



See page 6
Students slam and jam

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

JMSL receives \$60 million grant

BY BEN SWOFFORD
News Associate

UM-St. Louis announced Tuesday, Aug. 25 the launch of a \$60 million grant aimed at raising high school graduation and college enrollment rates in eight St. Louis metropolitan area school districts. "It is aimed at helping students to succeed and go onto higher education," UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George said. "Obviously, we are very interested in seeing students succeed in higher education." The program, called St. Louis In-Gear for Success (Slings), is aimed at impoverished and underrepresented students. Slings will operate

through Gear-Up, or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, a nationally recognized program in place in cities around the country. Slings was launched in cooperation with St. Louis Community Colleges and will follow this year's seventh grade class for six years, providing them with financial and academic information and support. "[Slings] will provide what most students get automatically," Charles Schmitz, dean of the College of Education, said. "It will show these students you can overcome poverty and achieve. All it takes is adults that care about you." Slings will operate in the St. Louis Public School District,

Normandy School District, Wellston School District, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Hazelwood School District, Jennings School District, Riverview Gardens School District and University City School District, in total reaching 6,000 area seventh graders. "It is going to touch one in four seventh graders in this community," Henry Shannon of St. Louis Community Colleges, said. "Sometimes you shoot for the moon, and you go to the universe." The Department of Education gave \$28 million for the grant, the single largest grant ever received by UM-St. Louis and fifth largest grant given this year for Gear-Up programs in the United States. A team at

the College of Education under Patricia Simmons, the William R. Orthwein Jr. Endowed Professor of Life-Long Learning in the Sciences and director of Gear-Up, secured the grant. The other \$32 million was received from local groups and organizations matching funds. "This is a celebration of community. This shows what collaboration can do," Schmitz said. "It shows the commitment Dr. George and UM-St. Louis have to this community." "It is a momentous day to have these kinds of results from collaboration," Shannon said. "We have been true partners on so many initiatives." "You can't say enough about the St. Louis community to step up and provide this kind of opportunity for

its students," Simmons said. UM-St. Louis started a Gear-Up program six years ago under Simmons and received grant funding to support 1,000 area seventh grade students. This year those students graduate. When UM-St. Louis reapplied for grant funding, they expanded the program to more school districts. Gear-Up programs include academic preparation with an emphasis on literacy, math, the sciences and technology. The program also features educational field trips, college campus tours, career services and financial and academic planning involving the students' family. In addition, the program will provide \$600,000 in scholarships to students.

Major Community Partners St. Louis in Gear for Success

- Alliance of Black School Educators
- Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority
- 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis
- St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable
- St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association
- Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Missouri Department of Higher Ed

A wild end to Welcome Week...



Kevin Ottley/The Current

They say "it's harder than it looks" but for Allison Gallagher, freshman, art history, it's all fun. The Mechanical Bull was featured at the University Meadows MTV Beach Party Friday night. Over 900 people showed up at the Meadows for the event, which was sponsored by the University Program Board. SEE PAGE SIX FOR A COMPLETE 'WELCOME WEEK' RECAP.

ASUM opposes Floyd's fixed tuition proposal

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Students will pay more for college in the long run if a proposed fixed tuition plan goes into effect, according to an Associated Students of the University of Missouri spokesman. During President Elson Floyd's tour across the state, he received feedback from student organizations across the University of Missouri system. Floyd said he found that most student organizations, including ASUM, have taken an opposing stance to the tuition freeze. Floyd's proposal would lock tuition for incoming students at the four campuses of the University of Missouri for the entire duration of the student's enrollment. Tuition would not increase for a student during the two, three, four or five years they are enrolled in the University. "A tuition freeze sounds like a spectacular plan, but it puts the burden of any tuition increase on incoming students," Craig Kleine, ASUM board chair from the Columbia campus, said. "ASUM currently opposes any plan that would freeze tuition because of the lack of flexibility it offers the UM System in raising funds for the University," he said. ASUM worries that if the Missouri government is not able to offer appropriate funding for the UM system and the Board of Curators have to increase tuition to meet their budget, "then the complete burden would be on one-fourth of the students," Kleine said. Kleine explained the effects fixed tuition would have on students. ASUM believes the tuition freeze targets incoming students, who will pay for a larger tuition increase than normal. If the University is forced to raise tuition 3.5 percent because of inflation, Kleine said, instead of a 3.5 percent increase across the entire student body, incoming freshmen and transfer students would pay an increased tuition rate of 14 percent. Kleine went on to show that students would pay a higher total cost for their classes during their four- or five-year program if the locked tuition proposal is passed. One critique student organizations have of Floyd's plan is how inflation will affect tuition costs. The fixed tuition proposal includes adjustments for inflation, Kleine said. If the Board of Curators raised tuition, "it would protect the University and raise tuition to what the projected costs of the student's senior year would be." Floyd said he welcomed the feedback of student organizations and will take each point into consideration when deciding on how to proceed with the fixed tuition plan.

“A tuition freeze sounds like a spectacular plan, but it puts the burden of any tuition increase on incoming students.”
— Craig Kleine
ASUM Board Chairman

Nursing students and dean discuss scheduling problems

BY KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Nearly a week before classes officially started, a group of senior nursing students received administrative notification that faculty turnover had resulted in course schedule changes. Members of the Student Nurses Association and concerned nursing students met with Dean Lucille Travis, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Curt Coonrod and department faculty on Monday, Aug. 22 to resolve conflicts regarding the changes.

The proposed schedule shift had the "Nursing of Women and Childbearing Families" clinical groups attending an obstetrics class that ends at 6:50 p.m. on Tuesday evenings rather than earlier in a weekday, as scheduled at the time of enrollment. According to Travis, the original instructor of the course resigned in early August, necessitating the last-minute change. Students felt uncomfortable with the new meeting arrangement because of the time implications of its positioning. After class, students from the A

group would have to drive to a designated hospital to receive clinical assignments for the next day. Upon receiving their assignments, students would have to complete the four- to eight-hour clinical preparation process at home, including creating extensive patient care plans. Clinicals begin at 7 a.m., and the late-evening class combined with preparation burdens would significantly reduce the amount of sleep students could get. Nursing students enrolled in the 3215 clinical course worried about how the new class times would affect

their ability to safely and effectively treat patients during clinical rotations. "We're questioning patient safety and educational issues," Meghan Brohammer, Student Nurses Association president, said. "Other issues that have been expressed are care of children that students have and finding adequate facilities that will take care of them later in the evening. Also, work schedules that may be in conflict after the schedule change." In a memo sent to Travis and other administrators, Brohammer stated,

"With this concern, we are worried that the safety of our patients and the care they will receive, along with the value of our practicum, will suffer... We are concerned that we will be unable to successfully prepare for our clinical experience, and therefore we will not be able to safely administer medications and complete procedures for our patients." Prior to the meeting, Brohammer sent Travis the memo, which included a list of suggestions to resolve the issue. Possibilities included holding the OB course on a different day or at a different time.

Travis said she tried to find other qualified faculty members to teach the course at times better suited to student schedules. Her original proposal combined the A and B groups, each consisting of approximately 30 students, but Brohammer pointed out that the increased class size would negatively affect educational quality. After a lengthy discussion, students at the meeting suggested holding the same course on two different nights to accommodate the needs of both groups.

see NURSING, page 3

EXPO, sports, storms, all part of 'Welcome Week'



See page 6

Hodges spices it up with chili



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Former student releases jazz album



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Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email 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, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsl.edu.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday

Resume Writing Skills Workshop

This workshop discusses appropriate resume formats and content. The one hour workshop is free and open to UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 5111 or enroll in person at Career Services 278 MSC

Campus Recreation wellness classes are free this week

Fall Aerobics classes will begin today and run through Dec. 9 in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. Classes are free this week through Sept. 2. Register at the Campus Rec Office at Room 203 Mark Twain or call 5326 for more information.

Tau Sigma Honor Society to hold ice cream social

The Tau Sigma Honor Society will sponsor a free ice cream social

for transfer students, faculty and staff from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pilot House on the first floor of the MSC. Call 4584 for more information.

Tuesday

Welcome Back Dinner

The Newman Center is sponsoring a free welcome back dinner for all students on Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Newman Center located at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Please RSVP by Monday, Aug. 29 314-385-3455 or cnsumsl@aol.com

Wednesday

Job Search Strategies Workshop

This workshop will teach job seekers important techniques for their job search and provide additional information about the

general job search process. This free one hour workshop will be held in 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students. Advance registration is required. Call 5111 for more information.

Study Aboard Information Session

The Study Abroad Office is offering an informational meeting in the Advising Lounge outside 225 MSC from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information about types of programs, scholarships, financial aid and applying will be available. Call 6497 for more information.

Ice Hockey Tryouts

After a suspended season last year, the ice hockey team is back with a full 31 game schedule. Team tryouts are Wednesday Aug. 31 from 8-9 p.m. at the Ice Zone at St. Louis Mills. There is no cost to tryout. Visit www.umslhockey.org for more information.

Psychic Fair

Come to the Nosh from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and enjoy feature entertainment from caricaturists to tarot card readers & more. Michael Johns the hypnotist will perform at the J.C. Penney auditorium at 7 p.m.

Thursday

Study Aboard Information Session

The Study Abroad Office is offering an informational meeting in the Advising Lounge outside 225 MSC from 11 a.m. to noon. Information about types of programs, scholarships, financial aid and applying will be available. Call 6497 for more info.

Friday

International Friendship Gathering

Bring a friend and join us for an

evening of BBQ, games and making new friends from around the world. Call 314-727-7388 for more information.

Sunday

Newman Center to hold Catholic Mass

Sunday evening mass will be held at the Bellerive Residence Hall Chapel on South Campus at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. A social will follow the mass. Contact Tracy Van de Riet at 314-385-3455.

Sept. 5

Labor Day - No classes

UM-St. Louis will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 to observe Labor Day. No classes will be held. Classes will resume Tuesday, Sept. 6.

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Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department from Aug. 13, 2005 to Aug. 28, 2005. Please remember that crime prevention is a community effort. If anyone has information regarding any of these incidents, please contact the Campus Police Department at 516-5155.

Aug. 14, 2005 - Assault - 8200 Natural Bridge

A party that was occurring at a location nearby led to a disturbance between a boyfriend and girlfriend. The male subject slapped the female, and she fell to the ground. Neither subject is related to the University. The suspect was later arrested and provided a statement to the investigating officers. This case is

being referred to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office for charges of assault.

Aug. 17, 2005 - Criminal Nonsupport

A victim who lives in the Mansion Hills Apartments and is a student at UM-St. Louis came into the police station to report a criminal nonsupport case. The female victim had gone to the prosecutor's office and was told to report the original incident to the local police department. The suspect and father of her child had not paid all of the child support monies that he owed to her. The suspect was interviewed and admitted to not paying all of the money. This case will be referred to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office for charges of criminal

nonsupport.

Aug. 22, 2005 - Property Damage - Seton Hall

The canteen vending machine's glass was broke out, however it appeared that no product or money was stolen from inside.

Aug. 24, 2005 -Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot A

The victim reported that sometime during the prior day her license plate tabs from her vehicle were stolen while her vehicle was parked.

Aug. 24, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500.00 - West Drive Plaza Garage

The victim reported that sometime during the day his license plate tabs

from his vehicle were stolen while it was parked.

Aug. 18-22, 2005 - Harassing Phone Calls - 361 T.J. Library

The victim had nearly 100 harassing phone messages left on her answering machine. The calls have been recorded and the suspect is being determined. An investigation is ongoing.

Aug. 26, 2005 - Burglary 2nd Degree - 7924 S. Florissant Road

An unoccupied apartment that was used for storage by the maintenance department was broke into. Several items including ceiling fans and faucets for bathrooms and kitchens were stolen from inside. All of the items were new and still in the original boxes.

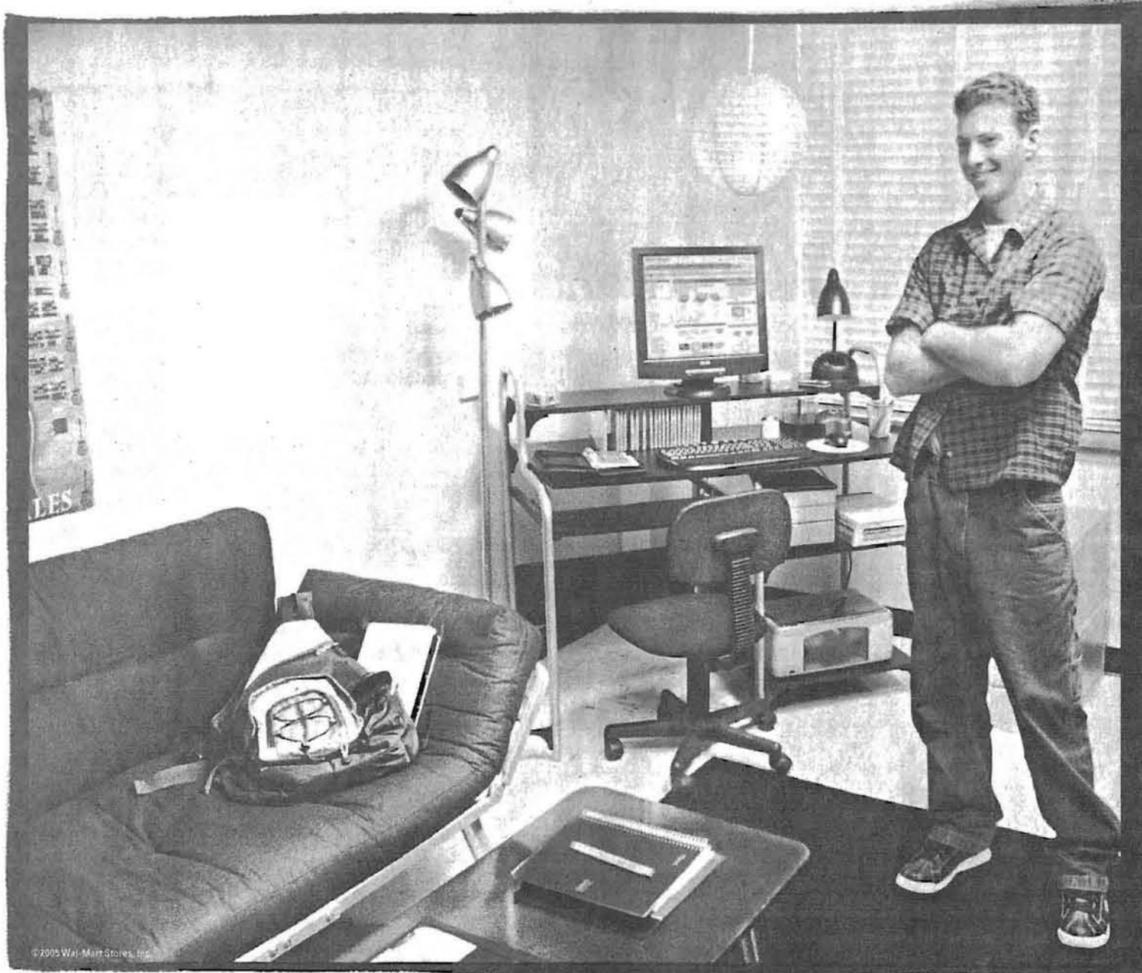
Aug. 27, 2005 - Burglary 2nd Degree - T.J. Library

Sometime between Friday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 27 at 8:45 a.m. the library was burglarized. The first employee to arrive and open the library on Saturday morning discovered that a safe was broke into and laying on the floor in pieces. It was later determined that an unknown quantity (believed to be less than \$ 250.00) in cash was stolen from inside. Also two change machines connected to the copiers were also pried open, with less than a few dollars taken, if any. An investigation into this incident is ongoing and evidence recovered from the crime scene is being sent to the St. Louis County Crime Lab for analysis.

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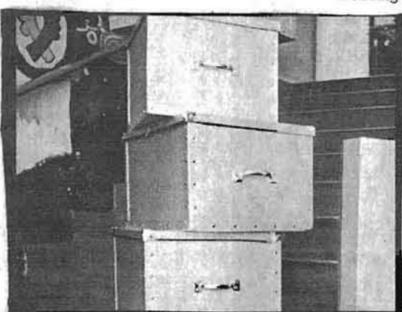
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Monsanto recruits 6 of 43 interns from UMSL

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Monsanto then gets the opportunity to actually experience their skills and how they work and how they would fit into the Monsanto culture."

Balestreri credited the success of Monsanto to their recruiters attending Career Days last fall, Career Services promoting co-ops and MIS and IT faculty at the University coming together.

Vicki Sauter, MIS professor, offered a discussion group online for her students. "One of the things we did last year was to put a major push on our listserv of informing people about the internships at Monsanto," Sauter said.

She said a large number of graduates stay on the listserv and post positions available at their companies. "We've really tried to push the concept of staying connected and wherever possible, we use the technology to do that," she said.

Balestreri said Monsanto used all avenues possible in their recruitment efforts. "I think what made the difference in this case is that the company took the time to make it very clear what they were looking for and what their intention was," she said.

Of the 43 co-op students, nine received full-time jobs at Monsanto, three of which were from the University.

Erin Farmer, MIS alumna, was one of the new hires. Farmer applied for the co-op through Career Services, had on-campus interviews with Monsanto and was hired as an intern in the finance department last spring.

"They have a certain amount of entry level jobs just for co-ops. No one else can apply," Farmer explained. She said interns do not generally get hired in the department they intern for, but she was hired in finance division since an opening was available.

Farmer is an example of how UM-



Brian Fagnani/The Current

After interning with Monsanto this summer, UM-St. Louis graduate of the MIS program Erin Farmer was offered a job.

St. Louis graduates are often hired after participating in co-ops. Her story also demonstrates how alumni find jobs in the St. Louis region. "Because we're an urban metropolitan university, it's very common for our graduates to stay in the area," Balestreri said.

"Many alums work at Monsanto." Sauter said Monsanto is not known for their IT program, but "they have a MIS department.

see MONTANTO, page 10

Uncontested elections highlight SGA meeting

BY BEN SWOFFORD
News Associate

tion in the executive board elections.

Unopposed elections for Student Government Association executive board positions dominated the first meeting of the year for the SGA on Aug. 26 in the SGA chambers.

While D'Andre Braddix, Taz Hossain and Brian Rails were elected president, vice president and comptroller, respectively, in April, elections were still needed to fill the positions of executive board chair, vice chair, secretary, parliamentarian, sergeant-at-arms and Student Court justices.

Aaron Golchert, last year's SGA comptroller, ran unopposed for executive board chair, which is responsible for running the SGA meeting and developing the order of business. The chair serves as a tie-breaking vote.

Elected as vice chair, Muhammed LaMotte, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, is responsible for taking the duties of the executive board chair when the chair is not present.

Tegan Viggers was elected executive board secretary. The secretary keeps track of the minutes and coordinates activities pertaining to SGA offices.

Nick Koechig was elected SGA parliamentarian, a position that makes sure rules of order are followed.

Rounding out the SGA executive board was Tiffany Herberger, who was elected sergeant-at-arms. This position maintains order and is responsible for counting votes in the assembly.

"I guess student involvement on campus isn't really that great," Braddix said, commenting on the lack of con-

Braddix nominated David Brown and Bryan Goers for Student Court justices and Jason Hancock as one alternate. They were elected with little contention. Goers was selected as chief justice.

Five nominations from the floor were taken for the remaining three seats on the Court plus one alternate. After two rounds of voting, Mandy Altman, Kit Blanke and Jessica Pierce were elected to the three seats. John Barnes was elected as an alternate.

Student Court arbitrates disputes between students and the campus including parking tickets and academic dishonesty charges.

Other issues discussed at the meeting were the formation of new SGA committees. A parking and transportation committee is being formed to deal with students concerns over parking fees and shuttle schedules.

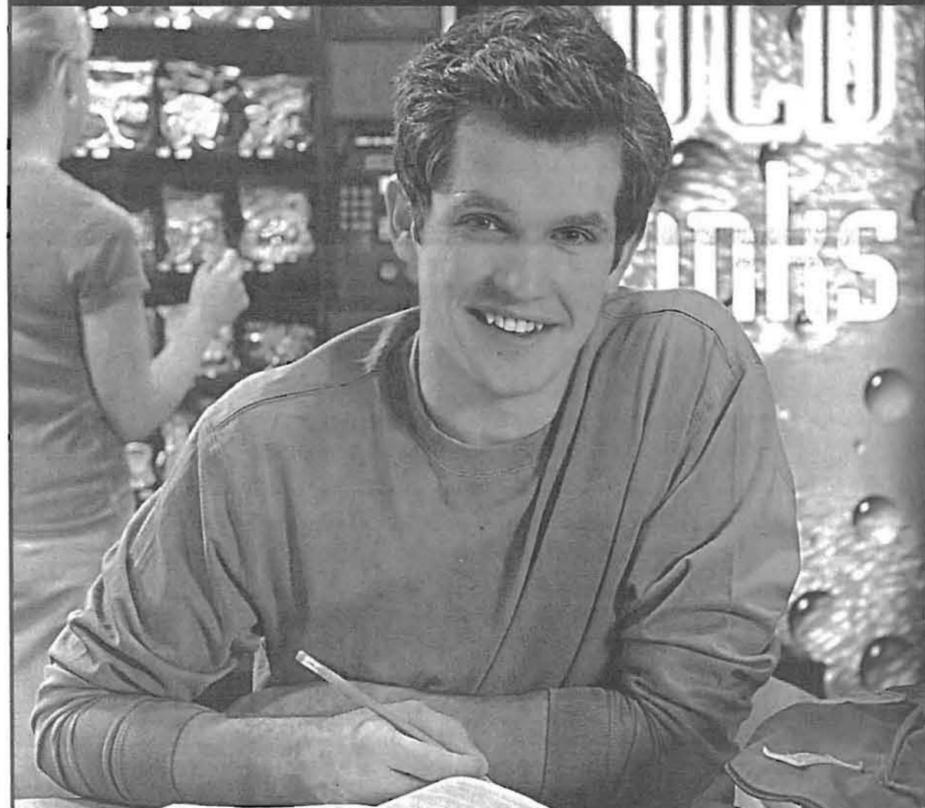
"It's a way for students to communicate with Parking and Transportation to make sure our concerns are being heard," Hossain said.

Other committees include a publicity and events committee, a food services committee, which will look at the Chartwells contract that is up for renewal, an operations and rules committee dealing with constitutional changes, a homecoming committee and an infrastructure committee.

Applications for committee chairs are due by Aug. 29 at noon. Applications for members to join the committees are due by Sept. 9 at 5 p.m.

see SGA, page 8

ask listen solve



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NURSING, from page 1

In the end, Section B had no argument with Travis' proposed Tuesday evening class time. Section A requested the course be held on Thursday evening, as a Wednesday time would still interfere with clinical schedules, and holding it Friday, their day off, would limit their ability to work at outside jobs.

Travis said she could not guarantee

an instructor for a Thursday group, but she consulted with faculty after the meeting and found a qualified professor who could teach at the requested time.

In order to avoid similar future problems, Travis said, "We will have a more flexible schedule available."

Students expressed their dissatisfaction with the faculty turnover and

consequential results.

"I think we never answered the question, what happened to all the faculty?" Kelly Rudroff, senior, accelerated nursing program, asked.

In response to unresolved concerns, Travis agreed to hold another meeting during which students and administrators could address these concerns.

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OPINION

Our Opinion

Is fixed tuition a good idea?

Proposal to lock tuition shows much-needed creativity in reining-in rising cost of Higher Ed.

The proposal to lock tuition rates for students at the University of Missouri should be heralded, if not for the plan itself, but for UM President Elson Floyd's willingness to get creative to keep tuition affordable.

In the past five years, tuition has increased nearly 50 percent.

In the same five years, the UM System has seen a decrease in the funding it receives from the Missouri Legislature.

Since 2001, enrollment at UM schools has increased from 56,000 students to over 61,000.

Without substantial support from Jefferson City, the UM System needs to take a hard look at what it can do to keep higher education affordable for Missourians.

Floyd's proposal, first floated in a memo to the Board of Curators on June 15, would lock tuition rates for incoming students and transfer students for up to four years, depending on how many credit hours the student needs to complete in order to graduate.

Floyd is touring the state to hear from ordinary Missourians about their feelings on the plan. He says he is looking for input before he presents the Board of Curators with a formal proposal, which could then be voted on by the board and instituted as soon as fall semester 2006.

At Floyd's tuition forums, some business people are questioning the tuition freeze plan, saying "If our businesses can't guarantee our expenses or our prices, then how can the UM System do that?"

In the face of inflation and static state appropriations, that's a good question.

The answer, Floyd says, is that the University will cut administrative costs if necessary and work with the Legislature to ensure a more predictable amount of state funding.

Some student groups, particularly at UM-Columbia oppose the plan, saying that if tuition rates are fixed, then any tuition increases needed would then fall exclusively on incoming freshmen and could unfairly burden those students with substantially higher tuition than upperclassmen at the same university.

However, opponents are overlooking that guaranteeing tuition would at least provide a measure of certainty for students trying to plan for the financing of their education.

The ability for UM students to plan for their educational expenses provides Missouri college students and their families with the ability to choose whether or not the UM system is an affordable choice.

What they will not have to do, is cross their fingers that tuition will

not rise dramatically from the time they enter college to the time they graduate, as long as it is within four years.

Freshmen who might be given a larger share of any future tuition increases will still know up front how much their education will be. It will be up to them to decide whether the University is worth the expense. If Missouri State University, SEMO, or Truman offers more educational bang for the buck, freshmen and their families will vote with their dollars. The law of supply and demand should keep the UM Board of Curators and administrators wary of exorbitant fee increases.

Whether or not Floyd can wrangle a stable appropriation from the state or keep the UM System's costs in line remains to be seen.

However, this is a sign that the powers that be at the University of Missouri are getting creative in order to come up with solutions to keep higher education affordable.

Overall, that's good news for Missouri.

Students should make use of the opportunity to hear about the tuition freeze plan when Floyd comes to the MSC for a tuition forum on Oct. 5.

The plan is not yet set in stone, so students should make their voice heard while the administration is still actively seeking input.

Leadership on display

The student leadership retreat was all about 'I's and 'b's. Leadership, learning and life lessons; and broken buses, boozing and breaking down barriers.

And that's the way it should have been.

For over 90 student organizations, representatives spent the weekend at Pere Marquette state park in Grafton, Ill. on a 'Student Leadership Retreat' organized by the Office of Student Life.

After a false start with a bus broken down on Highway 270 near St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley and a scramble for a replacement, the group arrived safely at Pere Marquette just in time to sup at the Grand Lodge and settle in for a weekend of motivational speakers, sessions on leadership, dealing with a budget, promoting campus groups and breaking the ice with fellow student leaders.

As the figurehead of the student newspaper, the label of 'journalist' was both a blessing and a bane.

Blessing: being immersed in student leaders of campus organizations gives an editor a fount of story ideas, criticism on the paper in general and a sounding board for gripes about the campus. Involved students are, hopefully, the most active readers of the campus paper, so it was an excellent opportunity to hear about what was on the minds of fellow UM-SL-goers.

It's a symbiotic relationship that I'm happy to foster: student groups are looking for good public relations in order to get the word out about their group, and the paper is always looking for good story opportunities and sources for input on the campus at large.

But then there's the bane: Students are also reluctant to let loose when the press is lurking about. So, the obligatory, "You better watch out, or you'll end up in The Current," comments occasionally pop up. Or, the more overt, "You make me nervous," is also a favorite. But for me, the cat-and-mouse game can be deliciously absurd and comical.

Are *Current* readers dying to read the front-page story of the late-night prank that left the giant white king chess piece missing for a day?

Admittedly, it would be pretty funny. But hard news?

Nah. Maybe it would make a nice, humorous feature if I were writing a newsletter for the Student Leadership Retreat. But for the regular paper, I kind of doubt that the average UM-St. Louis student is going to be engrossed by the ordinary antics of college students spending the weekend together.

Student leaders drink and have a good time?

Hardly scandalous.

The real story of the weekend was that everybody, whether they were there to socialize, or just keep their budgets from being frozen, seemed to have a good time, meet new people and learn about running an organization and holding events. For a \$20,000 conference that took months to plan, the 99 student leaders got a pretty sweet deal, and their organizations will hopefully be the better for it.

But, maybe I only caught the p.r. riff and missed all of the really juicy gossip.

After all, I am the lurking journalist with the campus newspaper.



MIKE SHERWIN
Editor-in-Chief

Staff Viewpoint

Mexico trip teaches unlearned lesson

In all honesty, I'm not sure whether I spent more of my two months abroad in Mexico studying Spanish or studying tequila shots and the bottom of beer bottles. Regardless, I returned having learned—and unlearned—a lifetime of lessons.

To state the obvious, I learned Spanish. In addition to the whole immersion factor, the classes were pretty intense; we had class Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Within a few days I had progressed from barely being able to order my food at a restaurant—sometimes resorting to drawing pictures on a napkin to get my tacos with beans instead of beef—to being able to hold a conversation with the waiter about whether everyone in the United States was like Gwyneth Paltrow (true story).

In the beginning, a five minute class presentation, even with note cards, was torture. By the end of my first two weeks, I could fairly calmly give a 30 minute presentation in Spanish with no notes. I even conquered calling a Mexican Pizza Hut and ordering five thick crust pizzas—two mushroom, two pepperoni and one supreme—and then managed to give directions to my apartment building (and yes, the pizzas eventually arrived). Needless to say, that's a lot harder than it seems, especially when you consider the fact that a "supreme" pizza doesn't exist in Mexico. Apparently, as I found out after about 15 minutes of conversation with Jorge, the poor Pizza Hut employee who had taken my call, they simply call it an "everything" pizza in Mexico.

After a few quite "interesting" episodes in which I found myself losing my dinner out a taxi window, I learned why so many people shud-



BY CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
Copy Editor

der at the mention of tequila. However, I hold fast to my ascription of part of the blame to the crazy taxi drivers who didn't see a problem in taking that sharp left turn before our apartment complex (way) too fast. On the topic of alcohol, I discovered that Corona is not the only Mexican beer—and that Mexican beer tastes a lot better with a lime and two shakes of salt. More importantly, however, I unlearned my prejudices against Mexicans. I went to Mexico thinking—and I can't believe I'm admitting this—that Mexicans were dirty, lazy and downright creepy. Before studying abroad, whenever I was behind Mexicans speaking Spanish in line at the grocery store I found myself wanting to tell them to speak English because, after all, they weren't in Mexico.

Then why did I go study in Mexico? Honestly, only because there were no UM-St. Louis summer study abroad programs to Spain.

I never thought of myself as

racist—quite the opposite, actually. However, when I arrived in Mexico and was shocked by the "normalcy" of the Mexicans, I realized that I had been ignorantly racist. Of course some of the Mexicans I met were dirty, lazy and downright creepy—but some Americans I've met are dirty, lazy and creepy as well.

I was shocked by the intelligence, worldliness and kindness of the Mexicans I met. Most knew American politics, American geography and had visited the United States. They wanted to know what I thought about President Bush and where I lived. They knew what the Arch was; they asked about September 11.

My ignorant American self and I, on the other hand, didn't even know the cities of Monterrey and Guaymas (the two cities where I studied) existed, much less where they were located. Well, at least until I googled them.

To add to that—guess what—when I was in Mexico, I stood in line at the grocery store and spoke English. Talk about feeling like an inch tall hypocrite.

I realized that sometimes it felt like if I spoke another word of Spanish I would lose my dinner even without the help of any tequila. And I was only away for two months.

Now I understand why I hear foreigners speaking their native tongue in "our" country. Then and there, in the Mexican grocery store, I promised myself I'd never mutter nasty things under my breath when I overheard a conversation in a language "foreign" to our country.

All in all, Mexico was one of the best experiences of my life—not necessarily for what I learned, but what I unlearned.

Stop chasing bunnies

If a company could figure out how to bottle "happy," shelves wouldn't stay stocked. My recent change of dwelling place has led to introspection about the over-thought issue of achieving personal contentment.

Some people chase happiness like they're determined greyhounds straining to close their lips around a mechanical rabbit. While dogs probably act more out of instinct than profound thought, humans tend to believe that catching the electric bunny will complete their existence.

So what are you chasing? What is so important that owning it will bring you to utter nirvana?

For unhappily single individuals, romantic relationships often have a sparkly, magic quality. "If I had a boy/girlfriend, my life would be so much better," we think in moments of loneliness.

Significant others are undeniably enjoyable, but they're not means to a happy end. Anyone in a relationship can attest to the fact that love isn't constantly surrounded by pixie dust and sunshine. Without an appreciation for our own company, we can't fully enjoy another person's.

Most people have pursued the physical perfection bunny. Relying on cosmetic surgery, clothing, make-up, lotions, crèmes and an army of age-defying products, we envy those with naturally svelte, glowing figures. Confidence is our sexiest feature, yet we depend on synthetic measures to boost our

appearance. For others, the mechanical rabbit might take on the form of fancy gadgets, a higher salary, popularity or an absence of bad habits.

Those from small towns or less-than-perfect homes might see escaping to a new geographic location as the answer to any and all problems. I've watched friends move to the big city, shun their roots and attempt to "rise above" their previous life. You can't run from low self-esteem, and nothing material can fill the hole.

Catching all these rabbits might make life easier, but the track never ends. You can run every day for the rest of your life, but you'll end up with a collection of empty possessions and tired legs.

Ultimately only self-acceptance and an objective perspective can lead to contentment. Don't tire yourself out by chasing the bunny. Don't let unfocused instinct make you run. Your bottle of "happy" sits in the closet full of skeletons, and facing those issues will lead you to a lifetime supply of contentment.

College serves as a period of time when students prepare for careers, but degree-seeking isn't the only function of attending a University. You define yourself here.

Take some time to understand your identity. The mechanical rabbits only multiply as we age, and no circumstance has the power to completely fulfill us. Appreciate yourself, and others will follow suit.



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

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Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photo Associate

Why did you come to UM-St. Louis?



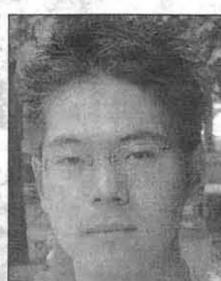
Wally Iverson
Junior, Business

"I'm running out of time. It means I'm old, gotta go to school."



Amber Lanane
Junior, Communications

"I like the setup of the campus...and to meet my future ex-husband."



Han Jeong Wan
Senior, Shipping Management

"I wanted to improve my English. I am an exchange student from Korea."



Kerry Freeman
Junior, English

"I'm a transfer student from Meramec and was looking for an easy place to transfer to."

Staff Viewpoint

Student protests less obnoxious, more respectful now

I was college-age in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the anti-war movement was at its peak and its most obnoxious. I was one of the obnoxious ones.

I disrupted ROTC classes at Washington University and wasn't a student there. I threw rocks at police officers and buildings and did three weeks in jail as a result.

I'm proud of the fact that I stood up for my convictions and that I was on the right side of the struggle against the war—but I'm not proud of being so obnoxious and self-righteous.

Last year, I visited the students sitting in at Brookings Hall at Washington University and told them I thought their—meaning for many Current readers, your—generation of

protestors is in many ways superior to mine. The students there were forceful, but polite and respectful.

For those of you who don't know, those students occupied Brookings Hall at their school to demand that Washington University's subcontractors pay campus maintenance and food service employees a living wage.

The students last year had a pretty clear case: one of the most richly endowed universities in the country certainly has enough money to pay people who work hard for a living more than \$10 an hour. They sat in and were nice to the people working there. They couldn't leave to go to class, so they were risking their education to help workers make it in the hostile-to-labor environment that is the twenty-

first century United States.

When my friends occupied Brookings Hall in 1970, some of us trashed the place. I got there the next day, and as we went through the university's financial records, we were sorry someone put a chair through the copier. We had to copy the list of the university's holdings by hand. Now I wonder what went through our young brains, to endorse wanton, needless destruction as a means of building a better world. Still, I am glad I was committed.



BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
Columnist

And while I applauded the protesters at Washington University, and I know the movement for social justice in this country is very much alive, there was a different feeling in the air 35 years ago that I miss.

In the wake of the gains of the civil rights movement a few years earlier, there was a feeling that a group of determined people could change the world.

Now this country is bogged down in another senseless war—a war to

prevent a country that had no weapons of mass destruction from using them on us or giving them to Al Qaeda. No credible source has found a link between Saddam Hussein's secular dictatorship and the warped religious fanatics who follow Osama Bin Laden.

War is serious—those who wage war have the burden of proof.

This time, I don't see much activity on campus about the war—on either side. In the '60s and '70s, students and professors at virtually every college in the St. Louis area, including UM-St. Louis, held teach-ins—massive public lectures and discussions about the war. Students found places on campus that contributed to the war effort and made them targets.

What is happening here? Do we not realize that there are more than 100,000 U.S. troops in mortal danger in Iraq for no good reason? That more than 1,800 U.S. soldiers and more than 23,000 Iraqi civilians have died for no good reason with no end in sight?

I believe the war in Vietnam ended because this country no longer had the will to fight an unjust war. Troops would regularly refuse orders to go into combat, and young men would do just about anything to avoid being drafted. By the '70s, more men were in federal prisons for refusing induction into the armed forces than for any other offense.

Students played a part in that. Let's hope that students play a part in ending the war in Iraq.

Letters to the Editor

Former IWGS Director Mushaben says she won't 'abandon the cause'

Dear Editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of *The Current*, especially Kate Drolet and Mike Sherwin, for the fantastic coverage they have provided on IWGS activities and broader gender issues over the past three years. I hope that they will remain just as committed to the program and its diversity goals in the months ahead.

At the same time I would like to correct a few errors or possible misperceptions that might have arisen in conjunction with Ben Swofford's Aug. 22 article concerning leadership changes at IWGS. Most importantly, I would like to assure all of the enthusiastic students, staff, faculty and community supporters I have encountered over the last three years that I am not about to "abandon the cause."

I have been involved with Women's & Gender Studies since 1981, having taught my first cross-listed course for the program in 1983 (not

in 1993, as reported). In fact, given the departure of so many former IWGS directors in recent years, I am the only senior professor on campus with a more than 20 years of continuous teaching experience in the program.

"Putting the IWGS on the map" involved a lot more than simply moving to a new location, and making sure it stays there requires a lot more than repainting a few walls in that space. For students and faculty who might be new to our campus, it is worth noting that IWGS growth has been exponential over the last three years. That growth was only possible through the combined efforts of people inside and outside the Institute: The inside team consisted of Krystal Reed, Keely Shaw, Nikki Doughty, Kathleen Nigro and myself. These "fabulous" women helped to convey the message that feminism can be fun, that it is relevant not only to the lives of 62% of our student body, but also to their mothers,

daughters, sons and partners, present or future.

In conjunction with our first Five Year Review, external evaluator Anne Runyan (University of Cincinnati) was positively impressed with our achievements of the last three years, and urged us to "keep going." A director is only as good as her support-system, however, and mine included a lot of people in high places who really want this program to fly. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to A & S Dean Mark Burkholder, for his personal and institutional investments in IWGS since 2002. I also recognize Chancellor Tom George for attending our major events, as well as CIS Director Joel Glassman, who made lots of globally relevant things happen. I likewise thank Prof. Barbara Harbach, who took the Honorary Women's Studies Professor title we extended and turned it into something very real, very significant, with her Year of Women and the Arts

campaign, and her willingness to chair the Chancellor's Taskforce on Gender Equity.

Will I stay involved with the IWGS? Absolutely. Creating the conditions that allow women, and men, to make real choices is my life's work, the driving force of my research as well as the source of my international political engagement. We still need to do a lot to improve the dynamics of "Women and Science" on this campus, just for starters.

As to why I was replaced? Good question. The IWGS electorate included not only the eight members of the formal Governing Board but also affiliated faculty who had taught at least one cross-listed course in the past. I guess it proves that as far as feminist movements go, "the personal is indeed the political."

Peace, Joyce Marie Mushaben
Professor of Comparative Politics & Gender Studies

The Intern Diaries

Gary gets a new job, and a new nickname: 'Kojak'

Roger Miller, singer and songwriter, once said, "Some people walk in the rain; others just get wet."

So much has happened for me in New York since I moved here last January. While interning at NBC in sports promotions, I have been a waiter, knocked on more than 1,000 doors raising awareness about the environment throughout all five boroughs in New York and

played roles in a few TV shows and movies—including the new Spike Lee movie with Denzel Washington.

It started with my new job as a waiter in an Italian restaurant in Queens. I had no experience, but I got the job anyway by bluffing my way in. I told Thomaso, the owner, and his son, Joey, that I had experience from working in an Italian restaurant in St. Louis. I needed the money because my internship did not pay. I was down to my last \$100 and needed to earn some rent money quick before it was due.

My first night was not as bad as I imagined. While waiting on customers, I would entertain them with my stories about St. Louis.

As soon as I would seat everyone, they would immediately ask where I was from. I would tell them that I was from St. Louis and working on an internship at NBC. I entertained with stories about the Midwest and how we talk "Country Grammar," like saying "right heere," and "right theereer."

Customers actually would come back the same week with more people and ask me to do my impressions of rappers Nelly and Chingy. "I like it when you do it right theereer. You want to sit over heereer or over theereer by the window."

Thomaso was a bit nervous at first.



GARY SOHN
New York Correspondent

I think he knew that I had never been a waiter before because of my casual attitude when serving. He came out and apologized to the customers saying it was my first day and to have patience with me. At first I was offended because I did not make a single mistake. However, I used this to my advantage.

I would bring out several dishes at a time, seeing how many I could carry at once without dropping them on the floor. It was a challenge; it was showmanship. The customers would watch in amazement as I carried four plates at once filled to the brim with pastas, sauces, meats and vegetables.

I figured since the boss already apologized for any mistakes I might make, I might as well experiment and see what I was capable of doing. The bigger the risk, the bigger the tip they would leave. I needed the money and had nothing to lose since I was new.

The cooks messed with me by filling the soup bowls to the top. I think they got a kick out of testing me. I would carry out huge bowls of soup without spilling a drop. One time I grabbed two bowls of Manhattan clam chowder and almost had a nasty spill. As I was carrying out the bowls, my index finger slipped and slid into one of the bowls through mid delivery.

The pain was excruciating. I kept saying random things in my head to avoid thinking about the pain like, "Owie mommie, that hurtie...Owie...Hu-Haw! (I got some practice on my Al Pacino impressions), I got to get to the table before the mother ship spills all over my hand... I got to get my finger out of bowlie because it hurtie. I love penguins and moonbeams and wild ponies."

Before spilling the bowl of soup with my finger, I quickly landed the soup on the table—as gently as I could—and was able to distract them from seeing my finger in the bowl by asking if that was their car outside with the lights on. As the couple looked out the window, I quickly removed my finger and wiped it on the back of my apron. Everything afterwards was fine when they told me how good the soup was.

Any mistakes I had afterwards I would play off. I decided to play the "noble savage," like Benjamin Franklin did when he was in France. Apparently, if my memory serves me correctly from a required history course I took in college, Franklin traveled to France as a diplomat without his wigs. It was popular—and proper—to wear wigs in those days. His wigs had not arrived yet while in France so he went about without one. The French fell in love with him, thinking he was innocent because of his simplicity as a common man when not wearing a wig.

Franklin was a genius because he was by no means a simpleton or innocent. He was an inventor and innovator. Franklin played up the idea of being a noble savage, and was a hit at parties—especially with women.

So I decided to just be a country boy from Missouri without my hat. Thomaso said no hats, so I did something I usually don't do and not wear a hat.

Editor's mission and columnist's work doesn't mesh, reader says

It's strange what you'll find when you open a paper. In the Aug. 22 edition of *The Current*, we were treated to a very nice variety of news, features, upcoming events, and of course, the obligatory boy-meets-cock story. I am referring to Gary Sohn's "Intern Diaries," which was briefly described as a "personal meditation on growing up in Missouri and adjusting to life in the Big Apple." It sounded fairly promising and even relevant to Editor-in-Chief Mike Sherwin's hopes of expanding the scope of the *Current's* coverage. But instead of learning about big city transitions of prestigious internships, we were subjected to a rambling account of a young boy's first ejaculation. Congratulations, sweetie, you discovered your penis. Let me tell you about the time I realized the alternative function of my left knee cap. I'm sure you'll be fascinated. Long story short,

I fail to see how this article fulfills the Editor's goal of creating a paper in which the interests of our varied community are expressed. Sure, lots of us are fascinated by random ejaculations, but the subject has become so common place that we require more from an article to keep our attention. Sohn's lame specimen didn't even fulfill the requirements of humor or shock value. "Grab us with sexy subjects, if you will, but at least try to fit some sort of point or message into your editorial, especially if it's being passed off as a "life lesson." Perhaps I missed the connection between poison ivy and the Oedipus complex, but the only lessons I found within this rant were to never buy soft back books or expect too much from an article. Gary, Mike, I know you can do better. Now let's see it.

Julie Strassman
Senior, History and Gender Studies

Institute for Women's and Gender Studies won't be the same without Mushaben

A few weeks ago I went to the IWGS to find it closed. After asking around I heard that my mentor was no longer running it. Immediately I e-mailed Dr. Mushaben to ask what happened in the two months we had lost touch. I was saddened to find that it was all true, she had returned to her office in the Tower. How could this have happened? This is the woman who inspired me to know that I am more than a college student, or a woman, I am anything I want to be. This is the woman who captivated me at the Schlafly debate. This is the woman who convinced me not to give up on myself or UMSL and tough it

out until graduation. After all the problems I have had with the staff in the MSC and other professors, Dr. Mushaben was there to listen to me complain and then help me solve the problems both academically and personally. I am glad she is still at the school but I believe the IWGS will suffer with her gone. How can I recommend the courses to other students if I no longer know how it is ran? I feel lost now and want everyone to know that this is truly a sad day at UMSL.

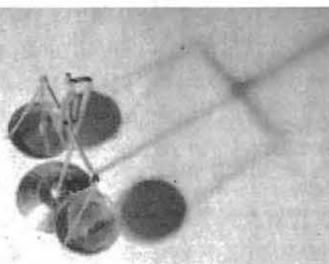
Natalie Lefholz
Senior, Political Science

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor: current@jinx.umsli.edu

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Classes welcomed with week of events

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

As students stood in the quad staring at their course schedules and glancing at each building, on Monday, Aug. 22, UM-St. Louis athletes displayed their enthusiasm with "Spirit Day".

"Spirit Day was done for the first time to make an attempt to get more people involved with sports, go to the games and tailgate parties," Shanna Carpenter, University Program Board said. "Basically to make athletics more visible on campus."

Spirit Day was the second activity held throughout "Welcome Week".

Welcome Week, which began over eight years ago, was created to bring new students together, display some of the activities that UM-St. Louis offers and as a way for students to sign up and become involved with campus clubs and organizations.

"We tried to bring the events to the students, rather than them having to come to them," Carpenter said.

This year's Welcome Week kicked off with the Welcome Picnic on Saturday, Aug. 20, in the Nosh.

With "Bring Your Best Game" as this year's theme, students were encouraged to come, hangout, have fun and most importantly enjoy the free food and entertainment.

"The whole entire Office of Student Life and UPB decided on the theme. We wanted something catchy," Carpenter said.

Many students who participated in the events of Welcome Week showed their appreciation for providing them with entertainment.

"I think that it is good that UM-St. Louis holds activities during the first week of school because it gives students a chance to become familiar with the campus and to make new friends," Adrienne Fineran, junior, special education said.

Over 30 booths lined the quad on Wednesday, Aug. 24, where members of various campus organizations handed out fliers, promoting their groups and gave away freebies like water bottles, books, pencils, candy, key chains, popcorn and snow cones.

Health Services, STAT (Students Today Alumni Tomorrow), Campus Crusade for Christ, the Catholic Newman Center, Alpha Phi Omega and the SGA were some groups that worked booths at the Expo.

Bobby Wassel, campus minister for the Catholic Newman Center said he was surprised of the outcome at the Expo.

"We had a really great turnout. We thought that the rain would turn people away, but it really didn't," Wassel said. "We had a lot of people interested in getting involved with the Catholic Newman Center and many people who signed up for activities."

A "Drive-In Movie Night" was scheduled to take place on Thursday, to play the movie "The Longest Yard" featuring Adam Sandler, Nelly and Burt Reynolds, however due to rain, the event was cancelled.

"We are planning to reschedule the movie night later this week, while Welcome Week is still going on," Carpenter said.

The MTV Beach Party held on Friday, Aug. 26, brought live entertainment along with a few stars to the University Meadows.

Theo Gantt, actor who played on



Brian Fagnani/The Current

Senior Alex Kerford, STAT Advisor Amanda LaPlante, and senior Tegan Viggers avidly promote the 2004-05 Student organization of the year, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow.

the Real World, Chicago season and guest visitor Rachel from the Real World made appearances at the beach party.

Live music played, while the sand volleyball court was transformed into a dance floor with two platforms. Music videos on big television screens, a mechanical bull, pool games and free food were the high-

lights of this event.

Welcome Week will continue with other events and activities scheduled throughout the week.

The other upcoming activities include: Snow Cones on the MSC bridge, Monday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Game Night on Tuesday, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the Nosh, a Psychic Fair on Wednesday,

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nosh and Michael Johns, a Las Vegas Hypnotist to perform on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. in the JC Penney auditorium.

To find out more about all of this year's Welcome Week events, visit The Office of Student Life, in 366 MSC or visit them on the web at www.umsl.edu/studentlife.



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

One of the most memorable performances at UM-St. Louis' Poetry Slam was Devon Dae's "Music A-side." Dae combined her illustrious speech with short musical vocal interludes that had her audience on the edge.

A different kind of poetry: Slam shows power, energy

BY SUZANNE ROUSSIN

Staff Writer

When most people think of poetry, they probably do not think of concert-like atmospheres, screaming crowds, pop-culture icons and groupies.

Not so anymore; in recent years a revolution of freestyle poets has remade the art of competitive performance. In St. Louis, the revolution is happening right on the UM-St. Louis campus. The show is so spectacular, just calling it poetry is not enough. They do not recite poetry, they "Slam" it.

Live competitions like American Idol are traditionally reserved for singing or dancing, but the new generation of artists brings Slam Poetry to the mainstream. Like the television reality shows, the competition involves the audience just as much as the competitors.

The audience, in these Slams, is almost another performer. Some of the well-known St. Louis poets have developed an almost cult-like following, complete with poetry groupies who follow them from

Slam to Slam around town. Some fans even recite the words along with the performers onstage.

"Poetry Slams have become very popular all across America," said Maureen Zegel, assistant director of media and marketing for UM-St. Louis. Zegel can be credited as the one who brings the Slam, and the best St. Louis poets with it, to campus.

The first year, over 100 people attended, and the event was sponsored by the Project: Revolution tour with Snoop Dog and Limp Bizkit. This year, the finalists will go on to perform at UMB Bank Pavilion's concert series featuring 50 Cent and Ludacris. The grand champion wins a backstage pass to hang out with the rap artists.

Not surprisingly, some of the winning poets are UM-St. Louis students. Martha Gillespie, student and second place winner, brought the crowd to its feet with her "Sex" piece. "I'll never look at sex the same way again!" said Curt Copeland of Z107.7, another sponsor of the Slam.

The St. Louis Poetry Slam kicked off its season last Tuesday night,

Aug. 23 in the Pilot House at UM-St. Louis. All of the finalists who perform at the concert will also receive a special invitation from the Regional Arts Commission and Word in Motion to compete for a spot on the St. Louis Slam team. The Slam team then goes nationwide, performing across the country and, ultimately, at the National Poetry Slam.

Word In Motion, a nonprofit agency which promotes the poetry scene in St. Louis, sponsors the entire season of Poetry Slams, leading up to the Nationals. Poets compete once a week for a chance to get into the final competition for the official St. Louis Slam team. After the kickoff at UM-St. Louis, the competition moves to Dressell's Pub in the Central West End. Slam poets compete every Wednesday at 8 p.m., beginning Oct. 5. All are welcome.

"The Slam gets the poetry out there," said Kevin McCameron, veteran poet and the St. Louis SlamMaster. "It brings content to performance...[the poets] resonate with the masses." McCameron emceeds the St. Louis Poetry Slam courtesy of Word in Motion.

Missouri Black Expo highlights education, shares goals of African-American students

BY NAKENYA SHUMATE
Staff Writer

Fourteen years ago, a tradition started and for 14 years it has been successful in attracting large audiences and major businesses. The Missouri Black Expo has been an event that unites those audiences and businesses with several activities and events.

As the largest black empowerment event in Missouri, the MBE requires the help and support of the community as well as local businesses in order to thrive. This year UM-St. Louis answered the call and sponsored the MBE lecture series and panelist talks.

After being contacted by Tom Bailey, director of the MBE, Chancellor Tom F. George knew right away that UM-St. Louis would sponsor the lecture series panel. George agreed that the lecture series panel was "a raving success" and would continue to improve as the University sponsored MBE events in

the future.

"The Missouri Black Expo as a whole was a great success," George said.

The MBE was held at the America's Center in downtown St. Louis on Aug. 20-21. The topic of the lecture panel was Black America Today and the panel was successful in providing its sensational message to the audience. The panelists included Dr. Dick Gregory, Dr. Julia Hare, Dr. Lynn Beckwith, George Curry and Al Dotson.

The message inculcated reclaiming the black community through education and reducing prison statistics of youth. To focus on education and empowerment was the message, as stated by Curry, "to put education at the forefront." The lecture series panel and the University were brought together as partners in this event with the focus on education, each having the similar goal of educating Missouri's students.

Education is considered a major struggle in the black community, with escalating dropout rates leading to increasing youth prison rates. The

University recognized the need for this message to reach a large audience and agreed to offer their sponsorship for the event. The main purpose was to educate those who attended. The panelists wanted the audience to retain and retell the lessons learned inside.

The main event of the MBE was the African American Consumer exhibition, featuring businesses, wellness exhibits, food and entertainment. Each year the entertainment varies based on sponsorship and the theme for that year.

This year's theme Quest for Success was the governing inspiration in many of booths set up in the massive showroom.

Some of the main events included the 100 Black Men Prostate Cancer Survivors & Awareness Walk, Music Fest, the National Invitational Boxing Tournament, a City-Wide Church service sponsored by St. Louis Christian Center and a host of seminars and workshops.

see EXPO, page 10

Library improved to accommodate visitors

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate

For the last few decades, the Thomas Jefferson Library has been an important and visible piece of the UM-St. Louis campus, functioning as a popular place for studying, reading and working on computers.

The library has remained largely the same since the Mercantile Library moved from its downtown location to the UM-St. Louis campus in 1998, but patrons visiting the library in the past couple months may have noticed some changes in the lobby and elsewhere throughout the library.

In addition to new, more visible lettering on the outside of the building, signs hanging from the ceiling inside help direct people to the different collections in the library.

Moreover, people can now return books without having to park their cars. A new book drop has been added outside the University Boulevard circle in addition to one

outside the entrance to the library.

Benches have been added in the lobby and near the entryway. A bust of Thomas Jefferson that was formerly on the fifth floor now sits near the entryway of the library beside a place briefing the history of the libraries, which hangs on the wall next to it.

Some items, such as artwork and other historical items, have been moved from the Mercantile Library, located on the first two floors of the library below the entrance level, and are now displayed in more prominent places in the lobby.

"We try to give people a sense when they walk in the door of what the resources here are," said Julie Dunn-Morton, Woodcock Curator of American Art at the Mercantile Library. "In a way, it's a visual orientation—you can kind of see at a glance what the resources of the library are in terms of art, manuscript collections and book covers."

see TJ LIBRARY, page 10

FEATURES

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

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bets

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Nosh

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Volleyball serves a new season

The team starts fresh with only three returning players

LAGUAN FUSE
Staff Writer

Last season, Interim Coach Josh Lauer led the women's volleyball team to a 9-17 record. This season, Lauer is head coach of a primarily new team. The difference between last season and this season is that Lauer had the chance to recruit players for the team.

"One of the big things we wanted to do this year is bring local recruits back into the program," said Lauer. "I think it's been around five years since there has been a local St. Louis kid on the volleyball roster. This year, we have three kids from within a 50 mile radius."

The new additions to the team are Lisa Brinker, Chelsea Baumstark, Sarah Eisnaugle, Joslyn Brown, Shamika Williams, Natalie Barnard and Katie Taylor.

Three players will be returning to the roster this season: Heather Nichols, Christina Blickhan and Claudia Medina, a Great Lakes Valley Conference Second Team All-Conference selection.

"I am really happy with the way that our returnees have accepted our incoming players. We have a great team bond right now, which in my book is a fundamental piece of the foundation we are trying to build here," said Lauer. "We want this to be a place where players can come and be themselves and be accepted and then learn to compete and grow socially, academically and athletically."

Medina is the top returning offensive player from last season, leading the team with 277 total kills and 47 aces. She also finished second on the team in blocks with 48 and third on the team with 255 digs. Nichols came in second last year with 260 kills and finished the season with 298 total digs. Nichols also finished the season with 13 assists and 11 aces. Blickhan finished the season with 16 aces and 207 digs.

According to Lauer, the team this year has had the time to learn the team's system and they are more "athletic." Lauer recruited players who he felt would mesh well as a team. Players on the team feel confident in Lauer and expect great things from this upcoming season.

"He's [Lauer] the best coach I've had," said Nichols. "Honestly, I'm sure that every single one of us can say that he's the best coach that we've ever had. Straight up, the best coach."

Since Lauer was not named interim coach until about one week before practice, the team had to adjust to a new coach with a new coaching system. "The returning players had been under a coaching staff that thinks very differently than we did. There was a lot of change and adjustment."

Lauer said one of his goals for the team is to make it to the GLVC tournament, which means the team would need to finish in the top eight. In a preseason poll, the Riverwomen are set to finish 11th in the conference. Lauer also went on to say, "We are definitely playing the underdog role this season."

In the GLVC preseason volleyball poll, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville claimed the number one spot while one of the newest teams in the league, Rockhurst, settled in at the number two spot.

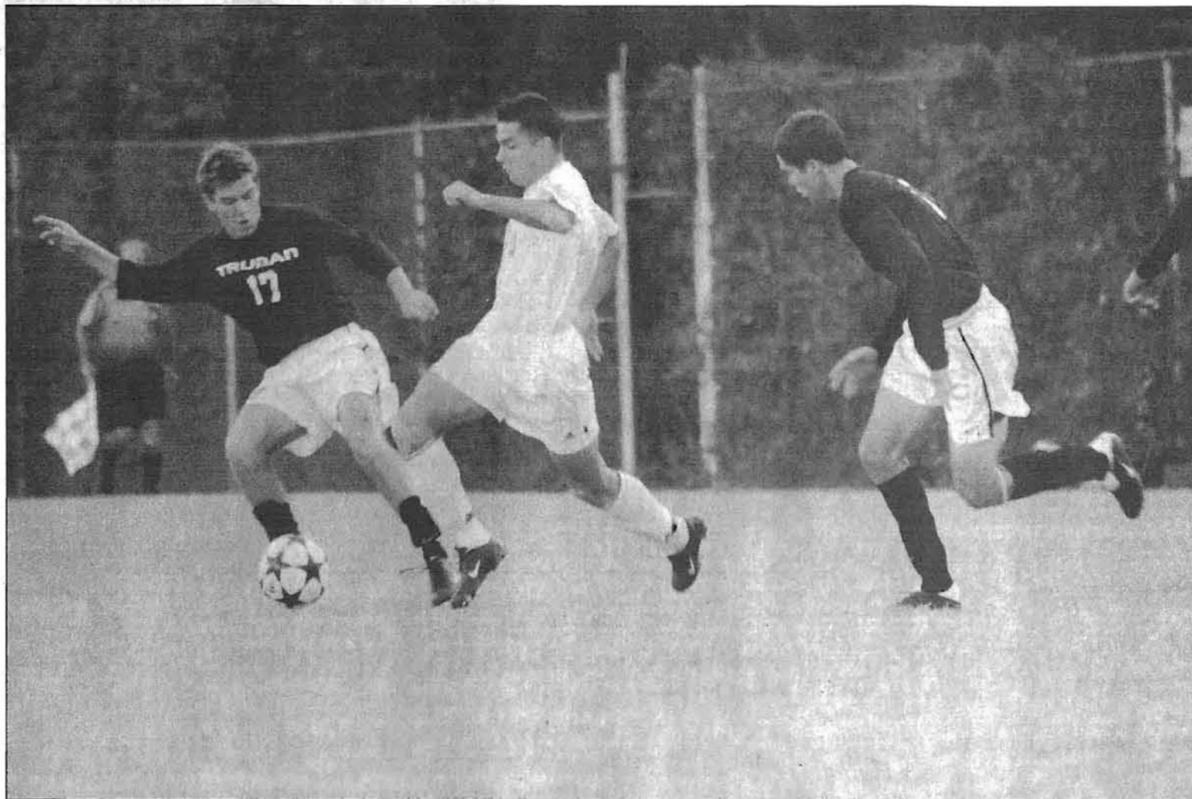
Coach Lauer sees SIUE and Rockhurst as the two toughest opponents coming into the season. While Rockhurst is new in the league, SIUE has seven seniors returning to the team.

Last season, SIUE finished the season with an overall record of 25-7 and a conference record of 14-2.

Fan support is another issue for this upcoming season. "I just think the biggest thing is we need the support of the student community," Lauer said. "Our girls work hard and they love this university and they want to know that there are others out there supporting them too for the hard work they put in."

"At UMSL, we do it as a team and I am looking forward to the season. We feel good about ourselves."

- Midfielder Alen Jujic



Alen Jujic starts his final year with the UM-St. Louis Rivermen this season. Jujic, a midfielder, led the team last year with 14 points which included four goals and six assists. Jujic is one of 11 seniors this year on the men's soccer team.

Jujic leads 11 returning seniors to final season with Rivermen

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team is looking forward to starting the season off with a fresh set of players but also with several returning seniors.

Alen Jujic, one of 11 returning seniors, will start his final season for the Rivermen. Jujic has started as a wing mid-field for four years.

Jujic grew up in Bosnia but when the war broke out, he and his family were forced to move to Germany. He played soccer in both countries before his family had the opportunity to move to the United States six years ago.

Jujic always wanted to attend college and felt confident he could go with his soccer skills and knowledge.

"Alen is a very technical player with a very good knowledge of the game," said Head Coach Dan King. "He is an incredible person and everybody respects him."

Gaining respect took some time for Jujic. Prior to coming to the UM - St. Louis, Jujic contacted King and told him he was interested in playing.

"Coach told me he did not know too much about me so I told him I would be at the gym if he wanted to watch me play," said Jujic.

After King saw Jujic play, he was interested in having Jujic's skills contribute to the soccer club.

Since Jujic's freshman year, he said the organization has made a total turn around and the attitudes of the players have changed. Jujic said King has emphasized timeli-

ness and playing as a team.

The Rivermen are trying to improve from their 2004 record of 7-11-2 and ultimately play in the GLVC championship on Oct. 30.

"We compete everyday at the highest level we can to make it to the championship," said King.

Every senior is ready to compete and finish the season with a bang and make the UM - St. Louis soccer program a success.

"At UMSL, we do it together as a team and I am looking forward to the season," said Jujic. "We feel good about ourselves."

The senior Rivermen will play their final first conference game against Saint Joseph's on Sept. 9.

"I love it at one time and am sad at others," said senior mid fielder Kraig Tenge. "We always want to keep playing."

Alen Jujic #10

Senior

Majoring in Economics

Rivermen midfielder

5'11", 165 lbs.

Originally from Bosnia

Played at Affton High

Led Rivermen with 28 points in 2004

Scored two game-winning goals in 2004, against Benedictine and Kentucky Wesleyan.

Q & A

Women's soccer coach Beth Goetz on the year to come

FRANCIS LAM
Staff Writer

How do you feel your side did last year?

Overall, I think we were a little disappointed with our results last year. We lost at least three games that I felt we were definitely the better team, and another three where we were pretty evenly matched and didn't pull off a win in any of those either. We started off fairly strong, and although we did battle a few injuries I felt that mentally our team wasn't strong enough down the road.

How does the team look for the coming season?

I am very excited about our group this year, they have been training very hard throughout pre-season and really seem to be coming together fairly quickly. I do feel like overall we have more talent, more speed, and better chemistry than last year. Until we jump into season, it will be hard to tell how things shape up in this tough league. I do feel like we will have the ability to compete to win in every game.

One thing we have been focusing on a lot in training, is to be much more organized defensively. We feel like this will really help keep us in those tough games by wearing down their attacking players, and giving

our attackers a chance to score. Obviously we are setting out to be as successful in the GLVC as possible! Especially with the new additions to the conference, I don't think there's any doubt that top to bottom we have the strongest conference in the country. Every match we need to go into knowing we can compete to win, so another one of our goals is to play with confidence and consistency regardless of our opponent.

How are the new players settling in?

At least within the last four years or so, I really feel like this is the quickest that the new players have started gelling with our returning athletes. As a group the came in very fit, and have helped step up the work rate of the entire team. There are several that are very talented and are competing for starting positions, so that always raises the level of play.

With seven new players, are you going to have to make changes tactically to incorporate them?

I don't think we will make too many tactical changes, but there are definitely some aspects to the game we will be able to focus on now that we have some of these talented players. They definitely bring some different strengths to our side: we will be more dynamic in our attack with Tara Reitz (a transfer from Indiana

State) and we have a freshman Krisie Muesenfechter who is really one of our strongest defenders right now and can also attack out of the back.

What do you expect to take from the two games at home to Ashland and Missouri Southern?

Our goal for the first two games is again to compete for 90 minutes. We are really stressing that we need to play our style and do the little things right, instead of adjusting too much to the team we play. Ashland is a very talented team that is always ranked top 20 nationally, and I feel like we can give them a great match. It's exciting to start off with one of the best and be able to challenge them. Missouri Southern is also a team that seems to be on its way to being one of the best in their region. They are a team we usually don't face during our regular season so we don't know too much about them. Ninety minutes, as hard as we can go, playing consistent and focusing on our game plan...that's what we hope to accomplish.

Who is going to captain your side this year?

Three of our seniors: Laura Frederickson, Meghan Tragesser and Mandy Meendering. They are all very good leaders and bring different traits to the team: maturity, work rate, and the ability to inspire their

teammates. I think they will definitely take this team in the right direction.

Who do you expect to stand out and make athletic all conference honors?

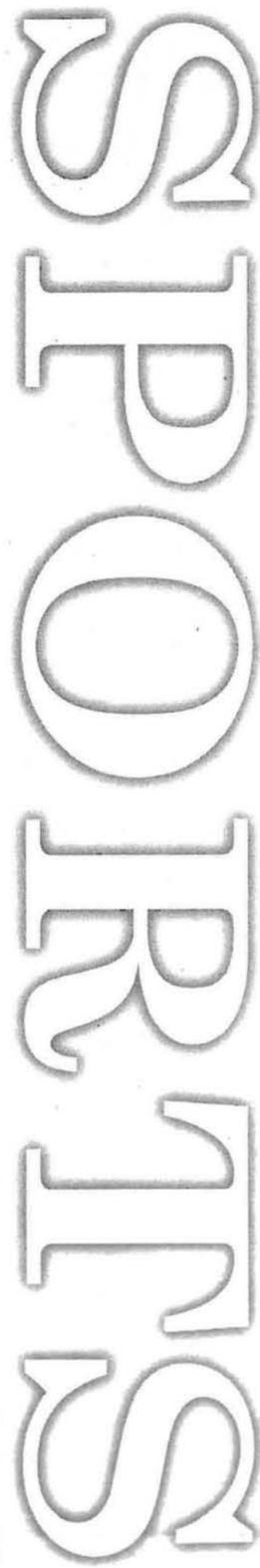
Good question. Without any games under our belt it's probably still a little early to tell. I'm confident we will have a few represent us, but until the end of the season...our focus is on how we can be successful as a team.

Why should UM-St Louis students and faculty come to watch women's soccer games?

I hope people will come because they have the opportunity to see a group of young women laying it on the line, competing with all they have in a game they are passionate about. This is a group of excellent students first who excel in the classroom, and then spend the rest of their time training to excel on the field...because they love the game. That's what athletics, theatre, music, etc. is supposed to be about. I think people will enjoy watching that!

Score prediction for the first game vs Ashland?

It will take 90 minutes of sweat to figure that one out...



EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming

Men's Soccer

Sept. 3
♦ vs Benedictine
2 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Sept. 2
♦ at Ferris State
4 p.m.

Sept. 4
♦ at Grand Valley
1 p.m.

Ice Hockey

Aug. 31
♦ at Ice Zone in the St. Louis Mills Mall
8 p.m.

No fee to try out. Go to www.umshockey.org for more information.

Touhill PAC announces 2005-2006 season

BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

The Touhill Performing Arts Center recently announced its 2005-2006 season and upcoming events. This semester students will be able to attend performances from a wide variety of genres including comedy, music, and inspirational speakers. Classical music fans will be in their element this semester with the Premier Performance concert series performances at the Touhill. Starting off the series is a performance by violinist Frank Huang on Oct. 10. Huang has won several competitions around the world for his stunning talents. Later this fall, the Touhill will also present the Mack Duo, who will be making their St. Louis debut at UM-St. Louis. A press release from the PAC stated that "the two sisters

and pianists, Yuki and Tomoko Mack, have been entertaining audiences in Japan, Poland, Sweden, and Canada." However, if you prefer contemporary music to classical, you may want to check out the Touhill's array of music events for jazz and blues lovers. In early October, Pat Metheny, a Grammy award-winning guitarist will join with Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez to create a fabulous jazz combination featuring standards and improvisations. Later that month, British blues artist, John Mayall, will be featured in a Rockin' Blues Revue. Mayall will perform with other great blues musicians, Eric Bibb and Robben Ford for a night of great music. The Touhill will also feature performances that do not fall under any musical categories. The Fusion Series is a chance for audiences to see the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

break away from mainstream classical music. In late September, they will appear with the Wayne Shorter Quartet for a stunning jazz performance. Later this fall the SLSO will accompany projections of Monet's paintings with music from Claude Debussy in a program called "Seeing Debussy, Hearing Monet." Also, several comedians will be appearing at the Touhill this year. Award winning comic Richard Jeni, who has been on several television specials, will be at UM-St. Louis for a one night performance. A few weeks later, another famous comedian will be lighting up the stage. Known best for her sitcom "Roseanne," Roseanne Barr's honest humor has made her popular with generations of people as she "has been dominating TV and film for over two decades." As well as the stand-up comics

this semester, the Touhill will be launching an African American speakers series. Two influential speakers coming to the Touhill Performing Arts Center are filmmaker Spike Lee and TV talk show host Montel Williams. On Sept. 13, actor, director, and writer Spike Lee will be appearing in a program entitled "America Through My Eyes," in which he will discuss social issues in present day America. In October, another iconic leader, Montel Williams, will speak about "Overcoming the Odds" and his struggles after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999. Many other events not listed here can be viewed at the Touhill's website at www.touhill.org. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online and all shows have student tickets available with at 25 percent discounted price.

September at the PAC

- Friday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Sept. 10 - Gospel Dream 2005
- Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Spike Lee
- Friday, Sept. 16 - ASQ Fall High School Concert
- Saturday, Sept. 17 - Sounds of China
- Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Women in the Arts
- Wednesday, Sept. 28 - Wayne Shorter Quartet
- Friday, Sept. 30 - Richard Jeni

SGA, from page 3

Rails reminded student organizations to begin planning their budgets for next year and announced times for budget workshops. He also reminded student groups that SGA meeting attendance was mandatory or budgets would be frozen. "I would rather be mean to [student groups] than waste the money of 11,000 students," Rails said. The meeting ended with Jody Miller, criminology professor, speaking about the UM-St. Louis tsunami relief project. Miller, who visited Sri Lanka, said all money given to the project would go directly toward rebuilding two schools. "We are the only organization helping these two schools. A lot of times, you raise money or donate to an organization, and you never see where the money is going," Miller said. "One hundred percent of the money is going to this project. There is no overhead. It's exciting how far this money can go." The next SGA meeting will be held on Sept. 16 at noon.

Restaurant Review

O.T. Hodge brings chili close to UMSL

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer



Brian Fagnani/The Current

Co-owner Joe Schaumberger, holds up "The Slinger," the most popular item at O.T. Hodges, located at 250 S. Florissant Road.

Do you have a long break between classes? Are you hungry but want a change of pace from going to the Nosh or the U-Mart? Then visit the new O.T. Hodge Chili Parlor, located on South Florissant Road, just behind North Campus. My friend and I arrived at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. The restaurant looked dark as we approached, and for a moment we were afraid they were closed. When we walked in, the restaurant was empty except for one cook, one waitress, and one guy sitting in a corner booth who turned out to be the owner. No one greeted us. There was no sign that said "please wait to be seated" but no one told us to go ahead and seat ourselves. Everyone seemed rather disinterested when we showed up. We went ahead and sat at a booth against a wall, across from the counter. The waitress came over, took our drink order and left us the double-sided menu to look over. One side had breakfast options, including breakfast sandwiches, omelets, sides, and beverages. Some of the dishes are only available until 11:00 a.m. On the other side was the lunch menu, which included 15 different chili dishes. For those of you who do not like chili, there are sandwiches and burgers. Side items and beverages are also available. Chili carryout is also available by the pint, quart, and gallon. Vanilla ice cream is available for dessert.

room afterwards for a bowl of vanilla ice cream, which my friend and I split. Our total bill came to \$14.79, plus tip. The service at O.T. Hodge's is good. The waitress was pleasant, but she seemed rather inattentive. While we were eating, she sat at the counter eating. We had a hard time getting her attention so that we could order a bowl of ice cream. We could not get her attention to bring us our check, so we just walked up to the register and waited for someone to ring us out. Now, if the restaurant was busier, I could understand not being able to get her attention right away. But, she was sitting right across from us at the counter, and there were no other customers in the store the whole time we were there. The owner, on the other hand, rang up our bill and was very friendly. He asked how we liked our lunch, and seemed flattered when we gushed over

it. O.T. Hodge's Chili Parlor was established in St. Louis at the 1904 World's Fair. It was created by Mr. O.T. Hodge himself. By 1930, there were 17 different locations. The newest location, at 250 South Florissant, opened in June of this year, and is owned by Joe Schaumberger. Hours are Monday through Saturday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find them on the web at www.othodge.com. O.T. Hodge is a good restaurant to visit if you have a decent break between classes, or if you just want a new place to eat dinner. Although the service could be a little bit better, the food is delicious, and prices are affordable for those struggling with money (myself included). Visit them at 250 South Florissant. Remember to get your V.I.P card.

Concert Review

White Stripes, Greenhornes energize audience at Fabulous Fox Theatre

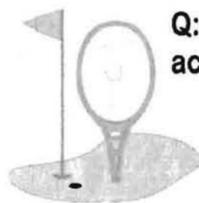
BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

The first time I saw The White Stripes was nearly three years ago at The Pageant. At the time, Jack White, vocalist and guitarist, and Meg White, drummer, were still a little stage-conscious in front of the hundreds of fans, and fought vehemently not to be the rock stars that they are today. The duo only had two instruments on stage, leaving them open and naked, and yet, they won me over. I originally was not a White Stripes fan and even scorned them for not having a bass player. However, at the time, punk rock and grunge were officially dead, and having nothing to listen to anymore, I took a chance and went with some friends. I've been an

avid fan ever since. Since then, The White Stripes have drastically changed. Their fourth album, "Elephant," with the single "Seven Nation Army," managed to win the ears of every rock, pop, and even some country radio stations across the world. Their newest album, "Get Behind Me Satan" also had a huge radio hit entitled "Blue Orchid." Aside from being successful, the members of the White Stripes have also been driven into the celebrity world. Jack White, who recently married the model used in their "Blue Orchid" video, also recorded an album with iconic country singer Loretta Lynn. Meg, on the other hand, was named "Woman Musician of the Year" by Drummer Magazine, as well as being pointed at for leading rock and roll back to its most primal stages

with her simplistic drum beats. Because of all of these changes, I was worried whether the White Stripes still had it in them to put on a good rock show. As I entered the Fabulous Fox Theatre, hundreds of fellow White Stripes fans waited to be seated in the lobby. We quickly found our seats (which were in the acoustically perfect "Sweet Spot," also known as the VIP area) just as the opening band began to set up. The lights dimmed and the opening act came on stage. The Greenhornes played an intense, but all too short, set. Their drummer, Patrick Keeler, stole the entire show with fierce, rolling drum beats that kept the music interesting.

see FABULOUS FOX, page 10



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LIFE IN HELL

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ACROSS

1 Writer Susan
7 AAA handout
10 Explorer Tasman
14 Checker move?
19 Carry too far
20 Winter hazard
21 Creme - creme
22 Kunia - ("Roots" character)
23 Start of a remark by Steven Wright
25 Patrician
27 Canadian prov.
28 Victim.
29 Wool gatherer?
30 Roll-call reply
31 Level
33 Entire range
36 Put up with
38 Thick stick
41 Put aside
43 Blind part
44 See 11
45 Part 2 of remark
50 It may get flipped

51 Connecticut town
54 Summit
55 Live and breathe
56 Mighty mile
58 Sausage segment
59 Long Island resort
62 Tel Aviv teacher
64 Out of the way
66 Beak
67 One way to park
68 Tranquil
70 Part 3 of remark
71 Kukla or Lamb Chop
72 Ill will
73 Cherbourg chapeau
74 Glee
75 - a "Symphony" ("65 song")
76 Submarine finder
77 Competitors
78 Facilitate a felony

82 - Tin Tin
83 Paradise
85 Merchant
87 Cal. page
88 Part 4 of remark
93 Over
95 Jal -
96 Sounds the tocsin

97 Ullman or Gold
98 Goaish
100 Bar hop?
101 Dr. Scholl's concern
102 Source
103 Cardinal
105 - Flynn Boyle
107 Mil. training ctr.
110 African capital
113 End of remark
116 Jazzman
118 Organ of equilibrium
119 Steak or lobster
120 Abrasive substance
121 - a forgive those...
122 Be too interested?
123 And area

DOWN

1 Manhattan district
2 Hot spot?
3 Frog's kin
4 Singing syllable
5 They may be personal
6 Mahalia's music

7 Pixie and Dixie
8 Breaky
9 "92 hit)
9 Princess
10 Orthodontists' org.
11 With 44
12 "Siala Merner" author
13 Endure
14 Ring stat
15 Kansas city
16 "The Lady" (79 film)
17 Gawk
18 French bean?
19 Fancy vase
20 A Muse
21 Inflatable item?
22 Sell
23 Continue
24 Circle
25 section
26 "Mal de -"
27 Impoverish- ed
28 Fountain order
29 Component
30 Carthaginian queen
31 Book part
32 Travel with Spock?

33 - aerobics
34 Rotisserie part
35 "Cornin' -"
36 "Flye"
37 Half-baked?
38 More squalid
39 Heavenly sight
40 Alphabet sequence
41 Network
42 Try for a hit
43 Frocked
44 Biblical city
45 Pianist
46 Watts
47 Fishermen, frequently
48 Auber's "Divorco"
49 Confront
50 Swedish rockers
51 Last name in limericks
52 Crooked
53 Grimm creature
54 "Moon- struck" star
55 Delle a dele
56 111 Uter
57 112 Blow away
58 113 Dry sergeant's shout
59 114 Compass pt.
60 115 - Not Unusual" (65 hit)

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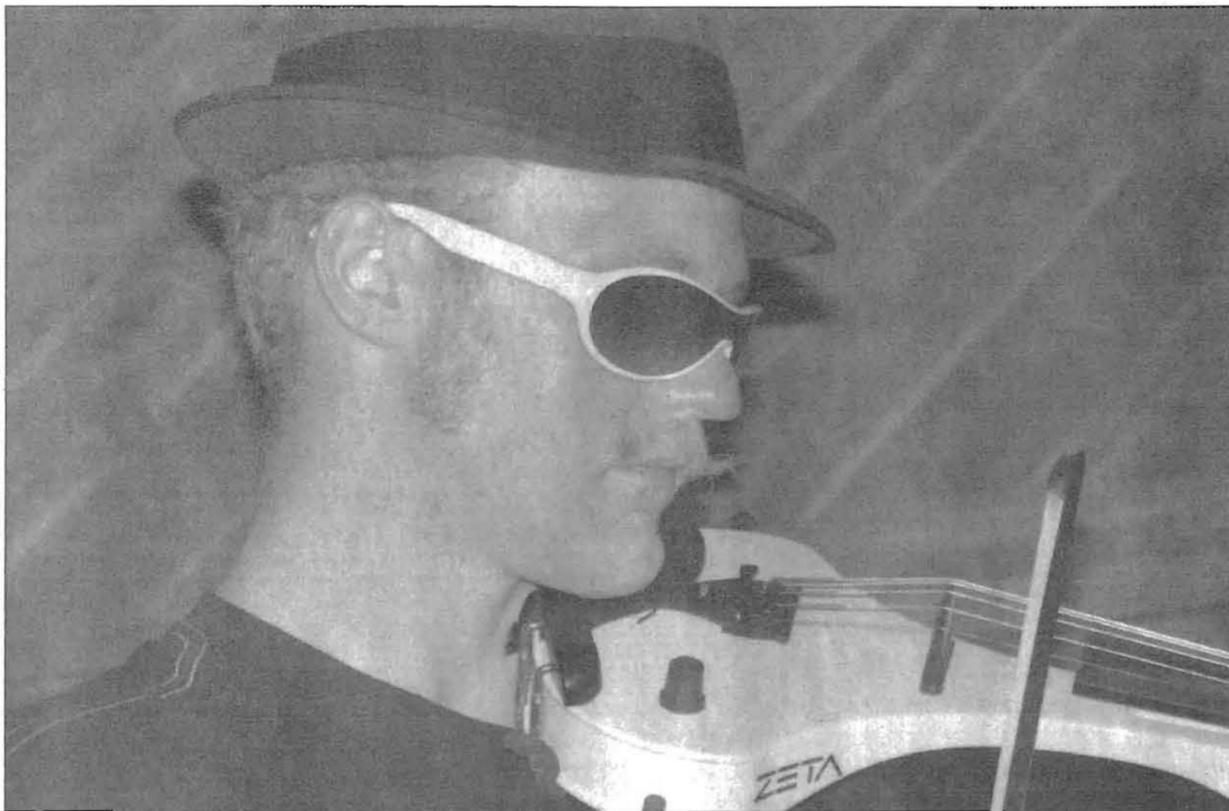
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Photos by Brian Fagnani / The Current

Jupiter Jazz's violinist Keil Anderson jams during their show Friday night at Off Broadway. Jerry Hill, a former UM-St. Louis student, is the band's drummer and manager.

Former UMSL student releases Jazz album

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

After 16 years of experience in music, Jerry Hill, former UM-St. Louis student, finally accomplished his life-long aspiration: he recently released his first album.

Aside from being the drummer, Hill is the current manager of Jupiter Jazz, a band that focuses on live hip-hop and spoken word.

Hill said he began playing standard jazz and became bored with the same traditional style.

"The music of Jupiter Jazz is a combination of hip-hop, spoken word, jazz and funk," Hill said. "We are all big fans of music and we try to get everyone involved."

He named some of the people who have had a strong impact on his life, including his past music instructors and professors from Washington University, UM-St. Louis and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

While attending these three colleges, Hill studied a variety of musical genres, standard jazz and classical jazz being among them.

"I started playing music in high school as a drummer under the direction of Don Kenison," Hill

said. "Dr. Don Parker and Dr. Bell are some other people who have influenced me."

What began as a four-man group evolved into a six-man band with a reputable name around St. Louis.

The other band members are Jason Hill, a vocalist and Jerry's younger brother, vocalist Jason Braun, violinist Keil Anderson, guitarist Neil Kulupka and bass player Jason Koenig.

"Me and Jason met through friends at a coffee house, and we both loved music and were interested in setting up a group that incorporated poetry into music," Hill said.

Anderson, who began his career in music as a struggling violinist, met Hill and Braun during an open-mic night at Venice Cafe in Soulard.

After being introduced to one another, they discussed the possibility of forming a band.

Hill said that during the group's first two months together, each member did everything they could to get their name out in public.

"We have been together for about a year. At first we did an open-mic search. We went to just about every open-mic in the city, played and handed out fliers to promote us. We had landed our first real show at Atomic Cowboy," Hill said.

Since then, the group has performed at a variety of venues throughout St. Louis, Illinois and Arkansas. The Great Grizzly Bear, Off Broadway, Mississippi Nights, Cicero's, Hi-Pointe, The Pageant, Velvet and the Riverfest Music Festival in Little Rock, Ark. are just a few of the places that Jupiter Jazz has performed.

"My favorite song is 'Techno Chicken' because I love the feel and the high energy," Kulupka said. "I have enjoyed playing at The Pageant, Mississippi Nights and at the Arkansas River Festival."

In addition to touring the city and showing off their skills, Jupiter Jazz has also played with and opened for some legendary per-

formers, singers and professional groups. They have played with B.B. King, The Black Crows, The Wallflowers, 4th Avenue Jones, Robert Randolph and the Family Band.

The St. Louis Riverfront Times voted this young rising group as one of the top five live dance and electronica bands.

Craig Holt, freshman, political science, and former member of Jupiter Jazz, assisted with the group's creation.

"I think that the group has done well," Holt said. "Jerry is an entrepreneur and has done much work with keeping the group together and with making them become popular. The band has been listed in STL Scene and many people like them."

Their efforts at success hit home last week when they had the opportunity to promote themselves through a live radio show on 88.1 KDHX and on "The Best of St. Louis" television show.

On Friday, Aug. 26, Jupiter Jazz held their first album release show at Off Broadway.

To find out more about their group or to view a list of upcoming shows, visit www.Jupiter-Jazz.net.



Jerry Hill
Former UMSL student,
drummer and manager
of Jupiter Jazz

TJ LIBRARY, from page 6

Perhaps the most visible addition is a new built-in semicircular bookshelf filled with best sellers and new books. Two armchairs face the bookcase, inviting readers to stop and browse the collection. Several computer workstations were relocated to different levels of the library to make room for the reading area.

"The Thomas Jefferson library has long been interested in having a new-book section that many libraries have to introduce and present newly acquired books," Dunn-Morton said. "The Mercantile library has a long-standing tradition of a fiction collection so we decided to combine and incorporate the reading area and encourage people to stop and look at what's new."

Since the changes were completed in June, many visitors have complimented on the new visuals and stopped to look at the new books. "It's really working," Dunn-Morton said. "People are checking out more new books and really getting to know what's available at the library."

"It's good because they put out all the new books so people can see them instead of them being down-

stairs," Ketsy Marcellus, senior, MIS, said.

"We've always had new books in the library but in the past when we received new books they would automatically go the first or fourth level where we keep books," Lisandra Carmichael, head of access services and reference librarian, said. "Now instead of putting them straight into the stacks, we display them in the new shelves."

With the changes, more students are lingering around, browsing new books and relaxing in the lobby. "All summer long, we've had people coming in, just sitting around and browsing the new items," Carmichael said.

The project was a collaboration between the Thomas Jefferson and Mercantile Libraries, Campus Computing and the Facilities. A committee composed of representatives from various departments met to come up with a feasible plan. "I am very grateful that we had all the different departments involved and collaborating on this," Amy Arnott, dean of the libraries, said.

FABULOUS FOX, from page 6

Although the band looked a little lost on stage, they still played a very tight list of songs that kept almost everyone entertained. Also to their advantage, blue, purple, and green lights illuminated the band, giving the audience something to look at apart from the immobile band. However, before anyone had a chance to get into the music, they finished after playing for barely 20 minutes, and exited the stage to a hearty applause.

As the lights came back on, crazed spectators dressed in red, white, and/or black came streaming in. Smoke began to fill the stage area and a jungle scene, complete with a red backdrop; white, plastic foliage magically appeared from out of the mist. Slowly, each instrument, was produced on the stage, revealing a grand piano, a giant marimba set, several guitar amps and Meg's drum kit, all in the uniform of red, black, or white.

Then, the lights suddenly snapped off and the duo entered the stage. Jack White, dressed in a black, silk Stetson hat and overcoat wasted no time and immediately added more volume to his guitar before starting

on "When I Hear my Name" from the first, self-titled, album. Also on the set list were favorites like "Dead Leaves on the Dirty Ground," "Seven Nation Army" and "We're Going to be Friends." However, the highlight of the night was easily when Meg took to the center stage and sang "Passive Manipulator." Also a memorable moment was the jam session that took place amid "Death Letter," written by Delta Blues genius Son House. However, the most surprisingly energetic moment of the night was when the marimba was put to use on "The Nurse." Meg's crashing drums had everyone in the theatre on their feet and applauding.

Overall, the entire night was simply amazing. Both bands played top-notch sets and the Fox Theatre was perfect for them. Also worth mentioning was the venue's lighting, which created an assortment of eye candy that left everyone in awe.

I felt a little foolish second guessing the White Stripes ability to put on energetic shows as I headed for the exit. However, I soon found myself wondering, "How are they going to top this show?"

EXPO, from page 6

According to the MBE website the Black Expo Mission is "to provide opportunities for self-improvement and the economic self-sufficiency of the African American Community. To provide awareness and a display of outstanding resources in the areas of Youth Development, Health Awareness Education, and

Community Development. To improve the quality of life of our citizens."

A mission statement is comparable to a promise made for a positive undertaking. This year's expo accomplished their mission through the lecture series panel and plans amplify their accomplishments in future years.

THE INTERN DIARIES, from page 5

Because of this, I actually got a new name: "Mr. Kojak." Thomaso said that I look like the bald movie actor Telly Savalas.

"You mean Bruce Willis," I corrected.

"No, not him," Thomaso said. "You mean Vin Diesel or John Malkovich?" I asked.

"No, the guy with the lollipop. Kojak. You look like Mr. Kojak," he said.

After that, all of the cooks, staff and regular customers called me Mr. Kojak. At first I hated it but then just embraced it. So I decided to be Mr. Kojak from Missouri.

I figure that this would be a cool role to play. I pretended that I was in a play where every night was the show, and there were no dress rehearsals. I played Mr. Kojak who waited tables at Italian restaurants.

I put on a show every night, and I judged my performance by each tip I received. (The bigger the tip, the bigger the applause.)

I decided to take the advice once given to me when I was in "Comedy of Errors" at UM-St. Louis.

I remember getting frustrated trying to figure out how to play Angelo the Goldsmith. I could not quite grasp the character until the director pulled me aside and gave me some very useful advice.

Eric Love said, "Gary just 'Be.' Be yourself. Be you as if you were that goldsmith."

"It took me years of theatre to figure that out," he said. "But one night I just went out on the stage and played myself as the character...not someone else. It was one of my best performances since then."

After work I had to get a tuxedo so that I could be in the remake of Mel Brooks' "The Producers." I Googled a rental place and rushed to the shop. I was excited to be in my first movie,

but before renting a tux I would hear of news back home which forced me to consider giving up New York along with everything else...

Stay tuned next week when Gary works the US Open for tennis, airing the week of Aug. 29 on the USA cable network.

MONSANTO, from page 3

They're a great place to get lots of opportunities for technological development," she said.

Eveld said St. Louis companies recruit UM-St. Louis graduates because companies respect the students. "The primary reason is the University of Missouri is recog-

nized as a top business school and top IT school."

Balestreri said Monsanto recruits at the University because students are academically prepared. "UM-St. Louis students and graduates are really applauded by the St. Louis corporate community. Our

students' work ethic is strong," she said.

Eveld and Balestreri organized a meeting of IT and MIS faculty to continue this level of recruitment at UM-St. Louis.

"I think the University should be very proud that [Monsanto] recruits

here and that we especially should be proud that our students are so prepared that [Monsanto] hires the highest percentage," Balestreri said.



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