



Rivermen baseball update  
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## Action slate sweeps top SGA posts

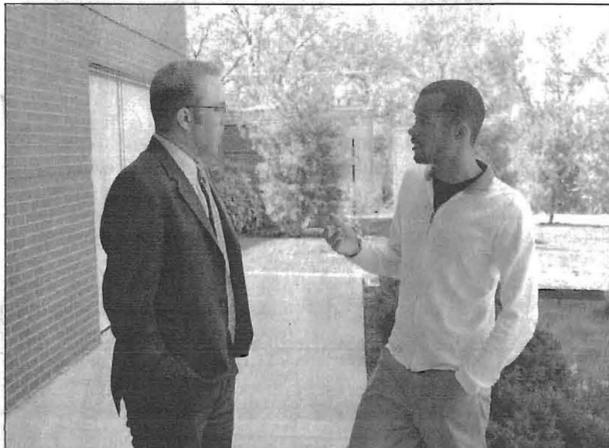
BY PATRICIA LEE  
Co-News Editor

After two weeks of intense campaigning, the ACTION slate won the top posts in the Student Government Assembly elections and students approved a student fee for the newspaper readership program.

In a three-way race for SGA president, D'Andre Braddix won with 453 votes, followed by David Dodd and Jen Staggenborg. The other candidates on the ACTION slate, Taz Hossain and Brian Rails, won the vice-president and comptroller positions.

The candidates were notified Friday morning before the results were posted outside the Student Life office. "I'm obviously excited about the results," Braddix said. He said that his priorities as president would be to represent the students and do his best on issues that concern them and the University.

The new term starts on July 1 and in the meantime, Braddix plans to meet with the incumbent officers to help facilitate the transition. "The three of us [Braddix, Hossain and Rails] are going to sit down with



SGA president Scott Bopp (left) talks with D'Andre Braddix during a break from an ASUM meeting on Saturday. Braddix won the SGA presidential election held last week. His term begins July 1.

Scott, Mindy and Aaron [Bopp, McNabb and Golchert] to help ease the transition," he said.

"We haven't worked it out yet, but Scott has talked about seminars for training them about the rules and committees," Joe Flees, SGA adviser and

student services coordinator, said. "Currently, they are all on the SGA executive committee so they're familiar with how things run."

Flees said it was fairly common for candidates from the same slate to win the top posts, and Braddix said that it



Taz Hossain Vice president-elect  
Brian Rails Comptroller-elect

would be easier to get things done with the top officers having similar platforms.

"I think it will be easier for us to get things done just because we've had a chance to sit down and talk about the issues before we enter our terms," he said.

David Dodd, junior, international business, said that although he came in second in the presidential race, he does not harbor a grudge against his opponents. "I'm not going to get my feelings hurt by not being elected...I always knew D'Andre [Braddix] would be a tough competitor," Dodd said.

see SGA ELECTIONS, page 7

### 2005 SGA Election Results

President		Referendum on SGA Constitutional Changes	
D'Andre Braddix	463	Yes	587
David Dodd	360	No	108
Jen Staggenborg	217		
Vice president		Student Senate	
Taz Hossain	629	Tracy Addison	411
Betsy Seabough	344	Amanda Altman	483
		Mark Bacon	383
Comptroller		Ann Chisholm	429
Aaron Golchert	429	Mary Ann Coker	440
Brian Rails	548	Maria Curtis	450
		Fred Eccher	365
USA TODAY Readership Program Fee Increase		Joe Garavaglia	494
Yes	463	Seongpil Hong	373
No	360	Damien Johnson	443
		Mark King	418
The Current Fee Increase Referendum		Nick Koechig	415
Yes	418	Peter Lamie	332
No	541	Jeremy Leiss	387
		Laura Marsh	425
		Tiffany Patton	438
		Cadence Rippetto	389
		Diana Watkins	453

### April showers hamper, don't spoil Mirthday



Margaret Murphy, graduate student, social work, huddles under an umbrella with Lawanda Williams as rain starts to pour during Mirthday festivities on Wednesday afternoon.

## Students remember slain schoolmate

BY MIKE SHERWIN  
Staff Writer

A group of international students want to send their friend, a former UM-St. Louis student, on a final trip home to Lithuania.

Julius Backys, 21, was shot and killed Friday morning in the 4900 block of Beacon Street in North St. Louis, about five miles from campus.

On Sunday, a group of students gathered at Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic church to remember the victim and make plans for a memorial fund to pay to send the remains for burial in Lithuania.

Rytis Ivoska, graduate student, business, said the community of Lithuanian students at UM-St. Louis is tightly knit and deeply saddened by the death of Backys.

"He was like my younger brother," Ivoska said. "I met him when I first came here [to UM-St. Louis] but many of the other Lithuanian students here grew up with him and have gone to school with him for a long time. Some since the first grade."

Ivoska said that Backys had not been home to Lithuania since

December 2001, a semester after beginning his studies in business at UM-St. Louis.

Although Backys stopped taking classes in 2003 because of financial difficulties, Ivoska said he was working construction jobs in order to earn enough money to return to school.

Now, Ivoska and the local Lithuanian community are trying to raise enough money to send Backys' remains home for burial.

"It is the family's last wish to have the body shipped back," Ivoska said. "And we are going to do whatever we have to do to get enough money for that."

Ivoska said the costs would be at least \$6,000.

"We all want to contribute, but the Lithuanian community is very small so we may have trouble getting that much," Ivoska said.

However, he said he hopes to set up a trust fund at the campus UMB Bank on Monday to accept donations.

Rokas Varanavicius, UM-St. Louis alumnus, grew up in the same neighborhood as Backys in Kaunas, Lithuania. He said Backys was a good friend and an inspiration. "We are always going to remember [Backys] as a fighter. He was always doing whatever he had to do to achieve his goal no matter what it was."

For more information about the trust fund, contact Rokas Varanavicius at Rokas@sandvcapital.com.



Julius Backys Former student was killed Friday

## \$530,000 grant from AmerenUE will fund new IT incubator on South Campus

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
Staff Writer

The Ameren Community Development Company recently awarded UM-St. Louis a \$530,000 grant for an Information Technologies Incubator. The half-million dollars granted by Ameren is on top of a \$1 million grant provided by the Federal Small Business Administration in the 2004 Omnibus for the creation of the IT incubator.

"We are very delighted to receive this grant from them," Nasser Arshadi, Vice-Provost for Research, said.

"Ameren's economic development company has been very generous with us."

Incubators, in the start-up sense, are facilities that have the necessary infrastructure to support field specific start-up companies and are usually supported by larger institutions like UM-St. Louis.

"An incubator is a facility that provides support to a group of start-up companies in the form of facilities, office space and broadband connectivity but also other types of expertise that are needed to succeed," Arshadi said. "Basically to help them become

vibrant new companies."

The incubator will be the home to 10-12 start-up IT companies and a UM-St. Louis supported Center for High Performance Computing. The Center will be staffed by University professors and students and will provide high level IT support to the University and the start-up companies. The start-up companies will theoretically come from within the University as well as from outside interests.

"We are hoping that having such a facility adjacent to campus can provide a tremendous amount of intellectual support to our scientists, our pro-

fessors and our graduate students and also take their findings, their inventions one step beyond and become actual companies," Arshadi said.

"As a research university what [the office of research] is trying to do is get all of the very early stage technology that is developed and invented out to the market," said Tamara Kratochvil, senior grant writer and technology transfer coordinator.

UM-St. Louis has been involved in the creation of other start-up company incubators, including the Center for Emerging Technology in downtown St. Louis that is the home to 13 com-

panies and is considered a success.

"What we are trying to do is something very similar to the Center for Emerging Technologies, only in the IT field," said Kratochvil.

The incubator will be on the site of the old Normandy Hospital on Natural Bridge Road, which will be torn down to make way for the new building.

No architectural plans have been made yet as a Request for Proposals will soon be written to solicit construction companies proposals. The new

building is tentatively scheduled to open by late summer 2006.

"We have some more work to do in terms of going through committees and so forth," Arshadi said.

While the University hopes some of the companies that will be housed in the new incubator will come from the talent and brains on the campus, UM-St. Louis will provide no financial support to any of the companies. They will be expected to "stand on their own two feet and hold their own," Arshadi said.

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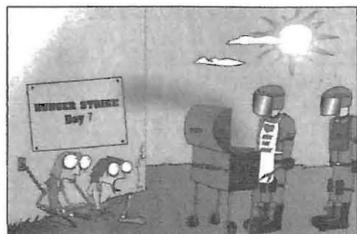
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Sports:  
Two tennis players make all-conference



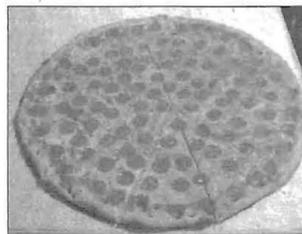
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Student activism is alive and well



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The amazing 30 inch pizza at Talayna's



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# Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

**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](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)  
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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## Announcements

### Tsunami Relief Effort

Contributions are being accepted for a UMSL Tsunami Relief Campaign, led by several faculty members and the Center for International Studies. Donations will be used to rebuild a secondary school in Sri Lanka destroyed in December by a tsunami. Checks can be made payable to UMSL. Send donations to 366 Social Sciences & Business Building. Click here or call 5426 for more information.

### 'Bellerive' submissions accepted until May 15

Submissions may include photography, artwork, short fiction, poetry and essays. Written entries should include a hard copy and disk copy. All entries should include a cover sheet with name, telephone number and e-mail address. Three Bellerive drop boxes are located at 484 Lucas Hall, 201 Fine Arts Building and the Pierre Laclède Honors College office. Call 6629 for more information.

### Mon. April 25

#### Fiction/Poetry Reading

UMSL graduate students Allison Creighton, Carol Niederlander, David Hollingsworth, Adam Cleary, Jason Rizos and Kendra Hayden will read from their fiction and poetry at 7:30 p.m. at Duff's, 392 N. Euclid Ave. The presentation is a semi-annual event in

the Master of Fine Arts in Writing program. E-mail [marytroj@umsl.edu](mailto:marytroj@umsl.edu) for more information.

### Tues. April 26

#### Bingo Extravaganza

Tuesday night in the Provincial House- South Campus, 7-10 p.m. Sponsored by Campus Rec. FREE BINGO! PRIZES! SNACKS! FUN FOR ALL! Students, faculty & staff welcome.

#### French Table

The French Table is an informal meeting place where francophiles can practice their French conversational skills for an hour. All levels of French speakers are welcome... look for the table marked with the French flag. Info: Call Beth Landers, 516-6546.

#### University Band at PAC

7:30 p.m. at the Des Lee Theater of the Touhill PAC. Call 5980 for more information.

### Wed. April 27

#### Wieners for Seniors

The Alumni Association is hosting the 1st Annual Wieners for Seniors April 27th, on the front lawn of the MSC from 11am - 2pm. Graduating seniors can come by for FREE hot dogs, T-Shirts, and remote control boat races in the MSC lakes.

#### UMSL Orchestra at PAC

The University Orchestra will per-

form at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill Center. The concert will include works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Missouri composer John Cheatham. The concert is free and open to the public, and it's sponsored by the Department of Music. Call 5980 for more information.

#### Art lecture

Joyce Shiller speaks at Gallery 210 on Bessie Lowenhaupt Paintings at 7 p.m.

### Thurs. April 28

#### Dance auditions

Auditions for the UMSL Dance Repertory will begin at 3 p.m. in the Whitaker Rehearsal Room at the Touhill Center. UMSL students and alumni may audition. Dancers will be taught floor progressions and a short movement combination. Dance attire is required. E-mail [alicia@umsl.edu](mailto:alicia@umsl.edu) for more information.

#### Art Exhibit Opens

Bessie Lowenhaupt: Drawing on Life, presents drawings, illustrated letters and graphic work by the St. Louis artist at the Mercantile Library. Lecture by Joyce Schiller on 'Bessie Lowenhaupt Drawings' at 7 p.m.

### Fri. April 29

#### Intramural Golf

The Campus Recreation intramural golf tournament will be held today at

St. Charles Golf Course, 500 Friedens Road. Participants may play nine holes for \$10 or 18 holes for \$18. No advance registration is necessary, and players may play at anytime during the day. Call 516-5326 or visit [www.umsl.edu/services/recsport](http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport) for more information.

### Mon. May 2

#### Summer 2005 Intensive French or Spanish Tests

In order to be approved for registration in intensive courses 2115, students must pass a general language aptitude test. To register, call the Foreign Languages and Literatures Office at 516-6240. You must register in order to take the test.

#### Free performance on domestic violence at PAC

The Troubling Violence Performance Project will present a performance about domestic violence at 7 p.m. May 3 in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Blanche M. Touhill PAC.

### Tues. May 3

#### Freestyle Jam Session

Come one, come all! The Chain of Arts are hosting a Freestyle Jam Session on the first intensive study day, so if you need a break or just want to hang with some creative people come on over. Bring an instrument (there are outlets if you need one), a poem, your voice, or chill out on a blanket on the MSC lawn and patio. Contact Stacy at [umslgal@aol.com](mailto:umslgal@aol.com) for more information.

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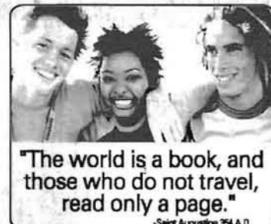
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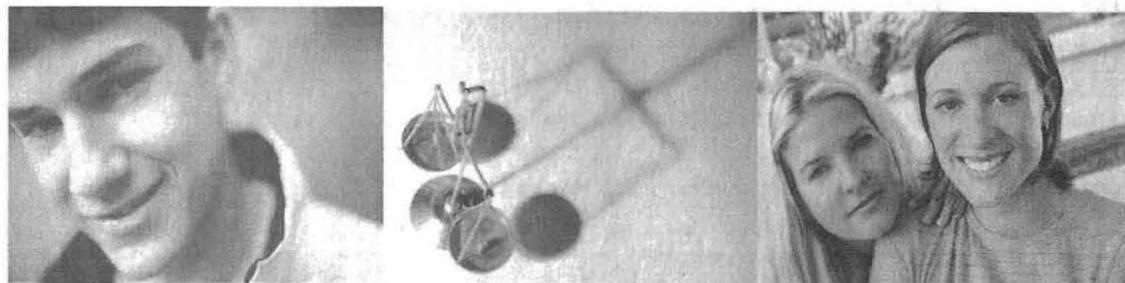
### INGREDIENTS:

Student Government Association Elections, AmerenUE, Julius Beckys, Mirthday, big pizza, Twista, softball, Great Lakes Valley Conference, baseball, hip hop journalism, Beck's new CD, UMSL alum, divorce, civil disobedience, Lam, Schaaf, Saini, summer internships, wieners for seniors, Plinko, Earth Day, Granger biology award, ink, paper, labor and truth.

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# Biology professor Granger wins Trustees Award

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
Staff Writer

Future students pursuing careers in the field of science recently received a boost with the addition of two new science education programs developed by a UM-St. Louis professor.

On Wednesday, April 13, Charles Granger, the curator's distinguished teaching professor and professor of biology and education at UM-St. Louis, received the Trustees Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis.

The award was presented at the Sheraton City Center in downtown as a part of the Academy of Science of St. Louis 2005 Outstanding St. Louis Scientists Award banquet. This year marks the eleventh annual banquet for the Academy of Science, the oldest science academy west of the Mississippi River.

"Dr. Granger, nationally recognized as a visionary science educator, is credited with founding and conducting two path-breaking statewide science education programs fostering the next generation of young scien-

...tist," reads the Academy of Science of St. Louis web page devoted to this year's award winners.

The web page goes on to say, "Over 30 years, more than 9,000 students have participated in the Junior Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium, while the George Engleman Mathematics and Science Institute has provided high-level science enrichment to more than 700 high school scholars."

The Academy of Science Trustees Award "recognizes dedication to the mission of improving scientific literacy," according to the pamphlet for the banquet.

Granger received the award for his work in creating two new major educational programs for young students.



Granger

The first program began with a grant from the National Science Foundation and was named the George Engleman Mathematics and Science Institute, after the founder of the Academy of Science of St. Louis.

The institute is now known as the Students and Teachers As Research Scientists program. STARS is a program that brings 48 high school students and 24 high school teachers from around the region and the country to St. Louis for several weeks over the summer and involves them in hands-on research.

The students work at UM-St. Louis, St. Louis University and Washington University. At the end of the program, students present their research, with some being published in scholarly journals. UM-St. Louis, Pfizer and Solutia fund the program.

"About a third of students go to each school," Granger said. "It works really well. It's probably one of the few partnerships that works really well among the three universities because we are all interested in promoting young people in the sciences."

The second program, Junior Science, Engineering and

Humanities Symposium, is held once a year in March.

The program brings 300 students and 65 teachers together for a symposium on student independent research, understanding of the scientific enterprise and interests in careers in science and math.

The Academy of Applied Science and the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy sponsor this program.

According to the Academy of Science, Granger was honored "for exemplary work in founding and developing high-level science enrichment programs for high school scholars and setting nationwide standards for science education."

Granger recently returned from Ecuador where he was lecturing on Naturalist Education Theory.

"The idea of how to increase science literacy, particularly among K-12, tells how you should sequence concepts in logical order to build cognitive structures that they can use," Granger said.

The Academy of Science of St. Louis promotes science literacy in the area. Granger is a fellow of the Academy of Science of St. Louis and currently serves as secretary.

# 'There's bleach in your blood' says researcher

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
Co-News Editor

Bleach can be found under your kitchen sink, in your bathroom and in your laundry detergent, but bleach can also be found in your blood, according to a visiting chemistry professor.

Michael Ashby, chemistry and biochemistry professor from the University of Oklahoma, took part in the chemistry and biochemistry department's weekly colloquium for graduate students last Monday.

His lecture, "There's Bleach in Your Blood," familiarized students with blood chemistry and the two-year research program he conducted with his undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students.

Ashby shared a presentation on redox cascades, a series of reactions that either oxidize or reduce chemical compounds and how they play a role in human physiology.

The origin of bleach, he explained, is in phagocytes, white blood cells that eat other microscopic organisms. The cell is transformed and takes in a lysosome, which contains the killing agents of phagocytes like bleach.

His experiments centered on the enzyme myeloperoxidase which produces bleach in the blood stream.

Bleach is an indiscriminate killing agent, which means it is not selective in what it kills. Because of bleach's indiscriminate nature, "what we use to clean out toilets probably isn't very healthy for our arteries," Ashby said.

Bleach itself is not effective. "It's the mechanism of brushing your teeth or scrubbing the tub that kills plaque or buildup," he said.

Instead of using bleach, Ashby covered two other substances called thiocyanate, that can be used as an antioxidant and hypothyroidism, which can be developed into effective antimicrobial compound.

Regarding thiocyanate as an antioxidant, Ashby said, "I proposed an expanded role for thiocyanate in physiological fluids." He said this proposal extended the reach of oxidizing equivalents to find more discriminate agents, unlike bleach.

As for hypothyroidism as an antimicrobial agent, Ashby said, "it's a role that's better embraced by the medical community as a main defense sys-

tem in saliva."

His team developed a reaction mechanism that led to a model that explains why hypothyroidism is an effective antimicrobial substance since models mentioned in previous scientific research are not always effective at normal human blood conditions.

The models could be used in inflammatory diseases such as cystic fibrosis and arteriosclerosis, where lesions form fatty streaks in blood vessels.

"A lot of people think that people die because the arteries are closed off, but actually your body adapts to the reduced flow of the blood," Ashby said. When people experience heart attacks, he explained, the lesions burst and cause blood clots.

"The main emphasis is that antimicrobial agents are being developed," he said. However, a problem exists with germ causing organisms that develop multidrug resistance, so, "there are no proper drugs to combat diseases."

Ashby said biocides that kill organisms like bleach provide an "alternative approach to drug development."

Dan Coleman, graduate student, chemistry, attended the colloquium, and while the lecture did not apply directly to his research, it applies to other areas of research. "It stimulates ideas for other people," he said.

Coleman enjoys hearing research shared by different scientists from different backgrounds. "This seminar series provides opportunities to see new research ideas from speakers from around the world and around the nation," he said.

Lawrence Barton, UM-St. Louis chemistry professor, said Ashby's research focus changed since he last visited the University in 1990.

"He has completely changed his research area to conform to current grant funding trends and has been very successful," Barton said. "He took five courses in biology at his own university to bring himself up to speed in the life science area and his talk suggested that he has done that very well."

Ashby's interest in inorganic chemistry includes inorganic and bioinorganic synthesis and mechanism, rapid kinetics method, which help scientists follow fast reactions and the microbiology of inorganic compounds.

# Students' research is put on display at symposium

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
Co-News Editor

Old North St. Louis, perceptions of race, and the effect menstrual cycles have on rating attractiveness were only a handful of the research projects presented in the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

The URS showcased research conducted by undergraduate students at UM-St. Louis. The event took place Friday, April 22 on the second and third floor rotundas of the Millennium Student Center.

The URS is a collection of undergraduate student research presentations in different areas of the arts and science programs. The event provided students a chance to share their research with faculty, staff, parents and other students.

Elizabeth Abraham, senior, psychology and URS chair, coordinated

the event. "It's an opportunity to show what they [students] have been working on and link students to faculty," she said.

The event also gave students practice for real life presentations. Abraham explained the symposium was meant to simulate a professional conference.

According to Abraham, about 65-70 students presented their research at the event through both oral and poster presentations.

One of the oral presentations focused on attracting and serving the Latin population at UM-St. Louis. Anna Jinkerson, senior, political science, Jacob Brown, senior, history and political science and Erin Block, senior, psychology presented their research entirely in Spanish.

Students, who chose not to opt for an oral presentation, created posters showing their work.

Joy Duff, senior, chemistry, made a poster that explained her research

involving performing experiments that tried to represent a biological cell. Her research tried to discover how toxins could destroy or disturb changes in surface pressure of a cell.

"My professor thought I should share what the chemistry department is up to," Duff said.

The URS not only featured science presentations, but research in anthropology, social work, history and psychology.

Gretchen Haupt, senior, anthropology, did a research project on insights into different perceptions of race. Haupt had freshmen Honors College students place different skin colors and tones into different categories and order.

She found students usually agreed on the lightest and darkest skin colors, but not on intermediate skin tones.

"There's no biological basis behind race," she said. "It's a social construction." Haupt hopes to pursue this study more for her thesis research.

Another presentation focused on fire injuries and death among children in low-income families. Kerri McKinney, senior, social work and Vena Stevens, junior, social work, conducted research on this topic.

"This started out as a class project, and we were then given the opportunity to visit the [Missouri] Capitol," McKinney said.

Both women found poverty, dangerous living conditions and a lack of safety education led to fire related injuries and death. McKinney also said Missouri has the lowest number of subsidiary houses in the nation.

In another poster presentation, three students worked with homes in Old North St. Louis for their project. Julie Strassman, senior, secondary education history, said her group researched the history of homes on two blocks in the Old North neighborhood.

see SYMPOSIUM, page 12

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# OPINION

## OUR OPINION

### The Current applauds WashU protest efforts

In the richest country in the world, why are employees of contract companies who provide services at Washington University underpaid? That is the question a student group known as the Student Worker Alliance posed to administrators as they conducted a hunger strike and sit-in at the admissions office.

Since April 4, students peacefully demonstrated their concern for contract workers at their university. While the hunger strike ended, the sit-in continued until students and the chancellor agreed on a proposal to improve wages and benefits for the college's contract workers. The compromise finally came last Friday after weeks of protest.

More than a dozen students grabbed the attention of legislators, labor groups and other people across the nation to rally support for providing contract workers at Washington University with living wage standards.

Along with Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal from University City and Stewart Acuff, national organizing director of AFL-CIO, we at *The Current* support the SWA in their goals and tactics sticking up for the individuals working in the lowest paying jobs at Washington University.

For one reason, their goal is noble and just. Washington University custodians and groundskeepers are paid \$7.75 and \$9.49 per hour respectively, according to the union that represents those workers.

Compared to the wages that custodians receive at UM-St. Louis, Washington University underpays its employees by about \$2 to \$4. Custodians at UM-St. Louis are paid between \$9.75 and \$11.51 per hour, while groundskeepers are paid \$9.75 to \$13.21 hourly.

The St. Louis Board of Aldermen set the minimum living wage at \$9.79 per hour with benefits. Wages ought to cover the cost of basic needs, and when Washington University cannot meet the standards of the Board of Aldermen, students have a right to protest.

This peaceful sit-in is a protest for social justice. Students expressing an honorable and selfless passion for helping those who cannot even afford the basic necessities is a cause worth supporting. It makes us proud that students express their concern for others less for-

tunate. Due to the declining power of minimum wage and an increased number of contract workers falling below the poverty line, this protest is a step in the right direction to reverse the trend. Often these contract jobs are crucial to smoothly running a university.

Directly hired employees at Washington University receive substantial wages and benefits, so why contract employees are segregated from receiving the same pay as those directly hired is difficult to understand.

Students argue that it is well within Washington University's budget to pay contract workers what the Board of Alderman deems necessary. Budget cuts should not come from those at the lowest paying levels, and should not be at those workers' expenses.

The sit-in and hunger strike at Washington University followed other student protests this Spring. *The Current* Editorial Board is relieved that administrators finally agreed to meet and compromise. We had hoped for a similar outcome to a student protest at Harvard in April 2001, where the longest campus protest in history took place.

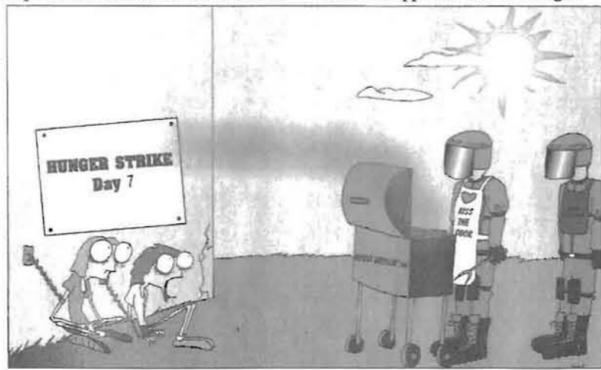
Forty students participated in a sit-in at the Harvard president's office for 21 days. Their protest paid off as Harvard administrators gave security guards and food service workers \$10.25 per hour and benefits.

In 2003, six students at Stanford participated in a seven-day hunger strike for better wages, benefits and compensation for their contract workers.

This Spring at Georgetown University, students ended their nine-day hunger strike when the administration agreed for 742 of their school's contract workers to enjoy better wages and benefits.

These protests are in no way meant to form a movement among universities nationwide. Sit-ins and hunger strikes are not always necessary to be heard by the president or chancellor of a college, but certain situations do warrant firm protests of this variety.

Civil disobedience has its place in bargaining throughout American history. As students from Washington University have said, support from others makes their own support that much stronger.



#### The Issue

A group of Washington University students recently staged an 18 day protest. The group fought for increased wages for university contract workers.

#### We suggest

We support the efforts of the students and applaud their unwavering protest. The protest ended on Friday after university officials agreed to compromise.

#### So what do you think?

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

### Splitsville home to half of U.S.

Divorce is usually the last issue floating around the mind of a couple as they plan their wedding. However, a research assignment yielding ominous statistics and a meeting with my fiancé and priest last week led me to consider the status of American relationships.

I joked and warned my fiancé that once we said "I do," he would be stuck with me for eternity. I don't expect or intend for us to end up as ex's, but the numbers scare me. Multiple sources state the divorce rate in this country has soared to 50 percent. How can we survive the marital minefield without getting blown up? What factors influence or contribute to the rising population of Splitsville?

An article at [divorcesource.com](http://divorcesource.com) blames divorce on poor communication, financial problems and lacking commitment. The author advises couples to communicate openly and directly, set financial goals, make money-related decisions together and make an effort to maintain and grow the relationship.

Ted Huston, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, started examining couple relationships in 1981. Huston's acclaimed investigation yielded four clear categories.

According to the UT-Austin website, married couples who billed themselves as "happy" experienced relatively positive pre-marriage relations. Successful pairs also regarded each other as friends and romantic partners.

Couples who considered their relationship "unhappy" also had "low-key courtships," but experienced some personality conflicts.

Huston's third category, "Country Music Romances," split anywhere between the second and seventh year of matrimony. These couples often thought that marriage would resolve their differences.

The final marriage group suffered after the honeymoon harmony and frequent "crazy in love" feelings subsided. They divorced after seven years and blamed decreased affection for their separation.

What can an engaged couple glean

from this information? Unrealistic expectations appear to increase dissatisfaction among couples, like the notion that a partner's annoying habits or behavior will magically cease after the ceremony.

Of course, we can always criticize Hollywood for America's popular perception of wedded bliss, but couples also have to exercise some common sense. Euphoric adoration devoid of conflict isn't just unreal; it's unhealthy and weird.

If you never bicker or get annoyed by random quirks, you probably don't know your partner well enough. At fiftieth wedding anniversaries, couples don't toast to half a decade of smooth sailing, because lasting relationships aren't built on perfection. They're built on endurance and evolution.

Huston's research also seems to indicate that constant, unchanging affection should not be the lifeblood of a marriage. As individuals mentally enter different stages of their lives, they may experience physical changes as well. Psychologists have noticed a dip in sexual activity around the four year mark of a relationship, which can be attributed to factors such as hormone production. Children, career stress and personal issues can also contribute to changes in intimacy and affection. Unless his leather jacket and fancy wheels will keep you satisfied for the next fifty years, don't base the entire relationship solely on the bedroom, because chances are the latter will change in some respect.

I managed to find my keeper in high school, but we've gotten to know each other over the past five years without a desperate race toward marriage. Every couple operates on a different timeline, but all should be sure they're ready to "leave the game" before walking down the aisle.

Half of married couples get divorced. Increasing our awareness of the problems we will inevitably face as partners can only help defeat marital failure. Love plays an essential role in marriage, but it's not just made of sweet smelling roses. I look forward to the day my future husband and I toast to 50 years of it all: the better, the worse and the friendship.



**KATE DROLET**  
Editor-in-Chief

### End of semester piles on stress

I have recently found myself worrying about a hundred things all at once. End of the semester projects, summer jobs and internships, helping plan a wedding and planning end of the semester get-togethers are all taking over my life. While I find myself thinking about these hundred things all at the same time, I know I am not the only person feeling these end of the semester stresses.

It is often easy to get involved with too many things at a time, but you just have to deal with it when it all comes upon you. Burnout starts taking effect on many people when the end of the semester nears. Knowing that summer is just a few weeks away makes students think about their plans for the summer. While some are considering where they are going on vacation, others are looking for jobs and internships.

Remembering that the semester is nearing its end should give you motivation to finish all of those papers and projects and start on the job hunting. It is a stressful time; however, there are many things you should do to keep yourself from overloading. Do not try to take on too much at once, but remember that a little bit of stress is good for you.

Be sure you are getting enough sleep. One of the biggest mistakes college students make is forgetting about sleeping. Do not wait until the night before that eight-page paper is due to start it. Get it done early, even if it means staying in from going out one night. You will thank yourself later. Sleeping rejuvenates and gives you energy to write those papers and pay attention in classes and at work. You would be surprised

how upbeat you will be after a good night's sleep. The only person who knows how much sleep you need is you, so keep that in mind.

Do not let things take your life over. Splurge and go out on at least one weekend night. Everyone needs to have fun once in a while. Although you may feel better that you stayed home and did school work all weekend, you also may stress yourself out even more. Go to a Cardinals game with a group of friends or walk around the park with your dog. As I said before, avoiding procrastination will cut down on a majority of the stress you give yourself. It will feel so good to get those papers written or that project done before it is due. You can then think about your plans for the summer earlier than you expected.

Personally, I think one of the best ways to de-stress is to workout. While everyone has their own methods,

I think working out gives you a rejuvenated feeling of accomplishment. Not only is it a good way to get your mind off of things, but it is good for your body. Everyone should participate in some form of exercise to stay in shape and healthy.

There are only a couple of weeks left in the semester, so try and keep it together until then. Many students are running at a hundred miles an hour right now trying to keep up with everything, but it will soon be over. Try to get enough sleep and know your limits. If you are graduating and moving on to bigger and better things, you may encounter even more stresses, but that is alright. Go to a spa and get a massage every once in a while or dedicate a certain night of the week to staying in and watching TV.



**BECKY ROSNER**  
Managing Editor

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

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

## What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've covered?
- The Current applauds protestors
  - Splitsville home to half of U.S.
  - Semester's end piles on stress
- You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!
- Submit a letter to the editor
  - Write a guest commentary
  - Visit the online forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

## Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Photography Associate

What does MIRTH mean?



**Tim Schmidt**  
Junior  
Music

What does MIRTH mean?  
If I tell ya, I'd have to kill ya...



**Sean Hunter**  
Freshman  
Mechanical Engineering

Isn't it supposed to be a term for happiness or something equally ridiculous?



**Jennifer Jenks**  
Chiropractor  
Ferguson

I think I kind of know. It's like uninhibited happiness right? An expression of joy? I guess I should have looked it up...



**Michelle Pierson**  
Senior  
Communications

It's like a rebirth; a new starting, a new beginning; a joyous occasion.

SCIENCE COLUMN

# Do we still love Mother Earth?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Science Columnist

This year is the thirty-fifth anniversary of Earth Day, that day set aside to think about how we treat our home planet. There used to be an old bumper sticker that had a picture of the planet from space and the message "Love Your Mother," meaning "Mother Earth," of course. How well have we loved Mother Earth since the first Earth Day? The date for international Earth Day was April 22, 2005, but typically local events spill over into neighboring weekends. St. Louis has Earth Day events scheduled for Forest Park on Sunday, May 1, 2005, which seems more like the traditional May Day. I did see a listing in the events for Morris dancers (Celts, take heart!) but, alas, I did not see a listing for dancing around the May Pole

too. While activities like storytelling and crafts with recycled materials might be fun, especially for children, the events seem to have become more focused on nature-themed fun and corporate sponsorships than on a big push to help old Mother Earth. Don't get me wrong, Pedro's Planet and Whole Foods are great companies, and the other sponsors are also good businesses and worthy organizations. But it is just more a festival than a call to action. By contrast, on the first Earth Day, scientists and concerned citizens focused attention on serious environmental concerns, to raise public awareness and to also ask government and businesses to act. That seems to have been mostly lost in present day celebrations. Earth Day celebrations still talk about renewable energy and recycling for that day, but what about the rest of the year?

Let us look at how some of the concerns about Mother Earth have fared in the past thirty-five years.

Recycling: We only have a limited amount of material resources on the planet, because it is a finite place, and also a limited amount of places to put trash, especially the kind that lasts for long periods of time. So re-using and recycling makes sense, and the more people participate, the better. The good news is that many municipalities now

offer curbside recycling and many people do this. Unfortunately, it does not seem to be a growing trend anymore and industry is slow to move towards buying up recycled materials. Some skeptics (I am sure I will hear from one) point out that some recycling can use as much energy as producing a new item, but this logic misses part of the point: to reduce the amount of landfill waste. Re-using and repairing things, instead of tossing them out, keeps them out of the landfill longer.

One of the things I liked about the movie "Robots" was that it was about repairable things versus disposable things. Earlier in the twentieth century, everybody used to re-use things and most things that broke could be repaired. That changed in the '50s and '60s, with wide introduction of disposable items. Now, fewer and fewer things can be repaired instead of being replaced. It seems only cars and a few major appliances are repaired, and nearly everything else is built to be disposable. That might be good business for the manufacturers of replaceable, non-repairable things but repair people and replacement parts are businesses, too. A quicker trip to the junk yard just means more junk overall.

see [www.TheCurrentOnline.com](http://www.TheCurrentOnline.com) for the rest of Catherine's column.

INTERN DIARIES

# Gary's 'perp' makes it to NBC set



GARY SOHN  
New York Correspondent

Mathew Perry from the television show "Friends" once said, "I love the idea of 'the one,' but I actually believe there isn't a Mrs. Right. There are 12,000 Mrs. Rights out there, and it's all timing."

Dragging my suitcase full of clothes to wardrobe, I was both excited and nervous about being on "Third Watch."

I lined up in front of the door to wardrobe, already dressed in clothes that I thought made me look like a 'perp.' I had on a torn dark gray shirt, faded black pants, a blue stocking cap and heavy black coat. I even did some method acting and decided not to wear boxers so that I could feel miserable and uncomfortable. I figure bad guys are too busy staying out late and breaking laws and don't have time to do

laundry. If I were a bad guy, why would I wear underwear? I didn't shave either, which gave me an even grittier look.

Several other actors waited in line to play a bad guy, but the set wasn't big enough for all of us. The casting directors always over-cast so they have a wide range of people to choose from. A production assistant chooses which background people the director will use based on various factors such as ethnicity, height, weight and tie color (one actor was told to change his tie because it was "too stripey"). You never really know what they're looking for, but every minute in the holding area and on set is a constant auditioning process. I needed them to believe that I was their "bad guy."

A wardrobe woman gave me a gown with an open back and hospital slippers. I would play two parts: 'perp' and patient.

My lack of underwear made me worry about the open back in the patient outfit. I wondered if I had a pair of boxers in my bag. I looked through my suitcase and decided that I have the worst luck in the world. I would have to bear my soul...and bottom.

One of the many privileges that a SAG, or Screen Actors Guild, member gets over a non-union actor is the right to eat first. Unaware of the dining hierarchy, I jumped in line behind the crew and started loading my plate with shrimp, chicken parmesan, salad and cheesecake. One of

the SAGs, a grumpy old prop who was taking her sweet time knitting a scarf instead of getting dinner, ratted me out. A union representative next to the tattletale approached and asked me if I was a SAG. I replied that I was not.

"If you want to stay out of trouble, next time you better let all the SAGs go first," he warned.

We had been waiting for five hours and I hadn't eaten lunch. Background people can be on set for up to eighteen hours.

During dinner, I found myself sitting next to an attractive, friendly SAG named Ann. I told her about my incident with the dinner line SAG hag.

"Some people get a big head around here just because they're union," she said. "She's probably been an extra for fifteen or twenty years and is bitter that she never made it big."

I guess nobody wants to be a prop forever. Ann and I talked for a while about show business and our favorite movies. She told me that she has been doing background work for about three years now and was trying to break the stereotypical Asian cast parts (martial artists, doctors and Chinese delivery people).

"I want to play romantic parts like Julia Roberts and Claire Danes. Could you see me in 'Pretty Woman' or 'Titanic'?" she asked.

see [www.TheCurrentOnline.com](http://www.TheCurrentOnline.com) for the rest of Gary's column.

GUEST COMMENTARY

# Stallings suggests change in PAC booking after Mirthday problems

I watched a line of people zig zag from the lobby area to outside of J. C. Penney. A B&D staff member monitored the capacity of the J. C. Penney auditorium with a counter in hand. As the auditorium filled, the security guard shook his head at the possibility of all of the concert-goers watching Twista perform. After a final head count inside of the J. C. Penney auditorium, the unrest found its footing.

"We've reached capacity. You will not be able to get in," an administrator shouted.

"Bullshit," one student erupted.

The student talked to others standing in line about starting a protest. The students nodded their heads to her rant as though listening to the percussive hits of a Twista track. Another student called me on my mobile phone to ask about the con-

cert-capacity issue.

"What's this I hear about them not letting anyone else in?" she asked. I confirmed the speculation.

"That ain't right," she said in an incensed tone. I apologized then she hung up. The students continued to wait in line, seething every passing second. I walked over to fan the flame.

"Twista shouldn't be in a small venue like J. C. Penney when we pay for every seat of the 1,600 person capacity Touhill Performing Arts Center," I said quietly. "We should start a petition to make sure this doesn't happen again."

The students nodded their head. One student announced to others that she will be taking names as soon as she gets a pen and some paper.

"Everyone must clear the space," a

campus officer shouted, "Exit immediately!"

The sense of protest, or outrage, was in the air. Students and community members marched toward the doors. A friend of mine, also in line, didn't heed the command and walked up to me.

"Why can't I get in and they're getting in?" he asked, pointing to students who had 'backstage' passes.

"Because of that slip of paper," I replied. He shook his head.

"All those little kids got it and not me? This should be for the UMSL students before the community," he vented. "This is a free concert on us."

I couldn't help but agree. I spoke with more students waiting by the doors. It was an anger-fest bubbling with complaints. I moved the conversation from J. C.

Penney to a critique of the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

"We pay over \$250,000 for a concert venue Twista's not performing in," I said. "Why use J.C. Penney when we have the Touhill Performing Arts Center?"

More head nodding. At that moment I thought about a petition I wrote up with the help of some students back in March. Originally, the students organizing Mirthday wanted a national act (such as Twista) to perform in the PAC. The PAC resisted, making many excuses before finally citing scheduling conflicts as problematic for hosting Twista. I suspected otherwise. I perceived this as a generational divide between what the PAC wants to book and what the students want to see.

Once I found out that the PAC was not

allowing hip hop performances on their stage for Mirthday, I started an email account called "HipHop at TPAC." I collected email addresses of supportive students and gave updates of discussions had between the PAC and the Mirthday organizers. Below are some of the notes I emailed to students about the final meeting had between the Mirthday organizers and the PAC. The bracketed comments are edits I made of the original email.

TPAC took control from the opening seconds of the meeting. They diffused the anti-hiphop issue by saying it would not be to their benefit financially to deny hip hop. The reason [a hip hop act] didn't get booked at TPAC was due to technical problems (TPAC's lack of a security plan and conflict in scheduling). Someone representing TPAC criticized their volunteer

ushers as being too "geriatric" (to use their words) to work [a hip hop] event. [They also discussed not having a bar to serve alcohol to the hip hop audience].

I asked them to identify their target market. [Someone representing TPAC] answered, "Everybody is the target market." Someone else asked when TPAC anticipated having a hip hop show. [The TPAC representative] answered, "in the future." According to the people of TPAC, they have 22 dates booked for [next year] but none are hip hop. TPAC was very agreeable about hip hop at TPAC, if it's profitable and paid for by someone else. They're looking for different student organizations and/or departments to produce shows [to reduce the financial risk].

see **TWISTA**, page 9

DON'T LEAVE EARTH WITHOUT IT.

THE HITCHHIKERS' GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

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FEATURES



## Graduate student M.K. Stallings uses a musical context to teach kids about journalism

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES  
Staff Writer

From April 23 to May 14, youth between the ages of 12 to 16 will be invited to participate in the Corner Pocket Magazine Program, a hip-hop journalism workshop presented by the Urban Alliance for Child Development.

Students will meet on Saturday mornings from 10 to 1 p.m. at UM-St. Louis. A continental breakfast will be provided and UM-St. Louis will provide students with a notebook, paper, pencil and computer access. During the workshop, students will engage in editorial sessions, multimedia lectures, research, article preparation and writing. The workshop is open to approximately 10 students.

CPM is a UAACD non-profit corporation and an after-school program supported in part by the Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission and Boeing Community Fund. The corporation was formed to promote the arts, education, social services and economics. It seeks to enhance the cultural and social well being of youth through art-based programs.

MK Stallings, UM-St. Louis graduate student, sociology, founded UAACD in 2001. Stallings' writing experiences include writing for the St. Louis American Newspaper and The Current. Stallings also writes grants for the non-profit organization, as well as poetry. Stallings also does the research for the youth.

Stallings said that he founded UAACD because he wanted to do something for young people in terms of setting up a youth organization where they can grow.

"I've always been interested in the arts, in particular writing and perhaps some performing arts," Stallings said. "UAACD serves as a vehicle for me to personally realize some of my goals of giving back and to help those people who are like me when I was younger, meaning someone who is interested in their cultural development."

Brandon Moten, senior, communication, said the hip-hop journalism workshop is a great idea and will give writing a fresh new twist and keep it interesting.

Stallings said that one big emphasis for UAACD at the present time is hip-hop as a culture rather than a musical genre. Stallings said that there is a lot of scholar-

ship in hip-hop, which allows UAACD to broaden the youth's conversation and writings to a cultural perspective.

The participants of the workshop will write articles that will be published in Corner Pocket Magazine, a youth culture piece that will be circulated quarterly.

Stallings said that UAACD is also extending its invitation to those students released from juvenile detention centers so that they may continue their program with UAACD.

"You meet a lot of intelligent young people who just don't have the same opportunities as others or they don't take advantage, so we want to extend this piece to them," said Stallings.

Despite the fact that the program was originally designed for youth who had been adjudicated or detained, those who will be participating in this year's workshop do not fall into that category.

"The goal is for the young people to be critiqued more than anything," Stallings said. "Hip-hop has a reach that's beyond the CD."

For more information about the hip-hop journalism workshops or to receive an application call 314-516-4833.

## A taste for success

Alum, current student team up to start local catering business

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Editor

A UM-St. Louis alum and his fiancé, a current UM-St. Louis student, have pursued their entrepreneurial dream by establishing their own St. Louis business.

Randy Schneider and Karissa Gilkison, senior, graphic arts, combined their ideas to create a local restaurant catering service.

Schneider said that while he was employed for one of the top catering companies in St. Louis as a catering driver, he began to suggest new ideas for the business and wanted to move up within the company. However, there were no open positions available for him to advance. After having to get a home loan, he bounced from job to job but was never as satisfied as he had been with catering.

"One day I was driving by a restaurant I had worked for in the past, realized that they didn't have a very good catering department, thought of the idea that I could create one and went home and talked about it with my fiancé and then presented it to my former employer," Schneider said. "He loved the idea and promised me a salary after I created the new catering department."

Schneider said that after working there for a year, his employer broke his promise to pay him.

"My fiancé and I took this negative and turned it into a positive when we realized that we could do the same thing for many restaurants and house them under one roof called Catering Concepts. We then took the concept to a lawyer, made it legal, got insurance, invested money to get started, bought equipment, began recruiting restaurants and then taught ourselves how to develop the web pages," he said.

Catering Concepts eventually turned into Randy's Catering, where he and Gilkison began developing all of the recipes and expanding with other St. Louis restaurants.

Schneider said that because he was raised in a family of entrepreneurs, he learned the fierce passion to always do his own thing, not to be afraid of taking chances, and know that he could do it better and different to fit his own personality.

**Creative Minds Catering**

www.creativeminds-inc.com

see ALUMNI, page 7

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

the week's  
**best bets**

Wed. April 27

Wieners for Seniors

Just the name makes this event worth attending. If you're a (graduating, hopefully) senior, come to the MSC lakes between 11 and 2 p.m. With boat races, free hot dogs and t-shirts, it'll be easy to forget about the post-graduation job search, at least for a little while.

Mon. May 2

Free Dance Performance at the Touhill

The UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory will perform "Dance in the Raw," the Dance Department's final exam for its students. This is one final exam you'll definitely not want to miss. Open to the public, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Des Lee auditorium of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Theater. And, oh, yeah, it's free.

## Mirthday is welcome pre-finals break



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Leah Thomas, freshman, undecided, gets help from the Catholic Newman Center's campus minister Bobby Wassel while playing "Plinko" at Mirthday on Wednesday afternoon.

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Editor

During this year's Mirthday, students wandered from booth to booth, playing games, collecting prizes, munching on popcorn, sipping smoothies, eating sno-cones and just enjoying a day of relaxation before final exams.

Over 65 UM-St. Louis facilities, campus clubs and organizations participated in the celebrations. Some of the organizations that held booths and participated in Mirthday

2005 included Student Life, Residential Life, The Catholic Newman Center, Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Pi, Horizons, Amnesty International, Helping Hands, Flames Dance Team, Gallery Visio, Health Services, Career Services, International Students Incorporated, STAT, Anthropology Club, Chain of Arts, Golden Key and the Pre-Vet Club.

All of the campus organizations that participated handed out fliers promoting their group, supplied information about their

actions and organized some games for others.

Ring toss, balloon pop, darts, twister, basketball challenge, plinko, roulette, water balloon toss, bowling and the duck pick were only a few of the games that gave students the chance to win prizes. Players won prizes such as keychains, T-shirts, dice, candy, cups, candles, picture frames, stuffed animals and CDs. Other booths held drawings for iPods, computer accessories and gift baskets.

see MIRTHDAY, page 12

## St. Louis has wide range of internships for summer

BY MAEGHAN BROWN  
Staff Writer

Numerous companies throughout the St. Louis area are accepting applications for summer interns. Students can gain experience in the field they are studying by interning with a local company.

There are many online resources available to help students find or select an internship program that they might catch their interest. One resource can be found at www.wetfeet.com. This website offers a listing of available openings, information about job responsibilities, company history details and contact information.

One of the listed intern programs is through the St. Louis Butterfly House. The Butterfly House has openings for special event interns and guest and volunteer services.

Ever wonder what it would be like to work for a major film company? Warner Brothers offers an online marketing intern program for students to assist with promoting new movies, marketing planning strategies, organizing press releases and setting up local and nationwide promotions.

The YMCA Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood have interning programs such as community sport and activity coordinators, financial development, graphic design, marketing, tourism and event planning and hospitality positions. The Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood seek interns to complete 12 to 16 programs and are located approximately an hour and a half from St. Louis.

see INTERNSHIPS, page 7

**SGA ELECTIONS, from page 1**

Dodd said that while he believes his campaign worked "longer and harder" than his competitors, in the end the decision came down to popularity. "D'Andre is very well known and very well liked," Dodd said. He said he plans to stay involved with student government and he will have more time to devote to organizations he is interested in, particularly the international business club.

Students also had the chance to vote on several referenda. They passed the SGA constitution amendment recommended by the Operations and Rules Committee by a vote of 587-108.

A closer vote of 552-391 approved a \$2 per semester fee for the Collegiate Readership Program while The Current's direct fee request of \$1.25 per semester failed, 541-418.

The 13 student members of the University Assembly (Student Senate) were also elected at large. Out of a field of 18 candidates, voters chose Tracy Addison, Amanda Altman, Ann Chisholm, Mary Ann Coker, Maria Curtis, Joe Garavaglia, Damien Johnson, Mark King, Nick Koechig, Laura Marsch, Tiffany Patton, Cadence Rippetto and Diana Watkins.

A record turnout of more than a thousand people voted in this year's elections. "This is the highest turnout ever," Flees said. "I think there was



Mike Sherwin/The Current

**David Dodd, junior, international business, and Alumna Elizabeth Grindstaff work with sidewalk paint to drum up support for Dodd's campaign for SGA President. Dodd came in second, 93 votes behind D'Andre Braddix.**

more campaigning this year with all the candidates and Mirthday."

In the past couple years, election results have been contested. Candidates have two business days

or 24 hours after they find out about a problem to appeal.

"As of [Friday morning], we haven't had any complaints or appeals," Jan Mayer, senior, commu-

nication, and chair of the Elections Committee, said. "Any problems that came up we straightened up beforehand and took care of and informed the candidates."

**ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR, from page 6**

His family greatly influenced him: his grandparents were craftsmen and owned their own shops in the shoe and clothing business, his uncle and aunt owned a grocery and delicatessen business and his parents had a "mom and pop" corner grocery store.

A 1992 alum with a psychology degree, he said UM-St. Louis played a valuable part in his life.

"I took a business, marketing, media and finance class. I also learned how to interact better and understand people by majoring in psychology," he said. "I feel that going to UMSL helped me realize

that as long as I was prepared, did my research and believed in myself, I could ace the test; not only in school, but life as well."

Gilkison shared her own feelings about attending UM-St. Louis and how it has helped in the "business world."

"All of my studio art and graphic design classes have given me an excellent platform to create the image of our own company. I have learned great skills and techniques with computer programs, gained invaluable experience through class work and have been given very constructive guidance by knowledge-

able professors," Gilkison said. "Most importantly though, I have recognized that an education and the ability to create is most rewarding when extended beyond the classroom and into the real world."

One of the company's goals is to empower, educate and help as many people as possible to make a lifestyle change based on dietary intake that will change their lives forever. Some of the services that Randy's Catering offers include providing people in parties of over 50 with wholesome and natural foods made for a modern diet. The catering company does drop-off service

deliveries and hosts large banquets or special events with buffet-style food.

Other services that their company provides are free Internet advertising for local restaurants, online catering menus, web development opportunities and health consultations. The company also has an out-call center for accredited massage and body work practitioners.

Schneider said that people should always follow their heart and dreams and never give up.

To find out more information about Randy's Catering, log onto [www.creativeminds-inc.com](http://www.creativeminds-inc.com).

**IT INCUBATOR, from page 1**

"We want to keep start-ups very separate from the University," Kratochvil said.

The Office of Research is continually involved in writing grant proposals on various topics. The idea for an IT incubator was the natural progression of a growing IT department at UM-St. Louis.

"Along with the Chancellor, we think we are very strong in the IT area in the campus. We are basically try-

ing to leverage our strength in IT and take it to a higher level," Arshadi said.

Many businesses have already shown interest in partnerships with the incubator. Boeing has shown interest in sponsoring start-ups and Dell and Intel may provide hardware support.

"We are really trying to create opportunities here for our professors, graduate students and really the local economy," Arshadi said.

**INTERNSHIPS, from page 6**

Although this program is unpaid, students receive free meals and free housing is available. Besides searching online for internship availabilities, students can also contact a company that they are interested in and ask if there are openings.

Other companies that hire interns include: FOX, Anheuser-Busch, Boeing and the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Sami Johnson, junior, accounting, said, "I don't plan on taking an internship this summer, but I will in the future. Most businesses like new grads with internships, it's how you get your foot in the door."

FOX news team KTVI Channel 2 wants juniors and seniors to participate in The FOX 2 Internship Program. FOX 2 is looking for dedicated students with strong broadcast aspirations. They must be enthusiastic, creative, work well with a variety of people and be able to take constructive criticism.

Students that are interested in interning at FOX 2 must be juniors or seniors, must receive academic credit for the internship, and must be majoring in communications or a related field. Summer interns must be able to work 20-25 hours per week. Students

that are interested in participating in these programs can call the main office at 314-647-2222 and ask for the internship coordinator within the department.

Anheuser-Busch is another recognized company that accepts interns. The company has locations all over the United States, from right here in St. Louis to Tampa. Visit [www.buschjobs.com](http://www.buschjobs.com) for more information.

Boeing has opportunities all over the country as well. With new technology developing everyday, Boeing lets students intern side-by-side with their best engineers. Visit [www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com) for more information on internships.

Missouri Botanical Gardens also has several internships for students. Steve Gunther, senior, business administration, is one of the 16,000 UM-St. Louis students who has completed an internship. "I interned for a furniture company in Florida. I worked side-by-side with the owner and I learned a lot from the intern experience," he said. These companies are accepting applications everyday. Students can also find more internships by visiting UM - St. Louis's website and going to career services.

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# Baseball continues downhill slide

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

As the season progresses one would have to wonder when the Rivermen baseball team is ever going to get back on track. At the present pace they are setting they will finish below .500 for the first time in over twenty years and it would also mark the first time in coach Brady's career that he has seen a losing season.

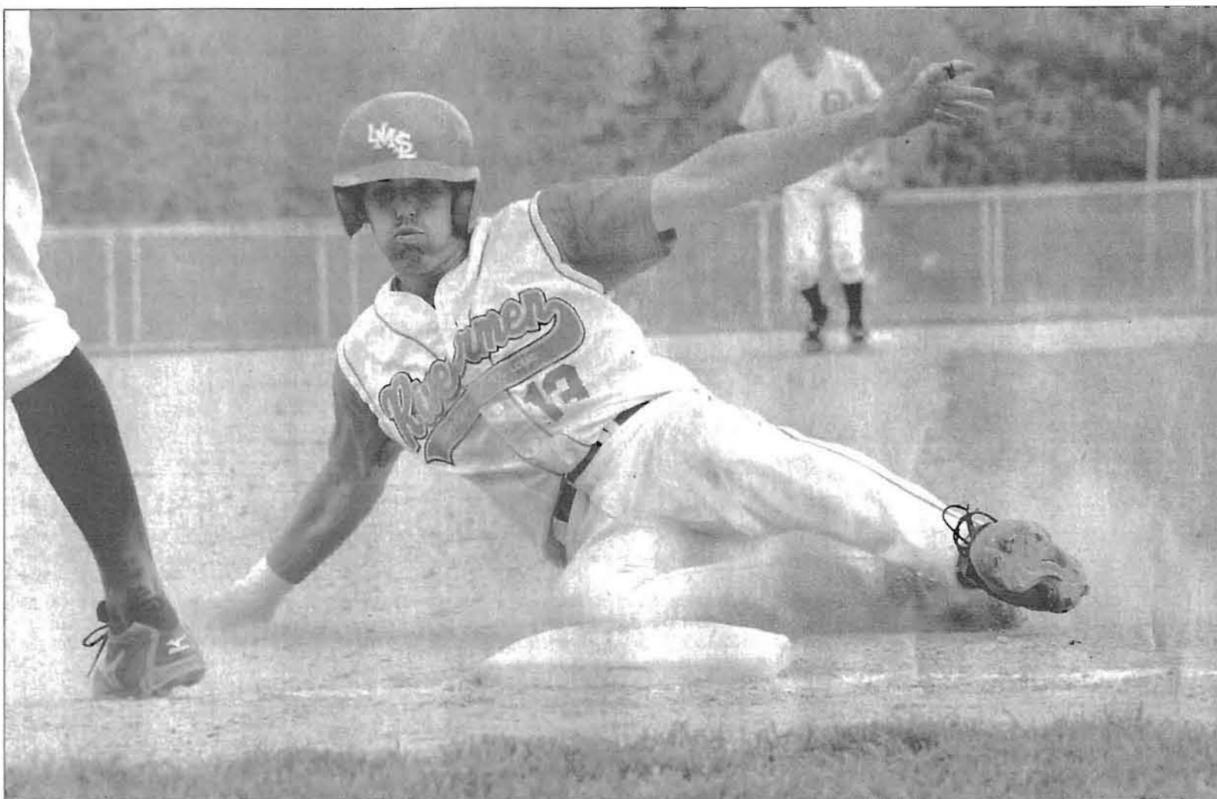
The Rivermen had lost 20 of their last 22 games heading into this weekend's match-up with conference foe Indianapolis. The last time these two met head to head the Rivermen took three out of four games, but then again that was last season.

In the first of two games, the Rivermen found themselves in an early hole as they gave Indianapolis three runs over the first two innings. They then proceeded to give up another two runs only two innings later to run the score to 5-0. One of the faults of the team this season is that they have had trouble coming back from deficits and this game ended up no different. Colby Hughes and Jonathan Tate were the only two players who could manage to help pitcher Steven McCoy with run support, as they both drove in a run a piece in the top of the eighth inning.

The Rivermen only managed to put up two runs in the eighth inning. The Rivermen would lose to Indianapolis by the final score of 5-2, as they got out hit by the margin of 8 to 5 in the losing effort.

Rivermen team member Colby Hughes commented on the game. "We have had trouble getting out of the gates this year. Every game we seem to give up a few runs to the other team, but it is just enough to put us out of the game," said Hughes.

During the second game the Rivermen made things interesting as



Rivermen shortstop Josh Thomas slides into third during the seventh inning on Wednesday. Thomas was tagged out at home to close out the game with a 2-1 loss to Quincy.

they grabbed the early lead this time. The team managed to get runs in three of the first five innings and jump out to a 4-1 lead after giving up a single run to Indianapolis in the bottom half of the first inning. During that stretch the Rivermen got a two-run single from outfielder Mark Sanders, which pushed the lead to 4-1 at the time.

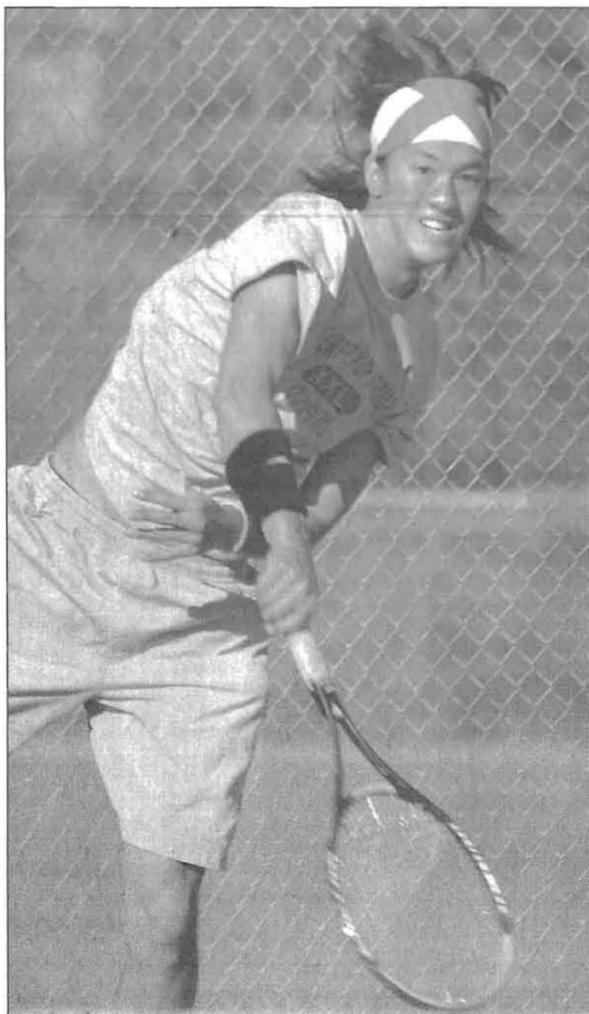
As things were starting to look up for the Rivermen, they came down just as quickly in the bottom half of the sixth and seventh innings as they gave up three runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh to lose their lead and find themselves in a familiar spot, down by two runs heading into the last two innings. The team would only manage one hit

over the last two innings and could not manage to get back into the game as they would lose yet another by the score of 6-4.

Outfielder Mark Sanders spoke about the loss. "We played well the first few innings and things were starting to look up for us. After that we got ourselves into another hole and we weren't able to

come out of it," said Sanders.

The team has lost 20 out of the last 22 games now and their hopes for making the conference tournament are looking slimmer and slimmer every game. The Rivermen will hope that their end of the year will pay off as they play 14 more regular season games to try and get into the conference tourney.



Francis Lam takes a swing. Lam was awarded All-Conference team honors last week at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament where UM-St. Louis finished fourth.

## Lam, Schaaf named all-conference

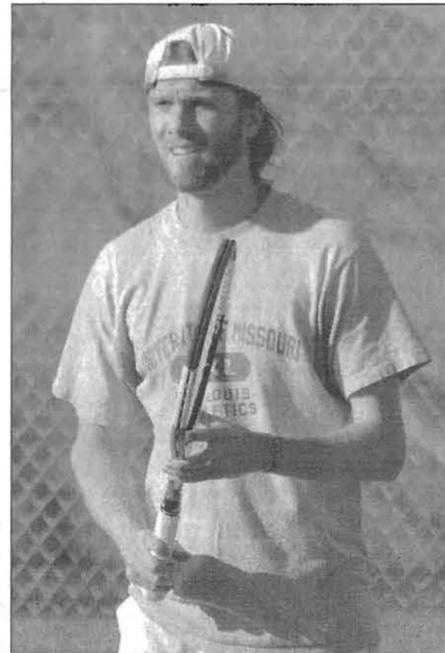
BY BRYAN BOEDEKER  
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team finished their season last week by finishing fourth at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. However, two players from the team were named All-Conference selections. Francis Lam, sophomore, and Mike Schaaf, junior, were both voted onto the Great Lakes Valley All-Conference team by the league coaches. It is the second year in row Schaaf is an all-conference selection and the first for Lam.

Lam played most of this season at the number one position, a spot reserved for a team's top player. He finished the year with an overall record of 12-7. Included in that are impressive records in both number one spot matches (10-3) and conference play (6-1). Lam led the team with his 12 wins and also managed a 9-6 mark, 5-1 in conference, in doubles matches with partner Raj Saini.

"It is obviously nice to be recognized individually, but the important thing to me is winning and playing well as a team and hopefully we will continue to do that," Lam said. Lam, a sophomore from Kettering, England, sports a combined 22-11 career record in matches as a Riverman. He is key to the team's success in the future and how much progress they can make as a unit has a lot to do with his play.

Schaaf saw most of his action at the number two position this year finishing with an overall record of 8-9. That record included a 3-2 conference mark and a 6-5 clip in his usual



Mike Schaaf made the All-Conference team at the Great Lakes Valley Tournament last week. Schaaf finished the year with an 8-9 record overall and a 3-2 conference record. Both Schaaf, currently a junior, and Lam, a sophomore, will return to the men's tennis team next year.

number two spot. Schaaf also is one half of the Rivermen's number one spot doubles team with junior Stephen Pobst. The duo finished with an 8-5 mark in the number one spot as well as a 5-1 conference record. This is the second All-conference selection for Schaaf, as he received the honor in 2003 as well, along with conference freshman of the year honor.

Schaaf, a junior out of Francis Howell North, showed tremendous improvement this year after struggling in the number two singles spot

last year following a stellar freshman campaign playing in the number three singles spot. He was able to improve upon his win total from last year by five victories.

Both Schaaf and Lam will be back next year for a Rivermen squad that did not have a single senior. Coming off a solid season, The Rivermen's hopes of taking the next step and possibly contending for the GLVC championship next year will most likely rest on the progression of Mike Schaaf's and Francis Lam's respective games.

### EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

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### UPCOMING

#### Baseball

April 20

• vs. Quincy (DH)  
Noon

April 26

• vs. S. Indiana(DH)  
2 p.m.

May 7

• vs. St. Joseph's (DH)  
Noon

#### Softball

April 26

• vs. Truman State  
3:00 p.m.

April 30

• vs. Kentucky Wesleyan  
Noon

April 30

• vs. Northern Kentucky  
Noon

• Admission to UM-St. Louis home games is free with a valid UMSL ID.

### SPORTS EDITORIAL

## Newest sports staff writer looks at wide world of sports (journalism)

BY BRYAN BOEDEKER  
Staff Writer

As my first experience as a member of the sports media winds down I figured it was time to take a hard look at the profession from the inside out. While I realize that I have not exactly covered the Super Bowl, or even the Iditarod, my hand has been stamped and the view from the inside is much, much different.

Thanks mostly to ESPN, sportswriters have become more recognizable over the past few years. The network carries roughly 46 shows based on sportswriters from newspapers around the country yelling at each other about sports. A number of sportswrit-

ers branch out into radio as well, either by having their own show or by being a frequent guest. There is one problem with this. It seems to me that with so many hours to fill these sportswriters resort to strange means in order to one-up one another. Who can come up with the most controversial opinion on Kobe Bryant? Who can yell the loudest when arguing about steroids? Or who can be most adamant about something that is obviously just a simple prediction?

Do not get me wrong, I love sports and talking about sports, it just seems to be that a lot of the sports talk on TV and radio these days is more showmanship than anything else. Also there are so many sports-related shows that when a hot topic comes along, like the recent Gary Sheffield incident, you

hear about it so often as a sports fan that you start to feel like your head is going to explode if you see it or hear about it one more time. With that being said, I would love to get paid for yelling at the top of my lungs about whether the Yankees poor start is because they're a bad team or nothing to talk about because only nine percent of the season has been played.

From the outside looking in you tend to get the sense that the relationship between players and the media is mostly a rocky one. During my experience at UM-St. Louis I was actually a little disappointed that everybody I interviewed was extremely accommodating. I have to admit that I was looking forward to using lines like, "Hey coach I'm just trying to do my job!" and "The fans have a

right to know!" but unfortunately I never did. I was especially hurt that I was never in a situation similar to the one during Spring Training with Barry Bonds. I could just picture James, Dave and I sitting outside Clark Hall with a UM-St. Louis athlete as he or she blamed us for their injury problems, lackluster season and the undercooked chicken sandwich they had for lunch. Sadly that never happened.

As my first sports writing experience comes to a close I am left wondering if I could make this my career. The thing is that a sportswriter's job is to watch sports and to bring it to the public through their eyes. The chance to get paid for that sounds all right to me. Even if it means I have to start taking the blame for some of Barry's problems.

# Even with painful injury, Saini played on

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor



Rivermen tennis player Raj Saini ended this season with a 9-6 record, despite painful shin splints and chronic leg cramps that forced him off the court twice this year.

The character of athletes today is not what it used to be. We are bombarded by images of superstars wearing jewelry and pridefully boasting about their abilities. We see selfish players who give excuses and shift blame when things don't go well, or who taunt their opponents after a victory. The image of the athlete that we see the most often is one of glorifying talent, and talent alone. Somewhere along the line we miss the athletes that inspire, the ones that play with everything they have, even when there is nothing to give. These athletes, the ones that play with heart - even when they go unrecognized by the rest - are the most inspiring.

One of those athletes for UM-St. Louis this year has been junior tennis player Raj Saini. Saini has gone largely unnoticed for his efforts the last two years, but he has contributed a great deal more than wins to the tennis team. In the beginning of the season Saini rolled his ankle, then developed shin splints in both legs. For those of you who don't know what shin splints are: it is a condition where the muscle tears away from the shinbone. It is extremely painful and can only be healed by rest. Saini's shin splints became so bad by

the end of the season that he developed knots up and down both of his shins, and now has to be tested for stress fractures. Saini could have stepped out the last half of the season; but he decided to play on and support his team.

Playing through pain is not new to Saini, however. Last season he battled cramps in several of the Rivermen's most important matches. They usually set in towards the end

of the first set of play, forcing Saini to finish the final two sets with leg and hand cramps. Despite the cramps he finished the season with a perfect 14-0 record at the number four position, but got no recognition from the Great Lakes Valley Conference for his accomplishment.

This season he still had the chronic cramping, but added the taped ankle and shin splints to go along with it. Because of the pain in his

legs he was pulled off of the court twice this season, both by Coach Rick Gyllenborg's decision. Even in the conference tournament he was pulled off in the quarterfinals with an attempt to save him for the third place match. The third place match was the most important match for the Rivermen all season long - it was the match that determined whether or not the team would advance to the Regional Tournament. The Rivermen started up 2-1 after doubles, but then were all being swept in singles - all but Saini that is.

Saini was the only Riverman in a winning position at the end of the season. He was up 6-4, 5-0 when Northern Kentucky University clinched the match 5-2. Gyllenborg was touched by Saini's effort in the match. "I wish you could have seen him play. It was something that would have brought tears to your eyes. He played so hard through so much pain, it was incredible," Gyllenborg said.

Saini finished this season with a 9-6 record, although two matches were by complete default. His play inspired top player Francis Lam. "It was very courageous for him to play through so much pain, especially when it was so obvious that he was hurting. It was impressive that he got so many wins when he could only run at half speed," Lam said.

# Softball endures tough road trip to Indianapolis

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

This season has not been what it was thought to be for the Riverwomen softball team as they continue to play inconsistently. Things this past weekend could not have been much worse for them as they played in their two worst back-to-back games of the season.

In the first game of two versus their conference hosts Indianapolis the softball team seemed as if they had forgotten they were supposed to come to play that day. Over the first four innings of play, the Riverwomen managed to give up the most runs in a four-inning stretch they have given up all season. They quickly gave up the season-high six runs, and got no help from the bats either.

As a collective, the team managed to get no-hit for the second time this season, and managed to give up two more runs over the last two innings as they fell by the score of 8-0. As mentioned the Riverwomen were badly out-hit, as they gave up 18 hits for the game, also a season high for the Riverwomen.

Emily Wagoner commented on the game. "After the first couple of innings we had already gotten so far behind that we would have had to have really played well to come back. They came out swinging the bats well and the score reflected it," said Wagoner.

After the first game the Riverwomen could only hope for things to get better in the second game. Last season the

Riverwomen managed to win the second game of the two game series and they hoped to do the same this time.

The team managed to play it very close the entire way. The scoring started this time in the favor of the Riverwomen as they came out with a 1-0 lead after the top half of the second inning. Although the Riverwomen gave up a run to tie it in the bottom half of the second, the game would stay tied all of the way until the last inning, as the game would a take turn for the worse as Indianapolis managed to blow the game wide open with the toughest inning of ball for the Riverwomen this season.

Indianapolis managed to score eight runs in the bottom half of the sixth inning to put the game out of reach quickly. The eight runs were the most any UM-St. Louis team has given up during an inning in the past three seasons. The team would go on to lose the game by the score of 9-1.

Junior Casey Moran spoke on the tough game. "We played very well until the last inning, and then they just started to hit everything. It was disappointing to play as well as we did and still lose the game, they were a good team, but we have also closed games out much better this season than we did in that one," said Moran.

With the loss the team fell to 13-20 on the season and 4-10 in the conference. The team hopes to get some good hitting of their own later this week as they will play four conference games to try and jockey for one of the spots in the conference tournament later on in May.

## Twista, from page 5

I then gave my opinion of the meeting.

I have mixed feelings after the TPAC meeting. They may be open to hip-hop but when will we see it? This fall? Fall 2006? How many shows will TPAC book that caters to the student body? I want to move forward with a petition for hip-hop (and student programming) at TPAC. Until they make a commitment with their money (our money plus other funders) to bring in hip-hop and other

acts for students, they're just talking.

The PAC, an UMSL facility located in North County, is not concerned about hip-hop acts, but the audience of hip-hop acts. However, the Twista crowd didn't "tear the club up" as the PAC feared. They found no guns, just mace. There were no shootings or muggings, just a multi racial student body who were angry because they couldn't see Twista. I have a modest proposal.

The PAC reports that student fees

account for \$262,000 of \$2,205,000 and that only 10 percent of students attended performances last year. The PAC is losing money, yet they don't produce the kind of shows that the Pageant sells out.

Since TPAC is concerned about losing money from producing hip-hop or popular music acts, I propose that student fees go toward booking acts that college students are excited about seeing. I am talking about music acts that students would line up for, even in the

rain. I'm not suggesting that the "Porgy and Bess" or "Grease" be dropped from the usual PAC fare, but that Twista and other popular acts are added.

If the PAC wants more students to attend performances, then produce shows students will line up for and bring hip-hop to the PAC.

MK Stallings contributed this guest commentary.

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## RESTAURANT REVIEW

## 'Porgy &amp; Bess' shines at PAC

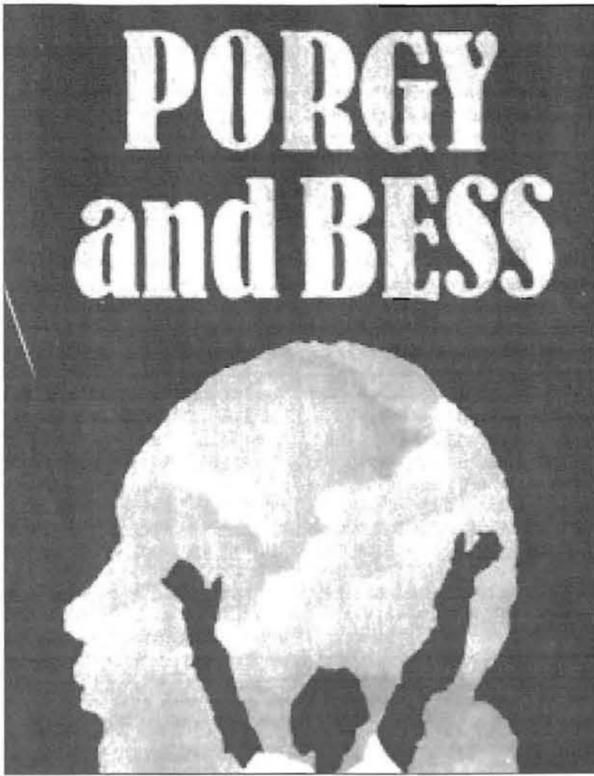


Image courtesy of www.touhill.org

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS  
Staff Writer

"Porgy and Bess," the famed George and Ira Gershwin opera, made its debut to a sold-out audience at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The production included intricate sets created by Centerline Studios, Inc. and beautiful music sung by a critically acclaimed ensemble with Samuel Stevenson as Porgy and Lisa Lockhart as Bess. St. Louis native Eric Summers performed the part of Mingo.

The opera is based on a novel, "Porgy," written by Edwin DuBose Heyward. The inspiration for the book came from a newspaper clipping about a crippled man indicted for murder in Heyward's hometown of Charleston. The action of the critically acclaimed opera is set in South Carolina's Catfish Row in the 1930s and tells the beautiful love story of Porgy and Bess. Porgy is a disabled man and Bess is a beautiful woman who is the girlfriend of the local bad boy Crown. When Crown murders a member of the tight-knit Catfish Row community, he flees police. Porgy takes in the deserted Bess and their love affair begins. Although others are initially opposed to their relationship, the two decide to stay together.

Bess comes from a troubled past full of bad love affairs and an addiction to "happy dust." Sportin' Life is the local "happy dust" dealer but Porgy is sure to keep Bess far away from him. One day, the Catfish Row residents decide to have a picnic on nearby Kittiwah Island. Because of Porgy's affliction, he is unable to go but encourages Bess to go along with the others and enjoy the fun. Meanwhile, Crown has been secretly using Kittiwah Island as his hideout from the police. While she is at the picnic, Bess runs into Crown, who demands that she stay with him. When Bess tells Crown of her love for Porgy, Crown vows to return to Catfish Row and claim her as his own.

As a hurricane nears the island, everyone except Bess hurries to catch the boat back to Catfish Row. Bess is left on the island and is finally found, sick and delusional, several days later. In a few days, Crown keeps his promise and comes to take Bess away from Porgy. A struggle ensues and Crown is murdered. Police assume Porgy is either guilty of the murder or knows the identity of the murderer and take him off to jail. Bess is consumed with grief and fears that Porgy will

never return to Catfish Row. While Porgy is away, Sportin' Life tricks Bess into taking some "happy dust" and steals her away to New York City.

When Porgy returns to Catfish Row, free of all criminal charges, he finds his home empty and his beloved Bess gone. The members of the community try to comfort the brokenhearted Porgy by telling him that he will be better off without a woman like Bess. However, Porgy cannot imagine his life without the love and joy of his relationship with Bess. In the final scene, Porgy heads off to New York to find his love.

"Porgy and Bess" is considered an American masterpiece and debuted in 1935. George Gershwin died in 1937 before the opera gained critical acclaim and popularity. It was not until 50 years after its debut that "Porgy and Bess" was finally presented at the famed Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The opera produced such memorable songs as "Summertime" and "It Ain't Necessarily So."

The opera is performed in the Gullah language, which is a unique Creole blend of English and African languages derived from the African Slave Coast and nurtured in the coastal slave communities of South Carolina and Georgia. Because of the geographical isolation of the Gullah, they have preserved their culture and unique language.



## EDITOR

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A&E Editor  
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## Marilyn Maye highlights jazz festival

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

If you like the smooth, big band style of Frank Sinatra and Mel Torme, the Touhill had just the ticket for you this past weekend when it hosted the second annual Jazz Festival April 21 to April 23.

Headlining the three-day event was singer Marilyn Maye, whose big, throaty, but nuanced voice filled the space with the sound that caused Johnny Carson to call her a "supersinger." Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald called her "the greatest white female singer in the world."

Marilyn Maye's Friday night performance was titled "A Tribute to Johnny Carson." "I appeared a record seventy-six times on Johnny Carson's show," Maye said during an interview last week. "So we decided to use that as a frame for the evening, during which I sing many of the songs I performed on the 'Tonight Show.'"

On the Carson show, the host would give musicians a choice of singing one song and then chatting or singing two songs. "I usually sang two songs because I speak through my music," Maye said. "The band on the show was fabulous, with band leader Doc Severinson, so I opted to sing, not talk." Having invited her to the show 76 times, it was obvious that Carson was a big fan. "Unlike other talk show hosts, who would chat with other guests while the musicians performed, Johnny Carson was always attentive when I sang," said Maye. "He loved music and he knew it; he had a drum kit back stage."

Maye's first national exposure came from being on Steve Allen's show. "I got a recording contract with RCA because they saw me on the show," she said. Before Johnny Carson took his show to the studio in Burbank, they would appear together at big venues with Doc Severinson's band. "On the road, Johnny would socialize with all of us and be friendly but when he moved to the studio, while he would pop in and say hello before show time, he was all business," Maye said about the reclusive Carson. "I considered Johnny a friend but I didn't see him at parties." She said the atmosphere on the "Tonight Show" was very efficient and professional.

Maye has just returned from a run at the famed "Birdland" music club and opens at a new Kansas City club called Jardine's on Monday, so she is very busy.

Marilyn Maye lives partly in Texas and partly in Kansas City. Despite being in the same state, Maye had not performed in St. Louis for 20 years. However, she may be back before too long. She had high praise for Jim Widner, who directs both the festival and UM-St. Louis's own Jazz Ensemble. "Jim worked with me years ago on the road and in Las Vegas, playing bass in my band," she said. "He is a very good musician."

see JAZZ FESTIVAL, page 12

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Brit film 'Dot the I' right on the mark

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

The British mystery-thriller "Dot the I" lulls us into thinking we know what is going on in its love-triangle story—at least until it turns all our assumptions upside down at the end.

Carmen (Natalia Verbeke) is out at her bachelorette party in a French restaurant when told of an old French tradition that says the bride should have a last kiss with a stranger on the eve of her wedding. Egged on by her girlfriends, she kisses Kit (Gael Garcia Bernal), an attractive South American who has been staring at her from across the room. The single kiss ignites a sudden passion, threatening her relationship with her British fiancé Barnaby (James D'Arcy), who has given her quiet comfort in London after she fled an abusive relationship in her native Spain. Adoring Barnaby makes her feel safe but the one kiss plunges her into emotional turmoil and doubts about the marriage.

Kit is equally affected by the kiss and pursues her relentlessly. It really seems that the Spanish Carmen and the Brazilian Kit, an unemployed actor, have more in common than she has with rich but insecure Barnaby. Carmen steadfastly tries to remain loyal to Barnaby but it is clear from the start that while she feels both stable and protected when she is with the smitten Barnaby, she was reluctant about agreeing to marry him after knowing him for a few months. Her kiss with Kit makes her question

whether she really loves Barnaby, and the fact that Kit tracks her down and seems to be around every corner keeps her from pushing her doubts aside.

However, what promises to be a standard romantic love triangle twists into something startling and laced with dark comic elements.

Screenwriter and novelist Mathew Parkhill has turned in a worthy first film with a clever story. Not surprisingly, the film is very plot-driven and it is the script that shines most. Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal, whose star is rising from "Motorcycle Diaries" and "Bad Education" since appearing in "Amores Perros," does very well in his first English language role, although it is a bit surprising to hear him speak British-accented English with hardly a hint of his native Spanish. Beautiful Natalie Verbeke is also fine in her role but the most affecting performance comes from James D'Arcy as Barnaby, who turns in some real emotional fireworks. The visual aspects of the film are well done but it is really about the story.

The twist to the story comes a bit late, and you may be lulled into humdrumness by the less than original romantic intrigue before the film makes you sit up and take notice of what is really going on. However, it is worth the wait. Without giving too much away, the story ultimately plays with assumptions about what is real and what is artificial, with issues of film and acting in manipulating reality.

This independent-type British is a nice treat for filmgoers looking for a story a bit out of the ordinary and willing to have their brains twisted a bit.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Talayna's is home of the monster 30-inch pizza

BY MONICA MARTIN  
Staff Writer

If you are in the mood for some delicious Italian food, stop at Talayna's in Chesterfield for a meal you will not soon forget.

My friends and I arrived at Talayna's on Tuesday evening at 7:45 p.m. When patrons walk in, the first thing they see is the hostess station. After that, they see the fully-stocked bar. A television is next to the bar. There are three levels of seating and outdoor dining is available as well.

We were seated inside in the lower level. A television playing the Food Network, without the sound, sat in a corner. The dim, overhead lights gave off a soft romantic glow. The tables were covered in white table cloths.

The menu is extensive, guaranteed to please even a discriminating taste. Items offered include appetizers, salads and soups, sandwiches and wraps, pizza, pasta, entrees, and desserts.

There is a lunch menu for the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beverages offered include red, white, and blush wine, beer, coffee and soda. Happy hour is every Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the bar only. Every night there is a pasta of the evening special and salad for only \$12.75. Entrees are served with salads, while dinner salads are \$3.75 when ordered with any pasta.

The three of us decided to order the 30-inch Monster New York Manhattan Style pizza. The restaurant has a contest rewarding any person who can eat one of these pizzas and drink two pitchers of soda; the lucky-and stuffed-winner will receive \$1,000. However, none of us were up to the challenge, opting instead to split the pizza between us.

When the pizza was brought out, it was much larger than we expected. The slices were 15 inch triangles. The owner said it weighed between 10 and 12 pounds. Both hands were needed to eat these slices, and none of us were able to eat more than one slice. The

rest of the pizza was boxed up in three boxes for us. It was as if we were each taking home our own large pizza.

After dinner came dessert. Because we were all so full from the pizza, we decided to split a piece of tiramisu, which was exquisite. It just melted in the mouth.

The service at Talayna's was excellent. Not only did the owner bring out our food, but he even talked with us, sharing his knowledge of food history.

Talayna's is a great date restaurant, but is also good for large gatherings. Patrons can dress up or go casual.

Talayna's is a franchise restaurant. The Chesterfield location has been open for 40 years. The current owners, Mehdi Rohani and his wife Susan, have been running it for 21 years.

Talayna's offers delivery as well as catering. They cater to many neighboring businesses. A catering menu is available. The catering helps them to sell four to five of the master pizzas a day. Want to dine in but have a large party? Banquet and party rooms are also available.

## MUSIC REVIEW

## Beck's "Guero" is just another sombrero dance

BY ALBERTO PATINO  
Music Critic

The latest from Beck Hansen is an exemplary work of exactly what we have come to expect from Señor Perdedor. It is utterly irreverent, completely idiosyncratic, and another welcome addition to a series of quirkily brilliant electronic folk albums. But is what he does folk? Hip-hop? Funk? New wave? Delta blues? Satiric R and B? The answer is yes. And yet, his music cannot be boxed in any one of these categories; all of his works tend to be beautifully eccentric permutations of folk tradition. Imagine if you will, a Californian stoner troubadour armed with slide guitar, accompanied by friendly robots, hard working Mexicans (or friendly Japanese waitresses and the turntable talents of the Dust Brothers, and you might be just outside of the ballpark....crawling around with a corndog, flashlight, and a piece of cardboard for windmills, backspins, and rudimentary defense against a family of starved beavers.

This helpful metaphor having been stated, Beck apparently has a Midas touch for constructing sonic and lyrical montages out of seemingly disparate musical genres, where for a lot of other songwriters, any attempt just ends up falling on its face, completely banal and

kitschy. By contrast, in Beck's world, it's only natural that b-boys pop and lock to tropicalia freak-outs, and all the while single-toothed bearded codgers blow single notes out of boy scout harmonicas as they fervently approve. Sounds aloof? Aloof sounds? Inaccessible? This is the microcosm that comprises "Guero." And hearing is believing.

If Beck's last album "Sea Change" was a sweetly melancholic document of a heart rending break-up, then this is his new and telling rebound of hope. By default it not only convinces us that he's so over her, but it's also a glute-smackin', head bobbin' celebration, a forward moving party-mode ode to Chicano Los Angeles, dust, bones, skeletons and his shiny new "sunshine girl." Amidst these thirteen songs we are bombarded by stupid-fresh beats, memory-staining bass grooves, tastefully placed analog keyboards, witty and well crafted lyrics, and a distinctly suave and assured vocal delivery.

Standout tracks include the psychedelic samba and luxurious strings of "Missing," the James Brown-doing-the-electric-slide-across-broken-glass-and-plate-tectonic-shift vibe of "Black Tambourine," the ethereal, Built to Spill-reminiscent "Broken Drum," and an ambitious and deceptively complex little rocker called "Rental Car," where guest vocalist/everything else Petra Haden contributes



Interscope Records

some rather sassy Germanic vocals. My two personal favorites include the angular and silly "Hell Yes," where Beck owns you on the dance floor, telling us "I'm working my legs/ I'm calling you out/ my beat is correct...I'm changing my plates," as well as "Earthquake Weather" where he somehow manages to simultaneously and successfully channel Tears for Fears, 70's hand-clap funk and Brian Wilson's bed-ridden best.

This is the one for your next Saturday night phonograph party. It is also just as perfect a selection for the fanatic Beck completist as it is for the first time listener. This guero is a gifted chameleon, the product of the sonic environs he creates, and this disc demands your moonwalk across his linoleum.

On "Hell Yes" uncredited cameo Christina Ricci cutely murmurs, "Please Enjoy." Oh hell yes, you will.



Tenaz Shirazian/ The Current

A piece of 30 inch pizza made by the owner of Talayna's Restaurant on Olive Blvd. in the Dierberg's Four Seasons center.

Talayna's is open seven days a week. This particular location is at the Dierberg's Four Seasons Shopping Center in Chesterfield, at Olive and

Woods Mill Rd. A shopping center is across the street, and down the road is Faust Park. Talayna's can be found online at www.talaynas.com.

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Personals

**UMSL Student, Criminology**  
major, Navy veteran, seeks full-time employment. I am available to start the week of April 4, 2005. My contact information is (314)838-4190 and [cclindberg@yahoo.com](mailto:cclindberg@yahoo.com). Please ask for Chris.

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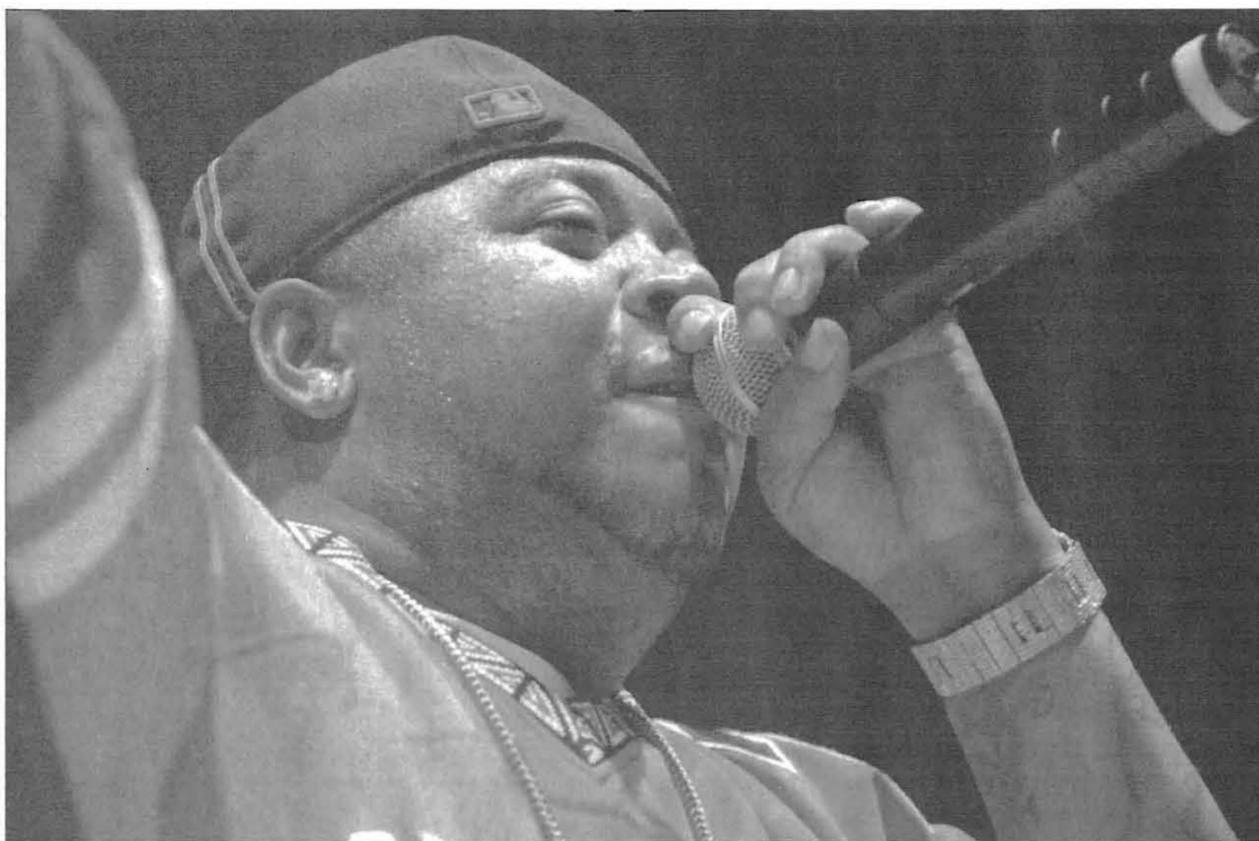
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Rapper Twista performs for the Mirthday celebration Wednesday evening. Rain forced the concert to take place inside the J.C. Penney auditorium, and fans were turned away because of the small amount of seating available.



Aloha Mischeaux from American Idol warms up the crowd before the performance of Chicago Rapper, Twista, Wednesday evening.



Rick Garesche, sophomore, undecided, tosses a frisbee back to his Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brother Mohammed Lamotte during the Mirthday festivities on Wednesday afternoon.

**MIRTHDAY, from page 6**

"I enjoyed all of the free candy; it was like Halloween," David Grigoryan, sophomore, International Business, said.

Many students stood in line to test their throwing skills in the pie throwing contest organized by Students Today Alumni Tomorrow. The group used whipped cream on paper plates to cut the costs of using real pies.

D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology and criminal justice, was one of the targets for the whipped-cream throwers.

"I had to have had at least 25 pies thrown in my face today," Braddix said.

Tegan Viggers, junior, biology, another STAT member who followed Braddix, described what it was like to get pies thrown in her face.

"The pies kept getting in my eyes and I couldn't see anything," Viggers said.

Along with taking part in the games, students also had the chance to go on carnival rides. The upside-down ferris wheel, "The Hurricane" and "The Sizzler," twisted and turned while students screamed out joys of excitement and fright. "The Fun Slide" and "Dizzy Dragons" offered amusement for people of all ages.

Radio station Z107.7 handed out bumper stickers, keychains and concert information.

Throughout the afternoon, DJ Charlie Chan mixed turn tables and played hip-hop on the main stage.

With the option of grabbing lunch inside at the Nosh, purchasing a funnel cake at one of the outside stands or

getting a hamburger outside from Chartwells, food was not a problem.

Although most of the main food cost, other booths gave away cotton candy, popcorn, bottled water, scones, smoothies and ice cream sandwiches for free.

Mirthday has been the annual spring carnival celebration for many years at UM-St. Louis. The event has always been held on the third Wednesday of April and usually during International Week.

Organizations like the International Students Association, Muslim Student Association, Indian Student Association, Thai Association, Korean, Taiwan, Indonesian, Chinese-Midland and Study Abroad were just some of the campus groups that reflected on cul-

ture and diversity.

In past years, Mirthday has welcomed musicians like Nappy Roots and Ludacris. This year, UM-St. Louis welcomed Aloha from American Idol and celebrity rapper "Twista."

Scattered showers late in the afternoon did not put an end to the day of celebration.

The event concluded with Twista's performance, which was moved inside to the J.C. Penney Building at 8 p.m.

"This was the first time that I attended Mirthday. It was a fun and exciting experience and I will definitely come next year," Nicole Larson, junior, communication, said.

Mirthday was sponsored and held by the University Program Board and the Office of Student Life.

**SYMPOSIUM, from page 7**

"We help other people do their own history," Strassman said. While her group did not find famous people who lived in the homes they studied, she said many houses are haunted.

One of the psychology presentations involved Andrea Keene, senior, psychology and Ashley Swift, senior, psychology, who researched how a woman's menstrual cycle affects how females rate other men

and women in attractiveness.

"In our human sexuality class, we studied evolutionary theories that said women had to compete for males' sperm," Keene said.

According to previous research, women generally rate men higher during their menstrual cycle and rate other women lower during their cycles, since other women were seen as competitors. However, Keene and Swift's own research found no

strong link.

Students who participated in the presentations were able to do so with the help of their professors. "We had faculty incorporate this event into their classes and syllabus," Abraham said.

Golden Key International Honour Society, Pierre Laclède Honors College, The College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Academic Affairs all sponsored the URS.

**JAZZ FEST, from page 10**

Widner joined her on stage as part of her band again for the Friday night performance, along with the three other musicians, Rob Fleeman, Jimmy Eklof, and Billy Stritch, who make up her regular band.

Marilyn Maye's style harkens back to the late big band era of Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Torme, both of whom she counts among her own favorite singers. She also cited Jack Jones and Joe Williams as favorites.

"Mostly I listened to male singers," she said. "That is better for female singers, otherwise you risk picking up the style of other women singers. You want to develop your own style, to have a distinctive voice."

Marilyn Maye has that distinctive voice. She and Mel Torme are the only singers who have been invited twice to perform with the famous Philly Pops.

Maye says that when she sings on stage, she loves to connect with the audi-

ence. "Don't sing for yourself; do a presentation," she said, talking about making that link with the listeners. She said that too many singers today look like they are singing for themselves, not for the audience. Singers, she said, are not thinking as much about the audience and are entertaining themselves.

"Don't take it too lightly," she advised new singers. "It is fun, but it is serious fun."

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