

May 2,  
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# The Current

Your source for campus news and information



Hustle to see 'Kung Fu Hustle'

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## Student curator bill goes to Senate

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Co-News Editor

The student curator bill moved a step further in the legislative process on April 20, when the Missouri House of Representatives voted in favor of the bill 117-32.

House Bill 440 would give the student representative to the UM Board of Curators a vote on any matter before the board. Rep. Brian Pratt primarily sponsored the bill and first introduced the legislation to the Missouri House on Feb. 2, 2005.

Associated Students of the University of Missouri have sent lobbyists to Jefferson City for the past three months to help gain sup-

port for the bill. Since the bill passed in the House, ASUM will continue sending student interns to the Capitol in Jefferson City to push the bill forward in the Missouri Senate Education Committee.

Matt Pierson, ASUM legislative director, said the Missouri legislators' vote showed "overwhelming support" for the bill.

Rep. Esther Haywood, who co-sponsored the bill, represents the district that includes UM-St. Louis. While she was absent during the vote, another representative from a nearby county voted against the bill.

Carl Bearden, speaker pro tem and representative from St. Charles County, visited UM-St. Louis back

in March. During his visit, Bearden expressed he would not support the bill unless a vote was needed.

The bill, which is now being read in the Senate, has certain obstacles to overcome. Pierson said when the bill was sent to the Senate, ASUM lobbyists had to continue lobbying to show the importance of having the bill heard on the floor.

"Getting floor time and getting a committee hearing are important," Pierson said. "Time is an issue."

With the Senate debating the budget and school funding currently, Pierson argued that the student curator bill might not be their top priority. Pierson said getting the student curator bill on their schedule is

important since the Senate dismisses in mid-May.

Pierson felt confident the bill would be heard, and on Thursday, the Senate placed the bill on their calendar list.

While the bill may pass in the Senate and receive approval from Gov. Matt Blunt, Thomas Kerman, chair of the UM Intercampus Student Council, explained that the bill may not be effective until 2007.

Based on the writing of the bill, "the student curator may not receive a vote until 2007," Kerman said.

The student curator's vote will not be added on to the number of votes that the Board of Curators currently have. Instead, the student

curator's vote will replace one of other board members' votes. Kerman said the next time a board member will be elected is in 2007.

Despite these possible setbacks, Pierson and other ASUM members still support the bill and count on the help of the Board of Curators. "I think making sure the board stays accountable is important," Pierson said.

Compared to the other board members, the student curator holds a unique position. Pierson called the student curator position "more special than the other curators."

see CURATOR, page 15

### Pike Pride



Mike Sherwin/The Current

From left, Charlie Kim, senior, marketing, Aaron Golchert, junior, business administration and Muhammed Lamotte, freshman, social work cheer on their Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brother Todd Renner who won 'Greek of the Year' at the Student Leadership Awards Banquet Monday.

## Banquet recognizes student leaders

BY PATRICIA LEE

Co-News Editor

During its annual Leadership Awards Banquet, the Office of Student Life recognized various students, faculty, staff and student organizations for their contributions to campus life at UM-St. Louis.

This year's theme was Choose Your Own Adventure. This theme was used throughout the year in

other leadership events as well as the banquet.

"It just kind of wraps up the whole year which began with the Leadership Retreat," Joe Flees, student services coordinator, said. "It showcases what the organizations have done throughout the year," he said.

Student Life presented awards for various categories. Nearly 20 student organizations were nominated for awards in several different categories, including most

innovative program, best sustained program and program of the year.

The organization that took home the most awards was Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow, which won Best Campus Community Building Program for its tailgating program that "brought students together and gave them a chance to go to the games."

see LEADERSHIP, page 15

month.

The SABC is chaired by Aaron Golchert, SGA comptroller, and includes two non-voting officers and nine voting members. Members are prohibited from voting on budgets of any organizations in which they are involved.

"[The SABC] looks at what is going to benefit the greater good of UM-St. Louis," Montague said. "While some organizations may have a narrow focus and they want to do something specifically for their club, they really need to look at how it is going to benefit the UM-St. Louis community."

The 2005-2006 budget committee, while raising certain organizations' budgets, cut others. Alpha Xi Delta, Catholic Newman House, College Republicans, Forensics and Debate Club, Pierre Laclede Honors College and Students with Disabilities Association all lost at least \$2,000 from last year's budget or had their budget cut in half. Campus Crusade for Christ's budget was cut completely.

"With our cuts we won't be able to have meaningful meetings or speakers," Bill Costas, junior, history, and member of College Republicans, said.

The Catholic Newman Center's budget was originally cut in half, but an appeal only cut their budget by about \$2,000.

see SABC, page 15

## Student groups notified of annual SABC allocations

BY BEN SWOFFORD

Staff Writer

The Student Activities Budget Committee finalized student organization budget allocations after hearing budget appeals from student organizations on April 15.

The total budget requested by student organizations this year was \$1,262,747.77. Only \$717,799.22 was distributed after appeals, an increase of around \$57,000 over last year's budget of \$660,208.

The SABC budget comes from the \$3.46 per credit hour fee that all students pay to help support the UM-St. Louis student organizations. The 2005-2006 SABC budget was based on 226,000 credit hours taken by UM-St. Louis students this year, which translated into \$781,960 in allocated funds.

"It's all about the number of activities and programs you're putting on," Orinthia Montague, director of Student Life, said.

The SABC meets regularly for months to decide on the distribution of funds. The deadline for budget submission was Jan. 14. Preliminary budget allocations were mailed to student organizations on April 7, with an April 14 deadline to submit appeals.

Organizations are given information on submitting a budget in October and are invited to budget workshops held throughout the

## Student fee review committee will report findings to SGA

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Co-News Editor

The Student Fees Review Committee will report on its findings this semester to the Student Government Association, where the committee members will send their conclusions and recommendations concerning student fees.

David Dodd, junior, international business, and head of the Student Fees Review Committee, talked about an update on the committee's coming report Friday at the last SGA meeting of the 2005-2006 year.

As the end of the semester

approaches, SGA business is not over yet. Before the new student government officers take their positions on July 1, a report on the student fees will be given to the SGA for review.

Since the beginning of the winter semester, the committee has examined student fees and how they are being spent. By looking into these fees, Dodd said the committee would be more prepared for voting on the increased fees next year.

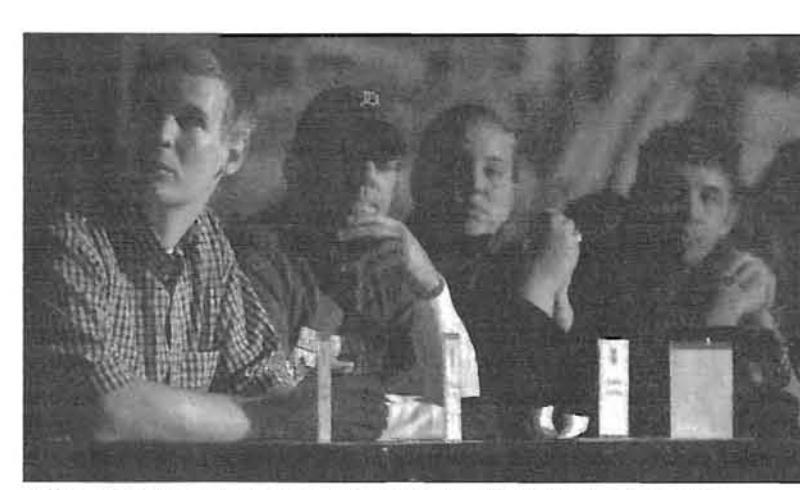
"When we formed this committee at the beginning of the semester, the intent was to get a head start on the fee increases for next year," Dodd said. "We wanted to take a look at why we would be approving

fees for next year or why we would not be approving [them]."

Dodd explained that in October and November, each department at the University shows what increases in student fees are expected. Before voting this year, however, Dodd formed the committee to try to address the concerns of students and see how each department is spending the student fees.

One of the controversial student fees involves the Touhill Performing Arts Center fee. Students currently pay \$10 per semester for the PAC, regardless of how many credit hours a student is taking.

see SGA, page 15



SGA executives listen on Friday as David Dodd informs the assembly that a report will be provided soon from the Student Fee Review Committee.

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Features:  
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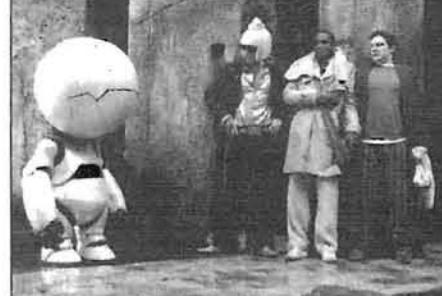
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# Bulletin Board

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

## Announcements

### Tsunami Relief Effort

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

### 'Bellerive' submissions accepted until May 15

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

### Women in the Arts: Call for proposals, due June 15

Proposals being sought for The Women in the Arts Conference, Nov. 10 through 12 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Priority will be given to faculty and staff. Deadline for proposals is June 15. Visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~wia> for more information.

### Women Playwrights Contest seeks entrants

The Theatre Department is holding a new women's playwright competition. The winner will have her piece performed at the Des Lee Theater of the Touhill PAC in Nov. 2005. All genres are accepted. Plays must be original works. For more info, visit

**April 20, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-Parking Lot B**  
The victim reported that someone stole her front license plate while her vehicle was parked in Lot B.

**April 25, 2005 Burglary 2nd Degree-Research Building-Pony Espresso**

A burglary was discovered on Monday, April 25, when the employee went to open the coffee bar. The employee said that when she went to the safe, it was gone. The safe was ripped from the floor and stolen. There were no signs of forced entry, and the investigation is continuing.

**April 25, 2005 Stealing Under \$500.00-Parking Lot E**

The Victim reported her student parking permit stolen from a vehicle while parked in Lot E.

**April 25, 2005 Rape-Mansion Hill Apartments**

A Division of Family Service

**April 26, 2005 Property Damage-Parking Lot AA**

The victim's vehicle windshield was broken by a foul ball hit during a softball game.

**April 29, 2005 Assault 3rd Degree- Mansion Hills Apts**

The victim stated that she heard a knock on the door at about 1:30 a.m. and when she checked to see who it was, she recognized the man as her ex-boyfriend. He said that he was dropping off some diapers for the baby, so she opened the door and let him in. Once inside the apartment

the suspect began to argue and yell at the victim about her relationship with other people. The suspect then punched the victim in the face and head area, and then left the apartment before the police could arrive driving a brown Ford Bronco. The suspect was put out as wanted by this department for assault, and when he is arrested the investigation will continue. The victim's injuries did not require an ambulance for treatment. The victim has had prior incidents with this suspect, including the need to get a temporary ex parte order.

**April 29, 2005 Stealing Over \$500.00-TJ Library**

The victim placed her book bag

and purse on the floor next to her

while she was working on a computer.

An unknown person apparently took the purse and contents and fled without being noticed.

**Worker informed this Department that sometime around May of 2003 the victim, then a juvenile, was raped in this complex by a relative. The victim has not been interviewed by our department yet and is unable to verify this incident. Neither person involved in this allegation is affiliated with the University of Mo.**

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# Fall homecoming theme is 'I'll take you there'

BY PATRICIA LEE  
Co-News Editor

With five months to go until fall homecoming, planning has started for the week-long event.

During the Homecoming Committee meeting on Wednesday, students and faculty had the chance to get involved in the homecoming planning. After some discussion, they chose the theme: "I'll Take You There" (Around the World).

There were three proposed themes and all were briefly discussed before there was an election to choose the most popular theme. One of the issues under consideration was the need for a theme that could be easily advertised, with other factors including the appeal to a diverse audience and marketability.

"One of our big things this year is we want to decorate at the dance, not just with balloons but with the whole theme," SGA Vice-President-Elect Tanzeena Hossain said.

Hossain, junior, psychology, and homecoming co-chair, said, "So we can't have something that's too broad."

This will be the second homecoming for UM-St. Louis this year, as the Student Government Association voted to move homecoming from the winter semester to October. Hossain said she expected the move to have positive results.

"It's going to be really beneficial to our campus because people are going to be coming back to school, they're going to be excited about being here, then homecoming will be there and it will really pump up the school spirit right away," Hossain said.

Since homecoming will now be held in the fall, much of the planning will take place over the summer. "It's going to be a lot of extra work. The committee members and co-chairs are going to be working really closely all summer long," Hossain said.

"We want to do it as soon as possible

because a lot of other schools are planning theirs as well," Brian Rails, junior, marketing, said. "If you sign up [to be on a committee], make sure you have time to commit to doing your jobs."

They also discussed the week-long events that are held during homecoming week, including what to keep and what events to change.

The dance will be held at the Airport Marriott on Saturday, Oct. 8, but some of the other events are still being planned. "We already know Big Man on Campus is really popular, so we're going to keep that on Wednesday," Hossain said.

The traditional blood drive on Monday will be retained as well, but activities are being discussed for replacing the powder puff football games. In the past couple years, organization participation for that event has been low. One of the proposals would replace it with a day with shorter sporting events that would appeal to more people.

Another topic for discussion was party favors, with proposals including pint glasses, keychain clocks and candles. "We tried to stay away from picture frames because that's been around forever," Rails said. "We try to make them not too masculine and not too feminine."

It will be up to the different committees to plan the details for homecoming. There will be several different committees—Elections, Publicity, Dance, Spirit Competition, and Alumni Relations—involved in the different facets of the event.

Positions are open for students who want to be on the homecoming committee. "Usually we try to invite all the students, this year we made more of a point to make sure many different groups on campus are represented," Hossain said.

There are openings for committee chairs and other committee positions. Applications are available in the Office of Student Life and are due Friday, May 6.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Students collect over \$3,000 for slain former student

Over \$3,000 were collected for a memorial fund for Julius Backys, a former UM-St. Louis student who was shot and killed April 22 in North St. Louis.

Backys, an international student from Lithuania, came to study in the United States in 2001.

Fellow Lithuanians at UM-St. Louis and the community set a goal of raising money to send the Backys' body home to Lithuania.

On Monday, student Rytis Ivoska and alumnus Rokas Varanavicius set up a checking account at the campus UMB Bank to accept donations.

On Tuesday, students collected donations on the MSC bridge. Lithuanian student Rimante Ivoskaite, graduate student, international business, said she was surprised by the outpouring of support from the campus.

"The response we got was really amazing—I know that everyone in [Backys'] family really appreciates the support. It means so much."

A funeral service was held on

Sunday at the Ambruster-Donnelly Mortuary at 6633 Clayton Rd.

Donations are still being sought to pay for the costs of shipping the body of Backys back to Lithuania.

### Three seniors win \$2,500 towards home purchase in Ferguson

The City of Ferguson and UMB Bank awarded three graduating UM-St. Louis seniors \$2,500 each toward buying a home in Ferguson.

The winners, announced on April 20, were Rachel Smith of St. Louis County, Christine Emerit of St. Charles and Renee Clair of St. Louis County.

Clair, senior, nursing, said she was working in Ferguson for a community project for her nursing class. When registering for her program, she signed up for the graduation gift award. "I won because of a homework assignment," Clair said.

Eting will assist seniors in their search for a house. Besides giving them a tour of the city, he said the winners could access the Residential Resource, a listing of homes available in Ferguson.

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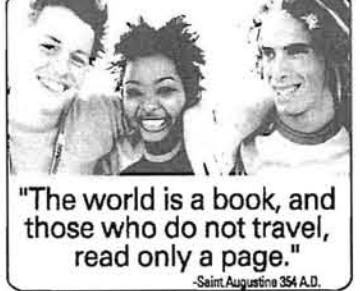
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## OUR OPINION

## Work weary students should plan for summer

Bleary-eyed, coffee-chugging zombies haul jammed bookbags though the hall, oblivious to the warm Spring weather and lure of a fast-approaching summer.

Semester end projects and looming finals have created a thick academic haze at UM-St. Louis. Despite the cloud of impending deadlines, students need to start planning for the warmer months.

The weight of finals often feels like an anchor tied around the neck of students swimming toward graduation. Keep the end in mind during these next few weeks. Start planning a summer vacation right now and allow yourself brief moments of indulgent fantasies about sand and surf. Don't have the luxury of far-off travel this summer? Go camping for a weekend at Lake of the Ozarks.

After the stress and success of a long semester, reward yourself for the work. Use your upcoming trip as an incentive to survive marathon study sessions. For every hour of review, promise yourself an hour dedicated to a summer hobby.

If you're planning to work until next Fall, find a job that you'll enjoy. Money is undeniably important, but working at a high-paying job counting beans won't do much for your sanity. Returning to school with a chronic stress headache will not bode well for the upcoming semester. For non-traditional students, the stretch of work-free months is a faded memory. Bring back that feeling of freedom, even if you do it by spitting watermelon seeds off your back porch or running through the sprinkler once or twice. If you're worried about what the neighbors will think,

think,

make your kids go first or do it during the cover of darkness.

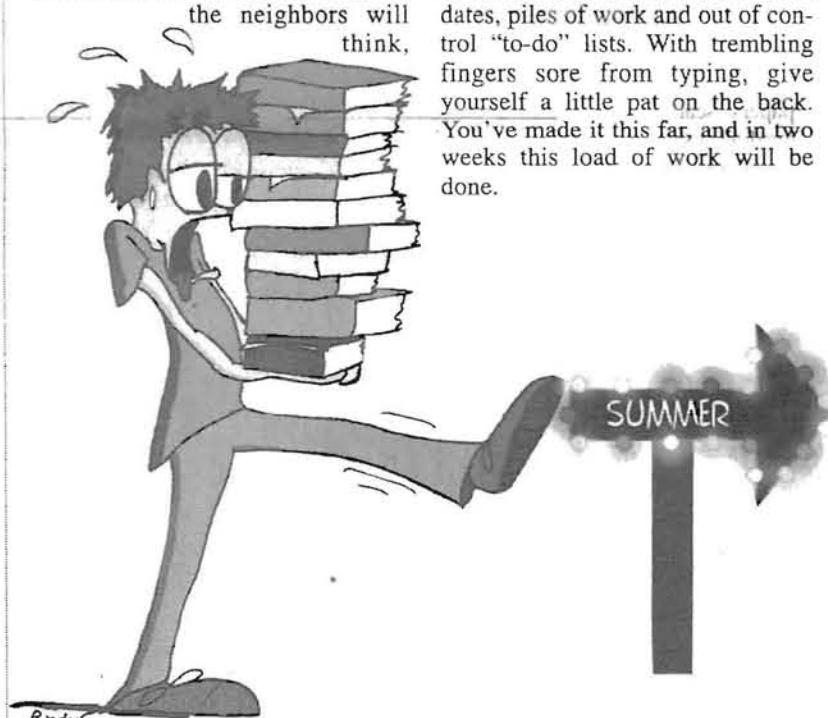
Perhaps you're planning on continuing your education through the summer months. In that case, find a way to manage your time so you don't end up stressed and strung out in August like the well-paid bean counter. Plan mini-vacations or invite friends to visit you during weekends. Take up a bizarre weekend hobby like rock collecting to entertain yourself and take pride in the fact that you will have furthered your education and kept your brain cells in gear.

If your summer schedule includes watching reruns of "The Surreal Life" and "Full House," start thinking about a part-time job or volunteer work. Since about the third week of kindergarten, many of us have welcomed the monotony of June, July and August each year. However, we conveniently forget how mind-numbing watching the ceiling fan can become. Try to accomplish something this summer, and hold no regrets once the novelty of no homework wears off.

If you'll be staying in St. Louis over the next few months, check out some of the local warm weather events. Nature and outdoor enthusiasts can use global positioning system devices to explore county parks. For historic location coordinates and other information about venturing into the woods, visit [www.stlouisco.com/parks](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks).

The annual fourth of July celebration, Fair St. Louis, will feature three days of free festivities downtown.

Back here in the present, most of us are still obsessing over due dates, piles of work and out of control "to-do" lists. With trembling fingers sore from typing, give yourself a little pat on the back. You've made it this far, and in two weeks this load of work will be done.



## Editorial Board

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**BECKY ROSNER**  
**MELISSA McCRARY**  
**PAUL HACKBARTH**  
**PATRICIA LEE**  
**JAMES DAUGHERTY**  
**CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
**MIKE SHERWIN**

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

## LETTERS

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

## What's your opinion?

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

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

- Weary should plan for summer
- EIC job taught tough lessons
- Youth style has changed

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

## Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Photography Associate

Besides text books and paper, what do you need in order to study?



Mark St. George  
Junior  
Mass Communication and Film

I need a coffee, an additional coffee and then a cappuccino.



Phillip Dennis  
Graduate Student  
Philosophy

Total silence. I can't be around loud music, or where sirens are going off all the time, or if people in the apartment above are stomping their feet around.

## EIC job taught valuable lessons

A short year ago, I nervously settled into *The Current's* driver seat. Facing a budget crisis and an enormous weekly undertaking with minimal experience, I felt like I had jumped into the deep end with deflating floaties. A year later, the experience has left me with confidence, memories and a few pearls of wisdom.

I didn't necessarily learn the "hard way," but I did gain knowledge without the benefit of any excuses. The best education comes in merciless lesson plans. My editor-in-chief job description turned me into a work force hybrid. I functioned primarily as a student, yet readers and administrators expected professional, adult behavior. The burden of responsibility made learning a necessity, and every obstacle fit the advanced curriculum.

When animals soil indoor carpeting, experts advise owners to reprove their furry friends immediately. This year I tried to "hit the puppies when they peed." Despite the analogy's unkind tone, I found success by addressing negative issues immediately. The usefulness of my response decreased if I delayed handling a problem. This mantra improved several aspects of my life by warding off the charming procrastination beast.

I have also strived to "eat the pretzels with vengeance." I came to this goofy revelation last year while enjoying a bag of the crunchy snacks. In a situation where I needed to stick up for myself, I decided not to avoid confrontation by offering a fake smile. Instead, I continued to munch and showed my disapproval. While my action wasn't exactly an act of civil disobedience or staunch protest, I adhered to my beliefs and picked my battles.

Conversely, I also learned the value of cooperation. A person can

compromise without compromising her values. The adage, "you catch more flies with honey than vinegar," helped me interact civilly on occasions when I wanted to scream. The ability to listen and integrate ideas effectively plays an important role in success and my job has allowed me to develop that ability.

As a relatively new face in the Student Life crowd, I braced myself for inevitable encounters dealing with controversy. Dealing with difficult incidents became much easier once I realized that in the grand scheme of life, our problems were laughable. Looking at a situation with an objective perspective helps minimize the dramatic intensity that often accompanies dilemmas.

I also used the old stage fright trick to ease my anxiety when dealing with individuals. Picturing people in their underwear might have done more mental damage than improvement, so instead I took the trick's underlying message: everybody wears underwear. Every person heads home after school and work, they all eat dinner, sing in their cars, barbecue on weekends and talk to their mothers on the phone. Job titles aside, we're all people. Discovering this well-guarded secret simplified my mission. Journalism, after all, is about the people. Headlines often focus on events, but no story is complete without the human element.

As editor-in-chief, I've collected countless bits of insight and understanding. To the readers, the administration, the student leaders, my friends, my family, my staff and every story subject, thank you for giving me an unforgettable year.

One crumb of knowledge stands out as infinitely valuable: a person exists behind every suit, business card, byline, phone conversation, press release and email.

## Youth style has radically changed

Walking through the mall this past weekend I found myself amazed at some of the outfits I saw on young girls. What really caught my eye was a young girl; she could not have been over 12-years-old. She was wearing tall, knee-length high heel boots, a short plaid skirt and a black tank top. It is something that I never thought I would see a young girl wearing.

Whatever happened to the stretch pants and Mickey Mouse t-shirts? When did young girls start wearing tube tops and short skirts? It does not seem right to see a 12-year-old wearing the same thing as a 21-year-old. When you are that young, there is no need to show that much skin. There is nothing you can do about it when the parents are buying these types of clothing for their children.

Even the swimsuits show more than they ever did before. You see young girls wearing string bikinis instead of cute little swimsuits with ruffles on them. Basically, the clothing that young girls wear today is smaller versions of the fashions available to teens and women. While the clothing is often "cute," it is unnecessary for a young girl to show off that much skin.

On the other hand, it is really not necessary for anyone to show a lot of skin. Outfits are getting smaller and smaller for women of all ages. When going out to a bar or club women are wearing littler and littler. I do not think it is necessary for anyone to show their stomach when going out. That is what swimsuits are for. Even then, there are one-piece swimsuits that show less than some of the outfits worn today.

It is not just the outfits that I do not



**BECKY ROSNER**  
Managing Editor

understand today. Since I graduated from high school I have gradually noticed changes in today's youth. I see children walking around the mall by themselves more and more. They hardly ever have parents with them and look like they are still in elementary school. I do not think you are mature enough to be somewhere like that by yourself until about junior high to high school. However, it is really up to the parents to decide this.

Another popular trend I have noticed among today's youth is cell phones. When I was around the age 12, cell phones were hardly existent. No one really owned cell phones when I was in junior high or high school.

Probably around my last couple of years of high school is when they became popular.

I do not think that a 12-year-old is mature enough to handle a cell phone. If you are not able to pay the bill you should not have your own cell phone. While it is perfectly understandable why a parent would give their son or daughter their cell phone to call them when a movie is over at the theater, I just do not think it is necessary for a young person to own a cell phone.

I guess that most of all, I have realized how different things are today than they were when I was younger. I suppose this will be the case for everyone when they grow older. I can admit that it may be hard for me to understand some of these issues before I am a parent; it is just different for me. More than anything, I feel that young people today are being raised much differently than we were. Maybe they are more mature, maybe they are simply growing up in a different generation.



Kewanaka Irving  
Senior  
Business Marketing and MOB

I need a clean surface and a lot of space. No distractions from my cell phone or television, but a little noise other than that.



Nancy Meadearis  
Senior  
Psychology

I study best if I'm in the library and I have Internet access.

## SCIENCE COLUMN

**Is nuclear power clean power?**

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-

HOMEYER

Science Columnist

Is nuclear power "clean power?" It depends on how you define "clean."

With Earth Day fresh in memory and gas prices at persistently high levels, everyone is talking about new energy sources.

Geologists tell us we have found most of Earth's easily accessible oil. New big discoveries are becoming less likely and new fields are more often in places harder to reach or more costly to refine. Environmental concerns about global warming and climate change focus on oil in particular. Whether you believe plenty of oil will be found somewhere or think that the days of cheap oil are already gone, looking for new energy sources seems like a good idea.

Energy is a hot topic right now. Finding a replacement for oil poses a problem. We have abundant supplies of coal but coal is a "dirty" fuel. In the nineteenth century, coal was the common fuel, along with wood. Coal is very good at producing heat but it produces a great deal of soot and carbon dioxide. Much of the famous fog of the

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Johnson corrects editorial fact**

While your heart was in the right place applauding Wash U's protest effort, you were misguided. The protesters were protesting low wages for contract workers. Washington University has nothing to do with the pay of contract workers. Contract work

ers are paid by a middle man.

Now, WashU could hire their own workers and take the responsibility of paying their workers and providing health benefits to them. This could mean higher tuition for WashU students. As student senator elect, I do not

find this an interest to UM-St. Louis students, and I would like to concentrate on how we can get UM-St. Louis students involved in politics.

Damien Johnson  
Junior, Criminology

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Student agrees with Stallings**

I am writing in response to M.K. Stallings' commentary [in issue 1152] about the Mirthday concert, which said many of the things that were on my mind last Wednesday as I waited in line at the J.C. Penney building for nearly two hours. Although I wanted to go home and watch "American Idol," I continued to wait with my 12-year-old son, a huge hip-hop fan who had never been to a concert in his life. I had never been inside the auditorium before, so I didn't know how small it was; my political science class in SSB was held in a larger venue. I couldn't believe that the organizers of this event didn't have a better contingency plan than this! They had to know that a free public concert featuring an act as popular as Twista would attract a large crowd, so they

should have made other arrangements. The outdoor setting would have been ideal, but everyone knows that the weather in St. Louis is unpredictable, so plan B should have been to move the concert to the much larger Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The fact that this did not happen says many things about the priorities of this University. Stallings addresses some of them in his commentary, but I was left with more questions than answers. The PAC stated that its ushers were too "geriatric" to work a hip-hop event. Well, the majority of the volunteer ushers at the Fox theater in St. Louis are elderly, but they often have concerts there that attract a young crowd (most recently, Alicia Keys). They also noted that they had an inad-

equate security plan, but I don't understand why they couldn't utilize the B & D staff who provided security at the concert, as well as members of the UM-St. Louis police force.

I suspect, as Stallings does, that the generational gap between the students and the administrators is to blame. I had often wondered why the majority of acts booked at the PAC are not even of my generation, and I'm almost 40. Now that I know the venue is losing money but still refuses to book acts that young people want to see, it is clear that UM-St. Louis students will continue to pay for a state-of-the-art facility that will never cater to their interests.

Roz Gomez  
Senior, Spanish and Education

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**"Good deed" leads to bad ending**

My wife worked for the University of Missouri Behavioral Health in California, Mo., as a Community Support Specialist until today, because she was fired. Fired not because she was inadequate at her job, but because she dared to question whether she should report a "federal" crime.

Carolyn had a client who confessed to breaking into the Federal Post Office in Latham, Mo. After hearing this confession, Carolyn attempted to reach her immediate supervisor but was unable to as it was after 6:30 p.m. She came home, explained her situation and asked me for my advice. I told my wife that it was my opinion that if she failed to report the crime then she could be considered an accessory after the fact, but was not sure if I was correct. The following day I called an FBI friend of mine in the Kansas City office and was unable to reach him, so I contacted the Jefferson City FBI. I explained the situation to the agent without giving any identifying information about the person, and the agent stated that he would

check into the matter and get back to me. In checking into it he would be required to contact Moniteau County Sheriffs to determine if there had been an actual break in. The agent called me back later in the day and told me that according to the Moniteau County Sheriff's Department there had been no break in at the Latham post office.

Apparently a member of the Moniteau County Sheriff's Department decided to take matters into his own hands by proceeding to contact my wife's boss, the same person who had told my wife that according to legal counsel with the University of Missouri the communication (confession) was privileged and she could not call the police. Her boss contacted the FBI himself and attempted to ascertain where the Moniteau Department member had gotten the information. He then went about getting my wife fired for allegedly violating patient/client privilege.

Upon discovering that my wife had been terminated I contacted the Board of the Healing Arts only to discover that

it was in fact my wife's duty to report the crime and that she had been mislead, I then looked up the Missouri Statute 337.636 that requires any licensed person to disclose information when it pertains to a crime.

I contacted the University lawyers who told me that despite what I had read, they disagreed and my wife would remain fired.

Should my wife be punished and lose her job because she did the right thing? This person committed a federal offense; why does my wife have to suffer because she did what she thought was best? She did not even call the police. When she could not get in touch with her supervisor, she asked the advice of her husband. It was I who contacted the FBI, not my wife, and I gave no identifying information but simply asked a question in an attempt to protect my wife. In this country this should not happen.

Timothy Divers

I was running low on money and my internship didn't pay, so I decided to go inside and apply for a job. I had never worked in a restaurant before, but I figured I could just wing it.

"I'm an actor," I told myself. "This will be my first real acting job in New

## INTERN DIARIES

**Gary gets a 'reality check' and finds his place in the Big Apple**

GARY SOHN

New York Correspondent

York."

I walked in and approached a lady behind the cash register. I told her that I wanted to talk to someone about applying for a job. A tall Italian guy named Joey who was built like Tony Soprano came out and asked me if I had ever worked in an Italian Restaurant.

"Yes," I lied. "I worked at a place called 'Pizza and Pasta' in St. Louis, Missouri." As far as I know, no such place exists.

Joey then turned to Thomaso, the owner, and asked him, "I don't know, Pop, what you think? Should we give him a try?"

In a thick Italian accent, Thomaso asked, "Junior, you know what the dishes look like? Cause the customers tell you what they want and you got to know, Capice?"

"I know Italian food," I replied.

Joey handed me a menu with over a hundred Italian dishes and asked me if I knew what some of them were. He pointed to "veal and broccoli" and I said, "that's baby beef and a vegetable."

"Pop, I think he knows what he's talkin' about. Let's give him a chance," Joey said.

After getting the father's blessing, I took the menu home to memorize. I would start the next day.

On my way home from the restaurant, I noticed three guys standing around a body lying upside down on the steps of a nearby church. As I crossed to the opposite side of the street and watched from behind a tree, one of them asked, "Hey

"

On my way home, I noticed three guys standing around a body lying upside down on the steps of a nearby church. As I crossed to the opposite side of the street and watched from behind a tree, one of them asked 'Hey man, you alright?' as they poked the body with their feet. No response.

"

man, you alright? Are you okay?" as they poked the body with their feet. No response. After a few minutes they walked off. I approached the steps to see if the guy was alive.

"Because there's no fax tray yet," I replied.

"No. We have a fax tray. It's because you haven't installed it yet."

Apparently someone at Rico had gotten my message and placed the order. Instead of doing it himself, Cheese Stick instructed me to fix the tray and clean up the mess.

"You did a good job man," he said. "We've been without a fax tray for a long time and no one else has been able to find me another one."

I felt proud after Cheese Stick complimented me. Okay, so I still didn't really care for him, but it felt good to finally hear his approval.

After work, my fellow interns Bob, Lauren and I celebrated. As I walked down 44th street heading home, I found myself caught in the middle of a sea of people hovering around the Belasco Theater.

It was the opening night of Julius Caesar with Denzel Washington playing Brutus. Police officers had set up metal barricades outside of the entrance. I walked into the street, weaving around people, when cameras began flashing. Numerous arms were stretched in the air holding camera phones.

Denzel Washington, wearing a black and white "NY" cap, came out of the Belasco Theatre entrance and stood behind the barricades. He waved to the crowd, shook hands and signed autographs. I was caught in the crowd and pushed towards the barricade. I didn't get a chance to shake Denzel's hand, but I was close enough to touch him if I had tried. He seemed very nice and hung out with the crowd for at least an hour. Finally I had to catch the bus home.

When I arrived in Maspeth, I started walking home. Along the way I noticed an Italian restaurant with a sign on the door that said, "Help wanted. Experience Only."

I was running low on money and my internship didn't pay, so I decided to go inside and apply for a job. I had never worked in a restaurant before, but I figured I could just wing it.

"I'm an actor," I told myself. "This will be my first real acting job in New

York not only for the chance to do an internship at NBC. In St. Louis, I had failed in all aspects of my life: professional, educational and personal. I left St. Louis with nothing to be happy about. To be quite honest, I was depressed, deeply depressed. I was crazy coming to a city with no place to stay and no job that paid.

But I needed a challenge in my life; I needed a fresh breath of air. I found out that I will be training the interns at NBC this summer. I also have a chance to work in Italy during the Olympics in February.

I've learned that when life is not going the right way, sometimes what you really need is a change of scenery.

with some of the EMT women as the lifeless body with a neck brace was lifted into an ambulance on a stretcher.

After a while, a detective approached and asked us questions. We were later informed that the guy wasn't dead. His body had shut down because he had too much to drink. The detective informed us that we were free to go.

As I started walking home that guy who repeated the same questions started following me. I stopped and tied my shoe and noticed that he stopped and waited for me. I started walking slow hoping that he would walk ahead of me, but instead he changed his pace so he matched my stride.

"How long you been in New York?" he asked.

"Not long," I said.

"Reality check."

"What?" I asked, confused.

"Reality check," he repeated.

My unwanted companion started to get even weirder.

He began chanting, "Blessed be the God, go away."

I told the guy I didn't want any trouble and that he should go his way and I'd go mine.

"What, are you scared?" he asked.

"No. Concerned," I said.

He stopped in the middle of the sidewalk and repeated, "Blessed be the God, go away. Blessed be the God, go away. Blessed be the..."

I walked faster and kept looking over my shoulder to see if he was following me. I saw him pull a metal wire from under his sleeve as he continued, "Blessed be the God, go away."

I turned the corner and ran home. I went up to my room, locked the door and turned out the lights. I stood by the window watching to see if he had followed me. After an hour of not seeing anyone passing by the house, I decided it was safe to turn my light back on.

I laid on the hardwood floor and began studying the restaurant menu. I took out my dictionary and looked up some of the dishes. I had been raised on McDonalds and frozen pizzas, so I am not exactly a connoisseur when it comes to food that doesn't have a clown endorsing it or the name "Tombstone" embossed under plastic.

The next day I went to work and was excited to hear a message from my agent. He had a part for me in the new Mel Brooks movie version of "The Producers." He said all I needed was a picture of me in a tux.

I didn't own one but figured I could just rent one. As I began googling for tuxedo rentals in the Manhattan area, Cheese Stick entered my office and began yelling.

Enough was enough. This would be my final conflict with Cheese Stick. Soon the tables would be reversed. I would report his actions and he would have to change his ways. No more terrorizing interns.

Later people in the sports department would praise my courage. One exec actually said, "That guy has balls. That's what we need: more people like Gary who brings morals to this department." Most would appreciate my David and Goliath struggle which eventually humbled Cheese Stick.

But most exciting of all, later I would find myself acting in a scene with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, other well-known actors in TV pilots and a couple of popular running shows like "Law & Order."

I bought a one-way ticket to New York not only for the chance to do an internship at NBC. In St. Louis, I had failed in all aspects of my life: professional, educational and personal. I left St. Louis with nothing to be happy about. To be quite honest, I was depressed, deeply depressed. I was crazy coming to a city with no place to stay and no job that paid.

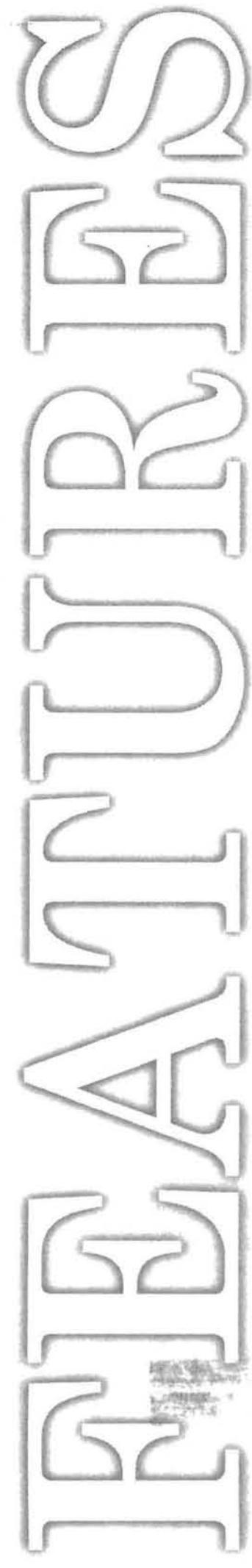
But I needed a challenge in my life; I needed a fresh breath of air. I found out that I will be training the interns at NBC this summer. I also have a chance to work in Italy during the Olympics in February.

I've learned that when life is not going the right way, sometimes what you really need is a change of scenery.

**Meet 2005-2006 Editor-in-Chief Mike Sherwin**

Look for his first issue on racks June 13, 2005





# Students get in shape for summer

BY MAEGHAN BROWN  
Staff Writer

While summer approaches many students may begin to think about how they are going to look in a bathing suit or summer attire. Although going to the park for a jog or hitting a pool to do a few laps might be an option for some, others might resort to St. Louis area fitness clubs.

The UM-St. Louis fitness center is located in the Mark Twain Building. This fitness facility provides a variety of routines for students. From swimming, to lifting weights, to cardio, students can find a work-out routine right on campus. One benefit of working out on campus is that the center is free to all enrolled students. For campus hours, log onto [www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/facilitieshours.htm](http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/facilitieshours.htm).

Shae Williams, UM-St. Louis campus rec office assistant, said, "Students can sponsor one person who does not attend the University per semester, though that person must be with the student while using the facilities."

Besides the facilities located on campus there are numerous fitness clubs all around town.

Gold's Gym has five locations-one in Ballwin, in downtown St. Louis, in Maryland Heights, at the Concord Plaza in St. Louis and in Westport. Gold's Gym originated in Venice, Calif. in 1965 and soon became the "Mecca" of body building. Now the gym can be found all over the world. Located in 43 states and 25 countries, the gym has all the latest state of the art equipment. To join just go to a Gold's Gym or log on to [www.goldsgym.com](http://www.goldsgym.com) and find out about their rates and if they have a college membership.

Bally Total Fitness is located in St. Ann, St. Charles, Dorsett, Clayton and Crestwood. The club right now is offering a \$19 trial for 30 days. The club offers a four month college membership, from May 1 to August 31. Bally's has a total of three different



Students interested in getting fit can join a number of local gyms, including the Brentwood YMCA (pictured).

college memberships. With the Bally Total Fitness Membership, students access any of their 400 clubs for \$144. With The Bloomfield Hill, Mich. Membership students can visit their flagship club in Bloomfield Hills Mich. plus all of their gyms nationwide for \$200. Another membership option available to students is the Bally Sports Clubs Membership. With this membership students can use their sports clubs and fitness nationwide for \$236.

Women who would rather have a workout environment designed just for ladies can join New Lady Fitness. There are seven locations including

O'Fallon, North St. Louis, St. Peters, Warson Woods, Fairview Heights, Ill., South County and Hampton Village. This club offers many different fitness training classes and one-on-one consultations with trainers. New Lady Fitness offers cardio equipment, weights, treadmills, kick-boxing courses, spin classes and yoga sessions.

For those looking for a more family oriented work-out facility, the YMCA might be an option. There are over 19 locations of the YMCA in the St. Louis area. Along with adult fitness and weight loss programs and equipment, YMCA also has summer camps

and programs for children. More information about YMCA can be found at [www.ymca.com](http://www.ymca.com).

Students who want to work out, but do not think that they have time in their hectic lives can join a fitness club with more convenient hours such as 24-Hour Fitness or Club Fitness. 24 Hour Fitness is open 24-hours, seven days a week. Located in St. Charles, St. Ann, Chesterfield and Arnold, this club will meet students' needs any time of the day.

Sarah Denson, senior, nursing, said, "I work out when I can, though if the campus fitness center was open late or if I lived right by a 24-Hour Fitness, I

would work out all the time."

The cost of joining fitness clubs can vary. Some fitness centers can be very expensive, while others offer student discounts and specials. The only way to find what is suitable to a person's exercise needs and budget is to look and see what is out there.

While some students prefer using the campus fitness center, others might want to join a gym. As the spring semester comes to an end and swim-suit season approaches, fitness clubs throughout St. Louis can be beneficial to one's health. Students can shed those winter pounds by joining a gym of their choice.

## Health Services teaches students about diabetes

BY MAEGHAN BROWN  
Staff Writer

Many people live day to day without knowing that they have diabetes. The UM-St. Louis Health Services has created a new diabetes program, set to begin in the fall semester, that will help educate and make students aware of this disease.

There are two types of diabetes, type I and type II. Type I diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas produces too little insulin to regulate blood sugar levels appropriately. Type II diabetes is a chronic disease that results when the body's insulin does not work effectively. Insulin is a hormone released by the pancreas in response to increased levels of blood sugar (glucose) in the blood.

According to Katy Castulik, UM-St. Louis health educator, diabetes strikes nearly 800,000 Americans a year, and approximately 16 million Americans have diabetes and one third do not even know it. Castulik calls diabetes the "silent killer."

Denial, fear, anger, guilt, sadness, frustration, relief, hope and adaptation are some reactions that

one diagnosed with diabetes may experience. A diabetic can jump from one emotion to the next until reaching adaptation.

"It takes a team to help a person with diabetes. From doctors to families and friends, everyone involved can help a diabetic cope with their needs," Castulik said.

A diabetic must keep their blood glucose at just the right level. When

“  
It takes a team to help a person with diabetes. From doctors to families and friends, everyone involved can help a diabetic cope with their needs.  
—Kathy Castulik  
Health Educator

testing before meals the target level must be between 80-140, and an hour or two after meals it should be

between 100-180. If the levels are not where they should be, the results can be deadly.

Testing blood glucose level regularly and keeping a record of the results are two things a person can do to manage diabetes. These practices can help lower the chances of developing long-term health problems.

Left untreated, diabetes can cause health problems like heart disease, nerve damage, kidney problems, gum disease, fatigue, increase in urination, wounds can take longer to heal and can lead to various diseases in the eyes.

The diabetes program will educate students on how to cope with diabetes, when to test, how to eat and how to exercise and take care of their bodies. UM-St. Louis Health Services will provide students with free education and group meetings every week. The student will receive a packet to help them manage their diabetes.

Isabelle Mertha, graduate student, information systems, said, "I do not know too much about diabetes, though I think having a school program to educate students about diabetes is a great new program."



A UM-St. Louis Health Services information board displays images of gangrene forming on a foot of a diabetic. Individuals often do not realize they have the disease until they are tested.

## Feigenbaum introduces finance and film

### New classes focus on economics and entertainment

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Staff Writer

benefit students in all aspects of study and will be counted towards a student's degree, but not towards a major in economics.

"This is a great class for English majors, political science, business, history and communication students to see different aspects or for those who just want a new way to look at how economics are used in other businesses," Feigenbaum said.

Feigenbaum will be teaching the Economics 1500: Entertainment Economics: The Movie Industry course throughout the 2005 fall semester, while Professor Don Kridel will teach the Economics 1510: Entertainment Economics: The Popular Music Industry course during the 2006 winter semester.

The movie industry course will emphasize production, distribution and the exhibition of films. Students will spend the majority of this course discussing and viewing films to study the role of technological change, foreign trade, financing, the divergence of the studio system, globalization and how film marketing has changed over

time. "We will meet in class once a week, discuss the business of the movie industry and various factors and the other half of this course will be spent viewing movies and filling out worksheets about different economic concepts and how they are applied in these movies," Feigenbaum said.

The movies that students will be viewing include: "Cheaper By the Dozen" (original version), "Wall Street," "Office Space," "Chinatown," "Network," "Zoolander," "Sense and Sensibility," "The Aviator," Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times," "Grapes of Wrath," and "The Fountainhead."

Students will be expected to view the films outside of class or attend certain film screenings on campus.

Feigenbaum said that the department is committed to demonstrating to students that economics is all around them, in what they see and do and even in the entertainment industry.

According to the course description for Economics 1510: Entertainment

Economics: The Popular Music

Industry, "this course will explore the impact of economic factors on the rise and fall of the independent labels,

for plays are done and property rights with downloading music such as the issue with Napster," Kridel said. "The other part of this course will be listening to music and taking lyrics out of songs and describing how they relate to economics."

Kridel said that this is the first time that the Department of Economics has offered these types of courses.

Since these courses are open to all students and count as a general education course or as an elective, both professors believe these courses will attract many different students.

Feigenbaum said that one of the goals with these courses is to build a bridge between the Fine Arts Department, the Department of Economics and the Department of Communication.

## the week's best bets

Mon. May 2  
Casino Night

\$5.00 Admission for casino games. Dress in your best flapper attire. Program runs from 7-10 p.m. in the Pilot House. Call Jeanne Patrick 516-962 for more info.

Tues. May 3  
Stress Relief  
Massages

Need a break from studying for exams? Register for your free 10 min. back rub! Times are in 15 minute increments. You must register in advance.

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## UMSL says goodbye

**Julius Backys**  
International student from Lithuania was shot and killed April 22 in North St. Louis. Backys was 21.



**Mike Sampson**  
KWMU radio's host of "St. Louis on the Air" and "Cityscape" died in January of a heart attack due to complications from diabetes. Sampson was 53.



**Stephanie DeGuire**  
Transfer student from Truman State University, DeGuire was a senior in finance set to graduate with a 3.8 GPA. She died from pneumonia, a complication of cystic fibrosis, in October.



**Ling Li**  
33-year-old doctoral candidate in education was killed in a car accident in August. Li served as treasurer for the UM-St. Louis Chinese Student Association - Mainland. Her dissertation was under professor Kathleen Sullivan Brown.



UPB's 'The Art of Kissing'  
March 2005.



SGA Campaigning and election  
turmoil, Spring 2004.



Better Than Ezra, Mirthday 2004.



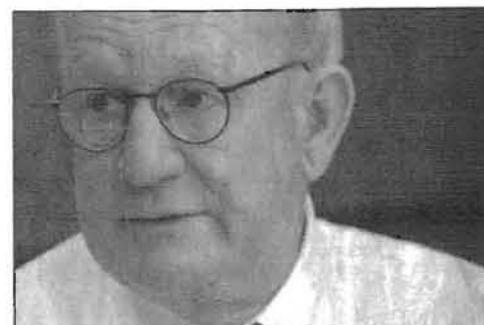
Homecoming Week, March  
2005.



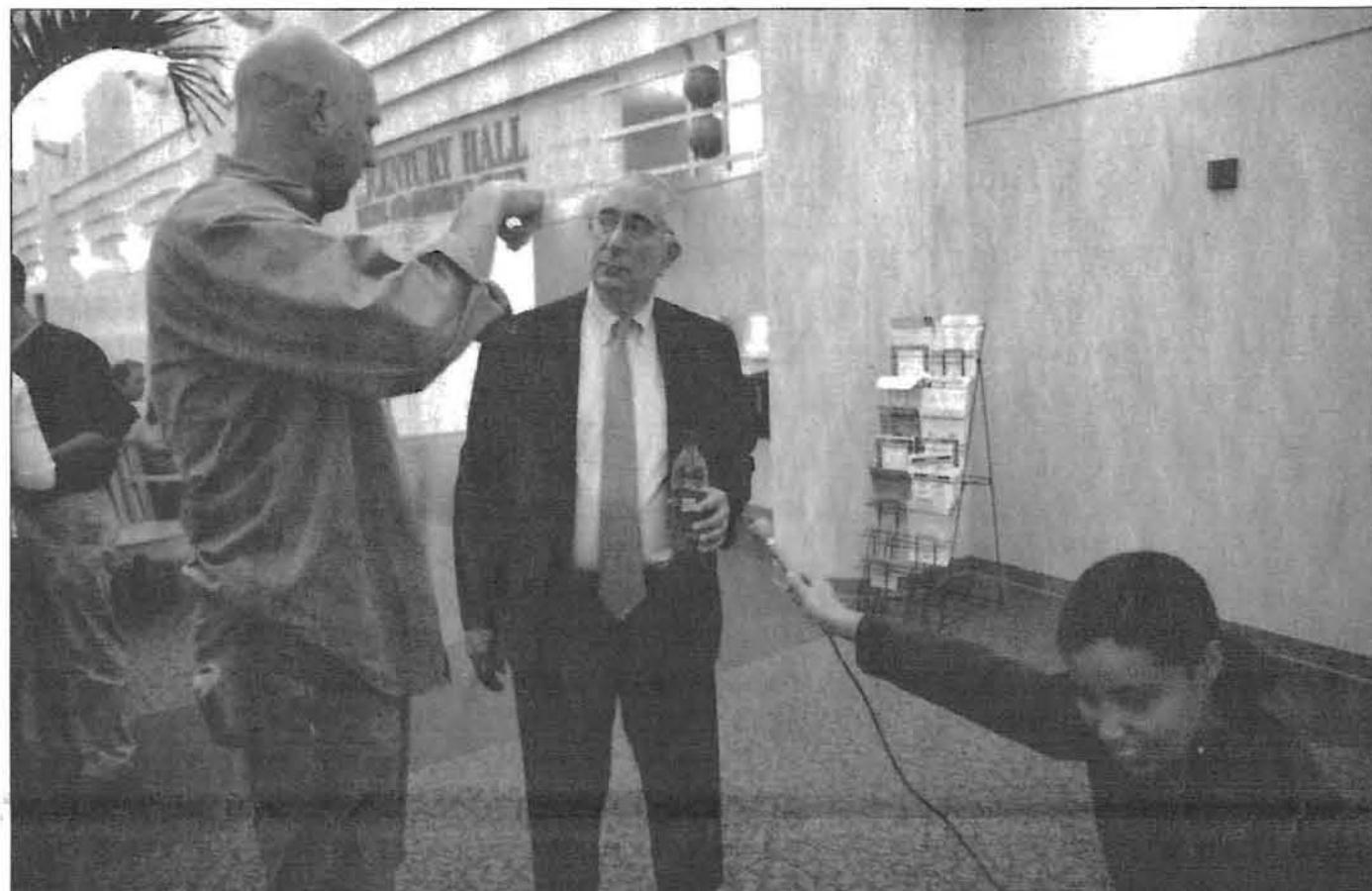
# The Year

**RIGHT:**

Vice chancellor for University Relations Dixie Kohn speaks with a reporter about financial problems at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The center faced substantially higher debt from its first year of operation than had been anticipated.



**ABOVE:**  
Chancellor Thomas George gets congratulations from UM System President Elson Floyd during George's formal inauguration in March 2004 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.



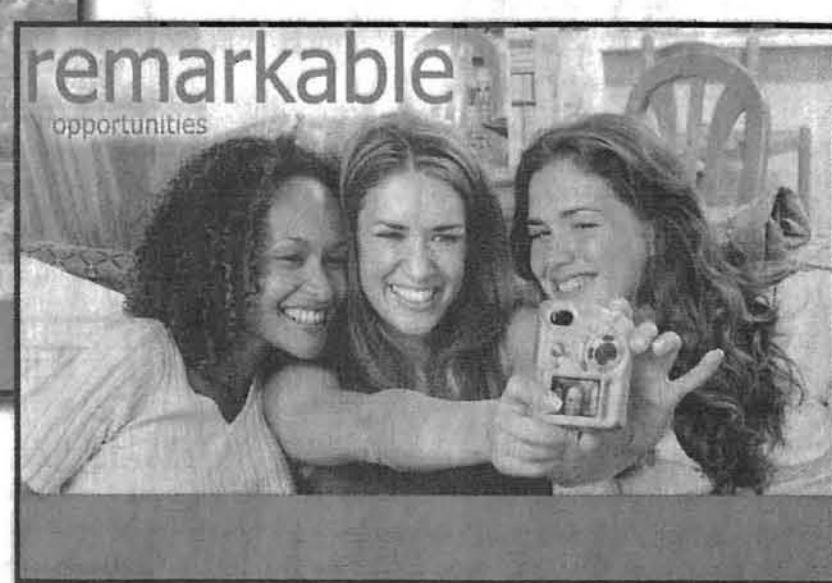
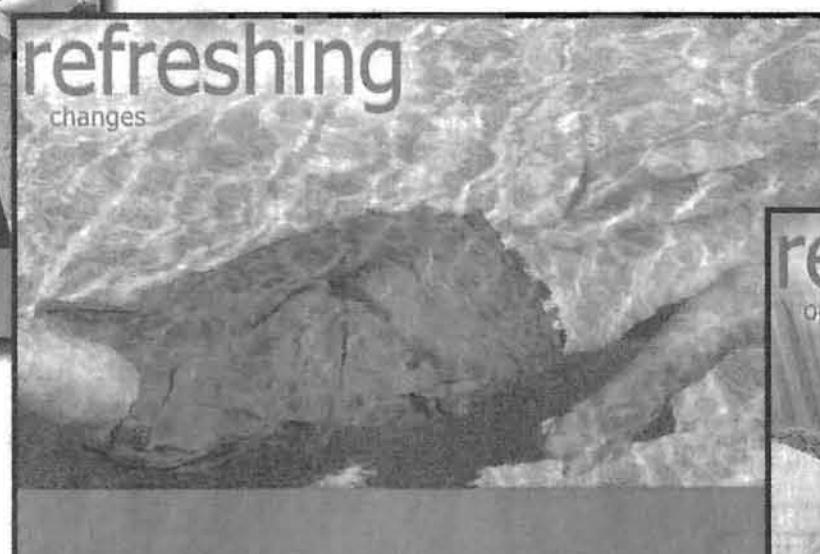
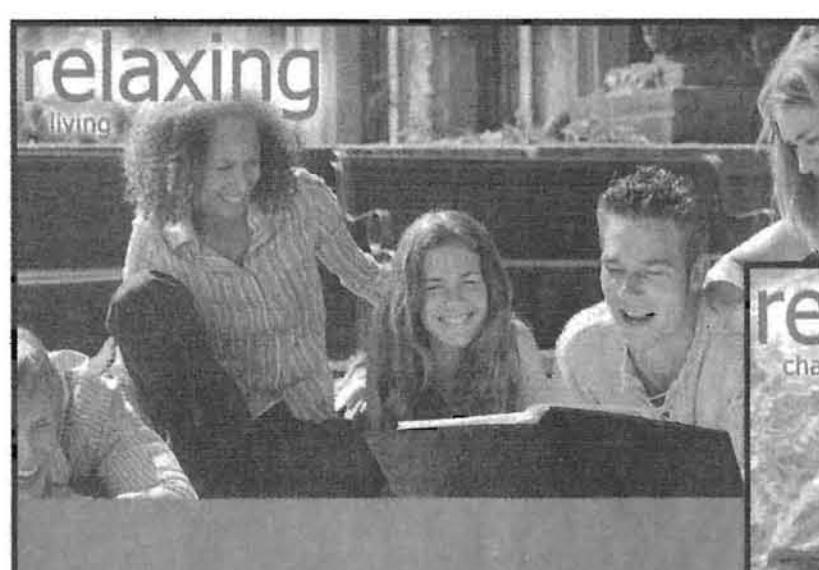
**LEFT:**  
Actor, humorist and game show host Ben Stein speaks with criminology professor David Klinger before Stein's lecture in November 2004.

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Volunteer service at 'The Big Event,' April, 2004.



Karaoke with student government, Spring 2004.

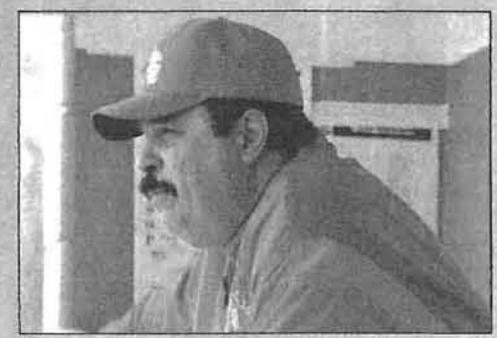


Staggenborg, Braddix and Dodd campaign for SGA presidency, 2005.



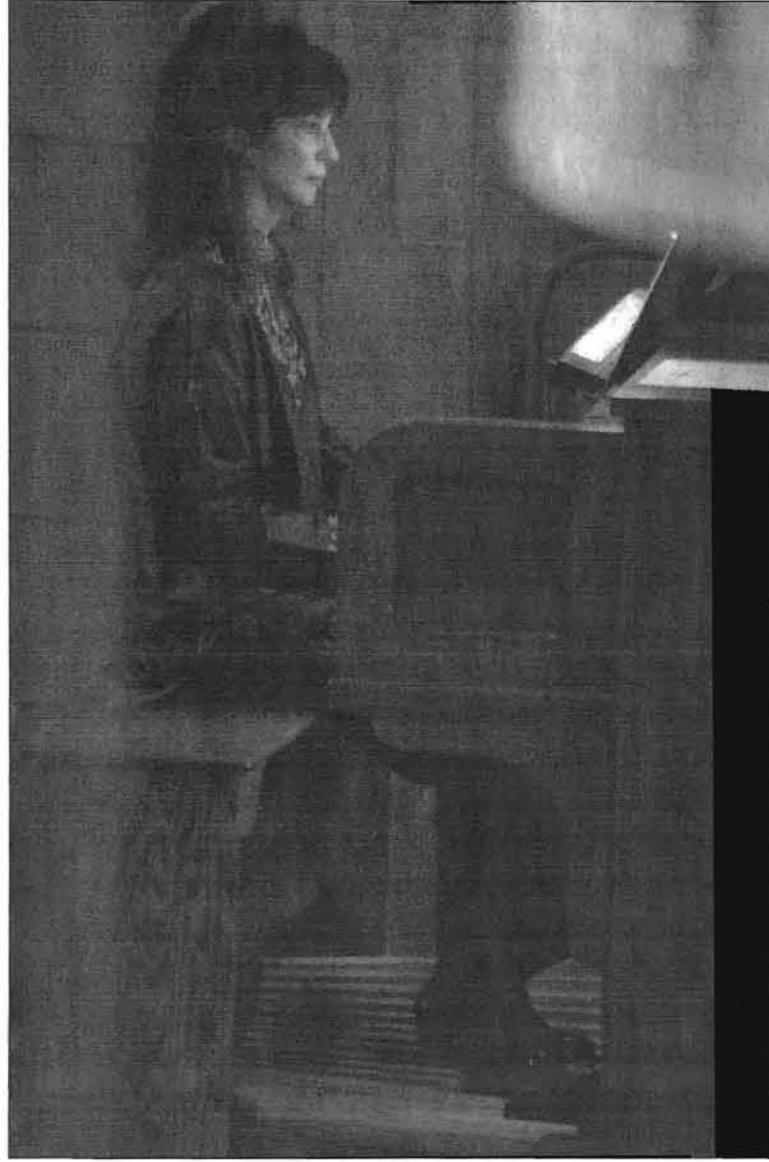
Twista performs at Mirthday, April 2005.

## UMSL Headlines



Rivermen Baseball Head Coach Jim Brady made the news in January after earning his court victory against the University over an age discrimination lawsuit. The jury decided on a \$2.7 million judgment against the University and mandated reinstatement of the coach to full-time status.

# in Review



'Women in the Arts' was the buzz for the past year. Barbara Harbach (shown above performing on the Provincial House chapel's organ), professor of music, initiated the program, which has enlivened the campus with the music, dance, writing and visual arts by women on and off campus.



Elizabeth Edwards brings the presidential race to UM-St. Louis in September 2005.



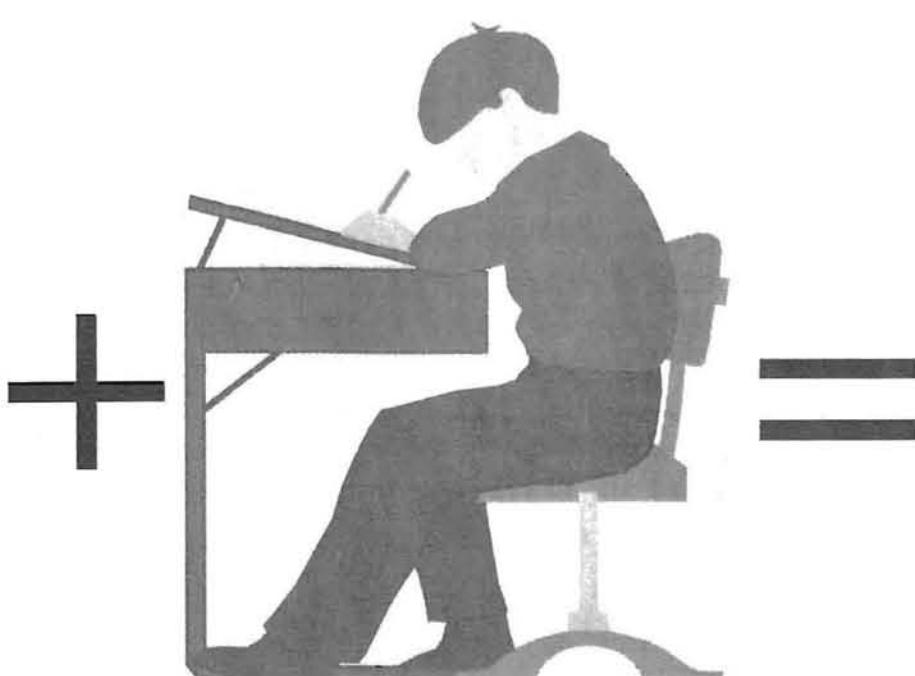
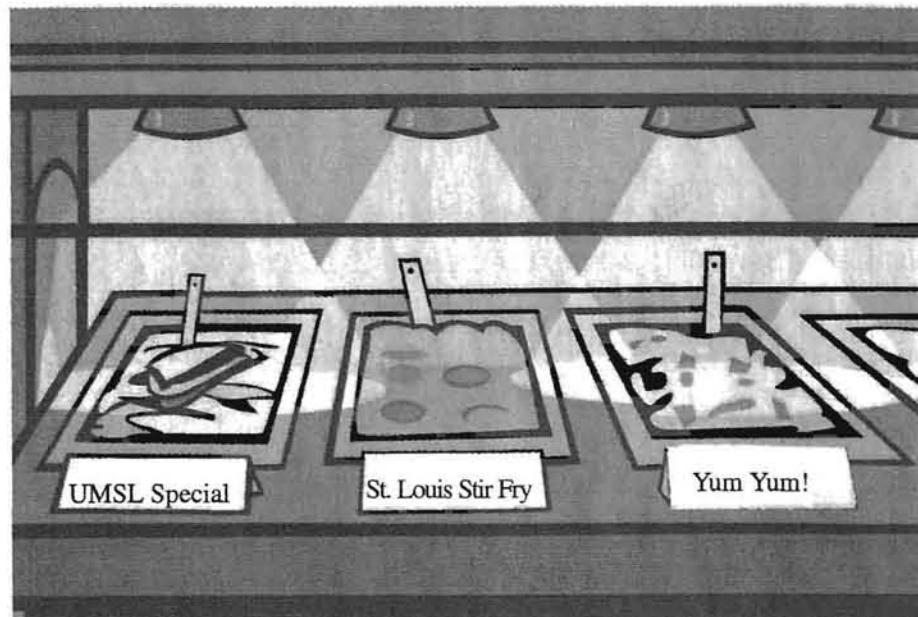
Goodbye, Garage D...Hello MSC Lakes. UM-St. Louis demolished the deteriorating Garage D, which had been around for over 25 years. A new parking lot and two new lakes took its place. The garage was taken down in April, 2004.



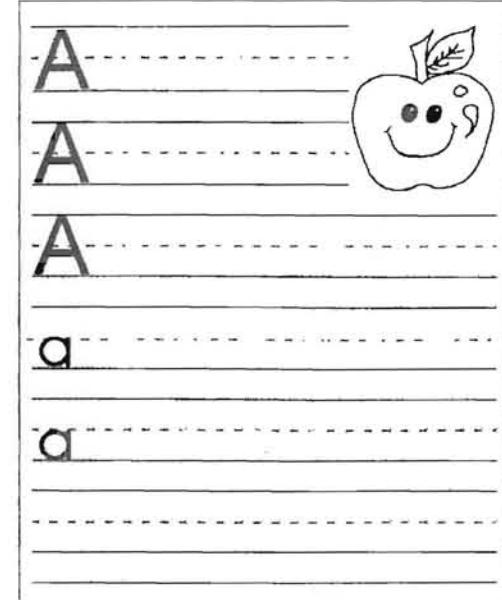
In December, UM-St. Louis received national attention when a degree was conferred via satellite at the winter graduation to student Keith Lucas, a national guardsman serving in Iraq. CNN, National Public Radio and the Associated Press all ran stories about Lucas' graduation.

## Student Appreciation Buffet

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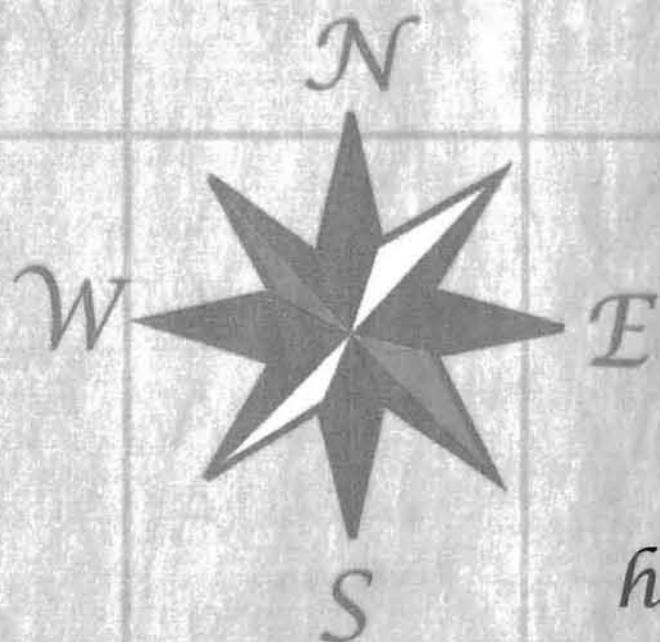
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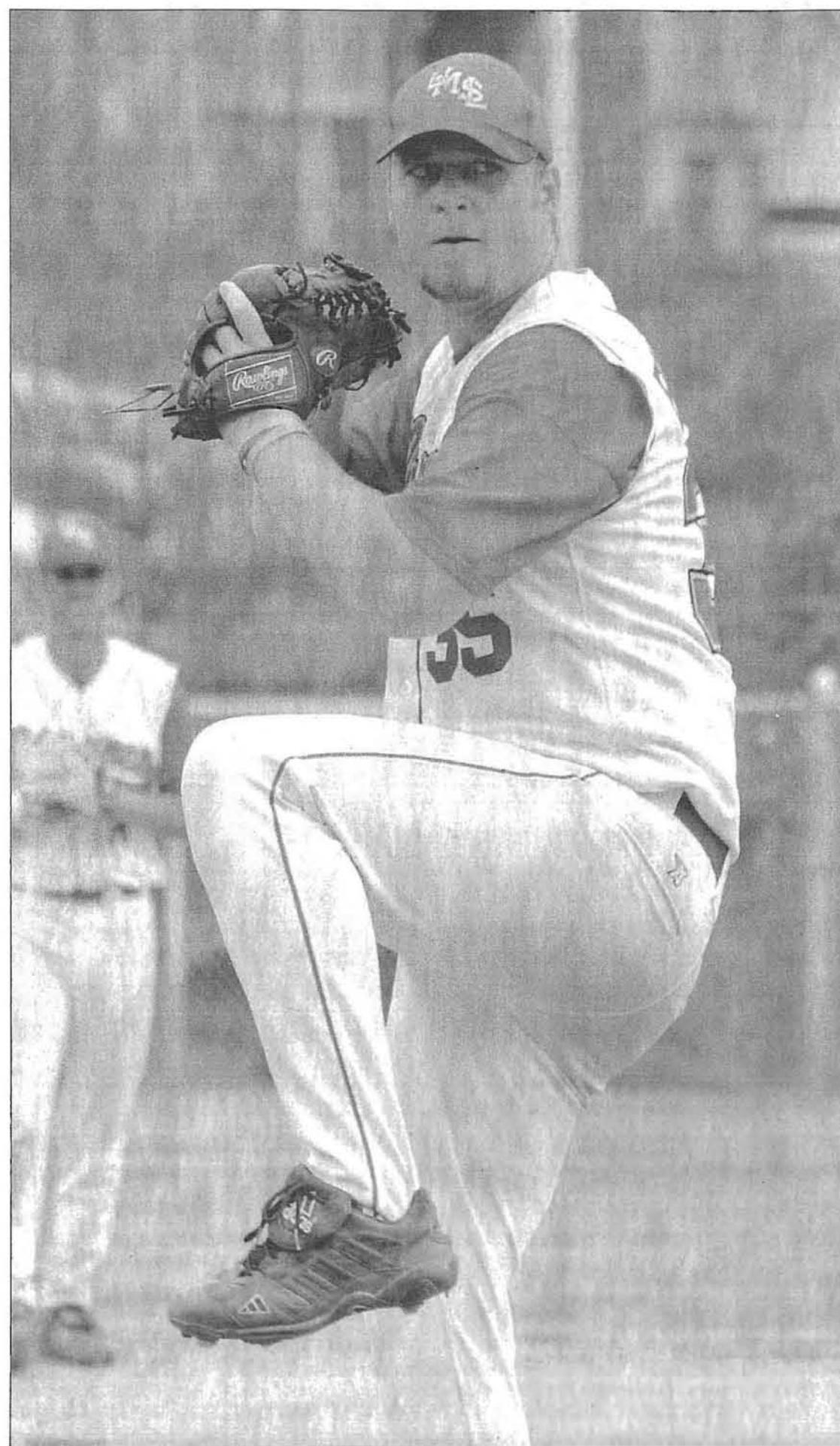


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Rivermen starting pitcher Blake Burnside winds up for a throw on Wednesday against Quincy University. Burnside pitched six innings during the first game of a doubleheader, and made six strikeouts and allowed two runs.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

## Riverwomen softball nabs spot in conference tournament

BY DAVE SECKMAN

Staff Writer

In the last eight games the Riverwomen have finally started to play up to potential and just in time to secure a spot in the conference tournament at the end of the season. Over the eight-game stretch the team took on conference foe St. Joseph's, and then moved on to Truman State. After playing four great games they then played another four against UM-Rolla and conference rivals Kentucky Wesleyan to cap off the series.

Before the St. Joseph's games things were not going too well for the softball team as they know that to get into the conference tournament they had to win 3 out of the next four games. In the first game with St. Joseph's, the Riverwomen won 6-4. They got a go ahead RBI single from Kim Kulaitis in the first inning for a quick lead.

Kulaitis then had a two-run triple in the second and scored on a sacrifice fly by Lisa Neukirch for a 4-0 lead.

They would add two more insurance runs in the top of the sixth, which proved to be important as St. Joseph's scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth, but the Pumas could not manage to get any more and the Riverwomen would win 6-4. In the second game, UM-St. Louis was limited

to just four hits in the game and although they only gave up a single run in the entire game, it was one too many as they lost 1-0 on an unearned run with two outs in the last inning.

After playing St. Joseph's the team got a breather from conference play as they played two series, the first against Truman State University and the second against soon-to-be conference foe UM-Rolla. In the first two games against Truman State the Riverwomen came out firing on all cylinders. They took a huge 6-1 lead to start the game and would not look back as their defense closed out the 6-2 victory for their second win in the last three.

In the second game however, it was their offense's turn to step up to the plate, as they needed a late rally to get back into the game. The Riverwomen waited until late to get their runs in the second game, as neither team could score after five complete innings. It was not until the bottom of the sixth inning that the Riverwomen finally got their chance to shine as they scored a solid three runs to take a lead that would be finalized in the seventh by a well-pitched performance from sophomore Emily Wagoner.

Pitcher Casey Moran commented on the games. "We felt that if we could do well in the Truman State games, it would carry over into the final few weeks

of the season. We did all of the things we needed to do and played well enough to get both of the wins," said Moran.

Although Moran was right about how well they had played, the momentum had to wait until a few games later as they only managed to get a combined five runs in two games at UM-Rolla as they lost both by the scores of 8-3 and 4-2.

After two tough loses against UM-Rolla it was back to reality for the Riverwomen as they faced up against Kentucky Wesleyan in two pivotal conference games that could either see the team into the playoffs or send them home. In the first game, the Riverwomen left no doubt as to whom the better team was as they crushed Wesleyan by the commanding score of 10-3. The team would score in five of the first six innings to secure the victory and head into the final game showdown that, if they won, would see them into the post-season.

In the final game of the series, it took the team a dramatic finish to get the result that they had been looking for all season, as they won by the score of 3-2 in the eighth inning of play. In the bottom of the seventh UM-St. Louis would tie the game up at 2-2, to send the game into extra innings, and in the bottom of the eighth, it would be senior Kristen Economou who would drive the ball into left field to bring home the game-winning run. With

## Losing streak goes on for Rivermen

Team has lost four in a row three times this season

BY DAVE SECKMAN

Staff Writer

As the season is coming to an abrupt close things have not yet begun to look good for the Rivermen, who have had an uphill battle all season. The Rivermen baseball program is in its worst slump in over twenty years as they just dropped four games in a row for the third time this season.

In the first pair of games the Rivermen took on conference rival Southern Indiana. The Rivermen have not lost two in a row to Southern Indiana for four seasons now and were hoping to get at least a split, but it was not to be. Southern Indiana took the early lead in the first game with two runs in the third inning, and they then added to that lead with three more in the fifth inning for a 5-0 lead.

After a single run in the sixth and two more in the seventh, Southern Indiana was already leading 8-0 before the Rivermen could even crack the scoreboard. With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, the Rivermen got a walk and a base hit, followed by a two-run double by team member Tony Soaib. It was not nearly enough to get back into the game as the Rivermen would go on to lose by the score of 8-2 in the opener.

The second game was not much better as the Rivermen got nearly the same result. As the Rivermen have done all season, they started the second game with the first run of the game in the first inning. As usual, the Rivermen then gave the lead back to Southern Indiana giving back a single run in the fourth, and then two runs in the sixth inning for a 3-1 hole. The Rivermen were able to cut into that lead in the seventh as Mark Sanders crushed a double to centerfield, and after two walks loaded the bases. Another batter drew a walk to force Sanders across the plate to make it a 3-2 game. As usual, the Rivermen could not stick in the game as Southern Indiana then exploded with four runs in the top of the ninth for the 7-2 win. Despite the good effort the Rivermen could not hang on once again.

Outfielder Mark Sanders commented on the series. "We have gotten leads early all season and have just given them away. It is hard to understand, we have a lot of talent, but right now we are not getting it done the way we should be," said Sanders.

After a disappointing two games versus Southern Indiana, the team matched up against conference leading Wisconsin-Parkside for two games and they turned out much as the previous two had. Wisconsin-Parkside held the Rivermen scoreless in the opening game. The Rangers got two runs in the second inning on two RBI singles, and added an extra run in the fourth on another RBI single for the 3-0 win. One of the bright spots in the game was Rivermen player Derek Becker who went 3-for-3 in the game, collecting three of the Rivermen's five total hits.

Things would not get any better for the Rivermen in the final game as they were outplayed for the majority of the game. Rivermen outfielder Josh Morgan got the Rivermen on the board in the first inning with a two-run home run, his team-leading ninth home run of the season. The Rivermen added to that lead with another RBI hit from Morgan in the third inning for a 3-0 lead, but Wisconsin-Parkside quickly gained the lead in the bottom half of the third with four runs and they added a single run in the fifth and blew the game open with four more runs in the seventh for a 9-3 lead. Rivermen player Tom Anderson made it interesting with a two-run home run of his own in the eighth inning, but the game was quickly ended in the ninth by the Rangers, as they would score six runs to end the game at the score of 15-5.

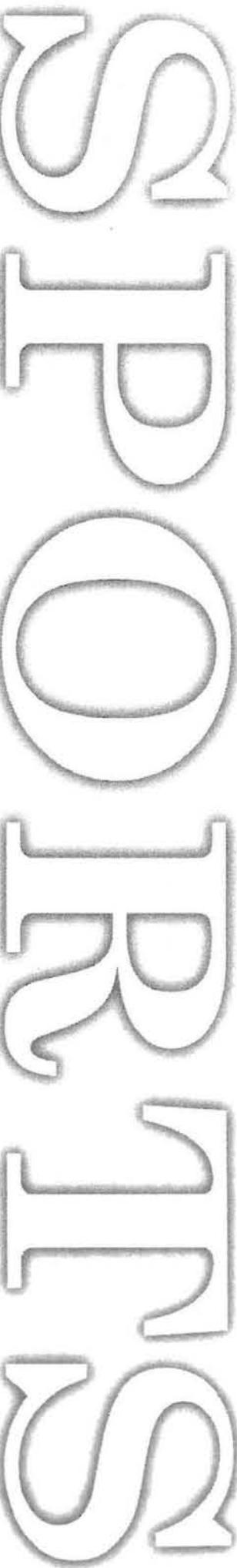
Rivermen player Josh Morgan spoke about the game. "It is hard to give up a lead like we did. We have not been able to do things the way we want, but we are still going to keep our heads up and stay optimistic for the remainder of the season," said Morgan.

The Rivermen will close the regular season in the next few weeks with six games remaining.



Shauna Wilson, Senior infielder, tags out her Central Missouri State opponent in a double-header loss last month. The Riverwomen recently earned a spot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament, which will take place next week.

Jesse Gater/The Current



## EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## Upcoming

### Baseball

**May 4**  
• at Edwardsville  
2 p.m.

**May 7**  
• vs St. Joseph's  
Noon

**May 8**  
• vs. St. Joseph's  
Noon

### Softball

**May 6 - 8**  
• GLVC

Tournament  
In East Peoria,  
III.  
TBA

\*UM-St. Louis home games are free for students with UMSL identification cards.

## Men's soccer team to host second annual golf tournament

BY DAVE SECKMAN

Staff Writer

For the second straight year the UM-St. Louis men's soccer program will be hosting the team golf scramble, and for the second straight year the event will be at a beautiful venue. Later

on this month the golf scramble will take place at the scenic Old Fleurissant golf course, located in Florissant, Mo.

Old Fleurissant is a 41-year-old course that offers eighteen holes of enjoyable golf. For those who don't golf often it is not an overly difficult course and offers a variety of holes that even the beginner can appreciate. It is a USGA par 72

course that runs around 6,571 yards in total length.

The annual golf scramble will take place on May 21st, later this month. Each team will be composed of four golfers, and will cost around 300 dollars per team. You may think that sounds a bit steep, but included with that price will be free drinks all day long, greens fees as well as carts for each pair of

players. Also, there will be many prizes being given out to the teams at the end of the day. This includes anything from golf bags to apparel.

This year you will also be able to sponsor each hole. The cost will be 100 dollars, all of the money raised from the golf tournament will benefit the Rivermen soccer program as they hope to improve the program for the up and coming

fall season. Last year the event was very successful and raised nearly \$18,000 for the program, as it was held at nearby Bel-Nor country club.

For more information and details on the golf scramble you can contact head men's soccer coach Dan King at 314-516-7027 or by e-mail at kingdm@msx.umsl.edu

# Baseball, softball teams rely heavily on sluggers

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

For the men's baseball team and the women's softball team there are a few players that stand out in their hitting ability. These players are the ones the coach wants at the plate when the game is on the line, and their consistency and strength keeps the teams in contention.

For the softball team, Riverwomen Lisa Neukirch, Shauna Wilson, Jessica Keim and Kim Kulaitis are the top hitters. Neukirch, who plays catcher, leads the team in several categories: she bats a .295, has 36 hits on the year and has amassed 18 RBI's. She is also one of only two Riverwomen to get a homerun this year. Wilson is just behind Neukirch with a percentage of .280, 33 hits and 19 RBI's.

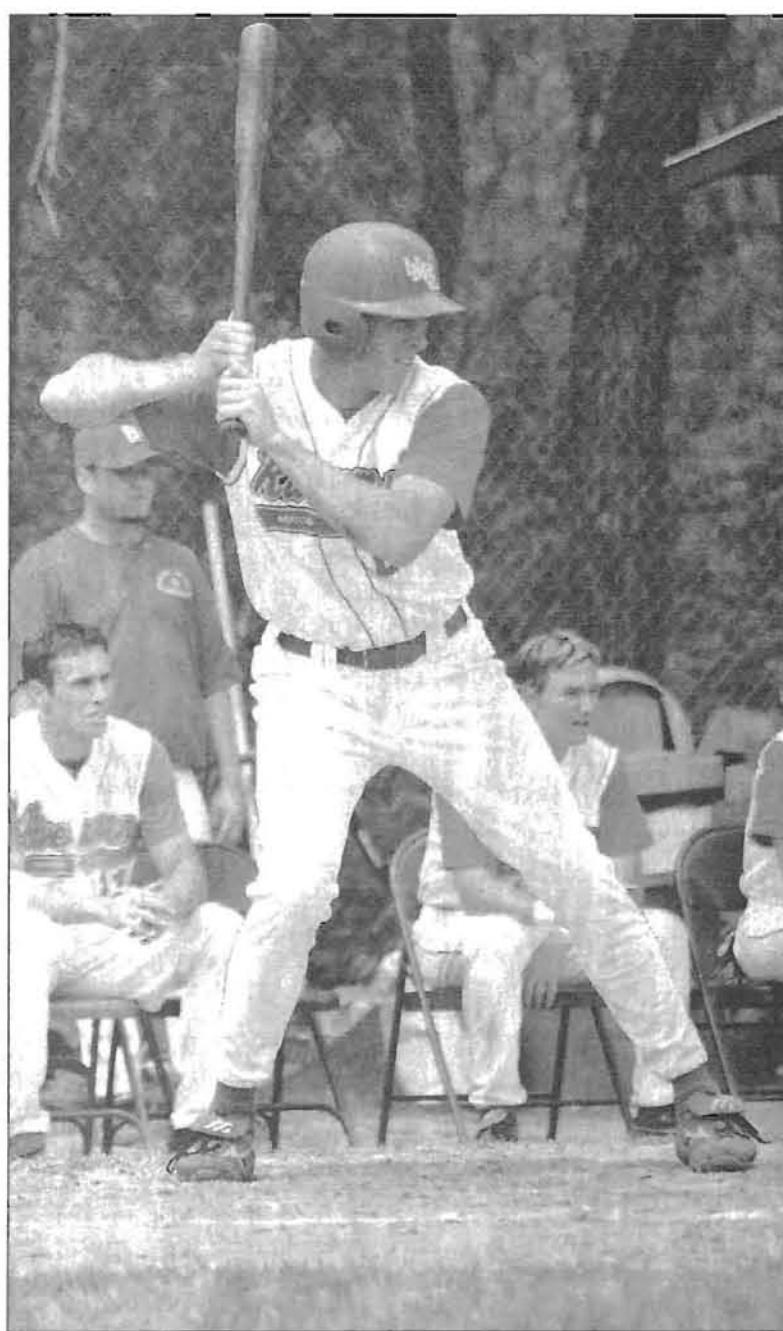
While Wilson and Neukirch are the best hitters, Keim and Kulaitis are both hitters and runners. Keim is batting a .278, she has a team-high of 40 hits with 12 RBI's, and on top of those she also has 21 runs. Kulaitis has very similar statistical numbers to Jones. She bats a .271, she is just under Neukirch with 35 hits, she has a team-high 20 RBI's, and she is tied with Keim for 21 runs on the year. Keim's and Kulaitis' versatility makes them very valuable to the Riverwomen.

Josh Morgan, Adam Whitehead and Colby Hughes lead the Rivermen baseball team. Morgan is a complete offensive player and the team leader in several categories. He bats a team-high .323, including 23 RBI's on 50 hits and 32 runs. He also leads the team with nine home runs and 27 stolen bases.

Coach Jim Brady said he is impressed with Morgan's abilities.

"Josh [Morgan] is a complete offensive player. Several pro teams love him, including the Yankees. When we found him he was really a diamond in the rough; maybe the best thing that has happened to us is that he was never allowed to really hit at Meramec. And not only does he hit, but he has pro-type speed," Brady said.

Whitehead bats a .292, has 14 RBI's on 45 hits and is tied with



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Colby Hughes has been a key Rivermen hitter this season, along with Josh Morgan and Adam Whitehead.

Morgan for a team high of 32 runs.

Hughes, who also played basketball for UM-St. Louis, bats a .281 with 20 runs and 38 hits. Hughes leads the team with 25 RBI's. Against conference foe Bellarmine, his RBI double won the first game for the Rivermen.

and he notched an RBI single to split the doubleheader with Kentucky Wesleyan. Although Morgan, Whitehead and Hughes post the highest numbers overall, Matt Rose also makes a big contribution with 18 RBI's on 35 hits and 22 runs.

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# Women's golf takes three first place finishes

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's golf team recently had three first place finishes. On April 22 at the St. Joseph's Invitational the team successfully defended their title from last year, while Lauren Glenn led the team with an individual first place finish. The team continued its dominant play later on April 30 at the Robert Morris Invitational, getting their first back-to-back tournament wins in team history.

At the St. Joseph's Invitational the Riverwomen battled sporadic rain and cold weather to blow their opponents away by an incredible 23 stroke margin, shooting a 340. Glenn, who lost the title last year in a playoff, led the team with a 4-over par 76; six strokes ahead of second place. This is the third time Glenn has finished first, and on three other occasions she has tied for first. Coach James Earl has been pleased with Glenn's play. "It is exciting to be a part of something like this.

Lauren [Glenn] has continued to dominate and it has been great to watch," Earl said.

Glenn was followed by Donna Lehman, who shot an 86 to take fourth place; Ashley Vincent and Melissa Mezel who both shot a season-best 89 to tie for seventh place; Shannon Vallowe who shot a 92 to finish 11th; and Whitney Novak and Nicole Voss, who each shot a 96 to tie for 16th.

Little did the team know, but the next tournament would be historic. On April 30 the team won first place at the Robert Morris Invitational, getting the first back-to-back wins in team history.

If the weather was bad at the St. Joseph's Invitational, it was terrible at Robert Morris. The tournament was situated off of Lake Michigan, inviting cold 20 mph winds. Despite the weather the team shot a combined score of 341 - seven strokes ahead of second place. In contrast to the other teams the Riverwomen did much better on the back nine than the front nine.

"This was a good win for us," Coach Earl began, "definitely one of our best team performances. We have played fantastic this Spring. It is a shame we are losing our three seniors, but this season has been great regardless," Earl said.

Glenn was excited about the back-to-back tournament victory as well. "This has been just great. I'm getting ready to graduate with one tournament left and I'm going out feeling like I've done something good. This experience with the team has been awesome," Glenn said.

Glenn led the Riverwomen, shooting an 81 and taking third place. Lehman followed immediately after with an 84 to take fourth. Vincent, who showed courage in playing the entire tournament on a sprained ankle, shot an 87 to take sixth place. Finally Vallowe, who shot a career low, tied with Novak earning ninth place while shooting an 89.

The Riverwomen's final tournament will be May 7 at the John A. Logan Invitational.

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- Production Manager
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- Photographers
- Staff Writers
- Copy Editor
- Proofreader
- Distribution Manager
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- Business associates
- Advertising associates

**SPRING**

**MOVIE REVIEW****Hustle out for comedy and action**

**'Kung Fu Hustle'** is a clever parody of martial arts films

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

Mix in Jackie Chan, martial arts action, gangster movies, slapstick comedy, Buster Keaton, music videos, Chinese opera, Quentin Tarantino and a dash of spaghetti Western and what you get is "Kung Fu Hustle." Plus a whole lot of fun.

Truthfully, the promotion ads for "Kung Fu Hustle" made it look awful, seeming to promise some kung fu B movie cheese-fest trying to be way too cool. It turns out the promotions were tongue-in-cheek, as that style is among the many lampooned in Stephen Chow's Chinese parody action-comedy. "Kung Fu Hustle" is simply hilarious.

"Kung Fu Hustle" is a parody of all things over the top, in not only martial arts movies, but it also ribs old gangster movies, spaghetti Westerns, "The Matrix" and a slew of action movie hits and genres. Yet it also brings a great deal of pure visual delight and action entertainment to the mix, with generous touches of Jackie Chan comedy/action and even Jackie's inspiration, Buster Keaton. While there is plenty of slapstick comedy and parodies of stock characters and plots, there are also scenes that are visual gems and stylistic nods to Quentin Tarantino and others. In one vastly entertaining bit, a gang of tuxedo-wearing, top-hatted, axe-wielding gangsters strut around doing a perfectly choreographed dance routine that is part music video, part "Chicago" and part "West Side Story," while scenes of a martial



Photo by Tang Chak Sun, Courtesy Sony Pictures Classics

arts street gang fight are intercut. It is both absurd and gorgeous.

The story is set in pre-revolution, early twentieth-century China, where the nattily-attired, axe-carrying Axe Gang is terrorizing the city. Sing (actor-writer-director Stephen Chow), an unsuccessful conniver who longs to join the gang, and his buddy Sidekick (Chi Chum Lam) pose as gang members in an attempt to extort money from the poverty-

stricken people of aptly-named little Pig Sty Alley. The attempt does not go too well, as the people of the neighborhood turn out to include some martial arts masters and are tougher than they looked.

Sing does win the chance from Axe Gang leader Brother Sum (Kwok Kuen Chan) to join the gang if he can prove himself. However, the blowhard Sing is as likely to stab himself with his knife as an adver-

sary. Along the way he encounters some unlikely martial arts masters, such as a woman in curlers and fuzzy slippers (Qiu Yuen) whose screech can kill and a madman who turns out to be a kung fu master called the Beast (Siu Lung Leung) whose "Frog" technique is deadly.

Both the comedy and the action are fast-paced, vividly cinematographic, and very entertaining. Silliness and poking fun at movie conventions

of an array of action film genres is the point. Director Stephen Chow never misses a beat and leaves no chance for a laugh untouched. Chow's previous hit film, "Shaolin Soccer," never made it to St. Louis, although it was an international hit. "Kung Fu Hustle" is also an international hit but it is even funnier and more visually delightful, while also being a bit more heroic than "Shaolin Soccer."

**EDITOR**

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

New 'Hitchhikers' is an enjoyable version of original

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

It is almost always true of movies made from good books: the book is better than the movie. The basic news about the film "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is that it holds true in this case too. But that is not to say that the film is not enjoyable.

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" opens with the Earth about to be destroyed, not by evil aliens set on universal conquest but by bureaucrats trying to make way for an intergalactic by-pass. The combination of "Star Wars" and modern suburban frustrations is part of the appeal of Adams' satirical books. Arthur Dent (Martin Freeman), an English everyman whose house is about to be destroyed for an earthly expressway as well, is rescued by his friend Ford Prefect (Mos Def), who it turns out is actually a space alien and an intergalactic Hitchhiker. In fact, Ford is a writer for the most popular reference book of all time, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," whose basic slogan graces the cover - "Don't Panic." Ford uses his knowledge to hitch a ride off the doomed planet.

Once off the doomed planet, Arthur has a series of eye-opening adventures, in which he encounters the Vogons, hideous bureaucratic creatures who go around building and destroying the galaxy, as long as the proper forms are filled out in triplicate. The Vogons are also famous for torturing their victims by subjecting them to their famously bad poetry. Arthur also finds the beautiful Trillian (Zooey Deschanel), a depressed robot named Marvin (voiced perfectly by Alan Rickman), and the blond-tressed, flamboyantly dressed President of the Galaxy, a glad-handing surfer-dude named Zaphod Beeblebrox (Sam Rockwell).

Zaphod looks human at first but he has three arms and two heads. But his one huge ego is what stands out. Zaphod is also in possession of a stolen ship powered by the Improbability Drive, which seems to work by making the unlikely happen. Along the way, we also encounter John Malkovich as Zaphod's bizarrely creepy political rival.

Arthur pretty much learns that everything he knows is wrong and that the answer to the life, the universe and everything is 42. It is finding out the question that is tricky. Helen Mirren is the voice of Deep Thought, a big computer built by super-intelligent beings, which uncovers this bit of wisdom.

Confused? If you are a fan of the Douglas Adams books, or even British humor of the Monty Python type, you should be able to enjoy this ride into intergalactic satire. For others, the film may be more puzzling. The film seems really geared towards fans and adds few explanations for the uninitiated. The good news is that much of the British humor, with its mix of brainy and silly, of the Douglas Adams books is there. A perfect example is the opening song in which dolphins dance and sing about how they tried to warn us about the coming end of the Earth, a bit worthy of Monty Python.

**RESTAURANT REVIEW****Stopping by the 'Whistle Stop'**

Five minutes from UMSL, Ferguson's classic frozen custard is perfect for summer

BY MONICA MARTIN  
Staff Writer

It is spring. It is hot outside. You are waiting for your afternoon fix. Suddenly, you are hit with a craving for a hot fudge sundae. Where can you go that is quick, close, offers quality ice cream and quality service? The Whistle Stop Old-Fashioned Custard at the Ferguson Depot is the answer.

My friends and I arrived on Tuesday afternoon after our grammar class. The first thing we noticed upon walking in was that it was a little old-fashioned train station with a small dining room. The counter is a ticket booth. Old pictures and maps decorate the wall opposite the entrance.

Even the bathroom has a train going around the walls. A few customers were sitting at the tables when we entered. At the counter we picked up the double-sided, single-sheet menu.

For those who are having a hard time deciding, there are daily lunch specials, soups of the day, and flavors of the day to make things easier. The daily specials include a sandwich, a cup of the soup of the day, and one scoop of the flavor of the day. I ordered a hot fudge sundae with M&Ms.

One of my friends ordered a root beer float and the other two ordered concretes. My sundae was delicious and smooth. We were all happy with our orders, and even happier that we had decided to go out for ice cream on such a beautiful day.

Service was great. The server behind the counter was friendly and helpful. She answered our questions and joked with us.

Whistle Stop is entering its fifth summer of service, and is now accepting VISA and MasterCard. They have a monthly newsletter titled

"The Telegram" that can be downloaded and read at their website, www.whistlestopdepot.com. In 2001, Whistle Stop earned the Riverfront Times' award for Best New Place for Frozen Custard in St. Louis. They are located next to the Norfolk-Southern freight line in the historic Ferguson Train Depot. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Whistle Stop offers many goodies for their patrons. They have birthday parties for kids. Take-home quarts of ice cream are available and there is a "quart of the month" club. Whistle Stop also has a summer concert series. All shows are on Saturdays from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bands that will be appearing are listed on their website.

Whistle Stop is a great place to stop in for ice cream. They are quick, friendly and close to campus. They are located at #1 Carson Road in Ferguson. Visit them on a warm afternoon for a delicious treat.

**RIGHT:** Ann Dreifke, sophomore, criminal justice, makes a custard sundae for a customer at the Whistle Stop Cafe in downtown Ferguson.



Erica Burris/The Current

**MOVIE REVIEW****'Walk on Water'** is thought-provoking Israeli thriller

Photo courtesy Lama Productions Ltd.

Lior Ashkenazi and Knut Berger star in 'Walk on Water,' a psychological thriller about an Israeli spy assigned to follow the grandson of a Nazi war criminal. The film is in English, Hebrew and German with subtitles.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

Film fans who like a film that works on several levels will want to check out "Walk on Water." This Israeli psychological thriller centers on a spy assigned to follow the German grandson of a Nazi war criminal still in hiding, in the hopes of finding him. While being an entertaining thriller, the film also examines the usefulness of tracking down remaining Nazi war criminals, assumptions about Germans and Palestinians, and personal prejudices, as this man's world view crumbles.

"Walk on Water" is both a polished spy thriller and a probing examination of prejudices and personal inner struggles, with characters that have layers you can peel away like an onion. The film is in English, Hebrew and German, with subtitles, with

enough in English to make it accessible to those who are hesitant about reading subtitles.

A thriller with a real intellectual twist is like candy to many film fans. Eyal (Lior Ashkenazi) is a coolly efficient agent of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. After completing an assassination, he returns home to find that his wife has committed suicide. Stoically, his hard-eyed response is to plead for an assignment to immerse himself in work, stubbornly refusing psychological counseling. Sullenly, he accepts a lighter assignment. His boss has information that a Nazi war criminal, long thought dead, may actually be alive and hiding in Germany. Since the grandson of this Nazi is coming to Israel to visit his sister, Eyal is assigned to follow him in hopes of finding the whereabouts of the missing war criminal.

Posing as a tour guide that his sister Pia (Caroline Peters) hired to show him around the country safely,

Eyal greets the young school teacher, called Axel (Knut Berger) at the airport. The sister Pia lives on a kibbutz, and Eyal learns right away that both brother and sister are happy and gentle peaceniks. At first, this grates on the nerves of the hard-nosed Mossad agent. While the brother and sister are at a kibbutz folk dance, the agent sneaks into her apartment to bug it, hoping that they will talk about their grandfather. In their private talks, Eyal learns that while the siblings are close, Pia has had a falling out with their parents that drove her to Israel. Peacemaker Axel would like her to return for a visit but she resists.

As Eyal waits for the two to say something that would reveal something about their grandfather, he goes about his role as tour guide, spending days with Axel showing him the country's sights.

AS A KIBBUTZ WIFE WITH BOTH

# Talking to Tom and Billy Bob about summer movies

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Film Critic

Recently both Tom Cruise and Billy Bob Thornton participated in telephone conference call interviews or college newspapers. *The Current* accepted the opportunity to speak with the acclaimed performers.

Both actors are starring in summer film releases, "Bad News Bears" and "War of the Worlds." "War of the Worlds" is set to open on June 29 and "Bad News Bears" is expected to open in July 22.

Billy Bob Thornton is promoting his new film, "Bad News Bears," a remake of the 1980s hit kid's movie. Indie director-going-Hollywood Richard Linklater is helming the project, which promises to give it a little more freshness than the typical remake. The original film is still popular on DVD or video, so that raises the question about how to update an old favorite.

"Society has changed, so we looked around at things now, the music and everything. We kept some of the pieces of the original movie," said Thornton. "Unlike comedies, which are over the top now, we tried to keep a more low key and to make it a bit more like an indie film. We (he and director Linklater) both played baseball so we tried to keep the baseball art right."

Billy Bob Thornton plays the alcoholic ex-baseball player coach of a little league team of low-expectations kids. The role allowed Thornton to

have some fun playing the drunken coach, with a nice bit appearing in the movie preview. Thornton said he enjoyed working with the kids in the cast, but was then asked if he worried that his own kids would get jealous. "I worried about that at first but no," said Thornton.

"My kids are not very interested in being actors. My son Willy wants to be a writer and Harry wants to be a cop. I try to keep my kids out of the limelight. They visited the set some and got to be friends with the kids on set, actually." Thornton's two sons Willy and Harry are ten and eleven and he has five children in all.

Thornton has been both an actor and a director in his career, so we wondered which he preferred. "I like directing but I don't like the business of directing," said Thornton. "I like doing the movie and not having to deal with the studio about cutting this scene or changing the ending so it doesn't make sense. I guess I got spoiled by 'Sling Blade' and the total control over a project," he said, referring to the independent film he wrote, directed and starred in. "With acting, you do the job and go home. If you are directing or producing, a project can take two to three years of your life."

When asked about directors he would want to work with, he named Joel and Ethan Coen, with whom he had worked on the underappreciated film noir "The Man Who Wasn't There." Of the directors he has worked with, Thornton said, "They are my favorite, hands down. We are talking about doing another project. One idea we are talking about is doing a version of Tarzan, which should be pretty funny." Other directors he would like

to work with include Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen. The list of actor/directors he would like to work with is topped by Robert Duvall, whom Billy Bob also cited as a big influence in his acting.

Thornton views himself as a Hollywood outsider. "I don't go to the parties; I do my work and go home to the kids. More of my friends are in music than movies," he said. "I live in California but I might as well live in Topeka, Kansas."

The other big college phone conference interview was with the famously press-elusive Tom Cruise. However, while it seems that Cruise is often cautious and distant in dealing with the mainstream press, he enjoys talking to the college press, and was quite open and friendly throughout. Cruise is promoting his collaboration with director Steven Spielberg on a film inspired by the H.G. Wells classic "War of the Worlds."

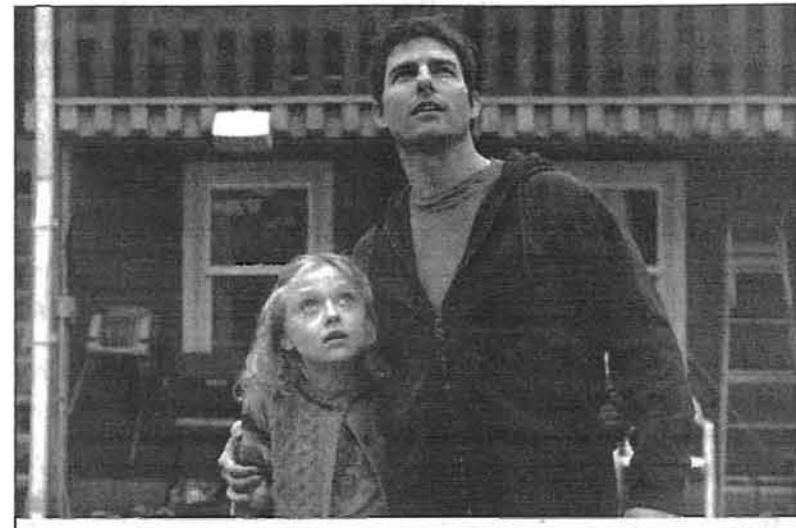
"War of the Worlds" will forever be tied to the Orson Welles radio broadcast that was so realistic that it caused a panic among those who tuned in too late to hear the disclaimers. The story played on people's fears and had a startling originality in the first half of the twentieth century. But both the familiarity of the story and the passage of time make a faithful adaptation difficult if you want to give the audience chills. Spielberg was faced with a choice of staying faithful to the story or going in a new direction.

"We both enjoyed the book and there are things that we paid tribute to in 'War of the Worlds,'" said Cruise. "But it is told from a subjective point of view so it is a movie that is going to

be terrifying. It is going to be quite frightening. But it is definitely original. It is new but it has essentially the same themes."

Spielberg's "War of the Worlds" is going to be heavy on computer-generated effects. We asked Cruise if it was difficult working with a lot of CGI scenes. "Yes, it can be," he said. "But what Steven did was he did a pre-visualization, what we call pre-vis for short, where he designed a lot of the effects on computer – the staging. He would then go to the set and alter it but it gave me an idea of what I was looking at, what we were seeing. We also had a lot of onsite effects and Spielberg is great at knowing what he needs in that particular scene." Cruise added "I really had to make sure that I gave the full range of intensity, emotion and fear because you are trying to figure out what would I really... I am always going for what it would really be like. As an actor, what you have to do is create it. You just create it and that is what acting is. You are creating it. So it was a challenge to do that. It was actually kind of fun, truly. It was kind of tricky and you just had to make it happen and make it real because the story as I said is told from a subjective point of view. So if you are going to be on the ride of this story you can have all the effects in the world but if you are not invested in that story and you are not invested in the characters, it doesn't matter. When you look at Spielberg's stories he is just a great storyteller and I want to go on that ride with him."

Although Tom Cruise has worked with a variety of directors in a variety of projects, many filmgoers think of him as an action movie star. Cruise



Photos courtesy rottentomatoes.com

was asked if it bothered him that many film fans thought of him as an action star. "I don't care," said Cruise, laughing and sounding like he had heard this many times. "I don't really care." Then he continued, "Listen, that is not important. What is important to me is I make the movies that I want to make. What people say about me doesn't matter. It really doesn't. I get to make all the movies that I want to make and I am incredibly proud of that."

## WALK ON WATER, from page 13

As he spends time with both of them, Eyal finds it hard to hate them as he assumed he would. On a trip to the Sea of Galilee, Axel smilingly tells him that he believes he can walk on water since his "heart is pure." Eyal is taken aback by the statement but as they wade in the water, Eyal's emotional barriers start to crumble.

There are more twists and surprises ahead for Eyal, as one assumption or prejudice after another is upended by his experience with the two. Cracks in the spy's cold

façade after his wife's death appear, with humanity and uncertainties peeking through. Racism and other prejudices fall into "Walk on Water's" simmering pot of intrigues.

"Walk on Water" is directed by Eytan Fox, who had a previous indie film hit in "Yossi and Jagger." He shows a fine hand in this thriller as well, supported by a fine acting performance by Lior Ashkenazi as Eyal, with a powerful, masculine portrayal of inner turmoil capped with a palpable screen charisma.

Knut Berger as Axel and Caroline Peters as Pia also do excellent jobs as these characters, with darker layers under their flower-child surface. The end might be less original than it could be but it hardly diminishes the film overall.

The many layered character and combination of action and introspection give this film a wider appeal. Pace and framing of the story in the film is masterful and combines with the story and powerful acting to produce one of the best films of the year so far.

## HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE, from page 13

Since the Hitchhiker's Guide books are bestsellers with a cult-like following, making a movie just for the fans might be enough. Like Monty Python, "Hitchhiker" is a combination of brainy and nonsense. Purist fans of the books may or may not like the movie, as its breathless effort to include as many characters and bits as possible kind of squeezes out the continual references to the guide book and even some of that braininess. The movie was an idea close to the heart for Author Douglas Adams, and was co-produced by one of his friends after the author's death. The

Hitchhiker's Guide started out in 1978 as a BBC radio program, and then a best-selling six-book "trilogy," albums, a TV show, comics, a computer game and a stage play. Adams was eager to add a movie to the mix when he died in 2001 of a heart attack at age 49.

The structure of the film is a bit rambling but individual bits are hilarious. Especially the bit with John Malkovich as a disturbing and disturbed politician who is light on scruples and is still resentful about losing the election to toothy airhead Zaphod. Or Sam Rockwell's inspired split personality

Zaphod, who is as politician as dim rock star, a guy who mistakes official documents for something for an autograph seeker but who has a second hidden head that is more interested world domination.

This film is for the fans. If you have not read the "Hitchhiker's Guide" books, this film is not the best introduction. Better to read at least one of the books first before dipping your toes in this pool. For those who enjoyed the books, you should take in this homage to Douglas Adams. But remember that film and books are different media, and you have to enjoy this ride for itself.

Photo: AP/Wide World

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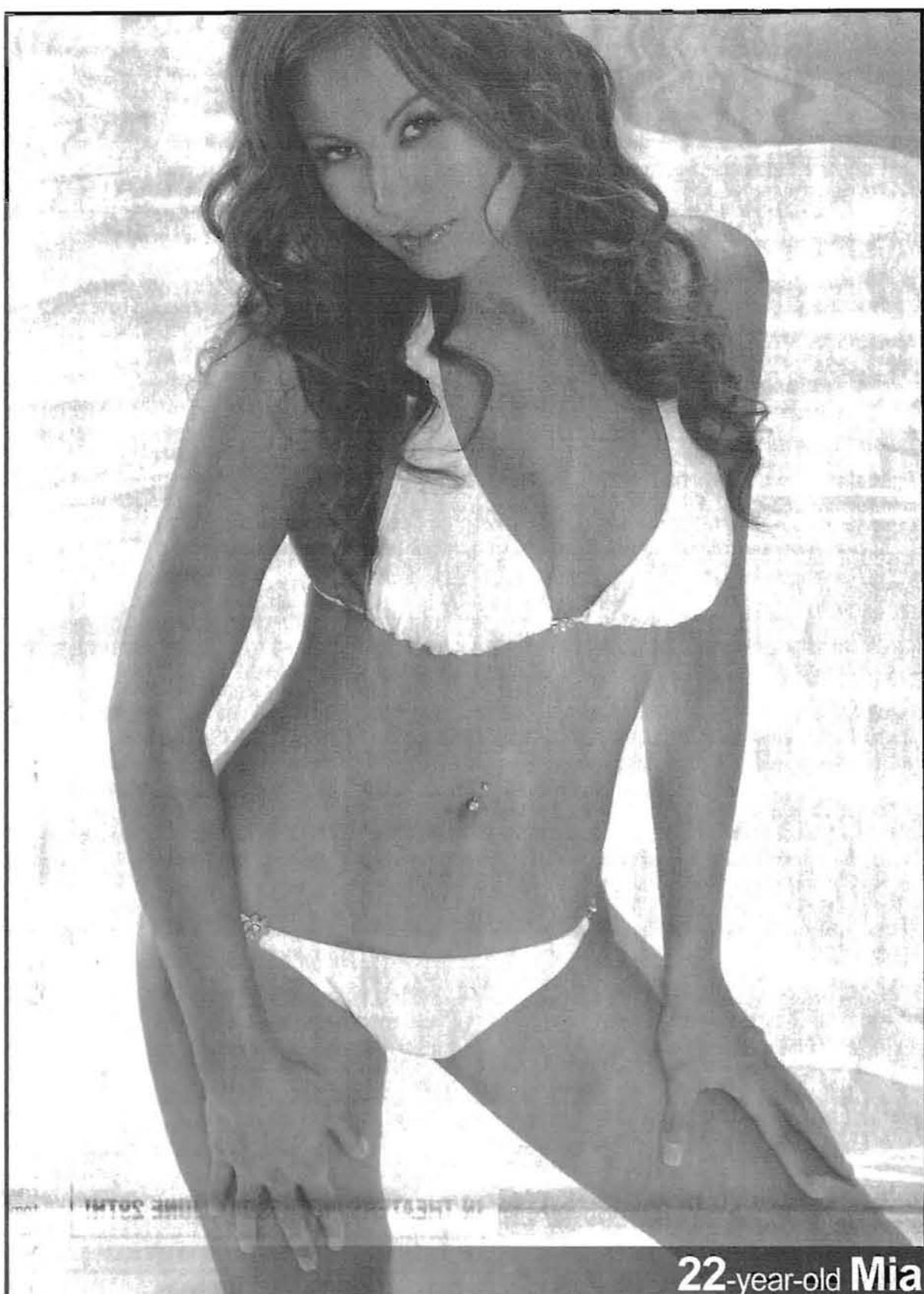
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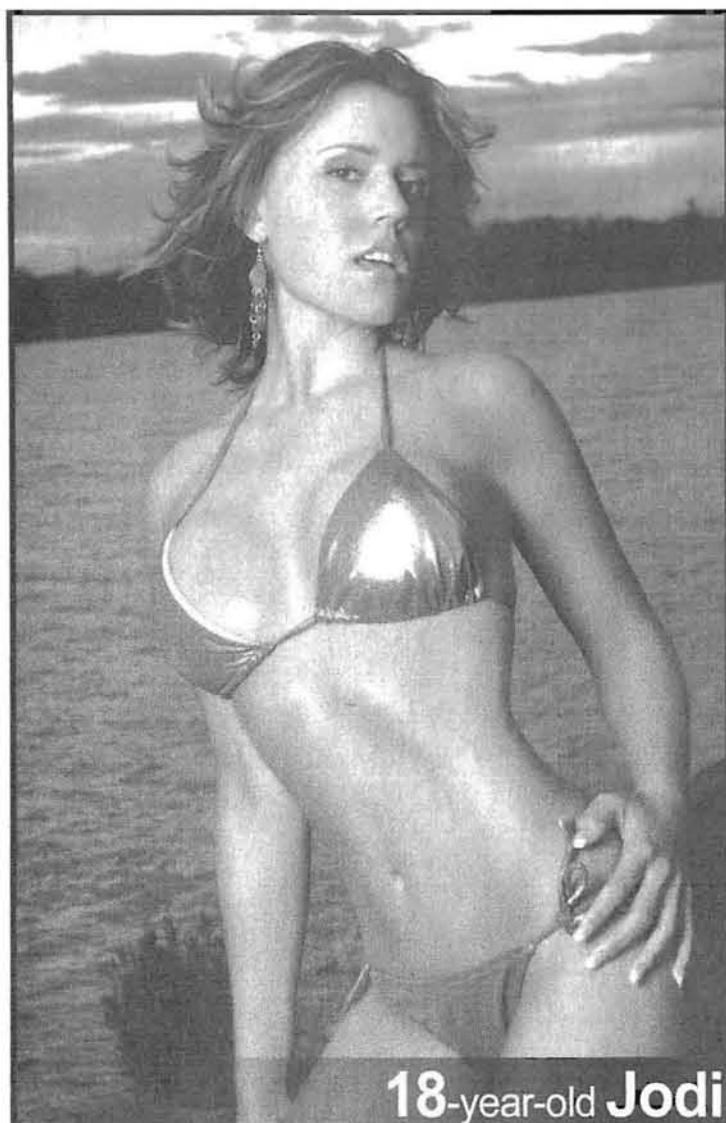
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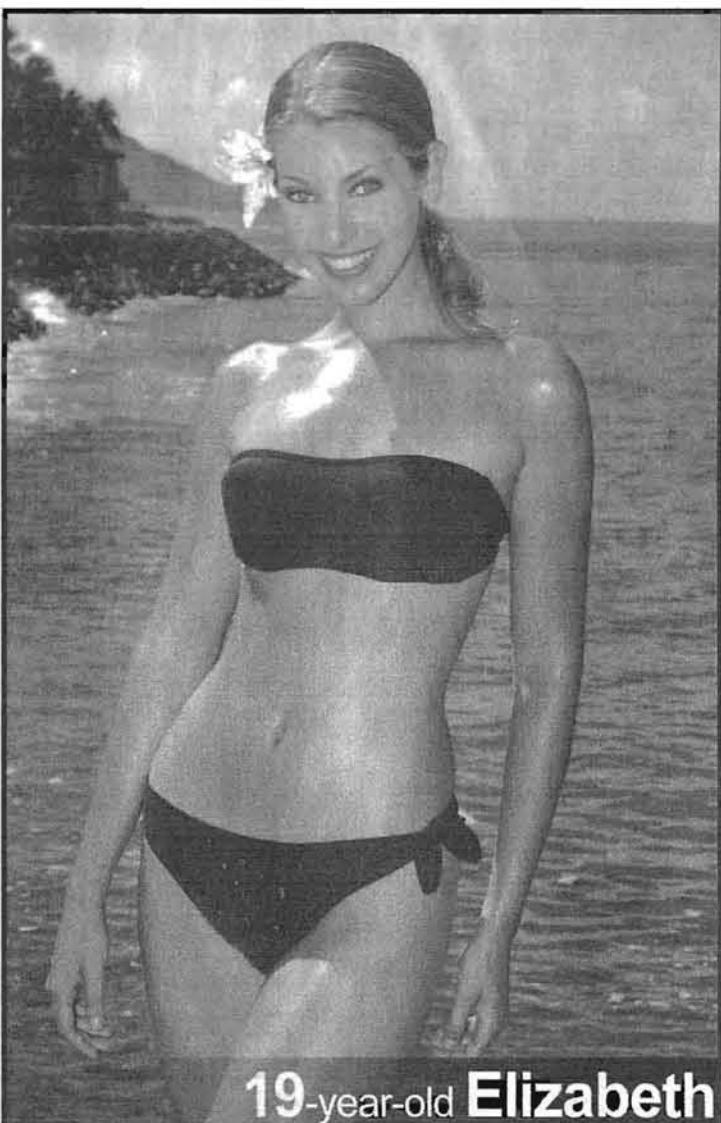
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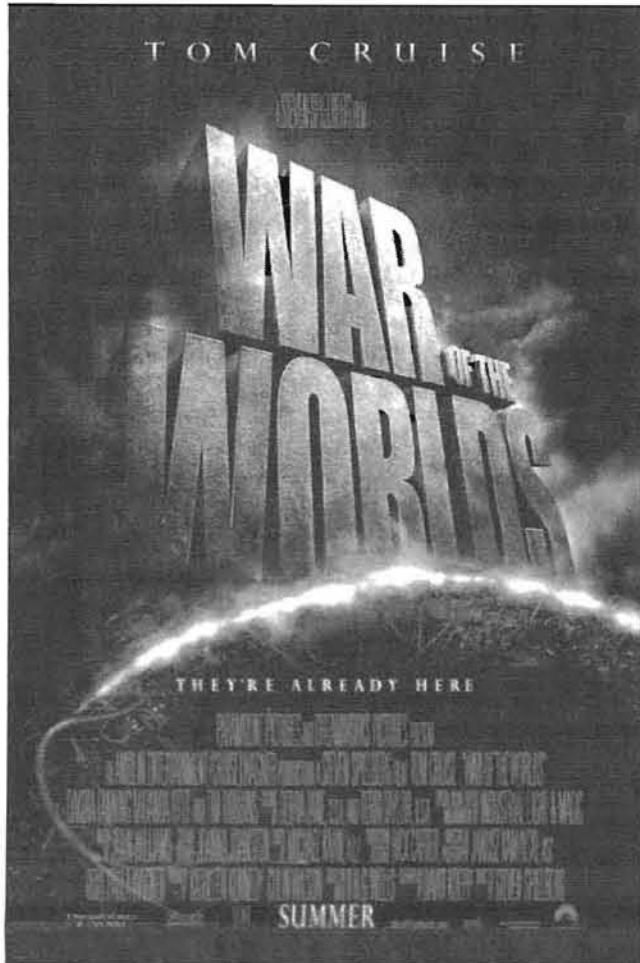
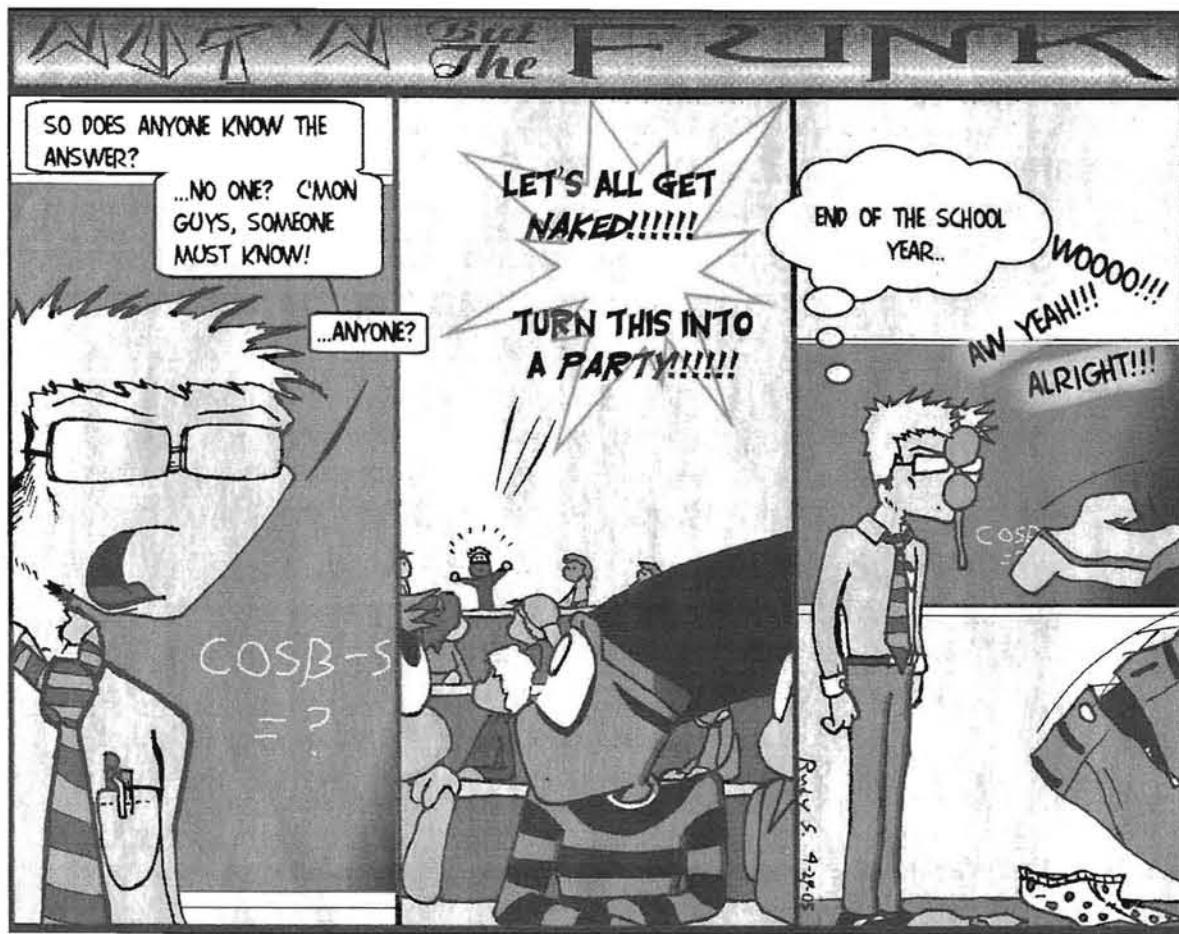
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## Loan Consolidation Benefits College Graduates

Recent grads must act before July 1 to secure historically low interest rates

If you're like most students, chances are you'll be leaving school with thousands of dollars in student loan debt. Although making monthly student loan payments while starting out on your own can be difficult, consolidation can help.

Consolidation is one of the smartest ways for college graduates to manage student loan debt - but it is critical to act quickly. Time is running out to lock in one of the lowest interest rates in history. Rates are likely to rise on July 1 - only three months from now.

The Federal Consolidation Loan Program allows graduates (or parents with PLUS loans) to combine all eligible federal student loans into a single new loan. This new consolidated loan has a fixed interest rate and extended repayment terms that can significantly lower monthly payments. Congress established the Federal Loan Consolidation Program so graduates can take advantage of one low, fixed rate and take more time to pay back their loans. This means that cash-strapped graduates with comparably low entry-level salaries can take smaller chunks out of their paychecks for loan payments - and have more money left over to pay rent and other necessary bills.

Additionally, graduates who consolidate within the first six months after graduation - before their loans enter repayment - can reduce their interest rate by up to an additional 0.6 percent<sup>1</sup>. Although a 0.6 percent decrease may seem small, it can potentially save thousands of dollars in interest over time.

For more information,  
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to see if you qualify  
for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure to sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

This year, there's even more reason for graduates to act quickly. Over the past several years, rates have fallen to historic lows. That's about to change, however, as this year's rates are expected to rise by two percentage points or more. It is important to take immediate action before federal student loan interest rates are adjusted on July 1.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that student loan rates for the 2005-2006 school year will jump by at least two percentage points, to about 5.5 percent, and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future\*. This potential increase would be reflected in both Stafford and PLUS loan rates.

Graduates who consolidate before these new, higher rates take effect on July 1 can avoid the rate increase and save thousands by consolidating today and locking in unprecedented low interest rates for the life of their loan.

"According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal student loan interest rates are projected to rise this July and each July thereafter in the near future," Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy wrote in a Bentley College Vanguard editorial March 10. "According to the Congressional Research Service, the fixed interest rate benefit today is worth over \$5,000 for the typical, new student borrower over the life of his or her college debt."

Act Now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). SLCP will provide you with additional information about consolidation and will contact you after graduation to remind you to apply early. SLCP will make sure you don't have to worry about missing out on the benefits of consolidation. It's free and there's no obligation.

Are You About to Graduate?  
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We are relocating to another city and we must sell. 4200 sq. ft., 4 bed, 2.5 bath. This home is a must see. Sale price: \$325,000 #55 Bellerive Acres.

#### HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER

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#### 2 Apartments for Rent

Pasadena- 1BR \$500/mo, 2BR \$600/mo. FREE wireless DSL, FREE heat and hot water. 1/2 mi from campus. Extremely spacious, quiet, historic neighborhood. Newly renovated, Call John @ 314-651-0349 for appointment.

#### Seeking Female Roomate

Located off of 270 and Dorsett about 15 mins from school. Please call Julie at 314-960-1374.

#### For Rent

6 min. from UMSL. Rehabbed 1 & 2 bedroom Apartments. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. 1 bdrm w/refinished hardwood floors, detached garage, private basement, in Woodson Terrace. Large 2 bdrm w/carpet, updated kitchen w/dishwasher and disposal, private storage, off Woodson Rd. In St. John \$500-\$540 Call Sharon: 314-99-2584

#### Looking for one female roomate

Mansion Hills in September. Two bedroom, \$300/month Excluding utilities, shuttle bus to campus. 314-600-7643

#### Need A Female Roomate

I live in St. Charles, 20 mins. from UMSL. 1100-Square foot roomate-style apt. \$370 with utilities. Please call Kristin at 314-724-4361

#### Large 3 bedroom Home

Close to campus and within walking distance of the Fine Arts Building. All utilities and lawn care included, \$1,500 per month plus \$1,500 deposit

#### Help Wanted

##### Busy shifts plenty of money!

Casa Gallardo in Bridgeton is looking for Servers, Cocktail servers and hosts. Full and part time. Days, nights, weekends available. Please apply in person, 12380 St. Charles Rock Rd. Bridgeton, Mo.

#### BEST BET FOR FLEXIBLE Part Time INCOME

Get paid per online survey. Anytime. On your down time. COLLEGESTUDENTSURVEYS.COM (write it down) "When you need more than just beer money"

#### Need a Summer Job?

Want to work outdoors?  
Want to work with other students?  
Want to earn \$7-10 or more per hour?  
Great! Call Adam on his cell: 651-592-1888.

#### Need a Job?

PART TIME, COOL, FUN, JOBS, \$12.00/hour. Can pay 75% of your UMSL tuition, as well as other cash for school. Great benefits! Call Shawn Rafferty 314-486-7770 or email at [smb52@umsl.edu](mailto:smb52@umsl.edu) or [shawn.rafferty@mostlo.ang.af.mil](mailto:shawn.rafferty@mostlo.ang.af.mil)

#### \*LADIES-INTERESTED IN CHEERLEADING FOR A SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL TEAM!!!\*

For more information please contact Amanda-(Captain)618-31

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