



Power failure closes UMSL campus

North campus loses power for the second time in less than four months

BY PAUL HACKBARTH &
MELISSA S. HAYDEN
News Editor & Staff Writer

For the second time in the past two semesters, a power outage on North Campus caused UM-St. Louis to cancel all day and evening classes last Wednesday.

Parts of north campus lost power at approximately 9 a.m., and power was restored an hour and a half later.

The power outage affected certain buildings on North Campus, including the Millennium Student Center and other buildings near the Quad. The Mark Twain Center, the police station, Gallery 210 and the Fine Arts Building on Florissant Road were not affected by the power outage.

"Essentially what happened was the substation near Page [Avenue] with a feeder line into north campus failed," said Bob Samples, director of media, marketing and printing services.

Samples said different electrical lines feed into different parts of the campus, which caused confusion

when initially determining the source of the outage.

Confusion also described the state of students who were in class when the power went out. Students waited in the snow or inside dark hallways for more than an hour to find out if classes were cancelled for the rest of the day.

"If I go home, I would miss class by the time I got transportation, so I'm stuck waiting around until I know for sure," said Elona Johnson, junior, mass communication. "It's really inconvenient. I take public transit, so by the time I get up here, I can't just turn around and go back."

Another student, Jennifer Ream, junior, communication, said, "I thought it was very inconvenient. I had to drive an hour and a half to get here, and I don't know if my other classes are closed."

Ron Edwards, coordinator of audiovisual services for Building Operations, said the decision to close the campus was difficult until the source of the problem could be found.

"With an electrical problem, we simply don't know. There could be so

many possibilities why it happened," he said.

Edwards explained the first thing the University does in a power outage is check the elevators to make sure nobody is stuck in them. If a person is trapped, each elevator is equipped with a phone line that is connected directly to the campus police to call for help. "There are also emergency lights that work in every single building," he said.

While certain students waited outside their classrooms, others took advantage of the time. Muhammed LaMotte, junior, pre-social work, started what he called "a new tradition" by throwing snow balls at people and at the University of Missouri seal on Clark Hall. Students also took advantage of the snow to play and build snowmen.

When the announcement to cancel classes came, certain students were frustrated at waiting around for nothing.

Josh Kaestener, senior, criminal justice, said, "I know they don't have any control over it, but it takes me over an hour to get here. I watch the

school closings posted on Channel 5, and Katie Couric didn't tell me anything," he said.

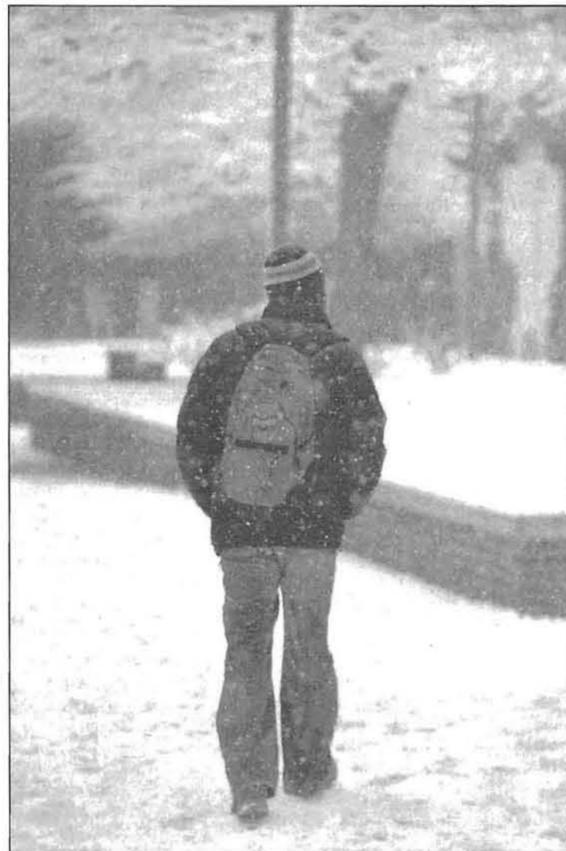
Kaestener did not experience the same confusion last semester when a power outage closed campus on Sept. 20. "Luckily, last time I had no classes," he said.

Samples said the two incidents were unrelated. "Last time, lightning struck a telephone pole, which caused the power outage," he said. This time, the problem was off campus.

Frank Kochin, director of facilities services, said, "There's not much we can do to prevent another outage. Other equipment failed. It had nothing to do with our campus," he said.

Kochin explained that two feeder lines typically power the campus, but "we're upgrading the substation, so there's only one feeder line at this time and it puts us a little more at risk."

When classes were finally cancelled, Johnson left for the Metrolink to enjoy her snow day but said, "I wish they could have some kind of consistency in figuring out when to close."



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

A student braves the snow Wednesday before campus officially closed at 10:30 a.m. See PAGE 3 for more photos.

3 Proposed Student Fees for UM-St. Louis

(If approved by Board of Curators, fees would begin in fall 2006)

• Business School Course Fee*

\$32 per credit hour

• Media Studies Lab Course Fee

\$25 per credit hour

• Science Lab Fee

\$10 per credit hour

*fee would be implemented 2007

Proposed Student Fee for Entire UM system

• Facility Fee

\$10 per credit hour

UMSL students may pay four more fees

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Three proposed specific UM-St. Louis campus fees and one UM systemwide fee could mean that certain students may be paying more for their major.

The College of Business Administration is considering the first fee, one for undergraduates enrolled in the department. The proposed fee would cost students about \$32 per credit hour starting in 2007 if the Board of Curators approves it at their next meeting in March.

Dean Keith Womer said from the curators' point of view, it is important that student fees for similar programs are consistent, but from his perspective, "It has to do with the cost of providing high quality business education," he said.

"My hope is that we'll be able to construct a fee increase and a corresponding funding for need-based scholarships," Womer said.

According to the proposal, 20 percent of the fee would go to need-based scholarships, while the remainder would go toward recruiting and keeping business faculty.

"Frankly, the costs have been going up pretty dramatically. Demand

has gone up pretty dramatically," he said. In the fall semester, student credit hours for business majors increased by 8 percent and this spring, they increased by 6 percent.

"We're in the circumstance in the College of Business where demand is increasing so cutting back doesn't sound like the right answer," he said.

Womer added, "I know that increased costs are a problem. We need more funds in order to one, hire high quality faculty, but two, our students are getting squeezed pretty hard with respect with tuition and other costs."

The proposed business fee is similar to the one that exists at UM-Columbia, as well as the student fee for the master's in business administration program at the UM-St. Louis graduate level.

The second fee would apply to media studies course in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The department's proposal would cost students taking those course \$25 per credit hour.

Dean John Hylton said current funds do not allow the college to better maintain or replace equipment needed for media studies classes.

see FEES, page 12

ROTC takes aim at UMSL ...



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Nicolas Intriery, sophomore at SLU, takes watch over his portion of the perimeter secured by his squad. He and nearly 60 other ROTC members, including six from UM-St. Louis, took part in a three-stage training exercise Saturday morning. The ROTC program in St. Louis is named "The Gateway Battalion" and is looking to recruit more UM-St. Louis students.

Missourians have mixed reactions to sale of MOHELA

BY BEN SWOFFORD
News Associate Editor

The Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority has become the latest political debate as Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt and his political opponents have squared off in the last weeks over his proposal to privatize MOHELA and use the income to fund educational initiatives and scholarships.

The plan, called the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, will sell over \$425 million worth of MOHELA assets, effectively privatizing the program. Blunt originally proposed using \$300 million for capital

building projects, \$100 million for and endowed scholarships and the rest for promoting Life Sciences Technology.

The Missouri House of Representatives created MOHELA in 1981 as a program to provide students with low interest loans for college. MOHELA provides banks with stable bonds that banks can then loan to students at lower rates. The program has slowly built up loan assets worth billions.

Critics say that private companies cannot provide the same type of stable loan environment that the government can provide and that students will be hurt as a result. Blunt says that

MOHELA was outdated and fewer students used the program every year and its sale could give a cash jumpstart to many programs.

Blunt has approved the MOHELA sale and the Missouri legislature is behind him, but Blunt has critics screaming at him from all sides. Many are upset at the timing of the plan. Blunt announced the sale Jan. 26 and MOHELA endorsed it Jan. 31 with changes. Certain groups feel that MOHELA and the public were blindsided by the plan and not given sufficient time to discuss the proposed changes.

However, Blunt, who went on a statewide trip to rally support for the

plan, has managed to get most to support it, including certain student groups like the Intercampus Student Council.

Surprisingly, in the last few days Blunt has received opposition from an unlikely quarter. Republicans in the state legislature have created a counter plan on how to use the money from the MOHELA assets. The Republican plan calls for an increase in the funding for student scholarships from the Blunt plan and a decrease in funding for buildings and life sciences.

The fate of MOHELA has almost been decided, and it will be unrecognizable. All that is left is to decide how to split the spoils.

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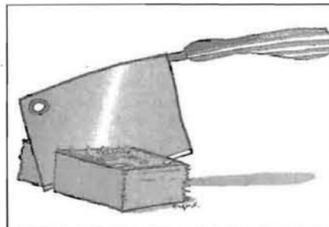
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Opinion: financial aid on the chopping block

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Basketball teams wrap up season's home games

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Bulletin Board

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

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

Mon., Feb. 13

Tau Sigma Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held with the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the MSC.

Monday Noon Series

Susan Brownell, associate professor of anthropology, will explore differences between Western and Oriental attitudes toward sports at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. She also discusses Western opposition to China's entering international sports, and China's promotion of Chinese culture through the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Free. Call 5699 for more information.

Artemis String Quartet

Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. at The Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$18 for students. For more information call 5818.

Short Course Classes

Instructional Computing Labs will again be teaching 1 hour classes through March 3. These classes are FREE to UM-St. Louis students, staff, and faculty. Topics include Word Basics, PowerPoint Basics, Excel Basics, Web Page building/HTML, Photoshop, and more. To sign up and view a list of complete course offerings, visit umsl.edu/training.

Tues., Feb. 14

Valentine's Auction

The second annual auction will be in the Pilot House from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Two digital cameras will be given away as door prizes and you will be able to bid on fellow students for a chance to win a date. Also, stop by the International Business Club table in the MSC to purchase serenades and gifts for your Valentine. The event is sponsored by Students Today Alumni Tomorrow, The office of Student Life and IBC.

"Food for Thought"

Robert J. Marquis, professor of biology at UM-St. Louis, will discuss "Ecology and Evolution on Insect Herbivore-Plant Interactions" at 12:30 p.m. in B101 Benton Hall. The seminar is free, open to the public, and part of the "Food for Thought" seminar series sponsored by the Biological society. Lunch will be provided. Call 6438 for info.

Wed., Feb. 15

Mindfulness Meditation for Wellness

Dr. Sharon Biegen and Dr. Jamie Linsin introduce this proven method for reducing stress, depression, anxiety, insomnia, overeating, chronic pain, and a variety of medical conditions. Workshops begin today and will be held every Wednesday in 225 MSC. These are free and open to students, faculty, and staff. Call 5711 for more information.

Biology Seminar

Lisa Schetcher, assistant professor of biology at UM-St. Louis, will discuss "Pseudomonas Syringae Infection of Plants" at 12:30 p.m. in B101 Benton Hall. The seminar is free, open to the public, and part of the "Food for Thought" seminar series sponsored by the Biological society. Lunch will be provided. Call 6438 for more info.

Chemistry Colloquium

Raven Huang, assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will discuss "Molecular Recognition and Mechanisms of RNA Modifications that Require Breakage of Glycosidic Bonds" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. Free. Call 5311 for more information.

Trivia Contest

An African-American History Month contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pilot House. The event is sponsored by the Associated Black Collegians. Call 5731 for details.

Thurs., Feb. 16

"iPods in Education and Podcasting"

A seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Student Government Association chamber in the MSC. The event is free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Call 6000 for more information.

Campus Recreation Deadline

Today is the entry deadline for Campus Recreation's badminton and table tennis tournaments. The events are for all skill levels and will be held in the Mark Twain/Athletics & Fitness Center. The tournament will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 21. Both events are free and open to students, faculty and staff. Register in the Campus Recreation office, 203 Mark Twain or call 5326 for more information.

Friday, Feb. 17

"The State of Black America 2006"

U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, Missouri will lead this discussion beginning at 7 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill. This event is free and open to the public. Call 6807 for more information.

'Am I Someone's Mirror? Diversity Issues in the 21st Century'

Rudolf G. Wilson, assistant provost for Cultural and Social Diversity at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, will use interactive activities to create common experiences to discuss, acknowledge and generate possible solutions to common issues--prejudice, hostility, power and control--reflected events in our community. The workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Century Room A at the MSC. Faculty, staff, and graduate students are invited to attend. Go to www.umsl.edu/ctl to register in advance or call 4508 for more information.

Bellerive

The Pierre Laclède Honors College publication will debut from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Provincial House Common Room on South Campus. At 11:30 a.m., an award-winning author and UM-St. Louis professor will speak. Refreshments will be served.

Psychoanalytic Lecture

Psychoanalyst and writer Adam Phillips will speak on "Great Expectations and First Impressions" at Washington University's Laboratory Sciences Building on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. For info, visit www.talkingcure.org

Sat., Feb. 18

Arianna String Quartet

Quartet will perform "Sing, Speak and Dance," a family concert and discussion, at 4 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the Touhill. The event is free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and students under 17. Tickets are \$10 for adults. Call 4949 or visit www.ariannaquartet.com for more information.

Sun., Feb. 19

Happy Birthday Mozart

The Arianna String Quartet will perform "Happy 250th Birthday, Mozart" at 4 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the Touhill. Tickets are free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Call 4949 for tickets.

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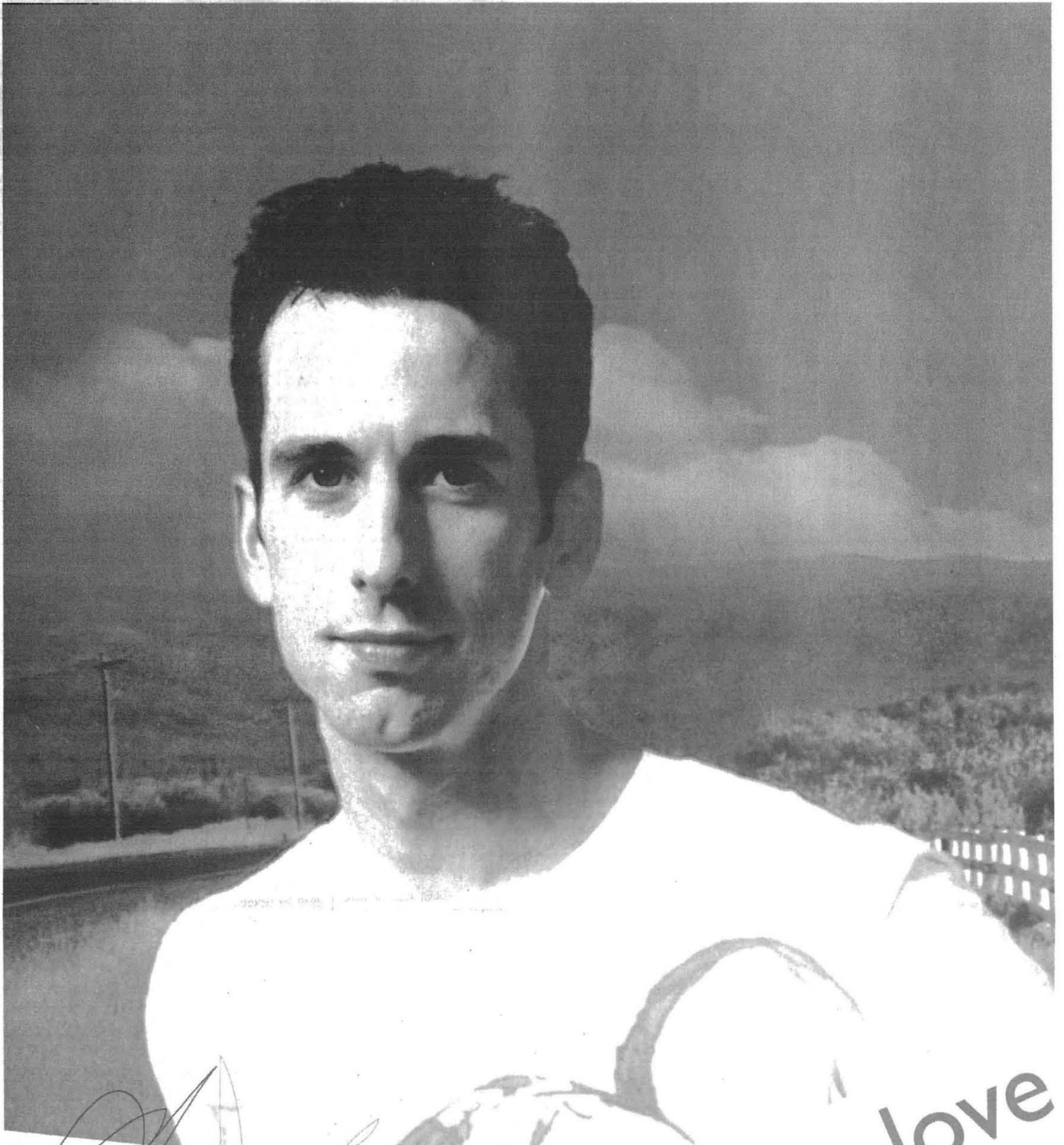
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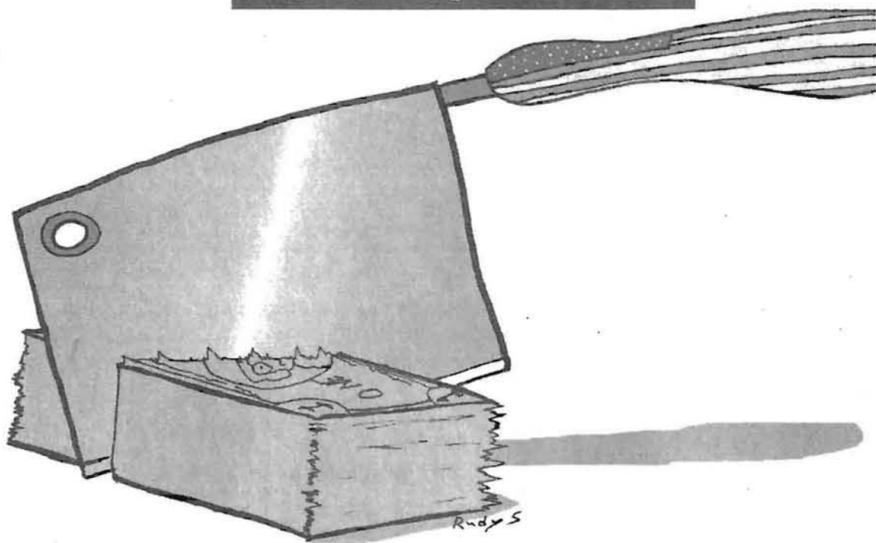
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7 PM CENTURY ROOMS

Have a question about your love life?
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OPINIONS

Our Opinion



Financial aid is on the political chopping block

It seems that needy college students have become the latest target for state and national politicians looking to trim public spending.

The House of Representatives voted on Feb. 1 to cut \$12.7 billion in funding for federal student loans. Congress raised the interest rates on Stafford and Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

The Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority also came under attack. After a proposal by Gov. Matt Blunt to sell the state's non-profit loan agency to a for-profit company in order to raise money for the state, MOHELA announced an alternative plan which would sell off a large chunk of its assets and return the money (expected to be about \$450 million) to the state.

While the money from the sale would be used for capital improvements and scholarships at Missouri universities and colleges in order to promote the biotech industry in the state.

However, selling off MOHELA's assets could make it harder for low-income Missouri students to get the

low interest loans that have helped thousands of Missourians fund their college education.

So, why have politicians decided to place student loans on the chopping block?

Politicians argue that the cuts are necessary to bring the federal and state budgets back into line. However, politicians ignore the fact that by making it more difficult for students to pay back loans or get low-interest loans in college, they could be discouraging more graduates from entering the work force with high-paying jobs (which results in higher income taxes for the government).

Besides, the students affected by cuts to student loans are by and large the students least able to afford a college education. Saddling needy students with thousands more in interest payments over the life of their loans could curtail the number of needy students receiving a college education and advancing to a better life through better employment opportunities.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that the students most affected by the cuts are also typically members of a less

active political constituency: the poor.

Raising interest rates on college loans will not affect students whose parents are wealthy. It will affect those students who truly depend on student loans with low interest rates to finance their education.

In Missouri, even if colleges and Universities receive funding for capital improvements to scientific facilities (at UM-St. Louis, the MOHELA could provide \$18 million to fund improvements to the Benton-Stadler Hall science complex and the Center for Emerging Technology), our politicians should give serious consideration to the underlying question: shouldn't the profits of any sale of MOHELA be funneled back to further MOHELA's mission to provide affordable access to education for all Missourians?

By focusing instead on funding capital improvements at our universities, the state seems to be saying that education will be enhanced through better buildings and facilities, but those improvements only benefit those students who can afford to pay top-dollar for their education.

Staff Viewpoint

Iran criticism shows American hypocrisy

Since 1970, the United States has been party to a treaty committing us to end the nuclear arms race and work to abolish our stockpile of nuclear weapons. That treaty has been in the news a lot recently, but not because we have failed to hold up our end of the bargain.

The news coverage focuses exclusively on Iran which is apparently producing weapons-grade nuclear fuel and kicked United Nations inspectors out of the country.

I'm referring to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 which went into effect when enough countries signed on. It is, according to Article Six of the U.S. Constitution, the supreme law of the land.

So why do we have about 4,000 strategic nuclear weapons today, nearly half of all nuclear weapons in the world?

Russia has nearly as many as we do. China, Britain and France have more than 100, India and Pakistan less than 100 each, with North Korea holding maybe as many as half a dozen.

Only North Korea would be crazy enough to use them on us.

According to an article former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara



BENJAMIN ISRAEL
Staff Writer

wrote for Foreign Policy Magazine last year, the threat of an accidental nuclear war is as great now as it was when the Soviet Union was our enemy.

Even though the Cold War is over, the military still is on alert, ready to launch a nuclear strike within 20 minutes of a report of a nuclear attack.

Humans being what we are, one mistake could launch the greatest catastrophe since the extinction of the dinosaurs. According to McNamara, we came awfully close launching nuclear weapons three times when he was defense secretary.

Nuclear weapons are far more dangerous than anything our armed forces used in Vietnam or Iraq.

McNamara wrote that a single one-megaton nuclear bomb would ignite a fireball more than a half-mile wide three times as hot as the sun that would burn everything in it and send out a 250-mph wind that in 12 seconds would kill half the people within three miles and flatten every building. The radiation would kill many more people in the hours and days immediately afterward. We have dozens of bombs this size, and many more smaller ones.

I am sure that if we dismantled three-quarters of our weapons tomorrow, we could destroy any country, probably any continent, maybe the world, in a matter of hours.

Why would we want to do that?

Current policy calls for reducing the number of offensive nuclear weapons to 3,800 in 2007 and to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012, but continuing research to make those weapons more powerful.

If we continue to upgrade our nuclear arsenal, how can we expect other nations to refrain from joining the nuclear club? If we don't honor the part of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty that applies to us, how can we expect Iran or anyone else to honor it?

see **NUKES**, page 5

Editor's Viewpoint

Weekend retreat proves eye-opening

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others" (Marianne Williamson).



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

I spent the last three days trying to convince a group of retreat-goers of the truth in this quote. As the unofficial slogan of the Newman Center's Awakenings retreat, these words followed me through the weekend.

Hence its name, the retreat is meant to 'awaken' people to the human experience, and our cozy camp out in Eureka made it easy to observe every detail of life. However, I knew coming back to the newspaper, academic responsibilities and a dangerously long to-do list would shake my sense of serenity.

Fortunately, this weekend and this quote awakened me to a method of achieving constant awareness and appreciation for this enormous life.

First, admit to yourself that you rock. Don't feel vain when you look in the mirror and occasionally admire what you see. Pull your talents, passions and lifetime of accomplishments out from the pile of embarrassing CDs and ugly sweaters in your closet. Your brilliance shouldn't collect dust.

Have you ever played down your intelligence because you didn't want to seem too smart, too superior, too

nerdy or uncool? Be honest. I've played the "dumb blonde" card myself. It's a complete waste. Revel in your quirks, your brains and your talents, because your actions will inspire others to follow suit.

Another way to stay "awake" involves your eyeballs. Actually look at people. Quick hallway hellos usually involve a brief head nod, smile

and, if you're lucky, a "how's it going?" Most people don't have time to stop in the MSC Bridge and inquire about the nitty-gritty of every acquaintance's life. Just look at the people you greet. Make honest-to-goodness ocular connection. It will feel weird the first few times, and many won't return your gaze. But when someone does, you'll feel a jolt.

I think we're generally afraid of prolonged eye contact because of the genuine emotion that lives there. If you dress up a sad person and only look at her clothes, you'll never know how she feels. Our eyes give us away, and really looking at people forces us to see and consider their humanity. Don't be afraid of it.

Visual connection makes me feel life's depth. I'll sincerely smile at a stranger and find myself thinking, "I wonder if he's headed home. Is he headed home to his wife? Do they get along? Do they argue about finances, or are they planning a vacation with their kids? Will they talk about their days over dinner tonight, or do they ignore each other? Did he eat dinner with his own parents when he was a kid? Is he tired from a stressful day like I am?"

Eye contact isn't the biggest commitment you'll make, but it will benefit you like no other volunteer effort can.

Immerse yourself in every detail of each day. Without hesitating, put your amazing self out there for the world to see. Uncertainty blurs your vision and lets you fall asleep in the middle of the most important experience you'll ever have: your life. It's time to wake up.

Letters from London

Exploring Wales leads to life lesson

Since my last correspondence, I've had a marvelous adventure set in Wales.

The joy of the Missouri London Program is the beautiful time we have to travel to other countries. While some study abroad programs forbid the students from traveling outside the country, MLP brought several people to talk to us about weekend trips and spring break. Traveling throughout Europe is remarkably cheap with several low fare airlines competing for student travelers. Plus, I always have the possibility of taking a train or bus to my destination.

I opted for the latter to make my way to Pembrokeshire in Wales. The journey there was as excruciating as it was inexpensive. Eight hours spent on a bus led to many sore muscles at the end.

My two companions and I did arrive safely Friday night in a little town called Haverfordwest, a 20

minute drive from our destination, Preseli Venture. We had signed up for an "Adventure Weekend" in Preseli.

This meant we could sign up for three activities. Everyone would participate in hiking option, as the horses hadn't emerged from their winter hibernation, or whatever horses do during the winter.

We also had the choices of sea kayaking, coasteering and surfing. I chose sea kayaking and coasteering, which I will explain in more detail.

Preseli Venture is located in the countryside just a short way from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

During our hike, we traveled along over seven miles of coastline within the National Park. At times, we ventured down to the sea's edge along the Northern Atlantic Ocean.

see **LONDON**, page 12



LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

Under Current

by Adam Wiseman
Photo Director

What should people do on Valentine's Day?



Jamie Van Winkle
Junior, Early Childhood Education

"Spend time with the ones you love."



Emily Ewings
Junior, Theatre

"For 'Singles Awareness Day' people should randomly hook up and participate in safe sex acts. However, you must care very deeply in a sexual way about the person."



Chris Mabie
Junior, Criminal Justice

"Girls should dump their boyfriends and come to the bars to meet single guys like me."



Maria Curtis, Graduate Student
Public Policy Administration

"Snuggle!"

Science Column

Letters to the Editor

Sex, love (and biology)

PRIZM, UPB respond to drag show controversy

With respect to the recent coverage of the controversy surrounding the PRIZM drag show, held last October in the UMSL Pilot House, there have been glaring omissions of opinion.

During the discussion of this event, the voice of the community of people who funded, attended and in all ways have supported this event has been forgotten.

In last week's issue of *The Current* ["Board of curators discusses PRIZM drag show drama," Feb. 6], an article discussing the PRIZM drag show was published.

The article dealt mainly with the discussion of the event at the Board of Curators meeting on Friday, Jan. 27. It provided little to no background information on the event, included no quotes or references to people involved in or even present at the event and gave no clue as to why this controversy was sparked. So, as attendees and members of the organizations that have co-sponsored the event this year and the year before, we have decided to give our account of the events.

The controversy surrounding the drag show was begun as the result of a letter written by Charles Stadtlander, president of the Log Cabin Republicans.

Stadtlander compiled a vicious letter, filled with irregularities and untruths, and at first sent it to officials within UM-St. Louis. However, he

received no attention from this audience and, in fact, was sent a letter from Bob Samples explaining the rights conferred to the event under the Constitution, namely our right to free speech.

He then sent the letter to members of the Board of Curators and to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and called the FOX 2 network. These bodies did pay attention to his complaints, and an article was published in the Post-Dispatch which did not feature the accounts of anyone directly involved with the event, and did not paint it in a favorable light.

Hoping that this would not be taken seriously, we made no reply and believed that this sole complaint would soon be forgotten. However, the effects of this debacle are still being felt, as is evidenced by its discussion at the Curators' meeting.

The discrepancies of Stadtlander's letter are numerous. He declares that the event is a "misuse of Missouri taxpayer dollars." Student programs such as this are funded with student fees, which are paid through tuition, and this program was no exception. Also, with statements such as this, Stadtlander implies that the event was costly. It is one of the least costly events which take place on campus, and one of the most highly attended, therefore, economically speaking at least, it seems quite a good use of funds.

Stadtlander refers to the performance as "pornographic". This would imply that there was nudity involved in the presentations, which was not the case. Pornographic also implies that the primary purpose of the event was to cause sexual arousal. This is an event which was held to celebrate National Coming Out Day and to invoke pride for their culture in our GLBTA students. It is a cultural experience meant to raise awareness, not an explicit production.

Stadtlander also seems upset about the presence of children at the event. The performance was advertised as a drag show, nothing else.

If a parent then deemed it necessary to expose their child to this cultural act, for their own independent reasons, and we as organizers knew that this was a non-nude, non-pornographic event, it seems that we have no reason to bar their entry. All children present were accompanied by adult guardians, and many of the children present were relatives of the performers. Stadtlander also criticizes the lack of security. Despite the fact that he implies that we were squandering money, our budget did not allow for hiring security officers, as is the case for nearly all student organization funded events on campus. The numerous other cases of failed logic in the letter are too many to be mentioned.

Also, the attitude that drag shows are uncommon in university settings

must be addressed. After simply typing the words "drag show, university" into the Google search engine, we retrieved the following information:

- Ball State University holds a semi-annual drag show
- Santa Clara University holds an annual drag show
- Univ. of Southern Maine holds an annual drag show
- Lehigh Univ. held a drag show in October 2005
- UM-Kansas City has held an annual drag show for four years
- Univ. of Northern Colorado held a drag show in January 2006
- UW - Milwaukee held a drag show in February 2004

The list continues. The University of Missouri-Columbia also holds a drag show annually in celebration of National Coming Out Day, much like ours at UM-St. Louis. We are not attempting to reinvent the wheel, but simply to exercise the same freedoms to celebrate GLBTA culture that are given to many other universities.

However, as we said before, Stadtlander's letter has shocked many. At the Curators' meeting held on Fri, Jan. 27 our Chancellor Thomas George apologized and called the drag show a unique incident. As students who support GLBTA culture we do not understand the need for this apology and would like to note that this is not a unique incident. This was the second

annual drag show at UMSL and Miss RHA (Residence Hall Association), where male residents dress as females in a fun and silly competition, has been held annually for at least five years.

Curator David Wasinger is also disapproving of the drag show, and seems incredulous that it was allowed. He seems to feel, through information passed to him by Stadtlander, that the show was of a low nature and referred to it as "a homosexual drag show with lap dances." We wish to assure Curator Wasinger that there were no lap dances and that we represent GLBTA activities and culture with pride and decorum.

We are proud of our annual drag show and of the number of people that it attracts. We received at least 50 written evaluations of the program from survey sheets handed out at the event, and all comments were glowing praises for the performances.

Stadtlander's criticism is the only one we have received from a patron for either of the two shows. Drag shows are an important part of GLBTA culture, and drag performers take part in nearly all GLBTA events. We will not exclude any subculture from the GLBTA community. We are committed to the ideals of including GLBTA persons, creating community and empowering our culture.

Courtney Haberer, PRIZM president, and Shanna Carpenter, co-chair of University Program Board

Ahh, love. What makes fools like us fall in love?

Love quizzes and dating questionnaires focus on what you and someone else have in common. Sharing the same interests, same background and the same habits certainly seem to be linked to long-term relationships. But love seems to want to play tricks on us. There is evidence that, when it comes to the chemistry of love, different is better, too.

We appear hardwired to prefer what is best genetically. Young, healthy people look more attractive. Thick, shiny hair, bright eyes and white even teeth do not just look good, they are perceived unconsciously as signs of good health. Men find women with a certain hip to waist ratio more attractive. Interestingly, the same hip to waist ratio is associated with fertility and successful childbearing, although that is certainly not what guys consciously think at the time of pickup.

Some other less obvious rules of attraction also exist. Most likely you have experienced this type of incident, or you have seen it in friends: you go out with someone with whom you have a lot in common, who seems a good match, yet the "chemistry" is not there. Or you meet someone that you know intellectually is all wrong for you, yet you feel sparks are flying when you are together. A biological conflict could be at fault here.

Maybe he passed the sniff test. A study at University of Lausanne, Switzerland, asked women to sniff T-shirts worn by unidentified, unseen men with a variety of genotypes linked to both immune systems and body odor. When the women ranked the smell of the shirts from best to worst, they showed a preference for those who had genotypes different from their own. The shirts worn by men who had most different genotypes were rated as smelling the best.

When two people reproduce, combining different genotypes increases the strength of child's immune system. While most married couples do not end up solely as a result of genetic connection, it might play a role in the initial attraction.

In another study, subjects who described themselves as "madly in love" looked at pictures of their beloveds. Under MRI, the portion of the brain that became active was the dorsal caudate nucleus and the right ventral tegmental area, areas linked to reward and pleasure. The caudate nucleus, in particular, is full of receptors for the neurotransmitter dopamine. Stimulation of dopamine receptors is associated with energy, elation and focused attention.

But pleasure is not the only response linked to these brain regions. These areas are also associated with goal-oriented behavior. The goal might be to win over the object of your affection, or it might be to break down the barriers that keep you apart.

This study, published this month in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, noted that affected areas of the brain were different from the areas of the brain associated with emotion or with sex drive. Parts of the brain that become active during sexual arousal only partially overlap those activated by sight of the subject's beloved.

So love and sex really are not the same, physiologically. The dorsal caudate nucleus, one of the brain regions that become active at the sight of subject's beloved, is thought to be involved in integration of early memories, emotional attachment and personal concepts of attractiveness. Interestingly, the researchers also found that areas of the brain stimulated by romantic love were on the right side of the brain, while areas stimulated by simple facial attractiveness were mostly on the left side.

These differences might be part of why you think your significant other looks attractive when you are in love, no matter what your friends think. The left part of your brain tells you that someone is attractive but does it without the intense rush of romantic love.

Comparisons between levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin in people who describe themselves as being in love and people diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder found that both groups had levels 40 percent lower than a normal control group.



BY GATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

Rivermen thank campus for its support of team

The men's basketball team wishes to thank the entire UM-St. Louis campus community for their support of UM-St. Louis basketball Feb. 9. It was a terrific night for players because it was fun to play in an environment that was in Mark Twain Thursday night.

Further, we appreciate the hard work and commitment put into this event by many UM-St. Louis departments, offices and student organizations.

Additionally, we thank the fans who were at the game. We enjoy playing for UM-St. Louis and developing University pride. Playing basketball for loyal UM-St. Louis fans while they wear red and gold is really neat.

It has been brought to our attention that we may have offended UM-St. Louis fans especially in the student body by not thanking them immediately after the game. This is not the case; we never intended to disappoint the UM-St. Louis student body. Actually we were so intent on winning the game for UM-St. Louis fans we overlooked the necessary thank you's. We wanted to win for the UM-St. Louis fans. Please accept our apologies. It was cool to play basketball in such a fun environment. It was awesome; thank you.

We are proud to be UM-St. Louis student-athletes and coaches, and we are trying to develop UM-St. Louis pride.

Go Rivermen.
Respectfully,
Chris Pilz and 2006 men's basketball players

UMSL Chancellor isn't always front page news

I am happy that [UM-St. Louis Chancellor] Tom George is interested in the cultural life of the campus. It's nice that he is a cultured fellow who appreciates art and music. Learned people should appreciate these things.

I cannot for the life of me, however, understand why it is front-page news every time Tom condescends to visit a gallery or give a recital. Do we not have students attending galleries, playing recitals? Every time I turn

around I see Tom George's mug on the front page of *The Current*.

Do we not have newsmaking students on this campus? I know we do: students who are politically active, who win awards, who start campus organizations, who excel in athletics, etc. How about we agree that it's nice that Tom looked at the elephant paintings and, instead, print student-centered features?

I realize that we're still probably

Battle of political ideology won with humility, not force

How many teamsters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Fifty-three, and you got a problem with that?

Is there a relationship between this trite joke and the predatory talk of our president regarding his decapitation of the Al-Qaeda regime? I do indeed think so, and I'll tell a sick joke of my own to illustrate.

How many terrorists does it take to kill 168 people? Just two. Or, how many terrorists does it take to kill 3,000 people? Roughly nineteen, though some of them did fail at nailing their target.

My point is that the president, the secretary of war and the White House press secretary can speak all they wish about disemboweling terrorist networks, but the true problem in our current situation is ideology and American imperialism.

Osama Bin Laden initiated an attack against the United States because of our (most importantly) military encroachment into and ideological hostility toward Middle Eastern culture. Jihad has been misinterpreted on a massive scale (intentionally) as "holy war." A Jihad is more than a mil-

itary war, though it can take that form. The word is better interpreted as "struggle." The struggle is both internal and external, against forces that seek to destroy the core essence of Islam.

The misinterpretation of this word is an obvious piece of propaganda designed to portray the enemy as crazed and primitive. But, in American parlance, a jihad is just about "keeping it real." So, the Islamic jihad is about defending a culture and religion, and not an offensive against all Christians as some would like us to believe.

In a completely different scenario, yet related, Tim McVeigh blew up the Murrah building in Oklahoma, partly because he was nuts, but also because he saw the ever-expansive militaristic society in which we live as inimical to the freedoms we claim to hold important.

I am not writing to advocate any particular policy in Iraq; I don't understand war planning, yet I do want the U.S. to "win." To me, "winning" means the attainment of some order, and I think that it is a goal worth striving for. The nuts and bolts of the whole

used to Blanche [Touhill] - a woman whose greatest legacy is an empty performing arts center that costs this campus about \$2 million per year in losses (look closely at the numbers, and you'll see it too). But are we so desperate for a Chancellor that gives a damn about us that we put him on the front page every time he shows his face on campus?

Please give me a break.
Mark Kahrhoff, Optometry

Student: Grad school doesn't discriminate

I must disagree with the claim of Colon Moore ["Student files discrimination lawsuit against Grad School," *The Current*, Feb. 6].

He is accusing the University of Missouri at St. Louis of discrimination in denying his application for admission into the Graduate History program.

At the time I was admitted into the UM-St. Louis criminology and criminal justice graduate program, I had credentials that mirror Mr. Moore's. I was a disabled, 48-year-old Vietnam-era veteran, with a 3.4 cumulative grade point average, and a 3.8 in my major.

Entrance into the Graduate Criminology Program at UM-St. Louis is competitive. Only 15 of 65 applicants were accepted into my class.

Surely, worthy applicants were not admitted into my program as well. But since coming to UMSL I have become fully employed in my field with the help of the professors in my department; and I no longer receive disability!

Mr. Moore claims; "They didn't like my age, They didn't want no Vietnam era disabled veteran there. They didn't want me." From my situation we can see that the University does not discriminate by age, military status or disability. This would suggest that Mr. Moore's last accusation is probably accurate. And from what I see, I don't blame them.

Sincerely,
Timothy Lancaster
Graduate student, criminology and criminal justice

Stem cell petition on bridge is deceptive

In the past couple of weeks, many of UM-St. Louis' students have passed by a table on the Millennium Student Center Bridge or in Benton Hall that is soliciting signatures for a petition regarding stem cell research. This petition is very deceptive, and I strongly urge all of you not to sign it.

A group called the Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures sponsors the petition. Its main objective is to obtain roughly 140,000 registered Missouri voters' signatures in order to get the organization's sponsored initiative on the ballot this November. What this initiative will allow, if approved by Missouri's voters, is outrageous.

The table has a sign that asks for your signature so that Missouri might vote on "stem cell research."

I am not sure if you are aware of this, but stem cell research is already being used and is very successful. Adult stem cells and cord blood stem cells (stem cells obtained from the umbilical cord from a live birth) have helped thousands of persons. These adult and cord blood stem cells have shown amazing results in treatments of more than 65 diseases already. But this petition that you are being asked to sign is not in support of the kind of stem cell research I just explained, rather, the petition is in support of embryonic stem cell research and cloning.

Contrary to the successes of adult and cord blood stem cells, embryonic stem cells have been proven time and again not to work. Embryonic stem cells have caused laboratory mice to grow tumors, and not only that, but an embryo is a life in its earliest stage, so life is being destroyed. This petition that you are asked to sign is simply asking for your support of something that has been proven not to work and of something that destroys life.

If Missouri votes in favor of this initiative, a state constitutional amendment will be made to protect embryonic stem cell research and cloning, and your tax dollars will be used to support these practices! One of the other lies of this petition is that it says that it "bans human cloning." This statement could not be farther from the truth, because this initiative allows a procedure called Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer.

I will briefly explain Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT): a woman's egg is taken into a laboratory, and the nucleus of the egg is taken out of the egg (the nucleus of the egg contains 23 chromosomes). A somatic cell or body cell of another person is taken and the nucleus of that cell is placed in the woman's

egg. A body cell (from skin or heart etc.) contains 46 chromosomes, the number of chromosomes that make up a person. The petition states that because a sperm and egg are not fertilized that cloning is not going on, but if you have 46 chromosomes it does not take a genius to figure out that that is a person. And thus an embryo (in SCNT's case a clone of the person whose body cell was donated) is created, and the people in the laboratory allow the embryo to grow a few days, and then they extract the stem cells from the embryo, and then the embryo dies as a result.

Clearly the sponsors of this petition think that Missouri voters are stupid because they are trying to use fancy terms such as "Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer" to make us think that cloning is not going to happen. If they want to clone then they should simply let us vote on cloning, and not try to trick us with biological terms that most of us don't understand. So the next time you are asked by a person at this table to sign the petition ask them if they understand what Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer is; I did and the person at the table had no clue.

Dennis Stoll
senior, political science

NUCLEAR, from page 4

We have had nuclear weapons for the last 60 years and haven't used them since we wiped out more than 350,000 civilians with two bombs at the end of World War II. A one-megaton bomb like the one I described is 70 times as powerful as the bombs we dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Even if nuclear war made sense, which they don't, isn't 1,700 too many?

Nuclear weapons are not cheap. The delivery systems—ground-launched missiles, submarine-launched missiles and jet bombers are expensive as well.

A Brookings Institution study in 1998 found that our nuclear weapons program cost taxpayers \$5.5 trillion dollars since its inception. Not spending that would have reduced our \$8.2 trillion national debt by more than half.

When will it end? Can we expect other countries to not build nuclear weapons as we continue to do so?

Note: Israel, India and Pakistan never signed the non-proliferation treaty. North Korea claims to have dropped out, but other nations say it did not give proper notice.

What's your opinion?
Write a letter to the editor.
current@jinx.umsu.edu

FEATURES

Lights, Camera, Action!

Film Production Society brings filmmaking to UMSL

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Editing, producing, acting, directing and writing are various filmmaking techniques that the new Film Production Society at UM-St. Louis highlights.

On Friday, Feb. 3, FPS officially became a recognized organization.

Rita Csapo-Sweet, associate professor of theater, dance and media studies and the FPS faculty advisor, said that a television club has been functioning on UM-St. Louis' campus for over 10 years, but since there is a new theater, dance and media studies department, FPS is a good addition to the campus.

"This organization is very important. It allows students to take a jump from class work to a more professional level," Csapo-Sweet said. "It gives students the chance to work on ideas and submit them in competitions and festivals for awards."

FPS is devoted to helping students with all aspects of creative producing, including cinematography.

Mark St. George, FPS President, said that he always tries to tell people that this is a multi-tiered organization, for those interested in all aspects of film.

"This is the only organization on campus that allows artists 'filmmakers' to express their own art through

the medium that they love best, which is film," St. George said.

St. George said that they hope to bring in guest speakers and famous directors such as Spike Lee and independent filmmakers like Lloyd Kaufman and Quentin Tarantino. FPS also hopes to hold a film festival, showcasing the members' projects to their friends and family.

Many FPS members are particularly interested in producing their own documentaries, comedies, dramas and television commercials. All members are encouraged to submit one prelude, script or help other members complete productions.

Students are given complete access to editing, non-linear equipment, cameras, lighting equipment and digital editing equipment.

All of the organization's officers have videography and production experience. Since many of FPS's leaders have learned production skills from completing their own personal projects and working hands-on with other professors, no experience is necessary to be a member.

Most of the current members are communication majors, but FPS is open to all majors and there are no membership fees.

St. George said that his only concern with this new organization is that they have been given an allocated fund of \$500, which is expected to last until 2007.

"We are trying to talk with SGA, explaining our situation. We want to increase funding for new video equipment and to bring in guest speakers," he said. "This is a serious organization with serious needs and we desperately need SGA to re-evaluate the allocation of funds."

Aaron Dickerson, junior, psychology and theater and dance, and FPS manager, said that networking, fundraising and working on creative projects are the things that he likes most about the organization.

Dickerson started acting at the age of 13, then went into directing and working as a music D.J., which he said sparked his interest and led him into film work.

"I have the influence and capabilities to control the finished product more with film, than as a theater director," Dickerson said.

He said that he has shot commercials for the Humane Society, is currently working on shooting a music video for a national band act called "Femme Fatale" and plans to take a trip to Israel for a paid documentary assignment covering the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

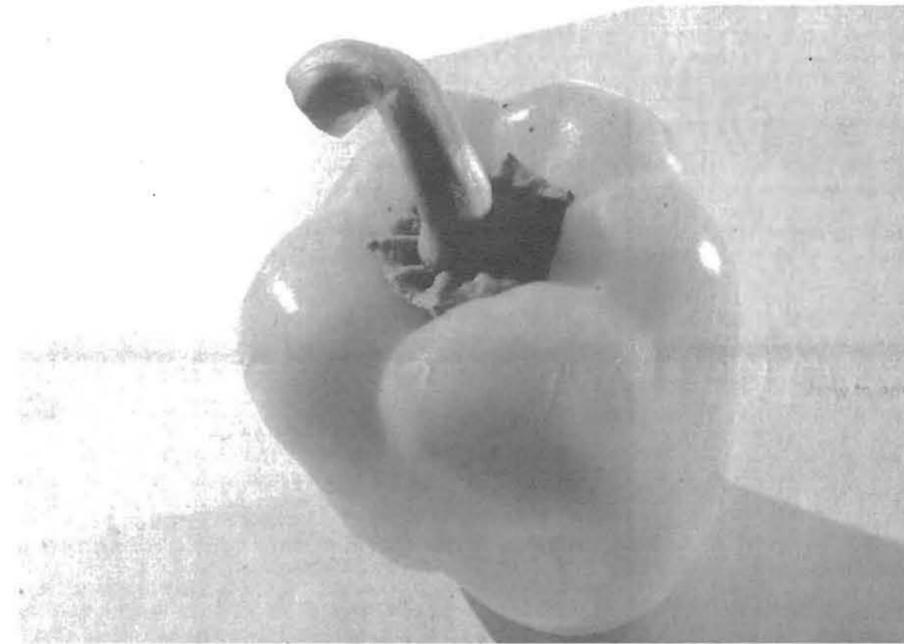
FPS plans to hold a new membership orientation meeting this week and then have general meetings about twice a month.

For more information or to become a new member, contact FPS President Mark St. George at mjsvw5@umsl.edu.



Margaret Clarke/The Current

Film Production Society President Mark St. George, senior, mass communication specializing in film, inspects film editing equipment in the General Service Building on Feb. 9.



Why go vegetarian?

UMSL vegans, vegetarians discuss their reasons to go meatless

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

Their reasons are as diverse as their diets, but many people choose to abstain from using animal products. For some vegans and vegetarians, it is an issue of animal rights. For others, it is about concern for the environment or their health.

Different categories of vegetarians avoid different products. Some avoid all animal products. Others do not eat meat but use dairy products or eggs. Vegan lifestyles refrain completely from all animal products, and eat only plant-derived food and avoid wearing clothing made from wool, fur or leather or using products that have been tested on animals.

"It's a lifestyle I chose for myself," said Keith Bolzer, senior, political science, who has been a vegan for three years. "I try to stay as animal free as possible because I like to be as independent as possible and using plants is more viable for the environment."

"I guess I do it for ethical reasons," said Kat Wheeler, senior, English, who is a vegetarian. "As a middle class American, there's no reason to eat meat, to kill if you don't have to. I consider health reasons a benefit."

Semilla Bland, junior, anthropology, was raised as a vegetarian but she has been a vegan since eighth grade.

"In eighth grade, I learned about

factory farming and how the animals live in tiny pens which are never clean, and they barely see the light of day. It's not right," Bland said.

Although her family and many of her friends are not vegan, Bland said that they have been supportive of her decision.

"It was hard at first because I had to learn how to cook for myself," Bland said. Although the campus cafeteria has vegetarian and vegan options, Bland still does much of her cooking in her dorm.

"I try to go to cafeteria whenever I can but I just like to cook," Bland said. "I like the salad bar at the Nosh and there are a few vegetarian soups. The new Mexican place is great, too."

The U.S.D.A. food guide pyramid recommends two to three servings of meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs or nuts each day, but since their dietary options are limited, many vegans and vegetarians consume mainly nuts, beans or rice.

"You can live off soy products and hummus," Wheeler said. "Unfortunately I don't like a whole lot of vegetables so I eat a lot of pasta and rice."

Wheeler said she rarely uses her residential meal plan for eating in the cafeteria, but prefers to do her own cooking. "A lot of people go to Whole Foods, but I usually get stuff from Schnucks," she said.

The cafeteria, however, does serve vegan and vegetarian food. According to Carla Cassulo, food

service director for Chartwells, all of their vegetables are steamed without oil or butter and vegan entrees and sides are labeled as such.

"We have had very little demand for vegan/vegetarian menu options," Cassulo said. "However, we recognize more and more students are going to be asking for this, therefore we try to have something available everyday. When we do offer vegan friendly options we only sell a few orders."

Vegans and vegetarians are a small minority on campus, but many of them are active in USETA, the University Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. This organization became officially recognized in fall 2005.

"We don't advocate vegetarianism but we try to present that option to people and show them that it's a viable option," said Matthew Cunningham, junior, anthropology, and president of USETA.

"It's naturally carried over because it just seems hypocritical to advocate the ethical treatment of animals when you're using them for food," said Bland, a member of USETA.

Cunningham said the goal of the organization was to educate and promote awareness at the University and in the community. From Feb. 14 to 16, USETA will have informational tables in the MSC rotunda where students can get more information about their organization and relevant issues.

IS mentor program pairs students with business alumni

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

On Friday, Jan. 27, an opening ceremony and first meeting of the semester was held for the UM-St. Louis Information Systems Mentoring Program.

The IS mentoring program connects students from the Information Systems area in the College of Business Administration with other faculty members and professionals to help them enhance their skills and make career preparations.

This program was originally established in 1994, by alumnus Michael Aufdembrink.

Vicki Sauter, professor of Information Systems, said that this program has not been as active as it should have been within the last couple of years, and that there was a strong push to revive it this semester.

"The idea is to link MIS students with alumni mentors to help answer questions about getting a job, what classes they should take and managing a career while still a student," Sauter said. "We try to match them as close as possible to the career path they want to take."

The mentors who participate are selected by the program's officers, the Alumni Advisory Board, and by faculty members.

Sauter said that the mentors represent over 40 companies, large and small, like Boeing and Edward Jones. There are also some mentors who work out of town in Washington and Southern California, who try to stay involved by serving as e-mail mentors.

The IS area focuses on applications of computing in business, programming, networking, interacting with clients and businesses, designing, sending out e-mails and managing a company within an organization.

"The main focus is how to get the computer to do the most for your

business," Sauter said.

Twenty-five students and 25 mentors attended the IS mentoring program kickoff, held in Grace's Place.

Sauter said that Grace's Place, located on the second floor of CCB, is a museum of historic computing equipment that includes numerous computer parts, toys, old tubes, analog computers, telegraph machines and pictures of the first PCs. Many of these computers have been disassembled to show and display their components and functions.

"Grace's Place gives you a view of computers that you normally don't get," she said.

Todd Gile, senior, MIS, said the program is an excellent way to explore options in the field of study and to meet and talk with professionals.

"After being in the work force for 20 years and coming back to school, I needed to have accessibility to contacts in the field of my study," Gile said. "I feel that this program is underutilized by IS students and it needs to be used more."

Sheila Burkett is one of the mentors who has participated in and attended some of the mentor sessions.

"One of the things that I love to do is to help get young people involved in new technology and to assist students with finding new careers or with making career choices," Burkett said.

IS Mentoring Program members participate in panel discussions and group interaction throughout the semester. The next meeting will be held on March 2 at Grace's Place, and they will discuss "The Value of Networking." Another meeting on April 5 at 5:30 p.m. will discuss "Communication for the IS Professional" and will include a guest speaker.

Visit mis.umsl.edu to find out more information about the Managing Information Systems major or to find out about the IS Mentoring Program.

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

the week's
**best
bets**

IBC 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Auction

The International Business Club will hold its Valentine's Day Auction for the second year in a row. The auction will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. Students can bid on other students to win a group date for Valentine's Day. Bids start at \$10. E-mail karenuhring@umsl.edu for more information.

Teacher Job Fair

The UM-St. Louis Teacher Job Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mark Twain Center. Several school districts will attend to meet and interview prospective students. Admission is free for preregistered current students and alumni. Admission at the door is \$5. Call 5111 for more information.

The Current...

Call or e-mail our Managing Editor,
Kate Drolet for more information:
516-5174 or current@jinx.umsl.edu

Get your fix. Every Monday.

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and features writers.

Discussion on mixture of faiths promotes religious tolerance

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

The Interfaith Campus Ministries at UM-St. Louis are looking to promote religious tolerance and understanding by making people more aware of the different religions.

On the first Thursday of each month, Interfaith Campus Ministries will sponsor "Conversations and Controversy: An Interfaith Dialogue." Various speakers will discuss issues and relate religion to controversial topics such as sex and religion and stem cell research.

"We had meetings with the Interfaith Campus Minister and we took a poll of students and these were the most popular topics," said Tracy Van De Riet, campus minister with the Catholic Newman Center.

On Feb. 2, representatives of four major religions came to the Pilot House to introduce people to their religion, its practices and its beliefs.

These panelists showed how much diversity there was between different faiths and even within one religion.

Rabbi Avi Katz Orlov, Rev. Joretta Marshall, Rev. Vic Barnhart and Dr. M' Waheed-Uz-Zaman Rana represented the Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Islam faiths, respectively. Some of the topics they discussed were about how their religions began, their clergy and the belief in the after-life.

Within each religion, most have different divisions with different beliefs. Protestantism itself branched off from Catholicism and now encompasses numerous different faiths and splinter groups, including Baptists, Methodists, and Lutherans.

"We have branched off in ways that are quite phenomenal," Marshall said. Martin Luther first formed the Protestant religion when he broke away from the Catholic Church in the early 1500s.

Catholicism, Judaism and Protestantism all follow scripture, but

interpret it differently and accept different books of the Bible.

Catholicism has also branched off into Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholicism because the Eastern Orthodox does not follow the Papacy.

"We're not bound so much by the Papacy as by the celebration of the Eucharist and we have the same prayers," Barnhart said.

"Islam is also based on scripture and everyone has to abide by scripture," Rana said. "People have different interpretations but the scriptures are all the same. There are some splinter groups but the majority of them conform."

Judaism also has several different divisions. "There's tremendous variety about what it means to be Jewish," Orlov said.

He said that Reform Jews, Orthodox Jews and Conservative Jews are different branches of Judaism and the branch people are associated with depends on their country and denomination, and dic-

tates Jewish lifestyles.

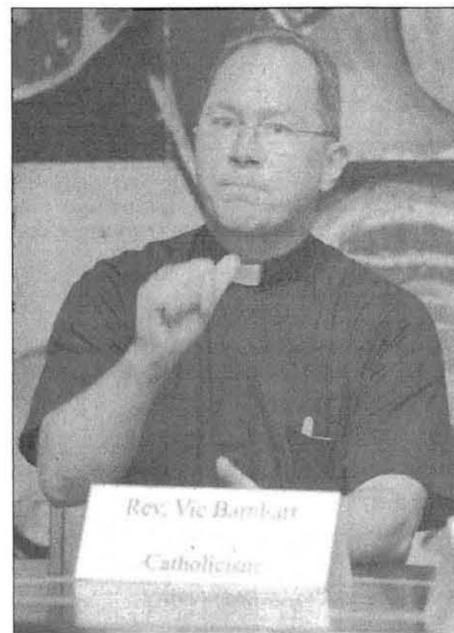
The panelists said that their members, regardless of religious affiliation, can have extremely diverse ideas when it comes to political views or lifestyle choices.

"There are very liberal Catholics and there are conservative Catholics," Barnhart said. "Literally, there are thousands of expressions of Catholicism."

Approximately 20 people attended the panel discussion. Afterward, audience members had the opportunity to ask specific questions about a particular religion.

Van De Riet said the goal of the panel and the Interfaith Dialogue series was to educate the community about the different faiths and their respective stances on issues.

"It's to make people more aware of different faith groups and what they're about so people can appreciate the different faith groups and be more tolerant of all religions," Van De Riet said.



The Rev. Vic Barnhart discusses a brief history of Catholicism at the Interfaith Dialogue Thursday afternoon in the Pilot House.

Adam D. Wiseman/The Current



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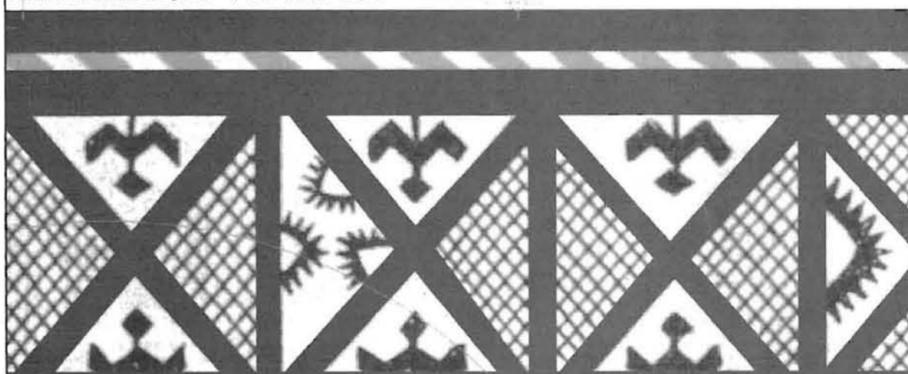
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La Bohème: Tragic opera sells out Touhill

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

On Feb. 10, the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center hosted the world famous Teatro Lirico D'Europa and its performance of Giacomo Puccini's classic opera "La Bohème."

This performance was special for me for two reasons. For one thing, this was my very first opera. Also, it was the first time I'd ever seen the Touhill sold out.

I found it surprising that this event sold out, considering the waning popularity of opera. I was also surprised to see more than a few students at the show.

I guess there are more opera lovers

living in St. Louis than I initially realized. The attendance would not be the only thing to shock me, however. I was also surprised by how much I liked "La Bohème."

"La Bohème" tells the story of four friends living in Paris around the year 1830. As the opera opens, poet Rodolfo (played by tenor Eugeni Akimov) and painter Marcello (played by baritone Vladimir Samsonov) burn Rodolfo's latest works just to stay warm.

Despite these hardships, the artistic friends live a life filled with optimism and good humor. When one of their friends, Schaunard (played by baritone Iliia Pavlov) gets a little money from teaching music, there is much rejoicing and an impromptu party begins in a nearby cafe.

Rodolfo, however, stays behind to finish his writing while the rest of his friends go out. Fate takes a hand, and soon Rodolfo is interrupted by a neighbor, Mimi (played by soprano Veselina Vasileva). Love soon blossoms between the two bohemians. The rest of the opera dramatizes the couple's tragic love affair.

Their love seems to symbolize love in general, each of them hesitant and fearful of the act of loving. Poverty and the redemptive power of love are the opera's main themes.

Sounds like a real laugh riot, right? Though "La Bohème" is a tragedy, the opera is not a total downer. I was amazed at how much humor there was, especially throughout the first two acts.

Many people are turned off by

opera simply because they do not speak the language.

I must admit, I am among the ranks of people who do not speak Italian. Thankfully, the Touhill's production of "La Bohème" was translated for the lingual-challenged members of the audience.

The translated English text was projected onto a white screen that hung just above the stage (these are called "super titles").

Watching the opera was like viewing an incredibly life-like subtitled foreign film. As helpful as these super titles were, I am not exactly sure they were needed.

Though many of the finer points (such as the humor) might have been lost on me, the overall tone of the story transcended all language barriers.

Under conductor Krassimir Topolov's direction, the brilliant musical score complemented and underscored the joy and the sorrow of "La Bohème."

The international production featured opera stars hailing all the way from Russia, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine.

Each of the opera's four acts featured distinct and elaborately designed sets. I think that the fact that such a prestigious production as "La Bohème" was held at the Touhill is a testament to its budding reputation.

Overall, I must admit that I greatly enjoyed my first opera and look forward to catching another one. All this goes to show, that a little culture goes a long way.

EDITOR

CATE MARQUIS

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'Go For Zucker' and get some comedy

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

A German Jewish comedy? Is this a joke?

"Go For Zucker" is a contemporary family farce about two very different estranged brothers who are forced to reconcile in order to collect an inheritance from their mother. It would simply be a very entertaining, funny film, if not for the fact that is a German film, made in Berlin, and the family just happens to be Jewish.

Writer/director Dani Levy used his home city of Berlin (the city his German Jewish mother fled in 1939) as the setting for this contemporary family comedy, a film that employs Jewish humor to poke fun at clichés and stereotypes. The humor derives as much from the issues of reunification in German as from the family farce, where the family just happens to be Jewish.

A big part of the film's appeal is Henry Hubchen's Jaecki Zucker, who is a lovable rascal that charms you into liking him no matter what. He used to be a star in East Berlin as a celebrity sportscaster but since the fall of the Berlin Wall, he has had nothing but bad luck.

Up to his neck in debt, Jaecki feels like he was one of the losers in German reunification. His long-suffering wife Marlene (Hannelore Elsner) is fed up and is tossing him out of their apartment. He is estranged from his grown daughter Jana (Anja Franke). When a policeman and his bank manager son Thomas (Steffen Groth) show up to cart him off to jail for failure to pay his loans, Jaecki pleads for a few more days to pay off the debt. You see, there is this big pool tournament this weekend and Jaecki has not lost a game he did not want to lose all year. If only he can come up with the entry fee.

Then something unexpected turns everything upside down. His wife Marlene opens a letter from Jaecki's estranged brother Samuel (Udo Samel) in Frankfurt, saying that their mother has died, leaving both instructions that she wants a Jewish funeral and burial in Berlin. The brothers will be required to sit shiva with the family and reconcile in order to inherit their mother's money.

The farce derives from Jaecki's attempts to dodge his family and obligation to sit shiva and reconcile with his brother to sneak off to play in the big weekend pool tournament, which he is sure he can win to pay off his debts by Monday to escape jail.

But along the way, Jaecki reveals his better side, including his long hidden love for his daughter. At first, it is all about the money for all of them, but eventually it is about bringing the family together.

The film deliberately pokes fun at stereotypes and clichés. At times, the film skates the edge of good taste or controversy but the loveable and sympathetic characters win you over in the end.



Adam D. Wiseman / The Current

Less Than Jake's saxophonist, Peter "JR" Wasilewski.

Less Than Jake rocks crowd at Miss. Nights

BY MABEL SUEN
NightLife Editor

Ska-punk superstars Less Than Jake took to the road for their 2006 tour and made a stop at St. Louis riverfront's Mississippi Nights to play to a packed audience.

Before the show, saxophonist Peter "JR" Wasilewski took a break from his tour bus activities and talked about touring and their latest undertakings.

With influences from groups such as Snuff, The Descendents and Iron Maiden, over the past decade, the group has gained positive reception to their music from all ends not only in America, but globally as well.

"From place to place and town to town, show to show all over the world, it's always the same kind of response. It's always good. Ninety-five percent of the people who come to our shows leave knowing they had a great time," said Wasilewski. "Touring and performing is the best part about being in a band."

When asked about their experiences in St. Louis, he replied, "St. Louis has always been an amazing place for our band. People have always come out and supported us. There are certain towns you latch on to when touring, and for me this is one of them. It's a good town with a good vibe. We appreciate the support after all these years, because if it wasn't for everybody coming out and buying tickets, we'd all be schlepping burgers at McDonald's."

Since '92, the five piece group from Gainesville, Fl. has released eight full length studio albums, with a new record entitled "In With the Out Crowd," set for release in May.

"It was such a weird experience writing this last record. We tried a lot of things we've never tried as a band. We had a lot of people come in and be a sixth voice."

Of course, being in a group with four other people can sometimes be hectic, whether in the studio or on tour.

"It's like we're brothers, you'll fight you'll pick on each other. You know exactly what buttons to push to set someone off. We get along so well because we know when to push those buttons. We try not to take ourselves too seriously."

With that in mind, I left the warmth and luxury of their lavish tour bus and proceeded to stand in line in the freezing weather to get inside. I would find, however, that even a lifetime worth of goose bumps would be worth it to witness the energy and excitement of the main act.

Damone, the first group to take to the stage, came out clad in patchy jackets and 80s garb, armed with thick Boston accents. It took a minute for me to see through all the shaggy haircuts and realize that one of the guitarists, who happened to be the lead singer, was a female. They proceeded to play a lively set of toe-tapping rock complete with duo hair metal licks, vocal harmonies and a song or two that sounded like the love children of Bon Jovi and Jet.

The next to perform was Rock n Roll Soldiers, a 4 piece group of guys with dress shirts and ties from Oregon. They performed simple, medium tempo rock that sounded a little like The Strokes or Franz Ferdinand with more bite. Simple riffs with straightforward drum beats, quarter note bass lines and doubled up power chords often escalated into thicker sections underlined by the singer's unique nasally voice.

Their set culminated during their last song when the guitarist/lead singer removed the bass drum from the drummer's set and began playing it himself.

see **LESS THAN JAKE**, page 9

Scottish bagpipes and Welsh brass march on stage at the Fox

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

You have not lived until you have heard Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" on bagpipe.

No kidding. Beethoven's classic sounded surprisingly right at home when played by the bagpipes and drums of The Black Watch, one of two British military musical organizations performing at the Fox Theater. Dance St. Louis, in a slight departure from their usual dance programs, brought the two groups, The Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of The Black Watch and The Band of The Welsh Guards, to St. Louis on Thursday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 10, 2006. The two groups brought British music, dance and pageantry to the Fox stage.

The two groups presented an evening of marching and mostly military music on the stage of the Fox to a fair-sized, enthusiastic crowd, many of whom were decked out in tartan plaids. Red and black in both royal regiments' distinctive uniforms dominated the stage, as the symbolism of the elements of an off-stage master-of-ceremonies, who also introduced the bands and the various musical pieces. A ceremonial salute began and ended the evening, with Missouri Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder doing the honors on Thursday and Stanford N. McDonnell on Friday.

Bagpipes are stirring and eerie, a sound people either love or hate. The pipers and drummers of the Black Watch were wonderfully skilled musicians and as good as I have ever



heard. They were also total performers, with the leopard skin-draped tenor drummers performing juggling-like twirls with their drum mallets as they drummed.

The Band of the Welsh Guards was as good a marching band as you ever heard. Several of the selections they played were the traditional fare

of brass bands, but when the band played selections of classical music, the real excellence of these musicians shined through. These pieces truly highlighted their gifts as musicians and their polish as an ensemble.

Both groups are both musicians and soldiers but the members of the Black Watch are primarily soldiers

first, while the members of the Band of the Welsh Guard are primarily musicians first.

The Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of the Black Watch are part of an active British military regiment. The pipes are, of course, bagpipes and they are the familiar royal Scottish regiment often seen in pictures about

the British Isles. From the audience's perspective, their uniforms looked red and black but what appeared to be black was actually dark green and blue. The Black Watch pipers wear red Royal Stewart tartans, dark green military doublets and high black feathered hats. Although the pipers wear the Royal Stewart plaid, the drummers' kilts are the regimental Black Watch tartan of dark green and blue, worn with red doublets and the same feathered hats. The bass and tenor drummers also wear leopard skins over their red doublets. Sashes, sporrans - the pouch worn in front, dirks - the small knives, and regimental badges and insignia add to the military splendor.

The Scottish regiment of the Black Watch is the older of the two, and was first formed in 1740. They won their first military honors at Fort Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War. They also fought during the American Revolution, at Waterloo in the Napoleonic Wars, in the Boer and Crimean Wars, World Wars I and II, Korea and both Iraq Wars. Many of the musicians performing here recently served in Iraq. Traditionally, the regiment's bagpipers and drummers have played as the Black Watch went into battle, to bolster the spirits of the troops and frighten the enemy. Today, they are also the Machine Gun Platoon, one of 14 platoons in the Black Watch. The Black Watch was given the designation of "royal" as early as 1758 and in 1889, the right to wear the Royal Stewart tartan. Membership of the Black Watch is about 99 percent Scottish.

see **BLACK WATCH**, page 9

BLACK WATCH, from page 8

The Welsh are famous for music, particularly their fine singers and choirs. The Band of the Welsh Guard was formed in 1915 and is famous for performing at the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, as well as performing at other official British State functions. Their uniforms are the familiar red and black of the Buckingham Palace Guard, complete with the high black bearskin hats. The Band of the Welsh Guard plays the brass instruments and drums of traditional marching bands while executing precision marching maneuvers. They are not a combat regiment but all are trained as medics, and have served in recent conflicts. The Welsh Guard is one of five royal Household Guards representing British national countries. It is based in London and membership is about one-third Welsh.

The evening's program consisted of a mix of military tunes, Scottish, Welsh, English and Irish tunes and medleys, classical and traditional pieces, and a few newer compositions. Among the selections were the British and American National Anthems, Pomp and Circumstance and When Irish Eyes are smiling, in a varied program. And of course, Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy,' which was performed by the combined groups, with the melody carried by the bagpipers. The two musical groups took turns performing and also performed together as an ensemble. One of the most stirring performances was Pogo's Call, a drums-only piece composed to honor Private Paul 'Pogo' Lowe, a drummer from the platoon who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

The musicians marched around on stage and frequently marched on stage playing. One of the delights of the evening for this critic was hearing the Pipe Master off-stage barking orders in a thick Scottish brogue at his platoon before they marched into sight playing their bagpipes and drums.

It was not just pipes and drums but highland dancers that graced the Fox stage. While girls and young women most often perform Scottish highland dances, the dances were originally part of battlefield ritual and were performed by men. The Sword Dance, which was presented during the evening and involves dancing over crossed swords, is thought to have originally been performed before battle as a warm-up and then after battle as a victory dance over

swords soaked in the blood of the enemy. All the drummers in the platoon learn to dance but a few members specialize in dancing. The audience saw four of these talented performers, who danced both the Sword Dance and the strenuous Highland Fling. It was a rare chance to see these traditional dances performed with skill and athleticism by the military men for whom they were designed.

The program was stirring and colorful. The only drawback was that the bands may have been more restrained in the confines of the Fox stage than they would have been on a proper parade-ground. Since the bands generally march on and off the parade ground while performing, transitioning entrances and exits to a stage made it hard for the audience to determine the best time to applaud, so that people tended to applaud as they entered and exited, sometimes drowning out the music which we all came to hear.

Personally, I would have preferred to hear more traditional highland music from the bagpipers, but nonetheless the program was enjoyable and well-performed. As spectacle, the presentation went more smoothly, with both troupes executing precision marching drills and offering pageantry on stage.

Dance St. Louis brought our city a delightful and unique winter's treat with this uplifting and energetic piece of patriotism and pageantry from our British friends 'across the pond.'

LESS THAN JAKE, from page 8

The drummer then stood up and beat the living daylight out of the remainder of his kit.

It wasn't until A Wilhelm Scream hit the stage that all the hardcore kids clad in black pushed their way to the front of the stage. The band delivered a loud and high energy performance with songs that got the crowd swarming like an enraged pile of Brazilian fire ants. I would tell you more about this band, but unfortunately, I was too busy playing a (undesirably) friendly game of "close your eyes and see what stranger's bodily crevice you end up in next."

Wasilewski of LTJ said, "I love that band. The reason they're on this tour is because we got this record and fell in love with it. They're such a powerful band and work really hard."

After the manic chaos died down with the finish of their set, roadies began setting up the stage for Less Than Jake. A backdrop featuring the band's name along with a ferocious looking illustration of a dinosaur beyond a skyline highlighted a hot pink and yellow drum set. Soon, the lights died down and an audio clip from Godzilla played over the speakers.

"As soon as the first downbeat hits its like you're on automatic pilot. As long as everybody has a good time, that's all that matters. We're

having fun up there," said Wasilewski.

The band exploded onto stage and proceeded to play a set full of songs from their newest album, Anthem, as well as many classic fan favorites such as "Al's War," "All My Best Friends Are Metalheads," and even a medley of their own songs and one song from their new album.

The horn players accented punk rock chords and poppy, sometimes reggae influenced melodies with succinct, harmonized lines, and danced around the stage when not playing. The group took short breaks occasionally to request shots from the bar and jokingly insult each other.

"I didn't drink last night," said bassist Roger Manganeli. "I did not make that mistake today."

Guitarist Chris Demakes retorted by saying, "Who wants to cut Roger's dreads off and make a shit flavored rum?"

A mixed crowd of new fans and old responded rambunctiously to their antics, singing along and jostling around (whether they wanted to or not). After pointing out a man

with a moustache in the crowd, Demakes requested that the man (who I found to resemble Rip Taylor) be crowd surfed up to the stage to share a beer with them.

Less Than Jake completed their set with "Gainesville Rock City" while shooting off confetti canons and played a foam filled encore to a sweating, satisfied audience.

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SPORTS

Riverwomen drown Cougars, Hawks

BY JEFF ANDERSON
Sports Writer

With the Great Lakes Valley Conference season winding down, the Riverwomen did what they needed to do, win.

After winning just three out of their last seven games, the women took full advantage of their last two home games of the season by knocking off SIU-Edwardsville 65-

48, and Quincy 62-42. Both games were won convincingly but not flawlessly.

In Thursday night's game against SIUE, the Riverwomen's victory was characterized by solid play on the defensive end and great offensive execution. Their field goal percentage for the game was 44 percent while they held SIUE to just 27 percent from the floor. The game featured Jennifer Martin as the top offensive performer with 14 points,

free throw opportunities for Quincy, which allowed the Riverwomen to pull away. Leading scorers included Crystal Lambert with 17 points and Jennifer Martin with 16 points and six rebounds. The 20-point win propelled the Riverwomen to their third straight win, a feat they had not achieved since they opened the season with five straight wins.

The Riverwomen are on the road for their last four games against Rockhurst, Drury, UM-Rolla and

Southern Indiana. The team knows they will need to focus if they want to finish the season above .500 in the conference.

In their last five games, they have averaged 18.4 turnovers per game and just 4.2 steals per game. However, their experience should propel them through this tough stretch of the season. The Riverwomen's road record has drastically improved to 6-4 this season from 0-13 on the road last season.

free throw opportunities for Quincy, which allowed the Riverwomen to pull away. Leading scorers included Crystal Lambert with 17 points and Jennifer Martin with 16 points and six rebounds. The 20-point win propelled the Riverwomen to their third straight win, a feat they had not achieved since they opened the season with five straight wins.

The Riverwomen are on the road for their last four games against Rockhurst, Drury, UM-Rolla and

Rivermen run out of steam against SIUE

BY LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Writer

Fans from both UMSL and SIUE filled the Mark Twain Building Thursday night to watch one of the most energetic and anticipated games of the basketball season.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Rivermen's GLVC record fell to 6-8 after losing to the 18th ranked Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Cougars.

The final score for the game was 65-60. The Rivermen were cold from the field during the first half, shooting 9-27. They were 3-11 from behind the three-point arc. The Rivermen trailed the Cougars at halftime 24-21.

UM-St. Louis was able to rally during the second half and gained the lead after a three-pointer by Troy Slaten with 13 minutes left in the game. The lead changed six times during the second half, but with seven minutes left in the game, the Rivermen seemed to lose steam. The Cougars went on a 7-0 run, bringing the score to 56-48. The Cougars held the lead for the rest of the game.

"We had a lot of people here. A lot of people and a lot of energy," said Head Coach Chris Pilz. "They saw a great college basketball game. Unfortunately, we came up on the short end."

The packed home crowd brought in new fans. "This is my first game and I actually really enjoyed it," said Marcene Hagens, business. "I will most definitely come again."



Aaron Jackson, guard for the Rivermen, goes for a basket in the game versus the Cougars Thursday night. The Rivermen lost 65-60 against SIUE

Men's team falls short in overtime at Quincy

BY LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Writer

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen hosted the Quincy University Hawks on Saturday night. The Rivermen lost their final home game of the season, with a final score, in overtime, of 75-68. The Rivermen are now 13-10 for the season and 6-9 in the GLVC. UM-St. Louis is currently ranked fifth in the GLVC West Division.

The Rivermen were down at the half 31-29. UMSL shot 10-20 from the field and 2-6 from behind the arc. UMSL gave up eight turnovers in the first half to Quincy's three. Quincy scored 11 points off of UMSL's turnovers.

The Hawks started the second half on a 7-0 run. Quincy held the lead for most of the second half, but two free throws by UM-St. Louis' David Ward tied the game 61-61 with 2:13 left in the game.

With 22 seconds left in the game, Jonathan Griffin hit a three pointer to tie the game 65-65 and send the game into overtime.

Griffin started off overtime with another three pointer for the Rivermen. After that, Quincy went on a 10-0 run to win the game 75-68.

Griffin led the Rivermen with 22 points and eight rebounds. He shot 1-6 during overtime.

The Rivermen have four games left in the regular season. The team will travel to Rockhurst on Feb. 16 and then to Drury University on Feb. 18.

The final two conference games will be played at the University of Missouri- Rolla on Feb. 21 and against Southern Indiana University on Feb. 25.

EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER

Sports Editor

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fax: 516-6811

Upcoming Games

Women's Basketball

Feb. 16
at Rockhurst
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
at Drury
5:15 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Feb. 16
at Rockhurst
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
at Drury
3:00 p.m.



Jennifer Martin, center, plays for the Riverwomen. She comes to St. Louis from Campbell University in Raleigh, N.C.

Martin shows love for the game on and off the court

BY KIMYATTA JARRETT
Staff Writer

Being an athlete and being recognized as a good athlete is a great accomplishment.

For athletes who truly love the game, exhibiting that love and passion is easy; Jennifer Martin is one of those athletes.

Martin shows her love for the game on and off the court. The 6'1" junior from Raleigh, N.C. is playing for the first time at UM-St. Louis.

Martin started her basketball career at Division I. Campbell University.

She set a single-season record with 33 blocked shots and averaged five rebounds per game.

Martin scored a career best 22 points in the season opener her sophomore year at Campbell. She ended her two year stint at Campbell with 264 points and 63 blocked shots.

Martin said she loves the game so much that when her family moved to St. Louis, she moved and became a member of the UM-St. Louis Women's Division II Basketball team.

When asked if there is a difference in playing for two different divisions, Martin said, "It wasn't a dramatic difference in the game pace but we [still] play in a very tough conference."

Martin has posted impressive stats for her first year playing for the Riverwomen. She has started and played in all 22 games this season.

She has 136 rebounds and averages about six a game, 47 blocks, 25 steals, 262 points and averages about 11 points a game. She comes in first with most scored points, rebounds (offense and defense) and blocks.

Martin's career highlight was at home on Jan. 14 against Bellarmine when she scored 25 points. "It was an exciting game and it was very exciting to score 25 points," said

Martin.

Her contribution to the game helped the Riverwomen edge their way to victory 68-66.

Martin's love for the game can be traced back to playing with her older brother and the neighborhood boys.

"It's the passion for the game, the energy it gives me, and it is just exciting," said Martin.

Martin always shows energy on the court. She said that there is a lot of energy within the squad and even when they are the only ones in the gym practicing, they are jumping around and showing support for each other.

Basketball is not the only pastime of Martin. She loves to be around her family and just be a girl. "I love shopping, going to the movies and mall, and hanging out with my friends."

Martin is majoring in early education and will possibly coach outside of classroom teaching.

She was also named the December Athlete of the Month.

Rabbits ears work just as well for watching the Cardinals play



BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

After Charter Communications knocked on my door Saturday to collect payment for the past due balance that I naturally had neglected to pay, I started thinking about how thankful I was that I only have pipeline and not cable.

I am very pleased with my rabbit ears on both my television sets in my apartment. They work pretty well—except when it rains.

Why would I want to pay for cable? Even when I have the opportunity to watch more than three channels, I usually opt not to. My anten-

nas have served my purpose very well. The only show I really miss watching is Roseanne, but I will survive—after all, I have seen every episode at least 15 times.

In the summer, I still watched the Cardinals play. I was always happiest when they were on Channel 11 because it comes in crystal clear.

Now that the summer is long gone and winter is coming and going as it pleases, I have had the opportunity to watch what really matters to me. I watched Albert Pujols give the Cards another opportunity.

I watched the winningest coaches in college football battle in several overtimes only to watch my heart hit the ground when FSU lost. I watched all the missed field goals and then, the next day I watched Texas upset USC (a game during which I cheered very loudly).

I also watched as many other college football games as I could on Saturdays and then, if I had the urge, I would watch the Rams lose on Sundays, maybe a Monday here and there.

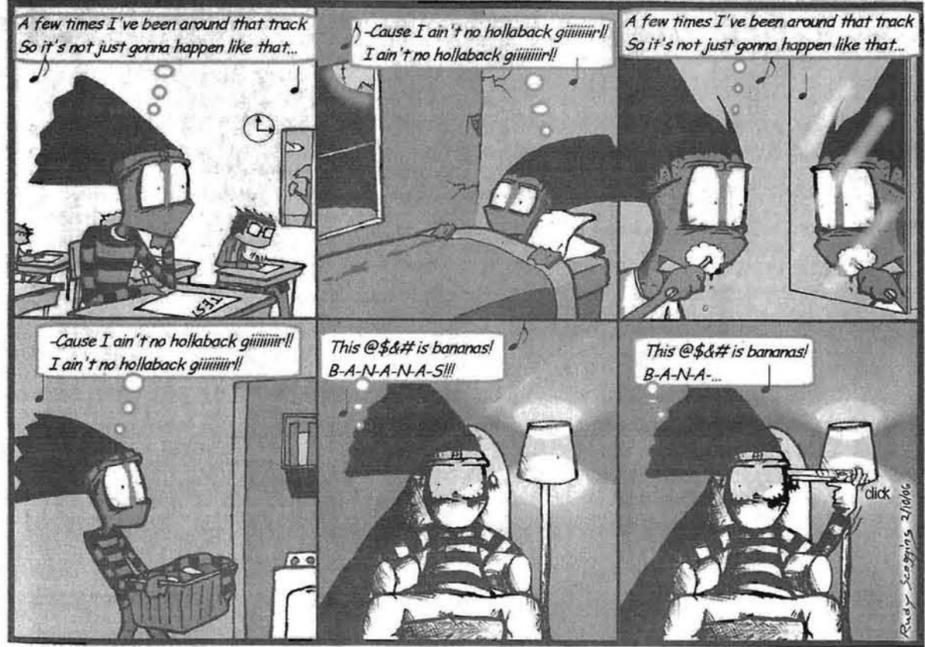
Hopefully, my feelings about pay-

ing way too much money (money that the bank tells me in blue envelopes in my mailbox that I don't have to begin with) will keep me from giving in to cable. I have my mind set on spring training starting in a few days and the first game for the Cardinals' spring schedule on March 2.

The regular season starts in less than 50 days. Then, before I know it, I will be able to watch the Cardinals on my nice 36" television with the rabbit ears and aluminum foil touching the ceiling.

NUTH BUT THE FUNK

"Ever had one of those days..."



SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart



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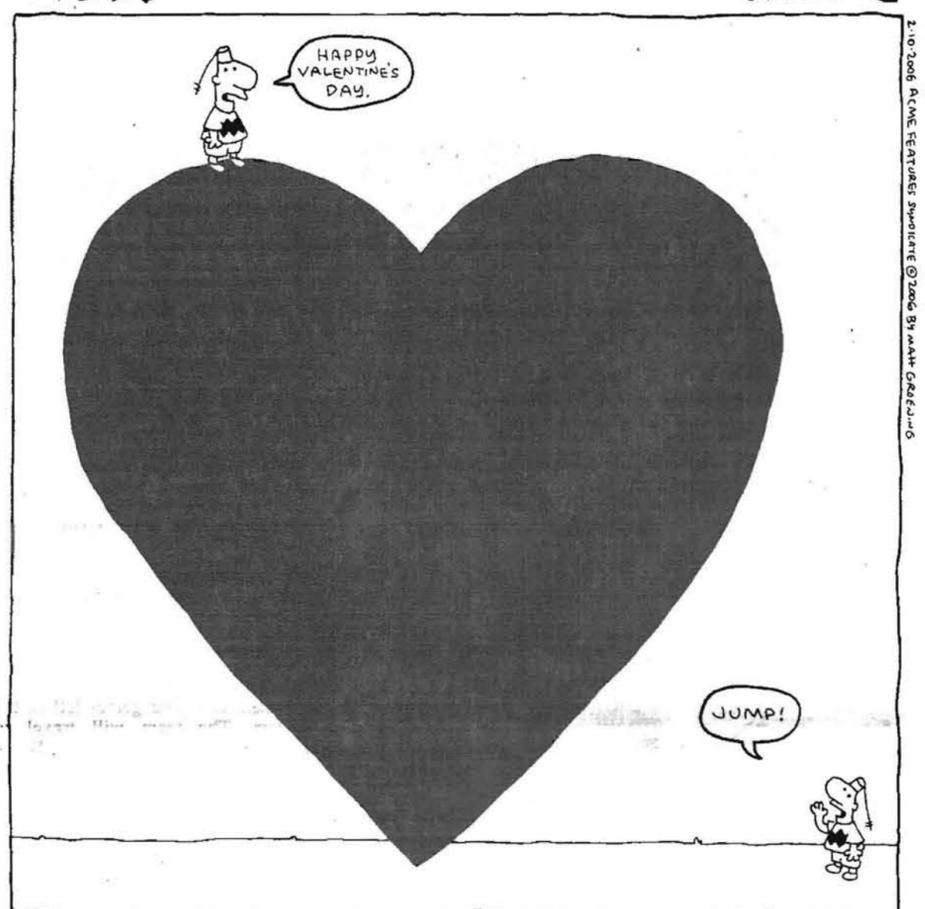
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LIFE IN HELL

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) St. Valentine's Day magic rules the entire week for romantic Rams and Ewes. Music, which is the food of love, is also strong. The weekend offers news both unexpected and anticipated.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor the arts - which the Divine Bovine loves, loves, loves. Also, for those looking for romantic love, Cupid is available for requests. After all, his mother, Venus, rules your sign.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Loving commitments continue to grow stronger. Ditto budding relationships. A recent move to help start up a new career-linked direction could soon begin to show signs of progress.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Single Moon Children might be eager to take that proverbial chance on love. But your more serious side will feel better if you take things slowly and give your moonstruck self more time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a love fest for Leos and Leonas this week. Paired Cats might expect to be purr-fectly in sync. And with matchmaking friends, single Simbas searching for romance shouldn't have too far to look.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) More understanding on both sides can work miracles in restoring ailing relationships to health. Make the first move, and you'll be closer to your much-wanted reunion.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Accept the fact that you are worthy of being loved, and you'll find proof in what is revealed to you over the course of the week. Also accept a compliment offered with great sincerity.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Planning to take a new direction in life is exciting. And so is a new awareness of someone's special affection. Expect a slow and mostly steady development of the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although you might still feel you weren't treated quite right in a recent matter, all that will work out in time. Meanwhile, enjoy the week's special qualities and potentials.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Deciding not to give up on a troubling romantic situation helps start the healing process. Expect to find some valuable insight into yourself as things move along.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The week is filled with positive potentials, but it's up to you to make the right choices. The advice of someone who truly cares for you and your well-being can be priceless.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to make yourself available to possibilities of the romantic kind. Already paired? Good. In that case, be sure to reassure that special person of your feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your generosity gladdens the hearts of others, and you bask in their joy.

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Super Crossword GOURMET DISMAY

ACROSS

1 Had kittens?
5 Frolic
9 Elsie's appendage
14 Gather
19 Come unglued
20 Spread in a tub
24 Balm
25 Build a barrier
26 Where Athenians assembled
27 Combative
28 Speaker of remark at
34 Across
31 Sloth or anger
32 Bone-dry
33 Lubricate
34 Start of remark
43 Doggpatch's
44 Inventor Howe
45 Grande
46 Chop
48 Bronie's "Grey"
51 More aloof

53 Merino male
54 Emulate
56 Summarize
57 Rocker Morrison
58 "Gracious me!"
60 Actress Wendy
61 Dignified calm
63 Writer Bret
64 Church instrument
65 Part 2 of remark
69 With 29 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
72 Leases
73 Gives in to
77 Not as messy
78 Bk. loan
79 53 Across' mate
81 Rock's trick
83 Like Yale's walls
84 degree
85 Day or Duke
87 Yaphet of "Homicide"
88 Saucypan

89 Actress MacGraw
90 Get the soap off
92 "Sea Hunt" shocker
93 Part 3 of remark
101 G. Carroll
102 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
103 Ferris-wheel unit
104 End of remark
110 Texas town
115 Tycoon
116 Time on the throne
117 Word with pad or powder
118 Equipment
119 Disintegrate
120 Football's Herber
121 Frank or Francis
122 Paruvian Indian
123 Gardening tool
124 Elbowed
125 Dandelion, for one
128 Playwright Coward

DOWN

1 Soary
1 Stoker
2 Sitarist Shankar
3 Demonic
4 Concoct
5 Bookstore section
6 Ken or Lena
7 Dissolve
8 Seal school
9 Open Old Glory
10 Fuel choice
11 Lions' lairs
12 "Behold!" to Brutus
13 Virginia
14 Mideastern tongue
15 Word form for "great"
16 Run (lose control)
17 Father (detained)
18 Show-stopper
28 Pewter base
29 See 69
30 Card game
32 "Carmen" setting
34 Bet
35 Ergo
36 Master
37 Singlass
38 This and that

39 Highfalutin' headgear
40 "Dooley"
41 Leasts
42 Sorbo or Spacey
43 Deface
47 Elin
49 "The Bells" monogram
50 Bad
52 Showed one's feelings
54 Sorcerer
55 Unit of work
59 Univ. leas
60 Piglet's papa
62 Practice boxing
63 up (detained)
66 Imitation gold
67 Feature
68 Crusader kingdom
69 St. Andrews clod
70 Writer Wharton
71 Recline
74 "How I've got you!"
75 Lorre or Lely
76 Gorged

77 Hint
79 Stezak or Eleniak
80 Jeroboam contents
82 Office seeker, for short
84 Eastern "May"
86 Primate
91 Flew the coop
94 Refer (to)
95 Bank employee
96 Court
97 bag
98 Lamented
99 Conflict
100 Starting point
104 Hoskins in "Hook"
105 Puzzle part
106 Like kids at Christmas
107 Certain sandwich
108 Architect Saarinen
109 Hughes' mileu
110 Top-notch
111 Lion's pride
112 Jocular
113 Toddy trim
114 Evangelist Roberts
117 Observed

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Seeking Performance Poets
The Office of Student Life is seeking individuals to perform for poetry night to celebrate Women's History Month (tentatively set for March 23). Contact 5270 or oda302@umsl.edu.

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Attitudes: Food, Body and Self
If you ever struggle to change your body, control food, or feel good about yourself-you might try something different. You might want to try the "Attitudes" group sponsored by University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services. Contact Lori @516-5711 or Michelle @ 516-5414

Would you like to quit smoking?
Contact the Wellness Resource Center at 516-5380 for free, on-campus smoking cessation resources.

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Starting Monday Feb. 6th. Instructional Computing Labs will offer free one hour classes at a variety of times on several topics, including Microsoft office, HTML & Web Page Building, File Management, UNIX/Macintosh, Adobe Photoshop basics 1 and 2, Viruses & Spyware and Studentmail Basics. The classes will also be taught on various "Instructional Computing Fridays". To sign up or view a course list, visit www.umsl.edu/training or ask a computer lab consultant.

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 17TH

... and still going!

Current Current Current Current Current

Student curator bill goes to Senate

LONDON, from page 4

There we struggled through mounds of seaweed and other various plant life to wander the rock beaches. However, most of the time the path kept us high above the water, giving us a spectacular view of the cliffs below and the countryside around us.

On one side, the cliffs dramatically dropped to the sea. On the other side, horses, cattle and sheep crowded towards the edge of pastures lined with stone fences built before any one of us existed.

The cliffs we explored glimmered in the morning mist, filling us with a sense of mystery. After the bustle of London, the stillness of Wales calmed us and gave a feeling of renewal and rebirth. As I stood on the cliffs, the wind swept over me and pierced through the scarf covering most of my face. It was cold, there's no denying that, but struggling up cliff tops and over fences, my pumping blood kept me warm. This was especially true for what we deemed "The Hill." Standing on the beach at the base and looking up to the top

where the path led, the view reminded me of when I was forced to sit in the front row of an IMAX showing of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Slightly intimidated, we trudged up the dizzying landscape. At the top we could see several miles in any direction and felt, quite deservedly, like champions.

Since the hike took place in the morning, when we arrived back to the lodge, a hot lunch of chicken and vegetable soup awaited us. Ravenously, we dug in. We managed to remember our manners when talking to the staff, but in our group at the table, it was every man, woman, and child for themselves. We stuffed our faces with homemade bread, savory soup and hunks of cheese. After the scarfing of food, we changed into swim suits and old tennis shoes, or "runners," to prepare for coast-teering.

Our guides carted us off to the equipment barn where we tangled ourselves in a full winter wetsuit, winter booties, a life jacket, a helmet, gloves

and our own shoes. Once we donned our ridiculous costumes, the staff hustled us into vans that brought us to the coastline. After a brief walk from the parking lot to the water's edge, our instructors led us along some rocks before assembling for instructions. John, John and Chris briefly explained what we would do. Coasteering basically involves traveling along the coast in the water or just above it. You climb rocks, swim and jump off cliffs as you go.

The brief lesson over, we started on our way across the rocks encrusted with barnacles. Tall John led the way, and he stopped just at a four foot drop off. "Alright then," he said, as we watched him leap into the Northern Atlantic and swim to a rock island about five yards away. One by one we followed our leader. Snug in my whaleskin-like outfit, the cold was not the most shocking part of that first jump. The mouthful of salt water I inhaled as I reached the surface gave me a far more unpleasant jolt. I soon got over the initial shock and

made my way along the rocks just as everyone else did. Short John quickly nicknamed me "Fanny." Apparently, at any jump more than eight feet, I would mutter "Oh my goodness, oh my goodness" to myself, just like the little girl from "Annie."

This was especially true at the highest jump of the day, towards the end. Rising above us at over thirty-five feet, the cliff seemed tame...until we stood at the top and looked down at the water below. Mustering up my courage, I took a leap off the edge and kept my arms in at my sides. For a second I felt completely weightless. I think the shock confused my heart; I swear it stopped until I hit the water. And boy did I hit it. Luckily, the life jacket prevented me going too far underwater. Most unfortunately, I turned at the waist a little bit before I hit. The result was a bruise on one side of my butt the next morning.

Until next time, I leave you with this lesson I learned on my Wales adventure: you never feel more alive than when you think you're about to die.

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 wonge@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.



R-MEN, from page 10

The Cougars set a new school record with 15 consecutive wins.

"We've been looking forward for this game for a while, and we came out and we accomplished what we set out to accomplish, 15 in a row," said Cougars guard Ryan Belcher.

Free throws were important in the game with SIUE scoring twice as many as UM-St. Louis. The Cougars made 16-24 from the free throw line while the Rivermen made 8-12.

Troy Slaten had a team high of 17 points in the game. He went 7-16 from the field, making two three pointers.

FEES, from page 1

"The media studies courses, on which the fee would be charged, are courses that require a lot of equipment," he said. Hylton named television production, radio production and film as examples that need the funding that the fee would provide. "The fee would be used exclusively for that purpose," he said.

If the curators approve the media studies fee, students in the media studies program would be charged starting in the fall semester of 2006.

"The equipment is costly; therefore, in order for the fee to accomplish what we want it to accomplish, we just felt this was the appropriate number," Hylton said. "According to the faculty in the media studies department, it's rather common to have these kinds of fees."

UM-St. Louis is also proposing a \$10 per credit hour fee for science courses with a lab section included. According to the curators, other campuses may add a similar supplemental science course lab fees in the near future.

While the three proposed fees above would apply specifically to certain UM-St. Louis departments, one new fee being discussed is the facility fee, which could cost students up to \$10 per credit hour, no matter their major.

Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial and technological services, said the facility fee was necessary for two reasons: deferred payments and the maintenance and repair requirement for universities.

"We've had budget cuts in what is called the maintenance and repair requirement for the campus," Krueger said. During the past five years, the percentage was cut to help in "budgetary hard times." He said the decrease has "resulted in the campus not being able to do all the projects it would like to do."

Krueger explained certain types of expenditures count toward the maintenance and repair requirement, but one of them is not renovation. He said the facility fee would help fund those renovation projects.

"It'd be nice if we had other sources," he said. "On the other hand, it is simply recognition of the costs of doing business and the need to have adequate facilities."

Krueger noted, "As a dedicated student fee, we'll keep track of it separately. We would account for it separately and would have full disclosure about the use of the fee."

Krueger did not consult the SGA about the three proposed fees for the UM-St. Louis campus because the fees only affect certain departments. While the facility fee concerns all students, the decision to ask for the fee came after the Nov. 11 SGA meeting regarding a discussion of student fees.

All of the fee proposals came from the respective deans in certain colleges. The fee suggestions are sent to Krueger, Provost Glen Cope and the chancellor, who sends the proposals to UM President Elson Floyd and the Board of Curators.

Krueger said all of these fees are needed to be more consistent with other fees at the other UM campuses.

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Love on a budget : 10 dates under \$10

BY CHRISTINE ECCLESTON
Copy Editor

Those who do not have deep pockets, or who would rather not raid their pockets, fear Valentine's Day no more. Here are ten ideas for Valentine's Day that are under \$10, in no particular order.

1. Cici's Pizza offers a \$2.99 all you can eat pizza, salad and pasta bar. Pizza Street also offers a similar all you can eat option for \$3.49. So people on a budget can get themselves and their significant other stuffed for less than \$10. Beware, however, because drinks are not included—so either enjoy some H2O, sneak in something, or make it romantic by sharing a soda.

2. Mimic the coffee house date. Purchase a distinct flavor of coffee to brew, grab a box of scones from the grocery store and set up a table and chairs at home. The smell of the flavored coffee brewing will set the atmosphere for your "Starbucks at home for a lot less" date.

3. Blockbuster rents two-day new release rentals for \$3.99 and five-day rentals for \$2.99. Then, people will have enough money left over to buy a bottle of Boone's Farm wine or two 24 ounceers. For those who do not indulge in alcohol, some fancy sparkling grape juice or a couple of two-liters fit the budget. This option packs entertainment and cuddling (if it is the right movie)—and thirst will not be an issue.

4. Giovanni's has nothing on this. Buy a box of spaghetti for about \$2, a can of meat sauce for \$2, some cheese for around \$2, some butter for \$1 and a loaf of bread for \$1. Then either make dinner for the date, or have the date

include the making of dinner. Who knows what spaghetti will stick to then.

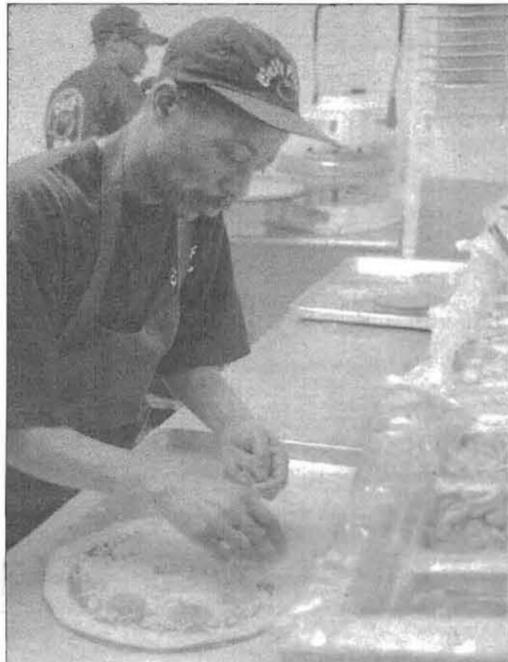
5. Go biking. This, of course, assumes both parties own bikes. But if this is the case, St. Louis boasts many great trails to explore. The Katy trail in St. Charles and the trails of Forest Park are two great options. This date puts new meaning into "getting sweaty."

6. Break and bake. Who does not like cookies and milk? Buy the break and bake style cookies from the grocery store and then buy a gallon of milk. Bake cookies together and enjoy the smell of cookies, the comfort of milk and the great company. To impress, consider purchasing chocolate, strawberry or other flavored syrups to put in the milk.

7. Enjoy the arts. The St. Louis Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday. Guided tours (for no extra charge) occur during Tuesday through Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free, and before or after visiting, couples can take a romantic stroll in Forest Park.

8. Frolick in the park. Raid the refrigerator and the cabinets and grab some snacks for a mini-meal in the park. Take along a blanket, a mixed CD made just for the evening, a CD player and enjoy a night under the stars.

9. Check out the Missouri Botanical Gardens on Shaw Boulevard. Admission for St. Louis city/county residents is \$4, but this could provide an entire day's entertainment as the Garden boasts flower shows, live music, and educational and fitness activities during the year. This date is a must if one or both parties is a flower fan.



Reggie Nichols, cook at Cici's Pizza off of Chippewa in south city, loads up a pizza with pepperoni for last Friday's lunch crowd.

Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

10. Think I was leaving out chocolate? Of course not. Dove Promises—pick either milk chocolate or dark chocolate—feature romantic sayings on the wrapper of each chocolate. At only \$3.99 a bag, this leaves money for the traditional Hallmark card. After all, what's a

Valentine's Day without a card and some chocolate?

Keep in mind that Valentine's Day is about spending time with a significant other. Time is sometimes worth more than anything money can buy.

night life

February 13, 2006



INSIDE:

The dates you don't want to repeat

See page 5

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Photos by: Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

The Royale offers great food and great drinks. The Royale is located at 3132 S. Kingshighway and has a little bit of something for everyone.

The Royale's atmosphere sets it apart

BY ADAM D. WISEMAN
Photo Director

Just south of Highway 44 on Kingshighway sits The Royale. Walking in to the door you are hit with an eclectic collection of design. The walls are a soft muted yellow and orange and hanging on the walls amongst the photos of Martin Luther King Jr., Mel Camahan, JFK and his brother Bobby, boxing memorabilia and a hint of Catholicism.

There are plenty of good seats in the dining area or plenty of bar stools up at the bar. The music is just loud enough to hear but not overbearing, and you are kept on your toes with what is going to play next.

The atmosphere is what sets The Royale apart from other establishments, but what really makes this place special is the food. Although the bar is prominent, this restaurant is for casual dining. The

menu offers selections made up by Bastante's Chef Aaron Whalen.

You can start off with The Royale Spread, which is lemon tahini hummus served with warm pita bread, or you can get the meatier martini beef kabob. Both are delicious. After the starters you can either choose from a salad, baked sandwiches, individual pizzetas, a burger, or an entrée. The entrees include ravioli made with shiitake and portobello mushrooms, smoked brisket tacos served with a bleu cheese avocado ranch dressing and for something really special, try the the Ahi tuna.

You will not find a fryer in the kitchen. Everything is either baked or pan seared. After you are finished with the meal don't forget the Tippy Twinkie, a great ending to a wonderful dining experience.

But don't worry if you're not eating. The bar can set you up nicely. Take a look at the beer

selection, the wine selection or choose from the local drink menu. If you are in the mood for a martini, try my favorite, "the south side snob" made with Makers Mark, Stoli O, triple sec, and OJ. Or grab a high ball named the "Bevo."

The Royale is a great place for dinner or hanging out with friends. There are happy hour specials from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and it has launched the Saturday Brunch featuring great breakfast food and a make your own Bloody Mary Bar.

Come on Friday and Saturday Nights to listen to record spins by DJs from St. Louis. Steven Fitzpatrick Smith, the owner of The Royale had a vision and he made it happen.

"I wanted a place where you could hang out with your friends, or bring your mom," Smith said. The Royale is the way a restaurant should be, great atmosphere, great music, great food and great drinks.

BY ZACH MEYER
Staff Writer

How many bands do you know of that break out into "Man of Constant Sorrow" during their sets ... and can pull it off? If the answer up until now has been none, may I introduce Amsterband.

Straight from the cornfields of Springfield, Mo., Amsterband is one of the freshest rock 'n' roll acts that St. Louis has ever seen. With foot stomping, grit grinding and twang reverberating songs, the band bellows catchy and semi-political outbursts of pure enjoyment.

Judging the members of the band by only their looks, it would be impossible to say whether they are pot smoking partiers or coffee drinking intellectuals. Either way, front man Brian Roberts, guitarist/keyboardist Brett Anderson, bassist Lucas Long and drummer Lennon Bone take their band quite seriously. In the last two years, the band has released their full-length debut *Beatchen* as well as two EPs and a handful of tours. As if that weren't enough, the band is ready to go back into the studio to record a follow up.

"We'll go in mid-March to do a new record. Some of the songs have been in the set list for months now and others are just starting to come to the forefront. We're just trying to rotate it around to see what works because there's no better test than playing a song in



Photo courtesy Amsterband

Brian Roberts, Brett Anderson, Lucas Long and Lennon Bone are Amsterband. The rock 'n' roll group is originally from Springfield, Mo.

front of a live audience," said Roberts with his south-central Missourian rasp.

Don't let the band's country bumpkin exterior trick you into thinking that the members prefer to romp around the Midwest plantations on tractors and slaughter pigs (although

Roberts reports that his first job was a hog farmer). Instead, they are hitting the venues hard, playing with scenester bands such as Rushmore Academy and The F*Bombs and thus, slowly but surely winning over fans.

Already graced with the backing of May

Apple Records, Amsterband could soon be heading for the big time.

"Of course we'd want to be played on the radio. I think we're slightly weird, and not accepted by a lot of people I guess, but that seems to be changing as we play these places. So yeah, I think we could definitely be on the radio," said Long.

"I think we really are seeing a turnaround in the music industry in general when you see kind of odd bands that get signed to major labels. They're doing something different. They're paying attention to what the kids are saying instead of what they think," agreed Bone.

But perhaps the most revitalizing aspect about Amsterband is the fact that they have skipped over the pretentious, and often elitist, conformity of the "hip" crowd. As a substitute for the vogue-ish clothing fashions that most hipsters prefer, the band instead focuses on spreading their music to as many people as possible via their street team which they refer to as the Amsterbandwagon.

"We're trying to develop a really solid street team all over the Midwest. It's really blossomed. It's been an amazing response that we've gotten," explained Bone.

En el fin, keep an eye out for this quartet. If Amsterband continues to gather the support from fans that they have been receiving, it is likely that they may become the hottest act out of the Midwest in the last decade.

Lemp Arts Center is the best little grassroots venue in town

BY ALBERTO PATINO
Staff Writer

Arc you tired of things that go pop in the dissipating light of a disposable, clear-channeled night? Deluged with the sticky, sloshy sugar sludge of pitch-perfect inflatables blinged out to synapse singed excess? Tired of tourniquette-trousered, tight-shirted, apedraped neanderthaloid fodder, posturing and barking for their 15 minutes of digicam myspaceturbation? Do you understand butt-all what I am asking you here? If you answered yes, then you, oh discerning art lover and paragon of good taste, should probably be attending shows regularly at the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, or "Lemp Arts" as many affectionately refer to it.

Lemp Arts is a versatile, air-conditioned space, situated on lovely Lemp Avenue in historic Benton Park. It hosts a wide variety of music, including punk rock, hardcore, experimental, avant garde, folk, metal, prog, free jazz, noise, and all the sub-genres woven betwixt. It also hosts visual art and activism across many media, including, but not limited to d.i.y. workshops, independent film, musical clinics, illustration, and graphic design.

Lemp Arts is in essence an all-purpose art gallery and volunteer-run collective, ideal for people who love non-commercial art and wish to promote civic pride. It is drug and alcohol-

free, and its board is comprised of dedicated artists and musicians from the neighborhood.

Highly of note and exclusive to the Lemp Arts, is the annual St. Louis Noise Fest, a weekend-long extravaganza that features a slew of experimental performers. Past Fests have featured local favorites such as Ghost Ice, Joe Raglani, Vehemence 6.2, Worm Hands, Skarekrau Radio, and 3D3.

Below is a list of upcoming shows at Lemp Arts. I personally recommend checking out the Casiotone for the Painfully Alone show on March 30, and attending The Gadabout Film Festival (a "traveling DIY indie film fest") on April 13.

Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center is located at 3301 Lemp Ave. at the corner of Lemp and Utah. All shows are all ages and \$5 unless otherwise noted. SUN-THU: Shows start at 8 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. Shows end at midnight on Friday through Saturday.

Upcoming shows in February:

- 17 the Plastic Constellations/ Wake Up, Report/tba
- 18 River Runs Red/Mary Vicious/tba
- 19 Liz Durrett/Hannah Keefe/Bo Bulawsky/Ghost In Light/ Theodore
- 24 Lost To Metric/ Conformists/ Corbeta Corbeta



The Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center, located at 3301 Lemp Ave. near Benton Park, offers a music venue/art gallery/community meeting ground.



The Royale is located at 3132 South Kingshighway

Looking for a romantic flick for Valentine's Day?

BY CATE MARQUIS

Film Critic

Dinner and a movie is a great date for Valentine's Day. The problem is all those long lines at restaurants. Fortunately, the movie portion of the date is far easier to pull off, even on a busy Valentine's Day. You can even find seats at the 7 p.m. peak, but you want to pick the right movie.

Something romantic is best, even if you are one of those guys who usually likes to pick scary movies for dates. This time, go for the romantic.

There are several good picks for a Valentine's date movie in theaters now, for a variety of tastes. Since there has not been a big rush of new romantic movies, this list includes some good choices that have been in theaters for awhile.

Best bets:

The New World: Breathtakingly beautiful and romantic, this languid film is a retelling of a romance between John Smith (Colin Farrell) and Pocahontas (then 14-year-old Q'orianka Kilcher), although she is never called by that name, from legendary filmmaker Terrence Malick. There is no real historical basis for the romance but director Malick uses the founding of the Jamestown colony and their relationship as a metaphor for discovery and loss, the meeting of old and new worlds, Western civilization's ideas and native culture, and even man versus the natural world. The film is gorgeous, poetic and moving but has a stately pace that mirrors its classical music and natural sounds soundtrack like a quiet float down a natural stream. This is the best choice for art lovers and serious film aficionados, both for its heart-stopping beauty and because it is a masterpiece of filmmaking.

Something New: This movie took me by surprise. I was expecting the usual textbook, checklist romantic comedy, but this tale of unexpected romance touches on issues of race and class, and is both surprisingly thought-provoking and romantic. The characters, by Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker, have chemistry and charm, and a story that is not predictable or pat. This is a very enjoyable romantic movie and the first pick relationship movie of the season.

A Good Woman: Based on Oscar Wilde's "Lady Windermere's Fan," this film is full of witty dialog and catty upper crust gossip among the wealthy classes, even though it was shifted from the 1890s to 1930s.

Helen Hunt plays an aging beauty who has spent her life seducing wealthy married men and who meets a young American couple in Italy. The plot is full of twists, surprises and romance, and the dialog is delightfully clever, even though Johansson looks more like Marilyn Monroe than she should to play the innocent, reserved Mrs. Windermere. This is a fun movie.



Simon Baker and Sanaa Lathan star in the romantic movie, "Something New."

Casanova: Do not be fooled, this is no tiresome litany of sexual conquests. Instead, it is a swashbuckling, tongue-in-cheek romp of costumed romantic fun that is a mix of "The Three Musketeers" and "Shakespeare in Love," when the great lover meets his match in a feminist writer. Pretty, funny and romantic.

Memoirs of a Geisha: More romantic costumes, this one is just as lush and pretty but set in the world of intrigue and personal politics of early 20th century geishas. The film is more about the romance that runs through the tale than the book, which is more about the secrets of geishas. This is lushly pretty with lots of costumes, intrigue, and a cast of Asian stars headed by Ziyi Zhang.

Pride and Prejudice: This is yet another adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, but this is a good one too. However, instead of the lush perfect costumes, the film goes for a more realistic and natural look, which is very refreshing. So not everything is perfect, and people look far more like they might have actually looked, with mud on their boots and a little sweat or dirt. On the other hand, the scenery of the countryside is wonderfully beautiful and natural. Keira Knightley is a rather lightweight and giggly Elizabeth but the film still has charm.



Scarlett Johansson stars as Meg Windermere in "A Good Woman."

Not recommended:

the film still has charm.

Tristan and Isolde - It sounded promising but it is a dud. It was advertised as Romeo and Juliet, but the story is much closer to the Arthurian legend of the romantic triangle of

Arthur, Lancelot and Guinevere. It should have been a romantic movie and Arthurian epic tale, but is far too predictable with far too little chemistry between the romantic leads. This is a big disappointment like a pale, uninspired version of "Titanic" without the ship.

Survival guide to St. Louis Mardi Gras

BY LAURA AYERS

Staff Writer

With this year's Mardi Gras celebration likely to be the biggest in St. Louis history, and maybe the biggest in the country, it is even more important to enter into this event knowing what to expect and having a plan for fun and—it may sound cheesy—safety.

The parade will begin Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. on Broadway, also called 7th Street. It will start at Chouteau and make its way south on Broadway to Sidney Street.

After the parade, the streets of downtown Soulard will be flooded with people, alcohol and food vendors, party tents and beads (this is the only day of the year you would gladly push your grandmother out of the way to catch a strand of beads). It will be overwhelming and disorienting, but exciting. No matter how well you think you know the neighborhood, you will feel lost, which is also part of the fun.

With this in mind, here are a few tips to help you get the most from your Mardi Gras experience and to escape with minimal damages:

1) Use the Buddy System

Do not expect a large group to stay together, especially if you do not have a "home base" of some sort, like a friend's house in the neighborhood or nearby. Think of one of your favorite clubs on a Saturday night and how packed it gets, only infinitely multiplied and spilled out onto the streets. Or think of the Fourth of July crowds at Fair St. Louis with more lewd behavior, drunkenness and no fireworks at the end of the day. Start the day with a large group, but find a trustworthy buddy and stick with a friend for the long haul.

2) Don't expect your cell phone to work.

Everyone is going to be trying to meet up with someone else by using a cell phone. Just pretend you are in the pre-Zach Morris age, and you do not have a cell phone. What did you do? You planned ahead and stuck to the plan. Plan on meeting others at a very specific site (not just an intersection or bar because they will all be packed). Think landmarks, street signs, extremely visible fixtures or a spot outside of all the main action.

3) Don't bring canned beer, bottles, backpacks or coolers.

The police will be enforcing this rule, along with underage drinking. Any beverage that is in something like a water bottle or plastic cup is usually okay. But expect police checks and expect them to take any beer cans or bottles and expect to comply with them.

4) Make a plan if someone gets lost.

This also goes back to the buddy system, but if your buddy gets lost, you need to know where to go to find them. Have a predetermined place to go in case someone gets lost,



Illustration by Elizabeth Gearhart/ The Current

which is highly possible. Refer also to tip #2.

5) Transportation?

Taking a cab down there is a good idea, but it could be hard getting a cab home. Everyone is going to be looking for a cab. You can park in downtown St. Louis, where there will be plenty of designated parking, and there will be a free shuttle service 9 a.m. to midnight, to and from Soulard. (If you do not know exactly where Soulard is, it is wedged between highway 55/44 and the Mississippi, and south of highway 40 from downtown St. Louis.) There is also that free MetroLink pass every UM—St. Louis student has, but be prepared to walk no matter where you park or how you get down there.

6) Show up early!

This is not a typical night out. This is a morning and afternoon out, so do not plan on being fashionably late. Arriving around 9 or 10 a.m. is a fresh, exciting time to get there, and you can claim a front row seat along the parade route. Go to bed early and get up early, not because you are old, but because you want to last all day, and you have to

warm up to the afternoon's insanity. Think of arriving at a house party when everyone else is three sheets to the wind and you have not even had a drink yet—not fun.

7) Dress for the weather

The parade will happen no matter what weather happens, so pay attention to the forecast and dress appropriately. Do not worry about looking hot or roughing the weather for the sake of fashion, and do not forget the sunscreen. And ladies (or gentlemen), consider some alternatives to your giant purse. Only bring what will fit in your pockets. Dress in layers and in clothes you do not mind getting dirty and covered with spilled hurricanes.

8) Respect the police.

The police are there to keep everyone safe, not to spoil anyone's day. So if an officer gets on your case, chances are it is your fault and you need to chill out. Refer to tip #3 about not bringing cans and bottles.

9) Respect the locals.

Soulard is an everyday neighborhood, with private property. You will be partying in

front of homes, where people are raising families. Respect private property, no trespassing, and no urinating in anyone's yards. Do not be surprised if you hear, "Mind your Mardi Gras manners."

10) Drink plenty of water and eat plenty of food.

This tip is simply to ensure that you physically last as long as you want. So many forget to do this and it can ruin the day. Eat breakfast, then maybe some jerk chicken on a stick for later—who does not love fair food? There will be plenty of food to buy and water to drink. Take care of yourself.

Your friends will thank you for taking these extra precautions, probably after they make fun of you. But the 11th tip, and perhaps the most important, is to relax and not let overly stiff plans run the day. There is a lot to be said for spontaneity on Mardi Gras. The important part is knowing the difference between smart and safe (not too uptight), and stupid and stranded.

For more information and maps, go to www.mardigrasinc.com.

Get your UMSL news emailed to you every Monday!

www.thecurrentonline.com

Delicious Valentine's Day dining destinations

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Many couples want to make Valentine's Day a special day to remember, and one way they can do so is by planning a special date by taking their lover to an elegant restaurant for a romantic evening.

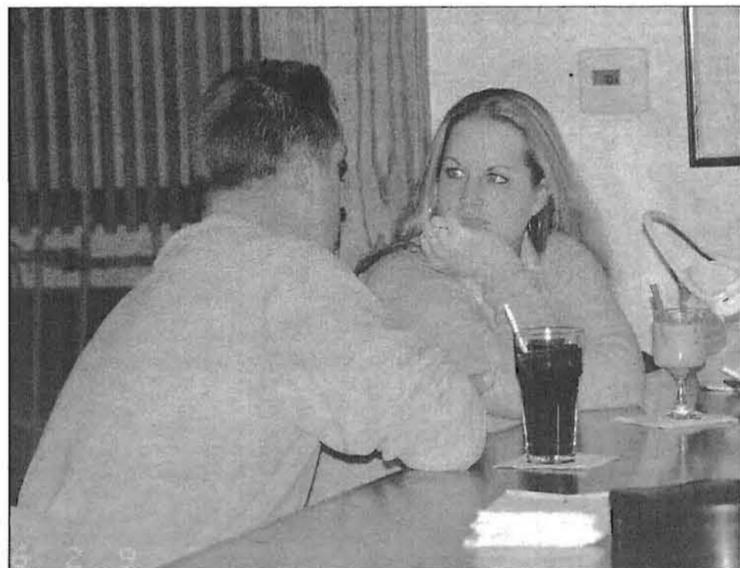
From Italian, American to Vietnamese, St. Louis has thousands of restaurants that offer various types of cuisines, provide entertainment and can be an ideal choice for this night.

The Melting Pot, with two locations on Delmar Boulevard in University City and on Clayton in Town and Country, has been a favorite to those looking for more than just a traditional dinner.

According to its website, The Melting Pot has been the nation's largest fondue restaurant chain for more than 30 years. Not only do the candlelit tables, private booths and the large selection of wines and deserts make this restaurant a popular pick, but the complete dining experience is also made unique by creating a meal in a personal tabletop fondue pot.

The Melting Pot specializes in its many cheeses, fruit and chocolate fondues. Besides strawberries, cheesecakes, raspberry chocolate and brownies on their desert menu, they also offer various main dishes and signature entrees that include steak, pork and seafood. While the cheese appetizers and chocolate fondue deserts range from \$10 to \$15, the signature entrees and the fondue meals for two might be the way to go at \$40 to \$60.

Instead of boiling your own meat or dipping strawberries into fruit sauces, how about having a chef grill a meal at a table right in front of you? Kobe Steak House of Japan, located on Olive, gives customers personal



John Baker and Heather Mimitz have drinks at the bar at Kobe Steak House.

service with its table-side chefs. A chef caters to each person's needs and can cook a meal the way one wants on the Teppanyaki Tables.

Specialty wines, mixed drinks, sake and Japanese imported beer are on its drink menu. Along with having chicken, lobster, shrimp, steak or sushi prepared at each table, the menu also includes fried rice dishes, appetizers and salads. Prices range from \$10 to \$25 per person. Those visiting Kobe Steak House can make their visit even more memorable by ordering a specialty beverage in a take-home souvenir glass or can have their picture taken in front of their table-side grill.

Looking for a restaurant that tops St. Louis (literally)? The Top of the Riverfront Restaurant, located on the 28th floor of the Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis, is known as the revolving restaurant that overlooks the Mississippi River and St. Louis landmarks like the Gateway Arch.

When patrons enter this restaurant, they are seated by the hostesses and door greeters to a window table which captures the view of St. Louis. Piano players amuse guests with slow music to add to the romantic and calm atmosphere.

Some items on the Top of the Riverfront's menu are lobster, oysters, linguini, pepper steak, roast duck and prime rib. Those eating

well together and share a common work ethic.

We are both communication majors, we enjoyed working for our high school newspapers, we are taking the same classes and we plan on having careers in journalism. Sharing these common interests brought us together and we snapped together as partners like puzzle pieces in and out of the workplace.

When a story comes up at the last minute, I know I can always rely on her help.

If I am having trouble reaching a contact for a story, I can count on his help.

According to about.com, "Other studies have reported a higher level of productivity in dating couples at work."

So why is it that office romance is frowned upon by society, in keeping with the "social norm?"

Just because a workplace relationship may not last forever, it does not mean those involved should feel too awkward to work with each other if the relationship ends. No relationship comes with a guarantee and no break-up guarantees that you will never see that person again or have to cope with them respectfully should your paths cross.

If people are discouraged from dating in the

dinner might want to save room for one of their many desserts such as cheesecake, éclairs, crumb cake, French pastries or soufflés. The Top of the Riverfront is open Tuesday through Sunday from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. and brunch is also served on Sundays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Prices for different entrees vary.

For steak lovers, people should visit Sam's Steakhouse, Dierdorf and Harts or Citizen Kane's. Sam's Steakhouse is located at 10205 Gravois Road.

Dierdorf and Harts is owned and operated by former football players Dan Dierdorf and Jim Hart. Dierdorf and Harts has two locations at West Port Plaza and on Market Street in downtown. Before each entree is cooked, the captain provides a presentation on each meat and allows customers to individually select their main course. Dinner ranges from \$30 to \$50 per person.

Citizen Kane's is more than just a steakhouse. This American and Caribbean Restaurant in Kirkwood provides guests with a walk down memory lane, with its displayed antique collection and movie memorabilia throughout. All of the steaks are aged for the best taste and specially seasoned.

Another restaurant choice for Valentine's Day is Giovanni's on the Hill. This Italian Restaurant has been visited by numerous celebrities and past presidents. Some celebrities have even had different pastas named after them because they loved them so much. Popular menu picks include Pappardelle Allabella Oprah (named after Oprah Winfrey) and Farfalline del Presidente Reagan. Oprah's favorite pasta is made out of fresh noodles, tomato, pesto and blended with ricotta cheese. The prices range from \$20 to \$40.

These are just a few restaurants that might make great choices for Valentine's night, but are also suitable for any special occasion.

same company, then where else will people look for love?

We both spend 40 minutes to more than an hour driving to UM-St. Louis. We're both full-time students, working as many hours as we have before deadlines to complete our stories.

Saturdays we both spend working and Sundays we are hard at work putting together the week's issue of The Current.

We simply don't have much time to spend looking for a significant other and when we met, it was clear that we shared a connection. We had no desire to let the negative association with office dating keep us from pursuing a romantic relationship.

If you find a person that you like at the place where you work, take the teasing with a grain of salt. The negative attitudes toward office dating may prevent you from letting someone good come into your personal life. The opinions of others simply shouldn't matter when two co-workers want to pursue a relationship together.

A relationship is hard enough as it is. A job shouldn't be one more thing that keeps two people apart.

When dates go horribly, horribly wrong

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

The most romantic day of the year is almost here, and not every date gets the luxury of instant romance like Feb. 14. Here are some things to consider before your next date becomes a bad date.

Not every first date goes well. Rebecca Thompson, senior, liberal studies, discovered that the hard way.

Thompson's date was supposed to come to her dorm and pick her up. Since both of their dorm rooms were within short distance of each other, he walked over instead.

"When we walked from our dorms to where he parked his car, it wasn't there," said Thompson.

According to her, he realized that it wasn't there because he went out the night before and didn't drive back to his dorm. Then, he had to go find a friend to drive him to his car.

She decided to still let him take her out because he was polite enough to walk her back to her dorm. However, when he returned with his car, the date went from bad to worse.

"His car had no heat and this was in the middle of winter," she said.

After a chilling ride to a moderately priced restaurant, she said he told her every detail about something very inappropriate he did to another girl at a party in front of everyone there.

"When he asked if I wanted to go get some drinks after dinner, I told him I had to get up early the next morning. It's not a date I brag about," she said.

It's not just first dates that go bad. After dating a guy for a while, Erin Henley, junior, communication, experienced her worst date.

Henley felt awkward during a dinner with her then boyfriend. She said the two of them sat there the entire time without speaking a word.

"When he dropped me off, he kissed me and licked my chin," she said.

The chin licking was the last straw for her. She felt grossed out and a little violated and said good night.

"The next day I called him and told him we should just be friends. Now whenever we see each other, I can't help but feel awkward," she said.

It is not always the other person's fault when a date goes bad.

Patrick Fletcher decided to ask a girl he thought was "very attractive" out for coffee at Starbucks.

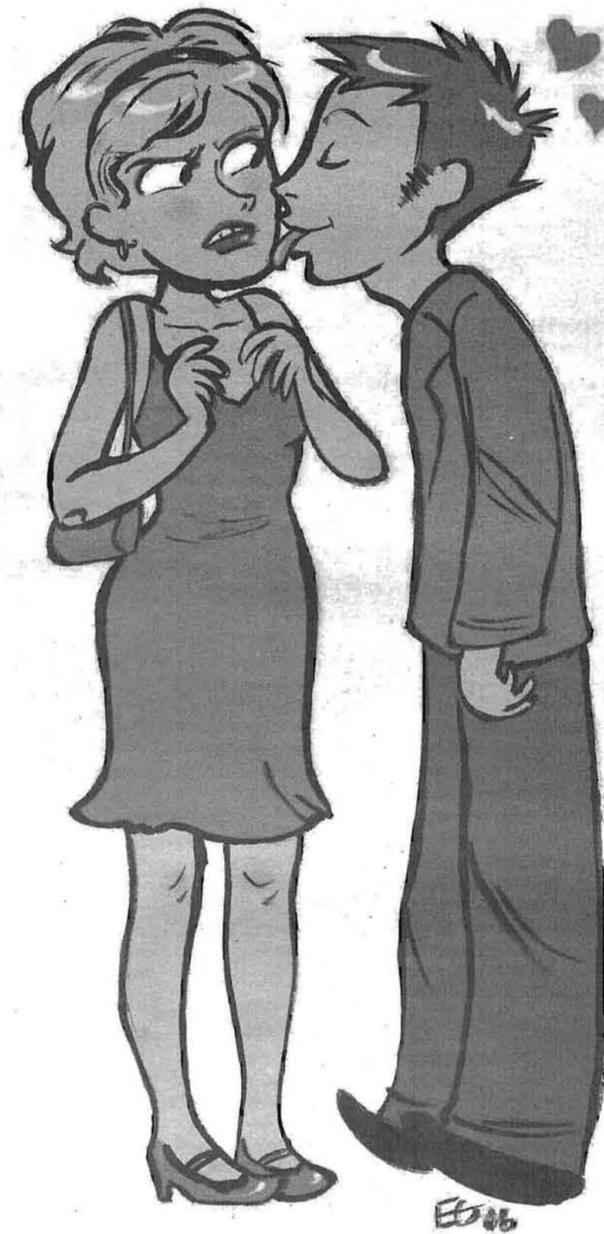
"I was really nervous when I asked, but she said 'okay,'" Fletcher said.

He told her to meet him at "the one on Clayton." After work, he drove there and waited ... and waited ... and waited.

"Twenty-five minutes went, and she wasn't there. Then I realized I had gone to the wrong Starbucks," he said.

He drove to the correct Starbucks and his date was waiting there sipping the Venti Mocha that he was supposed to buy for her.

She was very understanding of the situation and he ordered a drink and joined her at the



What is the worst pick-up line you've ever heard?

by Myron McNeill
Staff Writer



Shellah Heard, junior, criminology

Can I be your baby daddy?



Vasana Hill, junior, commercial art

Baby, did you fart? Because you blow my mind!



Kathy Meksavanh, junior, business

Was your daddy a terrorist? Cuz you is da bomb!



Kristin Skredenske, senior, biology

You're like a Christmas package I've been waiting to unwrap all year long

Photos by Alberto Patino / The Current

Office dating: cubicle chaos or boardroom bliss?



PAUL HACKBARTH &
MELISSA S. HAYDEN

News Editor & Staff Writer
(And Office-Romance Specialists)

Sleeping your way to the top? I hear you're dipping your pen in the company ink.

This is what most people think when they hear about office dating. A lot of urban legends exist about office romances.

These myths breed a negative attitude throughout the workplace. Employees who do want to date may choose not to out of fear of repercussions, such as teasing from other co-workers to employment termination.

Romance policies exist in many companies, preventing employees from dating, flirting, and even hanging out together outside of work as friends, as their ways to reduce harassment, favoritism and disruption of the workplace environment.

However, according to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Workplace Romance Survey from about.com, "55 percent of the HR professionals responding said that marriage is the most likely outcome of the office romances they have experienced."

While wedding bells are not ringing for us any time soon, our relationship has not caused any work-related dilemmas because we work