



See page 7
Sparring with the Jujitsu Club

International law threatens U.S. power, scholar says

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

The United States is often portrayed as a dominant world force, but a UM-St. Louis scholar believes that this may change because of the rising prominence of international law.

On Feb. 3, UM-St. Louis' Lentz Fellow in peace and conflict resolution research, Mark Stein, discussed "American Hegemony and International Law." The University, along with the Center for International Studies and the Lentz Peace Research Foundation, funds this fellowship.

Each year, UM-St. Louis accepts applications for research fellows. The winner then fills several functions at the University.

"In this post, he teaches a class for the political science department and pursues his research," Robert Baumann, assistant director for the Center for International Studies, said. "We've been hosting a person like this for a number of years and each year they give a talk to the campus and public."

During his talk, Stein talked about the United States as a hegemony and its military forces. "We are now living in a time when America is a dominant military power," he said. "The hegemony is the one that uses force the most."

Stein attributed the United States' military power to its permanent membership on the United Nations' security council. "The security council has almost unlimited power, including use of force," he said. "We've always had stronger states beat weaker states."

Stein also talked about the United States' preemptive strikes and how the country often used international law and self-defense to justify its military action. "It's interesting how the United States says that it never actually worked on the issue of preemption," he said.

The United States is arguably the world's dominant military power, Stein said, but he believed that would end. "No hegemony lasts forever," he said. "But who is going to go against America?"

Stein believed the most realistic threat was not from another country, but from the International Criminal Court. This court has the jurisdiction to try war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of aggression.

"The crime of aggression is something that most affects the United States," Stein said. He also said that the United States has opposed the court because it would "as hegemony be crazy to agree to such a thing."

Stein believed that America was losing its fight against the International Court, but he said that would not completely undermine the United States. "Though the International Criminal Court is succeeding in the face of the United States, they are still intimidated by them."

Stein also talked about his longtime interest in the subject. "We need research on how to make peace," he said. "The dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki turned peace research into a necessity."

Members of the audience seemed to agree with what Stein said. Former UM-St. Louis student Dalton Baker said, "I heard some things I haven't heard before. I think I learned some things but it didn't change my views much."

It's a HAPPY HOMECOMING for the Rivermen



Ike Attah links arms with teammates while watching from the bench as Derrell Minner takes a free throw on Thursday night.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Chris Mroz gets congratulations from assistant coach Chico Jones on Thursday night. Mroz scored the winning 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left in double overtime, for a 82-79 victory the night before Homecoming.

Rivermen win 82-79 in double overtime against Lewis

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

In what may have been the hardest fought and most exciting game of the year, the Rivermen scored a dramatic double-overtime pre-Homecoming victory against the Lewis Flyers, keeping the team in contention for the conference tournament.

The game started out as an offensive

disaster for the Rivermen. After eight minutes of play the team managed to only score one point, but stayed in it with defense, holding the Flyers to eight. The Flyers jumped out to an 11-6 lead with ten minutes left, and then sparked an 11-2 run with three three-pointers to grab a 22-8 lead. The Rivermen responded with an 8-1 run to cut the Flyer lead to seven points, at 23-16. The Rivermen finished the half

closing the gap on a lay-up by Derrell Minner and a three-point play by Sherome Cole, bringing the score to 25-21.

Cole said the Rivermen's defense was especially important. "We knew that if we guarded them like we did in the first half throughout the second we would have a good chance at winning."

see RIVERMEN VICTORY, page 9

More than 600 enjoy 'A Night On The Town'

BY MELISSA MCCRARY & PATRICIA LEE
Features Editor & News Co-Editor

A diverse crowd of more than 600 people came to the Marriott on Feb. 11 to show their school spirit at UM-St. Louis' homecoming dance.

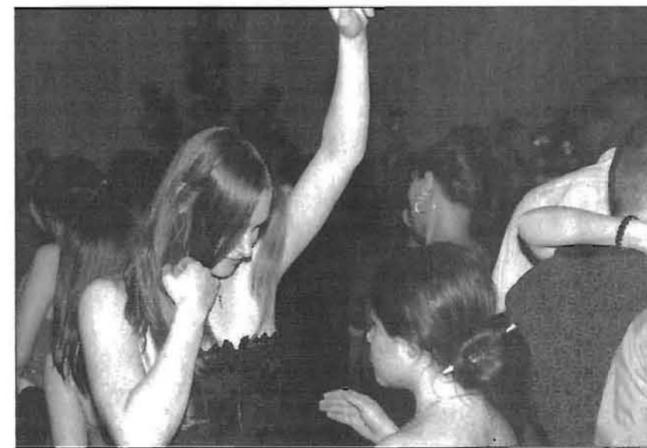
Couples, singles, professors and faculty attended, including Chancellor Thomas George. Over 70 tables, each seating eight, filled the ballroom of the Airport Marriott. Tables were set up with taper candles, silverware and fine china.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m., with choices of dinner entrees including chicken, beef or veggie, followed by desserts such as cheesecake, chocolate cake and strawberry sauce. A cash bar served alcoholic beverages and soda.

The opening ceremony thanked Student Life and the Homecoming Committee for all their hard work.

Faculty members Donna Carothers, Pat Dolan, Joe Flees, Jenny Heinz, John Klein, Amanda Laplante, Orinthia Montague, Gloria Schultz, Pat Sherman and Allyson Wilson all had an important part organizing the night.

There was an introductory opening from the Homecoming Committee Chairs in which Mindy McNabb, Rachel Smith and John Waterhouse spoke and greeted everyone. McNabb gave a special thanks to all the faculty members who



Kate Drolet/The Current

Amy Jordan gets her groove on during UM-St. Louis' 'A Night on the Town' Homecoming dance. The dance was held at the Airport Marriott.

helped to coordinate this event. Rachel Smith recapped all of the week-long events and activities.

The Alumni Association President, Jackie McBrady, also spoke about the importance of sharing and expressing school spirit.

"This is a very proud university with over 69,000 alumni," McBrady said. "I encourage everyone to become involved with the school and stay connected through all of the alumni association's

services. One way that students can show their spirit and stay connected is by belonging to STAT (Students Today Alumni Tomorrow) that can also help with finding job opportunities."

One of the highlights of the event was the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen. Former King Benny Suen and Queen Jan Mayer were on hand to cheer on this year's candidates.

see HOMECOMING, page 12

Nursing faculty vote to oust dean

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

The faculty at the College of Nursing voted no confidence in Dean Lucille Travis by a margin of 30-3 and voted 29-4 in favor of asking University Provost Glen Cope to remove Travis from her position.

Faculty nurses voted using a secret ballot at a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Association at the College then counted the ballots. A vote in no confidence means the faculty does not feel comfortable with the current leadership.

The decision came after Travis held a retreat for nursing faculty and staff on Jan. 27-28. After the retreat, nursing faculty requested that the dean fill certain administrative positions, including the associate dean and the director of research and scholarship. Instead, the dean decided to make changes to the administrative organization.

Travis sent out a memo highlighting the events of the changes. The reorganization included the addition of staff positions and the rearrangement of current staff positions to better outline the responsibilities of those positions. Under the new plan, faculty would be able to move from their positions on clinical track to tenure track.

In a report from Bob Samples, director of communications and marketing at UM-St. Louis, the primary goals of the rearrangement

see NURSING COLLEGE, page 3

Barnes College of Nursing

-College offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees

-Enrollment: 688 509 undergrad 179 graduate

-Faculty: 53 full and part time faculty

-Nursing graduates since 1994: 1446 undergrad 645 graduate

-Pass rates for 1st time takers of NCLEX-RN exam: 97.7%

-Accredited until 2010 by the CCNE

-Dean: Lucille Travis, appointed July 1, 2004 by Chancellor Thomas George

Black History Month gets a rousing start

Ebony Editor Lerone Bennett Jr. says black history is too often overlooked

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

When the editor of Ebony magazine took the stage at the J.C. Penney Auditorium Tuesday night, he claimed black history constitutes a total challenge "at the core of black and white identity."

"Perhaps our biggest problem is that we black people don't know who we are," Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor of Ebony magazine, said.

Bennett spoke enthusiastically to the black community at UM-St. Louis on Feb. 8 about "Historical Insights into Black America."

African-American History Month got underway with this event by combining the celebration of black history with the honoring of current students of all colors for their excellence in service and academics.



Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor of Ebony magazine, discussed African-American history last Tuesday at UM-St. Louis. Bennett's visit is part of the University's Black History events.

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A&E: Don't miss 'The Voice' at the PAC



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On the back: More Homecoming Week coverage



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UMSL professor discusses thermodynamic properties

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

The first law of thermodynamics states that energy can be transferred, but never created nor destroyed. This same law applies to the energy that a UM-St. Louis chemistry professor put into researching hypothetical thermodynamic properties.

James Chickos, chemistry professor, discussed research that he and his students compiled in a seminar titled, "Hypothetical Thermodynamic Properties," on Monday, Feb. 7, sponsored by the chemistry and biochemistry department.

Although Chickos was part of the visiting speaker seminar series, he teaches at UM-St. Louis. "The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has some first rate scientists and surprisingly, students are not always aware of the high quality scientific research taking place on campus," Christopher Spilling, chairman of the chemistry and biochemistry department, said.

Chickos defined a hypothetical thermodynamic property as a property of a material not measured directly because of the nature of the material. In his speech, he called these properties important because they are state properties used in thermodynamic cycles.

A state property is independent of the way it is measured. "As an example, the location of your house relative to UMSL is a state property. It is independent of how you get to it," he said.

He and his students have researched these properties for about 15 years. Chickos' research reviewed literature and data of boiling point temperatures for different chemical compounds, including substances called n-alkanes, groups with repeated elements. N-alkanes are made of a carbon and two hydrogen atoms bonded together, with the n standing for the number of repeated sets.

His study compared the melting point, boiling point, critical temperature and critical pressure in these groups to see if a relationship exists between those factors and the num-

ber of repeated units.

"The usefulness is that we know relationships exist and that we can predict the corresponding values that cannot be measured," Chickos said. He said his research provides a better estimation rather than a guess.

He has also developed models to estimate phase properties, such as vaporization enthalpies, which measure intermolecular interactions.

Chickos said the data collected form the foundations used to understand the physical world. The physical world is dependent on reliable data from thermodynamic properties.

From Chickos' research, he concluded that the normal boiling point temperature of a similar series of molecules converge to a finite limit. He also found that the vaporization enthalpy approaches a certain limit as well, then drops to zero.

He found the critical temperature, which allows two phases to exist at the same time, converges to the boiling point temperature, and the critical pressure, in this review of the data, decreases to one atmospheric pressure.

With his research, he and his team of students developed a collaborative effort with the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, in Washington, D.C. "They collect data and make the fundamental decisions for commercial uses of these substances, and we help collect the data for them," he said.

The data includes certain chemical and physical properties of chemical compounds. Chickos' review of data for boiling points, melting points, vaporization enthalpies, critical temperatures and critical pressures are included in this data.

"They [the NIST] have a concerted effort to tabulate the data and establish a database that can be used," he said.

Chemistry seminars like this one expose students and faculty to top researchers in different areas of science, Spilling said.

Heather Tallent, senior, chemistry, is a student in the seminar class, who enjoyed Chickos' presentation. She said, "I think he's been the best speaker so far this semester. He keeps you entertained."

EBONY EDITOR, from page 1

In his speech, Bennett asked where the television cameras were to show the students who were recognized for their achievements. Media has been blamed for showing a negative side to black Americans.

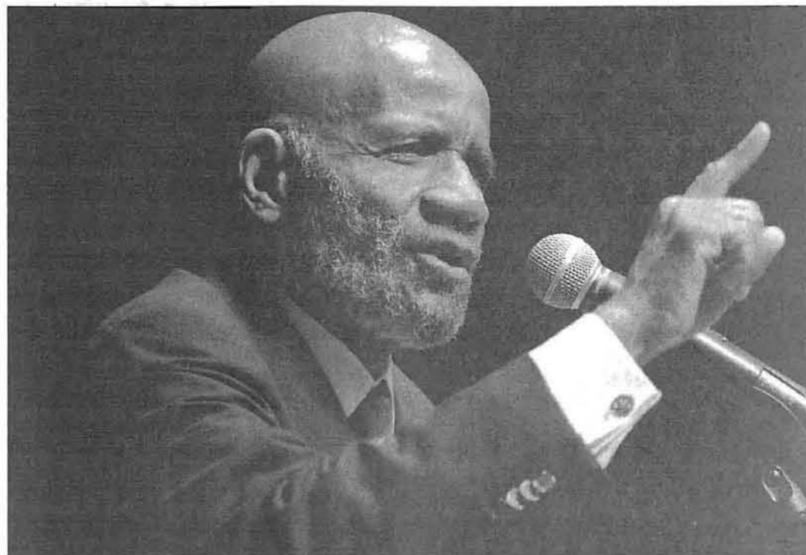
"Traditional media tells us we are weak, helpless, confused, but the black tradition tells us we are giants!" Bennett said. "Contrary to what everything everyone says, excellence is our heritage and our only hope."

Gwendolyn Packnett, director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, introduced the guest speaker and promised the audience a great time. "But more than that, you will be informed by one of our greatest historians and authors, Mr. Lerone Bennett," she said.

Before Bennett gave his speech, Multicultural Relations honored students, tutors, mentors, an alumnus and parent support groups. Rochelle DeClue Walker, assistant director of Multicultural Relations, said the mission of their office is to contribute to the retention of students of color.

Besides Multicultural Relations, a local corporate sponsor supported the event as well. Johnny Furr, vice president of sales development at Anheuser-Busch, said he was proud to sponsor the event and gave UM-St. Louis \$15,000 in scholarships for students of color.

He described Bennett as "a man whose love for our history has driven his search for the truth and quest for understanding. Lerone Bennett Jr. is a social historian of the highest caliber and the author of ten books on the life and history of black Americans."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor of Ebony magazine, gave a stirring talk Tuesday night on "Historical Insights into Black America" at the J.C. Penney Building.

Bennett emphasized the importance of African-American History Month. "If March 1 comes and we're the same old black people and white people in St. Louis that we were in January, we will have blown it," he said.

He said people cannot understand black history without understanding the contributions that blacks have made to this country, including the cowboys, inventors and the black soldiers who served in Missouri during the Civil War, not to mention abolitionists Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman.

He also quoted W.E.B. DuBois, a black scholar and writer, who said blacks gave three gifts to America, which are a stirring song, sweat and brawn and a spirit. "America would not be America without these gifts," Bennett said.

Bennett also talked about black history being threatened in Missouri and the United States as it has never been threatened before. Black history is being threatened through alienation of blacks and attempts to repeal the doings of Martin Luther King Jr. and other black freedom fighters of the 1960s.

"It's not enough to read black history. It's not enough to lecture about black history," he said. It is necessary for students and teachers to make their own history, he said.

"The black experience is a mainstream experience, for it's central to the identity and meaning as a people," he said.

Bennett told audience members that the take home message from his speech was that blacks could not be defeated by anyone and that "no one has done more with less."

NURSING COLLEGE, from page 1

were to make improvements in already excellent classroom and clinical instruction, research and scholarly activities and student support services, such as better administration of scholarship funds.

After the vote, though, nurses clearly showed they do not support the changes. Many nursing faculty declined to comment on the decision to oust Travis.

However, one faculty member said the reason for the vote went beyond the changes in administration. The faculty member said a lack of leadership, poor communication skills and poor relationships within the community were also reasons. Concerns have worried nursing faculty since Travis was hired.

Travis came to UM-St. Louis after Chancellor Thomas George appointed her to the position as dean of the College of Nursing. She has held the position since July 1, 2004. Travis served as an interim dean at the College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University at campuses in Houston, Dallas and Denton, Texas before working here.

The faculty association at the college plans to meet with the provost next week to discuss possible further actions.

"The provost will ask faculty for all of the issues and then make a decision on how to move forward. She will decide whether the current consultant will continue or whether to bring in another consultant," Samples

said.

Travis said in a memo dated Feb. 3 that Suzette Ashworth, the current consultant, will continue working with the College of Nursing, but the provost may alter that choice.

"The College of Nursing at UMSL is the best program in the region and perhaps the best in the state," Samples said. "The dean proposed administrative changes in an effort to make the program even better, perhaps a top 10 program nationally."

As of 2004, the Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies at UM-St. Louis boasts the highest rate in Missouri of nursing students who pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, at 97.7 percent.

Besides the possible changes in administration or the position of the dean, the College of Nursing at UM-St. Louis recently experienced other changes.

Barnes Hospital and the College of Nursing at UM-St. Louis merged in 1994. However, the Barnes College of Nursing at UM-St. Louis changed its name after Barnes-Jewish Hospital reclaimed the name.

This change in names went into effect Jan. 1 of this year to help avoid confusion and become consistent with Barnes-Jewish Hospital and other institutions in the Central West End and the Jewish College of Nursing and Allied Health at Washington University Medical Center.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH VUSI MAHLASELA "THE VOICE"

"He was the voice during the revolution, a voice of hope, sort of like a Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan of South Africa, and he still is."

Dave Matthews

"Vusi Mahlasela sings as a songbird does; in total response to being alive. Music was at the heart of the struggle for freedom; Vusi was there. Music is at the heart of reconstruction; Vusi's music is here to stir and delight us. He is a national treasure."

Nadine Gordimer, 1991 Nobel Prize Winner

VUSI'S MUSIC SKIMS FOLK, ROCK, TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AND EVEN A TOUCH OF REGGAE, OFFERING MASTERPIECES FOR RECONCILIATION IN THE POST-APARTHEID ERA, AND WELCOMING HOME THE PRISONERS AND EXILES EAGER TO REMAKE THE WORLD.

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BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS

OUR OPINION

Know your financial aid

In some cases, ignorance is not bliss. When it comes to paying tuition for school, the only thing that ignorance does for us is put more money in other people's pockets. As poor college students, the last thing we need to do is throw money away. We are responsible for educating ourselves in regards to the financial aid possibilities out there. The following is a simple overview of what is available, and how to apply for it.

Several types of financial aid are open for students, including scholarships, grants, work study and loans (listed in order of benefit to the student). The application process is simple enough, but first let's outline what each one means.

Scholarships are awards given to students, usually based on merit. Scholarships are not paid back to the donor; however, the student must comply with certain rules established by the donor. Each department at the University has a set number of scholarships to give away, each of varying amounts. The student who shows need and meets the criteria (GPA, number of credits, etc.) can receive these scholarships. Other scholarships are given according to minority status or special talents, such as music or athletics.

Grants are similar to scholarships, except that they are usually based more on financial need than actual merit. The most common is the Federal Pell Grant. The Pell Grant is an award from the government based on enrollment status, demonstrated need and attendance. The minimum award is \$400 per year, and the maximum is \$4,050. For students with an exceptional financial need, the FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant) is an additional grant to the Pell Grant given to students when the funds are available. If a student qualifies for the Pell Grant and still has a significant financial need, the FSEOG comes into play. In addition to the Federal Government, the State of Missouri has its own set of grants that it gives out to students in Missouri. Recipients are not responsible for paying back grant money.

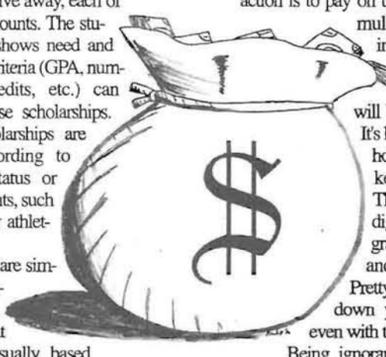
Federal Work Study is another financial aid option offered through campus. A student who qualifies for Federal Work Study can receive a set amount of money that goes towards educational fees. Unlike scholarships and grants, though, the student must work at a part-time job, either on campus or at an approved position in the community, to be eligible for the money. It's kind of like eating at a restaurant and paying for it by washing dishes the rest of the night.

Loans are perhaps the least understood means of financial aid and most abused by students. Loans are not free. Loans must be paid back. You will pay on them the rest of

your life if you are not careful. That being said, let's examine the different types of loans available to students. Different types of loans are available; some are from the U.S. Department of Education (Perkins and Stafford Loans), while private lenders fund others. The Federal Perkins Loan is a 5 percent interest loan given to both graduate and undergraduate students. Students who receive this loan do not have to start paying it back until nine months after they are no longer taking at least six credit hours. The Federal Stafford Loan is different than the Perkins Loan in that the interest rate is adjustable, although it will never surpass 8.25 percent. If any students are thinking about getting a Stafford Loan, try to stick to the subsidized loan. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest while the student is enrolled at least half-time. Unsubsidized loans, on the other hand, accrue interest the entire time. If any students have taken out unsubsidized loans, the best course of action is to pay on the interest as it accumulates, otherwise the interest will be added to the principle and then future interest will be based on the total. It's like digging yourself a hole where the ground keeps getting softer. The farther down you dig, the easier it is to grab bigger shovel fulls and throw them out. Pretty soon you're so far down you can't climb out, even with that great new job.

Being ignorant about money and financial aid does not mean we are going to have to spend a few more dollars here and there; it means that we will be completely screwed by people who are financially smart. Loans are great, but remember, they would not exist if they did not make the lender money - money that you could be doing something else with. All of these financial aid resources are obtained after students fill out the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid). Information on filling out the FAFSA can be obtained through the Financial Aid Office or through the UM-St. Louis Web Site. Students are required to submit a FAFSA before receiving any financial aid through the government. The government bases the allotment of money on something called an EFC, or Expected Family Contribution. The EFC is relative to the amount of money that parents make and can give to their children's education. By combining the EFC with the student's own income, the government can decide whether or not the student is financially needy. One last piece of advice regarding the FAFSA: If your parents make a lot of money but refuse to or cannot share any of it with your education, do not worry. By obtaining letters of recommendation from people that know your situation, you can have the EFC discounted to a degree and financial aid made available to you.

Only by educating ourselves can we get the most out of financial aid.



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LETTERS

MAIL
The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
1 University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX
314-516-6811

E-MAIL
current@jinx.umsi.edu

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

The Issue

Student financial aid is often a confusing, slightly terrifying territory. Those unaware of all the options may end up with a pile of debt upon graduation.

We suggest

Scholarships and grants require no repayment, while loans do. Certain loans accrue interest sooner than others. Know your financial aid.

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

Avoid impulse buying

Hi, my name is Kate (reader response: Hi, Kate!). I am a spendaholic. I have been a spendaholic for quite some time. I knew I had a problem when the little conscience-devil floating over my left shoulder tempted me to buy pig ears for my dogs that live over 1,000 miles away. Come on, love too, right?

Spending money is a personal talent that I possess. My specialty is impulse buying: those dog treats, Shrek Valentine cards and anything in the \$1 section at Target. I know I'm not the only one who suffers from mindless purchasing. After looking at my W-2's and then my December bank statement, the reality hit me: I am "nickel and dime-ing myself" to broke.

Shoppers on budgets, especially poor college students, often stay away from large, expensive purchases to save money. However, the road to financial hell is paved with lots of cheap, neat stuff. So how can we avoid an empty bank account and a closet full of junk?

Since the first day I received allowance money, my mom insisted "pay yourself first." Paying myself, I thought, would be easy. Saving was the challenge. What she really meant was "pay your future self first." Go to the bank on payday and put 10 percent of your check into a savings account. If you feel thrifty, go for 15 percent. Pay the bills and fund your social life with the leftovers.

Invest in a good, sturdy piggy bank. Do not let dollars float around in your wallet. At the end of each day, put your change into the bank. Keep it out of sight to resist dipping in. Make the bank hard to open. Candy dishes

empty quickly for a reason: if it sits out, someone will take it. The same goes for cash.

Save up for big purchases. Do you want to visit Jamaica next year or buy new living room furniture? Expensive items can work in your favor. Keep that sofa in your mind when the urge to splurge hits. Stuff the \$3 you would have spent on a Sports Illustrated into the unopenable jar.

Consider investing your money. The aforementioned savings account is considered an investment, since banks often require a minimum \$300 balance, and money accrues interest. A mutual fund is one of the safer bets in the stock market. Single stock values fluctuate daily, and shares can go from valuable to worthless in a short time. Mutual funds take the investor's money and apply it to a certain industry sector according to the investor's specified criteria. Students and others with small budgets can invest as little as \$250 in some mutual funds.

Buy the Wal-Mart brand. Sam's Choice "Soft Toilet Tissue" is just as effective as Charmin. While the fancy-brand versions of some products are truly better (Spam), the generic version will usually suffice. Honey is honey, juice is juice and Shop 'n' Save's toasted square cereal tastes the same as Chex.

Allot yourself a "nickel and dime" fund. The junk-hungry conscience-devil on your shoulder is extremely persuasive, and part of the money-saving process is knowing that you will break down and buy pig ears for your dog sometimes. Set a (low) dollar limit so you can shut up the nagging temptation to buy the set of neon plastic cutlery.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

V-Day prices outrageous

Flowers, candy, cards, jewelry, balloons and lots of love fill the air on Valentine's Day. Red and pink illuminate stores for about a month prior to the day. Men rush to the nearest florist to grab a bouquet of flowers and a box of candy for their valentines. The holiday is a day of celebrating love for some, and for others it is a day that reminds them they are lacking a significant other.

If there is one holiday during the year that is the premier "Hallmark holiday," it has to be Valentine's Day. Gifts are usually the same every year, and the traditions are equally lacking. Going out to eat or fixing a romantic candlelight dinner is what generally consists of a V-Day celebration. While I give props to those who are more creative, the holiday is quite predictable for most couples.

Although Valentine's Day is one of my favorite holidays, many people see it as being a waste of a holiday. I work in the floral department of a grocery store, so I see all kinds of people during the few days before and on the holiday. There are men who spend hundreds of dollars on flowers and women who spend a good amount of money on balloons, candy and lingerie.

Many people also probably go and buy stuffed animals or a Build-a-Bear, which is a cute and relatively inexpensive gift. I do not see the need to spend too much money on the holiday. Most couples probably will go out to eat and see or rent a movie. This is also a classic date combination, which we do not need

a holiday for.

The price of flowers for Valentine's Day is completely ridiculous. Their cost significantly rises about a week before the celebration. I personally think it is a waste of money to buy someone a \$100 vase of roses (which will normally get you two dozen in vase). If you are going to spend that much money on the person, go out and buy them something nice that will not die in a week. Or in contrast, wait a week or few days after the holiday when the prices go back to normal and send the individual flowers then.

Roses used to be the leading seller on Valentine's Day. They were primarily associated with V-Day and anniversaries; however, today they are given for many occasions. These flowers are available for relatively little money any day of the week, so it is not as big of a deal to receive them anymore.

For those individuals who do not have a special someone to share the day with, it can remind them of their "singleness." While most of my friends who are single find other fun ways to celebrate the day, I hope that other singles will do the same. Take all the girls out dancing and for some drinks, after all it is an excuse to go out and have fun together.

Whether you plan to celebrate Valentine's Day or simply endure it, it can be a pleasant experience. It is a romantic holiday, though built up to be more than it should be. You can make it a great holiday without spending a lot of money. Whether you are yet to celebrate this year, or are done until next year, make it a fun day without stresses.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

- Don't dig debt holes
- Avoid impulse buying
- VDay prices outrageous

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photography Associate

What would you change about Valentine's Day?



Adonica Radford
Junior
Nursing

I wouldn't change anything about Valentine's, except maybe for the actual day. It should be in a different month, like in the summertime or April.



Frank Rojas
Junior
International Business

Valentine's Day is more of a business thing. Most people expect a gift or flowers or something, so I would change its materialistic quality.



Lisa Reedy
Junior
Elementary Education

I don't really care about Valentine's Day. I mean, I have a boyfriend and everything, but I think it's a waste of money. Flowers are triple the cost.



Kristin Carlisle
Junior
Spanish

I would change the marketing strategy to focus on men as much as it does women because I'm having a hard time finding something for my boyfriend!

SCIENCE COLUMN

Chocolate benefits brain, heart and mood



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

On St. Valentine's Day, sweet thoughts turn to chocolate.

Well, maybe not just chocolate, but there are real reasons to associate chocolate with love and other good things.

There is more that is beneficial in chocolate than the taste but to get the extra benefits, along with the best taste, you have to buy good chocolate. Common candy bars have less real chocolate than you may think.

Chocolate has a number of drug-like effects. It has caffeine, although less than coffee, another mild stimulant and diuretic called theobromine, another substance that is a building block of the neurotransmitter that produces pleasure, and more. It has substances that are beneficial for heart health, that sustain a pleasure response in the brain, and mood-altering compounds that put one in the mood for love.

The best chocolate for these effects is dark chocolate. Milk chocolate has less of the dark-colored, cocoa compounds associated with health benefits, and white chocolate has virtually none. Dark chocolate has a stronger, more intense chocolate flavor and a hint of bitterness that not everyone prefers. Ironically, the bitterness is associated with some good things.

Chocolate has compounds that make you feel good and also antioxidants, which have been associated with anti-aging and other health benefits.

On the downside, chocolate has a lot of calories without a lot of nutrients. However, many of the calories come from the sugar added to counter cocoa's natural bitterness.

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the Theobroma cacao tree, a South American plant that was cultivated in many parts of the Americas even before Columbus arrived. The Aztecs ground the seeds, partially roasted them and mixed them with water, corn, chilies and spices to make a bitter, sacred drink. Europeans added sweeteners, created the solid confection and eventually added milk solids to create milk chocolate. Chocolate and chilies are still used together in Mexican cooking.

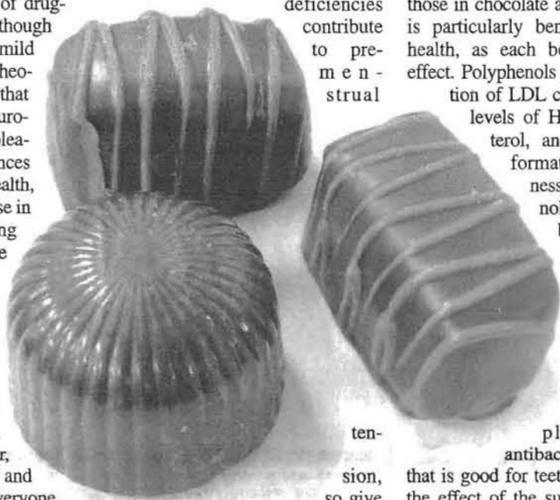
The cocoa seeds from which chocolate is made contain a number of interesting compounds. These include cocoa butter, theobromine, caffeine, and a red plant color (cacao-red).

Theobromine is a chemical related to caffeine.

The major health problem with chocolate is the extra empty calories added by the sugars that make it sweet. However, the sweetness is part of what makes chocolate so appealing to us. Some studies have indicated that some people inherit a "sweet tooth," which contributes to the chocoholic's "addiction" to chocolate. But there is more to the appeal of chocolate than the taste for sweetness.

One reason we like sweets like chocolate is that they release endorphins, hormone-like natural substances that produce a feeling of pleasure. Chocolate has other benefits. One study that compared the effects of coffee and chocolate, which both contain caffeine and antioxidants, found that chocolate produced relaxation while coffee created tension. The lower levels of caffeine in chocolate improves alertness, as it does in coffee, but the mild stimulate theobromine in chocolate also relaxes the smooth muscles of the lungs, which might add to the relaxation effect.

Chocolate contains magnesium and iron, which may be part of why women, who need more of these nutrients, crave chocolate. Magnesium deficiencies contribute to premenstrual



that woman some chocolate if she seems cranky.

Chocolate also contains tryptophan, which is one of the building blocks that the body uses to make serotonin. Serotonin is a neurochemical that is associated in the brain with the sensation of pleasure. Neurotransmitters are the chemical messengers that bridge the gap between nerve cells, and stimulate or inhibit the nerve's receptors. Serotonin in high levels produces a feeling of pleasure, even ecstasy.

Chocolate also contains phenylethylamine. This neurotransmitter stimulates the body's pleasure centers. High levels of this substance are associated with feelings of excitement and attraction, and sexual pleasure. Another neurotransmitter found in chocolate is anandamide. This neurotransmitter targets the same brain structures as the active ingredient in marijuana, THC. But the levels of all these substances are small and yet two more chemicals found in chocolate may play a more important role. These last two substances inhibit the breakdown of anandamide, which

prolongs its pleasurable effect.

Becoming a chocoholic is a matter of becoming psychologically dependant on its pleasurable effects. The craving is real but it is not a physical addiction.

Like blueberries, wine, and many other densely colored plant foods, chocolate contains polyphenols, chemicals that act as antioxidants. Cell-damaging free radicals are created through metabolic processes involving oxygen and also enter our bodies in other ways. Antioxidants are good because they supply the extra electron that is missing in free radicals, the thing that makes them so reactive and harmful to DNA and to cell processes. Therefore, antioxidants neutralize their harmful effects.

The polyphenols in plant products like wine, blueberries, and chocolate have a bitter or astringent taste when not disguised by sugar. Plant polyphenols include flavonoids, phenolic acids, stilbenes, and lignans. Flavonoids are associated with the pigments of plants, which give them their intense color. The mixture of polyphenols found in chocolate includes epicatechin, which is also found in red wine. Some studies indicate that consuming antioxidants, like those in chocolate and wine, together is particularly beneficial for heart health, as each boosts the other's effect. Polyphenols reduce the oxidation of LDL cholesterol, raising levels of HDL good cholesterol, and inhibit platelet formation and stickiness. These polyphenols may also work by inhibiting the formation of harmful plaques in the arteries.

An ironic aspect of chocolate is that the husks of cocoa beans contain a plaque-fighting antibacterial compound that is good for teeth, the opposite of the effect of the sugar that makes it sweet. However, the husks are removed during processing, so the beneficial compound would have to be added back in to have chocolate that is good for your teeth. Still, chocolate toothpaste would be an intriguing idea, wouldn't it?

Cocoa butter is a fat that melts at about body temperature, which is why chocolate melts in your hand or your mouth. You may have noticed that better quality chocolate, which has more of the valuable cocoa butter, is more prone to do this than less expensive brands that use other solid substances. Cocoa butter gives chocolate its smoothness and adds to its mouth appeal but the substance is also used in skin creams and other products.

Since chocolate is also good for a short-term energy boost, it is often included in rations for soldiers and is sometimes recommended for students just before tests, for the energy and the mood boost.

Here is a final chocolate fact: the name "theobroma" is Greek for "food of the gods," which is what the Aztecs called the source of their chocolate drink. That should be hint enough that this is wonderful stuff.

INTERN DIARIES

Something rotten in the Big Apple



GARY SOHN
New York Correspondent

Marcellus, a soldier in the play 'Hamlet,' said "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Now if Marcellus was a bus driver instead of a soldier, driving the Q39 bus leaving Queens to Manhattan, he probably would have said "Something is rotten on the bus of Queens."

After standing in freezing temperatures while the wind kept pushing cold air into my face and turning my hands and nose bright red and numb, the bus finally appeared from around the corner. I was relieved to see the red and white Q39 approaching the curb and pulling up in front of me. But my relief would only be temporary.

The back and front bus doors were yanked open and a stampede of gasping passengers were choking and coughing while pushing, shoving, and tumbling over each other. They were rushing out into the cold to wait an hour for another bus to come by; Something did not smell right.

As I was watching this madness a gruff voice prodded at my attention. "Are you getting on or what?" the bus driver said, looking aggravated. He placed his gloves, which were off of his hands, over his mouth and nose...Something definitely did not smell right.

I got on the bus and swiped my bus card. Just then something hit me in the face.

The stench was horrible. No wonder people were rushing off. Someone had eaten something that disagreed with them, and now everyone on the bus was paying for it. The only time I had experienced a situation like this was on a family vacation to Disneyworld.

During my last year of high school, my family packed into our small red car and headed out on a family vacation to Florida. It would be a long trip from Missouri to Orlando. Before leaving St. Louis, we decided to go through a drive-thru and get something to eat. I do not know whose bright idea it was to stop at WhiteCastle, but we decided to go there and load up on some "belly-bombers." Needless to say, it did not take long until the weapons of mass destruction started to digest in our stomachs. Before long, we stopped playing the 'license plate' game and started playing 'who just let one.' That was the last family vacation I went on. I was just glad that it was summer and warm enough to roll down the windows for fresh air.

On the Q39, however, it was winter and freezing cold. All the windows had been opened despite the cold. The unfortunate with an isle seat had to endure the horrible smell from the "gas leak" while everyone else with a window spot squeezed their faces through the opened windows, taking in fresh-freezing air. I was lucky and got a window seat.

The stinky, frigid bus ride lasted about 45 minutes until I finally reached the train station.

At the 42 Road Court House train station I would take the "7" train to Grand Central Station in Manhattan. Only three stops came between me and my stop.

As I was riding on the train, traveling over a bridge that was elevated high above the ground, I could see from a distance the skyline of New York at night through my window. It looked incredible. I saw the Empire State building standing tall while the other megalithic buildings crowded around it, all lit up. Tiny lights like lightning bugs moved all around the foundation of the bright skyline. At that moment I felt like Billy Joel when he sang, "I'm in a New York state of mind."

While taking the view, I had forgotten to keep track of how many stations we reached. The train stopped and I just happen to look out the closing doors when I noticed that it was my stop.

I jumped out of my seat and ran towards the doors as they were closing, feeling like one of those action stars in those movies where they have to pass through the closing door before it traps them in a deadly cavern where, if they do not make it to the other side, they will be stuck there for centuries and left to rot and die and turn into bones and dust until discovered by archeologist...Okay, so maybe it wasn't that dangerous, but I did

“ I struggled to squeeze my bag from the crack, but the doors refused to release their grip on me. As the train held me hostage, people just stood by, staring and laughing.

not want to get lost in New York.

As I passed through the closing doors, I felt something pull me back. The doors closed between my bookbag, which was strapped on my back. I was stuck. I struggled to squeeze my bag from the crack, but the doors refused to release their grip on me. As the train held me hostage, people just stood by, staring and laughing. Finally, after about a minute of humiliating, unaided struggle, I freed myself. I ran out of the train station, not looking back at anyone, embarrassed by what had just happened.

When I reached the hotel I decided to go to bed and get up early for my first day at NBC. I had experienced enough of New York for one night, having been beaten up by the public transportation (and here I thought it would be the people, not the machines, that would do me in).

After resting for my big day, I woke up. Even though the sun was not shining, it was morning. Walking down Fifth Avenue I felt excited, nervous and anxious all at once. I was about to start my new job at NBC.

NBC is a huge company. They have been in the network business for over 75 years, and are owned by General Electric which also owns other well-known networks, including USA, Bravo and Universal Pictures. All of these networks are housed in the GE building at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, where I am now working.

I finally reached the GE building, walking down West 49th street, and entered through the revolving doors.

Ariel Horn, one of my bosses, said that I should call his office from the visitor center when I arrived for work at 10:30 a.m. so that he could get me an I.D. badge. Everyone is required to have an I.D. badge if they want to get upstairs to the TV production studio.

When I reached the front desk I told the guy that I was interning in sports and needed to page Ariel Horn. He called Ariel's desk but no one answered.

I was about half an hour early, so I decided to walk around elsewhere.

Thirty minutes later, I came back to the visitor center and had Ariel paged again. Still no answer. I decided to stand around the visitor center and have the guy call back in another thirty minutes.

While I was waiting, an odd, and frightening idea occurred to me. What if this was a prank from one of those shows like "Candid Camera" or "Punk'd," or maybe even a new reality show where they fool people into thinking that they have internships at NBC.

Now I started to get mad. I peered around the room for cameramen. Another thirty minutes passed by and again no Ariel.

"Okay," I thought, "if before I can get in the elevator they ask me to either lay down on and pass through an x-ray machine or take off my pants, then I know something is indeed "rotten in the building of NBC."

As I was scouting around for the white old man from "Candid Camera" or a tall skater boy with a sideways hat, I saw a couple of celebrities.

I first saw Brian Williams with these ridiculously huge FBI glasses whisking past security and group tour getting onto an elevator. He was looked so ridiculously obvious with those sunglasses on, as there was not a hint of sunshine inside or outside the building.

I also caught a glimpse of Steven Colbert from "The Daily Show." I had an eerie feeling that he had just been given his own hidden camera show called "Joe Intern."

As Steven approached me, he started to appear nervous. I recognized him and I guess he thought I was going to hound him for an autograph. I chose not to acknowledge him. I would have bothered Jon Stewart, but not "Mr GoodWrench."

He was dressed in casual wear, not wearing a suit like he does on cable and commercials, so I concluded that maybe he was not pranking me after all.

Finally, after two hours of waiting the guy at the visitor's desk said that maybe my boss forgot that it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I knew it was a holiday, but I figured that NBC never shut down on holidays, since TV doesn't.

The desk guys told me to return the next morning.

At the end of the day, I decided to take a cab and drop off my stuff into my new room. It was late, and I was tired and stressed out from not knowing if I actually had an internship or not. I mean I had not signed any official forms saying that I was working at NBC, so I started to worry.

I decided to go have a drink and take a load off my mind. I asked my roommate Coolio where I might find a bar nearby "A Polish bar is down da street," he said.

I put on my jacket and headed out. When I entered the bar, I was shocked to see a naked man running around a pool table.

Tune in next week when Gary meet his new boss, sees more of the Big Apple and he and Coolio find themselves a little slice of heaven.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alum warns students of credit pitfalls

[In regards to Kate Drolet's editorial on Jan. 24]

Dear Ms. Drolet,
You hit the nail on the head. I am an UM-St. Louis alumni who also majored in communications. College education doesn't matter unless you expect to work in a corporation. It is only useful when a company wants to discriminate and needs a viable excuse of why it does.

What does matter is your FICO score and your credit history and repair techniques. This is the true measure of the successful capitalist, not what degree you have. No one has asked to see my degree or transcripts since I graduated. They want to see my work or demo reel. \$40,000 down the tubes. However, I have been asked every time for my financial information to make purchases or financial agreements.

Keeping this up is where an education pays off. You could screw yourself by messing up your credit before you even graduate. It is one of the qualifiers for jobs over \$50,000. Companies will

use your credit rating in some way to determine your behavior. If you don't have financial help from parents, it is easy to want to borrow money to pay for today. When I was in college at 18, credit card companies gave me a credit card based on the fact that I was in college. Guess what? At 18 I didn't have a penny to my name, and also didn't have parental help. I needed everything: furniture for my apartment and an apartment. Cha-ching: credit card. I was bussing tables and quickly realized that I didn't make enough in the short amount of work hours to make ends meet. So I had to drop out. Guess what? Those credit hours become attempted credit hours and count against your overall GPA. So your financial credit awareness can affect your scholarly credit awareness as well.

As far as I know, UM-St. Louis has no plan to educate new students in personal finances. They leave those decisions to the student themselves and their families. If the student comes from an ill-informed or poor family, they

may not have the financial awareness to get through college without screwing up their credit. However, someone from an informed family might be dumb as a rock but might have the financial awareness and thus succeed in life. Family financial education and discipline is what keeps rich families rich and the lack of it keeps poor families poor.

UM-St. Louis should at least offer a class to teach new students how the real world financial game is played and how their degree would fit into this paradigm. It is all that matters as far as the material world is concerned.

One final thought: your credit is with you for life. They say seven years, but really it is forever. I have been asked for W-2's that go back to my first one when I was 14 years old. I am 35 now. If UM-St. Louis doesn't educate you, then please do it on your own. Don't screw it up!

Todd Austin
UM-St. Louis alum

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drolet condescending to naysayers

I happened to read the editor in chief's opinion in *The Current* yesterday and a few points intrigued me, angered me or both. First and foremost, I would like to clarify the justification of this war before Saddam Hussein's capture and afterwards. Much before his capture, this war was intended to search for terrorist activity and weapons of mass destruction so that we could prove or disprove our assumptions that Iraq supported terrorism by leaking WMDs. When we found out that there actually were no WMDs, the administration was sent railing into finding another justification of the war: to end the oppression of Iraqis by a ruthless dictator. Have people paid attention to how the administration has changed direction and motivation for this war? Are Americans that malleable? Judging from this article and others, I would say mostly no to my first question and yes to the second. Realize first and foremost that we did not go into this business to overthrow anyone, especially someone we helped put in

power.

Secondly, I am offended that you assume that naysayers in general (since you never used "some naysayers") try to shoot down the election. Though some of us do seem that way at times, in reality few can disagree that free elections are wrong. When added together with all the negativities in the war, the free elections, at most, balance those negativities out. Some naysayers have resorted to defiling this great event because no one supporting the war would listen to their other points of why it was wrong to go into Iraq like America did. The apparent dislike of some naysayers, while not representing the whole group, prompted you to write an opinion that, though it tried to be objective, cast a horrid picture of naysaying and its subversive thinking.

Which brings me to my final annoyance of this article, though it is relatively trivial to the other blunders. From the tone set in the article, I have a feeling that you personally cannot stand naysayers in general if they do

disagree with your ideas. Not even one positive regard was given to naysaying in this opinion, and if that mantra of journalism is to be as objective as possible, you have failed. You also treat the freedom of speech of naysayers in a rather condescending manner, treating us like children insisting that the moon is made of cheese. "By all means, speak your mind, child, but frankly it doesn't matter" is the tone I got from this article.

If you really wanted to be respectful to naysaying, you would have kindly disagreed with us rather than saying stop bashing the President at the time. I feel the need to at time because I think people should know that I am against the war, and, while rejoice at the free elections, they are rather small in comparison to the cost of going into this war, and the cost to come.

J.B. Carroll
Concerned Naysayer

FEATURES



LONELY ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

The International Business Club holds date auction, sells members

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

Fifteen courageous members of the International Business Club (IBC) will give themselves up for a date on Valentine's Day. The date auction will raise funds for recruiting and conference expenses. IBC will auction off these brave members and officers on Monday, Feb. 14. The auction will be held in the MSC Nosh at 12:30 p.m. The bidding to win a date with selected IBC members will start at \$10. The highest bidder will receive a \$20 gift certificate towards dinner at a chosen restaurant. All students are welcome to bid on the members and officers.

Sean Hanebery, junior, international business and the President of IBC, described the reason that they came up with the auction.

"We are always trying to find new

and fun ideas to raise money for our organization," Hanebery said.

Andres Puente, senior, international business, is in charge of coordinating this event.

Puente said, "We are always recruiting and looking for new members."

Besides holding the auction, IBC will also be selling gifts from balloons to candy.

"Sweethearts can dedicate a song to be serenaded to them on Valentine's night," Puente said. "There will be a few songs you can choose from and a member from IBC will sing it to your sweetheart over the phone; you just need to give the name of the person and the phone number."

Of the 15 members and officers to be auctioned off, three of them will be mystery dates.



Rimante Ivoskaite



Andres Puente

Two of 15 IBC members being auctioned off Monday

see AUCTION, page 7

Alum offers business tips and scholarship

BY SHANTE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Brian Lawton, a graduate and a part-time lecturer at UM-St. Louis, has started a successful realty company called Four Leaf Realty. Lawton, who graduated with an undergraduate degree in business and a graduate degree in Information Systems, was led into real estate by his parents who owned properties 32 years ago.

He began to invest in real estate at the age of 27 when he bought five properties. He and his best friend Luke Poeling, also an UM-St. Louis graduate and employee of Four Leaf Realty, would fix up the properties and put them up for sale. That was a good start for Lawton, but he soon wanted more. After watching his mother struggle in corporate America for a while, he decided that he was tired and wanted to start his own brokerage company.

Lawson said that he chose the name Four Leaf because of the four

leaf clover and its good luck. He then brought in his mother, Mary Lawton, as Managing Broker. The company has a total of 15 employees, three of whom are UM-St. Louis graduates.

Four Leaf offers leverage technology, a site updated nightly, no transaction fees, different levels of service through different sales programs and they also pay a higher commission rate to their employees. "We try to empower our agents; they negotiate many of their own contracts," Lawton said.

Four Leaf Realty
Owned by Alum and part time lecturer Brian Lawton

Noah Poeling, UM-St. Louis graduate and Operations Manager, described his future goals for the company.

"I want to see Four Leaf grow. I'm devoting my life to seeing it grow," he said.

Lawson has not only devoted himself to the growth of his company, which grossed \$5 million in sales last year, but he also has an undying passion for the success of his students. "We think it is really important to give back to the place where you get your education," Lawton said.



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

Members of the Four Leaf gather in their office in Westport. The Four Leaf, a realty company, currently employs several UM-St. Louis graduates, including Brian Lawton, a part-time lecturer at the University.

As a result of his beliefs on giving back, Lawton has created a \$500 scholarship, the Four Leaf Realty Student Investment Scholarship, which is available to the students who take his real estate course. "It is

very evident that the people at UMSL are driven to succeed," he said. As a contribution to furthering that success he has offered discounted commission to the faculty, staff, students and alumni who may be

interested in purchasing, selling or renting property from Four Leaf Realty.

Those who are interested in Four Leaf Realty, scholarship information is available in Woods Hall.

Noon series features women poets from around the globe

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Faculty members from the UM-St. Louis department of foreign languages and literature read selected poems from Japanese, French, Spanish and Greek women at the Monday Noon Series held on Feb. 7.

The theme of the lecture was "A Celebration of Women Poets around the World."

Beth Eckelkamp, Japanese lecturer, opened the event by presenting five Japanese poems. The first two poems, by Ono no Komachi and Izumi Shikibu are from the "Hyakunin Isshu," an anthology of 100 poems by 100 different poets. The other poems included a Farewell poem from the Sakaki (Green Branch) chapter of the "Tale of Genji" by Murasaki Shikibu, a Haiku by Sono-jo and a haiku by Chiyo-jo.

"I chose the farewell poem from the 'Tale of Genji' because it is something that I am currently teaching and that we are studying in one of my classes," Eckelkamp said.

Eckelkamp said that many Japanese poems include a variety of pivot words, which are words with more than one meaning. She also noted that haikus, which began as a male genre, are incredibly difficult to write.

"The concept of free verse in Japanese poetry took over for most modern poetry," Eckelkamp said.

A poem by Izumi Shikibu describes how after she dies and forgets the world she leaves, she hopes



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

Beth Landers, lecturer in French, reads from the work of poet Louise Labé.

to remember meeting the special person who once was in her life. Perhaps that special person who she does not want to forget was the famous prince with whom she had an affair.

Following the Japanese poems, Beth Landers, French lecturer, described the poet and work from Author Louise Labé.

"She was the daughter of a wealthy rope maker. In 1555, she published one sole collection directed towards women. Her work was a call to women to study and write poetry," Landers said.

Landers said that her poem was mainly about a woman who complains about a man who does not reciprocate her love.

see NOON SERIES, page 7

Bellerive launches new issue

Noted author William Gass speaks, new anthropology lab showcased

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Poetic minds and creative writers gathered in the main foyer of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Provincial House at UM-St. Louis on Feb. 4, in honor of the Bellerive publication launch.

Bellerive is a literary publication that features original creative work from UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. The different types of work in Bellerive include: art, fiction, poetry and essay.

This literary publication began in 2000 as an extracurricular activity and for the past two years has been an honors course class. Although students in the class are mainly involved with the honors program and work with editing the publication, everyone is allowed to submit their work.

Along with selling copies of Bellerive's fifth issue, "In Defense of Angels," the reception provided musical entertainment by violinists, a special guest writer and literary speaker William Gass and refreshments.

Nancy Gleason, senior lecturer for the Honors College, complimented the success of this new publication and of the reception.

"The music and the whole event reminded me of what I have always pictured college to be like," Gleason said.

One of the main differences with this publication, as compared to previous issues, is the photo selection.

Christy Rudloff, Art Editor for Bellerive, described the selection of photos used this year.

"This year, the selection was hard-



Kevin Ottley/The Current

William Gass addresses the student and faculty audience, expressing the issues that writers commonly face. Gass was the feature speaker at the Honors College release of the new Bellerive 'In Defence of Angels'.

er to choose from and was a longer process," Rudloff said. "We began working over the summer and in August, on the photos and cover design.

We enjoyed the cover photo taken by Natalie Musser because we wanted something more edgy and creative."

Olivia Ayes, senior, English, said that although this issue is shorter, it has a cleaner design and looks more professional.

Shannon Pendleton, junior, English, said that this is one of the most rewarding experiences with fine talent showing.



Bellerive #5 is on sale now, contact Nancy Gleason at 6629

"Just by having the opportunity to say that you have the courage to submit is a great thing," Pendleton said.

Over the week, tables have been set up in the Nosh to sell individual copies of Bellerive and members have discussed information regarding submissions. The deadline for submissions is May 15, and submission boxes are located on the fourth floor of Lucas Hall, in the Fine Arts building, in the MSC Bookstore and at the Provincial House.

For additional information about submitting call 516-6629.

The opening ceremony and celebration of this new publication was in conjunction with the opening of the honors college biological anthropology lab. From 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m., students were given tours of this new equipped lab.

Being single on V-Day doesn't have to be a drag

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is about love, relationships and romance, but is it always better to have a significant other? Are there possible benefits to being a free agent?

While some singles may be planning to spend this Valentine's Day feeling sorry for themselves, Bobby Zeisler, junior, marketing, enjoys the "freedom" of being single. "I'm not ready to commit to just one person," he said.

The website www.AskMen.com even comprised a list, directed toward both men and women, of the benefits of living the single life. The list includes such things as the ability to control personal finances, more time for hobbies, freedom to be spontaneous and guilt free flirting.

But others, including Miriam Hendrickson, senior, psychology, who recently got married, think it is better to be in a relationship. "The best part about being in a committed relationship is the freedom to be who I am, or change who I am, without fear of rejection," she said.

While some students might feel that living the single life has more benefits, others think that relationships help combat loneliness.

see SINGLE ON V-DAY, page 7

Jujitsu

UMSL club practices Brazilian-style jujitsu, a martial art similar to judo

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES
Staff Writer

They stood face to face in booming silence, exchanging piercing glances in anticipation of their opponent's next move. Each individual anxiously waited to strike. One opponent prepared to unleash an explosive amount of energy through the cherry bomb-like gloves attached to each hand.

The other challenger sported a red padded helmet to ward off the inevitable blows that would come. Their feet were stripped of any protective covering. Only a single red mat protected the soles of their feet. The referee wedged a hand between the challengers, whose chests heaved up and down in a steady rhythmic motion. When the arm of the referee silently sliced through the thick tension between the two, the sparring officially began.

UM-St. Louis now recognizes the Jujitsu club on campus. The Jujitsu club, which holds practice sessions on Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic Building, is led by 21-year-old Dan Donahue, a Public Policy major.

Donahue, who has studied Aikido, Kung Fu and Karate, said that his purple belt in Jujitsu qualifies him to lead the group. Donahue said that there are other members of the club who have equivalent experience in martial arts, namely club member Freddy Cahyadi, an Indonesia native who has studied Tae Kwon Do for 7 years and Kung Fu for two 2 years.

"I am the initiator," Donahue said, "and that's why I was elected club president."

"I am always trying to make the club

better," Donahue said.

Donahue sets an itinerary for the members of the club, which includes an outline of various positions which are implemented throughout the practice.

Positions such as the mount, rear mount, reverse rear mount, side mount and knee on belly are just a few of the Brazilian Jujitsu positions that are taught during practice sessions.

Various techniques for guarding are also illustrated during practice. Members of the Jujitsu club participate in learning the closed guard, open guard, butterfly guard, half guard and the turtle guard.

Jujitsu Club

Meets Saturdays
10 a.m. in Mark
Twain Athletic
Bldg.

Free, open to all
skill levels

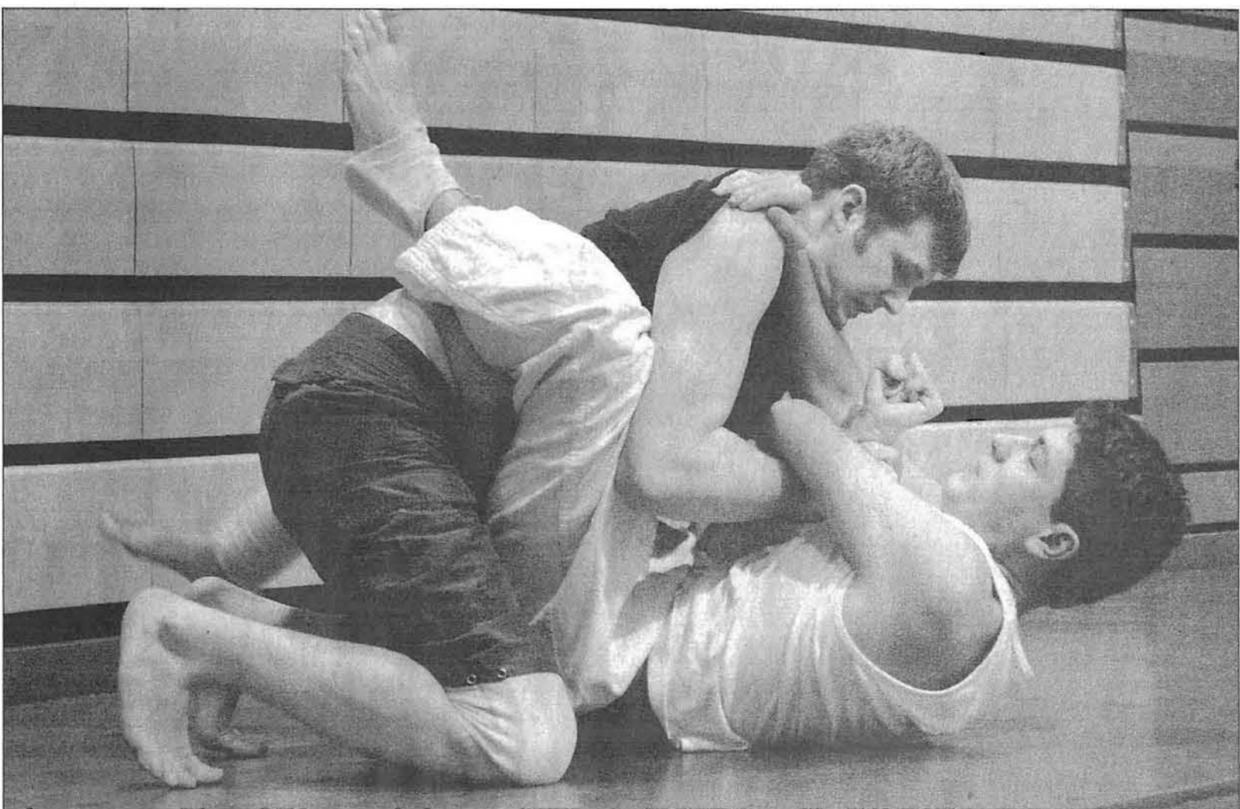
An extensive list of safety procedures are enforced during each practice and range from using proper safety equipment to giving positional and break fall tests. Such procedures coincide with the self defense techniques that are taught, such as the various guard techniques.

"I encourage sparring because it is the best way to learn," Donahue said.

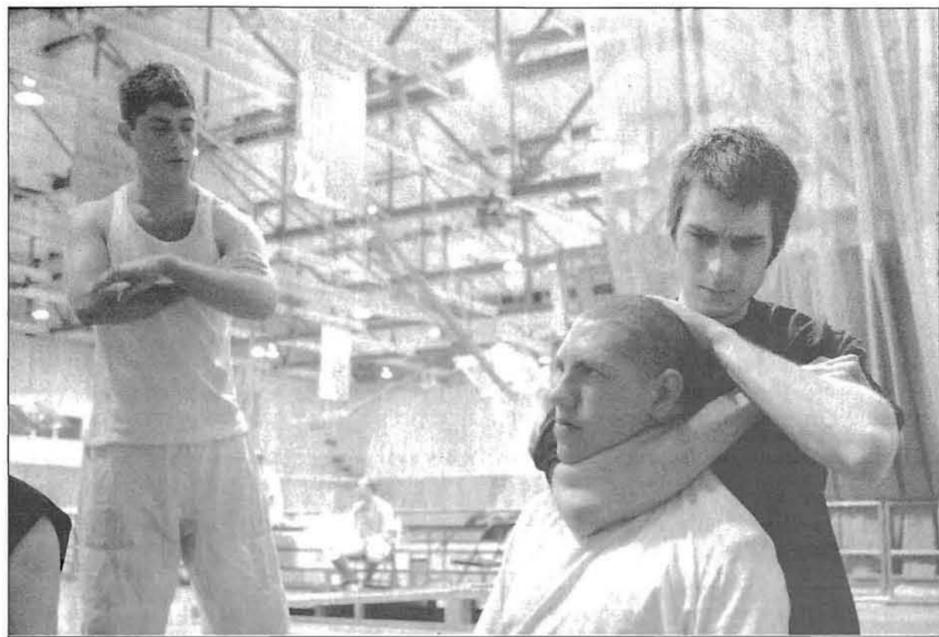
At the end of each practice, each member of the club has the opportunity to spar with another member of the club. Donahue says that no member of the club will be forced to do anything that they do not wish to do. Those who wish to spar may do so at the end of practice.

The challenger wearing the red padded helmet grabbed the area of the opponent's Achilles tendon and drove him forward with only a shoulder; the challenger proceeded to put the opponent in a rear naked choke hold to prepare for what would be the opponent's silent submission.

For more information about the Jujitsu club contact Dan Donahue at dtdrhb@studentmail.umsl.edu.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current



ABOVE:

Dan Donahue (top), junior, public policy, spars with Sigma Pi member Domingos Falavina, sophomore, business, on Saturday during the weekly meeting of the Jujitsu Club at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Donahue and Falavina are instructors of the class, which is free and open for all students, and meets Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Athletic Building.

LEFT:

Domingos Falavina, sophomore, business, coaches Alexander Lilley, senior, philosophy, during a Jujitsu club meeting on Saturday in the balcony of the Mark Twain Athletic Building. In Lilley's grasp is Steve Rutter, freshman, computer science.

In her piece, "Frocks," Rose Kelly uses found objects as a medium for her art. Kelly's work is on display at Gallery 210 along with other sewing artists. The "Needle Art Postmodern Sewing Exhibition" will be on display until March 12, and visitors can view the art Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. The exhibit features more than forty artists.



Photos by Erica Burrus/ The Current

Sewing Art

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Gallery 210 at UM-St. Louis is currently displaying the crafts and skills associated with embroidery, quilting, beadwork, stitching and upholstery in the "Needle Art Postmodern Sewing" exhibition.

Although the art of needlework has been considered a past-time hobby for thousands of years, it was not until about 10 years ago that artists began using different materials combined with sewing.

Terry Suhre, director of Gallery 210, described the transition and new approach to this form of art.

"The work in the Needle Art exhibition is an extension of the new approach to art materials that was being explored as early as the mid 1970s," Suhre said. "Much of the dialogue around fiber arts centers on women's issues as fiber arts, such as weaving and quilting were seen as women's work, however I feel that there are many more men looking to the fiber arts as the material best suited for articulating their ideas."

Suhre said that after reading about this exhibition, which comes from ExhibitsUSA, a vendor of traveling

exhibitions located in Kansas City, he thought it would fit well at the gallery.

According to the exhibit's brochure, these contemporary artists use ordinary items such as beach towels, bicycle tires, Styrofoam, baseballs and different patterns to create a piece of work that to some might be considered bizarre, political, feminist or simply humorous.

Some of the pieces in this exhibit include gloves, robes, pictures, tools, blankets, decor, canvas art, paper art, frocks (which resemble doll clothes) and scarves.

Over 40 different artists, including Nora Austin, Amy Berk, Bruce Chaban, Susan Hyde and John Spear, have their work on display. When creating each individual piece of art, some of the artists, using their life as inspiration, design pieces that reveal information about themselves or just select random materials to see what the outcome would be.

"The art forms represented in this exhibition embrace a wide variety of topics, from clothing made from traditional felted wool to a small wall sculpture constructed from Lifesavers candy, false eyelashes and long sewing needles," Suhre said. "The content of the work addresses

Gal. 210's 'Needle Art, A Postmodern Sewing Circle' showcases often-overlooked art form



Lisa Kokin's sewn photo sculpture, 'How to Stay Young All Your Life,' is part of the new exhibition, 'Needle Art, A Postmodern Sewing Circle.'

gender and social issues as well as forms created with unorthodox materials intended to expand the aesthetic notion of what fiber arts are and can be."

Lisa Kokin is just one of the artists who stitched together a sewn photo sculpture to represent life and past memories. Kokin's piece creates a photo montage metaphor while focusing on history. In Cheryl Coon's, "My Dear Edna," the artist created a book filled with bobby pins, pearls and fabric to portray her grandmother. Joe Davidson, on the other hand, created an illusion of what a baseball might look like if it were stretched out and re-stitched.

Most of the pieces consist of materials like felt, wood, beads, buttons, clay, thread, fabric, spools, wire, sequins, ornaments and coffee tins.

"One of my favorite pieces is the newspaper with Publishers Clearing House. It is very hard to sew on paper and this piece shows good condition with no folding," Melat Mandefro, sophomore, civil engineering, said. "The thread perfectly matches with the ads and creates unique pattern designs."

"Needle Art: Postmodern Sewing" will be on display until March 12 and can be viewed Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

NOON SERIES FOCUSES ON WOMEN POETS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE, from page 6

Throughout Labé's sonnets, she uses imperative commands to get the attention of readers. The other part of her poem was simply done to address the ladies of the city Lyon.

Maite Nunez-Betelu, assistant professor of Spanish, spoke about a well-known Spanish female poet, Ixaro Borda. Nunez-Betelu also shared some

historical information about Spain.

"Up until 10 years ago, women were not supposed to write poetry in the Basque language. It wasn't until the 1970s that more women began to write in this language," she said. "Basque is the oldest language in Europe. Only a small percent of the population can speak it, but the county is trying to

regain it and make it more popular."

Nunez-Betelu said that in the poem "Pacem in Lapurdum" the author is trying to make a comparison between the situations that were going on in France and throughout Europe during that time. The poem implements many very graphic words and describes some of their everyday life activities.

The last speaker, Vicky Rapti, Greek lecturer, discussed Mando Aravantinou, a female Greek narrative poet.

"She has a unique voice that brought Greek poetry to its heights," Rapti said. "She was a very political activist for social justice and freedom."

All four of the speakers from the

Department of Foreign Languages read their selected poems and translated and interpreted each poem's meaning.

The Monday Noon Series has been in existence for over 13 years at UM-St. Louis and is sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Each Monday speakers and guests deliver lectures, panel discussions and exhibits ranging

on a variety of topics. All events are free and are open to students, faculty, staff and to the general public. The Monday Noon Series are held from 12:15 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. For information about all upcoming cultural series events, call 516-5699 or visit www.umsl.edu/~cfh/.

AUCTION FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CLUB, from page 6

IBC came up with information on a few of the members who will be auctioned off except the three mystery dates.

One of the members is a 20-year-old, female international business student who grew up in Illinois. Another member is a 24-year-old, male management student who enjoys sports and the piano. Other students and members are between the ages of 18 and 25 and are from a variety of places throughout Missouri and from Germany, Lithuanian, Mexico City

and Sang Hi.

All 12 members will be available for bidding on Valentine's Day and the three mystery members will also be revealed.

Kristen Lewis, senior, political science, said, "I will be at the auction watching who bids on my boyfriend. I just might be auctioned off as well."

IBC is an organization for all students who have an interest in international business. This organization provides a learning aspect for different parts of the business field. Along with

learning; the organization also has social events so that the members can get to know one another on different levels. IBC sponsors special events like scheduling guest speakers from various professions to talk about their experiences in the work force.

Hanebery said that the next IBC event will be a pot luck dinner on March 5 to raise money for tsunami victims. With the help from other campus organizations, the pot luck dinner will be held in the Pierre Laclède Honors College building.

SINGLE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, from page 6

Krista Brock, freshman, elementary education, has been with her boyfriend for about six months. She appreciates knowing that she always has someone to talk to and go out with.

Despite all the positive aspects about being in a committed relationship, it is common knowledge that conflicts between couples can, and usually do, arise.

Some of the most common relationship problems include jealousy,

family, friends and money. These problems are often caused by conflicting expectations or poor communication.

"Relationships aren't good for people who aren't ready to be responsible to someone else," Hendrickson said.

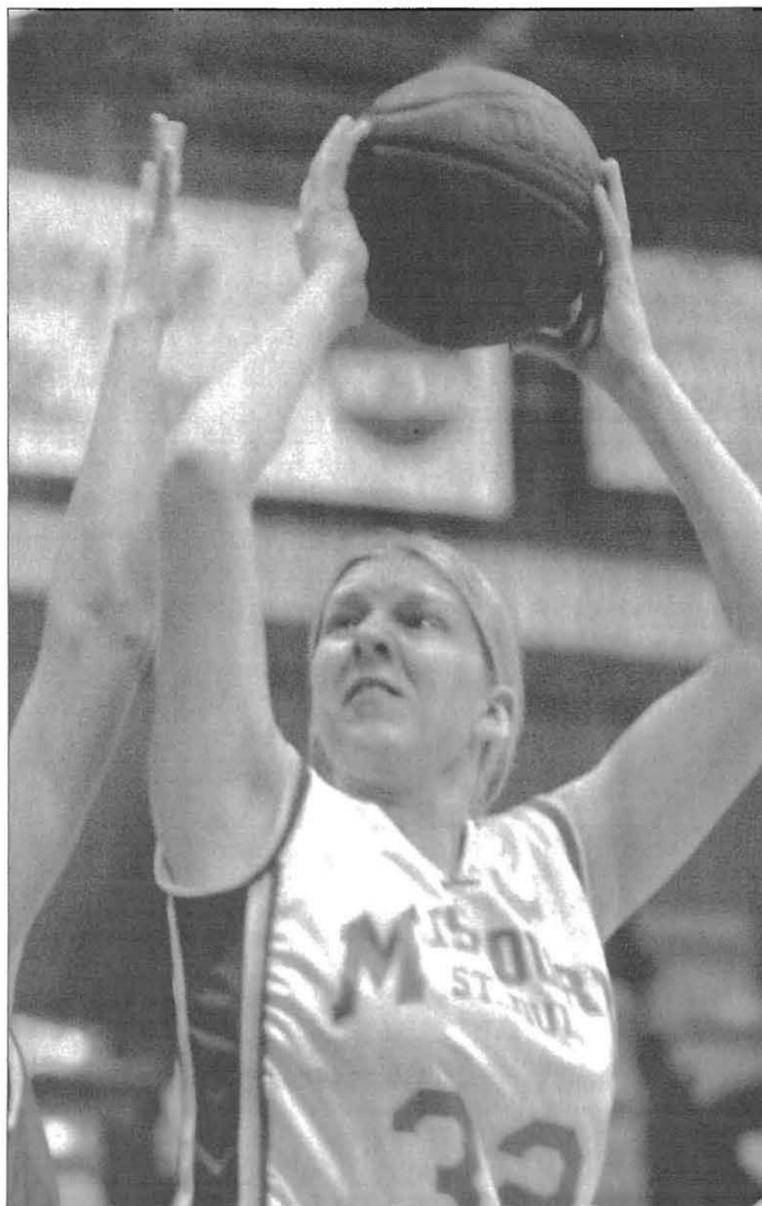
For those who are spending Feb. 14 without a significant other, www.ivillage.com has some alternative suggestions for celebrating Valentine's Day.

One possibility is to throw an all girls or all guys party. The site advises setting a price limit for the get together and planning a gender oriented theme, like a home spa night or a poker tournament. Another suggestion is to enjoy some time alone by getting a massage or ordering a favorite meal.

So regardless of your relationship status, or lack thereof, you should be able to find other ways to enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day.

SPORTS

Riverwomen can't get a break



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Freshman forward Leslie Allrich goes up for a shot during the second half of Thursday night's game against Lewis. The Riverwomen lost 78-48, bringing their season record to 5-17 and 2-14 in the GLVC.

Team suffers three straight conference losses

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team recently lost three conference games. The first was a home loss to Bellarmine University, 87-72, the second was an 87-77 loss at Indianapolis University and the third was a 78-48 loss to Lewis University at home.

Against Bellarmine the Riverwomen came out strong and grabbed the only lead they would have in the entire game. Bellarmine stormed back with a 15-3 run and took a 23-12 lead. Courtney Watts helped cut the deficit to five with a field goal and a three-pointer, and the Riverwomen continued to chip away at the lead until they got within two points with under two minutes remaining in the half. Bellarmine managed to extend their lead back to four, however, and went into halftime leading 38-34.

The Riverwomen came out playing well in the second half, and a basket by Kali Birkey tied the game at 44 after five minutes of play. Bellarmine pulled away again with an 11-2 run, and then after a small 6-0 run by the Riverwomen, exploded on a 19-6 run to grab a 79-63 lead. The spread was too much for the Riverwomen to overcome and Bellarmine held on to an easy 87-72 victory.

The Riverwomen were led by Birkey with 26 points.

On Feb. 3 the Riverwomen lost a heart-breaker to Indianapolis University. The teams traded leads for the majority of the first half, until Indianapolis pulled away with a 9-2 run to go up 27-19. They managed to extend their lead to nine with fewer than two minutes to play in the half and at halftime led 38-30.

Over the first five minutes of the second half Indianapolis pushed their lead to 13, but the Riverwomen responded with a 9-2 run to bring the score to 52-45. Then, with just under 10 minutes left in the game, Indianapolis went on a tear to blow the game open 70-53. Despite the huge lead, the Riverwomen managed to knock the lead down to just five over the next six minutes. Indianapolis came back and pushed their lead up again and held on for the 88-77 victory.

Birkey led the team yet again with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Watts contributed 13 points and Ilesha Billups added 12 points and 12 rebounds.

On Feb. 10 the Riverwomen were defeat-

Riverwomen this season:

•L 80-61	at Pittsburg St
•W 66-62	McKendree
•L 65-61	at UM-Rolla
•L 69-59	St. Joseph's
•L 76-65	Wis-Parkside
•L 56-53	at SIUE
•L 56-44	at Quincy
•L 83-60	at S Indiana
•L 84-68	at KyWesleyan
•W 95-27	Harris-Stowe
•L 67-57	N Kentucky
•W 68-65	Indianapolis
•L 69-43	at Wisc.Parkside
•L 69-58	at Lewis
•L 79-57	Quincy
•W 81-55	Rockhurst
•L 62-50	at Oakland City
•W 80-78 OT	KyWesleyan
•L 87-72	Bellarmine
•L 88-77	at Indianapolis
•L 70-61	at St. Joseph's
•L 78-48	Lewis

ed in perhaps the worst game of the season. Lewis got off to a quick start in the game and grabbed a 10-2 lead. The Riverwomen rallied (the only time it would happen the whole game) and came back to get within five at 15-10 with 11 minutes left in the half. From there it turned ugly for the Riverwomen, who were only able to score seven points the rest of the half, while Lewis scored 18 to grab a 16-point lead.

The second half saw more of the same. The Riverwomen only managed to score two points the opening seven minutes of the half, while Lewis extended their lead to 26. At one point in the second half Lewis led by as many as 35 points and finished the game with the 78-48 lead.

Coach Lee Buchanan was disappointed with the loss, but explained that sometimes these things just happen. "It was a case of one team hitting everything they threw up, and another team not hitting anything. When that happens you get this huge gap in the score," Buchanan said.

Freshman Abbie Thomas agreed, but put the game behind her quickly. "Despite the loss we are still going to work hard and hopefully be more productive in the future," she said.

Birkey scored 18 points in the loss. The Riverwomen will be in action again on Feb. 16 against Lincoln University.

Freshman Leslie Ricker has become a key player for the Riverwomen

BY BRYAN BOEDEKER
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago the UM-St. Louis women's basketball team was dead-locked with Kentucky Wesleyan with less than a minute to go in overtime. After holding the ball until there were just five or six seconds remaining, freshman point guard Courtney Watts found fellow freshman Leslie Ricker who buried the game winning 10-foot shot.

It is not often in college basketball that you will see such an important shot put in the hands of a freshman, but Coach Lee Buchanan does not see a problem with it. "I don't think of her [Ricker] or any of my players as freshman," he said. "I just think of them as ballplayers and I have confidence in all of them."

The confidence in Ricker is easily justified. As one of two starting freshmen, Ricker has displayed the kind of versatility that every basketball team needs. She is fourth on the team averaging 6.5 points per game and is second on the team in rebounding with 5.3 a game. However, as the old basketball cliché goes, she does a lot of things for the team that do not show up in the box score.

"What I like about her is her tenacity; she works so hard. It is also

important to have players her size [5'9] with good athleticism, she has the ball-handling skills to bring the ball up court if we need it," Coach Buchanan said.

Ricker herself points to something else as her best attribute as a basketball player. "Bringing energy to the floor, that's what I try to focus on in my game to help this team win."

Ricker came to UM-St. Louis by way of Poseyville, Indiana where she set the North Posey High School record for career points. A college closer to her home was one of the key factors in her decision of where to play basketball. "The city of St. Louis sounded like a fun place to go to school, there's always something to do," Ricker said. "Plus when I met my eventual teammates I thought they were really cool."

Like most players, the transition from high school to college basketball has been an eye-opening experience for Ricker. "The practices are longer and more intense, the games a lot more physical and the coaches expect a lot more out of you. But obviously it's been a great experience at the same time."

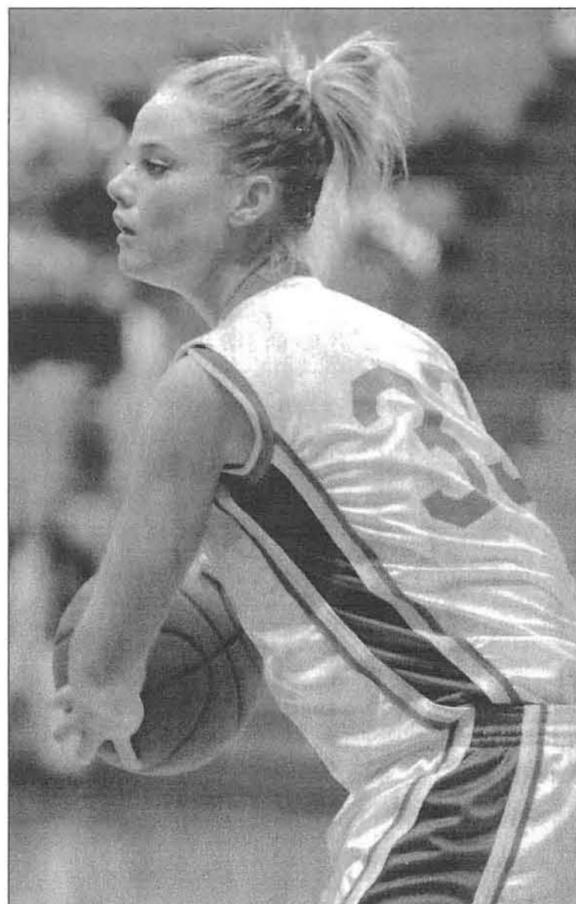
If she is having trouble adjusting to rigors of college basketball it certainly does not show up in her game. She has scored in double figures the past two games and has been the top

Leslie Ricker

- Freshman
- Point Guard
- 5'9"
- Comes to UMSL from Poseyville, Indiana
- Served as team captain for 3 years in high school
- Currently fourth on team in point per game average

rebounder in three of the team's past five games. "Her numbers have gone up as the season has gone on as she has developed a better understanding of the game," Coach Buchanan said.

As the young and inexperienced Riverwomen team has struggled to a 5-16 mark this year, young players like Ricker have set some goals for the future of the squad. "I hope we can make the tournament in my career as well as win our conference," she said. With the experience that the young core of this team is gaining and the potential that they possess as a unit, these goals should not be impossible to accomplish.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Freshman guard Leslie Ricker had the game winning shot against Kentucky Wesleyan on Jan. 27.

Riverwomen softball team ranked 6th in preseason conference poll

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Riverwomen softball team was voted to finish sixth in the GLVC conference by the coaches' preseason poll. The team received a total of 49 votes. Last season the Riverwomen finished with a record of 9-9 in the conference and 27-27 overall. They will have a tough conference schedule this year and will eventually play Northern Kentucky, who was selected to finish first in the conference with a total of 100 votes from the coaches. The Norse finished last season with a conference record of 19-1 and were 54-7 overall.

Riverwomen head coach Nicky Dumin will be entering her third season as head coach of the softball pro-

gram. Over the past two years she has recorded a 42-56-1 record, which already places her eighth all-time in wins in school history.

This year the Riverwomen will return both starting pitchers, sophomore Emily Wagoner and junior Casey Moran. As a freshman, Wagoner pitched in 31 games, started 29 games, and completed 28 with a season record of 14-15. She tallied five shutouts and had a 2.82 ERA. Wagoner struck out 90 batters and walked only 45 in 198.2 innings pitched. In her sophomore season, Moran started in 25 games and completed 23. She was 13-12 on the year with four shutouts and a 2.21 ERA. Moran struck out 69 batters and walked 39 in 161.1 innings pitched.

Emily Wagoner commented on the upcoming season. "I have high hopes for the team, we should be able to build

on last year's success. If we play as well as we know we can then we should do well," she said.

The infield and outfield look strong this season as the team brings in a few new recruits and returns others. Riverwomen returning senior Kristen Economon will play a key role in the team's success this season. Last year Economon started in all 54 games as an outfielder and was second on the team with a .325 batting average. She led the team with four triples, 28 RBIs, 17 walks, 67 total bases, a .427 slugging percentage and a .411 on base percentage. Sophomore Corie Jones will also be key to the team. Jones started in 52 games last season as an outfielder. She was third on the team with a .321 batting average. She tallied six doubles, three triples and was second on the team with a .378 on base

percentage and a .382 slugging percentage. Jones had 18 RBIs, 65 total bases and a team-high 32 runs scored and 16 stolen bases.

Also returning to the lineup are senior infielders Kim Kulaitis and Shauna Wilson and sophomore Lisa Neukirch. Kulaitis batted .270 on the season last year, led the team with 10 doubles and also led the team with three home runs and 67 total bases. She was second on the team with 25 RBIs and a .411 on-base percentage. Kulaitis ranks sixth on the career records list with 73 runs batted in, second with 36 doubles, and fourth with eight home runs. Wilson started in all 54 games at either third base or shortstop last season. She also tallied three doubles, one triple and one home run for the season and had a .335 on-base percentage with a .311 slugging percentage.

Wilson led the team with 139 assists on the season and had nine multi-hit games and three multi-RBI games; she also led the team with a 12 game hitting streak. Lisa Neukirch was vital as the team's catcher last season as she played in 41 games and was the designated hitter in seven games.

Wagoner spoke about the returning players. "I think that the crew we have coming back to the team will be able to help us compete with anyone. We should be able to stay in any game till the final out," Wagoner said.

New to the UM-St. Louis softball team this season are recruits Jennifer Thomas, Jessica Coffey, Megan Raney, Jessica Keim and Lindsay Reinagel.

The Riverwomen will open their season at the Evangel Early Bird Tournament in late February.

EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming

Men's Basketball

Feb. 16

◆ vs. Lincoln
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 19

◆ vs. S. Indiana
3:30 p.m.

Feb. 24

◆ vs. Bellarmine
8:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 16

◆ vs. Lincoln
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 19

◆ vs. S. Indiana
1:00 p.m.

Only 2 home games left, so come and support the UMSL teams!

* All games listed above are at the Mark Twain Athletic Building, and are free to students with UMSL ID.

FAR RIGHT:

Jonathan Griffin, Rivermen guard, plays against Lewis University on Thursday. Griffin won the 'Athlete of the Month' award for the second month in a row.

RIGHT:

Despite scoring 18 points, Kali Birkey could not save the Riverwomen from a tough defeat against Lewis University on Thursday night. Birkey's efforts have been noticed: this is the third month in a row she has been named 'Athlete of the Month.'



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Déjà Vu: ■ Kali Birkey and Jonathan Griffin once again take 'Athlete of the Month' honors

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

For the second month in a row senior women's basketball player Kali Birkey and sophomore men's basketball player Jonathan Griffin have been named athlete of the month. For Birkey it is now the third month in a row she has received the honor and for Griffin it is his second.

In the month of January Birkey was again up to the task as she recorded exceptional numbers on the court. In nine games Birkey totaled four steals, 10 assists, seven blocks, 60 rebounds and 133 points to lead the team. During the month Birkey averaged

over 25 minutes a game as she helped the team win three games.

Birkey came up big on several occasions for her team as she often scored and rebounded in double digits. Only three games ago against conference foe Bellarmine University, Birkey scored a season high 26 points to follow up her 23-point, nine-rebound performance only two nights before against conference rival Kentucky Wesleyan. Birkey also recorded double-digit rebounds in two wins against Indianapolis and Rockhurst.

Birkey commented on her successful month. "It was fun to be able to go out and play well, as a player that is all you can ask for. As for the award, it is

nice to be recognized but my teammates are the ones truly responsible for most of my success, they set me up most of the time," she said.

On the men's side Jonathan Griffin has been no slouch either, making the best of his opportunities when it counts. Over the 10-game span of the month of January, Griffin totaled 62 rebounds, 201 points, 46 assists, 14 steals and one blocked shot. During that span he averaged over 32 minutes per game and lead his team in scoring in all but two of those ten games. Griffin also earned his 1,000-point of his career during that span, making him only the 15th player in UM-St. Louis history to hit that mark.

Griffin also scored over 30 points

twice, scored over 20 two other times and was only held under double-digits once. Griffin had a season high 32 points in a game against Lindenwood University and also recorded a season high 12 assists in a game against Lincoln University.

Griffin spoke about the award. "It is nice to get recognized again. I have been enjoying all of my recent success on the court but like I have said, I wouldn't have done it without the other guys on the team, they contribute just as much as I do, so they deserve it just as much in my eyes," he said.

Come watch Birkey and Griffin throughout the rest of the season as they try to lead their teams into post-season play later on this season.

RIVERMEN PRE-HOMECOMING VICTORY, from page 1

In the second half the Flyers extended their lead to nine points, 37-28, with 16 minutes left in the game. Over the next seven minutes the Rivermen completely turned the game around. Minner hit back to back jumpers to cut the lead to five, then Griffin scored on a tip-in after a Lewis field goal. Then Mroz, who along with Cole would be one of the heroes of the game, sparked the devastating 18-1 Rivermen run with a three-pointer. Over a span of eight minutes after Mroz's three-pointer, the Rivermen outscored the Flyers by a score of 24-6, and grabbed a nine-point lead at 52-43. The Flyers retaliated with several three-pointers, three from Anthony Scala, and with under a minute to play the teams were deadlocked at 60-60. Joey Paul hit two free-throws and the Flyers scored a field goal, giving the Rivermen the last possession of the game with 18 seconds left to play. Cole ran the clock down to three seconds and attempted a three-pointer to win the game, but came up short, sending the teams to overtime.

The Flyers led most of the overtime period and were up 70-68 with 35 seconds left to play. On the Rivermen's possession Green caught the ball right under the basket for an easy lay up but missed it. The Flyers rebounded and were immediately fouled, sending their version of Shaquille O'Neil to the line to shoot free-throws and ice the game. Shaq



UM-St. Louis men's basketball head coach Chris Pilz questions a referee's call on Thursday night. Pilz led his team to a 82-79 victory over the Lewis Flyers. That win left the team with a 7-15 record for the season.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

made one but missed the second, giving the Rivermen one last chance to tie the game with 16 seconds left to play. The Rivermen came down the court and with seven seconds left the ball found itself in Cole's hands again; this time his three-pointer would tie the game, and he sunk the three ball. Cole felt grateful he could have a second chance. "When the ball left my hand I knew it had a chance of going in. I was just fortunate that it did," he said.

The second overtime was every bit as intense as the first. The Flyers

jumped out to another early lead, 76-71 with 3:45 left to play. A three-point play by Minner and a three-pointer by Paul gave the lead back to the Rivermen, but the Flyers tied the score at 79-79 with 38 seconds left to play. The Rivermen used their final possession to run the clock down to three seconds, when Cole found Mroz coming off of a screen for a three-pointer. Mroz hit the shot with a quick catch-and-shoot motion and put the Rivermen up by three with 2.5 seconds remaining. The Flyers did not get a final shot off,

and the Rivermen came away with the 82-79 victory. It was a sweet victory for the Rivermen, and Cole summed it up best. "This was one of the best games I have played at while at UMSL. The crowd, the bench, everyone was into it. I would like to thank the crowd for so much support," he said.

Minner scored 18 points and had 13 rebounds, while Cole added 17 points, eight rebounds and three assists.

On Feb. 16 the Rivermen will play host to Lincoln University.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Guard Sherome Cole was key to the Rivermen victory Thursday, scoring 17 points in the game. After missing a shot that would have given the Rivermen the win at the end of regulation, Cole scored a three pointer with seven seconds on the clock in overtime, tying with Lewis at 71-71, enabling the team to enter double overtime and eventually win 82-79.

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<p>Alternative »Costa Rica \$461 Air + 6 nights at the Pangea Hostel, breakfast included</p>	<p>»Mexico City \$378 Air + 2 nights at the Hostel Moneda, breakfast included</p>

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A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

PAC Calendar

February 16
Vusi Mahlasela
Lee Theater
7:30 p.m.

February 18
The Barber of
Seville
A-B Performance
Hall
8 p.m.

February 22
Des Lee Middle
School Festival
A-B Performance
Hall
6 p.m.

February 26
Two Gentlemen of
Verona
A-B Performance
Hall
8 p.m.

March 1
Dr. Pamela Rutter-
Feenstra
Lee Theater
3:30 p.m.

March 4
Arlo Guthrie
A-B Performance
Hall
8 p.m.

March 5
Sharon Isbin
w/Airanna String
Quartet
A-B Performance
Hall
8 p.m.

March 5
Cedar Lake II
Lee Theater
8 p.m.

March 6
Cedar Lake II
Lee Theater
2 p.m.

March 8
UMSL Faculty
Chamber Music
Lee Theater
7:30 p.m.

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Vusi Mahlasela's "Voice" to echo through the PAC

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

International singer, songwriter and musician Vusi Mahlasela will perform his world-renowned music, including songs from his latest release, "The Voice," on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Born in South Africa, Mahlasela began writing lyrics and composing music early on that dealt with issues that were both politically and socially relevant to his community and country. He taught himself to play the guitar and has become a respected composer, arranger and performer whose music is known around the world. He performed at numerous political rallies singing about the oppressive system of apartheid that crippled his native country.

Mahlasela and his music were featured in the acclaimed film, "Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony." The film explores and depicts the role that music played in the lives and the sociopolitical climate of South Africa during the fight against the system of Apartheid. He was also featured on the title track of the Dave Matthews Band's 2000 release "Everyday."

Front man Dave Matthews, who is also a native of South Africa, is

one of Mahlasela's biggest supporters and signed him to his According To Our record label. Mahlasela's U.S. debut, "The Voice," was released in the summer of 2003. "The Voice" features Mahlasela's vocal talents in English and six other South African languages.

The PAC concert is a part of the International Performing Arts series which is presented by the E. Desmond Lee Global Ethnic Collaborative & Professorship in African/African American Studies as well as the Center for International Studies at UM-St. Louis. The Regional Arts Commission and the St. Louis Center for International Relations also support the performance series.

Several international musicians are scheduled to perform at the PAC as a part of the international music series. A complete list of all performances scheduled for the 2004-2005 International Performing Arts series is available on the University of Missouri - St. Louis website at www.umsl.edu/services/cis/cis-world.

The Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center offers discount tickets for UM-St. Louis students with valid school identification. For ticket information, visit www.touhill.org or call the PAC box office at 516-4949.

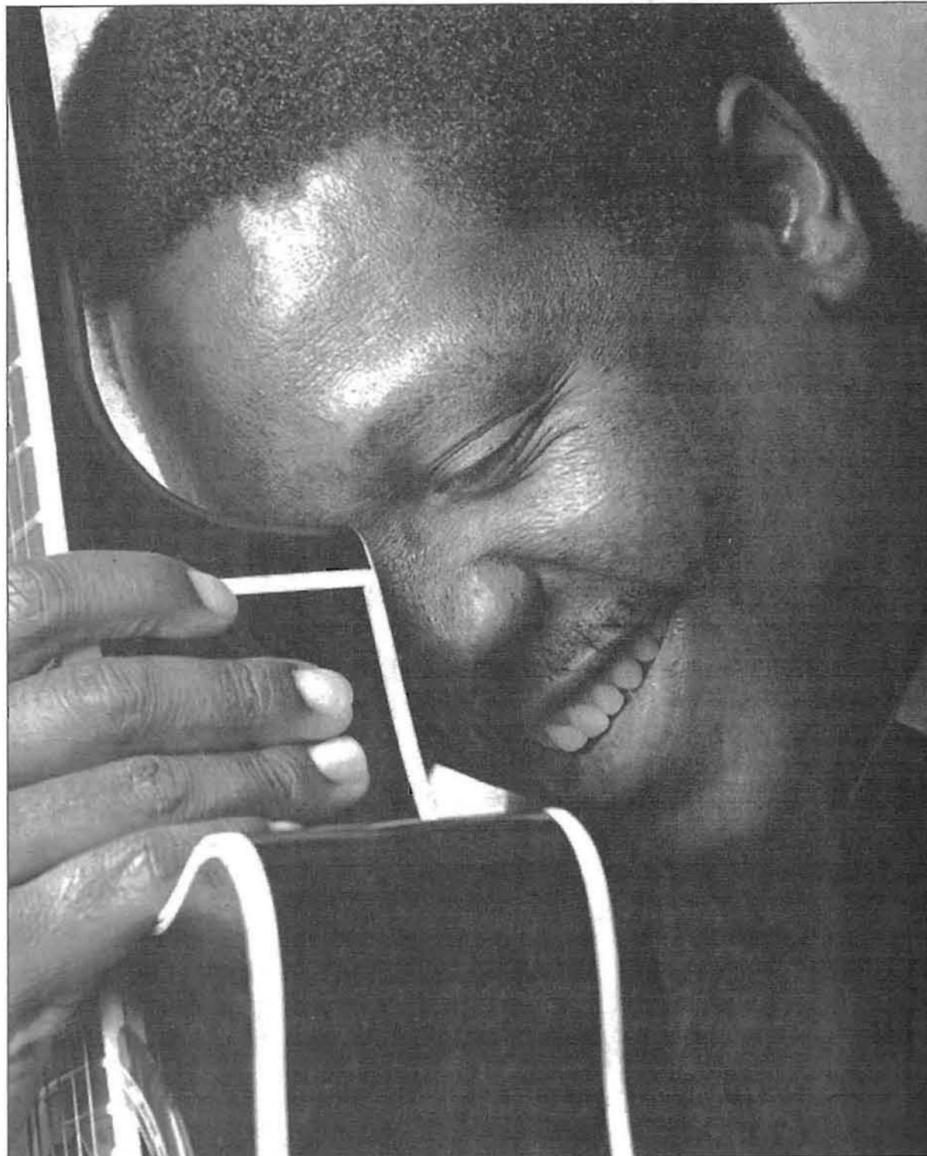


Photo courtesy of UMSL Media, Marketing and Printing Services

EVENT REVIEW



Tenaz Shirazian The Current

Natalie F. Anderson reads a poem from her published book, "Following Fred Astaire."

Irish poets share personal works

BY TANA ROGERS
Staff Writer

Do UM-St. Louis students get what they pay for? The answer is yes, if they take advantage of some of the unique opportunities that arrive at the University. On Thursday, two published poets visited the SSB to share some of their work.

The room filled to its capacity by the event's starting time of 12:30 p.m., and Dr. Eamonn Wall of the English department introduced the first poet, Nathalie Anderson.

Anderson holds a Ph.D. and teaches at Swarthmore College. She opened the reading with her poem, "The Miser." Afterwards, she commented on her collection of poems entitled "Following Fred Astaire." Anderson said the collection deals with "anxiety, anxiety about being in the wrong place at the wrong time, anxiety about your appearance and just anxiety in general."

Anderson shared a poem called "Nephophobia, Fear of Clouds," and explained that she loved researching this odd topic because it gave her the opportunity to lie on her back and look at clouds all day. She defined some of the words before starting: glaucous, gleet and scuts. These words fit the poem perfectly as Anderson "performed" her work.

She read emphatically, "Dead calm. They're on you before you feel them... And shifty- torpid turns turbid." Her vivid imagery and the descriptive and, at times, decorative language filled the room as she read her selections.

Anderson imparted the story behind "The Dream of the Horoscope" and the story came to life in the room through the poem's imagery. She and her friend shared the same birthday, but, the audience

watched as her friend took flight, landing on mountaintops and visiting South America while Anderson lived a more grounded life.

To conclude, Anderson read "a love poem." The clever poem, "Squeeze," described how "other men don't stay the night, but sleep wants me anytime." Anderson's poem explained dozing off: "I come sudden to myself, drooling from his kiss." This delightful poem personified sleep and Anderson "fall[s] for him, night after night."

The second half of the event began with the introduction of the second poet, Dr. Peggy O'Brien. She currently is a professor at University of Massachusetts - Amherst, in addition to writing poetry. O'Brien launched her reading with a group of sonnets.

O'Brien framed the poems by explaining that she wrote them about her life during the time her father was dying. Although a somber topic, she used elegant language and the poems sounded sparkly, as if to foreshadow some light at the end of the tunnel.

O'Brien linked her poems and the mood of her poems to the New England weather. During the "Hospital" sonnets, she read the line, "You're leaving faster than the snow is melting." With descriptive language, she carefully and deliberately intermingled the theme of changing season with how something or someone fades.

After the sonnets, this poet transported the audience to Ireland where she earned her master's degree and doctorate. She described a place where everyone sang, and sang badly. It helped her learn "about the self-delusion of thinking you create any kind of art," and also recommended that everyone try it.

Next, O'Brien introduced a group of poems about her mother, Ruth.



Tenaz Shirazian The Current

Dr. Peggy O'Brien reads a sonnet from her book, "Sudden Thaw."

She had studied the Bible stories about Ruth for inspiration. She read "Ruthless" which dealt with themes of familial obligation. At the end of O'Brien's selections, she read "Red Feather." She wrote this about a painting depicting a woman during the Civil War, but got inspiration from one of her graduate students whose husband was in Iraq.

After Anderson and O'Brien read poems from their works, they answered a few questions. Anderson gave advice to aspiring poets. She said, "Don't finish when you sit down to write it" and "avoid knowing where you're going with it." She said that during summers, she spends two weeks on first drafts.

In response to a question about the cultural differences between Americans and the Irish in relation to poetry, O'Brien answered that she did not feel at odds with either. "I have a huge emotional investment in Ireland," O'Brien said. "Many things happened to me while I was there, and some things were traumatic; but to me, the culture was a lifesaver."

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Red Robin has the modern version of old-fashioned eats

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Many people like eating dinner with the whole family, but not all restaurants are geared toward children as much as adults. Red Robin is a restaurant that caters to both.

Red Robin is a modern version of an old-fashioned diner. When patrons first enter the restaurant, they find two televisions in the floor at their feet. These TVs often play cartoons. Other TVs in the restaurant play ESPN. There are pictures on the walls and the walls are painted a deep, mellow yellow. Booths line the walls, and tables sit in the middle of the floor. Children are given things to do, such as coloring, to occupy their time while waiting for their food to arrive.

My friend and I arrived on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. The restaurant was not too busy and we were seated right away. He ordered a soda and I ordered a chocolate Monster Milkshake to hold us over while we looked over the menu. Menu items include shareable starters, gourmet burgers, salads, entrees, soups and sandwiches and desserts. Drinks include mixed drinks, margaritas, beer and wine, non-alcoholic mixed drinks, sodas, tea and coffee. There is also a kids' menu. My friend chose the Royal Red Robin burger. I chose the Crispy Chicken Burger, which is just a

chicken sandwich on a hamburger bun instead of bread. We waited about fifteen minutes for our food. The food came fresh, hot and delicious. Our overall total plus tip was just over 25 dollars.

The service at Red Robin was good but it could have been better. Our server was polite, but he did not seem genuine. He also did not check up on us.

Red Robin was first opened in 1969 in Seattle. The restaurant's tag line is "America's Gourmet Burger and Spirits." There are 235 Red Robin restaurants in the United States, and 18 in Canada.

The restaurant has won multiple awards, including "Best Burger" and "Best Family Restaurant." Mike Snyder is the President and C.E.O.

Red Robin has several locations in Missouri: Chesterfield, Des Peres, Fenton, Independence and Mid Rivers. There is also a Red Robin E-Club that patrons can join by visiting their website online at www.redrobin.com/flash.html. The club allows Red Robin to reward the patrons' love for burgers.

Hours at Red Robin are Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Happy hour is Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dress is casual. There is no smoking, but carry out is available.

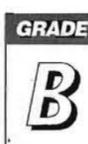
Red Robin is a good place to take children. However, it is also a good place to de-stress with friends and just shoot the breeze.

Red Robin locations

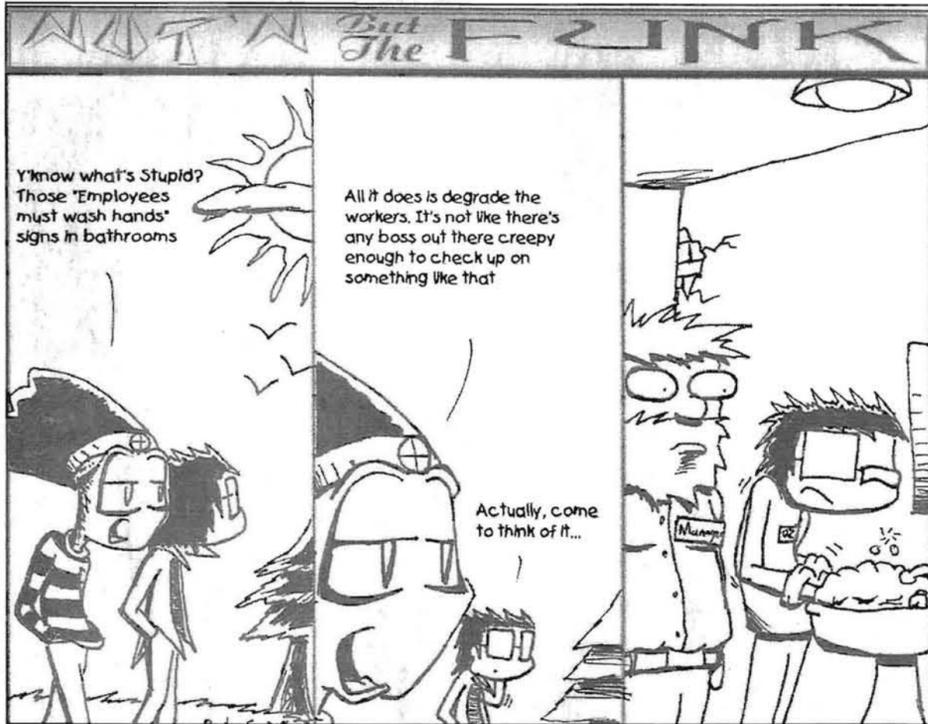
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Weekly Cartoon - by Rudy Scoggins



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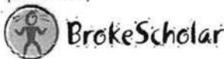


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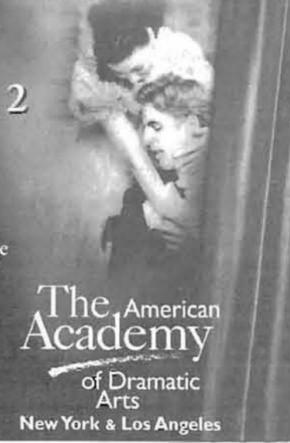
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Kate Drolet/The Current

Aaron Golchert and Michelle Pierson dance as King and Queen.

HOMECOMING 2005



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Red Cross worker Salisa Jones draws blood from Nicole Cusimano, senior, communication, in the MSC on Monday during a Homecoming Spirit Week Blood Drive.

Candidates for court come from diverse backgrounds

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

The Homecoming court was announced at the halftime of the UM-St. Louis vs. Lewis basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 10. The candidates represent a wide variety of student organizations and campus life.

"Homecoming means a time to get excited about school and have fun!" Michelle Pierson, senior, communications, said. Pierson, along with three other women, comprised the female end of the homecoming court.

Among them was Katie Chitwood, junior, international business, who belongs to Alpha Xi Delta sorority and Jete, a UM-St. Louis student dance organization.

Rachel Clark, junior, mass communication, was also on the court. "I think that Homecoming here at UM-St. Louis is one of the few activities that isn't completely taken over by this group or that group. It is a common ground for all students on campus to feel welcome," she said. "I believe that this type of event means a lot to a campus like ours with commuter and non-traditional students."

Clark is a member of the Delta Zeta sorority and participates in the accounting club. She is also on the Pan-Hellenic committee and the Homecoming committee.

"I am running because I was nominated by Delta Zeta," Clark said, "but also because I really want to get more involved on campus and figured what better way than through Homecoming."

Pierson is president of Alpha Phi Omega and was a new student orientation mentor.

"What homecoming means to me is a way to get people on campus more involved with things and be happy about their school," Pierson said. "It is something to keep school interesting and to get organizations involved with other organizations."

The last woman on the court was Ellen Schulte, senior, educational studies. Schulte is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and the Order of Omega. She is in the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

Four women and four men were nominated as homecoming king and queen candidates. All applicants were accepted, which is different from other years when nominees went through a preliminary cut to even out the number of queen and king candidates.

On the male court was Aaron Golchert, senior, management, who is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, the International Business Club and Comptroller of SGA.

Theo Miller, junior, business administration, was on court so he could be more involved on campus. "I have only associated with Sigma Tau Gamma and I wanted to take an active part in other campus organizations and activities." Miller is President of Sigma Tau Gamma.

Also running was David Petty, junior, studio art, who is a member of the Associated Black Collegians and Chain of Arts.

Rounding out the men was Mike Rogan, senior, criminology and criminal justice, who is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, Catholic Newman Center and the Big Events Project.

All candidates expressed how they wanted to be more involved on campus from a sincere wish to make the school better.

At the homecoming dance on Feb. 12, it was announced that Golchert and Pierson were the winners of the homecoming court.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Homecoming Week shows school spirit

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

A week of pomp and school spirit culminated Friday, Feb. 11 at the UM-St. Louis Homecoming dance at the Airport Marriott. The event, organized by Student Life, brought an end to a spirit week highlighted by a school blood drive, banner wars, big man on campus competition and Homecoming parade.

The festivities began Monday, Feb. 7 with banner wars and a blood drive at the Millennium Student Center.

Campus organizations were encouraged to participate in the banner wars. The banners hung on the bridge and displayed all week with entries receiving points based on neatness, creativity and use of the homecoming theme "A Night on the Town."

The blood drive took place on the third floor of the Millennium Center from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. It was part of the spirit competition with organizations receiving points for most members donating blood and highest percentage of organization to give blood. Five canned goods were also accepted in place of a pint of blood.

The blood drive, it was announced at the Thursday night tailgate, collected 75 pints of blood. A good turn out is considered 25 pints.

The Homecoming parade on Tuesday, Feb. 8, began on South Campus and culminated in front of a review stand set up in front of the new lakes by the Millennium Student Center.

Administrators judged the floats on creativity, neatness, use of theme and spirit. Floats competed in two categories, student organizations and staff divisions. In the staff category Auxiliary Services won, with Grounds Crew and Residential Life taking second and third place.

STAT (Students Today Alumni Tomorrow) won the student float competition, with Alpha Xi Delta

taking second place. The Big Man On Campus competition was held on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the Pilot House. The male contestants were judged in four categories: swimwear, talent, formal wear and answering questions.

"Creativity and entertainment," were what Susan Dibbs, assistant recreation coordinator and BMOC judge, looked for in the candidates. She added, "I like the fun value. They were all very good."

The competition was the sixth annual and all proceeds went to the Red Cross Tsunami Relief Effort. The Pan-Hellenic Council organized the competition.

"It's an annual event done in conjunction with Homecoming. It is anticipated and enjoyed every Homecoming week," Allyson Wilson, student services coordinator, said. "Last year we raised over \$1,100. Hopefully we push that up this year."

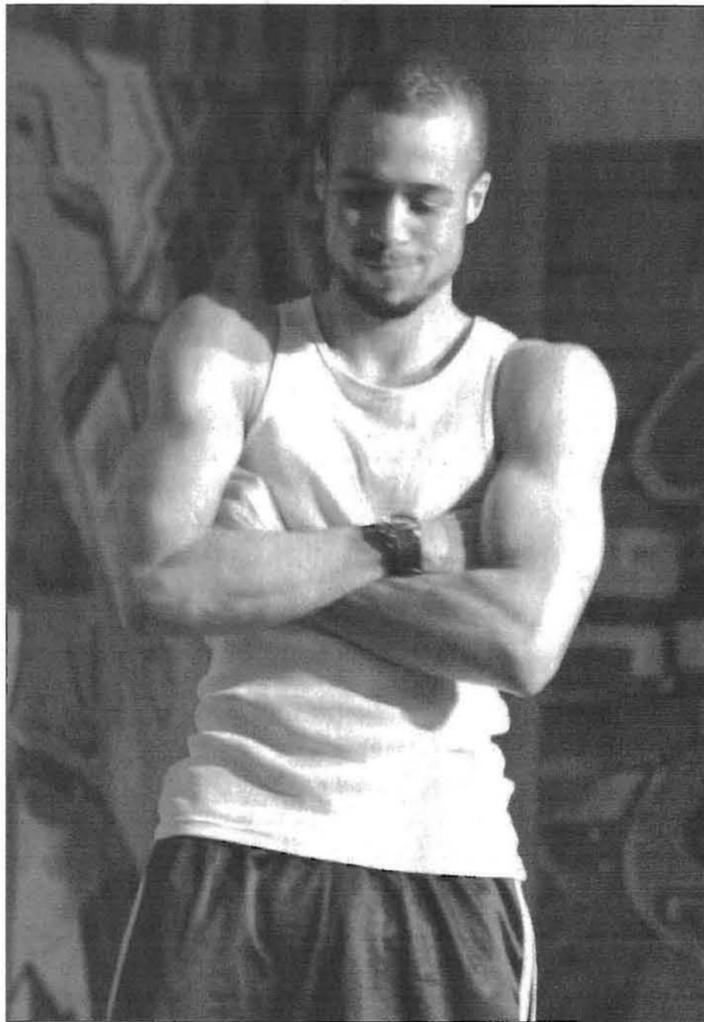
At the tailgate party it was announced over \$1,100 was raised.

Candidates competed for varying reasons. "I'm doing it because it is for a good cause. It is fun and entertaining," John Waterhouse, senior, electrical engineering, and one of the Homecoming chairs, said.

Alvin Walker, senior, fine arts, competed for different reasons. "I am president and curator of Visio Gallery. I thought it would be a good thing to promote the gallery," explained Walker, who is about to graduate at the age of 60.

The BMOC title is purely for respect since the Homecoming King is the one who attends to all the ceremonial functions of the school. Justin Phelps was announced the winner of the BMOC competition, with John Waterhouse taking second place and D'Andre Braddix taking third.

Thursday, Feb. 10, saw two Homecoming events. A powder-puff football game and a tailgate party increased school spirit, and the Flames and cheerleaders performed. The winners of the BMOC and parade were also announced at the tailgate party.



Tenaz Shirazian/The Current

HOMECOMING, from page 1

Suen crowned Aaron Golchert and Mayer crowned Michelle Pierson as King and Queen.

During the week, students had the chance to vote for their candidates through Student Life's website.

The four men who ran for homecoming court positions were Aaron Golchert, Theo Miller, David Petty and Mike Rogan. Katie Chitwood, Rachel Clark, Michelle Pierson and Ellen Schulte competed for the Homecoming Queen title. It was announced at the dance that Golchert and Pierson were the winners of the Homecoming Court.

The official dance and music entertainment started at 8:30 p.m. This year's homecoming theme was "A Night on the Town."

Students were decked out in elegant evening gowns and suits. Some of the women who attended wore short slip dresses, while others went all out in sequins, lace, floor length and train dresses. Those who did not dress to the max simply wore business attire or professional wear consisting of slacks and fancy dress tops.

D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology, said that he enjoyed the homecoming dance. "It was hot. The

dancing was great," he said.

Homecoming was also a chance for students to meet others from their school. "It was fun getting to know other people and meet different students who go to the same university," Ali Griffith, senior, English, said.

All students with admission to the dance had the opportunity to get their picture taken and receive a complimentary photo shot, which will be available soon for pick-up in the Office of Student Life. Students also received a free keepsake souvenir of a silver metal picture frame labeled "UMSL Homecoming 2005."

ABOVE:

Michelle Pierson, senior, communication and Mike Rogan, senior, criminology, toss out beads from a pickup truck at the Fat Tuesday parade outside the MSC. Pierson and Rogan were candidates for Homecoming Queen and King.

LEFT:

D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology, shows off his muscles to the audience at the 'Big Man on Campus' contest in the Pilot House on Wednesday afternoon. The contest was part of a weeklong series of events for Homecoming 2005.