



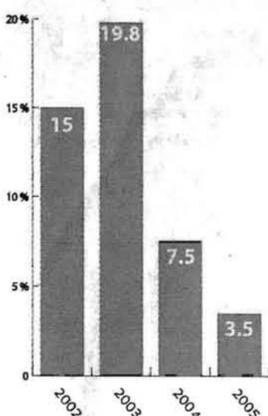
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Move over, Hitchcock

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

UM Tuition Increases



Curators approve 3.5% rise in tuition

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

Tuition and educational fees are expected to increase by 3.5 percent this year, but the increase has been called "moderate" compared to previous years, after University of Missouri System President Elson Floyd recommended the changes.

Floyd remarked on the fee increases at the board of curators' meeting in Columbia, Mo., on Friday, Feb. 4. The UM system recently welcomed three new curators, John Camahan, Doug Russell and David Wasinger.

Floyd hopes to work closely with the new curators but also continue working with the chancellors at each campus to make the appropriate decisions regarding the tuition increase this year.

"President Floyd and Dr. George are very concerned about students having access to the university," Associate Vice Provost John Kundel said. "The cost of higher education is really a concern to us all."

Past consecutive years of tuition increases have frustrated students in the UM system, but the UM System Intercampus Student Council continues to support the rising educational fees.

Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial and technical services, showed how the 3.5 percent increase would be broken down. Students currently pay \$209.20 per credit hour, but by next year, that cost will increase to \$216.50, excluding the performing arts fee, which is paid per semester and not per credit hour.

He also said a full time student with 12 credit hours will pay almost \$100 more in tuition each semester, a 3.19 percent increase since last year.

Kundel expressed his worries about students having problems accessing public education. "Here on our campus, we do have a large number of students who demonstrate financial need, so he [George] is pretty sensitive to that. His concern is that we, as much as we possibly can, remain affordable to students," he said.

Concerns remain, not only from a student perspective, but also from faculty and staff, who must maintain the student services that the educational fees promise.

"We've seen in times of reduced state revenue corresponding appropriations for higher education not keeping pace with these costs."

see TUITION HIKE, page 7

Chancellor pays 'Tribute to Jazz'



Erica Burrus/The Current

Chancellor Tom George, accomplished jazz pianist, played with ease and perfection in Tuesday night's "Tribute to Jazz" performance at the Sheldon Concert Hall, which benefited the Center for the Humanities. For more photos, visit www.thecurrentonline.com.

Construction begins on new dormitories

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

Construction of UM-St. Louis' first new residential halls began on Tuesday, Feb. 13, with completion scheduled for summer 2006.

The \$26 million project is funded through bonds and includes a residential hall with 400 single beds, 16 doubles and units for residential hall assistants, graduate assistants and the building director. The U-shaped building will be located between Seton Hall and the Nursing Administration building.

The five-story building was designed with a community theme. "The way we designed the whole building is the principle of living and learning," Sam Darandari, facilities planning director, said.

The lower two floors will serve as common space and include the office, lounges, convenience store, kitchen, dining room, game room, fitness center, laundry facility and storage. "It would allow the students to have privacy and interact with others and visitors in public spaces," Darandari said.

Bedrooms on the other three floors would be organized into suites, with suites further organized into communities. Each community would have a common lounge, study lounge and its own residential hall assistant. "The idea is to afford the students with the means to acquire



Drawing and map courtesy LKSQ Architecture

An artist's rendering shows the future residence halls, just south of the Provincial House complex on South Campus, as shown on the map below.

and develop academic and social skills," Darandari said.

This will be the first time that UM-St. Louis has built residential halls. "All existing facilities were acquired property that was converted to fit the need for housing," John Klein, director of residential life, said. "This new building will be the very first residence hall that was built to function as a residence hall."

The project began three years ago in May 2002. Students, staff, faculty and a consulting firm were involved in the process. "This is the first time where everyone who has a stake in this had opportunities to get involved in the process," Darandari said.

see DORM CONSTRUCTION, page 7



Student reps let loose at karaoke night

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

UM-St. Louis students had the chance to meet their student representatives, sing along with them in a karaoke contest, and win an iPod mini all in one night.

This event called, "Meet the Representatives," took place Thursday night in the Pilot House.

Besides the karaoke contest, the night included free food, pool tables and a lively atmosphere to sit and enjoy the night with friends and meet the students who represent UM-St. Louis in different ways.

Joe Garavaglia, senior, accounting said, "We have had these nights since last spring semester, and we have them once a semester."

Garavaglia is the chair of the Student Senate Committee, which

started the event three semesters ago. Since then, the Student Government Association joined in the fall semester last year, and this year, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri took part in the event.

The highlight of the night included students and members of the participating organizations singing along to a karaoke machine. All of the student representatives from the SGA, Student Senate Committee and ASUM, sang "Summer Nights" from the movie "Grease."

Four student representatives judged the contestants on their ability to sing along with the karaoke machine. Besides Garavaglia, Scott Bopp, senior, international business; Jan Mayer, senior, education; and Kit Blanke, senior, English, were judges.

see MEET THE REPS, page 3



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Kit Blanke, Thomas Helton, Scott Bopp and D'Andre Braddix collaborate on a Karaoke version of "Summer Nights" from the musical 'Grease' at the "Meet the Representatives Night" in the Pilot House on Thursday.

SGA considers new fees for USA Today, The Current

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

Newspapers dominated the discussion at the Student Government Association's meeting on Friday, as the results of the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program pilot were released and The Current proposed to change its funding to a direct student fee.

Kathleen O'Brien, circulation account manager with USA Today, told the assembly that 8 percent of students picked up a newspaper each day during the four-week pilot program between Jan. 10 and Feb. 4. Each week, around 4,200 newspapers were picked up.

O'Brien said that if approved by a student referendum, the program

would cost \$49,950 annually, based on a daily distribution of 900 newspapers. Each student would pay \$4.54 annually for the program, assuming an enrollment of 11,000 students.

During the free pilot program, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The New York Times and USA Today were available Monday through Friday at five open-rack displays on campus and one machine that could be opened with a student ID



O'Brien USA Today manager told SGA that 8% of students picked up a newspaper during pilot program

card. If the newspaper program is approved, the newspapers would be distributed solely through machines equipped with card-readers.

SGA representatives were divided on the accuracy of the data collected during the pilot.

Muhammed Lamotte, freshman, social work, and SGA representative for Pi Kappa Alpha, said, "Out of the 8 percent of students they said picked up papers, I'd say probably 50 percent of those weren't even students. I saw a lot of staff people picking them up."

However, Shawn Cooley, sophomore, physics, and representative at large for the College of Arts and Sciences, said he has heard only positive feedback about the program, particularly in the dorms.

"In Provincial House, the Post-

Dispatch would often be gone before noon," Cooley said. "People there like the papers and are also wondering why we don't get newspapers on the weekend, too. Doesn't news happen on the weekends?"

O'Brien said that a USA Today survey of 300 students at UM-St. Louis showed that 66 percent of students surveyed would be willing to pay a student fee for the Collegiate Readership Program.

Zach Meyer, freshman, English, said those statistics were compelling. "I would just like to note that we're supposed to represent the students," Meyer said. "And according to the data...the people we represent more than likely do want this program."

see NEWSPAPERS, page 3

Expo for faith groups promotes spirituality

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

UM-St. Louis spiritual group and campus faith-based organizations shared their beliefs and their organizations' objectives to students at the first annual "Interfaith Expo," held on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Tables lined the second floor rotunda of the MSC from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., while student members and campus minister encouraged others to participate in college religious events and activities.

Some of the groups represented at the expo included the St. Louis Hillel (a St. Louis organization which reaches out to Jewish college students), the Catholic Newman Center (CNC), the Reformed Campus Fellowship (RCF), Campus Crusade for Christ, the International Student Incorporated (ISI), the Interfaith Campus Ministries and Campus Life.

Emily Walsh, St. Louis Hillel Jewish Campus Service Corp. Fellow, explained why their college faith group is also called "Geshner."

"Geshner means 'bridge' in Hebrew," Walsh said. "We are trying to bridge together Jewish communities at various St. Louis college campuses."

see INTERFAITH EXPO, page 7

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Sports: Basketball's secret weapon?



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A&E: 'The Voice' inspires



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Op Ed: Advising advising



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Bullet In Board

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

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

Mon. Feb. 21

Senegal Art discussion

UM-St. Louis Faculty Marian Amies, Jackie Lewis-Harris and Community Artist Sandra Nickeson, speak about the Senegal International Art Festival and the 2004 faculty/student team's journey to Tambacounda to create book art in Wolof, French and English. Event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney.

Tues. Feb. 22

Interviewing Basics Workshop

Location: Career Services, 278 Millennium Student Center. Time: 12:30 p.m. The Interviewing Basics Workshop is designed for job seekers who do not possess extensive interviewing experience or want a "refresher" on general interviewing skills. Topics covered include interview formats and questions, employer research, appropriate interview attire, and post-interview follow up. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis stu-

dents and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Wed. Feb. 23

Free Bingo

Campus recreation will sponsor a night of free Bingo. The event will be held in the Provincial House all-purpose room, located on South Campus. Prizes and snacks will be provided. Students, faculty and staff welcome. Event begins at 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 23 Teaching and Technology workshop

The Center for Teaching and Learning and Information Technology Services will host "Lessons from the Top Row: How to Encourage Learning in Large Classes." Some of the keys to success are available through this interactive session with guest presenters from SIUE. Bring your questions, thoughts, concerns, fears, anxieties and positive stories to share. Event will be held in 316 MSC from noon to 2 p.m. Faculty, staff and teaching assistants are welcome.

Wed. Feb. 23

Grades workshop

Are you comfortable with the grades you are currently getting? If not, Counseling Services can help you make changes for the better. Our workshop will help you learn efficient study and test-taking habits, manage procrastination, and improve your memory skills. Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 4-5:30. Please call 516-5711 to register for the FREE workshop.

Sat. Feb. 26

Bus trip to Kansas City

The Helping Hands student organization along with Student Life is sponsoring a bus trip to Kansas City, Mo. to visit the Negro League Baseball Museum, shop at the Country Club Plaza, and eat at Gate's BBQ. Leave 6 a.m., back at midnight. Reserve a spot for \$10, which is refunded day of trip. Sign up and pay the deposit at the Office of Multicultural Relations on the first floor of the MSC.

Tues. March 1

Racial Profiling Speaker

Amnesty International presents, "Born Suspect: Ending Racial Profiling." Dr. Morris Taylor will discuss problems with the practice of racial profiling in the St. Louis area and how it can be stopped. Taylor is head of the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Eastern Missouri, assistant professor at SIUE and a former St. Louis city police officer. Program begins at 7 p.m. in Century Room B. Free. Refreshments will be served. Email amnesty_umsl@yahoo.com for more information.

Feb. 11-March 4 Instructional Computing Classes

The instructional computing labs will be teaching one-hour classes on varying topics. Topics include viruses and spyware, Word basics, PowerPoint basics, Excel basics, web page building/HTML, CD writing, file management and UNIX/Macintosh basics. Each class is offered several different times, and there are three marathon ses-

sions with classes offered back to back. Free. Registration required. For more information, ask computer lab consultants, call 516-6061 or visit www.umsl.edu/~iclabs.

Thurs. March 31

Contest deadline

Entries due March 31 for a UN World Holiday contest held by the Center for International Studies. Three \$3,000 prizes will be awarded for each category. Categories include essay (2-3 pages), art and webpage design (submit on CD). Entries should center on the theme, "How would a United Nations world holiday benefit the world, and what will I do to make it happen?" For more information, contact Mike Costello at 516-6454, costello@umsl.edu or visit him at 304-C SSB.

Sunday ongoing

Newman Center Mass

The Catholic Newman Center holds mass every Sunday night at 8:30 in the Bellerive residence hall chapel.

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Feb. 12, 2005 and Feb. 18, 2005.

If readers have information that could assist the police department they are encouraged to call 516-5155. The campus police provide this information as a public service. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort!

Feb. 13
Burglary First Degree
UMSL Residence, Natural Bridge Rd. One of the occupants at this location heard a noise in the back sun-porch area around 7:30 p.m. When she went to investigate, she found a black male subject in the sun-porch opening the refrigerator. She described him as having a thin build, wearing a knee-length green trench coat, dark sweater and pants.

When she confronted him, he asked, "Is this the Alumni Center?" and when she said no, he ran out the door. The subject went to the front door and knocked; however, the occupant refused to open the door and called the police. Officers responded to the area and were unable to locate the suspect.

Feb. 14
Stealing Over \$500
Stadler Hall

The victim left a laptop computer in a case in his office between 11:30 am. and 1:30 pm., unsecured. When he went back to his office, the computer was gone. The victim checked the area and located the case in the men's restroom without the computer.

Feb. 14
Stealing Under \$500
439 Research Building

A victim left her purse unattended in her office, and it was stolen.

The purse, with contents, was found at the bus stop on Natural Bridge Rd. The only item still missing is the victim's cell phone.

Feb. 15
Stealing Over \$500
Millennium Garage South

The facilities department was doing an audit and inventory of tools and equipment, and discovered several items missing, including a leaf blower, a portable generator, a socket set of tools and three different types of drills.

The thefts occurred between Sept. 1, 2004 and Feb. 1, 2005.

Feb. 17
Stealing Under \$500
Woods Hall

The victim reported that her spare tire was stolen from her vehicle while it was parked on campus during the past few days. The cable that holds the spare tire under the vehicle was found to be frayed, which indicates that the tire may have simply fallen off of the vehicle.

Feb. 17
Stealing Over \$500
University Meadows Apartments

The victim reported an IBM ThinkPad laptop computer and Play station 2 were stolen from an apartment at the University Meadows.

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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student

The Current

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Becky Rosner • Managing Editor
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Staff Writers
Carrie Lewis, Monica Martin, Dan Bauer, Chrystal Holmes, Alberto Patino, Tana Rogers, Ericka Woods-Harris, Dave Seckman, M.K. Stallings, Meliqueia Meadows, Maeghen Brown, Ben Swofford, Bryan Boedeker, Shante Davis

Staff Photographers
Mike Sherwin, Jesse Gater, Tenaz Shirazian

Advertising Associate
Alex Kerford

Advertising Representative
Maria Caputa

Distribution Manager
Dave Seckman

388 Millennium Student Center
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-6811

campus
388 Millennium Student Center
email current@jinx.umsl.edu
website <http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

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Speaker argues for integration of research and education

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Staff Writer

Judith Ramaley, senior scientist at the National Academy of Sciences, was on campus Friday, Feb. 18 to offer her ideas on how to improve UM-St. Louis' learning environment.

She gave a presentation on "Creating an Engaged Urban University." Ramaley was the fourth speaker in a University speaker series entitled "University of Missouri-St. Louis at 40: Coming of Age."

"I would argue that powerful learning must build upon itself," Ramaley said at the beginning of her speech.

She argued that a university must integrate research and education within a community to provide the strongest academic environment for students and faculty. By doing academic research in the community, the

university would provide students with practical hands-on experience while creating a sense of change in the communities from which the students come.

"The future of higher education will be in integrated research and education," Ramaley said. "Anytime you engage in good academic research you are creating an educational asset."

Ramaley drew on her experiences at Portland State University and the University of Vermont, where she served as president, to illustrate how UM-St. Louis could become more engaged in the St. Louis community.

She stressed the importance of community-based academic research and interdisciplinary cooperation between campus departments as ways of improving the campus image in the community and among potential students and faculty.

Ramaley stressed the importance of improvisation and thinking outside the box to find practical solutions to difficult problems. UM-St. Louis is supposedly ready for change, but she did not believe that it was on the right path to achieving that change. She upheld the University's mission statement as an example.

"The mission is generic. The logic is unclear. The vision is clouded," she said. If even the mission statement is unclear about how to create change then how will change be made?

UM-St. Louis needs to answer some basic questions, Ramaley said, before it can enact real change on campus and in the community.

"What is your core of values? What lessons can you draw from your own history that might guide you? What core capacities must you have to achieve goals?" she asked.

Ramaley also challenged the University to network with others and build on its values and principles. "What organizational values and principles will guide your decision making?" she asked. "How will you think about shared governance and who has voice and what is nature of that voice? What promising programs must you nurture? What new alliances must you form and what old alliances must you strengthen?"

A response to Ramaley's remarks was given by a panel of UM-St. Louis faculty and staff comprised of Paul Speck, associate professor of business and chair of the Faculty Senate and University Assembly, Patricia Parker, E. Desmond Lee professor of Zoological Studies and chair of the department of biology and Wendy Saul, Shopmaker Endowed Professor for Education in collaboration with

Springboard to Learning.

The floor was then opened to questions from the crowd comprised of University professors, staff and administration.

"I think [Ramaley] is right on," Joe Martinich, professor of Operations Management, said. "The trick is to convert this into action."

"To have a discussion on engagement is very timely as we are on the threshold of transition," Gwendolyn Packnett, director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, said. "I appreciated the speaker challenging us to think about our way of doing things and the way [UM-St. Louis] has responded to issues of concern."

Peggy Cohen, organizer of the event, ended the event by saying, "Don't let this conversation stop, please."

Researcher explores developmental, pre-clinical pharmaceuticals

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Co-News Editor

The latest visiting speaker in the chemistry and biochemistry weekly seminar series at UM-St. Louis explained to students and professors the importance of drugability in his work at the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer.

Tony Young, an analytic chemist and UM-St. Louis graduate, discussed his role in developmental and pre-clinical work at Pfizer in Chesterfield, Mo.

His seminar, called "Material Science Applications in Pharmaceuticals," took place on Monday, Feb. 14, which the chemistry and biochemistry department at UM-St. Louis sponsored.

James Chickos, chemistry professor, introduced Young, citing his educational and work background. Young attended Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Ill. as an undergraduate and then attended UM-St. Louis, where he graduated with a master's degree in 1999. Young also worked for Monsanto, "surviving the merges there," Chickos said.

At Pfizer, "he's in charge of their thermochemistry work with polymorphs and identifying salts in pharmaceuticals that are appropriate to use," Chickos said.

Young explained that the Pfizer research site in St. Louis only focuses the beginning processes of creating drugs.

"St. Louis is unique in that we work discovery and what is termed pre-clinical," Young said. The research team, then, transfers their work from St. Louis to other Pfizer companies located in cities throughout the United States.

Young's area of research involves compound screening and in vitro testing of compounds that can be produced to form drugs. His work centers on what he termed, drugability issues.

The discovery portion, Young said, starts out with 100,000-200,000 possible compounds that can potentially become usable drugs on the market. By the time it gets to Young's involvement at the drugability portion, the possibilities are narrowed down to six compounds.

Young divided his work into three parts. First, he looks for compounds that will form crystals. The crystal is the preferred structure to an amorphous compound, meaning a shapeless or a non-crystal structure.

Second, he determines whether the crystal form has the appropriate physical properties. Third, he makes recommendations to other researchers down the line to synthesize the correct form from the different possibilities called polymorphs. A polymorph contains different solid forms of a single chemical species, Young said.

Young provided the professors and students in the seminar class with a map of the processes he performs at Pfizer. One of these includes the initial polymorph screen, where he looks at about 10-20 possible compounds to be used. Then, he uses an acidic or basic solvent to coat them. His goal is to determine the most stable form of the compounds.

He also uses microscopes to observe the compounds to see if they show a crystal structure and whether they dissolve quickly in a solvent or the solvent simply wets the surface of the slide. These processes help "narrow the field" to finding the most stable polymorph, Young said.

However, if a stable form cannot be developed or does not meet the criteria in these screen tests, he uses a process of salt selection, similar to the one used in the initial polymorph screen.

The initial salt screen involves five to 10 salts. Pfizer and other drug companies can only use acceptable salts with high chances of success and must meet similar criteria to the initial polymorph screen test that help narrow the choices to be used.

Young believes these seminars give students direction and show them the different areas of study possible to pursue.

Young valued the seminars when he attended UM-St. Louis. "I know I appreciated it when people from the industry came and gave talks to students," he said.

After his presentation, Young announced an available internship this summer at Pfizer. He said the best part of working at the company is that something new always occurs. "It's never the same," he said.

MEET THE REPRESENTATIVES, from page 1

One student contestant, Jamie Shields, junior, elementary education, came to the Pilot House after hearing about the contest from her friend.

"I love karaoke, and I love to sing," she said. Shields is a singer and guitarist and has recorded songs on demo albums. Students had much competition with Shields contending, but they still had fun singing.

After three and a half hours, the judges narrowed the contestants down to the top four. The audience, then, picked the top three contestants by applauding for their favorite to win.

Chereka Klutz, junior, biology, won first place prize, an iPod mini, given by the University Program Board. Shields received second place prize, a set of gift certificates to Outback Steakhouse. Tiffany Marshall, freshmen, psychology won the third place prize of gift certificates to the Regal Cinema at St. Louis Mills.

Garavaglia said the turnout was great, but it was hard to compete with last semester's event, which occurred during the Cardinals playoff games. This year, "we had 65 people as an initial count, but people have been coming and going all night," he said.

The karaoke contest stole the show, but the main reason for the event was to introduce student representatives from UM-St. Louis.

Suyan Qu, senior, international business and finance and a student senator



Mike Sherwin The Current

said, "We have these events so students know who represent them. We wanted to do a social event and let students know who to talk to when they need to."

Maria Curtis, senior, English, is also a member of the Student Senate. She named two reasons for students to attend this event. "First, it gives stu-

dents the chance to know who represent them and make decisions for students. Second, it provides a fun atmosphere and a student friendly venue," she said.

Will Melton, graduate student, philosophy and co-national issues director for ASUM, talked about his organization's involvement.

"ASUM is not very visible on campus since we do most of our work in Jefferson City, and students don't actually see what we do there," he said. "We're trying to get more organizations involved and increase visibility on campus at all levels. Tonight gave students a chance to know who we are and how

they can get involved."

Although only about 65 students initially attended "Meet the Representatives," UM-St. Louis has a population of about 16,000 students. The representatives and organizations on campus hope more students attend in the coming years.

NEWSPAPERS, from page 1

Some representatives balked at the idea that student fees from all students would only allow newspapers for only 8 percent of students each day, but O'Brien said that a different 8 percent would likely take papers each day throughout the semester.

SGA President Scott Bopp said that all student fees provide services only for students who choose to use them.

"Everybody sitting in this room is being supported by a student activity fee to support their organization," Bopp said. "Enrollment of these student organizations is not 8 percent of the University. So 16,000 students are paying for us to be in this room."

Bopp said the assembly would probably vote on the Collegiate Readership Program at its next meeting, March 11. If the assembly approves the program, a studentwide referendum will be required before the paper program would begin.

Kate Drolet, editor-in-chief of The Current, also unveiled a proposal to change the way the student newspaper receives its funding from the university.

Currently, the newspaper receives a portion of its operating budget from

an annual allocation by the Student Activities Budget Committee, which distributes funds from student activity fees to student organizations. Drolet said she would like to change that to a direct student fee of \$1.72 per student per semester.

She said that based on an enrollment of 12,000 students, the fee would provide roughly the same amount that the newspaper requests each year from SABC. Last year's request was \$41,000.

Drolet said that the change was necessary to avoid conflicts that have arisen the past between The Current and SABC.

"Because of our complex situation and media law, it kind of puts SABC in an awkward situation as to how much they are able to cut us," she said.

Drolet said she and other Current staff members have been meeting with administrators over the past year to find a consistent funding mechanism that would not be affected by "personality conflicts" between the paper and SABC.

An SGA approval would send the proposal to a studentwide referendum. If passed, the new fee would not be implemented until 2006.

DORM CONSTRUCTION, from page 1

One of the concerns brought up was the lack of parking. Planners ultimately decided to limit parking by the building.

"The way we planned this facility has always been a pedestrian-friendly environment," Darandari said. We didn't want a lot of pavement on that side of South Campus."

While there will be several handicap-accessible parking spaces, residents would be asked to park on another part of the campus. A protected walkway would connect parking by Marillac Hall with the residential halls. "We added connectors so... students can walk from Seton to Marillac except for a gap through protected walkways," Darandari said.

Before construction began, a number of projects had to be completed, including turning East Drive into a two-way street, thus eliminating parallel parking spaces along the road.

"[Parking] is where some complaints have been addressed," Klein said. "The parking situation is temporary until construction is completed. The primary focus is to make sure that

residents have the closest spaces to the buildings once people have adjusted to the new road traffic flows."

The new housing unit is not expected to affect the other dormitories. "At this time there are no plans to close any of the older halls," Klein said. "The new residence hall will be slightly higher in cost so keeping the older halls will allow us to expand the housing portfolio."

UM-St. Louis is mostly a commuter campus, with less than 10 percent of its students living in campus housing, but demand is expected to significantly grow in the next few years.

"A marketing study conducted by Brailsford and Dunlevy states that there is going to be a huge rush for housing, especially with the millennial generation upon us," Klein said.

While there are no immediate plans to build any additional campus housing, another new residence hall is a future possibility. "We need to evaluate and finish the project and evaluate the need for a second phase," Darandari said.

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OPINION

OUR OPINION

UMSL academic advising in need of improvement

A student reaches her senior year and in the last semester, discovers she lacks a credit for graduation. Maybe it is just one credit hour, maybe it is a missing humanities course, sometimes it is because she took too many courses in her major and now needs another course outside her major.

So instead of leaving the University when expected, the student has to postpone graduation for one more semester.

This horror story is not unusual. Is this due to poor planning on the part of the student? Did she ignore the academic advisor and get into this situation alone? On the contrary, too often this unexpected and inconvenient outcome is achieved with the help of an academic advisor. Or two.

Who is your advisor? Is it whoever is available in your department at the moment? Many students seek the assistance of a department advisor regularly, or they may get a different advisor every semester. Advisors often seem to have been pressed into service as an afterthought. They may be knowledgeable about their department's requirements for graduation but when it comes to the administration's requirements, they seem unprepared, untrained or even seem to know no more than the student. Ask two different advisors and two different administrators about graduation requirements, and you may get four different answers.

This situation gives the impression that academic advising is a low priority for the University. Yet this service is unquestionably essential for students. We need sound academic advice to graduate on time and with the degree we are seeking. Responsible advising should be a basic service of any university.

What makes for good advice? An advisor should provide guidance and insight about the courses that are useful for a graduate in a specific field, but they should also be fully informed about the courses that the University requires for a degree. But what

sounds so basic and straightforward appears to be anything but that. Not every advisor seems fully committed to helping the student. Even when advisors seem to be making every effort to help the student meet graduation requirements, confusion about what the administration expects often ensues. Both advisors and administrators are poor at informing students about a common pitfall: taking too many hours in your major will require additional hours outside your major. Individual departments and the administration does not effectively and consistently communicate with advisors about changing requirements or preparing seniors and juniors for final requirements.

The problem does not necessarily exist in the realm of major-specific advising, but does in advising about the University's graduation requirements.

Another problem is that we do not have one assigned advisor who sticks with us throughout our undergraduate years.

At private universities, students are assigned to individual advisors who stay with them throughout their time at college. This practice already occurs with graduate students at UM-St. Louis. The advisor draws up a four year plan and is knowledgeable about the major field, but he or she is also fully trained and informed about the University's graduation requirements. When the student has not declared a major, the advisor discusses a plan for reaching a decision. This practice needs to become a standard at UM-St. Louis. In addition, general requirements for graduation should be set when the individual student first enters the university, not subject to change, so that if any changes in requirements for graduation are made after that, they only apply to incoming students.

The University needs to stop providing lip-service about advising and start fully preparing advisors to give students information on what they need in order to graduate. After all, we are customers seeking a service.

The Issue

Academic advising at UM-St. Louis all-too-often leads to confusion, late graduation and unnecessary credits. Advisors and administration do not effectively communicate requirements to students.

We suggest

The University needs to assign each undergrad student a permanent, four-year advisor. Advisors and administration need to work together to meet student needs.

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

Death penalty inhumane

"We can't trust the government to fill potholes, yet we allow them to execute people."

Sister Helen Prejean, author of 'Dead Man Walking' and death penalty opponent, struck me with these words last week in a presentation at St. Louis University. She addressed the issue of capital punishment, and her message left my mind reeling and my opinion firm: the death penalty is a detriment to society.

Innocent people die at the hands of this system fraught with errors. The Missouri Supreme Court exonerated Joe Amrine in July 2003, after the man spent 17 years on death row. He survived the flawed system of punishment, along with 118 others since 1973. According to deathpenaltyinfo.org, of the 949 executed since 1968, our justice system has put to death roughly 750 people with compelling evidence of innocence.

Incompetent defense counsel contributed to the conviction of innocent people, along with issues such as false eyewitness testimony. A newsletter from Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty (MADP) stated that 80 percent of death row inmates in this state cannot afford an attorney. Public lawyers assigned to these cases have a history of under-representing their clients.

Statistics at deathpenaltyinfo.org indicated that race of the murder victim impacts charges against the accused. In Missouri, 64 percent of murder victims were black, yet 78 percent of people executed were convicted of killing whites. According to MADP, one in three African-Americans executed in Missouri since 1977 were tried in front of an all-white jury. Prosecutors decide which punishment to seek, and the last 115 prosecutors in Missouri have been white.

Studies displayed on deathpenaltyinfo.org and individual state justice websites suggest that capital punishment does not deter criminals from committing murder. If capital punishment did have a deterrence effect, shouldn't Texas be virtually free of murder, as the state leads the nation in capital punishment with 338 executions since 1976.

While any rational individual would oppose the death of innocents, fewer people support the rights of admittedly guilty

criminals. Prejean advocates on behalf of all prisoners because, she said, the execution process violates basic human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 5 of the UDHR states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment."

Prejean illustrated her reasoning by discussing an inmate that she counseled. The man pled guilty in his case, and was sentenced to death. The night of his scheduled execution, he said his goodbyes and prepared for death. Before his sentence could be carried out, he received a stay of execution from the governor and his death date postponed. When this day came, the man bid farewell to his family once more, and steeled himself for the end. Shortly before his execution, the governor granted him another stay. On the third redesignated day, the man was finally put to death.

How is this humane? Our respect for rights should include all people. Criminals give up their right to certain privileges when they commit crimes, but their crimes do not serve as an excuse for cruelty and mental torture. We stoop to the level of a murderer when we use his crime as our means of punishment.

The harshest sentence in our justice system should be life in prison without parole. Because of litigation costs, executing an individual costs more than keeping him in prison for life.

MADP and other state organizations have proposed a moratorium in Missouri. If the legislature passes the proposal, executions will cease while research is done on capital punishment and the justice system. The moratorium would allow groups to educate both the government and public about the death penalty in an attempt to completely abolish the practice.

Write a letter encouraging politicians to vote in favor of bills that limit or abolish the death penalty. The next Missouri execution is scheduled for March 16. For information about current legislative action, visit the Missouri General Assembly website at www.moga.state.mo.us. The penalty system reflects on our values. What kind of society advocates inhumane and ineffective punishment?



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief



YOU'RE GOING TO NEED 15 CREDIT HOURS IN ART HISTORY

BUT...I'M A BUSINESS MAJOR

ARE YOU PAID ON COMMISSION OR SOMETHING?

...UH, NO

OH, WELL, YOU BETTER TAKE A FEW GYM CLASSES, TOO!

Editorial Board

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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.umsu.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.

What's your opinion?

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

- Advising system lacking
- Death penalty inhumane
- Plastic surgery numbers scary

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

Plastic surgery numbers scary

Instead of asking mom and dad for a new car as a graduation present, young women are asking their parents for breast implants or a nose job. The plastic surgery fad is quickly sweeping our nation. It has taken over reality television and is rapidly disturbing our society.

Type the words plastic surgery into a search engine on the internet and you get everything from The Society of Plastic Surgeons to awfulplasticsurgery.com. This site features celebrities who have had plastic surgery and it went bad. The site contains pictures of many big celebrities who have had cosmetic surgeries including Tara Reid, Jessica Simpson, Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears.

The young people around the nation are modeling themselves after these celebrities. They think it is no longer attractive to have a flat chest or a little bit of fat on their stomach. A show on MTV entitled, I Want a Famous Face, featured both men and women who wanted to undergo plastic surgery to look more like a celebrity.

There were two twins who wanted to look more like Brad Pitt, so they had nearly their whole faces reconstructed. People need to learn they should be happy as their self. Everyone is born a certain way for a reason. There is no need to ever model yourself after a Hollywood star because you think that will make you more attractive. In my opinion, that is much less attractive.

Some people get plastic surgery for other reasons. Reconstructive plastic surgery is needed for some individuals to

correct problems. This kind of surgery is completely different than a breast augmentation or tummy tuck. Although some people do get these [cosmetic] surgeries to boost their self confidence, I feel there are cheaper and safer ways of going about it.

Television shows are only encouraging this behavior. A show called 'The Swan' makes ordinary people into more extravagant looking individuals. During the process they are not allowed to see themselves in a mirror. They must wait until the end when the surgery is done and they are healed to see their new body. I do not enjoy this show because I think people need to learn to accept their body. There are also plastic surgery shows on other stations.

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons website, the number of breast augmentations increased 657 percent from 1992-2003. It also said that five times as many liposuctions were performed from 1992-2003. The site also stated, "Over 12 years, from 1992-2003, the number of cosmetic plastic surgery procedures by ASPS members has increased 424 percent." These numbers are still continually increasing.

People need to learn to accept their flaws. You need not model yourself after a famous movie star or model. Be happy with what you have, instead of stressing over what you do not have. All of the shows on television right now are doing nothing but encouraging this behavior in the young people out there watching. Instead of worrying about violence on television, maybe people should be monitoring what else their children see.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photography Associate

What's your opinion about the Michael Jackson trial?



Olena Zhadko
Senior
Education

I do think he is guilty. All the information I've seen on TV proves it. He needs to be looked after and prevented from talking to children.



Carrie Floyd
Freshman
Social Work

I think he is guilty and should go straight to jail. There's enough evidence to convict him and he shouldn't be taken to a different jail because of his celebrity status.



Rodney Favignano
Senior
Computer Science

I can easily say that he is guilty. All the stories I've heard do point towards that, but he might be innocent. If he does go to jail he shouldn't be treated any different than another offender.



Tshepiso Modise
Senior
Communications and Psychology

Michael Jackson has serious issues due to his childhood and he's going about getting over it the wrong way. With such a juvenile mind, it's easy for people to justify a guilty verdict.

SCIENCE COLUMN

The word 'theory' has a multitude of meanings



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

"But it's only a theory."

People use that phrase all the time when they are speculating about something. You might speculate that Clint Eastwood will win the Oscar for best director because he is so popular with the academy voters. But you might follow-up your prediction with "but it's only a theory." When a newspaper reports on a serial killer, it reports facts about the crimes but you might also read some police speculations about where the killer might be or his psychological profile, with the follow-up caution that "it is only a theory."

In common conversation, saying that something is "only a theory" means that it is a speculation, something that is not yet proven, with few supporting facts. There are theories and there are facts, and when there is enough information to back them up, theories become facts.

But scientists use the terms differently.

When scientists talk about an informed but unproven speculation, they call it a hypothesis, not a theory. Every scientific experiment starts with a hypothesis. The scientist looks at the information available and at the observations already made, and makes an educated guess, called a hypothesis, about the facts behind it. The next step is devising a way,

maybe an experiment, to test that hypothesis and make observations on whether the results support the hypothesis or not. If the experimental results match the prediction, then the hypothesis is confirmed. If the results do not match, then the hypothesis is not confirmed. The hypothesis can be changed and re-tested.

If a hypothesis is confirmed by an experiment, it is still not a fact. A test that does not support a hypothesis does not necessarily conclusively disprove it either. The results have to be repeatable. Many more tests and observations, maybe under more conditions, are needed before the hypothesis can be confirmed enough that it is widely accepted. Scientists are very cautious about the use of the word "fact," even for well supported, generally accepted information and conclusions. For the scientists, the only real facts are the observations and results that are consistently repeatable.

When a number of hypotheses about a phenomenon have been well supported, scientists may propose a larger theory to explain the set of observed facts. Theories can be big sweeping frameworks of the field, like the Theory of Relativity, and have modifying corollaries and supporting laws. The theory is then tested and accumulates observations and information that supports or disproves it. Theories are adjusted as new information is added.

Sometimes there are competing theories to explain the facts, and scientists continue to add information that support one theory, both or neither. In some scientific fields, scientists may be divided on which theory best explains the observations. In other cases, only one theory exists but the data fits poorly enough that scientists are aware that something is missing or not right in the flawed theory.

Competing theories may have an equal number of supporters but often a consensus of scientific support emerges for a dominant theory. Sometimes competing theories are very similar but other times they are

very different and the emergence of a consensus to support a new theory can lead to big changes in that field. Sometimes, new information comes to light to overthrow an old theory. Generally established theories become consensus views when they have broad data support and a large majority of scientists are in agreement. But even for the most broadly accepted, established and well supported theories there may be some scientists who do not agree with the consensus.

If there is debate in a field on two competing theories, or if the theory has serious flaws, like in the case of the theory of gravity, scientific texts present competing theories and the facts that support both or discuss the shortfalls of a flawed theory. If there is overwhelming agreement in the scientific field about the theory, textbooks generally focus on the best supported theories rather than presenting all possible explanations. Otherwise, the texts could quickly fill up with theories for which there is little scientific evidence and which few scientists support.

Science also has laws. Laws are as close as scientists come to saying some concept is a fact. Laws are so well-supported and unvarying that there is no debate remaining. Generally, the law of the conservation of matter states that, in a closed system, energy-matter is neither created nor destroyed only changed in form. Therefore, physicists do not spend much time debating this. Laws may fit into grand theories, big overarching views of the science, like the grand unified field theory that would resolve those questions about the theory of gravity.

Science is ever-changing and theories are always undergoing adjustments. Observation and test results shape scientific theories and drive the changes in them, unlike dogma, in which a belief is asserted and facts are accepted or rejected depending on whether they fit the preset concept or not. In science, facts form the theories, not the reverse.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader objects to SMSU name change

As you know we have just started a new session of the Missouri Legislature; one that seems to be promising and successful. However, there is an issue that will be addressed this session that should be of great concern to you. Southwest Missouri State University has been advocating changing their name to Missouri State University. To many Missourians, this seems like a minor issue; but when we examine the other issues involved- the history of the name, the motivation behind the change and the state-wide implications that affect us all, it's a bigger issue than just a name.

The University of Missouri has also been known as Missouri State University for a significant period during its history. As late as 1915, a plaque was placed in the state capitol honoring Missouri State University. The Columns at Mizzou date to the MSU era, and MSU was later transformed into Mizzou. The Missouri Constitution refers to The University of Missouri as the only State University. Without retracing the complete history of the name, there is a historical relevance to the name Missouri State University as it refers to the University of Missouri-Columbia that could cause confusion and concern for those who identify with the historical name and mission of Mizzou.

If Southwest Missouri State University succeeds in obtaining legislative authorization for a name

change, the following consequences will be seen not only on the MU campus, but on every campus in our state. Each school will stand to lose students to the "new university" due to greater prestige associated with being a state university, and degrees from Missouri's excellent regional institutions could be devalued. SMSU says they have students from every county in the state and asserts that this is evidence the SMSU campus deserves a name change. Other universities such as CMSU also have students from every county in Missouri and are not seeking to be renamed Missouri State University.

If the name change is granted, other educational institutions across the state will lose prestige, as another tier is added to higher education in Missouri. Regional schools would be seen on a lower level in the scope of Missouri higher education. State funding will most likely be distributed differently to reflect the State University status, siphoning money from other institutions in the state. This also creates another layer of higher education administration and duplication resulting in an increase of educational costs. We rank 46th out of 50 states in per capita support of higher education. How can our legislature consider this change when Missouri is not even ranked "average" in higher education support? Legislators also express concern about tuition increases to their constituencies, so why don't they

increase financial support to higher education? How can they consider spending more money on another layer of higher education administration when our state ranks so low in higher education support?

Some of your institutions are also considering name changes. Certainly that is the right of each school. But none of the names being discussed will elevate an institution to the level of a Missouri State University.

Friends, I ask you to look into this issue and contact your legislators and local newspapers, as well as friends and family, about this issue. Let's not grant them a name change so they have something to celebrate on their Centennial. There are many factors behind this issue and it deserves to be looked at from the many areas it encompasses. We need to be assured that Missourians realize this issue will affect us all. I urge student leaders and campus administrators throughout the state to meet with me on this issue. Working together, we can make more of an impact than all of us working separately. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Greg J. Chase
Mizzou Student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader agrees about Iraq elections

[In response to Kate Drolet's editorial in the Feb. 7 edition of The Current]

You were right about the fact that the Iraqi elections were time for celebration. While people around the world may not have agreed with Bush's decision, it goes with out saying that free elections is a great thing. I think J.B. Carroll missed the point. You

were not trying to justify Operation Iraqi Freedom, you were responding to the Democratic naysayers who don't like the result of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Democratic naysayers, John Kerry and Ted Kennedy, can't use failure in Iraq to criticize Bush now since the results are improving.

I think you do respect people who disagree with you and at another

time I would like to to justify the operation. However, your letter was only to make the case for celebration. My question is how could anyone not be happy that Iraqis are voting?

Damien Johnson
Junior, Criminology

INTERN DIARIES

Gary refuses naked contest in Polish bar, meets Cheese Stick



GARY SOHN

New York Correspondent

An old Polish proverb states, "A hippo does not have a stinger in its tail, but a wise man would still rather be sat on by a bee."

The high-pitched bleat of my digital alarm woke me up. I looked at the time, displayed in bright red numbers, and saw that it was 7 a.m. I pulled back the cover (my black jacket), slowly got up out of bed (hard wooden floor), wiped the crust from my eyes and headed for the shower.

The night before I had gone to a Polish bar to release the tension of not knowing if I actually had an internship at NBC.

When I entered Hickey's, a Polish establishment on Grand Avenue in Queens, I was shocked to see a naked man running around the bar. Everyone else was laughing, hollering and carrying on about the pale man running around the bar sans clothes. I asked one of the patrons what was going on.

John, who looked and spoke exactly like a younger George Carlin, said, "He lost a bet with another guy to see who could finish off three pints of beer before the other. The loser lost his clothes and has to run around the bar for one minute. Care to get in on it?"

I politely refused his offer, thinking the bar was a little too cold to run around naked.

The bartender, an attractive woman in her late twenties with long, strawberry-colored hair, said in a thick Irish accent, "Come on, you should play. It's all for fun you know. No one will remember in the mornin'. Anyway, I wouldn't mind seeing you lose."

"That's flattering but I'm not used to getting undressed in front of an audience. I'll just have a Budweiser," I said.

After several drinks, things began to get hazy. John, a Polish guy named Michael and I had some deep talks about philosophy and history. Michael told us about the horrible things that Hitler did to the Polish people when Germany invaded his country.

John, drunk and really belligerent, said, "I think Hitler was gay. That's why he tried wiping everybody out, because they found out he was gay

and he didn't want nobody finding out."

We ignored him and Michael told me about Poland. Agata, the bar owner, came in with a few pots and pans filled with "Hunters' Stew." My stomach started to growl when I caught a whiff of the dish filled with various meats and spices heating up; the smell of Sauerkraut, spareribs, bacon, tomatoes, pork loins, mushrooms, smoked kielbasa and spices filled the air.

When the food had warmed up, Agata told everyone to dig in.

I loaded up a plate full of stew. The food tasted so good that I went back for seconds. Agata told me to eat as much as I wanted.

After finishing off my second plate of Hunters' Stew, I decided to call it a night. I had to get up early and see if I actually had an internship or not.

After waking up with a mild hangover, I showered and dressed for work. After a ride on the not-so-smelly Q39 bus and the seven-train, I started walking along Fifth Avenue.

“
Come on, you should play. It's all for fun you know. No one will remember in the mornin'. Anyway, I wouldn't mind seeing you lose.
”

-Irish bartender, inviting Gary to join a contest where loser runs around bar naked

Several people in white robes who were handing out flyers confronted me.

A "W" was on the front of their robes. At first I thought they were part of some cult handing out religious literature.

It turned out that they did not encourage people to drink poisoned Kool-Aid to talk with moon aliens. The "W" stood for the W Hotel chain. Everyone in New York City wants to sell something.

I entered the GE building on Rockefeller and approached the visitor center front desk for the second time in two days. At my request, the attendant called Ariel Horn. The person on the other end of the line told the attendant to give me a one-month visitor's pass.

Several elevators led to certain parts of the building, and security clearance is necessary for certain levels.

But before I could even head for

the fifteenth floor, I had to scan my NBC ID so a guard could verify my identity.

I walked up to the scanner and placed my ID over a glass square filled with red beams. Nothing happened. The two metal bars that block the entrance to the elevators did not move.

I placed the ID over the scanner a second, third and fourth time. After several failed attempts, the guard took my ID and glided it slowly over the scanner. A buzz sounded and the golden bars opened.

After riding to my floor, I met Ariel and my other boss, "Cheese Stick."

"Sorry about yesterday," Ariel said. "I forgot it was a holiday when we talked last month. I took the day off."

While Ariel explained my job duties, Cheese Stick walked in (I will explain the name later).

Cheese Stick grabbed the bill on my hat, which read UM-St. Louis, and examined it. "That's the same school as St. Louis University right?" he asked.

"No that's another school," I said. "I'm from the University of Missouri."

"But it's basically the same school, right?"

Ariel introduced Cheese Stick. "This is the other boss you'll be working for."

Ariel took me to my desk and introduced me to the "Intern Bible."

Previous interns compiled the The Intern Bible, which explains how to enter ratings into the computer, tells how to find good cuisine in New York and gives personal advice on how to handle the job and people at NBC.

I flipped to the chapters on my bosses: Ariel and Cheese Stick.

One intern wrote, "Ariel is one of the nicest guys you could ever work for. Be nice to him, and he will reciprocate. As long as you respect him, and do what he asks of you, he will be chill with you."

"That sounds reasonable," I thought. "Let's see about the other one."

"Now onto [Cheese Stick]," The intern continued. "You might have read in some of the past intern advice sheets that [Cheese Stick] can be a little...on the moody side...I will guarantee you this, you will get yelled at a couple of times over this term but don't get bent out of shape over it. [Cheese Stick] is a great boss to work for and he has a lot to offer."

Later on, while working on the Emmy nominations for sports, I would see first-hand Cheese Stick's moody side.

Stay tuned next week to find out why Gary's boss is named after a fried snack and hear about Gary's encounter with Rapper 50-Cent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student driver scolds parking offenders

I don't think there was an article on parking in the past few weeks, but it is always an issue on this campus.

When the snow breaks out, it is even harder to find a space after around 8:30 in the morning, as the top levels of all garages are closed. Today I went to school around lunchtime and was excited to see available spaces on the ramp heading up to the top of the Benton

garage. However, I turned the corner to claim one of them and almost ran right into someone's car. That's right, when the rope went up to prevent people from parking on the icy top level, some careless people chose to park illegally, parallel to the rope. So since we didn't have much snow, it melted by eleven and UM-St. Louis could open at least part of the top level. All those spaces were

blocked, however, by those four cars of students who didn't have the courtesy to find a spot somewhere else. To those students I would like to say that that was ignorant and you deserved the tickets that you got for preventing fifty other students from parking.

Tina Jones
Senior, Biology

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Leadership Academy one of UMSL's best-kept secrets

Dear Editor -

I'm writing to let your readers in on one of the best-kept secrets on the UMSL campus - the 21st Century Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Each year for the past eight years, a faculty committee has selected four women students to attend this week-long residential leadership program. This year's Academy will take place May 22-27.

Past participants - known as Shear Fellows - have held mock debates on the floor of the Missouri House and had lunch in the Governor's Mansion with women elected officials and a Missouri Supreme Court Judge - and

that's just one day of the Academy.

Other activities include small group sessions, skill-building workshops and panel discussions.

UMSL students who have attended the Academy have gone on to work on congressional campaigns, lead major state policy initiatives, do internships in DC, and hold leadership positions on campus.

There is no cost to the student to attend and even better yet, all participants become eligible for the Amethyst Award, a \$1,000 unrestricted cash award given each year to an outstanding Shear Fellow.

Despite our best efforts at marketing and publicity, we still hear students who have just found out about the Academy say, "Wow, I had no idea we

had something like this on campus."

We're hoping you can help us get the word out. Women students of any year and any major are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is March 18. For more information or to get an application, students can check out our web site at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl, call us at 516-4727, or stop by 232 Woods Hall. Students who have been through the Academy will tell you it's an experience they never forget.

Stacy Ross
Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

MEMORIALS

EDITOR MELISSA McCRARY Features Editor

phone: 516-5174 fax: 516-6811

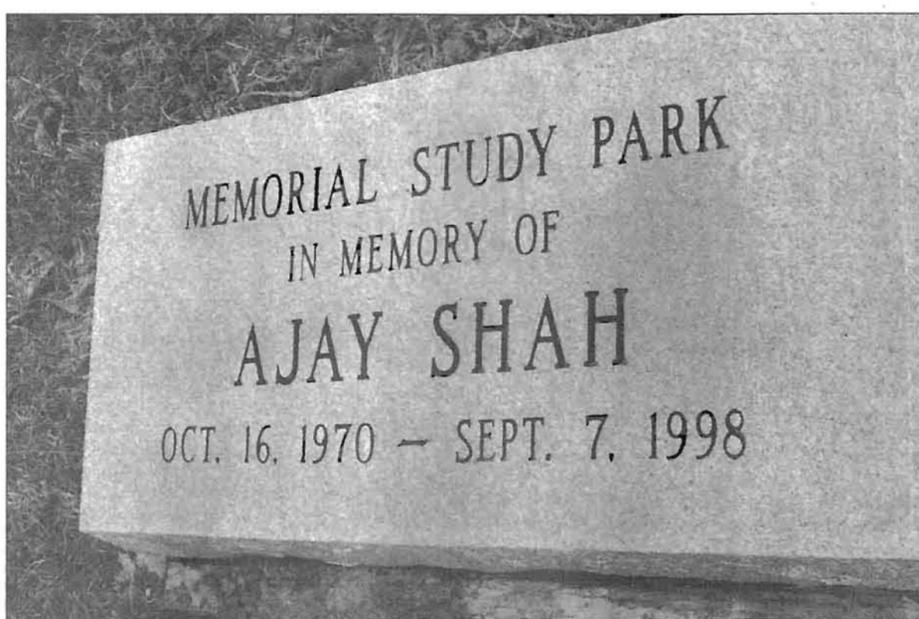
the week's best bets

Sat. Feb. 26 Bus to Kansas City to visit Negro League Baseball Museum

See Bridgette Jenkins in the Multicultural Relations Office, on the first floor of the MSC for this free trip. \$10 deposit to reserve a spot, but it will be refunded the day of the trip.

Mon. Feb. 28 Free Gospel Concert

Dello Thedford and the Gospel Symphonic Choir will perform at 7 p.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL. The concert is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations at UMSL. Call (314) 516-6807 for more information.



LEFT: A plaque located on the north side of the Millennium Student Center remembers Ajay Shah. Shah, a former UM-St. Louis graduate student, died in 1998 in a boating accident.

ABOVE: A campus perennial garden is dedicated to the memory of Michael Gaffney. Several campus flower beds are dedicated to former UM-St. Louis benefactors and faculty.

Memorials honor former students, faculty

BY MELISSA McCRARY Features Editor

As the weather improves and campus landscaping develops, those who find themselves outside may notice small plaques or signs bearing names nestled into the grass. Over 50 memorial sites commemorate the lives of former students, faculty and staff. Scattered all across campus are memorial trees, gardens, benches and plaques dedicated to faculty members or other influential people who have passed away. Cindy Vantine, University Relations special events manager, said that anyone can purchase a memorial site at UM-St. Louis. "Most people will purchase a memorial because they want something that is lasting and something that will stay with the campus," Vantine said.

Between the Computer Center Building and the Social Sciences Building about 20 trees have been planted in memory of professors who died or in honor of different members of the Chancellor's Council. Some of the deceased accounting professors and UM-St. Louis accounting faculty members with trees planted in their recognition include Robert Schuchardt, James Tushain, Terry Killian, Norbert Terre, Stuart Symington Jr., Robert Tracy, Robert Tracy Jr., Noel Mahr and David Gustafan. Many of these former faculty members also have memorial scholarships available to accounting students. Japanese Maple, Black Gum, Willow and Flowering Dogwood are some of the trees planted in their honor. Members of the Chancellor's Council include Tom Smith, Walter

Gray, Ruth Bryant, Donald Suggs, Benjamin Edwards, Frankie Freeman and Michael Freund. Carol Usery, horticulturalist for the UM-St. Louis Grounds Department, said that the majority of the campus memorials are groupings of trees in honor of the Chancellor's Council. "There are eight or more trees donated to deceased faculty members by CCB, and about 13 memorial trees planted by Stadler Hall," Usery said. "Some people who want campus memorials will pay for existing trees, but most of them are newly planted." Along with the trees, which line the sidewalk leading to CCB, a perennial garden was established in recognition of faculty members of the Business Administration. This flower bed and memorial plaque was created on Feb. 8, 1994. Usery said that the Grounds

Department is responsible for taking care of the memorials. "We have to maintain the trees and replace them if they die," Usery said. Located on the south side of the J.C. Penney Conference Center is the Nancy Claypool Garden. Claypool and her husband frequently donated money to the University. Other memorials can be found near Lucas Hall, at the top of SSB and at the West entrance of the Millennium Student Center. The memorial near the MSC, which faces the MetroLink, was created in honor of Ajay Shah. Shah was an international graduate student enrolled in the UM-St. Louis School of Business Administration. On Sept. 7, 1998, Shah drowned in Lake Cumberland in Kentucky during a boating accident. While he was a student at UM-St. Louis, he served as the president of the Indian Student

Association and tutored as a graduate assistant to the School of Business Administration. A memorial scholarship was established after his death and is awarded to international graduate students. Vantine said that there are a variety of costs for campus memorials, and many different types of memorials are available to support or fund. "The costs of trees usually run about \$400," Vantine said. "Other types of University memorials consist of scholarships, beautification projects, books for the library that have brass bookplates and benches for organizations. To endow a scholarship, a person must give a minimum gift of \$10,000 or can set up an annual scholarship that is cheaper." To find out how to establish a memorial, about tribute information or memorial scholarships, contact the Development Office at 516-5664.

Black ball hits St. Louis

BY CHRYSTAL HOLMES Staff Writer

In the late 1800s, African-Americans first began to play baseball on both military and college teams alongside white players. After being forced from these teams as a result of racism and Jim Crow laws, African-Americans formed their own teams. They then traveled the country challenging anyone who would play them. In 1920, Midwestern team owners united to form the Negro National League. On Feb. 13, 2005, in the MacDermott Grand Hall of the Missouri History Museum, Raymond Doswell, curator and educational director of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, lectured on the Negro Baseball League and the significance of the museum. Doswell said that in 1920, a handful of black players received the opportunity to play against white ones. "It was the black media that pushed the independent black teams to create a league structure," Doswell said. Such a structure was created with the help of Andrew "Rube" Foster, a former player, manager and owner of the Chicago American Giants and other Midwestern team owners. Doswell said that rival teams formed in the east and in the south. The United States, Latin America and Canada then became the center stage of black baseball. Doswell said that the first Colored World Series, held Oct. 11, 1924 in

Chicago, Ill., became a way for the players to earn extra money. In the series, the Kansas City Monarchs played against the Philadelphia Hilldales. The series consisted of nine games and ended with the Monarchs beating the Hilldales 5-0. Negro League teams existed in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Tennessee. Doswell highlighted the teams that existed in Illinois and Missouri, such as the St. Louis Giants, St. Louis Stars and Kansas City Monarchs of Missouri, along with the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Union Giants, Leland Giants and Chicago Brown Bombers of Illinois. Doswell pointed out players that stand out in Negro League history. Doswell also recognized many Negro League players that have origins in the St. Louis area, especially Sam Jethro. Jethro was an outfielder for the Boston Braves, one of the first black players to play Major League Baseball and the oldest player to ever win rookie of the year honors. Doswell said that Jethro was an East St. Louis native and attended Lincoln High School. Doswell's recognition of players of the Negro League included the likes of Jackie Robinson, who played for the Kansas City Monarchs and was the first Negro League player to join the white Major Leagues. Doswell said that he hopes that when African Americans come to the Negro League Baseball Museum they will see that they have a place in baseball history.

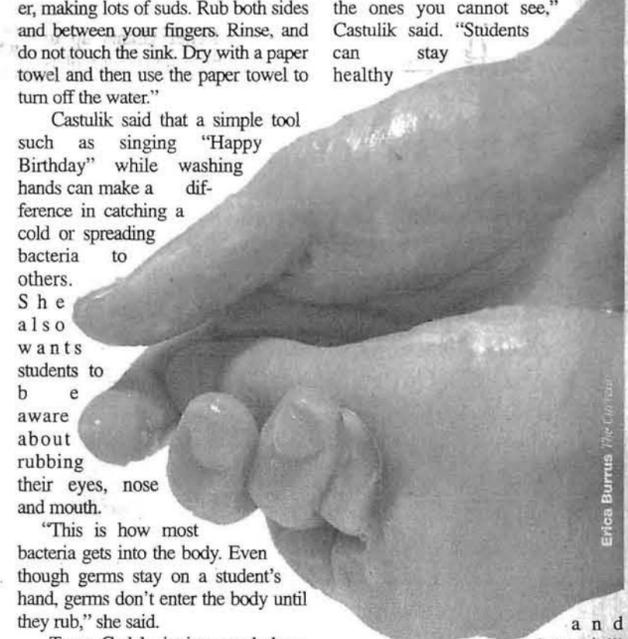
Illness spread through lax hygiene

BY MAEGHAN BROWN Staff Writer

Before even reaching kindergarten, children are taught to wash their hands thoroughly to rid them of all the germs and to stay healthy. Many of those children grow up and forget how to wash their hands properly. Some use the restroom and maybe run their hands under water or just walk out. In the process of just rinsing or walking out of the bathroom, everything that person touches contains germs. From the door knob to money to a keyboard, germs wait for a new host to carry them around. Germs are tiny organisms, minuscule life-forms that can cause disease. Germs like to hide in the cracks of hands and under the finger nails. People can avoid getting germs simply by washing their hands. According to the website www.microbe.org, each square centimeter of a person's skin averages about 100,000 bacteria. Thousands of species of bacteria exist. Recently, Kathy Castulik, Health Educator for UM-St. Louis, took a black light around the campus to see where germs were present. The results of her experiment showed that germs are present all around campus. The majority of the germs were found living in the bathrooms and around the campus computers. Castulik said that there are many correct methods to proper hand-washing. Here are some of her tips: "Make sure a clean towel is ready in advance," she said. "Wet and put soap on your hands. Rub your hands togeth-

er, making lots of suds. Rub both sides and between your fingers. Rinse, and do not touch the sink. Dry with a paper towel and then use the paper towel to turn off the water." Castulik said that a simple tool such as singing "Happy Birthday" while washing hands can make a difference in catching a cold or spreading bacteria to others. She also wants students to be aware about rubbing their eyes, nose and mouth. "This is how most bacteria gets into the body. Even though germs stay on a student's hand, germs don't enter the body until they rub," she said. Taryn Codak, junior, psychology, said, "I always wash my hands after using the restroom. I think it is disgusting when I see people who just walk out of the restroom." Many students use computers on a daily basis. Computers in the Millennium Center, computer lab and just about every class room are covered with germs. Castulik said the major bacteria on the keyboards were urine and feces. Students tend to go directly from the bathroom to the nearest computer. "When you think of the scary bugs don't think of the ones you can see, but

the ones you cannot see," Castulik said. "Students can stay healthy and there will always be germs, but the greater the personal hygiene the lower risk of getting sick." Castulik also developed a 'wheel of health.' The wheel is comprised of six areas of health: vocational, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social and physical. She suggests that if a person can contain most or all of these points, they will live a longer, healthier life. February and March are the most common months for the flu and cold season. Cleaning hands, correctly is one way that people can prevent illness this season.



Diversity Roundtable opens umbrella for student groups

BY KATE DROLET Editor-in-Chief

While they intend to promote campus involvement, some student organizations hinder this goal by holding repeat or conflicting events. Davida Skannal, senior, criminology and criminal justice and sociology, hopes to resolve this problem with the launch of Diversity Roundtable, a new student organization. "[Diversity Roundtable] is an umbrella for other organizations. We have to learn how to come together and communicate," Skannal said at Diversity Roundtable's opening reception, held last Friday in the Performing Arts Center lobby. The inspiration for the creation of Diversity Roundtable came from the

multiple clothing drives held every year by varying student organizations. Skannal said that the new organization would help student groups coordinate their efforts to hold one large drive instead of a multitude of smaller events throughout the school year. The foundations receiving clothing donations would benefit more from this combined effort, she said. She was involved with a similar organization last year, called the Minority Student Leaders Roundtable. The group lost several leaders to graduation, and "fizzled out" by the end of the year. Skannal decided to revamp the organization this year by changing its name and membership requirements. "[Diversity Roundtable is] not just for executive board students; everyone can take part and know what's going on-campus," she said. "The purpose of

Diversity Roundtable is to provide an outlet for better communication." Skannal decided to hold the reception in the Performing Arts Center to "give the Century Rooms a rest." During the invitation process, she said that several students needed directions to the PAC. She hoped that moving the reception would give students an idea of the different facilities that are available to them. Diversity Roundtable, she said, would not only promote smart scheduling, but would also allow smaller student groups with fewer resources to network and join forces. "A lot of organizations just don't have the manpower [to execute large activities]...they can put on good programs, but it's hard work," she said. "When you have people willing to help out, it makes everyone's job easier."

After welcoming the crowd to the event and stating the mission of Diversity Roundtable, Skannal invited student organization members to announce upcoming events or share organizational news. Kelcy Siddall, president of Helping Hands Student Organization, took this opportunity to discuss HHO's upcoming free trip to Kansas City. The group plans to visit renowned local venue Gate's Barbeque, the Negro League Baseball Museum and the Kansas City Jazz Museum, all in an effort to celebrate black history month. Siddall urged interested students to inquire through the Office of Multicultural Relations. "A lot of people benefit when we are all active on campus," Skannal said, encouraging others to take part in Diversity Roundtable's mission.

Several other students took the podium, making announcements and taking part in the process Skannal hoped to achieve with the new organization. "Diversity Roundtable is open to students, faculty, staff and alumni," she said. "[Involvement] will present opportunities for collaboration...A lot of people benefit when we are all active on campus." MK Stallings, graduate student, sociology, and Diversity Roundtable founding member, echoed Skannal's sentiments about the new organization. "Ultimately we want a better coordination of activities for all students. Sometimes you have conflicting events, and they don't have to be conflicting," he said. "[Diversity Roundtable] is our attempt to rectify that problem."

Students prepare for exotic and local breaks

BY MAEGHAN BROWN
Staff Writer

Laying on the beach, catching heat rays from the sun, being waited on hand and foot and sipping pina colodas with little tiki umbrella straws is how some students dream of spending spring break.

Looking at a calendar, one might notice that spring break is less than a month away. While many students seek a more tropical climate or an island excursion, some just want time away from college.

"I plan to go to Texas to visit my sister and one of my best friends," Carrie McDowell, junior, English, said.

This year's spring recess begins on March 19, and classes will resume on March 28. With this week away from thinking about classes, some might resort to the beach or hit the mountains for a hiking adventure.

Florida offers a variety of spring break destinations, including Miami, South Beach, Panama City, Florida Keys and Daytona Beach.

Students may have seen live television shows with MTV Spring Break, where courageous and wild students compete in crazy contests that they hope nobody back home will see. MTV has visited these popular places during spring break for the last 20 years.

Sarah Gabel, junior, undecided, said, "Although I have to stay and work in St. Louis this year, I would love to go were there is a nice, sunny

beach." South Padre Island, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Mexico are other hot spots where students like to kick back and relax or party until classes start again.

At popular break spot, Cancun, Mexico, visitors can live it up in the daytime on the beach and party the night away at famous clubs like Senor Frogs, Coco Bongo, Carlos and Charles, La Boom and The City.

Some famous clubs in Jamaica include Rick's Cafe in Negril, where people can drink and listen to live music on top of the cliffs that overlook the sunset and the ocean, or can show off their dance skills at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville.

Both Mexico and Jamaica also offer other things for spring breakers to do like parasailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, booze cruises and scenic tours.

When it comes to having enough money, these trips usually offer package deals. A group of students can save money by checking around at local travel agencies or online vacation sites. Out-of-country destinations usually offer all-inclusive packages, which include free food, drinks, airfare, hotel and transportation services.

Hunting for the perfect spring break vacation might seem like a hassle, but people can book trips, find information, hotel pictures and more at online websites such as expedia.com, funjet.com, applevacations.com, travelocity.com and

priceline.com. Students often choose a place that they know other college students will visit.

Some UM-St. Louis students might not have enough money or anyone to go with on spring break or have inescapable job commitments. These individuals can look for other ways to relax close to home or just enjoy spending time with their families.

Jennifer Steffens, junior, accounting, said, "I will probably stay in St. Louis this spring break because I have to work, but I will be getting together with a few of my friends."

For those who do not plan to pack their bags and head off to an exotic beach or a paradise resort, a variety of St. Louis tourist spots can provide an entertaining break. The Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo and the Botanical Gardens are a few places that students can visit.

For those who plan to spend their break away from classes in St. Louis, here are some events scheduled to take place during the last week of March.

For those over 21, the 26th Annual Wurstfest will be held March 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event will take place at the Stone Hill Winery Pavilion, Hermannhof Festhalle and Hermann City Park and will include a citywide celebration of the traditional art of German sausage making and wine tasting. There will be contests, demonstrations and samples. The

cost of sampling is \$5. Visit www.stonehillwinery.com for more information.

Perhaps people are looking for a little more mystery in their lives. How about going on a murder mystery dinner theater event? The Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre: All Shook Up will be going on until May 1. It is located at the Bissell Mansion Restaurant and Dinner Theatre. Shows take place at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays. The cost is \$39.95 for Friday and Saturday performances, \$34.95 for Sunday performances. For more information call (314) 533-9830.

Looking to exercise during the break? Early Morning Walking is taking place all year at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The group walking sessions are held at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The cost of fitness walking is included with regular Garden admission.

Live music at the Schlafly Taproom also takes place all year. Schlafly Tap Room is located on 2100 Locust. People can drink and enjoy music on Fridays and Saturdays from 8 p.m. to midnight; and on Sundays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The music is everything from blues, jazz, R&B, acoustic folk and Latin to swing, rockabilly, country and traditional Irish music.

To find out more about St. Louis spring break events, visit www.exploringstlouis.com/calendar.



Spring Break is meant for students to take a break from stress. Basking in the sun is relatively cheap and anxiety-reducing.

Non-profit program helps students repay loan debts

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor



A Memphis, Tenn., based non-profit organization is helping students pay back their college debt and student loans by completing local volunteer community service work.

The VolunteerDebt Away program is a nationwide program, sponsored by Student Loan Eliminators. Selected students can receive Student Loan Relief Grants up to \$5,000 after registering and complet-

ing volunteer work at various non-profit organizations.

The grants provided through this organization are funded by private donations from individuals and corporations, other non-profit groups and foundations and through the application fees that they assess to all applicants.

Carlos Fearn, founder of Student Loan Eliminators, said that this program is modeled after the Americorps program.

"The primary difference between the VolunteerDebt Away Program and Americorps is that it is available to any person with a student loan, whether it be a college freshman, grad student or someone who has

been out of school for 10 years. Plus, unlike Americorps, participants do not have to commit to long-term assignments or full-time participation," Fearn said. "For as little as two hours a week, for a month, participants will be eligible for grant money."

Fearn said that the idea of this organization was established in 1994.

"I had spent several years as a counselor and mentor for college students and one of the primary concerns that they had was that of repaying student loans," he said. "I also had my own experiences with student loan debt. So I wanted to create a program that would allow people

help to pay off their loans while giving back to their community."

The non-profit organization at which students will work depends on what type of work they want to complete and where they want to work.

In the application process, students are required to write a brief essay about what type of volunteer service in which they are most interested. Based on the students' response, Student Loan Eliminators will try to make sure that the applicants can complete their work under the program at that venue.

Certain applicants are selected every month throughout the year.

Fearn said that it is important that students apply as soon as possible to

increase their odds of being selected.

A selection committee reviews all of the applications that they receive and grades them. The applications with the highest scores over a given month are selected for the program. The grant award varies based on the application volume for that month and the needs of the participating people.

To get involved, students must go to the Student Loan Eliminators/VolunteerDebt Away Program website at www.nostudentdebt.org and register to receive an application and rules by mail. Once students receive the application, they must complete it and return it with a \$10 application fee for selection.

TUITION HIKE, from page 1

Also, the appropriations for financial aid programs have not kept pace with costs," Kundel said.

Kundel certainly hopes the increase in tuition will also show an increase in education. However, David Castro, junior, biology, disagrees, as he has not seen a change since he started attending UM-St. Louis.

"I don't know if the level of education is changing in proportion to the tuition cost going up," he said.

Another student, though, said the increase seems more reasonable this year. "I'm actually glad it's a lower increase compared to past years," Michelle Hakenewerth, junior, psychology, said. "It has increased by a substantial amount every year that I've been in college."

Compared to the 3.5 percent adjustment this year, the educational and enrollment fees have grown by as much as 7-20 percent in the past few years.

Each year, the UM system decides if tuition increases are necessary. The budgeting process involves college deans and managers of units at the campuses making recommendations

that affect tuition. The public budget and planning committee is also involved in the overall budget and costs.

After talking with chancellors such as George, Floyd takes all of the issues from each campus to make an informed decision on whether to increase educational fees or not. All fees are approved at the administrative level.

One student feels that students should play more of a role in deciding on raising tuition. Rob Fuchs, freshman, international business, said, "Tuition is a decision that affects students the most, and we hardly have a say in it."

However, Floyd tries to keep the interests of students in mind when making these changes. He said in a press release that he and the curators have tried to keep access and affordability as top priorities in deciding on how much to increase student tuition.

"We try to do as much as we can to hold down costs to remain accessible to students. UMSL's approach was to keep any increases as low as possible," Kundel said.

INTERFAITH EXPO, from page 6

"Gesher means 'bridge' in Hebrew," Walsh said. "We are trying to bridge together Jewish communities at various St. Louis college campuses."

The St. Louis Hillel unites and works together with students from UM-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, Webster, Maryville, Logan College, Lindenwood, Fontbonne, Washington University and St. Louis Community Colleges.

Walsh said that the Gesher group meets for lunch in the UM-St. Louis Nosh the third Wednesday of every month, from noon to 2 p.m. and welcomes all faculty, staff and students to attend.

Tracy Van De Riet, CNC Campus Minister, said that there are numerous events held throughout the year in which students can partake.

"We participate in a wide variety of community service projects through Habitat for Humanity, during Lent we hold fish fry Fridays, we work with food pantries and also

have Awakening and Twilight Retreats," Van De Riet said. "The retreats give students a chance to reflect on Lent. We also have [alternative] spring break service projects. I think that it is important for students to have faith and round out their college experiences by focusing on stuff other than school, such as spirituality."

Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., and every Friday at 12:05 p.m., CNC holds open mass services. On Sundays, masses are also held at 8:30 p.m. at Bellerive. To find out more about upcoming CNC events, visit www.umsl.edu/~newman.

RCF is a college ministry of The Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, located at 12928 Ladue Road, two miles west of I-270 and Ladue. This religious fellowship also coordinates events and activities for its members. RCF holds Sunday morning worship services, college Sunday schools, basketball events, mini-retreats, mercy ministries, spe-

cial coordinated trips, Cardinals game gatherings, barbecues, summer cookouts and summer conferences. RCF also meets on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. at Mike Duffy's Pub in Richmond Heights.

"One of RCF's missions is reaching students for Christ through the Presbyterian Church of America," RCF Intern Michael Hart said.

While some of the religious groups mainly focus on Jewish, Catholic and Presbyterian beliefs, others who attended the "Interfaith Expo" are informal groups, non-denominational and interdenominational.

Campus Life is a non-denominational faith group, which holds regular informal Bible study groups. The Bible studies take place on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Pilot House and on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the University Meadows Clubhouse, where refreshments are provided.

Besides meeting regularly for Bible readings, Campus Life also fre-

quently visits local homeless shelters, participates with soup kitchens and hosts other events like ice-skating. Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational group, gives students the opportunity to meet other students and to grow in their relationship with God through Bible study, prayer sessions and religious activities.

One upcoming activity, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, is a lecture that will be presented by Sujo John, a survivor of the World Trade Center and Sept. 11 attacks. This presentation will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23, in the Pilot House at 12 p.m.

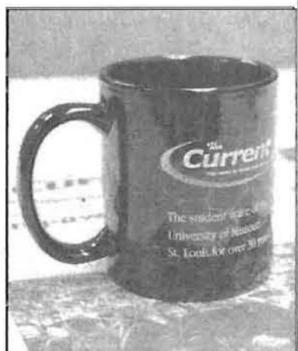
ISI gives international students and students of all multi-ethnic groups a chance to improve their English while studying Bible messages. A complete listing, brief description and contact information for all campus faith groups can be found on the UM-St. Louis Student Life web page.

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EDITOR

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

Curator
reads from
her poetry
at Gal. 210

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

The latest installment of UM-St. Louis' "Women in the Arts 2005" showcase came in the form of Cheryl D.S. Walker reading her own poetry in Gallery 210.

Cheryl Walker is a member of the UM-St. Louis Board of Curators. She was appointed in 2003 by former Governor Bob Holden. She is also President and General Counsel of Citadel Partners, LLC, in the St. Louis office of Bryan Cave LLP, a member of the Tower Grove Park Board of Commissioners, and a member of the boards of the St. Louis Social Venture Partners and United Way.

Walker began by humming her way to the podium. Then she recited a poem called "Power of a Praying Woman." She hummed intermittently throughout the poem. Afterwards, she told us that the poem was inspired by her grandmother, who would often hum while cooking or doing housework. The poem describes how a woman's prayers are found in her hum, and it describes the power of a woman's prayers. Walker explained that she wrote the poem for Women's Day at her church last year.

Another poem Walker read was "Slave Jail Thing." Walker explained that this piece was inspired by something she saw at the People Project. The piece was entitled "Modern Day Slave Thing" and it was a male mannequin. It was dressed in a three-piece suit, with no shoes, feet shackled together, with its hands shackled to a briefcase. Walker liked the piece and was inspired to write this poem.

"Twenty Little Poetry Projects" was a response to a challenge. The challenge was to write a poem using twenty guidelines, including referring to yourself by nickname and third person, opening the poem with a metaphor, and contradicting something said earlier in the poem. The guidelines themselves elicited chuckles, as well as the poem. This poem was even selected and printed in an anthology. Many audience members later commended Walker for her ability to pull this kind of poem together.

Other poems that were read included "Someday My Prince Will Come," "I Am We," "My African Man," and "Innocent Bystander," among others.

see POETIC CURATOR, page 9

CONCERT REVIEW

A South African musical journey

Vusi Mahlasela is truly 'The Voice'

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

The lights dimmed as the spotlight made a pathway to a solitary microphone stand and resting guitar. After a deep breath, the voice filled the theater.

Vusi Mahlasela, South African musician, poet and composer performed songs from his North American debut "The Voice" on Wednesday night at the PAC. There was no band or eye-catching set, just a simple one-man show that was a perfect match for the pared down elegance of the intimate Lee Theater.

The immensely talented singer performs as if it were his birthright, with intricate and intoxicating melodies forever at the tips of his fingers as he strums his guitar. In fact, Mahlasela taught himself to play guitar as a child with a make-shift guitar made of tin cans and fishing line. Since then, he has become a sought-after performer and gained the respect and admiration of musicians and fans around the world.

Mahlasela's music and South Africa's struggle for freedom are inseparable because to hear Mahlasela sing is to know the hopes and desires of an entire country. His songs are infused with the passion of a people



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Vusi Mahlasela sings a song of freedom to his captivated audience in the PAC's Lee Theatre last Wednesday evening. His appearance was sponsored by the Center for International Studies.

fighting against racism and oppression. Each tune is steeped in the rich traditions and tumultuous political past of a country that struggled for years against a brutal system of government-sanctioned and regulated racism known as apartheid.

Apartheid in South Africa began in 1948 and was a system of laws and regulations that separated citizens

based on race similar to the Jim Crow laws in the U.S. that separated blacks and whites. The country went through a painful and violent struggle for freedom from that system. Mahlasela and his music were a part of the struggle.

When he was still a teenager, Mahlasela joined Ancestors of Africa, a group of poets, actor and performers

that was created in 1981. The group created art that expressed their desire for freedom from apartheid. Because of his involvement with the group, Mahlasela was often jailed. One of the songs he performed was written while he spent three weeks in solitary confinement.

Another beautiful tune was performed in honor of a friend who was

robbed in Johannesburg during the turbulent political atmosphere of apartheid. One line of the song says "They may have emptied your pockets but at least they left the poetry in you." This is just one example of Mahlasela's poignant writing. He also dedicated a song to his grandmother who once saved him from being arrested by threatening police with a boiling pot of water.

In 1988, Mahlasela joined the Congress of South African Writers and released his first album, "When You Come Back," three years later. It was only fitting that the man who had fought so long and hard for freedom would be asked to sing at the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela in 1994. That same year he released his sophomore effort, "Wisdom of Forgiveness," which earned wide-spread critical acclaim.

He released several other CDs, but "The Voice" is a collection of Mahlasela's songs spanning his 11-year career and is the first to be released in the U.S.

Mahlasela is an artist on the ATO record label which is owned by singer Dave Matthews. For more information about Mahlasela or to purchase "The Voice," visit

Vusi Mahlasela
At the PAC

Center for International Studies concert series

GRADE

A+

MOVIE REVIEW

'Bad Education' is good film noir

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

It may be "Bad Education" but it is good film noir.

Film noir is the darkest of genres, the realm of secrets, mysteries, and danger. In "Bad Education," director Pedro Almodovar creates a Spanish-language film that is homage to both the incomparable thrillers of director Alfred Hitchcock and to the film noir genre generally. Although the story is set in 1980, the tones and visual references are all to the styles of the late '50s and early '60s. The film has ample doses of both Hitchcockian visuals and mind-twisting thrillers like Roman Polanski's "A Knife in the Water." The film belongs more to this later version of film noir, rather than the black and white style of John Huston's "Maltese Falcon."

An actor (Gael Garcia Bernal) shows up at the office of successful

filmmaker Enrique Goded (Fele Martinez), claiming to be his long-lost childhood friend Ignacio. The filmmaker does not find the face familiar but a lot of time has passed. The actor leaves a script that describes their shared childhood memories of Catholic boarding school, a pedophile priest and sexual awakenings, and Enrique immediately wants to turn it into a film. The script also renews memories for Enrique and launches him on the unraveling of a mystery.

Shock is supposed to be part of the genre yet this film noir has a twist, which may mean it is not for everyone. The film's hidden underworld is the world of drag queens, the filmmaker's sexual awakening is with another schoolboy, and the mysterious "femme fatale" role is taken by a handsome young man. As suits both the genre and the 1980s, there is a certain amount of frank sexuality.

The film uses a story within a story technique, where we have the story of the filmmaker working on

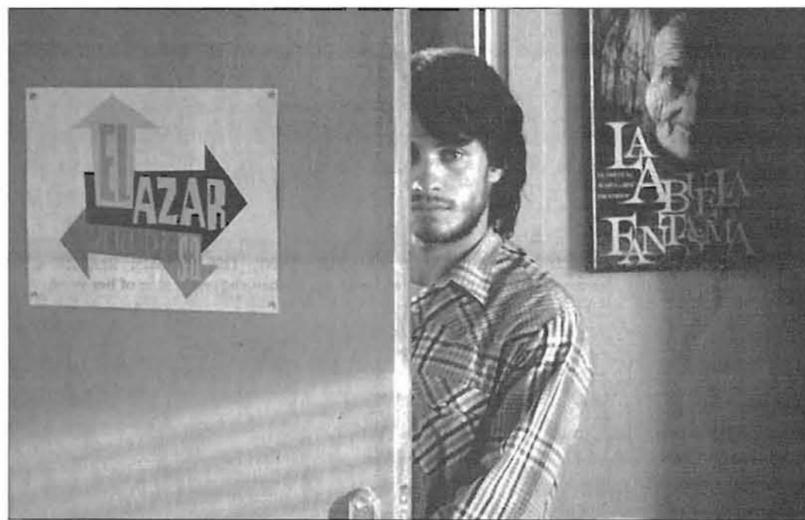


Photo courtesy Sony Pictures Classics

Bad Education
Directed by Pedro Almodovar

GRADE
A

his new film, the story within the script and the memories of the past. The story threads are masterfully handled, never confusing the audience about which story we are following. The only thing puzzling, appropriately, is what is supposed to be puzzling, the mystery tale itself.

Gael Garcia Bernal, who looks surprisingly like Julia Roberts when he is in drag, delivers a performance with the right balance of ambiguity and appeal, in what amounts to the romantic interest role. Bernal is having a knockout year, and follows up his

wonderful performance in "Motorcycle Diaries" with this starkly different performance. Fele Martinez is coolly distant and abrupt as the filmmaker, although he is sometimes too cool and distant for the dramatic events. Javier Camara, who was so wonderful in "Talk to Her" as the chubby male nurse, is delightfully

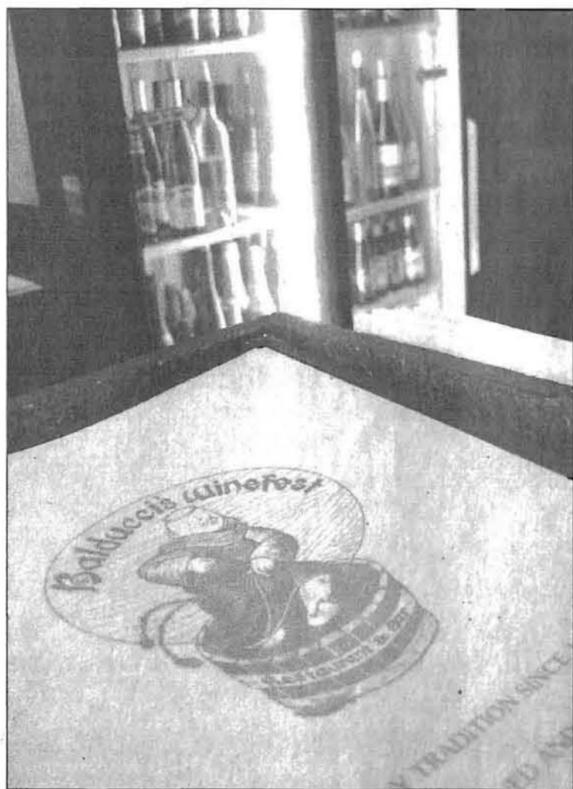
comic as drag queen Zahara's friend in the script's story. Lluís Homar, who plays the pedophile priest, and Nacho Perez, who plays the young Ignacio, are also excellent.

If you are a fan of the styles and fashion aesthetics of the late fifties and early sixties, you will like the looks of this film, especially the opening title sequence. Like Hitchcock films of this era, "Bad Education" has striking graphics in the opening credits and uses powerful artistic effects in transitions between scenes.

see BAD EDUCATION, page 9

Gael Garcia Bernal takes on multiple roles in Pedro Almodovar's newest film, 'Bad Education,' released by Sony Pictures Classics.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Erica Burrus/The Current

Balducci's mix between sports bar and Italian winery, provides a relaxed atmosphere.

Balducci's serves up great Italian

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are in the mood for Italian food but cannot decide between pasta, pizza, or sandwiches, visit Balducci's Winefest Restaurant in Maryland Heights for help in making your decision.

Balducci's Winefest Restaurant is a small restaurant tucked inside a strip mall. The restaurant looks small from the outside, but inside it is big. When patrons first enter the restaurant, they must go down a red-carpeted staircase to get to the restaurant.

On the wall next to the staircase are black and white photos of a smiling family and of men wearing aprons and hats. Upon reaching the bottom of the staircase, patrons are greeted with the well-lit bar and hostess station. A large television shows ESPN in the background, but no sound can be heard.

The restaurant is one large dining room. The carpet is red and the walls are a dark wood. Miniature lights are strung up around the restaurant, sim-

ilar to Christmas lights. Booths line the walls, and the tables are arranged rather close together. Different pictures are painted on the tables.

My friend and I arrived on Friday evening at 6 p.m. to a packed house. Everyone seemed to be there, from couples to whole families. We were greeted right away but not asked whether we preferred smoking or non-smoking. The hostess sat us at a table in between the soundless big

Balducci's Winefest
Located in Maryland Heights at 12527 Bennington Place

GRADE
B

screen and the kitchen door.

Our waitress brought us our drinks as we examined the menu. The menu was small, and included such items as starters, quiche, salads, and desserts. Beverages include soda, beer, and wine. Items on the menu range between five and ten dollars.

After much deliberation, I went

with a turkey club sandwich and my friend chose a French Dip. Each sandwich came with a spear pickle and corkscrew fries. We waited only fifteen minutes for the food. It was hot, fresh and delicious. We topped off the evening with a cherry sundae. Our total bill plus tip came to twenty-five dollars and spare change.

The wait staff at Balducci's Winefest Restaurant is friendly and upbeat. The guys are clean-shaven, and the ladies pull their hair back. The uniforms are crisp, clean khakis and white shirts, projecting cleanliness.

The restaurant is open seven days a week. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays; 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday; and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Although delivery is not available, carry-out is.

Balducci's Winefest Restaurant is a good place to visit when in the mood for Italian. The food and service are equal in comparison. Bring your significant other, your friends, your family, or all of the above. This restaurant is good for everyone. Visit them at 12527 Bennington Place in Maryland Heights.

MOVIE REVIEW

Will Smith takes on romantic comedy genre in 'Hitch'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor



It is surprising that it took so long for Will Smith to take on a romantic comedy role. Sure, he has had love interests in his action films but "Hitch" is the first time he has taken on the romantic lead in a real romantic comedy. And, not surprisingly, the likeable Smith is a natural. If you are looking for a romantic comedy for a date movie, this one is an easy choice.

Some romantic comedies lean more towards funny than towards romance, and that is the case for this one. Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (Will Smith) is a "date doctor," a consultant that helps good, sincere but maybe unattractive or clumsy guys to have a shot at the girl of their dreams. Hitch's polished makeovers of his ugly duckling clients, his smooth advice on dating moves and his comprehensive understanding of female psychology allows him to help his clients get through three dates with women that would otherwise not give them a second look. Figuring that three dates are enough to give them a shot at a relationship, Hitch's clients are then on their own but now armed with Hitch's winning methods.

Hitch is more of a matchmaker than a man teaching the art of serial seduction. Although his techniques fall in the arena of seduction, Hitch counts marriage or established relationships as his successes. As for his own love life, Hitch himself remains unattached by choice, concentrating

on honing his skills instead of finding love.

This improbable concept is pretty difficult to swallow but Will Smith's nice guy persona lets him pull it off. Will Smith's natural charm persuades us that Hitch is, somehow, basically a principled guy, despite the inherent

deception in his work. The humor leans more to slapstick and sight gags, rather than lively, sophisticated banter but it is still funny. Much of the humor revolves around Hitch's latest project, Albert (Kevin James), a chubby accountant at a large firm, who is enamored with a celebrity

heiress client, Allegra Cole (model Amber Valleta).

At the same time, Hitch has set his own sights on a new romantic challenge, Sara (Eve Mendes), a beautiful but cynical, workaholic gossip writer, who is just as commitment-phobic as Hitch himself. This is romantic comedy so it should be giving nothing away to say that you know they will fall for each other.

The film is sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, although it is Will Smith's antics with his client Albert, and Albert's apparent mismatch romance that is more the heart of the humor, and maybe the even the film's romance.

Part of the comedy is the clumsy Albert's attempt to learn from Hitch and overcome his inner nerd. One of the funniest scenes appears in the theatrical trailer, where Hitch tries to teach Albert to dance, although the film's sequence is longer and funnier. Albert's first not-quite-a-date outing with Allegra, in a upscale club, is also funny stuff. Another big dose of funny is added by slapstick humor between Hitch and Sara, whose dates seem to lead to unintended disasters, and Hitch's chagrin at having all his usually smooth moves go wrong when he sets out to win over the gossip columnist.

Since Hitch's work depends on being covert and confidential, its very nature eventually runs smack into the gossip columnist's nose for news.

The best part of the romance might be Sara and Hitch's first encounter, in a bar where Sara is waiting for a girl friend. She tries to brush him off, only to find Hitch is always mentally one step ahead of her, a skill that she finds intriguing. While Will Smith is great at the comedy, he is equally charming and winning as a man falling in love in spite of himself. The one element in the film that is off is the romantic chemistry between Mendes and Smith. Smith is wholly convincing as someone falling in love but Mendes is far less so. They never really click, throwing their scenes off kilter. The romantic chemistry between them is slight and seems to decline to nearly zero over time, not develop, although they do a bit better in the comedy. Maybe Smith and Mendes never found the right approach or perhaps Mendes was not the right actress for this role, but the film might have had more romantic heart with a different leading lady.

However, the film is funny enough and Will is appealing enough for him to now add this genre to his list of film projects.

BAD EDUCATION, from page 8

The artistry of the film technique is breathtaking, regardless of what one thinks of the story.

The unexpected and the shocking are coin of the realm for the genre, and it seems that the film is reaching for that in some respects. It is not always entirely successful. Some twists we see coming and others seem to lack to the punch they should have. Where the film does succeed, with emotional power, is when the filmmaker deals

with the issue of pedophilia and its legacy.

While this is an excellent film and appeared on many critics' "Best of 2004" lists, it unfortunately did not garner an Oscar nomination. Pedro Almodovar first established himself as a filmmaker with soap opera-inspired comedies like "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," but his recent dramatic films have taken his work to another level while bringing

him wider recognition. His films "All About My Mother" earned him critical acclaim and "Talk to Her," also a critical favorite, won him an Oscar nod.

"Bad Education" is not as fully realized as the luminous "Talk to Her," but it is a wonderful homage to the film noir. Its narrower appeal might limit the general audience popularity of the film but "Bad Education" is worth the price and a must-see for fans of Almodovar and film noir.

POETIC CURATOR, from page 8

The last poem that was read appeared to be the audience favorite, and even required audience participation. Walker started the audience with a sing-song chant, "A Love Supreme" as she read her poem, "The Love Supreme," a song written for her late father. At the end of the poem, she chanted along with us a few more times, and then ended the poem. This poem garnered much applause.

The poetry reading took only forty-five minutes. After that, Walker answered questions. The audience learned that Walker does not write as often as she would like. Sometimes her inspiration comes in response to a challenge, a random inspiration, or just wanting to write about people. Her father and two brothers are jazz musicians, and she began writing poetry because she did not have the natural

gift of music. This was her first performance without musical accompaniment. Her proudest moment came when she read some of her works with her father and brothers playing behind her.

The reading drew almost a full house, with stragglers still coming in during the reading. The poems were beautiful, conveying personal emotions and experiences.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

'Barber of Seville' delights audience

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"Barber of Seville," Rossini's beloved comic opera, was presented by the touring opera company Teatro Lirico D'Europa on Friday, Feb. 18, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at UM-St. Louis. The company was in fine voice and full comic form, and the performance delighted the packed house.

The opera singers were excellent but the performance got off to a rocky start. After the program was introduced and the houselights dimmed, there was a very long pause before the orchestra conductor appeared in the orchestra pit and another pause before the curtain finally came up, raising concerns about whether some last minute backstage snafu might sabotage the performance. Once the singers finally took the stage, the quality of the performance itself and the unflappable demeanor of the singers quieted any audience concerns. When baritone Vladimir Samsonov took

the stage in the title role of Figaro and performed that famous "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro" aria with booming bravura and comic vocal flourishes, the audience response was so overwhelming and applause so thunderous and sustained that the star was compelled to quiet the audience just so the opera could continue. It was a very good start to an artistically excellent performance by the whole troupe.

Nearly everyone knows this Figaro aria and much of the music of this beloved comic opera, one of the most popular ever. The story is one of several variations on the Figaro story, where a self-confident, charismatic and resourceful commoner outshines and outsmarts the ruling class nobles in the story. The story is comic but the fact that the star of the story is a charismatic and brainy lowly commoner, who runs mental circles around his ruling class "betters," made it political hot stuff in the eighteenth century. Italian composer Gioachino Rossini wrote his opera as a 23-year-old rising composer in only nineteen days. The first performance was a disaster but the opera and the composer went on to great success.

This Figaro variation is set in eighteenth century Spain, where handsome Count Almaviva (tenor Benjamin Brecher) is trying to serenade the beautiful Rosina (mezzo soprano Viara Zhelezova), after becoming smitten with her and following her back to Seville. His efforts are unsuccessful but not due to lack of interest on her part. Instead, the problem is her guardian, Dr. Bartolo (baritone Hristo Sarafov), an unpleasant, domineering old man who keeps her locked away and who, unknown to Rosina, has plans to marry her himself. Count Almaviva enlists the help of Figaro (baritone Vladimir Samsonov), a popular bar-

ber in Seville, who is also the town's matchmaker and problem solver. Figaro himself describes how popular and in demand he is in the aria where he sings about everyone calling his name all day long - Figaro, Figaro Figaro - as they come to him to solve their problems.

Figaro and Count Almaviva devise a plan that involves disguises and trickery to win Rosina and foil her lecherous, unscrupulous old guardian. The cast of characters is rounded out with Don Basilio (basso Viacheslav Pochasky), an unscrupulous music teacher, a maid, Berta (Rumiana Petrova), who complains about headstrong young girls, and police officer Fiorello (Vladi Hristov), notary or justice of the peace Ambrogio (Giorgio Dinef) and a chorus of peasants and soldiers.

The opera was performed by the members of Teatro Lirico D'Europa, a European opera company making its seventh American tour. The name of the company and the opera are Italian but the cast are Russian and East European, except for American tenor Benjamin Brecher as the Count. The troupe was founded by its artistic director Giorgio Lalov. The production tours with a symphonic orchestra, led by conductor Krassimir Toplov.

Both the theatrical aspects and the music of the evening were excellent, thanks to the efforts of the gifted performers. The singing was strong and the performers were equally delightful in the comedy, drawing as much applause for their comic antics as for their singing.

Less satisfactory were the technical aspects of the evening, as what-ever backstage demons were dogging the production continued into the evening. There was a long intermission inserted into the first act and another intermission between the first and second acts, a lot of break time for a production that is not all that long. When the curtain came up after the first intermission, there was another very long pause during which the lone performer on stage was required to hold his position for some minutes before the orchestra even returned, tuned-up and finally provided the music to get the action underway again. However, it is to the credit of the performers, both singers and musicians, that the performance itself did not suffer, despite whatever unseen problem was taking place. It is to the credit of the audience that they stayed with the program, despite a second intermission that lacked refreshments and a very late evening.

The sets and lighting were fine but hardly impressive. Costumes were adequate but surprisingly simple and a few of them looked hardly above the level of a student production, not what one would expect from an established professional touring company. It may be a minor quibble but the talented singers and the audience deserved the better.

More information on the tour and Teatro Lirico D'Europa is available online at www.jennykellyproductions.com. More information on the Touhill's schedule is available at www.touhill.org.

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SPORTS

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Freshmen, senior close in on records

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

As the season has worn on, the Riverwomen basketball team has had many more downs than ups. With a season that has fallen short of expectations it can be very easy to look past a lot of positive results both on and off of the floor.

You would think that a less than average season means a less than average team, but this is not always the case and is certainly not with this team. A group of players from the Riverwomen basketball team have stepped up this season and have managed to score, rebound and assist their ways into the record books.

Overall, the freshmen are leading in many categories, including being in seven top ten freshmen all-time statistical categories. Courtney Watts currently leads the way for the freshman core, as she is already in the top ten and even top five in five different categories. Watts is currently ninth on the freshman all-time scoring list with 222 points on the season. She is also third all-time in three point field goals made with 29, fifth all-time with free throws at 53, sixth all-time with steals at 30 and second all-time with assists at 86. With only three games left in the season, Watts looks on pace to move even higher in each category.

see RECORDS, page 12



Kevin Ottley/The Current

The UM-St. Louis pep band performs at every single home game during the season. Musicians play an assortment of instruments; this trio of trombonists belt away at their melodies and harmonies during the UM-St. Louis - Lincoln game last Wednesday.

Pep band wreaks havoc

BY BRYAN BOEDEKER
Staff Writer

Home court advantage is an interesting concept in college basketball. No matter where the game is played, the court is 94 feet long and the basket is 10 feet high. So why is it that so many college basketball teams play so much better on their home floor? The answer is momentum. A team can feed off the energy of the crowd while the opposing team can sometimes panic because of it.

Here at UM-St. Louis, part of the responsibility of creating that momentum falls on the shoulders of the University Athletic Pep Band. This Band was organized in 1998 to play at

and support the men's and women's basketball teams; the band does whatever it can to keep the UM-St. Louis crowd involved in the game.

Dr. Bill Richardson, the director of the Pep Band, states that the main goal of his group is to "inspire the team to win by wreaking as much havoc on the opposition as possible and entertaining the crowd while keeping them in the game."

Another reason that the band was created was that it gives both music and non-music majors a chance to play and enjoy music. "It really promotes camaraderie among band members and gives them a chance to perform popular music that they don't get to perform that often," Richardson said. "It also gives an opportunity for

people who played in the band in high school to get back to playing an instrument and having fun with it."

The band consists of up to 35 members but rarely does the full squad perform at the same game. The members that are there, however, do a great job at making their presence known and gaining any advantage they can over the opposing team. The advantages they try to gain can be anything from playing popular arena anthems on their instruments to loudly questioning an opposing player's choice of sock color.

Anyone that has attended a UM-St. Louis basketball game has undoubtedly noticed Angie Keely, a senior music education major. In fact, there are times during a game that Keely stands

out more than the players on the floor. Equipped with a microphone and a referee's shirt, Keely is the unofficial leader of the Pep Band, starting all their musical numbers as well as using her microphone to voice her displeasure whenever she sees fit.

"We're out here just trying to support the Athletic Department and to show our pride for the school and our team spirit," Keely said.

The UM-St. Louis Athletic Pep Band does a great job supporting the basketball teams. They are there every game cheering the team on, helping anyway they can. What they do best, however, is their part in creating the elusive momentum, without which there would be no such thing as home court advantage.

Riverwomen take down Lincoln 69-57

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team defeated Lincoln University 69-57 on Feb. 16, thanks to a solid second half performance. Once again the Riverwomen's freshmen contributed to the win.

The Riverwomen jumped out to an 8-2 lead early, thanks to two buckets by Amanda Miller and steals on consecutive possessions by Kali Birkey. After four minutes of play the Riverwomen had extended their lead to 11-3, but Lincoln retaliated with eight straight points of their own to even the score at 11-11. Then the scoring droughts that so often plague the Riverwomen made their ugly appearance. Over the next nine minutes the Riverwomen went without a field goal, and watched as Lincoln built a 25-15 lead. The offense finally woke back up with just under five minutes in the half. Leslie Ricker and Iesha Billups contributed six points from the free-throw line and Courtney Watts added a lay-up to fuel an 8-0 run and bring the team to within two points, 25-23, with three minutes left in the half. Despite the run the team still had difficulty getting anything other than free-throws, and by the end of the half Lincoln was ahead 32-25.

The second half saw big changes in the Riverwomen's offensive output.

Birkey and Ricker scored four points apiece to start the half and fueled a 10-0 run to put UM-St. Louis up 35-32. Lincoln fought back with a couple of three-pointers and jumpers to retake the lead at 42-41, but then the Riverwomen went deadly from beyond the arc. Watts hit a three-pointer to get the barrage kick-started, then Abbie Thomas, Crystal Lambert and Nikki Jerome each took turns knocking down three-pointers to give the Riverwomen a 55-46 lead. Both teams went scoreless over the next two minutes, and with five minutes left in the game the Riverwomen were still up by seven at 57-50. A lay-up, steal and assist all by Birkey gave the Riverwomen an 11 point lead, their largest of the game, with four minutes to play. From there the Riverwomen stayed consistent and cruised to the victory.

Coach Lee Buchanan pointed to the Riverwomen's excellent defense as a big factor in the win.

"The defense did a good job in the second half. We played zone, which I thought they had some problems with because our girls were marking their cutters and shooters so well," Buchanan said.

Assistant Coach Galen Harkness mentioned the girls' alertness and defense as well: "We told them to be physical and quick with their feet and active with their hands," he said.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UM-St. Louis center Iesha Billups lays up the basketball amidst stiff defense from the Blue Tigers of Lincoln University. The pictured action is from their Wednesday evening encounter where the Riverwomen emerged as winners.

The second half of the game seemed to be stressful for Lincoln's coach. With over three minutes left to play he erupted into a frenzy over a game clock discrepancy, accusing the operator of starting it three seconds too soon. The argument consumed several minutes, in which the operator, coach and officials were all involved. The behavior proved to be an omen of things to come, as the ensuing men's

game was characterized by violence and ejections.

Four Riverwomen scored in double figures: Watts and Ricker had 11 points each, while Birkey contributed 10 points; four rebounds and four steals, and Miller added 10 points, seven rebounds, and three steals.

The Riverwomen will next be in action on Feb. 24 at Bellarmine University.

Rivermen's Sherome Cole is above the rim

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Stop for one second and try to imagine a 5'9" person standing under a basketball hoop. It is a pretty long way to the rim from way down there when you think about it. To even reach the rim that person would have to have at least a 35 inch vertical leap. That means they would have to jump close to three feet before they even had a chance to put the ball in.

Junior men's basketball player Sherome Cole is the Spud Webb of Rivermen. If anyone has trouble remembering Spud Webb, he would be the 5'6" fill in for Michael Jordan who used a 42 inch vertical leap to

win a slam dunk contest during the 1980s. Though he stands at only 5'9," Cole often flies above the rim to throw down slam dunks to please the crowd. It is pretty hard to imagine that guys over a foot taller than him would have more trouble slam dunking a ball than he does sometimes. Cole plays and jumps like a big man in a little man's body.

Throughout his career here, Cole has often risen above the expectations of others and himself. He has played through injury and has become one of the key players for the Rivermen's basketball program. This year has been no different for him as he has once again been able to make a large impact on the floor.

Head coach Chris Pilz commented on Cole's success for the Rivermen. "Sherome has great

quickness and a jumping ability that is unmatched by anyone else on the team. Now that he has recovered from injury he is beginning to play to his potential and contribute significantly on the floor," Pilz said.

This season Cole has continued his recovery from injuries a year ago. He is currently averaging 7.1 points, 2.6 rebounds and 19 minutes per game. He has also logged close to 40 percent shooting from the floor, close to 70 percent shooting from the free throw line, 13 steals and 45 assists on the season. For his career Cole is averaging 6 points, 3 assists and 2 rebounds per contest, including over 40 percent shooting from the field during his three years.

Cole commented on his success this season. "It is nice to be coming off of the injury finally. I feel more

confident with myself and should be able to make steady improvements from here on out. I hope I can contribute as much as I am able to knowing now that I will not be playing injured all of the time," Cole said.

When Cole plays well, so do the Rivermen. In the nail biter against Lewis he had 17 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists and hit the game tying three-pointer in the first overtime. The following win, against Lincoln, he contributed 15 points.

As the season winds down Cole will have a few more chances to size up his opponents and rise above the rim as the Rivermen end their regular season in only a few weeks. Cole will look to get the Rivermen back into the conference tournament for the first time in the past five years.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

Stereotypes aren't all accurate, athletes have brains

BY BRYAN BOEDEKER
Staff Writer

My freshman year at Southeast Missouri State my roommate was a football player. I always felt kind of sorry for him because when my other friends and I were just sitting around on a Tuesday afternoon playing Madden or debating the genius of the movie "Dirty Work," he was at practice nearing the exhaustion level. I remember one instance where he was up until 6 in the morning finishing a research paper. He had class from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. the next day, practice was at 2. Not fun times for him I am sure.

I tell you this story because being a student-athlete is not easy. I know I probably could not do it. I have enough trouble writing a paper on the same day I drove to the bank, let alone going through a two hour practice then studying biology.

Here at UM-St. Louis the overall average undergraduate GPA is 2.959. The overall average GPA for athletes is 2.839. To me that is pretty impressive. Once you take away the ultra-smart people who are here on an academic scholarship, then the numbers are probably about even.

In fact, there were 32 athletes this past semester that made the Athletic Director's Honor Roll which means they had a 3.5 GPA or higher.

I know what some of you are thinking, "Hey a lot of students have jobs that can take up more time than playing a sport." That is true but I am pretty sure not many people have a job that requires them to sweat profusely and outlines a recommended number of water breaks.

To me the hardest part of being a student-athlete is the lack of the ability to procrastinate. I mean there is obviously enough time to do your school work while fulfilling your athletic obligations, but it's the procrastination that defines a college student. It is the ability to ignore the fact that you have to write a five page paper on "Business Ethics" for a few hours so you can watch a Real World marathon. It's the ability to put off studying for a test until 3 a.m. because you know you can sleep the rest of the day after the test is over.

So remember the next time you get pissed at an athlete because they get to miss class or because they always get first pick of classes for the following semester that they do not have it so easy. Also the next time you realize you spent an entire day playing video games or played waterfall on a slow Monday night when you had something important due the next day, think of the athlete and thank them for his or her sacrifice.



Sherome Cole

Weekly Cartoon - by Rudy Scoggins



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A game of violence, technical fouls and ejections

In heated match, Rivermen trounce Lincoln 104-80

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team won an unusually dirty game on Feb. 16 against visiting Lincoln University. The Rivermen pulled out a solid 104-80 victory, but not until Lincoln had amassed four ejections and six technical fouls. Two Lincoln fans were ejected from the game for unruly behavior, the team's coach was ejected for receiving two technical fouls (verbal attacks on the officials), and one Lincoln player was ejected for receiving two technical fouls as well. Police were called in to escort the officials, who by that time were very unpopular with Lincoln's fans, to the locker room.

The Rivermen did not let the spectacle distract them. The team started the game off in control, jumping out to a 12-3 lead after four minutes of play. After Sherome Cole scored on a three-pointer the team led by 14 points, 23-9, with 12 minutes remaining in the half. The Rivermen continued to dominate, and after Jonathan Griffin scored on four straight free-throws, the team pushed their lead to 36-19, a 17 point margin. The lead was built primarily

due to the Rivermen's incredible three-point shooting. In the first 12 minutes of the game the Rivermen hit six three-pointers, including four in a four minute span, two from Griffin and two from Cole. At the five minute mark, however, Lincoln put together a solid run. The Blue Tigers outscored the Rivermen 15-4 to cut the Rivermen lead to just six with two minutes remaining. The Rivermen regained their composure and through solid inside play from Aaron Green and Darrell Minner pushed the lead back to nine just before halftime.

After six minutes of play in the second half Lincoln had chiseled the lead down to just five, 60-55, but then Griffin struck again with yet another three-pointer, spurring a 9-0 Rivermen run. The closest Lincoln would get the rest of the game was down by ten, 70-60, with 11 minutes to play. The Rivermen then went on a 15-2 run to smother Lincoln's hopes of a comeback and cruised to an easy 104-80 victory. Coach Chris Pilz saw the offensive efficiency as a result of sharing the ball.

"The difference in the way we played is that we moved the ball and played real unselfish on the offensive end. For that reason we were in a

much better flow offensively, and the stats back that up. We scored 31 baskets on 22 assists, so that basically says we are moving the ball and making the right play, and it's why we were successful in winning the game," Pilz said.

The Rivermen did not seem to have any trouble dealing with the ugliness of the game. Pilz mentioned that the players are learning from the experience.

"Unfortunately the other team received some technical fouls, and some of the hard fouls could have distracted our guys but they kept playing and that was a good sign of maturity on our guy's part," Pilz said.

The Rivermen played Lincoln earlier this year without incidence. Perhaps one of the reasons the team was in a bad mood was that it just completed a 39 hour road trip through different parts of Texas.

Griffin, who led all scorers with 33 points, commented on how he tried to be more unselfish with the ball: "My mind frame was more patient and I passed the ball to my teammates. That allowed me to get open and I got a lot more open shots because the defense had to move around. I've got to concentrate on getting the ball to my teammates



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Rivermen Captain and most valuable player, Jonathan Griffin, shoots his fourth of six free throws. UMSL's opponents, Lincoln University, conceded six technical fouls during the game which saw Lincoln's head coach, Charles Terry, ejected after 10 minutes of play.

more often," Griffin said. He was followed by Cole with 15 points, and Green with 10, while post players David Ward and Minner added 13

points and eight rebounds, and eight points and 11 rebounds, respectively. The team scored a season high 12 three-pointers, and shot 55.4% from

the field.

The Rivermen will be in action next on Feb. 24 at Bellarmine University.

R-WOMEN BBALL, from page 10

Also, fellow freshman Abbie Thomas has entered the top five all-time in three point field goals made by a freshman with 19, only needing five more to move into a tie for third. Freshman Leslie Ricker is also merging into the top ten in rebounds. Ricker only needs 13 rebounds in the final three contests to move into the top ten all-time in that category.

Freshman Courtney Watts commented on the success of the freshman trio this season. "The seniors and upperclassmen made us very comfortable right from the start. It made it easier for us to learn our roles and feel more like a team. I

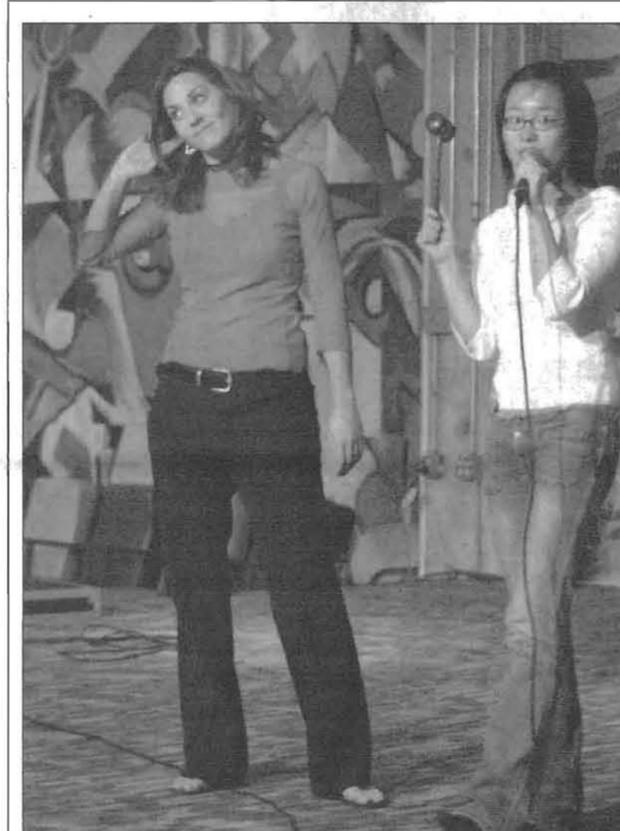
think that a lot of our success revolves around the fact that we are all so close on and off of the court," Watts said.

Along with the standout freshman, senior Kali Birkey has also moved onto the all-time list in three categories for a senior basketball player. Birkey currently only needs 34 points in the last three games to move into the top ten in scoring all-time for seniors. She currently has 343 points on the season, needing 377 to make that mark. Also, Birkey has moved into ninth all-time on the rebounds list at 156 rebounds on the season and is also at second all-time

on the senior blocks list with 21 for the year.

Head coach Lee Buchanan commented on Birkey's performance throughout this season. "She has been nothing short of great for us every game this season. She has shown great leadership and poise and that is all you can ask for out of your seniors because they are the easiest to rally around; they know what it takes to win," Buchanan said.

With only three games left in the season, watch for each of these four players to make a run for the records and don't be surprised if they move up a few spots in the standings.



Do I hear twenty... twenty-five?

Suyun Qu (right), senior, international business, auctions off Maria Curtis (left), senior, English, at the Valentine Auction Monday afternoon. The fundraiser benefited the International Business Club and all participants take part in a group date.

Erica Burrus/The Current

Film 'The Sea Inside' takes a look at issues of life and death

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Does someone have the right to end their own life? This morally thorny question is at the center of "The Sea Inside," a movie based on the life of Ramon Sampedro, a quadriplegic Spanish poet who fought a thirty-year battle for the right to end his own life. What sounds at first like a depressing film is transformed by the excellent script, Alejandro Amenabar's skillfully sensitive direction and powerful acting by Javier Bardem into a complex and compelling film.

You would think that a man who wants only to die would be a depressing, and depressed, person. Instead, Ramon is charming, likeable, intelligent and resourceful, making his decision both puzzling and tragic. Although he is paralyzed from the neck down, his mind is lively and his self-confidence is undimmed. But he has one unshakeable goal, which is to end his life. His pride and dignity mean more to him than his life.

The appealing Javier Bardem and director Alejandro Amenabar allow us a look into the inner life of this charming enigma.

The subject is troubling not just for the larger moral issue but for paralyzed people in particular, because of the poet's personal arguments for his right to die. He argues passionately that his life lacks personal dignity and that it is not the life he would choose. Before his accident, he was a ship's mechanic, sailing the world. As an inherently rebellious wanderer, he

feels that who he is has been altered by the limits now placed on his life. As a thinking person, he argues he has a right to make his own choices and that his paralysis is a barrier that takes away his power to do as he wishes. His unshakeable decision raises a firestorm of controversy and debate about moral right and wrong and free will. The film offers not conclusions about right or wrong, just a view inside his world.

Ramon has befriended Gene (Clara Segura), a woman from a group that advocates for the right to die, to help him build a court case to win permission for an assisted suicide. She brings in Julia (Belen Rueda), a lawyer who is also a stroke victim, to help make his case. His campaign to let him commit assisted suicide brings him media attention, which also brings him a visit from Rosa (Lola Duenas), a local factory worker and single parent with her own problems, who develops a fascination with Ramon. When the lawyer discovers that her client writes poetry, she urges him to publish. He declines until she persuades him that publishing them may help his court case.

Bardem's handsome and strong-featured face, confident manner and natural screen appeal contrast with the film's unblinking look at the difficulties of the bedridden man's life. Ramon is pleasant, funny, and does not seem depressive, but in his dreams he replays the day of his accident. The film's flashbacks poignantly contrast the vision of Bardem's healthy muscular body as a young man on the beach against his frozen and twisted present state, and give us a look inside Ramon's mind. In other dreams,

Ramon walks along the beach or flies over the countryside. The limits and restrictions of his life are counterpoint to beautiful dream sequences where the poet flies across the landscape, strolls along the sea and falls in love. As much as he wills it, he cannot even reach out to touch the hand of a woman sitting on his bed.

Ramon's argument that he lost the power to carry out his decision when he broke his neck but not the right to make the choice is a both a compelling and morally challenging viewpoint. The man's dignity, persistence and good humor break our heart as he pleads for the right to die. Like the people around him, we come to want Ramon to live and more than that, for Ramon to want that. But the question the film raises is if we can force that choice on him.

The subject of this film is undeniably weighty and may sound like the basis for a depressing film, but the result is instead a poignant, occasionally funny, moving and visually beautiful film. Javier Bardem's luminous, charismatic performance as the poet makes the film into a dramatic powerhouse as well, as he peels away some of the layers of this complex man. Bardem's performance has been widely hailed by critics and audiences. Who has the right to make life decisions, if not the person who lives that life?

It is difficult stuff and this film embraces all the contradictory and divisive aspects of this man's story, and it is also a beautiful piece of cinema. Despite the topic, the film is strangely uplifting, a tribute to both Bardem and director Amenabar.

3 CONTESTS
3 \$3,000 CASH PRIZES



The CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES at University of Missouri-St. Louis is sponsoring three annual contests for the best student artwork, essay and website on:

UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24: A WORLD HOLIDAY



These contests were established by DOROTHY SCHNEIDER, former Red Cross overseas worker, college faculty member (English Department) in San Diego, and St. Charles, Missouri, and author of the UN Resolution to create United Nations Day as an international holiday.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS students interested in competing for: 1. the ART prize must submit a personal art representation; 2. the ESSAY prize must submit two or three pages, typed, double spaced, on standard 8.5" X 11" white paper; or 3. the WEBSITE prize must submit a website design on CD.

To be eligible, the submissions must include the words "UNITED NATIONS DAY (OCTOBER 24)", "ANNUAL WORLD HOLIDAY" and include the following ideas:

- Visualize United Nations Day as a world holiday.
- How would the United Nations Day World Holiday benefit the world?
- What can I do to make United Nations Day a world holiday?

A panel of three judges from the University of Missouri-St. Louis will judge the contests. Essays and Websites will be judged on content and style. Art will be judged on content and design. All entries must avoid plagiarism and partisan politics. All entries become the property of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Participation is voluntary and previous winners are ineligible. Only one winner per contest will be selected. The winners will be announced in late April at a reception in honor of United Nations Day.

ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2005

For more information, contact: MIKE COSTELLO
Center for International Studies
Room 366, Social Sciences and Business Building
516-6454 - costello@umsl.edu