



How does the wind blow 'Weatherman'?

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

A year after tsunami, Sri Lanka is still hurting, says ambassador

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Almost a year after December 26, 2004 when tsunami waves struck the shores of Sri Lanka, the nation is making progress in certain sectors while dealing with setbacks in other arenas.

Bernard Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United States, visited the University on Tuesday to share an update of progress made in his country's reconstruction efforts and show how the University's contributions were received. The Center for International Studies and UM-St. Louis sponsored his visit.

The reconstruction plan is scheduled to take three to five years because rebuilding is not limited to the reach of the tsunami, he said.

"Ten months after the event, people still live in makeshift shelters," he said. "Consequently, there is criticism for the delays by the population against the authorities."

One such criticism concerned housing after the Sri Lankan government issued that all houses within 100 to 200 meters of the shoreline would not be rebuilt.

After residents complained about the order, the government decided the people should be given the final choice whether they would rebuild in the buffer zone. Those who chose not to rebuild were given alternate lands to build homes.

By looking from within the system, people can see why things are not happening the way they want them to happen, Goonetilleke said. While donations to devastated countries have totaled \$3 billion in excess, money is still a factor but not the only one. A shortage of skilled laborers, availability of land, cost escalations and in certain cases, politics, are holding reconstruction back.

With 800,000 people displaced and 40,000 families living in relief camps, Goonetilleke called the aftermath a "double tragedy." Poverty is a widespread problem, especially in the southern province with one-fourth to one-third of the population living in poverty, he said.

Not all news from the reconstruction is bad, however. Eighty percent of homes have been reconstructed, but Goonetilleke noted that construction does not necessarily equal completion. In fact, owner-built houses are being built quicker than houses from donation agencies.

In the education sector, about 92,000 students lost their schools, and the nation expects costs to rebuild will total \$169 million.

UM-St. Louis helped rebuild two schools, and Goonetilleke thanked the University for its contribution.



Goonetilleke
Sri Lankan
Ambassador to the
United States

"This is the first time a Fortune 500 company has built their headquarters on a university, and it's on our university and that is a tremendous asset."

- Charlie Dooley, St. Louis County Executive



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

On Wednesday morning, the ceremonial groundbreaking for Express Scripts began when several administrators and distinguished guests simultaneously dug into the construction site.



Photo courtesy Express Scripts

An artist rendering depicts what the Express Scripts headquarters in the North Park community on Geiger Road will look like.

Express Scripts breaks ground

Ceremony marks beginning of new business park coming to campus

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Associate News Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 2 over 70 people gathered for the groundbreaking of the Express Scripts headquarters marking the physical beginning of collaboration with UM-St. Louis unprecedented in the nation.

Twelve representatives from UM-St. Louis, Express Scripts and NorthPark Partners simultaneously turned over shovelfuls of dirt with shiny silver spades officially beginning the construction scheduled for completion spring 2007.

"This is the first time a Fortune 500 company has built their headquarters on a university and it's on our university and that is a tremendous asset," County Executive Tom Dooley said. "This team could have been anywhere in the world and they chose us."

With the building of the business park on the campus, UM-St. Louis will be able to partner with Express Scripts in a multitude of ways including internships and Internet Technology collaboration.

"This really is a pilot for the rest of the country," Tom George, UM-St. Louis chancellor, said, "We must start partnering in ways that think outside the box."

George said he had already begun to hear from other universities that were following the UM-St. Louis and Express Scripts collaboration.

"We are setting the trend not just for things locally in North County or Missouri but nationally," George said. "It is a catalyst for all sorts of reviving and economic development in this part of the state."

Express Scripts is the second largest business in the state and earned \$7 billion last year. Express Scripts began looking for new headquarters last year because its current headquarters in Maryland Heights is spread over seven buildings.

"I think we lose a certain amount of synergy when you are spread out that way," George Paz, president and CEO of Express Scripts, said.

The state of Missouri and St. Louis County spent a great effort to keep the company in the region. Express Scripts was held as the poster child for the Quality Jobs Act legislation, passed this summer. The Act provided tax incentives for companies that create or keep jobs in Missouri. The business park will provide jobs to 1,100 employees and provide 320,000 feet of space.

see **GROUND BREAKING**, page 14

Residents say goodbye to neighborhood as business park looms

Two Geiger Road homeowners in path of development face forced buyouts

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Associate News Editor

There has been a quiet exodus on the doorstep of UM-St. Louis. Over the last 15 years, the University has bought out 19 properties along Geiger Rd., five within the last year. As the University has moved in, the families have moved out, decimating a once lively street and leaving a strip of dusty asphalt and vacant and boarded up lots in their wake.

Recently, a walk down Geiger, a short road already cut in half by MetroLink and stuck between the University and I-70, would have shown the remnants of the once-lively street packing up and moving out. Since the signing of the Express Scripts Headquarters relocation deal, the University has stepped up its pur-

chasing of properties along the street and started condemnation hearings over the houses of the last two families holding out.

A victim of location, Geiger has been slowly dying for 15 years.

First, the MetroLink cut Geiger in half, separating the west end from the east end as the rail lines curve north between the North Hanley stop and UM-St. Louis North stop. Then with the redesigning of the I-70 Florissant on off ramps, the street was flooded with dust and construction vehicles for years as Florissant Road was rerouted away from Geiger. Finally, the University, with a policy of buying all properties congruous with the campus, has been buying out every property as residents move or pass away.

Now all that is left are two families, holdouts until the last who await

the findings of a panel of commissioners appointed by the St. Louis County Courts at a hearing Thursday, Oct. 13 to find a fair value for the houses.

The Families

Joe Orlando moved to Geiger when he was five years old. The year was 1955 and UM-St. Louis was a country club. He tells stories of playing with the neighborhood kids in the creek behind his house and of sledding on the sloping hills of the country club during the winter. The only one of his family to finish college, he now lives with his own family in southern California but he always called the house on Geiger home.

see **BUYOUTS**, page 3



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Bernard Rendon, 62, has been living in her home on Geiger Road since 1983. She is one of two homeowners who are being forced to sell their property in order to make way for the new UM-St. Louis business park being constructed.

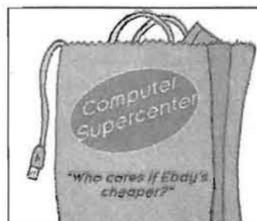
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What's your best excuse to get out of a ticket?

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Computer shopping made easy

See page 6

Bulletin Board

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

Monday

Shakespeare in the Edwardian Empire

Barbara A. Kachur, professor and chair of the UM-St. Louis English Department discusses select Shakespearean revivals during the Edwardian period from 12:15-1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center Room 229. For more info contact Karen Lucas at 5699.

Mack Duo

Acclaimed sisters, pianists Yuki and Tomoko Mack, will be making their St. Louis-area debut at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee Theatre at the Touhill. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$18 for students and seniors. Call 5818 for tickets or for more info.

Tuesday

Jackie Joyner-Kersey to Discuss her Career

East St. Louis native and five-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey will discuss "A Kind of Grace" at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill. Her presentation, in which she provides insight into her ability to achieve record-breaking success, is part of the Anheuser-Busch Vision Speakers Series. Tickets are \$30, \$25 or

\$20. Call 4949 for more information or to reserve your tickets.

Korean Dance Company to Perform

The Seoul Performing Arts Company will perform "Korean Dance: Tradition and Creation" at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee Theatre at the Touhill. Tickets are \$25. Call 4949 for tickets or 6495 for more info.

Intramural basketball contests

Campus Recreation will hold its Basketball Free Throw Contest and Hot Shot Toumey from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today through Nov. 11 at the Mark Twain Fitness Center. These competitions are free and open to students, faculty and staff. T-shirts will be awarded to winners. No advance registration is necessary. Call 5326 for more information.

Wednesday

UMSL Student Film Festival

The mission of UMSL SFVF is to promote the art of filmmaking on all levels by encouraging student filmmakers to showcase their work. Held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Gallery 210. If you have questions email Farzad Wafapoor at farzad@umsl.edu or call 777-7290

for more information.

2005 Whitney & Anna Harris Conservation Forum

The 2005 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Living World, St. Louis Zoo. The forum's theme is "Floodplains: Conservation and Development?" Call 5219 or email icte@umsl.edu for more information.

UMSL basketball scrimmage

UMSL vs. SLU basketball scrimmage at Savvis Center. Women play at 5:30 p.m. and men at 7:30 p.m. today through Nov. 11 at the Mark Twain Fitness Center. These competitions are free and open to students, faculty and staff. T-shirts will be awarded to winners. No advance registration is necessary. Call 5326 for more information.

Thursday

Women in the Arts to hold three-day conference

Women in the Arts 2005, will culminate with a three-day conference starting today at several campus locations. More than 40 presenters will deliver lectures, recitals and panel discussions. The registration fee for the conference is \$25 per day for the gen-

Put it on the Board:

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

eral public, free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Visit www.umsl.edu/~wia for more info or call 5981 to register.

Poetry reading

Poet Ann Fisher-Wirth will give a reading of her poetry at 7 p.m. in Gallery 210. The reading is sponsored by the Center for the Humanities, the Master of Fine Arts writing program and the Department of English. It is free and open to the public. Call 6845 for more information.

Friday

Gallery 210 to feature

"Unorganized Territory," an exhibit featuring artwork by Garry Noland, of Independence, Mo. opens today and runs through Jan. 21 in Room A at Gallery 210. The exhibit will include paintings of rivers and geographic features, arrangements of modified National Geographic magazines and drawings on operational television sets. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5976 for more information.

Saturday

Diwali Night

Indian Students Association presents Diwali Night, "The Festival of Lights" at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House in the MSC. Tickets are \$7 and include delicious Indian food by India Palace. Tickets are available at ISS, 261 MSC. Visit www.umsl.edu/~isa/diwali05 for more information.

Mon. Nov 14

A Night of Comedy

The UM-St. Louis University Players present Cirque Du So Lame (sketch comedy) and a Production of Christopher Durang's Titanic which will follow Cirque Du So Lame. The shows will be held at the Touhill Performing Arts Center inside the Lee Theatre on Nov. 14-15 at 8 p.m. Admission to both shows is free. However, both shows do contain adult language and situations and are not suitable for young children.

Put Your event on the Bulletin Board by emailing information to current@jinx.umsl.edu

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Staff Writers

Monica Martin, Tiffany Golatt, NaKenya Shumate, Francis Lam, Brian Salmo, Zach Meyer, Benjamin Israel, Alberto Patino, Gary Sohn, Laura Ayers, Genelle Jones, Suzanne Roussin, Melissa S. Hayden, Mabel Suen, Brian Oliver, Javier Nadal, LaGuan Fuse, Bronwen Voss, Erin Boyle, Sean Michael, Jason Wendleton

Staff Photographers

Brian Fagnani, Stacey Turner, Valerie Breshears

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

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-6811
Email • current@jinx.umsl.edu

website

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

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Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Oct. 23, 2005 and Nov. 6, 2005.

Oct. 23, 2005-Property Damage 2nd Degree-2901 University Meadows
Sometime overnight, damage was done to the door leading to the boiler room at the University Meadows clubhouse. The door was kicked on, however it appears that entry was not gained.

Oct. 25, 2005-Property Damage 2nd Degree-Parking Lot LL
Between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. two construction workers vehicles were booted for parking violations. The workers apparently removed the boots by force, causing damage to the boots.

Oct. 25, 2005-Stealing Under \$500-Fine Arts Building
Between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. the victim left her purse in a classroom. Upon return-

ing to the classroom, she found her purse was gone.

Oct. 25, 2005-Assault Third Degree-312 Clark Hall

At 12:30 p.m. one student assaulted another student. The suspect punched the victim in the face two times. The suspect was taken into custody, and warrant(s) for assault will be sought through the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Oct. 25, 2005-Stolen Auto-Parking Lot K

The victim reported that his vehicle was stolen sometime between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Glass was on the lot where the vehicle had been parked. Normandy Police later recovered the vehicle in the Mansion Hills Condominium complex on Florissant Road.

Oct. 26, 2005-Property Damage by Intentional Burning-U. Meadows
The UM-St. Louis police department and

the Normandy fire department responded to two dumpster fires in the complex in less than a few hours between midnight and 3 a.m. The fires were determined to have been intentionally set. Damage was contained to the dumpsters, and the investigation is ongoing.

Oct. 27, 2005-Property Damage 2nd Degree-8230 S. Florissant Road

Between 8:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. person(s) unknown punched a small hole under the door lock of the victim's vehicle while the car was parked. The victim indicated that the vehicle was still locked when the victim went out to get in.

Oct. 28, 2005-Property Damage 2nd Degree-Lucas Hall/Lot I/Lot CCB

Between 10:15 p.m. and 11 p.m. three vehicles were damaged. All three vehicles had a window smashed out, however nothing was taken from any one of the vehicles.

Oct. 30, 2005-Property Damage 2nd Degree-Parking Lot M
Between 9 p.m. and 10:25 p.m. person(s) unknown broke out the window of the victim's vehicle and stole the car stereo.

Oct. 31, 2005-Property Damage/Stealing Under \$500-Parking Lot K

Two vehicles were damaged sometime between 5:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both cars had windows busted out and one had the ignition tampered with. A small Dell MP3 player was stolen from inside.

Nov. 1, 2005-Property Damage/Stealing Under \$500-Parking Lot K

Five vehicles were damaged sometime between 5:30 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. All of the cars had a window busted out. The interiors were ransacked, however nothing was stolen from inside.

Nov. 4, 2005-Domestic Violence Assault-Le Grau Residence Hall

A boyfriend/girlfriend dispute led to a minor altercation where the male suspect (who is not a student) assaulted the female victim in her dorm room. The UM-St. Louis police department was able to track down the suspect and have him come to the station, where he was arrested on the domestic violence assault charge. The suspect was released pending the application for warrant(s) at the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

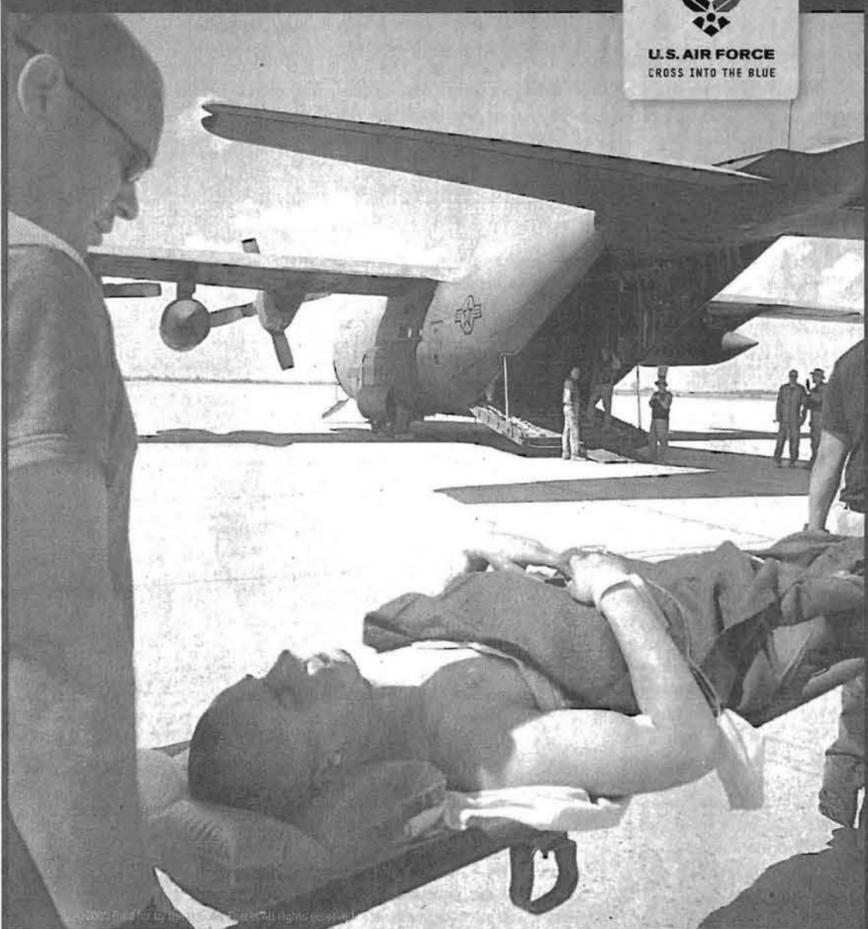
Nov. 5, 2005-Stealing Over \$500-Millennium Student Center

Between Friday and Sunday computer equipment was stolen from the Century Rooms.

Nov. 5, 2005-Stealing Over \$500-Benton/Studier/Research Buildings

Between Friday and Sunday, various pieces of computer equipment were stolen from three separate rooms in these buildings.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Master's in Gerontology
- Master's in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 2 P.M. - College of Education
- 6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

BUYOUTS, from page 1

Now he has returned home to help his mother, Betty Orlando, who lived in the house for 55 years, move out.

"We moved in 1955. I was five years old. We had our neighborhood friends. We knew everybody, most the people up and down the street," Joe said one afternoon in the driveway of his house. He was drinking a soda and with a friend loading the last pieces of furniture from the family home.

"Oh, yeah, it's taken away the neighborhood. Flooded the place with dust and mud. I just walked in there and I just started crying," Joe said.

His mother is moving to a place in St. Ann and the family has come together to paint and make her feel at home in the new place, Joe said. But the new house is not as nice, Joe explained. With the housing market being what it is, his mother had not been able to purchase a house nearly as nice as the one on Geiger that had been slowly expanded over 55 years.

"A few people moved away, but when the University started buying people out, that's when the rest of them moved away," Joe said. "UM-St. Louis just started real calmly, then they closed the street off there at the top. We kinda knew eventually they would get here. But we were hoping."

Joe said the worst part was how the University treated his mother. She has been suffering from nerves and had two of her vertebrae fused together. The University sent her letters indicating they would not be to sad if she passed away and they low balled her on selling price, Joe said.

"It's heartbreaking. I've moved several times, I thought I could deal with it," Joe said. "They put a lot of aggression on her, they sent her letters, she didn't want to leave. She was one of those little old ladies who would of stayed until she got bulldozed. It's a shame. It's really sad."

The University initially offered the Orlandos \$60,000 but with a lawyer Mrs. Orlando received \$143,500 when the house was sold this summer.

Betty Orlando said in a phone interview that she didn't want to leave her home, but she was afraid that she would end up getting less money if she resisted the sale. She said a negotiator from the University told her she could end up with the original offer of \$60,000 if she didn't agree to sell.

"I'm 73, and I was just getting worried that they would take my house with eminent domain."

Orlando said she was glad that she had her children helping her to move.

"I went back to there one time and I couldn't go back any more. It was devastating. Without my sons helping me, I don't know what I would have done."

Neighbor Carolyn Mills worked for UM-St. Louis for four years. She was a secretary for THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION and has plaques to prove it. She is also raising a daughter and a son with asthma. Her house is the nearest to Florissant Road on the north side of the street.

"All the neighbors got along. We are still gonna stay in touch," Mills said. "We had us a good thing down here in the valley."

Mills stood outside her home, which is dominated by the hill of the baseball field. Her uncle sat in a pleather chair next to her, wearing big aviator glasses, chain smoking while mumbling his "story comes with a price."

His house once stood next to Mills house but is now a grassy vacant lot. He sold out years ago.

"I'm tired right now. I'm trying to get over the hump," Mills said. "It's never enough. They did not give me a fair price. You can only hold out for so long. It depends on how much you want to deal with."

Mills finally decided living on Geiger was not worth the strain on her family. Her son has asthma, she said, and for years construction companies have kicked up dust right in front of her house. She had to keep him in the house and not allow him to go out and play, she said. Instead she took the money and bought a new car and house where there is no dust.

"They didn't give a fuck about us. They were having monthly meetings about this stuff. They didn't call us," Mills said. "But I'm satisfied now, I bought a new house, bought a new car. This ain't no new news, this is old news."

UM-St. Louis bought her property for \$120,000 this summer.

Two families have yet to sell. Situated at the top of a hill right next to the rail line, the two neighbors hold out for a better price. On the east side is the house of the Rendons, a family of first generation Americans of El Salvadoran descent. The mother, Bernard Rendon, still only speaks Spanish.

In El Salvador, the Rendons had been very active in the Catholic Church. The church, which spoke out for minority rights and helped the native population, was seen as a subversive force in 1980s El Salvador, where 14 families owned the entire country. Orlando Rendon, the husband



ABOVE:

Bernard Rendon sits in her home on Geiger Rd. with her grandson, Marcos Rendon, 9, on Thursday afternoon. Rendon came to America from El Salvador in the 1980s with her late husband, Orlando. She is one of two homeowners who are still living on Geiger Road.



LEFT:

Joe Orlando, 55, looks out at the backyard of his childhood home on Geiger Road earlier this month. Orlando's mother, Betty Orlando sold her home to the University earlier this summer.

Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

RIGHT:

Playground equipment and toys sit in the backyard of the former home of Carolyn Mills and her family. Mills sold her home to the University for \$120,000 and moved out in October.



of Bernard, was arrested, accused of being a guerilla and sent to prison for two and a half years. In 1983, with the help of Amnesty International, he was released and given the opportunity to travel with his family to the United States as political refugees.

Memorial Boulevard Christian Church in North St. Louis sponsored the family and the Rendons lived in the church for six months. Bernard still attends the church, though she also worships at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cool Valley.

The Rendons raised four daughters and a son in the home on Geiger Street. Today, Bernard is grandmother to seven grandchildren. Daysi and Sandra Rendon, the two eldest daughters, both graduated from UM-St. Louis with Sandra getting her master's from the University. Orlando Rendon died three years ago after being ill for a long time.

"There are lots of memories of my father here. He was sick for many years and this is where he spent that time," Daysi Rendon, eldest daughter, said translating for her mother. "Plus, the memories of us kids growing up in the house."

"She was saying she has always loved this house because it reminds her of her home back in El Salvador. In her mind, this was the home in which she would stay forever. At no point did it cross her mind to sell the house," Daysi said, translating for her mother, "You think you buy a house it is your house. And then someone comes and says you have to leave and not only do you have to leave but we are going to

tell you how much we are going to pay for your house. It's almost as if it never really was her house if anyone can come and just take it."

"The University is a place where mostly young people come to learn and be educated and she finds it very sad that the University, that is a place to be trusted, can come to her and say you have to leave," Daysi Rendon, said translating for her mother.

"I think it is very ridiculous to spend thousands and millions of dollars to build this building for business but then they refuse to give the people a few dollars more," Daysi Rendon said.

On the west side of the Rendons lives Gerald Breite, the driving force of the hold out.

"This thing has come to a head and been going on a long time," Breite said in a phone conversation. "This is an ugly situation and I am not very happy about it."

He did not want to be referred to extensively since negotiations are ongoing. His lawyer Jerry Wallach spoke on behalf of both families.

"No one likes to give up their home. If these folks had an ideal life they would not give up their house," Wallach said in a phone interview. "But the University has the rights of Eminent Domain and power of condemnation."

They are exercising their authority. There is not much purpose looking behind reasons," Wallach said, referring to the recent Supreme Court ruling on eminent domain had made it almost

certain the judge would rule in favor of the University. The only issue was proper compensation, he said.

"The situations are virtually identical. The houses are different and the numbers are different but each have a home they don't want to give up but they don't get to stay. We are just making sure each is justly compensated," Wallach said.

The Plan

When UM-St. Louis announced the resettling of the Express Scripts Headquarters on campus last month, a plan long in the making had become an actuality.

Express Scripts will place its new headquarters in a business park the University has planned on building since the mid 1990s. In accordance with the UM-St. Louis Master Plan, the University has been pursuing avenues to bring fresh business growth to the community. A business park was seen as a way to do this.

"The master planners came in and looked at the two MetroLink stations that we have, the type of properties that were around us. Their best advice to us was to start buying properties contiguous to us before they become unaffordable. They said the metro sites were like highway exchanges," said Bob Samples, director of University Communications. "In the long term what we envisioned was to create along [Geiger] was not necessarily university buildings but to create something that would help the community

and campus and that's when the business park idea came along. Express Scripts was the type of company we wanted to come onto site since the very beginning."

The site will have 320,000 square feet with room to expand and will include a new east west road and the relocation of the baseball field. The proposed business park will sit on top of where Geiger runs now.

"It has been UM-St. Louis policy since 1992 to buy any property that becomes available around the campus. This is in step with the expansionist vision the Chancellor and Board of Curators has for the campus."

"The University has been aggressively buying properties contiguous to the University since 1991. We created a master plan in 1992. In essence what [the master plan] was doing was saying where you need to put things," Samples said. "We've been much more than fair in our offers."

With the negotiations to bring Express Script to campus, the need to clear Geiger Road for construction reached a head. The University bought five properties on the street over the summer and, before the Express Scripts announcement, started the condemnation process for the two hold-outs.

"The University of Missouri-St. Louis has purchased more than 100 acres of land and numerous buildings over the past decade to enhance its mission of teaching, research, service and economic development. UMSL has always approached these transactions in good faith. We make fair offers to landowners, while also understanding that we have a duty to prudently manage public funds. This summer UMSL made what it believes were better than fair offers on [the Geiger Rd. properties]. The landowners rejected the offers and UMSL filed for condemnation," reads the official statement on the houses supplied by the office of University Communications.

With the groundbreaking for the Express Scripts headquarters last Wednesday, Nov. 2, the fate of the Rendons and Gerald Breite is no longer in their own hands. It is only a matter of time before they are forced to take whatever price the court deems proper and then the only remnants of a neighborhood older than the University will be the memories in the minds of Bernard Rendon sitting on the couch and the grandchildren who

A brief overview of Express Scripts

Business park's first tenant is \$9 billion PBM

BY BRIAN SALMO
Staff Writer

Express Scripts broke ground on their new corporate headquarters on the UM-St. Louis campus on Nov. 2. The move by Express Scripts is anticipated by company executives and University administrators to be a mutually benefiting arrangement for both the company and the campus. But who is this corporation that is moving to campus?

Express Scripts is a publicly-owned, \$9 billion pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) that was founded in St. Louis in 1986. A PBM is an organization that handles healthcare services for companies, health insurers and governments. The main focus of a PBM is to develop and implement strategies to help manage their client's employee healthcare costs.

Vice President of Public Affairs at Express Scripts, Steve Littlejohn, said that they help consumers save money.

"We're the reason you pay 15 or 20 dollars for a prescription that costs a hundred [dollars]," Littlejohn said. He explained that Express Scripts negotiates prescription drug prices on behalf of their clients.

"The pharmacy benefit is the most used employee benefit," Littlejohn said.

Express Scripts fills over 450 million prescriptions a year through the mail and a network of 59,000 retail pharmacies.

Littlejohn says that Express Scripts has an extensive information technology system to not only enhance logistical efficiencies, but also member safety. "Every time we process a prescription it goes through a 140-point check to make sure the drugs are interacting safely together," Littlejohn said.

As the healthcare industry continues to grow, Express Scripts sought out new headquarters to accommodate its increasing staff. Its new headquarters at UM-St. Louis, near the current baseball field, will have 1,100 employees in a total of 320,000 square feet of office space.

The company will leave 1,600 employees at its current headquarters in Maryland Heights, Mo.

UM-St. Louis College of Business Dean Keith Womer believes Express Scripts will be a safe Fortune 500 company to have on campus.

"They seem to be narrowly focused on the niche of handling data and information and negotiating healthcare services for their clients. They're not a manufacturer. The core of their business seems to be information processing," Womer said.

Womer and Littlejohn are in the conceptual stage of forming a task-force to try to find synergies between UM-St. Louis and Express Scripts. "The important thing is to find how one plus one will equal three," Littlejohn said.

Womer is excited that 1,100 additional people will be coming to campus and the effect they could have on the area. He speculated that the influx of people may encourage a new on-campus recreation facility, expanded daycare operations and more restaurants and shops moving to the neighborhood.

Express Scripts has expanded their workforce to 16,000 by being, for many years, one of the nation's fastest growing companies. UM-St. Louis students could find a variety of internship and job opportunities at the company. Also, more Express Scripts employees may be attending or guest lecturing courses at UM-St. Louis.

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OPINION

Our Opinion

Express Scripts: New improvement or insensitive bargain?

The new business park, anchored with Express Scripts, will inarguably benefit UM-St. Louis. The establishment will bring experience to students through a learning lab, the prestige of a Fortune 500 company and the spotlight of a fast-growing industry.

But it comes at a price. Imagine your grandmother fighting to keep the house she's lived in for 30 years. Picture your siblings trying to maintain the home they've built for their children.

University officials might or might not have thought about the sentiment that exists in the houses on Geiger Road. Families living in homes even longer than the University's been around.

Chances are, it does not matter. Quite simply, the University places a higher value on the land's possibilities with Express Scripts than the established community currently there.

During the last 10 years, UM-St.

Louis has steadily purchased all the houses on Geiger Road except two. The University has now turned its eye and used a heavy hand on those remaining families, using condemnation hearings and eminent domain to get the last tenants out.

According to some of the homeowners, they received an initial offer far lower than the house's monetary worth. Only after working with lawyers, they got the University to offer a reasonable sum, one that they can feasibly use to buy another house.

But they don't want to leave. One woman moved in when UM-St. Louis was still a golf course. She stayed through the development of the University, the increase in traffic and area growth. Unable to foresee the construction of a corporate facility, she built a home and planned on living there indefinitely.

She's heartbroken about leaving, and her kids, now adults, feel similarly.

However, there's no room for emotion in the booming world of business and financial growth. Express Scripts is about the numbers. The equation is simple:

Two is less than 400. The latter, the number of jobs Missouri stands to gain is more valuable.

Factor in human sentiment, and the problem changes. Realistically, it's irrational to expect the University to refuse such a potentially beneficial offer from Express Scripts. But couldn't they have found another location? Doesn't the University have a different plot of land to use? Is there no such thing as a win-win solution?

Other options might exist, but as we've seen with the baseball field debacle, they probably cost too much for UM-St. Louis to consider unless students or parents rally to ask for a change.

Two points for The Man. Zero for humanity. Zero for community. Zero for compassion.

Staff Viewpoint

What does UMSTL need to do to get better than 245th out of 245?

Before I give you the bad news, I must say that I like UM-St. Louis. As a history graduate student, all I really know is the History Department, which I think is wonderful.

However, when the Washington Monthly rated 245 national universities, UM-St. Louis ranked 245th out of 245. That's right, dead last.

I subscribe to the Washington Monthly and respect it, which makes UM-St. Louis's poor showing so upsetting.

What the magazine's editors did was think of what they believe a university should do and figure out ways to measure that. They decided that universities should give students from poverty-stricken families upward mobility, should turn out students who want to serve humanity and not just get wealthy, and advance knowledge and economic growth through research.

Measuring all three is difficult and, the editors admit, far from perfect. However, when a school ranks at the very bottom, it's pretty clear that it doesn't belong near the top.

To measure upward mobility, they wanted to find the graduation rate of students supported by Pell Grants. But those statistics are not available, so they measured the percentage of students with Pell Grants at each school, and predicted what the graduation rate should be based on that.

What's more important to a state university than upward mobility? The predicted graduation rate was 63 percent for our 22 percent Pell-Grant student body, but the actual graduation rate was 38 percent. The minus 25 percent deficit put us at 235th, 10th from the



BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
Columnist

bottom. Who did well? Top in social mobility was the University of California at Los Angeles with 37 percent of its students receiving Pell Grants and a graduation rate of 87 percent. Four of the other nine top social mobility schools are campuses of the University of California: Berkeley, San Diego, Davis and Riverside.

Also in the top 10 were two historically African-American public schools—South Carolina State University in Orangeburg and Jackson State University in Mississippi—and three private schools—Polytechnic University (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Brigham Young University and the lone Ivy League school in the top 10, Cornell University in upstate New York.

I don't know what to make of our low graduation rate.

I spoke to John Kundel, associate vice provost for student affairs about it. He said he had not heard about the Washington Monthly ratings, but he said the school was looking for ways to

improve the graduation rate. UM-St. Louis has hired Noel-Levitz, a consulting firm specializing in college enrollment and retention, to study ways to increase retention. So obviously the administration knows it needs to improve.

He pointed out that as a commuter campus, UM-St. Louis is at a disadvantage because commuters are less engaged in campus life. He also pointed out that some students drop out because they don't have the money to continue or for a host of other reasons.

Of the top 10 social mobility schools, one is a commuter campus—Jackson State. Its graduation rate is about the same as ours—37 percent—but its percentage of Pell Grant students is much higher—78 percent. Go to its Web site and you'll find one advantage it has over us—tuition is lower—\$1,982 for in-state students and \$2,454 for out of state students.

So out-of-state tuition is more than \$1,300 lower than in-state tuition here. And that's in Mississippi, a state traditionally at the bottom in the provision of government services. Apparently, funding higher education is a higher priority in Mississippi than Missouri.

But that can only be part of the problem.

I want to know what is why our graduation rate is so low. Students, faculty, and staff members who have some ideas, e-mail me, and, if I get some interesting responses, I'll put them in a future column. Or if you don't trust my judgment, write a letter to the editor.

My e-mail address is bcie9d@umsl.edu.

Editor's Opinion

Nipple strikes terror in American society

Pornographic. Disgusting. Inappropriate. Embarrassing. Terrifying to American society.

I'm not referring to Ron Jeremy, Al Qaeda or accidental flatulence. These words refer to something that strikes a nerve much deeper in society, something that crosses party lines and freaks out people on all ends of the political spectrum.

I'm talking about ... the female nipple.

Where does America's nipple phobia stem from? Perhaps our aversion to these functional parts comes from the strong link between nudity and sexuality. From porn to mainstream media, showing skin represents sex, an eternally controversial topic surrounded by morals and taboo curiosity. Parents do have a right to teach their kids about sexuality, and pop culture does thrust extreme behavior at us regularly.

But let's be serious. A fleeting view of Janet Jackson's mammary wouldn't seriously traumatize children if such a taboo buzz didn't surround it.

I'll admit, you won't see me strolling through campus in the buff. I subscribe to the social norms that dictate appropriate behavior in this area. But I do plan on breastfeeding my children someday, and I'm bothered by the negative attitude about doing it in public. When our discomfort spreads to a functional concept, we have a problem.

Modesty is relative. We've managed to ostracize the female nipple — an anatomical part that fulfills a natural purpose — and accept the male version, despite the fact that it's practically identical.

Any teenage girl can purchase a



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

magazine that features men without their shirts. Cosmopolitan actually has a specific 'Man without his Shirt' page that appears regularly. Try and find women without coverage, and you'll have to present ID at the counter.

Even the Discovery Channel and National Geographic blur out

the female nipple during educational shows. I can view a woman's internal organs after a surgeon slices through her skin, but God forbid I catch a glimpse of her nipple. I can watch an uncensored account of tribal boys undergoing painful coming-of-age ceremonies, but viewing an unclothed mother playing with her children requires carefully positioned pixelation. The blurring doesn't cover her entire breast, nor is it even applied to male chests. Apparently it's not inappropriate unless we see the ever-offensive nipple.

What scares us so much? Are we afraid of turning into a lewd, voyeuristic society if we let the female mammary gland peep out on any occasion? Europe seems to be doing all right, even with the various clothing-optional beaches and nude spas. The novelty and scandalous taboo of nudity wears off pretty quickly once people get over the shock.

Our attitude toward anatomy is a little too rigid. I'm not suggesting we should all throw out our t-shirts and bare everything, nor am I peddling promiscuity. Americans just need to get over our fear of the Big Bad Nipple. Stop throwing disapproving glances at breastfeeding mothers, and don't gawk at every inch of forbidden skin. Evaluate your perception of nudity, and keep it in perspective. Our body parts only freak us out because we let them.

Letter to the Editor

Too many solicitors on campus

I have become increasingly frustrated with the increase of solicitors and proselytizers on campus. They strike when you're on your way to class, toting Bibles, sob stories about how the tree kangaroos need your money, and coupons for the spa down the street.

I had to call my friend on my cell phone, warning her about the presence of a man underhandedly selling magazine subscriptions to sponsor his "trip to Paris." It's pathetic. We're college students and we have tuition to pay; sponsoring some stranger's pleasure cruise is not on my financial priority list.

Maybe I'm crazy, but aren't these folks breaking some sort of campus policy? If not, I'd love to join the bandwagon. I'll dress up like a panda, hand out copies of Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," and carry a box to collect donations to "Sarah's educational fund." I need the

money and strongly feel that everyone should read "Heart of Darkness"... and everybody loves a panda.

Now, I don't mind when organizations have tables set up or are handing out information. Collecting money for charity is fine (when the group collecting the money is located on campus), and I think students handing out surveys for class projects are acceptable. But these people who offer me coupons for plastic lips, special memberships, trips to Abu Dhabi, more mailing lists than I ever want, Salvation, and deals I "can't refuse" are really getting on my nerves. They are not sponsored by UM-St. Louis and have no business here. If UM-St. Louis sponsors them, let me know ... I've got my panda costume ready.

Sincerely,
Sarah Messmer

The Intern Diaries

Sister Act: Gary finds love with 'Wild Pony'

BY GARY SOHN
New York Correspondent

Wayne Gretzky, hockey player, once said, "You'll always miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

Before my plane landed, I thought that this time it would be for real. I really believed that this relationship was different from all the others.

And it was to a certain extent. I met Wild Pony, once in person, sometime last December. During that time I was going through an ugly breakup and was not paying too much attention to anything else, although I remembered her being enchanting at the time.

We were introduced through her sister, Sister Pony.

Things are complicated from this point on because at one time I had a crush on Sister Pony though I never told her so.

My plane eventually landed in

Miami and I caught a cab to Wild Pony's apartment. Wild Pony stood on the second floor balcony wearing a light blue outfit. She came downstairs to greet me.

I picked her up with one arm while holding my luggage and we kissed. The kiss was soft, gentle, wet, and powerful; it could also be described as electric. I felt the currents in her lively soul pass through her lips into mine, and then carry on through my entire body, from my head to my toes, and back to my head and again down to my toes, and back up to my head and...okay, so it was a long, soft, gentle, wet, powerful, electric kiss.

It was weird at first talking with Wild Pony in person because we only got to speak on the phone for six months. I was accustomed to seeing her in my mind from hearing her voice and listening to her breathing over the phone. But

that awkwardness had eventually worn off.

Wild Pony and I had an interesting time on our first day out. We went to a nearby mall where we had lunch and watched a fashion show together.

The fashion show featured firefighters showing off their chiseled, tan bodies while women of all ages—mostly senior citizens—yelled, screamed and snapped photos of the models as they flexed and dipped to the floor on the runway.

"Great," I thought to myself, "just what she needs to see before I have to take off my shirt at the beach."

After the fashion show, we went to the beach. I was surprised to see so many topless women lying out in the sun. It was tough not looking at all the naked women while walking along the beach with Wild Pony.

I took my shirt off and exposed my

pale white body. I jumped out into the ocean and rode some waves for a while. Wild Pony wasn't feeling well and couldn't get in the water so she laid out on the sand.

Eventually, my stay was up. I had to wake up at 4:00 a.m. to catch my flight back to New York for the 2005 US Tennis Open. Wild Pony woke up early too and saw me out. I gave her a really tight hug and another long, electric kiss. I said, "I love you." She said, "I love you too," in a soft, shy whisper.

While leaving, I saw Wild Pony on the balcony watching me out. She appeared sad. I don't know what she was thinking at the time, but I was afraid that she was thinking about asking me to stay with her—to not go back to New York. I am glad she didn't. I probably would have done something dumb like given up everything in New York to stay

with her. I know that might sound stupid to some, but I am fool when it comes to falling in love.

A couple of weeks later while working the tennis gig, we decided to breakup.

It was mutual for the most part. I was hearing less and less from her. I decided to fold on the relationship before things went further.

But all is still well between Wild Pony and I. I emailed her recently and asked if things were okay after Hurricane Wilma. She said that they had no electric or phone for three days, and some of their front room windows were busted out.

Even though my relationship with Wild Pony ended just like all the other ones, this one is different. I still care about her and maybe our paths will cross again in the future. Until then, I'll keep my head up and hope for the best.

Stay tuned next week when Gary works on the set of Uma Thurman's latest film, 'Super Ex-Girlfriend.'

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The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
1 University Blvd.
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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.

The Current is looking for photojournalists. Applicants must have taken Photo 1 or have comparable experience. Paid positions. No personal camera necessary.

Science Column

UMSL student, Goldman prize winner speaks at zoo



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

A rapt audience at the St. Louis Zoo heard UMSL biology graduate student Corneille Ewango give a talk entitled "People and Forest Biodiversity in Times of Armed Conflict: the Ituri Forest, DRC," about his work trying to preserve species diversity in Democratic Republic of Congo, on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005. What brought the audience out was not just an interest in Africa or conservation but the fact that the speaker was a winner of this year's "environmental Nobel," the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Corneille Ewango's talk was introduced by Dr. Patrick Osborne, who heads the International Center for Tropical Ecology, a collaborative effort

of UMSL, Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo. Ewango is one of five graduate students who received Christenson Fund Grants to study plant science at UMSL, in addition to being one of six Goldman Prize winners this year. Ewango also received the Chancellor's Medal from Chancellor George at UMSL.

Ewango's story and his devotion to conservation are nothing short of heroic. Corneille Ewango was awarded a Goldman Environmental Prize on April 18, 2005 at the annual Goldman awards ceremony in San Francisco. The Goldman Environmental Prize annually honors grassroots environmental heroes from six regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Europe, Island Nations, North America and South and Central America. Ewango was the winner of the prize for Africa. The prestigious Goldman prize was established in 1990, and bestows an award of \$750,000 annually, the largest award of its kind. The recipients are selected for their significant and sustained contributions for the environment by a group of renowned environmental experts and organizations.

Ewango won the prize for his heroic dedication to his work at the Wildlife Conservation Society's research facility in the Ituri Forest area during the

recent wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a resource-rich central African nation formerly known as Zaire that is home to many significant species.

Ewango spoke about the parks system in DRC, a bit about his experiences during the war and about the future of conservation in the area.

"This is the first time speaking publicly about what I did to save our heritage," Ewango told the audience of the nearly-filled auditorium. "Sometimes I forget some of the events, because I didn't have even a pencil or anything to write on for notes." Ewango presented his talk in front of a large screen on which maps, fact lists, graphics and photos illustrating his points were projected.

He began by telling the audience a bit of history about conservation in DRC. DRC has a long history of establishing parks to protect its fauna and flora, dating back to 1925 under Dutch colonial rule, Ewango told his audience, and these national treasures are a source of national pride in the country. DRC is the largest country in central Africa and has a great deal of biodiversity. The country is also rich in mineral wealth, including diamonds and coltan, a mineral used in cell phones. "Eighty percent of minerals used in

heavy industry are found in DRC but it is poor in infrastructure like schools and roads, and there is much poverty," Ewango said.

There are two kinds of nature reserves in DRC: several run by the country's government and five run by UNESCO as World Heritage sites, including the Okapi Faunal Reserve. All park land belongs to the DRC government. Among threatened species found in DRC are both lowland and mountain gorillas, elephants, rhino, pygmy hippo, and okapi, which are known as the forest giraffe. It is also home to the only population of bonobos, or pygmy chimpanzees, a separate species that is as closely related to us as the more familiar chimpanzee. The research facility where Ewango worked contained a zoo with a captive breeding program for the rare okapi.

As a child, Ewango helped his uncle poach elephants, but as he grew up he became fascinated with plant conservation and became a botanist. Now he hopes to persuade the people of the DRC to take pride in their natural treasures and to show them the potential economic benefits of preserving them.

There are different models of conservation. The Okapi Faunal Reserve used the Park Management model,

which allows local people to continue to live on their lands inside the reserve, a community-based conservation. Under this model, the reserve conducted scientific research, education, surveyed plant and animal population in the area and preserved plants, animals and habitat.

Ewango worked at the Uтури reserve for about 10 years. When the battling armies approached in 2002, all his colleagues left but he decided to stay. "I thought I could die anyway and someone needed to save the work," said Ewango. Over several months, Ewango hid equipment and data in the forest and communicated in secret with the outside world by satellite phone and laptop. When the situation deteriorated to a point where supplies had run out and he felt his life was threatened, Ewango escaped through a grueling four day walk to cross the border to another country to rejoin his family.

Ewango gave some pointers for conservationists dealing with political or armed conflicts: stay out of politics, stay neutral and civilian, appeal to patriot pride on natural resource to discourage exploitation of resources, remind them about local benefits of partnerships with international conservation groups, and document abuses

and looting.

Ewango also presented evidence that his decision to stay was the right one for the research facility. In previous conflicts, when everyone left, it took much longer to restore the facility and more research was lost. The key to this, Ewango thought, was to have citizens of that country on senior staff, instead of only foreign nationals. It pointed out the pressing need to train conservationists of those nationalities to work in their own country. "A national-based conservation staff provides a greater chance that researchers can stay to both observe and report on the situation and preserve the environment."

He also pointed out that protected areas that have the best relationship with local populations survive best. By demonstrating a commitment to the welfare of local communities in times of armed conflict, conservationists may provide a basis for conservation improvement and collaboration over the long term. Also ecologically sustainable agriculture is essential because it provides cash crops and food and a reason for conservation. "Conservation groups have to be realistic," said Ewango. "Reserves are protected areas but they must be strategic reserves for emergencies."

Letter to the Editor

Wiseman's viewpoint fails to consider points on Iraq war, reader says

[In response to Adam Wiseman's viewpoint in issue 1166]

I appreciate your concern of the tragic loss of lives due to the ongoing conflict in Iraq. The ability for citizens of this nation to express their opinions without fear of persecution is one of the principles that I, as a United States Marine, am proud and excited to defend. Even though I wholeheartedly disagree with your opinion of the war, I would voluntarily lay down my life in defense of your freedoms.

That said, I feel it is necessary to alert you to the fact that the war waging in Iraq right now is not being

fought for nothing. My Marine brothers have come very close to completely eradicating a terrorist ruling regime which is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, a far cry from the number of civilians who have lost their lives in the current conflict.

Whether or not Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, harbored terrorists, or was in pursuit of a nuclear armament, is a moot point. The fact is that Saddam Hussein and his regime committed horrible crimes against humanity. Allowing a regime to continue its terrorist ways,

especially in the post 9-11 environment, would nearly equate to full sponsorship of such dictatorships.

Sometimes it amazes me that those opposed to the war can turn such a blind eye to the atrocities committed by Saddam. Quite frankly, it pisses me off. Have you forgotten what it was like the day you watched the World Trade Center collapse to its demise, with thousands of Americans trapped within its walls? You mentioned it in your article, yet used it as a point NOT to fight global terrorism. This rational of thinking I cannot understand.

Yes, it is a tragedy that civilian and

American lives are lost almost every day in this conflict. Yet, how many more lives would have been lost should we have chosen to stand by and NOT do anything? The price of inaction would have been far greater than the price of action, maybe not now, but definitely in our children's lifetime. And I want to leave them a better world than the one I live in.

I have another point to make. You presented statistics for the first four years of conflict in Vietnam. However, if you were a student of previous conflicts, you would know that during the initial stages of the Vietnam War, the

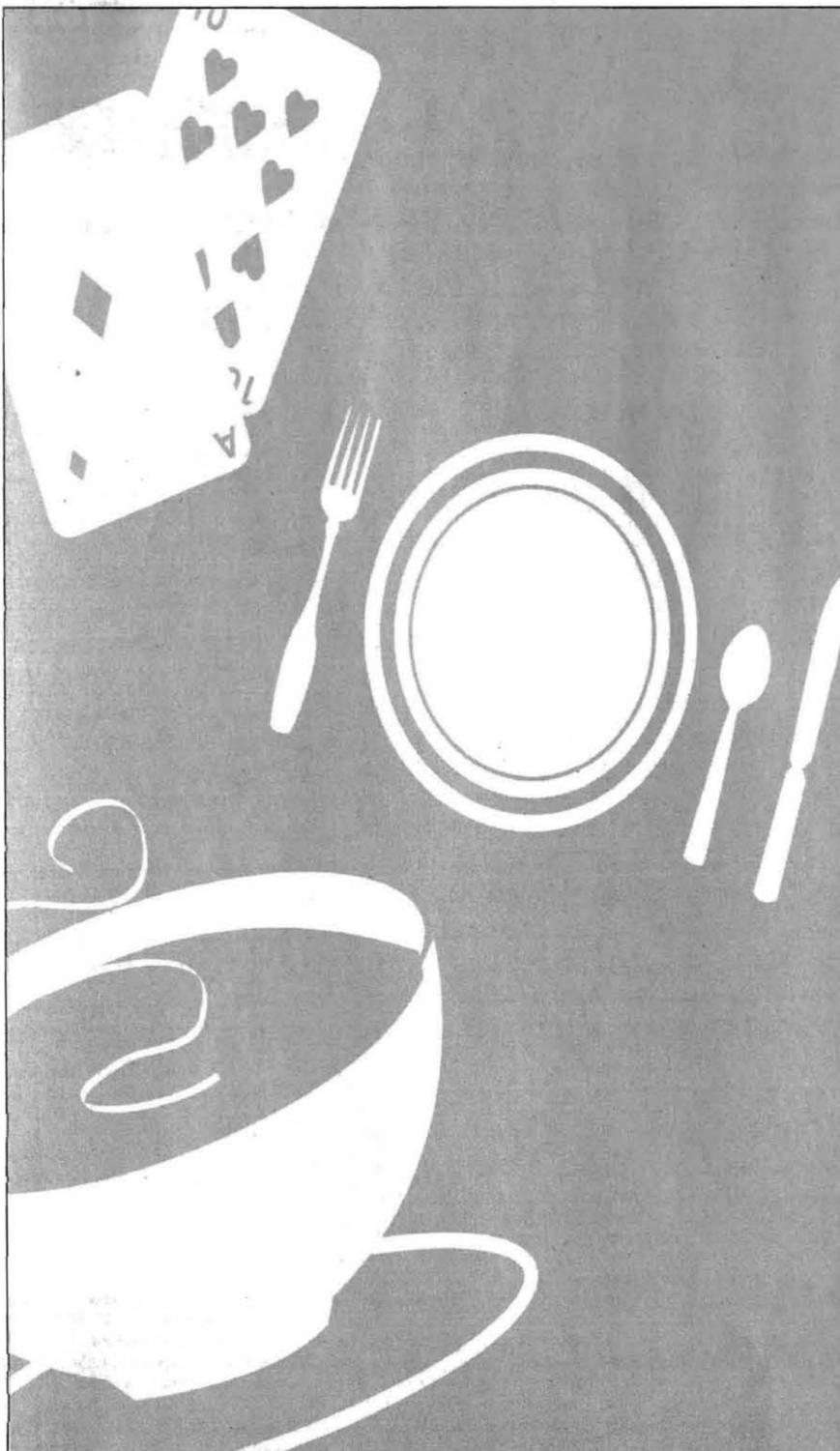
United States held a supportive role for South Vietnam, and did not enter into heavy conflict until later in the war.

I would like to invite you to the American Legion post on Jamestown Road in Florissant one night so you can share your views with men who fought, and saw their brothers die, not only in this present conflict, but the Persian Gulf War, Beirut, Somalia, Vietnam, Korea, and World War Two. Ask them what they fought for. Ask them what their brothers died for. Ask them if those wars were for nothing, and ask them why we fight today. Ask me why I decided to stand up. You

only enjoy the freedom you have today because 400,000 Americans gave their lives in World War Two. 400,000. Believe me when I say this: 2,000 American lives lost and 30,000 civilian lives lost in this current conflict is a miracle, a reflection on the spirit of our military today.

I will fight for your right to protest always, yet I will never believe in what you believe.

PFC Matthew Garvey
US Marine Corps



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Students prepare to become University leaders

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Selected freshman and transfer students were given the opportunity to learn, gain and develop leadership skills through The Emerging Leaders Program at UM-St. Louis.

Although The Emerging Leaders Program was created several years ago at UM-St. Louis, the program was redeveloped this year to teach new students how to become campus organization and community leaders.

Erin Bullerdieck, graduate student, educational administration, worked to organize the program's redevelopment as her graduate assistant project.

"The program was first introduced to the campus many years ago, but it did not really go anywhere for a while," Bullerdieck said. "This year the program was recreated in the hope that it could eventually be offered as a one-credit hour course available to students."

The original idea of the program came from Robert Greenleaf in 1970, and had a primary focus on "servant leadership." The philosophy of servant-leadership is that people choose to serve first and then lead as a way of expanding service to individuals and institutions.

Some of the basis of servant-leadership include collaboration, trust, foresight, listening and the ethical use of power and empowerment.

Though there were over 70 applicants for this year's Emerging Leaders Program, only 27 students were selected to participate. The selected students attended various workshops over an eight-week period which began on Sept. 9.

Some of the different topics covered at the workshops included "Negotiation Basics," "Ethics," and "Diversity." Faculty, staff and alumni from UM-St. Louis, guest speakers, panelists from community nonprofit and government agencies and profes-



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Jonathon Brook saw what he thought was servant leadership in the student who approached him as he sat alone in the Nosh and asked him if he would like to be involved at UM-St. Louis. Brook is one of the New Orleans students accommodated by UM-St. Louis owing to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and has since then become an Emerging Leader.

sors from Washington University, Lincoln University and Carbondale conducted the workshops and lectures.

Miranda Dorn, sophomore, secondary education, English, was among the 27 students who filled out an application and were selected.

Dorn participated in the workshops and said they were beneficial because she could see servant-leadership in a real world context.

"We were also given valuable reading and information regarding these topics and other forms of leadership. As part of the program, we read the given assignments and came to the sessions prepared to reflect, discuss, ask and answer questions," Dorn said.

Dorn said that the best thing about the program is the opportunity it provided.

"We were given the necessary tools to serve, whether it be at UMSL or in our communities. We met leaders here at UMSL, who encouraged us to get involved and also impressed upon us that there is a need for servant leaders here," Dorn said. "We also met others who showed us how they have taken their passion and transformed it into something that will benefit others. But the best thing was being given the opportunity to be a part of it."

On Friday, Oct. 28, The Emerging Leaders Program held an awards and closing ceremony at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Provost Glen Cope and Vice Provost Curt Coonrod were among those who attended and showed their support. Cope was one of the keynote speakers at the ceremony.

Dorn was also given the chance to contemplate and speak about her own experiences with the program.

"The reception ceremony was an effective closing because it gave us a chance to hear from our fellow emerging leaders and other leaders around campus and how they feel about servant leadership. It was a time of reflection, but also a time to be motivated so that the servant leadership does not stop, just because the program is over. But rather we were challenged to use what we have learned in our own lives," Dorn said.

The students who participated in the Emerging Leaders Program presented Bullerdieck a book dedicated to her and a certificate for all of her hard work in organizing this year's

program. "The closing ceremony and leadership banquet was a very touching event for me since I will be graduating in December," Bullerdieck said.

Each student who participated will receive the Provost Certificate in Student and Community Leadership, along with an Honor Chord at graduation. The fact that they were involved with community leadership will also appear on their transcripts.

Bullerdieck said that all of the faculty and administration were very helpful in supporting this year's program.

"The students who came out of the program will be the next University leaders and it has given me great confidence in where the University is going," Bullerdieck said.

Start your Christmas list earlier with some computer shopping tips

BY CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
Copy Editor

For those of you who are eager to begin your Christmas list, the hottest new "must-have" computer item for college students is the ultra portable laptop. These sleek, slim and trendy notebooks are quickly becoming fashion accessories on college campuses around the nation.

The smaller, the better—and the more expensive. Ultra portables typically have a 12 inch screen, weigh 2.2 to 4 pounds and run anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,200. Originally intended for business executives who travel a lot, these notebooks have gained popularity with college students because they fit well in a bookbag or purse and look chic and stylish. The Toshiba Qosmio G15 and the Gateway M680XL are two of the most popular ultraportables.

For students with a more modest budget, there are the mainstream notebooks that are slightly larger and take less of a chunk out of the pocket. They generally have a 14 or 15 inch screen, weigh 4 to 7 pounds and range from \$1,100 to \$2,500. Popular mainstream laptops are the Dell Inspiron 2200 and the Gateway NX250X.

Those looking for a sturdier laptop can purchase a desktop replacement, which is basically a "souped up" laptop. These notebooks tend to be more like desktop computers, weighing in at 7 to 10 pounds with a 15 to 17 inch screen. The lower end desktop replacements sell for \$1,000 to \$2,000 whereas the higher end ones (which have faster processors and higher-quality graphics) sell for between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Students who do not plan on having their computer accompany them to the library, the lunchroom or the local study lounge can always purchase desktops. Though a desktop may seem archaic to some, it can sometimes pack more punch without making such a dent in the wallet. They are also less likely to be stolen from apartments or dorm rooms.

Value systems are the perfect choice for lower-tech students who use their computers mainly to check e-mail, frequent MyGateway and type papers. This type of use requires less

memory and processor speed, thus eliminating the need for expensive upgrades. A low-end system can start around \$500 and rises as more options are added. Popular value systems are the Dell XPS 400 and the HP Pavilion a1220n for PC fans and the Apple eMac for Apple fans.

Multimedia systems generally have a lot of audio and video bells and whistles. They are the computers with the fastest CD and DVD burners and the newest programs for displaying and editing digital photos and playing videos, television and music.

Screen resolution affects the quality of the image. The greater the resolution, the greater the detail—but this tends to decrease the size of fonts, making them difficult for people with poor eyesight to see.

For those who like to take their laptop on the road with them, battery life is an important consideration. A notebook should have at least two hours of battery life if students plan carrying them around. Another key consideration for those on the go is a warranty plan because laptops take more of a beating and are more susceptible to breakdowns than desktops.

When looking at desktop computer systems, there are several hardware components that deserve particular attention. First is processor speed. Budget CPUs are 2.4 to 3.0 GHz, mid-range from 2.8 to 3.2 GHz and high-end 3.4 GHz and above. The more gigahertz a processor boasts, the faster it can analyze data and the faster the system works.

Another important component is memory, otherwise known as RAM. Memory preserves data for retrieval—without enough memory, a computer system cannot run at its best, regardless of its other machinery. Systems typically should have at least 512 MB, but 1 GB allows the computer to perform better.

A computer's hard drive stores and allows access to large amounts of data. Computer systems these days normally offer plenty of storage, but look for a system with at least 80 GB. If upgrades are inexpensive, it doesn't hurt to increase the size of the hard drive for a rainy day.

Other important but less essential features to consider are CD and DVD burners, built-in wireless cards, video cards and TV tuner cards. External connectors, which are ports available for future peripherals and upgrades, are also handy for those who plan on upgrading or adding to their systems.

When shopping for a computer, students are better off if they are educated in the basics of computer terminology and have set a budget for themselves beforehand. Students that walk into a store unprepared may walk out with a computer system not suited for their needs or their budget.

SHOTS and Horizons will change organizations, but still assist students

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

College life can be stressful at times, especially when trying to balance friendships, a job and struggling to complete school work.

Peer educators at UM-St. Louis offer assistance and educational outreach programs to students who need advice to help them succeed in college.

Horizons peer educators and SHOTS (Students Helping Others To Succeed), two student organizations, whose main goals have been to educate and provide awareness to the campus community, are currently in the process of merging together to become a larger and more resourceful student group.

The unification of the two organizations is expected to be completed by the Spring semester and both groups will decide on a new name for the organization and will share one budget.

Tom Stork, senior, management and organizational behavior and the president of Horizons, believes that the merger of the two organizations will have numerous benefits.

"I think that it will have a positive change. There will be more people working together, promoting the group together and collaborating on ideas," Stork said.

Stork said that the participation with Horizons has decreased this year because of many of the former students involved have graduated and that this change will bring in more participation.

"Horizons has been in existence since the early 90s and right now we are in a transition period," Stork said.

According to the Wellness Resource Center- Peer Education website at www.umsl.edu/~wellness/peer.html, peer educators are given the opportunities to increase knowledge of health and wellness issues, improve self-awareness, consultation and presentation skills, are given leadership opportunities and collaborate with different campus organizations such as University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services.

June Smith, SHOTS president, said that there are numerous things that the organization's members do.

"We organize campus events, give alcohol education to promote safe habits and with making healthy

choices such as using designated drivers and give STD awareness," Smith said. "We offer HIV testing free every month through Planned Parenthood."

Like the main mission of SHOTS, Horizon's motto is "Students Helping Students."

Peer educators of Horizons have given presentations on stress management and have provided information about getting assistance on campus, demonstrated more effective study habits for students and answered questions about life problems.

While Horizons has become involved with campus events such as National Depression Screening Week, AIDS Awareness Week, Healthy Relationships, the Battle of the Sexes, and the Stress Relief Fairs, SHOTS has also assisted with events like Alcohol Awareness Week, Safe Spring Break, Blood Drives, Mirthday, the Great American Smoke Out and Sexual Responsibility Week.

Recently, on Oct. 31, SHOTS sponsored a campus student AIDS forum in conjunction with the Black Student Nurses Association. Horizons held Sex Trivia on Nov. 3, at the University Meadows.

Besides providing health awareness and helping other students, the peer educators have the chance to develop friendships by meeting other new people, learning leadership skills and improving their resumes.

"Being involved in SHOTS is a great opportunity to meet people and give out important information that not all students might be aware of," Smith said.

Both Horizons and SHOTS are recruiting more students to get involved with becoming group members and peer educators.

Stork said that he would encourage more male students to participate, since there are only three out of the current 16 peer educators are men.

"I would recommend students who are interested in becoming counselors, who are education or psychology majors, or anyone who wants to commit their time to making a difference and helping others," Stork said.

For more information about college issues or to find out how to become a peer mediator, visit the Wellness Resource Center, located on the first floor of the MSC or call 516-5380.

STUDENT

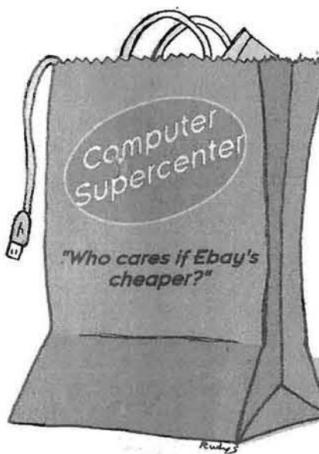
EDITOR
MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

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the week's
best
bets

Jackie Joyner-Kersee
to Discuss Her Career
Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Touhill Performing Arts
Center

East St. Louis native and five-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee will discuss "A Kind of Grace" at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Touhill. Her presentation, in which she provides insight into her ability to achieve record-breaking success, is part of the Anheuser-Busch Vision Speakers series. Tickets are \$30, \$25 and \$20. Students receive a 25 percent discount and UM-St. Louis employees get a 10 percent discount on two tickets by presenting valid UM-St. Louis identification at the ticket office, or by purchasing online at <http://www.touhill.org>. Students may call one hour prior to curtain to check on the availability of half-price tickets. Call 4949 to reserve.



Top 10 excuses for appealing a parking ticket at UMSL

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

When making up an excuse to get out of paying a parking ticket at UMSL, it is often a cat or starving child who suffers.

UM-St. Louis students have developed creative and imaginative excuses when it comes to appealing parking tickets.

While students can receive parking tickets for counterfeit passes or parking in improper or undesignated spaces, they commonly receive tickets for not having or displaying parking stickers in their vehicles.

However, if students choose to, they can appeal their ticket by taking it to the Parking and Transportation office and filling out an appeal form.

J.C. Gholston, from Parking and Transportation, said about 50 to 70 tickets are given each day, depending on the day of the week and which parking attendants are available.

While not everyone appeals parking tickets, Gholston said the office receives about 50 appeals every two weeks.

The appeals are then sent to justices in Student Court including Chief Justice Kit Blanke, senior, English, and Justice Bryan Goers, sophomore, secondary education in history.

Student Court meets about every two to three weeks for several hours to sort through students' appeals. Parking and Transportation runs a background check to verify the student's information in the appeal, which justices use "to make sure their stories are truthful," Blanke said.

Using the parking rules and regulations, justices either accept or deny the appeals. If a student's request is denied, the student must pay the \$50 fine for not having a parking sticker.

However, students are not always honest and make up unique excuses to get out of paying for a parking ticket.

Below are the top 10 unique excu-

ses students give to Student Court and Parking and Transportation for appealing parking tickets at UMSL:

10) Final Exams. "I was late for a test" is a common excuse, Goers said. "Never late for class, but late for a test."

9) It's Not (Vanity) Fair! One student claimed that parking enforcers were biased when ticketing cars. The student said she received a ticket because her vanity plate was

more noticeable than other license plates.

8) Food, Diapers or Ticket? Another student claimed she could not pay her ticket because she needed the money to buy diapers for her child.

A similar appeal accused Blanke "that [he] was taking food out of her children's mouth by making her pay for her ticket."

7) But I'm New Here. One student said she received a ticket her first year at UMSL and did not know any better. After verifying her information, Parking and

Transportation discovered she had been enrolled for three years.

6) Top Story. One appeal said the student planned to bring the appeal to the local news media if Student Court did not take care of the citation.

5) Explaining the Crime. Another student appealed his ticket for having a counterfeit parking pass, a \$250 fine. The student denied forging, but in the appeal, "he told me how he forged the ticket," Goers said.

4) Hold on Tight. "I've had a couple of people say they were driving to school that morning, and it was sucked right out of the window," Blanke said. After verifying the student's information, he found the student did not have a parking pass in the first place.

3) Who Moved That Cone? One student accused a parking enforcer of moving a traffic cone behind her car and then giving her a ticket. After Student Court questioned the officer about the excuse, the officer said the student moved the cone aside to park

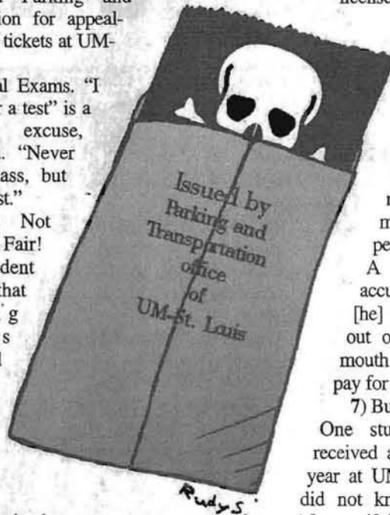
in an already closed-off spot. The officer moved the cone back, where it was originally placed.

2) Cat Got Your Ticket? Another student blamed her cat as the reason she did not have her parking pass the day she was ticketed. "She went through the whole appeal explaining why it was her cat's fault," Goers said.

1) Is Student Court Soulless? Last summer, one student sent Student Court 10 e-mails after justices denied the student's appeal. In one e-mail, the student wrote, "Dear Student Court do you have a soul?" to which Blanke replied, "Yes and I'm deeply in touch with it."

After reading through so many appeals, Blanke said, "I find myself saying, 'I've heard that one before.' When you go through enough of them, they start repeating."

While the above excuses were all denied, Blanke said, "Sometimes you do get improperly cited, and that's what Student Court is here for."



Career Services provides job searchers online assistance

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

In a world of technology where just about anything is possible, numerous job recruiters, employers and prospective applicants across the United States have started to use the Internet as a tool to recruit new hires by viewing electronically stored resumes and arranging interviews via the web.

Every year, students with associate's, bachelor's and graduate degrees go through the strenuous process of hunting down job leads. Although some students resort to online job searches such as www.monster.com or www.jobs.com, many UMSL students use the E-Recruiting database available through UMSL Career Services.

E-Recruiting is a national company which connects students and alumni to various employers through their web-based software.

Teresa Balestreri, Career Services director, said that the Internet has many good resources for job searching, but E-Recruiting is extremely helpful and beneficial to students.

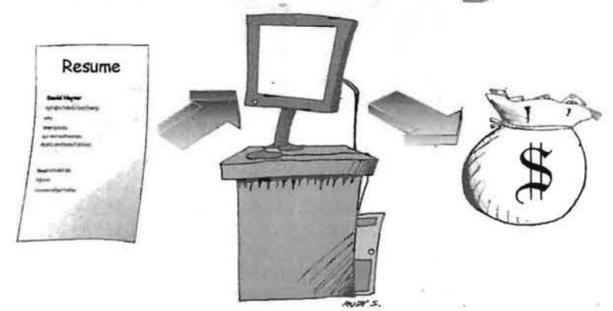
"The difference between other job search programs and E-Recruiting is that the employers who participate are interested in finding students from UMSL and are actually contacting the University for available openings," Balestreri said.

Students must formally register through Career Services and pay an initial fee of \$35 to have access to the E-Recruiting program. After the \$35 is paid, students can maintain their membership by paying a \$10 annual renewal fee.

E-Recruiting is divided into seven sections: profile, documents, applications, calendar, jobs and internships, employers and career research.

The profile section acts as the "first impression" page. On this page, employers can view personal and academic information about the potential candidate. This is one of the first stages of becoming a member. Students can create their own profile and are given the freedom to include

E-Recruiting



whatever information that they might find relevant, like their degree, major, expected graduation and skills.

The documents page is where people can upload their electronic resumes, cover letters, letters of recommendation, etc. The program can even critique a person's resume. If a person is searching for a particular job that might match a newly listed position, Career Services can make resume referrals, or contact the candidate about the position.

Whether a student is looking for an internship, co-op, part-time degree-related position, or in search for a full-time position or professional career, E-Recruiting posts all available job leads with their descriptions.

Employers connected to E-Recruiting can view a person's resume online and contact them with interview arrangements.

Students can view job openings, make arrangements for on-campus interviews, investigate companies, search the database for a certain industry, find the location of companies, view career profiles and stay informed about all events through Career Services.

"The mission of E-Recruiting and Career Services is to connect students to the world of work," Balestreri said.

Balestreri said that there are currently 4,600 companies listed, with 330 jobs posted. Of those positions, about one-third of them are internships. There are also a wide range of

positions related to all different fields and majors.

"The jobs listed fit with the supply and demand of job markets," Balestreri said.

A business student or a person with an accounting degree might find that there are over 75 open positions, whereas a student searching for position with an emphasis on journalism or social work might find a more limited amount of choices. Jobs that the economy and the market are in desperate need of are easier to find.

Deja Hayes, freshman, accounting, said she likes the concept of the program and is planning on registering to become a member.

"I think that it is a great resource, especially for people looking for a position in a direct field," Hayes said. Balestreri said that students of all majors and grade levels are welcome to register and that Career Services treats everybody the same.

"It is best for students who are serious and who are ready to look for a degree-related position to register," she said.

Employers look for potential candidates and post positions daily. Nobody ever said that job searching is easy. It is up to those who are serious about landing a perfect job to take the time and effort to find a job and create their resume.

"Job searching is all about choices and whether people want to do it up to them," Balestreri said.

Students celebrate 'Day of the Dead' Hispanic holiday

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

Skeletons, skull-shaped candy, nuts, flowers, photographs, a crucifix and religious statues adorned an altar. Photographs of deceased family members were surrounded by their personal possessions, symbolizing some highlights of their lives. This was the scene in one room in Clark Hall and in millions of houses throughout the world last week.

Each November, Mexicans celebrate Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, when they remember loved ones and make light of death by decorating altars with symbols of deceased family and relatives and images of death.

Numerous cultures celebrate the dead and believe in life after death, and Hispanics celebrate Dia de los Muertos on Nov. 1-2, which they also observe as All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

In some homes, the celebration is held on either Nov. 1 or Nov. 2, depending on which family members have passed away. Other families remember deceased children on All Saints Day and adult loved ones on All Souls Day.

In Mexico, Dia de los Muertos is an important part of the culture and reflects the Aztec and Roman Catholic influence on present-day Mexican culture.

"Different parts of the country celebrate it in different ways," said Rosalinda Mariles, Spanish lecturer. "In most Spanish-speaking places, most go to Mass and to the cemetery and then some go back and have a fiesta in the home. The idea goes back to the Aztecs who allowed the spirits to come back and visit once a year."

In Mexico, the celebrations are traditionally accompanied by readings of satirical poems that mock political figures, movie stars or other celebrities.



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current
The foreign language department set up a display for "Dia De Los Muertos," or "Day of the Dead," a Hispanic holiday.

Instead of fearing death, these give the people a chance to make light of death and to celebrate life.

This year, Mariles, who is originally from Mexico, decided to help students and faculty visualize and experience this culture by setting up a Day of the Dead celebration in the Clark Hall Audio Visual room. People filled the room throughout the morning of Nov. 2 to watch a presentation, ask questions about Dia de los Muertos and eat candy and other snacks. Students in some of the Spanish classes also submitted Calaveras, or satirical poems for the festivities.

Mariles hopes the event will help students get a better understanding of Spanish culture.

"Nowadays, teaching a language is not enough," she said. "We recognize that if a student doesn't understand the culture, they do not understand the language."

"I think it's very important when

you teach a language to give it a frame of reference," said Rolf Mueller, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. "It's a wonderful way of adding to the language instruction, giving students an idea of the tradition and customs."

Most of the students in various Spanish foreign language classes attended the Dia de los Muertos, including Craig Holt, freshman, political science.

"There's only so much you can learn in class. This gives you a better perspective," Holt said.

Erica Kaufman, senior, English, said the celebration helped her get a better understanding of the Spanish language and culture.

"Language gives you hints about culture," Kaufman said. "They value family more and you can see it in the words. Language and culture are intricate and you can see why language is set up the way it is."

Asthma Study

The Clinical Research Center is enrolling adults and children in a research study investigating an inhaled medication for asthma. Participants must be between 12-65 years of age and a non-smoker. This study includes 5 visits over 19-22 days. Reimbursement for time and travel is provided. Conveniently located on the campus of Barnes Jewish West County Hospital.



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Theater Review

Premiere of award-winning I-2195 a hit

BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

"I-2195," the winning play for UM-St. Louis' "Women in the Arts 2005" playwriting contest, thrilled audiences at the Touhill Performing Arts Center November 3, 4, and 5. Written by Barbara Lindsey and directed by Lee Patton Chiles, "I-2195" was a breakthrough for women writers.

In a future Orwellian era, Lucinda Celeste must decide what is worth fighting for and what is worth giving up for that fight. Lucinda and her loyal though eccentric friend Rex are the last remaining Freedom Fighters in America. They live secluded and on the run from a Federal government that wants them dead or converted. Lucinda is content with her simple life until her son, stolen from her as a child, finds her and threatens her uncomplicated life. Now that she has something to lose, Lucinda has to decide if the fight is still important to her, or if she just wants to continue her simple life.

A stellar cast lights up the stage for the first performance of "I-2195." Thomasina Clark plays the strong, yet relaxed Lucinda with amazing believability. Myron McNeill as Rex Eaglejeep, Eric J. Connors as Otto Celeste, and Trey Kerr as Luther round out this wonderful cast.

A beautiful set, consisting of Lucinda's one room cabin and the surrounding wilderness, provides an excellent background for this play. Congratulations must be given to Tim Poertner of UM-St. Louis' Department of Theatre, Dance, and Media Studies and to his students who provided the ideas and labor for this remarkable set.

"I-2195" confronts the fear of many people today in a world where the lines of personal freedom and governmental control are blurred. Lindsey brings these fears to life and allows her audience to look inside themselves for the answers. She

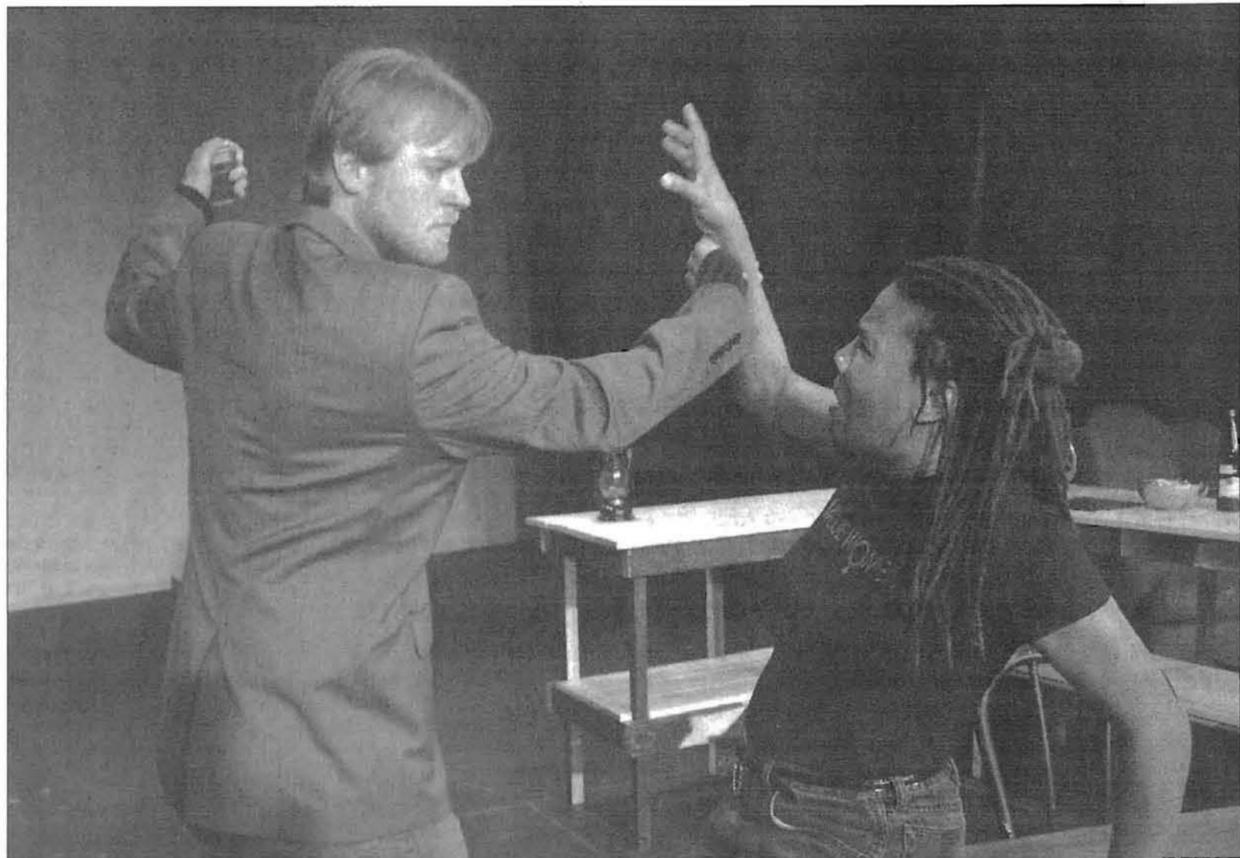


Photo courtesy Eric Love

Trey Kerr (as Luther) and Thomasina Clarke (Lucinda) rehearse a scene from "I-2195." Barbara Lindsey wrote the play and won the Women in the Arts competition for it. I-2195 opened last Friday and ran for two nights in the Lee Theater.

admits that this play is still a work in progress, but cannot thank UM-St. Louis enough for the opportunity to see her show come alive in such a magnificent setting. "It's been a 10 year labor," she said, "and tonight I gave birth!"

After the show, audience members were allowed to ask Chiles and Lindsey questions and voice any

concerns they had with the production. It was easy to see that the play was tremendously well received by all.

The success of this play will help encourage many women writers in the future. I cannot think of a better piece to win the first "Women in the Arts" playwriting competition.

The only grade I can give this

play is an A. Everything worked together beautifully to draw the audience into this futuristic world. The audience feels with these characters although they are from a different time. Celeste is the woman we all wish we could be if we could just find her strength and her character. As she draws us into her life, we are forced to examine our own values

and beliefs in comparison.

Considering how hard it is for any playwright to make a living, we can only hope that UM-St. Louis has another competition in the future. The accomplishment for the playwright, the director and especially the actors should encourage UM-St. Louis to continue in its endeavors to promote Women in the Arts.

Women in the arts earn recognition during expo

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Women in the Arts 2005, the year-long, multi-venue exposition, will top off with a three-day conference at several campus locations. Women in the Arts is a celebration of female artists, writers, musicians, and more, past and present. Since it started last fall, it has featured a full slate of artistic performances, exhibitions, conferences and educational events. It is a partnership between more than 50 different organizations.

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Nov. 10; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 11 and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 12. More than 40 presenters will deliver lectures, recitals and panel discussions. An orchestral concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill, and a chamber music concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the Touhill.

Other highlights include a lecture by Diane Rehm, host and executive producer of the National Public Radio program "The Diane Rehm Show"; the panel discussion "Today's Women's Arts Movements" led by Mallarie Zimmer, founder and executive director of Venus Envy; the lecture "A Place for the Arts: The Women Who Built the MacDowell Colony" by Robin Rausch, specialist in the music division at the Library of Congress in Washington; the lecture "Progress, Conscience, Imagination: Riding the Tide of New Notes" by award-winning composer Judith Lang Zaimont.

"The conference will bring together some of the brightest minds—locally, nationally and even internationally—in an effort to heighten awareness and understanding of the achievements of women creators," said Barbara Harbach, professor of music and coordinator for Women in the Arts. The quality of conference presenters speaks to the significance of Women in the Arts and will fittingly bring the year-long celebration to an end, Harbach said.

Women in the Arts helped promote more than 800 events over the past year, including concerts, film screenings, poetry readings, lectures, conferences and art exhibits. And though the conference marks the end of the year-long celebration, several events are planned through the end of the year.

For the Women in the Arts' national Women's Playwright Competition, nearly 90 women submitted original, full-length, unpublished and unproduced plays. The Department of Theater, Dance and Media Studies at the University will present the winning play, "I-2195" by Seattle-based playwright Barbara Lindsey, Nov. 3 through 5 at the Touhill Center.

The registration fee for the conference is \$25 per day for the general public, and free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Visit <http://www.ums.edu/~wia> for more information about the conference or call 516-5981 to register.

Hurricane victims benefit from local poetry readings

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 5, a poetry reading took place at the Souldard Coffee Garden to raise money for the ACRON Institute- Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding Fund.

The reading started at 2 p.m. The emcee was Pam Garvey, who, along with Tim Leach, is co-founder of Words on Purpose, a newly formed committee of writers who believe words alone are not enough. The organization raises money for various charitable organizations.

Garvey explained the organization before introducing Ruth Meyer, organizer for ACORN, who spoke about this organization that only one person in the audience had heard of. ACORN stands for Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

The organization has been around for 25 years and is the "oldest and largest grassroots organization" fighting for social and economic justice for low and moderate income residents in major cities coast-to-coast, making sure those people are treated with dignity and respect. Meyer left the stage, and Garvey returned to introduce the first speaker, "a rising poet of promise," Joel Friederich.

Friedrich is a teacher at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. He is well-published, with works appearing in The Paris Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, Poetry Northwest and River Styx, among others. Some future work will soon be published in Prairie Schooner and Witness. He read seven poems, the first being "Heat Lightning."

Once the applause died down, Friedrich asked that the applause be held until the end, and to that people "savor the silence afterward." The second poem, "Stopping By Woods," was written about Alzheimer's disease. After that poem, Friedrich explained that he began to get a theme about old men, so he wrote a poem called "Sour Taste of Old Men."

Then came a poem called "Sidewalk Chalk Figures." A poem

called "First Day" told of when his first son went to kindergarten for the first time. Following that poem came one called "Dismantling the Fallen," a poem about "something rotten in the middle that needs to be taken out." His final poem was called "I Discover the Future Conditional," a poem about overcoming public death, public figure and the Vietnam War.

The second poet introduced was award-winning New Orleans fiction writer Reggie Poche. The original poet, Mary Troy, was unable to make the reading, so Poche was asked to take her place. Poche is a native of New Orleans. He won the UM-St. Louis MFA graduate fiction award, as well as the Margery McKinney Short Fiction prize.

Poche has been published in Zahir, Ellipsis, and Ginger Hill. In the future, he will have works appearing in Margin. He read his short story called "Sunshine Money," which was a humorous, poignant, coming of age story about a woman-less marriage in a small town.

The final reader was the Poet Laureate of East St. Louis, Eugene Redmond. Redmond is also an English professor at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. His works include six books of poetry and a critical history of Afro-American poetry.

He has edited two anthologies and is the founding editor of Drumvoices Revue. He has also won many awards, including an American Book Award and a Puschcart Prize. He read a plethora of works, including his introduction to the novel Jonoah and the Green Storm, which was written by his slain friend Henry Dumas, and "immortalizes and memorializes the great flood of 1926."

He also read a poem about Catherine Dunn, a poem for the installation of SIUE chancellor, subtitled "A Riff for Von de Griff," and a poem for the incarnation of Lincoln High School called "Milestones of Lincoln."

It was fun to watch this poet in motion, who altered his voice at different areas in the poem, even moving to the words.

Exhibit pays tribute to graffiti art



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

"Visual Expressionism" hit Gallery Visio this week, courtesy of artist D. Scott Tjaden.

BY MABEL SUEN
Staff Writer

Have you ever noticed graffiti around various areas of St. Louis, but never really had the chance to analyze it? In "Visual Expressionism," a study of St. Louis graffiti, D. Scott Tjaden, lecturer of art and art history at UM-St. Louis, provides an opportunity for people to take a closer look at the illegal and often times incomprehensible "artwork" in his first solo exhibition.

The exhibit is a different follow up to his first series of work, "Audio Expressionism," a collection of transcribed sound bytes. Tjaden explained that, "expressionism is a movement in the early 20th century that exemplified subjective emotions. I wanted to bring the graffiti here on a smaller scale so that we can appreciate the elements of it."

According to Lavonda Staples, graduate, history, "Graffiti isn't people destroying property. It's taking already damaged buildings and creating something beautiful."

Tjaden first became interested in the graffiti during a lifestyle change when he started riding the Metro bus as a means of transportation.

During his rides he observed the people and day-to-day environment from a newfound perspective. "Graffiti says a lot about our society, and the social commentary that comes out of it is really interesting," said Tjaden. "Graffiti is what I call the 'silent voice.' It's a way for people to express themselves and be heard."

To compile this collection of scattered works, Tjaden got down and dirty with a digital camera in hand, searching out hard to find and often overlooked areas of the city. In doing so, he captured 21 close-up images of varying colors and life spans, including cryptic messages on signs, brick walls, rocky surfaces, poles, wood and concrete.

Taken from different angles, the photos contain anything from simple abstract words such as "enuf" and "takt," to portions of colorful block lettering and pictures.

"My favorite piece is 'Hearts' because it is uniquely balanced and complete," commented Staples. "The closeness of the photos is like a fragment to a story, but that doesn't make it any less. The viewer is inspired to ask questions and make their own interpretations."

In addition to the digital prints, Tjaden also included a piece called

"Concentration" and a collection of several abandoned and weathered aerosol cans that he named "Accomplice." In "Concentration," viewers are encouraged to flip tiles over from two opposing walls in the corner to match them up, much like the childhood game.

However, not all the tiles are pairs. "Graffiti is covered up or changed sometimes as quickly as it is put up," Tjaden explained.

Another unique portion of the exhibit included a wall that began as a plain black panel. Metallic crayons were provided for visitors to participate in self expression through graffiti themselves.

According to Tjaden's artist notes, "The images you see here may not be about the people that I saw, but about the environment I experienced day after day... It contains the voices and opinions of a world that most don't encounter on a daily basis and that the majority of us choose not to hear."

"Visual Expressionism" will be on display at Gallery Visio in room 170 of the MSC until Nov. 18. The gallery's operating hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends by appointment. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, call 516-7922.

St. Louis Art Museum shows Treasures of Ur

BY JAVIER NADAL
Staff Writer

Almost a century ago, a relatively unknown British archeologist named Leonard Woolley traveled to the exotic region of Mesopotamia to lead the excavation of the ancient city-state of Ur. During a 16-year excavation supported by the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania, he discovered one of the richest collections of ancient antiquities ever found. The richness of his discovery was only comparable with Mr. Howard Carter's findings at Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt.

Many of these pieces went to the University of Pennsylvania Museum where they were studied and analyzed by some of the most prestigious archeologists. Although they still belong to this Museum, today we can see them at the Saint Louis Art Museum until Jan. 16, 2006 in the exhibition called "Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur."

Located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, Mesopotamia was located in what is now known as Iraq and part of Syria. The Biblical stories were the first source of historical information about the area and they referred to this land as the place where the "Garden of Eden" was located. The archeological finds we can see at the exhibition, especially Woolley's works, revealed a great amount of information about Mesopotamia, often called the "cradle of civilization."

Sidney Goldstein, curator of the Exhibition and also curator of Ancient and Islamic Art for the St. Louis Art Museum, is very proud of having all these materials in a quantity and in a presentation that cannot be seen in any other Museum, except in Baghdad.

"The greatest value of the exhibition is to bring to the St. Louis visitor a first hand experience of these

objects from our earliest cities," Goldstein said. "This material is from such a distant time and from the area where civilization, cities and writing were developed."

The exhibition presents wonderful pieces of jewelry, vessels, sculpture made with gold, silver, copper, lapis lazuli or alabaster. These were all materials that Ur did not have but could acquire, thanks to its strategic situation in the region for trade.

All the pieces belonged to royal tombs, which were different from other tombs because of the extraordinarily rich pieces found in them. Most of them were in the undisturbed tomb of Queen Puabi. Objects as the "Great Lyre," a wonderful musical instrument or the "Ram Caught In A Thicket" are some of the most amazing pieces in the collection.

Woolley was a very intelligent archeologist and his work has served to improve enormously our knowledge about this ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.

"He was an extraordinary archeologist who spent countless hours excavating with his crews and interpreting the material. He published the material quickly and fully," Goldstein said. "He was very clever in restoring objects of wood in the ground with plaster and wax before he removed them. Much of what we know about the musical instruments is from Woolley's ingenuity."

With the experience of more than 70 years with these materials, the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with Saint Louis Art Museum has prepared an educational exhibition, that is easy to see and understand. It will amaze everybody who visits it.

The exhibition will be displayed until Jan. 15. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for students or seniors and free on Fridays. For more information on the Saint Louis Art Museum, contact 314-721-0072.

'Weatherman' straddles comedy and drama

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Filmgoers who saw Gore Verbinski's previous film, "Pirates of the Caribbean," or even saw the ads for the film "Weather Man," might expect something more light and comic than they will get.

"The Weather Man" is a film that straddles the line between comedy and drama, which makes it somewhat more like Verbinski's film "The Mexican." Actually, "The Weather Man" is darker and even sadder than that film.

Chicago weatherman David Spritz (Nicholas Cage) is a success in his job but seems to be a failure at everything else. At work, he earns a big salary, although he seems to have a nagging feeling that he does not deserve it. He is only a weather reader, not even a meteorologist. Still, his program is highly rated and he is up for a plum job as weatherman on a national TV morning show.

In his personal life, everything is wrong. Divorced from his wife (Hope Davis), he still hopes to patch things up. He is unable to really connect with his teenage son (Michael Rispoli), who has had drug problems already, and his chubby pre-teen daughter (Gil Bellows). He would like to please his father (Michael Caine) a literary great and former academic, who seems slightly embarrassed by his son's chosen profession and barely understands what his son is talking about when he tells him about the possibility of the national TV job.

He drifts through his days in sullen dissatisfaction, being rude to people who recognize him on the street and generally acting self-help towards his family. On the TV weather, he seems to be a love him or hate him for the audi-

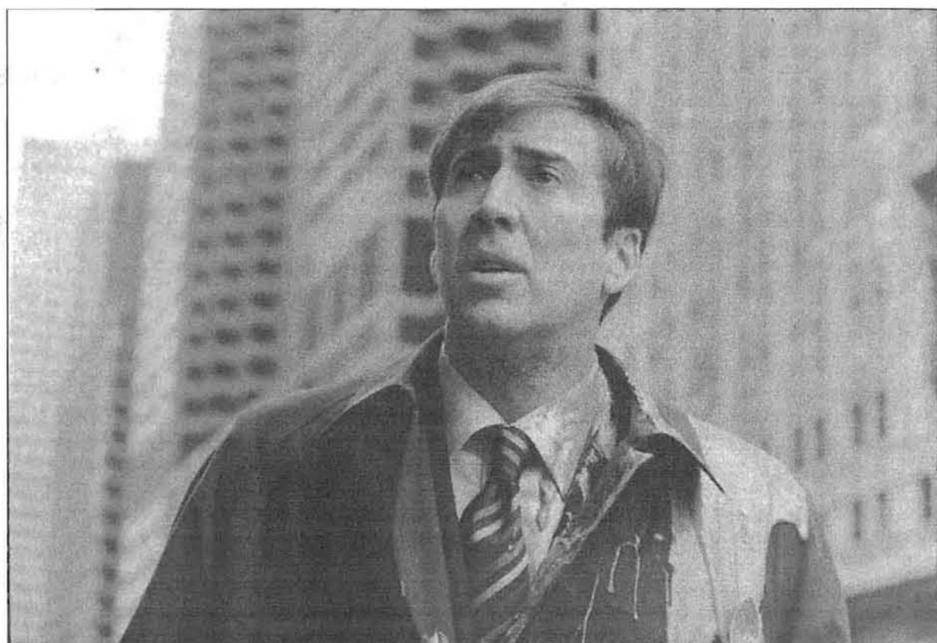


Photo courtesy

Chicago weatherman David Spritz (Nicholas Cage) is successful in his job, but the rest of his life remains dreary. Spritz aspires to lead a richer existence, but he's not sure how to improve things. The film is sad and dark at times, but it also features comedic scenes.

ence. On the streets, it is not uncommon for people to fling fast food at him when they pass, although whether these might be fans he snubbed in the past, or not, is not clear. Either way, he is clueless.

The story centers on a character who seems not to know what he wants in life. The film seems unable to make up its mind whether it wants to be a drama or a comedy, and like the main character, wavers between the two.

Spritz wants something more but does not seem to know what he should do. At the same time, he is so often a self-centered jerk that the character is rather hard to like.

The acting in the film is good, especially the supporting work by

Caine and Davis. Cage himself does as well as he can with this distracted, self-absorbed character. He is rather a sad clown, and there are hints that he might have an attention deficient problem, at least off camera. On camera, he is confident and competent, something he is not most of the rest of the time.

It is hard to say exactly what director Gore Verbinski was going for in this film. Clearly, it has some of elements of a man re-evaluated his life, like "The Mexican." But this film is far darker and far less funny. It is hard to cozy up to the main character, who is mostly an outsider in his own life and perhaps his own worse enemy.

Despite that, the film has its

funny and even touching moments and, surprisingly, gets better as it unfolds. The pace is a bit slow but the lack of fine focus is the bigger problem. The best scenes are the later ones with Cage and Caine, where the father and son finally seem to connect in some way. Still you have to give the director credit for making a film that is not all about answers and the tried and true jokes.

Overall, it is a rather strange film. It is worthwhile for the performances but at most a minor treat. This film was originally due to be released last year but was held back, often a sign of problem. It has its good points, but is more likely to leave audiences a bit more puzzled than amused.

'Pete's Sake' combines medicine and humor to raise Alzheimer's awareness

BY JASON WENDELTON
Staff Writer

Philip T. Smith (known to everyone as "Pete") is a happy, successful African-American man months away from retirement. The unchallenged "Scrabble King," Pete's happiness and life slowly slip away from him in DaNine K. Ward's gripping, award-winning play "For Pete's Sake."

November is now officially National Alzheimer's Month and the play, which was performed on Nov. 3 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, is part of a national campaign to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease. The disease slowly robs people of their memories and, according to the play, affects African-Americans more than any other group.

Brought to life by the esteemed St. Louis Black Repertory Company, "For Pete's Sake" was both entertaining and highly educational. Using minimal staging and a foreboding drumbeat, "For Pete's Sake" proved to be a visceral experience. The proud Pete

(Norman McGowen) develops Alzheimer's disease, leaving his family and friends angry, hurt and confused.

Sounds like a real downer, right? Despite the play's heavy subject matter, Ward's play surprisingly fuses slapstick, puns and jokes with an important medical topic.

The audience loved the play's scathing, realistic wit as well as its more humorous characters. One character in particular, Russ (Ryan Cunningham) served as comic relief the entire evening. From his bumbling steps and his quasi-thug speech, Russ, allowed us to vent out fear and laugh.

The story jumped around over a period of a few months leading up to Pete's retirement. We first meet Pete, strong of mind and body, when he is playing Scrabble with his wife and friends. Through a few telling conversations, the audience begins to notice all is not well. It soon is apparent that Pete has trouble remembering names.

Despite the momentary lapses, Pete's family chooses to live in denial for as long as possible. Pete's daughter-

in-law, Kelly (Christi Strickland), who is both a nurse and voice of reason throughout the play, is the lone exception. As the play and Pete's illness progresses, each of the people who know and love Pete must come to terms with his illness.

The overall message of "For Pete's Sake" was that while Alzheimer's is a terrible, debilitating disease, life does not end at diagnosis. The people we love stay who they are as long as we remember them, even when they can no longer remember us.

The community aspect of the play was very moving. "For Pete's Sake" encourages community awareness and involvement in combating Alzheimer's disease. One of the final scenes took place at a community center where an Alzheimer's support group meeting takes place. Sitting in the crowd are the friends, family, and neighbors of Pete. The symbolism was well executed.

Both knowledge and laughter help us face our fears, and stylishly written plays like "For Pete's Sake" really are the best medicine.

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Soccer student-athletes earn all-conference honors

BY ROBBIE STONE
Staff Writer

Despite a dramatic ending to the 2005 regular season, the UM-St. Louis women's soccer team could not tally any goals in their Great Lakes Valley Conference Quarterfinal match at Wisconsin-Parkside, where their 2005 season came to an end.

A total of six players received GLVC all-conference honors. First year players, Tara Reitz and Mary Behrmann, were both named first team all-conference selections. Seniors Laura Frederickson and Meghan Tragesser were both named second team selections. Senior Mandy Meendering was named an honorable mention selection. In men's soccer, Alen Jujic earned his second all-conference honors, being named honorable mention selection.

Reitz, a sophomore striker, in her first year at UM-St. Louis, was the second leading scorer for UM-St. Louis this season. She tallied six goals and a team best 12 assists on the season. Reitz finished second in the conference with 12 assists and was ninth in the GLVC in total scoring. She recorded two game-winning goals.

Behrmann started every game in the net for the Riverwomen, playing in over 1800 minutes as a freshman. She finished the year with an impressive 0.89 goals against average with 74 saves and seven

shutouts. Her seven shutouts rank second in the conference. Six of Behrmann's seven shutouts were recorded in conference matches. Behrmann also finished third in the conference in save percentage.

Tragesser was also named a second team all-conference selection, earning her first all-conference honors. She finished the year with impressive numbers, including a team best 10 goals while adding 11 assists, posting a team high 31 points. She ranked second in the GLVC in points for the season. She scored three game-winning goals on the year.

Frederickson, senior defender, earned her first all-conference honors at UM-St. Louis, being named a second team selection for her defensive efforts for the Riverwomen. Frederickson played on the defensive side of the field and was one of the key contributors to a defense that allowed less than a goal per game on the season, including just 10 goals in 13 conference games.

Along with Frederickson, senior midfielder Meendering also earned her first all-conference honors as well. Meendering was named an honorable mention all-conference selection. She scored four goals while adding three assists during her final season with the Riverwomen.

For the men, Jujic's solid play as a midfielder earned him his second consecutive all conference selection. In 2004, Jujic was named a second team selection. He had one goal on the year and tied for the



File Photo: Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current
Mandy Meendering, midfielder, was one of six students honored in the all-conference selection. She scored four goals with three assists this year.

UMSL SOCCER PLAYERS HONORED

- Mary Behrmann (#00)
Freshman, Goalkeeper
- Laura Frederickson(#7)
Senior, Defender
- Alen Jujic (#10)
Senior, Midfielder
- Mandy Meendering (#13)
Senior, Midfielder
- Tara Rietz (#8)
Sophomore, Forward
- Meghan Tragesser (#10)
Senior, Midfielder

team lead with three assists for a total of four points.

UM-St. Louis women's soccer finishes the 2005 campaign with 12-8 overall record on the season while posting an 8-5 record in the GLVC.

This is the eighth consecutive year the women's soccer program has competed in the GLVC tournament.

The men's soccer team finishes their season posting a 4-9-4 record. In GLVC play, the Rivermen's

record unfolded to 3-8-2. The team did, however, receive promising play from their younger players throughout the season and are looking forward to posting an impressive next season.

UMSL alum keeps Cardinals. Busch Stadium memories alive

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

A trip into the Nosh now serves as a trip down Cardinal memory lane. A portion of Busch Stadium now sits alongside it. Marty Hendin, UM-St. Louis graduate and vice president of community relations for the St. Louis Cardinals, is displaying some of his most prized baseball possessions at UM-St. Louis until his new office is complete in the new Busch Stadium.

Trinket City has been the name of Hendin's office for 33 years. He was a senior in high school when the first Busch Stadium was erected. A graduate of University City High School in St. Louis, Hendin has always lived and breathed Cardinals.

When he no longer had an office at Busch, a decision needed to be made as to where his belongings could call home. Hendin chose his college alma mater to house select belongings because he said his four years at the school were some of the best years of his life. "There are two very special places besides my home, Busch Stadium and UMSL," said Hendin. He has combined the two so a portion of Busch can live on and students can share his experiences and become inspired.



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current
Marty Hendin, vice president of community relations for the St. Louis Cardinals, stands in front of his collection of memorabilia on Wednesday.

The memory of Busch is alive in the Nosh. While Hendin's most prized possession, a drawing by famous St. Louis artist Don Wiegand

of the late August Busch with his signature, is not displayed, other items close to his heart are. Cardinal memorabilia from a signed Lou

Brock 1964 baseball to a harmonica with the Stan "The Man" Musial's autograph to Albert Pujols bobble head dolls are presently displayed.

UM-St. Louis has had positive reactions to Trinket City. "I think it's pretty neat for him to pick UMSL as a display site. I never knew there was so much Cardinal memorabilia and that someone could be such a fan," said Jeff Facchin, graduate student, English.

The Trinket City in the Nosh is only about one third of Hendin's Cardinal belongings. Approximately 45 boxes of original and unique belongings are in storage. His office at Busch could only house a small portion and his other things can be found at his house. The belongings chosen for UM-St. Louis have stories behind each memory and were chosen with college students in mind. The other items that can be found at his house are things like the 1967 Sports Illustrated that had a fold out cover. The magazine featured baseball's first million-dollar team. Players included Lou Brock and Bob Gibson sitting at their lockers. Hendin said it is very unique because every player featured autographed his edition.

Memories of real sport legends can be seen at Trinket City. Hendin's memorabilia will be at UM-St. Louis in the Millennium Student Center over the next year. Cardinals' fans and baseball fans alike can take part in Cardinal history and Hendin's life as a Cardinal fan.

EDITOR
LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Who are the real heroes?



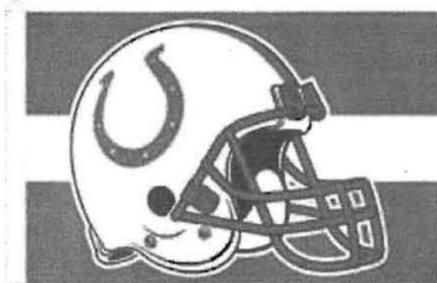
BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Webster's dictionary defines "hero" as "one that shows great courage" and "a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities." Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, and Albert Pujols are household names, and because of their accomplishments in the world of sports are commonly referred to as "heroes."

But who are our real heroes? Does breaking records and hitting runs classify as a noble quality or great courage? The names Lori Ann Piestewa, Caleb J. Powers, Levena J. Johnson and Mark Graunke Jr. are not familiar to many, nor are they commonly referred to as heroes. So what warrants their mention alongside the names Jordan, Woods and Pujols?

Lori Ann Piestewa was the first woman in the combat in Iraq to lose her life. Caleb J. Powers and Levena J. Johnson, women from my high school, gave their lives as well. Mark Graunke Jr., a staff sergeant in the Marines, lost his hand, leg and an eye when he defused a bomb in Iraq last year. They are soldiers. Warriors. Real "heroes."

see SPORTS COLUMN, page 14



Monday Night Matchup

Indianapolis vs. New England



Colts will take win in Gillette

The Colts enter the game tonight against the Patriots with many pluses on their side. They are ranked first in the AFC South with a record of 7-0. Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison are still proving to be one of the best quarterback/ wide receiver tandems of all time. Defensive end Robert Mathis is tied for first in the NFL with eight sacks and DE Dwight Freeny has six.

The Colts' offense will be an important factor in this game. Edgerrin James leads the NFL with 801 rushing yards and 114.4 yards per game. Manning is ranked third with a QB rating of 98.3 and thanks to the Colts' offensive line, he has been sacked only five times this season.

The Patriots' defense will have to not only contain Harrison, but Reggie Wayne as well. Both Harrison and Wayne have 37 catches this season and a combined total of 825 yards.

The Colts' defense comes into the game looking very strong. The team has given up

only 277.9 yards per game, while the Patriots have given up 359.1 yards per game. Mathis has not only contributed eight sacks but also is tied for first with five forced fumbles. Freeny is in third with three.

Linebacker Cato June is second in the NFL with five interceptions. He also leads the league with 115 yards after an INT and he has returned two INTs for touchdowns. June needs three more INTs to tie the NFL record for most INTs by a linebacker.

Facing the Patriots is just another challenge for the Colts to overcome. Last season Manning surpassed Dan Marino's touchdown record and tonight he will attempt to win his first game in Foxborough, Mass.

Winning this game in Gillette Stadium will break Indianapolis' six-game losing streak against New England. Winning this game will also help the Colts as they try to gain home-field advantage in the playoffs.

-- LaGuan Fuse, Staff Writer

Patriots will get the upset

The defending Super Bowl champions, the New England Patriots, definitely have their work cut out for them tonight at Gillette Stadium.

The Patriots are posting a mediocre 4-3 record for the season with the Colts still undefeated. That will not discourage Tom Brady and the Patriots from breaking the Colts' winning streak.

Quarterback Tom Brady has posted 1,953 total passing yards this season. He has completed 157 of 249 attempts.

Brady's passing percentage is at 93.8%, just 5% lower than Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning.

He also has a 67% completion rate against the Colts. Not only is Brady having an impressive season, kicker Adam Vinatieri has an accuracy rate of 97%.

Linebacker Ted Bruschi was also named the AFC player of the week last week because of his impressive 10-tackle performance.

With Brady's record of 6-0 against the Colts, the Colts will not be able to add another win to their record. Head Coach Bill Belichick is 7-1 against the Colts with the Patriots and 9-3 overall.

The Patriots, in past games against the Colts, are averaging 31.8 points with Brady. Even though the Colts have one of the best quarterbacks in the league, he has only won two games against the Patriots. His record sits at 10 losses and two wins, not a record to brag about.

Both New England and Indianapolis will give the fans something to cheer about. The fans in Foxboro will, once again, have the same reaction they have had since November of 1995.

They will leave the stadium with tears of joy and tears of upset because that is what they will do to the Colts at 8 p.m. tonight on ABC.

-- Lindsey Barringer, Sports Editor

Halloween Hijinks

Though it seems as Dracula looms over his next victim before striking, this photo really depicts an innocent word between students Cozene Watson and Jenny Rapini. A number of organizations co-sponsored the Halloween party which was held last Thursday in the Pilot House.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

SGA to vote on student fee increases of \$2.90

BY JAVI NADAL
Staff Writer

On Friday, Nov. 11, the Student Government Association assembly will meet to discuss what recommendations about student fees will be submitted to the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri.

The proposals that will be discussed defend a \$0.90 per credit hour fee increase for next year. This increase is the sum of several departmental petitions to increase funding, including athletics, recreation, the Millennium Student Center and Health Services.

In addition, last year the SGA approved a \$2 increase for a student readership program that will allow the students to have access to such newspapers as USA Today, New York Times, and the Post-Dispatch. That means that the final amount increase for next year would total \$2.90 per credit hour.

The first step in the process of approving student fees is assigning the student fees. The Student Fee Review Committee sits down with the different departments on campus and listens to

their proposals and needs. Then the committee reports those proposals to the SGA assembly, which represents all of the students and votes on them. However, the final decision lies with the UM Board of Curators.

D'Andre Braddix, president of SGA, believes the current system is a good system because the Board of Curators gives UM-St. Louis students the chance to tell the curators what the opinions of students are. However, he is not sure if the Board of Curators will listen to the SGA's recommendations.

"They honestly do not really have to allow us to give our voice so we appreciate that they care to listen our opinion," Braddix said.

The departments that have applied for the highest increases are Recreation and Facilities with a 6.2 percent increase and Health Services with a 5 percent increase. Both of them sum one-third of the total increase, apart from the readership program.

UM-St. Louis students pay the highest cost in student fees of the four UM campuses. Although this seems to be a bad news, paying the highest fees also means that UM-St. Louis is the campus with more services.

Overpopulation leads to global insecurity

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

"It's very difficult to get Missourians to even think about a population problem. We have 5.6 million people in a state of 60,000 square miles," said Werner Fornos, president of The Population Institute.

Fornos visited UM-St. Louis last Wednesday as part of The Population Institute's Educate America Campaign. The Center for International Studies, UM-St. Louis and the World Affairs Council of St. Louis sponsored his lecture "Global Security and Population."

To best illustrate population problems in the world to Missourians, Fornos looked at Bangladesh, which is slightly smaller than Missouri but has a population of over 150 million people, and that population is rapidly growing.

"The population problem is far away from us, but we will not escape from the fallout of this kind of problem," Fornos said. "Whether it's

through public health threats, whether it's through employment threats, whether it's through devastated environments or whether it's through simple deprivation and poverty."

Problems that stem from overpopulation include deforestation, topsoil erosion, desert expansion, global climate changes and a depletion of resources, including food and water. These things, Fornos said, do not make the future of the world reassuring.

By 2020, Fornos said scientists predict that two-thirds of the world's population will be living in cities. These cities are slated to consume two-thirds of the world's resources and account for 75 percent of its garbage.

"These cities [will] become the breeding ground of public health menaces and also the breeding ground for future terrorists, disillusioned youth roaming the planet, not knowing where they are going to get a job from, not knowing where they are going to get any kind of income from, or housing or shelter or health care," he said. "It makes it extremely pervasive to see

poverty being the breeding grounds of the terrorists."

Fornos said this world has become a world with no borders and little ability to control the spread of diseases or terrorism. Terrorism, he believes, will come from the frustration of the massive amounts of youth in the world trying to make their lives better than the ones of poverty they were born into.

"Today we're looking at a world of over half the population living in poverty surviving on less than \$2 a day, and [the world's largest cities] are growing way beyond their carrying capacities and way beyond their ability to care for all of their people," he said.

Fornos does not believe these problems are beyond a solution. Fornos and The Population Institute are proposing the eradication of female illiteracy and full employment opportunities with pay for women.

"[In] places with the largest population, male domination is still in place and women are in fear of their futures," he said.

The Institute is also working on a reduction of the infant mortality rate, which will allow parents to have the number of children they desire. Universal access to the knowledge of and affordable means to reducing fertility are important, he said.

Thailand has implemented solutions already following this outline because the nation has faced a 67 percent decline in fertility and an 11 percent increase in the economy. It was there, that Fornos saw how well the response to the means to reduce fertility had been received.

At the register at a restaurant called "Cabbages and Condoms" in Bangkok are three baskets of condoms. "Instead of mints, you help yourself to a condom on your way out," he said.

Jennifer Brake, sophomore, history, attended the event and was interested to find out these programs were working. "I was unaware of how much behind the scenes work went into these programs and is done by individuals and volunteers," she said.

ANXIETY AND INSOMNIA RESEARCH STUDIES

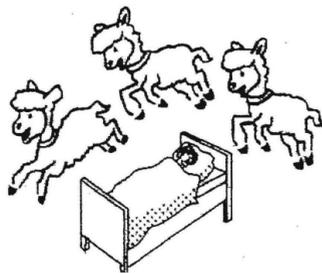
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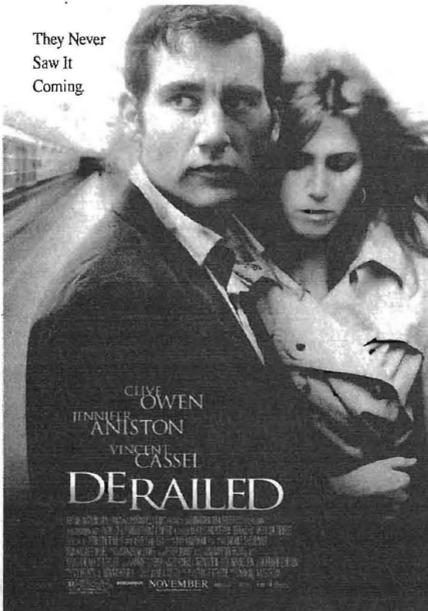
Insomnia – ages 18-64, difficulty falling asleep, waking up frequently, trouble returning to sleep, waking up too early and unrefreshed sleep.

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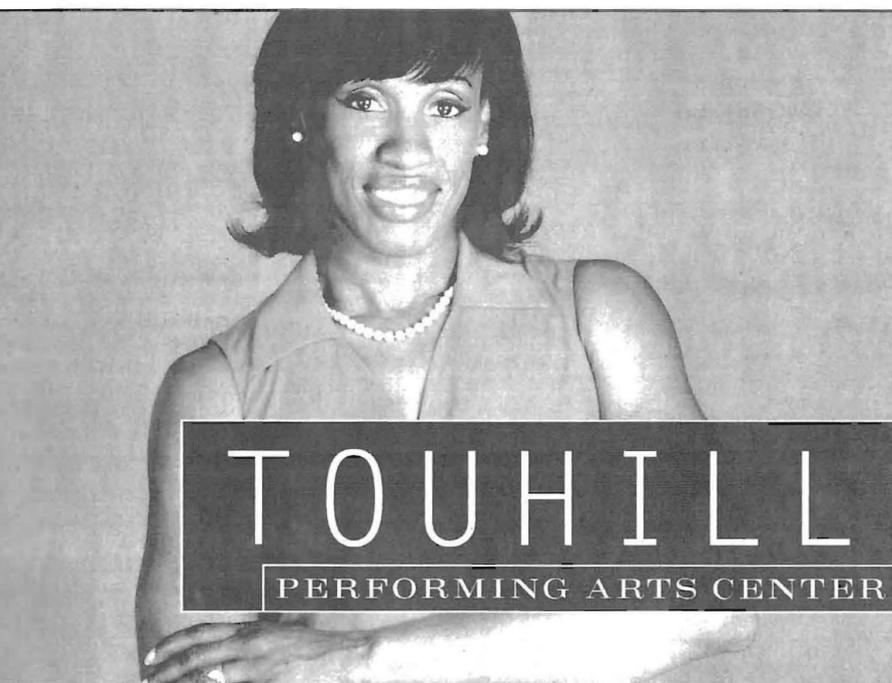
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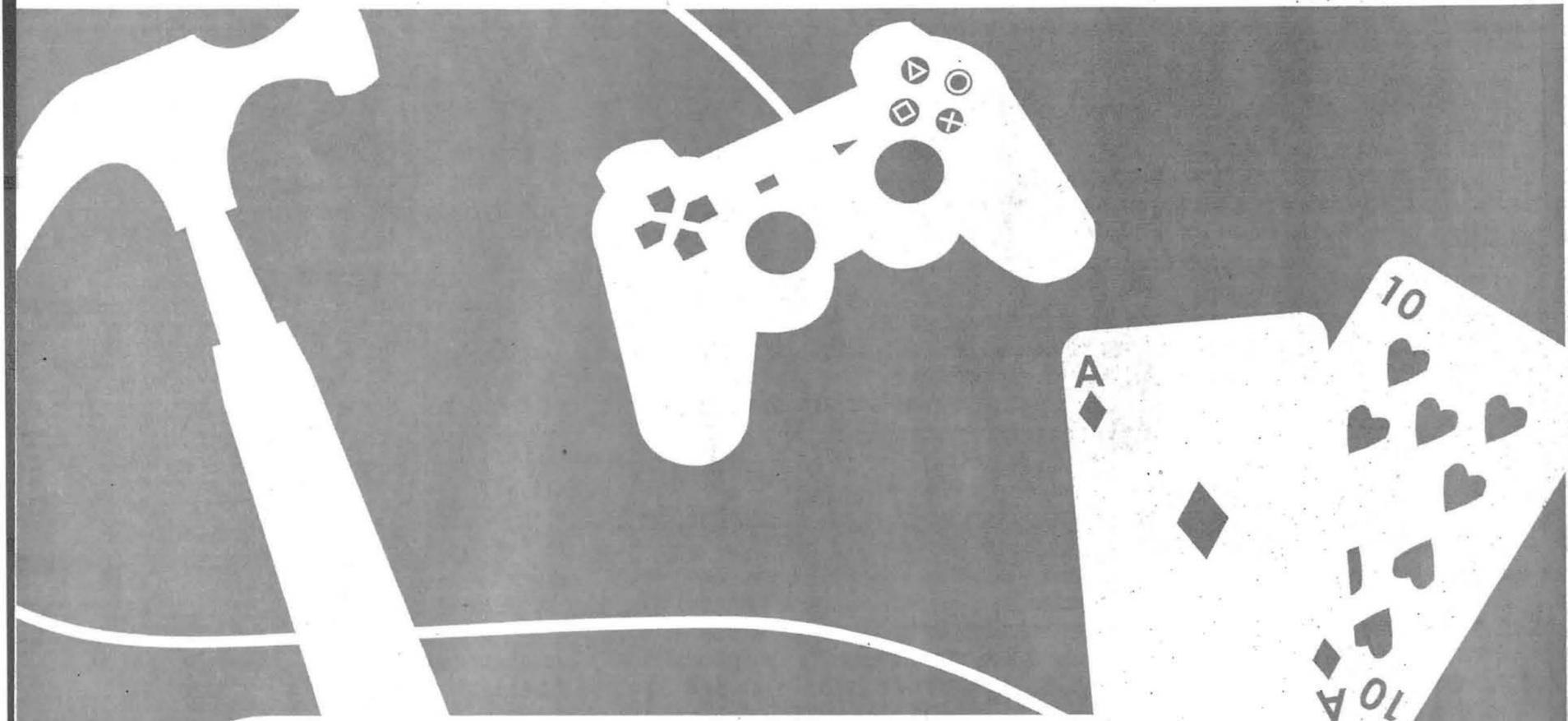
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- 11.14.05
11.15.05 Soup Lines in the Nosh (Lunch \$2)
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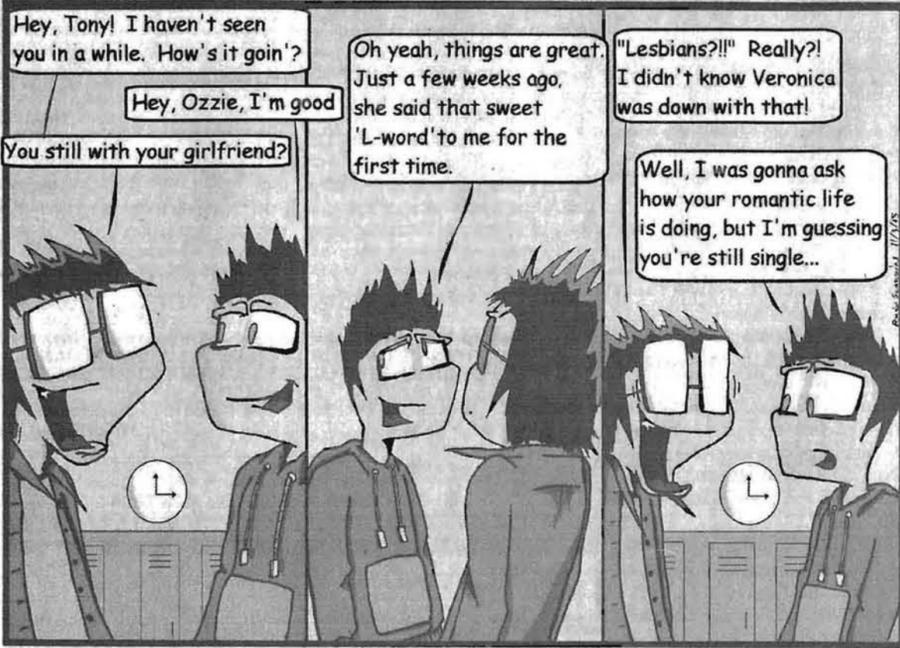
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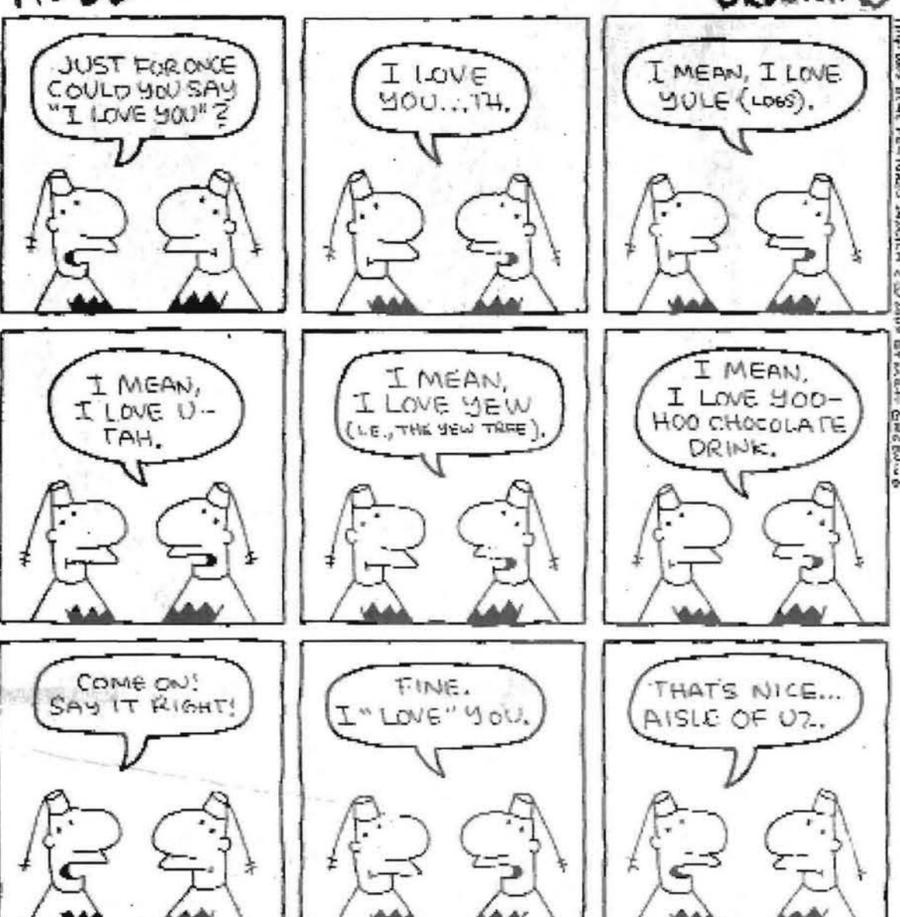
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Student Life kicks off annual Month of Service

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

A hard hat, a shovel, a soup bowl, a deck of cards and a joystick are a handful of items needed for this year's Month of Service, where students have different ways to volunteer all month long.

Activities began Sunday afternoon, as students helped in the reconstruction and landscaping of homes in Kinlock, Mo. Students painted, did carpentry work and planted trees for the Faith Beyond Walls Reconstruction Project.

Rob Budach, student services coordinator for Student Life, called the staff at Kinlock unique in terms of doing service projects.

"They're very energized. It's not a 'come here, here's a shovel, start digging' type of thing," Budach said.

Volunteer opportunities continue Wednesday with a blood drive held in the Century Rooms from 10:30 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m.

The blood drive is the first of four Red and Gold events, where student organizations will compete in an attendance competition. At the end of the month, the student group with the most overall attendance at the Red and Gold events will win \$500 toward its budget.

On Thursday, students have another opportunity to wear construction hats by helping build homes in the Habitat for Humanity project. Buses will take students to and from Hillsdale, Mo. between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. This marks the second Red and Gold event.

On Nov. 14 and 15, the Catholic Newman Center will hold soup lines in the Nosh, where students can buy a bowl of soup for \$2. All proceeds go to anti-hunger organizations.

A hunger banquet simulation will be held on Nov. 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. "The group of students who come to that will be divid-

ed into a real world representation of hunger levels in the world," Budach said. "A portion of them will receive a lush meal, a portion of them will get a bowl of rice and a great deal of them will probably get nothing."

The Catholic Newman Center, which provides volunteer opportunities to work for Habitat for Humanity throughout the year, is in charge of the hunger simulation. The Newman Center is working with Oxfam America, an organization that tries to eradicate hunger and poverty. Oxfam will provide the script for the hunger simulation.

The last two events are Red and Gold events. A Texas Hold'Em tournament will be held in the Pilot House Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., and a 36-hour game-a-thon will be held in the Pilot House starting Nov. 18 at 8 a.m. Students can challenge each other in video games, "but otherwise, just play 'til you drop," Budach said.

Certain activities are new this year

to the Month of Service.

"Every year we like to expand it," Budach said. Student Life is planning another Month of Service for the spring. "We want to move away from just having one month of service and having always service," he said.

Budach said a plus to volunteering was that certain graduate school applications look for service work, which demonstrates initiative and leadership.

"Going to Habitat for Humanity and building a house, it's more of self-motivating initiative," Budach said.

Campus Minister Tracy Van de Riet explained that once students experience service, it motivates them. "You get your first taste, and it feels gratifying. It makes you want to continue," she said.

Budach said, "When you find a way to make a connection with the people you are helping or the work you're doing ... it really becomes meaningful."

SPORTS COLUMN, from page 10

It is hard for me to think of athletes or movie stars as heroes. Albert Pujols makes millions of dollars a year to play a game, but what about Caleb Powers, who risked his life for the sake of you and I, to ultimately lose his?

As a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, he made less than \$1,500 a month. Is this a fair compensation for the "heroes" who are willing to lay their lives down in defense of the freedom and safety of the people of this country and the world.

I encourage each one of you to thank

a real hero. When you turn on your television this week to watch a game or a movie, ask yourself who your real hero is. Twenty-nine heroes from Missouri alone have died in the war with Iraq.

Remember your father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and everyone who has served in defense of this country. As a society, we often forget the freedoms that the young men and women of our armed forces fight for. This Veteran's Day, take a moment to thank the soldiers, and remember the heroes who never came home.

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SRI LANKA, from page 1

"Your commendable acts today will not only provide much needed hope and support to the children of these schools ... but enable them to begin normalcy," he said.

Sri Lanka also now has new tsunami warning systems in place. "Actions have been taken by the governments of countries affected by the tsunami to have an early warning system," he said.

With hurricanes, people can be warned days ahead of time, "but in the case of tsunamis, I don't think we even have five to 10 minutes of warning," he said. The waves took almost two hours to reach Sri Lanka from the tsunami's epicenter off the coast of Indonesia.

Goonetilleke concluded his update by saying he hopes the tragedy of the tsunami will bring about a new relationship between the government and its people and between ethnic classes in Sri Lanka.

M.K. Stallings, graduate student, sociology, attended the event and said he sympathizes with Sri Lankans.

"It reminds me about the efforts to ensure all displaced people have somebody there for them," Stallings said. He said it was important to be aware of how disconnected some countries are from world resources.

"If [President] Bush can dedicate so many millions and billions of dollars to Katrina relief, it is only right the world government is able to give something to Sri Lanka," Stallings said.

Associate Professor Jodi Miller of the criminology and criminal justice department will return to Sri Lanka Dec. 19 to document the progress made at the two schools UM-St. Louis helped. The Center for International Studies is also still collecting donations.

GROUND BREAKING, from page 1

"You can't attract other business if you don't retain the business here already," Dooley said.

Many see the business park as an opportunity to create economic development in the surrounding municipalities.

"I think the relationship between Cool Valley and UM-St. Louis has always been good, friendly, productive and will continue to be," Randy Toles, mayor of Cool Valley, said.

"You must build with philosophy called life works," Chris McKey, from NorthPark, said. "That is, if workers can learn, work, live and play in the same community, then life works."

There has been anger over the business park and the houses of two homeowners who have refused to sell, which provided a dampening background to the groundbreaking.

"She is just sad to move. She doesn't want to move at all. When she sees a house knocked down she realizes she has to move," Sandra Rendon said translating for Bernar Rendon, her mother who only speaks Spanish. The Rendons have lived in the house for 15 years after leaving El Salvador as political refugees.

Many aspects of the UM-St. Louis and Express Scripts collaboration have yet to be worked out and the two parties will be meeting to decide exact terms during the building of the business park.

"We will find things [for collaboration] we haven't even thought about," Stephen Littlejohn, Vice-President of Public Affairs for Express Scripts, said. "The goal is by next spring we will have identified specific things to work on. So by the time we move into the building the collaboration is truly flourishing."



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Offer valid on two-year service agreement in the St. Louis Metropolitan area only on local plans of \$39.95 or higher. All service agreements subject to an early termination fee. Credit approval required. Monthly Access Discount: \$20 access discount valid for the first six months of a two-year agreement on plans \$39.95 and up. \$15 equipment charge fee. Roaming charges, fees, surcharges, coverage charges and taxes apply. \$0.99 Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies. This is not a tax or government-required charge. Local network coverage and reliability may vary. Usage rounded up to the next full minute. Use of service constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions. Unlimited Night and Weekend Minutes valid Monday through Friday 7:00 p.m. to 6:59 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday. Night and Weekend Minutes are available in local calling area only. Local calling area differs from national calling area. Unlimited CALL MESM Minutes are not deducted from package minutes and are only available when receiving calls in your local calling area. Local calling area differs from national calling area. Mobile Messaging: Users must be in their digital local calling area for service to work. Functionality may depend on other carrier's networks and phones. U.S. Cellular does not guarantee message delivery or timeliness. 150-character limit per message for text messaging. U.S. Cellular not responsible for content of messages. A charge of 10¢ per outgoing message applies if no messaging package is selected or existing package limit is exceeded. By using U.S. Cellular's Mobile Messaging you agree to be bound by all terms and conditions available at www.uscellular.com/MessagingTerms. Picture Messaging only available in easyedge[™] coverage area (see rate and map sheet for details). You may be charged for picture messages sent from your phone, even if not delivered to the intended recipient due to system or compatibility issues. You will not be charged for picture messages sent to your phone. U.S. Cellular is not responsible for content of pictures. easyedge is the proprietary mark of United States Cellular Corporation. Use of the AOL[®] Instant Messenger[™] service mobile application requires easyedge data services. The AOL[®] Instant Messenger[™] service Free Trial shall not exceed more than one full day's time. easyedge: U.S. Cellular-approved phone required on all easyedge plans. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. Limited time offer. ©2005 U.S. Cellular Corporation. © 2005 Def Jam Mobile and AG Interactiva are trademarks and service marks of their respective owners. All rights reserved.