



U Players in 'Cockblock of the Walk'
See page 8

Nursing college names new dean

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

The uncertainty is over about who the next dean to lead the College of Nursing will be.

After narrowing the search down to three candidates, UM-St. Louis will welcome Juliann Sebastian to campus when she starts her new dean position Aug. 1.

Sebastian is currently the assistant dean for advanced practice nursing and a professor at the University of Kentucky - Lexington. Sebastian has held several faculty and administrative positions at Lexington since 1977.



Juliann Sebastian
New Nursing College Dean begins Aug. 1.

Sebastian said she was "absolutely delighted" after Provost Glen Cope told her the news. "I look forward to working with the College of Nursing and everyone else at UMSL," Sebastian said.

She explained the deanship application process involves submitting an application, meeting with the search committee for an interview and meeting students, faculty and staff on campus. The provost makes the final decision based on evaluations from the search committee and consulting with the chancellor and UM president.

"It's important for the candidates to meet with the people around campus, and for faculty, staff and students to meet with the candidate," she said. She added that coming to campus helped her get to know the campus community better, while letting students get to know her, too.

Shirley Martin, interim dean for the College of Nursing, said Sebastian's past experience at the University of Kentucky "provides her with the skills essential to lead the UMSL College of Nursing."

Martin said Sebastian has the necessary skills to move the college to the next level. "[Sebastian] stated during her interview that she would begin, with the faculty, students and staff, to develop a strategic plan for the College, [which would] provide the 'road map' for the College," Martin said.

Sebastian named building on the current excellence of nursing research in the college as her main goal as dean. She said she looks forward to familiarizing herself with the campus and said she wants to "learn the processes for students to give input." She also named keeping alumni connected with the college as another goal.

During the summer period of transition, Martin said she would help provide Sebastian with the proper information and assistance needed to assume the role of dean. As interim dean, Martin said she collected material along the way she felt would be useful to the next dean of the college.

"I am confident Dr. Martin will be helpful in making a smooth transition," Sebastian said. "I want it to feel seamless in that I come in and pick up where the college is now and move it forward."

Martin said she is in charge, helping to prepare her visits and orient her to the campus when Sebastian arrives in August.

After Sebastian takes over on Aug. 1, Martin said, "My plans for Aug. 2 is to gather my reading material (fiction), rest, read on my deck and plan a lovely trip to China!" She also noted she plans to complete a history of the Nursing College since the College is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Mirthday hopes to reel 'em in

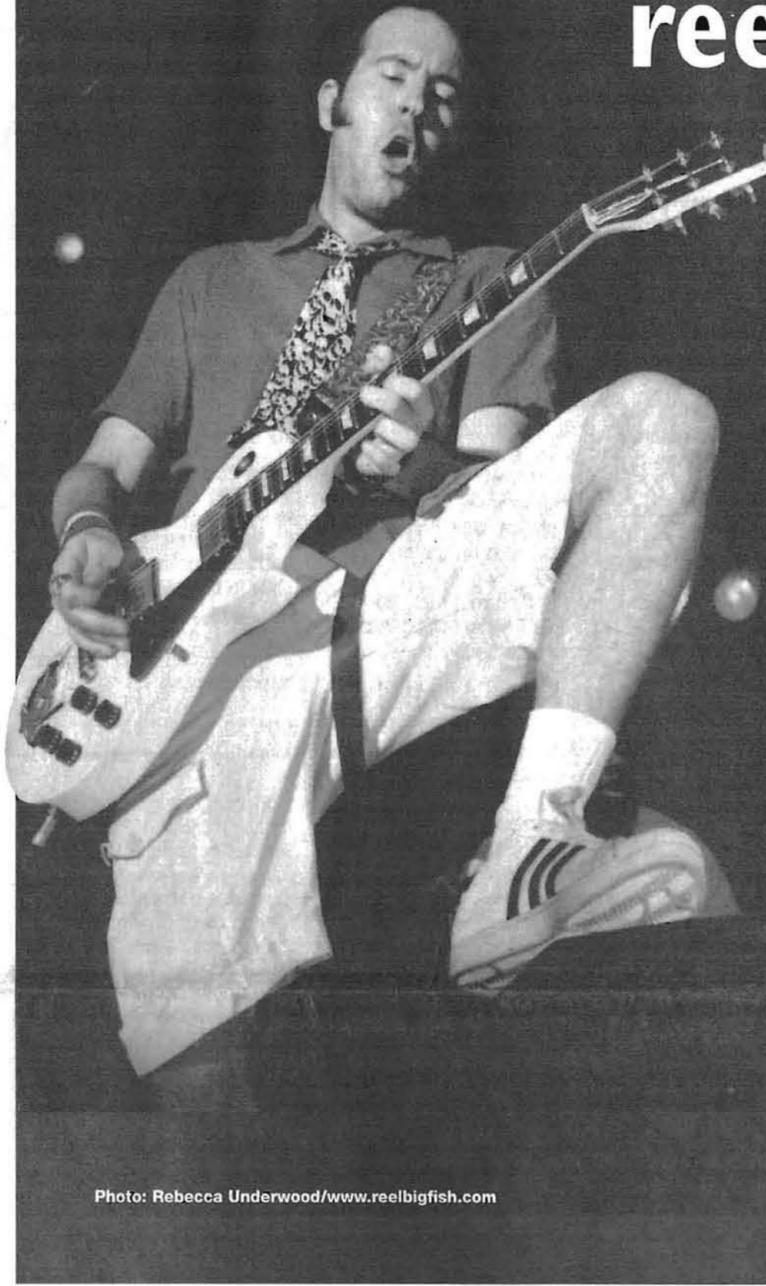


Photo: Rebecca Underwood/www.reelbigfish.com

Reel Big Fish, Nina Sky will headline day of festivities on April 19

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

This year's annual Mirthday plans to 'reel' in students with live band performances, carnival rides and student organizations booths featuring different games.

The University Program Board sponsors the spring celebration each April and has done so for 22 years. This year, Mirthday falls on Wednesday, April 19.

The event, located behind the Millennium Student Center near the lakes, will start at 11 a.m. and end around 10:30 p.m. Besides local band performances, the ska-rock band Reel Big Fish and pop stars Nina Sky, which features the duo twins Nicole and Natalie Albino, will headline the stage at Mirthday.

see MIRTHDAY, page 11

Comptroller candidates spar at SGA debate

Koechig, Helton are unopposed at debate

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

With one candidate for student government president and only one of two vice presidential candidates present, only the two students running for comptroller had to face off against an opponent at the SGA debate on Thursday.

The debate, sponsored by the Student Government Association and *The Current*, gave the first and only public forum to hear from the candidates running for SGA president, vice president and comptroller. Students will vote on the candidates during the SGA elections on April 19 and 20 through MyGateway.

Both comptroller candidates, Shanna Carpenter, senior, mass communication and Joe Garavaglia, senior, accounting and management, debated each other.

However, vice presidential candidate Danielle Bratton, senior, communication and political science, did not attend, leaving the other candidate for vice president, Thomas Helton, sophomore, political science, alone to answer questions.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

SGA comptroller candidates Shanna Carpenter, senior, mass communication, and Joe Garavaglia, senior, accounting and management, wait for the debate to commence.

Nick Koechig, junior, political science, is running unopposed for SGA president.

In his opening statement, Garavaglia said, "transparency is a major issue" in the comptroller position. "The more open you are about stuff the better that you can be. When you hide stuff nothing good happens," he said.

In her opening statement, Carpenter said her understanding of how the budgeting system works qualifies her for the position. "I would like to be someone who can advise students on how to manage their budgets," she said.

When Mike Sherwin, editor in chief of *The Current* and moderator of the debate, asked how each candi-

date planned to select students for the Student Activities Budget Committee, Carpenter said, "You have to recruit people who have been at organizations a while, students with records of being involved (and) people who belong to diverse organizations because there is no bias that way."

Garavaglia also said he would look for students that will be unbiased and that "you have to sit back and look at organizations."

"We're going to help them achieve their goals. It is this organization's job to benefit the student body," he said.

Next, both candidates were asked to critique the current comptroller, Brian Rails. Garavaglia expressed his recent disappointment that occurred at the last SGA meeting.

"He retroactively came down and said SABC has voted to take away 5 percent of the next year's budget for each SGA meeting you've missed. There's nothing wrong with policy, you just can't do something like that retroactively," he said.

Carpenter said she didn't know if Brian applied that retroactively, she said she wasn't involved. "I think that (the policy) makes the student organizations be involved and share responsibility."

see SGA DEBATE, page 12

Senator pitches plan to boost UMSL funding

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

If Sen. Chuck Gross's initiative goes through and passes in the Missouri Senate, UM-St. Louis may receive an extra \$2 million, which will help bring the University nearer to its goal of closing the funding gap.

Maria Curtis, student representative to the University of Missouri Board of Curators, explained the extra \$2 million would help fill a funding gap estimated to be about \$10.8 million.

Curtis explained the funding gap as "funding in equity relative to our campus, whereas we have proportionally a lot more students than we are proportionally receiving funds for."

She said UM President Elson Floyd has "recognized it is an issue, and he is committed to help this campus to increase the amount we receive."

After Gross, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that he would help UM-St. Louis with the adjustment, Curtis and SGA President D'Andre Braddix sent Gross a letter dated April 10 thanking him.

The Plan

Sen. Chuck Gross wants UMSL to get \$2 million to close the 'funding gap,' the disproportionate amount of funding within the UM System compared to campus enrollment.

"The funding inequity is there. People are realizing it, and I am extremely grateful that Senator Gross has decided to do this," Curtis said. She added that the announcement was a bonus and called Gross's decision "a wonderful surprise we weren't anticipating."

As of February, UM-St. Louis had received allocations totaling an estimated \$3.2 million so far. According to the Budget and Planning committee, the University was expecting \$521,000 for the gap funding. With the addition of \$2 million from Gross's proposal, that would leave a remaining gap of \$5.1 million.

After the Senate committee finishes with changes, the budget will be sent to the Senate floor for approval and must be passed by May 5.



Does 'Thank You For Smoking' just blow smoke?

See page 9

Which candidates does *The Current* endorse?

See page 4



INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Crimeline	2
Op/Ed	4
Features	6-7
A&E	8-9
Sports	10

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

Mon., April 17

Open House

The Graduate School will hold an open house from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Century Room at the MSC. Current graduate students will be available to discuss their research and answer questions. Academic advisers also will be on hand. The open house is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended. Call 5898 or e-mail graduate@umsl.edu to register.

Loosely Identified

A women's poetry workshop named for its informal association with UM-St. Louis will read for River Styx at 7:30 p.m. at Duff's, 392 N. Euclid Ave. Readers include Nanora Sweet, associate professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies, Colleen McKee, adjunct lecturer in English, and UM-St. Louis alumni Katy Auffenberg, Sarah Gray, Rochelle Hosty and Myra South. Admission is \$4 for members, students and seniors, and \$5 for all others. Call 5512 for more information.

Chemistry Colloquium

Zhongwu Guo, professor of chemistry at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., will discuss "Synthesis of complex glycoconjugates and carbohydrate-based cancer vaccines" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The colloquium is free and open to the public. Call 5311 for more information.

information.

Movie Viewing

The movie, "Hotel Rwanda," which focuses on the 1994 genocide in that east African country, will be screened at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House at the MSC. The movie is being shown as part of Social Justice Month, sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center. It will be followed by an open discussion of genocide and racism. Call 385-3455 for more information.

Tues., April 18

Poetry Reading

British-born poet Brian Taylor will give a reading of his poetry at 7 p.m. in Gallery 210. Taylor has twice won the St. Louis Wednesday Club's poetry award and has subsequently served as a judge for that annual contest. He was awarded the Cholmondeley Award for Poets by the British Society of Authors in 1985, the year London Magazine Editions published his poetry collection, "Transit." The reading is free and open to the public. Call 6845 for more information.

Wed., April 19

Mirthday

Event will feature games, rides, and a free concert by Reel Big Fish Ska-rock band as part of the 22nd annual Mirthday celebration. Festivities will take place from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. near the lakes outside the MSC. There

will be carnival rides, face painting, performance artists and food. Local bands will perform throughout the day. The concert by Reel Big Fish, with opening act Nina Sky, will start at 8 p.m. Mirthday is sponsored by the Office of Student Life at UMSL. Admission is free and open to the public. Call 5291 for more information.

Mindfulness Meditation

Every Wednesday from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in 225 MSC.

Thurs., April 20

International Photo Contest Award Ceremony and Reception

The Center for International Studies will hold a reception and award ceremony from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Gallery Visio at 190 MSC, to recognize the winner's of the contest. The event is free and open to the public. The photos, submitted will be on display in the gallery through May 4. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call 7922 for more information.

Fri., April 14

Performance at Jazz at the Bistro in St. Louis

Bassist Jim Widner, visiting scholar in music at UMSL, and pianist Ken Kehner, lecturer in music at UMSL, are among a group of performers taking part in a Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival concert at 8:30 p.m. at Jazz at the Bistro, 3536

Washington Ave. in St. Louis. The concert is sponsored by UM-St. Louis and Jazz St. Louis. Tickets are \$25. Call (314) 534-1111 for tickets. Visit <http://www.jatb.org> for more information.

Sat., April 22

XXI Black International Film Festival

The festival will be held from today until the 24th of April, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day at the St. Louis Arts Museum. Call 314-655-5299 for tickets and more information or visit www.CFIS-UMSL.com.

Car Wash

The UM-St. Louis Residence Hall Association will hold a car wash from noon to 6 p.m. at the Shell Oil service station at 1999 McKelvey Road at Dorsett Road. The RHA is conducting a fundraiser to send its members to the National Association of College and University Residence Halls annual conference in Berkeley, Calif. There will be no set charge for a car wash, but donations will be accepted. Call 4543 for more information.

Pipeline to Legislative Office

Workshop targeting candidates for the Missouri House and Senate, but open to all candidates in other races, and their campaign staffers. Will be held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 5644 for more information.

Announcements

Performers Needed

Do you sing, act, write poetry, or some other type of artistic performance? PRIZM and the GLBT Resource Center are seeking people to perform at the Hate Crimes Memorial on Monday April 24 from 5-7 p.m. Please call 5013 or email prizm@umsl.edu to make arrangements.

"Hellenic Organization"

Seeking Greek and non-Greek students alike to come out and support Hellenicity. Our goal is to throw Greek festivals, perform tragedies and comedies, poetry, view movies, and learn about our Greek community here in St. Louis. Come support Greek culture and learn about hellenicity. for more information contact raptiv@umsl.edu or cge-orges16@hotmail.com.

Excel Night

Free hands-on Excel seminars will be held on May 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the West County Computer Center at 1715 Deer Tracks Trail. These seminars are free but registration is required by May 1. Call (314) 984-9000 or visit www.micros.umsl.edu/exnight.html for more information and to register.

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

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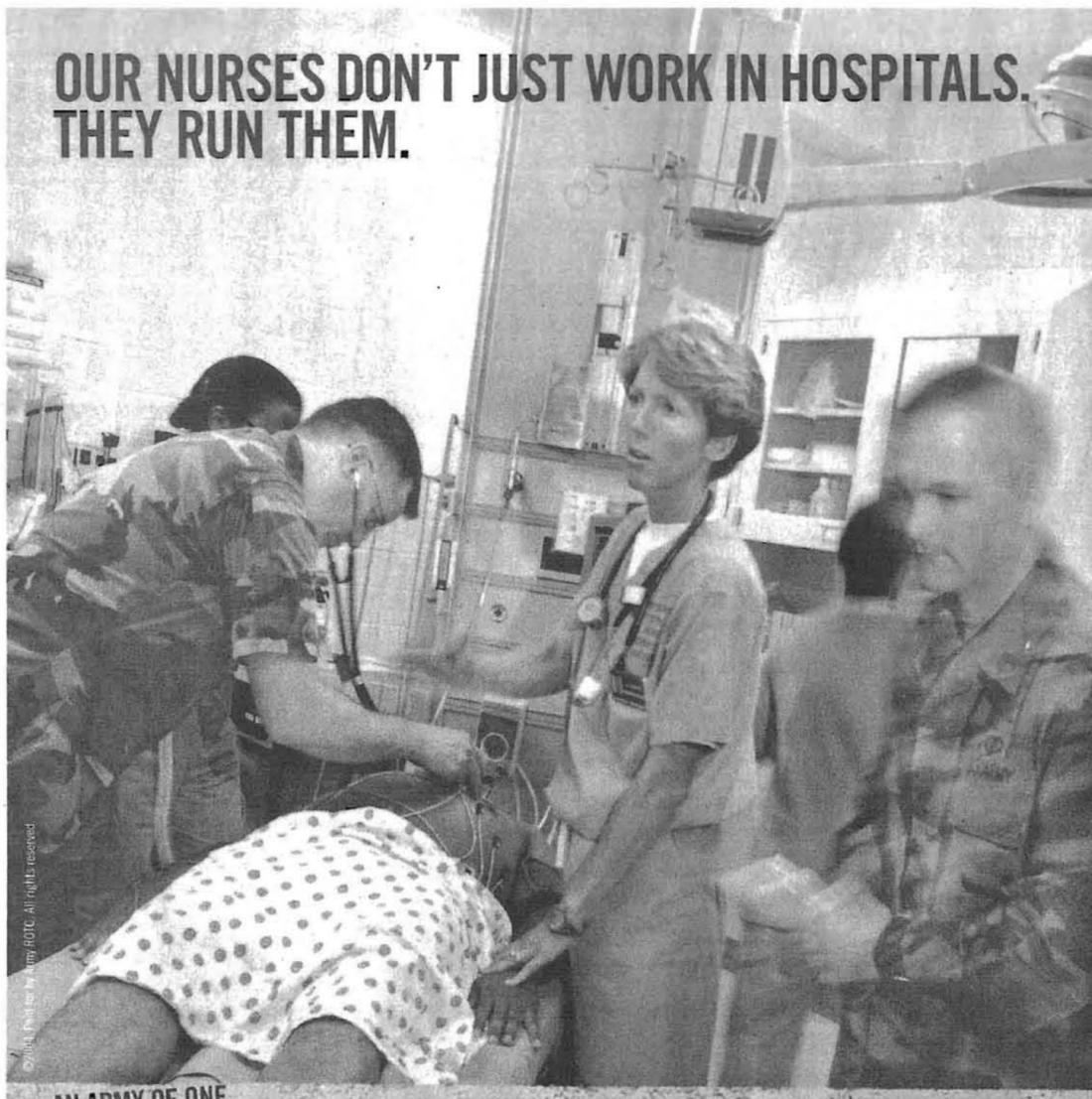
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Campus Crimeline

The following incident was reported to the UM-St. Louis police department between April 9, 2006 and April 15, 2006. Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning this or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

April 8 - Property Damage-Parking Lot W

Several suspicious subjects were observed by witnesses throwing items at a car on Lot W. When the police were notified and responded, the suspects were gone. A window to a car was discovered to have been broken out. The victim was notified and later responded to remove his vehicle. Nothing was taken from inside of the parked vehicle, and the suspects were not located.

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Research Study for Adults with Amblyopic Vision

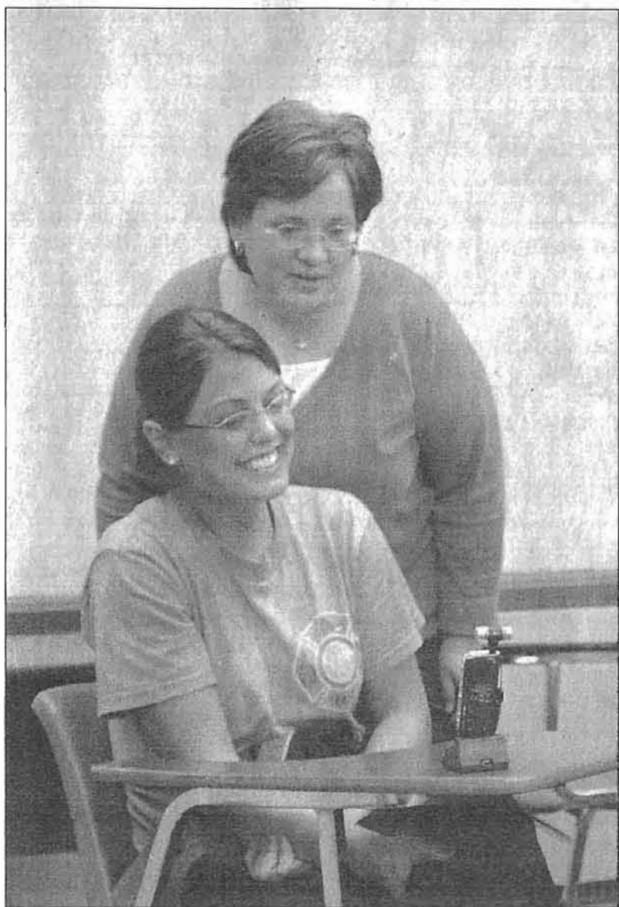
You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Erwin Wong of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry. In the study, you will be asked to look at a series of patterns on a computer monitor and make simple perceptual judgments.

If you are 18-60 years of age, have amblyopia (lazy eye), and are interested in participating in the study, please contact: Dr. Erwin Wong (Principal Investigator) at 314-516-6516 or wong@umsl.edu.

If selected for the study you will receive \$10.00 per hour of participation. Experiment sessions last 1-2 hours and about 20 hours are needed to complete the study. All sessions will take place in 450 Marillac Hall. Days and times are flexible.

College of Optometry

Foreign language department could see changes



Faculty members discuss plans for restructuring the department

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Faculty members who teach foreign languages are looking at ways of restructuring the department without losing the strong bond between their colleagues.

Foreign language instructors have been in discussions since the beginning of the semester, said Teresa Thiel, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We started thinking about other models [at other institutions] for foreign languages other than the current structure, which is a department that is very small in terms of tenure track faculty and very large in terms of lecturers who really do most of the teaching of foreign languages on campus," Thiel said.

RIGHT: Kimberley Sallee, Spanish professor, explains to one of her students how a recording device will be used in an Oral Exam.

Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

While most other departments are structured around tenure track faculty, she said, "foreign languages doesn't fit that model very well."

Spanish lecturer Susan Yoder-Kreger said, "Comparing the foreign language and literature department right now to other departments on campus, we don't have a good ratio of full-time faculty to lecturers."

She said certain lecturers were concerned because "the number of [regular] full-time faculty was going down ... and there were fewer people to do all the work."

Jeanne Zarucchi, tenured professor of history and French, noticed a change, too. "It is a fact that over the course of recent years, more than one dean of Arts and Sciences has made the decision not to replace tenure track faculty as they left the University or retired," Zarucchi said. She said those positions were given to other departments.

According to Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of Managerial Services and Technological, the number of full-time faculty has remained somewhat steady over the past five years with an average of 17 to 18 full-time faculty members working in the department. That number dipped to 15 during fiscal year 2004, but Krueger was unsure of the reason for the decrease.

Discussions of restructuring foreign language came about because Thiel said the department was "not growing and doesn't have a lot of majors." Thiel

said most students take foreign language courses as requirements for other majors. However, Zarucchi has seen a growth in Spanish and French majors and called her students "amazingly loyal."

Zarucchi said the program underwent a viability audit two years ago, which "we passed with flying colors." However, she said the audit prompted instructors to look at where they wanted to take the future of their department.

Thiel said faculty members in foreign languages are deciding how to support their programs that "overlap in many ways with courses offered in other disciplines, other departments."

One possible restructuring would turn the foreign languages department into a center, similar to the Institute for Women and Gender Studies. Yoder-Kreger said if a center was created, faculty wanted it to remain part of a larger academic unit.

Zarucchi said faculty unanimously agreed that instead of a center, the most desirable outcome would be to establish a merger with another department.

"We all feel strongly it is important not to create first class faculty versus second class faculty, of whom first class would mean appointment to an academic department and second class would mean appointment to some other kind of administrative unit," Zarucchi said.

Yoder-Kreger added, "We're looking for a department to remain under

the home of an academic unit in order to concentrate more as a unified group on foreign language instruction." She said if a merger occurs, the ratio of tenured to nontenured track faculty would be more equitable for a valid department.

Zarucchi noted, "It is not the case in our subject area as it might have been in another discipline that only tenured track faculty are capable of teaching the advanced courses. If the dean decided to grant the department more tenured track faculty, that would change the ratio, but it would not change the quality of instruction."

Thiel said possible mergers include working with Study Abroad, International Business, or possibly the anthropology or English departments.

Thiel emphasized that majors, degrees or the number of faculty would not change. "This is not about saving resources," she said. "It's more likely in the long term that it will cost money than it will save money. The real objective is to make it a better program, especially from the student perspective."

She said faculty members were initially apprehensive but are now enthusiastic. "While the primary initiative came from the dean's office, it very quickly became something that the department took over," she said. "It's really up to the department to decide how they want to structure that."

Thiel said the dean's office is expected to approve the faculty's final report by the summer.

News Briefs

Maintenance worker dies at age 53

Richard Jolliff, a floor maintenance worker of the MSC, died last Monday. He had been employed by the university for approximately two years. A wake was held for Jolliff on Friday at Ted Foster and Sons White House Chapel and the funeral was held Saturday at Believer's Temple

Word Fellowship.

The Current selects Adam D. Wiseman as its 2006-2007 Editor in Chief

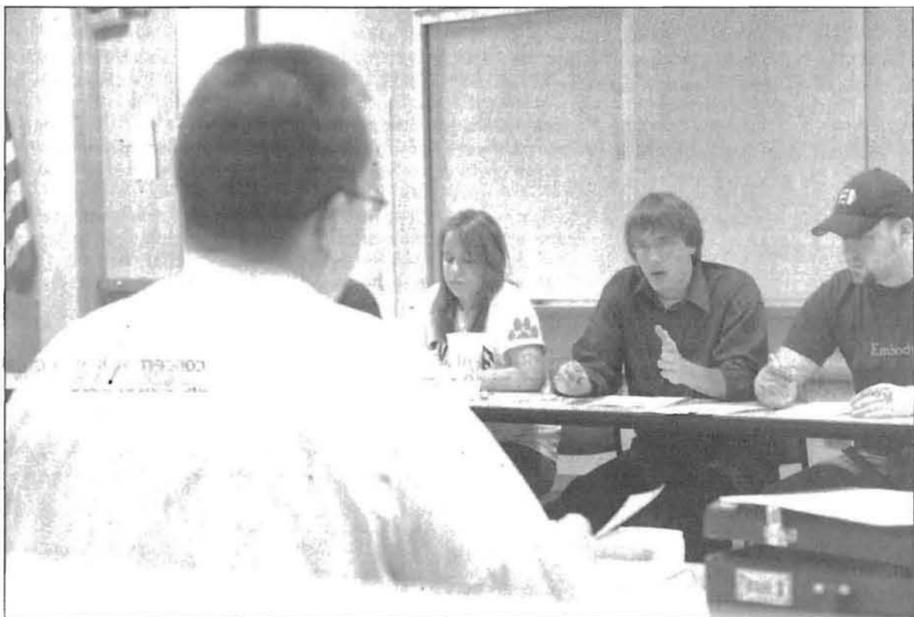
Adam D. Wiseman, junior, political science and photo director at *The Current* was selected by Student Publications Committee of

the University to be the next editor in chief. Wiseman was chosen by a majority of *The Current's* staff in a vote held March 21 which earned him the staff's endorsement.

He said he was excited about filling the position.

"I can't wait to have my own staff and (to) be able to take the paper in the direction I think it should go," he said.

He will officially become Editor in Chief on May 15.



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

Student Court chief justice, Bryan Goers, addresses plaintiff Daniel Hollander during a case in which grievances were made against the members of the SGA executive and their failures to comply to Robert's Rules of Order during general meetings.

Student Court rules in favor of SGA

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

Disagreements from the last Student Government Association meeting, which led President D'Andre Braddix to leave the meeting "to cool off," were settled in Student Court last Thursday. However, the decisions still have Daniel Hollander hoping for more.

Student Court ruled in favor of SGA's defense of two grievances that Hollander, graduate student, management information systems, filed in regards to what he felt were attempts of the SGA executive committee to "usurp the power" of the SGA assembly.

Student Court ruled 4-1 in favor of SGA's defense in Hollander's first grievance that the operations and rules committee, which oversees constitutional changes, does exist. In the second grievance, the justices unanimously ruled that the "violations of Robert's Rules of Order by the defense did not in any way hinder or usurp the power given to the general assembly."

According to Student Court's rulings, "the violations of the Robert's Rules of Order by the SGA did not, in any way, hinder or usurp the powers given to the General Assembly of the Student Government Association. We have no constitutional reference upon which the Chair's unintentional violation of the Robert's Rules of Order usurps the power of the general assembly of the Student Government

Association."

Hollander said he was "extremely disappointed" with the rulings of Student Court.

"I believed that proving that the rules were not followed would be sufficient grounds for the Student Court to nullify the illegal actions of the executive committee, the vice president and the chair and admonish them to follow the rules in the future," he said.

He requested that Student Court reprimand the executive committee and instruct them to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

"I don't believe that rules are meant to be broken, and I don't believe human error is an excuse. It's their job to follow the rules, and that's all I ask," he said.

Comptroller Brian Rails said, "The reason it's sometimes necessary to [overlook Robert's Rules] is because our assembly doesn't know the rules, either. It was overlooked for the benefit of the assembly."

Hollander felt it was unfair of Rails to make that statement. Hollander said he felt Rails was assuming that the assembly would not be capable of understanding the rules.

"I never said that I think the assembly is incapable of understanding Robert's Rules. I was never undermining the intelligence of the assembly," Rails said.

In the hearing, both the SGA executive committee and Hollander were instructed to not make any personal attacks on each other or take things personally.

Rails said he felt he has "poured [his] heart and soul into this job, and it is personal."

"I've asked people not to consider this a personal matter," Hollander rebutted. "I think my grievances stand on their own."

He said Student Court had two choices, either the executive committee followed the rules and the actions would stand, or they did not follow the rules and the actions were null and void.

"The Student Court decision seemed to constitute a third option that I hadn't considered," Hollander said. "The Student Court seemed to say that they agreed with me that the rules were not followed, but that it was OK."

He also referred to the last paragraph in the court's ruling as a "disclaimer," in which the justices stated that Student Court "in no way supports or condones the violation of Robert's Rules of Order, whether intentional or unintentional."

Hollander said, "By ruling in favor of the defense, the Student Court is saying that it is OK that the constitution and the Rules were not followed."

He said he plans to continue to do everything within his power to "abrogate the illegal actions of the executive committee."

"I will continue to fight for the rights of the students and their representatives, and I will continue to vigorously and zealously oppose any actions that undermine or weaken the rights of the students and their representatives," he said.

BIRTH CONTROL PATCH WARNING

The birth control patch may cause HEART ATTACKS, STROKES & BLOOD CLOTS

Recently, the FDA approved updated labeling for the Ortho Evra birth control patch, warning users that the Ortho Evra patch exposes women to higher levels of estrogen than most birth control pills.

Increased levels of estrogen may cause heart attacks, strokes, pulmonary embolisms, deep vein thrombosis (DVTs) or blood clots in women using the Ortho Evra Birth Control Patch.

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Our Opinion

Break the Slate

The Current's editorial board endorses two-thirds of the L.E.A.D. slate



This will be the year we get it right. Two years ago, the editorial board of The Current correctly predicted Scott Bopp for president, but we were wrong with Erin Abraham for vice president. Last year, we could not come to an agreement on whom to endorse for SGA president. This year, we hope our crystal ball is clearer.

The SGA presidential race this year was an easy decision with Nick Koechig running unopposed. While he is the only candidate for president, certain students may question whether he is still the best.

However, Nick said he does not lack legitimacy and has proven himself as the first federal intern for ASUM working with Sen. Jim Talent in Washington, D.C. this semester. While being away from St. Louis for four months may have disconnected him from certain campus issues, he has used that time to represent the

interests of the entire UM student population.

At the debate last Thursday, he named fully funding renovations for Benton/Stadler Halls from the MOHELA sale and fully utilizing the partnerships between the campus and Express Scripts as his top priorities if elected SGA president.

For the vice president race, Thomas Helton stands out as an exceptional candidate over Danielle Bratton and has proven himself with his record of involvement. The fact that he was involved in SGA since day one of coming to UM-St. Louis will give him the advantage of being familiar with the student governing body.

His leadership roles in ASUM will help him as a viable vice president next year, and his experience working in Admissions has helped familiarize him with the innerworkings of the University.

His goals of increasing student

involvement in committees and setting up committees earlier show an initiative needed for the position, and his dedication to work with current vice president Taz Hossain on homecoming demonstrates his teamwork skill. His goal of bringing more energy and becoming more serious with the position makes him the stronger candidate.

The comptroller race between Joe Garavaglia and Shanna Carpenter is a bit closer, but we believe Joe is better suited for the position.

At the debate, he showed courage in critiquing how current comptroller Brian Rails has dealt with student organization budgets by changing the rules in the middle of the SABC process. (Joe stood up against Rails' decision to cut budgets by 20 percent

because of a glitch with the online budget submission process and by 5 percent for every SGA meeting an organization's representative missed.)

While he has not served on SABC, Joe is familiar with the process of submitting a student budget for the different organizations he has been involved with, including AISEC, Golden Key, IBC and Student Investment Trust. His involvement in Student Senate and relations with administrators also illustrates that he cares about the University.

Joe's message of allowing the comptroller's duties to be open and

transparent and his past record of providing detailed summaries of the Student Senate's accomplishments is a plus for him if he assumes the comptroller position. His goal to allocate money to an organization for an event based on whether it follows its mission would be welcomed among the student organizations. Finally, being an accounting and management major gives Joe a strong edge in the race.

All three of these candidates have proven themselves well qualified to represent the students as the top SGA leaders next year, and whether you agree or disagree with our choices, every vote counts, so make sure you vote in the SGA elections through MyGateway April 19 and 20.

Letters to the Editor

Reader appreciates Katrina column

Thanks so much for your article in the last Current titled "Contagious, dangerous disease running rampant" about Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. I, myself, am a proud native of New Orleans.

The hurricane is what brought me here to Missouri and UMSL after 23 years of life there, but some of my memories and all of my family's memories are all left behind in the midst of the mold and the debris. Because of many of the reasons that you stated, I did not at all expect the article to be about the "forgotten"

city. The well thought about, eye-catching title is what caused me to read the article just as you intended. And, you're right. Since those early days of people being trapped in the city, there has not been much exposure of the situation. But, as you realized on your trip there, there is still lots to do and lots to be concerned about.

Every single trip home brings tears and surprises about how much has still gone overlooked or undone. The city is still in disarray and there are many people there who are suffering and don't know where to go

or what to do. Thanks for going down and all the work you contributed. Likewise to all others who did as well. Every helping hand counts! Thanks for the article and your honesty about the complacency issue. I understand that it is very easy for those unaffected to forget. I appreciate your reminder and your challenge to the readers to remember daily. I cried when reading the article. But for the first time since August 29th of last year, my tears were not of sorrow but of appreciation and gratitude.

Josalin Hunter
Graduate student, social work

The Rouge Librarian

Amazon.com and the culture wars

RALEIGH MUNS
UMSL Reference Librarian

To see a good example of how Amazon.com has become a battleground for competing ideologies, look up The O'Reilly Factor for Kids (Bill O'Reilly, 2004).

Why Mr. O'Reilly ever thought a white, middle-aged, Fox News pundit's advice book for kids would be a best seller is a conundrum.

To be fair and balanced, I'd say the same thing about a serious kid's advice book by Dan Rather. I'm betting sales of this book were from well meaning older relatives giving it as a Christmas present to their kids, grandkids, etc. I doubt the young ones would ever plunk down their own money for ANY advice book. The only advice book for kids I would ever recommend is Uncle Shelby's ABZ Book, which includes encouragement to experiment with vacuum cleaners and the family cat.

Unfortunately, the available reissued editions of Uncle Shelby's ABZ Book all state that it is meant for adults. The original printing unabashedly and subversively disguised itself as a true children's book.

Meanwhile, back at the O'Reilly advice ranch, let's see how the culture wars work on Amazon. The Amazon Web site allows "tagging"

for the books they're hawking. Tagging refers to the ability of users to attach search words, which are not otherwise in the title or description, to any book Amazon sells. Subsequent searchers will then retrieve that item when they try to find books using the tagged word.

Some of the terms users have tagged Mr. O'Reilly's didactic tome for tots include: falafel; authors who did win Polk awards; windbag; jingoism; childish name-calling.

What this means is that a user looking for cookbooks on Middle Eastern cuisine will likely retrieve Mr. O'Reilly's advice book for children. This would be a mystery to those not well read enough to be aware of some of O'Reilly's well publicized past sexual indiscretions wherein falafel plays an important role (and to this day, I can no longer touch what used to be one of my favorite ethnic dishes). Fans of jingoism will find this book as well.

Amazon also allows registered users to write and enter their own book reviews. It's in this area that the culture battles really rage. Readers of these user reviews must sift through ideological strikes and counter-strikes to uncover the rare neutral analysis.

see AMAZON, page 12

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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.

Recent student Court ruling was flawed

The Student Court was wrong in its verdict [against Muhammed LaMotte] because it heard testimony from a University employee.

Orinthia Montague should have known of the Supreme Court decision Rosenberg v. Univ. of Virginia, (1995), since I brought it to her when I was Chief Justice of the Student Court.

The Supreme Court ruled that groups like the Student Government Association are "Contracted Independent Organizations" because the SGA constitution is a contract signed by a member of the

University [at the time it was the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the SGA President] and a member of the SGA [also specified in this ruling].

The court said in Rosenberg that these groups must provide "a disclaimer stating that they [the SGA] are independent of the University and that the University is not responsible for them."

This ruling is more complicated than a Letter to the Editor allows. Basically, there is an inherent conflict of interest between any University employee and any SGA

proceeding including the Student Court. If the University does not want a student to run for a position like SGA President, you can see how the conflict of interest arises.

If a student has a GPA of 2.0 when signing up to run, the University can wait, add or subtract a grade or two, redo the average, then disqualify the student. I do not know Mr. LaMotte but I do know Orinthia and she did not check up on him for no reason.

The citation and ruling quoted are from FindLaw.
Rick Echer, MPPA

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photo Associate

Where is the best place on campus to get a tan?



Sally Tavassoli
Junior, Education

Right outside the Nosh is a good place.



Marlo Garrett
Junior, Marketing

I don't think I'd tan on campus. I'm usually only here for class.



Ryan Weeks
Junior, Anthropology

Right down by the lakes. The sun's right there beating on ya.



Melissa Pastorius
Senior, Physics

Right outside by the pond near Benton Hall!

Science Column

Find the science side to Earth Day

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22. Instead of getting your face painted at a festival, how about learning something you can do address the environmental crises facing the Earth?

Earth Day should be about good stewardship of the planet. With all the face painting, puppets, parades and kid's activities, it is hard sometimes to find any science in Earth Day. Yet the holiday was originally intended as a day to highlight ecology, alternative energy and other ways to treat the Earth more gently. There is plenty of room for science in that.

With global warming and the end of cheap oil breathing down our collective necks, some people are thinking that Earth Day might be a good time to talk about real environmental issues. Not only are individual actions important but we have to speak out and demand that government and business do their part, and not just talk about it.

Let us take a look at what is available for Earth Day. You might start with the Web site for the official organizers of Earth Day, <http://www.earthday.net>, where you can find out about local and international events.

The official, corporate-sponsored St. Louis Earth Day event takes place in Forest Park near the Muny, complete with all the usual festival accoutrements. Sometimes the corporate sponsorships make sense, like recycler Pedro's Planet, but others are more head-scratchers.

Among the scheduled events is a tour of the Mississippi River, sponsored by the Corps of Engineers, hardly a favorite of ecologists. Apparently, the event organizers recognize some problems with the festival as well, as their webpage addresses it with a headline "This year's festival has been Re-Designed and Re-Focused on what is relevant for our lives TODAY." One of the more ironic, but needed, parts of the St. Louis Earth Day event is "Recycling On The Go," which addresses the environmental impact of festivals, like the Earth Day event.

Past Earth Day events have been heavy on parades and children's events, as well as festivities in which companies need do little more than wave a "we love the Earth" banner to



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

participate. It is admirable to try to involve children in environmental issues, but there also needs to be more meaningful information and discussion about serious topics, not just slogans.

Corporate sponsorship shows there is an eagerness to be associated with at least the idea of Earth Day. This can be a good thing, if it leads to a more substantial commitment to real action, not just a public relations opportunity. Corporations, government and the individual all need to play a role.

There are some more serious seminars associated with the local Earth Day. There is an Earth Day symposium on Thursday, April 20 at the Missouri Botanical Garden, including a talk by Dr. Peter Raven of the Garden. However, the seminar is aimed at government and business, with a keen eye to profits. The symposium planners are dominated by engineers and builders, with nary an ecologist or alternative energy expert in sight.

In honor of the original idea of Earth Day, how about learning more about the challenges the Earth faces and what you can do about them? Instead of the Earth Day festival, here are some other things you could do to learn about the issues, including some sources of science information on critical environmental topics.

How about learning more about tropical ecology? Tropical rainforests have been called the lungs of the world, for all the oxygen they provide. Land that is covered in concrete rather than vegetation contributes to

global warming, because it absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night, while land covered in plant life has a cooling effect. Add to that the enormous biodiversity of the rainforests, with their undiscovered plants and potential medical treatments, and we have a critical planetary treasure.

Right here on campus, we have an organization that works to better our planet. The International Center For Tropical Ecology is a collaboration between the biology graduate school at UM-St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo. It centers on training researchers in tropical ecology and educating the public about it. It offers a number of seminars and events throughout the year, including the free Whitney Harris lecture coming up on April 24 at the Botanical Garden. Its website, www.ictc.org, has links to a number of tropical ecology resources and is very useful.

How about the intersection of rising gas prices and our warming planet? The Union of Concerned Scientists is encouraging interest in hybrid vehicles for Earth Day.

UCS is a non-profit international organization of scientists committed to providing the public with information on global warming threats and encouraging individual, corporate and government responsibility to address these problems.

UCS had set up a website to promote hybrid cars, which save gasoline and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to UCS's research, if enough people, as little as 20 percent, switch from all-gasoline cars to gasoline-electric hybrids, it will have a significant impact on global warming. Bill Nye, the Science Guy, is helping promote this project, which includes a list of people who now drive hybrids and their comments about their cars. The website for the program, www.hybridcenter.org, was even nominated for a "Webby" award.

How about just learning more about the science behind some environmental issues, plus good, science-based solutions to some of these challenges?

see EARTH DAY, page 12

Staff Viewpoint

Social Security needs to be fixed

Thirty-six years from now many UM-St. Louis students will probably be beginning retirement and looking towards Social Security for financial support.

However, many organizations such as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Heritage Foundation and the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), have reported that beneficiaries will receive complete social security benefits until 2042 and the benefits and trust fund assets will start depleting in the years to follow.

The AICPA Web site states that after 2042, "scheduled benefits would have to be reduced by 27 percent. In 2078, benefits would have to be reduced by 32 percent. This social security 'deficit' could be funded by an immediate infusion of \$3.54 trillion; by increasing the payroll tax rate from its current level of 12.4 percent to 14.3 percent; or by reducing current scheduled benefits to 12.6 percent."

What this means is that our parents' generation will be financially stable and will live comfortable lives during their retirements, but as for most current 20-year-old's generations (like mine), we could be left with next to nothing.

Nobody likes to pay taxes and have taxes come out of their salaries, but if raising the current payroll tax rate by less than 2 percent meant that it would protect our future, it would be worth it in the long run.

Although we already give much of our money at the beginning of the year to state, federal and local taxes, our parents are the ones who are getting hit the hardest and who end up paying the most. I know that my parents, as for many, care about the welfare of their children and would do anything to help us, so they would be more than likely willing to accept the 2 percent tax rate increase.

I was extremely surprised to see this year, when tax time rolled around, that I was forced to pay Uncle Sam about \$175 for taxes, rather than receiving a tax return. I feel like we are already paying for our future, but yet there still no promise as to how much we will really get back.

In order for most people to understand the growing concerns and issues



BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

regarding social security, it is important for people to know what it is exactly, who it helps and the background behind its creation.

After the stock market crashed and the Great Depression took place, millions of people were left trying to get themselves out of financial devastations and struggling just to make ends meet. Many were left with no hope until President Roosevelt came into office in 1932.

One of the primary concerns of Roosevelt was to fix the economy, and he believed that he could do that with social security.

The official Web site of the United States Social Security Administration says that once President Roosevelt came into office, "he proposed a plan to help the elderly by creating a work-related, contributory system in which workers would provide for their own future economic security through taxes paid while employed."

This program first became known as a "social insurance" program. It was not until later that the program extended to not only help the elderly, but also provide assistance to disabled people, medical coverage benefits, unemployment insurance and aid to dependent children.

The amount of money that one receives back depends on how much money a person makes while being employed. The web site www.ssa.gov, says that \$84,900 is the maximum amount of money each year that a person can be taxed from,

and that 6.2 percent of their earnings is the amount paid to social security. They also report that since the program began, it has paid out over \$7.9 trillion.

In 2001, President George W. Bush gave his Inaugural Address and said that he planned on reforming social security and Medicare. Obviously, social security was a growing issue five years ago of which even the President was aware.

Bush's concerns were for all retirees to still receive their acquired benefits, for the Social Security system to have financial footing and to offer younger workers the option of having personal savings accounts.

If social security was a major priority to President Bush, then why are we still be faced with many of these concerns, and what has been done to protect the system?

Claiming social security and retiring might not be an issue that we are concerned with now, but it definitely will be down the road. I am not against Social Security. I believe that this is a great program, as long as it works. I just do not believe that we should be paying if there is no guarantee that we will receive something in return.

The decline of social security has not been a current issue. It has been an ongoing concern for the past 10 years.

Even the White House web site, www.whitehouse.gov, reports, "in 2017 the system will be beginning to pay out more than it takes in. This will ultimately result in drastically higher taxes, reduced benefits, increased debt or cuts to other critical government programs."

President Bill Clinton wanted to create a new plan and have more money invested in the stock market. Vice President Al Gore wanted to establish a "lock-box" on the system. When John Kerry, Massachusetts senator, was running for presidency, his motto was, "Let us protect the social security system that has worked for our parents and grandparents, and let us insure that it continues to work for our children."

Until something is done, the only thing that we can really do is to pull out our childhood piggy banks and start saving our own money.

JAPAN

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Torture and the war on terror – is it ever justified?

Amnesty International and Newman Center sponsor talk on torture

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

As part of Social Justice Month, the UM-St. Louis chapter of Amnesty International and the Catholic Newman Center sponsored a discussion on "Torture and the War on Terror" on Monday, April 10.

Michelle Landeau, senior, history, is the coordinator of the UM-St. Louis chapter of Amnesty International. She opened the discussion by stating that Amnesty International takes a strong stance against torture.

She then explained that the goal of the UM-St. Louis chapter of Amnesty International is to educate the public about torture. Landeau then informed the audience that Amnesty International is pushing for an independent commission to investigate alleged acts of torture.

"The commission would be made up of people who are not under the employment of the U.S. Government, whether that be state or federal. The president would get to appoint one person to the commission, then the senate and house majority and minority leaders would appoint several others. This is to ensure that the commission is completely fair and unbiased," she said.

The visiting scholars were Jean Abbott, who works at the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma, and Andrew Wimmer, who works at the Center of Theology and

Social Analysis, a grass roots movement that has been around for seven years. Wimmer is also involved in the organization Stop Torture Now.

Abbott began the discussion by asking members to be introspective and then asking why they would want to come to a discussion on torture. One audience member said she came because "I know people who have been tortured." Another said, "It's our responsibility to know what's going on."

Abbott then said that because she treats torture survivors and knows the lifelong impact that torture causes, she will go anywhere and talk to anyone to try to end torture.

"You never get over it," Abbott said, pointing out that torture survivors suffer from nightmares, sweats, shaking and flashbacks.

Abbott was also critical of the United States. She pointed out that

many immigrants had left their home countries to escape from torture, and that the immigrants had a very difficult time coping with the fact that the United States also used torture.

"When did a lot of my clients regress?" Abbott asked the audience. "When they released the pictures from Abu Ghraib and leaders came out in favor of torture." She added, "For me, it's hard to justify the use of something that can destroy another person's life."

Wimmer said one of the biggest issues is the mistaken belief that the use of torture will gather valuable information that can be used to save innocent lives. This myth has led many to support the use of torture, even though the U.S. Military Training Manual specifically states that torture does not work in helping gather information.

"Torture is not used to get truth," Wimmer said. "It's used to control."

Wimmer said part of the problem is that American culture has become desensitized to the true horror of torture. To drive home her point, she played audiotapes of Rush Limbaugh comparing torture to a college prank.

Another problem with the United States policy on detaining foreigners in places like Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay is that these individuals are held in a state of legal limbo. They are not allowed the rights of U.S. prisoners or the rights of prisoners of war as allowed under international law. Instead, they are held in a sort of legal black hole, which increases their chances of being abused.

see TORTURE, page 7

Looking to kick the habit?

BY NAKENYA SHUMATE
Staff Writer

With the "truth" commercials and the long-winded debates about smoking, most people are aware of the reasons to stop smoking. Quitting is not easy, though; many smokers who have attempted to quit in the past start smoking again for a variety of reasons.

Smokers on the UM-St. Louis campus may consider quitting because they face numerous "thank you for not smoking" signs on campus. Here is a short guide to kicking that nicotine necessity.

There are many ways to quit the habit: cold turkey, tapering, nicotine patches, nicotine gum, nicotine inhalers, exercise, Zyban, hypnosis, auricular therapy or NicVAX.

The most recently developed and relatively unfamiliar of these methods are the nicotine inhaler, a prescription cigarette simulating device; Zyban, which is medication in the form of pills to help control nicotine cravings; auricular therapy, a method that uses a laser to stimulate certain nerves in the ear that control cravings; and NicVAX, a new vaccine shot that works by preventing nicotine from entering the brain, therefore eliminating the pleasure from smoking (the vaccine is still awaiting FDA approval).

Barbara Ross, Chartwell's catering department employee, has been a smoker for 10 years.

"I would probably use the nicotine inhaler and Zyban. I have tried both before. They seem to work better than others," said Ross.

Although there is a lot of information about auricular therapy on the Internet, this method is new and unproven. Smokers may want to wait and see the results of this method before jumping on the bandwagon.

"I had a friend that tried the ear thing and hypnosis, but neither worked for him," said D'Na Hankins, junior, liberal studies. She has been a smoker for 10 years.

Hankins quit for two and a half years but then started again because of stress. When asked what method she would use if she quit again, Hankins said, "I would try hypnosis because I have tried to cut back and tried cold turkey and I hated it. I was crabby [and] never stopped eating, but when I got hypnotized I really changed enough habits that I really didn't miss smoking."

However, different methods work for different people.

"My mom used cold turkey, and it worked for her. I had another friend that used Wellbutrin and knitting (keeping the hands busy) and she hasn't smoked for seven years," Hankins said.

The tried and true methods are certainly cheaper and may give quitters a greater sense of accomplishment compared to the medical treatments and therapies emerging today.

Shamir Zera, senior, accounting, said "I had been smoking for five years. I quit cold turkey for a year. I could care less about any other methods, I like a challenge."

Whether people use the old methods or the new practices that have recently developed, willpower is important.

see SMOKING, page 11



Kevin Ottley/The Current

SGA vice-presidential candidate Thomas Helton reacts to a situation from the audience just before the beginning of the debate as co-members of the LEAD slate Nick Koechig and Shanna Carpenter look on.

Organization, timing key for campaigns

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

Some candidates went right to work when campaigning for SGA elections officially started at midnight on April 4.

During the first week of campaigning, they chalked their names on sidewalks around the UM-St. Louis campus. As Election Day approached, however, campaigning intensified, as SGA candidates handed out flyers, met with students, debated and urged students to vote for them.

"We always start out with grass-roots, talking to people, seeing what their needs are," said Joe Garavaglia, who is running for SGA comptroller. "By mid-week, I'll start putting together flyers and getting my name out."

Nick Koechig, who is running unopposed for SGA president, said he had a "whole arsenal" in his campaign plan, including flyers, a Web site group, and friends and other members of the Greek community who were helping him with his campaign.

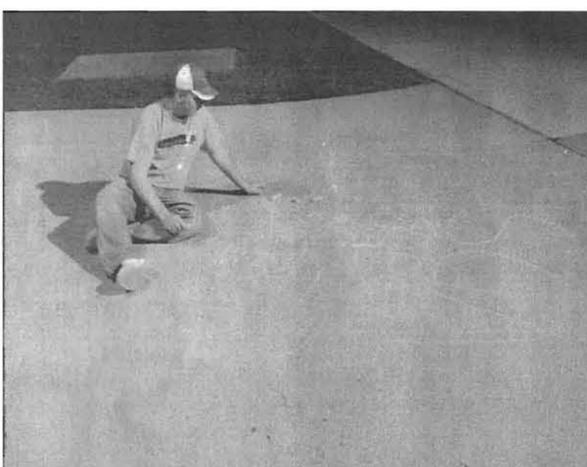
Since Koechig, the University of Missouri government relations federal intern, was in Washington, D.C. during most of the campaigning period, he relied on other members of his slate to get his name out around campus.

"Being on a slate is a lot easier, especially with me being in D.C. working for the system," Koechig said. "With a slate we can focus on different areas."

In addition to the traditional sidewalk chalk, flyers, and poster board, this year some candidates have capitalized on popular online trends.

Although Koechig has hundreds of miles from the UM-St. Louis campus for much of the campaigning period, he created a group, "Nick Koechig for SGA President," on a popular student Web site, facebook.com.

"Obviously, facebook is a critical tool this year. It's the first year that a



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Thomas Helton, sophomore, political science, chalks the sidewalk near Benton Hall for the "LEAD" slate. Helton is a candidate running for the SGA vice president position. The elections will take place April 19-20 on MyGateway.

large majority of students use it and it's a great way to connect without being on campus," Koechig said.

Joe Garavaglia also used the Web site to publicize his candidacy by buying advertisement "flyers" on facebook.com.

"I put a flyer there because a lot of people use facebook," Garavaglia said. "I know so many people who use it frequently and obviously you can't advertise on MyGateway so the facebook is the only place to guarantee a lot of students will see it."

Although election rules cap off campaign spending at \$1,200 for a slate or \$1,000 for an independently running candidate, few candidates actually spend the entire allotted amount.

Common campaign materials include sidewalk chalk, materials for flyers, poster boards and paint.

"After the elections, the candidates need to turn in documentation of what

they spent," said Bill Costas, election chair.

"I'm just using my own money," Garavaglia said. "I spent \$70 on a facebook flyer, and I'm going to buy chalk and paper, but I don't plan to spend more than \$500; I'm just going to spend as little as possible to get the word out."

Many of the candidates had previous campaign experience. Some worked on other campaigns in previous years or had previously run for elected office.

Thomas Helton, vice-presidential candidate, learned the intricacies of sidewalk chalking, and figured out which colors would not show up on the pavement, when he worked on current SGA President D'Andre Braddix's campaign last spring.

"Usually we do it at night when the campus is empty; it makes more of an impact in the morning," Helton said.

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

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the week's
best
bets

'Mirthday

Ska-rock band Reel Big Fish will perform a free concert at the 22nd annual Mirthday celebration at UM-St. Louis. Mirthday will take place from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday near the lakes outside of the MSC. The event will feature games, carnival rides, face painting, performance artists and food. Local bands will perform throughout the day. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call (314) 516-5291.

'iPod in Education

"Apple iPod in Education and Podcasting" will be held on Friday from 9 a.m. to noon in 132 Social Sciences and Business Building. The discussion will be lead by experts from Apple Computers. This event is sponsored by Technology Services. Call (314) 516-6000 for more information.

Students throw curve ball to faculty ...



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

Kurtis Parks, freshman, FireDragons, pitches to the faculty during the student/faculty softball game last Friday. He held the faculty team, the RiverDragons, scoreless in the first inning and hit two home runs. The FireDragons beat the RiverDragons by a score of 32-12. Parks was named the MVP of the student team.

Education majors go to China for student teaching

BY **MELISSA MCCRARY**
Features Editor

Students studying to become teachers at UM-St. Louis usually spend many hours student teaching at various St. Louis public schools before receiving their degrees.

The College of Education at UM-St. Louis started a new program allowing future educators to gain educational and cultural experience by student teaching at Fuxin Middle School in Fuxin, China.

This study-abroad and student teaching program began during the fall 2005 semester. While five undergraduate students participated last semester, nine students are currently taking part in the program this semester.

Cody Ding, assistant professor of education at UM-St. Louis, had approached other faculty members, suggesting the idea that student teachers complete hours in China.

Students involved in the program must teach one semester in Fuxin and complete their teaching evaluations by other faculty there.

Helene Sherman, professor and associate dean of undergraduate education in the College of Education, worked with the Center for International Studies, the Missouri Department of Education and Shenyang Normal University to implement the program.

Sherman said one of the main reasons the program was started was because the Chinese government wants more of their students to be educated and taught American culture and the English language by native Americans.

"This program could provide opportunities that one could rarely have in a completely different culture, practicing their skills and using their field of study," Sherman said. "Students are able to develop skills such as quick thinking, adaptation to new environments, problem-solving and the flexibility in another country allows them to develop skills to be great teachers here."

The children who attend Fuxin

Middle School range from the age of 8 to 15. Each class consists of about 60 to 70 students. Students usually attend school Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 7 a.m. until noon.

Jimerlean Farr is one student who participated in the program last semester; he is currently working on receiving a second master's degree in education at UM-St. Louis.

"My experience in China is unexplainable because I grew personally and professionally. Student teaching in Fuxin, China allowed me to enhance my teaching strategies and quickly adjust and modify my lessons," she said. "I view cultural diversity, student interaction and teaching materials, more broadly and on a higher level."

Farr said that because they were limited to teaching materials in their school and because the teaching styles are different from the United States, she had to buy materials from a local market and had to be more creative.

"I quickly became creative and innovative in the classroom, in an attempt to meet the needs of my students. The various academic levels in the classroom were a great challenge that encouraged me to use a variety of examples, demonstrations, and actually become an actor in the classroom," she said.

After Farr completed her student teaching program, she accepted a full-time teaching position in Shenyang, China for the upcoming fall semester.

"Upon my arrival back to the U.S. in December 2005, I did not apply for any teaching positions in the United States because I knew that I would return back to China," she said.

The program is open to selected and qualified UM-St. Louis Education students. Requirements for the program are the same as the other student teaching program.

Sherman said that the College of Education looks forward to instituting this program in the coming semesters.

"We are hoping to send more students to teach in China and perhaps in other locations, in other countries," she said.

TORTURE, from page 6

Wimmer then said those in attendance can help end torture by becoming the voices of those who have been tortured to help counter prevalent misconceptions people have about torture.

Wimmer then played a Democracy Now interview of Moazzam Begg, a British citizen who was caught in the war on terror. Begg was held without

charge as an enemy combatant for three years. He was finally released after it was determined he had no terrorist connections.

During the interview, Begg described some of the physical and psychological torture he endured while in U.S. custody. Begg stated that the worst part of the confinement was not the physical torture he endured;

instead, it was the uncertainty he had about the safety of his wife and children.

The point that Abbott and Wimmer made in their discussion was not that America's war on terror was wrong or unjustified. Their point was that the use of torture was wrong and uncivilized, even in a time of war.

For more information on Stop

Torture Now, go to their website at www.stoptorturenw.org.

For more information on helping survivors of torture, send an e-mail to Abbott at jeanabbott4400@yahoo.com.

For more information on the UM-St. Louis chapter of Amnesty International, send an e-mail to amnesty_umsl@yahoo.com.

SGA elections

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on MyGateway

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A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
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this week's
arts
on campus

Mirthday Concerts
Wed., April 19, begins 11 a.m.

Near Lakes Outside MSC
Ska-rock band Reel Big Fish in concert at 8 p.m., with opening act Nina Sky. Local bands perform throughout the day. Plus games, carnival rides, face painting, booths, performance artists and food. Sponsored by the Office of Student Life. For info, call 516-5291.

Musicians at Jazz at the Bistro

Fri., April 21, 8:30 p.m.
Jazz at the Bistro
3536 Washington Avenue
Bassist Jim Widner, visiting scholar in music at UM-St. Louis, and pianist Ken Kehner, lecturer in music at UM-St. Louis, perform as part of Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival. For tickets, call (314) 534-1111. For info, visit <http://www.jatb.org>.

Clark Terry at Jazz Festival
Sat., April 22, 8 p.m.
Touhill A-B Hall

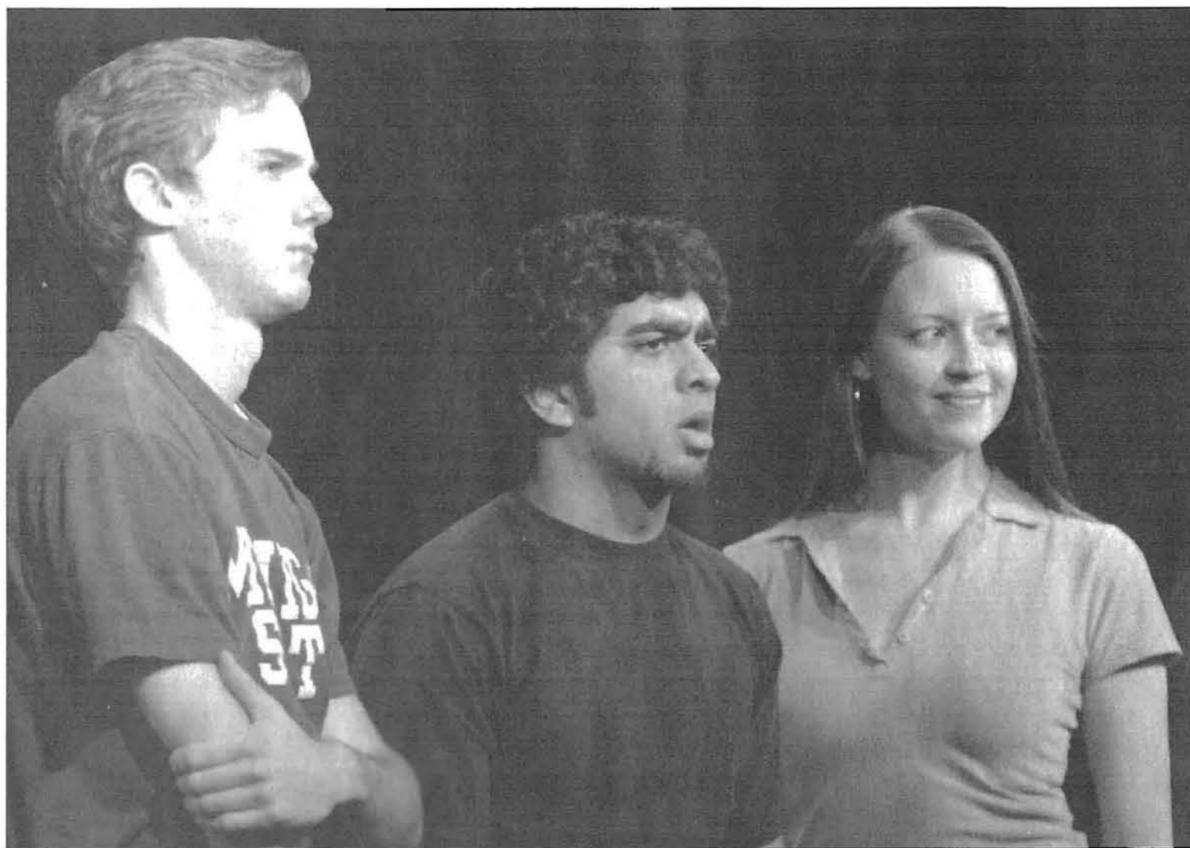
Legendary trumpeter Clark Terry headlines the final night of Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival. Also in concert will be bassist Jim Widner and pianist Ken Kehner, UM-St. Louis music faculty. Prior to the concert, high school jazz combos will perform free from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Touhill. For info or tickets, call 516-4949 or visit <http://www.touhill.org>.

Black International Film Fest

Sat. - Mon., April 22 - 24
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
St. Louis Art Museum
The XXI Black International Film Festival features three days of films from all over the world, including feature length narrative, documentary and short films. Opening ceremony April 22 at 10 a.m. Sponsored by the E. Desmond Lee Professorship in African/African American Studies of the Center for International Studies, UM-St. Louis and the St. Louis Art Museum. A list of films, festival scheduling and ticketing information can be found at <http://www.cfis-umsl.com>.

Arts on Campus

"... the merciless game of 'hard to get,' misplaced peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and other factors in his quest for the holy girl ..."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

From left, Dave Carpenter, Brijul Bhakta and Katie Marik, members of the University Players, perform in "Cockblock of the Walk," on Saturday evening in the Benton Hall Theater.

'Cockblock' has real-life hilarity

BY MABEL SUEN
NightLife Editor

Packed with plenty of awkward situations, compulsory kisses and enough swear words and slurs to satisfy even a sailor, student production "Cockblock of the Walk" humorously documented the story of a typical college student's struggles with the opposite sex.

Written and directed by Brijul Bhakta, senior, business, COTW was performed by the University Players in the Benton Hall Theatre for two nights.

Set in the apartment of three college students, COTW takes on an adult aspect likened to that of popular sitcom Sex in the City, only with less sex (unfortunately enough for our lead character) and less city, and via the male perspective.

The play began with an introductory scene outlining the disillusioned, dismayed lead man Dave (Dave Carpenter), whom the plot of the story encircles. Sitting in the living room with his potential girlfriend to be, Katie (Katie Marik), he approached the all too familiar stage in a relationship when the word "we" in place of "you and me" comes into play.

Apparently these feelings were not mutual as Katie, who we later learn is a fiery temptress of sorts, said that while she is completely comfortable around him and shares similar interests, he is not her type. "Stop.

Rewind. Let's hear that again," said an offstage voice in an attempt to capture the ridiculous contradiction of her previous statement.

After pathetically stumbling over his words in an attempt to regain his masculinity, Dave and Katie agree to remain friends and forget that his advances ever happened. The word "burn" is one that accurately depicts the sticky situation.

Soon enough, we learn the narrative voice behind the scenes was actually coming from behind the couch. Brijul emerged as the lovable lush of the story who steers away from the dating game himself, revealing that the play is not about just him or Dave, but about every guy who has ever tried to be in a relationship.

The next day, Dave is exposed to the criticisms and counsel of both Brijul and his flamboyant, funny roommate Brendan (Brendan Gartland). After some slight mockery and characteristically macho banter, they convince Dave to attend a house party that night in an attempt to get over Katie.

Enter Angie (Angie Sebben), a beauty whose mere presence leads Dave to break out into a "love at first sight" dance - and no, it was not pretty.

After a night of stimulating conversation, things are going seemingly well for Dave, until an onslaught of "cockblocks" occur. Any good play contains a series of conflicts, and COTW does so in the form of danc-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Brijul Bhakta performs in "Cockblock of the Walk," in the Benton Hall Theater on Saturday night.

ing disasters, the merciless game of "hard to get," misplaced peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and other factors in his quest for the holy girl.

With laugh-worthy dialogue, talented acting, unexpected choreography, scene changes set to a stellar modern soundtrack and even refer-

ences to literary works, "Cockblock of the Walk" entertained and enlightened audiences. Most of all, viewers could plausibly empathize with the woes and blows dealt to the main character who epitomized a constituent of the cruel world of dating and relationships.

Concert Review

Bringing Back the Sexy in Rock 'n' Roll: The Eagles of Death Metal

BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

"Who the hell are these guys?" someone asked.

"It's the Eagles of Death Metal," someone else called out from the back of the standing area.

"Eagles of Death Metal? It sounds like they're going to suck," replied the stranger, making his way towards the exit.

Those that remained to see the Eagles of Death Metal play a free show at Vintage Vinyl Records witnessed the rock 'n' roll spirit in full flame on Saturday, April 8 on the Loop. At approximately 2:30 p.m. the band performed to a cool crowd of 100+, jamming the aisles with eager participants of drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll.

The band, in promoting their sec-

ond album, Death By Sexy, whipped the crowd with gnashing guitar riffs and primal howls. The audience, taken aback by the band's vigor and raw energy, spat on dusty copies of Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit from the taste of true rock 'n' roll.

Despite the band's hard rock style, few are sure of what to make out of the Eagles of Death Metal.

Some critics have deemed that it is a joke band between the mustache driven front man Jesse Hughes and Josh Homme of Queens of the Stone Age, while others claim that it is simply a party-rock band that is out to simply rekindle the good old days of sex and drugs. Either way, one thing is clear: the band knows how to put on one hell of a show.

Of course, the band has had plenty of time and experience in preparation. As the legend goes, Homme and

Hughes apparently met in high school, playing together on the soccer team. Years later, Homme met Hughes once again, who traded in rock journalism for a chance to start a band. The product: one of the best, hardest and elite bands in modern rock music. A combination of Chuck Berry, Queens of the Stone Age and Kais, the Eagles of Death Metal blew the crowd away at Vintage Vinyl.

"I got into Queens of the Stone Age and then I heard about Eagles of Death Metal through a magazine," said Ryan Meyer, 18, of St. Louis. "I saw that Josh Homme had 'EoDM' tattoos on his knuckles ... I couldn't believe how much they sounded like Queens of the Stone Age. Anyone that likes Queens is going to love Eagles. They both have the same amazing aggressive live shows."

However, the band was only serv-

ing the audience an appetizer. Later that night, the Eagles of Death Metal also opened for The Strokes at The Pageant. It was an interesting combination to see a hipster band such as The Strokes, and a hard classic rock band such as the Eagles of Death Metal, play back to back. Unfortunately, the hard rock sound overshot the preferences of the hipsters with their mascara and dyed hair. The audience's participation during the set was bland at best.

Nonetheless, the Eagles of Death Metal are one of the most refreshing, energetic and sexiest bands to come out in the latest rush of rock on the radio.

Their latest album, Death By Sexy, which was released April 11, is a must have for Queens of the Stone Age fans as well as anyone else who likes simple, dirty rock 'n' roll.



Wu-Tang's Ghostface resurfaces

BY MYRON MCNEILL
Staff Writer

Released April 5, "Fishscale" debuted on the Billboard charts as high as number five out of 200 of the top Hip-Hop albums and number two for R & B albums. Ghostface (formerly known as Ghostface Killah) utilizes the talents of famous producers MF Doom, Pete Rock, J-Dilla (who recently died due to Lupus- may he R.I.P) and MadLib.

The album is truly reminiscent of Ghostface's earlier years, when he would hit fans with philosophical/street vernacular about issues that ordinary people faced. Not one to shy away from style, Ghostface laces several of the songs with references to his influence on fashion. This is his fifth album and one thing is for sure, Ghostface keeps a formula that allows you to play the album from the beginning to the end.

Skits. Oh, yes. Skits. Ghostface is an actor on the low and since his Wu-Tang days, he has had a fetish for doing skits. On Fishscale, he has seven skits. Try Heartstreet Directions, a skit that reeks of sexual connotations and humor, as a man gives directions to a woman. This is another one of the likeable traits of Ghostface as an artist. He always has a serious demeanor yet he never wastes an opportunity to showcase his humor.

Fishscale presents down-to-earth songs like "Barbershop," where he reminisces on the process of getting a haircut. In this case, it is a haircut he does not like. He says, "Slide, you played me so you can't get paid/How you gon' [mess] up a don and cold dog his fade/ I look like UTFO one of them dudes from back in the days." We all can remember bad hair cut experiences.

Fishscale is not only an album of reminiscing. It presents the trials, tribulations, growth (personal and artistic) of Ghostface.

On his lead single "Back Like That," he discusses a relationship that has gone bad due to infidelity. This song features R&B artist Ne-Yo as he sings the familiar hook, "Come through the block, in the brand new Benz/Knowing that me and this dude ain't friends/(OK girl) Yeah, what I did was wack/ But you don't get your man back like that."

It has been a long time since "Ironman," his first solo album. However, Ghostface gives us a sure-shot with this musical masterpiece. Fishscale, like his other albums, is highly sophisticated yet enjoyable. Fans appreciate his detail and the attention he pays to his craft. Although Wu-Tang is supposedly for the kids, Fishscale and Ghostface are for the die-hard Hip-Hop fans.



The Eagles of Death Metal
Latest Release:
"Death By Sexy"

Recently performed as
opening act for The Strokes

Film Review



Photo courtesy Fox Searchlight

Aaron Eckhart stars as Nick Naylor in the satire "Thank You For Smoking."

'Thank You For Smoking' works until it blows smoke

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

"Thank You For Smoking" is a delicious idea for a satire. With an all-star cast, it is aimed at our PR world of moral relativism where fooling people about danger is just a job.

It comes out of its cage like a comedy tiger springing on the tobacco industry but then again, everyone knows cigarettes will kill you.

After it tackles the easy target of cigarettes, the film fails to follow through on thornier, more current subjects.

Handsome, likeable Nick Naylor

(Aaron Eckhart) is a PR man for Big Tobacco, a man completely comfortable with his work and lack of scruples about the truth. His conscience is clear and he sleeps well at night because he is just trying to "pay the mortgage" with his job.

Actually, he sees nothing wrong with blowing smoke up people's posteriors about the dangers of smoking. Like a PR gunslinger, he takes pride in his job.

"Michael Jordan plays basketball. Charles Manson kills people. I talk," Naylor says. "My job requires a certain moral flexibility," he adds, summing his moral relativism.

Naylor and his fellow "mod

squad" members (Maria Bello and David Koechner) - mod for "merchants of death," representing the other two interests of the Department of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms, even gather for a little socializing and brag sessions about their abilities as the masters of spin.

The story takes place in the waning days of Big Tobacco, as they face congressional hearings about what they know and when they knew about the dangers of smoking.

Tobacco spokesperson Naylor is fearless, willing to go on talk shows with doctors and "cancer kids" with nary a blink of the eye.

Among his challengers are an

ambitious Senator (William H. Macy) with the tobacco industry in his sights, and a sexy investigative reporter (Katie Holmes) hot on his tail. On the other side, there is a Hollywood producer (Rob Lowe) eager to do product placement in movies for cigarettes.

Naylor's confidence in his ability, and his ambition, put him in solid with the consortium's big boss (Robert Duvall), if not always with his more changeable and slippery, cigar-chomping supervisor Budd Rohrabacher (a hilarious J. K. Simmons).

see **THANK YOU** page 11

Concert Review

Cinemechanica grabs attention of STL crowds

BY PATRICK FLANIGAN
Staff Writer

There are certain cities where if a band hails from there, the band automatically has certain credibility, or as those in the biz say, "indie cred." Portland, Ore., Austin, Texas, Seattle, Wash., New York City, and Athens, Ga. all have had independent music scenes successful and longstanding enough to gain national notoriety.

The band Cinemechanica, from Athens, may come from the birthplace of R.E.M., but its musical influence hails from another scene over 2,000 miles away.

Just over 10 years ago, San Diego was deemed "the next Seattle." It never happened and those in the San Diego musical scene still laugh about the title. Despite not having the impact of Seattle, San Diego produced a good number of bands, one of the best being Drive Like Jehu, who later morphed into the now sadly defunct The Hot Snakes. Both bands continue to have a huge influence on Cinemechanica.

Seeing the band live you may see other influences, such as At the Drive In, early Superchunk, or as this reviewer thought, Sonic Youth melodies, mixed with D.C. Hardcore energy.

It does not matter what it reminds you of, it will more than likely be a combination of things you like. For the band though, it is about those next Seattle bands from San Diego.

Drummer, Mike Albanese confesses, "I would have given anything to be in San Diego when Jehu was playing."

Cinemechanica actually played two shows recently in St. Louis. One was at Sally T's as a result of a show in Tennessee falling through, and then the other was at The Billiken Club at Saint Louis University, the band's final show of the tour.

"It's been a great tour," said Albanese, despite a few shows falling through. "I'm extremely

happy with the tour."

As the band exploded into its first song "Yen" off its new album, "The Martial Arts," it was easy to see why.

The quartet, armed with Gibson SG's and Albanese's drum kit, made the crowd at the free show at The Billiken Club feel like they should have paid.

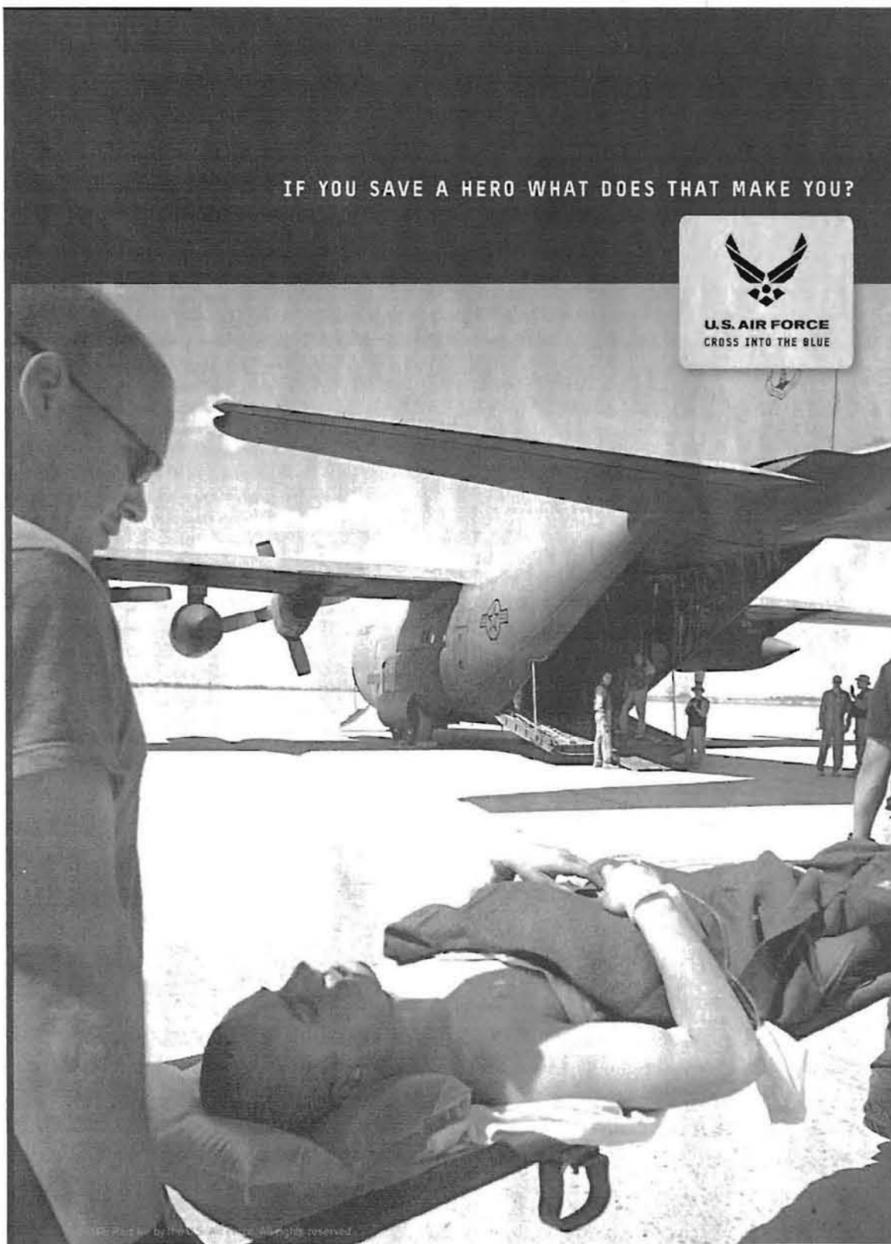
Whether the crowd was there to see the stage-banter-challenged local faves, So Many Dynamos or to just hang out, once Cinemechanica started playing, they had everyone's attention. A good band will play good enough so that you cannot ignore them, and that was the case with Cinemechanica.

By the time they launched into "I'm Tired of Paul McCartney," everyone was drawn to either Albanese's ferocious breakneck drumming, or the frenzied dueling melodies of guitarists Andy Prue and Bryant Williamson.

Although regular bassist Joe Hatstat was not on the tour, Erica, guitarist by trade filled in nicely. The band was so tight that when they came to the abrupt stops of the songs, the club was quiet for a moment and then filled with applause.

As you might expect from a band that has a fair share of instrumental, it is all about the music for Cinemechanica. When asked about the creative process, Albanese responded that it was a mixture of collaboration and constant refining.

The band spent over a year writing material for "The Martial Arts." While it may not capture the essence of their live show, it is still a good album with standout tracks such as "Bruckheimer," "Take Me To The Hospital," "Ruins of Karnac" and "Get Outta Here Hitler." All of the tracks are strong and would fit nicely on a soundtrack of a movie where something important is about to happen and, judging by the live show at The Billiken Club, something important could be about to happen for Cinemechanica.



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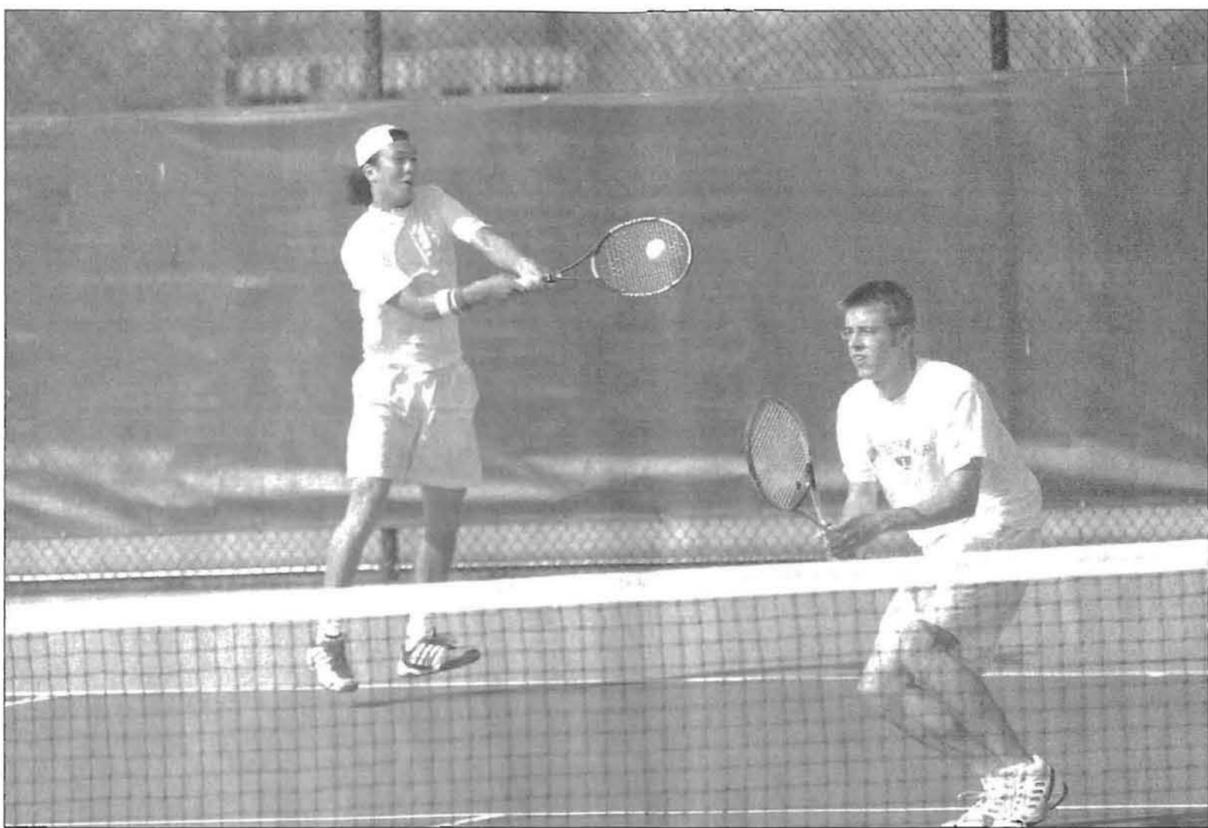
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SPORTS



Kevin Ottley / The Current

Francis Lam replies to his McKendree opponent's service with this airborne backhand while teammate Ryan Burgdorfer covers for the return. The number two seeded doubles team comfortably defeated their opponents 8-3.

Rivermen tennis team looks for victories

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

After a tough week on the road, the Rivermen tennis team will look for a victory during their final two games of the season.

The Rivermen defeated Quincy on Tuesday 9-0 for their first conference win of the season. The win came after an 8-1 loss to Rockhurst University and Drury University. Both matches were GLVC match ups.

The only match won against Rockhurst came from the number three doubles, Peter Hantack, freshman, and James Rigby, junior, who

defeated Adam Ricceri and Ryan Field.

Unfortunately for the Rivermen, the team has been winning but the wins have come against non-conference teams such as McKendree and Maryville University.

Number one singles, Francis Lam, junior, said the Riverment have been playing well but, at times, they have not been ranked with teams on the same level of play.

Throughout the season, the Rivermen have either dominated the court or have been dominated at home and away. The two closest games were during spring break when the UM-St. Louis met the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

The Rivermen won two singles matches and two doubles matches but ultimately fell one match short of a win, 5-4.

The other close match was on Friday when the Rivermen faced the Screaming Eagles of Southern Indiana.

Going into the match, Lam said the team was expecting to walk away with a victory even though the Rivermen have not defeated USI in over three years.

"It's been a few years since we beat them and hopefully, if we play well, we should win," said Lam.

The men did play well but fell one point short of a victory and USI defeated UM-St. Louis 5-4. USI won

all three doubles spots. The Rivermen's victories came from Lam, Stephen Pobst, Pete Hantack and Rajan Saini.

The Rivermen needed the victory to help secure a spot in the GLVC tournament, which takes place on April 21 and 22.

The Rivermen will meet their other toughest opponent Monday at Washington University. The Rivermen met them earlier in the season and lost 6-0. The team said that Washington University is a very strong competitive team.

The Rivermen will finish their season on the road at Truman State on Wednesday. Currently, the team is 5-9 on the season and 1-3 in the GLVC.

Sports Column

Regrets can be mistaken as "What if?"



BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Is there a line that can be drawn between regrets and things that we just wished we would have done?

As a child, I remember my parents taking me to the tennis club, Wimbledon, where my dad played. My sister and I were enrolled in tennis lessons. We had to carry as many tennis balls as possible on our rackets from the fence to the net. Then we would have to juggle, something I never mastered.

It was the little things like the juggling and eating food from the concession stand that made me love the game. That love followed me to a number one singles spot on my high school tennis team. It then followed me to state and to possible athletic scholarships in and out of Missouri.

For reasons that I refused to admit when I was 17 and 18, I turned down the scholarships. I thought I was doing the right thing.

For the next few years, I regretted not taking the aid and playing that game I truly loved. I was mad and disappointed at myself, but more importantly, I regretted my decision.

see WHAT IF, page 11

Catching up with Neukirch: A day in the life of a catcher



File Photo Adam D. Wiseman / The Current

Catcher Lisa Neukirch for the Riverwomen softball team has a busy schedule whether she is traveling for a road game or relaxing on a weekend after a roadtrip.

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

minutes so they are not tired on game day.

3 p.m. - Rush home to pack necessities, including toiletries and softball equipment, for weekend games.

Roughly 3:10 p.m. - Make sandwich using Sara Lee bread for the bus ride to Kansas City.

Around 3:15 p.m. - Depart from apartment with luggage for Mark Twain Building.

3:30 on the dot - Bus leaves and starts down Highway 70.

Around 5:30 p.m. - Stop in Columbia, Mo. to eat at Shakespeare's Pizza. Eat a salad with ranch dressing and pepperoni and sausage pizza with a lemonade.

6:40 p.m. - Team boards bus for Kansas City.

9 p.m. - Arrive at hotel.

9-9:30 p.m. - Check into rooms.

9:30 p.m. - Take showers.

Around 10 p.m. - Watch Law and Order: SVU.

1:30 a.m. - Finally fall asleep.

see NEUKIRCH, page 11

With the Riverwomen softball team headed to Kansas City to meet Rockhurst University on Friday and then Rolla on Saturday, *The Current* got the behind the scenes look at a typical travel day and a relaxing off day for catcher Lisa Neukirch.

10 a.m. - Wake up, roll out of bed and put contacts in.

10:10 a.m. - Eat a wholesome breakfast of toasted Sara Lee whole grain white bread with butter.

10:40 a.m. - Leave nearby apartment and head to UM-St. Louis for two classes.

11-12:15 p.m. - Attend Business Law Class.

12:30-1:45 p.m. - Attend last class of the day, Managerial Accounting.

1:50 p.m. - Head to the softball field by Mark Twain Building.

2-2:45 p.m. - Hit balls with Coach Sosnowski. The team only hits for 45

Luksza is 'gritty, hard-nosed' third baseman

BY LAQUAN FUSE
Sports Associate Editor

Jeff Luksza has been an essential part to the Rivermen's baseball defense this season. The 5'8" infielder from Imperial, Mo. has been all over the field.

"I'm a natural second baseman, but the team needed me to play third this year," said Luksza. "I've played real well at third."

This season, Luksza has played more than just second and third base. As of April 11, he has started six games at second base, 12 games at third base, one game in left field, four games in center field and one game in right field.

Luksza said he is a "gritty, hard-nosed" third baseman. "I enjoy the game. Usually, I'm smiling out

there," Luksza said. "I take it seriously, but I'm not going to be the guy, if I strike out, who throws my helmet."

Many baseball players have superstitions or pre-game rituals, and Luksza is no different.

Before each at bat, Luksza taps his bat across home plate, pulls the front of his helmet down, and bites the collar of his jersey. "I used to wear a crucifix, but you can't wear jewelry," Luksza said. "I used to be in the habit of kissing the cross, but now I just bite on my jersey."

Luksza's batting ritual is not the only baseball superstition that influences his game playing ability. Luksza, along with four other Rivermen, wears a black or red wristband on his left wrist.

"When we were down in Florida, all of us who had the wristbands rode in the same van. It was kinda like a

big inside joke, and we called it 'fan wristband,'" said Luksza. Tony Soaib, Bryan Smith, Adam Whitehead and Zack Sheets also wear wristbands, according to Luksza.

"We've played better as a team, and I've played better individually since we started wearing the wristbands," Luksza.

Luksza has an aspiration to one day become a baseball coach. He has already been building up experience. For the past two summers, Luksza has coached the Jefferson County Blazers, a summer high school team.

"It's one of the better high school summer travel teams," Luksza said. "I'd like to continue coaching, either in high school or college."

Luksza is finishing his last season with the Rivermen. The team's next game is Tuesday at home against Quincy.



LEFT: Jeff Luksza, junior, elementary education, plays at third base during a game at GMC Park in Sauget, Ill.

File Photo Adam D. Wiseman / The Current

EDITOR LINDSEY BARRINGER

Sports Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Baseball

April 19
vs. Quincy

April 22
vs. Wisconsin - Parkside

April 23
vs. Wisconsin - Parkside

Softball

April 22
vs. SIUE

April 23
vs. Southern Indiana

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<http://www.umsl-sports.com/>

Film Review

'Sophie Scholl: The Final Days' reveals dissenting voice in Nazi reign

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

"Sophie Scholl: The Final Days" is based on the last six days in the life of Germany's most famous anti-Nazi dissenter, a young college student who became part of an underground resistance in Germany under Hitler's rule.

The film was up for an Oscar this year in the Foreign-Language film category, and it has also been featured at several Jewish film festivals, including those in Vancouver, Seattle and New Jersey. Although she was Christian, rather than Jewish, Sophie Scholl's opposition to the Nazis led her to be condemned for anti-Nazi activities.

Twenty-one year old Sophie Scholl (Julia Jentsch) and her brother Hans (Fabian Hinrichs), members of an underground resistance group called the White Rose, are caught trying to distribute anti-Nazi flyers on a college campus. The historical film focuses on Sophie Scholl's capture and interrogation afterwards.

The year was 1943 and the idealistic members of the organization hope to encourage the German people to turn against the Nazis and stop the war. Growing up as teens in the

1930s, Sophie and her brother first embraced the patriotic appeal of Hitler's message but eventually came to realize its destructiveness.

When Sophie and her brother are captured, she endures repeated questionings, which turn into a contest of wills as the captors hope at first to persuade this intelligent, educated young woman to accept their point of view.

The fact that anyone tried to dissent under Hitler's iron-fisted regime is a difficult enough concept. "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days" is indeed more a lesson in dissent than a film about a particular time and person.

Sophie's cunning and intelligence almost wins her release, as she tells of her soldier boyfriend on the Eastern Front. Clearly, her interrogator Mohr (Gerald Alexander Held) would prefer that such an intelligent and strong young woman share his vision for Germany, but ultimately she, her brother, and another member of the White Rose are condemned to death.

By their interrogators' standards, what they are doing is treason but these young people simply are adhering to a higher moral and ethical code to oppose an evil regime.

The interrogation phase takes up a large chunk of this film, giving director Marc Rothmund the chance to explore Sophie's unshakable moral underpinnings, and reveal the little-

known opposition to the Nazi agenda within Germany.

It is not just a historical film; Rothmund uses the dialogue to explore opposition to extremism and fanaticism broadly, and to argue in favor of a moral imperative to stand up to wrongdoing, no matter what. While in prison, Sophie shares a cell with another woman, a Communist named Else (Johanna Gastdorf) who also opposed the Nazis.

The film shows that no matter how rare or hidden opposition to the Nazis was, a few idealists and people of conscience had the courage to oppose them. The film also emphasizes the importance of such people in the face of grave moral wrongs and totalitarian oppression.

This historical figure is well known in Germany but little known here. The same young woman was also the subject of another film in 1982 called "The White Rose." The earlier film has its supporters, but this version does a powerful job of putting opposition to evil in a modern light, making the very young Sophie a figure for all times, not just a historical figure of a particular time.

The film has fine, subtle acting by Julia Jentsch, who carries most of the film, and the director makes his point well about the moral need for people to oppose evil in any time.

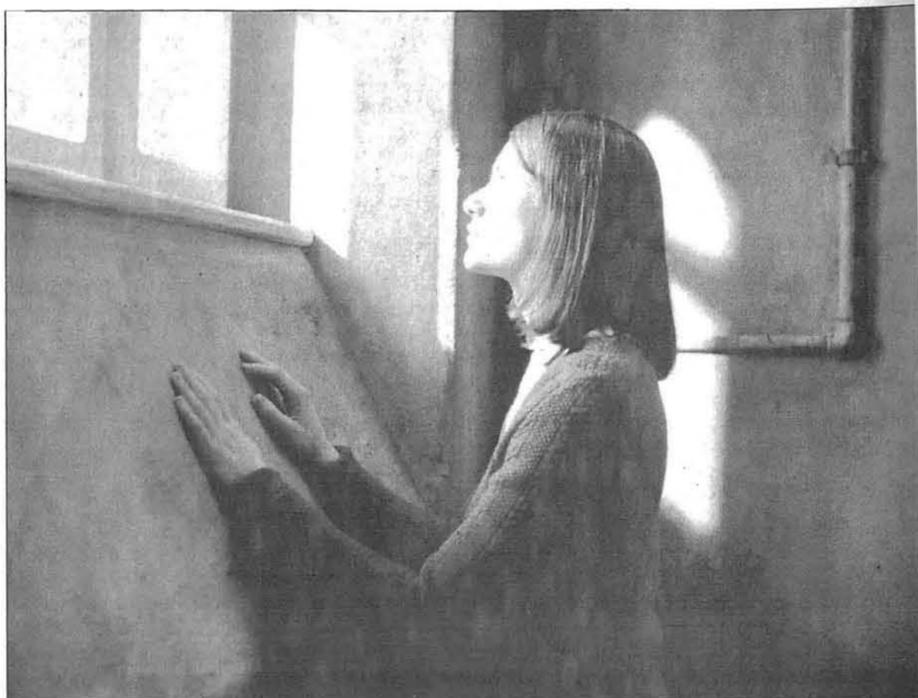


Photo courtesy www.zeitgeistfilms.com

Julia Jentsch is Sophie Scholl in "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days," a story of Scholl's last six days in Nazi Germany. Scholl was one of the most famous anti-Nazi dissenter during Hitler's rule.

NEUKIRCH, from page 10

On an off day, such as a Sunday, Neukirch spends most of her time relaxing.

8:30 or 9 a.m.- Get up and do the normal morning routine: contacts, eat, brush teeth, use the bathroom.

Around 9:30 a.m.- Leave for aunt's house to go to the Ranch in Valley Park to ride horses. (Neukirch's horse is named Cherokee and is four years old.)

Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.- Ride horses either across the river or the highway through the beautiful scenery.

Roughly 3 p.m.- Stop riding and head to another aunt's house.

5 p.m.- Eat dinner prepared by aunt. Ninety percent of the time on Sundays, she is cooking.

6:30ish - Go home to relax and veg out on the couch. Possibly do home-

work if any is due on Monday morning.

Go to bed any time that evening.

During the season, days like Sunday are few and far between. The Sunday tends to be more like a typical summer day. Neukirch's schedule is consumed with school and making winning catches from behind the plate.

THANK YOU, from page 9

Naylor's personal life is less sunny, with a power struggle underway with his ex-wife over the heart of their son (Cameron Bright). The ex thinks Naylor's career as amoral and worries about the influence on their son, while Naylor believes that what he does for a living is just fine, as long as he follows his own personal code of conduct with family and friends.

With such a terrific cast, something good has to happen. Directed by Jason Reitman and based on the dryly comic novel by Christopher Buckley,

who co-wrote the screenplay, "Thank You For Smoking" launches fast and funny, as this sunny anti-Candide goes about his job of spin-meistering.

Time and again, it points out moral compromises that governments and people make, and the ascendancy of the almighty dollar and personal ambitions. Particularly sly wit surfaces when Naylor negotiates with a former Marlboro Man (Sam Elliot), now dying of lung cancer. But when he tangles with an investigative reporter, who has a philosophy that is the mirror opposite of his own, the

film's message loses its punch.

Likewise, while it has no problem going after big liars of the past like Big Tobacco, it loses it nerve in the face of current wrong-doers hiding behind a PR smokescreen.

Which is a shame, because the film becomes less than it promises to be. It is a good, enjoyable satiric comedy, funny and biting, until it loses that nerve. What could have been a great comedy becomes merely a good one. The result is that, in the end, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth, like stale cigarettes.

WHAT IF, from page 10

The regret haunted me until I realized that it is perfectly acceptable to admit that it was regret, instead of lying to myself claiming it was something I just should have done.

In life, it is almost impossible to live without having at least one regret. To live without regrets (or at least one) is only a lie forced into a reality. At 23, my regret is not playing college tennis and thinking I gave up my dream. That does not

mean I have given up on the game.

My freshman year of college, I took tennis at the University of Memphis and had a teacher that had played my stepmother and knew my dad. Needless to say, she didn't like me too much because my stepmother had beaten her years back. I was discouraged for some time and was given another reason to justify my not playing on scholarship.

I still play and hit the ball, not like I used to or could if I played in

college. I've never stopped enjoying the game. I have stopped telling myself I made the right decision because I don't think I did.

There is nothing wrong with regret and it's not necessarily a horrible thing. I've done so many things that, if I took the scholarships, I would not have done. But I have drawn my line and declare my choice a regret. And if I have one regret in my life, I think I will do just fine.

SMOKING, from page 6

"You have to want to [quit]. That's the bottom line," Laura Rieger, junior, English and secondary education, said. "I know I want to but I'm not ready." She quit for a year and a half using the tapering method. She had received free packs of cigarettes she did not really like, so it was easier for her not to smoke them.

"I would go as long as I could without [a cigarette]. I also wanted to quit at the time," said Rieger.

According to Ross, the most important part of the quitting process is the beginning. "The first year is the most critical year. Any type of drama or stress leads you back to smoking again," she said.

In essence, it does not matter which method smokers choose, as long as they have willpower needed to defeat the nicotine cravings and ultimately conquer their smoking habits.

Rieger said the addiction and the habit make it so hard to quit. "It's a double edged sword; nicotine and being creatures of habit," she said.

MIRTHDAY, from page 1

Co-chairs Shanna Carpenter, senior, communication, and Kimberly Edwards, sophomore, communication, are two of the people in charge of organizing the event from UPB.

"It's been a huge effort. A lot of coordinating had to be done," Carpenter said.

Edwards said Student Life and UPB spent around \$90,000 on Mirthday activities, including planning for the event. "With everything it takes to plan this event, it can be a really hectic time," she said.

Planning for Mirthday begins in January, with weekly meetings throughout the spring semester, Carpenter said.

Local bands will be performing throughout the day beginning at 11 a.m. and running until 6:30 p.m. with the main acts beginning at 7 p.m. Xpressions, Rusted Fait, and The Ultraviolents are a handful of acts scheduled to appear.

"This is the first year where we've

had local bands playing all day, plus a main act performing at night," Carpenter said.

Student organizations will also set up booths with carnival games for students to play all day long, Carpenter said. "Over the years, there's been pie throwing, and people have also gotten tattoos," she said.

Edwards added, "We want original games that students can play. Student Life will be judging the booths and the organization that comes up with the most creative game, the best decorated booth and the best booth overall."

The organizations with the best booth will earn \$500, while \$250 will be awarded to the organization for the best decorated and most original game.

Carpenter said that this is the third Mirthday she has been involved with UPB in planning. "Our goal is to make sure the event gets bigger and better every year," she said.

Since student activity fees fund

Mirthday, Carpenter said students can take part in this occasion without spending any money. "The point is for the students to have fun and not worry about paying anything during this day," she said.

Carpenter said all universities have similar traditions where a day is set aside for carnival games or other activities. "Mirthday is a tradition that has been held longer than all the students have gone to this school," she said.

Edwards called Mirthday an event where students can take a break from their classes and have a day to themselves.

Carpenter warned that parking lots C and D will be blocked off for Mirthday.

"Parking isn't usually a problem, but people have been disappointed that they couldn't park in their favorite spot," she said. She feels students should understand the inconvenience of having to park further away for Mirthday.

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night life

Coming inside
The Current
on April 24

College Republicans welcome Schweizer



Matt Johnson/ The Current

Author Peter Schweizer talks to a group of students Thursday in the Millennium Student Center about his new book "Do As I Say (Not As I Do): Profiles in Liberal Hypocrisy." His appearance was sponsored by the College Republicans. Schweizer is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

AMAZON, from page 4

Some of the terms users have tagged Mr. O'Reilly's didactic tome for tots include: falafel; authors who did win Polk awards; windbag; jingoism; childish name-calling.

What this means is that a user looking for cookbooks on Middle Eastern cuisine will likely retrieve Mr. O'Reilly's advice book for children.

This would be a mystery to those not well read enough to be aware of some of O'Reilly's well publicized past sexual indiscretions wherein falafel plays an important role (and to this day, I can no longer touch what used to be one of my favorite ethnic dishes). Fans of jingoism will find this book as well.

Amazon also allows registered users to write and enter their own book reviews. It's in this area that the culture battles really rage.

Readers of these user reviews must sift through ideological strikes and counter-strikes to uncover the rare neutral analysis.

Amazon reviewer Christian Conservative American (an alias) states: "Sure, Bill lies here and there, but that's okay. It's all for the greater good, (whatever that is).

And best of all, with this book, our children will be efficient, obedient servants to corporate executives by learning that things like rap music and video games distract them from their minimum wage 9 to 5 dead-end jobs."

Even if one agrees with the negative sentiment, it's still difficult to determine from the review if The O'Reilly Factor for kids sucks or not.

In cases like this I'd recommend professional reviews from main-

stream publications. The library book review journal, Booklist, gives this reasoning why you should or should not plunk down \$15 for this book: "... there's nothing wrong with most of the commonsensical advice O'Reilly dispenses; ... do well in school, don't take drugs, and avoid the wrong friends. But barf alert for the occasional instant-message inserts in which O'Reilly uses common IM terms to explore how two typical teenagers, one a 'pin-head' and the other a 'smart operator,' would react to various situations. Bill O'Reilly talking kids' language: SMHID (scratch my head in disbelief)." (Ilene Cooper, 8/1/2004, p. 1868).

What is The Rogue Librarian's personal advice? Do well in school; don't take drugs; avoid the wrong friends.

SGA DEBATE, from page 1

Carpenter added that she feels that Brian is one of the most organized comptrollers she has ever seen. "I think that Brian has done wonderful job. I would like to continue to move forward with that," she said.

Rails then asked how they each suggest handing out the same amount of money as this year when they will likely be asked twice as much next year.

Carpenter said it would be "an extraordinarily difficult situation." She said, "The only way to get that done is that it's going to have to be done very carefully with an extreme amount of caution and an extreme amount of unbiased."

Garavaglia said he would look at programs that meet their missions and give money to those programs first. "When a program is over with

and they don't meet what they say their mission was then, the organization has got to go because we have limited resources," he said.

Rails also asked them for their personal opinions regarding recent statements made by Curator David Wasinger in which he says he would like to oversee how SABC funds and other funds are spent on programs held at the UM-System campuses.

Carpenter said, "I feel very strongly about this; I do not feel that they should be involved. These are student fees, (the money) belongs to us as students. I would not back down on this; I believe this is something the comptroller should stand up to."

Garavaglia said the allocations are the students' money and the students should decide where is allo-

cated. He said that he does not even like when his faculty advisors try to "mess" with his organizations' money.

"If we were messing with state dollars, he could come in and take some, but this is our money. We paid it in, we should put it back out," he said.

Koechig agreed with Carpenter's and Garavaglia's opinions that the money was ours to spend on what we wanted, but Helton and Koechig seemed to differ in their opinions about campus apathy.

Helton focused on looking at what can be done for students and to not "force" them to be involved.

And Koechig discussed how he thinks the new residential halls will help "break the sentiment of this being a commuter campus."

EARTH DAY, from page 5

For a quick, easy overview of the science behind a variety of environmental issues, the Union of Concerned Scientists Web site, www.ucsusa.org, is a good place to start.

Among the issues it covers are global warming, invasive species, energy, food, security issues and nuclear topics.

One of the best things about its Web site is that, besides providing both overview and in-depth scientific background, it makes good, practical recommendations for solutions.

Another alternative to the gas pump is biodiesel. Biodiesel is fuel made from renewable resources and is used in vehicles with diesel engines.

Used cooking oil is a favorite of biodiesel advocates but the cars can run on a number of sources. Vegetable oil that had been a waste product becomes a fuel source. Germany has made a big commitment to biodiesel and has a significant percentage of biodiesel vehicles already on the road.

The United States lags behind in this trend, but the good news for us here in Missouri is that the national headquarters for biodiesel is located in Jefferson City. On its Website www.biodiesel.org, you can find

lots of fascinating info about this alternative fuel and the vehicles that use it.

One of its current projects is the Cool Fuel Road Trip, which is being broadcast on some TV stations. It follows an Australian guy as he crosses the U.S. in his alternative fuel car, while talking about alternative fuels.

How about using a bike as alternative transportation? Metropolis St. Louis is planning two Earth Day themed 12-mile bike rides from the riverfront to the Chain of Rocks Bridge. The rides take place on June 5 and 6. Visit their website for more info <http://www.mstl.org/metropolis/projects/earth-day-bike-ride.html>.

How about environmentally safe disposal of electronics and computers? The components of electronics can contain environmentally harmful substances that can be recycled. On Apr. 23, there will be an Earth Day Electronics/Computer Collection event in Chesterfield. Visit the Web site for non-profit WITS, www.witsinc.org, for information on the recycling event.

How about food as part of the good stewardship of the Earth? The Green Market, a local organic farmer's market, is part of the St.

Louis Earth Day festival. While organic foods might let you avoid consuming big doses of pesticide in your food, how good is it for the environment if the food is shipped across the country or from out of the country?

To avoid this, skip pricey organic grocery stores and go straight to the farmers. More people are talking about not just natural foods but locally grown foods, an approach that uses old family farm techniques, which is what organic farming really is.

These people employ more local farmers and save on fuel for shipping. You would have to adapt your eating to seasonal produce but doesn't that make the first strawberries of spring that much more special?

A number of local farm associations, and even restaurants, support this approach.

One restaurant that is connected to this movement is Riddle's Penultimate Café. Its Web site, www.riddlescafe.com, has information on local growers and the whole concept of the return of the family farm.

Let us make this Earth Day about looking for solutions and taking action for the Earth's problems, and not just parades and festivals.

A world of opportunity

Applications due April 28 at 5 p.m. for the following positions:

- Managing Editor
- Business Manager
- Advertising Director
- News Editor
- Features Editor
- Sports Editor
- A&E Editor
- Copy Editor
- Web Editor
- Photo Director
- Design Editor



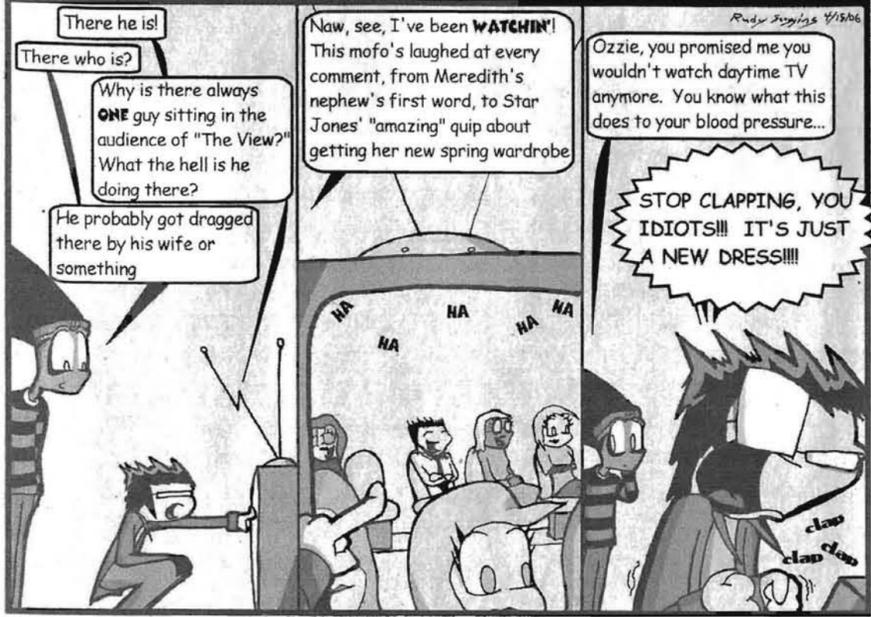
Priority given to applications turned in by May 6 at 5 p.m.

- Proofreader
- Staff Writers
- Staff Photographers
- Page Designers
- Cartoonists
- Columnists
- Advertising Representatives
- Business Associate
- Practicum Positions also available

The Current is seeking applicants for the 2006-2007 school year. Please submit a cover letter and résumé to Adam D. Wiseman at 388 MSC. Call 516-5174 or email current@jinx.umsl.edu for more information about the positions.

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

"The View. Serious Business."



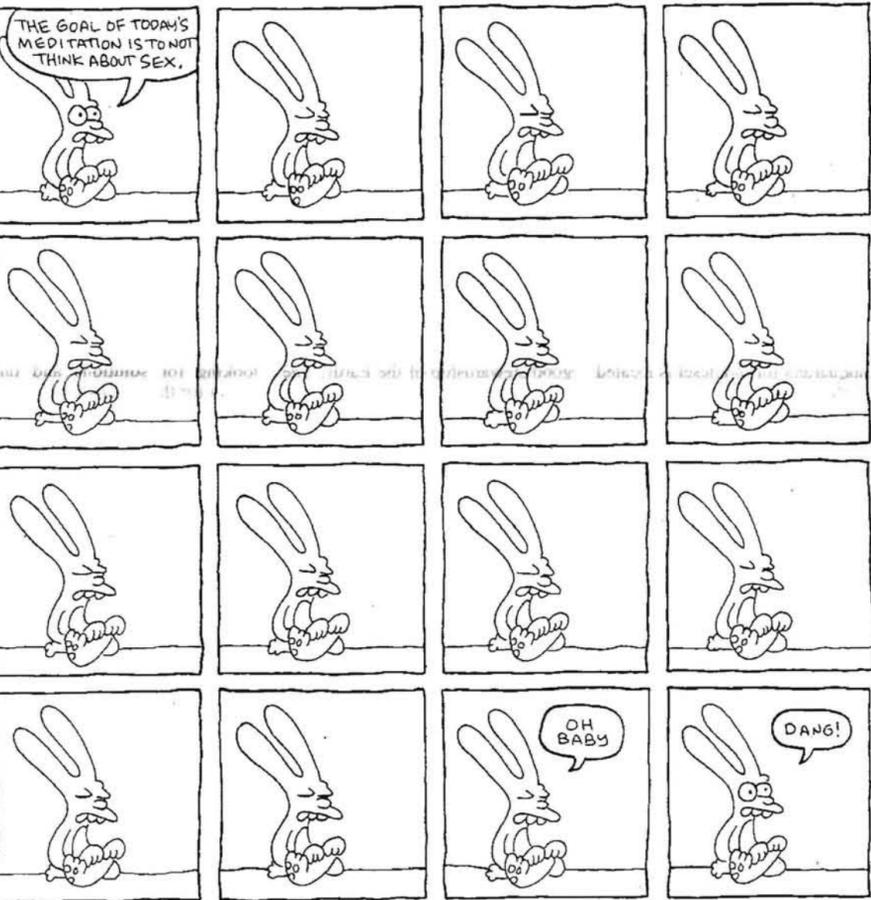
SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart



LIFE IN HELL

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Mountain goat
- Bumped into
- Appear
- Wedlock
- Possess
- Model
- Tennessee's state flower
- Japanese money
- Saffron-and-rice recipe
- Jazz type
- Turnpike payment
- Audacious
- Contradiction in terms
- Swindle
- Big brass
- Pump up the volume
- Sunshade
- Quaker address
- Reverberate
- Hot spot?
- Spud
- Raggedy -
- Footnote abbr.
- Eden
- Skin opening
- Bric-a-brac holders
- Prognosticator
- Pen point
- Heart of the matter

DOWN

- Mischievous tyke
- Sheepish remark
- Mess up
- Saw through?
- Principal
- Early bird?
- Of earthly life
- Protection
- Count
- Mini-plateau
- Mid-month
- date
- "Sad to say, ..."
- English channel?
- Aerobic maneuver
- Radiu's neighbor
- Forbidden
- Release, in a way
- Diamond
- Head island
- Comic-book supergroup
- Diplomacy
- Shell game need
- Library patron
- A type of bike
- Unforeseen problem
- Knight's backup
- Reed instrument
- Grow weary
- Bedouin
- Noshed
- Rage
- Vast expanse
- "Guinness Book" suffix

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 1.PC-cillin Antivirus:\$15.00, 2.Webroot-Spy Sweeper:\$20.00, 3.Turbotax-Basic:\$10.00

Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

3			1	6		7	
4	7			5			3
			2	4		5	8
8	3			1			4
		6		3	4		9
	9		6			7	2
		9	3			1	6
1	8			7			2
2			6	1	9		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★
 ★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities are also favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice - some of it good - but the decision must be yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

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Rational Numbers by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.

1	2	3	4	
5		6		
	7		8	9
10		11	12	
13	14		15	16
	17	18		19
	20			21

ACROSS

- One-seventh of 4-Down
- 8-Across minus 21-Across
- Digits of 10-Down and 12-Down scrambled
- One more than 21-Across
- Same digit repeated
- Seven more than 15-Across
- One-half of 11-Across
- The first digit is four times the last digit
- One-half of 5-Across
- The first digit is three times the last digit
- Two times 20-Across

DOWN

- Digits of 11-Across reversed
- Ten more than 16-Down
- Digits of 1-Across reversed
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- 15-Across plus 19-Down
- One-third of 2-Down
- Two times 14-Down
- Digits of 6-Down rearranged
- Two times 9-Down
- One-fourth of 1-Down
- 1-Down minus 10-Down

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Take Care of Your Body!

Fact: The risk of an unplanned pregnancy is high for those who drink heavily, or don't use birth control methods on a regular basis.

Fact: Drinking any amount of alcohol while pregnant may cause your child to have brain damage.

Fact: 50% of women become pregnant when they don't want to.

If you're a woman between 18 & 44, educate yourself about effective contraception and decreasing your chances of having a child affected by alcohol.

Join our study and if eligible, you will receive a \$50.00 gift card.

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BIRTHDAY

2006 APRIL 19
by the msc lakes

7 PM nina sky &
reel big fish
7 local bands all day

