



See page 7

Scaling to the upper limits

Tampon dispensers frustrate some UMSL women

BY KRISTEN TONER
Staff Writer

No, they are not candy machines. They are machines in place for feminine emergencies, but to the women at UM-St. Louis, they serve little purpose. The lack of functioning tampon dispensers has become a source of frustration for some. The dispensers have been known to take money without dispensing the requested product.

Joyce Mushaben, director of the Institute of Women and Gender Studies, has dealt with this issue since her arrival to UM-St. Louis in 1980. She took the issue to the University senate three years ago, but believes the issue was tabled because she has not heard of it since.

Not only have the dispensers' inability to function reliably frustrated Mushaben, but their locations have also been a source of discussion. The restroom outside of her office in Clark Hall has a tampon dispenser located outside of the bathroom. The dispenser is mounted on a wall beside the door in a dark corridor.

"It took me two years to figure out it was there," Mushaben said.

Mushaben believes that women look to the Institute to aid in such problems. She can recall two incidents since women and gender studies moved to Clark Hall where female students came into the office looking for tampons.

"Our function is to offer gender courses to point out the deeper roots of oppression in the system and not to deal with the day to day lack of feminine hygiene material," Mushaben said.

see DISPENSERS, page 12

Alternative to petroleum studied by UMSL plant researcher

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Staff Writer

With gas prices rising and petroleum reserves depleting, scientists have begun searching for possible replacements. Plants could be the solution, according to the latest research being done at UM-St. Louis.

St. Louis has always been a major hub for developments in plant research and bioresearch. In fact, St. Louis is called the heart of the BioBelt because of its many science-related schools and businesses, such as UM-St. Louis, Washington University, Monsanto and the Donald Danforth Center.

St. Louis has attracted many scientists, and the most recent addition is Xuermin "Sam" Wang, a biochemistry professor from Kansas State University. Wang is a good example of how this area is bringing the brightest minds to St. Louis. By studying in St. Louis, Wang can bring his expertise to the region and make use of it here.

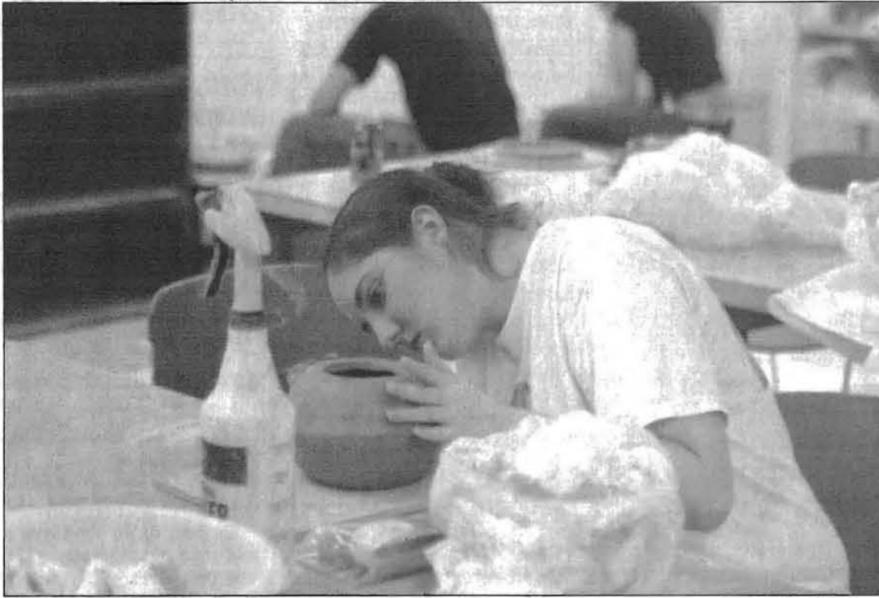
"I'm very excited to be here in St. Louis," Wang said.

see PLANT RESEARCH, page 3

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"It is still kind of a struggle...Every semester we photocopy the University map and we draw ourselves in for students to find us"

-Jessica Cope, adjunct lecturer



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Danielle Corso, sophomore, psychology, works on a project during a recent ceramics class. Ceramic classes are held in the sculpture building at 7875 Florissant Rd. Once a doctor's office, the building is now owned by UM-St. Louis and used by the Department of Fine Arts.

Growing pains force fine arts department to get creative

With limited Fine Arts Building space, classes are held off the beaten path

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

Certain studio art classes are being held in facilities that some students see as substandard; however, with the addition of a new program and high increases of growth, the department has had to face the challenge of accommodating all the changes.

Jeffrey Sippel, BFA Coordinator, said that when he began instructing at the University in 1998 there were approximately 50 studio art majors in the program. This year there are nearly 300 majors in the program.

"We were needing extra classroom space, primarily because of our growth and especially in the area of graphic design," Sippel said. "There's a need in our instruction to have computers available for [graphic

design] students." With the expansion of the graphic design labs, the department had to look elsewhere for space to house the painting and drawing classes.

A space located on the lower level of the University Park Apartments complex became available and the department requested its use. "That became our painting and drawing annex," Sippel said.

"We've just been approved for another emphasis area in art education through Dr. Louis Lankford, who is a Des Lee Professor," Sippel said. "[Students in the program] must have education and take courses in fibers, ceramics and sculpture; that's required." The Sculpture Annex, formerly a chiropractic office, is another facility that opened as a result of the advent of the program

"I ended up catching wind of the

program at a faculty meeting and going over and volunteering to effectively take charge of the ceramics side and set-up the program," Jessica Cope, adjunct lecturer, said. "We had to move fast because when something becomes available all the departments are like 'Oh, we could use that.'"

Those classes, as well as facilities for them, did not exist before the creation of this new emphasis area and thus created the need to find room somewhere. Cope has faced some difficulties getting the program off the ground, such as a restricted budget, but has found solutions to some of the problems by having friends build tables and shelves for the space.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, said that "Long range plans include building additional new art facilities."

see ART CLASSROOMS, page 5

ACLU director discusses Patriot Act at IWGS event

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

Two months before Election Day, the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies continued its "Lunching with Leaders" series. The third in a series of political discussions sponsored by the IWGS was held on Friday, Sept. 24.

One of the reasons the IWGS hosts the "Lunching with Leaders" series is to register people to vote. Nationwide, there are 22 million people aged 18 to 25 who are not registered to vote.

Denise Lieberman spoke to a group of about 40 people at the IWGS room at 212 Clark Hall. Lieberman is the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri. Her duties with the ACLU include developing legal strategies for defending civil and racial rights, and working for equal housing and homosexual rights.

In addition to her duties at the ACLU, the University City native also teaches a class at Washington University entitled, "Gender and American Politics in Law." Lieberman is also the chair of the Individual Rights Committee of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

During the one and a half hour session that began at noon, Lieberman talked about the Patriot Act that was enacted by Congress



Miko Sherwin/ The Current

following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

Lieberman said that portions of the 400-page Patriot Act violates civil liberties and that people should not accept legislation without first

scrutinizing it. "Once we lose rights, it's very hard to get them back," she said.

see ACLU SPEAKER, page 12

Sororities move to new houses

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

For the first time, UM-St. Louis sororities have houses on campus. Delta Zeta, Alpha Xi Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities now have houses located on Natural Bridge Road.

The houses are owned by UM-St. Louis and are contracted to the sororities.

"They have contracts much like the students who live in the halls and they have to pay room and board. The women pay to live there," said Allyson Wilson, student services coordinator at the Office of Student Life.

The other members of the sorority in each chapter also had to pay a usage fee to help pay for the cost of furniture, phone and cable bills, and other expenses.

Approximately six to eight women live in each of the houses, which is about what the maximum number allowed in each house is.

"None of them could house the entire chapter. They're each filled to the capacity that Residential Life has established," Wilson said.

Since the houses are on campus, alcohol is forbidden.

"The national organizations of sororities [also] do not allow alcohol on the premises," Wilson said.

There are also other rules the sororities have to abide by. They cannot host any social activities or



Erica Burrus/ The Current

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority recently moved into a house on Natural Bridge Rd., across the street from north campus.

parties. While members of the opposite sex can go into the houses, they cannot go into the private areas of the house and cannot spend the night there.

Wilson said that the sorority sisters should not have a hard time following the rules.

"Since the women have never had houses before, this is all very new to them and they're trying to make sure they abide by those rules so the University does not take away that housing," Wilson said.

see SORORITY HOUSES, page 14



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Construction workers take a break in one of the two ponds being built in front of the Millennium Student Center on Sept. 15.

New ponds excavated south of the MSC

Landscaping is one part of the \$660,000 Garage D demolition project that began last April

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

As many have noticed, UM-St. Louis recently started the construction of a landscaping project to the south of the patios outside of the first floor of the Millennium Student Center.

Alan Ritter, Construction Project Manager, said he think it is an incredible project and explained that the area will consist of the "two ponds and then it bubbles out of a waterfall and there will be a path in-between the two ponds with another waterfall below that, with fountains in each lake." The surrounding area will also be landscaped with a variety of trees and plants.

"The MSC ponds are part of the Campus beautification plan that was developed in 1992," Reinhard M. Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services said, "and was implemented with the demolition of Garage D. Funding for the project came from several sources [including] Administrative Services, Grounds Maintenance and the garage demolition."

Additionally, there will be a flat parking-lot built within the retaining wall that was once home to Parking Garage D. This new lot will offer approximately 114 new parking spaces.

"We are very excited about the

lakes and landscaping south of the patio here in the MSC," Gloria Schultz, director of business and management services for the division of auxiliary services within Administrative Services, said.

Many have wondered, but no official date has been settled upon for the completion of the project.

"The goal is the end of the month," Ritter said. "The usual construction delays have held us up, but as soon as the lake construction is complete things will fly."

Originally, the estimated cost for the project totaled \$890,000. However, the contract wound up coming in substantially under those estimates at \$660,000. That price includes more than just the two ponds and covers, "demolition of the garage, storm sewers, plumbing, electrical, concrete and asphalt work for the new parking lot, lakes, fountains, lighting, paths, landscaping and sod, irrigation system, benches and modular wall," Ritter said.

There has been a difference of opinion among students about the usefulness of this project and the funding being invested in it. Some see its potential for providing a pleasant gathering area, whereas others are still focused on the issue of parking.

see NEW PONDS, 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 at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsl.edu
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon. Sept. 27 Art Discussion

Charles Gick, a noted installation artist and assistant professor of visual and performing arts at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., will present "Flowers from the Mouth - An Artist's Talk" at 12:15 p.m. in the Gallery 210 auditorium at the Telecommunity Center. Gick will discuss "Flowers from the Mouth," his exhibition that will run from Sept. 23 through Oct. 30 in Gallery 210. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 516-5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Mon. Sept. 27 Science Lecture

Peng George Wang, Ohio Eminent Scholar at The Ohio State University, will discuss "Biosynthesis of Polysaccharides and Glycopharmaceuticals" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The colloquium is free and open to the public. Call 516- 5311 for more information.

Tues. Sept. 28 Book discussion

James Gilbert, distinguished professor of American history at the

University of Maryland in College Park, will discuss his forthcoming book "Men in the Middle" from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the Thomas Jefferson Library. Gilbert has written many scholarly books and articles on U.S. cultural and social history. The event is free and open to the public. Call 516-5680 for more information.

Tue. Sept. 28 Environmental workshop

The Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association will host an activist workshop from 4 to 6 p.m. in the SGA Chambers at the Millennium Student Center. Guest activists from the Sierra Club, St. Louis Coalition for the Environment, St. Louis Animal Rights Team, GeesePeace and Missouri Alliance for Humane Legislation will discuss practical methods for saving the environment. The workshop is free and open to students, faculty and staff. Call 516-6870 for more information.

Tue. Sept. 28 Study Abroad Fair

The Center for International Studies will hold a Study Abroad Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Century Room C at the MSC. Information will be available on the 80-plus study abroad opportunities at UMSL. Call 516-6497 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/studyabroad> for more information.

Tue. Sept. 28 Counseling Services

Do you procrastinate more than you like? Do you put off what you should do for something less pressing? Our free workshop from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. can help you to tame that beast before it becomes a problem. Call 516-5711 to reserve a place.

Wed. Sept. 29 Supporting Human Rights

Tired of attending so many parties? Sit down with Amnesty International today to write down letters supporting human rights. We will help free unjustly imprisoned people in room 315 MSC at 12:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 29 Art Gallery

Gallery Visio presents "Artist's Choice," which will run from Sept. 29 through Oct. 21. There will be an opening reception Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call 516-7922 for more information.

Wed. Sept. 29 Discussion on Global Issues

"The People Speak: A Discussion of America's Role in the World" will be held at 6 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the MSC. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. "The People Speak" is an initiative of 29 national cooperating organizations to engage

Americans in discussions on global issues. The discussion and reception are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Call (314) 727-9988 by Sept. 27 to register. Visit <http://www.thepeoplespeak.org> for more information about "The People Speak."

Thur. Sept. 30 Discussion on Dance

Jean Denney Grotewohl, Irish dance instructor and choreographer, will discuss and demonstrate traditional Irish dances from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in 205 Music Building. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 516-6495.

Fri. Oct. 1 Lunching with Leaders Series

Rep. Barbara Fraser will be speaking at noon in 211 Clark Hall as part of the Institute for Womens and Gender Studies "Lunching with Leaders Series." Fraser is currently a member of the advisory board for UM-St. Louis School of Social Work and is also a voter registrar for the League of Women Voters.

Beginning Sept. 28, thru Oct. 8 Free computer course

Instructional Computing Labs will again be giving free one hour classes on several topics, including:

Word Basics PowerPoint Basics, Excel Basics, Web Page Building/HTML, CD writing, File Management, and UNIX/Machintosh Basics. Each class is offered several different times and there are even 2 "marathon" days where every class is offered back to back. For more information, visit www.umsl.edu/technology/instructionalcomputing/labs/shortcourses.html, or ask a lab consultant in any computing lab.

Sat. Oct. 2 Womensomics Forum

The second annual Womensomics Forum will be held in the Century Rooms in the MSC. The keynote speaker will be Missouri State Treasurer Nancy Farmer. The topic of the forum will be on women and healthcare issues. Registration is \$20, which includes all program material, lunch, and refreshments. The registration fee is waived for all UM-St. Louis students with ID. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Hazel Hohring scholarship here at UM-St. Louis.

Ongoing Newman Center

The Catholic Newman Center will hold mass every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 12:05 and Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. in the Bellerive residence hall chapel. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Newman Center at 314-385-3455.

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

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between September 18, 2004 and September 25, 2004. If readers have information that could assist the

police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155.

Campus police, as a public service to promote awareness, provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort!

September 18 Stealing Over \$500.00-Fine Arts Building
2 computers valued over \$16,000 were stolen from one of the computer labs in the building.

September 18 Harassing Telephone Call-Chemistry Department
A staff member in the Chemistry Department reported a threatening telephone call that was received at her office phone. A subsequent investigation revealed the callers name and address. An attempt to contact the caller was met with an un-cooperative subject, who would not explain the reason for the calling. The suspect was entered in the computer system as wanted on a complaint of Telephone Harassment, and will be interviewed when arrested.

September 20 Burglary 2nd Degree and Stealing Over \$500.00- University Meadows Apartments.
Two students reported that someone had entered their apartment through a window by removing the screen, and stole 120 CD's from inside.

September 20 Property

Damage-Fine Arts Parking Lot AA
A student reported damage to her auto. The victim reported weather stripping was removed and her door lock was damaged.

September 21 Stealing Under \$500.00-Marillac Hall
A faculty member reported a cell phone was stolen from her office. The Police Department arrested two subjects, one of which was in possession of the phone.

September 22 Stealing Over \$500.00-Benton Hall
A student reported leaving his wallet in the computer lab about noon, when he returned around 4 pm the wallet was gone.

September 23 Stealing Under \$500.00-Millennium Garage
Two students reported their UMSL parking permits were stolen while their vehicle was parked.

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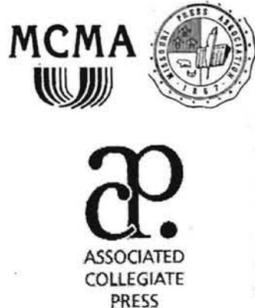
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Student referendum is sought on proposed wellness center

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

A campus-wide referendum on a proposed \$21 million recreation and wellness center will take place in early November, according to a plan by facilities planning firm Brailsford & Dunlavey.

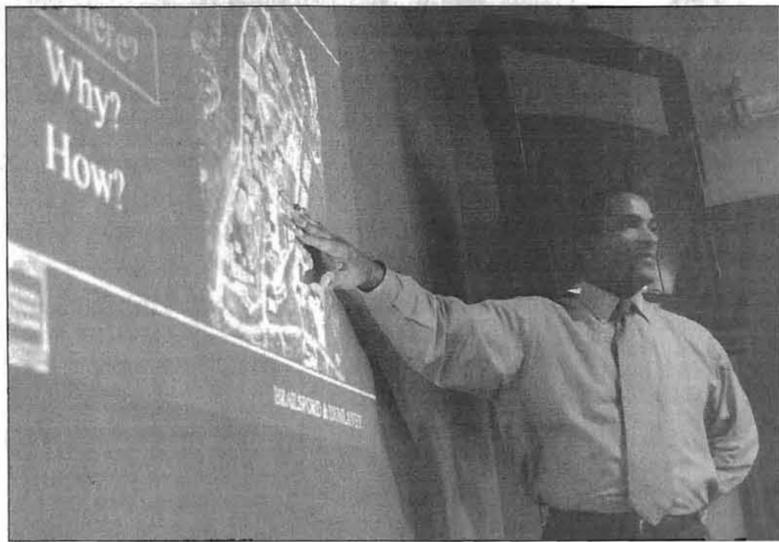
Paul Brailsford, CEO of Brailsford & Dunlavey, unveiled details of the wellness center and the process of forming a student-led referendum committee during a meeting Wednesday afternoon in the Millennium Student Center. With around 20 students and administrators attending, Brailsford, and project manager Ann Drummie laid out the steps being taken in the "phased planning" for the new building, including the preliminary assessments, feasibility study, pre-implementation, and implementation if the center is approved.

"The concept," Brailsford said, "is for all students, faculty, staff and alumni to have a place for recreational play, fitness, group exercise and wellness activities." Plans for the center currently include a two-court gym, a jogging track, a 6,000 square foot pool, 12,000 square feet of weight fitness areas, a climbing wall, a juice bar and game and activity rooms.

Brailsford said the proposed location for the wellness center is near the south end of the MSC, on the former site of Garage D, which was torn down in May 2004. Although no specific architectural design has been presented, Brailsford said, "The wellness center and the Millennium Student Center would communicate with each other quite actively...matching glass with glass."

Drummie said from talking with students, she sees a demand for a new campus facility. "From the sound bytes I've heard on campus," Drummie said, "people are saying 'there is nothing to do on campus,' and '[Mark Twain] is too crowded.' The wellness center would give a greater sense of campus life."

The proposal set forth by Brailsford & Dunlavey would request that student recreational fees increase to a total of \$100-120 per semester for a full-time student in order to pay off capital and operating costs for the wellness center, which would cost \$21.5-22 million to build. Student recreational facility fees are currently



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Paul Brailsford, CEO of Brailsford & Dunlavey, a Washington D.C. based facilities planning firm, points to the former site of Garage D as the most likely spot for a proposed Wellness Center. A student referendum on the center is being planned for November.

at \$2.73, according to the UM-St. Louis Cashier's Office website. The proposal also calls for revenue from staff and employee memberships, fees from "value added services" that would be offered, and possibly from outside-campus memberships.

Brailsford and Drummie also outlined plans for forming a student referendum committee that would organize and promote a campus-wide referendum on building a new wellness center. Brailsford said he would like to see a committee representing "all classes, both undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, with gender and ethnic diversity," headed by two co-chairpersons - one undergrad and one graduate student.

The committee would submit a budget, likely between \$6,000 and \$12,000 to administrative services, Brailsford said. When approved, the committee could begin to campaign. Although Brailsford said he hopes that a referendum would pass, he advised potential committee members that, "This would be run best as a 'Get Out the Vote' campaign, and not a 'Vote Yes' campaign."

Brailsford said that on previous projects he has worked on, his firm has typically seen voter turnout approximately double or triple the turnout in a general student government election. UM-St. Louis had approximately 1,000 students out of a total enrollment of around 15,000 students that voted in the 2004 student government election.

When a similar referendum was held in the spring of 1995 on the construction of the Millennium Student Center, twice as many votes were cast compared to previous SGA elections. The MSC referendum passed by over 70 percent of student voters.

Some students attending the meeting expressed concerns about the increased student fees the new building would require. D'Andre Braddix, SGA vice chairperson, asked whether student fees would decrease over time. Brailsford responded that after the approximately 30-year debt service was paid off, fee changes would depend on enrollment growth and changes in operating costs.

Annette Crymes, graduate, English, said that she would not support raising student fees considerably for a wellness center. "Do I think it is worth it and would I use it? Absolutely not."

Other students voiced approval for the proposed wellness center. Joe Garavaglia, senior, accounting, said "I think it would bring a sense of community, it would be a good recruitment tool, a retention tool. Especially being by the Millennium Center, it would give more places for students to hang out."

Garavaglia, who plans to take part in the student referendum committee, said that although he worries that the student fee increase may be a tough sell to students, he would vote for the new center. "I think if they could bring

the fees down, it would be a great idea. I think most students would vote for it then. You have to have good student life on a campus. Students can't just come to class. They need a sense of community."

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for administrative services, said that a new recreation center "would really have a multi-pronged benefit to students. As more and more students become aware of health issues, physical exercise is of prime importance. It would also be a great way for students to socialize and meet people."

Schuster also acknowledged that some students might be wary of the projected increase in student fees. "If I was a student, I'd also be concerned with the cost," said Schuster "but I never envisioned students paying 100 percent of it."

Schuster said that "While fees have probably doubled in the past few years, on the other hand, we have the lowest interest rates in 40 years. If you wait until income catches up with cost increases, the interest rates may go up."

A committee on the student referendum is still being formed, and chairpersons have not been named. Garavaglia said it will be up to SGA president Scott Bopp to announce the committee's next meeting.

SHOTS aims to raise student awareness about sexual assault

Peer educator group offers resources for learning about issues important to students

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Staff Writer

In 2002, people, between the ages of 16 and 24 were most at risk for sexual assault.

SHOTS, Students Helping Other To Succeed, is a student health organization at UM-St. Louis that provides information such as this and other resources to students. The group sponsors several awareness activities throughout the year. SHOTS is sponsored through University Health Services.

SHOTS consists of roughly 15 nationally certified peer educators. These peer educators help run the programs that affect college aged students such as, World AIDS Day, Sexual Responsibility Week, National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, Safe Spring Break and monthly blood drives.

"We try to organize educational outreach programs to educate our campus about important topics that relate to college students such as sexual assault, responsible drinking, safe sex and other topics," June Smith, president of SHOTS, said.

Michelle Schmidt, faculty advisor for SHOTS and coordinator of alcohol and drug prevention on campus, said that peers are more likely to have honest discussions with other peers, so the peer educators are very effective.

The latest program sponsored by SHOTS was called Get Carded 2004, which provided resources on sexual assault. On Thursday, Sept. 23 SHOTS set up an information booth on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brochures and cards were offered to students, who wanted to learn more about sexual assault, date rape drugs and acquaintance rapes.

The Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network provides many of the brochures and pamphlets for

SHOTS, as well as, help plan events.

"Basically, these organizations structure what we do," Schmidt said.

Get Carded 2004 was a passive program that allowed many students to stop by on their own time. These programs are capable of reaching more people. "It is catered to commuter students," Schmidt said.

If a student wants more than just handouts, referrals are available through Ms. Schmidt. However, SHOTS is mainly a resource center that provides information on ways to reduce your risk of being assaulted and what to do if you or someone you know has been assaulted. Brochures even list common date rape drugs and signs if you've been given one. By reading these resources, Schmidt said students can find out how they could not be at risk.

Many students stopped by the information table and learned about sexual assault awareness on Thursday. "A lot of people are glad they stopped by," Schmidt said.

Before picking up information from SHOTS, one student, Shelonda Polk, sophomore, nursing, thought that sexual assault would never happen to her.

"But they made me realize that it could happen. If not to me, then it could happen to a friend, and I could tell her about what to do," Polk said.

SHOTS is achieving its numerous goals with programs such as Get Carded 2004. Smith said,

"We just strive to get students aware of things we feel like are important." She said SHOTS will tackle a topic like sexual assault in order to reach out to students and serve the college community better. "UMSL has some excellent resources for students who have been sexually assaulted," Smith said.

SHOTS will be sponsoring more activities throughout the year. Their next event, which will cover AIDS awareness, will be in October.

PLANT RESEARCH, from page 1

UM-St. Louis recently hired Wang to help research plant lipids. Along with the University, Wang also has research facilities at the Danforth Center. Together, these organizations are trying to develop a replacement for petroleum, and Wang is a link between the two groups.

Wang recently received the E. Desmond Lee and Family Endowed Professorship in Plant Sciences at UM-St. Louis. This endowment enables a partnership between UM-St. Louis and the Danforth Center. Wang said that by doing this, "Students here at UMSL are exposed to first-rate research, while the Danforth Center benefits from students working there."

Wang has been studying biochemistry and plants for many years. "It was curiosity in how plants work that got me interested," he said.

Currently Wang is studying the reg-

ulatory processes of plant lipids, or fats, by looking at their role in producing oil. His research could provide a new synthetic oil to replace petroleum in the Earth. The quality of oil is low in plants compared to oil in the ground. However, researchers like Wang, can modify plants to manipulate their oil production.

"I'm trying to understand the change in the cellular level of the plant to produce a better quality and higher yield of seed oil," Wang said.

Along with his research at UM-St. Louis, Wang also researches at the Danforth Center. Wang has become a principle investigator, where he oversees and manages his own lab.

Each investigator works on basic research and research that comes to the field.

"The basic research is just one brick in a huge building," Rob Rose,

Public Relations for the Danforth Center, said. The research that comes to the field adds capabilities to find out how plants can be more beneficial. "Dr. Wang's research is an ongoing puzzle, constantly being built and readjusted," Rose said.

The benefits of this research will provide more insight into agricultural production for farmers throughout the United States and the world. But the most beneficial aspect will be finding a replacement for petroleum, a non-renewable resource. It is important to find alternatives, and "plants are the best replacement," Wang said.

Many biology students at UM-St. Louis see the advantages of using plant-based oils as an alternative.

"It's always good to find new ways to use the resources that we already have," Bridget Johnson, junior, biology, said.

Student Volunteers Needed One Evening per Week

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis
Weinman Building, South Campus

Children's Advocacy Services helps sexually abused children. We provide ongoing individual, family and group treatment for kids to help them overcome the trauma of the abuse.

We need volunteers who can work weekday evenings, from 5:00 - 7:30 at our front desk.

Volunteers will supervise children in the waiting room while their siblings and/or parents are seeing a therapist.

No experience necessary, just an interest in working with children. Great opportunity for psychology, social work, counseling or education majors (or anyone who cares about kids).

Please contact Regina Walton at 516-6799 if you can help!

2004 December Commencement

at the
**BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

10 A.M. - Evening College (BGS only)
- Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Gerontology Masters Program
- Masters in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

**Commencement
Candidates
Attend the Grad Fair**
Nov. 9, 10, & 11, 2004
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
University Bookstore (MSC)
(purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.)

Web site: www.umsl.edu/commencement

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Homecoming move will have positive effects

Those who attended the last two Homecomings probably remember how cold weather was in February. Shuttles from campus to each Homecoming location were provided, but students were expected to wait for them in the blistering cold temperatures, wearing their dresses and suits.

Recently, the Student Government Association assembly voted in favor of moving the UM-St. Louis Homecoming to the fall semester instead of holding it in the spring. There will be many more advantages and greater event success with this season modification.

The idea of the move has been in discussion with the SGA for over a year, but during their Sept. 17 session, there was a unanimous vote for the annual event to be moved. The majority of the assembly of the change will make UM-St. Louis an even more recognized University.

SGA originally wanted the event to be held in November, but the Homecoming Committee is planning for it to take place some time in October, beginning in 2005. The Homecoming in October would take place of the event that is normally held in February. The three co-chairs of the committee, which includes Mindy McNabb, John Waterhouse and Rachel Smith, have planned their first meeting for Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. to map the event in detail and to discuss a theme.

Last year's Homecoming, themed "Back to the Future" was held on Feb. 27 at the Sheraton's Chateau at Westport. The 2003 Homecoming "Journey Through Time" was held on Feb. 21 at Windows off Washington in downtown St. Louis.

Warmer weather is an obvious advantage of holding Homecoming during the fall rather than in the dead of Missouri's winter. Although Mother Nature cannot be predicted, especially in this area, the chances of

a snowstorm are less likely in October.

The majority of colleges in the United States and in Missouri hold their annual Homecoming celebration in October. UM-Columbia and Washington University hold their Homecomings in October to promote and encourage their football teams. Other colleges in Missouri that do not offer football as a sport host their Homecomings to support other athletic teams. UM-Kansas City and Saint Louis University hold homecomings to support their basketball teams.

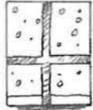
UM-St. Louis does not have a football team, so Homecoming has always encouraged the basketball teams. With moving homecoming to the fall, there will be greater support for the soccer teams, who also experience a fairly low turnout at games. A fall Homecoming can ride on the positive energy of the fall semester. Students won't be experiencing burnout yet, and may still be eager to participate and attend school events. Every year, the fall semester welcomes new students who are encouraged to attend orientations and to join organizations. Students might be more interested in attending Homecoming if the event is publicized from the start of the year.

The Homecoming Committee has also made the decision to go ahead and hold two homecoming celebrations in 2005, one in the spring and one in the fall. Because the budget changes every year over the summer, the budget will not be affected by holding two events next year.

Until the official change is made, students are given the opportunity to decide which homecoming they want to attend—the spring or the fall, or for those who take much pride in UM-St. Louis, both.

The decision to change Homecoming is a step in the right direction for growing UM-St. Louis' fan base and building school spirit.

FALL? Moved to FALL?! Geez, I got this tux and came here in a tux and everything, and I don't wanna waste all this, and I'm summer... wanna dance?



The Issue

Homecoming has traditionally been held in February at UM-St. Louis. Factors such as sub-zero temperatures put a damper on the event.

We suggest

The SGA Assembly recently voted to move Homecoming to the fall. This is a good idea that will increase event attendance and support for fall athletics.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website www.thecurrentonline.com

Getting trashed

A half-eaten TV-dinner, a feminine napkin, a licked and melted puddle of lollipop, a Bud Light can, a cracked cup, a plastic wrapper and a minefield of cigarette butts.

No, this is not a bizarre version of the 12 days of Christmas. These items lined the three flights of stairs from my apartment to the parking lot this morning, along with the smell of spilled beer from last night's parties.

When have people stopped caring about the environment? Littering is more apparent to me now that I'm in college than it ever was in middle or high school. I would think that college students would be more conscious of their actions, but apparently I'm mistaken.

So many of our dollars go toward beautification, yet people still trash campus because disposing of garbage properly is inconvenient. How does a person just drop a beer can in the middle of the grass? Isn't there some sort of conscience-mechanism that kicks in?

Cigarette butts litter much of campus too, even though there are receptacles provided at most of the major smoking spots. I often wonder how the grass manages not to catch on fire when people flick smoking bits of butt into it.

I've noticed the lack of cleanliness in the Nosh as well. While the area is indoors, leaving used items on the table is still littering in my book. The custodians are employed to maintain a sanitary and comfortable environment, not to act as personal maids. The Nosh is a cafeteria, not a

restaurant. People are supposed to throw away their plates, cups, plastic-ware and yes, even their napkins.

Everyone is probably guilty of accidentally dropping trash at some point, and I'm sure I'm not exempt. I have a problem with those who consistently litter their surroundings without considering the people, plants and animals who share the area.

As we grow up into a world where the environment is of increasing concern and natural resources are being depleted, we should be aware of our surroundings. It is our responsibility as future leaders to take an active part in maintaining and improving what we have.

According to St. Louis' environmental concern website, www.stlouis.missouri.org/cehp, each person in the United States produces 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of solid waste each year, including almost 100 pounds of non-biodegradable plastics.

While dedicating your entire life to the preservation of the environment would be nice, it isn't realistic for everyone. Start small. Throw away your plate in the Nosh. Hold on to your can until you get to a dumpster. Pick up the fast-food wrapper someone tossed into the grass. Keep your butts off the ground. Get involved with an event hosted by a University organization, such as The Big Event, held in April.

Just make an effort. The earth will appreciate it, and so will your neighbors.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Acquiring study habits

It is the day before the big Biology exam and I am cramming my brain with facts and figures in an effort to learn all of the information I can in one night. Sometimes I think it is like trying to stick a round ball through a square hole; it just is not possible. Procrastination has both its positive and negative points, but overall it is something I wish I would have never learned.

As the facts absorb into my tired head I can almost see them going in one ear and out the other. I read through a page of the book and then realize that I have no clue what I read or what it meant. All too often I find myself facing the same situation of trying to pack information into my tired and relentless college brain. For as long as I can remember I have been a procrastinator when it comes to studying for exams.

On one hand, studying the night before the exam ensures that the facts are still fresh in your mind for the next morning. Repeating each detail to myself three or four times, I memorize the words and phrases, but do I really comprehend all of the facts? I think many students find themselves forgetting most of what they retained in a class simply because they just memorize the facts instead of learning them.

It is entirely up to the student to pick and choose what they want to preserve and what to throw out to the dogs. The things that appeal to our interest are obviously more likely to stick in our minds for use in the future. On the other hand, we sometimes have preconceived notions about a subject which allow us to block certain things that we do not want to hear out.

Think about sitting in a class you really do not enjoy. You probably were not anxious to learn about the subject

at hand. In order to learn, you must desire to obtain a further knowledge of the topic. I think a lot of knowledge is lost in this process. I have taken classes where I cannot think of one thing that I retained from the course because of simply memorizing the facts for the exams. I never actually preserved any of the subject matter.

Procrastination leads to this lack of retention. Listening and taking notes in class help to comprehend the information better. This way, the night before the test you are refreshing the facts to yourself. Everyone learns different. Some people can teach themselves, while others require more work. I have known people to never take notes and ace every test, while I have spent hours taking notes and studying and receive a lower grade. I have always been one of those students who pack spiral notebooks with every little fact the instructor lectures.

Everyone needs to figure out what works for them. I have always waited until the last minute to study. Sometimes it works in my favor and other times it does not. Usually, I try not to procrastinate when studying for a final. These require much more time and energy than a midnight run-through of facts. I have also discovered that trying to study after a night at the casino or a bar just does not work.

Figuring out what kind of study habits work for you is your best option. While some people prefer to procrastinate, it does not work so well for others. My advice for when you do wait until the last minute, sit back, relax, grab a Mountain Dew, turn off your cell phone and cram for a few hours straight. I usually try to get at least a few hours of pillow time and then take another glance over the facts before the test begins.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

- Homecoming change benefits
 - Getting trashed
 - Acquiring study habits
- How do you feel about the topics we've covered?
- You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!
- Submit a letter to the editor
 - Write a guest commentary
 - Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

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

Under Current
 by Casey Ulrich
 Photography Director

What is the best thing that has ever happened to you?



Jamie Shields
Junior
Elementary Education

Being born into the family that I'm part of.



DeQuita Bardwell
Junior
Studio Art

Knowing who I am and finally knowing what I want to do.



Suzi Twitty
Senior
Psychology

Having the opportunities that I have had and having a supportive family.



Hal Carlisle
Sophomore
Spanish

Meeting my girlfriend.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Flesh eating bacteria in the news



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

inside the nose or throat. A. Streptococcus infections are usually benign skin infections or sore throats but once in a while a deadly strain crops up. However, the assumption had always been that necrotizing fasciitis, the name for this condition, was rare.

In new study in Europe has raised doubts about this assumption. The study, which began in 2002, looked at the number of cases of the flesh-eating bacteria in European countries, including countries that did not usually track these infections. The assumption in all the countries that did not track it, including Italy and Romania, were that the rate was low. Researchers expected to find rates of about 1,000 cases in the first 18 months of the study. They found 5,000.

The study is led by Aftab Jasir, a microbiologist at Lund University in Sweden. Scientists in 11 countries are participating in the systematic search for cases of flesh eating bacteria. So far, rates in countries that have not tracked the infections are similar to countries that had already been tracking the infection rate, 3.8 and 4 cases per 100,000 population. Furthermore, in the countries that had been monitoring rates of occurrence, the rates have been rising. In Britain, the rate has doubled in 5 years, according to the researchers.

This finding is alarming, as infection with flesh eating bacteria do not respond to the usual antibiotic treatment and are often quickly fatal. Even with aggressive treatment, there

is a 20 to 30 percent rate of fatality in 24 hours. Often a minor cut is the start of the infection, reason enough to seek treatment quickly for any cut that rapidly becomes infected.

It is not known what causes the usually benign bacteria to become deadly, although there appear to be some link to the state of the patient's immune system. In necrotizing fasciitis, the infection spreads through the blood and eats through muscle and soft tissues, and may include the heart and kidney. Degradation of blood vessels can lead to death by toxic shock.

Another concern is due to the genetic diversity of the strains found, which would make designing a vaccine difficult.

A. Streptococcus is not the only bacterium to earn the nickname "flesh eating." Recently, a dentist in Houston Texas died as a result of infection with flesh-eating bacteria, an infection he had contracted from a cut to his leg while fishing near the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Kenneth Dean Creamer, 52, became infected with the saltwater bacteria vibrio vulnificus which, according to the Texas Department of Health, is common in warm Gulf waters. His was the seventh death from this bacterium in Texas this year.

With general concerns worldwide about rising bacterial resistance to antibiotics and an ever-shrinking source for new antibiotics, tracking and containing this kind of health threat will be an increasing concern.

Forget zombies, there are real scary things in the science news.

Movies lately seem to be filled with zombies, those reanimated dead people who consume flesh. Zombies are safely in the realm of fiction but not all flesh-eating entities are.

In recent years, there have been occasional reports of deaths from "flesh-eating bacteria." Infections with a life-threatening strain of the bacteria A. Streptococcus earned this nickname because, as gruesome as it sounds, it is an apt description of the way that the bacteria destroy tissues of the body.

Actually, the bacteria are common, existing in about 5 percent of the American population, usually

T-SHIRTS FOR VOTERS, from page 6

Yet other websites like www.CNSNews.com reported that some people are reading even more into the shirt's meaning.

www.Punkvoter.com sent a letter to Urban Outfitter Chairman Richard Hayne demanding that Urban Outfitters stop selling the T-shirt.

The letter suggested that perhaps Hayne had an ulterior motive in allowing his retail chain to sell the "Voting is for Old People" T-shirt.

"It is public knowledge that you contribute to the Republican Party. Could this be the motivation behind your anti-

vote strategy to suppress the youth you have so much influence over?" Punkvoter.com said.

Katie Horridge, a sophomore at Meramec Community College came across the T-shirt while browsing Urban Outfitters website last February. Although she did not think much of the shirt at the time, she said it was not clear to her if it was meant to be ironic or not.

In response to all the negative response regarding the shirt, Keddie offered to give the T-shirts away free to anyone who promised to send a picture of themselves wearing this shirt outside

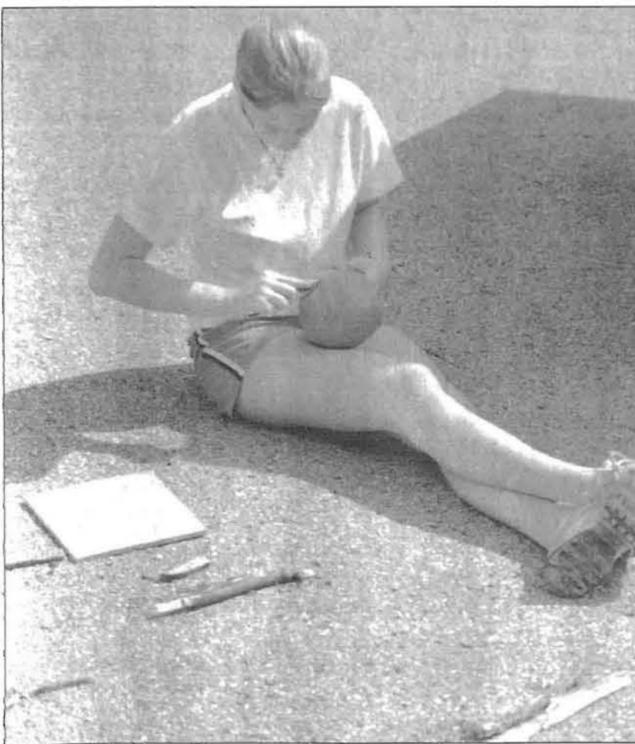
of their voting booth on November 2.

"This is definitely a marketing tool to get young people to vote. I think giving people something fun and random to do while at the polls will encourage people to get out there," Keddie said.

Due to the overwhelming demand for the free shirt, VintageVantage.com now has to charge \$9.50 for the material and the shipping cost, which is still over 50 percent off its original price.

To view the T-shirt that has caused so much controversy go to www.vintagevantage.com.

ART CLASSROOMS, from page 1



Jen Hendel, senior, graphic design, works on a project for her ceramics class on the parking lot of the sculpture building. Ceramic, sculpture, and design classes are held in the sculpture building at 7875 Florissant Rd. The building was once a doctor's office, but is currently owned by UM-St. Louis and used by the Fine Arts Department.

said. "At Meramec (St. Louis Community College campus) you can build 400-pound pieces of metal and we don't even have a welding room here."

Other students such as Lauren Franklin, junior, photography, and Joy Leick, senior graphic design, voiced concerns about the facilities, including tables that were not meant for use with sculpting, a degraded ceiling, disappearing tools and poor lighting in some areas.

"I appreciate the fact that they are trying to expand the art program, but on the other hand it is something you can't do so half-heartedly," Hayes said. "You can't just pull people in here off the streets and say okay we're going to have a sculpture program and then come in here expecting a sculpture program and get a kindergarten class, you have to have tools, [and] you have to have facilities that work."

However, there have been no official grievances. Schuster said, "Based on the records held in the vice chancellor's office, no complaints have been registered." Sippel also

said that he had not heard any complaints about the facilities. The only problem he knows of is that some students have had difficulties finding the building because it has no exterior sign and is not featured on any campus maps.

"It is still kind of a struggle, because we are not on the University maps. Every semester we photocopy the University map and we draw ourselves in for students to find us," Cope said. "But, it's getting better...there's nothing dangerous and there's nothing that inhibits the production of work; there are certainly inconveniences."

Additionally, during a time when the state and University system as a whole has had to deal with budget issues Cope sees the new program as a positive.

"I feel really fortunate that in a time when the school doesn't really have a big surplus budget they were at least able to dedicate what they did to opening an art facility. They're spending money on art and that's not something that always happens."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MyGateway serves as useful tool

MyGateway is great. The ability to print out the professor's slides and make notes directly on them is a wonderful way to help students focus on what the professor is saying in class. If the professor is doing a good job, the materials posted only augment what is discussed in class. Professors should be adding value to the Gateway notes, such that

students will benefit from class attendance.

There is nothing magic about attending class vs. reading material or having it explained and elaborated by a professor...whatever yields the best understanding for an individual. Pop quizzes tend to help everyone stay current with their reading, and as such, tend to be a

motivator. ut I don't think professors should have to "incentivise" class attendance with bonus points. Class attendance, like showing up for work, just gets you to "basic." It's just what you do to maximize your chance to get ahead.

J. Phillion
Biology Research Assistant

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former editor commends paper

Wow! That word really sums it up; this newspaper is really off to a great start! As a former Editor-in-Chief and long-time (maybe a little too long) Riverman, I just wanted to give congratulations to the staff of The Current. This year's product looks spectacular, and the UM-St. Louis community should be proud to get their information every Monday from such a great source.

I know in light of the recent CBS-George W. false documents scandal and

the overwhelming criticism of the media by the public-at-large, it helps to get a pat on the back here and there from those who have been there and done that.

Today I work for a national newswire, and I've been sending links to www.thecurrentonline.com to some of my colleagues; they've been nothing short of impressed! Hell, we wish we could have put out something comparable during our times as Undergraduates! If the current (no pun

intended) product is any indication of the future, than I definitely see another "Best in State" award for the newspaper!

No controversy here, no ulterior motive or ego-stroking; just want to give props where they are most justly due.

Keep up the good work; make us alumni proud and get'er done!

Nick Bowman
Current EIC 2001-2002
B.A. UMSL '03, M.A. UMSL '04

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MBA graduate says thank you

I want to take a moment to say thank you.

I graduated from UMSL in August with my MBA. This was a three year journey attending classes in the evening year around. Being an older student, I started when I was 40, brought with it many challenges. Scheduling school around career, kids, house, aging parents, personal illness was a constant challenge. But I was able to succeed in large part do

to the support and encouragement of the staff at the Graduate Business Office and the University faculty. I cannot say thank you enough.

I also want to say thank you to my fellow students. Many times I was the oldest in the class and I learned a lot from my fellow classmates. You're never too old to learn from your peers.

This is an institution that is performing its mission well and serving

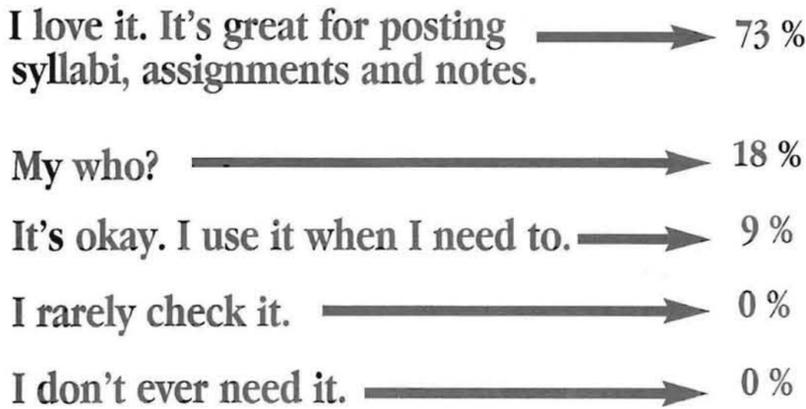
the region capably. I look forward to doing some volunteer work for the university in the future, and hopefully will get a chance to say hello to faculty and staff that I have been privileged to make an acquaintance with.

Best wishes UMSL. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Herman William Fiechtl
UM-St. Louis graduate

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

How useful do you think MyGateway is?



Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

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

WHAT'S

ON YOUR

MIND

Write a letter to the editor

Student comedian is aiming high

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

He seems like an ordinary student at UM-St. Louis. A sophomore and a psychology major by day, but at night Monrey Griffin performs in comedy clubs as a rising comedian.

"Many of my friends always told me that I was funny and urged me to go to an open-mic night at the Westport Funny Bone," Griffin said. "I did that for about a year and looked on the Internet for other clubs."

Some of the clubs that Griffin has performed at include Man on One, Barrels of Laughs, Riddles in Chicago, The Funny Bone in St. Louis and Fairview Heights, the City Improv in St. Louis and at many UM-St. Louis talent shows.

Tom Barre, Barrels of Laughs Club Manager in Chicago commented on Griffin's performances.

"He has performed here a couple of times. I have never seen his shows, but people have complimented many of them," Barre said.

Other students had the chance to see Griffin's talent when he participated in a UM-St. Louis comedy act during this year's "Welcome Week."

Griffin said that his experience with working at all of the clubs has given him the opportunity to meet other comedians and club coordinators.

"If they see you and they like you, then they will book you," he said.

Although many of his good friends from high school were some that inspired him, he said that other comedians like Bernie Mac, Red Fox and Chris Rock have been a few of his inspirations.

"I like ones who just don't give a damn," Griffin said.

Griffin described what his jokes are like and how he creates them.

"Some of my jokes are based on everyday experiences. Some are shocking and could be described as edgy. Some piss people off," he said. "Others are what people are really afraid to say."

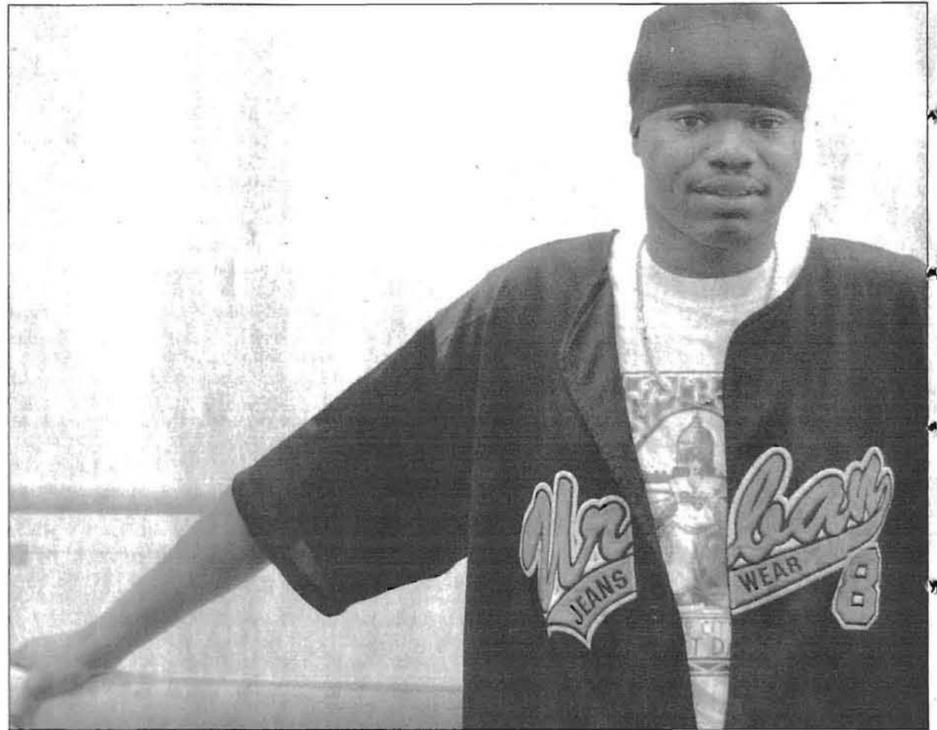
According to him, he is getting an education at UM-St. Louis to prepare himself for the real world. Griffin wishes to obtain a degree in case his plans to be a future successful comedian backfire.

"Comedy is my main focus. I am just trying to earn and make more money for other jobs."

One of the projects that he is currently working on is producing a DVD titled "Crazy as Hell." The movie will include an hour of his stand-up comedy routines. He plans to put it out and begin selling the DVD in October.

"I will probably take some trips to Los Angeles and try to sell the DVD at a comedy store on Sunset Boulevard," Griffin said.

Griffin is expected to perform starting the second week of October at the St. Louis Funny Bone and at future UM-St. Louis talent shows.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Monrey Griffin, sophomore, psychology, is a stand-up comedian who has performed locally and nationally in venues such as The Funny Bone and City Improv. Griffin also has a DVD out titled "Crazy as Hell."

Movie star speaks out on animal rights

Missouri native Linda Blair talks about veganism, puppy mills and pet overpopulation

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Last week, actress Linda Blair, mostly known for her role in "The Exorcist" came to St. Louis to talk about her new "WorldHeart Foundation" and many world issues that concern her.

Blair described some of her humanitarian volunteer work, her animal rescues and being involved with many animal rights causes.

"I began working with animal rights in the '80s because my dog was stolen from my backyard in Los Angeles and that changed my life forever," she said.

She said that Missouri is important to her because she was born here, she has affection for this state and she knows that Missouri is one of the many places where crime against animals occurs.

Using gas chambers to kill animals, Euthanasia, mass breeding of animals and dog fighting are some issues that greatly affect Blair.

Blair said, "I don't care if it is a human living on the streets or an animal staked to the ground who cannot get food, water, shade or shelter from the rain. It is inexcusable. I would like to really work hard in the next 5 to 10 years to reduce pet overpopulation so that we are not euthanizing 7 to 11 million animals a year."

Blair also mentioned that since she was young, she wanted to be a veterinarian, and her main childhood dream and love for animals has never ended.

Throughout the last year, Blair has been working to spread the word about her "WorldHeart Foundation" and educate people about animal abuse. WorldHeart became a national non-profit 501c3 Foundation in June of this year. Blair along with other volunteers run stray dog rescues and helps animals in need. She shared some of her experiences.

"My main passion is rescuing animals in need. Sometimes we might go to slaughterhouses and show them dirt and sunshine for the first time or just give a dog some food. This is very rewarding. Everything that I do, I hope will make a difference. I feel that those who are controlling a lot whether it be the entertainment business, the food business or animals. Everything is done for money, but when it hurts someone, a human, and an animal or the environment, then we must fix it."

She also talked about the problems with puppy mills. According to

her, in Missouri, the puppy mills are cages or trailers, where dogs have no food and no water, are chained up and their babies are taken away from them, leaving them to suffer terribly and causing emotional trauma.

Blair said that there are not always happy feelings involved in what she does, there is pain and some of the things she has seen have broken her heart.

People can find out more information about her foundation at www.lindablairworldheart.com. The website has galleries, information about donating and volunteering and lists many interesting facts. Two compelling statistics off the site are that a female dog and her off spring can produce 67,000 puppies in six years and that 8 to 12 million animals enter shelters annually.

While in St. Louis, Blair had the opportunity to work some dog rescue missions with Randy Grim, founder of Stray Rescue of St. Louis. The two of them were able to rescue three dogs that are currently being treated for a variety of ailments at Stray Rescue.

Grim became interested in working with animal rights after his dog, Quentin, survived the city's gas chamber a year ago.

Grim shared his experience with working with Blair.

"Working with Linda was wonderful. Linda and I are very similar and our personalities click well, so working together is very easy and natural. She genuinely cares about the animals and her compassion and ability to empathize with the plight of the stray dog touched my heart."

He also said that they both plan to do more work together in the future and hopefully make a big difference in ending animal cruelty.

Blair also talked about a few of her other projects such as her published book "Going Vegan," the documentary that she is working on called "Living with Dogs and Cats in America" and working with the district attorney and the law enforcement of L.A.

"I wrote the book because I became a vegetarian in 1988 after I learned how we process animals through pesticides ran off of the environment and the planet. We are not feeding those who are hungry, but giving good grain to cattle and using them as feedlots. They get growth hormones and they are genetically altered so that they get fatter, quicker and faster," she said.

Blair decided to go back to more natural foods and became more thoughtful about what she eats.

If we keep going at the rate that we are going, the planet is not going to exist," Blair said.

Blair wants to make a difference in the world but believes there are many things humans need to change to make it a better place.

She said that a single voice can make a difference, and she wants everybody's voice to be heard.



Linda Blair

A T-shirt for your vote?

A controversial t-shirt drove one clothing retailer to give the shirt away for free - well, for a vote

BY GARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Vintage Vantage, an online vintage T-shirt boutique, recently designed a shirt that was marketed and sold at Urban Outfitters emblazoned with the slogan "Voting is for Old People."

John Foster-Keddie, the Yale graduate who created www.VintageVantage.com explained how at first his customers loved the shirts.

"All of our shirts share a sarcastic, irrelevant sense of humor and our customers have come to expect that! It wasn't until the shirt hit Urban Outfitters, and was taken out of context by overzealous media types unfamiliar with our website that people started flipping out," Keddie said.

Keddie went on to say that the shirt was originally created to be funny and designed to open up an interesting dialogue about young people and voting.

However, many people did not seem to get the joke. www.MTVNews.com reported that some felt the shirt was anti-voting propaganda and were afraid that kids who not old enough to vote would not understand the irony and would always disrespect the idea of voting.

Keddie reportedly released a statement to MTV News that read in part, "we fully understand how this shirt might be misinterpreted and we appreciate the arguments that the shirt has raised."

see T-SHIRTS FOR VOTERS, page 5

'Helping Hands' group revamps its mission

BY ASHLEY RICHMOND
Staff Writer

Formally known as a "mentor project," the Helping Hands Student Organization has revamped its mission to complement its academic focus with the social aspects of college.

Davida Skannal, senior criminal justice and sociology, described the transition of Helping Hands.

"Helping Hands at first was more of a mentor type program, working closely with multi-cultural relations," Skannal said.

According to Skannal, the group revamped last year under an excellent executive board and began to break away from multi-cultural relations, but the two still go hand in hand.

Like some groups do, the Helping Hands Mentor Project was a dwindling group, but more motivation helped refocus the group.

The group was first created to help incoming African American students adjust to academic and social challenges of college life. The student organization now has the mission to "bring

■ Mentoring group will add more social events including another 'Showdown'

the social aspect of college to life by building relationships between administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni."

The organization holds academic discussions and plans to have an upcoming study skills workshop.

President Jecsa Anderson, junior, biology, said that the group will be "showing study skills from a student's perspective and administrative, staff perspective."

Other events that the organization participates in can help students adjust emotionally. The stress relief workshop is an example of an event that will help students relax during their mid-terms.

"We get a back rub company to do massages," Skannal said.

Still another focus of the group is the promotion of social adjustment with such programs as the upcoming relationship forum that will be called "The Show Down Part II."

Anderson said, "We are hoping guys bring their notepads because they need to take notes," but in all seriousness, the group is trying to help people in their relationships.

Skannal admitted that this organiza-

tion is small, but they are working on making it become more recognized by co-sponsoring events with other student organizations. Helping Hands has since, renamed itself, redesigned its logo, got a cubical in the student life office and is trying to be visual on campus.

Anderson said, "Helping Hands is important to UMSL because it helps students socialize with others" and learn communication skills that are important for academics and career options. The group also helps students adapt to college lifestyle.

Seeing others get involved in the organization while balancing school-work and jobs has been very encouraging for Anderson and she enjoys being a part of what this organization does to help others be successful, too.

"There is still a lot of people on campus that aren't involved and don't know how to get involved," Skannal said. "And this group is not just for freshmen."

To join, become involved with their events or sign up for group membership, call 516-4032 or e-mail hho_ums1@yahoo.com.

STUDENT

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Accounting club offers a number of opportunities

BY ERICKA HARRIS
Staff Writer

The Accounting Club at UM-St. Louis has numerous things to offer students.

The main objective of The Accounting Club is to promote the profession of accounting and to inform students of the available opportunities in an accounting career. The Accounting Club provides social and networking opportunities for its members as well.

The Accounting Club welcomes all UM-St. Louis students that wish to get involved in campus activities.

Joe Garavaglia, senior, management and accounting, and President of The Accounting Club shared why he thinks students should join this organization.

"This is a great organization for all students, particularly anyone considering a career in the accounting profession," Garavaglia said.

The Accounting club provides ways for its members to learn more about the accounting profession and local organizations by going on field trips and sponsoring events.

Adventure-seekers find new way to work out

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

A gym for some might mean going to a place like the Mark Twain where one can run, swim or lift weights. However, if the same old workout routine becomes too monotonous and boring then there is another gym, near a metro link stop, where one can find a new and adventurous kind of workout.

Upper Limits Gym is not your typically stocked gym. This gym does not have free weights, track or pool. Instead, it has 10,000-square feet of sculpted climbing surfaces where one climbs up a 35-foot wall using what is called "holds," which are artificial rocks that have different types of grips that allow one to climb upwards.

Before climbing up a wall, one must get into a harness and tie himself or herself to an automatic belayer or have someone like a lifeguard belay the climber. Belay means, "to catch," and a belayer is there to hold the rope and catch the participant who could lose their grip and fall from up to 35-feet.

Josh Portell, lifeguard, has been a belayer for climbers. He says that the gym has many benefits for its members.

"We have classes for those who are new to climbing without distractions. We also have an open locker room and you can either bring your own lock or rent one for a dollar. And we have auto belayers where you don't need someone holding the rope for you," Portell said.

There is also a community board near the locker room where one can find climbing events and fellow climbers to meet and climb with.

"If you want someone to climb with who has the same interests or at the same climbing level as you, then you can find them here at the community board," Portell said.

Portell said that finding someone to climb with is important because, "with climbing you need someone to hold the rope for you. Plus, climbing is a social thing where one gets you to expand your abilities."

There is also no need to worry about finding equipment for climbing. Upper Limits Gym has harnesses, climbing shoes, chalk bag, and helmets (optional) for rent.

And if lack of or no experience of climbing becomes intimidating, Upper Limits have introductory classes that gives one experience and confidence to climb.

One of the classes offered is Rock Gym 101. This class is an introduction to indoor rock climbing, with an emphasis on safety. This two-hour lesson covers knot tying, safety checks, proper equipment usage, climbing commands and belaying for a climber. For \$30, this also covers the costs of rental equipment and climbing for time remaining after class, according to Upper Limits Gyms brochure.

But if climbing is nothing new, the gym has routes that are for advanced.

Alan Kuehnle, avid climber, says that he has been climbing for over a year and a half. He says that the gym has various routes for one to climb.

Kuehnle said, "I try to mix it up with 'bouldering' where you don't use a rope and 'route' climbing where you go up so high that you need a rope."

He says that he enjoys climbing at Upper Limits Gym because of the social climbing mood of the climbers and staff.

"The attitude around here is great where everyone is up to climbing, the holds here are good, and the staff here has set up great climbing routes," Kuehnle said.

Upper Limits also points out that they have never had any injuries at the gym and they say that their classes emphasize how to climb safely.

Upper Limits is located in downtown St. Louis behind Union Station and the Drury Inn. The MetroLink station stops off at this place where there is no need to pay for parking.

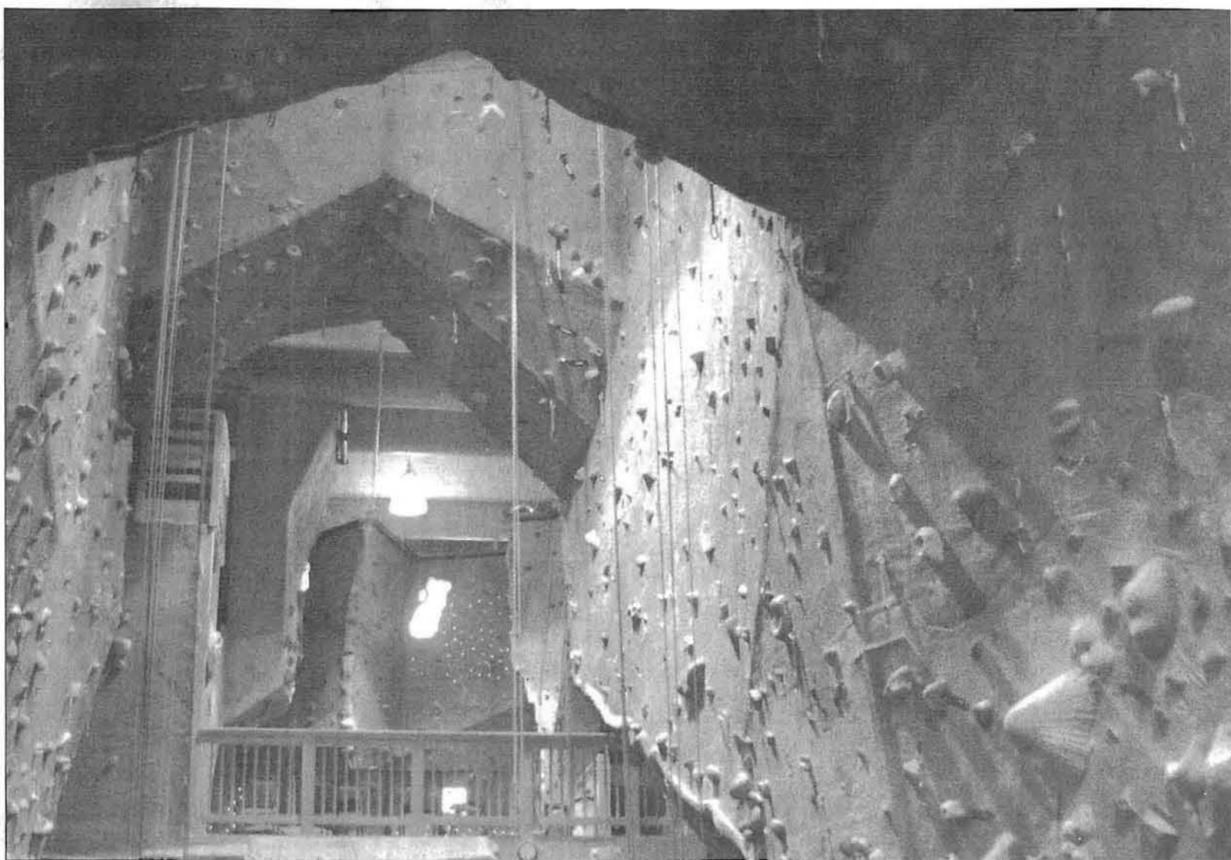
Upper Limits have memberships, and daily prices. A weekday pass is \$12 and a weekend and holiday daily pass is \$14 (prices may vary). The gym's hours are Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

And for those debating on whether or not to try a new workout that can be adventurous and fun, Kuehnle said, "Don't be intimidated to climb because everyone here is helpful, and anyone can do it."

Another good reason to check out Upper Limits is that they are currently offering a great discount to UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff.

Danielle Van Doren, Marketing manager for Upper Limits said that anyone who brings in this article could receive \$5 off their Rock Gym 101 class.

To find out all there is to know about the gym, check out www.upperlimits.com.



Photos by Casey Ulrich/ The Current



ABOVE: Upper Limits Rock Climbing Gym and Pro Shop has rock climbing walls for all skill levels. Upper Limits is located at 326 S. 21st Street southwest of Union Station behind the Drury Inn.

LEFT: Alan Kuehnle shows off his climbing skills on one of the walls at the Upper Limits Rock Climbing Gym and Pro Shop. The facility offers classes and memberships, as well as single-time climb opportunities.

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PRIZM discusses sexual orientation



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

PRIZM president Sara Miller, senior, business administration, and PRIZM SGA representative Lindsey Davis, sophomore, international business, answer questions and give advice to those interested in their organization. PRIZM is an educational and social organization, providing a support network and positive voice for homosexual, bisexual and trans-gender students.

BY KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Society as a whole has tackled race-related issues for decades. As a result, awareness of civil rights issues has increased, and myth has been separated from fact. Sexual orientation is a more recent issue that can divide communities and remains as an unfamiliar territory for many.

UM-St. Louis is home to a diverse population including racial minorities, religious groups and people with varying sexual orientations. Sarah Miller, senior, business administration and president of PRIZM, an organization geared toward exploring homosexual issues, hopes to unify the student population.

"You don't just have to be gay, les-

bian, bisexual, trans-gendered or a questioning queer to be a part of [PRIZM]," Miller said.

She said her goals for this year include increasing membership and providing a support system for people who may find announcing their sexual orientation emotionally challenging.

"This society is very black and white. You either are or you aren't. You're either a man or a female, and you cannot be both. You are either lesbian or you are gay," Miller said.

PRIZM's first event will be held on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. in the Pilot House. The program, called "Drag yourself out and vote," is a drag contest sponsored by PRIZM, the University Program Board, the Residence Hall Association and Horizons peer educators. It will also serve to celebrate National Coming Out day, which falls on Oct. 11.

"[National Coming Out day] is a human rights campaign national celebration for people who have come out or people who are in the process of coming out or people who want to come out," Miller said. "[The human rights campaign] encourages hosting events like this so that you can form a community to help people come out, because it can tend to be a very isolating time. Depending on the reactions of their friends and relatives, [coming out] can be psychologically damaging."

PRIZM started out as a political organization in 1997 known as OUT! The program ceased to exist two years ago due to funding problems and leadership issues. Miller decided to take charge of the group last year and change its status from political to social.

Women's soccer dominates Upper Iowa, ties Quincy

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

After a few tough games only a week ago, the Riverwomen soccer team is back to their winning ways once again as they beat up on Upper Iowa University and played to a well-earned tie against a tough Quincy University squad.

The first of the two games faced the Riverwomen against a first-year Division II program at Upper Iowa University. From the start of the match UM-St. Louis showed complete dominance over the visiting Peacocks. The Riverwomen struck first and often as they got out to an early lead only eight minutes into the game when senior Sonya Hauan slipped the ball past the keeper into the back of the net.

Only ten minutes later the Riverwomen would strike again when senior Mary Kate McDermott slotted one in, giving the Riverwomen a two goal lead. The scoring kept coming in bunches as the Riverwomen would add a third goal, scored by junior Mandy Meendering off of a corner kick.

The Riverwomen would head into halftime confident and up three goals. In the first half the Riverwomen recorded 15 shots, and nine of those shots were on goal. The UM-St. Louis defense did not allow the Peacocks a single shot the entire first half of play.

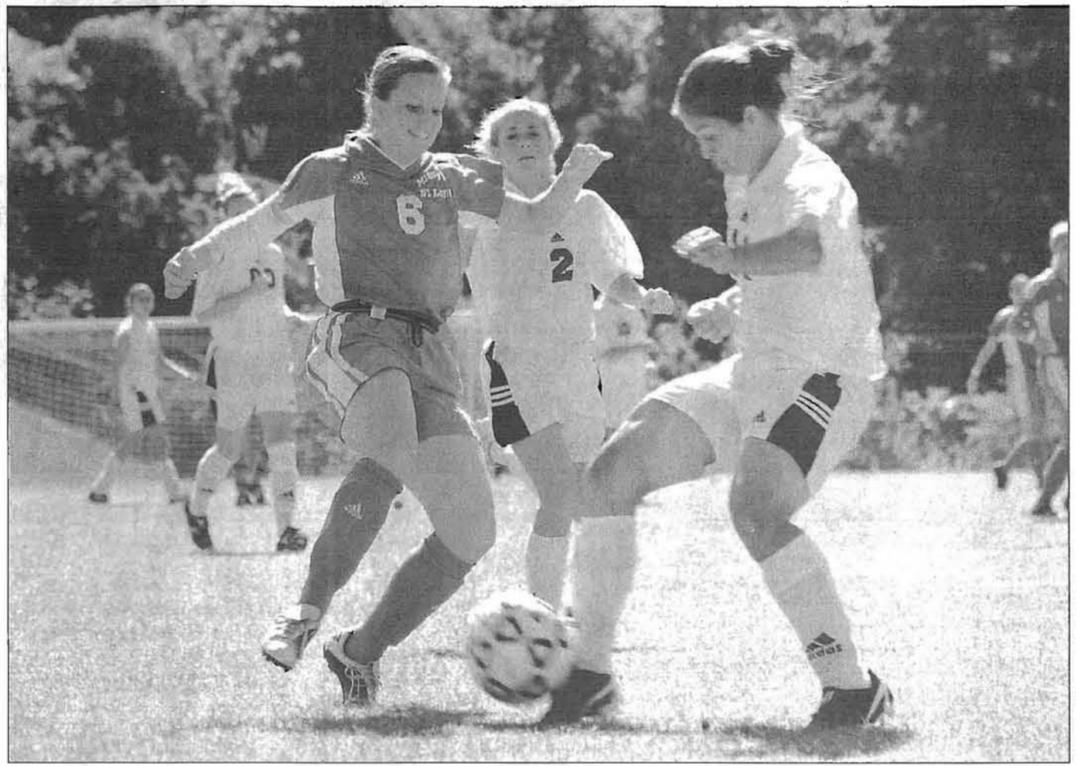
The second half began much like the first half did with early goals from the Riverwomen. Freshman Jamie Clark put the fourth goal of the match

on the board only 10 minutes into the start of play. Only 15 minutes later junior Meghan Tragesser scored off of a headball from a UM-St. Louis corner kick to give the Riverwomen a dominant five-goal lead with 20 minutes left in the game. In the next 10 minutes the Riverwomen added two more goals as sophomore Molly Buyat recorded her first goal of the year and Hauan added another to her season total to finish up the game at an unbelievable 7-0 score.

The Riverwomen would finish the game with 29 shots, 17 of which were on goal. Hauan lead the team with two goals on the night and junior Emily Worley, along with freshman Blair Schuppan, would notch two assists a piece to lead the team as well. On the night, the Riverwomen held the visiting peacocks to zero shots for the entire game.

After showing complete dominance against Upper Iowa, the Riverwomen faced a tough Quincy University team that has taken Riverwomen into overtime two of the past three seasons.

The game lived up to the expectations, as it always does, with a strong defensive battle from the get-go. The first half saw each team trade shots, but both teams had trouble finding the net for the lead. The first half would end in a 0-0 tie, with Quincy outshooting the Riverwomen by a slim 9-8 margin. The second half again would see no goal scoring from either side, leading both teams into overtime, something that has become a theme for the two teams the past three seasons. The Riverwomen would again be outshot



Riverwomen midfielder Lindsey Millikan fights for possession of the ball during the first half against Kentucky Wesleyan on Sunday afternoon. With two goals by Sonya Hauan, and one each from Cassidy Bloom and Molly Buyat, the Riverwomen shut out the Panthers 4-0.

Mike Sherman/The Current

by a margin of 9-8, but would head into the overtime period knowing that they have beaten Quincy the past two seasons in the same scenario.

Although the two teams had several chances in the overtime period, neither of them could put the other away and the game ended in a 0-0 tie. Freshman Sierra Ellis commented on the match.

"It was a hard fought match from the start. Throughout the game we needed to have players to step in and make an impact and they did exactly what they needed to do to get us this result," Ellis said.

UM-St. Louis goalie Danielle Troha recorded her fifth shutout of the season and the game puts the Riverwomen at 5-3-1 on the season thus far. They look to improve that mark in the upcoming conference games that await them.

RIGHT: Amie Jone, a midfielder for the Riverwomen, is tripped up by a Kentucky Wesleyan player on Sunday afternoon at the Mark Twain Athletic Field.



Mike Sherman/The Current

Riverwomen tennis team defeats Lewis & Clark 7-1

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's tennis team defeated Lewis and Clark 7-1 on Sept. 22 to improve their record to 2-6. The team faced several very difficult singles and doubles matches, but was able to close out the win. Lewis and Clark was strongest at the top of the line-up and played the toughest tennis at one, two and three singles. The only match lost by the Riverwomen was at one singles. The two singles match was a different story.

In a match plagued with close line calls and gamesmanship, Krissy Howard managed a 3-6, 6-4, 7-4(4) win. The match lasted a full 3:30 minutes from start to finish and tested not only stamina, but nerves as well. After fighting hard

to win the second set, Howard went down 3-0 early in the third. In that third game there were several very questionable calls made by the other player, so a line judge was called out to ensure fairness. This adjustment changed the whole momentum of the set and Howard went on to win the match.

"I am really proud of Krissy [Howard] for winning that match for three reasons. First of all, she overcame difficult gamesmanship. Her opponent was using tricks to try and throw her off of her pace. Secondly, she overcame a rough crowd, and finally she fought back from being several match points down. That took a lot of grit," Coach Jason Hanes said.

The other singles matches were won in a much quicker manner, with the only other close match being at six singles. Julie Williams

overcame nerves to win her match 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 and seal the win for the Riverwomen. The only other close match came out of the number three doubles team of Williams and Christy Bronson. The team was down 5-3, but managed to come back and win seven of the next eight games to win 8-6. The match was a good stepping stone for the team.

"I felt the competitive spirit of the team was there, despite the losses we have had during the year. We won five out of six singles matches, and it could have only been three if our girls had not competed better than their opponents. It was an outstanding competitive effort. The score was much closer than the 7-1 indicates," Hanes said.

The Riverwomen will be in action again Oct. 2 against Greenville College, here at the UM-St. Louis tennis courts.

WOMEN'S GOLF, from page 8

Glenn came up huge in the tournament, shooting a career best 74 to take first place.

"I had been waiting for the big breakthrough into the 70's, but I had no idea I would shoot 2 over par; the win was very exciting for me," Glenn said.

The entire team played well. Walk-on junior Donna Lehmuth placed sixth with an 87. Voss placed seventh with a 90 and Novak placed eighth with a 94. According to Glenn, the entire team is playing very well and will continue to improve.

"I am really proud of how well we

played the tournament. We beat John A. Logan Community College, which is a very good team. Our team has a lot of cohesion, and is really pulling together. We really wanted this win and we got it," Glenn said.

The team will be in action next at the GLVC championships on Oct. 3.

"The best anime I've ever seen."

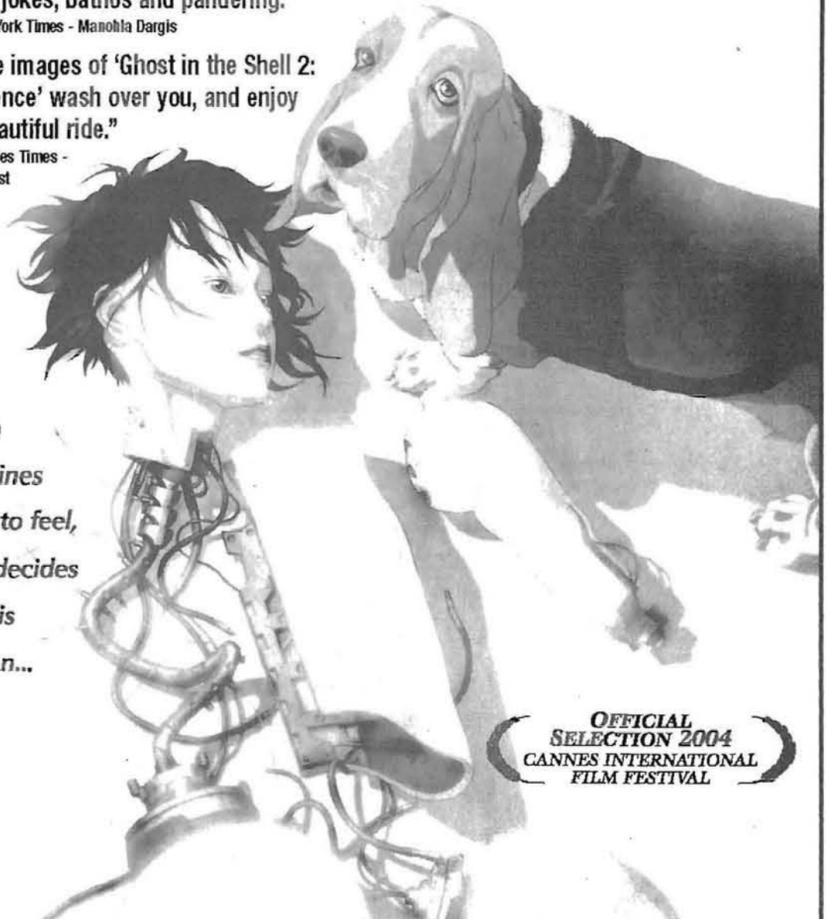
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Concert Calendar

COMPILED BY **TANA ROGERS**
Staff Writer

Unfortunately, summer is over. Luckily, this fall and winter will bring plenty of indoor activities at the following St. Louis area concert venues.

Sept. 25, 2004 - Metallica "Madly In Anger With The World Tour" with special guest Godsmack, 7:30 p.m. at the Savvis Center.

Sept. 29, 2004 - Taking Back Sunday, 7:30 p.m. at Pop's Nightclub.

Oct. 1, 2004 - "The Loop Underground" featuring DJ Bree Neezy, DJ Benny B, The Mu, hosted by Forty til Five, 10:00 p.m. The admission for this event is only \$3. It will be held at the Pageant

Oct. 2, 2004 - KSHE 95 presents "Trower Power: A Tribute to Robin Trower," featuring Jimmy Lee Kennett and The Tony Campanella Band at the Pageant.

Oct. 6 through Oct. 10, 2004 - Disney on Ice "Mickey and Minnie's Magical Journey." Shows will take place at various times at the Savvis Center

Oct. 8, 2004 - Ministry, 7:30 p.m. at Pop's Nightclub

Oct. 12, 2004 - T.J. Maxx 2004 Tour of Gymnastic Champions, 7 p.m. at the Savvis Center.

Oct. 15, 2004 - Gothic Blues Quartet, 7:00 p.m. at Pop's Nightclub.

Oct. 16, 2004 - Budweiser True Music presents and 101.1 The River welcomes The Edwin McCain Band with special guest Shurman. The event starts at 8 p.m. at the Pageant.

Oct. 21, 2004 - The Riverfront Times presents Gov't Mule. Event begins at 8 p.m. at the Pageant.

Oct. 22, 2004 - Badly Drawn Boy. Event begins at 8 p.m. at the Pageant.

Oct. 22, 2004 - Norah Jones "Feels Like Home Tour." Concert starts at 8 p.m. at the Savvis Center.

Oct. 23, 2004 - R. Kelly and Jay-Z "Best of Both Worlds Tour." Concert starts at 8 p.m. at the Savvis Center.

Oct. 25, 2004 - Switchfoot with special guests The Format and The Honorary Title. Event begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Pageant.

Oct. 27, 2004 - G. Love & Special Sauce with special guests Slightly Stoopid and Tristan Prettyman, 7:30 p.m. at the Pageant

Oct. 27, 2004 - Insane Clown Posse, 7:00 p.m. at Pop's Nightclub

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Norton's serves up delicious Cajun fare

BY **MONICA MARTIN**
Staff Writer

Do you have a craving for corn fritters and a hot bowl of gumbo? Have you always wanted to try Cajun food but were unsure of where to find it in St. Louis? Then visit Norton's in Soulard to satisfy your cravings and curiosity.

Two friends and I arrived at seven o'clock on Sunday evening. We walked onto the patio and were seated at a table by the server station. There were tables scattered all over the patio and a bar behind us. There were lights strung up on wires above us. When the sky turned dark, the waiters lit candles and set them in the middle of the tables. Although there were other patrons around us, we did not have to compete with them to make ourselves heard. The patio was large and situated on a hill. The inside, which I had only peeked into, was large as well. The hostess station was situated on the top of the hill and a bench was located not far from the situation, a good place to sit while waiting for a table or if you are waiting for someone.

Norton's satisfies the tastes of anyone who likes Cajun, as well as those who are not ready to try it or have tried it and do not like it. Aside from the usual Cajun dishes like jambalaya and blackened chicken, there are also sandwiches and salads. There are over 40 items on the menu, which is actually a collection marker boards set up at three different corners of the patio. They also have a large selection of wines and beers. The food was prepared fresh and was served quickly. The portions were not so big that you were unable to finish them, but

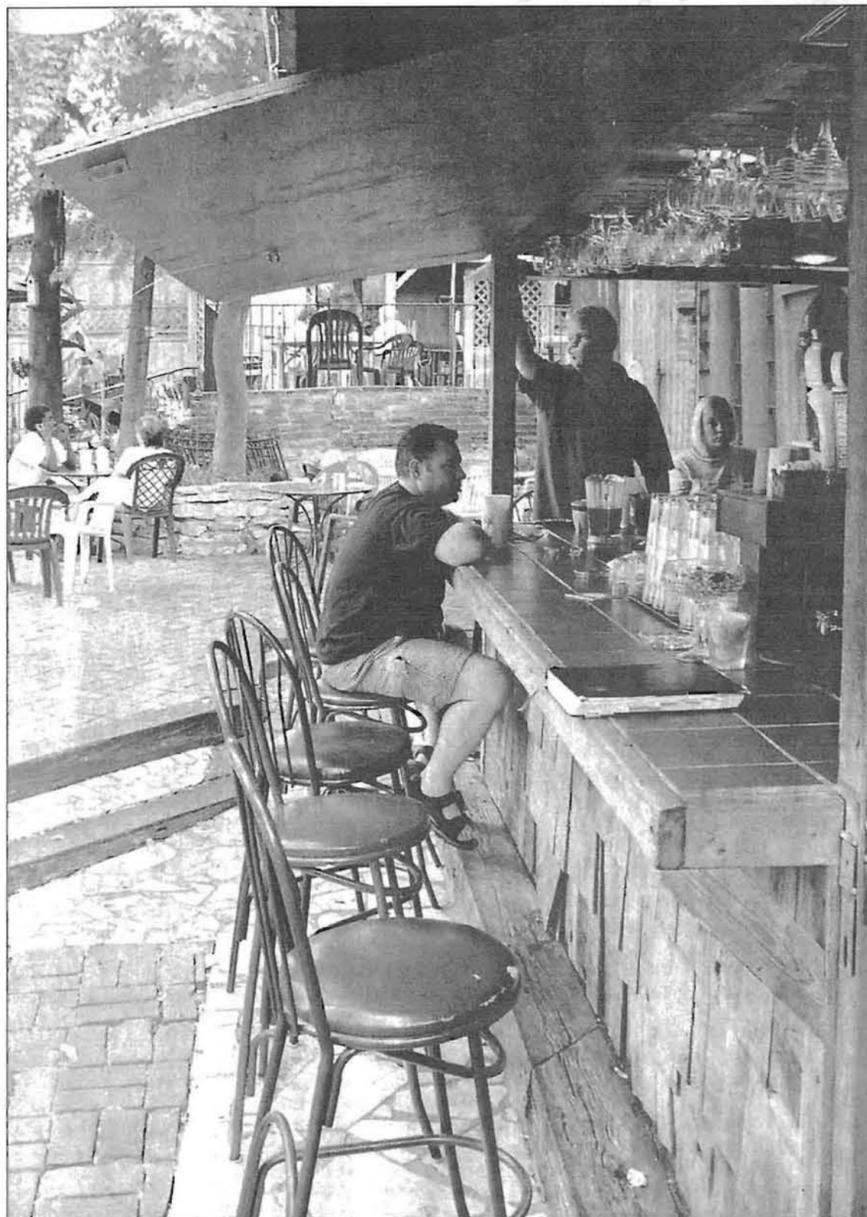
they were not small and weak either. Prices ranged from six dollars for sandwiches to \$12.95 for some entrees. All entrees came with a choice of soup or salad. I ordered the Cajun Combo, which was a dish of corn fritters, crab cakes, jambalaya, blackened chicken and sausage that tasted better than it looked. I chose a bowl of gumbo over a salad. Melissa ordered a Turkey Club with fries. Both dishes were fresh and delicious. For dessert, one of my companions and I ordered a slice of Snickers Cheesecake, which was to die for.

The service at Norton's was great. The waiter, Rob, was friendly, very helpful at suggesting great food items and checked back frequently. When we told him this was our first venture into Cajun dining, he was very adamant about helping us pick the right dishes and then came back to make sure we were satisfied with our choices.

Norton's opened nineteen years ago in historic Soulard. It is currently owned by Carol Norton and is managed by Matthew Salvici, who has been there for nine years. Norton's is open seven days a week.

Norton's is a great restaurant for a date, a family gathering or just to sit around with friends and catch up. Dress can be casual or dressy. Visit them at 808 Geyer and ask to be placed in Rob's section.

RIGHT: Diners cannot help feeling as if they are visiting an exotic land while dining at Norton's Cafe in Soulard, with its spacious patio style dining area. Norton's is located between 8th and 9th streets on Geyer.



Jesse Gater/The Current

GAME REVIEW

SIMS 2 hits the shelves, and it doesn't disappoint

BY **MONICA MARTIN**
Staff Writer

Yes, it is true. The number one-selling PC game of all time has reproduced: the 3-D SIMS 2.

The SIMS 2 was released on Friday, September 17, 2004. It is a complete upgrade from the original. Aside from being 3-D, there are new families, three different neighborhoods to choose from, new items to buy and new ways to construct the Sims and their houses.

Creating Sims in the SIMS 2 is a lot different from its predecessor. Not only do you choose the hair color and hairstyle, you also choose whether they wear hats or scarves. You construct their faces through eyebrow thickness, eye color, nose size and even jaw line. When choosing the clothes they will wear, you choose everyday wear, underwear, formal wear, swimsuits, pajamas and active wear. The Sims also age. Babies grow into young children, who grow into teens, who grow into adults, into elders and then they die. Yes, Sims can now die of old age.

The homes in the SIMS 2 are also different from the first game. There are three different neighborhoods to choose from: Pleasantview,



SIMS 2
For PC, made by Electronic Arts Inc.



Strangetown and Veronaville. If you do not want to play with any of these, you can create your own. The families Goth and Newbie have been carried over from the original game. Instead of the usual two-story houses, however, there are now three stories. Roofs are now more than roofs. They can be accessed and objects can be placed on them. You can still pick the different objects for each room, but now there are more options. Color-coordinating your objects with your room is now easier. When you choose your bed or refrigerator, you can choose what color they will be. There are also new decorations: plants, posters and statues.

Another change in the new game is the jobs. While there are still ten job fields with ten levels, each age group has different jobs. Teenagers have different jobs than adults, who

have different jobs than elders. The jobs now have job tokens. Reach a certain achievement or level in your career track and unlock a reward. The objects differ with each job field and each age group.

Aside from changes in the usual items from the original game, there are also new things. The Sims now have aspirations and fears. The Sims can aspire to wealth, knowledge, romance, family or popularity. Each aspiration comes with goals that earn a certain number of reward points. For example, if your Sim aspires to wealth, one of their goals could be to marry a wealthy Sim. If this goal is achieved, the Sim will earn a certain number of points. These points add up to earn rewards, like the jobs.

The SIMS was a great game, the best selling of all time. The SIMS 2 promises to be even better, with all of its upgrades and changes. The game has already hit the shelves and can be found at any store that sells computer or video games, such as Best Buy or K-MART. If you buy this game, make sure you have a lot of free time to play it, because it can become very addicting and you can lose track of time. Never played the original? No problem. The SIMS 2 has a step-by-step tutorial to guide you through your playing, along with a small booklet included in the box.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Old Spaghetti Factory brings classic, hearty pastas to Laclede's Landing

BY **MONICA MARTIN**
Staff Writer

If you are down at the Riverfront and get hungry for some pasta, head over to The Old Spaghetti Factory for some delicious pasta selections.

The Old Spaghetti Restaurant is an Italian restaurant, just minutes away from the Arch and the President Casino. Although there is no outdoor seating, there is an old trolley where the host may seat you in this Victorian-themed restaurant. There is a bar upstairs. And the restaurant itself, is down the old-fashioned wooden staircase. Arriving Sunday at 7 p.m., the

host seated us right away in a booth next to the trolley. The menu is a large sheet of paper with food items on one side and wine and beer on the back. Items included on the menu are appetizers, desserts, entrees and pastas. There are twenty-one menu items in all, not counting beverages. Children have their own menus. Main entrees come with either soup or salad. The salads came first, along with drinks and a small loaf of bread accompanied by two different types of butter. Not sure what to order? Try an Old Spaghetti Factory classic—there are about ten to choose from. Entrees came twenty-five minutes after placing the order. Some menu items are the Breast of

Chicken Fettuccini, (\$8.99) which is fettuccini Alfredo with chicken, broccoli and mushrooms and plain fettuccini Alfredo (\$7.89). For dessert, a few choices are Mud Pie, (\$3.29) and Turtle Cheesecake (\$3.29).

The Old Spaghetti Factory can be casual or dressy. The restaurant serves mainly pastas, and they serve all ages. If you get there at one of their busy times, you will have to compete with other patrons to hear the people you are with. However, as the place slows down, the noise dies down as well.

BOOK REVIEW

Book by Osama Bin Ladin's sister-in-law is a must-read

BY **MELIQUEICA MEADOWS**
Staff Writer

Imagine never being able to go outside un-chaperoned or to talk to a man in public. According to Carmen Bin Ladin, that is exactly what life is like for Muslim women in Saudi Arabia.

The veil that is worn by Muslim women is called an abaya and it is a sign of a proper and pious woman. As restrictive as the abaya may seem to Western culture, it is the norm for Saudi Arabian women and an aspect of the culture that was difficult for the author of "Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia" to accept.

On Sept. 11, the name Bin Ladin became a household word, particularly in the United States. For the most part, Carmen and her three children lived a life of relative obscurity until her brother-in-law, Osama Bin Ladin, became the main suspect in the worst act of terrorism that ever occurred on U.S. soil.

Now divorced from Yeslam Bin Laden, the older brother of Osama, Carmen Bin Ladin is now speaking out in an attempt to distance herself and her three daughters from the notorious family name.

Her book, "Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia," is a fascinating tale of her childhood in Switzerland and adulthood as the foreign wife of a member of the powerful Bin Ladin clan, Yeslam Bin Ladin.

Yeslam Bin Ladin is the tenth son of Sheik Mohamed Bin Ladin, a man of meager means who worked his way up to become one of the wealthiest and most respected men in Saudi Arabia. His Bin Ladin Organization is the only construction company to

be given an exclusive contract to renovate Mecca and Medina—the two most holy Islamic cities.

Carmen Bin Ladin was not born a Muslim. Her father was Swiss and her mother was a Persian from Iran. She grew up in Geneva. Both Carmen and Yeslam, when in their early twenties, decided to attend the University of Southern California, where they lived and planned their upcoming nuptials. Yet when the Bin Ladin Organization began having financial difficulties back in Saudi Arabia, Yeslam felt it was his duty to return to his homeland. Carmen wanted to accompany her soon-to-be husband and decided to quit school and move to the traditional country.

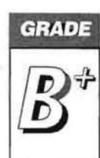
The outgoing and intelligent Carmen Bin Ladin soon realized that life in Saudi Arabia would be very different from the life she had known in Europe and the United States. She would never be able to complete her education and would always have to view the outside world through the folds of the abaya.

The lifestyle that she describes would be considered repressive to most Westerners. However, women raised in Saudi Arabia with the stringent rules of Islam may not agree. Carmen Bin Ladin's sisters-in-law seem to have accepted their subservient lifestyle and the power that is held over them by male relatives, which surprises and infuriates Carmen Bin Ladin.

"Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia" is a quick read that provides not only a rare insight into the lives of women in Saudi Arabia, but also into Osama Bin Ladin. For those interested in learning more about Islamic culture and the powerful Bin Ladin family, this book is a definite must read.



'Inside the Kingdom'
By Carmen Bin Laden,
published by Warner Books



CONCERT REVIEW

Battle of the bands benefits Stripes

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Battle of the Bands
Sigma Pi event at the Dellwood Lounge
GRADE
A-

handful of people inside. The band was obviously an amateur band, proved by their goofing off on stage and their attempt to start a chant that the audience just was not having. I do not know how many songs were played because the songs all sounded alike and seemed to meld together into one long cardrum breaker. There was scattered applause at the end of the set, mainly from one or two people.

The second band, Soul for Silver, sounded more like they knew what they were doing. When they started their set, everyone came back inside. Although there were still technical problems, this band was a little easier to hear. They were harder than the first band, sounding like Soundgarden. Their songs were also a little melodic. There was definitely a better crowd reaction.

One Man Out was the third band. There are several members in the band who are in the Sigma Pi fraternity. They have a small fan base and several CDs. It was a little easier to hear the lead singer of this band but the lyrics were a little unclear. They sound like Good Charlotte or the Great American Rejects. They also had a great crowd reaction.

The last band was Zero Principle. This band played well also, sounding a little like Limp Bizkit. They were hard to hear as well, but at this point the audience did not seem to mind. They also seemed to be well-liked by the audience.

The winner of the battle was One Man Out. I asked the emcee, Nick Bowman, if that did not seem a little biased. He said, "Yes, but this was more about raising money for Stripes than about an actual battle and we were able to raise \$300 for the bene-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Local band One Man Out performs Sept. 17 during a battle of the bands benefit concert at the Dellwood Lounge, sponsored by the Sigma Pi fraternity. The concert supported Stripes, an organization sponsored by UM-St. Louis fraternities and sororities. Through Stripes, the Greek groups act as designated drivers for each other to battle drunk driving.

fit."

Stripes is an organization set up by UM-St. Louis fraternities and sororities. The houses each take turns

playing chauffeur for the other houses. This way, no one has to worry about getting home when they are drunk. The battle was to raise money

for a good cause and the bands that played were great. Although there were some technical problems, the show was a good one.

CAMPUS CONCERT REVIEW

Koral performs for UMSL audience

BY TANA ROGERS
Staff Writer

songs to play on the spot. Koral expressively played her song "Adam" after learning that someone in the crowd had that name. She inquired what song the audience wanted to hear her cover and due to popular demand, she chose Jewel's "Who Will Save Your Soul," and sang it beautifully.

Before Koral began to sing "Hairdresser," she shared an anecdote connecting this song with her life in New York as the daughter of an appliance salesman. In a nightclub, she had the chance to meet a music professional through a friend of her father's and she was able to impress him with this particular song, when he handed her a guitar and said, "Play."

Live, Koral sounds exactly as she does on her CD, proving that she has an outstanding voice and really knows her way around a guitar. In addition, she sings sharp creative lyrics, evident in her song "Perfect." Koral explained to her listeners that this song is for boyfriends or ex-boyfriends, and that "'Perfect' really means, 'I'm not perfect. So get over it!'"

As Koral sang, the wind blew her

hair in her face. Still, the talented musician never lost a beat. Her voice attracted more and more people as the concert came to an end. Koral can sing like Jewel and is reminiscent of Sarah McLachlan but when listening to her sing, all one hears is Bari Koral's uniquely charming and clear vocals.

Koral's songs carry a great deal of emotion. On her first album, "Joy," the song that meant the most to her was "When I'm Gone" which refers to "a big relationship" in her life, Koral revealed. As she sang "When I'm Gone," the emotion filled the air with the music. The same occurred during endearing songs, such as, "One Room Castle." Koral disclosed that "living in New York, you get used to living in small places. For a lot of money," but the song revealed how the small space can be a haven for someone in love.

Koral ended the concert on a high note with her rendition of "The First Cut is The Deepest" and left the audience wanting more. In the next five years, Bari said that she hopes to "do big shows" and "play big venues" and with her talent, she probably will.



Photo courtesy of Bari Koral

Musician Bari Koral performed in the UM-St. Louis quad on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

CD REVIEW

John Butler Trio delivers musical fusion

BY KEENA RAY
Staff Writer

What do you get when folk, reggae, rock, classical, some fundamentals of hip hop and expressive vocals are fused together? You get the John Butler Trio (JBT).

In 1998, JBT originated in Australia with just one member, John Butler. By 2004, Butler collaborated with different bass players and drummers. Currently Butler is recording and performing with bass player Shannon Birchall and drummer Michael Baker.

In their native Australia, JBT is much admired among their Australian fans. Their recent album release, *Sunrise Over Sea*, debuted at number one and has recently gone triple platinum. "Sunrise Over Sea," the single, lingered at the number one spot on the Australian Record Industry Association Charts after seventeen weeks and won song of the year. These achievements are the highest ever received by independent artists, which is especially impressive for an unsigned band.

The Aussies remained independent artists for about six years before signing their contract with Java Records in July 2004. It has been only a couple of months since JBT hit the music scene, since their release of *Sunrise Over Sea* earlier this year. They are like a nonstop power house. The *What You Want* EP was recently released Aug. 24, 2004 to give a little taste of what to expect next year when the full-length album is released in the spring of 2005.

"What You Want" EP is very easy listening. It is music you can mellow out or dance to. After listening to it, one would want more. The drums were rhythmic at times and the way John Butler played his guitar was almost mesmerizing.

The very first song on *What You Want*, "What You

Want," has more of a rock sound than anything. The song is about finding companionship and never having to be alone. The song begins with strong string instruments, then blends into guitars and drums and ends with strong string instruments. It is an exceptional song that is a great opening to the album.

"Across the Universe" is a very inspirational song that every album needs. It has a 70s classic rock sound. This song expresses how great life is and how all the natural elements of the universe can be enjoyable. Despite all the obstacles, life presses on. The chorus includes, "Nothing's going to change my world, nothings going to change my world, nothing's going to change my world, nothing's going to change my world." The chorus practically speaks for itself.

The last song on the EP, "Betterman," is a live performance at the Max Sessions in Australia. "Betterman" was originally on the "Sunrise Over Sea" album. It is very upbeat and has a folk/rock sound. Each band member has their own remarkable solo that shows their talent. This song makes you nod your head to the rhythm at first and eventually you start to move your whole body until you are full out dancing and then you are back to head nodding. It has many slopes and breaks into different melodies. "Betterman" Live is one rollercoaster ride.

I give this album a B because the other three songs on the EP are decent, but "What You Want," "Across the Universe" and "Betterman" really stand out. This album is definitely worth twenty bucks when the full-length version is released in spring of 2005.

JBT is currently touring the United States. The tour started Aug. 15 at the Rocky Mountain Festival in Lyons, CO and ends at Schuba's in Chicago on Oct. 7. For more information on JBT, visit their website, www.johnbutlertrio.com. Expect to see more incomparable work from JBT in the future.

John Butler Trio

"Sunrise Over Sea"

GRADE

B




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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

SPAGHETTI FACTORY, from page 10



Jesse Gater/The Current

The Old Spaghetti Factory, located on the corner of Morgan and 1st in the heart of the Landing, is a restaurant with great food as well as great atmosphere.

The Old Spaghetti Factory was first opened on January 10, 1969 by Guss Dussin. There are locations all over the country. There are two locations in St. Louis, one on Laclede's Landing, the other in Chesterfield. Service was great. The host was friendly, as well as the server. The server managed to keep her cool, even though she obviously

Old Spaghetti Factory GRADE A 727 N. First St. and 17384 Chesterfield Airport Road.

had many customers and seemed a little hurried. Menu items are anywhere between \$5 and \$10.

The overall experience was a great one. All entrees were a good-sized portion but not too big. Everything was hot and fresh. The Old Spaghetti Factory is a good restaurant to visit to curb your pasta craving. The locations are 727 N. First Street on Laclede's Landing or, in Chesterfield at 17384 Chesterfield Airport Road.

ACCOUNTING, from page 6

"Each semester we will take a field-trip to learn more about local organizations," said Garavaglia.

The Accounting Club goes to places like the Federal Reserve Bank and the Art Museum. This semester the accounting club will visit Boeing, where some members of the organization are currently doing internships.

"The main goal of the field-trips is for members to learn how accounting functions are performed at the companies that we visit," said Garavaglia.

Networking opportunities include the annual Meet the College of Business. This is an event held by The Accounting Club in collaboration with International Business Club and the College of Business Administration, which gives students, faculty and staff from the College of Business Administration a chance to

become familiar with one another and to establish working and informal relationships.

Not only do members of the Accounting Club participate in events geared toward the accounting profession but they also participate in other campus activities such as recreational sports sponsored by Campus Recreation.

Garavaglia said, "Wallyball is a favorite of our members and the annual Softball Barbeque is also popular."

The Accounting Club also holds social events, "Each semester we hold at least one social event, we also sponsor events with Beta Alpha Psi," said Garavaglia.

Garavaglia went on to say that the Accounting Club also attends professional sporting events.

The Accounting Club meets bi-weekly during the fall and spring semesters. Currently the meetings are held every other Wednesday at 2 p.m. on the thirteenth floor of the Social Science Building Tower and refreshments are provided.

This semester The Accounting Club has about 70 members and although the organization has outgrown their present meeting room, they are looking for more participants.

"I would like to see us move our meetings to the Millennium Student Center or a large classroom with theater seating," said Garavaglia.

Garavaglia added, "Involvement on campus makes your college experience more meaningful and The Accounting Club is a great way to get involved."

PRIZM, from page 7

Part of the reason for implementing the program is that often sexual minority students can feel invisible on college campuses," Miller said.

Gerda W. Ray, associate professor of history, said that she thinks PRIZM plays an important role at the University.

"[UM-St. Louis is] a relatively small campus as campuses go and so it takes an organization to put together a critical mass of people to really make people feel close," she said. "As a teacher, I experience through my students some of the problems [they face] being trans-generated [or homosexual]."

Jamie Linsin, counseling psychologist at University Counseling Services, recently introduced another program

called the Safe Zone. The Safe Zone is composed of students, faculty and staff who have expressed an interest in supporting the homosexual, bisexual and trans-generated community. Members are required to undergo a three-hour training session designed to increase awareness about the issues that homosexual, bisexual and trans-generated individuals face in today's society.

The Safe Zone's aim is to "create a campus climate that is open to all students, regardless of sexual orientation," Linsin said. "The idea [is] that if students have questions they want to ask about sexual orientation, they can go to people with information."

Students, faculty and staff interested in joining the Safe Zone should contact Linsin through the Counseling

Services office at 516-5711.

Miller said that PRIZM has not connected with the Safe Zone yet, but hopes to plan programs and work with the group in the future.

"The Safe Zone is a safe haven," she said. "If you're being oppressed harassed discriminated against, it's a place to go."

Miller hopes that PRIZM's educational endeavors will increase awareness about issues surrounding homosexuality.

"By bringing hate crimes into the light, by bringing AIDS farther into the light and bringing up the issue of coming out and how tough of a time it can be, I hope that it will make it easier for people to acknowledge and understand them," she said.

NEW PONDS, from page 1

"Students and faculty proved they preferred to park on the south side of the Millennium Student Center," Michael Thomas, graduate student, economics, said. "To remove this option for the sake of pretty fountains and lakes seems wasteful."

Sarah Barcheck, senior, market-

ing and finance, had a different take and said that, "UMSL's campus needs something to tie it together, add a little bit of aesthetic quality, and make it into a place where people feel comfortable spending time. The ponds will be just that."

Plans do include several electri-

cal outlets around the lakes that will be available for student organizations to plug into in order to hold more outdoor events.

"I believe it's going to be a pretty social area," Ritter said, "and it's all irrigated so it will always be looking good. It's one of the nicer things I've seen going on."

VOLLEYBALL, from page 8

The Riverwomen managed to keep tight defensively, but could only manage to hit .200 in the game and this eventually caught up to them in the end.

Though the second game proved to be a tough one, the Riverwomen tried to muster up a comeback in the third, but ran out of gas halfway through the frame as they fell 30-19 and lost the match overall 3-0. Claudia Medina led the team with 13 kills on the night and fellow freshman Heather Nichols led the team defensively with 17 digs to her credit. The loss put the team at 0-1 in conference play on the season.

Senior Nikki Pagels commented on the match. "We needed to work on setting our blocks quicker and keeping our intensity up. It was just inconsistent," Pagels said.

The next match was against the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds, who posted a 12-3 conference record only one season ago.

The Riverwomen were confident despite the earlier loss to St. Joseph's and were poised to make a run at the Greyhounds.

In the first game of the match Indianapolis came out on fire, hitting for a .556 average and finished with 17 kills on the attack. The undermanned UM-St. Louis squad struggled to keep up and eventually lost the game 30-14. The Riverwomen hit for .034 in the game, but had seven kills to their credit.

During the second game, Indianapolis came out again hitting relentlessly and would put up a .306 hitting percentage along with 16 kills to put the game away quickly 30-19. Although the score was lopsided, the Riverwomen hit for a .270 average and had 15 kills that kept the match close, but they could not pull it together to win the game.

In the final game of the match, the Riverwomen again came out with a

wonderful effort, but could not hold onto the game as they lost 30-19 once again. The Riverwomen had only one less kill than did the Greyhounds, at a difference of 12-13 for the game and hit for a .200 percentage.

Team member Christina Blickhan talked about the match.

"Overall, we definitely needed to play better as a team, and although right now we have a lot of individual talent if we bring it together at once on the court we will improve tremendously," Blickhan said.

The Riverwomen could not come up with anything all night and the Greyhounds would win the match and hit for a .333 hitting percentage for the entire match. Daria Sak led UM-St. Louis with 10 kills in the match, and added 12 digs to lead the team. Freshman Medina added nine kills and recorded three solo blocks in the match. Senior Ashley Richmond had a team best 29 assists in the match.

DISPENSERS, from page 1

Unable to rely on the availability of tampons on campus, the women of UMSL have found their own solutions. Faculty arm themselves with what Mushaben calls their "secret stash." The secret, plastic storage bags full of tampons kept in desk drawers. This remedy works well, but for students it is not that simple.

Victoria Macgregor, an English graduate student, has taken her feminine needs into her own hands.

"I do not rely on tampon machines on campus, I have four or five on me each day," Macgregor said.

Emil Woolley, manager of custo-

dial and general services, said, "I had never had any complaints about the dispensers until a week ago last Monday." Woolley and his four custodial supervisors keep maintenance on the campus' tampon dispensers with the exception of the Millennium Student Center. The MSC has addressed the issue by posting signs on all machines out of service. To accommodate those in need free product is being offered in the bookstore until they are repaired.

Woolley suspects some machines malfunction because of people trying to break into them for the money inside. He also expressed concern

with people becoming frustrated with the machines and causing further damage by mishandling them.

In response to complaints around campus Emil instructed his four custodial supervisors to inspect all sanitary napkin dispensers and list those out of service. Woolley plans to order better quality of machines as soon as all dispensers have been inspected. He estimates the new dispensers should arrive in less than a month.

Woolley advises all students and faculty to report an out of service dispenser to a staff person, or post a note on the dispenser so they may be repaired as soon as possible.

ACLU SPEAKER, from page 1

Under the Patriot Act, the government could investigate people even if they were not directly linked to any wrongdoing. Any link with people or organizations deemed "suspicious" could warrant questioning and investigation by the FBI.

To illustrate this, Lieberman cited the case of three students in Kirksville, Mo. Shortly before the Democratic National Convention, they were questioned and subpoenaed by law enforcement because they had been in contact with groups that the FBI suspected were going to be involved in civil disobedience at the Convention.

The Patriot Act also required immigrants from 16 countries to register with the government, not because they did anything suspicious, but because they were from countries in the FBI's list of suspicious countries.

Lieberman said that the Patriot Act granted the government access on demand to information from public libraries. They could request information on patrons regarding books checked out and websites visited on public computers.

Another criticism about the Patriot Act was that it suppressed political freedom. There had been several cases

where police moved protesters to a designated protesting area for "security reasons."

Usually, these were as far as a quarter mile away from the event, in places where the targets of the protest could not see them easily.

"What is free speech if no one can see or hear you?" Lieberman said.

Joyce Mushaben, director of the IWGS and professor of political science, also said that the Patriot Act targeted citizens.

"You think these laws are made for terrorists, the problem is Congress can only make laws for citizens so it affects you," Mushaben said.

Erin Rapp, senior, psychology, agreed that the Patriot Act had flaws, but said that something had to be done to protect people against future terrorist attacks.

"I like [the Patriot Act] but there's got to be a line," she said. "On the other hand, we have to be cautious of what's going on today and with letting people into the country.

We can't have extremes; it's really got to be revised."

While there were some provisions of the Act that Lieberman agreed with, as the parts tightening airport security,

she said that there were a lot of problematic provisions.

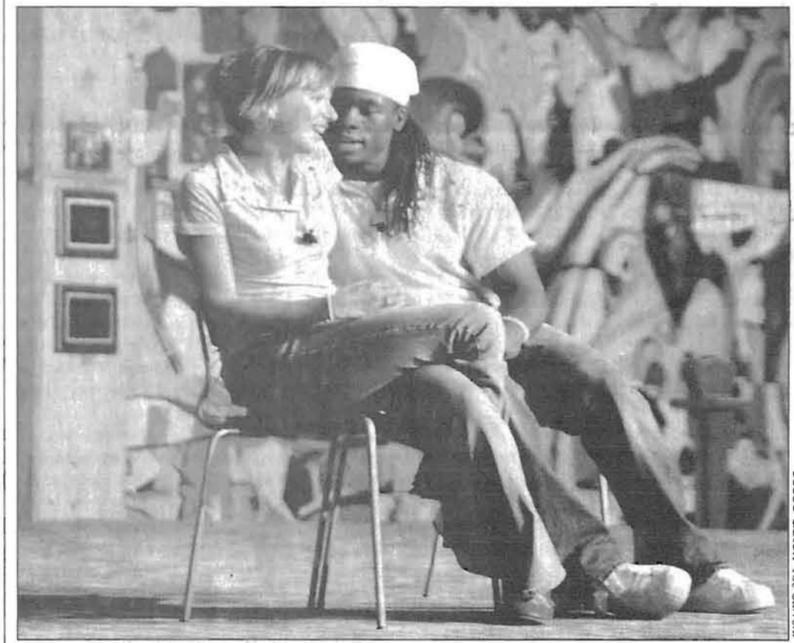
She saw problems with ethnic profiling under the Patriot Act. "You have to have good old fashioned policing where you look at people's actions without regard to their race, without regard to their religion, without regard to their affiliation," Lieberman said. "It's an inefficient way to go about law enforcement."

Lieberman also opposed the Patriot Act because of the "domino effect" she said that it could have.

"When you have increased authority and reduced ability to protest, you open the door to greater probability of abuse," she said. "I challenge you to think critically when things are thrown your way in the name of national security."

"I thought it was very interesting because I never even looked at it that way and I was rather appalled that they treated people like that who had any objections," Tiffany Hansen, sophomore, psychology, said. "From what I had heard of it, I hadn't heard a lot about it, but it sounded like a good deal and I definitely have second thoughts about it after hearing Mrs. Lieberman speak about it."

'Sex signals' in the Pilot House



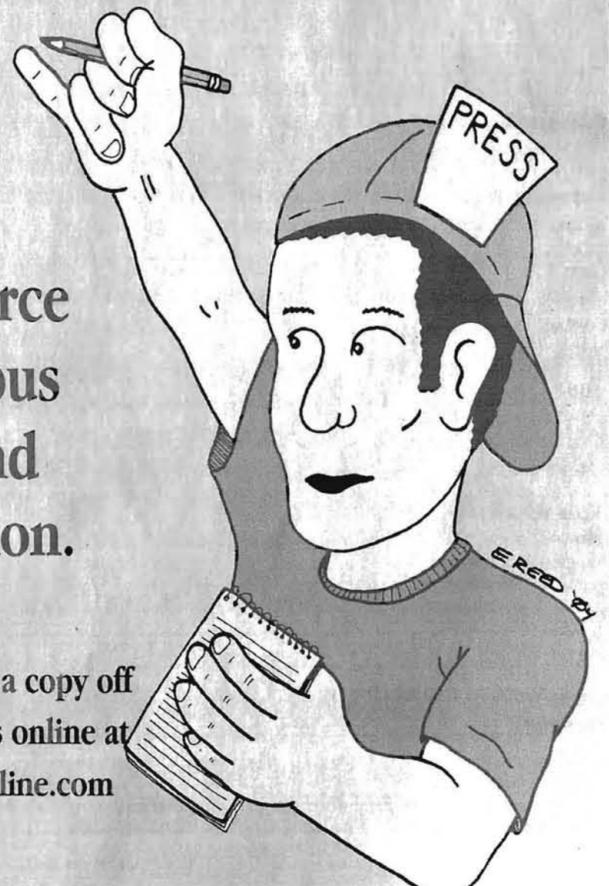
Sex Signals, which was performed last Thursday evening in the Pilot House, gave a unique and humorous but serious look at relationships and the issue of date rape.

Jesse Gater/The Current

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Make your opinion heard. Write a letter to the editor.
Send submissions to Current@jinx.umsl.edu. Please include your name and a daytime phone number.

THEATER REVIEW



Mike Sherwin/The Current

What happened to 'Little Orphan Annie' after her early years of fame? 'Forbidden Broadway' was more than happy to speculate, with a parody involving a thirty-year old, cigarette smoking, unemployed actress who worries that her trademark red hair would turn gray.

'Forbidden Broadway' pokes fun at modern musicals

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

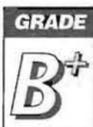
Among St. Louis theater fans, I am a heretic: I do not like musicals. I do not hate them but given a choice for an evening of theater, the popular musical is near the bottom of my list, just above that art world insult to theater, performance art. In St. Louis, this is near sacrilege, as the musical is so pervasive that there are many people who seem to think it is the only kind of theater. So perhaps it is surprising that I enjoyed the musical performed at the Touhill Center this weekend, "Forbidden Broadway Shoots For the Stars."

"Forbidden Broadway" actually does more shooting at the stars, as it uses hilarious parody lyrics to hit songs and biting satire to skewer the modern Broadway musical in a revue that is part comedy "roast" and part "A Chorus Line" with sour grapes. Four performers staged a number of short, sometimes risqué, always funny parody pieces based on such popular works as "Phantom of the Opera," "Mama Mia," and "Hairspray," and poked fun directly at several stars in a number of withering spoofs. The four performers in this night of comedy and music were David Benoit, Valerie Fagan, Jennifer Simard, and Michael West. Each performer takes several roles but the four also played certain stock types, such as the handsome leading man, the sexpot,

or the ingénue.

Like any "roast," some of it may seem a tad mean-spirited but it is all aimed to make the audience gasp and laugh. A basic requirement to enjoy this show is to know something about hit musicals of recent years but that just makes it a perfect piece for musical-mad St. Louis. The revue proceeds at a lightning pace, with quick costume changes and the performers racing on and off stage constantly. This rapid-fire comedy leaves hardly any time to gasp

'Forbidden Broadway Shoots for the Stars'

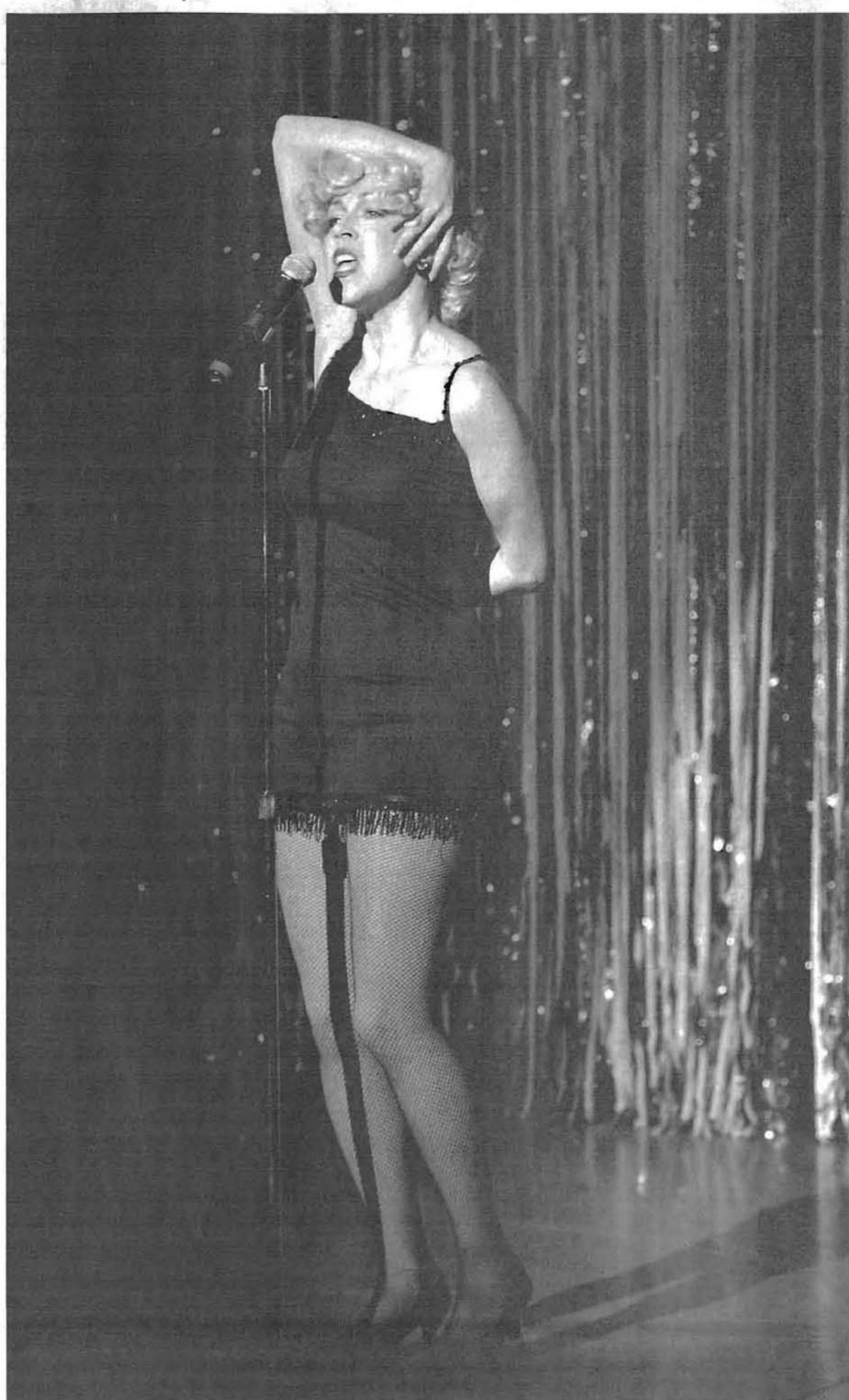


between laughing at one comedy punch before some other actor or play takes another humorous body blow. There is no time to overthink any of the jokes and one has to be struck by the energy and sheer physical flexibility of the actors. The actors give a total performance: they sing, dance, joke and even perform stunts in the high-energy show.

Clearly this troop loves the old style and history of Broadway and decies the way it has faded into productions that are either more about moving sets or revival kitsch than about memorable music and great lyrics. The Broadway musical evolved along with vaudeville

but unlike its now vanished contemporary that was destroyed by the rise of film, Broadway has continued in a feedback relationship with Hollywood. In the good old days, Broadway held the power and prestige as it was the home to the creative talent that fed performers and material to the movies. Now the situation is reversed, with movies remade as musicals and fading film stars treading the boards of New York and London. Decrying this change, the folks in "Forbidden Broadway" are mad as heck and not going to taking it any more but fortunately for the audience, they are also very funny and talented.

Each performer was excellent in their part of the ensemble show but the one that stood out most was Valerie Fagan, whose sense of comic timing and all-round talent garnered the biggest laughs and longest applause. Her impression of Kathleen Turner was particularly funny, as was the duet she did with Jennifer Simard as dueling Latin spitfires Chita Rivera and Rita Moreno. Other highlights of the show were a very funny bit that parodied the moving stage and complicated story of "Les Miserable," a bit which started with a very funny French vamp song performed by Fagan decked out with pink beret and feather boa. Michael West's parody of the "Lion King's" unwieldy costumes and equally "unwieldy" impersonation of Harvey Firestein in "Hairspray" were also comedy highpoints. Actually, the



Mike Sherwin/The Current

'Forbidden Broadway' parodies Melanie Griffith's role as Roxie Hart in the musical 'Chicago.' 'Forbidden Broadway' has been satirizing the world of musicals since 1982.

whole show was so good that anyone in the audiences is certain to have another set of personal favorites. Another favorite was the finale, in which the folks on stage addressed why they are still in the New York theater despite the sad state of Broadway. The parody of the song "Tradition"

from "Fiddler on the Roof," now called "Ambition," was a rousing end to a Yom Kippur performance.

This show is actually the latest incarnation of a long running parody created by Gerard Alessandrini. The show has been re-invented and adapted to new shows over the past twenty

years and continues to evolve. The performance here was a three-day run from Friday night, September 24 to Sunday afternoon, September 26. The New York-based show tours the country and you can check their schedule of performances at their website, www.forbiddenbroadway.com.

SORORITY HOUSES, from page 1



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Elizabeth "Sheki" Matoushek (center), president of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and Jamie McKinney (left) carry statues and pedestals off of the elevator on the third floor of the MSC earlier this month. The sorority was decorating a meeting room for a recruitment session during sorority rush. Beginning this semester, the Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities have houses on campus.

Jamie McKinney, sophomore, engineering, and social chair of Alpha Xi Delta, said that she was excited about having a place to socialize with her sorority sisters.

"It's a better place for us all to meet. It's funner to have a house; it's cool to have a place where you can put all your composites and meet there and have functions there," she said.

Wilson said that since the sororities now have houses, it should help with future recruitment efforts. Especially since UM-St. Louis is trying to advance its image as a traditional

school, that might make it more appealing to students.

"I think that will help to build up the residential base," said Wilson.

She also hopes that it will improve the social atmosphere at UM-St. Louis.

"Our hope is that it will encourage all the students that they will attend more campus events, so that it will increase student involvement in a variety of levels," said Wilson.

There had been some uncertainty as to whether or not sorority houses were legal because of with the number

of women living in each house, it could have been likened to a brothel.

"That's actually an urban myth," Wilson said, "we checked into that and I contacted the local municipalities and they could not find anything to prove or disprove that."

Even if there was such a law, it would not affect the houses. Since it is on University owned property, local municipal laws do not apply.

"Our rules and regulations would supercede those local municipalities, especially with regards to housing," Wilson said.

Hilarious 'Shaun of the Dead' attacks the horror genre

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"Shaun of the Dead" is the funniest movie so far this year. If the predictable antics of the horror film genre make you roll your eyes, this is the perfect comic antidote. Director

Edgar Wright and his co-writer/star Simon Pegg nailed everything that is stupid and funny about this genre.

There are truly scary movies and there are horror genre films. The truly scary films, like "Jaws," "The Shining," and "Alien," often hit deep seated fears hidden in our psyche. Sometimes the fears are of a particular time, like the sexual metaphors in "Dracula" and others transcend their time period. All are telling about the psychological undercurrents of a society.

But beneath these grand horror themes, lurk the horror genre films. Rather than being realistically scary, this funhouse construction follows a safe and predictable formula to scare only within safely defined limits. These movies are like riding a roller coaster, where as scary as it is, you are still certain you are safe and can see what is around the bend.

Really scare films are intriguing but the funhouse genre horror movies are as likely laughable as not. Their conventions have already been parodied in the "Scream" movies. But those are still inside the genre. The Wayan brothers took a turn at it with the crude humor of "Scary Movie," but sometime less heavy-handed was needed. Now we have it and leave it to the British to make a really funny

parody of the zombie film, "Shaun of the Dead."

Billed as a "romantic comedy with zombies," the emphasis should really be on the comedy part. Like comedies stretching back to the silent era, the romance is there mostly to drive the characters into action. Slacker Shaun (Simon Pegg) is happy in his comfortable routine of going to the same pub with his girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield), her roommates Diane and David (Dylan Moran) and his unemployed Neanderthal childhood buddy and roommate Ed (Nick Frost), until

turn into zombies. It is a delicious parody of the way everyone is so slow to catch on in horror films, while also a biting satire of the mind-numbingness of working life. These zombies, however, are even dumber and more easily dispatched than the usual case. Once Shaun and his bud finally figure out what is happening, they dispatch them with a cricket bat and a garden shovel and sharp blows to the head. Fleeing the zombie onslaught, they set out to rescue both Shaun's mother and his ex-girlfriend, and head for the safest place they can think of — a pub, of course.

There are an endless number of beautifully timed visual jokes and the film skewers every convention of the cliché-ridden genre. The emphasis is much more on humor than frights, although by the end, the film gets into lots of movie gore. Still, the film never misses a comic beat and is filled with that dry sharp British humor.

Only the Brits do this kind of comedy this well. "Shaun of the Dead" provoked howls of laughter in the audience, although a few of the real horror film fans seemed a bit unsure if it was supposed to be funny. The gore at the end undercuts the just-for-laughs absurdity a bit but the film is so funny overall, that it is a tendency easily overlooked.

If you truly like scary movies like "Halloween" and are dead serious about the genre, you will still probably find "Shaun of the Dead" amusing. But for someone who thinks that genre horror films are mind-numbingly dumb, this film is just about the funniest thing to come along. Not likely to win an Oscar, but the film is sure to be a hit here, just like it already is in Europe.

'Shaun of the Dead'



Now playing in theaters