a mission statement.

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The Current

Your source for campus news and information

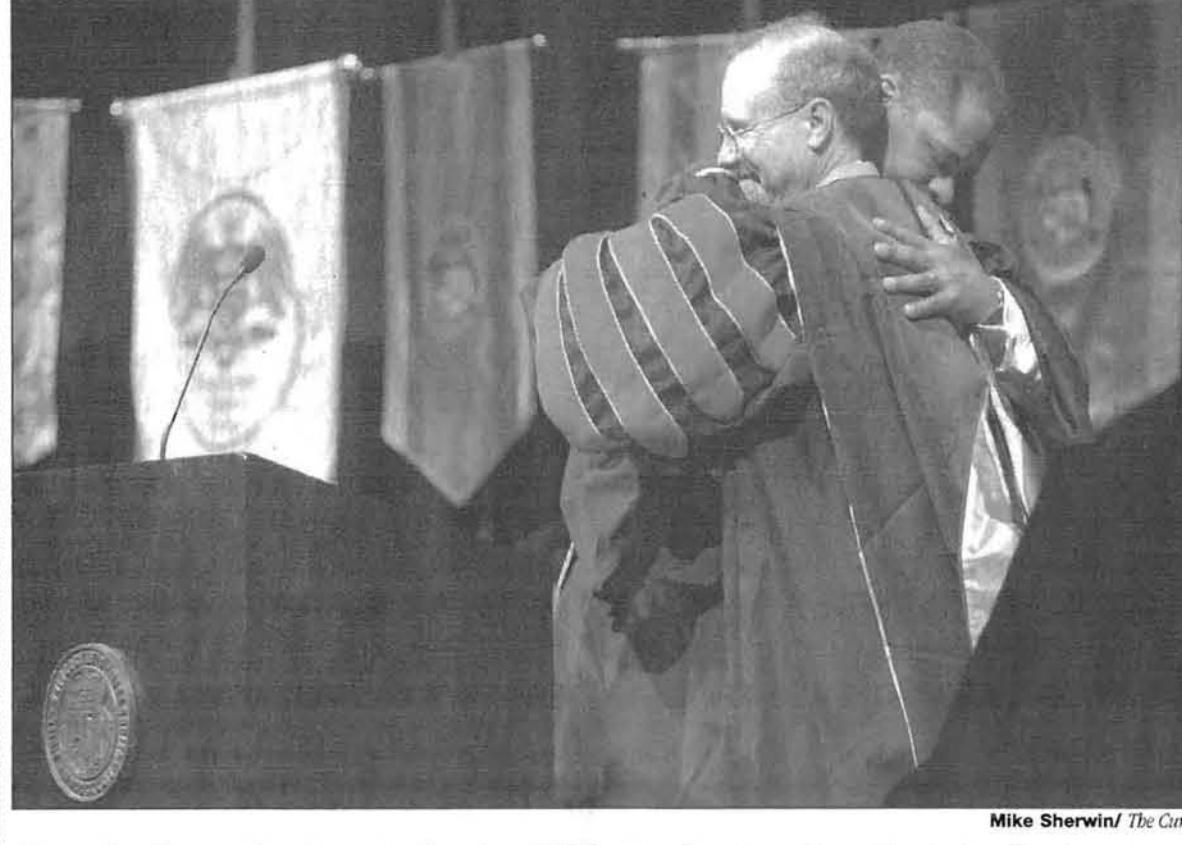


See page 7

Carrie Mae Weems exhibit at Gal. 210

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Pomp and Circumstance



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Chancellor Thomas George gets a hug from UM System President Elson Floyd after Floyd presented George the University medallion, marking his official inauguration as chancellor. George, who has served as chancellor since August, was formerly chancellor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Thomas F. George officially inaugurated as seventh chancellor of UM-St. Louis

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

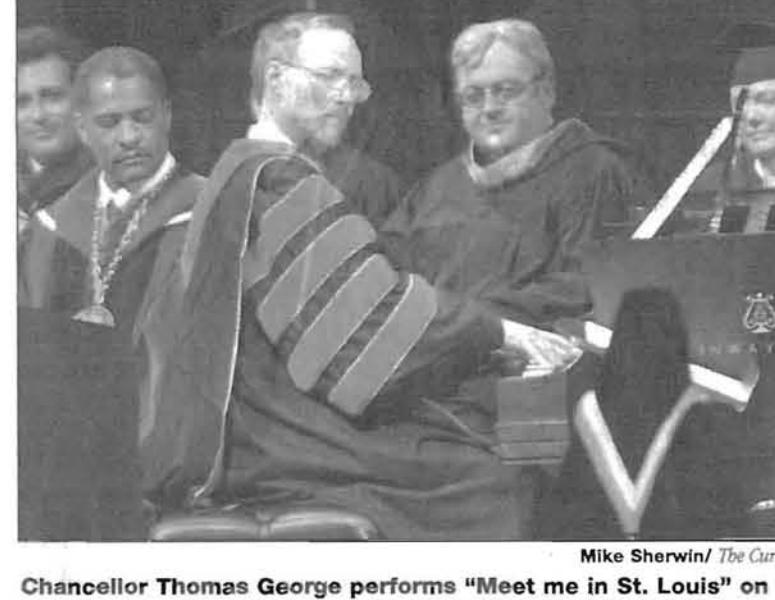
Chancellor Thomas George was inaugurated into UM-St. Louis as the seventh chancellor of the University on Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Along with the inauguration ceremony, George also presented his annual report to the community. This usually occurs in May; however, George felt that since the two were so close together, it would be easy to combine them.

The inauguration began with a procession. Van Reidhead, associate professor of anthropology and chair of the Faculty Senate and University Assembly, led the academic procession. Reidhead also served as the moderator for the event.

The University Singers sang the national anthem and alma mater. Reidhead then started the event off with some opening remarks. He introduced each of the people who were on stage with the chancellor. Thirty-one people accompanied the chancellor on stage.

Prestigious people from the University, the community and the UM System were on stage to welcome in the new chancellor and share their remarks. After Francis Slay, mayor of the City of St. Louis, shared his remarks with the audience the chancellor played the piano. He played a version of "Meet Me in St. Louis."



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Chancellor Thomas George performs "Meet me in St. Louis" on the piano during his inauguration ceremony Thursday evening.

After the musical interlude, five more people spoke and then the Arianna String Quartet played a song. Following this, Mary James, president of the Board of Curators, spoke. Next, UM System President Elson Floyd shared his remarks.

"Dr. George has spent the past several months talking with people within the greater St. Louis area and in the University community about their dreams and aspirations for the campus and for this University," Floyd said.

He then presented George with the University medallion. The medallion is a symbol of his office of chancellor

at UM-St. Louis. George then gave remarks to the audience, where he thanked people who came to see him in his inauguration. Each of these people stood up for the audience to see.

George changed out of the formal robe and into a less formal suit to give his report to the community. He used a Power Point presentation to make it easy for people to follow. The main focus of the presentation was the University Action Plan.

see CHANCELLOR, page 12

Wellness center may be in future of UMSL

Focus groups weigh student opinions on a proposed rec center

BY MICHAEL SPAKOUSKY
Staff Writer

Student focus groups met throughout the day on Wednesday in order to discuss the feasibility of building a new Wellness Center on the UM-St. Louis campus. Representatives from Brailsford & Dunlavy, a facilities planning firm from Washington, D.C., led students through a series of deliberations in order to gauge the response of concerned students.

A Wellness Center is essentially a glorified health club with a campus twist. Centers like those that B&D are proposing have been constructed on campuses throughout the country, including Houston, New Orleans and Boise. Some of these buildings were shown to the focus group via slide

show presented by B&D.

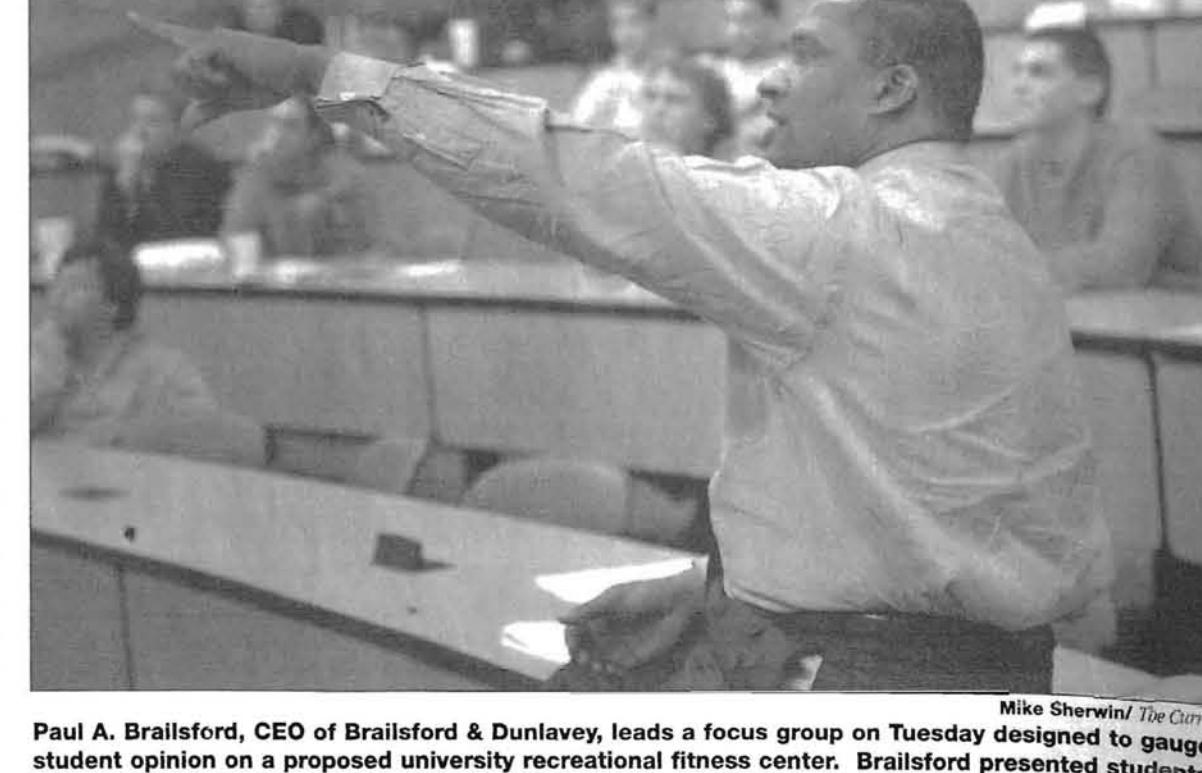
Up until the presentation of the slide show, most students were ambivalent, if not opposing, in their approach to the concept of building a new Wellness Center. However, as the meeting continued and information was accrued, the ambiance shifted to that of acceptance.

Even if the idea of building a new Wellness Center is fascinating, there is still a great deal of information that has to be gathered before a true decision can be made. One concern many students have is how much a building like this will cost them.

Different buildings have varying sources of funding. The federal government, for instance, subsidizes the funding of classrooms. Buildings such as the Millennium Student Center, however, obtain funding from the students, via increased student fees.

According to estimates given by B&D, the per-student cost will most likely be between \$50 and \$125 a semester, depending on the size and opulent nature of the center.

see WELLNESS CENTER, page 12



Mike Sherwin / The Current

Campus has rise in car thefts

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

in their vehicles.

The e-mail also said, "through various investigative measures, the UM-St. Louis police department is trying to stop the thefts and apprehend the persons responsible." It also said that surrounding communities have been victimized as well.

Since they have taken on these precautions, no further thefts have occurred.

"We have identified potential suspects and have been working with the Normandy and Bel Bel police departments," Wirt said.

Alana Ware, junior, special education, just transferred to UM-St. Louis this semester. She and her husband have been living in Mansion Hills, located at Florissant Road and Highway 70. The property is University owned.

Ware said that on Feb. 3 her 1997 Dodge Intrepid was stolen from the parking lot of Mansion Hills between 10:30 p.m. and 4 a.m. She filed a report with Normandy Police, who found her car later that night in Spanish Lake. Ware said the car was scratched, the license plates were stolen and various other items were missing or damaged.

see CAR THEFTS, page 12

Police escort service gets put to the test

BY ANNIINA VUORI
Staff Writer

"When the policeman came to pick me up, I was trying to make conversation but he wouldn't talk to me at all," she said. "He made me feel guilty by saying his shift was supposed to end in five minutes."

When they arrived to the University Meadows, the policeman asked Ni hAnnrachain which building she lived in.

"I just told him to leave me at the gate. I just couldn't face sitting in the car with him any longer," she said.

Ni hAnnrachain has not asked for an escort from the police since, but instead walks home from class even when it is dark.

"Feeling scared is less uncomfortable than the guilt the person who answered the phone and the policeman who came to pick me up made me feel," Ni hAnnrachain said.

She said that she was scared because it was 10 p.m., and her friend was mugged on campus the previous week.

see POLICE ESCORTS, page 12

Bulletin Board

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Thru March Woodcock Museum

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

Winter months Free refreshments

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

Through May MyGateway help

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

Coming soon! LITMAG's Destinations

Look in an upcoming issue of *The Current* in April for LITMAG's *Destinations*. The revived literary magazine will be supplemented with your favorite campus newspaper. Read your peers' and staff's poems and short fiction. Look for it.

Annual contests

UM-St. Louis students can participate in United Nations Day: World Holiday contests. The Center for International Studies is sponsoring three contests for student artwork, essays and web sites. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded to the first-place winner in each category. For more information, call 5753 or e-mail gorrellj@umsl.edu. Works are due in the Center for Int'l Studies, SSB 366, by Monday, March 29.

Thru March 31 Lewis and Clark exhibit in Mercantile Library

In commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Louisiana Purchase, the Mercantile Library at UMSL is exhibiting a collection of rare maps, prints, and books documenting the shaping of America. An Open House reception is on March 13 from 1-4 p.m. (Please call 7242 to RSVP.) For more info or to schedule a tour, call Laura Diel at 7240.

Mon 15

Carrie Mae Weems talk
 Susan Cahan, associate professor of art and art history, will present the slide talk "The Photography of Carrie Mae Weems" at 12:15 p.m. in the auditorium at Gallery 210 in the Telecommunity Center. Cahan will discuss the exhibition "Carrie Mae Weems: May Days Long Forgotten," which runs through April 3 at 210. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public, and is part of the Monday Noon Series. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more info.

Tues 16

Former county executive speaks

Former St. Louis County Executive Gene McNary will appear on campus at 2 p.m. in room 313 in the MSC. McNary will discuss his candidacy for St. Louis county executive. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail umsl_crs@yahoo.com.

Wed 17

Pianist, violinist at Powell Hall

Composer/pianist Barbara Harbach and violinist Lisa Chong will be featured at Powell Symphony Hall at 7 p.m. Barbara will perform one of her own works, "Frontier Fancies." The event is free and open to the public.

Wed 17 (cont.)

Irish poet reads from her own work

Irish poet Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill will read from her work at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C in the MSC. She is Poet Laureate of Ireland and is one of the few women Irish poets who writes exclusively in Irish. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will begin at 7 p.m. Call 7299 for more information and to RSVP.

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Thurs 18

UMLS official honored at KWMU dinner

KWMU (90.7 FM) will present a Golden Microphone Award to Donald Driemeier, deputy to the chancellor at UMSL, at the station's annual Wine Makers Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Starlight Roof at the Chase Park Plaza, 212 N. Kingshighway Blvd. in St. Louis. The evening begins with a VIP reception at 5 p.m. and features a six-course gourmet dinner with wines from seven award-winning Missouri wineries. The reservation deadline is March 16. Call 5968 or visit <http://www.kwmu.org> for more info.

Fri 19

Computer museum opens

A grand opening for Grace's Place, a computer museum, will be held at 4 p.m. in the 2nd-floor foyer of the Computer Center Bldg. The opening will include a dedication ceremony, tours of the exhibit, short lectures, and refreshments. Call 6281 for more info.

Thurs 25

Nat'l Teleconference

The National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition will hold the national teleconference "Creating Engaged Learning Environments for Today's Students" from noon to 3 p.m. in 222 J.C. Penney Bldg. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. Call 4508 for more information.

Sat 27

"When Jazz Meets Blues" benefit concert

"When Jazz Meets Blues," a benefit concert for ROW (Redevelopment Opportunities for Women), will take place at 8 p.m. at The Pageant in the U-City Loop.

Tues 30

"Women, Business, Entrepreneurship" talk

Sharon Scoby, Betty Vining, and Cynthia Sanders will present a lecture entitled "Women, Business, and Entrepreneurship" from noon to 1:30 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall.

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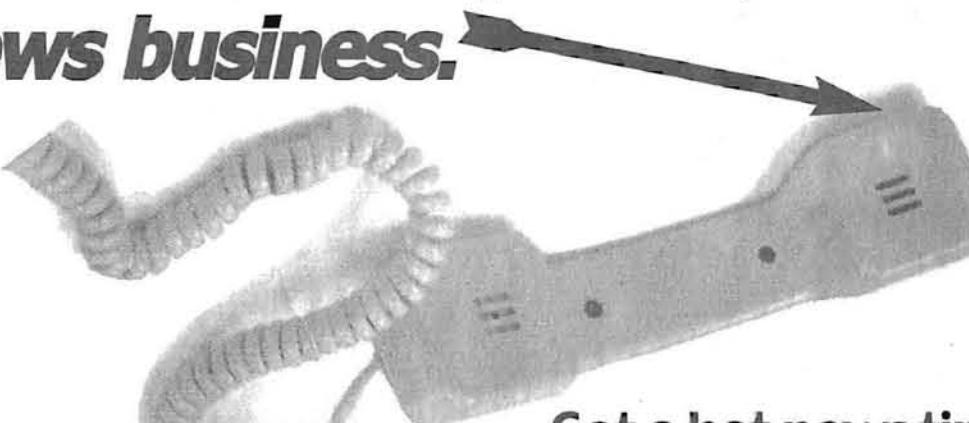
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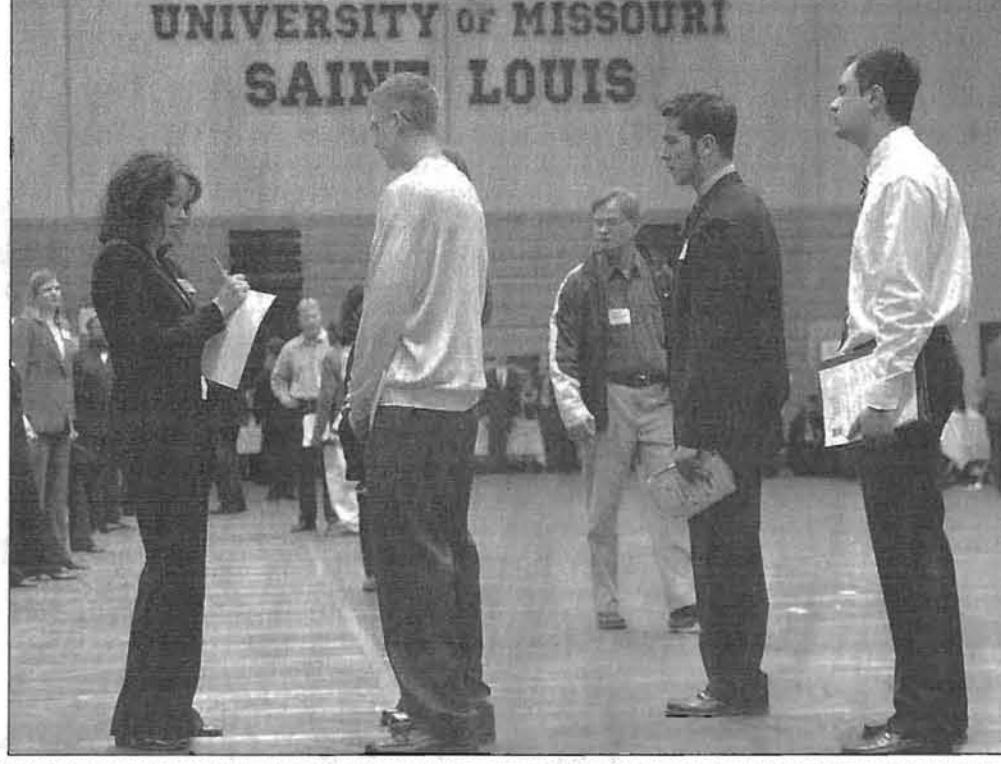
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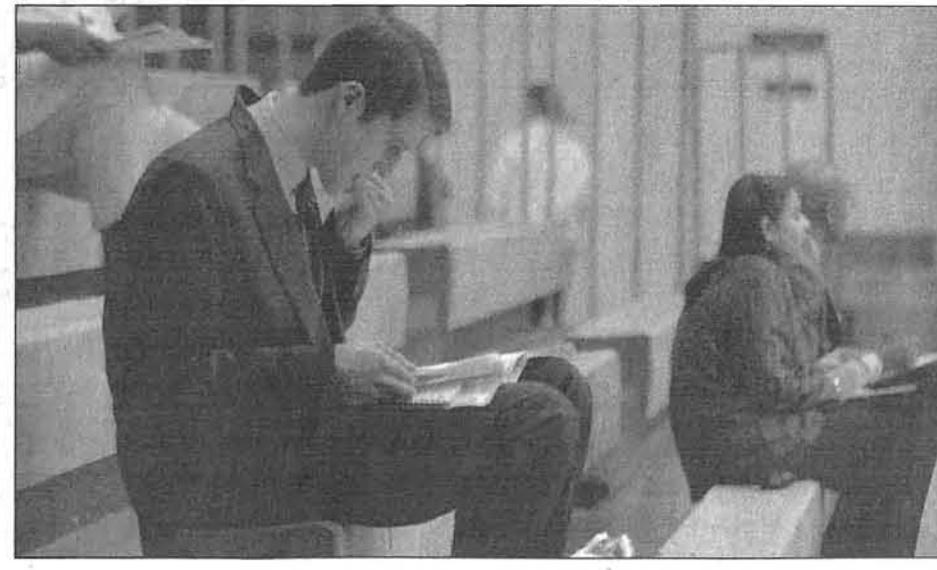


Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ninety-two companies sent recruitment representatives to the UM-St. Louis Spring Job Fair held at the Mark Twain Athletic Building on Friday. About 800 students were expected to attend the fair, which was organized by Career Services.



Students line up to speak with Valerie Slaughter, a representative from Edward Jones, during the job fair on Friday.



Eric Meyer, graduate student, business, takes a break during the UM-St. Louis spring job fair held at the Mark Twain Athletic Building on Friday.

Spring job fair connects students and employers

BY AMANDA JENNINGS

Staff Writer

On Friday, Career Services held the spring job fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain gymnasium. The job fair was open to all students and alumni. Companies were looking for both prospective employees about to graduate, as well as students to fill internship positions in all majors.

Around 900 students pre-registered to attend.

"Two-thirds of those who pre-register actually attend," Teresa Balestreri, director of Career Services, said. "And with those who just show up today, we are expecting 700 to 800 job seekers."

Many of the companies and organizations that were present are very well known, including Anheuser-

Busch Inc, the Missouri Department of Corrections and the FBI.

"There are 92 companies here; that's up 18 percent," Balestreri said. "I'm hoping that's a sign that the economy is on an upswing."

Balestreri said that many of the companies and organizations have been sent invitations, and many of them expect invitations.

"We have a working relationship with many of these companies," Balestreri said.

With the sea of students and alumni, prospective employers had many candidates to choose from. Many were accepting resumes and handing out applications. Most of the companies brought pamphlets and some even brought free giveaways.

Many students came to the job fair for the same reason. "It's convenient because there are so many

companies in one place, and it's close," Sarah Wray, senior, criminal justice, said.

Students entered the Mark Twain building and were greeted by representatives from Career Services who signed them in and gave them nametags. Students then moved into the gymnasium where the companies and organizations had set up their booths. Students were free to walk around and explore the career opportunities offered by many of the companies.

Most students left the job fair feeling confident.

"It was very informative," Wray said. "I found a few jobs that I am going to apply for."

Students are welcome to get help with career information through Career Services. Career Services is located in the Millennium Student Center in office number 278.

SGA bill seeks support for weekend food service

BY WILL MELTON

Staff Writer

After a long Friday night, and a Saturday morning filled with weekend studying, students make their way to The Nosh to grab a late breakfast. It's closed. It's closed for lunch and dinner, too. The same goes for Sunday. What do students eat? That's a question many residents of UM-St. Louis find themselves asking.

Every dorm room comes equipped with a microwave and a mini-fridge. However, resident Kat Wheeler, junior, English, said that driving down the street to a fast food restaurant or grocery store is not always an option: "Not all of us have cars or transportation. It would be very convenient if we had food over here, since we live here."

In the past, they have offered special test lunches on weekends. In order to gauge the demand for weekend meals, The Nosh would host a lunch at a specific time, as long as a predetermined number of students signed up in advance to participate. On a few occasions these events failed to generate enough involve-

ment to occur.

Student Government Association Chair Ben DeClue says that this is not a proper indication. It will take time for the program to get off the ground.

"I don't know how you can expect residents to all want to eat at one time," DeClue said. "The first year business might be slow on South Campus; but as more and more freshmen come to campus, move in and become acquainted with the food system, that will become part of their routine."

There are talks of giving students weekend meal options in the coming school year. However, the service will come with a significant raise in meal plan rates. The minimum rate as of now is \$650 a semester, which is up from \$500 the previous year. If this goes through, students will be facing a minimum rate of \$850 a semester.

Some SGA members do not agree that students should have to face another increase.

"Given the tuition hikes that are almost certainly coming down the pipe from the board of directors, I don't think that Chartwells needs to be instituting price hikes as well," DeClue said.

DeClue, along with the input of SGA Vice President Beth Grindstaff, have drafted a formal resolution calling for affordable food service on South Campus. The resolution, available on the MyGateway website for SGA states that "it would be patently unfair to ask South Campus residents to pay dramatically increased costs for a service that should have already been provided for them." The resolution will be voted on at the next meeting of the general assembly in April.

However, SGA has no real power to change policies enacted by Chartwells. DeClue hopes this will at least get the issue on the "administration's radar." He says that the administration needs to engage in serious discussion with Chartwells about their contract with the school and, if need be, "explore having our food service bid out again, to see if somebody can't offer us a much better deal."

Grindstaff wants to see the collective student voice formally declare that "We the student body support affordable food service on South Campus, instead of whatever they choose to give us," in order to protest this price increase.

Chemistry professor Xu wins UM System Entrepreneurial award

BY MICHAEL SPAKOUSKY

Staff Writer

A UM-St. Louis faculty member received the UM System's Entrepreneurial Award for his part in the invention and commercialization of an incredible improvement made to spectrophotometers. The award is to be formally presented on April 6 at the 2004 Technology Transfer Showcase.

For three years now, the UM System has been offering awards to UM faculty members for their contributions to innovations in technology or business. Every year each of the four campuses nominate two people for the award.

This time around, the award went to UM-St. Louis's Zhi Xu of the chemistry department. Xu's work was done in partnership with Emeritus David Larsen, also of the chemistry department.

What is a spectrophotometer? A spectrophotometer is, simply put, a device that measures minuscule amounts of chemicals, elements or compounds in a solution. These machines can be found around the

world in laboratories, universities, hospitals and many other places where detection of microscopic items is necessary.

Each chemical and compound has a certain color, even if it is not detectable by the human eye. A spectrophotometer can analyze solutions and recognize even the most subtle differences in color, therefore detecting the existence and/or amount of these chemicals and compounds.

With the improvements made by Xu and Larsen, the sensitivity of the spectrophotometer has been increased well over a hundredfold, the most significant change to the technology in over 30 years. This added sensitivity enables the machine to be more accurate, and therefore more reliable.

What is in the water you drink, or the air you breathe? What viruses or antibodies are present in your blood stream? A spectrophotometer can answer these questions for you. Now these questions can be answered with far more frequency and accuracy, and with significantly smaller samples needed to do so. Going in for a blood test soon? How about a prick of blood instead of a vial?

What does this mean for students?

It means a great deal, and it should not be taken lightly. The UM System now owns the patent on a technology that significantly contributes to a \$1.5-billion market.

This means that in years to come, as licenses for this technology are sold, the UM System may accrue millions of dollars, which can then be used for scholarships, buildings, etc. "Think of it: 100 full-time scholarships a year, and that's every year," Xu said.

No work like this comes easy, and the efforts put in by Xu and Larsen should not be ignored. As they walk through their laboratory, people are able to view the evolution of this concept from drawings and calculations to glued and screwed wooden boxes to the more complete and presentable device that it is today.

Even with their genius and paramount efforts, Larsen and Xu could not have done this alone. They received a great deal of support from other members of the faculty, such as Vice Chancellor for Research Nasser Arshadi, whom Xu claimed contributed much, both with encouragement and the procuring of resources needed to complete the task.

**2004
May
Commencement
at the MARK TWAIN BUILDING**

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- 10 A.M. - Evening College (BGS only)
 - Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies
 - UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
 - College of Fine Arts & Communication
 - UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
 - Gerontology Masters Program
 - Masters in Public Policy Administration
- 2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences
- 6 P.M. - College of Optometry (Held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center)

SUNDAY, MAY 16

- 2 P.M. - College of Education
- 6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

Following each ceremony, there will be a reception for all graduates and their guests in the Grand Terrace Lobby of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

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Can women make more eggs in life?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Green eggs come into the picture because one of the experiments conducted used a genetically engineered mouse with a jellyfish gene that makes all its cells fluorescent green. Researcher Dr. Jonathan Tilly, who led the Harvard study, and his colleagues were initially studying programmed cell death, a method the body uses to rid itself of unneeded cells. During their experiments in mice, they made a startling discovery: mouse eggs were dying off at a much faster rate than expected and if mouse ovaries had only the number of follicles and oocytes present at or shortly after birth, then they would use up all the eggs ten months before the mice actually did.

This finding led the researchers to examine cell activity on the surface of the ovaries, where they found evidence of meiosis, the form of cell division that gives rise to the egg precursor oocytes and the fluid-filled follicle that supports it. To test whether they were really seeing new follicle and oocyte production, the researchers grafted ovary tissue, presumably containing the stem cells, from wild-type mice onto the ovaries of the fluorescent-green mice. The result was normal white follicles with green oocytes, indicating new production of the follicle and oocyte egg factories.

The hunt is now on to isolate the actual stem cells. The finding will also need to be confirmed by further studies and then tested to see if it extends to other species, such as humans. Finding a new kind of stem cell is not unprecedented. Recently, scientists discovered the presence of stem cells for neural cells, undermining the assumption that these cells were fixed in number shortly after birth. One reason stem cells like these may have gone undetected is the relative numbers needed to produce a few new eggs or new nerve cells. By contrast, germline stem cells, long observed in men, are needed in abundance to produce millions of sperm a week. Likewise, the body needs a large, continuous supply of new blood cells throughout life, so the body needs plenty of bone marrow stem cells as well.

If the new discovery of female germline stem cells is found to be true in humans as well as mice, the implications for women's health could be

large. In a *New York Times* article on the discovery, Dr. Roger G. Gosden, scientific director of the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, said, "The mind boggles at the implications. The ability to make more eggs would be a revolution in women's health. In theory, it would allow you to have better control over the timing of menopause, to grow more eggs for one's own fertility treatment, to prevent premature menopause, to recover fertility after chemotherapy, and on and on."

Of course, if the discovery holds true for humans as well as mice, the idea that menopause is triggered by the depletion of a set number of eggs becomes suspect. However, a study published in October 2003 in the Netherlands might point to a possible answer. This study found that, in rats, the aging of the brain adversely affects female fertility. Dutch researcher Annelieke Franke studied relatively young rats with reduced fertility. In rats as well as humans, ovulation is regulated by an initiating signal from the brain and by hormones through a feedback mechanism. Matured follicles produce large quantities of estrogen to which the brain responds. Older brains seem to be less sensitive to estrogen, so that the spike of luteinizing hormone (LH) from the pituitary gland, needed to trigger ovulation, does not occur and fertility decreases. Franke found that the pituitary gland and ovaries of these rats still functioned normally but that their brains showed signs of changed function. Since human brains generally regulate the reproductive system in the same manner as rat brains, changes in the human brain may also be linked to loss of female fertility with age.

This study does something rarely seen in science: it challenges a long-established principle or assumption. One of the strengths of science is the way in which it is self-correcting, always moving closer to the truth of nature. This particular idea has stood since a 1951 study that refuted all evidence against it at the time. The new findings were uncovered in part because of advancing technique but also due to the kind of sharp observation and happy accident that has led to many leaps in science.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: "Bobby Darin: The Hit Singles Collection"

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Do you know who Bobby Darin is? If you don't, you should. This Rock and Roll Hall of Famer is one of the most versatile performers in music history. Equally adept at singing rock, pop, folk and Frank Sinatra-esque martini music, he hit the charts with regularity from 1958 to 1973, when his life was cut short by heart problems.

"Bobby Darin: The Hit Singles Collection" gathers together the best of Darin, with songs so versatile, your head will spin. The first song we will look at is "Splish Splash." This good-time party song has achieved legendary status for its mildly veiled sexual innuendo and danceable beat. Written by Darin (a rarity in the late 1950s, unless you were Chuck Berry or Buddy Holly), in a few short minutes, Atco released the song to enthusiastic crowds. I dare you to find me someone who does not love this song and its happy-go-lucky lyrics. "Splish splash I was takin' a bath/Long about a Saturday night/A rub a dub dub/Just relaxing in the tub/Thinking everything was all right/Well I stepped out the tub/Put my feet on the floor/I wrapped the towel around me/And I opened the door and then/Splish splash/I jumped back in the bath/Well how was I to know there was a party going on?" Good times had by all.

Next up, we will look at a different Bobby Darin (not physically of course, but stylistically). This Bobby Darin

sang the teen-pop sensation "Dream Lover." Combining rock and roll's ballads with Motown's doo-wop, Darin had a smash on his hands. Once again penned by Darin, this is actually a very sophisticated tune with great words.

This Rock and Roll Hall of Famer is one of the most versatile performers in music history...he hit the chart with regularity from 1958 to 1973 when his life was cut short by heart problems.

three years after his last big hit, he sent this song to number eight on the Billboard charts. While the words are truly incredible, it is Darin's voice that makes this song what it is. He croons with a raspy, slightly Nick Mason-like voice. The tune seems to anticipate the coming of the Allman Brothers Band. In fact, this song sounds quite similar to "Midnight Rider" a legendary song itself. The words are beautiful, resonating with the listener long after the song (short at 2:23) is over. "Save my love through loneliness/Save my love for sorrow/I'm givin' you my onliness/Come give your tomorrow/If I worked with my hands in wood/Would you still love me/Answer me babe/ 'Yes I would/I'll put you above me.'"

The last song we will look at is the legendary "Mack the Knife." This classic song about a mass murderer is just a great time, and it is Darin's best song. A massive hit (topping Billboard for more than two months), Darin's version is better known than Louis Armstrong or Frank Sinatra's. That is saying quite a bit. I cannot do this song justice by writing about it, so I'll just say: listen to it.

Darin is just a good time. What better compliment can I give? He is a great respite from today's boring teen pop and angry-white-boy nonsense. The great thing about this album is, as you listen to it, you find yourself saying, "Wow, I didn't know he sings this song" over and over. You will find yourself happy, smiling as you listen to this, and that is a great thing.

Bobby. Darin

THE HIT
SINGLES
COLLECTION

Photo courtesy Rhino Records

Hey J♣ Don't just sit there and do nothing.

GET OFF
YOUR
BUTT
AND BE A

Work for *The
Current*, you



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

Do you think Howard Stern should be taken off the air?

- Yes, he a sick man → 23% (6 votes)
- No, he did nothing wrong → 31% (8 votes)
- No, but he should be punished → 15% (4 votes)
- Don't care → 31% (8 votes)

Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

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

www.thecurrentonline.com
www.thecurrentonline.com
www.thecurrentonline.com
www.thecurrentonline.com

Savan leaves his mark on UMSL

Before retirement, the advertising veteran and UMSL lecturer plans to deliver a series of talks on what he has learned along the way.

BY GARY SOHN

Staff Writer

He spent forty years in a cutthroat industry, appeared in a movie with one of Hollywood's top stars and raised a family full of success. With that record, most people would expect to find Sid Savan enjoying a wealthy retirement in a far-off city. Instead, he has dedicated the last fifteen years to UM-St. Louis students.

Savan grew up in Springfield, Mo. and earned a Bachelor's degree in business from Washington University.

"I was a Jewish boy growing up in a very conservative town," Savan said. "I didn't know what 'Jew' meant until my mother told me. After coming home after being beat up, my mother asked what had happened. I told her that [some kids] said she was a dirty Jew. She said that she wasn't dirty but that we were Jewish... I felt like someone had hit me with a baseball bat."

Savan currently serves as a lecturer at UM-St. Louis and has taught for over fifteen years. Before he taught, he worked in the advertising business for forty years. He owned and managed his own ad agency, The Savan Company, for thirty of his forty years in the field.

"We placed more local and regional ads than anyone else in town," Savan said, talking about his firm. "We had accounts with Pulitzer Publishing Company [Post-Dispatch], KSDK radio and television [Channel 5], Central Hardware, food accounts that included IGA and Dierbergs, the large shopping centers like Northwest Plaza and Crestwood Plaza, and fifteen savings and loans companies located across the country, from New York to Hawaii."

Al Akerson, adjunct professor who lectures in communication, said that he is impressed with fact that Savan is an accomplished advertising professional, as well as an accomplished ad agency CEO.

Sid Savan, lecturer, communications, plans to retire from UM-St. Louis after teaching for 15 years. Prior to his career in education, Savan worked in the advertising field for over forty years, part of which as owner of his own ad agency, The Savan Company. Savan will deliver a series of lectures about lessons he has learned in the advertising field on March 17, April 14, and May 5 (each from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the SGA chambers of the MSC)

"It is probably as difficult and complex to run your own agency as it is to do the advertising itself," Akerson said. "One of the things that impressed me about Sid is that he does not just know advertising. He knows the business of advertising."

Savan recalled several of his company's successes in the competitive market.

"My company had handled an account with Kretschmar Ham, who was so small that the Simmons Study

didn't have records on it to list as a ham company in St. Louis," he said.

"But within two years, Kretschmar Ham became one of the most expensive and bestselling hams in its market."

According to its website, Simmons Market Research Bureau collects information on over 8,000 brands in 460 categories, and has detailed consumer profiles with over 600 lifestyle characteristics of media genre accessible in the United States. The bureau has existed for more than 50 years, chronicling the "American Consumer."

Savan also told how his ads for Van Dyke Beer earned his company national recognition.

"We got nationwide coverage in the

Wall Street Journal for our advertising for Van Dyke Beer because our ads had humor, believability, and they sold a marketable difference," he explained.

Savan discussed surviving in the competitive field of communications. "Day to day was surviving," he said. "I had no hobbies like most people who have menial tasks. I had constant attack from competition. If Famous Barr loses customers, no big deal. But if I lost an account, I could go under."

"When I retired from my own [public relations] firm, I got bored out of my mind after a couple of months," he said.

Boredom led him to find another

Mike Sherwin/The Current

job, and he decided to teach at the college level. Savan said that he started teaching for selfish reasons, but then realized that he could actually help young people who wanted to make a living in the communication field.

"I did some political work after I retired and met Terry Jones," Savan recalled. "Jones was someone who I had worked with in polling, and he was teaching at UMSL. I had lunch with him one afternoon and told him that retirement was driving me out of my mind... I told Terry that I would love to do what he did: teach."

see SID SAVAN, page 12

St. Patrick's Day revealed

BY MELISSA McCRARY

Features Associate

The color green, pots of gold, shamrocks, leprechauns and signs that read, "Kiss Me I'm Irish," are a few symbols of a popular March holiday.

"When I think of St. Patrick's Day, I think of drunk Irish men," Lisa Whisentorn, junior, business, said.

Although many people do commemorate this day by drinking beer, pubs in Ireland were originally closed on March 17.

Each year on this holiday, those who are Irish and those who are not will celebrate the day by wearing green, attending different events, participating in parades and drawing attention to their own heritage and traditions.

While many people are aware of the normal St. Patrick's Day symbols, some might not know how this holiday first began.

The celebration of St. Patrick's Day dates back to March 17 in 461 A.D., when the patron saint of Ireland died.

Patrick, born with the name of Maewyn, became more connected to

Christianity after he studied in a monastery. Once appointed as the second bishop to Ireland, he wanted to share his strong religious beliefs with others.

Over his next thirty years as bishop, Patrick traveled throughout Ireland converting pagans to Christians, opening churches and schools, and helping the poor.

Some people recognize St. Patrick's Day as a religious holiday, since it takes place during Lent, a period of forty days before Easter celebrated by Christians.

The United States did not recognize this day as a holiday until March 17, 1762, when Irish soldiers serving in the English army began a parade in New York City.

UM-St. Louis reference librarian Clinton Berry lived in New York and witnessed many St. Patrick's Day parades.

"When I lived in New York, the holiday was very popular and I think it began as an excuse for most New Yorkers to party," Berry said.

Today, people of all ethnic backgrounds in countries all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

In Dublin, Ireland, St. Patrick's

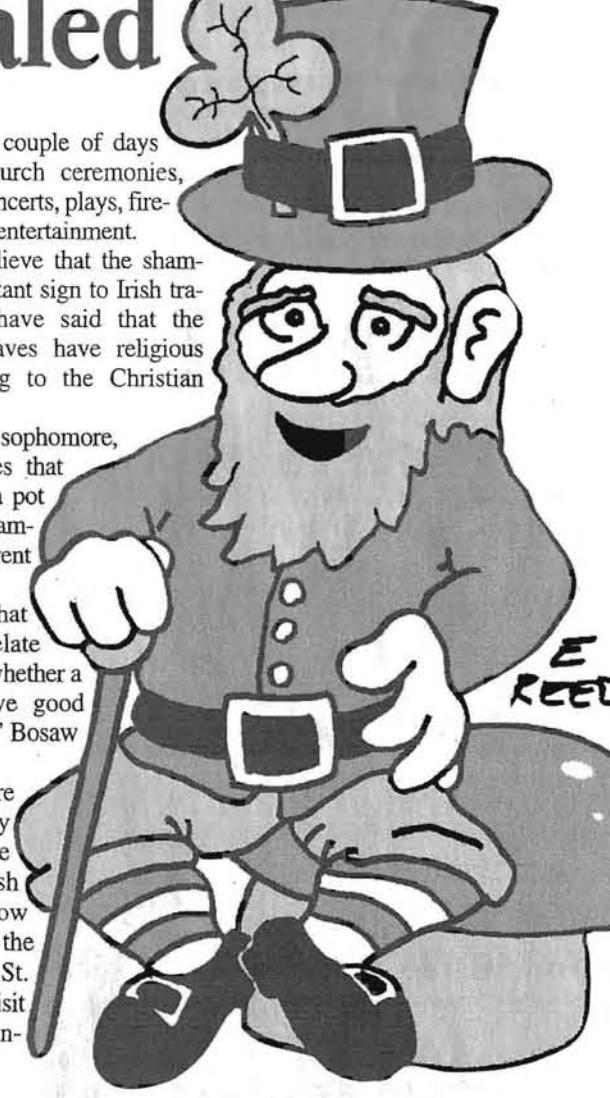
festivities last a couple of days with special church ceremonies, parades, food, concerts, plays, fireworks and other entertainment.

Historians believe that the shamrock is an important sign to Irish traditions. Some have said that the plant's three leaves have religious meaning relating to the Christian Trinity.

Jeff Bosaw, sophomore, business, believes that the symbols of a pot of gold and a shamrock have different connotations.

"I think that most people relate these objects to whether a person will have good luck on this day," Bosaw said.

To learn more about the history of this holiday, the beliefs of Irish folklore and how people around the world honor St. Patrick's Day, visit www.historychannel.com.



Career Services helps job seekers

BY MELISSA McCRARY

Features Associate

With weekly workshops, job search assistance consulting, special projects and job fairs, UM-St. Louis Career Services offers a variety of ways to help students find internships, part-time jobs and full-time careers.

Director of Career Services Teresa Balestreri explained some of the services offered through career services.

"We are not a placement agency. We work in partnership to connect graduates and undergraduates to employers," Balestreri said.

The majority of the services are provided to students free of charge. A fee of \$35 is required for students to post resumes online through the E-Recruiting website. When students post their resumes online, they are connected to employers and can view job leads and contact information that could be helpful in a job search. Each resume is posted online for one year,

and if a student wishes to continue to post information, a \$10 fee is required for each additional year.

Although a person's resume can remain online for one year, many people are able to find a job after only three to six months.

Balestreri said that in 2003, 80 percent of students landed rewarding positions six months after their graduation and nine percent of students went to graduate schools.

"The earlier a person starts to look for a job, the better chance they have with finding the right career in this growing economy," Balestreri said.

Students can view posted positions through the resume book, receive direct referrals for interviews and determine which jobs best suit them.

Beth Mueller, senior, accounting, created her resume through the Career Services online network. After a month, Mueller said, she was able to set up an interview with a company that selected her as a future employee.

"I started at Boeing in the financial department as an intern, and now they have given me an offer and a contract for a full-time position once I graduate this spring," she said.

While juniors or seniors are the most common groups to post resumes through the E-Recruiting network, Career Services provides help to all grade levels and all majors and both undergraduate and graduate level students.

Students who do not wish to post their resume through the online network can attend the weekly workshops that focus on career searching.

The workshops sponsored by Career Services include topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills, using technology in a job search and job search strategies.

Each year Career Services hosts four annual job fairs. The job fairs allow employers to recruit on campus. The job fairs take place in February, March, August and September.

Some of the companies that attend

the fairs include Anheuser-Busch, CitiMortgage, Edward Jones, Niemann Marcus, Missouri Department of Corrections, St. John's Mercy Medical Center, Verizon Wireless and Walgreens Company.

The job fair held on March 12 welcomed 91 employers to the UM-St. Louis campus.

"This year's job fair was up 18 percent the amount of companies compared to last year's attendance rate," Balestreri said.

Mueller feels that the services provided are extremely helpful in assisting students with finding the career that they want.

Students seeking career assistance can set up an appointment with a career specialist for individualized counseling. The Career Services office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and on Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Call 516-5111 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Poetry, films highlight foreign language week

Greek film series continues

BY ANGELA ASHLEY

Staff Writer

On Sunday, March 7, UM-St. Louis students gathered in Gallery 210 to watch the French film, "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse."

The film viewing marked the culmination of Foreign Languages week, which ran from March 1 through March 7.

The film viewing was the culminating event of Foreign Languages week, which ran from March 1 through March 7. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, located in 554 Clark Hall, started the week with a multi-lingual poetry reading in the JC Penney Building.

On Tuesday, March 2, there were viewings of French and Japanese films, as well as the induction of

several new members into Alpha Mu Gamma, the national foreign language honor society. On Wednesday, there was a Greek film viewing, followed by a Spanish film viewing on Thursday.

On Friday, students were able to see "Mostly Martha," a German film that was shown at the German Culture Center. "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" rounded out the week's

events.

On Saturday, March 14, the Greek Film Series presented "Z" by Costas Gavras. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Sunday, March 15, the Greek Film Series presented "Eternity and a Day" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Monday, March 16, the Greek Film Series presented "Rembetiko" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Tuesday, March 17, the Greek Film Series presented "A Matter of Dignity" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Wednesday, March 18, the Greek Film Series presented "Mostly Martha" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Thursday, March 19, the Greek Film Series presented "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Friday, March 20, the Greek Film Series presented "Eternity and a Day" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Saturday, March 21, the Greek Film Series presented "Rembetiko" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Sunday, March 22, the Greek Film Series presented "A Matter of Dignity" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Monday, March 23, the Greek Film Series presented "Mostly Martha" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Tuesday, March 24, the Greek Film Series presented "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Wednesday, March 25, the Greek Film Series presented "Eternity and a Day" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Thursday, March 26, the Greek Film Series presented "Rembetiko" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Friday, March 27, the Greek Film Series presented "A Matter of Dignity" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Saturday, March 28, the Greek Film Series presented "Mostly Martha" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Sunday, March 29, the Greek Film Series presented "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Monday, March 30, the Greek Film Series presented "Eternity and a Day" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Tuesday, March 31, the Greek Film Series presented "Rembetiko" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Wednesday, March 31, the Greek Film Series presented "A Matter of Dignity" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Thursday, March 31, the Greek Film Series presented "Mostly Martha" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

On Friday, March 31, the Greek Film Series presented "Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" by Kostas Ferris. The film was shown at 6:30 P.M. in 200 Lucas Hall.

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Gallery 210 features work of Carrie Mae Weems

BY STEPHANIE TAYLOR

Staff Writer

Carrie Mae Weems's "May Days Long Forgotten" exhibition is currently on display at UM-St. Louis' Gallery 210. The exhibition romantically displays the life of the black middle class youth by presenting young black subjects in a pastoral and optimistic manner.

The exhibition consists of sixteen pieces, including one 7.5-minute film. Some of the most notable pieces include the turn-of-the-century wooden frames and convex glasses that house numerous C-prints of black girls clad in their most comfortable summer dresses staring back at the lens with pride. The early-twentieth-century drawing-room effect forces the viewer to think about the lack of brown skin in the original period of art.

"It's certainly one of the most important exhibitions at the University since I've been director," Terry Suhre, director of Gallery 210, said. The gallery is now located in Building 44 next to the UM-St. Louis Police Station.

"The exhibition reveals the power relationships and struggles between both race and gender," said Suhre, who has been with the gallery since 1996. "Carrie blends a dense mix of allusions and social issues with an approach that is evocative of earlier times."

Suhre feels that the eclectic collection in "May Days Long Forgotten" is less confrontational than Weems's earlier exhibitions. He said that he considers Weems to be one of the best-known international black artists.

"This is a very important exhibition to come to St. Louis," he said. "Students who are interested in political science and art history should definitely come see it."

Delia Johnson, sophomore, history, viewed the newly opened exhibition



Jesse Gater/The Current

and was particularly interested in a series of contemporary silver gelatin monochrome prints. Weems intentionally pokes fun at the issues of color with six profiles of black children dipped in unusual colors like red, blue, yellow and magenta.

"I really like 'High Yella Girl,'" Johnson said, who felt that the artist was trying to discuss prejudices within the black community. "There is a real discrimination toward

people who are darker. People really favor yellow skin."

Johnson also said she enjoyed the pastoral film, "Coming Up for Air," which utilizes an immobile camera

and an immobile background, but features jumbo-sized black girls dancing around a sun-dipped May Pole, which symbolizes freedom from work and oppression.

"It's nice to see her use more serious emotions contrasted with happy ones," Johnson said.

Weems also addresses oppression in "Let Them Eat Cake," a series of three C-prints that mocks Marie Antoinette as a symbol of the tyranny before revolution and a wall of wealth between the middle class and nobility.

Susan Cahan, Des Lee endowed professor in contemporary art, is compiling a catalogue essay on Weems's most recent exhibition, "The Louisiana Project" (2003), which is commissioned by and displayed at The Newcomb Art Gallery at Tulane University in New Orleans.

"One of the things that is really noticeable about 'May Days Long Forgotten' is a new sense of lightness and optimism," Cahan said, who has been following Weems's work for fifteen years. "This exhibition is extremely beautiful because of its use of color."

Weems, who was born in Portland, Ore., attended the University of California and the California Institute of the Arts. She has received several awards and fellowships, including the Alpert Award for Visual Arts. Weems has also served as artist-in-residence at several universities while teaching at Harvard University, Williams College, Hunter College and California College of Arts and Crafts. She has also participated in solo and group exhibitions since her emergence as a socially-minded artist in the early 1980s.

The Carrie Mae Weems exhibition is sponsored in part by City Digital, the Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Arts Council and the Center for the Humanities. "May Days Long Forgotten" will remain on display at Gallery 210, Exhibition Space A, until April 3. The Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SPRING, from page 6

StudentCity.com has specials for students looking for a popular vacation destination this spring. The online travel agency has deals for as low as \$199 per person.

College students swarm to many exotic locations during the warmer months.

"This might be one of my last chances to go on vacation before I have start looking for a career and taking on a lot more responsibilities," Nassif said.

Despite these spring activities students look forward to, some are simply excited about the sunnier days in the near future. Dawn

Brown, senior, psychology, said that she does not care if the weather is chilly, as long as the sun is shining.

For some, longer, brighter days mean more than just excursions to the park. Sunny weather means relief from seasonal depression. A moderate percentage of the population suffers from this disorder, and some exhibit serious symptoms with the arrival of the winter months.

These symptoms can include weight fluctuation, insomnia and lack of motivation. Many doctors use light therapy, daily exposure to bright lights, as a treatment for this mental illness. Although many of these

symptoms subside in spring, summer and even early fall, a person with the condition should not wait for the weather change to seek professional help.

A much larger number of people experience an occasional case of the "winter blues." This is often described as the normal feelings associated with the shorter, darker days of winter.

Whether it is the anticipation of losing the winter jacket or the pleasure of seeing the sun, UM-St. Louis students' spirits should improve in the months approaching the long awaited summer break.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES, from page 6

"Les Glaneurs Et La Glaneuse" was not only part of Foreign Languages Week, but also part of a French Film Series that has been taking place on Sundays. The series started on Feb. 22.

"We had only a few students the first time, but interest has grown. We've had a lot more people come since, and have seen a great response," said Jim Karslake, administrative associate of the foreign language department. The department is also hosting a series of Greek films.

"We've basically been trying to increase the interest in foreign languages, and the numbers are increasing over the last couple of years," Karslake said. "Students used to just take foreign languages to fulfill their arts and sciences requirements, but now I think interest has shifted and they realize it's important to their future careers."

The department of foreign languages and literatures offers majors and minors in French and Spanish, as well as a minor in German. Courses are also available for lan-

guages such as Chinese, Japanese, Latin and Modern Greek.

Students can also visit language tables, where people interested in languages such as French, German, Spanish and Greek get together a few times each month to keep current on their language skills.

Students interested in participating in foreign language programs or events can visit the website for the department at <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit/> or call 516-6240 for more information.

PRE-REGISTRATION APPOINTMENT TIMES FOR SUMMER SESSIONS 2004 FALL SEMESTER 2004

ALL currently enrolled UM-St. Louis students will receive their pre-registration appointment times via the students' "University E-Mail Account." Currently enrolled students will NO LONGER receive this information by U.S. mail.

Students who have questions regarding their "University E-mail Account" may access: <http://gatewayid.umsl.edu>.

The schedule of courses is now exclusively web-based: <http://www.umsl.edu/curriculum/COURSES/>

For additional registration/advising information: <http://www.umsl.edu/~register/courses/register.htm>

To download a registration form: <http://www.umsl.edu/~register/forms/regform.pdf>

In addition, appointment times may be viewed by accessing STARUMSL, or by calling TRAIN at 516-7000.

Students who are new to the UM-St. Louis campus will still receive their registration forms by U.S. mail.

Please contact the Office of the Registrar at 314-516-5545 if you have any questions.



Jesse Gater/The Current

Gallery 210's latest exhibition is "May Days Long Forgotten," featuring work by noted photographer Carrie Mae Weems.

Kerry in 2004? Taking a look at the Mass. Senator

BY CARRIE LEWIS

Staff Writer

In 1982, Kerry won the election for Lieutenant Governor and then stepped up to the Senate in 1984. Since then Kerry has been re-elected three times, in 1990, 1996 and again in 2002.

His most recent focus as senator has been on reforming public schools, strengthening the economy, protecting the environment and advancing America's foreign policy interests.

Monica Cervellione, junior, music education, said that she is concerned about Bush's tax cuts and supports Kerry's plan to correct the problem.

During the most recent Democratic debate, Kerry explained that he plans to reverse President Bush's tax cuts for the very wealthy and spend that money on health care. Kerry promises

that once elected, he will take on the insurance companies and make health care affordable for all Americans.

Other major issues Kerry is attempting to tackle include quickly finishing what Bush started in Iraq, pursuing environmental values, strengthening our national security and helping students prepare for, pay for and complete college.

Two controversial issues that

Kerry has not been very outspoken about are abortion and homosexual marriages. Although Democrats have historically been pro-choice and at least more tolerant of same sex marriages than Republicans have, some wonder if Kerry's active participation in the Catholic Church will affect his view on these important topics. Dave Holy, junior, astronomy, said,

"Catholics are generally against abortion and homosexuality." Holy said

that he hopes Kerry would continue to draw a clear line between the government and religion.

As of Monday, March 8, CNN reported that Kerry is slightly ahead of Bush in the Gallup polls. Visit www.politics1.com for more information about Kerry, as well as the other candidates running for office.

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Democratic presidential candidate

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panies and make health care afford-

able for all Americans.

Other major issues Kerry is attempt-

ing to tackle include quickly

finishing what Bush started in Iraq,

pursuing environmental values,

strengthening our national security

and helping students prepare for, pay

for and complete college.

Two controversial issues that

Kerry has not been very outspoken

about are abortion and homosexual

marriages. Although Democrats have

historically been pro-choice and at

least more tolerant of same sex

marriages than Republicans have, some

wonder if Kerry's active participation

in the Catholic Church will affect his

view on these important topics. Dave

Holy, junior, astronomy, said,

"Catholics are generally against

abortion and homosexuality." Holy said

that he hopes Kerry would continue to

draw a clear line between the govern-

ment and religion.

As of Monday, March 8, CNN

reported that Kerry is slightly ahead

of Bush in the Gallup polls. Visit

www.politics1.com for more

information about Kerry, as well as

the other candidates running for

office.

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SPORTS

Does the NBA benefit from high schoolers?

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

These days some would argue that the best thing that has happened to the NBA was their recent acquisition of some young players from both the college and high school levels. It seems that more and more players from around the ages of 18 to 21 are making the huge jump from the college and high school levels straight up to the NBA.

Up until the past five years or so, no one had even heard of a high school level player jumping right through college and into the NBA. Back about twenty years ago if you would have mentioned it to someone they probably would have told you in your dreams. Lately, dreams have been coming true for some young players such as Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Carmelo

Anthony just to name a few.

The interesting thing about this is that these men are playing on levels far superior to their age level. If you would have taken Michael Jordan out of high school and put him into the NBA, he would not have made it, he even was cut from his high school team and many consider him the best to ever play the game.

Today these young players are signing large enough contracts to give them enough money to buy houses and cars when they are in most cases only ten days removed from their mothers' homes. Not only is the league buying into them so is advertising and fans. Within the first week of signing his multi-million dollar deal with the Cleveland Cavaliers, James signed a record-breaking \$90 million dollar deal with Nike, and this was before he had even stepped onto the bas-

ketball court as a professional.

So, is it right that these few select players are able to skip their years as a college player and student so they can sign for all the money? UM-St. Louis student Andy Klosterman was apposed to the situation.

"I think that it should be no question that they go to college first. They should have to earn their way to the NBA, just like all other high school and college athletes. High school players who are good enough go to top division I schools, and then after college they move on to the professional ranks, just as everyone has done for years," Klosterman said.

On the other side of the issue, there have been many other important changes that have come up since high school players have been allowed to enter into the draft.

Things such as revenue, league expansion, competition and fan base are all part of the change that is taking place within the league right now. These very young players may be signing for millions of dollars, but at the same time, they are bringing in tons of money to their respected programs.

Since James and Anthony have started playing this season, the Cleveland and Denver franchises have seen a dramatic increase in ticket sales. Both teams went from what was an embarrassing team last year with average attendances below ten thousand and have now transitioned into sell out crowds and into playoff contending teams. So who is to say that these players should not be able to claim their stake at playing at this level?

Matt Howe, UM-St. Louis junior level student, thinks that they have

every right to play if they can handle it.

"If they have the skills then I think that the league has every right to let them into the NBA. If they are good enough then I say let them play. They have already brought a lot back to the NBA this season," Howe said.

To let them play or not let them play, that is the question. It has become one of the fastest rising issues with pro level sports, because most of them if not all of them will take in an athlete who at least 18 or older and many do not even recruit players who have not at least attended college first. So what is your opinion on this? Should they be able to make the millions if they are good enough, or should they have to go through the system just as everyone else has done for the entire history of their sport?

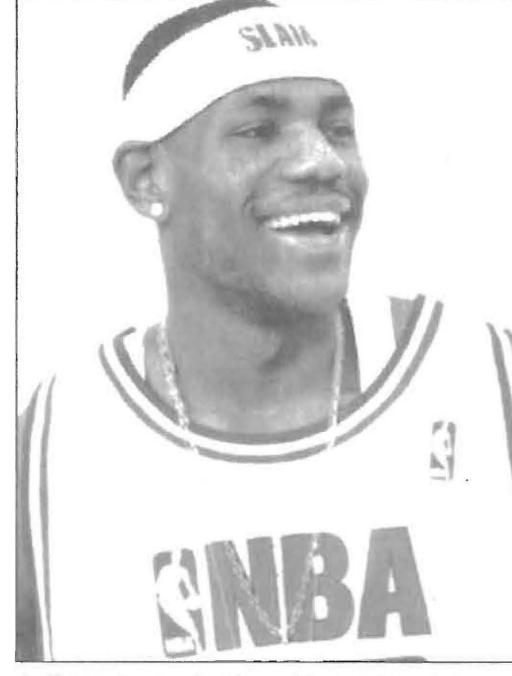


Photo courtesy google.com

LeBron James is the odds on favorite to win this year's rookie of the year award. He went straight from high school to join the Cleveland Cavaliers.

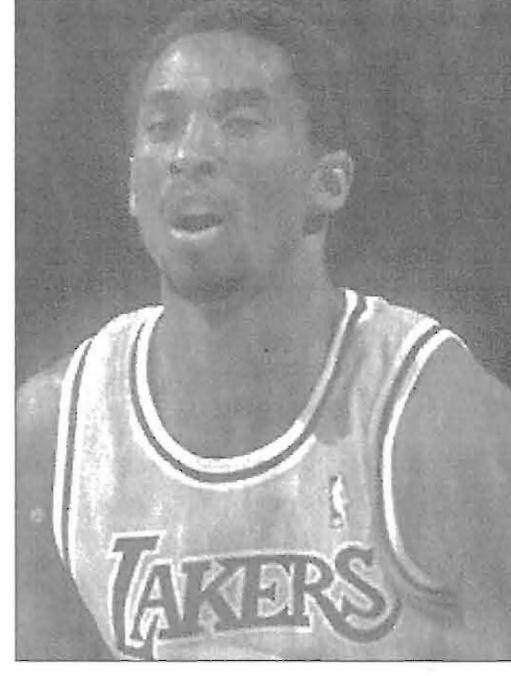


Photo courtesy google.com

Kobe Bryant is the first truly high profile high school to NBA player. Despite recent allegations of rape, he was voted in as an All-Star starter.

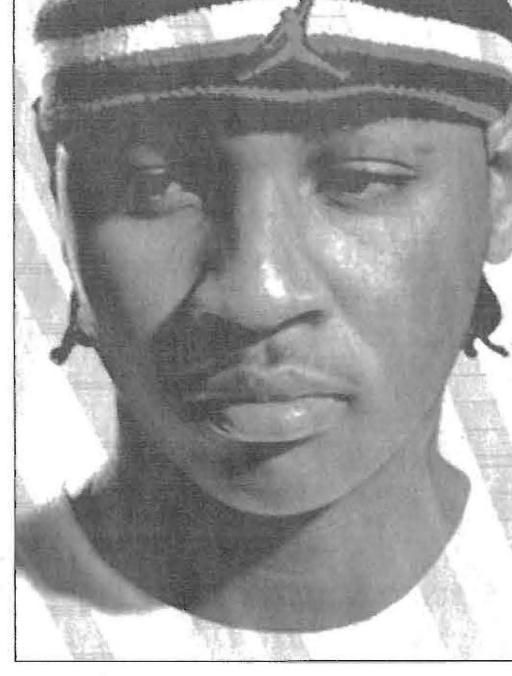


Photo courtesy carmeloanthony.com

While Carmelo Anthony did not go from high school to the NBA, he left Syracuse after his sophomore year to play for the Denver Nuggets.

Softball starts out strong, wins five of eight in March

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

team, Coach Durnin said.

"Would we have liked to go 6-2 on the trip? Well sure. But we played hard and two of the wins we got were over regionally ranked teams, Northwood and Kutztown. Kutztown beat one of our conference rivals earlier in fact, so that win was a very good one for us."

The Riverwomen outscored their opponents 27-3 over the last four

"Our pitchers did a phenomenal job. They stepped up to the challenge and over all eight games, they allowed only one homerun. They gave our offense a chance to score runs. We strive to be perfect on defense, if we score just one run in a game, we should still win that game."

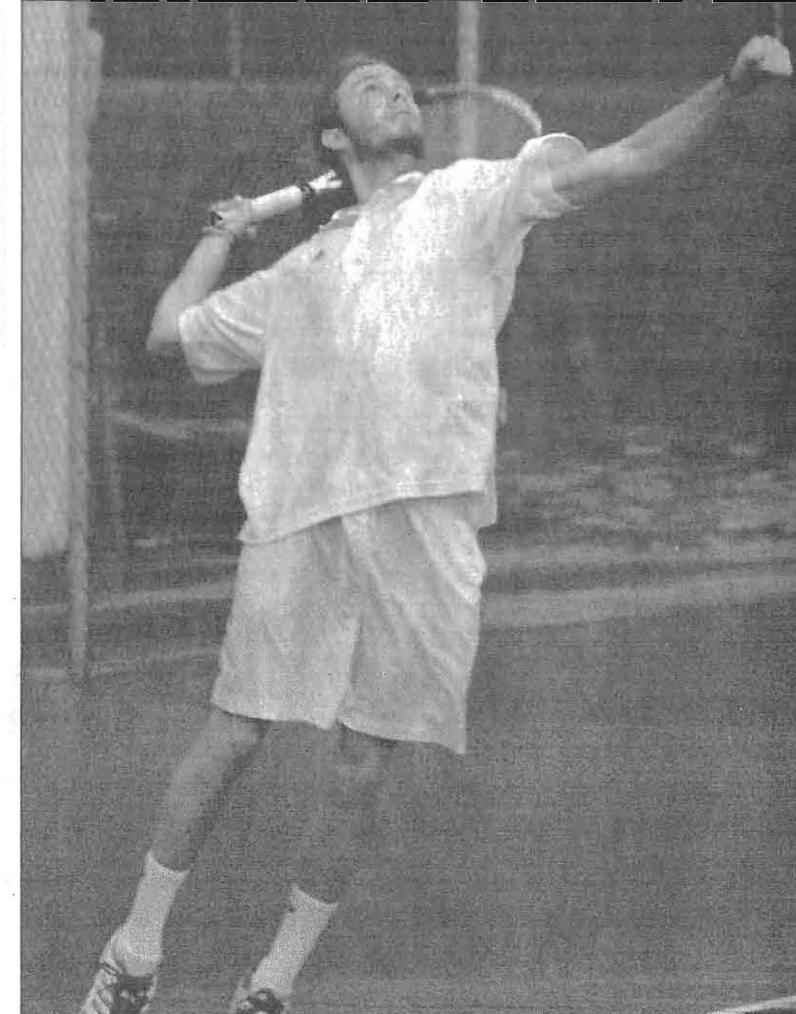
The offense did come out big in the last few games, and one player in particular did very well. Kimmy Kulaitis hit well all week long, and then capped her performance with a grand slam. The Riverwomen's preliminary success is that much more remarkable considering that they had three outdoor practices prior to opening games. They managed to work inside, but the difference is huge between being out on the field and inside working on mechanics. It hints that the best is yet to come for the team.

The team can be seen in action here at noon on March 20 and 21 in their first conference games against Indianapolis University and Saint Joseph's University. The players will be signing posters and Hall of Fame inductees will throw the opening pitches. There will be concession stands open, festivities offered during half innings and all are invited to attend.

We had runners on base the whole game against South Dakota State, but we could get any runs home.

- Nicky Durnin, softball coach

games, including two complete shutouts. Coach Durnin attributes the success to their defense, not their offense, which may come and go.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Matt Schaff, of the Rivermen tennis team, makes a serve during a spring 2003 match.

Tennis takes first match

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team notched a win in its first match of the season, defeating Lewis & Clark 7-2.

The Rivermen swept the three doubles matches, winning one doubles 8-5, two doubles 8-4 and three doubles 8-6. In the singles matches, UM-St. Louis lost at the first two singles spots, but got wins from two newcomers as Francis Lam won 6-1, 6-0 at three singles and James Daugherty won 6-2, 6-1 at six singles. Other singles wins came from Raj Saini at four singles and Stephen Pobst at five singles.

Enrico Kasjan of Lewis and Clark defeated UM-St. Louis's number one player Matt Vaulkhard 6-4, 6-2. Lewis and Clark's Daniel Quinn defeated number two Mike Schaaf of the Rivermen 4-6, 6-4 (5). Francis Lam beat Eric Cromer.

The Rivermen's Saini number four, defeated Kyle Jobe of Lewis and Clark 6-1, 6-1. Number five for UM-St. Louis, Pobst, defeated

Travis Tillman 6-2, 6-1. And Daugherty def. J.D. Fore.

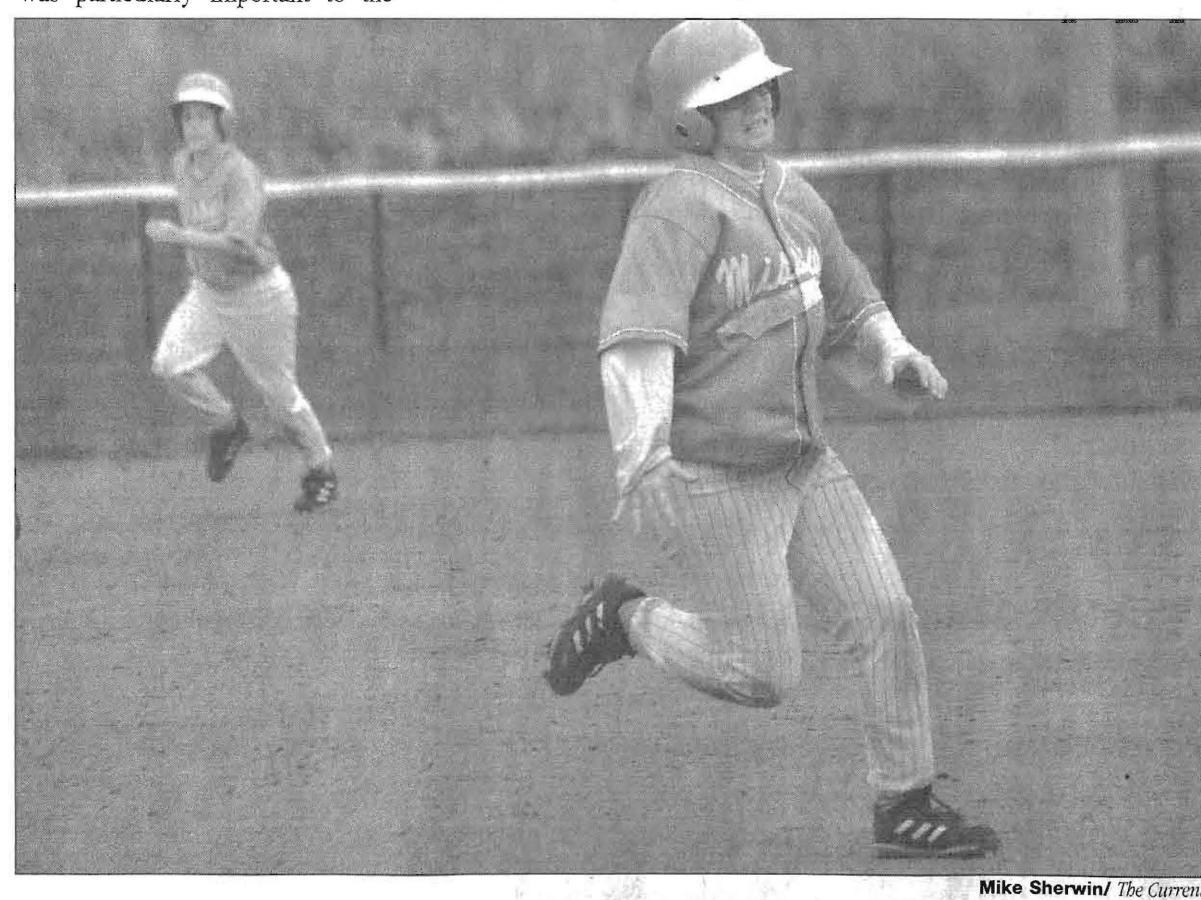
"It was a great match to start the season off with. It's always great to go into your year with a win," Vaulkhard said. "We're going to keep on the same path and keep bringing home wins."

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team did just that when they cruised to an easy 9-0 win over Maryville on Saturday afternoon in the first home match for the Rivermen this season.

UM-St. Louis swept all three doubles matches to begin the day, winning 8-0 at both two and three doubles, and winning one doubles 8-1. In the singles matches, the Rivermen dominated each match.

UM-St. Louis got three singles wins by 6-0, 6-0 scores from Lam at three singles, Saini at four singles and Daugherty at six singles. Vaulkhard won at one singles 6-1, 6-0, Sehaaf won 6-0, 6-2 at two singles and Pobst won 6-0, 6-2 at five singles to complete the sweep for the Rivermen.

The Rivermen will be in action again on Monday afternoon when they travel to play at McKendree at 3:30 p.m.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen softball player Ashley Compton rounds third base during a Spring 2003 game. The Riverwomen won five of eight games during the Rebel games held last week in Florida.

Rivermen baseball slaughters

Hillsdale Chargers 24-7

BY WILL ROESTER
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Baseball team, host of the Springhill Suites by Marriott Invitational, ended the March 5-7 event with a 24-7 route of Hillsdale. The offensive explosion gave the Rivermen a 2-2 record for the tournament. With a bit of *déjà vu*, UM-St. Louis split games with each opponent, barely losing the first and convincingly winning the second game against both Grand Valley State and Hillsdale.

To start the weekend, UM-St. Louis faced Grand Valley State on the diamond. With the Rivermen's four errors in the field, Grand Valley found five unearned runs to help them defeat the Rivermen 12-9. Not

ones to roll over, the boys of spring sharpened their defense and kept the hot bats swinging, downing Grand Valley 10-3 in their second game.

Colby and Logan Hughes each had three hits, while Tony Grana and Jon Mercer each notched two. Most impressive was starting pitcher Josh Morgan, giving up just three runs on three hits in a complete game effort.

Against Hillsdale the Rivermen lost their first contest despite first baseman Scott Sanders' 4 for 4 performance at the plate and an early lead, as a four-run fifth inning by Grand Valley put

the Rivermen down by two. UM-St. Louis looked poised for a rally in the last inning, with Colby Hughes scoring on a ball and Sanders advancing to third as well, but were unable to bring in the tying run with two outs. Retribution would be swift and certain, however, as the Rivermen poured it on in their second game of the day. Nine players had two or more hits as the team totaled 21 for the game, bagging

24 runs.

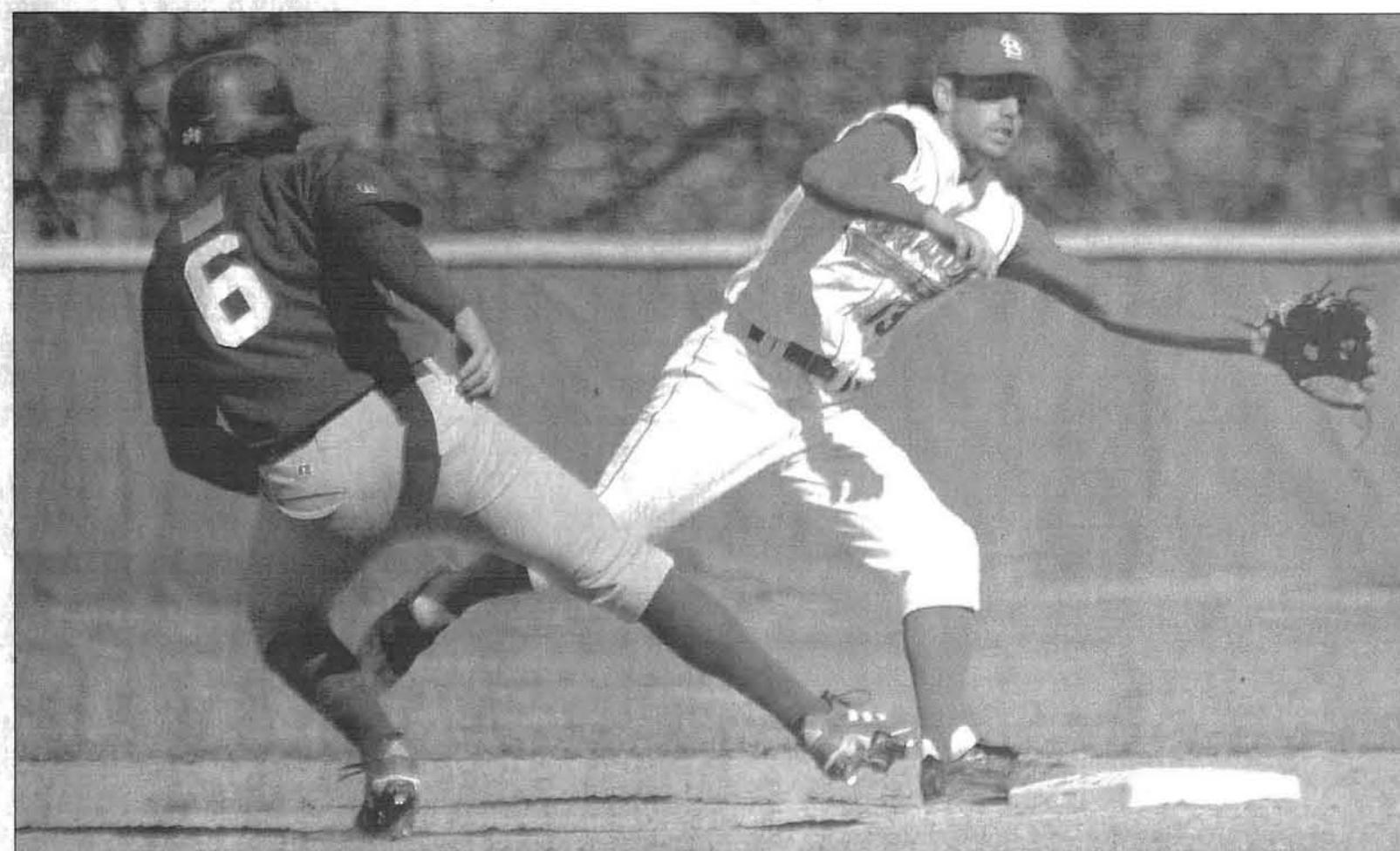
Chasing the Hillsdale starter after 3 2/3 innings by scoring ten runs, the real fun came in the fifth as UM-St. Louis pummeled two different pitchers for eleven more. Logan Hughes had a two RBI single and finished with four

in the game, while teammate Morgan drilled a three RBI double and had a final tally of five.

Mercer and Pat McNichols also added three RBIs apiece as the offense was firing on all cylinders. UM-St. Louis used pitchers Tony Landano, Jonathan Pate and Eric Michaelis, going 3 2/3, 2 1/3 and one inning respectively. Jonathan Pate got the win, giving up two runs on five hits.

Now 4-6, the UM-St. Louis baseball team is off for some fun in the sun as they travel to Florida for a short stint before diving into Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

[Jon] Mercer and Pat McNichols also added three RBIs apiece as the offense was firing on all cylinders.



ABOVE: Josh Thomas lunges, but can't quite reach a single by a Hillsdale player during a March 7 game at the Mark Twain Athletic Field. The Rivermen dominated the Hillsdale Chargers, winning the second game against them 24-7. The Rivermen picked up 11 runs in the fifth inning alone.

RIGHT: Outfielder Logan Hughes went 4-for-9 with three runs and five RBIs during the second game of a doubleheader against Hillsdale March 7.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Riverman is on his way out as UMSL mascot

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

After years of informal discussion, a group of students recently requested that Chancellor Thomas F. George consider changing the UM-St. Louis mascot to something more gender neutral. UM-St. Louis adopted the Riverman as its mascot in the 1960s.

A committee consisting of students, alumni, faculty and staff is reviewing the issue. An online survey was sent student-wide. It intended to gauge the level of interest to make a change, and it would help the committee make an informed recommendation to George.

Questions on the survey consisted of whether or not students felt that UM-St. Louis should change its mascot in the first place.



Then, if there was a change, students were asked if they felt that the river theme should be kept in play.

A list of suggested mascots included the Archers, Bulldogs, Explorers, Pioneers, Red Dogs, River Cats, River Dogs, River Dragons, River Eagles and River Pilots. There was also a space left to suggest ideas for the new mascot.

As of Saturday, over 1,000 people had taken the survey and the

Pioneers were leading with the most amount of number-one votes followed by the Bulldogs, Explorers and River Pilots.

"Even though there is a lot of skepticism about the necessity of a new mascot among students and people throughout the UMSL community, there are a lot of people that are really excited about it and what it can do for the campus," new mascot committee member Tanzeena

Hossain said.

All students are encouraged to add their suggestions and participate in the survey in order to satisfy the desire by many people of the UM-St. Louis community for a new representative to symbolize the strength and individuality, which is now embodied by the Riverman.

Go to <https://fusion.umsl.edu/mascot> to fill out the survey.

Like to Write

The Current is accepting applications for next year's positions.

Positions include:

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Business manager

Ad director

News editor

Features editor

Sports editor

A & E editor

Come see us at
388 MSC or call
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ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS!!

ANNOUNCING:
The City of Ferguson and UM-St. Louis
"Graduation Gift" Program

This spring some lucky students from the Class of 2004 of the University of Missouri - St. Louis will be awarded a very special "Graduation gift" from the Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Program. The "GIF" will be a \$2,500 grant that the graduates will be able to apply toward the purchase of a home in Ferguson. This money will be sponsored by UMB Bank, Ferguson Materials, Koen Homes, FESB and FSAB, and FHIP.



The "Graduation GIF" program is a cooperative effort between FHIP and UMSL. The gifts will be awarded in a drawing prior to graduation day. The winners will be able to apply their gift toward the purchase of a home anywhere in Ferguson. This money will be sponsored by UMB Bank, Ferguson Materials, Koen Homes, FESB and FSAB, and FHIP.

Apply now at <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife>
For more information about the program, call Mark Etting, FHIP Director, at 524-5196.

**EDITOR****CASEY SCHACHER**

A&E Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

**A&E
Calendar****Movies**

*Film openings are subject to change.

**Week of
March 15**

Dawn of the Dead-
In the midst of a strange event that causes millions of corpses to walk the earth as blood-thirsty zombies, a small group of survivors seeks shelter in a shopping mall.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind-
Jim Carrey stars in this quirky romantic drama written by Charlie Kaufman as a man who changes his mind about a procedure designed to erase memories of his ex-girlfriend (Kate Winslet).

Ongoing

Secret Window-
Johnny Depp stars in this adaptation of a novella by Stephen King about a writer who is being stalked at his remote lake house by a madman who claims that the writer's brilliant stories are not only stolen, but are, in fact, his. Rated PG-13.

CD REVIEW**Local band adds flair to modern music**

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

While most of us have had unfortunate experiences at open-mic nights when a couple college guys took the stage bearing acoustic guitars, there is an energy and humor to a local band named Ludo that surpasses the stereotypes.

Ludo was officially founded in the summer of 2000 when singer/guitarist Andrew Volpe and guitarist Tim Ferrell began entertaining audiences as a humble twosome. With help from occasional collaborators, the two musicians wrote a few songs and played a few shows on occasions when both were home from school. Even without a "whole" band, the upbeat melodies and quirky lyrics had the ability to spark interest.

Fortunately, for St. Louisans and music fans, Ludo decided to go further than open-mic night with their music. In the spring of 2003, Volpe and Ferrell began traveling to spread their music in the form of a three-song EP and performances across 30 different cities including Houston, New York, Orlando and Milwaukee. The show venues ranged from rock clubs to community centers, but the band always received the same questions: "When was their full-length album coming out?" and "When would they have the whole band together?"

Attempting to have answers for

those questions, Ludo invited Ferrell's former band mate Tim Convy to be the official Ludo keyboardist. All that remained to be had was a rhythm section and an album. Having seen musicians during their travels, Ludo did not take long to find the necessary components. As Ludo walked into a St. Louis studio that summer, they were a five-piece band featuring bassist Marshall Fanciullo and drummer Matt Palermo. Choosing a wide range of topics, Ludo put together 11 tracks for their debut self-titled album.

When CD cover art portrays flaming silver letters against a solid black background, I tend to predict heavy rock or metal. Imagine my surprise when I popped the CD in and was confronted with catchy, melodic tunes combining the softer side of Green Day, the light, toe-tapping feel of a '50s boy band and the humor and energy of the Barenaked Ladies.

While pop-punk has become a thing of our times, I have always had some difficulty in separating one band from another and, at times, one song from another. Ludo has achieved the previously impossible by taking the pop-punk element of our generation and making it incredibly unique. The melodies are largely happy ones, and the powerful guitars are balanced by clever lyrics and crooning backup vocals.

Ludo has a bright future. They



If you are depressed about being in town for spring break, treat yourself to a little Ludo.

genre Ludo fits into. There are a couple tracks, however, that could definitely get you hooked. "Hum Along" is the kind of song that needs to be played on the radio because it has the beautiful images, sentiments and melodies that make people hungry for more. On the other hand, "Girls On Trampolines" has a Reel-Big-Fish vibe paired with some of the most hysterical lyrics I have ever heard.

The diversity of the tracks makes it difficult to offer examples of what

The moral of this story is that Ludo

has amazing talent and energy that will take them to the top. While it is hard to put Ludo's music into words, St. Louis residents can appreciate the opportunity to hear it firsthand. Ludo will be playing at Mississippi Nights on March 26.

If you are depressed about being in town for spring break, treat yourself to a little Ludo. That way, even if it is not Hawaii, the concert will give you at least one positive experience to brag about when classes resume.

RESTAURANT REVIEW**Strata Ovenbaked offers healthy sandwiches for every taste**

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Strata Ovenbaked sits quiet and unassuming in the Central West End. The eatery can be described as a cross between the Saint Louis Bread Company and Quiznos. They offer oven-fresh sandwiches, traditionally made, or Lite and Healthy for all of you health nuts out there. You can

also order traditional or Lite and Healthy melts.

This week, I opted for a slightly different type of food than usual. Joining me as usual was Melissa Schmitz, a connoisseur of sandwiches and a previous Subway employee. We arrived on Friday around 6 p.m. at the quiet eatery. Aside from us, only three women were there.

The large and colorful menu hung

next to the register. After deciding what we wanted, Melissa chose a Lite & Healthy Ham and Swiss sandwich (\$3.99) and a 16-ounce soda (\$1.09). I ordered a traditional B.L.T. (\$3.99) a chocolate-chip cookie (\$.99) and a soda.

While waiting for the food, we checked out the place. It was small, clean and brightly lit. Tables were placed sporadically across the floor. Counter seating was available in front of a wall or in front of a window. The window was decorated with snowflakes, hopefully not trying to entice the bad weather to come back. We chose to sit in front of the window.

We did not have to wait long for our food. This can be attributed to the guarantee that all sandwiches are made in five minutes or less. Instead of just calling out our number, an employee brought our food over to us.

The food tasted delicious. The sandwiches were warm, but not hot. The bread was crunchy but fresh, as well as the meat and vegetables. "I loved it," Melissa said. "Two thumbs up."

Not in the mood for a sandwich?



Strata offers delicious sandwiches for the discriminating sandwich connoisseur.

Not a problem. Strata also has salads and soups. Sides include chips and potato salad. The menu may be small, but it makes up for that in great taste, and there is no extra cost for the Lite and Healthy sandwiches.

With a warm and welcoming atmosphere, Melissa and I took advantage of the opportunity to relax and catch up on each other's lives. We did not feel the need to rush

through dinner. Once the women left, it was just us and the employees, as well as the occasional customer who came in to place an order to go.

Melissa and I really enjoyed our leisurely dinner at Strata, and we intend on heading back there again. For great sandwiches and prompt, friendly service, visit Strata Ovenbaked. You will not be disappointed.



Strata, located in the Central West End, provides an alternative choice to ordinary fast food. With its fresh baked bread, Strata gives its patrons a healthy choice with made-to-order sandwiches.

MOVIE REVIEW**Johnny Depp doesn't deliver in thriller, 'Secret Window'**

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Johnny Depp in a thriller based on a Steven King story sounds like a good idea, right? Maybe not.

Making a suspense film is a tricky thing. Too little information and the audience feels either confused or cheated by the solution to the puzzle; too much information and they guess the solution too fast to build suspense. "Secret Window" gets a lot of things right, enough that I wanted to see this

film succeed completely. It has a great cast and near-perfect visual tone but the characters, while interesting or amusing, are a bit off the mark. It nearly succeeds until it tips its hand far too early.

Depp plays Mort Rainey, a rather quirky but successful writer who, six months after catching his wife with another man, is still coming to grips with his pending divorce. In his isolated rustic cabin, the writer struggles with a new novel but mostly he sleeps on his couch in his torn bathrobe, eats chips, talks to his dog and grumbles about interruptions by the housekeep-

er. Phone calls from his estranged wife (Maria Bello) are greeted with sarcastic verbal barbs, followed by another depressive round of napping. The wounded writer's insular routine is interrupted when a man with a large hat and a Southern accent named John Shooter (John Turturro) appears unannounced on his doorstep to accuse the famous writer of plagiarizing his story. The writer brushes Shooter off but after he leaves, self-doubts surface because this had happened to Rainey once before. Shooter is insistent and even menacing but seems to be in control of himself, at least until Rainey's

dog is found dead on his porch, as a warning to take the stranger's demands seriously.

Hot off his Oscar nomination, audience-favorite Depp could not be more high profile for the opening of this film. And no author of thriller novels is more high profile than King, although we all know that screen adaptations of his works have had highs and lows. Thrillers depend on showing and saying just enough to take us by surprise. "Secret Window" is a highly polished, big-budget project with a first-rate cast. The atmospheric look of the film is effectively moody, evoking a sense of isolation and danger in the author's remote cabin.

It is hard not to see both parallels to other King themes and even some autobiographical elements to the character of the author and the setting. "Secret Window" almost works but director/writer David Koepp gives us just a bit too much to work with. It may be an enjoyable ride but there was no surprise in where it ends.

The writer/director and the cast may have had a lot of fun making this movie, and too much fun might be part of the problem with this suspense film. The movie contains quite a bit of humor, enough that the audience does not always know when to stop laughing. Setting up the audience to laugh too much makes one wonder if the filmmaker did not really, underneath, want to make a comedy. Interestingly, the director makes several comparisons between the two genres in the film's production notes.

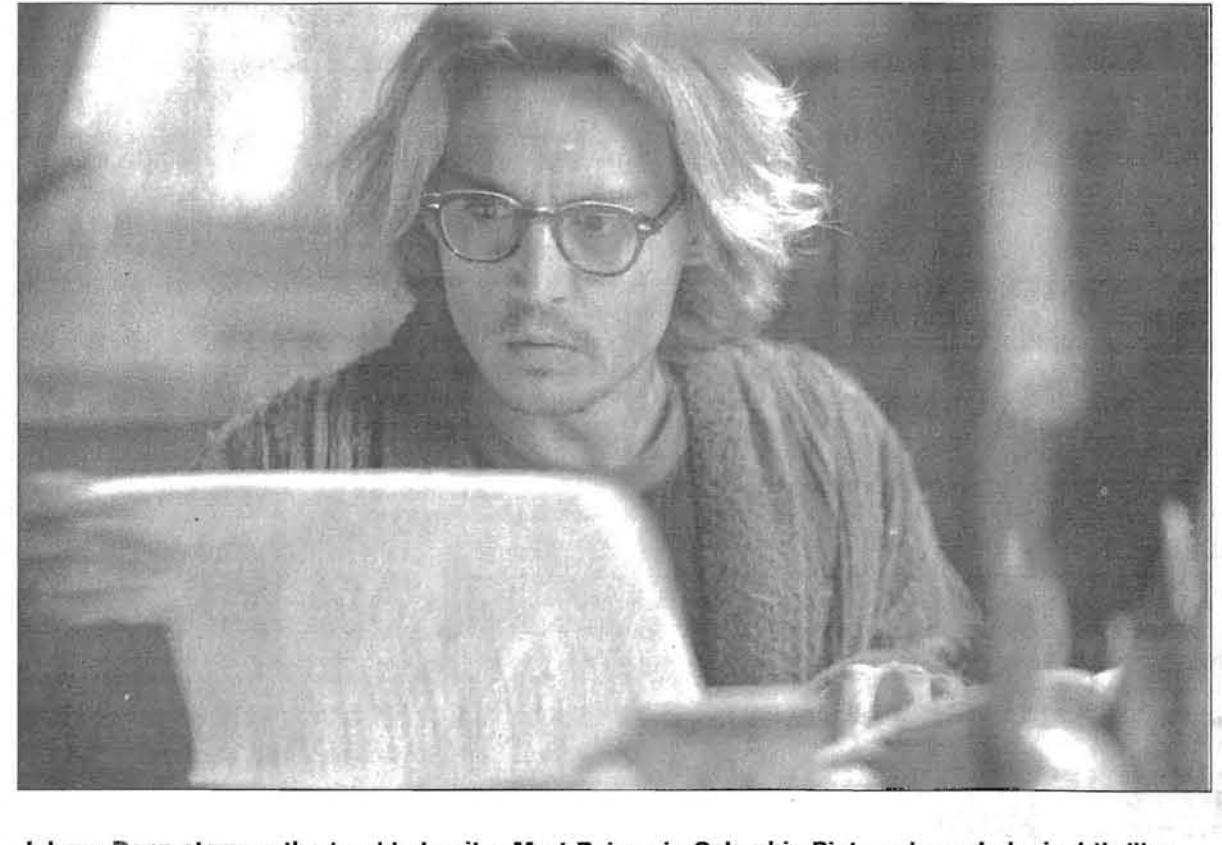
The characters, and some of the dialogue, give the story away but the real clues point to the director being at fault. The director is in charge of how the actors portray the characters, and, in thrillers, audiences will scrutinize every gesture and word. Depp seems

to still be in character from his last film, turning in a performance that is both odd, comic and rather out of place for the script. If there had been only a hint of this, it might have worked, but as funny as he is, the comedy too often undercuts the tensions that should be building. The performance also does not redirect our attention at critical moments, which is essential for this kind of film to work.

Since Depp has successfully made the switch from comedy to drama in the past, it seems likely that it was the director who was caught up in the performance and lost the point of the story. Turturro, another fine actor, and Bello, so good in "The Cooler," likewise create characters that are not quite right if the film hoped to fool the audience.

Their characters are well drawn but do not serve the story as well as they should. Only Timothy Hutton, as the estranged wife's new lover, achieves the right ambiguous balance between suspicious and innocent behavior.

All of which is really too bad, because the film is within striking distance of a hit. Movie suspense is like a magic trick: you have to have misdirection and things that are hidden. Still, the filmmakers have to give the audience enough clues to figure things out or they feel cheated. The director wants to keep them guessing throughout but such a task proves too thin of a knife-edge to walk. "Secret Window" gives us too much, mostly through the characters themselves. Depp's character is too odd and out-of-step with the events unfolding, which is also true for Turturro's Southern stranger. The reactions of people around the author never seem to be what you would expect from the central characters. On top of this, there are lines in the script that tip us off about things to come.



Johnny Depp stars as the troubled writer Mort Rainey in Columbia Pictures' psychological thriller **SECRET WINDOW**.

BOOK REVIEW

'Aunt Katie's Visit' teaches acceptance to kidsBY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

I sat down with my ten-year-old niece, Alexis, who is chugging along in her third grade class at Ellisville Elementary. Without any particular preface outside of the fact that I wanted to read a book with her, she started on "Aunt Katie's Visit." Reading without hiccup, Alexis thumbed page after page, until she read "Adios, amigos!" and waited for me to begin with the questions.

I employed Alexis because, as you might have guessed from the cover art, "Aunt Katie's Visit" is a children's book. Katie's niece, Madeline, a girl I assumed to be much like Alexis, tells the story. It details Katie's visit to Madeline's class, where Katie discusses with the children the nature of disability, the facts of her particular disability, how others should interact with people unlike them and how to improve the lives of everyone involved. Colored pictures depict the action as it unfolds and clarify terms

(like "brace" or "attendant"). The book folds across two laps.

"Visit" copies down in accessible form what Aunt Katie does daily. She helps people get out of their ignorant clouds about disabilities. She looks very much like the cartoon rendition on the cover, smiles and compassion, but has undoubtedly struggled through trauma unlike most of us have experienced. In 1990, an auto accident paralyzed Katie Rodriguez Banister and locked her in a wheelchair. Following rehabilitation and after an invitation to speak at a local high school, Katie realized that she wanted to take on this special role of educator. She currently travels to schools with her message and works as a speaker and consultant to various companies. In addition, she founded Access-4-All, a company dedicated to the sort of education contained within "Visit." She has earned numerous accolades and awards for her dedication and efforts.

But as accepting as I want to be, "Visit" is still a book, and my efforts here must offer more than a simple presentation of content. Therefore, I

will evaluate the book by determining whether the only kid I know liked the book and whether she understood it.

Subsequently, Alexis got a string of questions from me. Her overall comments followed the statements from kids in the back of "Visit." She said that the book taught her something about disabilities and to "treat people nicely, not to laugh at other people because they are different."

Moreover, she tagged it "neat." There was nothing she misunderstood or failed to comprehend. The language was appropriate, and Alexis thought the drawings were good. When I asked if she would want a copy of the book for herself, she said, "Sure." And, without prompting, she added that it might be a good book to take to school. "My teacher would read it to everyone," she noted. So, as I scribbled down notes, "Visit" passed the kid test.

As I listened to Alexis read and followed along the page with her, things buzzed and clinked inside me. Katie's message sat concisely in the rectangular book, but it amazed me how diffi-

cult it seems for adults to grasp and activate it. Would not the world be a more livable place if we stopped judging and discriminating against people based on the mostly arbitrary qualities of race, religion, gender, disability, size and so forth? If we hope to be progressive in the most important arenas—like this—we should try to redirect these elements in our lives to positive routes. We might at least support people like Aunt Katie and her work with the next generations. Therefore, as the press release for "Visit" claimed, the book speaks to both children and adults.

Katie Rodriguez Banister's company is accessible at Access-4-All.com or (314) 821-7011. To order a copy of "Aunt Katie's Visit" for your niece to share with her third-grade classmates, send your information with \$22.28 (taxes and shipping included) to Access-4-All, Inc., P.O. Box 220751, St. Louis, MO, 63122-0751.

The book is hardbound, it passed the kid test and it brings a message that we all could stand to hear more than once.

Aunt Katie's Visit

Katie Rodriguez Banister



Illustrations by Eric Whitfield

Photo courtesy All-4-1 Inc.

"Aunt Katie's Visit" is intelligent and meaningful children's reading. Its story of acceptance and courage is particularly important for children.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Hidalgo' races for wild adventureBY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

After seeing "Hidalgo," I felt certain of one thing: Joe Johnson should have been the director on "Seabiscuit." If he had been, that wonderful novel about a horse would have been made into a wonderful movie about a horse, rather than a sports movie in which the horse was barely there as a character.

The interaction between the horse, Hidalgo, and his owner, Frank Hopkins, makes this film succeed as a thoroughly enjoyable piece of family entertainment. "Hidalgo," based on a true story, is an action-adventure film that is part old-fashioned Western and part Indiana Jones. Viggo Mortensen plays a solitary half-Indian Pony Express rider, a man of few words, who with his mustang horse travels halfway around the world to compete in the Arabian "Ocean of Fire," a 3,000-mile race across the Middle Eastern desert. The story is so classically Hollywood that you can almost see Gary Cooper in this same role.

However, this is high quality, classic Hollywood stuff. Pony Express rider Hopkins (Mortensen) has a knack for winning races on his mustang horse Hidalgo, even in races against Thoroughbreds, much to those owners' dismay. One of the messages that Hopkins is charged with delivering to the Army in his job as a Pony Express rider precipitates the Wounded Knee massacre. Hopkins, who has concealed his part-Indian background, becomes both horrified and filled with guilt, as some of his family and friends are among those killed.

To escape the situation and his feelings, Hopkins joins Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show as the "fastest rider in the West," where he tries to drown his guilt and depression in alcohol. A way out of this pit comes in the form of a message from abroad. A Sheikh (Omar Sharif), who has heard of the Wild West show's claims about Hidalgo's speed, sends a message to Hopkins that asserts that his "mixed blood" horse is no match for Arabian Thoroughbreds. He then challenges

them to race in the "Ocean of Fire" cross-country endurance race against the best Arabian horses. Against everyone's expectations, the taciturn Hopkins accepts, sobers up a bit and travels to Arabia with his horse to compete in the cross-desert race.

Hopkins is as much an outsider in the Middle East as he is at home. He eventually wins the respect of the Sheikh, however, when he rescues the Sheikh's daughter and only child, Jazira (Zuleikha Robinson), from kidnappers. Neither that nor just running a race in a foreign land are the only challenges that Hopkins and Hidalgo

“
The interaction between the horse, Hidalgo, and his owner, Frank Hopkins, makes this film succeed as a thoroughly enjoyable piece of family entertainment.
”

face.

Director Joe Johnson did a terrific job of making this horse story come alive and particularly in making the horse itself as much a character as Hopkins. Even though based on real events, this tale offers more of a fantasy and adventure tall tale than not. Those who are looking for historic realism and accuracy need to look elsewhere. However, the film more than makes up for historical shortfalls by being a wonderfully inspiring heroic tale, filled with breathtaking visual sweeps, face-paced action and by being a nice showcase for actor Mortensen. Mortensen's skills as an equestrian and his ability to create a real relationship with his equine co-star add immensely to the enjoyable nature of this family film.

Though a children's film, it has several violent scenes that make it more suitable for older kids. Apart from that, it is a movie the whole family can enjoy. The chief flaw in this

film is not in its entertainment value but in its inability to make up its mind if it wants to be a kid's movie or more grown-up fare. The other problem with the film is that it runs a bit long, and several scenes could have been shortened with a bit of editing. The film is part Pecos Bill-dime novel fare and part classic Western.

Like the Indiana Jones movies, it uses some stock movie types, movie-land exotica and some set piece action, but it is shot with great energy and a wonderful eye for the visual elements. In fact, the photographic effects are part of what makes the film so enjoyable. This is not surprising, considering that the director has extensive credits in set design and visual effects, having worked on both the Star Wars and Indiana Jones films.

Adults might find that the story leans more toward juvenile tastes but the violence keeps it from really falling in this category. Like the Indiana Jones movies, which were made to resemble a 1930s adventure movie, this one is a throwback to an old-Hollywood Western adventure, even though it largely takes place in the Middle East.

It is likely that those who hate old-fashioned films will dislike this one, especially if they take it too seriously. The setting is less the real Middle East than a fantasy place that existed in movieland imaginations. The best way to enjoy this film is to not overthink it. However, there are more serious and realistic aspects of the film, in Hopkins' conflicted feelings about his own heritage and in Jazira, who chafes at her restricted role in a male-dominated culture.

Playing Hopkins was an excellent choice for Mortensen, fresh off his success as Aragorn in the "Lord of the Rings" films. The choice of a tall tale with old-style heroics and a role of a flawed and displaced character build on the audience's image of him as a heroic character but take him a step into the realm of reality.

If you are looking for a serious, historic film version of this story, "Hidalgo" will not really meet those expectations. However, the film is good family adventure, in the style of old Hollywood and, really, the true story has an old-fashioned flavor any-



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com

Viggo Mortensen of THE LORD OF THE RINGS fame stars in HIDALGO. THE LORD OF THE RINGS series leaves some big shoes to fill, but HIDALGO mixes spaghetti-western flair with modern special effects.

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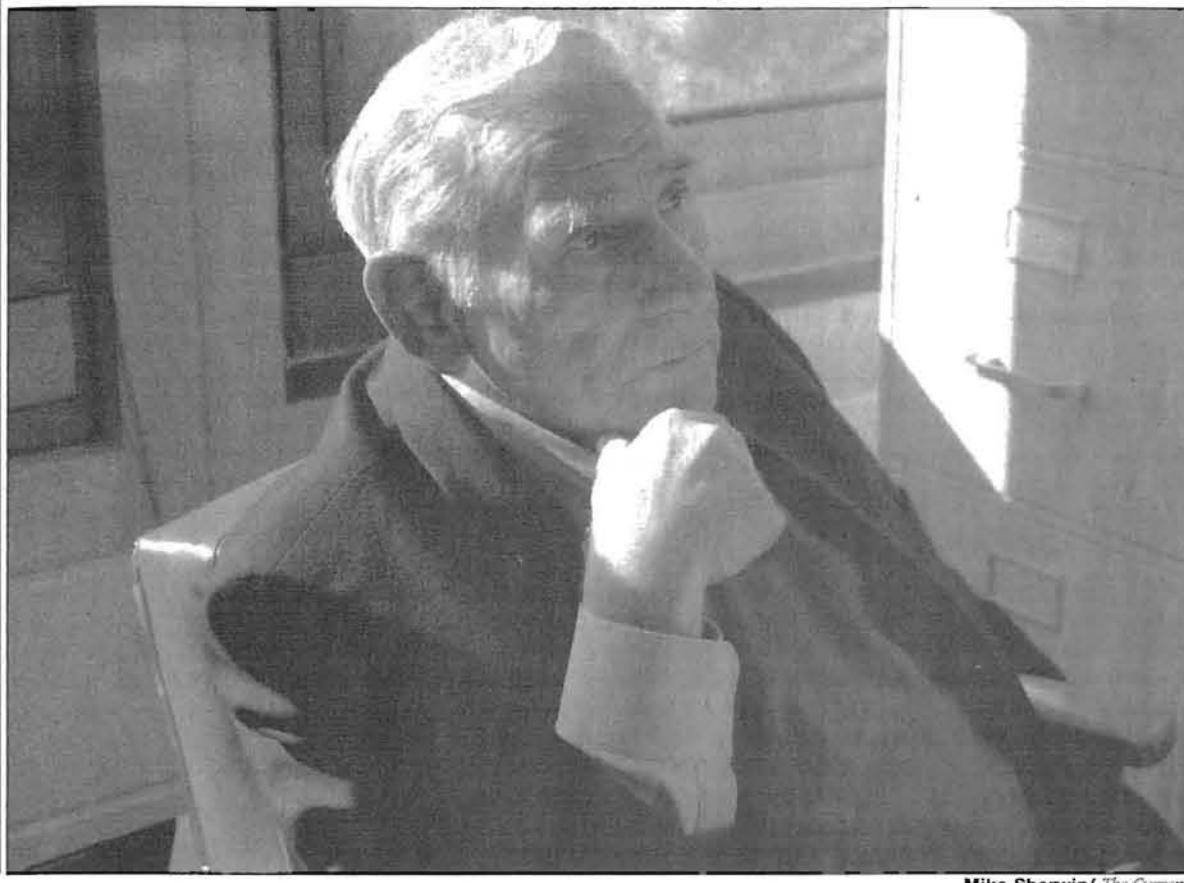
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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

SAVAN, from page 6



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Sid Savan, lecturer, communications, speaks with a reporter in his fifth-floor office in Lucas Hall. Savan plans to retire after 15 years of teaching at UM-St. Louis

Savan spoke to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and was hired as an adjunct professor.

Savan began teaching more courses, and he eventually became a full-time faculty member, lecturing about advertising, public relations and writing.

Clark McMillion, lecturer in communication, said that Savan loved to teach because he taught several different courses at one time.

"He is one of the hardest working lecturers we had. He taught four different courses in one semester. He loved to teach," McMillion said.

Savan said that he loved teaching because it came with respect.

"What I loved about teaching was when I would walk into a classroom, everyone would stop talking and start

taking notes. This encouraged my ego," he laughed.

Former students of Savan recall him being a great storyteller, as well as a wealth of knowledge and an expert in communication.

"I think he was a very good teacher," said Laura Tobias, senior, communication. "He knew what he was talking about and told it like it was."

Carla Luigi, junior, communication, said that she enjoyed his class. "I thought he had great stories to tell. I also think he was very funny and outspoken about his political views, and I learned a lot about public relations."

Another of Savan's colleagues, communication professor Michael Murray, said that Savan has helped numerous students find jobs in the

advertising field.

"Many of our alumni really appreciate Sid's help, especially in completing advertising assignments and in landing jobs in the field," he said.

The winter 2004 semester is Savan's final term at UM-St. Louis. He explained that his retirement is due to departmental changes.

"I love teaching, but after a while we had a change of heads in the department and it no longer became any fun. Why should I do something I'm not having fun doing?" he said.

McMillion analyzed Savan's unique approach to teaching.

"At the beginning he treated students like employees, and some students didn't understand. He didn't use typical academic language when teaching assignments. He was con-

cerned with the practice of the field as well as the theory," McMillion explained.

Communication professor Thomas McPhail agreed that Savan brought a mixture of experience and theory to class.

"Sid brings to the classroom the best combination of practice based on years of experience in industry along with theory," he said.

Along with a successful career in advertising and teaching, Savan also raised a successful family.

Savan's oldest son, Glenn Savan, who recently passed away at the age of forty-nine, was an accomplished writer. His son wrote two books, one of which was made into a motion picture called "White Palace."

"White Palace" was produced by Sydney Pollack and starred Susan Sarandon and James Spader. Sid Savan was in one of the scenes as an extra.

Savan joked about his part in the movie, saying that he spent the night with Susan Sarandon.

"The scene lasts for only two-and-a-half minutes, but it took all night to shoot. I like to say that I spent the night with Susan Sarandon," he said. "I did spend the night with her, along with 200 people who were there while we were shooting the scene."

Savan's daughter, Leslie Savan, is married and gave him his only grandson. Leslie Savan was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize three times in a row in the Media Critic in Advertising category. She is currently working on her second book, entitled, "Brave New Word," which examines how some words are contagious, especially on television.

Savan's other two sons, Eric and

Joe, both work in fast-paced fields. Eric Savan is a detail man for pharmaceutical houses, and Joe Savan travels the globe as a travel agent.

Savan refers to his son Joe as "G.U." or "geographically undesirable" because of his long-distance job requirements.

Traveling is among Savan's retirement plans. "I plan on doing more traveling. I am going to sponge off of all my friends from around the country," he said.

Savan also plans to help his wife market her paintings at the end of the semester. Barbara Savan, his second wife, will show some of her oil paintings in Innsbrook, Mo., located near Kansas City.

"Barbara is one of the finest artists in St. Louis and I intend on helping her market herself," Savan said.

But before he retires, Savan has one final contribution to education and advertising. Savan will give a series of lectures in the SGA Chambers. The lectures will include

Sid Savan Lecture Series

"Sex in Advertising"

March 17

5:30-6:30 P.M.

SGA Chambers of the MSC.

"Debunking Advertising Myths"

April 14

5:30-6:30 P.M.

SGA Chambers of the MSC.

"Who will win the Presidency in 2004?"

May 5

5:30-6:30 P.M.

SGA Chambers of the MSC.

"Sex in Advertising," on Wednesday, March 17, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; "Debunking Advertising Myths," on Wednesday, April 14, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and "Who Will Win the Presidency in 2004," which will take place on Wednesday, May 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Savan said that these lectures would serve as his "swan song" to UM-St. Louis. "Sex in Advertising" will deal with the link between sex and advertising sales.

"Debunking Advertising Myths" will challenge the use of subliminal messages in ads.

In "Who Will Win the Presidency in 2004," Savan will predict the winner of the November presidential election.

Though Savan will soon bid farewell to his teaching career for new endeavors, his mark on education and communications will remain with students, the history of advertising and UM-St. Louis.



Photo courtesy Sid Savan

POLICE ESCORTS, from page 1

Meghan O'Brien, freshman, international business, did not find the police approachable or helpful either. Her supervisor in the library offered to call for her and another girl a ride after their shift ended on a Sunday at 9 p.m.

"The shuttles weren't running, and it was cold and dark, so we did not feel safe walking on Natural Bridge Road," O'Brien said.

She and the other girl live in the dorms, and on the way there, there are many poorly lit places, especially close to the South Campus MetroLink station.

"When you go to the dorms, you have to walk across this empty, dark field right next to Barnes Library, and if someone decides to attack me there, no one could hear me and there is nowhere I could hide," O'Brien said.

When her supervisor called the police to ask for a ride, the police officer told him that they are not a cab service.

"They gave him a really hard time, and he had to repeat many times that it was about two girls who did not feel

safe before they finally promised to come and pick us up," O'Brien said. "I found it ridiculous; it was not like the man was lying about it. Bosses in the library don't tend to prank call cops."

A student reporter decided to see for herself how well the service that the police claim to be happy to offer actually works. She needed a ride from the Computer Center Building to the University Meadows at 8:35 p.m.

When she called the police number, the woman who answered the phone just told her sourly that the shuttle was still running, to which she answered that she did not feel safe going to the shuttle stop and waiting there alone because it was dark. She also might have to wait a long time since there are only two shuttles an hour at that time.

The woman promised to send a policeman to escort her to the shuttle stop. Twenty minutes later, the student had grown tired of waiting, and she did not feel comfortable sitting alone in the deserted CCB at 9 p.m.

She called the campus police again,

and the man who answered told her that someone was coming, so she decided to wait a bit longer. After waiting for 15 minutes more, she concluded that 35 minutes should be enough time for the campus police to provide an escort for a scared student. She instead arranged to meet a friend in the library and walk home with him.

Lt. Wirt from the campus police said that the campus police policy is to escort people who are scared.

"If someone calls and they don't feel comfortable moving from point A to point B on campus, we will provide an escort," he said.

He added that the only stipulation is that sometimes the officers are tied up, and the caller might have to wait 10 to 15 minutes. He did not know what had caused the 35-minute wait, but he promised to look into it.

After being told what had happened with Ni hAnrachain, Wirt said, "I certainly find those disturbing instances," he said. "I will investigate them, and I will take necessary corrective action."

After being told what had happened with Ni hAnrachain, Wirt said, "I certainly find those disturbing instances," he said. "We have taken steps that we have," Wirt said. "We have taken steps to provide a higher level of safety and security for everyone on campus."

Police encourage anyone who sees anything suspicious to call the UM-St. Louis police department at 516-5155.

Most students present at the focus group were attracted to the middle choice, preferring a decent building consisting of a swimming pool, basketball courts and a track, for around \$80 to \$90 a semester.

Many students questioned the timing for such a building, claiming that other needs should be met first.

Yet, even a few of these students did recognize the low interest rates available, and that the money saved by acting now should not be overlooked.

This auto was later found down

the street on Bermuda Road. The car was also a complete loss for the owner. The windows were busted out of the vehicle, along with much other significant damage to the auto. Both of the autos were locked.

Ware is most upset that she was charged \$10 for a new parking permit, since her car was stolen from campus property.

"It's not fair when my car was stolen from University property," Ware said. "I'm overall disgusted with the situation."

Since the thefts, Ware said she has used a Club, an anti-theft device, on her new vehicle. She also said that she knows of several other

thefts that have occurred on the same parking lot. Neighbors around her have had their autos broken into and in some cases stolen as well.

Campus police have continued to adjust their patrol patterns and surveillance methods.

"We in the UM-St. Louis police department take this very seriously; that is why we have taken the steps that we have," Wirt said. "We have taken steps to provide a higher level of safety and security for everyone on campus."

Police encourage anyone who sees anything suspicious to call the UM-St. Louis police department at 516-5155.

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MANSION HILL, from page 1

First off, George said that UM-St. Louis is the largest university in the St. Louis region. The average age of students is 27.4 years old, with 74 percent being transfer students and 87 percent being from St. Louis.

George also talked a lot about the faculty. He said that 96 percent of the faculty have their doctoral degrees. There are also 12 Curators' professors.

"We have a very talented faculty. I have had a chance over the past six months to work with the faculty," George said.

The Action Plan that George outlined is to last until the fiscal year 2008. He said that he put something together, with the help of many individuals, that is "aspirational and

dreamable." He said that the current phase of the Action Plan should be completed by the spring faculty meeting.

George said the Action Plan contains five main goals including: enhancing the quality of education, recruiting and maintaining a diverse student body, improving the quality of research and graduate programs, enhancing civic engagement and increasing the financial base of the University.

Under each of these main goals, George outlined specific details of the plan. He would like to increase the number of first-time, full-time freshmen to 900 from 470. He would also like to maintain the transfer enrollment.

After George finished with his brief report to the community, he thanked everyone for coming out to witness the inauguration ceremony and report to the community. A reception was held after the event, where refreshments were served.

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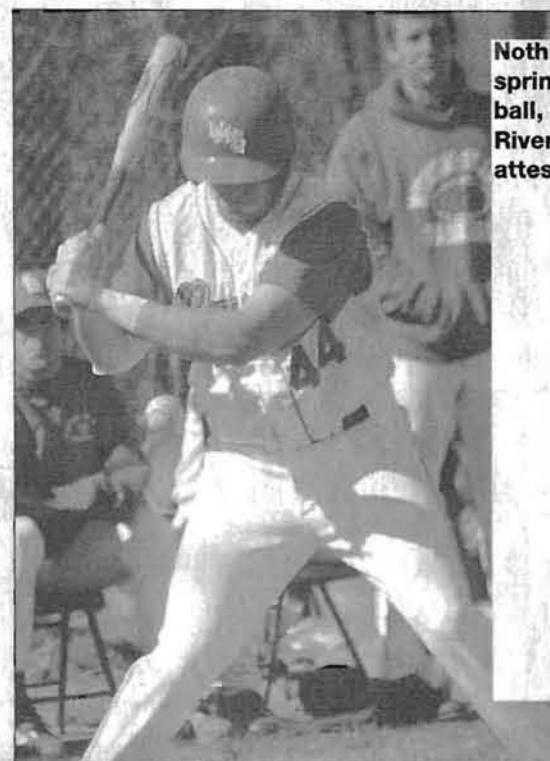
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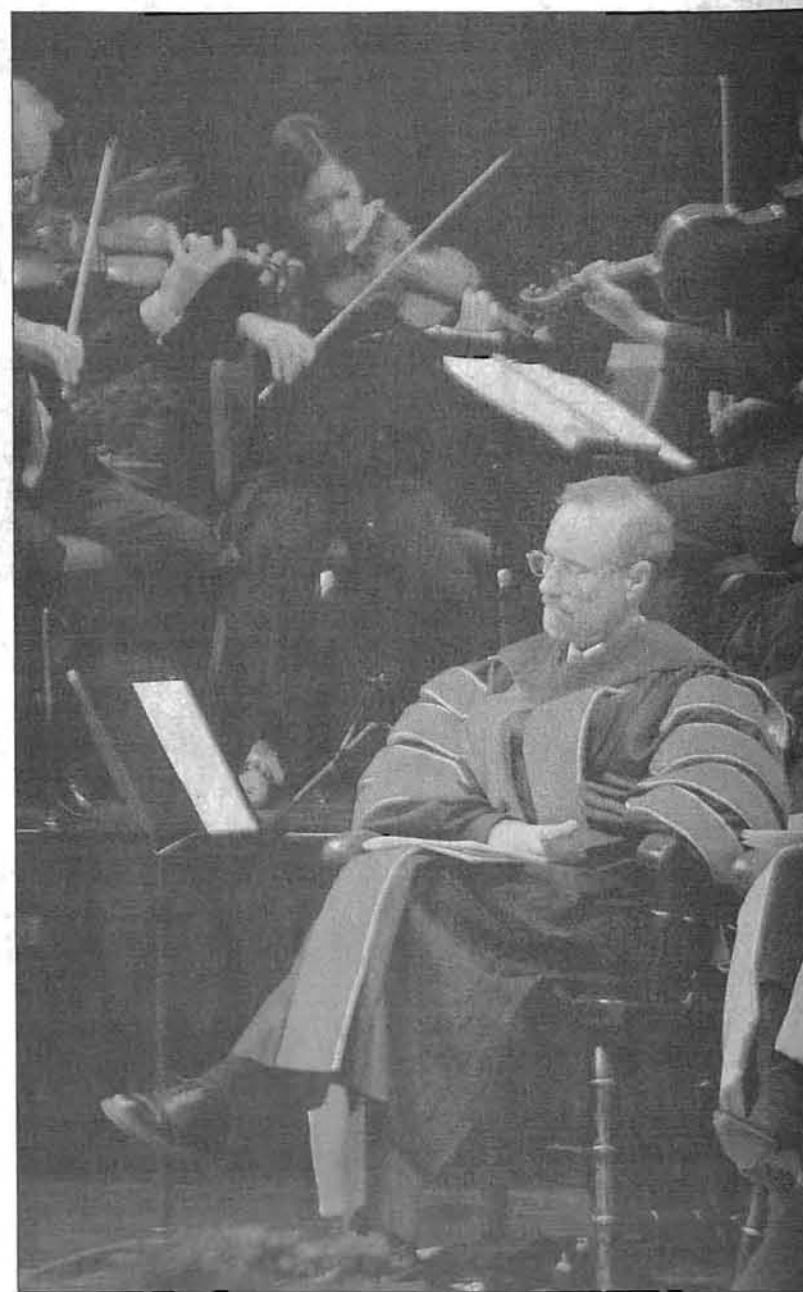
UMSL at a glance

Photos by Mike Sherwin

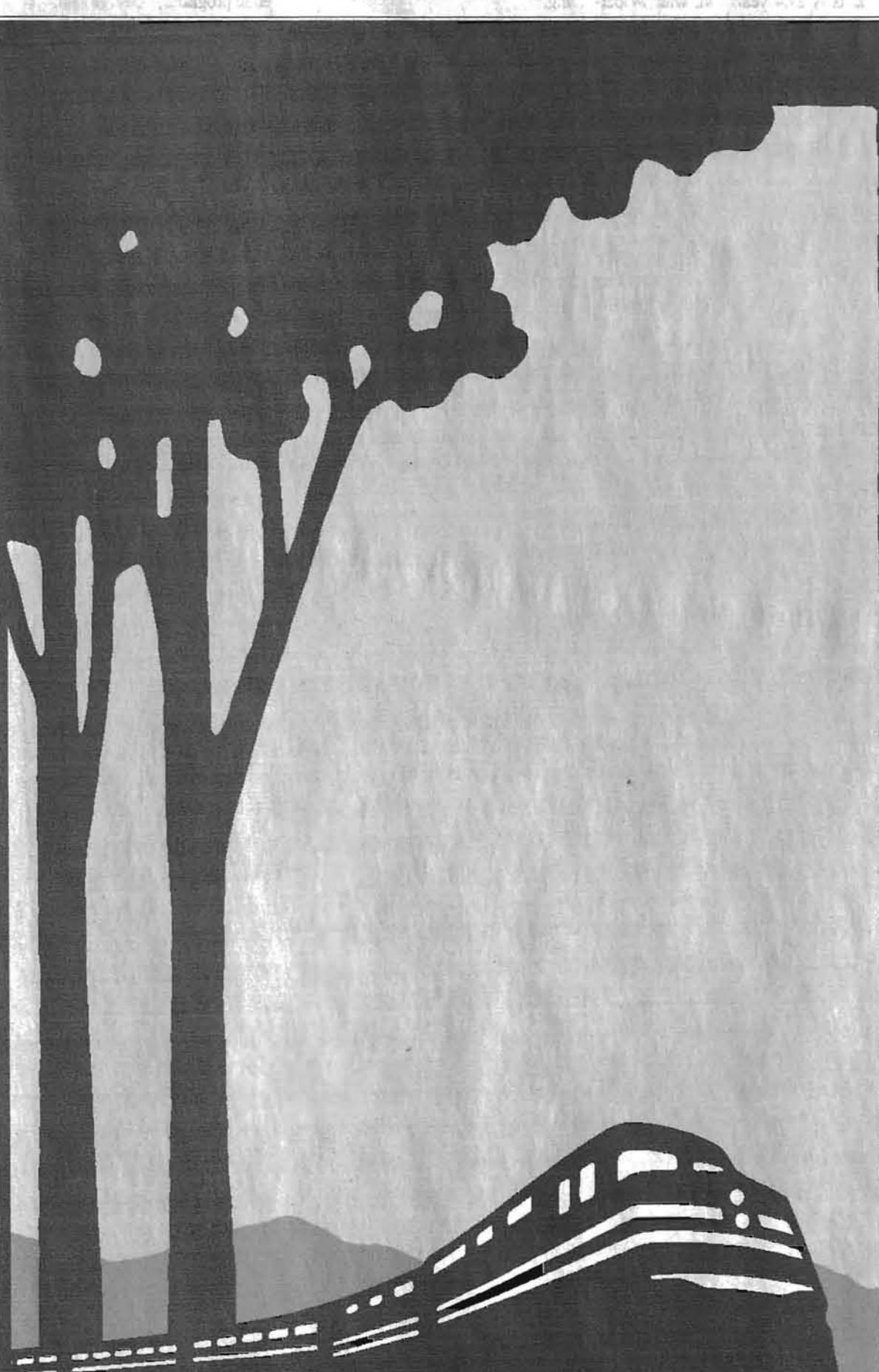
Kim Kulaitis of the River-women softball team scores a hit while at bat during a spring 2003 game. During an eight-game series in Florida last week, Kulaitis scored five runs and 10 RBIs.



Nothing says spring like baseball, as these two Rivermen can attest.



UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George listens to the Arianna String Quartet at his inauguration last Thursday. George combined his inauguration with the chancellor's annual report to the community.



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SECRET WINDOW from page 10

If all the supporting cast had been a bit more in-line with expectations, it could have covered the tip-offs. Unfortunately, there was just too much oddness around, and so the audience has their feelers out for clues. Depp's performance is sometimes very funny but the humor detracts from the suspense. It seems at

times as if the director was not sure if he wanted to make a thriller or a comedy. Koepp has directed both genres in the past, notably "Death Becomes Her" and "Stir of Echoes." This last film also suffers from some unevenness in focus, although in a different way.

The film has enough near misses

and things almost right that it is tempting to think that if it had been re-edited, it might have been a much more successful thriller. Certainly, the excellent cast and the eerie visual tone of the film made me want to like the film. But a mystery has to surprise, and this film failed to walk the knife-edge.

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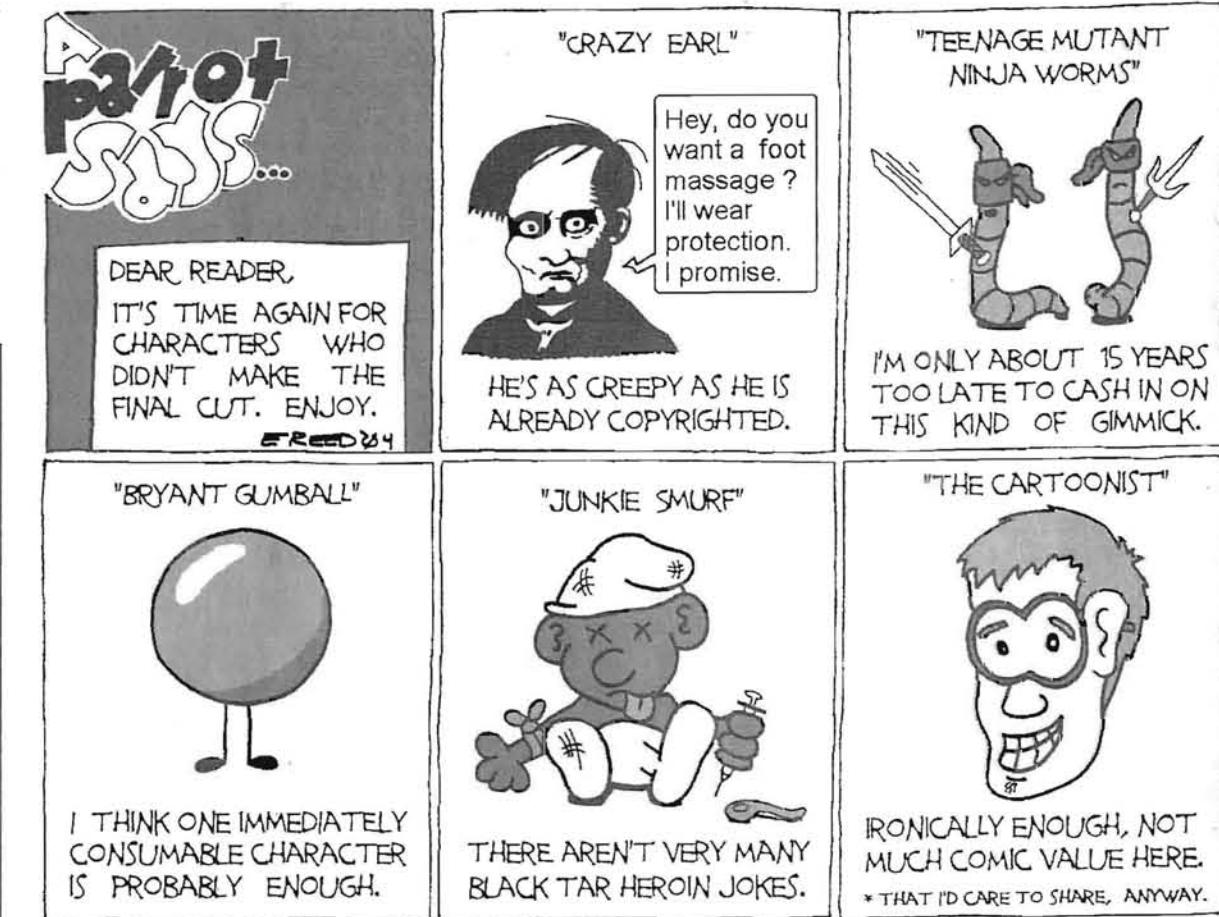
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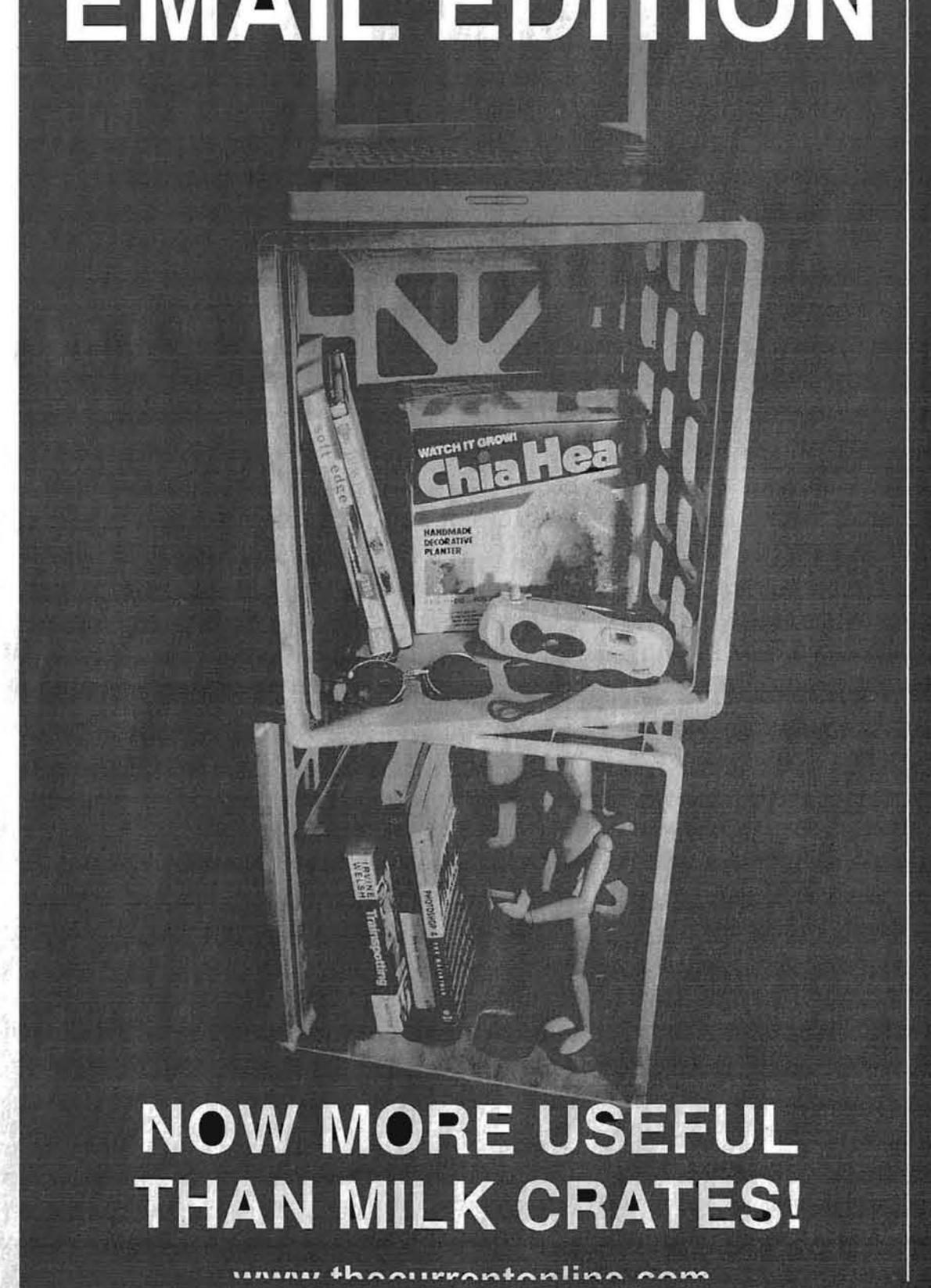
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SAIN T LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, March 20, 8 p.m.

The campus-wide celebration of Chancellor Thomas F. George's inauguration includes a celebratory concert by the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. As part of the celebration, each University of Missouri-St. Louis student, faculty and staff member may receive two free tickets to the concert. On the program are Mozart's "Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 173dB," Hartmann's "Concerto Funebre," and Tchaikovsky's "Suite from Swan Lake, Op. 20a."

KRONOS QUARTET

Welcomed by KFUO-FM/Classic99

Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

With David Harrington and John Sherba on violin, Hank Dutt on viola and Jennifer Culp on cello, the Kronos Quartet has been expanding the minds of musical risk-takers for over 30 years, combining classically associated instrumentation with the cutting-edge sounds of commissioned works.

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