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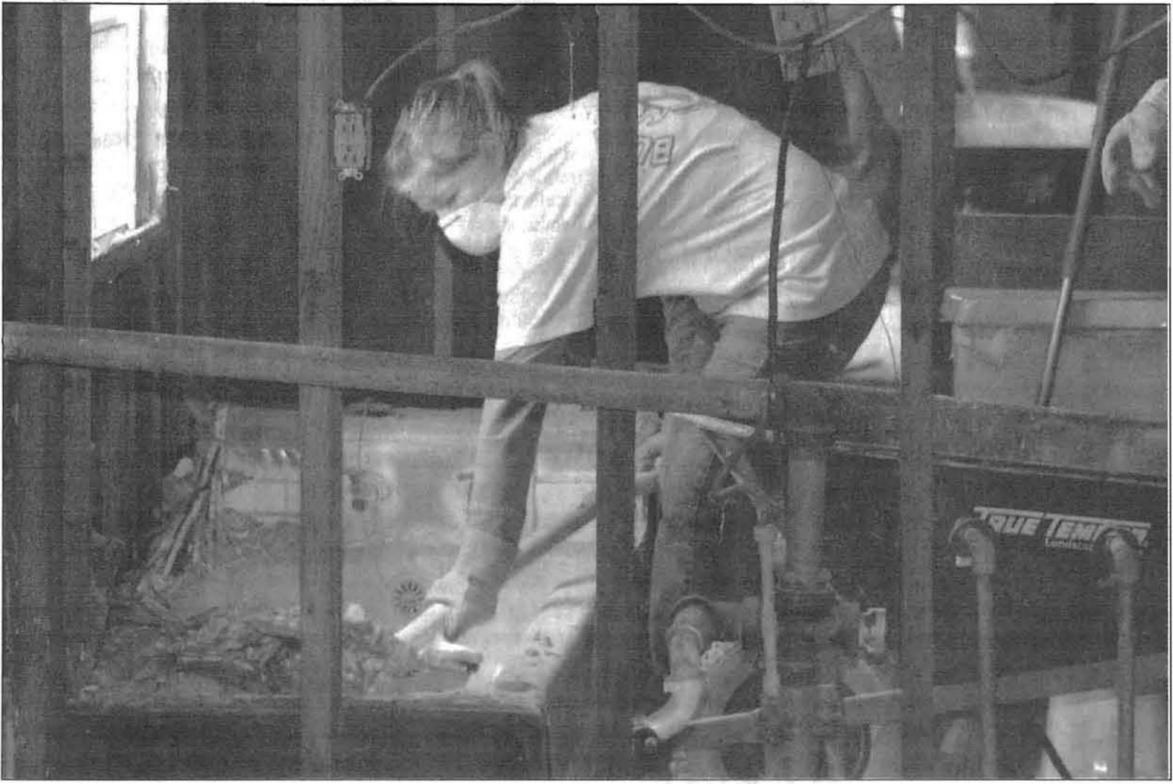
Your source for campus news and information



Checking out the 'Inside Man'
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THECURRENTONLINE.COM UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

WORKING HARD IN THE BIG EASY



ABOVE: Kelli Zike shovels debris from a bathtub in New Orleans, La. A group of 80 UM-St. Louis students traveled to the Big Easy for Spring Break, joining 1,000 others doing relief work through Campus Crusade for Christ.

Students spend Spring Break in New Orleans helping relief efforts

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATE DROLET
 Managing Editor

Sixty UM-St. Louis students literally bled, sweat and cried for New Orleans over Spring Break. They also hammered, hauled, pried, ripped and wore goofy-looking facemasks.

Campus Crusade for Christ, a national faith-based group, organized a five-week relief effort to correspond with college Spring Breaks around the country. A UM-St. Louis group traveled to the Big Easy last week to lend a hand in rebuilding the storm-ravaged Gulf city.

The majority of students who volunteered said they felt surprised by the scope of the devastation. Stephanie Lagermann said she did not expect the intense feelings that came with the experience.

"It actually broke my heart and got to my emotions," she said. "I figured that by going down there, I would help and be okay with it. But I'm not. It's still in my heart and it is driving me crazy that I am unable to help more right now. I will go back, though."

Jamie Schilkraut, another UM-St. Louis volunteer, echoed these sentiments.

"It was shocking to see how little has been done to help these people," she said. "I feel that a lot more could have been done in eight months. There are still houses completely untouched since the storm. Seeing destroyed furniture and clothing inside the houses that look exactly like the day [residents] left is very strange."

Student volunteers lived near St. Bernard Parish in a warehouse ("Light City") owned by a local minister. The facility housed the 1,000 workers, all of



whom slept on cots, used portable bathrooms and took showers in outdoor tents during the week.

"When I first arrived in the warehouse, I wanted to cry," Schilkraut said. "It was a broken down, moldy, dusty warehouse with cots so close together you could cuddle with the person next to you if you wanted. There was no privacy, the showers were in tents and trailers, and they were mostly cold."

"But once I saw the shape the [local] houses were in and realized that people who lived there are now living in these conditions for much longer than a week, I felt lucky. I ended up having a great time and

was even a little sad when I left my cot for the final time."

Volunteers woke up around 6:45 each morning to the sound of squeaking cots and bleary-eyed workers ready to help the city recover. Stepping carefully around the mosaic of bedding, people grabbed a quick breakfast outside (to avoid rodent infestation, no food was allowed indoors), gathered demolition equipment, and donned thick boots and heavy jeans despite the balmy New Orleans weather.

see NEW ORLEANS, page 8

Express Scripts site cleanup will cost \$6 million



While digging at the future home of Express Scripts, construction workers found debris, including tires, cement blocks and some asbestos. The cost of removal is estimated at \$6 million.

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
 News Editor

While the first steel beams and girders were placed last month for the new Express Scripts headquarters on the UM-St. Louis campus, the construction project will now cost an additional \$6 million.

While digging at the site near Florissant and Geiger Roads, construction workers from NorthPark developers found debris.

"They're digging, and they discovered some stuff, some old tires and chunks of cement," Chancellor Thomas George said. "The more they dug, the more stuff they came up with that is not your normal, nat-

ural landfill." Asbestos was also among the waste material found.

Since December 2005 when digging first began, construction workers have found almost 250,000 cubic yards of waste material.

"It appears that about 140,000 [cubic yards] got dumped, but it's not such good waste," he said.

Currently, NorthPark developers are hauling the waste away, but George was unsure where they would take it. Construction has slowed down, but George said he expects minimal to no delay in opening the headquarters by spring 2007.

see CLEANUP, page 7

Board of Curators passes 5 percent tuition increase

Student fees, housing rates will also rise

BY MIKE SHERWIN
 Editor in Chief

A UM-St. Louis student taking 12 credit hours each semester will pay \$268 more next year after the UM Board of Curators approved a 5 percent tuition increase and a 2 percent increase in student fees.

At a meeting in Rolla on March 24, the board increased tuition for in-state undergraduates to \$227 per credit hour, beginning with summer semester 2006.

In-state graduate students will pay \$276 per credit hour.

The five percent tuition increase is lower than the 5.8 percent hike planned earlier this year by UM President Elson Floyd.

Floyd attributed the lower tuition increase to Gov. Matt Blunt's proposed 2 percent increase in state appropriations and lower than expected expenditures for faculty and staff benefits.

Floyd said preliminary estimates of those benefits called for a cost of \$15.8 million, but the actual cost will be \$8.8 million.

A portion of the tuition increase will fund a 2 percent increase to the amount of money set aside for faculty and staff salaries.

Despite the tuition hike, board documents show the UM System projects a \$5.2 million deficit for the 2007 fiscal year.

Maria Curtis, student representative to the Board of Curators, said that while she was pleased that Floyd's proposal was less than expected, she remains concerned about state funding for higher education.

She said the University's operating budget has remained largely flat, tuition continues to rise because state appropriations have been largely stagnant over the years.

see TUITION, page 3

SGA candidates for next year announced

BY MIKE SHERWIN
 Editor in Chief

After the disqualification of one of two applicants for Student Government Association president, Nick Koechig will run uncontested for the top SGA position in the election April 19-20.

Students applying for the SGA president, vice president and comptroller position had until 5 p.m. on Friday to submit an application to the Office of Student Life.

After the deadline, Bill Costas, the chair of the SGA Election Committee, announced there were two candidates for both the vice president and comptroller positions.

Danielle Bratton and Thomas Helton applied for the position of vice president and Shanna Carpenter and Joe Garavaglia are running for comptroller.

Orinthia Montague, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said one other student applied for president but was disqualified.

According to the SGA's election rules, candidates must be enrolled students taking at least three credit hours, be in good academic standing with at least a 2.0 grade point average and have no prior felony convictions.

Koechig, junior, political science, came to UM-St. Louis in the spring of 2005 after studying at St. Charles Community College. He served as parliamentarian for SGA in 2005 and was elected a student senator in the fall of 2005. On the senate, he served

SGA Candidates

President

- Nick Koechig

Vice President

- Danielle Bratton
- Thomas Helton

Comptroller

- Shanna Carpenter
- Joe Garavaglia

Debate: April 13, SGA chambers, 1 p.m.

Election: April 19-20, through MyGateway

on the budget and planning committee and the bylaws committee.

Koechig stepped down as a student senator after the Associated Students of the University of Missouri chose him as the organization's first federal intern. He moved to Washington D.C. in January and has worked on lobbying for federal funding of UM System projects, and more recently on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

In addition to his duties with ASUM, Koechig is working as an intern for Sen. Jim Talent.

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SPORTS UPDATE



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Bulletin Board

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

Put it on the Board: The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, 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.

Mon., April 3

Monday Noon Series: The Crusades

Thomas F. Madden, professor of history and chair of the Department of History at Saint Louis University, will discuss "The Crusades" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5699 or click here for more information.

Tues., April 4

Irish music

Irish musicians Ronan Browne and Peadar O'Loughlin will discuss "Irish Music Today" at 12:30 p.m. in 205 Music Building. The event is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

Wed., April 5

Mexican Migration

Victor Zuniga, dean of the School of Education and Humanities at the Universidad

de Monterrey in Mexico, will discuss "Mexican Migration: New Destinations in the U.S.-Community and Symbolic Impacts" at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room open to the public. A reception will begin at 7 p.m. Call 7299 for more information.

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Today and tomorrow there will be workshops on creating a professional poster in the SGA chamber from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please email URS@umsl.edu to register.

Gender Studies

Don Conway-Long, professor of anthropology at Webster University in St. Louis, will discuss "Violence in the Fields: Masculinities, Social Sciences and Terrorisms" at 3:30 p.m. in 302 Lucas Hall. The program is free and open to the public. Call 5581 for more information.

"LGBT-Affirmative Spirituality"

A panel of spiritual leaders representing Reform Judaism, Lutheranism and Unitarian-Universalism will explore spirituality from a gay-positive perspective at noon in 314 MSC. The seminar is free and open to the campus community. Call 5008 or e-mail milesja@umsl.edu for more information.

Thurs., April 6

"The Life of David Gale"

The Catholic Newman Center will observe Social Justice Awareness Month with a viewing and discussion of the movie at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House at the MSC. Call (314) 385-3455, visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~newman> or e-mail cnmsl@aol.com for more information.

Conversations and Controversy: An Interfaith Dialogue

Stem cell research and religion will be discussed in the SGA chamber at 12:15 a.m. This is a

free event with free food. For more information, contact the Catholic Newman Center at 385-3455.

Fri., April 7

IS Distinguished Lecture

Vallabh Sambamurthy, the Eli Broad Professor of Information Technology at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., will discuss "Enterprise Agility and Information Technology management: The CIO's Manifesto" at 4 p.m. in 003 CCB. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. Call 6267 or e-mail dena@umsl.edu to RSVP for more information.

Sat., April 8

Observatory Open House

This free event is open to the public and will be held at the Richard D. Schwartz Observatory on South Campus at 8 p.m.

Missouri Day of Percussion

The Percussive Arts Society will present the 2006 Missouri Day of Percussion from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the MSC. Tickets are \$5 for the general public. Call 5980 for more information.

Graduate School

An information session will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the University Center room 64. Contact 6807 for more information.

"Celebrating Women: Reinventing Ourselves After 50"

A day of free workshops, health screenings and performances, for women over 50, will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Boxed lunches are available for \$5 to those who pre-register. Call 5974 or click here for more information.

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

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Campus Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis police department between March 17, 2006 and March 31, 2006. Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

March 19 - Drug Violation - 613 University Meadows

A student and one visitor were smoking marijuana in an apartment. The police department was notified and upon contacting the suspects at the apartment, they admitted to smoking marijuana and supplied the officers with the paraphernalia they were using. Both suspects were identified, arrested and released from custody on two state summonses, each, one for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. The student was later removed as a resident of the University Meadows and also faces disciplinary action through Student Affairs.

March 20 - Property Damage/Stealing Under \$500 from a Vehicle - Parking Lot JJ - Villa Residence Hall

Between 6:30 p.m. on March 19 and 12:20 a.m. on March 20, person(s) unknown broke a window out of the victim's vehicle, and stole her purse from inside. The purse contained a cell phone, cash, credit cards and a checkbook.

March 20 - Stealing Under \$500 - Plaza Garage Third Level

The victim reported that sometime between 9:20 a.m. and 12:07 p.m., person(s) unknown entered her vehicle and stole a book bag, math book, baby clothes and some candy.

March 20 - Destruction of Property

Parking Lot T - Marillac Hall

The victim reported a vehicle window was broken out. However, it appears that entry was not gained. Nothing was missing from inside.

March 20 Stolen Auto - Parking Lot S - Music Building

The victim reported his vehicle stolen from Lot S. The vehicle was stolen sometime between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The victim's vehicle was a 2002 Dodge Stratus, and glass was found on the parking lot where the victim parked the car. The car was recovered the next day in Bel-Ridge. It had a window broken out and the ignition was removed. There are no suspects in this incident at this time.

March 20 - Property Damage/Attempted Stolen Auto - Parking Lot R - Stadler Hall

The victim reported discovering her window was broke out of her 2005 Dodge Stratus vehicle and the ignition had been tampered with. This incident occurred between 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

March 21 - Property Damage/Attempted Stolen Auto - Parking Lot V - Marillac Hall

The victim reported discovering her window was broke out of her Dodge Neon vehicle and the ignition had been tampered with. This incident occurred between 5:15 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. Nothing was taken from the vehicle.

March 22 - Assault Third Degree - Millennium Student Center

Two custodians working the midnight shift got into a verbal argument. During the argument, one of them pushed the other at midnight in the Millennium Student Center. No injuries were sustained, and both employees continued to work as usual. This matter is going to be

referred to their supervisor, and may possibly be referred to the St. Louis County Prosecutors Office for review of any criminal charges.

March 23 - Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot JJ - Villa Residence Hall

The victim reported that between 10:00 p.m. on March 22 and 6:30 a.m. on March 23, person(s) unknown stole his wallet with cash and credit cards, along with 65 CDs from inside his vehicle.

March 23 - Recovered Stolen Property - Parking Lot X - Villa Residence Hall

A face plate to a stereo CD player was found on Parking lot X. It was later learned that this item was stolen from a parked vehicle on Lot X. The vehicle was not locked, and the vehicle had been ransacked. No other items were taken.

March 23 - Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot X - Villa Residence Hall

Sometime between 9:30 p.m. on March 22 and 6:50 a.m. on March 23, person(s) unknown stole items from inside the victim's vehicle.

March 23 - Recovered Stolen Auto - Parking Lot X - Villa Residence Hall

A 1996 Ford Taurus reported stolen in East St. Louis, Ill. was recovered on Parking Lot X. This vehicle had some of the stolen items from our vehicles inside. It was apparently used to hold/transport the stolen items. This vehicle was processed by our department and later released back to the owner.

March 23 - Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot X - Villa Residence Hall

The victim reported that her vehicle was broken into overnight. At the time of this report, the items stolen are unknown.

March 24 - Property Damage - Building #9 - University Meadows

It was reported that sometime overnight, person(s) unknown broke out some of the outside lights and globes from Building #9.

March 29 - Stealing Over \$500 - Touhill Performing Arts Center

A laptop computer was stolen from the stage area in the building. The computer was left on a table Tuesday night,

March 28, and when the victim returned on Wednesday morning, the computer was gone. The computer was entered into the REJIS computer system as stolen.

March 30 - Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot X

The victim reported that sometime between 7 a.m. and 11:55 a.m., unknown person(s) stole the Missouri license plate tabs from his vehicle. The vehicle was parked on Lot X.

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College of Nursing is closer to choosing a new dean

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

The College of Nursing is closer to choosing a new dean after nursing students and professors met with the last two of three candidates during their visits to campus in March.

Juliann Sebastian, dean and professor of advanced practice nursing at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing in Lexington, and Linda Finke, director of the Area Health Education Center for Northeast Indiana, visited UM-St. Louis on March 13 and 14 and March 21 and 22, respectively.

Sebastian and Finke, along with Toni Bargagliotti, the nursing dean from the University of Memphis who

visited four weeks ago, were narrowed down by the search committee. During their talk with students, candidates tried to show the nursing program why they should be the next dean.

Sebastian has been involved in undergraduate nursing studies for 19 years, but for the last nine years, she served as director of graduate studies, in addition to being a dissertation adviser.

While Sebastian has more recent experience with graduate education, "I continued to keep connections with the undergraduate students on campus," she said.

"Students are why we do this," she said, referring to why she joined the field of nursing.

Sebastian initially heard about the

dean vacancy through a colleague who nominated her.

After her visit to campus, she said, "From what I've learned about UMSL, it is very positive. It has an excellent nursing education program, and I was very impressed with the people of the campus. Everyone seems eager to take wonderful students and move the program forward. I can tell the students have pride in the school."

The other candidate, Finke, has 30 years' experience in nursing education. In addition to her current position, she has been an associate and acting dean at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and associate dean for graduate programs at the Indiana University School of Nursing. Finke did not reply as of

Sunday night.

During the candidates' presentations, Jennifer Russo, senior, nursing, said students' questions focused on "possible curriculum changes, obtaining more qualified faculty members in the midst of a faculty shortage [and] maintaining our high board pass rates as the NCLEX board exams are changing [and] becoming more difficult."

The chosen candidate will come to the UM-St. Louis College of Nursing, which, in the past, has had problems including a recent high faculty turnover.

However, Russo said each candidate handled past difficulties in the College of Nursing professionally. "I say that because each candidate was willing to address our recent hard-

ships but did not focus on the problems alone," she said. "Instead, they addressed our strengths as a team."

Lois Pierce, director of the School of Social Work and chair of the dean search committee, said, "Both [candidates] presented ideas on how she would begin getting to know faculty and students better as a way of developing more specific responses to the problems. No one tried to hide the problems."

Russo, also on the search committee, described her experience as very challenging, not only because of time commitments but also because students were a minority on the committee.

"It can be intimidating to express your opinions when they do not always agree with everyone else's

since it comes from a different perspective," Russo said.

She also explained that faculty and students had different concerns when interviewing candidates. Faculty asked about research and grants while students questioned candidates' views on open door communication policies and curriculum advancements.

The search committee is made up of two tenure-track faculty, two clinical faculty, three students, a staff member, one community member and one faculty member representing the campus.

The committee met with Provost Glen Cope on Thursday, March 23 to discuss feedback and impressions of the three candidates. Cope is expected to make the final decision in the next few weeks.

CANDIDATES, from page 1

Koechig is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, the Order of Omega and the Pierre Laclède Honors College Students Association.

Koechig is running on the Leadership, Engagement, Aspiring for greatness and Determined to exceed (LEAD) slate with Helton and Carpenter.

Helton is running for vice president as Koechig's running mate under the LEAD slate. Helton, sophomore, political science, has served since May as board chair for the Student Legislative Association, the UM-St. Louis chapter of ASUM.

Helton was sergeant-at-arms for the SGA last year, and he is this year's vice chairperson. He is also a member of the PLHCSA and Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow.

Helton said he sees the vice president position as an 'untapped resource' within the SGA, and hopes to maximize the position's potential.

"The vice president's biggest responsibility is leading the SGA's committees, which can have a lot more power than they have had," Helton said. "Committees should act as a liaison between the SGA assembly and the administration."

Bratton, senior, communication and political science, has served as

vice president of the Associated Black Collegians and as a member of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity. After graduation, Bratton plans to attend law school.

Bratton said she wants to reach out to commuter students looking for more traditional university life. "I think we need to build awareness that UMSL doesn't have to be just a commuter campus," she said.

Bratton said she hopes to be vice president so she listen to other students' concerns and serve as a link between students and university officials.

Garavaglia, senior, accounting and management, has been elected a student senator for the past three years and currently serves as chair of the student senate. He was president of the Golden Key honor society last year, and now serves as the organization's treasurer.

Garavaglia said he would like to change students' perceptions of the comptroller position. "The comptroller is often seen as kind of mean," he said. "I'd like to be seen more as someone working with student organizations to help them, rather than penalizing them."

Garavaglia graduates in May, but will be pursuing a master's degree in

higher education administration.

Carpenter, senior, mass communication, rounds out the LEAD slate as a candidate for comptroller. Carpenter, an international student from Trinidad, has been involved with the University Program Board for the past three years, and currently serves as one of three co-chairs of the organization. She has also served on the Chancellor's Task Force on the Status of Women.

Carpenter graduates this May, but will return in the fall, seeking a master's degree in mass communication and media studies.

Carpenter said her involvement at UPB would help her if she is elected comptroller. "As comptroller, I feel you do an extraordinarily important job in helping student organizations work within their budgets. I've had a lot of experience doing that at UPB, since we've dealt with such large budgets," Carpenter said.

If elected comptroller, Carpenter said she would step down from her position as co-chair of UPB, although she will remain a member of the organization.

Campaigning begins on April 4, and the candidates will participate in a debate on Thursday, April 13 at 1 p.m. in the SGA Chambers.

TUITION, from page 1

"The bottom line is we have less money coming from the state," Curtis said. "There's a direct correlation between tuition increases and declining state support."

The board also approved several academic supplemental fees, and increases to housing and student activity, facility and health fees.

Students in the College of Business will see the most dramatic increase, with a new \$32 per credit hour academic supplemental fee for all business courses. A student taking 12 credit

hours of business will pay an additional \$384 each semester.

The board also approved a \$10 per credit hour science lab fee and a \$25 media studies lab course fee.

However, curators did not vote on a \$10 per credit hour infrastructure fee proposed at the board's January meeting.

Curtis said many thought the infrastructure fee would have simply been a supplemental tuition increase since it applied uniformly to all four campuses.

Other fee increases include a 12

percent rise in on-campus housing, and a 25 percent increase to residents of the Mansion Hills complex.

In addition, the board approved a new \$2 USA Today Readership Program fee. Students approved the fee in a campus referendum in the spring of 2005.

The program will provide students with approximately 900 copies of USA Today, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York Times on Monday through Friday during the fall and winter semesters, beginning next fall.

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OPINION

Staff Viewpoint

St. Patrick's Day is best celebrated indoors

PATRICK FLANIGAN
Staff Writer

Some people have complained recently of the "Americanization" of St. Patrick's Day. I really never paid much attention to it. With a name of Patrick Eugene Flanigan, you do not have to make excuses for having a pint or three anytime, let alone St. Patrick's Day. The other reason I did not pay much attention to it is because on St. Patrick's Day, I was always inside an Irish pub. Sitting in a dark booth filled with friends and pints, singing traditional Irish songs, I guess I did not see anything for someone to complain about.

This year, my first in St. Louis, I unfortunately did. In my opinion it starts with American parade culture. I was at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade with my son and although he is only 14 months, I do not know if I would take him to one

again. Do not get me wrong, he has seen someone drink a pint of Guinness, but in moderation. And the bagpipes, fire engines, and marching bands are fun. There is also nothing wrong with everyone wearing green. St. Louis is known for wearing the colors. But for some reason he was in a rare bad mood that day and I think he might have gotten the vibe I was feeling. By the time bagpipes were blowing down Tamm Avenue, many parties were officially "shite-faced."

They say everyone loves a parade but I am not sure I do. It is hard to be certain why beads are so popular at parades. It can be that beads are so much fun at Mardi Gras that people want to include them in every parade or it could be simply a fact of "here are some beads left over from Mardi Gras, we can use them at the St. Patrick's Day parade." As beads were peppering the crowd, it was hard not to wonder that if you can shoot your eye out with a BB gun, what kind of

damage can a whole string of beads do?

I also have not seen a commitment to getting completely bombed in such a large group of people since I used to go to Tijuana when I was in college. When you see people dragging coolers for eight blocks, you should know something is up. And it was not only coolers. People were drinking out of pitchers, and even backpacks filled with beer. I saw one guy drinking Guinness straight out of the can that is designed specifically to be poured into a glass. I was so astounded that I took a picture of the guy so I could show my friends back home because I knew they would not believe me. Unfortunately, he was not the only one either.

I halfway wanted to commend him for at least drinking Guinness. I asked him "doesn't it taste bad drinking it out of the can like that?" His replied that the taste was not that important and that he could not find a

cup. The beer snob in me acknowledged that in the city where Bud is king, obviously good taste is not an important part of the St. Louis beer equation, or at least not this day.

Another thing I could not believe I saw was a group of older women who decided to forgo wearing green and went with white tops as they splashed around in a portable hot tub. It was not so much the Mardi Gras inspired "Girls Gone Wild" but rather "Attention Starved Bar Hags Sink to New Low."

Somehow a parade in America is not a parade unless there are beads, booze, and boobs.

Many hours after the parade ended, I returned to Dogtown and Tamm Avenue was littered with about a thousand dollars of recyclables. The bars in Dogtown were doing good business and the streets were filled with people in both pre and post vomit status. Seamus McDaniel's which I thought was a

good pub, actually ran out of Guinness by 6 PM. Their ATM was also out of order. I am definitely no business genius, but if I ever did own an Irish pub, it would be a "real" Irish pub and we would never be out Guinness and money to be spent on Guinness on St. Patrick's Day.

I never did make it to a real Irish pub on St. Patrick's Day and I never heard a traditional Irish band play "Whiskey in The Jar" or "Dirty Old Town." Instead I went home and said, "OK, I see what people are saying", and then called my friends who were at the pub.

St. Patrick's Day parades started in America as a way for Irish to express their love for their heritage but also how they missed home. I now know how they felt. And for the people that complain that St. Patrick's Day is just another excuse for Americans of any heritage to drink until it comes out the top, I know how they feel too.

Letter to the Editor

Delivery trucks block access to disabled parking spots on campus

I recently pulled up to the disabled parking lot (behind the CCB), only to find all vacant parking spaces blocked by vending trucks. This wasn't the first time.

I reported this last semester as well. This will make about the fifth time I've reported it, although it has happened way more often than that. I have been late to class often because of this, since it takes me three times as long as anyone else to make it up that hill from the lower parking lot. This causes disruptions in my class and is not fair to my classmates nor my professors as well.

Furthermore, I am uncomfortable with being known as "the girl with the leg who's late to class often" by my teachers, as I am sure the disruptions complicates and frustrates the teachers' assessments of how strict or lenient they should be with me. I have to isolate myself enough as it is, approaching all my teachers at the beginning of each semester to tell them I may have unique obstacles from time to time because of a disability. I try to be as invisible as possible when I can, and walking in 15 min late, in pain so much I can't concentrate, is not helping me blend in at all, nor is it helping my grades.

The first time this year that I called about the vending trucks, I was directed to the transportation department. The woman who took my call stated that the vendors need close access to unload their trucks.

This is an unacceptable answer. Disabled students don't have rights until it is inconvenient for others. We have rights all the time.

I was also told by the vendor that I should wait for him to come out of the building and, if I ask him, he'll move his truck for me.

This is also an unacceptable answer. I am not a second-class citizen; I do not need to ask his permission to park in the parking spaces that I have a legal right to and he doesn't. I

do not need to wait for him to finish his job before

I have access to the parking. It is disabled parking 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The second and third time I called, I got the run-around. Nobody knew whose department should handle it. I got frustrated and gave up, for the time being.

The fourth time I complained, I finally got to meet the transportation supervisor, who apologized for both the truck and the woman's comment, and said he would take care of it. That was last November. I had given the campus from fall 2005 until now to correct this situation, and it is still not corrected.

This is why recently, as I pulled up and saw a row of empty spaces blocked by the Coca-Cola truck, I parked my car long-ways in front of the truck, blocking him in, and called the police. I had to call the transportation department several times before any officers responded, and the police said they only got the one call from dispatch. I called Disability Services, and they also called the police for me. It wasn't until then that the officers received the dispatch. A representative from the transportation department, who I'd also called and asked for, never showed nor called back.

Meanwhile, the vendor had gotten very belligerent with me. While I was on my phone trying to make these calls, he got in his truck and revved his engine loudly so I couldn't hear. I got in my car and shut the door, muffling the sound, so the vendor lay on his truck's horn loudly while I was trying to tell dispatch to send an officer. He then began shouting and jeering at me, saying I don't care about my classes if I'm there (quite the opposite!), and made other comments that he had the right to be there because he had a job to do (I'm assuming as opposed to me being on disability and therefore jobless?).

The vendor also told me several times that he has something "worked out" with UMSL and he has a legal right to park there to unload. The latter comment, that he has a legal right to be there, is a lie. It is illegal for him to park there, vendor or no. The former comment the vendor made, that he has something "worked out" with the UMSL transportation faculty raised my concerns. Who is "working out" deals with vendors that discriminate against specific UMSL students? Does this have anything to do with why it took several calls to the transportation department requesting the police before they were actually dispatched? This should be investigated immediately.

The good news is, the police were very helpful and considerate. They were objective. They enforced the law. They also confirmed that it is not okay for the vendors to park their trucks blocking handicapped spaces. I spoke with Sergeant Marvin Blake, Sr. Sergeant Blake said that if any of my professors or faculty need verification from him that I was at this parking lot for this purpose this morning (approximately 9:45 to 11:10 am), to contact him. He also has all of the personal and vehicular information about the vendor and the truck. I definitely felt that these officers handled the situation without prejudice at all, one way or the other.

I am writing this to formally request the UMSL staff stay on top of this and to take further efforts to prevent this from happening from this day forward. The transportation department alone has had all year to correct it; it is time for a more proactive approach. Even if discrimination isn't consciously intended by the faculty, this "looking the other way" regarding handicapped parking is passive discrimination; a form of discrimination sometimes more harmful than its active complement.

Suzanne Roussin

Science Column

Looking at the evolution of the human eye



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

While the scientific data supporting evolution overall is overwhelming, anti-science critics fixate on parts of the evolutionary puzzle that we do not yet completely understand when voicing their objections to evolution. One of their favorite puzzles is the evolution of the eye.

What would cause an eye to evolve through random mutation and natural selection? Even Darwin himself said that the idea that the human eye came about in that way seemed "absurd" because it was so complex. Yet Darwin also concluded that if the numerous small changes from a simple, primitive eye to a complex eye could be demonstrated, the absurdity would be eliminated.

Even the toughest scientific puzzles can fall to persistence and the advancement of techniques.

Scientists at European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) used molecular fingerprinting to compare the genes associated with the light-sensitive rods and cones of human eyes and light-sensitive cells in the brain of a primitive marine worm. This evolutionary study was published in the scientific journal *Science* in October 2004.

Detlev Arendt and Jochen Wittbrodt and their research associates were not entirely surprised to find that the light-sensitive cells of our eyes had an evolutionary origin in brain tissue. Even now, our brains have cells that are sensitive to light. These light sensitive brain cells play a role in regulating our daily rhythms. However, the rods and cones in our eyes had an ancient origin from light-sensitive brain cells, which over the course of evolution became part of an eye that provided vision.

The researchers looked at

"Platynereis dumerilii," a marine worm considered a "living fossil" that still resembles early ancestors that lived up to 600 million years ago. The researchers focused on this species after Arendt noticed that the shape of light-sensitive cells in the brains of the marine worm had a

resemblance to the rods and cones in the human eye, which hinted at a common evolutionary origin.

The researchers compared the molecular fingerprint of DNA from light-sensitive cells from the marine worm with human eye cells. Similar molecular fingerprints for cells from different species indicate a common ancestry. One of the researchers, Kristin Tessmar-Raible, found that the light sensitive molecule opsin found in the worm had striking similarity to the opsin molecule found in the rods and cones of the human eye, providing strong evidence of a common ancestry.

The researchers also made another interesting discovery. They found that early animal ancestors have two types of light-sensitive cells. In humans, one of these cell types, the ciliary cells, evolved into the rods and cones of the eye's retina, while the other cell type, the rhabdomeric cells, remained in the brain. Curiously, for most other animal species, the situation was reversed, with the rhabdomeric cells becoming part of the eyes and the light-sensitive ciliary cells remaining in the brain.

With the puzzle of how the complex eye could have arisen addressed, evolution adds to its already enormous collection of supporting evidence. Opponents of evolution lose a favorite talking point in promoting a form of a theory that evolution replaced in the mid-nineteenth century, at least in the world of science.

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

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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.

You can make *your* voice heard in a letter to the editor!

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Under Current

by Adam Wiseman
Photo Director

If you could use a voodoo doll against anyone, who would it be and why?



Muhammed LaMotte Junior, Social Work

Kim Jong-il, because he might try and take over the world and if he does, I want to control him.



Kelcy Siddall Junior, Economics

Barry Bonds. Maybe if I take out his knees, then he would not break the home run record. That whiny SOB.



John Waterhouse Senior, Electrical Engineering

I would have Chuck Norris. I am getting so sick and tired of hearing about him that I am about to throw down a round house kick on that Voodoo Doll.



Damien Johnson, Senior, Criminal Justice

All of my political opponents. It would be nice to have them out of the way.

UMSL's Most Influential - Part 5 of 5

Stories by Melissa McCrary • Photos by Adam Wiseman

Curtis was natural choice for student curator

Some college students are involved in numerous campus organizations or take on significant roles while going to school. For Maria Curtis, graduate student, public policy, her biggest challenge came when she was appointed as the student representative to the UM Board of Curators.

Curtis was appointed as a student representative to the Board of Curators in July 2005 by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt. A student from one of the four campuses is selected every two years for the position. Curtis replaced Shawn Gebhardt from UM-Kansas City.

"I am an advocate for students to the board," Curtis said. "My main focus has been making sure that the student voice is heard at every level of the decision making process."

Throughout the past semester she has worked hands-on with all the campuses, President Elson Floyd, Chancellor George, the Student Government Association, the Student Senate and other organizations and committees.

Traveling and attending hundreds of meetings that often last multiple days are only some of her job expectations.

Curtis said that attending UM-St. Louis for the past four years, staying involved on campus, working with other student organizations and meeting people have not only helped her with her current position, but have also prepared her for her future.

"I knew I wanted to go to college in St. Louis," she said. "I started looking at different colleges and me and my dad came to UMSL for an open house."

"When I came here everything felt right," Curtis said. "I met with Todd Taylor, who was the previous admissions counselor for the Pierre Laclède Honors College and that same day I met with Dean Bliss. He basically said 'we like you, you're in, here's your scholarship.'"

Before beginning college here, Curtis lived in Kansas City, where she attended Grandview High



Maria Curtis, graduate student, public policy, serves as the student representative to the UM Board of Curators.

School. "In high school, I was in the National Honor Society, the Thespian Drama Society, the Varsity swim team and did a lot of acting in plays," Curtis said.

Curtis lived on campus at UM-St. Louis for three years. She lived in Normandy Hall, Villa, Villa North and was a Residential Advisor for Villa North from 2003 until 2004.

She has also participated in the UM-St. Louis choir for five semesters, was involved in the Student

Senate for three years and worked in the Office of Development for a year.

One reason Curtis likes UM-St. Louis is because she likes the numerous opportunities to be involved, make a difference, learn, grow and excel. In the future, she would like to see more students become involved in SGA and see the growth of strong student leaders.

"One of my favorite moments was the first board meeting here on UMSL campus. It was special

because I saw a lot of people who were really supportive of me. I really appreciated it," she said. "Reinhard Schuster made a sign that said 'Welcome Maria Curtis.' With my appointment there have been so many people who have supported me professionally and personally."

Because of her past determination and her academic excellence, she received the Harriet Woods Scholarship and was on the dean's list.

"I took an American politics

course with Professor Terry Jones my second semester, and he is one of the reasons that I started being interested in politics, the government and student involvement," she said.

Curtis is currently a graduate student at UM-St. Louis pursuing a master's degree in public policy.

After finishing her graduate degree, she said she will probably work as a fund-raiser for a non-profit organization.

see CURTIS, page 7

Chancellor, scientist and jazz pianist

George is a talented UMSL leader

In September 2003, Thomas George brought his professional academic background and his innumerable accomplishments to UM-St. Louis when he became the University's seventh chancellor.

George began his college education at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics in 1967. A year later, George received a master's degree in science and two years later received a doctorate of philosophy in theoretical chemistry from Yale University.

After receiving his degrees and at only 29 years old, he became a professor of chemistry at the University of Rochester in New York. He worked on the faculty of the University of Rochester for 13 years.

For six years, George was the dean of natural sciences and mathematics at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He worked five years at Washington State University as provost and academic vice presi-

dent. Before becoming chancellor at UM-St. Louis, he was the chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"The thought of becoming a chancellor was the farthest thing from my mind," he said. "In 1985, after being at Rochester, deanship became available at Buffalo. I applied for it and got it."

He said there were many things he had to do in the process of applying for and becoming chancellor. One of the processes involved in becoming a chancellor is going through and presenting oneself to a search committee.

Having knowledge of UM-St. Louis, realizing that it is an excellent institution and being appealed to coming back to urban life were some of the factors that motivated him to apply for chancellor.

When George was appointed as UM-St. Louis chancellor, he was extremely excited and did not waste any time with beginning his position.

"I spent a weekend here before I began my position. The first evening, they had a bonfire in front of the MSC in August. I visited several weekends before the semester started," George said.

"I experienced a lot of people who wanted to meet me. I was bombarded by different groups telling me about the University," George said. "It is fun to be a part of something that is growing so quickly. I enjoy and like all the faculty and students."

As chancellor, George's responsibilities include overseeing all the academic and administrative operations.

This includes fundraising for different educational programs, assisting with the legislator to raise state funds for education, managing what takes place on campus and, most importantly, working closely with a campus of 2,500 faculty members and over 16,000 students and a \$175 million annual operating budget.

see GEORGE, page 7



Gallery 210 debuts Kansas City artist's video installation

BY HALEI PAIGE
Staff Writer

"The Janus Continuum" debuted for audiences last Friday in the Exhibition Room A at Gallery 210.

After receiving CD samples of Anderson's work, curator Terry Suhre was blown away. He knew that Kansas City artist, Barry Anderson would be well received at the gallery. Suhre introduced Anderson and described the pleasures of working with Anderson as an artist.

"He had a clear idea and laid out a concise plan. It was one of the smoothest installations we have had," said Suhre.

Anderson describes his most recent video installation as, "A freezing of time, pulling out moments from mundane life."

The high-definition video installation mixed choreographed footage with digital cartoon-like animation. The piece served as space where real and virtual worlds collide. Anderson's work supplied an underlined meaning that ventured the Roman god Janus, the god of gates, doorways, beginnings and endings. Janus' double-faced imagery symbolically represented transition and change.

The recent video installation stemmed from some of Anderson's previous work.

Curator and author of "Barry

Anderson's The Janus Continuum" essay, Elizabeth Dunbar replied, "The Janus Continuum marks a leap into new territory."

Anderson discussed with audiences some of his earlier photography, transitioning him to his interest in video installation.

Anderson shared excerpts from such pieces as "Toned Silver Print," digital imagery he used to create a feeling of new and old photography. He shared "Archival Ink Jet Print," his earlier work depicting clouds from the window of an airplane.

After graduating, Anderson spent 10 years as a photographer. His photography with digital imagery led him back into artist form of work and back

to school. While in graduate school, Anderson started working on a video and began to see if he could put his pictures into motion.

"I fell in love with video," Anderson said.

Anderson said that at first, putting his images into motion failed.

"It was like eye candy, I was new and had to back up and look at everything around me as if I was a beginning film student," described Anderson.

He shared with audiences "Trash Can," one of his earlier works with video. A video depicting a street fair with people walking and passing in front seemed to create the possibility of drama, Anderson said.

Anderson told the audience that he wanted his videos to be like a painting. He wanted them to be able to see thousands of photos going by the viewer at one time.

"The Pain of Poison," Anderson's first installation was shot in Paris and depicted a fish eating bread. He described to audiences that his pieces are about moments of time that are all around us.

Anderson discussed the evolution of his recent work and hoped that the audiences were able to gain a sense of where his new work derives. Audiences were able to watch "The Janus Continuum."

The video installation will run through May 6.

THE CURRENTS

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the week's
best
bets

Stem Cell Research
and Religion

Join representatives from the major religions and hear what their faiths think about this controversial topic. The discussion will take place on April 6 from 12:45 to 2 p.m. in the SGA Chambers in the MSC. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call Tracy Van de Riet at 385-3455.

Poetry Reading

Brooklyn-based poet Joy Katz will deliver a reading of her poems on April 4 at 7 p.m. in Gallery 210. The reading is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Master of Fine Arts writing program, the Department of English and the Center for Humanities. For more information, call 6845.

Film Review

Spike Lee's 'Inside Man' is about more than a heist

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

Director Spike Lee's bank heist film "Inside Man" is the best film in years from the legendary filmmaker. It is less directly political or introspective than some of the great director's films, but still showcases Lee's effortless mastery of his medium, even for what appears to be entertainment. It is perhaps his best effort since "25th Hour," an unjustly overlooked gem that Lee released shortly after 9/11.

While "Inside Man" succeeds as a thriller, it is not a flawless film. Even in its crime film storyline, the filmmaker raises more questions than he answers, leaving filmgoers with some knotty, unsolved puzzles after the credits roll, including the reference in the title.

Denzel Washington plays New York police hostage negotiator Keith Frazier, who is called in when police are faced with a standoff with a handful of criminals who have taken 50 hostages in a bank. At first, bank robbery seems to be their goal but the police quickly deduce that something besides a run-of-the-mill robbery is going on.

Headed up by mastermind and spokesperson Dalton Russell (Clive Owen), who seems to anticipate the police force's every move, the criminals appear very well organized, intelligent and seem to have all the right equipment.

However, the goal, and their real overall plan, is less clear. To add to the puzzle, the head of the bank, Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer), calls in a high-powered facilitator of secret and possibly shady transac-



Photo courtesy www.image.net

Clive Owen (RIGHT) plays Dalton Russell, a clever bank robber and leader of his cunning team in "Inside Man," a tense hostage drama from director Spike Lee.

tions named Madeline White (Jodie Foster) to discreetly retrieve an embarrassing document from a safe deposit box in his besieged bank.

That something other than an ordinary bank robbery is underway is clear to both the police in the story and to the audience but what exactly is taking place is a persistent puzzle.

The criminals are too thorough and clever in other areas for us to believe that this is a situation spinning out of their control but the police in the film make repeated ref-

erences to hostages' situations gone wrong like "Dog Day Afternoon" or even the Munich Olympic Israeli hostage situation while trying to unravel the motivations.

Spike Lee never reveals all the answers to his puzzles in this film. The director shows his skill as a filmmaker time and again, such as in foreshadowing the ups and downs of the suspense story with an open shot that has a roller coaster as its back drop.

He intercuts shots of hostages

being quizzed by police after the event and sequences of the crime unfolding, shuffling the timeline occasionally. Criminal leader Clive Owen speaks directly to the audience at the start of the film but even midway, his words still contain mysteries.

Periodically, the criminals in the bank release a hostage to carry a message. While Lee makes pointed observations about prejudice when Sikh hostage is treated roughly by the police, most of this kind of commen-

tary is more oblique in the film, never cracking its action film thriller surface.

"Inside Man" is as filled with stylish visual elements, and clever framing and camera angles, making the film a treat for the eyes. Sharp, witty dialog also makes the film crackle, especially in the exchanges between negotiator and lead criminal.

The top-notch cast delivers some powerful and layered performances, which always keep us guessing about hidden agendas.

Washington and Owen are especially good in their scenes together. Jody Foster is mostly chilling as a cold, charmingly efficient facilitator, and there is a shiver of recognition when Lee frames one scene to evoke images of Foster's role in "Silence of the Lambs." Christopher Plummer is elegantly aloof, yet awkwardly nervous, as the banker who finds himself in the unaccustomed position of lesser power when trying to retrieve his secret document.

In strong supporting roles, Chiwetel Ejiofor provides a needed dimension by voicing questions as negotiator Frazier's partner, and Willem Dafoe adds the other side as a police captain impatient with the negotiation and silently critical of Frazier's methods and abilities.

Director Spike Lee certainly delivers a well-crafted, clockwork, action film that features fine acting performances from a sterling cast. On that level alone, this is his best recent film. Still, his abilities as a filmmaker means that those ends he leaves dangling are clearly a deliberate choice to keep you thinking long after you have left the theater.

The unresolved questions at the end of the film suggest that the film has a larger point for the director.



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Everything isn't always black and white in old films

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

If you are a film fan, it is worth exploring old, classic films. With a history stretching back 100 years, there are a lot of great films that came before the current movies. Great examples of cinema art transcend their time period.

When many people think of older films, they may think of films that go back to the 1980s or 1970s, often thinking earlier films might be technically primitive or poorly made. Not so. Take a look farther back, to when films were shot in black and white. Rather than being a limitation, great filmmakers of this time turned black and white film into an asset, making visually striking films with imagery that cannot be done in color.

If a few elements of these old films look familiar, just remember this: they did it first. These are the originals and later films imitated them, just as a rash of films copied "Pulp Fiction's" overlapping stories. You may have heard of a few classic films, such as Casablanca, Citizen Kane or maybe Charlie Chaplin's City Lights. Rather than recommend the most familiar classic films in black and white, here is a list of five more must-see great classic films in black and white. These classic films from the 1920s to the 1950s include a silent and a foreign film. If you are a film fan, you will enjoy these films.

The Third Man
This post-WWII mystery has a lot of sly comedy, some terrific action, and fabulous shadowy film noir photography. The film stars two acting greats, Joseph Cotton and Orson Welles - the man who directed Citizen Kane.

They star in this tale of a writer in the then-Czechoslovakia just after WWII, looking for a missing acquaintance who may be involved with black market smugglers. Some of the most memorable images on film, copied repeatedly in other films, plus a great score to underline the ironic humor and the action.

Rashomon
One of director Akira Kurosawa's masterpieces, this Japanese language film is the other must-see, besides his "Seven Samurai." The innovative structure of a tale of a crime, re-told from various viewpoints, is one of the most influential in films. As in many Kurosawa films, the great Japanese actor Toshio Mifune stars. If you have never seen Mifune or a Kurosawa film, you should make sure to see this one.

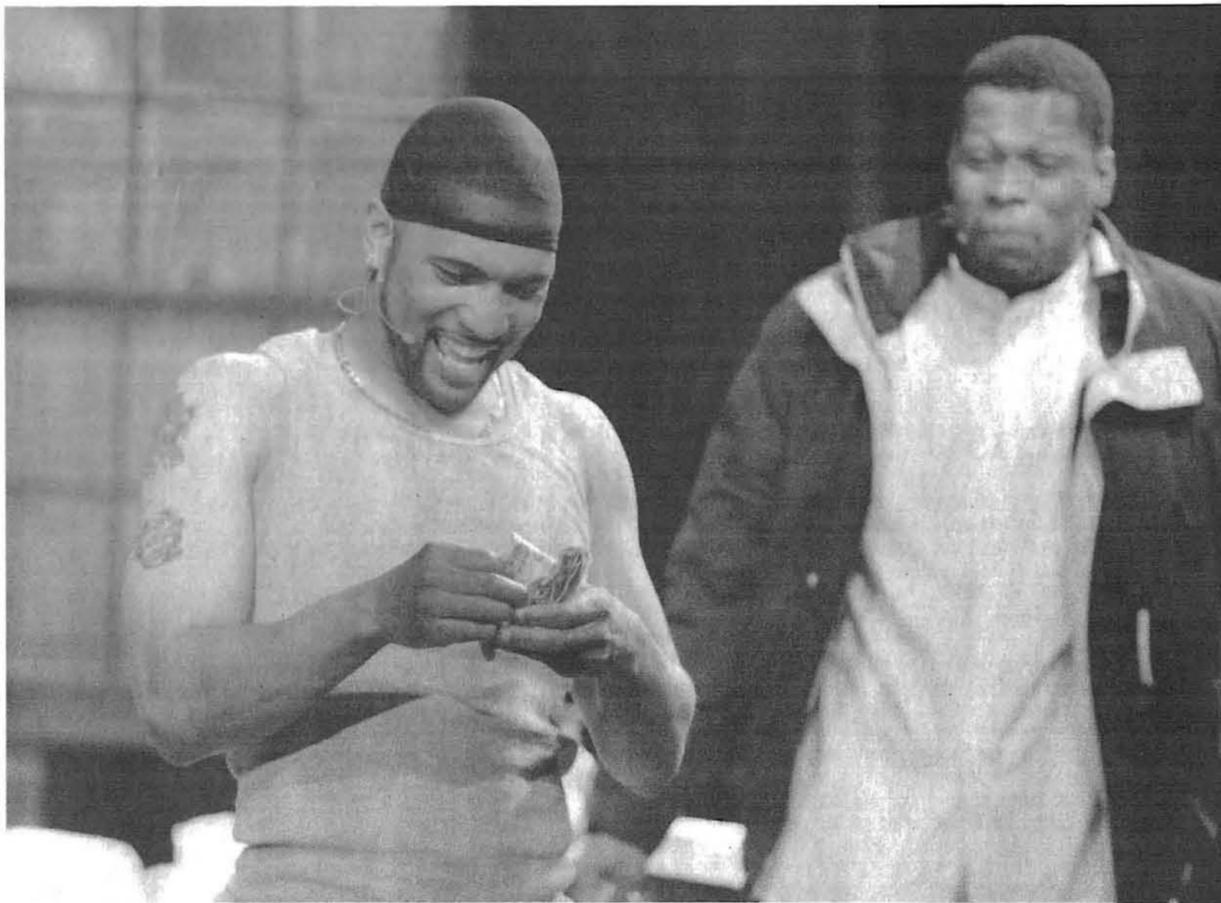
Our Hospitality
Directed and written by and starring Buster Keaton, this silent comedy about a 1830s New Yorker caught in a Hatfields and McCoys-type Southern feud is a good showcase of Keaton's style of amazing physical comedy and sly, clever visual humor.

UMSL play is off to strong start on first weekend

RIGHT:

Kyle Robinson (left) and Kelly Henton perform in "Topdog/Underdog" on Saturday night at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The play won its author, Suzan-Lori Parks, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2002. UM-St. Louis professor Adeniyi Coker, Jr. directed the play, which will continue through next weekend with performances on April 6, 7 and 8.

Mike Sherwin/The Current



Film Review

Peace breaks out when generals aren't looking in 'Joyeux Noel'

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

As evening fell on the first Christmas Eve of World War I in 1914, while the generals were off celebrating the holiday, leaving the troops hunkered down in their muddy, frozen trenches, something miraculous happened - peace broke out.

It sounds like unrealistic fantasy but this is exactly what happened at several points along the western front of the first world war. There Germans invading France faced off against an allied force of French and British troops across a no-man's land littered with fallen soldiers.

As darkness fell on Christmas Eve, the soldiers on both sides ate and drank their meager holiday fare and began to sing Christmas carols. Across the gap between them floated the same songs from the other trenches, although the words were different. A competitive trading of songs slowly changed until

the enemies were singing together.

Eventually, an unsanctioned, one-day armistice broke out, with soldiers on all sides emerging from their trenches. This famous event, recorded in song and poetry but now fading from common memory, like all of this remarkably brutal war, is the basis for the historical narrative film "Joyeux Noel," or in English "Merry Christmas."

Told in English and in French and German, with subtitles, this wonderful, dramatic film was a huge hit in Europe last Christmas. Not only is it based on a remarkable historic event but "Merry Christmas" is a polished piece of filmmaking, beautifully photographed, well-acted and skillfully crafted, a dramatically powerful film with touches of ironic absurdity.

The Christmas armistice happened at several points along the German-Allied lines but the film's story focuses on a particular point where Scottish and French trenches faced the German lines in rural France. The film uses a

very human approach, creating three story lines for German, French and Scottish characters, including the three local commanders. Alex Ferns appears as Scottish leader Gordor, Daniel Bruhl as German commander Horstmayner, and Guillaume Canet as French lieutenant Audebert. Large portions of the French-made film are in English, with perhaps more time spent on the Scottish and German storylines.

In the British trench, the focus is on two Scottish brothers (Steven Robertson and Robin Laing) and their Anglican priest (Gary Lewis), who is serving as a medic and corpsman, from the same village and all in the same trench. Their stories touch on patriotic visions of glorious war giving way to tragedy, and of the role of faith in wartime.

The story of the French side centers on their commander Audebert, a young father and the son of a powerful French official, who has a tense relationship with his stern father. Young Audebert is far more concerned with the men under

his command than the career ambitions his father wants him to embrace.

Ironically, in the isolation of their trenches, the French troops are nearly as ignorant of their British allies as their German enemies, as they are not even aware that the men in the neighboring trench are Scottish rather than English, until the holiday thaws the barriers between them all.

On the German side, the story thread focuses on a German opera star, a tenor named Nikolaus Sprink (Benno Furman), drafted into service. His Swedish singing partner and wife Anna Sorensen (Diane Kruger) attempts to pull him away from the front line, if only for the night, by arranging a concert for the German crown prince (Thomas Schmauser).

While the German crown prince is serenaded by both opera singers in an opulent palace for his Christmas Eve, the German soldiers shivering in their thin coats in their muddy, rat-infested trenches are sent Christmas trees, by the clueless central command, in an

absurd effort to life their spirits.

When Sprink returns to his fellow soldiers to sing to them as well, his voice and song float out across no man's land to enrapture the soldiers on all sides. Soon music from all sides leads them to stop shooting, for this night at least.

Director Christian Carion, whose first film was the excellent "Girl From Paris," skillfully interweaves the various storylines, so that we are drawn into the lives of the characters.

The acting is first rate, creating one compelling scene after another, as the film explores the tragedy of the war and the ironies that led to this particular peculiar moment in history.

"Joyeux Noel" (Merry Christmas) is a beautifully photographed, carefully-crafted, well-acted, first-rate historical film. It is well worth your time and the effort to read a few subtitles. It works both as compelling storytelling with unforgettable characters, a little historical reminder, and a commentary on war in general.

In the full swing of things ...



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

Kris Whitfield, sophomore, communication, connects with a pitch during the first game of two against McKendree College Wednesday afternoon. The Riverwomen lost the first game 10-2 and won the second game 5-2.

Sports Briefs

Morgan, Votrian named athletes of the month for March

Josh Morgan, senior, undecided, and Danielle Votrian, junior, physical education, were named Student Athletes of the Month for March.

Votrian, from O'Fallon, Ill., plays shortstop and third base for the Riverwomen softball team. She led the softball team batting .364 and had a team high of 24 hits and 14 RBIs last month. She placed second in runs scored and doubles with the Riverwomen. In the team's home opening tournament against Iowa Wesleyan, Votrian's single in the last inning of the game knocked in the winning run.

Morgan, from St. Louis, is a pitcher and plays outfield for the Rivermen baseball team. Because of an injury during March, Morgan was limited in playing time, but still managed to hit .316 with two home-runs and three RBIs in six games. As a pitcher, he went 2-1 during the month of March.

Riverwomen split with McKendree

The Riverwomen softball team split a doubleheader against McKendree College Wednesday evening at UM-St. Louis. After losing 10-2 in the first game, the wom-

ens' bats came alive in the second game with a 5-2 victory against the Bearcats. The Riverwomen are now 9-13 overall and 1-3 in the GLVC.

Rivermen drop two games at Indianapolis

The Rivermen baseball team lost two games to Indianapolis Saturday, April 1. After losing by one point by a score of 10-9 during the team's first game, they were scoreless in their second game and lost by 14-0.

The baseball team is now 5-13 on the season and has a record of 4-11 in the GLVC.

Men's tennis team suffers first loss of the season

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis team marked its first loss of the spring season against Graceland University by 8-1. Mike Schaaf and Stephen Pobst, a double's team, scored the only point for UM-St. Louis.

Over Spring Break at a tournament in Hilton Head, S.C., the men's team won only one out of four games played. After losing 9-0 to both Colby College and DePauw, they beat Sioux Falls by 9-0. On March 30, the men's team lost to Whitewater by 4-3.

CLEANUP OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS TO COST \$6 MILLION, from page 1

George said the University initially gave permission to Fred Weber Inc., the developer who realigned I-70 in 2001, to dump waste at the site. "It appears that it came from when the highway extension was built," George said but was unsure if the company is responsible or not.

George explained before the interstate was realigned, an apartment complex stood at the site. Debris was found from that time period, but the more recent discovery of debris was found above that layer, he said.

George added that the University planned on developing a research park at the site anyway, so UM-St. Louis would have had to deal with the matter at some point.

The \$6 million to cover the costs of removal will be paid through "brown-field" tax credits, which the state provides for projects involving economic development and job creation and retention.

George noted the use of "brown-field" tax credits is common practice in everyday business.

He said, "Six million dollars is a drop in the bucket compared to the economic development [that Express Scripts will create]."

"What the state will do is they will award these tax credits," George said.

Companies or individuals who buy the tax credits usually buy them at 85 percent to 87 percent of their value and then resell them.

George said Express Scripts will most likely buy about 92 percent of the tax credits, leaving UM-St. Louis to pay about \$1 million, but he was unsure of

the exact amount.

The University's portion would be paid through operating budgets. George explained that the University does not keep track of exactly what percentage would come from student fees or other state sources of income. "It's really hard to make a correlation between sources of funds and uses of funds," he said.

The UM General Counsel will look into the issue and report back to UM-St. Louis. George hopes the guilty party will help pay for some of the cleanup costs.

BLACK AND WHITE, from page 6

Keaton does all his own stunts and even stunt doubles others in the film. Words are hardly needed in this silent film, where action, expression and the visual tells you nearly everything you need to enjoy it. If you have never seen a silent film, this is a good one to start with.

To Kill A Mocking Bird

Gregory Peck in a classic tale and a wonderful performance. An early film about racism and prejudice that does not batter you over the head or take a superior scolding tone. It also presents one of the best pictures of a

child's eye view found in the world in film. It is an excellent screen adaptation of a classic American story.

Dr. Strangelove

Director Stanley Kubrick's Cold War masterpiece of dark humor stars the multi-talented Peter Sellers in three roles, including the title character. This may be Sellers' best film and the rest of the cast is outstanding, too. George C. Scott is terrific as a general who has lost the bigger picture. Very dry, very savage humor and still timely today, despite the end of the Cold War.

GEORGE, from page 6

"Since I first started, it has been very exciting and many interesting projects have developed. We get integrated into the St. Louis community. I have had the opportunity to get to know legislators," he said. "Everyone has been supportive. A great example of our funding and implementing of new projects is with the developing of the Express Scripts program."

He said the University works closely with different companies like Phizer, Boeing, Monsanto, the St. Louis Zoo, the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Art Museum.

"These companies supply internships to students and help fund many of our programs."

George said he stays connected to the University through the Faculty Senate, the University Assembly, the Staff Association and the Student Government Association.

"I try to go to as many activities like music, cultural and sporting events and participate in as many as my schedule will allow."

Besides maintaining a constant interest in the campus, George has had a lifelong interest in chemistry and physics. Over the years, he has had 640 articles, five textbooks, 14 published books and 180 abstracts printed. His books, articles and lectures range from topics such as laser physics and scientific chemicals.

He is currently one of the two editors of the International Journal of Theoretical Physics, Group Theory and Nonlinear Optics. In the past four

years, he has taken two trips to Korea, one to China and to Japan, in connection with various programs at the University. While in Korea, George had the chance to research and publish many papers with well-known Korean scientists.

His accomplishments in science include receiving various awards like the Marlow Medal and Prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry in Great Britain, having fellowships from the Guggenheim, Sloan and Dreyfus foundations, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Physical Society and more. He was also elected as a foreign member of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology, in 2004.

In addition to publishing hundreds of science writings, George has also been a jazz pianist and has performed at The Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis, the University of Arkansas and Nanjing University in China. "Close Your Eyes: Women Jazz Composers" is a CD that he produced and recorded.

George's main goal with working at UM-St. Louis has been to carry forth the University's mission.

"We are a public state university whose mission is to serve the state," he said. "The students and faculty are dedicated to what they are doing. We are the main driver supplying the work force in St. Louis. We need to continue to grow and evolve in quality and stature, grow in size, add graduate programs, add residential living, build in funding base and reputation."

CURTIS, from page 5

"I believe in certain non-profit organizations, but I also recognize that they are only as effective as they can gather support," Curtis said.

When Curtis is not on campus or attending meetings, she enjoys painting and working on art projects. She also likes taking care of her small guppies.

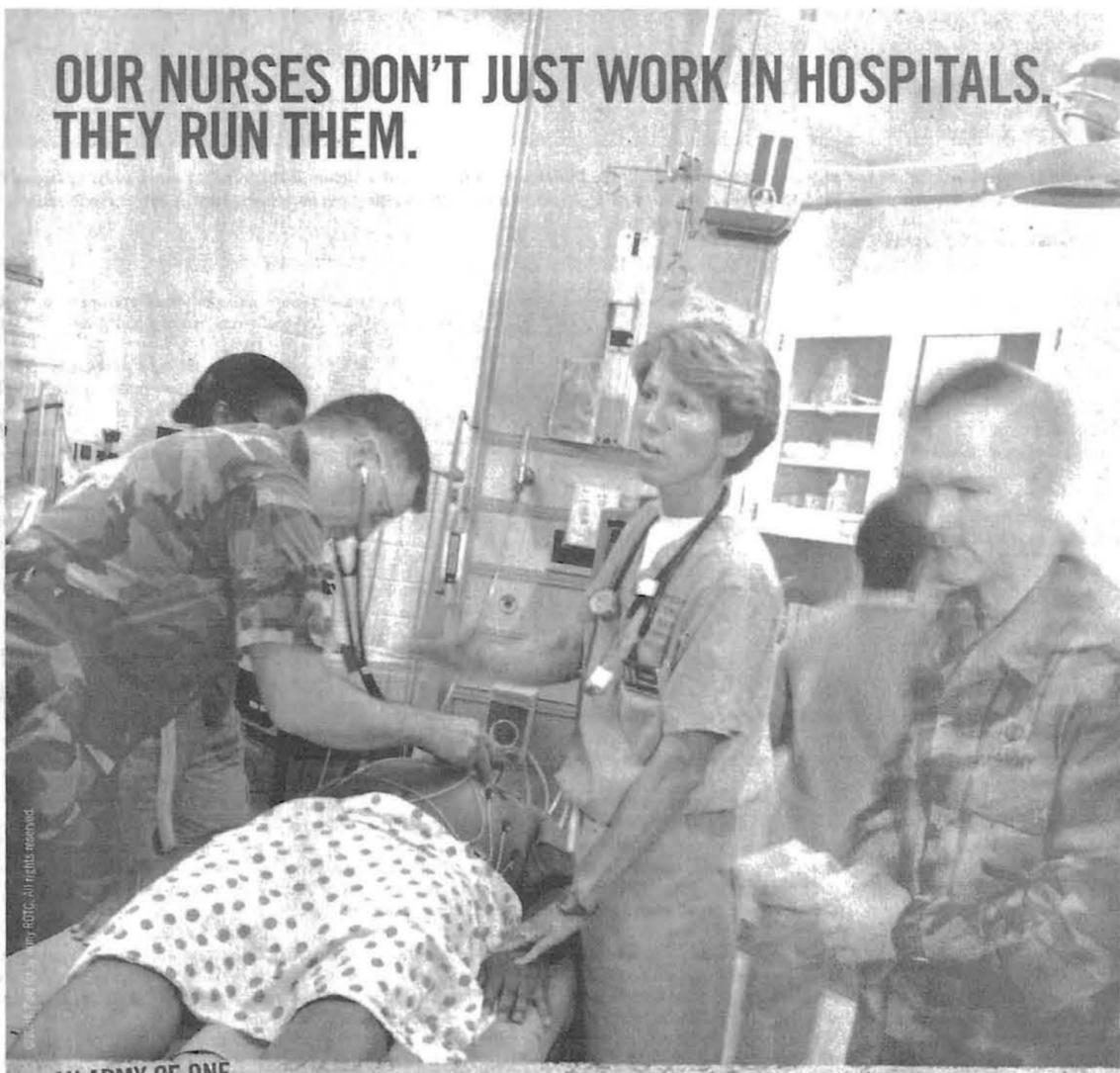
"I like fish because they are very

low maintenance, but some of mine just keep reproducing."

When it comes to her family, she is daddy's little girl.

"My father is my greatest influence because he always gives me really good advice and there are times when he just listens to me."

Other than her dad, she said that she really admires UM President Floyd.



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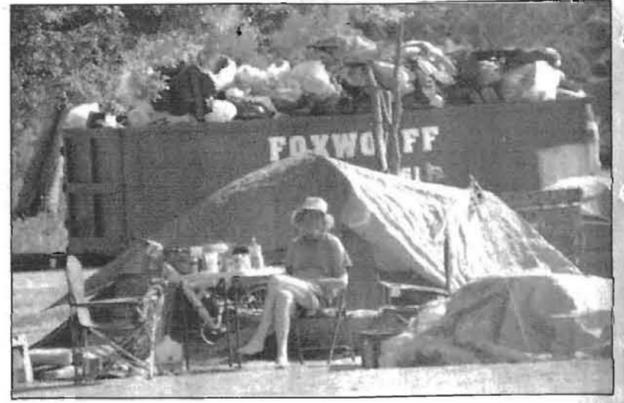
REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

Students help clear the wreckage of Hurricane Katrina over Spring Break

• Story and Photos by Kate Drolet •



Jamie Schilkraut walks away from a mold-infested house in New Orleans' lower ninth ward. Sixty UM-St. Louis students spent a week doing relief work in the Big Easy over Spring Break.



A temporary resident of New Orleans' City Park sits outside of his makeshift home. Some families have been living in the park since Hurricane Katrina destroyed their houses last August.



Emily Ewings stands in the now-desolated Lower Ninth Ward. Ewings travelled to New Orleans to do relief work with Campus Crusade for Christ over Spring Break. The group gutted mold-damaged houses, living out of a in a warehouse for the week. For more photographs and a day-by-day personal account, visit www.thecurrentonline.com.

NEW ORLEANS, from page 1

The UM-St. Louis crew left camp by 8 a.m. and started each day at Desire Street Ministries, a faith-based community organization that assigned groups of 10 to 15 students to local homes needing repair. Stretching, singing and daily instructions came first, and then students packed back into their cars and drove to individual houses.

In the medical world, doctors sometimes use maggots to eat away at flesh wounds and stimulate healing. The larvae sterilize the infected site by removing bacteria as they dine. Like medicinal maggots, student relief workers used sledgehammers to clean out houses infected with the diseases bred by Katrina.

House gutting, a labor-intensive task, involves removing all drywall, paneling, tiling, appliances, personal belongings and other damaged structures from the building's interior. Because of health risks, all volunteers had to wear face masks, protective eye wear and gloves while working.

Massive flooding occurred as a result of levee breaks during Hurricane Katrina. Anywhere from several inches to 16 feet of water engulfed houses and stood for weeks until the city could pump it out. Contaminated with chemicals, oil, bacteria, gasoline and other unsanitary substances, the water wreaked environmental havoc on the areas affected. A certain breed of black mold ran rampant in such conditions, and countless houses bear the scars of the fungal infection.

"I was very shocked to see how much still needs to be done down there," said Jamie Barbagallo, another UM-St. Louis volunteer. "It doesn't even look like it's been touched. I couldn't believe all the houses we just demolished and the businesses still not up and running."

Several students described their work sites as having three inches of caked oil stuck to surfaces from the



Student volunteers from UM-St. Louis completely gutted 11 houses last week in New Orleans. Gutting involves removing drywall, appliances, belongings and other damaged material.

Parish. The local refinery lost one million gallons of oil during the storm, much of which coated surrounding neighborhoods.

"The damage is still as bad as it was months ago," Schilkraut said. "I think that a lot of people are sick of hearing about Katrina and feel like it's yesterday's news. The truth of the matter is, Katrina is just as much in effect on people's lives now as it was eight months ago."

Groups completely gutted two to three residences in the four days of demolition, bringing UM-St. Louis' total to about 11 houses. According to one of the Campus Crusade coordinators, the government said every volunteer hour is worth approximately \$18 per hour. One student's full work week amounts to \$720. With UM-St. Louis' 60 students working 40 hours last week, this University contributed more than \$43,000 worth of labor. Over 7,000 students volunteered over the last month, which brings the labor total to about \$5 million.

describe how bad the situation is down there, but we need to try and remind others of the devastating effect Katrina had and how it has destroyed so many homes and lives," Barbagallo said.

But anyone who experienced New Orleans will say the relief cannot end there. The latest estimates indicate that Hurricane Katrina cost \$10 billion. Jeff Killebrew, New Orleans resident and marketing director for Desire Street Ministries, said he thinks it will take about 10 years for the city to fully recover.

During UM-St. Louis' first day of volunteering, students picked up trash in City Park, one of the area's largest attractions before the storm. Park owners and the Good News Camp, another Christian relief organization, opened some of the grounds so people without homes could camp for a small rental fee.

As students cleaned up litter, Naomi, a toddler living with her family in the park since January, tried to help pick up trash. Her mother came

and after brief conversation, mentioned that she had a two-week-old baby.

This information, along with witnessing the hurricane's horrific destruction firsthand, made volunteers consider the politics surrounding financial assistance in disaster zones.

"People should get together, should spend time and money to help other unlucky people overcome the disaster instead of spending those things for war," said student volunteer Dzung Tran.

Peter Lamie, another UM-St. Louis volunteer, said, "New Orleans is ignored by the government. I mean, people cannot do much on their own there. [The city] is totally destroyed and needs a lot of hands to rebuild it."

Now that the students have returned, what happens?

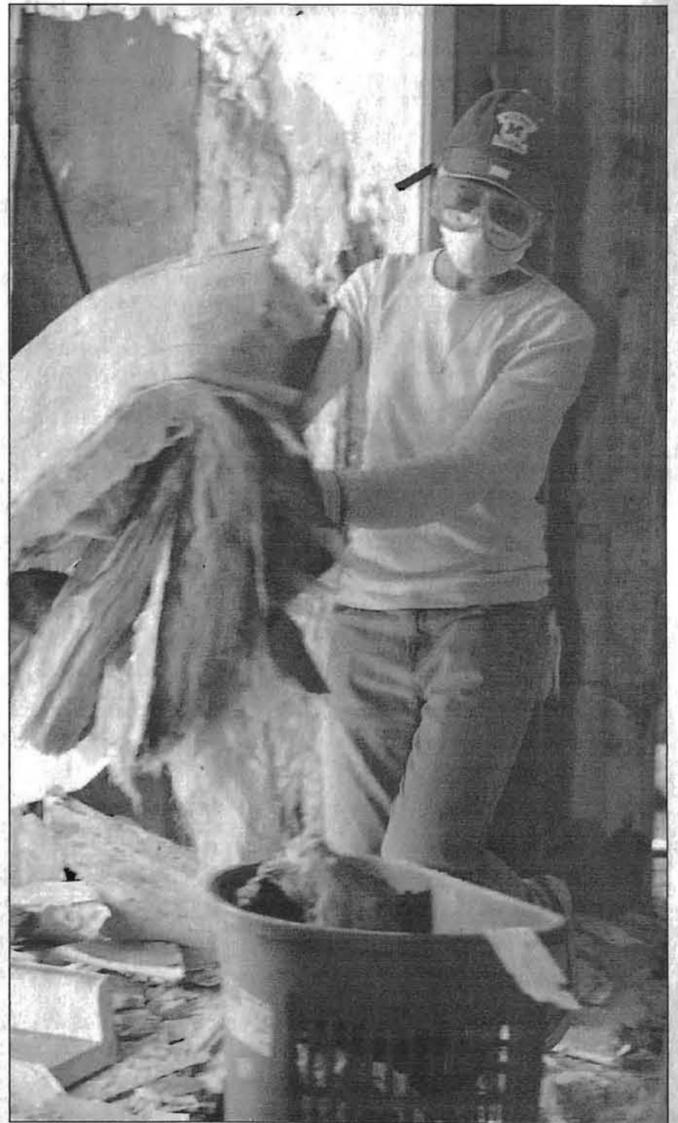
Dealing with the culture shock will pose difficulties for some.

"When I tried telling my experience to certain people, I can just see how much is lost in translation," Schilkraut said. "They just don't understand what I have gone through and the effect it has had on me. I'm looking at the world through different eyes."

Most of the UM-St. Louis students who went to New Orleans said they wished everyone could visit the city. Campus Crusade is sponsoring a yearlong internship as well as more short-term relief efforts along the Gulf Coast. For more information, visit <http://relief.campuscrusade-forchrist.com>.

"Just don't forget about [Katrina]," Lagermann said. "It's worse than you will ever know unless you can see it."

Kate Drolet, managing editor of The Current, travelled to New Orleans with the UM-St. Louis contingent of Campus Crusade for Christ volunteers. For more photographs and a day-by-day personal



A UM-St. Louis student volunteer throws away flood-damaged fiberglass insulation. All drywall, tiling, insulation, personal belongings, appliances