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Student gets laughs on the landing

UMSL responds to Hurricane Katrina

Tuition will be waived for displaced students

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

In response to students who cannot attend college along the Gulf of Mexico, UM-St. Louis took the initiative to establish an emergency enrollment program that waives tuition and all related fees for affected students.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, students at universities in New Orleans such as Tulane, Loyola and Dillard have nowhere to start or continue their college education with classes cancelled because their schools were flooded or damaged.

Certain students from the affected areas came to St. Louis to stay with friends and family and wanted to attend a university here.

UM-St. Louis announced Tuesday certain registration fees would be waived for students who wanted to enroll at the University.

After local universities including UM-Columbia, Missouri State University, Maryville University and McKendree College decided to waive tuition entirely for the students, UM-St. Louis decided to reach out more, too.

"Some institutions were expanding their relief efforts, and we felt it was important to expand our relief

efforts as well," Melissa Hattman, director of admissions, said.

"We are waiving tuition, and we are waiving required fees that go along with that for the fall semester only," Hattman said. Students, however, are responsible for optional fees like parking or housing.

As of Friday, 16 students enrolled in the University. Hattman said she received more than 50 inquiries by e-mail and phone calls

since UM-St. Louis announced the plan on Tuesday.

Chancellor Thomas George said the enrollment program fits the description of the University's mission plan to serve the community. "This is an example of what we do. It's kind of like a no brainer," he said.

Provost Glen Cope presented the idea at a recent faculty and staff meeting. "The faculty showed a very enthusiastic response to any way they can help these students," George said.

UM-St. Louis will enroll students on a case-by-case basis, so a student can easily transfer classes from another college. Hattman explained, entering freshmen will need high school transcripts, and all displaced students need to prove their enrollment in one of affected universities. Applicants are being admitted on unofficial record or no record, she said, until their records are recovered.

“
This is about doing the right thing.

— UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George

”



Irwin Thompson/ Dallas Morning News-KRJCAMPUS

Charles Scott pushes his bike through floodwaters in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Tuesday. In response to the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, the University announced Friday that it would waive tuition for students whose colleges were forced to close.

Displaced students may also receive financial aid. "If there's some extra scholarship help we can find, we'll be looking along those lines," George said.

Professors are also preparing to help the new students feel at home at UM-St. Louis. Professors will help students catch up on what the displaced students missed so far. Cope spoke with faculty to see if they are able to accept students into their

classes with limited space. Faculty also provided the University with listservs naming students from colleges affected in the South.

Beyond the campus, Hattman said local St. Louis residents, most of them being alumni, are opening their homes for no costs to students going to UM-St. Louis.

Students from the affected area can enroll until Sept. 16, and if they plan to continue their education at

UM-St. Louis, they will pay full tuition and fees for the spring semester and all subsequent semesters.

While George has not personally talked with students, he has heard a positive reaction. "Some didn't even hear about this program until they contacted us," he said.

Hattman believes this is the first time that she knows of that the University has offered such a program. "People are so grateful. They

are overwhelmed by the generosity," she said.

Hattman has heard "heartwarming, but heartbreaking stories" from traumatized parents and students.

She stressed the importance of how the University is helping. "This is not about enrollment. This is not about numbers. This is not about credit hours. This is not about making money. This is about doing the right thing."

Biloxi woman calls UMSL home after Katrina

BY GENELLE JONES
Staff Writer

Colleges along the Gulf Coast have been evacuated and closed for the semester due to the destruction of hurricane Katrina. This national emergency leaves students wondering about their academic futures.

Hurricane Katrina has claimed the lives of hundreds of people and swept away thousands of memories along the Gulf Coast. This category five hurricane hit on Sunday night and lasted until Monday morning. All students attending colleges along the coast were instructed to evacuate and "get out of town" immediately.

Students frantically began to flee areas in the destruction path of Katrina. Many hitched a ride with friends or strangers to their homes or out of town to nearby northern cities. Hundreds of students and faculty living in the area returned home to evacuate with their loved ones. Hotels in surrounding areas have reduced their rates to accommodate the evacuees.

Maria Gonzales, a new student at UM-St. Louis is originally from Biloxi, Mississippi. When the storm hit, Gonzales was out of town visiting friends but she feared for her family and friends back home in Biloxi.

Devastating pictures of an area that once was filled with businesses, homes, hospitality, and lively spirits now "looks like death." It is hard to find hope for these people in these



Hal P. Carlisle/ The Current

Maria Gonzalez, doctoral candidate in counseling, looks through photographs of friends from the Biloxi, Miss. area, who are still missing after Hurricane Katrina. Gonzalez, originally from Biloxi, is now attending UM-St. Louis.

destroyed areas.

"All we can do is pray and wait it out, the most challenging is the lack of communication, we can't contact anyone, or find out anything," Gonzales said.

Biloxi, Miss. is a small town with

approximately 6,000 residents. Everyone is without electricity, gasoline for generators, food and water. This area that was once a popular tourist attraction with majority of its revenue generated from casinos and restaurant's is now set back 15 years.

Gonzales is safely sheltered in St. Louis now, living with her brother, because her home was destroyed. She feels helpless as she continues to

see **KATRINA**, page 12

Gas prices soar, increase cost of commute to UMSL

BY BRIAN SALMO
Staff Writer

With over 90 percent of UM-St. Louis students commuting to campus every week, odds are they are feeling a pinch at the pump. Gasoline prices have risen more than 50 percent over the past year and the last thing a cash-strapped college student needs is another tax on their pocket book.

Oil, being the main ingredient in gasoline production, drives the price of it. The reason for the recent run up in the price of oil is three fold. The first, and perhaps the biggest contributor, is the lack of major oil supply discoveries. The next culprit is a major increase in the demand for oil, especially in developing nations like China. The final oil price driver is the constant threat of disruptions to oil production, whether it's by terrorists or natural disasters. Because these factors are being experienced simultaneously, the laws of supply and demand grab hold and raise prices.

Higher fuel costs have forced some people on campus to evaluate their current commuting situation.

Wesley Buchanan, senior, business administration, commutes to campus four days a week from Festus, Mo. He said that if this was not his last semester at the University, he would move closer to campus. "I



Brian Fagnani/ The Current

Quik Trip on Natural Bridge Rd. displays gasoline prices on Friday. Gas prices have risen over 50 percent in the past year.

use a quarter tank [of gasoline] round trip," Buchanan said, "I'm dropping at least ten dollars more a week."

After some prodding by his son, UM-St. Louis Associate Vice Provost of Student Affairs and

see **GAS PRICES**, page 12

Latest in sports



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Local band Femme Fatality plays the Creepy Crawl



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Visio's newest student exhibition



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Bulletin Board

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.

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

Tuesday

Interviewing Basics Workshop

This workshop is designed for job seekers who do not possess extensive interviewing experience or may need a "refresher". Topics will cover a wide range of issues. The one hour workshop is free and will be held in 278 MSC. Advanced registration is required, call 516-5111 for more info.

Wednesday

Accounting Club Kicks off Semester

The Accounting club will kick off the fall semester with a meeting at 2 p.m. in the SGA cha.m.ebers. Please contact Dan Bellville at drb6v9@umsl.edu for more info.

Grand Canyon topographer and artist is the focus of Lunch and Lecture Series

The Mercantile Library is hosting a lecture given by Steven W. Rowan a professor at UMSL entitled The Footsteps of God: The travels of Baron F.W. von Egloffstein. The lecture will be

held at 12p.m.-1p.m. lunch will be provided for \$15 for members and \$18 for non members. Call 314-516-7242 for more info.

Thursday

State of the University Address
Chancellor Thomas F. George will be presenting 2005 Chancellor's award for excellence at 3:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms in MSC.

Registration Deadline for Ca.m.pus Recreation activities and events

Today is the registration deadline for the following Ca.m.pus Rec activities, coed softball, tennis tourna.m.ents, coed volleyball league, 7-player flag football leagues and bowling doubles league. Activities are free and open to students and staff. Register at 203 Mark Twain or call 5326 for more info.

Alum- Net Mentoring Mixer
Business professionals volunteering as mentors will be present to visit with students from 5:30-7:30 in Century B & C. Students interested should email there

na.m.e, major, and contact info to businessmentor@umsl.edu.

Friday

Entry deadline for Ca.m.pus Rec Golf scra.m.ble

Today is the registration deadline for Ca.m.pus Rec's annual 4-person golf scra.m.ble. The tourna.m.ent will be played at Nomandie Golf Course on Mon Sept 19. Shotgun start at 10:30 a.m., entry fees are free for students and staff/alumni pay only \$20. Price includes 18 holes, cart and post event picnic. Register at Ca.m.pus 203 Mark Twain or call 5326 for more info.

Gallery 210 to feature 'Paradise Recast'

Gallery 210 will host an exhibit featuring a multi-media installation by artist Marguerite Perret. The exhibit runs now through Oct 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues through Sat. Reception Friday, Sept. 9 from 5:30 to 7:30. Call 314-516-5976 for info.

STAT Tailgating and Fla.m.es
performance at soccer ga.m.es Tailgating kicks off at the

women's 5:30 game and continues until the end of the men's ga.m.e. The Fla.m.es will perform at men's ga.m.e halftime. Join UMSL students for free food and giveaways and to cheer on the tea.m..

Saturday

Band-Aid

Multiple bands, including Exit 3, are holding a concert Sept. 9th from 6:30-8:30p.m. at the January Wabash Park bandshell on Florissant Rd. Donations go to the hurricane victims, through the city of Ferguson.

Sunday

"Women Composers for Oboe" a concert

Women in the Arts at UMSL are sponsoring a free concert at Unity Lutheran Church in Bel-Nor at 3p.m. on Sept 11. Call 7776 for more info

Catholic Mass

At Provincial House chapel at 8:30p.m.

UMSL observatory to hold open

house

The Department of physics and astronomy at UMSL will host a free open house at 7:30p.m. that will feature viewings of celestial objects and additional nebulae and galaxies call 5706 for more info.

Monday Sept. 12

Free Spike Lee film fest

In the Pilot House, noon to 9 p.m. On Tuesday, Sept. 13, Spike Lee will speak at the PAC. Call PAC box office for tickets (\$23-\$30 for students) at 4949.

Inline hockey tryouts

Mon. Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m.; Wed. Sept. 14, 9:30-11 p.m. at Midwest Sport Hockey at Queeny Park. email umslin-line@yahoo.com for info

Ongoing

Shiz Knit Knitting Group
This knitting group will be meeting every Tues in the month of Sept in the Nosh from 3p.m. to 7 p.m. Novice or Expert Crocheters welcome. Email krmt28@umsl.edu for more info.

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Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Aug. 28, 2005 and Sept. 4, 2005. Please remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and any one having any information concerning any of these incidents should contact the Campus Police Department at 516-5555.

Aug. 28, 2005 - Stealing over

\$500.00 - Parking Lot AA Fine Arts

A staff member reported that someone stole a backpack with her wallet and credit cards from a parked vehicle. The victim indicated that she left her convertible top down and the bag was on a seat. All of the contents were recovered on a hillside and parking lot nearby.

Aug. 29, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot JJ

The victim reported that sometime between Aug. 23-24 someone stole the license plates from his vehicle while parked. The license plates were entered into the computer system as stolen.

Aug. 30, 2005 - Assault Third Degree - 103 Social Science Building

A dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend led to a minor altercation in a nearby hall-

way. Neither party desired prosecution.

Aug. 31, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500.00 - Millennium Student Garage South

The victim reported that sometime in the past few months someone stole the license plate tabs from their vehicle while parked. The license plate tabs were entered into the computer system as stolen.

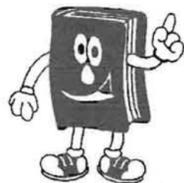
Sept. 1, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500.00 - 525 Lucas Hall

The victim reported that sometime between 11 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. she had placed some of her items from her office in the hallway while new office furniture was being delivered. The victim indicated that during the process of the delivery, someone stole a computer monitor from the hallway.

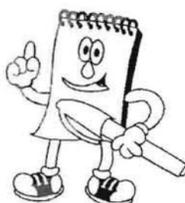
CORRECTIONS

In issue 1157, an article regarding the SGA meeting incorrectly named Bryan Goers as the chief justice. Kit Blanke is the chief justice of Student Court.

Please contact The Current at 516-5174 or current@jinx.umsl.edu to report factual inaccuracies, including misspellings of names or misquotes.



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Student responses fed MyGateway, e-mail changes, ITS department says

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Returning students who logged into MyGateway this fall semester discovered the website, system and their student e-mail accounts received a makeover during the summer.

On Aug. 9, the Information Technology Services department on campus began the weeklong changes to MyGateway and student e-mail accounts.

Kyle Collins, systems administrator for the ITS department at UM-St. Louis, led the team responsible for

making the changes to integrate certain aspects of the UM-St. Louis homepage into the MyGateway system.

Collins said a combination of listening to students and analyzing past usage helped to promote the changes made to accommodate its users.

A total of 1107 students participated in the survey conducted in the winter semester of 2005 that gave feedback for suggestions on how to improve MyGateway. The survey showed almost 65 percent of students accessed MyGateway two or more days per week for their courses, and 71 percent accessed MyGateway off campus.

One of the major changes to the system is the use of a single sign on. "The idea is that a student, faculty or staff member can log in to MyGateway and ideally do not have to log in again," Collins said.

The changes also allow students to access more applications, including their DARS reports, class schedules and student e-mail accounts all through one page, the MyGateway site.

The system can now identify if a student or a professor logs in. "We try to make it more personalized and bring more data to the students and faculty," Collins said.

Students can also access campus statistics and facts, campus service websites, available job listings, athletics schedules and more using the new student tab on MyGateway.

"The details are less important than the overall direction that it's easier to use...and it has materials they want," Jim Tom, associate vice chancellor for ITS, said.

The response to the changes has been positive among students, faculty and staff members, Tom said.

The ITS department encouraged students to suggest future changes. "MyGateway isn't for us. It's for the

students and the faculty and for the staff, as well," Collins said.

Collins explained that the changes to the e-mail were "a good example of listening to what students want. The student government requested that we move to Microsoft Exchange and Outlook. This change was driven by the students."

The ITS department transferred past e-mails and students' address books. The transfer amounted to about 19,000 accounts and over 15 million e-mails, Collins said. While certain students' e-mails were transferred slower than others, he said no e-mails were lost in the

process.

The transfer of address books was unique to the campus. "This is something that, to our knowledge, no other campus has tried," he said.

Transferring address books was difficult at first. "Microsoft told us it couldn't be done, and Microsoft technical support is very good," Collins said. However, one of his colleagues wrote a program to transfer the address books from the old accounts to the new ones.

On the first day of school, Aug. 22, MyGateway experienced a record 1.53 million hits. Since then through Sept. 1, almost 12.7 million hits were recorded.

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Police search for suspect in library burglary

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Editor-in-Chief

UM-St. Louis police are still looking for a suspect in a burglary that took place overnight in the Thomas Jefferson Library between Friday, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Aug. 27.

According to UM-St. Louis police detective Anthony Griemel, an unknown suspect hid in the library before closing at 5 p.m. Aug. 26 and waited until all employees left the building and the alarm was set.

The suspect broke into a couple of change machines and pried open a fireproof document safe and then pried open a window on the west side of the library to escape.

Griemel said the suspect took less than \$250.

Around 9 a.m. on Saturday, library supervisor Aziz Atai discovered the

damage left by the burglar and notified police. Officer Joseph Kane responded and took a report from Lisandra Carmichael, the library's head of access services.

Griemel, who was on campus for an unrelated matter, came to the scene and called in St. Louis County crime scene investigators to collect evidence, photograph the scene and dust for fingerprints.

Griemel said the campus police interviewed employees and took "elimination prints" from library workers and from employees of the company that operates the change machines at the library.

"We did develop latent fingerprints, so the elimination prints help us separate prints that should be there and those that shouldn't."

Carmichael said while no library employees were in any danger during

the incident, "the library is taking additional security measures to ensure we comply with our responsibility to our collections and first and foremost to our staff."

"We are taking this seriously, and we are looking at this as a lesson to learn from, and to try and make sure this doesn't happen again," Carmichael said.

Griemel said it was rare to have a burglary of this sort on campus. "About five years ago, when we had a credit union on campus, they were broken into. But, that's about it."

"Our crime here on campus is low, but we are concerned about any problems that occur on campus," Griemel said. "The police can't do it themselves. We encourage faculty staff and students to report anything suspicious. There are red phones across campus, and blue phones in the lots and garages. Call 5155 from a campus phone, or 911."

NEWS BRIEFS

Chancellor to give 'State of University' Address

Chancellor Thomas George will give the State of the University address to the campus community on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the MSC. The chancellor will discuss "exciting updates" for the University, Bob Samples, director of media relations,

said. The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence will be presented to four professors and three staff members at the ceremony, and the Arianna String Quartet will perform.

Tuition lawsuit hearing to be held

The University and named plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit concerning tuition reached a settlement. Former students involved in the case

received a notice of their rights to the scholarship fund being created. The \$10 million fund will be divided into 4,770 scholarships of \$500 each for the 2006-2007 academic year. Each subsequent year, the scholarship will increase by 3 percent, however, the University can change the number of and amounts for scholarships available. The scholarships will be distributed over the next 25 years. The St. Louis County Courthouse will hold a hearing on Sept. 15 at 1:30 p.m. for students involved.



Career Days 2005

Tuesday, September 13 &
Wednesday, September 14
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Century Hall, MSC

This event is FREE and open to UM-St. Louis students and alumni ONLY.

Visit www.umsl.edu/career for the list of employers attending Career Days 2005. Among the 100 companies currently attending are:

Colliers Turley Martin Tucker
Edward Jones
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Hopewell Center
Missouri Division of Youth Services
Monsanto Company
Peace Corps
Social Security Administration
St. Louis Science Center
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MORE INFORMATION
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516-5753

Our Opinion

Time to help

The University should come together as a community to raise funds and offer aid to those affected by Katrina

The scenes are hard to forget. A page-one photograph in the New York Times shows a lifeless body floating amid the devastation. Buses of newly dispossessed refugees huddled on school buses headed for shelter. Thousands of lives and livelihoods swept away.

Along the Gulf Coast, 'tragedy' is a word that comes up daily in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

We've all seen the footage of the widespread destruction wrought by hurricane Katrina.

Now, the question is what are we going to do about it?

The University can be a powerful force. We have a community of over 15,000 students and 2,000 faculty and staff members. In the face of a national tragedy, our University's leaders in the administration, student government, student organization, fraternities and sororities, faculty and staff associations can all rally their respective organizations' manpower to help mobilize fund-raising efforts.

Jodi Miller, professor of criminology, and the Center for International Studies led the way last year in raising money to help the reconstruction efforts for the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Now, the natural disaster is hundreds, not thousands, of miles away.

What you can do:

American Red Cross
For more information about the Red Cross, call 1-800-HELP-NOW or email info@redcross.org

Salvation Army
Phone 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
www.nvoad.org

United Way
1-800-272-4630. Or mail checks (made out to United Way of America with Hurricane Katrina Fund in the memo line).
United Way of America
P.O. Box 630568
Baltimore, MD 21263-0568

Visit www.give.org/news/katrina.asp to view a list of relief organizations recommended by the Better Business Bureau.

Let us hope that the University will take Professor Miller's example and take the initiative in raising money, or sponsoring the reconstruction of schools or communities in Louisiana or Mississippi.

Students, too have shown their ability to mobilize and raise money in times of tragedy. Our international students demonstrated great initiative in compassionate fundraising last year after the tragic deaths of stu-

dents from China and Lithuania.

After the loss of doctoral candidate Ling Li in 2004 and of former student Julius Backys in 2005, students raised thousands of dollars to help the families of the students who died.

UM-St. Louis has already announced it will waive tuition for students whose universities down south were closed because of the hurricane.

That's a great start. Now, it is up to students, faculty and staff to work together once again to help raise money for the thousands of families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. With New Orleans inundated with water, and numerous towns destroyed, the task of reconstruction will be daunting. The long-term effects of Katrina remain to be seen, but one thing is certain: people affected by the hurricane will be hurting for a long time and reconstruction will be a painfully slow process.

The University community has shown that it can be a powerful force in mobilizing to help others in times of need. Now, more than ever, we need to double our efforts and make a difference in doing our part to donate money and time to help out during this national tragedy.

Guest Commentary

New Orleans: A familiar face

BY MICHAEL RANKINS
Guest Commentator

Always a romantic believer in love at first sight, I fell in love with New Orleans from my first drive down her narrow, uneven avenues. For me, the touristy images I had seen prior to my first visit could never compare to the reality of Cajun/Creole country. More than columned mansions, lacy wrought iron balconies, and brooding live oaks, the entire area is a study of contrasts: land against water, mankind against nature, wealth against poverty...and yet, somehow, a strange harmony seems to hang in the sultry, perfumed air. A city known for an endless rampage of parties and parades, behind the Mardi Gras mask New Orleans has a softer, more beautiful face, one she shows only to those who love her enough to look.

Sometimes, one sees the face in an elderly black woman, elegantly dressed, picking her way down the cobblestones of the Vieux Carre on her way to Mass. Other times, the face glows from an old man whose

wrinkles deepen in smile as he cares for his prized azaleas in the Garden District. Late at night, among the leaning shotgun houses on the East side of Esplanade, the face beams from the crone who fiddles with Tarot cards for the tourists, then laughs and shares true wisdom for free over whiskey. Tourists meet other tourists on the streetcars, but on the bus one meets the real people of the Crescent City...young artists, hopeful couples, smiling children. Stray (carefully) onto the wharves, and one may talk with the wizened, grizzled, but often friendly men and women who work and live on the ships dotting the great river. Beyond Bourbon Street, one finds the true beauty of the Delta: a people proud, strong, and dedicated to their community despite crushing poverty and a legacy of injustice.

After dozens of visits over a decade, I know these people; most who stayed did so because they had no means to leave, nowhere else to go...and because they love their home. Looking at the televised images of a city I know gone mad, I

know exactly what is going on in New Orleans. Contrary to reports, most people have not descended into anarchy; they are dying. Should they die in a quiet, orderly fashion? Don't be fooled; in such hideous circumstances, most Americans would behave in a similar manner. If you've hesitate on donating to the Red Cross, fearing that you'll be donating to criminals and thieves, I invite you to picture in your mind the faces of the persons you love the most...what would you do to try to save them as they withered and died in a cesspool of sewage, mosquitoes, and rotting flesh? What might you do to feed and protect them? When you are alone tonight, look at your own face in the mirror, and decide if it is so truly different from any other which, drawn and desperate, could easily be gazing into a camera in New Orleans.

And then, after careful reflection, reconsider giving.

Michael Rankins earned his Master's degree in counseling at UM-St. Louis and currently works in the Office of Student Life.

Science Column

Thinking about an electric car? Here's why you should

Last time, this column explored what kind of car we might drive after gas prices become out of reach. This week we will look at alternatives to fossil fuels for power in general and why you might want an electric car.

Electricity can come from many sources, so an electric car is flexible, although a biofuel-electric hybrid sounds appealing. Oil is vanishing but natural gas and coal are still abundant fossil fuels. The downside for them is the greenhouse gases and other pollutants they produce.

But there are "clean" energy options for generating electricity. While proponents of nuclear power want to include nuclear on this list, there are other issues with nuclear, so we will explore that option next week. This week we will talk about alternate energy that everyone agrees is clean and renewable: solar, wind, and biomass. But the best approach for alternate energy sources for electricity is combinations.

While Americans might commonly consider solar and wind to be energy ideas of the hippy-era, the rest of the world has moved forward on these

two options. Of these two, wind is making the biggest strides. Windmills are an old idea but the modern wind farm and new turbines are new. Wind farms are fields of modern turbines strategically placed in windy areas to collect this power. About 20 percent of Denmark's power comes from wind. Europe generally is moving into wind power, with advances in design for turbines and fields of turbines on land or off-shore, leading to wind power use in England, Germany and other European countries. China's Center for Renewable Energy Development predicts that China will use wind and other renewable energy sources for 10 percent of its power by 2020. A wind farm at Huitengxile, China currently produces 68 megawatts of electricity. Europe produces wind power energy equivalent to 35 large coal-fired plants, with over 34,000 megawatts of power.

Cost is important for any power source, and wind is very competitive compared to coal and natural gas. Wind power plants coming on line by 2013 are projected to provide power at about six cents a kilowatt hour



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

compared to five cents for coal and five and a half for natural gas. The cost and state of technical development is why wind is leading the way in renewable energy. Despite the careful selections of windy sites, like off-shore areas for wind farms, one of the drawbacks to wind is that the wind does not always blow. Power generated when the turbines are turning needs to be stored for times when they are not. By contrast, coal fired plants

Diets are the devil

Ramen used to terrify me. As an incoming freshman wary of the notorious college weight-gain, I somehow came to blame the inexpensive meal for the waistline-tightening trend.

While the occasional meal of instant noodles isn't the sole "freshman 15" cause, eating it and other unhealthy (but attractively cheap) foods often will lead to unwanted growth. So how does a poor, hungry college student successfully subsist?

Maintaining a healthy diet certainly isn't easy in college, and it appears to cost more than fast-food dining. In the long run, burgers, fried tacos and movie-theater buttered popcorn actually put a larger dent in your savings than grocery shopping. Visit a grocery store that carries low-cost items, and stock up on the necessities: bread, fruit cups, salad in a bag, frozen chicken breasts and even a few packages of Ramen. Splurge on fast-food on occasion, but don't rely on it as a regular food source.

By minimizing late-night runs to the drive-through, you will put less strain on your piggy bank and cardiovascular system.

I have trouble with portions. Most restaurants in the United States serve double or triple the advised serving sizes. My international roommates last year said the thought of eating an entire American restaurant portion both amazed and grossed them out.

The American Cancer Society recommends that we only consume 3 ounces of meat in a meal. That's

the same size as one deck of cards. A "medium potato" should look roughly the size of a computer mouse, and one serving of pasta is equivalent to a tennis ball. While the adjustment can be difficult, our bodies will get used to the smaller plate within a few days.

When you do go out, order a half-portion or appetizer. If you order a large meal, ask for a box immediately and save half before you even dig in. Once again, what benefits your backside can benefit the bank account, too.

Eat when you feel hungry. Stress, boredom and emotional issues can disguise themselves as cravings. Be aware of your eating habits, and deal with the mental imposters by participating in other activities. For some people, exercise reduces chronic munchies.

I despise, loathe and utterly abhor the concept of dieting, as many methods involve denying yourself or going to extreme measures in the name of weight loss. Don't diet; eat smart. Control what goes into your mouth. If you feel like eating ice cream, have a small bowl. Don't go overboard and eat the entire box, though. By actively monitoring your nutritional intake, you'll feel physical improvements and enjoy sporadic indulgences even more.

After a few years without mom's cooking, I no longer regard Ramen as the figurehead for all edible evil. As long as we avoid filling your arteries with chicken nuggets on a daily basis, most people can maintain a healthy lifestyle. You only get one body. Be nice to it.



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Letter to the Editor

Mexican stereotypes still rampant, reader says

In regards to the lesson unlearned in the article about visiting Mexico ("Mexico trip teaches unlearned lesson," Aug. 29) I was not surprised at the ignorant accusations this student was making (sarcastic tone). Not because Mexicans fought alongside Americans in wars dating back to World War I or that the rise of Hispanic American enrollment in Universities is increasing or that Hispanic Americans are being taken advantage of by US companies domestically and abroad. Now these comments do not only apply to Hispanics but minority immigrants and emigrants overall.

Sometimes I applaud other foreign nations for trying to keep US influence out. I understand we are a great nation despite many of our drawbacks, however, think about the many hands lended by immigrants and emigrants contributing to the luxuries we have today, like drink-

able water, highways connecting us ten minutes from downtown, and skyscrapers reaching the heavens. Yet, we still find a way to discriminate and stereotype.

Unfortunately, many university students continue to have the terrible misconceptions about others of minority descent that this author was having and really feel that there is nothing wrong with these feelings. It is as if education is no longer creating individuals who can look past their situations, derive information from other sources and not just Eurocentric ones, understand that the politics and history of others may give insight to their state today, or just look at the positives of other ethnicities. Hopefully, her mindset of Mexicans and other cultures has changed and I just wonder now how the previous lesson was learned.

Claudia Martinez
Alumna

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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.

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Staff Viewpoint

Wondering why tuition is so high? Thank Mel Hancock

Imagine paying \$801 in tuition and fees for a 15-hour semester at UM-St. Louis with no scholarship. That was what this school charged undergraduates in the 1980-81 school year, and students were upset that it was so high.

It more than doubled from the year before when the same load cost only \$387—that was because tuition in 1979-80 maxed out at 12 credit hours.

Now 15 hours will cost you \$3,806.90 plus another \$270 if you pay for a parking sticker. If you adjust it for inflation, 1980-81 tuition would be \$1,828 in 2004 dollars. So tuition has almost doubled since then.

Look at it another way. How long would it take you to pay for two full-time semesters working a minimum wage job.

In 1980, when the minimum wage

was \$3.10 an hour, it would take 250 hours, or about 6 1/2 weeks working 40-hour weeks. You could pay for tuition with a minimum wage summer job and have some left over for living expenses. Even taking out taxes, live with your parents and you can make it.

Now, with a \$5.15 minimum wage, it would take about 740 hours or more than 18 40-hour weeks. That's almost three times as long. It's also longer than summer vacation.

The University of Missouri recently passed a milestone: for the first time in its history, students pay a greater share of the cost of their education than the state does.

It's not usually fair to blame one person for something like that, but I will anyway. His name is Mel Hancock.

In 1980, Hancock was a little-

known businessman selling security devices in Springfield, Mo. He started an initiative petition drive to limit taxation in the already-low-tax state of Missouri.

It passed that November, and since then state revenues can grow no faster than personal income in the state unless voters approve. If tax revenues do grow faster, the state has to refund the excess to people who paid Missouri income tax that year in proportion to the amount of income tax they paid. For the last five years, nationally, the economy has grown, but personal income has not



BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL

Columnist

That means that there is more economic activity to tax, but, under the Hancock Amendment, no way to increase tax revenues.

Hancock was indeed a product of his time. In 1978, a voter initiative in California called Proposition 13, limited property tax increases. Voters all

over the country noticed, and even high tax

In the late 1990s, Missouri exceeded the Hancock limits and mailed more than \$900 million in checks to taxpayers. Possibly to save postage, the legislature made some permanent tax reduc-

tions, so when the new millennium rolled around, revenues actually dropped. The 1990s tax changes cost the state more than \$800 million annually.

We could use that money here at the university. In fact, a 2003 report by State Auditor Claire McCaskill found that decreased state support was the No. 1 reason for increased tuition.

I could name a few school districts and other state agencies that need it as well. We are the stingiest state in the country with large cities for funding public transportation.

Unfortunately, few politicians have the courage to challenge the Hancock Amendment. What, raise taxes? What good could that do? Our governor, Matt Blunt, calls them "job-destroying tax increases."

How about tuition-raising tax cuts? Doesn't he know the value of a good university?

There are businesses in Columbia founded by MU grads, people who could have located their businesses anywhere, but who elected to stay in Columbia because they went to school there and liked it. For example, ABC Labs, a biotech firm spawned by UMColumbia employs more than 150 people in Columbia.

So, aside from providing education, universities create economic development.

Tax money doesn't disappear into thin air. It gets spent. It creates jobs. It creates value. You want a more affordable education? Tell your legislator to repeal the Hancock Amendment.

Letter to the Editor

Former UMSL professors speak out on problems at College of Nursing

As faculty members who have left the College of Nursing, we are responding to the Current article dated August 22, 2005 entitled "High Faculty Turnover at College of Nursing Troubles Students." As stated in the article, several faculty and staff employed in the College of Nursing in the spring of 2005 did not return in the fall of 2005. Of the 33 teaching faculty, and 11 professional staff employed in the College of Nursing in spring 2005, a total of 10 teaching faculty and 2 staff members did not return to the College. Faculty who have left the College have an average of 23 years teaching and administrative

experience. Additionally, these faculty and staff have been recognized for excellence in nursing education, and in their contributions to metropolitan, state, and national health policy development. Those no longer in the College have also been instrumental in successfully developing community partnerships at the state and national level and have brought significant funding to the St. Louis community and the College of Nursing.

In response to Provost Cope's assessment of the circumstances under

which clinical faculty have left the University, we would like to clarify the chain of events that sadly led us to leave the College of Nursing. Not one but three external consultants have been brought in to evaluate and address issues at the College of Nursing since Dean Travis was hired. The second consulting firm, Triangle Associates, referenced in the Current article, was brought in after the faculty delivered a 30 - 3 vote of no confidence and the professional and support staff delivered a 10 - 0 vote of no confidence in Dean Travis' leadership.

During the College's March 1 faculty association meeting, the Provost informed the faculty that the university would follow Triangle Associates' recommendations and that 2005-2006 contracts could be delayed pending the consultant's report. She stated that faculty and staff would need to "do whatever they felt necessary" in light of this information. Since March 1, the Provost has not met with the full faculty at the College of Nursing.

On May 5, while College of Nursing faculty were attending the final Faculty Association meeting of the academic year, the Provost's office forwarded an executive summary of

Triangle Associates' report to all College of Nursing faculty via the email listserv. While several recommendations were made, the two that were most troubling to us were:

"Empanel a board of visitors comprised of the deans of the CON at UMColumbia and UMC-Kansas City campuses, and four or five other respected deans or retired deans from schools of nursing (not affiliated with the University of Missouri System); [and] charge this board with making recommendations as to how to (1) apportion workloads so as to meet the CON's teaching and scholarship needs, (2) implement the recommendations made ... regarding strengthening the doctoral program, and (3) advise Dean Travis on matters of administration; Two or three of the visitors should be asked to serve as special consultants/counselors to Dean Travis via regular telephone and e-mail exchanges."

"Each faculty and staff member should make their own decision as to whether they can support the other faculty, staff, and administrators of the CON. If in good conscience, they cannot be positive and be willing to use energy to move the college forward, they should decide to move on."

This latter point suggested to us that if we could not support the current administration in good conscience, we should leave. Neither the Chancellor, the Provost, nor Dean Travis has met with the faculty to discuss this report or their plan for implementation of the consultants' recommendations since it was emailed to the faculty.

Typically, College of Nursing faculties receive a letter of intent to return in April of the spring semester, with projected assignments for the next academic year immediately following the letters of intent. Contracts detailing term of appointment, course load expectation and anticipated compensation, are sent in late May or early June. This year, requests for faculty to declare their intent to return were not sent until late May. Faculty who indicated a willingness to return for the 2005-2006 academic year received no further communication from the University administration until July, when they were given course assignments via email, with no indication as to length of appointment or terms of compensation. Contracts detailing term of agreement and compensation were not sent until early August. Since contracts were not issued in the cus-

tomary timeframe and both the Provost and Triangle Associates had clearly communicated to the faculty that they should make other employment decisions if they could not accommodate the University's timetable, we chose to pursue other opportunities. At different points throughout the summer, faculty who "decided to move on" notified Dean Travis that they would no longer be available to accept a contract should one indeed be forthcoming, since a faculty member's declaration of intent to return does not mean that the University must offer a contract.

While it may appear to Provost Cope "that several of the clinical faculty, who had previously indicated that they wished to teach in the fall, chose to wait until a few weeks before classes started to resign rather than signing their contracts," the issues and concerns that led to our departure were clearly and consistently communicated to the administration well before our departure but never addressed. The actual chain of events that led each of us to leave UM-St. Louis is more complicated than the Provost's quote would have it appear. Faculty departure was facilitated by an invitation to do so by the Provost and the consul-

tants, coupled with a void in communication on the part of the administration.

We chose to leave quietly and in a professional manner, but we have been robbed of this opportunity because our names appeared in the Current and in our opinion the Provost has provided misleading information about the circumstances and timeliness of our departure. The Provost's comments are damaging to our credibility and personal and professional reputations, necessitating a response on our part.

While we have not been in contact with the students who are questioning the current leadership, we applaud their efforts in demanding excellence in their education and judicious use of their tuition dollars. We continue to support our colleagues at the College of Nursing as they attempt to maintain the integrity of the program and continue to have many fond memories of our students and colleagues at UMSL.

Peggy Ellis, RN, PhD
Susan Kendig, RNC, MSN, WHCNP
Debbie Kiel, RN, APRN, BC
Gail Rea, RN, PhD
Kim Young-Shields, RN, MSN

Share your space, but live on your own.



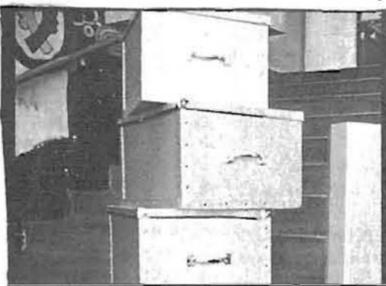
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Student comedian shoots for the last laugh

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

By day, 24-year-old Chris Fischer, is Mr. Fischer, a computer lab assistant and theater teacher at a St. Louis high school. But nights when he is down at Laclede's Landing he is better known as "Spex," a performer in St. Louis' only in-house improv comedy troupe. Fischer talks about the other difference between his two jobs.

"Anal sex," Fischer, senior, education, replied. "At my day job, people tend not to be drunk and screaming, 'anal sex' at me."

Fischer is referring to the unpredictability of audience suggestions that fuels the weekly, improvisational theater games played out on stage at Laughs on the Landing.

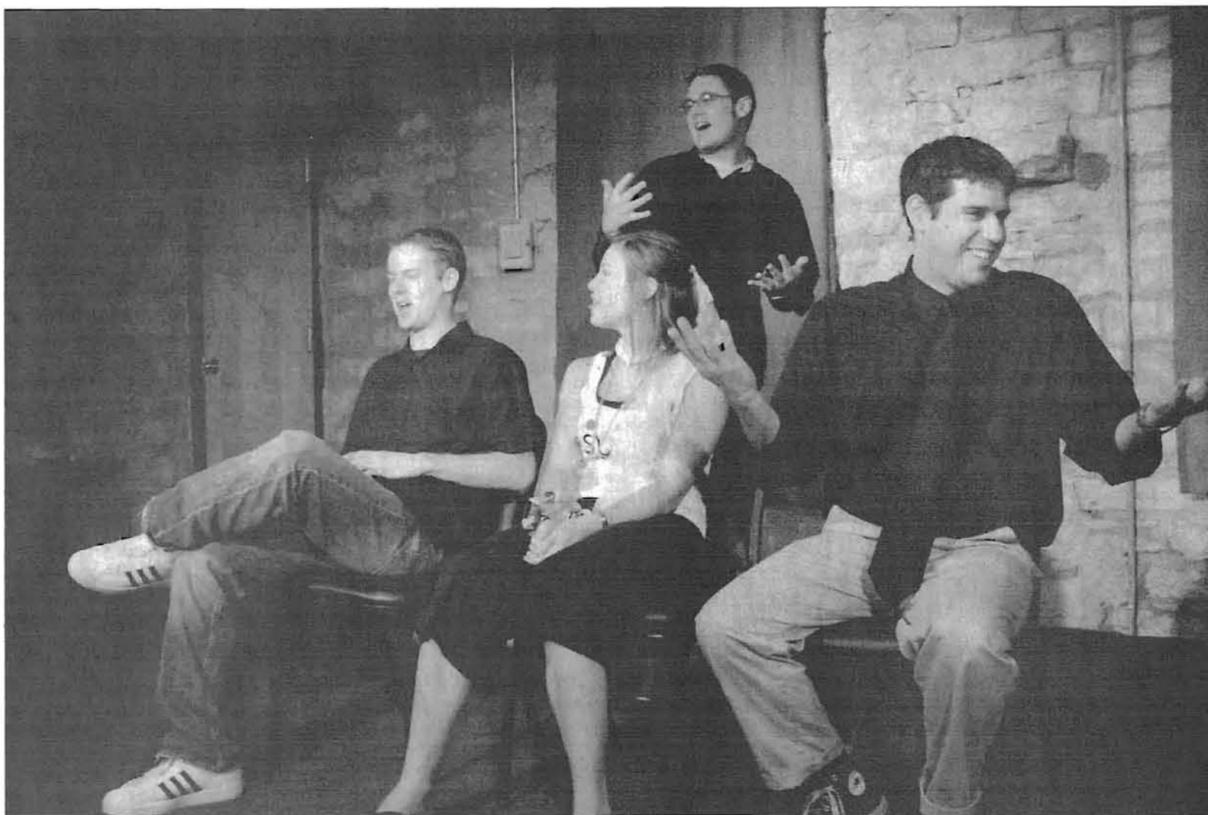
"By 10 or 11 on a Friday or Saturday night, some people [in the audience] can get a little rowdy," he said. "Especially if, God forbid, there is a bachelor party in the house."

Questions posed to the audience range from naming something one might buy at a drugstore to calling out a favorite war or a least-favorite celebrity. The interactive result can then create a scene based on avocado dip, Civil War re-enactments and David Hasselhoff. Each scene is then further bound by the rules and restrictions of the 30 or so games in the L.O.T.L. troupe's rotation. For instance, in the elimination style "25 Letters," the players cannot use any words that contain, say, the letter "h." Or perhaps they do the scene once and then play it again backwards.

Fischer insists that such scenarios are not as terrifying as they seem and are in fact, "fun."

"Our motto is 'have fun with each other,'" he said. "It's even painted on one of the walls of our green room."

Fischer says it is at the three-hour long Monday night rehearsals that the troupe works on the other fundamen-



Brian Fagnani/The Current

Chris Fischer (center, rear), senior, education, performs with an improvisational comedy group at Laughs on the Landing last week.

tals of successful improv: trust and something that is universally known in improvisational theatre as "yes, and."

"Basically," said Fischer, "yes, and" is agreeing with the other player and not denying them or shutting them down with something unreturnable. And then you raise the stakes. When you let go and trust that this will happen it is almost like a high as an art form. You see how far you can take it

and then try to know exactly when to stop."

At last Monday's rehearsal on the otherwise shuttered Landing, L.O.T.L. Director Kris Ramsey put it another way, to two players struggling through an exercise involving a retiring mail man and his replacement.

"Remember the goal here," he said. "Justify the other person's remarks and then introduce something new. That's how you keep it going."

Ramsey is also known as "that big guy" by patrons who sit at the bar between shows and marvel over his performances. A student and a teacher of improv for over 10 years, the 29-year-old North County resident has also lived and performed in New York City.

"I am in awe of him every night," said Fischer. "When we opened in April, a lot of people said that St. Louis wasn't ready for improv. Now

we're close to filling our theater on Saturday nights. Talent is only half the story. The other half is Kris."

Ramsey said that while he can't teach people how to think fast, success lies in teaching them to listen.

"In rehearsals we play a lot of word association games to improve listening," said Ramsey.

see IMPROV COMEDY, page 7

Longtime UM-SL-ite Joe Flees leaves legacy in his wake

BY KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

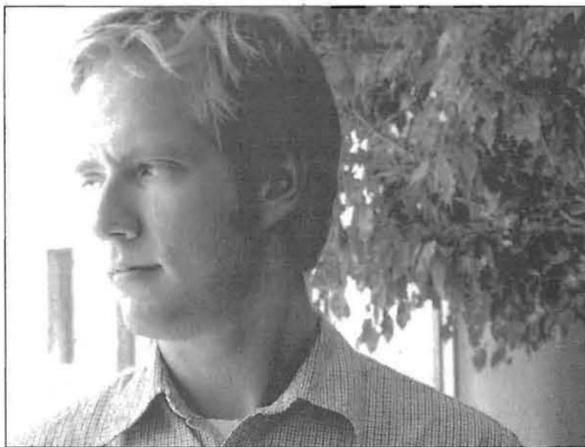
A former Student Government vice president, Student Life employee and future lawyer began his UM-St. Louis career just like any other freshman.

Alumnus Joe Flees left the University this summer to pursue a career in law at Washburn University, located in Topeka, Kan. This move is one more step in the academic journey he began in 1998.

"My first UM-SL memory is moving into the dorms, and being shy and scared of the unknown," he said. "I was excited to be going to college, but nervous about all the changes going on in my life. It's ironic, because I've felt the same way since starting law school."

During his seven-years at UM-St. Louis, Flees earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in criminology, and a master's degree in public policy administration.

Flees' contributions to the campus remain visible in his absence. He acted as the SGA vice president during the 2001-2002 academic year, served as an ASUM member, helped



File Photo/The Current

From student, to student government vice president, to an employee, Joe Flees has served many roles at UM-St. Louis. Flees left this summer for law school at Washburn University.

found the Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow organization, worked in the Office of Student Life upon graduation and continues to act as an active member of the Alumni Association. As a member of the Pierre Laclède Honors College, the Political Science Academy and politi-

cal science honors fraternity Phi Sigma Alpha, he balanced numerous academic endeavors with social involvement.

While he graduated with Latin honors, Flees said he regrets not striving more in the academic arena.

"Don't take classes for granted,"

he advised. "Don't be passive; stay on top of it. I wasn't the greatest student, but my passion made it work."

He also encouraged students to try new experiences. For him, that meant working for a while before pursuing a law career. Flees' hiatus as a student allowed him to better appreciate law school, he said.

"My favorite thing about school is just being back in the classroom again. Working the 9 to 5 at a job, it's easy to become stagnant in the work grind. College is an exciting place. If you dedicate 100 percent, it can really be interesting."

Early in his college career, Flees took a political science class taught by Professor Terry Jones. He credits the experience with piquing an interest that later led him to pursue a career in law.

Jones recalled working with Flees during an Honors course about the 2000 elections.

"I quickly learned that Joe was not a political novice, [since] he was working on a congressional campaign that year, and [he] was keenly interested in campaign strategy. He made many valuable contributions to the class and to the research," Jones said. "I believe Joe's passion for and expe-

rience in politics will enhance his legal career. Much of the law is practiced at the intersection of law and politics. In those arenas, Joe will be especially effective."

Orinthia Montague, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs and director of Student Life, worked extensively with Flees during his time at UM-St. Louis.

Montague said she recalls meeting Flees during his involvement with the Associated Student of the University of Missouri, and their rapport developed further when he joined SGA.

"Joe contributed greatly to Student Life and our mission to be here for the students and continue growing the department by providing leadership, seeking additional resources, creating new programs and revamping existing programs," she said. "I have always told him that if he runs for governor, he would have my vote."

Flees said he plans to remain actively involved with UM-St. Louis.

"[The University] is my home, not just a place I went to school and worked," he said. Flees has no regrets about the transition he made this year.

"Once again, I'm a small fish in a big pond," he said. "It's a little intimidating, but the fear makes it exciting."

The Intern Diaries

Tuxedo search for 'Producers' audition leads to voice from the past

Editor's Note: Former staff writer Gary Sohn left UM-St. Louis for an internship with NBC Sports in New York City. His 'Intern Diaries' column chronicles his experiences working in show business and his personal meditations on growing up in Missouri and adjusting to life in the Big Apple.

Angelina Jolie, actress and United Nations goodwill ambassador, once said, "Without pain, there would be no suffering. Without suffering we would never learn from our mistakes. To make it right, pain and suffering is the key to all windows, without it, there is no way of life."

I was excited to hear news from my agent that I would be in the remake of Mel Brooks' 'The Producers.' The only thing holding me back was a picture of myself in a tuxedo. I needed to send it to the casting agents' office in order to prove that I owned one. I began googling for rental places.

While googling, I decided to check my hotmail account. Clicking on the 'inbox' I found an email from my

brother entitled "Ginger." I opened it and was confronted with a part of my past that I had been running away from:

Gary,
Benjamin wanted me to email you. Ginger is in the hospital and they think it may be colon cancer. He said he called NBC and asked for you several times with no luck getting a hold of you.

I said I would send an email for him. I know that you don't want to hear from Tedd or me so I will just write what Benjamin wanted.

We love and miss you and have been reading your articles and they are very creative and you have developed a real writing talent. Take care of yourself.

Love Mom
After reading the email I burst into tears. I had not heard from my mom in almost ten years. I can't remember the last time she spoke—let alone the last time she told me that she was proud of me and that she loved me. And to top



GARY SOHN

New York Correspondent

off the pain and confusion, her message comes in the form of bad news about my Aunt Ginger who may have cancer; this is someone who I have known all my life—who has been like a second mother to me.

I held the tears in as well as I could and wiped my eyes. I walked over to my boss's office and asked Ariel if I could go outside and get some fresh air.

He saw how red my eyes were and asked what was wrong. As I tried to explain my bad news, I lost my composure and my eyes turned into thunderclouds with red veins popping out of my puffy eyes, pouring tears all over his carpet. Ariel placed his arm around me and comforted me with words of support.

"If there is anything I can do, Gary, please let me know. I hate to hear this happen to you. Let me know what happens with this" Ariel said.

I quickly jetted out of his office, into the elevator and exited through the revolving doors, outside. I walked over to an open courtyard full of people chatting, taking pictures and feeding pigeons. I sat down on an open bench and released all the negative energy trapped in my soul. I just cried in the open public. I never cry in public. I did not even cry at my father's funeral.

I remember at the funeral my mother asked "us boys," my brothers and I, to be strong for everyone and

not cry. I was stern and dry-eyed. I did not shed a tear because I wanted to be strong for the whole family.

However, this time I was alone in New York and did not have the strength to hold it in. I thought about what I should do. If it turned out to be that Ginger does have colon cancer, it is probably a given that she will not survive the treatment. She is in her fifties and not in the best shape. I began wondering how I would get home to see her.

I was broke and could not even afford a bus home. I would never forgive myself if I never see her again before she leaves this life.

I also fought the conflicting feelings within me about my mother. I still love her; I could never hate her. I might be angry with some of the things that happened between us in the past—but I could never hate her. I don't even hate the man who killed my father.

see INTERN DIARIES, page 12

THE CURRENT

EDITOR

MELISSA McCRARY

Features Editor

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the week's
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Parachute Bus

Sept. 7-8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MSC Nosh Patio

Four recent college graduates are touring various universities across the country on the Parachute Bus to help prepare students for life after college. Competitions, raffles, and personalized business cards will be available for students.

UMSL / Honors

College Night

at the Ballgame

Join us Friday, Sept. 9 to watch the St. Louis Cardinals take on the New York Mets at Busch Stadium at 7:10 p.m. Tickets are \$8. CALL 6870 for more info.

IMPROV COMEDY, from page 6

"Most people just wait to speak. But if you haven't really heard the other player when you respond, you're going to come off sounding canned and you're also less likely to create a credible character in a split-second. Really listening sounds simple but it makes a huge difference."

It is that rapid-fire character development that most impresses Adam Bodendieck, an English teacher and UM-St. Louis alumnus who moonlights as a bartender at L.O.T.L.

"It's like life plucked out of thin air," said Bodendieck. "It's just them and a couple of bar chairs on stage. There are no costumes, sets or props and yet they manage to create these vivid settings and absurd, but very real and contemporary characters. That it's often hilarious is the pay-off but that it's so good is pure theatre."

Like many others in the ensemble, Fischer considers himself an actor foremost and he would like to teach theatre after graduating from UM-St. Louis. His background in acting includes high school, college and professional productions as well as a small role in "Julius Caesar" at The Globe in London. His interest in comedy though,

dates back "forever."

"In junior high my locker was covered with pictures of comedians. As a kid, I really wanted to be David Letterman. I once printed up 1,000 letters to him, trying to get on the show," recalled Fischer. "Now that I think about it, I guess I'm lucky I didn't get arrested for stalking him."

On stage, each player has a host of experiences and outside interests to contribute to the dialogues and with his ever-present horn-rimmed glasses (hence the nickname, "Spex") Fischer's brand of wit might be described as other-worldly or even downright nerdy.

"Oh, I'm definitely the go-to geek when it comes to portraying computer hackers and Star Wars nuts," said Fischer. "I can quote the Star Wars encyclopedia like a preacher can quote the Bible."

Fischer lists the other qualifications for being what he calls, "geek chic."

"You have to have a huge knowledge of anything not considered mainstream, like comic books and b-movies and video games," he said. "There is also the inability to speak to the opposite sex and the fact that I have read 'The Hobbit' at least 20 times. I

dressed up as the Night Crawler from X-Men for Halloween. I know Peter Parker's middle name." Fischer waited a beat and then said, "Oh, it's Richard, by the way."

Ultimately Fischer said he would like to settle down with "a cool nerdy chick" and teach during the day and perform improv in the city at night. He also says that while a lot of the players could perform anywhere, most of them choose to stay in St. Louis with the dream of building up its improv community and making it, as Ramsey said, "more supportive than competitive."

Local history shows that having the last laugh is not an impossible dream. Back in the 1950s, in the cultural hot spot that was Gaslight Square, a grass roots group known as the Compass Players got the first laugh in improv at the Crystal Palace. Later they headed north to Chicago before evolving into the now world-famous, career-launching Second City group.

"I don't see why this city couldn't become a Mecca for improv like Toronto or Chicago," said Fischer. "That's kind of the goal we all have here."

'Friends Without Borders' pairs students from near and abroad

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate

Moving away to go to school can be a difficult experience, much more so if the student is also trying to learn a new language and new culture. Distance and homesickness, juggling finances, language barriers and culture shock are some of the obstacles international students face when they enter the United States.

A new program at UM-St. Louis is trying to make this transition easier by offering international students a unique way to make new friends on campus.

The Center for International Studies is sponsoring a new program called "Friends Without Borders" which pairs an American student with an international student.

Participants make a one-semester commitment and regularly meet with their new "friend" for activities. "It's flexible and up to each pair to determine on their own, whether it's meeting for coffee or meeting for lunch... or seeing the sites in St. Louis," said Traci Faschingbauer, study abroad coordinator in the Center for International Studies.

"There are a lot of benefits for both American students and international students," Faschingbauer said. "We're located right in the middle of the United States so we don't have a lot of

exposure to other cultures so this is a really good way to bring the international to our students."

Students interested in a specific culture or learning a certain language can request to be matched up with those with similar backgrounds. Sandra Trapani, senior lecturer in French, said that the program offers a unique way of learning that may not be offered in the classroom.

"This contact with native speakers is something you may or may not have in class," she said. "As a cultural exchange, it gives you a chance to practice everyday conversation and learn about cultural comparisons. It may also lower your inhibitions because with a one-on-one setting, you're not as fearful about making mistakes as in a class setting."

So far, the program has received considerable interest from students. "We didn't know what kind of response we'd have from either side, but we've gotten enough applications to make 30-40 matches and we hope to expand it even further," Faschingbauer said.

This program was the result of studying programs from various universities throughout the country.

"We wanted to integrate our international and American students better," Faschingbauer said. "We researched what other universities were doing because there's a lot of great ideas out there. So we took the

ideas we liked best and then made it how it would fit best for UM-St. Louis and we created 'Friends Without Borders'."

Last year, more than 400 international students enrolled at UM-St. Louis, including approximately 200 new students. These students represent 79 countries from all across the globe, including India, the People's Republic of China, Brazil, Lithuania and Indonesia.

Yimei Chi, senior, business administration, came to UM-St. Louis from China and said that making friends was an important part of adjusting to life in another country.

"Don't be shy to talk to people and always ask questions if you don't understand," Chi said. "Meet more friends, be positive and don't be shy to talk to classmates."

Faschingbauer also suggested looking at things with an open mind. "Better intercultural understanding is a major goal we have so that our students open their eyes to the big world, maybe get some different viewpoints and hear different opinions," Faschingbauer said.

"It breaks down misconceptions about other cultures when you really know someone as opposed to the concept of who they are," Trapani said.

For more information about the Friends Without Borders program, visit the Study Abroad Office at 261 MSC or call 516-5229.

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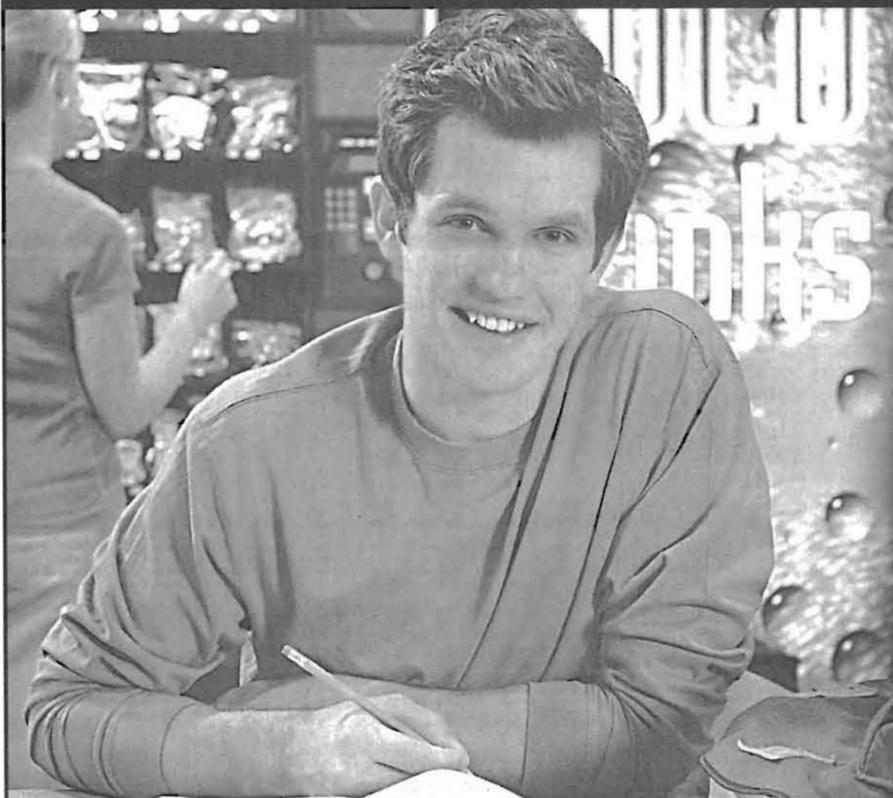
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'Sound of Thunder' gets sound of snoring

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

A story by the great science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, starring Ben Kingsley and Edward Burns sounded good. After a fairly good start, this movie degenerates into a would-be Jurassic Park action movie with all the surprises of watching a wind up toy race across a floor. It is a model of predictable story, stock characters, and ho-hum special effects. "Sound of Thunder" might be the thunderous sound of feet fleeing the theater or it may be the sound of snoring.

Hints of bad things to come appeared early, when a pair of characters take a stroll down the street in a futuristic Chicago. For the cityscape of small electric cars filling the street and a few added architectural touches, the filmmakers presumably used blue screen techniques but the resulting effect is remarkably bad. It really looks more like old-fashioned rear-screen projection, the laughably fake-looking technique used extensively in films from the forties to the sixties, where actors in a studio pretend to walk in front of a projection of an outdoor scene.

Actually, the special effects improve from this point, with some interesting shots of a vine-draped, crumbling Chicago, but the special effects improvement are not enough to make up for the decline in the story and the characters. It is hard to remember a more predictable plot or more cardboard characters, despite a cast of talented actors. Only Kingsley extracts a little entertainment from his bad guy role.

Set a few decades into the future, Ben Kingsley delivers an entertaining performance as a greedy, slick entrepreneur making a fortune selling time-traveling safaris to the wealthy, where they get to shoot an aptasaurus. The truth is that the dinosaur is about to get caught in a tar pit and die in a volcanic eruption, and the intrepid adventurers unknowingly are all going back to the same point in time and killing the same doomed creature over and over again.

But safari leader, scientist (Edward Burns) and the staff, conceal this fact and create the appropriate sense of excitement and danger, for an trip that has all the surprise of an amusement park ride for them. But there is a real danger in their trips to the past, and that is that any changes, no matter how minor, can have unintended, unforeseen consequences for the future in which they live.

Inevitably, such a change is made.



Concert Preview

Local band does electronic rock right

Femme Fatality plays the Creepy Crawl on Sept. 9

BY ZACH MEYER
Staff Writer

In the past, electronic music has been a shameful part of our musical culture. In place of string, wind and percussion instruments came the ear-wrenching sound boards and electro-slides that many considered to be the end of good music. Full grown men in golden-sequined shirts, no doubt full of crack-cocaine, blasted out white noise that was completely incoherent to the listener.

Needless to say, machine-made music has come a long way since then.

Femme Fatality, a local St. Louis duo, is pushing their way through this terrible stigma and re-creating electronic rock. A cross between punk rock and Dance, Dance Revolution (yes, the arcade game), the music somehow works. Composing every song on a single laptop, Monanani Polermo and Octavia Leito have as much energy and stage presence as Mick Jagger himself.

The twosome is by no means a



Photo courtesy femmefatality.net

Octavia Leito and Monani Polermo

regurgitation of any other band, electronic or not. They are, by far, one of the most unusual bands within the St. Louis region. "A lot of the stage antics that we do are definitely different. There's a lot of energy there. We're not just standing there on the

stage, and we're definitely not Story of the Year shadows. We're not alienating people, but we're still different," said Polermo, one of the two "machinists" and singers.

Although the band is barely three years old, the duet has already toured

across the nation. "We did an east coast tour and Canada type thing a year ago. We also did the West Coast and played around Hollywood... [we were received] in some areas better than others. In Texas, somehow the kids really get it, so we've had to go

back down there."

As much as Monanani and Octavia love what they do, they don't believe that laptop rock is the music of the future, especially in St. Louis. "The more we play out, the more it seems like we just play our shows but have no idea who's coming up. There are some good bands like So Many Dynamos. But St. Louis is not a breeding ground for a lot of great bands...There is [in St. Louis] a hard-core scene, but that's about."

However, among the musicians that they do enjoy playing with are bands like the infamous local underground rock groups, The Phonocaptors or The Seven Shot Screemers. And while neither of these bands can be categorized as laptop rock, the parallels between rock and roll and Femme Fatality are undeniable.

Besides the computer based music, the biggest separation from rock and roll is Femme Fatality's giant dance parties at every show. With glowing lights, plenty of fog, and glitzy ambience, every show seems like it's more at local dance club Velvet, rather than at leaky, decrepit bars.

Femme Fatality will be playing at the Creepy Crawl on Wednesday, Sept. 9, alongside Hockey Night who just signed to Look Out records. "It should be a good show. We'll bring the Crazy Dance party to the show and hopefully everyone will have a good time."

Campus Art

Engineering student's artwork featured in 'Esoteric'

BY MABEL SUEN
Staff Writer

On Aug. 25, Gallery Visio celebrated the beginning of its fall session with the opening of the student exhibit "Esoteric." The evening reception was filled with noises of tinkering wine glasses and people chatting enthusiastically about the brightly colored paintings around them that seemingly leapt from the walls, filling the room with an indescribable energy.

In the middle of all the excitement stood the artist Kenneth Douglas, genially greeting guests and humbly accepting praise from viewers. Esoteric, in a literal sense, is defined as "intended or understood by only a particular group."

To elaborate on its meaning, Douglas said, "It's not common. Very few people would try to explore their emotions especially when they're intense. A lot of people don't have the tenacity to explore other people's emotions."

Several of Douglas' paintings consist of familiar images of characters such as John Wayne and Marilyn Monroe, while others combine abstract images and emotions that vary in meaning depending on the viewer. According to Douglas, the art is "anime-influenced but not necessarily in the genre." While the images may seem like cartoons, the realism and characters used as the basis for his creations still shine through. All the paintings combine enamel and acrylic on acetate, with a melding together of an array of some-

times solid colors, distinguishing lines of gold and silver, and contrasting textures.

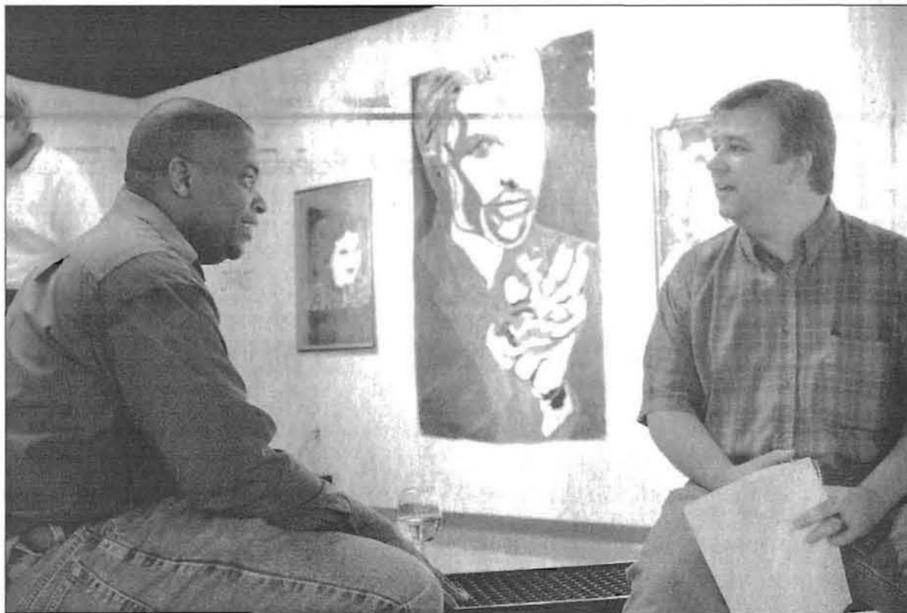
"My art often represents different emotions or controversy, or just the intensity of living life sometimes. I try to reach out and understand and I find that art is a language to communicate," said Douglas.

Pat Johnson, gallery manager and UM-St. Louis alumni, commented on Douglas' unique and self-taught style.

"People tend to read more into what's there in the folds and curves. Sometimes his viewers point out things in his work that he didn't even see. His mediums are sometimes similar to Warhol, but he makes it his own with things such as the layering technique in the backgrounds and hand drawings. He changes the art to add history to it," said Johnson.

Douglas, who is currently studying engineering at UM-St. Louis, utilizes the knowledge from his degree in psychology as well as his experience as a marine for a catalyst in his art. Additionally, his creations are driven by a system of muses.

"Psychology taught me the mechanics, but the Marine Corps showed me there were limits. It made me think about the limits of the mind and to explore these things," said Douglas. "I think that every friend and every person I know is some form or reflection of myself. So when I see a muse, its like opening up a vault—sometimes it's Pandora's Box, sometimes it's angelic, but it's like opening up a door into something new, and I like new flavors. They teach you patience and how not to be



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Kenneth Douglas (left) talks with longtime friend Chris Von Feldt at the opening reception of Douglas' exhibit 'Esoteric' at Gallery Visio on Aug. 25. Douglas already has his degree in psychology but is pursuing second degree in electrical engineering. 'Esoteric' runs until Sept. 16 at the gallery, which is located on the first floor of the MSC.

biased or take people too far."

Johnson, as well as Douglas, encourage and challenge all students to participate in the gallery, whether it be contributing art or simply just taking a spare moment to observe the work of others.

"Reach out and see that there's

more. Embrace the good with the bad and explore. The exhibit is just all about taking what you have, understanding it yourself, and being okay with that without really needing anything from anyone else. Talk to the painting and it will talk back to you," said Douglas.

Gallery Visio is located on the first floor of the MSC, room 170. "Esoteric" will be showing from Aug. 25 to Sept. 6. The gallery's operating hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit is free to the public. For more information, call Gallery Visio at (314) 516-7922.

Movie Review

Six-hour Italian epic 'The Best Of Youth' is best of film this week

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Writer

The best movie in theaters this week is "The Best of Youth." Great characters, great storytelling and breathtaking filmmaking make this Italian-language film an appealing epic family tale with universal themes that cross all national borders, set against the backdrop of the later half of the twentieth century.

Although it is in Italian with subtitles, this is no esoteric film only for fans of art house films. If you like movies at all, you will want to see this engrossing, redemptive film. Accessible yet polished, "The Best of

Youth" is that rare film that satisfies both mainstream and indie film ideals of what makes a good movie. "The Best of Youth" is simply a fabulous, beautiful film.

Moving and satisfying, "Best of Youth" ranges from a coming of age to a tale of life itself in the four decades that the story spans. It is the tale of the century, in a more literal sense. The history is background, essential to the flavor of events, but it is not the story. The story belongs to the family and friends. Although the story takes place in Italy, it could take place here or in any developed nation, since it covers the time from 1966 to now, when the world became a global culture. Although it has a specific time and place, it is a story of normal life

that could be your family or anyone's.

The film has gorgeous photography as well, with some really striking single shots, but the structure of the film is simple and straightforward. It is devoid of overt or esoteric cinematic tricks to keep the focus on the storytelling. The characters are appealing and distinctive, and the story gets better and better as it unfolds. The film is long, as it was originally planned as a mini-series, but the story is so addictive that you will be as eager to get to the next part as Harry Potter fans are to read the next Harry

Potter book or Tarantino fans were to see "Kill Bill Vol. 2." Watching it is like reading a great book you just can't put down, the kind that keeps you reading into the night. You will be amazed how quickly the time flies when engrossed in this film.

This family epic centers on two brothers, Nicola (Luigi Lo Cascio) and Matteo (Alessio Boni) Carati. As the film opens, they are college students, with Matteo studying philosophy and literature and Nicola studying to be a doctor. They live in Rome but their lives have the soundtrack of the same American and British rock and roll sweeping the U.S. and the rest of the world in 1966. The film sets its both universal and specific tone by opening to the strains of the Animals'

'60s hit "House of the Rising Sun," over a montage of sepia-toned family photos of the first half of the century, like a picture album of their parent's world and the brothers' childhood. Like America in the prosperous mid-sixties, global youth culture was just blooming in countries around the world, a time when the young embraced American-derived British music and American culture regardless of what county they found themselves in.

Brothers Nicola and Matteo are close but they are very different people. Matteo is serious, idealistic, intellectual and brooding, the straight-A



SOUND OF THUNDER, from page 8

Inevitably, such a change is made. While the Ray Bradbury story ends after revealing the horrific consequences, this movie just shifts into action movie mode.

We get a kind of poor man's Jurassic Park, with plants that grow uncontrollably and reptile-baboon hybrids and other bizarre creatures ready to attack anyone who ventures out. Like a low-budget horror film, of course racially-balanced troop of would-be saviors of the earth do venture out - and at night, too, toting guns and flash lights.

While many a horror film takes a tongue-in-cheek approach to this kind of foolishness, these heroes are deadly serious, delivering laughably bad dialog and getting caught in predictable tight spots. One scene where heroic Burns, trapped in a submerged subway

car in a flooded tunnel, is pulled to the water's surface by the beautiful woman scientist he just saved from a giant eel, is given mouth to mouth by the rescued woman, produced unintentioned laughs from the audience thanks to its amazing predictability.

What is Edward Burns thinking? The indie film director/writer/actor is better than this stinker, in which he is only an actor. Audience might forgive this lapse in judgement but the actor would be wise to scrutinize future scripts more closely. A sense of humor about this comball plot or more inventive special effects may have given this movie some redeeming entertainment value. Lacking that, only Ben Kingsley's performance gives this movie anything worth watching. You are not missing much if you miss "Sound of Thunder."

Cheesecake Factory has excellent dinner, dessert

Restaurant Review

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Have you ever been shopping at the Galleria or the downtown Clayton area, and suddenly gotten a taste for cheesecake? If so, then you should head on over to The Cheesecake Factory at the Galleria to satisfy your cravings. It is on the first floor of the Galleria, between Dillard's and Lord and Taylor's.

My friend and I arrived on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. to a packed house. We made our way to the hostess station, where we learned the wait was anywhere between 60 to 80 minutes. This was not too surprising, as this restaurant is popular, it was Saturday night, and it was also the tail end of the dinner rush. We had the option of sitting inside or outside, and we chose first available. We were given a little beeper and told to stay within 30 feet of the restaurant. We sat outside, and after an hour our beeper buzzed so we went

inside. The hostess took our beeper, and we got into another line. Before we were taken to our table, I was able to check out the restaurant, which was big with lavish decor. The floors were polished and everything had a crisp, clean look. Everything was a cream color, or that was the way it appeared in the dim lighting. The booths were high-backed and private. The noise level was high, so it was hard to hear or hold a conversation, due to the high volume of people. The hosting staff wore black, the serving staff wore white. The hostess station was in front of the door, access from the cheesecake counter but there are two entrances: one directly from the mall, one directly from the parking lot. Soon, we were taken to a table outside and given menus to browse through.

The menu at The Cheesecake Factory is extensive, with well over 75 items that cater to just about any taste. They offer appetizers, pizza, specialties, pastas, fish and seafood, steaks and chops, salads, eggs and omelets,

Sunday brunch, and of course cheesecake. Drinks include margaritas, martinis, coffee drinks, wines, champagne, beers, as well as other alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks. The menu also included ads for different stores as some of the pages. My friend ordered a cheese pizza (\$8.75) and a root beer. I ordered a club sandwich (\$10.50) and a root beer. I was a little surprised at the high prices, until I actually saw my sandwich. It was huge. I could barely eat half of it. I could have shared it with one other person, and we would have both been stuffed. Of course, it was delicious, and of course, I had to take some home with me. My friend's pizza was huge too. She said it was good, but a little bit greasy. She had to get a to-go box as well. After dinner came dessert. My friend ordered a slice of Boston Cream cheesecake, and I went with a slice of Brownie Sundae cheesecake. Like the entrees, both slices were huge. They were rich and loaded with whipped cream. These also had to get a to-go box.

The service at the Cheesecake Factory was good but it could have been better. The hosting staff was polite; however, our server was not that great. He was kind of rude, and ignored us a little. We had a hard time getting his attention. I understand that the place was busy, but by the time we ordered our food, things had slowed down considerably. I had a hard time waving him over so that we could order the cheesecake, and then to get to-go boxes. My friend was upset and debated saying something to management.

The Cheesecake Factory was first opened in 1971 in Los Angeles by Oscar and Evelyn Overton. A Cheesecake Factory restaurant opened in 1978 in Beverly Hills. Due to its popularity, the restaurant soon multiplied all over the country. Find them online at thecheesecakefactory.com.

Despite the long wait and the unpleasant service from the waiter, our experience was a good one. Stop in for some of the most incredible cheesecake you have ever eaten.

THE BEST IN YOUTH, from page 8

brother for who school comes easy but whose intellectual prowess is offset by his social reserve and aloofness. With his striking blue eyes, Matteo's good looks bring him female attention but his stern demeanor turns them away. On the other hand, fun-loving Nicola struggles much more with school but his open and friendly personality smoothes the way socially for both him and his adored older brother Matteo. The two brothers and a pair of friends plan a summer road trip to Norway as soon as finals for the semester are over. The trip does not turn out as planned. Matteo, who has been volunteering at a mental hospital, becomes suddenly both disenchanted with school and convinced that his beautiful

young charge at the hospital, Georgia (the luminous Jasmine Trinca), is being mistreated. The events that follow ultimately set the brothers on divergent paths in life, both from where we expect them to go and from each other.

From this watershed experience, the story proceeds by periodic leaps forward in time, giving it an episodic structure that makes the grand epic unfolding before us easy to digest. We leap forward from the innocent mid-sixties to the turbulent and political late '60s and '70s, where Italy had student protests and youth uprisings just as we had in the U.S. The poetic, philosophical Matteo has become a principled, by-the-book cop and the conventional, practical Nicola is a hippy medical stu-

dent with a political activist girlfriend Giulia (Sonia Bergamasco), putting them on opposite sides of this political divide.

The divergent paths take us through the changes of the decades in the world. The world's changes are the backdrop to the personal lives of the brothers, who find themselves on opposite sides politically in the turbulent seventies, but disconnected in other, more personal ways in the years that follow. The changes for their parents, their older and younger sisters, their friends and even the troubled Georgia, who haunts their memories, all contribute to the grand tapestry of tragedy and triumph that make up this wonderful film.

However, the story never has too

many threads and following along with the drama is as easy as rolling down a hill, simply because it is so well-told. The plot could have descended into soap opera or melodrama but director Giordana keeps enough historical and intellectual perspective to pull the universal themes out of the family drama.

The story takes the brothers from youth to middle age, from idealism and rebellion, to disillusion, to practicality and pragmatism, and finally to humanity and peace. The actors do a marvelous job with the difficult transition through ages. The acting is as superb as the story telling and lush photography, giving the characters depth and complexity. Alessio Boni's Matteo is haunting, heart-breaking, and mysterious, an astounding performance that lingers in the mind. Likewise, Luigi Lo Cascio's Nicola is excellent, an affecting character of heart and compassion. Sonia Bergamasco's Giulia and Jasmine Trinca's Georgia are complex and tragic in their different ways. The characters are all so fully developed and real, you would not be surprised to meet them face to face. We care deeply about them, even if we cannot see completely into their souls.

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Women's soccer shuts out Mo. Southern

BY ROBERT STONE
Staff Writer

The Riverwomen sweated out a 1-0 victory over Missouri Southern on a hot, muggy Sunday afternoon, picking up their first win of the still-young season. Defender Cassidy Bloom netted the only goal of the match in the 58 minutes into the game.

The action played neutral for the most part in the first half, with both teams trading scoring chances while UM-St. Louis held a slight advantage in shots. Both sides created great chances but stellar play from the goalkeepers kept the score tied at zero.

During the second half, the Riverwomen came out firing 11 shots towards the Lion's goalkeeper but had little success finding the back of the net.

The lone goal of the game came when Cassidy Bloom corralled a ball just outside the penalty box and sent a chip shot just over the goalkeeper's fingertips. Freshman Mary Behrmann recorded four saves and picked up her first win and shutout of the season.

Riverwomen Head Coach Beth Goetz offered high praise of her young goalkeeper.

"Mary is very athletic, and has a great work rate in training," Goetz said. "It is always a challenge for a freshman to step up and take control in the backfield, but I think she will step it up. We just completed our third week of training together, and now have two games under our belt...her confidence is just going to keep growing."

Missouri Southern surged ahead with a few great scoring chances in the final minutes, but came up short. Players from both sides were visibly exhausted from the humidity.



Brian Fagnani/The Current

Meghan Tragesser (right), mid-fielder, fights for a ball during the Riverwomen's win against Missouri Southern on Aug. 28.

Despite losing Sonya Hauan, the team's leading goal scorer from last season, Goetz is confident the team will be able to produce offensively.

Goetz said, "Sonya Hauan was obviously a great player and goal scorer, and we will surely miss her on the field. However, we are very

excited about the dynamics between Tara Reitz and Meghan Tragesser up top, and I am confident that they will be able to put the ball in the back of the net. We did miss a lot of quality chances on Sunday, but I feel that we are still making a few adjustments and it is going to come together."

In conclusion of the game, Goetz said, "One thing we want to do throughout the season is continue to build with each game. I don't feel we played to our potential on Sunday, but there is always something you can learn from a contest like that. We kept battling for 90 minutes until we

finally got on the scoreboard. The next time we are fighting for a goal, we will know we can get it done."

The next two upcoming home games for the Riverwomen are on Sept. 9 against Saint Joseph's at 5 p.m. and Sept. 11 against Indianapolis at noon.

Claudia Medina hopes to serve up a winning season

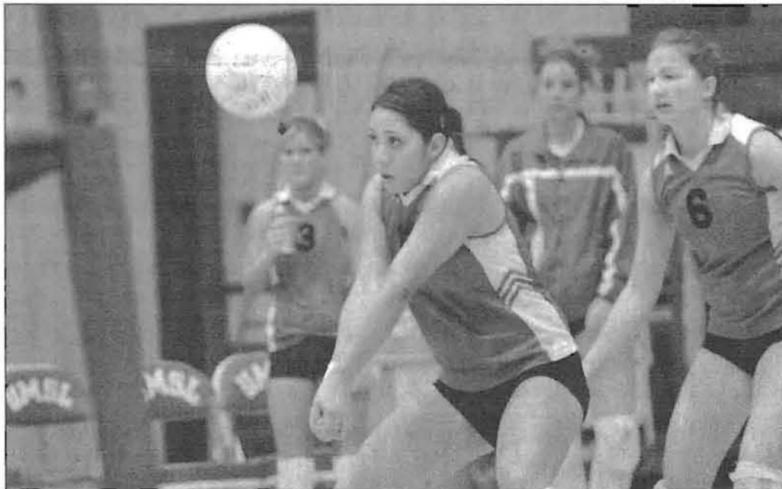
BY ROBERT STONE
Staff Writer

The Riverwomen volleyball team opens their 2005 season by playing five matches in the Missouri Southern Tournament Aug. 26 and 27. Leading the team this year will be sophomore outside hitter Claudia Medina.

Claudia was born in a small town in New Mexico in 1986. Her father's demanding job caused her family to move around quite a bit. She has lived in Texas, California and Puerto Rico, to name a few. Their path eventually took them back to Las Cruces, New Mexico where she spent her high school career excelling in volleyball and track.

Medina served as captain for two years at Las Cruces High School while earning honors of two-time all-district selection as a junior and a senior and an all-state selection her senior season. In addition, she was named the Gatorade Volleyball Player of New Mexico in 2003.

Medina's road to UM - St. Louis began when she was noticed by a recruiter from UM-St. Louis at a club



Claudia Medina gets ready to bump during a game last October against the St. Joseph's Pumas. Medina led the Riverwomen last season in kills with 277 and also in service aces. She also had 255 digs and 48 blocks.

Medina recognizes the importance of setting goals for herself and for the team. This season she is going to try to work hard to improve on her blocking and strive to perfect her passing game. The ultimate goal, however, is to compete in the conference tournament at the end of the year.

When not on the volleyball court Medina likes to spend time with friends, watch movies, and go out and have fun.

The accomplishment Medina is most proud of is being able to play volleyball at the collegiate level. She attributes the success in her young career to giving one-hundred percent all the time, pushing herself and not being afraid to try new things. She names her father as her most important role model.

Medina is very excited about the upcoming season. There are seven new girls on the team this year and the group chemistry is developing especially well. She said she believes Josh Lauer is an excellent fit as coach. Medina is very optimistic that everyone will see a huge improvement from last year.

volleyball tournament in Kansas City. UM-St. Louis recruiters contacted her shortly after and a couple of weeks later she signed on to play.

Medina immediately made her presence felt as a freshman with the Riverwomen. She was named to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Second-Team All Conference team.

She played in all 26 matches leading the team in kills for the season with 277. Medina not only led the team in service aces, she also finished on top of the leader board of the Great Lakes Valley Conference with an average of 0.53 per game. In addition, she also finished second on the team with a total of 48 blocks and third on the

team with 255 digs. Many athletes are superstitious and Medina is no exception. She always chews light blue Extra gum before each match; she wears a good luck ribbon on her shoe along with one of her teammates. If she plays a good match, she will repeat her routine from that day.

The Short Fuse

Performance-enhancing drugs: What's the big deal?

What's the big deal with professional athletes using performance-enhancing drugs? It seems like that's all people care about these days. I hear a lot of people saying they are losing respect for professional sports because of all of the steroids controversy. Here we go again, another reason for people to start complaining.

Do I really care if a baseball player decides to take a little "juice"? No. Why would I? In fact, I actually couldn't care less. I love to see home-runs and if a player has to "juice up" to hit a couple out the park, who am I to complain? It may not be fair to the other players out there, but hey, they can "juice up," too.

There is something else that bothers me with the newfound interest in what is pumping through the veins of the world's athletes.



BY LAGAN FUSE
Staff Writer

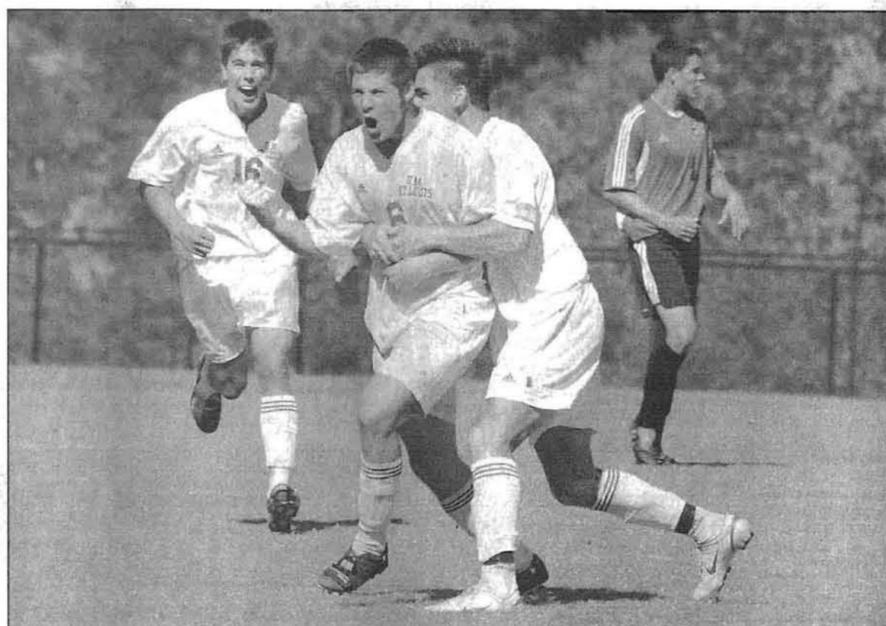
I have a feeling that one day someone will wake up and decide that he or she doesn't particularly care for a professional athlete and try to besmirch his or her reputation with false allegations of drug use. In fact, I even believe that somehow tests will be provided to back the statements... wait, I think I remember hearing something

like this before. Oh yeah, isn't this what happened to Lance Armstrong?

I'll be the first to admit that I don't keep up with the Tour de France, or even Armstrong for that matter. I do, however, respect any person who has the will and drive to succeed against all odds. This guy has been winning the Tour de France since the last millennium and this is the best they can come up with?

see DRUGS, page 12

Men's soccer ties home opener 1-1



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Kraig Tenge (center) is congratulated by teammates Jason Barclay and Alen Jujic on Saturday after Tenge scored the Rivermen's first goal of the season. The team tied the Bellarmine Ravens 1-1.

SPORTS

EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER
Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming

Men's Soccer

Sept. 9
vs St. Joseph's
7:30 p.m.

Sept. 11
vs. Indianapolis
2:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

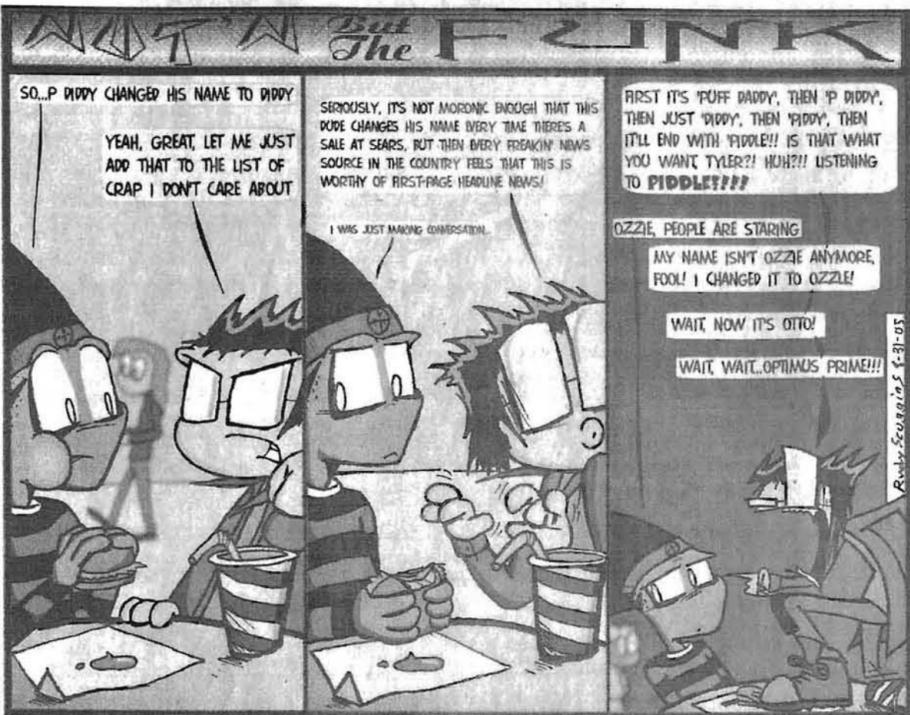
Sept. 9
vs St. Joseph's
5 p.m.

Sept. 11
vs. Indianapolis
Noon

Volleyball
Sept. 10-11
at CMSU

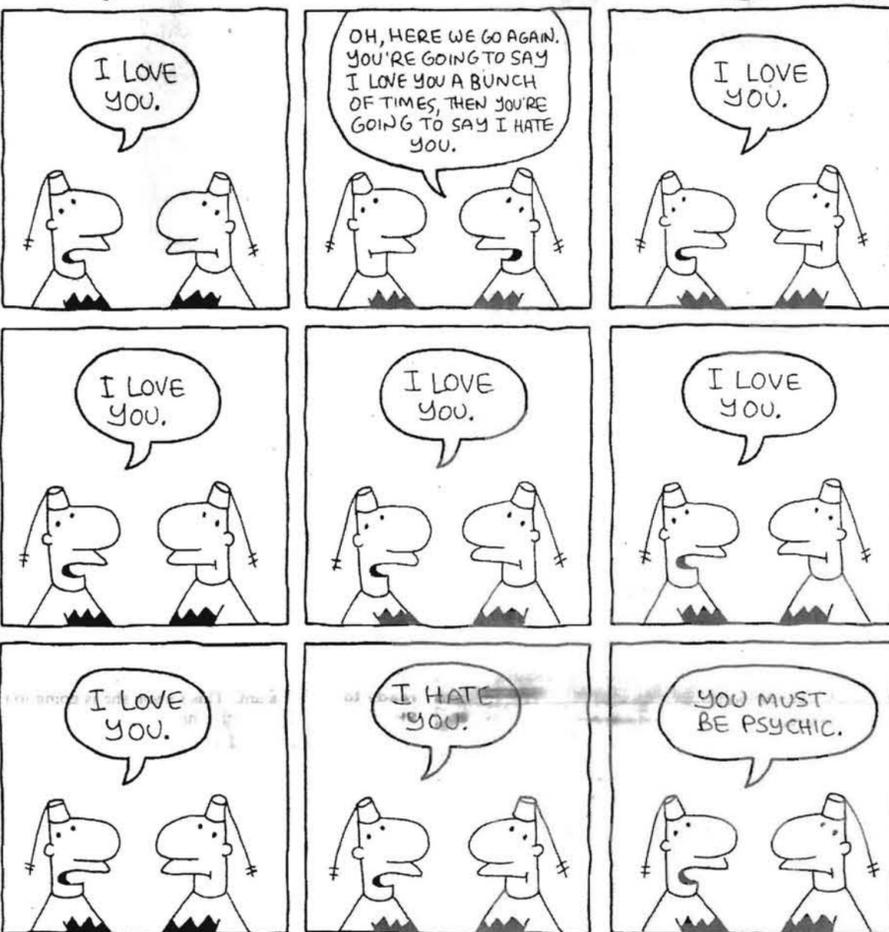
Women's Tennis

Sept. 10
Alumni Match
10 a.m.



LIFE IN HELL

©2005 BY MATT GROENING



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Cupid is strong in the Aries aspect this week, with the cherub opening romantic possibilities for single Lambs, and strengthening ties 'twixt loving pairs already in a caring relationship.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your dramatic flair might make things more interesting as you recount an event to your colleagues. But be careful not to exaggerate reality to the point that facts and fancy combine to form fiction.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You love to talk, and this week you should get lots of chances to share your thoughts with people who will not only pay attention to what you have to say, but will want to hear more.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The pattern of recent changes could begin to shift from mostly workplace-related events to more personal matters. Continue to keep an open mind as you prepare to deal with them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) An opportunity for work-related travel could be just what the Terrific Tabby needs to get a new perspective on a balky situation. The trip could also prove to be personally rewarding.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might want to suggest resolving an old disagreement before it can affect a matter expected to come up for discussion. It's always best to start with a clean slate.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The week favors combining dollops of creativity and practicality to work out both professional and personal problems. A longtime friend could have something of note to suggest.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some surprising facts could come to light if you decide to probe deeper into an "opportunity" than you might usually do. What you'll learn could determine what you'll earn.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Someone close to you might seek your counsel. Hear him/her out, but hold the line at giving actual advice until you get credible answers to all your questions.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) What seems to be an overwhelming workplace project can be dealt with quite well if you handle one category at a time. Things will soon begin to fall into place.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A personal matter might need more of your time than you had expected. Try to prioritize between your many outside commitments and your domestic responsibilities.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A developing situation still needs more time to grow, and more time to study before you can plunge in and make some attention-getting waves. Patience is best for wise Pisceans.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for organization that would make you a fine archivist. (Are you listening out there, Library of Congress?)

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Super Crossword DOG DAZE

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Crossword answers online at www.thecurrentonline.com

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... and still going!

KATRINA'S AFTERMATH, from page 1

watch disturbing images on the news.

"It was our home [and] rich in culture, I feel sorry for anybody who hasn't had a chance to visit the south before," says Gonzales.

"Our historical sites are washed away, the reconstruction is going to change the way the south looks, I can't go back to anywhere where I have memories, it's just so surreal, [that] I can't go back," said Gonzales.

President George W. Bush visited Biloxi on Friday, five days after the destruction. Gonzales watches the president walk down her old city streets on television. She begins to

remember streets and businesses that once occupied the area. She also watches for anyone she can identify as a friend or neighbor.

Like many, Gonzales is angry that the supplies are taking so long to reach people in this area. "All the need is gasoline for their generators, people have infants, they need air conditioning," says Gonzales. "[Supplies] could have been dropped: food and water. They waited too late," said Gonzales.

She also has friends in New Orleans who have survived the hurricane and are desperately in need of shelter and gasoline to get out of

town. "Everything is in chaos," Gonzales said.

Bank accounts have been frozen and people do not have access to their money and shelters are being set up in surrounding areas while buses continue to rescue people from the destruction of their hometowns. Gonzales has vowed to save them herself if no one comes to their rescue.

Thousands of US citizens are arranging ways to help the hurricane victims. So far, \$93 million has been raised for the reconstruction of these cities. Thousands of volunteers are needed to help assist and offer any contributions they can.

GAS PRICES SKYROCKET, from page 1

Enrollment Management John Kundel, is considering a gas-electric hybrid car.

"I want to cry every time I fill up," Kundel said, "My old [Chevrolet] Blazer has got to go."

Kundel sees students becoming more fuel efficient in the ways they attend school. He thinks there may be more reliance on public transportation or car pooling. However, Kundel explained that internet-based classes and other distance learning options probably not be used because of expensive fuel costs.

"People who come to campus are looking for a college feel and don't want to give that up."

As bad as \$2.90 per gallon of gasoline hurts consumers, over time elevated energy prices can be crippling to businesses. This is because a higher gasoline price takes money out of the consumer's pocket which, in turn,

means they have less money to spend at businesses. This was evident when Wal-Mart recently reported that, due to higher energy costs, they suffered the weakest quarterly profit in four years. Although Wal-Mart has many detractors, they are widely viewed as a barometer of financial health of the United States.

As students eye graduation within the next few years, the job market could be running on fumes.

According to UM-St. Louis Economics Professor Dr. David Rose, "Historically, some of [the] deepest recessions have been rooted in large and persistent reductions in the supply of oil. The basic problem is that when oil prices rise, businesses have to raise their output prices. This can lead to a period of high inflation and high unemployment, what was referred to in the late 1970s as stagflation."

The future of the economy may not

be all doom and gloom. There are some optimistic reasons why the United States may avoid long-term stagflation. One, relative to the 1970s, the United States is less reliant on and more efficiently uses oil. Secondly, the supply disruption recently caused by Hurricane Katrina is temporary. Finally, the United States is working on protecting overseas oil pipelines from terrorists.

According to UM-St. Louis Finance Professor Dr. Edward Lawrence, oil securitization will tighten and prices will retreat.

"I would be very surprised if we are at these price levels a year from now," Lawrence said.

If Lawrence's prediction is accurate, it should be welcomed with open arms by soon-to-be graduates. Entering a strong job market upon graduation can be like striking oil.

DRUGS AND ATHLETICS, from page

"They" are the people who hate the fact that an American has dominated a competition that is called the Tour de France. Shouldn't be too hard to find out where all of this started.

I'm not 100 percent sure, but aren't results for blood samples supposed to be confidential? Or is that only in America? And to top it all off, the six samples that tested positive for EPO, a red cell booster, were from 1999. OK, here are a few more questions I have. If it is 2005 and the tests are positive, wouldn't they have been positive in 1999? So why did it take so long for the results to come out? I don't believe the results are accurate and neither does Armstrong.

In an interview with Larry King, Armstrong said, "A guy in a Parisian laboratory opens up your sample, you

know, Jean Francois so-and-so, and he tests it...nobody's there to observe, no protocol was followed...and then you get a call from a newspaper that says 'We found you to be positive six times for EPO.' Well, since when did newspapers start governing sports?"

There is a difference, to me, between an athlete actually taking steroids or any other performance enhancing substance and an athlete who is accused of taking them. When someone intentionally takes steroids, it's only a matter of time before he's caught. But when someone is accused of doing it, especially when there is no just cause, he becomes a victim.

When Rafael Palmeiro failed his drug test, I wasn't really surprised. I just saw it as kind of funny that he failed the test after he added his name

to the list along with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray as the only players with 3,000 hits and 500 homers. I don't think anyone was trying to make Palmeiro look bad, he just finally got caught.

Armstrong on the other hand seems to me to be more of a victim. The only reason I can see for all of this controversy is that someone came up with an elaborate scheme to make Armstrong look bad in the eyes of his adoring public.

I hate to say it, but I don't think it worked. In fact, I think I might just be Armstrong's newest fan. Only time will tell if Armstrong is telling the truth, and hey I've been wrong before. But, even if Armstrong did fail those tests, I've already stated my opinion about the "juice."

INTERN DIARIES, from page 6

The man who killed my father was some drunk who was driving when he should not have been. He was driving a big truck with a heavy piece of machinery chained to the back of it. Apparently he had been drinking that day on the job and did a shabby job of chaining his equipment down.

My father, who was following behind the drunk, had been working all day on a plumbing job and did not react fast enough to the backhoe that slid off the other guy's truck.

The backhoe slid off the drunk's truck and rammed into my father's small, black Chevy Love Truck; besides the truck being smashed, my father was crushed as well. I never saw my father again—not even at the funeral because it was a closed coffin...there was nothing left to see.

I don't even know the man's name that killed my father. But I have heard that he has a wife and kids. I don't hate him because I know that he has to live with himself for the rest of his life. I decided not to waste my life hating him. I was blessed with a wonderful dad who "had a heart of gold." He may not have been perfect, and he was not able to be in my life for too long—but he was not a deadbeat dad like some have been borne out.

So for me to not hate the man who killed my father, yet hate my mother—I would be irrational and foolish. I lost contact with my mother because I

wanted to be free, and let her live her life as a Jehovah's Witness.

After draining my eyes dry, I composed myself and went back to my office.

As I went back to googling for tuxedos, I overheard Cheese Stick (my affectionate nickname for my boss at NBC Sports) say out loud, "Wow, look at this. Peter Jennings has cancer. It seems like everyone is getting cancer," as he stared at his computer with a nefarious smirk on his face.

I just froze. I was not sure what he meant by that comment, but it was obviously directed toward me.

A few minutes later he started yelling at me because I did not know where Ariel was. I had been outside crying my eyes out and I guess Ariel had run an errand while I was outside.

Enough was enough. I had enough of this jackass. I wanted to go into his office and kick his butt for being so disrespectful and disgustingly mean. What was his problem? I never did anything to him to deserve his attitude or mean comments. How could someone be so evil? Did his mother never tell him that she loved him?

I decided to not take physical action, although I wanted to so badly. Violence never solves anything. It might feel good temporarily, but it's never good in the long run. I would just end up going to jail and ending my

TV career while Cheese Stick gets the satisfaction of my misfortune by looking like a helpless victim.

I decided to regroup, and not waste my energy on fighting a war against him in his arena when I had enough problems of my own. I decided not to be like a country that spends so much energy fighting a war on someone else's turf, and in the process becomes unable to take care of itself when it has a natural disaster.

I did not have the energy to face the consequences of beating up Cheese Stick and deal with my problems in Missouri at the same time. I decided to use his own policies against him in a nonviolent way. I used the advice once learned from watching an episode of Judge Judy...

Stay tuned next week Gary goes on a jog with tennis legend John McEnroe and takes on Cheese Stick.

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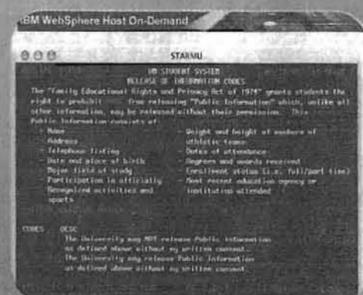
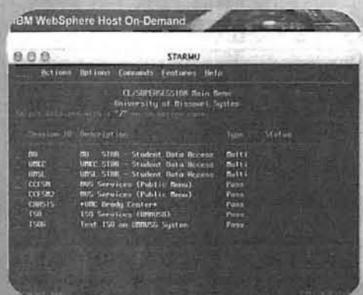
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CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

2005-2006 Campus Phone Directory

Students who do not want their telephone number or address listed should contact the Office of the Registrar at 516-5545 and request that their biographical information be made private. Or use the online Student Access to Records (STAR) system at: <http://www.umsl.edu/~register/courses/star.htm>

Instructions on using the online STAR system are below:



1) Visit the Web site: www.umsl.edu/~register/courses/star.htm Click on 'Connect to STAR'

2) Click on 'UMSL' and press 'return' on the keyboard. At the next screen, type '2' to select 'Other STAR Applications' and hit 'return.' You will be asked for your student number and PIN number. If you do not know your PIN, contact the Registrar.

3) Type in the numeral '2' to select 'Biographical Information.' Hit 'return' on the keyboard. Then select '4' to access the 'Release of Information' option. Hit 'return' on the keyboard. Your current preference for release of information is shown. To change it, hit 'return' on the keyboard.

4) To prevent the University from releasing what the 'Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1973' labels as 'Public Information,' select '1,' and hit 'return' on the keyboard. STAR will again request your PIN. Enter your PIN and hit 'return' on the keyboard.